

THE TRIANGLE



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BROGO QUAAMA COBARGO BERMAGUI TILBA & LOCALITIES

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Fabulous Free Friday Grand Opening Concert at Four Winds

For the first time ever the Four Winds Festival this Easter will be putting on a grand opening concert in Bermagui on Good Friday in the afternoon. It will be a spectacular event, and it will be FREE! The Festival is bringing over 50 musicians to Bermagui – international stars like Omar Faruk Tekbilek, a breathtaking musician and world music exponent, and some of Australia's finest musicians.

These include William Barton, the didgeridoo player who has had music composed for him and has performed all around the world, and Diana Doherty, the acclaimed principal oboist for the Sydney Symphony. Riley Lee and Genevieve Lacey, virtuoso musicians on takahachi and recorder, will arrive by boat, and glide through the

water with their instruments. On the stage will be TaikOz, the wonderfully invigorating drum group whose energy has to be seen to be believed, joining with Synergy, also renowned for their drumming.

And last but not least – the South Coast Children's Choir led by Geoffrey Badger. Bermagui businesses have also come to the fore with their support for the event, chipping in to sponsor the 5000 flyers that will be circulated around town and up and down the coast. It promises to be a great event – bring your family, your friends and your cushion! 4.30 – 6.00pm, Friday 21st March, Dickinson Oval, Bermagui. △



TaikOz at Four Winds in 2004 ... invigorating

Councillor Janette Nielson – Correction of our Report

Councillor Janette Nielson has complained about *The Triangle's* reports last year of the Council's Meads Bay planning proposals. She considers the paper has wrongly reflected on her conduct as a Councillor and landowner.

The Triangle acknowledges that zoning changes affecting her land are part of general zoning name changes which reflect present uses. Ms Nielson has never applied for or proposed the rezoning of her property *Myrtle Dale* and she is not seeking to develop her land for residential use. As a Councillor she has always abstained from voting on any motion before Council relating to her land or adjacent land.

The Triangle did not intend to reflect on her conduct and if any reader read the reports to do so, *The Triangle* wishes to correct that misconception. △

Marine Discovery Centre - a new E.R.A.

Representatives of the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, based in Eden, held a standing room only meeting in Bermagui on February 25 to explain the aims and objectives of the Centre and the tremendous work to be carried out.

Local Board Member, Alan Broadhurst, has told *The Triangle* that the Centre will promote stewardship

of the marine environment stretching from Bermagui in the north to Orbest in the south, in three specific ways:

1. **Education** – including via a travelling exhibition which will make it's first appearance at the Seaside Fair on March 8.
2. **Research** – attracting experts from within Australia and around the world.
3. **Aquarium** – at the Discovery Centre in Eden – to help give a full understanding and appreciation of the marine world at our doorstep.

Alan further explained that National Landscapes in association with National Parks and Wildlife, Australian Tourism and others have identified only a very few pristine areas within Australia, one of which is our stretch of coastline now known as the Wilderness Coast because of its superb forests to ocean, lakes and rivers, and unspoiled beauty. △



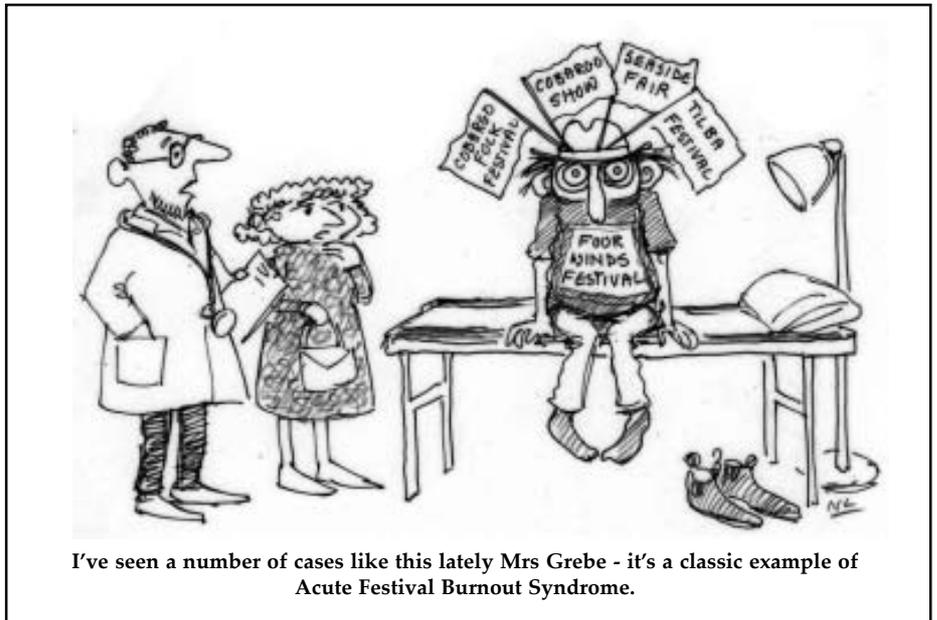
Editorial

Summer is disappearing fast and the mornings and evenings have that lovely freshness in the air. Soon we will be dragging the winter clothes from their hiding places and shaking out the moths.

February saw so much rain that our countryside is looking great and according to long-term residents it has not looked better since the 1950s. But the drought needs to be remembered and so perhaps spare cash should be directed to new water tanks or similar measures in preparation for the next big dry.

The Cobargo Show produced record takings even without the 'horse events' and we congratulate all involved. Rumour has it that our recently retired secretary earned a few awards but surely the most remarkable result was the success of the Allen family when four generations each took home a championship ribbon. See Cobargo Conversations for the details.

March promises to be a busy



I've seen a number of cases like this lately Mrs Grebe - it's a classic example of Acute Festival Burnout Syndrome.

month with the Seaside Fair, Sculpture on the Edge, the Tilba Festival, Easter and the Four Winds Festival almost running into one another. If you have time please support these events, you will not be disappointed.

On the front page there is a correction to an article that appeared in the August 2007 edition of the *Triangle*,

and we also wish to correct an error in the February 2008 book review – a book was named as *No Country for Dead Men* – it should have read *No Country for Old Men*.

Thank you to all our readers and our district volunteers who have been (and still are) really busy at this time of year. △

Letters to the Editors

Cobargo Show

Hello all at The Triangle,
THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU. What a fantastic job you did with the coverage of our upcoming Show. Bloody brilliant. Cheers,

*June Tarlinton, President
Cobargo Show Society.*

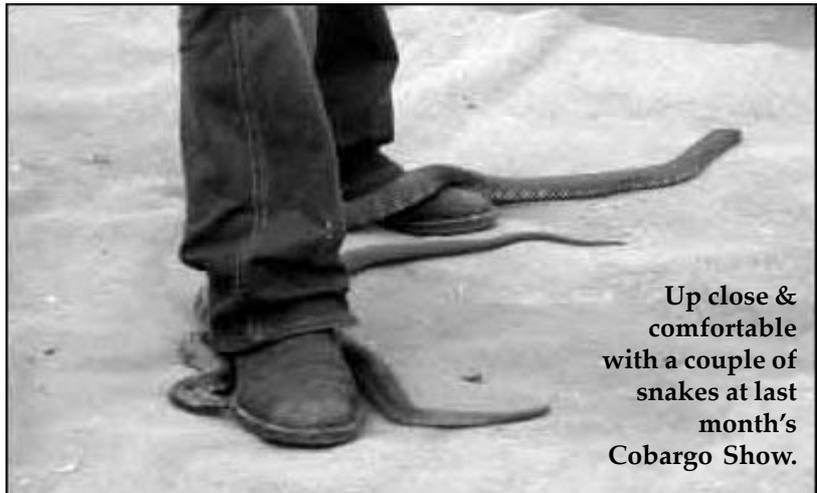
To All the Hard Working Staff!

Thank you very much for your great coverage of this year's Cobargo Show; love the joke. Thank you also for publishing my article on behalf of Cobargo & District Pony Club.

Your magazine makes great reading; keep up the good work because the community would be lost without it.

Many thanks,

*Lynda Holland
Cobargo*



Up close & comfortable with a couple of snakes at last month's Cobargo Show.



Thumbs Up

Community Caring. Local Tilba man's German shepherd dog Baloo was seriously spooked by a snake and left home. He

was found about nine hours later thanks to the Ward family and Ken and Linda at Bates Store. Sincere thanks from owner Robert Williamson. Now known as 'Baloo's Big Day Out'.



Thumbs Down

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My Triangle

A chance to meet the locals and learn their thoughts and feelings on living in "The Triangle"

Mal Dibden

Mal Dibden has a passionate love of Tilba and its environs. Born in Parkes, where his father managed the Shell Oil Company Depot, as a child he enjoyed frequent holidays at 'Spring Hills', in Tilba. 'Spring Hills' was owned at that time by his mother's father, William Robertson. Mal's father bought 'Spring Hills' from Mal's uncle in 1948, and from that time on Mal has lived in Tilba.

After his father passed on, Mal bought his mother and siblings out and operated the dairy at 'Spring Hills' in his own right. He went on to acquire neighbouring land over the next 30 years until he owned 1,300 acres.

Talking with Mal one gets the impression there is a degree of nostalgia for the earlier times when there were up to 50 dairy farms in Tilba, with yet more at Corunna and south Narooma. The whole district revolved around dairying.

