



# Robertson Newsletter

February 2003

Edition 34

[www.Robertson-NSW.com.au](http://www.Robertson-NSW.com.au)

## Vying for your vote

Sewerage, crime rates, road safety, infrastructure development and tourism are the main issues facing Robertson, according to the two main competitors for the forthcoming State elections in March.

Current member Matt Brown (Labor) says getting a sewerage system in place in the village is the most pressing need. Mr. Brown says he'll pursue a commitment to get State government funding for the project, once the community and the council have made a final decision.

The challenger, Danielle Jones, (Liberal) says on this issue she believes the council needs to consult with the community more, and is keen to be involved in state planning issues if elected.

"Some of the older residents have expressed concern about car stealing and vandalism, and I would like to see a permanent police presence," Ms Jones added.



Mr. Brown also identified road safety as an ongoing issue, saying safety has already been improved by the level crossing bars across the village railway tracks, and the lighting for the Sheepwash Road/Illawarra Highway intersection.

Mr. Brown won the last election with an 18 per cent margin. Is he confident of winning again? "I don't take anything for granted."

And Ms Jones, who many people will know as a manager of Ranelagh House, how does she feel about her chances of success?

"Let's wait and see," she says.

### Order your Chocolates and Flowers for Valentines Day

Wonderful handmade Chocolates  
Beautiful single stem Roses, Bouquets and baskets of Roses

10% Discount for orders received by 9th February 2003

**Robertson By Design**—72 Hoddle St, Robertson  
**4885 1371**

### VALENTINES DAY February 14th

Local Gifts of Love

Romantic Dinner & Limousine  
Him & Her Massage & Facial+ Skin Care Package for Skin Type  
Him & Her Pilates Class & Massage

Only Limited Bookings

Phone: 4885 2490

Enquire.....Taylor Made Packages.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Attendees at the recent public meeting held at the *School of Arts* in Robertson to recommence community consultation into the possible options of the Robertson Sewerage Scheme should be alarmed at the location of Council's preferred option.

The option most favoured by Wingecarribee Council is unfortunately also the nearest in proximity to the township.

Locating the treatment plant near the showground along the tourist drive, otherwise known as Caalong Street, should concern all visitors to the annual Robertson Show.

Apart from the location, the preferred site of the sewage treatment plant (STP) will create other issues including an increase in heavy truck movements in the village during construction, which will stretch Caalong Street and its bridge's already limited constraints.

Social, residential and economic impacts will also be affected, not to mention odours to neighbours in the northern section of the village.

No one doubts the environmental benefits that the scheme will bring and the cost and inconvenience that will be lifted from ratepayers on pump-out systems.

However, we

should also try to retain the village atmosphere and ambience that our township has whilst balancing the needs of the future.

So let Council know what you think.

Ask them to remove *Site A – The Showground* as its preferred option, and reconsider the other locations outside of the village further from the town population.

We only have until the end of January when Council will select their preferred option.

**Dave Sommers  
Robertson**

*Ed. The above letter arrived too late for our last edition and while the date for submissions to council has passed, the letter has been included to put the Council's response, printed on page 3, into context.*



## Business is booming

Robertson is enjoying a boom in new and revamped businesses in the town.

The new businesses include Essential Botanicals, next to Water's Store. Formerly a haberdashery and gallery, the shop, run by Sheila Massetti, sells hand-made organic soaps, creams, candles and natural skin products. Ms Massetti has been a resident of Robertson for five years, and makes all her own products on the premises.

Robertson newcomers Peter Fekonja and Mark O'Connor have opened a delightful yesteryear furniture and old wares shop called Final Touch next to Elders Real Estate.

The new owner of the Pig and Whistle café is Elio Pezzella, who has run an Italian restaurant in Mittagong for the last ten years. The café is open on Friday and Saturday nights for authentic Italian food.

Last Spring, Robertson resident Fiona Hayward took over the Cheese Factory gift shop, which has now become the Robertson Country Store.

Fiona sells all kinds of gifts, clothing, silk flowers, and garden ware. The shop also incorporates items from the Scots Heritage magazine mail order collection.

