

Robertson News

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Pool and Spa—part of proposed development for The Robertson Hotel *Image supplied*

A New Chapter for The Robertson Hotel Planned

Plans submitted to Council include an indoor swimming pool and hot spas reminiscent of a European resort, which will be open year-round for both guests and locals to enjoy at their leisure. The development would also offer the potential for the generation of many new local job opportunities.

The Robertson Hotel and its beautiful gardens is getting set for its next chapter, with an application to council for extensions and additions, as well as a dedication to saving and restoring the heritage building for the enjoyment of both locals and visitors

alike. Upon purchasing the magnificent property some five years ago, hotelier Con Kotis gave it an initial refurbishment and transformation. Wooden floors were lovingly restored, plush blue velvet drapes now frame the floor to ceiling windows and common areas are beautifully furnished with luxurious lounge suites and armchairs.

As for the accommodations, each room, no matter what its size, boasts a hand-carved King or Queen bed with a mattress of unrivalled comfort, marble bedside lamps and bathrooms with the original mosaic tiles restored.

With its many over-sized open fires, Gatsby-style bar, sprawling gardens and even its very own train station, The Robertson is indeed like stepping into another era. One where style, comfort and relaxation were always top priority.

The Robertson Hotel has been a part of a number of movie productions including *Babe* and the Disney Production *Riptide* and provided accommodation for the crew of *Peter Rabbit*.

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Things Are Back to Normal in Robertson When..

How would you complete this sentence?

At the time of *Robertson News* going to press, the COVID19 situation is looking a little worrying again—particularly in Victoria, but also with some small outbreaks in NSW. But let's hope it can be kept under control if we keep up the basics especially physical distancing and good hand hygiene. Masks are now also being recommended in some circumstances (the Robertson Doctor has just announced that all patients visiting the surgery will need to wear masks).

You can find the latest information on restrictions on the NSW Government website at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19 The basic rules for keeping the community safe are summarised on that site as -

- stick to the rules about visiting other households, self-isolation and quarantine
- practise good hand hygiene and physical distancing
- take extra care if you're around vulnerable people
- get tested if you have any symptoms and stay home while you are waiting for test results.

Businesses are also required to prepare and submit a COVID Safe Business Plan. Many businesses are now required to keep contact lists and to ask a standard series of questions to all visitors.

There is also information about face masks on the site. The NSW Government is currently recommending that you wear a mask when physical distancing can't be guaranteed, if you have symptoms and are seeking medical advice, or if you are in isolation in the same room as another person. However, a mask is not a substitute for other precautions. Find out more about face masks including types of masks and how to wear a mask safely at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/face-masks.

But in the meantime, it is great to see more and more things returning to normal in Robertson.

- Football on the oval
- Pizzas in the Mist open again
- Robertson CTC opening on 30 July (further details page 11)
- **Robertson Markets returning 9 August** (fingers crossed!)
- The Robertson Hotel café open—see p1
- BookNook2577 open—see p7
- Yoga courses starting again—see p9
- Church services back face to face—see p6
- Moonacres Cooking School has opened
- And of course being able to sit at a table and have coffee or a meal again at our cafes, club and the pub—still with some restrictions of course
- And shopping or exhibition viewing at the Cheese Factory Emporium, Arts Thesaurus and The SHAC to name a few

And let's take the time to thank all the essential service businesses who have remained open the whole time and taken steps to keep us all safe.

Unfortunately the Old Time Dances at the School of Arts are not yet able to start and the Garden Club had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Open Gardens this year (see p4). So we have a way to go yet before we can reinstate the Events Calendar but still plenty of lovely ways to enjoy Robertson!

Contribution Guidelines

The submission deadline for the October 2020 edition is September 15 2020. Please submit all articles and event notices to editor@robertsonctc.org.au.

All submissions, advertising and payments must be received by this date to ensure inclusion. Any material received after this date will be held over for the next issue. Submissions may be modified at the editor's discretion.

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Robertson Men's Shed Becomes a Reality!

