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Cover image

Christmas decorations at Rosnel by John Everett

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Pam Davies,
Editor

THE FOCUS ON food in this Christmas issue of *jcg* includes three family stories. The Robertson family at Montrose have introduced a fantastic range of berry products available for Christmas and they describe their hands-on involvement at every stage of the process. Craig Pearsall explains how his family supports his seafood business and the Cordukes near Goulburn describe their passion for the rare breeds of animals on their property. Rosnel's spectacular decorations are featured and religious messages remind us of the Christian beliefs which underpin our celebrations.

jcg columnists continue to inform and amuse us and I am very pleased that we could bring you Alan Hyman's explanation of the cicada cacophony in November. Patrick Fitzgerald's African observations and photographs allowed expansion of his DIY column in this issue. Both Bundanoon Primary School and Pre-School activities are featured and

don't miss the international achievements of two local sportsmen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate Perkins for her long involvement with *jcg* and her editorial assistance, as she steps down from the committee for a well-earned rest. She has been a popular contributor to the magazine and she has written two Christmas-themed pieces for your enjoyment in this edition.

And after a rainy spring, here's hoping for a warm and sunny Christmas! Best wishes to all readers from the *jcg* committee.

—Pam Davies

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BCA meetings

Third Thursday each month:

16 December, 20 January, 17 February.

Start 7:30pm in Supper Room at rear of Hall. All welcome.



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Hall Hire

TO ENQUIRE ABOUT bookings and rates for the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, please call Bob Smith, 4883 7786.

Advertising info: page 52

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 28 January 2011



Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)



THE SIGHT OF 150 people joining enthusiastically in "The Time Warp....again!" at the choir's Bundanoon performance of 'Shall We Dance?' was a highlight of our September concert series. The idea of dance as the theme

came from alto Erica Steer, and it gave exciting opportunities for exploring a range of music from the 16th to late 20th centuries, incorporating sacred, secular, folk and popular styles, with and without accompaniment.

The Bundanoon audience had the extra pleasure of seeing the imitable Miranda Lean evoking the memory of Carmen Miranda in "Tequila Samba", and the stylish ballroom dancing of Lois Langtry and Ron Shead.

The programme for our December concert series **"SING NOËL"** will be entirely devoted to Christmas music. Some will be well-known, some quite new, with music from various countries including England, Africa and Spain, representing several centuries of Christmas music. We will be joined by April Butcher, flute, and Allan Rooke, violin and audience members will be invited to contribute their vocal talents. The usual refreshments will be enhanced by the addition of traditional fruit cake.

Performances of "SING NOËL" will be:

- Saturday 11 December – Bowral Uniting Church – 4.00pm
- Saturday 18 December – Bundanoon Memorial Hall – 4.00pm

Tickets remain at \$15.00 including refreshments and programme, and are available from Todds Real Estate and Highlands Bookshop, Moss Vale. We look forward to welcoming all to one of our concerts, a chance to draw aside from the commercialism of the end-of-year frenzy to enjoy inspiring, engaging music, beautifully sung and played.

—Kerith Fowles – Music Director.



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Shown receiving the Tidy Town award are Pam Davies, editor of *jcg* and Ralph Clark, president of BCA.



Community rewarded

BUNDANOON HAS AGAIN done well in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards. More than a beauty contest, the program celebrates the real, innovative and sustainable efforts of participating rural NSW communities.

Bundanoon gained second place for the Overall Award in population category C (1201–4000) and first for the Packaging Stewardship Forum Waste Management and Litter Reduction Award for "Bundy on Tap". An experienced assessor, Phil Bryant, said Bundy on Tap was one of the most well thought out, well-orchestrated and delivered project he had seen. At the awards dinner, Bundanoon community groups and BCA were recognised for their significant contribution to the village's success. Special mention was made of the role of the primary school programmes which foster environmental awareness and community spirit.

Ralph Clark, president of BCA, wishes to thank David Beasley and Sandra Menteith for all their work in preparing the submissions.

arts BUNDANOON

SPRING HAS BEEN a very active, varied and exciting season for *Arts Bundanoon* audiences.

Distinguished composer and pianist Nigel Butterley OAM entertained and challenged the *Piano at Ten* audience on 4 September with the *Cage Sonatas and Interludes* on prepared piano. This was a great opportunity to see and hear Nigel present this major 20th century work.

The champagne event on the evening of 18 September featuring *The Sydney Symphony Fellows* was a fabulous concert. Classical music in this country is clearly in very good hands if the quality and commitment of these young musicians is anything to go by.

The *Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club* presented a wonderful afternoon of high energy traditional and contemporary Scottish music on the afternoon of Sunday 26 September. The Bundanoon concert was part of their very successful NSW tour.

Spring concluded with the delightful sounds of crum horns, recorders, cello, lute and spinet of *The Reluctant Consort at Piano at Ten* on 02 October.

The 2011 program and advance ticket sale proforma will be on the net at www.artsbundanoon.org.au in late December. This is a new site kindly constructed and hosted by new Arts Bundanoon supporter Anton Baggerman and his business 'Highlands Business Solutions'. Take a moment to go the site and visit the image gallery and other current information.



Claire Herrick, Sydney Symphony Fellows

—Rod Moore

Garden Ramble

CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN to Dale Chalmers and her team for a successful 13th Garden Ramble on the fourth weekend in October. Ten diverse gardens of all sizes and stages of development were opened and the garden owners put in many hours to present pristine gardens of which we were very proud. Many thanks to the garden owners, the Garden Club volunteers and everyone who made the event a success. The whole community got together to welcome almost 700 Ramblers to our village. There were visitors from city and country including a group of Canberra visitors in their old Jaguars. The weather was almost perfect on Saturday and miserable on Sunday but garden lovers were not deterred.

The Lions Café operated successfully in one of the gardens and Lions also awarded the prize for the best scarecrow out of many exhibits throughout the town. The floral display in the Uniting church was beautiful and the old graves in the Anglican Church created much interest. Thanks to the Needles and Natter group for their exhibition and to the History Group for their display. Les Rundle's working farm engines and the Garden Market attracted much interest. The Ramble brought many benefits to our town and created \$9,000 profit for the BCA that will be available to the Green Team for more beautification work.

photos
and
artwork
pippa kenway



plait^onum hair

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
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A warm welcome for equestrian star

BRETT PARBERY RECENTLY returned to his home in Penrose after competing in the discipline of dressage at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. In an amazing performance he finished 9th in the World riding Carolyn Lieutenant's Victory Salute. Brett became the first Australian to ever make it through to the prestigious Freestyle at a World Championships. Many sacrifices were made along the way and not least of these was the fact that Brett decided that to give himself the best possible chance of success he should train and compete in Europe in the months leading up to the Games. This meant he had to leave behind his wife, Mel, and their new born son, Jake, for five months. But now Brett is home again, at least for a while, and he couldn't be happier.

"I love being home," Brett told jcg. "When I drove through Bundanoon towards Penrose it just felt great. We have been here for over three years now and Penrose is a perfect location us and our business. I'm from the small country town of Dorrig, in northern NSW which also has green rolling hills and a similar climate. It's maybe a bit colder here, but it suits me fine. The amazing thing is that from the day we moved in it has really felt like we were at home. I can honestly say I have never been in a community like this. We have a wonderful little shop, a great hardware and feed store, a super new little cafe, a mechanic down the road, a fertilizer spreader guy up the road. There's an earthmover guy over the hill, not to mention the guy who can cut sticks. Then there's the Bundanoon quarry and the local mill if we need any wood – it's just unbelievable that it's all here. We knew we had bought a wonderful property and we thought we could build up a good business here but we certainly didn't expect the community spirit. We love it.

I was very excited with my result at the World Equestrian Games, in fact excited probably doesn't go far enough to describe it. My goal at the beginning of the year was to be in the top 25 but as the year progressed and my marks started getting better I began to aim for the top 20 or even better. Then when I came 10th at Aachen (Germany) and 2nd at Hickstead (UK) I started to think I might be good enough to qualify for the Grand Prix Special at the Games. (Only the top 15 from the first Grand Prix make it through to the Special). Things in Kentucky went really well and I was so thrilled to finish 15th in the Grand Prix, achieve my aim and make the special. At that time I can remember saying to someone that if I make it into the Grand Prix Freestyle (which is dressage to music and only open to the top

Brett competing in Kentucky on Victory Salute



Brett at home with Mel and Jake

15 riders in the Grand Prix Special) there was going to be some serious partying. I finished 9th in the Special and yes we partied. The Freestyle was a chance to really enjoy myself. I did just that and managed to finish 9th again. I am now so excited and looking towards London in two years time."

As for Brett's super star horse Sam, he

has been in quarantine and should arrive home soon. He will have an easy year in 2011 and only do enough to qualify him for the London Olympics. However Brett will still have plenty of other horses to keep him busy ... not to mention the occasional nappy change!

—Alison Duthie



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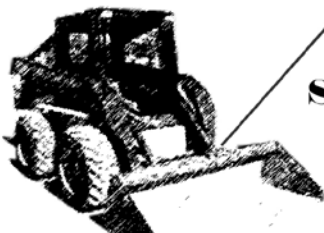
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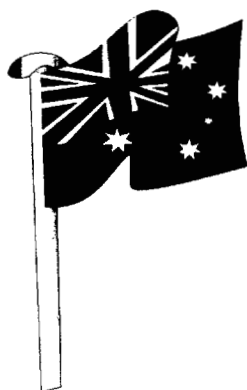
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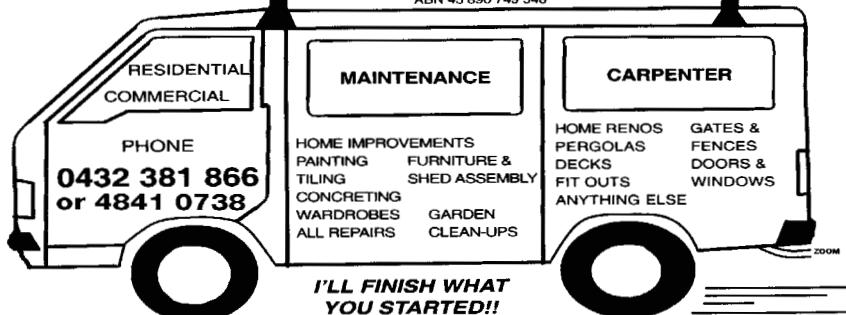
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Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)



Ralph Clark,
BCA president

BCA report

Congratulations all round

THE PAST QUARTER has had many highlights. A few weeks ago Bundanoon was again successful in the NSW Tidy Towns and Sustainable Communities awards. The Bundy on Tap initiative was outright winner of a sustainability award

in our population category – for towns with population between 1200 and 4000 – and we received second prize in our category in the Overall awards.

These were very significant recognitions, of which we should be very proud. Thanks to David Beasley of the Green Team and Sandra Menteith of Bundy on Tap for putting together such successful submissions. The judges went out of their way to point out that what particularly impressed them was the wonderful community spirit which we have here.

The Green Team recently commissioned the Ken McDonald cockatoo sculpture in the corner near the railway station. Their funding comes largely from the October Garden Ramble. Despite damp weather on the second day, 2010 saw another successful Ramble weekend. Dale and her team again lined up a great range of gardens for our enjoyment. Thanks to the GR team, the garden owners who put in so much work and to the many volunteers – I am sure you were very proud of the result you achieved.

BCA has written to Councillors Ken Halstead and Larry Whipper to congratulate them on their elections as mayor and deputy respectively and to their predecessors – Duncan Gair and Graham McLaughlin – to thank them for their contribution.

Another significant recent win for Bundanoon was the announcement of our local school as winner (out of over a thousand sites in NSW) in the Active After-school program. Congratulations and thank you to principal Robyn Versluis and all the staff for making the school such an important part of our community.

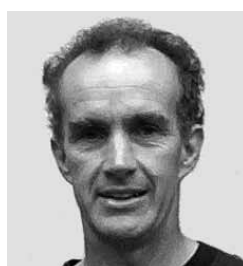
The annual Highland Fling held in November, which saw elite mountain-bike riders flock to Bundanoon from near and far, was again very successful. As usual the organisation by Huw and his supporters was first-rate. This event is one of our busiest weekends of the year and raises considerable sums for local school and charity groups.

Work on the Bundanoon Men's Shed, which I am sure will become an important resource, will start soon. This is a valuable initiative, under the umbrella of Anglicare. As a bonus, the joint agreement between Anglicare, BCA and Brigadoon provides for some much-needed storage space for stakeholders.

Congratulations to Bundanoon Lions Club on chalking up twenty years of service to our community. The anniversary function held at The Bundanoon Club a fortnight ago saw tributes to the local club from many Lions dignitaries and visitors.

Many of you attended the recent information evening in the Hall to hear of threats from mining and gas extraction proposals. We will be closely monitoring these matters and will pass on information as it becomes available.

I hope you have a great Christmas and holiday season. BCA has enjoyed another successful year, including reaching 400 members; I am sure that 2011 will be even better.



Councillor Jim Clark

council news

Changes in the pipeline?

THINGS ARE SETTLING down at council with the new Mayor Halstead and Deputy Mayor Whipper in their new roles. They are perhaps learning the truth of the adage, "with power comes responsibility". Unfortunate fallout has been the

resignation of Cllr Stranger from the Liberal party following a backlash against his refusal to vote for Cllr Arkwright in the Mayoral ballot.

