

Robertson News

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Robertson Receives Funding Boost for Infrastructure Projects

Robertson-Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club and the CTC@Robertson have been awarded funding for infrastructure projects.

The Robertson community will benefit from \$142,700 in funding support under the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants program. Member for Goulburn, Wendy Tuckerman announced this week. Mrs Tuckerman said the funding would help support the Robertson-Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club to install new change rooms and referee's amenities, as well as refurbishment of the CTC@Robertson building.

"\$129,000 will contribute to a Robertson-Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club project to install new change rooms and referee's amenities. The club will also install a new canteen. These improvements will not only provide privacy and security for match officials but will also mean additional storage and better access to the facilities for people with disability.

The CTC@Robertson building will also receive \$13,700 to undergo significant refurbishments to ensure it remains a comfortable, attractive and safe

hub for the community. The building is used for various purposes by members of the Robertson community and visitors. The refurbishment project will replace worn and stained flooring to help create an inviting and warm atmosphere for the community", Mrs Tuckerman said. Thirty-two community organisations in NSW have been awarded a total of \$4 million, to fund local projects that build or upgrade facilities across sport and recreation, arts and culture, disaster readiness and essential community infrastructure.



Wendy Tuckerman on a visit to the CTC in September. L to R—Jenny Kena, Wendy Tuckerman, John Kennis and Jenette Stiles.
Picture—Wendy Tuckerman's office

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And lots more.....

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Robertson Business Chamber Update

By Jennifer Macquarie

Our new business chamber held its inaugural AGM on 22 October at the Robertson Hotel (thank you Con Kotis and team). In a reversal of usual protocol we began with a very pleasant networking session over a glass of wine or two in the beautiful gardens of the Hotel before moving on to the AGM. Committee positions were filled via nomination and a vote from the floor, and



Business Chamber members enjoyed a pleasant networking session at The Robertson Hotel prior to the AGM. Picture supplied

President Tim Hewitt then briefed us on the Chamber's objectives for the year.

We now have 27 paid up members. If you would like to jump on

board at the minimal cost of \$50 for two years, please email us at robbobuschamber@gmail.com and we will send you a form and payment details.

Monthly meeting schedule finalised

Going forward, meetings will be held at 6pm on

the first Tuesday of each month at the CTC@Robertson starting 3 December 2019. Two meetings a year will be held at another venue and take on more of a networking focus, or perhaps a sit down dinner. If you are great at organising this kind of event, or if your business has capability to host, please put your hand up, we would love to hear from you.

A combined Southern Highlands Industry Christmas party is being held at 6pm on Wednesday 18 December at Southern Highlands Winery. Its a great opportunity for Robertson business owners to connect to the wider business community in our region. Cost is \$30 per person and includes food, wine and music. For additional details and to book tickets go to <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=574185&>

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROBERTSON & DISTRICT SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION INC

The Robertson & District Swimming Pool Association Inc will hold its AGM on Sunday 8th December at 11.00 am

Venue: Robertson Bowling Club

All Members and residents are welcome

Don Ferguson
President
0419 445 413

Contribution Guidelines

The submission deadline for the February 2019 edition is January 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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All of the production and distribution of the Robertson News is done by volunteers.

CTC@Robertson is managed by the Robertson Shed Inc. PO Box 3069, Robertson NSW 2577. Ph: 02 4885 2665 info@robertsonctc.org.au

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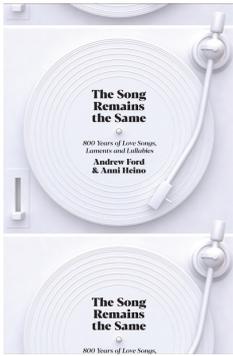
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Discounts for multiple prepaid bookings.

All advertising enquiries to advertising@robertsonctc.org.au
Further details at www.robertson.nsw.au/advertise-with-us.html

The Song Remains the Same



Robertson authors Andrew Ford and Anni Heino have just published a new book about the history of the song.

The Song Remains the Same looks at love songs, lament and lullabies, pop hits, jazz standards and novelty songs, art songs and folk songs, national anthems and protest songs, hymns and Christmas carols, songs from

Broadway musicals and Hollywood movies.

There are songs by Lennon and McCartney, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Beethoven and Goethe, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, Joni Mitchell, Bruce Springsteen and Tracy Chapman, Amy Winehouse, Bob Dylan and Richard the Lionheart (yes, he wrote a song). The earliest is by the Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (c. 1160), the most recent by Sia (2017).

More than two years in the writing, the book asks what songs as different as 'We Will Rock You' and 'When You Wish Upon a Star', 'Jolene' and 'Jerusalem', 'Dancing Queen' and the Brahms lullaby have in common. It's more than you might imagine.

Find out more at www.blackincbooks.com.au

As part of the 2019 Seniors Festival in Robertson, Andrew and Anni will give a talk about the book accompanied by performances of some of the songs by The Robertson Songsters at the CTC@Robertson.

Open Gardens Will Be Back Next Year!

