

Robertson News

December 2014

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Edition 104

A New Supermarket for Robertson?

The biggest news in Robertson in the last few weeks has been talk of a possible new supermarket in the village.

However, those plans hit an early obstacle as a petition objecting to the granting of a liquor licence was launched early November by Robertson Supermarket owners, Neil and Heather Tait. This petition had gathered over 500 signatures at the time of going to press.

Several other local business owners were contacted by the Robertson News but most people said they were either unwilling to go on the record or that they did not know enough about what was being proposed to make a public comment. No submission has yet been made to the council for a Development Application for the new store.

Owen Greenwell interviewed the supermarket's primary investor, Steve Chowdhury, to find out more about his plans.

OG: What brought you and your family to Robertson?

Steve Chowdhury: My father was coming to Robertson in the 1980s. Back then, it was a very rich and vibrant area, especially with farming. Our family are originally tea farmers and we've been living in the Southern Highlands for over 20 years. We used to live in Pheasants Nest, on acreage.



We've been running an IT business for 25 years, and still have that business in Sydney, but we wanted a change. We wanted to move further out, where there's more green, more rainfall and no drought. The Robertson Post Office was up for sale. That started the process of coming to, and living in, Robertson. We're a family business trying to be a part of a community; to spend the rest of our lives here.

OG: You have had the Post Office for just over a year. What has been your experience so far?

SC: The Post Office has been interesting. It has connected us to the community, the community has been very embracing, patient and supportive to us. In turn we are working to improve our services in the post office.

OG: Having purchased the CBD building, what do you propose to do with it?

SC: Three years ago, we wanted to get back into farming, to do some sort of sustainable farming. I'd been researching and working towards making it into a business. Now that we have this building and the Post Office, the best business plan - speaking with financial advisors and being community driven, is a supermarket with a focus on local and organic produce. Before we made that decision, we were approached by several supermarket chains who had found out that we had this building. There have been proposals to establish a bigger supermarket in the past. They said this location is ideal for what
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Fairer Taxi Fares

for Robertson/Burrawang/Wildes Meadow/Kangaloon areas!

To reduce drink driving & to make taxis more accessible, fares have been dramatically reduced for a trial period until the end of this year.

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within the areas described above.

Additionally we now have **set fares from Burrawang to Moss Vale of \$35.00 or to Bowral \$45.00. From Robertson (this side of Pie Shop) to Moss Vale \$50.00 & to Bowral \$60.00.** No after-hours penalty will apply to these fares. Maxi Cabs with up to 11 seats at 1.5 times the above fares.



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From the Editor

With my US Summer season behind me I have returned to Robertson only to find it in the grip of a fully scented, flower-filled Springtime. This, despite the current crispness and chill that will soon, no doubt, give way to the more familiar heat we are all expecting. With the new season will also come change - Robertson will see some property development in the following months.

Our cover story this edition will explain how a local landmark will be enhanced and developed for a more modern future. Also, with the Springtime comes the desire to get out and about. For some of us, this means getting into our exercise gear and getting fit in the gym or out on the road.

Two stories in this edition cover just that - getting out and about in the sunshine and fresh air. Granny was right, some things just do not change, despite the endless onslaught of get-fit-quick gimmicks, that we encounter so frequently in our modern, online lifestyle. This reasonably simple and inexpensive practice will reward all of us with its benefits.

Open Gardens 2014 has come to an end and as Robertson townspeople try to summarise this season's most spectacular garden showcase, it becomes apparent that the recurring motifs of roses, hedges and fruit trees continue to reign above all. Under the dazzling sunshine, visitors to this year's multitude of

gardens were left beguiled by the different styles represented at each. There were small and perfectly arranged pot gardens in addition to sweeping, manicured lawns and acres of hedges, trees and waterways. Visitors came in their droves, from places such as Batemans Bay, Nowra, Bathurst and Sydney. I am reliably informed that they were not disappointed - I believe this would have something to do with the brilliant weather and the wonderful hospitality that is second nature in Robertson.

The Open Gardens programme also generates a considerable income for three of our worthy institutions. Our local volunteer firefighters, the Robertson Show and the Community Technology Centre benefitted from this annual event and there was a sizeable gathering at the CTC to celebrate.

As always, there are more stories within these pages that will delight and inform you - our dear reader - the news and views of the myriad people and personalities that make up Robertson.

