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# Robertson News

June 2009

Edition 72

[www.robertson.nsw.au](http://www.robertson.nsw.au)  
[www.robertsonnsw.com.au](http://www.robertsonnsw.com.au)

## Robertson Rural Fire Brigade New Station Opening.

Robertson's new 3-bay Fire station was officially opened at noon on Saturday 16th of May 2009.

The Opening was officiated by Assistant Commissioner Mark Croweller, Member for Kiama Matt Brown and Wingecarribee Mayor Duncan Gair. Others attending included Member for Hume Alby Schultz, Member for Goulburn Prue Goward, Councillors Jim Mauger, Larry Whipper, and Juliet Arkwright, as well as Council's General Manager Mike Hyde. Supt. Ashley Frank, District Fire Control Manager ordered the proceedings. Chaplin Richard Cormick conducted a prayer of Dedication. Duncan Gair, Mark Croweller, Matt Brown, and Robertson's fire captain Brendhan Waters gave addresses.



Top L-R Jim Wilson Jr. holding daughter Ashleigh, Russell Moore holding daughter Maddision, Garry Dover, Mike Lynch, Steve Jones, Jim Wilson Sr., Amanda Wilson, Sean Phillips, Brendden Hynds, Edwin Coulstock, Ian Field, Daniel Johnston, Lisa Hynds, Peter Marshall, Wayne Hewitt, Brendhan Waters, Paul Dabros, Alana Hynds, Cathleen Tilley, Jon Bracht holding son Liam.

Bottom L-R Neale Ray, Ashley Frank, Mike Hyde, Prue Goward, Juliet Arkwright, Duncan Gair, Alby Schultz, Matt Brown, Larry Whipper, Jim Mauger, Mark Croweller, Richard Cormick.

The speeches were concluded by Inspector Neal Ray (Fire Control's District Operations Officer) who introduced a special award for Jim Wilson Sr. Jim was presented with a Life Membership for his more than 60 years of continuous service to the Robertson brigade, including some 20 years of captaincy.

Following the ceremony the 80 plus members of the community who attended the opening enjoyed a delicious lunch, provided by the Wingecarribee RFS Catering Brigade.

**For more Information on your local  
Fire Brigade go to  
[www.robertson.rfsa.org.au](http://www.robertson.rfsa.org.au).**



Front: Jim Wilson Sr, Brendhan Waters,  
Back: Mark Croweller, Matt Brown, Alby Schultz, Prue Goward.

## Letters to the Editor

### THE RAINS BRING AN UNWELCOME VISITOR

Over recent weeks, Robertson has received its first genuine winter rains.

Problem is, until the village is sewered what defines us, defiles us. Since the rain has fallen - bringing joy to nature, half a dozen suspected cases of Giardia have occurred - bringing no joy at all to sufferers and their families.

The parasite is contagious and endemic to unsewered areas. Symptoms can be sometimes confused with colds and flu like complaints. Stomach upset and headaches accompany a general feeling of malaise. The less fortunate symptoms are diarrhoea, bloating, nausea, and vomiting.

If you have been feeling a bit foul lately and some of the symptoms sound horribly familiar please go and see your local doctor. The recommendation is to pay even more attention to personal hygiene particularly before food preparation. The times when you can smell the effluent in the air are the times to be on your guard.

Treatment is relatively straightforward: a course of anti-biotics.

Daft thing is, why should we have to put up with it at all?

Once the good burghers in Moss Vale get their act together and clean up our act with a state of the art sanitation system, we can all go out and sing and dance in the rain.

best regards,  
Bernard Eddy

### **MUSICIANS WANTED**

A number of Robertson gardens will be open to the public in spring, and several garden owners say they would welcome music in their garden during opening times. The gardens open for charity, so of course, there are no fees involved, but it's a great opportunity for musicians, and perhaps music students, to enhance the garden experience for visitors, to contribute to the fund-raising, and to entertain in a delightful garden setting.

Naturally, musicians won't be expected to play all day or every day, but we do need to have definite day/time commitments so that they can be included in advertising and the open garden program. Soloists, duos, trios, quartets - all welcome. The only limitation is for performance to be acoustic, not needing electricity or amplifiers. And of course, the weather will need to be fine on the day.

If you'd like to contribute to Robertson's Spring Garden experience, please get in touch with

Micki Boehme  
on 48 851 080



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## The Old Potato Shed GALLERY now at the Robertson Cheese Factory

In the winter of 2004, just after a good dump of snow, the gallery in the Old Potato Shed opened for business. This may seem ages ago or just yesterday but 'tempus fugit' and although this time was very enjoyable it became clear that relocation would be unavoidable.