Upstairs, Fiona has opened Over the Garden Wall, a variety of decorative arts and crafts products.

**Matt Brown MP**  
Your Local Member

**CAN I HELP?**

Terralong House,  
125 Terralong St, Kiama  
Telephone: 4232 1082  
Facsimile: 4232 3577  
Email: kiama@parliament.nsw.gov.au



**EXPERIENCE OUR NEWEST VISITOR DESTINATION**  
..one of the mainland's largest lavender farms  
and much more - just a few minutes from  
Robertson

**FARMGATE** at **STATFORD PARK**  
..much more than just a lavender farm!  
LAVENDER · OLIVES · MUSTARD and WINE



**Pearson's Lane**  
4885 1101  
OPEN DAILY



# THE ROBERTSON SEWERAGE NEWSLETTER

*Providing an update for the residents of Robertson*

**January 2003**

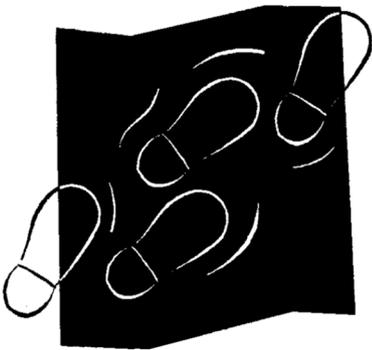
The Robertson Sewerage Options Report was on public exhibition from 27 November 2002 to 31 January 2003. A high level of interest was expressed by the community at the public meetings held in November and December at the School of Arts Hall. The public exhibition generated an active response with many submissions already being received by mid January.

Issues raised in the submissions mainly related to the location and impact of the sewage treatment plant. These have included:

- \* Odour generation.
- \* Increase in heavy traffic.
- \* Concern about the need to upgrade Caalong Street and the bridge.
- \* Potential for sewage overflows.
- \* Visual impacts.

Whichever sewage treatment plant location is selected, Council intends to build a modern plant that will not result in odour nuisance or have an adverse visual impact. While there will be an increase in heavy traffic during the construction period, once commissioned, heavy vehicles will only need access to the plant on several occasions per year.

Council's roads and traffic engineers have confirmed that the bridge in Caalong Street has sufficient structural strength to carry the potential vehicle loads. Many safety measures and backup features will be built into the treatment plant and collection system to minimise the risk of any sewage overflow.



## What are the next steps?

It is anticipated that Council will consider the public submissions and select the preferred option for the scheme at a Council meeting in March. Further studies will then be carried out which will culminate in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. It is currently planned to have the EIS on public exhibition in November this year.

**For more information contact Council's water and sewerage manager, Mark Williams on 02 48 680 888**



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

**CROWD**media.com  
digital photography & web media

**0402 876 375**  
damien@crowdmedia.com

event >> media >> web >> publication >> advertising >> promotion

## Robertson Real Estate Boom

The increasing prices and popularity of real estate in Robertson continues, as families from the coast and the city choose to create a new life in the village.

Judy Fisk of R J Mackey real estate, says people are discovering that Robertson is an "epicentre" for so many lifestyle choices.

"We're close to the cities, the beaches, TAFE's and universities, and there are geological boundaries around the village such as the escarpment, the national parks and the Water Board land, that mean the area will never be built out," Ms Fisk says.

Phillip Vickery of Elders real estate says a lot of people are coming up from the coast around Wollongong in response to increasing costs, growing crime, pollution and noise. There is also a continuing trickle of people moving to the village from Sydney, a trend boosted by the M5 freeway which opened last year.

"They are predominantly young families with children, and a few retirees," he says.

Agents say prices have risen considerably in the last year. A house that would have sold for \$165,000 a year ago, would be worth an average \$250,000 today.

The area is also becoming popular for land sales. At the end of last year 39 blocks were released for sale - there are now only four or five left. The blocks, either quarter-acre or half-acre, sold for a minimum of \$168,000. In addition, several 5-acre rural blocks, on the outskirts of the village, have sold in recent months for about \$450,000.

