

GUS - THE WONDER DOG

We recently lost Gus our spaniel/cattle dog cross. He was 13 and had been ours (or we had been his), since puppyhood. We called him "the Wonder Dog" because he was always wondering where his next feed was coming from. In our 5 years in Robbo, Gus and I walked everywhere. Along Lemmons Road we'd meet Lilla the Scottie, Rollo the Boxer and friends & Snejana's German Sheperds. On our daily trek to Hope's general store we'd almost always come across Rex and Oscar and various other canine acquaintances. All would be greeted with the usual doggy courtesies.

Rona and I are a bit stunned at the grief we feel at the death of our dog. We did not expect to lose Gus so soon and were unprepared for the wrench his loss has made to our lives. He was a lovely looking dog : tractable, well behaved, clever, energetic, ball fetching mad, and of course, loveable. Our vet Linda, did a magnificent job in getting him through a difficult surgery and returning him to us for a short while. But it was all too much for the old bloke and he died with his head on Rona's lap on the way to the vets. We wept as a family member had died (which in fact was what had happened). As I pen this, I sit looking at his grave. A mound of earth, a simple wooden marker, his last chewed up ball buried with him (in case he needs to pay the ferrydog to cross the river Styx). It is strange that you don't hear much about how sad it is to lose a much loved animal friend. We miss him so.

We would see him last thing at night in his basket in the loungeroom as we went to bed. And the first thing in the morning, hearing us stir, waiting and wagging, happy always to see us. I miss the warm spot on the floor on a cold winter's morning and the wombat walks we'd do on a moonlit night. He was brown and white like our Robertson mist and now he has gone into the greater mist-ery that awaits us all.

Don and Georgie (Lilla's family) wrote the following little verse to farewell Gus and this echoes the many kind words from our friends:

Vale Gus

Rona and Steve - Lemmons Road.

Memories of Gus

For Steve and Rona

From when we first to Robertson came
The daily routine seemed the same
Two figures we would daily spy
'Twas Steve and Gus passing by.

With Steve we'd have a hello or chat
Whilst Gus and Lilla sniffed this and that
Then off they'd saunter down the road
Then back again to their abode

The colour of our Robertson mist
By Steve and Rona so sorely missed
This memory though will stay with us
So you'll be remembered at #4, Gus

From Georgie, Don & Lilla
4 Lemmons Road



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*



December 2006

Robertson News

www.robertsonsw.com.au

Edition 57

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS NO BORE ALLIANCE MEETS AT ELDER'S

The No Bore Alliance met at Elder's Real Estate in Robertson on the evening of Friday 17th of November to discuss the lemma Governments determination to commence pumping from the Kangaloon Aquifer early in the New Year.

Jonathon Bell Chair of the NSW Farmer's Association and member of the Upper Nepean Groundwater Community Reference Group expressed concern that the Reference Group's Report had not yet been posted on the SCA website. Larry Whipper JP, Councillor and Chair of the WSC's Environment Committee asked what the point was of having Community Reference Groups if their advice was going to be ignored?

Roger Ritchie, Drilling Rig Contractor, indicated his expert knowledge has led him to believe that pumping groundwater at the rate and for the time intended will cause extensive, long-term damage. Terry Barnett - Chair of the Shoalhaven River Alliance, and a member of the Shoalhaven Transfer Reference Group told the meeting the present rates of extraction from the Shoalhaven River are inequitable and unsustainable.

Dennis Wilson, told the group that the SCA were using slotted stainless steel pipes, the shallowest inlet to which was just 11m below ground level. "So much for the 'deep water' myth!" Leon Hall, President of the 100 member strong Robertson Environment Protection Group, part of the Upper Nepean Groundwater Community Reference Group and Shoalhaven Transfer CRG, mentioned the very rare ecology in the catchment areas and the long list of endangered plants and animals in the drawdown areas which will be affected 'right from the start of pumping which will disconnect groundwater from the environment.

Also present was Bernard Eddy (RCOC) and Alan Herd who was elected President of the No Borefield Alliance during the course of the Meeting.

