

Robertson News

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She Saw the Beauty in Everyone

In Memory of Mrs Compagnoni

**Joan Elizabeth Compagnoni
4/2/1921-15/12/2020**

By Jenny Kena

It was with great sadness that the news was received just before Christmas that long time Robertson resident and community treasure Joan Compagnoni had passed away. Joan was just 51 days shy of her 100th birthday.

Joan left behind a large family of 7 children, 17 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. Joan sadly lost her husband Ken after 66 years of marriage in 2011. She was very involved with her family but gave generously to the community especially here in Robertson. Joan and Ken moved from Mosman to Missingham Parade over 50 years ago.

Many people in Robertson benefitted from Joan's community service whether it was being helped with reading at school or supported as an older person in the Senior Citizens Association.

Joan was awarded the Wingecarribee Shire Council Citizen of the Year award in 2000 in recognition of



Joan Compagnoni with some of her grandchildren/great grandchildren celebrating her 95th birthday at the School of Arts in 2016 Photo: Grace Avery

her volunteer work and long term contribution to the Southern Highlands community. In 2011, she was included in the NSW Government *Hidden Treasures Honour Roll* celebrating women volunteers who give so much to their rural communities. *Contd p4.....*

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Stop Press!

Robertson Show 2021...Postponed

By Robertson Show Society Committee

COVID19 has had a lasting impact on our lives and unfortunately the Robertson Show isn't immune. Due to Government restrictions and continued, very



real concerns for people's safety, the Robertson Show Committee has made a tough decision to postpone the March Show events for 2021 apart from the dogs and rich fruit cake competitions.

Unfortunately these Show events will not be open to any public. We will

however be running online competition events. Competition and entry details will be available from 1 February on the Robertson Show website www.robertsonshow.org.au

Disappointing! We know. But our first obligation must be to keep our community safe.

Competitions for dairy cattle, goats, beef cattle, poultry and horses will be held towards the end of the year. An announcement will be made as soon as dates are confirmed.

We value the contributions of our loyal sponsors to help us put on this postponed Show later this year. We always greatly value the donations that help us support our rural community.

All competition attendees will require digital registration at entry points and be required to comply with the COVID19 rules of physical distancing and hand sanitising in accordance with NSW Government guidelines.

Thank you all for your understanding, kindness and support.

For those of you we won't be able to see at the 2021 Show—we will miss you!

But rest assured we are already planning a spectacular 2022 Robertson Show which will be one to remember.

Further information—Robertson Show Society robertsonshow@bigpond.com

New Visitors Map Coming Soon!

Robertson's Business Chamber and the CTC have been working on a major tourism initiative for the village. The new Robertson village map and new look village website will soon be launched, giving visitors both on line and hard copy guides to the unique local shopping, dining and accommodation opportunities to be discovered in Robertson.

Regional NSW is experiencing a tourism boom and these guides will help local businesses take full advantage of the estimated 3,000 people currently visiting Robertson each month, many of whom stay overnight in one of 50 local accommodation establishments. Robertson Business Chamber's support of local tourism businesses is intended to generate a strong village economy and facilitate local employment.

Contribution Guidelines

The submission deadline for the April 2021 edition is March 15 2021.

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.

Disclaimer: This newsletter is an independent publication under the auspices of the Robertson CTC. The ideas presented are not necessarily those of the editors or the Robertson CTC. Statements and opinions presented in the publication are made in good faith and the editor and CTC@Robertson do not take any responsibility for those statements and opinions, any inferences drawn from them or actions and charges that may result from them. The editor reserves the right to not print any item that is defamatory to any person or organisation or that is anonymously sent.

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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All advertising enquiries to advertising@robertsonctc.org.au

Further details at www.robertson.nsw.au/advertise-with-us.html

Men's & Women's Shed Opening *All Invited!*

All Robertson residents are invited to be part of this special occasion celebrating the completion of the Men's and Women's Shed building on 13 February. Further details in the invitation below or contact robertsonmensshed@gmail.com or Facebook www.facebook.com/RobertsonmensshedInc




Official Opening Invitation

February 13th, 2021
10.30am - 2.00pm

All Robertson Residents are invited to be a part of this gala occasion and share in the festivities. This modern facility adjoining the Robertson CTC will be a community hub.