Mal has exhibited a fervent interest in the district, and has been a quiet achiever in several areas. He was a key driver in the local Progress Association in the early 1970s when it approached the National Trust Buildings Committee, who then took the extraordinary action of setting up a heritage classification for the whole village, as well as Tilba Tilba. Later the

Tilba Landscape Heritage Area was identified.

From the 1960s Mal became very interested in Dromedary Mountain. He believed the mountain should be a National Park, not a State Forest, and lobbied Jack Beale, the local MLA, and also the Minister for Forests and the Minister for Conservation, resulting in Dromedary being declared a Flora Reserve. Then, after many years of argument, and sometimes confrontation,



Mal and the Tilba valley he loves

and the support of the local Aboriginal people, Gulaga National Park was established including Goura Nature Reserve and Wallaga Lake National Park. This outcome far exceeded Mal's expectations, and was better than he ever thought was possible.

Mal has also been an active member of Wallaga Lake Estuary Management Committee, and is a member of the Gulaga National Park Board of Management established in 2007. Wallaga Lake is now a part of the Bateman's Marine Park.

Mal married in 1957 and he and his wife raised eight children of whom he is most proud. They all attended Tilba primary school and either Bega

or Narooma High Schools. Julie, Nic, Scott, as well as Paul's widow, Di, still live in Tilba, while Kat is in Bega, Jeneve in Cairns, Lachlan in Canberra and Natasha in Brisbane, all with their own families. Mal has 27 grandchildren.

Mal loves the magnificent area we live in. 'To me it is just wonderful – the forests, the two Tilbas, Wallaga Lake, Gulaga, Narooma, Bermagui, Cobargo and the glorious coastline'.

Over a period exceeding 20 years, Mal conducted tours up Gulaga for people from all over the world. It is possible he took 10,000 people up. Some of them signed his visitors books, and they number some 4,000!

One of the major developments Mal looks forward to is a good outcome for Gulaga National Park under its new Board of Management. 'There are enormous possibilities for education, recreation, conservation and tourism. It is essential it is well

managed. I cannot see why Gulaga National Park cannot become one of the best National Parks in NSW or even Australia on the basis of its scenery, flora and fauna values, its geology, its history, and last but not least, its importance to the traditional owners for the last 30,000 or 40,000 years'.

Mal is also hopeful that the Tilba District Sports Ground will receive the assistance of the Eurobodalla Council, and even the state government to have the necessary amenities put in place so it can function effectively for the benefit of residents, children and visitors.

△

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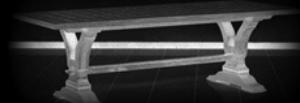
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The Marine Park debate continues ...

Richard Tilzey's thoughts on the Batemans Marine Park in the December Triangle provoked passionate responses from Bill Barker and Joe Ruiz-Avila last month. Here, Tilzey responds on this most contentious issue.

I thank the *Triangle* for the opportunity to reply to Bill Barker's and Joe Ruiz-Avila's comments on my article about the Batemans Marine Park (BMP) and hope readers enjoy the (ongoing?) debate.

With regard to Bill's comments: I do not dispute his stated marine park creation time-line, having been professionally involved in some fisheries aspects of Australia's Ocean Policy development. However, whereas the creation of Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was accompanied by a thorough dialogue between all stakeholders (including conservationists, scientists and the fishing industry) before boundaries were finalised, this did not occur in NSW where politicking and lobbying have been the major driving factors and MPA boundaries were railroaded through.

Having spent almost 40 years involved in fisheries research and management at state, national and international levels, I can claim a modicum of authority about matters pertaining to fish. Nobody disputes the value of MPAs from a biodiversity perspective but, like it or not, their value as a sustainable fisheries management tool is still largely unproven, particularly for migratory species. Indeed, at a recent (September 07) Australian Society for Fish Biology (another 'peak' body) workshop on Spatial Management in Fisheries, several participants saw fit to criticise the Australian Marine Sciences Association for making irresponsible, unsubstantiated claims about the benefits of MPAs for fish stocks. The

need for brevity precludes further detail, but I recommend that Bill peruses the papers emanating from the 2006 FAO Workshop on MPAs and Fisheries Management. It's a complex issue and 'the vast majority of marine scientists' do **not** agree on the value of MPAs for fisheries management purposes.

With regard to Joe's comments: I have spent most of my working life providing input to managing fisheries on a sustainable basis and I certainly support the precautionary principle. As an ex-Pom I've witnessed the demise of northern hemisphere fish stocks through over-fishing and am well aware of the voracious nature of large multi-national fishing companies such as Pesca Nova.

In Australia the precautionary principle has taken a long time to implement and over-fishing of species such as gemfish and orange roughy has occurred. However, this principle is now enshrined in Commonwealth legislation via an agreed mechanism linking uncertainty with conservative catch levels and over-fishing in the Australian EEZ is now largely a thing of the past.

In some instances, such as the closure of known orange roughy spawning sites, MPAs have indeed been very useful. Pragmatic but expensive fleet buy-outs have been more useful. With 'international' species such as southern blue-fin tuna, regulating catches is much more difficult and over-fishing is still occurring. I'm sure that the well-travelled Joe is acquainted with the need to control 'high-seas' catches, the financial clout and political bombast that (for example) renders European Union fisheries management policies largely ineffective and attempt to undermine catch

constraints anywhere, including the southern hemisphere. I share his concern.

Finally, I repeat that the current BMP no-fishing zones are nonsense and based on little, if any, scientific rationale. They are a 'Claytons' solution to a poorly perceived 'problem'.

Richard Tilzey

△

International Women's Day Celebration

Thursday 6th March 2008

11.30–1.30 pm

The Women's Resource Centre would like to invite all women and children to attend International Women's Day celebrations to be held on Thursday 6th March 11.30–1.30 pm at the Supper Room next door to the Bega Town Hall Bega.

Activities will include:

- Meet representatives of local service providers: for example Family Support Service, Bega Women's Refuge, Greater Southern Area Health Service, Workability, Centrelink

- 'Wim Jam', Thursday Drop in Music Group playing at 11.30–12 and 1.00–1.30;

- Open microphone for others to share their music, singing and stories

- Story telling and book readings

- Art activities include t-shirt printing – bring your own t-shirt or something to print on

- Children's activities – clay and face painting.

Bring a plate of food to share and enjoy lunch together.

△

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The Crossing's Inaugural Sea to Snow Journey 2008

This is a Landcare Discovery Journey for young people from 16–25 years who have initiative, energy and the support of the NSW Environmental Trust, Far South Coast Landcare, Bournda Environment Education Centre and Clean Energy for Eternity.

In April 2008 ten young people from 16 years of age from the local region will begin one of the biggest challenges of their life so far, journeying from Bermagui on the east coast of Australia to the top of the Snowy Mountains, using boats, bikes and boots. Along the way they will help the community with landcare work and learn more about the natural environment at different altitudes and about living more sustainably. They will also attempt a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, which is presented by the NSW Governor. The first training weekend will be in mid March.

We hope you can assist them to raise money to make this an annual opportunity. The journey is divided into Autumn and Spring Sections of six and nine days respectively so that students are able to fit this with the rest of their education, and it involves significant additional weekend training and community commitments.

Young people pay for their training weekends but are supported by scholarships for the journey sections. In recognition of this support, young people chosen for the Sea to Snow Journey raise money (like a walkathon) to 'pay this support forward' so that another group of young people are able to do the journey in 2009.

Donations made to The Crossing Land Education Trust Fund at PO BOX 72, BERMAGUI, 2546 are tax deductible (The Trust is on the Australian Register of Environmental Organisations).

I encourage you to look at thecrossing.thebegavalley.org.au to find out more. Direct deposit can also be made to The Trust Fund:

*IMB Account: *200415194 *BSB: 641800* (Please email The Crossing your details for correct tax receipts: thecrossing@thebegavalley.org.au.)

You might like to donate for every kilometre of the 250 km journey or you might like to cover a half scholarship \$350 or a full scholarship \$700. Every bit helps. Australia should support a Sea to Snow journey for its young people.

Cheers,

*Dean Turner
Project Director*

*The Crossing Land Education Trust
thecrossing.thebegavalley.org.au*

A Good Country Show (2008)

It's a good country show
It's the people you meet
And can you believe it
There's two dollar prizes
For pictures and paintings
Even vegetable figures

There's the post rip and axes
The cloth dolls and ices
Most giant bull pumkins
The longest kikuyu
Egg throwing, team yarding, cow
dogging dare
And show girls to bring a
responsible air

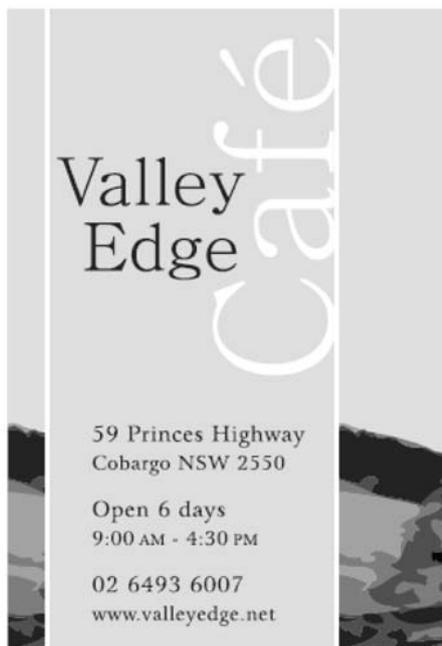
But the horses caught colds
And they're not gonna make it
They've let out the riders
They've all gone to pasture
I saw one just walk by
She used to go faster

Sulking in sulkies
At the waste people races
They're looking ungainly
Ungroomed; what a sight!
They'll be slumming it
Down by the stock yards tonight

Now bikes and utes slip on the
barrel races
And bungee egg throwing is
cracking some faces
Dogs out there trying to jump at
the fences
Hobby horses blowing hard, out of
paces
Though the dodgems are shorting
They start the foot races!

