

Robertson News

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38 Years Serving Robertson

Last day at Supermarket for Neil and Heather Tait

By Jenny Kena

Sunday February 5 will be Heather and Neil Tait's last day at Robertson Supermarket (The Friendly Grocer), having sold the business last year. It will be 38 years to the day since they started in Robertson with the purchase of the County Inn (now the Robertson Public House) in 1985.

The Tait family lived in the pub, having brought children David and Melanie with them. Daughter Sarah was also born while they were living in the pub with son Alex born after they moved to Caalong Street. The family later moved to North Street.

According to daughter Melanie, Neil had the idea of building a supermarket when he couldn't get cheese slices anywhere in town one morning for breakfast. So they bought the old service station on the corner of Hoddle Street and Main Street which had previously also been used as a hospital charity shop for a few years before. The building was transformed into what the supermarket is today by local builder, the late Uwe Eyding (Kurt Eyding's Dad). "Uwe was a really important part of the shop being built – he could do anything and everything", said Melanie.

In 2014, Neil and Heather bought the Big Potato next door (see story in *Robertson News* Oct 22 p2). They maintained it in pristine condition, adding



signage and developing a range of Big Potato merchandise for visitors. The Big Potato has also now been sold along with the Supermarket.

Since selling the business last year, Neil and Heather have stayed on for a bit while they worked out their next step. "Unfortunately Mum and Dad have both been a bit unwell, so the time has come when they need to move on", said Melanie. "So, they've had 38 years in Robertson and we all grew up there and love the place and are so sad our connection with the shop is coming to an end."

Many people in Robertson would have experienced the little kindnesses that Neil and Heather quietly undertook. They have been an important and

Contd page 10...

Also in this edition...

P3—The Hive & The SHAC

P5- 7 Volunteering—the Surprising Benefits

P9—Robertson Potato Festival in May

P11—CTC has a full program coming up

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

HESSIANS ON THE FIELD

Competition & Parade

- Create an outfit or costume from at least 50% hessian
- Enter online at potatofestival.com.au and check the rules!
- Be available to parade on Sunday May 7
 - You can submit more than one entry
 - Free entry to the festival for finalists!

PRIZES: Open Category: Singer Sewing Machine; Under 16's: Singer Sewing Machine; **NEW** Category - Pets: \$250; **PLUS** other great cash prizes!

THE ROBERTSON Potato Festival IT'S SPUD-TACULAR

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 30

MAY 6 - 7, 2023
Robertson Showground
www.potatofestival.com.au

NEW! Pets Category!

Sponsored by **SINGER** and **ROBERTSON POTATOES HILL FAMILY FARMING**

Robertson Community Association Meeting and Visit by Council Administrator

The Robertson Community Association is holding its next meeting of group representatives at CTC Robertson on **Tuesday 7 February at 5pm** and everyone is invited to attend to see what we do.

Council Administrator Viv May will be attending and will also be available one hour prior to the meeting (at 4pm) for individual group members.

Even though you may not be a member of a group in town or if you're in a group that has not yet joined the Association, please come along. Mr May has been very approachable and is keen to keep in touch with our community. This is an opportunity to have a say and also hear from the Administrator.

If you are a member of a group that is considering joining the Association, please discuss with your fellow members and nominate a representative. Membership will facilitate interaction with other groups and draw attention to matters where the Association can provide assistance and support.

Enquiries to Mark Turner 0418 657 456 or to the Association email robboca@outlook.com.

Native Grace Nursery Wins Award

Congratulations to Luke and Catheryn Maitland for being awarded the Best Small Retail Nursery Award for Native Grace Nursery at the Nursery and Garden Industry NSW & ACT Awards in 2022. Luke and Catheryn reinvigorated the 60 year old centre after it had been closed for 10 years, launching the new business in November 2020. They were presented the award by legendary gardener Costa Georgiadis. The judges were most impressed with their dedication to perfection in every aspect of the business.

Community Recycling Collection Trailer

Your household problem waste will soon be less problematic, thanks to the roll-out of Council's new, purpose-designed, Community Recycling Collection trailer in 2023. A first for Wingecarribee Shire, this mobile service will collect from each of our villages at least one day per week. The trailer will collect problem waste items most people find difficult to dispose of, like polystyrene, motor oils, paint, gas bottles, batteries and fire extinguishers.