Christmas will be upon us soon so be sure to get started with our recipe for the Australian classic dessert, White Christmas.

Cheers,
Vicki

Contribution Guidelines

Please submit all articles and event notices to editor@robertsonctc.org.au

The submission deadline for the February issue is January 15, 2015.

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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...from page 1 they call a medium supermarket. That choice led us to say, "OK, we've got an outlet to do an organic farmers market, which is our passion". The supermarket we chose was SPAR, because it's different, SPAR means SAVE. It gives people a different flavour, a different choice. It allows us to cater to the local community - and they encourage it - to be able to sell organic, work with the local producers and local suppliers to sell out of it, in addition to the normal groceries.

SPAR is a growing name - they're a global retailer. In Australia, they've already got 400 stores. They're bringing in a really eco-friendly concept, not like Coles or Woolworths. I don't think they ever want to become that. They specialise in the small to medium size local supermarket.

OG: Do you have any experience running a supermarket?

SC: No, I have no experience in running a supermarket or liquor store. SPAR is a franchise. SPAR control the business processes, training, they run the systems, we work it. They control pricing as they have advertised specials - a specials catalogue comes out every week. We work within their system and focus on customer service and the specialty items, like local produce.

As part of the SPAR chain, even though we independently own it, we're also governed by their standards for improvements, look and quality. They will be helping us all the way. I think it's important that there is always an auditing process going on. It will always be of a high standard.

OG: What benefits do you think this development brings to the community?

SC: I think three main things. Number one is that our local producers will have an outlet from where they can sell to the general public. That's good for farmers and for the tourist trade.

The second thing is more employment - staffing the supermarket. I believe there is also the indirect effect of more employment for our suppliers. I want to add that local businesses will be doing the fit out - architect, gyprocker, engineer, carpenter, electrician. And third, it gives the option of a larger, more diverse range of goods at competitive prices to those people who currently travel out of the village for their groceries. Of course, we will have the option of online shopping and home delivery.

OG: What environmental benefits do you see from the development?

SC: I think the main environmental benefit will be that people won't have to drive to Moss Vale and Bowral. Less kilometers, fewer emissions. We're not putting up a new building or anything like that. Our intent is to keep the structure - the old potato shed has got a lot of history - and a lot of the design work is in keeping the overall aesthetics. We are just giving it an updated look. We also intend to put in solar panels and we'll use the latest LED lighting. Our fridges will be low-current fridges. Everything's going to be low consumption.

OG: How does this affect existing business in the complex such as Rockabellas and P&S?



Steve Chowdhury

SC: They'll have more people coming in, a lot more foot traffic, especially on the weekends which, in effect, should increase their trade.

OG: With an increase in traffic, what about parking?

SC: Parking is the number one priority. We have to do some design changes out in the front to allow better accessibility and parking.

OG: How do you think this will affect other businesses in the town?

SC: In general, I'd like to say it's going to bring a vibrancy into town. We have worked from four successful business models: Jamberoo, Tahmoor, Bargo and Organic Centre in Victoria. Jamberoo - because of population size and supermarket size.

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...from page 3 Tahmoor, because they have three big chain supermarkets - Woolies, Coles and Aldi. Bargo have a Supa IGA and a Friendly Grocer right next to each other. Organic Centre - on how they promote organic retail. All these towns and business models show the same basic concept: trade attracts trade.

OG: More specifically, in this town we already have several outlets for grocery items. How do you see the supermarket affecting those businesses?

SC: I believe we will bring more trade back into the town, because more than half the town, our research has shown, doesn't shop here at all. We are hoping that when this project comes together, many will choose to shop in Robertson rather than drive half an hour away. If they're coming back into town, shoppers will have a choice. Each business offers a variety

of items, opening hours and services, we will all be different.

OG: You have applied for a liquor licence for the premises. What has been the response so far?

SC: We have had some objections to our liquor application, which is good. Feedback is really important because without feedback, you can't make a better product. We are not building a warehouse-type liquor barn. We're not doing that. The liquor will only be about 15 percent of the total floor space. It will meet all the modern liquor licensing requirements and will be totally segregated, with its own register. We're also assessing what to stock - local wines and boutique beers - the kind of things that will set us apart.

OG: Assuming you get the relevant approvals, when could someone expect to be shopping in the new supermar-

ket?

SC: If everything falls into place, by Easter.

OG: In closing, is there anything you would like to add?

