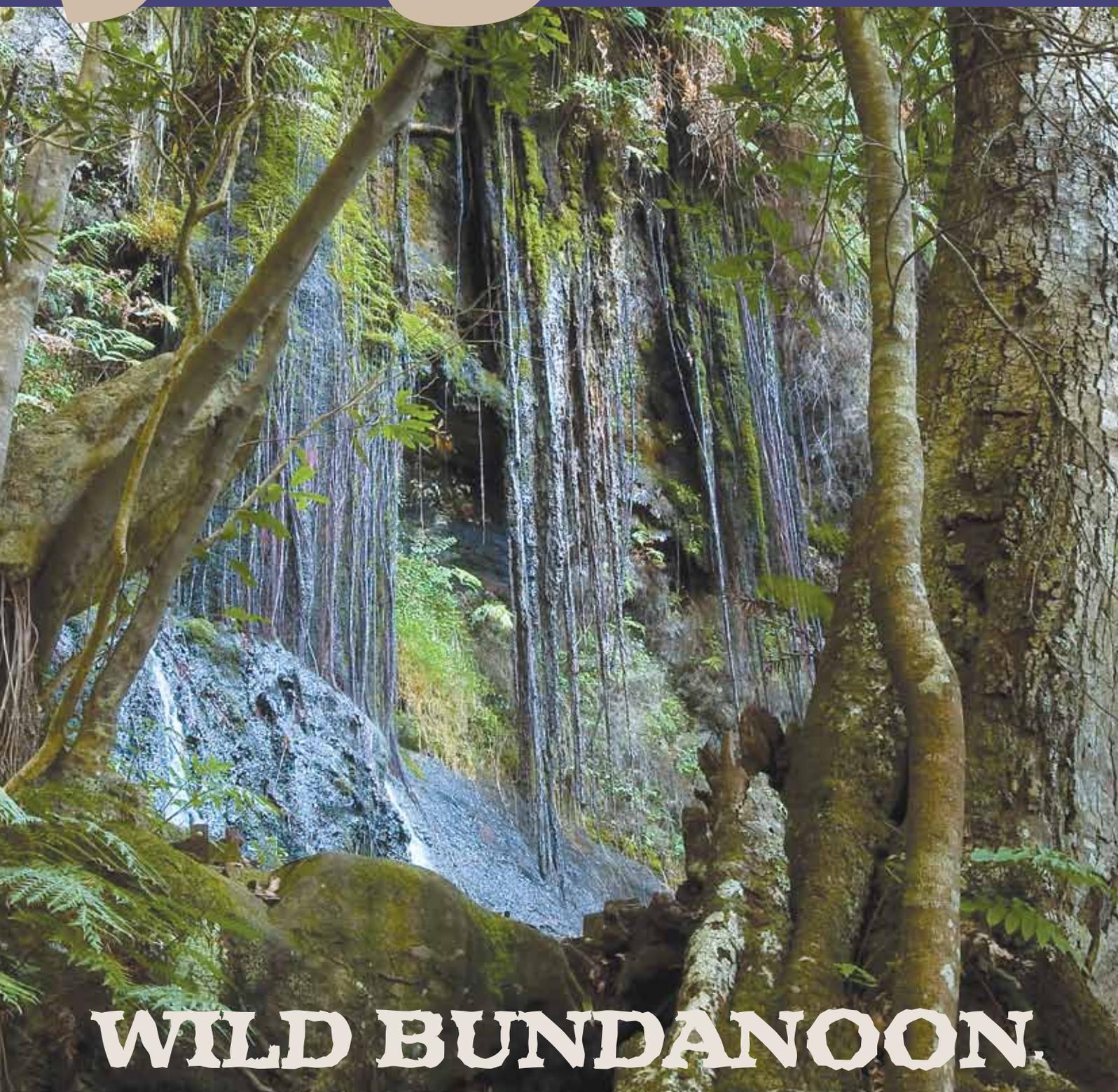


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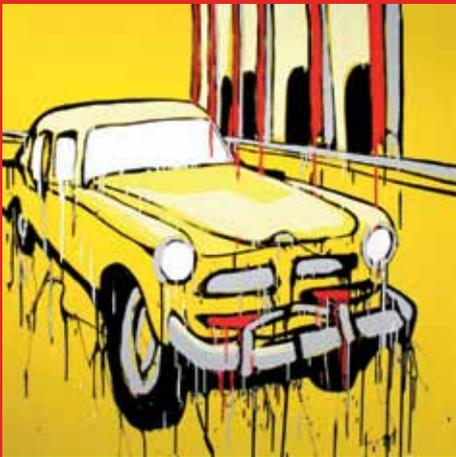
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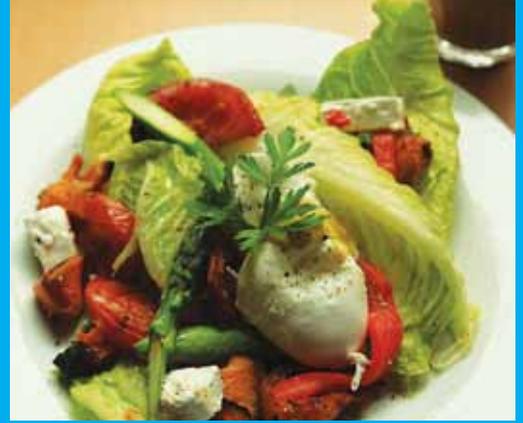
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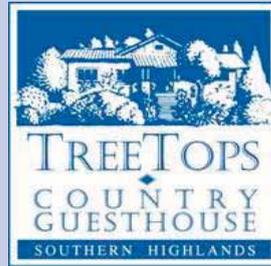
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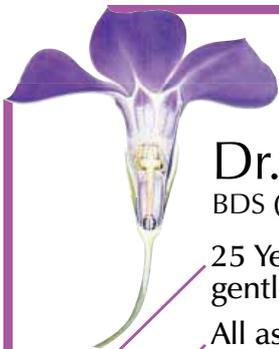


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Pam Davies, Editor

DURING THE FIVE years I have been editor of *jcg* I have gradually built up a group of regular contributors who make the task of editing much easier – especially when they are passionate about their subjects. Margaret Symonds interviews Pat Hall and discovers she is just as interested in national parks in her retirement as she has always been throughout her long career. Lorne Johnson adds another dimension to birdwatching and Alan Hyman invites us in to the world of butterflies. The protectors of our environment and wildlife are the true heroes of our Wild Bundanoon feature. If you would like to join them their contact details are included with their stories.

The WSC 2031 strategy for Bundanoon is outlined and further developments will be explained in later issues. You will also read about another council supported project involving Bundanoon residents

Hans Radowitz, Murray Loane and John Conrick. Tony Hill has returned for this issue with a discussion of recent weather and climate as well as well as explaining conservation of forest areas on his property.

Social life in Bundanoon is about to improve with the introduction of JCG Food and Wine and a series of dinners to be held in March, April and June. Would you like to join us?

jcg was first published in 1995 and in June the magazine will take a nostalgic look at stories from earlier editions. Although the format has changed, the original concept of a publication to reflect the character of Bundanoon remains.

—Pam Davies

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BCA meetings

Third Thursday each month:

17 March (AGM), 21 April, 19 May.

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



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Hall Hire

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

Advertising info: page 52

Deadline for next issue: Friday 29 April 2011



THE LATEST SANDSTONE sculpture which provides another highlight as you enter the village is the highly visible echidna in the arboretum on the northern entrance.

The sculpture is the latest in a series commissioned by Bundanoon Community Association and organized by The Green Team. Others include the first acquisition, a lyrebird, a wombat opposite the YHA hostel, a gang-gang cockatoo near the railway station and a lizard in Bellevue Park on the southern side of Bundanoon.

The man behind all of these works of art is local resident, Ken McDonald.

Ken was born in Bowral and has lived on the Highlands all his life. As a child, he was interested in drawing and his artistic abilities began to show when, at the age of 13, he made his first carving in stone – a clam shell.

Sandstone has been a popular medium for Ken and he has created many dry stone walls and other structures. In fact, Ken was involved in the construction of Bundanoon's wonderful town signs which are represented in the Bundanoon Community Association's logo. His talents have been recognized over the years through various awards won. When a large carved frog was judged winner of the People's Choice in the Berrima Art Competition some years ago, his name was brought to the attention of The Green Team and a relationship grew. As a consequence Bundanoon has since been the beneficiary of his craftsman's skills. Ken carefully selects appropriate material, with colour and structure to suit the planned carving, from the Bundanoon Sandstone Quarry.



Artist in stone

"An idea forms in the mind and I visualize how I can convert the rough stone into the final product that I have as a mental image," says Ken. He aims to produce an artistic representation. "If you want real life," he says, "buy yourself a camera!"

The latest sculpture honed from a block weighing about 5 tonnes began life in Ken's sketch pad. Countless hours of work have gone into the detail from large cuts to form the main body of the animal to the fine work of the head. The Green Team is delighted with the outcome and is very proud of the

contribution Ken has made to the beautification of Bundanoon.

Further commissions are planned which will be financed from funds raised by BCA's Garden Ramble committee at annual open garden weekends held in October. This money allows the Green Team to beautify Bundanoon in many different ways. The daffodil display and trees planted in public areas of the village are evidence of previous investment from Garden Ramble proceeds.

The Green Team is always looking for volunteers to help at regular working bees. If you are interested, please contact Valerie Crampton 4883 6574 or Dianna Curtis 4883 7335.

–David Beasley



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The Big Parade of Comedy (Winterfest event)

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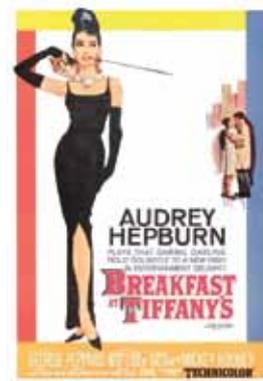
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7.30pm Movie





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Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)



Ralph Clark, BCA president

BCA report

So much going on

BUNDANOON CARES! THIS we all knew, but it became even more apparent as we waved off a second truck-load of donated household good bound for flood-ravaged Queensland. An initial truck a week earlier had been filled within an hour,

with donations from some 170 Bundanoon residents unable to be squeezed in.

I would like, on behalf of us all, to thank Peter Stewart, Christine Miller, the truck donors and drivers, Lions and the many others who helped load, those who contributed to fuel and other costs, and of course the many wonderful people who gave so generously.

The second load was collected at the new School hall. This facility was opened recently and will be a great asset to our community. It was good to see the crab-apples moved from the main street doing so well outside the hall.

Thanks to sculptor Ken McDonald and Bundanoon Sandstone we have another sculpture – an echidna in the arboretum. The recent BCA meeting learned that at least three more are planned for later in the year.

Two Bundanoon residents were nominated for the Wingecarribee Citizen of the Year award on Australia Day: Sandra Menteith, possibly best known for her role as coordinator of the Bundy on Tap project, and Les Johnson, the hard-working president of our local Lions Club.

This edition gives details of an exciting new offering from BCA – JCG Food and Wine. Having a love of both, I wish the venture great success. I have no doubt that many of you will share my enthusiasm.

The idea of highlighting the excellence of local produce fits well with the next stage of BCA's Bundanoon on Track, which is also featured on a later page. I was very proud to see that three of the four group leaders in the development of Council's 2031+ plan were from Bundanoon. All will be involved in our own project. Please support it. In similar vein, Council held a planning session here on March 1, which received input from the BCA planning group, as well as a number of interested residents. More on this on-going process in future editions.

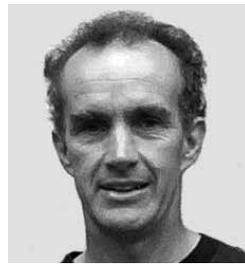
JCG Travel has proved to be a popular initiative. A coach trip to Sydney to see the musical Dr Zhivago has filled; the NZ cruise is filling fast. A new four-day coach trip to the Beechworth area should also prove popular.

The BCA AGM is on March 17. Two committee members will be standing down. Bob Smith has made an wonderful contribution to the village over the past decade; the improvements made to the Hall are his legacy. Carol Townsend has been a great secretary and committee member over the past several years. Thanks to both.

Rod Moore will step down as coordinator of Arts Bundanoon, where he has done an excellent job, providing us with wonderful entertainment in an expanded range of musical styles. We are fortunate in having Greg Slater available to take over the reins.

Please come along to the AGM, even if you do not attend monthly meetings, and see what goes on. You will be very welcome.

A couple of dates for your diary: on Tuesday 15 March you can hear and question the candidates for the seat of Goulburn. A town meeting on 11 April will feature Council GM Jason Gordon. Both are opportunities to let local and state representatives know what we think, and need.



Councillor Jim Clark

council news

Election looms

AS I WRITE this we are all getting back into harness for the year.

PM Julia Gillard has announced that one of the questions put forward for referendum at the 2013 Federal Elections would be for constitutional recognition of local government. This would mean, if won, that the Federal Government's right

to financially support Local Government would be recognised. State Governments have long been contemptuous of Local Government, and legal challenges to Federal funding have occurred, with few referendums being successful, the Australian Local Government Association has received a grant of \$250,000 from the Federal Government to fund a referendum campaign.

The annual Community Assistance Scheme is already underway with application forms available on the council website. The Scheme provides around \$100,000 of funding to various community groups to provide improvements to local services in the categories of Arts and Culture, Sport and Recreation and Community Services. Applications close on 25 March – for queries ring Debbie Wilson at council on 4868 0861.

With the State Election to be held this month and a change of government looking likely all eyes are on the coalition to detail policy. After attending several of the 'Shoo Cockatoo', Southern Highland Coal Action Group meetings campaigning against Long Wall coal mining and coal seam gas extraction in the Sutton Forest area, it appears the coalition policy may soon be released. Residents are waiting with bated breath to see if new policies from the coalition offer protection to local communities from the insidious effects of mining. Similarly we await changes to planning legislation which would return planning powers to local communities by repealing Part 3A legislation. This allows the Minister for Planning to decide on major developments and the scrapping of Joint Regional Planning panels. If and when this happens major planning decisions will be taken away from local councils. Perhaps it is too much to ask that it not be, 'business as usual'? Should we have a change of government?

—Clr Jim Clark, ph 0428 213 939



Two matters of concern are our dangerous crossings and the lack of an ambulance station, with which I am delighted that the Lions Club has become involved. A lot of behind-the-scenes work has been devoted to these topics – more details very soon.

This message falls mid-way between Christmas and Winterfest; both feature street lighting. I was rather disappointed that we could not do better in December and am determined to have an improvement by July. A small group is looking at options to brighten up for Christmas – they would welcome your suggestions. We are looking at a range of options for street-lighting; I trust that at least stage one will be in place by July.

Note these dates

Tuesday 15 March, 7.30pm in the Hall
State Election Candidates Function. Hear and question the candidates before you decide how to vote. Details on the BCA noticeboard and in the shops.

Monday 11 April, 7.30pm in the Hall
Town meeting with WSC General Manager Jason Gordon. All welcome.

Thursday 17 March, 7.30pm in the Hall
BCA AGM. Be informed. Have your say. Join us for supper.



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JCG Travel will conduct a 4-day/3-night tour of the high country including King Valley and the historic towns of Beechworth, Bright and Milawa, leaving Bundanoon on Tuesday, August 23.

The tour will include dinner at the region's finest restaurants – 'The Provenance' and 'Gigi's' – and lunch at the spectacular Alex Popov-designed Sam Miranda winery. Both restaurants feature in *The Age Good Food Guide*; 'The Provenance' is No. 31 in *Gourmet Traveller's* Best 100 Restaurants and 'Gigi's' has one of the best wine lists.

