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and Southern Villages

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+ events in pictures + linda christison +
tennis club renaissance



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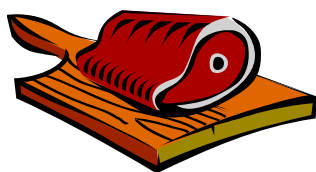
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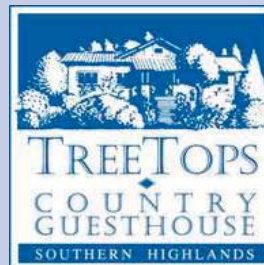
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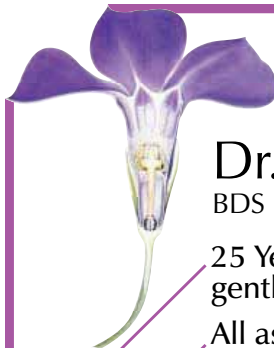
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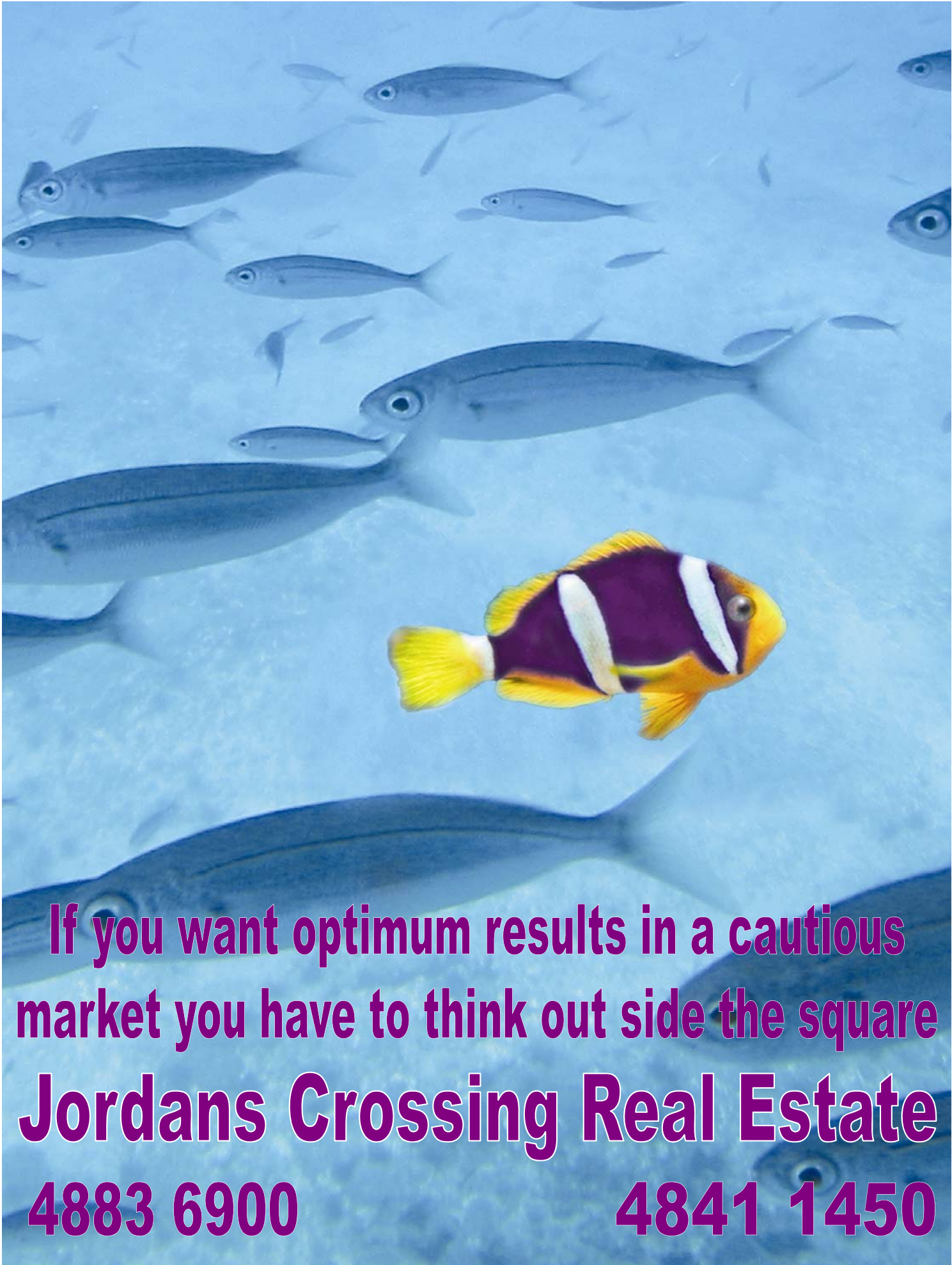
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Cover image

Twisted steeple at Saint-Côme-d'Olt, France
by Graham Morgan

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**Pam Davies,
Editor**

'TRAVEL TALES' WAS an obvious theme for this issue of the magazine following the return of the JCG Travel group from their tour of back-roads in France, Switzerland and Italy. The success of this venture has triggered plans for another European trip in May 2012. A coach trip to Beechworth in August which was fully booked confirms that there is a demand for locally organised travel in Australia as well. More details of future trips, including a JCG Food & Wine day-trip are on page 13.

Contributions from independent travellers to exotic destinations continue the travel theme.

Also in this issue we recognise the contributions Bob Smith and Jack Hepher have made to our community.

The reunion of John Royal, a former editor of *jcg*, and his friend Tony Large 69 years after the sinking of HMS *Laconia* during WWII is an extraordinary story of survival and friendship. Linda Christison's profile records her achievements as an athlete, teacher and photographer. John Shepherd gives us a fresh look at Lovers' Walk through a geologist's eyes.

It's fascinating to read about the Bundanoon History Group's success in helping people find local family connections, page 37. And the 'Our Future Bundanoon' group would like to hear from everyone interested in contributing ideas on this important topic: see page 17.

—Pam Davies

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BCA meetings

Third Thursday each month:

15 September, 20 October, 17 November.

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



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Hall Hire

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Deadline for next issue:
Friday 28 October



Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)

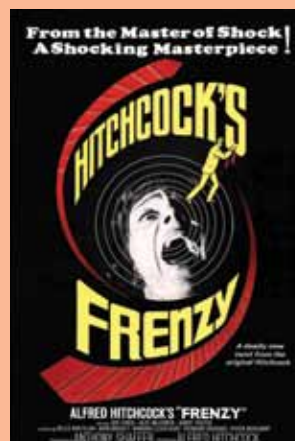
SERENDIPITY'S NEXT MAJOR concert event is 'Night and Day' in December 2011. There will be 2 concerts in this series.

The first concert will be on **Saturday 10 December** at the Uniting Church Hall in Bowral, commencing at 4pm. On **Saturday 17 December**, the second concert will be held at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Bundanoon at 4pm.

The concert series is a wonderful mix of sacred, popular, folk and contemporary music encompassing the theme, 'Night and Day'. It promises to be more fabulous music by Serendipity: the choir and dates to certainly mark in your diary without delay.

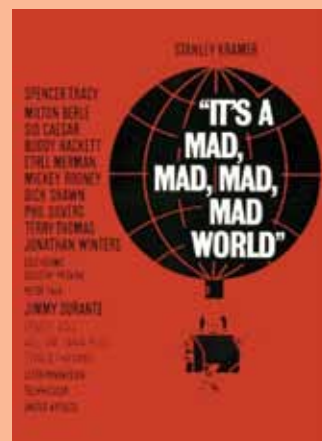


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*at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Bundanoon

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Piano at 10 hosts great piano playing

LOVERS OF PIANO music have been particularly well served recently at our Piano at 10 series. In July and in August this year, we have been exceptionally fortunate to have heard two young Australian pianists, both of whom have justifiably busy international careers.



Zhao Zhao Yang

In July, on a bitterly cold morning, Zhao Zhao Yang thrilled the Bundanoon audience with her technical mastery and thorough musicianship in a diverse programme whose core was a late Beethoven sonata, Opus 111. It is a monumental work with difficult, interpretational challenges. Zhao Zhao's performance was a revelation – fresh in approach and crystalline in execution. Following the Beethoven, we heard Scriabin's Sonata No 2. In this demanding work, Ms Yang's technique made light of its difficulties, resulting in a wonderfully lyrical and dramatic performance. Liszt's reflective Sonnetto 104 and Kapustin's brilliantly executed Concert Etude No 8 completed a thoroughly satisfying and polished recital.

In conversation after her performance, Zhao Zhao mentioned to me that she was aware that Jocelyn Ho would perform for us in August. Her description of Ms Ho as "a brilliant and extraordinary performer who lives and breathes the piano" was high praise indeed but in no way prepared me for Jocelyn's performance.

Initially, "astonishing" was the only word I could find to describe Jocelyn Ho's recital. The programme opened with Robert Schumann's richly romantic Fantasiestücke Op 12 with its changing moods both brilliant and lyrical in turn, but under Ms Ho's hands always exquisitely and sensitively phrased. However, Schumann's heavy demands on the pianist's technical skill paled before that required with the following 'Gaspard de la nuit' of Ravel. This fiendishly difficult three movement work, not often heard in concert, was performed with intensity, clarity and supreme mastery that was breathtaking. Rzewski's Winnsboro Cotton Mill's Blues completed the recital. Before embarking on this work, Ms Ho treated the audience



Jocelyn Ho

to an "a Capella" rendition of the blues song on which the piano work is based. Ms Ho's singing gave no hint of what would follow. From the long and finely graded crescendo beginning evoking the atmosphere of a cotton mill to the jazzy, blues ending we were treated to a powerful and virtuosic tour de force of piano playing. Zhao Zhao Yang and Jocelyn Ho brought to Bundanoon piano playing of an artistic quality that one would normally expect to hear only in major centres. Both artists presented, from memory, programmes of complete works – not a fragment of a major work, but the whole work. Although their piano technique was dazzling, it supported real musical understanding and artistry. It is to their credit that, through careful choice of significant music and polished performances, Zhao Zhao and Jocelyn treated the Bundanoon audience with the same respect they would pay to an audience in London, Vienna or New York. At both these Piano at 10 events, we heard genius.

Greg Slater, Convenor, Arts Bundanoon

For future events see www.artsbundanoon.org.au

Are you a music lover?

The "Arts Bundanoon" team would like to hear from anyone who would care to join us in assisting with Hall set-up, Box Office, ticket collecting and welcoming our audiences.

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Please contact Carol Townsend – 4883 7380 if interested.



Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October

FOR THE 15TH year visitors and locals are invited to ramble around private gardens in Bundanoon.

The Ramble is on again with nine open gardens including two gardens belonging to the Rocca family. Lucy Rocca was well known in Bundanoon for her participative spirit. Her sons Peter and Martin and their families have opened their gardens this year in recognition of their mother's contribution to our village.

Lucy Rocca was born Lucy Baker in 1922 in Erith Street, Bundanoon, where she spent most of her life and was involved in many aspects of village life. She married Lou Rocca, whom she met at a tennis club in Sydney, in 1950.

As a young woman during World War II she helped the Women's Voluntary Service by serving 'sausage and mash and tea and toast' to the troop trains passing through Moss Vale. In Bundanoon she made camouflage netting to hide guns as well as staffing the "Plane Spotters Station" on top of the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Her work with the Red Cross extended beyond the war years. Lucy moved to Sydney for a few years after the war but on her return she was involved in Girl Guides and the Bundanoon Community Development Association (now BCA). She was an initiator of The Good Yarn and Bundanoon History Group and the history-related publications still available today.

Lucy was involved in almost everything going on in Bundanoon but most significant to the Garden Ramble was her involvement in the Bundanoon Beautification and Garden Club. Starting in 1970 the Beautification and Garden Club was formed with a focus on beautifying Bundanoon's public spaces such as street verges, the railway embankment, little gardens around the village and the garden behind the hall. Plants and advice were obtained at a reduced price from Claude Crowe of Berrima Bridge Nursery. After some years the Club narrowed its focus and became the Bundanoon Garden Club. With reduced numbers, recorded as 11 financial members in 1982, they met in each other's homes, moving to larger venues as numbers grew. Lucy was President of the Garden Club in 1990 and 1991 and Treasurer and committee member for many years before that. During



her time on the committee they undertook their final major project – the initial planting of the arboretum near the Information Bay. This has since been enhanced by the Green Team.

Many beautification projects continue through the BCA's Green Team from funds raised by the Bundanoon Garden Ramble. The Garden Club maintains public spaces such as Nancy Kingsbury Park and the Remembrance Garden behind the Hall.

And so we have to thank Lucy Rocca, who died in 2006, and her contemporaries for their contribution to the beautification of Bundanoon and for their enthusiasm in initiating organisations which continue to exist and which form the fabric of our cohesive and vibrant community.

The Rocca family's open gardens are in Ross Street and Greasons Road. The Ross Street property contains a circle of eight camellias propagated from seed collected by Lou Rocca at their property in Erith Street.

The Ramble brings many visitors to Bundanoon and locals are encouraged to share the weekend and bring friends to wander around the open gardens. Descriptions of this year's nine gardens can be found on the Ramble's new website www.bundanoongardenramble.org.au. Please visit it and after the event your comments and suggestions will be welcome. The website was donated by Bundanoon-based Highlands Business Solutions.

