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8

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From the editor

Bundanoon is proud of being Australia's first town to agree not to sell bottled water, thanks to the initiative of Huw Kingston and his friends in 2013.

In this month's edition you will discover many others in Bundanoon who are engaged in helping reduce waste and encouraging the re-use of unwanted things. Read about Hans, who retrieves old bicycles from the tip, restores them and delivers them to grateful people in Africa. Or Lisa, who loves to make beautiful things from broken crockery and as Bundanoon Market Manager sees the benefit of buying and selling locally.

Rebecca recognises glorious retro fashion in our cast-off clothing, while the Good Yarn ladies offer pre-loved household goods and unique hand-made items in return for cash for charity. And Annie discovers the vast Aladdin's Cave at the Reviva Centre where you may find an amazing treasure for a dollar or two.

Stories about a mud house and a straw house will have you thinking about sustainability, as will Pam's interview with the Farm Club owners, and we raise the issue of the plastic bag problem

As a dedicated veggie-grower and maker of soil-improving compost I was happy to hear about David Humphreys and the Veggiemen who are getting down and dirty in their own gardens. Why buy frozen spinach from China when you can grow your own fresh silverbeet or spinach in one square metre of your garden?

I hope you enjoy reading these and other stories.

Helen Clark, Guest Editor

contents

fostering sustainability

| Walking lightly on our patch19 |
|---|
| The Rundles' home-made house20 |
| A newcomer's guide to a recycling galaxy21 |
| Veggiemen today!22 |
| Sustainability at Bundanoon Public School23 |
| Spinning gold from straw24 |
| Something from nothing25 |
| From marketing to markets26 |
| Old bikes change lives27 |
| Everything old is new again28 |
| Farm Club philosophy29 |
| Plastic bags – friend or foe?30 |
| Recycling DOs and DONTs31 |
| |

features

| Bundanoon Community Pool Update | . 13 |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Bundanoon is Brigadoon | .15 |
| Living with wild neighbours | .15 |
| Furniture talking | .3 |
| ntroducing Kaz Williams | . 3 |
| Thanks Waynel | 25 |

regulars

| Meiting Pot Theatre 10, | 11 |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Arts Bundanoon | 11 |
| BCA | 12 |
| Council news | 12 |
| Bundanoon Sings! | 16 |
| Bundanoon Lions | 16 |
| Serendipity:the choir | 17 |
| Bundanoon Photography Group | 17 |
| Garden tales | 33 |
| Moving in | 35 |
| Vet's casebook | 36 |
| History Group | 39 |
| Life matters | |
| Glow Worm Glen Bushcare | |
| Sport & Recreation | 43 |
| Activities and services | 45 |
| Church times | |
| Advertising rates | |
| Advertising index | |
| 5 | _ |

Hall Hire

For Soldiers' Memorial Hall booking enquiries please phone 4883 6971 or email hallhire@bundanoon.nsw.au

BCA meetings

Third Thursday of month (excl Jan): 15 March, 19 April, 17 May 7:30pm in Supper Room at the Hall.

Advertising info: page 45

Deadline for next issue: Friday 4 May

Christmas Variety Show 2017



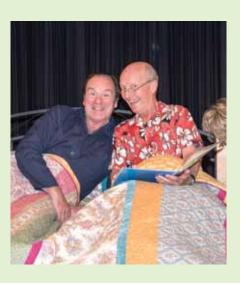




ENORMOUS THANKS TO all the people who performed for us in December, giving so generously of their time. Including: the wonderfully talented OJ Rushton, our accompanist and performer extraordinaire who performed with Rebecca Vella and Patrick Brennan; fantastic performers Brian Haydon, Susie Smith, Reuben Whitford, Amy Darch, Les Rundle, Phil Gove, Bundanoon Sings!, David Furey, Jim Cheesley and Daphne Cordingly; the backstage crew; and Miranda Lean, Artistic Director, who put it all together.

How lucky we are to have so many enthusiastic and talented people in Bundanoon and The Southern Highlands willing to give it a go!

— Rosemarie Gray, Melting Pot Theatre



Photos by Peter Gray

SATURDAY 24 MARCH

CINEMA REX BUNDANOON

Soldiers' Memorial Hall Cinema Rex is a BCA initiative.



7:00pm Drinks & nibbles

7:30pm Screening

Children Adults **\$10** Families \$25

Coming Attraction SATURDAY 12 MAY: A MAN CALLED OVE



Melting Pot Theatre: A Changing of the Guard

IN THE LAST year, Melting Pot Theatre has flourished under the leadership of Jan Kenny, who filled the village hall at every turn. JK has been an inspiration, and enriched MPT with her skills and expertise. Jan, we will miss you and we thank you for 'holding the fort.'

Local thespians have a new convenor for their much loved Melting Pot Theatre. Robyn Karakasch will head up the Committee from early March to stir up the Melting Pot writers, actors and audiences to new heights of enjoyment.

Robyn is hopeful she can continue the standards that have

been set. Robyn has been a member of Melting Pot Theatre for a few years now and has written and directed many plays in Crash Test Drama. She loves this bite-sized form of theatre with its 10-minute plays, as she believes we can say so much in such a short time. Robyn also directed the very successful 2016 Melting Pot production of the Moliere's One Act Play Sganarelle which drew a huge and appreciative audience. Last year she gave an afternoon workshop for actors and was pleased with the supportive responses from the local participants. Welcome Robyn.

- Rosemarie Gray

Dates for the diary 2018

All events take place at Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

Casting and rehearsal for Crash Test start at 2:00pmeveryone welcome who would like to try doing theatre! The show starts at 5:00pm.

Crash Test Drama *1 Saturday 17 March
Crash Test Drama *2 Saturday 19 May
Crash Test Drama *3 Saturday 28 July
Crash Test Drama *4 Saturday 20 October
Crash Test Gala Final Saturday 17 November

Saturday 15 December

Remember:

MELTING POT THEATRE is always looking for writers of 10-minute plays, for actors to perform them, and for an audience to enjoy them and vote for their favourites.

Come along and support your local theatre group. Why not bring your friends who have not yet experienced the delights of Crash Test to the next show?

Entry Fee only \$10 a head, payable at the door.

For further information: www.meltingpottheatre.org.au or Robyn Karakasch: 0409 327 062, rkarakas@bigpond.net.au

arts BUNDANOON

Xmas Variety Show

Autumn attractions

AH, AUTUMN AT last! The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us and we can enjoy Bundanoon's many attractions without the heat of summer or the cold winds of late winter. Arts Bundanoon can give you a good reason to be out and about on Saturday morning on 14th April, 12th May and 2nd June 2018. On these mornings you will hear respectively Jessica Lee, flautist and an associate artist, Clemens Leske, pianist, in an all-Bach programme, and Natalia Ricci, pianist.

Jessica Lee is a new face in Bundanoon. She will perform my favourite flute sonatas (Prokofiev & Poulenc). Both of these sonatas have been performed here in recent years to acclaim from our audiences. Definitely, this will be a concert that is not to be missed.

As usual, these artists will provide the high standard of performance that our audiences have come to expect. Our recently acquired Yamaha piano has never sounded better – an observation made by more than one audience member at our sensational opening concert for this year, given on 10th February by Mia Huang who made her fifth appearance for Arts Bundanoon.

Please join us for these upcoming concerts

— Neil Mitchell



Clemens Leske



President, Geoff Duncan

President's report

SADLY THIS IS my last contribution as BCA President to this long running and quality magazine. In a digitally-dominated world may it continue untouched in its current form for many years to come.

By now you will know that I have decided not to nominate for either the position of BCA President or Committee member for 2018. As I recounted at the 2017 AGM

I was a reluctant President in 2016, thinking beforehand that someone more experienced with the history and workings of the BCA would step up. Alas, this was not the case. It struck me as disappointing that such a strong Community Association did not attract several people willing to take on this important and crucial leadership role. In having done so for the last two years I trust I have served the association confidently and conscientiously. In working with the Committee I believe that in the time I have been President significant things have been achieved and these will been detailed in my Report to the 2018 Annual General Meeting this month.

In its Annual Report and on the website, the BCA outlines some general objectives, which include serving and representing the interests of Bundanoon in any manner necessary as decided at a General Meeting or to enhance and beautify Bundanoon, and to foster a community spirit in the township.

Under legislation the BCA's primary responsibility is to ensure proper governance and prudent financial management and to ensure members' funds are distributed equally and ethically across the range of activities. The Committee serves the various and vital Sub-Committees which make up the diverse range of activities that energise the lifeblood of Bundanoon.

Historically, it seems to me, in trying to best represent community needs as outlined in these objectives, an expectation perhaps understandably has arisen over time that the BCA can fix any problem, whether it be a development or traffic and pedestrian safety issue, or an environmental issue. In many cases this is true, but not always.

Individual voices count – sometimes more than anything the BCA can say or do. I remind everyone that beside the BCA's submission to Council on the formerly proposed Erith Street development in 2016, Council received approximately 250 submissions from residents raising similar concerns. Individual voices can achieve much!

The BCA has a voice with which we try to achieve outcomes, generally in most cases by working diplomatically and with political skill. There is a time to galvanise our resources and speak out publicly and a time to work behind the scenes. The challenge of managing this balancing act doesn't always suit everyone. Some want to see the BCA in a more activist role arguing that in its present state it is an ineffectual organization, at best maintaining a passive but nevertheless important oversight of the affairs of the Sub-Groups. It can and should be more than this, but it requires great skill, sensitivity and foresight.

In my experience the BCA needs always to be wary when called upon or contemplating taking action outside issues involving strict financial management and Sub-Committee support. Throughout its history the BCA has been called upon to represent various community interests and on occasions to mediate between sometimes different and combustible community differences. This is part of its community role but it is often a delicate task, requiring the BCA to influence and lobby federal, state and local government representatives and other key stakeholders while at the same avoiding the risk to its credibility of being tied, or perceived as being tied, to single issue causes. The avoidance of the latter has, I believe, been one of its key strengths in making effective and respected representations.

The BCA is here to serve the community but you can do much as well, by raising your voice.

I wish you and the Committee for 2018 the very best for the year ahead.

Best regards, Geoff.

HAVE YOU JOINED YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION YET?

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

Get connected- become a member of the Bundanoon Community Association.

Download a Membership Application Form today and take your first step towards ensuring Bundanoon remains a vibrant happening place to live! Visit www.bca.asn.au

Our AGM is coming up. If you would like to have a more active involvement, new members are welcome to stand for any vacant position.



A Community... Since 1865

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 9 March, 2018.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary: secretary@bca.asn.au or can be downloaded from www.bca.asn.au/forms-downloads/

AGM: Friday 16 March, 2018

www.bca.asn.au



Photo: Helen Clark

Bundanoon Community Pool Update

THE CICADAS HAVE come and gone but the crickets have taken their place and except for the odd cool day it is still summer and swimming weather. Once you are in the water troubles and issues just disappear! The laughter and antics of children are really something we should embrace. Remember when you were that age? Not a care in the world? When the common denominator was youth, no worries, friends, sunshine, and your local pool?

It has certainly been a welcome sight to see our pool being used during the holiday season by both individuals and family groups. It says something about our local pool and the whole ambience of its setting that we see quite few out-of-towners enjoying our facility, not to mention people from Mittagong who come here while their pool is under repair.

The pool needs your support

When was the last time you used this great facility? Reacquaint yourself with your pool. Start with a hot day – take yourself, the kids or grand kids to the pool. It won't be long before you are in the water enjoying yourself, with the added benefit of earning a good night's sleep!

I trust that everyone remembers our

news item in the last JCG – a history of Bundanoon Community Pool and an introduction to our aim to ask Council for an UPGRADE by adding a roof enclosure to enable year-round swimming.

Just a brief list of what we've been doing:

- gave various roof enclosure upgrade proposals to the Wingecarribee Shire General Manager and all Councillors of WSC
- discussed the project with the Deputy Mayor
- presented a Powerpoint presentation to the General Manager
- received the support of Pru Goward MLA and Angus Taylor MP as Patrons.
- obtained support from all local schools, Quest for Life, Warrigal Care and Bundanoon Swim Club
- organised our banner (which we hope you have seen) and distributed our flyers
- designed our slogan SAY which stands for 'Swim All Year'
- organised a RALLY for Saturday 3 March, 2:00pm-4:00pm at the pool
- organised a membership drive for Friends of Bundanoon Community Pool.

Council is currently developing a Service Delivery Review and Aquatic Strategy, which will assist them in their policy decisions. After these reviews are completed we will proceed with funding applications.

To become a Friend of Bundanoon Community Pool follow this link: http://bit.ly/2B1g4Z4

You can make a difference! Have your say by completing the Council survey at www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/swimming-pools.

We hope that 2018 will enable us to progress further with this project so that Bundanoon and all the Southern Villages Group will benefit from our endeavours.

— Henk Janssen Convenor, Bundanoon Community Pool Sub-Committee



13



WINTERFEST IS BACK!

WINTERFEST IS BACK in 2018. The Winterfest Opening Night Street party, one of the best loved of Bundanoon's community events, will once again launch the week-long festival. Details of the opening party lineup, along with the full program of workshops and other activities will take place from 8–14 July. The theme for the 2018 festival is Luminous.

For further details please contact Convenor Kaz Williams: winterfestbundanoon@gmail.com. Mobile: 0418 425 611.

