



# Robertson News

April 2009

Edition 71

www.robertson.nsw.au  
www.robertsonnsw.com.au

## Promising Signs of a Long Awaited Footpath.



"Council has commenced work on the first stage of a shared path along the Illawarra Highway starting at Fountaindale Road. Council works staff have installed over 100m of kerb and guttering prior to the RTA carrying out extensive asphalt works. This work has been brought forward through consultation and coordination with the RTA who have staff working on a road re-sealing job in the area at the moment. Council will resume works on this stage of the project in June 2009.

The extent of work to be carried out in Stage 1 is dependent on the outcome of Council's grant application to the RTA. An announcement is expected from the RTA in May or June 2009. Council has allocated \$135,000 to this job as part of the Federal Government's Regional and Community Infrastructure Program. Part of the conditions of the grant funding is that the money be expended by 30 September.

### **WARNING CHECK OUT THE ROBERTSON LEP**

This week is the last chance for home & landowners to comment on the Local Environment Plan for Robertson. The plan persists in imposing a 2000 sq.m. (1/2 acre) or greater minimum block size on all residential land in the village.

Many homes are built on much smaller blocks, including some less than a thousand sq.m. Where all these existing houses stand in terms of the future seems a real cause for anxiety. Homeowners should check with Council on what their "existing use rights" actually are and how this will affect future development or resale potential over time.

All areas outside the immediate village borders are zoned for a permissible minimum of 40 hectares (100 acres) even though some of this land is currently built-up residential subdivision comprising much smaller blocks. There are cases where further subdivision would benefit the village.

Landowners should check whether building permits might even be refused in the future, in certain cases?

Long term the zoning changes could actually reduce our population, threaten those services we have, and discourage the establishment of new ones.

You should make it your business to inspect the Wingecarribee LEP at Council in Moss Vale. **The chance to comment or protest ends on 9th April.**

(Should you wish to add your say to the many concerned landowners who see this as an unwarranted restriction on their existing rights to sell, buy or build on existing lots, please contact **Dorothy Baker - RCOC President - on 4861 4122**)

Remember, even if the Council allows you 'existing rights' you could still find restrictions exist you are not aware of.

## Letters to the Editor

One reads with amazement (in Wingecarribee Today) that council has "got a tick" for its sewerage services.

Could these be the same sewerage services that Robertson ratepayers were being levied for in 1972? Or the sewerage services that residents were later told would not be completed until the 1980s?.

Or would they be the sewerage services that we were advised by Council, in writing, in 1998, would not be completed until 2001?

Or perhaps the sewerage services that Council now tell us, in 2009, may be postponed indefinitely?

Because, having spent tens of thousands of dollars on consultants, and EIS's, and attempts to satisfy the absurdist and Utopian stipulation to show "nil or beneficial impact", it now emerges that no-one at Council thought to secure the rights to the privately owned dispersal site upon which the whole scheme depends!

With regard to "nil impact", this is of course virtually impossible to prove of any action which involves change, thus placing an absurdly powerful tool in the hands of anyone opposed to such change.

In fact, the tertiary treated water doesn't really need a dispersal site at all. It could be quite safely discharged into the river, as happens in Europe, or into the water-cooler, as happens on space ships. But try **proving** that, to the level of "nil impact!"

Meanwhile, there is apparently no such delay in pushing forward the new village plan for Robertson which seems to assume the village will never be sewered. It makes 2000 square meters (approx 1/2 acre) the minimum block size for the whole village, and double that in some places, continuing

to effectively stifle the growth of the village.

Inspecting the LEP at Council, we were given a verbal message from planner Susan Stannard that the LEP would be up for review when the sewerage went through. Surely then, if sewerage really **is** coming, the appropriate move would be to declare a moratorium on the LEP.

Yours Sincerely  
Dion Boehme,  
26 Hoddle St, Robertson

The Robertson Community  
Technology Centre presents  
**'MEET THE FILM MAKER' SERIES**  
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Introduced by **KEITH HEYGATE**  
assistant director of the movie.  
Keith will talk about his role from  
pre production to the the shooting  
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Bookings recommended.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at  
7pm  
Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC  
fund raiser)  
Light refreshments. available.  
BYO beer/wine.**

[cinema@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:cinema@robertsonctc.org.au)

58 – 60 Hoddle  
Street Robertson.  
4885 2665



## Robertson Village Network Inc Website

The Robertson Village Network is responsible for the website

**[www.Robertson.NSW.au](http://www.Robertson.NSW.au)**

One of many sites now identified by a town name and its state. The intention is that these sites become hubs directing people to information available on the internet for those towns.

