



Robertson News

June 2007

Edition 60

www.robertsonsw.com.au

ST JOHN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTRE COMPLETED.

St John's Anglican church has finally completed its new Christian Education Centre. Construct began early in 2006 and was originally expected to be completed in October that year but the weather that brought rain to our local farmers delayed the building work. Although it will not be officially opened until the 4th August, there have already been a number of functions held in it and the main 9.30am service is being held there each Sunday. It will take the next couple of months to get used to the new facilities and to put some finishing touches to it.

While the old church has served Robertson well for over 130 years the new Centre has an auditorium that will seat up to 200 people on comfortable chairs instead of the old wooden pews. It is also air conditioned which means it will be comfortable in winter and summer, and being set back away from the highway, off Meryla St, it will not suffer from the sound of motor bikes roaring past on Sunday mornings. Equipped with a modern sound system

and an audio loop, no one should have any trouble hearing everything that goes on. It also has a Crying Room so that parents with young children do not have to be embarrassed by their children crying but can sit in the comfort of a soundproofed room but still be able to see and hear what is happening in the auditorium.

The Centre is equipped with a substantial kitchen as well as some small meeting rooms.

There are no stain glass windows but some of the women of the congregation have made quilts featuring local scenery that will take pride of place on the front wall of the auditorium, adding a bright splash of colour.

The Centre opens up new possibilities and already "Jumping Joys", a playgroup style meeting featuring singing and dance is starting up on the 6th June. The

Centre will also be the venue for St John's youth service called "SYNC" which meets the first Sunday of each month at 6.30pm. The ladies were the first to use the new building with a very enjoyable and successful "Sweet Treats" night on the 11th May but the men are following this up with a Men's BBQ Dinner on the 21st June at which the new Bishop of Wollongong will be the speaker.

While not wishing to compete with the School of Arts or the CTC Centre, it is expected that eventually the Christian Education Centre will be available for community functions when it will not limit church use. It is not expected that it will be available for permanent bookings as the church intends it to be well used for church activities.

The Centre will be officially opened on the 4th August by the past bishop of Wollongong, Reg Piper together with the new Bishop, al Stewart.



St John's Christian Education Centre seen from the Meryla St entrance to the car park..

Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor,

My letter in the last edition of this paper was not a criticism of the President of the Robertson Environment Protection Society. Leon Hall has spent a great deal of his time, at considerable personal sacrifice, fighting the bore field proposal. He is currently working on a further submission to table when the Save Water Alliance returns to Canberra.

The issue that was "bugging me" arose from comments made by a prominent member of REPS at a Robertson Village Meeting. We were informed there was little point in any active resistance to the intended plunder of the regional groundwater system, by the Sydney Catchment Authority. The alarm bells started to ring. Was our highly acclaimed environment group going to just sit on its hands and watch?

While I acknowledge that Leon has done a lot of work - that never was the issue. Most of the work that Leon has done, he has done as a private citizen. The fact that REPS as an organisation has kept such a low profile has made life very difficult for the Save Water Alliance, which is what prompted my original letter.

Bernard Eddy.

Dear Editor,

I am overjoyed at seeing the new footpath extension in Caalong St commencing. This is something that I have worked hard within Council to achieve over many years. I would like to thank all those residents who themselves continued to draw council's attention to this high risk area.

The footpath extension will cost around \$129,00 and will be completed in August this year. This should now provide safe access to all of those

KANGALON BOREFIELD ISSUE

This is a very important issue for the Robertson Environment Protection Society (REPS). I am REPS representative with this issue and also a member of the Upper Nepean Groundwater Community Reference Group (UNGCRG). Other REPS committee members and general members have also contributed.

We have been working at a number of levels over the last 18 months including;

- research of the extensive documentation and information (eg UNGCRG)
- submissions and representation to state and federal governments
- UNGCRG representation on a number of issues and actions
- talking to the public, generally and at venues, talks and meetings
- informing members and others through our newsletter 'Eucryphia'
- sharing information with other groups e.g. Save Water Alliance
- some survey field work e.g. orchids, geebung, koalas

REPS supports and congratulates the Save Water Alliance for all the hard work they have put into this borefield issue especially in regard to bringing this issue to a wider audience. Soon the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) will be releasing their Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment. The EA (under Part 3A) will be lodged after the response from the Department of Environment and Water Resources (DEW) to the SCA Referral.

This may be the last chance that the general public has for an opportunity to have a say. Once released there is usually a 30 day period to comment.

