



JG

Robertson News

June 2011

www.robertson.nsw.au

Edition 83

Congratulations Ben Quilty

Last month Robertson CTC put on a wonderful party and awarded local hero Ben Quilty the coveted framed 'Potato' for his success at this years 'Archibald Prize' with a portrait of artist and friend Margaret Olley.



Andrew Ford, our resident Composer, writer and broadcaster conducted an enlightening interview with Ben who has been overwhelmed with all the media attention and the local support.

The 'Archibald Prize' exhibition is on at NSW Art Gallery till 26th June.

For the travellers you can see his work at - Hong Kong International Art Fair and then from 24 June to 20 July 2011 - Goulburn Regional Art Gallery .

Dorothy Baker

Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor

There have been recent reports from Sutton Forest about unexplained low-altitude helicopter flights over there, and at Joadja. The same has been happening in Robertson and Wildes Meadow.

This Helicopter was hovering over Missingham Pde, Robertson and Belmore Falls Road on May 12 at 9:29am. My brother reported seeing it over Myra Vale Road, near the Burrawang turn-off in Wildes Meadow, on May 13, at approx 11:30am.

I have passed this information to Cllr Whipper, as although Council does not own the sky above their land, I am sure that someone in Council staff who must have knowledge of the rules about low flying aircraft. The issue of scaring stock is pertinent there, not to exclude the issue of annoying the local humans!

This pilot is surely operating his aircraft below normal flying height. The Serial number is VH-PTH and the number 260 is clearly stamped on the door. The helicopter would hover for approximately a minute, then move off a few hundred metres and repeat the procedure.

The most likely reason is that the Helicopter is doing "remote sensing" - possibly for Coal Seam Gas. The interesting thing is that Sutton Forest is in a different Gas lease (PEL) from Robertson. In Robertson, we are definitely not in the PEL owned by Planet Gas (Leichhardt Resources), so if those guys are "poaching" on another company's lease, AGL would not be pleased.

Perhaps it is some other form of aerial monitoring, (eg, airborne laser scanners) but it is definitely NOT the Electricity people checking their high tension power lines for "hot spots". They do that every year or so, but use a straight sensor rod sticking out the front of the helicopter, and it flies directly along the power lines. They do not use this mysterious "black box" on the front left side of the Helicopter, nor do they select various spots off and on power lines.

Incidentally it is not POLAIR searching for dope plantations. We have had them over Robertson before, and they do not do that form of spot hovering. For the record, I for one, have nothing to declare!

But Polair always seem to get good results in the Catchment Lands.

Interesting.

Denis Wilson

News on the Robertson Sewerage Scheme



The new Robertson Sewerage Scheme is a major investment in the region and the start of construction is drawing closer.

AJ Lucas has been appointed as the construction contractor for the work and the company has already established its site office in the village, on land next to Robertson Bowling Club in Yarranga Street.

The first newsletter has also been issued to local residents and a community information session is being held at the Bowling Club on Saturday 4th June from 12 noon to 4pm. Turn up for five minutes, half an hour or longer - depending on your interest.

The information session is an ideal opportunity to come along and find out more about the construction process for the scheme. Fact sheets and maps will be available on the day, as will members of the Project Team who will be able to answer questions.

A range of information will be on display, including construction timeframes, the village pipe layout, a description of the new pump station and an outline of the new sewerage treatment plant which will be totally enclosed and use advanced technology.

Additional information will also be available for those residents living in the eastern area of the village and who will receive a pressure pipe network connection to the scheme.

If you can't make it to the Community Information Session on Saturday, the fact sheets from the event will soon be uploaded onto a new project website. This site will be available shortly at www.robertsonsewerage.com.au and will be updated regularly as the project progresses.

Hampden Park.

Hampden Park now boasts the best and brightest play equipment in the Shire. This was achieved after many years by the Hampden Park Management Committee with much help from Councillor Whipper and council officer Peter Byrne.

There is still money available to be spent in the park and improvements to be made. Landscaping, cricket nets and tables and chairs are all in the pipeline.

The next meeting of the Hampden Park Committee is on Thursday 28th July in the Fettler's Shed at 5pm. Anyone interested in joining our committee is very welcome. We meet about 4 times a year.

If you have an interest in sport, recreation, environment or community please come and help us make a difference. The beautiful Hampden Park is the centre of our village and an asset for us all.

For more information please contact
Robert Handley 48 851362
or Jill Keft 48851138

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At Robertson Recollections

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

ROBERTSON DEVESTATED BY LOSS OF RESPECTED PHARMACIST ROBERT WEST

In January, 2006, this newsletter posed the question, "what is rarer than diamonds, so precious that you never want to lose it, and very hard to come by?"

The answer was "a local chemist" The words were part of an article welcoming to town, chemist Robert West and his wife Sarika..

Back then, Robertson was just glad to finally have a pharmacist.

However it was soon obvious that we had gained much more than that.

