

FREE

# Robertson News

robertson.nsw.au

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Edition 150

ISSN 2652-1474 (Print)



## And Happy 150 Birthday to the *Robertson News*!

To commemorate this big milestone, the very first edition published in July 1997 is reproduced in full on page 7.

Some things have changed from 25 years ago and some have stayed the same...

- The Robertson Supermarket, Robertson Service Centre (now Enhance) and The County Inn (now Robertson Public House & Kitchen) are still here as is the Village Woodworks, Ranelagh House (now the Robertson Hotel), the Robertson Pie Shop and Pizzas in the Mist
- The Markets are still on the second Sunday of the month and Robertson Environment Protection Society is still going strong
- Some things have come and gone and come back again—the Robertson Village Association wound up but is now back as the Robertson Community Association. Old Time Dances are back at the School of Arts and Line Dancing is on at the Bowling Club now.
- A new Robertson Village Plan is being drafted
- Read about the *Made in Robertson* initiative and the Robertson Wallhanging—where is that hanging now??

## Help Needed to Celebrate 150th Robertson Public School Birthday!

Robertson Public School will celebrate its 150th birthday this September culminating in an anniversary dinner at Robertson Bowling Club on Saturday 24 September. Past and present students, teachers and families are invited.

Tickets are \$50, including a two-course meal, glass of wine and entertainment. Bookings are essential via [www.trybooking.com/CANKH](http://www.trybooking.com/CANKH)

*Find out more on page 3!*

### Also in this edition...

P2 —First Census figures released

P3- Op Shop needs a new home-can you help?

P5—Happy retirement Sue Bosevski!

P8—Sustainability seminars

P10—Towards mental wellbeing

P12- Events Calendar *and lots more.....*

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# RCA Update

By Mark Turner, President

The next meeting of the **Robertson Community Association** will be held at the **CTC on Tuesday 16 August at 5pm**. There will be several issues to discuss including how we might assist the popular Burrow Op Shop which is facing closure due to the expiry of its current lease. The Op Shop, run by volunteers, has been a wonderful addition to our community and has funnelled all profits back into the community via its generous grants program. Representations for assistance have been made to our local state member and we are also hoping that the Council can assist.

The Council's Village Liaison Officer, Corinne Buxton will be attending the meeting at our invitation and her advice and input will be welcome.

Our Association encourages any new group in town to become a member. In particular, we would love to see the participation of the younger members of the community. All are welcome to come along and see what we do.

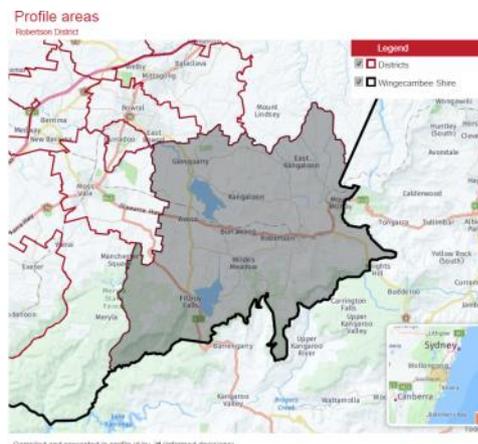
Enquiries to Mark Turner 0418 657 456 or to the Association email [robboca@outlook.com](mailto:robboca@outlook.com)

## First Census Figures Released

By Jenny Kena, Editor, Robertson News

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is progressively rolling out the results of the 2021 Census. Local statistics, including area profiles, can be found at <https://profile.id.com.au/wingecarribee>

The Robertson profile area encompasses the township of Robertson, and the localities of Avoca,



Burrawang, East Kangaloon, Fitzroy Falls, Glenquarry, Kangaloon, Mount Murray, Upper Kangaroo Valley (part) and Wildes Meadow. This covers an area of 371.4

square kms and the population at the 2021 Census was 3,577 (9.63 persons per square km).

From 2016 to 2021, Robertson District's population increased by 317 people (9.3%) - an average of 1.8% per year. The largest changes in age structure between 2016 and 2021 were in the age groups:

- 75 to 79 (+87 persons)
- 15 to 19 (+83 persons)
- 55 to 59 (+80 persons)
- 30 to 34 (+67 persons).

Compared to the whole of the Wingecarribee Shire, the Robertson District has a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (under 15) as well as a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (65+).

Overall 16% of the population was aged between 0 and 15, and 25.5% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 16.7% and 27.9% respectively for Wingecarribee Shire.

Source of map and figures—profile.id—compiling and presenting ABS Census results. <https://profile.id.com.au/wingecarribee/about?WebID=180>

### Contribution Guidelines

The submission deadline for the October 2022 edition is September 15 2022. Please submit all articles and event notices to [editor@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto: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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All of the production and distribution of the Robertson News is done by volunteers.

CTC Robertson Inc. PO Box 3069, Robertson NSW 2577. Ph: 02 4885 2665  
[info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au)

### Advertise in Robertson News

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## Help Robertson Public School Celebrate Birthday



....contd from p1

Earlier in the day a community fair will be held at the

school complete with kids' activities, live entertainment, food and market stalls, and special anniversary display.

Robertson Public School Principal, Gordon Parrish is calling on the local community to share photos and memorabilia that they may have from the past 150 years to feature in a special display.

