



Robertson News

December 2009

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ROBERTSON & DISTRICT SWIMMING POOL

The newly elected Committee of the Robertson Swimming Pool Association has endorsed President John Thomas's determination to exhaustively explore the opportunity to develop a Heated Village Swimming Pool.

"Robertson has a growing population with young and older residents in need of the various benefits a heated Swimming Pool can bring to the community" he said. "This is a great sporting town and its residents need a community swimming pool"

It is planned to build an above ground 25 metre 4 lane Pool, heated and housed with in a suitable building. It will be opened 7 days a week. There are sufficient funds raised over 28 years to build the Pool.

The Committee are approaching land holders in and near the Village to secure a suitable site. With Council land not available the non highway land owned by The Robertson Bowling Club is the Associations best option. The Club are supportive of the development

The Swimming Pool development fund is now over \$170,000 having been built up over the past 28 years by resident's fund raising and donations. The funds are deposited in an interest bearing deposit. Active fund raising is under way as the committee believes it needs over \$250,000 to cover development and ongoing costs.. The lodgement of a Preliminary DA is now underway following an initial favourable response from Council's Planning Department

The committee are now seeking contractors to ascertain costs including on going support and maintenance.

The Committee members are:

John Thomas President

Don Ferguson Vice President

Sharon Turner Secretary

Lynn Stevenson Treasurer

Committee:

Louise Woods, Sharon & David Makin, Vince Emmanick, Rod McDonald

Information contact: Don Ferguson Publicity Officer

Tel: 4885 1215

Email: dferguson@conciergetg.com.au



Guinness Record at Robbo

By Yvette Rippon

Local Border Collie breeder and Robertson Dog Show organiser John Causer had an idea that would daunt many. John set out to break the World Record for leading the greatest number of dogs over a distance of one kilometre. It would happen at the Robertson Show in March this year, and he set about recruiting as many local dog owners and show exhibitors as he could. Though they were a bit doubtful at first, Causer won them over. We joined in.

Causer has had many years handling and breeding dogs, including the famous talking sheepdog 'Fly' who starred in the movie *Babe*. However combining the owners of serious breeding dogs with those you might call 'pampered pets' was a feat that taxed even his skills.

Animal compatibility was a nerve wracking and time-consuming undertaking: which dog could be beside which other dog? - Let alone handling the human pecking order. However, John soon worked it out.

Thirty dogs were entered, immediately raising hopes the existing record of twenty-two could be beaten. The dogs had to be lead by one person, 6 abreast on 15metre lengths of nylon cord with clips attached (called a 'trace') over a distance of 1000 metres.

Teamwork overcame some of the conventional prejudices between dog-breeders and pet-owners, as a 'Best in Breed' was suddenly placed aside someone's overly-pampered pet. Labradors, Newfoundlands, Collies, German Shepherds, Huskies, Afghans, Staffordshire Terriers, King Charles Cavaliers, a Pekingeses and a little terrier all had to pull together.

Finally, the team was off.

It didn't go smoothly. While suffering the legendry taunts of the boys on the microphone, who were helpfully suggesting letting bunnies and pussycats loose, two blond Afghans from the rear barrelled over the top of 16 dogs in front causing chaos. There was a short halt to proceedings.

Untangled and Afghan-less the team set out a second time, noses to the track.

One thousand metres is a long way to lead twenty-eight dogs, especially when the sun is beating down. The possibility of an all-in-brawl crossed many minds, and some dropped out. Then some were a little too friendly. Our female Siberian Husky took a shine to a happy smiling male Staffy and attempted to mount him. Everyone laughed and the team moved on.

Finally, after two and a half very physical laps of the showground, including some amazing sprints from the trailing handlers, the team finished the 1000 metres in 16 minutes, with 24 dogs completing. A hot, relieved and out-of-breath John Causer said, "It was a terrific day it really brought the community together and broke down barriers."