We will drive the spectacular Great Alpine Way, see heritage towns with grand historic buildings, and visit wine, cheese, mustard and chocolate makers. This is not a Jenny Craig trip!

The cost is \$495 per person twin share which includes accommodation in Beechworth, transport, two gourmet dinners, one lunch and all breakfasts. And, of course, a happy hour each night. The single supplement is \$155 for an en-suite room or \$75 if you want your own room but are prepared to share a bathroom with one other person.

For this trip we will be staying at a single location so you will only have to unpack once. The trip will depend on a minimum number of 30 people making a booking.

If you wish to book, contact Lexie or Harvey on 4883 7343 or email contact@hgrennan.com. A deposit of \$75pp is required which is refundable if the trip does not proceed.

Below: Winery and tasting plate, Sam Miranda Wines



Still room on the *Zaandam* cruise

JCG TRAVEL STILL has some twin-share cabins available for the cruise to New Zealand leaving Sydney on November 25.



The 14-day cruise on Holland America's 4.5-star *Zaandam* will take in Milford Sound, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Napier, Auckland, Rotorua and the Bay of Islands (pictured).

The discounted price for an ocean view cabin is \$2,400 per person twin share and includes bus transport to the

dock in Sydney and return. All meals and most entertainment are included. Drinks, tips and shore excursions are extra and charged to your credit card.

There are more than 80 shore excursions from which to choose at various ports of call, most costing in the range of \$40 to \$150 per person, but some more expensive. In some ports there will be quite enough to see without taking an excursion. Excursions can be viewed on hollandamerica.com/cruise-destinations/ShoreExcursions.action. You can book excursions online before you depart or wait until you get on the ship.

Call Lexie or Harvey on 4883 7343 or send an email to contact@hgrennan.com to book a cabin. A deposit of \$758 per person made out to TraveltheWorld (posted to PO Box 181 Bundanoon) is payable to confirm a booking. Balance of payment is required by 31July.

Dr Zhivago trip

THE BUS for the trip to Sydney for the performance of *Dr Zhivago* at the Lyric Theatre on March 23 will leave Bundanoon Station at 8.30am sharp.

Bon Appétit... Buon Appetito... Guten Appetit...

1. Featuring Montrose Berry Farm

Friday, 18 March

- Crudites with aioli, mushroom and almond pate, artichoke tapenade
- Seafood lasagne (vegetarian with prior request)
- Baby spinach salad with cucumber, shaved fennel and citrus dressing
- Montrose berry pie



Book now at The Bundanoon Club to avoid missing out. Just \$99 for three very special dinners. Tickets on sale from March 7.

2. Showcasing fabulous fungi

Friday, 29 April

- Dukkah, olive oil, sourdough bread and local olives
- Beef medallion on truffled potato mash and red wine jus (vegetarian alternative on request)
- Salad of mixed mushrooms with tarragon mustard vinaigrette
- Caramelized apples and raisins topped with yoghurt and truffled honey



Introducing... JCG Food and Wine

GOURMET DINNER FOR \$120 a head anyone? Thanks, but no thanks. In this issue we introduce JCG Food and Wine to bring affordable culinary pleasures to the people of the Southern Villages.

It's not hard to find good food in the Southern Highlands but it is not inexpensive. JCG Food and Wine will offer the opportunity to savour the best of local produce and benefit from the passion of talented chefs at affordable prices. As our head chef says: "hold the profit and the overheads and add a tablespoon of volunteers and a pinch of enterprise".

To launch JCG Food and Wine we will be holding a series of three dinners at The Bundanoon Club showcasing local growers and their produce. Food featured at these events has been sourced with assistance from the recently launched Southern Highlands Harvest group who are compiling a "food trail" of local growers to highlight the rich agricultural traditions and the wide variety of fresh, local produce available in our region.

Who knows what will follow? Cheese and wine tastings, a Wine Expo, more dinners? These are all under consideration.

The inaugural "Locavore Dinners" (a locavore being one who prefers to eat home grown or locally produced food) will be held on Fridays March 18, April 29 and June 10, using fresh, local ingredients prepared by Sarah and John Phillis, Pam Davies and friends. John is a professional chef; Sarah is Acting Head Teacher—Food, Beverage and Gaming Administration at Wollongong TAFE. Pam has a local reputation as a gourmet caterer.

The total cost is \$99 per person for ALL THREE EVENTS. Seating is limited – phone The Bundanoon Club on 4883 6174 – bookings confirmed when you collect and pay for tickets. For group bookings nominate one name for seating arrangements. Couples and singles are welcome. If you will be away for one dinner you can share your ticket with a friend. For more information contact Sandra Nicholls on 4883 7227 or Pam Davies on 4883 7196.

Join us at The Bundanoon Club, meet the growers and experience the tastes of the Highlands. Special wines will be available at Club prices

*The time for all dinners will be 7:00 for 7:30pm.

3. Sipping St Maur's wines



Friday, 10 June

- Antipasto platters – local ham, oven roasted tomatoes and capsicums, spicy caponata, cannellini beans with parsley pesto, olives, shaved zucchini with lemon and garlic dressing
- Gnocchi with three cheese sauce
- John's marmalade trifle



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- Bushfire prevention
- Responding to motor vehicle accidents
- Community support

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A tribute to Pat Hall AM

"THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE like it where you can take a family group," says Pat Hall, speaking about the significance to Bundanoon of our own "family oriented plateau" in the Morton National Park. She attributes this to Bundanoon's long-term, personal, hands-on involvement leading to an attitude of protective community ownership.

Pat has set up both 'interpretation' signs, to direct visitors, and 'interpretive' signs, telling about people involved with Park development, and about what is to be seen. "It's all positive material, such as "A picked flower doesn't produce seed," she says enthusiastically. "There's nothing negative."

Pat joined NPWS in 1979 as a Casual Collector at Fitzroy Falls, and over the ensuing years built up her qualifications as an educator while gaining a degree in Applied Science. She established the initial Visitors' Information Centre there in 1979, and worked for fourteen years for the grant to develop the present excellent centre.

Her work with and for indigenous people has been very satisfying for her. To help create career opportunities for young school leavers, Pat worked closely with the Shoalhaven Aboriginal Women's Elders Group, the "Aunties". Five young people now have permanent positions with NPWS, seven are still working through the Discovery program, and one is starting university this year. Another is a trainee field officer at Fitzroy Falls. In addition, Pat conducted training workshops for indigenous people to work in other areas such as Lake Mungo.

The state-wide Discovery program was initially intended to provide holiday activities for children but it became part of the in-school environmental curriculum. A van called Wanda was purchased second-hand by Pat for \$3500. Fully restored and adapted by volunteers, it visited about ninety schools, as well as many country events, including Brigadoon!

Wanda and Pat retired on the same day, April 30, 2010.

One of the most exciting projects in which she was involved took place at Bomaderry Creek on the Shoalhaven. With the aboriginal women elders, and the aboriginal children of Years 10 and 11 at Shoalhaven High School and the Boori Pre-School, she set about honouring those, especially of the "stolen generation", who had been in the Bomaderry Children's Home which operated from 1908 to 2008. They created a 16-metre clay snake mural, representing the creek, the flowing of the water, the passage of time, the arrival of the aboriginal man, and then of the white man. To this they added animals and birds, in clay models and mosaics, together with quotations and words of wisdom.

Pat worked for five years on the restoration of Minnamurra Rainforest. The boardwalk was deliberately introduced and the car park intentionally kept small to control the number of visitors.

She broadcast for ten years on ABC Illawarra Radio and today hosts journalists, actively promotes tourism, hopes to be on the Ian Thorpe program putting books into Central Australian schools, is working on a book on local indigenous culture and has submitted a request for funding an employment opportunity, an Indigenous Interpretive Walk at Fitzroy Falls, working with the local Gundungurra people.

Pat Hall hopes Bundanoon will maintain its stewardship of the Park, plant the black she-oak, *casuarina littoralis*, to provide food and shelter for the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo, and protect wombats and lyrebirds, one of which, called 'Chom', ('Child of Madonna'), a skilled imitator, was special to this dedicated and tireless lady.

—Margaret Symonds

Working for a bright future



2011 IS SET to be an exciting year here as we begin to develop Bundanoon's own local 2031+ strategy, in the context of the overall Shire's vision and plan for the future. The Shire wide

2031+ process identified key challenges, particularly the need to plan and build resilience in the face of population increase, the effects of climate change, peak oil and the resulting issues of food security, rising health, water and energy costs. It also identified the people of Wingecarribee as the key resource.

We believe that Bundanoon, once a self-sufficient village, has the kind of community that can work together to not only meet these challenges, but to create a future that is not only more ecologically and economically sustainable so that it is more resilient to these external challenges, but also more connected and fulfilling lives in the process.

Rather than a new group or sub-committee, Bundanoon 2031+ is a broad theme within which existing projects and teams will find their role and connections. A Coordination group of existing and potential project/team leaders will be established this month.

Over the next few months we aim to:

- Become informed about the Wingecarribee Shire's 2031+ strategy
- Map existing activities in Bundanoon that support the strategy

- Invite the community as a whole to identify and prioritise ideas for Bundanoon 2031+ strategy that meet the longer term needs of our local community

The Wingecarribee 2031+ Plan can be viewed on Council's website <http://wsc2031.com.au> (see 'Library' section – it is 4.5Mb)

"Bundanoon's Flourishing Future"

A one-day community workshop will be held on Sunday 8 May in the Memorial Hall. Yes... a whole day! It takes at least this to start future-building.

Mark this event in your diary now so that you can bring along your creative ideas, energy and vision and be part building the pathway to a connected, resilient and sustainable future for Bundanoon and its residents.

You may come in the morning thinking to just stay a short while...and you are most welcome... but you will then miss a stimulating, busy, but satisfying, day! Join us for the day and be part of the action.

For more information contact:

- Sandra Menteith 4883 7687 or 0403 790 777, email menteith@bigpond.net.au
- Tony Coyle 0402 719 716, email coyle_tony@hotmail.com



Calling music lovers.....

CHOIR OF ST JAMES' BACK IN 2011

The renowned Choir of St James' King Street, Sydney, is coming back to Bundanoon for a special morning concert at the Hall.

Saturday 6 May, 10.00am. Cost \$5.00
(part of the Piano at Ten series)

The choir of St James' King Street is the oldest church choir in Australia. If you heard them in 2010 you will want to repeat the experience. If you missed them, you will want to make sure you hear them this time.

Music @ St James' recently launched a subscription concert series with a list of wonderful musicians and events. Visit www.sjks.org.au for all the information.

For many years St James' has been at the centre of Sydney's musical life, and never has that been more true than it is now, under the choir's inspiring director, Warren Trevelyan-Jones. Coming from London to hear the three Orchestral Masses this January, I was astonished by the vitality and impeccable professionalism of the performances. May this very high standard continue for many years more.

—Peter Phillips, founder and director of The Tallis Scholars

I always want to hear the Choir of St James' – not only because it lifts my heart with its perfect singing, but also because, in my opinion, it raises the level of music-making in Sydney to the heights reached by the King's College Cambridge choir.

—Tony Legge, Assistant Music Director, Opera Australia

Put this in your diary as a 'must see' for 6 May!



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Learning to drive?

HAVE YOU HEARD that the State Government is considering a proposal to reduce the number of logbook hours from 120 to 100 to be accomplished in a year? Would this be a greater incentive for learner drivers to become competent more quickly or is it simply designed to attract young voters?

Murray and Sue Tyler, local driving school operators, report that following changes introduced last year a one hour lesson with an instructor now counts as three hours in the learner's log.

Murray and Sue, winners of two Highlands Business Awards in 2010 for "Excellence in Small Business", and for Sue "Businesswoman of the Year", are owners of Highlands Drive Safe which operates from Bundanoon and Moss Vale and covers an area from Hilltop to Goulburn. Murray says, "For many families teaching a person to drive can be a daunting experience but with structured lessons the students learn safety and defensive driving skills they can use for life".

He also points out that another new scheme for learners is the Federal funded FREE **Keys2drive** lesson that beginner drivers can access to help get started. The learner must register for an identification number with an instructor. This can be done through Drive Safe web page and can be organised with Sue or Murray. They also teach seniors who are attempting their 85 year old driving test and are qualified rehabilitation driver trainers. Highlands Drive Safe participates in many community Road Safety initiatives including Rotary **U Turn the Wheel** run by Moss Vale Rotary Club and Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Murray and Sue can be contacted on 02 4884 4473 or 0428 844 473.

<www.highlanddrivesafe.com>

End of an era

LONG TIME RESIDENT of Bundanoon Mrs Isobel Greason has sold her house in Barnett Avenue after living there for 70 years.

Isobel first came to Bundanoon 80 years ago as a teenager with her parents who ran the bakery and then a gift shop.

Isobel married Bob Greason in 1937 and they had three daughters, Janice, Lynette and Robyn.

She and Bob were very involved in running the Bundanoon Golf Club where they won many championships. During the establishment of the Bowling Club, Isobel worked hard alongside her parents who were also involved in its development.

Bob was the local butcher along with his brother Ron and cousin Mick. He ran the successful Greason & Sons Butchery for 50 years. His sausages were famous under the slogan "North, South, East and West, Greason's sausages are the best". Bob always used the best meat in his sausages and every morning could be seen at the railway station sending sausages to Sydney.

When the second butcher shop was opened in the main street, Isobel was a tireless worker, assisting Bob in serving, wrapping and delivering meat as well as raking the sawdust on the floors at the end of the day. The business was sold in the late 1970s and Bob and Isobel had three wonderful years together, travelling, fishing, golfing and bowling. Unfortunately, this time was cut short in 1981 when Bob died.

Isobel continued with her golf, gardening and numerous community activities in Bundanoon. She received a Gilmore Award in the 2001 International Year of Volunteers and was honoured to be presented with it by Joanna Gash. In 2004 she also received a Certificate for Life Membership of the Bundanoon Garden Club of which she was a foundation Member. She worked for 30 years in the Church of England Ladies Guild, the Good Yarn, Country Women's Association and Meals on Wheels.

Isobel is now residing in Forster with her daughter, Lynette, but travels to Sydney



when able, to catch up with her family which has grown to now include six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bundanoon has now lost a long-time and well-known identity. She will be missed by her neighbours and friends in this highland township.

Letter

MARGARET HEALY OF Sunbury, Victoria, has written to *jcg* following her third trip to Bundanoon in recent years. "What this town has to offer is unique. Sure it has good walks, vineyards and 'interesting' weather, but these are just words on a glossy tourist brochure. What lies at the heart of Bundanoon is the people and the kind acts I experienced. These values aren't marketable; they need to be experienced. May you continue to be a safe and prosperous town." Margaret likes Bundanoon so much she intends to return in September for her long-service leave.

Harmony Centre

HARMONY CENTRE HAS moved from Bundanoon to Canyonleigh where they welcome people searching for health and wellbeing on a beautiful 57 acre organic farm. high on a hill which affords views of the district and thousands of fruit and nut trees.

The Canyonleigh Harmony Centre is the third life enrichment centre established by inspirational spiritual teacher, Shakti Durga, the other two being on the NSW Central Coast and in Sydney. They each offer a range of seminars that develop life skills in a supportive environment, as well as teaching meditation and chanting practices.

For further information and directions to the Centre visit www.shantimission.org

Omission

JCG WISHES TO apologise for an omission in the December issue. The event at which Daniel Rumsey set ten world records and was named male champion was the Fifth Down Syndrome International Swimming Championships, held in Taiwan in October 2010.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Harper's Mansion, Berrima. Friday, 8 April 2011, 9am-4pm

THE THEME OF this year's National Trust Heritage Festival is Amazing Stories. To encourage writers and would-be writers to create stories based on historical places and people, writer-historian Ann Beaumont is running a one-day workshop at Harper's Mansion, built by James and Mary Harper in 1834. To gather material for their stories, participants will have the opportunity to explore the house and gardens, and learn about the people who lived there. Be prepared for some surprises and lots of fun!

