



Robertson News

February 2011

Edition 81

www.robertson.nsw.au

REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART

Watching nightly television coverage of the inundation tearing apart town after town has left many of us with a feeling of numb disbelief and helplessness for the poor Australians whose lives have been shattered by the worst floods in our history.



United players head to Lowood to meet the Campbell family, who were rescued from the roof of the Patrick Estate State School, by Clive Palmer's helicopter during the floods.

Photographer: Michael Ross

Robertson Bowling Club and Michael Breen have thought of an excellent way for all of us to HELP.

What can you do? Bring something from home that is valued by you and can be auctioned to raise money for those who have been left with only the clothes they had on when the horror reached their door.

A reputable charity organisation will be engaged to ensure that all the proceeds are safely distributed.

Children in Robertson and the rest of the Highlands will also be invited to reach out from their hearts by creating message cards to send to young people without homes or schools.

Members of the Bowling Club and the Robertson Chamber of Commerce will team up with Michael to involve as many in the community as possible

There is just under a month to organise ourselves.

For more information or to help with organisation please contact Michael Breen phone 4885 2180 or RCoC 4885 2400

When is it on?

Sunday 27th February at 5 pm
at the
Robertson Bowling Club.

Photos courtesy Gold Coast.com



Flood cleanup in Brisbane's western suburbs. Strong Avenue, Graceville. The Coomera Magpies AFL club sent a busload of senior players and supporters to help out with the cleanup. Club President Gary Smith.

Photographer: Kit de Guymer and Kate Czerny

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Watching "Return to Cranford" recently, we were struck by the wisdom of a speech by one of the characters, commenting on whether the new steam railway should be allowed to come to Cranford...the character's words are...

"...I quote from the Bible "examine all things - hold fast to what is good"...however change or its refusal is not within our right. The young grow apace about us all the time. They desire progress. They are turned to face the sun and if we stunt them they will seek a riper soil. For whom then shall we be preserving our traditions?"

Given the doubts of some, of the need for growth in our village, we thought these sentiments worth sharing with your readers.

Sincerely, Micki and Dion Boehme

Robertson Impressions

I would like to thank all who have crossed my path since my arrival to the green heart. I have experienced welcome, generosity, graciousness and warmth.

I moved here from north east Victoria, snow country which is blessed by a mantle of white in the winter; I've seen old photos of Robo where the same applied some decades earlier. An old photo in the Robo railway museum shows a foot of snow on car rooftops down Macquarie Pass, from the 1960s? What a hoot!

In most recent times, the Alps and larger tracts of country have experienced summer's bushfire—it made me nervous. I feel somewhat blessed to have regular rain and mists and its soothing feel. Perhaps the same or something

similar is what townspeople have mentioned to me: 'it just felt good here, so we stayed'.

I look forward to experiencing more of the magic soon.

Steve Curtain

Dear Sir

A Decade of Lost Opportunities.

The recent statement from Thiess about why they had withdrawn from the tender process for the Robertson sewerage scheme, came as about the last straw in this long-running debacle. Thiess seemed to be saying that they lost interest when they saw that a modern, innovative, scheme was not wanted - that Council were locked into an outdated dinosaur model.

One reason for this may be the extraordinary length of time that this saga has run.

Robertson ratepayers were being levied for a sewerage scheme as far back as the 1970s. When we moved to Robertson in 1996 we were told by Council that "the sewerage scheme will not be completed until the year 2000"

It is now 2011 and the work has not even started! We have had over a decade of obfuscation and delay, some of it, seemingly, in a deliberate attempt to restrict or prevent Robertson growing into a viable community.

The costs and losses that have resulted from this delay are huge.

Robertson needs a sewerage scheme in order to grow. But up to now, it is easy to show that, pump out was never needed. A decade after these restrictions were introduced, the many houses in Robertson, on blocks

of 6 or 700 square metres and even less that were on septic tanks then, are still on septic tanks now, over ten years later!

It is impossible to believe that Council would have let this situation continue, if there had been ANY real risk or danger.

The extraordinarily leisurely pace of Council action is, in itself, the proof that the restrictive 2000 square metre block policy, and the attendant pump out policy were never really needed. They have served only to punish new residents, and to discourage growth in the village.

Nevertheless many households have now been paying thousands of dollars a year in pump out fees for over a decade. Pump-out has, of itself, been a great disincentive to building and settlement. Plans for increased or improved accommodation at Motel, Hotel, B&Bs and guest houses have been on hold for over a decade, awaiting sewerage. It can be shown that Robertson has missed out on at least 20,000 bed nights of visitor accommodation over this time. The adverse impact on business viability in the village has been great.