The Robertson site is available for groups and individuals to provide information to those who may be visiting our village or for those resident within the village. Once you have a password you will be able to add an event to the calendar, upload news items, set up a webpage, add a link or a business contact etc.

Have a look at the site and either use the "Contact us" option or call Denis Wilson, the webmaster, on 4885 2725.

If you are having trouble working out how to access the site or add an item, Denis would be happy to help you sort it out.

The website offers a great way to communicate both within and outside of the village but will only be successful to the point that people use it and make the information available. And Yes, it is free.

## FOR SUPERIOR LAWN & GARDEN CARE



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# Ben Quilty

This year my husband Ben had a plan: to win the Doug Moran Portrait Prize – the richest in the world – and, in the same week, win the Archibald Prize – the most prestigious award for art in the country.

Ten years ago, Ben was using every spare moment to paint bush landscapes out of an abandoned room in his parents' home at Kenthurst in Sydney's once rural north-west. He was also working relentless night-shifts as a television tape editor for the News Department at Network Seven and simultaneously completing a second degree in Design at the University of Western Sydney. You get the picture – Ben is a workhorse!

While never assuming a career in art was an achievable dream, it always seemed to those of us around Ben that he was destined to achieve it. Perhaps this is a testament to his discipline and self-belief – two qualities any artist requires in loads. The first sign that he was really on his way came in 2002 when he won the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Prize to Paris. Margaret Olley judged his small, thick, colourful landscape of Melbourne's Elwood Bay as the winner. Edmund Capon, Director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, said the quiet painting won, "by stealth." This painting now hangs in Mrs Beryl Whiteley's sunroom as a token of Ben's gratitude.

Three months in Paris with the Louvre at his doorstep (and rather too many crepes, croissants and tarte aux pommes in his belly) gave Ben the time to concentrate exclusively on art history and, most importantly, his own practice. This first taste of what life could be like as a full-time artist was one Ben resolved to never give up.

As though the planets had decided now was the time to fall into alignment, Ben's exhibition of a series of aggressive Torana paintings opened to much praise and excitement two weeks after his return to Australia. The show sold out on opening night and Ben has worked with furious dedication as a full-time artist ever since.

Over time, the subjects of Ben's work have shifted and changed unpredictably – his beloved Torana, native and extinct birds, our son Joe, Captain Cook... - and yet, the underlying concept has always remained the same. Ben is interested in the world of today, particularly from the viewpoint of a young male brimming with rage. He ploughs both his own personal history and that of the country in which he lives to discuss issues not especially pretty or pleasant. Then again, Ben has never made paintings simply 'to sell', or else he would have remained painting pretty landscapes. Ben paints because he has to. Painting is the way in which he reconciles his thoughts and investigates his place in the world.

This year, Ben will exhibit a series of 'Rorschach' paintings at the Hong Kong Art Fair. I have always called these paintings 'Squashies', since that is the way they are made: Ben creates a figurative portrait on one canvas, then squashes it against a blank canvas - in the same manner a child might make a picture of a butterfly out of a squashed ink blot. Paradoxically, these works are at once ugly yet beautiful, destructive yet somehow life-affirming.

Using his Rorschach technique, Ben made a series of portraits of his friend Jimmy Barnes. The story of Jimmy's life – beginning as a young male rock star living the sex, drugs and rock n' roll lifestyle to the Jimmy of today, a dedicated family man, sustained by music and healthy living – fit neatly into Ben's field of practice. He entered a portrait each into the Doug Moran and the Archibald.

Three weeks ago Ben almost pulled off his plan. He won the Moran Prize and came runner-up in the Archibald. Not bad you might think, but Ben's a bit of a stubborn soul. That Archibald is unfinished business. As my Nanna says, "It's not *if* Ben wins it, but *when*." Just to let you know, my Nanna has never been wrong about anything in her life.



Ben in his Robertson studio with Joe - photo by Andrew Quilty

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Books from \$1. Over 4,000 books always in stock, fiction, fact; indeed.....



...books on every subject under the sun!

At **Robertson Recollections**

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

## MOTHERS DAY SUNDAY MAY 10TH

Take Mum out and spoil her at our Mothers Day Champagne Buffet Luncheon.

3 Course Buffet and complimentary Champagne. \$52pp.  
Lunch is from 12pm – 3pm.

Early Bird Special – book before April 15th for 4 or more people and Mum eats free!

Phone Fountaindale Grand Manor on (02) 4885 1111 to reserve your table.  
Please note we are fully licensed, no BYO.

## WANTED – NEW GARDENS FOR SPRINGTIME 09

Each year, increasing numbers of visitors are coming to enjoy Robertson's Open Gardens.