By Marion Tyree

It's on again! The Robertson Open Gardens weekend will again be a bloomin' marvellous event held across two days – 10th & 11th of October 2020. At least 6 gardeners will throw open their gates and share their spring displays with the public. Plants will be on sale at the HQ in the CTC and I hear that local business owners have been brainstorming ideas for dressing up their shopfronts...

If YOU would like to be involved as a volunteer garden gate attendant, plant or ticket seller reserve your space by calling Karen on 0403 044 828. Alternatively, why not join Robertson Garden Club and be part of the fun of bringing this community event to life? Robertson Garden Club meets at 1.30pm the first Monday of the month at the Community Centre in Caalong St.



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Christmas Celebrations

Celebrate Christmas with your family, friends or colleagues this December.

We invite you to relax in our grand dining room for a 3 course Christmas Lunch or Dinner.

ENTREE

Mandarin and cranberry salad topped with toasted walnuts and feta

MAIN

Roasted turkey and honey glazed ham
Roasted local seasonal vegetables and cauliflower gratin
House-made gravy and cranberry sauce

DESSERT

Christmas pudding with local cherry gelato or pavlova (alternate serve)

Book Lunch or Dinner for a group of 10 or more

\$49pp for Christmas Set Menu | \$35 for children under 12

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Phone 02 4885 1111 | info@therobertsonhotel.com
1 Fountaindale Rd, Robertson NSW 2577 | www.therobertsonhotel.com

The Robertson
HOTEL

I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas.

What sort of Christmas are you dreaming about?

St David's Burrawang Traditional Carols
Sunday December 15th at 4:30pm

Family Carols at Robertson
Saturday December 21st at 5pm

Christmas Day Family Service at Robertson
Wednesday 25th at 9:30am

ROBERTSON BURRAWANG
ANGLICAN CHURCH

What Sort Of Christmas Are You Dreaming About?

By Graham Thomas

A few years ago, I was doing some last-minute Christmas shopping in one of the massive malls in Dubai, UAE (we lived there for a few years prior to coming to Robbo). Dubai has a reputation for bling, and it's a well-founded reputation. Everything is shiny and new (except the bits they don't like you to see, but more on that another time!)

So, I was walking around Dubai Mall, which would be about ten times the size of Shellharbour Square, and I'm hearing Christmas carols! The UAE is a Muslim nation, so that surprised me just a little, the reason for "just a little" is because an enormous percentage of the population of Dubai are expats, and they need their dollars or pounds or whatever.

One of the 'Christmassy' songs I heard was the Bing Crosby classic, "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"... in Dubai... in a desert. Although, I guess, to be true, that's what a lot of the expat shoppers were dreaming about! So, when it comes to your Christmas, what are you dreaming of? Maybe it is a white Christmas! But for most of us I reckon it's a range of things...

"I'm dreaming of a joyful Christmas"
 "I'm dreaming of a restful Christmas"
 "I'm dreaming of a 'no arguments with the family over Christmas lunch' Christmas!"
 Or maybe...
 "I'm dreaming of an expensive Christmas!"

However, for many of us in our community, Christmas is one of the most difficult times of the year and it can bring out the worst in us. So maybe the following is what some of us are dreaming about when it comes to Christmas...

"I'm dreaming of a lonely Christmas"
 "I'm dreaming of a guilty Christmas"
 "I'm dreaming of a hopeless Christmas"

If this is what you dream about, when it comes to Christmas, you're not alone and there's good news. The Christmas message we read about in the Bible, tells us of the God who came to us in Jesus, to be with us, which means when we are friends with God by believing in Jesus, we are not alone. The Christmas message also tells us of the forgiveness of our stuff ups with God and others. Jesus came to die for our wrong doings. And the Christmas message is also hope-filled. Not a "I hope my footy team wins, hope" but a real and certain hope of life after death with Jesus, where all pain, tears and death have passed away (Rev 21:4). This Christmas at our Robertson and Burrawang Christmas services, that's what we'll be thinking about, and I invite you to join us. Real issues for real people. Everyone is welcome, wherever you're at with God. Our Christmas services are below.

Burrawang Traditional Carols Sunday December 15, with light supper, at 4.30pm ; **Family Carols** (with heaps of kids activities and local musicians) at **Robertson Saturday December 21** at 5pm ; **Christmas Day Family Service at Robertson** at 9.30am Regular service times at Robertson are: Sundays @8am Traditional (1st and 4th of the month, excluding January); @10am Contemporary Family (weekly). We meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month at St David's Burrawang. There is no service at St David's in January, we return on February 16 at 4.30pm. Our youth ministry meets every Friday night in school term time from 6.30-8.30pm for years 7-12.

Hope to see you there. Graham Thomas Minister
 Robertson / Burrawang Anglican Church
robertsonanglican.org.au 4885 1210.