Ann Beaumont has had a long career as a journalist, writer and historian. She taught writing courses at Newcastle University and through WEA. She is the author of three books and is currently working on a commissioned company history and the biography of an early colonial identity. She was formerly editor of *History* magazine and is currently Consulting Editor of *Your Times*.

Cost of course: \$95 National Trust Members, \$105 non-members. Morning and afternoon teas and lunch is included. For more information ring 4872 1315.

To register, send details and cheque to the Secretary, Harper's Mansion Management Committee, PO Box 7123, Berrima 2577.



Real estate

by Harvey Grennan

No room at the inn

A VACANCY RATE of three per cent in the residential rental market is considered to be a good balance between supply and demand allowing sufficient flexibility for tenants to move from place to place. It is a "neutral" market. A vacancy rate of five per cent is considered to be an oversupplied market.

The vacancy rate at Bundanoon is zero. It is worse than even the desperate rental market in Sydney where up to 30 or 40 people can attend an "open house" at a property up for rent. There have been several cases of properties here being sold leaving the tenant with nowhere to go.

"In ten years I have never known a rental market so tight," says John Byrne of Bundanoon Real Estate, which has a large rental roll. "Our vacancy rate has been zero for the last five months. As soon as a property comes on the market it is snapped up. There is a very long queue of desperate renters."

A distressing aspect, says John, is that he has to refuse perfectly good tenants when a property does become available because there is someone else with better credentials. "It is very disappointing and not something I enjoy."

The rent for an average three-bedroom house in Bundanoon has climbed from around \$230 a week to \$250 to \$260 in the last 12 months. "Rents are on the increase and are being constantly reviewed but at the end of the day affordability is a limiting factor on how much a landlord can charge," John says.

With rents going up and house prices stagnant is it a good time to buy an investment property in Bundanoon? "The returns have improved but are still modest," John says. "But it is the right time in the property cycle to buy for capital gain in the longer term."

Official statistics for the Southern Highlands are hard to come by, because the area is lumped in with the Illawarra statistical district. In that broader area rents rose by 14.6 per cent in the 12 months to September to a median of \$235 a week for a two-bedroom dwelling and by 7.7 per cent to \$280 a week for three bedrooms.

In Sydney, the region with the biggest average increase was the inner ring, where the median rent jumped 8.7 per cent to \$500 a week. However some individual council areas recorded much bigger increases, such as Ku-ring-gai (apartments) and Leichhardt and Willoughby (houses), all of which recorded rent increases of over 18 percent.

But they were no match for Maitland where the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment skyrocketed by 25 per cent in the year.

Figures from another source, Australian Property Monitors, showed that while vacancy rates are "chronically low", affordability constraints prevented further rent rises in Sydney in the December quarter.

Scarce listings

Home owners who would like to sell in Bundanoon appear to be waiting for a better market. At the time of going to press there were only 36 houses listed for sale in the village, many of which have been on the market for a long time. It is scarce pickings for the four local agents.

Twelve months ago there was an abundance of vacant land on the market – but no more. The sharp drop in prices has cleared out most of the stock, leaving about 30 blocks still for sale starting at \$115,000.

Stop press:

Rents in Sydney jumped 5% in 2010 according to recent Australian Bureau of Statistic figures.



Through Ross-coloured glasses

by Ross Armfield

Oi, Oi ...Grgggggh!

NOW THAT THE Ashes are lost and the cricket season is winding down (out here at least), it is timely to look back and try to work out how we got it so pathetically wrong. Not so much on the field, that's just a game, but off the field where things are much more important.

I'm referring to the way our brave lads were so poorly supported from the stands. The 'old enemy', England, had the backing of its thousands of travelling supporters known lovingly as the 'Barmy Army'. Their arsenal of wonderful chants, moving anthems, comical and topical taunts and jibes and hilariously re-worded trumpet-led pop songs are legendary while the best we could manage was the appallingly unimaginative, repetitive, tuneless cry of "Oi! Oi! Oi!". About fifteen years ago this 'slogan' was mildly amusing and 'current' for about six months, but then, after having heard it thousands of times, it became lame and just plain awful.

Where did this drivel come from? I can't decide if it's from 'nOise nOise nOise', 'spOIl spOIl spOIl' or 'annOY annOY annOY!' The trouble is, it's so over used. Not confined to the gladiatorial contests of sport, it has insidiously invaded all aspects of life. A few months ago we were treated to the spectacle of groups of Australian pilgrims, gathered in St Peter's Square in front of the Vatican anticipating an 'Aussie' sainthood, chanting, "Mary Mary Mary, Oi Oi Oi". I mean, is nothing sacred? Jessica Watson circumnavigates the world and what does she get? "Jessie Jessie Jessie, Oi Oi Oi"! Is this the best we can do in the creative stakes? It makes the abysmal tourism advertising slogan "Where the bloody hell are ya?" look like high-end literature in comparison.

Poor old "Oi Oi" also suffers from its association a few years ago with the shameful Cronulla riots. This was when drunk, ignorant, male and female 'bogans' of the Shire draped themselves in the Australian flag and verbally and physically abused anyone of 'Middle Eastern Appearance' while chanting "Oi Oi" and being televised for news coverage. This hatred-fuelled 'shock-jock' mob didn't go anywhere near the Lebanese gangs that were supposed to be the real target of their ignorance and prejudice. It was the lowest point for "Aussie Aussie Aussie".

So let us now take up the great challenge. Let's pool our energy and intelligence to once more take it up to the 'Poms' in the years ahead. What we need for our disheartened wearers of the 'baggy green caps' is a support group that inspires them to Bradman-like and Lillee/Thompson-like heights on the verdant playing fields of the world's cricketing nations. We need to be witty, intelligent, rehearsed, organised, topical and tuneful. I'd even settle for just plain funny!

In this regard we must emulate dear old mother England. I can think of no finer example than when the English were putting us to the sword in the last moments of the final Test match. A group of Australian fans, in a futile act of defiance, directed a final "Oi Oi Oi" at the Barmy Army. After a moment of consultation the "army" turned as one to face them. In a shot at us (and at themselves), with coordinated finger-pointing, they lustily launched into the following song, led by their trumpet player and sung to the tune of 'Yellow Submarine': "YOUR next queen is Camilla Parker-Bowles, Camilla Parker-Bowles, Camilla Parker-Bowles. YOUR next queen is..." Just sublime!

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Walking, Not Knowing. The Way of the Wild

All know the Way.

Few go it.

—Bodhidharma, 7th century founder of Zen

LET ME TAKE you for a walk in the wild section of our twenty permaculture acres at Bundanoon on the southern tablelands of New South Wales. We shall be moving through a small remnant of an Australian endangered ecological community, the Southern Highlands Shale Woodlands. The way is not long.

Slope

Springtime. It feels shady, dappled, quiet with the strange deepening silence of large trees standing closely together. The air is still. This is the eastern lee of the south-facing slope, mostly wind-free. Here one feels most 'away from it all', sheltered, secluded; it is our property's *locus amoenus*, its 'delightful place'.

The only sounds here may be the sudden cacophonous protest of a gang of four or five well-named Noisy Miners flitting from tree to tree, glaring down with heads cocked, defending their territory against our (or any other) intrusion. That this omnivorous, small-bird-destroying generalist species is the dominant one in this section is in itself a sign of ecological disturbance: they have moved from their original woodland habitats in central and western NSW, now degraded or destroyed by agriculture, into the simplified, mostly understorey-free habitats of the suburbanised east.

At the top of the slope, the thickly stringy-barked (though certainly not 'messy') messmates and finer-barked peppermints as well as the odd blackwood are regenerating well amongst light grass and bracken, self-seeding over from the large trees and our neighbours' extensive woodland to the north, as understorey-depleted as it is. The messmates, the first eucalypt to be botanically named by Sir Joseph Banks (*E. obliqua*), are easy to identify by that unsymmetrical, oblique leaf base which apparently so stood out for the first European botanist on Australian soil.

As we descend the slope, you can see the messmates and peppermints giving way to river white gums and manna gums, probably exploiting moister and clayey soils. Manna gums are also known locally as Snappy Gums because of their limb-dropping habits. They are thus unwise to have near houses or to stand under in windy conditions. A problem for humans may be a boon for our co-animals, however: their frequent limb dropping also means they may readily create those increasingly scarce, and thus increasingly valuable, tree hollows for bird or small mammal nests.

Here they mass strongly down along the creek line: thickly covered stringiness of trunks giving way to smooth white or grey-mottled yellowish wood often elegantly emerging from a short collar of rough bark. Although these trees seem to prefer the moisture of deep gullies, lower clayey slopes or alluvial soils, they are also the fire plants ('pyrophytes') par excellence. In the summer bushfire season these long bark ribbons hanging from the trees can become flaming torches that assist the flames ascend the tree and, whipped away by fiery winds, help the fire spread more swiftly. Although there are no fire scars on the trees here, such is the ever-present potential reality of destruction that comes with the privilege of living in south-eastern Australia, the continent's 'great fire triangle' between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Rooted in moister soils, throwing their flaming ribbons to the wind, these trees seem to connect and express fire and water, the great conflicting elements, in some macabre paradox.

A little further on downslope there is, about 20cm above the forest floor, a seemingly unstructured mess of minute tangle-web spider nets which connect with old blackberry canes and, above them, the web of a leaf-curl spider. Here the tangle-web spiders seem to catch

mainly small midges in their nets. Whether there are any interactions or relationships between the two so very differently sized types of spider (beyond sharing the same space), I do not know. Nor can I name the tangle-webs: there are two families with about twenty nine genera in Australia, and heaven knows how many species.

To observe nature more closely is to strongly feel how little I really know, and to feel encouraged to do a little more research and continually refine the pleasure of observing as an amateur naturalist. Particularly the insect world has more recently been my great teacher in this. George Seddon once noted that Australia was really the country of insects. With between 15,000 and 20,000 different species of insect just feeding on eucalypt and acacia leaves in Australia, or with up to 700 different invertebrate species found in the canopy and up to 200 arthropod species on the bark of a single eucalypt, there are an awful lot of teachers out there. Where to start?

Creek

We are now at the bottom of the slope and walking about twenty metres across a grassed flat towards the creek. The creek, meandering away invisibly to the west through the dense trees, shrubs and blackberry, is the centre of the property.

Being so bio-diverse, the riparian section is the most biologically valuable area on the property. The canopy-dominants are the manna and river white gums, peppermints and the odd messmate with a sub-dominant layer of blackwoods becoming increasingly prevalent. These, when form-pruned, valuable cabinet timber trees, are often adapted to rainforest-sclerophyll edges and may in time shade out more of the light-adapted understorey plants, with unknown but probably wide ramifications for the whole woodland system.

To date I have found over sixty species of plants and fungi, mainly in the understorey of course. Heaven knows how many more there may be that I have not yet been able to identify. We are lucky that this section of the original 200 acre dairy farm had obviously not been grazed for many years. One of the first things we did was to fence off the riparian woodland section from our sheep grazing and agro-forestry slope.

It is a peaceful, interesting place to be, full of little changes and surprises when you observe it closely and frequently. One of the seasonal botanical pleasures is to come upon one of the four precious species of native orchid growing only here. Each has special, fascinating characteristics. There is the leafless Hyacinth Orchid with its beautiful, small bright pink speckled flowers clustered up its dark stem, unusual in its summer flowering and more coastal than montane in distribution. Its peculiarity is that it is a saprophytic orchid, i.e. it is not only partly dependent on the fungal mycelium for its nourishment like all orchids and most other plants, but is in fact *totally* dependent on this subterranean mycelium: fungus-like, it has ceased photosynthetic respiration and thus lacks all chlorophyll. Is it still a 'plant' or some strange new hybrid organism that has plant tissue and reproduces like a plant but feeds like a fungus?

In spring there is the Tiger or Golden Donkey Orchid, the bright yellow flowers of which, with two little ears at the top and two beard-like tufts at the bottom, mimic pea flowers in order to attract native bee pollinators. There are also the two species of autumn-flowering Greenhoods which spread both by vegetative reproduction and an ingenious form of cross-pollination: they trap gnat, small fly or mosquito pollinators inside their hoods and physically force them to receive a spot of glue and pollen before escaping.

Part of the thrill of discovering orchids is also informed by knowledge of the paradoxical nature of these beautiful plants. They are both extremely old and resilient and extremely vulnerable. Orchids survived the great mass extinctions about 65 million years ago that wiped out the dinosaurs and then rapidly proliferated

An essay by Peter Lach-Newinsky

into today's 28,000 or so species. At the same time these plants, in Australia at least, are very vulnerable, particularly to grazing of any kind (they are a favourite of kangaroos) and to changes in fire regimes.

In another typically Australian irony, these beautifully delicate little plants are, despite all appearances, in reality as 'pyrophile' as the tough eucalypts that tower above them. Many Australian orchid species will not flower properly without the stimulus of hot summer fires and this is an ecological pulse we – ignorant of evolved fire regimes – can unfortunately no longer provide down here at the creek without almost certainly destroying the rest of the significant vegetation. One day they may simply no longer appear. In their unassuming, silent way they seem like little meditative reminders of the need for both resilience and the practice of detachment and letting go.

After sufficient rain at any time of the year the creek will start to flow and become a very different creature. The external pulse of upstream water will turn the creek from a billabong or dry and statically resting system to a flowing, dynamic one. The rain will have also filled the ferns and tree lichens with greener colour and vigour, the latter now more starkly set off against the gleaming black of wet bark. I have noticed the same effect even after a mere mist, as if the lichens were sucking moisture from the air like bromeliads. At seven hundred metres and enjoying a maritime influence from the east, we get a lot of mists in Bundanoon.

Wetland

Leaving the eucalypt and acacia-dominated riparian section, we walk south along a mown path through a small open tussock, sedge, reed and grass wetland area that stretches from the eastern fence marking our neighbours' property to the upper dam to the west. The wetland area on the left seems visually quite uniform and ordered when you emerge from the chaotic high diversity of the woodland. On the right, the open expanse of our large seven megalitre dam brokenly mirrors

every shifting shape in the wind-driven sky. This is very restful, giving the eye a breathing space from the structural and botanical complexity of the forest.

Faunal surprises can happen even here in what seems a fairly uniform ecosystem. One day, while walking with our border collie Billy, I noticed a fairly large spider sitting in its perfect orb net spun between some common rushes along the track. As I watched it, Billy approached and suddenly I was flabbergasted to see the spider change its triple-striped body and become a fascinating, psychedelically shimmering white. It was *Argiope trifasciata*, a form of St Andrews spider that apparently uses this dynamic colour shift to ward off potential predators. Unfortunately, three days later it was gone and I never saw it again.

In our profoundly disturbed world, wetlands now raise some entirely new issues. Each spring I am thrilled to note the first sighting of our annual summer guest, Latham's Snipe. This amazing, relatively small bird (usually there are two of them) flies here all the way from Japan, Siberia or Alaska. It thus directly connects us to the North Pacific, making the fact of global ecological interdependence not just a theory or virtual screen experience but an actual face-to-face reality.

The joy of this recognition, however, is now a little tempered with the knowledge of new, less thrilling possibilities. Potentially, migrant birds can also be vectors of the avian flu virus. Of course such birds have always been potential vectors of various organisms and diseases, one theory being that the horrendous flu epidemic that killed more people in 1919–20 than the First World War was also transmitted by birds. Today, however, bird habitats have also been severely reduced by development: 50% of wetlands have been destroyed globally in recent decades. The result is that there are now more intensive reservoirs and breeding grounds for lethal disease in the few remaining over-crowded ones and in the farm ponds, paddy fields etc which wetlands birds will use instead.

