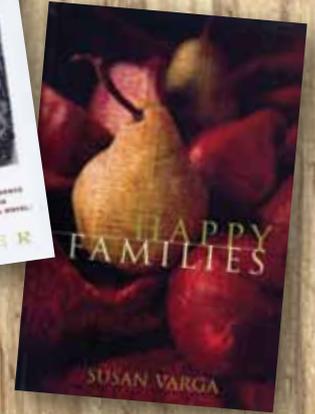
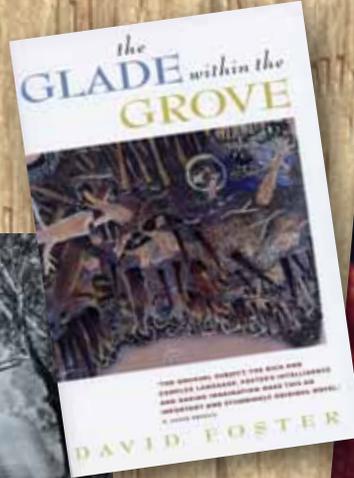
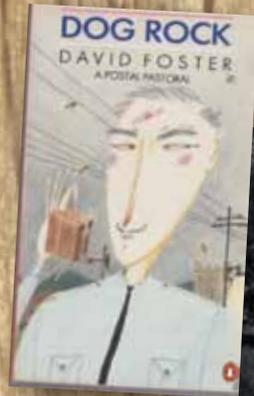


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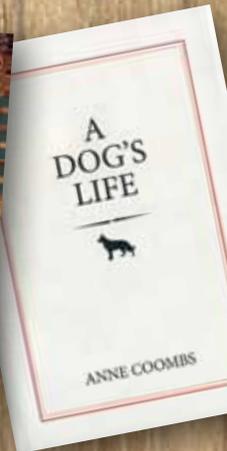
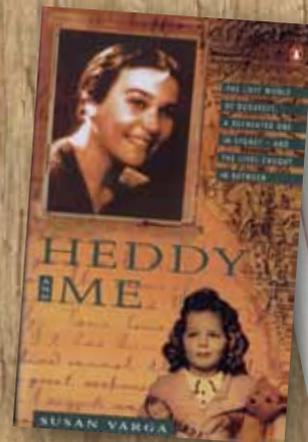
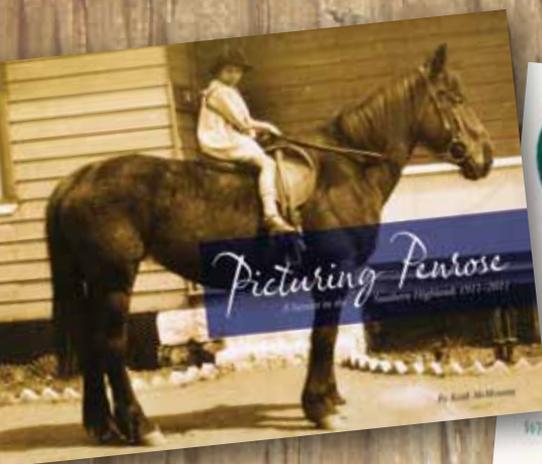


A magazine for Bundanoon and Southern Villages



The write stuff

Locals bringing words to life



10
Don't shoot the piano player

21
Bundanoon's volunteer army

22
Rail disaster centenary

35
Friends of Bundanoon Park

36
Full circle for young family



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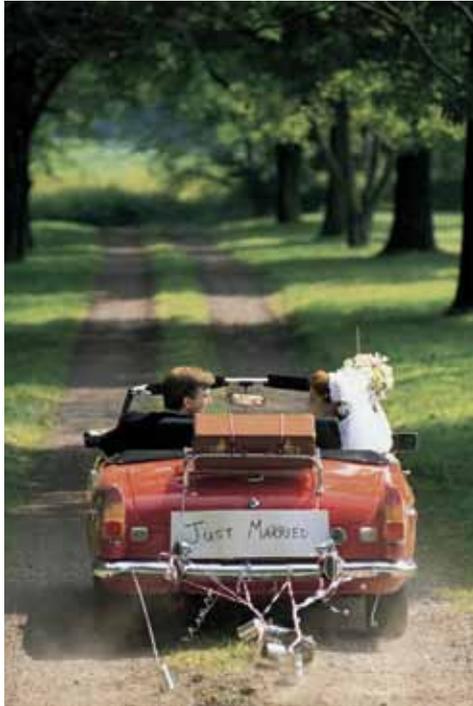
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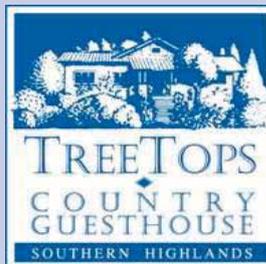
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 PO Box 201B
 Bundanoon NSW 2578

Circulation:

1925 copies quarterly

Jordan's Crossing Gazette is a Bundanoon Community Association Inc project. It is a non-profit publication supported by our advertisers and distributed free of charge to all homes, business and private mail boxes in Bundanoon, village stores and post offices at Exeter, Penrose and Wingello, plus Shire councillors.

Subscriptions

Annual subscription is \$20 (including postage).

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**Pam Davies, Editor**

From the Editor

THIS ISSUE OF our magazine features published writers – their lives and their craft. Most live locally and chose to live and work here in the gentle environment of the Southern Highlands. And if you have wondered how manuscripts are chosen for publication, Karen Williams provides some insights in her article 'From blank page to bestseller'. Anne Davies looks at readership trends of newsprint vs digital news. Alan Olsen examines the function of social media. Margaret Symonds describes some of the benefits of involvement with the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

On a more active note, we feature Nick Smith's recent participation in the World Cyclo Cross Championships. Adventurer Huw Kingston will spend a year raising funds for Save the Children through his project *mediterr annee*.

Linda Emery recounts the tragedy of the Exeter rail disaster; its centenary will be marked on 17 March (see page 22 for details). And don't miss the current display at the Old Goods Shed focussing on the fun and games of bygone days.

Our regular columnists continue to make their contribution to the magazine and we welcome the return of 'Moving In' as a regular feature.

contents

the write stuff

Introduction	24
Social media.....	24
The strange truth about fiction.....	25
From blank page to bestseller	26–27
The Sheila from Goulburn	27
The self-publishing option	28
David Foster, writer, postman, satirist.....	29
How to be a Mag-a-star	30
Fellowship of Australian Writers.....	31
Young author	31
'You have to go slightly mad...'	32
Online: the future for news?.....	33
A literary pair	32–33

**regulars**

Serendipity	10
Arts Bundanoon.....	11
Rex Cinema.....	11
JCG Travel	13
BCA report.....	15
Council news.....	15
Intray	21
Photography group	36
Men's shed.....	41
CWA report.....	41
Obituaries.....	42
Cryptic crossword	43
Activities and services.....	49
Church times.....	49
Advertising index.....	52

BCA meetings

Third Thursday each month:
 20 March (AGM), 17 April, 15 May:
 7:30pm in Supper Room at the Hall.

**features**

Planning a wedding?	16
Huw's year of living dangerously	17
Champion in the making	17
History: Fun and games.....	18–19
History: Exeter rail disaster.....	22
Triumph of the Ring.....	34
Friends of Bundanoon Park.....	35
Choose fun!.....	37
Healing hands.....	37

columns

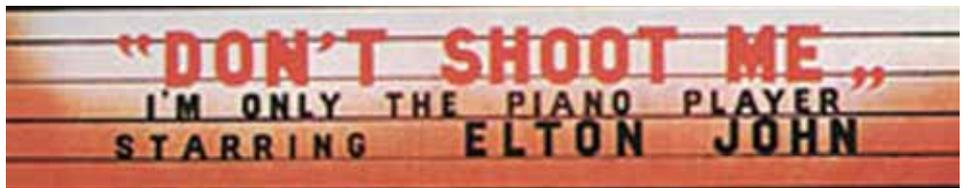
Bundanoon observer.....	23
DIY.....	23
Through Ross-coloured glasses	34
Moving in.....	36
Gardening	39
Vet's casebook	39

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Advertising info: page 49

**Deadline for next issue:
 Friday 2 May**



Serendipity

the choir

SERENDIPITY: THE CHOIR

completed its sixth year in December 2013, a year in which the choir was involved in two major concert series and several community events. It could have been more – thanks to our website we are often asked to participate in an amazing range of activities, but all too often with very little notice.

We achieved new heights with the December programme, “Festive Fare”, in which for the first time we included three quite large-scale choruses, a new experience for many ‘Serendipians’. Some initial resistance gradually disappeared as the sheer thrill of singing these works took over, and audience reaction to this new development was very encouraging.

A “slice” of Serendipity joined the fun of the Highland Fling by singing for two hours in a paddock. Our enthusiasm was not at all dampened by the driving rain and extreme cold, and only one cyclist fell off his bike at the shock of encountering a choir en route. We were glad to participate in the official lighting of the Bundanoon Christmas tree, and to have so many people singing along with us as we shared many well-known carols. And the welcome we received from Warrigal Care when we presented part of our December programme to the residents was heart-warming, especially as our friend and former chorister Graham Leech was able to be with us.

As always, Serendipity: the choir is deeply appreciative of the support and encouragement of the Bundanoon community, and we look forward to welcoming you in May to our next major concert series, “Believe It or Not”, when we will be joined by professional magician Warren Bell.

—Kerith Fowles, Music Director

Following previous stories looking behind the scenes at the roles of conductor and choristers, *Ann Clipsham* provides some insights into the challenges of providing musical accompaniment for *Serendipity: the choir*.

“Sing us a song you’re the piano man,
Sing us a song tonight;
Well, we’re all in the mood for a melody,
and you’ve got us feeling alright.”

I’M SURE THESE words, sung by Billy Joel, are very familiar to many of you but, in a sense, they tell only a small part of what I do as the accompanist for *Serendipity: the choir*. Sure, I play the piano. I depress the keys at the given time on the appropriate notes, but my task begins well before I play a single note.

In fact the vocation of “accompanist” is one which takes, not just the years of practice and study to gain the technical skills of piano-playing, but much further study in the art of accompanying. For many years the accompanist was considered a kind of second string to the “real” performers. Since the 20th century, the pianist has become an essential partner by initiating rhythmic momentum, surrounding the text with subtle harmonies, or creating atmosphere. That all sounds quite grand but, if I had to write myself a job description, it would probably look something like this:

- technical competence on the keyboard instrument
- knowledge of both the accompaniment and choral parts
- knowledge of performance practice in all styles
- ability to play all combinations of vocal parts
- be a good sight reader
- ability to follow the conductor... always deferring to the conductor’s wishes (dare I do otherwise!)
- disagree with conductor only in private
- anticipate (“mind read”) a conductor’s instructions
- be alert at all times to the choristers’ need
- general flexibility

A daunting list, indeed! I have heard that an accompanist shares many traits with an anaesthetist. He/she generally has studied longer than the surgeon and must constantly stay alert to prevent an unpredictable disaster, but when all is said and done, the surgeon gets all of the credit. Susan Tomes, a highly successful British pianist, was described as ‘at the piano’, “as if I were a piece of furniture”, she exclaimed!

Fortunately *Serendipity: the choir* rarely has unpredictable disasters when performing and I do receive credit for what I do but, nevertheless, I am constantly alert and listening whilst playing, asking myself questions such as “Am I too soft? too loud? should I push the tempo a little here? should I play those optional notes to help the basses get their entry? What did that glare from the conductor mean?” Warren Jones, an accomplished accompanist, went so far as to call the work between soloists and the accompanist a “mystical communion”. This non-verbal process is the true task of the accompanist and is that to which I aspire.

Of course there are many tasks and skills required to prepare a *Serendipity* concert programme and one of the most enjoyable for me is that of arranging. This is where I “convert” the melody and harmony of some pieces into a version which is suitable for *Serendipity* i.e. parts for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, with or without a piano accompaniment. This involves using the musical material (the notes, chords and rhythmic ideas) in a way that maintains the integrity of the composer’s ideas yet is an original statement of mine. Quite a challenge sometimes!

And there are always chairs to stack, costumes to make, music to staple and distribute, refreshments to organise, recordings to create, the list goes on... But should things go awry I can always use Elton John’s much-quoted words: when his friend, Groucho Marx, jokingly pointed his index fingers at the singer, as if holding a pair of six-shooters, Elton John is reported to have put up his hands and said, “Don’t shoot me, I’m only the piano player”. Well, that’s my excuse!

—Ann Clipsham



arts BUNDANOON

Artistic treats in 2014

ARTS BUNDANOON WELCOMES its warmly supportive audience, new and ongoing, to the 2014 programme.

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This year Arts Bundanoon will again stage 15 events. That it is possible to repeat this large number of successful events is due to:

The performers: Arts Bundanoon's Piano at 10 is now recognized in Sydney and other metropolitan centres as a significant recital venue. It is attractive to a wide range of professional and budding professional musicians. This year will be no exception. Arts Bundanoon will present no fewer than nine artists who all enjoy international as well as national acclaim. We are fortunate that many have chosen to make return visits. Names such as Jocelyn Ho and Daniel Herskovitch are amongst the list of elite artists programmed to perform here in 2014.

The audiences: A performance must have an audience. The regular, large, warm and appreciative audiences of Bundanoon have made their mark in the musical world. Performers have said that this is part of the reason they make the effort to come here. These highly talented performers will continue to bring world class music to Bundanoon while we continue to show them we care; if audiences keep coming the performers will too. Audiences are one of the things where bigger can truly mean better.

The volunteers: A relatively small number of volunteers bring lots of commitment, humour, team work and a widely varied set of skills to the production of these events. That the events are successes is a tribute to the dedication of the volunteers. Of course, the more the merrier, so new volunteers are always more than welcome – the commitments are widely spaced and hugely enjoyable.

This year the Gala Concert on 20 September will be a frolicsome highlight, as another city comes to life in Bundanoon. We move from last year's classical composers of Vienna in the Enlightenment to the New World and the vibrant music of Buenos Aires. A city where the Tango vanquishes trouble:

- When finances fall – tango in the streets
- When holidays happen – tango in the parks
- When wooing leads to weddings – tango on the tables (well, maybe)

The "Evening in Buenos Aires", presented by the group Tangola promises to be another night to remember.



We also plan a "special event" in spring which should surprise and delight concert goers. More news of this will appear in a later *jcg*.

What better beginning than to start local for 2014. For the first Piano at 10 we had two sensational artists, both of whom enjoy high standing in the Australian music scene. The pianist, Kate Johnson, a Bundanoon resident, is a renowned accompanist and repetiteur and is well matched with the beautiful soprano voice of Kate Wilmott who is much sought after for both operatic and recital performances. Together they presented a musical insight into "A Woman's Work"; surprising, sad, seductive, defiant or funny, according to the composer and the times.

In March we have **Illir Merxhushii and David Vance** (cello and piano) who will make Bundanoon their first concert engagement after touring Canada in February, 2014.

Due to Brigadoon on the first Saturday of April, Piano at 10 will be held on the second Saturday 12 April. On this occasion, we will present the brilliant violinist, **Jonathan Mui**. Following in May, the wonderful and lively Sydney-based choir, **Satsang – the Joy of Singing** will delight us as they have in years past. And that is not all, throughout the rest of the year Arts Bundanoon will continue to present the best musical entertainment in the Southern Highlands at the most affordable price.

So in 2014, do postpone morning coffee, come along to Piano at 10 and be inspired. The morning tea or coffee afterwards will taste all the better.

Please see our website for all the 2014 events: www.artsbundanoon.org.au

—Greg Slater

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**This year's Garden Ramble
will be on 25 and 26 October
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Rex Cinema upgraded

THE REX CINEMA (Bundanoon Soldiers Memorial Hall) steps proudly into action in 2014 with a major upgrade of projection and sound and the whole community is benefiting. Thanks to The Rex, a sub-committee of Bundanoon Community Association, the cinema now boasts digital viewing and new speakers to improve the sound. These improvements mean that digital movies can be shown and with higher quality sound.

True to its "olde worlde" image vintage movies, shorts and other features will still be screened on the old style projector so the improvements will add to the variety and quality of what you see.

First on the list is a return of that great Aussie comedy **The Castle**, presented digitally in Bundanoon for the first time on **March 22, 7pm for 7.30**. Free drinks and nibbles available before the show. With a hilarious screenplay written by Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner, Tom Kennedy and Rob Sitch, it stars Michael Caton as Darryl Kennigan and Charles (Bud) Tingwell and features a very young Eric Bana in his debut movie, as Con, Darryl's new Greek son-in-law.

Laughs come thick and fast and, like all good comedies, there is a tear or two. No need to summarise the whole movie here but for those who have been existing in a vacuum, it is about a family that lives happily almost in Melbourne Airport and love their home to the point where Darryl is willing to take the authorities to Court when his family and 'castle' are threatened by eviction and demolition.

As usual The Rex will show six quality movies through the year. You can book ahead or get details by phoning Patrick at 0412 204 262.

—Barb Angell

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JCG Travel will be conducting a 10-day tour of the Great Ocean Road from September 24 to October 3 in a 5-star luxury coach from Kennedy's Tours.

Highlights of the tour will be morning tea on a paddle steamer cruising the Murray River, walking the historic village of Yackandandah, a visit to Bendigo Pottery, a Hopkins River cruise at Warrnambool, Cape Otway, Wilson's Promontory, Mait's Rainforest Walk and the penguin parade at



Phillip Island.

There will be a stay of two nights at Echuca-Moama on the Murray so you can check out the Old Port and maybe the Holden Museum or the Great Aussie Beer Shed. It's two nights also at Apollo Bay right on the Great Ocean Road.

The cost of \$1290 per person twin share (single supplement \$495) includes transport,

accommodation, breakfasts, entry fees and six dinners. There will be an optional helicopter ride over the Twelve Apostles at the special price of \$95.

For more information contact Anne Miller (4883 6343, bundymiller@gmail.com) or Harvey Grennan (0418 628 516, contact@hgrennan.com). A \$100 deposit will secure a booking.

