



Robertson Newsletter

February 2002

Edition 28

OUR MEN OF THE BLAZING BUSH.

How about this for a job description? You don't get paid for it. The work's totally voluntary. You have to be ready to turn out at any time of the day or night and without a moment's warning. The work is hot, uncomfortable and highly dangerous. It can carry on non-stop for days at a time - even weeks - and although the occasions are mercifully few and far between, once in a while there are tragic accidents and people lose their lives.

Faced with such an unappealing scenario, a lot of people would understandably nod, smile thinly and quietly return to the cricket on the telly. Who could blame them? After all, they're only human. But luckily and happily for all of us, we have in our communities up and down the country certain men, plus an increasing number of women, who are made of far stronger stuff. These are people who acknowledge the risks involved, recognise the danger, look it squarely in the eye and get on with the job which they simply know has to be done if lives and property are to be protected. These special people are all voluntary members of the Rural Fire Brigades - the Bush Firefighters. And what a catastrophic mess we would all be in right now without them.

Here in Robertson on January 13th, our local Bush Firefighters are getting their first meaningful period of relaxation after working pretty well flat out for the past 19 days. That's 19 days and nights. Just after lunch on Christmas Day the first call came through to go to a blaze near the Wallaby Hill Road. Ever since then the fifteen or so local volunteers - just about all of them from within Robertson - have been working non-stop day and night shifts battling blazes from High Range on the Wombeyan Caves Road to Colo Vale, Hill Top and beyond. And all the while those of us not involved in these cheerfully and bravely borne activities have been able to sleep

peacefully in our beds safe in the knowledge that these local and trustworthy blokes are out there using all of their skills and know-how to fight the flames and to safeguard our well being.

And who exactly are these blokes? Well, to name but a few, they're people like the Captain - Jim Wilson from High Street. Then there's the Captain before him - his ever-young Dad, the other Jim Wilson. And there's Mike Lynch and his young offside, Shane Tobin. And Tony Neil, Jim Wilson's Charlotte Street neighbour who joined the Robertson team about twelve months ago, unlike Jim Wilson himself who was recruited on his 17th birthday and is still going strong 54 years later. And, of course, there are all of the many others too numerous to mention individually but equally as important to the overall efficiency of the team.

In the next issue of the Robertson Newsletter we'll try to bring you more news of all of these stalwarts in our community together with a few anecdotes from earlier days. Meantime it's hats off and three cheers for our local heroes. Good on yer, mates! As always you've done a great job and we all thank you for it from the very bottom of our hearts.

AJ



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Robertson Show Society needs YOU!!!!

The Robertson Show is to be held this year on 1st & 2nd March. The people behind the organisation of this Show, work hard to ensure that Robertson Show retains its very popular country atmosphere. As always there is something for everyone to enjoy from the wonderful Pavilion, cattle, horses, and alpacas to name but a few of the very many displays and events. The highlight is the famous Potato Race which is hotly contested by both men and women. The big question is - can Shane Whatman win it again this year for the 4th time? Come along and cheer him on. The Demolition Derby on Saturday night is always a very popular event, along with the rest of the entertainment. People come from far and wide to attend the show either as spectators or exhibitors.

The dog judging on Saturday is very popular. Entries are consistently high and they come from everywhere, a very interesting facet of the show with a wide variety of different breeds.

The Robertson Show is your show and it belongs to the people of Robertson. We are always looking for people to be involved in this event and if you would like to come along and help our very hard working committee, you are most welcome! It's not all hard work - we do have a lot of fun. If you are interested in joining our committee or helping on the day, please contact Phillip Vickery on 4885 1040 or 0438 852 852. We'd like to have you on board.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was sent to the SRA with a copy to the Robertson Newsletter.

I am writing this letter regarding my concern with two dangerous railway level crossings in the village of Robertson. The first is the busy crossing on the Illawarra highway. I am sure the heavy timber fencing must be the original. It is broken and in terrible condition. The paint must also be original and it makes the crossing a terrible eyesore to the entrance to our village. At this crossing there is a "T" intersection where South Street meets the Illawarra highway and when attempting to drive out of South street to turn right over the rail crossing, one cannot see the oncoming traffic. The reason for this blind spot is that the driver's view is obscured by weeds and badly positioned rail crossing signs.

