



Robertson News

August 2007

Edition 61

www.robertsonsw.com.au



75th ANNIVERSARY - OPENING OF ROBERTSON RAILWAY STATION and UNANDERRA-MOSS VALE RAILWAY LINE

On **Saturday, 18 August 2007** we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Robertson Railway Station and the Unanderra to Moss Vale link railway line, which was originally opened on 20 August 1932. To commemorate this occasion, a special steam train hauled by heritage steam locomotives 3801 and 3830 will be running from Sydney to Moss Vale and return, via Wollongong and Robertson. There will be a 30-minute stop-over of the train at Robertson Station at 12.18pm, before proceeding to Moss Vale. The train will be returning at 3.30pm to pick up passengers on its return journey to Sydney via Wollongong.

The gardens, station and history display will be open for these special celebrations from 10.00am on the day. The program of events will commence with an opening by Wingecarribee Mayor Clr Gordon Lewis at 10.30am. It will include the opening of a 75th anniversary railway exhibition in the Fettle's Shed Gallery and the launch of a booklet commemorating the special anniversary, both by our local state member and Minister for Tourism Matt Brown MP. The booklet will then be available for purchase. Various dignitaries, including representatives of Federal, State and Local government, as well as representatives of industry and various railway organisations will be present. Special guests will include several local residents who, as school children, rode on the inaugural train on 20 August 1932. One of these residents will be asked to cut the commemorative birthday cake

Berry Brass Band and the local school band and choir will be performing during the celebrations. The Robertson Railway Station shop will be open where souvenirs will be available for purchase. Morning tea and other light refreshments will also be available on the day.



It promises to be a most enjoyable day and the public is invited to join us to help celebrate this special occasion.

PRESENTATION TO MIRIAM MARGOLYES

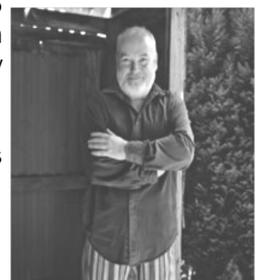


Following on from our anniversary celebrations we will be holding a special event on **16 September 2007** when Miriam Margolyes, a noted actress, celebrity and local resident, will be presented with a "Golden Spike" award in a special event in a marquee to be erected adjacent to the Robertson Railway Station buildings. Miriam Margolyes will be interviewed by Andrew Ford, a local well-known ABC reporter and composer and will, doubtless, reveal much about her interesting international career. Miriam's major film credits during her long and celebrated career include Yentl, Little Shop of Horrors, I Love You to Death, End of Days, Sunshine, Cold Comfort Farm, Cats & Dogs, Magnolia and was Professor Sprout in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

The event will include specially catered refreshments and should be a significant day in Robertson's community life.

Tickets for this event will be on sale from Avril or Robert Goldsack on 4885 1220, the "Old Potato Shed Gallery" on 4885 2400, or from the Robertson Heritage Railway station on Sundays between 12.00pm and 3.00pm and also on Saturday, 18 August at the 75th Anniversary celebrations

There will not be a special train scheduled for this day but we would appreciate as many people as possible supporting this occasion. Keep a look-out for further details closer to the event.



The Editor.

The last two editions of the Robertson News have been somewhat thin because of a dearth of articles. The newsletter is open to receiving articles from residents of Robertson on topics which are likely to be of interest to our readers. The Robertson News comes out bi-monthly on the even months of the year with the deadline for copy being the 15th of the odd months. (See Contribution Guidelines on the back page). Copy should be preferably emailed to bjlee@dodo.com.au before the deadline.

Robertson Chamber of Commerce

This year's Robertson Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting was held at Cafe Pirouette on Monday evening July 2nd.

The following office bearers were elected un-opposed: President Dorothy Baker, Vice President Judy Fisk, Secretary Scott Reid, Treasurer Annie Wilson, Committee Denis Wilson (CTC Representative).

The Chamber welcomes the appointment of Dorothy Baker.

Anzac Day 2008

Rev Barry Lee would be interested in photos of ex servicemen and women from Robertson and surrounds for display at the Anzac Day commemoration in 2008.