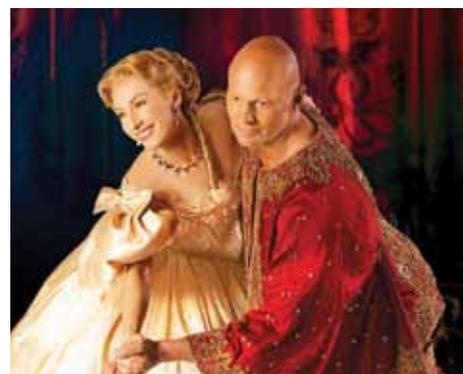
Last call for Tumut travellers

SOME SEATS ARE still available for the 3-day trip to the Tumut-Adelong area starting April 28 to witness the last of the falling autumn leaves.

The cost of \$395 (single supplement \$90) includes breakfasts, dinners and two lunches including one at the Coat of Arms Kaffeehaus at Adelong.

There will be guided tours of Tumut and Adelong and visits to the Snowy Mountains Scheme at Talbingo, the Pioneer Women's Museum at Tumbarumba and the world apple "capital" of Batlow.

Bookings can be made with Ralph Clark (4883 7196, rhc2578@gmail.com) or Sandra Nicholls (4883 7227, [email sandran53@bigpond.com](mailto:sandran53@bigpond.com)).



Be quick for 'The King and I'

Book early, as tickets will sell quickly for *The King and I* matinee starring Lisa McClune and Teddy Tahu Rhodes at the Opera House on October 21. Tickets are \$105 from Julie Schellack (4883 7686, warren.and.julie@bigpond.com).

Ireland/Scotland – interested?

THE JCG TRAVEL committee is thinking about a tour of Ireland and Scotland next year. Would you be interested in finding out more? Let Anne Miller (4883 6343, bundymiller@gmail.com) or Harvey Grennan (4883 7343, contact@hgrennan.com) know.

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BCA report



Christine Miller
President

A momentous year ahead

BCA WELCOMES THE 2014 New Year as we approach our very important and significant Sesquicentenary year in 2015 – 150 years since Bundanoon became a community.

2015 is the centenary of our nation's involvement in Gallipoli and of the Kangaroo March that had able-bodied citizens marching from Wagga Wagga

through Bundanoon on their way to Campbelltown, to sign up to serve. The Kangaroo March a Century On anticipates staying overnight in Bundanoon definitely one night, possibly two, in September.

Our dialogue with **Railways for NSW** continues as we work together to decide the best possible access to our railway station. Our community group has brought together some very valuable facts and information that will stand us in good stead as we participate in community consultation. Keep an eye out for information about when Bundanoon will be invited to consider the new plans.

We continue to work with Council towards the replacement of the damaged bus shelter. The temporary shelter does give some cover, but at a recent meeting the plan for the new shelter was discussed and agreed to. Council is working towards finalising our new structure in the near future. Worth the wait? Yes indeed.

There were some firsts for Bundanoon over the December Christmas celebration period and the involvement of our community again gave strong support for these initiatives. Bundanoon Country Christmas shared carol singing from Serendipity: the choir with Bundanoon Public School children's dressing of the tree with their handmade decorations. Father Christmas greeted the children as many of the shops along our main street stayed open for last minute present purchases and refreshments. The Sunday before 25 December "Carols for Christmas" event at the Public School was a wonderful evening and 21 December is already on the calendar for Carols for Christmas in 2014.

Piano at Ten started its year off with a wonderful concert of beautiful singing accompanied by piano, both performers being Bundanoon locals. Kate Wilmott and Kate Johnson brought some magical sounds together to resonate in the excellent acoustics of our Soldiers' Memorial Hall. A very special performance.

22 March brings our first **Cinema Rex** film for this year with *The Castle* on the bill. In addition there'll be a vintage black and white short film preceding *The Castle*. Watch out for new local advertising on the night!

BCA has invested in a significant upgrade of the quality of both sound and picture which will not only improve the quality of our movie nights but will also offer to other groups in the village, and those who hire the Hall, much improved equipment hire options to utilise a disc or thumb drive.

The BCA AGM (annual general meeting) will take place on **Thursday 20 March** and this is a very important event in our year. The election of the BCA Committee takes place and I encourage you to consider standing for election. The Committee comprises seven positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and three general committee roles. Existing committee members may stand for election again, but there is no limit to those interested in putting their hands up to stand. In addition, the sub-committees of BCA, leading up to this time of the year will choose their convenors and other office bearers within their committee structure. The enviable strength of commitment within our community is because so many offer to serve, offer to volunteer, offer to help, put themselves forward for election.

In addition, at the AGM the audited report on the finances of BCA is presented by our Treasurer and there is also a report on the wonderful work done throughout the year by our sub-committees.

This year **BCA anticipates putting a Special General Resolution to take place on the same evening as the 20 March AGM**, to consider changes to our Constitution. This document was last reviewed in 2007 and it is timely that the committee bring to the membership a reviewed and updated document. Copies of the final draft of changes recommended for adoption by the membership will be available for prior perusal.

With the 150th year of Bundanoon as a community being celebrated in 2015, we are keen that the calendar for the year is well planned. It is essential that we avoid double booking of dates for the participants who contribute to all that is special in Bundanoon. A calendar for 2015 will be put on the BCA website for groups to check dates prior to making their plans. You will also be able to provide your dates and some details of your event so the calendar can be updated and accurate. BCA will manage this and the site will show you what to do to input dates and details of your planned event.

council news



Councillor Jim Clark

Issues on the agenda

COUNCIL WILL HAVE a tight budget this coming year with the Robertson Sewerage Works, Moss Vale Aquatic Centre, Resource Recovery Centre and increased staff overheads putting upward pressure on costs. When the new General Manager is appointed

many challenges await the successful candidate, including the sometimes fractious relationships among councillors. From my observation the demanding role of a Local Government Council GM has many competing interests at play and no certainty about security of tenure.

Many heated words were directed at hapless Endeavour Energy senior staff at a recent briefing with council concerning the major power pole replacement works between Moss Vale and Exeter. Criticisms up for debate included: the location of poles too close to the road, removal of vegetation, the size and type of poles and the lack of meaningful consultation with council and the public. One could remain sceptical of outcomes improving in this area.

There have been a few changes at council with Clr Gair winning over Mayor Juliet Arkwright's Liberal colleague Holly Campbell as a supporter. This switching of allegiances has allowed him to gain the numbers to control selection of council committee chairpersons and led to the dumping of Clrs. Arkwright, Whipper and Uliana from their former favoured committees. No doubt Clr Gair will also be seeking re-election as Mayor in six months' time should the numbers remain in his favour.

I have had some comment about increased freight train activity and noise on the line through the Southern Villages. There have been trials of special freight trains to service the new hard rock quarries at Marulan and while this may lead to increased rail traffic at least it keeps increased truck activity off our roads.

It is good to hear of the release for public comment of new plans for the upgrading of Bundanoon railway station ramps. Let us hope constructive suggestions from the community are acted upon.

—Clr Jim Clark, ph 0428 213 939

Planning a wedding?

WEDDINGS IN THE southern villages are bringing visitors to our picturesque area of the shire and increasing visitor numbers to accommodation houses and businesses. A recent Wedding Expo at Solar Springs gave *jcg* an opportunity to also feature Montrose and the Ravensworth for your interest.

Solar Springs Expo

Guests attending the expo experienced all that the secluded retreat has to offer for their special day. Staff members welcomed visitors to the beautifully manicured gardens and the restaurant, with stunning views of the Morton National Park. A selection of local professionals – photographers, florists, celebrants, and other suppliers - were on hand to chat with couples.

fir@solarsprings.com ph 1800 044 944



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The Ravensworth

At the Ravensworth Donna and Matt Hescott bring their 10 year experience at Sylvan Glen in Penrose to hosting weddings in Bundanoon. They have developed a simple and effective planner to suit a variety of catering options at their recently opened venue. The dining room and adjoining spaces have been beautifully decorated with neutral tones, modern quality fittings, lighting and furniture. ph 4883 6068 or email : info@theravensworth.com.au FB - [The Ravensworth@Bundanoon](https://www.facebook.com/TheRavensworth@Bundanoon)



Huw's year of living dangerously

PADDLES, BACKPACKS, TENTS, stoves, skis, maps, bike, sleeping bags, torches...all this and much more strewn across the room. All to be sorted, packed and taken to the other side of the world. As I write in Bundanoon, it's less than a month until I leave and over a year until I return. To reach this flotsam and jetsam of a yearlong expedition I have to negotiate the building site that is currently home. We're in the midst of massive renovations. Some might say bad timing. I like to think of it as ensuring Wendy has plenty to do while I'm away. And am I really interested in which tiles, taps or tanks are best?

Mediterrannée is essentially a circumnavigation of the Mediterranean via the countries that border it – 15,000km, 20 countries, 12 months – by foot, sea kayak, ski and bike. I'm using the expedition to raise much needed funds for Save the Children, to assist their work with children caught up in conflict zones across the world. In Syria alone some 10,000 children have been killed in the conflict and hundreds of thousands injured, made homeless or orphaned.

The journey also commemorates the Anzac Centenary and for this reason, after attending the 2014 Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli, I'll climb into my sea kayak and paddle away from Anzac Cove, turn right and kayak towards Greece. The 'plan' is to kayak back into Gallipoli a couple of days before Anzac Day 2015.

Mediterrannée is not only a huge physical journey but one that explores magnificent landscapes and cultures in Mediterranean Europe, North Africa and The Middle East.

The first three months will see me sea kayaking the coastline of Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Croatia. Then, with arms strong and legs weak, I'll pull on the boots to spend 100 days trekking the full length of the magnificent European Alps via Slovenia, Italy and France. En route I'll climb Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain. Bike then replaces boots for a mountain bike traverse across the south of France and down the length of Spain.

The sea kayak will get me across the Straits of Gibraltar to Africa and a six-week paddle along the Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian coasts as the year changes from 2014 to 2015. Christmas in Algeria

perhaps? Libya currently offers some difficulties of access and security but hopefully, by early 2015, things will have settled somewhat. If so, I'll be back

on the bike and pedalling across Libya into Egypt and on to Israel and Lebanon. Presently Syria is not the place to be and, if that remains the case in 2015, I may bypass it heading to Cyprus, one of two Mediterranean countries not on my original itinerary (Malta is the other). Once back in Turkey it will be time for a ski! Three weeks ski touring the mighty Taurus Mountains before heading back to the coast and into the sea kayak for a month up the Turkish coast and a finish back at Gallipoli. That's the plan. What will be the reality?

It's a massive journey and will be physically and emotionally draining but hopefully over the year I can raise a lot of funds for Save the Children. I really appreciate any and all donations made. You can donate at www.mediterrannee.com.au with 100% of all monies going direct to Save the Children.

—Huw Kingston

Huw will report on his progress in *jcg* over the next 12 months. You can also check in by:

- Reading the Blog – <http://mediterranneejourney.blogspot.com.au>
- Following Huw on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/mediterranneejourney>
- Visiting www.mediterrannee.com.au



Champion in the making

AFTER FINISHING FOURTH at the inaugural Australian National Championship Cyclo Cross event held in Melbourne, Nicholas Smith qualified for the World

Championships for U19 riders in Hoogerheide, the Netherlands. With extensive support from the local community, Nick managed to make the trip to Europe to become the youngest Australian rider ever to compete at the Cyclo Cross World Championships. See page 21.

On a dark and rainy weekend before the World Championships with temperatures never above 5 degrees, Nick competed in two races. The first was a club race around Ghent on an extremely muddy course built on a corn field. He cleverly avoided a crash on the first corner and soon moved up to the middle of the field. Much to the surprise of many of the Belgian riders, Nick kept on moving up and was soon in the top three. He kept the pace high all through the race and came second, only beaten by a French rider.

The next day Nick and his Australian team mates rode in the Flemish Cyclo Cross cup, a popular warm-up for the World Championships. As a first time rider, Nick started from the last row; it took him a while to get into the right rhythm and it wasn't until the third lap that he moved up in the field, eventually finishing 39th.

On Saturday 1 February at 11am, came the moment Nick had been working towards over the last few months. He prepared for

the start while cheered on by a crowd of Belgian and Dutch fans. Unfortunately things went wrong in the first hundred metres of the race; a crash by one of the riders at the front caused a huge pile up of riders and bikes. Nick managed to avoid the fallen riders but a German rider wasn't as attentive and rode into the back of his bike. He made it to the pit area with a buckled rear wheel but lost almost half a minute in the aftermath of the crash. Many of the other riders involved in the crash pulled out but Nick kept on going hard.

Nick explains: "Even after the crash, and losing the time, I wasn't going to give up. I had travelled so far for this race and I was going to ride it. So I just pushed on. I knew I had the support of team managers and pit crews. It was amazing.

They fixed my bike and when it was ready I just jumped back on and kept going.

After all the support that I had been given by family, friends and community I was going to ride no matter what. Every group that I am involved in contributed to get me there. I really felt immense support.

Probably, crossing the finish line is the highlight for me! In the green and gold! That's something I don't think I will ever forget. First Aussie team! First junior rider!

The Belgians were so welcoming and encouraging; they really got behind me, particularly after the crash. They realised that I wasn't going to win but I wasn't going to give up so they really urged me on.

I really want to give it another shot, so I am going to keep training to compete in all the State and National rounds so I can make the Australian team again. I feel very privileged to have had this opportunity and experience."

—PD

Fun and games in bygone days

THE CURRENT BUNDANOON History Group display takes a look at some of the ways in which residents and visitors have used their leisure time since the late 1800s. Before the introduction of television, computers and technical gadgets, people had to make their own entertainment. Most of this involved some outdoor activity and was usually healthy and fun.

If you ask the older residents how they spent their leisure time when they were young, most will say that they spent a lot of time in the National Park. Picnics and walks in the gullies were a regular family event.

Some of the boys used to build billycarts from old pram wheels and race them down Constitution Hill towards the National Park. Needless to say, these billy carts didn't last long and I have yet to find anyone who has any photographs of this popular pastime.

Swimming was also a very popular pastime, but there was no safe place to swim until the Erith Street pool was built in the 1960s. Prior to this, Leaver Park (where drowning accidents occurred) and local swimming holes were used.

Bundanoon has always excelled in sporting events, with some residents being members of more than one sporting team. Apart from the regular team matches, there were "fun" matches where people cross-dressed or wore fancy dress. Photographs of team members in normal and fun events are on display. There is also a large number of sporting trophies on display.

The display contains a large selection of photographs and artefacts covering many sports, community events and people. Each group of photographs has an overview of the relevant history, with dates, places and identities included with photographs, where known.

The display is proving to be very popular and is generating some long and interesting discussions between visitors and History Group members. Memories from the past are being revived and new information is being discovered.

People are encouraged to provide input and comments on the material displayed, particularly in respect to the identities and stories of people in the photographs.

—Beryl Seckington



Above: Re-enactment of Cobb & Co journey, 1963

Below: Cross-dressing cricket, c1937



The exhibition is open at the Old Goods Shed from 9:30am to 2:30pm on the first and third Sundays of each month, to coincide with Bundanoon Market.
The Bundanoon History Group meets at the Bundanoon Club at 10am on the first Monday of each month. Visitors are always welcome.

Left: Leaver Park, early 1900s, below: Bikes in Brigadoon parade, 1997





Above: Local residents at the opening of the display

Below: Haymaking, early 1900s

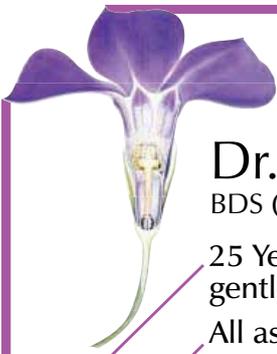


Below: Men's hockey team, c1938



Below: Ladies' hockey team, 1939





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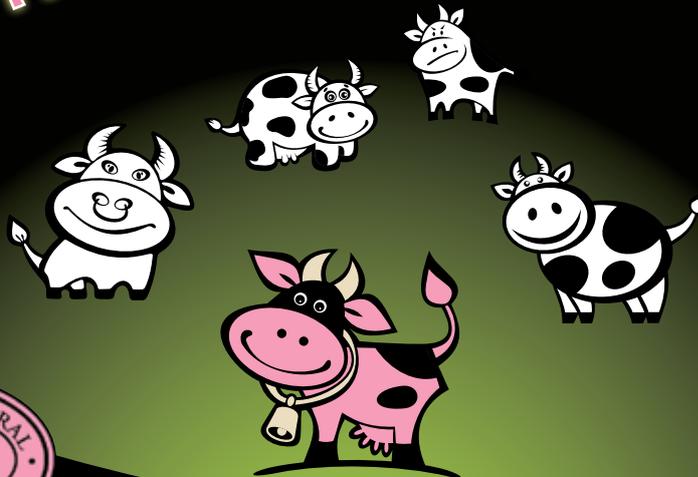
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Bundanoon: the volunteering capital of Australia?

TO MOST RESIDENTS, Bundanoon is a place where people muck in to get things done, to make sure the sports clubs are viable, the town is kept tidy and welcoming, most interests and hobbies are catered for and the special aspects of the village and the community that we all love are protected.

The extent of this civil society has only recently been quantified as part of a research project conducted by The Volunteer Centre in Moss Vale (Volunteering Wingecarribee), in partnership with the University of Wollongong. Thomas-Andrew, the part time manager of the centre, spent many hours interviewing Bundanoon residents involved in community activity. He is very grateful for the level of cooperation he received from every group in the village. The results are astounding:

58 groups were identified in the village, of which twenty are associated with the Bundanoon Community Association (BCA). Only six categorised themselves as not having a volunteer component. Between them, the other 52 accounting for close to 75,000 hours of volunteering a year. Based on the index used by the University of Wollongong, the annual economic impact of this activity is in excess of \$2.5 million a year. (The \$ equivalent if volunteers were replaced by paid workers). Of course that

Volunteering by category

	BCA	Sports	Hobbies and Interest	Non profit	Clubs	Services	Events	Schools	Total
Annual Hours	23419	11982	3938	2050	5628	12326	8885	6103	74331
Share of total	31%	16%	5%	3%	8%	17%	12%	8%	100%

would never happen but it does give a sense of the scale of the community involvement in this village. 75,000 hours represents the equivalent of approximately 42 places in fulltime employment.

Each activity provided information with a commitment of anonymity, thus these grouping are provided to give a sense of how the volunteer hours are spread. As part of the other commitment by The Volunteer Centre, each activity will be provided with a copy of the summary report and, where requested a copy of the Report on the Rights of Volunteers. A further report will also be available that provides wherever possible the specific results for all activities in Bundanoon It is hoped that this information will be of value when groups apply for grants and other philanthropic funding.