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Robertson Events Calendar

December 2019

Sun 1	Live Music —Eve Thomas 1-4pm	Robertson Public House
Tues 3	Robertson Business Chamber meeting 6pm <i>see page 2</i>	CTC@Robertson
Fri 6	Christmas at the Pub from 6 pm with Robertson School Choir + Rusted Track from 8pm	Robertson Public House
Sun 8	Robertson Markets 9-2 (2nd Sunday of the month) mob: 0408 238 575 Pat	School of Arts
Sun 8	AGM of Robertson & District Swimming Pool Association 11am <i>see page 2</i>	Robertson Bowling Club
Fri 13	DJ Yoshi 7.30—10.30pm	Robertson Public House
Sun 15	Live Music —Pearl Noire 1–4pm	Robertson Public House
Tues 17	Talk and discussion with Wayne and Susan 7pm <i>see page 7</i>	CTC@Robertson
Fri 20	Christmas Old Time Dance 8pm-11pm <i>see page 10</i>	School of Arts
Sat 21	Family Carols 5pm <i>see page 4</i>	St John's Robertson
Until Sat 21	Mixed Exhibition Thur-Fri 10am-4pm <i>see page 11</i>	CTC@Robertson Gallery
Until Tues 24	Gordon Richards exhibition Fri-Mon 10am-4pm <i>see page 10</i>	The SHAC
Fri 27	DJ Yoshi 7.30– 10.30pm	Robertson Public House
Tues 31	NYE Eve Country Party at the Pub + DJ Yoshi from 6pm	Robertson Public House

January 2020

	No Robertson Market in January	
Wed 15	Deadline for February Edition of Robertson News	CTC@Robertson
Wed 22	Barista course for young people 9am-3pm <i>see page 7</i>	CTC@Robertson
Fri & Sat until Jan 25	Jimmy Nardello Italian Restaurant Nights	Moonacres

Regular Events

Every Mon & Thur during school terms	Yoga —Mondays 6.30pm to 7.45pm, Thursdays 9.30am to 10.45 am, Thursdays 5.45pm-7pm 0407 771 828 and email to jenniferrobinson108@gmail.com	Robertson Community Centre
Every Mon	Social Carpet Bowls at 11am	Robertson Bowling Club
1st Mon	Robertson Garden Club 1.30pm Marion Tyree mob 0401425565	Robertson Community Centre
Every 2nd Tues	Robertson Community & Seniors Group 11:30am for 12 start. Contact Vinnie Shepherd (after 6pm) 4886 4344	TBC—contact Vinnie
2nd Tues of month	Robertson Men's Shed 10am-3pm ph 0467 316 070	CTC@Robertson
1st & 3rd Tues	Robertson History Group 10am-1pm Contact Helen Tranter ph 48851394	Fettlers Shed Robertson Railway
Every Tues	Social tennis 1-3pm All Welcome	Robertson Tennis Court
Every Week	Mindfulness Meditation 3.30pm-4.30pm Contact Fiona Brown 0409 036 188	The Robertson Doctor
Every Wed	Robertson Songsters 4.30pm Contact Karen Wilmott mob 0403 044 828	CTC@Robertson
Every Wed	Robertson Knitting Group 10.30-12.30	The Cool Room Emporium
Every Thurs	iPad and Tablets group 1.30pm—3pm	CTC@Robertson
Every last Thur	Robertson Men's Shed 10am-3pm ph 0467 316 070	CTC@Robertson
Every Fri	Free Trivia/Joker Jackpot/Prize Tombola	Robertson Bowling Club
Every Fri school term	Youth Ministry for Years 7-12 6.30-8.30pm	St Johns Robertson
Every Sat	Crop Swap 9.30 am	Robertson Bowling Club
Every Sun	Robertson Railway Modellers Group 1pm-4.30pm Neil 0457 355 970	The Fettlers Shed
1st Sun, 4th Sun	Traditional Service at 8am every 1st and 4th Sundays of the month	St Johns Robertson
Every Sun	Family Service – 10am every Sunday	St Johns Robertson
1st, 3rd, 5th Sun 2nd, 4th Sun	Catholic Service 8am Catholic Service 5pm	St Peter's Burrawang

Australia's Aged Care Crisis and Solution

By Michael D Breen

The preliminary reports from the Royal Commission into aged care in Australia have shocked many if not all Australians. The fear is that we too might end up victims. There have been eighteen reports and inquiries into aged care in the recent past. Each has made recommendations for significant change. They have had no effect. Why? What does the future hold? What can be done?

Firstly why?

Because much of the 'industry' is invisible to most people. Abuse is frequently managed by families privately and they don't make a fuss. Many relatives visiting nursing homes do not complain lest there be reprisals and their loved ones suffer. Much of the abuse and neglect happens in facilities when only the victim and staff members are present. Staff who report abuse fear reprisals so stay quiet. Further it is such a huge issue that governments have concealed the problem.

Companies tasked with providing services have taken public monies and greedily cut costs, wages, and trained staff. Regulation and auditing of taxpayers' money has been inadequate. Several not for profit organizations also game the system by charging a higher than decent percentage as administration fees. As always where there is abuse follow the money.

The other reason why the area is invisible is denial. Many people do not want to admit they will need aged care. They pretend it will not 'happen to them' and find out how bad it is only when it is too late. Denial of death is as old as humanity.

What does the future hold?

The Royal Commission is due to report in April 2020. But don't hold your breath. Governments have had those eighteen reports already. And if you look at the history of attention to national issues like drought, wage reform, education reform, health reform unless there is some major 'miracle' they will make a few cosmetic changes and get their spin doctors to say it is all fixed.