The intention is to build up a slideshow to be screened in the hall at the beginning of the service. It only takes a few moments to scan in the photos. Please ring Barry on 4885 1210 to arrange for photos to be scanned for this purpose.



A PLEA FROM THE POST OFFICE.

Over the last few months there has been a number of 'break-ins' and attempted 'break-ins' to both Robertson businesses and homes in the area. In the past two months alone, the Robertson Post Office has been targeted three times. In the last attempt, which took place on the morning of Friday the 6th July, the perpetrators worked for fifteen minutes, between 5.05 am and 5.25 am, to gain entry through the back door with a sledge hammer. We believe two males were involved in the attempted break-in. One or both were dressed in high visibility work coats and beanies. Presumably a car or ute was at hand to facilitate the robbery.

In response to the increasing crime in Robertson a number of businesses have been forced to improve and modernize the security on their premises but much to our frustration these measures seem to be having little effect in deterring the would-be burglars. Our level of frustration is heightened by the apparent lack of arrests that have been made by the police. On behalf of the Post Office and other business owners I am therefore appealing to our community to be extra vigilant. If you see anything suspicious, no matter how little or seemingly insignificant you think it is please tell us or contact the police. I would make a special appeal to members of our community who are traveling either early in the morning or late at night to be extra observant in the event of an alarm being triggered. Do you notice cars parked in the vicinity (colour? make?)? Do you see any individuals acting suspiciously (how many? what are they wearing?)? Obviously your own safety should be foremost in your actions and you should think seriously before challenging any would-be burglars but any little piece of information that you might gather could be a great help in catching these criminals.

I moved to Robertson a number of years ago, attracted by its sense of community and tranquility. Unfortunately I believe that we are now witnessing an increase in domestic and commercial crime in the area and I am sure I am not the only one dismayed and alarmed by these events. As a community I feel we must be vigilant and work cooperatively to rid ourselves of crime in our town.

If anyone does have any additional information about the attempted break on Friday the 6th July, or the following act of vandalism when the front door was smashed in the early hours of 12th July, I would urge you to contact the police or the post office while the investigation is still current.

* Since I penned this article we have also had a further incident in the early morning of Thursday 12 July. The front door was smashed when a missile was thrown at close range around midnight. This has been yet another incident which has caused distress and frustration on many levels.

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MEMORIES OF THE WAR YEARS

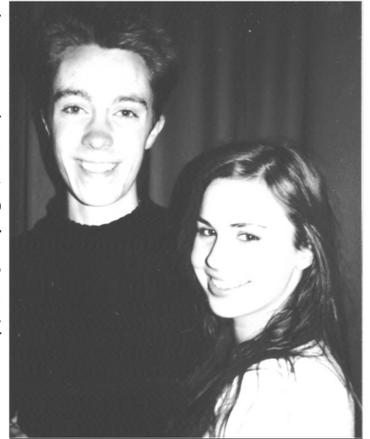
The Highlands Theatre Group this month is presenting the challenging play THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK over the three first weekends of August, directed by Gillian Dunstan.

The story, dramatised in collaboration with Otto Frank, is based on the book, *Anne Frank - Diary of a Young Girl*, and concerns the lives of a Jewish family hiding from the German occupying forces in war-torn Amsterdam. To escape the horrors of Nazi persecution, Otto Frank hides with his wife and two daughters in attic rooms above an Amsterdam warehouse for two years. Also hiding with the Franks are four other people. In her diary Anne recorded an account of the trials and tribulations of the people around her, all trying to live a normal life in cramped attic accommodation, whilst under the constant threat of discovery by the Gestapo.



Nicolle Dickson (Mrs Frank) and Darrell Hope (Mr Frank)

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. It is a story that should be told and retold, because it is part of recent history, and because we should not be allowed to forget.



Hannah Stanton (Anne Frank) and Jordan Worner (Pieter Van Daan)

Venue : The Mittagong Playhouse, cnr Bowral Rd & Old Hume Highway, Mittagong

Dates : August 3,4,10,11,17,18 at 8pm, and August 12 at 2pm, and August 18 at 2pm.

Tickets : \$20 (adults); \$17 (concessions)

Bookings : Southern Highlands Tourism, Main St, Mittagong. Phone : 1300 657 559.

