



# Robertson Newsletter

April 2000

Edition 17

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS AT ROBERTSON STATION.

Thanks to a lot of hard work and patient negotiations behind the scenes by people like Larry Whipper and David and Helen Tranter, Robertson is now poised to embark upon a most exciting project which has the potential to make our village even more attractive. This would be wonderful for all of us who are fortunate enough to live here. And at the same time it would create a magnificent area of welcome for the tourists who are of increasing economic importance, not only for Robertson but also for the Southern Highlands as a whole.

The project referred to is, of course, the picturesque and historic Robertson Railway Station together with the very attractive grounds in which it is located.

Did somebody say attractive? That dump? Look at it! The station hasn't had a lick of paint in years. The platform's all beaten up and weedy. And as for the area all around it; well, it's just privet, more weeds and empty beer bottles. I'll tell you - I wouldn't let my dog live there!

Yes, you don't need to have too much of a vivid imagination to dream up those sorts of reactions, because there's more than a grain of truth in them if one simply looks at the way the station is now. But, hold on a minute. Let's use a bit more imagination. Take another close look at our wonderful little station and really think about it. Think about the history that it's been witness to over the years and about how thriving and highly organised and well presented it must have been in its hey day when it was in full and essential use as a bustling freight and passenger terminal. It must have been fantastic!

Well, it can be that way again fairly quickly and relatively easily if that's what we want. If enough local people are enthusiastically prepared to give up a little of their time and put in a small amount of labour, then our dear, brave old station, together with all that it stands for, can swiftly be transformed into a truly magnificent area of welcome and historic interest, particularly for the increasing numbers of tourists who arrive in town on the Cockatoo Express. What's more, by upgrading the station and the area around it, we can provide for ourselves, and for our village, an unusually attractive location for public recreation and entertainment. In sincerity, the possibilities are almost boundless.

So how about getting off the couch, switching off the television and joining in the fun? It's a fantastic opportunity which we all have and it would be such a tragedy if we allowed it to slip through our fingers simply because we couldn't be bothered. Only you can make it happen. To find out how you can play an important part in all of this, please phone Larry Whipper on 4885 1695 or David Tranter on 4885 1394.

See you at the Station! P.S. There'll be a public meeting all about it So, see you there, too!

on April 18th, 7.30pm at the Community Centre

## 121st Robertson Show 2000

They say that behind every great man there is a woman .....well, behind every great show there is a willing and hard working band of men and women with great community spirit who toil tirelessly to make the Robertson Show the very best it can be. This year was no exception.

Along with the old favourites it was decided to make a few changes, introduce a few new things, go back to good old-fashioned fun with our Saturday evening programme.

A few weeks before the Show working bees were held, the Pavilion was given a spruce up and the two cottages that house the horse stewards during the show were also given a coat of paint. Lights were checked, fences mended, grass slashed and the trotting track graded.

Three weeks before the show, the office at the showground was manned by ladies taking entries and carrying out a myriad of other tasks that are essential.

Friday was a great day. The Dairy Cattle were judged and a fine lot of beasts were entered. The horse events went well and entries were good. The Pavilion stewards did a tremendous job setting up the various exhibits to their best advantage. This year a new section appeared, the Bakery section for apprentice bakers. Entries were good and the display very tempting.

On Saturday the weather changed, as only it can in Robertson. This did not deter the exhibitors who today brought along their beef cattle, dogs, alpacas, horses and pets. Spectators flocked into the alpaca tent to acquaint themselves and learn more about this intriguing animal. The barbecue area was extremely popular. The Harness Racing had the fans on the edge of their seats. Once again there were many entries in the famous potato race and once again our own Shane Whatman won. As the afternoon drew to a close, people from far and wide came to be entertained by the wonderful entertainment put on by our Night Show Stewards. Egg throwing competitions, wheelbarrow races, dog jumping, ute pull and the now famous Demolition Derby.

Once again Robertson Show lived up to its tradition as the greatest little show on earth!

Phillip Vickery  
President

## Massage:

Special rates  
for Robertson  
residents.



By appointment  
weekends.

Phone : Larry Whipper  
4885 1695

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

### Robertson Time Capsule.

Those wonderful people who organised the equally wonderful Robertson Millennium Party, also had the excellent idea of sinking a sealed time capsule to be opened by our descendants in the year 2050.

Several people in the village were asked to provide something of today for the interest of those of tomorrow. I was very proud to be invited to write a poem. This is now sunk into the ground waiting to be read in fifty years time but I thought that it might be pleasant to share it with your readers of today.

Yours faithfully,  
Arthur Jackson.

Very late in 1999.