But maybe sheer numbers will force change. Currently there are 27000 elderly and disabled people needing care. This will increase fourfold by 2047 to 1.08 million needing aged care. More and more people will be needing more and more carers and organizations to care for the increased numbers. It is currently a \$20 billion industry employing 224,000 staff and 1800 businesses.

What can be done?

How can aged care become a priority? Selling or buying submarines is not an option. What are the available resources? Where are the resources? How can they best be used? Obviously, Government shows little appetite for better resourcing of aged care. How about better partnerships with non-government organizations and communities?

This is a tricky area. The challenge is to get resources and money to the person who needs them. Not to the company who administers the cash and will slurp up exorbitant fees. The closer the carers are to the elderly the less likely there is profit gouging exploitation. Keeping a person in their homes costs \$94 per day. Keeping a person in an aged care facility costs over \$1200. (Exact figures on this are almost impossible to find.) So costs could be reduced if communities could do more local care keeping people at home supported by government subsidies. And employing local helpers.

Local hubs, managed by local committees could coordinate services in homes, to advocate for older people trying to understand and access the minefield of government services and agencies like Centrelink. A local hub could coordinate assistance from volunteers and volunteer agencies like Community Transport, St Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels, etc. The hub could help with finding locals with some time or expertise to be of assistance. In some places schools have linked with older people for the benefit of all as shown in the recent ABC programme about Anzac Homes and the local kindergarten 'Old Peoples' Home for Four year olds'. Neighbours could offer to keep an eye out for older folk who are in need or are lonely and isolated. Of course there are matters of privacy, of respect and ethics. There will always be issues to be managed in any enterprise. That is just part of the job. Recently I visited one such community hub in St Ives. They have 700 volunteers and help hundreds to get government and other services at minimal cost. They look for ideas far and wide which will help keep people in their homes with dignity and respect.

Aged care is in crisis not only in Australia. The World Health Organization says it is the major problem facing humanity. The government cannot fix the problem sometimes called a 'grey tsunami' by throwing money at the problem; especially if heaps of the money goes to large, expensive and greedy companies. However there are good will, time and expertise at the local community level. Small, responsible grassroots groups who know who needs what in the community could go a long way to helping. Especially in rural areas.

Robertson Futures, in response to several and ongoing expressions of need, will be hosting a Forum on Housing in Robertson on 29 February 2020 at the Robertson School of Arts. This will be an opportunity to hear from a world expert, and to get with others to build a picture of 'What we have and What we need.' for all sections of the community. Roofs, Beds and Visions'. Further info Michael Breen phone 0428 456 273.

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Community Announcements

Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

Marie and John Lemmon, of Orange have recently had their 65th Wedding Anniversary. Marie was nee Mackey, and they lived in Lemmons Road, Robertson.

Moving Forward Into Change with Wayne and Susan—a one hour talk and discussion

As students of life both Sue and I have taken time out of the common work schedule in order to explore ourselves on an interpersonal level. Through this exploration we have found ways to improve our lives and live a more intentional existence. From this experience we wish to share our discoveries in the hope that our information may help others in their lives. The first talk and discussion will be held at CTC@Robertson on **Tuesday 17 December** 7pm-9pm with a second one planned for **Wednesday 15 January** 7pm-9pm. Further information wayne.hunter@gmail.com

Understanding Aboriginal Culture, History and Community Workshop in Moss Vale

Wingecarribee Shire Council in partnership with Ngaran Ngaran Culture Awareness would like to offer Aboriginal cultural awareness training that seeks to increase awareness of cultural differences and to help ensure our working relationships are as effective as they can be.

NNCA's Culture and Community Responsive Training (CCRT) workshop assists people and organisations of all shapes and sizes to establish a baseline understanding of Aboriginal culture, history and community. CCRT is appropriate for any person or group that has had limited or no introduction to Aboriginal people and culture. The program also incorporates high level engagement and awareness strategies for the more advanced organisations. Participants can expect to come away from the workshop with a better understanding of Aboriginal people, history and culture in a modern context.

Wednesday 19 February 2020 at Moss Vale Senior

Citizens & Community Centre 14 Queen Street Moss Vale 9am-4pm. Cost is \$40 (including morning tea and lunch) and places are limited so book early. Book at www.trybooking.com/BFXPN

Free Barista Course for Young People

Highlands Youth Services is presenting another free Barista course for young people aged 12-18 years at CTC@Robertson on **Wednesday 22 January** 9am-3pm. Bookings essential—phone 4862 1122 or 0414 207 571. Come and find out how to tell your lattes from your macchiatos!

Bring Music to Your Life—Celebrate the 2020 Seniors Festival in Robertson by listening, learning about and making music

The CTC@Robertson is very excited to be presenting a week of celebrating with music as part of the NSW Seniors Festival in February. With funding assistance from the NSW Government and in partnership with local musicians and the Robertson Men's Shed there will be four free events at the CTC during the Festival.

Thursday 13 Feb 10am-12 noon—*Try It!* Have you always wanted to learn a musical instrument? This is your chance to try one of 8 different instruments. Morning tea.