Of significance and in contrast with the majority of the volunteering in the shire,

Bundanoon is also self-sufficient in the way it recruits. Almost all is through word of mouth, personal contacts or membership of clubs.

The research project collected information from 239 organisations and community groups in the shire – 63% of the total were identified as having volunteers. The survey found 560 volunteer roles that were currently filled by 7,597 volunteers. These volunteers contribute more than half a million (544,846) hours a year, worth a conservative estimate of \$25.4 million.

If anyone would like a copy of the reports or a full list of the groups in Bundanoon or would be interested in a (an?) (additional) volunteer role in the shire, please contact The Volunteers Centre on 4869 4617 or info@volwing.org.au or have a look at the website: www.volwing.org.au.

—Thomas-Andrew,
Manager, The Volunteer Centre

Getting Nick to the start line

FOR ABOUT A year now a group of Bundanoon residents have discussed the possibility of starting a sports scholarship – a program to help provide support to a young athlete in Bundanoon. This would include financial help, then also help with logistics, media, and training support and any other assistance the family might need during the term of the scholarship.

Nick Smith was always a front runner to be the first recipient. Most of the group are keen cyclists and we knew Nick's background and more importantly his potential. The scholarship was set to start at the beginning of the 2014 season, but all that changed when Nick was selected by Cycling Australia to represent Australia at the Cyclocross World Championships. We decided we would rally to fund his trip to the Netherlands in January.

I should, at this point, note that Nick is a good kid. He is polite, hard working, focused at school and on the bike. When we approached individuals and businesses to see if they would contribute, we had a very generous response,

I'm a big fan of single step fundraising with no administration costs in fundraising, so it was important to me that people donating money could see where it was

going, and understood that every cent they donated was being spent on the effort, getting Nick to the World Championships. Nick's mother Jow organised a raffle with 21 generous prizes donated to the cause. We asked Highlands Trails if they would run a mountain bike ride, and we were able to lead almost 70 paying riders along the converted trails of the Jumping Rock property that is usually reserved for the Highland Fling race. The Southern Highlands Cycle Club provided the gourmet BBQ lunch for the riders in support of Nick.

It really was an easy fundraising effort, run in a short period, over the most jumbled time of the year, for a number of reasons: Nick and his family are known and liked in the community, the transparency of the fundraising, and the magnitude of the event. Congratulations Bundanoon, we helped get Nick to the start line of the World Championships, a place he deserved to be. I know I was proud watching the Live Webcast of the race, and his green and gold helmet in the thick of it, and that, my friends, is what it is all about.

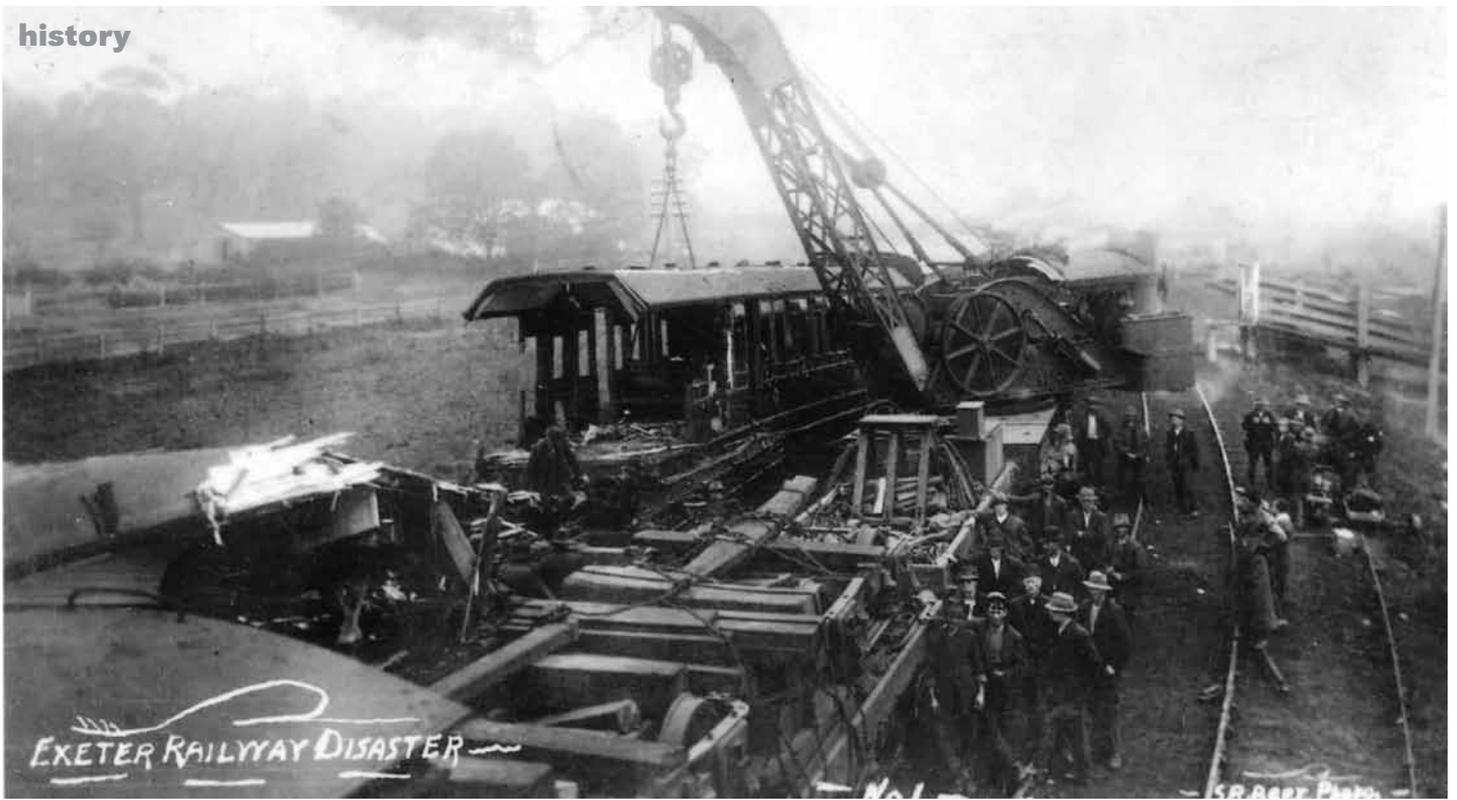
—Peter Stewart, on behalf of Bundanoon Cares

See page 17 for the story of Nick's ride.

Earthy humour

MARGIE STUART, PAST president of Highlands Garden Society, told an audience on Australia Day how many garden club members it takes to plant a bed of tulips:

- If you are from Mittagong, four: two to do the planting, two to run down to Corbett Gardens and check that ours is bigger than theirs.
- If you are from Bowral, fourteen: two to do the planting, six to arrange the cocktail party, six to arrange for the Governor to open the display.
- If you are from Moss Vale, two: not many tulips in Moss Vale.
- If you are from Bundanoon, ten: two to do the planting, four to arrange the community consultation, four to prepare the environmental impact statement.
- If you are from Burradoo: no, no, in Burradoo we have a chap to do those things.



Centenary of the Exeter rail disaster

EXETER STATION IS well known amongst railway buffs for its unique character but it is also remembered for being the site of one of the worst train crashes in New South Wales railway history.

When the *Temora Mail* left Sydney's Central Station at 8.10pm on 13 March, 1914, none of the 134 passengers could have anticipated the tragedy that would engulf them just four hours later. In the dead of the foggy night, the *Mail* collided with the locomotive of a north-bound (Up) goods train still on the main line as it backed into the siding at Exeter for the priority train to pass on the single track. The goods train comprised 15 trucks laden with bullocks and was too long to fit into the loopline so it was being shunted into a siding. While it was being manoeuvred, the Distant signal was set to red to stop the mail train if it reached Exeter before the goods train was safely off the track. In the fog and rain the driver of the *Temora Mail*, Peter Irwin, thought the signal was green and continued on until it was too late. Out of the gloom, the locomotive of the goods train appeared just 50 metres away and although Irwin applied the emergency brakes, they merely locked on the wet track and the two locomotives collided with enormous force.

The wooden passenger car nearest the locomotive was propelled through the carriage behind, demolishing one compartment after another and crushing all in its wake. Fourteen people died and 32 others were injured as a result of the accident. Among those killed

was a young couple, James and Ethel Minnis, who had been married for only a few brief months. Ironically, James Minnis worked in the Signal and Interlocking Engineers Branch of the Railways, the department responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of signalling equipment, telegraphs and telephones throughout the New South Wales rail network. Three members of the Heaver family also died – John Heaver, his daughter Alice and daughter-in-law Annie, who died in the arms of her husband Arthur. Six members of the family were travelling to Cootamundra to bury their wife and mother Sarah, whose coffin was also on the train. Mail-guard Alfred Charles Bray, one of five mail sorters at work in the newly-built Travelling Post Office (TPO) van of the *Temora Mail*, was standing near the van door ready to toss the mail bag for Exeter on to the platform. He died of severe head injuries, leaving a wife and seven children.

Rescuers worked throughout the night to free those trapped in the wreckage, many of whom remained in the mangled compartments for hours. Fettleers from a nearby railway workers' camp were among the first on the scene and were soon joined by uninjured passengers and local people including Tom and Malcolm Badgery who were waiting on the station for the *Cooma Mail* train at the time of the accident. Two doctors from Moss Vale and two from Goulburn were rushed to Exeter to treat the injured passengers before they were transferred to Bowral Hospital. Nearly 100 people gathered to help in any way they could. Mrs Badgery, from Vine Lodge at Exeter, soon set up the School of Arts Hall, organising food and drink for the workers. One hundred years on descendants of the Vine Lodge Badgerys are still involved in the community and will be helping again with refreshments on the anniversary of the disaster.

The centenary will be commemorated in Exeter on Thursday 13th March 2014 with a memorial service beginning at 10.00am at St Aidan's Anglican Church, followed by the unveiling of a plaque in the station precinct and morning tea in the church hall. An open invitation is extended to all who wish to mark the occasion. Where we have been able to trace them, descendants of the victims have also been invited to attend.

For further information please contact the Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest Office on 02 4883 6019.

— Linda Emery





Bundanoon observer

by Stephen Owens

My mother, the country bard

MY MOTHER TURNS 94 this year. She lives in her own house in Coffs Harbour and is still very much with it. She grew up in country Victoria and has always had a love of country life. One of her passions was bush verse and she loved the poetry of Henry Lawson most of all. She has had many of her poems published in *The Land* newspaper and has also self published a collection of her verse. The preface of this collection contains the following paragraph:

"Whilst Secretary of the Henry Lawson Society at Gulgong, Betty (Elizabeth) started the 'Henry Lawson Bush-verse Competition' and subsequently won it twice; won the Bronze Swagman Competition and had poems printed in *The Land* and the *Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse* over a number of years"

Although she wrote the winning Bronze Swagman poem over 25 years ago it is still very special to me as it is about my grandfather. In Mum's words: "The poem 'In Memory of Micky' tells of the final events in the life of my father-in-law, Mick Owens, champion shearer and bushman, who always spoke of dying as 'going over the hills.'"

In Memory of Micky

"I'm going over the hills," he said,
That grand old man of the land,
The hills we knew were the mountains blue,
Yet how could we understand?

He'd received a note from a run out west,
With writing firm and true,
"Shearing starts on the fifth of May,
And we're holdin a pen for you."

He packed his clothes and his shearing gear
Ready for the western plain,
But how could we know that he surely knew
He wouldn't be back again?

He'd been a "gun" in the long ago
When youth was on his side,
He'd paced the champions blow by blow
And beaten them all beside!
"I'm going over the hills he said
And he kissed us all goodbye,
Then he lifted his pack and caught his train,
Was that a tear in his eye?

For the doctor had laid it on the line,
'You'll never come back again,
If you go out on that shearing track
They'll bury you there on the plain!'

So he made his choice and with never a word
He went over those hills again,
And he dropped in his tracks on that shearing board
Out there on the western plain!

Yes! He made his choice and he paid the price,
And this truth at last we know,
Out there with his mates in that shearing shed
Was the way he wanted to go.

—Betty Owens

On ya mum. Love your work.



DIY know-how

by Patrick Fitzgerald

Harbourside belle

THERE ARE SOME beautiful contemporary buildings in the world today. My personal favourites are the Grand Arch de la Defense in Paris, a simple elegant design; Tokyo International Forum (in Tokyo!) for its soaring roof and combination of various materials; and the DCU Ryan Academy in Dublin for its original design and attention to detail.

The most beautiful of all though is in Sydney and has just turned 40 – the Sydney Opera House. It is one of the most recognised buildings in the world and there is hardly a tourist promotion for Australia that doesn't somewhere feature an image of its beautiful shells. The concept started in the forties and resulted in an international competition in the fifties, with Joern Utzon taking the £5000 prize from the 218 entries. His 6B lead pencil submission was really only a concept, but his friend Eero Saarinen from Finland was on the judging panel and is said to have plucked it from the reject pile and convinced the panel of its merits. The fact that Saarinen was working on a similar concept for TWA in the USA was, I'm sure, purely coincidental. Kevin McCloud would have had a field day with this project.

NSW Premier Cahill had no interest at all in the arts but needed an attraction in Sydney when Melbourne was awarded the Olympic Games. Then it all became political, with the contractors being forced to start before drawings were completed. So, no final design, no idea of how to build such a complex structure. Political interference and a seriously expanding budget dogged the project for years. The sacking of Utzon was the real tragedy though, with so many compromises made internally that it bore no resemblance to the original concept. As a result, the acoustics were a serious problem in the early days.

Even though the final cost was \$102 million, (the original estimate was \$7 million), the building was paid off in full within years. Who didn't buy a ticket in the lottery?

"The sun did not know how beautiful its light was until it was reflected on this building." So said the architect Louis Kahn, and how true it is! Technically the building is a masterpiece. It was one of the first buildings in the world to use computer-aided design. When the pivot points for the shells were being calculated, the relevant figures were written down and taken to the city where overnight, they were run through a computer. The results the next morning dictated positioning and strength requirements. This meant the demolition and expansion of some of the footings supporting the massive concrete shells. It all works though and to this day there have been no structural problems at all. Even the innovative use of seawater to aid the air conditioning system has worked well.

Over 120 different nationals worked on the design of the building in six countries. It was a credit to the builders, Hornibrook, that they were able to adapt to the ever changing parameters and they showed true innovation during this period. Materials too were sourced from around the world, with tiles coming from Sweden and glass from France. My father told me before he died that Ove Arup, the engineers in charge, had asked him to be part of the team during its construction. Being very conservative and having seven children at that stage, he turned down the offer. I'll never forgive him!

But I'll always wonder what if...? Happy Birthday, gorgeous!

This is my last column for jcg and I would like to thank Pam Davies for all her support, and the encouragement I received from some readers.

And thank you, Patrick! Ed

Hard or soft? Options for publishing today

WHEN AMERICAN PRESIDENT Barack Obama won his second term of office political analysts commented on the successful use of social media during his campaign. In a country where voting is not compulsory, a personal message received by constituents certainly influenced the number of people prepared to cast a vote on polling day. Less successful were Kevin Rudd's Facebook and Twitter attempts to influence voting patterns in the Australian Federal elections!

Alan Olsen explains online publishing and Anne Davies of Fairfax Media looks at the changing habits of their readership. Most of the centre section of this issue contains stories about local authors and their work and Karen Williams has given us some insights into the world of publishing. So whether or not you subscribe to the popular notion that 'everyone has a book in them', please read on.



<http://social.media#>



Alan Olsen

WHAT IS ONLINE publishing? What is the phenomenon that we call social media? Let's explore these questions using our representation in the Australian Parliament as an initial example.

Bundanoon is in the federal electorate of Hume. We can establish this from the Australian Electoral Commission at <http://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/nsw/hume.htm>. This website tells us that our electorate, named after explorer Hamilton Hume (1797–1873), covers an area of 34,000 sq km from Cowra in the north to Wee Jasper in the south and from parts of the Southern Highlands in the east to Young and Cootamundra in the west. We can download (and print, if we like) a map of the electorate that shows Bundanoon on the eastern boundary of Hume. Exeter, six minutes to our north east, is in Throsby.

The Electoral Commission refers us to http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members where the Parliament of Australia website tells us that the member for Hume is Angus Taylor MP.

A former Rhodes Scholar, Angus Taylor worked from 2002 as a Director of Port Jackson Partners and in 2011 published a research report for ANZ Bank with the title *Earth, Fire, Wind and Water: Economic Opportunities and the Australian Commodities Cycle*. From ANZ Media Centre's Insight Series <http://www.media>.

anz.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=248677&p=irol-insight we can download this 90 page report (but preferably not print it) or we can focus on the conclusion in the executive summary: Australia is uniquely placed to provide the poor of the world with the resources needed to lift their standard of living. If Australia gets this right, it can be the lucky country, the clever country and a good global citizen.

Our Bundanoon website is www.bundanoon.nsw.au, showing upcoming events in our community. Or we can download the latest issue (as well as back copies) of *Jordans Crossing Gazette*.

Websites and downloads are the heavy lifting of online publishing. Social media, including Facebook and Twitter, are more fun.

Facebook started as a way for US college kids to stay in touch when they had left campus, and has evolved since then to become a social network with one billion users. It is a sprawling network. You do need to sign up, by putting some details, and probably a photo of yourself, on the Facebook website. Then you're ready to start posting a few updates, statements about what you're up to, links to interesting stuff you've seen, like on Australia Day 2014.

The Lovely Bundanoon Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lovely.bundanoon> posted photos of Bundanoon Club on Australia Day. It gave us early warning about a JCG Travel outing to the Great Ocean Road

in September/October, and promised details in the March issue of *Jordans Crossing Gazette*. At <https://www.facebook.com/Angustaylor4hume>, Angus Taylor told us about the Australia Day events at Cootamundra and the first birthday of the Murrumbateman Farmers Markets.

Twitter is a social network and communication service used by millions of people to share information quickly. The word Twitter comes from the chirping sound made by birds, hence the bird used in the Twitter logo. Tweets are messages of up to 140 characters long that anyone can send or read. You can choose to follow people who tweet. @angusjtaylor has 507 followers, and still has a way to go to catch @TonyAbbottMHR with 278,000 followers.

