

# Robertson News

June 2014

www.robertson.nsw.au

Edition 101

## Rockabellas: Robbo's New Restaurant

by Naomi Janzen

A few days after its Mother's Day opening, the old Three Creeks Cafe sign was on the front but inside, after weeks of renovation, it was 100% Rockabellas Roadside Diner - a brand new restaurant/cafe featuring Tex-Mex and southern USA cooking.

Three Creeks regulars will be pleased to know some things haven't changed, like Ally's "World's Best" scones, the corn fritters, potatoes rosti and the housemade relishes. "Penny transferred the recipes to me," says owner Eleanor Di Bella, showing me the shelves filled with Three Creeks-branded produce, which she will continue to make and sell.

I had popped in to check out the eye-catching decor and decided to ask a few questions, starting with what brought her to Robertson.

"Love!", she said immediately. Her partner, Simon, was a local painter and floor sander from Moss Vale and she was from Gerroa so they decided to meet "in the middle". As she had grown up with fond memories of family drives to Robertson, it was an easy decision four years ago when it was time for their blended family (sons Jack, 13, and Oscar, 10 and 3 year old daughter Niah) to put down some roots.

When I asked Elle what she likes best about our village she didn't hesitate. "It's so eclectic - the people here come from different pasts and everyone seems to have a story". She also likes how people know each other here and how the community is very supportive. She made a special point of mentioning Heather at the Friendly Grocer, who went out of her way to make her feel welcome when she first arrived and the Robbo Butchers who have concocted "signature blends" for her gourmet, 100% meat-filled sausage

rolls.

Elle's vision is for Rockabellas to become "a fun, funky, family-friendly pit stop on a great ride or drive" for the people that come to the Highlands to enjoy our many great roads, as well as a hang-out for locals. To encourage the latter she's got big plans for Taco-Tuesday nights, after school Milkshake Madness happy hours and events like an upcoming Viva Moss Vegas Ladies Night with 1950's style hair and makeup makeovers, Rockabilly music and cocktails.

While she hopes Rockabellas' unique "southern fusion" mix of Cajun, Mexican and Southern USA classics draw diners from all over the Highlands and coastal areas, she emphasises "I don't want people to think this is just a place for tourists". A strong believer in supporting and being supported locally, she is determined to supply her restaurant mainly with produce from local purveyors. It is a concept she carries over to her 'rent-a-shelf' system which is already filling up with local art and antiques for sale as she gets the word out that she has space to offer, especially for anything car or motor-themed.

I asked Elle what made her choose this style of cooking and she said



that coming from a family that owns two successful Mexican restaurants already (Amigo's in Wollongong and El Corazon in Kiama) it just made sense. Besides loving the food herself, she recognised that Australians have a growing love for these flavours but nowhere to get them in the Southern Highlands. *Continues on page 3...*



Eleanor Di Bella in her Rockabella Restaurant

## From the Editor

By Vicki Ioannou

With this issue, I begin my tenure as Editor of the Robertson News. I am a lover of nature, art, fine food & wine, technology, country life and the written word. I am delighted at the opportunity to join this publication and to put my efforts to work on behalf of the Robertson community.

You will have noticed the Newsletter has a bold new masthead and an updated layout. This revamp is designed to bring in new readers, engage locals, offer a friendly face to newcomers.

As our Robertson community grows, I aim to maintain the vision of the quiet, pastoral lifestyle but also include, now and then, a shot of excitement and frivolity. This publication will tell the stories of people, their lives, projects and achievements. It will highlight the things you need to know plus some fun stuff as well.

In the future, we hope to expand the breadth of our offerings to the community. We look forward to covering stories from new points of view and would like to feature more opinion pieces.

As always, we welcome your story suggestions, your insights and comments. I look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

## Local Filmmakers' Documentary on John Olsen to Screen on ABC1 in June

Tony Williams and Anna Hewgill who made the documentary *A Place Called Robertson* have just completed another film, this time about the artist John Olsen. Titled *The King Sun*, it has been commissioned by the ABC and will be screened on ABC1 Artscape on 17th June 2014 at 10pm. It has taken them a year to make the film.