And now, to make matters even worse, it seems that, during this wasted 15 years, Council's experts have made no attempt to keep pace with developments in sewerage plant science and methodology. Costs have also exploded over this time. Expert advice is that an innovative scheme could in fact be much cheaper, saving ratepayers millions. Yet, in the face of all this, Council is determined to build its dinosaur.

The delay is disgraceful, but the failure to embrace innovation in the design of the Robertson plant is simply unforgivable.

Yours Sincerely, Dion Boehme.

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



Award winning local cheeses now available at
Robertson Supermarket
Bowral Cheese Store, Corbett Plaza
Anchors Fresh Fruit & Veg, Bowral

Letters to the Editor

STOP PRESS!

FIRM DATES AT LAST FOR SEWERAGE

At last, after 30 years of delay, the end is in sight!

In a 28th Jan letter to Highland News, acting Council GM Barry Paull gave firm dates for stages of the Robertson Sewerage Scheme.

It will be the scheme as originally proposed, but at least it WILL be sewerage.

The dates are:.

Early March 2011 - two major contracts will be awarded

May 2011 - Construction of the collection and management components will start on site

End of June 2012 - system will be available for connection.

We suggest you note these dates on your Robertson Calendar, so that you can keep tabs on progress

visitors to Robertson. The overall expenditure for the playground was \$120,000.

When you add this to the \$ 821,000, made up of RTA grants of \$263,000, federal grants of \$286,500 and Council IRS expenditure of \$271,000 for the Fountaindale Rd footpath, with stage four to commence in march/April of this year, you will start to appreciate that Council is certainly investing into the Village.

There will always be those who whine and fail to see the positive things that are being done in the village, and ignore the fact that this is a big shire with many needs and ratepayer demands. We can do nothing about these!

I can assure you that I along with other local Councillors represent the needs and concerns of this village and surrounding area sincerely, and are always available to take concerns to Council and advocate as best we can.

My involvement with many projects will attest to the fact that I am assisting to keep this village in the spotlight and evoke attention and positives outcomes. I will continue to do so while acknowledging the integrity and unique historical, environmental and social assets of our village.

With Caalang St Street footpath, Fountaindale footpath works both creating more safety for residents and Hampden Park upgrade, adding to the Social fabric of the village and with more work to come in Hampden Park things are looking good.

I have been happy to be able to assist in all these projects and am happy to continue to advocate for the village of Robertson as I have always done. I have been trying for many years to get a safe pedestrian access across the railway line at the Corner of Illawarra Highway and Sassafras way. ARTEC is trying to throw all liability back onto Council.

Negotiations are continuing. Please feel free to contact me on any issues of concern.

Clr Larry Whipper.

Dear Editor

In reply to the council letter in the Southern Highlands News of Friday 28th January,2011, it astounding to find that there is a liaison officer supposedly employed by council to work out all issues with Public Works. So why would this person not be making the press releases for Wingecarribee Shire Council and organising the following!

I can only hope that Wingecarribee Shire Council can accept the tender, agree upon a road access to the planned sewerage site, have electricity connected, have town water connected, erect the fence, have the building constructed, negotiate the pipeline through some private property and along 14km of State Rail Authority land and then under Sheepwash Road by December, 2011. Can it be done prior to loosing the funding (only 11 months away) when in 30 years they have only talked about connecting the sewerage to Robertson.

Can all this be achieved in 11 months, remembering the time it has taken to not have an access, to agree not to pay a purchase price for the sewerage site, to forget to do the aboriginal land rights inspection for artefacts and to mail notices to vacant land.

I feel very sorry for all those residents and business people who continue to pay exorbitant pump out fees without an end to this at present.

I am not a gambler but a would like a bet on this not being completed by December, 2011

Judy Fisk

KJM Glass Pty Ltd

All Glass & Mirror requirements
Shower screens & Screen doors & windows

Call Jeff and Kellie Mant
Mb 0400 462666 Fax:4885 2460
e-mail kjmglass@bigpond.com

02 4868 2000
0400 363 705

ArtTheAD

**ART MATERIALS
FRAMING
DIGITAL PRINTING**

278 ARGYLE ST. MOSS VALE

Southern Highlands Community Transport

**Are you finding it difficult to do your shopping or accessing medical appointments?
Do you need assistance with shopping or do you use a walking frame/ wheelchair?
Southern Highlands Community Transport may be able to assist you.**

Southern Highlands Community Transport has wheelchair accessible vehicles, buses and cars.

Our buses provide a door to door shopping service. There is also a helper to help you do your shopping and to assist with parcels and boarding the bus. The bus will pick up and set down en route if requested. We also offer social outings throughout the year and transport to various medical appointments.

