

A watercolor illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a tree with green and yellow leaves stands on a rocky outcrop. The background shows a wide, flat landscape with distant hills under a pale sky.

jcg
Edition 43

MORTON NATIONAL PARK

past and present

also:

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Editor's notes



An early morning walk in the National Park is a wonderful way to start the day! Some Bundanoon residents may not be aware of this natural asset on the edge of our town. In this issue of *jcg*, Pat Hall highlights many features of our section of the Morton National Park. I hope you will also enjoy reading stories with an associated native theme and perhaps be encouraged by

contributions from 'Friends' and the 'Currabunda Group' to join their volunteers. This is the last issue for 2005 and with support from our advertisers we will continue producing the magazine with a number of editorial pages in colour in 2006. During the year we had contributions of articles and photographs from community sources. I always welcome new ideas, so please contact me by phoning 4883 7196 or email inverard@hinet.net.au if you would like to write for us.

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Pam Davies

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PO Box 201
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Circulation

1700 copies quarterly

Jordan's Crossing Gazette is a Bundanoon Community Development Association Inc project. It is a non-profit publication supported by our advertisers and distributed free of charge to all homes, business and private mail boxes in Bundanoon, village stores and post offices at Exeter, Penrose, Wingello and Tallong. Also Southern Highlands Visitor Information Centre, Mittagong.

Subscriptions

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Contents



page 6



page 31



page 32



page 35



page 43

Editor's notes.....	3
Council news.....	4
BCDA update.....	4
From Reserve to National Park.....	5
On yer bike.....	6
Currabunda Bushcare Group.....	7
Friends of Morton National Park.....	7
A safe harbour amidst the storms of life.....	9
John Kelly: award-winner.....	9
The school of art.....	13
Watercolour exhibition.....	14
Portrait of Peter.....	14
Young people: Close encounters.....	16
Indigo Creek Project.....	17
A dream come true? Mais oui!.....	19
WIRES: Saving wombats.....	25
A park for locals too.....	26-27
A wedding in Ho Chi Minh City.....	29
Recorder revival.....	30
Oh cuisine!.....	31
Travel: Egyptian experience.....	32
Book reviews.....	33
Room for a refugee.....	34
The pleasure of dance.....	35
Seasonal shopping.....	37
Wanted: details of koala sightings.....	38
Foxes and hens.....	43
Bundanoon Tennis Club.....	45
CWA news.....	45
Bundanoon Rebels Soccer Club: A tribute to Michael.....	47
Letters.....	47
Activities and services directory.....	48
Church Times.....	48
Christmas services.....	48
Events calendar.....	49
Advertisers' index.....	50

What's on page 49

Deadline for next issue: Friday 27 January 2006

BCDA meetings

Third Thursday each month:

15 Dec '05; 19 Jan, 16 Feb '06

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 Gale Pritchett: 4883 7195.

Council news

Councillor Jim Clark

Council has been reviewing the provision of our mobile library service and will make a decision in December about its future. It is essential that all library users, particularly the residents of the smaller villages let council know, in writing, how you feel about the potential loss of services.

The upgrading of the sewerage treatment plant at Bundanoon is progressing. The EIS for the project should be complete by November. The need to find a suitable local site for effluent re-use has presented some problems and requirements for higher standards of water treatment will add to the final cost of the project. The Sydney Catchment Authority has agreed to provide \$2.5 million towards cost of construction and Wingecarribee Council will be required to fund the remainder. There has been a moratorium on further development in Bundanoon until a decision was made about the upgrade. Following this there has been outspoken opposition from residents of neighbouring properties where development application approvals were granted prior to the moratorium.

Good planning and careful review of development proposals is needed to ensure the quality of life in our outlying towns and villages is retained.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss your concerns about council matters: 0428 213 939.



BCDA update

Danien Beets, President



Don't our new town signs look wonderful! I'm sure you'll agree, they are easily the best in the shire and beyond. Thanks must go to the Green Team for organising the process: liaising with Council, RTA etc. and for getting on with the job. I would particularly like to thank Bundanoon Sandstone for donating the stone. It is very easy to forget our quarry tucked away on the other side of Quarry Rd., but it is quite a rare treasure. It is one of only a couple of remaining quarries supplying Sydney and New South Wales with sandstone. This local product has also been used effectively in our main street upgrade and I hope we can continue to showcase the unique character of our town by using sandstone for future projects.

The Garden Ramble was held on a very wet day and as a result, ticket sales were down. We still succeeded in our goal of opening our town for visitors who are interested in our gardens. Despite the rain, we received positive comments about Bundanoon and the open gardens. The Quilt Exhibition at the hotel provided shelter from the weather as well as a varied display of items. My thanks go to the hardworking Garden Ramble, BCDA sub-committee, the garden owners and our army of volunteers who assisted on the day.

As you may or may not be aware, all profits from our Garden Ramble go directly into the annual budget of the Green Team who work on maintenance and regeneration of public areas throughout the town. Also, these volunteers are responsible for the construction of the creek bed at the northern approach to town, new trees in the arboretum and general improvements to the appearance of Railway Ave. The results of their skills and hard work can now be seen in many parts of Bundanoon.

As this is the Christmas issue, I wish you all the best for the holiday season. Enjoy the wonderful weather we are having, try to avoid the hordes of flies that have arrived with that weather, and drive safely over the holiday period.

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From Reserve to National Park

history

by Patricia Guy

The area around Bundanoon was first explored in 1818 and in 1824. The Government Surveyor was instructed to mark 1200 acres, bounded on one side by Boondoo-noon (Bundanoon) Creek, as government reserve land.

For many years, the gullies on the Bundanoon side were used for industry – timber milling and coal mining were carried out along the escarpment and tracks made down to the river bed for gold mining. However, with the coming of the railway in the late 1860's, people from other areas of NSW began to discover the little village of Bundanoon and its surrounding beautiful countryside. The following extract is from the 'Scrutineer' newspaper March 8, 1877: "Along the edge of this scrub which is filled with fern trees, some growing to a height of 10 or 12', and vines and climbers of numerous kinds, there runs a creek of never failing cool and clear water. A thought came across me when viewing this beautiful scrub with its shady and natural bowers and the bright green foliage, with the placid stream of water flowing through it, and the sweet smell of the musk bush filling the air, that the place would make an excellent resort for excursionists and holiday folks from Goulburn, for a more pleasant place for a picnic and its accompanying amusements I have not seen between Mittagong and Goulburn, and again after leaving the scrub and mounting a hill not far distant, a landscape unsurpassed for grandeur in this district meets the eye. The scene before you is one of wild beauty and of great extent. It is called the Bundanoon Gorge."

Tourism had begun and local residents realised that the Gullies

were a major attraction. The Bundanoon Reserves were first dedicated in 1883 and the Bundanoon Progress Committee (forerunner of the BCDA) continually petitioned the state government for funds and assistance to upgrade the roads from Bundanoon to the picnic areas above the Gullies. By the 1890s, the Bundanoon Recreation Reserves Trust had been formed to oversee the improvements to the facilities in the local parks and reserves; these included Lever Park on the western edge of the village with its 'swimming pool', and all the lookouts, walks and beauty spots of the Gullies. Picnic areas, tables, tracks and stairways were constructed using volunteer labour and grants from the government.

The whole gullies area accessed from Bundanoon/Penrose eventually became the Bundanoon State Park. Visitors and locals alike enjoyed the beauty of the Gullies, although few had regard for its lasting preservation. Ferns and flowers were extensively used for decoration for social events and rifle shooting was a common



Above: Picnic at the Amphitheatre

Below left: View from Echo Point looking towards the 'Hell-hole'

Photographs courtesy Bundanoon History Group

pastime in the area. Much of the indigenous flora and fauna disappeared from the more easily accessible parts of the park.

In 1938 in State Parliament, 60,000 acres of public land around Fitzroy Falls was gazetted as "a temporary reservation for public recreation and preservation of native flora and fauna", due largely to the work of Mark Morton, MLA; this was known as the Morton Primitive Reserve, renamed Morton National Park with the passing of the National Parks & Wildlife Service Act in 1967. The park was extended in 1969 by the addition of the former Bundanoon and Barrengarry State Parks. An additional 140,000 acres were added south of the Shoalhaven River in 1970, making the Morton National Park one of the largest parks in NSW.



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Bundanoon hosted the inaugural VAUDE Highland Fling event on 13 November, a race over a designated course. Here Chris Bayliss tells of the pain and the joy of competing in a mountain bike orienteering event.

Fling results

Elite Men: Peter Hatton finally pulled away to finish in an incredible time of 3:53:28 and take home \$1000 for his efforts. Shaun Lewis took 2nd in 3:56:00 beating Josh Fleming into 3rd by a mere second.

Elite Women: the money was taken by Wollongong's Leonie Alsbit in 4:58:31, with Katrin Van Der Spiegel 2nd and NZ rider Myra Moller 3rd.

Put next year's Fling in your diary now: 11-12 November 2006.

"Why on earth am I doing this?" I mutter. I have just cycled through a shallow creek and the muddy water has sprayed onto my thin cycling shorts. Now I am wet, muddy and uncomfortable and I still haven't found control number three.

I am competing in a mountain bike orienteering event – MTB-O for short. Most MTB-O events take place in state forests. Prior to the event the organisers place controls or checkpoints at particular locations such as a creek crossing or track junction. Using maps of the event area, competitors must visit each control before returning to the start/finish point. The competitor who finishes in the fastest time is the winner.

I struggle up a hill and turn right at the crossroads. After 200 metres I still haven't seen the control. "Oh, no! I'm lost." I get out my compass and see I am heading west instead of east. I discover where I went wrong and ride back to the crossroads. Another 100 metres and I find the control. Things are looking up! I clip my control card and plan my route to the next control. An elite rider offers words of encouragement as he races by and that raises my spirits even more.

Each MTB-O event offers a series of courses varying from 5 km to as much as 40 km. An MTB-O event attracts competitors with a wide range of abilities, from lycra-clad internationals on \$10,000 dollar bikes to beginners in shorts and T-shirt riding discount-store specials. Age is no restriction: children take part as do people in their eighties. Often, a weaker rider will beat a stronger opponent because of better strategy and navigation.

Back on the bike, I have just enjoyed an exhilarating downhill run and I am getting close to the finish. But now my legs start to cramp. Maybe I have not been drinking enough. So I gulp down more sports drink and push on.

After I finish, a friend points out a better route to the third control which would have avoided both the creek crossing and the hill. Never mind! Despite my trials and tribulations, I have enjoyed my day. Perhaps I can do better next time.

Mountain Devils is the NSW club that runs seven or eight MTB-O events each year. Because the Southern Highlands has several state forests, two or three events are usually held here.

Two very popular events are organised by Bundanoon resident, Huw Kingston. One is the Urban Polaris, usually held in Canberra in early summer. The other is the Polaris Challenge, a two-day event held at a different, remote location each autumn.

There are many possibilities for mountain bike riding in and around Bundanoon. Rides vary from 10 to 100 or more kilometres and from very easy to very hard. If you would like to try out any of these rides or if you would just like company on your favourite rides phone Chris or Kate on 4883 7678.

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Currabunda Bushcare Group

community

Currabunda expresses the vision of founder Sheila Micholson.

The project entails reclamation of a neglected area of land within Bundanoon containing three old farm dams with adjacent watercourse corridors on the western side of Ellsmore Road. This site holds great potential as a wetland conservation zone (hence 'Curra', Aboriginal for 'spring of water' and 'Bunda', from Bundanoon). In February 2004, with the assistance of Wingecarribee Council Bushcare Officers, a group of dedicated volunteers commenced regenerating what is essentially a core area of interlinked ponds surrounded by grassed and weed-infested ground. (Fortunately, there is a partial canopy of mature Eucalypts and Acacias). Dual priorities have been the removal of noxious exotics such as blackberry, scotch thistle and honeysuckle while planting native species endemic to the district. These include Lomandras, Grasses, Callistemons, Melaleucas, Leptospermum, Banksias, Casuarinas and Eucalypts.

