



Robertson Newsletter

December 2002

Edition 33

www.Robertson-NSW.com.au

"A GATHERING PLACE FOR ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND AN ENRICHING EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE FOR ROBERTSON."



That's the vision of Peter De Lorenzo, current chairman of the voluntary steering committee for the planned Robertson Community Technology Centre (CTC).

The committee, with the help of a Sydney architect Darryl Lock, is hoping to lodge the Development Application (DA) to build the CTC with the council before Christmas.

Mr De Lorenzo says the CTC, which will include email access, an internet café, computer training, video conferencing, multimedia facilities, and even a regional cinema program, should be opening its doors by spring or winter 2003.

"It will have all the office services that local business requires, such as typing and photocopying," Mr De Lorenzo says.

"The idea of the CTC is to help local enterprises build infrastructure using modern technology. It will help people to do business without having to go to Sydney.

"It's focussing on youth because there's a big need there, but we also want senior citizens, local community groups, and mums when they've dropped off their kids after school," says Mr De Lorenzo.

The CTC will be built on Crown land next to the existing Scout Hall in Hampden Park, and will occupy more than 200 square metres.

In the meantime, the fledgling centre will be opening in a room at the back of the Scout Hall where telephone lines have already been installed.

The CTC is being funded mainly through a grant from the Federal Government's programme, Regional Solutions. There are currently between 60 and 80 CTC's being created in regional NSW.

"There's money in the budget to fund a manager for two years - then it's supposed to become self-funding. It's only going to succeed if lots of people are involved and it generates business.

"We see it as an enriching place, a community focal point. There will be courses offered in computers from beginners to those who need multi-media skills.

"With this technology you can use the centre for very exciting things, like setting up a video link with the Conservatorium of Music, so kids can have music lessons without having to travel," Mr De Lorenzo says.

Mr De Lorenzo says at this stage, these are just some of the options the steering committee is considering. "It will be very exciting," he says, "just watch this space."

Robertson's only GP is closing

Dr Sue Locke, Robertson's only resident GP, will be closing her doors before Christmas.

Dr Locke, who's nearly 65, says she is closing her surgery in Hoddle Street after more than five years of service to the village, for personal reasons.

"I think being a GP is losing its appeal, there's too much government interference and mounting insurance costs," says Dr Locke.

Dr Locke says she has loved working in the small community of Robertson, but she's ready for a change.

"I think I've got on well with most people, and in a small community you do get involved with people.

"I'd like to do other things after I've had some time off. I feel like I'm letting people down but I need to do something else for a while," she said.

Dr Locke says she has explored the idea of getting a locum (replacement doctor) but the costs are too high.

Dr Locke's decision reflects a wider trend in rural Australia, where patients often have to travel to larger towns to seek treatment.

"I think most people will go to Moss Vale or Bowral. There are other alternatives, the practices in town are large and I can't compete with them."

Dr Locke will be seeing her last patients in the week before Christmas.

L.P.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article in the last Newsletter, "Tulip Time A Feather In Robertson's Cap".

Whilst acknowledging the contribution of the local open gardens, We would like to point out that Members of Robertson Garden Club Inc. were, and are willing to 'man' the gates. It has been suggested from a number of sources, that the Club was not willing to help. This Is Untrue!

The Tulip Time Committee need to get their act together, and give us time to arrange rosters. A letter has been sent to them on behalf of the Club stating our concerns.

JULIE PAYNE
HON. SECRETARY.
ROBERTSON GARDEN CLUB INC.

Dear Editor

The Belmore Falls Road Action Group is delighted to announce that Section 6 of Belmore Falls Road has been sealed by Wingecarribee Council. Residents and friends celebrated the completed sealing of Sections 1-6, running about 6 km south of Robertson - at a "road party" on 16 November.

It may have taken ten years of persistent advocacy on behalf of the families, businesses and tourists who regularly used, or tried to use, this beautiful stretch of road, but

the safe and comfortable access we all now have is worth the wait. Robertson residents will remember the nightmarish conditions after heavy rains (remember them?); now a thing of the past.

Our thanks to those councillors who supported us over the years, to Joanna Gash MP, and to Ian Kite and his Roads and Traffic team at Council. Not to mention the tireless residents who responded to the call whenever a glimmer of hope appeared, including standing beside flooded potholes for media interviews. My 10 cm thick BFRAG correspondence files now rest in peace. The moral -never give up!

Sally Crossing
Convenor.

North St.

This will improve pedestrian safety and will encourage people to avoid the need to walk on the road.

