

THE TRIANGLE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Est. Sept. 2002

QUAAMA COBARGO BERMAGUI TILBA & LOCALITIES

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A year of recovery, generosity and creativity for Cobargo kids

Cobargo Public School students and staff displayed amazing resilience as 2020 marched on.

After the devastating bushfires, we saw a reserved return to school in Term 1 but soon rallied together with the generous support of people and communities near and far!

We began the term with donated backpacks and stationery for every child. Money was donated for uniforms for all the students that had lost theirs in the fires. Kindergarteners received knitted guinea pigs and a special life-size puppet we named Bob. Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 received knitted teddy bears from the Red Cross – we use these as reading buddies!

We had photography workshops and students developed new skills capturing memories from the community. St George football club players visited and donated money for our new representative shirts. A container called the Imaginasium, designed to encourage creative play, was provided for four weeks. We ended Term 1 with a thank you BBQ for the Bermagui and Cobargo RFS crews for saving our school.

Then Covid arrived and we started our 'learning from home' journey.

As Term 2 began we were able to provide a Mother's Day present for each child to give, and a Big W voucher for each family. When students returned to school, there was a beanie for everyone, including the staff! Our library received new books from Dymocks and Deadly Science as well as hand-sewn library bags to share.

Term 3 went by as we adapted to the new normal without excursions, assemblies or sporting events – but lots of sanitiser! All students received a Father's Day present and a handmade pillowcase to help them sleep soundly. The students in Year 3 and Year 4 made a short film for the 'Sapphire Coast Learning Community Filmb'y' event, to be held online this year. We have also been preparing artworks for the annual Art Show, also an online event, but look out in the local shops for some originals!

Students polished their compositions in the song-writing group and were recorded professionally on a CD. They began to compose their stories, to be published with support from Royal Far West and LittleScribe. Year 5 and Year 6 have produced a book that recounts the events of the fire, to be featured in *The Land* newspaper on 5 November.

We've upgraded our bike track and playground areas to include a yarnning circle, cubby house and monkey bars. Students have new seating areas and access to clean water sourced from the air using 'Hydropanel' technology.

As we move into Term 4 we have a strong sense of community and a strong bond to look after each other and support growth and resilience as we take on life's journey and learn new things each day!

Gillian Parkes, Principal



Our new yarnning circle



St George players donated money for our new representative shirts.



Kindergarteners received knitted guinea pigs.

What a good job our teachers and local schools are doing. In Bermagui the local Indigenous language, Dhurga – the language grown out of millennia of embedded connection with this land that we are privileged to live on – is being shared with the children, shaping their perceptions of the world around them. There are plans to spread the pride, culture and wisdom.

Many of Cobargo's school children and staff were directly impacted by the

Black Summer fires. Their resilience, care and strength are a beacon of inspiration. The ongoing generosity of many organisations and individuals who continue to stand with and support those still in the wake of life-changing experiences is also inspirational. The teachers have creatively integrated the gifts and activities to consolidate basic educational aims such as literacy, as well as more fundamental life lessons of resilience, interconnection, reciprocity and care for each other, their families and community.

The way the school community has responded to traumatic experience offers a model for times of transition, recovery and creatively applied learning.

The words of Cobargo School's Principal, Gillian Parkes, sum up this positive direction – 'We have a strong sense of community and a strong bond to look after each other and support growth and resilience as we take on life's journey and learn new things each day!'

Letters to the editors

Still no positives

We are plodding along, swabbing people every day, with no Covid-19 positives in the area yet.

As is everybody, we are aware and cautious of the large influx of holidaymakers to the south coast, and with this, unfortunately, the lack of social-distancing.

On a national scale, the government has included large amounts of money in its recent budget, enough to keep the respiratory clinics open until at least the end of March 2021, and is working on incorporating phone consulting as a permanent feature into the future of Australian General Practice.

As there is too much information out there, it's probably worth reminding people that the 'vaccine' might be available in Australia mid-2021. At this stage it is expected to possibly be up to 60% effective against COVID-19, so definitely not the panacea people might be hoping for.

As always, I am very grateful to be living here. Stay safe and be kind to one another.

*Dr Gundi Muller
Bermagui Medical Centre*

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by contributors to the newspaper are their own, to a greater or lesser degree, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team.

Whilst striving to accurately report the news and views of the readers, this newspaper accepts no responsibility or liability for statements made or opinions expressed.

All letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and address if they are to be considered for publication.

Meet the Ancestors

After breaking free from lockdown for a few days on an English road trip, just before further lockdown restrictions came into place in the central belt of Scotland, I felt totally refreshed. Beautiful places still exist, nature so glorious, uplifting and invigorating. Fascinating objects and engrossing collections in galleries and museums, with social distancing of course.

The highlights were the skulls and bones of Bronze Age Europeans in Oxford's

amazing Ashmolean Museum – only a few hundred people living in the area at the time, how things have changed. Ancestors of many Australians I'm sure and the stone circle set in the most amazing location near Keswick in the Lakes District, a view to die for in all directions. I wonder what they would think of our lives now.

*Sarah Breakey
Edinburgh*



'Our woman in Edinburgh' escaped the lockdown to do a brief road trip -- a stone circle in the Lakes District was a highlight



Thumbs UP

We've been driving for ages when suddenly, in the middle of the night, Chey and I are taken by awe as we come through a beautiful little town, every shop lit up with fairy lights flashing ... we are just driving through, thinking *how beautiful!* And then we get to the end of the town and a pub also covered in fairy lights. Cobargo! I don't know how it looked before but in the middle of the

night that has to be the most beautiful town I've ever been to!

To the Dhurga language program at Bermagui Public School and everyone involved. It's a delight to see the enthusiasm and joy of my grandchildren when they share with me what they've learnt in their sessions with Gordie. Thank you.

Big thanks to the person who found my lost rego papers in Bega – and dropped them back in my letterbox in Bermi!

Donald's Bubble

He trumps the chimes at midnight
In a bubble made of wax
And pays the piper for his tune
With last year's income tax
He spans the world with arrogance
Tweeting fake success
His bigotry is brazen
Duplicity no less
Donald's days are manic
A black comedy's lament
Full of bluff and bluster
And hubris overspent
His stage is damned by chaos
This futile race is run
As Donald's bloated bubble
Floats too near the sun.

*Ian McFarlane
(from Lost Cathedrals,
Ginninderra Press, 2019)*

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Cobargo: Post Office, United Petrol,

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Quaama: General Store

Tilba Tilba: Tilba Nursery

Wallaga Lake: Merrimans Land Council

Deadlines:

Advertising: 5pm, 19th of each month

Editorial: 12pm, 22nd of each month

Letters to the editor

All communications should be forwarded to:
contributions@thetriangle.org.au

Postal address:

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ABN: 75 182 655 270

The Triangle is a community newspaper.

Its aim is to provide information and news to the people in the Triangle area - the area bounded by the three mountains (Gulaga, Mumbulla and Peak Alone). The committee comprises volunteers who donate their time and expertise for the benefit of our readers.

The Triangle is financially self-sufficient through advertising income. 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 1800 in print plus online visits.

Guidelines for contributors

Thanks for your local stories and photos! We love them and they make the *Triangle* our very own. Just a few tips for submitting stories and photos...

1. Stories should be 300 words maximum except by prior arrangement.
2. Photos should be sent as **separate JPG attachments – not embedded into your story**. Please send the original digital photo, uncompressed, so we have a large image to work with. Please include a caption for your photo at the bottom of the article it accompanies.
3. Send all articles as WORD or other TEXT documents.
4. Please do not send posters or flyers! Instead, write a few paragraphs about your event and include the date, time and venue in that. And attach a photo if you have one.
5. Think about a headline for your story. Please don't leave it to us!
6. Deadline is midday on the **22nd of the month**. Any questions at all, please email contributions@thetriangle.org.au

Triangle Photo Gallery

Check out the great landscape photos readers have sent in. Next month is focusing on **'Food'**.



Send your images of garden produce, meals you have created, preserves etc. This will be ready for viewing on 15th November.

We'll send out an email to our on-line subscribers as soon as it's ready to view. After that the photo gallery theme is **'My Village'** - streetscapes, community events or buildings. Send to:

photos@thetriangle.org.au

Visit our website
www.thetriangle.org.au

A colleague and friend calls it a day

When Jen Severn attended the first Annual General Meeting of *The Triangle* in 2003, little did she know she was jumping into a long-lasting relationship with the team and a deep and intimate relationship with the community at large. In her hand she had the latest copy of *The Triangle*, so marked up with red-pen editing suggestions that, 'it looked like a paper case of the measles!' She was immediately invited to become the proof-reader and has since filled the key roles of copy-editor, layout artist and writer. Sadly, now she has called time on her valuable participation.

