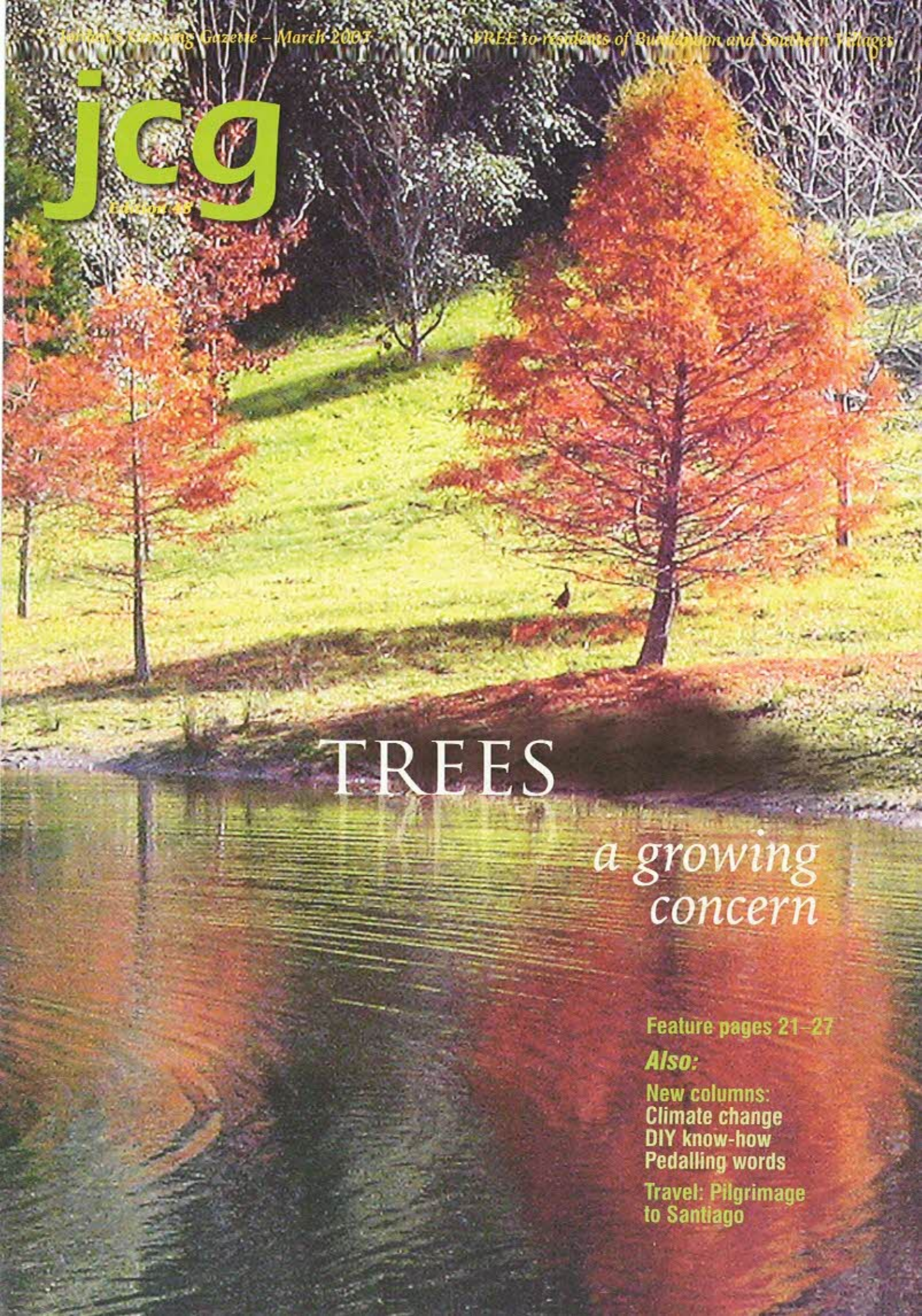
Jordan's Community Gazette – March 2007 – FREE to residents of Burnhopton and Southern Villages

jcg

Edition 48



TREES

a growing concern

Feature pages 21–27

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DIY know-how
Pedalling words

Travel: Pilgrimage to Santiago

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Warrigal Care is a not-for-profit public benevolent organisation that provides aged care services. Initiated by a Lions Club, our first facility opened in 1968. We came to Bundanoon in 1994. Our charter is to care for older people when they need it and to conduct activities to support that care. Our staff are ably assisted by volunteers and the community.

For more information:
Linkside Nursing Home
Old Wingello Road
Bundanoon 2578
Ph:4883 6066
Administration Centre:
PO Box 435
Albion Park 2527
Ph: 1800651 068
warrigal@warrigal.com.au
www.warrigalcare.org

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Editor's notes

When themes for *jcg* are suggested I am never sure where I will find appropriate articles and photographs to produce a magazine of interest to people in the Southern end of the shire.

'Trees' was a theme inspired by a casual conversation in the main street and that idea was taken up by one of our contributors who suggested that a pictorial edition would say more about the place of trees in our lives than any number of words we could write. I would like to thank contributors for their remarkable photographs which enhance this special edition.

We have not tried to comprehensively list trees suitable for small gardens or the botanical names of local native species but I hope you will find the pages of photographs a reminder of their beauty. Our lead articles are designed to be informative and to present both sides of the Radiata Pine story as well as tackling the controversy about *Leylandii*.

In the December issue we were unable to cover all our volunteer organisations, so Brigadoon, Rural Fire Service and Good Yarn have been included this time. Some new columns appear in this issue and some of our regular articles, which were omitted, will be back in June when we will feature 'Our History'.

Pam Davies ph 4883 7196 Email inverard@hinet.net.au

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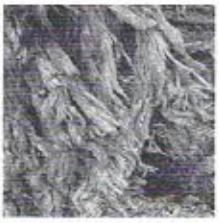

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What's on: page 44

Deadline for next issue: Friday 27 April 2007

BCDA meetings

Third Thursday each month:
15 March, 19 April, 17 May.

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

Hall Hire

To enquire about bookings and rates for the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, please call Kay Pearsall: 4883 6954.

BCDA update

Ralph Clark, President

The BCDA AGM will be held in March. It is an appropriate time to reflect on our achievements during the last twelve months.

Over the past year we have attempted to take BCDA – your local association – out into the community. We enjoyed the ever-popular concerts and film nights, but also held several other events: a function in June to welcome Senior Constable Mick Dietz; an information session with the new general manager of Wingecarribee Council, Mike Hyde; and recently a meeting where residents heard and questioned all five candidates for the seat of Goulburn.

Additionally, we enjoyed the 14 July Bastille Day Dinner and a BCDA Dinner in November. Our first Winterfest held over five weekends in July was a success. It will be even bigger and better this year. The annual Garden Ramble showcased a selection of wonderful gardens despite the drought. Reflecting its growing popularity, the Ramble this year will be a two-day event in October.

Following requests from residents, BCDA made submissions to Council when appropriate, most recently in regard to the water-extraction proposal for Governors Road.

Substantial improvements have been made to the Memorial Hall, particularly to the foyer, where a ticket window and new internal doors have been installed and the floor carpeted. The wonderful Bundanoon Quilt is now housed in a glass case. Thanks largely to our resident expert, Brian Banting, the hall now boasts a vastly-improved sound system. More improvemenets are planned for the coming year, particularly to the stage, kitchen and supper-room. I would like to thank everyone involved in these projects.

Thanks also to the volunteer members of our Green Team. We now have a sandstone sculpture at the southern entrance to Bundanoon, and further progress has been made in tidying up the roadsides. More planting has been done and hundreds more bulbs will add to the spring display.

As March brings my term of office to an end I extend grateful thanks to all who have assisted me, and your association, during the year.

Council news

Councillor Jim Clark

State election time is here, with candidates in some local seats drawn from the ranks of local government. Water has been a big issue especially as our electorate now takes in Goulburn. Management of water and proposed means of supplying it have proven a vexed issue for the State Government. The reality of climate change means that more than platitudes and band aid solutions will be needed in the future. Promises that nobody need drink recycled water and that our present unsustainable use of water will be protected are sounding increasingly hollow. Expensive big infrastructure projects such as sending water from the Kangaloon aquifer and the Shoalhaven River to Sydney and the construction of a desalinisation plant are being questioned on environmental grounds. Better alternatives exist such as reducing consumption, increasing efficiency and re-use as well as treating rainwater and grey water as an asset.

Local government changes to planning laws have allowed the Minister to bypass local councils by calling in developments and approving them, often against community wishes. Donations by developers to the major parties have tilted the planning system in favour of the big end of town.

The Federal election will follow towards the end of this year, with council elections to occur in September 2008. In Wingecarribee the number of councillors will be reduced from 12 to 9 and a referendum to introduce the ward system seems likely. The ward system would mean the division of the council area into three wards each represented by three councillors. Combined with the reduction in coucillor numbers, the ward system would mean a much more inward looking representation for our community. As the pressure for growth increases from Sydney we need councillors prepared to work for the good of the whole of Wingecarribee.

contact

Clr Jim Clark
0428 213 939

Bundanoon Beat

Snr. Constable Michael Dietz

I'm going to use my first column for 2007 to discuss some issues involving youth and the law. It concerns me that young people are often misinformed about important issues, particularly the 'new knife laws'. Here are the facts:

- It is illegal to buy a knife if you are under 16.
- Your parents commit an offence if they permit you to carry a knife.
- No one is permitted to carry a knife in a public place or school.

I often hear: "But what if I have a good reason for carrying a knife, such as going fishing?" The answer is: "I would expect you to have your bait and tackle with you!"

However if you were to use the knife inappropriately whilst fishing, for instance, to threaten another person, that is an offence. The penalty is $550 fine (and the knife would be confiscated). If you commit a second offence the penalty rises to $1100. Third offence, straight to court!

Another thing to remember is that the 'move on' law can be enforced when people behave inappropriately in a public place. Legislation empowers police to ask you to leave an area if an officer has reasonable grounds to believe that your behaviour or presence is obstructing, harassing or causing fear to other people. The penalty for failing to move on when an officer gives you a direction is $220.

Also, wearing a helmet whilst riding a bike is compulsory. The penalty for not complying is $51. I would like to ask all local schoolchildren to wear their helmets, and request parents to assist me in this regard. I conducted several bike safety presentations at local schools during 2006, and will again do so in 2007. It is important to remember that **all riders** are required by law to wear helmets for their **safety** and I cannot emphasise this enough.

For further information please come and talk to me, especially if you see me in the street.

Arts Bundanoon

Bundanoon Voices are well and truly back in rehearsal mode, so if you have had choral experience and would like to try out for this fine ensemble, please ring our director, Coralie Flint on 4883 6588. There is an urgent need for a competent and fun loving rehearsal pianist to join the group.

All seats for the forthcoming concert in March featuring the exciting **Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Ensemble** have been sold. At times such as this one wishes the Memorial Hall had been provided with a gallery level!

For 22 consecutive months we have presented excellent recitals in our **Piano at 10** series. In recent months we have heard some of today's most talented young musicians. Without doubt some of these will go on to become important names in the world of music. Our 45–60 minute recitals on the first Saturday of each month at 10 am give these emerging artists an opportunity to perform in front of a large audience and at the same time provide us with performances of the highest standard.

Forthcoming events in our main concert calendar promise to delight and entertain us in afternoon and evening performances. **The Power of Three** is a trio consisting of John Martin, piano, Leah Lock, flute and Deborah de Graaf, clarinet. These well-known Sydney professional artists will present a combination of solo, duet and trio performances covering a wide musical spectrum including some Australian compositions.

Concert date is Saturday, 21 April, 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available at Peter Rocca Real Estate, Moss Vale Bookshop and Brown Bookshop, Bowral.

And now for something completely different! As part of Bundanoon's Winterfest to be held during the month of July, we have secured the talents of the amazing **Wheeze and Suck Band** – five versatile and engaging musicians will ensure that we have fun! These costumed 'mad-hatters' sing rousing songs and soulful ballads in exquisite four-part harmony and play high energy instruments, which often lead to audience participation and revelry.

