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Robertson News

October 2003

Edition 38

www.Robertson-NSW.com.au

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE - FULL SPEED AHEAD!

After months of planning and slow progress, the Robertson Community Technology Centre (CTC) is suddenly taking huge steps forward. The building work is beginning, activities are being planned and budgeted for, and a million little things need to be taken care of before the actual opening of the centre. The centre is expected to open to the public before the end of the year. Financial support and sponsors are still being sought for the fit out and furnishing of the CTC.

Who is involved? Anybody who has the desire to work together in this exciting project. The volunteer management committee currently consists of Robertson residents: Peter De Lorenzo (chair), Emma Calver, Jim Foran (secretary), Rona Goold, Jenny Kena (treasurer), Rod McDonald, Colin Senior, Leesa Stratford and Sarah Tahourdin.

The manager's job was advertised during the winter, and since the beginning of September, two local women have been sharing the post. Anni Heino is a journalist who moved to Robertson two years ago from Finland; Melissa Sheppard is a project management professional (and a proud mother of one-year-old Paris), whose family moved into the area recently from Sydney.

Melissa brings with her skills from the telecommunications, information technology and finance industries as

well as customer service and teaching experience. Anni, in addition to being a freelance writer, has plenty of experience in the field of arts, promotion and publicity. Both Anni and Melissa are excited about this opportunity to be more actively involved in the Robertson community.

The Wingecarribee Shire council has approved the development application of the Robertson Community Technology Centre, and the building work has started on the Hoddle Street site (in front of the Scout Hall). The plans have been prepared by the Sydney-based architect Darryl Lock.

If you want to contact the CTC or

have any queries, suggestions or a desire to support this wonderful project the contacts are:

Steering committee address:
CTC@Robertson,
c/o Post Office,
Robertson NSW 2577

e-mail: robertsonctc@myrealbox.com.

Managers

Anni Heino: 0439 732 367,
heino@shoalhaven.net.au

Melissa Sheppard: 0411 345 816,
moxeyheath@telpacific.com.au

Web page

<http://robertson.communitytechnology.net.au>



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· A meeting will be held at the Robertson Community Centre October 23rd to discuss the Robertson Sewerage Scheme. All are welcome to attend. The Robertson Sewerage Scheme is hotting up with an interesting debate. Many residents and business owners are upset and concerned about the impact a sewerage plant will have on the town. Many feel the site will reduce land value and have a negative impact on tourism. Others feel that the site will have no negative impact at all and will in fact add value to the town. The latter opinion has been concluded by experts in the field receiving information from other towns with similar sewerage plants within – and so the debate goes on.

· The R.B.A held its meeting on Monday the 1st September at the Three Creeks Café. Twenty five people attended the meeting. Rolf Gschwind – owner of the Bakery site and Post Office complex, showed plans for a proposed upmarket shopping complex with Café and Gallery. Don and Georgina Ferguson spoke about issues regarding the expectations of Robertson as a tourist.

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Susi and Martin Calladine's Three Creeks Café is up and running and will be hosting classes in coffee making from Australia's No. 1 Barista.

· The Pottery Shop will be opening soon as a Char-Grill Café.

· After four years of operating "Pizzas in

the Mist", Thomas and I have put the business up for sale to spend more time with our three children. It has been a tough decision to sell, however our main priority is to have a good family life. We plan to stay in Robertson and pursue other interests.

· Handmade in the Highlands has been cancelled this year due to lack of interest by exhibitors and the high cost of public liability insurance

· Saturday 4th until Monday 6th of October – The Robertson Rainforest Exhibition will be held at the Fettle's Shed displaying Flora and Fauna of the Robertson Rainforest. Open 10.00am until 4.00 pm. Contact Janet Waterlow 48 851686.

· Robertson Family Dance at the School of Arts Friday 17th of October. Contact Hope Waters 48 851248.

· Hope Waters is thrilled with the news that Dr Who will be returning to the ABC. I am sure there are many other fans that will be rejoicing with her!