"As part of the Community Fair Day, the original school building will host a special memorabilia display. Past and present staff, students and families are encouraged to share any memorabilia they have, including photos, mementos such as newsletters, school reports, artworks or any other relevant items.

"It would be great to see each decade represented through a piece of memorabilia or photograph. I'm sure we can uncover some absolute gems and I would encourage everyone to search the shed, empty storage boxes and have a dig around Nan's house to see what they can find," he said.

Items, clearly marked with contact details, can be dropped off at the school office no later than Friday 9 September. Digital copies can be sent via email to [150years@robertsonpublicschool.org.au](mailto:150years@robertsonpublicschool.org.au) or dropped off at the office on a USB.

All funds raised during anniversary events will be used by the P&C to redevelop Robertson Public school playground equipment. The new playground equipment will be of great benefit to students and accessible to the broader Robertson community through the Share Our Space program.

## Op Shop Still Looking for a New Home

By Karen Wilmott, President, Robertson Burrow Community Op Shop



In the recent round of grants, The Burrow has been able to support the Fettler's Shed with the renovation of their outdoor space, the Men's and Women's Shed with

refurbishment of the landscaping around the buildings and Robertson Futures Group with the staging of their second Sustainability Forum in August. Total of funds allocated came to \$2500.

We are still searching for a new home and welcome any help from locals who may hear of any suitable premises or, perhaps, land where we could erect a building. We need to be somewhat visible in Huddle Street or adjacent and have a limit on rental costs if we are to remain a service to the community. **Any philanthropists out there?**

## Congratulations Robertson News

Mark Turner, President, Robertson Community Association

Well done for all 150 editions of the *Robertson News*! It makes the rest of us feel so young.

Congratulations to the volunteers on the editing and distribution team on achieving this important milestone and to Jenny Kena [current editor] who devotes so much of her own time to producing this wonderful publication. Always lively and informative, it has become an invaluable asset to our town with its contributions from engaged and sometimes passionate locals. With the continued support from the community we can look forward to many more editions to come. *Editors note-thank you to all previous editors too!*



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# Dying to Know Day

By Katie Fagan, CTC Robertson Manager

Many of us feel hesitant and uncomfortable discussing death with our loved ones. A recent study found that while 90% of adults say that talking to their loved ones about their end-of-life wishes is important, only 27% have actually had these conversations.

**Dying to Know Day** is a relatively new campaign that aims to encourage all Australians of all ages to discuss their plans around the end of life. Chelle Martin from the Groundswell Project (the organisation behind Dying to Know Day) says, "People often feel ill-equipped to act or start a conversation. The risk here for us all is that we do not know how to best support a loved one who is dying, caring or grieving. Sadly, this can mean that end-of-life experiences are not aligned with an individual's values or wishes."

Whilst typically a doula is a role we associate with birth, death doulas are now becoming a more common part of the end of life planning. Patsy Bingham is a death doula based in the Southern Highlands and explains her role as "to support not just the person but those around them to plan and prepare for their desired end of life. We're all going to die, and we must understand the desires of those we love to try and honour their wishes."

Patsy has observed that families usually reach out

for her services "when death has been given a timeframe, and a family wish to plan how they will cope with the whole process". She encourages everyone to start talking about their wishes with their families because "we all want to feel confident that we did our very best to deliver a loving and peaceful end of life for anyone we love or care for".

In association with Dying to Know Day, CTC Robertson will host an information session on **Planning Your Digital Legacy on Thursday 25 August**. Further details can be found on page 11.

Through her service, End of Life Angels, Patsy can help families navigate end-of-life plans and conversations - [www.endoflifeangels.com.au](http://www.endoflifeangels.com.au) **Dying to Know Day** will take place on August 8 - [www.dyingtoknowday.com](http://www.dyingtoknowday.com)

Sorrell JM 2021. *End-of-life conversations as a legacy*. Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services, 56(1), 32-35.

## Avoca Public School Still Looking for History

Avoca Public School will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in October 2022. We are looking for community members who may have information on the history of the school that you would like to share. Any stories from past students, teachers and principals or photos would be greatly received. Please contact the school office 4887 7224 [avoca-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:avoca-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or the Principal, Lesley Kelly on 0457 072 785.



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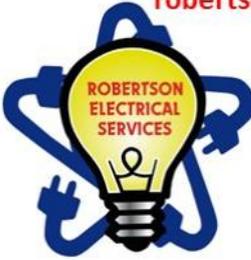
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Authorised by S Jones, ALP, Shellharbour

# Sue Takes a Break

By Michael Breen

Helping is the most exquisite of arts. An art is skilfully knowing where to draw the line. How does the helper know where to draw the line? What is possible? How to help without acting superior? How to listen? How to preserve dignity and respect? On the 'front line', which was the phone line, of The Robertson Doctor Sue Bosevski has been helping. 'I like to be able to help people' Sue says. And many Robertsonians know how much Sue has helped. She has made sacrifices to help others. For Sue it was never just a job.



Community members at the CTC to farewell Sue (centre) - photo supplied

The Robertson Doctor's phone rings in reception but there is no telling who is calling about what matter. The receptionist never knows what they will get next. All the person in reception knows is that there is a need, someone is calling. It could be life threatening. It could be for a prescription or for information. The caller could be calm, distressed, inquiring, angry or panicking. Each one is in need. Sue has answered that phone with those challenges for thirteen years.

