



Robertson Newsletter

June 2002

Edition 30

Robertson Railway Station's 70th Birthday.

Things are really starting to happen now at Robbo Railway Station! The old dilapidated concrete slab building and two adjacent buildings of similar construction have been classified by the National Trust as heritage buildings and a beautiful brass plaque to this effect is now displayed for all to see. The station has been renovated and painted in its original colours and adjacent heritage buildings have been painted to match. On the bank opposite the station, terraced beds of rhododendron are planted to welcome train

visitors as they arrive. Inside the main gate at Yarranga Street is an elevated garden surrounded by a dry stone wall where large ironbark carved logs are to be erected to symbolise reconciliation.

Matching these exciting changes to the station and immediate environs is the establishment of Robertson Village Common, a large area of open space for passive recreation, protected by a vehicle barrier along the internal road towards Meryla Street. Within the Village

Common, two attractive shelter sheds have been built in harmony with the architecture of the station. The old Fettle's Shed has been renovated as a community facility with space for exhibitions and craft workshops.

The precinct is beginning to attract a lot of visitors already and is proving a popular place to take a morning or evening stroll with or without the family dog.

The inauguration of the project will be on **Sunday August 18**, the 70th birthday of the Railway Station, to which everyone in the village is invited. Two 38 class steam trains will be coming up and arrangements have been made for Robertson residents to travel to Moss Vale and back on the Cockatoo Run drawn by two 38 class steam trains. Your ideas on how to make this a great celebration and your assistance on the day are most welcome.

- Steering Committee



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1

To let

Robertson

- * One Bedroom flat - \$120pw
- * 3 Bedroom house, gas heating, carport - \$190pw
- * 1/2 Bedroom cottage, open fire, gas heat, rural location - \$300pw
- * 3 Bedroom house, garage, wood fire, fenced yard, rural location - \$350pw

Burrawang

- * 3 Bedroom brick veneer house, garage - \$250 pw



R J MACKEY Real Estate
Robertson Phone: 4885 1329

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Well, new businesses anyway, as Robertson welcomes no less than FOUR, no make that FIVE new operators to Hoddle St. shops this month:

SHABBY SHEIK, next door to "Pizzas in the Mist", is the fascinating creation of Leanne Steffanac.

Her shop is a delightful mix of antiques, collectables and gift wares. Leanne's mother has always been a collector, so it seemed the natural thing for Leanne to set up her own shop. She says she wanted to create something that was fun and different. There are five rooms to explore, each with its own special character - from the exotic to the romantic "shabby chic", from interesting old to quirky new, from original art to the humble jar of honey. Something for everyone. A treasure trove to wander through and explore.

Leanne moved to Robertson with her family ten years ago. She says it was the best decision she ever made. They have watched Robertson grow over the last decade, yet, at the same time, retain its character as a genuine country town - a balance they hope our village retains in the future.

FLORA FORUM is the very apt name for Dennis Brown's new florist shop, located at the Old Cheese Factory, and open Friday to Sunday from 11 to 5.30. Dennis brings extensive florist and floral consultant skills to our village. He began his career at David Jones, before working as a florist in London where he created gardens for, among other celebrities, Britt Eckland.

Returning to Sydney, Dennis was partly responsible for David Jones' "Festival of Flowers". Later

he started his own florist shop in Double Bay, and won an MLC award for floral decoration - the prize being a trip to London's Chelsea Flower Show.

Dennis moved to Robertson 7 years ago. Since then he has created 5 gardens in the Southern Highlands, and has just recently been asked to create floral displays for the Dalai Lama's appearance at Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Dennis looks forward to being part of the exciting changes taking place in Robertson. He's worth talking to for expert floral advice, and worth visiting just to see his wonderful window displays which, currently, seem to be changing about twice a week!

ROBERTSON POTTERY has new owners and, while John and Heidi Payne will be greatly missed, their pottery will still be sold, along with the work of other local potters, by new owners Kay and Robert Jensen. They'll also be adding new displays showcasing their home decorating business "**Robertson By Design**". These include samples of curtains, blinds, shutters, quilts and bedding, with a free measure and quote service.

Robert and Kay discovered Robertson some years ago, and bought land in Fountaindale Rd. Always wanting to move from Sydney, they started looking for premises and the availability of the pottery offered the ideal opportunity.

Robert and Kay have four boys, one of whom, Jonathon, has come with them to live in Robertson. As this is where the family hopes to settle down for a long time, they are all looking forward to meeting and getting involved with the community. You're invited to drop by for a tea or coffee, and say hello.