· Gai and Robert Kearines from the Robertson Village Inn have moved back to Dubbo. It is sad to see them go after all the hard work they have put into the Hotel. They will be missed very much.

· The teachers strike on the 17th September saw Robertson Public School students at home with some mums and dads off work. The teachers are asking for a 25% pay rise due to the lack of respect in their field, and many teachers are looking elsewhere seeking jobs with better wages. As the saying goes – "you cannot put a price on good education".

In the last few years fundraising is almost a "business venture" amongst Public Schools and pressure is also put on parents to keep giving with their time and money. What happened to the Public School System? Why are so many people opting for expensive Private Education? Is it because the Public System is letting us down? One of the best assets this country has is its Public Schools boasting free quality education. It's slowing dying and cost cutting by the Government is chipping away at our children's welfare. Any good business operator will tell you "if you pay peanuts- you get monkeys". What is the Government doing with the billions of dollars it makes a year in G.S.T? Surely they could spare a buck or two for the many teachers that mould our children into educated, well-adjusted people. What price would you put on your child's future?

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Sports Roundup

Soccer

Robertson / Burrawang Soccer Club held their presentation at the Bowling Club, culminating a very successful year, with the Under 10s, 11s & 14s all reaching the semi finals.

The Under 10s, coached by Drew Bain & managed by Leesa Stratford went on to win an exciting Grand Final against Yerrinbool after a tied full time score sent the game into extra time and finally into a penalty shoot-out. What a game!!

The presentation was attended by quite a lot of parents who, during the year have all been positively supportive of the children and were again supportive on Sunday. Thank you parents, for your support. As we all know, the children responded positively to that support. The success of the club & the attitudes of the children throughout the year is an indication of the parental encouragement & wonderful school environment. The large number of girls playing soccer in Robertson is another indicator of that positive encouragement, and all those girls were outstanding throughout the year, with quite a few of the girls taking out major club awards. Congratulations to Zoe MacDonald & Carlia Phillips for winning the Club's Junior Players of The Year. Both girls were selected for the State & Country girls rep team after outstanding play with Southern Branch Under 12 rep team.

Congratulations to every child who participated throughout the year, and many thanks for making the coaches jobs easy. A special thank you to Sonya Wilson & Carol MacGraw for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. They have been two hard working ladies. Have a wonderful holiday and hopefully we'll see you all again next season, and that includes the parents.

Chris Keenahan, Club President

Hockey

This year has drawn to a close for the Robertson hockey club with The club fielding three junior sides and six senior sides this year.

The under 10's played hard all year under the guidance of Barry Donovan. The under 14's were coached by Daniel Campbell and were unlucky to make the semi finals. Under 16's were coached by Jason and Sally Brittle and made the grand final. They played hard but at full time Burrawang took the win 2-1. A big thank you to all the supporters.

Junior presentation day will be held on Sunday 12th October 2003 at Jamberoo recreation park. It will cost \$25.00 per head, travel will be by bus for bookings phone Sally on 48612248 or Jules on 48882113 Parents need to accompany their children.

The senior teams consisted of three men's and three womens sides. Third grade men played hard and had fun all year. First grade men made it through to the final and went down to Bowral 2-0. They tried valiantly but it wasn't meant to be. Second grade men reigned champions this year winning the Premiership against Mittagong 3-1. A great team effort by these boys, young and old. Third grade women made a great effort to make it to the grand final after coming in at fourth position, but the girl's luck wasn't going their way on grand final day going down 3-1. Second grade women made it to the semi finals only to go down to Burrawang after 2½ hours playing (what a

marathon). Better luck next year girls. First grade women contested the grand final against Mittagong. They played their hearts out, but could not find the back of the net, not for the want of trying.