The recent Local Government conference in Albury highlighted the dire position of the State Labor Government. Premier Keneally addressed the conference and took a hard line with delegates particularly on planning matters. This was not well received and the Premier didn't linger to exchange pleasantries with councillors afterwards. The opposition is pledging to overturn the controversial Part 3A Planning Law, which gives the minister power over significant developments, and to review the use of non-council joint Regional Planning panels. These policies need much more scrutiny, given the likelihood of their election in March 2011.

My motion of last year for council to formulate a bottled water free policy has finally come to fruition. Despite some misgivings regarding the running of council events and the cost to implement such a policy, councillors unanimously supported the motion at the last meeting. Council will be purchasing a mobile drink station likely to be funded by the Environment Levy. It will be trialled at next year's Australia Day celebrations.

The Highlands Source project to construct a pipeline from Wingecarribee reservoir to provide back up to Goulburn's water supply has had some major fallout for Highlands residents. The acquisition of property rights for the pipeline easement over local residents' land has proven problematic, as has the requirement to provide offset planting for vegetation removal. Given the long lead time for the project and the foreseeable nature of these difficulties, questions are being asked of the performance of the project team engaged by Goulburn-Mulwarree Council.

—Cllr Jim Clark, ph 0428 213 939

Garden Ramble 2011

Would you like to be one of the volunteers who organise and assist in running the Bundanoon Garden Ramble?

You will need a computer with email and internet access; be available for monthly meetings from February and for the Ramble weekend: **22 and 23 October 2011.**

Tasks include:

- The organisation of garden market stalls.
- Contacting advertisers for the Ramble ticket.
- The distribution to various locations and maintenance of the supply of fliers advertising the Ramble.

If you are interested and would like to know more please call Dale Chalmers on 4883 6077.

Would you like to have your garden in the Ramble in 2011?

After another successful ramble we are now on the lookout for gardens for 2011. Please call Dale Chalmers on 4883 6077 or Laurel Hones on 4883 6090 if you would like to participate.

The Bundanoon Garden Ramble, during 14 successful years, has raised funds for the beautification of public space in our village. It also brings visitors and publicity to Bundanoon. Each year we have ten gardens open, most of which haven't been visited before. Yours may be an established garden, or in the process of development but if you feel you could prepare your garden to be included in the October 2011 Ramble we would like to hear from you.



We visited museums...



had lots of laughs...



met the locals...



were well fed...

Broken Hill trip

"WHERE ELSE COULD one travel so far and so well for \$100 per day", "Can't fault anything, great value for money", "Great cameraderie", "Can't believe the value", "Happy hours were good fun", "Really beyond expectations in every way".

These were just some of the comments in a survey of the 46 travellers on the inaugural trip for JCG Travel, a tour to Broken Hill via Griffith, Mildura, Mungo Mungo National Park, White Cliffs, Nyngan, Parkes and Forbes in August.

Overall more than 3 out of 4 travellers rated the tour "6" on a scale of 1 to 6. Ninety four per cent rated the value-for-money at 6 out of 6.

The "happy hour" each night was one of the tour's more popular features. There were some comments about the lack of a rear door on the bus and the operation of the seat belts but the driver Bill got very high marks. On future tours JCG Travel will use a more upmarket coach as the additional cost appears warranted by these comments.

A re-union of the group was held at the Bundanoon Club on October 5.

"BROKEN HILL WAS one of the best trips I have been on, well organised and obviously well researched. My congratulations to those responsible. The interaction and friendship of fellow passengers has been wonderful. Thank you for an enjoyable trip." — Pat Wells



enjoyed Happy Hours...



and went divining for opals.

JCG Travel's values:

- Accessible
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2011 JCG Travel timetable

March: *Dr Zhivago* (extra tickets now available)

May: *Beautiful Villages of France, Switzerland & Italy* (fully booked)

September: *Great Ocean Road* (in development)

November: *NZ cruise* (bookings open 1 December)



All aboard for New Zealand!

JCG TRAVEL HAS managed to secure big discounts on a cruise to New Zealand in November next year.

The 14-day cruise on Holland America's 4.5-star *Zaandam* will take in Milford Sound, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Napier, Auckland and the Bay of Islands. It will leave Sydney on 25 November and return on 9 December.

The cost for an ocean view cabin is \$2,400 per person twin share. We have just two inside cabins (no window) for \$2,100 ppts. Transport to the dock in Sydney and return is included.

The Holland America Line has an excellent reputation. The *Zaandam* carries only 1,440 passengers and was built in 2000 and refurbished in 2005. A dramatic three-level atrium is the focal point of the ship with an art gallery, boutique, coffee bar and Ocean Bar nearby. There are several restaurants, a show lounge, movie theatre, pool, library, jogging track and culinary arts centre.

All meals and most entertainment are included. Drinks, tips and shore excursions are extra.

Bookings open on 1 December after this issue of JCG is published. Phone Lexie or Harvey on 4883 7343 or email contact@hgrennan.com to book. Fares are subject to change with major variations in exchange rates or taxes. Single supplement is available. A deposit of \$758 payable to TraveltheWorld (posted to PO Box 181, Bundanoon) is payable to confirm a booking. Balance of payment is required by 31 July 2011.



Clockwise from top centre:

The luxury cruise ship *Zaandam*

An ocean-view stateroom can be made up as a queen or twin beds

The *Rotterdam*'s dining room

The magnificent atrium

Milford Sound

Otago Peninsula, near Dunedin





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Founded by Petrea King

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Petrea King's best-selling books and CDs are available through our online shop.



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Left to right: David Sallis (tiling advisor), River Weston (at front), Bryan Gilpin (tiling advisor), Deni Harden, Grant Culquhoun (from the Men's Shed), Peter Goulding (Men's Shed), Aunty Val (Aboriginal Elder), Marie (Aboriginal Liaison Officer with Wingecarribee shire council), Ingrid Skirka (artist), Alex (artist's assistant).

Recent events at Bundanoon District Pre-school



Children take a closer look at the lyrebird.
Photos: John Ciregna.

A STUNNING LYREBIRD mosaic was recently unveiled at the Bundanoon Community Pre-school by local Aboriginal elder Aunty Val from the Gundangurra people. The idea of the mosaic came from local parent, artist and sculptor Ingrid Skirka whose son, River, has attended the Pre-school for the last two years.

"I came up with the idea for the Lyrebird mosaic some time ago and have been amazed at the support I have received from the local community," said Ingrid. "The tiles and concrete were donated by local community members while 'Concrete' together with the Bundanoon Men's Shed supplied and laid the foundation. I also called in the help of talented glass artist, Charles Butcher (whose work has been exhibited in the Blake prize for religious art at the NSW Art Gallery) to make the eye of the lyrebird. The piece really came together when the eye was added. In some way the bird looks a little vulnerable but the eye evokes strength. It looks as if it's listening and ready to mimic or speak. I was also able to work with the local Aboriginal elders who helped me to best depict this local bird of peace.

I am so happy to have a connection with the Bundanoon Pre-school. It really is a haven for little children in a beautiful setting and with a healthy focus on the natural world and the importance of play," said Ingrid. "I am delighted to be leaving them this mosaic gift because this place has enriched my son and his friends. River has loved his time here; it is a special place where things appear effortless. This is testament to the tremendous amount of work that the teachers put into nurturing the children."



Tales of Adventure Bear

ASK ANY CHILD who has been at Bundanoon Pre-school in the last ten years their favourite memories and you could almost guarantee that Adventure Bear would be mentioned. Adventure Bear (or AB as he is known to his close friends) arrived at the Pre-school in 2001 as a bear who could go home with different children each week. Their

story for that week could then be written into a book and shared with the rest of the children the following week. In fact there are actually two ABs, the first goes home with the Monday/Tuesday children while the second goes home with the Thursday/Friday children. Although both bears were pretty similar in 2001, AB (Monday/Tuesday) suffered a serious accident in 2009 (which was reported in *jcg*) when he fell out of a child's backpack while crossing the railway line and he basically 'lost his head'. So that AB has slightly less neck (in fact if we want to be honest he has no neck) but he is still loved and cherished by all the children who take him home.

"Speaking on behalf on both ABs I can honestly say that we never thought that coming to Bundanoon Pre-school would be as good as it has been," said Adventure Bear. "The adventures we have had, the things we have seen and the people we have met would fill several books. We just love being part of such a great group of people and we enjoy the wonderful cuddles with all of our children friends. I'll keep you up to date with all the things happening at Pre-school. But for now this is AB signing off."





Merry Christmas

We wish everyone a very happy Festive Season

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Volunteer Opportunities

Do you like to help people?

Red Cross is recruiting volunteers for a range of programs in Bowral, Bundanoon, Mittagong and Moss Vale to help improve the lives of elderly people. Are you a good listener and enjoy spending time with older people? We urgently need:

- **Community Visitors Scheme** volunteers to work with residents in aged care facilities for at least one hour a fortnight.
- **Telecross** volunteers who can make a short telephone call each morning to an isolated person living at home to check they are safe and well.
- **Hands On** volunteers to visit aged care facilities once a fortnight to give basic manicures or hand massages.

If you are interested in becoming a Red Cross volunteer email dbarrientos@redcross.org.au or call (02) 4861 5727 for more information.

Red Cross volunteers must be over 18 years of age. Full training and support will be provided and as part of the recruitment process candidates will be screened and assessed for suitability to work with children, youth and vulnerable people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

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Business awards

BRONWYN SHEAD AND David Macquarie of Yallambee B&B have won the 2010 Southern Highlands Business Award for Excellence in their category, Accommodation, 8 rooms or less.

Sue and Murray Tyler won the Excellence in Small Business award for Highlands DriveSafe, and Sue also won Businesswoman of the Year.

Congratulations!

Golden gurus

THE GOLDEN GURUS Program is a national program funded by the Australian Government which aims to harness the wide-ranging skills, knowledge and experience of people over the age of 50.

The program is an initiative of the 2020 summit and is designed to help meet future skill needs and to address current skills shortages by providing mentoring services to the not-for-profit sector.

Golden Gurus provide a range of support to community organisations and small businesses, including to young people starting out in business and those who have completed the Australian Government's New Enterprise Incentive Scheme.

The Southern Highlands Golden Gurus are sponsored by the Wingecarribee Volunteer Centre in Moss Vale. Since the beginning of the program earlier this year, the Golden Gurus have provided several Highlands-based not-for-profit organisations with valuable advice, ranging from interior design, taxation requirements and policy-writing.

The Southern Highlands spokesperson for the Golden Gurus, John Weatherly, recently visited Bundanoon as part of Volunteering Wingecarribee's outreach program. Following a previous visit to Canyonleigh, John now firmly believes that the potential for signing on new Golden Gurus throughout the Southern Highlands is immense.

The Golden Gurus is an Australian Government supported voluntary program with no charge to its clients. Through Golden Gurus, mature-age Australians are able to meet new people, develop social networks, hear fresh and practical ideas, access free training and participate in an Ambassadors program.

Residents of Bundanoon who are over 50, and feel that they would enjoy the benefits of sharing a lifetime of skills and experiences on a voluntary basis, are invited to contact John at Volunteering Wingecarribee 4869 4617 or directly on 4869 3379 or 0428 789 252.

Lions Christmas cakes



THROUGH ITS SALES of cakes and puddings Lions International Australia raises

significant funds for worthwhile local service projects and other Lions programs, both here and overseas. Bundanoon Lions Club is renowned for their fundraising barbecues and this year gave funds for re-carpeting the Preschool. To purchase cakes, phone Margaret Johnson, 4883 6918.

FlashID

FLASHID MEDICAL EMERGENCY USB was invented in Bundanoon and accepted as a Lions Club of Bundanoon project. It received a successful notice of motion at the Nowra Lions convention on 10 October, so now it can be bought statewide through your local Lions Club. More information in the next issue.

—Les Johnson
President, Lions Club of Bundanoon

Wild blog

JCG RECEIVED A message from local resident Lorne Johnson who would like to make contact with others with similar environmental interests:

'I am a local poet, teacher and naturalist and have just launched a blog entitled Wild Bundanoon. This blog aims to celebrate, on a weekly basis, the fauna and flora of Bundanoon through musings, observations and photographs.

If you are interested, visit <http://wildbundanoon.blogspot.com>

Readers can contact Lorne for regular discussion through the site. Please also consider contributing to the March edition of the magazine when the theme will be Wild Bundanoon.

Thank you Bundanoon

A SMALL GROUP of volunteer staff from the Moss Vale based Volunteer Centre recently spent a morning at Soldiers' Memorial Hall talking with Bundanoon residents and learning about all the volunteer work that goes on in Bundanoon.

"We were amazed to hear about the extent of work carried out by the Green Team and other volunteer groups.

The role of The Volunteer Centre is to act as a referral and resource centre for the whole Shire. Talking to people in all towns and villages in the Shire is essential for this to be done effectively.

Volunteering Wingecarribee, the organization that runs The Volunteer Centre, has been fortunate to receive a grant from the IMB Community Foundation, to assist with outreach to outlying areas. It has been a joy to travel around and meet so many interesting and dedicated residents. Without the grant, this would not be possible.