The second level crossing problem is the Meryla street crossing (east of the station). Last November / December the railway spent time and money on this crossing, on the signalling system and new concrete slabs laid between the tracks to make the level crossing etc. Well, on the station side of the crossing the concrete slabs are too short. Twice now I have been forced to move over because of a larger vehicle crossing at the same time as me, putting my offside wheel towards the edge of the concrete. If my wheel had dropped to the rails my car would be stuck on the crossing. Both of these crossings have been made dangerous by the unsatisfactory work and the lack of work done by the railways. It is inevitable they will both cause accidents (they have

already claimed victims). Could you please check these railway black spots and attend to their problems.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future regarding these matters

Tony Nesbitt

Ed. Just prior to going to press we have been advised that the SRA have agreed to take action on the matter.

Return Thanks.

I am writing on behalf of the Robertson Brigade of the Rural Fire Service to express our thanks to the people and businesses of Robertson for their support during the recent bush fires. We are especially grateful to Tait's Supermarket, Builders Barn and the Lions Club for their generosity in supplying us. We also appreciate all the help offered by others in the community.

Robertson brigade was employed at three separate fires, the Belmore Falls fire, the Burke river fire (Mt Murray to Yerrinbool) and the Beloon Fire (from Buxton to High Range).

Robertson Brigade meets every Wednesday night at 7.30 for training and maintenance. If you are interested in joining, a Basic Training course will be starting in early February.

Yours gratefully,
Jim Wilson jnr (Capt)

**Remember report all fires to 000
No fires without a permit.**

Petition to Council to have Privet declared a noxious weed.

The following letter was sent to Council with our petition on the 14.1.2002.

In response to an article in a recent edition of the Robertson Newsletter, the enclosed petition has been signed by residents of this area who share a concern regarding the increasing prevalence of privet in private gardens, parks, bush-land and roadside verges in the Shire.

We understand that privet is used for hedging in some of the more formal gardens, but feel that a moratorium could be declared on premises where existing plants occur, provided these plants are clipped and maintained in such a way that no seeds can be spread.

A further concern expressed by many petitioners is the effect of privet flowers on asthma sufferers. This problem seems to be recognized by most Councils, and it is therefore surprising that Wingecarribee Shire appears not to share this concern for the health of residents.

We would appreciate this matter being brought before Council as a matter of urgency, and look forward to a favourable decision regarding the eradication of this pervasive and noxious weed.

Micki Boehme

THREE TOP QUALITY OFFICE SPACES

AT VERY AFFORDABLE RENTS

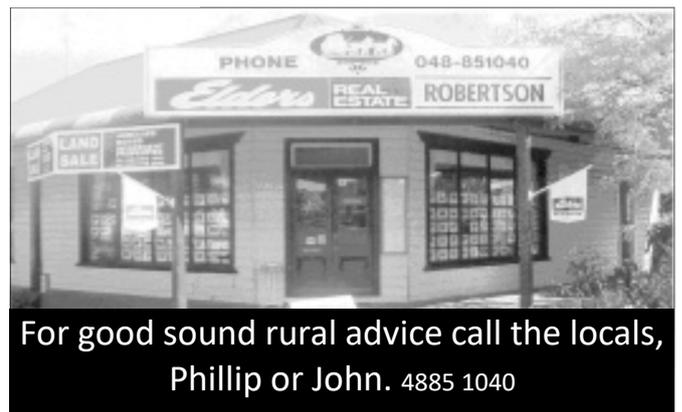
(Available from May)

SUIT PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESS PERSONS

EXCELLENT LOCATION IN ROBERTSON

NEWLY RENOVATED FOR

FIRST TIME RENTAL



Things to do in Robertson

I have heard it said, particularly among teenagers, that there is 'nothing to do in Robertson'. This is a most disturbing statement and one that is usually made by people with a very negative outlook.

May I suggest that if you do not find any of the following suggestions palatable, then start your own group or organisation, instead of waiting for someone to 'hand it to you on a silver platter. There are plenty of people within the Robertson community who will back you up. It doesn't matter which age group you come into, all things are possible, and you can make it happen!

Sporting – Football Club, Soccer Club Cricket Club, Hockey Club, Pony Club, Tennis Club (with coaching available).

Kid's Club - Monday is Kinder to Second Class and Tuesday Is Third Class to Sixth Class.

There is Scouts, Ballet (4861 3437) and Irish Dancing on Saturday mornings (95495478). There is Tai-Quan-Do.

There is a good bus service every day, which will take you swimming, skate boarding or anything out of the town.