The area's significance for wildlife, especially aquatic birds, cannot be overstated. Several species of duck, waterhen, ibis, herons and plovers live in this 'island' habitat. A comprehensive species survey in 2000 listed a surprising number of birds, animals, amphibians and plant species in the area, to which our own sightings of invertebrates can be added.

This is a long-term project. The ultimate goal is the creation of a fully functional nature reserve as a source of pride for Bundanoon and an example for other communities. Importantly, it will provide a secure refuge for our native wildlife, and become a vital link in the wider chain of parks and reserves.

Volunteers are always needed, for revegetation projects; weed and rubbish removal; to monitor water health and replenishment; to record species variety and number, and to act as custodians of this unique environmental asset.

To facilitate our work, the Group recently received a Federal Grant for the purchase of high quality tools. In addition, Council

Bushcare Officers continue to provide their on-site expertise, encouragement and experience.

info

The Currabunda Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

For further information please contact Sheila on 4883 6107 or Wendy on 4883 7763.



Friends of Morton National Park

Although having had a low public profile in recent times, Alan Hyman reports that 'Friends' is still very active.

The Group has voted to de-incorporate, and as a result we work, directly, as volunteers with National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Group is comprised entirely of active members who wear NPWS volunteer uniforms and work under the direction of a Ranger.

Some of this year's projects include:

- Creation of a new diversion on Lovers' Walk, the track now running from Echo Point shed to Bonnie View through bushland for its entire length. The obsolete section of the track has been closed off, broken up and natural regeneration encouraged.
- Soil levelling and planting of non-invasive grass species at new camping area at Gambells Rest as part of the landscaping programme.
- Removal of large quantities of Montpelier (Broom), an exotic weed, from near the Park boundary with Bundanoon.

- A major tree-planting undertaken in Cecil Hoskins Reserve (Moss Vale), beside Wingecarribee River.
- The Anzac Pde. side window at 'Ye Olde Bicycle Shop' was refurbished with a display of laminated location maps for visitors.

The final disbursement of our funds, raised while we were an incorporated body, has been allocated for several projects within the Bundanoon section of Morton National Park. These include:

- A new safety fence on the lower section of Dimmocks Creek track, and
- A new shelter shed with associated plumbing and fixtures on the relocated camping site at Gambells Rest.

In a society which all too readily promotes the degradation and destruction of beauty and the natural landscape for the sake of the dollar, areas such as Morton National Park will become one of the last remaining refuges for plants, animals and functioning ecosystems on the planet. Our members are motivated for a number of reasons, not

the least of which is an altruistic love of the bush and nature. Track maintenance, bush regeneration, species monitoring – in fact a wide variety of functions is undertaken to help ensure the preservation and integrity of the Park for present and future generations.

info

'Friends' meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

If you have a passionate interest in our environment and would like to find out more please phone Alan on 4883 7763 or Sheila on



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John Kelly: award-winner

Some may not be acquainted with our local chiropractor, John Kelly, at the Lynwood Medical Centre in Bundanoon; others swear by him and it would come as no surprise to them to hear that he has been selected for the

NSW Chiropractor of the Year Award for 2005.

This prestigious award from the Chiropractors of Australia Association (NSW) Ltd has not been given for three years. His selection was based on his work with post-graduate students and their education and his peer review work for the association's insurer. His extensive experience as principal of The Sydney

Chiropractic College and Lecturer in Neurology for 25 years has contributed to his excellence in care and sound practice. He has a philosophy of better health through optimum spinal function, with prevention being the key.

We are very lucky to have such an accomplished practitioner in Bundanoon – well done John!

John receiving his award from the President of the CAA (NSW) Ltd, Mary Papatheochous

A safe harbour amidst the storms of life



cave within his monastery and wouldn't come out! This sacred cave had been the retreat and meditation space for St Francis many centuries before and the atmosphere of peace is still palpable to this day. Since my recovery from leukaemia, my life has been devoted to counselling and supporting people who likewise face their own worst nightmares.

Many events in life can stop us in our tracks and cause us to consider how best to meet the challenges. People often come to Quest seeking better ways of managing the difficulties of chronic illness, multiple loss, anxiety, the death of a loved-one, relationship breakdown, depression or the consequences of past abuse. Some people simply choose to take time-out to review their life.

It can be difficult to find compassionate support and practical self-help techniques and strategies when we're struggling with life challenges. People who've faced similar traumas or difficulties often make the best companions to those venturing into the painful territory of their

own suffering. A safe, non-judgmental environment in which people deeply listen to our story can help us unravel ourselves and be very healing.

Since 1985 more than 50,000 people have attended residential programs or counselling with me and our team of trained health professionals.

People travel from all over Australia to Quest (and many from overseas). Through the NSW Health Department, our fundraising activities and the generosity of donations and bequests our programs are available to everyone in need of them. Specific

bequests and grants have also enabled us to beautify the grounds at Quest and add more facilities for our participants. We also value the many volunteers from our local community.

Next year we anticipate repeating our meditation classes for local residents as well as providing other support services. If ever we can be of service to you or your loved-ones please call or visit us.

Petrea King

Founder and CEO
Quest for Life Centre

Tel: 4883 6599

Since the purchase and refurbishment of Killarney in 1998, the Petrea King Quest for Life Centre has had many highlights and not a few challenges. This had been a dream of mine for more than fourteen years.

In 1984 I had isolated myself in a little cave within a monastery in Italy during my own struggles with leukaemia. It was in this cave that I thought that there needed to be safe and nurturing havens for people struggling to come to terms with significant challenges in their lives.

During that time I was cared for by an elderly priest, Father Ilarino, who spoke no English and I, no Italian. He must have wondered why this pale, divorced, Anglican had retreated into the tiny

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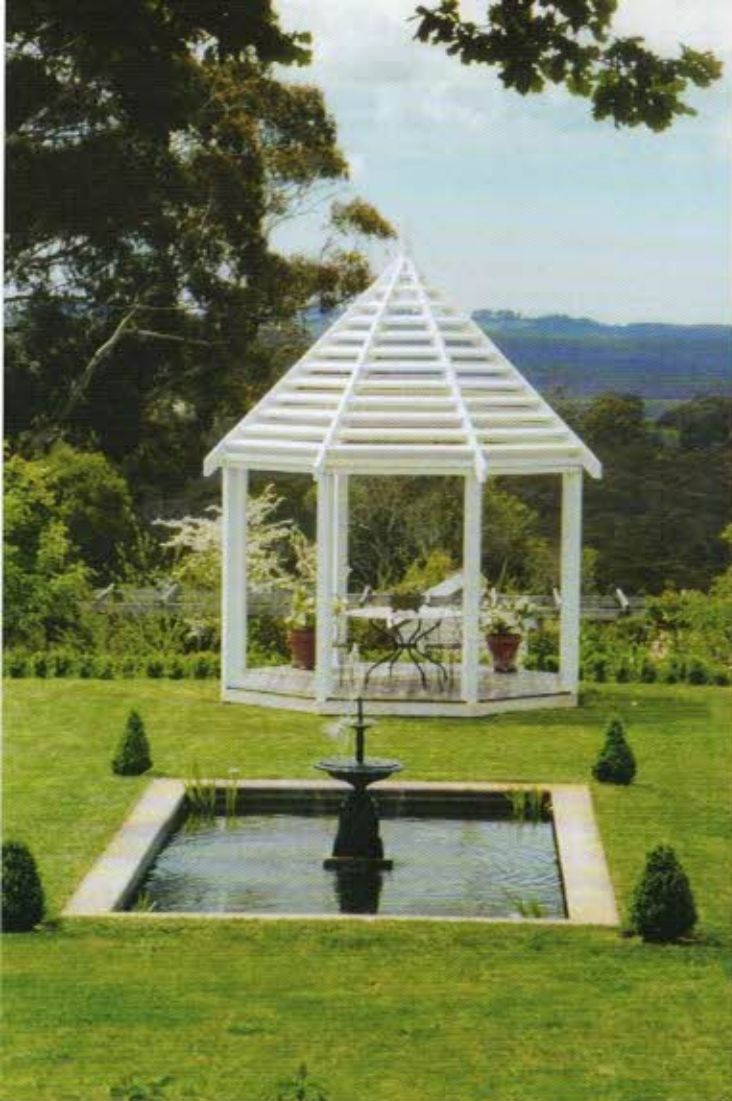


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Bundanoon gardeners welcome rain but not on Garden Ramble Day!

Despite the weather open gardens were spectacular, the scarecrows were unperturbed and the Quilt Exhibition provided shelter for visitors.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the event.

For 2006 entry enquiries, please phone Dale Chalmers, coordinator, 4883 6077(after 6.30pm)

Scarecrow details

1st prize: B Partridge *Wick-Wick*

2nd prize: Sue & Graham Wilson *Scarecrow with Pots of Charm*

Equal 3rd prize: Bundanoon Pre-school *Potty Polly* and Simone Tomlin *Banjo*



1st prize



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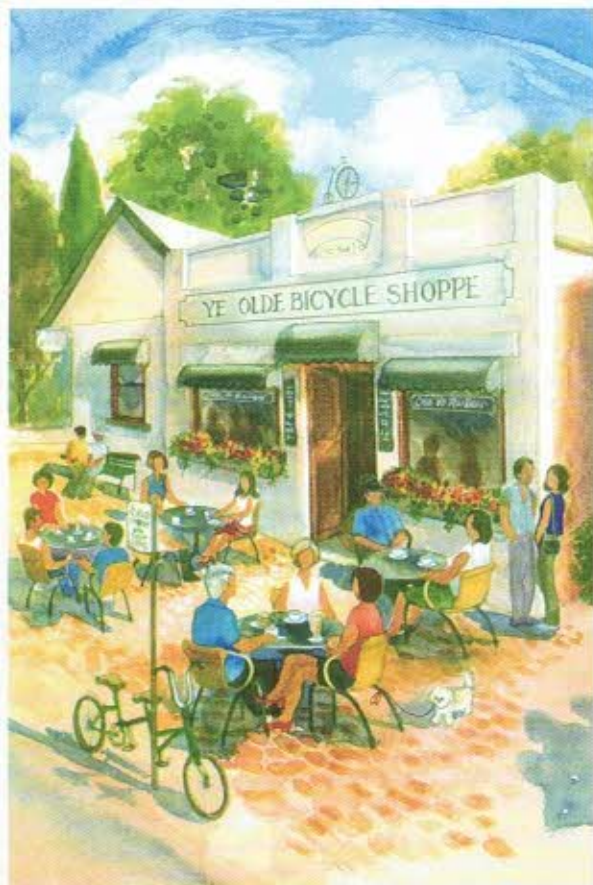
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The school of art

community

Every year, usually in early September, Bundanoon Public School brings its motto of Creativeness and Imagination to life with a wonderful art display. Organised and produced primarily by the very skilled and creative teachers, Ruth Goldstein and Kella Mesiti, they are assisted by all the staff, (none of whom is formally trained in art), and principal Robyn Versluis. The resulting quality and variety of children's artwork has to be seen to be believed. Every child has three or four pieces of

work on display. The school library is the main showcase, with selected works in the school office, the Post Office and the newsagency.

From Botticelli's 'Art in the Round' by Yr. 6, to Kindergarten's hand made flowers and papier mache' Bird Faces which formed an installation in the native garden, it was all there. Viewers were charmed by the individual 'Brushless Chooks' as well as the Degas inspired Ballet Dancers using pastels and chalk. Also eye catching were the 'gangs' of Nolan's Ned Kelly. We

saw Soldiers from Gallipoli, (inspired by the Archibald prize winning line drawing of David Gulpillil), Andy Warhol's Pop-Art, Margaret Preston's study of native flowers and so much more. Most art was thematically linked to the school's Human Society and Its Environment unit on Icons and Images of Australia – even Ken Done was represented.

The results were absolutely outstanding. Happiness and freedom of expression shone through all the work. If you missed it this year, make sure you see it next year.

Great art is simply uplifting and Ross Armfield discovered that it starts at a very early age in Bundanoon, in a most inspiring and accomplished way.