Saturday 21 July at 3 pm is when you will join the queue to be part of this spectacle. Bookings are recommended. Tickets will be available at the above-mentioned outlets.

Watch for future announcements of our musical offerings or come to 'Piano at 10' and receive regular updates.

Sound and Lighting Control Operators

If you have had experience with professional standard sound or lighting equipment or would like to learn these basic techniques and assist with our many productions during the year, please get in touch with Michael Flint – 4883 6588

Green Team

by David Beasley

A place to ponder...

Green Team working bees have planted additional trees in the Information Bay and Arboretum over the last few years to supplement the work done by earlier volunteers and Council.

Exotics have been selected to provide shade in summer and vivid displays of spring blossoms or autumn colour.

A restful corner of the Information Bay features Oriental Plane, Nyssa, Chinese Pistachio and Claret Ash. The latter three in particular display glorious red and gold autumn tones.

Despite the dry weather, a heavy layer of mulch has kept these trees thriving. Organic mulch, provided by Wingecarribee Shire Council, suppresses weed growth and helps retain soil moisture, so vital for plant survival.

Many of these trees are underplanted with spring bulbs and further plantings are planned to provide a spectacular display in spring for the whole community. We hope people will resist the temptation to pick the flowers so that we can all enjoy them.

Solar Springs lights the way

Eddie Bunn, Managing Director, of Solar Springs Health Retreat delighted members of the Bundanoon Community Development Association at the December meeting when he presented a cheque for $1000 to David Beasley, of the Green Team. Mr Bunn was sickened and saddened by the senseless vandalism to the beautiful sandstone sign at the entrance to Bundanoon and was keen to play a role in the prevention of any further damage. He also issued a challenge to other businesses that had not yet contributed to the 'Help Light Up Bundanoon' Fund that he would match their donations dollar for dollar until the target was reached. Both David and Ralph Clark, president of BCDA, thanked Mr Bunn for his generous contribution saying that they were nearly at their target of $5,000, thanks to the generosity of the Bundanoon businesses and residents.

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Wingecarribee Community Foundation

Philanthropy Awards

NOMINATIONS CLOSE APRIL 20TH

Do you know someone who has donated their time, treasure or talent for the benefit of the Wingecarribee community?

Nominations are now being accepted for the following:

WCF Philanthropist of the Year
WCF Youth Philanthropy Award
WCF Community Voluntary Organisation Award
WCF Arts Philanthropy Award
WCF Business Philanthropy Award

The awards will be presented by Lady Marigold Southey AC, at a public ceremony in the Bowral Memorial Hall from 6pm on Friday 18th May.

For information and nomination forms please contact the WCF:

Ph: 4862 1466, Email: info@wingecarribeecommunity.org.au

<www.wingecarribeecommunity.org.au>

Needles & Natter

A social meeting of women interested in needlework, knitting, spinning, crochet, etc.

Bring your current project and a mug and spend a few hours with like-minded people.

We meet at the Bundanoon Club every Thursday, 10.30am to 2.30pm; come for an hour or stay for the day. $2 per session.

For further information, contact Laurel on 4883 6090 or Patricia on 4883 6971.

Cinema Bundanoon

The Committee would like to thank everyone who completed a movie questionnaire for their constructive comments.

Upcoming movies

Kid Stakes: screening on 10 March, preceded by a competition for children's best-decorated bike, scooter or billy-cart.

A film will be screened during **Winterfest** in July.

A **Movie Festival** will be held on 22 September.

ANZAC Day commemorations 2007

10.00 am: Marchers to congregate outside CWA rooms in Bundanoon

10.25 am: Parade will fall in

10.30 am: March will commence to Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall followed by prayer and wreath-laying. A commemoration service will follow in the hall.

Anyone wishing to lay a wreath is welcome and all Bundanoon residents are invited to attend the march and service.

Contact Trevor Fenton 4883 6433

War Memorial

Wingecarribbee Shire Council has given permission for Bundanoon RSL Sub-Branch to erect a memorial in the garden, behind the Soldiers Memorial Hall.

We are calling for assistance in collecting the names of servicemen and women who served in WWII and other conflicts. Their names will be placed on plaques to be displayed on the memorial.

Please note: Servicemen and women must have resided in Bundanoon immediately prior to their war service.

Anticipated cost for the memorial is approximately $9000.

The Sub-Branch is applying for grants from Wingecarribee Shire Council and the Department of Veterans' Affairs Donations from businesses and residents would be gratefully appreciated.

Please contact Trevor Fenton 4883 6433

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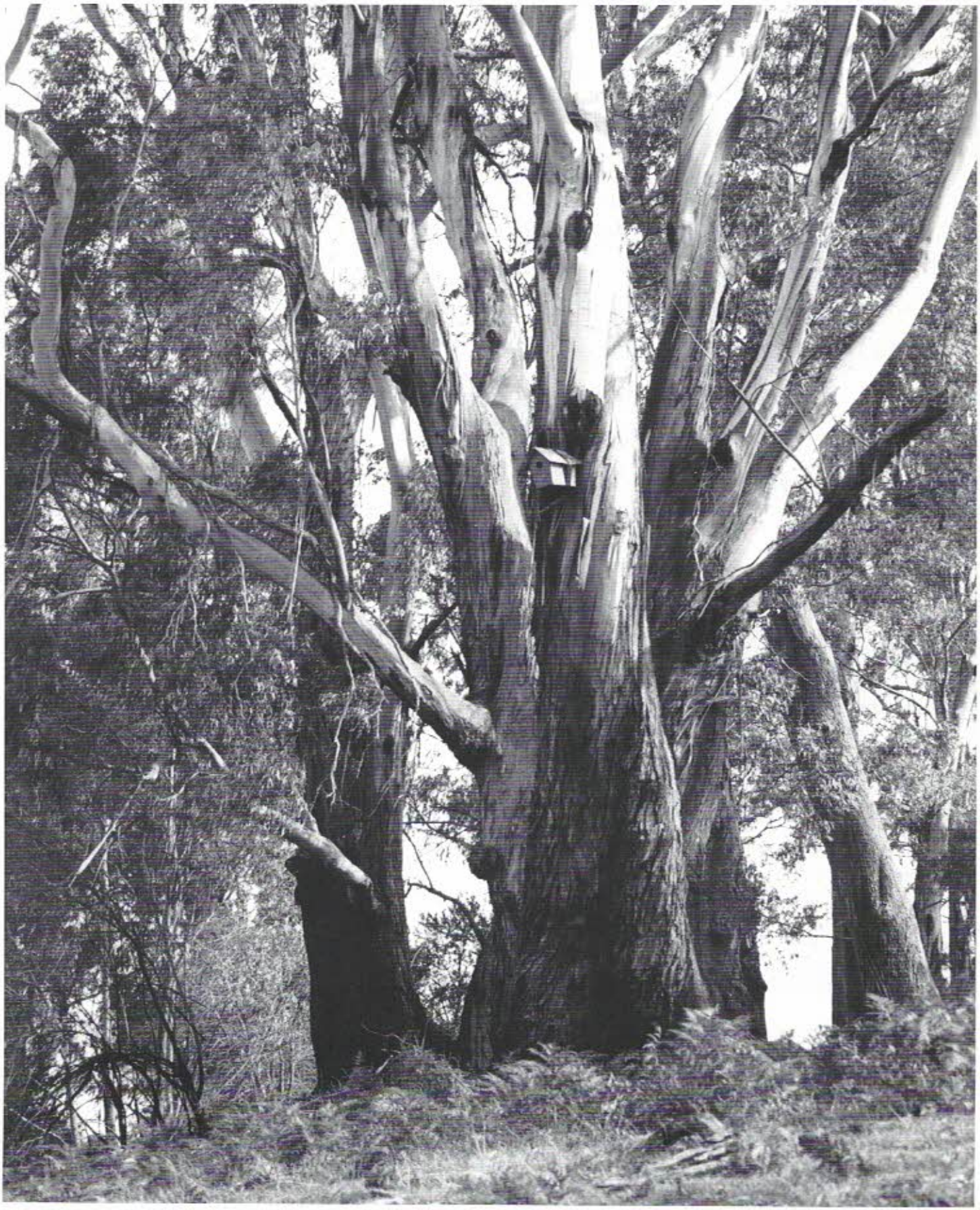

Photograph taken at *Indigo Violets* by Ossie Emery

A stand of ribbon gums, probably there when James Badgery rode his horse through the original 800-acre land grant given to him by the Governor in the early 1800s. The little birdhouse (did you spot it?) was placed there by the present owner, John Jeffeson, for the 'bluebird of happiness'.

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A tree is not always a tree!

by Ron Jones

We called it the Aeroplane Tree.

Grown-ups thought it was a very old hawthorn overhanging the beck on Hob Moor, but we knew it for what it was; a Lancaster bomber.

Each afternoon after school we would muster at the tree for another flight of fancy. Whoever got there first got to occupy the uppermost branch and so qualified as the pilot on the next mission. We didn't allocate duties for those at the lower levels; nobody was specifically nominated as the navigator, or radio operator or gunner. It was more democratic than that; we all imagined ourselves as what we wanted to be and, when the opportunity presented, we all became bomb-aimers, dropping cogs on whatever floated by in the beck beneath. Viewed through adult eyes we must have resembled a simian community, but what did they know?

Naturally, our crew was an all male affair. Girls couldn't possibly have served as they could not have climbed the tree without showing their knickers and that was unthinkable.

The moor over which we flew had been common land since feudal times. At one stage, somebody had tried to tame part of it as a golf course but the tough grasses had no intention of being cowed into becoming submissive fairways. Now all that remained of the experiment were occasional patches of relatively flat ground adjacent to sandy hollows that had once been bunkers. Instead of slender flagpoles numbered one to eighteen we now had railway sleepers planted vertically in random patterns across the whole moor to discourage the Germans from trying to land invading gliders. Ironically the sleepers were later removed by Italian POWs and used to shore up the banks of the beck. We liked the Italians; they were always laughing and gave us the golf balls they recovered excavating the beck. We never understood how they could possibly have been 'on the other side'.

The hazards we faced during our deployment were not entirely illusory. Somebody discovered that if you add carbide to a small quantity of water in a tightly-stopped bottle before dropping it into the beck, the resultant underwater explosion simulated the detonation of a depth-charge in a most satisfactory manner. As a result, we temporarily seconded ourselves to Coastal Command and became submarine hunters until our illicitly acquired stock of carbide ran out. Later, further realism was added to our bombing runs when one of the crew somehow acquired two clips of 303 ammunition. Without a weapon we had no means of using them in the manner intended so we pulled the bullets from the cartridge casings and ignited the slim sticks of cordite in twists of paper before dropping them on the enemy.

But none of this compared to the excitement of seeing a real live bomber hurtle across our sky, at a very low altitude, trailing smoke, just before crashing on the Grammar School hockey field on the other side of the Knavesmire. Naturally we immediately landed and gave chase on foot, each with the ghoulish intention of souveniring some identifiably authentic part of the aircraft. Much to our disappointment we found the Police, the Fire Brigade and the Home Guard had all arrived before us and had cordoned off the entire area. Very disheartening to a crew of eight year old flyers so, after all the ambulances had left and the crowd had dispersed we made our way back to our own aircraft to continue the war in place of the one that had just been lost.

Every kid deserves an aeroplane tree, and some mates to help him fly it.

Yorkshire patois requires some explanation:
beck = brook, cog = a stone suitable for 'chucking'

Once there were trees

Footprints pressed into soft ash
Like fine talc upon the ground,
Steam hissing from the chimney,
Beware the Widow-maker's crown.

Mosaic patterns criss-cross the land,
Like crackled glaze on antique urns,
Bones, the future fossils lie alone,
Forgotten in shimmering mirages.

Tall grey skeletons reach skyward,
No tears to touch their begging arms,
The river that once kissed their feet,
Now dammed and damned again.