John Olsen who is 86, lives in the Highlands and is considered by many to be Australia's greatest living artist. In March 2013, he approached

Tony and Anna to see if he could use their large studio on their Robertson property to paint a 6m x 8m mural that would be his biggest work since the Sydney Opera House mural *Salute to Five Bells*.

John says this is the only documentary that follows one of his works from blank canvas to final installation and he is delighted with the film. Local artist Carlos Barrios worked as John's assistant for the duration of the painting of the mural and also features in the film.



John Olsen, assisted by Carlos Barrios

## Contribution Guidelines

Please submit all article and event notices to [editor@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:editor@robertsonctc.org.au)

The submission deadline for the August issue is 15th July, 2014.

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.

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

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## Advertise in Robertson News

Every two months, reach over 800 residents and visitors to Robertson.

### Advertising Rates (per bi-monthly edition, incl. GST)

Front Page Banner	
190 x 60mm	\$165
Back Page Banner	
190 x 60mm	\$137.50
Inside Pages	
90 x 60mm	\$55.00

All advertising inquiries to [jennykena@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:jennykena@robertsonctc.org.au)

From page 1...

Robertson, sitting at the halfway point between the towns closer to the Hume and the ones down the coast, was an ideal place to give it a go.

Coming from California and being a long-time fan of Tex-Mex and diner food in general, I was excited to hear what would be coming out of the kitchen.

"Breakfast and lunch, seven days a week, it'll be Southern American diner food" she said, adding that Thursday through Sunday from 5:30-9:30 Rockabellas would be a fully licensed Tex-Mex experience complete with authentic margaritas and a mobile cocktail trolley. Beer and local (of course) - wines will round out the selection.

As for the dishes themselves, "Sliders, pulled-pork, Cajun, spicy vegetarian, Mexican classics like burritos and tostadas...", she answered, adding that the "humble Robbo spud" was going to be celebrated with "skins" and a variety of dips as well as baked potatoes smothered in chilli and other toppings.

Last but not least, I asked the question some might argue is the most important. What about...the coffee?

"I'm a coffee snob!" she declared, laughing, and then went on to tell me she will continue to serve coffee supplied by Wollongong's Delano because it's great and "they roast it to order" so it's always totally fresh. Surprisingly, though, Elle then declared herself a soy milk drinker and emphasised she only serves "properly brewed" Bonsoy, a soymilk made using

"the Japanese method". She's keen to spread the word that this won't increase the cost. Her basic coffee prices are the same whether you have decaf, soy or any added syrups.

I took the kids trailing in after school asking for milkshakes as my cue to let Eleanor get back to her kitchen and left, thanking her for her time and looking forward to having yet another wonderful choice for eating out in our village. As I drove away thinking about the Mexican delights to come, the Pizzas in the Mist, the steaks at the Robertson Inn and Chef Thee's Asian innovations at the Bowlo, I lamented my decreasing motivation to ever cook at home...



## Planning a Party?

By Senior Constable Dave McManus

If you're planning on hosting a party, either on private property or at a community centre like a hall, there are several things you should consider before holding the event.

The 'Mynite' brochure provides relevant information that comes in handy when planning a party or event. Please remember that you as the host have a certain duty of care over people present at the event. While obviously you cannot be accountable for everything that people do, you can take steps to ensure a safe environment.

If you advertise the event on social media sites such as Facebook, keep your invitations to a private group. If word of the party spreads and you think it may attract too many people or unwanted gatecrashers, you may have to consider cancelling the event or relocating to a more suitable venue, and even engaging private, appropriately qualified security officers.

You are encouraged to let the police know about the party, either come and talk to me or call Bowral Police Station on 48629299 and let us know what's happening.

Please respect your neighbours and the community, think about the effect your event could potentially have on others and take steps to ensure it is a safe, fun night for everyone.