Fitzroy Falls shock jock Alan Jones kicked off Twitter's most celebrated moment. In August 2012, Prime Minister Julia Gillard suggested that society needs the political participation of women to achieve its full potential. Linking Gillard with Christine Nixon and Clover Moore, Jones claimed women were destroying the joint. The sisterhood flocked to Twitter. In 2014, @jointdestroy is a witty call to arms for Australians against misogyny.

—Alan Olsen

The strange truth about fiction

I WISH I could say I am tired of being asked why I write novels as well as non-fiction. The truth is: I am hardly ever asked that question, since my fiction has, until now, been a remarkably (if unintentionally) well-kept secret.

The recent publication of *Infidelity* has generated more interest than usual, and it is widely assumed to be my first novel (it's actually my sixth). 'This is a real departure for you,' people say, and I smile a wan smile.

Infidelity had a rocky road to publication. My then-publisher rejected it out of hand. They didn't believe any woman would make the moral choice made by Sarah (the leading female character, who is certainly no heroine), even though the plot is based on a real-life case study published by the British Psychological Society.

Crestfallen, I returned to my previous publisher, Pan Macmillan, who loved the book but – with an astute eye on the realities of the marketplace – asked me to complete my next work of non-fiction first, to pave the way for *Infidelity*. That's how both books came to be published in the same year. I'm not a

madman who writes at breakneck pace: the novel was biding its time, waiting for the right moment to appear.

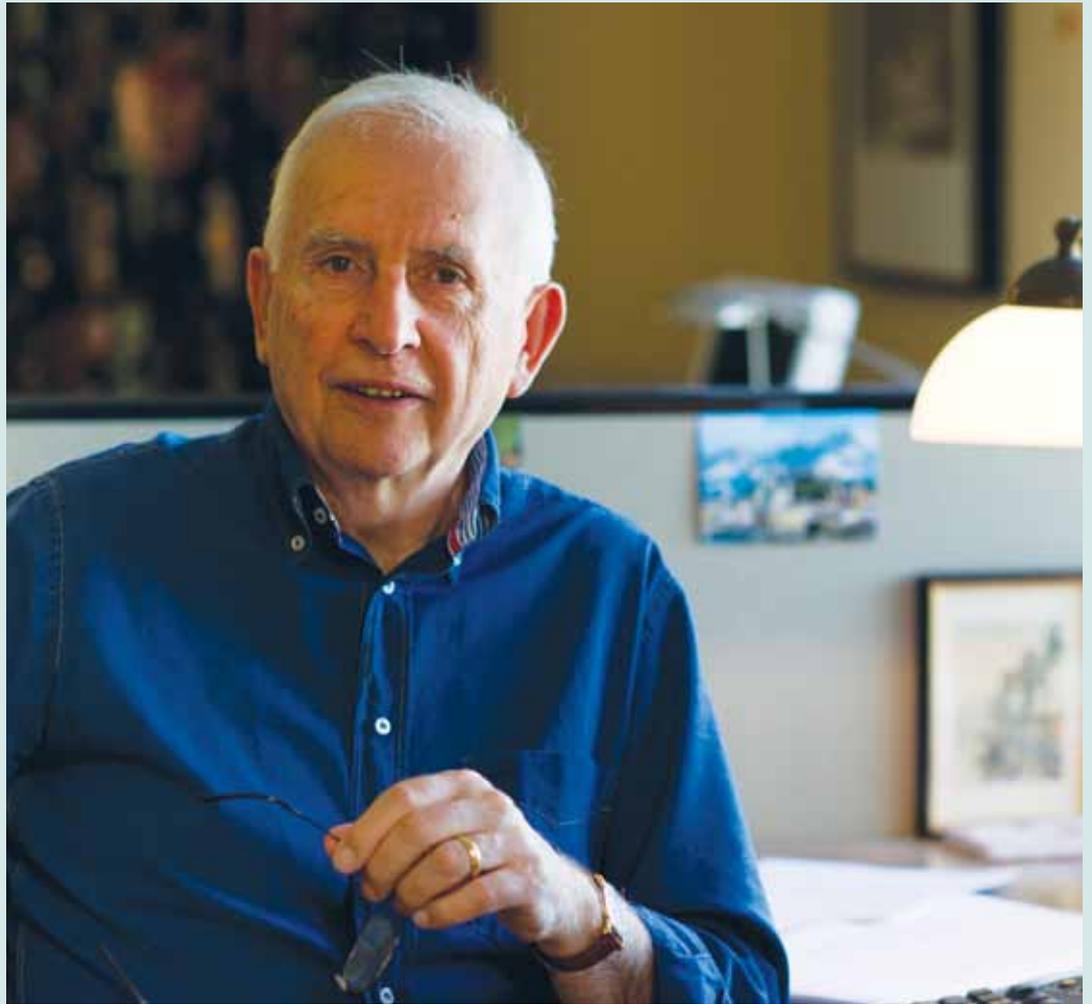
Why a stronger response to this novel? The cover is stunning, the timing was good, following hard on the heels of *The Good Life*, and the title probably helps (yes, it's about sexual infidelity, but several other varieties of infidelity as well – including not being true to yourself, and the religious 'infidel').

Since its publication, a few people have asked me that question: why write a novel? (In Australia, you'll have noticed, there is some pressure to be only one thing at a time.)

For me, it's a non-question. Whether I'm writing fiction or non-fiction, my purpose is precisely the same: to help explain us to ourselves, whether through the big picture of social analysis or the 'miniature' of an individual's life. US novelist Joyce Carol Oates says that 'art singles out individuals for scrupulous attention,' but her point is that those individuals represent a bigger story; sometimes even a universal story.

When a novel rings true, that's because it has something to tell us about why humans act as they do; some light to shed, perhaps, on why we so often say one thing and do another, and why so much of our behaviour seems irrational or absurd.

Because novels spring, like dreams, directly from the human imagination, fuelled by personal experience, I believe they offer us clearer insights



and deeper truths about humanity than most works of psychology, philosophy or history. Biography sometimes comes close, though the filtering and laundering processes can be more disruptive than in fiction.

Stories communicate more powerfully than intellectual analysis. That's why, in my social research, I often let my respondents speak for themselves. And it's why, in *The Good Life*, I interspersed the analysis with slices of life.

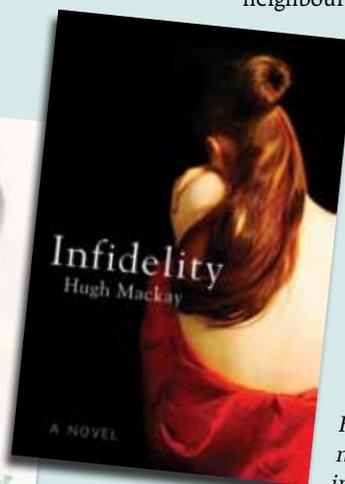
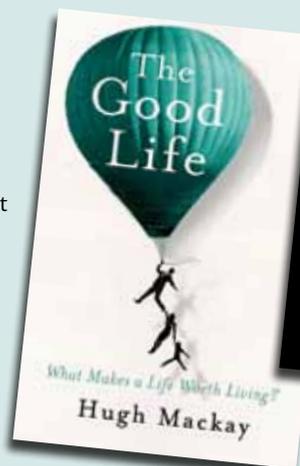
My next book (*The Art of Belonging*, out in October) goes one step further. It will examine the upheavals that are transforming neighbourhoods – the changes in our mating and

eating habits, in the composition of our households, in our media consumption – but at least half the book consists of stories drawn from the life of a fictional suburb set in an Australian city.

So it's a fiction/non-fiction hybrid. Perhaps two ways of telling the truth will turn out to be better than one (and the old fiction/non-fiction question certainly won't arise).

—Hugh Mackay

Hugh Mackay is a social researcher and novelist. He is the author of 15 books including the 2013 bestseller, The Good Life



From blank page to bestseller

THERE'S A WONDERFUL Leunig cartoon that goes something like this:

Man: "Help me doctor. I've got a book inside me!"

Doctor: "Most people have a book in them. Perhaps I can refer you to a publisher."

Man: "No! I don't want it published. I want it surgically removed – or dissolved with herbs or something – maybe some sort of therapy. I don't want to become a... a... I don't want to become a WRITER!"

Everyone's got a book in them, or so they say. After nearly 30 years in publishing I know for a fact that taxi drivers, hairdressers, first cousins (once removed) and your best friend's mother all have books in them because they have all sought my advice about how to get published.

Of course, not everyone has a *good* book in them (that's often where self-publishing comes in) or even a book that will sell (not that these are always mutually exclusive states of being). The fact is that publishing is a business, which isn't just about 'good' books. It's about books with easy media hooks and charismatic, articulate, energetic authors. It's about old stories told from a fresh perspective, and new stories never before told. It's about timing and a good dollop of luck. It's about blood, sweat, tears and creativity, from everyone along the long, sometimes arduous path to publication. To a publisher, 'good' is a bonus.

Good is also completely 'in the eye of the beholder', a matter of both taste and perspective. When an acquiring editor or publisher considers taking on a book there will be many factors at play. With fiction it usually comes down to personal taste, a belief in the writer, and a thorough understanding of the market and what the vagaries of fashion are currently dictating. In the last few years that's included erotic romance, vampire fiction, what's been dubbed 'ru-ro' (short for rural romance) or 'farm lit', and there's an enduring appetite for 'quirky-charming-heartwarming' books like *The Rosie Project* or *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*. Equally, it can be pretty hard to find an audience these days for new authors of 'chick lit' or crime fiction after many years of over-publishing.

For every writer who gets accepted by a publisher, there are hundreds, thousands, of writers who don't. For many of them the

route to publication must be trodden alone. Self-publishing, generally still looked down on from a lofty height by traditional publishers, has exploded in popularity in recent years, attaining respectability, credibility even, since the dawn of the digital age, the evolution of the ebook market and some truly enviable sales being generated for their authors via the power of social media.

There's also a huge, semi-underground movement known as 'fan fiction', where fans of say the *Harry Potter* books or the *Twilight* series, continue telling the stories online to other fans, imagining scenarios never dreamed of by their original authors. It's self-publishing at its most elemental. Fan fiction was the genesis, in fact, of the blockbuster *Fifty Shades of Grey* series. Despite the enormous popularity of fan fiction, none of it would ever win any literary prizes (proclaims the literary snob) – there's no one editing these stories, just readers responding directly with the creator to hone the narrative.

Regardless of their journey to market, however, or their relative merits, all books begin with a concept, a commission or a compulsion. Some books are torn, word by bloody word, from the heaving breast of a lonely writer, toiling away in a dusty garret... well OK, maybe not a garret. But there are writers for whom the need to write, to express themselves via the written word, is as necessary for life as breathing or eating. Then there are books whose genesis is sparked by the author's need to share knowledge, to throw light on a new idea, or a part of history. And then there are those books where the author is essentially a 'writer for hire' whom an editor or publisher commissions to write on a subject.



But writing the book is just the first step. For most writers getting the book into the hands of eager readers is the greater challenge. Every publisher is inundated by manuscripts on a daily basis. They come from agents, literary scouts, and from what's known in the business as the 'slush pile' – the veritable mountain of unsolicited manuscripts sent in by hopeful writers in their thousands each year. These days, fewer and fewer of the big houses accept 'unsolicited' so an agent book has the best chance of finding a publisher. Frustratingly for many aspiring writers however, getting an agent to take on a new writer is just as fraught. But many manuscripts do make the cut – more than 3,500 new books are published each year. For their writers the real hard work has just begun.

Once the manuscript has been accepted – or in most cases the synopsis and a sample chapter

or two – a contract is signed and an advance is paid. Or not. For many writers an advance, a payment 'in advance' of future royalties, is the stuff of legend. It's still a rare writer who makes a proper living out of writing alone. The writer then goes away to complete the book, promising to deliver the final version by an agreed date... [fade to black].

...all books begin
with a concept, a
commission or a
compulsion

A few (several or many) months later, the final manuscript is received and an in-house editor is assigned. They shepherd the book and its author through all the stages of production – from structural to text editing, proof-reading and indexing, to cover design.

blurb writing and, finally, to publication. Along the way the story is shaped, from dramatic opening to satisfying conclusion; characters drawn and redrawn; inconsistencies eliminated; grammar smoothed; typographical errors (almost completely) expunged. During this time the rest of the team – sales, marketing, publicity – get busy, making decisions about price, the number of copies to print, the publicity campaign, and other promotion possibilities. About three or four months out from publication, the book is presented to the booksellers. They are the gatekeepers, deciding which books you'll see in their store, which books will be featured on their new release shelves. The work of the publisher is almost done.

Where once publishers took lots of risks, making decisions about how many books to print based on little more than gut instinct, these days there's more science to the process. At the same time, digital printing has brought the turnaround time for reprints down to a matter of days so print runs are tight, tight, tight. And now ebooks have taken their place in the mix, in some cases accounting for up to 50% of a total book's sales in our market.

Finally the great day arrives. Publication! The book is unpacked and displayed prominently on bookshop shelves and web pages. The nervous author talks to the media and awaits the verdict of the reviewers – will it be thumbs up or down? Will all the hard work pay off? Will the book find its audience? This is where the luck part comes in. There is no formula for success, no way to guarantee a bestseller. But the book is out there now, waiting to be discovered, to be read and enjoyed, to be discussed and argued over, to become a part of all of us who treasure the written word.

—Karen Williams

Karen is Trade Marketing Director at Allen & Unwin and lives in Bundanoon.

The Sheila from Goulburn

RECENTLY, AUTHOR ROBERT Wainwright and well known publisher Richard Walsh gave a lively presentation of the Allen and Unwin publication *Sheila*, at The Briars on behalf of Bowral Bookshop. Robert Wainwright's interesting biography of Sheila Chisholm traces her journey from grazier's daughter to wife of royalty and lover of Prince Albert (King George VI).

The daughter of a wealthy grazier from New South Wales, she reached London in July 1914 with barely enough time to be presented at court before the outbreak of war. Charming and beautiful, Sheila under more peaceful conditions would undoubtedly have enjoyed a successful season; instead, she and her mother left London for Cairo, where one of her brothers was stationed with an Australian cavalry regiment. When he was injured Sheila worked as a volunteer nurse at the military hospital and it was here that she met the first of her three husbands. Lord Loughborough was the son of the notorious Earl of Rosslyn, a compulsive gambler, later immortalised as 'the Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo'.

Sheila discovered soon after the wedding that Loughie, like his father was addicted to gambling, and in addition was a lifelong alcoholic. Sheila bore him two sons and did her best to cope, but there was no reforming Loughie, so after a while she gave up, concentrating instead on a glamorous social life in the company of her best friend Freda Dudley Ward.

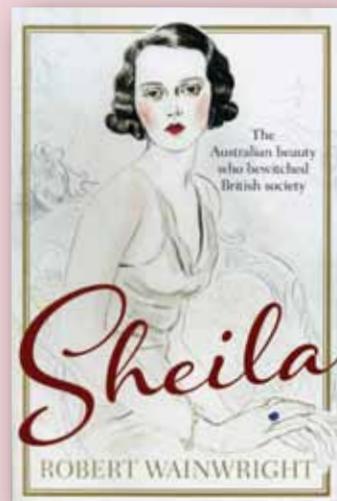
Freda was mistress of the Prince of Wales, and in no time at all a cosy quartet had formed, with the Prince and Freda as one couple, and his younger brother, Prince Albert ('Bertie'), paired off with Sheila. Referring to themselves as 'the Four Do's', they were frequently together, at restaurants and nightclubs as well as dinners in private houses. It seems clear from the correspondence to which Robert Wainwright has had access that Bertie fell in love with Sheila, but that his father, appalled when he discovered his son was conducting an affair with a married woman, ordered

him to put a stop to it at once. Miserably, Bertie obeyed, and was rewarded with the dukedom of York and a fiancée, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

Sheila, meanwhile, moved on to a lengthy affair with the glamorous Prince Serge Obolensky and a rather more light-hearted relationship with Rudolph Valentino. Sheila's marriage to Loughie ended in divorce and in 1928 she married again; her second husband, Sir John Milbanke was known for his prowess in the ring as 'the Boxing Baronet'. Not surprisingly he was not a great companion and when he died as the result of a traffic accident after the Second World War Sheila married Dimitri Alexandrovitch Romanoff, a Russian prince and a descendant of Tsar Nicholas I. They lived modestly at Belgravia and later returned to Australia for a time. Sheila, Princess Dimitri died on 13 October 1969 at Westminster, London. A woman of style and fashion, Sheila was an outstanding figure of the London social scene for half a century.

Based on a review by Selina Hasting in *The Spectator*, 1 February 2014.

In the context of this issue of JCG this book is an example of the skill of a publisher to 'spot' a fascinating untold story and to know from experience the right person to bring it to life. Ed.



The self-publishing option

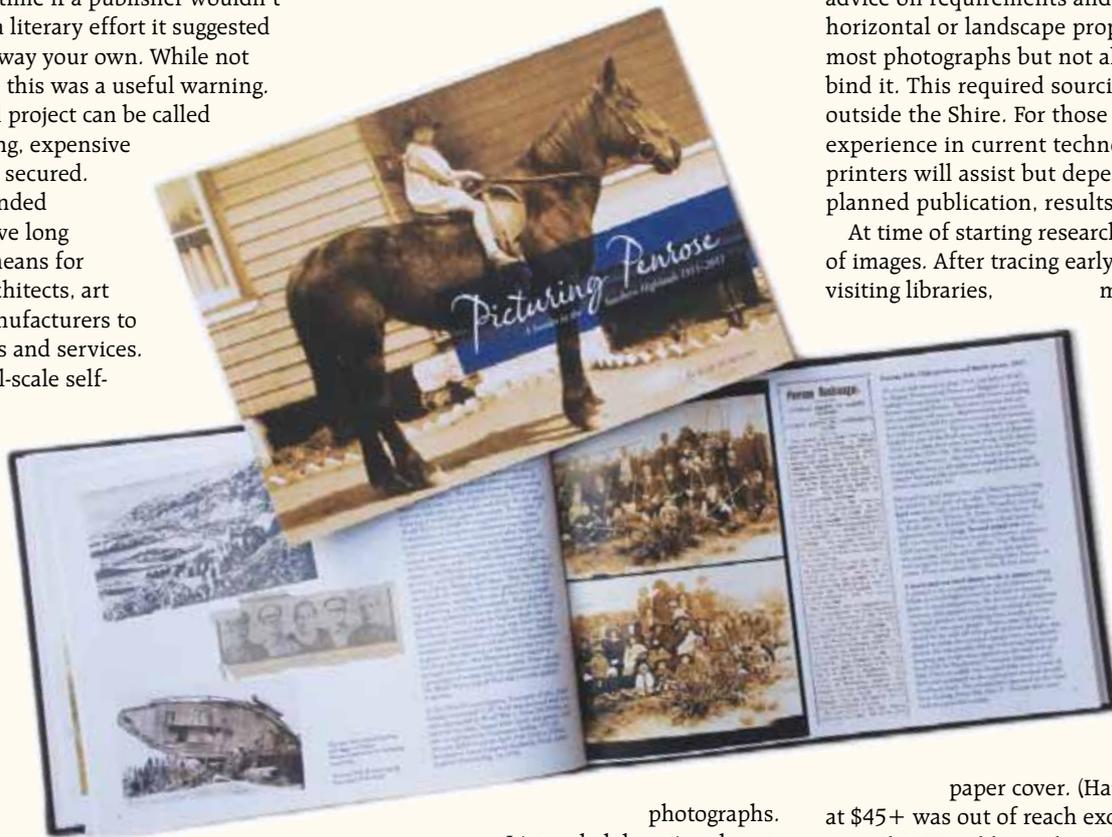
ONCE UPON A time if a publisher wouldn't risk money on a literary effort it suggested folly to throw away your own. While not necessarily true this was a useful warning. The self-funded project can be called vanity publishing, expensive unless sales are secured. Even so, self-funded publications have long been a useful means for universities, architects, art dealers and manufacturers to market products and services. Nowadays small-scale self-publishing can be very satisfying, even if financially unprofitable, when you cover costs and your book is purchased and appreciated.

