



Robertson News

October 2011

Edition 85

www.robertson.nsw.au

Robertson's New \$300,000 Fire Truck.

Robertson Rural Fire Brigade has recently taken delivery of a Category 11, 4X4 Village Pumper, fire truck. This new addition to the Wingecarribee fleet significantly improves the response capabilities of our local brigade. Some of the new features include:

- 4 sets of breathing apparatus cylinders, giving the brigade improved ability to enter smoke filled structures for search and rescue purposes.
- Positive pressure fan to more efficiently evacuate buildings of smoke.
- Additional forced entry tools allowing for quicker access to locked or damaged structures.
- 3000 litre water tank (50% increase on previous truck)
- Larger/longer access ladders.
- Truck mounted floodlights.

Whilst at first glance this new fire truck may seem to be out of place in a small rural village, the realities of what we do as an emergency services provider and the perception of what a Rural Fire Brigade does, can be poles apart. The Robertson brigade's call-out statistics tell the real story. Over the last decade our local call-outs have steadily increased from around 20 calls-outs a year to an average now of around 40. And with that increase, the type of emergency responses (in percentage terms) has changed. In the past we did an even mix of bush/scrub /grass fires with an assortment of vehicle fire/accidents and structural (house) fires. However today's local "firies" find themselves more and more at MVAs (Motor Vehicle Accidents), structural fires and other incidents that reflect the growing population of our village.

As well as this latest fire truck the Robertson brigade has two other vehicles that give us flexibility to deal with a number of different incidents. Our second fire truck is a smaller tanker that is specifically targeted at bush fires and has better flexibility to access fire trails and hard to reach parts of the bush. In addition to these fire-fighting vehicles we also have a district owned 5-seat personnel carrier that helps to ferry extra fire fighters to and from incidents. These vehicles are all now stationed in our recently completed 3-bay fire station, making the Robertson brigade one of the largest and best equipped brigades in the district.



Interested in joining or just want to know more?

Go to www.robertson.rfsa.org.au

or

drop around to your local Fire Station on Wallangunda Street from 7:30pm Wednesday evenings.

**Southern Highlands Community Hospice Inc.
Public Meeting - St Jude's hall. 8.9.11**

Upwards of 150 people packed the St. Jude's hall, Bowral to hear about the proposed hospice for the Southern Highlands.

Chairman Bob Constable and other members of the hospice steering committee outlined the proposal and explained the role of palliative care in maximising the quality of life for people with a terminal illness.

Michael Shaw, CEO *HarbisonCare*, and Dr David Browning explained how palliative care differed from acute care in hospitals by going beyond the physical treatment of illness to include the emotional and spiritual dimensions of caring for people who are approaching the end of their lives.

Jenny Harper, CEO Southern Highlands Private Hospital, acknowledged that, though we have passionate and caring people involved in palliative care, there is a limit to the capacity of acute care hospitals to provide for people with terminal illnesses.

Daphne Robertson highlighted the importance of community volunteers in making possible a hospice that would serve uninsured patients, as well as those with private health insurance.

The reaction of those who attended was unanimously positive.

Mayor Ken Halstead anticipated that Council would give the project its support in any way it could.

The next step would be for the steering committee to explore the possibilities for funding from State & Federal Governments and local benefactors. Dr Amanda Walker, Director of Palliative Care South West Sydney Local Health Network, expressed enthusiasm for the project. She voiced the opinion that the community had the opportunity to create a new model for palliative care in Australia.

Robertson Chamber of Commerce

At the recent AGM held at Fountaindale Grand Manor our members re-elected:

President - Dorothy Baker of Green Heart Gallery
Vice President - Judy Fisk of RJ Mackey Real Estate
Secretary - Bernard Eddy of Green Heart Gallery

We are happy to have a new treasurer Pi-Wei Lim of Robertson Doctor. Thank you to our former treasurer of three years, Caroline Marsh of Cafe Pirouette.