ROBERTSON

HAIRDRESSING SALON

also has a new owner. Martina Kennedy was apprenticed to Di for 4 years and has now taken over the salon.

The daughter of Annette Alchin, owner of Robertson Spring Water, Martini has lived in Robertson for 9 years. She took over the salon 2 months ago, and decided not to make any major changes - except for a slight lowering of prices - and a half-price special on hair colouring for the month of June.

Welcome all, we wish you prosperity and personal satisfaction, and thank you for adding yet more interest and variety to Robertson's ever-expanding business community.

SPECIAL DELIVERY AT "PIZZAS"

Our 5th new arrival isn't quite ready to start making pizzas yet, but we do congratulate Belinda and Tom Borbely, on the birth of a daughter Bridget, born 14th May at Westmead Hospital. A special delivery indeed! Our congratulations and best wishes.

HAND MADE IN THE HIGHLANDS - a festival of the imagination

Planning for Robertson's first "Hand Made" weekend - scheduled for October 5th and 6th - is well under way, with over 20 artists and crafts people already agreeing to take part. The weekend is an initiative of the Robertson Guild in conjunction with the Business Association and other community groups.

"Hand made in the Highland? is intended to be a major celebration of all things hand-made. While the initial focus is on art, craft and artisan workmanship, the organizers hope to extend the event, over time, to include every kind of "hand made" activity - wine and cheese, boutique and organic farming, acoustic music and original composition, local writing and publishing, cuisine and even fashion design.

In other words, any creative work, made in the Highlands, that reflects both the imagination and direct practical input of its maker.

Robertson, with its established Robertson Guild, and high concentration of resident skilled "makers" is the natural location for such an event. But the celebration itself is intended to be for all the Highland's makers: a showcase for their work: a celebration of their creative skills: a festival of the imagination. Over time it is hoped to make the weekend a major highlight on the "Spring in the Highlands" calendar and an event of national stature.

We'll keep you in touch with developments in this newsletter. Meanwhile, if you'd like to find out more, have any ideas about suitable events, would like to participate, or would like to help with organization, please contact Neil Atkins on 4885 1103, or Ros McKissock on 4885 2342

TULIP TIME IN ROBERTSON

Big changes are afoot for this year's Tulip Time, with organizers planning to make the festival much more than just a Bowral. event.

Robertson will make a major contribution with at least 4 local gardens taking part in the open garden scheme. These include "The Moorings" in Fountaindale Rd, "Holroyd" in Armstrong Cres., "Twin Creeks" in Old Kangaloon Rd, and "The Keep" at Burrawang.

So, you'll be able to take your family and friends on a delightful tour of some of the finest gardens in the Highlands, almost without leaving home! Equally good news of course, is that we can expect to see many more visitors in town, as a result of Robertson's increasing prominence on the garden trail.

The plan is for local business to also get more involved. Shops will carry posters advertising the local gardens, shop front decoration and a banner are planned, plus a "Spring Window" Competition: the prize being a one-year free membership of the RBA.

With "Hand Made in the Highlands" taking place on the last weekend, this year will see a much heightened local participation in Tulip Time, hopefully something that will grow further in coming years. Robertson Business Association is already considering for next year a cottage garden competition.

For more information about Tulip Time Open Gardens in the Robertson district, contact John Dutton on 4885 1572

Medical Notes

Did you Know....?

- * After 65 years of age one person in every three falls at least once in a year.
- * Older people spend average of 3 weeks hospital after a hip fracture.
- * The chance of falling goes up with age.
- * Falls occur much more often to older women than men.



Many falls are preventable.

What causes falls?

- * Poor balance and walking pattern.
- * Unsafe footwear.
- * Lack of physical activity.
- * Certain medications
- * Eye and ear problems.
- * Chronic health problems.
- * Hazards around the home.

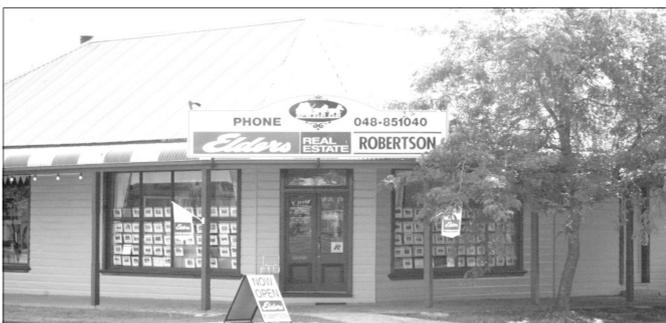
Call in at Surgery, 26 Hoddle St, 4885 1502) for more info.