Horizontal fireworks
Help the otto bin cup
And a fire hose dogging
To help me sober up
But Scottish tail tagging?
Well enough is enough
How long now to wait for a fine
horses rump?

Dean Turner



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Musical extravaganza at the Drom

The Dromedary Hotel in Central Tilba is hosting Loud Live and Local on Saturday 29th March. This musical extravaganza features local musicians from within 'the Triangle' keen to get up in front of an appreciative audience and strut their stuff.

Dave Lamb, who has been coordinating the show over the past 18 months, says, 'The show features new musicians and what I call lounge room musicians – people who can play and sing but don't often get the opportunity to do so in front of an audience. I provide a 200 watt PA and stage light-

ing and performers need only step on stage, plug in their instrument and play. It is also great for bands or solo artists wanting to go professional or semi professional but who don't yet have enough material.

'The industry standard is four, forty-five minute sets: that's a lot of songs! At Loud, Live and Local (LLL) performers can come in with what they have and do a much shorter set, normally fifteen minutes to half an hour for soloists and up to an hour for bands'.

Previous performers have in-

cluded Daniel Champagne; Jacqui Howarth; Footloose Strangers; Sol Romana-Clarke and Shanti; Broken Down; Jenny Noble; Nutleys Creek; Shane and Lisa Braz; The Island of Real; Rattlesnake Shake; Bob Pickup; Julie Brooking; Bhavit and Mandira.

From the audience's point of view it's a great night out, they get to see six to eight acts instead of the normal one.

If you would like to perform at LLL, give Dave Lamb a call on 6493 3052 / 0429 436 724 or email him at dlamb99@bigpond.net.au. △



Pat's Piece

I recently lent a small treasure of mine to a friend by way of a book with the title *Talk and Talkers* written in the

18th century by Robert Louis Stevenson. Its contents are about the art of conversation. As all who know me are aware I am one of the world's greatest gasbags, hence my love of this little book.

Last week in the literary supplement of the *Melbourne Age* there were a couple of fascinating lines from the pen of one Kate Holden and I quote: 'I've had conversations that have been witty, penetrating, profound, absurd, informative and diverting, about exchanges of feelings, philosophy, data and human affections'. Which made me think about my own verbal encounters with fellow travellers over the last year, where I've had conversations with beloved friends, weird old ladies in strange places, academic intellectuals, beautiful wide eyed children and visitors from other shores. This reminiscing reminding me that, while trav-

elling across Europe with 'Madam and the RagTag Jazz Band', the boys would tell the story of how they could leave me sitting in a sidewalk café with my postcards and coffee and when they returned, regardless of wherever we were, I would always be talking to someone, even if I couldn't speak the bloody language!

But I believe that conversation irrigates our thinking. I've lost count of how many doors it has opened for me throughout my crazy, remarkable life. So in my old age I have gathered around me a group of kindred souls and with tongue in cheek, we regularly have, for want of a better name 'Staff Meetings', where we sit around with a couple of bottles of red wine, a crusty loaf of bread, some fine old tasty cheese and a few olives and we talk. The discussions can be feisty, sparkling and sometimes very serious but in the midst of it all there is always laughter. So whether it's the gurgle in the back of my great granddaughter's throat or a piece of profound philosophy from an old friend, let's never lose the art of communication with our fellow man. It is essential, I believe, to our well being.

Pat Thompson △



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Quintessentially Quaama

First things first – let's acknowledge the magnificent work done for this fine publication by Veronica Coen as the Quaama scribe. Veronica has left big shoes to fill and I've only got small feet. Three cheers for Veronica!

Next – who on earth has taken over the reins? Well, we're glad you asked. We are Ann Fagan and Glenn Cooper who have lived in Quaama since 2002 ish. We're both ex-Sydney, did the sea-change thing and never regretted it. What else? You'll find out over time no doubt.

Next, next – what to write about? Well, seeing as we've only just jumped in the hot seat, we're kind of hoping you'll help us out. While I would like to startle you all with my infinite knowledge of all things happening in the big Q, the reality is that my bank manager insists that I spend at least a few hours a week earning enough to pay the mortgage. So time to do the really enjoyable bits is slightly restricted.

This is where you come in... Let

us know what's going on. Who's celebrating what, who's up to whatever. We'll be setting up a dedicated email address for the Quaama *Triangle* column soon, but in the meantime you can call us on 6493 8302. If we don't answer straight away leave a message

Maybe someone should open a hot-dog stand! Remember, you read that first in this column so anyone who goes ahead with this has to pay 10% of the profits to the *Triangle*.

The recent rain has been most welcome, and the Dry River hasn't been. The local duck population has been enjoying itself most afternoons in what used to be my driveway (now and again called Cooper Creek).

Still the tanks are full and the weeds are happy. Why is it that weeds grow faster than grass? And why is it that the brush-cutter only starts during dry spells (if at all)?

Anyway, we hope to do justice to this column and are always happy to receive news, stories, yarns etc. This is your column for your vil-



Dragons Abreast on Darling Harbour

and we'll get back to you.

Some news – home grown – Ann recently participated in the Chinese New Year Dragon Boat racing on Darling Harbour and was part of the Sapphire Water Dragon/Gold Coast crew that won silver in the Dragons Abreast category for breast cancer survivors. An excellent result and well celebrated. All the proceeds of the regatta go to breast cancer research, which is wonderful.

Also, what's the story with the Quaama rest area? Is there a book somewhere that lists all the rest areas in NSW and rates them? I reckon the population of the big Q is inflated by at least 10 every afternoon lately.

lage.

Stay healthy.

Ann Fagan & Glen Cooper
Contact: 6493 8302



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Bermi Banter

Seaside Fair, 8th March

Imagine sitting on the foreshores of beautiful Horseshoe Bay at twilight, delighting to the colours and reflections that only a really good fireworks display over water can give. Well, the whole family will be able to do just that, if they attend the eleventh Bermagui Seaside Fair, to be held on Saturday, 8th March this year.

Jo Jacobs, event organiser said, 'You won't have to fight for space or miss the display if the train is late, as happens in Sydney. Our harbour is as pristine as any in the world and just as attractive, and has room for many to gather along the foreshores and on the headland above. It will come alive with activity and colour at 8.45 pm when the fireworks display heralds the end of what will be a fantastic day of fun filled attractions. There is no charge to witness this spectacle of colour and it is not too late in the evening, so that young and 'not so young' can all enjoy it'.

Citizen of the Year

With the Bermagui Seaside Fair fast approaching, the committee is asking for people to nominate a person who they think may be worthy of receiving the honour of Bermagui's Citizen of the Year. The person nominated does not have to be someone who has excelled on a sporting field or in entertainment. It may well be a quiet achiever who just helps other people with their everyday problems or is involved in animal welfare or the environment. Age is also not a barrier – young people may be just as entitled to receive this award as someone who may have been involved in community affairs for some time.

The winner is not judged by the

number of nominations received. They are judged on what the selection panel considers to be a worthwhile commitment to our community.

Nomination forms and entry boxes are located at the Bermagui Visitor Information Centre, Horizon Credit Union, Bermagui Post Office, 777 Supermarket/Deli, Bermagui Fresh Fruit & Veges and the Bermagui Country Club. The Bermagui Citizen of the Year is only for people who reside in the Bermagui district and nominations will close on Monday 3rd March 2008.

Top talents in Bermagui

Also at the Seaside Fair, from 10 am – 8.30 pm, on two separate stages, there will be entertainment to suit all tastes. The organisers of the musical side of the annual event are delighted to have a variety of musicians and performers giving their time and talents to make this eleventh fair the best ever. Leanda O'Brien, winner of the 2008 'Tiara' award at the Tamworth Country Music Festival will be on the Country Energy stage from 12.00 – 1.00 pm. This is a real coup for the event organisers as Leanda is booked solid for the next few months, but has agreed to come to Bermagui at short notice to promote her latest recording and to assist the organisers in providing real diversity in the afternoon's entertainment. Enormously talented Richard Blomfield and his off-sider Kim



A scene from the public workshop reading of Ian McFarlane's new play on politics, morality and depression, *Whispering in the Dark*, with Dipak Ramsay and Tim Carson in front of an attentive and responsive audience at the Bermagui Community Centre on Sunday, 10th February 2008. See story and review next page.

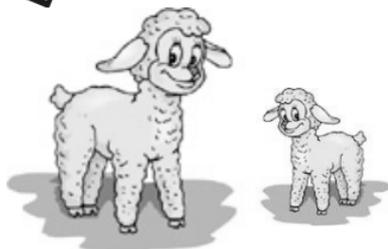
Churchill promise to have everyone enthralled with their gig on the Boral stage. Richard was a winner of the Bermagui Idol competition and is often heard on ABC Radio playing his own compositions. Richard will also MC the events on the Boral stage. There will be baton twirlers, belly dancers, didgeridoo playing, drumming, local bands and an exciting 'Fire show' act from Wollongong at 8.30 pm, followed by The Fabulous Finale, fireworks display at 8.45 pm. Don't miss it!