Tickets with garden descriptions and map are \$18 (\$15 concession), or \$5 for a single garden, from the Soldiers' Memorial Hall where there also will be a garden market with plants and gifts. Tickets can be used over both days. The Needles and Natter group is having an exhibition of craft and textiles behind the Bundanoon Hotel; the History Group will have an exhibition in The Old Goods Shed and Les Rundle's working display of old farm engines will be there too. The Scarecrow competition will be judged by the Lions Club on Sunday 23rd.

Come along – you'll enjoy the Ramble.



Penrose Sustainable Living Festival: Sunday 18 September

The festival will again be held at Penrose Public School, showcasing local produce, craftspeople, artists, musicians, and locals who are 'acting locally' to build a more sustainable future. With so many different things to do and see, you'll need to arrive early to make the most of the day!

The festival offers market stalls, demonstrations and a sustainable homes tour plus 'Ask the Expert' Q&A sessions, a Sculpture in the Bush competition and working artists' studio. If you need a rest, you can sit down and listen to live music and enjoy some tasty food and coffee, while the kids are entertained with pony rides, kite making, face painting and many more activities.

It has been 100 years since Penrose was gazetted as a village, and the festival will also feature celebrations, including an historical photographic display.

Gates open from 10am – 4pm and entry is only \$2 with the chance to win a lucky door prize, while children under 12 get in for free! Prizes include subscriptions to a variety of green lifestyle magazines.

Come and learn about living sustainably while enjoying a fun day out for the whole family.

For more details please see our website www.sustainablelivingfestival.info or look out for flyers around the southern villages.



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This will not be a rushed tour on a large tourist bus and there will be no long distances between stopovers. All stops will be two, three or four nights with plenty of time to soak up the local ambience. We will be travelling in minibuses and go where the mood takes us.

While planning is still in progress, we intend to start and finish our trip in Munich and visit Salzburg and Innsbruck in Austria, Bratislava in Slovakia, northern Croatia, Slovenia and the picturesque Italian alpine town of Bolzano.

The cost per person twin share is expected to be around \$4900 but is subject to detailed planning. At this stage you are invited to register an interest without obligation so we can estimate the demand for the tour. Airfares will be additional and will be advised in October when "earlybird" fares are released. As with our *Beautiful Villages* tour, the cost will be thousands of dollars less than commercial deals, with a bus taking you from Bundanoon to the airport and bringing you back.

Full details will be published in the December issue of *jcg*. Many breakfasts and dinners will be included.

Following the success of the Broken Hill tour last year JCG Travel is also planning another local trip in October/November next year. Details in the December issue.

To register an interest in joining the Great Cities tour contact Harvey or Lexie on 4883 7343 or contact@hgrennan.com.

Great cities of Europe



Here are some of the expected highlights:

Venice: The extraordinary and beautiful centre of the world's greatest maritime empire. See St Mark's Square and catch the waterbus to the lace-making island of Burano.

Vienna: Home of the great composers Mozart, Schubert, Strauss and more, centre of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a smorgasbord of cultural delights, opera houses, museums, the spectacular Schonbrunn Palace and coffee and cake to die for.

Salzburg: A UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the best preserved baroque cities of Europe, the birthplace of Mozart and the setting for the *Sound of Music*.

Budapest: Another of the most beautiful cities in Europe with a World Heritage listing.

Innsbruck: An historic alpine town known for its famous Golden Roof and winter sports.

Bratislava: The capital of Slovakia, on the banks of the Danube, with its many baroque palaces.

Munich: An inspiring mix of historic buildings, royal palaces and impressive architecture, capital of Bavaria, home of BMW and a visit to the concentration camp at Dachau.

Slovenia: One of the most beautiful but lesser known countries of Europe on the Adriatic Sea.



JCG Food and Wine

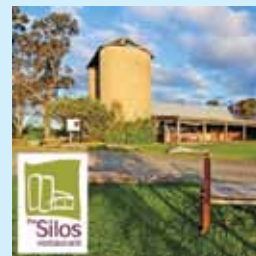
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Following the success of the Locavore dinners held at The Bundanoon Club, our next event for food lovers is a day trip to the coast:

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- Enjoy lunch and wine tasting at Silos Estate winery
- Travel through the lush river flats to Greenwell Point
- Learn about oyster farming from Jim Wild
- Visit the Greengold family's vegetable gardens at Terara.

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Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)



Ralph Clark,
BCA president

BCA report

Community appreciation

THIS EDITION RECORDS the passing in July of Jack Hepher and Bob Smith, two residents who made notable contributions to Bundanoon. Jack and his wife Lily operated the bike shop for a decade and were active in many aspects

of community life. He was made a life member of BCA in 2009. Jack, on his penny-farthing bicycle, is commemorated on the bike shop mural. Bob was involved in BCA (then BCDA) almost from his first day in Bundanoon. Among other contributions he was responsible for major improvements to the Hall, was heavily involved with the Garden Club and more recently had been the driving force behind the Men's Shed.

Winterfest was again a wonderful success. The atmosphere in the (closed to traffic) main street at the Friday night opening will long be remembered and other components of the program were also successful. The organising committee are to be sincerely congratulated. Bronwyn Shead and Graeme Whisker who have both been heavily involved in organisation of the event in recent year have indicated that they wish to step back to pursue other interests. Winterfest is now firmly established as an important event on the Bundanoon calendar and a committee is in place to ensure continuity.

Another major event, the annual Garden Ramble, is fast approaching. Dale Chalmers and her committee can be relied on to maintain the traditional high standard of gardens on this weekend (October 22–23). The success of this function is vital to BCA's ongoing village beautification efforts through the Green Team. On that subject, what a delight the daffodil display has been again this year!

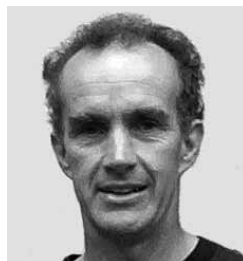
Unfortunately there have been some incidents of criminal activity over recent months. Arrests have been made, for which our local police force is to be congratulated. It seems appropriate, however, that residents should receive a report on in our area so I am delighted that the recently appointed Local Area Commander Superintendent Gary Worboys has agreed to attend a town meeting. The date will be publicised as soon as it is known.

There is news in this edition from JCG Travel and JCG Food & Wine. The overseas trip was a wonderful experience, as you will read. Another trip is now being publicised, while a coach-load of Bundanoon residents will have enjoyed a gourmet trip to northern Victoria by the time this is read. Details of our Food and Wine day-trip to the south coast are also published in this issue. These trips are designed as community events and everyone is welcome to participate but I suggest early booking as they are sure to be popular.

The work of the Future Bundanoon group has revealed a number of factors which could help make Bundanoon an even better place to live. These ideas are being developed and a report will appear in the next edition. Your ideas would be most welcome.

There have been a number of reported accidents on the railway crossing over the past few months. We are also conscious of the dangers presented by the lack of other safe pedestrian crossings of the rail line. These matters are being taken up with the relevant authorities, so any comments or reports of incidents would assist.

Bookings for our annual Arts Bundanoon gala concert on 24 September are now open. This event is always a popular part of our calendar, so I hope to see you there.



Councillor Jim Clark

council news

Wingecarribee wanderings

COUNCIL HAS SHORTLISTED four companies to be invited to tender for the provision of design and project management services for the construction of the Moss Vale indoor pool. The timeline will see a business plan, funding

model and community engagement complete by the end of this year and detail design, tender for construction and commencement by July next year. The project is considerably more modest than the previous council's Leisure Centre proposal, and will provide a much needed upgrade for the facilities and year round swimming at the existing Moss Vale pool.

Council's review by the Department of Local Government under the Promoting Better Practice guidelines has been completed. General Manager Jason Gordon requested the review to ensure Council management over its wide range of functions was up to scratch. Preliminary findings have ruffled a few Councillors' feathers with the Department commenting on some of the Council's general meeting procedures.

Most controversially Councillors and members of the public will be required to put all questions in writing well ahead of the council meeting. This has led to claims that it is not in the best interests of democracy, that it will also stifle debate and make it harder for concerns of the public to be aired.

With the carbon tax now a likely reality, Council has undertaken some training for staff on carbon management in the workplace. What strikes me about the course which I am also undertaking is the benefits that businesses and households can draw from ensuring minimization of carbon emissions. Quite apart from any environmental benefit, financial gains from ensuring reduced consumption of energy are a huge plus to any business or home. Council also recently held a workshop in Bundanoon to assist businesses to upgrade their premises to achieve both energy savings and environmental gains. Changes in lighting, heating and fuel usage can make a big improvement to the viability of small business and assist in effective budgeting for every household.

—Clr Jim Clark, ph 0428 213 939

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Pat Hall's Environmental Games for Children

Photo: Graeme Whisker



Opening night

Photos above and below: Bruce Pryor



Chess Club

Photo: Graeme Whisker



Opening night – children's art

Photo: Anna Shead



Cheesemaking workshop (GW)





Moss Vale High School



Moss Vale Primary School

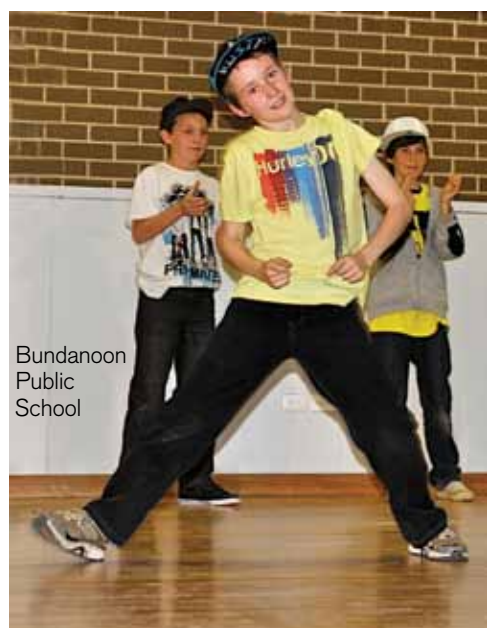


Bundanoon Public School

Moss Vale Community of Schools
Education Week
2011 Concert
 held at Bundanoon Public School



Bundanoon Public School



Bundanoon
Public
School



Robertson
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School



Wingello Public School



Penrose
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School



Designing our future

'OUR FUTURE BUNDANOON' is the title of a group consisting of diverse community members working with BCA to identify and address a wide range of topics of importance in our development as the population grows. It is hoped that by linking with the whole community others with expertise will volunteer to contribute to this project.

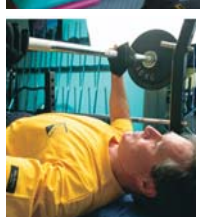
An article to be published in the December issue of *jcg* will provide details.

Contact Tony Coyle: coyle_tony@hotmail.com

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Sandstone landforms along Lovers' Walk

1. Looking south-west from Bonnie View into Bundanoon Creek gorge walls with jointed cliffs.

MORTON NATIONAL PARK at Bundanoon has many remarkable landforms that originated from the geological processes operating over hundreds of millions of years (Ma). These occur in the Triassic age Hawkesbury Sandstone strata (*jcg* June 2007). The Bundanoon Creek gorge is a major landform eroded down through these strata and exposing several tougher layers (beds) in the walls (pic1). The creek eroded down in response to the "Eastern Australian Uplift" defined by a series of tectonic crustal uplifts starting at about 90Ma and continuing in several episodes to about 7Ma.

Exposed in one of these sandstone layers are master joints (cracks) almost vertical in attitude that penetrate upwards and downwards in the gorge walls. Such joints have preferred directions that apply across the whole Sydney Basin and these are NW-SE, NE-SW, N-S and E-W. (A joint is an extension crack ("tensile") that does not displace the strata layers).

If you start walking at Bonnie View Lookout you will see the gorge and joints as in pic 1. Next follow the foot track towards the Echo Point car park/shelter shed and you can see various beautiful sandstone landforms on a smaller scale along the way. The track crosses an E-W aligned joint, devoid of normal soil cover, containing native shrubs (pic 2), followed by a short descent. At the bottom there are some cliffs and ledges exposed on the right (northern) side and they follow joint directions (pic 3). Further on there are some interesting bedding related features formed by weathering processes (pic 4). There has been physical and chemical breakdown of the sandstone constituents here.

A significant rock shelter ("cave") occurs above the track, just beyond the arch, (seen by looking through the vegetation) and this has been formed by the weathering of the harder and softer layers in the sandstones. It has a large overhang, rear notch on the softer layer and a small floor area. Across the Sydney Basin rock shelters were widely used by Aborigines (pic 5).

The track continues below the base of the cliffs where several joints are visible intersecting the sandstones. Most of these are E-W aligned. From here the track climbs out of the gully and in places you step up over the sandstone beds exposed, before reaching the gently sloping woodland and the car park.

—John Shepherd (retired geologist/geotechnical engineer)

2. An E-W joint crossing the track on sandstone pavement, encouraging moisture retention and the growth of Isopogons and Banksias.



3. View from the track of cliff ledges showing two principal joint directions and the differential weathering of bedding surfaces.



