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Our Village

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

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

Dementia Australia

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

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From the editor

There's some inspiring reading in our centre pages section this issue, about people who care for and engage with very young children.

We learn, for example, of parents who have taken the initiative to make life richer for themselves and their children by reinventing their working life, or of others who set up a play group to engage both tiny tots and carers with each other. We learn of an interesting angle

in the philosophy behind early childhood education at our community pre-school and we meet the Kindergarten teacher who will welcome next year's Kindy kids to the public school. We meet a couple who create theatre for the very young. And there's more: read on!

In our feature section, on page 37, we introduce the new managers of our Post Office, who share with us their ambition to provide as many services as possible in a refurbished and community-friendly space.

—Helen Clark, Editor

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Deadline for next issue:

Friday 31 January

**Advertising information:
page 47**



The World's First Bottled Water Free Town!

Ten years on...

For some years before 2009 the Bundanoon community was fighting a proposal to extract water and truck it for bottling. Global CO₂ was 387ppm and Facebook had 'only' 360 million users¹. An article in JCG March 2009 suggested that if Bundanoon did not want water extracted only for its return and sale as bottled water, perhaps the town should ban the sale of bottled water.

The water extraction did not occur thanks to the passionate Don't Bore Bundanoon campaign, and through the Bundy on Tap campaign. With the co-operation of local shopkeepers, the village voted by an overwhelming majority that Bundanoon become the world's first single-use bottled water free town.

In September 2019, we celebrated ten years since Bundanoon became the town that 'did'. A year of planning by a dedicated committee brought a rebranded Bundanoon on Tap, the Bundanoon on Earth Festival (a market and speakers' day in the Hall), a Cinema Rex presentation of the movie *2040* and a Ten Year evening celebration. A packed hall heard from those who helped a small town in regional NSW send reverberations around the world, inspiring similar actions and shaking the bottled water industry².

The committee deserve thanks and recognition for the celebrations of what a determined community can achieve. Christine Miller, John Gale, Sue Reid, Stuart Reid, Greg McCroary, Lisa Stuart, Andrea Skrt, Huw Kingston and many others in town volunteered their time.



The big question now is how does Bundanoon continue as the town that 'does' rather than rest on being the town that 'did'?

Huw Kingston, author of the JCG challenge in 2009 that became Bundy on Tap, finished his address at the Ten Year celebration with a pledge that he will personally put up \$5,000 towards the 'next thing'. Ralph Clark suggests a reformation of the Bundanoon Our Future subcommittee of the BCA.

Given the success of the Bundanoon On Earth Festival an obvious question is, should this become an annual event to educate, inform and inspire positive actions?

Looking back at Bundy on Tap, what actions can we take to continue our efforts?

Recently the BCA stopped its practice of using single-use plastic glasses after meetings. Yes, it means washing up glasses! Following this example, could Winterfest and Brigadoon ban the use of single-use plastic containers by food stall holders? There are competent compostable alternatives. Could event bookings for the Hall require the use of real crockery and cutlery or, failing that, compostable single-use containers, glasses and cutlery. Two events I was involved in used bamboo plates and cutlery. Sure, it cost a little more but in a small way, the environment profits.

In our homes, can we stop our use of single-use plastic items? So convenient, but in 2019 our collective report card reads 'could do better if we tried'.

Plastic was a wonder invention when it was created and with marketing fanfare took over most packaging - today it is an ecological monster that is wrapping the life out of the planet. Plastic costs the earth.

The Bundy on Tap achievement was extraordinary. What next for our town that does?

- Andy Carnahan

¹ Global CO₂ has now risen to 408ppm and Facebook has a staggering 2.4billion users

² It was suggested that the 'lightly' sparkling bottled water that hit the market just after the Bundy on Tap campaign was no coincidence!



BUNDANOON

Community Association



your Christmas luncheon.

As shared in the last issue of JCG, the BCA is a highly successful Community Association. The sub-committees are both diverse, complex and, importantly, increasing in number. None of this would be possible if it were not for the dedicated team of volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and also those in the community who join in and enjoy themselves.

Three months ago I set a number of goals, designed to improve the operation of the BCA, volunteers, members and its guests. With the assistance of the committee we are busy making progress in numerous areas:

BCA has

- instigated a number of changes designed to reduce the workload for sub-committees. These include the introduction of simplified procedures or in some cases re-introduction of existing procedures, integration of repetitive operations into our accounting software and a reduction of time spent on non-valuable activities.
- established a Dropbox account and directories for sub-committees to provide continuous and current information. Again, a change designed to improve workload.
- begun moving significant documents, files and forms into Dropbox, providing then with a unique number to identify each as a controlled document. This will ensure members are using the correct version.
- established an online BCA
- ticket purchase system for community events.
- purchased point of sale devices to enable members and guests to pay for tickets or buy items at the venue using a credit card.
- held a Convenors Forum, which was well attended and provided an opportunity for everybody to discuss matters that were important to them. Suggestions were made, taken as actions, and will be followed up.

The Garden Ramble sub-committee organised one of the best 'Rambles' ever, despite being challenged by drought and high winds. Congratulations to all those involved.

If you can spare a few hours a week to work with one of the sub-committees or if you have any accounting or book-keeping experience, we would love to hear from you. You can reach any one of us via the emails provided in the list of sub-committees located at the back of each issue of JCG.

Next time you attend an event in the Hall, spare a thought for the small group who put the chairs away. Please donate 10 minutes of your time and help stack the chairs. It will make a big difference and it will be appreciated.

All that is left to say is have a very happy Christmas and safe New Year.

The success of the BCA depends on people.

**- Peter Gray
President**

BCA meetings

Third Thursday of the month
(excluding January):

☐ 19 December 2019

☐ 16 January 2020

☐ 20 February 2020

7:30pm

Supper Room at the Hall

Music at 10

As you read this, the year's last Music at 10 concert will be approaching

December's Music at 10 will be given by tireless pianist and educator Daniel Herscovitch, who has appeared at Music at 10 five times previously – generally he focuses upon one composer per concert and this one will be devoted to the much-loved late sonatas of Schubert. These have some lovely melodies and represent the culmination of Schubert's pianistic art. Professor Herscovitch's previous performance of Schubert's *Wanderer Fantasy* lives in the memory. The wonderfully high standard of his performances seems to be in line with the standard that has been achieved by Arts Bundanoon over the last ten years.

Next year will mark the twentieth anniversary of Arts Bundanoon. That Johnny-come-lately, Greg Slater, will complete his ninth year as co-ordinator. 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 for audiences to leave the Soldiers' Memorial Hall feeling a little richer and a little happier. Our artists also like Bundanoon for its warm audiences and – let's be frank – for the home-made cakes in some of its cafés. If you need to impress your visitors, simply send them along to Music at 10.

The series will begin on 15 February 2020 with a concert ensemble including two violinists and a pianist. The performers will include the wonderful Maria Lindsay, violin, and Josephine Allan pianist, both of whom are no strangers to Bundanoon. The 14 March and 11 April concerts will be solo piano recitals by, respectively, Jeremy So and Alisa Yuko Bernhard. Both artists are crowd-pleasers due to their astounding talent and personal warmth. Other names to look out for later in the year include Ben Adler (violinist), the heavenly Tony Lee (one of the world's great pianists), and the staggeringly talented ensemble, Nano Symphony. Notably, all of these performers have appeared here before and all have been re-engaged because the affinity is mutual between them and our audiences.

An important, complementary activity for Arts Bundanoon for next year is our occasional Saturday morning series: *Intimate Voices*. The lovely acoustics of the local Uniting Church ('Old Methodist Church') are too good to remain neglected. 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. So far, one *Intimate Voices* concert has been planned for 2020. Arianna Odermat will perform baroque keyboard music on the harpsichord in February. Her concert will include some of the giants of baroque music – J.S. Bach and G.F. Handel.

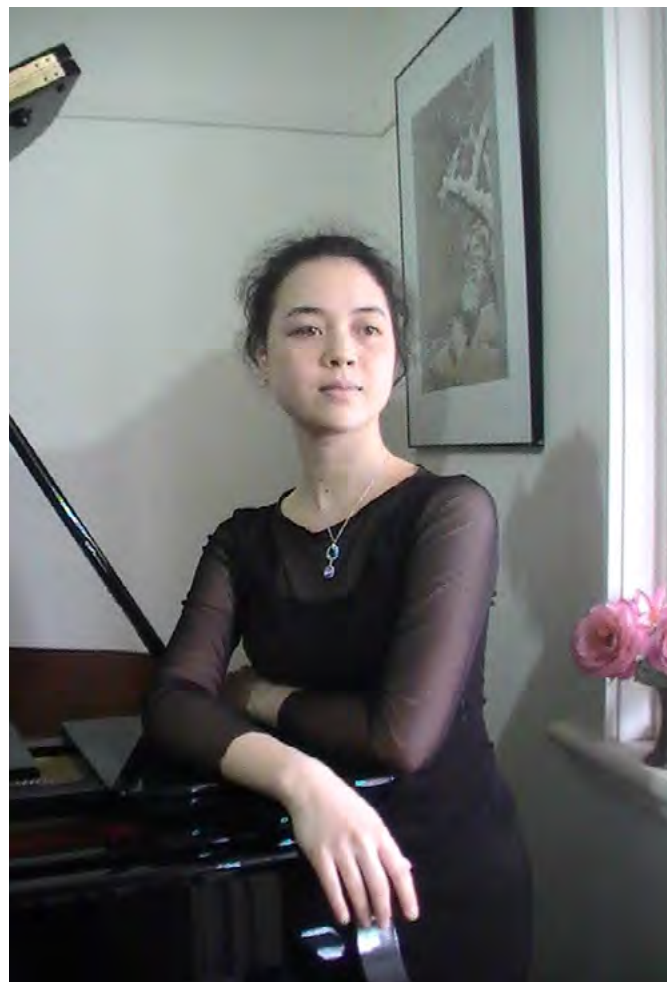
The success of Music at 10 rests upon the support of our audiences plus our small team of generous local volunteers from Bundanoon, Wingello and Tallong. Just a few hours of work per month per volunteer enables our concerts to happen. We would like some of our audience members to offer a few hours of their time now and then.

- Neil Mitchell



Above: Maria Lindsay and Josephine Allan
(performance 15 February 2020)

Below: Alisa Yuko Bernhard (performance 11 April 2020)



Melting Pot Theatre



Crash Test Drama's fourth and final round for the year was as popular as ever and brought a large enthusiastic audience to the hall.

Judge: **Donna Andrews**

Best Play: **Good Chat** by **David Ryrie**

Best Actress: **Bronwyn Beard** in **Good Chat**

Best Actor: **Anton Baggerman**
in **The Girlfriend** by Brian Haydon

Best Director: **Rachel Greg** for **Good Chat**

Audience Vote: **Solar** by **Pete Maliki**

The weekend of 23-25 August saw the performance of the play **No More Shall We Part**, by Tom Holloway, about assisted suicide, starring Chris Downey and Miranda Lean. It was directed by Joshua Hewitt and produced by Donna Andrews.

Audiences for all performances were at near full capacity and responded with thunderous applause and standing ovations. Many people stayed for the discussion panel which followed the final performance. Led by Joshua, the panel comprised Reverend Jeremy Tonks, John Gale from Palliative Care Goulburn, Jess Raschke from Compassionate Communities, and Shane Higson from Dying with Dignity NSW.