A Justice of the Peace witnessed the event and the photographic evidence and it was all sent to *The Guinness Book of Records*. Causer received official confirmation late September that the attempt has been accepted. The World Record has been broken in Robertson, NSW by a margin of two dogs.

Spring Gardens Defy the Weather

Despite noticeably inclement weather, Robertson's springtime open garden program has again been a great success. Clearly, gardeners are a hardy lot. They rolled up in numbers, unrolled their umbrellas, and explored our gardens, in defiance of wind and rain. We estimate that between 2,500 and 3,000 visitors came to inspect our 9 wonderful gardens. All praise due to our visitors is of course doubly due to our even braver garden makers, who defied the weather both to prepare, and to show, their fine gardens. Thank you all so much.

It was noticeable this year that many visitors seemed well aware of Robertson's open gardens as a regular feature of spring in the Highlands.

After 5 years, the event now seems to be quite well established, and can hopefully grow even further in years to come.

Visitors seem to value the expanded weekday program. This year we had open gardens every day for the 2 weeks. Tourism Southern Highlands, Imag, the Visitor's Guide and local radio, all helped to promote our gardens, with ABC Radio Illawarra hugely supportive.

Apart from bringing first time visitors to Robertson, we estimate that the gardens also managed to raise over \$4,000 for charity.

Once again, our sincere thanks to the volunteers who manned the gates and, most of all, to the dedicated gardeners who put so much effort into opening their gardens, and showing visitors around.

We look forward to 2010, hoping that not only will some of this year's gardeners be willing to "go again", but that other garden-makers will join in. The success of the event depends very much on having some new gardens on show each year.

If you would like to join in, or would like some more information, please give me a ring on 48 851 080.

Micki Boehme, ROBERTSON RECOLLECTIONS

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The Robertson Doctor – introducing Dr James Botham

James Botham arrived in Australia on the 9th September just 2 days after the Robertson Doctor opened its doors. And now James, along with Dr Ben Lim are “the Robertson Doctors”. This was by no means just a coincidence, but rather the culmination of a deliberate decision to migrate to Australia and practice specifically in Robertson. In 2007 when visiting his wife’s uncle, Robert Goldsack in Robertson, the idea dawned on him to come to practice here. Now two years later the dream has become a reality.

What made you go into General Practice?

I've always been interested in all aspects of people and why they do things, "what makes them tick". I really enjoyed my first degree in Psychology since it helped to answer some of these questions but probably threw up a lot more!

I have always enjoyed science too and felt that I could offer a wider range of skills if I were to train as a Doctor than a Psychologist. I really enjoyed most of the attachments I did in medical school and wondered about being a surgeon when I was doing surgery, being a Psychiatrist when I did Psychiatry and being a pediatrician when I did paedcs. I realised that I didn't want to limit myself to only one area of medicine and in General practice you have the opportunity to practice all these areas and develop your skills as much as you can over a wide range.

There are great opportunities for continuity of care in General practice, really getting to know your patients and with them being an expert in each individual patients' needs and concerns.

There is a huge variety in presentations throughout the day and the hours allow for development of skills in other medical areas such as Emergency Department medicine and Hospital Medicine which I will be doing here. I also really enjoy teaching medical students and Doctors and much of this is done in Primary care. Being a GP allows you to choose where you live and hence work. This has allowed me to come to this beautiful area to practice with my family.

If you weren't a GP what would you be?

If I wasn't a GP, I think I would like to be a thousand things including Musician, Watersports Instructor, Farmer, Firefighter, Lifeboat Rescue person, explorer to name a few!

Why do you work where you work?

I work in Robertson because I have always wanted to be the rural village GP. I like the people of Robertson and enjoy spending time with them. Their nature helps me to want to look after them and do things for them. I like to be part of the community. I like being in place where I am really needed. The rural GP allows you to truly practice medicine across the whole range of problems Robertson and the Southern Highlands is an extremely beautiful area and with the Australian Lifestyle allows my family and I to have a fantastic life here - hopefully!

What's your hidden talent?