A great year was had by all players and we would like to thank our major sponsor the Robertson Bowling Club. Senior presentation night will be held on the 18th October at the Robertson Bowling Club. Bookings are ESSENTIAL, so please phone Sally on 48612248 or Jules on 48882113. Dress will be formal. Come along and have a great night. See you all there.



2nd Grade Champions

Pat Pearse, Warwick Hill Andy Meyer David Loxton, Trevor Bisby, Barry Donovan.
Ben Wright, Anthony Perkins, Steven Fairbairn, Daniel Campbell, Tom Pearse, Todd Hill.
Bob Pearse

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Burrawang/Robertson

- 3 bedroom cottage, carport, gas heating—\$195pw
- 2 bedroom cottage, rural location—\$250pw
- 4/5 bedroom house, rural location, short lease—\$280pw

Burrawang

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ROBERTSON SCHOOL NEWS – TERM 3

Term three at Robertson Public School began with a successful and enjoyable Athletics Carnival. Everybody participated and after the dominance of Belmore House over the past few years, Fitzroy House was savouring its well-deserved win. The Champions were:

Juvenile Girls: Rowenn Turvey
Junior Girls: Michaela Wann
Senior Girls: Bianca Benjamin

Juvenile Boys: Sam Pointing
Junior Boys: Joshua Krone
Senior Boys: Tom Keft

Forty-one Robertson boys and girls went on to compete in the Wingecarribee Athletics Carnival at Chevalier College, Bowral. There was a great Robertson spirit at the carnival and everyone deserved high praise. Three Robertson children qualified to go on to the South Coast Regional Championships in Canberra on 18th September and this was a huge achievement. They were Joshua Krone (10yrs 100m, Jnr 200m, 800m), Tom Keft (11yrs 100m, 200m, 800m, High Jump) and Mitchell Wright (12yrs 100m, 12/13yrs long jump).

Tom Keft was named 11 yrs Boys Champion of Wingecarribee District.

There are always many highlights at Robertson Public School, but a particularly special occasion was the Jamberoo Folk Festival on September 11th. The whole school travelled to Jamberoo for this well known festival and proudly watched their own school band perform amongst other international and national acts. Robertson Public School was invited to perform at this festival and it is a huge credit to David McAndrew and his hard working 30 or so band members. The band continues to go from strength to strength.

Robertson Public School also participated in Jeans for Genes Day and a Mufti Day to raise money for the children's ward at Bowral Hospital. All students in Years 3 and 5 took their Basic Skills Tests and Mrs Newey from the School Library staged a wonderful Book Week with a Book Fair and Dress Up Parade. Children dressed as their favourite occupations and there were plenty of nurses, doctors, builders, firemen, special agents, teachers, racing drivers, astronauts,

There were a few major excursions in term 3. Year 6 spent a vigorous week at Myuna Bay camp and from all reports the canoeing (and capsizing!) was a real highlight and also the pleasure of making new friends and sharing many adventures.

Year 5 spent a fascinating day at the Fairfax Plant in Sydney as part of their media studies. It was incredible to see the scale of the plant and everyone was most impressed by the Robertson Year 5's media knowledge. The journey to and from was an experience in itself with 26 children catching 6 trains and 2 buses!

There have been a few disruptions this term with many people suffering from the flu – one third of the school was struck down at one point. We have also had two separate industrial action stoppages.

One incident that distressed the school community during the term was the theft of the 131-year old school bell. Jamberoo Public School's 125 year old bell was also stolen and there was a spate of similar thefts in central NSW towns, including Orange. Unfortunately, there seems to be a market for old bells. The incident left us all feeling very sad and empty as the bell has been a warm and familiar part of our community since 1872. It could be heard clearly from the showground and in comparison the electric hooter is hollow and ugly and has the range of 50 metres. Hopefully a new bell will be purchased soon at the cost of \$500-\$600 – and will be installed under heavy security!

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Once again Builders Barn is most generously donating a prize for the best decorated house. This annual award is really putting Robertson on the map for visitors to the area who look forward to seeing the amazing effort put into this decorating feat.

