

# Robertson News

www.robertson.nsw.au

June 2015

Edition 107

## 150 Years Ago, Our Village Began

On April 10, 2008 The Sydney Morning Herald included the following article:

**Robertson.** "Small township near the edge of the Southern Highlands noted for its rich soils and undulating landscape. Famous as the setting for the movie Babe.

Located 128 kilometres from Sydney and some 730 metres above sea-level (although the coastal towns of Shellharbour and Kiama are only a half an hour away) Robertson is a small, quiet village on the Illawarra Highway just west of the Illawarra escarpment and Macquarie Pass which functions as a link between the South Coast and the Highlands. Consequently there are spectacular views across the coastal plain to Pacific Ocean from some of the town's vantage points. The town is noted for its distinctive red volcanic basalt soil which is known as Robertson soil. The combination of this soil, a good rainfall and cool winters has made the town the centre of the largest potato-growing area in NSW. In fact, as is the wont with Australian country towns, the main street boasts a large brown, cylindrical object which, although not marked, one assumes is "The Big Potato".

The town is also the centre of a dairy industry with an old dairy factory at the eastern end of the town. It was also the setting for the very European-English countryside of the Australian movie *Babe*. If you turn

south on Meryla Street and drive out to the cemetery you get an excellent view over the dairy lands of the area which have a distinctively English feel about them.

Charles Throsby passing south from the Moss Vale area to Kangaroo Valley in 1818, en route to Jervis Bay, sent his servant Joseph Wild off with some local Aborigines to have a look at the area east of Moss Vale which became known as the Yarrowa Brush. With the help of local Aborigines Throsby later found a route up from the Illawarra.

*The townsite was surveyed in 1863 by Surveyor Campbell who was so impressed he reserved land for himself and built 'Rossgol' which is still standing. He drew up a town plan which was approved in 1865.*

Surveyor Robert Huddle and a gang of convicts cut a bridle path down the slopes in 1830 as part of a track intended to join the Cowpastures (Camden) to Kiama and Gerringong. He described the Yarrowa Brush as 'the most formidable brush I have ever seen. The vines so thickly entwined around the huge trees and small as to render the sun obscure at the time it shone with great brilliancy'. .....contd page 2

## Fairer Taxi Fares

for Robertson/Burrawang/Wildes Meadow/Kangaloon areas!

To reduce drink driving & to make taxis more accessible, fares have been dramatically reduced.

**We have removed the "call out" fee to these areas for local travel, instead we will charge a minimum fare of \$30.00.**

The driver will start the meter & if it is less than \$30.00 then you pay \$30.00. If it is more than \$30.00 then you pay the metered fare. You will not have to pay the metered fare plus the call out fee on fares under \$30.00! This applies anywhere

within the areas described above.

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



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**DUE TO POPULARITY, THE REDUCED FARES WILL CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

## 150 Years Ago, Our Village Began *contd..*

It was the town's rich soil which fostered the dense rainforest which once covered the entire plateau and which kept the settlers away for so long after it was discovered. But, in the end, they destroyed nearly all of it to establish their homes and farms.

It was the 1860 Land Act of Sir John Robertson (former Premier of NSW) which cleared the way for the establishment of the town which took his name. It proved for free selection before survey of unreserved blocks of crown land at one pound per acre with a 25 per cent down payment and the rest to be paid at leisure provided the owner lived on the land for three years and made certain improvements to it.

In 1862 Kiama alderman John Hanrahan and his brother-in-law William Davis investigated the Yarrowa Brush, found and followed Hoddle's track, located some excellent land and selected it. This was reported in the Kiama independent newspaper, encouraging others from Jamberoo and Kiama to follow. Land was reserved by the government that year as 'Three Creeks'.

A basic track from Kiama was cut in 1862, another from Albion Park in 1863, and the new settlement was joined to the Old South Road via Kangaloon in 1867. The townsite was surveyed in 1863 by Surveyor Campbell who was so impressed he reserved land for himself and built 'Rossgol' which is still standing. He drew up a town plan which was approved in 1865. By that time there were 1,200 selectors who had taken up 30,000 acres of land, despite the fact that it was a three-day ride for supplies and 30 km to the nearest doctor.

The first lots were sold in 1865 and the village was, at

first, called 'Yarrowa'. The first school in the village was built in 1872 and what was probably the first store in 1876. A slab building for Methodists went up c. 1870, to be replaced by a church proper in 1888. The Anglican church opened in 1876.

Steam-driven sawmills opened up in the district in the 1870's creating a demand for local timber. Shops and houses began to appear in the early 1880's. A post office appeared in 1884 and a school of arts in 1886. By the following year the town had two hotels, two bank branches, three stores, a baker, a bootmaker, a chemist and five butchers. A police station was built in 1887. After the depression of the 1890's growth ceased until the 1920's.

