



JG

Robertson News

August 2006

Edition 55

www.robertsonsw.com.au

COMPUTER DONATED TO HELP KIDS AT ROBERTSON PRESCHOOL

Member for Kiama Matt Brown visited Robertson Preschool on the 31st May, to hand over a computer he has donated to assist staff with their administrative duties. He also announced \$16,000 in funding for the Preschool from the Lemma Governments \$85.2 million investment in NSW preschools.

Matt Brown acknowledged the great service being provided to Robertson and surrounds from the Caalong Street centre, which sees up to 80 children a week

The preschool, which is mainly community funded, welcomes the community's help to continue providing a high standard of services.

Director Jenine Callaghan said their outdoor learning environment was in need of an upgrade.

"We'd love to hear from volunteers who could donate their time or materials to help design and build the space," Jenine said.

The centre also needs books and puzzles suitable for children aged between 2 and 6 years.

Matt Brown said he was delighted to be able to assist, in this small way, by donating a computer.

"This preschool provides a fantastic educational and developmental service for these young kids, and I urge the local community to get behind it and help where they can," said Matt.



Dear Editor,

In the present climate of increased petrol prices it would seem sensible to re-open the Moss Vale/Wollongong railway to passenger traffic. Environmental concerns are also important. I would envisage a two-car diesel set leaving Moss Vale at an early time for workers in the Wollongong area & perhaps a later one at about 10 am for shoppers. They could leave from Wollongong at convenient times in the afternoon. Even one train each way daily would be better than nothing. When you envisage the pollution from motor transport each day, morning & evening, the risk of accidents from fogs & mists, the saving of money from the ever rising price of fuel, surely the idea is worth considering, Also this railway is one of the most scenic in Australia. The benefits I believe would be considerable. I would like the comments from other people on the proposition.

Stewart Ward

NEW WINDOW ON TOURISM.

The recent changes in the Partnership Program run by Tourism Southern Highlands allows local business the opportunity of putting flyers and brochures on display at the Mittagong Tourist Information centre and at Elder's Real Estate here in Robertson. The Robertson Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce have been lobbying long and hard to achieve an affordable rate to allow small businesses to do this. For \$150 everyone can take advantage of this worthwhile marketing opportunity. The best way to do this is to download an application form from www.southern-highlands.com.au

Robertson CTC.

Training – Our new training term has kicked off – hopefully you will have received the training brochure in your letterbox (if not please drop into the CTC and pick one up, or email us and we can mail one back). This term we offer training ranging from basic computer skills to advanced specialized programs like MYOB and digital imaging using Photoshop. Aside from the set courses we also offer one on one training.

This month there was a **film making workshop** at the CTC that produced a short film centred around the Big Spud and another that documented Thursday night music. These were screened at the CTC on Saturday the 29th July along with Emma Calvers AFI nominated documentary on Simone Young and some short films by local film makers Andrew and Richard Jones and Steve Fernley. The filmmaking workshop saw the creation of a filmmakers group that will be meeting here at the CTC monthly. If you would like to be a part of that please call us on 4885 2665 or drop in. We are also interested in having your input into community based film projects so if you have an idea, please let us know!

Wednesday night **art class** and Tuesday night **bellydancing** have started back so if you are at a loose end on either of those nights and would like to explore your creative side or meet your inner goddess - come on in

Thursday Night Music has had quite a month with its big filming night on the 6th of July followed shortly by the news that we received the Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme Grant to buy a PA and some microphones. Many thanks to the generous Dan Bevil, who has lent us his PA for the last few months. Congratulations Anthony Bonito for making his volunteer shift the most popular of the week and thank you to everyone that comes along regularly to make the night such an amazing community event.

July School holiday activities were a wonderful success, with claymation and lantern making being the most popular sessions. Penny as usual delighted young and old with her skill in clay sculpture, making a worm that interacted hilariously with a shoe (and came out on top!!). Jane's lantern making workshop ended with a night time parade around the CTC (a sight that momentarily stopped the heart of the manager of the CTC who happened to be driving by and thought the CTC was being burgled by midgets with red torches!)

