

JCG



A Bundanoon Community Association publication
for the people of Bundanoon and Southern Villages

**Merry
Christmas
from JCG!**



Day Breaks

Places to go in and around Bundanoon

Harcourts Southern Highlands



From our family to yours...
we wish you a very safe and happy festive season

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Jasper & Frank

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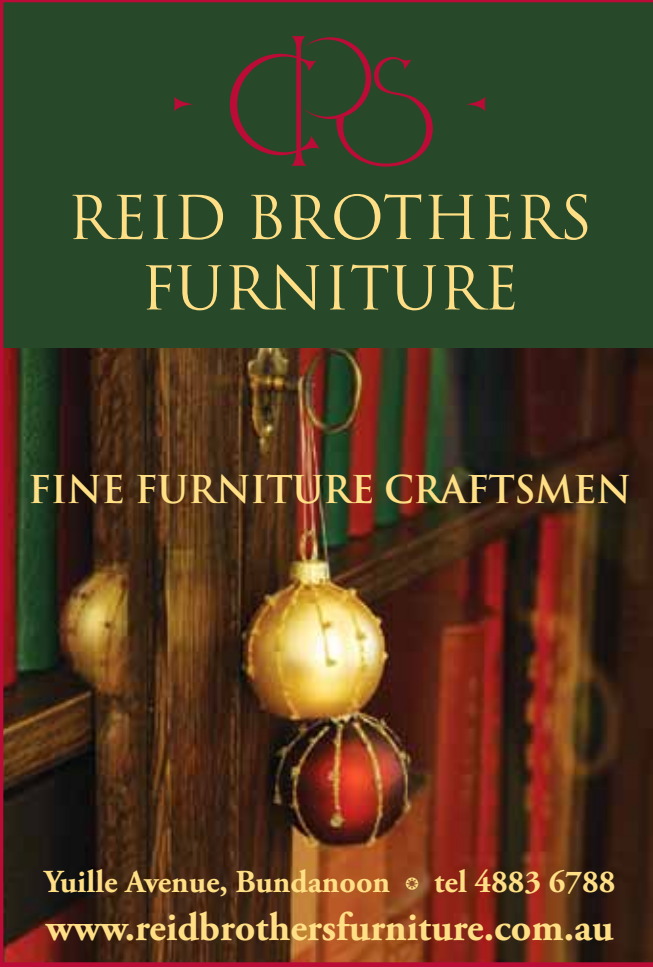
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**From the editor**

WE HAD HARDLY landed in our new nest in Bundanoon, before we had an endless stream of family, friends and – dare I say it – mere acquaintances, wanting to come for weekends. Then before I'd even had time to finally decide where to hang that picture or place the side table, they were already wanting to come back!

So I'll admit that it was slightly out of self-interest that I asked the Bundanoon community to tell me "where do you take your visitors?", because after you've done the obvious... what next?

As a relative newcomer, I'm still in the exploration phase and therefore always up for a new discovery. But I thought that

others might be interested as well, especially with the holiday season – and its visiting hordes – on our doorstep.

So I am very grateful to our contributors who have shared their favourite day trips with the rest of us and to those who used this as an excuse to undertake a day trip and thus provide amusing anecdotes.

Thank you also to the regular columnists and to others, behind whose articles are whole events and magnanimous labours that provide the community glue.

Many thanks to the JCG Committee too, who took a punt and gave me a go at guest editing. Where else but Bundanoon can you 'have a go' at so many new things?

I'm not surprised that many of you love showing people the beautiful Morton National Park. Now that I've finally moved in – and finished editing – Lovers Walk and Hell Hole are next on the discovery list.

— *Juanita Manahan, Guest Editor*

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BCA meetings

Third Thursday of month (excl Jan):
21 September, 19 October, 16 November:
7:30pm in Supper Room at the Hall.

Advertising info:
page 49

Deadline for next issue:
Friday 2 February



GM, Ann Prendergast

Wingecarribee Shire Council report

THE SUMMER HOLIDAY season is a truly wonderful time in the Southern Highlands.

Our Shire offers a range of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Taking a refreshing dip in a Council pool, catching up with friends at one of our award-winning wineries or perhaps

exploring one of the cool glens or gullies around Bundanoon are sure to be popular options.

But summer is also a time for community celebration and reflection and one of our Shire's most-popular annual events is of course Australia Day.

Each year Council hosts the Shire's official Australia Day celebrations on the 26 January at Berrima's historic Court House.

Celebrations start early in the morning when we welcome our newest citizens followed by the announcement of our Shire's Australia Day Citizen of the Year recipients.

I'd encourage all readers to give some thought and perhaps nominate a fellow Highlander for next year's Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards.

These awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise and congratulate the efforts of our residents who contribute to making the Southern Highlands such a wonderful place to live.

The residents of Bundanoon and its surrounds are known for their inclusive community spirit so I'm sure there would be plenty of recipients worthy of nomination.

One suggestion I would however make is regardless of how well known someone may be for their achievements is to not assume they've already been nominated.

The Young Citizen Award is open to people who are aged 25 years or younger and all nominees must reside in the Wingecarribee Shire. Nominations close on Friday 15 December 2017.

For further information about Wingecarribee Shire's Australia Day Citizen Awards contact Council's Australia Day Coordinator on 4868 0719 or visit our website at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/council/australia-day.

Summer in Australia is of course also synonymous with Christmas and the festive season.

As this is my final column of the year, I would like to wish the readers and families of JCG a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe new year.



President, Geoff Duncan

BCA

President's report

As we head into the unique Australian summer hiatus, when the whole country seems to move into one long, dreamy, pre and post Christmas siesta, I wanted, on behalf of the BCA Committee, to wish you all a happy Christmas. I trust that each of you may snatch at least a small amount of time in what is often

a busy if not frenetic season, to reflect deeply on the importance of our connections to friends and family, and how well we serve them and our community in general. We are fortunate to live in a small regional community. It has been suggested that Bundanoon may have one of the highest levels of volunteering in Australia. Our willingness to pitch in to preserve and maintain all that is central to life in our village is remarkable. At the same time we recognize that change, while inevitable, always needs to be managed sensitively in order to prevent rampant and thoughtless development.

It is interesting given the theme of this edition of JCG, that the one thing that I don't need to emphasise to visiting friends as an extra attraction, is the fact that Bundanoon is a quiet place. Notwithstanding the noise of the fortunately not too frequent trains that rattle through the centre of the village, people who visit seem always to make a point of saying how quiet it is in Bundanoon. They marvel at it! Is it something that perhaps we take for granted?

Secondly, the strong demarcation in light between day and night is not so apparent in the brilliantly lit cities with their often polluted skylines. For most visitors, especially those from the cities, these are qualities they feel they have lost or at the very least no longer experience in their world. That we have this as a constant suggests that we are, at least in this respect, blessed.

2017 has been a year of consolidation for the BCA although we are eager as ever to attract more Committee members, and in particular a new Treasurer, for 2018. I will say much about this in my report to the Annual General Meeting in March, however among several important initiatives a highlight has been the appointment of Kaz Williams as Winterfest 2018 Convenor. I know the community is eagerly looking forward to the shape and scale of next year's event following the disappointment of not being able to secure a Convenor for 2017. The Committee is working closely with Kaz and her team to clarify and confirm the direction and budget for the 2018 event.

The challenges of making the BCA relevant and important to the increasing number of young families coming to live and work in Bundanoon continues. As well, in supporting and encouraging the thriving Sub-Committees which are the lifeblood of the community, the BCA manages with what was described to me as a kind of 'passive oversight'. I think this best describes the financial governance role the Committee is charged with, alongside the need to represent as best it can and where appropriate, all of the community's interests. I believe it is also important that alongside this nurturing role the BCA should also feel free to encourage and support those groups who may wish ultimately to break free and fly on their own. Sometimes it's a delicate balancing act between maintaining the strong cohesion between the BCA and the Sub-Committees and accepting, as has happened in the past, that some groups may wish to operate outside of the BCA umbrella. It can be a tricky balancing act but one which the BCA Committee takes very seriously.

I wish all of you the very best.

Geoff



*Bundanoon Community
Association wishes all
readers a Merry Christmas
and a happy holiday season*

Bundanoon Community Pool – We deserve an UPGRADE

THE CICADAS ARE singing. The mercury is rising. Bundanoon's Community Pool is open. It must be summer!

For more than fifty years summer has signalled the start of the **short** swimming season at Bundanoon Community Pool. Before our pool was built, swimming was a potentially dangerous business undertaken at risk at a local water hole or at the pleasure grounds at Leaver Park. The only municipal pool was all the way up at Mittagong. Following a number of drownings, the community began to lobby for a safer better supervised place to cool off.

Undaunted by the lack of government funding, the then Bundanoon Community Development Association managed to raise £4000, which was deemed sufficient by Council to call for tenders. A fund was established to raise the additional monies needed, and many locals volunteered their services to aid in the project. The Randwick Lions Club contributed £300 and their President opened the Bundanoon Community Pool in 1960.

When the pool was completed that summer, it was truly a thing of beauty – solidly built with the future in mind and people flocked to it. But in the early 1980s, public liability responsibilities compelled the community to gift the pool to the Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Unfortunately, the pool is now open only at limited times. The obvious result of this is an overall lack of patronage... but it's not due to a lack of interest! The explosion in housing development from Exeter to Tallong has led to a significantly younger demography in the Southern Villages. Our communities value health and fitness, the pool is a valuable community asset for all ages and should be available to be used to the fullest possible extent.

Imagine if we had a pool that could be used all year round. If everyone in the area – locals and visitors alike – could enjoy the amenity of our pool beyond the unreasonably short period that it is currently open.

Imagine if the pool had a retractable roof that kept the seasonal chills at bay? Under the auspices of the BCA, the Bundanoon Community Pool Committee have put together a proposal to do just this; to install a mobile, concertina, polycarbonate roof structure over the pool which would allow for use of the pool during all year round and in all weather.

Bundanoon Community Pool NEEDS YOU!

Council is undertaking a review of its four pools and anticipates a report for future operation at the end of 2018. The Committee needs your help to lobby Council about the importance of the pool to the Southern Villages. We need to get Council approval before we can begin the work to secure funding. There is Federal and State government funding available and there are opportunities for financial support from trust bodies as well.

The Committee is undertaking a program of community action, including a rally, and linking with all schools from Tallong to Exeter and community groups that have confirmed their commitment to use the pool regularly if it opened reliably and consistently.

Friends of Bundanoon Community Pool has been created, with our State and Federal representatives, Pru Goward MLA and Angus Taylor MP as Patrons.

Join us at the pool on 3rd March and help secure an upgrade for our pool for future generations to enjoy.



Swim All Year Rally at the Pool

Saturday 3 March, 2:00-4:00pm

- Put it in your diary!
- Sign the petition
- Write to your local member
- Post on social media

Add your voice to this campaign, sign the petition, and we will keep you informed of how you can 'speak' to Council to remind them:

OUR POOL DESERVES AN UPGRADE!

Have your say, take action and become a Friend of Bundanoon Community Pool.

Visit bca.ans.au/Bundanoon-community-pool for pictures and full proposal.

— *Henk Janssen*
Convenor, Bundanoon Community
Pool Sub-Committee



Looking forward, looking back

THE END OF another year is a time to reflect and celebrate, looking forward and looking back. We must be thankful to our artists, our audiences, our Arts Bundanoon Team and the Bundanoon Community Association. Every one of these is like an indispensable link in a chain that has secured another successful year, with more to follow.

As you read this, we shall be about to present this year's final Music at 10 concert. It will be given by the marvellous Tony Lee, who has appeared several times at Music at 10. Tony was the most successful Australian pianist at the recent Sydney International Piano Competition as well as first prize winner at the Australian National Piano Award (Shepparton). The wonderfully high standard of this performer continues the reputation for excellence achieved by Arts Bundanoon over the last three years.

With next year's Music at 10 series already fully programmed, it is possible to look forward to another year of wonderful music, providing opportunities to connect with the Western classical music tradition and to leave the Soldiers' Memorial Hall feeling a little richer and a little happier. Our artists also appreciate Bundanoon for its warm audiences and the cafés serving locally made fare.

Mia Huang will open our 2018 season in February, making her fourth appearance here. Mia is a Canberra-based student and

a most talented pianist, sharing a great rapport with our audience.

March's Music at 10 will offer Ben Adler, violinist, and his associate, pianist Will Cesta, who have previously appeared here together to a most enthusiastic audience. Ben has appeared on several other occasions, always to great acclaim, including with Alisa Yuko Bernhard who is now one of our solo performers. Alisa will appear at Music at 10 in September. We are grateful to Professor Daniel Herscovitch for years of dependable appearances at Music at 10 at which he has provided refined interpretations of the music of Franz Schubert. Daniel will return in October.