- * Tours of the shed, equipment & facilities.
- * Static display
- * David Ricketts - Brass Connection
- * Jumping Castle for children
- * Moss Vale Rotary Club - BBQ
- * CTC - Coffee & Cakes
- * Ice Cream free for children 12 years & under
- * Covid compliant

John Kennis
President




Designing the Robertson Community Garden

By the Robertson Community Garden Committee
The Robertson Community Garden committee held a very successful community consultation prior to Christmas. The consultation was held at Robbo Commons where the garden will be created. The Robertson Heritage Railway Committee, on behalf of the ARTC has offered the land to our community.

Our community gave us great ideas and information that will ensure the design will be truly inclusive of all ages and abilities for the residents of Robertson and our surrounds.



The emphasis will be on creating a garden that encourages, includes and supports all of our family members, friends and neighbours that live with disabilities. To be a place of belonging, care, support and community. A place of inclusion around growing and harvesting beautiful food. We are very grateful to have James Pfeiffer and Angus Gordon designing the garden.

Prior to Christmas the surveyor completed the report and we are now assessing that report and hope to get started on the design and build in the next few months.

We are enthusiastically seeking community members who would like to be involved on our committee as well as in the planning, build and management of the garden. See further details about volunteering on p10.

Robertson Fruit Shop



Opening Hours
Fri 8am-5pm
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Vale Joan Compagnoni

Joan was one of the first members of Council's Seniors Committee which was formed in 1999 to plan for the Year of Older Persons. Joan continued to contribute to this Committee for almost 20 years until she resigned due to her license restrictions. "Joan was one of the most positive older people I have had the pleasure to know", says Nicola

Joan was a glass half full person. She always saw the best in people and was a peacemaker.
Hope Waters

Robson (Council's former Ageing & Disability Officer). "Her enthusiasm for being involved in the community that she loved and putting her hand up for any task that needed doing made you realise that your age is just a number but being involved, participating and enjoying your life is everything. A lady to look up to!", says Nicola.

Joan was also involved as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Robertson Senior Citizens and Community Association, Robertson Village

What an amazing woman Joan was. Her strength, tenacity and spirit of service were unparalleled. Ken and Joan made such a wonderful contribution to our village and the wider community.
Larry Whipper

Association, Robertson Community Centre Management Committee, Robertson School of Arts Committee, Ladies Fellowship of the Robertson Anglican Church and Jumping Joeys Playgroup, Robertson Public School reading program, Scouts and Brownies.

I remember doing my cooking and cleaning badge with her for Brownies and going to the old time dances and she would be in the kitchen getting supper together.
Chloe Brumfield

In 2017, Joan was given Life Membership of the Robertson

School of Arts for her 47 years of service. Although already involved in the School of Arts for many years, she was the first Secretary when the School of Arts incorporated in 1990 and impressed her other Committee members with her skill in taking the minutes in shorthand. (They were always relieved when Joan transcribed the minutes!).

Joan saw the beauty in everyone she met. One of the most amazing ladies in my life.

Al Mauger

Mrs Comp was a big part of so many kids lives growing up in Robbo.

Barbara Ann Muldoon

Oh my what a lady. She used to turn up every week to help me run reading support at Robertson Public School and the children just loved going to her.

Vicki Stokes

Joan and Ken lived at Lithgow in earlier days and were very involved in the Zig Zag Railway.

According to her neighbour in Robertson, Lyndy Scott, Joan's excitement with trains continued throughout her life along with her love of tennis, driving and dogs. "My dogs adored Joan and they used to sneak next door to visit", says Lyndy.




Although Joan's 100th birthday party planned for the Robertson School of Arts did not get to happen, some community members were able to join Joan's large family in celebrating her life at St John's Anglican Church and Robertson Bowling Club on 21 December 2020.

A great lady, an inspiration to so many—gone but never forgotten.

Vale Mrs Compagnoni.

Acknowledgement of Sources—Funeral booklet lent by Pat Willard, *History of Robertson School of Arts* by John Johnston, Robertson Commons Facebook page, Lyndy Scott, Grace Avery, Hope Waters, *NSW Hidden Treasure Roll 2011*, Rhiannon Ireland.