<http://www.mynite.com.au>

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# Surviving in Isan, Thailand

*This first in what we hope will be an ongoing series where a Robertson resident writes about their travels.*

by Michael D. Breen

The best things often come by accident - as this event did for me. When I met Neville in the street at the elaborate Chiang Mai Flower Festival, I was recovering from bronchitis - a parting gift from visiting my niece in Kathmandu. As we sat on a step beside the parade, Neville told me of his recent "experience of a lifetime" - volunteering to teach English in Isan, northeast Thailand.

"But I'm too old, too sick and too scared to give it a go there", I pleaded. "You're not as old as me", he said. I bet I was older and won the 20 Baht. Within a week I was arriving at Ban Thin Dung, in the northeastern part of Udon Thani Province, northeastern Thailand..

Jack Panasri met me after the challenging overnight bus-trip to Nong Khai and drove me to Isan Survivor. He showed me to my sparse, adequate room in his parents' house. Isan Survivor is a not for profit organisation, that exists to teach English to poor children and adults. It is also involved in schools which are unable to afford a teacher of English, even though it is a required subject in the national curriculum.

Why bother? The ability to speak English is a passport out of poverty,

prostitution, immature marriage and pregnancy. It is a meal ticket to a better job and a better future. Isan is dry and poor. It is not a tourist magnet like cosmopolitan Bangkok and the coastal resort destinations of the south. Isan had been part of Laos and has its own dialect, cuisine and customs. It subsists mostly on an agricultural economy. The fabled Mekong River divides Isan and Thailand from Laos and Cambodia. Vietnam is a hundred kilometres to the north

Teaching meant discussing with Jack the backgrounds and the needs of the students and surveying the (much copied) notes for volunteers. We then got on Jack's 1980 Yamaha bike (with bolts welded on for footrests) and rode off to the Community Adult Learning Centre.

The students, whose families were too poor to send them to school, ranged in age from 13 to 17 years. These children were required to work on the family farm mostly growing rice. At first they were shy, unassertive and averse to taking the risks needed to learn. As we developed rapport we all relaxed. As I attempted to teach English, the students (and Jack) attempted to teach me Thai.

There were other students at the centre working on a project to make electric lamp stands from coconuts. I was told they were too shy to come to English classes.

Volunteers at Isan Survivor pay for

their own accommodation and food. Some extra money is added to cover administration costs. Volunteers come from many lands. Jack's family is well established and respected in the area. His own grandfather had ten children, so uncles, aunts and cousins abound. I enjoyed meals in the old wooden family house with dishes and people scattered across the main teak floor.

Though I agreed to teach English my memories are vignettes of village life like the 13 year old giving me a lift on his family's motor bike, like the village Wednesday markets, or scenes across the Mekong as the sun set over Laos, or going out on a fisherman's boat.

Jack is married to Patricia from Holland and their child is Luna. Patricia announced one day that Luna had spoken her first word but was not sure what the language was. In the first week I prided myself on surviving. During the second I considered returning. As I was leaving, I felt sure that I would return.

More at <http://www.isan-survivor.org/VolunteerMichael.html>



Luna 1yr inspires her parents Jack Panasri and Patricia to run Isan Survivor



Students and staff at Thin Dung Community Learning Centre



Area education manager from Knong Kai visits with his entourage

# The Rare and beautiful Waterfall Orchid

By Denis Wilson

There is a local Orchid which is not well known, but it is a small treasure.

It is called the Waterfall Orchid - *Pterostylis pulchella* (ptero = Greek for wing, stylis = Greek for column; the second name being Latin meaning beautiful).

This is in the group of Orchids known as Greenhoods, but some of them are not green, but a beautiful reddish-brown. They have an elegant shape, caused by the amalgamation of the dorsal sepal and two petals forming the hood, a most obvious feature of all Greenhoods.

This species is classed as rare and endangered, mostly because it has a very restricted selection of sites

whereon it can grow. For those of us in Robertson, the closest site to find this rare plant is near Belmore Falls. It grows in moss and grasses close to the Wallungunda and Barrengarry Creeks, which merge shortly before Belmore Falls.