Instead of birdsong...chainsaws,
Mechanical beasts come before the plough,
Hunger the driving force of ignorance,
The weight of mountains crushing towns.

The symbol of life is the tree,
With its roots deep in the earth,
Spreading branches give shade and shelter,
Spirit nourished with sticky ripe fruit.

Once upon a time there were jungles,
And wide forests deep and green,
Gardens with fruit and flowers,
And trees and trees and trees.

Eve van der Sander

Alas! My pussy willow

I had a tree, a noble tree,
A pussy willow tall.
Its summer leaves my car did shade
In autumn they did fall.

I heard the warnings loud and clear
From farmers old and newer:
"Their roots can find the cracks in pipes
And crawl right up the sewer!"

"I love my tree! I'm keeping it!
You'll never get to chop it!"
But at New Year it turned on me
And men came in to lop it!

"But why" you ask, "did that occur?
Your tree? Why did they dock it?"
"Alas!" I cry. "The sewer line!
That rotten tree did block it!"

I had a tree, a noble tree,
A pussy willow tall.
Its roots went chasing water, hence
A warning for you all.

Margaret Symonds, Bundanoon

P.S Bravo, Bravo, A wondrous ode.
But why the warning, pray?
Chasing water's not a sin,
It's grog that makes us stray!

An anonymous intemperate

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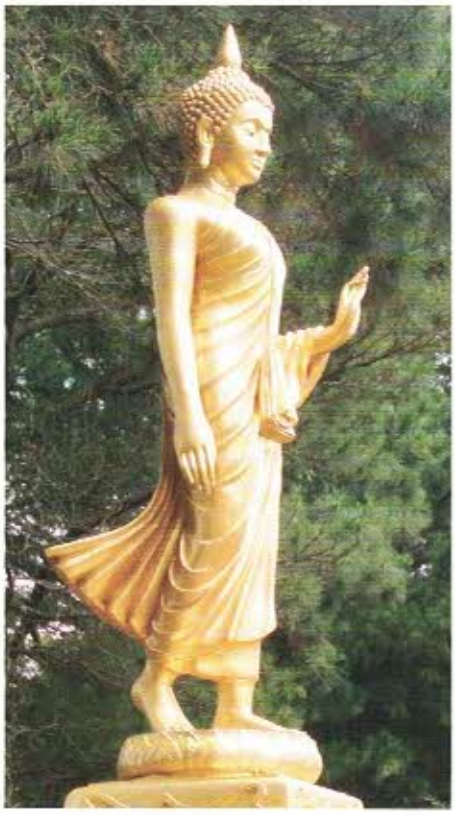
Christmas carols

Bundanoon Voices and children from Bundanoon Primary School entertained the community in the Memorial Hall in their annual Christmas performance.

In a break with tradition, there was also carol singing at Sunnataram Forest Monastery, where members of the 'Offbeats' sang for an appreciative audience.

Above photographs are courtesy Southern Highland News.



Pedalling words

by Huw Kingston

2007 – The Year of the Bike?

Welcome to 'Pedalling Words', a regular *jcg* column. There will be practical advice, local news, news from further afield, routes to ride, equipment to ride on, advice for non riders and opinions. Bundanoon has a cycling heritage that had slipped off the radar in recent decades but now hosts one of Australia's largest mountain bike races, the VAUDE Highland Fling, held each November .The 'Fling' has put our town back on the national cycling map. Coinciding with the establishment of this event, the Olde Bicycle Shoppe Café was taken over by Karen Sinnett who is keen to promote not just caffeine but caffeine-infused cycling as well. Ask her about the rides she organises for locals, some of whom are preparing for the 'Fling'.

Cycling makes you fit, works up an appetite, takes you to quiet places in the bush and gets the adrenaline pumping. You can pick the level that suits: from a loop around the village to a ride out for coffee or a demanding MTB (mountain bike) loop through the forests.

What to ride? What to buy? Where to buy it?

You can spend $100 or $10,000 on a bike. You can buy a road bike, touring bike, hybrid bike, recumbent or MTB. In Australia over 1 million bikes have been sold each year for the last 4 years. That's more bike sales then car sales!

To enjoy the range of roads and tracks in the southern villages you will spend some time on the dirt. A mountain bike with wide knobby tyres and often with suspension is the way to go for a first bike. Bikes are like most things – the more you pay the more you get. I advise you to steer clear of the 'K Mart' style bikes that appear to offer great value for money. They don't. They just offer cheap components and construction. Visit your local bike store: Legend Cycles in Moss Vale, Bong Bong Cycles in Bowral and Greengrocer in Goulburn are great places to start. They will make sure you're fitted for the right size – a good start to getting comfortable in the saddle.

If you think you just want to try riding and see how you go, then expect to pay $300-$500 for a bike that will do the job if you don't intend spending too much time on rough forest trails. If you find you like cycling (and you will!) then you may need to upgrade to a $600-$1000 bike. This is probably the minimum I'd recommend for a bike suitable for the 'Fling', which is a MTB race of either 60 or 100 km length.

A helmet is required by law, and treat yourselves to some cycle gloves as your first 'luxury' purchase – you'll be glad you did!

As Bundanoon resident Cliff Lander wrote in his 'Winning Letter' in the current issue of *Mountain Biking Australia* magazine *'I will be 64 next month and only discovered this marvellous sport just over a year ago. It's brought much more into my life than just riding a bike'*

Enjoy the ride!

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Brigadoon – by the community for the community

by Thomas Andrew

Since coming to Bundanoon I have witnessed with some awe the phenomenon that is the Brigadoon Highland Gathering. It has a scale and range of community involvement unheard of back in my native Scotland.

However it was not until I became honorary secretary of the event last year that I really understood the impact this one major day has in the life of Bundanoon and the Southern Highlands.

As well as winning some major awards, Brigadoon has been instrumental in bringing together thousands of people in a gigantic logistical enterprise. Because this is done by the community for the community, it is a great example of social capital at work.

There are about 20 committee members with individual portfolios who commence planning as soon as one gathering is finished and coordinate the many operations up to and during the next one. Brigadoon would not be possible without the many other volunteer organisations whose members also work tirelessly on many and varied tasks. Last year volunteers from some 58 local organisations provided nearly 3000 hours to the Gathering.

These volunteers represent organisations as diverse as the rural bush fire brigades, SES, sporting clubs and schools. Another 1500 hours are provided by the marching bands.

Brigadoon is quite unique as a charity organisation in that it provides no general grants. All net proceeds are distributed to all participating organisations based on the amount of hours provided by their volunteers. This is why it can honestly be proclaimed that Brigadoon is by the community for the community.

Over the past five years $195,600 has been distributed this way, providing much needed financial assistance to a wide range of organisations. Contributions have been provided also to the many marching bands whose members depend on donations to assist their operations.

In recent years many in the community have felt a touch of loss with the curtailment of the parade through Railway Parade. Logistical and financial obstacles had become insurmountable and unfortunately the committee had no alternative but to shorten the parade if contributions to local organisations were to be maintained at the current levels. The committee is working with Bundanoon Community Association to encourage alternative activities on the strip this year.

Chieftain for Brigadoon 2007

The British High Commissioner to Australia, **Helen Liddell**, will be the Great Chieftain of the 30th annual Brigadoon Highland Gathering on April 28.

Mrs Liddell became the first woman Secretary of State for Scotland in the Blair Government after making her mark in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, the BBC and the Scottish media. She is also a published author.

Mrs Liddell will launch the new tartan for Australia (pictured) at Brigadoon.

A tale of two pilgrims

by Ann Clipsham and Kerith Fowles

Above: Pilgrim waymark in the Pyrenees
Right: Pilgrim sculpture
Below: Abbey tower in Sahagun
Below right: Will our feet ever recover?
Bottom right: Ann and Kerith reach Santiago Cathedral after walking 822km.

"You're doing what?!"
"How wonderful!"

These were the invariable responses when people learned of our intention to walk 'The Way of St James', some 800 km across the top of Spain. Having completed the Camino, those responses do sum up the experience. Indeed, at times we wondered what we were doing, those times when the sun was beating down, temperature in the mid-30s, and the track beneath our feet nothing but loose rubble and shale or ancient Roman roads. But the other times more than compensated; the 'wow' times, when the glories of mountain ranges stretched before us, burbling rivers accompanied us through valleys covered with woodlands providing welcome dappled shade, when a convocation of 19 eagles rose above us, when both moon and sun greeted us as we began our daily walk, and when the Spanish people, time after time, showed unstinting kindness and thoughtfulness to weary pilgrims.

What kind of people go on pilgrimage? It seemed to depend on the starting point along the Way of Saint James. Those who, like us, began in the medieval French village of St Jean Pied-de-Port, were mostly older, and deeply committed to the journey. The majority of this group was walking for spiritual reasons (as were we) but a few saw the walk purely as a physical challenge. We met pilgrims who had begun their journey from Holland, Hungary, Switzerland and Austria. One intrepid soul had already walked 2400 km when we met him on our first day while we had covered the grand total of 27 km. Other walkers join the route progressively closer to the goal, Santiago de Compostela, and we found that increasingly these were younger people with a stronger social basis for their walking.

One question that pilgrims never ask each other is their reason for walking. Some people have suffered greatly, others have strong religious convictions, some hope for miracles or cures, still others are not sure why they are walking – they just are. We found it hard to explain to inquirers why we had decided to walk. It was to a large extent linked to the completion of a four-year theology course which had involved considerable introspection and spiritual honesty, both of which had become very important to us. But why walk? Yes, we walked our dogs each day – but not 20 km. We had never carried back packs, let alone one which contained nothing more than a single change of clothes, sleeping bag, spare shoes, minimal toiletries and water. But perhaps it was the very attraction of doing something so different from normal life, of paring our possessions to the essential, and being open to whatever should come our way, that gave us the courage to go. Once having embarked upon The Way, it was necessary to continue, despite fatigue, heat, sore feet, crowded refuges and smelly boots.

We were very aware of the support of family and friends at home. People followed our route on maps; some tracked us via the internet, using websites which actually took them inside refuges. This proved quite worrying for some, as the pictures showed crowded dormitories with double (occasionally triple) bunks jammed closely together, and often only two toilets for 60 or more people. When the going was really hard the knowledge of that supportive love was invaluable.

Would we go on pilgrimage again? Indeed yes – it is truly an amazing and life-changing experience. How are we different? Through our intense delight in nature in its tiniest forms; our conviction that people, not possessions are of prime importance; a discovered core of calm which underlies our existence; and an awareness of the need for times of stillness in our lives.