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Local Writer Starts Publishing Business

by Patricia Lee

Hi, I'm Patricia Lee, long-time resident of East Kangaloon and I've just published a book of my poetry and started a publishing business. During 2020, I decided I'd waited long enough and had too many rejections of my work



Poet and publisher Patricia Lee Photo supplied

from traditional publishers that I would start my own publishing company- Duck Farm Press. In October, last year, I published a book of my poetry and art on Amazon: *How to Smoke the Soul- Poetry for the Heart and Mind*. Written over a twenty year period, the poems are about how important nature is to heal the heart and calm the mind, others are reactions to events of the time. Maria at Book Nook 2577 in Robertson has been very encouraging and has agreed to stock my book.

This year, we have plans for publishing historical biographies, a book of short stories and more historical fiction and teacher resources. I am excited to be presenting to the reading public books that cannot be found in any of the major publishers' lists. Topics we hope to cover are poems and articles written in the 1930's and 1940's, World War Two letters and journals from ex-Service men and women as well as general fiction.

You can see my growing list of titles at duckfarmpress.com.au

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Galerie Tetu Exhibits French Bolivian Artist

By Stephanie Tetu

Karine Boulanger, a French Bolivian artist, will have her first Australian exhibition at Galerie Tetu in Robertson. Showing bucolic scenes from her native Normandie on rich metallic backgrounds, often using recycled barn doors and other objects, to large scale nudes. Her work is at once striking and soft. Jenny Lavender, the new Mother in law of our very own Sam Armytage, will have a show titled



Work by Karine Boulanger Photo supplied

Diagnostic with a series of abstract paintings in X-Ray film from 5-22 March. From 23 April-10 May you can see the work of Baez-Bonorat, a Mexican born abstract painter who plays with colour and texture to create mesmerising surfaces. From 21 May, Maria Gorton a famous Highland artist who also has a following in Italy will be exhibiting. You will find Galerie Tetu in The SHAC building. Find out more at www.galerietetu.com.au

New Exhibitions at The SHAC

The SHAC has three new exhibitions coming up running from 29 January—1 March featuring works by Kim Shannon, Louise Owen and Carla Jackett.



Day Reflection by Kim Shannon

Image—SHAC website

The SHAC is at 74-76 Hoddle St and is open Friday-Monday 10am-4pm or by appointment. Find out more at www.theshac.com.au/exhibitions

Make Australia an Even Better Place For Everyone!

By Graham Thomas, Minister, Robertson/Burrawang Anglican Church

Today, as I write, it's Australia Day. Don't worry, I won't be going 'all political' on you. But I do think it's worth pausing, if only once a year, to be thankful for the privilege it is to live here. I encourage you to do that regularly. However, Australia Day is also an opportunity for us to consider (and then act on) ways to make this country a better place for everyone. Again, I encourage you do that regularly too.

One simple ethic I try to live by, as a Christian, comes from Mark 12:31, where Jesus is summing up the ten commandments, he quotes an Old Testament passage and says, we should love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength, and then he says, "love your neighbour as yourself." Now imagine, if all Aussies lived like that! Treating others, like you'd like to be treated!

But how do we know what this love looks like in practice? How should we love our neighbour? And that's not just the guy over the fence! Here's how Jesus defines love at another point in the Bible... it's often quoted at weddings, but it's not just for marriage.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Now there's some inspiration for Australia Day! But if you really want to see this love in action, then get to know Jesus. Pick up a Bible and read one of the four biographies of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and see how Jesus loved. If you'd like to know more or just talk, listen, meet some new friends, come along to one of our services. Everyone's welcome. 'Face to face' services continue at Robertson and Burrawang, however if you would like to subscribe to our YouTube channel, where you can watch the

Robertson bible talks, search on YouTube 'Robertson Burrawang Anglican Church.' Our service times at Robertson are: Sundays @8am Traditional (1st and 4th of the month) @10am Contemporary Family (weekly). We meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month at St David's Burrawang at 4.30pm. Find out more at robertsonanglican.org.au or call 4885 1210