SC: I believe that this supermarket and what it's about, is promoting Robertson, promoting the local produce, promoting the viability of other business in the town and promoting our history. It will make Robertson sustainable for now and for the future. Organic farmers' concept is to leave the earth better than we received it.

At Robertson News, we are committed to covering this story from all angles. We are keen to hear your feedback. Send in your thoughts to editor@robertsonctc.org.au. We will publish a selection of responses in the February issue.

Communing with the Animals

by Emma Paloff

Ah, Christmas... such a magical time... of excess... excess food, excess packaging, excess animals...

Excess animals?

Yes...when lots of well-meaning people choose to spend their dollars on puppies and kittens as gifts, we end up with approximately 245,000 too



Bunny and Harley have been waiting two years for their chance at a good home. Beautiful nature, 6 years of age, full health history, de-sexed, vaccinated, chipped. Obligation-free trial.

many dogs and cats. Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? When you consider this happens across the country, then the numbers start to make sense. What happens, then, to these perfectly healthy, lovely animals? They are literally treated like rubbish - they are euthanased and sent to landfill (or in the U.S, to rendering plants to become 'protein meal' used in dog & cat food).

We don't see this part of the cycle. Like all that excess glitzy packaging that magically disappears after Christmas...these animals just 'disappear' out of sight and out of mind and that is when the animal rescue organisations get busy.

Most people are familiar with the existence of puppy farms and backyard breeders these days. You have probably heard of campaigns such as Oscars Law and Puppy Prisoners. These organisations have been set up especially to make people aware of the evils of commercial breeders, a.k.a, puppy farms. However, as with all products, the market is driven by consumer demand. WE, as consumers, are responsible. WE must carefully examine ALL of our choices as consumers.

Make no mistake, buying a puppy or kitten from a pet shop, backyard breeder or online marketplace like Gumtree or Ebay, is SUPPORTING commercial breeding.

So, please, if you are planning to acquire any type of puppy or kitten this season, you can do two things: MEET THE PARENTS - if you can't personally inspect the living conditions of the whelping mother: Do Not Buy. VISIT THE SHELTER - Save a life and be a part of the solution by looking for your new furry family member at:

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Call Emma on 0422 774 274 to enquire about Bunny and Harley.

Moving Out

by Allison Curtis

It has been a whole year since I received the phone call asking, would I like to work at the zoo.

I remember answering the question very casually, thinking yes, that would be very cool. One month later, another phone call: this time, asking had I given it any more thought. I really had not taken it too seriously, but it actually did interest me as I had found myself at a crossroads and needed to do some serious thinking about where my life was going.

I had just finished my studies and the café I was working in had been put up for sale. Family and friends offered some sound advice. I sat the kids down and we talked about packing up the house and moving

away from everyone we know and how huge this was for a single mother to undertake. The children supported me one hundred percent, so moving we were! I called back and accepted the offer, still apprehensive about taking the plunge. Now, I am so glad I did it and have no regrets whatsoever. I do miss my friends, family and the little town of Robertson. I also miss the everyday friendly greetings from locals, shopping at the Friendly Grocers, Thursday night dinner and beers at the Bowling Club, delicious pizzas from Pizzas in the Mist, the list could go on.

I now live in Broulee: a little seaside village on the southern coast of New South Wales. Here, I have become accustomed to falling asleep to the sound of the ocean. Working



Ally's range of condiments

at the Mogo Zoo is amazing and I have to work at a much faster pace than I did in sleepy little Robertson. It has been a challenge, but I am taking it in my stride and loving every minute. I mean, it's not everyone who can say they arrive at work to hear the songs of the siamangs, the roars of lions and tigers and the calls of the lemurs. I get to hear this every day and I really do feel blessed.

I have also started to sell my own line of products at the local country market. Selling my jars of condiments and baked goodies at Moruya Market is so much fun – I love that people are happy with my food!

The kids are doing great: Kea loves her new high school, Carroll College. She is doing very well there and has made many new friends. Kahu is working full-time at the Zoo: he is chef to the animals and enjoys it very much.

So, if you are ever near Mogo Zoo, please be sure to visit me. Just pop in and say hi. I hope to see some Robertson locals soon!

Cheers, Ally x




Ally and her new work colleague



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20 Questions with Carlos Barrios

In an ongoing series, Robertson News puts prominent local artist Carlos Barrios in the chair for this edition's twenty questions.