The snipe and the wetland would – like the manna gum or the orchids – seem to be not only important organisms but equally important teachers of spiritual paradox. Could it be that ecological interdependence always has two necessary sides that can never be entirely separated: the joy of life intertwined in benign association, protection and support as well as the ever present reality, or potential, of intense suffering, devouring and death? Who knows?

Meanwhile,

reed warbler sings
among long rustling reeds
bowing with the breeze

This I know.

This is an abridged version of an essay that appeared in *Island* No. 121, Winter 2010.





Rescued koala, Canyonleigh



Rescued very young wombat, Kangaroo Valley

Change of plan leads to a little life saved

*On an unscheduled morning walk to the Riverview lookout **Des Perkins** of Garland Road shared a life changing experience!*

NOT FAR FROM our home I encountered two kangaroos standing quite still and looking at a very young Joey (who turned out to be Josephine) trapped in barbed wire while trying to get through the fence. I thought that my chances of freeing the little one without it panicking were remote, but although she was hanging upside down and perhaps wouldn't have lasted for much longer, she remained still, though trembling, while I freed her. When released, she jumped quickly into Mum's pouch and away they went – Mum, Aunt and Josephine.

NOT MANY WOULD go to such effort for those who cannot thank them. While driving on the roads anywhere between Werai and Wingello you may have seen a bearded figure on the road verges bending over a sickle, cutting native grass in the ancient way. He straightens, cuts the long stalks carefully then loads his ute to the brim. Perhaps like us you have wondered – why?

The grass is destined for Wingello where Rob and Gaelene Parker are both expert rescuers of wombats for WIRES, the organisation dedicated to saving injured wildlife. At home, they have purpose-built facilities – a bush hospital for damaged koalas and wombats. The Parkers set up their wombat rescue operation in 1988 and have been involved in research into the long term viability of hand-raised wombats in the wild using radio collars to track their movements. They were featured in *jcg* December 2005 in an article written by Harvey Grennan and these pictures tell the story of more survivors from their 70% success rate. The picture below left shows a very young wombat weighing little more than 200 gm rescued from Kangaroo Valley. The first picture below was taken of a wombat called Lucy, rescued in 2002 at a similar fragile size. She was fitted with a tracking device and released the following year weighing 14kg. (Adults can reach 30–35 kg!) She thrived to reach healthy motherhood. The bottom photo shows mother Lucy back in the wild. The Parkers also rescue koalas from an area stretching from Mittagong and Kangaloon to Bundanoon and beyond. The cute young koala pictured at top left was rescued from Canyonleigh.

If you see an injured koala or wombat on the road please call WIRES. Ph 4862 1788. A female casualty may be carrying a joey in her pouch. If the wombat is dead and can be dragged to the side of the road leave a visible marker to identify the location. .



On behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves thank you Gaelene and Rob. Full marks for your wonderful enterprise and effort.

—Keith Mc Menomy

Lucy, as a rescued youngster (left) and as an adult back in the wild (below).





Photo: Edwin Vella

Take a walk on the wild side!

ONE OF BUNDANOON'S main attractions has always been its national park, with its cliffs, gullies and rich variety of native plants and birds. Many people have chosen to make their homes in Bundanoon partly due to the natural beauty of our area.

Looking at the wider canvas, according to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy website "Australia is one of only 17 countries recognised as "mega-diverse", meaning we support a significant proportion of the world's biodiversity".

AWC figures show that over 80% of our mammals, reptiles and flowering plants are found only in Australia but clearing of rural land, feral animals and invasive weeds have significantly impacted on many species. Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. Altogether, 18 mammal species have become extinct since the arrival of European settlers a little more than 200 years ago. 20% of our remaining mammal species are also threatened with extinction and Australia has more threatened reptile species than any other country in the world. Nearly 15% of our bird species are also threatened with extinction and more than 500 vascular plants are listed as endangered or vulnerable. As we are frequently reminded by spectacular television documentaries we should all become environmentally responsible.

Awareness of our environment, its advocates and protectors are highlighted in this Wild Bundanoon feature.

Calling all birders



SOUTHERN
HIGHLANDS
BIRDWATCHERS

SINCE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS Birdwatchers was formed two years ago as a branch of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia, membership has grown from four to about forty. This year we've expanded our field trip schedule from one trip a month to two – one midweek and one at weekends – and we've embarked on a number of new projects.

These include the preparation of a *Birdwatching in the Southern Highlands* brochure that is being funded by Wingecarribee Shire Council's Environment Levy, participation in Schools Environment Day on March 22 and various Council workshops. Several members are involved in preparing an "atlas" to help build up a better picture of local birdlife and others are hoping to undertake bush regeneration work at Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve in Moss Vale.

* For more details of Southern Highlands Birdwatchers, contact the group's liaison officer Col Kohlhagen on 4861 3204 or email southernhighlandsbirdwatchers@yahoo.com.au

A true calling

Bird watching is the group's priority and Bundanoon resident Lorne Johnson adds another dimension to any birdwatching trip. That's because he is one of the elite group of birders who identify birds as much by their calls as by their appearance.

On a typical trip, Lorne will reel off half a dozen species before he's spotted a single bird. "There's an eastern yellow robin to our left, a rufous whistler above us, a brown thornbill to our right and an eastern spinebill and a white-throated tree creeper ahead of us," he might say on arrival in Morton National Park. And, as if on cue, the birds will come out of hiding, one by one, for visual identification.



Watching the birdie:
Lorne Johnson in action.
Photo: Tony Stanton

Only a handful of members of Southern Highlands Birdwatchers have the ability to identify literally dozens of birds by their calls. Most of us can identify the calls of the birds we see and hear most regularly – kookaburras, sulphur-crested cockatoos, grey butcherbirds, eastern whipbirds and wonga pigeons to name but a few in my

part of Bundanoon – but are at a loss to differentiate between the calls of the various thornbills or small honeyeaters in the area.

Birdwatching in a group is enjoyable and rewarding because there are extra pairs of eyes and ears to spot birds, and more experienced birdwatchers to help the less experienced with identification.

However there are times when even Lorne needs a little help. On a recent trip to Fitzroy Falls he was struggling to decide whether a call was that of a musk lorikeet or a little lorikeet. Binoculars were of little help because of the fading light, so we later resorted to listening to the bird calls on CD determine that it was a musk lorikeet. (Yes, for the serious birder there is a 10-CD set of Australian bird calls!)

And, very occasionally, Lorne is totally stumped. One evening last December we were walking in Morton National Park by torchlight, hoping to hear a powerful owl above the noise of frogs and cicadas when he suddenly stopped. We had both heard a low rumbling noise. "What's that?" he asked. "My stomach," I admitted with amusement.

—Tony Stanton

Something to celebrate here!

LORNE JOHNSON HAS been 'birding' for over twenty years and has seen 523 of Australia's 800+ species. His travels in search of avifauna have taken him to a multitude of habitats; WA deserts, Victorian mallee, monsoon forest in Darwin and isthmuses in Tasmania. He spends his spare time tramping through Morton National Park hoping to uncover everything from the sublime to the miraculous. Masked Owl, Diamond Python* and Feathertail Glider are just three of the species on his Bundanoon wish list.

He, Kate and Noah, their 4½ year old son, came to Bundanoon in September 2010. Put simply, 'They wanted to escape Sydney!' Lorne is a Secondary Humanities teacher at Narellan



and spent 37 years in Sydney. Kate worked with Opera Australia as a repetiteur and has three degrees in design and Noah just loves animals, especially bats! Animals are obviously a family passion in so far as Lorne learned about them at his Grandmother's knee so to speak. She is credited with having sparked his interest as a very young boy through a gift of a World Wildlife set of index cards.

No-one else in his family is a bird watcher. His interest waned as other priorities arose but the 'passion' persisted. Lorne bought his first set of binoculars in '86/87 to use as he walked the bush. In Year 11 a school trip took him to Uluru and to The Olgas where he observed birds different from those with which he'd become familiar. He kept replacing his binoculars with even better binoculars and field guides with more comprehensive editions and coming to Bundanoon has really fostered his interest. He's been encouraged in this by local 'birders' Jenny and Tony Stanton and Lynette and John Desmond. Living as we do so close to the Morton National Park provides a wonderful environment for birds of many kinds and their watchers.

But he is also interested in writing about nature and many other things – poetry in particular – and it's pretty easy to see a link between this and his environmental interests. He has had several pieces published in various journals and periodicals and is aiming to have his first 'collection' published later this year.

Lorne believes an emphasis on conservation is vital to our future. He sees many things in the natural world as under threat, especially where development issues arise, but is appreciative of the high degree of environmental consciousness evident within our community. He's delighted to have moved into a town like ours where he can take Noah to see all kinds of wildlife literally at his doorstep. What a wonderful bonus! There is certainly 'Something to celebrate here!'

Lorne's blog is at <http://lornejohnson.blogspot.com>

—Graeme Whisker

*Lorne, please see page 51! Ed.



The gang-gang's gang

SINCE I MOVED into Bundanoon from Moss Vale, during September of last year, I've recorded a little over one hundred bird species in our town. This is an impressive tally for a few square kilometres: not many towns in New South Wales would be boasting this number.

According to Birds Australia, our premier bird conservation and research body, 866 species of bird have been recorded within Australia's territories. Sixty-seven of these have been found on our outlying islands, such as Lord Howe, Norfolk, Christmas and Cocos-Keeling. So, if we purely take into account the 799 species on the mainland and Tasmania, Bundanoon has 13% of Australia's bird species. We have such an impressive number of species due to the diversity of habitat that envelops us: wetlands, swampy terrain, both wet and dry sclerophyll forest, rainforest, farmland etc.

The birds I've either heard or seen in Bundanoon are commonly found along Australia's east coast, though two, the Gang-gang Cockatoo and Sooty Owl, are encountered only infrequently. The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) notes that Gang-gangs are "vulnerable". Loss of habitat, frequent fires and climate change are major threats to their survival. In Bowral, Gang-gangs have had to battle PCD (Psittacine Cirrovirus Disease), a severe condition that affects the immune system and destroys beaks and feathers. The enigmatic Sooty Owl, which I've heard shrieking and uttering a distinctive falling bomb-like whistle in the seemingly bottomless, tangled gullies below Bonnie View, in Morton National Park, is a majestic, charcoal-toned creature with huge eyes and massive talons. This owl is also listed as "vulnerable" by DEC due to suitable nesting habitat being threatened by burning and clearing. (The loss of tall trees with sizable hollows is the primary concern.)

Additional local species worth highlighting are:

- The Wedge-tailed Eagle – I've seen them arcing and floating over the gullies.
- Peregrine Falcon – the fastest bird on earth.
- Grey Goshawk – I was thrilled to see a white morph at Gambells Rest late in 2010.
- Superb Lyrebird – an individual at Mount Carnarvon once mimicked ten other birds.

- Eastern Whipbird – the male does the first part of the call, the female the ringing 'ree-ree'.
- Pilotbird – named for its habit of shadowing Lyrebirds, though I've never witnessed this.
- Scarlet Robin – the male is exquisite
- Yellow-throated and Large-billed Scrubwrens – the former thrives along the creek-line adjacent to Erith Coal Mine.
- Red-browed Treecreeper – sometimes seen foraging on the forest floor at Gambells Rest.
- Wonga Pigeon – always encountered along Grey Gum Lane and The Gullies Road.
- Satin Bowerbird – I know the locations of two glorious bowers.
- Little Bittern – local poet and permaculture guru Peter Lach-Newinsky has them on his property occasionally.
- Origma – confined to the sandstone country of NSW.
- Chestnut-rumped Heath Wren – seen once at Echo Point by local birders Jenny and Tony Stanton.



Wonga Pigeon



Wedge-tailed Eagle



Superb Lyrebird

I feel hugely fortunate to have such a diversity of birdlife in my verdant corner of the Southern Highlands. We need to celebrate this multiplicity and work with alacrity to safeguard the precious, fragmented green areas we still possess, especially mighty Morton National Park. Bundy's future sons and daughters deserve to walk and smile with the magic and grace of our birds. I don't want my four-year old son to long for the screeches of homebound Gang-gangs when he's my age.

—Lorne Johnson

Colour on the wing

LATE LAST YEAR Bundanoon experienced its 'cacophony of cicadas.' In early 2011 this entomological phenomenon was followed by a 'bounty of butterflies' – their numbers and diversity having responded to recent extraordinary weather conditions. Butterflies are fragile insects which, with moths, comprise the order *Lepidoptera* (scaled wings). The life cycle proceeds from egg to larva (or caterpillar) to chrysalis, then through the miracle of metamorphosis to the adult insect. Larvae of individual species feed on specific plants but all adults 'refuel' by imbibing moisture or nectar from flowers via a coiled tube (proboscis).



Wood White (*Delias aganippe*)



Black Jezebel (*Delias nigrina*)



Caper White (*Belenois java*)

Their wings are covered with fine scales overlapping like roof tiles, the colouration being due either to pigmentation or refraction. Various species flit, flap, flutter, dart or glide – flight characteristics which aid identification from a distance. In the Bundanoon area I have recorded 54 of Australia's known total of approximately 416 species. Many breed locally, some arrive here in mass migrations lasting a few days or weeks and occasionally we are visited by rare or unusual varieties temporarily extending their ranges. In our gardens and Morton National Park you may encounter some of the species I've identified.

The most abundant species seen in early February was the Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*). Of European origin, it was accidentally introduced to Australia via New Zealand in 1937, its larvae dining on many plants such as cauliflower and broccoli. Fortunately, all our other butterflies are economically and environmentally benign. Within the same family (*Pieridae*) are several varieties of 'Jezebel' (*Delias*), with distinctive red and yellow underside markings. Larvae are mistletoe feeders and adults may be observed flying around eucalypt or garden blossoms. The Caper White (*Belenois java*) is an inland species, breeding on Capparis and migrating in large numbers, being common here last December.

Of Bundanoon's five species of Swallowtail (*Papilionidae*), the Macleay's Swallowtail (*Graphium macleayanus*) with its swift flight,



Common Brown (*Heteronympha merope*)



Glasswing (*Acraea andromacha*)

distinctive triangular shape and black, white and green colouration is the most common. Not uncommon is the Orchard Swallowtail (*Papilio aegeus*), our largest species with a wingspan exceeding 100mm. The males (black with cream bands) and dissimilar females (grey & white with red & blue spots) breed readily on citrus, the planting of orchards having facilitated their wide distribution. There have also been rare sightings here this season of the black and yellow Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*), another migratory species from inland Australia.

Many of the local *Satyrinae* (Browns) have broadly similar wing patterns and colours – tawny orange and brown markings with blue eye spots. Included is the Common Brown (*Heteronympha merope*) – that medium sized brown butterfly recently seen everywhere, and the Marbled Xenica (*Geitoneura klugii*). The sole Australian representative of a mainly Afrotropical group – the Glasswing (*Acraea andromacha*) – has also been a rare visitor. With translucent forewings and gliding flight, it might at first sight be mistaken for a dragonfly. To observe these and the many other attractive species (with romantic names including Yellow Admiral, Imperial Hairstreak, Splendid Ochre & Monarch) is to open another dimension onto Bundanoon's varied wildlife.

Butterflies are endangered through habitat destruction, pesticides, bushfire, climate change and even genetic modification of plants. Being highly visible, their relative presence or otherwise is an excellent indicator for the well being of other, less obvious insect species and by extension, the integrity of our wider environment.