People volunteer for a variety of reasons. They may want to help others, learn new skills, share their talents or they may have a requirement to volunteer for Centrelink. The Volunteer Centre can refer people to volunteer roles whatever the reason for volunteering. Please contact us if you would like more information.

We also need to know if there are any not for profit groups that need volunteers. If your group needs some extra volunteers please contact us with a brief job description and we will give you details of how to register."

The Volunteer Centre can be contacted on 4869 4617 or email volwing@bigpond.com

Remembrance



KEVIN BLOCK OF Bundanoon was a close friend of Sheila Boyce who may have been known to other

members of our community.

Bundanoon recently lost another of its long time residents with the passing of Sheila Boyce.

Sheila lived in Dover Heights in Sydney but shared her time between Sydney and her quaint sandstone cottage "Stonehaven" at 23 Penrose Road.

Born Sheila Christina Roberts on 23 October 1923, she grew up with a love of gardening, which she shared with her mother. She could strike most anything from the cuttings she gleaned on her frequent walks around the village.

She married William James Boyce in 1954 and she often referred to her "Jimmy" and his love of cars, in particular his Packard. Sheila's mother had a property in Wingello which was sold when she purchased "Stonehaven" in Bundanoon.

After Jimmy's untimely passing Sheila devoted her time to caring for her mother until Mrs Roberts died. Sheila spent many years visiting Bundanoon but in her later years she became very frail and could not make the journey to Stonehaven.

Sheila suffered a mild heart attack followed by a stroke and died on Monday 27 September.

Vale Sheila, we will always remember and love you.

—Kevin Block



Country living

by Keith McMenomy



Some welcome new rules

HERE IS A development initiative that can affect the quality of our surroundings. I hear you groan! It is not a new business park,

mining or high-density subdivision but a positive proposal. I have been browsing through the Wingecarribee Rural Small Holdings draft control plan available for comment in Post Offices for the last few months. It affects 2-10 hectare lots that may be approved in developments adjacent to some Highlands villages. Do we need a hundred more regulations added to the existing mountain of requirements? Truth is the ideas contained in the draft are actually interesting and beneficial, aiming to improve the quality of landscape, environment, sighting and construction, water management, respect for neighbours and where necessary, heritage values. In short it is designed to alleviate negative side-effects of closer settlement.

Most people, visitors or settlers, come to the Highlands attracted by the qualities of European adapted landscape. Also, they are attracted by the climate and community spirit in this area. It is clear that some who stay on are insensitive and lack responsibility. So here are provisions to encourage better outcomes and curb selfish vested interest. The plan will prevent cutting or clearing of eucalypts. This is fine although it raises a small conflict. Preserving and re-growing tree belts of gums in paddocks absorbs carbon and provides essential corridors for wildlife. The passion for building in the bush and for indigenous gardens, on the other hand, is potentially lethal. In proximity to dwellings these can be flammable and dangerous, so it is addressed in bushfire guidelines. Another valuable reform is suggested in limiting pine and Leylandii hedges (incentives for removal would equally be welcome) as these have already closed off and spoilt so many vistas. Discouragement of 'look-at-us' conspicuous hill-top building sites is also commendable. Sections on signage and advertising are a welcome element aimed to limit visual pollution. Three cheers!

The heritage section of the draft plan is particularly well detailed on Georgian style, with useful visual references and heritage colours. However, there appears to be no acknowledgement that Victorian, Edwardian and Federation styles co-exist in the Shire and preservation recommendations should also be detailed. Many more important issues are proposed so visit Council's website. <www.wsc.nsw.gov.au>

Now a brief look outside in spring. Crossing our paddock, hatless, we get a clip on the head from nesting magpies. Afternoon storm clouds rise above southern gorges to signal rain. Cows welcome warm spring sun after winter frosts and between grazing, stretch out prone or groom and nuzzle handsome calves. Warmth has brought out cicadas too with their piercing high-pitched trill. Every seven years is it? They discard casings on gate-posts and tree trunks, some providing a feast for birds and foxes. Young swallows coaxed out on the roof for flying lessons sit waiting their turn for tid-bits delivered on the wing. An orphan duck we fed a season or two ago brings a mate to brood and to graze under cover of the garden Primary elements of existence – affection and bonding, aggression, defensive tactics, coupling, birth, growth, sickness and death – are played out daily within sight of us. The smallest things endlessly remind us of what it means to be alive.

Safe Christmas!



Vet's casebook

by Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

Summer's hidden hazards

THE WET SPRING and early summer, heralded by the scream of cicadas has brought beautiful gardens to Bundanoon and surrounds. The down-side for your pets is that it has also produced the worst season for paralysis ticks seen in a long time. The paralysis tick is carried by bandicoots which are the intermediate hosts. It then attaches to its final host, either human, dog or cat and sometimes wildlife.

Once attached it pumps a paralysing poison into its host which is identified in animals by weakness and paralysis in the hind legs in the early stages. Symptoms progress to complete paralysis, vomiting and ultimately (if untreated) death.

This year, because of the tropical conditions, the parasite appears to be more widespread. Usually confined to National Park areas or other rainforest type country, cases of tick paralysis have been seen in the most unlikely backyards this season so be vigilant if you see your pet wobbling, depressed, vomiting or paralysed.

Prevention is always better than cure. Spot-on preparations (commonly Frontline, Advantix and some others) need to be applied to your dog every 2 weeks. Tick collars also help. A tablet can be used every second day if preferred. Consult your vet for the best prevention to use.

The wet conditions have also produced a snail epidemic. Snail pellets are extremely toxic to pets, who like to eat them. Shortly after ingestion, your pet will start shaking violently, progressing to convulsions and if untreated, death. Call your vet immediately before the poison is absorbed. He will make your pet vomit and provide treatment but speed in obtaining help is very important.

* * * * *

With Christmas almost upon us (where did this year go?) watch out for festive season traps for your pets:

- Chocolate is poisonous to dogs.
- Lilies are poisonous to cats.
- Ham skin and fat frequently will give dogs acute pancreatitis. Symptoms are vomiting, diarrhoea, pain.
- Young puppies and kittens often swallow Christmas decorations, including those made of glass. Vomiting is usually the sign to watch for. Keep them away from the Christmas tree!

With the above in mind, have a happy and uneventful Christmas.

* * * * *

Triplet calves follow-up. Remember our story in *jcg* early last year about David Brown's identical triplet calves born on 28 January 2009 at Bundanoon. They were 20 months old on 28 September. David has artificially inseminated them to a Red Poll bull using semen that had been frozen for 20 years! They are all pregnant. If my maths is correct and the gene for triplets is strong, there will be a photo of nine identical calves in *jcg* in nine months time. That will be a world record and will put Bundanoon on the front page of newspapers around the world yet again.



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Through Ross-coloured glasses

by Ross Armfield

The heaven and hell of Christmas Day

AS A CHILD, Christmas was all heaven. The smell of the freshly cut pine tree with its tinsel and lights and the anticipation at the sight of piles of presents. The aroma of baking meats, the abnormally huge quantities of nuts, chips, lollies and soft drink! There were tarts and pies and custard and puddings and cakes for the taking, sherry infused parents welcoming neighbours and saying 'yes' to all of our greedy requests. The only thing even approaching the negative was the mock rousing-on we three boys received after tearing open all the gifts without even noticing who they were from. "How on earth am I going to be able to thank people for their gifts when I can't tell who gave what to whom?" Mum would exclaim in a voice that lacked real conviction as she sipped from her plastic flute of Porphyry Pearl. Then came the dizzying realisation that we still had weeks of holidays ahead in which to play with our newly acquired toys and to consume the vast excess of leftover 'treats'. Perfection! Heaven! Then, one day it all changed. We all grew up.

As adults, whilst there was obviously still great love and joy with food and family, somebody had moved the goalposts, the rules had changed and 'hellish' forces moved in.

First: the location! Somewhere around June, to a chorus of groans, Mum would say, "Right, where are we having Christmas this year?" By late November a decision was usually ratified.

Second: the driving! Now married, this meant criss-crossing Sydney to see both sets of families and as many friends as you could, all in peak traffic and peak heat and desperately counting how many drinks you'd had.

Third: the weather! Previously irrelevant and unnoticed as kids, it became critical as kitchen temperatures soared. "Why are we always baking dinners when it's sooo hot and humid?" Because we always do! For many years heat-stress and Christmas lunch were interchangeable terms.

Fourth: food choice! Every year Mum would seek our preference. "pork, ham or turkey?" Pork! "Have you gone off turkey?" OK, turkey! "Our butcher does a beautiful ham you know." Invariably we'd have all three. This scene was played out for every course.

Fifth: the presents! What do you give people who have all they need? After years of furtive phone calls and ensuring all gifts were of similar value and three hour wrapping sessions, we have settled on donations to CARE Australia. A real win-win!

And then the jobs! It's strange how you get the same job year after year. My dad used to carve, but one year he 'hacked' a leg of ham and received such a ribbing that he vowed never to carve again. That was in 1969, I've been doing it ever since!

And the serving sizes! Having grown up in the Depression, Mum was determined that no-one would ever be hungry again. She would start every meal with, "Now, there's plenty more out there if you want, but don't forget to leave a space for plum pudding and custard and the mince pies and Christmas cake". She would then proceed to try to swap her plate with someone whom she thought may have 15 grams less than she had or who may have had a 'dry looking' piece of meat. We called this the 'Burnt Chop Martyr Syndrome'.

But wait, best of all: our English-learning Russian friends who were asked to bring a kilo of cherries turned up with a kilo of chilies!

Finally, heaven would return for a short time as we relaxed with a port in the cool southerly change on the verandah, but it was too good to last. The 'elephant in the room' was too big to ignore. Inevitably someone would chirp up with, "So, whose turn is it next year?" Merry Christmas to one and all.



Real estate

by Harvey Grennan



Interpreting trends

IF AS A property owner you get depressed that Bundanoon has not enjoyed the resurgence in prices experienced in Sydney last year the cloud may yet have a silver lining.

What about a weekender on the coast? Prices in most regional areas have remained in the doldrums while the capital cities have surged ahead (although they have slowed to a crawl in recent months).

Bundanoon is only an hour's drive to Kiama and less than three hours to Batemans Bay. In between there is a smorgasbord of coastal towns and villages where you could escape the prolonged winter in the Southern Highlands.

A weekender on the South Coast could serve two purposes – as a place to get away and as an investment. Weekly rentals can run into thousands of dollars over Christmas and even a shack near the beach can bring \$2000 a week. There is also the capital gain to be had from buying while the market is low but don't be in a hurry. Regional property markets have been in the dumps for six years and who knows how much longer they will remain there?

The other side of the coin is the costs of running a weekender – rates, electricity, land tax, etc.

So where are the bargains? It's less than two hours' drive to Ulladulla so it's a good place to start. The median price for a unit in 2004 was \$320,000 and it's fallen every year but one since then and last year was \$263,000. It is a fishing port with good shops, cafes and restaurants and the local council is improving the foreshore.

If you want a good beach Mollymook Beach is just up the road. In 2004 a median house was \$417,500, the latest figure is \$370,000.

Head north to the village of Lake Conjola and you will find a median-priced house of \$380,000 has dropped to \$326,000. Or south to Bawley Point and it is \$337,500 – down from \$502,500.

There are some places, however, where you will not find a bargain. In the much sought-after village of Bendalong the median house price has soared from \$554,500 to \$850,000. At Currarong the median has jumped from \$445,000 to \$511,000. And forget Depot Beach unless you have a spare million and are prepared to wait for someone to sell.

All this information is available on realestate.com.au but there are some traps in reading the figures. For instance, bargains can still be found at Gerringong but the median unit price jumped 41.7 per cent in 2009.

There are probably two factors at play here. The big jump in 2009 could be a correction from the sharp fall of 27.2 per cent in 2008 and the other factor is what is called the "rich mix" syndrome. That is when the sale of more upmarket properties skews the figures and in Gerringong's case there have been a lot of new townhouses developed in the last couple of years. In a small market one multi-million dollar sale can make the median figure meaningless.

It just goes to show that buying property cannot be reduced to a simple formula.

PS: For the record, the peak median price for Bundanoon was \$350,000 in 2006 and it was \$338,000 last year, after falling to \$306,500 in 2008.



Pedalling words

by Huw Kingston

Biking contrasts

A MOUNTAIN BIKE race on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific followed a couple of weeks later by one across the huge expanses of Mongolia. Contrast is always good!

How could I miss a race where the first stage was The Kingston Criterium? Whilst the world was focusing on a little bike race in France, we were battling it out in the first Tour de Norfolk.

The island, some 1600km east of Sydney, was discovered in 1774 by that busy bloke, Captain Cook. It was first settled as a penal colony and that awful period still haunts the historical Kingston precinct. But Norfolk Island is probably best known as the place where the Bounty mutineers finally settled in 1856.

Now the 5km by 8km island is home to around 1600 people, with its own parliament. Ringed by cliffs split occasionally by beautiful beaches, the island rises to 321metres and there's not much flat country. It's up or down on the 70km or so of roads and tracks that crisscross the lush, green landscape. Sensible laws (or lack of them) mean no seatbelts, no bike helmets; so refreshing after legislation-loving mainland Australia.