By Ted Smith, on behalf of RMSI

After an arduous 3 year journey of planning, approvals and raising funds, the construction of the Robertson Men's Shed (behind the Robertson CTC) is finally surging ahead.

This exciting facility will be a mecca for both men and women with modern amenities and will be fully equipped to undertake local community projects and cater for individual interests. The relaxed and friendly environment of the RMSI is intended to be a social meeting place to make acquaintances, learn new skills and be part of an enthusiastic group. In the interim as restrictions are eased we will be encouraging new membership.

President John Kennis (who is over the moon) says that "The new RMSI shed is powering along. All frames and roof trusses have been installed, roof covering completed and we will have lockup by the end of July [*lock up has now been reached—Ed.*]. The frames were manufactured by Austruss from Braemar. The CEO and owner of Austruss, Andrew Fowler, has provided an amazing structure for the RMSI. I couldn't be more proud of what Austruss has provided, the generosity and sincerity of the company to provide the frames at a substantially reduced cost shows the company's commitment to assisting community not for profit organisations so they can thrive. Their frames and trusses are exceptionally well built and I am sure there is no chance that we will have any structural issues.

Jesse Mauger, one of our local builders in Robertson, is erecting the structure, installing the roof covering and cladding the building. I thank Jesse and his team for the great work they are doing on our shed. We are very privileged to have such great people in the Southern Highlands.



Men's Shed turning from dream to reality. *Picture supplied*

The completion of the shed is on track for December. Once locked up, our electrician, Robert Handley, our plumber Joe Fishburn and Simmark will all do their rough in prior to lining."

See the latest at www.facebook.com/Robertsonmensshedinc/



Inside the structure of the workshop *Picture supplied*

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Debate Continues on Local Housing Strategy Decisions

By Larry Whipper

At the Council meeting of 24 June, Council made several recommendations that will have significant long-term effects on the Shire. Depending on your values and expectations and if a landowner or developer, wishing to realise financial gains, these decisions could be interpreted variously. Most of us would either willingly or accordingly to our personal philosophy agree that growth is inevitable and that we should be prepared to accept it to some degree.

Rational logic, coupled with the Shires strategic planning expectations as encapsulated in our 2030 vision statements, would or should acknowledge that our towns, villages, and hamlets are separate entities and have different planning visions and imperatives. Personally, I believe that is not only short sighted, but very regrettable that some individuals, interest groups and speculators cannot understand the district differences nor the intrinsic values of each. Having lived in a small village on the outskirts of South West Sydney, I witnessed firsthand how economic imperatives often outweigh the social and psychological wellbeing and "quality of life" for many people.

This insidious and incremental loss is generally achieved by way of the unproven promises of jobs, growth, and sustainability, which ultimately becomes nothing more than growth and an endless and unsatisfied circle of growth chasing more promises of jobs and growth. In time the vision of life that has been promised morphs into something far different. Hamlets become villages and village become towns and towns become cities and communities become distant and impersonal.

I do not believe that Councils planning decision fully reflects or respects the expectations of people who chose quality of life of quantity. On three occasions I attempted to slow this process down to allow the public to have more informed involvement and consideration of these development proposals. Even the fact that Covid-19 has impacted upon the community's ability to engage in meaningful consultation through out the process was not enough to secure an extension and engagement.

Ultimately these attempts were not only shut down, by State Government, but more disappointingly by most fellow Councillors. Interestingly most of these do not live in a village, nor seemingly appreciate the uniqueness of places like Robertson. Even a last minute attempt by myself to provide a breathing space for people to consider in more detail the proposal to expand the boundary of the Robertson Village and allow resident to be consulted at a future time was dismissed outright. I would like to cite for information in relation to debate on the Robertson proposal. Even though opportunity was not provided in my opinion for full and honest involvement, a total of 35 residents provided submissions. Of these 32 related to the proposed new land release area in North East Robertson. Of those 32 submissions only 8 supported the proposal. Seven (7) submissions opposed any new development arguing that the village is already sustainable and does not need of any additional development/population to support the viability of the commercial area. Seventeen (17) submissions opposed the new living area as it was located outside the traditional village mile. When it was suggested that the new living area be removed or put on hold pending further residents' consultation, one Councillor argued that the new area should be released now. His reasoning was that the community had already been consulted.