Carl Hilder of Raine and Horne, predicts that the area will also grow in popularity once the village has a sewerage system in place.

"It will be better for everyone, and the businesses in the main street can expand when the sewerage is in. Right now, it's holding the town back. Once it's done Robertson will really be something quite special," Mr Hilder says.



**Danielle  
Jones**

Liberal for Kiama  
Ph 0414 335 781  
**Your choice on  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003'**



Authorised by  
Jason Horton, Ranelagh House, Illawarra Hwy, Robertson NSW 2577

**Discover how to decorate your home!**

Day and Evening Courses starting Mid February  
at

**Robertson By Design**

72 Hoddle St  
Robertson

Explore different styles of decorating.  
Practical and Decorative solutions for your home.

Enjoy changing your rooms!  
For more information  
**4885 1371**

## Recipe of the Month

### Pineapple Chicken

1 KG chicken pieces browned in a little oil in a baking dish. Pour over the juice of 1 can of pineapple and ½ cup of dry white wine. Add salt, pepper & 3 cloves of garlic, crushed. Roast in a moderate oven for 1 hour. Remove chicken from baking dish.

Sauce: skim fat from pan juices. Add juice & grated rind of 1 orange, ½ cup sultanas and pineapple pieces. Thicken with cornflour. Replace chicken in sauce & keep warm till ready to serve.

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

Fine china, glassware, furniture, bric-a-brac and books.

We buy for cash.

## ROBERTSON SHOW SET FOR SUCCESS

Organisers of the Robertson Show are hoping for a record number of entrants and visitors at the annual weekend show on March 7th and 8th.

Show President Phillip Vickery says last year's show was the most popular on record with about 6,500 visitors. This year, all the traditional features of the show will remain, with the main attraction of the Saturday night show expected to draw the crowds.

"The potato race and the demolition derby are always great favourites. We're hoping for sunny weather to help us top last year's record," he says.

Mr Vickery has called for volunteers to help on the gates during the weekend, and for the community (that's you) to start preparing their entries for the Pavilion craft and produce show.

A number of physical improvements have been made to the showground during the last year, including a revamped perimeter roadway, new concrete around the toilet block and pavilion, a new amplification system to help competitors hear more easily, and extensive tree planting.

Mr Vickery says show programmes are available at most retail outlets in the village, and list competitions from hay stacking to the pet show, from preserves to children's art and craft.

The Robertson Show Ball has also been revived. It will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Robertson School of Arts, and will be fully catered with a band. Mr Vickery says it should be an inexpensive fun night for new and old residents, and everyone is welcome. For tickets, contact Ashley Clark on 0417 676 386.

Robertson is very lucky to have retained its show with soaring insurance costs since September 11. But the pressure is still on from insurers to leave no loopholes. This year's competitors in the livestock section of the show will have to sign disclaimers saying they accept responsibility if injured by an animal.



### To let

#### Burrawang

4 Bedroom Home—\$250 pw  
2 Bedroom Cottage—\$250 pw  
3/4 Bedroom Cottage, garage—\$350 pw

#### Robertson

3/4 Bedroom House—\$185 pw



## R J MACKEY Real Estate

Robertson

Phone: 4885 1329

Email: rjmackeyre@bigpond.com

## Gentle Exercise Classes

*Stretch & Tone with Pilates Techniques*

### Enrol Now

1st Term begins 29th Jan 03  
Ph. 4885 2490

also

## Massage & Kinesiology

By Appointment Only

Remedial & Swedish Massage

Kinesiology & Reiki

Mob: 0408 978 310  
(Between 9am—4pm)

## **BOWRAL DOCTORS TO THE RESCUE**

Oddly enough, the **best** news we have this edition is that we got it wrong last time. The village medical practice has not had to close down, thanks to doctors from Bowral Medical Centre.

In fact Sue Locke's old practice is back to 5 day a week staffing, with doctors Mark Wilson, Craig Lilienthal, Penny Knowlden and Tess Van Duuren, alternating, to ensure that GP care is available in Robertson.