Robertson Community Cinema - Our August movie will be Dragonfly starring Kevin Costner and September we will be screening the 1971 Death in Venice. For more information on our movie nights and reviews by the heart achingly reclusive Patrice DuVall check our website www.robertsonctc.org.au

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Robertson Transport Project

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Robertson to Wollongong survey. The results have been posted on the CTC@Robertson website www.robertsonctc.org.au. We discovered that over half of the survey participants go regularly to the coast for shopping, while the bus timetables are set up for commuters that work 9-5.

There are new surveys out that are directed at different groups within Robertson ie the business community, parents of young children, youths and the general public. These have been slow coming in so we have extended the deadline from the 19 July in the hope of receiving more community input. These surveys are available at the CTC and on our website.

Countrylink have given the Transport project 100 free bus tickets to give away in conjunction with an on bus survey, so come into the CTC if you would be interested in participating in that part of the survey and experience the public transport available to you now.

We will be holding a transport Expo at the CTC on August 12 from 1-4pm. On this day you can learn more about alternative transport options and what is available now. Attending will be different transport providers and we will be having a bit of fun with train sets, food stalls and interactive ecological computer programs.



SPRINGTIME IN ROBERTSON OCTOBER 2006

Just two months away, this year's Springtime in Robertson is shaping up as the best October celebration yet. Now in its third year, SIR is evolving into a substantial draw card for all ages, all tastes.

For the musically minded there's rock, jazz, country music, marching bands, balalaika orchestras and opera. Young musicians can attend career-launching workshops. The Sydney Balalaika Orchestra featured for the first time this spring could possibly challenge last year's great success, the afternoon of opera highlights that will return by popular demand to the School of Arts.

At the Fettle's Shed, art buffs can look forward to two weeks of popular aboriginal art followed by QV2, an exhibition headlining four local artists.

Visitors to Robertson the first weekend in October will find food, fun and things to buy under the Robertson Heritage Railway Marquee on the Robertson common. Local bands and street theatre will enhance the long weekend.

From the 13th to the 15th of October, our next-door neighbours in Burrawang are hosting "Letterheads" a dedicated group of traditional sign-writers who have developed the fortunate habit of congregating each year somewhere in the eastern states to flaunt their prodigious talents. Visitors to either event will be encouraged to circulate between both villages.

This year we can look forward to the Robertson School Fete on Saturday 28th October. And, of-course there is Market Day on Sunday October the 15th.

This year a special effort is being made to feature a choice selection of open gardens throughout October. It is a well-known fact a 'welcome' sign on the garden gate can attract devotees from near and far.

If you would like your garden included on one or even two days in October, please Contact Micki Boehme 4885-1080

If you would like your event catered for. Please contact Joan Campagnoni 4885-1280.

If you would like to stage an event and be part of the fun please contact the event co-ordinator Rona Gould 4885-2393

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Village Snippets

Congratulations to Jo Bisby who will be representing NSW at the Australian Hockey Championships. This will be the third time Jo has represented her state at the Championships and the team will be defending their title (they beat Queensland last year). She will be travelling to Bendigo in Victoria, to compete. Best of luck to Jo and the NSW team.

Recently there has been a petition put forward by David Anderson to gain village support for the improvement of pedestrian access to the railway crossings in Robertson. Mr Anderson has informed the council that pedestrian safety questionable, "...with no pedestrian footpath to separate pedestrians from vehicles and inadequate signals to control of warn pedestrians." He also states that this a major safety issue for the children of the town.

The feedback received to date are: a letter from the Mayor's office, indicating the Meryla & Illawarra Highway existing crossings discussed in Traffic Committee & Council in May & June and requirement for pedestrian facilities are listed on Council's work schedules, but presently have no funding allocated

Peta Seaton's office is in support of the petition and have asked council to look at erecting a low cost pedestrian bridge at Wallagunda Street.

Council are giving out 50 free safety vests after Road Safety officer Kim Davis spotted Kathy Owen wearing one on a walk through the town. Miss Davis had concern for pedestrians walking on or near roads, especially in foggy weather and the yellow safety vest worn by Mrs Owen seemed like a good way to decrease the risk of pedestrian tragedies in the shire. Vests will be available for free for the first 50 people who inquire at the customer service desk at the Civic Centre in Moss Vale and another 50 will be distributed to walking and cycling groups on request. After the first 100 have been given away they will be available for purchase at \$13.20 and for those with senior cards, \$8.80.