Dr Sue Locke is now part of the **"GP After Hours Service"** which operates from the rear of Southern Highlands Private Hospital

Local GPs

Saturday 4pm - 6 pm

Sunday & Public Holidays
10 am - 12 noon
4 pm - 6 pm.



For good sound rural advice call the locals, Phillips or John. 4885 1040

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

In the April edition of the Robertson Newsletter reference was made to the potential dangers at the Railway Crossing near South St. As you local representative on Council, this is one of the issues that I have been pursuing for the last 18 months. You will note that some improvement has occurred but there are still issues regarding in particular pedestrian safety at this intersection. A meeting between RTA, State Rail and Council has already taken place to look at solutions for this safety issue and will now be considered by the Traffic Committee.

In relation to the article on Privet, yes Council have voted against declaring it as a noxious weed. I can assure you that I argued vigorously to have it declared but was unsuccessful.

Congratulations to those who have devoted the time to successfully bring about the addition of a Community Technology Centre in the Village and in particular Peter DeLorenzo.

Finally thank you to the Robertson Railway Heritage Committee for their continuing persistence on the Railway project. The effort of David and Helen Tranter, Graham Carpenter, Rona Goold, Steve Carey and Anne Wilson have been an integral part of this restoration of Historical Significance for the Village

Thank you also to all the volunteers who continue to assist at working bees etc.

The entire Village is certainly starting to bloom. Thank you to all of those businesses who are also starting to encourage such pride in our little piece of Australia.

If you have any issues you would like me to raise with Council, please contact me on 4885 1695

Clr Larry Whipper

Dear Editor

THE WAR AGAINST PRIVET

The war goes on.

The group of volunteers working at the Railway Station in the last six months have cut or pulled nearly all the many privet bushes there. Other volunteers have gradually been working with NPWS over the last few years to remove the privet in the Nature Reserve. The Council's Environment Levy, with the Sydney Catchment Authority, is funding the rehabilitation of Council land next to Caalang Creek, and last year some very large privet bushes were removed.

Perhaps if we get together a list of where all the privet bushes are on public land we can find a way to get rid of them too.

Helen Tranter

After our appeal in the April Newsletter, the following letter was received from Julie Neave, Assistant Manager of Ronald McDonald House.

Dear Hope,

Thanks very much for the donation of meals which were donated to Ronald McDonald House on May 6.

This gift makes such a difference to helping families that need to stay here at the House whilst caring for their seriously ill child. You certainly relieve some of the stress!

Thanks again for your support of Ronald McDonald House, Westmead.

Recipe of the Month

Fish with Mild Curry Sauce

Trish Pemberton

4 tblspns oil, 3 onions chopped,
1 tspn coriander seeds, 1 dstspn
chilli paste, 1 cup water.
1 kg fish fillets
4 cloves garlic
2 tspns black cumin seeds
2 tblspns tomato paste
1/2 cup fresh chopped coriander

Method: Heat oil in a frying pan, cook onions and garlic until soft, not browned. Add coriander, cumin, chilli. Add tomato paste and water, simmer 2 minutes. Add fish fillets, stirring to coat them with the sauce. Simmer until fillets start to flake, add fresh coriander.

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

Trish Pemberton 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



SLOW PROGRESS ON SEWERAGE

Ever since new regulations were implemented by the NSW Government in April 1998 to control the management of on-site sewerage systems, there has been serious discussion on the need for Robertson to have a proper sewerage scheme.

At a meeting of residents on 30th September, 1998, concern was expressed at the cost to many house-holders forced to install pump-out systems, and to pay fortnightly pumping fees.

It was estimated at that stage that a sewerage system might begin to be implemented by the end of 2001, or during 2002. However, In November 2000, a press release was issued by the Mayor, Cr. Yeo, to the effect that there would be no sewerage in Robertson until 2004.

We are now midway through 2002, and still basic decisions about the type and location of Robertson's sewerage scheme have not even been taken. We appear to be making very slow progress indeed.

According to the Shire's Water and Sewerage Manager, Mark Williams, Council is due to receive a draft report from consulting engineers Egis, in June.

This report on selected sites for a sewerage treatment plant, also considers various options for treatment and the method of collecting sewerage. One option is a low pressure system which involves having small pumps at each home. This sounds like the most complicated, expensive and "second best" of possible options but it does seem to be the one that some people are pushing.