I was aware of possibilities, with some experience of writing and publishing, when asked to complete a local project. But let's first make a few assumptions. You have a worthwhile and appealing idea for a theme and content. You have spent considerable time producing a work: biography, memoir, history, fiction or fantasy. So will it make an original contribution to the genre? Can it find an interested readership? These are tough questions asked by trade publishers so ensure that a literary friend or manuscript assessor confirms as much. Now you are thinking of self-publishing because, you hear, submissions to commercial publishers have only a 1/2000 chance of being considered.

The difference nowadays is that authors can take control and self-publish on a scale within means, appealing to a specialist readership. Computerization, digital technology and print automation make small quantities more economical, and results can be outstanding. Now one does not need a publisher or bookshop, however helpful, to market your work. The Internet or post enables you to reach an audience. Economies of scale still apply (more copies cost less) but now one does not necessarily have to print on cheap paper in one colour.

Here is a brief case study of our effort, how it started to how it finished up. I can only summarise and will leave out minor hiccups. The following will not suit all topics but is food for thought.

Over a few years I recorded life stories of local seniors and copied their treasured



photographs.

I intended donating these to history archives for future reference. Then about two years ago Penrose Community Association (PCA) asked me to make a book of them to nurture local spirit. As this involved considerable cost and perspiration I wondered about potential interest. Only 130 people or so collect mail at our sub-post office and a previous history was still in circulation. However a grant from Wingecarribee Council made the idea feasible. We applied for and received one almost sufficient to finance printing in colour. I agreed to do the work gratis, a condition of funding, and our postmistress handling counter sales was also unpaid. Six families gave permission to publish their stories, sufficient for one section so I combined these with a more general illustrated history. I think images with economical colour digital printing enhance history text and appeal to a wider readership.

Writing history might be less difficult than other genres but – as my patient wife can confirm – it is labour intensive. Sourcing and copying pictures adds another major element. As a wild guess the completed work involved about 1500+ hours and as many kilometres in travel. I persuaded our daughter – bless her heart – to donate months of spare time designing much of the visual format. Two generous friends, one your JCG editor, laboriously highlighted inconsistencies invisible to me.

Well before completion, at least with more complex design, you need to establish format, contact printers for quotes and

advice on requirements and costs. A4 horizontal or landscape proportion suits most photographs but not all printers can bind it. This required sourcing a printer outside the Shire. For those without experience in current technology larger printers will assist but depending on your planned publication, results and costs vary.

At time of starting research I had a score of images. After tracing early families, visiting libraries, museums and archives there were over 300 photographs to choose from. I put together 35,000 words of text. The smallest hamlet can be crowded with stories. Ours came to just under 100 pages including a heavier

paper cover. (Hard-back binding at \$45+ was out of reach except for several specials). We addressed a couple of meetings at the Hall to outline progress and encourage interest. I conducted a mini-market survey, posting out a colour mailer and coupon to residents and contributors to get some idea of how many to print. Our mailer and digital art cost an extra few hundred dollars. We had 200 books printed with a sale price of \$25 per copy. This would recoup costs, allow for complimentary copies to donors and libraries, with a few hundred dollars left for the PCA to distribute to community groups. As it turned out we slightly underestimated interest and I made only a couple of errors, phew! To our delight most were happy with the result, I was a neighborhood celebrity for a few minutes and we sold out in eight weeks.

I could have added anecdotes about false leads, storms in teacups and a disappointment or two but that would be churlish. As with life in general there are so many charitable souls to help you realize a worthwhile idea.

—Keith McMenomy



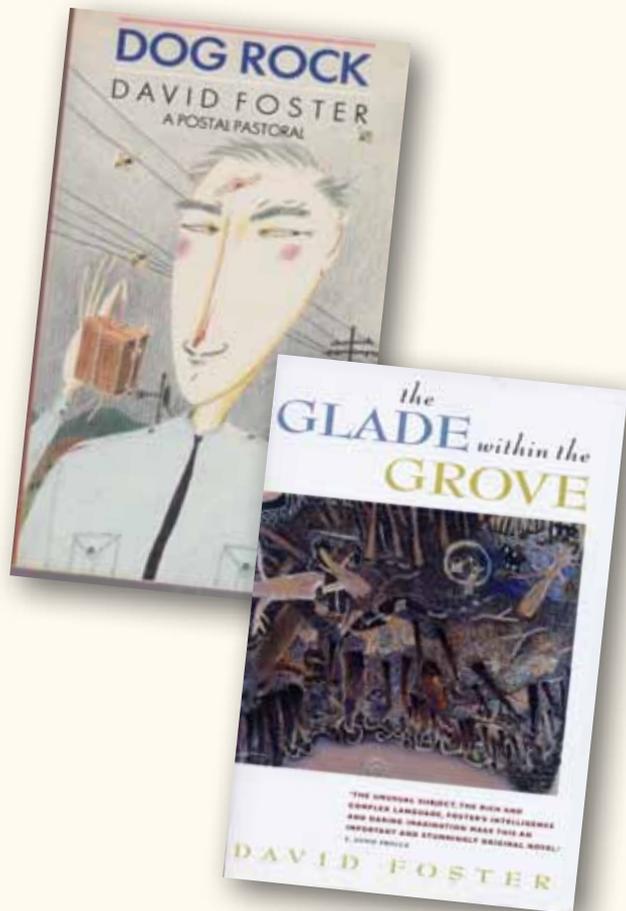
David Foster: writer, postman, satirist

DAVID FOSTER AND his wife Gerda have been living in Bundanoon since 1974. At first glance, there might seem to be a kind of 'postman thread' running through Foster's life: David worked as a postman in Bundanoon for many years (an experience which found expression in his great postman-detective character D'Arcy D'Oliveres of the *Dog Rock* trilogy) and lives in the century-old stone cottage of Bundanoon's original post mistress, Miss Tobin. He has also worked as a jazz drummer and prawn fisherman, is a gifted naturalist and beekeeper and has a PhD in biological inorganic chemistry. He and his wife Gerda have pursued virtual self-sufficiency since the seventies, passing on much useful knowledge and tasty recipes in their book *A Year of Slow Food* (2002).

David is a writer who has received many prestigious awards (e.g. the Miles Franklin and Patrick White awards) and is acclaimed as one of Australia's leading novelists. Andrew Riemer, senior literary critic of the Sydney Morning Herald, has called him Nobel-Prize-winner Patrick White's 'worthy successor'. He has also been shortlisted for prestigious international awards like the Dublin Impac Award and the Prix d'Italia. Yet even he, as he says, has 'never made a profit on any book'.

David in fact sees both the novel and the book itself as being in serious decline. Commercial publishing realities and the shorter attention spans of a time-poor, screen-focussed society are the main reasons for this ominous development.

However, looking back, he is thankful for the fact that he and his generation of novelists and poets (like Tranter, Adamson, Murray, Bail, Carey, Malouf) have had 'a dream run' in terms of receiving both a free quality education in the fifties and sixties and government scholarships and writing grants in the seventies and eighties. In contrast, he says publishers today just want you to write the same commercially successful book over and over again. (His most successful book in terms of sales was *The Glade Within the Grove*,



one of the six of his 13 novels he sees as his most significant: the *Dog Rock* trilogy, *Moonlite*, *Plumbum*, *Mates of Mars* and *Sons of the Rumour*).

David sees himself as essentially a satirist by temperament, a comic writer without being a comic person by nature ('a little like Spike Milligan'). He does not read for entertainment but to learn from great novelists. For him a good novel is 'a window on how another mind works', the reader inhabiting a different mind space at the end of the novel. A favourite writer is the great Roman satirist Juvenal, whom he reads in the original Latin and who for David is a solace, a writer who is 'not perfect' but who, after 2000 years, 'is still there', and whose acerbic comments on the decadence of Rome seem 'eerily familiar' today.

He finds writing novels a struggle, but a rewarding one. Never happy with what he has written, he re-reads everything before beginning writing, working on each page again and again, 'fattening' as he calls it. He describes his style with characteristic ambiguity as 'masculine' yet 'sentimental', 'hard-hearted' yet providing 'a laugh if a laugh is on offer'. His work is scholarly, mystical, ideas-driven, and yet deeply rooted in Australian working class vernacular and wit.

Foster has written of a fictionalised Bundanoon in his *Dog Rock* trilogy, the third of which, *The Man of Letters*, was published in 2012. In these three novels fictionalising Bundanoon he says he has documented the death of a small rural community in the early eighties, a community in which there were once five postal staff for a community of about 300. And one of them might have been D'Arcy D'Oliveres, or David Foster.

—Peter Lach-Newinsky

How to be a Mag-a-star

ONCE UPON A time I seriously considered buying a stable of motoring magazines whose main point of difference was the topless girls who ever so elegantly graced every hotrod and chopper. Just as well I piked because they didn't survive as so many more worthy publications have failed to endure.

Yet in an age of declining print media and an embarrassment of unemployed journo's the ambition to be a writer persists in so many souls. How does one write for magazines, is it different to writing for a newspaper?

Yes and no. The real difference is between writing news and a feature article. Newspapers have both. A news story gets to the point straight away, a feature or magazine article can approach its subject indirectly with an interesting but relevant anecdote, statistic or fact. A news story is top down, a feature can be bottom or sideways up. Humour and pathos are great ways to start a magazine piece.

If this article was a news story it would have begun something like "The first rule of magazine writing is to find a publisher" but instead it made a mildly pathetic attempt to draw you into the article with a reference to topless girls. There's half the readership lost in the first paragraph. I never claimed to be a *good* scribe.

So far in this piece I have broken two cardinal rules of magazine writing. The first is to use the personal pronoun "I" (but only once). The second is to use italics for emphasis. So many aspiring writers write in the first person but it is to be avoided except where it is necessary to relate a personal experience. Similarly, using italics, capital or bold letters and underlining for emphasis is to be done very, very sparingly. Using such devices for emphasis does not demonstrate writing skill but rather the lack of it. Let the words do the work and let the sub-editor decide if any graphic devices are needed.



A news story is top down, a feature can be bottom or sideways up. Humour and pathos are great ways to start a magazine piece.



Harvey Grennan

Another cardinal rule is to keep to the editor's brief and stipulated word length. Only so many words can fit into the space that has been allocated. And no, the pictures can't be made smaller to squeeze in your priceless pearls of wisdom because the first rule for the *editor* (those bloody italics again) is to make the page look good. Pictures do that, not grey slabs of copy.

Complete your research before you start writing, although you may jot down an interesting opening gambit if one pops into your mind. If you have all the facts in your head (and the detail in your notes) the story often almost writes itself once you have conceived the opening.

Strive to make your article entertaining and easy to read as well as informative and accurate. An article can be too heavy with facts; it needs some "air" to make it digestible and to flow seamlessly. This requires

discipline because you have to leave out facts that you may consider important. You have to decide what's *really* important (oh dear, again) and allow room for engaging the reader.

Finally, if you want to keep the sub-editor happy, go through your copy one last time and delete all the redundancies, tighten up the copy where you can, and get rid of all those pretentious capital letters on titles, all honorifics and all unnecessary commas, "also's" and "but's". If there is a simpler word or phrase use it unless you are seeking a particular nuance.

Or, better still, get a job as a photographer on a motoring magazine.

—Harvey Grennan

Harvey Grennan is a veteran journalist. He currently writes a regular local government column for the Sydney Morning Herald and contributes feature articles to House & Garden.

FAW – A Refuge for the Writer

PICTURE THE FRUSTRATED novelist, working alone, uncertain whether his villain should shoot the voluptuous blonde or be shot by her; picture his delight when he encounters another writer with whom he can discuss plot lines, motivation and characterisation.

"I may never become a 'successful' writer," says playwright Jan Kenny of Bundanoon, "but I'm having a hell of a lot of fun trying."

What has given Jan, and other local writers Ken Challenor, Ron Jones, Gabrielle Calov-Stewart, Jennifer Crozier and Margaret Symonds, so much encouragement and enjoyment? They readily agree it's their membership of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, founded in 1928, with Mary Gilmore in the chair at its first meeting.



The stated aims of FAW include:

- fostering and endorsing the growth of Australian writing
- promoting excellence in writing
- encouraging those interested in writing to join the Fellowship and enjoy the support, help and knowledge of members
- taking the Fellowship into the 21st century, taking advantage of technology and its new role in writing and publishing.

Branches of FAW hold regular meetings, conduct workshops and tutorials, hold writing competitions and publish anthologies of members' work; members enthusiastically take part in related community activities such as Bundanoon's Crash Test Drama.

The Southern Highlands Branch, celebrating its tenth birthday this year, was founded in April 2004, by the then State President, Ken Challenor, a recipient of the FAW's Distinguished Service Award. Invited to comment on the significance of membership of FAW, poet Ken Challenor says, "Writing of any sort is a solitary activity. Writers of creative fiction and poetry are totally reliant on their inspiration and creative talent. Authors, like other people, need to discuss their work, and to relax with other like-minded people. The FAW provides the opportunity for writers to communicate their feelings of hope, success, failure and enthusiasm with other writers who understand their needs. Writing is a time-consuming, difficult, and frustrating art, and the FAW is a refuge for the writer."

Jan Kenny speaks warmly of meeting fellow members each month. "For me," she says, "FAW has been akin to a giant key which has unlocked the creative writing areas of my being. The process is entirely enjoyable and satisfying."

Short story writer and playwright Ron Jones comments, "Creative writing is a lonely pursuit; this is necessarily so because you need to shut out this world and build your own, at least for a while. FAW is somewhere you can mix with people who understand such odd behaviour."

Poet, story-teller and artist Gabrielle Calov-Stewart observes, "FAW has made my writing bloom! Encouraging me to complete pieces in many forms has made me push myself."

Jennifer Crozier, poet and story-teller, says, "Belonging to the FAW is, for me, a way of life. With its enduring structure, it provides opportunity for not only improving one's own writing skills but to learn from fellow members. It provides a platform for producing many allied literary achievements that would otherwise not have been possible."

Ron Jones emphasises the importance of literary criticism: he stresses the value of critiquing which is an essential part of the help offered to writers by the FAW. Ron also recognises, with amusement, the amount of self-discipline required from FAW members. "Being in FAW entails homework and deadlines; necessary irritants."

Local FAW writers, who share Ron's understanding of 'odd behaviour', meet on the third Saturday afternoon of every month (except January) from 1pm to 4pm in the Henrietta Rose Room of the Bowral Library. Enquiries may be directed to margsym@gmail.com.

—Margaret Symonds



Margaret Symonds



Young author

TYSON ROBB IS a budding young author / illustrator. He has recently completed the artwork for his children's story "The Frowning Farmer". Tyson enjoys writing because "You can let your imagination fly!". He likes to illustrate his own stories because "It's fun and your hand can relax to make some cool pictures." Tyson is hoping to have his story published as a hard copy that he can share with his younger sisters and friends.

'You have to go slightly mad to the world'

...the wisdom of Peter Lach-Newinsky who with Barbara, his wife, works a 20 acre property in Bundanoon where permaculture principles are practised. A man of many parts Peter is interested in preserving old apple and pear varieties and some 120 heirloom cultivars thrive on their property. His very wide ranging interests include the poetic dimensions and imaginative spaces social movements 'open up, occupy, then often ossify'. He's bilingual (German/English) and his poems and essays have been widely published in literary magazines and anthologies.

While writing and publishing is now a consuming interest it hasn't always been so. Although he has been interested in expressing himself poetically for much of his life it was not until relatively recent times that his first poem was accepted by a publisher. Three workshops (2007–2009) where he met other poets, published and unpublished, were important for him and helped him understand more fully the writing 'craft'. Publishable material (as opposed to self-published material) began to emerge with the support of his peers and friends.

The process is complex. In one of his Aphorisms Peter cites John Keats who suggested *Poets have no identities*. In another Peter agrees. *A poet is simply someone who isn't just 'stardust' but knows it*. This must be the approach to reality he adopts. *The wise gardener like the wise poet knows Paradise is a lot of work and a lot of letting go*. A poet like a gardener sets up the conditions sometimes without a full understanding of what happens during the 'non-egoic' creative and often spontaneous process that follows. He's a normal person who has 'poetic awareness'. He has no identity. He 'puts on

the mask' and, if you like, speaks through that mask's persona.

After often lengthy research, reflection and considerable, careful thought, drafting has the poet reading and rereading his writing and over time the poem may clarify itself! Where does the poem take the writer – the reader? What about the title? First and last lines? Attention grabbing? An effective poet is both serious and dedicated and knows his craft. Sometimes really great things emerge.

Publishing is important to the poet. As in the opening of a garden it is important to have the potential to share the poem's/garden's content with the reader/visitor. Despite an early start to writing it may take some time before his work is accepted and even then a published future may not be guaranteed.