JCG is going full colour

AS PART OF our effort to bring you a better and brighter magazine issue after issue, JCG is now being printed in full colour. As a consequence we will no longer be accepting new advertisements in black and white and are working with existing advertisers to update their material.

We are excited to announce we are also introducing a prepayment discount. Pay for 4 advertisements in advance and save 5%.

Please contact Kaz Williams with any queries: kaz@bigshedcreative.com or 0418 425 611.

JCG colour advertising rates 2018

| Size | Per issue | Prepaid 4 issues (5% discount) |
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| Full page | \$438.00 | \$1,664.40 |
| Full page (inside front/back) | \$463.00 | \$1,759.40 |
| Half page | \$235.00 | \$ 893.00 |
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t to bring you a better and ue after issue, JCG is now olour. As a consequence we epting new advertisements d are working with existing

GM, Ann Prendergast

Wingecarribee Shire

Council report

LIKE MANY HIGHLANDERS, I look for forward to autumn and the relief offered by the milder weather.

Autumn is also a significant time at Council because by the time March rolls around we're nearing the end of our current financial year's Capital Works Program.

Our annual Capital Works Program details all the significant infrastructure works Council has committed to undertaking over the year.

And with a multi-million dollar schedule planned for the 2018/19 financial year, residents of Bundanoon and our southern villages can expect to see considerable activity around their neighbourhoods in the months ahead.

One such project is the construction of a new water main for Bundanoon. This \$130,000 project has been progressing well for some time and will continue into the year. On completion the new main will aid in improving water flow and pressure to higher areas of Bundanoon.

Another example of works we are undertaking in the area goes by our very un-glamourous project name of the 'Bundanoon Sewer Modelling Program'. This program involves building and calibrating a sewer model for the Bundanoon sewerage network.

In brief, a computer model is built using known data such as pipe diameters, pump station details, water consumption and sewerage discharge rates. We then add information such as local rainfall data to calibrate the model. The information we extract is then used to highlight areas where overflows may occur during wet weather events. This helps us better manage the local sewerage network, plan for any population growth and pinpoint where future maintenance and improvement works should be concentrated. This project is due for completion by June.

Yet other projects include the installation of safety guardrails on Erith Street and the widening of a curved section of Bundanoon Road in Exeter to improve the line-of-sight for motorists.

Unglamorous they may be, but they're important nonetheless. I hope your autumn is as busy and colourful as ours looks to be.

Tastebud tempter

JCG FOOD AND WINE GROUP is planning a day trip visit to some Highlands producers. Date TBA in April

Expressions of interest are invited: Please send your email address and phone number to Ralph Clark at rlc2578@gmail.com.



Living with wild neighbours

NEXT ISSUE: You be the creator!

THE JUNE ISSUE of JCG will feature stories and photos of wild creatures which live in Bundanoon's gardens, backyards, farmland and national park.

We hope these stories and photos will come from YOU, the readers!

Check through your favourite shots of birds, reptiles, furred animals or insects which have caught your eye in and around Bundanoon. Tell us your stories of an interaction between you and a wild creature, or of witnessing something involving wildlife in Bundanoon.

Please send photos as high resolution JPG or TIF files to jcg.editor@bca.asn.au or put them on a USB stick and let us know how to collect them from you.

Stories by Bundanoon or Southern Villages residents, of up to 600 words, can also be submitted to the editor. They must be signed by the writer.

DEADLINE: 27 APRIL 2018

The JCG planning team will choose the most interesting photos and stories to publish in the magazine. The team's decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding its choice.



Bundanoon is Brigadoon on Saturday 7 April

SHAKE OUT THE tartans, and prepare yourself for a great day on Saturday 7 April when Bundanoon disappears into the mist to rise as Brigadoon.

Join thousands of visitors swarming into Bundanoon by car, train and bus as they head for this famous Highland event which begins with the street parade at 9:30am. (A flyer insert in this magazine will give you more details.)

Chieftain of the day is Mr Warren Glase, Duine Uasal Award recipient, in recognition of his outstanding service to Brigadoon and his dedicated commitment to the local community. During his presidency for 25 years from 1989, more than one million dollars was raised for local community groups and improvement of facilities such as the Memorial Gates we drive through to access the pool, club and oval.

Newly elected President Peter Rocca brings with him a vast knowledge of the workings of Brigadoon and, along with his experienced committee, will produce a vibrant, entertaining Highland Day. 25 bands from Canberra to Hornsby and places between will march down he street to gather for the 41st Brigadoon Highland Festival.

For 300 years the fiddle has been the non-military musical instrument of

Scotland, from parlour to Concert Hall, Dance Hall and Kirk. 'Stringfiddle' members Bob McInnes, fiddler and Jane Ellis, pianist will once again accompany



the Scottish Country Dance display on the oval and will be joined by friends from Sydney in the Fiddlers Tent located near the Clans at the oval.

Throughout the day young and not so young may join the fun of traditional Highland Games and will be invited to join the Scottish dancers on the oval. Watch the big men in the breath-taking Australian Highland Heavy Weight Championship competition. The Lions Club and a variety of stalls supply food, hot and cold drinks to sustain you as you soak up the atmosphere .

Do not be tempted to leave early and miss the traffic. The best is yet to come!

A hush descends on the crowd as massed bands approach across the grounds, white spats gleaming, tartans swinging, drums peppering the air as the music grows to a spine-tingling crescendo. A fitting climax to a wonderful Brigadoon day.

AN ODE TO A MACBETHIAN SAUSAGE

Double, double, toil and trouble Mouthed the three old hags, Fire burn and cauldron bubble, We're making home made snags!

Gall of goat and slips of yew And strips of gully snake, Eye of newt and tadpole stew To the cauldron – boil and bake.

Wool of bat and tongue of dog All wrapped in hessian bags, Wolfsbane from the slimy bogs To sweeten up our snags.

Now stir it once and stir it twice, Ye mystic powers flash. Wave the wand, and in a trice, Ye gravy, snags and mash!

But something wicked this way comes, Said one, I do detect a Shadow cast across the land – It's the bloody health inspector!

"Right! Now hags, you'll come with me, You're under house arrest – And bring along your recipe, We'll put it to the test!"

So the Judge, he found them guilty
And he called them to repent –
"Your gravy – it's a beauty!
But your snags? – are really bent!"

With apologies to William Shakespeare
© Graham Anderson 2017

15

If you can sing in the shower, you can sing with us!

BUNDANOON SINGS! IS Bundanoon's no-experience-necessary, non-auditioned community choir proudly supported by the Bundanoon Community Association. We had a brilliant year of singing, fun and laughter in 2017 and are now back in rehearsals for 2018. New members are always welcome!

We sing because it makes us happy. We have a lot of fun and many of us have made new friendships through choir. Oh, and we sound good too – even if we do say so ourselves! We are men and women from 16 to 80-something years young.

Don't lose your Monday nights to the TV or housework – find some time for the things that make you happy.

We rehearse at 7:00pm Monday nights in Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome! Come along to sing any time or just pop in to see how things work.

If you are not quite sure if it will be your thing, come along to our open rehearsal at 7:00pm Monday 26th March 2018 at the Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

Any questions? Email us at bundanoonsings@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bundanoonsings

Hope to see you there.



Bundanoon Lions

IN EARLY MAY we'll begin raising funds for a new community project: sprucing up outdoor seating in Picnic Park opposite the shops in Railway Avenue and at Bundanoon Public School. Come along to our trivia night in the Soldiers Memorial Hall and help fill

our coffers for these good works. It should be a great night—loads of laughs, plenty of friendly rivalry, and the chance to contribute to some much-needed refurbishment. We can promise questions that will challenge, but not completely stump our teams!





Bundanoon Photography Group

THE YEAR FINISHED in style with a Christmas Dinner at the Bundanoon Guest House– 32 Members and partners gathered for a night of fun, food, good company and the obligatory speeches.



Joy Brown, Spiral staircase

at 4:30pm to 5:30pm prior to our monthly meetings and all are welcome. $\label{eq:control}$

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

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

-Peter Gray, President

New members are welcome, please contact:

- President, Peter Gray on 4883 6312 or 041 922 3928
- · Secretary, Joy Brown on 4883 6456
- · or e-mail photos2578gmail.com



Meg Nurse, Strawberry and Cream

Joy Brown was the winner of the 'Best Photograph of 2017' competition with her entry, *Spiral staircase*. Contenders for the annual prize are selected from the winners of the Monthly Presidents Cup – congratulations go to Joy for her winning image.

The new year promises to be an interesting year with a variety of lessons, competition subjects and outing venues planned for 2018. January's competition topic was "Liquid" and the winning entry chosen by the members was Meg Nurse's *Strawberry and Cream*. Wow, what a stunning image to start the year with!

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

Calendar of events - 2018

| PHOTOGRAPHY LESSONS |
|------------------------|
| |
| Understand your Camera |
| Members Choice |
| Bokeh Explained |
| Low Light Photography |
| |
| Photo Editing Workshop |
| Portrait Lighting |
| Members Choice |
| Flash Photography |
| |
| |

OUTINGS Cambewarra and Berry Goulburn Horse Races Light Painting, Bundanoon Autumn Colours, Canberra Sculptures at Hillview Shrine of Our Lady, Penrose Goulburn Brewery Aircraft Museum Hands-On Day, Moreton Pk Steampunk Victoriana Fair Wombeyan Caves

PRESIDENT'S CUP Still Life Food Textures Close Up Bokeh The Blue Hour Movement Transport Portrait Mechanical Black & White

Serendipity: the choir

AFTER THE GRADUAL build-up of excitement throughout 2017 celebrating Serendipity's first decade, all culminating in wonderful December concerts, it's hard to think into the coming year without the hype of the last.

Some aspects of 2017 will remain as fixtures for the choir. The wonderful workshop which we held in the first half of 2017 will be repeated in 2018, albeit later in the year. Our guest conductor/tutor will be Elizabeth Scott, associate conductor with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and Music Director of VOX- one of Sydney's leading choral chamber groups designed especially for young adults. And the combined choirs' workshop weekend, inaugurated in Kangaroo Valley last year, will be repeated, again later in the year.

Serendipity continued to hold raffles at

each concert but, in a change of direction last December, we directed the proceeds to two charities. Proceeds from the Bowral concert went to Challenge Southern Highlands at Welby, while the monies from the two Bundanoon concerts (both incredibly well attended) were given to Wombat Care Bundanoon, a charity established by John Creighton. It was heart-warming for us all to see John's utter amazement and delight when it was announced that we were giving the money to his charity.

Of course this year our two regular concert series will also take place. The first is in May/June, with a programme entitled "Time Travel", so dust off your Tardis ready for lift-off on May 25 and 26 in Bundanoon (Friday at 6.00pm, Saturday at 3.00pm). And just so you can make a note of the dates for the end

of the year, November 30 (Friday at 6.00pm) and December 1 (Saturday at 4.00pm) are the scheduled days and times for a Christmas extravaganza.

- Kerith Fowles

17

Serendipity



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18

Walking lightly on our patch

ON A PILGRIMAGE many years ago I attended a wonderful week at the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland. Easter week was used as a metaphor for the death (and the hoped-for resurrection) of the earth. It was conducted by Father Matthew Fox the Dominican (now Anglican) scholar, assisted by a Buddhist nun and a North American native chief.

One of the exercises was entitled "The Council of all Beings" where each of us represented another species and some in turn took the role of humans and sat and listened to the litany of transgressions by the human race on the rest of the planet. It was powerful, cathartic, penetrating – the awful realisation of the destructive forces of our lifestyles left an indelible mark on my psyche.

In my mid years, I was a Franciscan friar in Papua New Guinea and Northland, New Zealand. My time in the Society of St Francis led me to an understanding that our current ecological crisis could be traced to our separation from the land. Francis of Assisi – the patron saint of the environment – would be dumbstruck by the waste generated in the 21st century. Of course his attitude was perhaps a tad severe (two tunics and one pair of sandals was all that was necessary) but

his reverence for all of creation is surely needed today (read his Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon).

Indigenous peoples such as Aboriginal, Maori, North American Indian, Papuan and the ancient Celt lived with the land and all its species, taking only what was necessary to survive. It was life based mostly on the need rather than the want. Maori writer Bob Cooper introduces the concept of conjoining in responsibility for our world: whanaungatanga – every part of the world matters and everyone of us is called simultaneously to be both its child and its keeper.

Reviewing my notes from those times and my experiences working with Maori, Papuan and Aboriginal leaders, it seems obvious to me that we have lost our way. While it would be absurd to say that there was ever a time when humans did not despoil, it is the current scale that is the issue.

Without treading on theological toes (!), I respectfully suggest that to walk on the face of the earth with humility, to know our place on the earth and to respect boundaries and limits, we should realise that human society is not central, but merely part of an intricate web of life on which with all species depend. I believe



that limiting damage to our environment is an ethical approach to helping the survival of all species no matter what belief system motivates us.

Is it possible to find some way back to that vision? Or at least have a more realistic and practical approach in our lifestyles? And what is our starting point here in the Southern Highlands?

How much do we add to the waste? How much goes into our rivers and down to the sea and how much is taken each week to the Resource Centre?