—Alan Hyman

Essential References:

The Complete Field Guide to Australian Butterflies Michael F. Braby 348pp CSIRO Publishing
The Butterflies of Australia Orr & Kitching 336pp Allen & Unwin Publishers

The mystery of the Bundanoon Boronia

MANY READERS MIGHT know that Bundanoon used to hold an annual Boronia Festival that was started in the 1950s to revive the local tourism industry. Apparently, visitors arrived primarily by train and were then taken on tours from Gambells Rest to Echo Point in what is now Morton National Park. However, there is mixed information about whether the Festival related to the area's several Boronia species or to a single species that warranted particular attention, perhaps because of its exceptional flowers. Is there such a thing as the Bundanoon Boronia?

There is a view that the rare *Boronia deanei*, Deane's Boronia, was the Bundanoon Boronia that was the focus of the Boronia Festival, and that the local demise of this now nationally-vulnerable species after successive severe wildfires in the mid-'60s contributed to the demise of the Festival tradition. Deane's Boronia is named after Henry Deane, famous railway engineer and amateur botanist and palaeontologist. There are numerous other species named after him, including the towering *Eucalyptus deanei* (Deane's, Round-leaved, or Mountain Blue Gum) that is a feature of gullies in the Blue Mountains and northward.

The first problem with the theory that *Boronia deanei* is the Bundanoon Boronia is that there are no collections or other records of this species from Bundanoon or immediate environs. Whilst collections of dried plant specimens in the New South Wales or National Herbaria are far from comprehensive, it is likely that if Bundanoon once had a tourist-attracting population of *Boronia deanei*, at least one botanist would have sent a sample to the collections in Sydney or Canberra. The famous local botanist, Janet Cosh, made numerous botanical collections in the Highlands, but there is none for *Boronia deanei* in her records. The nearest known populations of *Boronia deanei* are near the village of Fitzroy Falls. Another population occurs further east in Budderoo National Park, but the species occurs primarily on the Newnes Plateau in the higher Blue Mountains, though there are other populations in the far south of Morton National Park near Nerriga, and much further south near the border with Victoria.

The next problem is that this species has a far more specific and much less common habitat than most of the local Boronias, being found on the edges of upland swamps and associated swampy watercourses. Upland swamps were once more common and are now recognised as endangered ecological communities, having been variously drained, mined for peat, or flooded to form dams and reservoirs. There are no such swamps between Gambell's Rest and Echo Point, and no indications that such swamps might have existed there prior to the severe fires in the 60s.



Finally, Deane's Boronia, important as it is, is unlikely to have been sufficiently charismatic to have been the focus of the Boronia Festival, as it has relatively small, light pink flowers, and grows in sites less likely to be readily accessed by tourists.

It seems likely that Bundanoon's Boronia Festival celebrated the area's several, relatively common Boronia species, rather than any particular species. With the excellent post-drought growing season of mid to late 2010, all of the area's Boronias put on a particularly spectacular floral display – one that may well have been sufficient to attract tourists to the area

during the better days of the Boronia Festival. Perhaps Bundanoon could revive the Boronia Festival, along with the tradition of bringing tourists to the area by train? This could boost the town's economy by featuring its ecology!

—Dr Steven Douglas, consultant ecologist and environmental planner



Red wattle

HAVE YOU EVER gone for a walk in Morton National Park and had your interest aroused by a plant with unusual flowers, or attractive foliage or form, and wanted to know more about it? Or maybe it was a shrub in a private garden a street tree, or something growing on the banks of Reedy Creek that made you stop. You could try looking up reference books or searching the internet, but perhaps a better way to satisfy your curiosity would be to tap into the expertise that exists within the Australian Plant Society.

The Australian Plant Society (or Society for Growing Australian Plants as it was originally named) traces its origin to the 1950s when dedicated gardeners who had incorporated native plants into their own gardens banded together to assist others to achieve the same results. Today in NSW there are 22 district groups, with the Southern Highlands branch being one of the "newer" groups, having formed in 1995.

Among the stated aims of the Society are:

- to increase and disseminate general knowledge of Australian native plants
- to foster support and promote the preservation and conservation of Australian native plants
- to encourage the use of Australian native plants in home gardens and public spaces

Apart from regular meetings, where ideas, knowledge and growing tips are exchanged, the Society also has study groups where members from around the country concentrate on particular genera or native plant related subjects, e.g. native plants as food; using native plants in garden design.

A little extra knowledge of Australian plants can make gardening more rewarding and enrich the experience of using the walking tracks around the Southern Highlands. Trips to other regions of Australia are given added interest if you are looking for plants you haven't seen in the wild before (some of the accompanying images were taken on the JCG tour to Broken Hill last year). Those readers lucky enough to be going on JCG Travel's proposed Victorian tour later this year will find the Victorian flora just as interesting.

The Southern Highlands group of the Society meets eleven times a year, with a varied program of guest speakers and visits to parks, private gardens, herbaria, etc. Visitors are very welcome to attend. For information on meetings, please contact the group's secretary, Malcolm Guy, on 4883 6971.

—Malcolm Guy

A wetland asset

IN 2004, LOCAL resident Sheila Micholson recognised the potential to create a wetland reserve from a neglected parcel of land containing three old farm dams in Ellsmore Road, Bundanoon. Sheila, with just a few other environmental enthusiasts formed the Currabunda Wetland Group from 'curra' an Aboriginal word for 'spring of water' and 'bunda' from Bundanoon. The brief was to rehabilitate the area as a wildlife reserve with special emphasis as a refuge for waterbirds.

The first priority was the removal of the most invasive weeds: blackberry, honeysuckle, black thistle, dock, etc, followed by



revegetation over time with native trees and shrubs. These included plantings of eucalypts, leptospermum, melaleucas, banksias, hakeas, callistemon, casuarinas, lomandras and carex grasses.

In the subsequent seven years the worst of the weeds have been brought under control and many birds, frogs, wombats and invertebrate species have made the sanctuary their home. On-going regeneration work by the Currabunda group enjoys the benefits of guidance and assistance of Wingecarribee Shire Bushcare officers.

In addition to maintaining the core wetland, other areas of activity include parts of the Jordan's Crossing Creek, supplying some of the inflow, and the creek exit corridor leading towards the pastoral properties to the north of Bundanoon. In 2006, the Currabunda Wetland was gazetted by the Geographical Names Board, ensuring the reserve's permanent protection from development. As the Group commences its eighth year, it can look back with pride on the transformation of a weed-infested swamp into a flourishing wetland sanctuary.

Currabunda Wetland is an environmental asset of which Bundanoon can truly be proud.

—Alan Hyman

Contact: Sheila Micholson 4883 4347



A lasting friendship

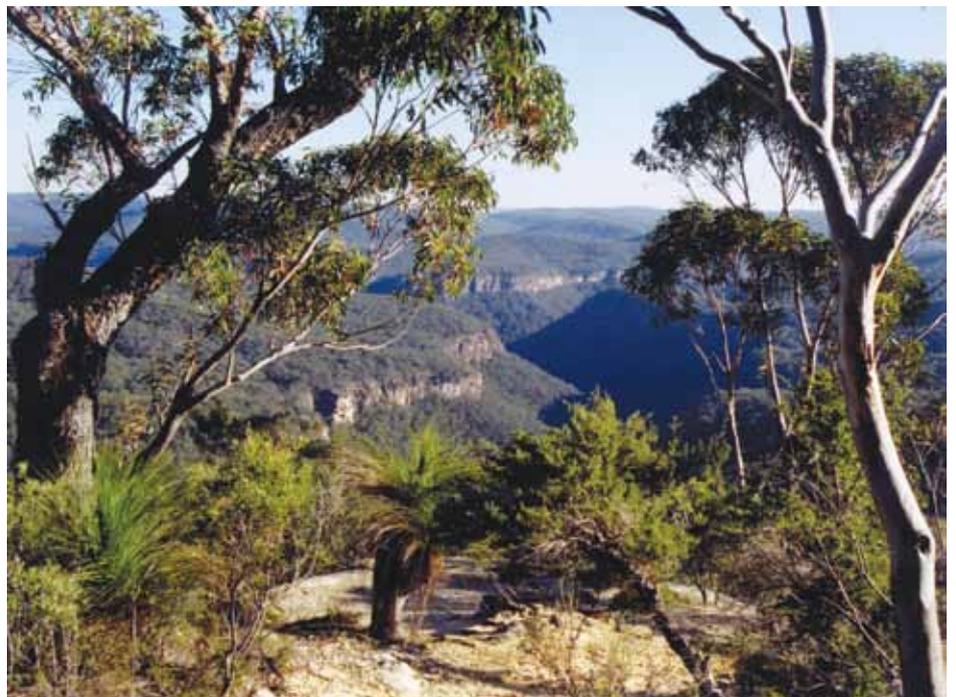
20 YEARS AGO the original 'Friends of Morton National Park' group was formed by the then proprietor of Bundanoon Hotel, Nea Hayes, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This arrangement worked to mutual advantage. The Service was able to call upon an autonomous volunteer group to carry out track maintenance on its behalf and the Park, the town's major tourist drawcard, was consequently well maintained for visitors to Bundanoon. During the next two decades the 'Friends' group evolved – shedding its auxiliary component for active membership. The group came under the direct authority of the NPWS and after undertaking OH&S instruction the group broadened its activities to include bush regeneration, weed removal, tree plantings and environmental monitoring. It also carried out assignments in several other national parks and nature reserves within the region.

The Morton National Park Volunteers, as they are now known, form a tightly-knit active group, at present having the optimum number of personnel for maximum efficiency. Under the leadership of our NPWS ranger, Wayne Williams, a varied schedule of works for 2011 has been produced and the Group is looking forward to another year of satisfying (if sometimes strenuous) projects.

Morton National Park is our 'jewel in the crown' and a priceless preserve for our native

fauna, flora and landscape. Its continued environmental integrity and viability depend not just on volunteer activities but upon the care and vigilance of all us in our interaction with its ecosystems.

—Alan Hyman



The web of life and living

THE GENTLE SUN of an early morning silhouettes hundreds of flying insects between the groves of eucalyptus trees in front of our house. Swallows feed on them, swooping, banking and climbing in a display of aerial mastery that would be the envy of any fighter pilot. Much less airworthy kookaburras launch themselves from branches and intercept fat cicadas that are trundling between the trees like overloaded air freighters.

Insects form an important part of the intricate web that forms the basis of all life systems. Their segmented bodies and various appendages make them infinitely adaptable. The hard surface of their external skeleton helps to protect them but also limits the size to which they can grow, but they make up for that by reproducing quickly and in large numbers and they sometimes live in colonies with a collective rather than individual intelligence and capability.

They form an important part of the food chain, breaking down and recycling discarded and dead matter and grazing on the micro-organisms to form bite sized bodies for larger animals to eat. They perform other functions such as pollination, soil enrichment, controlling pests, producing honey and other useful substances. They can also transmit diseases, destroy crops and damage structures.

To maintain the health of their genes and the ability to adapt to a changing environment insects need to maintain contact with others of their kind. If they become isolated they will degenerate and eventually die out.

Bundanoon is situated on the edge of a large national park and is close to one of only three wildlife corridors that crosses the Sydney to Canberra development zone. This corridor runs from Morton National Park through and around Penrose and Wingello, Penrose State Forest and Paddys River wetlands, across the Hume Highway to Canyonleigh and the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee rivers, then up to the World Heritage area of Nattai National Park. It includes reserves, public and private land and is part of the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor that runs from the Alps in Victoria to the Atherton Tablelands in northern Queensland. This Southern Highlands section of the corridor is considered to be of high value and is a priority area for conservation.

National parks cannot conserve animals, plants and biodiversity and carry out their vital ecosystem services if they are isolated like zoos. Not only insects need to contact and breed with each other over a wide area to remain genetically healthy; all plants and animals, from the tiniest of micro-organisms to the largest of trees and mammals, must maintain their genetic diversity to survive and evolve. Wildlife corridors must be wide and continuous to allow for the unimpeded migration of all species in this time of climate change and environmental modification.

We have reserved more than half of our property in a Conservation Agreement with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. Rules now apply to our use of the reserved areas such as fencing it to keep out domestic grazing animals, controlling pets, weeding and feral animal control and rehabilitation of the vegetation. The agreement has been added to the title of our property and future owners will be bound by it unless it is removed by an Act of Parliament. We do not pay council rates on the reserved portion.

The success of the wildlife corridor relies on private property owners being prepared to manage their lands to accommodate and encourage the movement of the native plants and animals. There may be simply an awareness of the importance of any bit of native bush wherever it occurs although there are many levels of formal agreement.

We are entering a period of change and challenge and we need a healthy and well connected natural environment to support us.

—Tony Hill



Conservation agreements

THE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT into which Tony has entered is a part of the Conservation Partners Program administered by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). A Conservation Agreement is a joint agreement between a landholder and the Minister for the Environment which provides for permanent protection for significant natural or heritage features of a property.

A Conservation Agreement is most suited to properties which contain special features including native vegetation, wildlife habitat, geological features, Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic places and for landholders who want their investment in the conservation of such features to be protected after they leave the property.

Each Conservation Agreement is individually negotiated between the landholder and

DECCW (on behalf of the Minister for the Environment) and can only be finalised once all parties are willing to formally commit to its terms and conditions. This maximises the flexibility for catering to the differing needs and priorities of landowners.

A standard part of each Conservation Agreement is the development – with assistance from DECCW – of a management scheme to maintain and enhance the conservation values of the property.

A Conservation Agreement provides permanent legal protection for a property since the area to be conserved is registered on the property title and the agreement and management requirements remain in place even with a change of ownership.

Landholders who enter into a Conservation Agreement are eligible to receive management advice, funds for on-ground work, exemption from rates, technical notes and the 'Bush Matters' newsletter, field days and local networking.

A Conservation Agreement is one of a range of protection options which recognise and formalise landholders' commitment to conservation on their properties.

For further information on Conservation Agreements, or other options under the Conservation Partners Program, follow the links below or contact Sally Ash at the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water on (02) 9995 6768.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cpp/ConservationPartners.htm>

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cpp/LandholderHandbookMay2010.pdf>

—Greg Stone

What's special about our park

Bundanoon resident Pat Hall worked for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in many capacities for 31 years. Before her retirement she was Manager Education, Information and Tourism for NPWS' South Coast Region. In June 2009 she received the Public Service Medal for her outstanding public service in the provision of educational and tourist information regarding the national parks and reserves of NSW's south coast .

MY FASCINATION WITH Morton National Park began as far back as 1978 when I made the decision to move to Bundanoon. I had worked in several parks in the region but my true love was Morton National Park and Bundanoon.

Many have asked what is so special about this park. A frequent reply would be the magnificent sandstone plateaus and deep forested gullies, the scenery, the facilities or simply the fact that it's right here on our doorstep. For some it's the abundance of flowers: Boronia, honey flower and flowering heath in spring, an array of banksias in winter and the ghost-like scribbly gums and stately flowering bloodwoods. For others it's the wildlife such as gang gang cockatoos, satin bower birds, swamp wallabies, yellow-tailed cockatoos and the lyrebirds you can hear calling to each other across the gullies. All this is true but the reason I love the park is simple... the community.

Bundanoon is a park by the community and for the community. In 1824, 1200 acres of land was established as a Government Reserve. It is thought that this was the beginning of Bundanoon Gullies Recreation Reserve. At first 'The Gullies' was administered by an Honorary Trust until the formation of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1967. Very little government money was available to the Trust so the task of establishing the park was undertaken by Trust members, volunteers and local families. Without modern machinery they built walking tracks, lookouts, safety fences, toilet and barbecue facilities, shelter sheds, camping areas and cycle tracks. In 1901 the path to Fairy Bower Falls was extended and in 1905 the steps into the cliff face adjacent to the waterfall were constructed.