A group of Robertson children were fortunate to be part of the National Parks holiday program "Lyrebird Tale" at Minnamurra Rainforest. The children got up close to real lyrebirds; made their own lyre birds, created stories about their lyrebird and played "pin the tail on the lyrebird". There will be more programs in the September/October school holidays and all children are welcome. To find out more about the program you can call the regional office on 4223 2170 to join the NPWS mailing list.



A number of Robertson children listening to Ranger Melissa talk about how the Lyre Bird scratches and digs in the leaf litter of the forest to capture worms and

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26 Hoddle St, Robertson 9.30 - 5.30 (Closed Wed.)

ROBERTSON REFLECTIONS

Now that the first of over two thousand daffodil shoots are making their way out of Robbo's rich chocolate soil and another winter has taken hold, it might be a good time to reflect a little and perhaps count our blessings. Sure, the cherry trees down both sides of Hoddle street are bare and the high cost of petrol as well as increased interest rates are certainly putting a dent in local trade. So what? The situation is not good for local business, but it can hardly be described as life threatening. Let's tighten our belts and look on the positive side. How many villages do you know that look as good as ours when the cherry trees bloom? Come to think of it, are there any other places that can boast a main street lined with cherry trees?

Robertson was the last part of the defiantly dense Yarrowa Brush to be cleared in 1861. We are still well behind other centres in the Highlands and are really only just starting to get a fraction of the attention we deserve. But, since we've got so many delights to offer, when newcomers discover our little neck of the woods, they could well be moved to tell the world! Where else do you find five hectares of temperate rainforest within a biscuit throw of Main Street? Then there are three superb waterfalls and a magnificent escarpment bathed in National Parkland.

We offer visitors and residents an authentic highland experience both in people and product, excellent local art and crafts, antiques and collectables, gifts, good food, inviting open fires and a range of country accommodation. Canberra, Wollongong and Sydney are within easy reach and day-trippers see a certain 'cachet' in finding us on the eastern gateway to a highland recreational and shopping experience. We have the village/boutique/quirky/eclectic offerings that the sprawling dormitory suburbs lack. Add to that the quality motoring experience of country lanes, scenic ridge roads, wooded vistas and patchwork hillsides of vines, vivid green grass and chocolate soil and we certainly are an attractive holiday and weekend destination.

We don't have a formal caravan park as such but campers can arrange to stay at the Robertson Showground where there are full facilities. And once they are here Robertson is an excellent base to explore from. The round trip - Robertson - Jamberoo - Kiama - Berry - Nowra - Kangaroo Valley - Fitzroy Falls - Moss Vale - Bowral - and back to Robertson is one of the great day tours Eastern Australia has to offer.

So then, next time you feel the winter blues coming on, go find a visitor, look them in the eye and tell them how clever they are to find our highland retreat.

There might also be some value in telling yourself the same thing.

Before you know it, the cherry trees will be in blossom.

Bernard Eddy

Robertson Ratepayers Association

Ranelagh House played host to the *Robertson Ratepayers Association's* (RRA) inaugural *Gala Dinner and Trivia Night* on Saturday 24 June with almost 100 trivia buffs enjoying the fine food, wine and entertainment. Whilst the *Payne Brain Trust* walked away with top honours with their outstanding knowledge of all things trivial, the success of the evening was due in large to the donations supplied by the many supporters. These included *Essential Botanicals*, *Ranelagh House*, the *Robertson Bowling Club*, *Captain Cook Cruises*, *Southern Highland Vignerons Association* and *Tony Griffiths*.

Looking ahead towards spring, the RRA will again sponsor *Opera on Sydney Harbour comes to Robertson*. Artists from last year's sell out performance are scheduled to return to the School of Arts on Sunday the 22nd of October. The performance is part of the *Robertson Spring Festival*. Tickets for the performance will be available closer to the event. For more information contact Robert Goldsack on 4885 1220 or Bernie on 4861 4122.

During the *Robertson Spring Festival* many residents or community groups may be involved in the numerous local events being planned during the month long celebrations. Should you or your community group be involved in the festival and do not have adequate public liability, the RRA may be able to assist. The RRA have arranged with *Insurance Brokers Community Care Underwriting Agency* to provide insurance for the festival. If you are concerned about your festival public liability coverage, contact Robert Goldsack on phone 4885 1220 for further information.