So much of Sue's work is unseen. She arrived early and left late. She has attended to what government regulations and standards require. She has managed selecting, paying and caring for staff. She

needed to know what options and resources there were for callers and how to refer for alternative opinions.

You might have thought that Sue was born in the former Yugoslavia going by her name. But that name belongs to Vasco her husband who was born in Macedonia. Sue was born in the home of the Beatles, Liverpool in England. She came to Australia as a little girl. Before working in Robertson Sue held several senior management positions in Illawarra Health and at Port Kembla Hospital. These were not only administrative positions but were jobs now done by nursing staff.

When Covid 19 struck Sue and her team were on the front line dealing with a mysterious pandemic. Government and medical services were not sure of what to do. Australia was in an unknown place. Fearful and frustrated people sometimes took out their anxiety as anger towards anyone in medical services. Sue and her team were sometimes targets. They were upholding the precautions of the State health authorities, such as masks. They had no where to go. They had to cop it. They managed steadily; no fuss. They absorbed a lot of community shock.

Several people wrote their appreciations for Sue and her help in a little book provided by her staff before she left. This will remind her and reassure her as she takes a break from work. Others wrote their thanks and good wishes on Robertson Commons Facebook page.

## The Octogenarian

By Meg Jameson

*Don't believe the road-map face  
which, among the young, seems out of place.  
Ignore the shoes (so out of fashion)  
she's lived a life of youthful passion.  
At will, she makes the reels unwind  
of old-time movies in her mind.  
There's joy, tears and loss and drama  
with a love that lights the panorama.  
She's the leading lady - the heroine,  
but you have to look beneath the skin.*

Submitted by Meg's son, Mark Turner



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# How Did It All Begin?

By Rev Graham Thomas,  
Minister Robertson/Burrawang Anglican Church

Brrrr! It's been a bit chilly... and wet! As I write there's a thick frost reminding me of the fresh winter temperatures outside. Although, perhaps you are someone who 'escapes' to the coast now and then? I must admit, I am. Just to thaw out a little and then return home. The irony is I jump in a cold winter's surf while I'm down there.

I do love the beauty of winter up here, however, not only the frost but there's something about the winter's sky, the colour, the blue just feels and looks more blue. Don't ask me why! And the moon in the last few days, just beautiful. And have you seen those latest pictures from NASA's Webb telescope? They are truly breathtaking and just like the NASA scientists, it begs the question 'how did it all begin?'

Here's a link if you missed them.

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-reveals-webb-telescope-s-first-images-of-unseen-universe>

The Bible tells us, from Psalm 19, that "the heavens (the skies, sun, moon, planets etc) declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Now, we don't get a complete picture of God from the beauty around us, but the Psalmist goes on to say we do get a bit of an idea. The main point of Psalm, however, is that we *can* know this God because he has revealed himself to us to his Word. For the first readers of Psalm 19, that meant the first five books of the Bible, and for us today, that's our whole Bibles. This a wonderful comforting promise of God, that we can know him simply by picking up our Bibles and reading. Let me encourage you to do that. If you don't have a Bible, contact the church and we'll give you one. Don't start at Genesis if you're a first timer, choose one of the biographies of Jesus instead (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John), they're easier reading. And if you want to know more about what God says to us, come along to one of our church services, everyone is welcome.

Below are our regular church times, and we also have a new website, which is still taking shape, but one thing you'll find there is a link to our 'sermons and teaching.' If you'd like to hear or watch a little more about what we talk about from the Bible on Sundays, follow the links to our YouTube channel and have a squiz!

<https://www.robboanglican.org/>  
**REGULAR SERVICES**

Our regular service times at Robertson are:  
Sundays @8am Traditional (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of the month)  
@10am Contemporary Family (weekly with children's program) We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at St David's Burrawang at 4.30pm.

# You Can Become an Accidental Counsellor

By Donna Portland, Participant/Robbo local

I've just done my second course at the CTC on Sunday June 5. The previous course was for two days entitled Mental Health First Aid. It was extremely useful and had very worthwhile and interesting content. The Accidental Counsellor course was no exception.

You may well find yourself in a position where you're helping another person deal with their issues or concerns without necessarily having the skill or background to advise. So, the aim of this one-day training was to prepare us to assist others who are in distress or unable to cope, who we may identify could need counselling, and assist them to seek help from an appropriate professional. Attended by 15 locals this course was highly interactive, and all the attendees participated in discussion and role play which made it engaging and memorable.

First things first: **What is counselling?** A: It's a process between two or more people, where one is experienced or specialised to help someone deal with issues that affect them or to show a way forward out of a crisis. The content covered the variety of skills needed for effective counsellors. Right at the top of this list is empathy and the ability to listen effectively and avoid making assumptions. We all did an interesting exercise that brought to our awareness just how often we do make assumptions. Point taken!

The facilitator, Gail Miller, assisted us to gain an understanding of the importance of our values and beliefs and the fact that we are all different. We are all influenced by our cultural and family backgrounds, and therefore it is very necessary to understand that fact and show tolerance for others and respect their viewpoint and differences. There were many useful skills in counselling that were discussed including showing optimism and hope as well as a sense of humour. Of course, gaining good questioning skills takes practice and turning sympathetic statements into genuine empathy can also be used to show that you understand and want to seek the best solution for the person in crisis.