Sunday 16 Feb 2pm-4pm *Listen to It!* Enjoy the music of talented young musicians presenting a concert of chamber music and jazz. Afternoon tea.

Tuesday 18 Feb 10.30am-1pm *Make It!* Join Robertson Mens Shed members with a demonstration of how to make a musical instrument, followed by a barbecue.

Wednesday 19 Feb 4pm-6.30pm *Learn About It!* Hear Andrew Ford and Anni Heino talk about their new book on the history of the song (see further info about the book on page 3) with musical illustration by The Robertson Songsters. Drinks and nibbles.

See also page 11 for details of seniors IT workshops.

All events are free for seniors. Bookings will open soon but register your interest at CTC@Robertsonph48852665info@robertsonctc.org.au

Learn How to be an Ethics Teacher

Have you got an hour each week to support children to learn thinking, reasoning and decision-making skills?

Primary Ethics is presenting ethics teacher training in Wollongong on 14-15 December. Apply now at primaryethics.com.au/volunteer

Escape to SW France!!!

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Thursday Eve from 5.45pm to 7.00pm

Alternatively Private Yoga consultations are available.

To register contact Jennifer on **0407 771 828** or
jenniferrobinson108@gmail.com

A History of Robertson School of Arts

submitted by Quentin Waters

Although Robertson was founded in 1862, it wasn't until the 1870s and 80s that the town really began to take form. It was during this time, an era where many felt a strong sense of duty and community spirit, that many of Robertson's institutions were established. More than a century on, this community spirit lives on in not just the new, but also the surviving institutions, one of which is the Robertson School of Arts.

Situated in the middle of the Government block, between the public school to the west, and the police station and courthouse to the east, and the post office beyond, the land on which the modern School of Arts is built was dedicated for the Mechanics Institute in 1885. However, the first seeds for the School of Arts had been planted some years before that, when George Schlaadt (the first shopkeeper in Robertson, and who later built the Pub) donated 50 books to the public school for circulation. In June 1876 Dr Tarrant promised £10 towards the establishment of the institution, along with a number of others, and it was decided to apply to the Government for a parcel of the land on which the public school stood. However, it was not until 19 February 1885 that the Governor of New South Wales – Lord August Loftus – signed the grant of land to the people of Robertson. The original document presented to the five trustees is still in the possession of the Committee and duly informs the reader that “the said Society, School, or Institute will be conducive to the Public Good of the Inhabitants of Our said Colony”, and those inhabitants have endeavoured through thick and thin to ensure the School of Arts has survived to serve our township 134 years on.

The residents promptly set to work forming the Committee of 30 members in its first year and building the hall, which was completed in 1886. The original School of Arts hall was a neat little stone building with a high pitched iron roof, entry foyer at the front, and annex on the western side, which housed the library. One of the newly constructed hall's first uses was as the pavilion for the Show when it was first held in Robertson in April 1886. Although performing its duties admirably, as the times changed, so did the needs of the town. Since the School of Arts' inception, the public school system was established and improved across New South Wales, gradually negating the need for philanthropic adult education, and as the 20th century progressed and the town grew, it became increasingly evident that the town required a larger public meeting space than this little old hall could accommodate. This was never more apparent than at the switching on of electricity in Robertson and Burrawang in 1930. On the night of the winter solstice of Saturday, 21 June, the town turned out in force, squeezing into the old School of Arts hall to witness the State Treasurer, along with a host of other dignitaries, switch on the electric current. As the dim hurricane lamps suddenly gave way to the brilliant electric, the Progress Association turned its sights to the lack of sufficient meeting space, now made so clear.

In 1935 a fund was established and talks began with Council regarding a new hall. However, controversy would erupt over whether to build an entirely new hall, or extend the existing

building. A breakaway committee would form to raise money for a new building, but the bank would only lend to the trustees, who were in favour of an extension. These divisions meant it would be another 3 years before the Committee was ready to call for tenders for the extension, with the final dance held in the old hall in May 1939 before the rebuild began. The library annex would be retained, along with the western wall and part of the front wall, while the main hall would be lengthened and widened to the east and a new entry foyer built in line with the new centre. A lingering reminder of the old building is the arched windows on the western side and in the annex, with the sandstone quoin blocks on the corners and windows here a contrast to the clean lines and square doors and windows found in the new walls. During the demolition work in July a bottle was recovered from a crevice constructed in one of the cornerstones. It was found to contain copies of the Sydney Morning Herald, Kiama Independent, Burrawang Herald, and Moss Vale Scrutineer, dated November 1885. It wasn't long before construction was completed and the local State member, Jeff Bates MLA opened the new enlarged hall on 26 November 1939, which was followed by a grand opening ball on the 29 November. The new hall was 35 by 70 feet long, with the inside walls finished in canite painted a creamy yellow, while rich blue velvet curtains with a gold floral pattern adorned the side doors and across the back stage. A film projection box was constructed above the new entry foyer (the old one had been at the back of the building) and a new tallowwood dance floor was installed. The building presented a modern, though not ornate, face to the street and was completed at a cost of £1,400, with £700 still owing when it was finished.