This certainly is an arrogant, dismissive, and strange logic, particularly when only 25% of the submissions supported the new release area. Based on this attitude it seems some elected representatives are prepared to consult, but not to listen! As a locally elected representative of this Shire for 20 years and a resident of Robertson for 30 years, I am somewhat disappointed that a full process of consultation has been denied to people of the shire and the village.

That disappointment has been further experienced by the fact that the very next day the outcome of Council resolution had been uploaded to the Department of Planning's website, thus removing the opportunity by Councillors to submit a rescission motion and allow the motion to be re-evaluated and re-debated. In 20 years of public service on Council, I have not really witnessed the enactment of a resolution performed with such haste and in effect neutralising the opportunity of its elected members the right of procedural fairness. My question is why? So, the dye is cast. Time will tell if we will win or lose in these games people play?

2020 Robertson Open Gardens Cancelled By Karen Wilmott, Robertson Garden Club

Due to the unpredictability of these COVID19 times, Robertson Garden Club is sorry to announce that there will be no Open Gardens event this October. This decision has not been taken lightly and by the end of June, we believed that we were on track to host this much-anticipated event. However, recent developments have shown that restrictions to social activity can change rapidly and with little warning and a decision needed to be made. The waratahs will still bloom at The Common and the Cherry Trees down the main street will still put on a free display. Enjoy Spring in your own gardens and look forward to a different world in 2021.

From the Council Agenda

Full details of Council agenda items and minutes can be found on Council's website at

www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/2020-council-meeting-agendas-and-minutes

The site is updated every Friday and it's always worth having a quick scan through what is coming up. *Hint: download the minutes or agenda as a pdf document then click on Edit then Find, and type in Robertson to search for anywhere Robertson is mentioned.*

A recommendation from the Traffic Committee that **Burrawang Lane from Meryla Street to Main Street** be converted to one-way with No Parking signage installed on both sides of the Lane was recently endorsed. The direction of flow will be from Main Street to Meryla Street.

Council has been developing a combined economic development and tourism strategy to provide a blueprint to achieve the 2031 vision for the Wingecarribee economy over the next 10 years. This involves a whole of destination approach, positioning the Shire as an attractive investment destination - a place to live, work, learn, play and visit. Your comments are now sought on the **draft Southern Highlands Destination Plan 2020-2030**. You can have a look at the draft and make comments at www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/destinationplan

Council Connections by Larry Whipper

For this edition, Cllr Larry Whipper has also submitted this summary of some items relating to Robertson recently considered by Council.

I was approached recently by Ange Clarke to assist with identifying a possible site for a **Community Garden**. Initially I made enquiries through both Council and The Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council. A block of land was identified in Meryla Street which is Council owned land. On behalf of Robertson Community Garden incorporated, I have made successful representations to Council for consideration of the proposal, which I fully support.

The report was considered at the meeting of the 8th of July. The Recommendation to consider a 5-year Lease with Robertson Community Garden Incorporated was endorsed. A 28-day public notice will be given and after this Council will be in a position to formally endorse the lease based on public submissions. There is no doubt that this project will enhance social inclusion and cohesion within the village and provide another opportunity for our village to shine as a gem within our shire. Thank you to Ange and the Robertson Community Garden Committee for this initiative and providing me with the opportunity to assist.

Community Grants were also considered at the meeting of the 8th July. As a member of the Community Assistance Scheme Committee. it is always a pleasure to be able to make considerations of worthy projects which benefit the cultural, social, recreational and environmental well-being of our shire. There were some worthy "big ticket" projects approved this year and I am glad to say Robertson was well represented in the application and selection process this year. Successful Robertson projects were —Robertson Men's Shed \$2,100 (First Aid Courses), Robertson Environment Protection Society \$5,500 (2nd ed of the *Yarrawa Brush*), CTC@Robertson \$1,700 (replacement of tables), The SHAC \$5,000 (SHAC and Robertson village arts destination promotion).