The TDN had four race stages over two days which allowed us to explore much of the island. This included the Surf to Summit. The final summit climb in the National Park was horrendously steep but the top of Mt Pitt rewarded us with views right around the island and across to the neighbouring, uninhabited Phillip Island.

I'd landed on Norfolk knowing one other rider and left knowing a good chunk of the population of this friendly island.

And in contrast - Day 1 of the first Mongolia Bike Challenge:

A violent headwind whipped up sand to blast skin from faces. The wind threw me clean off the bike. Making any form of forward progress was difficult across a vast treeless plain. That night a vicious dust storm hit as we queued for dinner. Plates of food took flight as knuckles protected eyes. All night dust showered into our tents.

Mongolia is a wild country of open plains, desert and high mountains. With hardly a fence line it's the perfect expanse for modern nomads and was a perfect canvas on which to sketch the Mongolia Bike Challenge, a 1300km, ten day epic mountain bike race.

After a couple of days we hit the Gobi, one of the world's great deserts. We woke to grey but (finally) windless skies. 40km into the 130km stage we crested a ridge to spectacular views and a trail that angled down into 20km of descent; speed checked only by the odd sandy creek. At the bottom, smiles turned to awe as we viewed the Gobi Sands, an 80km line of crescent dunes changing colour in the afternoon light.

We made our way north from the desert to enter the mountains and for the next 600km followed a stunning route up passes nudging 3000 metres and down wild valleys holding herds of yaks. One evening the temperature plummeted and at dawn we rose to find bikes of every colour now painted white by snow.

Along the route we passed the occasional Ger. These white, circular felt and timber tents define Mongolia. The design has changed little since Genghis Khan's time. Even in towns, the exact same shelter is erected on a quarter-acre block corralled by a timber fence. No windows or pergolas!

Local dignitaries waved us off with fermented mare's milk for the final 110km stage to the famed Buddhist centre of Karkhorin, a finish that was a scene of emotion, hugs and photos with friends old and new. The race had indeed been a tough journey through varied landscapes in a wild and uncompromising landscape.



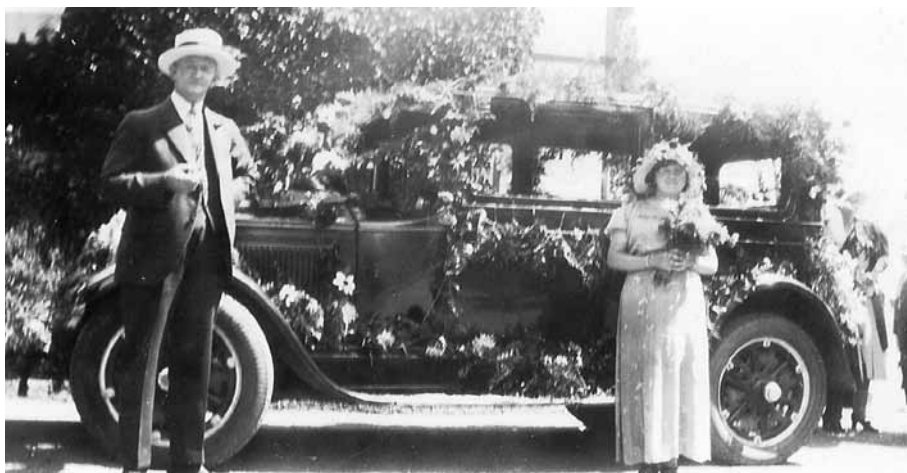
History in pictures

THE BUNDANOON HISTORY Group's archival collection of photographs can be viewed on computer in the History Shed, opposite the shops. Items are constantly being added and catalogued. Interest in the collection is increasing and visitors to Bundanoon with family connections here often add information to the records. A recent visitor from Goulburn, recognising some of the families from pictures in the collection, offered to bring in his father's "suitcase full of Bundanoon photographs". Photographs can be copied and returned.

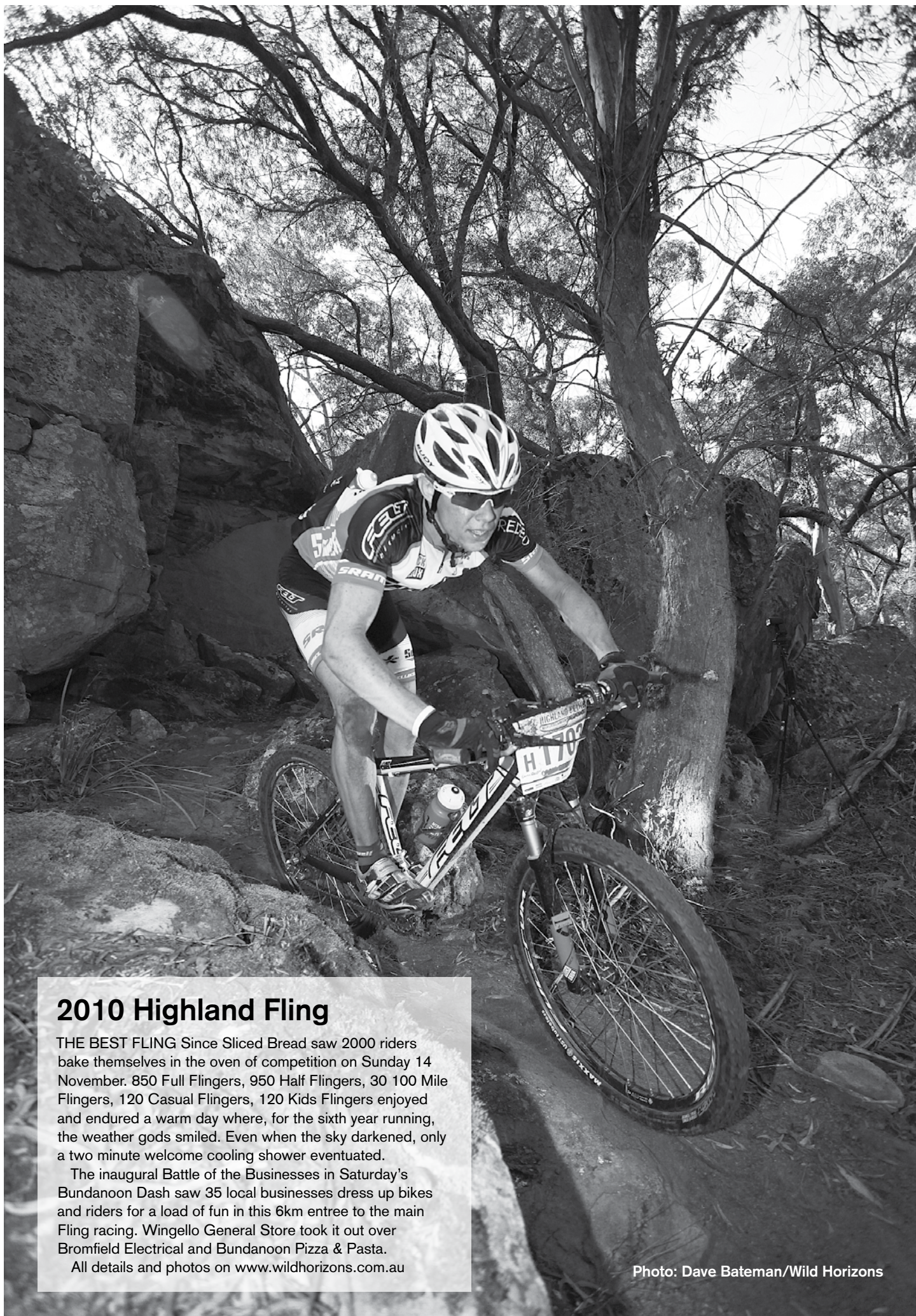
If you know of anyone with interesting material relevant to Bundanoon's history that they would like to contribute, please contact Patricia Guy on 4883 6971.

History Group meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. Elizabeth Walker's archival research has produced a number of fascinating stories of families and events in early Bundanoon.

Her presentations at each meeting are always worth catching. Two day trips are planned for next year, following the success of a recent trip to a Macarthur property at Taralga. The group also visited Camden and Picton earlier this year. For more information, please phone Secretary Graham Morgan on 4883 7714.



Photos in the History Group's collection show a 1930s Christmas celebration at The Knoll (now Solar Springs)



2010 Highland Fling

THE BEST FLING Since Sliced Bread saw 2000 riders bake themselves in the oven of competition on Sunday 14 November. 850 Full Flingers, 950 Half Flingers, 30 100 Mile Flingers, 120 Casual Flingers, 120 Kids Flingers enjoyed and endured a warm day where, for the sixth year running, the weather gods smiled. Even when the sky darkened, only a two minute welcome cooling shower eventuated.

The inaugural Battle of the Businesses in Saturday's Bundanoon Dash saw 35 local businesses dress up bikes and riders for a load of fun in this 6km entree to the main Fling racing. Wingello General Store took it out over Bromfield Electrical and Bundanoon Pizza & Pasta.

All details and photos on www.wildhorizons.com.au

Photo: Dave Bateman/Wild Horizons



Feasting & Festivities



What would you think about a genuine Australian Christmas dinner, comprising "rich and rare" native gastronomic delights? Indigenous foods are already appearing in shops and restaurants and there are many recipes for the festive season where native nuts, seeds and fruits could be used. From native mint, mountain pepper, wild cherries, ribberries, acacia seeds and lemon myrtle to quandongs, bush tomatoes and Victoria River plums, there is an abundance of exciting produce available. For a new taste sensation this Christmas, try turkey stuffing with native herbs and seeds, salads with ribberries and bush tomatoes or pavlova with quandongs or native plums.



In this Christmas issue, jcg brings you an eclectic mixture of stories about food and tradition. The heat of summer has impacted on the way Australians celebrate Christmas. From traditions of the Northern Hemisphere our Christmas celebrations have evolved to favour cold turkey, ham, salads and seafood. Whether you celebrate with lunch, an evening meal, a picnic or a backyard barbecue with family or friends, jcg wishes you the compliments of the season.

A festive welcome at Rosnel

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS AT Rosnel begin weeks before the festive season. A visit to the comfortable, sprawling house, where 45 residents are cared for by John Phillis and his staff, found evidence of remarkable decorations at the beginning of November. These impressive creations, constructed from materials found at the Moss Vale Resource Centre are largely the work of Myra Harrison who has been working at Rosnel for 15 years. A village made from old dressing tables, with Santa, his reindeers and laden sleighs dashing across a starry sky, sets the scene in the entrance. Alongside the fire place in the living room life-size soldiers, dressed in smart brass-buttoned uniforms and busbies, are an imposing presence.

When John was asked how they managed to look so tall and straight he replied with a smile, "cement shoes!" In fact that's true. Their bodies are made from garbage bins and their PVC pipe legs are encased in recycled gum boots, courtesy of Home Care, and filled with cement. There were taller (7 ft) soldiers lurking in the store room waiting to make an entrance and Myra explained "The centre piece for the Christmas Day lunch is a huge Santa, reindeers and a sleigh which sits in the middle of the room surrounded tables arranged in a square".

John has been at Rosnel for 21 years and still enjoys preparing a traditional Christmas dinner. The festivities start with morning tea of fruit mince pies and cake, present opening and carols. Lunch is a gala

occasion – roast turkey and ham with all the trimmings, followed by a plum pudding. A speciality at Christmas is John's famous Marmalade Trifle. "The most amusing part of the day is the sight of "inebriated" guests who claim to be tipsy after drinking their non-alcoholic sparkling wine." John adds.

"The Bundanoon Lions Club, with support from The Good Yarn puts on a great barbeque for Rosnel before Christmas, and visitors are always welcome to see our decorations. Many local people aren't aware of the fantastic display we have built up over the years, thanks to our staff, supporters and residents.

There are lights on the outside of the house and when the WELCOME sign goes up I hope people will drop in for a visit."



Myra Harrison, designer extraordinaire!



Marmalade trifle

2 sponge cakes sliced into 3 layers each

2 punnets strawberries sliced



2 bananas sliced

1/4 cup white sugar

1 punnet blueberries

1/4 cup orange liqueur

1/4 cup orange juice

4 cups egg custard

1/4 cup toasted flaked almonds

To assemble, choose large glass bowl

Line bottom of bowl with one slice of sponge cake, scatter with a mixture of strawberries, blueberries and sliced bananas.

Combine orange liqueur and orange juice, sprinkle over fruit and sponge layer cover with custard and repeat until all the fruit and sponge layers fill the bowl. Refrigerate until required.

Whip cream and sugar until thick. Spread over top of the and scatter with toasted almonds. Serve into individual bowls garnished with caramelised orange segments.

Caramelised orange segments

4 large navel oranges segmented- all skin and pith removed

1 cup caster sugar

1/4 cup orange liqueur

1/4 cup fresh squeezed orange juice

Caramelize sugar in thick bottomed saucepan until golden. Remove from heat and add orange liqueur and juice. Be careful as caramel will boil and splatter. Return to heat. Stir to combine.

Pour caramel mixture over orange segments and refrigerate until required.

Naughty or nice?

SANTA CLAUS, SAINT Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Father Christmas or Kris Kringle will certainly want to know where to place your name in his ledger.