This century began when,  
Scarce a hundred years before,  
Our forefathers and mothers  
First trod Australia's shore.  
Since then, we've worked  
And forged the land  
And bent it to our wills.  
We've discovered wealths of treasure  
Buried deep beneath its hills.  
We've created massive cities,  
Universities and schools,  
And gambling casinos  
For money-hungry fools.  
We've established country townships  
Where none had been before.  
Which the young lads left forever  
on their one-way march to war.  
In this hundred years we've learned to fly  
And put man on the moon.  
While homeless kids with needles  
Mix their poisons in a spoon.  
With our mobile phones and e-mail  
We communicate world wide.  
Yet the ones we need to talk to most  
Are right here at our side.  
Compared to those who shared this land  
A hundred years before,  
We have so much. Our health. Our wealth.  
Yet, still, the cry is "More!"  
But more of what? More money? Work?  
More struggle? Stress? Beware!  
Hold those you love. And cherish them.  
And take the time to care.

*Arthur Jackson*  
Robertson. 19. 12. 99.

## Waters Store



Dry Cleaning Service

Get Ready for Winter.

3 Basic Pieces of Clothing  
drycleaned for \$16.50

Phone 4885 1248

### Robertson Business Association Notes

#### New Brochure

The new edition of the successful Robertson Brochure will soon go to the printers. A good response from local traders will ensure a bigger print-run, and so a wider distribution, than last time. The first edition has helped to put our village - and beautiful district - on the tourist map. The second edition is just as important, to keep it there. Thanks for the offers of help with distribution. More offers are welcome.

#### TV, TV, TV

The RBA is hatching plans for a major regional TV advertising campaign, designed to put this powerful medium within the reach of many local traders who haven't been able to afford TV before. More details at the next RBA General Meeting and, hopefully, Robertson on TV later in the year.

#### Membership

Membership continues to grow, with most local retail businesses now members. We also welcome the Robertson Guild as a group member.

#### Next General Meeting

Tuesday 11th April at the Community Centre at 6pm.  
(NB Meeting is shown a week early on the Robertson Calendar. 11th April is the correct date.)



For good sound rural advice call the  
locals, Phillip or John. 4885 1040

## REPS News

The next meeting will include an address to REPS and Landcare Groups, at the Robertson Community Centre, in Caalong Street

"What's the Problem with Willows" is the title of the talk to be given at 7.30pm on Friday 14 April, by Kurt Cremer, an honorary research fellow with the CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products.

The talk will have a practical bias, illustrated with examples of the varieties of willow encountered in our area and the problems which some species may cause. Kurt reports that there is a growing concern about willows going feral and spreading not only by broken branches rooting and by layering, but also by the sometimes explosive spread by seeding. The collapse of the Wingecarribee Swamp in 1998 has provided an ideal seedbed for willow propagation, with current estimates of over 100 000 pussy willow seedlings already established. Since seed can be dispersed from sources up to 10km away, adjacent landholders are also involved in willow control programmes.

Come along and learn all about it and find out how to identify the different kinds of willow.

All welcome, discussion encouraged, refreshments provided.

For more information contact David Tranter: 4895 1394.

At our working bee on 19 February, dead wood was removed from Caalang Creek, and some remaining environmental weeds (mostly willow regrowth and privet) were cut and poisoned. The last plantings of trees and Grevillea are now well established and the park provides an attractive area for a quiet stroll by the creek, or a picnic on the slopes.

Only 5 people turned up for our Clean-up Australia Day effort (well, it was the morning after the show, and wet too). However we gathered 11 sacks full of rubbish from the sides of the Highway, east of the village and the area around the Community Centre. Most of the rubbish was plastic bottles and food containers, from the south side of the Highway - why is this? Have people heard that Robertson is a Tidy Town, so they clear up their cars before they arrive? Or do the drivers leaving town fling *their* rubbish across to the other side of the road? One of life's little mysteries!

Diary Note: Helen George is scheduled to talk about Echidnas at our meeting on June 9th.



## New members, please, for the Robertson Guild.

In a few weeks time the third Robertson Guild Exhibition will be held in the Foyer Gallery of the Council Chambers at Moss Vale.

These exhibitions are consistently of an exceptionally high quality, both in terms of content and presentation. They bring together a wide and varied range of excellent examples of the crafts, arts and talents of all of the members of the Robertson Guild who, as the name implies, live and work in Robertson, creating all of their finished articles from Australian source materials.

The brilliant idea of the Robertson Guild first came from its President, Neil Atkins, almost three years ago. Since that time it has been significantly instrumental in lifting the image of Robertson and in establishing our village, in the eye of the general public, as a centre of excellence for quality work and unique creative talent.

There is much more that the Guild can do, particularly in the area of encouraging younger people to develop their talents and skills and to lead more fulfilling lives. But, to do this, we need more enthusiastic and willing members.