The Burrawang Farmers Club was established in 1878 to promote the improvement of roads, facilities and farming techniques. This organization evolved into the Robertson Agricultural and Horticultural Society and fostered the first Agricultural Show which was held at Burrawang in 1880 and was transferred to Robertson in 1886.

Macquarie Pass was opened in 1898 facilitating commerce and connections with the coast and with Sydney as the Southern Highlands railway had not extended to Robertson. A motor service carrying passengers and goods commenced operations in 1912. The railway did not arrive until 1932 despite agitation which commenced in 1872.

Today Robertson is a pleasant, small and quite uneventful rural town which makes for an enjoyable stopover."

*Thanks to Helen Tranter for alerting us to the 150 anniversary!*

### Contribution Guidelines

**The submission deadline for the August issue is July 15.** Please submit all articles and event notices to [editor@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:editor@robertsonctc.org.au).

All submissions, advertising and payments must be received by this date to ensure inclusion. Any material received after this date will be held over for the next issue. Submissions may be modified at the editor's discretion.

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### Advertise in Robertson News

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

#### Advertising Rates (per bi-monthly edition)

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Inside pages 90 x 60mm \$55.00

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## Caalang Creek Project—a Brief History by Steve Douglas, REPS project coordinator and '30-year Robertson local'

In 1987 a group of locals and combined community groups were successful in obtaining a \$5,000 Bicentennial Local Government grant to begin the 'Robertson Village Reforesting Project'. This was the beginning of work and planting in the Caalang Creek reserve and has been ongoing ever since.

Tree plantings started in Arbor Week 1988 and continued into 1989. Around 1,000 trees were originally planted in the area to the north of the Community Centre by local citizens, sporting clubs and community groups. A variety of Eucalypt species and Blackwoods (*Acacia melanoxylon*) were chosen to provide a windbreak and canopy cover. Some of these planting are now reaching maturity. The small pedestrian bridge which spans the creek was constructed by the Lions Club.

At the same time, local interest was growing in the unique flora and fauna in the Robertson area, spurred by an influx of newcomers keen to help preserve this beautiful area. Information sources and data related to the local area were very limited. The Caalang Creek Project also needed an ongoing management structure. Many people may not know that the combination of these two factors was the catalyst for the formation of what is now the Robertson Environment Protection Society (REPS).

Interest in the project has waxed and waned over the years, however a small group of dedicated volunteers have continued to work in



the area with the results of their efforts becoming more evident every year. The frequent frosts and addition of imported fill adjacent to some areas of the creek proved to be major challenges. Notable achievements include the removal of large infestations of Pussy Willow (*Salix cinerea*) which once lined much of the creek banks fringes of the small wetland area within the reserve. Other woody weeds such as Hawthorn and Privet have been brought under control but still require constant vigilance. In recent years, Wingecarribee Council Bushcare staff have undertaken the responsibility of controlling blackberries and other woody weeds as well as undertaking maintenance between working bees. This assistance has proved invaluable.

The canopy species now provide sufficient cover for local rainforest species and these can now be planted with a greater chance of survival. Most pleasing is that the area is used regularly by a variety of people and provides a pleasant link between sections of the village.

Any revegetation project is by its nature a long-term undertaking. Results can take years if not decades. This can at times lead to those involved becoming disillusioned, particularly in a society that seems to require most things instantly. However, to coin a phrase made famous by Paul Keating, the rewards are there for the 'true believers'. The Caalang Creek Project will ultimately require a new generation of volunteers if, as a community, we want this invaluable asset to continue to evolve. Where the volunteers will come from remains to be seen. I'm hopeful others will realise the benefits and joy that come from observing something change, be used and beautify over time.

### Sacred Soles Remedial Therapies

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'Health is the greatest possession' Lao Tzu

# Centenary of the Battle of ANZAC Cove commemorated in Robertson

by Katherine Wood



In Robertson this year a very special celebration and service of thanksgiving was held to commemorate ANZAC DAY, and a record number of residents and friends came together at the School of Arts to remember and give thanks with deep gratitude to those, particularly from this district, who gave up their lives in all overseas theatres or war to ensure our future freedom and safety.

On the only bright, clear, sunny day in many weeks of cold and wet weather, we stood in awe beside our Memorials to remember so many men and women from the small rural districts of Kangaloon and Robertson district who left their farms, homes and families on our behalf.

We were accompanied by Mr Neil Hughes, and Mr Brian McEville (whose Grandfather, Major Richard McEville, was a member of the original Camden and Robertson Troop of the Royal NSW Lancers). Both these men, in full Dress Uniform, on their horses representing the 1st NSW Light Horse Brigade.

Mr Jack Skipper, M.C. led the Wreath Laying Service, with trumpeter, Matthew Johnson from Robertson School, the Rev. Barry Lee who conducted our Commemorative Service later in the Hall, and a large contingent of members of the Diggers Military Motor Cycle Club, who are all returned men from serving overseas in conflicts such as Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan.