The plant is not easy to spot, primarily because of its small size (it is barely 100 mm / 4 inches high). Non-flowering plants simply form small rosettes of leaves on the ground. Those rosettes usually flower the following season.

Look out for these little treasures of Nature, but please remember it is a protected species, and should not be disturbed, nor picked. But then, it looks terrific when photographed.



*Pterostylis pulchella*

# Justin Pearson and the Ring Cycle

*News from Robertson and Highlands artists*

In his studio work, Justin Pearson has been working on a series of paintings based around Wagner's *The Ring Cycle*. These dramatic, expressive paintings depict the themes and narratives of heroic mythology, love, loss, yearning and power. Justin is drawn to the timeless, universal themes and metaphors in Wagner's work to comment on society, politics, power and love. The gestural paintings depict a range of

mysterious landscapes embracing dark figures of moral ambiguity and distorted features. Others celebrate heroic strength and uprising. They are fantastical images celebrating Rhine-maidens and gods, combined with evil forces and feelings that are all too human in nature.

As a studio painter, Justin celebrates these seductive themes in thick, rich oil paint which dances and swirls on canvas and board.

[justinpearson.com.au](http://justinpearson.com.au)



## Robertson Recollections

will be **CLOSED**  
from wed 11th June  
to Thursday 21st August

(We are taking some long-service leave, but we'll mainly be around, if there's anything urgent)

## VIX Jewellery

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# Update from Robertson Public School

By Vivian Harrison

Our seven classes at Robertson Public School, this year named after Australian National Parks, have students genuinely displaying a love of learning and enjoying immersing themselves in all school activities.

Stage 3 classes Deua and Kosciusko learned to knit last term which is a very handy life skill, with the help of many parents and grandparents. Each child's goal was to make for their mother, a beautiful hand-knitted original scarf for Mothers' Day. Many students knitted more than one scarf and tiny scarves for teddy bears after they had finished their Mother's Day gift. What an achievement!

K-2 classes Uluru, Daintree and Bindarri are travelling to Symbio Wildlife Park this week to support their learning in Human Society and its Environment (HSIE). A day trip like this is the highlight of their year and they are all so excited!

Our four Years 3-6 classes are busily preparing their speeches on topics such as Harmony Day, My Overseas Connections, Asylum Seekers, The Same but Different and Un-Australian as part of our school's participation in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. Year 6 are developing their leadership skills this term through implementing our Peer Support Program where they lead a group of 9-10 students through activities to build resilience and the ability to "bounce back". They are already very impressive and have learned many new skills.

We boast three vocal groups



thanks to the tireless enthusiasm and commitment of Mrs Williams. These Senior, Junior and Boys Vocal Groups happily practice in their play breaks and love to perform at our Whole School Assemblies held twice each term in the School Of Arts Hall.

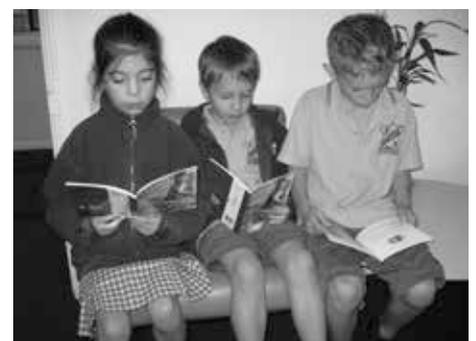
Six members of our acclaimed school band will head to Stanwell Tops on Sunday 25th May to Tuesday 27th May 2014 for the Illawarra South East Junior Band Camp where they will participate in extra tuition in the instrument they play, plus perform in a concert on the final afternoon to display their talent. We also have a violinist and cellist playing in the Festival of Instrumental Music in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House on Thursday 26th June, 2014.

Sport is always a popular activity at our school. We will have both girls' and boys' teams entering the annual



Hindmarsh and Noble Cup rugby league knockouts next week. At our weekly sport sessions at school, children are developing skills in long and high jump, discus, shot put and running in preparation for our annual Athletics Carnival in the last week of this term.