Peter sees 'self-publishing', or 'vanity publishing', as ambivalent at best. Positively it allows voices to be heard that otherwise may not be – the democratisation of publishing – but it may have a negative effect, bringing 'quality control' into question. *The Southern Highlands Poetry Anthology*, containing several of his works and edited by him, was self-published (2013).

Peter's published works include *The Post-Man letters & other poems* (Picaro Press, 2010) and *Working with poetry* (co-authored with Martin Seletzky, Ferdinand Kamp Verlag, Germany, 1986), *The Knee Monologues and Other Poems* (Picaro Press, 2009) and *Requiem* (Picaro Press, 2012) and he has received a number of awards.

The Southern Highlands, Bundanoon and Peter's farm often inspire his writing and can enhance his poetic voice. *Summer Dam* – a case in point.

—Graeme Whisker



Peter with grandson Ollie

Summer Dam

The way reeds succumb to gravity's wind,
sky force propelling them water-wards,
soul-wards till all is grace & light

or a water lily open-handed
to the sun, flat paddle-leaved,
still as an emblem

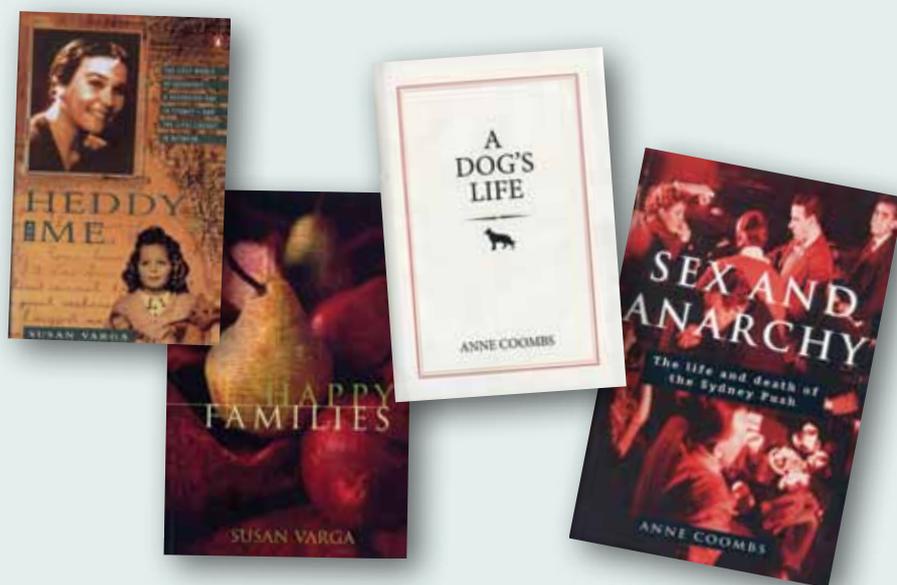
over the brown murk of water
flicked, tensing like the dun ripple
on a stallion's silk rump

marsh frogs clicking their pebbles
of territorial air, a cabbage white
jinking & reeling low, drunk

with shimmer, two dragonflies
reed-locked & pumping
their violent U, distant screeching

cockatoos planning their next blitz
on wattle seeds, apples, equanimity,
nature romantic to the urban mind.

—Peter Lach-Newinsky



SHARING THEIR LIVES and their careers as writers has produced a number of publications for Susan Varga and Anne Coombs who moved to Bundanoon more than 20 years ago. They came here seeking a quiet place to pursue their writing lives but they have both been active members of the Southern Highlands community in a number of organisations. Their professional expertise has been invaluable to Volunteering Wingecarribee and they were founding members of the local branch of Rural Australians for Refugees.

Their careers as writers began before they came to Bundanoon. Anne had already published her first book, after working as a journalist; Susan's first book – the acclaimed *Heddy and Me* – was finished a year after they moved to the Highlands. It subsequently won the Christina Stead Award for biography, and was shortlisted for several

Online: the future for news?

IT'S BEEN A grim picture for newspapers around the world for the last 15 years. Circulations steadily drifted south as readers' lifestyles have changed, smart mobile phones have flourished, and the once rich rivers of gold from the classifieds have dried up. The response has been a decade of shrinking newsrooms, and with it some would say, a fall in quality of reporting.

It began with job ads in the 2000s, as sites like Seek.com proved that it was much easier to fill jobs on-line. Then it was real estate, then cars, boats and just about anything else that could be put on ebay.

Retailers, once stalwarts of newspaper and magazine advertising, have embraced email, then Facebook and other social media as a way of reaching their communities of shoppers.

As a result newspaper revenues worldwide have slumped to between 10 to 15 per cent of the levels in their heyday.

The response by most newsrooms has been to try to get a foothold in the digital world by migrating their publications online and trying to win the race to be the number one site in important categories like real estate and jobs.



Sadly, most newspapers around the world have found this challenging. It's hard to pursue a business that's clearly cannibalising the old one.

In Australia the newspapers and television stations have done better than some of their offshore counterparts in building popular digital news sites. *The Sydney Morning Herald* is usually the top ranking news site in Australia with 2.95 million unique visitors a month, fighting it out with NineMSN, Yahoo7 and news.com.au as most popular.

But the problem to date has been: what's the business model? Until recently the content on most sites was free, and the rates paid for digital advertising much lower than the rates paid for a print ad. There's a saying in the industry: "turning print dollars into digital pennies."

Ad rates for digital ads are a fraction of the rates newspapers got for the same print audience, in many cases below 10 per cent. That's because there is unlimited space in the digital world and many more competitors.

But for media companies like Fairfax and News Ltd, 2013 has marked a turning point, with the introduction of "paywalls" which require readers of the digital content to subscribe after they reach a threshold of free stories.

The "metered paywall" was pioneered by the *New York Times* in January 2011. By the end of 2013, 56 per cent of the NYT's revenue was coming from readers with \$US150 million in new digital reader revenue annually. It has signed up 727,000 digital-only subscribers and it has transitioned its print subscribers to an all-access model —

and gotten an astounding number to link their print subscriptions to digital accounts.

In 2014 the NYT intends to tighten up its initially "leaky" paywall and put more paywalls around "premium content" to encourage readers to pay even more.

In Australia, the experiment with paywalls is relatively new, but figures released in February show that the strategy seems to be working here, with massive takeup of digital subscriptions.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* now has 83,558 digital-only subscribers on top of the 95,252 print-only subscribers on weekdays. A further 36,485 people have taken a bundle of both print and digital. Overall, paid circulation was up 15.8 per cent, with the Age up 19 per cent and the Australian up 4.4 per cent.

It remains to be seen if the subscription revenue will be enough to keep two digital media companies, Fairfax and News, alive in the long term. But the future is looking a little brighter for journalism as readers accept that nothing comes for free.

—Anne Davies

Anne Davies is a senior reporter at the Sydney Morning Herald (and daughter of jcg's editor)



A literary pair

other awards, including the NSW Premier's Award.

Anne's history of the notorious Sydney Push, *Sex and Anarchy*, was published three years later and also short-listed for several awards. Along the way came the novels *No Man's Land* (Anne) and *Happy Families* (Susan). The latter won both Braille book and talking book of the year.

They spent nearly a year away, in Broome, returning to Bundanoon to write their account of the town and their time there, in the controversial *Broometime*.

Anne took a break from writing to design and build three houses on what was then a

paddock on the corner of Railway Parade and William St, before going back to the keyboard to produce the short novel *A Dog's Life*.

Shortly after, Susan published her novel *Headlong*.

Both Anne and Susan have been regular contributors to Australia's leading literary magazine, *The Griffith Review*. A couple of years ago they moved a little further from town, to a property at Exeter, and both are trying new writing forms — poetry for Susan and screenwriting for Anne.

—PD





Through Ross-coloured glasses

by Ross Armfield

LATE LAST YEAR my son Thomas and I travelled to Melbourne. We decided not to fly, to avoid airport hassles, and not to drive because I'd done that many times and had never seen the countryside. So we chose to travel the scenic and convenient way, by train. Seats booked, bags packed, we departed from Moss Vale station at 9.20am, right on time. With comfy seats and good leg-room our great southern adventure began and were there some interesting sights? No, not the spectacular landscape whizzing past our large, clean window – I'm referring to that strange species known as 'fellow passengers'.

Prior to our trip I had concerns about the food and toileting facilities on offer. However the food was adequate and the toilets clean and handy, though they did require mastering a whole new set of skills – dealing with swaying, jostling, speeding, rapid slowing and morons knocking on the door despite the 'engaged' sign being more than obvious! That's a tale for another time. People never cease to equally amaze and annoy me. Of course there were many quiet, well mannered, courteous, helpful and friendly people on board, but others ranged from the loud and obnoxious through to the bizarre, and right up to those I doubt had ever sat on chairs before! There were people who spoke loudly to let everyone know where they were staying, who they knew and how wealthy they were. There were people who dropped rubbish everywhere and left it on seats as they alighted, and those who constantly complained and whinged. There was the man, who while nodding in time to the music through ear-pieces, continually scratched his scalp and (delicately put) 'played' with his nose – for hours!!! I think it was Jerry Seinfeld who said something like, "Other people – they're the worst!" He wasn't too wide of the mark with this lot. The saddest episode for me was a Grandma and Grandpa taking their grandkids to Cootamundra. Despite providing ice-creams (on demand!), pointing out landmarks and desperate and futile attempts to engage them in conversation, the youngsters barely lifted their heads from digital devices. They were missing wonderful scenery but, more importantly, missing a shared experience with Nan and Pa. It reminded me of a cruise on Sydney Harbour to celebrate the 40th birthday of an ex-pupil of mine. It was a calm, sunny day. The kids had the run of the launch, including helping the Captain in the wheelhouse. After about 45 minutes of cruising, the children were 'bored,' so some idiotic adults put on a DVD – *Finding Nemo*. Here were kids huddled around a screen watching an animated Sydney Harbour Bridge, Opera House, water traffic, seagulls and the like, while the launch sailed past the real thing! What on earth are we doing to our kids?

Our train pulled into Southern Cross Station. Despite the odd-bods, we enjoyed the adventure and looked forward to our return trip. Who knows, we might get to meet a new set of *jcg*-worthy characters and we'll have the certainty of seeing the journey's best scenery all over again – the Southern Highlands

This is the last 'Through Ross Coloured Glasses'. Although I wear my 'Grumpy Old Man' badge with some pride, you all deserve a break from my ranting for a while. Thanks to those who expressed some enjoyment of my column over the years. Thanks also to those it's annoyed but haven't let me know! The last one ever? Well, I am a great fan of Dame Nellie Melba and Johnny Farnham, let's leave it at that!

—Ross Armfield.

jcg wishes to thank Ross for his quarterly contribution to our magazine. His wry views on everyday occurrences and human behaviour have entertained us for six years. Ed

Triumph of the Ring

THE PURPOSE OF the trip to Melbourne was very special for me. Thomas and I were invited to see my brother Neil's production of Wagner's massive operatic masterpiece *Der Ring Des Nibelungen* (The Ring Cycle). This huge work is comprised of four individual (but linked by theme and narrative) operas totalling some sixteen and a half hours of music presented over an eight day period. I wondered how I would cope, appreciate or even understand what was taking place on stage. Until then my only knowledge of Wagner's music was from the soundtrack behind the helicopter attack on a Vietnamese village in the film *Apocalypse Now*. To overcome this gap in my



Neil and Ross Armfield

musical education I borrowed Neil's CD box-set of the complete work including a synopsis and libretto for each opera. For weeks before heading to Melbourne I devoured this wonderful, epic saga of great love, greed, treachery, heroes, gods, power, exploitation, revenge and destruction to the accompaniment of some of the most powerful and moving music I had ever heard. Wagner had based his epic work of love and the



plundering of Earth's resources on old Norse and Teutonic myths and legends (as had Tolkien and many of the storytellers and creators of fairy tales). The central theme is based around the all-powerful gold ring head dresses that change forms into anything desired – giants turned into dragons, a deep-sleep induced maiden trapped in a ring of fire and released only with a kiss from a worthy hero, and a magical sword embedded in a tree that only the right hero could draw out – are all there. I felt ready and could hardly wait.

The atmosphere in the Melbourne Arts Centre was electric. The 130 piece orchestra had tuned, the conductor's arms were raised and the curtain went up to the swelling chords representing the powerfully flowing Rhine River. Our eyes were met by hundreds of cast members lying on a slow turning revolve like a human pizza gradually coming to life. A huge cantilevered mirror sloped incredibly over the stage so you could view them from above as well. Golden light showered the stage as the three Rhine maidens took us away. Four years in the making, this dramatic, musical spectacular had begun. The audience was comprised of local, national and international patrons – many of them Ring Cycle 'groupies,' seeing this work for the 'umpteenth' time. I got to know the people sitting near us very well as you had the same seats for the four operas. By the week's end we were swapping phone numbers and enquiring about each other's health problems! Everyone was completely 'blown away' by this amazing production with its sparse staging, stunning sets and design, powerful music and beautiful singing. The traditional winged helmets, breastplates and battle-axes were gone. It was a fresh and clever re-imagining of the timeless themes involved. The week flew as we eagerly awaited each of the operas in turn. Finally, it was the last curtain call with the cast and whole orchestra coming onstage to take a bow. Opera Australia and the whole creative team had done it!

For me, it had been a huge learning curve. It was a real privilege to have had the opportunity to be a witness to this magical, memorable event. Many were moved to tears by its sheer beauty. My heart swelled for my brother – such an amazing directorial landmark in his career. So proud!

—Ross Armfield



Friends of Bundanoon Park

MOST AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL towns have a spacious, well maintained park where residents and visitors enjoy passive recreation and exercise, such as picnics and family games, walking, or jogging. Often this is also the site for sporting facilities and community buildings, as is the case in Bundanoon, where the surrounds of the sports oval beside Erith Street serve as our principal town park. With stately native and exotic trees set in grassed areas it is increasingly popular with walkers and has further potential for passive recreation. Wingecarribee Shire Council maintenance occurs throughout the year, with especially thorough preparations prior to the 'Brigadoon' gathering in autumn.

Many readers will be aware there have been changes implemented and developments proposed for the park, with limited community consultation, leading to divisions among residents. Council's Vision Statement expounds the importance of effective communication with the community and to foster this a number of concerned residents and park users plan to establish a "Friends of Bundanoon Park" association. Our aims are to facilitate improved two-way communication with Council regarding the park's future, and after community discussions to lobby broadly acceptable improvements to the park that will expand its usage, particularly for low-intensity exercise and passive recreation. A particular need for such a community

advocate may arise shortly when Council's draft Plan of Management is displayed for public comment.

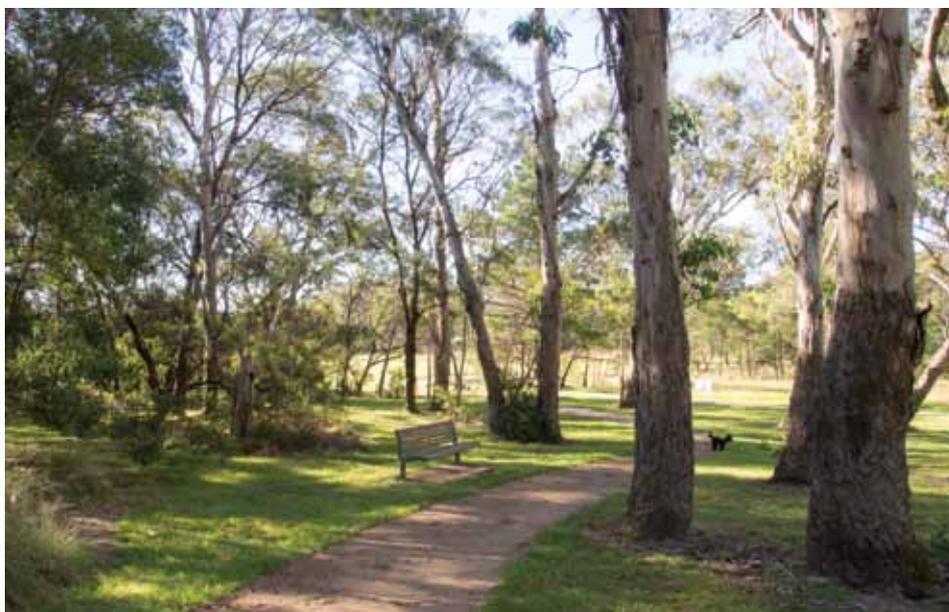
An informal steering group for the proposed "Friends of Bundanoon Park" met recently with Council officers responsible for management of the park. We explored ways to develop a mutually respectful but productive relationship whereby the community learns of Council plans at the earliest possible stage and Council gains a sounding board in the community specific to park developments. It is hoped this latter will provide a source of advice highlighting the collective interests of all users. The meeting was very positive and promises well for the future.

Our next steps are to consult other stakeholders in the park, and to investigate how we best establish ourselves in parallel with them. Then we plan a public meeting where "Friends of Bundanoon Park" would be launched and, if appropriate, an executive committee elected. The meeting date and place will be widely advertised.

Meanwhile, we seek comments from residents via one or other of the contacts below, and we invite you to join us as "Foundation Friends" by providing your contact details. Initially there is no membership fee – we would prefer to continue operating as informally and inexpensively as is consistent with effectiveness.

Ray Binns 4883 6069; Jo Young 4883 7499; Pieter Kwint 4883 7376; Liane Hutchison 4883 7276.

Email: friendsofbundanoonpark@live.com
Postal: PO Box 161, Bundanoon 2578.



moving in

Full circle

FOR KENDALL EATON her future is all about her past. She was raised in Bundanoon from the age of 6 and met her future husband, Dan, here. Kendall met Dan as a teenager. His family holidayed in Bundanoon from their home in Mudgee. At some time she gave Dan her phone number but more about that later. After finishing her education at Moss Vale High School, the gypsy in Kendall took hold and she began the first of many moves away from the Highlands. Her first adventure took her to the Gold Coast. She came back home for a short while before moving to Bowral where she worked at Coffee Culture. With a girlfriend, she then moved to Bairnsdale in Victoria, living in a caravan for three months. From there it was off to Melbourne where she lived for three years in Hawthorn, thoroughly enjoying the city life – great entertainment and shopping opportunities.