4. Small arch through the sandstones as a result of weathering processes.

5. Rock shelter on the northern side of the track.

the gardeners' kitchen



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An appreciation

THE GOOD YARN is now in its 36th year. The interior had a facelift thanks to help from the Bundanoon Men's Shed. The air-conditioner is a new addition, courtesy of a government grant. There are a few more improvements on the agenda but meanwhile it's a great place to visit.

There are lots of beautiful objects on sale, knitted and hand-made garments, jewellery, household items, fresh locally-grown produce, eggs and a wonderful selection of jams, marmalades, chutneys and honey.

Nearly every item in the shop is sold on consignment. Generous local people often donate fruit and vegetables as well as household items for us to sell. Very little stock is purchased for sale although we do buy in cards, tea towels and Crookwell woollen socks. A percentage is kept from all sales and after paying our consignors, at the end of each month, several thousand dollars are then donated to charity. The charities are local, interstate and international. We donate to approximately forty charities, and also sponsor three children through World Vision.

The Good Yarn is run entirely by volunteers who would like to thank all their loyal customers, consignors and local residents who donate goods. Through your support, during January and February we were able to send \$3000 to the Queensland Flood Appeal, \$1000 to the Victorian Flood Appeal and \$1000 to the Christchurch earthquake appeal in New Zealand.

—Sue Beasley, Hon Secretary.



Sarah's big day

This is an extract from an article written by a visitor to Bundanoon from Victoria, Meredith Langford, who was a member of TAFE Professional Writing and Editing student body at Holmesglen. She came with friends to Brigadoon and wrote enthusiastically about her experience and a personal encounter with Sarah Taylor and Jean Marshall.

"...there sitting just inside the arena was an elderly lady looking absolutely immaculate from her feather-topped beret down to her green suede, buckled brogues. I later learned this compelling figure was the Clan Keith High Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand —Jean Marshall. By her side sat a young woman with a determined expression. This, I would learn, was Sarah Jane Taylor, Scot and self-proclaimed fire-fighter. Born with a rare chromosome deficiency known as Williams Syndrome, Brigadoon is Sarah's favourite event of the year. According to her mother (Suzy

Molyneux) Brigadoon is her event. She is quite unaware of the protocol and doesn't want any restrictions on the day. The members of the bands are all her friends and she spends the day going 'round and giving big hugs to people'. She has become the local band's mascot and so wears a special hat with their emblem on it. Sarah has been known to upstage the official party and get the microphone and welcome the whole crowd to Brigadoon. Jean Marshall and Sarah Taylor are two very different people, united on a chilly afternoon in the village of Bundanoon by a passion for all things Scottish.

By this stage (late afternoon) all the clans had come onto the arena for the closing ceremony of what had been a magnificent day. All the bagpipes started up and in that sleepy hollow the sound just took your breath away. As the sun slowly sank on country Bundanoon we all agreed that it had been a rare afternoon. Och Aye!"

Winterfest letter

DEAR ORGANISERS OF the Bundanoon Winter Festival, I just wanted to write and thank you for allowing us to experience so much joy at the two Winter Festival events we attended during the school holidays. We came down for a weekend and decided to take our 7 year old daughter to the "MGM Parade of Comedy" film that was screened at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall on the Saturday evening. Everything about the evening was charming – from the restored projector and seamed canvas screen to the complimentary wine and nibbles. We particularly liked the warm opening introduction made by a gentleman (I don't recall his name) and the way he stressed the importance of laughter in our life and its positive effects. (Great Irish joke about lawn!). We loved the film – our daughter nearly fell off her chair with laughter! Such a wonderful film to choose – so easily enjoyed by young and old and rarely seen.

And the Bush Dance was tremendous fun. Other friends from Sydney came to this event too and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the music and the caller; the dancing and the supper of soup and bread rolls, and the warm welcome from the organisers. It was such an inclusive joyous event that exceeded our expectations.

Again many thanks for your vision, the planning and successful execution of the Winter Festival at Bundanoon.

We will come again.

Yours faithfully,
Vanessa Rohanna



Oral history event

Pam and John Hartley attended the annual Bundanoon History Group Oral History Morning Tea at the Bundanoon Club, Friday 12 August. John Hartley was the first President of the History Group and was featured in the interviews played at the event.



Country living

by Keith McMenomy

What makes highlights in highland life?

BY THE TIME you read this swallows will have returned, buds and cow tummies will be swelling. But just now it's still a wintertime of frozen buckets, oilskin coats and warm fires. In the mornings we wake to see cows and horses standing in frosted paddocks while a mob of kangaroos, timid night-grazing visitors, bound off back to the bush. Outside now it has thawed, animals and birds have been fed and a wild day is nevertheless spectacular – sunny one minute and showers the next. Young magpies buffeted by wind are playing mock fights, tumbling across the grass and squawking, while ungrateful rosellas quietly clip geraniums on the back verandah. In the past few days we have spread dung under orchard trees and on the garden, covering the ground with rotten hay to keep toes warm for coming months. Cutting firewood to stack in the shed is a regular chore between building works. Bush life is as interesting as ever, if a little more challenging over time.

The earliest inhabitants are said to have called this locality Kareela, "place of high winds". True enough, this season has seen more gales than most (I almost wrote blizzards) that must have circled off the Snowy Mountains. There were a dozen or so casualties - trees down or broken off. We didn't regret losing a heavy old pine beside the bottom dam, in fact we were grateful it missed the pump-shed, falling just in front of the door. Usually we lose a tree or so a year to nature's recyclers or termites. Most are small-leaved peppermints but occasionally a snappy gum will fall after wind or frost. Reluctantly I had to drop a big old dead stringy bark, one of only several left on the place. This was looking stressed a couple of seasons back but we discovered no sign of ants or fungus. Instead, exposed on cutting three metre lengths for fence rails, the culprit appears to be some kind of beetle or insect under the bark. We will plant several replacements in spring. Fortunately the gorge at the back of our small block is flourishing. It was milled until the 1950s but is now full of towering re-growth, conserved and off-limits for harvesting.

There's a reason for detailing setbacks for those with long memories. I am building stone walls for a guest cottage out the back, a lengthy project for a team of one labourer. Interestingly the biggest challenge apart from remembering components in sequence is to avoid crushing fingers or toes. Well, only near misses with boulders so far!

Each month or so I trim horses' hooves with clippers and rasp, rather like paring giant toenails. Now that is a chore that gets more difficult each season (just as the saddle appears to get higher!). Our old veteran pacer tends to doze off during trimming. As I was working on him he lost his balance, putting his hoof down suddenly to avoid falling over. One of my toes was in the way! Admittedly I cursed but I didn't retaliate. A few years ago if something happened to interrupt plans or progress I would get frustrated; even a setback in health was annoying. Now I try to pause and accept that not everything is within control and recite family platitudes:

- One must meet the challenges.
- There are no highs without lows.
- Enjoy the moments and days, rough and smooth.

Does this confirm old codger syndrome?



DIY know-how

by Patrick Fitzgerald

The spring cover-up

IT'S THAT TIME of the year again for cleaning, scrubbing and painting. The great springtime preoccupation with the paintbrush is almost upon us again. If the work is done properly there will be less to do in future.

Good preparation means the paint will last longer. The quality of paint has come a long way in the last decade. Not many professionals use oil-based paints any more as the water-based or acrylic paints are so good. Water-based varieties have many advantages over oil. They dry quickly, a wide range of finishes are available and there is less or no odour. On a really practical level, the rollers and brushes can be cleaned with water rather than turps.

Most oil-based paints can be used inside or outside, but many water-based varieties are specifically for either inside or outside. Please read the label on the tin!

It is reasonable to split the work 50/50 with preparation and painting.

For inside work, especially in the kitchen where walls and ceilings have been exposed to grease, the surfaces should be washed with sugar soap. In bathrooms, sometimes mould and fungus can grow in badly ventilated areas. Specific products are needed to remove these as the "roots" can bury themselves several millimetres into plasterboard. A mould additive can also be added to the new paint as well. Only use a matt (flat) paint on ceilings as it marks very easily. Low sheen is fine for most areas but semi-gloss is best for areas with moisture like bathrooms and kitchens.

Condensation is a real problem where non-vented gas heaters are used. Very few paints are designed to be permanently damp so problems will occur. The stains left by dampness must be sealed before painting with the final colour. Both Dulux and Zinnser make high quality "staincover" paint – oil-based products are far superior.

Outside painting can involve more problems, with fungus, dry rot, flaking and peeling to be contended with. If untreated timber has been used outside it needs special attention.

Many houses in the area have oregon posts and veranda beams. The end grain and nail penetrations will disintegrate very quickly if left unprotected. Best to replace the timber if possible, but at least replace the rotten sections. High-pressure water cleaners are good to clean large "hard to get at" places. It can pay to get a contractor in (there are two in town) to wash the whole exterior down. They can add some mild detergents to achieve a better result.

Sand old oil-based paint to achieve adhesion for the new paint.

The new water-based paints are terrific. 'Aquanamel' gives an excellent finish and is so much easier to use than traditional enamel paint. Avoid painting dark colours outside if possible as the pigments cause them to break down much faster than light colours.

If you use water-based paints, rollers and brushes can be wrapped in plastic for days at a time without going hard so there is no need to wash up at the end of each day.

Finally: Be careful! Falling off ladders is the single biggest cause of home accidents. Spend time setting up planks and ladders so that you don't have to stretch to reach difficult areas.

OK. You can start painting now. Good luck!



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John Royal & Tony Large:

THIS IS A story about a brief wartime friendship between two young naval ratings who met in September 1942 while taking passage on the troopship, *Laconia*, a former Cunard liner, to undergo officer training in the UK. The friendship barely had time to blossom before it was cut short by two German U-boat torpedoes in the Atlantic, 800 miles



John Royal (left) and Tony Large meet again

west of Freetown. Now, 69 years later, thanks to the all embracing tentacles of the internet, the two old friends have been reunited – here in Australia.

Able Seaman Tony Large, a volunteer from the South African Naval Reserve, whose experiences after the sinking were horrific in the extreme, and his erstwhile friend, Royal

Navy Volunteer Reserve Telegraphist John Royal, were both lucky to survive the sinking which claimed the lives of close to 2000 of the 3000 or so passengers and crew on the ship that night. These included Army, Navy and Airforce personnel in transit to the UK and a sprinkling of servicemen's wives and children. All were being evacuated from the Middle East, along with a large contingent of Italian prisoners of war and approximately 100 or more Polish troops whose job it was to guard them.

Tony Large writes:

I can best describe the *Laconia* as a rusty old bucket of some 20,000 tons, pressed into service in WWII. Her machinery was tired and her hull festooned with marine growth so that her cruising speed was a sluggish 13 knots. For whatever reason, *Laconia* was to steam independently – no escorts, no convoy – from Tewfik in the Red Sea to the UK, crawling round Africa, her funnel belching black smoke as a beacon to any U-boat combing the shipping lanes. John and I picked her up in Durban and by the time we left Capetown we had become friends.

Only five months before, John's ship, the light cruiser HMS *Enterprise*, had sped to the rescue in the Indian Ocean of some 500 survivors of the cruiser HMS *Cornwall*, which had been sunk by



Ordinary Seaman Tony Large, mid-1941

Japanese aircraft. I was a member of *Cornwall*'s ship's company and was among those rescued. I don't imagine John would have noticed me in my waterlogged state among all the other survivors lifted to safety on that occasion but a bond was created between the personnel of both ships. This naturally drew the two of us together when we met just a short time later in the naval sailors' mess deep in the bowels of *Laconia*. We related well, common enough in those days

of strong transient friendships, and we were in earnest conversation at about 8 pm on that Saturday evening, 12 September 1942. *Laconia* was approaching the equator on her way, we thought, to Freetown, and we were probably debating whether to sling our hammocks in our stuffy compartment deep in the ship or go up on deck and doss down there.

Korvetten Kapitän Werner Hartenstein had other ideas for us. He commanded German U-Boat U-156 and had shadowed us, unseen, betrayed by our column of smoke throughout the day. Our conversation was interrupted by his first torpedo! However, it was destined to be continued when we next met up again in June this year. Our lives were saved because the torpedo hit *Laconia* well forward of our position in the ship. We had the time and youthful athleticism to join the mob of 50 or so sailors hell bent on getting out of their potential tomb as they scrambled up a flight of rickety pine stairs. Hartenstein's second torpedo hit us and sealed *Laconia*'s fate.

Lights failed. Muted emergency lighting came on. I lost John in the dark and never saw or heard of him again until earlier this year. He and another close friend of his from his *Enterprise* days had managed to slide off the starboard side of the listing ship and take to the water. I made my way upwards and finally escaped the ship to further adventures*. Only recently, close on 69 years later, did I become aware that they had survived.

John Royal takes up the story :

While Tony was helping to launch one of the last remaining life boats on the awkwardly sloping port side, my other mate, Telegraphist Harold Wheeler and I were distancing ourselves from the sinking ship to avoid being sucked under.

When the *Laconia* sank Wheeler and I paddled around with the aid of our naval issue lifebelts looking for a boat. There were several scattered in the vicinity and eventually we found one with enough room to take us on board.

In charge, at the tiller, was a middle aged Petty Officer (a Naval Reservist) assisted in the stern by a young, cheerful RAF Sergeant.