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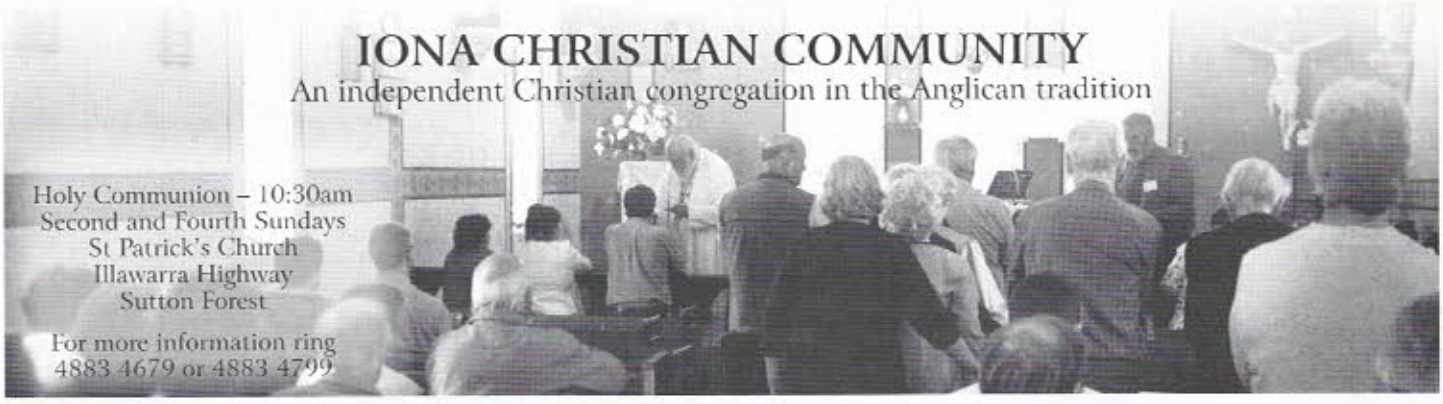

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TREES A VITAL LEGACY

Of all earth's living organisms, perhaps the most versatile and essential for human welfare are trees. Their multitude of products touches all aspects of our lives – timber, paper, food, chemicals and medicines. They provide wildlife habitats, windbreaks and shelter, stabilise soils, control salinity and filter the atmosphere. Whether in forest, farmland or forecourt, their infinite combinations of shapes, sizes, colours and textures give us great aesthetic and emotional satisfaction.

by Alan Hyman

Above: Morton National Park
Right: The unexplained Osage Orange of Exeter
Below: The Sacred Bluegum Corroboree Tree
(photos Alan Hyman)

Bottom right, Sequoia, Yosemite National Park, courtesy Jane Lancaster

Some tree species attain iconic status – like the cedars of Lebanon, the giant sequoias of North America or Australia's Wollemi Pine. Occasional individuals have had special significance, such as the Anthony Hordern tree ('While I live I'll grow') and our own 'Sacred Bluegum Corroboree Tree' in Bundanoon. Near Exeter, there are a couple of mature Osage Oranges, native to Southern USA. How these isolated specimens came to be there is a mystery.

Try saying 'trees' without smiling!

Trees are prominent in the arts. Landscapes by painters such as John Constable, Arthur Streeton and Albert Namatjira feature trees as essential pictorial elements. In English music, the willow inspired compositions by George Butterworth and Frank Bridge. The introspective tone poem 'Larch Trees' by Malcolm Arnold is, however, a contextual world away from this species as portrayed in a certain Monty Python sketch!

Throughout the ages, trees have been ruthlessly exploited. Several centuries ago, English forests were felled to create an entire navy. Today, with our supposedly greater environmental awareness, Australian native forests are turned into woodchips. Such progressive thinking! The Amazonian rainforest loses an area the size of Belgium each year to ranching and plantations. The resultant land degradation and loss of biodiversity is tragic. Back home, there is a perverse irony in schoolchildren eagerly planting seedlings for their future in the local reserve while nearby bulldozers and chainsaws convert hectares of mature bushland to housing development sites.

Next time you look at a forest panorama, your favourite tree in the backyard or the insect-engraved bark of a eucalypt, consider how impoverished life would be without trees. As the headline to an environmental ad once stated: "Try saying 'trees' without smiling".

What are the rules for clearing trees?

by Harvey Grennan

The Wingecarribee Tree Preservation Order applies to residential 2(b) zones (villas/townhouses), water catchment 5(c) zones, environmental protection 7(a) and 7(b) zones and specified heritage zones and items.

It does not apply to residential 2(a) zones (normal house blocks) but these areas are subject to general provisions on endangered communities, items on the Significant Tree Register and Centenary of Federation tree plantings.

Where the tree preservation order applies, a tree cannot be removed or injured without the written consent of the council if it is six metres high or more, or has a trunk diameter of 150 mm or more which is one metre above the ground. Three eucalypts are protected regardless of height or girth – the Narrow-leafed Mallee Ash, the Broad-leafed Sallee and Paddy's River Box.

There is a fee of $30 to apply to the council to remove or trim protected trees. A tree may be felled without council consent if it threatens life or property but the council must be informed within one working day and the tree left on site until inspected by a council officer.

Bundanoon has two types of 'endangered ecological communities' which are protected by a 2005 amendment to the tree preservation order. They are the Southern Highlands Shale Woodlands of which remnants are found on the northern side of the town and the Robertson Basalt Tall Open Forest which can occur where there are basalt soils.

The likely locations of endangered communities were mapped by a consultant for the council in 2003 and this document is known as the Wingecarribee Biodiversity Strategy. This is not a definitive guide on whether protected species are located on a particular property as it doesn't rely on a full ground survey but is modelled from aerial photographs and variations in geology, soils and rainfall.

What does this all mean to someone contemplating building a house or subdividing land in Bundanoon? If the land falls within an area mapped as a possible endangered ecological community the council will probably require the owner to engage a consultant to carry out a flora and fauna study. If this finds the development would have a significant impact, the council may require a further expert investigation – a species impact study. The council may then decide to refuse or modify the development and is not obliged to accept the findings of the expert studies.

For further information on native vegetation see <www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au> or <www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au>

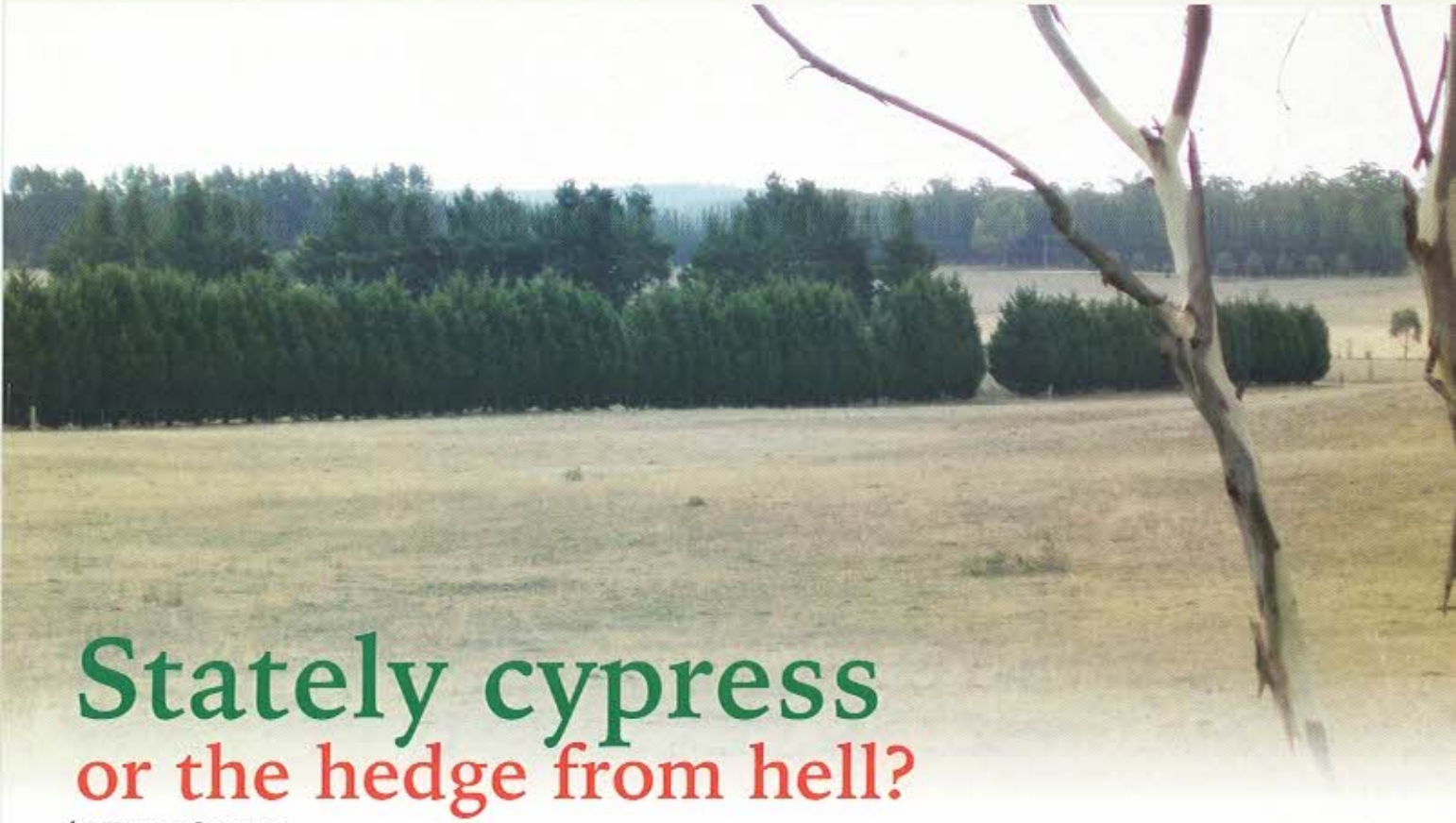
For a copy of the Wingecarribee Shire tree preservation order see <www.wsc.nsw.gov.au>

Tree Register

Wingecarribee Shire Council has a register of significant trees which are protected under the tree preservation order. The register was compiled years ago and is currently under review by the council's landscape planning advisory committee.

Bundanoon has more than 100 trees, shrubs and hedges on the list, mostly concentrated in Erith Street, Bundanoon Park, Railway Avenue, Church Street and Penrose Road. Most are exotics – flowering cherries, rhododendrons, oaks and magnolia to name a few – which are not favoured by some environmentalists.

Whether they survive on the register is a moot point. The review (of the register) will follow three stages: whether trees on the register still exist, whether they qualify for retention under guidelines prepared by the council, and a public call for nominations of new trees.



Stately cypress
or the hedge from hell?

by Harvey Grennan

If you want to start an argument about trees just utter the word '*leylandii*'. To some it is the 'hedge from hell' that should be banned and would be missed only by Scrabble players. It has been blamed for sucking the goodness from soil, plunging gardens into shadow and turning good neighbours into the worst of enemies. To others it makes a wonderful windbreak, privacy screen or avenue of driveway trees. A more balanced view might be that *leylandii* is not suitable for the average 700 square metre suburban block but only for larger blocks and farms.

The troublesome conifer is not a naturally occurring plant. *Cupressocyparis leylandii* was born in south Wales in 1888, the unplanned offspring of Monterey Cypress and Alaskan Cedar. It was quickly adopted by homeowners in need of windbreaks, sight-screens and property boundaries. In 2005 a new law was enacted in the United Kingdom to enable councils to intervene in disputes over high hedges. If a hedge is more than two metres high and is blocking out light, access or reasonable enjoyment of neighbours' property the local council can order it to be trimmed. If the order is ignored there is a penalty of up to $2500.

Here in the Southern Highlands Wingecarribee Shire Council has been on the case. Last year it successfully moved a motion at the Local Government Association conference that the planting of 'vegetative screens' require a development application to be submitted to council in some circumstances. The State Government is considering the idea. The motion also asked for legislation to allow councils to control the height of all hedge planting irrespective of species.

In the meantime Wingecarribee Council says residents should ask themselves these questions before planting a hedge.

- How high and wide will my hedge be in five years, 10 years, at maturity?
- Can I afford the time and money to maintain it to a reasonable height?
- Will it take light from my neighbour… or me?
- Will its roots take water and nutrients from gardens?
- Will it take views and landscapes from other residents, the community… or me?
- Will it adversely effect nearby native vegetation, depriving it of light, nutrients and moisture?
- Will it slow the wind as desired, or just create a wall and turbulence, funnelling the wind elsewhere?
- Will it become a fire hazard; impinge on power lines or sewer pipes? Create heavy shadows and ice patches or obstruct vision on roads?

Top: Changing the landscape
Left: A significant windbreak

Further information

All good nurseries and landscapers will advise on suitable screening plants for gardens and larger properties.

Further information on efficient windbreaks which will also enhance the local ecology and landscape can be obtained from the council, the local Catchment Management Authority, Landcare or the Department of Agriculture.

photo credits

Photos this page courtesy Alan Hyman.

Next page:
1: Pam Davies
2, 3, 4:
Antonia Valentine
5: Kane York

Trees in the landscape

Trees in the garden

In defence of the Monterey pine

by Peter Kwint

When asking visitors to the Southern Highlands what characterises the area, often reference is made to non-native deciduous and conifer trees. Without doubt, where conifers are concerned, it is the abundance of the majestic Monterey pine that contributes to the distinction. When this is pointed out to some people, often an icy glare is returned with the comment that 'pine trees are a weed and should be cut down whenever there is an opportunity'. Considering this and the impact this would have, it is important to reflect why the Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata* D.Don – pronounce Pee-nus) was introduced to Australia.