Something to remember here is that it's always worthwhile to gain this type of awareness about ourselves and others and learn effective communication techniques. Continuing your learning by doing courses such as this, *and* refresher courses, as well as further reading will help you improve your skills. A great point that Gail made was "You can't learn less!"

## Trish Emmerick Remedial Therapies



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# ROBERTSON NEWSLETTER

July 1997

Edition 1

## MADE IN ROBERTSON

Right throughout Robertson there are pockets of talented people involved in all sorts of creative crafts.

On the weekend of July 5 and 6 some of these craftspeople will be showcasing their talents and opening their doors so both residents and visitors to Robertson can come along and see how different crafts are **MADE IN ROBERTSON**.

The original idea for **MADE IN ROBERTSON** is that of Neil Atkins from the Village Woodworks. Neil is keen to see local craftspeople who make and sell around 85% of their work in the local area, have access to a **MADE IN ROBERTSON** logo which would let buyers know they were buying a genuine product, made locally and of high quality.

Whilst this year the **MADE IN ROBERTSON** idea has been in its fledgling stages, it's hoped that by next year all the craftspeople in Robertson and surrounding areas will become involved for a weekend of **MADE IN ROBERTSON** and it will become an annual event.

Call into **The Village Woodworks, The Robertson Pottery and the Australian Puzzles and Games** shop for a fascinating insight into different crafts and their skills. All are located in Hoddle Street, Robertson and are easy to find.

The **Robertson Pottery and Australian Puzzles and Games** are across the road from the County Inn and Waters General Store and the Village Woodworks is 1/2km west of town.

The **Village Woodworks** will have lots to see with woodworking skills on display, demonstrations of Folk Art and lighting. The Village Woodworks combines three local businesses - **Traditional Outbuildings, Robertson Garden Retreats & Robertson Joinery** all featuring the beauty of timber. Call in and see them on July 5 between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

At the **Robertson Pottery** you will be able to see the Potters at work. The Robertson Pottery has a large range of beautiful handcrafted pottery and other items. They will be open from 9.30 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. on July 5 - drop in and see them.

At **Australian Puzzles & Games** discover how to solve those puzzles which seem to take adults 1/2 an hour and a 4 year old 3 minutes! If you are one of those people who takes 1/2 an hour to unravel these puzzles then the hourly puzzle solving demonstrations will be for you! **Australian Puzzles & Games** has a whole host of interesting items to discover - call into their shop on July 5.

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Shop 8, Robertson Village Centre  
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Of course if you really are in a hurry, the famous Robertson Pie Shop is for you. The Robertson Pie Shop is open every day of the year (except Christmas Day).

And last but not least, is Ranlagh House located on the Illawarra Highway heading east serves Dervonshire Teas 10.00am - 12 midday - 2.00 pm - 5.00pm.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

For the Robertson residents who wish to have community service information printed in the Newsletter the dead line for information by phone/fax or mail for the **AUGUST ISSUE** is July 24.

Please lets hear from the Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, the Hockey Club, Soccer Club, Football Club, the Venturers, the Lions Club, the Fire Brigade, (yes the Fire Brigade!), The Community Centre, the Robertson Spinners, the Senior Citizens and Senior Groups. In fact any of our community groups who are raising funds or maybe needing volunteers and so on.

This is what our Robertson Newsletter is for - to bring News and Information to everyone in the village of Robertson. Even if your organisation does forget, let us know when an event is happening we will still ring around all the community groups each month to find out what is happening so we can pass the information on to each home in Robertson.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the very first edition of the Robertson Newsletter.

It is planned to publish the Newsletter monthly highlighting community, social and sporting events, news and information.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Newsletter the details of how to do so are at the back of the publication.

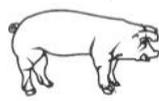
## HELPERS NEEDED

Robertson Public School is in need of a few more volunteers to help with their remedial reading programme.

Past helpers have found it to be a very rewarding experience and you will be amazed at how quickly this individual attention will improve a child's reading ability.

You will be given training by the Teachers in Charge of this programme. So if you have some time to spare and would like to become part of and help the school community, please contact Mike Reilly on 85 1284

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## THE ROBERTSON DIARY

There's a lot happening in Robertson on the weekend of July 5. Come along to **MADE IN ROBERTSON** on Saturday July 5 and Sunday July 6. See Newsletter for details (opposite).

Join the **National Parks and Wildlife Service** to celebrate National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Day at Fitzroy Falls. Learn how to throw a boomerang or paint on bark. Watch the Bidjil Dancers, sample some bush tucker and take a walk with an Aboriginal Ranger. It will be a day of celebration and an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal culture.

Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre, Morton National Park on Saturday July 5.

**FREE** Between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. - Laddie Timbery Aboriginal Arts & Crafts and Bidjil Dancers performing dance, boomerang throwing and painting.

Between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - Bush Tucker talk/walk with Aboriginal Ranger Barry Moore.

**SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP** Bus Trip, Shopping Spree.

On Saturday July 5. The bus is picking up at Waters Newsagency at 7.00 a.m., outside Moss Vale Court House at 7.20 a.m. then New Berrima.

With lots to visit - Toys, Shoes, Clothing, Giftware & Paddy's Markets, bookings are ESSENTIAL and can be made by contacting Pat Willard on 85 1381.

Cost per person for the day is \$15.00 and please bring along your own Lunch.