RCoC will again be producing the **Robertson & District Calendar 2012** with a new look. Thank you to John Massetti for all his hard work over many years. The new designer is Damien Lee who we thank in advance for his work.

Calendars are **FREE** and will be available from the beginning of December at most shops in Robertson.

There is a discount for RCoC members on advertising in the Newsletter and Calendar.

For advertising and/or membership details contact dorothybaker@southernphone.com.au

Dorothy Baker RCoC President
Phone 4885 2400 Green Heart Gallery

For Women
Make a
CHOCOLATE CHRISTMAS TREE
at
St John's Centre
Meryla St, Robertson
Friday 2nd December
7pm
\$25

Book a spot now with
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**School Holiday Program
Wed-Thurs-Fri
5th-7th October**

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WARATAH SPRING FAIR

*Sunday, 9 October 2011
commencing at 9.00am*



*Venue: Robertson Heritage Railway Station Common
Yarranga Street, Robertson*

- **Waratah Flower Show** – Waratah species in magnificent bloom in Station gardens, displays and sale of flowers and plants
- **Open Gardens**
- **Flower Arranging Competition** – Entries to Gallery by 4-6pm on Saturday, 8 October or 9am on Sunday, 9 October. Enquiries phone 4885 1598 – entries displayed in Fettle's Shed Gallery
- Display of old **historic farm and working machinery**
- **'Fettle's Shed' Art Gallery** – "Gallery in the Garden" – Exhibition of artworks featuring flowers and garden - open every day 1 to 9 October, 11am – 3pm
- **Miniature Railway** and miniature steam train rides (outdoor)
- Jumping Castle
- **Model train** display (indoor)
- **Railway history museum** – display and old artefacts
- A **Band** will provide music on the day
- There will also be a **Kiosk** selling food and cold drinks – also special coffee and delicious icecreams are available
- Also, visit the **Robertson Village Markets** just a short walk away (300 metres)



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

Further information: Phone 02 4885 1598 or Website www.robertsonrailway.com.au

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Getting Prepared for the Hay Fever Season

Occurring more commonly in spring and summer, hay fever is an allergic reaction in the nose, throat and eyes. It is usually caused by inhaling pollens that are present in the air during certain times of the year. However, some people have symptoms of allergic rhinitis all year round, caused by inhaling allergens such as animal dander, mould spores and house dust mites. Your GP can arrange 'allergy skin tests' to help find the cause.

Symptoms of hay fever can include: sneezing, running nose, sinus congestion, itchy nose, itchy/watery eyes and feeling run-down. It can often be worse in the mornings and on windy days (when airborne pollen levels are highest).

To help manage your hay fever, try and identify the allergens that may be triggering your symptoms and then aim to reduce your exposure to them. It's not always easy but doing things such as staying indoors on windy days, removing suspect house and garden plants, cleaning your house regularly to remove mould and dust, and keeping animals outdoors may help.

The important thing for you to remember is that you don't have to suffer! There are plenty of good treatment options available to give you some relief and help prevent the hay fever symptoms. These include:

Antihistamines

They aim to counter the body's reaction to the allergen and help to relieve itching, sneezing, running nose and eye symptoms.

Are available as tablets, syrups, nasal sprays and eye drops.

Corticosteroid nose sprays

The lining of the nose and sinuses can often get very inflamed with allergic rhinitis. These nasal sprays are effective in reducing this inflammation and even in preventing it in the first place.

Regular daily use is often needed to get the best results.

Other treatments

Decongestants (tablet form or nasal spray) can help to dry up the nose.

Saline nasal sprays and rinses can help clear mucus from the nose and sinuses.

Lubricant eye drops (artificial tears) may relieve mild eye symptoms.

Ask a pharmacist or doctor for advice about the best treatment for you.

By Nick Knowles -Pharmacist

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Robertson Uniting Church, then and now

There isn't a lot of information available about the origins of the Uniting Church in Robertson, but it is evident that many of these pioneers were Wesleyan Methodists. The original church of timber slab construction was erected in Hoddle Street around 1870. By 1888 this was in poor condition and was replaced by another building. In 1894 the community had built a fine manse next door in timber for a regular minister. This building is now rented as a private dwelling.