An important complimentary activity for Arts Bundanoon this year has been to foster a Saturday morning series, *Intimate Voices*, utilising the lovely acoustics of the "Old Methodist Church". This small and cosy venue brings audiences even closer to the performers than in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, enabling them to hear every note played on quiet instruments. The series began on Saturday, 22nd July 2017 with the guitarist, Ciaran Edwards-McKeown. This extraordinarily gifted musician presented a programme of Bach, Scarlatti and Schubert arrangements along with works by Tarrega, Rodrigo and Barrios-Mangore. The local voices of *Bundanoon Sings!* provided a joyful and popular second concert on 23rd September 2017.



The success of our concerts rests upon the support of our audiences plus our small team of volunteers who each give just a few hours of work per month. If you have enjoyed being in the audience, we ask you to consider bringing the gift of music to others in 2018 by becoming an Arts Bundanoon volunteer.

— Neil Mitchell



Bundanoon Photography Group

AS THE YEAR draws to a close, it's time to reflect our achievements for 2017 and start planning for 2018.

The President's Cup is a monthly competition covering a wide range of topics and is open to all members. The winner of the Cup is chosen by the members by popular vote. The voting can be a little chaotic at times but is always a fun process. Our subject titles are open to broad interpretation, providing scope for photographers to use their imagination.

Plans are well advanced for our Annual Christmas Dinner and Presentation Night. It is the night at which one of our members will win the annual award for the best images and receive the trophy for the President's Annual Award. The winner of the trophy is selected from the monthly competitors winners. Last year's winner was a worthy entry from Meg Nurse.

By the time you read this we will have completed our series of photographic lessons for the year, the November topic being 'post-processing' – a challenge for all photographers!

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month and we have photo outings on the fourth Thursday. Destinations for our outing are chosen to provide variety and opportunity. Recently we visited Thirlmere Rail Museum which provided a rich source of subjects for all styles of photography.

Our club nights offer a friendly atmosphere to share our photographs and experiences in a relaxed and friendly environment. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Bundanoon Men's Shed, Burgess Street Bundanoon at 5.30PM.

—Peter Gray

New members are welcome, please contact:

- President, Peter Gray on 4883 6312 or 041 922 3928
- Secretary, Joy Brown on 4883 6456
- or e-mail photos2578@gmail.com



The winner of October's competition, 'Lines and Curves', was Joy Brown – well done Joy!



Crash Test Drama

THE EVENING PERFORMANCE on 14 October played to a packed house once again and was preceded by four short plays by local authors being 'crash tested.'

A Family Affair by Christopher Owen

The play is set in a small village in Wales in Dilys and Brian's dining room over a Sunday lunch. Dilys and Miriam are sisters who have always been jealous of each other – especially where men are concerned. Brian (Dilys' husband) is caught in the middle; however, he has a few secrets of his own...

Starring: Patrick Brennan as Brian; Miranda Lean as Dilys; and Brigid Gregg as Miriam. **Directed by** Fran Bosly-Craft.

There was a huge BRAVO from the audience and much well-earned applause.

Crash Test Drama

Crash Test Drama is a great way for actors and directors to practise their craft and for writers to learn more about the art of writing for the stage! An afternoon of theatre, networking and fun - where four of Bundanoon's best new short plays were cast and rehearsed then test-driven live, as moved play readings, in front of our audience!

There were prizes for two plays; One, the judges choice, and another, the people's choice, going into the finals on 18th November, to fight it out for a place in Short and Sweet (Sydney) January 2018.

Our Guest Judge this time was the very talented and experienced Alex Rapp, who has herself appeared in Bundanoon's Crash Test Drama, and has also featured as a leading actress in several Mittagong Playhouse productions. More recently Alex directed "Blackadder" for On 4 Young and Old Productions in Bowral.

GUEST JUDGE'S DECISIONS:

Best Actress: Fran Bosly-Craft 'The Estate Agent' **BEST ACTOR:** Jock Bidwell 'The R Word'

Best Director: Greg Tome 'Interview With a Mouse'

Best Play: 'The R Word' by Terry Bourke

AUDIENCE VOTE:

Best Play: 'The R Word' by Terry Bourke

Because the Guest Judge and the Audience both voted for the same Best Play, the runner up in the Audience Vote 'The Estate Agent' by Gillian Brennan, will join 'The R Word' in the Gala Final on 18th November.



Photos by Peter Wydmuch

CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

Saturday 16th December, 6pm for 7pm

Call 4883 7831

Book early! Don't miss out!!

CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

On 16th December will be the Christmas Variety Show, now in its third year. This promises to be as big and bold as ever. There is too much to mention here, but rest assured, if you miss it, you'll regret it! Only \$10 entry.

Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm show, with more details advertised around the village closer to the event. Bookings for this cabaret-styled show open on 6th November, and bookings are essential.

With Melting Pot Theatre gently approaching its sixth year, and with quite a few successes behind it, we are planning more excitement in 2018.

Wishing all of our writers, actors, directors, support crew and of course our audiences, the very best of wishes for a safe and happy Christmas.

If you would like to learn a little more of what Melting Pot Theatre is up to, please drop a line to jankenny10@gmail.com or alternatively see our website: info@meltingpottheatre.org

— Rosemarie Gray



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and you!

Bundanoon Sings!

IT'S HARD TO believe that our community choir is almost two years old. We have become a close-knit group which meets for the joy of singing every Monday from 7PM till 9PM in the Supper Room at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Our director, Danielle Hewitt, is unflappable and a joy to work with. No experience is necessary and there are no auditions. We welcome all newcomers!

In September the choir participated in a new Arts Bundanoon initiative, 'Intimate Voices', held in the cosy space of the Bundanoon Uniting Church. This was a joyful event for both choir and audience. Recently the choir took part in the Spring Fling at Wingello Public School and once again we were well received.

Our next event is not to be missed! Carols By Fairylight is for all the family and will be held in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall on Sunday December 10th at 5pm. There will be a great mix of traditional carols, modern Christmas songs and a few extras - lots for audience participation!

See you there!

Find out more: www.facebook.com/bundanoonsings or join us in the Supper Room at the back of the Memorial Hall at 7pm on Mondays.

Cinema Rex – 2018 Film Calendar



February 17: THE SAPPHIRES

March 24: COCOON

May 12: A MAN CALLED OVE

July 7: BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

August 25: HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE

October 6: THE KING AND I

November 3: RED DOG

Garden Ramble Round-Up



THIS YEAR'S 21ST Garden Ramble has been another success story. After the opening ceremony and the cutting of the celebratory cake, it was ON.

The eight different gardens, refreshed after rain the day before, looked fabulous and welcomed visitors. This year offered a wide selection of differing sizes, styles, designs and plantings, with other attractions at some gardens, such as food and plant stalls, to enhance the visitor experience. The market stalls in the hall offered much to the discerning buyer. The balloons and the delightful display of plants and garden objects by the Bundanoon Bloomery, conveyed a festive feel.

The garden gate attendants received many comments, which reflected the joy that visitors felt after visiting the gardens. "Beautifully put together", "inspired by what you have done!", "absolutely divine – food for the soul", "serene, tranquil and harmonious"; "so nice to see a native garden" and "loved the vegetable garden" were some of the comments received.

Buses provided regular transport around the gardens which gave visitors a chance to take in the sights and to see the scarecrows around the village.

The winner of the 2017 Scarecrow Adult division was: 'Blown Away by Bundanoon'

by the Bundanoon Guest House. The children's division winner was: 'Farmer Pig the Pug' made by Sofia, Cade and Liam Wilson.

On Sunday afternoon, garden owners and volunteers gathered in the Supper Room. Garden owners related about how being in the Ramble was an exhilarating experience. The interaction with visitors and the level of interest and appreciation shown was unexpected to many owners who just simply enjoy their gardens and often don't consider them very special. The Ramble Committee thanked everyone and the eight garden owners were presented with a gift certificate in appreciation for their huge efforts.

The Ramble Committee also give a huge "thank you" the whole village for welcoming the ramblers yet again. The Garden Ramble has been an ongoing success in Bundanoon as the landscape lends itself to wandering and looking, at a leisurely pace. The Ramble isn't about the biggest and the best gardens but those that are created with love, reflecting the village and its quirky ways!

The next Garden Ramble will be 27–28 October 2018. Ready, Set, Garden!

— *Patricia Varley, Convenor*



Legacies of labour and love



Neil Braithwaite

NEIL AND WIFE Anne moved to Bundanoon in 1987 when they bought the village newsagency. Soon after, Neil was elected President of the then BCDA. During his time in the role he achieved many projects that the village enjoys today; he lobbied the council for a footpath up the hill in Ellsmore Road and for indoor toilets in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. He also led the project to transform the land beside the railway line into

what is now Picnic Park, opposite the shops, and then had the bus shelter installed.

Neil was raised on a dairy farm near Campbelltown and had a love for life on the land. Neil and Anne ran their own dairy in Bermagui for 10 years, "but it was always hard to make a living"

says Anne, "so other jobs were necessary."

But Neil always liked a challenge and thrived on change. "He could look at something and quickly get the measure of it" says Anne. This led to the move up the coast to take on the Kangaroo Valley Caravan Park.

When Neil and Anne moved to Sydney in 1993, the couple kept their house in Bundanoon, returning when they retired in 2002.

In retirement, Neil continued his life-long devotion to reading *The Land* "which was the Bible in our house". He also loved long driving holidays. Anne says, "But with Neil it was always A to B and no mucking about!" Neil and great mate, David Brown, made several driving trips together, exploring far-flung locales like the Murrumbidgee River or Parkes. He also used to enjoy visiting friends on their various farms.

Since his diagnosis in 2010, Neil had many periods of good health, where he indulged his passion for overseas travel, particularly cruising. The last trip took Neil and Anne from Sydney up around Australia to Denpasar.

"We had a lovely life", says Anne, "I mean we *worked*, but we had a lovely life. With Neil, life was never dull!"

— *Juanita Manahan with Anne Braithwaite*

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Suzy Molyneux

THE BUNDANOON COMMUNITY will have many special memories of Suzy and are only too aware of her many contributions to the life of the village. As Suzy Taylor, she arrived here from Manly in 1980, together with husband, Tommy, and children Peter (7), Ben (4) and Sarah (2). They moved into the Railway Avenue home and quickly established themselves in community life.

The boys become cubs and scouts and Tommy helped lead the cub pack and established his business as an electrician.

Early on in Sarah's life it was evident she needed help with her disability, Williams Syndrome, and Suzy set about finding local support, only to discover that very few local services were available. Suzy decided to do something about it. In 1981 she formed a support group for parents with disabled children. One year later they formed a committee – with Suzy as the President. They wrote countless letters and petitions, applied for grants and put in hours of work to set up the Toy Box Centre, initially in Stafford cottage, Bowral. In 1987 they acquired a house in Thompson Street, Bowral, where the service continues, now known as Bridges For Learning.

During this time Suzy started studying, completing a diploma in community services in 1996. In 2001 she was awarded a

Bachelor of Education in Adult Education. Also in 2001 Suzy was presented with a Centenary Medal for her Service to the Disabled.

In 2006 she completed 25 years with Toybox Centre and “retired”. She continued working in the Community Sector as a casual educator running groups for parents in the Highlands and the Illawarra. In 2007 she was one of 10 finalists for NSW Woman of the Year.

She has spent many years volunteering with Kairos Prison Ministries, for ten years with the women in Berrima Correctional Centre. After Berrima closed she joined the Kairos Outside Women's program supporting the female relatives of male inmates in the NSW prison system.

One of her big interests was her garden. Since our marriage in 2005 and her partial retirement, she has transformed her garden, delighting in its produce, the flowers and the relaxation she had from pottering around. She loved attending both the Garden Club and the Community Garden.

Environmental issues could really stir her up. Suzy was one of the first to volunteer for the Bundy on Tap Committee. When the project was finally launched in 2013 we were travelling in Italy. Watching Sky News there one night, we saw Bundanoon and the ban on sales of bottled water came on the screen. Bundanoon was finally on the international stage!

Suzy passed away on Friday 29th September following a massive stroke at home two days earlier. She loved her life in Bundanoon and will be greatly missed by all her family and her many friends here.

— Tony Molyneux



Mick Greason

ALISTER ARTHUR ROBERT (Mick) Greason was a true beef cattle man. He always said the best breed was the Hereford. His passing on the 8 June, 2017 at the age of 89 marked the end of a farming era extending for 108 years for the Greason family of Bundanoon. Mick had always raised cattle, both for the family butchery business (R Greason and Sons) and for sale. He learned his

cattle skills from his grandfather Robert and father Alister and was able to ride a horse and crack a whip until he was in his late seventies.

Mick's favourite part of the day always involved checking the cattle. Even on a trip to the Northern Territory he found the old cattle yards on the Roper River and the feed lots in the rural areas of Darwin as interesting as the national parks and tourist sites. A butcher through and through, he liked nothing better than checking out the meat in the local supermarket or shopping centre to compare and comment on the prices or quality! Mick devoted his life to the family business and butchering, and he spent his retirement days still raising cattle at The Yards, the family property.

The only son of Alister and Ruby Greason, he was born on the 27 May 1928. He had five sisters, and according to Mick, they all enjoyed telling him what to do. He did report that he was able to outrun them and often escaped going to Sunday School.

