



Robertson News

June 2008

Edition 66

www.robertsonsw.com.au

Robbo's "Big Spud" to be given a face-lift for 2008 International Year of the Potato

Our treasured "big thing" in Robertson, variously known as the "Big Potato", the Big Spud" (and other "big" names) is destined for a refurbishment.

The Robertson Chamber of Commerce, and several generous members of the local community are attempting to organise for painting, and other renovations to be conducted. It is hoped that the Moss Vale Girl Guides might be able to participate in this work. They may also organise various fund-raising activities (on a Potato theme) in association with 2008 being declared the International Year of the Potato.

One of the problems is the two openings, which were once closed off with solid doors, have been vandalised, and so, for a long time it has been open. That causes all sorts of health and safety risks.

The creators of the "Big Potato", Clr Jim Mauger, and his son Roden have been approached by a group of local citizens for permission for us to fund professionals to seal off the two door alcoves at the rear of the structure - permanently. Then, hopefully, we can go further, and arrange to give it a fresh coat of spray paint. Then we would like to consider going further and tidy up the surrounding land, and maybe put in some chairs or tables. The details are far from finalised, and naturally will need to be approved by the Maugers.

As you might recall from previous spring displays, there are already "a host of golden daffodils" planted in front of the Big Potato (they flower in early spring). Recently Dr. David Tranter has planted several Waratahs there too. They will flower around the October long-weekend (once they are established).

Local residents who would like to see the Big Spud made safe, (less of a security risk) and more presentable are invited to contact the co-ordinator of this project, Mrs Judy Hollis on Ph: 4886 4446 Offers of money or of assistance "in kind" would be welcomed.



Thank You

To Everyone in the Robertson and wider community who gave their support and warm messages of condolence at the time of Bill's passing.

A special 'Thank you' to those who spent some time with Bill during his illness. He appreciated your time so much.
Fiona Hindmarsh and family.

Local Vandalism

A few weeks ago one of the picnic tables at the rear of the CTC was pulled out of the ground, with the concrete blocks still attached. Superhuman strength indeed. Thanks to Jessie Mauger (he is a bit superhuman as well) from the Spuddies for his assistance in putting it right. However, the table still needed some adjustment and the hole dug out to fit it back properly. Unfortunately the table was removed from the site, whereabouts unknown. If anyone has any information on the location of the table please contact Monica Engel at the Robertson CTC, 4885 2665. It would be nice to have it back by spring, BBQ's for the working bees, that type of thing, hmm.

Training Courses

The Robertson Community Technology Centre can provide all your computer training. We cater for all levels. Give us call to register your interest or pick up a brochure from the CTC. Our class sizes are small and our prices reasonable (concession rates available).

Some of the courses we offer are: Basic Computers, Email, Internet, Accounting programs including MYOB and Quicken (Quicken includes free software), MS Word, Touch Typing, MS Excel, MS Access, MS Powerpoint for slide shows. A qualified life coach is also available for Life Coaching courses.

Art Teacher, Kit Bullivant will be available to teach a variety of workshops for children or adults. These include drawing, painting, pastels and creative workshops. Please contact the CTC for more information.

email training@robertsonctc.org.au
tel. (02) 4885 2665
Fax (02) 4885 2664
www.robertsonctc.org.au

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



Writing Competition

Congratulations to David Welsh, winner of this edition's competition
To enter for August's competition the article

Homewards

Up to the docks the boats arrive,
First comes one and two,
Then come numbers four and five.
Off the boats come lines of men
But many less than we first did send.
Battered and broken body and soul,
So high be the number of the final
death toll.

Happy faces but many sad,
While Children sit weeping,
For their loving Dad.

And for all those who died,
All of those men,
The Soldiers and the Comrades
And Brothers and Mates,
All now Together,
March Towards Heavens Gates.

By David Welsh
Year Six
Kangaloon Public School

must be written by a primary school child (poetry, prose, journalistic) and be a maximum of 300 words. The competition is open to children in Robertson and surrounding areas.

Send to: Writing Competition, POBox 5
Robertson 2577 or
e-mail bjlee@dodo.com.au or
talk to your Senior Teacher

Name:.....
Year.....
School.....

A \$20 book token will be awarded by the Robertson Chamber of Commerce.
The winner will be chosen by the Editor of 'Robertson News'. The next issue will publish the winning piece in April.