Many are also returning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time. For these return visitors, it is wonderful to have some new gardens each year, to add to our old favourites.

We know how much effort it takes to prepare an open garden. But those who've taken part in the past, say how much they've enjoyed sharing their gardens with visitors from the Highlands, Sydney, Interstate and even overseas.

Open Garden dates this year will be from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Some people are happy to open every day, others for just a day or two, weekends or mid week.

Whatever you can manage will be welcome. Those who have done so really do seem to enjoy it and of course it's also a chance to raise money for a charity of your choice.

The event is certainly good for Robertson. Visitors often say they hadn't been to Robertson before, and had no idea how beautiful our district is.

We certainly intend to sponsor the open gardens again in 2009, and hope both regulars and some new gardens will be able to take part.

If you'd like to be involved, or would like more information, please give us a ring.

Micki & Dion Boehme  
Robertson Recollections  
48 851 080



## Thanks To A Supportive Community

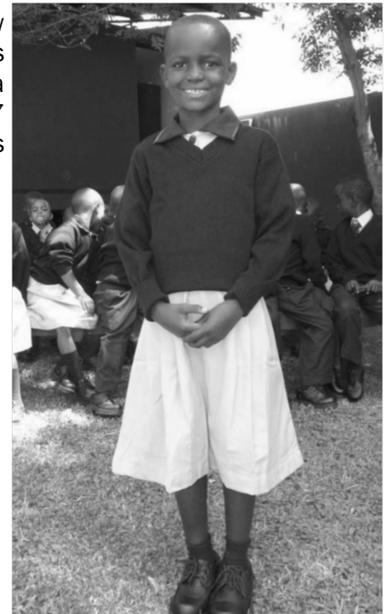
At the December Robertson Market Day last year a stall raising money for The School of St Jude in Tanzania Africa raised some \$1300. This money has been used to assist a seven year old girl, Margreth John Kessey, attend The School of St. Jude this year. Some of the money was also used to provide two nutritious, hot evening meals for 450 boarders at the school. Without your generous support this would not have been possible. Gemma Sissia, the Founder and Director of the school as well as being an Australian from Guyra NSW, has sent a certificate of thanks plus some information about Margreth.

Many thanks to all who assisted to make the venture a success particularly Anne and Paul Robertson, Heather Pulsford and Paul Newcombe as well as the School of Arts Committee who provided the space for the stall free of charge.

If you would like to know more about St. Jude's contact Mike and Paula Newcombe on 48852317 or tap into St. Jude's website

[www.schoolofstjude.co.tz](http://www.schoolofstjude.co.tz)

With Gratitude to all  
Mike and Paula  
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Right—Margreth in her school uniform.

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## WHATS ON AT ROBERTSON PUB

**Tuesday:** Trivia (starts 7:30pm)

**Wednesday:** Schooner Draw

(Starts 6:30pm-Tickets available anytime)

**Thursday:** Pool Comp (starts 7:30pm) – Prize Money  
Joker Draw (Starts late March)

**Friday:** Robbo Reelers Raffle (Starts 5:00pm)

**Weekends:** Super 14s shown in The Winston Bar

## BISTRO HOURS

**Tuesday: 5:30-8:00** (Special - Burger, salad & chips)

**Wednesday: 5:30-8:00** (Special - Schnitzel, salad & chips)

**Thursday: 12:30-2:30 / 5:30-8:30** (Special - Pizza or Pasta)

**Friday: 12:30-2:30 / 5:30-8:30**

**Saturday: 12:00-3:00 / 5:30-9:00**

**Sunday: 12:00-3:00 / (Open long weekend 5:30-8:30)**

- Live entertainment every Saturday!
- Check black boards for Sunday.
- Watch for May Jazz Festival!

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Anzac Day

Saturday 25th April, 2009

### Commemoration Services

10.15am **Burrawang Memorial**  
Short service & wreath laying ceremony

11.00am **Robertson Memorial**  
Wreath laying followed by Anzac  
Service in School of Arts Hall

All very welcome

## REPS TALK

Friday, April 3 at 7.30pm at  
Robertson Community Centre  
FORD KRISTO "NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER"

A talk in two parts

- **2009 Bushfires: Dingo Road and Section 44**
- **Taking pretty pictures while the Earth goes to Hell in a Handcart**

Ford Kristo is a professional wildlife photo-journalist and nature photographer, currently a local Ranger with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. His distinctions include:

1987 BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year, "World in our hands": First Prize

1988 BBC Wildlife Photographer of the year: High Commendation

2003 National Medal for firefighting

2008 BBC Wildlife Photographer of the year: Semi-finalist

All welcome. Active discussion. Light supper (Gold coin donation)



## Robertson Village Music Society

will be holding an additional concert on **15th April** at the St John's New Hall at 2pm.