What is your best characteristic?
That I like to paint and create.

What is the quality you most like in a man?
Kindness

What is the quality you most like in a woman?
Sensual adaptability

What do you most value in your friends?
Their positive attitude to life.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?
An occasional tendency towards a doom and gloom mindset.

What is your favourite occupation outside work?
Family time: vegetable gardening, playing with my children, enjoying good wine whilst cooking with my wife.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Preparing dinner with my family.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?
Isolation from my loved ones.

In which country would you most like to live?
Australia... but, maybe Sweden.

Who are your favourite writers?
At the moment, Brian Herbert, George R R Martin

Who are your favourite poets?



Roque d'Altona.

Who is your favourite hero of fiction?
Aragorn

Who is your favourite heroine of fiction?
Mary Poppins

Who are your favourite bands/composers?
AC/DC, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven

Who are your favourite painters?
Van Gogh, Modigliani

What are your favourite names?
Anika, Luna, Erik, Mandu

What is your favourite season of the year?
Winter and Spring

Which talent would you most like to have?
Creative writing

How would you like to be remembered?
As someone who evolved and did the best he could.

What is your motto?
Let's do it!

White Christmas

A Treat the Kids Can Make
(with a bit of help from Mum)

What you need for 24 serves:

- ½ cup icing sugar, sifted
- 1 cup packaged, dried mixed fruit, chopped
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 250g coph^a, melted over low heat
- 3 cups Kellogg's[®] Rice Bubbles[®]
- 1 cup powdered milk
- One big bowl
- One lamington tin or paper patty cases

How to do it:

- Combine the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl.
- Melt coph^a slowly over low heat. Cool slightly, pour onto dry ingredients. Mix well.
- Working quickly spoon into paper patty cases or press into a lamington tin.
- Freeze until set (about 15 minutes), then store in the refrigerator.



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Crop-Swap

This is a time where local gardeners can come together and exchange what they have in surplus, or find other crops or produce that they don't already grow. R.A.L.F.E. (Robertson Alternative Local Food Exchange) began as a Facebook gardening group early this year and now CROP-SWAP is the real life meeting place for the group.

"The purpose is primarily centred on building community. It's taking a while to get people used to the idea that CROP-SWAP is not a shop, so it's just as important that you take produce as well as swap the stuff you have grown or made. R.A.L.F.E. is about breaking the image that

farming is a big industrial process done by machines – it's actually a small domestic operation that we all have going in our own backyards and if there is a crop that is difficult to grow or that there is a strong need for, R.A.L.F.E. is a platform that allows the community to come together and find a solution to that need. Community based agriculture starts with community and R.A.L.F.E. with its 76 Facebook members is the beginning of that process here in Robertson," says Pi Wei Lim, who had originally started the group in February this year.

So what does the future hold for R.A.L.F.E.? Pi Wei says that really

will depend on what the community wants and if the community feels strongly enough to engage with this idea on a more committed level. She would like to see the R.A.L.F.E. CROP-SWAP as a regular stop in everyone's grocery shopping cycle. Most households think nothing of the once a week trip to a big supermarket, so why not spare less than an hour on a Saturday to pick up your fresh home grown vegies by people who are local?

"It doesn't have to be quid pro quo every time – farming doesn't work that way – sometimes you might only want to off load your surplus. Other times you have no harvest to swap but can still take what others have to offer....that's just fine. Another aspect of the R.A.L.F.E. CROP-SWAP day is not just the exchange of produce but the exchange of information. It's a time to meet people and learn stuff about how to grow crops you always seem to fail at by the person who's just brought in the most beautiful harvest of just that crop. It's also a time to let your needs be known – how can we fulfil community needs if we don't know what they are? This stuff doesn't work so well online but in real life over a basket of home grown vegies it happens without you even thinking about it," says Pi Wei.

Robertson Alternative Local Food Exchange happens every Saturday outside Rockabella's between 9:00am and 10:00am. For more information join their Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/599455503477308/>



Ellie, Pi Wei & Sarah share produce through Crop-Swap



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My Year as a Gym Junkie

by Belinda Borbely

In December 2013 I decided to get fit at 48 and set a goal for myself that would last the next twelve months. The easiest part was making the decision to go ahead with it. The hardest part was walking into a gym for the first time in over 35 years!