If you're interested, please phone the Guild secretary,

Arthur Jackson, on 4885 1686.



### Collecting Coastal Ships

The end of the age of coastal steamers was a sad day for Australia's nautical heritage.



No-one could afford to save the ships themselves, but collecting mementoes from them HAS become very popular. At Robertson Recollections we currently have a small collection of silver-plated crested egg-cups from some of these ships - romantic names like the **Manoora** - **Kanimbla** and **Westralia**. Souvenirs, perhaps, of some traveller's breakfasts on board?

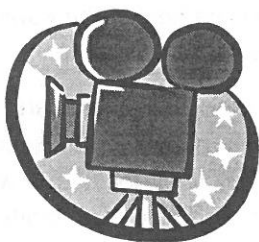
We also have a painting of a Mystery Ship - a small coastal trader buffeting through the waves. Is it Australian? We can't tell, but perhaps you can? Come in and have a look. You're always welcome to browse at...

### Robertson Recollections

26 Hoddle St Open 6 days (Closed Wed)

## Burrawang Film Evenings.

By the time that this goes to press, the first presentation of films by the committee of the Burrawang School of Arts will have been held with the screening of 'Kind Hearts and Coronets', on march 31st.



This is a new and exciting venture and comes as the result of a recent questionnaire sent to all residents in the Burrawang area asking them what sorts of activities they would like to see held there. Film nights and Arts & Crafts exhibitions topped the list. The film nights have begun and the first of the annual Arts & Crafts exhibitions is scheduled for early September.

Oh, and by the way, they're staging a local version of the pantomime favourite, 'Cinderella', in July. Watch this space for further details.

## School of Arts

Because of Easter, the Old Time family Dance will not be held on Friday 21st of April (Good Friday), but back to normal on the 3rd Friday in May.



Markets are held every 2nd Sunday of every month.

All members of the community are welcome to attend the School of Arts meetings on the 4th Monday of the month.

## Garden Club

The Robertson Garden Club meets in the Community Centre, Caalang St on the 1st Monday of each month at 1.30pm. If you need advice on plants and gardening, this is the place to be.

For enquiries ring 4885 1210.

## Classes for Year 2000

Day, Evening & Weekend Classes

- \* Porcelain Dolls
- \* Ceramics
- \* Teddy Bears

Classes Limited !!! Book Now !!!

"WHIMSIES

&

WHATNOTS

Contact - Debi Gronow



86 Hoddle St  
Robertson  
Ph/Fax 4885 1868

## Robertson Playgroup

For children aged 0-6 yrs;  
their parents/carers.

We meet

Mondays 10.00am-12 noon.

At the Community Centre,  
Caalang St.

Bring a piece of fruit, enjoy a cuppa.

Craft activities & lots of fun.



## Nathan's Recipe of the Month

Winning Recipe

Lamb and Bean Casserole.

This recipe takes the best part of 24 hours, but only involves five minutes of actual preparation time.

Soak three or four cups of haricot beans overnight. Late the next morning, drain the beans and spread them in the bottom of a large, heavy casserole. Place a shoulder of lamb on top of the beans. Add a couple of sprigs of fresh rosemary, a small jar of tomato paste, some crushed cloves of garlic, a tin of anchovies, some black olives and plenty of freshly ground black pepper. Then pour in enough dry white wine to just cover the lamb. If the lamb still isn't covered, add water or beef stock. (You could also use half beef stock and half dry white vermouth.) Put the lid on the casserole and whack it in a preheated oven on low (100 - 120°) for about six hours. Towards the end of the cooking, check to make sure it hasn't dried out. The meat will simply lift off the bones, which can be discarded along with the rosemary sprigs. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve with a green salad, and some crusty bread if you're really hungry. Serves four or five people.

N.B. Dinner guests will inevitably want this recipe. On no account give it to them, because then you'd have to admit that it only took you five minutes. Just look vaguely mystical and mutter something about a lifetime's experience in the kitchen.

Andrew Ford

If you would like to submit your favourite meat recipe for publication in the next issue of the Newsletter, drop it in to Nathan by 15th May. Winning recipe will receive one of Nathan's minted legs of lamb.

With the compliments of  
Robertson Highland Butchery  
7.30am - 5.00pm Mon - Fri, Sat till 12noon  
34 Hoddle St - Phone 4885 1215  
Free Home Deliveries.

## Robertson Bowling Club

Coming Entertainment:  
8.00pm - Midnight.

15th April - Karaoke

~~29th~~ 15th April - Singer - Col Thomson  
(50's & 60's Music & Country)

13th May - Band "W. W. What"

## Spring Flowering Bulbs in Robertson.



April is the ideal time to plant bulbs for a fantastic spring display. Although bulbs are available to buy from February it is best to wait until the soil is cooling down before planting into the garden. Before you plant, feed the soil with some old manure or a well balanced fertiliser or bulb food.