We welcome any visitors who wish to view quality teaching first hand or walk through our beautiful school grounds. Please come to our School Office for all enquiries and your guided tour will begin.



# Our Poster-Perfect Village

by Naomi Janzen

One of my favourite stops along last year's Art Studio Trail was the Moss Vale studio of artist Margaret J Mapperson and her photographer husband Peter J Mapperson. While I enjoyed their lovely work in general, I was particularly struck by the poster Margaret had done for Moss Vale, depicting the train surrounded by images of the town's special character. Seeing my interest in this, she then showed me posters she had created for other towns in the Southern Highlands.

When I didn't see Robertson in this catalogue, I asked her why. Her slightly apologetic reply was that she had been meaning to do one but had not gone further than imagining the Big Potato in the middle of the print. As iconic as that image may be, it just didn't seem like something that would suit the style of her art. When I assured her there were many, many other things that would -- like the waterfalls, the rainforest, the movie "Babe" -- she whipped out a pad and pen to take notes. As I rattled off whatever came to mind (the Robertson Show, the artists, potatoes) she scribbled enthusiastically. Every now and then she'd exclaim "Oh, yes! Of course! Beautiful!"

When I left her studio, Margaret assured me she was inspired, would do a bit more research and would try to do Robertson justice.

Two weekends ago, at the Moss Vale Buskers competition, I ran into Margaret again and, lo and behold, there in the middle of her display table was a framed print of her new Robertson poster. Just back from the printers, she had not had the time to call me and let me know it was done, so it was a lovely surprise. She had done a beautiful job and I ordered a framed one immediately.

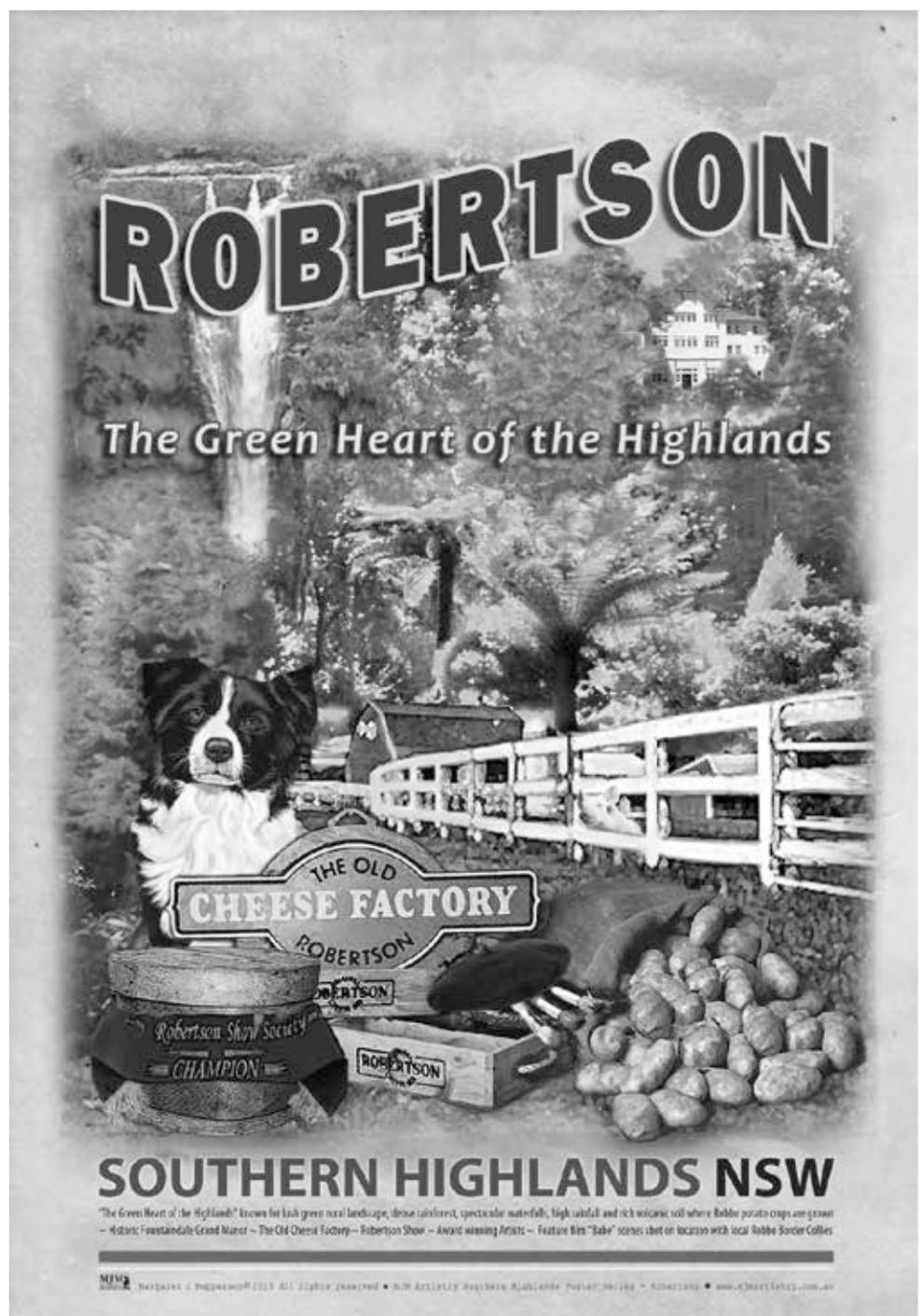
As it turns out, Margaret had a hard time deciding what images