The bright optimism of the time soon faded as the nation turned its mind and muscle to the War effort in the ensuing years, but for a time this returned after victory. Regular balls were held to raise money for the Committee, while the CWA (which met in the hall) donated 6 flowering cherry trees to be planted on the street to mark the Queen's coronation in 1953, while electric coppers and a stainless steel sink were installed during renovations the following year. However, soon new headwinds were faced. The establishment of the free Council library saw membership decline before the library was eventually transferred from the hall to the mobile library. The advent of television quickly forced the closure of the cinema as well, and soon the hall would fall into disrepair, especially after the 1961 earthquake hit. Significant damage was inflicted, forcing the CWA to move out for a number of months while repairs were conducted. By the late 1970s the School of Arts was in decay, and the Committee asked Council to take over the building. Council took no interest however, replying that there was nothing wrong with the building that a good demolition team couldn't fix. The timber windows and doors were almost falling out, the timber sprung floor's piers were rotting away underneath, the blue velvet curtains were disintegrating, and the kitchen was a corrugated iron building to the side still with coppers, and the toilets hadn't been touched in decades. The School of Arts was facing its imminent demise.....

This is an excerpt from a detailed article written by Quentin. Please contact Quentin for a copy of the full article which unfortunately could not be included in full due to space limitations. There is also an excellent booklet on the history of the Robertson School of Arts which can be obtained from the School of Arts Committee.

From: John Johnston, Brendhan Waters, Hope Waters, “A History of the Berrima District” 1962, “The Winds of Change” 1979, “History of the Robertson School of Arts” 2017, and newspapers “Illawarra Mercury” Friday, 16 June 1876, “Sydney Morning Herald” Friday, 2 April 1886, “Southern Mail” Tuesday, 24 June 1930, “Southern Mail” Friday, 27 June 1930, “Southern Mail” Tuesday, 15 January 1935, “The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press” Wednesday, 27 February 1935, “Southern Mail” Friday, 29 March 1935, “Southern Mail, Friday, 28 April 1939, “The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press” Wednesday, 26 July 1939, “Southern Mail” Tuesday, 31 October 1939, “Southern Mail” Tuesday, 28 November 1939, “Southern Mail” Friday, 8 December 1939

A Successful Year for Robertson Heritage Railway Station

submitted by Ian Wallace, RHRS Inc

The year 2019 was successful in several ways for RHRS, a community group of volunteers established in 2002. Although the severe drought during this year (and much of 2018 as well) has affected the current appearance of the railway precinct grounds, the station buildings are about to receive a much-needed repaint made possible by a Transport Heritage Grant of \$15,000 in the Transport Heritage NSW/Royal Australian Historical Society (NSW) grants award program of 2019. The grant will go towards the cost of repainting the concrete buildings and follows on from two 2015 grants to remediate the “concrete cancer” in the National Trust heritage-listed station buildings. The balance of the cost of the painting will be covered by donations and volunteer fund-raising. The repaint, in specified heritage colours, will restore our station buildings to their original attractiveness.

Another major success for RHRS in 2019 was the reintroduction of the iconic ‘Cockatoo Run’ heritage passenger train, commencing with the inaugural run on Sunday, 3 February, which has been followed by monthly services, most of which attracted at least 200 passengers. From April, ‘The Cockatoo Run’ has conveyed passengers from Robertson station to Moss Vale station and return on a regular basis, and these are advertised on Facebook as well as on the Robertson Village Community Information Centre electronic signboard. Tickets for this “Robertson-Moss Vale-Robertson Loop Train” run are obtainable from Robertson railway station after 11.30am on the date of running. This reintroduction of heritage train services to Robertson is very pleasing to RHRS as it re-establishes Robertson as a true working railway station. The sale of the “Robertson Loop Train” tickets mentioned above has allowed RHRS to contribute the \$3,000 extra required to repaint the concrete station buildings. An estimated 2,200 passengers/tourists have visited Robertson via ‘The Cockatoo Run’ this year, and have contributed significantly to sales at local cafes, clubs and other establishments. The train operator, formerly 3801 Limited and now named ‘East Coast Heritage Rail’, has overcome many difficulties to reintroduce ‘The Cockatoo Run’, and RHRS will do all that it can to continue its commercial success well into the future. It is good for the village of Robertson!

Despite the prolonged drought, the waratah gardens within the station precinct were again a major attraction this year and funds from the sale of many cut waratah flowers enables the garden and buildings



Heritage diesel-electric locomotives 42101/42103 lead the reintroduction into service of ‘The Cockatoo Run’ heritage tourist train as it approaches Robertson station on Sunday, 3 February 2019. Photo supplied

maintenance. The ‘Dorrigo Waratah’ plantings on both sides of the railway line are just coming into flower now, and will also be major attraction during December and January.

Once again, the annual RHRS Classic Car Show, held on Sunday, 14 April was a great success, attracting many fine and interesting vehicles and numerous well-appreciated sausage and bacon & egg rolls were sold, another boost to our volunteer organisation’s funds. The 2020 Classic Car Show will be held on Sunday, 19 April 2020 – weather permitting - to avoid the Easter holiday weekend.