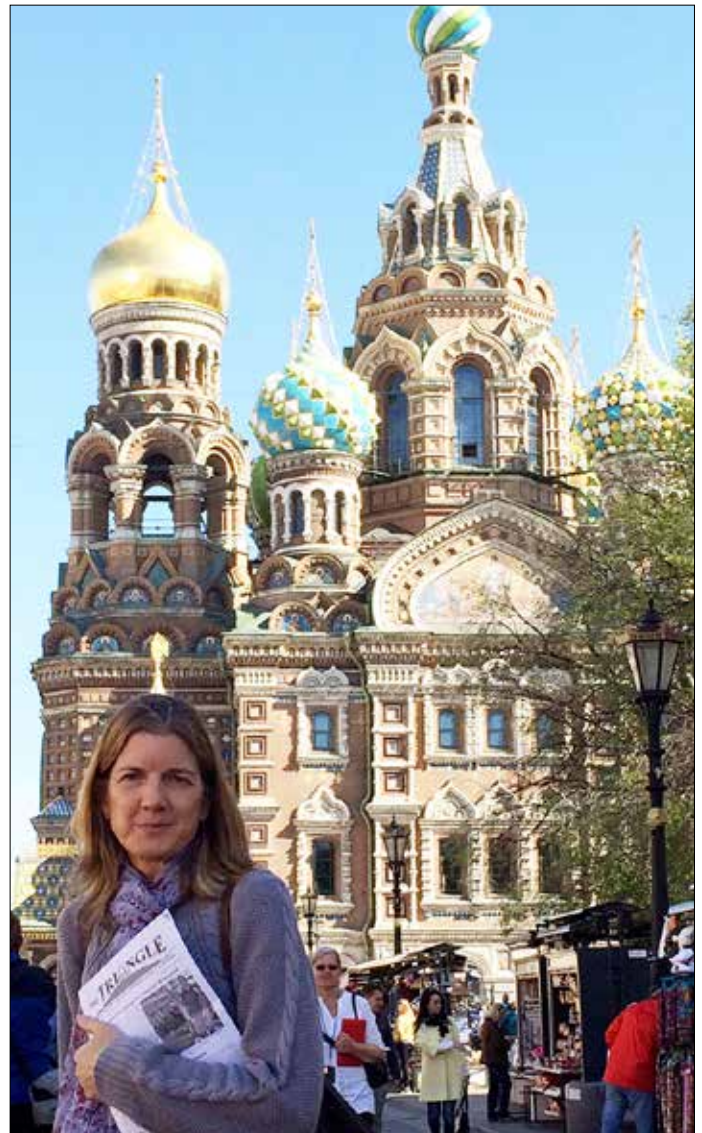
Reflecting back, Jen says it was writing that captured her most. She particularly enjoyed writing profiles of locals for the My Triangle page – 'wonderfully competent people with such interesting back stories' – and covering poetry and writing events – 'there's so much talent in the community'. Also part of her enjoyment was working with the team over the years – 'I've worked with some fantastic people'.

Jen found that one of her richest experiences was the avenue the paper provided to be involved with the local community. 'The support of the community – the written contributions, the photos and, of course, the advertising – is the reason *The Triangle* is still here after 18 years – it's everyone's *Triangle*.'

Jen has seen many changes in the paper's production processes, integration of new technology and software, and improved production quality. She spoke of the monthly *Triangle* rhythm which builds up as contributions come in, then the production deadline, the intense editing, layout, printing and distribution phases, then a quiet sigh of satisfaction before it all starts again. So it will be interesting to see the new rhythm Jen plays to in 2021. Her book, *Long Road to Dry River*, attests to her literary skill – perhaps more writing will be one of her directions?

Jen has been meticulous in presenting our community back to itself in its own words. Our good-humoured, supportive and skilled colleague will be sorely missed by *the Triangle* team, who wish her many good and happy times.

Rosemary Beaumont



Jen in St Petersburg in 2016 – thoughts of *The Triangle* were never far away.

Book Launch

Saturday 5 December 11am

Well Thumbed Books, Cobargo
with
Felicity Ruby & Scott Ludlam

Enjoy the launch and a delicious morning tea

Covid Safe Event – limited seats!

RSVP to Louise Brown 0416 039 895 – louise@wombelano.com

This event will be [streamed online](#) via Periscope



Summer's almost here. Feeling the anxiety?

Last summer was like no other. While we're all getting on with living and cleaning up and rebuilding, there can be an undercurrent of anxiety and fear that surfaces at the smell of a burn-off. We're human. We went through something exceptional and it's not a weakness to be affected by what we experienced.

The list below is from the BVSC webpage. These services are available to all of us in the Bega Valley Shire. Sometimes seeking help is the best thing we can do to help others around us. Stay safe, everyone!

Headspace Bega provides health and wellbeing services for young people aged 12-25. Their main hub is located on the rooftop carpark, Sapphire Marketplace, Upper Street, Bega and is open Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 5 pm. They also have a location in Narooma. Services are free, and you can contact them on 6494 8855.

Catholic Care offers a free counselling service to support individuals, families and couples impacted by the bushfires. The service is secular. You're welcome to phone for a chat and to find out how they can help. Call Kathryn on 0488 468 067.

Bega Valley Bushfire Recovery Clinicians can be contacted for support and referrals, Monday to Friday, on 6491 9300.

Fortem Australia supports the wellbeing and mental fitness of first responders' families (RFS, SES, Police, Fire & Rescue, Marine Rescue, VRA). They provide wellbeing activities that aim to build connection, family resilience and mental fitness. For support (Tuesday to Thursday) contact Hayley on 0409 084 495 or hayley.reynolds@fortemaustralia.org.au.

The BVSC Bushfire Recovery

Support Service can connect you with information and access to health and wellbeing services. Call 6499 2345 or email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Online and Telephone Counselling Services

- LifeLine: www.lifeline.org.au or 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: www.beyondblue.org.au or 1300 224 635
- Kids Helpline: www.kidshelpline.com.au or 1800 551 800
- Headspace: www.headspace.org.au or 1800 959 844
- Mensline: mensline.org.au or 1300 789 978
- NSW RFS members: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/volunteer-support or 1800 049 933
- Farm Gate counsellors: 1800 011 511

Ann Maree Menager

U3A prepares for a COVID-safe 2021

This term so far has seen members loving Taboo Topics classes, offering robust and thought-provoking discussion in a congenial atmosphere where what is said in the Zoom room stays in the Zoom room! We look forward to hearing about the science behind bushfires; trekking back in time; some more exciting Australian literature and many more wonderful classes.

Don't forget that you can join our classes for free for the remainder of Term 4 (space permitting). Check out our website, bermagui.u3anet.org.au, and get a taste of what we can offer.

We've already started planning for 2021, when we hope to

be able to offer some face-to-face classes using our NSW Health COVID-19 Safety Plan, in addition to our regular Zoom classes. Early this month members can expect to see our survey, which will help the Program Team design a mix of classes for our 2021 Term 1 program.

Our deferred AGM will be conducted early in 2021 and will hopefully allow us to come together in a safe 'living with COVID' environment to celebrate ten wonderful years of operation. Our hopes are high for a positive beginning to the new year.

Ruth Perrett

**If more of us valued food
and cheer and song
above hoarded gold,
it would be a merrier world.**

J.R.R. Tolkien

Visit our Website

Browse the current issue plus back issues,
recipes, book reviews, and gardening tips
going back years.

www.thetriangle.org.au

AGM

The Triangle Inc

4.30 pm, Monday 9 November, 2020

Change of venue

(previously at Well Thumbed Books, Cobargo)

Email: secretary@thetriangle.org.au

for more information

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Serious planning continues for the CWA of NSW State Conference in Bega

The local organising committee for the next CWA of NSW State Conference, in Bega next May, enjoyed morning tea at our recent meeting. Lynn Lawson of Cobargo CWA made her famous Gin and Tonic Cheesecake and Sue Hall of Bega CWA baked a traditional Pound Cake. But, as CWA members are 'more than tea and scones', we spent most of the day on serious planning.

The most important discussion was, 'Will the Conference go ahead next May with current government COVID-19 restrictions for large gatherings?' The committee concluded that 'We are planning that it WILL go ahead, but we won't know for certain until early 2021'. With NSW not reporting a single locally acquired case of COVID-19 in the previous week, the committee were feeling confident and optimistic the Conference will take place.

Nelleke Gorton of Bega is continuing her focus on catering and has had discussions with Bega Hospital Auxiliary about lunches, plus Bega and Tathra Lions clubs regarding BBQ options.

Jars of biscuits, baked by Far South Coast branches from Batemans Bay to Eden, will be provided for visiting

members. There was a lively discussion on what to call them! Options of 'Cookie Jar' (American), 'Biccie Jar' (Aussie culture but a little informal) and 'Biscuit Barrel' (nice but a biscuit barrel is different shape and lid) were considered before agreeing on 'Biscuit Jar'. Sometimes the obvious choices are the best.

Vicki Hummel of Bermagui outlined options for table layouts and decorations for the Bush Dance, and Helen Galton of Bega is booking entertainment. Alison Jenkins of Pambula-Merimbula and Robyn Wright of Moruya are finalising the printing of the conference raffle tickets which will be available to purchase soon.

Annette Kennewell of Tilba has been in discussions with Bega Council to minimise waste at the Conference. Cobargo Scouts will help with sorting waste into landfill, recycling and FOGO bins at Bega Showground. Bega Guides will help with Return & Earn drink containers. Annette is also continuing to work on the bus tours to ensure visiting members experience our unique Sapphire Coast region from Bermagui to Eden. We are planning tours that include cheese and/or oyster tasting in Bega, Tathra, Pambula

and Central Tilba.

For more information on the CWA State Conference in Bega, please contact Secretary Lynn Lawson, fscgcwa@gmail.com.