I think my hidden talent must be playing the guitar! I played classical guitar when I was younger and more recently have played in band in UK where we did regular gigs. I always enjoy being in an around music

What are you reading at the moment?

I have been reading " *Raising Boys*" by Steve Biddolf - its a light headed guide to working with some of the extraordinary things that little 6 year boys throw at you!

When you are not working where can you be found?

When I'm not working I can be found with my wife Angela and kids, Rosie and Benjamin exploring this stunning area whether it be sailing in Fitzroy reservoir, canoeing down the Kangaroo Valley Rivers, Walking through the Rainforest or Jumping in the surf. Sometimes just in the garden or down the Pub with a Beer relaxing



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LITTLE SCHOOL MAKES BIG NOISE

With links to *Wollongong's Conservatorium of Music* and the internationally acclaimed *Yamaha Music Foundation*, it's little wonder the music students of *Robertson Public School* are making a lot of noise.

The Southern Highlands based school has a proud record of musical accomplishment which Relieving Principal David McAndrew attributes to its extensive musical curriculum and tutoring program.

"Students at the school have a choice of over fifteen instruments to choose from ranging from the humble fife to more complex woodwind, brass and string instruments.

"The instruments are all taught by specialised music tutors," he said.

Case in point is the school's string music teacher. Every Tuesday Daniel Butler from the *Wollongong Conservatorium of Music* visits the school to teach the finer points of the violin, viola and cello to his eager string students. A member of the prestigious *SBS Youth Orchestra*, Daniel has more than fourteen years experience as a string player under his belt and has performed at both the Sydney Opera House and City Recital Hall.

"Even though the school's music programme is totally elective, a high number of students enrol each year to learn a musical instrument with many progressing to the school's orchestra," Mr McAndrew added. "We believe the popularity and consequent success of this program is due to our smaller personalised music classes taught by these specialised tutors," he said.

Another example of the depth in teaching staff offered by the school is the resident clarinet and keyboard teacher, Cheryl Ricketts. As a former *Wollongong Symphony Orchestra* member and Australian organ champion, Cheryl was invited to study at Japan's prestigious *Yamaha Music Foundation*. A key figure in Robertson's school band, Cheryl now brings this experience to her classroom.

Mr McAndrew believes the success and recognition of the school's music curriculum is another example of the variety of innovative teaching programmes that the school offers to complement traditional classroom study.

"As we have for almost ten years now, students from *Robertson Public School* this year again attended the annual *Festival of Instrumental Music* at the Sydney Opera House and came back with priceless experience and memories.

"And in October two of our students were accepted into the *South Coast Junior Music Camp*, which selects the finest music students from the Illawarra, Highlands and South Coast regions to attend," he said.

If recent examples are to go by, perhaps there is weight in his theory that music and education go hand-in-hand at *Robertson Public School*.

For further information contact: David McAndrew on 4885 1284 or David.McAndrew@det.nsw.edu.au

"Robertson Public School - A quality education in a caring, innovative environment"



Lindsay Thurgate & trombone

Arwon Seafood

will be at Robertson Supermarket Xmas Eve,
from 1-3pm

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Seafood makes it easy
Happy Christmas to all!



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Party on the Fly and take your Christmas Party to new heights this year. We have a number of packages to select from - call us on 4885 1010 to discuss how we can add altitude to your Christmas celebrations!

illawarra fly

Roaring Success for Fire Sale

The Robertson Rural Fire Brigade wishes to thank all those who gave generously of time, energy, and auction material to ensure that the Sale held on Saturday 17 October was an outstanding success. There were bargains galore all day for an enthusiastic crowd that turned out on a fantastic spring day. The organisers were delighted that over \$7000 was raised for the local brigade.

(inside the station)

Bargain hunters were busy early when viewing began an hour before the first of 575 lots came under Jim Hindmarsh's hammer.



Robertson Village Music Society Celebrates Second Birthday

To the strains of a soaring flute and a mellow and resonating cello, members of Robertson's Music Society celebrated their second Birthday in fine style on Nov 25th.