The Littlies

Bermagui Pre School has welcomed new families to the preschool this year at a BBQ held on Friday 15th February 2008. All who attended had an enjoyable evening. Bermagui Pre School is a not-for-profit and community-based service, which offers preschool education for up to 20 children per day, between the ages of 2 and 5 years. There are limited full-time, casual and occasional care placements still available for this year. Hours of operation are 9 am to 3 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and an economic subsidy is available.

Bermagui Pre School, which has been operating since 1976, offers a high

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Bermi Banter (continued)

quality service, in a safe, warm and challenging learning rich environment, that supports the wholistic development of children through play. Qualified and experienced staff make provision for individualised and child-focused programs that enable each child to grow socially, intellectually, emotionally and physically. The preschool follows an anti-bias and inclusive approach that treats all children and families with respect, acknowledging diversity, ideals, values, customs, beliefs and culture. Please feel welcome to visit the preschool. Our staff are available to answer any questions you may have.

Mumbulla presentations at Bermagui

The Mumbulla Foundation presented the 2007 grants to some of the voluntary groups aiming to create a better life for those in the Bega Valley. All seven recipient organisations were represented, with the Montreal Goldfields sending a sizeable contingency.

Dean Turner from The Crossing responded on behalf of all the groups receiving money. He said he was amazed by the links between the various groups present. One helps here and another provides information there. All were intertwined in some way and the Mumbulla Foundation helps keep



Bermi Firies en masse

these connections functioning. Deputy Mayor Jeanette Nielson, representing the Bega Valley Council, a major contributor to the Foundation, presented the cheques.

Play reading

Ian McFarlane arrived in Perth from England when he was 16 years old, and that same year wrote, directed and acted in his own play. Since then he has written three novels and a vast collection of essays and poems. Ian and his family have lived at Beauty Point for 18 years; he is contributing editor of *Voice* magazine, and book reviewer for 'The Canberra Times' in *Panorama* magazine. His latest work *Whispering in the Dark* is reviewed below by Tim Bass.

A response from Tim Bass to the public workshop reading

I think it was very successful as a play, that is, as a work of art. The most valuable and interesting thing about good art is that it tells us something and *Whispering in the Dark* told me

things and took me to places I hadn't been before, and that was stimulating and challenging. The play was essentially about politics, bureaucracy and the stress it produces. Depression emerges as the key symptom, but the play is kept alive by the internal dynamics of the relationships. The depression content was handled adroitly and sensitively without it becoming boring, or oversimplified.

A note from the Fire Brigade

On behalf of all the crew of the Bermagui Rural Fire Brigade I would like to thank *The Triangle* for their kind donation of \$1000. We have used this money to purchase a new compressor, hoses and some much needed tools and toolbox with which we will continue to build our new training room and improve our Fire Station. Thank you also to Scott Neilson and the staff at Bermagui Mitre 10 for their on-going support of our brigade. I would also like to take this opportunity to let the Bermagui community and surrounding areas know that

Fire Permits are now available. They can **only** be obtained from Bermagui Fire Station: Tuesdays 3.30 pm until 5.30 pm **ONLY**.

For the interest of the community the Bermagui Fire Brigade has training on Thursday evenings from

(continued next page)



How the firies spent their *Triangle* money ...

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Bermi Banter (continued)

7.30 pm and anyone interested in joining is very welcome to come along and see what is involved.

*Greg McLaren, Captain
Bermagui Rural Fire Brigade*

Community Care for Community Centre

We hope that many residents of Bermagui and the surrounding areas have been to visit our new Community Centre, as it is a huge improvement on the old site, and a great boost to our area. Due to lack of funds from the BVSC they indicated that they would not be able to do the landscaping of our new building. Consequently the Bermagui Community Garden Group was formed.

Our brief from the council was to plant natives and this we have done as we needed to have hardy trees and grasses to be able to survive the dry times! Haven't we been lucky with our timing, the rain has been very kind.

As you will see we have planted mostly grasses and smaller gums due to the electric wires. At this stage we have what we call Stage 3 to complete the project. This is the area in the front of the old building where a wheelchair ramp is going to be erected. Once it has been completed we will be able to commence our last planting project.

To continue with the finishing touches we applied for a grant of \$1,000.00 from The Mumbulla Foundation. We were successful in achieving this and that now enables us to complete our goal of placing several seats that will be made locally for the gardens. Country Energy sponsored our

project, as their aim is to educate people with what to plant under power lines.

As we have undertaken the responsibility to maintain the gardens we are eager to have more volunteers to help us take this task on. The lawns will be looked after by the BVSC, and we will be responsible for the garden areas. Should you be interested in being on our roster please contact either Doris Haase on 6493 4695 or Bev Bray 6493 4456.

Library Musings

A very informal group of Friends of the Bermagui Library has formed and anyone who is interested in joining the group should see Jo at the Library. This group is not into 'meetings' but just wants to help Jo when she needs it and occasionally put on book readings etc. It is such a lovely space and Council has no money so help is important to keep the library going.

Anne Moore, the Bega Valley children's librarian, is having a training day on 11th or 18th March (not quite sure which day yet) for those interested in being a volunteer with GAB (grandparents and reading program). This has been a successful program in Bega and both the readers and the kids have got a lot out of it. We have two volunteers so far at Bermagui: are there any others who might be interested? For more information contact Anne at amoore@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or let Jo at the Library know.

On 20th March at 2.00 pm Sarah Benjamin will be reading from her book *A Castle in Tuscany*. Our last reading was hugely successful, so come along have a listen and enjoy a cup of tea.

To the Dump, To the Dump ...

Bermagui Recycling and Waste Depot has been dealt a blow following Council's recent decision to reduce open hours from 53 to 26 per week, resulting in the loss of one full time employee and two part-time employees.

Effective from 4 April 2008, new hours for the Depot will be:

Monday 8.00am to 1.00pm

Tuesday 8.00am to 12noon

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday 8.00am to 1.00pm

Friday CLOSED

Saturday 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 10.00am to 4.00pm

Does this mean that our highways, byways and forests will become an even more popular dumping ground?

△

Energy Issues

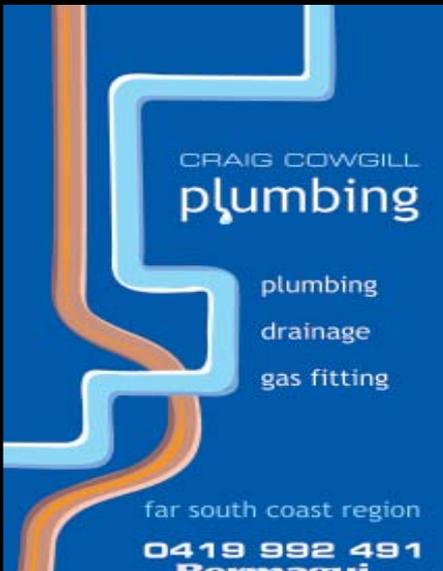
Here to Stay ...

Clean Energy for Eternity in Bermagui is firmly established. On February 3, founder Dr Matthew Nott kindly accepted the fledgling Chapter's invitation to meet members of the Bermagui team who, since December, have raised \$1,130 towards wind/solar power for the Bermagui Surf Club. Within the Bermagui Chapter, areas of responsibility are as follows:

Bill Caldicott: Convenor

Prue Kelly: Alternate Convenor & Events Manager. For membership, fundraising and general enquiries, please contact Prue on 5693 5317 or pruekelly@bigpond.com

Bill Southwood: Treasurer & Technical Advisor. For technical advice on alternate energy sources, please call Bill on 6493 5393 or email



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CEFE Bermagui will be actively participating in Seaside Fair on March 8 and the Four Winds Festival at Easter.

Big Swim ... Lifesaving Energy

On 10 February the first Life Saving Energy Big Swim was held on Lake Jindabyne to raise money for renewable energy for the Jindabyne Surf Club. Twenty swimmers swam the length of Lake Jindabyne (7 kms) and managed to raise \$16,000 in sponsorship for a renewable energy installation on the Jindabyne Surf Club. The 2kW solar panels and 400W wind turbine on the Clubhouse will produce excess electricity, providing the Surf Club with an income for the next 30 years.

The Big Swim series moves to Narooma on April 20. This will be a 7 km swim in the Wagonga Inlet to raise money for the Narooma and Bermagui Surf Clubs, and also for the Narooma Swim Club. The swim will be with the tide, and a shorter swim will be held at the same time for swimmers who don't want to do the whole 7 kms. I would like to encourage anyone who is even remotely concerned about climate change to support this event, either by swimming or sponsoring swimmers. Clean Energy for Eternity aims to have all Surf Clubs in SE NSW set up to renewable energy by the end of the year, and we hope to turn this campaign into a national project. There are 305 Surf Clubs in Australia! This will be a big job, but I think the concept has legs.

Matthew Nott



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On Ageing . . .