It was a slow start at first. My first visit was with a personal trainer who worked, and talked me through, about eight weight-lifting machines. I hated the ab crunch and the shoulder press - both not agreeing with me at all. With a booklet outlining my program in sets and weights, I was finally ready to get serious. Week after week I started to feel fit for the first time in years and arriving home from a gym session gave me an added boost of energy that lasted throughout my working day. After two months the ab crunch and shoulder press

machines and I became good friends. But the machine I feared most was the treadmill.

I couldn't run at all and walking up flights of stairs always left me breathless with aching legs. My set time on the treadmill for the first six months was 30 minutes. So my program was 30 minutes cardio followed by thirty minutes weight training. I walked a fast jog to begin with and out of sheer boredom, I sprinted as much as I could to get the damn thing over and done with. A thirty minute treadmill session was 3 km, so my sprinting brought my times down to 25 minutes and then 20 minutes with the added benefit of burning calories faster. I also invested in a pair of earphones that didn't fall out of my ears while jogging or running. Funky Cold Medina always got me in the groove...

Twelve months later my body shape and fitness level have changed



dramatically. I ditched my workout booklet a few months ago and now push myself as hard as I can.

This is a new life for me, it's fun and I love feeling this way!

The Robertson Rovers turn 30 in 2015

by Robert Handley

The Robertson/Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club has had another great season in 2014, with 125 junior players and 60 seniors. We are now the third largest club in the district, falling behind only the larger towns of Bowral and Moss Vale.

In true small town community spirit, we have a great group of volunteers who assist with coaching junior teams, running the canteen, setting and packing up the fields, as well as supporting our fundraising events. We also have an amazing group of sponsors who provide financial support to our club.

One of the highlights of the year was our Rovers Race Night, held at the Robertson Bowling Club. With nearly 200 people in attendance, it was great fun and raised over \$6000 in addition to \$1600 donated to the Kollege of Knowledge Kommittee for Kids (KKKK) to assist families

of children with special needs. Over the past twelve months we have also supported charities raising money for research into Motor Neurone Disease and cancer.

Each Thursday we run the Joker Jackpot at the Robertson Bowling Club, with the prize pool increasing by \$100 per week. We encourage everyone to come along from 6:30pm with the major draw at 8pm.

Next year is going to be a big year, with the Robertson/Burrawang Rovers celebrating 30 years as a club. We are always looking for new people to become involved, so if you would like to be a part of our great community-minded club, as a player, coach, volunteer or sponsor, why not join us next year for the celebrations!

For further information or to get involved, contact Robert Handley on 0419 243 520.



The Robertson/Burrawang Rovers

Robertson CTC AGM

Annual General Meeting of The Robertson Shed Inc (CTC@Robertson)
Thursday 11 December 7pm at the CTC

All Welcome. Meeting will be followed by Christmas Drinks!

RSVP info@robertsonctc.org.au
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Congratulations on the Open Gardens

by Ian Roxby
President, Robertson Garden Club

Over twelve months ago the Robertson Garden Club appointed a committee to organise the 2014 Open Gardens which were held on 11th and 12th October.

This committee was led by Joy Rees and ably assisted by Marion Tyree, Susan McGregor, Jenny Smith, Margaret Roberts and Jan Roxby. Many thanks go to this group for the huge effort they put into running the event. An open garden event like this cannot be held without the support of local residents who prepare their gardens for others to appreciate. We thank these people for opening their gardens. The cost of running this event is considerable and the club wishes to thank the local businesses who supported us. We hope that they received value for that support.

It was good to see local residents supporting the event as well by visiting the gardens. We had visitors from Sydney, the Illawarra, South Coast, the ACT, Temora and even a couple who included Robertson in their holiday itinerary. One of the main reasons for organising this event is to support other Robertson organisations. This year the Rural Fire Service and Community Technology Centre each received \$3,500.00 and the Show Committee and Show Ladies Auxiliary shared \$3,500.00. These cheques were handed over at a function held

on 23rd October. I might add that these organisations assisted us by supplying people to man the gates. The funds distributed means that \$10,500.00 is now working in the community.

Other members of the community gave of their time and expertise and we thank Amanda Louth for her graphic design work on the tickets and flyer and Miranda Wood for her work on the website. We also thank our members for manning gates and putting out signs and bringing in those signs after the event.

Planning for the 2015 open gardens has commenced and the club is looking for inclusions for 2015. One of the most asked questions was, "Which gardens were not opened last year?"