Additional tracks and steps were cut into the sandstone on cliff faces; metal steps leading down to the waterfall at Erith Coal Mine and the difficult track along Nicholas Pass were all established by this group of dedicated locals.

It was a major undertaking. The quality

of their work and their insight into future use are still evidenced today. Tooths Lookout, Gambells Rest, Nicholas Pass, Dimmocks Creek are named for earlier Trustees, while Ellsmore, Grice, Buchanan, Ross and Balk Lookouts are named for local identities. Earl Beauchamp opened that lookout in 1900 and Spooners Lookout at Fairy Bower was opened by Sir Eric Spooner. Bonnie View was named by a local Scottish born resident, Mrs Coombes. On the sandstone entrance gates, Dr Guy Gurney has been honoured for his work as the local doctor. The picnic shelter hut located on the left as you drive into the park is one of the original structures. In recent years the derelict picnic facilities at Mark Morton Lookout were replaced, with financial assistance from a group of local residents.

Parks staff, in consultation with local people, continue to maintain these facilities as well as provide changes to cope with increasing numbers of visitors. Changes such as relocation of the camping area to include a camp kitchen, interpretive panels and signs, upgrade of walking tracks, new lookouts with facilities for the disabled, barbecues and new toilets. While these changes respond to demands, NPWS staff are mindful of protecting the integrity and character that was established by the early caretakers. Reminders of the original caretakers, the indigenous groups who travelled through this region on their way to the Snowy Mountains, can be found. Camp and art

sites, axe grinding grooves, charcoal drawings and artefacts still exist as evidence of their presence.

In recent times, surveys have been conducted on the future of the park. The feedback is overwhelming – "We like it the way it is – do not make any changes".

Bundanoon has grown as new families move into the area but support of the Park is as strong as ever. Community groups have formed to continue the work that was begun over 150 years ago. Friends of Morton National Park and the Glow Worm Glen Track group continue to conduct working bees on a regular basis and their contribution is invaluable.

COMMUNITY...this is what is special about Bundanoon and our National Park.

—Pat Hall



Photos: Lorne Johnson



The gardeners' guide to caring for 'Wild Bundanoon'

WHEN SELECTING PLANTS or reviewing an existing garden, please think about being a good neighbour to Morton National Park and our other remnant bushlands, including roadside corridors.

If you reduce the height of your fruit trees like apples, plums, mulberries, cherries, etc. erecting bird mesh will not be so challenging and this will help reduce the spread of these seeds. Try to net or enclose summer- and autumn-fruiting berries, especially any that have blackberry parentage like sylvanberries and marionberries, to prevent birds from spreading the seeds.

Avoid planting 'environmental weeds' as decoy crops that are intended to direct birds away from your crops: birds will eat fruit of cherry laurels, hawthorns, cotoneaster, barberry, Irish strawberry tree, and pyracantha, and spread them into the bush, neighbouring properties, and roadsides. If you have hedges of any of the above (or privet species), please keep them pruned, or prune them immediately after flowering to stop fruiting.

In autumn, the leaves of many deciduous trees like sycamores, maples and ashes are washed into drains, dams and creeks, and decrease the amount of available oxygen to native critters as the leaves 'use' the oxygen to decompose. Furthermore, the helicopter-like seeds of these species enable their spread by wind and water.

Watch out for and remove English ivy that is growing up trees: not only can it lead to tree decline and death, but the berries on mature ivy are eaten and spread by birds.

Be careful to ensure that garden prunings with seed heads (especially agapanthus), and bulbs like freesias, watsonias, November lilies, and montbretias are prevented from spreading down gutters or drains or over the back fence. Escapees like vinca (blue periwinkle), honeysuckle, wild strawberry and sweet violets can also end up in drains and along creeks, where they harm the natural ecosystem. Japanese honeysuckle is a major threat to the area's bushland.

While you may think certain plants aren't or haven't been a problem in your garden, consider that birds and the area's often strong winds can distribute seeds kilometres from your garden without your knowledge. You can see evidence of this in the form of dandelion and cat's ears that have spread deep into Morton National Park. The garden plant, seaside daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*), has been planted extensively, yet is well known to spread into bushland. It has established in the Fitzroy Falls area in Morton National Park where it has invaded the restricted habitat of a very rare native daisy that occurs only in the Highlands. It has probably spread over the escarpment. Imagine how costly and dangerous it would be to remove it! It could do the same in Bundanoon.

Excess fertilisers on lawns and in garden beds can leach out of your soil, flow down drains and end up feeding plumes of weeds in drainage lines. Organic fertilisers are safest for your garden and less likely to leach nutrients than inorganic fertilisers that contain phosphate. Phosphates are particularly detrimental to the sandstone-based vegetation that dominates Morton National Park.

Consider minimising or eliminating synthetic horticultural chemical usage. Such compounds can accumulate in the food chain and can harm native and beneficial insects, birds, lizards and frogs.

Tempting though it is, it is best not to feed the birds. Just put water out for them, and change it frequently so that mozzies don't breed. If you do have a cat, try to keep it inside, at least overnight, and especially if you live near bushland.

If you are a tenant, consider asking your landlord for permission to make some of the changes suggested above.

Our gardens contribute to land and water management problems and Wingecarribee Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the two local Catchment Management Authorities have very limited taxpayer funds to deal with these. So, if you love and appreciate this special part of the Highlands, consider making some neighbourly changes to the way you garden.

—Sylvia Robyn

Leylandii: the other side of wild

THE RURAL CHARACTER of many parts of our local area is changing rapidly with the insidious spread of the dreaded Leylandii. This hybrid cross between a Monterey and a Nootka (or Alaskan) Cypress is creating corridors of dark green across the Southern Highlands and indeed, in many parts of the country and internationally too. This hybrid, first developed in England in the mid 1800s, makes an ideal hedge or windbreak. Its popularity is due largely to a phenomenal growth rate of about one metre per year and therein lies the problem. Because of its growth rate it requires constant maintenance which is very time-consuming and/or expensive. Many people just let them grow, with the result that a desired three or four metres of privacy or windbreak becomes a character-destroying barrier of 25 to 30 metres (the tallest has been measured at just on 40 metres). Unfortunately, many people inherit the problem when they purchase a property and are stuck with the 'wall' or the cost of removal. It is also unfortunate that some plant nurseries do not inform buyers of the true potential growth rates and expected height. They can grow for 60 years. You must get council approval for a wall over 1.8 metres, yet not for these massive feral walls of vegetation!

Because of the 'dark side' of these trees, they are responsible for a huge number of neighbour disputes – in 2005 there were 17,000 recorded disputes in the U.S. alone.



Many highland vistas (top) are now being obscured by rapidly growing Leylandii (bottom)

This could all be avoided by planting more appropriate native tree 'shelter belts' which would provide equally effective privacy and wind protection as well as giving native birds safe 'corridors'.

I hope people planting screens will seek out the facts and alternatives to Leylandii. (Search: Hedges Australia, or seek out local campaigner, Jan Hainke).

Let's hope these visual and environmental pests will eventually go the same way as that now extinct other Leyland, the P76!

—Ross Armfield

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A magnet for honeymooners

history

THE 1960S PRESENTED Bundanoon with serious economic problems. Increasing car ownership meant families went further afield for their holidays and the disastrous bush fires of 1965 wiped out the boronia on which a festival had been focused. Rising to the challenge a Bundanoon Community Development Association (BCDA) committee, led by Eric Collins of The Knoll Guest House, came up with the idea of a Back to Bundanoon Honeymooners' Weekend, 1 and 2 March 1969.

To publicise the weekend "for all those happy couples and their families who honeymooned in Bundanoon", they produced *Bundanoon Times*, a single-leaf tabloid newspaper, which only ran to a few issues in the lead-up to the event, promoting Bundanoon as a tourist destination, with a range of accommodation, local sports clubs and businesses, including four Penrose orchards still struggling on after the bush fires.

Woman's Day claimed that starting married couples off on the right foot had been a Bundanoon speciality since the 1880s. It was then that this secluded township first became a magnet for young newlyweds. It was especially popular during World War II, being handy to servicemen on short leave. The Committee received a letter recalling, "As a young bride, I travelled on a troop train to Bundanoon from Canberra on August 15th 1942, for a brief wartime honeymoon."

The event itself included a barbecue at Gambells Rest, a drive to the lookouts and a social in the Hall, with maypole dancing, a parade of old wedding gowns, old-time dancing and supper. Entertainment showcased the vocal talents of Lyn Clarke, and Madge Burrows as comedienne.

Prizes included a week's second honeymoon and the Committee organised applications for the popular TV program of the time, *The Marriage Game*. The event was a triumph celebrated by a two-page spread with colour photos in *Woman's Day* on 24 March 1969.

It was such a success that the following year a whole week was organised with even greater publicity, including the NRMA *Open Road* and ABN2's *This Day Tonight* with Bill Peach. As early as August 1969 the Southern Highlands Tourist Association had the week of 28th February to 7th March 1970 set down for Back to Bundanoon Honeymooners' Week.

Unity Food Stores sponsored a Children's Colouring Contest with one week's holiday "Bundanoon style" for Mum, Dad and the winner. Lucky Alanah Searle aged 13 of Croydon won a week at Bundanoon House Motel, horse riding and tuition from Bill Turner's Riding School, cycle hire from Peter McNally, a week of golf, Devonshire teas *daily* at the newly rebuilt Bon Ton Tea Rooms, a scenic tour by Bundanoon Passenger Service, plus two cases of Penrose apples to take home.

Activities for the couples included mini golf, Chinese Dinner Dance, produce stalls, hayrides, ladies' broom throwing, a poolside party organised by the Bush Fire Brigade and a duck shooting gallery.

Most wonderful of all must have been the Prospectors' Haunt organised by Dick Rundle and Arthur Tooth. This comprised a display of stones they had found, a demonstration, and talks by Dick, "a gem of a personality himself".



A group of returning honeymooners at Echo Point as featured in *Woman's Day*, 24 March 1969

The Southern Highlands continues to attract wedding parties and many of these are photographed on Bundanoon's old fashioned railway station and tree-lined country lanes, or awkwardly juxtaposed against crumbling post and rail fences or rusting farm machinery. Few of them however stay on for their honeymoon, so it is hard to imagine another Honeymooners' Weekend ever being held here again.

—Liz Walker, Archivist for Bundanoon History Group



New faces, new plans

ANOTHER YEAR IS under way and we are all rested and ready for a productive year. During January Bundanoon members had a "keep in touch" morning tea where each brought a brooch with a story. Tall tales and true!

Our real work began in February when we planned our events for 2011.

Our Christmas lunch was well attended and much enjoyed at Treetops Guest House which has become our regular venue. Did you notice that the Exeter branch had the same idea and managed to have a photograph in the paper!

It was great to see Pat Wells has recovered after her fall and she's as full of energy as before. You can't keep a good CWA woman down!

There have been a few changes at Group level after a new Group President was elected in October, 2010. Most of our Group meetings and functions have been held at the halfway point between the Highlands and the coast at Kangaroo Valley. As a result of concerns expressed by South Coast branches about travelling time, these meetings and functions will be generally held around Kiama in 2011.

This is an important year for the Wollondilly group as we are hosting the Annual Country Women's Association of NSW Conference and AGM at the new Entertainment Centre in Nowra in May. This has been in the planning stage for a couple of years and will be a time of fun and friendship; the final judging of literary, photographic, cooking and craft competitions from 2010. Most importantly, it provides the opportunity for CWA branches all over NSW to bring their resolutions and concerns to a meeting of delegates for discussion and to form plans of action. Our own Kath Smith is presenting a case for breast screening promotion for women in the 40 year age group.

In February we welcomed Pat Hughes and Robyn Ferguson as new members. We are always pleased to have new faces, new ideas and new enthusiasm!

—Gaye Everett. ph 4883 7999



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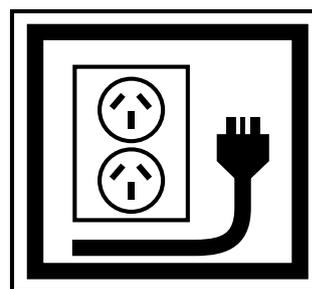
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Country living

by Keith McMenemy

After dark and on the wild side

'LAND FOR WILDLIFE' a sign declares on the local school fence, and it is a worthy gesture. In an affluent country with vast wilderness areas we don't need to hunt and shoot everything that moves in order to stay alive. Many landowners and rural producers now see the value of preserving wildlife for bio-diversity, an element of good conservation in balance with sustainable production. A few decades ago this was not necessarily so. Older generations, urban and rural, often considered all other species as either food or a nuisance. Now we distinguish 'wild' from 'vermin'. The latter, such as foxes, pigs, rabbits, goats, camels (even kangaroos) overpopulate to threaten the ecological balance of indigenous fauna. They can also represent a threat to rural production so are legitimately declared fair game. While my partner and I are carnivores and meat producers we treat our animals with care and compassion. We extend that notion to value wild creatures, although we recognise that culling is sometimes necessary.

Visitors to our few acres love the countryside, cows, horses, and kookaburras but seem more concerned with the dangers rather than the wonders of wildlife. Overseas visitors verge on being paranoid thanks to TV documentaries where the number, size and toxicology of spiders, leeches, bull ants, scorpions, crocodiles and so on are colourfully portrayed. Misunderstanding and ignorance breed fear where healthy respect for the unknown would be preferable. Kids start out with primal fear of the dark and only some are taught to get over it. Typically one starts out with an overactive imagination and sees all kinds of phantoms and demons in the shadows. (Remember climbing out of the cot, stumbling up the black hallway, searching unsuccessfully for mum?) As we grew up country grandparents were our teachers and as with swimming lessons, we were simply thrown in – sink or swim! Before bed I was sent around the orchard to turn off water valves at the dams, given a kerosene-fuelled hurricane lamp and a stick to poke at snakes. I happily plodded behind uncle or grandad but going alone was terrifying. Not that I would admit it. Eventually, suppressing instinct, I became familiar with the hoot of an owl or mopoke, the thump of a wallaby leaping away or the rustle of a possum disturbed. This night-time environment revealed itself as relatively safe and delightful for evening chores or walks.

Enjoyment of our environment involves being respectful and alert for wild things – as Scouts taught us, always "be prepared". Even as a senior, one can be jolted from complacency by finding a half hidden red-bellied black snake coiled up on the track. It is reassuring that most wildlife is more frightened of us as the world's most dangerous species. Most often they see us, hear us, or feel the ground vibrate from our footfall and flee. Yet as those in the media know, people also love to be scared to some degree. Perceived dramas, such as the harmless blue-tongue lizard at the front doorstep, are discussed before suitably excited city-slickers hurry back to town. Apart from their obvious beauty and agility what we can admire in wild creatures is the freedom they display and represent. Their infinite diversity adds to our wonder at interlocking the interdependent life forms in

nature. Try it for yourself; a walk after dark with a stick and torch can be a wonder and delight.



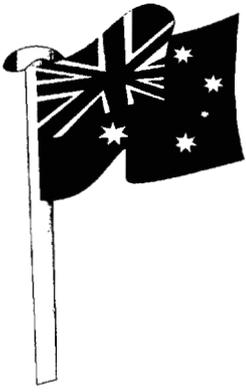
Vet's casebook

by Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

WHAT A SUMMER we've had with floods over much of the Eastern States and bushfires in the West. The Southern Highlands has missed out on these calamitous events so far but the pets in our area are suffering from quite a few 'tropical weather' related conditions which should be watched out for.