One day Kendall found a missed call on her phone and although not recognising the number, returned the call – amazingly it turned out to have been from Dan but he hadn't intentionally dialled her number. It was a wonderful example of serendipity. A long-distance relationship followed for three months but they realised that they had to be together. They moved back to the Highlands, Kendall back to her parents and Dan to live with friends. They dated for a year before marrying and then the time came for yet another move, this time to Port Pirie in South Australia.



Port Pirie, home of the world's largest lead smelter, was a huge culture shock for the couple. Life was difficult due to the lack of work available for Dan, a painter and carpenter, so after two years and the birth of their first child, Eva, the decision was made to relocate again. This time the family moved to the Yarra Valley in Victoria. Life was good, for a while, Kendall's sister was there, Dan found plenty of work in Melbourne and their second daughter, Meka (now aged three), was born. Another short but successful period was spent in Perth with Dan's brother and although tempting, the cost of a permanent move, along with distance from their parents,

brought them back east.

A desire to be properly settled before Eva started school, and to be closer to family, brought Kendall and Dan home to Bundanoon, where it all began. Their gypsy lifestyle is now behind them and they are thrilled to be living here once more. Eva, who is now five is loving kindergarten at Bundanoon Primary School. The other attractions to this area for the family are the peacefulness, the wonderful community, friendliness of the locals and the weather – at least for Dan. Home at the moment is rented accommodation but hopefully soon they will be able to buy their first home.

—Sandy Mackenzie

photography group

Before and After

BUNDANOON PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP has been busy recently taking photographs around Bundanoon and Morton National Park. We are working on a project of 'Before and After' photos with the aim to create a book. Many of the photos we are working with are over 100 years old and it has been fun and a learning curve to try

and recreate them.

We meet every second Monday at the Bundanoon Club at 5.30pm – if you would like to join our group please e-mail: j-pbrown@bigpond.net.au.



Choose fun!

SOMETIMES LIFE GETS very earnest. Perhaps we have become preoccupied by our responsibilities in the workplace or as a parent. It may be that the advent of some unexpected upset, illness, grief or unplanned event suddenly consumes or overwhelms us. Our life shrinks down to survival and just getting through the day. The last thing we feel like doing is injecting some fun into our day.

We may have been taught by those who would like to direct our behaviour – people who have authority over us, or marketers and advertisers who want to control our spending and consumption habits – that having fun is something that is defined for us by someone else. We may have been carefully instructed that we have to earn our right to have fun. Either we have to pay for it by doing something else first, or we have to pay for it with money – which is just another form of doing something else first. The message is that fun is a reward and

that we are not entitled to have fun without a precondition, that fun is not a natural state. And to a large extent we accept this as true.

We unconsciously take on these ideas and they begin to shape our expectations and our ability to have fun. We act as if these preconditions are true and that we can only have fun "if..." We might believe that fun can be had if we drive a certain car, have plenty of money, have the right friends, take a holiday, or if we change our circumstances in some way. "If only" I had these things, I would be able to have fun. No fun



until the work is done!

Yet, our minds, bodies and spirits are made to delight in being alive and there are no preconditions to having fun – not one. We are human beings. We are literally built to have fun. Our sensory systems are designed to relish life. Enjoying life – its tastes, sounds, aromas, sights, our tactile senses – all provide ways for us to know how to stay healthy, resilient and feel fully alive. Having fun relaxes us, gives us space to reflect, consolidates learning, connects us with others, embeds memories and shows us how to promote our wellbeing. We can have fun, just as a child has fun, with whatever we've got and just as we are. We don't have to do or be anything else first.

Having spent weeks this year in rehabilitation after two knee replacements, I was delighted to see many of my fellow patients choosing to have fun with their recoveries instead of wincing and complaining about shared pain and limitations. Joking and laughing at ourselves and our feeble efforts to flex, bend or straighten various bodily bits, made the days light and breezy. To believe we could only have fun in a pain-free and physically easy environment would have destined us to several weeks of misery. It would have been a 'nonsense' – a disconnect from our innate ability to feel fully alive and connected to our senses.

Our capacity to have fun with the challenges we face is an inherent personal choice. It is not to deny the difficulties we encounter but to embrace them and, while doing so, find some greater capacity within ourselves that allows us to not define ourselves by the current challenge, grief, disappointment or upset. Discovering our capacity to have fun in the midst of such adversities is essential to our happiness and sense of wellbeing.

So, choose to have fun!

—Petrea King, Author, *Your Life Matters*
CEO and Founder, *Quest for Life Centre*

Healing hands

STUDYING ONCOLOGY MASSAGE was an unexpected specialization for Zenta Zebergs who lives in Bundanoon.

Massage therapy and its relationship to cancer has undergone a profound shift as research has shown that specially developed techniques provide relief from some of the symptoms of living with cancer as well as the side effects of cancer treatment, including pain, fatigue, anxiety, nausea and depression.

Training in Oncology Massage educates the massage therapist to adapt conventional techniques while being mindful of any particular contraindications

As a qualified Oncology Massage therapist Zenta is able to provide safe and effective treatment not only for people living with a current diagnosis of cancer but also for those with a past history whose lymphatic systems remain compromised as a result of surgery, lymph node removal or side-effects of treatment.

For Zenta, training in Oncology Massage has also opened the door for her interest in providing massage to those requiring palliative care, something she finds particularly rewarding. *Gentle Touch Massage* is also appropriate for frail or disabled patients.

Zenta has found massage as a vocation after a long and diverse life-journey that has always been connected in some way to working in a caring profession. She says "I am aware of the need we all have for nurturing, finding inner calm and

gentle reprieve from the many layers of suffering and tension we may experience.

Providing massage therapy, whether it be Swedish, Oncology or Gentle Touch is such a peaceful way to help people, I am pleased that I can extend the simplicity of mindful touch, and grateful for the training I have received that enables me to offer this complementary support to the wider community."

Zenta has a practice in Bundanoon and is also available for home visits when required. For further information she can be contacted by email at zentazebergs@bigpond.com or by phone on 0405 056 112.

—PD



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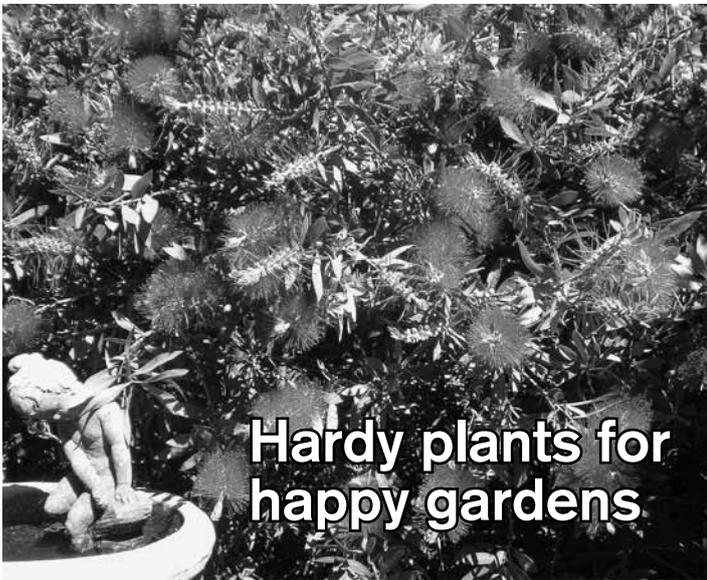
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Hardy plants for happy gardens

GARDENING IN THE Southern Highlands is both rewarding and difficult. On the one hand we have cooler weather and quite good soil, while on the other we face a constant battle with rabbits, frost and fierce winter winds.

That's why we need to understand what to plant. For example, beware! - don't do what I did a few months ago when I planted a row of small photinias, dreaming of an elegant hedge, only to discover a short time later that my little rabbit friends had managed to eat every single leaf off every plant overnight!

Having moved here from a less rural area, I was a 'rabbit illiterate' but I'm now much wiser. I was also unprepared for the fierceness of the winter winds, which seemed to blow straight off the Snowy Mountains. Sadly, Jack Frost transformed a prize camellia into a brown mottled mess.

That's when I knew it was time to do some research on hardy plants. I figured that rabbits have habits that need to be overcome by human ingenuity.

Firstly, never plant anything too small, especially if it has tender, gastronomically inviting young leaves within reach of a rabbit. If you need to plant a young tree with rabbit attractive foliage, a chicken-wire protection guard is very useful. Choose plants that have a fragrance that rabbits don't like, such as lavender and rosemary.

As for the winds and frost, there's not a lot one can do about that except to choose hardy, wind-proof plants and make sure, if still young and easily bent, that they are staked.

The most intelligent approach is to look around your neighbourhood and see what grows well and which plants have survived for years in the local gardens. You'll probably begin to see a pattern you can follow.

Conifers are a good choice. They have hardy, needle-like foliage which repels wind and frost. Just note all the rural properties in this area where conifers have been used to provide wind breaks since early settlement.

Conifers come in all shapes, sizes and leaf colour making them perfect for every type of garden environment, from dwarf conifers to tall hedges.

Interestingly, camellias, azaleas and roses can actually be extremely hardy in most cases. I've seen camellias in this area as tall as trees, obviously having survived for decades and still flowering every year.

Here's a short list of hardy shrubs and small trees which should survive well in this area: Abelia schumannii, Azalea, Buddleia davidii, Banksia, Bottlebrush (Callistemon species), Californian Lilac, Camellia, Crabapple, Crepe Myrtle, Dogwood, Golden Robinia, Gordonia, Irish Strawberry Tree, Japanese Maple, Lavender, Lilac, Mahonia, Ornamental Cherry, Pencil Pine, Rhododendron, Roses and Rosemary.

Of course this area is also marvellous for growing all kinds of bulbs, especially Bluebell, Daffodil, Iris, Hyacinth, Jonquil and Tulip.

For larger trees, try Cape Chestnut, Liquidambar, Magnolia, Pin Oak, Maidenhair Tree and Silver Birch.

—Jill Lovett



Vet's casebook

by Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

Two rare but important diseases for humans, birds and cats

MANY OF US living in semi-rural areas and even the city are enthralled by the presence of Australian parrots in our back gardens. The large number of species and wide ranging variety of colours make them an interesting study, even for non-ornithologists who simply appreciate their beauty. Some people realise that feeding the parrots on a bird-tray soon encourages their daily visits, as a readily available food-source means less effort has to be put in by the birds to forage naturally.

Herein lies the problem. Firstly, bird-tray-feeding encourages birds to become lazy and unfit. As with humans, excess food intake and a lack of exercise leads to ill-health in birds. Tray feeding also attracts weak birds, which in the parrot family is likely to be caused by an organism called *Chlamydia Psittacii* also known as *Psittacosis*. Affected birds slowly lose weight, become weak and as their organs degenerate, often, unfortunately die. Sick birds sit around close to the food, all the time shedding the germ into the environment, also creating a human health hazard!

Yes, unfortunately *Psittacosis* is a zoonotic disease meaning it can be transferred from birds to humans. It happens when the *Chlamydia Psittacii* is breathed in, commonly when mowing under trees or a feeding tray. The dust created by the mower is breathed in by the operator. This actually happened to a good client of mine some years ago. He started with a cough that was unable to be fixed, proceeding to profound liver failure. He spent years off work. Quite a few family pet parrot owners have related their personal stories of *Psittacosis* disease to me...some mild but others severe.

Prevention:

- Avoid feeding wild birds, especially parrots
- Wear a mask when mowing
- Avoid picking up injured wild parrots without mask and gown.
- Remember that parrots hit by a car are most likely to be sick. Handle them with care

Treatment:

Seek medical treatment for chronic coughs or lung disease. Tell your doctor if you have parrots in the vicinity. *Psittacosis* requires a specific antibiotic for treatment.

Why not get all the gloom and doom over in one go? Did anyone ever tell you that **lilies are fatal to cats**? This may sound surprising but I can go further by saying that **all parts of all lilies** are completely toxic to **all** cats. This means that if you have lilies in the garden or a flower arrangement inside the house, all your cat has to do is to brush against the pollens, or ingest a petal, or any part of the lily, and he or she will suddenly become very sick and die of kidney failure within 2 to 7 days. This must be watched with cats that are kept totally indoors. They tend to become bored and playful/naughty and at these times they could knock over a vase or upset a basket of dried petals, chew the contents and become lethargic and sick. Pollen from lilies can get on their coats and be licked off while grooming, which will cause poisoning.

We recently had a case and no amount of intravenous drip or treatment could reverse the kidney damage. I'm telling the story, not to upset you, but to help you to prevent this happening to your cat.

Prevention is the only way with lily poisoning...there just isn't any cure!

I promise a happy story next issue.

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CWA report

WELCOME TO 2014 everyone!

When our President Kath Smith and I spoke on the phone about this article I must have been suffering from post-Christmas lassitude. Apparently I said to her Well...nothing much to report, then....?" Not so! Read on.

I must thank "Tree Tops" for again providing the happy Christmas Lunch in December.

The food, atmosphere and service are always lovely and the company numerous and jolly. In lieu of gifts we opted for a donation to Youth off the Streets (YOTS) Christmas appeal for homeless youths.

Also, we welcomed two new members and look forward to some fresh input.

Mid-January is invariably livened by our open-to-all "Friendship Day". Again, attendance was good. Our Wollondilly Group President, Suzanne Garrett gave an inspiring talk about her involvement with the ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) Projects Committee and topped it with a wonderful power point presentation on her recent visit to India.

On 11 February we welcomed two English visitors, ladies from our sister branch, the High Hurstwood (East Sussex) Women's Institute. We have been corresponding with them for years and we were delighted to meet them.

On Saturday 15 February we had our Southern Highlands Get-together in Mittagong. This is a great opportunity to meet old friends and to discuss various plans and activities for the coming months.

Also in February, Ania (out International Officer) attended the International Study School in Canberra. As mentioned in previous reports, each year CWA studies a country as a symbol of our aim to promote tolerance and goodwill for all. After the glamour of Morocco last year I felt a little less enthusiasm to hear this year we'll be looking at Botswana, so I decided to investigate. Well –



Visit from two members of High Hurstwood Women's Institute to Bundanoon. Left to right: Margaret, Gwenneth, Brenda (WI), June (WI), Audrey and Anna.

Botswana is bordered by Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. It achieved democratic rule in 1966 and since then has been a relatively peaceful place. But – pay attention here – it boasts the third richest diamond-bearing deposit in the world!

Come on girls! This is good stuff for presentations on our group's International Days!

On a more personal note, our group provided afternoon tea for Judith Berry (now living in Queensland) and her family. Her husband, Don, passed away just before Christmas and this was a celebration for his birthday.

Monday 3 March was the Wollondilly Group Meeting in Kangaroo Valley. These meetings are always well attended for the diversity of subjects and ideas tabled.

Looking ahead, two members will attend our annual State Conference to be held in Griffith.

Well, I was wrong! There's a lot happening.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month, with lunch provided and chatting from 12 noon. The meeting gets under way at 1pm and usually lasts one to two hours.

Hope to see you there.

—Francesca Gunesch, Publicity Officer

men's shed

Road trip

7.45 AM. A steady trickle of vehicles arrives at Burgess St through the mist. Some cursory farewell kisses from the women drivers, the occasional one in dressing gown, and members of BMS emerge, some munching a piece of toast, ready to set out on another bus trip.

This time the destination is the Goulburn steam-operated pumping station on the Wollondilly. A few hurried phone calls to round up stragglers and we're off.

On board, constant hubbub, some serious, mostly jocular. A bit like a school excursion. Then unexpectedly, we turn off the highway and head towards Bungonia. The mystery component of the trip starts to be disclosed as we pull up at Bungonia Lookdown – the valley below is full of cloud. Can't see a thing. The BMS artists hurriedly photograph trees in mist suitable for later reworking in oils.

Morning tea at The Bakery in Goulburn. The week's pocket money spent and we're off to our main destination. Beautiful setting, gleaming pipes and valves, the superseded technology that brings tears to the eyes of our engineers.

Lunch at Goulburn Men's Shed. How many buildings do they have – a shed for each machine? Two dining rooms, a toilet block with showers. Their own vegetable garden. A mini hardware store!

The final surprise! We file into the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery to take in a bit of culture – the Archibald exhibition. The BMS artists discuss technique and ways the portraits could have been improved and quietly check closing dates for entries for next prize.

Last port of call, Goulburn Services Club for refreshment. Back on board for resumption of chat and planning for the next trip.

Another day in the life of Bundanoon Men's Shed.

—Evan Smith, 4883 6753



Men's Shed members visiting the Goulburn steam operated pumping station



Graham Leech

JCG WAS BUT one segment of the community saddened by the passing of Graham Leech. Graham made a significant contribution to the magazine, particularly its production and distribution process, a task for which he was particularly well qualified after a lifetime in the printing industry.

Graham was born an only child in Watford, England some 77 years ago. After leaving school he worked in his grandfather's printing works in Watford which set up the printing ink in his veins which would fashion his life's journey. Wanting to gain further experience in the printing world he moved to the United States for a few years, then came to Sydney 42 years ago. He was in printing and publishing all of his working life, Fairfax Media being the longest and most interesting engagement.

Upon retirement Graham and Angela came to Bundanoon in 2000. After spending a week at Solar Springs they were so impressed with the area, the countryside, the real estate and the accessibility to the city and the coast that they decided this

was where they wanted to spend their retirement years.

Graham was an active member of BCA; he will be especially remembered for his term as membership secretary, during which membership doubled. He was largely responsible for the vastly improved medical backup which we now enjoy, which stemmed from the BCA defibrillation sub-committee which Graham led. A lover of music, Graham sang with the Bundanoon Voices choir, and then *Serendipity: the choir*. In everything he did there was meticulous attention to detail.

Graham was an active member of the Bundanoon Men's Shed, a member of the Iona Community church and, more recently, Treasurer of and heavily involved in the Bundanoon RSL sub-branch.

Altogether an amazing contribution from a modest man. A severe stroke last year tragically brought all this to an end; Graham passed away in Warrigal Care on December 30. He is survived by his wife Angela and his children, Christopher, Deborah, Kate and Lucy.



Ned Ward

ALL WHO KNEW Ned Ward, or Derek to be more correct, will remember a great character and a charming man.

Often seen around the village and at community events, Ned was a person of keen wit and infectious enthusiasm. He was an active member of the Bundanoon Men's Shed from its inception, believing that it was really important for retired men to have a cheerful place to meet. He was Publicity Officer for a couple of years, then a regular Shed Supervisor.

Ned was the committee member responsible for monthly speakers at the Moss Vale Combined Probus Club.