This indicates to us that people

are supporting the event year after year and highlights the need to have new gardens open their gates.

The week prior to the open gardens Graham Ross and the Better Homes and Gardens team visited Robertson and filmed the waratahs at the Railway. You may have seen this segment on Better Homes and Gardens on 24th October. As a result of this and on request from the Garden Club, Robertson received great advertising on Graham's Garden Clinic show on 2GB on the weekend of the Open Gardens. During the year the Garden Club, as part of its beautification of Robertson project, planted sixteen new cherry trees in the main street. The club is planning to plant at least that number again next year as well as doing additional beautification work.



Marion and Joy presenting at the CTC

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Time to Get Walking

by Nick Knowles, Pharmacist,
Robertson Village Pharmacy

The Robertson Walking Group had its first walk on Wednesday, 5th November. Supported by Robertson Village Pharmacy and the Heart Foundation, the walking group has been established to help those with heart disease and diabetes who are generally in-active and need a bit of encouragement. But, all are welcome and anyone who is interested is encouraged to come along.

The group will meet every Wednesday at 8.15am outside Robertson Village Butchery/Café Pirouette and will walk for about half an hour. It is all about promoting a more active lifestyle for those in our community.

Why is active living important? More than half of all Australian adults are not sufficiently active to gain health benefits. An active lifestyle can help reduce the risk of preventable diseases, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, obesity and some cancers. It can also help improve mental health, community life, social wellbeing and community safety.

Being active on a regular basis is an important part of a healthy lifestyle, and walking is a great way to look after your heart health.

- It's free and flexible (you can do it when you want and where you want)
- It can help manage weight, blood pressure and cholesterol
- It can help to maintain your bone

density, reducing your risk of osteoporosis and fractures

- It improves balance and coordination, reducing your risk of falls and other injuries
- It also helps you feel stronger, more energetic, happier and improves your overall quality and enjoyment of life.

For those that are interested in joining the Robertson Walking Group, please contact Nick Knowles or Martine Rolff at Robertson Village Pharmacy on 4885 2936 or just come in and see us!



The Robertson Walking Group

Poem by Pamela Griffiths Clark

I am the eagle; he who dares
Soaring over the mists of Kangaloon
Alone and unafraid, eyes scouring the fields
Swooping like an earthbound missile
When that small brown object scuttles forth from cover.

Those below that populate this land
Seek shelter from the metropolis to the north;
relief from its teeming polyglot tribes
whose mindless violence and stupidity
make then blind to this ancient land they do not understand

I am the eagle, I see all. He who dares.
Alone and unafraid; to withdraw is to conquer.
Nor shall I grow old, but warp into a time of
mellow fruitfulness and small victories in the endless
battle with nature's chaos; the fight for order doomed to fail.

Soft now, the shadows lengthen
And far below me lights a twinkle
Mirroring the vast expanse of the endless Milky Way
Lit by the breathless beauty of Venus in the night sky.
I live and love this very air; that touch received by Adam.



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4262 6122

Kid's Trivia

1. What is the square root of 9?
2. Who is the President of the United States?
3. What is the name of Harry Potter's pet owl?
4. How many pairs of wings does a bee have?
5. Giraffes are native to which continent?
6. What is the capital city of Greece?
7. It takes more muscles to frown than to smile, True or False?
8. What is the name of the fish-friendly white pointer shark in Finding Nemo?
9. What do the letters in QANTAS stand for ?
10. The Barossa Valley is located in which Australian state?

ANSWERS

1. 3
2. Barack Obama
3. Hedwig
4. Two
5. Africa
6. Athens
7. True
8. Bruce
9. Queensland And Northern Territory Aerial Service
10. South Australia

Notice the beauty around you

by Samantha Wheatley

Sitting down to write a piece for the Robertson newsletter, I am wondering if the beauty surrounding us here is a fine enough topic to write about. I think that it is.

Each day I am astounded by the lush tones of green, the rolling hills, the wildflowers and the bird sounds. As I go about my daily tasks I am influenced by nature calling me. If I happen to be inside, I can hear the magpies warble and the sweet high-pitched call of the many bowerbirds. I often find that there is usually cacophony and flutter in the big coachwood tree as the rosellas squabble over which branch is the best viewing platform.

The passing train can be heard from anywhere around here. I find it a comforting sound, a deep rumbling coming along the tracks tells me it's time for lunch. As I gaze out of my window, I see a sea of blue, as the forget-me-nots are dotted throughout my garden.