The initiative aims to assist residents who cannot easily get to the Community Recycling Centre at Moss Vale or who do not have access to a trailer to transport problem waste and was devised following feedback from residents. The initiative is expected to be up-and-running within the first 3-6 months of 2023, once the trailer fit-out and operational side of Shire-wide collection has been organised.

Bulky Waste Collection



The next Bulky Waste Kerbside Collection Service week (for households with a domestic waste service) will be **27 Feb—5 Mar (items must be put out by Sun 26 Feb)** for East Kangaloon,

Glenquarry, Kangaloon, Avoca, Burrawang, Fitzroy Falls, Robertson and Wildes Meadow. It is limited to a maximum of 2 cubic metres or not more than 1 metre tall or 2 metres in length and items should be sorted into 3 piles—general waste, metals, mattresses (one per household). Find out more at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Waste-Recycling/Bulky-Waste-Kerbside-Collection-Service

Contribution Guidelines

The submission deadline for the April 2023 edition is March 15 2023.

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

All submissions, advertising and payments must be received by this date to ensure inclusion. Any material received after this date will be held over for the next issue.

Submissions may be modified at the editor's discretion.

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All of the production and distribution of the Robertson News is done by volunteers.

CTC Robertson Inc. PO Box 3069, Robertson NSW 2577. Ph: 02 4885 2665

Advertise in Robertson News

New rates from 2023

Advertising Rates (per bi-monthly edition)

Front page banner 190 x 60mm **\$220**

Back page banner 190 x 60mm **\$165**

Inside page banner 190 x 60mm **\$140**

Inside page small ad 90 x 60mm **\$70**

Full page (4 x banner price) and half page ads (2 x banner price) also available.

Discounts for multiple prepaid bookings.

All advertising enquiries to info@robertsonctc.org.au

Further details at

www.robertsonctc.org.au/robertson-news.html



the building that will enhance the complex and visitor experience.

Discussions are being held with many exciting potential tenants who are keen to be part of the revamped building and they will begin operations on 1 February.

A Buzz is in the Air for Robertson Creative Hub

An update from owners of the old potato shed building.

Highlands Hive is the new name of the building that started off life as the potato shed in Robertson. Home to many successful artists previously it morphed into an artists collective till recently.

The owners of the building at 74–76 Hoddle Street, previously known as The SHAC, are pleased to announce that from 1 February 2023, the building will officially be known by its new name.

The facility continues predominantly as a cultural retail centre, serving the communities of Robertson and the Southern Highlands with many existing businesses continuing to operate from there.

Printmaking, sculpture, painting, jewellery-making, gallery space and cooking will remain at the venue, with Moonacres Cooking School, Gallery Jennings Kerr, Printmaking Sisters, Spud Lane Studios at the rear all continuing within the complex. The centre partially re-opened in January.

Meanwhile, planning is underway for renovations to

Further information will be released shortly.

The SHAC Opening in Bowral

By Jane Cush, President, The SHAC Committee

It is with great pleasure and enormous excitement that we can announce the new temporary home of the SHAC. The Wingecarribee Shire Council has kindly offered its gallery within the Old Bowral Town Hall.

This incredible location and facility in the heart of Bowral town itself ensures the SHAC is able to continue providing its excellent quality exhibitions, supporting artists locally, regionally, and wider. Our most valued assets are the artists themselves and their working studios. While in the short term we are unable to provide those studios, we know our artists understand and support us as we use this time to share our plans for the future new permanent home of the SHAC.

Displayed at our new 'Town Hall' venue you will be able to see the proposed ideas and visionary plans that will truly establish The Southern Highlands Artisans Collective as a unique and impactful 'creative hub', committed to art, artists, and the broader community.

The first exhibitions will open on 3rd February.

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Dance with us to boost your mood!

Dancing is a great way to strengthen our muscles, improve balance, increase flexibility and challenge our co-ordination... but the benefits extend far beyond just physical.

It's a way to stimulate our memory, use different parts of our brain and most of all it's a sure-fire mood booster! Who doesn't smile when they hear a song to which they know all the words?

Dancing is also a social gathering for people of all abilities. Many local seniors come to Dance Fit every



week (some twice a week!)

"Music, movement and laughter – guaranteed to melt away the years!" *Karen, 70*

"Get rid of aches and stiffness, laugh and move to good beats, exercise for body and brain, I love it" *Sonia, over 70*

"I enjoy Dance Fit because it gives me purpose, improves my balance and coordination and I meet wonderful friendly people." *Robin, 86*

Come to a FREE trial class to see how good you can feel! To celebrate NSW Seniors Week Dance Fit Southern Highlands is welcoming new dancers in February. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:30am

at The Robertson School of Arts. Email Matilda for more information:

dancefit.southernhighlands@gmail.com

Robertson Men's and Women's Shed – new moves in 2023!