There has been some FB angst arising around the condition and loss of access to the **bridge in Hampden Park**. I agree that it has been closed for far too long. I have made several representations and have been told that funding for the new foot bridge has been identified in this year's budget. At this stage design plans are being drawn up and works should be completed by the end of this year. Obviously, I am in contact with Parks and Garden team and am advocating for an earlier opening date. I will keep you informed of progress.

As long-term resident of Robertson and a Local Councillor working for the village for 20 years. I am always here to help. If you have any issues with Council I may be able assist please let me know. Larry.Whipper@wsc.nsw.gov.au 0407932922 .

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St John's Church Robertson at Sunset, *Picture supplied*

times, then contact the church office and we'd love to chat to you or come along and join us on a Sunday, everyone's welcome.

SERVICE DETAILS

Currently we are meeting in person at 8am (1st and 4th Sunday of the month), 10am weekly, 6pm weekly and at 4.30pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month at St David's Burrawang. We are following strict COVID safety measures and social distancing requirements.

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Corroboree Frog



By Michael Breen

You were in the snow grass; not your usual world,
 Perhaps you moved to flee the heat of my campfire,
 As I tried to pick you up, you burrowed down
 I followed and held you in my hand.

My heart filled with admiration of your form
 Your shiny wetsuit striped in glistening gold
 Or like some animated liquorice allsort
 With ripples of black separating yellow stripes.

Your firm little body trembled on my hand
 You could not sense the love and care I felt for you
 Survivor of the snow, descendant of other survivors
 Whose peers were flattened by some hoof.

Generations of your relatives were rubbed out
 By feet of stockmen's horses as they drank
 Or feet of his stock who slaked their thirst
 From your public house pond.

Then all at once you leapt and landed in my mug of tea.
 So tragic, so idiotic a fall to land beside a lowly teabag.
 Horrified I saw you stiffly spread-outstretched limbs
 Frozen in your last pose, your wide mouth screaming,
 silently.

"Maybe he's not dead", my friend suggested.
 But you were; you are except in these poor lines
 I flung you out of my sight, like a murderer
 Disposing of his handiwork.

Had you not been so rare, so beautiful you would have lived
 We humans ruin celebrities and those of talent
 Professional musicians and poets drown in the drink of admirers
 The radiant are quenched by the cold demands on their rare fires.

Face to Face Church Services are Back

By Graham Thomas, Minister, Robertson/Burrawang Anglican Church

As many of you know, we are back to meeting face to face on a Sunday. As a church, we're really thankful that we have a big enough building to ensure enough social distancing and the safety of whoever walks in the door. So please know that you are always welcome to join in one of our services.

However, to make this happen (meeting at the church again), my goodness, there's been some rules we needed to follow! All for good reason mind you, but at times complicated and changing by the day.

As a Christian, it feels quite strange talking about rules and restrictions and safety plans at church, because at the heart of Jesus' message to humanity is quite the opposite. That is, we are not made safe with God through keeping to the rules, we are made safe with God by grace. That is, God's love for us despite our brokenness and disobedience.

Here's how one part of the Bible speaks of this rules or grace message:

⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*
⁹ *not by works (or rules), so that no one can boast*
 (Ephesians 2:8-9).

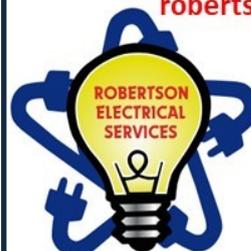
I guess that why Jesus called the message "good news." Knowing God is not about keeping the rules, none of us can get that right, it's about trusting in the gift of God's grace.