The Robertson Business Association is also offering encouragement to local businesses to light up their shop fronts and make Hoddle Street a work of art.

We hope to have lots of entries this year and we are planning a map so visitors can take advantage of all the beautiful lights.

If you are planning to do something this year then please contact Sheila Massetti at Essential Botanicals 4885 1377, so you can be included on the list.

ROBERTSON CALENDAR

The closing date for copy and payment for the 2004 Calendar is October 20th. We want to make sure we have it out prior to Christmas this year.

Please contact John Massetti at Essential Botanicals 4885 1377 for cost and to make sure you don't miss out.



An early photo with the school bell in the foreground.



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



Kangaloon Kapers

This year our school is celebrating its 134th birthday which makes it one of the oldest schools in our area. There has been continuous education at Kangaloon for 134 years since a group of dairy farmers looked for a school and even provided the land for it!

How times have changed! The school now has very few children from dairying families and in the next few weeks we will be losing two of our wonderful families as they head further west. We wish both the Whatman families well as they make this big "seachange"! Our school is now serviced from Robertson by Pointings and from Bowral by Berrima coaches, so we are quite a varied school in nature.

Our principal, Mr. John McInerney is now on leave for Term 3 & 4 and Mr Tony Butler is our acting principal. Tony has settled in easily amidst dramas resulting from power strikes, no heating or telephones resulting from the violent winds in mid August. Nevertheless, our students have enjoyed watching the night skies and viewing Mars. We all now know lots of things about the planet

Lots of dancing has been going on this term as in Week 8 we will be joining the other small schools in the area for the Dance Festival at Burrawang Oval. Our dance, called Soldiers & Convicts, has prompted our creativity to get costumes ready for the big day.

Some news from term 2 - our senior class enjoyed their visit to the Sydney Opera House where they joined hundreds of other children from NSW schools playing recorders at the Recorder Festival. Mrs. Alcorn our Music teacher, has the children playing some very challenging pieces of music. A wonderful memory for those children.

An excursion to Southdown, Goulburn provided us all, teachers too, with an opportunity to dress up in 1850's style clothes & spend an afternoon in an 1850's style classroom. Everyone had lots of fun and were fortunate to have been photographed by Highlife magazine and featured in their August September edition.

On Friday 15th August four children from our school participated in the Bong Bong team at the Wingecarribee Athletics Carnival. The team came second overall behind Bowral - a great effort. Congratulations to Murray, Bridgett, Keira Lee & Peter on some fine performances.

We are looking forward to Education week and showing off our school. We hope some of the readers will share this day with us. This will let you know that educating our kids is alive & well at Kangaloon.

Principal - Mr. John McInerney
 Phone 4888 2215
 Fax 4888 2372
 Email: kangaloon-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au





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JUST A LITTLE BOY

by Belinda Borbely

The day Sandra Gray gave birth to her fourth child she was told that something was not right. A blood test confirmed that their new son David, had Down Syndrome. Down Syndrome is a genetic abnormality consisting of an extra 21st chromosome.

The majority of us have learning, speech, social, behavioural, and mental abnormalities in many areas of our lives as we grow. When reaching adulthood, accidents, sickness, cancers and genetic imperfections strike us when we least expect it. It's the severity of the case that decides if extra attention is needed. It then becomes an issue of nurturing and helping each other the best way we can, to cope and live out our life with dignity and happiness. Upon reading a Down Syndrome Newsletter that Sandra had given to me, a mother ended her story with "it's looking at the person, not the disability, praising and appreciating every little accomplishment".

David seemed to be forever a baby and at thirteen months he began to crawl. After his second birthday he began to take his first steps and walk. This was to be a turning point in the Gray's life when they realised that David could learn to do something that required skills and processed thoughts. Of course they knew he would walk, however it gave them hope to discover what else he would be able to learn to do and deal with.