Shed re-opens Tues 31 January 930am – 3pm (Men), Wed 1 February 6pm – 9pm (mixed Night shed) and Fri 3 February 9.30am – 1pm (Ladies)

2022 ended with a bang with a very successful Christmas Raffle and our BBQ at the Town Christmas party where Santa was a big hit.

We are looking forward to another busy and fun year in 2023. As well as all the personal projects we will be dedicating specific times to community projects such as our ongoing work for Triple Care Farm.

Following a member survey, a new initiative will be launched in 2023 – a **Bushwalking Group** – this is for shed members so if being 'on the tools' isn't your thing but you like bushwalking you are very welcome to join for that. Exercise and companionship are good for everyone's mental health which is one of the important roles for all sheds.

We are also planning a Trivia Night during the year which will be open to any community members wishing to attend. Watch this space for more details. We will also have a range of other social events for shed members.

Membership is \$50 per year.

If you are interested in joining a happy, creative bunch of people who like wood and metal work or just getting together for a cuppa and a chat, don't be shy – look what you can achieve! For more info go to robertsonmensshed.org.au

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'Health is the greatest possession' Lao Tzu

Volunteering and its Surprising Benefits

Volunteering can help you make friends, learn new skills, advance your career, and even feel happier and healthier.

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. The right match can help you to find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.

Giving to others can also help protect your mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, especially if you are new to an area. It strengthens your ties to the community and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with common interests, neighborhood resources, and fun and fulfilling activities.

While some people are naturally outgoing, others are shy and have a hard time meeting new people. **Volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice and develop your social skills**, since you are meeting regularly with a group of people with common interests.

Children watch everything you do. By giving back to the community, you'll show them first hand how volunteering makes a difference and how good it feels to help others. It's also a valuable way for you to get to know organisations in the community and find resources and activities for your children and family.

Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can have a profound effect on your overall psychological well-being. Nothing relieves stress better than a meaningful connection to another person.

Volunteering combats depression. Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn protects you against depression.

Volunteering makes you happy. By measuring hormones and brain activity, researchers have discovered that being helpful to others delivers

immense pleasure. Human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel.

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose. Older adults, especially those who have retired or lost a spouse, can find new meaning and direction in their lives by helping others. Whatever your age or life situation, volunteering can help take your mind off your own worries, keep you mentally stimulated, and add more zest to your life.

Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not. Older volunteers tend to walk more, find it easier to cope with everyday tasks, are less likely to develop high blood pressure, and have better thinking skills. Volunteering can also lessen symptoms of chronic pain and reduce the risk of heart disease.

If you're considering a new career, volunteering can help you get experience in your area of interest and meet people in the field. Even if you're not planning on changing careers, volunteering gives you the opportunity to practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization. You might feel more comfortable stretching your wings at work once you've honed these skills in a volunteer position first.

While learning new skills can be beneficial to many, it's not a requirement for a fulfilling volunteer experience. **Bear in mind that the most valuable assets you can bring to any volunteer effort are compassion, an open mind, a willingness to pitch in wherever needed, and a positive attitude.**

Volunteering is a fun and easy way to explore your interests and passions. Doing volunteer work you find meaningful and interesting can be a relaxing, energising escape from your day-to-day routine of work, school, or family commitments. Volunteering also provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life.

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/volunteering-and-its-surprising-benefits.htm>

Where Can I Volunteer in Robertson?

On the following pages you will find some of the volunteering opportunities in Robertson. All of the community organisations in Robertson rely almost exclusively on volunteers.

You can find a full list of local groups on the Robertson Village website at robertson.nsw.au/communitygroups.html

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Robertson Show

Who and What—it takes a lot of volunteers to put on the annual Robertson Show with many roles available. The 2023 Show is on 10th-11th March.