Mick was a gentle and caring man who was well respected by the people of Bundanoon. He had a loyal group of customers,

many of whom followed him to his next butcher shop role after the family sold the butchering business. For more than forty years he delivered meat on a weekly basis to the people of Penrose and Wingello, where he was met with cups of tea, scones and cake, and gifts of fruit on his way around the delivery trail. He would often be asked to help out with advice on problems or issues as he went, all of which he would do willingly.

Mick's amazing recall of events in the history of Bundanoon has provided invaluable material for the recording of the town history. His stories of growing up in the 1930–40s where he led a free and easy existence catching rabbits in the hills, riding horses, or just spending time with his mates around the township, were a fascinating insight into life as a youngster in Bundanoon. His ability to tell about the day-to-day life in the village has been recorded for future generations. He had an amazing collection of stories to tell, each one prompting a new story as he remembered another incident or local personality.

Sport, particularly cricket, football and hockey, were Mick's great interests. He was recognised for his talent in cricket and football, but being a left hander he always cursed the “right” handed hockey stick that his sisters could wield so successfully. He spent 30 years serving in the local fire brigade and was able to document many of the bushfires and town fires that had occurred in that time.

Mick led a rich and rewarding life and was very proud of the family farming and butchering history. He leaves a myriad of wonderful memories for his family and his legacy for Bundanoon is of an oral and visual history that is now filed for future generations. Mick leaves a wife, two daughters, five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

— Diane Schwartzkoff



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Vet's casebook

➤ Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

Lessons in adversity

THE LAST FEW months have been punctuated by despairing efforts to keep our Veterinary Practice connected to the general public by phone and internet. Our Bundanoon Clinic had its number 'pulled' by NBN and we were without a phone for 1 month! Our expensive switchboard, installed in March for the purpose of NBN connection, was completely out of order for five weeks (apologies to clients!). Luckily, our whizz-bang switchboard is at present working perfectly off our old ADSL modem.

Gone are the days when Telstra, upon hearing we ran an emergency service for animals, would fast-track a repair. Try explaining this to a faults operator sitting behind a screen in Mumbai!

Rant over.

A very happy lesson about overcoming adversity is provided by a pair of sand plovers who decided to lay their eggs at the rear corner of our hospital. There is virtually no cover on this grassy verge which is 1 metre from the kerb of a Council carpark used by up to 50 cars. The optimism displayed by the pair of birds, who aggressively defend their two green eggs sitting in a shallow hollow in the ground, against anyone who approaches, is a lesson in survival.

The Council mow this verge periodically



and the grass was getting long. So I came to work last Tuesday with four pickets and a hammer to barricade the nest. As I parked the car I was horrified to see that the mowing had already been done. I rushing down the lane, expecting the worst... but the sand plover hen was still sitting on her eggs as if nothing had happened. She must have flown away as the mower zoomed over the nest, amazingly leaving the eggs intact in their little hollow.

I check every morning and evening to

see if this little family has survived. So far, they are overcoming the extreme adversity of breeding in the developed world. As I observe them I realise that my NBN problems are really of little importance compared to the problems of the plovers. I wonder if they become impatient for their eggs to hatch.

Bundanoon Vet, beside Bundanoon Butchery



Bundanoon chooses you

ONE OF THE many pleasurable tasks that I carried out when I first joined the Bundanoon Community Association was to distribute Welcome Packs to our new arrivals.

Whenever a new person moves in to Bundanoon whether buying or renting we ask their friends or neighbours to advise us so we can arrange to welcome them into the Community with a bag full of local goodies and information: events, sporting associations, local services, and interest groups. The Welcome Pack is an invitation to gradually become part of the community. Being part of this was also great benefit to me, as I had moved from Sydney, not knowing what to expect and how I would assimilate into a small town environment.

One thing I discovered after some time of

working with the BCA Committee was that it opened up my mind as to how small towns work in providing the good life that we all enjoy here. BCA enables each resident to have a voice, especially by being a conduit to Council when local issues arise. BCA offers the opportunity to join a number of groups, for example, writing for JCG or supporting the organisers of Music@10 or events like Garden Ramble. I never experienced this when living in Sydney. Here I was able to make a contribution to all facets of the community, and it was appreciated and valued. For some time I was secretary of BCA.

Getting back to Welcome Packs, what I found over a period of about two years in listening to new residents' stories was that they really didn't mean to move here.

Each person explained that it happened by chance. Time after time they would say, "Oh, we were only passing through on our way to Goulburn or Canberra to meet up with friends." or, "We were at a wedding in Bowral and took a drive, or, we were looking for a weekend escape hatch to have a break from our busy lives in Sydney". This also applied to us. We had no intention of buying here, and weren't even thinking of moving out of Sydney. We just stopped by chance to have lunch at a local café and explore the town. Within weeks we bought our house.

After a while I would tell all our new residents: "You don't choose to live in Bundanoon. Bundanoon chooses you!"

Maybe there is a little magic in the mist!

— Carol Townsend

Serendipity: the choir – 10 years young!

2017 HAS ALREADY gone down in the annals of Serendipity: the choir as 'the year to remember' – and the year still has time to run!

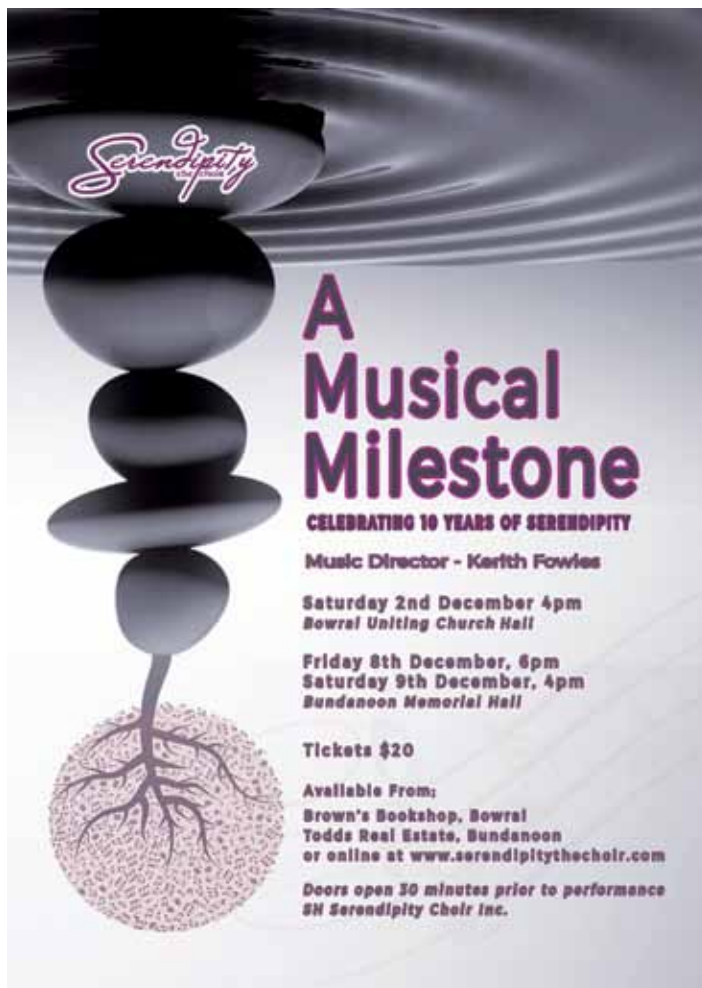
Thus far the choir can celebrate:

- in April, our first all-day workshop with a guest conductor
- in June, acclaimed performances of concert series One Earth – Many Voices
- in July, a performance at the Council's community awards
- in August, a tour of the South Island of New Zealand
- in September, participation in a combined choirs weekend workshop in Kangaroo Valley
- in November, participation in the Final Fling, singing as cyclists powered by.

To complete this, our end-of-decade year, Serendipity will present a concert celebrating every concert series we have presented during the 10 years of the choir's existence. The present members of the choir voted for the piece from each programme which they wanted to include, and an amazingly diverse (and sometimes surprising) collection of music resulted. The programme will be diverse, entertaining, beautiful, boppy – as always, something for everyone.

A particular pleasure will be the return of former Serendipians, coming from Canberra, Orange, Sydney, Bega, Kiama and yes, from Bundanoon! We also look forward to welcoming composers who have written music for us over the years.

And so we look forward to welcoming our regular audience members and newcomers as we celebrate our first exciting decade and eagerly anticipate the beginning of the next. To be part of the celebration, do join us at one of our concerts.



Serendipity

A Musical Milestone

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Music Director - Kerith Fowles

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Friday 8th December, 6pm
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Doors open 30 minutes prior to performance
© Serendipity Choir Inc.

Bundanoon Lions

EVERY YEAR AT around this time, the members of Bundanoon Lions Club are, like most everybody else, counting down the days toward Christmas, eagerly looking forward to a well-earned rest. For us, the second half of the year is always the busiest, with regular catering gigs including the Garden Ramble café, the History Group garage sale and the Chevalier gymkhana. This year we were also kept busy with a couple of new events: a *Meet the Lions* evening, and the hilarity and anarchy of our *Hell's Bells! It's Another Trivia Night*.

All this activity is enormous fun (we wouldn't do it if it wasn't – fun is our first priority!), but we also have an altruistic mission: everything we do raises much-needed funds to help us support good works in the village as well as the broader Australian community.

Finding engaging new ways to raise those funds is an ongoing challenge, a challenge we share with other local and international charities; that and overcoming compassion fatigue – there are just so many seriously deserving causes vying for attention. During the coming 'fallow' months one of our key tasks will be to brainstorm ideas for a range of activities that will raise funds and awareness

of Lions programs while not completely killing us! Wish us luck (and keep an eye out for updates via our Facebook page).

As we approach the festive season, one of the ways Lions raises funds is via the sale of our legendary Christmas cakes and puddings. In the more than fifty years that the Lions Christmas Cake and Pudding program has been running, Lions have raised more than \$55 million. That's a lot of cake! The program originated in a member's garage in Queanbeyan, before being outsourced to professional bakers Big Sister. In the intervening years the cakes have also been baked by some of the world's leading food manufacturers, including Sara Lee, Arnotts and Top Taste, who have been baking Lions cakes since 1983. Since 2010, Lions have also been producing an incredibly rich pudding – highly recommended! Of course, many people take great pride in baking their own Christmas cakes and puddings, but if you think you'll find yourself caught short for time they will be available



for sale at the Bundanoon Post Office.

And finally, Bundanoon Lions Club would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us this year: the fun-lovers who joined in our activities; the connoisseurs who chose one of our BBQ sausages over a more nutritious option; the feeble-sighted who donated their old glasses to the Lions' Save Sight program; and the new Lions, and Friends, who toiled and laughed with such gusto at every occasion. We hope you enjoy a safe and happy festive season.

— Kaz Williams



A photograph of a stone path leading through a lush garden. The path is made of flat stones and is flanked by wooden railings. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall green irises and flowering shrubs. The background is a dense forest of trees.

Giverny-esque gardens, golden landscapes or gelato...

Whether it be to entertain, exercise, heal or connect (or just shop and eat), calendars are peppered with dates hosting friends and family. Be inspired as you read where the Bundanoon community takes their visitors...

Hell Hole – that sounds like a great place for a walk!

YOU USUALLY GET raised eyebrows from visitors when you suggest a trip to such a place. But it really isn't that bad... mostly.

Hell Hole is the rather spooky name of a location in Morton National Park on the edge of Bundanoon. It was originally the name of what was once a working farm that produced fruit and vegetables earlier in the season than other Highland farms. It gained this advantage from its lower altitude and its protected position, away from the worst of the winds and in a site where frost was less likely.

The sign at Echo Point lookout in the National Park incorrectly shows Hell Hole in the gorge of Coal Mines Creek. If you're at the lookout, you'll need to look further away and to your left to see the bowl-shaped depression indicating the remains of the farm. In certain months, you can see large areas of white native clematis flowers sprawling over vegetation in the former clearing.

But if you want to see it in more detail, you'll need to take a bit of a walk...

Hell Hole farm had a dirt road that connected it to the outside world. Now it's a closed 4WD track that walkers can access via Coalmines Road and then take the dirt road that runs into the National Park. Don't head to View Point lookout. Just park near the locked gate.

The path descends gently at first, down from the escarpment that ends in the lookout. You soon move through the dry scrubby forest on the higher ground, and meet a taller moister forest associated with a gully, then an ephemeral stream. Eventually this opens out into rocky terrain and spectacular views from a cliff line at the track edge. The track is safe but the edge is near and unfenced.



After further descent through stands of black she-oak, a favourite food of the rare and threatened glossy black cockatoo, you'll encounter a large rock outcrop. You'll see that the track descends more steeply into ironbark forest. You're at a geological boundary here – where the Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone forming the cliffs and promontories around Bundanoon meets the softer Permian sandstones and sedimentary rocks that form the mid-slopes and gullies. The ironbark trees are an indication of this geological change, as they prefer the slightly more fertile and clayey soils derived from the Permian rocks.