The current timber church was erected in 1902 on the same site as the previous church. It is thought to be of local cedar - now painted, but the vaulted ceiling inside today shows its original beauty. A school hall was added to the church in 1932.

During the early years, congregations had also developed in Wildes Meadow and Kangaloon, & by 1888 had become part of what was then known as the Robertson Methodist Circuit. During the 20th Century, the Robertson Church remained a strong centre of worship & community activity, with fellowship, youth, and children's groups.

With the shift in population towards larger centres and a decline in farm labour in the late 20th century, and the incorporation of the local Methodist community as part of the Uniting Church, Wildes Meadow church was closed, Kangaloon church became attached to Bowral, and Robertson began to be ministered to from Moss Vale.

While there are currently no Sunday Worship services in Robertson, a food and fellowship meeting is held at 5pm on the third Sunday of each month, and a coffee, cake and conversation café is held on the third Wednesday of the month from 10am till noon.

As the new minister of the Uniting Church in the parish of Moss Vale, which includes Robertson, I look forward to working with the local members of the church, as well as with other churches and the wider community. My wife (Rhoda) and I have already had a wonderfully warm welcome and begun to make new friends. I have previously served in the church at Bellingen (near Coffs Harbour), Scone & the Upper Hunter Valley, and for the past nearly eight years in Ballina. I enjoy bushwalking & wildlife photography (especially birds), but I particularly enjoy meeting with and listening to people, and encouraging others to live the best possible life.

Feel free to contact me on 4868 1134.
John Balding
Minister



John and Rhoda Balding



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Fuel for thought.....

It is generally accepted that Robertson is a "low risk" when it comes to fire impacting the town. In the time from European settlement in the 1860s no bush fire has impacted the township. The same can not be said of the areas directly to the South and North of the town. The areas of Belmore Falls / Carrington Falls and East Kangaloon have all had a number of small and large Bush fires run through or near them. So what has made the township of Robertson different ? I believe a brief look at the vegetation prior to settlement and the subsequent clearing of large areas of this flora may give an indication of why bush fire has not run through the town.

As we know, before settlement of the Town, the Yarrawa Brush (the name the area was given before Robertson) was dense temperate Rain-forest. The surveyor, Robert Hoddle, when he cut the road through in 1830 wrote the following in his journal.

"Having surveyed the Wingecarribee Swamp and ascertained the most southerly part of it, I commenced to encounter the most formidable brush I have seen since I have been in this colony. It abounds with every species of prickly bush, vine, bramble and nettle. The vines so thickly entwined around the huge trees and small as to render the sun obscure at the time it shone with great brilliancy".

This forest by its very nature is fire resistant. Then as the new settlers moved in much of this dense forest was transformed from thick jungle to productive farmland, with little or no trees left. This of course was necessary to support a young farming community. In the last few years the community that was so reliant on farming to make a living has all but gone and with it the need for such wide areas of cleared and pastured land. This transformation in the last few decades has lead to many more trees and shrubs being planted where there was once cleared land and prior to that dense rainforest. As a result the town area is now closer (vegetation wise) to the areas directly to the north and south. So what does this mean to those now living in the township with regards to bush fire ?

1. Don't be complacent. Just because fire has never impacted the town doesn't mean it wont ... Things have changed!
2. When you plant trees or shrubs in and around your property keep the above indicators in mind. Robertson native plants are best but even these plants are vulnerable without the rest of its "friends" in the form of a thick forest.
3. Remove dead/dry vegetation from around the direct area of your house, and keep it as "clean" as practicable.
4. Have a fire action plan for your house and property.