Action plans agreed to were:-

- To explore all avenues to ensure that the 5 year moratorium on the construction of the Kangaloon borefield, called for by the Community Reference Group, becomes accepted policy.
- Engage the local community and create a groundswell of support to firstly pressure the Government to accept the CRG's submission, and secondly, pressure the Government to introduce water restrictions on the urban community that entail reducing the per capita usage from 403 litres a day to around 200, until such time as Sydney is made self sufficient in its water supply. This action is required to obviate the need to pillage water from the Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands.
- Pressure opinion leaders in Sydney to mount a campaign to tell Sydney residents that they are not being efficient users of water and that until new supply side programs come on stream, they need to cut their daily water usage down from 403 litres a day. Have a 3 minute shower and remember that the average daily use in country areas is 150 litres a day.

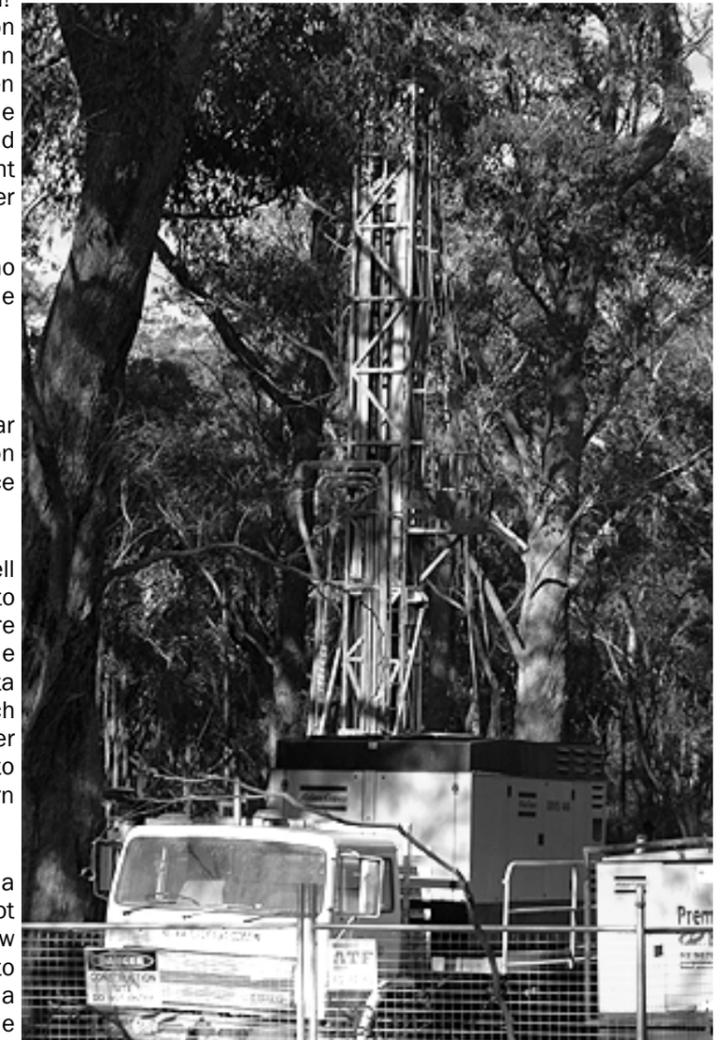


Photo of one of the drilling rigs by Denis Wilson.

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 **February**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th January 2007**. Forward correspondence to: **Robertson Newsletter, 64 Hoddle St, Robertson 2577**, or **Email: hjlee@dodo.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 Chamber of Commerce. 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 Editor 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

THE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE WONDROUS -
SUPERBLY PRODUCED 2007
CALENDAR WILL BE YOURS
TO TAKE HOME SOON

Yes, coming to a Waters General Store near you, your very own Robbo Calendar, replete with sage monthly quotes, info about the core businesses that make the village tick and a local directory of useful community numbers.

AND IT'S FREE! But wait, there's more! This year you get your very own Richard Jones photograph. Impress your friends by being the first to quote the quotable quote each month. Be first to tell them the markets on this Sunday.

This year's very collectable calendar is brought to you by John Massetti. The artist who brought you Robbo Calendar 2006!