A well-known folk legend associated with Santa Claus says that he lives in the far north, in a land of perpetual snow. The American version of Santa Claus says that he lives at his North Pole house while Father Christmas is said to live in Lapland and, indeed, has an office there. Santa Claus lives with Mrs Claus, a number of mischievous but hardworking elves and eight or nine reindeer that can fly! He is said to compile an extraordinarily long list of all the world's children and divides them into two categories; 'naughty' and 'nice'. Those deemed 'nice' received all kinds of wonderful gifts according to their family customs. Those described as 'naughty' according to one of the many associated legends still received a gift but it was a lump of coal; not really wonderful at all.

With the help of his toy-making elves who make the gifts in his workshop throughout the year, and his flying reindeer, Santa Claus magically completes delivery over one night - Christmas Eve.

While Saint Nicholas was originally portrayed wearing bishop's robes, today he's generally shown as a plump, jolly, white-bearded man wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed red trousers, and black leather belt and boots. Many, many children have wondered how such a man could manage to clamber down all those narrow chimneys. More magic I guess!

Magic is certainly part of it all and Bundanoon has its very own magical Santa. Every Christmas for the past five years or so a plump looking, jolly, white-bearded man wearing a Santa suit appears in our village. He can be at the Club visiting members' children, in the Soldiers Memorial Hall at carol singing or with groups of our senior residents where he reports he's had a lot of fun. Last year he turned up at the Hall standing on a sulky drawn by a single horse – must've given the reindeer a night off! When asked if he would like to ring his bell he responded, 'Not likely!' as he was too busy hanging on for dear life!

Before he first appeared in Bundanoon Santa Claus was given a suit but, oh dear, the sleeves and trouser legs were too short, the body was really too tight. – he reckoned 'it would have fitted a jockey' but given he was prepared 'to take on anything' he wore it anyway. By the time the next year came around he had himself kitted out appropriately and has never looked back.

Santa loves talking with children. When they question him, he tells them that Santa has lots of helpers and that he is the Bundanoon helper. On one occasion a small boy told him he'd been 'bad' but despite the legend of 'coal' Santa reassured him that he really couldn't have been so bad and indicated that if he left the window open and some sandwiches, especially tomato sandwiches to which he is very partial, he was pretty sure something 'nice' would happen. When asked 'Where's Rudolph?' Santa explains that the reindeer have been left down at Mr Petersen's block at the corner eating some grass and enjoying Bundanoon water. 'But what about some hay?' they ask. When at the Club with the Lions Santa's lucky that Mrs Claus – normally found behind the bar – is there to help him. 'Would Santa like a beer?' 'No thank you. Santa would just like some milk and a piece of cake' – or a tomato sandwich! When it's time to go, he explains that children are waiting for him at Exeter, at Sutton Forest and at Moss Vale – let alone all the other places around the world he has to visit in the course of one night.

All kind of stories come out and our own Santa has plenty to share. He also has lots to do in Bundanoon so he stays here the whole year. Santa Claus, aka Trevor Fenton, can be found working with the Bundanoon Lions, selling raffle tickets on Railway Ave or preparing histories for the RSL of local men and the one woman (from Sutton

Forest to Tallong) who fought in WWI. He is also writing a history of the Thirty Third Battalion. Trevor is often seen tidying up the park and the oval as he walks his small dog and is also well involved with the Masonic Lodge going into the 'Chair of King Solomon' in March 2011. No wonder he stays in Bundanoon all year. Clearly he has no time to return to Lapland let alone the North Pole! And it must be said his red suit is reserved only for that very special time of year!

So naughty or nice?

—Graeme Whisker

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for the historical roots of Santa Claus, you must go very deeply into the past. Santa Claus seems to be a combination of many different legends and myths. The basis for the Christian-era Santa Claus is 4th century AD Bishop Nicholas of Smyrna in present day Turkey. He was very rich, generous, and loving toward children. Often he gave joy to poor children by throwing gifts in through their windows.

In the Protestant areas of central and northern Germany, St. Nicholas later became known as der Weihnachtsmann. In England he came to be called Father Christmas. St. Nicholas made his way to the United States with Dutch immigrants, and began to be referred to as Santa Claus.

Children naturally wanted to know where Santa Claus actually came from. Where did he live when he wasn't delivering presents? Those questions gave rise to the legend that Santa Claus lived at the North Pole, where his Christmas-gift workshop was also located but there was a problem. Where would the reindeer graze? In 1925 children everywhere were advised that really the North Pole was unsuitable and so newspapers revealed that Santa Claus in fact lived in Finnish Lapland. The secret was out!



Christmas in Poland

FATHER JAROSLAW ZAN (Fr. Jarek), parish priest of the Moss Vale diocese, reminds us that Christmas is not just for one night, but for the whole year.

"Polish Christmas for me was always a most memorable and joyful time of the whole year with snow covering trees and houses, and cold,



frosty nights. I remember from my childhood most of the traditions still kept today by the majority of Poles.

The celebration starts on the first Sunday of Advent when we enter the preparation time for the birth of Jesus with the Rorate Mass, a word that comes from the first words of the service 'rorate coeli' (translated as: 'Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above'). The four Sundays of Advent symbolize 4000 years of waiting for Christ. So that the solemnity of Christmas is better appreciated, the tree is decorated not earlier than one day before Christmas Eve. In my childhood the decorations were home-made and as children we painted vases cut from paper and made long paper chains. Candles and lights were placed on the tree and angel hair and cotton pieces were thrown on the branches to imitate snow. We children could pick sweets from the tree, which stood until the Feast of the Epiphany."

The highlight of Christmas celebrations is Wigilia, the Christmas Eve meatless supper consisting of twelve dishes, representing Christ and the Apostles. The Vigil of Christmas in Poland traditionally is a day of fast until sunset and everyone awaits the evening's first star to appear before supper is served.

"It was always the children's job to watch for that first star and all then gathered at the decorated table, spread first with hay and then with a pure white cloth, an extra place set for the unexpected guest, everyone in their best clothes, and the candles on the table and the tree lit. The family says grace and the story of the birth of Jesus is told or read from the Bible. Then each one shares a piece of bread or wafer, 'oplatek', with kisses, embraces and the exchange of best wishes for the coming year. This wafer is often sent with a Christmas card to family members and friends away from home. Another coloured wafer is sometimes shared with the animals who were the first to greet the baby Jesus. The children are told that Christmas night is very special – a night of magic when animals talk in a human voice.

After supper the family gathers around the tree, singing carols and exchanging gifts. They then prepare for Midnight Mass, known as 'Pasterka', translated as Shepherd's Mass.

On Christmas Day girls and boys go carolling from house to house, often carrying the 'szopka', a miniature puppet theatre that recreates the Nativity story. The Christmas season ends on 2 February, known as Candlemas Day."

Family Christmas

CHRISTMAS IS TRULY 'family time'. I look forward to Christmas this year when we'll gather as one big family with my family, my parents, my sister's family from Sweden and with my wife's parents. It is a time of great joy, fellowship and celebration. It is right that we view it in this way and emphasise the family at Christmas. It is a great joy to get the family together and to celebrate, even if it is with a little too much food.

It is right because Christmas is THE time to remember family. Our great God of love is very big on family. This is why he created the world. He did so in order to have a people called by his name – a family – the family of the Father. Christmas is the time when we remember that God sent his Son into the world to show us so clearly and powerfully that God is Father.

Anyone who believes and trusts in Jesus is part of the family of the Father. The truly amazing thing is that we were previously

God's enemies as a result of seeking to live our own way and to shut out the God who made us.

At Christmas we remember the birth of God's Son, Jesus – the Son who came into the world in order to bring true peace. Peace on earth and goodwill from God towards humanity. God loves his enemies so much! He loves them so much that he doesn't just want them to be his friends! He wants them to be adopted into his family as children – as dearly beloved children, secure in his love forever.

But the key to Christmas is that it reminds us that God is Father and that he has loved us beyond measure in giving us his Son that we might be his family. That is a great thing to celebrate. We do part of our celebration as a family by gathering together in church with other members of our much larger family of the Father. God is good – celebrate family this Christmas.

–Jeremy Tonks

Rector of the Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest

“The boys are on the roof”

‘THE BOYS ARE on the roof’. No exclamation mark, just a statement. Two and a half year old Olivia has found me at the clothesline to report the startling fact. ‘You’re not going on the roof, too’, says Nanna. ‘YES I AM’, and she promptly runs off and starts her way up the ladder to join three excited little boys, two mad-cap fathers and an uncle, all laying out carrots, bottles of beer (sampled on the spot by said “m-c fs and u”), and other goodies for Santa.

The roof line of our house follows many contours, but the newly added sunroom boasts the only flat roof and the family has discovered it seems the perfect landing place for a sleigh and reindeer. The excitement is palpable and they’re shaking with anticipation.

Parents and grandparents alike can all resonate with the putting to bed of reluctant bodies on Christmas Eve, the cajoling, the threats, the promises. And the 5 am shrieks!

In the dark we remember to remove the ladder and no one gives the helipad another thought until, coming home from Christmas morning Mass we pause at the top of the driveway, glance up and observe with horror that everything is just as it has been left the evening before. A quick scramble to distract the children while Uncle David gets the ladder out of the garage, climbs on to the roof once more and removes the evidence.

By the time it’s our turn again for Christmas in the Highlands, they’ve all grown too big to repeat the operation. They can’t still possibly believe in the magic of you know who, but no one is letting on lest the spirit be destroyed. Meanwhile it seems to me that the Santa bags are getting bigger: a whole suitcase of presents this year from one particular family! Some parents are simply unwilling to grow up. Yes, Virginia

—Kate Perkins

Reason for the season

I LOVE THE Christian season of Christmas. Christmas and the event that lies at its heart gives us all its true meaning. No matter how we may be encouraged to assist the retail trade, Christmas is more than spending and helping the economy – important as that may be.

Christmas is all about God’s gift of his love in the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. This gift is so that we may live with faith in God and to live with an unshakeable hope that God is with us in life – in joys and good, in the rough or tough.

Jesus Christ, whose story is told in The Bible reveals, in his life of love, caring and teaching, the full nature of God.

When Christmas is celebrated it is because those who first designated this Christian season saw it as a way and time of celebrating God’s love in his gift.

So, in response to God’s love we observe this sacred season. Yes, we give and receive across a wide spectrum of life’s arenas.

To celebrate Christmas with thought for God, attendance at a Church Service on Christmas Day is one way to say “thank You!” for giving us reason to have Christmas and to acknowledge Christmas is God’s gift of love to you and me, not just for one Christmas, but for all through time.

—Rev. Dr. Douglas Parker, Uniting Church



Manners please!



WITH GRANDFATHER AT the top and Grandmother at the other end, family, friends and immaculately groomed children seated in straight-backed chairs at a festive table, the scene is a well-to-do home in Australia in

the 1800s. From start to finish there are rules of etiquette.

“The servants begin serving in passing the dishes, one upon the right of the host and one upon the left of the hostess.

Soup is the first course – “All should accept it, even if it remains untouched. A soup plate should never be tilted for the last spoonful. Soup should not be called for a second time. Greediness should not be indulged in.”

Ah! Here’s the well fatted goose! While waiting to be served, “do not toy with your knife fork or spoon, make crumbs with your bread, or draw imaginary lines on the table cloth. A knife should never, on any account, be put into the mouth. Many people, even well bred in other respects, seem to regard this as an unnecessary regulation but it is wisest to observe it as violation causes surprise and disgust in many people. The mouth should always be kept closed in eating and both eating and drinking should be noiseless.”

The room is hot and the air is stifling – “Never use your napkin in place of a handkerchief for wiping the forehead, face or nose. If you have occasion to speak to a servant, wait until you can catch his eye, then ask in a low tone for what you want.

It is a mark of rudeness to pick your teeth at the table, and it should always be avoided. If it becomes a necessity to remove some obstacle from between your teeth, your open mouth should be concealed by your hand or napkin.”

At last, the flaming plum pudding! “The pudding may be eaten with the spoon or fork. When the hostess sees that all have finished, she looks at the lady who is sitting beside the host, and the company rises, and withdraw in the order they are seated. After retiring to the drawing-room, the guests should intermingle in a social manner.”

From *Australian Etiquette or Rules and Usages of the Best Society in the Australian Colonies* – Peoples Publishing Co, Melbourne 1885.

Our coastal connection



SATURDAY MORNING AT Craig Pearsall's van parked at the bottom of Osborne Street on Railway Avenue is a great place to catch up with friends and exchange seafood recipes, but it wasn't easy for *jcg* to find a break in business for a chat with him. Craig has been selling seafood in Bundanoon on Saturday for four and a half years. He now knows his customers and their requirements well. Craig says, "I tell my customers that I will do my best to get whatever they require for Christmas. Some products are hard to procure as it's an extremely busy time but I'm pretty sure of getting what they want. Cooked prawns are our biggest seller and I will sell over one ton of prawns, 400 dozen oysters and a ½ ton of fish.

My supplies come from Shell Harbour Square and as well as servicing Bundanoon I travel to Harden and Boorowa".

Craig, his wife Di and children Danny, Brendan, Jessica and Eli, moved to Wingello from Boorowa nearly four years ago where they ran fine wool Merinos on their family property "Rye Park".