Most organisations welcome voluntary workers and this can lead to positions of responsibility. Some suggestions are the Markets, the Dance or the Robertson Show Society.

For a personal and rewarding experience, what about doing odd jobs for the elderly folk, around Robertson?

"Go get em friend"

Joyce Bailey

BUSINESS PROFILE Robert & Gai Kearines.

Robert and Gai are the new owners of the Robertson Inn and we extend a big welcome to them from the Robertson community.

They have been in the industry for more than twenty years and were originally from Narromine and then Dubbo. They decided on a change of life-style and came to Robertson with a view to settling long term in a country atmosphere and a pleasant climate. Having always lived in country towns, they are looking forward to being part of the community.

Robert and Gai have three children - Joshua, Mitchell and Amy (16, 14 and 12.)

Water sports have always been a special interest for the family. In the past they have taken their boat out regularly on Burrendong Dam at Wellington, but hopefully, when renovations are finished at the Inn, they will find time to water ski on Lake Illawarra.

Major renovations have already begun, keeping the building as near to the original style as possible. Robert and Gai plan to cater for special functions, with bands, karaoke and jazz music on a regular basis. The accommodation is being upgraded and the bathrooms renovated. New beer lines have been introduced and this will be one pub that definitely will not be "a pub with no beer"

Some of the special occasions already planned are a Prawn & Chicken night on 16th February, a special night with a band for show weekend - 2nd March; a Jazz

Festival with Illawarra, Canberra and Sydney bands on 10th March, and on St. Patrick's Day - 17th March, an Irish Band and a Guinness Promotion.

This all sounds rather exciting and the whole family will be welcome as Robert & Gai would like the Robertson Inn to be known as a safe place for families

WIRES

One of the good things that came out of the reporting of the recent bushfires was the desire by members of the public to help WIRES with the care of injured wildlife. There were many calls asking how people could help and how they could donate to the work. Donations are always gratefully received as WIRES is 90% self funded by the members and by fund raising activities. While most vets will tend native animals free of charge the individual members are normally expected to pay for any medications used and for the equipment needed to care for them.

One consistent need is for native foliage and flowers used in feeding the animals and birds. If you have substantial native plantings in your garden or on your property, WIRES members would value being able to "trim" them from time to time.

If you have an unused aviary that could be moved, we could find a use for it.

Of course we are always looking for new members. Even if you are not able to do the Basic Training Course that allows you to rescue animals, we need people to do phone duty, receiving the calls and arranging for the Rescues.

Enquiries : 4872 1825

Rescues: 4862 1788

Robertson Inn

Opening Hours: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday to Saturday
10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday

BISTRO 12.00 to 2.30 p.m. 7 Days

A LA CARTE 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Friday & Saturday
(or Char Grill) (other evenings by booking)

A.T.M. and T.A.B.
Now available during business hours.



Norma Atkin

10.9.1924 – 4.1.2002

Norma, her husband and family came to Robertson in the early 1960's from Penrose. Her mission was to run the Post Office in Hoddle Street, but it was not an easy introduction to the town because of the earthquake in 1961, which demolished the front part of the old Post Office building. Then there were the fires of 1965, which nearly wiped out their Apple Orchard and travelling between two towns, trying to run two businesses, made life very difficult indeed.

To make things more complicated, Norma was diagnosed as having Scleroderma, a very painful degeneration of the bones in her fingers. The doctors of the day knew very little about this disease so they couldn't give her much hope of a cure, but this determined little lady was not about to be beaten. She did all that she could to relieve her own suffering which included tying up her fingers individually until her hands looked like a crown roast beef. Then she set about raising money for research into Scleroderma and this continued until quite recently. She would knit and sew, hold stalls etc, and the remarkable thing was that she always had time for anyone who came to her for help.

Norma was a family person and gave much of her time to helping her family whenever the need arose. Her Mother was in Glenfield Nursing Home, and Norma would visit her twice a week, to take care and comfort to her. She did not limit it to her mother, but extended it to any other patient within range, such was the nature of Norma Atkins.

A very practical woman - a real doer! When her husband, Reg suffered a heart attack, she heard that Bowral Hospital needed a defibrillator so

she set to and raised the money, and presented the Hospital with the machine.