On a serious note, Hope will have them soon. Please take one home with the Chamber's compliments and thank you John for stepping in and doing such a fantastic job, yet again.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
XMAS MEETING AND DINNER

Ranelagh House 4/12/06 at 6pm

The Robertson Chamber of Commerce will hold its Xmas Meeting (this year's present is the promise of a brief one) followed by a dinner. The venue is Ranelagh House at 6pm Monday December 4th, the cost per head \$35.

Member's and guests will be regaled by the shearing-like style of ABC Illawarra FM's Mark Mathews on keyboard.

Please contact Judy Fisk 4885-1329 for all bookings/enquiries, during and (reasonably) after Bus. Hrs.

MANY GROUPS ATTEND ROBERTSON VILLAGE MEETING

For the first time in recent memory, people representing the majority of groups, clubs, and associations have met and discussed matters of crucial concern to everyone in Robertson. Last Tuesday evening at 6pm, Robertson Village chairperson the reverend Barry Lee presided over what is hoped will be the first of many meetings of the Robertson Village. The meeting attended by councilors Whipper and Mauger, Robyn Murray (Southern Highlands News) and forty-four other individuals and members of at least eighteen of the 25 interest groups in the Village sat for two hours and exchanged ideas on a number of key issues of concern.

§ The lemma government's determination to start pumping water from the Kangaloon Aquifer early next year. Discussion on this issue was pointed and heartfelt. Those present will await news from the first assembly of the No Borefield Alliance (NBA) this Friday evening the 17th of November. The aim of the NBA is to target Sydney media and the urban population to immediately adopt water saving measures and to express their total dissatisfaction with the lemma government's deception and incompetence in the mismanagement of a crucial asset.

§ The Local Council's intention to build a bike path "with steps" was addressed in a robust discussion. There will be a follow-up meeting which Mike Brearley (Director of Technical Services) WSC has called for next Tuesday evening 21st November in the Fettler's Shed.

§ The Future of the CTC attracted a wide response. For many the CTC closing would be a sad loss. The feeling of the group was to attempt everything possible to keep the place viable. A number of proposals were put forward which are contingent on ongoing discussions.

§ Robertson Future Plan saw raising of the existence of a current DCP (Robertson Village Plan) and LEP. The meeting was told that any urban designer asked to assist with drawing up of any future DCP would need to prove their credentials. All agreed.

§ The possibility of the "Inland Port" facility at Moss Vale was raised with concern at the implications for Robertson. Council will be asked to inform the Village Group just what the ramifications will be. Watch this space.

§ Senior Constable Ben Buffett was informative about ways in which the Village Group could help foster improvements in the local implementation of policing.

The next meeting of the Robertson Village will be held on Tuesday 13th February 2007.

A Yahoo Information site will be set up very shortly which will include minutes of this meeting and subsequent developments. Meanwhile, anyone wanting further information etc please contact Bernard Eddy rbasec@hotmail.com. Or on 4861-4122

SAFE TANNING MESSAGE

As Summer time approaches, the safe tanning message has been heard loud and clear, and a spray tan is the most popular way to achieve a summer glow all year round without the risk of skin cancer associated with overexposure from the sun, or a tanning bed.

A Spray Tan applied by a trained Air Brushing Beautician will provide an even, streak free tan in a few minutes, and lasts about a week, depending on the rate at which your skin naturally exfoliates. To ensure you get the most from your spray tan follow these rules:

The day before your tanning session: Exfoliate your whole body using exfoliation gloves and pay attention to dry rough areas.

The day of your tan: Remove all makeup, do not apply moisturizer, deodorant, or perfume. Wear dark under wear and loose dark clothing immediately after your tanning session. Do not shower, or exercise for at least 8 hours. Shower the next morning.

Tan maintenance: Moisturize daily, avoid long hot baths, and extended swimming sessions. Always remember to protect yourself against sunburn.

This advice from Deahne's Nail's, Beauty, & Spray Tan Salon. To book in for your Natural Looking Tan call Deahne on 4885.1447, now located at 25 Hoddle Street, opposite service station.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Yahoo! Robertson Village
Information Sharing

At a village meeting on Tuesday 14th November, it was agreed to start a Yahoo email forum. This means that each group and anyone else with information to share relevant to Robertson Village would have an easy way to distribute that information between Village Newsletters.