Why—Free entry to the show, connect with the people of Robertson & enjoy the community spirit, help support our regional farmers and agriculture, there is so much fun stuff to learn from our experienced stewards, make a difference

Contact— email robertsonshow@bigpond.com letting us know you'd like to be involved in some way. Find out more at robertsonshow.org.au/

RFS—Robertson Brigade

Who and What—Men and women over 16 years of age to respond (when available) to a wide variety of emergency situations affecting our community members and visitors to our village and its surrounds. After basic training there are many specific roles you can undertake, all with their own training including community engagement and preparedness, training, catering, communications, Rural



Fire Driving, work with aircraft, and remote area firefighting. You can choose what type and the amount of duties you do. Note: you do not

need to attend all, or any emergency callouts to be a member of the brigade, support roles are available. Active firefighters should have a reasonable level of health and fitness. We meet for training for two hours a week on Wednesday nights and its helpful to attend at least some of these nights.

Why—assist the community in their times of greatest need. Gain new skills. Great way to meet other locals and develop friendships in a supportive environment.

Contact—Jon Bracht, Captain jon.bracht@gmail.com
Jodie Healy, Community Engagement Officer
Jodie.healy@gmail.com Or Facebook MSG **Robertson Rural Fire Brigade**

Robertson Burrow Community Op Shop

Who and What—You can sort donations, assist customers, manage the till or set up and maintain displays. Training is provided and you choose the tasks to which you are best suited. It is not just a women's domain, the men who volunteer enjoy it every bit as much!

Days are Wednesday to Saturday from 9.30am to 1pm and we like to open on Robertson Market day, 2nd Sunday of the month. You set the amount of time you can give – regularly or casually once a week, fortnight or monthly.

Why—*The best fun in the week!* This is what the volunteers at the Burrow say. You can be satisfied that you have helped to recycle and repurpose goods that may otherwise end up at the tip and all in the company of a great team at the centre of the Robertson Community

Contact—Karen on 0403 044 828 to join the team.

Robertson Potato Festival—Spud Squad

Who and What—If you've ever wanted to be part of an event team and are interested in playing a valuable role helping build one of the Southern Highlands most exciting (and fun) events, the



Robertson Potato Festival on May 6 - 7, consider volunteering! The event is focussed on driving tourism to the region and providing an unbeatable positive experience for the local community.

With a-peeling positions whether it be helping with the chefs, the music stage, spud-a-dome activities, info desk or general event operations this is your opportunity to get involved.

Why—You'll receive a special edition festival t-shirt, festival cap, lunch voucher, water and snacks, bum-bag and be part of the Spud Squad, plus two tickets for friends or family to come along.

Contact—To register your interest and availability simply log onto to www.potatofestival/jointhesquad

Please contact me for assistance with any Commonwealth Government issue

Reach my office on 4297 2285

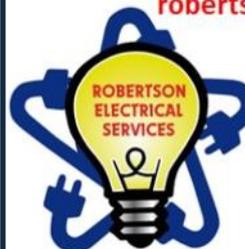
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Robertson Public School— Ethics Teacher

Who and What—Thousands of volunteers from all walks of life and of all ages teach ethics in their local schools every week. We rely on parents, grandparents and people who are community-minded. You will be supporting children to listen empathetically, disagree respectfully, build on each other's ideas and

use evidence and reasoning to make decisions rather than acting out of habit or peer pressure. The classes and materials are all provided, so you don't need to plan or research anything. So if you have a child attending or starting Robertson Public School this year, or you live in the area and have a spare hour each week, you might want to consider it.

Why—It's a rewarding way to get involved, learn new skills and have a positive impact for the future.

Contact—register your interest at primaryethics.com.au/volunteer/

Bushcare—Wingecarribee Shire Council

Who and What—If you can spare 3 hours per month, Bushcare volunteers work on several sites throughout the Shire undertaking a range of activities such as weeding and planting. Currently in Robertson Bushcare is working in the Robertson Rainforest and will soon be undertaking works in the Sequoia plantation.

Why—an opportunity to attend workshops and other events. Meet new like-minded people and learn some new plant identification skills.

Contact— Belinda.booth@wsc.nsw.gov.au



CTC Robertson



CTC
ROBERTSON

COMMUNITY
TECHNOLOGY
CREATIVITY

Who and What—We are always looking for community-minded people to volunteer in the CTC. Currently there are vacancies in the café/customer service team making and serving coffee, welcoming and assisting visitors, assisting at events, day to day cleaning and providing some basic assistance using office equipment and IT. You will have an interest in people and like to engage in a chat. Training (including barista training) is provided.

There are also vacancies on our events teams. We run community, creative and technology events and workshops including Seniors Festival, cinema, music, games, mental wellbeing and IT assistance for seniors. Help in the garden is also needed. Hours can be 3-6 per fortnight or casual as needed.