The practice is located at 30 Hoddle St and current surgery hours are:-

Monday	10.30 - 2.30
Tuesday	2.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	2.00 - 5.00
Thursday	9.00 - 12.30
Friday	9.30 - 1.00

We understand that if there is sufficient demand, hours at the surgery will be extended

Appointments can be made by phone on 4885 1502, which will automatically switch you through to Bowral, if the Robertson surgery is unattended.

On behalf of everyone in Robertson, this newsletter sincerely thanks the Bowral Doctors for rescuing our medical service.

## **WHO ARE WE?**

Do you remember those endless forms for the national census we were all asked to fill out about eighteen months ago? Well, your efforts were not in vain because the results have been published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and give an interesting snapshot of our shire.

The census for population and housing for the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) 2001, shows a modest population rise in the last few years to 40,840. The average age of shire residents is 38 (slightly older than the age of 35 recorded in 1996).

Contrary to popular opinion, the WSC is not a particularly ageing shire. The highest number of people were aged 25-44 years (10,397), closely followed by the 45-64 year age group (10,050).

And of course we all could have guessed it, but figures show the largest group to be born outside Australia in the shire were from the UK (6.9% of the population), followed by New Zealand (1.3%) and Germany (0.6%). The most common languages spoken at home other than English were Chinese languages, Italian and German. The multi-cultural make-up of the shire is slowly but surely changing.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in the shire has also increased, and now accounts for 497 people.

A surprising statistic was that 95% of the work force were employed, 55% full-time (more than 35 hours) and 37% part-time. According to the ABS, only 5% of the labour force was unemployed, much better than the national average.

The main areas of employment were the professions, manufacturing, construction, retail trade, property and business services, education, and health and community services.

It also seems we're getting smarter. In 1996, 6.7% of people in the shire held a bachelor degree - now the figure is 8.6%. More women held degrees than men.

Finally, a small employment sector must be the public transport system. The vast majority of people (64%) travel to work by car, but only 0.9% go by train, and a mere 0.5 % by bus. Congratulations to the 4.6% who either walked or rode their bikes. Perhaps it's time for a review of public transport needs in the shire.....?



**Peter Emery**  
Handyman

ABN 77 767 673 259

**Give me a call for any job big or small**  
Tel 02 4885 1068 Mob 0404 473 822

## **Robertson Potatoes**

For Sale



Freshly Dug



Available from R. J. Mackey Real Estate  
Open 7 Days

Ph. 02 4885 1329

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Community Services Group

Robertson Community Services Group will resume on the 11th February and fortnightly during the year. New members are very welcome. We begin at 10.00am and a hot dinner is available for \$7.00. Community Centre, Caalong St, Robertson

## Robertson Garden Club.

Robertson Garden Club Inc will hold it's  
**Annual General Meeting**  
on  
**Monday 3rd March, 2003**  
in the  
Community Hall, Caalong St,  
Robertson  
Commencing at 1.30pm

New Members most welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Hamper/Raffle

*Drawn on Monday, 2nd December, 2002*

1st Prize—Hamper  
Ticket Black E20—John Hardwicke

2nd Prize—Wine Collection  
Ticket Blue B01—Judith Fudge

3rd Prize—Wine & Chocolate Basket  
Ticket Blue B19—Jane Hope

## REPS Talk

Friday, February 14th  
Robertson Community Centre  
7.30pm

### "IN THE TRACKS OF ROBERT HODDLE"

Wally Abraham

"An account of selected early 19th century tracks and passes over the Macquarie Mountains from the Tablelands to the Coast and from the Illawarra to the Kangaroo Grounds. Illustrated with maps of the period including Hoddle's own map of August 1831."

Wally Abraham, an Architect and Town Planner, has lived permanently on the top of Saddleback Mountain since 1983 beside one of the few built sections of "Hoddle's Road". He has been active in local government affairs and has contributed to research into some aspects of local history, in particular the dry stone walls of the Kiama Hinterland.