The email address is:
robertsonvillagensw@yahoo.com

The purpose of this forum is to "share information and ideas about events, news and other matters relevant to anyone living working or having a close interest in Robertson NSW and its surrounds eg Burrawang, Wildes Meadow, Kangaloon, Mt Murray and Barren Grounds and upper southern escarpment areas"

Send your name, contact phone number and the name of the group you belong to, if relevant, to this email address. You will be sent a response from Yahoo and membership confirmed shortly thereafter.

We would ask that your communication is kept to the purpose of the forum, and not used to promote political or religious ideas or to advertise commercial activities. We would also be expected to be respectful in our opinions and language with one another and to abide by Yahoos Group Terms & Conditions.

If you are placing an individual notice please prefix it as IND. If it is a group notice then a short acronym eg STIR (Spring Time In Robertson) or identifier eg TEN (Robertson Tennis Club) etc. Also make sure when you start a new topic that you change the SUBJECT line.

For more information contact: Rona Goold 4885 2393

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Out of the fire comes a unique vision, a series of works looking into the creative aspect of fire. In this exhibition from the mind of artist Philip Jones emerge works cast in bronze at over 1200 degree's using the ancient lost wax process.

Others are rescued from the flames in a series of striking firewood carvings. Phil carves and moulds raw materials to reveal a mind bending exhibition of unique wood and metal sculptures, a one off set of fantasy guitars and even a life sized Bunyip!. Appearing in the misty green lands of Robertson for the first two weeks in December at the Fettlers Shed Gallery!

Fettlers Shed Gallery
2, 3 & 9, 10 December
Open 10am-4pm,
Saturday and Sunday.
Free Entry.

**Opening: Friday 1st December,
7pm All Welcome!**

For more information please phone/
email

Philip Jones: 4885 2985
Mobile: 0401 824 492
Email: phill.jones@bigpond.com

Thank You

There were so many thank yous in connection with the Spring Festival that there was not sufficient room in this edition to print them.

Look for them in the February edition.

Burrawang Playgroup
Friday Mornings
9.30—11 am
Burrawang Public School
Library
All welcome
Carol Bailey (Coordinator)
4886 4527
0429 451367

Invitation

Burrawang Public School's
Presentation Night
And
Christmas Concert

Wednesday 13th Dec
6pm for a 6.30pm start
School of Arts, Hoddle St
Burrawang
All Welcome

GIVING
TREE

Following
the true meaning
of Christmas, that of GIVING
not getting- we will be collecting toys
and gifts for local children less fortunate than
our students.

We'd love it if you could
send in / bring along a suitable gift for a boy
or girl-suitably wrapped and labelled (e.g. 7 year
boy etc).

Your generous donations
will be given to the Smith Family
for distribution to local children
Thanking you in anticipation of your support

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the staff and students of
BURRAWANG PUBLIC SCHOOL

Old Potato Shed
Gallery



CHRISTMAS Gifts that are Original
And All made in Australia.
Leathergoods by Mark Honoré
Garden Art & Rustic Furniture
Men's and Ladies
Hats, Scarves, Socks, Jumpers,
Knitting kits by Signatur Handknits
OPEN 10am - 5pm 7 days
Shop 3-74 Hoddle Street, ROBERTSON NSW 2577. Ph: 02 4885 2400

Southern Highlands
Funerals



Colin & Laurelle Boland

Telephone: 4869 2888
415 Argyle Street, Moss Vale
(opp. Arthur St.)