Brushless chooks, Faces from Gallipoli.
Dancers and Bird faces



Watercolour exhibition

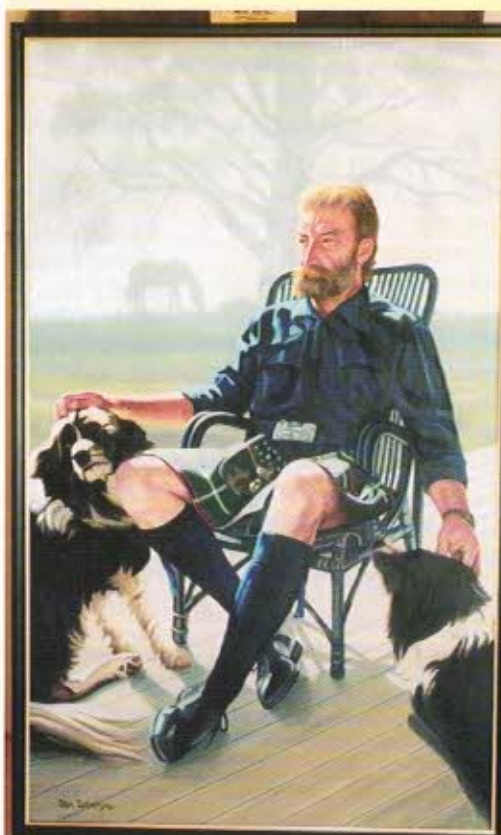
'Moods of the Shire' was an exhibition of watercolours, held in September in the foyer gallery at the civic centre Moss Vale. John Ashworth, Judy Davis and Jenny Hawkins met at Berrima District Art Society five years ago and since then have regularly painted landscapes, on site, which reflect the beauty and diversity of our shire.

"We have met once a week to battle the elements, tricky terrain, uncooperative equipment and to have a great deal of fun. The companionship and friendship has held us together," says Judy.



Above: Spring on Mt Alexandra by Judy Davis

Below: Storm Day, Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve by Judy Davis



The portrait of Peter Rocca, proudly wearing the Bundanoon tartan, accompanied by his border collies.

Portrait of Peter

Bundanoon artist, Don Talintyre, who brought Bundanoon to life with his wonderful mural on the wall of Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe, recently completed a portrait of Peter Rocca. It was chosen as a finalist for the inaugural Berkelouw Books portrait prize at the Berrima District Art Society in Bowral.



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A somewhat introspective Ross Armfield shares his views on 'Young People' and this funny old thing called 'Life'.

At the risk of appearing a little self-indulgent, I would like to relate a recent incident in our lives involving our 15-year-old son Thomas. Last July, Thomas was given the opportunity to travel to Europe with his Moss Vale High school friend, Ellie Warner and her family. They planned to

visit England, France and Germany before meeting Ellie's father, Mark, at their final destination, Bulgaria. Mark was working as editor on the new Bruce Beresford film being shot there.

On the morning of 7 July, our travellers were only a few days into their adventure, about to set off from London to explore the 'Camelot' country of southwest England. Thomas phoned at 8.00a.m. (5.00p.m. our time), to let my wife, Barb, and I know that they were about to leave their

hotel to go to Paddington station to catch the 9.05 train to Exeter (U.K.).

A couple of hours later, we watched the evening news in horror as reports began filtering through of the Underground bombings. The times of the reported explosions were when Thomas and the Warners would have been on the platform. The Edgware Road Station explosion was only one stop from Paddington. Had they been affected? Had they caught the 'Tube' to get to their station? What was going on over there? Were they all okay?

The next few hours were just surreal. A nauseating mixture of emotions took over – feeling out of control, impotent and very, very scared. The dream-like sense of unreality just intensified as more and more reports of the death and destruction were screened. At about 9:00pm. (Noon in England), we received wonderful news! Thomas phoned us to say that they were in Exeter. They had been on the above ground rail network and even though the bombs were going off just one station away as they were boarding their train, they were able to depart from London safely – the last train to do so before the whole rail network was closed down.

The sense of relief was overwhelming. The highs and lows of that evening left us exhausted. The rest of their journey over the next three and a half weeks was just wonderful and free of any dramatic incidents, but deep down, we were anxious for them to return, where once again we could ensure the safety and security of friends and family in good old safe and secure Oz. Well – Wouldn't we? And isn't it?

A month or so after Thomas and the Warners returned, we found out that at about the same time as all this had been happening in our

lives, the son of my wife's cousin, a strapping lad of 18, was working the late shift at a fast food chicken outlet in the St. George district in Sydney, with a 15 year old girl as his junior assistant. At about 10:30pm as they were cleaning up and preparing to close, they were held up and robbed at gunpoint. Fortunately, the two were not hurt physically, but huge emotional stress was incurred by both of them and they are still recovering. So much for being safer at home!

Thinking about the two events brought home to me how little control we really do have in any situation, domestic or international. Life is full of both wonderful promise and fulfilment and heartbreaking setbacks. We all love our children and dread the thought of anything awful happening to them, but we want them to go out and discover the world for themselves and we can't 'wrap them in cotton wool' forever. Life IS a risk, a gamble! It is fragile, tenuous and often arbitrary. We walk a 'tightrope' and because of its precarious nature, it is all the more precious.

When we felt our son was 'at risk', the thought flashed through our minds, 'should we have let him go?' The answer of course is most definitely yes. You must make the most of every opportunity and actively live life.

Young people today seem to be so active, adventurous and confident in so many ways, (as regular readers of this segment of the *jcg* would know only too well). While not abandoning caution, care or commonsense, we should nurture, support and encourage our young people in every way we can. In short, love them, making the most of every moment we have with them and, hopefully, that love will be returned to us, by them, in full.

For Michael



Photo: Thomas, Clay, Sue, Ellie and Mark in London



Three cheers for Mr AI

Ross Armfield with some of his 1994 Year 1 'Magpies' from Bundanoon School at the post-HSC Moss Vale High School formal in Hopewood House Gardens, Bowral on 11 November.

Indigo Creek Project

by Jill Cockram



The Friends of Indigo Creek (FOIC) are a group of interested residents motivated to protect and rehabilitate the remnants of endangered Southern Highlands Shale Woodland that border Indigo Creek in Exeter.

Indigo Creek flows from the village of Exeter into Morton National Park and then on to the Shoalhaven Catchment. Through the use of weed management, erosion control and re-vegetation, the group aims to achieve improved water quality and to create a wildlife corridor, reconnecting the woodland remnants to the Morton National Park.

Exeter Public School students are participating in the project by collecting seed from the remnant Woodland. The collected seed will then be propagated in the school's greenhouse. When the seedlings are ready, they will be planted on properties along the creek.

Southern Highlands Shale Woodland is listed as an endangered ecological community by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and as "likely to become extinct in nature in NSW unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate..." About 2,000ha or

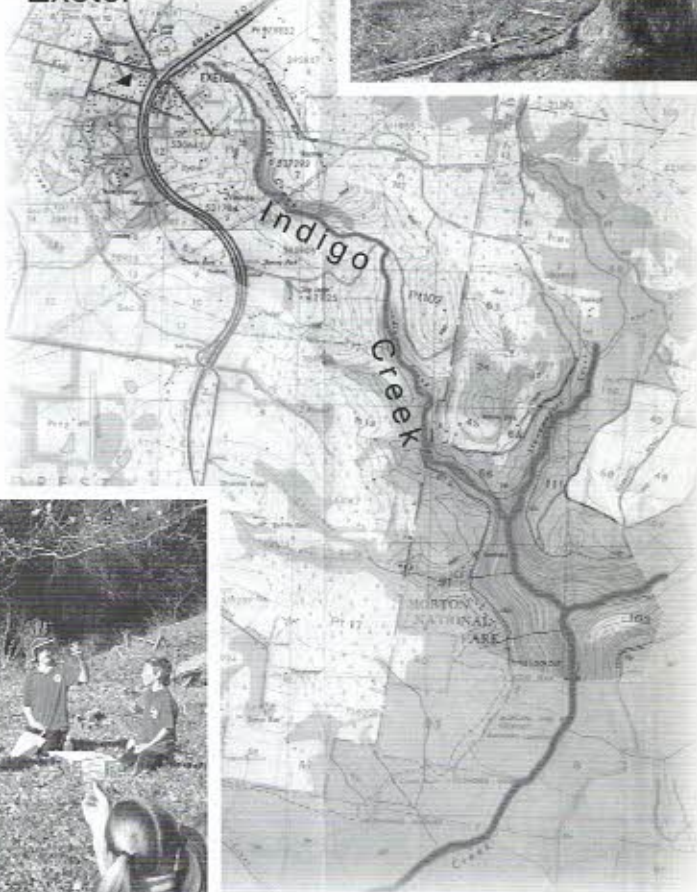
less than 5% of the original extent still remains.

FOIC are being assisted in their aims through the help of representatives from the Catchment Management Authority, Wingecarribee Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team, Landcare and Streamwatch.

info

For enquiries contact:
Jill Cockram 4883 4399
or Greg Brown 4883 4128 or Robyn Sweeney 4883 6853.

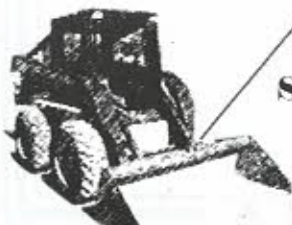
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A dream come true? Mais oui!

connections

I have been a Francophile all my life and was fascinated to learn that Barbara and Heather had just returned from a six month stay in France.

They have their own house in Florensac near Montpellier in the Languedoc district and love to spend extended periods of time in their little French village and then come home to Australia.

Barbara, a retired Solicitor, is the Bundanoon connection and has a house here. Heather, a lyric soprano on the international stage is also retired and lives in Sydney.

During pauses in conversation our thoughts wandered to the book *A Year in Provence*, by English writer Peter Mayle, who narrated the frustrations and joys of purchasing a farm house in Provence. He and his wife experienced the eccentricities of French workmen as they proceeded with building alterations in the Gallic manner, despaired at the size of the meals they were expected to eat and strove to improve their little understanding of the local language.

Heather and her family were no strangers to France and had spent many happy holidays there. In 1983 she and her three children lived on her husband's family farm in Montpellier near Florensac and returned to Australia in 1990.

On retirement her dream of dividing time between France and Australia began to take shape and she consulted a friend, a real estate agent in Languedoc. Her requirements for a house in a small village were realised. It so happened that the property she bought in Florensac was the first house owned by 'English' people in the village.

They have become identities in Florensac and especially love to be involved with music and the community. The villagers there are very sociable and everyone eats out at local restaurants on Saturday nights.

What's more, Heather and Barbara are involved in arranging concerts in the village; however, there is one problem... no piano!

The nearest piano is many kilometres away and has to be hired and brought in for the occasion.

Heather loves to perform her favourite items in varied programs of music for the village people.

Our two Aussie ladies enjoy entertaining their family and friends in their village house and delight in showing visitors around the district, having mastered driving on the right hand side of the road.

The Mediterranean coast is only a short distance away and much of their time is spent at the seaside.

Ken Challenor writes that when he and Josephine attended the 2005 Bastille Day dinner held in the Memorial Hall Supper Room they were joined by Barbara Neill and Heather Curry whom they had not met before. The Challenors enjoy celebrating Bastille Day and to the accompaniment of Edith Piaf music and general joie de vie it didn't take long to discover the connection between Bastille Day and the presence of these two guests.

On retirement her dream of dividing her time between France and Australia began to take shape.

Barbara and Heather easily settled in to village life and are now accepted as locals. They participate in all the gossip and enjoy being part of the community. French lessons were commenced when they first arrived and their studies continue when in residence.

There are parallels between Florensac and Bundanoon. Both feature lively markets, are within short driving distance from the coast, there is a love of music, the locals enjoy eating out at restaurants and are friendly and hospitable.

Most of us can only dream of commuting between Oz and France, but Barbara and Heather have made it a reality. Magnifique!