Robo Butcher Shop

Open 8am-6pm (Sat 8am to noon)



Village Centre
Hoddle St, Robertson

Rick Fitzgerald

Phone: 4885 1162
Fax: 4885 1163

Email: rmwholesalemeats@bigpond.com

Robertson Community Technology Centre

A night of music and trivia with *Mental Floss*

Mental Floss are a new local music trivia group – they don't only do trivia, they do great music as well.

The Trivia Night will be at Robertson Bowling Club 7.30 pm on Saturday 14th June 2008.

Tickets are \$10 including lucky door prize. Bring your gold coins to win some fabulous prizes!

This will be a great night of music and fun—don't miss it.

Book a table now by contacting Monica on 4885 2665 or monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au

All proceeds in aid of CTC@Robertson

What does the CTC do?

The CTC supports our community in many important ways. For example, in the past 2 years, the CTC has helped bring to Robertson -

- Computer training for seniors and a seniors computer club
- A film morning for International Day for People with a Disability
- Workshops in "cybersafety" for children, seniors and parents
- Music nights (open mike nights for local musicians)
- Community cinema including the *In the Bin Film Festival* and community film making
- A local photography competition for the Springtime in Robertson Festival
- Art exhibitions and project management for an artists register for the Highlands
- A service to produce programs, fliers, posters, catalogues for local businesses & community organisations.
- Preparation of booklets for funerals
- Equipment for NLIS – National Livestock Identification System
- An Internet café 4 days per week
- School holiday activities
- Training and support for Work for the Dole
- Free help using the computers
- Book launches
- A transport guide
- And much more.....

The Robertson Community Technology Centre (CTC@Robertson) is a non-profit community owned organisation operated and staffed by a part-time manager and a team of 20 volunteers. We receive no regular government funding so in order to keep our doors open to the community we rely on generating income through the services we offer, grants for projects, donations and sponsorship.

The CTC is more than just a place of commerce and training. People from Robertson, Burrawang, Kangaloon and surrounding rural villages see the CTC as a focal point where they feel a sense of togetherness. Many of our volunteers' lives have been improved by the sense of wellbeing they achieve from participation in the community.

If you have not yet been to the CTC we invite you to come in and see us in action. The story of the CTC has been going from strength to strength with hard work from many people along the way.

For more information call Monica Engel, CTC Manager on 4885 2665 monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au or Jenny Kena, President jennykena@robertsonctc.org.au

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**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ART STUDIO TRAIL –
SPRING 2008**

An exciting component of the Southern Highlands Wine, Art and Roses Festival for 2008 will be the Art Studio Trail. During the first weekend in November, local artists and artisans will be opening their studio doors to the public. Now in its third year, the trail has expanded thanks to the support of Tourism Southern Highlands and the Wingecarribee Shire Council Arts and Culture Board.

The Southern Highlands is home to a large community of highly talented artists. Squirreled away in rural sheds, garden studios and village workshops are a group of specially skilled people quietly making beautiful objects in an extraordinary range of media. These artists make work which is keenly sought around Australia and some are represented in collections around the world.

Many artists have left the big smoke in search of open space and tranquility and an inspirational natural landscape. There can be no doubt that the Southern Highlands is an environment conducive to creativity.

Participating artist, Celeste Coucke, agrees: "The cherished image of the artist: a beret bedecked, paint spattered bohemian, struggling away in a cold garrett somewhere in the inner city is a wonderful myth... but I think that most artists would rather make art in a quieter more introspective place. In the country there is less to compete with and more to stimulate a creative thought or mindful action."

The Southern Highlands Art Studio Trail will involve some 19 open studios and will include the work of more than 30 local artists. The work is diverse, including textiles, ceramics, mosaic, sculpture, painting, wood turning and jewellery. Each studio will be flagged and well marked with bright "Art Studio Trail" signs. An arts trail map which lists all the studios and participating artists will soon be available.

Jenny Kena, Wingecarribee Council's Community and Cultural Development Officer and one of the arts trail organisers says: "The Southern Highlands Art Studio Trail gives the public a unique chance to meet the makers, to see their work in the environment within which it was created and to buy direct from the studio door. I think the Trail will help put the Southern Highlands on the map as a premier destination for those interested in buying exceptional Australian art and craft."