"Providing assistance and guidance
as you honour a lifetime of memories"



D.B.'s GOURMET GOODS
99 Hoddle Street
Robertson 2577
02.4885.2826

Spray Tan \$35

NO ORANGE UNDERTONES
FOUR SEXY SHADES
LIGHT-MEDIUM-DARK & CHOCOLATE
EXCLUSIVE TO:

Deahne's Nails, Beauty, & Spray Tan Salon
25 Hoddle St, (opposite service station)

BOOK NOW FOR XMAS & NEW YEARS EVE!
4885 1447

CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE OF HERITAGE TOURIST TRAINS TO ROBERTSON

In late October 2006, Robertson Heritage Railway Station Inc (RHRS) made representations to a number of bodies seeking a continuation of running heritage tourist trains to Robertson. This followed advice that the company 3801 Limited which, for many years, has been operating the diesel-hauled *Cockatoo Run*, as well as several steam-hauled special trains to Robertson, may have to consider going into liquidation. This is because that company had received no response to representations it made to the NSW Government to extend its operating lease of the locomotive 3801. Accordingly, 3801 Limited advised that it was reluctant to take further bookings for trains running after 26 November 2006. Of particular concern is that the future of the *Cockatoo Run* and special steam-hauled trains to Robertson is in doubt.

Some background information puts this into perspective. In 1966, the NSW Government gave locomotive 3801 to the fledgling NSW Rail Transport Museum (RTM) under a 'deed of gift'. The locomotive went on numerous tours in NSW as well as to other distant locations in Australia. Following an extensive overhaul, financed essentially from the public purse, the RTM leased 3801 for twenty years to an operating company, 3801 Limited, from November 1986, to 26 November 2006. The RTM has advised 3801 Limited that it is unwilling to extend the lease so, on 27 November 2006, locomotive 3801 should be handed back to the RTM and be based at the Museum's depot at Thirlmere. This outcome has been vigorously challenged by Board members of 3801 Limited, particularly in the media. For their part, the RTM and RailCorp have received confirmatory advice from the Crown Solicitor that RTM is the legal owner of the locomotive and has a right to refuse an extension to the lease.

The reality is that the locomotive is in need of significant (and expensive) repairs and maintenance, particularly to its boiler and firebox. Both the RTM and the NSW Government seek to have 3801 repaired and, in addition to being placed on exhibition at the Thirlmere Museum site, be available to undertake a limited number of tours for the public. This is to achieve the desired balance between sustainable operation and preservation. In this manner, it is envisaged that the locomotive can be maintained in operating condition indefinitely. It would have a much shorter working life if operated extensively, as it is now.

Recent announcements by Deputy Premier and NSW Transport Minister John Watkins have confirmed that 3801 will be repaired and maintained in operating condition by the NSW Government, funded by public money. An Advisory Group, chaired by Vince O'Rourke (who has considerable heritage railway experience) will advise the NSW Government on the following:

Provide advice that would ensure a sustainable operating plan for locomotive 3801.

Assess the future sustainability of 3801 Limited and NSW RTM.

Identify options for improved collaboration between 3801 Limited and NSW RTM.

RHRS provided a written submission to the Vince O'Rourke Advisory Group, highlighting the following:

RHRS has turned a derelict railway precinct into a National Trust listed attractive destination. Robertson has proven to be an ideal destination for heritage tourism trains.

RHRS and the Robertson Chamber of Commerce seek a continuation of running heritage tourist trains and steam-hauled special trains to Robertson.

Both organisations give an undertaking to work with any train operator to provide an attractive and satisfying tourism experience to passengers on such trains.

The consequences of having no regular heritage tourism trains coming to Robertson in the future will be severe indeed for both RHRS and commerce in Robertson village.

Copies of this submission were also sent to State Member Matt Brown, Mayor Gordon Lewis, 3801 Limited President John Glastonbury and NSW RTM President Peter Berriman. Peter Berriman has responded with an encouraging letter, stating that RTM will be happy to work with RHRS in providing heritage tourist trains to Robertson but, until the Vince O'Rourke report is received we cannot realistically undertake any firm planning. A group from RHRS will meet with RTM senior representatives shortly for preliminary discussions. It is also expected that Vince O'Rourke will report shortly.

For further information contact Ian Wallace, Hon. Secretary of RHRS, on phone 4885 2848.

St John's Ladies Fellowship

Our members have had a great deal of pleasure, in conjunction with the Robertson Community Senior Citizens Group and the Robertson School of Arts Committee in putting together 32 shoeboxes of Christmas goodies for underprivileged children.