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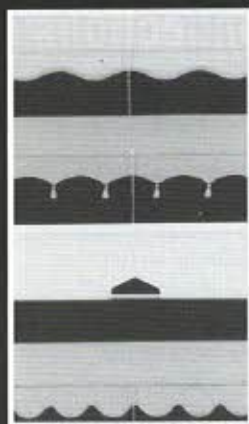
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MARGARET MUIR



My family and I are fortunate to have a family of blue winged kookaburras visit our place. Earlier this year, these kookaburras made themselves comfortable on our verandah railing.

Photo by: Dianna Watson Photography

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WIRES: Saving wombats

wildlife

by Harvey Grennan

Sugar and Forest know when they're on a good thing. Both have been kicked out of home but they keep coming back where there's a bed, free tucker and a bit of TLC.

Sugar and Forest are young wombats taken in by Gaylene and Rob Parker at their 55-acre property bordering Crown land and State forest at Wingello.

But this is no Disney storyline of furry, cuddly animals wandering around the house doing cute things like knocking over the lolly jar. This is a tale of serious conservation and research by volunteers who spend their daylight and often their sleeping hours preserving our wildlife without a thought of reward. Indeed, their passion costs them dearly as there is no government funding, only donations to WIRES. Rob also has a full-time job at Penrose.

Sugar and Forest, who had a bit of fun chasing your intrepid correspondent and nipping his trousers, are among the 30 injured and abandoned animals in residence at any one time. They range from 60-gram joeys in cloth pouches to 15 kg adolescents.

Sugar's mother was the victim of a farmer who illegally trapped wombats and left them to starve to death. Forest's mother was killed by a car and he suffered serious head injuries.

Both have been "soft released" back into the wild but are still coming back to visit. The term "soft release" describes a process where a pair of wombats (like us, they do better with peer support) are housed in a pen on the edge of the property and the door is left open. They can come and go as they please until they are ready for life on their own in the bush.

The Parker passion began 25 years ago when they were running the Wingello general store. Rob hit a wombat on the road, was unable to find it in the bush and when he returned to his vehicle found "a bundle" on the road. "With four kids and a shop to run, an orphan joey was the last thing I needed," says Gaylene.

The Parkers bought their current property in 1988 and set it up as a serious wombat rescue operation. Twelve years ago Gaylene was a founding member of the Southern Highlands WIRES group.

For the last three years Gaylene has been involved in a research project with Sydney University, National Parks and State Forests on the long-term viability of hand-raised wombats in the wild and their territorial

habits, using radio collars to track their movements. "It's never been done before in Australia," she says. "Their survival rate is 60 to 70 per cent when we thought we would be lucky to have 30 to 40 per cent survive, and that was in a drought."

So why do cars hit so many wombats? Actually it's the wombats who hit the cars: they graze on the side of the road and while they have very poor eyesight they can hear a car coming and perceive it as a threat. They charge the car to knock it over. As I said, poor eyesight not to mention judgement!

Gaylene's advice to motorists who see an injured wombat is don't go too close, first because its teeth can do you a lot of damage and second because it might have mange. Wombats have been known to eat the spare

tyre if put in the boot of a car. Phone WIRES or National Parks.

If you find a dead wombat check to see if it has a joey but leave it in the pouch. If you can't hang around pull Mum into some shade by the back leg and put a visible marker nearby, say a coloured rag on a tree. Then ring WIRES with the location.

Why does Gaylene do it seems a fair question. "They are fascinating creatures and they deserve to live with us. If they all go, we're next."

"With four kids and a shop to run, an orphan joey was the last thing I wanted..."



A park for locals too

by Pat Hall,
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Morton National Park covers a vast area of around half a million acres from Bundanoon on the western boundary to Belmore Falls in the north and Pigeon House Mountain and spectacular views of the coastline in the south. It follows the cliff line of the magnificent Shoalhaven Gorge, the vast wilderness of the Budawang and finally links up with Budawang National Park.

It is a very beautiful park with a range of recreational opportunities for people to enjoy – opportunities such as bushwalking, camping, swimming, cycling, photography, nature study or simply enjoying the peace and tranquillity. But, to many people, there is one very special place in Morton National Park and that is Bundanoon.

Bundanoon, for as long as anyone can remember, has been a chosen destination for thousands of visitors to the Highlands. It has been, and still is, particularly popular with families, campers, bushwalkers and cyclists.

After the Second World War Bundanoon was a favourite destination for honeymooners. Like the Blue Mountains, you could travel to Bundanoon by train, then a short walk from the station would lead you to a selection of guest houses, then down the hill to a national park. During that period Bundanoon boasted over 50 guesthouses, some still operating to this day.

Honeymooners, of course, walked from the village or their guesthouse to the park. So in keeping with their mood many of the walks have names like Lovers' Walk, Fairy Bower Falls, The Wishing Well and Honeymoon Lookout.

Early residents of Bundanoon, some of whose families still live in the area, were responsible for establishing the original walking tracks and lookouts. As you walk around the park you will see evidence of their work such as steps cut into the sandstone, picnic shelter huts and the impressive sandstone entrance to the park – all the work of dedicated and skilled local residents.

In 1968 the National Parks and Wildlife Service was established as the NSW Government's conservation agency

responsible for the management of national parks and reserves. The NPWS took over from the locals and continued to maintain the facilities. Since then it has made very few changes but over the next 12 months a number of works have been programmed to improve facilities and access. These changes include relocating the camping area closer to the toilet facilities, upgrading the roads and lookouts and wheelchair access to the popular Echo Point Lookout. In accord with the wishes of locals and visitors, and in recognition of past work, these changes will not alter the image of the area but hopefully enhance it.

There are many things for visitors to enjoy in Bundanoon – for example, shops, gardens, bike rides, walks, places to eat and good accommodation. Most people visiting the area arrive by train, car or coach and at some stage visit the park; they ride their bikes on the internal network of roads, go for a walk, drive to the lookouts, camp or perhaps do a spot of bird watching.

Bird watching is one of the fastest growing leisure pursuits in Australia and the Southern Highlands boasts a wealth of bird life. Not only is there a diverse local population but many migrating birds such as silver-eyes and yellow-faced honeyeaters pass through the district. The more common Australian birds can readily be sighted – crimson and eastern rosellas, pied currawongs, magpies, pee wees,

“You can climb down into the pool below the waterfall...”





sulphur crested cockatoos, ravens (or are they crows – do you know the difference?), galahs, noisy miners, kookaburras and crested pigeons to name a few.

At Bundanoon you are very likely to see or hear lyrebirds, whip birds and wonga pigeons. In the more densely vegetated sections perhaps you will see the exquisite little nest of a yellow-throated scrub wren dangling from a branch. In the more open woodland look for cheeky grey fantails, maybe a rufous fantail, various robins and thornbills, wrens, pardalotes in the treetops, even a rock warbler (guess where?). Don't forget your binoculars and field guide.

Of the many lookouts – 11 in total – the most popular is Echo Point. This can be reached by walking, cycling or driving from the picnic area at Gambells Rest. The view looks to the east and south taking in the famous Bundanoon gullies across to the Shoalhaven

Gorge. Early morning or late afternoon is the best time to visit Echo Point when the sun highlights the colours of the sandstone escarpment.

Erith Coal Mine is the most popular walk (one hour return) and is suitable for people of all ages if taken slowly. There are some steep parts and a ladder into the rainforest gully but it's well worth the effort. The walk leads through woodland, heath and rainforest to an old disused coal mine which operated from 1860 to 1915 but is now closed for safety reasons. Steps take you down to the mine entrance with a small waterfall tumbling into the rainforest below. For the more adventurous you can climb down into the pool below the waterfall. Return the same way or cross over the creek and follow the fire trail back to the main road and carpark.

There are signs along the track highlighting the different plants, changing vegetation and the history of the mine. If the walk has whetted your appetite and you have any energy left there are lots more walks to choose from, lookouts to see and roads to cycle. There is a map at the entrance to the park, near the toilet and picnic facilities, indicating the walks, lookouts and flora you may see on your visit, along with information on Glow Worm Glen and how to get there. Remember that it is best to visit Glow Worm Glen in the evening and preferably during the summer months.

cover story

further info

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has produced a newspaper with additional information on Morton National Park, other parks in the region and a map indicating over 50 parks and reserves on the Southern Highlands and South Coast. This can be obtained from the information stand in the park, the local newsagent, the Good Yarn, the bike shop and many of the accommodation places in Bundanoon. Take one with you, tell your friends, but most important of all, please come back as we love having visitors.

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“You are very likely to see or hear lyrebirds, whip birds and wonga pigeons...”



photo credits

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Photographers:

(Below) *Grevillea baueri*: NPWS
(Top left) Heath fuchsia: P Green
(Left) Bundanoon bikes: J Winter
(Facing page) Waterfall: J Winter



captured!



photo credits

Above: Point Perpendicular Lighthouse

Above right: Sunset, Shoalhaven River

Right: Rainbows over Kangaroo Valley

[All above by Ken Rooke]

Below: Blue-tongued lizard awaits Garden Ramble

Below right: 'The learner' by Dianna Watson



Anne Stephen met Thanh in Vietnam when he was her guide during her travels in the 90s. They became friends and with her help he came to Australia to study for his Masters degree in Asian Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. Thanh's parents had died and as his friendship with Anne meant so much to him he asked her to be his 'adopted' mother. Anne was honoured and since then they have been a family. Thanh also completed a hotel management course at Manly and is now a Duty Manager at the new Sheraton Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.



The wedding of my "adopted" Vietnamese son, Thanh, and his beautiful fiancé, Huong, took place on Sunday, 24 July, 2005. The geomancer had been consulted and this was a most auspicious day for the young couple based on their individual ages.

Due to work commitments, I arrived only two days before the

There we were met by waiting bridesmaids and invited in to the bride's family altar. Huong looked exquisite in a traditional red and white wedding dress (ao dai) and hat (khan dong). Toasts were made, rice wine and cake served and gifts from her family given to the bride and groom.

By 9:30am it was time to leave half of the contents at Huong's family altar and return to Thanh's apartment with Huong and her family. We again toasted the couple and I presented the bride with my gift and other cards and gifts from Australia. Thanh's family presented more gifts to the bride and prayers were said at the altar for Thanh's ancestors.

At 11.00 am the traditional bride was transformed into a classic 'Western-style' bride in a long white gown and veil and we left

A wedding in Ho Chi Minh City

wedding amid a flurry of highly organised activity and colourful preparations. The next morning we had a quick trip to the local market to collect pre-ordered goods for the wedding boxes and a gold necklace, which was my gift to the bride. The wedding boxes were beautifully arranged that evening with betel nuts and leaves, cakes, (phu the - spouses cakes) wrapped individually in green paper with a red heart sticker on each one, rice wine and delicious fruit. The ancestor altar was prepared with a bright red cloth, fruit, incense burner, candles, flowers and a beautifully framed photograph of Thanh's mother. The wedding boxes were placed on a table in front of the altar and the walls decorated with double happiness signs and a replica of the wedding procession. Roses festooned the door to welcome the bride and the official wedding delegation.

At 5.00am on the morning of the wedding the family (seven of us in Thanh's small apartment) awoke, dressed and an enormous breakfast was served. Thanh, explained that despite the excitement of the day, Vietnamese were born "tummy first". Eating is always important, no matter how special the day!



The ceremony commenced at 7.00am with the arrival of the groomsmen who led our family delegation, carrying the wedding boxes, down to the cars and we set off on the half-hour journey to Huong's home.

for the wedding reception for 180 guests at the Caravelle hotel. A magnificent 12 course lunch was served and there were many speeches. At the reception area a large basket with big satin bow was placed for the gifts from the guests; traditionally envelopes containing "wedding money". Indeed a welcome gift!

At 2.00pm Huong, wearing a beautiful mauve full-length dress and Thanh, a very elegant white suit, toasted each table individually and received good wishes from their guests. At 3.00 pm they had photos taken with all their guests and said their farewells before leaving for the honeymoon suite upstairs.

It was a truly memorable and colourful day, everyone noticeably calm and happy and very respectful of each other. It was a wonderful occasion - a wedding never to be forgotten.

Tram Nam Hanh Phuc (one hundred years of happiness - a popular wish for newly married couples). May the newlyweds enjoy their married life and belong to each other until the end of time!