In the late 1800s Australians and Californians were drawn to one another by similar environments, communication and the perception that their societies occupied peripheral positions in the world. This led to the 'Pacific Exchange', an introduction of culture and aesthetically pleasing plants, including the Monterey pine. Nowadays this pine is as an ornamental tree worldwide, planted in areas devoid of trees where its rapid growth and attractive dark green foliage quickly provides variety and contrast. The pine is planted to establish vegetative control of eroding soils and is a familiar sight in windbreaks near the coasts of Devon and Cornwall. As a plantation tree it produces valuable timber. Plantations produce an economic source of cellulose and are widely planted around the world.

Native of the 'summer fog belt' on the coastal fringe of central-coastal California, the tree supplements rainfall by intercepting fog. The crowns collect moisture and fog drip can amount to 15 mm per week. Seldom are native pines found more than 11 km from the sea. Frequent fires have helped maintain the pine forest at Monterey. Without fire, the taller and longer-lived coast Douglas-fir would take land occupied by pines. The Monterey pine attains full size (30 to 60 m) in 80 to 100 years and rarely lives beyond 150 years.

The crowns collect moisture and fog drip can amount to 15 mm per week

A practical definition of a weed is 'a plant that is out of place'. The Monterey pine is classified as an 'environmental weed' (not as a 'noxious weed'). Environmental weeds may 'invade native lands threatening the collapse of ecosystems, biodiversity and regional identity'. This may be true; however no 'native land' on the Southern Highlands exists (except in National Parks). The impact of human immigration and subsequent land change and degradation can be seen in many parts of Australia. In any case it is a fact that the Monterey pine is profitable in managed plantations, is a useful windbreak and provides shade in pasture and is a beautiful landscape tree on the Southern Highlands. A few native animals thrive and feed on *P. radiata*, notably the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Monterey pines play a positive environmental role in soil management and green house gas reduction.

In managing pine trees (or any other tree) a balanced approach is necessary, considering aesthetics, usefulness and invasiveness. It is essential to consider all aspects when being presented with a choice: to plant, keep or remove a pine.

The problem pines of Penrose

by Penrose Bushcare Group

The village of Penrose, 10km from Bundanoon, has in recent years suffered a change in landscape because of *Pinus radiata* (commonly Monterey Pine) infestation. Penrose is located adjacent to Wingello and Penrose State Forests that support the local pine mill. The advantages of using pine in the building industry are recognised and it is a valuable resource. However, because the seeds of *Radiata* are spread up to 1 km on the wind and by birds such as yellow-tailed black cockatoos, it has become a serious environmental weed. Its vigour threatens native ecosystems and farmland.

Some landholders are bewildered about what to do with the multitude of unwanted pines that infest their land and in a short time become too big and expensive to get rid of. They rarely have commercial value.

Resins from fallen leaves and branches and the fungus that grows in them are toxic to most native species. Tony Hill, Chairman of the National Parks Association, explains that pine trees have thick foliage that creates dense shade. There is not enough light for many of the local species to grow and the diversity of all forms of life is suppressed. The native bush of the Penrose area is open, with the gum leaves and under-story allowing dappled light through to the ground, stimulating micro-organisms that are important to the health and stability of soils allowing animals and insects to flourish.

Pines close to houses are a hazard. Pine needles burn fiercely as the Canberra fires proved. The Penrose State forests were planted in the 1920s but were largely destroyed in the bush fires of 1939 which spread through the pine forest to Penrose village, destroying many houses. In 1965 the State forest was completely burned with large losses to orchards and properties.

Greg Bray, Natural Resources Supervisor, Wingecarribee Shire Council says *Pinus radiata* is listed as an Environmental Weed of South East Australia and is a threat to many ecosystems world wide. WSC recognises the need to manage the highly invasive nature of these pine trees, which are not listed on WSC Tree Preservation Order, requiring no permit for removal.

WSC supports all bushcare groups' efforts to remove this species of pine and works in partnership with State Rail and Sydney Catchment Authority to actively control naturalised specimens of *Radiata* in roadside vegetation and nature reserves. Penrose Bushcare Group was formed five years ago to assist Council to control the pines in the Penrose area.

If you would like to help control the pines on Council land Penrose Bushcare Group welcomes new members. Call Jo on 4884 4577.

Landscapes at night

In 1999 Allan Byrne began painting landscapes by night. The series was greeted with some scepticism from family members but he persisted. During an exhibition in Canberra he met Kirrily Hammond, an artist of similar interests whose work used light 'as a metaphor for the spiritual, and night and shadow for the mystery aspects of the unknown in the human psyche'[1]. They had much to talk about. Hammond's images were Eurocentric and often imagined while Byrne's images by night were drawn directly from the landscapes of Bundanoon.

Allan explains, "The visual certainty of landscapes by day is absent at night. At night our normal perception of distance is challenged and our usual well ordered sense of place within a landscape thrown into doubt. Trees that are individual during the day merge at night to become an ill-defined mass. Within this dark mass potential threats and dangers lurk. As we move through a darkened landscape our awareness heightens, we anticipate a sudden attack, our tread is less assured and our urge for flight barely is below a brave veneer.

For an artist the removal of extraneous detail in paintings of landscapes by night enables one to focus on the essential elements of an image. An intersection is clearly a reference to decisions, a path obviously represents life leading to an unseeable future and trees are barriers both physical and mental.

If we overcome our fears night-time landscapes can provide some comfort. The simple, solid forms of trees, the cool glow of moonlight on grassy expanses and the gentle light reflected from unsealed paths meandering through dark corridors speak of strength and simple pleasures. In these landscapes lovers meet and our senses dance in dreams of rest or anticipation."

1. Louise Tegart in Kirrily Hammond: of landscape and memory, exhibition catalogue Warrnambool Art Gallery and Artspace 71, Canberra, June–July 2000.

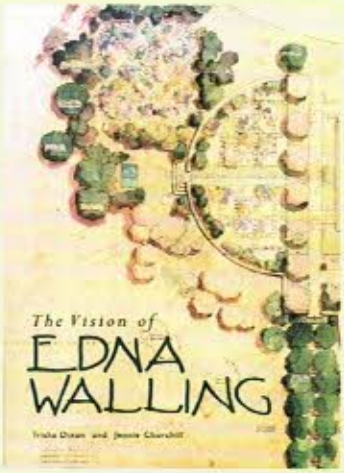
Alan Byrne is a former senior conservator of paintings at the National Gallery, Canberra. He now works as a conservation consultant.

Book review

by Joanna Caseley

The vision of Edna Walling

Trisha Dixon & Jennie Churchill
Blooming Books 1998



Edna Walling is one of Australia's most influential pioneers in garden design. In *The Vision of Edna Walling*, Dixon and Churchill offer an intimate insight into Walling's personality, whilst producing a collection of 50 of her most evocative garden designs from the 1920s – 1930s for the garden enthusiast to examine.

An interesting character, the English born landscape designer was an undefined socialite with a masculine personality, a practical dress preference of jodhpurs and a shirt and a short-cropped haircut.

After studying at the Burnley Horticultural College from 1916, she went on to be commissioned for some of the wealthiest landowners in Australia such as Sir Frank Packer, and became *the* garden designer to employ.

In the remaining Walling gardens we can enjoy the remnants of her trademark low stone walls, classic wrought iron entry gates, her perfectly portioned pergolas, simple stepping stones set in grass, and her creation of a totally private, restful, unpretentious retreat. In her own words: "They're funny things, gardens. I think they like to be discovered, not shown off."

Walling created around 300 gardens but most of these have been lost over time, having fallen victim to bulldozing and sub-division. Unfortunately, only a dozen gardens remain.

Her ability to craft such timeless designs gave her merit as an accomplished artist. We are able to appreciate her skills from each precious watercolour plan collected, which becomes almost 3-dimensional. Great care is applied to soft brush strokes, the shading and printing, the subtle colour harmony and flowing balance. This rare gift turned landscapes into art forms, a gift superseded today by impersonal black and white computer printed plans.

A committed environmentalist ahead of her time, she created a harmonious relationship between the garden and Australian landscape. She dared to mix native plants with European species and had a philosophy of not watering the garden, a philosophy appreciated today in times of drought and water conservation.

She was a noted journalist and author, writing a monthly column for *Australian Home Beautiful* from 1925–1950 and had four books published. She was also an accomplished black and white photographer and is featured on the cover of *Australian Women Photographers 1840–1960* with her trusty Rolleiflex camera.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Vision of Edna Walling*, an interesting account of the life and work of an amazing individual, and a "must read" for any garden enthusiast or landscape architect.

Climate change

by Tony Hill

Where to from here?

The debate about climate change is over, and now we can get on with the huge task of controlling and adapting to it. Even the most recalcitrant politicians have stopped denying that the world is warming and have acknowledged that action is needed.

But time is short and there is a lot to do. Over the next few years there must be enormous changes to lifestyles and the way that the environment is treated. Carbon will become a familiar word with a carbon economy, carbon emissions controls, carbon trading, perhaps even carbon rationing, and a carbon economy will parallel the money economy.

The climate on the earth has been relatively kind to humans, with cold glacial periods alternating with warm interglacial times. The levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere closely followed those climate changes, with increased levels during the warmer periods and decreased levels during the cold times. The maximum level that carbon dioxide reached at any time was 280 parts per million (ppm). Urbanisation, agriculture and the use of fossil fuels have all developed since the last ice age finished about 12,000 years ago.

Now the levels are at 380 ppm and rising rapidly which is unprecedented for humans. If they rise too far then the accompanying increases in temperature could start the natural release of greenhouse gases from soils and oceans that would lead to a runaway increase in temperature. There are precedents in the great extinction events of the distant past when more than ninety percent of all living things on the earth were wiped out, and the survivors only just managed to hang on.

The debate now is about what needs to be done, how much time there is to do it, and even whether it is possible for humans to change so much so quickly. Some credible commentators are saying that greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced by ninety percent by the year 2030, and the sooner it is done the better (*Heat, how to stop the planet burning*, George Monbiot, Penguin Books, 2006).

George Monbiot likened the coming changes to a war, except that the enemy will not be an invading horde but will be ourselves and our pleasures, indulgences, habits and the way we live our lives. Wars bring out strong leadership and commitment and teamwork and sacrifice for the general good. The Second World War saw the USA turn around manufacturing within a few months, so it can be done. It just needs the willpower and energy to do it.

Concerned shire residents have started Community Action Now Wingecarribee (CANWin) to inform, debate, advise and lobby about climate change. Secretary: Sandra Monteith, PO Box 531, Bowral, 2576. Ph: 0403 790 777. <www.canwin.org.au>

Climate statistics

	Rainfall (mm)			Temperature (°C)	
Period	Actual	5 year Average	Pre-1984 Average	Actual	5 year Average
Nov 06	53	70	78	17.9	18.6
Dec 06	64	54	75	19.2	20.8
Jan 07	26	80	95	22.7	21.7
Year 2006	656	736	950	15.8	15.7

DIY know-how

by Patrick Fitzgerald

Treated timber

The Goon Show used to have a catch phrase 'It's all rather confusing really.' It can be a bit like that when selecting the right treated timber for outside use.

Why treat timber? Australian conditions mean that timber can be attacked by termites, borers, fungi, insects and natural deterioration. Very few hardwoods from Australia can withstand these elements. The few that can are rare, unsustainable, expensive and hard to use. The alternative is to 'treat' plantation pine with chemicals to repel or discourage the nasties. The main benefit of this is that plantation pine is relatively sustainable, readily available and cheap by timber standards.