What was happening in Robertson 25 years ago? Read all about it in this very first edition of Robertson's own newsletter! Also online <https://www.robertsonctc.org.au/robertson-news.html>

A Robertson Wallhanging is also in the pipeline to co-incide with **MADE IN ROBERTSON** on July 5.

Any interested Robertson resident or person(s) with Robertson connections are welcome to collect a piece of calico from Hope Waters at the Robertson Newsagency.

The idea is to draw, sew, embroider or weave (or combine all these techniques) onto the square of calico anything which is symbolic to Robertson - such as a leaf or flower from our local flora, an outline of the Old Cheese Factory, the original Sawmill and so on.

If you can't get to call into Hope and would like to make a contribution using your own square of calico, the measurements you need to know are 23.5cm x 17.5cm (or 9 1/4 inches x 7 inches).

Please leave 2cm, or 1 inch, of space on each of the sides for joining.

## DRAFT FOR A NEW ROBERTSON VILLAGE PLAN

Wingecarribee Council has announced it will put on display for public consultation a draft for a new Robertson Village plan probably late in July.

Part of the consultation process will involve a Workshop session, combined with a Public Meeting, to be held on the same day.

The date for the combined Workshop and Public Meeting has yet to be determined but will likely be in August.

Keep an eye on the local newspapers as Council will be advertising when the date has been decided for the Workshop and Public Meeting. Wingecarribee Council will also be writing to all Robertson landowners advising the date as well.

Both the Robertson Village Association and the Robertson Environmental Protection Society suggest you go along on the nominated day.

## WHERE TO EAT IN ROBERTSON

Bistro-style meals are served in the warmth of the Dining Room on Thursday & Saturday nights at the Robertson County Inn from 6.00pm until around 9.00pm.

The Rainforest Bistro in the County Inn is also open for Lunch each day between 12.00 midday & 2.00pm.

Pop into Chat's Restaurant for Lunch or Dinner. Located in the Robertson Country Motel, open daily for Lunch & between 5.30pm & 7.30pm, (takeaway only).

Pizza's In The Mist is great for a dine-in or take-away Pizza. Cooked in the traditional wood-fired pizza oven the range is extensive and delicious! Pizza's In The Mist are open Wednesday to Sunday between 4.00pm & 9.00pm.

Or drop in to the Highlander Cafe. The Highlander is open 10.00 am to 3.00pm weekdays & 10.00am to 6.00pm weekends.

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## ROBERTSON NEWSLETTER

Please support Leah Willard in her Miss Teen Quest NSW to raise money for the Epilepsy Association.

## PONY CLUB

Rally days for the Pony Club are the 1ST and 3RD SUNDAY of each month at the ROBERTSON SHOW-GROUND.

If you have a horse and are interested in attending you would be most welcome. For more information, please contact David Ricketts on 85 1288 or Pat Willard on 85 1381.

Don't forget the **Line Dancing** on MONDAY nights at the School of Arts between 6.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. for Beginners.

A light Supper is served. Adults \$6.00, Children under 10 and non-dancers \$2.00. Go along for a great light.

Remember the **Robertson Country Markets** on the SECOND SUNDAY in JULY.

The Markets are getting bigger and better each month with interesting stalls and fascinating things to look at and buy. The Markets start around 9.00 a.m. and finish around 4.30 p.m.

Go along for some great buys! The **OLD TIME DANCE** is on at the School of Arts on FRIDAY JULY 18 for another great night out.

And Don't forget **Jazz On Sundays** at the County Inn.

Great Jazz Bands each Sunday from 12.30 p.m. Enjoy lunch in the Rainforest Bistro from 12 midday while listening to the music.

**John Stewart**, the Musicman, also plays old favourites in the Rainforest Bistro during lunchtimes on Saturday, Mondays & Tuesdays.

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## ROBERTSON NEWSLETTER

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## ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting of the Robertson Village Association will be held on **JULY 16**. The meeting will see a change of office bearers. 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre in Caallog Street.

## MOVES & NEWS

J. C. Mauger & Son Real Estate have moved their Real Estate Office.

Jim Mauger is still located in Hoddle Street but is now next to Australian Puzzles & Games.

The phone number remains the same.

Camden Valley Antiques are now in Robertson. Located in what used to be known as Elspeth's, Camden Valley Antiques stock and sell larger pieces of antique furniture.

Carol McCallum of Elspeth's is still there too. Carol has lots of interesting, smaller items to see and buy.

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## ROBERTSON NEWSLETTER



Robertson is situated on the Illawarra Escarpment above Wollongong and east of Moss Vale. The area was first known as the "Yarrawa Brush". The land was covered with forests of giant Messmate trees and dense brush. The rich volcanic soil supported an almost impenetrable forest of hard and softwood timbers entwined with thick vines.

Charles Throsby and his servant Joe Wilde were most likely the first white men to explore the area, but found the brush too thick, and development of the more open west country was preferred. The first settlers worked hard to clear the land, carving their farms and building their homes with their own hands. A close knit community developed with pride in their towns and achievement. Agriculture was the basic economy, with the area becoming well known for the quality of its products, especially the humble potato.

Today's visitors can enjoy glorious scenery and unique rainforest landscape. Close by, majestic waterfalls are worthy of inspection or you can just stop awhile in the township with its early sandstone buildings, exploring the local craft and art shops and enjoying a meal in one of the fine eating houses.

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING & COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Apologies to those businesses to whom we have not managed to catch up with or follow up with.