When Bronwyn Shead and David Macquarie entertained members of the Sydney Society of Recorder Players to dinner at Yallambee in September they were interested to know something about the group. The dinner followed workshops which were held at Bundanoon Public School. Tony Tenney from Sydney has given jcg a story on the group.

Across the world there has been a strong revival of interest in the recorder. There are many new instrument makers and vast numbers of people experiencing the joy of making music together.

The Society was established in 1956 and aims to promote the playing of the recorder as a serious instrument, and to foster interest in the repertoire of the recorder from medieval to modern times. Playing music in many styles on a range of different sizes of recorders is a great experience. Gone is the view of the recorder as a childhood instrument of torture! Playing trios, quartets, and in larger groups is a very social pastime.

While there are some very famous recorder professionals, including Australia's very own Genevieve Lacey, most exponents are amateurs who play for pleasure.

Twice a year, the Sydney Society and the Canberra Recorder and Early Music Society (CREMS) meets at the Bundanoon Public School for a weekend workshop, playing a varied program of musical genres. It is a chance to learn from experienced tutors and to renew contacts with other enthusiasts.



For those who may be interested in taking up the instrument, there are a number of tutors and advanced players in the Southern Tablelands area.

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Willie Feinberg, a Bowral writer and member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, Southern Highlands branch, has contributed an abridged version of this short story to jcg; a tribute to food and friendship. The original version was published last year in the Greenwich Village Voice, New York. Enjoy!

Somewhere in the style of Marcel Proust, most of the customers at the Second Avenue Delicatessen are involved in a contemporary remembrance of things past, of a way of life destroyed by upward mobility.

I grew up as part of that past. Others heard of it from their Irish, Italian, Greek, Russian, Hungarian, Polish parents who came to America carrying a large bundle of hopes and a small bundle of pots, chopping bowls, and rolling pins. After all man does not live by freedom alone. They landed, along with their rich dreams and ever richer appetites, on the Lower East Side.

There was not a cold tenement that did not smell of hot food. The aromas seeped through closed doors, forgotten dumbwaiters, halls, cellars and cramped flats. "Eating out" was unheard of. In the first place, you couldn't afford it. In the second place, "they fed you poison". In the last place, to eat out was an insult to mama's cooking and to family tradition.

In 1950 I was working two jobs. I had to make ends meet and at 15 years of age it was expected. I was living in a men's rooming house just around the corner from the Second Avenue Deli. My breakfast meal was my evening meal and I would take "breakfast" with Abe. Although born in different worlds, I in the South Bronx, Abe in a concentration camp,

we did not dwell on our sad past. As we sat crunching salt pickles we thought we reached that split second in time when we had grown into real manhood. Conversation was focused on thoughts of the future and girls. Not that we had the time to pursue girls or the money to take them out, but the talk made us feel grown up. Abe Lebewhol was my first Jewish friend. He taught me about the culinary virtues of corned beef as only he knew how to master it. Eating out at the



“...to eat out was an insult to mama's cooking and to family tradition.”

Second Avenue Deli was like eating in!

The clue to Abe's success was culinary doubt – creative, inventive, positive doubt. He was privy to the highly inexact alchemy of traditional, instinctual Jewish cooking as handed down by words of mothers. You have to feel what the food calls for and add that imprecise pinch, dab, smear, drop or blip (an onomatopoeic word derived from the sound of one drop of oil falling into boiling water).

You can teach anyone, Jewish or not, how to make chicken soup, but you can't teach anyone how to get it up to the temperature of molten lava. This is reserved for the sons of a hand down tradition and is an ancient ethnic mystery. A good matzoh ball from such soup does melt in the mouth, but it also hardens again in the stomach. Cases of intestinal matzoh ball blockage can

only be cleared by doses of boiling chicken soup.

Onions, a critical additive to gefilte fish, made Mama's salt tears run down into the chopped fish. Maybe this represents four thousands years of Jewish suffering? The final product (which has been known to break up marriages, for children to leave home, and for Jews to marry non-Jews), is generously topped off with minced horseradish – red with beetroot, used by the ulcer ridden, pure white for the brave. If strong enough some see the fish shudder on the plate. Some say red horseradish contains the blood of past grandmothers who grated down their knuckles without remorse for their hungry children and grandchildren.

The East Side of lower Manhattan is now the home of new immigrants. The Second Avenue Deli caters to some of these, but

mostly to nostalgia-hungry ex-urbanites from every urb and suburb in America. We came a-searching in the old foods for some of the old values that made the crowded “co-op” not only possible but stimulating. We travelled far to value again human imperfection; to let the earthy horseradish bring back bittersweet memories of a time when dreams of a great tomorrow spiced many an unappetising today.

When I entered the now lavish and somewhat opulent Second Avenue Deli, a large black framed photo of Abe hung over the rows of corned beef. Abe had been murdered by a 16 year old kid, shotgunned as he washed his hands to go to the bank. Had this kid told Abe he was hungry, Abe would have made him the best corned beef sandwich he would ever eat. Good-bye America!

Egyptian experience

Ms Anni Baillieu from Moss Vale Cruise & Travel writes about her recent sojourn in Egypt.



Dawn was breaking over Cairo as Singapore Airlines touched down well ahead of schedule. I cleared immigration so quickly it seemed we had taken the airport by surprise – it was virtually deserted and at first there was no one to meet me!

Early morning in mid August is the coolest and quietest time of the day. My first impressions of Cairo were of crumbling mudbrick and concrete housing but as the city drew closer I glimpsed unexpectedly green parks, mosques with elegant minarets and gracious buildings. Then at last the mighty Nile, which splits into two, creating the island of Zamalek in central Cairo. Our hotel was in Giza – an easy drive from Central Cairo and although not luxurious I gave it a big tick as the staff were wonderful and I could see the Pyramids from my window!

I was to meet my son Nick later that night. He was midway through a round the world trip with a friend and had called me from London saying "why don't you come and meet us in Egypt?" How can you resist your 18 year old son even if he is running short on funds!

Within minutes of the boys arriving we were out on the town. Cairo at night (in school holidays) is truly amazing, as is the traffic and the horn honking! Families everywhere picnicking on the bridges and sidewalks – a wonderful carnival atmosphere and all without a drop of alcohol! We cruised the Nile whilst dining and watched "whirling dervish" and belly dancing along with our fellow guests in the

midst of a family wedding.

We started early to the Pyramids to enjoy the cool of the morning and climbed through the long chamber of Cheops to the apex of this incredible human achievement. Many tours do not include entry to the Pyramids and the numbers are limited so it is important to book in advance. We couldn't resist bargaining for a camel ride and the experience was worthwhile but you must tip the boys who take you as well as the headman you pay.

We lunched at Giza under the watchful eye of The Sphinx and the Pyramids beyond – the food was fresh and delicious but you need to be careful as Egypt is a destination where Imodium can often be useful! On our way back to the city and the Egyptian Museum we visited a Papyrus Exhibition and sampled all the intoxicatingly pure oils at the Perfume Emporium.

The Museum houses many antiquities and you need considerable time to absorb the significance of this ancient civilisation but it is the Tutankhamen Collection that impresses above all else. We were intrigued and fascinated by the Mummy Collection (an extra fee) and as we looked at their skin, teeth, hair it was hard to imagine they were 5000 years old. The following day we visited Old Cairo, the old citadel and Mohammed Ali's alabaster mosque and shopped in the Khan El Khali Bazaar for presents to take home.

For the more adventurous the overnight train to Aswan

is worth experiencing. We drank strong hot coffee at Giza station while we waited with our guide, Mustafa, for the train to arrive from Cairo Central at 9.30pm. Soon after boarding dinner was delivered – hardly the Orient Express but some of it was edible! Comfortable beds, a birds eye view of everyday Egyptian life and the anticipation of Aswan, the High Dam and a Nile cruise on arrival.

Cruising the Nile for three nights/four days was a special experience and the elegance and service of the "Regency" was superb and provided a cool and welcoming haven to return to each day after visiting the tombs and temples of the Nile Valley. We sailed from Aswan to Luxor, stopping

en route at Kom Ombo, Edfu and Esna, and enjoyed the luxury and convenience of being so central in each of the places we visited. Whether it was an evening sail by felucca, a horse drawn carriage adventure, a drink at the famous Wintergarden Place Hotel or just an internet café for the boys – it was all so easy to arrange.

The scale and grandeur of the Karnak Temple, the exquisite paintings in the tombs of The Valley of the Kings and the Pyramids will be amongst my lasting memories of Egypt, but the images of a donkey turning a water wheel, children swimming in the river and the genuine warmth and laughter of the Egyptians are the real reason I want to return.

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The White Earth

by Andrew McGahan
Allen and Unwin, 2004

This book won the 2005 Miles Franklin Literary Award, a prize claimed in 1997 by Bundanoon author David Foster for *The Glade Within the Grove*. This quintessential Australian novel had me hooked from page one.

In 1992, eight-year old William witnesses from his back verandah what he perceives to be an atomic explosion. But the mushroom cloud he sees developing is more particularly horrific as, stalled at its base, in the middle of a wheat-field inferno, is his father's tractor. This fire triggers a series of events where William's mother, weak, penniless and desperate, embarks on a plan to secure a future for herself and her son under the patronage of her late husband's uncle, John McIvor. Thus they come to the fictional Kuran Downs, in Queensland's Darling Downs, where McIvor lives in squalor in the ruins of the once-grand property which his father had previously managed and from which he had been sacked. He has alienated his wife and daughter in his obsessive quest to acquire the place, and his housekeeper, a Miss Havisham-type character, is threatened by the presence of these strangers in her domain.

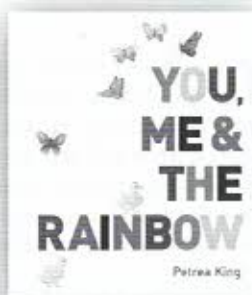
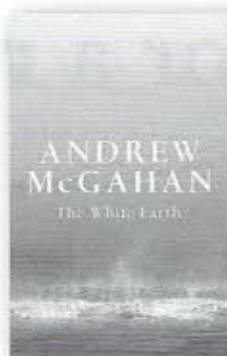
McIvor tries to impose his compulsion on his immediate family, with disastrous results. The reader is taken through the early history of this part of Australia. McIvor becomes an activist in opposing the Mabo case but in the process becomes a victim of the extreme right. The novel touches on the passage of Native Title Legislation, the growing resentment of rural white Australia and the emergence of One Nation. The view, expressed through him, is that white settlers and their descendants can develop a deep and almost spiritual connection to the land once inhabited by Aborigines.

Earth, fire and water are used symbolically throughout the narrative. Characters are well-drawn and a dramatic climax develops as William's and John's storylines collide.

In a final move, McIvor tests William's mettle by sending him out alone into the dark and frightening acres. "If the boy wanted Kuran Station, then he had to discover the answer for himself. Ownership could not be shared. Not the power of it, and not the weight of it either. It could be crushing, that weight, encompassing all the history that the land had ever witnessed, the summation of the lives and deaths of all those who had walked it before."

John was vindicated - he would have his heir.

Des Perkins



You, Me and the Rainbow

by Petrea King - Jane Curry Publishing, 2005

Founder of the Quest for Life Centre in Bundanoon, Petrea King has released her first children's book, *You, Me and the Rainbow*, aimed at parents and children.

The rainbow technique described in the book is specifically designed to empower children. The technique gives children a feeling of security - a connection of love.

It has been effectively used to help tens of thousands of people who have been affected by various challenges, as well as children who suffer from nightmares and are anxious about personal matters such as separation.

The book is simple to read and beautifully illustrated by South Coast artist Patricia Howell.

I found it to be a charming book to read to young children.

You, Me and the Rainbow is available from Angus & Robertson, Bowral, The Brown Bookshop/The ABC Centre in Bowral and the Moss Vale Bookshop.

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Room for a refugee

by Lucy Bainger

Our first refugee guests were coming to stay for the weekend. We meet on a sunny Saturday morning in Bowral. The older man with a salt and pepper beard is dressed in flowing biblical robes while the sad, uneasy young man at his side is indistinguishable from anyone else in the street.