The report will be reviewed by Council, the Dept. of Public Works and Dept. of Land and Water Conservation. Discussions will also be held with the owners of the property which has been selected for the treatment site. (Dept. of Public Works and

Council have the right to resume such a site with appropriate recompense).

When all the above matters have been dealt with, an environmental impact statement will have to be prepared and this takes up to a year to complete.

Council is hoping to receive 50% of the cost of the project from the State Government and, according to Mr. Williams,

Council is able to fund its share of the cost.

Local Councillor, Larry Whipper, maintains that he has always believed Robertson would not get sewerage until at least 2005.

We can only hope that it may be sooner. The need is urgent for our village and this newsletter will keep you up to date with progress.

LAST MASS AT ST. ANTHONY'S

Sunday the 23rd of June, will be the last mass to be held in St. Anthony's church on the corner of Hoddle and Caalong Streets, after which the building will be taken over by Elders Real Estate.

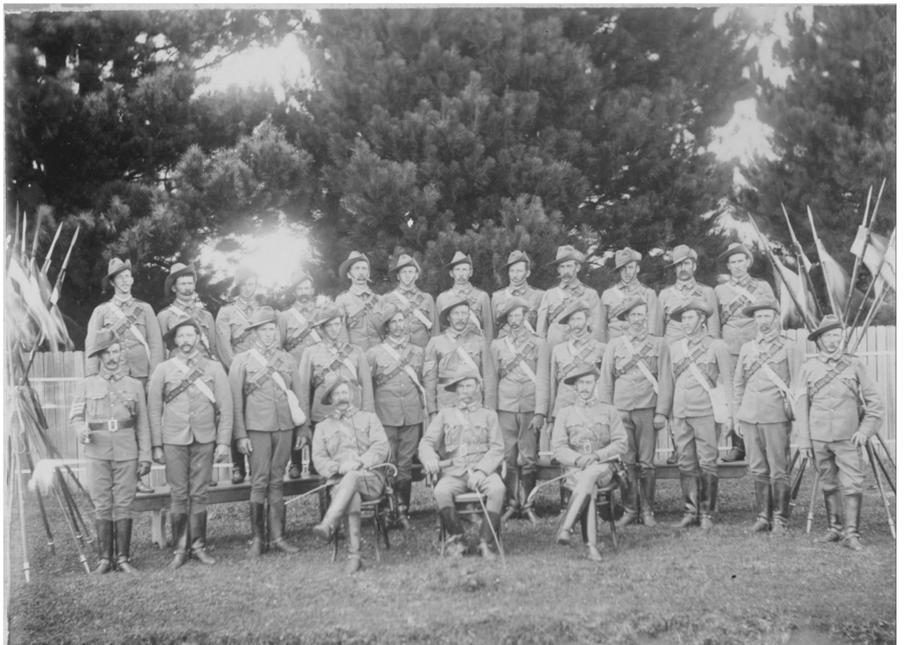
The building itself has quite a history. At the turn of the last century it was used by the Light Horse Brigade, attached to the West Camden Troop. During the Boer War, at least five of the Light Horse came from Robertson.

At a later stage, the building was transformed into Mrs. Henningham's General Store, selling groceries, haberdashery and stock feed. It was later taken over

by Dairy Farmers, then remained empty until St. Anthony's purchased it in 1968. Prior to that, Catholic Church services were held at St. Anthony's Monastery, run by the Franciscan Monks (now Ranelagh). When the monks sold the Monastery, the church purchased the old shop on the corner of Caalong and Hoddle Streets. It has operated there since 1968.

Until the new Catholic Church is built on the corner of Wollungunda and Hoddle Streets, Catholic services will be held at Burrawang.

Below : Robertson Light Horse
Photo curtesy of B. McEvilly.



FAREWELL JOHN & HEIDI

After sixteen and a half years, John & Heidi Payne are leaving Robertson and setting out for a new life in Bingi, near Moruya, on the south coast.

Before



When they first set up the Pottery in Robertson, the building they bought was just a Dairy Farmers Co-op shed. They made alterations, built rock walls and landscaped it to create the pottery as it is today. They also built and lived in the dwelling at the back of the shop.

The business flourished and became very well known throughout the Highlands and the coast. But after 16 years, both John and Heidi felt it was time for a change. They had always wanted a bush block and found just what they were looking for with the old store at Bingi. They will build a house on the block and use the old store as their pottery.

All the children, Anna, Ian, Dawn and Grandson, Blade, are looking forward to being near the beach. The family will miss Robertson though and hope all their friends here will call in at Bingi if they are travelling south.