Data from the Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) Resource Centre indicates the annual collection from bins for the Shire is approximately 82.5 million litres of mixed waste, 119 million litres of recycling waste and 110 million litres of green waste. This of course only represents the weekly bin collections - add to that all the material that we take directly to the Centre and what many of us store in our garage, sheds, cupboards. I can't quite imagine what all that looks like but it seems a mountain of waste from our small Shire of under 50,000 people. Bundanoon's share of this mountain would be about five percent: 4.2 million litres of general, 6 million litres of recycling and 5.5 million litres of green waste.

According to Neil Townsend, business manager at WSC, each Bundanoon household, on average, deposits 269 kilograms each year in the yellow bin. However there has also been an increase in contamination (i.e. non-recycling): for Bundanoon 15.24% of our recycling waste is contaminated. Some 301 kilograms of green material is collected each year per household with thankfully only a small contamination rate of 0.48%.

From these figures it would seem Bundanoon people are awake to the need for recycling and waste reduction, yet much more can be done. There is much to be sourced from the web on how to reduce waste, recycle and reuse. Other articles in this edition will encourage us to find ways to reduce our footprints on the earth and by so doing, play our part in restoring the intricate web of life that is our home.

— Thomas-Andrew Baxter

19



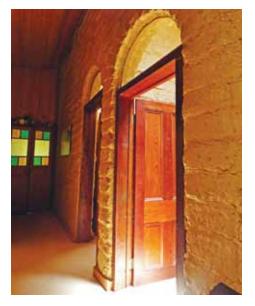
Glorious mud! The Rundles' home-made house

THEY HAVE THE land, a young family and a growing business; now for the house. Funds are limited and the bank is most unfriendly.

"We'll build our own!" they cry. That's not unusual you say, but how many folks source most of the building supplies from their own land? The clay was suitable for mud bricks, trees are made of wood, the sandstone reef was waiting to be quarried and people actually do discard beautiful windows and doors which have years of life remaining. Back in the 1980s Lorraine and Les Rundle began a long, sometimes frustrating, but inevitably rewarding home-making project.

They visited other mud-brickers in the district to pick up some pointers and researched every written source they could lay their hands until it was time to begin their own adventure. For the sake of economy they planned to dispense with load-bearing posts, making it vital that the walls be strong enough to hold up the roof. They made their first brick from mud and straw and sent it to the Experimental Building Station in North Ryde for the mandatory Accelerated Erosion Test. That one failed the tests so they made another batch from the same mud which had been sitting around for an extra few weeks. The mixture had became 'homogenised' meaning the water had soaked into the clay particles and bonded perfectly. This one passed the tests, Council was happy and full production could at last proceed.

It was necessary to live on site so eventually, with the permission of a reluctant Council, they moved the caravan to a purpose-built shelter with a bathroom and Les constructed a mud brick stove and chimney there too, placing a large steel plate on it to use for cooking, heating water for ablutions and providing ample warmth for Bundanoon winters. Some





Left to right: Lorraine Rundle, Aidan Kelly, Denis & Rosalie Burns, Phillipa Kelly, Les Rundle, 1983

thought the addition of a TV was not suitable for the alternate living style but Les and Lorraine, in their wisdom, decided to have an alternative to the alternate.

They heard that slim pieces of Oregon ideal for lining-boards had become available at Goulburn. This load of timber in a trailer and dangling off roof racks attracted the attention of the policemen at Wingello. They inspected the precarious load with great suspicion and interviewed the red-bearded hairy man while greeting the wife and four children. On learning of their plans to build a mud brick house in Bundanoon they waved them on, possibly relieved they did not have to entertain the family at the police station while "proceeding".

In the summer of '81 the serious part of the operation began. The face of their hill was a perfect mix of clay, shale and top soil. The recipe was perfected, mixed with straw and set to rest until the next day. Donned in their best shorts and tee shirts, Les and Lorraine jumped in and mixed the concoction with their feet, adding moisture to retain the right texture. The mixed mud was shovelled into a barrow, then Lorraine took over, lifting six or eight handfuls into the mould, being sure to push it down firmly into the corners and smoothing over the top. She would then carefully lift the mould off and place it as close as possible to another brick, repeating this process up to 100 times a day.

What little boy does not enjoy playing in the mud? Son Luke became a useful member of the team with his pint-sized barrow which would go places the mansized barrow could not reach.

Les invented ingenious methods of



Les and Lorraine today

handling heavy timbers to roof levels without endangering any of the family too much. The stand of *Pinus radiata* planted by his Mum in the 1920s was ideal (after harvesting and getting it up the hill) for milling at Mittagong to become kitchen bench tops and some interior walls.

The three-year and upward project was not without its dramas and frustrations: heavy rain and winds played havoc with the new brick walls and many nights saw Les in his jarmies endeavouring to place lumps of sandstone on iron to protect their new work. Once a whole wall bent, lurched and crashed, leaving a memorial to a very stormy night. Hard mud floors, tamped to rock strength, developed cracks but Les devised ways to fill them and secure the floor with mixtures of his own making.

Les can tell you more wonderful tales full of humour and pathos of that timejust ask him!

Their finished home became a place of warmth and soul, a testament to the strength, determination and teamwork of both Les and Lorraine.

- Annie Goodridge



A newcomer's guide to a recycling galaxy

IT'S A BRIGHT Monday morning and I'm on a tourist sortie: The Wingecarribee Shire Council Tip at Moss Vale. Yes, but wait. Don't scoff.

I am in the 'Reviva Centre'.

I feel as if I have come to Mars. The shed is a colossus. A Leviathan emporium with light filtering from the roof. (Wonder if the spider webs capturing sunlight are recyclable.) The most humungous, amorphous collection I have ever spied. Every imaginable item ever invented and made by mankind. And that's just inside! Outside will take you hours to peruse...

I have just moved to Bundanoon after living for 11 years on a small self-governing island. We residents placed all refuse in a massive hole in the ground since our limited resources meant only glass was recycled and taken by volunteers to the mainland on the island's barge. So to be in this gigantic space that resonates with memories and antiquity is amazing.

Speaking with Dave, the assistant manager, he tells me the centre is owned by a private company Resource Recovery



Australia (resourcerecovery.org.au). It's not-for-profit and assists charities. Their brochure spruiks "Waste to wages. Economic development. Community renewal." – I like that last one. By the way, the staff all have recyclable smiles. They are so friendly one simply must return the smile and then pass it forward. Positive energy bounces about the shed.

Christine spies two ancient statues probably from New Guinea. They are downright scary if you ask me, but they do possess that certain *je ne sais quoi* and will grace Christine's deck. Just don't visit at night!

Vera purchases a battered letterbox, bearing the number 10, her address. She will mosaic the letterbox with colourful cheer. I ask her if she believes in serendipity.

She beams, "Of course!"

I stumble across a tiny woman trundling a shopping trolley (well it is being useful although no longer with its store mates). Carol regularly drives from Nowra to snaffle things for the home she is bravely renovating. I peer (with permission) into her trolley: two wonderful lead-light windows, a small wooden chest I would kill for, an old fashioned mitre saw and a chisel sharpener.

I chat with Greg, a brand new, three weeks old (that's not his age) employee. His enthusiasm is infectious and, with a grin that just fits in the gargantuan space, he tells me, "It's amazing what you can find if you look for it!" I am humbled by his tale of a woman who bought toys and clothes for underprivileged children and I am reminded that kindness should be recycled around the planet like laser beams.

There is a friendly resident ghost. Things bump and crash even in the daytime. A vase, when its owner visited the centre,



fell from the shelf in front of her, with a take-me-home plea. I don't get to hear the outcome...

So folks, bring in all those forgotten treasures bursting out of cupboards. If your car's on the street then empty the garage! Taking your time, meander the aisles and mezzanine and then the outside yard. Buy an appliance you need (sorry Harvey Norman) or just to make you smile.

I love my brand new, ancient, genuine bamboo coolie hat. Very fetching!

Reviva Centre is the perfect haunt should you want anything at all. Yes, ANYTHING! Yessiree! Crutches, a hula hoop when you are ambulatory again, a yard glass (do not drink from when on crutches!) or that wonderful old book for the friend who has everything. And, should you be looking for boxing gloves, just call me and I'll tell you exactly where they are.

Opening hours are 8:30am to 3pm seven days a week and there's no entry charge to donate or purchase items.

Happy recycling Southern Highlands! Don't forget to smile your thanks to the staff...

Annie Crawford

21

Veggiemen today!

IT WAS AT a Men's Shed meeting last August that David Humphrey expressed his frustration about growing certain vegetables in Bundanoon.

David and his wife Gwenneth moved to Australia from a Staffordshire village in the UK, where they were very much part of the community. With the help of a polytunnel they had made themselves pretty well self-reliant with their vegetable garden. They not only enjoyed eating their own fresh, home-grown produce but also had the satisfaction of a hobby which was creative, productive and sustainable.

David hoped to achieve the same gardening results in sunny Australia. He saw in Bundanoon a similar climate and similar possibilities to Staffordshire, so chose to come here five years ago. Now Bundanoon gardeners know that on our good days our climate is fine – but we also have our extremes: our heat, cold, droughts and flooding rains. So some things did not work as David had thought they should have.

He knew there was lots of advice about flowers at the Garden Club, but he hoped that among Men's Shed members there might be useful expertise about vegetables.

And there was. So the 'Veggiemen' came together, adding to the growing network of Shed interest groups. Half a dozen members, some with fairly sophisticated vegetable gardens, now meet monthly to share their experiences and to appreciate



each other's work. Of course David's garden is pretty sophisticated too and is a credit to all that he has done. There are raised beds above the Bundanoon clay; a drip irrigation system to minimise water use and maximise plant health, a greenhouse and a three-bin compost system for leftover plant material.

Surprisingly, David's most reliable crop to date has been asparagus. After early establishment it has continued to produce each year as it should. On the other hand raspberries have not and runner beans have sometimes been reluctant as well. But David has been fortunate in one way: he has so far been spared the raids by gangs of bower birds which trouble gardeners near more wooded areas. He uses netting where necessary, but hasn't yet had to build any enclosed and netted areas.

The Veggiemen is only one of the Men's Shed interest groups. The Shed is not just a place where old blokes play with wood or metal! Many of the 60 or so

members are also involved in one or more of other activities covering everything from science and technology to painting and poetry. There are also members working on photography, automotive interests and computers. Shed members also quietly continue to do their bit in various volunteer projects for the wider community. New members are always welcome at 11 Burgess Street, phone 4883 6863.

All this of course makes up just one of the various ways in which Bundanoon people take time to enrich our lives and support one another. Indeed, David has had first-hand experience of this. After time away on a trip last year he was further side-lined to deal with a medical matter and his vegetables missed him a great deal. But the Veggiemen held their next meeting at his place as a working bee and all was well again. Despite our unreliable climate Bundanoon still seems a very good place to be...

– Geoff McCubbin

Recycle for Sight



LIONS RECYCLE FOR Sight Australia is part of the Lions Clubs International Worldwide Eyeglass Recycling Program,

headquartered in Queensland and operating throughout Australia and overseas.

They receive requests from humanitarian organisations either travelling to a third world country or supplying shipping container loads of suitable humanitarian aid from Australia to groups in the third world.

Over the 26 years that the Australian program has operated, the program has delivered over seven million pairs of refurbished quality spectacles to men, women and children in need throughout Africa, Europe, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, East Asia, the Far East, China, the countries of the Pacific Rim and Southern Asia and Oceania.

In the past 10 years several members of our Marine Branch have been able to use their ocean-going yachts to reach and test villagers in the remotest areas for eyesight



and deliver spectacles to them.

In Bundanoon there are collection boxes for reading glasses and sunglasses at the medical practices, Warrigal Care and the Post Office. You can also donate hearing aids or contact lenses – contact Christine Janssen, 0417 285 364.

(Information taken from Lions Australia website.)

Sustainability at Bundanoon Public School

THIS YEAR BUNDANOON Public School is committing to being green. We plan on redesigning our school environmental management plan for dealing with waste, pollution and litter to ensure our school grounds remain as pleasing to the eye as our community and the rich natural heritage that surrounds us.

I am a new arrival at our school, bringing much experience in environmental education to the classroom. Working at Bundanoon is a great opportunity - what an amazing canvas to work upon. My educational philosophy revolves around the promotion and conservation of flora and fauna by sustainable and practical land management. Our students will gain hands-on experience in designing, implementing and monitoring projects that enhance their connection with place and focus on custodianship rather than consumerism.

2018 will see students conducting audits of our waste trail, litter production and energy consumption. Students will be taking responsibility for the pollution we create and working towards better practices. Our recycling program is being overhauled to separate waste into general waste, paper products, recyclable plastics and organic scraps for a new worm farm. Did you know recycling one tonne of paper saves about 17 trees? After the hottest Sydney January in recorded history anything that acts as a carbon store, keeping this greenhouse gas out of our atmosphere, is worth preserving. When that action required is simple enough for kids to run, it makes me wonder why recycling programs struggle.

Prevention is the best cure and our students will be encouraged to prevent litter problems in the first place. Watching our new cohort of tiny Kindergarten students highlights the need for good practices to originate in the home. My own son struggles to keep track of his shoes- we help his organisational skills by providing rubbish-free lunches. Reusable containers mean no trips to the rubbish bin before racing off to the playground. Litter disposal is not a priority for an eight year old who has been cooped up all morning and whose mates have a soccer ball. Name labels on containers mean they will be returned when he leaves them behind. At home, we buy in bulk and repackage (it's cheaper!) or buy fresh food and let the peel be the package.