A couple of young naval ratings were also among the group of us stationed aft but we few were easily outnumbered by 30 or more Italian prisoners of war. They were completely docile and sat quietly on the boat's thwarts, realising no

doubt that their fate lay in others' hands. Three days passed without incident. We had enough water to be carefully rationed and a limited supply of pemmican biscuits. We could see other boats but only distantly. Then the unexpected happened. A U-boat came towards us towing three life boats of survivors. There was much waving from



John Royal aboard HMS *Enterprise*, July 1942

In troubled waters



Werner Hartenstein,
U-Boat Commander

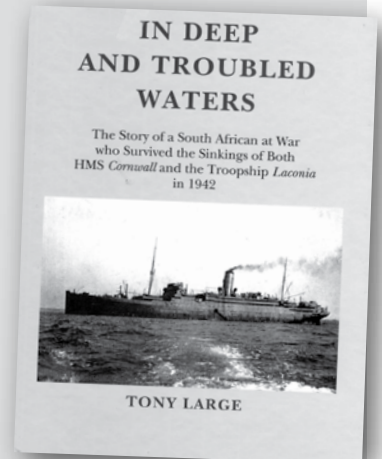
the conning tower and from the Sub's crew members on deck. They came alongside our boat and hauled us aboard. Hot soup and black bread was served and mugs of water. We were probably on deck for about 10 minutes. Then, back in the boat and we took our place at the rear of the towage queue. It was almost as if the whole exercise had been rehearsed beforehand. (German efficiency on show, no doubt!) That evening the line of boats was cast off from the Sub. We had been told earlier by the U-boat commander that a Vichy French warship would be coming out from Dakar to pick us up and advised us to stay close together until it arrived.

Two days later, on September 17, the cruiser *Gloire* hove into view and we were taken on board. First stop for re-fuelling was Dakar and then on to Casablanca where we disembarked and were transferred to an internment /prison camp outside the nearby town of Medouina. After two months of our imprisonment on short rations and clad in lice-ridden Foreign Legion garb, American forces landed in North Africa and we were quickly released, placed on a troop ship and shipped to New York. They made a bit of a fuss over us when we arrived still wearing our (now dry-cleaned!) Legion uniforms but in less than 24 hours the Royal Navy authorities in New York got wind of our arrival and whisked us back into RN uniforms. On Christmas Day we were back in the bowels of another troop ship and on our way home to the UK and the resumption of our war-time naval service.

Read all about it

*The "further adventures" casually mentioned by my old friend were some of the most awesome, heart-rending wartime stories one could ever imagine. The life boat became his haven in the days following his escape from the *Laconia*. These adventures are chronicled in detail in a brilliant book he has written entitled *In Deep and Troubled Waters*. He still has a few copies left from his own collection and is willing to part with them, autographed especially for Bundanoon residents, priced at \$45 plus postage. Included is a fascinating account of his early life in South Africa, his war service, the *Laconia* sinking and the harrowing account of his survival for 40 days in an open boat in the Atlantic. Of the 51 passengers on the *Laconia* who were in the boat, only four survived. 19 year old Tony Large was one of them. He is now an 88 year old retired doctor living in Tasmania.

Contact: Tony Large, PO Box 800, Ulverstone, Tas 7315; phone 03 6425 1639; or email avlarge@ozemail.com.au



Photographs of U-156 during the rescue operation (left) and of Werner Hartenstein appear in Tony's book and come from Horst Bredow, U-Boot Archiv, Cuxhaven.

The storm before the calm

"RELIGIOSA?!! UNA SUORA?!"

Mario, the driver of the little orange *scuola bus*, stares at my friend's Australian driving licence, on which the photo shows her wearing the veil of the "Brown Josephites", the order founded by Mary McKillop. She certainly isn't wearing "nunny" clothes during our tour of Italy. This night we both are in our choir outfits of soft frilly white blouses and full length maroon skirts. Her brown hair curls around her face; her make-up is perfectly applied; she is stunningly beautiful. I resist the impulse to lift Mario's jaw from the bus floor. He has a little English and has asked us where we come from and what we do for a living. We've given simple answers: "Australia", "teacher", "teaching nun" ...

This particular July day in 1982, Mario has brought Kath and me from the Moncigoli home of our Italian host family into Fivizzano for breakfast with the choirs from some other countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Greece and Egypt. We are all then taken in a much larger bus to the Carrara marble mines and to the town itself, where sculptors in the summer festival are at work in the streets, using everything from hand chisels to electric saws. The air is thick with marble dust. The rides up and down the mountain and around the hairpin bends are horrendous but worth every terrified shiver. Such scenery from the mountain peak!

Lunch is served at an ancient castle at Massa. Then we are driven along the coast, delighting at our first-ever glimpse of bathing cubicles, and finally reach Pisa, where we, the members of the Australian choir, sing an impromptu madrigal in the Baptistery, to an audience of amused but appreciative tourists.

My camera is responsible for taking possibly the only photograph in history which restores the Leaning Tower to its original upright position. I have crossed the road in order to get the whole tower in my viewfinder, and find the best position is standing on the footpath beside a horse and cart. I squat down, tilting the camera upwards, just behind the horse's tail, not realising that I've tilted the camera sideways as well, ending up with a vertical Tower and a road running downhill.

From Pisa the coach takes us all for a light brioche tea in Ponsacco, where we sing in the square with two other choirs, one being composed entirely of men. The outdoor performance ends about midnight and then the Australians and the men's choir are returned to Fivizzano in the coach.

Now the real fun begins. A thunderstorm is threatening. There is lightning, and thunder in the distance.

At Fivizzano, six of the Australian women and all the men are returned to the little orange school bus, once again driven by Mario. He is the driver allotted to those billeted in the Moncigoli area, to bring us into Fivizzano to take part in events of this International Choral Festival. It is a very small bus, with extremely small seats, and extremely small spaces between the seats, being designed for little children with little bodies and little bottoms. This evening this very small bus is full, carrying six healthily-built women singers from "Down Under" and a full choir complement of European males. Add to this the fact that it is midsummer, the thunderstorm is crashing and pelting its way down the valley so the bus windows can't be opened, it has been sweltering hot all day and into the night, and the men have been very thirsty all day. Their pores give off fumes of pure alcohol into the confined space, alcohol fumes warmed by their bodies and by the fact that their choir uniform jackets are made of red felt. I don't suppose the colour really contributes to the overall unpleasantness, but it certainly intensifies our awareness of heat in the bus. These men should be exhausted after such a day of heat, activity and booze, but no! They are here to sing and sing they intend to do, until they are snoring instead.

Mario drops the other four women at their host families' houses, leaving Kath and me in the little orange bus, with the red-felted, ale-exuding men. He tells us to sit in the front seat closest to himself, and keeps on making eye contact with us via the rear vision mirror, checking on our safety, frequently raising his eyes heavenwards in disbelief at what is happening in his little bus; he is so protective of his *religiosa* and her friend. The instructions given to him are to drive through this valley to an unoccupied monastery where the men are to stay the night, see them safely inside, and then take Kath and me to our host's house in Moncigoli, right next to the church where the bell immediately outside our bedroom window wakes us at sunrise, startling the hens who roost beside the bell.

Thunder, lightning, rain, wind outside the bus, foul-smelling alcohol-laden sweat inside. Mario stops the bus outside the monastery gates, gets out, opens the gates, then drives into the grounds. Lightning and headlights the only illumination. No evidence of life in the monastery. Mario knocks on the metal doors. The men stagger out of the bus and bang on the doors, shouting drunkenly in their language while Mario returns to the bus and sounds the horn, incapable of speech, shaking with laughter. Kath and I are helpless, tears running down our cheeks, our make-up tracking erratic lines down our faces.

No response from the monastery. No lights. But still they bang and shout.

The red felt is now soaked by the rain. For many reasons they need access to the monastery.

"Who will open the door?" wails someone.

"*Lo Spirito Santo*," chokes Mario irreverently.

Another bus arrives, close to 3am, the driver bearing the precious key. Doors are opened, lights are switched on, the red jackets disappear inside the monastery walls.

The storm has passed. The air is sweet and fresh, cleansed by the rain. It is quiet except for occasional rumbles of thunder in the distance.

Mario takes his *religiosa* and friend back to Moncigoli.

—Margaret Symonds



Travellers' tales

TRAVELLERS HAVE MANY reasons for leaving home. Some feel they must see as much of the world as they can in a lifetime. Others are fascinated by foreign cultures or by museums and famous art galleries. Food is often a subject for special interest tours and gardeners travel all over Australia and to many countries of the world following their horticultural passions. Adventurers will climb mountains or trek through little known distant places and the ramblers find beauty in countryside paths and laneways.

Certainly for many the beauty of landscapes leaves memorable images to savour long after coming home. Local travellers share their experiences in the following pages – chance encounters, retracing family history and surprise events...



Left: Race of the Ceri, Gubbio

Right and bottom: Calendimaggio, Assisi



Stumbling on surprises

IN 2004 a small group from Bundanoon – David and Lynne Beasley, Phillip and Valerie Crampton, John Brock, Rosemary Page – and Barbara Perrau from Bowral joined the British Ramblers for two weeks of unforgettable walking in Umbria. Beautiful countryside, villas, old churches, farm buildings, vineyards and magnificent towns and villages – Gubbio, Assisi, Perugia, Spello, Spoleto, Piedipaterno. There's so much more to explore when on foot.

But it's those unexpected and delightful events which are remembered most. Imagine walking into a town to find a religious pageant in progress or where the streets are thronging with people in mediaeval costume!

In Gubbio the "Race of the Ceri" takes place every year on the eve of the patron Saint Ubaldo. The Ceri are heavy wooden structures on top of which are placed the statues of three revered saints. In the morning the ceremony begins when, before a street parade, "the saints" are taken on three complete laps of the town square at high speed. Then the race begins in the afternoon from in front of the cathedral, following blessing by the bishop. The "Ceri" are run through the streets and three more laps of the piazza before a climb to Monte Ingino outside the city walls to the basilica of Saint Ubaldo. They are brought back into town in a torchlight procession.

Italians are renowned for their festivals but imagine our surprise when we encountered another one in Assisi?

Calendimaggio, which celebrates the mediaeval tradition of welcoming the arrival of Spring, opens with the ceremonial handing over of the Keys of the City to the Master of the Field by the mayor. There has been a longstanding rivalry between the "Upper" and the "Lower" parts of Assisi and each side has its own beautiful candidates for Festival Queen. The winner is decided during a contest of mediaeval games and the champion obtains the privilege of proclaiming his lady to be "Madonna Primavera". In her honour, the flag-wavers then display their skills and the minstrels sing troubadour songs.

—Rosemary Page



Back roads and beautiful villages



NEGOTIATING A WINDING mountain road tenuously clinging to the side of precipitous timbered slopes we pondered the trip so far. This was the glorious Apennines mountain range forming the very spine of Italy and we had stopped at a tiny shrine perched on the edge of oblivion. We were 14 days into our 29-day odyssey, mid-way between wine-growing Emilia Romagna and the Italian Riviera, and the promise of JCG Travel's European tour already had been well and truly fulfilled.

The group had been promised the back roads and the beautiful villages of France, Switzerland and Italy. Twenty of us travelling in three minibuses started the trip from Paris anticipating ancient villages, forested mountains, snow-covered alps, national parks, lakes, wineries, regional cuisine, cheese making and the Mediterranean sea – and we had achieved all in the first 14 days. The enjoyment of food, with many meals and "happy hours" included, had already become a feature of our trip.

From the lovely mediaeval town of Ornans literally overhanging the Loue River, we spent the next day on the road to reach the ski and summer resort of Lauterbrunnen at the foot of the mighty Jungfrau, one of the highest peaks in Switzerland. The scenery was postcard perfect.

Travelling on the cogwheel railway to the top of the Jungfrau at alarming angles to the snow-speckled rock face nothing had prepared us for the aroma of Indian food (and the presence of Indian tourists) when we reached the peak. The attraction? - a new restaurant which has capitalized on the popularity of a Bollywood movie filmed there. There were visits to Trummelbach Falls - 10 thundering waterfalls inside a mountain – and the re-created old Swiss village of Ballenberg.

Unexpected events, generous hospitality in family-run hotels, incredible scenery, fresh food markets and Italian and French mediaeval villages then became the highlights of our trip.



Off to Italy through the forbidding Grimsel Pass at the beginning of the summer melt to the serenity of Lake Orta where the Hotel Giardinetto sits on the very edge of the lake alongside the villas of the rich and famous. The nearby village of Orta and the island of Orta San Giulio are among the prettiest in Italy. At the top of the hill is Sacro Monte, a remarkable parkland of twenty 17th century chapels with statues and frescoed walls and ceilings depicting the life of St Francis.



travel tales

Driving across northern Italy past endless fields of corn grown to feed cattle in their winter sheds we reached the "agriturismo" or tourist farmhouse of Santa Maria Bressanoro at Castelleone near Milan. Our local itinerary included a 300-year old winery, a family dairy farm, a cheese-making school and the sprawling 11th century Abbey of Saint Nicola at Rodengo Saiano where just seven monks are left to look after 85,000 books from antiquity with little or no revenue since government red tape stopped them making liqueurs.