Di, Eli and Craig Pearsall

Avocado, lime and coriander salsa



2 avocados, chopped
1 lime, juiced
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
½ small red onion, finely diced
⅓ cup coriander leaves, roughly chopped
3 to 4 drops Tabasco sauce

Place avocado in a bowl. Spoon over 2 tablespoons lime juice. Toss gently to coat. Add oil, onion and coriander to avocado. Add Tabasco sauce to taste. Toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper and toss gently to combine. Stand for 5 minutes.

Serve with seafood. Serves 4.

Their fleece was used in designer Italian garments by brands such as Zegna and Armani. "The ten year drought forced us to look for another income so we relocated to the Southern Highlands where Di's people originated. Coming from a rural background, working with livestock to serving customers and meeting their expectations has been an exciting learning curve for all the family who help out with the business."

Craig is very grateful for the support he has from local residents and will do his best to ensure Christmas supplies meet everyone's requirements.

"People in towns like Moss Vale and Bundanoon, which are closer to the coast than Boorowa and Harden, request a variety of seafood at Christmas. Whole fish – snapper, salmon and flathead – are popular, while blue swimmer crabs, Balmain bugs and lobsters are also high on customers' lists". Craig explains. In fact he has a story to illustrate Boorowa's conservatism.

"They order lots of prawns but last year one husband asked me to get him some smoked eel for Christmas. On the following weekend his wife cancelled the order!"

Craig can be contacted about orders for Christmas seafood on 0429 013 754.

New life

THE MIRACLE OF all miracles and the wonder of all wonders is the coming into the world of new life.

What is more wondrously miraculous than the conception, gestation, and actual birth of a little creature, be it human or animal?

What is more wondrously miraculous than the pollination and coming to fruition of a seed, then the growth of a plant or tree?

The wonder of spring?

Miraculous new life! It is worth celebrating!

And that is what Christmas is all about. God the creator comes to his creation in the Baby of Bethlehem. Miraculous new life! It is worth celebrating!

What a gift to all creation!

—Rev. Ian Lipscomb, Iona Community

Berry merry...

IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS and berry time! After so much rain this year Fiona and Bruce Robertson and daughter Elspeth, the new owners of Montrose House and Berry Farm at Sutton Forest, are getting ready for what promises to be a great season.

Since their arrival some 18 months ago many of us have witnessed the significant changes at Montrose. Their berry pies and other products – all made at Montrose – are perfect for dessert or afternoon tea. The Robertsons moved from Sydney to Montrose and brought with them their passion for slow food. They were not new to farming or good food but retailing food products was a new experience. Bruce's father is a commercial orchardist, growing cherries and apples as well as marron, in Western Australia. Fiona is a qualified chef and Elspeth is an ardent fan of Master Chef! They lived in Taralga several years ago for two years on a property where they currently grow cherries (400 trees), berries, pome (apple, pear, quince etc.) and stone fruit. When asked what attracted them to Sutton Forest Fiona said:

"It was the village lifestyle and strong sense of community that was important to us. As well, we wanted to grow good food and create delicious products from our fruit for the community we live in. At the moment we pretty much sell everything at the farm gate.

We have made a few mistakes along the way but also learnt a lot. We certainly appreciate the support from our community otherwise we would not be operating. It however does concern us greatly that our politicians are now letting apples (and other fruit) in from China and elsewhere and many orchard management skills will disappear from our communities. In the long term we will pay dearly. With the support from the local community we want to play our part in preserving the skills of local production".

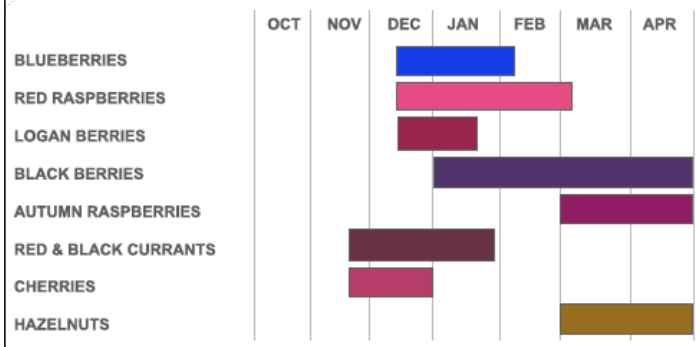
The Robertsons have been in development mode since arriving at Montrose. They initially refurbished the self contained cottage for farm stays and renovated the "barn" for functions and weddings. They are now focused on the berry side of the business. Fiona is developing her berry product design to broaden the variety of products available in the shop. She is finalizing her raspberry sauce and pickled blackberry range in time for Christmas. Bruce is now focused on the farming side of things.

They are particularly excited about the 60 quince trees at Montrose for making pastes and other quince products.

When asked what the main issues are with farming at Montrose Bruce said, "We don't use sprays on the berries and given the tremendous rain we've had it's currently weeds, weeds and weeds!! The humid climate does create a fungal issue for stone and pome fruit but what I like about berries is they are disease free in the Highlands".

For further details about the Robertson's range of products see www.montroseberryfarm.com.au or phone 4868 1544.

What's available when at Montrose



Fiona's boysenberry beans to serve with traditional Christmas lunch

1/4 cup boysenberries
1 tablespoon Montrose boysenberry vinegar
500gm green beans



Place berries in pot and cover with water so they float. Place steamer over the pot and bring liquid to boil. Splash the steamer with the vinegar, place beans and cook till bright green. Remove beans with a strainer, and then pour the

liquid over the beans so the berries mix with the greens. Serve at once. Enjoy!



Safe haven for rare breeds

ROAST PORK FOR Christmas lunch? In many Australian households pork is served alongside or instead of the traditional turkey, with much discussion beforehand about the best way to get that perfect crackling, whether to barbeque the beast or cook it in the oven, what temperature, how many beads in the Weber, etc. Salt? Salt and olive oil? Boiling water? No two home chefs agree, but what *is* agreed is that it is moist, succulent, feeds an army and is delicious. And it's much more interesting the next day, and the day after that, than cold turkey.

On their picturesque property Wollondale, 22 km. north of Goulburn, with three kilometres of river frontage on the Wollondilly, Julia and John Cordukes have established a safe haven for the breeding of threatened species of sheep, cattle and pigs. Members of the Rare Breeds Trust of Australia, they raise the old British White Park cattle, Hampshire Down and Black Suffolk sheep, and Large Black Cornish pigs, a breed formerly nearing extinction. The animals range freely on the property which also has farmstay cottages. These are ideal for city families to experience life on the farm, to view



the native fauna as well as the domestic animals and their litters and to get up close to four alpacas, Abe, Bill, Fred and Gus who guard the lambing ewes against fox attacks.

The Large Black Pigs are currently on the critical list



for endangered breeds, and there are only 24 flocks of Hampshire Down sheep in Australia. The hormone-free animals, unsuited for intensive farming practices, are farmed to sell commercially as a way of sustaining these heritage breeds for future generations.

Julia and John were thrilled to have success at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and to be part of the SMH Good Food month in October of this year. Their produce has been promoted recently by the Slow Food movement and by a Highlands winery. They recently formed a company called Graze and Flavour to market both pork and lamb direct to the householder. For on-line ordering see their ad on page 4.

And, for the last word on that crackling, they recommend:

- Pat pork skin dry with a tea towel
- Score the fat and rub with sea salt
- Place in pre-heated oven for half an hour at 220°C
- Turn down to 180°C and cook for at least ½ hour per 500g of meat

—Kate Perkins

Hard times



'I WANT TO be affluent, Mum'. 'But you are affluent, Kimmy'. 'No, Mum, *really* affluent'.

Kath and Kim, celebrity wannabees of Fountain Court, parody affluence to the nth degree and are enough to make us hark back, screaming, to the simpler things of life.

Company Canned Meat, for instance:

One can camp pie (similar to spam)

About 6 cloves

1 small (baby food) jar currant jelly

Stud camp pie with cloves, pour over

currant jelly and bake for 30 minutes. That's it.

Presumably, if you're not having company you omit the cloves.

Imagine serving this recipe to today's master chefs. Where's the raspberry coulis?

We weren't always as sophisticated as we are today. Though Christmas in the grand houses of England and Europe was celebrated to excess, with swan, partridge, pheasant, guinea fowl and the like, simpler folk in those countries and here in Australia marked the occasion far more modestly. Decorations were home-made from whatever was to hand and a credible nativity scene could be fashioned from a box, straw-lined, with clothes-peg dolls dressed from scraps of material, a tiny doll or even a twig wrapped in the manger, and a star twinkly with tinsel. Stockings were hung from the children's

bed-posts and filled with oranges, candied sweets, perhaps a ball or a small doll. Presents came wrapped in brown paper and string and the parcels were felt and shaken and guessed at as part of the mystique. My grandmother came to stay with us each Christmas and sent her parcels ahead, all addressed to herself, not to us. After she arrived from Sydney on the train she secreted herself in her room, unwrapped each one to remind herself of what she'd bought and then re-wrapped them in festive paper and placed them under the tree, to be opened after Mass. I don't remember *one* gift but I certainly remember the ritual. My mother saved her war-time coupons to buy me, the only girl, a doll with a porcelain head. During my sleep on Christmas morning my brother somehow managed to shatter it. Apparently I never asked for it again!

Knuckle bones saved from the roast mutton or lamb, chicken wish-bones, washed, dried and silver-frosted, threepences and sixpences in the plum pudding (and in more recent times, the plastic turkey-timer which my sister-in-law nearly swallowed), a luxurious tin of white asparagus only ever at Christmas, the turkey or chook caught, beheaded, feathers plucked in a copper of boiling water, the ham cooked in the same copper – or sold completely uncooked to the unsuspecting, us, on our first Christmas as newly-weds.

Whatever our background and upbringing, Christmas remains a symbolic tradition binding the family together, a re-connection. Let's keep it a little simpler this year.

—Kate Perkins

Nostalgic Christmas treats

CWA MEMBERS CAN always find “old time” treats for special occasions and this recipe from Kath Smith is reminiscent of the 40s.

Cheese Straws

6 tbs plain flour
60g butter
60g grated cheese
Pinch salt
Pinch curry powder
2tbs water

Sieve dry ingredients and rub in butter very lightly with fingertips. Add cheese and mix well.

Beat egg yolk with 1tbs water and mix to stiff dough. Knead until free from cracks. On a floured board roll into a strip about 12cm wide (Rolling between two strips of baking paper makes this easier).

Trim and cut across into ‘straws’. Bake on a greased tray in a moderate oven until golden brown and firm. (7-8 minutes)

This pastry is the basis of many cheese biscuits. For added flavour, use tasty cheddar and perhaps sprinkle with paprika before baking.

And a refreshing drink for a hot day, sitting in the shade on Christmas day from Marie Reid.

Lemon Drink

1 whole lemon
½ cup sugar
2 litres water

Cut ½ peel from lemon and discard. Chop lemon roughly into three pieces. Place in blender with sugar and half water and blend. Strain into jug. Add remaining water (via strainer into jug) and serve chilled, garnished with a sprig of mint.

Tathra Fletcher of Bundanoon Cottage remembers this Betty King recipe was a favourite in their family in the 60s.

Fruit and Nut Slice

3 oz (1/2 cup firmly packed) brown sugar
3 level dspn Cadbury's Bournville Cocoa
½ level tspn salt
½ lb plain biscuits (crushed finely with rolling pin)
1 cup chopped dried fruit, eg. dates, raisins, prunes
¼ cup crushed nuts
4 oz Copha shortening
3 tblspn dark jam
1 tblspn milk
1 tblspn sherry
coconut

Combine in basin sugar, cocoa, salt and biscuit crumbs. Add fruit and nuts. Melt Copha (it should be warm, not hot) and mix in jam, milk and sherry. Add liquids to dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Knead the mixture (in the basin) with the hands. Shape into a roll about 1½" diameter and roll in coconut. Wrap in greaseproof paper and chill until firm. Cut into slices before serving.

Pat Wells, a CWA member renowned for her cake decorating and scone making, has contributed this poem.

THE STAR

A small boy gazed in wonder
At the glittering Christmas tree
Hung with tinsel and baubles
And a star for all to see

Such was the star that brightly shone
That very first Christmas night
It blazed with wondrous glory
And o'er Bethlehem shed its' light

It was seen by Shepherds tending their flocks
That night in Bethlehem's hills
When an Angel appeared in a blaze of light
And all around was still

'Unto you this night' the Angel said
'In the town of Bethlehem
Within a lowly stable is born
Jesus the Saviour of men'

Mary and Joseph had travelled far
And shelter they had to find
For Mary knew that her time was near
Any room would do – they'd not mind

'No room! No room!' the innkeeper said
And turned Mary and Joseph away
A stable they found and Jesus was born
And laid in the sweet-smelling hay

A choir of heavenly Angels
Sang sweetly, the story is told
Of peace on Earth and goodwill to all men
And of glory great to behold

The shepherds left their flocks that night
And hastened to Bethlehem
To see for themselves, the Babe that was born
Jesus – the Saviour of men

The small boy gazed in wonder
At that glittering, shining tree
A symbol of that first Christmas
With its' star for all to see

And should you go out on Christmas night
And listen when all else is still
You may hear an echo of that heavenly choir
That sings on Bethlehem's hill

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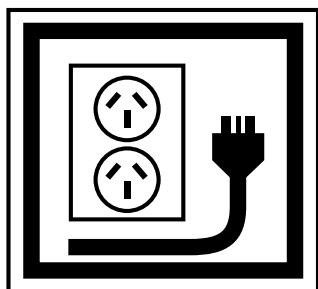
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Bundy on Tap

BUNDY ON TAP continues to be an exciting project with ripple effects that spread far and wide. Just in the last month: the Sydney Powerhouse Museum's 'Ecologic' exhibition has opened, including a Bundy on Tap display; a fourth overseas film crew has visited Bundanoon to make a documentary, and enquiries continue to flow in from other towns, schools and councils.