Taking the time to notice all of

these things does not come easy. We are programmed to go from here to there and many of us do not notice a whole lot in between. The beauty that surrounds us can sometimes help us to slow down, take a breath, relax the shoulders and be still for a moment in our busy days. The still moments we can create for ourselves are to be treasured, as they are the moments when we get a glimpse of peace. I like to be aware of my ability to create quiet moments in my day and I use these quiet times to reflect. Clearing the mind to create space for quiet reflection is a valuable tool that anyone can learn. It can help with creativity, lower stress levels and it can help us get in touch with our intuition.

Try and find a place in the garden, a sunny spot inside your home or while you are out walking: look and listen to the beauty around you. Practice this each day and notice how much more peaceful you feel within yourself.

<http://www.wheatleywriter.com>
wheatleywriter@gmail.com

Swimming Pool AGM

Robertson & District Swimming Pool Assoc. Inc. Annual General Meeting.

Thursday
11th December 2014
Robertson School of Arts
7.00pm

Please come along, all welcome.



For more information:
Sandra Dawson
0419 245 835

132nd Robertson Show

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th of March 2015

**Support your show.
Become a member.**

For enquiries, schedules and membership details:
www.robertsonshow.org.au
emailrobertsonshow@bigpond.com

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What's Happening at the CTC

by Renate Birch

The CTC is currently taking names from people interested in undertaking computer courses in basic computer skills, Microsoft applications, Windows 8 and tablet PCs (iPads, etc) basic photo editing and sharing. For immediate computer concerns, just drop into the CTC and speak to one of our volunteers who may be able to assist you.

While at the CTC, take the time to have a cup of Vittoria coffee, use the Wifi, find a treasure or two in our large range of CD's for sale or just enjoy the current art display by

Richard Bell which features photographs, poetry and postcards all of which are for sale. The current display ends on 6 December and will be followed by an exhibition of High School Art.

The CTC runs regular cinema sessions presented by Tony Williams. In November, Tony presented 'A Place Called Robertson – the Cutting Room Floor' which was highly entertaining. Cinema sessions for 2015 will be advertised at the CTC and on the CTC website. If you would like to receive email notification of films, please contact the CTC and ask to be put on the cinema email list. Due to

the popularity of the Cinema sessions, bookings are highly recommended.

The CTC is a venue for hire or can be used to support local functions and events. In October, the Robertson Garden Club used the CTC as their point of sale for plants and tickets for their annual Open Gardens weekend which has been extremely successful for a number of years.

To contact the CTC, please phone 4885 2665 or email info@robertsonctc.org.au

The Committee and staff of the CTC would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Robertson Event Calendar

December				
6	Sat	10am	Piano at Ten concert featuring James Dong	Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Bundanoon
11	Thu	7pm	CTC AGM <i>see page 8</i>	Robertson CTC
11	Thu	7pm	Swimming Pool Assoc AGM <i>see page 11</i>	School of Arts
14	Sun	9am	Robertson Markets	School of Arts
21	Sun	5pm	Christmas Carols, featuring the film "The Nativity"	St. John's Church Centre
25	Thu	8am	Traditional Communion	St. John's - The Old Church
25	Thu	9:30am	Family Services	St. John's Church Centre
January				
11	Sun	9am	Robertson Markets	School of Arts
Regular Events				
Every Tue		7:30pm	Trivia Night	Robertson Inn
Every Wed		8:15am	Robertson Walking Group <i>see page 10</i>	Village Butchery/Café Pirouette
Every Fri		7pm	Live Music	Robertson Inn
Every Sat		9am	Crop Swap <i>see page 7</i>	Rockabellas
1st Sun, 4th Sun		8am	Communion (1st), Morning Prayer (4th)	St. Johns Robertson
Every Sun		9:30am	Family Service - Sunday School	St. Johns Robertson
1st, 3rd, 5th Sun		8am	Catholic Service	St Peter's Burrawang
2nd, 4th Sun		5pm	Catholic Service	St Peter's Burrawang



rockabellas

THURSDAY NIGHTS

\$3 TACOS!

STARTS AT 5:30PM. BOOKINGS APPRECIATED.

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 Breakfast & Lunch: Wed to Sun 8am to 5:30pm Dinner: Thur to Sun from 5:30pm

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