For advertising in the AUGUST Newsletter, please phone/fax the Editor by JULY 17 to book space. The demand for advertising space has been really terrific and each edition is filling up quickly.

The material deadline for the AUGUST issue is JULY 24. Information on advertising rates is available through the Editor on 048 85 1074

**DISCLAIMER**  
The ideas presented in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor.

The statements & opinions expressed in this publication are made in good faith and the Editor, volunteers and contributors do not take responsibility for those statements and opinions, any inferences that may be drawn from them, or actions or charges which may result from them.

The Editor reserves the right not to print any letter that is defamatory to any person or organisation or that is anonymously sent.

A project of the Robertson Village Association

**You're invited**  
TO A COMMUNITY SEMINAR

**ROBERTSON TOWNSHIP**  
THE PATH TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

\*\*\*\*\*  
**20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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**2:00pm – 5:00pm**

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- Looking at our personal carbon footprint
- Our homes and buildings
- Renewable energy generation

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and family. There is a subsequent loss of local wisdom, and a reduction in vitality for the village.

When a local population reaches a sufficient size, it can sustain local businesses and attract necessary services, thus reducing the need to travel to larger regional hubs such as Bowral and Moss Vale. The population tipping point for economic sustainability is 3000. At this number a larger supermarket becomes viable, more local employment is possible, services and supports begin to grow. For local businesses to be sustainable the localised core population needs to buy locally produced goods and services as part of their weekly budget.

# Robertson Futures Group Sustainability Seminars

By Sarah Tahourdin

The first of two sustainability seminars, held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, explored aspects of sustainability through presentations by four speakers: Hugh Mackay, a social researcher; Jennifer Macquarie from the Robertson Business Chamber; Mike Cullen, an urban economist and Phil Lavers from Moonacres. Following is a very brief overview of the points made by the speakers.

As a species, we are uniquely wired to seek out and to thrive through social connection; as individuals we need to re-learn the benefits of kindness and compassion in our dealings with others. Because it is relatively easy to travel beyond the boundaries of where we live, much of our lives tend to be focused outside our communities. As it stands now, with little support available, there are few options for our senior residents but to move away from Robertson. This results in a disconnection from friends, neighbours,

To create the kinds of places we want to live in, places that are dynamic, thriving, kind and compassionate we need to plan for sustainability for both the built and the natural environments, to develop local economies that can thrive and live together in kindness and compassion.

**The second sustainability seminar will be on 20<sup>th</sup> August at the Robertson School of Arts 2pm–5pm. This seminar will look at how our households can be more sustainable by reducing the burden on the environment. See you there!**

# Marvels and Monsters at REPS Talk

At CTC Robertson on Friday 12 August at 7.30pm, Nic van Oudtshoorn, a documentary film maker from Jamberoo will be giving a talk called *Marvels and Monsters in the Backyard Jungle*, insects you might find in your garden. Supper provided. Masks are strongly recommended. Contact Peter Glass 4885 1921.

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# Lost Steps Track

By Neville Fredericks, Burrawang

Many of our districts residents are unaware of one of the best walks in our region. This is the Lost Steps Track, accessible from Manning Lookout. It is understood to have been constructed as part



of an employment program during the Great Depression. The track starts at Manning Lookout and heads north. There are no directional signs, however the track is in good condition and the way finding is clear, with only a couple of scramble points. It is about 30 minutes walk in to Manning Falls, then a

similar time beyond the 'lost lookout' – clear, spectacular 250 degree views! Caution is needed due to the 1930s 'safety' rail.

The features of the track are the steps, hand cut into solid sandstone, the diverse plant communities the track passes through, the amazing lookouts into Kangaroo Valley along the way and the waterfall and grotto. It is referred to as the 'lost steps' as the track was lost from public memory during the war and the following decades, although some families in the district have always known of its existence.



In 1994 a party of bush walkers 'rediscovered' the track and it subsequently became widely known to the bushwalking fraternity. Recently members of the public have cleared the track and uncovered many of the stone steps which had silted over. It is now a moderately easy 2 hour walk. **Caution at lookout points is needed as there are no safety rails**, so close supervision of children is an imperative. Beyond the lost lookout, the walk continues on for another 20 minutes to the blue pool. The NPWS recently received a grant from the David and Jennie Sutherland Foundation supporting the restoration of the track. An information / storyboard will be erected at the commencement of the walk revealing the tracks local historical importance

This walk is certainly one of the districts gems and once experienced you will likely return with your friends.

*Images supplied*

## Sing for Fun and a Good Cause!

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, local community choir The Highland Singers was welcomed at the Robertson Bowling Club for the second of their mid-year concerts. Entitled "A Little Highland Air" the four part harmony choir brought a lovely programme of popular songs, followed by afternoon tea provided by the Club.

This very pleasant and successful afternoon raised over \$800 for their favourite local charity – Can Assist Southern Highlands. The week prior they entertained the folk of Moss Vale in the Anglican Community Hall and raised \$920.

The choir has been established in the Highlands for over 30 years, and after a short break will commence practice for their Christmas Concerts. Choir practice is held in Berrima. If anyone is interested in joining The Highland Singers, please contact: 0405 106 593 <https://thehighlandsingers.com/>

## On at The SHAC

New exhibitions open on 5 August and continue to 5 September.