Many questions were raised and experiences shared by the local community, demonstrating the very real need for this subject to be discussed.

December brings MPT's year of productions to a close with the Variety Show, for which tickets have already sold out.

2020 looks set to be eventful, with workshops, Crash Test and short plays. **COSI** has been cast and is in rehearsal now - there will be three shows in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall 21-23 February. You can book at trybooking.com.

Crash Test begins 14 March 2020. Stay tuned to our Facebook page.

- **Miranda Lean**



CAROLS BY FAIRYLIGHT!

Add some sparkle to your December on 14th December 2019 at Bundanoon Sings! festive singalong - a fabulous, fun-filled family-friendly musical celebration of Christmas. Watch around town or on www.facebook.com/bundanoonsings for more information.

Or, if you'd prefer to be on stage at this year's Carols, pop into a rehearsal at 7pm on Monday 2 September. We'd love to see (and hear!) you there. The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!

- **Bundanoon Sings!**



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(AUSTRALIA)

2 MAY 2020
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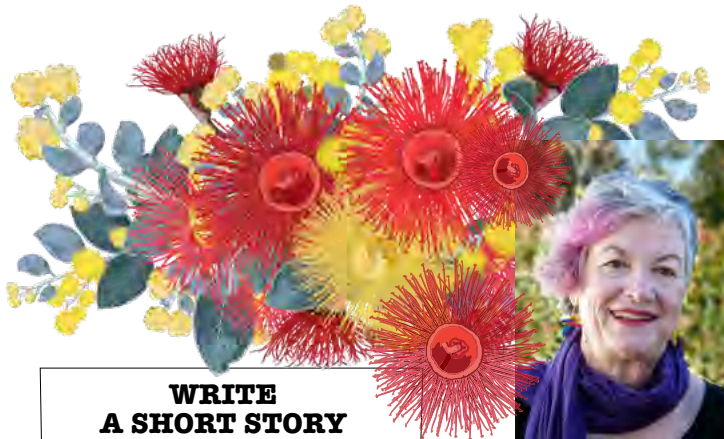
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A Christmas message from the JCG

JCG has always been an incredible magazine showcasing Bundanoon and its many talented and interesting residents. As you know, this year JCG spread its wings a little to include our neighbouring villages – something which they have greatly enjoyed.

WRITE A SHORT STORY FOR JCG MAGAZINE

JCG readers of any age are invited to submit to the editor a short story of 700 words or less.

It can be about any subject suitable for a general readership, which includes children. It can be fiction or fact.

The best stories will be published in the JCG during 2020.

Of course, it's not only the abundant supply of interesting subjects that makes JCG such a success, but also the hardworking team that puts many hours of work (mostly volunteer) into bringing you the magazine each quarter. Our very capable editor, Helen Clark chooses interesting themes and articles and with her tireless assistant, Annie Goodridge, ensures that everything and everyone meets the deadline.

Our contributing writers and interviewers spend many happy hours listening to the wonderful and informative stories that eventually make it into JCG to be enjoyed by our thousands (yes, really) of readers. All of which are proofread by Karen Whisker.

Bella Gniecchi Ruscone took over as our layout designer this year and judging by all the compliments received, she's doing a wonderful job. Also new to JCG is Peter MacDonald, our printer. We're very pleased to now have JCG printed by a local resident.

As advertising manager, I am in the enviable position of not having to actively seek advertisers! I'm constantly receiving requests for advertising space, often with the comment "we've been told/know JCG works".

As 2019 draws to a close, I wish the whole team the happiest of Christmases and a safe and prosperous New Year. We'll be back with more JCG in March 2020.



- Christine Janssen
JCG Convenor

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BUILDING GIRL-POWER

After a discussion at a yoga class, a group called Bundy Bendys was formed in Bundanoon. Women in this group are interested in sanitary health issues for women and girls. Over the last 18 months Bundy Bendys has made hundreds of sanitary kits to assist girls in third-world countries with feminine hygiene.

Often girls in these countries are isolated because of a lack of facilities, and in some cultures they are ostracized during menstruation. Girls can lose around 12 weeks of schooling per year which leaves them behind in their education and very often having to repeat the year. This has led to many girls leaving school completely. The sanitary kits enable them to attend school and enjoy normal activities whilst they are menstruating. This has been transformative for girls in many parts of the world.

Each sanitary kit we make and assemble has: two pairs of underpants, one washer, two hand-made washable shields, eight hand-made washable liners, two ziplock bags, soap, instructions and a monthly chart - all packed in a hand-made drawstring bag. Each kit is designed to last about three years: it is all washable and re-useable for this period of time. Therefore no worries about disposal and no expense for the girls.

Although we are not affiliated with the international organisation Days For Girls, the fabrics and patterns we use are carefully considered using its guidelines. Being independent allows us a little more control over where our kits go to.

We have sent 100 kits to School For Life in Uganda, run by a local lady named Annabelle Chauncy OAM. Another 52 have been delivered to The Cambodian Children's Trust in Battambang, run by a Sydney lady named Tara Winkler. We have another 62 kits ready for Cambodia and we are also looking at going to Battambang to teach women there how to sew the components so they can help support girls and women in their communities.

Bundy Bendys group is always looking for donations - fabric, undies, washers or money. We have been fortunate to have received a donation from The Good Yarn committee in the past. If you would like to contribute, below is a list of items we need.

For undies we need girls sizes 10, 12, 14, and womens sizes 8, 10, 12 and 14 - preferably in dark colours, although this not essential as they can be dyed, but they must be NEW.

For shields we need pure cotton, patterned fabric in dark colours - no designs with eyes, animals, camouflage or culturally inappropriate images. A square as little as 10cm can be used for pockets. For bags we need cotton or poly-cotton in similar style as shields. For liners we need pure cotton flannelette, plain or patterned, preferably in dark colours although all colours accepted, but NO sheets. Much of our funds go towards buying flannelette, as each kit requires about a metre of fabric and it can be difficult to find at cheap prices.

We also welcome anyone who would like to join our sewing group. We try to meet once a term as a get-together but a few of our sewers do a lot of the sewing in their own time, which makes a big difference to how many kits can be completed.

Contact Debbie, our coordinator, on her mobile: 0418 466 736. She will be very happy to hear from you as we are currently seeking any assistance or donations to enable us to continue making and sending these kits to girls in need.

- Bundy Bendys Group







Alison Harriman

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For appointments call **4883 6596**

Serendipity
the choir



Traditionally Serendipity:the choir has a lengthy break over the winter months. This, however, does not mean total inactivity. Once again Serendipity sang for Tulip Time, and this time was blessed with lovely weather, lots of visitors to Corbett Gardens, and a later time for singing (voices don't work well before 10am as a rule). We were able to promote Bundanoon throughout our program by constant references to our base in Bundanoon and the delights offered by way of scenery, food consumption and friendly locals.

An invitation to sing for the Binda carols has been warmly welcomed by the choir, and many of us will head to Binda on 14 December, to share our music and also enjoy the various stalls run by local artisans.

Since the break we have had the wonderful experience of an all-day workshop under the leadership of Elizabeth Scott, a well-known Sydney choral conductor and music educator. A source of inspiration and insights, our day featured not just joyful singing but also food! Morning and afternoon tea provided by choir members and a sausage-sizzle for lunch demonstrated that singing is physically demanding and requires copious quantities of fuel! The day was a wonderful way to share the joy of music-making, together with generous time for socialising.

Serendipity:the choir is now working on its Christmas programme, which focuses on well-known carols in beautiful and varied arrangements. Please remember to bring your September JCG magazine with you, to discover the answers to the quiz published in that edition. There are some other surprises in store too, so do come and join us for an evening or an afternoon.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, children under 15 are free. Purchase tickets online at serendipitythechoir.com, from **Hindmarsh & Walsh** in Bundanoon and **The Brown Bookshop** in Bowral.

Choose from three concerts:

Saturday 30 November

at 4pm in the Bowral Uniting Church hall

Friday 6 December

at 7:30pm (please note the new time)
in the Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall

Saturday 7 December

at 4pm also in the Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

- **Kerith Fowles**

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BUNDANOON PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



Some people incorrectly assume that ownership of a camera makes you a photographer by default. Not so; it takes a blend of two skills to produce a good photograph. A good photograph is both technically correct and has artistic merit. We can help with the first one. The group runs a series of lessons throughout the year covering basic photography for beginners ending with the final lesson - a workshop on Advanced Exposure Control.

The second part, artistic merit, well that's a different matter. We can make suggestions on how best to approach a subject to make the most of a scene. You can certainly learn a lot from studying other people's photographs, or talking to some of our members who produce the type of photographs that appeal to you, or just by simply entering our monthly photo competition and standing shoulder to shoulder with your peers to be judged. This will most certainly make you a better photographer, but the difference between good and great is a little sprinkle of magic that cannot be defined. If it could, we would all be great photographers.

As the year draws to an end, our venue for the Christmas celebrations is booked, monthly photo comp winners are being assembled for the Annual Photographer's award and it's time to reflect on our monthly outings. A recent one to the coast was a photographer's dream: lunch at Kiama before exploring the Bombo Quarry, where quarrying has left clusters of hexagonal basalt columns set against sprays of often wild water. Then there was the Steampunk Victoriana Fair held at Goulburn Historic Waterworks on the Wollondilly River. This was another great photographic opportunity, mixing the Industrial Age with futuristic imagination and fascinating characters.

The winner of October's Photo Competition was John Cooper with his sunset image (shown below). Congratulations John.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the Bundanoon Men's Shed, Burgess Street, Bundanoon at 5.30pm. Lessons are held at

4:30 - 5:30pm prior to our monthly meetings and all are welcome.

Photo outings are on the fourth Thursday. Destinations are chosen to provide variety and opportunity.

Our club nights offer a friendly atmosphere to all, from beginners to advanced photographers, where we share our photographs and experiences in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year from all the members of Bundanoon Photography Group.

**- Peter Gray
President**

New members are welcome, please contact

President, Peter Gray
4883 6312/ 041 922 3928

Secretary, Joy Brown
4883 6456/photos2578gmail.com



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Raising our youngest citizens

The art of grandparenting

I shall call her Granny Jenni, a name bestowed by one of her nephews who once asked if she would be his Granny.

Granny Jenni once arranged for her eight year-old first grandson to meet his football hero, who kindly signed his football jersey. She also took him for his first bus ride, first train ride, first football match, first movie, and a visit to Sea World. This young lad grew up telling people "Granny can do it!"

She has six grandchildren and has always made an effort to spend as much time as possible with them, travelling regularly to Wollongong to see her first grandchild, and later once a month to Melbourne when her son moved there and had three more children. Every six to eight weeks she would fly to Darwin to spend time with two more granddaughters. Now these two and their parents have returned from Darwin to the Southern Highlands.

Her daughter works part time so her two children currently spend two or three nights a week at Granny Jenni's. The smallest is not yet at school and spends the day with Granny. The elder visits Play School in Bundanoon, goes to the Little Free Library to swap a book, has afternoon tea at Potters Pantry cafe (where the owners always provide her special cake) and either a game at home or a romp in a park. Later, Granny Jenni may take her to a show or do something else special. Once they went on an overnight trip on the XPT.

Granny Jenni learnt some of her grandparenting skills from her own grandmother, with whom she chose to live for much of her young life. "I have wonderful memories of the adventures we shared together and our very special bond. Grandma was always there for me but as I grew up she also shaped my life by allowing me to develop independence," she says.