Do you realise that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about ageing that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' 'I'm four and a half!' You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. 'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life ... you become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony. *You become 21. Yesssss!*

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? *Makes you sound like bad milk! He turned; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed? You*

become 21, you turn 30, then you're pushing 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you REACH 50! And your dreams are gone.

But wait! *You make it to 60. You didn't think you would! So you become 21, turn 30, push 40, reach 50 and make it to 60. You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!*

You get into your 80s and every day is a complete cycle; you *hit lunch; you turn 4:30; you reach bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; 'I Was JUST 92'. Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!'*

May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!



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Poets in the Vineyard: Sunday 9th from noon

Art Exhibition: Montague Arts & Crafts Society Life Drawing Group Exhibition

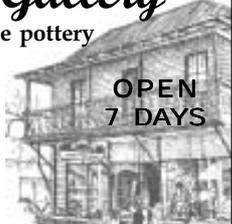
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Let's go see Dr Carl!



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Tilba Bites

Hope you have all had a busy and successful month. What with rain, district shows, music festivals, weddings and a good flow of tourists there has hardly been time to watch the grass grow! Although down on the farm where I live I can't help but watch the 30 odd native trees and shrubs grow, which a friend and I planted the other day. It is fantastic and fancy planting them in February, which can be one of our hottest months. After living in Tilba for 25 years I finally made the effort to attend the Cobargo Show (in my gumboots!). What a great show! I was there all day on Saturday and enjoyed every bit of it.

It was disappointing for the horse lovers not to have their usual events, but June Tarlington and her very talented crew did a superb job with a fast moving and action-packed program. I grew up on a sheep property on the Central Tablelands near a little village called Tuena. My father and family were involved in the annual Tuena

Goldrush Festival held from the late 1950s on Easter Saturday. Cobargo's Show reminded me that despite the months and months of hard work, meetings, working-bees etc, what a great way it is to bring community and friends together, some of whom you may only see once a year (at the Show of course).

Speaking of shows, Nic and Erica Dibden are justly proud of their supreme stud dairy cow, Firecracker Gem. She has won Champion Cow at the 2008 Candelo, Cobargo and Bega Shows. Her coup de grâce (lovely phrase) was at the Bega Show where her booty was as follows: Best cow in milk 5 and under; Best udder; Champion Jersey cow; Supreme all breeds champion cow and All breeds production cow. This is a phenomenal result considering no stud had taken out all three shows before let alone two years in a row. According to Erica, all credit goes to Nic's tenacity and perseverance. You would expect Firecracker Gem to be at the 2008 Royal Easter Show. Good luck girl!

If you didn't already know, Marion Motbey is moving her very successful hairdressing business from Central Tilba to Narooma (just up from Casey's Cafe). She plans to open the business there on the 2nd of April. Marion has operated her business in Tilba for the past six years and is only leaving because she needs larger premises to facilitate a new side to her business, adding cloth-



It's good to see Jenny Van Stekelenburg looking so happy (photo courtesy Bruce Coulson)

ing, make-up and other accessories. No doubt her favourite customers will travel for a good clip and a chinwag (as a lot already do). We wish her the best success.

Congratulations and best wishes on the arrival of a baby girl for Petah and Ken. Petah is the elder daughter of Ken and Linda Jamieson, proprietors of Bates Store in Central Tilba. I'm sure Ken and Linda are over the moon with their first grandchild. It's a wonderful stage and so good for grandparents because you can spoil them and hand them back when you've had enough. Congratulations also to Jo and Warren Atkins on the birth of their baby boy Riley Joshua Atkins ... the population of Tilba Tilba is increasing!

Also congratulations and best wishes to Matthew (only son of Gary and Caroline Leach) and his lovely bride Kate (a Cornwall lass). The wedding ceremony was conducted by Matthew's uncle, David Oliphant. Gary and Caroline welcomed family and guests from as far as England and America. The mood was one of total



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Tilba Bites (continued)

celebration, with the youngster's virtues extolled by one and all. I guess that's why the bride and groom choose the wedding party! The bride's father, a lanky yank living in England, spoke encouraging words about marriage and the need to always keep talking in the process of growing together as a family unit and without communication we can have nothing. The celebration continued after the feast with wild dancing.

Many of the visiting guests praised the absolute beauty of the surrounding district we live in, suggesting it as a gem on a worldwide register. This is also evidenced by the number of weddings taking place in our district, when the parties don't live here. They provide considerable economic stimulus and the opportunity for our young teenagers to experience hospitality work.

A big welcome to Michael and Marilyn Youlten, who have purchased the Rose and Sparrow Cafe in Central Tilba. Marilyn will be running the show. Previous owners, Chris and Anne Packe wish Maz all the very best in her new venture. Maz and partner Mick's horse riding business was all but decimated with the recent equine influenza outbreak. Some of us reckon that if Maz is anything like the worker



A 50th birthday bash for Annie from the Tilba Teapot (photo courtesy Bruce Coulson)

her mum Pam is, she'll make a good go of her new enterprise.

Last, but certainly not least I am one of many who will miss Chris and Anne's friendship and business acumen in Bate Street, Central Tilba. They handed over the business after 11 years to the day. As some of you know, a good food business can be hard work and requires consistent high standards and a positive friendly attitude. Chris and Anne have done that. They came to the South Coast about thirty years ago and are known in our community for their professionalism, honesty and integrity and throwing the odd good party! Their ventures over the years include

renovating/building, real estate, lots of involvement with restaurants and food outlets and Anne's 10 years or so in cheese processing at the ABC Factory in Central Tilba. Chris was one of the early computer nerds in Central Tilba too. They plan to move to Surf Beach area near Batemans Bay to be closer to family and on a level block because Chris says he's over Tilba stairs! We wish you two the very best; come back and visit and God bless the 'quiet achievers'.

Enough from me.

Ewen Genders



It's Time for the Tilba Festival

Saturday, 22 March, 8 am to 5 pm

The Tilba Easter Festival is on again!

It's the one time of the year when National Trust village of Central Tilba's main street is closed off to traffic and the local population swells from 100 to 10,000. The whole community pulls together and almost everybody volunteers for some duty on the day. The Tilba Easter Festival is run without any corporate sponsorship or outside funding. All proceeds taken on the gate (donation of \$5.00 adults and \$2.00 kids 2-16 yrs) go back into the Festival to pay for the entertainment that runs non-stop all day.

This year we have a terrific line up of music, street theatre, games, art shows, demonstrations, exhibits, puppet show, dancers troupes, street parade, magician and circus acts.

The music acts include DJ and

the KarismaKatz, Warren Foster, Milk, Byjingo, the Croobyar Project, Damon Davies and Damien Cohen, Richard Cook, Richard Bloomfield, The Cow Patties, True Blue, Lola Flash and many more.

Thought Sport and POG Circus will be performing in the street, Zamboni the Magician and Lenka's Puppets will be appearing in the small hall. The popular and informative Reptile Awareness Show is on again and shouldn't be missed.

If you would like more information or entry forms for 'Wisdom of the Forest' Art Show and Competition, call Virginia York, ph 6493 3579. If you would like to be part of the Tilba Festival and spend an hour or so working as a volunteer, call Isy Saunders ph 4473 700. For a full line up of entertainment visit www.tilba.com.au.



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Cobargo Conversations

Congratulations to Cobargo Citizen of the Year, Barry Benny, and Kristy Rixon-Gosch the Young Citizen of the Year. It is the enormous work that people like Barry and Kristy do that make our little community what it is.

What a great show it was this year, even without the horses. The horses certainly add to the spectacle but congratulations to the committee for filling in the gaps and somehow, some of those games were very enjoyable! Pavilion entries were up and despite the rain, certainly all the flowers, fruit and vegetables were a credit to their growers.

Great to see Shane Gayle's goat back again, by the dam wall. Various Wandella road users were worried that he had 'gone'.

Horst and Margaret from our local supermarket have taken the plunge and decided to close on Sundays. Well done we say, everyone needs a day off once a week and it wasn't that long ago when all shops were closed on Sundays. Enjoy your day off.

In what must be almost a first this year there were four generations of Allen all champions at the Cobargo



Barry Benny - photographed with Denise Beckwith, Australia Day Ambassador - was named Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day celebrations in Cobargo

Show. Norma – Champion Cake Exhibitor, Anthony – Champion Friesian Cow, Christopher – Champion Jersey heifer and Ivy O'Meara – Miss Tiny Tot. Well done.

13th Cobargo Folk Festival

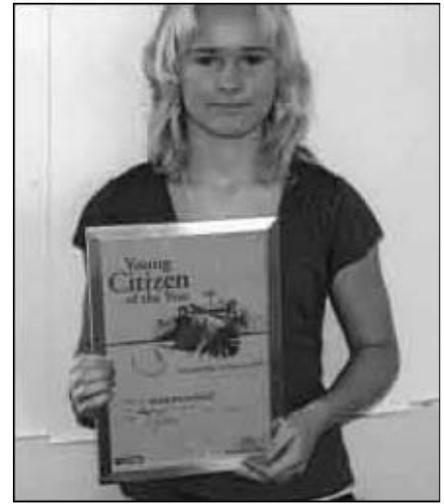
Blue skies, warm sun, gentle breeze, seven stages, great food and lots of people – everything you need for another very successful festival.