The trail continues down next to a beautiful forest of tall gully gums with a

ferny understorey. The forest understorey becomes thicker, with hints of rainforest species. When the track disappears you've arrived at the remains of Hell Hole farm.

You might see some of the rusting farm machinery that was left after the original clean-up when the farm was incorporated into the National Park. There are a few of the old garden plants and a narrow path. Wander into the rainforest that skirts the old field and you might encounter a rusting water tank and an old well. There are hazards here, so take care.

So why would you call a farm 'Hell Hole', especially in what looks like such a appealing bushland setting far from neighbours and the noise of the town?

Go there in the warmer months on a humid day, and you'll likely meet leeches, ticks, perhaps midges and biting marsh flies. Nettles add another level of discomfort. Of course there would have been bushfires and the endless battle with wildlife wanting to consume the fruits of your labour. The farm was evidently named from bitter experience. If it managed to eke a living, 'Hell Hole Farm' would have made for an educational addition to the Garden Ramble!

— Steve Douglas





“Through the soles of my feet”

THIS PHRASE CAME to me this week as I reprised a regular walk through Morton National Park. It came from a very wise Maori man to my question “where does your spirituality come from? His answer, “when I walk on my land it comes through the soles of my feet”.

When I was General Manager of the Quest for Life Centre I facilitated regular weekend ‘time out’ retreats. A regular feature was a walk in the park – well usually two walks, so answering the call from the editor of JCG as to where to take visitors, the response was automatic...

Lovers Walk commences at Bonny View and it is a short circuitous route to Echo point – or for the fitter walker, a few hundred extra metres to the top of Mount Carnarvon. It is mostly flat apart from the short climb at the end. I encourage undertaking it in silence; a sort of meditational walk. There are landscape views of the gorges and also fern-filled gullies. My favourite part is where the path passes huge towering sandstone cliffs covered in red lichen. It is one of many places in Australia as well as the Scottish Highlands where I am always reminded of the overwhelming power of landscape to connect one with ‘the other’... can I say a soul connect? If you have walked in Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) in Central Australia, there is the same feeling right here in this part of the Lovers Walk. Those who know the work of the Dominican scholar, Matthew Fox and his evolutionary Creation Spirituality movement, will immediately connect with the panentheism of this special place. In contrast, at the end of the walk there is a well-maintained BBQ area (free) so hunger of another kind can be satisfied!

Erith Coal Mines Walk by contrast,

requires a reasonable level of fitness - but it is well worth the effort. Via a well-maintained series of rammed-earth steps and metal stairs you gradually descend to the top of a waterfall and then continue your descent right down past the old mine entrances to the bottom where a welcoming pool and cool glade awaits. Along the way informative signs describe the local flora and benches are strategically placed set at regular intervals among a forest of dry eucalypts and grass trees.

The two walks are great at any time of the year and in all weathers – I especially like it after it has rained, with glistening flora and intense colour emanating from the escarpments and boulders. In springtime the boronia and tea trees provide a blaze of colour contrast with the eucalypts. The added advantage of walking the tracks in silence is the opportunity to come across a variety of wildlife. This past week, in the course of a



couple of minutes, I encountered a gaggle of gang-gang cockatoos feasting on a bush, an echidna and a lyrebird. There is also often a display from the resident family of yellow-tailed black cockatoos.

The Blue Mountains are justly heralded for their vast beauty; they are also inundated with hordes of day trippers, which to my mind detracts from the experience. How lucky are we in Bundanoon to have our own mini version to explore at leisure. It is a well-kept secret which we can share with our special visitors.

— Thomas Andrew



The antiques and collectibles road trip

AFTER MUCH RESEARCH, our grand plan was to explore as many antique shops as we could in a day. But not just any shops - our list was of those not so well known.

Focused and keen, we pulled into Mt Ashby Estate, only to find that it was closed for the day. But happily for us the amiable and generous manager, Sally Beresford, very kindly invited us in for a look.

The large barn is home to a fabulous collection of largely French Provincial items, with stunning aged oak tables, arguably the highlight of the display. Christine immediately headed off to the unexpected clothes rack and spent some time there trying to talk herself out of purchasing a most gorgeous black blouse, but temptation was eventually resisted; there were many more places to visit.

Off to Grandpa's Shed at Fitzroy Falls, where you could easily spend an entire day. Exploring this extraordinary place fills you with nostalgia for times passed, as we recognized so many household goods we'd grown up with. Almost anything you could possibly dream up can be found in this place, and Jan found a beautifully carved chair that she just couldn't resist. After some hard bargaining it came home with us. Grandpa's Shed is truly an Aladdin's Cave and well worth more visits.

As we headed towards Robertson we came to a fork in the road and decided to turn towards Belmore Falls. After all, the best times are often had off the beaten

track and in places you had initially no intention of visiting. We spent a delightful time, making our way over the flooded crossing and trying to figure out how to get up to the lookout which was not indicated by any signs. We eventually found our way to the lookout, the view from which is spectacular and well worth the effort. After much gazing and cooeeing across the gorge, we waded back across to the car and on to Robertson where both the shops on our researched list were closed! The Emporium at the Cheese Factory is always worth exploring however, and by then we had worked up an appetite.

Of course it was then lunchtime and so we stopped into Moonacres Café, where they serve local organic meals. Absolutely delicious!!

Next stop - Kangaroo Valley. Two of the listed shops were closed (beginning to see a pattern?), but we found our way into a delightful little gem of a place, hidden from view in a small space above Rural Supplies in Jenanger Drive. Not a huge collection, but plenty of quirky and interesting items to seek out and enjoy. Don't get frightened by the talking monkey!

Then to The Nostalgia Factory, where we happily potted around, investigating their many treasures. The shop was a delight, with much to look at, including clothes which were again resisted.



Christine's new treasure - an art deco coffee percolator!



Two other places worth a visit are The Wood Gallery, where they make exquisite rocking horses, and Pioneer Museum, which is not open on Mondays (although it was a Tuesday!).

It was time to head home, but not before making a stop for coffee and cake at the General Store in Burrawang, where we relaxed on the verandah.

We had a wonderfully interesting and fun day, with a fresh outlook of places to take visitors for a great day out in the Highlands.

— Christine Janssen and Jan Kenny

Bundanoon care package

An extra special visitor gets the full package!

SOMETIMES, WHEN THE going gets tough, the tough get going... all the way to grandmother's house for a much needed Bundanoon Care Package, tailor-made for a worn out, often unwell, uni student granddaughter.

In the past I have given various "kits" to friends and family:

Travel kit: such things as safety pins, pen, Vicks Vapour drops, hand sanitizer, home made, one-of-a-kind baggage tag.

Mother of the bride kit: needle and thread, fragrant soap, tea, tissues, chocolate.

Recovery kit: a good book, paracetamol, hand cream, Rescue Remedy, more tea.

So, a Bundanoon Care Package is like that only different...it cannot be parcelled up into a brown paper package tied up with string, it has to be experienced, lived and enjoyed. Here is my version... yours could look quite different!

VENUE: BUNDANOON, OF COURSE!

CONTENTS: Environment: fresh clean air, lots of green (trees, fields, bush, gardens, plants), peace and quiet (with the reward of restful sleep), good clear water to drink, time to read and rest.



Nourishing food: home cooked, plenty of vegetables, a visit to a local café for tea and scones, copious cups of tea, ice-cream.

Exercise: a walk down Rockleigh Road for the expansive views of countryside, presided over by ruminating cows, a walk in Morton National Park, lyrebirds scratching,



wandering along the magnificent crab apple and flowering cherry streets of Bundanoon, strolling in Springtime gardens.

Companionship: watching a movie together (at the cinema, or at home, or both), opening our hearts to each other, plenty of hugs, cooking yummys together, laughing lots, power talking as we power walk, meeting friends, old and new.

Therapy: mandatory visits to The Good Yarn (second hand books), Nest and Burrow (everything really!), lolly shop in Bowral (all time favourite), Lingerie outlet (all things pretty and cute), Dirty Janes (bits and pieces, tea shop goodies); a massage, either at home or with a pro; music (my favourite, music from Taizé, her current favourite, *My Fair Lady*, enjoyed together only recently).

TREATMENT PLAN: Sleep in, good slow breakfast, long walk listening to bird song and watching out for wildlife, a cup of tea (or two or three), tour of a garden (either mine or somewhere else, like Red Cow Farm or springtime tulips in Corbett Gardens), a nap when necessary, wandering around favourite shops, a good book, a glass of wine, a movie (either in town with an ice-cream or at home on the couch, also with ice-cream!), early night. Mostly accompanied by shared talk and laughter, or peace and quiet.

Any or all of the above!

OUTCOME: A chronically fatigued, pain suffering granddaughter says: "Just what I needed, Gran!" Her Gran says exactly the same! Bundanoon, yet again, delivers the goods!

— Jane Irwin

Providence...

PROVIDENCE. FORTUITY. ONE moment in the day done different and you would have arrived a minute too late for a certain fate.

Around 4PM today, after meandering through Goulburn and Marulan on return from East Gippsland, we found ourselves in the tiny and utterly gorgeous town of Bundanoon.

I rolled down my windows at an intersection to ask someone where to find the best meal in town and met Barbara who chanced to be standing there on there, chatting to another. After she kindly directed us to a good feed, she asked whether we had plans to stay.

Not only did it turn out she has a beautiful AirB&B joint, but by chance is also a published singer/songwriter/pianist (Joe Cocker's sung her stuff!) with a baby grand in the lounge room. And it turns out we have several friends in common to boot.

Of course she was rehearsing a play down at the prettiest little country hall, set up with full stage and sound rig, so six-year-old Augie had his first taste of theatre proper.

Reds were downed and songs were sung.

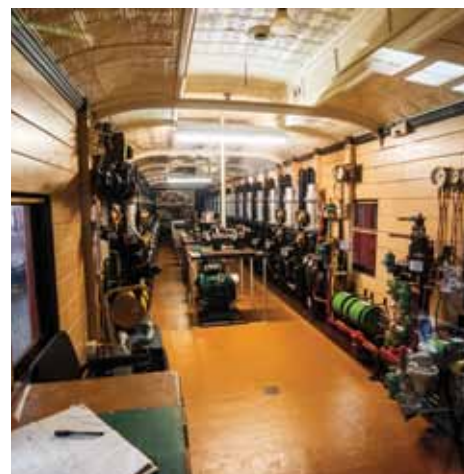
Talk about blessings!

Adapted with permission from a Facebook post by Danielle Farrow-Pryke



Take a trip back to the Age of Steam

Below: The opulent interior of the Governor General's Carriage, a rolling, steel-wheeled work of art



TAFE on wheels: In the days when the railway relied on craftsmen they trained their own apprentices in a rolling classroom

Visiting



The Rail Pay Bus: one of the oddest items in the collection. It was used for transporting employees' wages all over the state rail system



Mail Van: an important example of the Travelling Post Offices, which enabled the speedy delivery of mail, newspapers and parcels to communities across the state



The 6040 Beyer-Garratt: the heaviest and most powerful steam locomotive to ever turn a wheel in Australia. It's massive, powerful and a sight to behold.

Thirlmere Rail Museum

JUST TO CLARIFY... I am not a train spotter! But I am a photographer, who some weeks ago joined a group of friends from the Bundanoon Photography Group on a trip to the rather extraordinary Thirlmere Rail Museum.

What we found was a treasure trove of beautifully maintained rail memorabilia, all lovingly restored and displayed on a large, well laid out site.

This museum is only an hour from Bundanoon along the Hume Highway, through Hill Top and on to Thirlmere, then follow the museum signs (10 Barbour

Rd, Thirlmere, NSW 2572 for GPS users). Easy parking and a short walk will take you to the entrance.

Allow yourself plenty of time to wander through the expansive exhibits. There is a fine collection of old steam engines and unique carriages, all faithfully restored true to period, giving the feeling that you have stepped back in time.

The Great Train Hall houses the biggest collection of rolling stock in Australia. A significant portion of the collection has been steadily refurbished and restored over the years by volunteers, but there are many

other carriages patiently awaiting the money and labour required to be returned to their former glory.

A five minute walk to Loop Line Pies on Westbourne Ave is where we debriefed with delicious pies, cakes and several cups of good coffee, discussing the wonderful surprise of this remarkable museum.

Here's a link to the Rail Museum's web page:
www.nswrailmuseum.com.au/the-museum

— Peter Gray

Thomas the Tank Engine at Thirlmere



SEVERAL TIMES A year Thomas the Tank Engine and friends come to Thirlmere to meet their fans. For those with littlies it's a great family day out. Have your photo taken with Thomas, say hello to Henry the green engine or experience a 45 minute train ride on Donald the black engine.

There is a mini train ride, face painting and jumping castles all well-organised by an efficient team of volunteers.

You can bring a picnic, enjoy a sausage sizzle, gelato, coffee and a variety of food from the cafe.

Adults \$38, concession \$33 and children over 2 years \$28: includes all activities and all proceeds support the restoration work of Transport Heritage NSW.

See www.nswrailmuseum.com.au/events for details; next dates are 17–18 March.