Robertson and Burrawang School students, all splendidly uniformed on a Saturday, and their Principals, stepped forward and laid wreaths, whilst Matthew expertly played the Last Post and then Reveille.

All these and so many others are to be thanked for their part in arranging this event, but most of all on behalf of all those past and present, thanks to yourselves for your attendance in support of the principals of this Commemoration.



**STEPHEN JONES**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR THROSBY

Please contact my office if you require assistance with any federal issues including:

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- Immigration
- Child support
- Veteran's Affairs
- Congratulatory messages



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# Robertson Directory

Are your details correct? The Robertson Directory is a *work in progress*. Please contact the CTC on 4885 2665 or email [info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au) to advise us of changes, updates or additions to the information.

	ORGANISATION/BUSINESS	PHONE	INFORMATION/EMAIL
COMMUNITY	Robertson Anglican Church	4885 1210	Rev Barry Lee
	Kangaloon Uniting Church		<a href="mailto:robntam@aapt.net.au">robntam@aapt.net.au</a>
	Robertson Community Centre	4885 1542	Bookings phone Ian Roxby
	Community Technology Centre (CTC)	4885 2665	Karen Mewes, Mgr – <a href="mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au">in-fo@robertsonctc.org.au</a>
	Diggers Motor Cycle Club		Frank – <a href="mailto:Frank.Cacchione@defence.gov.au">Frank.Cacchione@defence.gov.au</a>
	Robertson Early Childhood Clinic	4861 8000	By appointment
	Environmental Protection Society (REPS)	4885 1921	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month from February
	Fettlers Shed Gallery	4885 1598	Anne Wilson
	Robertson Garden Club	4885 2592	Geoff King – <a href="mailto:lki31500@bigpond.net.com">lki31500@bigpond.net.com</a>
	Robertson Guild	4885 1328	Neil Atkins for all enquiries
	Anna's Family Day Care	4885 1974	0411 040 134
	Robertson Pre School	4885 1353	
	Robertson Public School	4885 1284	P&C 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month
	Kangaloon Public School	4888 2215	Jan Meadows
	Robertson Heritage Railway Station	4885 1256	<a href="http://Robertsonrailway.com.au">Robertsonrailway.com.au</a>
	Robertson Ratepayers Assoc.	4885 1599	Bob Payne, Secretary
	Robertson Recollections	4885 1080	
Robertson School of Arts	4885 1951	Bookings phone Joyce Crowe	
Robertson Show Society	4885 1620	<a href="mailto:robertsonshow@bigpond.com">robertsonshow@bigpond.com</a>	
ESSENTIAL SERVICES	Robertson Doctor	4885 2569	
	After Hours GP Services	4861 6433	
	Robertson Police	4885 1244	
	Robertson Post Office	4885 1240	Fax 4885 1286
	Robertson Fire Brigade	0428 266 094	Brendhan Waters – <a href="mailto:robertsonrfb@icloud.com">robertsonrfb@icloud.com</a>
	Robertson Village Pharmacy	4885 2936	Fax 4885 2937
	Southern Highlands Funerals	4869 2888	0414 986 988
	State Emergency Services (SES)	4871 2433	
	WIRES - Wildlife Information and Rescue	4885 2008	24hr service 0418 427 214
CAFES/FOOD OUTLETS	Arwon Seafood	4885 1583	0407 416 009
	Robertson Butcher	4885 1162	Darryl and Karen
	Robertson Cheese Factory	4885 2000	
	Robertson Country Motel	4885 1444	
	Robertson Fruit Shop		Next to the Post Office, Hoddle Street
	Robertson General Store - Newsagent	4885 1248	
	Robertson Inn	4885 1202	