Alpini

Our "guardian angel" organizing these visits, not available to tourists, was Australian Louisa Merlin who is sacristan at the 15th century Church of Santa Maria next door to our lodgings. She also arranged an Italian BBQ with the local Alpini – mountain soldiers with funny hats and a penchant for song! They arrived with a

10-litre demijohn of home-made vino rosso, home-made salami and grappa. After an exchange of gifts began the serious drinking and singing guided by Pippo, their captain.

After a day trip to Verona, the home of fictional Romeo and Juliet, we crossed the Apennines to the medieval city of Chiavari on the Ligurian coast – a hedonistic paradise of boutiques, cafes, bars and "le molte pasticcerie" – with its broad pebble beach liberally decorated with bikini-clad bathers.

Then it's off to the Cinque Terre on the train – five colorful 10th century villages built on the steep rocky slopes running down to the sea – while another party hops on a ferry to Portofino, the playground of Hollywood royalty. Back at the Hotel Monte Rosa our timing was perfect. It was the 100th anniversary of the hotel and the official opening of the new pool so we were invited to lashings of prosecco, plates of antipasto and formaggio with local officials and families in their finery. Very Italian and "tutto libero"!



Manarola, Cinque Terre

Next day was a long leg back into France via the French Alps to the village of Saint Bonnet in the high Champsaur Valley in Provence. The view from the window of the rustic Hotel Cremaillere took in the panorama of village and verdant hills dotted with cattle, sheep and goats and dominated by monolithic mountains of jagged rock stretching into the distance. Dinner that night was of tender lamb from these very fields.

In the morning two busloads of nervous passengers negotiated a narrow winding road up a 2000-metre mountain to what seemed like

the top of the world. The surprise in the clouds is the grand Basilica of Our Lady of La Salette, a monastery and a hotel for pilgrims on the spot where two village children are said to have seen the Virgin Mary in 1846.

Departing Saint-Bonnet we experienced the scenic drive of a lifetime – from the rocky peaks of the High Alps to forests, ancient villages, rushing streams and broad open patchworks of green fields and crops. The "piece de resistance" was the 30km strip of road through the Ardeche Gorges, the "Grand Canyon" of France, with its limestone cliffs towering on both sides of a cascading river.

We head west across southern France through the Cevennes National Park where from lofty fir-covered peaks we have an eagle eye's view of the mediaeval villages and their church steeples below. Our destination is the Aveyron region with its 300 castles and soft rolling hills where we are staying at the Auberge Du Fel in the ridge-top village of Le Fel overlooking the unspoiled Lot Valley.

From here it's a short drive to the village of Conques dating back to the 9th century – a registered UNESCO historic site, listed as one of the "Most Beautiful Villages" in France.

Its massive stone Romanesque Abbey of Sainte Foy and collection of religious treasures is one of the most important Benedictine monasteries of mediaeval Europe.

All boxes ticked! Lasting memories of scenically beautiful back roads, villages and regional food.

—Harvey Grennan



Le Fel



Conques

Photos by Joy Brown, Harvey Grennan and Graham Morgan



EUROPE 2012

JCG Travel is planning another trip in May next year to the Great Cities of Middle Europe. For a sneak preview see page 13.

Les marchés de Paris – Yalla! Yalla!

ASK ANY TRAVELLER in France what they consider is a quintessential cultural experience and the answer will almost certainly be a visit to an open-air market. Local markets have been a feature of community life in villages, towns and cities since the Middle Ages and in Paris today you will find wonderful, vibrant examples. Parisians shop almost daily, especially for fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, fish from Brittany and Normandy, farmhouse cheeses and bread. Les Marchands - farmers, bakers, fishermen and other merchants come from all over France to sell and become well known for their specialities. Customers have been buying from the same vendors for decades and it's interesting to listen to their repartee as you wander the aisles savouring the sights and smells of seasonal produce, pates, freshly baked breads and roasted chickens.

'Les marchés', including those dedicated to textiles, flowers and birds as well as the



world's biggest flea market, antique and bric-a-brac stalls, make a total of more than 70 in the city area.

Every neighbourhood has its own 'marché volant' - a flying market, set up in one specified location, usually along a major boulevard and near a Metro station where hundreds of food stalls appear magically on a street for one or two mornings each week. Marché Pyrenees, in the 20th arrondissement between rue de l'Ermitage and rue de Ménilmontant, just down the road from where my Paris family lives, is open on Sundays from 7.00am to 3.00pm. 'Le boucher et le trippier' sell meat and offal; 'le boulanger' a range of bread and pastries and, 'le charcutier' various prepared meats, sausages, pates, foie gras, etc. There are potted plants and flowers, lots of fruit and



vegetable stalls and others selling honey, an array of crustaceans, other seafood and various regional products. And you don't need to cook! 'Les traiteurs' stock prepared dishes and wine; a plethora of fabulous food

A 'marché de la rue' or street market, on the other hand, generally refers to an entire street featuring permanent collections of food shops and other businesses such as tailors or dry-cleaners, essential to daily life. Shops along market streets often augment their indoor sales areas with stalls set up outside the shops. Every quartier of Paris has at least one such market street.

Away from the beaten tourist routes in the 11th arrondissement is Marché d'Aligre. An ancient covered market, the Marché Beauvau, sells everything from poultry, to meat and charcuterie, excellent olive oils and Spanish hams, cheeses and other artisanal delights from Portugal and Italy. You will also find authentic French food like foie gras and very fine cheese. There is a weekend flea-market with antiques and collectibles, African artefacts and some vintage clothes. The food vendors offer choices often with an Arabic/African flavour and an expanded fruit and vegetable market on the square where there are dozens of stands selling about 100 different kinds of vegetables. The choice is surprisingly diverse with Sicilian grapes, Algerian and Egyptian dates and bananas from Martinique – definitely a market for locals and a real treasure. For additional choices walk up or down rue Aligre to rue Faubourg Saint Antoine. This street is lined with small food shops including a fromager where I came across 'Epoisses' – a

delicious but very smelly washed rind cheese. Originally from Burgundy it's sometimes described as 'un fromage sur lequel les divorces sont faites' – a cheese on which divorces are made!

The ambience is very lively, colourful, noisy and exciting with hawkers calling one over the other. "Fraises! Un euro cinquante, un euro cinquante, un euro cinquante, un euro cinquante. Fraises!" and "Yalla! Yalla! Yalla! Yalla! Yalla!" [Arabic for 'Come on!']

If you're tired of walking – I did so much of that – you can always hop on a Velib and cycle there!

—Graeme Whisker



travel tales

I DON'T THINK I would ever have gone to Cuba, had I not already been there! In fact, both my younger sister Sheila and I were born in Havana, Cuba's capital. It was Easter 1953 when, as small children, we left there with our British parents just a few short months before the first shots were fired in Santiago de Cuba, on 26 July of that year. It was the beginning of the Cuban revolution. Fidel Castro, along with his brother Raul, finally succeeded in ousting the corrupt dictator Batista in 1959, and Cuba has been a nationalistic, socialistic, communistic country ever since.

It has only been in recent years that this vibrant, colourful and fascinating country has welcomed tourists, and Sheila and I travelled there earlier this year. One of the first things we did was find a taxi with a driver prepared to take us around Vedado, in the suburbs of Havana, to look for our early family homes. And we found them! We also visited the huge Cemeterio de Colon with its over-the-top white marble statues, family mausoleums and graves where we had played as tiny children.

It was a Saturday morning, so the locals in all their bright colours, with music on every street corner, were out and about, walking, sitting, chatting, shopping and driving their enormous old American cars.

Music is a very important part of Cuban life so we had a number of opportunities to brush up on our salsa, dancing the night away in the open air to the sultry sounds of guitar, trumpet and drums. What was surprising, and wonderful, were the live bands, found in almost every bar, café and restaurant – even the bar at the entrance to a national park, deep in the mountains. I came home with a number of CDs of course! On our first night, in a tiny café on the Malecon (waterfront) my sister got up to dance and was soon joined by an elderly Cuban lady – just the two of them on a minute dance floor! There were lots of hugs as we left for home.

We had another special encounter with locals. Our coach was involved in a collision with a car driven by a local in a great hurry. It happened because the STOP sign, which



A return to Cuba

our driver went through, was a small, faded, home-made sign erected in the wrong place! Our guide took us to the Plaza Vieja, the oldest plaza in Havana laid out in 1599. We drank coffee while he organised another bus and driver for us. (Coffee is Cuba's national drink – laced with rum, of course). The daily activities of the locals were going on around us. Some Cuban women were lined up doing their exercises and I joined them. When I started doing some of my exercises (courtesy of Bundanoon exercise gurus, Liz and Phil) they asked me to show them some new moves. Another girl from our tour also joined in and when they heard it was her birthday, they sang a number of birthday songs to her in Spanish. The scene changed when a group of school kids arrived for their Physical Exercise class, racing around the square among the tourists.

For two weeks we toured through beautiful countryside, national parks with exotic wildlife and birds and went kayacking and swimming in aquamarine waters. We had many fascinating city tours with magnificent architecture, listened to Cuban history lessons in museums and were confronted with socialist propaganda billboards at every turn.

Before leaving Havana, Sheila and I again walked down the Prado to the Malecon, along with all the locals out on their evening stroll. With the sun setting we were serenaded by a pair of musicians with guitars, cheeky grins, and hands out for outrageous sums of money! But we didn't care. It was a fitting end to a fabulous journey into our past.

—Jane Irwin



Their discards, my treasure...

Bruce Pryor talks to Keith McMenemy about an unexpected travel highlight

I HAVE LONG had a thing about Japanese craft in general. Japan has an ancient tradition of ceramic excellence, scattered in villages and cities throughout the island chain.

On a mad jaunt in September 2006 I spent three weeks visiting galleries, showrooms, workshops and museums. I covered 3,000 km from northeast heading back and forth across the southwest (losing 4.5 kilos on the way). I spoke to craftsmen, eminent masters, even Living National Treasures. It was unforgettable! There is a huge variety in Japanese ceramics – types of clay, kilns, firings, patterns, glazes, colours and finishes. Hundreds of individual potters still produce from small studios but in every shop there are great quantities of exquisite, commercial porcelains of superb quality, with tissue patterned transfer designs.

Initially I was in Tokyo then travelled up to Mashiko to one of the well known pottery areas. From there I went Nikko, famous for its temples and shrines, back through Tokyo, Kyoto, Okayama and Hiroshima, then off the main island of Honshu on to Kagoshima at the bottom of Kyushu Island.

City centres are a challenge but getting to remote locations you take bus-rides or taxis into wild mountains where they have some of the finest clays and Japan's most exquisite porcelain. One tiny place called Okawachiyama (near Imari on Kyushu) is tucked into a canyon reminiscent of a scene on a painted scroll. Surrounded by craggy mountains the village of just 200 people is set in a deep valley. These guys have their craft down to an art form! They make the most delicate and finest blue and white porcelain with very little damage from accidents in the kiln. Of course there are always some breakages, which brings me to my highlight.

I made a weird discovery while at Miyama where they make hand-painted Satsuma pots. Waiting to photograph an amazing museum of a Korean potting dynasty I walked along an adjoining lane. Here,



beside a field and cultivated plots rotary hoes had up-turned fragments of old pottery in the soil. For many hundreds of years they had been throwing away and burying broken material. That wetted my appetite to keep my eyes open and when I went to the coastal village of Hagi I discovered, in a stonewalled water



Okawachiyama



Old clay and tile wall

channel, more pottery shards. I was wearing work boots so I climbed down to retrieve some. Elsewhere I noticed a damaged Samurai wall, probably four hundred years old, built of clay topped with tiles and there in the clay were more beautiful shards.

In Kyoto, the ancient capital and site of the Imperial Palace, there is a canal (biwa), running through one quarter of the city to a river. It's about as wide as a room with water only eighteen inches deep. I glanced down and thought it was a coloured gravel bed but then realised I was looking at a treasure trove of pottery fragments. I was quickly in there with my trousers rolled up when a group of school-girls walking along the roadway above giggled and asked 'What you do?' " I said I was picking up pieces of pottery, handed them my camera and they took my photograph.

Everywhere I went there were little waterways or creeks where I found pottery shards, mementos of all styles and ages. The plain, unglazed pieces I found in Toki (outside Nagoya) could be close to 600 years old.

My collecting amused locals and, on the way home, Australian Customs too, but these otherwise valueless discards are now my reference archive and treasure trove.

Hunting for treasure

travel tales

MY HEART SANK. Was this what we had come all this way to see, a glimpse of garden through a small window at the end of a corridor?

An entire leg of our journey around Japan had been planned around visiting the Adachi Museum of Art, or more particularly its garden, reputed to be one of the finest in the country. We had reluctantly left the convenience of the bullet train lines far behind for a series of regional trains, then a bus connection to get here.