Waste management includes our green waste which will be composted on site and reused to enhance our garden projects and habitat restoration goals. We will need hard wood pallets to construct compost

bays. Any donation of materials or skilled labour would be most appreciated by our kids - please contact our school office if you can assist.

Responsibility for litter extends to attitudes towards the irresponsible. The old 'scab duty' clean-up punishments are gone. Pollution is seen as a problem where we are the solution. Students may be seen volunteering to tidy our playground because it is the right thing to do. It is our responsibility to ensure litter from our school does not enter Morton National Park. We are tracking the path from the school to Bundanoon Creek, Shoalhaven River and on to the ocean. We realise our actions have an impact and our sphere of influence is global. Our school is committed to having a positive impact in the community.

I have recently read that by the time my students are my age the ocean will contain more plastic than fish. With so much of the world reliant on the ocean for jobs, food and leisure how can we ignore this problem?

Waste management programs ask to 'reuse, reduce and recycle'. Our students will be invited to reuse waste material by collecting cleaned ice cream lids. We have a community connection with Bundanoon Wombat Care where ice cream lids are reused as medication-delivering burrow flaps to treat deadly sarcoptic mange in our local wombat population. Wombats

are vital for healthy soil and plant communities as well as providing empty burrows which are used by other wildlife for shelter, especially on hot days. I never knew wallabies can avoid heat exhaustion by using wombat burrows to stay cool. You can assist our collection - eat ice cream and drop the clean lids at school.

Another initiative at Bundanoon PS currently being undertaken together with our P&C, is to reduce our air pollution output and carbon footprint by improving our sustainable management of classroom climate control. We are phasing out the gas heaters and replacing them with reverse cycle air-conditioners to be used in buildings with improved ceiling insulation and powered by solar panels using clean, renewable energy.

Our custodianship role at the edge of Morton National Park includes taking responsibility for weed management in our playground. Students will be auditing our plant community for exotic weeds to identify, target and remove before they establish in our local wilderness areas. I have yet to explore a bushland setting that is not touched by weed infestation and will be teaching minimal impact bushwalking strategies to help preserve our wilderness.

Our quote of the week is from Confucius; "It's better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness". Help us light a candle.

Greg McCroary





A STRAW BALE house you say? Have you forgotten the sad tale of the three little pigs? And what if you forget to close the gate when you go away for the weekend? In 1902 in America a herd of cows demolished a straw bale school house!

There was a revival of interest in straw bale construction in the 1990s, although the technology was popular in America during the latter part of the 19th century following the invention of the hay baler. These days the problem of strong winds and marauding cows has been overcome with the use of render or cladding to secure the walls and prevent the possibility of vermin infiltration.

When Barry and Christine Miller left Sydney to build a house in Bundanoon they wanted a building system using materials with an emphasis on sustainability.

Christine shared that they had become environmentally aware before they made the move and, although they originally planned a homestead-style house with a four metre verandah, the idea of using straw bales attracted them. Straw bale construction with either timber or steel frames has the advantages of the renewable nature of straw, its easy availability and high insulation and fire retardant value.

She added "My parents used alternative methods for heating water in my childhood during the 50s and the family of one of my brothers used permaculture principles in their living style. These experiences influenced our concern for the environment."

Barry and Christine sought advice about the best location for the house on their land and drew up a wishes/ ideas list. Christine explains "We gave our concept drawings to local builders Henderfield Consulting - Paul Macefield and Robert Henderson – and they made everything sing. Paul and Robert had recently built a solar passive house for themselves. With final plans ready in August 2005, we rented a house as building started in February 2006 and moved in on completion in September that year with



the outside render still curing- the cold weather in winter had delayed the process and some parts had to wait for warmer weather."

The building experience was somewhat unconventional. Henderfield contracted a straw bale building company, Yesterday Today and Tomorrow (then south coast based) who supplied the labour.

Christine explains "We had volunteer participants sourced from the 'opportunity list' on YTT's website. These people came between Friday and Monday as their time allowed. We supplied the food and necessary insurance. They were from Canada, Croatia, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and country NSW, ranging in age from teens to late 60s. What a fascinating mix of people and interests!" The straw bale part of the construction was essentially done by this group of

weekend labourers including Barry and Christine.

Now 12 years later the lovely home and landscape they created gives them great pleasure and comfort.

The Miller House faces north and is essentially a long, one-room-wide building with an informal, welcoming large space accommodating living, dining and kitchen. The majority of straw bale construction is on the south 'weather' side with the north-facing walls being mainly glass or Colourbond cladding. In summer the wide eaves and double glazing assist the temperature control, with the sun shining directly into the house only very briefly at the end of the day. High louvre windows open to the north and floor-length windows on the south side allow natural air flow to cool the home.

In winter the sun comes into the house all day touching the southern straw bale wall and warming the concrete floor. This warmth is retained during the night with added heat from off-peak under-floor heating during the coldest months. Bedrooms in the east and west wings of the house experience the same aspect although the bedroom on the east was built using conventional materials and there is a tangible difference in temperature from the rest of the house.

Straw bale house plans are available from a number of Australian companies. A visit to a few web sites provides reviews confirming the environmentally friendly features of the system and why it is recommended for new home builders.

-Pam Davies



JCG

Something from nothing-Cecilia's 'Good Yarn'

CECILIA BARRY HAS been recycling and 'making do' since her earliest years, growing up near Bolton Abbey, in a remote part of the Yorkshire Dales, around the time of WWII. Her father was her inspiration and teacher-born at the end of the 19th century, he had only known war, depression and yet another war so had learnt to survive. Groceries were delivered once a month to their isolated smallholding, so everything else had to be produced at home or done without. Cecilia, the oldest of three children, learnt to milk the house cow, make butter by hand, care for bees and chooks, tickle trout in the local beck, mend shoes, grow vegetables and flowers for sale, solder, cut glass and do glazing, make Christmas wreaths for sale out of peat moss collected from the moors, cook meals out of next to nothing, mend, darn, sew and repair....and she has been doing this ever since!

Relocating to Australia in 1960 and then moving to Bundanoon in 1989 because of her husband Laurie's work as Health and Building Inspector at the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Cecilia's first decade here involved working at Moss Vale High School, caring for her elderly mother and establishing their productive garden. In fact, the garden, 'Gran's Garden' featured in the first Garden Ramble 21 years ago!

Today, on one acre of land, she and Laurie have an extensive vegetable garden, a large area for growing flowers to sell and many fruit trees and bushes (most of the Seville orange marmalade for sale at the Good Yarn comes from their tree!) They





compost or shred all their green waste to be returned to the soil, have a water tank for garden use, and solar panels to capture the sun's energy. Cecilia makes jams, jellies and relishes from home grown or wayside fruit, turns leftovers into delicious soups, cooks from scratch, frequents opshops for items she can re-invent or mend (like the fabulous earrings she wears which started life as buttons!).....just thinking about this would make many of us tired, but Cecilia has been doing this all her life and quite takes it in her stride!

Around 2002, after selling her produce there for years, she became one of the friendly faces behind the desk at the The Good Yarn, our favourite Bundanoon store.

Visitors to Bundanoon often wonder at the Pandora's Box they discover on the corner where they can receive advice and tourist information about trains, Morton National Park, walks around Bundanoon, coffee and shopping destinations, local history.... In fact sharing friendship and helping people are the things Cecilia enjoys most about The Good Yarn – although her customers may also appreciate her lemons, draught stoppers, cut flowers and marmalade just as much!

The Good Yarn was established over 40 years ago in May 1975 by women of the Anglican Church. Their goal was to bring people together for a cuppa, a chat and craftwork, and since then it has grown and developed to be become the wonderful place we know today.

It's the first place to visit when you need a good book or magazine to read, marmalade for your toast, vintage

household items, exquisitely crafted quilts (I have one hanging in pride of place on my wall at home), handmade woolly beanies and knitwear for cold weather, children's smocked dresses unavailable anywhere else, jewellery, fabric, bags, vegetables, flowers...the list goes on and on! The Good Yarn recycles not only preloved items but also boxes, plastic and paper bags, and glass jars (a big thank you from one appreciative jam maker and seller – I would be lost without your jars!!)

All 23 members are volunteers, capably led by President Ann McCarter, Secretary Lesley Paterson, and Treasurer Jenny Borradale. However there are many more (including me!) who consign goods each month. It is a fabulous outlet for the talent of the many creative locals who are happy for The Good Yarn to take 25% commission for the donations basket. Many people just donate unwanted items, which become much wanted in another home. More than 20 different charities are supported each year from the sale of goods.

So if you haven't been to The Good Yarn for a while, perhaps it is time to pop in and see what treasures await you there. Have a chat with the day's volunteer and the other customers (whether friend or stranger) and participate in saving the planet, just as Cecilia has been doing all her life!

- Jane Irwin

25

From marketing to markets

LISA STUART'S MANTRA has always been: "Re-using everything around you inspires you to create". Her enthusiasm knows no bounds for restoring and recycling—making all things old beautiful again.

Even as a child she had a passion for creating or restoring artistic wall hangings out of wood and string that she would hang in her room. After leaving Sydney her love of all things natural led her to a career in naturopathy which took her to Cooma where she had her own herb garden, growing comfrey, calendula and many other plants to create holistic and natural remedies that she incorporated into her Kookaburra Herbal Skincare Range which gave her a flourishing business for 14 years.

Lisa and her husband Michael, a builder, and their daughter May discovered Bundanoon in 2003. The small village atmosphere appealed to them and so they decided to look for a house that could be pulled down and rebuilt by incorporating as much recyclable material as possible: window frames, doors, pavers, floorboards, etc.

After settling in to Bundanoon, Lisa took on the job of Convenor for Winterfest, an annual event held each winter under the auspices of the Bundanoon Community Association. This event went from strength to strength celebrating winter in the village– beginning with a community gathering on a cold winter's night to enjoy the Railway Avenue toasting fires, festivities, food and music and followed by a week of classes and activities led by local tutors.

Backed by a first career in Marketing (managing a large shopping centre in Sydney), Lisa's experience and environmentally sustainable background has made her a great advocate for business ventures that incorporate naturally grown products or recycled items for use in our homes and working lives. So when

a business opportunity arose in 2015 to buy the Bundanoon Markets she didn't hesitate, knowing that this would be one way to encourage others of a similar mindset to jump on board.

Her approach gives aspiring local artists and craftspeople a platform to display and sell their original and one-off handcrafted goods. Lisa's own hand-made jewellery is made from broken crockery: she chooses and shapes motifs from plates that are pretty and colourful then uses silver to enhance them so the purchaser has jewellery that is unique.

Lisa has many ideas to revitalise the markets, focusing mainly on variety,





Photos by Peter Gray



constantly modernising, refreshing and upgrading the produce. She would like to see more Bundanoon residents bring along home-grown fresh fruit and vegetables which are surplus to their own requirements, to grow, sell and share-forming a common 'co-op', which in turn would encourage non-growers to buy local. "Decentralising our food, reducing packaging and transport costs means fewer driving trips and less wear and tear

in our own Southern Highlands backyard" says Lisa.

"Another of my ideas for the markets is to have 'pop-up shops' for local business people who would like to promote a business that they run from home, for example, website designers, sign-writers, graphic artists, computer repair services, dressmakers, handy-people and gardeners. Local groups such as Needles and Natter, CWA and the Men's Shed could sell their items to raise funds."

Lisa has the impetus and enthusiasm to make the Bundanoon Makers' Market a not-to-be-missed experience. She is open to all people who are passionate about creating items both ornamental and useful and which can be used to decorate our homes in our own individual way, using whatever comes to hand.

Enquiries can be made to Lisa on 0411 297 963.

Carol Townsend



WE'VE ALL SEEN this familiar sight in our cities and countryside: neglected bicycles smothered in kikuyu, vines or mud, rusting in rivers, buried in sand, thrown into landfill or dangling from a pole. Around 1.5 million bikes are sold in Australia annually and it is estimated that half of them end up abandoned or tucked away in the back shed. A new addition to the problem has arisen from the Bike Sharing Program in cities, where many unreturned bikes are abandoned in waterways, roads and parks.



Bundanoon resident Hans Radowitz, a strong supporter of sustainability, was inspired in 2010 to call Bicycles for Change Sydney which has links with Bicycles for Humanity, a global grassroots volunteer movement providing the gift of mobility to many people in developing countries. He learned they required volunteers to restore bikes to send to Africa and also to raise funds to help pay the cost of obtaining shipping containers (about \$10,000 per container).

Hans began quietly with fundraising trivia nights and news of his mission quickly spread. People in the Southern Highlands have been generous with physical and monetary support. Wingecarribee Shire has sponsored the group since 2009, supplying space for the containers at the Resource Recovery Centre, providing a collection point for used and damaged bikes, and contributing annually to the shipping costs. The fifth container-load was sent on its way in February this year.



Hans restores a working bike to its original beauty but if it is too far gone, the parts are put to good use. "I reckon I've repaired just about every make and model bicycle out there," he laughs. "But it's the generosity of our Shire's residents that still surprises us— the volume of bikes that comes out of our Southern Highlands branch is amongst the highest in the country."

When he has a particularly fine machine, The Good Yarn ladies place it in prime position and so the bike goes to fund two charities. The latest score is 85 bikes in two years and the reputation of good bikes from The Good Yarn has spread!