Reminders of other highlands

Ethiopian Highlands between Addis Ababa and Awanno

“I LOVE COMING down here..... it reminds me of South Africa”. These were the words of a visiting lady who was brought up in South Africa until she was 16, when her parents brought her to Australia.

After living in East Africa for many years, we agree with her! This is one of the reasons we fell in love with the Highlands. Does that sound strange? Do you think of Africa as being all hot and dry, or maybe jungles? Actually the highlands of Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia bear a strong resemblance to the Southern Highlands of NSW. No doubt the many eucalyptus trees in the African landscape, imported in the 1800s for timber and fuel, contribute to that feeling of familiarity.

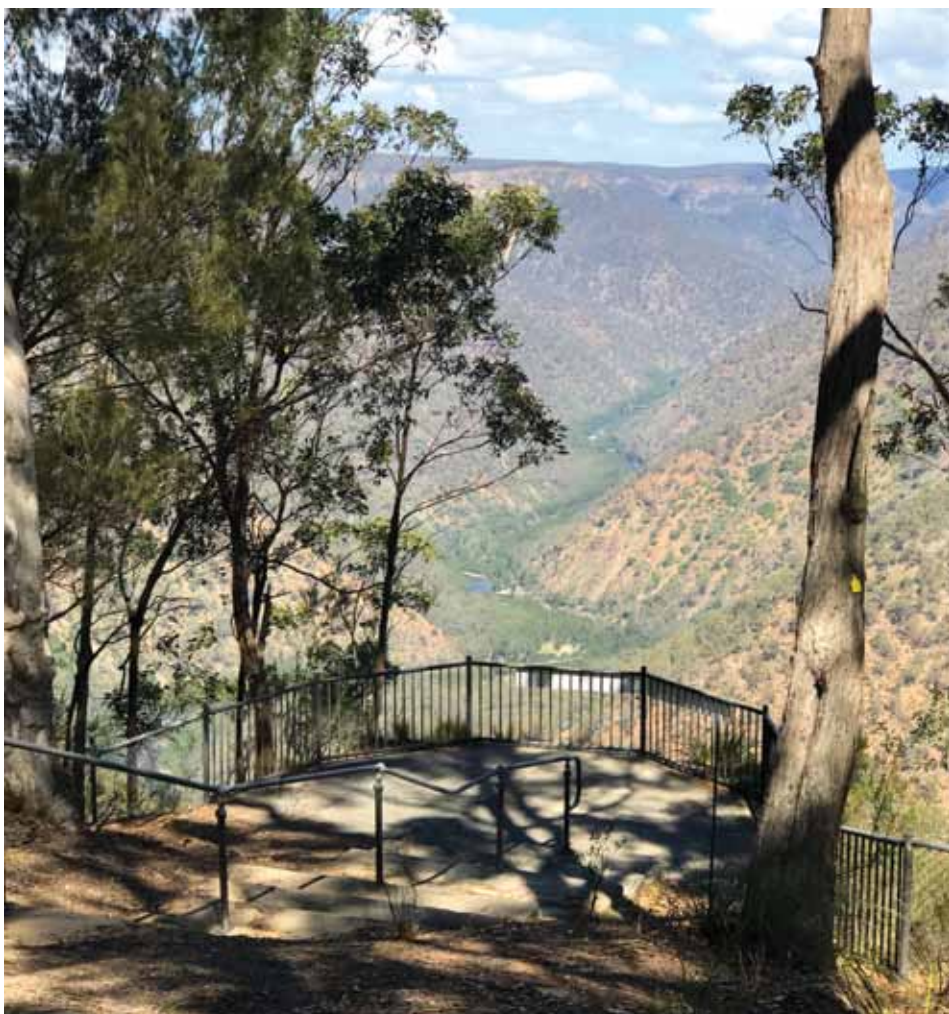
There is a place where I love to take our visiting African friends and we are never disappointed with their reactions. Just down the road from us, near Tallong, are Badgerys Lookout and Long Point Lookout. The views from each are quite breathtaking. There is a dramatic drop down to the Shoalhaven river below, which winds through patches of pine forest, sandy banks and rugged hills.

Frequently we are the only people there. I simply stand looking down to the valley below and across to the hills opposite and think, “I wonder if anyone has ever walked on that patch of ground, or climbed on that rock?” For many of our visitors there is a great sense of peace because of the vastness and the sense of isolation, despite being so close to places where people live. Yet the only sounds are of wind and birdsong (and lately cicadas!).

From both lookouts you can see across to the stone quarries at Bungonia and there are steep walks of approx. 3 km down to the Shoalhaven river.

On the way to the lookouts you will see kangaroos by the score, and at the right time of day, wombats. If you are very lucky you might see a lyrebird, or possibly an echidna. You also pass a deer farm (depending on which way you go).

We also take visitors for a walk



Shoalhaven River from Long Point lookout

Photos: Juanita Manahan

through the Wingello forest, and they are fascinated by wombat holes! One visitor was the daughter of our American friends, living in Tanzania. She went for a walk by herself in the early evening and still wasn't back by dark. Eventually we managed to make contact with her by mobile phone, and she apologised for worrying us. She hadn't noticed how much time had passed while watching a wandering wombat.

When we brought our Kenyan friends living in Sydney to the Highlands it was

their first time being outside of the city.... how sad! It's surprising just how many people who live in Sydney have never been this far south. How much they are missing! My husband Colin used to work in Sydney and sometimes he would bring one of his colleagues to the Highlands. As they left the suburbs they would say “We've never been this far south before” – and that was at Campbelltown!

— Wendy Reed

The Illawarra Escarpment Walk



OVER OUR LENGTHY coffee stop, I had related my experience of the Illawarra Escarpment Walk to my cycling buddies.

"I'd like to do that!" said one, and a plan was formed. We decided to do it in the spring when the wildflowers would be in full display, the weather balmy and with more daylight hours to allow a more leisurely pace.

The walk, from Coalcliff to Austinmer, (about 14km) takes a full day. It offers stunning views of the Sea Cliff Bridge and the coastal hamlets, towns and beaches, right down to Wollongong and Kiama. The start, half way between Stanwell Park and Coalcliff, is about an hour's drive from Bundanoon. The walk can be concluded at Sublime Point for those with unreliable knees, this also being the location of a café. For the hardy, from Sublime Point there is a challenging vertical descent to Austinmer station.

Completion of the circuit requires either catching a train back from Austinmer to Coalcliff station and the walking a kilometre back to the commencement of the track or arranging a car shuttle. As the trains only operate hourly, less frequently at weekends, we opted for the car shuttle. Another option is to start from Coalcliff

and walk till lunchtime and then retrace the track back to the waiting vehicle.

The day dawned and our convoy of two vehicles set off for Coalcliff. All went well until the second vehicle missed the freeway turnoff. Detailed directions had clearly been insufficient. A sudden review of shuttle arrangements, a quick phone call between vehicles and our meeting point was switched from Coalcliff to Austinmer. A lengthy journey up the M1 before a U-turn was possible to meet up with my errant comrades meant that we were heading for a late start on our walk.

The track gently ascends the side of Mt Mitchell along the Bullock Track, one of the first settler accesses to the coastal plain, dating from 1820. Old stone retaining walls are still evident near the top. We spent our morning tea break observing the views of the railway viaduct over Stanwell Creek and Stanwell Park beach from Mt Mitchell and then continued through angophora forest, gymea lilies, hakea and grevilleas. Along the way, there are lookouts over Coalcliff and the disused colliery and coke works before you cross Stony Creek, the only major watercourse of the walk. Cascades, tree ferns and water gums made for another great rest stop, then a steady rise to reach the edge of the escarpment cliffs behind Clifton and Scarborough for lunch. The warmth of the day, the view and the morning's exertions meant that some cracking of the whip and a reminder of cappuccino at Sublime Point was required to get the show back on the road.

The remainder of the track, never far from the cliff edge, undulates through rocky outcrops, a patch of rainforest, ferns, tea trees and the occasional waratah before emerging into the Sublime Point carpark...and coffee? Tragically, our late start, lingering appreciation of the views, wildflowers, lunch and snacks and – let's face it – some dawdling, meant that the café had closed!

The final descent to our waiting car was by a series of steel ladders down the cliffs and well-formed - but never-ending - steps through rainforest of sub-tropical beauty to round off a tiring but very satisfying day.

— Evan Smith



Fling yourself – Five rides around Bundy

WE'RE SO LUCKY to live in such a fine part of the world for riding bikes, whether on-road, off-road or mixing the two. Regular local riders, of which there are hundreds, will well know the best places to ride, their favourite circuits and well-timed coffee stops. Here follows some ideas for new riders, young riders, or those new to town.

1 - LOOKOUTS OF MORTON NATIONAL PARK 12km, Easy.

An easy ride on mainly good dirt roads checking out some of the spectacular lookouts in Morton NP.

Ride down Church St turning right after 80 metres into Gullies Rd (continuing straight leads down the very steep Constitution Hill). This dirt road descends to a T-junction at the base of Constitution Hill. Turn right and follow the road into Morton NP at Gambells Rest (toilets/ water). No entry fee for cyclists! The ride now follows single lane dirt roads in a loop around the park – watch out for lyrebirds and wallabies. 1.2 km after entering the park you come to an intersection. Head left to continue past Grand Canyon and Sunrise lookouts. Soon you'll have completed the loop back to Gambells Rest. The brave and the fit will accept the challenge of climbing Constitution Hill; most will turn left to climb back up the easier angled Gullies Rd.

2 - BRIDGE TO BRIDGE AND BEYOND 11 km, Moderate.

A full loop taking in the extremities of the village via two railway bridges.

Head east along Railway Parade past all the shops and after 2km, just before you leave the village, turn left into Erith St across the railway bridge. Once across the bridge turn immediately right into a dirt track and take the left fork. After 80 metres turn left into an unmarked track. The start of the track is very narrow and begins just a few metres before the gatepost of "Corinda Grange". This, Blue Gum Road, soon improves to a sealed road. Continue on to turn left into Ellsmore Rd then right into Old Wingello Road. 1.3 kms down Old Wingello Road, the major road swings right to become Ferndale Road but you take the minor road to the left, a continuation of Old Wingello Road. This soon becomes a descending dirt track to a T junction. Turn left onto the dirt Quarry Road which winds along to cross your second railway

bridge to reach Penrose Rd. Turn left, enjoy a brief climb, and then cruise back into the centre of the village.

3 - FERNDALE/OLD ARGYLE/ELLSMORE CIRCUIT 18km, Moderate.

A very enjoyable ride on generally quiet country roads.

Head across the pedestrian level crossing at the railway station and follow Ellsmore Rd for 1.4km to a T-junction. Turn left and up and down with pretty rural views before turning left into Cornwall Rd and right into Westgrove Rd. Head left onto Sallys Corner Rd at the T-intersection and after a short distance turn right to sample the wines of St Maur or left into Old Argyle Rd. Follow this tree lined road on dirt for 3km which then becomes the sealed Ferndale Rd at a sharp left hand corner. From here enjoy a long downhill before the road undulates back into Bundanoon.

4 - STINGRAY SWAMP 18km, Moderate

An introduction to mountain biking with a swim at the end perhaps.

From the shops, cross over the railway line, go straight ahead then turn into Old Wingello Rd. 3.5km from the start, the

road dips down and turns sharp right before climbing up to another sharp right turn after some 5km. Here the main road turns to dirt. Turn left here onto a lesser track and follow this very rough, sometimes rocky track. After 3km keep your eyes peeled for a couple of old gateposts amongst some large concrete blocks. Turn in here and ride down to a large billabong: always cool, always refreshing in summer. Retrace your route back to Bundy.

5 - WINGELLO STATE FOREST MTB TRAILS Various distances and grades

An amazing network of purpose-built and signposted mountain bike trails

If you have mountain bikes then it's more than worthwhile throwing them on your car and heading to Wingello State Forest, 21km from Bundanoon. Park at the Forest Camp trailhead. Here arrows will guide you onto loops of various distances – Brown (12km), Orange (12km), Pink (18km), Red (24km) – which snake through the forest on purpose built singletrack renowned for its flow and scenic nature. Enjoy!

Now just imagine how good it would be to have a safe off-road bike track for kids close to town. Somewhere like Bundanoon Oval perhaps. Now there's an idea...

— Huw Kingston



Cycle tracks in Wingello State Forest – Juanita Manahan



Visiting gardens in the Southern Highlands

UNDOUBTEDLY BEAUTIFUL GARDENS are a drawcard for many visitors to our area. In fact sometimes I wonder if it were not for our beautiful gardens if we would see some friends at all! Either way, we enjoy taking our friends to see the many gardens around about Bundanoon. The trick is to find one that is open when you want to visit. **Please check open times, either on the website for each property or on 'My Open Garden': www.myopengarden.com.au.**

The following are well worth a visit.

RED COW FARM - SUTTON FOREST

Red Cow Farm is a set on 2.5 hectares and features 20 rooms with an exuberant cottage garden, monastery garden, abbess's garden, a stunning collection of rare and unusual perennials, woodland,

old fashioned roses and clematis, beech walk, lake, bog garden, orchard and kitchen garden. Open from late September to May, this garden has been described as one of the best in the world.