We chat all the way home in the car. We're not sure what to say to complete strangers who have come to us in such tragic circumstances. While they are trying to build a new life each moment, we make small talk. We only know they are refugees from hostile regimes in Iraq and Kuwait. We

had was with a fellow Chinese refugee who has since been deported. He was and is a 'stateless' person.

To lighten the mood, Zachariah announces that he has found an Australian wife; our cat Lily chose to sleep on his chest throughout the night. Now they must marry, he chuckles, to be honourable – admittedly she is a bit hairy but very charming all the same.

On Sunday we meet with friends for a BBQ in Mittagong. Over lunch our two guests are once again plied with questions just as they had been the day before and I see how painful it is for them to have to speak again and again of their pain, heartbreak and fear of the future. I resolve to be less curious from now on.

Since then we have had other refugee guests. Tariq and Rabab from Iraq and their two little boys came to us for some fresh air and space for the boys to play. A far cry from Tariq's three years in Saddam Hussein's prison and the family's three years of detention in Baxter.

Zahir was different from our other guests. He loved the healing quiet of the country side, disappearing with Sid for long walks. While he liked meeting friends and playing Saturday afternoon tennis on the Exeter courts, he was most happy on the farm: exploring the garden, standing around a winter fire in the paddock, enjoying the stars. Still on a temporary visa and facing deportation, imprisonment and torture, he is racked with tension and worry at his uncertain future. We are hoping that our pleas to Amanda will have some effect.

The refugees we have met, and grown to know, display great fortitude in the face of a suffering that few Australians can imagine. They have a determination to make the best of this new chance to build a life for themselves and their children in peace. Our lives have been enriched by these brave and intrepid people. We find that while there are cultural differences, our hearts carry the same dreams and needs. As Rabab and I chop vegetables together to prepare the evening meal, we compare weddings and marriage in Iraq and Australia. Girl talk. Impulsively she hugs me and says in her gentle, halting English; "Our hearts inside beating same – same – I think you understand me?"

* Names have been changed to protect visa applicants.

** If you would like to host a refugee or refugee family for a weekend, please contact Lucy Bainger. It's a very interesting and rewarding experience! Phone 4883 7447.

... he was most happy on the farm...
standing around a winter fire in the
paddock, enjoying the stars.

want to give them the warm welcome we have experienced in our travels in the Middle East; an alternative experience to the hostile hospitality of our own government.

Our dogs rush up in greeting as we arrive home, alarming Zachariah and Mohammed. I have yet to learn that most people from the Middle East are terrified of dogs; expecting slathering bites rather than Sid's loving licks. Holding off the dogs we coax our wary guests into the house to tuck into a vegetarian lunch. (Meat that is not 'halal' or killed in the right way is forbidden to Muslims.) Later, in his bedroom, Mohammed checks a little compass on his watch so he can pray five times a day in the direction of far-off Mecca while Zachariah tries out his first golf strokes with Patrick in the garden.

Over many cups of tea at the kitchen table we share our lives. Zachariah talks of his wife and nine children at home in Kuwait, whom he is unlikely to see again. He is an expansive, philosophical man, ready to laugh, determined to look on the bright side. Mohammed's sadness is at odds with his youth. Born in Afghanistan to a non-fundamentalist Hazari family, he became a refugee while still a child. To escape murder at the hands of the Taliban the family fled to Iraq and later Syria. Mohammed's refugee visa expired when he turned eighteen, leaving him nowhere to go. This also meant he had nowhere to apply for asylum. He came on a boat via Indonesia to Australia, only to end up in detention centres for the next four years. He was moved from one to the other with only an hour's warning – "the policy"! The most meaningful relationship he has

The pleasure of dance

The Sheads have met so many people through competitions and dancing for pleasure that they hold monthly dances at home for friends who come from Wollongong, Nowra, Ulladulla, Canberra, Yass, Campbelltown, Goulburn and Crookwell. They range in age from mid-40s to 70s and there are many singles as well as couples. As a smiling couple whirls past, Ron explains that they were both widowed and through their common interest in dance they are now together. He points out four guests who are dance teachers from Wollongong, Balmoral, Dapto and Goulburn. They are seriously accomplished!

The shearing shed, converted to a dance studio is a lovely room. Warm afternoon light is falling on a perfect hardwood floor; the walls are hung with flags from all over the world. Church pews from the Presbyterian Church at Burrawang and the Woonona Methodist Church provide brief resting places for tired dancers.

Ron has a comprehensive collection of dance music; some modern but mostly old-time,

English sequence, Rumba and Tango. These have all been recorded on mini-discs and meticulously catalogued for easy reference. Apart from a break for afternoon tea there's no time for standing (or sitting). Killarney Vale, similar to Pride of Erin, has been requested and everyone is on the floor again.

It's just after five o'clock and the last dance: Emeraldale, to the music 'It's a Sin to Tell a Lie' has everyone on the floor again.

Confessing to Ron that I can't dance, he looks at me sadly. I look at my sensible shoes and think that even if I could remember those complicated sequences and steps, these feet were not made for dancing slippers. Why have so many of us not experienced the pleasure of dance? It looks to be such fun!

Ron Shead hoped that recovery from his knee replacements would mean a return to his favourite pastime, ballroom dancing, as soon as possible.

Ron and Anna own a property just off the freeway at Sutton Forest where they have their home and an impressive collection of farm buildings, including a large shearing shed. When Pam Davies visited them on a lovely spring afternoon to talk to them about their passion for dance, she followed the sound of music to the shearing shed and tentatively pushed open the door to find 50 devotees dancing a Tango.



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Seasonal shopping

christmas

by Ruth Coleman

“Ho! Ho! Ho!” it’s that time of year again. October/November finds most of us in ‘pre-shopping mode’ – attempting to think of suitable gifts for relatives and friends. More often than not, we try to remember our purchases of the previous Christmas. Why not compile a list this year? By following this procedure, gifts will not be duplicated in the future.

If we view the situation with a little forethought and a little imagination, it becomes less of a challenge and also makes us feel less susceptible to ‘impulse buying.’ If we fall prey to ‘spur of the moment’ decisions, we may be disappointed with our choices when we review them at home. If we resist this temptation, we are less likely to blow the budget.

Let’s begin with Grandad. What are his interests? If for example, he is a steam train buff, there are some wonderful videos to be found in department stores and video outlets. A fine example is ‘Great Train Journeys of the World’ – so if he isn’t in a financial position to take a world tour, he can visit distant lands whilst reclining in the comfort of his favourite armchair. If his eyesight is still reasonably satisfactory, you will impress him with a good book on whichever subject he finds of interest. If you go to your favourite book store, you may even find books written by local authors, which can sometimes be quite entertaining.

Grandma is next in the ‘pecking order.’ She will probably be most appreciative of an item of jewellery. She won’t be expecting the Hope Diamond. A delicate pair of earrings or tasteful brooch will be a hit, as such gifts are likely to have a strong sentimental value. If finances are strained, a well-presented box of chocolates, perhaps coupled with a Victorian posy of violets, is sure to be well received.

Now for dear old Dad. For goodness sake, show some originality. Forget about the boring socks or tie. He deserves more consideration than that! Again, videos are a safe bet – M*A*S*H for instance – or how about those hilarious but subtle English comedies? They will make Dad laugh and ensure he is in a happy mood (very good psychology). James Bond seems to have universal appeal, so that may be the way to go, or perhaps a John Wayne Western? If these don’t seem appropriate, CDs are available to suit



all preferences, from opera to heavy metal. Lottery tickets, scratchies and Lotto entries should also be a pleasing choice – Dad could become an instant millionaire.

Mum must be given due credit for the multiple roles she fulfils. Somehow, there seems to be more choice where she is concerned. Apart from all the personal items available, there may be household appliances which have reached their ‘use by’ date. Gift vouchers are also a pleasing alternative. Maybe a voucher for a massage or a trip to a beauty salon would be the highlight of Mum’s year.

For various other relatives and friends, the possibilities are endless. Here are a few suggestions: It doesn’t take long to transform an ordinary terracotta flower pot into an attractive gift. First, paint the pot in a bright colour, then when it is completely dry, add an individual touch by stencilling a motif in contrasting colours. Next, search the garden for a plant from which to take a cutting. When this has been duly installed in the pot, wrap your gift in cellophane paper and secure with a pretty ribbon, tied around the neck of the pot.

If you have an artistic flair for Folk Art, many basic items such as trays, serviette rings, photo frames and wooden spoons can be bought ‘in the raw’ – just waiting for you to transform them into works of art. You will find these items quite inexpensive.

For the ‘littlies’ on your list, there is a formidable choice of educational toys, books and a huge range of clothing items to choose from. Yes, the ‘Junio r Brigade’ is very well represented.

The ‘School to teens’ age group (who of course have enjoyed the technological age) will vote for computer games and electronic gadgets. Surprisingly, dolls still rate highly on girls’ wish lists, although the eternal blonde Barbie seems to be waning in popularity, but she has had 46 years in the limelight. It seems ‘Cabbage Patch’ dolls are again on the scene.

Well, I hope I have been of some assistance in helping you make practical decisions prior to hitting the shops. I wish you a wonderful festive season and hope you still have a few dollars left in the kitty – in anticipation of New Year celebrations.

Aren’t you glad Christmas comes but once a year?



Scientists from the University of Western Sydney would like residents in the area from Mittagong to Goulburn to let them know if they have seen koalas and if so, the date and locality, and whether big or small, male or female (males have a dark scent gland in the centre of their white chests), and with or without young. The aim of the project is to discover if and where breeding groups of koalas exist and to map these areas.

The UWS Koala Research Unit has been working on koalas in the Campbelltown area since 1990, but the range of their large data-base has

Wanted: details of koala sightings

now expanded north from the South West of Sydney across the Sydney basin and south towards Goulburn.

The present request for information, however, stems from the interest of the Billyrambija Landcare Group whose members come from the Big Hill, Brayton and Towrang areas north of Goulburn. This group is planning to replant the banks of local waterways with the aim of improving the quality of corridors for the dispersal of koalas (and other species). It is also exploring the possibility of translocating koalas into bushland areas that contain koala feed-trees.

As the Landcare group is aware, however, translocating animals is not an action to be taken lightly. The possibility that koalas may already occur in low numbers must be examined. The UWS unit has first-hand experience of the

difficulties of detecting koalas. It became involved in koala studies at Campbelltown when developers were given approval to build in an area where koalas existed unbeknown to wildlife authorities. The problem is that koalas in the Campbelltown area exist in very low densities (one koala per 10-30ha) and under such conditions are difficult to detect.

To overcome the difficulties of the low density population, the UWS researchers appealed to the Campbelltown community via the local papers to be their eyes and ears. The response was immediate and highly effective with the data-base now carrying more than 1000 sightings and with 110 individual koalas now recorded. The Unit hopes that the appeal to people in the Southern Highlands will bear similar fruit. So please

ring the UWS koala pager on 9962 9996 and leave a call-back telephone number. The receptionist merely transfers the message to the researchers.

Some people fear that providing information may lead to problems for the animals themselves from exposure of their locations. In the experience of the Koala Research Unit, however, the Campbelltown koalas have significantly benefited. Exposure stopped the original development at Campbelltown, and planning of Hazard Reduction Burns is conducted with the knowledge of where breeding females are established. Consequently, several of the original research animals are now 13-14 years old and still breeding successfully. So please call the pager number if you have information and keep a watch out when you're in the bush!

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Tuesday	pm:	Dr Vincent Roche
Wednesday	am:	Dr Geoffrey Sparkes
Thursday	pm:	Dr Geoffrey Sparkes
Friday	am:	Dr Aziz Mihrshahi

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I have been in the motel industry since I could walk, and Daniela and I have worked in motels throughout NSW—specialising in breathing life into motels with potential. With the Bundanoon Country Inn—we are excited at the prospect of improving the accommodation in the motel, satisfying local demand for an alternate weekend dining experience as well as catering for midweek groups and conferences. Our facilities are also available to local groups for meetings and functions. For those who have not visited recently I would like to remind you of our sensational and improved facilities including:

- 20 rooms all with cable TV
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- Cosy bar area with fireplace
- Pool, tennis court and BBQ facilities
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- Conference centre

We would like to thank the Bundanoon community for our warm welcome and support of the motel since its new name in 2004.