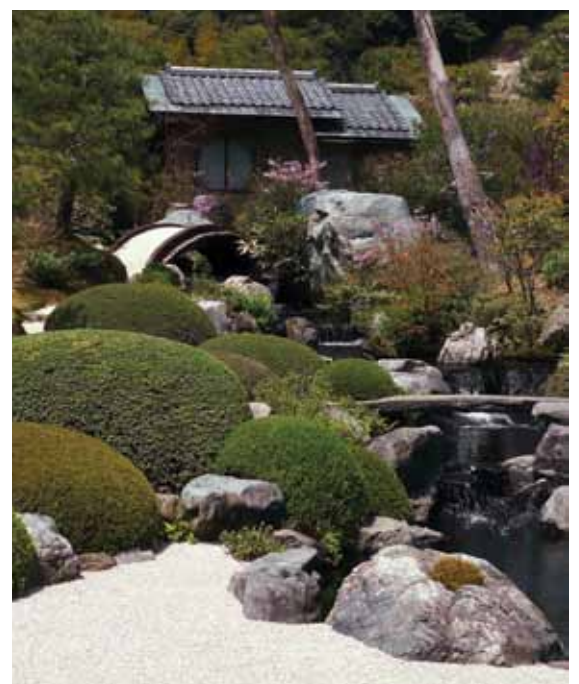
Fortunately, the small window was merely a foretaste. The museum building snakes through the site, with regular access to outside terraces from which the various aspects of the garden, and the mountains beyond, can be enjoyed. Certainly though, this is a garden to be seen from a distance; there are no public paths into the main areas. The gardens are conceived as an integral part of the museum, to be viewed like the other works of art on display. In one spot this idea takes an intriguing form: a cut-out in a wall allows a view of the garden to take the place traditionally given in a Japanese room to a scroll painting.

Adachi Museum and its gardens are the result of one man's vision. Adachi Zenko was the son of a local farmer who made his fortune in post-war Japan in textiles and real estate. As an avid art collector and lover of Japanese gardens, he conceived and built the museum near his birthplace, which explains its somewhat out of the way location. Adachi died in 1990 at the age of 92. He reputedly took an intense interest in the maintenance of the gardens until the end, visiting morning and evening each day to give the gardeners detailed instructions! A video on display in the museum shop shows the meticulous attention each shrub and blade of grass receives from an army of workers outside opening hours.

An well-known Zen story tells of a disciple who sweeps and tidies the monastery garden until the paths are spotless and the gravel and moss are perfectly



A living artwork



clean. His master comes to see his work and, dissatisfied, grabs a branch of the nearest maple and gives it a violent shake, scattering some leaves over the garden – then exclaims, "There, now it's perfect!"

At Adachi they have a different vision. The (unseen) constant manicuring and removal of every fallen leaf leads to a paradox. The garden becomes an idealised

form to be viewed, somehow unreal and removed from the world of us mere mortals. The featureless expanses of gravel, the smooth rounded azaleas and the perfect green lava flows of grass contrast with the gnarled pines, rocks and background mountains to create an ethereal atmosphere.

I'm afraid the art inside the museum was completely

overshadowed by the gardens for me; I was unable to even contemplate it. We managed to avoid the three very pricey coffee shops, but visited the museum shop to decompress before re-entering the world outside.

Coming back to earth, I felt privileged to have had this glimpse of a place of serene perfection.

—Ben Mawston

travel tales



Walking on the wild side



Up! Up! And away!



travel tales

THE WILD COUNTRY around Loch Moidart is not on many tourist itineraries yet it is rich in history and quite beautiful in its ruggedness.

Our base was Kinlochmoidart House at the head of the loch some 40 miles southwest of Fort William. This architecturally exuberant baronial mansion is owned by Mrs Nino Stewart, a direct descendant of Bonnie Prince Charlie who landed close by in 1745. He was met there by the "Seven Men of Moidart" and rested in the original Kinlochmoidart House* before gathering the clans for the Jacobean uprising. (This spot has been made more famous by Harry Potter and the steam train over the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct.)

It is a great base for varied 'ben and glen' walks. One of these, starting from Morar just south of Mallaig, the port to the Isle of Skye, takes you along the Loch Morar then overland to the Loch Nevis at the hamlet of Tarbet. Don't worry, a ferry will bring you back!

As we commenced along the side of Loch Morar, we passed a woman in her 60s carrying two heavy, large carrier bags and we exchanged pleasantries. The further we walked, we wondered where she came from since there were only derelict houses scattered along the route. At Tarbet, after a wonderfully exhilarating six-hour walk we waited for the ferry and noticed an old man standing at one of only four houses. Curious, we struck up a conversation. Dialogue was difficult, not only because of his highland brogue but also because he had no teeth. After all he was 91!

He explained that he had lived in this hamlet all his life as a crofter and only once had he left there. At 88 he broke his leg and had to be flown by helicopter to the 'big city' of Inverness. There he met a nurse and yes, ended his lifelong bachelorhood! The reason he was standing at his door was to spot the ferry which was running late. It

duly arrived, but the low tide at Tarbet required transfers to the shore by rowing boat. As we very gingerly stepped around the slippery jetty we spotted the woman with the heavy bags whom we had encountered at the beginning of our walk, climbing over the side of the ferry to the little boat. At the jetty, to our amazement, she picked up a gas cylinder as well as a box of groceries and ignoring the slip danger, made her way to the house. She was indeed the nurse who married our nonagenarian crofter.

On the ferry we were told that she makes the six-hour walk every week, carrying out the household rubbish, shopping at Mallaig and then catching the ferry home. (In Bundanoon even a visit to the local shops usually requires the use of my car.)

I heard that they lived together for another eight years before the old man died—still in his home of 99 years. There is obviously a different breed made of hardy stuff in the wild and remote areas of the Western Highlands of Scotland.

This encounter confirmed for me that memorable travel experiences can be found with people living their lives in haunting landscapes far from the madding crowd and the usual tourist haunts.

Note: We were not guests of Mrs Stewart in the main house but hired the magnificently restored former servants' quarters called the Turret. This is a great place to stay. www.scotland.info.co.uk/kinlochmoidart

* The original owners of Kinlochmoidart, the MacDonalds, were prominent in their support for the Jacobite cause in 1745. Following the defeat at Culloden, Donald MacDonald was executed and the estates forfeited to the crown. The house was burned in 1746.

—Thomas-Andrew

On the JCG Travel trip to Broken Hill, friends Meryn Whitfeld and Kate Perkins discovered in conversation that they both wanted to go up in a hot-air balloon. Travel really does broaden the horizons!

"WE'RE TAKING OFF a bit of a way from here – follow me!"

The meeting spot we'd found in daylight was now completely unidentifiable in the pitch dark of early morning – so we followed our guide at high speed, 23km out of town to the wrong spot. A shaky start for Meryn and me to our Canowindra balloon flight! A phone call and 23km later we were back in town, to be greeted by a very cross flight organiser. Undaunted we set sail once more, metaphorically speaking, to a quiet corner of the field where our balloon was being inflated. Half an hour later we were in our basket, with four other adults and a very slim and over-awed school boy who won his flight in a competition. We took off very gently, hardly realizing we had left the ground – sailing aloft in our brand-new, multi coloured balloon. Feet-on-the-ground supporter Des says we went straight up, the only noise being the burner as it was pumped to keep us aloft. We flew to 450 feet and then gradually to 800. The paddocks really do look like a patchwork quilt, some seemingly made of wool or material. Kangaroos moved along the boundary fences and a big mob of sheep dotted the landscape.

Our flight took place during a week of national competitive ballooning, and the sight of many other balloons around us was breath-taking.

We were in the air for about 40 minutes. Graham, our pilot, was in constant touch with the retrieving vehicle and thus its driver knew where we were landing. "Brace yourselves, hold on to the rope

handles, bend ze knees"; a bit of a bump and a skid and we were earthbound once more. After a one-in, one-out transfer with the next six passengers, we then followed their flight, from the ground, before all helping to deflate and pack up the balloon.

A bottle of wine to the farmers to thank them for the use of their property, then everyone back to Tom's Waterhole for a champagne breakfast, accompanied by an informative talk about the early days of flight.

An exhilarating experience and not a moment of anxiety! We have photos and a certificate to prove it really happened. I have stuck same on a large sheet of cardboard and it looks just like a primary school assignment. Really, I just did it for the grandchildren!

—Kate Perkins




The Canowindra Challenge Balloon Festival incorporates the National Balloon Championships. Up to 10,000 visitors attend the festival each year in April, including domestic and international competitors and enthusiasts. Support for the festival from Industry and Investment NSW is aimed at developing tourism in the Central West. This funding of \$30,000 over two years supports the marketing and promotion of the festival.

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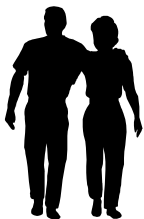
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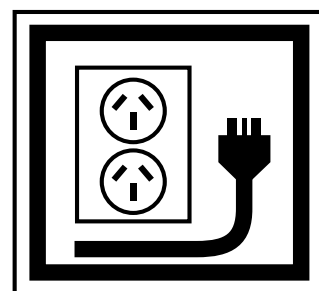
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Responses to queries lead to happy family reunions

There have been quite a few people visiting the Shed in the last few months who have informed us of their connections with Bundanoon. The research completed for them has resulted in some happy family reunions.

Berry: Marion Pearce enquired about Constance Martha Berry. I had previously tried to link Martha Annie Constance Berry with Joy and Peter Berry who had been interviewed by Marianne Ward, but to no avail. I was aware of Arnold Berry, also no relation of Joy and Peter. I mentioned these Berry families to Marion and she recognised Arnold Berry as being the son of William and "Connie", and Connie as her grandmother's sister, making Arnold her second cousin. Their address was 91 Railway Avenue, Bundanoon. She is now in touch with Arnold who is living at Mittagong these days.

Livermore: The Livermore family lived in Erith Street, Bundanoon between 1958 and 1964. A granddaughter of James Edward and Winifred Maud Livermore came seeking information about them. I was able to tell her that her grandmother was here between 1958 and 1963. She died at Ryde in 1963. Then the grandfather appeared on the Electoral Roll as a carpenter in 1964 only. There were many children. Perhaps someone can recall this family?

Posker & Buchanan: We have been in touch with Debbie Posker by email for some time. Her father's family ran the general store in Erith Street with the Buchanan family to whom they were related by marriage. A brother and sister married a sister and brother. After Brigadoon Sandra Evans, a member of the Buchanan family, visited the Shed for information on her family in Bundanoon. Both parties were happy for me to pass on contact details for each other, so now it is good to know that the Posker & Buchanan connection has been restored.



Eric Posker aboard Bundanoon's first fire engine



Vet's casebook

by Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

Beyond belief

THIS BELATED EASTER story bears telling, not only as there is an important lesson to learn, but also because it gives an insight into the sometimes excruciating world of veterinary diagnostics. Solving some cases can literally be like "dentistry".

It was Easter Saturday afternoon when a faithful client with long haired, twin sister dogs, rang to say one of them had a "drooling" problem. A short time later he arrived at our hospital with both dogs. I could see that Gerald had not been exaggerating. There were thick ropes of drool pouring from Lacy's mouth. As well, she had tears streaming down her face from red watery eyes. The discharges had saturated the long coat, covering the whole front of her normally sleek black body. My first thought was that she had been bitten or stung by an insect, most likely a bee, as the owners did have a beautiful garden and dogs do love snapping at anything that buzzes.

Sometimes you can see the sting of a bee around the mouth, but after using half a roll of paper towel in an attempt to dry up the drool I gave up, reassuring Gerald that treatment for this condition would most likely be successful. While administering the treatment in the form of three injections, I noticed the twin sister Rosanne helping to clean up her sister's drool, by licking, obviously distressed at the volume of the discharge still coming from Lacy's mouth. Just as I was about to wind up the consultation and commence the paperwork, everything started to unravel.

Gerald suddenly said: "Look at Rosanne, she's started dribbling just as badly!"

My diagnosis was now in tatters. I seemed impossible that **two** dogs could both have been stung by bees. There was little else to do but to treat Rosanne in the same way. As Gerald later reported, the response to treatment was spectacular, despite being based on guesswork. Unfortunately it was not about to last.

On the 4th day of Easter, Gerald was on the phone again: Sudden onset, same dogs, same problem. Hell, this can be an aggravating profession! What was going on here? If only they could talk!

Gerald and I had a long discussion about anything new happening in the garden. **Yes**, there was potting mix going into all the pot plants. **Yes**, the dogs have always eaten this mix. **Yes**, it made Gerald and Kirsten really mad. **Yes**, they had tried lots of things to stop them, like putting bitter aloes on the pots, to no avail. **Yes**, as a last resort Kirsten had put large quantities of **cayenne pepper** on the pots, determined to deter the dogs.

Until this point, I had been virtually diagnostically destitute, and the relief that came over me at this revelation was almost palpable. Easily fixed, Gerald put wire mesh over all of the pots, virtually fencing the canine marauders out. It worked wonders for two weeks.

A fortnight later, Gerald called into the hospital. My beaming smile, expecting good news of the dogs' recovery, was short lived. "I don't believe it" was all I could say as Gerald told of both dogs drooling again. What's changed in the garden? Where are the pot plants? There are some on the deck and they got a good watering today. A phone call to Kirsten: Did the dogs drink water under the deck? Yes! Cayenne pepper dissolves in water – problem solved!

Veterinary diagnostics can be like pulling teeth.

Note: names of owners and pets have been changed to protect local identities.

Lost in the Southern Tablelands: how settled were the settlers?