Performers are four young gifted musicians from the Australian National University in Canberra.

Josh McHugh, Piano and Voice  
The Brew Guitar Duo  
Andrew Rumsey, Classical Pianist

This is one of three additional concerts that RVMS will present during 2009.

All are welcome: cost \$30.00 pp.

For further information contact Robert Goldsack, 0404 444 099.

The next concert in the RVMS 2009 series will be on Wednesday, 27th May. Programme will be announced late April.

## Fettlers Shed Experience Exhibition Space and Art Gallery

Weekends through March until 26 April

Inaugural Fettlers "Heritage 2009"

Art Prize\*\*\*\* Landscape or Streetscape, present or past, of Robertson and surrounds. (Thurs when train scheduled).

ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY  
PRECINCT YARRANGA STREET  
ROBERTSON [www.robertson.nsw.au](http://www.robertson.nsw.au)  
PLEASE CALL 0408 610 714 FOR MORE DETAILS

Also May 1-3

ALL THINGS GREAT ARE SMALL  
Open Fri 1 May for refreshments and meet the artists from 5pm.  
Exhibition of small paintings & fine art miniatures in watercolour, gouache and acrylic along with collectible artefacts in mediums such as mosaic ceramic and wood.

Old Town Hall Building, Bendooley St  
Bowral NSW Next to Memorial Hall  
Antique Fair Continues Sat 2 May 9-5,  
Sun 10-4 Enquiries call 0408 610 714

## Tennis Anyone

We would like new tennis players to join our friendly club.

We are looking for new players, old players, young players and in-between players.

FROM: "I love to play tennis but don't play very well" TO: "I take my tennis very seriously"

All welcome to join us on Tuesday afternoons

At the Robertson Courts - 1 pm to 3pm (weather permitting)

All Women are invited to join us for

## Tropical Sweet Treats

7pm Friday 8th May 2009

At St John's Centre, Meryla St, Robertson.

**Pack Your Beach Towel, Dress is Casual**

**Then, for a night of fun, meet your Steward and Cruise Director at the door with your Passport.**

Passports available after Easter at the Church Centre Office.

Wednesday 10-12am, Friday 1-4pm, Sunday 11-12am



**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](mailto:kiama@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



Old Potato Shed

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**April**  
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**Many items are 10% to 50% off**

**OPEN 10am - 5pm : Sat. Sun. Mon. Thur. Fri**  
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## Walk Information

The aim of the walks is to increase social interaction, fitness, and to create a sense of community connection.

Volunteers for the walk need to be able to walk for about 40 minutes at a reasonable pace – a bit quicker than a leisurely stroll but they do not need to be extra fit or set a fast pace as many of our walkers are in the older age bracket and often, but not always, beginning to walk (some people can be recovering from surgery or illness).

The details of the walks are attached and volunteers can select a walk that suits in terms of location.

The biggest criteria is that volunteers need to be able to chat with people and be warm and welcoming, their role is to promote a sense of inclusion and togetherness. The idea is that no one is walking “alone” unless they choose to do so.

Each walk requires one volunteer leader but we will need two volunteers minimum per walk. Ideally we want to have three to ensure volunteers don't feel too constrained and are covered if they are on holiday, sick leave etc.

### WALK DAYS FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK IN MARCH at 10AM for approximately 45 minutes.

		Starts
<b>ROBERTSON</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	at the rear right side of Hampden Park and route is across the back of the park to Caalong Street and walk left to Illawarra Highway then left to Meryla Street or whatever the leader and the walkers decide to cover approx 45 minutes.
<b>BOWRAL</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	in the car park of Bowral Swimming Pool for the Cherry Tree Walk heading to Bowral Road and return.
<b>MOSS VALE</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	in Arthur Street (near the corner of Throsby Road) by a seat on the left side of the street. Walk up Arthur to Spencer Street on the right, then right into Lovelle Street, then left into Chapman Street then right into Throsby and return to Arthur Street.
<b>MITTAGONG</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	at the corner of Helena Street and the Old Hume Hwy opposite the Tourist Information Centre. Walk along the Old Hume Highway past the Mittagong Golf Club to the Willow Vale railway bridge and return.

## 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



### 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

### 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 **June**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th May 2009**. Forward correspondence to: **Robertson Newsletter, 64 Hoddle St, Robertson 2577**, or Email: [bjlee@dodo.com.au](mailto: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