The other good news is that Hampden Park will get a new toilet block. This will replace the old toilet facilities, which we all agree are an embarrassment to us all.

These are just a few of the exciting decisions, which are continuing to benefit our village. With an additional kilometre of road sealed on Belmore Falls Rd also being completed recently and slowly but surely more roads being sealed in the village more and more residents are benefiting from recent Council allocations!

There will also be an increased focus on the Robertson Sewer very soon, which will also be good news for many. Hopefully we can adopt a innovate approach in this area to ensure that our fragile riparian ecosystems are not put under threat by this addition to the village?

Plans for the Robertson 'skate' and multifunction facility have just completed their design phase and we will hopefully be seeing this recreation facility for our youth, constructed early in the New Year as well.

Two subdivision proposals are currently causing a great deal of concern among residents. Hopefully together we can negotiate an acceptable social and environmental compromise?

If I can help with any council matter please feel free to contact me. Clr.Larry Whipper

Council News

Well Friends. Things are really starting to happen here in the little village of Robertson. Recent decisions of Council show this to be the case.

Council have resolved to proceed with some significant works within the village. Works that will commence in the village probably in the New Year will be the construction of a pedestrian walkway on the Caalang St Bridge and the section of footpath (which at the moment goes nowhere) will hopefully be completed up to



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**FETTLERS SHED at
ROBERTSON HERITAGE
RAILWAY STATION FOR HIRE.**

**Local artists, craftspeople, collectors
and others may be interested in this
space.**

The Fettleers Shed is a multi-purpose building with 40 sq metre hall, kitchen, toilet complex. Suitable for art & crafts exhibitions, collectors exhibitions, film shows meetings, workshops, functions such as weddings, birthday parties and other celebrations, games, etc.

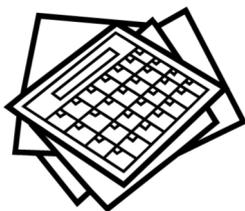
Hiring policy targets activities which require periods of long duration for which there are few alternatives within Robertson and surrounding areas. Thus the Fettleers Shed is not available for regular meetings (eg weekly or monthly) unless these are booked on an ad hoc basis.

For details see:

www.Robertson-NSW.com.au/fettleers.htm for details or call Rona or Steve on 4885 2393.

Robertson Calendar

The 2003 Calendar should be ready for distribution mid December. A free copy is available to each household in Robertson and Burrawang and these can be picked up from Water's Newsagency, the Supermarket and Scarlett's (Burrawang).



**ROBERTSON WEBSITE ON
OUR VILLAGE SIGNS - What is
the difference between a DOT and
a HYPEN ?**

The Robertson Business Association Inc. has arranged for two beautiful signs on our town entrances. Our apologies though if you tried to find our site from the URL on the sign. The DOT between Robertson and NSW should have been a HYPEN.

Our town website is:
www.Robertson-NSW.com.au.

A link from our site to your website or a static page entry costs \$20 Applications to the RBA for entries on our site may be made through Rona Goold on 4885 2393 or Phil Vickery 4885 1040.
ANSWER: Whether you find out more about your local community or not.

**ANOTHER WEBSITE FOR
ROBERTSON.**

CTC@ ROBERTSON website:
[http://
Robertson.CommunityTechnology.net.au/](http://Robertson.CommunityTechnology.net.au)

**LOTTO AND THE
BUTTERFLY EFFECT**

Not everyone has a weekly lotto entry, but many of us do and, currently, we have to go out of town to submit an entry. A small thing, but an interesting example of the "butterfly" effect because, having traveled to Bowral or Moss Vale, we then often do the rest of our shopping there too, so that local business misses out on a lot of potential custom.

Why can't you enter Lotto in Robertson? We asked Hope Waters, and the answer turns out to be that "Scratchie" turnover at Robertson Newsagency isn't quite high enough to qualify the store as a lottery agency.

Now we're not urging you to gamble, but if you do buy occasional scratchies, think about buying them locally. By bumping up Hope's turnover, you'll be helping her qualify for a lottery agency - which would be a real win for the village, even if your numbers don't come up!

OUR GARDENS ARE GROWING!

What a delight it is to see the continual enhancement to Hoddle Street gardens over recent times.

New landscaping and plantings at both the hotel and motel are notable cases in point. Other businesses also seem to be regularly improving their street scapes. Added to this, of course, is the work of the many garden conscious private residents along the Illawarra Highway. Together with the recent tree plantings at both ends of the village, the efforts of the Hampden Park Committee, and the new gardens and "village green" at the railway station, it is all helping to make our village a much more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. This newsletter offers its congratulations to all concerned.