CAFES/FOOD OUTLETS	Robertson Inn	4885 1202		
	Robertson Supermarket	4885 1519		
	Southern Rise Bakery	4885 2345	4869 2345	
	Café Pirouette	4885 1788		
	Mountain Spice Bistro	4885 1306	In the Robertson Bowling Club	
	Pizzas in the Mist	4885 1799		
	Rockabellas Roadside Diner		CBD Centre, Hoddle Street	
SPORTING CLUBS	Robertson Bowling Club	4885 1306	Fax 4885 1662 – <a href="mailto:rbclub@bigpond.com">rbclub@bigpond.com</a>	
	Robertson Cricket Club	4885 1416	<a href="mailto:aaronazz@hotmail.com">aaronazz@hotmail.com</a>	
	Robertson Hockey Club	4885 2377	Scott Denny	
	Burrawang Hockey Club	4885 1491	Mark Mauger	
	Robertson Pony Club	4885 1288	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Cheryl Ricketts	
	Robertson Rugby League – Junior	4886 4174	Warwick Hill	
	Robertson Soccer Club	4885 1362	Robert Handley	
	Robertson Tennis Club	4885 2023	Jane Wilson	
HAIRDRESSERS/TRADES	Bowie Hair Therapy (Hair on the Edge)	4885 2748	Jac Bowie - <a href="mailto:jac@jacbowie.com">jac@jacbowie.com</a>	
	Stairway to HAIRven	4885 2383	Kerriane – <a href="mailto:keazza@hotmail.com">keazza@hotmail.com</a>	
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	Electrician – Rob Handley	0419 243 520	Lic 110210C	
	Electrician – Brendhan Waters	0428 266 094	Lic 68010C - <a href="mailto:brendhan@mac.com">brendhan@mac.com</a>	
	Electrician - Kelvin O'Connor	0413 314 877	Lic 40696C	
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	Lawn Mowing – Stephen Hore	4885 1796	0416 291 796	
	Painter – Bluey Brushstrokes	0421 768 263		
	Painter – Buckles Painting Service	4885 1684	Lic 25553C	
	Plumber – Jesse Eaton	0417 640 402	Lic 201625C	
	Plumber/Drainer/Gasfitter	0427 893 583	Lic L3018 - Terry Allen	
	GOVERNMENT/COUNCIL	Wingecarribee Council	4868 0888	<a href="mailto:wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au">wscmail@wsc.nsw.gov.au</a>
		Local Councillor – Larry Whipper	0407-932-922	<a href="mailto:larry.whipper@wsc.nsw.gov.au">larry.whipper@wsc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Local Councillor – Juliet Arkwright		0438-249-180	<a href="mailto:juliet.arkwright@wsc.nsw.gov.au">juliet.arkwright@wsc.nsw.gov.au</a>	
State Member – Pru Goward		4822 6444	<a href="mailto:goulburn@parliament.nsw.gov.au">goulburn@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Federal Member – Stephen Jones MP		4262 6122	<a href="mailto:stephen.jones.mp@aph.gov.au">stephen.jones.mp@aph.gov.au</a>	
REAL ESTATE	Carl Hilder Real Estate	4885 2222	Fax 4885 2211	
	Inside Story Realty	4885 2288	Susan Everdell 0412 684 497	
	McKillop Property	4885 1515	Kate 0404 841 662 Sam 0413 996 971	
	R J Mackey Real Estate	4885 1329	Fax 4885 1822	
WELLBEING	Amirun's Massage Clinic	4885 1260	0418 450 252	
	Trish Emmerick Remedial Therapy	0419673955		

## Robertson CTC News

by Karen Mewes, Manager [CTC@Robertson](mailto:CTC@Robertson)

The current Art Exhibition is a series of still life paintings by Robertson Artist, Pamela Voysey. We are keen to display work by local artists, so if you have work that might be suitable please call us or come in.

Friday morning Computer Classes are continuing with some courses now being repeated for those who missed out. Book well in advance booking now for the iPad classes, as those fill up quickly. **Classes run 10:00am to 1:00pm, morning tea and Manual included. \$65 (\$55 Concession/Senior).** Dates of upcoming classes are listed in the events calendar.

We can also provide one-on-one training or advice. Please call first if possible to make sure someone is available. On Thursdays we have Alex, our Technical expert, along with Karen and Stephanie. Friday mornings are Computer classes with Karen, with Stephanie running the café and available for general IT assistance, and Friday afternoons Shelia is on duty. Saturday morning call in to see Karen. We do need to charge for training in order to keep the CTC running but keep prices to the minimum. We can always help with printing or the use of the scanner, laminator or binding machine.

I would like to say a huge thanks to our wonderful volunteers, whether they come in to help each week, attend committee meetings, bake cakes, or operate the café. We couldn't survive without them. **We welcome new volunteers so if you would like to get involved please do come in and see us.**

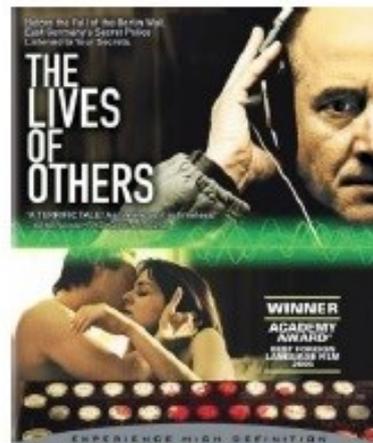
### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS VACANT

**Robertson News assistant**—to help with layout—experience with MS Publisher needed

**Wednesday afternoon volunteer at the CTC**—needed throughout July and at other times occasionally 1pm-4pm Customer service skills needed.

ph: 4885 2665 [info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au)

## CTC 2pm Sunday Cinema Series 2015 **The Lives of Others**



It is 1984 and the Berlin wall is well and truly in place. In East Berlin, the secret police (the Stasi), hide in attics and use listening devices to eavesdrop on people's private lives. *"The Lives of Others is a magnificent and unmissable tribute to the power of liberal humanism. Best foreign language Oscar-winner that fully deserves its prize. Beautifully acted, and making equal demands on our intelligence and on our hearts, it is a significant act of historical reckoning."* - David Gritten, *The Telegraph*  
Rated R. Short 10 min introduction, film duration 137 mins.