"Later, as the oldest of seven siblings I was seen as as a kind of 'matriarch'," she says. "I often took my many nephews and nieces on adventures and holidays while they stayed with me."

It is a mystery to me how she found time to build all these special family relationships during her working years - at first as a nurse assistant, later managing disability houses and finally working with adolescents during her 30 years with Anglicare. She says, "working with vulnerable families taught



me the wisdom to recognise what is and what is not important in family relationships."

Now in her 70s Jenny has distilled from her experience the view that "it is a privilege, not a right, to be first a parent and later a grandparent, with the chance to be part of your children's lives and then to do it again by building a close relationship with your grandchildren and having an opportunity to provide a good 'imprint' for them".

There are a few challenges of course - the mess in the house, the emotional energy drain when children test the boundaries, appropriate clothing disagreements - but she finds diversion and distraction a successful Granny-tactic.

The rewards? "My own children have always been happy to include me in their children's lives, and I have close relationships with all my extended family."

And there is always the unexpected joy of discovering the quirks of family likeness - she and her youngest granddaughter look alike and share many personality similarities: both are willing to test the idea of convention, happy to venture forth in mismatched shoes!

I can sense how much love grows in Granny Jenni's family.

- Helen Clark

FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING



and orderly mess

A sign at the front of the Bundanoon Pre-school, where I was going to meet the Director, Deni Harden, was the first thing to catch my eye. It was there to remind parents about the month's Aboriginal theme. It reminded me of an interview I'd heard with Professor Marcia Langton, who spoke about how little past generations of young Australians had been taught about the nation's first peoples. It's in places like our own pre-school where this is changing.

To get to Deni's office, I walked past a fire platform. The school's older children, four- and five-year-olds, were perched on stools, gathered behind the safety line and away from the direction of the smoke. The kids were tasting kangaroo and yams their teachers were cooking on the open fire-pit and two children who wandered inside told Deni they liked the kangaroo.

Indigenous culture is not just an occasional theme in this school's learning; it is reflected in its philosophy, articulated last year in words and in a painting by Aunty Wendy Lotter, an Aboriginal educator and artist who lives in the Southern Highlands. That philosophy is underpinned by Deni's commitment to play-and nature-based learning. The fire circle is integral to this approach because it blends risky play with learning about individual and collective safety, about cooking and about cultural practices, such as harvesting charcoal.

The pre-school caters for two and a half year-olds to five year-olds, who are divided into two classes: Magpies and Lyrebirds. Like other aspects of the school's organisation these names are deliberate.

Magpies are clever, and territorial. A group lives in the vicinity of the pre-school. They are part of the community. The males are called George, the females Georgie; their offspring all have names that are variations on the theme. Although often feared as 'swoopers', magpies here are comfortable with their human neighbours - Deni told me swooping had never happened at the pre-school.

The lyrebird is the totem in Gundungara country. In one Dreaming story, it was the peacemaker, for which it was rewarded with the ability to mimic and therefore communicate with other animals — not a bad foundation for learning.

This idea of appreciating other ways of thinking and speaking is the reason why early each year the school celebrates Harmony Week. This exposes the children

from the start to other languages and traditions; they learn to respect difference.

There's a sense of orderly mess in the classroom: art materials, books and toys cover the surfaces, leaves have blown in from outside, an equally important learning space at this school. And while the teaching centres on a strong base of evidence and critical reflection, the result is not a regimented approach.



above: Bundanoon Preschool students at 'work' and play

facing page: Aunty Wendy Lotter's ten-year relationship with the pre school gave her great insight into painting this depiction of the pre school's philosophy, which has been evolving in response to changing community needs, educational guidelines and educators' awareness of the rights of the child.

It is the children and their interests that determine the rhythm of the classes. With proper understanding of their sensory responses, which require vigorous physical play before concentrated learning, these pre-schoolers can be absorbed in a language-rich group activity for 45 minutes. What book they read first is sometimes determined by a class vote. As well as literacy, these young citizens are learning about the need to make choices, to compromise and accept the will of the majority.

Bundanoon Pre-School is proud of its connections with the community. Some of its outdoor activities take place at Quest for Life; the Men's Shed next door helped fit out the new classroom; and each term children make a visit to Warrigal nursing home. Parents too are encouraged to become involved. Recently, Hannah Cooper ran a program on natural dyeing, introducing her techniques to a group of budding scientists. Their experiments involved mixing dyes to get different results, for example wattle powder combined with either bi-carb, cream of tartar or iron water. The children might not articulate this as scientific inquiry, but that's what

asking questions, making predictions and observing change amount to.

Deni would welcome more outside expertise to the school. 'We'd love to have someone volunteer to teach carpentry', she told me. When I asked why carpentry she explained that this would give the older students the opportunity to be guided over a term to produce an object that manifested all their learning about maths and measurement: a tangible memento of their first foray into formal education.

A key to the success of the school's philosophy is the dedication of the staff. All participate in professional development to keep abreast of trends in early childhood development and all are employed on a long-term basis, so they come to know the children and build trust within the group and with parents. This continuity allows them to respond to each child's progress, while sticking to the mantra that learning is fun.

- Francesca Beddie



FINDING THE BALANCE

Simone and Aidan Taber are a warm, relaxed couple and have a natural humour that sparks off each other. Their home is a 1950s cottage so charming it could have leapt from a Pinterest board. But the family's idyllic-seeming life has not been achieved by accident.

Three years ago, Simone and Aidan were living in a two-bedroom apartment in Ashfield. It had no yard and only a small balcony. When their first child was born - a cherubic strawberry blonde named Annabelle - Simone took maternity leave. "We spent a lot of time outside the apartment," says Simone.

When her leave finished, she went back to work as the office manager of a mid-tier law firm of 750 staff across five offices nationally. It was a demanding role and Simone was directly responsible for supervising ten people. She returned four days a week, but it meant that Annabelle (now three) went into long day care on those days from 7.30 in the morning until 5.45 each night. "Annabelle was a little trooper and highly sociable," reflects Simone, "but it was a very long time for a kid."

Husband, Aidan, also kept a hectic schedule that took him all over Sydney, often working until late at night.

The couple found themselves with no immediate nearby family support, and no room for anyone to stay should they need help. And they needed more space but like most people in their early 30s, they were priced out of the Sydney housing market. Simone restructured her work to develop a new section of the law firm, working 16 hours per week from home.

Two months after their second child was born, a gorgeous redhead named Miles, they found the perfect home in Penrose Road and last December, they took the plunge and made the tree-change to Bundanoon.

"It was good to get out of the rat-race and step back," says Aidan, "but spending between four and five hours a day driving to and from Sydney plus doing a full day's work wasn't the safest thing."

To keep one foot in Sydney meant that Aidan would leave early in the morning and only see Simone and the kids at dinner time. "Most people with children know that the end of the day is not the best time," he says. "I only saw them at the worst time, and the weekends were so full of chores."



Photo by Nica Photography

It is said necessity is the mother of invention: after months of careful planning, Aidan's new local business is Highlands Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. His services focus on hospitality, supermarket, and farm refrigeration with a special interest in bespoke systems such as stability rooms and energy efficient solutions. "Heating and cooling is a significant financial concern for any business, so it's about working out the most efficient way for it to run," says Aidan.

Starting a new business means long hours and much uncertainty, so how are the stress levels?

"It has been stressful," concedes Aidan, "but I'm finding my feet. I've been surprised at how other people in the industry have become big supporters and so helpful."

Simone is settling into her new at-home work, developing precedents for the law firm. Small daily rituals are now possible and are the key to finding the balance between busy work schedules and caring for two kids. "We all have breakfast together," says Simone. "When I finish work, Annabelle and I now go out for afternoon tea."

Aidan went to Annabelle's first swimming lesson yesterday. It was something that would never have happened in Sydney.

"All in all it's been great. Our families are closer. We have more room and a garden. We made new friends within a week," they smile.

- Danielle Spinks-Earl

Let me introduce you...

... to Mrs Lisa Ryan, Bundanoon's exceptional Kindergarten teacher. She's actually more - she's an educator who glows with dedication and talent. Teaching is her calling and her face lights up when telling us of her 18 charges this year. Lucky they must be.

But let's go back a few decades ...

Lisa has always loved children so chose a teaching degree at Canberra's Catholic University. Marriage and three children later, and after a move to the greatest little town in the universe (Hint! It starts with B and ends with N), she was finally appointed to Bundanoon Public School 10 years ago. She has also studied to gain qualifications in the L3 Program (aka Language Learning & Literacy) both as teacher and trainer, sharing the benefits of this scheme with other teachers and schools in the Wollondilly Network.

Lisa liaises with Bundanoon's community pre-school staff to help make the experience of transition to 'big' school for next year's intake of children as positive and warm as possible. Orientation takes place over several weeks; first a few new students visit each day for a morning session over three weeks, then as the whole class for one morning. So school for the 24 new children in 2020 will not be an unknown or daunting 'Big Bad Wolf'.

I get the impression their first day would be magical - 24 bright faces peering up at Mrs Ryan as she reads them an intriguing story, engages them in maths activities, or has them painting up a storm. Early in the term Lisa meets each child for their Best Start assessment, a friendly chat in order to gain a base line idea of their understanding of literacy and numeracy skills - what each already knows - from which she can plan how to start with further development of their skills. And Lisa encourages all families to take every opportunity to 'Read, Read, Read' together.

These children are not yet into complex algorithms or Tolstoy's *War and Peace* but their first year at school sets them up for life. Lisa says it's all important for her to be over-prepared. "If you fail to prepare you prepare to fail," she believes.

She loves most the 'click', as she calls it when, in one precious nanosecond, a child just "gets" a concept or skill not previously grasped. Then it's pure joy. Through education they all ride the train to discovery of the wide and wonderful world out there.

Lisa lists qualities required by a Kinder teacher: patience, essential routine, empathy and understanding the pressures on today's families. She realises the challenges in addressing children with special needs.



It's now time to check out her classroom. During a relaxed stroll we admire the terraces soon to be the school vegetable garden (beware! local market gardeners). Children playing outside, no bigger than Jiminy Cricket, yell "Hello Mrs Ryan" under a perfect spring sky.

Inside the classroom is a colourful riot of students' work! Not one spare millimetre for another art masterpiece or word chart. If you were sad entering, you would walk out beaming.

I ask Lisa "What's the very best thing about being a Kindergarten teacher?"

Her sweet face beams a smile that fills the amazing room. "Turning up every morning and seeing their beautiful smiles. I love every day! And handing them over at year's end knowing they have learned so much."

Yes, Lisa Ryan is one very special person. I wish she'd been my Kindergarten teacher.

- Annie Crawford

Adventure space for tiny tots

Two small girls are making 'chocolate' mud cookie shapes; in the sandpit there are fairies and tiny blokes making sand castles, while two redheads are escaping towards the classroom treasure-house. A grandma and her grandson lie on the big, bouncy foam cushion, just cuddling.

Bundanoon tiny tots have a wonderful space where they are able to play as they like: inside with toys, books, jigsaws, costumes and crafts, and outside where they can really get stuck into messy play in a sandpit, plaster themselves with lovely mud, or negotiate an obstacle course. Imagination can run riot as there are no rules - only the watchful eyes of their carers, ensuring everyone stays safe.

Outside, a beautiful large tree shades the children and their carers in summer. There is a shade cover over the sand pit and a large area covered with cushioned artificial grass.