Additionally, RHRS Fettlers Shed houses a group of model railway enthusiasts who meet every Thursday and Sunday afternoon. The model train group is currently preparing a larger display which will probably take twelve months to complete. Further, a small group of RHRS members meet twice a month to collect and record Robertson history. The Fettlers Shed Gallery, as well as housing the model trains, provides space for two annual art exhibitions coinciding with the Car Show and the Waratah flowering.

Finally RHRS would like to extend its thanks for the support the local community has provided over the last twelve months and hopes this support will be continued into 2020. Please accept our very best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year. If you would like to become a member of RHRS you would be most welcome. We are after fresh ideas and the energy gained from new members so that RHRS continues to operate as an important community asset for everyone to enjoy. For more information visit www.robertsonrailway.org.au

Moss Vale Girl Guides Christmas Hamper Drive for Local Drought Affected Farmers and the Needy

We are collecting goods to put together for our Christmas hampers, anyone who would like to contribute to this please do not hesitate to call us, we are asking for personal hygiene items, dry food items, cereal, long life milk, tinned goods, gifts etc. Judy ph 0418451988

Any girls wishing to join Guides we welcome you to Moss Vale Girl Guides, 4pm - 6pm every Friday afternoon, 3 Donkin Avenue Moss Vale ph 0418 451 988 Girl Guides is from 10 - 14 . We also have Junior Guides on Tuesdays 5-7pm at Moss Vale. from 5 - 10 yrs contact - Judy or Mel 0424 194 127

Gordon Richards *Regenerate* Exhibition Opens at The SHAC

Renowned artist Gordon Richards presents his 'Regenerate' exhibition at The SHAC from November 29 to December 24. Before painting his first canvas in the early 90's, Gordon was a highly acclaimed chef and innovative restaurant owner in Bendigo, Victoria, farming much of his own produce, including yabbies! In 1991 he relocated to Noosa,



Gordon Richards will be exhibiting at The SHAC Picture supplied

Queensland and established a new restaurant highly regarded for its innovative cuisine. It was in Noosa that Gordon's talent for drawing and painting finally emerged - he exchanged his chef's knives for

paint brushes and so began his extraordinary career as an artist. Gordon's training as a chef enables him to work fast and spontaneously; scraping back and layering lush acrylics onto his canvases. Together with his self-confessed passion for "wine, women and food" and his ability to record observations of humour and pathos in everyday life, the artist is rewarded with the instant appeal that has made him one of Australia's most successful artists. Gordon is represented in numerous private and corporate collections throughout Australia and overseas.

The SHAC Gallery is located at 74 – 76 Hoddle Street, Robertson, NSW (next to The Big Potato). Open Friday – Monday 10am – 4pm. enquiries@theshac.com.au

Refurbishment of Robertson School of Arts Hall Unveiled

by John Johnston

The Robertson School of Arts applied for a grant of \$99,490 from the NSW Regional Cultural Fund in 2019 to replace the stage roof, replace concrete entry, paint the outside of the hall, replace the front



Wendy Tuckerman unveils the plaque. Picture supplied.

fence, and erect a new sign. This was approved and has been completed and a celebration was held at the hall on 26 October.

Member for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman MP unveiled a plaque to celebrate this occasion and an afternoon tea was held at the hall.

Approximately 30 people attended with guests Councillor Larry Whipper from Wingecarribee Shire Council and Julia Pucci from the Regional Cultural Fund. The President of the Robertson School of Arts, Jean Tobler presented appreciation certificates to Robertson Supermarket, Robertson Fruit Shop, Robertson Butchery, Mr Ian Field, Mr & Mrs Barry Austin, Ms Jenny Kena, Mr Noel McDonald, Wingecarribee Shire Council and Mrs Wendy Tuckerman MP.

This refurbishment funding has made the Robertson Hall a great asset for the village and we encourage people to use this facility when a need is required. Anyone who wishes to join the Robertson School of Arts Committee should contact the Secretary John Johnston on 0407004395.

CHRISTMAS OLD TIME DANCE
ROBERTSON SCHOOL OF ARTS
FRI 20 DECEMBER 8PM—11PM

Music by Marshall Mt Merry Makers
Adults \$10 School Students \$5

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Robertson Community Technology Centre

by Karen Mewes CTC@Robertson Manager

As 2019 ends we are busy planning some great events and classes for next year.

2020—Seniors Festival— February

We have a program of events on music for the Seniors Festival next year. For details on these see page 7. However we haven't forgotten our technology roots so we are running 2 free workshops and our regular iPad group will also be free during the festival.

Thursday 13 February 2pm -3.30pm
iPad and Tablets Group – come along with your device, questions and issues. - **FREE**

Friday 14th February 10.30am-11.30 am
Do I need an iPad or tablet? Differences, uses and how to choose. - **FREE**

Friday 21 February 10.30am-11.30 am
Avoiding Scams & keeping safe online. - **FREE**

Thursday 20 February 2pm-3.30pm
iPad and Tablets Group – come along with your device, questions and issues. - **FREE**

2020—Free Computer Classes—from March

Thanks to Clubs NSW we are also offering a series of FREE classes. These classes are aimed at people who might otherwise be unable to pay for or attend classes. Numbers are limited so please call us to reserve your place. Carers are welcome to come along too.