For the Gray family, the option of placing David in a special needs school was not a viable one. They could see that David needed individual attention, challenges, and most of all to be with regular boys and girls his own age. He needed to socialise, play, and be part of a system that allowed him to grow at his own pace. This system would have to allow for integration and most of all, understanding.

Every day of the Gray's life is a battle of patience. There are times when they are exhausted and having a special needs child can push them to the limits. They are raising David in the best possible way they can, while learning and researching the effects of Down Syndrome. Stephen Gray is Assistant Principal at Robertson Public School, so as well as dealing with many other children at work he has four of his own at home. Having a large family, both parents must work.

Sandra and Stephen decided to enrol their son at Robertson Primary School. The Principal, Michael Reilly is an advocate and believer in helping one another. If a bullying situation rears its ugly head, Mr Reilly nips it in the bud fast. Both racial and discriminate acts are not tolerated at the school. From my personal knowledge and the remarks from newly appointed teachers, Robertson Public School students are well behaved, have a happy disposition and are confident as individuals.

This has proved to be a plus in David's life for the last eighteen months. His teacher of Year One, Lynda McEwan said "I have enjoyed having David in my class so much, and it's been a wonderful experience for me". Lynda has set modules for the year involving her students in many activities. David is involved in them all, just like her other students. The only difference is, David's set tasks are modified to allow patience and time for him to adapt.

When he was first introduced to a pen and paper he rejected them and then refused to participate in any activities given to him. With the help of Ann Murdoch who works at the school as a teacher's aide, David now holds a pen, can nearly write his name and can stencil quite nicely. Ann is with David for most of the day, and over the last few months can now sit back and watch him play with other children in the playground. She has an enormous responsibility and having worked with David for so long now, she communicates and understands his needs more than most. The biggest step to overcome now is toilet training, and David is showing a breakthrough. It will be any day now that he will take himself to the toilet unattended. The children are thrilled when he learns to do something new and they show him how excited and happy they are. It is a completely normal and innocent approach they have to him, and that many of us could learn from.

My favourite saying in life is "Walk in another person's shoes for just one day", Sandra finished it with, "and then add all the extra work and everything that goes along with it".

I have watched a little boy over the last year improve and grow in many ways. The teachers are thrilled with his progress and the best outcome is what he has taught the other pupils. They have learned acceptance and patience, discovering new attitudes and tolerance. His smile, laughter and giggles are infectious. They have a friend called David and they like to play with him. It doesn't get any better than that.



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ॐ Anne Stowar

B. Soc. Stud. (Syd), M. A. A. S. W., Dip. Teach. (YTA)

YOGA TEACHER

Classes in Robertson Community Centre

Thursday Evenings 6.00-7.30pm
Friday Mornings 9.00am -10.30am
During school Term
Phone - 4885 1341

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Ladies Melbourne Cup Luncheon

11am—4pm
4th November
Robertson Bowling Club

Sweeps, Prizes & Lots of Surprises
Prize for Best hat sponsored by Argyle
Beauty Therapy, Moss Vale.

Luncheon Menu
Succulent Roast Carvery
(Beef, Chicken, Hot Ham)
Fresh Salads & vegetables
Dessert Buffet

Tickets \$26 pp
(Must be pre-booked and paid for by the 24th
October, tickets will **not** be available on the day)

Tickets from Robertson Bowling Club
or Robertson Pre School.

All profits to support Robertson
Primary & Robertson Pre-Schools.

Burrawang Public School 125 Year Celebrations

Dinner Dance
Saturday 8th November, 2003
All Welcome
Cost \$40 per head
Money with Bookings essential

Sunday 9th November, 2003

**Sausage Sizzle
&
Time Capsule**
10am—1pm

Holiday Kid's Club

St John's Anglican Church
October 8th, 9th & 10th
9.30am—12.00noon

Games, Stories, Craft, Singing

For K-6 Primary Children

Cost

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

It may not seem like the right time of
year but with modern transport we are
no longer dependant on local
harvesting. Produce is being harvested
all year round and we benefit from it
simply by calling in at the supermarket.