CHINOISERIE - MITTAGONG

This garden (1.25 acres) features a spring time display of over 100 varieties of peonies - Chinese, Japanese, European and American Tree Peonies and herbaceous borders which flower from spring through to late autumn.

Chinoiserie is a very colourful plant collector's garden which will bring much pleasure to all those who visit. It features many rare and unusual plants, and it is a very good example of many years of passionate hard work.

RETFORD PARK - BOWRAL - A NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY

Having been in the caring hands of Mr Fairfax for over 50 years, this garden is a delight to wander through. As you venture up the driveway, the grand Victorian Italianate homestead appears from a towering arboretum of a magnificent collection of evergreen and deciduous trees, some very rare and unique.

Surrounding the eastern side of the homestead is a patchwork of hedged gardens showcasing everything from a detailed knot garden, exquisite swimming pool and pavilion, sculptures demanding centre stage and even a friendly family of five emus.

MOIDART - BURRADOO

The historic property Moidart was established in 1932. In subsequent years it developed a large cold climate garden which has become one of the iconic gardens of the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Famous for its collection of rare plants, bulbs, trees and shrubs a nursery was opened in 1970 to propagate many of these rare specimens to make them available to other nurseries, landscapers and garden lovers.

PERENNIAL HILL - MITTAGONG

Situated on the sunny side of the famous 'Gib', Perennial Hill is a jewel in the making. Featuring magnificent dry-stone walls throughout the property, the garden is comprised of numerous rooms of which seamlessly flow from one to the other. This is a plant lovers' delight.

— Lyn Morehen



Photos this page: Red Cow Farm, by Juanita Manahan



Wombeyan wandering

AN EXCELLENT DAY break from Bundanoon starts by hotfooting it up the expressway to Mittagong. Now driving on any expressway is never a great start, but believe me, it's all good from there on.

If you're all adults, you might want to stretch the legs on the level walk circumnavigating Lake Alexandra and then move on. But if you have little tackers I imagine you could spend a lot of time here. There were a myriad of kids scootering around the lake, using the play equipment and feeding the copious waterfowl. If your child has a naturalistic bent, you can try to find the various species depicted on the chart and count the number of turtles vying for position on the protruding logs.

Albertines Antiques is worth a reminisce ("Aw...my mum used to have those cups") and a scrummage, before heading up Wombeyan Caves Rd.

The first place we stopped was Tertini. "We're all about the wine here" said sales manager, Robert. "We don't do meals. We want to show people that we're focused on what we do best". They do supply excellent tasting plates however to compliment their wines and many people were partaking, assisted by helpful staff who clearly enjoy their jobs.

Further along the road and by now we were really wanting something substantial for lunch. Lo and behold –McVitty Grove. There's some very photogenic Hairy Cooz in the paddocks next to the driveway, but it's the view from the restaurant - all the way to the Blue Mountains on a clear day – that is the piece de resistance of the trip. Lunch was nice too (and unlike some other winery restaurants, you can eat well without breaking the bank) but



the wine was from Tertini. Clearly a good partnership.

Since we were exploring, we decided to follow the Art Studio signs up Joadja Rd to see where they would lead us, which happened to be... an art studio in a whiskey distillery in a ghost town. OK – was not expecting that! While my husband made friends with Joadja Distillery owners Valero and Elisa, I inspected the beautiful art of Marlene Murray, Rod Smart and Wendy Hill.

What a place this is! An ancient Austin flat-bed truck adds rusty charm to the field outside the distillery shed. Still upright chimneys flag the ruins of old residences scattered through the gully. According to Valero, the town owed its existence to the presence of shale oil, used to make



kerosene. Over 1200 mostly Scottish miners settled here in the 1800s. They also made 'sly grog' so it's good to see traditions being upheld.

You can head toward home along Greenhills Rd, which affords some spectacular scenery, and, if you still have the energy, stop for a bit in Berrima.

— **Juanita Manahan**

With thanks to Neil Miller, who suggested this route.



Please check venue websites for opening times.

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Please ensure all clothes are washed and ironed, or dry-cleaned. If new, please leave tags on. Clothes and accessories (such as unused handbags, unworn shoes, unwanted scarves and hats in good condition) will be considered on consignment (50/50%) during opening hours Thursday-Sunday 10.00-3.30 or contact Rebecca directly: call or sms **0439 626 320**.

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The Bundanoon Club update

ONE OF THE great things about Bundanoon is the community spirit and our passion and determination to prove the nay-sayers wrong! It is that same spirit and determination that has seen a committed group of volunteers and a reinvigorated Board reopen the doors to the Bundanoon Club.

Yes... if you haven't heard The Bundanoon Club is back in business...

and we need your support!

After a period of closure, and a review of the financial situation, the Club was found to be solvent and Clubs NSW approved the re-opening of the Club in August 2017. There was strong member support, with members voting in favour of allowing the Board to continue and work towards creating a family friendly community hub in which everyone will feel welcome.

The Club is currently open on the following days:

Wednesday 4.00pm until 7.00pm

– Bar Service only

Thursday 4.00pm until 9.00pm

– Social Bowls, Croquet, Bar & Bistro meals

Friday 4.00pm until 9.00pm

– Bar & Bistro meals

The Club is planning two Twilight Bowls events on Sunday 26 November and Sunday 10 December from 3PM. Why not bring along some family and friends for an afternoon of fun and an ideal pre-Christmas get-together? No bowling experience is necessary and children are welcome. There will also be meals available and live music.

The Board is also seeking expressions of interest from an experienced Chef/Cook to run the bistro on a Thursday and Friday



evening. Please contact the Club for further information.

Our longer term goal is to create a friendly, community-focused organisation, with strong links to other local clubs, sporting groups and associations.

On behalf of the Board and the Members I look forward to welcoming you soon at The Bundanoon Club.

— **Steve Granger - Chairman**

Garden tales: Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park

THIS IS A tale of love, sorrow, family and community involvement. A tale of achievement. It is a Bundanoon tale.

I first heard about the Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park, Anzac Parade, at a garden club meeting. Until then I was only vaguely aware that it existed, had never visited it and knew nothing of its heartrending history.

This park is the size of a house block. Adjacent is the police station and the back boundary is the railway line. Carefully chosen shrubs, roses and mature trees define this landscape. There are lawns on which to play, seats on which to relax, a welcoming sandstone carving and a wisteria arch, which is especially beautiful in spring. Apart from being a delightful place to be, and close to the village centre, it has a touching history that reflects the essence of Bundanoon.

Nancy was the daughter of William and Minnie Beatrice Kingsbury. William and Minnie came to Bundanoon from Sydney during the Depression when work was hard to find. William had been a builder but in Bundanoon he used his entrepreneurial skills; he became a taxi driver/owner and soon expanded the business. He believed that Bundanoon would also expand and invested in the block of land, close to the centre, that is now the Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park.



However all was not perfect. Daughter Nancy, born in Sydney on 11 August 1925, had suffered asthma from the age of six. Indeed the need for healthier air was one of the drivers for the family move from Sydney. Nancy survived childhood and married in 1955. But with deteriorating health, she and her husband, Colin Charles Blows, moved to Forster for a warmer climate. Sadly she died five years later at the age of 35.

William Kingsbury was devastated. Generously, he gave his block of land to the Council for the people of Bundanoon to use as a park, feeling that this was a way of having a part of Nancy here forever.

Bundanoon Garden Club has managed the park since 2001. The master plan states that the park:

• Objectives and goals must align with the

Garden Club's goals of friendship and gardening

- Should be very well maintained and it should be an inviting and sought after tranquil space for visitors and residents
- Should provide adequate seating in the sun and shade for the enjoyment of patrons throughout the year
- Plantings must reflect and retain the historical English garden style of the era in which it was established

Recent Park maintenance has included new plantings, cleaning and painting of furniture, pruning, feeding and mulching.

Today young mums visit with their children, games are played, picnics enjoyed and friends meet. Congratulations to all involved in providing Bundanoon with this very special community place.

— **Lyn Morehen**

COFFEE SHOTS

Delicious

We've seen a lot of action in our beautiful community in the last quarter. We love welcoming visitors and having a chat to see what brings them to town. We've noticed many young families come through hoping to get an insight as to what community life is like in the area, as they are looking for an escape to the country.

Our response remains the same – this town is unlike any other country town! There's community spirit, and then there's Bundanoon. Strangers fast become friends, and eventually become like family. We are so fortunate to be a part of it.

Like many of you, as we near the end of the year we look forward to celebrating Christmas holidays with our families. Check in-store for opening hours over the holidays, and while you're at it – don't forget to order your Christmas ham!

We feel so blessed to have been welcomed by the community and are ever grateful for the support we've been shown. Wishing you all very merry holidays and we're excited to see what the New Year brings!

— *Byren and Liz*

Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe Café

It's that time of year... Peppermint hot chocolates and candy canes have become staples and decorations adorn the café windows once more.

December marks the first anniversary of Donna and Stuart's co-ownership of Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe Café. This past year has been busy, entertaining, but most of all, a fun new adventure.

Our ever-growing fleet of bicycles have been hired out by the young, the old and everyone in between. It is so endearing to see people using our bicycles to explore the beauty of our town, rain, hail or shine.

The talent and artworks proudly displayed on our walls consistently impresses the staff and customers. We would like to thank all the local artists who displayed their works with us and look forward to seeing more in 2018.

Last, but definitely not least, we would like to thank all of our local customers who made this past year all that it was. Without your stories, jokes, smiling faces and unique personalities, work at the café would not be the same.

From Donna, Stu and everyone at



the café, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2018 for another exciting adventure.

— *Shannen Smith*

A thank you gift

FROM YOUNG CHILDREN to 'old Diggers', there were many attending the Remembrance Service held at the Southern Villages Memorial Garden at 11am on the 11th November to pay their respects to those who have served.

In recognition of the participation of Bundanoon in the 2015 re-enactment of the 1915 Kangaroo March, a plaque was presented to the village by the Kangaroo March Re-enactment Committee. The plaque will be permanently placed in the Memorial Garden.

The Kangaroo March Centenary Re-enactment re-traced the steps of the original Kangaroo March of 1915, when 88 men walked out of Wagga Wagga through rural towns and villages recruiting in each town along the way. Over five weeks and 500 kilometres later, 222 recruits reached Campbelltown before heading to Sydney where they joined the 55th Battalion to fight on the Western Front.

By taking less travelled roads, the Re-enactment traversed picturesque countryside, doubtless similar to that which the Kangaroos took a century ago.

Their goals were several: to honour their forebears in the rural community of 100 years ago re-enacting the Wagga-Yass Route March as it was then known, to help inform

the communities through which they passed about this portion of our past, and to enjoy conviviality within those same communities in the same way the Kangaroos did in 1915.

Bundanoon welcomed the March on Wednesday, 30th September 2015, during

the Sesquicentenary. Villagers, dressed in period costume, escorted the marchers to the Bundanoon Public School grounds, where they camped, as happened 100 years ago.

— *Christine Janssen*





Do you enjoy living in Bundanoon?

Do you want to know what's happening in your village?

BUNDANOON HAS A fantastic and well-earned reputation for providing the community with the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful lifestyle. We're also known for 'getting things done'.

Through its many sub-committees, the **Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)** hosts a wide variety of events, including Garden Ramble; Winterfest; Rex Cinema; Bundanoon Sings and Music at 10, to name a few, and everyone is welcome to attend their events, or join their group. Check the back of this JCG for all the committees – you may find something that interests you, or you may have suggestions for a new committee.

BCA also publishes the *Jordan's Crossing Gazette (JCG)* each quarter. Not only is the Gazette the voice of BCA, it also acknowledges those interesting and talented members of our community in words and pictures – from the youngest to the oldest – and gives writers of all ages and standards the opportunity to see their words in print.

We want to make Bundanoon an even better place for all. To do this, we need your help.

By becoming a member of BCA, not only will you know what's going on in the Village, but you can have your say on issues that affect you and maybe even find opportunities to give back to the community.

We're not looking for volunteers – though of course you're welcome to become one.

We are inviting you to become a member of the Bundanoon Community Association.

1 year membership is only \$5 and payment can be made online. Download a Membership Application Form today and take your first step towards ensuring Bundanoon remains a vibrant happening place to live!

Having your say

For those who want to have a more active involvement – you are welcome to nominate for a position on the BCA committee, either as an office bearer or as a committee member.

New members are welcome to stand for any vacated position – your enthusiasm and expertise will be valued, whatever you bring to the table, and you are sure to find the experience enriching and rewarding.

Nominations for office and committee membership close at 5pm on **Friday 9th March 2018**. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary (secretary@bca.asn.au) or can be downloaded from www.bca.asn.au/forms-downloads/

For those considering nominating:

The BCA Secretary shall give at least three (3) weeks' notice of the meeting to all members. Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of BCA or as non-office bearer committee members shall be invited for the AGM at which the election is to take place, providing they are members of BCA and they accept the nomination.