A container holds about 400 bikes. Space permitting, restored wheelchairs and walkers are also squeezed into the loaded container with tools, spare parts, helmets and useful bike bits filling in the gaps. Nothing is wasted. A container arrives at its destination, is opened, and becomes a Bicycle Empowerment Centre (BEC)— a bicycle shop-in-a-box which is also a workshop.

Bicycle Empowerment Centres were the brainchild of Michael Linke of the UK who visited Cape Town as a volunteer for Re'cycle in 2002. He recognised the value of supplying bikes to health care workers in isolated areas and realised that mechanical assistance must be available to keep the cycles on the track—so far 200 BECs have been created in 11 countries.

Hans' restored bikes are sent to Namibia. The Bicycles Empowerment Network there received its first container in 2006 and has since expanded to Botswana, Tanzania, and Kenya, with 49 workshops and growing. The organisation employs locals, men, women and street boys who learn new skills– mechanical and administrative– giving them the opportunity of employment and the possibility of opening their own business. The workshops sometimes include a grocery store thus becoming a hub for friendly gatherings.

Much of the terrain in Namibia is not vehicle friendly. Bikes allow for faster travel, longer distances and transport of heavier loads than on foot, while also providing better access to schools and health centres. Bikes have been ingeniously converted into 'ambulances' by attaching a trailer with a stretcher to convey the patient in relative comfort rather than being carried by family for 30 or 40 miles through rugged country. Healthcare workers who once trudged miles over rough tracks now have cycles provided and maintained.

The containers continue life in Africa as workshops and storage units, epitomising the philosophy of Sustainability, Accountability, Equity.

Annie Goodridge

27





Rebecca Liberto shares her thoughts on recycling pre-loved clothing and accessories and how she has settled into a new life in Bundanoon.

Rebecca was an English teacher at Sydney Grammar for 12 years. Relocating to Bundanoon was a new step and the decision to start a business meant a new beginning in more ways than one. She felt that opening a recycled and retro shop was a way of reinventing herself.

For almost two years *Rebecca's Recycled* and *Retro* has been up and running in Bundanoon's main street—a space full of second-hand clothing, shoes, accessories and locally made jewellery. There is even a section for genuine vintage pieces from the 1920s to the 1980s. To showcase a wide range of materials, she receives consignments and already has 160 contacts that also share her love of recycled clothing, retro pieces and quirky additions. She is always open to more people who wish to be involved.

The village appealed to Rebecca because she felt as though "there was an interest within Bundanoon in reviving the old". She has found there has been enough enthusiasm amongst both locals and tourists to provide a lovely combination for both collecting and selling. She constantly turns over stock so there are always new items for all her customers a to see. "My aim is to have products of value but to also make them affordable", she says.

Individuals are becoming increasingly aware of where their clothes are from, what materials they are made from, and the backgrounds of the manufacturing companies involved. As a result, interest in recycled and up-cycled stores is on the rise. Rebecca understands there is a sense of value and quality attached to vintage and pre-loved clothes and by recycling them we can celebrate that aspect.

Rebecca feels there is a particular attraction to all things old and there are a few lessons we can learn from previous generations. She says "admittedly they got a few things wrong but they also got a lot right, such as fixing things when they were broken rather than throwing them out and getting new items, or finding new uses for old pieces that haven't been used for a while... People are starting to acknowledge that there was a better way that has been lost".

Her favourite part of recycling second

hand items is the stories that have attached themselves to the clothing. "There is definitely an emotional side to recycling... when people buy these clothes they are also buying stories".

When Rebecca talks about recycled fashion she becomes passionate: she knows where every item is and can point out pieces that might interest you even more. Her shop is full of up-cycled jewellery pieces made from materials such as old tiles, buttons and even skateboards. This interesting take proves that it is possible to make something beautiful and useful from old and discarded items.

Rebecca's knowledge and enthusiasm are contagious and her mindset and ideas are something that we can all be a part of to help build a sustainable future.

Rebecca's Recycled and Retro is open from Tuesday until Sunday and is located at 33 Railway Avenue. She accepts consignments from Thursday until Sunday.

— Shannen Smith





Farm Club philosophy

ON OUR RECENT visit to the Farm Club at Werai there was a lovely, relaxed scene of a large table of people enjoying morning tea outside, all laughing and sharing a story being told by one of the charming girls working at the cafe. Children in family groups returning from a pre-booked farm walk to see the pigs, alpacas, goats and donkeys appeared to have had great fun! Hugh Clarke and Alison Le Cras have created a welcoming, original way of sharing their environmental awareness and the cafe is only the beginning of the experience.

The original Werai Tea Room appeared overnight when Mandy and Tas Smethurst bought and relocated the original building on the site. As the Farm Club it is now an extraordinary example of the recycle, reuse philosophy. Additions made by Hugh and Alison over the last two years were built from old farm buildings and donated timber. Everywhere you look in the cafe there are tables made from recycled planks, amusing old timber trolleys, cupboards and counters. The ambience extends to the verandah and the grounds with veteran trucks and a unique Texas-style smoker and Santa Cruz barbecue originally built on Hugh's family property near Cowra.

Hugh explains "We have a family cattle production business on the property *Lantern Hill* where Alison's cousin Dorothy Sears lived, as many may remember. Our development of Farm Club in this area became a natural fit with the land behind here."

Hugh has a background in hospitality gained with family-owned hotels in Sydney, an interest in agri-tourism, and holds a position on the board of Destination Sydney Surrounds South, a NSW government initiative. Three Farm Stay cottages are associated with Farm Club and Hugh, with the success of his example, has

encouraged other nearby property owners to make cottages available for families to enjoy a rural experience. Although they have previously commuted from the city to the Highlands, he and Alison are spending more time here now.

The farm shop is managed by Ei who has sourced local condiments and products including, on weekends, Kangaroo Valley sourdough. In the glass-fronted refrigerator in the cafe there is abundant produce available for sale: beef, organic pork, home-made sausages, free range eggs from the chook yard and vegetables organically grown in the one acre garden behind the cafe. On the shelves there are preserved vegetables and honey from inhouse bees.

An invitation to help yourself to the abundant vegetables in the raised beds near the shop reflects the Hugh and Alison's generosity and their enthusiasm for their project.

Locals can look forward to some interesting food events soon. There are plans to hold workshops in the spacious

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recycled building near the cafe. Interest from visitors has already been registered. Hugh added "I would like to use the space for education workshops—perhaps things like basket weaving, farm skills, preserving—all sorts of things!"

The cafe and shop are open Wednesday to Sunday and accommodation is available all week.

The use of the land may be a perfect fit with the family's beef production but it seems that Hugh's and Alison's Farm Club concept is already a great addition to the Highlands experience for locals as well as visitors.

- Pam Davies



29





Craig Reucassel, presenter of War on Waste. Photo courtesy Australian Broadcasting Commission

Plastic bags - friend or foe?

HOW HANDY IT is to roll up to the check-out and have your purchases put into plastic bags, particularly as they are so handy for putting the scraps in later. Or maybe use a smaller one to put the peaches in at the greengrocer, or even smaller to pack a sandwich.

A fact sheet on the Clean up Australia website tells us that 4 billion lightweight single-use bags are issued by supermarkets and other outlets each year- that's 100 million per day, over 7,000 every minute! It represents over 20 tonnes of plastic each year, 97% of which goes to landfill– quite a significant portion of which trundles through Bundanoon every night- the rubbish train on the way to Woodlawn! Other sources put the figure as high as 5 billion or even more.

The Tasmanian coastal town of Coles Bay was the first community in Australia to ban plastic bags, in 2003. All shops in the town were convinced to dispense with single-use plastic bags. During the first twelve months alone Coles Bay stopped the use of 350,000 plastic bags. A number of other towns and villages more recently have developed campaigns to eliminate single-use bags.

A reusable Bundanoon Bag was produced by the then Bundanoon Community Development Association (now BCA) in 2005, using a design

JCG

which was suggested by school pupils. Wingecarribee Shire Council launched a Towards Plastic Bag Free campaign in the same year. Unfortunately both were comparatively short-lived. (To our credit, Bundy on Tap was launched four years later, with instant success, drawing worldwide attention to our village).

In 2009 South Australia imposed a state-wide ban, claiming to have saved 400million in the first year alone.

In October Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced that his state would ban lightweight single-use plastic bags, with a commencement date to be announced early in 2018. NSW is now the only state not to have taken or planned action, claiming the announcement by the major supermarkets will be sufficient.

The recent ABC programme War on Waste, presented by Craig Reucassel, highlighted the plastic bag problem very effectively; another series is to screen later this year.

Last year both Coles and Woolworths announced plans to phase out single-use plastic bags, instead offering stronger, reusable bags for a small cost. This will take effect on July 1 2018. Harris Farm was ahead of the pack, urging customers to take a cardboard box and offering strong-handled paper bags at token cost. Over 800 REDcycle systems are now

spread across the country, accepting not only bags but any soft plastics which can be scrunched into a ball – such as the bags inside cereal boxes, bread bags, etc. This material is converted into products as diverse as outdoor furniture, bollards and signage. There is one at Coles in both Moss Vale and Bowral.

So what can we do- as individuals or as a community? A small random survey I undertook recently showed that most, or at least many, Bundanoon residents already take their own bags to the shops, having purchased them from one of the supermarkets for about a dollar. (Of course that itself poses a bit of a problem- such bags have to be used around fifty times before they are carbon-neutral).

In light of the supermarket bans which come into effect in a few months' time I personally do not see a lot to be gained by trying to introduce a 2018 version of the "Bundanoon bag", although I would love to be challenged on this (rlc2578@gmail. com if you are interested). A meeting attended by representatives of Bundanoon History Group, BCA and Bundanoon Lions Club came to the same conclusion, although there was a unanimous opinion that at least we should remind residents that we have a community responsibility to lend support to the War on Waste.

— Ralph Clark

Recycling DOs and DONTs - a reminder on how to recycle

This list is taken from the Wingecarribee Shire waste and recycling services advice. For more information check the Wingecarribee Shire website, which provides a helpful, complete guide to waste and recycling services provided by the Shire, included a Handy Quick Reference Guide which tells how best to dispose of a large range of household waste products: www. wsc.nsw.gov.au— go to Services, then Waste and recycling.



KERBSIDE COLLECTION

RED-LIDDED BIN

YES:

- · Food waste
- Plastic packets and wrappers
- · Nappies and tissues
- · Ceramics and crockery

NO:

- Car and household batteries
- Syringes and medical waste
- Building materials (bricks, timber, etc.)
- · Oil, paint, chemicals
- · Rocks, soil
- · Hazardous waste

YELLOW-LIDDED BIN

YES:

- Cardboard boxes, newspaper, magazines, office paper, junk mail
- Rigid plastic containers from your kitchen, bathroom and laundry (lids removed)
- Steel and aluminium cans, empty aerosols
- Glass bottles and jars (lids removed)

NO:

- Plastic bags
- Nappies
- · Expanded polystyrene
- · Syringes and medical waste
- Building materials
- · Hazardous materials

- · Food waste
- · Plastic packets and wrappers
- · Small metal items and old tools
- · Clothing, shoes and bedding
- Machinery and auto parts
- Oils, paint and chemicals
- Please flatten plastic and cardboard containers to make more space in your recycling bin
- Please wipe out or rinse recyclable containers in old washing up water before placing them in the recycling bin.

GREEN-LIDDED BIN

YES

- Grass clippings, and leaves
- Flowers and off-cuts
- Prunings, twigs and branches less than 15cm diameter
- Dry leaves and prunings

Conditions of Garden Organics Collection

- Please do not place tree prunings more than 15cm diameter in your bin
- Your bin must not weigh more than 75 kilograms
- Please do not place garden organics in plastic bags
- Placing twigs and small branches at the bottom of your bin will help in emptying
- Garden organics bins will not be emptied unless the lid is fully closed

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE

'Household problem wastes' that can't be collected via kerbside collections can be dropped-off for free at the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre. These include:

- Polystyrene Packing Foam (clean, dry and unwaxed)
- General Recycling
- Fluoro Tubes & Globes
- Cardboard & Paper (<300kg)
- Smoke Detectors & X-rays
- Scrap Metal / Steel
- Gas bottles & Fire Extinguishers
- · Paints (limit 20L)
- Motor Oils (limit 20L)
- Other Oils (limit 20L)
- Paint (limit 20L)
- · Mobile Phones and accessories
- DrumMuster
- Soft Plastics (e.g. bags, film, bubble wrap)
- Spray Cans (non– hazardous)
- Printer Cartridges
- TVs & Computers (conditions apply)
- Household & Car Batteries

Only household quantities of these items will be accepted.

31

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32

GARDEN TALES Lyn Morehen

A tale of trees



GIVEN THE RIGHT weather and time I love to sit on our back deck, gin and tonic in hand, slowly sipping and observing my garden. It is a small garden but at any season of the year and time of day there is something worthwhile to see. There is a definite excitement in any Southern Highlands garden as each distinct season reveals different shapes, form and beauty.

Fortunately it is almost impossible not to have a view of trees, the backbone to our Bundanoon landscapes and gardens. I grieve if I see one cut down and celebrate when I see new plantings. Since our move to Bundanoon we have planted various trees suitable for our garden. Fortunately a knowledgeable friend discouraged me from buying and planting a wedding cake dogwood; I love them, but they're too big!

Each season has a different tale to tell as trees and shrubs play a major or a minor role according to their nature. It is this variety and consistency that provide the backbone and strength in any landscape or garden.