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



ROBERTSON SHOW

On 7th & 8th March next year the 120 Robertson Show will be held. Plans and preparation for this greatest little show started straight after this year's highly successful Show.

For those of you new to Robertson, the Show is a great community effort and belongs to everyone of us. We have a wonderful committee and willing helpers who work tirelessly before, during and after the Show to maintain its success. Even so, we invite anyone who would like to help to call into Elders Robertson and speak to Phillip Vickery, the Show President, who is more than happy to tell you all about the Show and answer any questions.

The other major ingredient which ensures the Show's continuing success are the people who exhibit at the Show. Without exhibitors, our Committee wouldn't have a show to run. So if you can't help out, start thinking about what you would like to exhibit. It can be anything from cakes to flowers, art to photography, pets, horses, cattle, alpacas and the fun events like the famous Potato Race, getting a team together for the haystacking competition to name just a few. So get your thinking caps on to see what you can enter this year.

In September our wonderful Ladies Auxiliary held a Dinner at Ranelagh House with Colin Munro from the ABC as guest speaker. Colin, who travels Australia, kept everybody fascinated with stories of people he had met and places he had been from all over Australia. He also made everyone realize just how important it is to keep the Robertson Show as "country" as possible. We believe that this is why the Show is so successful and draws people from everywhere to come and enjoy and marvel at the talent and excellence of the exhibitors. So, even if you can only spare an hour or so, please contact Phillip Vickery on 4885 1040 to find out just how you can help and you will also meet and make many new friends.



Bushfire Safety

The bushfire season is well and truly here! So what can you do to help make your home safe?

If you live in a bushfire prone area ie. in or near to bush land, you should already be prepared but if you aren't, now is the time to start. Don't wait till you can smell the smoke to start preparations. Some of the things you can do are:

- * Clean out your gutters and remove potential fuel from around the house and sheds. Get plugs for your down pipes, so that you can fill your gutters with water. Have your hoses ready.
- * Install an exterior sprinkler system.
- * Block up holes around eaves etc where sparks can get into the roof.
- * Purchase a petrol powered "bushfire pump", electricity can't be depended on during a fire. Prepare a strategy for contending with a fire at your house.
- * Listen to local radio for fire news, a Total fire ban in the Illawarra region includes the Wingecaribbee Shire.

To help the Rural Fire Service you can:

Report fires to "000".

Remember no fires without a permit September to March.

If you are interested in joining the RFS we meet every Wednesday at 7:30 pm for maintenance and training at the station in Wallangunda St .



Photos by
Rudi Vavra

0412 78 823



Chats Café

Merry Christmas to all our customers
From Chats Café at the Country Motel.

We are open from 9am to 7pm
(Sundays 9am-5pm)
7 days a week.
(Closed Christmas Day)



Building Supplies



Merry Christmas

From all the Staff

31 Hoddle Street, Robertson 2577

Phone 4885 1033 Fax 4885 1094

Recipe of the Month

Pan Forte

(Italian Siena Cake, an alternative to Christmas Cake)

1¼ cup of chopped toasted almonds

¼ cup chopped candied orange & lemon peel

½ cup plain flour

¼ cup cocoa

½ tsp each of ground cinnamon & nutmeg

A pinch each of ground cloves & coriander

In a saucepan place ½ cup of honey and ½ cup of sugar.

Bring slowly to the boil, making sure sugar dissolves before it boils. Continue boiling until "soft ball" stage (drop a little into cold water to test). Pour over fruit, nut and flour mixture until all ingredients are well incorporated. Press into a lined, greased 20cm flat ring. Bake in a cool oven (150°C) for 30-35 minutes. Cool, turn out and sprinkle with sifted icing sugar. Cut into thin wedges and wrap in foil or cellophane.

This recipe is brought to you with the compliments of

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ROBERTSON! A NEWCOMER'S PERSPECTIVE

A month or so ago, I moved to Robertson and in that short period I have been re-acquainted with the country spirit I grew up with and had long ago forgotten through years of living in the Big City.

What was immediately apparent was the marked difference in the attitude of people. People here are friendly, helpful, interested and interesting and all are willing to share a wealth of knowledge and information. I noticed that the town has a lot of quality shops and many conveniences e.g. bakery, hardware store, newsagency, grocery, nursery, service stations, video stores, etc and the pub with bits of paper currency stuck to the ceiling. How do they do that? There's even serious machinery for the man or woman on the land.

The notices displayed in the shop windows indicate that there's a lot happening in the town. The local environmental group appears very active with very interesting talks and activities; there are plays and orchestral recitals; and, there are local groups meeting all the time. I was in town for the Robbo Fair, and, from an outsider's point of view, it was a tremendous success. There were many very high quality items for sale and I spent up big.