Most bulbs will do best in full sun or dappled shade, not full shade. Plant your bulbs and water well. In a normal Robertson season little further watering should be needed.

By choosing a variety of bulbs you can spread the flowering time from mid winter to late spring. Jonquils will flower first and all varieties are excellent for naturalising in Robertson gardens. Daffodils will flower from August to October depending on the type. Tulips, Freesias, Hyacinths and Dutch Iris all flower in turn to ensure that Spring will be worth the wait.

When the leaves first appear sprinkle around more fertiliser and don't forget to let the leaves die down after the flowers have faded. This is when the bulbs are making next year's flowers and special care will be rewarded with big healthy flowers for years to come.

Bulbs are simple to grow, beautiful to look at and give us a real feeling of the changing of the seasons - certainly worth a place in your garden.

### Robertson Village Nursery

Jill & Lindon Keft  
Phone 4885 1138

## Church Service Times

### Anglican

St John's Robertson

8.00am Traditional Services - 2nd Sunday - Communion  
4th Sunday - Morning Prayer

9.30am Family Service & Sunday School - Every Sunday

7.00pm 1st & 3rd Sundays - Informal Service

St David's Burrawang

8.00am - 1st Sunday (NEW)

### Presbyterian, Burrawang

2.00pm - 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

### Uniting, Robertson

9.00am - 2nd & 4th Sundays

### Roman Catholic

Robertson

10.00am - 2nd & 4th Sundays

Burrawang

10.00am - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

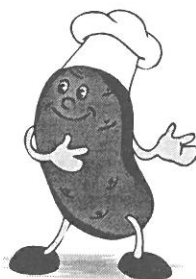
## Robertson Potatoes

Freshly Dug - Locally Grown

Available from

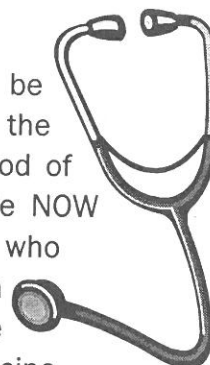
R. J. Mackey Real Estate  
Open 7 days a week.

Phone 02 4885 1329



## Medical Notes

Although the weather may still be warm, winter is just around the corner - and so is the likelihood of flu. Free vaccines are available NOW for those over 65. Older people who are asthmatic and/or have a chronic lung condition, are strongly advised to have the vaccine.



Robertson Medical Practice  
Hoddle St, Robertson  
4885 1502



**Building Supplies**  
31 Hoddle Street  
Robertson 2577



Watch out for our special **Mother's Day Morning Tea and Mother's Day Promotion**  
Winter Catalogue out soon!

Phone 4885 1033 Fax 4885 1094

**Robertson Spinners**



Community Centre  
Caalong St, Robertson

Every Monday Night  
(Excluding Public and school Holidays)

7.00pm - 10.00pm

Spinning, Knitting, Crochet, Dying wool & other fibres, all sorts of workshops, wheels for hire.

Phone R. Leeder 4885 1452  
E. Potters 4885 1547

**To Let**

**Robertson**

5 bedroom House,  
Gas heating/woodfire — \$185 p.w.

**Fitzroy Falls**

3 /4 Bedroom House,  
Approx 1 acre, 4 car garage - \$220pw



**R J MACKEY Real Estate**  
Robertson Phone 4885 1329



During March, local churches joined together for a number of dinners as a prelude to Harvest 2000. At the Women's Dinner Robyn Claydon spoke on "What on earth is God doing?". The Men's Dinner featured an interview with Darren Beadman, Australia's former No 1 jockey and dual Melbourne Cup winner and Darren shared how he came to follow Christ.

The main Harvest 2000 Crusade, with American evangelist Geg Laurie, is to take place from the 25th-28th May in the Wollongong Entertainment Centre.

Ask at your local church for details or look for the invitation posters or leaflets that will appear closer to the event.

**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 \$30. (Discount of \$5 for members of Robertson Business Association) Each insertion is limited to a maximum 90 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 Micki Boehme at Robertson Recollections. Thank you for your support.

**Deadline**

The next issue will be distributed in the first weeks of June. All advertising & submissions must be received by **15th May 2000**. Forward correspondence to: **Robertson Newsletter, 64 Hoddle St, Robertson 2577**. Phone: 4885 1210 or Fax: 4885 2241 Email: [bjlee@tpg.com.au](mailto:bjlee@tpg.com.au)

**Disclaimer**

This newsletter is an independent publication under the auspices of The Robertson Business Association. The ideas presented are not necessarily those of the editors nor of the Association. 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 Editors 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