Robertson-Burrawang

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2021

Registration Days

Sunday 7th February

Wednesday 10th February

Where: Hampden Park Robertson

When: 4pm to 6pm

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Details on our Facebook page or contact Kate on 0432 690 451

L'Étape Australia by Tour de France will take place on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 March 2021. On **Friday 19 March**, only the Event Village will operate. The Event Village is located in Coronation Park (Kiama). **Saturday 20 March** is the race day and both the Event Village and the Route will welcome riders and their supporters. The Route goes through Robertson. Find out more including road closure information at letapeaustralia.com/

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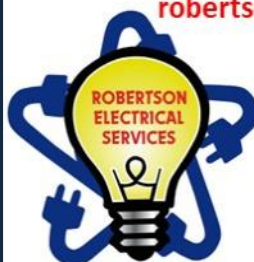
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REPS Beginnings

By Steve Douglas

In 1990 a small group of committed members decided to form an association for the protection and enhancement of the Robertson area. This was the seed which developed into the Robertson Environment Protection Society Incorporated (REPS), whose members pursue the common goal of environmental protection. At steering committee meetings held during September and October of 1990 the name and goals of the Society were discussed along with proposals for incorporation. The first meeting took place in the Robertson Community Centre on 13 November 1990 and was well attended. Since that time REPS has continued to flourish both as an environmental society and a community group. REPS has a strong and dedicated membership with members adding their diverse expertise and enthusiasm to ensure its continuing success. The interests and associations of our society are many and varied.

Although REPS was born of a desire and need to protect our local area, we are 'thinking globally and acting locally'. Indeed, the Society's name intends to invoke this philosophy i.e. being a globally-concerned environment protection society based in Robertson, whilst being active locally in the protection of our Robertson environment. REPS has been the recipient of a number of Government grants which enabled it to further serve the community by way of publishing various sources of environmental education material. One such book is *A Guide to the Yarrowa Brush*, (1993) which describes the rainforest trees, shrubs and vines around Robertson.

Today REPS continues to be a community-based organisation with a strong membership and wide community support. One of its aims is to protect and enhance the critically endangered Robertson rainforest remnants, through activities such as community education programs including bi-monthly information nights with guest speakers; a bi-monthly newsletter, *Eucryphia*, which is emailed to REPS members and other subscribers, along with printed copies available to the general public in local shops;

bush regeneration and conservation in partnership with Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service; advice to local landowners about caring for rainforest remnants on private land; submission to WSC regarding development proposals that impact on the rainforest remnants, and Production of a new edition of *A Guide to the Yarrowa Brush*.

WHAT IS THAT PLANT? Robertson Rainforest Plant Identification Workshop

Sunday 28 February 9am-4pm
CTC Robertson 58-60 Hoddle Street

Cost: \$75 per person. Max. 10 participants, as limited by COVID requirements.

Who: Suitable for landowners, home gardeners, bush care volunteers, people with an interest in the Robertson rainforest. Beginners are welcome. Children are welcome but under 16 to be accompanied by a caring adult.



Tutor: Patsy Nagle - herbarium curator, park ranger, bush regenerator, ecological consultant.

Bookings and Enquiries: Enquiries and bookings can be directed to Patsy by email at patnagle3@gmail.com

Why: Robertson sits within an ecologically interesting rainforest vegetation type called the Yarrowa Brush, which was declared Critically Endangered by the Commonwealth Government in 2019. Botanist Patsy Nagle is conducting the workshops in association with the Robertson Environment Protection Society (REPS). She will focus on these species to assist locals to get to know their unique flora - though other plants will be discussed to demonstrate plant anatomy so you can learn how to diagnose names yourself using standard ID keys, to read botanical websites, & other reference sources.

What does the workshop fee include? 9am-12.30pm Classroom discussion & tuition, Powerpoint presentations on laptop to watch at your own pace (optional), 11-11.30 morning tea break, Q&A opportunities / BYO plants (optional), lunch break / networking opportunity (1 hour), 2-4pm guided walk to Caalang Creek - with afternoon tea out in bush, Yarrowa 'showbag' (an identification guide for key local species, a hand lens, a field notebook & pencil, a USB of the visual presentations, various botanical handouts, topographic map, & other small goodies).