The occasion was "Bach in the Dark" – a superb recital from Cellist Rachel Scott and Flautist Sally Walker. The "dark" was actually candle-light, bringing musicians and audience even closer in the comfort and enveloping acoustics of St John's Church Hall.

This was the final concert in the society's regular "seasonal season" of 4 concerts, presented on the last Wednesday afternoon of Summer, Autumn, Winter & Spring. Well attended though these concerts have been (averaging 100 to 150 people), there is still room to accommodate both new members and casual visitors who would just like to attend a particular concert.

That the Society exists at all is primarily thanks to the inspiration, energy and dedication of its founder Robert Goldsack. Two years on Robert, Ross McGlynn and Gabriella Pusner, continue to bring to the village ensembles of some of Australia's finest classical soloists and musicians, both for the regular season and for a range of extra and special recitals throughout the year.

One of these specials will be presented on Saturday 19th December. "Shakespeare meets Beethoven" is a synthesis of music and poetry from two very notable Australian performers – pianist Gerard Willems and Actor John Gregg. This special will follow a slightly different format with a cocktail party preceding the performance.

The second Birthday concert was a triumph in a number of ways. Perhaps most of all as a matter of survival: Robertson can take pride in now having a regular concert series that can hold its own with any in regional New South Wales, and which brings regular subscribers from all over the Highlands. The series has done a great deal to put our village on the cultural map.

The Birthday concert also saw the induction as a life member of prolific composer, "living treasure", and Highlands Resident Ann Carr Boyd; and the launch of the "piano fund" which offers concert-goers the opportunity to fund the society's fine grand piano by sponsoring a key.

Congratulations to all those who have made the Robertson Village Music Society such a success. For more information, you can ring Robert Goldsack on 0404 444 099, or email to ragoldsack@westnet.com.au

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experience
ART GALLERY & EXHIBITION SPACE

Being part of a small community is never easy – especially one as pro-active as Robertson! They just keep asking you to be involved and then some, don't they?.

Well, hopefully, budding artists (and historians) will definitely want to involve themselves, either entering or promoting the event in general. We know Robo Show has plenty of art, but just before Robo Show this year, we saw the Inaugural Fettle's Heritage Art Prize launch. With very short notice many were disappointed they were unable to fill the criteria! Well, you have December & Christmas holidays, and nearly 2 months after that, to be prepared this time for 2010's Prize exhibition.

Picton artist and printmaker, Freya Jobbins, judged 2009

FETTLERS HERITAGE ART PRIZE



entries, choosing Leanne Booth's acrylic on canvas, 'A River Somewhere' overall. Local Robertson artist, Regina Brewster, took 2nd with acrylic painting of Mt Murray, while young emerging artist, Jacquie Brown, won 3rd with her composite pencil drawing of local scenes.

Janet Waterlow kindly agreed to present the prizes on Friday night, a week prior to RoboShow. Suggestions as to a day and time that could suit the village re attendance to the 2010 prize giving and opening would be appreciated.

In 2009, RHRSI supplied all prizes, but to date Robertson Recollections and Robertson Chamber of Commerce have keenly offered to be part of the event for 2010. Any other local businesses wanting to involve themselves and help to establish this Art Prize as an annual event worth placing on the artist calendars, please contact Penny 0408 610 714

The Robertson Heritage Railway Society keenly invite any artist from Wingecarribee, Illawarra or Wollondilly Shires to enter (up to 2 per artist), in any medium except photography (request of Robertson Show Society), 1-4pm Feb 24 February 2010

Subject: Landscape or Streetscape, present or past, of Robertson or surrounding villages – can be any subject, including railway themed or people orientated, with a view to recording present vistas or recreating the past.

Fee: \$15 per entry (members of RHRSI)
\$20 for 1st entry, \$15 for 2nd entry (non-members)

Dimensions: 1m x 1m maximum external size.
(x 1m for 3-D)

Robertson

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You can help, whenever possible

- *avoid the bulk suppliers & multi-nationals
- *visit the local shops
- *buy Australian made goods
- *spend locally especially on fresh food
- *visit local attractions
- *support local events.