This year the festival focused on music, dance and comedy. One stage was used for dance workshops, from belly dancing to tangos, tap to bush and the Crossing Youth Stage was again alive with young'uns up and playing, singing and dancing. There were whistle workshops, accordion workshops and a never-ending jam session beside the bar. Peggy Seeger, Judy Small, Beautifully Mad, the Wild Martins, Damien Neil, Cloudstreet and of course our very own Damon Davies. The list just goes on.

This festival is a credit to all the volunteers and of course the extremely talented and hard working committee. It's events like these that make living in this area so special.

An Easter Sunday Sausage Sizzle

The Cobargo Tourist and Business Association Inc. is pleased to invite all to celebrate the completion of the Historic Village Walk. An inaugural walk will be held commencing at 10.00 am on Easter Sunday 23rd March, starting from the Bridge. This will be followed by a 'Salute to Grandfathers' picnic in Apex Park commencing at 12.30 pm. The village of Cobargo has strong links to the meaning of Grandfather. The complimentary sausage sizzle featuring the famous 'Cobargo Sausage' for all Grandfathers will be ca-



Kristy Rixon-Gosch is the Junior Citizen of the Year

tered for by the Cobargo Bush Fire Brigade and proceeds will assist with their fundraising efforts.

So grab your Grandad and come to Cobargo for a great Easter Sunday and celebrate a fantastic community effort in partnership with our friends from the IMB Community Foundation, the Cobargo Tourist and Business Association personnel Warwick Adams, Tony Hunt Audio Life Portraits, Cobargo Signs and the very hard working Historic Walk Committee.

Thanking you for your support in our community efforts.

Narelle Cooper/ Marea Blair
President, CTBA.



Crowds at the 13th Cobargo Folk Festival



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Cobargo Conversations

(continued)

Australia Day and Cobargo CWA

Speaking on behalf of CWA, Mary Williams stated that CWA would be happy to organise future Australia Day ceremonies and provide refreshments but suggested that perhaps a committee formed from members of the community could take over the responsibility of choosing the senior and junior citizens of the year. A meeting – to discuss and hopefully organise such a committee – will be held in the near future.

The 2008 Cobargo Citizen of the Year is Barry Benny & the Junior Citizen of the Year is Kirsty Rixon-Gosch

The winning ticket number of the CWA Money Tree Raffle is: 240246
Dawn Evans, Cobargo CWA

Cobargo Winery Cleans Up at Wine Show

The new Belgrave Park Winery at Cobargo has just won several major

awards at the 2008 South Coast Wine Show, which covers the area from Wollongong down to the Victorian border, along with the southern highlands. This year there were a total of 136 entries and, as you would expect, competition was fierce. The Belgrave Park 'Peak Alone' Cabernet Sauvignon scooped the pool with the following awards: Best Red Wine in Show, Best in Class (Cabernet Sauvignon), Best Red Wine (Any Vintage).

Warwick Adams, the Belgrave Park Winery owner, said, 'These awards were quite unexpected really, as it was our first vintage and the first wine show we have ever entered. Anne and I are really chuffed. For those of you who thought the Peak Alone cabernet was really nice, your judgement was spot on. It certainly raises the bar for future vintages though'.

Belgrave Park wines are available from the cellar door (on the highway just south of Cobargo). They have sold out of this year's wines at present, but will be reopening in Spring.

△



The pavilion was full of entries at last month's Cobargo Show.

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March's Exhibitors

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Art in the Triangle

Sounding out living in the Triangle

Have you ever thought about how sounds play an integral part in making places meaningful? Our ears are constantly being bombarded with sounds waves. Yet, everyone is very selective in what they choose to hear, tuning in and out to the everyday sounds around us.

Furthermore, how we each respond to the sounds we choose to hear are informed by our life histories, and what we value. Sound, then, is one way we each make connections, or not, to places. For example, sounds can trigger memories of past events or far away places. In other instances, certain sounds may stir emotions that help bring into sharp relief both who we are and the community around us. Sounds therefore connect us in complex ways, across both place and time.

Geographers, Michelle Duffy (University of Melbourne) and Gordon Waitt (University of Wollongong) are interested in collecting individual stories about the role of sounds in making places meaningful. They are working on two sound geography projects in the Triangle.

First, in collaboration with the Four Winds Festival, they are interested in listening to stories about forging new connections with place through the sounds of this event.

Second, and more generally, they are interested in listening to stories about the importance and meaning of sounds for those people living in the Triangle.

If you would like to be involved in either project, which includes details for making a 'sound diary,' please contact Michelle (med@unimelb.edu.au) or Gordon (gwaitt@uow.edu.au). One use of these 'sound stories' will be in a community exhibition to be held at the Bega Campus of the University of Wollongong.



Cuttagee Artists Annual Exhibition – 'Artless'

This year, I was invited to visit some of the artists who are contributing to the 2008 Cuttagee Art show at Easter, to get an insight into what will be on offer.

It's such a big show this year, there is some great outdoor sculpture and some wonderful things to hang on your walls and adorn your home from Surajo Frith, Sara Freeman, Bhavana Moylan, Jenny Mein, Naomi Lewis, Tim Moorehead, Dhira Horne, Leigh Anne Sydenham, Jay Ellard and Fran Vercoe.

The Cuttagee Artists Exhibition 2008 is entitled 'Artless'. It will open on Friday March 21 and run until March 30. The exhibition will be open from 10am until 5pm daily on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and from Monday through to Thursday the hours are



Cuttagee artists Shunyam Smith and Lois Irwin

from 10.00 am till 4.00 pm daily. Coffee and cakes will be available in the Sculpture Garden. Follow the signs from Cuttagee Beach to the Indaba Exhibition Center, approximately 9k south of Bermagui.

David Stocker, Art Critic Extraordinaire



Edgy Event

Bermagui Seaside's 'Sculpture on the Edge' promises to be a real feast for the senses in 2008.

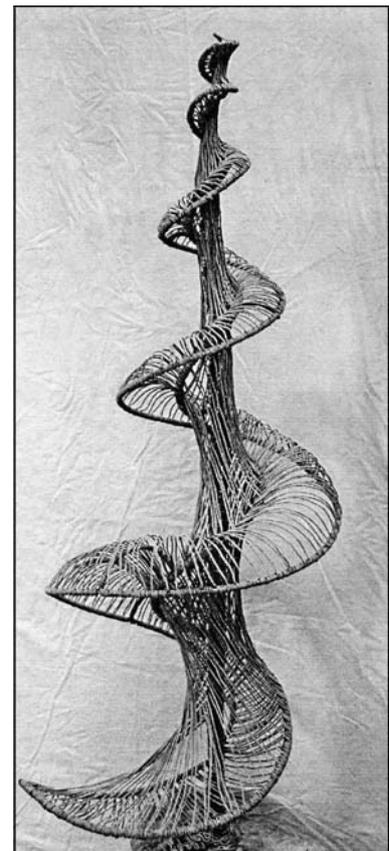
Made possible by the Regional Arts Fund (ACT), a partnership with Horizon Credit Union and two awards – one from Cursley Financial Services and the other from Rosemary and Tony Millard – the event is sure to provoke discussion and the full gamut of emotions.

The symposium, 'Sculpture: Process & Passion' to be presented on Sunday 9th March at Dignams Creek, will definitely challenge ideas and preconceptions about sculpture with a stellar line up of speakers, including charismatic Professor Nigel Lendon from the ANU and brilliant featured sculptor, Philip Spelman.

Bookings for this event are essential as numbers are limited.

'Sculpture on the Edge' runs from Friday 7th to Wednesday 12th March on Endeavour Point headland.

Any enquiries to Jan Ireland, Event Manager, phone 6493 3808.



Ulan Murray's *Spiral Mollusc*





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Three architects to exhibit at Ivy Hill in March

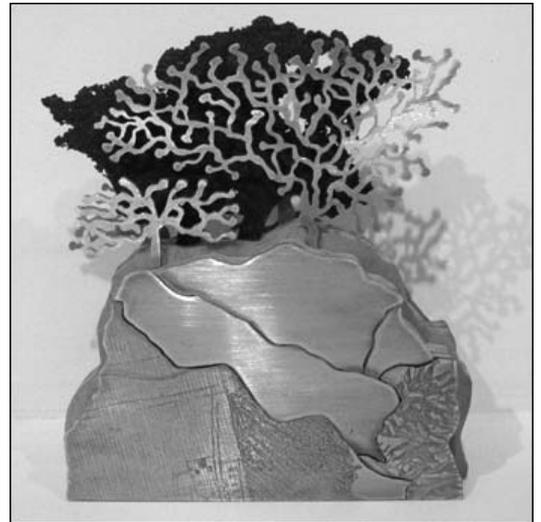
Philip Cox and Jon and Tanya Crothers, all old friends, will exhibit together for the second time at Ivy Hill in March. Inspiration for the work has come from the spectacular scenery of the South Coast, particularly the forest, garden, beach and lagoon surrounding the Cox property south of Bermagui.

Philip Cox has received numerous awards in recognition of his contribution to architecture but few people are aware that he has painted all his life and has been exhibited in the Wynne and Sulman Prizes.

Printmaking has been of great interest to both Jon and

Tanya Crothers, with some fine examples of their skill in this exhibition. They have collaborated on many projects, including sculptural works in Kuching

and Singapore, and written and illustrated a book on India. Recent opportunities to focus on the visual arts and travel have produced a variety of work with subject matter that reflects their interest in both the landscape and architecture – the natural and man-



Jon Crothers' exhibit at Ivy Hill Gallery



Philip Cox dons the artist's beret

made.