Robert turned out to be an absolute champion: invariably helpful, friendly and approachable, with the gift of a quick and articulate sense of humour, and a distinctive outlook on the world. To put it simply, he is a charmer. But he has also proven to be a thorough professional, with a seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of what he dispenses. Coupling this knowledge with a genuine concern for the care and well-being of his clients, Robert dispenses not only medicines but wise, sometimes cautionary, and invariably accurate advice. His care about, and understanding of, his clients' overall health picture, has been of immense benefit to many and has literally saved the lives of some!

Over the last 5 years Robert has become, to most of us, both a trusted adviser and a valued friend. No-one wants to be sick, but Robert somehow manages to make "calling in for your pills" a bright spot rather than a negative.

In our article 6 years ago, we urged you to "treasure the Wests" So you have. Yet a year ago, the village became

aware that Robert was not having an easy run with the owners of the business. An open letter supporting Robert was very widely signed by members of the community. It read in part:

"We...wish to place on record our high regard for the exceptional professional and personal qualities of our pharmacist Robert West (who) over the last four years has made a significant and much valued contribution to this community. Robertson pharmacy's ...success or failure entirely depends on the personal qualities of its pharmacist. That it has been built from nothing to a thriving success is entirely thanks to Robert. (he)...has become a valued member of our community on a personal level too."

Sadly, while all this was patently obvious to most of us, it seems to have fallen on deaf ears so far as the owners of the Pharmacy are concerned. They appear not to have valued Robert as we do, or to have appreciated the overwhelming extent to which the success of their business was due to him.

It is not for us to delve into the business relationship between Mr West and his employers. But we are entitled to put on record our admiration for Robert and our gratitude for his contribution to our village.

We are also entitled to express both surprise and regret that this employer seems so singularly unable to recognize, value and reward, exceptional skills and personal qualities that have built them a business from nothing, and that are patently obvious to the rest of us.

Thank You to Robert West

There will be an opportunity for the community to say thank you to Robert for his contribution to Robertson and the lives of its residents on

**Sunday 5th June
2.30-5.30pm
Uniting Church Hall**

Afternoon Tea will be served
(Contributions welcome)

three  creeks **Cafe**

Winter Opening Hours

Lunch or coffee and cake everyday 11-3

Hot breakfast Saturday and Sunday from 9

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Southern Highlands Heaven

F. J. Thwaites set most of his books in exotic locations such as Malaya, Tahiti and the Sahara but *Roof Over Heaven*, published in 1953, is a rare novel set in the locations where he lived. Primrose Farm, shown on the cover, is thought to be a fictional name but that looks like the author standing at the front gate. The identity of the young girl is not known.



Inside are references to the Robertson Hotel, Fitzroy Falls and Bowral Hospital, plus an unusually graphic account of a fatal road accident in the fog at the top of Macquarie Pass. It appears to have been based on an actual event.

And here is his description of the hero (called John Summerlees) taking a detour through Burrawang to avoid the traffic on what is now the Illawarra Highway. It's a familiar scene to local residents.

"At a sign inviting all motorists who passed through Burrawang in for a beer at the Commercial Hotel, John Summerlees turned left off Robertson Road. He had discovered this alternate route not long after settling on Primrose Farm, and since then had only used the highway when pressed for time.

"It was a delightful morning; a light mist covered the valley's heart, yet already sunlight had begun to touch all hilltops and the trees' upper foliage with warmth. The air, particularly keen for February, was full of perfume and the intangible sounds which herald an early Australian morning. Soon they were gliding under a green canopy of interlocking branches."

If you want to see what Thwaites was writing about, the detour is called McGraths Road (pictured above). The Commercial is now called the Burrawang Hotel.

From "Roof Over Heaven", H. John Edwards Publishing Co. Pty Ltd. Sydney 1953.

Reproduced from an article in the Feb/Mar edition of **Highlife** magazine by **James Cockington** on F. J. Thwaites entitled "The Bestseller of Buckingbong". Used by permission.

Grand Old Lady on the Mend

As the new owners of Fountaindale Grand Manor at Robertson, Carol and her husband Alan are excited to reintroduce the 'grand old lady' to the local and wider communities, but they acknowledge that there is a good deal of work to be done.

Arriving in Australia from New Zealand three years ago, Carol and Alan started a new career in motel management to be closer to their children and grandchildren. After turning the Cronulla Motor Inn around from near-demolition to a successful business, Carol was looking for another project.

While Carol fell in love with the property and the lush countryside, unfortunately her husband had a different reaction.

"Alan is an ex-builder and he looks at the work that needs to be done to restore Fountaindale to its former glory, whereas I tend to see the potential and see how it will be when it is finished."

Nevertheless, the couple feel there is a strong moral aspect in restoring the building. "Economically, we are aiming to fill 56 rooms and the benefits will flow onto the local community via both increased job opportunities and, of course, valuable tourist spend .

Carol and Alan took over Fountaindale early May and are keen to work with local community groups i.e. the Robertson garden society, gaining their input into their restoration plans."