I am convinced I have come to the right place and that I will enjoy my stay. I purchased a cute little cottage on the main road and I am blessed with the most wonderful neighbours who made me feel very, very welcome. One of my neighbours sent me a personalised, artistically designed welcome invitation and the other gave me a dozen eggs collected that day from her chooks in the backyard. I've had an offer of some cabbage seedlings from another neighbour when the seedlings "hatch". Moving to Robertson was not just a physical relocation for me. It's a body and soul thing where I'm following my heart. I wanted to be closer to nature and enjoy a relaxed, stress-free life doing only what I love to do. Previously I lived in Rushcutter's Bay on a rooftop and worked on Level 59 of Governor Phillip Tower and my feet hardly felt the ground. I had the fabulous views and one thing I saw a lot of was the sunrise and sunset, and, of course, these were always magnificent. However, in between, there was no time to stop and stare or smell the roses, as they say. Here you can breathe the fresh mountain air, experience the four seasons, buy a pint of fresh milk if you want, get a ute-load of manure for free or very little, grow your own vegetables and keep some chooks, and indeed smell the roses if you please. There are no infuriating queues or bad manners. Parking is free in the main street and there are no time limits - I get the impression that you could park your car for a few months (with the windows down) and it would still be there. If one feels the need to reconnect with the Big Smoke, it's as easy as going for a Sunday drive for a couple of hours.

In short, I think I've come to a beautiful little town with lots going for it. It truly is the "Green Heart" of the Southern Highlands and it reflects the wonderful warm hearts of its inhabitants.

Rose Kluge

To let Burrawang

* 4 Bedroom brick veneer house, gas heating, double garage, double carport, fenced yard—\$250 pw

* 4 Bedroom brick veneer house, attached garage—\$265 pw

Robertson—2 Bedroom older style cottage—\$165 pw

Wildes Meadow—3 Bedroom cottage—\$185 pw

Fitzroy Falls—3 Bedroom brick veneer house, separate garage—\$270 pw



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The Story of Buntwood.

There has always been many a great timber
Always lasting and strong—never limber
But none named so witty
As the star of my ditty
Called that of the name Buntwood.

The story starts as it goes
Once upon a time, not so long ago
A competition was held each year
For the finest wood to be judged at the show
Right here in our quiet little village of Robertson.

Mr. Bunt was a regular entrant
Finding many different species so gallant
Always keeping the name of each sort constant.

Alas, while searching for wood
He found one that he could not name as well as he should
So he pondered and thought
Of a name that he ought be able to use.

As he thought and he thought of a name that he ought be able to use
A light popped on in his head which did almost blow a fuse.
“Buntwood!”, said he with a torrent of glee
And Buntwood was the name he did use.

And now this is the part of the story
Where I tell you that “this is how the great legend came to be”
But the story was not passed from generation to generation you see
And has just been uncovered
(to let the rest of Robertson discover)
the great story that should have been.

Amy-Kate Tilley.

History

At the Robertson Show there used to be a section for school children to enter pieces of wood of a certain size to be judged. Mr. Bunt (Rose Mauger’s father) would assist the children in preparing the wood for competition. There were always the regulars, cedar, stringy bark, mountain ash, etc., but one year Mr. Bunt came across a species he couldn’t put a name to. After a little consideration he named the wood after himself, the final product being Buntwood.

Just recently Mrs. Rose Mauger & Gordon Missingham were remembering school days in the small Pheasant Ground School in the 1920’s, when this story came to mind.



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Medical Notes

Due to family reasons I am going to retire in December.
I do so with regret as I have found working amongst the people of Robertson very rewarding and stimulating and thank you all for your support.



Dr. Sue Locke.
30 Hoddle St

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Robertson/Burrawang Senior Citizens Club

We have had two very successful caterings—for the National Trust, Berrima Branch for Morning Tea on the 4th September and for the Tadpole Stroke Support Group for afternoon Tea on the 30th October. So, if you want some catering done, ask your Senior Citizens first! We will be happy to oblige.

Don't forget our Christmas Dinner on the 13th December (Friday) at 12 o'clock at the Robertson Hotel. Please give your names to either Lydia Maynard (4885 1730) or Joan Compagnoni (4885 1280) by the 6th December, 2002.

Social Bowls continue on Mondays at the Bowling Club

If you have any ideas for next year, let us know.