Please note that all nominations for all positions must be received in writing on the appropriate form no later than 5pm one (1) week prior (9th March) to the advised date of the AGM on **Friday 16th March, 2018**.

The process for Serving Notices (summarised):

- (a) delivered personally
- (b) mailed (with a stamp)
- (c) sent by email – if the member has provided an email address.



Bundanoon Community Association

www.bca.asn.au



Photo: Marathon-Photos.com

The Final Fling – Thanks and farewell

A FLING, UNLIKE a marriage, never comes with the promise of permanence and so it is that the love affair that was The Highland Fling is over. As it has for the past 13 years, on the second Sunday of November, the Australian mountain biking community again poured into Bundanoon.

At dawn on Sunday, for one final time, over 1200 riders were welcomed by the traditional Highland Fling bagpipes before setting off to race their chosen distance: The Some Fling (23km), Half Fling (55km) or Full Fling (110km). Nearly 150 kids smashed it out in the fiercely competitive Kids Fling too.

The sun shone for the Final Fling, as it has for all but one of the 13 years. As I write this, the final tally is still being worked out, but Save the Children should

receive at least \$60,000 from the event.

The Final Fling had a true mountain bike festival feel with the event HQ set up at Ferndale Oval with a host of activities including Kid's Skills Clinics and the Kid's Fling. We also saw the return of the original weekend 1km sprint race, the Bundy Clock Challenge – which ended up being decided with a track stand after a tied 2 minute fastest 1km time between veteran elite rider Andy Blair and young-gun Harry Watson.

Saturday also saw Bundanoon host its final Rolloff World Championship. With a new course, and some exceptional trash talk, the battle was better than ever, and for the first time in race history almost saw a female, Kellie Finlay take the rainbow jersey. The final Final however

saw Trent Moore crowned Rolloff World Champion by less than a metre.

At dawn on Sunday, for one final time, riders were welcomed by the traditional Highland Fling bagpipes before setting off to race their chosen distance: The Some Fling (23km), Half Fling (55km) or Full Fling (110km).

Whilst the Final Fling was a fundraiser for Save the Children, the racing between the elites was still fast and hard, with 2016 winner Brendan Johnston claiming his 4th Fling title, ahead of 13-time Flinger Andy Blair, and QLD rider Michael England. It was also great to welcome back Meaghan Stanton, who took the women's Full Fling title over Brooke Darlington and Bre Vine.

A brief history of nearly everyfling

Back in 2005, I'd been organising big adventure events around NSW and the ACT for nearly a decade. One or two had visited the Highlands including our Polaris MTB Challenge in 2002. I had a dream to run a regular event in my own backyard, one that could put the Highlands on the map for cycling and one that could benefit the local economy and my local community. The Highland Fling MTB Marathon was launched. How many would enter, we wondered? By the event weekend over 750 riders plus supporters had come into town. All the main street cafes and restaurants ran out of food and



riders trekked to Moss Vale and even Macca's on the Highway for Saturday night sustenance.

We had 1100 riders the following year, 1300 in 2007 (by then we were limiting entries) and the Fling had gone Carbon Neutral. The heavens opened that year and 150mm fell the week before the race, the skies clearing finally on the Saturday afternoon. But those short of stature required snorkels for some of the river crossings! 1500 was the limit in 2008 and sold out within a day of entries opening. By now people were ringing from the likes of Dubai airport pleading to get an entry as they'd been 30,000ft in the air when entries had opened. Anonymous phone calls were received threatening the event 'would be damaged'. These were duly reported to Police who traced the calls and found the perpetrator; a high ranking officer in the Australian Defence Forces angry he had missed out on an entry.

Then 2009 came. Oh 2009... The frenzy to enter crashed our website and brought another 30 around Australia down with it. It was the craziest of weeks with the office lights burning 24 hours a day to get back on track in the same week that Bundanoon voted to go Bottled Water Free with all the madness that ensued.

World champions, National champions, Olympic representatives, Tour de France yellow jersey winners all came to try and win the Fling. 2017 champion, Brendan Johnston, won the Men's four times and Peta Mullens won three Women's titles. Shaun Lewis won it twice but gets the gong for Mr Consistency. This rider, originally from Bowral, has never placed lower than 5th.

But it is the weekend warrior who has always been the lifeblood of the event. They come not so much to compete as to complete. To drink a few beers after, tell stories of the trail and enjoy the beauties of a town and a region we all know so well as our home. In 2017, Bowral lad Barry Whitton crossed the line as the first 80-year-old to ride the Fling in his 12th Fling. He was a mere 68 when his Fling journey began. Some came for other events on the weekend – the Bundy Run, Bundanoon Dash, Rolloff World Championships, Bundy Clock Challenge and more.

A massive thanks to the dozens of landholders whose farms and properties riders have enjoyed over the years and to the Forestry Commission of NSW with the course traversing large chunks of Penrose and Wingello State Forests. And a huge hug to the hundreds of locals who have been involved in ways mammoth or miniscule with the fun and frolics of the Highland Fling.

All good Flings must come to an end but it's been a brilliant ride.

– Huw Kingston



Photo: Rob Marlow

A few comments from the final fling:

"I have no idea what I will do in November now. It's been a memorable 13 Flings. Well done everyone who was part of it. We have all shared a bit of Australian mountain bike history." *Andy Blair, Elite MTB rider and 13 time Flinger.*

"Huw and team, it's been such a tradition. I think even though the Fling has finished, it will always remain special." *Brendan Johnston*

"If I was to pick one word to sum up the day's experiences at the Highland Fling... that word would be 'delighted'. Absolutely delighted. Thank you to each and every one of you for making the Final Fling such a memorable day out." *Kath Bicknell*

"The final Fling has been flung. Today I competed (and completed) in the last ever Highland Fling. It's sad to see such a great event come to an end...the Highland Fling has a particular personal significance for me. It's the event that got me into

KEY RACE RESULTS IN THE 2017 HIGHLAND FLING:

Some Fling Men

Dylan George (1:14:58)
Lucas Bendt (1:07:41)
Jordan Riddle (1:09:23)

Some Fling Women

Verity Evans (1:19:11)
Maizy Evans (1:26:38)
Lucy Cavanough Quince (1:37:55)

Half Fling Men

Luke Brame (2:12:03)
Matthew Dinham (2:12:29)
Craig Gordon (2:13:12)

Half Fling Women

Lucy Mackie (2:44:28)
Allie Blackwell (2:52:35)
Sue Thompson (2:55:48)

Full Fling Men

Brendan Johnston (4:29:50)
Andy Blair (4:34:50)
Michael England (4:44:54)

Full Fling Women

Meaghan Stanton (6:03:37)
Brooke Darlington (6:21:46)
Bre Vine (6:23:51)

mountain biking in general, and in turn has turned my health and fitness around. So thank you Highland Fling." *Ian Grant*

Photo below and below left previous page: Roy Meuronen Photography



Keep calm, it's time for bed

We've all heard that setting aside Date Nights is a good thing for a marriage. But do you demonstrate daily to your spouse that you are fulfilling your wedding vow of "forsaking all others"? A once-in-a-while Date Night is hardly going to be enough. I love this article from Mike Berry, who shows that even though life is busy, it can be done....

IT'S USUALLY 8:30 PM when I give the first warning shot to my two teenage daughters.

At 9 PM, I say, "It's time for you two to head upstairs." I repeat this nearly every night. And nearly every night they argue.

"But why do we have to go to bed at 9?" they lament. "We're not children anymore."

"You don't have to go to bed, but you can't stay down here in the living room past 9. That's our time. We haven't seen each other all day, and most of the day we've been focused on you and work. We need our time, too."

They roll their eyes and huff at us.

The other night, I went as far as to sing the Semisonic song "Closing Time" until they threw pillows at me. I kept repeating, "Closing time, you don't have to go home but you can't ... stay ... here!"

They didn't laugh. At all. We, however, thought it was hilarious.

To be honest, we've had this rule for as long as I can remember. We've been parents for nearly 15 years now, and there has never been a time where our children were allowed to dominate ALL of our time in the course of the day. They dominate a lot of it, mind you, but not all of it. We love our children and we consider our role in their life to be a huge investment. We committed a long time ago to be there for them and to always be hands-on and involved in their lives.

But, there's still us. There's still our relationship. There's still the health of our marriage to consider and pay attention to. We have some big reasons why this is so important to us. Here are a few ...

A healthy marriage is the cornerstone of the home.

The cornerstone of your family is not your children. They are a part of the foundation and make up a major part of the structure, but they're not the main thing that holds this whole beautiful mess together. That's you — you and your wife, you and your husband, you and your partner. It's your responsibility to lead your family, and your home. Your children are looking to the two of you for direction and example (more on this in a minute).

Before them, it was us.

Before they existed it was the two of us. We fell in love, skipped class to be together, stayed up too late talking on the phone (that was tied to the wall by a cord), and eventually committed to forever with one another. We were the beginning. We kicked this whole party off. Then these beautiful children came along. And we're sure thankful they did because they fill our life with so much joy. But, our union is sacred. Our union is holy. With all of our power we must protect that sacredness.

After them, it will be us.

Nothing lasts forever. Our darlings are going to grow up and move out of our nest at some point. I don't know about you, but there's no room for a 30-year-old kid in my basement. After they're out in the world, living on their own, raising their own family, being the human beings they were meant to be, it will be just the two of us once again. And we want us to be healthy, strong, and still as committed as we were when we first began this journey. In order to make sure the future us is

protected, we must put us first today. This is not easy. We'll get to that in a second...

We need to set a future example.

As I mentioned earlier, your children and mine are looking to us for life-cues, direction, and example. As children, they're watching our every move to determine how they should live their lives. We often say, "We are raising adults, not children." I don't know about you, but I want my children to grow up with a healthy view of relationships — dating, engaged, or married. I want the health of my marriage to give them a healthy view of what marriage is, and what it should be. That's why I put my wife first, and them second. Close second, but still second.

At the end of the day, this is a tension you must manage. Your children do need you, and they are important. After your spouse, they come next. Not friendships, not careers, not hobbies. Them. And you must take care of them. But take care of your marriage first and foremost. If that crumbles, the confidence that your children have now will begin to erode. When they see you loving their mother, or their father, they will love them too. But most importantly, they will have a confidence in themselves, and a confidence in the world around them.

Our schedule is busy all the time. I mean all ... the ... time! It seems to never stop. We are on with our children all the time. That's why we guard 9 PM on each night. That's why we intentionally schedule date night a couple times a month. It must be a value. It must be consistent.

We must come first.

Reproduced from Mike Berry, *The Case for Putting My Wife Before My Children* (retrieved from www.babble.com)

— Rosemarie Gray

Rosemarie Gray is a Relational Psychotherapist. Previously, a partner at the Jansen Newman Institute, Sydney, followed by private practice in Sydney and The Southern Highlands.

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Bundanoon Public School explores

The ripple effect of kindness

WHAT IS KINDNESS? The quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.

What is the ripple effect of kindness?

Thoughts and actions are like stones dropped into still waters. They create ripples that spread and expand as they move outwards. Everything we do and think affects the people in our lives. We call this 'The Ripple Effect'. Your ripple starts with you, spreads to your family, friends, school, our community, sports teams and the world. The impact you have on the world is greater than you can imagine. Think of the effect a growing ripple of kindness could have on our community.

The theme for the 2017 Annual School Concert was The Ripple Effect of Kindness. Each class performed an item, based on a ripple, to highlight how we can spread kindness and keep the ripple going.

The students and staff of Bundanoon Public School have made a commitment to keep the Ripple of Kindness, created in our school concert, spreading throughout our school community. Random acts of kindness are acknowledged and valued daily in our morning meetings.

There are a number of Kindness Stations throughout the school where students, staff and parents can nominate someone who has shown kindness towards others.



Some examples of acts of kindness recognised by students are:

- Thank you for coming to the Friendship Tree to see if I was ok

- Thank you for kindly letting me borrow one of your markers
- Thank you for including me in your game at lunchtime



Warrigal Bundanoon opens new sensory garden

THINK OF AN orchestra of perfume, flowers, fruit and colour and you are getting close to understanding the impact and power of the new sensory garden officially opened at Warrigal in October.

Brought to life by the Warrigal Bundanoon Ladies Auxiliary and the team at Warrigal, the garden project has been a wonderful example of a partnership designed to bring calm and colour to the lives of residents as well as their family and friends at the Bundanoon home.

"The sensory garden was designed by members of the Auxiliary who had careers in horticulture. How lucky Warrigal is to have such expertise help guide the formation of such a rich and colourful display of plant life", said Warrigal CEO, Mark Sewell.

"Not only that, but it provides such a calming and relaxing space that can now be enjoyed by anyone visiting the home", Mark said.

Ladies Auxiliary President and one of the horticulturalists who designed the garden, Wendy Johnston, said it's been a wonderful volunteer effort from everyone involved.

"Every element of the garden from the flowers to the seating has been thought out and chosen to provide a sensory experience for anyone coming to enjoy the garden", Wendy said.