If you'd like to talk to someone about this or think a bit more about what God says to us in these strange

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New Contemporary Art Space Opens in Robertson

By Stephanie Têtu, Artist, Curator and Owner



Bondidusk by Têtu

Galerie Têtu, a brand new contemporary art space, has recently opened within The SHAC art complex at 74-76 Hoddle Street. Showcasing local, interstate and international artists, our aim is to enrich the art culture flourishing in our region by offering a curated collection for the astute collector and art lover alike

We are open Friday-Monday 10am-4pm or by appointment on 0407683739. Come and visit us! Find out more at www.galerietetu.com.au

Return to Nature at The SHAC

A new exhibition by Penny Simons opens at The SHAC Gallery in Robertson on 31 July and will continue through August. Penny Simons is a Maker/Sculpture/Weaver living and working in the Southern Highlands. Penny has a studio at The SHAC. Previously Penny was one of the founding partners of "Cloth" a bespoke textile business started in Sydney in the 1990's. However for the last 8 years Penny has been working as an artist. Penny's current works blend the eclectic disciplines of weaving, horticulture, design, art and craft. Penny sculpts as a "rural artisan", resurrecting the age old traditions of whittling, weaving, foraging,

and resourcefulness through her work. Thus her works are created from materials sourced in the local countryside and resonate with the age old spiritual and healing qualities present in our natural world. These themes, are the underlying inspiration for Penny's solo exhibition: "Return to Nature".

The exhibition can also be viewed online at www.theshac.com.au/penny-simons-nature

Tour de France coming to Robertson

Well almost...*L'Étape Australia* is the only official Tour de France event in Australia. It is open to riders of all abilities and provides cyclist with the closest experience to riding in the Tour de France an amateur can have. At the front of the main peloton, there is an official National Road Series race sanctioned by Cycling Australia. The best cyclists in the country will come to Kiama, the Shoalhaven and the Southern Highlands to compete in L'Étape Australia. It will take place on Friday 27 (the Race) and Saturday 28 November (the Ride) 2020. Both events will pass through or near Robertson. The event will generate a lot of visitors so there may be opportunities to promote Robertson. There will be some road closures on Saturday 28 (but not on Friday 27). To find out more and register for regular updates go to letapeaustralia.com/ The event organisers are keen to engage with local communities.

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Glenora Farm Continues as a Working Family Farm

Newcomers, James and Kylie Fitzpatrick are embarking on establishing their keystone agricultural hay and silage operation, since purchasing local property, *Glenora Farm* in mid 2019. *Glenora Farm*, located on the Illawarra Highway at Avoca was previously owned by local multi-generational farmers, the Hayes family, who conducted a dairy operation for decades. “*Glenora* has a lot of history and a lot of heart” says Kylie, as she describes how the Fitzpatrick family were attracted to *Glenora* for its landscape and its potential to continue as a working family farm.



The Fitzpatrick family are enjoying life at *Glenora Farm* Picture supplied

Choice of lifestyle were paramount in their decision to purchase a farm. James and Kylie jointly agree they selected the Southern Highlands region for its natural beauty, local community spirit and family friendly potential. As James explains “I wanted my family to experience the fruits of rural living every day”. The family has been enjoying meeting the friendly locals and sourcing locally grown produce which reinforces to them just how much the Southern Highlands has to offer.

The 280 acre property, is currently producing wrapped silage bales. James says, “ I selected the region for its rich soil type and good moisture levels, which are the ideal environment for silage production”. The husband and wife team, who often spend long days working on the farm, attribute a lot of their operation to “family values and hard work” comments Kylie. Preparation of the soil has been a huge focus for the farm, as well as the effective transition between cropping cycles, “taking your time to get things right is important, patience is a virtue in farming” says James.

After originating from a dairy farm himself, James is

ardently passionate about the benefits of fodder and the correlation to the health and wellbeing of cattle and livestock, saying “good quality feed should be paramount in any agricultural operation”. Since working in multiple silage seasons in his lifetime, he is utilising his first-hand experience as he engineers and oversees the entire process. He feels enthusiastic on the day they cut the crop and bale the silage product, as this is important in “preserving the correct levels of moisture, energy and protein”.

At *Glenora Farm* the first couple of seasons produced rye and sorghum silage and reported good yields. Customers were also given the options to buy silage off the field or at various times in wrapped bales. Working with a local agronomist and various nutritionists, the Fitzpatrick family have been developing and sowing varieties which best suit the local market. They are also focusing on continuing to maximise produce quality, whilst enjoying the rural environment and their new home in the Highlands.