We have also been doing some very interesting handwork, and look forward to doing more next year, starting with the first Wednesday of February, 2007 at 1:30pm. Our sincere wish for everyone is that you have a holy, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Robertson Community and Senior Citizens Group

A very successful year is drawing very quickly to a close, finishing with a Christmas lunch at the Old River Grill House on the 12th of December.

Next year we will start our fortnightly lunches and fellowship in the Community Centre on Tuesday 10th of February. Don't forget the Monday bowls days at the Robertson Bowling Club. You don't have to be an expert so come along and enjoy yourself.

With monies raised during the year we have been able to donate money to quite a few charities and are quite certain we will be able to continue to do it again next year.

A holy, happy and safe Christmas and New Year to you all.



Robertson CTC.

The results of the third annual **photo competition - "Really Robertson"** are Jean Pierre Henderson who took two places, Richard Jones took a place for 'Autumn Leaves' and David Young received the peoples choice vote for 'Misty Morning'. All of these will be made into our next set of Robertson postcards.

Our **Christmas School Holidays** schedule is being finalized as this goes to print but we will definitely see Penny running some more of her popular claymation workshops and a filming day during which kids get to create a story that we will film and screen at the CTC. - spaces for these are limited so please phone us to book in. check out our website robertsonctc.org.au or drop in to find out what else is on offer.

Robertson Community Cinema - Our November movie is Robert Redford's *Milagro Beanfield War*. December we will do a Christmas screening of a *Nightmare before Christmas*

Thank you to all the participants of the **walk against warming** who helped plant beside Caalong Creek then supported the CTC by lunching at Denis Wilson & James Benjamin's BBQ and finally walked through the mists of our beautiful village to help bring awareness to residents and politicians of our environmental concerns. You can see our walk documented at www.getup.org.au

The current exhibition is of **Denis Wilson's Peonies**. The opening on Sunday the 12 November featured Denis' photographs as well as freshly cut blooms. Due to the short

blooming season we were not able to give much warning for the event but there was a fair sized gathering for the afternoon - if you would like to be on the list to know about these impromptu celebrations please email us at info@robertsonctc.org.au

The **Training** program for Term 4 is available at the CTC if you missed one in your letterbox - or download it from the website. Courses finishing up the year include Researching your Family History (25 Nov), Podcasts (30 Nov), Basics Skills 2 - a follow up course if you've done the popular Basics Skills (1 & 8 Dec) and Handling Pictures on your computer (7 Dec). Even over the holiday period we can accommodate your training needs with one to one sessions, and our course manuals are available for sale should you prefer to work at home at your own pace. Thinking of the new year yet? Let us know what courses you are interested in attending. Or is there a specialist course which you could give?

At the CTC we now have a team of 40 **volunteers** but still have room for more! If you are interested in being involved in any capacity from a weekly volunteers shift to being on the steering committee please come in and meet us.

CTC@Robertson 60 huddle t 4885 2665 f 4885 2664 e info@robertsonctc.org.au w robertsonctc.org.au
Open weekdays 10 - 4 Thursday night 6-10 Saturday 2-4

PATHWAY PLANNING FUNDING AWARDED TO WINGECARRIBEE COUNCIL

The RTA has today announced \$30,000 in funding towards planning to improve pedestrian facilities in Wingecarribee Shire.

Matt Brown MP, Member for Kiama and Parliamentary Secretary for Roads said the RTA is providing the funding to assist Wingecarribee Shire Council to develop a pedestrian access and mobility plan.

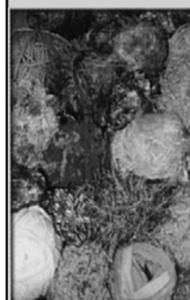
Matt Brown said typical projects that could be identified in the plan include upgrades to footpaths, crossing areas and road modifications for pedestrian access and safety.

"This funding represents a 50 per cent contribution toward the total cost of planning upgrades to pedestrian facilities in the area," said Matt Brown.

"This is a positive step towards improving safety for pedestrians in the area- something I have been working on, with the Council and some very dedicated community groups in Robertson.

"We all want to see safety for pedestrians improved in this area- for the benefit of residents, families, businesses and tourism in the town," Matt Brown said.