We thank you and wish you all a

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

THE ABOVE BUSINESSES ARE FINANCIAL
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**CHECK OUT THE LOCAL SHOPS
NOW.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

"Shakespeare Meets Beethoven",

Gerard Willems pianist,
John Gregg, actor.

Special concert at St John's CEC 19th December at 5pm:

Cocktails and Concert \$70.

Tickets call Robert 0404 444 099

or Dorothy at OPSGallery now at the Robertson Cheese Factory

CTC @ Robertson

Christmas Hours

Christmas day is a Friday...last trading
day Sat 19th Dec.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT COMES TO ROBERTSON

With Christmas just around the corner, *Robertson Public School* is getting into the spirit of the festive season as it prepares to host its inaugural community *Carols by Candlelight* on **Sunday 13 December 2009** within the school gardens.

The celebrations begin at 4.00pm with traditional Christmas Markets displaying local wares and products.

Artists singing all your Christmas favourites will kick off over two hours of yuletide cheer from 6.00pm and will include performances by the Robertson Public School, St John's Church Band and the CTC Choir plus a feature performance from the *Southern Highlands Junior Concert Band*.

Candles and glow-sticks will be on sale on the evening with all proceeds going to the *Robertson Public School*.

Food and drinks will also be available at the event.

Rumour has it that Santa Claus may even take a quick break from his busy preparations to make a surprise visit.

Entry is free!

So why not invite family and friends to join in the spirit of Christmas and experience some unique Highlands hospitality whilst supporting *your* local school at Robertson's very own community *Carols by Candlelight*.

PS. Don't forget to pack your picnic rug or chair and most importantly - your finest singing voice!

For more information or to book a stall, contact Kim on
0432 281 587 or via email at: robertsonevents@y7mail.com

The 2010 Robertson and District Calendar

is now available from the
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ROBERTSON DOCTOR

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YOUR LOCAL DOCTOR



Robertson Public School Alumni of 2003 after their graduation from High School, Year 12.

Back row: Tom Keft, Daniel Holt, Mat Hammond, Aaron Ditton, Jeremy Rothwell
 Front row: April Brough, Katie Burke, Carlia Phillips.

Vale

Mrs. Gladys Simpson, passed away Wed 4th November. She use to live at Amaroo, Illawarra Highway, Robertson and then in later years Gladys and her husband Jim (dec) lived at Mackeys Lane, Robertson. She is survived by her Son Alan Simpson who lives in Robertson and her daughter Margaret Maclean who lives at Moss Vale, her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Back in November Channel 7's 'Sydney Weekender' crew visited Robertson with host Mike Whitney.

The programme will go to air on Ch7 and Prime on Saturday 27th Feb at 5.50pm.

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

5.00pm - 2nd Sunday - Communion

Roman Catholic

Burrawang

1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays — 8.00am

2nd & 4th Sundays — 5.00pm

Christmas Services

St John's Robertson & St David's Burrawang

Sunday 13th December

5.00pm

St David's Burrawang

Carols and Lessons

Sunday 20th December

6.00pm

Carols on the Lawn

(Bring a blanket, supper to follow)

Christmas Day

8.00am—Traditional Communion

9.30am—Contemporary Communion

Sunday 27th and throughout January

9.30 am Family Service

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 OPSGallery now at the Robertson Cheese Factory ph/fax 4885 2400 or POBox 3005 Robertson 2577. Thank you for your support.

Deadline

The next issue will be distributed in the first weeks of **February**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th January 2009**. Forward correspondence to: **Robertson Newsletter, 64 Hoddle St, Robertson 2577**, or **Email: bjee@dodo.com.au**. (Submissions are best supplied by email or on disk. Hard copy should preferably be typed) Enquiries - 4885 1210

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Editor : Barry Lee