*Annette Kennewell,
Publicity Officer, CWA of NSW
State Conference Committee*



Lynn Lawson from Cobargo Branch with the last piece of her delicious Gin and Tonic Cheesecake. Lynn, a self-described compulsive note-taker, is the Secretary for the local organising committee for the Conference.



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52-54 Princes Highway, Cobargo Phone: 6493 6401



Spring has sprung and it's a joy to see the bees return

to the garden to feast on flowering plants. Bees play an enormously important role in the ecosystem and plentiful bees are an indication of a healthy environment. Without bees we would not be able to sustain the lifestyle we have now. Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, 'If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.'

The popularity of recreational beekeeping has risen in recent years for many reasons – bees take up little space, it's a fascinating hobby, it's fun for the kids, you get to produce your very own delicious honey and beeswax, and you get to dress up like an astronaut! There are many apiarist clubs who help promote beekeeping by increasing bee knowledge, raising awareness of the issues bees are facing, and providing training and advice for people just starting out.

With all this in mind, I attended a Beginning in Bees workshop put on by the Bega Valley Beekeepers. Knowing NOTHING about beekeeping, I was unsure how the day would unfold, but it all turned out well. The go-to phrase of the day was: 'Knowledge and Confidence and Experience'. To start with, we learnt all sorts of interesting facts about bees: legal requirements, types, roles, swarms, hives,

The bees are back!

tools, PPE, starting up, things to do – and very importantly, things not to do.

After lunch we tried on the PPE. It all felt very alien and unreal but it was a comfort to know we were protected. The smoker was demonstrated and then we went to investigate the hives.

At first we were all a bit hesitant to get up close, but as the hives were opened and thousands of industrious but docile bees were revealed, we started to handle the frames and soon became more fascinated than afraid. It was amazing and we soon appreciated that bees truly are exceptional wonders of nature!

Bees can survive without us, but can we survive without them? I recommend that anyone interested in bees do a course or join a bee club, as it's important to start with at least a little bit of knowledge about bees and their behaviour. Make sure you're prepared and confident with your PPE. From there you can gradually build on your experience level.

There's more information at www.beekeepers.asn.au/bega-valley.

Debbie Worgan



Some experienced and knowledgeable apiarists prefer not to wear gloves!

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Learn about building energy-efficient homes

The Cobargo and Region Energy Transition group (CaRET), SouthCoast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA), and Clean Energy for Eternity, Bermagui (CEFE) have joined forces to provide information and support to Bega Valley and Eurobodalla households on building energy-efficient houses.

A well designed or renovated energy-efficient house will not only help save money, but it will also provide a more comfortable living space and a healthier living environment both for its occupants and the planet. A win-win all around.

An upcoming free online webinar will focus on the two biggest energy uses in the home: space-conditioning and water-

heating. The webinar will help participants navigate the technology and product choices involved in selecting water heaters and home heating/cooling equipment. Other significant energy users like fridges will also be discussed.

The presentations will be made by leading home energy and consumer experts from the independent, national, not-for-profit organisations Renew and Choice. They will also discuss where to find and how to use online resources (eg product comparison tools) that can help households make smart choices.

The webinar is at 6 pm on Thursday 12 November and bookings are essential (but free). Book at www.energy_efficient_

appliances.eventbrite.com.au.

CaRET, SHASA and CEFE also conducted a webinar in August that looked at how to design and build (or renovate) an energy-efficient home – 'Building energy-efficient houses that save money and help the environment'. This featured one of Australia's most experienced energy efficiency experts, Alan Pears, AM and a local specialist in designing energy-efficient homes, Paul Dolphin. A recording of this webinar can be viewed at www.shasa.com.au/category/news – scroll down for the link.

Frank Muller



'Hydropanel' technology harvests water to drink at Cobargo Public School. More on page 1.



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TERM 4 — SCHEDULED TRANSITION DAYS

(please note that due to current COVID-19 situation, dates will be confirmed closer to the time).

- Mon 26 October (9:30-11:30am)
- Mon 9 November (9:30-11:30am)
- Mon 23 November (9:30-12)
- Tues 8 December (9:30-12) - includes a parent information session.

The Small School with a Big Heart is offering:

- Library facilities
- Canteen
- Targeted individual learning support
- Multi-Lit reading tutoring program
- Sporting Schools program
- Lunchtime activities program
- Language lessons (Japanese)
- Music program
- Strong community connections
- Small Schools combined camps
- School Performance/Music camps
- Diverse environmental program
- Better Buddies program

Spring sunshine and rain, whales and ... lots of visitors

There's been much to celebrate with the start of spring bringing glorious sunshine, interspersed with much welcome rainfall. Hopefully this will put us in a better position to enter the summer months than last year. And the whales have been plentiful and putting on wonderful displays.

But with all of this there's been a huge influx of visitors, some getting away from the oppression of cities and coming to enjoy this seemingly safe piece of paradise. The recent school holidays saw all accommodation in town booked out – quite surprising for this time of year. Our small village seems to have swelled with newcomers.

For business it's a much needed boost after their loss of income in the disastrous first half of 2020, and it's hoped they can recoup some of their losses.

Others are expressing concern at the volume of traffic and people in town and wondering just what the summer season is to bring, especially once our border with Victoria opens. And given that we'll continue to live in the 'time of Covid', there are concerns about how we can ensure that Bermagui remains a healthy community.

Local traffic

Of concern is the higher volume of traffic on roads, in particular the Bermagui-Tathra Road, a very popular coastal drive. Speed restrictions and signage along this road need to be addressed, in particular the strip leading down to Cuttagee Beach and through Barragga Bay. The parking and congestion around Cuttagee Lake, an extremely popular destination, especially for young families, is a priority, and despite locals' attempts to communicate with relevant authorities nothing has been done to rectify a potentially dangerous situation.

Speed limits should be addressed on the approaches to the narrow one-lane bridge, from both ends. A more appropriate limit would be 60kph from Geals Road to Head of Cuttagee Road, slowing to 40kph on the bridge itself, with better signage warning of the one-lane bridge and right of way to south bound traffic.

Double lines right along the length of Cuttagee Beach may deter drivers who speed up coming off the bridge and then attempt to overtake along this stretch. Let's hope something can be done to avoid a serious accident.

Movement on the boat ramp

This came as a surprise to many ... major works have commenced on the boat ramp and parking area south of the bridge, opposite Bermagui Bait and Tackle.

Although this work has been scheduled for some years, it's all happening now. Perhaps Council needs to consider better communication and signage to keep everyone informed. You can view the proposal on a small sign on site:

There's concern about timing too. The works are starting a

Bermagui River boat ramp to close for upgrade

'GPM Marine Constructions will carry out boating facility upgrades at Bermagui River, starting Monday 12 October. Works are scheduled to finish mid-December.

'The boat ramp and car park will be closed to the public during this time. Access to the public toilets will remain open.

'The alternative boat launching location during construction is Bermagui Harbour Boat Ramp (Posidonia Esplanade, Bermagui).'

month later than planned, advertised to commence September and finish in December. Let's hope it can be finished by the busy Christmas period or there will be huge pressure on the other ramp in town, with ensuing parking problems for cars, boats and trailers, and access to Bruce Steer Pool.

Information Centre, Bermagui

The dedicated and hardworking Christine Bimson at the Visitors Information Centre contacted me in response to my article last month about walks and interesting spots around town. She drew my attention to a couple of useful maps. One is a location guide to the Yuin Cultural Heritage sites, Bermagui and Wallaga Trail, with nine significant sites. The other is a guide to the Bermagui Heritage Trail, with 12 sites of historical significance in the Bermagui area.

Such a great resource, the Information Centre and all who work there, not only with extensive information for visitors, but a huge range of locally produced goods for sale. It's a terrific spot to shop for any gift.

Watch out for nesting shore birds

Some good news from Council, looking out for birdlife ... and pleased to see some new signage on various beaches.

Endangered beach-nesting birds are currently nesting along beaches in the Bega Valley Shire.

We are so lucky to share our shoreline with these amazing endangered creatures.

It's super easy to protect these birds if you're taking your dog for a walk. Always remember to:

- leash your dog
- walk on the wet sand – the birds nest up in the dry sand
- pay attention to shorebird nesting signs.



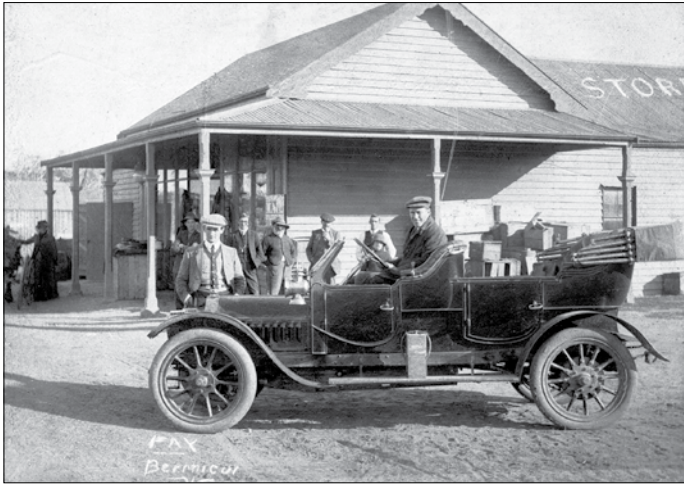
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Death in the Time of Peace

On matters of historical interest, I have just read a terrific book set in the village of Bermagui in the year 1919. *Death in the Time of Peace*, by Anna Weatherly, covers the issues that were affecting the community at that time, strangely reflecting our current situation. Drought and the real threat of the Spanish influenza, the 'plague' as it was named, largely introduced by soldiers returning by ship (!) after the war. We haven't had the latter, fortunately.