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....contd from p1

A New Chapter Planned for The Robertson Hotel

The Next Chapter

While bringing the original building back to its grandeur of 100 years ago, there is a need to expand and diversify the accommodation to cater for an increasing number of both corporate and private guests who want modern luxuries. There is an ever increasing demand for weddings, events and functions who use our venue and at other venues which we can provide accommodate for.

"We are receiving more and more requests each week for people to hold not just exclusive private functions, but for corporate events and team building retreats, utilising The Robertson as well as the many and varied businesses that surround the unique property. However while catering for these exclusive functions we still want to remain open to the public.

"Our pitch to Council, and our plans for our next phase, are to seamlessly extend the original building with a modern wing. We see it as complementing the heritage manor and gardens, as well as sitting unobtrusively amongst the existing architecture. It will retain its heritage feel, have a feeling of modernity but at the same time give the effect of 'being at one' with the rainforest and gardens. Everyone sees the true potential of the hotel, but it has never quite achieved that expectation. We hope if the works are approved we can celebrate its 100 year birthday and leave a lasting legacy the town and the Highlands can be proud of for several generations to come."

Outdoor Attractions

"If our bid is successful, we also intend on building family-friendly eco cabins and villas which will offer a range of varying hotel accommodation," adds Con. "These will be set in amongst the rainforest and will be an ideal escape for families wishing to 'get back to nature' while still being spoilt and well catered to by our highly trained staff.

"Our conference centre will sit in the middle of a stunning outdoor plaza overlooking the escarpment.

We will also boast an amphitheatre surrounded by tall trees and theatre, as well as an indoor swimming pool and hot spas reminiscent of a European resort, which will be open year-round for both guests and locals to enjoy at their leisure.

Long Awaited Pool And Spa

"The pool has been something that the locals of Robertson have wanted for decades now," says Con. "Unfortunately, for logistical reasons it hasn't yet come to fruition. However, what we intend to create – if and when our submission is approved - is a professionally operated and maintained swimming and health attraction that is accessible to all who live in the region, as well as much welcomed visitors."

Employment Plus

The Hotel and its proposed new development will, if approved, also offer a great deal of employment for locals, both in full-time and part-time capacities. "Currently, we employ about 15 people, in both part-time and full-time roles. It is possible the Hotel, on completion, could provide between 100-200 full-time and part-time jobs for locals and during construction, many more."

Artist In Residence

Set behind the hotel, beneath a canopy of trees and a carpet of ferns and natives, is an existing cottage that will be refurbished into a stunning artist's studio.

The Petting Zoo

Our guests love strolling around the gardens and being amongst the trees. We have some animals now and for many of our younger visitors getting up close with the animals is special. "It has always been a dream of ours to have a petting zoo for the hotel," explains Con. "Being one of the original locations for the cult movie *Babe*, we thought it would be a wonderful way of honouring both the region and movie's history, as well as giving some animals a really beautiful home!"

Plans have been submitted to Wingecarribee Shire Council. For further information, or even a private tour of the proposal, contact The Robertson Hotel on info@therobertsonhotel.com



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'Health is the greatest possession' Lao Tzu

A Dog's Purpose

Little Chihuahua cross Lulu won the hearts of many during her time in Robertson. She came to Robertson in 2013. Sadly Lulu lost her battle with illness earlier this year aged around 16 years. This is her story – a dog with many purposes in life – as told by Gary Norwell and Julie Wise.

Gary had been a widower for 7 years when in around 2010 his grandson visited his house in Wollongong and suggested he should get a dog. He



was sceptical. After all, a dog could not replace a person. However, he was persuaded to contact the Unanderra RSPCA animal shelter. He had recently dog minded a very cute little

Chihuahua for a friend and was impressed by his intelligence and affectionate nature. He told the RSPCA person about his wish for a Chihuahua cross, and the shelter contacted him within a week saying that they had a suitable candidate for adoption.