### **Sunday 28th June at 2pm**

Adults \$10 (CTC fundraiser)  
Bookings recommended.

Café opens at 1.30pm. Tea & coffee available.

**CTC@Robertson**

58 – 60 Hoddle Street Robertson 4885 2665

[info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au)

## Robertson Aquatic Centre update

The Robertson Aquatic Centre project has recently received a substantial grant to develop their indoor heated swimming pool and gymnasium. The grant is funded by the NSW Government through the ClubGRANTS Category 3 Fund. The Committee are in the process of lodging a Development Application with the Wingecarribee Shire Council and expect to commence development in July. Discussing the development and power supply with the Hon Pru Goward, Member for Goulburn, are President John Thomas, Managing Director of Power Design Laurence McKinnon, Pru Goward and Don Ferguson Vice President. The Robertson community has collected funds since 1982 and the realisation of this development is causing excitement in the district.

The supply of power to the ARTC site is now being investigated. Expert advice indicates the transformer located at the corner of Caalong and Hoddle Streets is overloaded. **The committee have sent a survey to residences in the immediate area for feedback on any power supply issues. The support of residents to complete this survey is urgently required.** Please return to Judy Southwood, Secretary. If you have not made contact with RADSPA on Facebook yet find us on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RADSPA> Contact: John Thomas 4888 2250 or Don Ferguson 4885 1215

# Let's Look at Locals

With Jill Taylor

## Maureen Foster talking about life in Robertson and the 'Royal'

Maureen came to be part of the Robertson community as she was retrenched from a very large company which had been bought out and no longer based in Sydney.

As long as she can remember, she had wanted to farm, in a small way, and didn't want to worry about whether there was enough rain or not. At that period, Robertson was mentioned daily in the weather news as having huge rainfalls. Maureen thought "that's the place for me!"

At first she came to help Susie Clark look after her 13 alpacas. This hands-on time was great as she learnt a lot of basic management skills and found out what to do, or not to do, to avoid alpacas' spit. Maureen purchased her property in January 1999 and has her own cattle which she keeps very healthy and happy.

The Robertson (Royal) Agricultural Show in 1999 was her first foray into competition with a steamed pudding. When it won First Prize she was astounded. "How could I have my pudding chosen over all the wonderful cooks in my town?" After some time down and up to Sydney, she came back with a vengeance and put entries into as many sections as she could. Maureen was very productive with her jams and chutneys. She's expanded her entries from then and loves almost every minute of it; making the preserves, even polishing the bottles and jars. Jellies become jewel-like on a sunny window sill. The best part is that a week or so afterwards, all her friends are invited to bring their shopping bags and help themselves. Great fun and lovely people!

The Robertson Show is "just good fun, lovely, exciting, you meet people who you don't see from one Show to the next." Friday is School Children Day, full of excited children and she enjoys seeing everyone's exhibits and noting which ones received prizes, who enters etc. Maureen encourages everyone to get involved in The Robertson Agricultural Show next year. Just for fun.



At present, her life has turned to spinning, which Maureen loves, and she joined Sonja Fernando's group in Robertson. Susie Clark kindly let Maureen buy some of her fleeces and gave her some others, giving Maureen a good start to spinning. She'd been given a spinning wheel by a daughter so joined the Robertson Spinners Group and learned to spin. It took a lot of practise before she stopped spinning 'barbed wire' and started producing soft wool. At that time, she won a First Prize in spinning at the Robertson 'Royal' Agricultural Show.

## ROBERTSON OPEN GARDENS 10 and 11 OCTOBER 2015

It's that time again to think about how you can help the Robertson Garden Club at the 2015 Open Gardens weekend. It is a very busy weekend for the village and the many visitors. The Heritage Railway Fitters Shed will have an art display and the beautiful waratahs will be in full bloom. Plus there's the monthly market on Sunday 11 October. The Robertson Garden Club will have a fabulous plant stall over both days.

The CTC will again be the hub with tickets and maps to the Open Gardens and photos of the gardens will be on display. Tickets are \$20 for entry into all gardens, \$15 concession or \$5 per garden.

This year we have eight beautiful gardens open and would love some help in manning the gates over the weekend. Just 2.5 hours is all it takes to join in and help your community and visit the wonderful gardens. This year has four new gardens and we thank all the owners for opening their gardens for this fund-raising event. This year the proceeds will go to the School of Arts, the CTC, the Robertson Show Society and the Lady's Auxiliary. Ongoing beautifying of Robertson using Open Gardens 2014 proceeds will see more cherry trees planted and a garden at the post office.