I thoroughly enjoyed this read, a mystery told through the eyes of two young women living and working in both North and South Bermagui ... and there was quite a divide in those days.

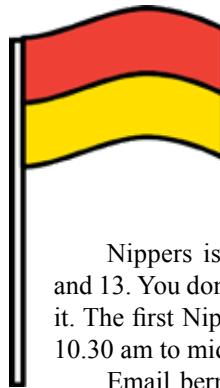


A Belgian FN motor car outside James McIntosh's general store in North Bermagui at around the time of the Great War. The store features in Anna Weatherly's book. (Photo courtesy Bermagui Historical Society, Frank Wintle album)

The description of the town and location of various sites were easily recognised, and although characters were fictional, it was easy to imagine them. I was also intrigued by the actual extracts from newspapers of the time, which provided much resource material for the story.

I now know that *Death in the Time of Peace* was launched at Well Thumbed Books early last year and reviewed in The Triangle in February 2019, but I have only just come across it. Copies are available at the Info Centre (along with the works of a number of other local authors), and other stores around town.

Nippers at Bermagui



Take part in the Bermagui Nippers program this season, gain confidence in the ocean, learn new skills and make new friends. Bermi Nippers is run by Nipper parents, and supported by patrolling members of the Bermagui Surf Club.

Nippers is suitable for children aged between 5 and 13. You don't need to be great in the ocean to enjoy it. The first Nippers will run on Sunday 15 November, 10.30 am to midday.

Email bermisurfclub@gmail.com for information regarding registration and proficiency requirements.



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Ideas from the Badja Fire Edge

The Crossing Land Education Trust began hosting gatherings of Badja Fire Edge roads in July to help neighbours share experiences, make connections and collect ideas for future disaster preparation.

Representatives from Nutleys Creek roads, Coolagolite roads, Murrah roads, George St and Bermagui Heights, Fairhaven, Beauty Point, Wallaga Heights and Akolele have taken part. Every gathering brings new ideas, and feedback has been very positive. We feel that disaster recovery will be more lasting and practical if it comes from the community so thank you to all those who have come along for your excellent contributions.

Observations and ideas from the gatherings can be found on our Facebook page (search for Bermagui Fire Edge). There's a lot there about how we are feeling and coping as a community.

Ideas that have come out of the gatherings include:

- waterproof UHF's that have a dual-monitored road chat channel and emergency channel with ABC FM all on the one unit
- WhatsApp Road Groups (Dignams Creek found WhatsApp better than their phone tree during the fires)
- road Fire Scouts
- on-the-fridge property maps
- relationship-saver decision matrices
- neighbourhood 'safer houses'
- vulnerable people's buddy lists
- emergency grab-bag essentials
- photograph everything to the cloud
- road work parties with sharing of equipment and energy on first Saturdays (helping first responders by getting ready together)

- a thank you celebration for Bermagui proposed by the Seaside Fair Committee

- questions for Marty Webster and a briefing for the coming summer (thanks to Kai Jensen from Fairhaven, this is happening 4 pm Saturday 24 November – Kai will record and then we can put it on the Facebook page and YouTube)

- a town fire refuge centre
- a safe RFS base with roof sprinklers and more space
- upgrade of the Alexander Drive link to the Industrial Estate for fire defence and emergency escape
- creation of a Bushfire Prevention Corp pilot program here at the Crossing for 18-20 year-old school leavers and unemployed to assist vulnerable people on fire edge roads.

The Nutleys Road and Murrah Road groups have gathered a second time and the Radio Group for Nutleys has a training YouTube clip underway, with help from Paul West, to assist other roads to take up the radio idea if they choose. Thanks Paul.

We hope to extend these gatherings to other roads with another grant from PHN Coordinare so if you can be a coordinator for your fire edge road (or roads) please gather email addresses, residential addresses and phone numbers and get in touch with me at dean@thecrossingland.org.au.

If you'd like more information on fire-retardant landscapes there are now a series of resources at www.thecrossingland.org.au/fire-retardant-landscapes – thanks to the Cobargo Bushfire Community Recovery Fund for support to get this done.

Dean Turner, Project Director



A fire-retardant shelterbelt being planted at the Crossing during a recent Permaculture Design course

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Walawaani! Dhurga language learning at Bermagui PS

Last term all students at Bermagui PS started an exciting language programme – learning Dhurga, one of the languages spoken by the local Yuin people. For many years Dhurga has been a sleeping language, with people speaking only a few words. This program aims to reawaken and grow knowledge of Yuin culture and language, within the school and also in the wider community.

The program was made possible



Gordon showed the children some artefacts, including a didgeridoo.

following a grant from Aboriginal Affairs NSW to Merrimans Local Aboriginal Lands Council (LALC). In partnership with the school, the Red Cross and Bega Valley Shire Council, Merrimans LALC started lessons with every class in the school, taught by Gordon Campbell. Gordon has been working with students to learn songs in language, build up vocabulary, learn about the seasons and artefacts, and use greetings such as walawaani – which means 'safe journey'.

Students are also developing resources such as books, games and videos, which can be shared with other schools and organisations in the region. In the future, once Covid restrictions are eased, the program will include outdoor learning excursions and invited guests.

The teaching of Dhurga has been facilitated by the recent release of a Dhurga Dictionary by the Institute of Aboriginal and



Gordon shared with the children some ways to use traditional plants and medicines.

Torres Strait Islander Studies. This is a fantastic resource which includes culture, vocabulary and grammar.

Students have been loving the lessons, inspired by Gordon's knowledge and teaching. They have opened everyone's eyes to the history and knowledge all around us. Dhurga has become incorporated into the everyday school activities and the school is proud to be on such a fantastic learning journey.

Julia Loughran, Bermagui Public School

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Bermagui Historical Society 2021 Calendar – available now!

We have just printed our eleventh Calendar, featuring local, historical images, professionally bound and ready to hang.

The calendar makes a great stocking filler for Christmas. It's available from 777, the Information Centre and the Museum (open on Friday mornings nearer Christmas). Marianne, one of our volunteers, will also be holding a pre-Christmas stall at the Red Cross Markets in Bermi on Sunday 29 November.

Proceeds from calendars and sales of books all go towards keeping the Society and the Museum operating in these difficult times. All our work is voluntary and membership is just \$10 per annum.

We've built the digital archive from photographs and documents supplied by local residents and visitors – we scan, restore and promptly return all photos to the owners, or, if desired, add them to the Museum collection. Quality printing on archival paper of over 10,000 photographs is also available.

Other publications which make great Christmas presents, most of which are stocked at the Information Centre, include:

- *Negatives of Glass* by Dianna Watson, the complete photo archive of William Henry Corkhill of Tilba Tilba
- *Death in the Year of Peace*, a cracking novel of intrigue by Anna Weatherly, set in Bermagui after WWI
- *Bermagui, A Century of Features and Families*, by Ron Gaha and Judi Hearn, a must have background to the town
- *Bermagui by the Sea*, by Judi Hearn, a great source of knowledge by our acknowledged Montreal Goldfield expert
- *Tilba Times Revisited* by Laurelle Pacey, a new and much expanded edition of great depth.

Dave Cotton, BHS Digital Archive



The December 2021 image, the Horse Shoe Bay Hotel, circa 1910, from 'Negatives of Glass' by Dianna Watson

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RIP SBS and MITV in Bermagui! Is the ABC at risk too?

Many residents of Bermagui and the surrounding villages found out that the SBS and MITV signals had ceased to exist for them in the early days of October. There was no prior notice given to anyone.

It seems the 'independent third party' which controls the site had been maintaining this signal at its own expense under an agreement between commercial broadcasters and the Federal Government.

On 2 October it was posted on the Facebook page of Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain, that she intended to take it up with the Communications Minister, Paul Fletcher. I suggest we all take it up with him – we are a rural township and require MORE, not less, connectivity. Here are his contact details:

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7480

Email: Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au

I researched further. SBS advises on their website that it may be possible to have your TV aerial redirected toward the Narooma, Mumbulla Mountain or Bega transmitters – it depends on your topographic location.

Alternatively there's a satellite service called VAST which, at a cost to the individual, may provide signal. The VAST service has channels for SBS, the ABC and the Australian commercial television networks. Visit www.mysattv.com.au. This website sets out how to apply for VAST, which involves installing a satellite dish and getting a VAST set-top box for your TV. However, at least one Bermagui resident who had lost his SBS signal, upon trying to apply for VAST online was unable to proceed – his residential address was deemed to have adequate signal already!

You can also still watch SBS OnDemand via your internet connection if you have sufficient signal to download live-streaming services – don't get me started!

Further digging around led me to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the statutory authority answerable to Communications Minister Paul Fletcher) which tells us that, to date, the SBS service from Bermagui has been funded by Regional Broadcasting Association Holdings, which has decided to pull out. The situation is the same for East Grove in the Goulburn area, the other retransmission site mentioned on the SBS page. East Grove residents have not only lost SBS – they have also lost the ABC.