Her generosity, hospitality and loyalty to the Robertson Community was outstanding as she helped the kids with their reading at Robertson School. She was always at the Market Days and Dances at the School of Arts, helping behind the scenes. She had worshipped at St. John's Anglican Church and took part in the Bible Society and Woman's Guild organisations. Norma was also on the founding committee of Meals-on-Wheels in Robertson.

Norma Atkins, friend to all and sadly missed from the Robertson Community.

St John's Anglican 125th Anniversary

St John's Anglican church at Robertson celebrates its 125th Anniversary with a special service on Sunday February 3rd. The church was opened on the 6th December 1876 but was not licensed until 22nd January 1877. Bishop Reg Piper will preach at the service which will feature liturgy and music from past present and future.

On the Saturday night, the 2nd, there will be a get together for past and present members to reminisce. There will also be an auction which was a feature of the original opening day.

Enquiries: Rev. Barry Lee 4885 1210.



GARDENING IN ROBERTSON.

FEBRUARY/MARCH,
2002.

Buy spring flowering bulbs. Put hyacinths, tulips, crocus and daffodils in the crisper section of the refrigerator for 6-8 weeks. Choose and plant Autumn trees while their leaves are in colour. Use fallen leaves to start your compost heap. Prevent weeds from seeding by pulling them out or smothering them with mulch. Feed established fruit trees and mulch over their root systems. Plan and plant for Winter/Spring colour. Primulas, pansies, English daisies, poppies, lobelia, sweet peas, violas, calendulas, cinerarias can all be sown or planted now. Vegies for sowing or planting include broad beans, peas, cabbages, onions, lettuce, spinach, broccoli carrots.

If you would like more gardening information, come along to Robertson Garden Club Inc. Meetings are held in the Community Hall, Caalong Street, Robertson on the first Monday of each Month (unless it is a Public Holiday then on the second Monday of the Month), commencing at 1.30 p.m.

Our Motto is "Friendship Through Gardening.". All ages are most welcome.



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Community Notices

WINNERS OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION.

- * 1st prize of \$100 worth of goods from the Builders Barn went to Pat & Neville Willard of Caalong Street.
- * An encouragement award of \$50 worth of goods from one of the Robertson business houses went to Mr. & Mrs. McLean of Shackleton Street.
- * The prize for the best "Business" display (a \$50 voucher from the Robertson Business Association), went to St. John's Anglican Church.

Computer Workshops

Do you know what a CPU is? What about a hard drive? Do you understand the significance of a computer being a 900 MHZ, with 256 MB of ram and a 20 GB drive? Do you know what the Bios is and how to use it?

Come along to

Computer Hardware Explained

On Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm
In St John's Hall, Hoddle St, Robertson.

Cost—Free.

We will assemble a computer, looking at the individual components and explaining what they do and how they work together to make up the computer.

Having trouble with Windows? Want to know how to defragment your hard drive? Want to know why you should defragment your hard drive? Want to know how to install and remove

software?

Come along to

Windows Explained

On Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm
In St John's Hall, Hoddle St,
Robertson.

Enquiries—Barry Lee—4885 1210

Summer Council Clean Up

Robertson and Burrawang, along with the southern villages will have their collection during the week 11-15 March.

Residents need to ring 4868 0555 and book their clean up collection during the week 4-8 March. They can make credit card payments (\$22) over the phone at the time of booking or pay over the counter at Council or the RRC, Berrima Road MOSS VALE. Payment must be made before the collection commences.

Collection days at Robertson will probably be block booked for Monday or Tuesday and there is limit of 2 cubic metres per household. Items that are not collected in clean ups include garden waste, household garbage, house-hold recyclables, building and demolition materials, tyres and hazardous materials. All other household items that can be lifted by 2 persons will be collected. If placing refrigerators out, please remove the doors as this makes them easier to handle and is also no longer dangerous for children (they can get locked in and can't get out) .

"AFGHANISTAN ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE"

A Talk at REPS

by

Neil and Sandra Chesterton

Friday February 8th, 7.30pm
Robertson Community Centre,
Caalong Street Robertson

Neil and Sandra Chesterton, with their 2 youngest sons David and Peter, have been living in Faizabad in Badakhshan province of NE Afghanistan for the past one and a half years, working with a German relief agency called ORA International.

When they first arrived, their main work was with drug detoxification and rehabilitation clinics treating opium addicts in the Wakhan corridor (the thin bit that goes towards the Chinese border). Neil (who is a vet) also had a small veterinary project, and they started an Education and Resource Centre and taught English. More recently, however, their work has been primarily with refugee relief in both Faizabad and Pakistan. They rented a house in Faizabad and Sandra home schooled the two boys.