"We've used plants that would remind people of their childhoods, which is an important aspect of the garden especially for those who are experiencing memory loss. It gives a chance to bring back some of the pleasure of a garden to those living here.

"For example we've used lavender to provide a familiar scent and we've also chosen roses without thorns to encourage the residents to feel them and experience their texture.

"We've gone with different textures all the way through the garden to engage the senses in every way, for example our citrus

trees bring flowers, fruit, perfume and taste into the courtyard", said Wendy.

See Warrigal's Facebook page for a walk through of the garden: @WarrigalCommunities



(L-R): Vernia Blundell (Warrigal Bundanoon Manager), Wendy Johnston (Ladies Auxiliary President), Liz Moore (Auxiliary member) and her husband Rod Moore

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Bundanoon Sport & Recreation



BUNDANOON CROQUET CLUB

Following a meeting with the Board of the Bundanoon Club Limited and a positive review of its future, your Committee has committed to spending the funds required to renovate both greens. The bottom green will be renovated in November and the top green in early 2018. We will be restricted to one green for a period of approximately 12 weeks, but play will be scheduled on extra days so all members have an equal opportunity for a game.

An active campaign is underway to attract new members beginning with a leaflet distribution with the last edition of JCG. We plan to have Croquet Club representatives at local markets, other community functions and to letter drop retirement villages promoting our club.

Following the success of our 'Curry Night' held at the Bundanoon RSL hall, your Committee is planning other social events for members and their friends. All attending praised the great food prepared by our members.

Our Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday 10th December and further details will be provided nearer to the date. See you on the green!

If you are interested in playing croquet, please contact :

Secretary: Sandy Mackenzie –
0423 518 947 or sandymack@iinet.au
President: Alan Millward –
0419 228 836 or al.jan2578@gmail.com

PONY CLUB

The club is looking to a great 2018 and is keen to recruit new members - all you need is a horse!

The AGM will be held on Sunday 11 February 2018 and the first rally day will be Sunday 18 February. The Christmas party will be held on 10 December 2017.

Please contact Gail if you need details about the party or have questions about how to join on 4883 7195 or 0407 287 336.

TENNIS CLUB

Bundanoon Primary School Term 4 tennis is under way with a new professional coach (Stephen Halls) managing the session – ably supported by Club members. We have 20 participants this term. Stephen is part of Alec Pero's coaching team.

Alec is also coaching at Bundanoon on Fridays, so any children from the age of five or adults wanting to learn should contact Alec to arrange a time. If Friday does not suit, Alec also coaches at Moss

Vale Club so call him to see if a suitable time for lessons can be arranged. Group or individual lessons can be arranged. Alec can be contacted on 0411 402 402 or by email at apitenfit@gmail.com

New club junior and adult members are always welcome so if you are interested, contact David Brewster on 4883 7624.

BUNDANOON REBELS SOCCER CLUB

The Rebels had a great season in 2017 with four teams winning their division of the Southern Highlands Soccer Association competition. The successful teams were: the all age men's team, the youth team, the under 15s and the under 13s.

The AGM and presentation were held on 11th October, with all committee members being returned. So the club is now getting ready for an even more successful season in 2018. Players will be invited to register in late January so please check the club's facebook page for details.

BUNDANOON HIGHLANDERS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

It has been a great season for the club culminating with them beating Oran Park to win the grand final played at Campbelltown Stadium.

The presentation night was held on 29th October and great performances were recognised: Mat Conquest won the 'Best and Fairest' and 'Players Player' awards; 'Best Back' award was won by Isaac Martin; 'Best Forward' award was won by Mitchell Conquest; and the 'Rising Star' award went to Justin Sloggett.

The Club would like to particularly like to thank the Lions Club for their support throughout the season.

Keep an eye on the Club's face book page for details of next year's trials and home game schedule. If you have any questions or want more details, please contact Peter Randazzo on 0419410223.

BUNDANOON BOWLING CLUB

Everyone is warmly invited to join in an afternoon of friendly bowling at Bundanoon Bowling Club each Thursday at 1.00 PM. We have recently decided to meet on Thursdays to combine with the Croquet Club in an effort to try to boost numbers and assist The Bundanoon Club Limited as it emerges from a difficult time. The Bundanoon Club will be open on Thursday afternoons with club facilities available to all bowlers and croquet players from 12.30 PM. The Club will stay open for the evening as well.

We play in a very friendly and convivial environment, and all new bowlers will be warmly welcomed and assisted with playing. Bowls are available at the club - no charge, casual dress, with flat-soled shoes the only requirement. We will make you welcome and hopefully many of you will be keen to continue each Thursday afternoon.

For further information please contact Keith Stratton on 0422829756 or John Witney on 0418206302

CHESS CLUB

The group still meets every Friday after 2.00 PM at the Primula Cafe. Members are keen to get new people involved so if you are interested in the game or simply curious and would like to know how to play, this is the perfect opportunity to learn in a relaxed environment. You will be most welcome!

For more information call Pat Foley on 4883 6064.

BUNDANOON CRICKET CLUB

Cricket is on the rise in Bundanoon with juniors coming to the fore! We have started the season with great results. The Primary School comp team has won its first 3 matches. One of the team, James Smith, is already playing in the Southern Highlands Cricket Association adult competition in 3rd grade and taking wickets! The 3rd Grade team has played 4 matches and won 3, a great start to the season. The Second grade team has won one of the three matches they have played and includes several juniors in the team as well.

We also have an 'Into Cricket Clinic' on Wednesday afternoons (4 to 5 PM) at the oval. More players are welcome as the clinics will go right through to Christmas. Anyone interested please contact Steven Granger on 4868 2680 or 0404 048 288.

The AGM for the club will be held at the Bundanoon Club on 2nd of December.

THE BUNDANOON CLUB LIVES AGAIN!

Steve Granger tells me that renewals for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018 will be sent to existing members soon (members paid up to 1st July 2017 are deemed existing members with fees from July to December 2017 being waived). If anyone wants more details please contact Steve Granger on 48682680 or 0404048288.

– Mike Swinden

DEMENTIA CAUSES PROBLEMS WITH MEMORY

THAT DOESN'T
MEAN WE SHOULD
FORGET ABOUT IT

CAFÉ CONNECT

Café Connect provides an opportunity for people with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers to come together over a morning tea, to enjoy social contact, make new friends and share information and ideas.

Café Connect meets at a cafe in Bundanoon on the 1st Thursday each month 10.30am -12 midday. Please give us a call on 02 4869 5651 if you are interested in joining.

Café Connect is facilitated by Alzheimer's Australia NSW local Dementia Advisor with funding received from the Australian Government.

DEMENTIA ADVISORY SERVICE: WINGECARRIBEE

For information and support for people living with dementia and their families, please contact:

Alzheimer's Australia NSW

Suite 1, Queen Street Centre, Queen Street Moss Vale, NSW
T: 02 4869 5651 | E: NSW.wingecarribee@alzheimers.org.au

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Activities and services

BCA Subcommittee Convenors

Arts Bundanoon	
Greg Slater.....	gregs50@dodo.com.au
'Bundanoon Sings' Choir	
Geoff McCubbin.....	geoffmc@inet.net.au
Bundanoon Garden Ramble	
Robin Coombes.....	andsewon60@gmail.com
De Meyrick Reserve	
Peter Papps.....	ppapps@bigpond.net.au
Glow Worm Glen Track	
Anna Perston.....	anna.perston@bigpond.com
The Green Team	
John Desmond.....	john@desmonds.com.au
Soldiers' Memorial Hall	
Pat Guy.....	patmalguy@hotmail.com
JCG	
Christine Janssen.....	Christine.Janssen@bca.asn.au
JCG Food & Wine	
Pam Davies/Ralph Clark.....	rlc2578@gmail.com
Leaver Park Group	
Christine Miller.....	chrisnbaz@bigpond.com
Melting Pot Theatre	
Jan Kenny.....	jankenny10@gmail.com
Membership	
Andy Carnahan.....	Membership@bca.asn.au
Needles & Natter	
Andrea Ward.....	andrea.ward@tonyward.org
Roy Terry Reserve	
John White.....	johnifer@bigpond.com
Rex Cinema	
Stuart Reid.....	sjreid29@gmail.com
Welcome Packs	
Joanne and David Prince.....	jodajage7@bigpond.com
Winterfest	
Geoff Duncan (enquiries).....	duncangeoffrey480@gmail.com

Community Groups

Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)	
President, Geoff Duncan.....	0417 508 127
Secretary, Andy Carnahan.....	Secretary@bca.asn.au
Bundanoon Pre-School.....	Deni Harden, Director..... 4883 6166
Bundanoon Public School P&C	
Candice Piper.....	candiz_p@yahoo.com.au
Bundanoon Visitors' Group.....	Harry Hull..... 4883 6372
Chess Club.....	Pat Foley..... 4883 6064
Country Women's Association (meets 2nd Thurs, 1 pm, CWA Rooms):	
.....	Kath Smith..... 4883 6919
Currabunda Wetland Group (meets 1st and 3rd Friday)	
.....	Alan Hyman..... 4883 7763
Garden Club.....	Judy Andrews..... 4883 6898
History Group (meets 1st Monday, 10 am, The Bundanoon Club):	
.....	Ralph Clark..... 4883 7196
Lions Club.....	Elizabeth Cranny..... 0408 102 411
Men's Shed (meets Tues-Thurs, from 10am, 11 Burgess St):	
.....	Tony Molyneux..... 4883 6073
Morton National Park Volunteers (meets 2nd Wednesday):	
.....	Alan & Wendy Hyman..... 4883 7763
Playgroup.....	Melanie Terry..... 4883 7197
RSL.....	Robert Williams..... 4883 6137
Serendipity: the choir.....	Kerith Fowles..... 4883 6515
Warrigal Care Bundanoon Auxiliary (meets 3rd Monday, 10am at Warrigal)	
.....	Ann McCarter 4883 7784

Support and volunteer services

Community Health Service.....	Bowral..... 4861 8000
Early Childhood Clinic.....	4861 8000
Fire Station.....	4883 6333
Good Yarn.....	Lesley Paterson..... 4883 7419
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.....	Don Gray..... 0429 828 765
RSPCA (Goulburn/Highlands).....	0412 475 428
Volunteering Wingecarribee.....	Thomas Andrew..... 4869 4617
WIRES.....	4862 1788

To change details, please email jcgeditor@bca.asn.au

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Church times

Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest

Holy Trinity, Bundanoon.....	Sunday, 9.00am, 5.00pm
St Aidan's, Exeter.....	Sunday, 9.30am
St Stephen's, Tallong.....	Sunday, 10am
All Saints, Sutton Forest.....	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 11am
.....	2nd & 4th Sundays, 2pm

Uniting Church

Moss Vale.....	Sunday, 9.30am
Bundanoon.....	Thursday, 12.30 pm

Catholic Church

St Brigid's Bundanoon.....	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 5pm
.....	2nd & 4th Sundays, 8am
St Paul's, Moss Vale.....	Sat, 6pm & Sunday, 10am

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 10.30am

Santi Forest Buddhist Monastery, 100 Coalmines Rd

.....	Sat, 7pm: Group Meditation
.....	Wed, 7pm: Buddha's Teachings

For other service times, please contact:

Anglican Church: www.parishofsuttonforest.com, 4883 6019

Catholic Church: Parish Office, 4868 1931

Iona Christian Community: 4883 4799 or 4883 7939

Santi Forest Buddhist Monastery: 4883 6331

Sports clubs

Bowls (Men).....	John Witney.....	4883 7356
Bowls (Women).....	Margaret Alaban.....	4883 7560
Cricket.....	Steve Granger.....	0404 048 288
Croquet Club.....	Alan Millward.....	4883 6887
Pony Club.....	Gale Pritchett.....	4883 7195
Rugby League.....	Grant Perkins.....	0419 844 405
Soccer.....	Jaime Griffiths.....	4883 7012
Swimming.....	bundanoonswimmingclub@gmail.com	
Tennis.....	Mike Swinden.....	4883 7624

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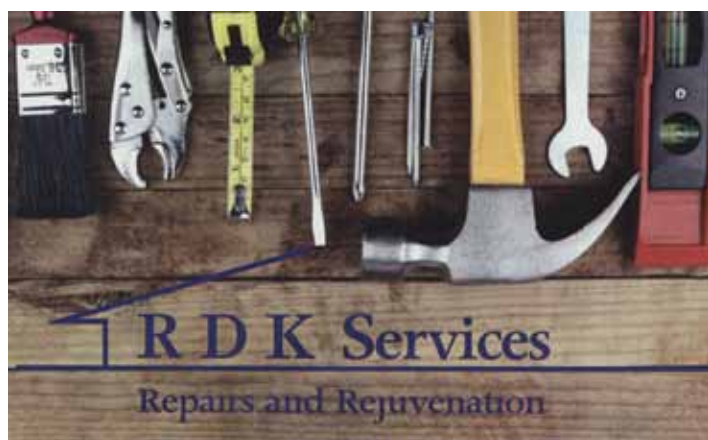
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