Ann Maree Menager

CARERS “LOOK AFTER YOURSELF” (LAY) REMINDER

NDIS Plans are due for renewal in the Bega Valley.

Carers need to include planned and crisis respite in NDIS Plan Reviews.

Contact your preferred service provider for respite types and costs so that your LAY costs are covered in NDIS Plans.

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From Bermi RFS

It would be a massive understatement to say it's been a difficult year, with our neighbours and friends still wading through grief, anxiety, insecurity and the mammoth task of rebuilding their lives.

It's still so deeply upsetting, travelling beyond our region, to still see the devastation wrought by the 2020 bushfires to the north, south and west of our village. And then there was COVID, robbing us of the opportunity to gather, share and debrief in as best a way as we could.

Most of Bermagui dodged a bullet, there's no question, but that means challenges are still ahead for us. It's gratifying to see fire permits go out the station door every Tuesday evening (5 – 6 pm) as residents take control of their safety strategies. It's a message the Rural Fire Service has been sending for some time. With six new trainees, the Bermagui brigade has grown from 20 firefighters in January to 26, but this doesn't change the challenge as residents need to assess their situation and develop their Fire Plan.

A common comment that came from those who ignored the 'Evacuate Now' advice was that they had their bags packed, car loaded and ready to go and they would leave 'when the s**t hit the fan'. Unfortunately they did not consider that they would be one of many like-minded people who together would be stuck in a traffic jam out of town, with zero visibility, disorientation and the inevitable smoke inhalation. Rural Fire Brigade volunteers give their time gladly to deliver as much fire safety as they can but we need you to follow the fire alerts and advice, and 'Leave Early' is the only guarantee.

We have learned that several persons in the community have either held onto or acquired firefighting PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and used that during the fires. The result of this was confusion and misdirections, all of which created problems during operations and could have been life-threatening. This PPE is the property of the RFS and must be returned to the RFS. Holding on to it means theft on one hand and misrepresentation to the community we seek to serve.

Finally a huge thank you to the community for their help through the fires and beyond. I cannot begin to thank individuals or businesses as there were so many. The community came out in such a supportive way, which allowed us to concentrate on the job we train for, putting the wet stuff on the red stuff.

We look forward to working together to make our community safe and reaching the other side of the fire season safely.

*Maggie McKinney
President*



Sr Deputy Captain Steph Lazarro and firefighter Kate Fitzpatrick succumb to exhaustion on their return to Bermi station after the devastating Cobargo fire.

Visit our website
www.thetriangle.org.au



The Bermagui Lions Tool Library is now up and running, in a bright yellow container in the Country Club carpark. There's a very large range of tools available for loan, free – just call Geoff on 0407 164 466. Or come to our Open Day – Saturday 14 November, 10 am to 12 noon.

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A potted history of Bermagui rescue services

The First Australians used the South Coast of NSW as a rich food source, fishing for shellfish and trapping, netting and spearing all species of fish. They were not deep-water fishermen – they had no need to venture into the waters beyond 'the Shelf'.

At the turn of the 20th century game-fishing became established among the European population, using Bermagui as a base because of its proximity to the grounds where tuna, marlin and other fighting fish could be found. The crews of the large, powerful game-fishing boats looked after each other if they broke down, so there was little call for a rescue service.

As locals built small, inshore fishing boats, the number of boats requiring assistance increased. The early volunteer organisation did not have a rescue vessel but established a radio network –volunteers used radios at home and worked on a 24/7 roster. Volunteers were scarce and for three years one man, Keith Shields, ran the whole radio shed on his own.

As time passed, smaller boats with powerful outboard motors became common and Bermagui Harbour was a mecca for recreational fishermen, often venturing 20-30 nautical miles offshore. The need for a rescue vessel became apparent and, with no money, volunteers often used their own boats to help fishermen who needed assistance.

The Australian Volunteer Coastguard Association was the first rescue service formed. It became the Royal Volunteer

Coastal Patrol and they purchased a small inboard vessel. Skipper qualifications at that time required a NSW Boat Licence only and the agreement of peers in the organisation that a person was a competent seaman.

This group gradually acquired larger and more powerful vessels, with their last vessel being an ex-police boat, the 40-foot James T Lees.

In 2010 the State Government amalgamated the three state-wide sea rescue services and formed Marine Rescue NSW. The years that followed brought uniforms, fleet upgrades and training for professional qualifications. In 2013, volunteers from Bermagui sailed their new rescue vessel, BG30, from Foster to Bermagui where she is moored today.

Since then, BG30 has rescued over 170 vessels and their crews. The reward for our hard-working and dedicated volunteers is to see and hear the gratitude when our rescue vessel comes alongside and offers assistance.

Many of the rescues entail towing the broken-down vessel back to safety in reasonable weather and in daylight. Things become much more demanding when the vessel needing assistance is not where the skipper says it is, or night falls, or the sea becomes 'nasty'.

Alec Percival

Blanket update

In June this year we shared a story in *The Triangle* – our Bermagui group had started knitting and crocheting blankets and rugs for community members who had lost their homes in the fires and were looking at a cold winter in temporary accommodation.

The CWA had contributed \$600, and individual members \$300, to purchase wool, and many crafters contributed yarn from their own stashes. Several blankets made by the CWA Crafting Group were also given away.

Many women contributed time, energy and skills to the project – it was a perfect way to help with the fire response and fill the hours that lockdown gave so many of us. Altogether we made and gave away 38 all-wool blankets, and several more made by others, to fire-affected people in our district and beyond.

Recipients Madalon and Howard said, 'Hi Cath, the beautiful blanket, with love built into it from the heart of the maker, has arrived safe and sound today. It's a very special gift that will forever have lasting significance in our lives for so many reasons. What a time it has been, but what a wonderful flowering of community we have seen amongst all the trauma and suffering. We will feel the warmth in our hearts from this precious gift forever. Bless you and all those in the crafting circle. Many, many thanks for thinking of us.'

Cath Renwick



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Moodji news

Rather than reflecting on all the difficulties of the past year, let's highlight all the amazing outcomes born of the positive response of our volunteers, our partnered organisations, a wave of recovery resource providers and, of course, our kids.

Last Tuesday Peter Dawe and Brendan Moore from the Royal Botanic Garden's Youth Community Greening program helped us re-boot our GrubClub program with the planting of a Lemon Myrtle, one of about 150 bushfoods species in our Indigenous foresting project.

We were only able to reach this milestone thanks to the 15 or so committed volunteers and our high school helpers, who stepped up to cultivate soils, propagate seed, and harvest and maintain the garden. Since we had to put aside workshops, big projects, all-in lunches and GrubClub activities we redirected our attentions to the soil ... and Moodji is now a fully-fledged, healthy working farm.

We now have our soils balanced with poly-cultured planting systems, aligned to rotational growing. Compost systems are

processing local food waste in line with our soil composition. Most of the site is terraced and natural water-harvesting strategies are working well. Perennial planting is under way and our abundant harvest is being snapped up by numerous local eateries and the farmers market.

With Covid restrictions easing, we can now re-engage our routine activities with preschoolers, schedule community events, take on our big-picture projects and extend invitations for anyone who'd like to get their hands dirty and join us in our weekly farm days.

Grant funds will allow us to deliver programs and projects around bushfire recovery, mental health, drought resilience, Indigenous agriculture and community inclusion, and upscale our efforts to produce regional food through collaborative and regenerative practices.

Moodji is excited to receive a Kenyan Top Bar beehive salvaged from a fire-impacted home, thanks to Adrian Iodice at Beekeeping Naturally. Further, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will help us educate locals

in beekeeping as Adrian facilitates the hive installation in coming months.

We'll also be running wormfarm workshops. GrubClubbers and high schoolers are constructing a number of bathtub and triple-bay composting systems to turn more waste into food.

Moodji will also be providing seasonal veggies to Narooma High School's Hands-on-Learning program, a national initiative working with ten students on specialist construction and gardening projects at school and in community.

South East Arts are also on board. Our Culture and Art patron, Cheryl Davison, is working with staff, volunteers and preschoolers to create cultural weaving, basketry and language programs.

We've much more to tell and celebrate, so come along and join others in planting, harvesting and good conversation over a cuppa and cake, on Thursdays from 9.30 am to 3 pm or Saturdays from 10 am to midday.

For more, email eatdirtpermaculture@gmail.com. or call on 0427 746 980.

Dan Bakker



Come along to the Moodji Garden on a Thursday for gardening and a cuppa. Pictured, a visitor under instruction



These nightly visitors to Wallaga Lake hop over from Murunna Point to the Akolele side and back. The Lake is very shallow and could close again.

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It's back – Bermagui Growers and Makers Market



Fresh, local produce every Thursday throughout summer at the Growers and Makers Market at the Country Club (photo: David Rogers Photography)

The new Bermagui Growers and Makers Market will be launched at the Country Club at 3 pm on Thursday 12 November, and will run weekly throughout summer. The market will sell delicious local food and beautiful local arts and crafts.

A big thank you to out-going market coordinator Lynne Ford, who established the Bermagui Growers Market and has been chief wrangler and supporter of stallholders. Lynne's market ran at the Fishermen's Wharf for many years before moving across the road to the Country Club. Lynne decided recently that it was time to hand over the mantle. So I've been working with Lynne, the Country Club, stallholders and some very helpful supporters to set up a new market for local growers and makers.