2020—Free iPad / Tablet / Smart Phone Classes

Following on from the computer classes we have FREE workshops on mobile devices also funded by



Clubs NSW. These will be run on a Friday morning and cover basic skills, taking and sending photos, emails, internet, online booking, navigation, printing and scanning. These will be run after Easter.

iPads, Tablets and Smart Phones Every Thursday

Every Thursday afternoon we have a casual iPad & Tablets group (you can also come along with your mobile phone). This is just \$5 to join and \$5 each week you attend. It is very casual, just turn up 1.30pm-3pm on a Thursday.

**The CTC is OPEN: Thurs & Fri 10am - 4pm,
Sat 10am - 1pm.**

CLOSED From Dec 22nd to Jan 22nd
58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson
Phone: 4885 2665

Email: info@robertsonctc.org.au

Website: www.robertsonctc.org.au

Thanks to everyone who has been involved this year and Best Wishes for Christmas / New Year.

FREE Computer Classes at CTC@Robertson

Funded by Clubs NSW—Free for Seniors or people on low income or otherwise disadvantaged

All classes are taught by a qualified and experienced trainer. .Ph 4885 2665 karenmewes@robertsonctc.org.au
3 hour class, Maximum of 6 per class.

Friday 6 March 2020	10:00am 1:00pm	Beginners - Essential computer skills. Pt 1 Get started or gain confidence using a computer and searching the internet.
Friday 13 March 2020	10:00am 1:00pm	Essential computer skills. Pt 2 Internet and Email –Safe internet searching and online shopping tips. Privacy and Security. Introduction to Email
Friday 20 Mar 2020	10:00am 12:00pm	Essential computer skills. Pt 3 - Email and Documents. Take your email skills further, attachments, printing, scanning and uploading.
Friday 27 Mar 2020	10:00am 12:00pm	Essential computer skills. Pt 4 —Negotiating Government and useful websites and groups (job seeking and support sites)

Stephen Jones Tours Rainforest

By David Mee

On 29 October, Stephen Jones and his assistant, Ben Mofardin visited the Robertson Nature Reserve to have a look at a small sample of the rain forest of the Yarrowa Brush. They were welcomed by a few members of REPS (Allan Stiles, Mike Meldrum, Cathryn Coutts and myself David Mee), who accompanied them on the walk around the path. Neither Stephen nor Ben had been there before, and we hope they were impressed with the natural beauty of the place. They had a beautiful clear



L to R David Mee, Stephen Jones, Allan Stiles and Cathryn

sunny day for it.

A dead wombat lying out the front of the reserve entrance, buzzing with flies, did not augur well, but a few meters into the rain forest, the smell disappeared.

Now that Stephen has had a chance to know about this small but beautiful part of his electorate, we hope he will be a champion for the protection of it in the future.

Men's Shed Update

By Ted Smith

We are the 'Men's Shed without a shed' but are actively beavering away raising funds with grants, BBQs, donations and sundry community projects to make this happen. With DA approval and other project requirements well advanced we need every support to attain our funding goal so we can start building and provide facilities for men in our local community. At our AGM on November 12 we appointed a new committee eager for success in 2020! Clr Ian Scandrett attended and his practical support was appreciated. Significant recent projects undertaken include construction work at the SHAC, shelving for Robertson Public School and dog training ramps and stepping boards. On November 6 we were fortunate to have Stephen Jones MP personally present the RMS with confirmation of a Federal Government grant for \$4500. On Sunday November 17 we had an outstanding presence at Retford Park Bowral Community Day raising funds by providing BBQ sausage sandwiches and drinks at the new proposed Southern Highlands Regional Gallery formally introduced by acclaimed artist Ben Quilty. So there is much happening at this exciting time forming our very own workplace at Robertson Men's Shed and we encourage more men to come along and experience the friendly, social company.

New RMSI Committee

PRESIDENT- John Kennis, VICE PRESIDENT- David Ricketts, TREASURER- Bill Sloane, SECRETARY- Michael Meldrum, ORDINARY MEMBER- Graeme Sessions, ORDINARY MEMBER- Graeme Hewat, ORDINARY MEMBER- Ted Smith, Public Officer- Bill Sloane

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ROBERTSON BOWLING CLUB

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Mon-Fri 12 noon till late, Sat-Sun 10am till late

Every Monday - Social Carpet Bowls 11am - new players welcome
Every Wednesday—Social Lawn Bowls (\$10 per player) - new bowlers welcome
Every Thursday - Soccer Club Joker Jackpot and Pool Comp from 6.30pm
Every Friday - Free Trivia - Joker Jackpot and Lucky Member draw from 7pm
Every Sunday - Prize Tombola - Members Draw from 6.30pm

The Club welcomes new members with social membership starting at \$13 per year. The Club is a major sponsor of Robertson's Soccer, Cricket and Hockey clubs. For further information call the Club on 4885 1306.

Peggy's Bistro

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7 days per week