of Robertson to use as once she had permission to look beyond the Big Potato she discovered a wealth of subject matter. So much so, that she is thinking of doing a second Robertson poster that can perhaps be mounted next to the first one, depicting all the things she just didn't have room for! I told her that was a great idea and that I would be her first customer. In the meantime, however, we have this first gorgeous one to enjoy and, if you want one of your own, the CTC is the place

to enquire.

They are available both framed and unframed; Margaret has generously decided to offer a small donation to the non-profit CTC for each order that comes via the Robertson website, this paper, the Robertson Facebook page or the CTC in general.

If you want one for yourself, or as a gift for someone else, drop by, call or email the CTC at [info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au)



# How to handle cold & flu

By Nick Knowles  
Robertson Village Pharmacy

Common colds and influenza or 'the flu' are viral infections affecting the nose, sinuses, throat and airways. Antibiotics do not work against these viral infections but colds and the flu usually get better on their own within 10 days although a cough may last a little longer. In some cases it is possible that you will develop a secondary bacterial infection and in these situations antibiotics will help so it is worth seeing your GP to see if you need treatment.

So how do you get it in the first place? When someone has the cold or flu, the fluid from their nose, mouth and airways contains the infecting virus and therefore may spread between people when they come into contact with this fluid (touching, coughing sneezing).

Some of the uncomfortable symptoms of colds include runny or blocked nose, sore throat, coughing, mild fever, headache and tiredness. Flu symptoms are similar to cold symptoms however they are often more severe and may additionally include aching muscles and joints, loss of appetite, weakness and lethargy, high fevers, sweating and shivering.

There are a number of medicines, which can relieve some of these uncomfortable symptoms of colds and flu including:

Decongestants – good for clearing a blocked nose and are available as syrups, tablets, nasal sprays and drops.

Saline (salt water) nose sprays and drops can help loosen and remove mucus in the nose and sinuses.

Antihistamines – traditionally for

allergy but can still help to relieve a runny nose.

Cough suppressants - for a dry or 'tickly' cough.

Expectorants or Mucolytics - for a chesty or congested cough. They help to loosen and thin mucus in the nose, sinuses and airways.

Simple pain relievers (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen) can relieve headache, sore throat, aches, fever and shivering.

For a sore throat, sucking on lozenges or using a gargle may offer some relief.

Some additional tips for surviving the cold and flu season:

- Get plenty of sleep and rest and stay comfortably warm. Eat regular healthy meals and avoid cigarette smoke as it may worsen your symptoms.
- Drink plenty of fluids to help thin mucus and prevent dehydration.
- Breathe in steam (e.g. from inhalators, vaporizers, showers or baths) to loosen mucus.
- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue and dispose of them carefully when coughing or sneezing. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.