Limited Edition Designs



Colourful knitting and craft yarns
Handknitted scarves, beanies and accessories
Locally grown and manufactured
Lavender products
Gifts

Phone (02) 48852772



6

O'Connor Pumps & Electrical

Kelvin O'Connor
Electrician & Pumping Specialist.

Don't forget about installation of smoke detectors as of 1st May, 2005

* Domestic—Sewer—Bore Pumps
*Electrical Installations *Lights
*Stoves *On-Site Service

Ph - 02 4465 1451
Mob - 0413 314 877

Lic No 40696C
Barrengarry

To Let

Robertson

3 bedroom loft style timber cottage—\$225pw

Burrawang

3 bedroom large leafy garden—\$310pw

Wildes Meadow

3 bedroom, rural location

Open every day except Xmas day

R J MACKEY Real Estate



Robertson

Phone: 4885 1329

Email: rjmackeyre@bigpond.com

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



3



Your local Small Cow Farm cheese is now available from
The Cheese Shop,
Robertson,
The Cheese Store,
Bowral and the
Bowral Farmers Market

Whether you crave our creamy camembert, divine fetta or melodious blue, it is available 7 days a week. Try the PetitVache Brie with smoked salmon on rye bread for a gourmet lunch or the Marinated Fetta scattered over a dish of roasted vegetables.

ROBERTSON TO GET NEW FIRE STATION

Robertson will receive a brand new fire brigade station, thanks to \$100,000 in funding from the NSW State Government.

Member for Kiama, Matt Brown MP says it was the strong community support for the project that enabled him to successfully lobby the Minister for Emergency Services for the funding.

"Everyone got behind this campaign to replace the small, outdated fire brigade station at Robbo and I'm delighted the community will be getting this brand new facility," said Matt Brown MP.

"This funding will enable the brigade's operating and training conditions to be significantly improved.

"It will ensure our hard working fire fighters have a high standard of equipment, safety gear, and support for their hot and difficult work," he said.

The allocation was part of a record funding amount of \$2,279,222 in total for the Wingecarribee Local Government Area for 2006/07.

"This really shows the power of communities coming together behind a great cause; to help our fire fighters to safely and effectively continue their invaluable work to protect the community," Matt Brown said.

"We have already seen the first serious bushfires of this season. Continuing warm, dry weather and the drought conditions heighten the risk that we are facing a severe bushfire season.

"This funding will substantially improve the fire protection for local residents and businesses and the tourists that visit the Highlands.

"I congratulate and thank the volunteers from this brigade who do an amazing job, putting their lives at risk to protect our community from bushfires and other emergencies," he said.

Burrawang Snippets

COWS CREATE CAREERS: On Thursday 2nd November, Mrs Burge was presented with a **BILL ROSE AWARD- COMMENDATION** by the College of Australian Educators for Burrawang Public School's successful term 2 program 'Cows Create Careers'. It is pleasing to see that this project is receiving much deserved recognition and it is hoped that it can be run again next year. Burrawang Public School was the first school in NSW & the first primary school in Australia to be involved in this Victorian based project.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Jane Sherborne on her election to the board of directors for the Bowral Co-Op. Jane is the first woman elected to the board in its 80 year history-well done!

From the 22nd to the 27th October- ten of our senior students in Years 5 & 6 attended the combined Southern Highlands small school's camp. This camp is held bi-annually and is a great way for students to make new friends before they go off to high school.

Burrawang Public School is looking for a Piano for their Library and a small freezer. If anyone has these items and is looking for a good home for them, collection can be arranged by contacting the school on 4886 4261.

Does Robertson Have a Bank?

A lot of people have been asking about the ability to bank at the Post Office to make life easier for them and to save them having to travel outside of town. So, we thought we would explain a little about what you can do.

Post has negotiated with a number of banks, credit unions and financial institutions to carry out agency banking or "Bank@Post". Where originally the Commonwealth Bank was the main banking facility available at the Post Office, we now carry out banking transactions for **personal accounts** for over seventy different agencies.