Which treatment? There are several methods of treatment but the most popular (and controversial) is CCA or green treated pine. You probably know it as decking or landscaping timber. CCA stands for Copper (to prevent decay), Arsenic (prevents termites/insects), and Chromium (ensures copper and arsenic react with the wood). CCA timber was originally developed in India in the 1930s and Australia is now the third biggest user in the world.

CCA is available in different levels of treatment: H (or Hazard Level) 2 – indoor use, H3 – above ground exterior; H4 – suitable for in-ground use.

While CCA has many great uses, the treatment has come under the spotlight for its environmental and health concerns. As a result it is recommended that CCA not be used for children's play equipment (particularly ages 3 – 5), garden furniture, picnic tables, exterior seats, domestic decks or handrails / vegetable garden edging. Never burn off-cuts and use a mask when cutting.

Alternative safer materials are readily available in most timber yards. They will cost more but look better and are more consistent to work with. These come as blue or pink coloured, which have been treated with LOSP (light organic solvent preservative). These timbers are made from plantation, finger-jointed pine. They are knot free, and engineered for consistent strength. When cut, the exposed part must be treated with a preservative available from hardware stores. This timber is not suitable for in-ground use. Laminated beams are available in H2/3/4/5 levels. The treatment is in the glue so that cutting does not affect the benefits. These are available up to 13 m long and are great to work with. They are made with either laminated plantation pine or hardwood.

For alternatives to CCA decking, use a native Australian hardwood and treat with a water repellent and/or stain. Clear finishes do not work as well as a tinted finish. Try not to use Merbau decking. It is a beautiful dark timber from Papua but is directly linked to major exploitation and corruption. Newer treatments are becoming available all the time – ecowood, waxwood and others can be found. By asking for the latest alternatives to CCA you can help reduce its detrimental impact.

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Rural Fire Service Today *by Rosemary Page*

Volunteer members of the RFS have many roles in the community .Our brigade is often called on to fight fires not only in the local area, but to assist anywhere in NSW or interstate as members of the Region East Strike team. Crews recently assisted with the fires in Victoria.

Bundanoon Brigade is fully equipped to handle structural fires and motor vehicle accidents, with eight members currently accredited in the use of CABA. (Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus)

Several members are involved with the Community Education program, to assist residents in taking responsibility for preparing their homes for the fire season and having a fire plan in place. Team members also visit local schools, and participate at Field Days and local shows.

Fundraising is an important activity and our members help with the organisation of the Moss Vale Show, Brigadoon and the VAUDE Highland Fling. Donations are made to our brigade based on the number of hours spent on an event. Our auxiliary plays a major role in fundraising. Since 1976 this hard-working group has raised all the money required to build the Fire Station in Burgess Street, by holding raffles, pancake days, cake stalls. They were instrumental in initiating the first Boronia Festival, which preceded Brigadoon as a major Bundanoon event.

In September 2000, twelve members were privileged to assist with the Olympics. Their role was to help the NSW Police with security at the entrances to all venues. It was a magic experience that no one will forget.

Bundanoon History Group: 'The beauty of trees'

by Pat Guy

"These magnificent gullies and grand canyons. What Bundanoon has been doing hiding her light under a bushel all these years I cannot understand. It is time she told the world that there are vast vistas of trees there that cannot be seen anywhere else."

This excerpt from the transcript of a lovely piece broadcast on radio 2BL by Mr J. E. Lockley in 1936 was published in the *Moss Vale Post* on 19 May of that year, with the above title. The author, whose nickname was 'Redgum', obviously loved trees of all kinds and refers to the extensive tree planting to take place along both roads, either side of the railway line as 'the sooner this is done the better'.

In the same issue of the *Post* is a small article saying that Wingecarribee Shire Council has agreed to cooperate with the Bundanoon Tourist Association in having the tree planting done. So we have the forerunner of the Bundanoon Visitors Group to thank for some of the lovely trees in Railway Avenue and Erith Street.

Wonderful little snippets like this one are to be found in our archives.

Why not visit the **Old Goods Shed** and have a browse through our history.

The Good Yarn *by Pam Davies*

Do you stop to look in the window of the Good Yarn? You never know what you'll find. Maybe a small piece of Royal Copenhagen porcelain, a hand-knitted jumper or a little girl's smocked dress. Over 30 charities benefit from the profits of this registered charity shop.

The Good Yarn is now 30 years old and is a landmark in the main street. It was the initiative of the Anglican minister's wife in 1975 who, with a group of supporters, opened the shop selling Christian cards, handmade craft and a selection of bric-a-brac. Through the years it has developed and now sells handcrafts of the highest quality, interesting bric-a-brac, cards and books, jams, fresh flowers and vegetables. As well as operating as a registered charity, the shop also provides an interest for talented people to use their skills and make a small profit when they consign their goods. There are many local suppliers but consignors from far and wide send their hand-knitted and hand sewn articles to the Good Yarn for sale.

Local, state, national and international organizations both large and small are the recipients of the profits The Good Yarn is staffed by a group of 14 volunteers, some of whom have been with the shop for 25 years. Miss Jill Francis is the present administrator and has held that position for many years. Over 70 cheques are sent out each month to contributors who stock this interesting enterprise.

The Good Yarn is an entirely independent organisation, a 'Bundanoon institution', which personifies the contribution that volunteers make in small communities. Ed.

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The brigade supports other agencies such as SES with storm damage and our local 'Town Fire Brigade' with back-up. They also assist the Police and Ambulance Service at incidents. The continued support of the community, and the generosity of employers who grant leave for call-outs, is vital for the smooth operation of the service.

Left to right: Craig Rowley (with Ashley), Dean Rowley, Jill Fairbrother, Will Millar, John Brock, Rosemary Page, Michael Arthurs, Greg Amos, Jonathon Hall, Heather Hardie. Kneeling: Sam Burnham, Karl Fenwick. (Captain Alan Fairbrother absent due to work commitments.)

Bundanoon Rural Fire Brigade was established in 1946. In the June issue of jcg, *which will feature the history of Bundanoon, the 'Bushfire History' will have a prominent place in the magazine. Rosemary Page collected some valuable information from old records when the Brigade celebrated its 60th birthday. Ed.*

History Group info

OLD GOODS SHED OPEN EVERY MARKET DAY (10.00am to 3.00pm)

Bundanoon History Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 10.00am in the Old Goods Shed.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Contact details may be found in the Activities and Services Directory in this magazine.

Established trees in Railway Avenue, probably planted in the 1930s.

Good Yarn window display and hand-smocked girl's dress

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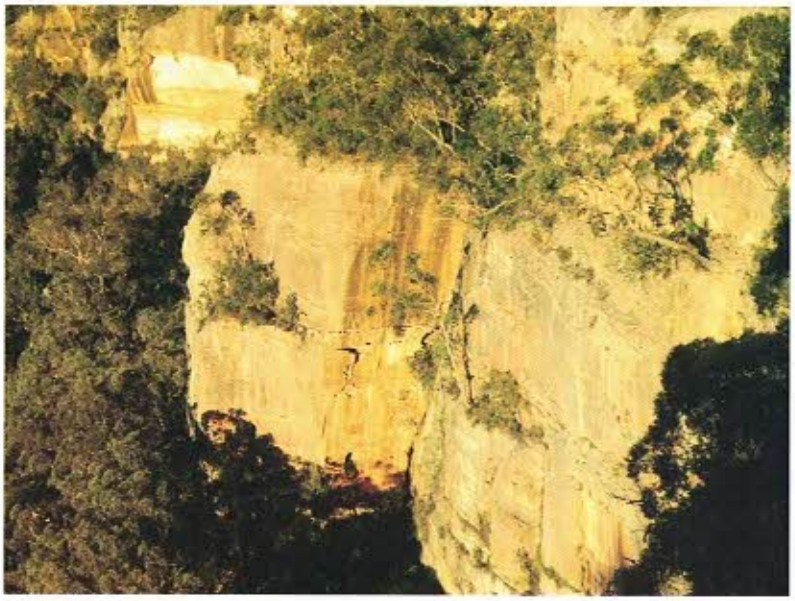
Morton National Park – a winter sunrise

captured

by Jenny Feltham

As a child I spent a lot of time at Bundanoon, together with my brother and sister. During school holidays we came from Canberra to stay with our Nana and Pa, Audrey and Chris Petersen. One of my favourite outings was to the gullies, especially in sum mer. The hot summer's day would melt away as we headed down to our usual spots; Echo Point for a picnic or Fairy Bower for a full day's adventure. Nana packed a picnic lunch and when we arrived we would make water wheels from bracken and grasses and run them in the sandstone channel just as her father had taught her all those years ago.

In 2005 I visited the gullies before sunrise to take photographs. I felt so lucky to be greeted with a clear sunny morning. I often look at my pictures and I can again enjoy the cool and memories of my childhood trips.



Left (top to bottom):
Sunrise at Tooth's Lookout – East
Echo Point at sunrise
Patterned tree root at Echo Point

Below:
A cool spot in Fern Glen

Bottom:
Atmospheric gully walk

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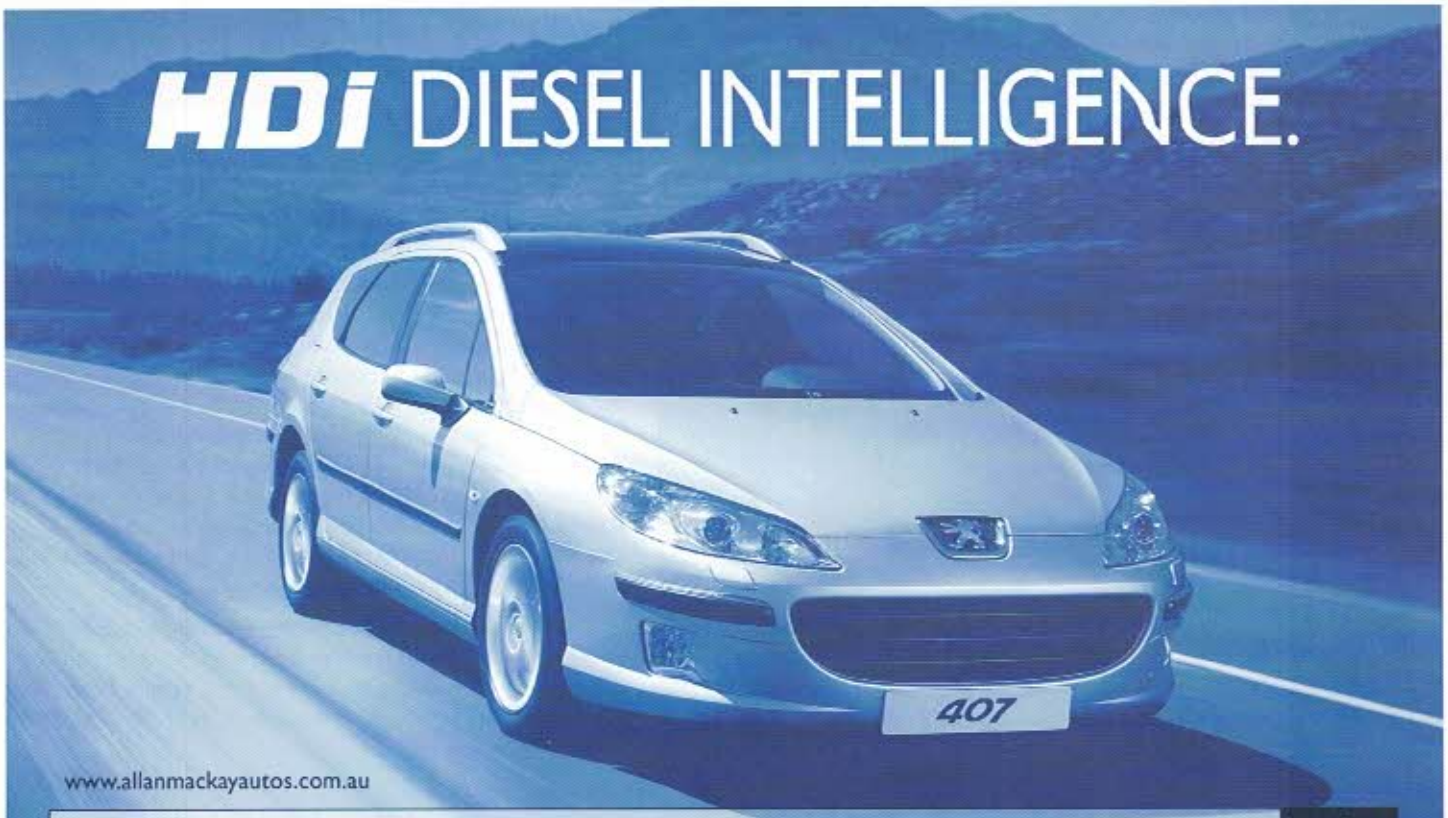