The RSPCA was bound by confidentiality rules but he was able to ascertain that Lulu, “the dog of his dreams”, had come from the Nowra Shoalhaven region. Lulu was in very good condition, about 6 years old and had not been desexed. Judging by her condition it was thought she might have had at least one litter of pups at some time. A hysterectomy was done and her vaccinations were given by the RSPCA. For Gary at least it was love at first sight. He was attempting to lose weight, and took her home and commenced walking the hills around his house with her twice a day. Gary discovered very quickly that she was a good walker and that she attracted many interested people who wanted to have a conversation about her. This was good for him as he was losing weight from the exercise and meeting lots of neighbours and dog lovers which helped him as he had been somewhat isolated in his widowhood pre Lulu.

Apart from an early near death experience involving a bowl of chocolate macadamias, several contented years passed with Lulu and “Proud Master”. They

coexisted very happily. Alas man cannot live by dog alone and Gary met his future wife. There by hangs a tale. On his second date with his future wife he discovered that she owned a feisty Jack Russell and a spirited Border Terrier. Attempts to blend the family of dogs and humans failed miserably, culminating in a huge dog fight between his future wife’s dogs and Lulu. Lulu came off badly and required veterinary treatment. Next a dog psychologist was engaged who introduced Lulu and her nemeses on neutral ground. This went well for a while but it was necessary to keep Lulu separated from the other dogs, during the courtship of his intended. With a heavy heart Gary came to the realisation that the dogs would never accept each other.

A friend told Gary that there was a man in Robertson who lived alone who was looking for a rescue dog. Enter Denis Wilson he was a bit of a legend in the village and reminded Gary of a character from a BBC Children’s show called Catweazle. He was a lovable old fellow at first sight and he immediately fell for Lulu and the match was settled. Gary was wracked with guilt at giving up Lulu, but it worked out well and Denis and Lulu were regularly sighted around the village café scene (there is even a plaque at Moonacres Café for Denis and Lulu) and at social gatherings. They were inseparable and proved to be a great combination. Lulu and Denis captured the hearts of many Robertson residents.

All was well for a couple of years until Denis became seriously ill and sadly, passed away. Before he died he arranged for yet another adoption for Lulu. Enter the dog lover and local identity Julie who immediately fell for Lulu. Julie said that it was important for Denis to know before he passed that Lulu would be well cared for. He knew that Julie and Lulu had a special connection so he asked if she would look after her. She came to live with Julie and her husband before Denis passed away and she would take her to visit him every day. Julie said Lulu fitted in with their menagerie (Staffies and cats) very well, but occasionally she gave the cats some gip when needed!

As time went on Lulu developed some serious ailments which meant numerous visits to the vet for treatment, but her stoic little personality and Julie’s love helped her battle on. Eventually her battle was lost and she was given her wings to come home to rest. She was much loved and Julie and her husband still miss her very much. In fact, Julie still has Lulu as the screenshot on her phone.

Lulu was a special dog, with a special purpose in life, who gave love and brought joy to the hearts of all who knew her.

[Photo of Lulu supplied by Julie Wise]

Robertson Community Technology Centre

by Karen Mewes CTC@Robertson Manager

We are very excited at the CTC to be reopening with refurbished kitchen and café area and freshly painted building thanks to the State Government Stronger Country Communities Fund and a ClubGrants Category 3 Infrastructure grant. Plus a lot of thanks to The Robertson Men's Shed and our team of volunteers have put in a lot of work to get the place looking good. How would we cope without volunteers?

Then thanks to the Federal Government Volunteer Grant we have been able to purchase a stick vacuum cleaner and gerni to keep the CTC clean.

Cleaning is something we will be doing a lot of, along with hand washing and social distancing, we are following NSW Government advice to stay Covid-19 Safe. This does include asking a few questions when you arrive and keeping a record of name and contact number. Most importantly please don't visit the CTC (or other businesses) if you are feeling unwell.

We are starting up with a face mask making workshop kindly led by Karen Wilmott on August 1st. Numbers were limited so if you missed out we can add you to a waiting list for future sessions. There are also lots of videos on the internet and advice from medical people, NSW and Australian Health departments. When looking for information try using the official sites first as there is a lot of conflicting, out of date or incorrect information too. If you aren't sure call into the CTC and we can give you some advice on where to start.