Meet the Bundanoon playgroup, which meets on Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:30am during school term times. The beautiful location and equipment has been generously provided by the Bundanoon Community Pre-school (Big Fat Smile Group Ltd.) in Burgess Street.

What is a playgroup? A shared activity opportunity for both young children and their carers (who may be mums, dads, grandparents or anyone designated as an official carer). Children can enjoy playing with or alongside each other, and carers also benefit from being among friends who can provide support. Sometimes a problem can be solved just by sharing.

Each session begins with fruit for the children at 10:30am (please bring a piece), followed by a few songs. There is tea and coffee for the adults. This is the only structured part of the morning, and even then children are free to wander off as long as they are supervised.

Before children are old enough to attend pre-school, playgroup offers them a place to socialise with other children, even if that means just playing next to each other. They are also welcome to mix with pre-schoolers, which will be beneficial to them as they progress towards pre-school themselves. The Bundanoon playgroup follows the principles of the pre-school in encouraging free play. Children will face enough structure in their lives once they begin their formal education in primary school.

It has been found that children who attend playgroup and then pre-school find it much easier to make the leap to primary school than those who don't. They can also make friendships that will follow them throughout their school years.



Photography by Amy McIver



If you know anyone with a toddler and who is new to the area, including any who may not speak English well, please encourage them to go along. They and their children will make new friends who are willing to offer assistance, including help with English-language skills. The play group is inclusive and provides fun and assistance for all. Quite often it's not just the children who make life-long friends, parents and carers do too.

So what do you need to know?

Your first point of contact is playgroup co-ordinator Hope, on 0450 471 196. She can answer your questions and is looking forward to having even more play group members.

And then make a first visit to the play group. You and your children will probably love it, but ensure it's the right fit for you. Each session costs \$3 (to cover electricity and playgroup expenses).

There are two things you need to do to join this playgroup.

1. Join Playgroup NSW at this website:
<http://www.playgroupnsw.org.au/>
2. Obtain a Working With Children Check (WWCC). This is a requirement for the use of the pre-school premises. It is easy to apply and there is no charge - apply online at <http://www.service.nsw.gov.au> or at any NSW Service Centre.

- Sandy Mackenzie



HOLY TRINITY: YOUNG EXPLORERS ACTIVITIES

Bundanoon's Holy Trinity Church has been offering their young Explorers Christian guidance and games for kids for eight years.

Originally it was set up at Bundanoon Public School to teach young children about God's love and introduce them to reading the Bible. The name 'Explorers' was chosen because the aim was to help children explore the Bible for themselves and discover the treasures hidden within.

The group met in the school hall every Wednesday afternoon from 3pm to 4:45pm, led by Matthew Taylor, assistant minister of the Anglican parish, aided by dedicated volunteers, also from the parish.

Soon after Explorers was established in Bundanoon, the principal of Tallong Public School asked Jeremy Tonks, Minister at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, if he would be willing to set up a similar group in Tallong. Naturally, he agreed, and Tallong Explorers began on Monday afternoons, also led by Matt, with the help of willing volunteers. Sadly, the group at Tallong no longer functions, but Bundanoon Explorers still operates.

Every Wednesday the children from K to Year Six meet at the Church, register and pay \$2. They are then supplied with a yummy afternoon tea, play games, listen

to a Bible story, play more games until, tired and happy, they are picked up by their parents.

In 2018, Matthew transferred to another parish, and since then the group has been ably led by Kathie Brown and her band of helpers. All workers have safe Ministry Certificates, and the government Working with Children Certificates and these are renewed every three years.

During 2019 the public school hall became unavailable, so Explorers group now meets in the Uniting Church Hall. The children are collected and taken across the road to the hall, much to the delight of the Uniting Church parishioners, as they love having children use their facilities.

During the July school holidays, Explorers runs in a slightly different format. For three consecutive days children aged from five to 12 come for games, stories from the Bible, morning tea and lunch, craft, drama and more. All this for only \$10 per day! Once again all volunteers are accredited and love working with children.

Explorers welcomes all children from K - 6 and would love to see more of them come along to learn about God's love and to have a lot of fun.

- Christine Smith

Picture courtesy Danielle Tonks



1950

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

At last the day had come. I zoomed from my bed and greeted a hot, dusty February morning. The year: 1950. The men were home from the war, the ration cards had become playthings and I had just turned five. My birthday gift bag with my name embroidered on the outside was packed. One apple, one sandwich, one biscuit and one teddy, the smallest of my motley collection. Today I was going to school.

There were no orientation days, no introductions with parents attached, just a walk down the road with my big sister. The headmaster, a family friend, was well aware I was coming. Nobody but my best friend Janet knew I also brought Bounce. My imaginary friend was visible only to me and accompanied me everywhere. I knew not to talk to Bounce in case the other children would think I was a weirdo, but he was a great comfort.

Rylstone, NSW, was and still is a small town. There were eight new people to be shown the toilets, the weather sheds, the playground and the classroom. Mr Connybear, our headmaster, gathered us for a talk: must not leave the grounds, must ask permission to depart the classroom, must not bring your dog, ferret, rabbit or rat to school. The attached paddock would accommodate the horses, and saddles should be placed on the fence. There would be pets' day later in the year.

We were allowed to ring the bell as a special treat. One tug each, to summon the school to assembly. Lined up on the steaming asphalt the assembled students, of which I was one, sang God Save The King with great gusto, acknowledged the flag hanging limply on the pole and repeated the Lord's Prayer.

The classroom was huge to my childish eyes. Auntie Nancy led us to the green mats where we sat cross-legged awaiting instructions (very hard on the bottom and most uncomfortable). I knew I had to call the teacher Mrs Austen when we were at school but occasionally forgot, so Auntie Nancy had a little chat to remind me and I tried very hard not to cry.



Annie is seated in the front row to the right of the sign, wearing jodhpurs and muddy boots. The crease dates from the day Annie received the photo at school. She folded it to fit in her pocket!

She read us a story and held the book up so we could see the pictures. Unbeknown to me I had a problem with my eyes so I could not really see the distant pictures but I could listen.

She wrote names in columns on the blackboard, under Kindergarten, First class and Second class, instructing the older children to look after the 'littlies'. Two or three of the 'newbies' were tearful but soon cheered up when we sang songs and danced.

At 11am we had play lunch. I wasn't sure what I should eat so I ate my sandwiches.

Lunch was a bit sparse with just a biscuit and an apple. Lunch time was long and I did not know what to do so Janet and I built a cubby under the pine trees and talked to Bounce. Some of the older kids played tennis and we could watch at a distance, retrieving the balls that went over the fence.

We sweltered during the hot afternoon, the air barely circulating through the open windows. Auntie Nancy (Mrs Austen at school) encouraged us to lie on the mats and rest which was something I did not enjoy - those green mats had a funny smell and the cushions were lumpy. I would much prefer to be down at the river swimming in Little Rocky.

Dismissed into the scorching afternoon: Mother waited at the gate with my beloved dog who in future would escort me to school and see me safely home. Mum took Janet and me to Mrs Bosley's for an icecream cone, a special treat, and we told her about our day.

I recall being a little surprised when I learnt I had to go again the next day and the rest of the week. It was interesting, but every day seemed a bit much to me. What would I do all day, five days a week, and I could already read!

- Annie Goodridge

Childhood vaccines: tough questions, straight answers



Health organizations, doctors and scientists agree that vaccines are safe and effective. Despite this, there is a growing movement of parents and caregivers choosing not to vaccinate their children. Anti-vaccination myths are almost certainly contributing to this trend. Social media content suggesting that vaccinations may be harmful can be concerning for parents and caregivers who want the best for their children.

Childhood vaccines protect children from a variety of serious or potentially fatal diseases, including diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus, whooping cough and others. If these diseases seem uncommon, it's usually because these vaccines are doing their job.

It is true that natural immunity may sometimes be stronger than vaccine-acquired immunity, but the risks of this approach far outweigh its benefits. For example, a natural chickenpox (varicella) infection could lead to pneumonia. A natural polio infection could cause permanent paralysis. A natural mumps infection could lead to deafness. A natural *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) infection could result in permanent brain damage or even death. Vaccination can help prevent these diseases and their potentially serious complications; it is a safer choice than naturally-acquired immunity and can save a child from having to go through a serious illness.

Vaccines do not cause autism. Despite much controversy on the topic, researchers haven't found any connection between autism and childhood vaccines. In fact, the original study that ignited the debate years ago has been retracted. The study involved 12 children (11 boys).

Any vaccine can cause side effects. Usually, these side effects are minor - a low-grade fever, fussiness and soreness at the injection site. Some vaccines cause a temporary headache, fatigue or loss of appetite. Rarely, a child might experience a severe allergic reaction or a neurological side effect, such as a seizure. Although these rare side effects are a concern, the risk of a vaccine causing serious harm or death is extremely small. The benefits of getting a vaccine are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.

The diseases that childhood vaccines are meant to prevent are most likely to occur when a child is very young and the risk of complications is greatest. That makes early vaccination essential. If you postpone vaccines until a child is older, it might be too late.

Skipping vaccines isn't a good idea. This can leave your child vulnerable to potentially serious diseases that could otherwise be avoided. And consider this: for some children - including those who can't receive certain vaccines for medical reasons (such as cancer therapy) - the only protection from vaccine-preventable diseases is the immunity of the people around them. If immunization rates drop, vaccine-preventable diseases might once again become common threats.

If a side effect following immunisation is unexpected, persistent or severe, or if you are worried about your child's condition, see your doctor or go directly to a hospital.

It is also important to seek medical advice if your child is unwell, as this may be due to other illness rather than because of the vaccination.

It is natural for parents and caregivers to be concerned about their children's well-being and to investigate their options thoroughly. However, there is a lot of unverified health content online.

When reading about vaccination and other health choices, it is crucial to consider the accuracy of the content.

- Does it come from a health organization, government source, or reputable health publisher?
- Does it link to scientific evidence contained in primary sources?
- Is it written in a balanced way?

If you have any questions or concerns concerning vaccinations, speak to your surgery or clinic and put yourself in the position to make well informed decisions.

- Christine Janssen

Sources: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/polio-immunisation#lp-h-3>
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/infant-and-toddler-health/in-depth/vaccines/art-20048334>
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/325371.php>



THE GENTLE ART THAT SPARKS IMAGINATION

The world of children's entertainment is usually pumped-up on adrenaline and full of plastic merchandise. My four-year-old daughter can rarely sit through a kids' movie as there is so much tension. It was a delight then and a relief, to find a show that had her quietly spellbound.

Every Sunday at 11am, for less than the price of a movie, there is a contemporary family puppet show at Sutton Forest Village Hall. The performances change regularly and include an impressive range of local and international puppeteers.

Many may not realise that this tiny village hall on our doorstep is the home of The Australian Puppet Centre, *ImaginArta*. It presents regular shows and workshops as well as holding the biggest puppet library in Australia and an impressive collection of puppets.

It is rare to find a permanent, dedicated space for puppetry. The existence of the Australian Puppet Centre is a testament to the hard work of Sue Wallace, her husband Steve Coupe and a group of colleagues who established the centre in 2010.

Sue and Steve, both renowned puppeteers, created the Sydney

Puppet Theatre together. They have been practising their art for more than 30 years, working on stage shows big and small as well as for television (including animatronics).

Their careers include many highlights. They were the artistic directors of The Rocks Puppet Theatre which attracted 35,000 people a year. Steve worked as puppet captain for the *King Kong* stage show in Melbourne where he oversaw the manipulation of a six-metre puppet.