The Southern Highlands Art Studio Trail is supported by the Arts and Culture Board Working Group of Wingecarribee Council and is being organised in conjunction with Tourism Southern Highlands.

For more information about the Southern Highlands Art Studio Trail, please contact Jenny Kena on 4868 0855 or by email: jenny.kena@wsc.nsw.gov.au

" LAND & SEA REVISITED "
A Retrospective Painting Exhibition
by Mary Whatman

Seventy five years young, Mary Whatman has taken up painting again!

After 40 odd years working and raising a family, Whatman, a very talented self taught artist, has much to offer the traditional art lover. Her lifelong passion for painting is clearly obvious, in this solo exhibition, being staged at the Fettle's Shed Experience, Art Gallery in Robertson.

Looking back over the years and going back to her family roots, through the Whatmans' & Schofields' of Kangaloon, Whatman has strong links with naturalistic images and the scenic vistas of Roberson and surrounds. Her paintings are truly masterful representations of the country farmland surroundings of days gone past, as well as the beautiful coastal vistas of Pambula, where she now resides, "They are a piece of history, painted by a piece of history" Mary says.

And lovingly recreated at that!

An exhibition of calibre not to be missed
Opening Thurs 29th May until Sunday 15th June
Official launch party Sunday 1st June @ 12 noon

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
PENNY LEVETT, GALLERY CO-ORDINATOR
0408 610 714
FAX (02) 4861 7800

Robertson Chamber of Commerce
AGM Monday 4th August

at Fountaindale Grand Manor

6pm Canapés and drinks

followed by a 2 course Buffet dinner.

\$35 per head,

partners very welcome.

RSVP to Dorothy ph 4885 2400

dorothybaker@southernphone.com.au

Old Potato Shed

Gallery



Picture Framing

Local service, call in for information

OPEN 10am - 5pm : Sat, Sun, Mon, Thur, Fri
Shop 3-74 Hoddle Street, **ROBERTSON** NSW 2577
Ph: 024885 2400 www.oldpotatoshedgallery.com.au

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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"



ROBERTSON MEETING ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN BOREFIELD BATTLE

The Save Water Alliance (SWA) held a well attended meeting in the Robertson School of Arts on the 3rd of this month.

Chaired by SWA's David Thompson, the gathering heard from Denis Wilson, Leon Hall, Jonathan Bell and Bernard Eddy. Collectively these four represent a range of interest groups: The SWA, Robertson Environment Protection Society, NSW Farmers Federation and the Upper Nepean Groundwater Community Representative Group.

Issues raised included:

- ★ Significant falls in groundwater levels (up to 80m) were caused by the four-month pump test.
- ★ Polluted water was washed into the creek at Stockyard Swamp, from there into the Nepean River.
- ★ The pump test at Butler's Swamp last February, began after a dump of 320mm. It was halted following two further downpours in June, totalling over 370mm. An SCA report revealed a very low percentage of the recharge was rainwater – most of the "recharge" was "old water" which has come from areas outside the borefield.
- ★ The Catchment Authority hasn't discovered a 'new' source of water to supply Sydney in 'severe drought' periods, they are simply fast-tracking water which is already part of the city's water supply.
- ★ The SCA conducted a supposedly "controlled burn-off" during a heat wave. The fire got out of control and burnt swamps and protected flora, raising a query over its ability to manage the environment in the Catchment area.
- ★ Four month pump tests during downpours featuring 7 production bores preclude valid conclusions being drawn about a two year/ 75 pump bore-field operating during severe drought.
- ★ The Department of Planning stands in breach of its own legislation in relation to the Water Act and the National Water Initiative in granting, under yet to be gazetted legislation, a water allocation of 45 billion litres to the SCA.
- ★ The Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor is faced with a 'conflict of interest' in relation to the project. He has already declared it a 'project of state significance' under Part 3A. So, unless he rules against himself, he has already given the green light to the public funding of a program which is – currently – defying state and federal laws and requirements. How can he make an impartial decision on the Environmental Assessment?
- ★ With the Desal Plant coming on-line in 18mths, why waste \$100m+ on a project which will devastate a precious groundwater resource and all the people, plants and animals that rely on it?
- ★ There is, at least another \$80m required to build the whole set-up. Why not use that money where it is sorely needed e.g. Royal North Shore Hospital?
- ★ Over 20kms of roadways lined with superb forest and green pastures will be desecrated with the construction of buried pipelines, power cables and settling ponds.
- ★ The Environmental Assessment (EA) produced by Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) does not attempt to address the many serious doubts raised by the Catchment's own expert consultants.
- ★ The EA also fails to address the many environmental issues which impacted the Federal Governments imposition of a 'controlled action'.