THIS IS THE title of a weekend conference being held by the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in Goulburn **Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 November 2011** – the second "Lost In" weekend to be held in regional NSW. I attended the first in Orange in 2009 and it was fantastic. I met lots of long lost "cousins" and received generous help with my research from the local library. The weekend included a tour of historic Orange Hospital and Saturday night dinner with local wines at an historic bank building. No doubt similar delights will be planned for this year in Goulburn.

SAG says: Join us in the centre of the County of Argyle and Australia's first inland city, to find out about available records for the people who settled, worked in or moved through the district from early days.

The venue is Best Western Centretown Goulburn. The cost of \$115.00 includes the conference, morning and afternoon teas and light lunches. I expect there will be a dinner on Saturday night. Please arrange your own accommodation although from Bundanoon you could consider daily attendance, returning home at night. I intend to be there. Please let me know if you are interested and I will give you more details as they come to hand.

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Pedalling words

by Danien Beets

AS WE HEAD towards spring, I am promising, as I'm sure others are doing, that I **will** get out on the bike as much as I can, or at least as much as all the other life commitments allow. Maybe this year the 'best laid plans' will become a reality.

On the 29 July, Highlands Trails hosted its second annual Trail Ales dinner. Attended by nearly 90 diners, the event was a great success. Our host again this year was the 'Beer Diva' Kirrily Waldhorn. Better known for her television and radio appearances, Kirrily discussed the virtues of the nine boutique beers from around Australia and educated the audience on the finer points of beer enjoyment. Local caterer Ann Morgan added to the success of the evening with wonderful food designed to match the selected ales.

Bundanoon once again impressed its visitors. Kirrily was very relieved that despite arriving in Bundanoon on Friday evening with no fuel left in her car, a phone call to Michael O'Neill at Jimoru service station saw the pumps unlocked and her car filled ready for her return journey.

Discussions are already under way about how to make next year's Trail Ales even better.

For those who are interested in helping raise funds to assist Highlands Trails continue their work as advocates for mountain bikers and maintenance of the trail network in Wingello State Forest, keep an eye out for next year's event.

As many people are aware, Highlands Trails submitted a development application to Wingecarribee Shire Council for a MTB trail at Bundanoon Oval. Designed to make a 2km circuit around both the Oval grounds and Jordans Crossing, the proposal has given rise to huge support but also some opposition. It appears that some residents have a misguided view that mountain bikers are inconsiderate hoons while others are exasperated that the evolving sporting needs of the town are being held to ransom by a minority.

I'm amazed that despite the profile of cycling and mountain biking in Bundanoon, the data existing on the demographic of mountain bikers and those in our town who are willing to speak in support of mountain biking, that there are still people willing to pedal fear and misinformation that mountain bikers are not community spirited and have no concern for the safety of others. The vast majority of people attending an event like our local Highland Fling are professional and middle aged. In fact the largest category is the "Masters" which takes in the 40-50 age group. Riders from different areas include the businessman Peter Holmes-a-Court, the NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli, sportsmen like Mark Webber the F1 driver and Australia's first Mount Everest climber Tim McArtney-Snape. And of course 'our' Cadel Evans was a leading Australian mountain biker long before he took to the road.

Council has requested additional reports to support the application, to demonstrate that the bike trail will not adversely impact on aboriginal heritage at the Oval, nor affect the health of some of the tree species and ecological communities in the Oval grounds. These reports are being prepared despite no other development at the oval ever having been asked to supply such documentation.

I hope that the trail, proposed for riders of all ages, but specifically for younger riders, will be evaluated on facts and on its merits.

To finish on a lighter note, my pedalling moment of the month was while competing in the 3 Ring Circus, a 50km MTB event for 750 competitors in Wingello State in late July. Well back in the field and slogging my way up yet another climb that seemed to have no end, this comment was made by another competitor:

"Those Tour de France riders are bloody lightweight, Alp d'Huez has got nothing on these climbs"

Laughing doesn't help your speed when you are pedalling uphill at walking pace anyway!



Through Ross-coloured glasses

by Ross Armfield

Humour in hospital

TOWARDS THE END of April this year I lost my Dad to the insidious, asbestos-triggered disease, Mesothelioma. Despite the sadness and worry and anxiety of the previous months, the merry-go-round of hospital and specialist visits, the endless tests and medications and, of course, dealing with the inevitable, there was also a heightened sense of 'now'. We recognised the importance of maintaining a sense of humour and remaining positive, two things that my father was renowned for. He was a firm believer in the 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' view of the world and even in less than ideal situations this year, there were still many laughs to be shared.

Funny things do happen in and around hospitals. The old joke of the nurse saying "Wake up, wake up... it's time for your sleeping pill" actually happens. After Dad's last stay in hospital, he received a letter from them saying, "Thank you for **choosing** our facility and thank you for **choosing** to use your private health insurance cover"!!! It sounded like you'd just had the 'weekend champagne package deal' at the Intercontinental Hotel. Food in hospital can often be the source of many amusing moments, even if not seen that way at the time. Many years ago, after a 'bout' with my neurosurgeon and a few days in intensive care, I eagerly anticipated my first 'real' breakfast in the neurological ward at RNS Hospital. On the menu were **brains!** This is true! Later on, when Dad was told this he said, "Makes you wonder what they're getting in the renal unit, devilled kidneys?" It was there that I learnt Wettex, dishcloth and omelet are all interchangeable terms. I believe the food is much better now. A year or so before my problem had been properly diagnosed they thought my symptoms may have been due to an infection. I went to a local hospital and was placed in an isolated room and 'barrier nursing' took place while they ran tests. All medical staff and visitors had to put on masks, gowns and gloves before entering the room in case I was contagious. Pity they didn't tell the cleaners, who came in and out at will the whole time and somehow weren't told of the 'dress-ups'. Were they too busy, or just expendable?

I won't even start on the thoracic unit patients who, at RNS many years ago, were allowed to walk to the common room area, with their drips and drains – to have a smoke!

Even when my father knew the future was fairly bleak he would still read the death notices in the paper each day and say, "I'm not in here, so I can't be that bad". Each time he renewed his licence, paid his rates, rejoined his local club or renewed his theatre subscription, he would say, "There, I'm good for at least another year". When in hospital for the last time, he was about to be given an all-over wash by two female nurses. He apologised to them, saying, "I'm sorry it's so shriveled 'down there'. It's because they've been injecting me for years with female hormones to treat my prostate cancer. It wasn't always like that you know. When I was younger and 'fully charged', seven sparrows could perch along it! Mind you," he added in a futile attempt to tone down the boasting, "the seventh had to stand on one leg." That was just him – at 86, still the larrikin!

For what it's worth, I'd like to dedicate this column to my dear old Dad, Leonard Manuel Armfield, who gave and saw humour everywhere, all his life.

Cyclist and community contributor

BUNDANOON
LOST A real identity with the passing of Jack Hepher on July 14, at the age of 96. Jack and his wife Lily bought Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe in 1976, opening only at weekends and commuting from their home in Campbelltown. The business soon became full-time and the couple bought a house in Railway Avenue. As well as selling bikes and hiring from his 200+ fleet Jack was kept busy repairing and rebuilding.



Both born in 1915, Jack and Lily coincidentally also both lived from 1919 in Campbelltown – then a small community. They married in 1942, just prior to Jack leaving for WWII service as a corporal in the Medical Corps.

Jack had a long involvement in the Scouting movement, attending the first Australian Jamboree at Frankston in 1933, and was an active member of the Methodist (later Uniting) Church. He and Lily were founding members in 1957 of the Campbelltown Theatre Group, where both were actors and Jack, a stage-hand for many productions. He owned a roller-skating rink in Campbelltown in the 1960s.

Jack played the kettle-drum in a Scouts band in the march at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Much later in life he featured at the opening of two other significant landmarks: the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, riding his penny-farthing with Australian cycling legend Sir Hubert Opperman, and more recently riding the first official laps of the Dunc Gray Olympic Velodrome.

A well-respected historian, collector and restorer of bikes, Jack co-wrote with fellow enthusiast John Drummond a book, *Goulburn to Sydney 1902–1992: 90 years of a cycling classic*, a history of the famous 128 mile event in which he competed several times, his fastest (1937) time being 6 hours 37 minutes. Jack's last event was an exhibition race on a penny-farthing at Randwick racecourse in 1995 – he finished third, aged 80!

In Bundanoon Jack is now probably best remembered for riding his penny-farthing, particularly at the head of street parades like the Highland Gathering, as featured in Don Talintyre's mural on the wall of Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe.

Jack supported the village in a number of fields; he was an active BCDA member for many years for which he was awarded life membership in 2009. Those who attended that function will long remember Lily Hepher's performance – she was, and remains, able to recite at great length from her wonderful memory. Lily has adjudicated at numerous public speaking events and she won the World Toastmistress Club's final in the USA in 1983.

In the mid-80s Jack and Lily sold the bike shop and in 1999 moved to Mittagong to be closer to family. An important extra feature was a large shed to house the collection of pre-WWII bikes which Jack had accumulated.

The couple moved back to Bundanoon a few months ago, residing at Warrigal Care, where Lily still lives.

Man of many talents

BOB AND LOIS Smith came to live in Bundanoon in 2001 and both immediately became involved in the community. They attended their first meeting of the Bundanoon Community Development Association (BCDA – now BCA) soon after their arrival and Bob, with experience in the building industry, made a significant contribution to improvements to the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Bob and Lois became active members of the Rural Fire Service and the Bundanoon Garden Club.

Bob served as Vice-President and committee member of BCA and remained a driving force behind all aspects of Hall projects and maintenance almost to the end of his life. With his practical approach and expertise some very significant improvements were implemented over the past several years. He undertook tasks from extending the stage to building tables – "why spend money buying them when I can make them?"

Bob took an active interest in town planning decisions and kept an active eye on all matters he considered to be of importance to Bundanoon. His most recent concern was pedestrian safety at the railway station. A Powerpoint presentation Bob produced has been included with BCA's material which is currently being put to relevant authorities.

Bob learned his trade as a carpenter, something which would prove of great value throughout his life, not least during his time in Bundanoon. He rose to senior status with the large construction firm AW Edwards; among the major projects with which he was associated were restorations of the Queen Victoria Building and the historic Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place (the "money-box" building). In Bundanoon he used his carpentry skills in many ways but obvious testament to his craft are the colourful figures used to mark important events in town – 'Fergies' for Brigadoon; 'Willie Melts', the trademark of Winterfest and scarecrows which will soon reappear during Garden Ramble.

Joan Geraghty, President of Garden Club says: "Bob Smith was one of those wonderful people continually available to help. His talents with organisation and carpentry and his technical expertise overcame many difficulties within the operation of the Garden Club. It was all done with good humour and generosity and it will be difficult to find another like him."

Bob's great passion over the past few years was undoubtedly the Men's Shed in Burgess Street. Matt Hayden, the local CEO of Anglicare, paid a glowing and obviously heartfelt tribute to the part Bob played in bringing this project to fruition.

Ned Ward added "Bob Smith became the driving force behind the development of the Bundanoon Men's Shed soon after its inception. His long experience in the construction world lent him a quiet authority which served the project well. He was a man who easily drew people towards him through his unaffected good nature, expertise, and the generous expenditure of his own time and effort for the Bundanoon community. The members of the Men's Shed will miss him sadly."

Possibly the most appropriate tribute came from his wife Lois: "Bob loved Bundanoon; anything he did he did for Bundanoon. He was really happy here."



Local Landcare group rewarded

THE PENROSE SWAMPS Conservation Group has been removing invasive radiata pine wildings for more than two years from the bushland flora reserve around Stingray Swamp (within Penrose State Forest), and downstream into Paddy's River on land owned by Forests NSW.

The group convened by John Shepherd, was originally formed with support from Daniel Anderson a community support officer from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) to help improve the profile and support the conservation of the wonderful hanging swamp environments located within the Penrose area. The Conservation Group has received ongoing support from Wingecarribee Shire Council's (WSC) Bushcare team and Forests NSW.

Around 10 volunteers and several Bushcare officers from WSC have surveyed and hand-cut down thousands of feral pines from ecologically sensitive bushland areas, aiming to reduce the heavy impact these were having on the native vegetation. Nearly three years on; there are promising signs of native species revegetation.

Stingray Swamp is of high conservation value and is one of only a few upland sandstone peat swamps still in good condition. This environment is home to stands of the endangered species *Eucalyptus aquatica*, a beautiful small mallee tree that only grows in very wet peat environments. In the last few months, some scientific work based on field mapping of this eucalypt's



Group members in attendance at the annual Regional Landcare awards organised by the HNCMA: Tony and Jenny Stanton, Val and Tony Cooper, Lizzie Bennetts, Jenny Slattery, John Shepherd (holding the award) and Stuart Chadwick.

distribution has been carried out by John Shepherd and group members. Results from this work will form a valuable basis for the future monitoring of the species.



Green Team

Walk this way

IN 2009 THE Green Team gained permission from Council to clear a walking track linking Governors Street with Panorama Avenue.

It was a popular walk with locals until the drought broke, when it became very wet and could only be used when wearing 'wellies'.

The Green Team approached Council's Greg Bray, who was very enthusiastic about making the track more user-friendly.

In June we were contacted to say that Council had completed the work. A very impressive 90 metre boardwalk stretched from the Panorama Avenue end of the track over the entire wet area.