They have both enjoyed touring the world, performing at many puppet festivals. A career in puppetry has provided "wild and wonderful" travel experiences. Sue and Steve experienced warmly receptive audiences in Mexico and India and performed for the Serbian ambassador.

In 2005 Sue was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study puppet centres around the world. As a result, the couple visited Japan, UK, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain and the USA. On their next trip, they are looking forward to going to China. The knowledge they have gained on these travels has been invaluable to the establishment of our local puppet centre here in the Southern Highlands.

"Puppetry brings magic into people's lives, reawakening a sense of joy and possibility," says Sue. "It lightens our hearts and engages us in serious issues, appealing to all ages and cultures."

Sue describes *ImaginArta* as the most family-friendly theatre in the country. Children are welcome as both audience and participants at a show and are encouraged to get their hands on the puppets. Adults may think that they are not allowed to be interested in puppets, says Sue, but "once they are here they

discover the delight of puppetry – a portal into the imagination."

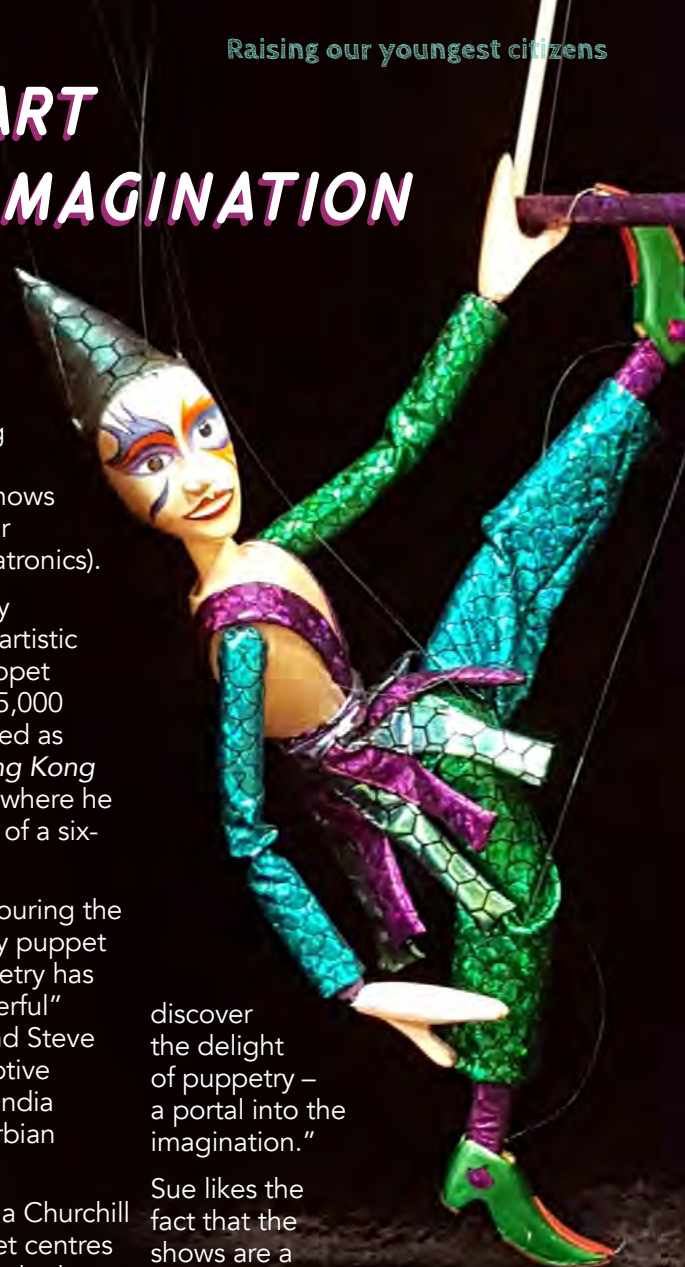
Sue likes the fact that the shows are a shared family experience which often extends into a world of imaginative play at home. "The language of puppetry speaks to everyone," she says.

As well as the regular Sunday shows, *ImaginArta* also hosts children's birthday parties and workshops for all ages.

The children's workshops are approved for the NSW Government Creative Kids, where free \$100 vouchers are offered for children between four and a half and 18 years of age.

For the current program, you can visit www.imaginarta.com.au

- Hope Earl





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VET'S CASEBOOK

Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

SNAKES, TICKS AND OTHER NASTIES

The summer months bring beautiful sunny days and hopefully rain. This combination also brings humidity which in turn favours the life cycle of the paralysis tick. Bundanoon, with its surrounding Morton National Park, is a Mecca for this small but very toxic parasite. It depends on the common bandicoot for its development from larval stage to the adult tick.

If your dog or cat is not on tick prevention, the small grey tick will attach and bury its head in your pet's skin. Before long, its toxin will cause vomiting and paralysis and, if untreated, death. If any of these symptoms are evident, do not delay in seeking Veterinary advice. Do not adopt a 'Wait-and-see' approach under any circumstances. If you do find an embedded tick, even without symptoms, do not attempt removal yourself. Disturbing a tick will cause it to pump more poison into your pet. Your vet will put some tick antiserum under the tick's mouth-parts before removal to avoid this happening.

All in all, prevention is better than cure every time. There are numerous products on the market, for example Bravecto and Nexguard. The former now has a 'spot-on' for cats and dogs. They may seem a bit pricey but are certainly the cheapest form of insurance against paralysis ticks (and fleas).

You may ask at what time of the year should prevention begin and end? Ticks and snakes are prevalent according to the following rule:

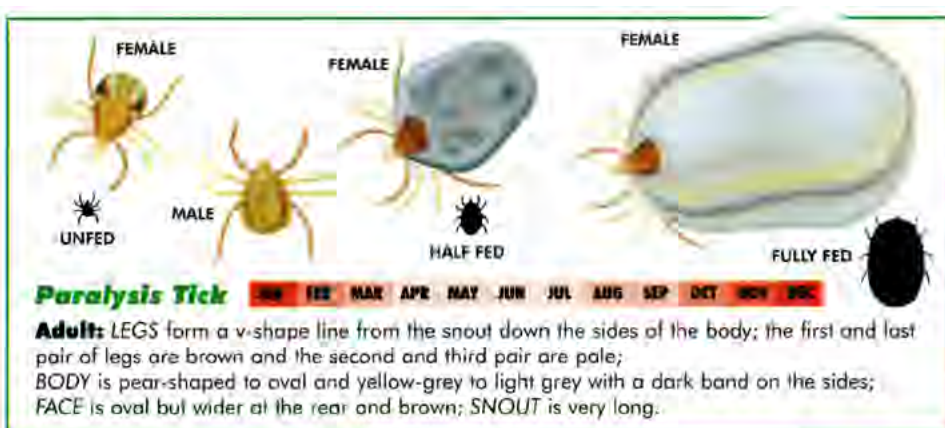
BE WARY DURING ANY MONTHS WITH AN "R" IN IT SeptemberR, OctoberR, NovemberR, DecemberR, JanuaRy, FebRuaRy, MaRch and ApRil. Of course be wary at other times as well!

Previous JCG articles have addressed the interaction of snakes and your pets. To summarise:

- Be wary on hot summer days, snakes are cold-blooded and love to sunbake.
- Most pets are excited by and will often tangle with anything that slithers.
- Terriers and small dogs are often the worst offenders.
- If you see your pet obsessed with something in the garden, do not approach but call them from a distance. Keep your own safety in mind at all times.
- If your pet and the snake do have a wrestling match, get your pet a vet check straight away. The likelihood of a bite is high.
- If you see a snake close to the house, keep your eye on it and ring a registered snake catcher. Your vet will have numbers. Don't call him out only to find the snake has disappeared.
- Any pet found with unexplained shock, collapse, seizures or ataxia should be seen by a vet ASAP.
- Remember it is not important to identify the snake. The anti-venom used by vets now treats all Australian snakebite except that of the Death Adder.

Remember Veterinarians are always open to giving free telephone advice if necessary. If in doubt...Dial out.

**- Ken Davidson B.V.Sc. (hons)
Bundanoon Vet, Next to Bundanoon Butchery**



Tick illustration - Source: NSW Dept Primary Industry, 2005



WHAT'S NEW @ THE VILLAGE Grocer & STORE



More than any other time of the year, the festive season is about bringing together friends, family and food. We know that it can get pretty hectic, so why not let the team at The Village Grocer take some of the hard work out of your Christmas preparations. For example...

- ✦ Pre-order your Christmas ham from the award-winning Balzanelli Smallgoods (\$15.50/kg) or Pendle Hams & Bacon (\$12.50/kg). Just leave us a 50% deposit before 12 December and you can collect your full or half (bone-in) ham from 17 December. We can even store it for you until Xmas Eve.
- ✦ Want a fresh Christmas tree, but don't have a way to bring it all the way home? We'll have freshly cut Grampy's Christmas trees for sale from early December— and we can even deliver it for you.
- ✦ We will have a range of rich Christmas puddings and mince tarts available soon.
- ✦ See us for last-minute gifts ideas for food lovers, including boxed chocolates, hampers and gift boxes—we'll even gift wrap them for you.

Christmas Hamper Competition

To help you get into the festive spirit, we have a special Christmas competition running. Every time you spend \$30 or more with us from 22 November until 22 December you'll be entered into our bumper Christmas hamper competition. You can win one of two \$250 Christmas treat hampers, which will be drawn on Monday 23rd. The more times you shop with us, the more chances you have to win. See in-store for further details.

Christmas Opening Hours

Our opening hours will be a little different over the festive period, as follows:

Monday 23rd: open until 8pm

Xmas Eve: closing at 5pm

Xmas Day: closed

Boxing Day: open from 9am until 12pm

Friday 27th: business as usual

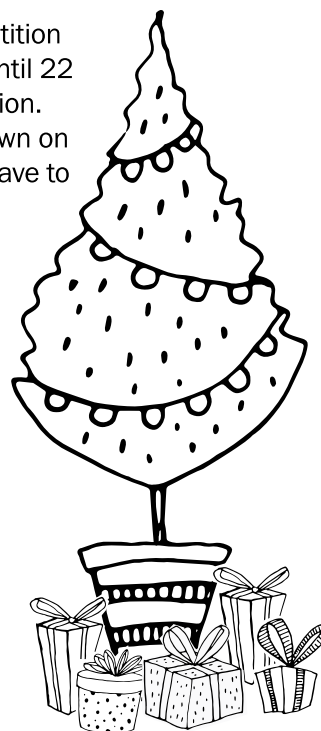
Tuesday 31: open until 8pm

New Year's Day: closed

And from all of us, we wish for you and yours a safe and joy-filled season. See you soon!

The Village Grocer & Store team

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ROVING REPORTER

Annie Crawford

Ros and Peter Bell are a delightful couple. I meet them in the home of mutual friends. They hail from Albury and are there because of the pull of family. If they had their 'druthers' our magical spot on the planet would be their choice.

Of course my task is to find out why folks come to our village, so why not assail them and ask?

Peter and Ros's excited words roll in, around and over each other's as they extol the virtues of Bundanoon. (I know these virtues and smile with a not-too-modest smugness.)

Ros has been visiting the wonders of Bundanoon since a little girl. And Peter attended Tudor House so knows here too.