The market will run weekly through summer in the Bermagui Country Club car park. We're seeking growers and makers of delicious food and beautiful products ready to make the most of what is set to be a busy tourist season in Bermagui.

If you'd like to apply to have a stall at the market, complete the online form at our website www.bermimarket.com.au or call me on 0422 968 473. To find out more, visit our website or follow us on Facebook at Bermagui Growers and Makers Market.

Greg Lissaman

Season finale for the Bermagui Blue Balls – winter ocean swimming at its coolest

The seventh winter swim season, and the most successful so far for the Bermagui Blue Balls, has now concluded. Many new participants stated that their participation was a result of reviewing their Bucket List, following the sudden advent of COVID-19. It may come as a surprise but achieving appropriate social distancing doesn't seem to be a problem when swimming in bracing 13°C water. Each Sunday morning between Mother's Day and Father's Day our hardy souls would assemble at Horseshoe Bay to enjoy either a 'tea bag' frolic in the shore break or, for the keener swimmers, a couple of laps of the bay.

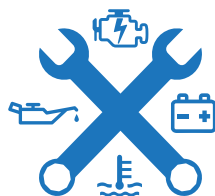
The coveted Wim Hof Trophy for Club Person of the Year was awarded to Marian Manning. The Wim is the most sought-after trophy for a community group on the far south coast. Marian will be proudly and prominently displaying it in the Bermagui Pharmacy for the next twelve months for everyone to appreciate.

Bermagui Blue Balls founder Gary Pearse was the designer and fabricator of the Wim. He said, 'The gentle rolling shore break of Horseshoe Bay inspired the uniform curves of the trophy and any resemblance to a set of testicles is purely coincidental.' Marian says that the public response has been so positive that she is considering entering the Wim in 'Sculpture Bermagui', to be held from 6 – 14 March, 2021.

The Bermagui Blue Balls



Marian Manning accepts the Wim Hof Trophy



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What a stunner of a spring this is! And what a relief after years of drought. La Niña has brought us beautiful rain and the hills are as green as Ireland.

Another month, another mini-market at the Quaama Hall. There was a large range of plants available, from free herb and veggie punnets to natives and exotics for the garden, one stall's proceeds going towards cystic fibrosis research.

Some young entrepreneurs were out the front with a range of crafty and clever things they made at home. They turned hollows from felled trees into 'pots' for plants and made 'feathers' from yarn. They had beautifully decorated rocks and brightly painted letters and numbers. I heard them tell a potential customer that they would take special orders. Things to brighten up a home or for Christmas gifts.

Anyone interested in making boxes for micro bats was able to have a go, with organisers Don Firth and Phil Parker there to assist. These tiny bats are doing it tough after habitat destruction from the fires. Competition for suitable hollows for them to rest safely is high. Bronte Somerset found one bat hanging on her veranda brickwork last autumn – not an ideal spot to hibernate! Wildlife Rescue South Coast took it away to safely over-winter in their care and returned it this spring to Quaama for release. These boxes are designed so bats can crawl up a narrow gap between two boards that are textured for a good grip. It's a boost for their struggling population. Next month will be possum boxes.

The Sapphire Food Pantry were back in the supper-room with a selection of grocery items for a fraction of supermarket



Bronte Somerset's microbat 'Frank' having a mealworm snack. The bat boxes made by locals at the Quaama mini-market will help these tiny bats find safe shelter.

prices. They brought along toiletries and staples as well as some exotic one-off specials. I bought a jar of Indian lime pickle as well as tinned tuna and packet noodles. And such generous and friendly people are running the show. It's a pleasure to stop in and check it out.

Inside the main hall was a space set up for the creation of hope flags. People were encouraged to look within and imagine a better future, then manifest it on fabric. A good number of people made flags that day, including some of the volunteers from aid organisations that were onsite should anyone want to have a chat about support. The first flags will soon fly from the hall's oak tree so keep an eye out.

The next mini-market will be at 12 noon to 2 pm on Sunday, 15 November. They are held on the third Sunday of every month, from mid-day. Make a note in your diary to stop in. You won't regret it.

The Quaama Tennis Club had a social day to re-open the courts for the season. There was a sausage sizzle with homemade coleslaw and Lions Club donuts – too good to resist. The courts are there for anyone who wants to enjoy some tennis, with membership only \$10 a year. And you don't have to play tennis to be a member, you can stay at home knowing you're supporting others that do, or sit happily courtside and cheer.

The committee has some high aspirations for the future. They are willing to rename themselves 'The Quaama Sports Club' should they be successful in obtaining funding for upgrading the courts with an all-purpose surface. Then they would make one court for basketball/netball and keep the other for tennis.

This would be a big project and the Club want to know if the community is behind them. While the school is onboard and uses



Julie Greaves and her creative kids sell their homemade wares at October's Quaama mini-market.

AGM
Quaama Progress Association
Thursday, 12 November, 4.00 pm
Quaama School of Arts Hall
Contact: Glenda Heino
0408 411 956



The Quaama Tennis Club supports players of all ages. Will you support them?

Quintessentially Quaama

the courts regularly, not many other people have taken advantage of the facility. To gauge interest, they're running a survey. Would you use a multipurpose sporting facility in your own village? Maybe shoot a few baskets or hit a ball around for a bit of fun and exercise? Look out for the survey in print or online in the coming weeks and have your say.

The Governor-General, David Hurley, came to town on Friday 9 October. He visited a number of places in the region to see and hear from fire-affected communities. It was a small, COVID-conscious gathering that greeted him in Quaama. His Excellency was impressed with all the hard work that Veronica Abbott and the other volunteers have been putting in to help the fire-affected and she's received a beautiful letter of appreciation. If you're interested in reading it, it's on the wall in the Hall foyer.

Next month will be the December issue. Wow! While this

endless year has been the most challenging one for our community in a lifetime, it looks like we might actually make it to 2021. I must say that as bad as it's been, we've seen the heart, generosity and resilience of our people come to the fore. Let's hope there are more upbeat things to report when capping off the year. I'm looking forward to Light Up Cobargo, Santa sightings, Christmas parties and holiday markets. We deserve it. I hope someone organises a fabulous New Year celebration. Since no one I know said or wanted to hear 'Happy New Year' when we were facing fire, we should make up for it this year when saying farewell to this 'annus horribilis'. Let's dance it away, even if we have to do it outside to stay safe. Let's hope there isn't too much rain, that COVID stays in its box and that the global recession only deals us a glancing blow. Fingers crossed.

Community water supply in Quaama

As part of ongoing work to support community bushfire recovery, the Rotary Club of Bega president, Dorothea Polonyi, met with Veronica Abbott, coordinator of the Quaama Bushfire Relief Centre, to hand over a water trailer. This was made possible by a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Corrimal, which has made significant contributions to bushfire recovery programs in the Bega Valley. The Corrimal club has also allowed for further support if and when the relief centre relocates to its proposed demountable.

While the trailer, manufactured and supplied by Rural and Outback Trailers in Braidwood, has been designed to support firefighting efforts, its principal role with its 1500-litre food-grade water tank will be to supply drinking water to residents who are still relying on temporary IBC tanks.

As this requirement reduces, the trailer will be retained by the Quaama community to support other community redevelopment programs such as tree planting and maintenance. It will also be available for firefighting—hopefully not in the near future.

Also present at the handover: Peter Buggy of Sapphire Coast Projects Inc., a long-time supporter of the Quaama Bushfire Relief Centre.



John Hamilton

From left: Charlie Blomfield, Treasurer, Bega Rotary; John Hamilton, Bega Rotary; Dorothea Polonyi, Warren Abbott, Veronica Abbott, Peter Buggy

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Springtime brings fresh hope and as we move into the last month of spring, we're all hoping and praying for an easier time than last summer. With good spring rains and warmer weather, thanks to La Niña, the country looks lush and green, tanks and dams are full and everything is growing almost visibly – including a great range of weeds. On a recent trip through the Central West Slopes, I heard many locals saying they've never seen the country looking so good – full swaying heads of wheat, canola going to seed and great purple swaths of Paterson's Curse. The visual appeal of the natural landscape in the Triangle area, as well as other regional and rural areas, certainly brings hope and joy as areas rejuvenate. And the resilience of our communities is heart-warming as new businesses start, others refresh and organisations reshape to meet and manage community needs.

Tilba District Chamber of Commerce

At the October AGM of the Tilba District Chamber of Commerce a revised Constitution was accepted and a new committee elected. The significant commitment and contribution of the



Peter Lonergan and Susan Gray, outgoing and incoming presidents, Tilba District Chamber of Commerce

outgoing committee was acknowledged and endorsed by the meeting, particularly that of Peter Lonergan, who was a founding member in 1990 and served as inaugural President, a position he filled again from 2012, and Peita Wall, who has been Secretary for the past 12 years.

The election of the new committee sees a younger generation of Tilba business owners stepping up to current and future challenges. Congratulations to President, Susan Gray (The Drom); Vice President, Peter Lonergan (Elder and Tilba Sweet Spot); Secretary, Claire Leonard, Business Consultant; Treasurer, Carrie Taylor, Tilba Coastal Retreat; as well as three Ordinary Members – Eden Ramana, Gulaga Gallery; Daniel Hodgson, Arcadia; and Andrew Duggan, Oakleigh Farm Cottages.