In autumn the leaves on my maple start to turn, then the golden bronze colours fade but the beautiful trunk and branches are sculptural. Slowly the hellebores which have been hiding underneath appear ready for their winter and spring showing. So beautiful is this that we light this area at night.

In winter the many non-deciduous trees and shrubs provide the background of green and silver and burgundy to highlight the sculptural deciduous trees, including our maple. The trees and shrubs that are in my garden plus those that are outside provide a magnificent view; a mixture of Australian and exotic plants.

Spring: new blossoms and then tender green leaves appear on the flowering



cherries which join in with the beautiful leptospermums as they wave and dance in the wind.

In early summer Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem' display their sculptural white perfumed flowers. My lovely leptospermum shrubs decide it is time to flower and cover themselves in white blossoms, just before Christmas. Later in summer the frangipani, a migrant from Sydney, will show its beautiful perfumed blossoms. I am much encouraged by a recent visitor who told me that this should survive in the ground, so I can take it out of its pot and let it prosper. I am definitely the sort of gardener who will have a go at most things horticultural, including nursing my Brugmansia 'Angels' Trumpet', a native of warmer climes.

Even without a gin and tonic in my hand the garden looks interesting, as I discover in the morning whilst sipping a morning coffee. Now to stop admiring and start doing. I plan to buy and plant a lemon tree – the lemons will go beautifully in the gin and tonic – but which one to buy?

33



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BUNDANOON IS LUCKY to have two new residents – Carlie and Bruce Gould. They have come to us via Cootamundra and Sydney and totally immersed themselves in the life of our village.

Bruce emigrated to Australia in 1967 from Loxhore, a village in North Devon, on the edge of Exmoor National Park. At Cootamundra they farmed and Bruce did contract harvesting of wheat and cotton, which took him from Menindee NSW to Emerald Qld and everywhere in between.



When farming came to an end the Goulds moved to Sydney spending most of their 24 years there in Lilyfield. Carlie and Bruce both retrained as mature students and found successful careers in Human Resources and Building.

Carlie has also had a very interesting career working for the Australian Diplomatic Service in Athens and Tel Aviv. Her tasks as Secretary to the Consul, then as Ambassador's Secretary, included assisting distressed Australian citizens, a quite challenging role at times!.

The catalyst to leave Sydney for cooler climes came after a year living on the Greek island of Kythera. They decided the beauty and convenience of the Southern Highlands exactly fitted the bill. After looking at houses in Penrose, Burrawang, Wildes Meadow and Canyonleigh, they chose Bundanoon as a perfect place to live.

They love everything about Bundanoon and its shopping centre with butcher, pharmacy, newsagent and vet plus the plethora of coffee shops. The accessibility of good health services is also very important and they are very happy to have found a good local doctor. Other positives are the proximity to the bigger hubs of Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong for shops and hospitals, and the train service to Sydney or Canberra.

Carlie and Bruce's home would be known to those who have been on the Garden Ramble and the couple hopes to open it again in the future for us all to visit. They love working in their garden and spend many happy hours in it nearly every day. Carlie hopes to return it to the original blue and white garden designed by the late Karen Hutchens, who took inspiration from a French garden. It is home to many trees and plants including 28 pleached limes, hellebores, peonies, lilacs and rhododendrons (a bonus for Carlie who loves cold-climate plants) and has the added beauty of a spectacular view overlooking Morton National Park. Carlie is really thrilled to live so close to Glow Worm Glen which she visited as a child.

Since arriving in Bundanoon, the pair has quickly become part of its thriving community. Carlie is a member of the Garden Club and regularly walks with a bunch of friendly women. Bruce plays golf twice weekly at Mt Gibraltar and has plans to join the Men's Shed. It hasn't taken them long to make plenty of friends and they have a busy social life. They find the locals charming, extremely hospitable and truly welcoming.

The Goulds have also been pleasantly surprised to discover that they are not the only Bundanoon residents to have once lived in Cootamundra and they have also introduced old "Coota" friends to the delights of living here.

Although visits to Sydney are necessary fortnightly to mind grandchildren, they are happiest in their new home. Carlie said, as much as she recently enjoyed a trip to Japan, she almost didn't want to leave Bundanoon.

- Sandy Mackenzie

35

VET'S CASEBOOK Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

Saved by the God of vets

HOW OFTEN DO we contemplate if there "really is a God up there?" based on individual positive or negative happenings in our lives. I'll leave readers to decide after relating this absolutely true vet story that happened to me during my Large Animal Practice years in the Southern Highlands.

At the time I had one only commercial piggery client, with about 600 breeding sows. Most of the work at this client's enterprise was relatively mundane— the odd birthing problem, lameness or illness—the sort of thing that any non-pig specialist could easily cope with..., until the phone call from Keith Hart at the Government Pasture Protection Board.

"Hi Ken, we have a possible problem with one of your clients." He went on to explain that a breeding boar that had spent time in an artificial breeding centre in South Australia had been purchased by my pig client a few months earlier. Unfortunately for all, other pigs in the SA centre had tested positive for a dreaded infectious disease *Brucella suis!* The Department of Agriculture needed to blood-test a sample of 100 adult breeding sows from my client's piggery to see if this disease had got out.

Keith Hart had enough experience to know of the enormity of this task. Getting blood from any pig is a challenge, let alone from 100 full-grown 400kg females! "Do you think we can do this together Ken?" Before committing to the job, I outlined my pig bleeding experience...two pigs during an Animal Husbandry practical in Second Year at Uni. Keith's experience was similar. With nobody else to do it, we

set the date for the job.

Half an hour before the planned early start, a girl called Annette, in her late-twenties, walked through the door of my practice. She had a rather strong German accent and wanted some practical experience. In the tension of our pending visit to the piggery, I had little time for a young foreign vet graduate and was about to tell her to come back later, when some instinct stopped me. A few questions wouldn't take long and I was still waiting for Keith to arrive.

"What vet experience did you have in East Germany?" I asked, not really interested in her reply. "Well, regrettably, very little" she said, half embarrassed. "I've never even given a dog a tablet and the classes at Uni were so large that the students were standing six-deep!"

I was quickly losing interest, my mind occupied by our massive job ahead. "OK, what experience have you had since graduating" I asked, hoping to get this distraction over with.

"Well I got a job in a very large, stateowned Piggery in East Germany. It had 6000 breeding sows." My eyes were like saucers at this news – I battled to get the next question out: "What did you do to the pigs?" I asked, holding my breath for her answer. Again, ashamedly, she replied: " It was so boring, very little experience for me. I spent two years bleeding them!"

I mentally made the sign of the cross.

"What did you have planned for the day?" I asked, trying to sound as laid-back as possible in the circumstances.

"Nothing", replied Annette.

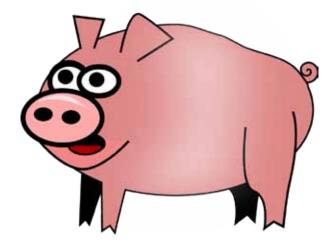
"Would you like to start your practical work today?" I asked, just as the government vet pulled up out the front. Annette gratefully accepted.

At the piggery, at Annette's suggestion, the three of us split up. Two hours later, we gathered for a cup of tea. Keith, using vacutainers had bled 6 sows, I using a scalpel and tail bleeding had managed 8. Needless to say Annette, using a 13G huge needle into the *anterior cava*, deep in the chest, had singlehandedly bled all the other 86 sows.

She was far too polite to state the obvious in front of her superiors but her expertise was obvious to all.

She was repaid in the ensuing weeks with oodles of veterinary experience but nothing that could make up for that morning.

You tell me..."Is there a God up there?" Bundanoon Vet, alongside Bundanoon Butchery. 4868 3117



Furniture talking

CHIFFONIER LURKED IN the darkest corner of the shed, neglected and gathering dirt.

Once, he lived in the great dining room in the big house. His patina was maintained with care and many admired his magnificent proportions. His drawers sheltered the finest silver and in the cupboard below he guarded the glassware and best china behind tightly closed doors, protecting them from dust, insects, childish hands and, even worse, mice.

Now his drawers housed rusty tools, oily rags, old boxes, mouse dirt and a forgotten fleece was stuck in the corner of his cupboard. Tins of horrid smelly stuff sometimes spilt and burned his timbers.

He glanced across at the latest arrival. Table was lying legs in the air – most ungainly.

"What happened to you?" he enquired "Oh Chiff, I was so happy in the garden with people sitting around talking and laughing— many times a stray ball clonked me on the legs but I didn't mind. I am a hand forged cast iron table, made in Camperdown and once highly prized. See the beautiful pattern on my top? I used to have four chairs—I wonder what

happened to them?"

"Why are you all brown, Table, and lumpy? Most unattractive."

"That is rust, ugly rust. I was left alone with grass growing up all around and vines twisting through my beautiful designs. I believe I am headed for the tip."

"Look, here comes Chester. Dear Chester, you were once the most beautiful couch, filling the bay window and accommodating the ladies as they drank their sherry or coffee. Oh dear, you are a mess!"

"Thank you darling. You should see Drawers! Some idiot painted him red, covered up his magnificent timber and most of his knobs are gone. We are all destined to die you know."

Silence descended on the shed as they contemplated their fate and wondered who would be arriving next.

The big old door slid noisily back as they awaited yet another victim of change.

"Oh Robert, look at these wonderful pieces. Mr Browning said we could take anything we wanted. Oh you poor old dear," she said as she gently rubbed Chiffonier's top. "

"These are pretty bad Suzie, need lots of

work. But I guess the old pine will come up nicely."

Chiff shivered in shame. "Cedar do you mind! Good Australian cedar. Drawers over there came from the same tree. In 1851. He and I are related."

Suzie picked up Chiff's back board and placed it back where it belonged, righted Table and tucked some stuffing back into Chester's cushions. Drawers was quite stiff with age and lack of care but she knew how to free him up.

The sad and neglected pieces were returned to their original beauty by the dedicated hands of their new owners. It certainly took a long while and sometimes the brushes and sanding hurt a bit but all of them were thrilled with their new looks.

Chiff, Table, Drawers and Chester lived for many years with Suzie and Robert, moving with them back to the country. Suzie found some chairs for Table and returned them all to the garden near the tennis court. Chiff and Chester once again ruled the dining room and Drawers graced the master bedroom.

A happy conclusion for all.

- Annie Goodridge



Thanks Wayne!

JCG WISHES TO thank Wayne Todd who, in his role for many years as Advertising Manager, secured the advertisers for the production of our community magazine. His success in sourcing advertisers provided the funds necessary to produce our not-forprofit publication. He also took cover photographs reflecting the various themes of many issues and he was always available at short notice to help with photo illustrations for stories.

Many people who came to Bundanoon in the early 90s will remember Wayne in his 20-year career as a plumber. Along with a change in lifestyle direction he became our local newsagent. After five years he moved a few doors down the main street to establish Todd's Real Estate, where his wife Mechelle and Elaine Angel continue to focus on property management. Mechelle worked with him for 10 years although her



One of Wayne's striking cover photos graced our December 2013 issue

experience in real estate as well as having a family spans 24 years. Wayne, laughing, now describes himself as semi-retired "in preparation for becoming a grandfather". But not so Mechelle who can still be found in the office.

PLEASE KEEP SAFE **ON OUR ROADS!**

READER LORELEI TAIT sent us a reminder that people from country areas account for two-thirds of the NSW road toll despite being only onethird of the population.

It seems that country drivers take more risks, despite typically higher speed limits, single carriage roads and roadside hazards. In 2016 47 percent of country area deaths involved someone driving too fast, 28 percent were caused by tired drivers and a staggering 85 percent by someone who had too much to drink. Not wearing a seatbelt contributed to one fifth of deaths outside the metro areas.

ALL of these figures were much higher than those for metropolitan areas. If you live in the country you are four times more likely to be killed in a road crash than if you live in the city.

Thanks to the timely warning by Melinda Pavey, NSW Roads Minister, in the Sydney Morning Herald, 4 December 2017

Introducing... Kaz Williams

UNTIL THE MIDDLE of 2017 Kaz was a Bundanoon weekender, one of the ghostly commuters who rise before dawn to get the train to work each day. Lured by Bundanoon's bucolic lifestyle, she (her husband Lloyd and their pets) moved to Bundanoon in 2011 but wasn't yet ready to quit her job, so happily endured that commute.

Last year she saw an opportunity to leap off the treadmill, deciding the moment was right to kick-start her marketing business- Big Shed Creative Communications.

"When Lisa Stuart, Winterfest's tireless convenor, retired from that role in 2016 I joked to friends that I would put-up my hand when I retired. I figured 'retirement' would be years away ...

But with my new business still in its infancy, I couldn't think of a reason not to offer my services to Winterfest," Kaz says. "I've been managing events since I started bossily organising my friends at my seventh birthday party, but to make sure I had ALL the skills to pull off such a beloved event, I undertook a short event management course at UTS in September."

Kaz is aware that there's a balancing act to be performed between not mucking with a successful formula and injecting new ideas, and hopes that come July the

community will agree she's trodden that tightrope dextrously!

The new Winterfest Organising Committee - a magnificently creative and energetic bunch of volunteers - has chosen Luminous as the theme for 2018. The idea of 'light' will be a feature of the Opening Night Party and is incorporated throughout much of the following week's program.