Both major political parties favour water trading. Following Australia's signing of the American Free Trade Agreement, huge multinational companies like KBR, URS, PB have been given ready access to Australia's water market. All are heavily involved in the Kangaloon project, and other water infrastructure including the Kurnell desalination project.

Question time drew statements from those in attendance relating to the need for a bi-partisan campaign as the only effective way to attract public awareness and induce rational decision making. Concern was expressed about the size of the aquifer and the present amount of potable water in Warragamba Dam.

Pru Goward asked everyone to give serious thought to more public meetings in order to alert as many people as possible to the wide range of serious consequences implicit in the evening's revelations.

Donations to the SWA during and since the meetings stand at just over \$2,000. This will be spent on paying special consultants, producing information kits and holding further public meetings.

Bernard Eddy
Save Water Alliance

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

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At Robertson Recollections

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

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WELCOME TO ROBERTSON!

The sign welcoming visitors to Robertson (in front of Hampden Park) has been restored to its former glory.

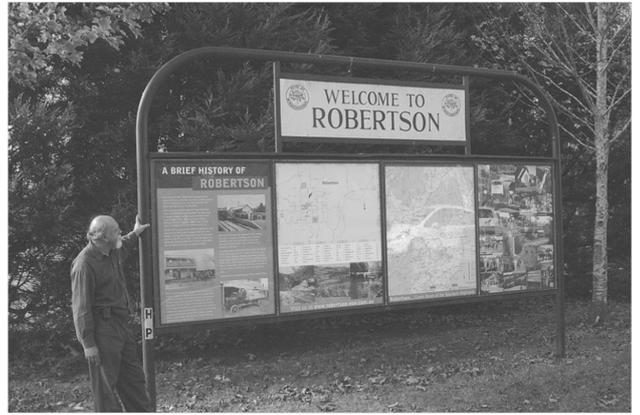
Following an extreme storm in late 2007, half of the sign was destroyed. The strong wind gusts literally tore out two of the metal panels and the Perspex covering sheets.

Subsequent vandalism led to the sign being emptied completely. The "empty sign" photo was taken on 28 November 2007.

Fortunately the actual information panels were salvaged. They were taken to safety at the back of the CTC, until they were collected and taken away for restoration.

Anyway, on Monday 12 May 2008, Brian Davies (of "Magnetite Window Insulation") came and installed the restored panels, with new Perspex and "Magnetite" fixings. Apparently this work has been paid for by the Wingecarribee Shire Council, so we express our thanks to them too.

Denis Wilson



Robertson Sewerage Scheme Update

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Robertson sewerage scheme was placed on public exhibition on 21 May 2008. The proposed development assessed by the EIS comprises:

- a hybrid sewage collection system involving a low infiltration gravity system for the main catchment at Robertson, with three outlying catchments being served by pressure sewerage;
 - an enclosed sewage treatment plant to be located near the north western corner of the village;
- an effluent management system incorporating a pipeline to transfer reclaimed water downstream of Wingecarribee Dam for storage and agricultural irrigation, with excess effluent being released to the Wingecarribee River during particularly wet periods.

The summary from the EIS is available for download as a pdf file.

http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/files/5296/File/EIS_Robertson_Sewerage_Summary_May08.pdf

Contact details

Water and Sewerage Projects Coordinator - Mark Williams
Wingecarribee Shire Council
02 4868 0888 (ph)
wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au

<http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/sewerage/4983/4990.html>

Click on the link to the .pdf file at the bottom of that page to download the Executive Summary (7 pages of general text, plus a map of the village) [EIS Robertson Sewerage Scheme May 08](#) (pdf 1 Mb)

Please note the **full EIS is not available for download**.

As the associated Press Release says:

"The long awaited Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Robertson sewerage scheme has been placed on public exhibition, **with comments being received by Council up until 20 June 2008.**"

The Press Release also says: "The EIS Summary can be accessed via Council's website and the full document (2 volumes) is available for inspection at Council's Customer Services Centre in Moss Vale.

"Written submissions are invited from the community and should be addressed to the General Manager, Wingecarribee Shire Council, PO Box 141, Moss Vale, NSW, 2577....."