All welcome to come along to the Garden Club's monthly meetings. We have interesting speakers and great afternoon teas. In June Graeme Whisker who will speak about conifers.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, 1.30 pm at the Community Centre, Caalong Street. Please contact Marion on 4885 2249 or Margaret on 48851864 if you can help at the Open Gardens weekend.

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## REPS Talk

Robertson Environmental Protection Society (REPS) presents another community talk—all welcome!

Speakers: Sam and Cathy Joukador & Ray McGibbon



**Topic:** Bearded Dragons, Snakes and other Wildlife

Don't miss this Talk—Bring the Kids and Cameras!

**When:** Friday 12 June 2015 at 7:30pm, with supper

**Where:** Robertson Community Centre, Caalong Street next to the Tennis Courts.

**Cost:** Nil, but a gold coin donation is appreciated.

**Cathy and Sam Joukador** have been wildlife carers for 8 years. They are with Wildlife Rescue South Coast and rescue all wildlife, including snakes and bats. Cathy and Sam care for all types of wildlife and look forward to sharing some of their stories—a combination of strange, humorous, sad and serious. Snakes, especially venomous ones, have a very bad reputation and are feared and disliked by many people. Once you start gaining knowledge about them, some of that fear dissolves. You realise snakes are truly fascinating creatures that are not out to bite as many people as possible. We can successfully live alongside snakes, so long as we show a healthy respect for them and don't try to harm or capture them. Sometimes snakes do need to be 'moved along' though and that is where people like Sam, Cathy and Ray get involved.

**Ray McGibbon**, a licensed snake handler, has 20 years experience with reptile rescue and care and he's also actively involved in Wildlife Rescue South Coast. He has some very interesting stories to share with us PLUS he will bring along a display of non-venomous reptiles!

## Annual Wool Festival

All things woolley came to Robertson on May 2nd at the Annual Wool Festival organized by the Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders Association. This annual festival in Robertson showcases the produce of local growers who offer for sale fleeces of varying colours and types suitable for spinning, weaving and felting.

Sheep naturally come in a range of colours (browns, blacks and silvers) and depending on the breed can be used in different craft projects. Fine merinos, medium corriedales or cross breeds for soft garments and stronger border leicesters or lincolns for rugs or sturdier outer garments. All of these were on display with growers and spinners available to give advice to beginners. There was a fashion parade of knitted and felted garments which showed the creativity of the local craft groups. The speed knitting completion was hotly contested with knitters asked to complete a square in 15 minutes.

Despite the inclement weather there was a display of sheep available for petting, with Piper Williams from Windellama bringing along her prize-winning ram "Mighty Mouse" who was a real crowd favourite.



We invite you to come along to the next Wool Festival which will be held again at the School of Arts Hall in 2016. For further information about the Festival or the BACSBA and its activities please contact Kathy Frey (Secretary) on 4878 9318.

## Robertson Recollections ...

will be open again soon! After 19 great years in Robertson we have decided that it is time for us to retire. The good news is Robertson Recollections will go on. You can look forward to meeting Bill and Nadine very soon—great people who share our enthusiasm, for both Robertson, and village antique shops.

Thank you so much for your support over the years, it has been a wonderful time for us. We look forward to seeing you around. **Micki & Dion Boehme.**



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## ABOVE THE MIST with Wayne Madsen

Welcome to my first contribution to our community newspaper. I've been an avid amateur astronomer for many years and in the past couple of years moved to Robertson from Sydney. While our misty skies aren't ideal for astronomy when it is clear our night sky is excellent.

My interest in Astronomy is deep space, galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, globular clusters and planetary nebulae. What are they you may ask? Like all hobbies astronomy has a dictionary of terminology and abbreviations. Sky and Telescope magazine have a fantastic list of them at [www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-terms/](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-terms/). These objects vary from not too many light years to millions of light years. A light year being the distance covered if you could travel at the speed of light for a year or approximately 9 trillion kms. To put the distance of stars into perspective, I was recently at a lecture where we were asked "if the sun was the size of a 20 cent piece, was placed in Sydney's CBD and the Universe was drawn to scale, where would our nearest star system, Alpha Centauri, be?" The answer, just North of the Sunshine Coast.

My plan for each edition is to list three types of object, naked eye, binocular and modest sized telescope for you to observe. These objects will be in the positions described in early June and while the stars do move from our view west because of the vast distances, this movement is quite subtle except for our moon which fairly races through the sky by comparison.

**Naked eye – Southern Cross (Crux).** Very easy object to find. Look for the two bright stars in the SSE, Alpha and Beta Centauri, also known as the pointers. You will then have the cross lower on the horizon about the same distance from the pointers as the two pointers are apart. If this is too easy for you, try to find Omega Centauri, the largest globular cluster in the night sky. From the closest of the pointers go right on about a 45 degree angle and you see a reasonably dim star. Continue out on that line the same distance and you will see another dimmer star that looks a little fuzzy by comparison. That is Omega Centauri, a beautiful binocular object and a great sight in any telescope.