She loved the Glow Worm Glen and hired bikes, riding hither and thither throughout the area. She's attended conferences in what was the Youth Hostel - with friends they bunked down there for the weekend and ventured forth to take in the sights and explore the National Park.

She then breaks into a grin that would slice a watermelon. "It's the "feel" of the Southern Highlands we relish. We had a picnic in the cemetery once. It's such a peaceful, reflective, beautiful place; so leaning against a tree we lunched on sambos and tea from the thermos. Hope those residing there weren't upset. We were very respectful."

They both love the village atmosphere. How familiar does that sound? Everyone who visits seems to feel the same. They tell me they have a wonderful garden at home and love the luxuriant trees here. (It's a shame they missed the Garden Ramble.)

Dinner is ready. Our hostess grins at me (she knows why she lives in Bundanoon) and bids us take our seats at the table.

I ask Ros and Peter: "One last sentence to sum up Bundanoon, please."

Peter's takes the cake. "I LOVE its Enid Blyton feel."

And, as promised in my last report, not one festival or concert is on tonight. The Bells are here just because it's BUNDANOON! And friends! For aren't they what life is all about?

- Annie Crawford

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GARDEN TALES

Lyn Morehen

A Garden Village

Let's celebrate summer, enjoy the warmth of the sun and the cool shade. A Bundanoon summer: swimming in the pool, seeking the shade of a tree, ambling down Railway Avenue for a coffee or a cooling drink from one of our water bubblers or delicious, welcoming cafes, and enjoying the streetscape.

A time to relax and enjoy the fruits of our own gardens but also the beauty of gardens in Bundanoon's public spaces. There are parks and playing grounds, and right in the centre of the village a celebration of things horticultural. This of course is completely appropriate for a village that revels in and celebrates gardens. What diversity is offered here in the heart of Bundanoon! The deep green of deciduous trees spreading their branches over the park's picnic tables and chairs, dainty crabapple trees lining the boulevard in front of the shops and splashes of colour in planter boxes. There is magic here, or so it seems.

Families and groups of friends picnic in the park, enjoying the views of Railway Avenue while sitting comfortably on benches enjoying food and drinks. Some are locals, some visitors and many on holiday. People stroll across the road and past the shops. I wonder if people know who provides the care and attention needed to provide this beautiful environment that all can enjoy?

Walk round the corner past the hall and there is the Southern Villages War Memorial: so beautiful and well maintained. There are always colours here, and such a variety. I think perhaps the most beautiful plantings in this garden are the rosemary bushes whose perfume fills the air. At any time of year this special place reflects how much Bundanoon and its citizens care for our community.

I love wandering along this living, vital part of our village and am thankful that we live in such a beautiful place. However, especially at the end of the day and on a long summer evening I love to retreat to my own garden, a glass of something cool and sparkling in hand and toast the gardens and gardeners of Bundanoon.

Perhaps you also will toast those who provide the plants, materials, services and a touch of magic all year round in the centre of our village. They are the volunteers of the Green Team, Bundanoon Garden Club, Bundanoon Lions, Bundanoon Men's Shed and Bundanoon Bloomery.

- Lyn Morehen



September 2019's Garden Tales column drew this comment from Steve Douglas, botanist:

Many people misuse 'endemic' when they mean 'indigenous'. The former means 'occurs in the specified area and nowhere else', whereas the latter means 'is native to or occurs naturally in the specified area'.

The article mentions *Eucalyptus fastigata* as being endemic to the site. Even though the meaning was 'indigenous', I don't think it occurs there at all unless it has been planted. The only database record of it from Bundanoon is from Lot 20 Garland Rd - a site that I've assessed and that has also been surveyed by another botanist - but neither he nor I observed that species on that site. The botanist who lodged the record (observation only, no specimen) either misidentified the tree or may have seen this species but failed to record it as planted - most likely the former, and the species is probably *E. quadrangulata*, which is very tall and straight, so could confuse someone insufficiently familiar with both species.

Steve has also contributed an article on Threatened Ecological Communities - see page 45

WINGECARRIBEE VOCAL MUSTER IS A MUST!

To quote from a recent poll on Radio 2ST, our very own Bundanoon Club is “The best club in the Southern Highlands”. This once-in-the-doldrums association is having a refreshing renaissance. At the helm is Peter Ellsmore who, along with his committee, has revived and revved up the club into a vibrant and popular local mecca.

On a raining, very chilly spring evening there is an air of anticipation in the brightly lit restaurant and bar. Meals are brought from the busy kitchen, drinks are consumed and a hubbub of excitement abounds.

I am here to listen to young people sing.

Tonight three young ladies are here to sing before club members, family and friends. Each has a unique voice and repertoire.

19 year-old Javiera plays the piano, writes her own songs and has an enviable self-belief that she will go far in the music world. I find this wonderfully impressive and love her silky timbre. Cassidy, 15, finds her own peaceful space singing in her bedroom and yet stands in front of the microphone a total natural. Ashleigh is a lovely fresh-faced 15 year-old and is not yet sure if she will take up singing as a career. Tonight she is mellifluous.

Richard Lane proudly states that each has improved markedly under his mentoring.

I am also here to meet and be awed by Richard, as he tells me his story. For this larger-than-life person is the inspirational founder of the not-for-profit Wingecarribee Vocal Muster, a forum for secondary students in the Southern Highlands. In a safe and supportive environment they are nurtured, tutored and financially assisted to sing in front of an audience. (Check out: www.wvmuster.com.au)

“Performing here tonight gives them vital experience and confidence which helps them grow musically and assists in pursuing their dream to sing.” Richard’s face lights up with the potential sum of all these kids’ possibilities. His passion is infectious. He is the bright zephyr beneath the wings of kids who one day might be household names in the entertainment world.

I like this man!

Richard’s CV is unusual. Try this on for size: once a shot-put and discus athlete and at the same time a trained Heldentenor (a powerful voice suitable for heroic roles in opera). He’s sung all over the world. With the International



Photo: L-R - Cassidy, Javiera, Ashleigh Gallagher of Bundanoon. Richard at the back.

Academy of Voice in Cardiff Wales, in gaols (not as an inmate), and he is still belting out his rare and very-difficult-to-do Wagnerian boom.

He tells me that he was given a chance to be noticed and he’s now giving that back. From the kindness of his great heart he mentors these kids and gives them the opportunity to grab that scary microphone and perform. (There’s even young Will in the background learning to be a sound engineer.)

Over the past 18 months the Vocal Muster has been operating, 50 students have given 247 performances at five venues per month: two in Moss Vale, two in Robertson and one here in Bundanoon. If they wish to perform they must contact Richard as he wants to foster self-discipline and motivation. (So kids, if you wish to perform at a Muster, you must contact Richard because he won’t phone you.)

Cassidy later tells me this region is very sports-focussed and until Richard popped along with his prodigious size and commensurately kind and friendly patronage, there was nowhere for them to test their vocal chords in such a milieu.

So, the man with a singing voice that would split firewood and reach Mars, is an unsung (not quite the correct word!) hero for these potential stars of tomorrow’s music world.

- Annie Crawford

RORY PETERSEN'S HOCKEY GOALS

Hockey is a family affair for the Petersens of Bundanoon - Audrey Petersen was captain of the 1940 Bundanoon women's hockey team which won all the trophies, and she also played for NSW.

Matt and Belinda both played the game, observed by their two sons Rory and Casey, and as soon as the boys were old enough they joined Mittagong Hockey Club.

Rory was five years old when he started playing and immediately loved the game. His ambition? To play hockey for NSW and maybe one day for Australia at the Olympics.

As Rory moved through the hockey ranks, he felt the need to expand and increase his opportunities to eventually play for NSW. A move to the Goulburn competition

gave him the opportunity to play Division One at the State Championships in Grafton. After a solid performance at state level, Rory was selected in the U13 NSW squad. He then attended a two-day training camp in Port Macquarie and was notified two days later that he had made the NSW Lions team which competes at Nationals level.

The National carnival is an annual event, with each state sending two teams. The NSW trials are tough, starting with 800 boys and with only 32 selected for NSW.

Extremely excited to be selected for NSW in his first year representing Goulburn, Rory trained all by himself five days a week leading up to the Nationals.

The NSW Lions team had a great carnival after only three days of training together beforehand. They played 11 games over seven days, with one rest day. Rory travelled and stayed with the team in Hobart, enjoying the experience of playing with boys from all over NSW and making new friends.



Rory would like to thank Petersen's Garage and Linz Design for their generous sponsorship.

I wondered if one so young was nervous with his new experience of playing for NSW. "It can sometimes be a bit stressful but once on the field I just focus on the game", he says.

Naturally his parents are very proud of his success and Matt and Belinda travel hundreds if not thousands of kilometres for Rory to follow his dreams.

Rory is a student at Chevalier College and understands that his studies must not be neglected. He is a busy young man and demonstrates a very mature outlook. I'm sure his great grandmother Audrey approves.

- Annie Goodridge



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BUNDANOON POST OFFICE 2578 FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Once upon a time, Bundanoon's mail was dropped off in the middle of the night by one or other of the mail trains steaming south, and taken to whichever building the local Post Office was located in at the time. Not so now: our mail is picked up from from the Highlands delivery centre at Bowral early each morning. But then, as it always has, it finishes up in our mail boxes later in the day.

Angela and Gail who now jointly hold the Post Office and Mail Contractor licences for Bundanoon have managed all this since last April. Like many people in Bundanoon, at first they were just passing through. But when they looked at the village's assets and its potential they saw a future here. They were not new to Australia Post - both have long and comprehensive work experience there, and they saw possibilities in Bundanoon. They have licences for three other Post Offices in the Wollongong area, and have lead roles in National and State Postal Licensee organisations.

They are very serious about bringing Bundanoon up to date. Australia Post offers banking, bill-paying and other services, and they want to maximise availability of all these for local customers. They also want to expand to offer a full Post Office shop, like those now operating in bigger centres.

"We know how important the Post Office is in a community," Angela says. "We want to make sure Bundanoon keeps a full-service Post Office which is valued and supported by the whole village." They have welcomed positive support for their plans from Australia Post itself.

Post Office business is of course changing. Traditional mail is declining by about ten percent a year, while

parcel business is growing by about the same amount. But people will still be writing letters. As Gail says, we get lots of electronic mail these days, but it's still not the same as actually getting a handwritten letter, or even a card.

They know the stories about the local building being designed for somewhere else. If it was Bundaberg, not Bundanoon, that could explain why in its present layout it's impossible to heat in our



Licensees Angela and Gail, who are making big plans for the future



Brodie at the counter

winter! That will be addressed at the same time as the customer space is reorganized. The present counter looks like GPO-size, with space for six counter staff, but it has never worked that way. Making that and the interior more customer-friendly has all had to be negotiated with Council, but work is now under way.

Of course, when there is a new more friendly and efficient customer space, there will still be a very large area left over. After all, it's one of Bundanoon's biggest shop buildings, and Angela and Gail are thinking about the options. Perhaps a craft gallery? - with an attached cafe? There are no decisions yet, but it's certainly possible to say "watch this space!"

Some changes are already evident: the hole-in-the-wall posting slot under the Mail Boxes is now closed. There won't be a place for it when the Mail Boxes move to another wall, so the new red box on the footpath now does the job. It's important to note, though, that no van calls to clear it. Read the sign: it doesn't say "No Parking"! Post Office staff themselves clear the box on schedule, and the parking arrangements are unchanged.