What to bring? A 'keep-cup' or mug, your lunch, sensible clothing/footwear/hat for walking in the bush, gloves for handling plants, personal mask, water bottle, sample plants for ID (optional).

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'Health is the greatest possession' Lao Tzu

Happy Native Grace New Year

By Monica Aleksander



Luke is ready for a chat about native plants *Photo-Monica Aleksander*

The New Year has commenced with a flourish of hopefulness after the year we have all endured – but have you included a Native Plant Resolution? What better place to start than at the Native Grace Nursery, where the owner Luke Maitland has 20 years under his belt of experience in native plants.

I must admit, I was always of the view that native plants and foliage were dull in comparison to the exotic normal plants we are accustomed to. But, to my surprise the nursery is filled with colour, textures and beautiful plants that are good for the environment and eco-system.

Luke explains that native plants have year-round colour if you know what to plant, are easy to care for and benefit our environmental system. They give birds shelter and you will receive a chirp in appreciation. If you are a bit of a brown thumb rather than green – start with the hardy bottle brush or ask Luke about all the different ranges of grevilleas that are pleasing to the eye and will make your neighbours jealous. Luke is involved in garden design and installation.

The nursery has a boutique style feel about it with a variety of plants to choose from, without the costly price attached. He doesn't mind if you pop in for a

coffee or chat as educating people about the benefits of native plants is second nature to him.

Honestly, after a little bit of research, I was surprised to find how many nurseries don't have a large range of native plants. We at Robbo are fortunate to have someone with so much knowledge and passion about native plants that will help guarantee your garden never looked better.

In this relaxing environment, you can sit at the Bush Café and enjoy a coffee, mocha or latte when you are admiring the beautiful environment and grounds. Talk to Luke about Bush Tucker Plants and you will be instantly charmed by his expertise about what plants you can use in your cooking.

Did you know that there is free Wi-Fi and an enchanting shop that is all about natural products? The soaps are divine. They are lovingly hand made by an Indigenous community from plant products. Luke believes in giving back to the community and any money generated from the soap and similar items, all goes back to the community that made them. His products are all ethical, sustainable and most importantly are made in Australia from our very own plants.

Okay you now want to venture into Native Grace but have a few children that aren't going to sit still while you meander around. No problem. Children are in for a treat as when you enter this dreamy world of plants, the children will entertain themselves with a small golf course and are given watering cans to find hidden golf balls scattered throughout the nursery. When your child has found the balls he or she will be rewarded with a packet of seeds from the shop upon the return of the golf balls—something to start our youngsters on the road to gardening. In the near future, there will also be a small playground for the children, while parents entertain themselves walking around and looking at all the plants.

So, if you haven't had the chance to explore Native Grace, you need to come in, have a coffee, a chat with Luke or his welcoming staff. I think you will be surprised how beautiful our natives are. I know I was. Find out more at www.nativegrace.com.au

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New Recruits & Equipment at Robertson RFS

By Jodie Healy , new Robertson Fire Brigade recruit



The community's donations have assisted the Robertson RFS brigade buy much needed equipment including a new vehicle and wet weather gear. Photo supplied

With fires across so much of our state, last summer was something of a shock to us all. Even though Robertson survived intact we were clearly on edge, experiencing a harsh reality check as fires devastated communities so close to home.

Keen to learn how to prepare for bushfires the Robertson Brigade was a hive of activity with locals popping down for information, and to make donations. The Brigade also had a flurry of new members: a broad mix of people some new to the area, been here for a while, still at school, wanting to fight fires or be trained as support personnel.

"I joined after seeing the devastation and destruction of the 2019 and early 2020 fires and wanted to help. I wanted to help protect my community from the dangers of wildfires. The RFS has given me the ability to increase my skills in not only firefighting but also community engagement and preparation. I have

enjoyed the camaraderie and all-round positivity that the Robertson Brigade offers. Its something you have to experience yourself in order to understand. I encourage anyone who seeks to aid their community and develop important life skills to join up".