Cat Doyle—*After Dark*  
Corinne Dany—*Frivolously*  
Julie Lynch—*By the Sea*

Find out more at [www.theshac.com.au/events](http://www.theshac.com.au/events)

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# Towards Mental Wellbeing

By Neil Harvey

**As a retired psychologist I spent many years helping people with anxiety. Since there has been a lot said about mental health lately I thought I would add my observations.**

Over the last several years we have been exposed to a number of serious events. We've had bushfires, several floods and the never ending epidemic with its restrictions, masks, inoculations etc. In addition there have been other global events. Also, today's media seem to revel in the negative. Recently a headline read "A comet larger than the dinosaur-killer asteroid, is approaching Earth!!". It was just a headline but all these things can add up and leave us with a vague sense of threat and danger. In addition to these catastrophic times we have the stress of everyday life in our modern society. The average household is faced with increasing mortgage costs, electricity charges and so on.

You have probably heard of the "fight or flight" response. When we feel threatened our stress response includes a release of hormones, including adrenaline, which prepares us to either confront the threat (fight) or run away (flight). But our everyday stressors are usually not those things we can physically fight or flee from. Your body doesn't know the difference between a physical threat and some non-physical threat like mortgage stress. The side effects of adrenaline include headaches, palpitations, restlessness and tremor. Do you feel these symptoms sometimes? It is no wonder that many of us have felt anxiety. Also, I can tell you that you are not alone! On average in Australia, one in four women and one in five men will suffer anxiety at some stage in their life. In a 12 month period, over two million experience anxiety.

Anxiety isn't always bad. It would be odd indeed if you didn't feel nervous in some situations like a job interview. The nervousness we feel at those times can motivate us to do the best we can. But there are other times when we are so anxious our coping ability is overwhelmed. When you are at a point of not coping you are likely to feel:

- Excessive fear, worry, catastrophizing, obsessive thinking
- Hot /cold flushes, racing heart, tightness in the chest, quick breathing, muscle tension, being wound-up and edgy, sleep disorders. Panic attacks can occur.
- Avoiding situations which make you anxious - impacting work, school or social life.

**At this point I would like to say that you should see a doctor if you feel the above symptoms. Not all the above symptoms are psychological alone. They could be symptomatic of other conditions. You need a proper diagnosis.**

So what can you do about high anxiety levels?

Being connected and loved by others helps us cope. Having a range of interests, sports and hobbies help too. Physical exercise is very helpful. Avoid too much caffeine which can increase palpitations and interfere with sleep. Relying on alcohol and/or recreational drugs to cope with anxiety won't end well. Pay attention to someone you care about and avoid getting involved with those things beyond your control. Relief from anxiety can occur with relaxation and breathing exercises. You could learn yoga or attend a meditation class too.

When it comes to the things you say to yourself remember to be positive. Don't ruminate over past events you can't change. In the case of women, you don't have to be *Wonder Woman*. Don't entertain ideas that you are failure as a mother or a wife. For men, you are not weak if you suffer from anxiety. Indeed you are showing strength when you seek help for it. Confront the negative but only if it's within your control to make a positive and necessary change. Pay attention to those things you have control over and should be fixed. Avoiding what you must confront will weigh heavily on you and won't go away. Getting down over things you can't control only makes things worse.

I am reminded here of the *Serenity Prayer*. It doesn't matter if you are religious or not, there is truth in the "prayer" itself. The prayer goes:

*GOD, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

I hope the above gives you some insight that is helpful. If you need to speak to a psychologist/counsellor your doctor can make a referral and you are entitled to ten free sessions with a qualified and accredited professional.

**On 22 October the CTC will host a Mental Wellbeing information talk. We have secured a guest speaker who has had severe anxiety problems and is succeeding. He is eager to share his story. If you are concerned about the mental well being of yourself or a loved one please consider attending this session.**

In the meantime there are a variety of resources available: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) [www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au) [www.healthdirect.gov.au/anxiety](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/anxiety)

## Robertson Fruit Shop



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# CTC Robertson News

CTC delivers programs that connect our community and bring residents together across different interests, local issues and technology training. We also provide opportunities to celebrate our creative community by showcasing emerging artists and promoting local initiatives.

As a community hub, we aim to provide local creators with an accessible and welcoming space to showcase their work - art, music performance, literary works or crafts. We are always looking to work with artists from all backgrounds and encourage those who may have had limited opportunities to exhibit or perform to get in touch.

We recently hosted the first solo exhibition for a local young artist, Dashanti Carr - **Growing Up on Wiradjuri Country**. Dashanti is an 18 year old, 4th generation Aboriginal artist who grew up on Nanima Mission outside Wellington in central western NSW.

Most of Dashanti's art is based on what she saw growing up on Nanima Mission, Wellington and around NSW. Although her incredibly successful exhibition at the CTC finishes on 30 July, you can follow Dashanti's art on her Facebook @art-by-shanti and Instagram @artby\_shanti profiles.



Bagadyarrar (Stretched)



Waygiwinya (Cultural Travelling)

There was a full house at our Music Café in July with a performance from Peter Campbell. Peter has been writing and performing for over 50 years, and his set at the Music Café was an opportunity to head back to the stage with a collection of contemporary folk songs that explored political and environmental concerns alongside the bitter-sweet matters of the human heart.