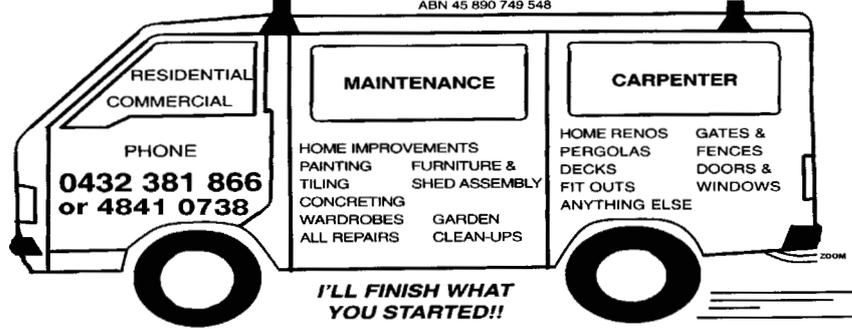
- There is a minor epidemic of 'hot spots' better known as Pyoderma. What you will see is a moist pussy area on your dog's skin. It may start small but rapidly enlarges if not treated. They are really painful and the dog licks them all the time. The horrible smell leaves no doubt that something should be done... soon! It is commonly caused by a germ called *Staphylococcus intermedius* which flourishes in hot humid conditions. A quick visit to your vet is advised before it gets out of control. Usually the treatment involves an antibiotic course, medicated washes, creams and sometimes oral cortisone for a short while.
- It is well known that ticks flourish in coastal and tropical conditions. Bundanoon has always had its problem areas for paralysis ticks (near Morton National Park in particular). In the last two months there have been cases of paralysed dogs and cats from the usual areas as well as from some areas in town where we don't normally see paralysis ticks. Watch for signs of weakness in back legs, complete paralysis and vomiting in cats and dogs. Always seek urgent vet attention if you see these signs.
- There have been quite a number of dogs and cats coming in with their bodies covered in tiny black tick nymphs. These are in the immature stages of the tick life-cycle. They attach to the skin and are easily felt by hand as a distinct rash over the body. They can be seen on careful examination under a good light. They leave an irritated bite and if allowed to develop will become a fully-fledged tick. There are sprays available to treat these. Ask your vet.
- Because the warm weather and rain have produced the best pasture we have seen in years, the grass-seed problem in dogs is at a maximum. The tiny seed heads get caught in the fur and work their way into the skin, frequently in their paws but also anywhere else on the body including eyes, ears and mouth. As they work in they cause an abscess and will mostly need vet attention to get them out and treat the infection.
- Getting your pet's coat clipped short and keeping it that way throughout summer is a very good preventative measure for all of the above conditions. They make identification of the above problems so much easier, and as a bonus your pet will feel cooler.
- The snake season has been late this year, possible due to heavy rains in November/December. In the last month, however, we have had lots of reports of juvenile
- Copperheads about and treated three cases of acute neurotoxicity due to Copperhead bites. Some dogs and cats ignore snakes, which if left to their own devices usually move off to safer territory. Regrettably other pets see snakes as a challenge or a plaything and these pets are often bitten. Watch for vomiting, frothing, staggering or collapse. Seek urgent veterinary help. The way to prevent having snakes around is to keep the yard clear of building material, firewood piles and rockeries. Don't let your pet run wild in the bush if possible. Harold Cogger in one of his snake textbooks cites Exeter, NSW at the 'Copperhead Capital of Australia'
- The tropical summer has brought an outbreak of mosquitoes. These can carry and spread the terminal condition of myxomatosis in rabbits. Pet rabbits are susceptible and they go blind. Unfortunately there is no cure. They should be protected by using mosquito netting over their cages in summer.

I wish I had some good news for pets and their owners this summer. Early detection of problems is the best form of control. Roll on the winter!



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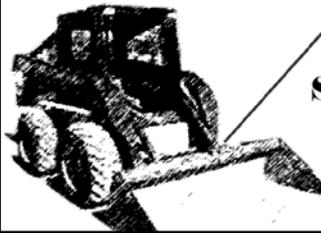
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A growing concern

BUNDANOON GARDEN CLUB members ended 2010 on a high note, with a garden party at the Exeter home of member Anne Spiden to mark the club's 40th anniversary.

More than 100 members made the most of a rare, mostly dry day in an otherwise wet December to celebrate in style with champagne, canapés and birthday cake.

The guests of honour were Beryl and George Gosbell, who convened and hosted the first meeting of what was then Bundanoon Beautification and Garden Club at the Royal Hotel (now the Bundanoon Hotel) on 26 November 1970.

That first meeting attracted 23 people; today the club has 235 members. Beryl and George, who lost touch with the club after they left Bundanoon in 1981, were clearly delighted to see how the club has flourished and to learn about its more recent achievements. We look forward to welcoming them to future meetings.

Beryl, who was president of the club for its first two years, cut the birthday cake along with another former president, Marina Beaumont, who served for three years from March 2003.

The club resumed its meetings in February after the Christmas break and has a busy schedule for 2011. Monthly meetings – on the first Thursday of the month from 9.30am for a 10am start – usually attract 120 or so members to the Soldiers' Memorial Hall and there's such a buzz that newcomers to Bundanoon often ask shopkeepers: "Whatever's going on in the hall?"

The business part of the meeting is always kept as brief as possible. New acquisitions to the club's burgeoning library, which boasts 240 books and DVDs, are reviewed and details are given of Friendship Gardens, which are open to members and their guests on the Saturday after many meetings. There is also a popular Question and Answer segment when members can pick the brains of fellow gardeners – a feature that is especially popular with recent arrivals to the Southern Highlands.

Morning tea – often more of a feast because many members are talented cooks – follows the business part of the meeting and provides an opportunity to catch up with friends, make new ones, check out the library or shop for plants and produce at the trade table.

The meeting concludes with a guest speaker whose subject may be practical, informative or inspirational – often all three. Recent topics have included landscaping, botanic art, composting, birds in the garden and caring for your body while gardening. Jenny Ferguson, owner of magnificent Whiteley at Moss Vale, spoke on her book *A Year in My Garden*, and Mickey Robertson talked about the vegetable gardens at Glenmore House.

In addition to meetings, at least two outings are planned for 2011 – one a day trip and the other an overnight visit – and members will be taking part in a workshop on propagating Australian plants being led by Wendy Johnston, who spoke to the club last November and inspired many members to include

more native plants in their gardens.

New members and visitors are very welcome.

—Jenny Stanton



George and Beryl Gosbell (centre) with member Helen Anderson (left) and guest Judy Hall (right) at the 40th anniversary garden party. Photo by Jana Tallon



March of the bubblers

AS THOSE WHO regularly visit the excellent Bundy-on-Tap website (www.bundyontap.com.au) would know, the project continues unabated 20 months on from the community meeting that began this odyssey.

Journalists from around the world continue to pen stories on BoT and students from Primary School to PhD, from Paris to Proserpine, use it in their studies.

Indeed the educational aspect has been a satisfying part of the project. Bundy on Tap has a key role in Ecologic, a three-year display in The Powerhouse Museum, it appears in French educational textbooks and in an illustrated diary for primary-school-aged children in Queensland. Still on the theme of education, the University of Canberra will go bottled water free in March 2011, when all shops, kiosks and vending machines will cease selling the commercial product. Bubblers will be installed and refillable bottles will be on sale in retail outlets. And our international news is that a coach load of American university students are coming to Bundanoon in March to see BoT in action.

So the word spreads in many ways. More and more councils across Australia are 'bringing back the bubbler' and it was great to see our own Wingecarribee Council vote overwhelmingly to make council run facilities and events Bottled Water Free. The first event was Australia Day at Berrima where free chilled water was available on a hot day. Council has also purchased its first mobile Refill Post for use at events in the Shire.

Talking of Refill Posts, BoT has provided a fifth one for the town, at Ferndale Oval, installed by the Soccer Club.

Of course all this pales into insignificance compared to Summer Bay Council voting to go Bottled Water Free on the *Home & Away* soapie!

Awards continue to flow to our town including Bundanoon being awarded a Tidy Towns Sustainable Community award for Bundy on Tap

Do check out the new smaller (500ml) \$20 Camelbak bottles in your local retailers. These fit perfectly in car and bike bottle holders.

With many of the original BoT committee now keen to step back after all the hard work and intensity of the project, it is time for renewal. We're looking for new blood to join the committee as well as a new Coordinator.

An opportunity for 2011: Coordinator, Bundy on Tap

FOR THE COMING year, Bundy on Tap needs an enthusiastic person to maintain this flagship project. Our hardworking Coordinator Sandra Menteith needs to relinquish the role due to a variety of work and family commitments. The coordination of BoT is not too time consuming now that the project is established – eg answering queries from media/students/councils and communicating details such as bottle types/prices to local businesses. Of course you will have the back up of the present team for advice as needed. So if you can spare the time to keep the BoT ball rolling then please contact Sandra on sandra@bundyontap.com.au or tel 4883 7687.

Weather and climate update

WHAT'S HAPPENING? AVERAGE temperatures for spring and summer have been a degree or more less than the ten-year mean; is the world cooling? Worldwide figures show that the world is continuing to warm, with 2010 being the equal of 2005 as the highest average temperature on record, and 2010 has also been the wettest year so far.

An unusually long and intense La Niña event is taking place, with cool waters at the surface of the eastern and central Pacific Ocean and a pool of warm water to the north of Australia. This phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation is associated with increased rainfall and lower temperatures over eastern Australia as well as affecting weather patterns around the world.

So are the recent weather catastrophes in Australia and around the world due to climate change, or are they just a part of normal weather variability?

Professor David Karoly from Melbourne says that individual weather events cannot be attributed to climate change and that the pattern of extreme weather will need to be assessed over time and related to scientific predictions of what will happen in a warming world. Scientists predict that as the world becomes warmer there will be more severe droughts and more fires and flooding rains, and that Australia will be severely affected.

Another climate scientist and author, Barry Pittock, predicted a few years ago that the year 2009 would be the last of the "normal" years and that from then on there would be increasing signs of climate change. Others have said that around 2030 will be when the weather will become noticeably extreme.

The atmosphere has had an increase in energy in the form of heat and at present the oceans are absorbing more than ninety percent of the extra heat so temperatures are rising only slowly. The moisture content of the atmosphere is also rising so when it rains it will really rain then the cool dry air that has been stripped of its moisture will descend in other parts of the world to perpetuate deserts and increase the intensity of droughts and heatwaves.

Rainfall patterns for Australia will change and by 2050 Bundanoon will be on the edge of a coastal region that is expected to have an increase in summer and no decrease in winter rains (See diagram). We are placed on a boundary between the coastal and the inland weather patterns leading to a marked reduction in rainfall between Bundanoon and Canyonleigh.

What Bundanoon does have is native forests at its doorstep. Prof. Brendan Mackey and associates at the Australia National University, Canberra, have found that the mature and old growth hardwood forests of South Eastern Australia store as much and even more carbon than tropical forests. The pattern of storage is different – our forests store a relatively greater amount in the soil, so old growth forests can look as though the trees



are not dense when compared with newer growth or a plantation. However, they store much more carbon, their roots go deep into the soil and nurture a whole host of insects and micro-organisms that return the favour by supplying the tree with essential nutrients. The forest floor may seem barren when compared with the rich sward of pasture grass, but the surface litter protects, cools and feeds a host of insects, fungi, bacteria, viruses and nets of fine roots. It is these valuable areas of bush that we need to better understand, protect and expand if we want to control global warming and maintain the essential services that they provide for us.

—Tony Hill

Projected Rainfall Changes for NSW in 2050

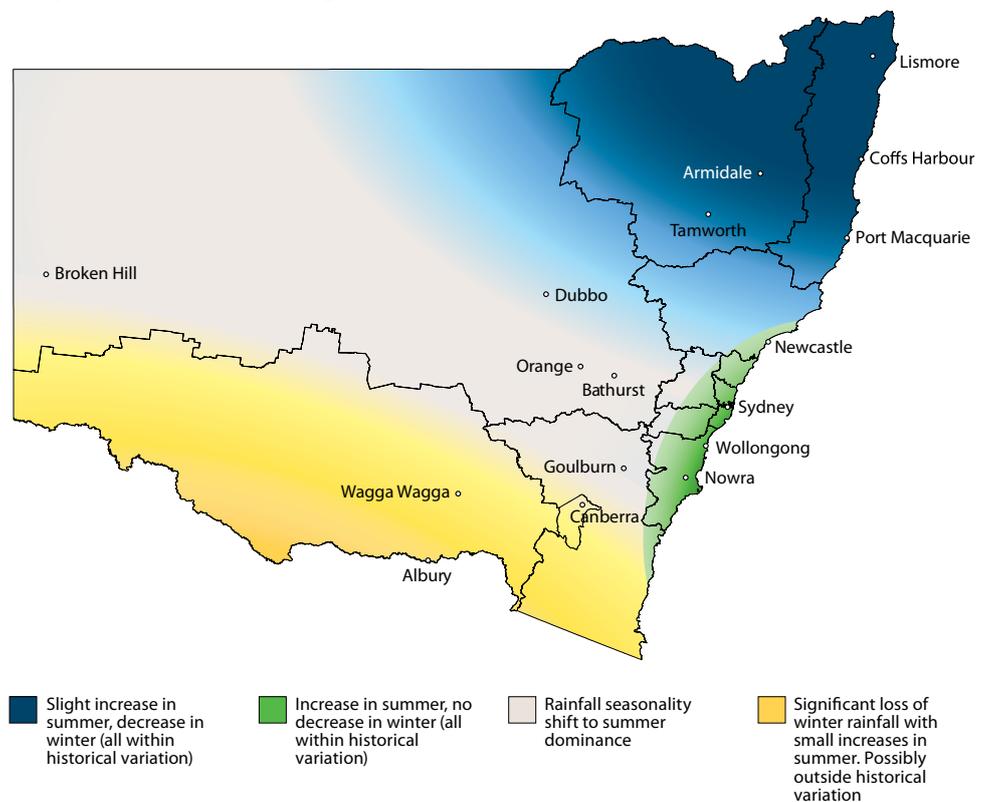


Diagram: Bundanoon is situated on the edge of the coastal (green) rainfall region.

DECCW (2010) *NSW Climate Impact Profile. The impacts of climate change on the biophysical environment of New South Wales*. NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water



(From L to R) John Conrick & Hans Radowitz from the Bundanoon chapter of 'Bikes for Humanity' join Council's Resource Recovery Officer, Byron Maddox & Cllr Jim Clark.

Bikes for Humanity

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL in association with Bikes for Humanity is calling on residents of the Southern Highlands to donate their unwanted pushbikes to assist the less fortunate.

On hand for the announcement, Councillor Jim Clark said the initiative was a great way for locals to help the under privileged in Africa.

"Bikes for Humanity is a global volunteer group with a local branch located right here in Bundanoon whose purpose is to recycle bikes to provide to communities in need overseas.

"In particular, the bikes are shipped to areas where they can be used to assist health care and education workers cover distances which may normally be traveled by foot," Cllr Clark said.

Southern Highlands Bikes for Humanity spokesperson Hans Radowitz said the local chapter was aiming for at least 100 second-hand bikes.

"An estimated 1.2 million bikes are sold in Australia every year and in many instances the bikes that these replace end up as scrap at the local tip.

"This scheme aims to recycle as many of these unwanted bikes as possible and then ship them to villages in need in areas of Namibia and Tanzania," he said.

Apart from aiding in regional mobility the scheme also provides business opportunities for struggling communities.

"The container that the bikes are shipped in then becomes a pre-fabricated workshop which continues to provide skills training, employment and business opportunities for the villages," Mr Radowitz continued.

"We're after all sorts of bikes but given the conditions they'll be used in, mountain bikes are the most sought after.