Why—work in a lovely friendly environment with a café on site. Learn new skills such as coffee making and using office equipment. Meet people—both local and visitors.

Contact—call 4885 2665 Thur-Sat, email info@robertsonctc.org.au or just call in at the CTC. You can download an application form at www.robertsonctc.org.au/volunteering.html Find out more about what's happening at the CTC on p11.

Is This You? By Mark Turner

There's this bloke who came down from the big smoke. He had worked hard all his life and thought he'd have a tree change - the fresh air, nature, small town or village - the good life. He can't string a fence line, look after cattle or grow veggies but he knows stuff which may come in handy. He came with his partner who had fallen out of love with their large, now mostly empty house. She is also skilled and knows stuff but was left exhausted by overwork - she just needed rest and something different to do.

They moved onto a couple of acres near town and bought a ride on mower, joined the local club, did the rounds of town - the pub, the shops, the chemist and eateries, registered at the medical centre -and saw that all was good. They settled well into the town life, stress and the blood pressure eased - living the life, The town had given them much; lifestyle, new friendships, stimulating ideas, and they saw that this wouldn't have happened unless people contributed by volunteering to keep the community happy and welcoming.

Maybe, they thought, we'll go all - in and become a real part of the community. They were skilled at things that might be useful. Soon they were helping out by volunteering where they could and before too long they received the enviable kudos of being recognised as a local.

Another bloke and his partner came to town with two kids and a dog and also knew stuff that might be useful. They were young and busy, juggling with a job, children and finances but it didn't take long to get involved in the community life - hard to avoid with the kids being enrolled at the small public school. They saw that many community groups relied upon volunteers to survive. These volunteers also provided the help needed to ensure the social inclusivity of the town.

The family also noticed that although most of the volunteers were elderly, it didn't stop them contributing and helping out where and when they could. Still, it was obvious that age and frailty would catch up with many of them and without younger members filling the gaps, the town wouldn't be the same. Every community needs its injection of new ideas and enthusiasm. So, despite their busy life, they helped fill some gaps.

If you can identify with any of this maybe you can be a volunteer!



Robertson Village
Pharmacy

Shop 2, 101-103 Hoddle Street

Robertson NSW 2577

Ph: 02 4885 2936

Opening Hours:

9:00am-5:30pm Mon-Fri

9:00am-12:00pm Sat

Your town, Your Pharmacy

Robertson Show is BACK—Bigger and Better Than Ever!



THE ROBERTSON SHOW

Join us on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th of March for two FULL days of family fun and entertainment. Friday sees our Dairy Competition, the pavilion open and our Schools Spud Olympics.

Saturday brings all the excitement....



The demolition derby is always a favourite at the Show

Visit our new Family Fun Area with lots of new market stalls...

And enjoy the old favourites...

...the animals, show rides, the demolition derby, ...and our spectacular fireworks to close the show.

Follow us on Facebook or our website, robertsonshow.org.au, to keep up to date on announcements of the schedules, programs and all the excitement of the show.

Become involved in the Show by putting your hand up to volunteer—see further info on page 6.

Soccer Information Day

Robertson Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club is holding an Information Day for the 2023 soccer season on Sunday 12 February 2pm to 5pm at Hampden Park, Robertson.

From children turning 5 in 2023 right through to the senior 'veterans' we have teams to suit the whole family and a very reasonable fee structure.

Junior registrations are eligible for the Active Kids voucher discount. Our juniors receive free club socks and another club item at no extra cost.

Our club prides itself on being a family club offering the best in sport.

Like our Facebook page for more information or contact Kate on 0432 690 451 by text to get a return call.

Robertson Burrawang Rovers Soccer Club
2023 Soccer Season

- 📍 Family friendly, welcoming environment
- 📍 Teams for the whole family and all abilities
- 📍 Able to start if turning 5 in 2023
- 📍 Matches Saturdays commencing 1 April
- 📍 Juniors morning – Seniors afternoon
- 📍 Eligible for \$100 Active Kids discount

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

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Potato Festival Back with Even Greater A-Peel!



The 2023 Robertson Potato Festival, set to take place this year on May 6 and 7, is back and already has upped the offering! Despite the challenges of the past year, the festival team has been hard at work planning & building new additions to create an event that

promises to have something to a-peel to everyone, setting it up to become an iconic regional event. It will again be held at Robertson Showground with an impressive entertainment line-up, as well as tuber-ific competitions and cooking demonstrations.