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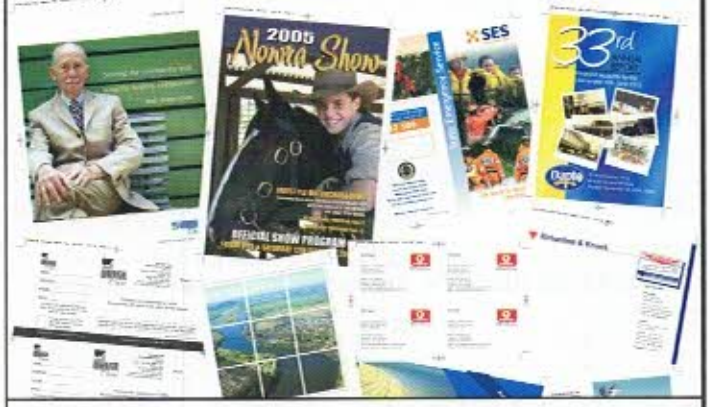

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Country living

by Keith McMenomy

Trees, loves and close shaves

I have to come out and confess that I am a dendrophiliac; but one with complications and contradictions.

I do really love trees but it has been necessary to cut some down at times. I have almost lost my scone too in the process. Life for all species depends on trees for rainfall and this is a bit of a shock to Aussies who have largely denuded the world's driest continent. It is another sobering truth that past civilizations can be traced by the footprints they leave behind, which we call deserts. So, despite occasional violence, I try to make amends, in a small way, by planting as many new trees as possible.

I can almost claim to have grown up among trees. My mother was living on her family's orchard when I was born. I grew up, mostly in the city but visited the orchard, at weekends and holidays to help out. Nothing matches the tranquil beauty of orchard life, except, perhaps, living on a vineyard. Ours was a patchwork quilt of row after row of trees criss-crossing the hills. The smell of ripe peaches, plums, pears and lemons immediately transports me back to the old packing shed. But my most vivid early memory is of climbing to the top of pine trees planted around the boundaries. Swaying from side to side in the lofty tips, high above the distant ground, I felt like a magpie looking out over the landscape.

As a schoolboy I was gob-smacked by reproductions of paintings of our landscapes and eucalypts which hung on classroom walls. There were sun-drenched tree-scapes by Arthur Streeton and Hans Heyson and watercolours by Harold Herbert. Later I studied the originals at galleries, before modernism made them politically incorrect. As adults we established gardens and planted trees around the homestead on our first farm, starting from scratch. But I must confess I also pushed trees over to clean up overgrown paddocks. We re-built a holiday house next, in amongst the dense bush on the Victorian coast. This was well cooked on Ash Wednesday and we were lucky not to be there. This put us off living too close to flammable timber but we did not lose our love of trees.

Now in the highlands we are establishing our sixth garden, again planting fruit trees and shelterbelts of gums. Life goes full circle; we are back on old orchard country and century-old Monterey pines at the fence-lines are giving up the ghost. A few months ago I was preparing to fell a huge one that seemed to divide into two trunks. I had undercut half way, almost a metre, and was ready for the back cut but walked away to the trailer to sharpen the chain. I had no sooner reached there than there was an almighty crack and the trunk split vertically, dropping the undercut portion onto where I had just been squatting. There goes another one of my lives. Even so, after all these years we are still happily living with trees.

Vet's casebook

by Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

My early days in a large-animal veterinary practice in the Berrima District were about as close to the James Herriott experience as you could get without going to Yorkshire. We provided a vet service to about 300 family-run dairies dotted throughout the area. Three vets operated out of Bevan Badgery's Stock and Station Agency office in Moss Vale and Tom Binney was our secretary. There were no mobile phones to give instant access to anywhere at anytime, like we have today. (well...with the exception of Bundanoon!)

Tom spent a lot of time working through the manual exchange at Moss Vale Post Office, trying to locate the 'vet on call' for emergencies. A cow down with milk-fever, totally paralysed and gasping for breath, could easily be dead by the time we drove back to town, got the message and then went back to a property in the same area.

It was just such a case when I had been out to assist Bobby Hayes at Kangaloon with a calving. Tom needed to send me on to a farm close by where a cow was dying with Grass Tetany. Finally he was able to make phone contact with someone in the farmhouse; the conversation went something like this:

Tom: "Can I speak to the vet please"

Toddler: "Who's that?"

Tom: "Where is your Dad?"

Toddler: "Milking cows."

Tom: "Where is your Mum?"

Toddler: "Milking cows."

Tom (frustrated): "Is there anyone else in the house I can talk to?"

Toddler: "You can speak to my sister Elsie."

Tom (relieved):"Thank you, could you get her to the phone."

Tom waited for five minutes while there was loud screaming and arguing going on in the background...

Toddler (crying): "I can't get her out of the cot!"

They called them the 'good old days' but at times like this we often wondered about that! 'Progress' has since reduced the number of dairies in the district to a total of six and the annual rainfall is a fraction of what we had then. I used to spend the whole winter in gumboots!

* * * * * * *

Hot, dry conditions increase the risk of snakebites. Cats and dogs love anything that slithers. Normally shy snakes love sunbaking in the open and become self-protective and dangerous if approached. If your pet has been outside and shows signs of sudden vomiting, frothing, staggering, bluish gums or convulsions, shock, collapse – take him to a vet immediately. DO NOT WAIT TO SEE IF HE RECOVERS ON HIS OWN. Emergency treatment with polyvalent snake antivenom can save lives.

Remember some breeds of snakes, like the Copperhead, are nocturnal. So, be careful in the dark. In one of his books, Australia's snake expert H.G. Cogger claims that Exeter is the 'Copperhead Capital' of Australia.

* * * * * * *

Update: Bundanoon dog 'Lad' is in his 23rd week of chemotherapy. He is doing wonderfully well, is bright and active. He has no signs of a relapse at this stage. He has only three treatments to go before he is 'on his own'.

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Quest for Life

by Petrea King

The living well of grief

When life delivers us an unexpected diagnosis in ourselves or in someone we love or when a relationship we thought would last a lifetime suddenly ends, when our dreams are shattered by the death of someone dear, we enter the bewildering landscape of grief. We don't get 'over' grief as if it were a surmountable obstacle. We can become more comfortable with our discomfort but there is no finite time for grief as there is no finite time for love. Grief can spring out of drawers and cupboards, off shelves, from photographs, wafts to our nostrils upon a perfume, is precipitated by music, clutches at our heart, hollows out our insides and plummets us to the depths. It is indeed a strange beast to know and understand, to embrace, digest and assimilate.

It can be very helpful to identify the behaviours, the environments and the things that we do or have in our lives that give us peace or that connect us to the present moment. For some people solace is found in the garden, by listening to music, in the company of friends and loved-ones, through writing out our feelings or creating a special event or project in celebration of that person's memory. Activities that nurture us such as warm baths, eating well, massage or counselling can help us maintain a healthy perspective that acknowledges our pain without overwhelming us. Scheduling time for ourselves to express our sadness, disbelief, anger or frustration can be more effective than having it come out in less helpful reactive language or behaviours.

Many people berate themselves for having a good time or for laughing and enjoying themselves when they are grieving. Some people think they must be in denial or they feel guilty or mortified that they can find pleasure in anything after the dreadful pain of loss. Having fun or enjoying each other's company is not a sign that we miss a loved-one any the less. Holding onto the pain of grief as a way of staying connected to our loved-one deprives us of the opportunity of integrating the experience in the knowledge that love never dies.

There is no healthy way *around* grief. By honouring our unique way of embracing grief and removing the pressure of other people's – and our own – expectations of how we *should* grieve, we can create a healing pathway for ourselves.

The village

by Joanne McGrath

Living in a village is a way of life unlike any other. That is, a *real* village, as opposed to a specific area in a city where gentrification dictates something less ordinary than the word 'suburb'. Then of course we hear of the 'Global Village', whatever that may mean.

When I was growing up most young people were keen to leave their village and its parochial ways, to seek the anonymity of a town or better still, a city. When you are growing up you believe you have much to hide, or if not, you hope you soon will have.

The first time I went to live in a large, strange city, I realised that I could explore every street and every suburb without finding one familiar face and by the same token, no-one would know me. The glamour of anonymity quickly began to pale.

The village community is, of course, composed of villagers and traditionally the village community was held together by various economic and political ties, linked possibly by blood through inter-marriage and land use.

The village community is recorded in the history of many cultures, but is thought to have evolved from the ancient Middle East, in what is present day Iran and Iraq. The traditional village was largely self-sufficient and consisted of perhaps 5–30 families whose homes were built close together for both social and defence purposes.

Today of course, due to transport and communications, most villages are integrated socially, economically and politically with the larger society. So, what holds the village community together in the 21st century and why do some people still want to live in villages? I asked my fellow villagers for their impressions of our lifestyle.

Everyone felt a sense of community and believed this could only be found among smaller populations. This was further defined as 'a coming together, knowing who people are, sharing mutual concerns and an ability to look out for each other'. All this strongly suggests that a higher level of trust exists in smaller communities. Next on the list was 'the peace and quiet and sense of space to be found in a country village. A haven from our over populated and traffic congested cities – a less frenetic pace!' A number of people said they had experienced village life in their childhood and felt that it had much to offer. And here in the Highlands, of course, we all appreciate the distinct seasons and romantic mists.

Me? I agree with all of the above and I also love the many different vistas to be seen from a high country village.

Long live the village!

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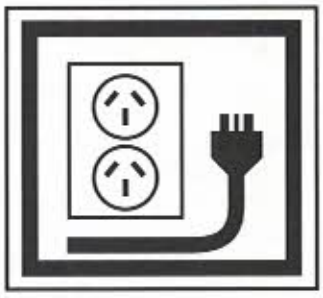

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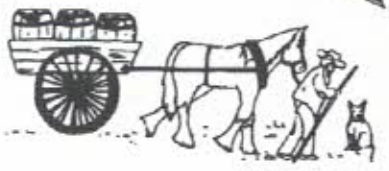

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Sporting notices

Sporting Hero

Danny Rumsey competed in the Third Down Syndrome International Swimming Championships held in September 2006. It was his first International event – a great experience and he came home with six gold and three silver medals, and set three short-course world records to add to the four long-course records he had set previously. At the end of the championships, Danny was the most successful Australian swimmer at the games.

The Australian team did their country proud with 20 world records, 19 gold, 34 silver, 16 bronze medals, and placing second in the world.

Where to from here? Danny and others in the Australian team have been invited to compete in the 2007 Invitational Down Syndrome Taiwan International Swimming Championships to be held in Taiwan in June this year. After that, Danny is aiming to compete in the Fourth Down Syndrome International Championships to be held in Portugal in 2008, where he hopes to once again win many medals and set more world records.

The Rumsey family, especially Danny, would like to thank the Bundanoon community and people of the Southern Highlands for all the support and well-wishes Danny received to make his trip to Ireland possible.

Daniel, Andrew, Sue and John

Bowls

The 2007 Bowls season has kicked off to a very good start with Handicap singles and Fours championships. P. Dodds, N. Alaban, M. Hoye and P. Kellond and D. Hale, N. Phillips, J. Hoare and B. Burnham competed on Saturday 27 January.

On Friday 26 January we held our annual Australia Day lambs' fry breakfast and bowls morning.