A new coat of paint in the magnificent hallway is first off the block, planned to make the downstairs areas more welcoming in time for Fountaindale to meet and greet the community via the "Peasants Ball" on June 17th.

After that there are many plans to bring life back to the historical building including an inaugural ball in August and converting one of the old cottages into a museum to house the many fascinating artefacts Mrs Phillips keeps finding in abandoned rooms.

Overall, the couple is looking forward to the challenge of re-engaging the local community in the property.

Carl Hilder Real Estate
- Robertson -

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

House sitter needed

For the month of July in Robertson village.
Dogs and chooks to look after.
Call Jenny on 0429 826 431

MULCH YOUR GARDEN
FREE MULCH AT THE RAILWAY COMMON
Take all you want

Printmaking Exhibition 'Come and see our etchings...'

Bowral and District Art Society (BDAS) Printmakers have an exhibition planned for 13-19 July 2011, 10am to 4pm daily.
The official opening is on Friday 15 July, at 5pm.

This exhibition features prints by an enthusiastic and dedicated group of local printmakers whose work includes etchings, linocuts, waterless lithographs, monotypes, drypoints and digital prints. Works include affordable framed and unframed prints and handmade cards. Artists will be available to answer questions about printmaking processes.

It will be held at Bowral and District Art Society Gallery, 1 Short Street Bowral NSW. Enquiries phone 48614093.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Located outside
the
ROBERTSON DOCTOR
in the
RED box.

CTC 2pm Sunday Series Truffaut meets Jean-Pierre Leaud



LOVE ON THE RUN

Tony Williams discusses the working relationship between new wave director Francois Truffaut and actor Jean Pierre-Leaud. Truffaut discovered Leaud when he was 14 and starred him in the movie *The 400 Blows* based on Truffaut's life. As Leaud grew older, Truffaut made three more films with Leaud. When Leaud was 34, Truffaut made *Love On The Run*. For this film Truffaut developed a story that combined his previous three Leaud films as flashbacks. Rated M.

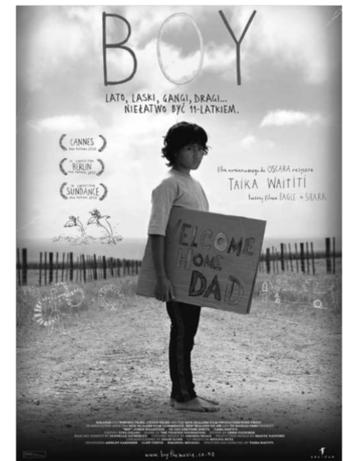
Sunday 5th June at 2pm
Café opens at 1.30 pm
Tea & coffee available. BYO beer/wine.
Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC fundraiser).
Bookings recommended



58 – 60 Hoddle Street Robertson
4885 2665
<http://www.robertsonctc.org.au/cafe.htm>
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CTC 2pm Sunday Series NZ Cinema

BOY



Maori cinema comes of age. "The most successful New Zealand film ever, rating in the top ten of all time in the NZ box office, is *BOY*, written, directed and starring Taika Waititi" (Margaret Pomeranz, *At the Movies*). *BOY* is a hilarious and heartfelt coming-of-age tale and a truly original piece of cinema. Rated M.

Sunday 3rd July at 2pm
Café opens at 1.30 pm
Tea & coffee available.
BYO beer/wine.
Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC fundraiser).
Bookings recommended



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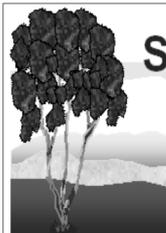
and

Cornelia Koeller's Pastels on Paper

Opening Saturday June 11 at 2pm

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ROBERTSON in the GARDEN

Pruning Fruit Trees.

People are often very unsure about how and when to prune fruit trees.

Apples, pears and plums can all be pruned in winter.

Cherries, peaches, nectarines and apricots are best pruned when they are actually growing, ie Spring, Summer and early Autumn. This will reduce the chance of bacterial canker infections.

The aim with fruit tree pruning is generally to remove broken, weak and crossing branches. Try to open out the centre of the tree to allow greater air movement and sunshine into the tree. This will reduce disease and aid the ripening of the fruit.

Reduce the overall size of the tree so that it is manageable. You may want to net or spray your trees and you will certainly want to be able to harvest the fruit from your trees.

Some varieties of fruit trees are available on a dwarfing rootstock which will reduce the size of your tree, but not the size of the fruit.

Clean you pruning tools between trees to avoid carrying diseases from tree to tree. Pick up all prunings and rake up any fallen leaves to reduce the over wintering pests and diseases on the ground.

After pruning you can spray with a lime or copper based spray to clean up any spores on the surface of the branches.

Winter is the perfect time for planting new fruit trees and as always Robertson Nursery has a wide range of fruit trees suitable for our area.

Jill Keft
Robertson Nursery



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



Sunday Youth Night Church

1st Sunday of the Month

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 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 **August**. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th July 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

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Editor : Barry Lee