The Chamber's objectives, as outlined in the reviewed Constitution, are to:

- represent the interests of the Tilba District's businesses and community to key stakeholders, including but not limited to Local Government Agencies and other public bodies together with regional business and community groups;
- maintain communication and engagement with Chamber members and the local community regarding issues that affect the Tilba District, particularly in the areas of trade and industry, tourism and development;
- encourage and facilitate, where possible, maintenance of the built and natural environments to ensure the physical appearance of our towns;
- promote a holistic and positive image and perception of the Tilba District by driving awareness of our assets, products and services in a targeted way.

The Tilba District means Central Tilba, Tilba Tilba and surrounds, within the area that lies between the three bridges at Akolele, Dignams Creek and Corunna,

including Mystery Bay and out to Armitage Road on Gulaga Mountain.

Non-business community members can now join as Associate Members with voting rights but are not eligible to hold office. This new membership category potentially enables the Chamber to benefit from the skills and diversity of this resourceful community and to build on the excellent work the Chamber has done to date. The new membership process is being finalised and will be available at www.visittilba.com.au. All the best to the new committee.

Tilba Hemp Co @ the Tilba Teapot

It's always good to see new businesses opening, but it's not so common to see one revamped business and two new ones in the same building! Tilba Hemp Co opened its doors in October and is a fitting companion to the Tilba Teapot and Mungala Baagali Gallery. Michelle Crain, who moved permanently to Central Tilba with husband Steve in 2018, became involved in hemp in 2015. Since then she's been instrumental in organising and running the annual Hemp, Health and Innovation Expo which, pre-Covid, attracted 130 exhibitors and more than 10,000 attendees.



Michelle Crain of Tilba Hemp Co



The Tiny Homes Tilba team are committed to providing tiny homes where quality is not compromised by size. All enquiries welcome.

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Tilba Bites

The two-day symposium, an important component of past Expos, included international speakers on hemp usage and medicinal cannabis. The Tilba Hemp Co has its own range of hemp body care products with the recent addition of a children's range made in collaboration with local business Saarinen Organics. There's also an enchanting range of candles from the Southern Highlands, using recycled beer and wine bottles and different scents, plus hemp-lined facemasks with Aboriginal designs and other home décor items.

Michelle and Steve had a 30-year-old business manufacturing organic liquid plant fertilisers at their previous location, Little Hartley in the Blue Mountains – some of these products are also available. We wish them well with this new venture.

A wombat emerges

Well known Central Tilba resident and food writer Jody Vassallo has a new book to add to her 40 published food books. In a surprise to even Jody, this one is a children's book. *Brave-Bottomed Wombat*, written by Jody and illustrated by Melbourne artist Cara King, is a response to the devastating effect of last summer's bushfires on native animals. As an RFS volunteer, Jody was often asked, 'Are you saving the animals?' by children when she was in her RFS uniform. *Brave-Bottomed Wombat* is a story of hope that will help children process their feelings around the fires. You can support this project at www.chuffed.org/project/bravewombat.



Jody Vassallo has written a book to help children process their feelings about the fires.

Tilba nibbles

The Open Sanctuary fundraiser, Colour the Path Gold, raised \$740 to assist with repairs. Held on the October long weekend, it attracted much interest with some visitors taking the opportunity to visit the historic Tilba Tilba church. One couple, who were married in the church in 2004, were overjoyed to see the church again. Thanks to all involved, particularly Robyn Lucas who had the fundraising idea, and Open Sanctuary Verger Lyndall Magnusseson.

Followers of Channel Seven's lifestyle program *Better Homes and Gardens* are in for a pleasant surprise on 6 November. As part of the push to feature rural and regional areas, the program will feature the Tilba Nursery, Mountain View Farm and the Tilba Teapot. From all reports the *Better Homes and Gardens* team loved the area and took the opportunity to film both Tilba villages and surrounds. Don't forget to watch.



Verger Lyndall Magnusseson at the Open Sanctuary fundraiser

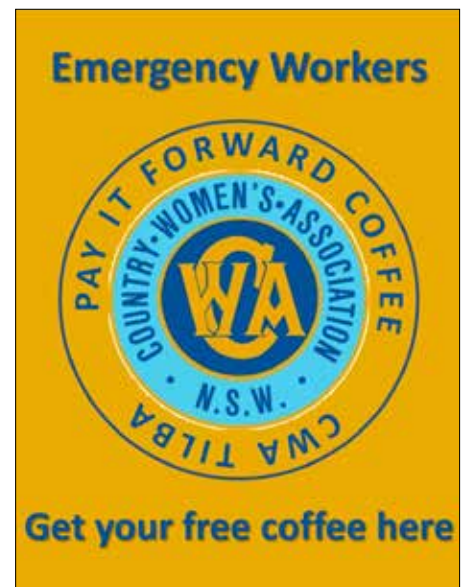
Tilba CWA pays it forward with coffee

Tilba CWA is inviting emergency workers such as RFS, VRA, Marine Rescue, paramedics, and police to have a coffee at Tilba on us from 1 November 2020. In this small way, we would like to show our appreciation for the work they do for our community. We are also supporting the local cafés, who have said they usually give coffees away to emergency workers anyway. Now all the cafés displaying the sign will be offering 'pay it forward' coffees, paid for by Tilba CWA from fundraising efforts, including the monthly stall at Saturday's Tilba Market and return-and-earn bottle recycling.

The following cafes are participating in Tilba CWA 'pay it forward' coffees: Bates Emporium General Store, Eumun Tea, Tilba Real Dairy, Little Finch (chocolate shop), Tilba Sweet Spot, Tilba Teapot Café, Ellen's Pantry, and La Galette.

Tilba CWA will next meet at 10 am on Friday 13 November, either at the Tilba Oval or the Dromedary Hotel, depending on the weather.

Helene Sharpe



Emergency workers, look out for this sign at cafés offering 'pay it forward' coffee around Tilba.

Maggie McKinney

Celebrant Services
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Tilba Halls update

AGM – A reminder that the AGM of Central Tilba School of Arts Trust - Halls Committee will be held at 6 pm on Friday 27 November in the Small Hall. Community members are welcome – come along and put your hand up to help out if you can, or just come and find out about our heritage halls.

Safety first – While endeavouring to complete the development of the proposed meeting room under the stage of the Small Hall, we've been confronted with difficulties and potential costs in complying with significant fire protection and accessibility requirements. These have to be addressed regardless of any further renovations, so will be the Committee's priority in the coming months. Many thanks to David Whitfield and Harry Bate for their work assisting the Committee to identify the various options and their associated costs and providing support for the ongoing process of compliance, including negotiations with Council.

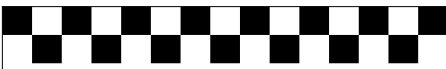
Membership – We've had a great response so far to our membership drive. Many new people have made the decision to

support the halls with a one-off annual membership, and many made generous donations. There's still time to join up if you haven't yet done so. Membership forms are available in the Big Hall on Saturday market days, or email tilbahalls@gmail.com. Membership will be valid from date of payment through to end 2021, so there's still time to get a couple of months free!

Fundraiser – Thanks to all who supported the grand Sausage Roll Fundraiser. We made around 230 tasty sausage rolls and cleared around \$700 from the exercise, plus some great tasting sessions as a bonus. Huge thanks to Alfie for providing the pastry – we have enough to do roughly the same quantity again, so watch this space. We'll get our cooking mojos on again nearer to Christmas.


We look forward to the time when we can come together for community events again without restricted numbers. Meantime, stay safe, people!

Sally Pryor



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Cobargo Conversations

June Tarlinton

The Bega Valley Shire Council has acknowledged it will rebuild the Wandella Hall, which is such wonderful news for the community. The Wandella Hall committee held a meeting to discuss the future for the rebuild and welcomed other interested persons, whose suggestions were appreciated and returned to council. Despite the fact the hall was destroyed in the bushfire, the toilet block survived unscathed, and the BBQ area that was damaged has been completely refurbished back to new by the Merimbula Rotary Boys, who did a top job. Many thanks from the committee.

The Cobargo Scout Group were extremely grateful to the community members who returned their fire drums, allowing the camp to progress as planned.

The Cobargo Show Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 show, with the COVID-19 restrictions being too onerous, allowing limited numbers to attend, which they

felt would be unfair to the wonderful community who has supported them in past. Most of the committee have been fire-affected in some way and are still in varying stages of rebuilding. With the anniversary of the fire also another emotional hurdle to overcome, it was felt it was the best decision. The committee are planning on making the 2022 Cobargo Show the best ever.

As a farmer there are many challenges, but since the fire, one aptly named weed has become incredibly difficult to control. In the past handpicking fireweed was successful, but after pulling eight one-ton bags from one paddock and looking around to see as much in others, it truly has become unbeatable.

I'm very saddened again this year with the loss of the loveliest, kindest cow, Julia, who came and wrapped her head and neck right around me as I let the herd out of the paddock to take them home to milk after the fire, whilst I talked to them,

saying, 'I'm not sure we'll get through this.' On Sunday, my working bitch, Ruby, died from a snakebite and will be truly missed.

And lastly, some good news. Warren and Helen Salway's son Christopher, and his wife, Katie, welcomed a son, Teddy Frank. Congratulations.



June will miss her lovely working bitch, Ruby.