The next Music Café is in September and will feature Amber Kenny, Robertson based singer/songwriter and guitarist. "Her natural vocal rawness and beauty creates beguiling melodies with honest lyricism".

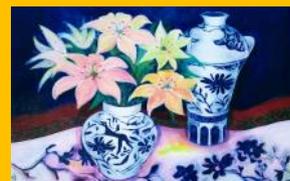
We always love to hear from anyone interested in exhibiting and performing at the CTC. Get in contact or drop in to have a chat about how we can help support and promote your work.



## What is happening at the CTC?

### A Class Act - On until the end of August

A group show from artists who attend an art class at U3A together. This exhibition features artists Jane Courtenay, Dean Boyce, Susie Woodbury, Wendy Hill, Annette Hearne and Christine Bowman with a mix of watercolour, acrylic and pastel artworks.



Susie Woodbury Still Life with Blue and White Vases

### PopUP Workshops with Sage Hair & Beauty FANCY DOs - for women of all ages

**Saturday 6 August 1 - 3pm**

Learn how to use simple plaits, rolls and buns to add something a little bit fancy to your everyday look.

Cost: \$25 inc afternoon tea

Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/CBDKO](http://www.trybooking.com/CBDKO)

### FUNKY Dos—for children and their parent/carer Saturday 27 August 1 - 3pm

Learn to create a fabulous style for a young girl. Parents & carers are all welcome to come along with their special young person.

Cost: \$25 per pair inc. afternoon tea

Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/CBDLN](http://www.trybooking.com/CBDLN)

### Bea Cinémathèque—Mid August Lunch

**2.30pm Sunday 14 August (café open from 2pm)**

A 2008 Italian comedy/drama directed by Gianni Di Gregorio

Tickets: \$10 adults

Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/CBDKZ](http://www.trybooking.com/CBDKZ)

### Be Connected: Digital Legacy

**Thursday 25 August 1.30 - 3pm**

Free workshop exploring how to make a plan for your digital presence and online accounts after you pass away.

Bookings essential: [www.trybooking.com/CASBR](http://www.trybooking.com/CASBR)

### Be Connected: Buying & Selling Online

**Thursday 8 September 1.30 - 3pm**

Free workshop to learn about getting set up to buy and sell goods online, and explore different online retailers and marketplaces.

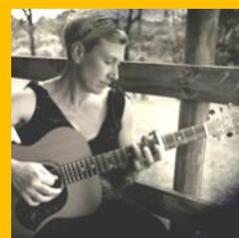
Booking essential: [www.trybooking.com/CASBX](http://www.trybooking.com/CASBX)

### Music Café - Amber Kenny

**2 - 4pm Saturday 3 September**

Come along for an afternoon of heartfelt tunes with a glass of wine or coffee.

Entry: \$5 on the door



### Opening Hours

**Thursday & Friday 10am-4pm**

**Saturday 9am-1pm**

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**Robertson Bowling Club**  
**Friday 19th August**  
**From 7.30pm / Call Club for bookings**

## Calendar of Events

Through August	<b>Exhibitions</b>	The SHAC p 9 & CTC p11
Sat 6 August 1-3pm	<b>Workshop—Fancy DOs</b>	CTC Robertson see p11
Fri 12 Aug 7.30pm	<b>REPS talk</b>	CTC see p8
Sun 14 Aug & Sun 11 Sep 8.30-2pm	<b>Robertson Market</b>	School of Arts ph 0408 238 575
Sun 14 August 2.30pm	<b>Cinema—Mid August Lunch</b>	CTC Robertson see p 11
Tues 16 August 5pm	<b>Community Assoc Meeting</b>	CTC Robertson see p 2
Fri 19 August from 7.30pm	<b>Neil Diamond Tribute</b>	Bowling Club see p12
Saturday 20 August 2-5pm	<b>Sustainable Future Seminar</b>	School of Arts See p8
Sat 27 August 1-3pm	<b>Workshop-Funky DOs</b>	CTC Robertson see p 11
Thur 25 August 1.30-3pm	<b>Be Connected: Digital Legacy</b>	CTC Robertson see p 4, 11
Sat 3 September 2-4pm	<b>Music Café—Amber Kenny</b>	CTC Robertson see p 11
Thur 8 September 1.30-3pm	<b>Be Connected: Buying &amp; Selling Online</b>	CTC Robertson see p 11
Sat 24 September all day	<b>Robertson Public School 150 celebrations</b>	Robertson Public School & Bowling Club see p1, 3
Sat 15 & Sun 16 October	<b>Robertson Show ReBoot</b>	Robertson Showground
Every Wednesday 7.30pm	<b>Robertson RFS Meeting</b>	Robertson Fire Station
Tuesday 10am-2pm Wednesdays 6-9pm Fridays 10am-1pm	<b>Men's Shed Evening Shed Women's Shed</b>	Men's & Women's Shed (behind the CTC)
First Monday of month 1.30pm	<b>Robertson Garden Club Meeting</b>	Showground see p7
Sat 9am-10.30am	<b>Crop Swap</b>	CTC Robertson
Church Services	<b>St John's Church</b>	See p 6 for details
Sunday Mass	<b>St Peter's Burrawang</b>	Ph 4868 1931

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Journalism as a Career?**

Robertson News is looking for young reporters to cover stories of interest to local young people.

This is a volunteer role and you just need to write a minimum of one story of around 200 –300 words every 2 months with a picture to go with it.

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