Make a Gingerbread House for Christmas

Join us on:
Friday 30th November
At 7pm

At St John's Church
Robertson
Speaker: Marge Mills



Cost: \$25
Cost includes supper and all materials to make your own gingerbread house.

Bookings and Payment essential before November as numbers are limited.

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Grace Avery: 48851481

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

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The Kangaloon Aquifer

We have had a Round One victory on the Kangaloon Aquifer issue. Thanks are due to [Mr Malcolm Turnbull MP](#) for having the courage and determination to make the decision he has made. The issue has been carried mostly by the combined efforts of the Save Water Alliance, the Robertson Environment Protection Society and the NSW Farmers Association - who have all contributed to joint presentations to the Department of Environment and Water Resources. Also many local individuals have made personal representations to Mr Turnbull, for which we are deeply appreciative.

[Federal Minister for the Environment](#), Mr Malcolm Turnbull, announced that he has decided that the issues raised with his Departmental Officers, to do with Kangaloon Aquifer, were indeed "Matters of National Environmental Significance" - as defined under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. Furthermore, this amounts to a "prima facie" decision that the Sydney Catchment Authority's borefield proposal posed a significant threat to endangered ecological communities and other "listed" species.

This is a wonderful decision for the environment, and thanks are due to all of our loyal, local supporters. The members of the Save Water Alliance have done a terrific amount of work on this issue, and I wish to particularly thank Bernard Eddy for all his work, enthusiasm and encouragement (and for the funny moments too).

I wish to make special mention of the local potato farmers and dairy farmers and the "Friends of the NSW Farmers Association", without whose support we would not have been able to commission the respected consultant hydrologist, Mr Ray Evans, of Salient Solutions. His contribution was extremely significant.

Thanks to the NSW Farmers Association, especially Mr Jonathan Bell. I also wish to mention Mr Phil Herd, the founding Chairman of the Save Water Alliance, without whose determination and drive, especially in those early days, we would not be in this position today.



Leon Hall, Bernard Eddy, Prof Gavan McDonnell & Ray Evans outside the Environment Department

The President of the Robertson Environment Protection Society, Leon Hall has done a huge amount of work in opposing this proposal, and congratulations are due to him for his efforts, and also his personal encouragement of my efforts in identifying local rare and endangered plants. Professor Gavan McDonnell gave us sound advice on the specific issues to address in our approach to the key decision-makers in Canberra.

The list of other supporters is nearly endless, but financial supporters, people from the local Southern Highlands community, well-wishers, and our group of trusty volunteers, have all been a terrific support. Olivia Isherwood, Mim Merrick and Kim Martin warrant special mention, as does David Thompson, in particular for his vision for [our Website](#).

Thanks to all the people who turned up to our Public Meetings in Robertson and Bowral, for their moral support too.

Thanks also to the local political candidates in the recent State Election who also offered their support against the pumping of the Kangaloon Aquifer - Pru Goward, Paul Stephenson, Anne Sudmalis, Ben van der Wijngaart and Sonya Mackay.



Butler's Swamp—one of the "listed" Endangered Ecological Communities.

This is a Round One victory only, in that the matter will now go back to the NSW Government for a genuine Environmental Assessment. Hopefully that will be more scientific and more rigorous than the superficial statements which the Sydney Catchment Authority presented to the Federal Government in the initial submission, accompanying "Referral No 2006/3209".

That document from the SCA was a disgrace, and its deceptive and misleading statements are largely responsible for the failure of their original proposal. It is no surprise that their facile assertions that damage to the environment would be "minimal" failed to convince the Federal decision-makers.

Proper environmental assessments (conducted across a full year, and including accurate study of the status of all known threatened species in the area) will be the minimum requirement, if the required Environmental Assessment (EA) is to have any credibility.