Green Team members have agreed to take care of future maintenance required on the remainder of the track.





Sydney and a “ZoosnooZ”



Story by Alexander Hall (aged 9)

IT WAS EARLY on a Monday morning in May and Year 4 children were waiting for a bus that would take them to explore Sydney. Once on board, everyone was happily chatting, laughing and enjoying their trip, yet they could not wait to get to the IMAX theatre. At Darling Harbour the size of the cinema and the large screen were surprising and it was incredibly good watching in 3D. *Hubble*, the documentary, made you feel like you were really there, especially when the stars came flying towards you.

After the movie everyone ate and refreshed themselves sitting beside the harbour. Soon after it was back on the bus and off to the Southern Pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We walked about one-third of the way up inside the Pylon, when a guide took charge. Another 100 steps up and he stopped and showed us some of the antique – like tools that were used to construct the Harbour Bridge. Once all of us managed to reach the top, we had a look at the breathtaking scenery of Sydney. Then it was time to go back down the 600 steps. It was worth the energy!

Our tour of Sydney then took us past the grand shops, most of which were original and perfectly maintained, and to the Rocks Discovery Museum where we learned interesting things about the history of settlement in Sydney and admired the indigenous paintings that were accurate replicas of works made 200 years ago. While waiting for the other groups we visited the next door lolly shop where we saw how they made old-fashioned lollies. We had a taste-test!

Lunch was a delectable picnic, then we continued our walk to Circular Quay to the ferry and train terminals. The mixture of old and modern architecture was fascinating. At the Opera House we were all shocked to find it was covered in tiles. We felt the smooth white surface of the tiles of our Opera House.

As it was getting dark it was time to travel to the Zoo. The ride on the ferry was too quick! We were all exhilarated at the sight of the lights and the beautiful harbour. Taronga Zoo was closed to the public when we arrived, but security guards let us in. We had a BBQ dinner at the Education Centre followed by a night walk through the zoo. Everyone was eager to look at the animals which were far more active and interactive with us than they are during the daytime. We were asked to be very quiet, respecting the animals because it was their resting time and their home. After the night walk the education officers gave us a lesson at 8:30 at night! It was fabulous, absolutely wonderful!

We slept the night in our sleeping bags on the floor of a classroom surrounded by reptiles which were mostly in enclosed cabinets. Several were in open cages. That created excitement! It was a very early breakfast, no shower and a quick pack of our bags and we were off to experience a rare moment “Behind The Scenes.” Our Year 4 group visited the kitchen of the birds, where the food for all the birds was being prepared. It’s 5 star, top quality food! The keepers care about all the animals at the zoo. The animals’ food is carefully prepared and the keepers organise stimulating games and clever ways of presenting food in lots of different ways.

We had a whole day to explore the Zoo together and didn’t travel back to Bundanoon in our bus until it was dark.

It was a brilliant excursion!

Linda Christison – athlete, teacher, photographer



LINDA MAKES A significant contribution to *jcg* with her photographic skills. In 2010 she self-published a book illustrating her long early morning walks in the hours when the symptoms of her illness are quiescent. It is a tribute to her determination and strength.

Walk with me and PD in limited edition was designed as a gift for her family and friends but it could have a wider distribution if Parkinson's NSW accepts it for publication.



A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, dedicated teacher since 1986, Linda Christison transferred to Bundanoon School in 2007 after being one of the most respected and loved teachers at Bowral Public School for seventeen years. Bundanoon has had the benefit of her calm, insightful, encouraging manner, her extraordinary gifts and high professional standards, for the past four years. In December 2010 Linda used her splendid talents for writing and photography to create a parting gift to the staff of Bundanoon on her retirement. We share it with you, although Linda never intended it to be read outside our staffroom.

To watch Linda use every ounce of her superior intellect, physical strength and steely determination to compensate for her deteriorating health and capacity as a result of early onset Parkinson's disease has been humbling. Fundraising to support Linda to achieve a dream and also to assist Parkinson's research through PDNSW, has been organised. It includes a combined Bowral/Bundanoon stall on Saturday 10 September Bowral Markets, a raffle and a "P" party-dance at Bundanoon Soldiers Memorial Hall on Friday 14 October to celebrate her wonderful contribution to the education of children. We hope for wide and generous community support.

Robyn Versluis

Linda's gift to her colleagues

Those who can – do; those who can't – teach.

H.L. MENCKEN WAS wrong. The great philosopher Aristotle was closer to the truth when he said, "Those that know, do. Those that understand teach." People like you teach because you love learning and want to share the joy of learning with others. Teachers believe in the potential of every child and our society's future lies in its children. Knowledge and skills may change but communities will always need mentors for their young. Teachers are the guardians of our future.

You teach children to read, write, articulate and listen but more importantly you teach them to think, to believe in their ideas and to respect the opinions of others. You give them the skills of calculation and measurement and share the intricate patterns of our universe. You see the wonder of the world through their eyes and together you investigate nature and man's creations. You give them the power to use technology as a friend not a master. You inspire, confront, explain and debate, demonstrate, question, evaluate and analyse.

You open a world of great literature, artists and musicians. You uncover possibilities, allow dreamers to aspire and encourage them to fly. You give them the chance to be champions on the sports field, maestros on the stage and exhibitors of art. You find time for poetry, philosophy innovative ideas and differing viewpoints.

You give your students rights but also responsibilities. You guide them through the ups and downs of friendships, value empathy, and applaud strength of character. You laugh and cry, understand, motivate, discipline, smile and frown. You accept mistakes but not excuses. You are patient – very, very patient!

You supervise, protect, listen and referee. You tie laces, untie knots, find hats and notes, and mend toys and hearts. You clean up when little people are sick or can't wait. You divide cakes into 28, divide your attention into innumerable fragments but by some magical process every child receives their share of cake and attention.

You mediate marble disputes, referee soccer and make aliens invade more quietly. You turn coat hangers into wings, sacrifice your sheets to clothe ghosts and go to the bank dressed as Captain Hook on Pirates Day. You spend sleepless weeks at camp and write reports in isolation on long weekends. You take the angry, the lonely and the enigmas home with you in spirit and they follow you wherever you go.

You attend meetings, belong to committees and arrive home late. You apologise because school takes you from your family but you are a proud parent, loving child and loyal friend. You coach your child's soccer team, organise your parent's wedding anniversary and star in working bees.

You plan, program and walk kilometres on playground duty but you still find time to laugh with your colleagues and share their lives. You celebrate milestones together, agonise over family troubles and quietly ease burdens. When you are needed you are always there.

Those that can and do delight us with their skills for a fleeting moment but when you teach your influence lasts a lifetime.



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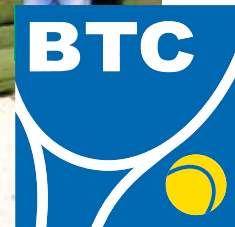
Bundanoon's tennis renaissance

clubs

EDWARDIAN ERA TENNIS had a genteel image of long skirts and trousers, oddly shaped wooden racquets, silver tea services and manicured lawn courts. Later, between and after the two world wars, the Saturday afternoon scene saw countless competition players travelling by tram or on foot to a multitude of lime-marked, loam-surfaced venues in public parks or private backyards. In the 60s, 70s and 80s this situation more or less continued although cars were now the preferred transport, playing surfaces became more sophisticated and backyard courts started to disappear under urban development. In the 90s, the sport declined in popularity, due mainly to changing lifestyles and recreational alternatives.

Denis Hoyer, ex-President and long time member of Bundanoon Tennis Club, remembers a group of players without their own courts or clubhouse, until in the 1950s the committee requested Council to build two ant-bed courts followed by a third in the late 60s. Denis, (along with his wife Margaret and stalwart Pat Lewis) has seen tennis' fortunes ebb and flow – at one point a mere handful of players maintaining the Club until a welcome resurgence over the past ten years or so. Now, in the second decade of the 21st century, there is great promise for the future – epitomised by increasing membership and the recent installation of three top-grade synthetic grass courts, arguably endowing Bundanoon with the Shire's finest tennis centre. However, implementation of this project was not straightforward.

Several years ago it became apparent that the deteriorating court surfaces needed upgrading. This was also seen as a timely opportunity to consider what other initiatives were required (including funding) to develop a vibrant club, fully functional for the next generation. We developed a



multi-faceted business plan, to connect with the community and broaden the potential 'client base'. Advertising in *jcg* commenced and local retail and accommodation outlets agreed to display the BTC promotional brochure. Seven-days-a-week court hiring became practical with the Bundanoon Club and Bundanoon Bakery acting as agents. BTC took over the Primary School's Tennis Sports and Active After Schools programmes using Club volunteers, eleven of whom had completed accreditation courses with the Australian Institute of Sport, ensuring quality outcomes. (The Club is also currently seeking to appoint a part-time professional coach for children and adults). Additionally, the plan included a thorough analysis of our financial status to determine the contribution the Club would make towards the upgrade – plus detailed quotes for removal of existing surfaces and construction of new courts. Despite a general tightness of funds due to the financial crisis, after two

years of representations the Club was finally rewarded by receiving additional funding from the NSW Government, Wingecarribee Shire Council and the Wingecarribee Tennis Association. Despite construction delays due to adverse weather, substantial savings were made utilising Club volunteers to remove the old carpet surface, a winter's gale making the task more arduous. BTC thanks the relevant authorities for their positive response and congratulates contractor John Weaver on laying an excellent tennis facility.

Tennis is unique in its social fabric, being a healthy activity catering to all ages and standards. Whether you're a regular player, just getting back to the game or thinking of starting up, why not come along and try out the new facility? You are assured of a warm welcome at Bundanoon Tennis Club. Just give us a call today to find out more.

Contact: Cameron Reid 4883 7074 or Mike Swinden 4883 7624

—Alan Hyman with Denis Hoyer & Mike Swinden





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Activities and services

Activities

Arts Bundanoon.....	Rod Moore.....	4883 7777
Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)		
President.....	Ralph Clark	4883 6389
Bundanoon Pre-School		
Director.....	Deni Harden	4883 6166
Committee.....	Carolyn Beveridge.....	4883 7273
Bundanoon Public School P&C.....	Jeremy Tonks	4883 6019
Bundanoon Waratah Trimmers	Dorothy Quigg	4883 6233
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>):		
.....	Marie Reid	4883 6526
Currabunda Wetland Group (<i>meets 1st and 3rd Friday</i>)		
.....	Sheila Micholson	4883 4347
.....	Ralph Davies	4883 6659
Garden Club.....	Ross Miller	4883 4606
Glow Worm Glen Track Cttee	Anna Perston.....	4883 6125
Green Team.....	Valerie Crampton.....	4883 6574
History Group (<i>meets 1st Monday, 10 am, The Bundanoon Club</i>)		
.....	Patricia Guy	4883 6971
Lions Club (<i>meets 1st/3rd Monday, 7.30 pm, Bundanoon Club</i>):		
.....	Les Johnson	4883 6918
Men's Shed (<i>meets 1st Tuesday, 10am, supper room, Memorial Hall</i>):		
.....	Ned Ward, Publicity.....	4883 6082
Morton Nat. Park Volunteers (<i>meets 2nd Wednesday</i>):		
.....	Alan & Wendy Hyman	4883 7763
Playgroup	Nathalie Brokate	4883 7660
RSL (<i>meets 1st Tues (exc. January), 2 pm, RSL Rooms at Oval</i>):		
President.....	William Russell.....	0412 476 141
Secretary	Murray Loane	4883 6709
Serendipity: the choir	Kerith Fowles	4883 6515

Sports Clubs

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

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	Judi Rose	4869 4617
WIRES.....		4862 1788

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

Uniting Church

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

Catholic Church

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

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest

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Business card	93x52	\$41	\$64
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Quarter page vertical	93x134	\$83	\$118
Half page horizontal	190x134	\$153	\$199
Half page vertical	93x273	\$153	\$199
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In 1972 she started her own business in London, working principally for the interior design trade, engaged on projects for major public buildings. Trained in handmade furnishings, Jacqueline became a member of the UK Guild of Master Craftsmen in the early 1990s.



When she arrived in Sydney in 1977 she worked for interior designers before establishing Jacqueline Cory Designs, specialising in soft furnishing and restoration work. As a master craftswoman, with specialised skills and a keen interest in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, Jacqueline was commissioned to carry out major restoration work on the furnishings in the State Rooms of Government House Sydney, as well as providing services to many of Sydney's top decorators. In her busy life she found time to conduct curtain and blind making classes and enjoyed the fun of assisting others to develop these skills. She also travelled to Asia to train workroom staff. Despite not speaking the language, her students responded to her warm personality.

Jacqueline specialises in old houses and the dressing of four poster beds but her commissions don't stop there. She has created beautiful interiors for boats and even altar cloths for churches all over the world. Whether it is a Country House look, French interior or very smart and stylish decor, she works with her clients to incorporate their existing valuable pieces and adds her ideas to create the desired result. After 23 years in Bundanoon she now conducts her business from her studio workshop at home which she shares with her much loved Airedales and her cats.

Vogue Living, Belle and House and Garden have featured her work and although she has worked in the industry for over 48 years she still says "fabric excites me".

With thanks to Nova Miller for details.

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