And what about lunch-hour closing? That's work regulations. While Gail and Angela both do shifts in Bundanoon, customers more often meet Brodie, who is on duty most days. Everyone is required to have their break after five hours at work, and that's what happens.

Over the years Bundanoon's Post Office has moved around a bit. Now it's beginning a new era, with plans to make the most of all its possibilities. As our community grows and technology changes, we look forward to making the most of the service it can provide.

- Geoff McCubbin



BIKES4LIFE BOUND FOR KUNUNURRA

Bundanoon resident Hans Radowitz alerted us to the latest recipients of a Bikes 4 Life shipment of restored bicycles from the Southern Highlands.

A container of refurbished bikes left the Council's Resource Recovery Centre recently, bound for the remote community of Kununurra in Western Australia. "This container is the culmination of almost a year of work from the volunteers from Bikes 4 Life," Mayor Duncan Gair said, as he closed the door on the container packed with hundreds of bikes. "This is now the seventh container the team has shipped from Council's Resource Recovery Centre."

On arrival in Kununurra the bicycles will be handed over to the team from East Kimberley Job Pathways (EKJP) which works with the local community by providing greater employment pathways. Southern Highlands Bikes 4 Life and Resource Recovery Australia (RRA) volunteer Hans has been invited to visit Kununurra after the arrival of the container. "The Chief Executive Officer of EKJP has kindly invited us over to see how they plan to use the bikes to run education programs for the town's youth," Hans said. "At the same time we'll use the opportunity to run some bicycle maintenance and repair workshops for the locals."

The RRA manage Council's Reviva Centre (located within the grounds of the Resource Recovery Centre), and it was their relationship with both Bikes 4 Life and EKJP that facilitated the opportunity to provide bikes for communities in need in remote Australia.

Formerly known as Bicycles for Change, Bikes 4 Life is an Australian not-for-profit organisation whose purpose is to recycle bicycles and transport them to communities



above: Wingecarribee Shire Mayor, Duncan Gair with Hans Radowitz and Bikes 4 Life volunteers

in need. The local branch works out of Council's Resource Recovery Centre and Council has pledged \$1000 each year towards the cost of transporting the containers.

Since starting in 2010 Hans and his fellow volunteers estimate they have restored almost 3000 bicycles donated from across the Shire. "I reckon I've repaired just about every make and model of bicycle there is," he laughed. "But it's the generosity of our Shire's residents that still surprises us."

Mayor Gair said that in addition to helping those less fortunate the volunteers were saving hundreds of bicycles from being scrapped or crushed.

Hans said as soon as the latest container left the premises a new one would take its place. "We accept all types of bikes but given the conditions they'll be used in, mountain bikes are the most sought-after," he said.

In addition to bicycles, collapsible wheelchairs, crutches and walkers are also accepted.

Bicycles and wheelchairs can be dropped off free-of-charge at Wingecarribee Shire Council's Resource Recovery Centre during normal business hours.

For more information visit
www.bikes4life.com.au
or phone 0403 073 643.

Bikes 4 Life is a registered charity and incorporated association operated entirely by volunteers.

(Source: Wingecarribee Shire media release
1 October 2019).



Dusk to Dawn 70km/h – a community initiative

Popping up on cars in Bundanoon are swing tags proclaiming 'I go 70km/h dusk to dawn'.

The idea for the swing tags was born on a drive through Trentham, in central Victoria. On a busy 100km/h tourist road into Daylesford, I saw that the local Council had erected wombat warning signs with an additional advisory to travel at 70km/h dusk to dawn.

Given the wombat population around Bundanoon I thought this would be a welcome initiative. Sharp road corners generally have an arrow sign and a recommended speed. Why not a wildlife sign along the same lines?

Reducing your speed to 70km/h makes a big difference to reaction time when a wombat exercises its 'right of way' and darts in front of you, or reverses in mid-run. At 100km/h it is always a tragic outcome.

Road signs are surprisingly good value for money. A set of three signs (see picture), is \$125.

The swing tags are for both awareness and fund-raising to pay for full size signs. Just having a swing tag displayed helps promote the concept of driving to conditions on country roads. My own tag makes me feel responsible to drive to the 70km/h dusk to dawn rule.

The swing tags are \$5 each and are sold at the Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe Café, The Good Yarn and the Bundanoon Veterinary Hospital. A Facebook page, *Dusk to Dawn 70km/h*, has more information and an online sales link. The swing tags make a good local souvenir and gift.

Money raised by the swing tags (already enough for three sets of signs) will be used to fund roadside signs when Council agrees to install them. At present Council is not prepared to install the advisory signs. Although sympathetic, they cite a reluctance to install any new wildlife advisory signs in the Shire, a view that wildlife advisory signs may not be effective, that there are other high

wildlife casualty areas, and the non-compliance with Australian Standard AS1742.2 of the proposed advisory sign set. This does sound daunting, however I am sure Daylesford Council went through a similar process before its signs went up!

For all the wombats around Bundanoon, there are only two warning signs, re-installed in October, at either end of the notorious 'Wallace the Wombat' burrow on Bundanoon Road, about a kilometre to the north of the town. Sadly, in all other locations, it is the dead wombats that become grim advisory signs.

We know lower speeds work. Ellsmore Road's 60km/h speed limit greatly reduces wildlife trauma. Whilst buying swing tags at Winterfest and the Bundanoon on Earth Festival, quite a few people said they already travel at lower speeds at night around Bundanoon because of their concern for our beloved moving road hazards.

So until we get more road signs in place, it is up to all of us who care about our wildlife to take the law into our own hands!

By this I don't mean breaking the law, I mean using the law. The NSW Roads Rules (2014), Part 125, provides the legal framework to drive at lower speeds. So long as you don't drive abnormally slowly (without reason) it is not an offence to drive at less than any posted speed. Driving at night at 70km/h on our dark, quiet, regional connecting roads where wombats and other wildlife are common is legally driving to conditions.

The final word? Carry a day/night hi-vis vest in your car. For less than \$10, it is a lifesaver if you must step out of your car to help wildlife or any other emergency on the roads, especially at night.

Thanks to all who slow down on our roads at night.

- Andy Carnahan



Caitlin cares for wombats



Earlier this year without any real notice, fanfare or fuss, Bundanoon was witness to quite an extraordinary event that began with one young woman's pure and simple act of kindness, care, and generosity. This action reached out not only to our community, but touched the hearts of many overseas and around the world and led to some wonderful and lasting connections and positive results for the many involved.

Last November Wombat Care's 15 year-old volunteer Caitlin Gallagher learned of the ongoing and mounting costs of the wombat work we do. She wanted to help raise money for the medications we use to treat the area's wombats afflicted with mange. As Wombat Care is completely self-supported and relies upon local donations, Caitlin looked for ideas to fund-raise to support our work.

Her idea was simply to make a request to the community to donate their empty cans and bottles to her so that she could take them to the nearby 'Return and Earn' centre to redeem them for 10 cents each.

This brought an immediate local response as many helpful people began dropping off their bottles to her

home. Before long she had converted 400 bottles into \$40 to help our local wombats. A small but powerful start to what quickly led to some very positive outcomes.

Bundanoon and surrounding communities became aware of wombat mange and the work we do to address it. That heightened awareness led to more reported sightings, which then allowed us to treat more animals in need. WIN News heard the story of how one young person could make such a difference and came to Bundanoon to interview Wombat Care about our mange work, our environmental, educational and community focus and our commitment to bringing these three aspects together to make a positive difference in our area and in the wider community.

This news story made its way around the world and gathered positive feedback.

None more so than that from Professor Derek Marks from Saint Mary's College of California who saw the story and contacted Wombat Care with an offer to visit us with his family and 16 university students. They offered to assist in clearing, planting and building our planned educational wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation space. Our commitment to environment, education and community service connected strongly with the college's guiding principle and motto: 'Enter to learn. Leave to serve'.

In January next year a new group of 16 students will come to assist us once again in building our wildlife sanctuary. This time they will be coming for not just one but for three days! Given the work the group accomplished in one day last year, three days' work with us will bring a great outcome for the wombats and wildlife in our area. If you happen to see them walking around town during those three days in January, please say hello and make them welcome.

- John Creighton
Wombat Care Bundanoon
Mobile# 049-065-9245



Photos: Trevor Vale

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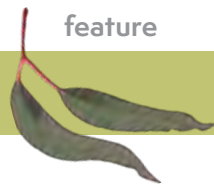
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Threatened Ecological Communities in Bundanoon



You've probably heard of Southern Highlands Shale Woodland and Robertson Basalt Tall Open-forest, often called 'shale woodland' and 'basalt forest'. These two Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) occur in and beyond Bundanoon. For most purposes they are defined by particular groups of plants on specific soils. They are recognised in NSW and Commonwealth biodiversity laws but under different names.

'Threatened' refers to their risk of extinction. For both of these TECs that risk is largely a result of having been extensively cleared. What remains usually occurs as small remnants amongst grazing land, in and on the edge of towns, and along roadsides. Weeds and lack of fire are threats, as can be feral animals and 'tidying-up'. There is very little of these communities in formal conservation reserves.

'Shale woodland' and 'basalt forest' occur on relatively fertile and accessible soils. These were first logged for the tall trees that were a major timber resource. The trees gave way to grazing, cropping and horticulture. 'Basalt forest' often occurs on high ground with expansive views, so was soon used for housing, including some of the famed guest houses of the town. 'Shale woodland' remains extensively used for grazing.

Locally, most of the 'basalt forest' now accommodates urban housing, often with barely a trace of the original vegetation. In some areas it remains on blocks deemed too difficult to build on. Examples occur near the end of Brigadoon Drive (JCG last edition page 35), the top of Amos Lane near the water reservoirs, and around Ben Nevis Circuit.

There is more 'shale woodland' left because it was originally more widespread. It can still be seen around Blue Gum Road, Grice Drive, next to Bundanoon

Oval, Riverview, Governors, Old Wingello and Old Argyle Roads, and in Morton National Park behind homes fronting Garland Road. It mostly occurs as forest, not woodland: the difference being that in forest, the tree canopies usually touch, whereas in woodland, trees are at least one canopy width apart.

Permits and assessments are usually required where TECs are proposed to be cleared. Disappointingly, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act was rushed into effect, resulting in ongoing confusion about when and whether State or Local Government is responsible for some forms of assessment. Anyone wanting to clear vegetation within a TEC should obtain and document advice from Council, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, and if on Rural-zoned land also from Local Land Services.

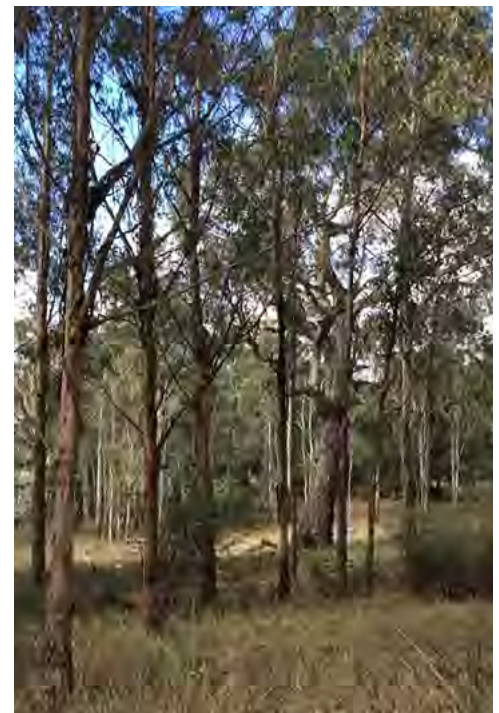
Note that 'clearing' can include weed-removal, depending on how it is done and the species targeted. The legal definition of 'native vegetation' fails to deal with the case when a plant native to NSW is also accepted to be a weed in some parts of the state and in some ecological communities, for example, sweet Pittosporum.