This year we have two reasonably strong pennant sides in grades 6 and 7 who have played at Bowral and Robertson in trial matches in February.

On Monday 5 February Oak Flats Bowling Club visited Bundanoon for a full day of events before making their way back down the hill.

On 1 April we will host a group of bowlers and non-bowlers from Dooleys Lidcombe Bowls Group. The Bundanoon Markets are on that day, which the non-bowlers will be attending. There may be a guided coach tour of the town, the Bundanoon gullies and surrounding villages.

If any person with a good knowledge of Bundanoon and surrounding areas would like to act as a guide for that tour, please contact Ron Angel, Bowls Coordinator on 4883 6450 or 4883 6174.

Rugby

Rugby training has started: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30pm at the oval. Everyone welcome!

First match: vs Wollondilly 21 April at Wollondilly.

Further info: Markus Fenwick on 0427 684 494 or 4883 6692.

Tennis

Club Championships:
Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May 2007

Open to all members of Bundanoon Tennis Club

Juniors – Saturday
Men's and Women's Open – Sunday

More details and entry forms will be available soon.

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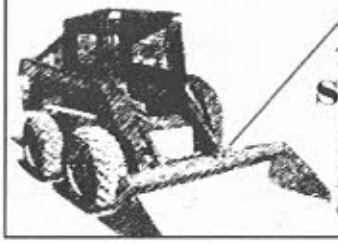

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Activities and services directory

Activities

Bundanoon Community Development Association (BCDA)		
President	Ralph Clark	4883 6389
Secretary	Ken Challenor	4883 6765
Bundanoon Public School P&C	Jenny Walker	4883 7998
Bundanoon Visitors' Group	Karin & Harry Hull	4883 6372
Bundanoon Voices	Coralie & Michael Flint	4883 6588
Chess Club	Pat Foley	4883 6064
Country Women's Association *(meets 1st Thurs, 1 pm, CWA Rooms):*		
Marie Reid	4883 6526	
Friends of Morton Nat. Park	Sheila Micholson	4883 6107
Alan Hyman	4883 7763	
Garden Club	Terry Bruce	4883 4499
Glow Worm Glen Track C'ttee.	John Dorman	4883 6296
Green Team	David Beasley	4883 7122
History Group *(meets 1st Monday, 10 am, Old Goods Shed)*		
President	Patricia Guy	4883 6971
Secretary	Graham Morgan	4883 7714
Lions Club *(meets 1st/3rd Monday, 7.30 pm, Bundanoon Club):*		
Ralph Clark	4883 6389	
Playgroup	Candice Piper	0428 615 980
RSL *(meets 1st Tues (exc. January), 2 pm, RSL Rooms at Oval):*		
Trevor Fenton	4883 6433	
Waratah Slimmers	Kath Hogg	4822 6757

Sports Clubs

Bowls (Men)	John Witney	4883 7356
(Women)	Shirley Scott	4883 6851
Cricket	Steve Granger	4868 2680
Croquet	Dick Topham	4883 6721
Pony Club	Carol Halstead	4883 6662
Rugby	Cameron Reid	4883 6788
Soccer	Liz Norrie	4883 6421
Social Golf	Carol Townsend	4883 7380
Swimming	Janine Wandell	4883 7246
Tennis	Cameron Reid	4883 7074

Support & Volunteer Services

Community Health Service	Bowral	4861 8000
Early Childhood Clinic	4861 8000	
Wingecarribee Adult Day Care	Michelle Lindau	4862 1774
Fire Station	**4883 6333**	
Meals on Wheels	Fay Carter	4883 7441
Mobile Library	Moss Vale Library	4868 2479
Petrea King Quest for Life Centre	4883 6599	
Red Cross (Exeter branch)	June Morrissey	4883 4443
Rural Fire Service (RFS)	Alan Fairbrother	4883 6597
RFS Women's Auxiliary	Rosemary Page	4883 6499
RSPCA (Goulburn/Highlands)	0412 475 428	
WIRES	4862 1788	

To update or correct details, please contact Kate Perkins 4883 6422.

Church times (see p44 for Easter services)

Anglican Church of Sutton Forest
Holy Trinity, Bundanoon ..... Sunday, 9.00am, 5.30pm
St Aidan's, Exeter ..... Sunday, 9.30 am
St Stephen's, Tallong
1st & 3rd Sundays, 1.30 pm ..... 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am
All Saints, Sutton Forest
1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am ..... 2nd & 4th Sundays, 2.30 pm

Uniting Church, Bundanoon
Sunday, 11am..... Thursday, 12.30 pm

St Brigid's Catholic Church, Bundanoon
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 5.00 pm 2nd & 4th Sundays, 8am

St Paul's Catholic Church, Moss Vale
Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6pm ..... Sunday, 9.30 am

Moss Vale Christian Church..... Sunday, 10am
Encounter Group, Robertson School of Arts, 1st Sunday, 2pm

Iona Christian Community, St Patrick's, Sutton Forest
2nd and 4th Sundays..... 10.30 am

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Events in Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall

Piano at Ten recitals: 1st Saturday each month, 10am

Gala Concert featuring Brandenburg Orchestra Ensemble, 24 March

The Power of Three, concert, 21 April, 7:30pm

Markets, 1st Sunday each month

Murder Mystery by St. George Theatre, March 31, 7:30pm

ANZAC Day ceremony after march and wreath laying, April 25

Brigadoon Ceilidh, 28 April

For enquiries regarding Hall bookings, phone Kay Pearsall, 4883 6954

Easter services

Anglican services
Please ph Jacqueline Bonham, 4883 7144, for information.

Catholic Church
St Paul's, Garrett St, Moss Vale: Holy Thursday: Mass, 7 pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, 10 am; Liturgy of the Passion, 3pm. Holy Saturday: Vigil Mass, 7 pm. Easter Sunday, Mass, 9.30 am
Bundanoon: Easter Sunday, Mass, 8 am (5pm, **Burrawang**)

Uniting Church
Cnr Spring & Argyle Sts, Moss Vale: Maundy Thursday, 7pm, **Bundanoon:** Good Friday, 11 am. Easter Sunday, 11 am.

Iona Christian Community at St Patrick's Sutton Forest:
Palm Sunday, 1 April, 10:30am. Good Friday, 12 noon. Easter Sunday, 10:30am.

Presbyterian Church
7 Browley St, Moss Vale: Good Friday, 9am. Easter Sunday, 9.30am.

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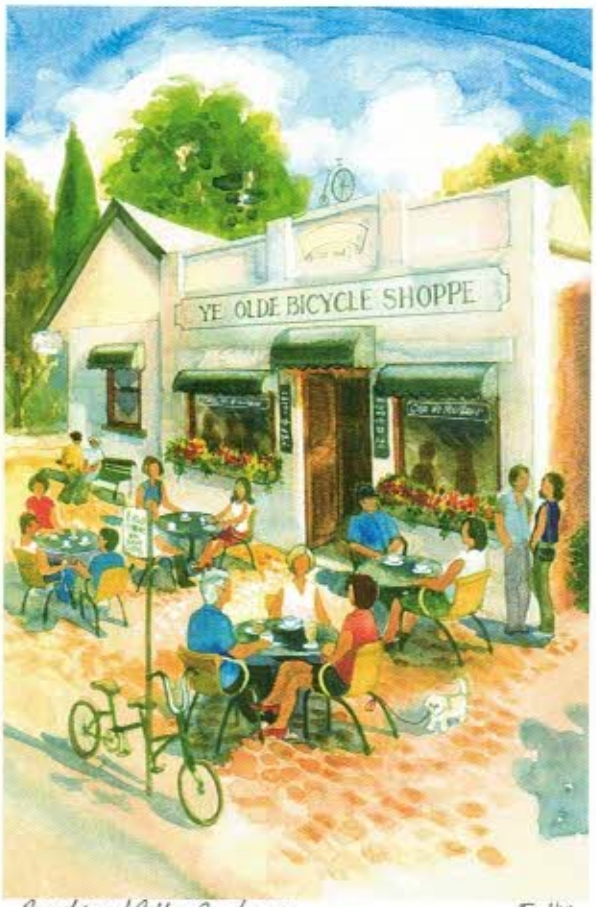

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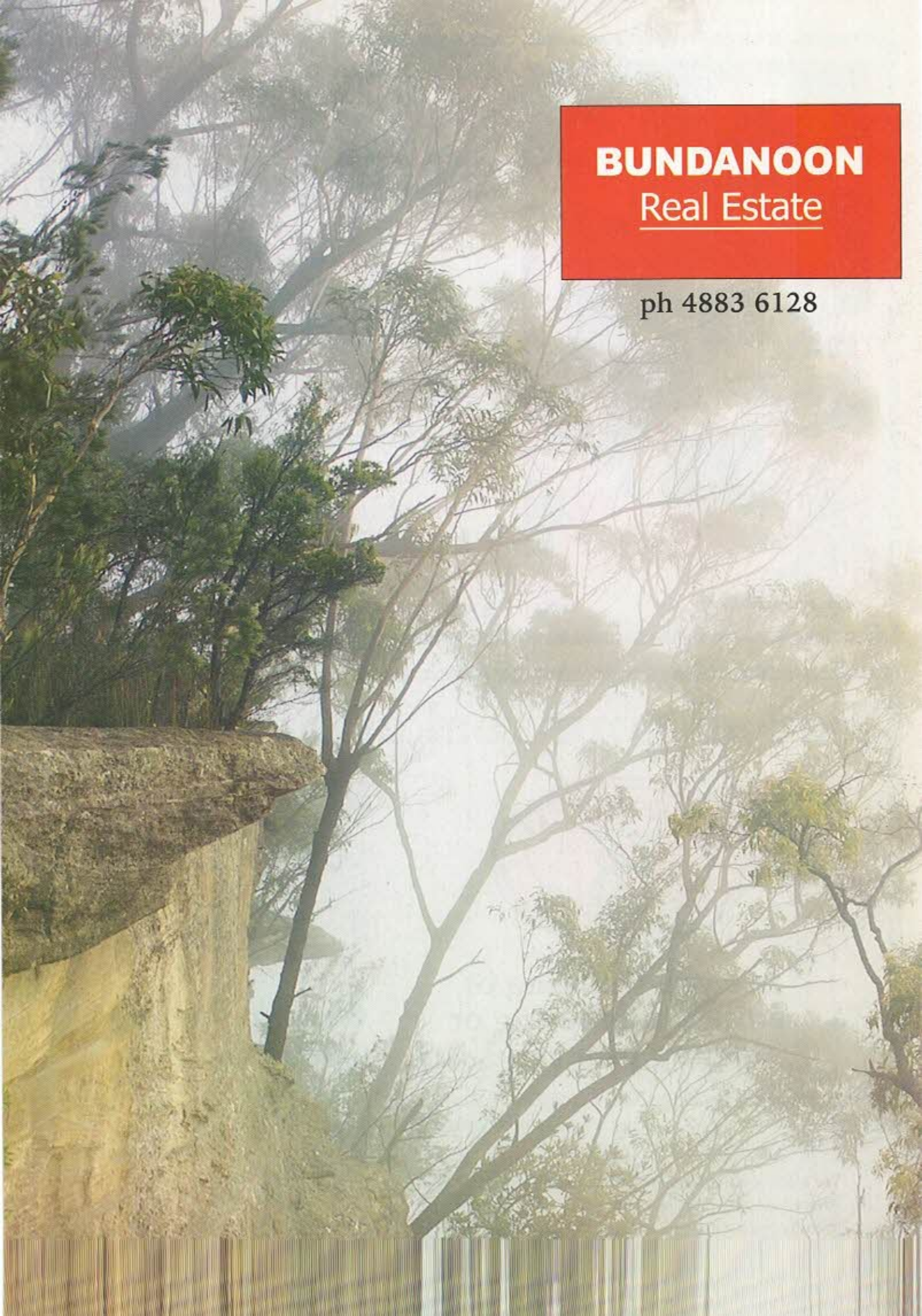

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