The last time this proposal went to public consultation (to the NSW govt.) was in August 2006. A number of SCA reports were also made available then. Approximately 70 submissions were received including a submission from the Upper Nepean Groundwater Community Reference Group (UNGCRG) and one from REPS.

If we could get thousands of people making submissions this time (eg comments, have your say), then the state government may take notice.

To get some background information you can see previous articles and submissions on our website under our newsletter 'Eucryphia'.

Issue 86 - REPS submission to SCA

Issue 87 (insert) - UNGCRG submission to SCA Others issues 84,85 have articles and issues 88 & 89 relate to the EPBC Act.

We hope to soon have our articles and previous submissions on our website in a more easily accessible form with links to other sites. (website in progress www.reps.org.au)

Leon Hall
REPS President

pedestrians who increasingly use Caalong St to get into the Village.

Our next task is to reapply pressure on the state government for a safe pedestrian access for people using the Illawarra Highway as a link to the Robertson Village.

Clr Larry Whipper 0407932922

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FIRST MONTH'S PUMPING RESULTS DISASTROUS FOR KANGALOON.

The Sydney Catchment Authority has reported on the first month's test pumping from the Kangaloon Aquifer bore field. But the "spin" they have put on the results is extraordinary.

A spokesperson for the SCA, Alison White, has gone on record saying that the SCA had expected the draw-down effect (the lowering of the water table) to spread out 2 Kms (which is true), but she was claiming that the test results show it has only spread out 900 metres. And this is supposed to be a "good result"? The missing factor in that equation is time.

The SCA expected the drawdown to spread 2 Km away from the bores, after 3 years of continuous pumping. But the spread of the effect to nearly 1 Km away has occurred within one month! So, that ought to be setting the alarm bells ringing. Instead, the SCA has greeted the results as a triumph. That shows how little understanding of ecology they have.

Graeme Head, the CEO of the SCA, was on local radio yesterday making preposterous claims that there would be no damage to vegetation in the bore field area. Yet, the bores are drawing down the groundwater to 70 metres, (in one case). This is within one month. This is a sudden and dramatic impact, which will surely affect all the vegetation and animals which live in the Kangaloon area. There is not a tree in the world which can get its roots down that far. So, this obviously threatens the trees, and if you lose the trees, you lose everything, for even the precious swamps are protected by the encircling forest.

I have the impression that the SCA wrote the Press Release without bothering to analyse the results of the tests. They did get an hydrologist to review the results, but hydrologists are not ecologists. There is no analysis of the impact of the pumping on the living environment of the Kangaloon Aquifer.

The SCA ought to seek comments from their Environmental consultants, SMEC. But we know they won't do that. For the SMEC people warned them a year ago of the potentially disastrous environmental effects of pumping the Kangaloon Aquifer. Now, the results clearly show unacceptable impacts on the water levels (within a month), so I challenge the SCA to have the courage, integrity and professionalism to seek an expert analysis from SMEC.

Denis Wilson
Chairman
Save Water Alliance.

The Cat and Fiddle Antiques comes to Robertson

Robertson welcomed a new antique shop in May, with the arrival of "Cat and Fiddle Antiques" at 28 Hoddle St. Ron and Sheridan Bryant, and their daughter Quincy, opened their doors on May 25th, and it was obvious that this large store with its grand colonial verandah had undergone a total transformation.

Antique furniture, collectables and country style are all part of the mix. Quincy will also be operating a specialty book shop within the store. Highlights of her range are books on gardening, cooking, craft, children's, and auto/bike books.

Ron and Sheridan are newcomers to Robertson, but not to antiques. They traded as "The Cat and Fiddle Antiques", in the hinterland behind the Gold Coast, for some 10 years. Last year they decided to relocate to Sydney to be near family and grandchildren. After a year off, Ron and Sheridan looked at many places to reopen their antique business. They considered Berry, Bowral, Gerringong and Kiama before settling on Robertson as the perfect location.

In their past life before antiques, Ron was a financial planner and stockbroker and Sheridan comes from a national sales and marketing background.

Cat and Fiddle antiques opens 10 until 4, from Friday to Monday.

ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

Notice of upcoming trains at Robertson station between June and August 2007.

Sunday, 24 June 2007: Steam locomotive 3801 will be hauling a special "yuletide theme" train from Sydney 'up the mountain' to Robertson and proceeding on to Moss Vale. Arrival time at Ranelagh House is 12.15pm, Robertson 12.23pm; departure from Robertson 3.40pm, Ranelagh House 3.42pm, heading for Wollongong and Sydney.