The view from the same position in April 2010

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**ROBERTSON & DISTRICT SWIMMING POOL
ASSOC. INC (RADSPA Inc)**
NEWSLETTER - September 2011

The RADSPA Inc. committee had a very busy 6 months pursuing a site necessary for the development of a planned Aquatic Centre. Since the opportunity to build the Centre on land adjacent to the Robertson Bowling Club was lost, the committee has three sites worthy of consideration. Two of these sites have frontages to Hoddle Street. The committee has been encouraged by meetings with Wingecarribee Shire Council's General Manager, Jason Gordon and Director of Planning, Scott Lee on these potential sites.

The first block, known as the "Scouts hall block", already has development with a Scout Hall, equipment shed and the popular C.T.C building. Several discussions have been held with local and district Scouts officials and a development housing the Aquatic Centre can be placed on this site. RADSPA are waiting for official approval from Scouts NSW.

The second site known as the "Police block" and adjacent to the C.T.C building is vacant and is held by Crown Lands Department. Letters have been sent to the Department seeking opportunities for leasing. At a recent meeting with the State Member for Kiama, Gareth Ward, the committee was encouraged to submit a full plan to him for endorsement to the Crown Lands Department. Gareth Ward recently visited Robertson and again met with the committee and viewed both sites. He has given his support to the development, and has also encouraged further applications for funding from the Sports & Recreation Grants once a D.A. has been lodged with Council.

Until a suitable site has been approved RADSPA are not openly raising funds. The deposited funds are continuing to accrue interest and this fund now totals almost \$185,000. Collection boxes throughout the village have been wonderfully supported and we take this opportunity to thank the store owners for their support.

The AGM of RADSPA has been called for Thursday 6 October at the Robertson School of Arts commencing at 7.00 pm. Members and interested persons are encouraged to attend. There is a very confident feeling about 2012 as hopes are high for the Aquatic Centre to commence development.

The committee thanks all persons who have shown interest in the "Pool" development and the new committee will hopefully be able to carry on the long process of building a covered and heated 25 metre, four lane swimming pool and centre for all residents, young and old.

For further information contact either
Sandra Dawson - Secretary (4885 2829) or
John Thomas - President (4885 1209) or
www.robertsonpool.org.au - now being updated.



Sportsman's Dinner

Robertson Burrawang Cricket Club
are hosting a
Sportsman's Dinner,
with guest speaker
Kerry O'Keefe



(ABC Radio Grandstand Cricket Funnyman)
on Saturday 29th October
at Robertson Bowling Club
at 7pm for 7.30pm dinner.

Tickets are on sale now at the
Bowling Club (phone 48 851 306).
\$50 each or organise a table of 10 - available for \$450.

Everybody welcome,
Limited tickets available, don't miss out!

St David's Burrawang 125th Anniversary Service

9.30am

Sunday 16th October

Morning Tea to follow the service in the
Burrawang School of Arts.



St David's was opened on the 22nd October 1886 by the Rev J T Langley of St Phillip's, Sydney. The parish at the time was called Wingecarribee Parish and the rector was the Rev. David Turberville Smith, who ministered here for 34 years. He was married to Bertha Welby and his father was manager of the Fitzroy Iron Works at Mittagong.

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02.48851377

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ROBERTSON TENNIS CLUB

Encourages the community to become involved with your local tennis club.

Social tennis Tuesdays 1pm.
Beginners welcome

Ladies competition Thursdays

Night tennis available

COURT HIRE.

Available from CHATS CAFE during business hours.
\$10.00 per court per hour

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

Family \$60, Single \$40 Youth \$20.

A VERY FRIENDLY CLUB
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Contact Fran 4886 4468.

Robertson Doctor

is pleased to welcome
Dr Dalia Ubied
to the practice.

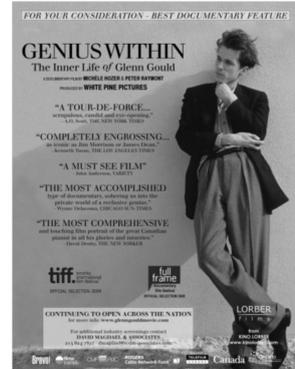
Dr Ubied will be consulting each
Wednesday & Thursday.