The Gallery has moved east, taken up space at the **Robertson Cheese Factory** next to 'Ginger Pod' and now we are open 7 days.

Eventually there will be a new name for the Gallery but for the moment only the location has changed - you can still buy Mark Honoré leather goods (which are locally made) and quality Australian work by artists and artisans.

The local community of the Southern Highlands and of Robertson, have always been very supportive of the gallery, we wish to thank all our customers and hope that you will find us in our new home, enjoy a good coffee or lunch in the renovated cafe whilst looking out over the rolling green fields of Robertson.

Dorothy Baker  
[www.oldpotatoshedgallery.com.au](http://www.oldpotatoshedgallery.com.au)



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## Illawarra Highlander 'Steam Spectacular' comes to Robertson on Saturday, 4 July 2009

A special 'triple-header' steam train featuring heritage steam locomotives 3526, 3642 and 5917 will be travelling from Sydney to Robertson and Moss Vale and return on Saturday, 4 July 2009. It will be a spectacular sight watching these three heritage locomotives battling the steep grade on the climb up the escarpment to Robertson. This is one of NSW's most scenic and steep railway lines.

The train will stop at Ranelagh platform on both the forward and return journeys to set down and, later, pick up passengers alighting for a special meal package at *Fountaindale Grand Manor*.

Come to Robertson Heritage Railway Station on the day to see this train, which will be stopping at Robertson for a period on both the forward and return journeys. A kiosk will be operating at the station for passengers and visitors.

View a special exhibition of heritage railway photographs and articles at the Station's *Fettlers Shed Gallery*, which will be open on both the Saturday and Sunday of this weekend. Railway books and souvenirs will be available for sale at both the station and the gallery.

Scheduled times to view this train are:

Arrive Ranelagh platform 11.30am

Arrive Robertson 11.40am – short stay at Robertson of 20 minutes, before proceeding to Moss Vale

Arrive Moss Vale 12.25pm – locomotive servicing at Moss Vale

Depart Moss Vale 2.25pm

Depart Robertson 2.50pm

Depart Ranelagh platform 3.00pm

**All are welcome at Robertson Heritage Railway Station to witness this very rare steam event.**



## Robertson Railway Call for New Members

Want to let off steam??

Then come down to Robertson Heritage Railway Station and join the railway crew.

It is great fun when a steam train arrives hauling old-fashioned heritage carriages and looking like a glimpse of yesterday!

Members get complimentary rides on the 'Cockatoo Run' loop train across the scenic highlands to Moss Vale and return. You just cannot do this journey any more except on an excursion with a heritage tourist train.

There is something wonderful about being up close to the sight, sound and smell of a large working steam locomotive. The infectious joy of the passengers and rail crew, after a run puffing and steaming up the steep grade in climbing the escarpment to Robertson, rubs off on all concerned.

Our next 'big day' is on Saturday, 4 July 2009, when we host the visit of the 'Illawarra Highlander Steam Spectacular', featuring the triple-header of heritage steam locomotives 3526, 3642 and 5917.

There is a great team of committed volunteers at the Station. We have had some exciting steam days and fairs over the last few years and we look forward to many more. The hard work has largely been done and the gardens, picnic area and station look a treat. However, we need more volunteers to join us in providing these worthy community benefits.

So, if you are young, or young at heart, or just love trains, call Steve on phone 4885 2393 (or Ian on 4885 2848) to find out more.

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## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

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**At Robertson Recollections**

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

## Amazing Musical Journeys with Andrew Ford The Symphony

A one-day workshop for music lovers  
21 June 2009

Right in the middle of Handel's famous Messiah, there's a 'Pastoral Symphony'. It lasts just one minute and depicts the shepherds in the Nativity story. Sixty-six years later, Beethoven composed his *Pastoral Symphony*. It lasts about 40 minutes. Eighty-five years on, Gustav Mahler started work on his Symphony No 3 - a pastoral symphony in all but name, which plays for very nearly 100 minutes! If a symphony can go from one minute to a hundred in just a century and half, then what exactly is a symphony?

In this day-long workshop, composer and broadcaster Andrew Ford takes us exploring in an attempt to answer this question and others. What exactly do we mean by classical music? Why do people still bother with it? How can we learn to listen to it better? Andrew's talk will be liberally illustrated with music by Handel, Haydn, Beethoven, Berlioz, Mahler, Vaughan Williams, - Stravinsky, Webern and (possibly) himself.

**Sunday 21 June 2009**  
**10am - 4pm**  
**CTC@Robertson**

58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson (opp. Murray Tractors)  
Cost: \$70/\$50, includes delicious morning/afternoon tea and lunch.