In other news, the RRA continues to lobby Wingecarribee Shire Council's preferred location of the Robertson Sewage Treatment plant on the Hindmarsh site. Whilst the RRA fully supports Council's project to provide a sewerage scheme for Robertson, the Association is calling on Council to install not only the most efficient system that can be built with the available funds, but one that also does not adversely affect the environment of the village or its residents.

Finally, whilst some welcome the annual sales that accompany the end of the Financial Year, it also means that it is Annual General meeting season. The *Robertson Ratepayers Association* will hold its Annual General meeting on Thursday the 31st of August at 7.30pm at the Community Hall.

If you have a view on how the village should move forward, why not join the *Robertson Ratepayers Association*.

For more information phone the Secretary on 4885 1599.

Dave Sommers

Robertson Ratepayers Association

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After Hours For The Busy Lady

COURTROOM DRAMA WILL HAVE YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

There's not doubt that Agatha Christie earned the title of the Queen of Mystery Writers. And the plot in the courtroom drama *Witness for the Prosecution* is typical Christie - with twists and turns on the way through the story - and a shock ending that will take your breath away.

Directed by Anne Robinson for the Highlands Theatre Group, this is one production that you MUST see. Once again HTG presents a hugely talented cast, with 21 people filling the various roles. One thing that delights the Director is that even some of the VERY minor roles have been taken by people with a great deal of stage experience, so the end result is a wonderfully talented and cohesive group of performers.

Taking the title role of the woman who becomes the *Witness for the Prosecution* is Valerie Warry, who last delighted audiences in *Steel Magnolias* for HTG. Playing her husband Leonard, the accused, is another talented actor, Jonathan Purvis, (*Doctor in the House, Panic Stations, and No Names ... No Pack Drill*). Experienced newcomer to HTG, Colin Scott, Myers QC the Prosecuting Counsel, and Jim Cheesley, another HTG regular (*Oliver, My Fair Lady, Doctor in the House, Lock Up Your Daughters*) will play the role of Sir Wilfrid Robarts, the Defence Counsel.



Pictured at rehearsal for the courtroom drama WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION, are Jim Cheesley (l.) and Colin Scott (r.) who play the pivotal roles of Sir Wilfrid Robarts QC, the Defence Counsel, and Mr Myers QC, the Prosecuting Counsel (respectively) in this exciting production for Highlands Theatre Group.

The plot will keep you guessing - you'll hold your breath with the excitement and tension - and yes, there are even a few wonderful laughs - Miss Christie has done it all!
Whatever you do, do NOT miss this production !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Pictured at rehearsal for the courtroom drama WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION, are Jonathan Purvis and Valerie Warry who play two of the central characters in the production for Highlands Theatre Group - those of Leonard Vole, the accused, and Romaine, his wife.

Venue : Mittagong Playhouse
 Dates : August 4,5,11,12,18,19 at 8pm and August 13,19 at 2pm
 Tickets : \$20 (adult) (\$17 Concession)
 Bookings : Sthn Highlands Tourism, Mittagong Phone 1300 657 559.

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Local Football Star Loses Hair.

Zoe McDonald cut a very trim figure in the recent Qantas 2006 National Youth Championships for Girls played from the 8th-15th July at Coff Harbour. Zoe was the only girl among 11 students who recently had their heads shaved in the Bowral High School's Shave for a Cure appeal.. No doubt it gave her that extra bit of speed on the field.



Zoe is featured on the cover of "Football—Down Under 2006" alongside words like "truly awesome" and "exciting talent" Zoe currently plays for the Macarthur Rams and has represented NSW Country.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Robertson Environment Protection Society Meeting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11,
7.30PM
Robertson Community Centre,
Caalong Street.

Speaker: Jack Baker

"Birds and Fire at Barren Grounds
Nature Reserve"

The talk for the month of August will be presented by Jack Baker. Jack has been studying the Ground Parrot and Eastern Bristlebird at Barren Grounds for two decades. His work has influenced the management of fire in the habitat of these two threatened species. Jack is Vice President of Birds Australia, Manager of Biodiversity Conservation Science in the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. He is also a closet twitcher.

The meeting will end with a light supper and some lively conversation.

ALL WELCOME. GOLD COIN DONATION.