**Binoculars** – are an excellent way to view and learn the night sky. While in the area of the cross, one of the prettiest open star clusters in the night sky sits just above the highest star in the cross. Pan around with your binoculars and you will see the Jewel Box (NGC4755 is its formal catalogue name) and its collection of blue, red and white stars.

**Telescope** – Pointing East Saturn is the upper of the two bright orange star like objects you can see. If you only ever see one object in a telescope make sure it is Saturn with its rings and moons. On the night of Tuesday 2 June Saturn will be in conjunction (when two or more stellar objects appear close together in the night sky) with the Moon and Antares (Alpha Scorpius) about 10 degrees apart from each other.

If you would like to connect with me via social media I have an astronomy page on Facebook, Wayne's Universe, which has some of my astrophotography on it and I'll endeavour to keep it updated with events if there is demand. I'm also thinking of putting together a viewing night in town in the future. We can bring our equipment and share a night under the stars, weather permitting. If you have any questions on the night sky please feel free to ask via my Facebook page.



Above is a photo of a nebula known as the Eta Carinae Nebula, taken by myself. You don't see the colour or quite that many stars through a telescope due to the way your eyes communicate to your brain. What you do see is a grey "cloud" with all that wispy structure. Your brain focuses on a split second of light, this long exposure is 6 hours of exposures taken over two or three nights.



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# Robertson Heritage Railway Station - Historic Car Day and Autumn Fair

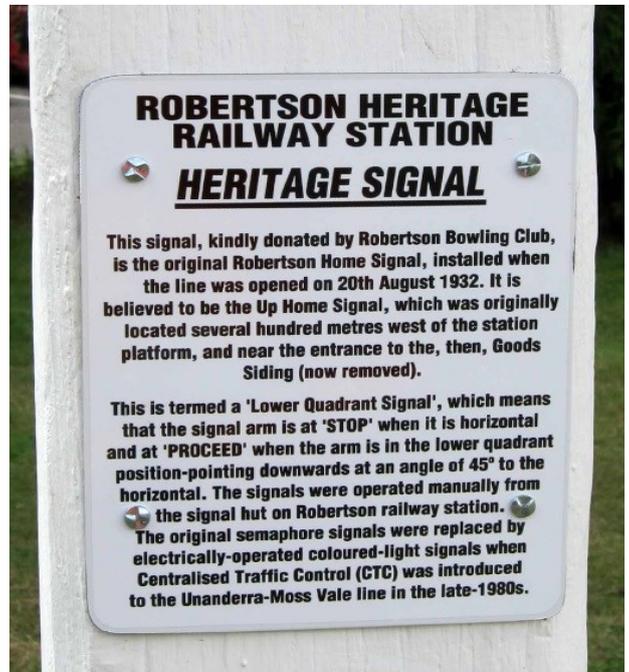
By Steve Carey

Car enthusiasts, casual visitors and lovers of heritage train travel had a fun day at the Autumn Historic Car Day at the heritage-listed Robertson railway station on Sunday, 12th April. The grounds were alive with classic cars spanning many years of car history and the 'ca-thump, ca-thump' sound of vintage farm machinery echoed around the grounds.

The Berrima District Historic Car Club managed the car aspects of the fundraising day for the Robertson Heritage Railway Station (RHRS) group. The 'Cockatoo Run' diesel-hauled tourist train from Sydney is a regular visitor to Robertson and brought 245 passengers to enjoy the special day. The car exhibitors had to cosy up a bit due to the grassed area of the Railway Common being rain-affected but everyone squeezed in and had a great time. It was the last day of the Fettle's Heritage Art Prize exhibition in the Fettle's Shed gallery and many visitors enjoyed the fascinating local art display. The RHRS volunteers ran a delicious hot food kiosk and our newly re-elected and well-liked State MP for Goulburn, Pru Goward, was sighted sampling a delicious Mauger's Burrawang pie at the kiosk.

A highlight of the day was the formal opening by our Wingecarribee Mayor (and nearly a Robertson local from Fitzroy Falls), Duncan Gair of the restored Robertson home signal, which adorned the approach to Robertson railway station for many years before being replaced by electronic signalling in the late 1980s. MP Pru Goward, members of the Robertson Bowling Club, RHRS volunteers, joined Duncan and interested visitors to witness the Mayor unveil a plaque celebrating the removal of the signal from the Bowling Club grounds (where it had been located for many years) and relocation back to the station precinct.