Brochure and registration form on the CTC website:

[http://www.robertsonctc.org.au/Imagesshed/amazingjourneys\\_screen.pdf](http://www.robertsonctc.org.au/Imagesshed/amazingjourneys_screen.pdf)

Enquiries: CTC@Robertson, 4885 2665 or  
[info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au)

Bookings: fill in the registration form and send to  
CTC@Robertson,

PO Box 3069, Robertson 2577, or fax to: 4885 2664.  
Proceeds of the day go towards the running of the CTC.

### Andrew Ford

Composer and presenter of ABC Radio National's The Music Show, **Andrew Ford** is also known for his writings, including the 2005 book *In Defence of Classical Music*. His recent compositions include the opera 'Rembrandt's Wife' and the Southern Highlands-inspired choral work 'A Singing Quilt'.



### Robertson Locals Winners in Short Film

Short Sited film festival comes to Robertson again and this time with local winners. Robertson brothers Richard and Andrew Jones won the horror section of the awards with their film "The Crone". Richard co-directed the film with Sharon Lewis and Andrew was the Director of Photography.

Richard and Andrew will introduce the short film festival which will be screened at Robertson CTC on Friday June the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will also be showing "Cowboys and Indians", made by the Jones brothers in 2007, and "Farmer Gumboot and the Grubs", a short claymation film made at the CTC by Penny Osterhaus and local children. You'll love the films. Bookings recommended for this event.

**Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**Café opens at 6.30pm**

**Tickets \$10 (CTC fund raiser)**

**Light refreshments available. BYO beer/wine.**

### CTC Winter Sunday Series An Afternoon with Monsieur Hulot



**Tony Williams** shows excerpts from hilarious French actor/director Jacques Tati's legendary films 'Jour de Fete' 'Mon Oncle' and 'Monsieur Hulot's Holiday' These wonderful films inspired Monty Python, Mr Bean and many others.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 2pm**

**Café opens at 1.30pm.**

**Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC fund raiser)**

**Light refreshments available. BYO beer/wine.**

## Pizzas in the Mist



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## Gallery

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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**THE SYDNEY MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA IS COMING TO ROBERTSON**  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 2pm at the School of Arts.

Tickets \$20.00, Children under 14 Free

Buy tickets from:  
CTC

Pirouette Café  
Old Potato Shed Gallery - now at The Cheese Factory  
Robertson Recollections.



(Gladys) Jean Booth

A Thanksgiving Service was held on the 23rd May at St John's Church, followed by a burial at Robertson Cemetery, for (Gladys) Jean Booth.

Born on the 31st March 1914 as the fourth generation of Irish immigrants, who made the long journey in 1850 from Armagh to Sydney, to Wollongong and then through the thick Robertson scrub, to carve out a dairy farm at "Kelvin Glen". As a seven year old in the 1920's she eagerly walked the 4 kms on a rocky road from "Silver Mist" on Jamberoo Rd to Robertson school. She left school at 14 to help on the farm following the accidental drowning of her older brother Leslie.

On the 7th December, 1935 she married Burnie Booth at St John's Robertson and after working on farms at Berry, Unanderra and Lake Bathurst they returned to "Ocean View" to cart timber for George and Ernie Bunt and the Missinghams. With the Japanese threat looming in 1943 Burnie enlisted in the RAAF and Jean ended up driving the timber truck.

Jean spent many years playing the piano for the community dances at Robertson, Burrawang, Avoca, Glenquarry and East Kangaloon.



**Matt Brown MP**  
Your Local Member

**CAN I HELP?**

Terralong House,  
125 Terralong St, Kiama  
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**Sat 13**  
**June 2009 - 1 - 4pm "Editing and Proofreading" Workshop**

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You may want to polish your editing and proofreading skills if you're required to correct website text or email and posted letters at your place of work, or at a social club or other organisation where you're a member. Or you may just love the English language and enjoy working with words. This three-hour course is structured to introduce you to the basics of editing and proofreading in the official "style" of Australian English. Proofreading marks are explained, computer editing using "tracking" is demonstrated and a practical test assesses your level of expertise at the end of course

## Robertson Environment Protection Society Public Meeting

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 7:30pm  
Robertson Community Centre  
Caalong Street, Robertson

Speaker: Peter Donaldson PhD -  
Producer, director, co-writer and presenter.

### "Kangchenjunga, Joseph Hooker and the Origin of Species"

Joseph Hooker was Charles Darwin's closest friend, confidante and possibly the greatest botanist of the 19th century. Peter's talk will cover a recent retracing of his ground breaking 1848 expedition into eastern Nepal. This is the first time that this has been done. Topics to be covered will be his influence on Darwin, his own gradual conversion from being a creationist to one of Darwin's greatest supporters, rhododendrons that he discovered on his travels, and the relevance of his work to today. The setting will be spectacular scenery around Mt Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain. Some footage and frame grabs from the documentary on the expedition will also be shown.