The exhibition runs from Friday 29 February to Monday 31 March at Ivy Hill, 1795 Bermagui Road, Wapengo, 2550 tel: (02) 6494 0152 or check the web site at www.ivyhill.com.au.

The Gallery is open from 10 am to 5 pm Friday to Monday inclusive.



Visual Artist Professional Development Scholarship

The Far South Coast Living Artist Projects Inc. and Narek Galleries are pleased to announce the result of the inaugural biennial scholarship. In her first solo show, Poppy Benton has created a stunning body of work in handbuilt porcelain, in the exhibition 'Imbue', on display 1 March to 14 April.

The Living Artist Projects has been set up to provide 12 months mentorship and financial support to an outstanding emerging visual artist living in the Bega Valley Region. In that period the artist will develop a body of work culminating in a curated exhibition in a local professional gallery or

similar outcome.

The Living Artist Projects works in partnership with local communities as part of a broader goal to raise the regional profile of art and artists on the Far South Coast. The award is around \$35,000.

There is a three-stage selection process and full details of this Visual Artist Professional Development Scholarship are available through FSCLAP Public Officer, Karen O'Clery at Narek Galleries, 1140 Tathra-Bermagui Road, Tanja.

Right: Karen O'Clery, Director, Narek Gallery and Public Officer for FSCLAP



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New Theories

3rd Runner Up

The earth may spin faster on its axis due to deforestation. Just as a figure skater's rate of spin increases when the arms are brought in close to the body, the cutting of tall trees may cause our planet to spin dangerously fast.

2nd Runner Up

Communist China is technologically underdeveloped because there is no alphabet. The lack of an alphabet means the Chinese cannot use acronyms; thus, they cannot communicate their ideas at a faster rate.

1st Runner Up

The 'Why Yawning Is Contagious' Theory: You yawn to equalise the pressure on your eardrums. This pres-

sure change outside your eardrums unbalances other people's ear pressures, so they must yawn to even it all out.

And the Grand Prize Winner:

When a cat is dropped, it ALWAYS lands on its feet; and when toast is dropped, it ALWAYS lands with the buttered side down. Therefore, I propose to strap buttered toast to the back of a cat. When dropped, the two will hover, spinning inches above the ground, probably into eternity. A 'buttered-cat array' could replace pneumatic tyres on cars and trucks, and 'giant buttered-cat arrays' could easily allow a high-speed monorail to link between Sydney and Melbourne. △

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The Triangle is a community newspaper; its aim is to provide information and news to the people in the triangle area. The committee is made up of volunteers, who donate their time and expertise for the benefit of our readers.

The Triangle is financially self-sufficient through income generated through our advertisers. This is a tight budget and prompt payment of accounts is appreciated.

The Triangle is published every month except January and has a circulation of 2,000.

Deadlines

Advertising - 20th of each month

Editorial - 23rd of each month

Advertisers please note that a fee of \$40 may be charged for initial ad layout.

Letters to the Editor:

Letters should be no more than 150 words. All letters must be signed by the writer and give both business and home phone nos. so letters can be verified.

All communications should be forwarded to:

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PO Box 5144, Cobargo 2550
thetriangle2@bigpond.com

Telephone: (02) 4473 7927

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Cobargo: Louise Brown 6493 7370

Quaama: Currently vacant

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Book Review

Tan Twan Eng

The Gift of Rain

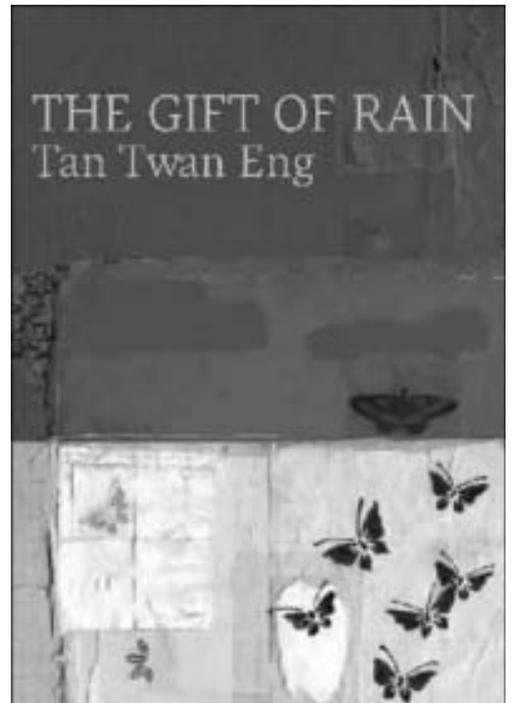
Scribe Publications, \$32.95

Put this on your list of books to borrow from the Bermagui library. It is the first novel by Tan Twan Eng who was born in Penang where the book is set during the Second World War and the invasion of the Japanese in Malaya. The central character is the son of a Chinese mother and English father, brother to three English siblings and thus placed on the 'outer' of both his family and the society in which he was raised. To complicate his life further, he forms a strong and enduring relationship with a Japanese master of aikido whose teachings and influence shape his life and lead to conflicts of loyalty scarcely comprehensible when the Japanese invade Penang. Written in the most accessible language, the novel captures the beauty of Japanese traditional culture, and the optimism

of Malayan society which, at least locally, was able to blend Chinese, Malayan, Indian and British cultures, until rent apart by the war and the brutality of the Japanese invasion.

The other aspect of the book I loved was the constant referral to the antiquity of Chinese culture embodied in the character of the boy's Chinese grandfather, and the better side of the contribution of the British to colonial Malaya embodied in the character of his English father. The 'layered' nature of family and community ever present in multicultural societies is captured with great sympathy and understanding. I am really grateful to the friend who recommended this.

A book for you to buy or borrow from a friend that you must read is *The People of the Book* by Australian born Geraldine Brooks – my favourite so far this year. And don't forget – the Bermagui library is looking



for books in good condition for their growing collection, so – how about a clean out?

Heather O'Connor



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February Police Report

On the 20th February about 12.30 three men (two Canberrans and one from Goulburn) were on their way back to Bermagui harbour after fishing off the Blue Pool. They were travelling in a 4.75 metre aluminium runabout with a 70 hp Evinrude outboard. As they were rounding the point toward Horseshoe Bay the engine failed and could not be restarted. They threw out the anchor but it failed to hold. At the time there was a strong nor-easterly wind blowing and the boat was blown onto a bombora [submerged reef of rocks]. The three men donned lifejackets and alerted the coastal patrol before jumping from the boat onto the bombora where they awaited rescue. Bermagui police were contacted and coordinated the rescue

effort with the Bermagui Coastal Patrol, Bermagui ambulance, Bermagui Surf Lifesaving Club and the rescue helicopter, which was activated from Canberra.

The Bermagui surf lifesavers utilised their IRB (rubber ducky) to manouver up to the bombora and the men were taken, one at a time, to the waiting coastal patrol vessel. They were taken back to Bermagui harbour where they were checked by ambulance officers but did not require medical attention. The rescue chopper was called off. Due to the conditions and the difficult position and location of the boat a salvage operation was not attempted. The boat was later washed onto rocks and destroyed. It was valued at \$19,000.

Between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm on the 16th of February 2008 a vehicle was broken into at Camel Rock car

park whilst the owners were swimming. Offenders stole a mobile phone and a dash-mounted GPS unit. If anybody has information call local police or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Between midnight and 6 am on the 16th February 2008 somebody damaged the sprinkler system of a Bermagui Hotel causing approximately \$400 damage. Police are appealing to anyone who has information on the identity of the offender to call Bermagui Police or Crimestoppers.

During the afternoon of the 8th February police, acting on a tip off, attended a vacant rural block in Wildduck Lane, Narooma where five mature cannabis plants were found growing under netting. The cannabis plants were seized and the crop site dismantled. Inquiries are continuing to identify the person responsible for cultivating the cannabis. △

Garden Magic

It's hard to believe that this is, statistically, the hottest time of year. What happened? Anyway, the march of time brings the winter flowering seedlings into nurseries already. Pansy, primula, bellis, even polyanthes are available now. Tomatoes are just about finished, but cabbage, brussels sprouts, silverbeet, etc, can be planted now. You know to add compost and blood and bone to the vege patch. Shouldn't be too hard to dig it over after all the rain.

Take a tour of your garden and note which Autumn and Winter flowering plants you're growing. Camellias and windflowers should be budding up, so give a feed of sulphate of potash

to encourage and improve flowering. Don't use it on natives, though. A dose of slow release fertiliser is safer for them. I'm frightened of daphne, so I'd leave her alone.

Incidentally, for all you optimists who love roses – most nurseries have already ordered their winter stocks from the wholesalers and plants should start trickling in from about May. So if you want something specific, reserve it now or it could be sold out and you'll have to wait another year.

Don't forget the Bermi Fair on Saturday 8th March. See you there.

Until next time.