This year's festival will feature a variety of potato-based presentations by some of the best chefs in the country, including Paul West of ABC's *River Cottage*, Stefano Marvello of *Italian Cooking Experience*, and Eilish Maloney of *The What If Society*. On Sunday, Matty Roberts from *Eschalot*, one of the Highlands most highly regarded restaurants, will also be showcasing his culinary skills.

In addition to delicious food, the festival will honour the humble hessian used in potato sacks with the return of the popular *Hessians on the Field* competition, featuring a new category for *Pets on the Field*, with prizes including two sewing machines and cash, sponsored by Singer and Hills Family Potatoes. The competition received national coverage in 2022 and some of the entries will even be featured in an upcoming movie based on the Appleton Potato Race play by Melanie Tait. Start planning your creative designs now, and plan to strut your stuff – and parade your pet in costume on the field on Sunday May 7!

Other highlights include the Spud-a-dome where there'll be some new challenges as well as the crowd favourites from last year including the mash-eating competition and peeling, stacking and picking events, all performed under the expert (well, entertaining anyway) commentary of our talented local MCs.

In addition, the stage will feature live music with a major

act to be announced in February. There will be rides and face painting for the small fry, classic car displays, and even a scenic helicopter ride to get a bird's eye view of the potato fields and surrounding district.

The Burrawang Rural Fire Brigade will be handling the parking and making sure we look after all our visitors especially those from out of town, and the courtesy bus will run a loop around town.

Festival organiser Gary Fitz-Roy said, "Last year's event had so many things against it but was still a success. We have a great foundation to build an annual event that puts Robertson in centre of national media coverage and creates an economic windfall for the whole Southern Highlands. Given the shortage of potatoes this year the humble spud has highlighted how much we love it and include it in our daily meals! I hope people get behind it as other towns have stamped some key annual events and now we have the same opportunity, it really does have the potential to help the area whilst celebrating a daily food we love and in Robo's case known for."

The festival is calling for volunteers to help on the days of the festival. To chip in and get involved, visit www.potatofestival.com.au and log your interest.

Buy your tickets now to save money with local mate's rates* plus stay informed by visiting the official website at www.potatofestival.com.au. Join us on May 6 and 7 for an event that promises to be spud-riffic!

Robertson Potato Festival is on May 6 - 7, 2023 at Robertson Showground. www.potatofestival.com.au

*Available until March 3, 2023

Robertson Tops the Rainfall Chart in 2022

We've done it again—last year Robertson kept up with its reputation of being a rainy place. More than 3625mm of rain was recorded at the Robertson weather station (at the Robertson Pie Shop) in 2022. The previous record at this weather station was 2377mm in 1990. More than 1000mm of rain fell in March 2022. Mittagong had 2023.4mm, Burrawang 2618mm and Bowral 1736mm.

Robertson Fruit Shop



Open Fri-Mon
8am-5.30pm

Shop B 99 Hoddle Street
Robertson

Ph 0437 071 210

www.facebook.com/robertsonfruitshop/

Last Day at Supermarket for Neil and Heather Tait

...contd from p1

significant part of the Robertson community, both as a business and on a personal level. If you wanted to know anything about what was happening in Robertson you could be sure to get the answer at the Supermarket. I remember dropping in to buy a bottle of wine to take to a dinner party with friends and Heather was able to tell me what was being served for dinner as the friends had dropped in earlier—this helped with the choice of wine!

Heather and Neil always employed staff who were welcoming, friendly and caring making a visit to the shop a nice social encounter.

We wish Neil and Heather all the best in their retirement and thank them both for everything they have done serving the Robertson community.

Although the business has changed ownership, The Friendly Grocer will continue to operate under the familiar and steady hand of Ro, one of the treasures of Robertson.

All About Snakes—next REPS Talk

Our first speaker to REPS for 2023 will be Ray McGibbon well known as the Southern Highlands Snake Catcher originally from Robertson, now a Bowral resident.

We are very fortunate to have Ray on Friday **February 10 at 7.30pm at CTC Robertson** which will be timely still during our Summer season when snakes are most active. We are well endowed with a variety of snakes in our region and Ray took a special interest in herpetology when he was 6 years old learning the skills of snake identification and handling from his father. His longevity is testimony to his expertise which he enthusiastically wants to convey to others for safety and protection. He will talk about species, identification, how to behave around snakes and what to do when you have an encounter.