This year the Opening Night party will move to Saturday - 7 July - which has several benefits. The event will be open to all Bundanoon residents, including those who are weekenders by necessity. Closing the street in the middle of the afternoon on a Saturday will disturb fewer of the businesses. And, as it's the first day of the school holidays, the party becomes another reason for families to visit Bundanoon that weekend. A full program will be distributed with the June issue of JCG.

One of the main goals is for Winterfest to be self-funding. The event provides a significant opportunity for local businesses to raise their profile within the local community and beyond, so she have developed various sponsorship and advertising options: from running a workshop to donating a lucky door prize, becoming a headline sponsor, or taking advertising space in the program.

Kaz says "I like to be BUSY. Really busy.



For me, there's nothing quite like the adrenalin rush of a looming deadline or having just that little bit too much to do! So, in addition to co-ordinating Winterfest, volunteering for Lions, and starting my own business, I recently put up my hand to take on Wayne Todd's role selling advertising for JCG."

"Oh, and I also said 'yes' when asked to join the Bundanoon Community Association. Call me a glutton for punishment but taking on these pro bono tasks allows me to give something back to the community that has made us feel so welcome."

- Christine Janssen

38

"A superior guest house" - The Knoll: past, present and future

LOCATED WITHIN THE Bundanoon Heritage Conservation Area, *The Knoll* guest house was built in 1892 for George and Dinah Osborn. It is significant as one of the earliest of the guest houses which proliferated in Bundanoon in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Considered high-class in its day, it has continued to provide accommodation since it was built.

It is also significant for its association with the Osborns, one of the earliest families to become landowners and settle as prominent local residents in what would become Bundanoon. Both English immigrants, George and Dinah married in 1858 in South Australia before travelling to Sydney. In the 1860s they lived at Collector NSW where Dinah worked as a teacher for five years. In 1862 George purchased the site, then 108 acres, for £108. He also purchased the adjoining property of 96 acres, which now forms our village centre.

George and Dinah moved to Bundanoon, then known as Jordan's Crossing, in about 1870. George was on the Committee to establish the first village school, which opened at the first Methodist Church in 1871. Dinah was appointed the school's first teacher, continuing until 1880. She then became a local supervisor for the NSW Children's Relief Board, while George took on the postal service

In 1892 George built a large dwelling on the crest of his property above the village. Completed in October, it was advertised for sale or lease, but no sale occurred. Although intended as a private residence, George and Dinah decided to operate it as 'a superior guest house' with magnificent views over what was later to become Morton National Park. They named it *The Knoll* and established an extensive garden and grounds.

George continued advertising *The Knoll* for sale from the early 1900s but it remained part of his estate at his death at age 88 in 1915. Dinah lived there until her death in 1919. The couple had no children.

The Knoll was advertised again for sale in 1917, 1920 and 1921. Finally, in February 1925, it sold to Frank and



VALENTINE SERIES No. 3550

HE KNOLL", BUNDANOON, N.S.W

Edith Wilcox, formerly of Maidstone Park Guest House. They continued to run it as a guest house catering for 60 guests, until September 1935.

In October 1935, Bruce and Dorothy Wearne purchased the property, managing the guest house with Dorothy's parents Percy and Mrs Quickenden. During World War II it was closed. After the War Dutch authorities leased it for seven months to house 400 recuperating Dutch ex-internees. The Wearnes returned, completed renovations and reopened *The Knoll* in December 1946, continuing until 1955. The next owners, Eric and Mildred Collins, managed it from 1958 to 1972.

In 1981 Sydney-based fitness centre Solar Plexus bought *The Knoll* as a weekend retreat. Renamed Solar Springs Country Club, its members were offered sport, bush-walking and other healthy activities. In 1983 it became Solar Springs Health Resort, open to the general public. It was not until July 2017 that the property was again advertised for sale. It was sold to Southern Highlands Hotel Holdings C/O and continues to operate as Solar Springs Health Retreat.

— Caroline Cosgrove, Bundanoon History Group

Top: The Knoll, c1950s Below: guests at The Knoll in 1932

Photos courtesy Bundanoon History Group



Future of Solar Springs

THE NEW OWNERS plan to renovate the current buildings and construct new guest rooms on the site's southern (rear) slope, opening up the views of the awe-inspiring and outstanding Morton National Park. The hotel will focus on service, design and history, reflecting the type of service that was available in the heyday of Bundanoon's guest houses.

The site will retain the mostly tree-lined open gardens and landscaped areas.

The swimming pool, spa and gym will have a new terrace built on the eastern side, while the tennis court and gardens will be maintained and form an important part of the history of the site.

Upstairs guest rooms will be enlarged and refurbished to include ensuites. The newly-built southern wing of guest rooms will focus on the Morton National Park view and are to be roofed with grassy terraces where native wildlife can graze. A lift will be installed to service the new and existing guest rooms and the south terrace will have an outdoor dining area overlooking the views.

The owners will continue to offer the current health services such as spa treatments and massages, and the refurbished restaurant will be open to the public, encouraging day trippers and locals to enjoy the beautiful surrounds.

It is expected that the new luxury boutique hotel will attract many new visitors to Bundanoon and the new owners are passionate about local employment and engagement, as well as involvement in local arts, cultural activities and the growth of local businesses, cafes, restaurants and attractions.

Renovations are scheduled to commence in the second half of 2018 and it is expected that the hotel will reopen in mid-2019.

– Lawrance Ryko

39



LIFE MATTERS

Rosemarie Gray

It's all in the mind

THREE YEARS AGO I began a research project about working with people who had an invisible illness. I asked patients and colleagues who were struggling, or loving someone who did, about what they had found most helpful. The invisible illnesses I'm talking of are depression, fibromyalgia and many other autoimmune diseases.

Many people with hidden conditions don't speak out. They are treated with suspicion by friends, doctors and many professionals. As more results come back negative the worse the patient feels. There is much more understanding and empathy* for people who have heart conditions, diabetes, or cancer – but it's acceptable to brush off, deny, or criticize a claim that you have depression, fibromyalgia and other auto-immune diseases.

Living with any invisible illness can be difficult. Living with one that still is not accepted by many is so much harder. If you know anyone who is struggling, this is how you can help.

SAY

- I'm so sorry you are feeling this way. I'm here for you anytime. Mean it and follow through on it.
- If you need to see a doctor or counsellor, I'm happy to drive you. Sometimes the effort of making or keeping appointments is overwhelming. An offer to drive someone to their appointment can be the difference between recovery or slipping further down the slope of depression.
- I want to help and support you while you heal, please let me know what I can do. Whether it's assisting with children, housework, preparing meals or just menial day-to-day tasks, offering help and following through can stop a sufferer from feeling like their life is spiralling out of control.
- I will sit with you and hug you and love you right through this difficult time. Do it. Do it long and often. Words are not needed. Never underestimate the power of touch.



DO

- Organise a few healthy home-cooked meals. Someone suffering from an invisible illness might have a very low appetite so ask them what they feel like eating and organise meals or snacks that need minimal prep.
- Be patient. Depression may seem intangible, but it is real and it takes time to recover. You wouldn't expect someone who had a broken leg to walk within two weeks, so don't expect someone who has depression to improve in a short period of time.
- Be objective. Don't take it personally.
 Your depressed loved one's emotions
 may be erratic for a while, up one day,
 down the next. Don't expect them to go
 back to themselves quickly and try not
 to feel like you are responsible for their
 emotions.
- Buy them something that will help. A
 calming, relaxing colouring book or
 a warm, soft blanket to wrap them in
 when they need soothing could be a
 wonderful gift. There are many gifts to
 cheer someone up and so many get-wellsoon baskets, but choose thoughtfully.
- Keep in touch regularly. It might be difficult or frustrating, but it's important. 1–2 times a week is fine.
 Don't judge or offer advice; it just puts pressure on them. Try small talk or deeper conversations, but be guided by

- their needs, not your level of discomfort or need to fix things.
- Just be there. This can be isolating because there are no signs or symptoms.
 Let them know they are not alone and that you believe they will get better.

Don't judge. Your loved one didn't choose their condition any more than leukaemia sufferers choose theirs. Stand by them and support them.

*As defined by one website's glossary, 'empathy' is: The action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another of either the past or present without having the feelings, thoughts, and experience fully communicated in an objectively explicit manner; also: the capacity for this. So it is the ability to utilize empathy as you communicate with others.

FRIEND OR FOE



FOE: Box elder maple (Acer negundo)

THERE IS TRUTH in the saying "All that glisters is not gold". Caution and looking below the surface are good principles to apply when buying a deciduous tree for your garden. Amongst the huge range of deciduous plants suitable for Bundanoon's climate there can be villains. *Acer negundo*, more commonly known as box elder maple, is one such villain and is now recognized as an environmental weed in our area.

If you have an *Acer negundo* you and your neighbours will probably have noticed hundreds of seedlings appearing in summer. This is because in spring Acers produce masses of winged seeds – the wing acts as a propeller and the strong winds Bundanoon gets in spring can carry the seeds for long distances far

beyond neighbouring gardens and into areas that include our native bushland. The seeds germinate readily and are fast growing.

Our bushcare group has removed many *Acers* from Glow Worm Glen Track and the adjacent wetland. Sometimes they are not found until they are quite big, making removal more difficult. Another reason for not planting *Acer negundo* is the tendency for their roots to be invasive. They should not be planted within six metres of dwellings, near underground pipes or near streams. Also, although fast growing, they have a relatively short life span. There are many deciduous trees on the market so it pays to look beyond what "glisters".

FRIEND: Tree violet (Melicytus dentatus)

SOMETIMES GOLD LIES beneath the surface and needs to be discovered. This is true of *Melicytus dentatus* which, in many ways, is the Cinderella of the plant world. Its common name is tree violet which seems weird because it looks nothing like a violet. It is a dense,

spiky shrub which can grow up to four metres. It belongs to the family *Violaceae* along with English violets and our tiny native violets.

Although the yellow flowers are insignificant they crowd along the branches in spring. You will need to



look closely to see each scented, pale yellow, bell-shaped flower. It is a tough plant—drought and frost tolerant, loves growing in shady areas and is long lived. There have been plants estimated to be up to 150 years old. It is commonly found growing beside streams amongst rocks or on the margins of rainforest where it particularly loves basalt soils which is why it is found in Bundanoon and can be seen growing along Glow Worm Glen Track.

One of the great attributes of the tree violet is the excellent habitat it provides. Its prickly foliage makes an excellent refuge and nesting site for small birds. The dark purple berries are eaten by some birds. At first sight the tree violet may seem insignificant but scratch the surface and you will find a tough yet beautiful shrub, a valuable friend for small birds. If you have a difficult shady spot in your garden, a tree violet may be just the plant to fill it.

Glow Worm Glen Bushcare Group meets every 2nd Sunday and 4th Tuesday of the month. To join a local bushcare group call 4868 0888 or visit wsc.nsw.gov.au/environment



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Bundanoon Sport & Recreation

THE CLUB SCENE is rapidly getting under way for 2018, so it's a great time to get involved.

BUNDANOON CROQUET CLUB

Bundanoon Croquet Club held a very successful 'Tryout' event on Australia Day, despite the blazing heat. Scrumptious morning & afternoon teas were served thanks to our Catering Committee. We were delighted to welcome a number of prospective new members who, following minimum coaching, were quickly playing and enjoying the tactics and skills of the game.

We play regular sessions on Thursdays and Sundays at 1:00pm on the Croquet greens behind the Bundanoon Club. Why not come along for a tryout to see if you are interested in learning & playing "golf croquet"?. Use the swimming pool entrance on Erith Street and drive to the rear car park.

If interested, please contact:President: Alan Millward:
al.jan2578@gmail.com or 0419 228 836
Treasurer: Jane Newson:
janenewson@hotmail.com or 0412 046 417
Promotions: Di Curtis:

curtis.di@gmail.com or 0414 594 232

PONY CLUB

The club is looking to a great 2018 and is keen to recruit new members – all you need is a horse! Meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of every month starting at 10.00 am.

Ring Gail on 4883 7195 or 0407 287 336 for more details.

TENNIS CLUB

Bundanoon Primary School Term 1 tennis is under way with 19 students from year 3 to year 6 participating.

The Community Coaching Group that has successfully run coaching for people of all ages over the last seven years is back in 2018 offering classes on Saturday mornings for 5–8 year olds, 9–12 year olds, teenagers and adults. So if you or your children are interested call Mike Swinden on 0490 175341 or email mikeswin@hotmail.com .

New club junior and adult members are always welcome, please contact David Brewster on 4883 7624 to discuss how you can join.

BUNDANOON REBELS SOCCER CLUB

The Rebels had a great season in 2017 with four teams winning their division of the Southern Highlands Soccer Association competition. The successful teams were – all age men's team, youth team, under 15s and under 13s. The club will be fielding teams in the same divisions this year with matches starting in the first week of April.

It is still not too late to get involved: contact Brendan Yalg on 0432 581 400 or Bill Turner on 0447 458 070 and ask them about the new Government "Active Kids rebate on fees scheme".

BUNDANOON HIGHLANDERS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

After beating Oran Park to win the grand final at Campbelltown Stadium last year, the team is gearing up for the new season. There have been a number of retirements so it will be a new-look team this year with opportunities for more fresh talent to join the team—please contact Peter Randazzo on 0419 410223 if you are interested.

The first game is on 7 April and the first home fixture is on 14 April – put the date in your diary and come along to support the team.