Seeking medical advice:

A more serious viral or bacterial infection may develop from a cold or flu. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if symptoms persist for longer than 10 days, you have a temperature over 38.5 degrees Celsius, severe headache or stiff neck, shortness of breath or chest pain. Also if your mucus is yellow, brown, green or blood stained.

# Vale Jack Handley

by Dianne Handley

In March this year we tragically lost our beloved Jack Handley to a terrible accident. This has been a painfully sad and harrowing time for the family but we would like to thank you all for your wonderful support.

We especially want to thank the emergency service people; the Fire Brigade, Ambulance and the Police for all that they did and have done for us. It must be very hard for them, as it is for us, to see a young life so full of hope, promise and joy taken away. They do a wonderful job and what they have done for us will not be forgotten.

Thanks also must go to all the people who have dropped around food and offered their support in this very trying time. Your generosity and warmth is much appreciated and helped enormously to get us through those first terrible days.

A special thank you must go to Judy Warner and Vicki Mauer for their wonderful efforts. Judy put together the beautiful floral tributes in the church and Vicki organized the catering at the wake afterwards.

I also want to specially mention all of those who contributed plates and bits to the tables for everyone to feast on. It is that wonderful old way of doing things where food just quietly appears afterwards. It was truly overwhelming to see it all laid out and a humbling show of the amazing support we have received.

The Eulogy was read by Jack's brother, James and his sister, Brooke. On the day, the sound was not working and the hundreds outside stood very respectfully in silence while the service was being conducted.

Please remember your own happy times with Jack and let that be what comes to mind when you think of him. Jack was a wonderful, warm and gentle man and we will miss him dearly. Thank you.

## Church Services

### Anglican

*St. John's Robertson*

8:00 AM Traditional Services, 1st Sunday - Communion, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer; 9:30 AM Family Service/Sunday School - Every Sun

### Roman Catholic

*Burrawang*

1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays - 8:00AM  
2nd & 4th Sundays - 5:00PM

## Council Information Kiosk

You're invited to join Council at Robertson for an Information Kiosk, bringing the office to the community. Drop in to meet staff who will be there to answer your questions and discuss local issues. Councillors may attend and appointments should be made directly with them.

For further information or to RSVP phone 02 4868 0888 or email [customer.service@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@wsc.nsw.gov.au) [www.wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au)

## WorkCover: Safer Small Towns

This is a chance for business owners, managers, workers and the community of Robertson and surrounds to meet staff from local WorkCover offices for free safety assistance and qualify for a \$500 Safety Rebate for their business.

- Free advice and assistance covering – Work Health and Safety obligations for small business and changes to Workers compensation
- Free one-on-one appointments are available for small business owners to discuss their work health and safety, injury management, and or return to work needs.

For further information or to make an appointment phone 02 4222 7351 or email [shauna.thompson@workcover.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shauna.thompson@workcover.nsw.gov.au)

## Both Council and WorkCover will be at:

CTC@Robertson  
58-60 Hoddle Street  
(opp Murray Tractors) on:  
Thursday 26 June 2014 from  
4pm-6pm.

## The CTC Turns 10

On Saturday May 3rd, the CTC celebrated its tenth anniversary with a special night of live music, spontaneous dancing, good food, a little champagne and a robust turnout of supporters and volunteers from years past and present. There was even a cake decorated to look like the building's unique front walkway. For information on how you can be part of the next ten years, contact the CTC or visit their web page for ongoing news about events, screenings, classes, programs and bookings.

[www.robertson.ctc.org.au](http://www.robertson.ctc.org.au)



CTC anniversary cake made by Diane Henderson



Monica Engel, Anni Heino, Jenny Kena, Rebecca Bonito, Melissa Sheppard and Karen Mewes (L to R)



Carlos Barrios painting at the event

## Coming up at the CTC

By Karen Mewes, CTC Manager

Over the next 6 months the CTC will be running free 2.5 hour computer training sessions for seniors on :

- Using the Internet
- Email
- Online Shopping
- Cyber Safety
- Social Media (Facebook)
- Tablets
- Photos
- Paying Bills online

These sessions are funded by the Telstra Tech Savvy Seniors Program. Call the CTC for further information.