The Press Release also says: "Wingecarribee Shire Council's Director of Environment and Planning Scott Lee said that the staff of the Environment and Planning Division will be coordinating the environmental assessment of this project.

"We will be commissioning an independent review of the EIS to ensure a thorough assessment is undertaken and to ensure that the community has confidence in the process."

MORTGAGEE AUCTION

Lot 4, Wallaby Hill Road, Robertson
117 Acres, 4 bed almost complete home
creek, partly cleared

Auction onsite Sat 21/6/08
11:00am



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Email: rjmackeyre@bigpond.com



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Robertson Environment Protection Society Public Meeting

Friday 13th June 2008, 7:30pm
at the Robertson Community Centre
Caalong Street, Robertson

Speaker: Allen Powell
Topic: Cumberland Plains Woodland

Allen Powell will give an informal talk on the ecology of the Cumberland Plains Woodland. He has spent many years observing and collecting information in the area where he lives.

He has a particular interest in the interactions between organisms within this ecosystem.

All Welcome - Gold Coin Donation -
Light Supper



Sunday Youth Night Church

Sync is a youth service held on the first Sunday of each month at Robertson Anglican Church.

It's for everyone around high school age, starting at 6:30pm. We finish around 7:30 and then have some food till about 8pm.

Come and check it out - we are in the new building on Meryla Street Robertson, behind the old church building.

More info?

Call Jon Bracht on 4886-4326

NEEDLES AND THREADS

If you enjoy any form of embroidery, knitting, tapestry, sketching etc., why not make it a social event with a group of like minded people?

Bring your current project, swap ideas, and work unhindered for 3 hours - with just a break for afternoon tea.

WHERE? Robertson Community Centre

WHEN? Friday afternoons 1 - 4pm

COST? \$5 per session

Phone for information 4885
1408/4885 2998 or just turn up.
Everyone is welcome!

Quilt & Craft Show

at
Darling Harbour
Sunday 15th June 2008

Bus leaves Robertson 6.45 am,
returns approx 7 pm
Bus fare and Entry to Show \$35.00
per person inclusive
or
a day in Sydney without the Show
\$20.00 per person
Phone Jenny 4886 4422

Guest Services St John's Robertson

June 15th, 9.30am

"Christians should not force their beliefs on others"

July 20th, 9.30am

"How come God doesn't do away with pain and suffering"

Want to know how you can help our local Wildlife?



Interested?

Wingecarribee WIRES is holding their annual training course for new members. We need new members for many roles, including:

- Manning the telephone "rescue hotline" from home (at no charge)
- Rescuing injured or orphaned animals and birds
- Foster caring sick or injured animals and birds
- Assisting with Fundraising, Publicity & Promotion
- Education talks and community events

Saturday June 14th & Sun June 15th,
2008

Location: Henrietta Rose Room, Bowral
Library, Bendooley St, Bowral

Cost: \$90 includes morning tea, lunch,
course notes, WIRES membership

To register or for more information call
WIRES on 48621788

Amirun's Massage Clinic

WINTER SPECIALS

\$30 1/2 hour \$60 1 hr \$80 1. 1/2 hours
Gift Vouchers are available

For an appointment :
mb0418 450 252 ph/fax4885 1260

Orrinspiring Essential Gifts

at the
Robertson Village Woodworks

Candles & Soaps by Robert Orr
Locally made Craft, Puzzles & Games

Saturday 10.30am—5pm
Sunday 10.30am—4.30pm

Phone Robert or Sally 4885 2277
for after hours viewing or ask at Village Woodworks

Kangaloon Swimmers Smash Regional Relay Record

On Friday, 7th March, Kangaloon's PP6 4 x 50m relay team carved an amazing 4 seconds off the regional record.

Dapto pool came to life as Harry and James Sutherland, David Welsh and David Phillips swam faster than they have ever done before. Their change overs were sizzling. The boys completed the 200metres in 2mins 55sec. Jackson Streeter was reserve for the relay team and doubled as the encouragement officer. Kangaloon Public School has only 11 students and almost half the population make up the relay team. This is a phenomenal effort for such a small school.

The boys will compete in the state swimming carnival at Homebush on Tuesday, 8th April. We wish them the very best of luck!



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

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 Chamber of Commerce) 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 2008**. 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