If you have any questions or want more details, please contact Peter Randazzo

Bundanoon Bowling Club

Social Bowling takes place on Thursday afternoon from 1.00pm and all are welcome. If you are interested in playing barefoot bowls give Steve Granger a call on 0404 048228.

For further information please contact Keith Stratton on 0422 829756 or John Witney on 0418 206302.

CHESS CLUB

The club desperately needs new members to keep going. Pat tells me if new members are not recruited soon the club will fold and Bundanoon will lose the rewarding challenges that the game of chess can provide. All are welcome, whether seasoned player or rank beginner; no chess sets are needed. Lets rebuild the club! The group meets on Friday afternoons at Primula Café.

Contact Pat Foley for more information on 4883 6064

BUNDANOON CRICKET CLUB

The cricket club has been enjoying a strong season with great results so far.

The 3rd Grade team reached the final of the T20 competition and is currently running first in the main comp with six weeks to go. The team has three young players aged 12, 14 and 15, making the performance even more impressive. It is great to see young players being given the opportunity to develop their talents. This emphasis on youth is also evident in the Primary School team which is leading their competition, ably coached by Ricky Martin and managed by Steve Beveridge. The second grade team is running 4th and expects to be part of the semi-finals.

The Club is running a "T20 Blast" comp. on Wednesday from 4.00pm – ideal for young players (aged 6 to 11) to gain experience and prepare them to step into the comp teams next year.

Steve Granger tells me the strong performance of the Cricket club is due not only to the talent in the teams but also the strong leadership from the Club's Management Committee. Keep up the good work!

- Mike Swinden

News from The Bundanoon Club AGM

The following committee positions were filled:

Chairman – Peter Ellsmore Vice Chairman – Steven Granger Directors – Peter Cowling, Alan Clark, Robert Hamilton (two Director positions remain vacant)

The Club will open 4:00pm-8:00pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. It will also open on Saturdays from sometime in March



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| 'Bundanoon Sings' Choir |
| Geoff McCubbin geoffmc@iinet.net.au |
| Bundanoon Garden Ramble |
| Robin Coombes andsewon60@gmail.com |
| De Meyrick Reserve |
| Peter Pappsppapps@bigpond.net.au |
| Glow Worm Glen Track |
| Anna Perstonanna.perston@bigpond.com |
| The Green Team |
| John Desmondjohn@desmonds.com.au |
| Soldiers' Memorial Hall |
| Pat Guypatmalguy@hotmail.com |
| JCG |
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| Pam Davies/Ralph Clark rlc2578@gmail.com |
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| Roy Terry Reserve |
| John Whitejohnifer@bigpond.com |
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| Stuart Reidsjreid29@gmail.com |
| Welcome Packs |
| Joanne and David Princejodajage7@bigpond.com |
| Winterfest |
| Geoff Duncan (enquiries) duncangeoffrey480@gmail.com |
| |

Community Groups

| Bundanoon Community Association (BCA) |
|--|
| President, Geoff Duncan |
| Secretary, Andy CarnahanSecretary@bca.asn.au |
| Bundanoon Pre-School Deni Harden, Director 4883 6166 |
| Bundanoon Public School P&C |
| Candice Piper candiz_p@yahoo.com.au |
| Bundanoon Visitors' Group Harry Hull |
| Chess Club |
| Country Women's Association (meets 2nd Thurs, 1 pm, CWA Rooms): |
| |
| Currabunda Wetland Group (meets 1st and 3rd Friday) |
| |
| Garden Club |
| History Group (meets 1st Monday, 10 am, The Bundanoon Club): |
| |
| Lions Club |
| Men's Shed (meets Tues-Thurs, from 10am, 11 Burgess St): |
| |
| Morton National Park Volunteers (meets 2nd Wednesday): |
| |
| Playgroup Melanie Terry |
| RSL |
| Serendipity: the choir Kerith Fowles |
| Warrigal Care Bundanoon Auxiliary (meets 3rd Monday, 10am at Warrigal) |
| |
| |

Support and volunteer services

| Community Health Service | . Bowral | 4861 8000 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Dementia Australia (Dementia Advi | sory Service) | 4869 5651 |
| Early Childhood Clinic | | 4861 8000 |
| Fire Station | | 4883 6333 |
| Good Yarn | Lesley Paterson | 4883 7419 |
| Mobile Library | . Moss Vale Library . | 4868 2479 |
| Red Cross (Exeter branch) | . Anna Hopkins | 4883 4259 |
| Rural Fire Service (RFS) | . Craig Rowley | 0427 511 837 |
| RFS Auxiliary | Don Gray | 0429 828 765 |
| RSPCA (Goulburn/Highlands) | - | 0412 475 428 |
| Volunteering Wingecarribee | Thomas Andrew | 4869 4617 |
| WIRES | | 4862 1788 |

Church times

| Anglican Parish of Sutton Forest Holy Trinity, Bundanoon Sunday, 9.00am, 5.00pm St Aidan's, Exeter Sunday, 9.30am St Stephen's, Tallong Sunday, 10am All Saints, Sutton Forest 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 11am |
|---|
| Uniting Church Moss ValeSunday, 9.30am BundanoonThursday, 12.30 pm |
| Catholic Church St Brigid's Bundanoon |
| Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 10.30am |
| Santi Forest Buddhist Monastery, 100 Coalmines RdSat, 7pm: Group MeditationWed, 7pm: Buddha's Teachings |

For other service times, please contact:

Anglican Church: www.parishofsuttonforest.com, 4883 6019 Catholic Church: Parish Office, 4868 1931 Iona Christian Community: 4883 4799 or 4883 7939 Santi Forest Buddhist Monastery: 4883 6331

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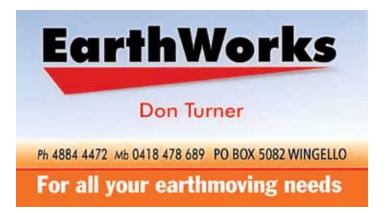
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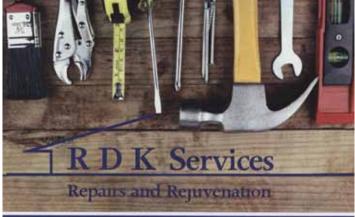


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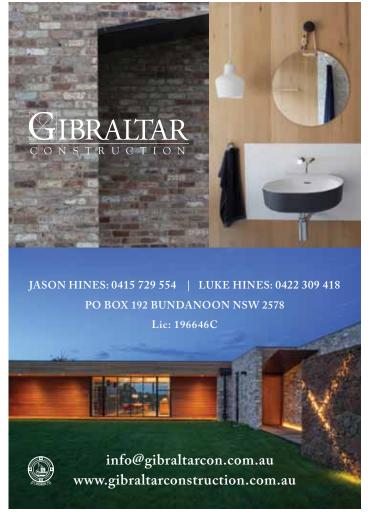
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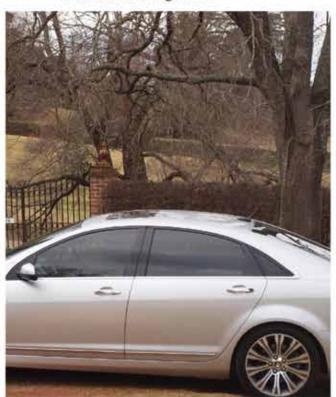
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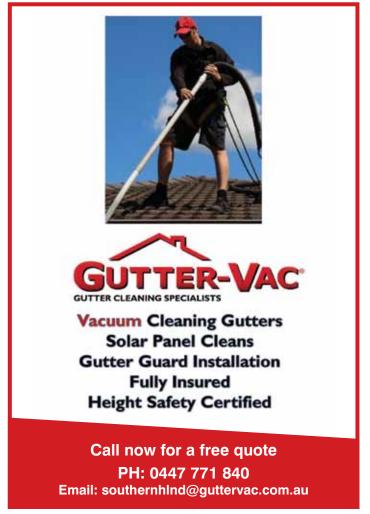
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advertising index

| ACCOMMODATION | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Bundanoon Country Inn Motel | 42 |
| Idle a Wile | |
| Yallambee | 7 |
| | |
| AUTOMOTIVE | |
| Allan Mackay Autos | 8 |
| Petersen's Garage | 51 |
| CAFES, RESTAURANTS, BARS | |
| Bundanoon Chinese Restaurant | 51 |
| Bundanoon Hotel | 46 |
| Exeter General Store | 42 |
| Heatherbrae Pies | |
| Penrose Station Coffee House | 8 |
| Southern Highlands Winery | 52 |
| The Primula Café | 18 |
| CONSTRUCTION & TRADES | |
| A Nosworthy Plumbing | 49 |
| Alan Weston Signs | |
| Bundanoon Electrics | 48 |
| Complete Chimney Sweep | 18 |
| Dan Eaton Painting | 51 |
| Don Turner's Earthworks | 48 |
| G&J Fellows Home Improvements | 34 |
| Gibraltar Constructions | 49 |
| Grosvenor Electrical | 51 |
| Handy Mick | 49 |
| Peter McGrath, Rural Contracting | 48 |
| RDK Services | 48 |
| Reliable Roofing Services | |
| STS Electrical and Communications | 50 |
| Sherwood Machinery | 49 |

| | Simon Dickson, Bobcat and Tipper Hire | .51 |
|---|--|------|
| | Southern Heating and Cooling | . 18 |
| | Worner's Haulage | .48 |
| | Weiller & Lindinge | 0 |
| ï | VENTS & RECREATION | |
| | A Country Chauffeur | .52 |
| | Anglican Church | .44 |
| | Moss Vale Travel | |
| | Tiess vale Traver | .,, |
| 1 | EALTH & BEAUTY | |
| | Alzheimer's Australia | 3 |
| | Bundanoon Cutting Cottage | .34 |
| | Bundanoon Massage Therapy | .44 |
| | Bundanoon Pharmacy | 4 |
| | Chiropractic & Allied Health | .42 |
| | Harmony and Health Massage | .51 |
| | Kirsten Hartley | .46 |
| | Marta Szabo Makeup and Hair46, | 53 |
| | Need Help at Home | |
| | Pilates | 7 |
| | Quest for Life Foundation | .50 |
| | Revati Massage | .53 |
| | Southern Medical Centre | |
| | Suzanne Smith – Counselling, Psychotherapy | 7 |
| | The Bundanoon Movers | 8 |
| | Touch Inner Shine Massage & Beauty | 8 |
| | Waratah Slimmers | |
| | | |
| 1 | OUSE & GARDEN | |
| | Baxter Carpet & Tile Cleaning | .44 |
| | Belisa Cashmere | .34 |
| | Bundanoon Bloomery | 5 |
| | | |

| | Home and Garden, Landscaping | 32 |
|---|--------------------------------------|----|
| | Jacqueline Cory, Curtain Making | |
| | John's Blinds | 53 |
| | Rebecca's Recycled & Retro | 46 |
| | Reid Brothers Fine Furniture | 55 |
| | Steve Curtis, Grass, Glass & Gardens | 34 |
| | | |
| P | ETS | |
| | Bundanoon Vet | 4 |
| | Bundy Pet Care | 47 |
| | Comfort Pet Grooming | 47 |
| | Southern Highlands Veterinary Centre | 8 |
| | YourVet+ | 56 |
| | | |
| P | ROFESSIONAL SERVICES | |
| | Ann Fieldhouse, Lawyer | |
| | C.F. Davies Solicitors | 32 |
| | Deborah Buchanan, Accountant | |
| | Denise Graham JP, Celebrant | 42 |
| | Gary Antaw, Surveyor | 32 |
| | Bowral Street Dentist | 55 |
| | Lawrence Huxley, Building Design | |
| | Marija Higley, Mobile Lawyer | 34 |
| | Need Help at Home | |
| | Southern Highlands Funerals | 47 |
| | Susan Playford, Licensed Conveyancer | 3 |
| | Wild Colour Prints | 44 |
| | | |
| R | EAL ESTATE AND FINANCE | |
| | Jordan's Crossing Real Estate | 5 |
| | Harcourts Southern Highlands | |
| | Highlands Rural Real Estate | |
| | Paul Walker, Finance Experts | 5 |



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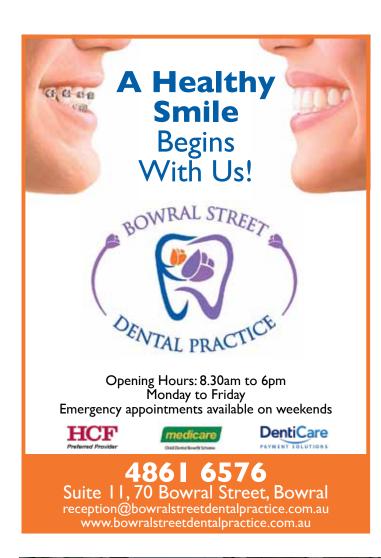
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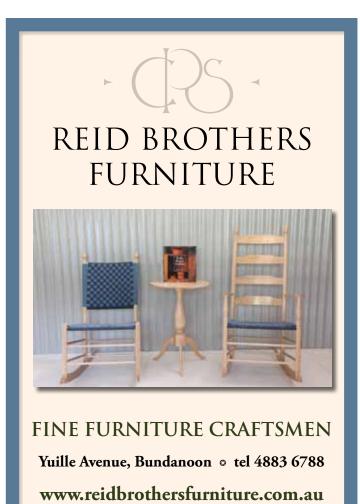
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