Saturday, 30 June 2007: Steam locomotive 3112 will be bringing a special Bill Peach tour 'up the mountain' with one car only, and will stay at Robertson from 1.20pm to 2.50pm while the passengers have lunch, then will proceed to Bowral to drop off the passengers to continue their tour. The train will then return empty to Sydney.

Sunday, 1 July 2007: Normal Cockatoo Run from Sydney, arrive Robertson about 12.45pm, depart about 3.00pm (check with station to confirm times).

Saturday, 18 August 2007: Advance notice of "South Coast and Southern Highlands Steam Spectacular with 3801 and 3830 – celebrating 75 years of the Illawarra Mountain Railway and Robertson Railway Station". There will be special celebrations at Robertson Heritage Railway Station on the day to commemorate its 75th anniversary. The special train from Sydney, via Wollongong, is due to arrive at Robertson 12.18pm, remain at the station for 30 minutes, then proceed to Moss Vale. On the return journey to Sydney, the train departs Robertson at 3.30pm, travelling via Wollongong.

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CTC@Robbo News

The CTC is very excited to welcome Monica Engel as the new manager. Monica has had a long association with the CTC. She will be working Thursdays and Fridays starting on 16th May.

The CTC's new opening hours are Wednesday to Friday from 10am - 4pm and Saturday 2pm - 4pm. Please feel free to call in and have a cup of coffee, use the computers or have your printing or photocopying done.

Our new training calendar is out and can be accessed at www.robertsonctc.org.au or phone 4885 2665 for further information.

Monica will be running "Homework and Project Research at the CTC" on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 4pm - 6pm for children aged 12 years and over. Starting date is Thursday 31st May. Please ring 4885 2665 to book in.

Do you have training qualifications and/or experience? If so, you may be interested in doing some training for the CTC. Please fill out an Trainers expression of interest form on the website www.robertsonctc.org.au

Thursday is seniors morning, please call in for coffee and a chat or to use the computers, there are friendly volunteers to show you how to use the technology.

Two sessions are being run on Cyber Safety issues - one for parents and the other for the general community looking at safe practices for buying on line and banking on line etc. Please email training@robertsonctc.org.au



THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK for MITTAGONG in AUGUST

This wonderful play was based on the writings of the young Anne Frank during wartime, when she, with her family and other friends, were hiding in an attic above an Amsterdam warehouse, during the German occupation.

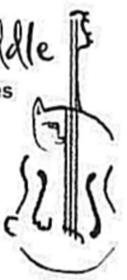
This is a story made all the more dramatic because it is based on a true account, and concerns the lives of real people who lived at a time of unspeakable horror for the Jewish population in many European countries.

The Highlands Theatre Group will be presenting this production in August, to be directed by Gillian Dunstan who was responsible for directing *Doctor in the House*. Gillian is thrilled to be finally directing *The Diary of Anne Frank* - it's a play she's long wanted to bring to the stage, and she has a great cast.

Members of the cast include Darrell Hope and Nicolle Dickson as Mr & Mrs Frank, Hannah Stanton in the pivotal role of Anne Frank, George Lawrence and Valerie Warry as Mr and Mrs Van Daan, and Jordan Worner as Peter Van Daan. Jim Cheesley appears as Mr Dussel.

Performances will be over the first three weekends of August, 3,4,10,11,17,18 at 8pm, Aug.12 at 3pm and Aug.18 at 2pm. Tickets will be \$20 (adult) and \$17 (concession) and bookings will open on Monday 16th July.

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Paintings : Hand-dyed Yarns : & much, much more.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Former Minister Returns Fighting

Controversial, confronting, pessimistic. – That's Bowral boy John Charles Kerin, former Minister for Primary Industry, Treasurer (for 6 months), Minister for Transport and Communications (for 3 weeks!), and Minister for Trade and Overseas Development. He's the next speaker in the NPA Southern Highland's outstanding series of public environmental forums.

Kerin says of himself: "I've walked both sides of the street on conservation and environmental issues.... I was a member of the Gould League of Bird Lovers; but if I had had the money, I would have cleared every acre of the Yerrinbool property because, as a farmer, growth in production was what supposedly guaranteed prosperity."

Kerin will bring his experiences as disillusioned local farmer, agricultural economist, and Government minister during the Tasmanian and Eden forestry battles to his presentation of the four predicaments that face Australians struggling with issues of environmental and natural resource management.