Our council voted unanimously in October to go bottled water free and will be drawing on the experience and knowledge of Bundanoon, especially at events such as the Australia Day parade.

It is often said that it was a remarkable achievement, to become the world's first bottled water free town. We are also often asked questions such as: "What next?" ... "Are there other sustainability projects in mind?" ... "What else will the people of Bundanoon do in the future?"

We all know that if we don't have a voice in creating a vision and pathways to the future that we want, then it is certain we will get the future that someone else has planned. With this in mind, our team's latest project is about establishing a gathering place for the ideas and energy around this question; a hub where all the creative ideas from as many people in the village as possible can come together.

Conveniently, Council is at present looking at the same issue through Wingecarribee 2031+, a participatory process aimed at creating a broad vision, goals and strategies for our region for the next twenty years. Three of the Bundy on Tap team have been involved in 2031+, chairing three Community Reference groups developing strategies for the 'Economy', 'Environment' and 'People' themes, as well as joining Council in a workshop for strategy development in the area of Leadership & Governance. This was both a demanding, and an exciting, process!

Building relationships is the key factor - between individuals, local associations and institutions - along with removing barriers to participation. In discovering, networking and mobilising the unique strengths and assets that are already present in the community, power and effectiveness is multiplied to address challenges, create new possibilities and realise the community's vision for the future.

We believe that Bundanoon has a head start in this process, as it continues to have a strong sense of community and a high level of participation in the life of the village.

"Next stop, Bundanoon"

THE PROJECT TO establish a conversation hub for Bundanoon has been given new momentum by the opportunity to utilize disused office space on the railway platform. The Bundanoon Community Association has voted to support the project and a small steering group has been formed. Here are just some of the many possible functions and ideas for such a space so far:

- Bundy on Tap information and display
- Register for community car-pooling project
- Local food & wines register, mapping farm-gate and retail outlets
- Skills register and information centre for workshops such as those run during Winterfest
- Planning Self-sufficiency/Transition university
- Information on Bundanoon Village Common and its activities
- Register for local small group sustainability course sessions
- Updates on 'Don't Bore Bundanoon'
- Details of local home energy assessors and bulk solar projects
- Listening post for community sustainability hopes and concerns

We are sure that many other creative ideas will flow in to the centre once established. It is hoped that this exciting new project will see us 'on track' for the transition to a resilient, sustainable and flourishing future, building an even more vibrant and connected community in the process.

—Sandra Menteith

Contemporary art in Exeter

ANDRE AND NINA de Borde, in partnership with artist Jasper Knight have opened Gallery Ecosse, a new contemporary art gallery in 'Halcyon', the cottage opposite the Exeter General Store. Andre has been an art curator for a number of years and Nina has a degree in Fine Arts. Jasper Knight, who has family living in Exeter, is one of the artists who will be showcased at the gallery. His work is represented in the Macquarie Bank art collection. Nina says "As well as paintings, the gallery will exhibit drawings, sculptures, indigenous artefacts and limited edition prints by a master print maker. We aim to bring high quality affordable art to the area for locals and visitors.

See advertisement on back cover.



Jasper Knight in Lacey Street Studio, Sydney

Novelist honoured



AUTHOR DAVID FOSTER, who has lived in Bundanoon since the 1970s, has won the prestigious Patrick White Literary Award 2010 for his latest novel, *Sons of the Rumour*. He has published 15 novels, as well as non-fiction, poetry, essays, radio plays and scientific papers. His satirical novels have received acclaim and won awards including the 1997 Miles Franklin Award for *The Glade within the Grove*. His experiences as a postman in Bundanoon provided a rich background of material for an earlier novel, *Dog Rock*. In a *Sydney Morning Herald* article on 13–14 November, he said, "I will continue to write novels for as long as I can get them published." David and his wife Gerda are well known in the Highlands for their book, *A Year of Slow Food*, published in 2001.

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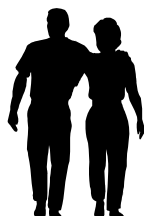
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Rural Fire Service



RECENTLY A GROUP from Bundanoon Brigade relived their experiences of the 2000 Olympic Games at the 10th anniversary. As OVIP's (Olympic Volunteers in Policing) we assisted the NSW Police with bag searches and

managed to fit in lots of meeting and greeting. And as a highlight, we didn't have to travel each day – we were billeted for 17 days at the Kings School near Parramatta.

About 5,000 people from all the Olympic volunteer groups attended this wonderful reunion. It was a chance to catch up with friends and to relive the spirit of "The best Olympic Games ever" Juan Antonio Samaranch's daughter attended in her role as the Spanish Olympic Representative. Also in attendance were Cathy Freeman, Louise Sauvage, Ian Thorpe, Grant Hackett, and concert entertainers included Nikki Webster, Marcia Hines and many more. Channel 9 replayed Olympic Highlights on huge screens throughout the newly named Cathy Freeman Park.

Being a volunteer with the Bundanoon Rural Fire Brigade isn't just about fighting fires. As you can see, we have fun as well!

If you are a community-minded person we are always looking for more volunteers, (male and female). Fair fitness level is essential.

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Although we have had a wet Spring, we are officially in the Fire Season – please make sure your home is prepared.

The members of the Brigade would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.



John Brock and
Rosemary Page

Memorial service for emergency service volunteers

EVERY YEAR IN October a memorial service is held in Sydney for emergency service volunteers who have died in the course of duty. Rosemary Page's husband Bob died while fighting bush fires near Grafton in January 1994. Rosemary has attended each service for the past nine years.

On 1 January 1999 the Premier of New South Wales, the Honourable Bob Carr MP, announced that a memorial would be established to honour emergency service volunteers.

Master stonemason, George Proudman, proposed that a "scuntion", a single massive piece of stone, would eloquently represent the strength and durability of the volunteers. Architect Richard Lepastrier embraced this concept with his simple elegant design.

An inscription in the stone includes the words from Judith Wright's "Landscapes". Judith had intended to write a new work for the memorial, but frail health prevented her from doing so.

The Memorial was dedicated by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, in June 2001. It sits proudly on the hill near Mrs Macquarie's Chair, overlooking the Harbour Bridge on one side and Garden Island Naval Depot, reminiscent of the bow of a ship.

"John and I attended the 10th Anniversary Service in October, conducted by the Chaplains of each of the Emergency Services, accompanied by the RFS Pipes and Drums and Catholic Schools Performing Arts Choir. Also in attendance were the Minister for Emergency Services, Steve Whan MP, the Commissioners from the Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades, State Emergency Services, Volunteer Rescue Association, Marine Rescue NSW and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association.

This annual event allows the families and friends of all the Volunteer Associations to come together with a common theme - to remember with pride those who have lost their lives while helping fellow Australians in their time of need. At lunch after service everyone has a chance to catch up on news and perhaps share a quiet word with a newly bereaved family."



CWA report

THE LAST COUPLE of months have been somewhat quieter for our Branch as many of our members have been tripping overseas or moving house. As a result, our election of officers for 2011 has not been completed.

Some of our members joined Moss Vale Branch's trip to Whatman's fully computerised dairy in Burrawang in September. Dairy products have been one of the primary products for study in 2010. The young family milk 180 cows in an hour with allotted feed and milk production of each cow recorded instantly. The cows seemed happy with the arrangement and sauntered in and out, in order, as all good herds do.

On a more cultural note, we attended a matinee of "Some Enchanted Evening" at the Mittagong Playhouse and received a big dose of Rogers and Hammerstein in wonderful red and black costumes.

It was all hands on deck for a busload of Canberrans for morning tea after our beloved Pat Wells fell and broke her arm and couldn't make her usual 4 dozen scones. Pat has a slow recuperation ahead of her but we'll make sure she gets to our Christmas lunch in December.

We are all looking forward to refurbishing our rooms beginning with fresh paint and then new blinds or curtains. It will be a new start for 2011 with some new members learning the ropes of catering and becoming involved in subjects of interest. Our country of study is Iceland which will certainly be new to me.

We hope you enjoy the recipes in this special Christmas edition of *jcg*. Have a peaceful and happy holiday time and join us in 2011.

—Gaye Everett

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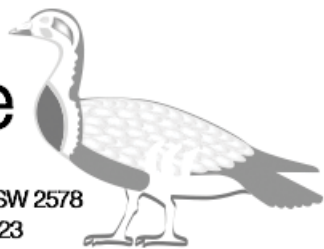
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Local hero



AUSTRALIA CAME OUT on top at the championships. The Australian flag was raised for almost ninety percent of the events, and the anthem was sung at least fifty percent of the time, indicating another first place. The Australian girls were not to be outdone by the boys, winning their share of medals. In all, Australia won 27 Gold medals and an Australian swimmer, Phoebe Mitchell from Victoria was awarded Female World Champion

and female Swimmer of the meet. Danny overcame a bout of tummy upset (a complaint that many other swimmers also suffered from) to win the 200m individual medal, and after a severe problem with his breathing after the 200m breaststroke came back 15 minutes later to take out the 200m backstroke.

Over the course of the championships Danny won 14 gold medals, 10 from the individual events and 4 from relay events, and now holds 12 short course world records, breaking some in the heats and then breaking them again in the finals.

The photographs show the two world champions, Daniel getting ready to race, a medal ceremony, Danny with a friend from the South African team Hannes-Walt de Klerk, and with a very happy and proud family.



DIY African-style

SIX MONTHS SINCE my trip to Ireland, it's sad to see what has happened there. I had explained how too many houses and apartments were being built, fuelled by tax incentives and donations by developers to political parties. In 2008 Ireland (population 4 million) built more houses than England (population 60 million). There are now 250,000 unsaleable houses in the country with the prospect of many being razed to the ground because they cannot be completed. Things will only get worse too when the banks call in the mortgages. The word mortgage comes from a French word "debt for life". Unfortunately, some lives have already been taken for the debts. Suicide rates are increasing in Ireland.

In Africa, on the other hand, the average person could not get a loan so the countryside is littered with houses in various stages of construction; a floor, walls, and maybe a roof frame. When more money is saved, the next stage happens. It may take years but no ongoing debt is incurred. Designs are simple. A fisherman on Lake Nyasa asked me design his house based on him having 36 sheets of roofing iron at 2.4 metres long each. On the same lake, the fishing boats are carved from a log of hardwood and this is usually a Eucalypt. There are huge forests of gums in south-east Tanzania and Uganda. Much or most of the native rainforest has been cleared for agriculture and/or firewood. The supply of charcoal is quite a big money-earner for country areas supplying towns and cities. Of course once the trees come down erosion starts. The worst statistic is that for every 28 trees cut down, only one is planted. Chinese companies in particular are logging intensively in Mozambique, Zambia and the Congo. They offer "aid" and get the raw materials as a payoff. The laws covering illegal logging are easily overcome. In Moss Vale I saw South African timber exported illegally using its common name rather than its botanical name. Some areas are growing seedlings but never enough. With 50% of the population under 15, the continent will never be able to sustain itself.

On the other hand it was fascinating to watch a timber boat being built using oil and flame to curve the timber to the desired shape. Quite a skill!

Most houses use very little timber. The walls are a double skin lattice of long branches tied together and filled with stones and mud for strength. In Zanzibar they use pummelled coral as the infill. This has of course resulted in a serious decline in coral, and many use dynamite to keep supplies up. Roofs are tin or straw depending on finance. Dirt floors are common, but concrete is on the rise with extraordinary amounts being produced. Some countries will export cement soon after decades of importing. Problem is, the amount



Boats carved from hardwood logs



Nursery for reafforestation



Filled double-skinned lattice walls

of power needed to produce cement is so high that power blackouts are frequent, even occurring in Jo'burg when I was there.

Nearly all country areas cook food and heat water with timber and the distances travelled to get it are enormous. The Masai on the edge of the Serengeti travel miles each day for some twigs and water. Their villages are open to tourists so they can gain some income and improve their children's lives.

The cities I visited like Dar es Salaam and Kampala in the developing countries are in the middle of a building boom. There are massive high rise buildings going up in the city centres funded by foreign aid, multinationals and as gifts from China. In Kampala, the Chinese are building two office blocks for the government in exchange for exploration rights. They brought in everything from the scaffolding to the hoarding to the trucks and labour. The Presidential palace in Namibia has been "gifted" to that country in return for uranium

rights. There are now more than 100,000 Chinese living in Namibia.

If it all sounds depressing, it is. The only saving grace is the beautiful people who were so hospitable.

—Patrick Fitzgerald

Loading charcoal



WHAT DO AN egg, a pill box, a rolling pin and a teapot stand all have in common? They are all beautiful examples of wood turning created by Bundanoon's own Sam McGrath.