- Always available - Laminating, binding, photocopying, colour printing

It's all available at the CTC! We have an A4/A3 laminator, a comb binding machine, A3/A4 black and white photocopying and printing, A4 colour printing and we also do scanning, have wireless Internet access and can help with your computer problems. Our café space is available to hire for meetings and workshops along with a data projector and whiteboard.

Come and see us and enjoy a Vittoria coffee while you are there!

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ment.



Gary Norwell (drums), John Anderson (bass), Niall Lambert (guitar) and Stephen Fearnley (keyboard)

## Art + Environment

To help celebrate World Environment Day, Wingecarribee Shire Council is co-hosting a range of community activities from **Sunday 1 June until Sunday 8 June** supported by the Environment Levy. One such event is the exhibition *Art+Environment* which will be held during the month of June at the CTC.

World Environment Day is a UN-recognised, global event held annually on June 5. This year Council has decided to promote the concept of *Less Screentime, More Greentime*, focusing on our increasing obsession with screen-based entertainment. The Art+Environment project is a great example of kids making art works with natural materials charcoal and clay, inspired by the real world - their own

diverse natural environment.

Guided by local ceramic artist Celeste Coucke, budding botanical artists from Year 4 have carefully observed and drawn some of the unique flora and fauna of Robertson. The children have helped to create three large ceramic tiled panels which will be installed into the school playground later this year. On exhibition are the beautiful charcoal drawings which have inspired the ceramic works as well as a photographic narrative of the children at work.

Art+Environment was made possible by a STARTS (Southern Tablelands Arts) grant. The project has been sponsored by The Robertson Community Technology Centre.

*For more information, contact:*  
Celeste Coucke  
Cultural Development Officer  
Wingecarribee Shire Council  
t: 02 48680761



Carefully drawing a Lilly Pilly

## Upcoming REPS talk on 'The Burrup' cave paintings

*Robertson Environmental Protection Society (REPS) will present a talk by Dr John Black AM FTSE FAIAST on Friday, 13 June 2014, 7.30pm at the Robertson Community Centre*



The rock art on the Burrup Peninsula in the Western Australian Pilbara region is unique in the world. The carvings show a continuous record of how humans adapted to changes in climate and distance from the sea for more than 30,000 years. They record life from before the last ice age until 200 years ago.

The rocks contain the oldest known records of the human face. There are depictions of the thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) and fat-tailed kangaroo, both extinct on the Australian mainland for thousands of years. The petroglyphs show men netting a dugong, intricate

geometric symbols and many other human forms and wildlife.

The Burrup Peninsula rock art is far older than the Lascaux cave paintings in France (19,000 years ago) or Stonehenge in England or the pyramids of Egypt (4,500 years ago).

This extraordinary – and little known – heritage is being threatened by heavy petrochemical industries.

John Black is a Research Management Consultant and previously worked as a Chief Research Scientist in CSIRO, Assistant chief of the Division of Animal Production and Officer-in-Charge of the Prospect laboratory in Sydney. His research specialised in comparative physiology and nutrition across animal species and the development of computer simulation models.

John then established a research management company and manages research programs for rural Research & Development organisations and private companies. This includes work for the beef, dairy, pig, poultry, grains, fodder and honeybee industries. John is interested in understanding factors constraining the application of science to practical agriculture and

how they can be overcome. He also works to save the ancient rock art on the Burrup Peninsula from industrial encroachment.



## Apology

The Committee of the CTC@Robertson would like to apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced by the private party held at the CTC on Saturday 26 April 2014. We will make every effort to ensure that this does not happen again.

Jenny Kena  
President  
*On behalf of the Committee of The Robertson Shed Inc (CTC@Robertson)*