We cover the following areas of Bowral, Balmoral, Hilltop, Colo Vale, Mittagong, Yerrinbool, Robertson, Burrawang, Kangaloon, Wingello, Penrose, Bundanoon, Exeter, Moss Vale, Berrima and their surrounding areas.

Pick up is between 9am and 10am and we return for home around 1pm from Oxley Mall in Bowral.

The service is funded to support residents who live in the Wingecarribee Shire who are frail, aged, people with a disability and their carers and aims to assist you to maintain your independence and remain in your own home for as long as possible.

The service is also funded to support people who are transport disadvantaged due to social or geographic isolation or those with financial difficulty.

For more information Contact Southern Highlands Community Transport on Ph: 4872 3722 or Call into the office at Unit 1/18 Priestley Street, Mittagong.



ATOMIC TUTORING

After School tuition in all areas of Mathematics and English for Primary and Secondary School Students

Tim Jenkinson
M.Ed, B.Ed, Grad Cert Ed.

Ph. 0458226923

Ross Westscorer 1947-2011 Sentinel Farm

A packed gathering in the Robertson School of Arts recently celebrated the life of Ross Westscorer. He died peacefully in his sleep from a heart attack one day after his 64th birthday.

Ross lived in Robertson for 30 years. He enjoyed a career in hospitality, was an accomplished cook and loved to entertain dinner guests at lavish evenings. He took great pride in his Sentinel Farm and ran a B&B at the cottage.

At his wake a number of his closest friends made it clear that Ross didn't ever suffer fools gladly, do anything by halves or leave anyone in any doubt how he felt.

To close friends and casual acquaintances his passing was premature.
He will be sadly missed.



ADVERTISEMENT

Gareth Ward
Liberal for Kiama

"Working for Robertson"

LIBERAL
NEW SOUTH WALES

Get in touch with Gareth:

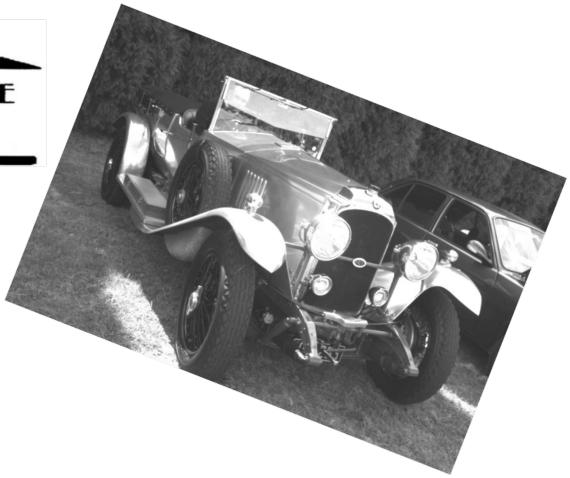
- | **T** 0401 499 933, 4203 2691 or 4480 6047
- | **E** gareth.ward@nsw.liberal.org.au
- | **W** www.garethward.net.au

Authorised by Mark Neeham, Level 9, 140 William Street, East Sydney NSW 2011.



ROBERTSON HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION

VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR DAY
HISTORIC WORKING
MACHINERY
ART EXHIBITION



*Sunday, 10 April 2011
commencing at 11.00am*

► **Vintage & Classic Cars -**

We will be hosting a Vintage and Classic Car Day including pre-war to classical and collectable cars of all makes and models. There will be 'People's Choice' trophies for best British, American, Australian, European and Japanese classic cars 30 years and over, commercial/pickups plus special prizes for the most original unrestored vehicle and 'Ladies' Choice'.

Venue: Robertson Heritage Railway Station.

Yarranga Street, Robertson

(The Station and Grounds will be open from 9.30am for entrants)

Open to all clubs and to individual car owners, it is free general admission for all cars but a small fee of \$10 applies for entry into the competition. For further information please contact Steve Carey, President, on 02 4885 2393 or e-mail: steve@accn.com.au

► **Historic Working Machinery -**

There will be a very popular and interesting display of restored and functioning vintage working machinery in the "Robertson Common" grounds.

► **The "Fettlers Shed" Art Gallery** will also be open. There will be an exhibition of artwork for the **2011 Annual Fettlers Heritage Art Prize**. Entry is free but a gold coin donation would be welcome. The Station also has an interesting history display showing the history of the railway in this area. Please call 0408 610 714 for more details (also website: www.robertsonrailway.com.au)

- There will also be a kiosk selling food and drink, etc., and railway museum and souvenirs.
- Also, visit the **Robertson Village Markets** just a short walk 300 metres away.

This promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable day with free entry to the public so come along to the Robertson Railway Common and join in to make the day a great success!

* * * * *



Fountaindale
Grand Manor
Valentines Dinner
Saturday 12th February



Featuring live musical entertainment, 3 course dinner (set menu) and romantic ambience.
\$52 per person.
Bookings Essential. Phone 4885 1111.

5



Film-maker/teacher seeks self-contained cottage in Robo - open to rent/chores/contradeals? - I'm decent & good humoured.

Steve Curtain, phone 0438 002 416



ROBERTSON DOCTOR

**WELCOMES
DR JULIAN NORTHOVER**

We are pleased to introduce Dr Julian Northover to our practice team. Originally from Western Australia Julian comes with an extensive background in hospital and general practice medicine, both Australian and international contexts.

Most recently Julian has worked in the emergency rooms of such hospitals as the Royal North Shore and St Vincent's private, and Geraldton regional hospital WA. Prior to that he has explored various GP and hospital posts in the UK as well as a stint in the Cocos Keeling Islands and the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

In his free time he enjoys tending a small vineyard and learning about viticulture

DR NORTHOVER WILL BE CONSULTING

THURS & FRI

9AM-5PM

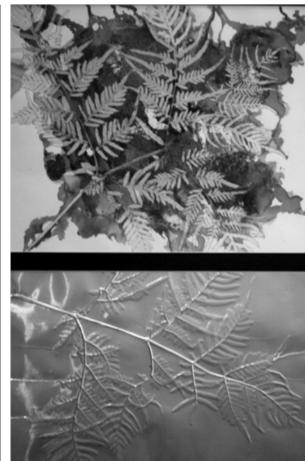
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER UPDATES REGARDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.



**TRISH EMMERICK
REMEDIAL THERAPY**

Remedial Massage, Reflexology, Reiki,
Deep Lymphatic Drainage, Flower
Essences

Appointments in Bowral & Robertson ph: 0415 673 955
Health fund rebates: Pension, student & children's rates.



Lexi Watt

24th Jan—4th Mar 2011

**Gallery Chiron
28 Hoddle St, Robertson**

ARTIST STATEMENT.

Wearing two hats in my working life, I work as a pathology sister 3 days a week and try to paint the rest of the week. I have tried many art forms over the years and each has given something which lends itself to the next one or gives an understanding to the execution of the present one.

Teaching and Exhibiting Porcelain Painting at an international level for close on 25 years has left its impression on how I approach my current love, watercolours and ink. Working in washes and lots of detail many times over. My porcelain was given a chapter in Trish Bradfords book Porcelain a Fine Art. Printmaking came along about 10 yrs ago and even though I don't do traditional prints any more, monoprints and embossing of brass, aluminium and copper[oxidised] feature quite a bit. I use my love of the Australian bush and its wonderful array of beautiful leaves, bark and flowers for inspiration. I love to paint the old weathered and scarred over the youthful blooms and fresh leaves.

Writing and illustrating "CHOOKIES"- my first published Children's Picture Book came out at the end of 2009 by Little Steps Publishing. This was nominated by the publisher for the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards 2010. Although not in the last 10, it was very exciting to be nominated. Chookies went into reprint in 2010. It is about 2 chooks escaping getting locked in a dress shop overnight, their capture escape and recapture. Based on a true story in my sister and brother in laws shop in Kiama .A second book about 2 naughty white cockies Where is my Dinner? Is submitted and waiting for a yes from a publisher. A sequel to Chookies is also well on the way to completion.

**Deahne - Jo - Kim - Jessika - Kerrianne
welcome you to**

**HAIR ON HODDLE & BEAUTY
4885 2383 or 4885 1447**

We will look after the whole family...
Let us create your new modern look!

30 Hoddle Street, Robertson
(next door to Robertson Doctor)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ANZAC DAY SERVICES:
ROBERTSON/BURRAWANG

MONDAY 25TH APRIL, 2011
(EASTER MONDAY)

BURRWANG WAR
MEMORIAL 10.15 am
Wreath laying service

ROBERTSON WAR MEMORIAL

11 am

Wreath laying followed by
Commemorative Service in
the School of Arts

Everyone welcome

RTA and Rail Track NOTICE

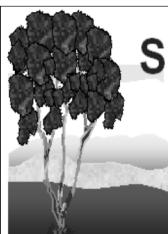
Sheepwash Road will be closed 9th-
11th April (weather permitting) for
work on the railway crossing, lifting &
realigning the track.

All Robertson to Bowral traffic will
need to use an alternative route i.e.
Kangaloon Road, Tourist Road or go
via Moss Vale.