Ever since early childhood Sam has enjoyed playing with and handling wood, but his serious involvement with wood turning began three years ago when he was just twelve. His Uncle John was moving to Canberra and gave him an old lathe and a few wood working tools. After a three month set-up, he was on his way. The old lathe is rarely used these days as Sam works on his two new ones with some of the 100 odd specialist chisels and gougers he's acquired to create pieces both decorative and practical. He also makes a variety of bowls, cheese boards, cloak pins, lidded bowls and boxes and decorative burls. He has even made drumsticks for friends at school. You would think that his hobby would make a huge mess at home, but Sam says, "No, none at all, because I've got it all set up next door in my Grandad's shed!"

Sam is totally immersed in the world of wood. He attends monthly meetings of the Wood Turners Guild in Mittagong, where ideas and skills are swapped and 'show and tell' sessions showcase newly made pieces. He has won prizes at Moss Vale Show and entered competitions in Canberra and Moore Park in Sydney. We will see Sam's work when he sets up his stall at the Bundanoon Markets. As a Year 9 student at the Southern Highlands Christian School he studies woodwork, often assisting older students and offering the odd tip to his teacher as well! Sam is fully encouraged and supported by his parents, Trudy and Peter, who sent Sam to a course at the Sturt Workshop in Mittagong run by the famous Australian wood turner, Richard Raffan. He described Sam as a 'natural' and his skills as 'rare'. Sam owes his parents a lot, especially his poor Mum whose heart is often put under huge strain when driving Sam somewhere as he will regularly, and without warning, suddenly scream,



"Stop the car", when he spies a piece of roadside wood that has fired his imagination. Despite the joy of actually making a new piece, the greatest thrill for Sam is actually contemplating the possibilities in a 'lump' of wood and the mysterious transformation that will take place when he works on it. Sam gets most of his wood from The Woodage in Mittagong and is on first name terms with his tool and equipment suppliers, Carrolls.

Sam loves all aspects of his craft but he has a few favourites. His favourite wood is Huon Pine, (when available), with Claret Ash, Cocobolo Rosewood and Black-Hearted Sassafras all equal second. His favourite pieces – the ones that are most satisfying to make – are the lidded bowls and boxes, because the margins for error in achieving a snug fit are so fine. The favourite piece of equipment at the moment is his Robert Sorby Hollowing System (don't ask!), but he also enjoys just tearing along on his bench grinder maintaining sharp edges on all his cutting tools. His preferred finishes depend on the grain and types of timber, so either polish, oil or beeswax are used.

In the future Sam would like to have work experience in both building and cabinet making as he realises, "It's very hard to make a living just from

woodturning". He's found this out first hand while selling his pieces at the market when people have questioned his relatively modest prices as being too high. "They don't realise the hours it takes to create and prepare a bowl", laments Sam, "not to mention the cost of the timber, the finishes and the ongoing maintenance of the equipment involved".

Sam is creative, resourceful and skillful. And the objects he makes are both useful and beautiful. He made plenty of mistakes when he first began turning wood, but as his Mum quite rightly says, "If he wasn't allowed to make mistakes, he wouldn't have been truly learning". Sam persevered and has become a competent young artisan. If that perseverance continues we can look forward to some absolutely stunning creations in the future.

— Ross Armfield





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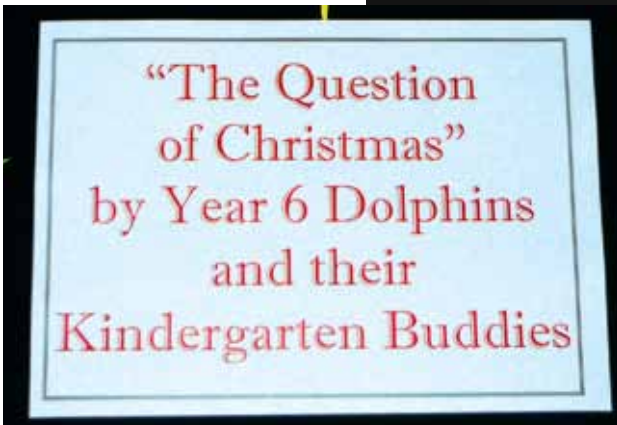
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Church times

Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest

Holy Trinity, Bundanoon Sunday, 9.00 am, 5.30 pm
St Aidan's, Exeter Sunday, 9.30 am
St Stephen's, Tallong Sunday, 10 am
All Saints, Sutton Forest 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays, 11am
 4th Sunday, 2.30 pm

Uniting Church

Bundanoon 4th Sunday, 11am
 Mid-week service & lunch, Thurs, 12.30pm (bring sandwich)
Moss Vale Sunday, 9.30 am

Catholic Church

St Brigid's Bundanoon 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 5 pm
 2nd & 4th Sundays, 8 am
St Paul's, Moss Vale Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6pm
 Sunday, 9.30 am

Moss Vale Christian Church Sunday, 10 am

Encounter Group, Robertson School of Arts, 1st Sunday, 2 pm

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest
 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 10.30 am



Christmas services

Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest

Holy Trinity, Bundanoon Christmas Eve, 11 pm
 Christmas Day, 9 am
St Aidan's, Exeter Christmas Eve, 5.30+7.30 pm
 Boxing Day, 10 am
St Stephen's, Tallong Christmas Day, 10 am
All Saints, Sutton Forest Christmas Day, 8 am

Uniting Church

Bundanoon Christmas Day, 9.30 am
Moss Vale Christmas Day, 8 am

Catholic Church

St Brigid's Bundanoon Christmas Day, 9 am
 Boxing Day, 8 am
St Paul's, Moss Vale Christmas Eve, 11.30 pm
 Christmas Day, 9.30 am

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest
 Christmas Eve, 7 pm

Activities and services

Activities

Arts Bundanoon..... Rod Moore.....4883 7777
 Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)
 President..... Ralph Clark4883 6389
 Bundanoon Pre-School..... Carolyn Beveridge.....4883 7273
 Bundanoon Public School P&C..... Jeremy Tonks4883 6019
 Bundanoon Visitors' Group Harry Hull4883 6372
 Chess Club Pat Foley4883 6064
 Country Women's Association (*meets 1st Thurs, 1 pm, CWA Rooms*):
 Marie Reid4883 6526
 Currabunda Wetland Group (*meets 1st and 3rd Friday*)
 Sheila Micholson4883 4347
 Ralph Davies4883 6659
 Garden Club..... Ross Miller4883 4606
 Glow Worm Glen Track Cttee Anna Perston4883 6125
 Green Team..... Valerie Crampton.....4883 6574
 History Group (*meets 1st Monday, 10 am, The Bundanoon Club*)
 Patricia Guy4883 6971
 Lions Club (*meets 1st/3rd Monday, 7.30 pm, Bundanoon Club*):
 Ralph Clark4883 6389
 Men's Shed (*meets 1st Tuesday, 10am, supper room, Memorial Hall*):
 Ned Ward, Publicity.....4883 6082
 Morton Nat. Park Volunteers (*meets 2nd Wednesday*):
 Alan & Wendy Hyman4883 7763
 Playgroup..... Nathalie Brokate4883 7660
 RSL (*meets 1st Tues (exc. January), 2 pm, RSL Rooms at Oval*):
 Trevor Fenton4883 6433
 Serendipity: the choir Kerith Fowles4883 6515

Sports Clubs

Bowls (Men)..... John Witney.....4883 7356
 Bowls (Women) Margaret Alaban.....4883 7560
 Cricket..... Jeff Mitchell4883 6528
 Croquet Ian McClelland.....4883 7916
 Pony Club..... Leonore Waugh.....4883 6669
 Rugby Marcus Fenwick.....0427 639 612
 Soccer Sue Roseworne4883 7219
 Social Golf..... Carol Townsend4883 7380
 Swimming..... Nanette Moroney4883 7152
 Tennis Cameron Reid4883 7074

Support & Volunteer Services

Community Health Service..... Bowral4861 8000
 Early Childhood Clinic.....4861 8000
Fire Station.....4883 6333
 Good Yarn Marilyn Rocca4883 6542
 Meals on Wheels..... Fay Carter4883 7441
 Mobile Library..... Moss Vale Library4868 2479
 Red Cross (Exeter branch) Anna Hopkins.....4883 4259
 Rural Fire Service (RFS)..... Craig Rowley0427 511 837
 RFS Auxiliary Rosemary Page4883 6499
 RSPCA (Goulburn/Highlands)0412 475 428
 Volunteering Wingecarribee Judi Rose4869 4617
 Wingecarribee Adult Day Care Joy Elliott4862 1774
 WIRES.....4862 1788

To update or amend details, please contact Kate Perkins 4883 6422.

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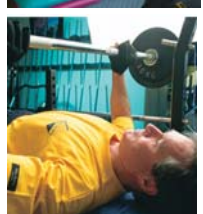
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Bundanoon's cicadas: a brief encounter

WITH OUR LOCAL ambience decibel-saturated recently, it was impossible to be unaware of the cyclic return of Bundanoon's cicada chorus. Investigation of nearby eucalyptus trees confirmed this wonderful natural phenomenon – a mass emergence of cicada nymphs ascending the trunks and splitting open their outer skin cases (exuviae), revealing the adult insects after years of confined subterranean development. Expanding their wings, the adults proved to be the 'Greengrocers' and 'Yellow Mondays' familiar in our youth along with the black and orange 'Masked Devils' (form spreta) more common in the mountain areas. These are all variants of a single species, *Cyclochila australasiae*, (which also produces the uncommon dark tan Chocolate Soldier and rare turquoise Blue Moon), depending upon the pigments present. These latter varieties were not encountered but a range of intergrades between the other colour forms was evident.

Nymphs of this particular species feed on roots of various native and exotic plants (including eucalypts, paperbark and willow) during their recorded underground life of 6-7 years. (This would seem to be verified by their appearance this year, the last major emergence here having occurred in 2003). From our perspective, the adult life phase (above ground) seems to average about 6 interminable weeks excluding mishaps. This latest emergence was especially poignant as the resident magpie population was treated to a kind of inverted manna from heaven, feasting on the climbing nymphs and cicadas as takeaway delicacies. Walking around the tree bases, observers' shoes crackled over dozens of exuviae producing a peculiar crunching sensation, surely nature's sensory and auditory equivalent to 'walking on eggshells'.

Many people still refer to cicadas as 'locusts' but this is a misnomer. Cicadas are benign insects belonging to the order *Hemiptera* and are relatives of plant bugs and leaf hoppers. Locusts on the other hand belong to the order *Orthoptera* and are short-horned grasshoppers. If the collective noun for locusts is a 'plague' then surely the equivalent for cicadas is a 'cacophony'. Remember the old schoolboy myth that butchers used cicada wings to make sausage casings? Myth or not, the remains of the avian repast consisted almost entirely of veined, moisture-jewelled wings strewn across the ground.

One wonders how many unfortunate surface-bound nymphs, since the previous generation, encountered impenetrable concrete foundation slabs or paved patios where there had previously been open ground. In spite of the many hazards, we optimistically anticipate the next instalment of this fascinating entomological event... in 2017.

Essential reference: Australian Cicadas, 224pp hardback, Max S Moulds, NSW University Press 1990, ISBN 0 86840 139 0

—Alan Hyman



Emerging cicada

Photo: Murray Loane



Above: "Masked Devil"

Below: Line of exuviae silhouetted along a branch

Photos: Alan Hyman



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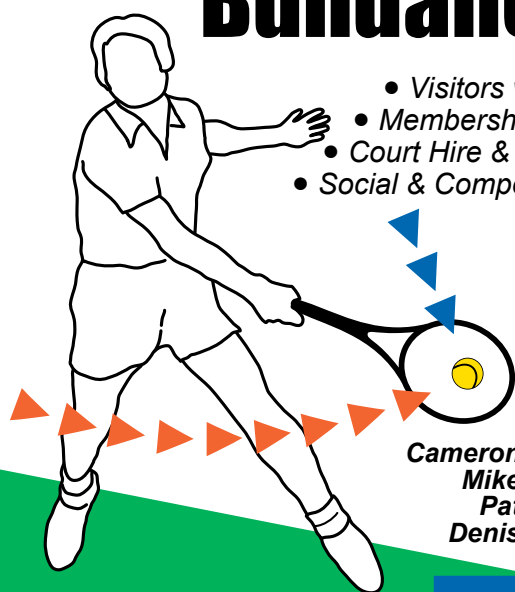


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The Bundanoon Club News

Much has happened at the Club during the past quarter.

Most importantly, the AGM on November 14 saw three new directors elected to fill vacancies. It bodes well for the future that they are all well-qualified and anxious to make a difference. The new Board consists of: Chairman Ralph Clark, Deputy Chairman Michael Hoyer and Directors Margaret Alaban, Phillip Hawkesley, Alan Millward, Sandra Nicholls and Neill Ustick. The new Board contains a high level of financial and management expertise.

The AGM saw a presentation on the future direction of the Club. We are working towards a greater level of community engagement following our consultations with advisors. It is evident that the future of the Club depends on community support, but we cannot expect that to be forthcoming unless we genuinely seek to meet community needs.

Watch this space!

*Giant Christmas Toy Raffle
Sunday December 12
Tickets on sale from 3pm*

*Children's Christmas Party
Sunday December 19
Commencing at 2pm*

*Enjoy New Year's Eve
at the Club from 7pm*

...wishes you the compliments of the season

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