Denis Wilson

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COMMUNITY NOTICES



"COME TO THE FAIR"
October Long Weekend
Saturday and Sunday 29th and
30th September 2007

- ◆ Station open gardens featuring Waratah display. Flower show and demonstration. Waratah flowers and plants for sale. Local native plants information and sales,
- ◆ Model fully operational steam railway,
- ◆ Visit by 3801 Steam Locomotive Sunday – train rides available.
- ◆ Stalls in the marquee and on the Village Common- local arts and crafts, specialty foods, honey, flowers, and market stalls.
- ◆ Food to eat at the fair: snacks and drinks to full luncheon with real coffee,
- ◆ Aboriginal Art Exhibition in the Fettle's Shed Gallery,
- ◆ History museum in the station building,
- ◆ Station outdoor sculpture park (Reconciliation sculpture, Flugelman sculpture, plus historic railway artefacts), sculpture expo Sunday.
- ◆ Live music, Aboriginal Music/dance performances,
- ◆ Railway 2nd hand book stall in the parcel room.

Interested in having a food or local produce stall or running another activity at the fair? Contact Anne Wilson (4885 1598 email annejw@bigpond.net.au)

St John's Ladies Fellowship

The St John's Ladies fellowship is a small group of retired ladies who meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the St John's Church Centre at 1.30pm. We are a friendly group who are seeking new members.

Anyone who is interested is invited to join us for afternoon tea at one of our meetings

BUTTERFLIES

A Talk at REPS
by
Dr Stephen Brown, B.Sc., MDS

Friday Evening, 10th August
at 7.30pm
Robertson Community Centre
All welcome, informal discussion,
light refreshments
Gold coin donation

Dr Brown developed an interest in science and biology from the age of nine. He has collected butterflies in most parts of Australia and overseas and has an extensive reference collection which has been used in recent publications on the butterflies of Australia. He has published a number of papers on Australian butterflies and is part of a group that has recently described a new species from Torres Strait. Stephen and his wife Tristy have lived in Bowral for the past 16 years..



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Your Local Member

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

It appears from what was advanced in the last letter that Mr. Halligan had decided that the main road to Mossvale via Shippley's was the best tramway route, and that it should pass at the back of Barrett's Mill onto Robertson. At a short distance from the mill is the Wingecarribee Swamp, the source of the Bongbong River. Now the land by the side of this Swamp and along the course of the river is to the eye level, and the fall is so slight as to be imperceptible, and the direction is towards Bunadoo. A tramway could run over this level land, crossing the land of Shippley, and Perkins, the sheepwash road at the bottom of the hill through Thorley's, and keeping beautifully level country. It passes over Riley's run not far from Bunadoo platform. There are no cuttings or earthworks required -for miles the track is as level and only the ordinary formation would be needed. But the Mossvale main road is up and down hill from one end to the other, and the gradients are probably in places 1 in 16 or 10. But allow me to point out other advantages than level and inexpensive track. The Bunadoo line would be more central to the townships of Upper Mittagong and Kangaloon. If a platform were put in at Carnole Hill, it would save the people of Mittagong five miles road carriage into Bowral and the same distance returning empty. The produce from West and part of East Kangaloon would come to the sheepwash if a platform were erected in that locality, and would save a carriage road of seven miles and a half into Bowral, and the same mileage coming back. Mr. Halligan's main road line to Mossvale would be perfectly useless to both these places. Especially worthy of notice is this last fact-that if Burradoo were chosen as the junction of the tramway with the railway it would shorten the distance between Burrawang and Sydney by five miles, and there would also be a similar saving to the Robertson people. Burradoo Junction would also be a compromise between the opposing claims of Bowral and Mossvale; and the shortening of the journey to Sydney by five miles is equal to a premium on every ton of goods carried from Wingecarribee. The Burradoo line runs through private property, as any level line must do. It avoids the main roads, and thus does away with the risk of frightening country horses and breaking the necks of country people; and as Burradoo is an equitable compromise between Mossvale and Bowral, so the line passing by the sheepwash is an equitable compromise between Burrawang on one side and Kangaloon and Upper Mittagong on the other, It would disarm the present opposition in those places to the tramway, the people of Kangaloon and Mittagong would no longer be shut out from the benefits of the proposed new communication with Sydney in order to let the new line be for the benefit of Mossvale. The sympathies of Burrawang and Robertson will rather be with their neighbours and the people of their own class of life and occupation than with others who refused to sign the petition to Government, and in whose hands the copy of petition disappeared - after the postmaster said he delivered it.

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*

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 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

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Editor : Barry Lee