Queries call RTA works Office 4872
5801

Robertson Doctor

**Skin Check Clinics
Being held each
Thursday & Friday
Bulk Billed
Please call 4885 2569
for an appointment**



SUMMIT TREE SERVICES

Tree & Land Management Specialists

Paul D'hondt & Sandy Morse
Tree Surgeon & Arborists

Mbrs: Arb. Aust.; LGTRA; MAIH: AILD; ISA Certified Arborist AU-0031A

Ph/Fax: 4885-2036 Mob: 0409-129165

PO Box 3283 Robertson 2577 sumtrees@bigpond.net.au

Annual 2011 Fettlers Heritage Art Prize

REMINDER:

ENTRIES CLOSE: WED 2 March (10 am – 12 noon)

Official opening & prize announcement
Saturday 5 March 2pm

EXHIBITION OPEN

March 5 – April 10 (10.30am – 3.30pm)

WEEKENDS ONLY

(Fri 11 & Sat 12 March (Robertson Show), Sun 13 March)

For entry form and details

www.robertsonrailway.com.au

ENQUIRIES re ART PRIZE PLEASE CALL 0408 610 714

Pilot Project

Coming of Age Citizenship Ceremony for 18 year olds

Are you a

- * Gandangara or Dharawal resident or representative
 - * teenager approaching your 16th, 17th or 18th birthday, or
 - * family with teenagers
 - * member of a community group or organisation
 - * resident with creative skills and / or experience in visual/ performing arts
 - * resident interested in civic rights, responsibilities and/ or rites of passage
 - * resident, local worker or business interested in being involved and / or finding out about this pilot
- of Robertson and surrounding area ?**

The Australian Celebrants & Celebrations Network, with Civil Celebrations Network Inc support, invites you to an open meeting on Sunday 20th February at Robertson School of Arts at 2pm.

Aim: to gauge community support for a pilot ceremony and hopefully to form a working group to design a pilot "Coming of Age Citizenship Ceremony" for Robertson's teenagers who will be attaining Adult Citizenship status in 2011 and/or or 2012.

Enquiries : Rona Goold 4885 2393 or rona@accn.com.au

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.)

ROBERTSON in the GARDEN

The recent spring and summer rains have been a mixed blessing for gardeners in the Southern Highlands. Many plants have suffered from waterlogging and fungal or bacterial problems.

The most obvious victims of the wet have been the many Photinia hedges in the village. They have been hit by a very nasty Leaf Spot Fungus which has caused massive leaf drop and in some cases death. This fungus is spread by raindrops splashing the infection from leaf to leaf, tree to tree and up off the ground, even through the misty air.

If your hedge has been affected you should think about pruning the plants to allow more air movement and encourage new growth. Also remove all fallen leaves as they are a source of infection. Sprays are available and are worth using to reduce the degree of reinfection next year. Hopefully by now many of the hedges will be starting to show healthy new growth and if not too badly affected will recover.

Many other trees and shrubs have also been attacked by fungal infection, usually seen as brown spots on leaves. In most cases these are just cosmetic, but if a continuing problem sprays are available.

Healthy actively growing plants should be able to overcome many of these problems and of course deciduous plants have the advantage of shedding all those damaged leaves and providing fresh new growth next Spring.

Root rot is a problem which may take longer to be seen, and is harder to deal with. Often the problem is not obvious until the plant dies, seemingly overnight and often in hot, dry conditions as there are insufficient roots to pump water up to the plant. Many of our gardens were saturated for fairly long periods of time, reducing the amount of air in the soil and killing off the roots. Plants with root rot often wilt as if they are dry causing people to compound the problem by watering.

If you noticed areas in the garden where water lay around and was unable to drain away , you might consider installing some drainage or raising the garden beds.

Also check pots to see that they are draining.

See you all in Autumn when Robertson Nursery will be once again open for business.

Jill Keft



Leaf spot on Photinia

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 **April**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th March 2011**. 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 must be typed) Enquiries - 4885 1210

Disclaimer

This newsletter is an independent publication under the auspices of The Robertson Chamber of Commerce. The ideas presented are not necessarily those of the editors nor of the Chamber. The statement and opinions expressed in this publication are made in good faith, and the editors, volunteers and contributors do not take any responsibility for those statements and opinions, any inferences that may be drawn from them, or actions or charges which may result from them. The Editor reserves the right not to print any item that is defamatory to any person or organisation, or that is anonymously sent, and to edit any contributions as required.

Editor : Barry Lee

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 - 3rd Sunday

Roman Catholic

Burrawang

1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays – 8.00am
2nd & 4th Sundays – 5.00pm