Lindy Marshall



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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Bermagui: 2pm Saturdays, ID/Topic, Anglican Church Hall, Wallaga St
Bega: 5.30pm Monday, Steps & Traditions, Uniting Church Hall, Gipps St
7pm Tuesday, Topic/ID/BBS, Catholic Church Hall, Gipps St
6pm Wednesday, Uniting Church Hall, Gipps St
8pm Friday, Catholic Church Hall Gipps St

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

Far South Coast Branch - Meetings bi-monthly at Tathra Beach Bowling Club every 3rd Thursday of the month. All welcome. Enquiries 6493 7269.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF

COBARGO AND BERMAGUI

Quaama - St Saviour's - Every 1st Wednesday of the month, 10.00am Morning Service
Cobargo - Christ Church - Fri, 10.00 Morning Service, Sundays, 8.00am Morning or Communion Service, 5.00pm Contemporary Service.
Bermagui - All Saints - Thursdays 10.00am Morning Service, Sundays 10.00am Morning or Communion Service.

BERMAGUI BAPTIST CHURCH

West Street, Bermagui.
Family Service 11.00 a.m. All Welcome.

BERMAGUI SEASIDE FAIR

Volunteers and coordinators required for the 11th Bermagui Seaside Fair, Saturday 8th March 2008.
Phone Jo, 6494 0191.

COBARGO GARDENING & FRIENDSHIP CLUB

2nd Monday every month - 12 midday. Venues vary - for info phone Robyn Herdegen - 6493 8324 Margaret Portbury - 6493 6461.

COBARGO SHOW MEETING

2nd Wednesday every month, 8pm - CWA Rooms.
Contact Lynn Parr - 6493 6795.

COBARGO LANDCARE GROUP

Occasional meetings - for info phone Brian Lewin - 6493 4629, Rod Logan - 6493 8512.

COBARGO PRE-SCHOOL

Tues & Thurs for 3yo and over. Caring for your child's early education. Ph Tracey Abraham on 6493 6660.

COBARGO SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL COMMITTEE

Meets once a month. Hall bookings and enq. Maryann Green 6493 6280 m@blackdogfurniture.com

1ST COBARGO SCOUT GROUP JOEYS/CUBS/SCOUTS

Children 6 - 15yrs wanting to learn new skills, enjoy outdoor activities, have fun. Meetings 6.30pm to 8pm in school term Cobargo Showground dining hall. Contact Graham Parr on 6493 6795, Jim Abraham on 6493 6668

COBARGO MARKET DAY

4th Saturday monthly. SOA Hall and grounds. 8:30 to 12:30. Phone Helen on 6493 6572 for bookings.

COBARGO TOURIST & BUSINESS ASS'N

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of every month, Cobargo CWA Cottage 6pm. Phone Helen Stafford - 6493 6572

COBARGO CWA

CWA Rooms - Cobargo 2nd Tues of the month 10.30am.
Enq. Dawn Evans 6493 7301, Cottage Hire 6493 6428

BERMAGUI BADMINTON CLUB

Bermagui Sports Stadium. Social Badminton - Tuesdays 2 to 4pm, Sundays 10am to 12noon. Contact Heather on 6493 6310. Competition Badminton - Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm. Contact Nicci on 6493 6602

BERMAGUI SES UNIT

16 Young Street Bermagui. Meetings every Tuesday 6pm. Ph. 6493 4199

BERMAGUI KNOW YOUR BIBLE

A non-denominational ladies Bible study group meets at the Union Church, West Street, at 9.45am every Tuesday. All ladies welcome. Contacts: Maree Selby - 6493 3057 and Lyn Gammage - 6493 4960

THE BERMAGUI MARKETS

Last Sunday of the month. Coordinated by the Bermagui Red Cross. Contact Gary Stevens 6493 6581

BERMAGUI PLAYGROUP

Friday mornings in school term 10am-12pm Bermagui Preschool, Young St, Bermagui. Ph: 6493 4183.

BERMAGUI & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

Needs new members. Those interested please phone Rod Moore on 6493 5068. Meetings 1st Thursday of each month at Bermagui Country Club & 3rd Thursday of each month at Cobargo Hotel at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

BERMAGUI COUNTRY CLUB

AMATEUR ART & CRAFT SOCIETY.
Bermagui Country Club Amateur Art and Craft Group: Monday mornings: Porcelain Art, Tuesday Mornings: Needlework/Patchwork and Art, Thursday mornings: Embroidery and Leadlighting, Friday mornings: Pottery, Friday afternoons - 2nd and 4th Friday of each month: Spinning. Visitors and new members welcome.
Enquiries: 6493 3445.

QUAAMA MORNING COFFEE LADIES

Meet at 11am every Wed for morning tea and friendship. Newcomers always welcome. Bring a plate. Contact Lorna 6493 8417 or Judith 6493 8347 for next Wed's venue.

QUAAMA / COBARGO QUILTERS

Meets Mondays, 10am - 3.30pm in the CWA Cottage, Bermagui Road, Cobargo, and welcomes anyone who does patchwork, quilting, needlework, sewing or any other handcraft. Contact Dianne Smithett on 6493 8590.

QUAAMA BAND

Are you interested in joining a local community band? No matter what your ability is or how rusty you may be, you're very welcome. Rehearsal, Sundays 3 - 6 at the Quaama Hall. Ph. Greg 6493 8240.

QUAAMA TEXTILE GROUP

Fabric and Textile Art Group meeting monthly at Quaama. Phone 0427 402 025.

OVER 50'S FUN & FITNESS

Every Tuesday, 2pm to 3pm at the Bermagui Country Club, with Nancy, a fully-qualified fitness instructor. Cost \$6, free introductory class. Contact Judy Allen 6493 5559 or Nancy Casu on 4476 3282.

THE YUIN FOLK CLUB

Folk Night Evenings, visiting performers, usually first Friday in month (please check first.) For more info contact Secretary, Coral Vorbach 6493 6758.

QBC COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

Free monthly concerts at the Bermagui Country Club. Bermi C.C., Bega Bowling Club, Cobargo Hotel, Narooma Sporting Club & Tuross Kyla Park Hall. Visitors, Children, Musos welcome. Contact Owen Hunter 6493 5151, Geoff Paul 6493 6582

TILBA VALLEY WINES BRIDGE CLUB

1st Wednesday every month from 2pm. All standards catered for - partners not necessary - stay/play as long as

you like - visitors to the area especially welcome.
Further details: Peter - 4473 7308

DRY RIVER RODEO COMMITTEE

Meet 1st Wednesday of the month at Quaama Rodeo grounds, 7.30. All horsey people welcomed. Ph. Katrina on 6492 7138.

REFLECTIONS

"Reflections", the latest journal of the Bermagui Historical Society. \$7.50 Available at the Bermagui Information Centre, Lamont St. and from Wilma Masterson, 6493 4108.

MACHINE PATCHWORK GROUP

9.30am to 3.30pm fortnightly at Julie Terry's home in Tanja. Ring Julie on 6494 0100.

MYSTERY BAY COAST CARE

Contact: Christina Potts 4473 7053 Meet: 9.30-12.30 3rd Sat Month @ swings All Welcome.

LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS

Cobargo School of Arts Hall
every second Sunday. Set up, 1.45pm. Drawing, 2-4pm. Ring Naomi 6493 7307.

SOPHIAN GNOSTIC CIRCLE

For further info, phone Sue on 6493 8473.

DIGNAMS CREEK COMMUNITY GROUP

Meets randomly. For info phone Shannon Russack, Pres. - 6493 6512 or Merryn Carey, Sec. - 6493 6747.

AGLOW CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

AGLOW is a world wide Interdenominational Christian Women's Fellowship, providing opportunities to help women discover their identity in Jesus Christ. Enquiries ph. Elizabeth Farnsworth 02 4473 8413.

SOUTH COAST CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Bermagui Country Club, 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4.30pm, enquiries Gary & Michele Tyrell 6493 6483.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Mon 1.30 - 3.30pm Thurs 7.30 - 9.30pm Cobargo School of Arts Supper Room. Scottish Country Dancing for everyone - no experience necessary. Teacher: Sheelagh Brunton 6493 6538.

IRISH DANCING CLASSES

Beginners to Advanced. Adults and children over 6 years old welcome. Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30pm, Cobargo School of Arts Hall. For more information please call 6494 3332 or 6493 8267.

OPEN SANCTUARY@TILBA

An ecumenical centre for contemplative and creation focused spirituality at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Tilba Tilba, 2nd and 4th Saturday evenings at 6pm, Meditation every Thursday at 10am, no Sunday service. Contact Linda Chapman 4476 1006.

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Sunday 2nd	Richard Bloomfield	Tilba Valley Wines	
Friday 7th	Colorado Gypsies	Bermagui Hotel	Night
Saturday 8th	Seaside Fair	Bermagui	All day
Saturday 8th	3 on the Tree	Bermagui Hotel	Night
Sunday 9th	Vince Melouney	Bermagui Hotel	4.30 pm start
	Poets in the Vineyard	Tilba Valley Wines	
Sunday 16th	Kudos	Bermagui Hotel	4.30 pm start
	Little Gus & the Jewel Tones	Dromedary Hotel	5.30 - 9.30 pm
	True Blue	Tilba Valley Wines	
Easter Saturday 22nd	Lounge Lizards	Bermagui Hotel	Night
Easter Sunday 23rd	Once Bitten	Bermagui Hotel	4.30 pm start
Easter Monday 24th	Richard Bloomfield	Bermagui Hotel	4.30 pm start
Saturday 29th	Black Velvet	Bermagui Hotel	Night
	Live Loud & Local	The Dromedary, Tilba	7.30 - 11.30 pm

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