Resident railway historian, Ian Wallace gave a brief but interesting history of the semaphore signal, which, in its operating time, was illuminated by kerosene lamps. Such signals had to be maintained by a station assistant climbing to the top of the sturdy hardwood signal post at regular intervals, and in all kinds of weather, to refuel the lamp. Volunteers from RHRS and Terry Allen of the Bowling club achieved the difficult task of relocating the heavy signal post, its painting and reassembly. The restored signal now looks resplendent in its new paintwork and new coloured glass. Ian presented copies of his newly compiled booklet "80 Years and More Of the Mountain Railway", which updates and expands the previous (now sold out) account of the history and operation of this wonderfully scenic rail line, to our MP and Mayor. The new booklet brings the story up to date with great photos of this now busy and important freight line, as well as capturing the fascinating story of its construction and its operation since it opened in 1932. Sadly, there



is no longer any regular passenger service on our line but the 'Cockatoo Run' tourist train is a vibrant reminder that, not long ago, residents of the Highlands could regularly journey down this engineering marvel to the Coast. The departure of the 'Cockatoo Run' train signalled the end of another successful day to the weary railway volunteers who waved goodbye to a train full of happy visitors.

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Robertson Events Calendar		
June		
<b>Fri 5</b>	Free Pest Animal Control & Motion Camera Training 9-3 Registrations- David 0418977402 <a href="mailto:davidr@npansw.org.au">davidr@npansw.org.au</a>	Robertson
<b>Fri 5</b>	Computer training – Word Introduction 10am-1pm ph:48852665	CTC@Robertson
<b>Sun 7</b>	Lunch under the trees after the 11am service	Kangaloon Uniting Church
<b>Fri 12</b>	Computer training – Excel Introduction 10am-1pm ph:48852665	CTC@Robertson
<b>Fri 12</b>	REPS meeting 7.30pm <i>Bearded dragons, snakes and other wildlife</i> with Sam and Cathy Joukador and Ray McGibbon	Robertson Community Centre
<b>Sun 14</b>	Robertson Markets 9-3 mob: 0408 238 575 Pat	School of Arts
<b>Sun 14</b>	Cockatoo Run Ph; 1300 65 3801	Robertson Railway
<b>Fri 19</b>	Computer training – iPads Part 1 – Intro 10am-1pm ph:48852665	CTC@Robertson
<b>Wed 24</b>	Cockatoo Run Ph; 1300 65 3801	Robertson Railway
<b>Thur 25</b>	<i>The disastrous Railway collision at Robertson Railway Station in 1972 – A Personal account by the Railway Guard, Bob Bunting. 2-5pm David Tranter 4885 1394</i>	Fettlers Shed
<b>Fri 26</b>	Computer training – iPads Part 2-Internet tips & photos a0am-1pm ph48852665	CTC@Robertson
<b>Sun 28</b>	CTC 2pm Sunday Cinema Series <i>The Lives of Others</i> ph: 4885 2665	CTC@Robertson
July		
<b>Sun 12</b>	150 years since Robertson Village began – official plan approved in 1865	
<b>Sun 12</b>	Robertson Markets 9-3	School of Arts
<b>Sun 12</b>	Cockatoo Run Ph; 1300 65 3801	Robertson Railway
<b>Wed 15</b>	<b>Deadline for August edition of Robertson News</b> <a href="mailto:editor@robertsonctc.org.au">editor@robertsonctc.org.au</a>	<b>CTC@Robertson</b>
<b>Fri 17</b>	Computer training – iPads Part 3 – Facetime,Skype,Tips 10am-1pm ph48852665	CTC@Robertson
<b>Fri 24</b>	Computer training – Email – Intro 10am-1pm ph:48852665	CTC@Robertson
Regular Events		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mon</b>	Robertson Garden Club 1.30pm Geoff King lki31500@bigpond.net.au	Robertson Community Centre
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon</b>	Wuka Plukas Ukulele Group mob 0429 826 431 Jenny 7-9pm	CTC@Robertson
<b>Every Tues</b>	Trivia Night 7.30pm	Robertson Inn
<b>Every Tues</b>	Social Tennis Natalie ph: 4887 7803 1-3pm	Robertson Tennis Court
<b>Every Wed</b>	Robertson Walking Group ph: 4885 2936 Martine 8.15am	Café Pirouette/Butcher
<b>Every Fri</b>	Live Music 7pm	Robertson Inn
<b>Every Sat</b>	Crop Swap 9-10am	Outside Rockabellas
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sun, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun</b>	Communion(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Morning Prayer (4 <sup>th</sup> ) 8am	St Johns Robertson
<b>Every Sun</b>	Family Service – Sunday School 9.30am	St Johns Robertson
<b>1<sup>st</sup>,3<sup>rd</sup>,5<sup>th</sup> Sun</b>	Catholic Service 8am	St Peter's Burrawang
<b>2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun</b>	Catholic Service 5pm	St Peter's Burrawang
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sun</b>	Service taken by Rev. Michael Earl bkuc.com.au 11am	Kangaloon Uniting Church



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