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## D. T Smith writing about the need for the building of St David's, Burrawang

Churches, like the rainfall, seem in some places over-abundant, and in others there is a great need for them: and looking at the unutilized church accommodation in certain cities of the home country, and long aisles of empty pews which we know of in some places of worship, we could wish that we were able to transfer them to some parishes in New South Wales where they are needed, and where they would be so welcome.

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever" - but a licensed building for church service built of wooden slabs, is neither beautiful nor lasting, though it is very useful in the day of small things. But our district is rapidly outgrowing its childhood, and it has lived down the contempt with which it was regarded in some quarters a few years ago. The season has been a good one, and our people have made money. Produce is bringing a far higher price now than it did this time last year, thanks to the Cooperative Society. A fruitful season has been given us by the Creator and Great Husbandman of our Earth-might we not lay aside a small portion of the increase vouchsafed, in order to build a new Church for the honour and glory of His Name.

This question is one which our people must answer for themselves. If they decide in the affirmative, as we hope and believe they will, we might point out a few difficulties which will attend our path and impede our efforts. The question of the site of the church we regard as settled. The land for it was bought from Mr. C. Moule some years ago; and as it is situated half-way down the Burrawang Hill it is a fair compromise between Burrawang and Wild's Meadow as regards distance, and is centrally situated for Yarrunga. Moreover, any objection would have to be settled by vote, and as the bulk of the congregation reside about The Meadow and Yarrunga, the issue would be a foregone conclusion. In addition to this, it is not advisable to build a Parsonage in one corner of Burrawang and the Church in another: and as we have now as much land as we require or can pay for, in all human probability the new Church will be built on the land purchased from Mr. Moule, and as near the Cedar Mountain road as maybe.

The next question which will excite some discussion will be that of material-shall it be of stone or brick? Either material would answer if it is of first-rate quality. The appearance must be good, and the texture able to resist soaking up water-we want a dry church, not a damp one. We have not seen bricks or stone which reach this standard as yet though without doubt they can be found in the district. Then comes the question of Size and Cost, the two parts are connected. We require a church to hold about 200 persons. We have about 50 Sunday School children; we ought to have 100 people who are sufficiently well brought up, and of some religious feeling, to attend service; and while building we require, and ought to have, a small margin for visitors, and at Services of Song, Tea Meetings, &c. We do not require ornaments, but we do want and must have simplicity, warmth, ventilation, dryness, and comfort. These wants should be moderately well met at a cost of (£800) eight hundred pounds.

One of the worst and most disappointing ways of getting funds to build a church, is going round with a list, getting promises of money. From the time a church is initiated to the time of its opening, a period or some two years passes over, and on looking over the list we find a good many promises are not fulfilled. Some of the promisers are dead, some in bad circumstances, some have changed their residence, and others with bad memories have forgotten all about the payment. The present Parsonage is a case in point: certain promises to the Parsonage fund have not yet been paid in - promises which have been made for years.

Profiting by the experience we have gained and paid for while this said Parsonage was being built, it would be wise to invite subscriptions for a new Church to be paid in four half yearly instalments; such payments to be placed to the credit of the Bank Church Account and interest thereon obtained. At the end of two years we should have in hand the exact amount Burrawang could raise, and that sum, with the addition of donations outside the district, and any grants that might be obtained from other sources, would be the sum the Church Building Committee would probably spend. The Long, weary struggle with the Parsonage debt would discourage any attempt to place a similar burden on the shoulders of the Committee and on the new Church.

The present building is decayed, damp and cold in winter, rough externally and internally, and will probably last but two or three years.

*St. David's church, made of sandstone bricks and originally a shingled roof, was constructed at a cost of £1,300. Apparently John T. Hayter fired the bricks between Wildes Meadow and Avoca and they were originally intended for a bank at Burrawang. Mr. William Bunt and Mr. John Webb brought the bricks to the site by horse teams.*

*The church was licensed and was to have been opened on 15th October, 1886 by the Bishop of Sydney, Alfred Barry, but there was such heavy rain that the ceremony could not be held. Thus the opening took place on 22nd October, 1886 with Rev. J. D. Langley of St. Philip's, Sydney officiating. It is written in a local paper that a copy of the "Moss Vale Scrutineer" and the "Burrawang Herald" were placed under the foundation stone. Miss Hayter was the organist and after the service some 300 people sat down to lunch in a pavilion at the rear of the church.*

## 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

### 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 2009**. 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