Because 'Basalt forest' is a Critically Endangered community under NSW law, a publicly available online map of its occurrence can be viewed via the Biodiversity Values Map & Threshold Tool. As with all maps, it should be used with caution - just because it might not show this TEC on your property does not mean that it is absent, and the converse applies. If you believe the map is wrong you can request an amendment but will need to provide evidence.

Land owners interested in conserving TECs can obtain advice and support from agencies including Council's Land for Wildlife officer, Local Land Services and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.



▲ example of Southern Highlands Shale Woodland



▲ example of Robertson Basalt Tall Open-forest



- **Dr Steven Douglas**
 manager@ecologicalsurveys.net
 www.ecologicalsurveys.net
 Scientific Licence: SL100367
 BAM Accreditation: 18036
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Thank you from Bowral Classic



A big thank you to the Bundanoon/Exeter community for supporting our annual Bowral Classic on Sunday October 20.

We enjoyed very good weather conditions for cycling and the local community spirit was fantastic.

This year's Bowral Classic raised \$105,000 for a range of great charities, to date the event has raised more than \$400,000 since 2016.

Over 3,300 riders took part with many staying two to three nights in the area boosting various business outlets. A big thanks to all those locals who spent time cheering on the riders, this is something that is truly appreciated as it is quite a challenge to finish The Bowral Classic!

Next year's date is Sunday October 18 2020.

Sincerely

James Yaffa

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Dear Editor,

I was thinking about what could be our next village project, to build on the success of the Bundanoon on Tap campaign. I have a suggestion: what about a community carbon footprint reduction challenge?

Households could volunteer to enter the challenge, and get a 'before' and 'after' carbon footprint audit. A bit like that seen on the ABC's War on Waste program.

There are so many easy ways to reduce our impact, but many of us need a bit of motivation, support and education to achieve it! We could, for example: use our cars a bit less, car pool sometimes, shop local, exchange more home-grown fruit and veggies, reduce our food waste, take part in a community garden, look at mini grids and batteries, etc. I am guessing that other places have tried this and we could borrow some of their best ideas and ways of doing things.

Regards,
Nigel Wainwright

Editor's reply:

Thanks Nigel for your interest. If others have ideas for putting Bundanoon on the map again for being a strong, environmentally-friendly community please share your ideas with Bundanoon Community Association. There is strength in numbers!



Late October to early November, when the white mulberry is in full production, Bennygoak arrives with his mate.

In a book of poems by Flora Garry, first published in 1974, is an outstanding, poignant poem called Bennygoak, the hill of the Cuckoo written in the Doric language of North East Scotland. Flora's opening stanza sets the scene;

It wis jist a skelp o the muckle furth,
A sklyter o roch grun,
Fin granfadder's fadder bruke it in
Fae the hedder an the funn.

What follows in the poem is a dramatic revelation of the hard old days, and so it is today with our Bennygoak.

In Australia, known as the common koel or black cuckoo, his is a life of daily toil protecting the crop of mulberries from a host of satin bower birds who work in teams to outwit our visitor and steal a few sweet morsels. He is very agile and determined to save the sweet mulberries for his partner and every two days he is rewarded with a leg-over which invigorates him into higher vigilance.

Madam koel does no such exercise. Her day consists of two to three visits when she sits comfortably and systematically reaps a considerable number of tails. She arrives and leaves silently then vanishes, I presume, to find the nest of a friarbird in which to lay a single reddish-salmon egg.

This is the third year the koels have billeted with us and we enjoy their antics as we relax on our rear patio. Our lot overlooks farmland which produces Angus and Hereford stirks* and steers. These, and the birds, combine to create an outlook into Bundanoon ambience.

- Ian Gordon

* a yearling bullock or heifer

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\$10,937 grant for Bundanoon Rebels Football Club

Bundanoon Rebels Football Club has been named by the Australian Sports Foundation as one of 62 clubs from across rural NSW to receive funding under its Giving4Grassroots program.

"Thanks to the support of a generous benefactor, we have been able to distribute funds that are aimed at promoting participation among young Australians," Sports Foundation Chief Executive Patrick Walker said. "All sports require equipment – whether it's a bat, a ball or something else – and this grant program allocates funds to help clubs acquire much-needed equipment to get more Australians involved in junior sport."

Club President, John Grosse says "Our grant of \$10,937.85 is fantastic and a gratefully received injection of funds into our football club."

Club Secretary John Paul Dunne worked on and submitted the detailed grant application, after the club executive agreed to focus on replacing the club's soccer nets and team uniforms. "We host the Michael Sant Cup in May every year and struggle to find enough nets that are suitable for a round robin style competition and tournament," he said.

"We also have a bit of a mish-mash of uniforms that we've accumulated over the years, so we'll be using the funds to replace those uniforms. We're looking at creating a new uniform design which will give the Bundanoon Rebels a fresh new identity and it will be great to see all teams across all grades and age groups wearing the same thing."

The Bundanoon Rebels Football Club was established nearly 30 years ago and has been steadily growing in numbers ever since thanks to many young families moving to the southern villages in recent decades.



Back L to R: Club President John Grosse and Club Secretary John Paul Dunne
Front L to R: Millie Sears, Lilly Hines, Liam Grosse and Annalise Dunne

"Compared to some of the other clubs in the Southern Highlands Football Association, we're still a smaller club, although this year we have a team in nearly every grade which is a reflection of how strong the sport is here," says Club President John Grosse.

"Because we are a bit smaller and we don't host many home games, we have fewer opportunities to raise funds and turn a profit in our canteen. That means we have to top up what it costs to run the club with fund-raising and a lot of hard work which our local football community are more than happy to do.

But the Giving4Grassroots program gives us an extra boost of funds which will help us so much. It's a great result for this family-friendly club – bring on 2020!"

**Media Enquiries: Penny Webb
0419 803 799**



Carriage Club turns 40!

The Southern Highlands Carriage Club celebrated its 40th year at a special celebration at its clubhouse in Bundanoon on 27 July this year. Members, ex-members and guests watched as Anniversary Roses were planted in the garden and a memorial plaque affixed.

Old photos, photo cuttings and a slide show brought back sometimes hilarious memories of the Club's early days and sparked the telling of some interesting yarns.

Members and visitors recalled that carriages and harness were once begged, borrowed, salvaged or improvised from bits and pieces found on farms or in old storage sheds, because heaps of equipment had been broken up, buried or burnt when the motor vehicle became popular. Anything with wheels - from

drays and wagons to small coaches and joggers - was fixed up as best could be and used for the driving revival. In those days there were no helmet standards, no body protectors, no quick-release harness, no risk assessments, only the motto: "Anything goes, have fun".

Built on this strong basis, our club continues to thrive and we welcome any from the community to visit when we begin our new program in February next year.

- Faye Cairncross

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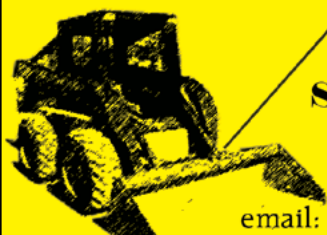
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6pm Exeter Lawn 24/12

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Bundanoon Community Association Inc. (BCA)
 President, Peter Gray President@bca.asn.au
 Secretary, Christine Miller Secretary@bca.asn.au

BCA Subcommittee Convenors

Arts Bundanoon
 Greg Slater gregs50@dodo.com.au
'Bundanoon Sings' Choir
 Geoff McCubbin geoffmc@iinet.net.au
Bundanoon on Tap
 Christine Miller christine.rowell.miller@gmail.com
Bundanoon Ukesters
 Anton Baggerman anton.j.baggerman@gmail.com
COMPassionate COMMunities
 Jessica Rashke comcombundanoon@questforlife.com.au
De Meyrick Reserve
 Peter Papps ppapps@bigpond.net.au
Garden Ramble
 Graeme Whisker gwhisker@tpg.com.au
Glow Worm Glen Track
 Anna Perston anna.perston@bigpond.com
The Green Team
 John White johnifer@bigpond.com
JCG
 Christine Janssen JCG.Advertising@bca.asn.au
Leaver Park Group
 Christine Miller christine.rowell.miller@gmail.com
Melting Pot Theatre
 Josh Hewitt joshua.hewitt.jh@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
Soldiers' Memorial Hall
 Mgtt: Rosemary Page rojo@bigpond.net.au
 Bookings: Lorraine Dillon hallbookings@aapt.net.au
Website
 Andy Carnahan membership@bca.asn.au
Welcome Packs
 Lyn Morehen tallulah1938@gmail.com
Winterfest
 Kaz Williams kaz@bigshedcreative.com

Community Groups

Chess Club Pat Foley 4883 6064
 Country Women's Association Kath Smith 4883 6919
 Garden Club Janine Armstrong 0400 120 141
 History Group David Brennan 0432 608 474
 Lions Club Elizabeth Cranny 0408 102 411
 Men's Shed Evan Smith 4883 6753
 Friends of Morton National Park Sylvia David 0421 796 952
 Photography Group Peter Gray 4883 6312
 Playgroup Hope Earl 0450 471 196
 RSL Robert Williams 4883 6137
 Serendipity: the choir Kerith Fowles 4883 6515
 Waratah Slimmers Bundanoon Colleen Urquhart 4883 4123
 Warrigal Care Bundanoon Auxiliary Ann McCarter 4883 7784

Support and volunteer services

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 Dementia Australia (Dementia Advisory Service) 4869 5651
 Early Childhood Clinic 4861 8000
 Fire Station 4883 6333
 Good Yarn Ann McCarter 4883 7784
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 RFS Auxiliary Don Gray 0429 828 765
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To change details, please email jcg.editor@bca.asn.au

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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 Sundays, 2pm

Uniting Church

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 Bundanoon Thursday, 12.30 pm

Catholic Church

St Brigid's Bundanoon 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 5pm
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 St Paul's, Moss Vale Sat, 6pm & Sunday, 10am
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FOR OTHER SERVICE TIMES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Anglican Church: www.parishofsuttonforest.com 4883 6019
 Catholic Church: Parish Office 4868 1931
 Iona: ionachristiancommunity@gmail.com 4869 1196
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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
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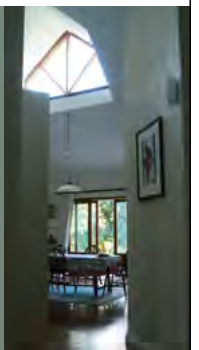


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Opening hours:

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closed Sundays
and Public Holidays



Dr Bianca Betros
Veterinarian BVSc (Hons II)



Dr Fiona Crago
Veterinarian BVSc (Hons II)

We strive to constantly provide first class, high quality, professional veterinary care to our local community, with a fully equipped veterinary hospital and dedicated, compassionate team of Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on **4883 6944** if we can be of any assistance to you or the animal members of your family.



Nikki
Head Veterinary Nurse (Cert. IV)



Christine
Cert. Veterinary Nurse



Felicity
Veterinary Nurse (Cert. IV)



Greg
Veterinary Nurse (Cert. IV)



4883 6944



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