Although John & Heidi will be gone, their pottery will still be sold in Robertson. The new owners, Robert & Kay Jensen, will be stocking the pottery in their new business "Robertson By Design".

After



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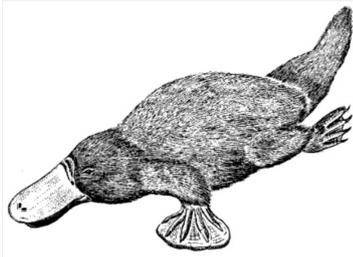
Community Notices

THE PLATYPUS

A REPS TALK BY DR TOM GRANT
Friday evening, June 14, 7.30pm
Robertson Community Centre

The Southern Tablelands of NSW is a stronghold of the platypus, *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*. Dr Grant, an Australian of Kiwi/Scot extraction, has studied the physiology of the body temperature regulation of the animal and written a book about its biology. In his talk, Dr Grant will review the general characteristics of this unique Australian mammal, its ecology and evolutionary biology, and the environmental impact of human activities. In his opinion, there is much more yet to discover.

All Welcome, Lively Discussion,
Light Refreshments



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ON

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COST IS \$35.00 PER PERSON
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LUNCH NOT INCLUDED

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-7.40 A.M. OUTSIDE WATER'S
GENERAL STORE.
-3.00 P.M. FROM EXHIBITION
CENTRE

NUMBERS LIMITED SO PLEASE
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PHONE BARBARA ON 4885-1924
FOR TICKET

Clothing Bin

The clothing bin at the entrance to St John's Anglican Church is emptied every week and is almost always flowing over. The clothing placed in the bin is either cleaned and resold in the Anglicare Op-Shops or, if not re-useable, is turned into industrial wipers.

The Clothing Bin is just that, a bin for clothing. It is not intended for electrical appliances, furniture and certainly not for mattresses. A number of mattresses have been "dumped" there in recent weeks and the church or Anglicare then has to pay to have them taken to the local tip. If local residents have items other than clothing they may be accepted by the Salvation Army or St Vincent de Paul but these organisation should be contacted and asked if they are interested in such items. If not, then these charitable organisations and their clothing bins should not be seen as an easy alternative to a trip to the tip. The Clothing Bin at St John's is often used to dispose of well worn out shoes, pots and pans that are no longer useful, electrical items that no longer work etc. in short...Rubbish!

By the time this edition of the Newsletter goes to press, the Salvation Army will have opened a new Family store in Robertson. The shop is opposite St John's and next to the Post Office. It is expected that they will eventually also have a clothing bin available at the back of the shops but again, it is only intended for clothes!



CLASSES BOOKING NOW

- * *Folkart* with Chris Roy, Heather Kent
- * *Mosaics* with Denise Davies
- * *Glass Etching*
- * *Leadlighting* coming

At
The Village Woodworks
Robertson

Contact Elyse - 4885 1328 (w)
4885 1103 (H)

ARE YOU BURNING THEIR HOMES TO WARMS YOURS?

Dead trees often with hollows make popular firewood as they are seasoned and burn well. Firewood collection comes at a cost to the environment. Not only does standing and fallen dead wood provide important habitat for animals and birds, it also plays an essential role in the maintenance of forests and woodlands nutrient cycles.

Easy Things You Can Do.

- * Leave some dead wood behind - standing or fallen - it provides habitat for birds and animals. Don't deprive them of their homes.
- * Use plantation timber instead of native forest or woodland timber.
- * If you own a property - try to plant as much as you take. That way you will create your own renewable source of wood.
- * Recycle - use old fence posts and off-cuts.



Gardening in Robertson

JUNE/JULY

Forget about planting all but the hardiest of plants until frosts have finished. Healthy plants start at the roots. Give your plants a lift with an organic 'pick-me-up'. Place fertilizer in a sock or stocking, tie at the top and put this in a bucket of water. Allow to infuse for a couple of days, then transfer to a watering can and pour over your soil. Soil is the foundation of a good garden. Manage it carefully. Nothing need go to waste. Composting increases the health of your soil and reuses your garden and household waste. Mulching insulates your soil surface. Worms are wonderful garbage guzzlers. Maintenance saves you time.

Robertson Garden Club Inc. meets every Month in the Community Hall, Caalong Street, Robertson. All ages welcome.

For more information contact Julie Payne Telephone 48851767.



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 June.

Robertson

10.00am - 2nd & 4th Sundays

Burrawang

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

Beginning July until further Notice
All Services at Burrawang.

Burrawang

10.00am - Every Sunday

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 August. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th July 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