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 5 June

CWA Hall,
Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale
(next to Fire Station)
Refreshments
Gold Coin Donation

Bus Trip Quilt & Craft Show

Sunday 1st July
Darling Harbour

Fare & Entry to Show - \$33 inclusive
Return Fare to Sydney \$20

Phone Jenny on 4886 4422

Robertson Village Meeting Tuesday 12th June 6.00pm CTC Centre

- ◆ Items for discussion
- ◆ Pedestrian Access Mobility Study
- ◆ Robertson Sewerage Scheme
- ◆ Moss Vale Inland Port
- ◆ Developments in Lemon's Rd
- ◆ Kangaloon Aquifer
- ◆ Local policing

Robertson Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting

6pm, 2nd July

Pirouette Café

3 Course meal—\$35ph BYO
Members guests welcome

AGM and election of office bearers to
be held prior to meal.

Burrawang Wildes Meadow Progress Assoc

9.30am Saturday 7th July

President: Geoff Stewart
4886 4244

Volunteers Wanted

Burrawang Street Tree Planting
Thursday 2nd August
Friday 3rd August
Saturday 4th August

Geoff Stewart 4886 4244
Ed Woolfrey 4886 4206

New Website

burrawangvillage.com

Ph. Annie 4886 4565

COMING SOON.....

Every Wednesday Morning from 6th June 2007

For 0 -5 year olds and their parents/caregivers.

Come and join us for a fun morning of singing,
dancing, story time & craft.



If you like The Wiggles, PlaySchool,
Hooley Dooleys etc, you'll love jumping around with us.

Morning Tea will be provided for children and adults.

Time: Every Wednesday Morning at 10:00am

Venue: St John's New Christian Education Centre

Cost: \$2



Run by St John's Anglican Church Robertson
Further details contact Kristen: 48852022 or Serena:48851230

Matt Brown MP Your Local Member

CAN I HELP?

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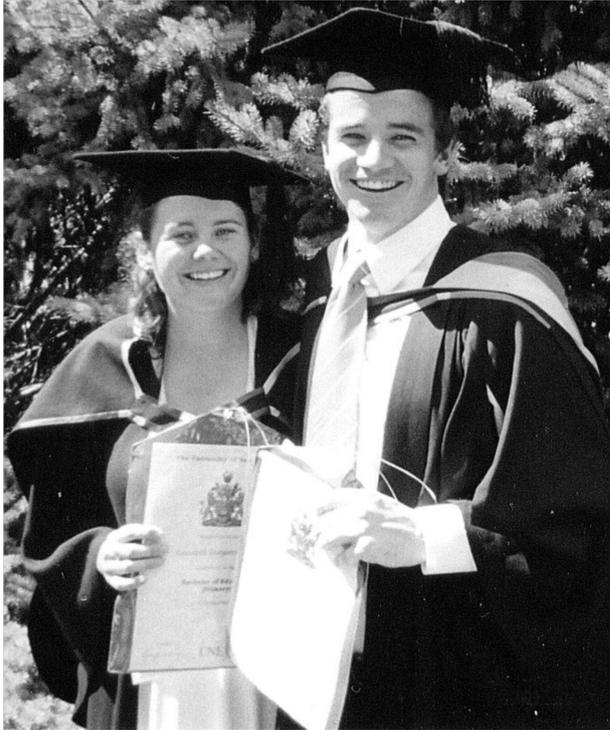
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Congratulations

Our Congratulations go to Elizabeth Ricketts and David Tait of Robertson, graduating recently from the University of New England, Armidale, with a Bachelor of Education. Well done, we are proud of you.



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

5.00pm - Family Service

Roman Catholic

Burrawang

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

2nd & 4th Sundays - 5.00pm

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

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF ROBERTSON!

On Saturday the 26th May Café Pirouette held its inaugural 'Biggest Morning Tea' "We had a fantastic response from the locals and quite a few interstate visitors who came especially for the occasion" said Lynne O'Brien. All proceeds from Pirouette's coffee and tea sales on the day went towards the final tally.

The highlight of the day was the Biggest Head Shave held at 3pm - where the very brave Caroline Marsh resisted her nerves and ego to become very bald! The money raised on the day has been sent through to the NSW Cancer Council to assist them in the fight against cancer. A very big thank you must go to Robynne from BOBBY PINS for providing the head shave and of course to the people of Robertson - the grand total for the day was just on \$1,000.00 - a fantastic effort. Stay tuned for more events to be held at the café, also if you or your organization would like to hold a private function - or fundraiser - call into the Café or phone on 02 4885 1788.



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 **August**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th July 2007**. 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

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