"In addition, we're also taking collapsible wheel chairs which will also be recycled," he said.

In support of the scheme Wingecarribee Shire Council has allocated a container for collections at its Resource Recovery Centre located on Berrima Road, Moss Vale.

Bicycles and wheelchairs can be dropped off free-of-charge at the Resource Recovery Centre during normal business hours.

For more information visit www.bikesforhumanity.com.au

Courtesy Wingecarribee Shire Council

diy

Don't move!

WE'RE ALL GETTING a little older and perhaps wondering about how to finance retirement or ease into semi-retirement. Many people sell the family home and buy something smaller, with the profit from the sale going into the nest egg kitty. Moving house and buying in another area can be difficult or even traumatic for some. Besides, the fees and charges, stamp duty and moving costs can be steep. Maybe there is another alternative. What if your existing house were to be remodelled or perhaps added to so that it created a self-contained flat rented for a couple of hundred dollars a week?

Council is becoming quite enlightened about the possibilities of Dual Occupancies and Secondary Dwellings (DOs and SDs) in the Bundanoon area. To quote from the latest Bundanoon Development Control Plan, "Council wants to encourage developers and property owners to submit DOs and SDs which are attractive, appropriate to the surrounding area ...and enjoyable in which to live." A dual occupancy is what we would call a granny flat, and a secondary dwelling is a detached dwelling.

The advantages: You own the land so no major outlay is necessary and only a small extension may be required so the costs can be recouped fairly quickly. Improvements add value to the house so it is an investment. Having someone living nearby is good for security and independence.

The possible downside is finding the right plan, the up-front outlay required and the adjustment to having somebody living close by.

As usual there are some rules; generally these pertain to maintenance of the streetscape. Zoning is important but since much of Bundanoon is R2 it may not be an issue. For bigger blocks out of town, the zoning of R5 means that a separate house can be built on the land even if there is only one title. Both dwellings need clear and direct access from the street and a total of 65% of the land area cannot be used for dwellings. All setbacks (distance from the boundary) would be the same as a single house so it's not possible to build closer to the road. However, it may well be possible to extend in the other three directions – or even up! The nine metre total height rule still applies.

If your house is already large then maybe a remodel is all that is necessary. Allow for plumbing, electrical and soundproofing, as well as the usual costs.

Return of around \$200 per week is possible, or \$10,000 a year less expenses, so it may not take long to cover the costs and get back into the black. A home equity loan is a good way to finance it with the tenant paying the loan off while you get the capital gain! Talk to a real estate agent about your street or house for good feedback on rent and values. Don't overcapitalise or all the benefits are reduced. Allow \$1500 a square metre and work back from there; for example a 20m² extension may cost \$30,000, but could be paid off in say three and a half years allowing for interest on the loan. Then it's money in your pocket and a higher value house. A win-win! How good is that?

—Patrick Fitzgerald



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Lives well lived

When jcg received the news that three elderly Bundanoon residents died recently it seemed appropriate to celebrate their contributions to village life over many years.

ROSS ARTHUR COUNSELL,

aged 87 years, lived a life with many facets — from growing up in Bundanoon as a child, to his war service, then adult life in Bundanoon as a builder, a fireman, a member of the RSL and an active member of community groups. Ross had two older brothers, Wilfred and Alwyn, an older sister Lorraine and a younger sister Audrey. He was the last surviving sibling.

Ross' family moved to Bundanoon in 1923 to a small farm on Ferndale Road, which is now part of Jumping Rock. After a few years they moved into the Bundanoon village. Bundanoon History Group has recorded Ross's recollections which cover much of his 87 years in Bundanoon. The Counsells were builders and built at least 47 houses in Bundanoon. When war was declared in 1939, Ross remained working with his father until he was old enough to enlist. He served in the AIF from 1942 until 1946 in Australia and Indonesia.

His first posting was to a tank transport unit, the 2nd Army Tank Battalion stationed near Singleton. When this was disbanded in 1944 Ross was posted overseas to Morotai in Indonesia. In the 10th Australian Ordnance Vehicle Park where he was Acting Sgt Major, their task was to outfit the vehicles ready for the Borneo invasion. He was discharged from service on 17 January 1946.

Ross met his wife Bess in 1940. They were married in 1946 and settled in Bundanoon where five children - Lorraine, Malcolm, Roslyn, Jenni and Ian - were born.

He later worked for Wingecarribee Shire Council until his retirement in 1985.

Ross' war service led to a life long association with the RSL, for which he was awarded a medal in 2004.

He also belonged to many other community groups:

- 45 years with Scouting – from a Cub to the committee
- 24 yrs with the Parents & Citizens Assoc. with 10 yrs as President
- the Swimming Club as founding President and on the committee that brought a swimming pool to Bundanoon
- the Tennis Club
- the Bundanoon Community Development Association
- Warden at his church



SANDOR KALMAN-VADON died a few days before his 91st birthday. He came here from Hungary with his wife Margaret and their two children Alex and Erika in 1961. Sandy has left his stamp on Bundanoon as a builder. The Bundanoon Motel was one of his major projects having sold Bundanoon House on the opposite corner in 1971.

Sandy took a great deal of interest in community life and was a member of the BCDA for a number of years and when the local swimming pool was built he worked with Dr Cuthbert and other community members towards its development. He was also an enthusiastic Amateur radio operator and kept up constant contact with many similar groups worldwide. In recent years he and Margaret could often be found watching direct TV transmission from Hungary at their home in Osborne St and he also had considerable computer skills.

They both became residents of Warrigal Care in Bundanoon about two years ago and with the help of their daughter, Erika Petersen, it was possible for them to spend many hours of the day together. Sandy's love and affection for Margaret could be seen with his attention to her as her health failed. During his 91 years he experienced life in Hungary through the rigors of war torn Europe and found a new life in Bundanoon. He will be remembered for his 50 years of family life and community involvement in the Highlands.

With thanks to Colin Collins



AARON PRICE was 84 years old and will be remembered in Bundanoon for his years of involvement in the Brigadoon committee. He came here from Sydney 13 years ago with his wife Alison.

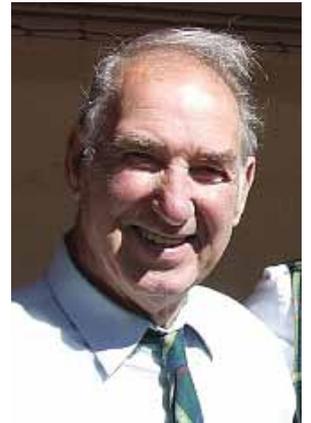
Born at Kirkintilloch, Scotland in 1927, Aaron retained an engaging Scottish brogue despite having lived in Australia from the age of 22. He completed his electrical apprenticeship and National Service in the Fleet Air Arm in the UK before coming to Australia with "a spirit of youth and adventure" to work for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria at Yallourn. He later came to Sydney where his grandparents were living.

Aaron was a keen supporter of all things Scottish, being a member of Sydney Scottish Dance Association and Secretary of Sydney Combined Scottish Societies which ran the Highland Gathering in Sydney every New Year's Day. As well as his Scottish activities he devoted much of his time in Sydney to Scouts Australia at Ryde and later at West Epping. Speakers at his memorial service mentioned that it was through Scouts that he met and married Alison. He will be remembered by many as a leader for ten years of the North Epping Scout Group where he and Alison made many friends.

As a hobby Aaron's model train layouts were legendary. He contributed to an edition of *jcg* in June 2006 when his model train set in his double garage at Loma Close was featured. The layouts, developed over many years provided a wonderful connection with his three grandsons who also shared overseas travel with their grandparents.

Sadly Aaron spent 2010 at Warrigal Care in Bundanoon when his many health problems meant he was no longer able to stay at home.

With thanks to Bundanoon Highland Gathering Committee



- 20 years with the Bush Fire Brigade; and
 - 30 years as a member and Captain of Volunteer Town Fire Brigade.
 - As well as many district organisations.
- Ross received the Queens Medal for exemplary service to the community through Volunteer Fire Brigade; he was the longest servicing volunteer Captain in NSW with over 30 years in that position.

He is fondly remembered.

With thanks to Ian Counsell



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

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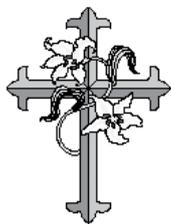
Bundanoon 4th Sunday, 11 am
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Moss Vale Sunday, 9.30 am

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

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 10.30 am



Easter services information

Anglican Church: ph 4883 6019
Uniting Church: ph 4869 4795
Catholic Church: ph 4868 1931
Iona Christian Community: ph 4883 4799

Santi Forest Buddhist Monastery

100 Coalmines Rd, Bundanoon, ph 4883 6331
 Saturdays 7pm – Group Meditation
 Wednesdays 7pm – Talk on the Buddha's Teachings

What's on info

Visit www.southern-highlands.com.au or phone 4871 2888 or 1300 657 559 to find out about coming events and attractions.

Activities and services

Activities

Arts Bundanoon.....	Rod Moore.....	4883 7777
Bundanoon Community Association (BCA)		
President.....	Ralph Clark	4883 6389
Bundanoon Pre-School		
Director.....	Deni Harden	4883 6166
Committee.....	Carolyn Beveridge.....	4883 7273
Bundanoon Public School P&C.....	Jeremy Tonks	4883 6019
Bundanoon Visitors' Group	Harry Hull	4883 6372
Chess Club	Pat Foley	4883 6064
Country Women's Association (<i>meets 1st Thurs, 1 pm, CWA Rooms</i>):		
.....	Marie Reid	4883 6526
Currabunda Wetland Group (<i>meets 1st and 3rd Friday</i>)		
.....	Sheila Micholson	4883 4347
.....	Ralph Davies	4883 6659
Garden Club.....	Ross Miller	4883 4606
Glow Worm Glen Track Cttee	Anna Perston.....	4883 6125
Green Team.....	Valerie Crampton.....	4883 6574
History Group (<i>meets 1st Monday, 10 am, The Bundanoon Club</i>)		
.....	Patricia Guy	4883 6971
Lions Club (<i>meets 1st/3rd Monday, 7.30 pm, Bundanoon Club</i>):		
.....	Ralph Clark	4883 6389
Men's Shed (<i>meets 1st Tuesday, 10am, supper room, Memorial Hall</i>):		
.....	Ned Ward, Publicity.....	4883 6082
Morton Nat. Park Volunteers (<i>meets 2nd Wednesday</i>):		
.....	Alan & Wendy Hyman	4883 7763
Playgroup.....	Nathalie Brokate	4883 7660
RSL (<i>meets 1st Tues (exc. January), 2 pm, RSL Rooms at Oval</i>):		
President.....	William Russell	0412 476 141
Secretary	Murray Loane	4883 6709
Serendipity: the choir	Kerith Fowles	4883 6515

Sports Clubs

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

Support & Volunteer Services

Community Health Service.....	Bowral	4861 8000
Early Childhood Clinic.....		4861 8000
Fire Station.....		4883 6333
Good Yarn	Marilyn Rocca	4883 6542
Meals on Wheels	Fay Carter	4883 7441
Mobile Library	Moss Vale Library	4868 2479
Red Cross (Exeter branch).....	Anna Hopkins	4883 4259
Rural Fire Service (RFS)	Craig Rowley	0427 511 837
RFS Auxiliary	Rosemary Page	4883 6499
RSPCA (Goulburn/Highlands)		0412 475 428
Volunteering Wingecarribee	Judi Rose	4869 4617
Wingecarribee Adult Day Care	Joy Elliott	4862 1774
WIRES.....		4862 1788

To update or amend details, please contact Pam Davies, 4883 7196.

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2011 ACDS 40th ANNIVERSARY
CARRIAGE DRIVING FESTIVAL
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Carriage driving comes to town

THE ELEGANCE OF a bygone era will combine spectacular action when carriage driving returns to the Southern Highlands on Saturday, 16th April, 2011. The above Festival is being organised for the ACDS by the Southern Highlands Carriage Club at the SHCC grounds corner of Ferndale and Quarry Roads, Bundanoon.

The Festival will include Show Driving, Dressage and Combined Driving Championships, plus Endurance, Cones and Pleasure/Picnic driving activities.

The Combined Driving National Championships will run from 23rd to 25th April inclusive, and is similar to the Olympic 3-Day Event in that it also has three phases – Dressage, Cross Country (Marathon) and Precision Cone driving. The Dressage tests the obedience, suppleness and training of the horses/ponies. The Precision Cone driving is similar in concept to the eventer's showjumping phase in that it tests the fitness and suppleness after completing the Marathon. The skill and accuracy of the driver is challenged in all three phases. The Drivers are assisted by navigator/grooms on the larger vehicles which are either two or four wheelers.

Competitors at this Festival will be travelling from six states of Australia and will be staying at the grounds in Bundanoon from anywhere up to a month, in order to acclimatize their horses and to familiarise themselves with the surrounding countryside.

Equestrian enthusiasts and members of the general public will enjoy watching these events which will demonstrate high standards of horsemanship, beautifully prepared and presented animals, and amazing skills of the drivers and grooms.

Everyone is most welcome to come and watch at any time to help make this Festival of Driving a big event for Bundanoon. Admission is free.

For enquiries please phone the Festival Secretary, Yvonne Wood (4883 4778) or email woodsies2@bigpond.com, or the Festival Director, John White (4883 6203).



When the Bantings of Evelyn Avenue discovered a scene of chaos in a freshly painted upstairs bedroom, their thoughts turned to burglary. But even more shocking was discovering the true culprit, a diamond python, which must have entered through a window left open a little to allow the room to air. Even WIRES can't explain the appearance of a snake not usually seen in Bundanoon. Photo: Carolyn Banting.



While Dawn Jonas was sharing an afternoon dip in the dam on their property at Penrose with a family of grebes, one little duckling was separated from its mother and siblings. Apparently confused and anxious it spotted Dawn and paddled furiously towards her. This brief encounter lasted just a few seconds. Recognising it had mistaken Dawn for its mother, the little grebe paddled quickly away and was soon reunited with its family. Photo: Mike Jonas.



"Mother Kangaroo always said a knowledge of sculpture was essential if a joey wished to join the Bowral chapter of the Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society." Photo: Linda Christison.

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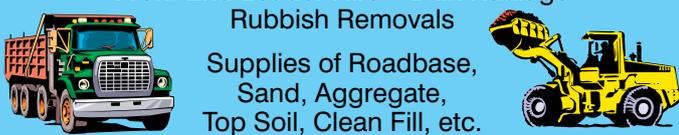
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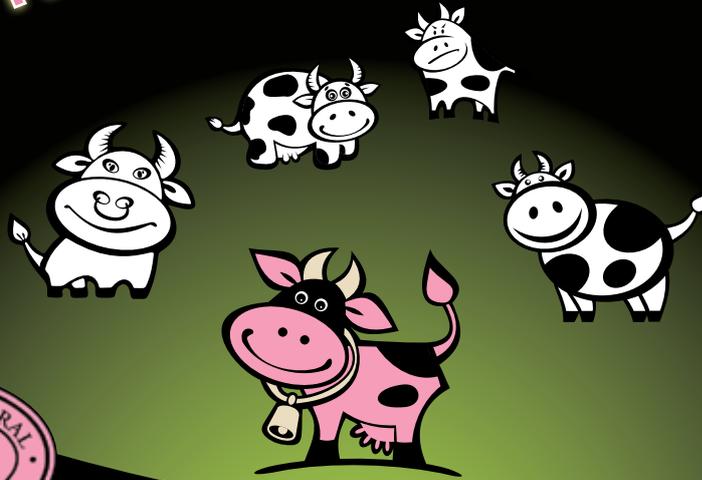
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