Important to understand how a snake operates and behaves within it's home range, how they travel within their environment

To complete his talk he will discuss first aid and what to do when bitten by a snake.

With our rural lifestyle and prevalence of reptiles this is not to be missed!



ROBERTSON ANGLICAN CHURCH

ALL WELCOME TO OUR KIDS AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

\$3 PER WEEK OR \$20 FOR TERM
TO COVER MORNING TEA, AFTERNOON TEA OR SUPPER

<p>PRESCHOOL (0-5YRS OLD)</p>	<p>WED 10-12PM (DURING SCHOOL TERM, BEGINNING 8TH FEB)</p>	<p>JUMPING JOEYS</p>
<p>PRIMARY SCHOOL (YRS K-4)</p>	<p>WED 3-4:30PM (DURING SCHOOL TERM, BEGINNING 8TH FEB) SUN 10-11:30 KIDS CHURCH</p>	<p>KIDS CLUB</p>
<p>PRIMARY SCHOOL (YRS 5-6)</p>	<p>FRI 5-6:30PM (DURING SCHOOL TERM, BEGINNING 3RD FEB) SUN 10-11:30 KIDS CHURCH</p>	<p>SPARK</p>
<p>HIGH SCHOOL (YRS 7-12)</p>	<p>FRI 6:30-8:30PM (DURING SCHOOL TERM, BEGINNING 3RD FEB)</p>	<p>ROBBO YOUTH</p>



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CTC Robertson News

We often get asked why we are called the CTC, and in case you didn't know it stands for Community Technology & Creativity. With this in mind, we are heading into the new year at full blast, with a full program across these areas.

Community

This year, CTC Robertson invites you to join us to explore ways to manage mental wellbeing by improving the connection with ourselves and our community.

GAMES AFTERNOON

Fridays from 1pm - 3pm

Join us for this FUN and SOCIAL afternoon of board games such as Chess, Scrabble and Backgammon. This drop-in session is a good way to meet people, learn and play new or old games and just relax and enjoy yourself in a friendly environment.

Coffee & Tea provided. No bookings required

Recognising the Signs of Burnout

Wednesday 22 February 6 – 8 pm includes supper
Presenter: Jedison Wells, Hobajing Narrative Practice

With a new year, often comes resolutions on how we can live better than last year. Join us for a session on recognising the signs of when we are approaching burnout. Explore strategies to find a better balance between our work, family and social lives within the ongoing challenges of the world around us.

FREE. Limited spaces

Booking essential: www.trybooking.com/CFOMM

Dealing with Grief and Loss

Wednesday 22 March 6-8pm includes supper
Presenter: Petrea King, Quest for Life Foundation

Grief can be such a private matter. No one might know or understand our reality as our inner experience may be at odds with how we appear to the world. Let's explore the practical pathways to healing and peace when we're grieving.

FREE. Limited spaces

Booking essential: www.trybooking.com/CFOMN



Opening Hours

Thursday & Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

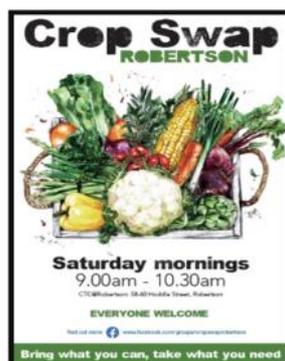
58-60 Hoddle St, Robertson

Ph: 4885 2665

info@robertsonctc.org.au

www.robertsonctc.org.au

facebook.com/CTCRobertson



Technology

CTC has received another grant from the Good Things Foundation to continue our free Be Connected program for over 50's.

Like to learn more about your device or an online service? Book in a time to see a CTC Digital mentor or come along to our upcoming Seniors Festival classes,

Researching Your Family History

Saturday 4 February 1.30 - 3.30pm includes afternoon tea

Interested in starting a family history project and not sure where to start? Join us for an introduction to getting started on your research,

FREE. Bookings essential: www.trybooking.com/CEFKP

Fun Things to Do With Your Photos

Friday 10 February 11am - 12.30pm

Join us for this interactive workshop and learn how to upload and store photos on your device. We will also explore using photo editors and how to make personalised gifts and items with your pictures.

FREE. Bookings essential: www.trybooking.com/CEFKL

Creativity

Exhibition: Reg Rowe Retrospective until February 25

Reg Rowe was an impressionist landscape painter and art author. His subjects came from many areas including Sydney Harbour and Kangaroo Valley, Jamberoo Valley, and Berrima.