Bundanoon History Group members knew Ned well, in recent years as the man who smilingly handed out the membership badges at meetings, the ever-loyal back-up to his wife Marianne during her three-year term as President. He had a deep interest in history at all levels.

Ned was born in Atherton on 1 September 1936. His father was a country teacher, so they moved often; Ned's early education

was in Dad's one-teacher schoolroom.

At 16 he joined the RAAF, where he spent 20 years, the highlight being sent to London – with just three days' notice – to help develop a new air-defence radar system.

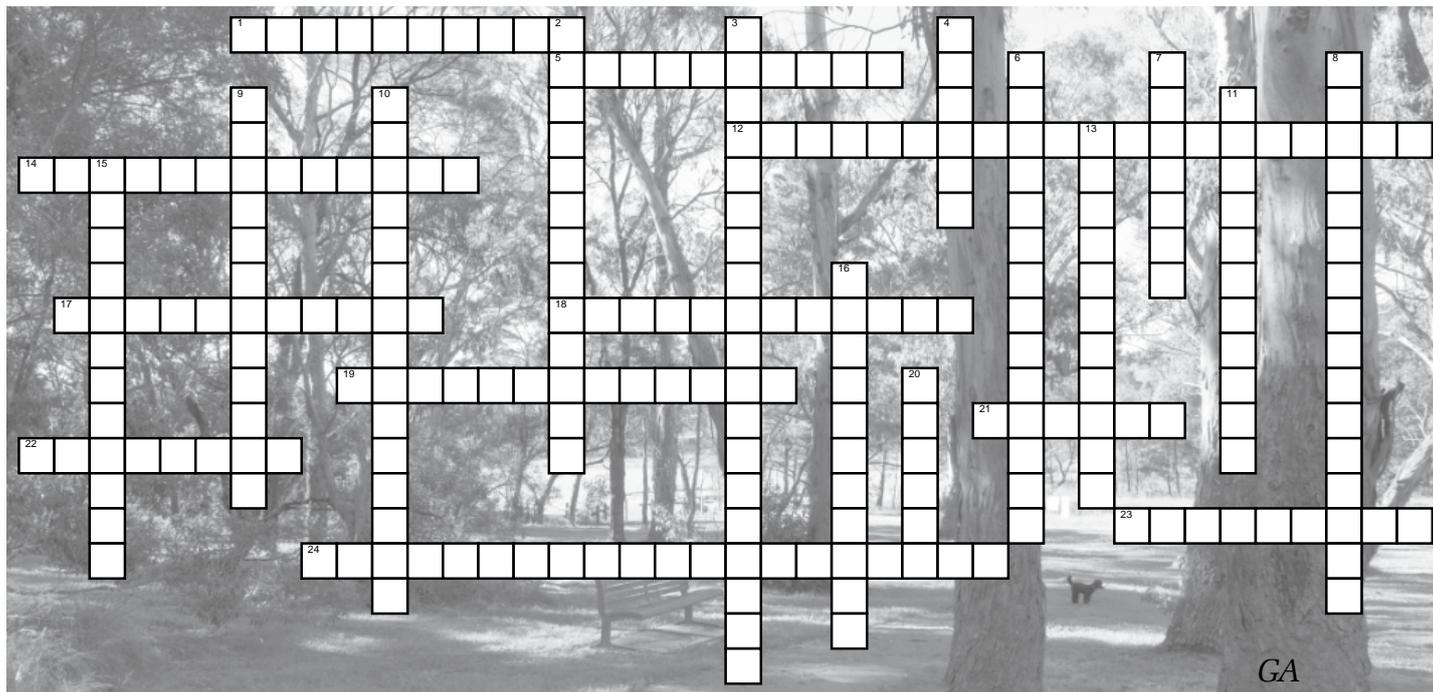
On retirement from the RAAF Ned, always a voracious reader, frequented Marianne's small Mosman Junction bookshop. She would ring to say "Mr Ward, your book has arrived" – always something unusual. Eventually, Ned was invited for a meal, which led to marriage and partnership in the bookshop – later two very successful shops – for 25 years.

Ned and Marianne moved to Bundanoon permanently in 2000. Glenboyne in Viewland Street, where they settled, had been bought by Marianne's parents in 1941.

Ned especially loved his fly-fishing, which took him and Marianne all over the world. He kept his mind active with crosswords, sudokus and languages: French and recently Italian. Highly intelligent, bon vivant, great raconteur, generous host – that was Ned Ward.

Cryptic crossword

All the clues relate to people, places & institutions
around or relevant to Bundanoon or nearby district & villages



Across

1. Bundanoon Currawongs lost their rears and swapped their fronts in the wetlands. (10)
5. A safe place for the school in the middle of the park. (10)
12. Last protesters against woodland sanctuary for reflection. (5,6,9)
14. Hello! By the sound of it throw overland for a famously long bike ride. (8,5)
17. Confused Dude? Pot ours pub style. (6-5)
18. For a bottle in Bundy, knead a felons piker! (7,5)
19. Painted as a big wheel in town, went to the wall for very little money. (5-8)
21. Tram us rapidly to the winery. (2,4)
22. A War Girl looked after a place for looking after. (8)
23. Ned's last, her first, Kong's first, her last restaurateur. (5,4)
24. Gracefully Novel Songs confused swinging club joint. (6,4,4,6)

Down

2. Put down, after perhaps, a claret tree copse. That's the way. (8,5)
3. A heroine hurtles lint noisily through the middle of Bundy. (3,8,4,4)
4. Either Jim or University hold some parish pumps. (6)
6. Colloquially, landmark old building for potions ground arch lefty pilot. (3,4,7)
7. Frog sounds eh! At the club and 20 down. (7)
8. Your idea of things, Cocky? Overlooks the National Park. (4,5,7)
9. Call unhinged woad door for one way to 20 down. (8,4)
10. Sprite trips over Satin bird nest in the Morton. (5,5,5)
11. Bad, bad greys way, way up in 20 Down. (8,3)
13. The first rate tale of a volunteer outlet. (3,4,4)
15. A way named after old butchers revealed in radar gone SOS. (8,4)
16. A fight with chewy? Sounds like rode to a dead end! (4,3,4)
20. Sounds like the way out — um! Up the road. (6)

Solution page 47

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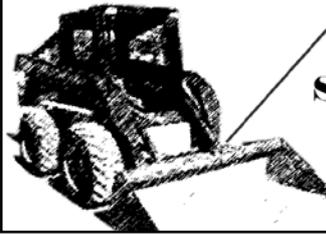
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Puns for educated minds

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

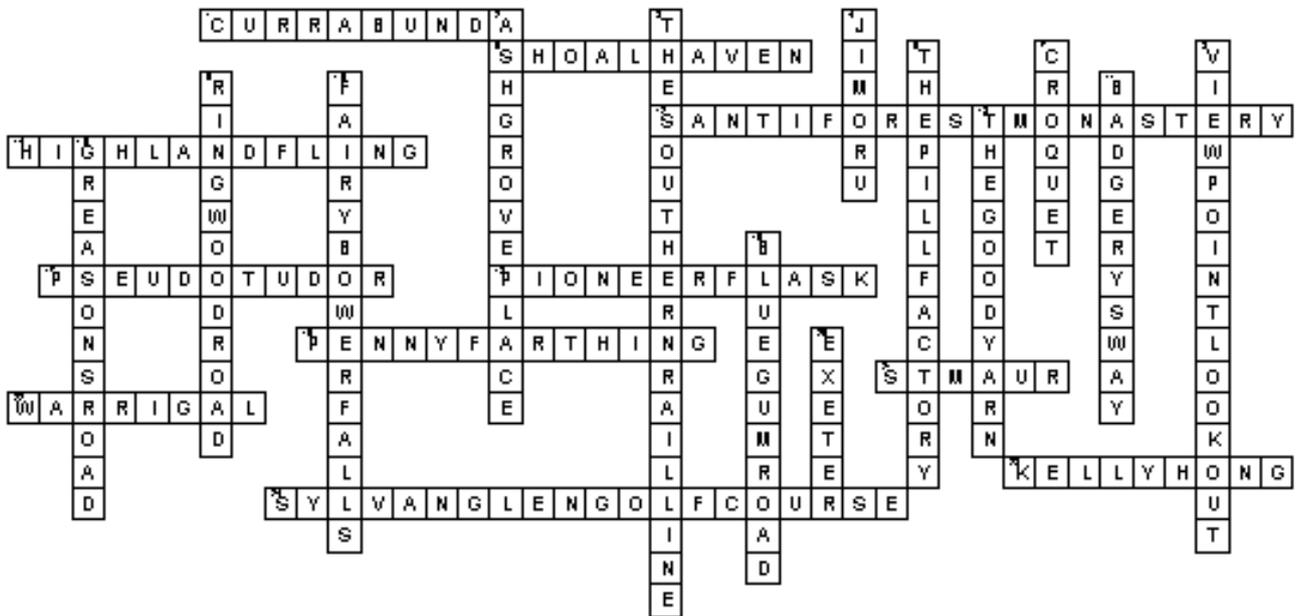
A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.

Crossword solution



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Exeter	St Aidan's	9.30am

Easter Day Holy Communion

Sutton Forest	All Saints'	11am
Bundanoon	Holy Trinity	9am
Exeter	St Aidan's	9.30am
Bundanoon	Holy Trinity	5.30pm

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Activities and services

Activities

Arts Bundanoon.....	Greg Slater.....	4883 7484
Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)		
President.....	Christine Miller	4883 7493
Bundanoon Pre-School		
Director.....	Deni Harden	4883 6166
Committee.....	Carolyn Beveridge.....	4883 7273
Bundanoon Public School P&C.....	Jeremy Tonks	4883 6019
Bundanoon Visitors' Group	Harry Hull	4883 6372
Chess Club.....	Pat Foley	4883 6064
Country Women's Association (<i>meets 1st Thurs, 1 pm, CWA Rooms</i>):		
.....	Kath Smith.....	4883 6919
Currabunda Wetland Group (<i>meets 1st and 3rd Friday</i>)		
.....	Ralph Davies.....	4883 6659
.....	Alan Hyman	4883 7763
Garden Club.....	Ailsa Miller.....	4883 4606
Glow Worm Glen Track Cttee	Anna Perston.....	4883 6125
Green Team.....	John Wood	4883 6859
History Group (<i>meets 1st Monday, 10 am, The Bundanoon Club</i>)		
.....	Marianne Ward.....	4883 6082
Lions Club.....	Les Johnson	4883 6918
Men's Shed (<i>meets Tues-Thurs, from 10am, 11 Burgess St</i>):		
.....	Evan Smith, President.....	4883 6753
Morton Nat. Park Volunteers (<i>meets 2nd Wednesday</i>):		
.....	Alan & Wendy Hyman	4883 7763
Playgroup.....	Karen Granger.....	4883 6884
RSL.....	Lee Borradale.....	4883 6790
Serendipity: the choir	Kerith Fowles	4883 6515
The Bundanoon Club.....	Ann Fieldhouse.....	4883 7204

Sports Clubs

Bowls (Men).....	John Witney	4883 7356
Bowls (Women)	Margaret Alaban.....	4883 7560
Cricket.....	Jeff Mitchell	4883 6528
Croquet	Leila Merson	4883 6571
Golf Croquet	Neill Ustick	4869 5152
Pony Club.....	Gale Pritchett	4883 7195
Rugby League.....	Grant Perkins	0419 844 405
Soccer.....	Sue Roseworne	4883 7219
Swimming.....	bundanoonswimmingclub@gmail.com	
Tennis	Mike Swinden.....	4883 7624

Support & Volunteer Services

Community Health Service.....	Bowral	4861 8000
Early Childhood Clinic		4861 8000
Fire Station.....		4883 6333
Good Yarn	Marilyn Rocca	4883 6542
Meals on Wheels	Fay Carter	4883 7441
Mobile Library.....	Moss Vale Library	4868 2479
Red Cross (Exeter branch).....	Anna Hopkins	4883 4259
Rural Fire Service (RFS)	Craig Rowley	0427 511 837
RFS Auxiliary	Rosemary Page	4883 6499
RSPCA (Goulburn/Highlands)		0412 475 428
Volunteering Wingecarribee	Thomas Andrew	4869 4617
WIRES.....		4862 1788

• To change details, please contact Pam Davies, 4883 7196.

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Wednesdays 7pm – Talk on the Buddha's Teachings

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Church times

Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest

Holy Trinity, Bundanoon Sunday, 9.00am, 5.30pm
St Aidan's, Exeter Sunday, 9.30am
St Stephen's, Tallong..... Sunday, 10am
All Saints, Sutton Forest 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 11am
..... 2nd & 4th Sundays, 2pm

Uniting Church

Moss Vale..... Sunday, 9.30am

Catholic Church

St Brigid's Bundanoon..... 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 5pm
..... 2nd & 4th Sundays, 8am

St Paul's, Moss Vale Sat, 6pm & Sunday, 9.30am

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 10.30am



Easter services

• **Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest:** details page 48

• **Catholic Church:** Please call Parish Office on 4868 1931

• **Iona Christian Community:** please call 4883 4799 or 4883 7939

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advertising index

ACCOMMODATION

Bundanoon Lodge	8
Idle a Wile	5
Mildenhall Guesthouse	38
Treetops	7
Yallambe	58

AUTOMOTIVE

Allan Mackay Autos	48
Petersen's Garage	14

CAFES, RESTAURANTS, BARS

Bundanoon Chinese Restaurant	14
Bundanoon Hotel	40
Bundanoon Pizza & Pasta	58
Coffee Culture	50
Exeter General Store	51
Idle a Wile Dining Room	5
The Bundanoon Club	5
The Primula Café	50
The Ravensworth	3
The Terrace Tea Shop	4

CONSTRUCTION & TRADES

AJ's Parquetry	6
A Nosworthy Plumbing	55
Alan Weston Signs	54
Bundanoon Electrics	53
Chimney Sweep / Gardener	53
Chris Bromfield, Electrical Contractor	52
Don Turner's Earthworks	54
G&J Fellows Home Improvements	46
Gibraltar Constructions	55
Handy Mick	55
J A Wellington Haulage	54
Peter McGrath, Rural Contracting	54
Reliable Roofing Services	52
S&J Osmond Painting and Decorating	46
Sherwood Machinery	57
Simon Dickson, Bobcat and Tipper Hire	46
Worner's Haulage	54

EDUCATION & RELIGION

Anglican Church	48
First aid courses	12

EVENTS & RECREATION

Highlands Chauffeured Cars	8
Moss Vale Travel	38
Shibumi Equestrian Centre	59

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Pru Goward, MP	14
----------------------	----

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Bundanoon Cutting Cottage	40
Bundanoon Massage Therapy	4
Bundanoon Medical Centre	57
Bundanoon Pharmacy	2
Buttermilk Counselling	51
Chiropractic & Allied Health	57
Harmony and Health Massage	51
Highlands Podiatry	20
Quest for Life Foundation	58
Solar Springs	56

HOUSE & GARDEN

Arthur Lathouris Landscaping	4
Above All Arbor	55
Annette's Florist	38
Belisa Cashmere	14
Bundanoon Bloomery	59
Comfort Cleaning	6
Elegant Window Solutions	6
Highland Sand & Gravel	53
Highlight the Shutter People	5
Home and Garden, Landscaping	46
Jacqueline Cory, Curtain Making	12
KDC Cleaning	12
Monty's Makeovers	51
Reid Brothers Fine Furniture	59
Steve Curtis, Grass, Glass & Gardens	12
Tankar Self Storage	54

MAIN STREET RETAIL

Australia Post	14
Bundanoon Butchery	7
Bundanoon Supermarket	7

PETS

Bundanoon Vet	54
Comfort Pet Grooming	55
Dog-minding	46
Southern Highlands Veterinary Centre	51

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Braeside Legal	38
Brian Salway, Accountant	48
C.F. Davies Solicitors	38
Deborah Buchanan, Accountant	47
Denise Graham JP, Celebrant	50
Four Winds Wiltipoll	8
Gary Antaw, Surveyor	12
House of Maberly Secretarial	50
Dr John Salmon, Dentist	20
Key Computers	8
Lawrence Huxley, Building Design	4
Marija Higley, Mobile Lawyer	40
Meals on Wheels	58
Northern Counselling	46
Richard Reading, Lawyer	38
Rick Mandelson, Accountant	50
Southern Highlands Funerals	44
Susan Playford, Licensed Conveyancer	44
Westonprint	59

REAL ESTATE AND FINANCE

Highlands Rural Real Estate	20
Jordans Crossing Real Estate	45
Paul Walker, Finance Experts	7
Todds Real Estate	60



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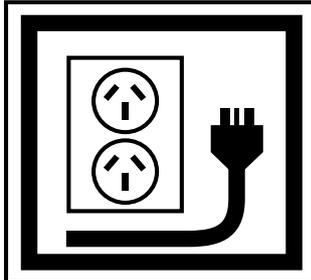
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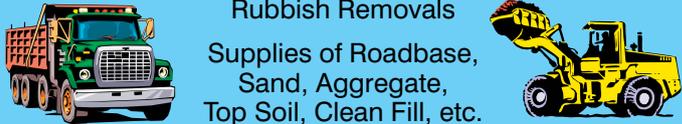
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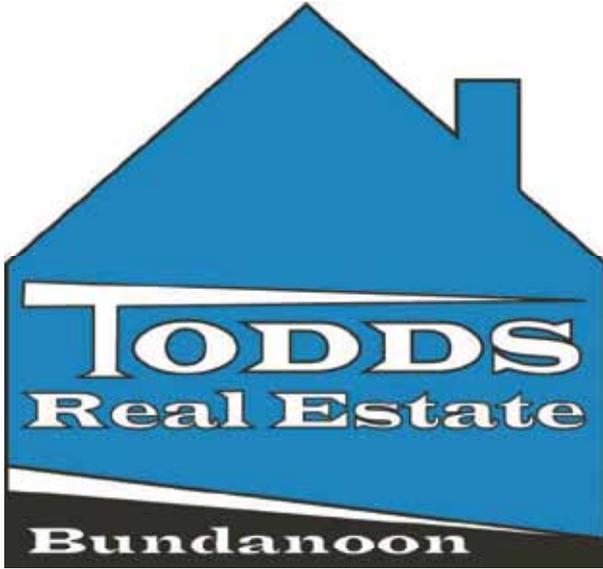


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