If you would like to know more about the country inn, please come to visit us and we will take you on a tour of the garden and show you our dining room, conference facilities and accommodation. We look forward to meeting you.

Daniela & Michael Walton – phone 4883 6068



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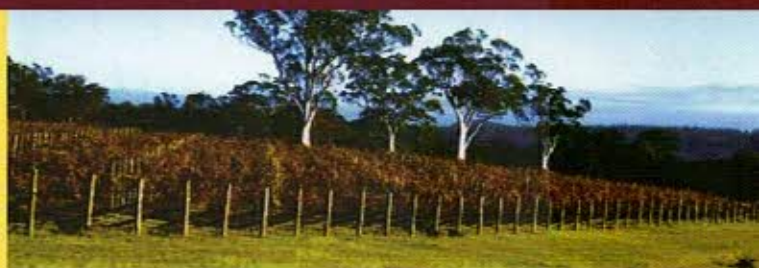


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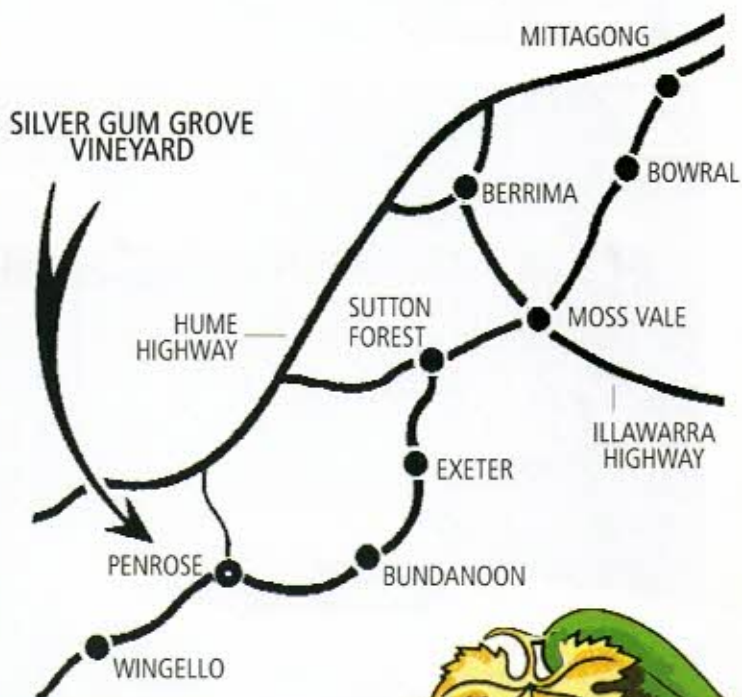
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Foxes and hens

environment

by David Haines

That there are foxes in the Southern Highlands is indisputable – it was why I built my chicken run in the style of Stalag Luft whatever. My efforts notwithstanding it took only one night of forgetfulness in bolting the pen to lose my hens and their champion Chanticleer to cunning Reynard.

It was quite devastating seeing the feathers and blood; the corpses, many headless, strewn around the pen and the garden; the rooster paralyzed but struggling still to defend his brood.

So it was that war was declared. In my six years at Exeter I had sighted two foxes in the paddock, and one in the garden, but now I set about with purpose to catch the culprit. Over the next few weeks I looked over the garden fence into our 20 acre paddock three or four times a night and did not fail to see at least one, and sometimes as many as four foxes at a time.

I have now shot 24 foxes in five months, the last two only last week. Two were so horribly mangy that it was a mercy to put them out of their misery, but the rest have been in magnificent condition in their winter coats.

In hindsight it is a wonder my hens survived so long, and I am still astonished at the number of foxes at large. It is clear that they must range over a wide area as they could not all be living in my paddock. This must in part be due to the discontinuation some 20 years



“...I am still astonished at the number of foxes at large”

ago of the bounty paid for foxes in NSW. It is also because of the rich supply of food in these parts, despite the ravages of the calicivirus and the drought which have greatly reduced rabbit numbers over the last four or five years.

I had thought that my campaign would meet with universal approval, but reactions have been mixed. Some are horrified that I am killing this beautiful creature (they are beautiful, but in their native Europe.) Others have complained their gardens are now plagued with rabbits. The majority, however, agree with me that they are a feral pest to be eradicated because of its predation on native species. I dare say this piece will polarise the views of many readers.

Foxes I have observed feeding have usually been

after wild ducks or hunting mice and frogs. I have seen them eating carrion including dead birds. They are unable to catch the hares that we have in plenty, but do eat the occasional rabbit.

While there is limited research available on the effects of foxes on native fauna, about four years ago the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service identified 34 species threatened by the red fox – 11 mammals, 15 birds and eight reptiles. These include species found in this area including bettong, wallaby, bandicoot, broad-toothed rat and the dusky mouse.

They can add my chickens to them!

Liz Jane

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Bundanoon Tennis Club

With the advent of warmer weather many things are happening at Bundanoon Tennis Club, so if you've been putting off getting back into tennis, now is the time to start again. The Club has something for all players, both social and competition, so take your choice!

Social:	Tuesday Ladies	Phone Sheila	4883 6107
	Tuesday Night Mixed	Phone Pat	4883 6322
	Thursday & Saturday Afternoon Mixed	Phone Denis	4883 6112
Competition:	Thursday Ladies	Phone Trish	4862 3945
	Monday Night Men & Ladies	Phone Cameron or Richard	4883 7074 4883 4566
	'Serious' tennis for intermediate to advanced players who like a solid workout in an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and fun. This is a joint venture between Bundanoon and Exeter Tennis Clubs.		
Coaching:	Juniors & Adults	Phone Brett	4883 7397
	Groups and singles coaching and junior competitions.		

The Club has all facilities including two synthetic grass courts and one hardcourt, modern clubhouse and recently upgraded floodlighting. Planned for the new year is the reinstatement of Club Championships (adults and juniors) and a coach trip to the Sydney International in January - watch out for further details.

For membership enquiries please phone:

Cameron (President): 4883 7074, Michelle (Secretary): 4883 6925, Wendy (Treasurer): 4883 7763

Get that racquet restrung and give us a call!



CWA news

In August, Bundanoon Branch celebrated with Mrs. Gwen Street on the occasion of her 90th birthday. It was a very happy day. Gwen is a long standing member - a Past Branch President and a Past President of Wollondilly Group of sixteen branches. She has held many positions in the association, and is much loved by all. Since that date and following an illness, she has decided to make her home at Harbison Village, Moss Vale. We wish her continuing happiness there.

just a thought...

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity!"

info

New in town? Why not visit us? Visitors are always welcome.

We meet on 1st Thursday of the month.

Craft day - Last Thursday in every month.

Contacts:

Secretary, Marie Reid: 4883 6526

Publicity Officer, Josie Cornell: 4883 6520

Members and visitors also enjoyed a display of brooches organised by branch Craft Officer, Mrs. Margaret Brown. Some brooches were treasured family keepsakes - others were hand made by some very clever artisans amongst members.

Branch AGM was held on 13 October and some new office bearers were welcomed. Mrs. Anna Shead accepted office as President, Mrs. Marie Reid as Secretary whilst Mrs. Margaret McNulty agreed to carry on the good work as Treasurer. All positions were filled for the year 2005/2006, and we look forward to another year of fellowship and service.

Josie Cornell, Publicity Officer

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Bundanoon Rebels Soccer Club: A tribute to Michael

In September, Bundanoon was shocked to hear of the tragic death of Michael Sant, aged 16. Michael had been a player in the Bundanoon Rebels for many years and had most recently been a member of the Men's team, playing as goalkeeper. His team won the 2005 AA Men's Division 2 Grand Final.

At the funeral, the Bundanoon Rebels Soccer Club was proud to form a guard of honour extending far down the main street with members wearing the club colours of blue and gold.

In tribute to Michael, and in memory of his spirit and passion for the game, the Junior Goalkeeper of the Year Award has been renamed in his honour and will from this time forward be known as the Michael J. Sant Junior Goalkeeper of the Year Award. The Inaugural Trophy was awarded at this year's junior presentation. A plaque was also presented to John and Sue Sant



in honour of Michael. It is to be mounted in the clubhouse in the Men's change room at Ferndale Reserve. It reads:

In memory of Michael Sant
Who played with the Rebels
1995 - 2005
Forever guarding the goals.

Many tales are told of Michael's sense of fun and love of sport, especially soccer and cricket. He will be greatly missed by all.

Our usual Soccer Club report will appear in the next issue.

Letters

Alec Cameron, archivist for the Bundanoon History Group, responded to David Morgan's article in our September issue on the light rail carriages nicknamed the Tin Hares, introduced at a time when tin hare dog coursing was becoming popular.

Alec was employed in the NSWGR Mechanical Engineer's Design Office and was instructed to prepare a design for locomotive headlamp mountings for these carriages. He was put firmly in his place by the foreman carriage builder at Eveleigh who told him 'we know how to make a railway carriage, your design drawings just give us a guide to what you want'. The 18-inch diameter lamps, with twin automotive sealed beam lamps, were substituted for the original 9-inch diameter ones, more effectively highlighting cattle and

kangaroos crossing unfenced rural tracks, and thereby increasing driver safety.

To David Morgan

G'day David

Received *jcg* and what a fine publication it is - I imagined a small tabloid but this is exceptional for a free community magazine. Not a bad photo of larrikin Bob McInnes (he was on the 'Hare' as well) in the haggis section.

Thanks for the book review [*All Aboard*, September 2005], I think it might be the first one. There was a sort of a one in a feature in the *Herald* and the *Mercury* when they did a good news item on it.

Thanks again.

Regards
Russ Hannah

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Activities

Bundanoon Community Development Association (BCDA)			
President	Danien Beets	4883 7557	
Secretary	Ralph Clark	4883 6389	
Bundanoon Public School Parents and Citizens (P & C)			
	Barbara Rowett	4883 7203	
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	Josephine Challenor	4883 6765	
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	Sarah Munro	4883 7397	
RSL (meets 1st Tues (exc. January), 2 pm, RSL Rooms at Oval):			
	Trevor Fenton	4883 6433	
Visitors' Group	Karen & John Henry	4883 6643	
Waratah Slimmers	Kath Hogg	4822 6757	

Sports Clubs

Bowls (Men)	Ron Angel	4883 6150
(Women)	Jan Witney	4883 7356
Cricket	Steve Granger	4868 2680
Croquet	Dick Topham	4883 6721
Hockey	Elaine Angel	4883 6353
Pony Club	Carol Halstead	4883 6662
Rugby	Cameron Reid	4883 6788
Soccer	Liz Norrie	4883 6421
Swimming	Michelle Broad	4883 6582
Tennis	Cameron Reid	4883 7074

Support & Volunteer Services

Community Health Service	Bowral	4861 8000
Early Childhood Clinic		4861 1744
Community Health Centre		4861 1744
Wingecarribee Adult Day Care	Anne Emms	4861 1744
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
Ronald Macdonald Casserole Club	Ross Armfield	4883 4144
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

Anglican Church of Sutton Forest

Holy Trinity, Bundanoon

Sunday..... 9.00 am, 5.30 pm

St Aidan's, Exeter

Sunday..... 9.30 am

St Stephen's, Tallong

1st & 3rd Sundays 1.30 pm

2nd & 4th Sundays 10.00 am

All Saints, Sutton Forest

1st & 3rd Sundays 11.00 am

2nd & 4th Sundays 2.30 pm

Uniting Church, Church St, Bundanoon

Sunday 11.00 am

Thursday 12.30 pm

St Brigid's Catholic Church, Hill St, Bundanoon

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 5.00 pm

2nd & 4th Sundays 8.00 am

St Paul's Catholic Church, Garrett St, Moss Vale

Vigil Mass, Saturday 6.00 pm

Sunday 9.30 am

Moss Vale Christian Church, Cnr. Spring and Railway Sts. Moss Vale

10.00 am and 5.00 pm every Sunday

Christmas services

Uniting Church, Church St, Bundanoon

Christmas Day Service - 9 a.m.