Thanks to the efforts of Captain Brendhan Waters and Senior Deputy Jon Bracht 14 new recruits are being trained or have passed their Bush firefighter assessment, joining the ranks of the experienced crews at the Brigade. We are a busy brigade, not just fighting fires but clearing fallen trees and attending car accidents. The new members are helping to spread the load across our volunteers.

Council Connections

By Larry Whipper

Wishing you all a Happy Safe and Peaceful 2021. I look forward to working with you all to ensure that our beautiful village maintains its social, cultural and historic integrity and charm and continue to provide respite for visitors who choose to have a glimpse into the charms of our local businesses, food and wines, fine dining and of course our incredible environment. In keeping with this commitment I successfully moved the following Notice of Motion at the last Council meeting of the year for 2020. The resolution allows the residents of Robertson to be fully appraised and to be consulted about the proposal to release land in the North East of the Village for further subdivision, It also provides the opportunity for residents to be fully informed and to have their say.

THAT Council undertake consultation with the community of Robertson in regard to the Local Housing Strategy and Local Strategic Planning Statement in February 2021 to remove the identified North Eastern Land Release in Robertson. 2. THAT following the consultation, the outcomes of both the Colo Vale consultations and Robertson consultation be reported to Council.

I have also had some representations to advocate for improved pedestrian pathways in the village. Those who have resided in the village for some time would be aware that many years ago a (PAMPS) Pedestrian Access Mobility Plans Study

Contd p12....

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Alignment, Balance, Heartness

New to Robertson? Make Friends and Get To Know Your Community by Helping Out as a Volunteer

Did you know that there are around 25 not-for-profit community organisations in Robertson that rely on volunteers? This includes the Fire Brigade (see p.9), sports organisations, environmental and gardening societies, the Men's and Women's Shed, the CTC, the Op Shop, the SHAC, the Markets and School of Arts, the Robertson Show, the Heritage Railway, groups that advocate for the community plus the Church and School.

Volunteering roles can be many and varied but what they all have in common is the opportunity to meet people and feel part of the community. Volunteering is also a way to gain new skills or keep using old ones!

Here are just a few examples of current volunteer vacancies in Robertson. There are many others so just contact any of the community organisations to see what they need (contact the CTC if you need contact details for community organisations).

Robertson Community Garden **Marketing, Finance, Social Media and Administration**

We are a start up Not for Profit and building a team to administer the garden from March 2021. We need an enthusiastic team that will be supported by an existing small Board of management.
Contact Details—Ange 04271210968

CTC Robertson (Robertson Community Technology Centre) **Customer Service / Café assistant**

Meet, greet and assist customers in a variety of ways including with basic IT and equipment and serve in the café operating coffee machine. You will need to be friendly, like meeting and helping people and have a willingness to learn and take on variety of tasks. IT skills are a bonus but not essential. Barista

I would love everyone to know how much CTC has meant to me. In the last three years, it has given me meaning and lifted my spirit big time. I've had the privilege of meeting some incredible humans and it has given me inspiration and enhanced my artistic creativity in so many ways. I have been helping run the Gallery at the CTC as well as making some wonderful friends. - I do recommend doing some volunteer time in this very special place if you can.
Karon Sacks, CTC (& Women's Shed) Volunteer

skills will be taught. Regular weekly shifts or casual call for events such as the cinema. A free coffee with every shift!

CTC Committee Secretary

Attend and take minutes at monthly committee meeting. Distribute minutes, agenda and other documents to committee members (via email). Experience with meeting procedures an advantage as well as basic IT skills and a willingness to discuss ideas and work with a small group of people.

CTC Art Coordinator

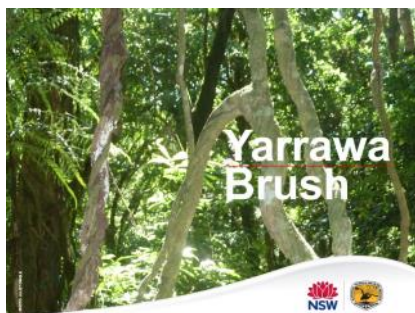
Organise monthly art exhibitions, especially promoting local and emerging artists. Liaise with committee and other volunteers. Meet people in your community with a common interest. Organisational and marketing skills are important and some basic IT as well as experience working with and supporting artists in presenting and selling their work.