Bus Services

The special holiday bus services, run by Berrima Coaches, will commence on Monday 23rd December. Buses run every Monday and Thursday throughout the holidays, leaving Robertson at 10.00am and departing Bowral at 1.30pm.

Regular daily Countrylink buses also serve Robertson between Wollongong and Moss Vale (ring Countrylink for details or call in and ask Hope Waters at the Newsagency).

A further service is offered by Southern Highlands Community Transport, every second Wednesday (starting December 11th) and this can be booked by Robertson and Burrawang residents to go to Bowral, between 9am and 1pm. To book phone 4861 5456. The bus is also available for community group outings.

Anniversary

Congratulations to Bill and Emily Potters who have just celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Mr & Mrs Potters, who live in Burrawang St, have been residents of Robertson all their married life.

Wingecarribee Services Co-operative Meals on Wheels.

Frozen meals consisting of fruit juice, soup, main course and dessert, or whatever you would like of these, are available and delivered to your home every Monday afternoon by a small band of dedicated volunteers. You may order what you desire for one to seven days and prices are very, very, reasonable. Juice is free, soup is 50c, main course is \$3.70 and dessert is \$1.00. Can you beat that?

If you want to discuss anything about the meals, please contact the co-ordinator, Lisa Sexton, on 4869 4032 or Joan Compagnoni on 4885 1280.

Light Up For Christmas

As in past years, prizes will be offered for best Christmas Display, which is not limited to lights.

1st Prize—Builder Barn Hardware is donating an Electric Whipper Snipper valued at \$120

2nd Prize—\$50 Gift voucher to be spent in any Robertson Business

Also

\$50 Gift voucher for best decorated Business.



Robertson School of Arts

The new heating and fans are working very well. Do you realise the committee has spent over \$100,000 since it was reformed in 1979, to make this district-owned hall much more "user-friendly" for those who use it. Mrs Waters of Water's Store (4885 1248) will gladly take your booking.

Our December functions are:-
Sunday 8th - Markets, with lots of different stalls.
Monday 16th - Village Christmas Carols, with a surprise this year.
Friday 20th - Christmas Family Dance—bring the children to see Santa Claus arrive about 9.15pm. A great night!

Committee Meetings are still held on the fourth Monday of every month, except December, at 7.30pm. Come along and join us, we need your input.

May we wish everyone a holy, happy and safe Christmas.

Christmas Services

Carols

Monday 16th December—Village Christmas Carols—7.30pm School of Arts

Sunday 22nd December—St David's Burrawang—8.00pm

Tuesday 24th December—St John's Robertson—8.00pm

Christmas Services

St John's Anglican Robertson

Christmas Day—8.00am & 9.30am Communion Services

Uniting Robertson

Tuesday 24th December—6.00pm

Roman Catholic. (Burrawang)

Christmas Day—9.00am Mass



Gardening Notes.

Do not exceed manufacturers directions when mixing sprays. It is not only wasteful but could damage foliage of plants. Do not forget to clean spray equipment immediately after use.

Try using micro-sprays they provide plants with a gentle spray or mist which is easily absorbed into the leaves. It avoids water run-off and soil compacting and conserves water as well.

A garden can change quite dramatically over the years. Step back in time and see how it has evolved over the years.

All the family can be involved in Gardening. Share the joy of watching your children germinate seed for the first time. Watch their amazement as they understand the miracle of life. Help them start to grow their own food and flowers.

Bushes and Trees provide excellent places for birds to roost and nest. Some birds protect their young from predators by building nests in dense trees and shrubs and watching from a distance.

Some Insects and Spiders are camouflaged. Their colour is similar to the plants they live on. This protects them from predators.

Did You Know? To avoid getting stuck in their own webs, web-building spiders cover their

bodies with an oil-like substance. They have special bristles between their claws with which to grease the threads of the web.

Lichens grow on rocks, slowly breaking them down into soil. Don't expect to see this happen! You would be here for a very long time if you waited. Lichens and mosses are badly affected by air pollution. It kills them off quickly. If there is a lot of lichen, there is probably not much pollution.

Robertson Garden Club Inc. will hold it's last meeting for the year on **Monday 2nd December, 2002**, by holding a Christmas Get-together.

All Welcome! -Bring A Plate!

The first Meeting for 2003 will be held on **Monday 3rd February**, commencing at 1.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, Caalong Street, Robertson.

By joining a Garden Club, you can share in the pure pleasures members get from their Gardens, and you can benefit from the knowledge of like-minded people.

Hope To See You!
Our Motto is; "*Friendship Through Gardening*".

For more information contact Julie Payne Telephone 48851767.

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

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 February. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th January 2003**. 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