You can withdraw, deposit, pay off your credit card and with some institutions you are also able to get an account balance. However the main drawback is you need your **keycard and your pin number**. Different agencies have varying fees associated with banking transaction so you will need to check with your bank as to how much you are being charged when you use the service.

So in a way Robertson does have a bank. A brochure is available at the Post Office for you to check if you can Bank@Post.

THE ROBERTSON SCHOOL OF ARTS - ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE YEARS ON

Host venue for a number of key events during the recent 'Spring in October' - The Robertson School of Arts has a tale to tell - it spans one hundred and twenty one years.

The original grant of land to erect the building was handed over to five trustees on 19th February 1885. It was signed by the Governor of NSW - Lord Augustus Loftus - Knight Grand Cross of our Most Honorable Order of The Bath. If only Sheila and John's great grandparents had known.

The original document (about the size of a small doormat) is a sight to behold complete with original seal of the crown. After lots of 'wherefores', 'whereases' and even an 'wherefore as much', the reader is duly informed " the said Society, School or Institute will be conducive to the Public Good of the Inhabitants of Our said Colony."

Well the inhabitants of the 'said Colony' have had quite a time of it ensuring the aforesaid building survived to this day - in better shape than ever.

A mortgage to the Rural Bank of NSW was taken out on 10th October 1939 for extensions to the hall. That would have taken a lot of grit and determination just after the horrors of the depression and with WW2 looming over the horizon. The extensions resulted in reasonable success as the local cinema for a number of years. Then came 1957, everyone went out to visit neighbours who had bought a black and white TV. The cinema folded.

The earthquake in the early sixties caused some minor structural damage to the roof. The heavy rains, which followed soon after, pushed the building to the point of extinction. (The photograph taken from the rear of the hall captures the sad state or disrepair the place was in, around this time in 1979). The Council was asked to help. The response: there was really nothing awry a good demolition team couldn't fix.

A stout band of volunteers rose to the occasion and sandblasted the walls, re-clad the roof, dug out the floor and installed the existing sprung floor. Toilets were added, the kitchen refitted along with air-conditioning and a new foyer. \$150,000 was spent on this renaissance financed by two loans, which were promptly repaid.

There is no telling just what you can do once you put your mind to it.

The point to all this is that the School of Arts Hall belongs to the village. It proudly stands today thanks to all the unsung workers who have done whatever it took over 121 years.

There is one small point of concern. Queen Victoria, 'by the Grace of God and so forth', has requested her faithful servants of the Colony to command the payment of one farthing per year from the Trustees of aforesaid School / Institute, 'to be duly presented when demanded'. It's a fair bet, they might have forgotten or whatever. But, since it is dangerous to leave anything to chance these days, please search through the boxes in the shed for farthings. After all that effort over a century plus, it would be a blow to wake up one morning and find the place has been repossessed.



SORCE - REDEFINING STYLE

JEWELLERY FASHION GIFTWARE

LAYBY WELCOME

REGISTER ON OUR

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST MAKING

IT EASIER FOR YOUR FRIENDS &

LOVED ONES TO BUY FOR YOU

OPEN TUESDAY - SUNDAY



essential botanicals

pure, natural skin & body care
fine glycerine soap
signature perfume
eb mineral makeup

Handmade in Robertson

89 Hoddle Street, Robertson
(between Robertson Country Inn & Waters Newsagency)

FAST TYPE



- ◆ Wordprocessing
- ◆ Power Point Presentations
- ◆ Database
- ◆ Medical/Dictaphone typing
- ◆ Reports
- ◆ Edit/proof read documents

Mob: 0408 029919

HIGHLANDS NATURAL HOOFCARE

Supporting Horses and Horse Owners in the Southern Highlands.....Naturally



Lindon Reid

Barefoot Trimmer
Hoof Rehabilitation

49 Cornwall Road
EXETER, NSW. 2579

Phone: (02) 4883 4448
Mob: 0419921365
Email: naturalhoof@inet.net.au

Barefoot Trimming for Performance,
Pleasure and Endurance

CHRISTMAS

GIFTS

Robertson
Recollections
26 Hoddle St
9.30-5.30 (Closed Wed)

Fine China/Silver/Collectables/Tools
Good Books/Paintings & Prints