FETTLERS SHED SCHEDULE FOR 2006

FETTLERS SHED GALLERY
Robertson Heritage Railway Station
Yarranga Street
Robertson

9 & 10 September
ROBERTSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL.
Experience the creativity and enthusiasm of our local children!

16 & 17, 23 & 24 September,
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October, Long Weekend 30,1,2, & 7, 8
LOCAL ABORIGINAL ART WORK
Dreamtime comes to Robertson!

14&15, 21&22, 28&29 October
QV2 - a group of seven local artists will be displaying their work at the gallery during the Robertson Spring Festival. Wendy Nublely, Andra Dahl, Carole Rogerson, Stuart Gibson, Louise Star, David Young, Alhana Reid.

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The Writings of D. T. Smith continued.....(1880s)

THE Burrawang and Mossvale Shows have come and gone, with all their hopes and disappointments, their good and bad features; and as in this world the evil is ever mingled with the good, so it has been with both these events.

The side shows claimed attention by a most horrible noise-clanging of cymbals, and extravagant assertions, palpably false. It was a matter to rejoice at that our Burrawang people had the good sense and propriety not to patronize them. The rage and chagrin of the "Mammoth Combination" was plainly manifested by blasphemous remarks about Heaven, sneers at a Salvation Army, and insults directed at our community. Our Committee, having some regard to the respectability of the Show, refused the use of the ground to the Professors of the Noble Art of Self-Defence -an example which was not followed at Mossvale, for in that place these men and others of a like character were allowed to encroach on the horse and buggy entrance-gate. The door of the Exhibition was on one side, the side shows on the other, and the Parade Ring at the bottom, consequently a crowd of people entering and leaving the building was assembled in front of the side shows, as was perhaps intended by the proprietors of the latter. This arrangement reacted on the horses entering the ground, as they had to pass the crowd on one side, and the Pandemium created by the energetic combinations on the other--an arrangement in every way calculated to produce accidents. The confusion and dust thereby created reacted on the people and exhibits inside the building, for the door being opposite this scene, the clouds of dust were at once wafted into it. It was fortunate that the Mossvale Committee did not deign to draw any exhibition of fancy work: Section 17 in their Schedule was a very miserable one, there being only one class and prize, Viz. 20/-, for a collection of fancy work, so that there was not the work spoiled there would have been had they been as liberal of prizes as the Burrawang Committee, who had 16 classes in that section, and offered prizes amounting to £8. If Mossvale had invited competition, some kinds of work would have been utterly ruined.

But if the rowdyism of the side show performers is objectionable, what shall be said in favour of thimblerriggers and sharpers of various kinds ? On what grounds, public, moral, or religious, can their admission, patronage, and encouragement be justified ? How can the Committees defend themselves from the charge that they allowed gambling, and that they lent the auspices of the Clubs they represented for that purpose ? So palpable was the swindling practised that the police said it was a sham--and the officers were powerless to act because these men had paid a license-fee to the Committee. Does the Government know that funds contributed by it are used for the purpose of indirectly degrading its subjects? It seems so foreign to the purpose of an Agricultural Show, and a Government subsidy thereon, to present the spectacle on their ground of the ignorant being fleeced, and the ears of the respectable being polluted by oaths of winners and losers-and to give illustrations of the proverb that the fool and his money are soon parted. An allowance of these things tends to lower and degrade the whole tone of the Show, and give an air of vice and vulgarity which must be prejudicial to the best interests of the Show and its people.

Church Services

Anglican

St John's Robertson

8.00am Traditional Services

1st Sunday- Communion

4th Sunday- Morning Prayer

9.30am Family Service/Sunday School
Every Sunday

St David's Burrawang

8.00am - 2nd Sunday - Communion

Uniting

Robertson

9.00am - Every Sunday

Roman Catholic

Burrawang

1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays - 8.00am

2nd & 4th Sundays - 5.00pm

*Robertson Christian Group now meets at
East Bowral Community Centre*

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 \$35. (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 Dorothy Baker at the Old Potato Shed gallery (4885 2400). Thank you for your support.

Deadline

The next issue will be distributed in the first weeks of **October**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th September 2006**. Forward correspondence to: **Robertson Newsletter, 64 Hoddle St, Robertson 2577**, or **Email: bjlee@dodo.com.au**. (Submissions are best supplied by email or on disk. Hard copy should preferably be typed) Enquiries - 4885 1210

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Editor : Barry Lee