The drought has reminded us of how
dependant we are on God's provision
and the work of those who farm the
land.

Here is the opportunity to give thanks!

St John's Church
Hoddle St, Robertson
Sunday 26th October
9.30am
Family Service
(Children included)

Bring along something to add to the
display of Flowers and Produce.

Food items will be donated to
Anglicare for distribution locally to
people in need.

Robertson/Burrawang Senior Citizen's Club

Just a short note to say we still meet on
the third Wednesday of every month
(except December) at 1.30pm in the
Community Centre in Caalong St. By
the time you read this we will have had
a visit from Moss Vale Senior Citizens
Club, a day of fun, good fellowship and
a lunch a little different to what we
have mostly put on.

We are working towards our Christmas
charity giving, so even if you can't
attend any of our functions, perhaps
you may be able to help with a little
finance.

Lydia Maynard—4885 1730
Violet Lymbery—4885 1471
Joan Compagnoni—4885 1280

Robertson School of Arts Inc

Our monthly meetings are held on the
fourth Thursday of every month in the
hall at 7.30pm.

The monthly markets still continue to
be popular. Come and see! If you would
like to have a stall, ring Edna Casey on
4885 1216. This is held on the second
Sunday of each month.

Our famous monthly Dance on the third
Friday from 8pm to midnight is a
pleasant way to spend an evening with
supper and the Illawarra Flames Band.
The committee received a grant in the
recent round and hope to have the
external painting start about
November.

We are running our factory shopping
bus trip to Sydney on Saturday 15th
November, leaving Robertson at 7am
and picking up at various spots on the
way. If you would like to be with us on
that day please ring Pat Willard, 4885
1381, Edna Casey, 4885 1216 or Joan
Compagnoni, 4885 1280.

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KING OF KNIVES

Recent arrival in Robertson, Tim Anson, has always had a passion for knives. "I see knives as tools, not as weapons. It is man's oldest tool, one which we use every day for one purpose or another". Tim converted his garage in Albion Park into a workshop in the late 80's and has been in great demand ever since. Even his son Bo (now 15) is named after one of the craft's big blades, Bo Randall

Tim has been collecting knives since the age of 8 and is now considered by many to be Australia's leading knife maker. He is self-taught but to look at his work you would think he had learnt at the knee of a master craftsman.

His designer creations are a true work of art and fetch big money from hunters but Tim himself is a pacifist.

Now a true Robertson resident Tim brings new meaning to the phrase "we've got it made in Robertson".



SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION

Sahaja Yoga Meditation is a non-profit grass roots organization. This technique promises to greatly enhance our understanding of the mind-body connection and the way in which our lifestyle, state of mind, and living environment impact upon our health and wellbeing.

Stress is the by-product of our overactive minds. Much of our stress is about what happened in the past or what is going to happen in the future. It is rarely about what is happening at this moment. However, we live in the present, so most of our thought processes are unnecessary and unproductive.

When we meditate, the brain is relieved of these unnecessary thought processes. It relaxes and is better able to send signals to the rest of the body, resulting in an improved immune system, hormones working at their best, a nervous system which controls our organs properly, a calm state of mind and an improvement to our physical and psychological health.

You are invited to come and experience this meditation technique for yourself. There is no charge to learn.

Classes will be held at the
Robertson Community Centre
on **Tuesdays,**
October 14, 21 & 28
and
November 4 & 11,
at **7.30 p.m.**
Further information 48851069.

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
11.00am - Every Sunday

Robertson Christian Fellowship
(Community Centre)

3.00pm - Every Sunday except the 1st
Sunday in the month

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 Sheila Massetti at Essential Botanicals. Thank you for your support.

Deadline

The next issue will be distributed in the first weeks of **December**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th November 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

Contributors this Edition— Belinda Borbely, Lucy Palmer, Sheila Massetti