Catholic Church:

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (St. Paul's International College, Argyle St., Moss Vale) - 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - Sts. Peter & Paul, Church St., Burrawang - 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass - St. Paul's, Garrett St., Moss Vale - Midnight

Christmas Day Mass - St. Brigid's, Hill St., Bundanoon - 9 a.m.

Christmas Day Mass - St. Paul's, Garrett St., Moss Vale - 9.30 a.m.

Moss Vale Christian Church:

Cnr. Spring and Railway Sts., Moss Vale

Christmas Service, t.b.a. Phone Penny, 4872 3303

Anglican Church:

Holy Trinity, Bundanoon:

Sunday 18 December, Lessons and Carols, 5.30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Holy Communion - 9 a.m.

St. Stephen's, Tallong:

Tuesday 20 December, Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day - 10 a.m., Morning Prayer

St. Aidan's, Exeter:

Christmas Eve - 6 p.m. Kids' Carols and Talk, 6.45 p.m. Sausage Sizzle, 7.30 p.m.

Holy Communion Service

Sutton Forest, Christmas Day - 8 a.m., Holy Communion

Exeter, Christmas Day - 9.30 a.m., Holy Communion

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More information

For events in Bundanoon Hall, contact
Gale Pritchett 4883 7195

Regular meetings/events in the Hall:

BCDA, 3rd Thursday, 7.30 pm
Garden Club, 1st Thursday, 10 am
Markets, 1st Sunday ph Gus 4869 3016
Chess Club, Friday 2-5 pm Pat 4883 6064
Gentle Exercise, Tues and Thurs. a.m.
Tai Chi, Thursday 6-7 pm Steve 4883 7707

Bundanoon Pool open:

Monday & Wednesday 6-10 am, 2-6 pm
Tues. Thurs & Friday 10 am-6 pm
Sat. Sun. & Public Holidays 10 am-6 pm

NPWS Holiday Program

National Parks School Holiday Discovery
Program, Fitzroy Falls Visitor Information
Centre - details available on 4887 7270

December

Fri 9 Avoca Old Time Dance 4887 7321

Sat 10 Bowral Farmers Market 4862 4910
Fly Fishing 4883 6324
Moss Vale Greyhound Meeting
4868 1353
Christmas Carols, Leighton
Gardens, Moss Vale, 7 pm
4872 3303

Sun 11 Robertson Markets 4885 1216

Mon 12

Tue 13

Wed 14

Thu 15 Bundanoon CWA Christmas
Lunch, Tree Tops 4883 6526

Fri 16 Robertson Family Dance
4885 1216

Sat 17 Mittagong Markets 4871 1354
MV Greyhounds 4868 1353

Sun 18 Bundanoon Christmas Market
4869 3016
Lessons & Carols, Holy Trinity,
Bundanoon 5.30 pm
Sutton Forest Market 4869 3016

Mon 19

Tue 20

Wed 21 Movies, Sylvan Glen, Penrose,
'Miracle on 34th Street'
4884 4306

[No further listings for December]

January

Sun 1 Bundanoon Markets 4869 3016

Mon 2

Tue 3

Wed 4 Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'Jungle Book'

Thu 5

Fri 6

Sat 7 Piano at 10am - Bundanoon Hall
Moss Vale Greyhounds 4868 1353
Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'Ray'
(Charles) 4884 4306
Bowral (Horse) Show 4861 1503

Sun 8 Bowral (Horse) Show 4861 1503
Robertson Markets 4885 1216
Berrima School Craft Market
4869 3016
Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'Bride and
Prejudice'

Mon 9

Tue 10

Wed 11 Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'Madagascar'

Thu 12

Fri 13 Avoca Old Time Dance 4884 4306

Sat 14 Fly Fishing 4883 6324
Mittagong Markets 4871 1354
MV Greyhounds 4868 1353
Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'The Quiet Man'

Sun 15

Mon 16

Tue 17

Wed 18

Thu 19 BCDA Meeting, Hall, 7.30 pm

Fri 20 R'son Family Dance 4885 1216

Sat 21 MV Greyhounds 4868 1353
Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'Oyster
Farmer' 4884 4306

Sun 22

Mon 23

Tue 24

Wed 25

Thu 26 Australia Day Celebrations in
Berrima 4877 1505

Fri 27

Sat 28 Fly Fishing 4883 6324
Colo Vale Markets 4889 4129
MV Greyhounds 4868 1353
Movies, Sylvan Glen, 'War of the
Worlds' 4884 4306

Sun 29

Mon 30

Tue 31

February

Wed 1

Thu 2

Fri 3

Sat 4 Piano at 10, Bundanoon Hall
Wine Expo, Bundanoon Hotel
4883 6005
MV Greyhounds 4868 1353

Sun 5 Bundanoon Markets 4869 3016

Mon 6

Tue 7

Wed 8

Thu 9

Fri 10 Avoca Old Time Dance
4887 7321
Art Show, Heronswood House,
Moss Vale (till Sun. 19) 4869 1477

Sat 11 Bowral Farmers Market 4862 4910
Fly Fishing 4883 6324
MV Greyhounds 4868 1353

Sun 12 Robertson Markets 4885 1216
Berrima School Craft Market
4863 1639

Mon 13

Tue 14

Wed 15

Thu 16 BCDA Meeting, Bundanoon
Hall, 7.30 pm

Fri 17 R'son Family Dance 4885 1216

Sat 18 Dahlia Spectacular, Mittagong
RSL 4236 0158 (and Sunday)
Veteran/Vintage Car Rally, Sen.
Cit.Hall, Mittagong 4868 1252
(and Sunday)

Sun 19 Bowral Markets, Rudolf Steiner
School 8250 2563

Mon 20

Tue 21

Wed 22

Thu 23

Fri 24

Sat 25 Colo Vale Markets 4889 4129
Fly Fishing 4883 6324
MV Greyhounds 4868 1353

Sun 26 Sth. Highlands Country Fair, MV
Showground 4863 1639

Scottish Pipe Band Competition,
MV Showground 4863 1639

Mon 27

Tue 28

Advertisers' index

ACCOMMODATION

Bundanoon Country Inn.....	40
Inverard	24
Mildenhall Guesthouse	4
Treetops	8
Yallambee.....	48

AUTOMOTIVE

Allan Mackay Autos.....	41
Argyle Street Autoport	10
Petersen's Garage	20

CLOTHING

Belisa Cashmere	15
Whytes	22

CONSTRUCTION & TRADES

Advanced Building Certifiers.....	39
Alan Weston Signs	46
Blell Electrical Services.....	46
Box Concrete Company	15
Brad Parker, Chimney Sweep.....	45
Chris Bromfield, Electrical Contractor.....	22
Don Turner's Earthworks	33
Greenfield Electrical Services	50
Reliable Roofing Services	10
Rundle's Plumbing	17
S&J Osmond Painting and Decorating	4
Simon Dickson, Bobcat and Tipper Hire	17
Worner's Haulage.....	19

DINING

Bundanoon Chinese Restaurant.....	46
Bundanoon Hotel	36
Sage Café & Bookshop	43
The Bundanoon Club	8
Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe	12

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

Bundanoon Butchery	36
Bundanoon Country Bakehouse	50
Bundanoon Newsagency	33
Bundanoon Supermarket, Hardware & Video	44
Penrose Berry Farm	45
Pioneer Flask Cellars.....	10

EVENTS & RECREATION

Bundanoon Village Market.....	36
Highlands Paintball	47
Mark Tickner, Fly Fishing.....	23
Moss Vale Travel	8
Sylvan Glen Country House & Golf Course	51

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jim Clark, Councillor.....	22
Joanna Gash, Federal MP.....	22
Peta Seaton, State MP.....	22

HEALTH

Banksia Cottage Therapeutic.....	35
Bundanoon Medical Centre.....	39
First Aid Courses.....	48
Lynwood Medical Centre.....	20
Solar Springs Health Retreat	51

HOUSE & GARDEN

Annette's Florist.....	22
Betta Electrical and Gas.....	44
Bundanoon Bloomery.....	41
Bundanoon Sandstone.....	44
Bundanoon Valley Violets.....	19
Bundanoon Village Nursery	5
Harvey Norman	30
Highland Blinds	20
La Bonne Maison	45
Martha and Henry	41
Moss Vale Bookshop.....	18

Mt Murray Nursery	6
Open House of Bundanoon	22
Penrose Country Supplies	39
Primrose Garden Design	43
Ray L. Wheatley Cabinet-maker.....	32
Reid Brothers Fine Furniture	24
Stuart Shepherd, Horticulturalist	45
Window Treatments	15

PETS

Alvaston Alpacas	46
Bundanoon Groom	20
Bundanoon Vet Surgery.....	32
Handsome Hound	36
Highlands Canine Care.....	43

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Australia Post	36
Bundanoon Hair Design	38
Catherine Weaver, Recorder Tuition.....	46
Cherry Bomb Hair Design	5
Dianna Watson Photography.....	4
Heaven Sent Mobile Beauty	46
Lamond Howard and Associates	10
Lindway Studios	24
Margaret Johnson Bookkeeping Service	44
NetJunction Internet	30
Southern Tablelands Outwork Services.....	9
Weston Print.....	50

REAL ESTATE AND FINANCE

Bundanoon Real Estate	52
Highlands Rural Real Estate.....	12
Jordans Crossing Real Estate.....	24
Peter Rocca Real Estate	2
Serviced Offices	33

VINEYARD

Silver Gum Grove	42
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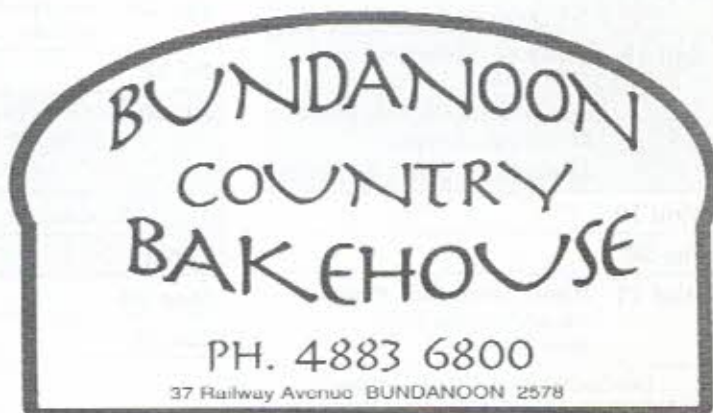
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Sylvan Glen Country House & Golf Course

Situated in Penrose, it's Bundanoon's closest golf course

Did you know Sylvan Glen Golf Course has undergone extensive improvements?

A pretty and challenging 9-hole course • Ideal for both beginners and old-hand golfers

Come along and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, beautiful surroundings and fresh country air

Snacks and lunches now available; BBQ facilities also available – cook your own

PLEASE NOTE: LARGE GROUPS MUST PRE-BOOK

Now available: Evening dinners by candlelight

First Wednesday of the month • Three-course evening dinner by the open fire • BYO

\$55 per person for three-course meal,
glass of wine on arrival and tea/coffee to finish

Sitting is limited to 14 guests, so bookings are essential

Couples • Singles • Groups

call Matt or Donna on 4884 4306 for more information



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health retreat

seriously healthy ...
redefining fitness health and self



relaxation pamper

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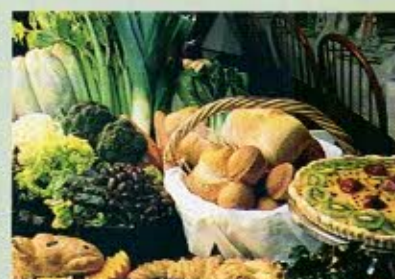
- luxurious skin treatments, body polishes and body wraps
- relaxing massages, floats, hydro baths and vichy showers.



health fitness

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- group fitness including power bar and step
- aquarobic classes
- personal training.



nutritious cuisine

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