Contact details—info@robertsonctc.org.au Ph 4885 2665 or drop in at 58-60 Hoddle St Thur-Sat www.robertsonctc.org.au

The CTC is registered as an organisation with Centrelink (for Job Seeker purposes).

National Parks and Wildlife Service **Robertson Nature Reserve Maintenance**

While most of the unique local rainforest known as *Yarrawa Brush* was long ago cleared for agriculture, Robertson Nature Reserve is a vital small remnant pocket located just out of Robertson township in South Street. If you have wandered the rambling



trail through this enchanting reserve you may have wondered who keeps it looking so pristine. While the interior of Robertson Nature Reserve is ecologically intact, the exposed edges of the reserve have

been invaded by aggressive introduced plants such as small leaf privet, holly, ivy and honeysuckle. These environmental weeds are gradually being removed by National Parks and Wildlife Service Staff, Volunteers and Contractors.

A handful of dedicated volunteers from the Robertson Environmental Protection Society have been gradually tackling the weeds on the first Wednesday of the month between 9.30am and noon. But more helpers are needed to help protect it. Weeding is as leisurely or energetic as you make it ... from sitting and pulling out seedlings to hand sawing and drilling trees. No experience necessary! If you are interested in helping to safeguard Robertson Nature Reserve for the future or need more info contact Ph 4887 8244 or npws.illawarrahighlands@environment.nsw.gov.au

Robertson CTC

Community, Technology Creativity

by Karen Mewes CTC@Robertson Manager

It is great to be back after our annual break but sadly we are saying goodbye to one of our long standing volunteers. Karon (Kaz) Sacks is off to Queensland. We wish her well and are very grateful for all the time she has spent with us, helping customers, running the art gallery and her involvement with the Women's Shed.

We are welcoming a new volunteer Annette, also Pip will be returning for a while as a regular volunteer, plus Martin doing some much needed gardening. Come in and say hello. However we do have some vacancies so if you are interested in volunteering, whether for customer service or a more specific role come in and talk to us or look at *page 10* for details. If you have a particular skill or interest you would like to share we are always open to ideas for groups and workshops.

It is also good to see the Robertson Crop Swap back at the CTC on a Saturday morning. We are of course on hand with coffees and cake.



Road to the Farm, pastel drawings by Annette Hearne in the CTC Gallery from 4 February

This year's exhibition program in our gallery starts with *Some Roads Taken*, pastel drawings by Annette Hearne opening on Thursday 4 February and continuing to Saturday 27 February.

And coming up in March will be an exhibition by Glenquarry based photographer and painter Janelle Menzies running from 4 March to 27 February.

Thanks to a grant from our insurance company, Community Underwriters, we have been able to purchase 2 new laptops. These will assist with CovidSafe training, plus be available for public and volunteer use in the café area where we have plenty of space for social distancing and good airflow.

Our iPad group will restart in February. Every Thursday from 1:30pm to 3pm (subject to Covid



Jenny Kena with farewell present for volunteer Karon (Kaz)

Photo—Karen Mewes

restrictions). If you want a little advice or to learn something new with your iPad, tablet or smart phone just turn up (you can always call us first to check first as things can change quickly due to Covid at the moment). For new members it is \$5 to join and \$5 every time you attend. This is a very casual and social group, no need to commit to every week but if you need specific or more involved assistance talk to us about a one on one session. The café will be open for tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. We will be spacing the seating out more than usual. The trainer and assistants will wear masks and we have masks available for customers if required.

One on one training has recommenced, please call to make an appointment. We hope to recommence group training soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, Robertson e-news or website for details or call us to register your interest. Also restarting is our cinema on a date to be confirmed soon. Again keep an eye on the social media or register for e-news from our website.