Robert Hoddle

## Wingecarribee Reconciliation Group

Sunday February 16th

5.00pm Picnic Cuppa on the Village Common (Robertson Heritage Railway Precinct), courtesy Senior Citizens,

6.30pm Welcome to Country at the Reconciliation Sculpture (Yarranga Street Entrance) by Aboriginal Elder, Val Mulcahy (accompanied by didgeridoo),

7.00pm (School of Arts) "*Readings from the Past*" and didgeridoo

7.30pm (School of Arts): "*Reconciliation/Treaty: The Way Forward ?*", a public address by newly elected Federal Member for Cunningham, Mr Michael Organ, MHR, previously archivist/historian at the University of Wollongong.

8.30pm (School of Arts): Questions and Discussion

9.00pm: Finish

Family groups and children welcome.

For catering purposes, would you kindly

RSVP by 9th February

to

David Tranter,  
phone 48-851-394

## LEARN TO CREATE YOUR OWN FAMILY HEIRLOOM PORCELAIN DOLL MAKING



**Beginners Class**  
**Everything Supplied**  
**Class starts February 2003**

**SALIND'S PORCELAIN STUDIO**  
(Grandmaster Dollmaker)  
Phone 4885 2342

## PIG 'N' WHISTLE CAFÉ THE OLD CHEESE FACTORY

**OPEN FOR DINNER**  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY from 6pm ONWARDS  
FINE ITALIAN CUISINE  
BYO  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Open 7 days 10am-4pm

Phone: 4885 1300





## Gardening Notes.

February/March

To kick-start your Spring vegetable garden sow a green manure crop. Try oats or lupins. Dig the crop in while it is still leafy and immature to give the beds a boost of nutrients and to improve soil structure.

Plant rhubarb in soil rich in compost, manure and a sprinkling of blood and bone. Sow snow peas, carrots, lettuce, beetroot onions, silverbeet. Break up clumps of chives and plant as an attractive border. Dissolve a spoonful of sulphate of ammonia in a watering can and pour on parsley to encourage growth. Trim bay trees into shape before the Spring growth appears. Fertilize strawberries with sulphate of potash to remedy potassium deficiency. Mulch with well rotted pine, conifer, fir or spruce needles. These encourage acidic soil which strawberries prefer.

### Do you want to know more about Gardening?

Robertson Garden Club Inc. will hold it's first meeting for the year on Monday 3rd February, 2003. commencing at 1.30 p.m., in the Community Hall, Caalong Street, Robertson.

All Ages Welcome!

Our Motto is: "Friendship Through Gardening."

## GREEN HEART THREE - NEW EDITION OF THE ROBERTSON BROCHURE

A new (third) edition of the popular Robertson Brochure is currently in preparation. Deadlines are immediate and Robertson businesses with a tourist orientation are urged to "be in it". Over the last 4 years the brochure has done a great deal both to put, and keep, Robertson on the tourism map. It has brought many new visitors to the village, and also done much to establish our identity as the "green heart of the Southern Highlands".

The brochure is widely distributed, through the Visitor Information Centre in Mittagong, to neighbouring V.I.Cs, to hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and other appropriate outlets in and around our region. Pleasingly, it regularly receives highly favourable comment from tourism operators for its quality, clarity and information content. Many tell us it's a brochure they are very happy to have, and to hand out.

Over 40,000 copies will be printed this time, which is about 2 years supply so the chance to be listed won't come around again until 2005! So don't miss out.

For more information, phone Dion or Micki Boehme on 48 851 080, or call in at Robertson Recollections.

## 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 April. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th March 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

This newsletter is an independent publication under the auspices of The Robertson Business Association. The ideas presented are not necessarily those of the editors nor of the Association. The statement and opinions expressed in this publication are made in good faith, and the editors, volunteers and contributors do not take any responsibility for those statements and opinions, any inferences that may be drawn from them, or actions or charges which may result from them. The Editors reserves the right not to print any item that is defamatory to any person or organisation, or that is anonymously sent, and to edit any contributions as required.

Editor : Barry Lee