CTC Robertson is very pleased to be partnering with the Southern Highlands Foundation in presenting this exhibition. The sale of these paintings will contribute towards the arts in our community.

Music Café: Peter Campbell

Saturday 11 February 2pm—4pm (café open from 1.30pm)

Join us for an afternoon of contemporary folk music with Southern Highlands favourite, Peter Campbell.

Bookings: \$10 at the door or via www.trybooking.com/CEZFK

CTC Welcomes Southern Tablelands Arts

From 10th February, we will be hosting the STA Mobile office on the second Friday of the month. Get in touch with STA to book in a time to meet.

www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au/mobileoffice/

Worlds Connect in Robertson

Steel City Strings to perform at Robertson School of Arts

Steel City Strings, Illawarra's award-winning chamber orchestra, makes its Robertson debut in a concert that celebrates NSW Multicultural Month with a program selected to showcase music from diverse national traditions.

Expect to hear music from many parts of the world: from Asia comes a set of Chinese folk melodies arranged for viola and strings by the acclaimed Melbourne, composer, Julian Yu, a familiar figure in contemporary Australian music; drawing on his Greek heritage, the young Sydney Conservatorium-trained composer, Stefanos Maragkakis (born in 1997), provides a suite of increasingly lively dances.

A collection of Turkish folk songs will find an authentic voice in the performance by guest artist soprano Ayse Göknur Shanal, widely admired for her artistry in operatic and recital for appearances, as well as her advocacy for Australian music. The often-commissioned First Nations composer Christopher Sainsbury, 2020 recipient of an individual Luminary Art Music award and currently Associate Professor of Composition at ANU, contributes his string quartet, Lydian Caprice, specifically arranged for Steel City Strings

Here is music that enriches an Australian cultural identity, one in which worlds might indeed connect when the shared language of music expresses ideas and human experiences that are universal.

Steel City Strings will perform at Robertson School of Arts on Sunday 5 March at 2pm followed by performances later in March in Shellharbour, Wollongong and Nowra.

Bookings at <https://steelcitystrings.com.au/events-calendar/>

Calendar of Events

Continues to 25 Feb	Reg Rowe Art	CTC See p11
Sat 4 Feb 1.30-3.30pm & Fri 10 Feb	Seniors Festival Events	CTC Robertson See p11
Tues 7 Feb 5pm-4pm Administrator	Community Assoc	CTC Robertson see p2
Fri 10 Feb 7.30pm	REPS talk	CTC see p10
Fri 10 Feb Mobile Office	Southern Tablelands Arts	CTC Robertson see p11
Sat 11 Feb 2-4pm (café opens 1.30)	Music Café	CTC Robertson see p11
Sun 12 Feb 2pm-5pm	Soccer Info Day	Hampden Park see p8
Sun 12 Feb 8.30-2pm	Robertson Market	School of Arts ph 0408 238 575
Wed 22 Feb & Wed 22 March 6-8pm	Mental Wellbeing Events	CTC Robertson see p11
Sat 25 Feb 8pm-11pm	Old Time Dance	School of Arts Ph 0427 975 645
Sun 5 Mar 2pm	Steel City Strings	School of Arts see p12
Fri 10 & Sat 11 March	Robertson Show	Showground see p8
Sat 6 May—Sun 7 May	Robertson Potato Festival	Showground See p9
Fridays 1-3pm	Games Afternoon	CTC see p11
Tues & Thur 9.30-10.30am	Dance Fit	School of Arts See p4
Every Wednesday 7.30pm	Robertson RFS Meeting	Robertson Fire Station
Tues 9.30am-3pm	Men's Shed	Men's & Women's Shed (rear CTC)
Wed 6pm-9pm	Mixed Night	
Fridays 9.30am-1pm	Women's Shed	
First Monday of month 1.30pm	Robertson Garden Club Meeting	Showground
Sat 9am-10.30am	Crop Swap	CTC Robertson
Church Services Kids & Youth	St John's Church	Ph: 4885 1210 see p10
Sunday Mass	St Peter's Burrawang	Ph 4868 1931

Worlds Connect

with soprano

AYŞE GÖKNUR SHANAL

5 March Robertson School of Arts Sunday 2pm

www.SteelCityStrings.com.au

 STEEL CITY STRINGS
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

 NSW Multicultural NSW
Proudly supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and Multicultural NSW