Whilst we won't be commencing group computer classes just yet, one on one assistance on computer or iPad /tablet / smart phone is available, either at the CTC or remotely using a combination of phone, video call and remote log on. Call us and we can explain your options.

The CTC art gallery will be putting on exhibitions but without a public launch due to number restrictions. Sadly the cinema will have to wait a while before restarting.

However we will be running most of our normal services. We have computers (with appropriate spacing & cleaning) for public use, an office available suitable for someone working remotely or for their own business. WiFi, printing, copying, laminating, binding and of course coffee or a



CTC Volunteer Kevin trying out the new vacuum & our new shiny kitchen!

selection of teas.

The JP Community Desk will not yet be able to operate but we can still help you find a local JP service.

Keep an eye on our notice board or follow us on Facebook to know when we are able to hold more classes, exhibitions, events and restart the cinema.

Stay safe and well, think of others and support the local businesses that are open.

Robertson CTC
Open Thur & Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-1pm.
58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson
Phone: 4885 2665
Email: info@robertsonctc.org.au
Website: www.robertsonctc.org.au
www.facebook.com/CTCRobertson



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Women's World Cup Coming to Our Own Backyard!

By Kate van Eimeren, Registrar RBRSC

On 25 June the soccer community went to bed knowing they would wake to discover whether or not the long-term goal of securing the FIFA Women's World Cup of 2023 by the joint Australian and New Zealand bid had succeeded.



Neve and Ash with Princess Ibini
Photo Kristen Wilson

It was an exciting prospect for our local players. Whenever the Matildas have a match within reach a good number of us travel to lap it up.

The Robertson-Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club is enormously proud of our female participation

rate. It is something we actively support and pursue and seeing our national team in action is a great boost to foster interest in the sport.

The opportunity to attend matches between the best teams across the world is unsurpassed.

Except perhaps by the potential to see the Matildas participate in a World Cup final! To have such an opportunity close at hand is something players of all

sports dream about and there was a buzz of anticipation in the lead up.

The joint bid was a great partnership with strong support across both countries. The venues on offer, shared across both countries, meant that many, many spectators would get the opportunity to be included. There was confidence in the result – but anything can happen when a World Cup is on offer.

We woke on 26 June to the news the joint bid was successful! We were going to get the opportunity to see the next Women's World Cup in our own backyard.

With any luck some of our juniors may get to participate in some way. It's an exciting prospect and we look forward to the build-up and all it brings.

With strong female participation in our junior ranks the future is looking bright for our senior ladies teams. We have again fielded two senior teams with solid numbers of returning players and many new comers. It's great to see a good number of mums returning to sport. Seeing a whole family in the maroon and gold, sharing an interest in soccer and trading the sideline for the field throughout the day, is pretty special. It's certainly gratifying for the club's committee and volunteers who put in so much effort to keep the club prospering, particularly given the extra challenges of 2020.

With the continued efforts of our dedicated soccer family plus the added bonus of the much anticipated Women's World Cup we expect to see continued interest in playing and an increase in new comers to the sport.

It is amazing! It is incredible how far women's football has come and how it is becoming more equal to men's football. Knowing that the 2023 World Cup is being hosted in Australia has inspired me to try my best and never give up in football and other activities that I am passionate about. Ash Wilson (aka 'Robbo Ash')



Evie and Ash in the maroon and gold. Photo Kristen Wilson

I would love to be able to finally watch a women's World Cup live in my own country. Watching sport live is so much more enjoyable and you get more out of it, especially watching the women which are such an inspiration to us young girls playing soccer. Neve Wallace U15s



Sam Kerr with Ash, Ellie Carpenter with Neve Photo Kristen Wilson

We're proud to offer the opportunity for whole families to share the same sport and be part of a the bigger RBRSC family. We're also excited for the coming years in the lead up to what will be a fabulous opportunity for all to be a part of a major international event.

Go Robbo!