Robertson CTC Open
Thur & Fri 10am-4pm,
Sat 10am-1pm.
58-60 Hoddle Street,
Robertson
Ph: 4885 2665

info@robertsonctc.org.au

www.robertsonctc.org.au

facebook.com/CTCRobertson

Crop Swap

ROBERTSON

Saturday mornings
9.00am - 10.30am
CTC@Robertson, 58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson

EVERYONE WELCOME

find out more www.facebook.com/groups/cropswaprobertson

Bring what you can, take what you need

Council Connections

...Contd from p9

was completed throughout the Shire. The study did include Robertson and also drew upon feedback from the community over the years. I am aware that there was a recent meeting with Council and Robertson Futures representatives. Currently funding for footpaths is very competitive throughout the whole shire and based on a formula of priority and population. I have been told that the recent request is being considered. I have been assured that a briefing will be convened for Councillors and when I have received feedback I will certainly report back to Robertson villagers. Being a long term resident I am fully aware and sympathetic to the need for safer pedestrian access, particularly in areas with higher volumes of traffic. I am happy to say that my previous advocacy had been successful in achieving improved pedestrian footpath access in Caalong Street, between the now Fruit Shop (previously Post Office) and the Robertson Hotel (previously Ranelagh House) and also the safety barriers and foot crossing at the Railway crossing on the Illawarra Highway and Sassafras Way.

Don't forget it is important for your voice (the voice of residents) to be heard in Council. Sometimes the bureaucracy is weighted toward developers, big business or those who make the biggest noise and the voice of individuals can be muted in the process. I can assure you I am always available to make sure you are heard.

Given the strong artistic identity of our village it may be of interest to you all to know that construction on our Shire's very first regional art gallery is underway! The 'first' sod was turned by Mayor Duncan Gair, the Minister for Arts the Hon Don Harwin, our own Ben Quilty and myself as Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee and Ngunungulla. Located at Retford Park in Bowral, *Ngunungulla*, is on track to host its first exhibition later this year. (*Ngunungulla* means 'belonging' in the traditional language of the Gundungurra First Nation People). Another local connection is that our wonderful Moonacres will run the café at the Gallery. The arts are well and truly awakening in our Shire. Ph 0407 932 922

larry.whipper@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Calendar of Events

29 January to 1 March	Kim Shannon, Louise Owen & Carla Jackett	The SHAC Galleries see p 5
4 February to 28 February	Some Roads Taken Pastel Drawings by Annette Hearne	CTC@Robertson Gallery see p 11
Through February	French Bolivian Karine Boulanger	Galerie Tetu at The SHAC see p 5
Sun 14 February 8.30am-2pm	Robertson Market	School of Arts ph 0408 238 575
Sat 13 February 10.30am-2pm	Official Opening of Men's & Women's Shed Building	Men'Shed (behind the CTC) see p 3
Tuesday & Thursdays 9am-3pm Fridays 10am-1pm	Robertson Men's Shed Days Women's Shed	facebook.com/RobertsonmensshedInc
Every Sat 9am-10.30am	Crop Swap	CTC@Robertson see p 10
Postponed	Robertson Show	see p 2
Tuesdays from 9 February	Dance Fit classes	Robertson School of Arts see p 3
Sun 7 & Wed 10 February	Soccer Registration Days	Hampden Park see page 6
Sun 28 February 9am-4pm	Rainforest Plant Identification Workshop	CTC@Robertson see page 7
Every Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm	iPad Group	CTC@Robertson see page 11
Church Services	St John's Church Services	See p 6 for details
Sunday Mass	St Peter's Burrawang	Ring the Parish Office Ph 4868 1931
Tues 1-3 or hire any day except Thur	Social Tennis	Robertson Tennis Court—pick up key at Enhance
Classes and online	Yoga & Meditation	White Lotus Studio See p 9
Saturday 20 March	L'Étape Australia by Tour de France	Route goes through Robertson see p 6



R.J Mackey

Real Estate

Licensed Real Estate, Stock & Station Agent

FOR SALE

Robertson \$950,000

2 Acres, VACANT land, spring fed creek, studio, electricity, sewerage, town water, rich red soil, this parcel would be a landscaper or gardener's delight

FOR LEASE

Wildes Meadow

3 Bed Cottage, rural location, reverse cycle AC, gas bayonet \$425pw

FOR LEASE

Robertson

Studio, quiet location, electricity & water included \$280pw

Open 7 days "Ackworth" 4970 Illawarra Highway ROBERTSON
Ph: 02 4885 1329 Mob: 0418 451 988 rjmackeyre@gmail.com Find us on Facebook