The family is visiting Robertson in February on their way home to New Zealand and will stop over in Robertson with Anne and Brett Wilson of Pearson's Lane to talk to us about their experiences in Afghanistan.

All welcome. Refreshments provided.
Lively Discussion.

For more information, phone David
Tranter on 48-851-394



ATM

IS HERE

- Most Cards
- Business Hours

Mon-Fri 7.30—5.00

Sat 8.30—4.00

Epitaph to a Kangaloon Pine

The tree had stood for one hundred and ten years and had grown to an enormous size. It had played host to thousands of birds and insects, shared its seed with countless cockatoos, given shade to quiet cows, swallowed a century of rain but also tasted drought. It had borne the snow from one hundred and ten winters and the heat of one hundred and ten summers. It stood firm during the Boer War and World War 1. It was unruffled by the wild nineteen twenties, and unshaken by the roar of its first aeroplane overhead. It saw in the Depression and saw out the Second World War. No doubt it featured in the background of many family snaps taken by the Schofields who planted the tree and built the house nearby on the hill in 1892. In its final years it was tall enough to scrape the sky, its stature commanding the respect of lesser trees.

When the end came at least it was quick. The silver blade of lightning cut the pine in two, split it to its roots, and set it on fire, but thanks to the quick thinking of Don Norman who



noticed the smoke, the fire brigade was called to write the final chapter in the life of a Kangaloon pine.

Donald Fish.

Recipe of the Month

Pasta with Asparagus
Jill Summers

750g asparagus trimmed, salt to taste, 75g unsalted butter, 1 onion grated, 125ml dry sherry, 250ml cream, 3 tbsp chopped fresh chives, 30g freshly grated parmesan, 125g prosciutto cut into strips.

Trim and cut asparagus into pieces. Boil asparagus in water with salt until tender (5-6 minutes). Drain then plunge into cold water. Melt butter in a large frypan, add half asparagus pieces & grated onion. Stir & sauté until onion wilts. Stir in sherry & allow alcohol to evaporate (about 3 minutes). Add cream & simmer. Remove pan from heat, stir in remaining asparagus, chives, parmesan, prosciutto, salt and pepper to taste. Add cooked, drained pasta to the sauce, toss together & serve immediately, topping each serve with some extra parmesan cheese.

This recipe is brought to you with the compliments of

**Robertson
Recollections**

26 Hoddle St, Robertson
Open 9.30am-5.30pm
(Closed Wednesdays)
4885 1080

Jill Summers has received a \$20 gift voucher from Robertson Recollections. If you would like to enter the Recipe of the Month competition, drop your entry into Robertson Recollections by 15th

Church Services

Anglican

St John's Robertson

8.00am Traditional Services
2nd Sunday- Communion
4th Sunday- Morning Prayer

9.30am Family Service/Sunday School
Every Sunday

St David's Burrawang

8.00am - 1st Sunday - Communion

Presbyterian,
Burrawang

2.00pm - 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Uniting
Robertson

8.00am - Every Sunday

Roman Catholic

Robertson

10.00am - 2nd & 4th Sundays

Burrawang

10.00am - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

**Robertson Christian
Fellowship**

(Community Centre)

3.00pm - Every Sunday



Contribution Guidelines

Community Service Announcements, articles and diary submissions are free of charge. All items must be submitted by deadline dates and may be modified at the editors discretion. To avoid extensive editing please limit announcements to 25 words, and articles to a maximum 300 words. It is preferable that submissions be typed or emailed. Thank you.

Advertising

A single insertion is \$30. (Discount of \$5 for members of Robertson Business Association) Each insertion is limited to a maximum 85 x 55 mm. Advertisers are responsible for meeting submission deadlines. Any copy received after the deadline is unlikely to be included. All advertising is payable in advance. All advertisements to Micki Boehme at Robertson Recollections. Thank you for your support.

Deadline

The next issue will be distributed in the first weeks of April. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th March 2002**. Forward correspondence to: **Robertson Newsletter, 64 Hoddle St, Robertson 2577, Fax: 4885 2241 or Email: bjlee@tpg.com.au.** (Submissions are best supplied by email or on disk. Hard copy should preferably be typed) Enquiries - 4885 1210

Disclaimer

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Editor : Barry Lee