We are also pleased to advise
that **Dr Fiona Brown** will be
consulting late each Tuesday
evening through to 7pm

We hope that these later consult
times will assist those who work
to take care of their health
needs also.

Please call 4885 2569 for an
appointment

CTC 2pm Sunday Series Genius Within The Inner Life of Glenn Gould



New release. "The most comprehensive and touching film portrait of the great Canadian pianist in all his glories and miseries" (David Denby, the New Yorker). Rated G. *Genius Within* will be introduced by composer and broadcaster **Andrew Ford**.

**Sunday 9th October
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](http://www.robertsonctc.org.au/cafe.htm)

info@robertsonctc.org.au

CTC café is sponsored by Vittoria
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ART CLASS TERM 4 2011

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Classes are held on Mondays 10am-2pm
Term 4 Monday 17 October - 12 December

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you will experiment with many different mediums.

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Limited Spaces Available

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Art Exhibitions

Two fabulous exhibitions are
being held in October by local
artists.

Susan Palmer-Ward and her
husband Peter Ward will be
showing their works at Exeter
Community Hall on the October
long weekend - Sat Oct 1-Mon
Oct 3 from 9am-5pm.

Tracey Miller is holding an
exhibition of her works in the
Foyer of the Wingecarribee
Council in Moss Vale for the
whole month of October - Mon-
Fri 8.30am-4.30pm. See attached
flyer.

Both exhibitions works are for
sale.

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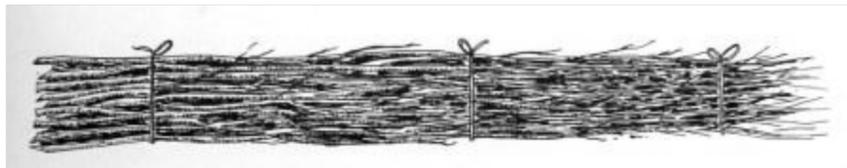
Phone 4232 1082 | Fax 4232 3577

Email kiama@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Authorised by Gareth Ward MP, 125 Terralong Street, Kiama NSW 2533.



What can be done with the *excess introduced Willow*



Fascines as a Small Industry

A fascine is a rough bundle of brushwood used for strengthening earthen structures. Typically used throughout Europe for protecting banks of streams from erosion and for making paths across wet terrain.

Militarily, fascines have been used for several thousand years for shoring up trenches and modern variations are used by military engineers wherever armies are deployed.

A re-emerging technique of Bio-engineering which dates back to 12th century China is providing a new market for cost effective solutions in soil stabilisation and erosion control situations. In Eastern England over 20,000 bundles of fascines are purchased by water catchment authorities annually.

Fascines are nothing more than 20 or so, 25mm sticks which are between 2.4 to 3metres long, bound in 3 places to give a finished diameter of around 25cm. Fascines have many advantages.

- Low cost and low long term maintenance.

- Low maintenance of live plants when established.

- Environmental benefits of wildlife habitat.

- Water quality improvement and aesthetics.

- Compatible with environmentally sensitive areas or sites with limited access.

- Capable of storing wind-blown native seeds and preventing wind erosion.

- Promote food chains and balance through the revegetation areas.

- Live plants can be planted in them which improves soil stability over time as the roots develop.

- Local employment opportunities with low start up costs.

- From stream bank and lakeshore protection to upland gully restoration and slope stabilisation, fascines provide creative natural alternatives to concrete structures and weed mats in many cases.

There are many types of fascines which can be combined to provide structural stability across many varied landscapes. From contour wattling, brush layering, trench packing, brush matting, live cuttings, pre-vegetated mats where live plants are grown on moveable mats of organic material.

Manufactured 3ft. timber stakes are primarily used to secure fascines.

With a ready market and local employment all that is required is a reliable source of branchwood material, possibly from hardwood timber plantations undertaking thinning operation or excess introduced Willow copses.

By Jeff Keyes (woodsman and woodworker)

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 December. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th November 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