Chris Walters and Danielle Murphy, co-coordinators of the Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre, have been included on the 2020 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll: Recognising Rural Women Volunteers. The Honour Roll is an initiative of the Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network to formally recognise and thank inspiring rural women volunteers within NSW rural, regional and remote communities. (Photo: Harriet Tatham, ABC Four Corners)

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I promise

This year there's been a deficit of joy and laughter and a surfeit of horror, fear and misery.

From the terracotta skies (thank you, Richard Flanagan) of summer to the masked and quiet months since March, this year just rolls on. It isn't logical or reasonable to assume that a dawn, arbitrarily labelled the first day of a new calendar year, will bring a transformation in our world. Still we say, 'Next year will be better,' and so I hope. Pam Younghans, the astrologer, tells us, 'We are crossing a bridge to a new reality – a world so new that we cannot yet visualise what it might look like, or even conceive exactly how we will get there.' I doubt we will get there without great personal change.

Will this year of horrors change our perceptions of our world and how we live in it? Will we acknowledge that some of our lifestyles may be literally costing the earth? Will we own the mess we have made

of our natural world?

In Cobargo and surrounds we live far closer to the earth than many in the western world. Our silent, charred bushland is precious to us and we mourn the death of so much. To add to the loss by fire, many trees were felled in the aftermath and with this accumulated loss we have lost habitats and the lungs of our valley. Congratulations to the nesting box workshop at Quaama. What a great idea, acted upon.

Here in Bermagui during the holidays the streets overflowed with kids, dogs, bikes, lycra and lattes and it was possible to forget the summer, but Cobargo has its constant reminders in the vacant blocks of the main street. I find it both unsettling and very grounding. Sure, we want to move on, make a new start, rebuild, begin new lives, but perhaps it doesn't hurt to be reminded.

What lessons have we learned? What changes are we making? I am now living in a town where the water magically comes

out of the tap without a thought for tank levels or pumping up to the header tank, once a Sunday morning ritual. The hot water is constant, no matter how much sun there has been or whether the stove has been lit – magic. But I no longer have a rain gauge, and I miss rapping on the tank walls after a rain event.

Three months of buying water, showering in ten litres and bucketing that water onto treasured plants taught me gratitude for the water we have. I know we are in a La Niña weather pattern now, but I promise myself to stay close to the earth and not forget that town water is a luxury too, to be respected just the same. I promise myself that I will remain conscious of my consumption, take only what I need and grow as much food as my wee block allows. This I promise the Earth – and Cobargo will help me remember.

Sally Raspin

CWA news

A special meeting was held in October for the Cobargo branch of CWA. We received a donation earlier in the year that was to be used for the members to enjoy a luncheon. With COVID-19, we have not been able to organise it; however, this month eleven members enjoyed a meal prepared by Kitchenboys and the Village Store. What a delightful spread! Our community is so fortunate to have businesses like these, who are striving to provide the best food and supplies. Did we appreciate it? Indeed we did, as can be seen from the photograph.

Next, we hosted the Far South Coast Group Conference at the showground. Much hard work, on the part of our members, resulted in a pleasant environment. All seats were physically distanced, and beautiful flowers decorated the pavilion. Lunch was prepared by Linda Sang, and served in COVID-19-safe individual paper bags. Delicious food—again! The guest speaker was Daniel Doody, recently of South East Radio, who entertained us with a

song from *Mamma Mia!*, a show that will be featured in Bega early next year. He spoke of his regret in leaving Bega, but that he had to make the difficult career choice.

The Far South Coast Group is made up of branches from Eden to Batemans Bay. During the meeting, members passed a motion regarding medical cannabis oil being placed on the PBS list, and another regarding the concept that organ donation should be an opt-out choice, rather than the present opt-in. These two motions will be debated at the State Conference to be held in Bega next May.

Recently, Cobargo branch sponsored entertainment for BlazeAid at their camp on the football oval. Cooper Lowther sang, much to the delight of the audience. We were happy to help these workers, who are doing some amazing fence repairs around the district.

Mary Williams



Members of Cobargo CWA branch enjoy a physically distanced and delicious lunch.

Transitioning to resilient energy for Cobargo and Quaama

There've been some exciting developments in the energy transition project, part of the bushfire recovery and resilience efforts to get us back on our feet.

The Cobargo and Region Energy Transition (CaRET) team has obtained funding from the NSW Government to start work on developing a plan for Cobargo and Quaama.

The funds will allow us to investigate the potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency, to provide reliable and affordable energy for businesses, farms, homes and authorities in Cobargo, Quaama and the surrounding district. The aim is to increase self-reliance, support the Cobargo main street redevelopment, increase business opportunities and reduce emissions.

The work is being conducted by ITP Renewables and CaRET, with support from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

We want to work out how much local renewable energy and batteries are needed for the Cobargo-Quaama region to be self-sufficient if the grid went down for three hours, three days or three weeks.

This would provide greater energy resilience and security in response to events ranging from short-term blackouts (eg a branch falling on a line) through to longer term problems associated with fires and other natural disasters, extreme weather events or climate impacts.

Such energy resilience would be achieved through some combination of a mini-grid that services the main centres of Cobargo and Quaama, with the surrounding areas having standalone power systems. The mini-grid would be powered through a mix of behind-the-meter generation and larger, centralised generation and batteries.

Energy efficiency will play a very important role in minimising the cost of generation options. The more energy efficiency that can be incorporated in the rebuild of new homes and businesses, and retrofitted into existing homes, the lower the cost. See [Learn about building energy-efficient homes](#) in this month's Triangle.

The study will look at two different models: one for mini-grid operation and one for a centralised solar/battery system that could participate in external markets. The project will also provide guidance on how to fund these initiatives and consider technical and regulatory requirements for integrating with the existing local grid and National Electricity Market.

ITP and the CaRET team are preparing a survey to obtain input from Cobargo and Quaama residents and business owners. The survey will be available online – watch local email lists for the link. Or check out the flyer at the Cobargo or Quaama post office, or the Cobargo Co-op.

Zena Armstrong

Cobargo and Region Energy Transition Team

The day their Excellencies dropped in

Some important visitors came to Cobargo last month, and how delightful they were. His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs Hurley made a very informal visit to Cobargo, where they were hosted by Danielle Murphy and Chris Walters, co-coordinators of the Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre.

Their Excellencies enjoyed a light lunch at Kitchenboys in the company of Danielle and Chris and four members of the Cobargo RFS brigade: Mark Ayliffe, Captain; John Walters, President; Roger

Park, Deputy Captain; and Paul Schaefer, Brigade member. Also joining the lunch were Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor of Bega Valley Shire, and Zena Armstrong, President of the Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund.

After lunch, their Excellencies paid a visit to the Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre to see how the relief effort is working, and spoke to a number of bushfire-affected community members. Then it was on to BlazeAid and a visit to inspect a Minderoo pod.

They expressed their dismay that

they hadn't been able to travel to bushfire-affected areas earlier due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they're determined to visit as many places as possible in the coming months.

Their Excellencies are a delightful couple, who were genuinely interested in the recovery and renewal efforts taking place after the 2019 New Year's Eve bushfires

Chris Walters

Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre



Left to right: Danielle Murphy, Chris Walters, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, Her Excellency Mrs Hurley, Rob Ritchie



**Saturday 7 November
from 8 am
Wander the streets of Cobargo
and pick up bargains at our
village-wide garage sale!**

Crafters around the world remaking Christmas for Cobargo and Quaama

Crafters around the world have taken to their tools, in an effort to deliver some love to fire-affected communities.

Recognising that Christmas will be a tough and emotional time for many, especially those who lost so much during the Christmas season last year, crafters were motivated to make Christmas decorations for people starting again.

What people have lost is irreplaceable. This project, #remakechristmas, is not trying to replace the irreplaceable. Instead, it's about sharing and helping people to start again, with new decorations filled with love, care and a special handmade touch.

The idea for the project came about as Juanita Watters, the daughter of Wandella residents Shirleyanne and Brian Myers, helped her parents sort through the burnt

buildings on their property.

'The most upsetting thing to see was their trunk of Christmas decorations, which they'd packed up only days before to store away until next Christmas,' said Juanita.

'So many of these decorations held so much meaning. We loved "rediscovering" them as we unpacked them each year. There were the decorations I'd made in preschool from playdough and dried pasta. There were the ones knitted by my late grandmother and others collected by family members on our travels around the world.'

Since the project started, in February, crafters from around the world have been busy creating an incredible array of decorations. Crafters from as far away as Belgium, Ireland and the US have embraced the project, making decorations using knitting, crochet, sewing, papercraft, mosaic, pottery and more.

Boxes and boxes full of beautiful creations, each made especially for the project, have been flowing into the #remakechristmas Canberra headquarters. This week a box of decorations arrived from a Northern Territory Girl Guides group, as well as a collection of bright red, crocheted Santas, ready to bring joy to any Christmas tree.

Decorations will be delivered to the Cobargo and Quaama Bushfire Relief Centres, ready for collection in December.

If you'd like to know more about the project, or want a sneak peek of the decorations, photos and posts from makers can be found at Facebook or Instagram (RemakeChristmas).



Not to replace treasures lost, but to start anew – Christmas decorations handmade with love

ACT Rotarians grow plants for Cobargo

The year began and Cobargo was burning. What could our Rotary Club in Canberra's Weston Creek do to help? We gave money of course, but what practical thing could we do? How could we show the people of Cobargo that we knew what they were going through and that we wanted to help them recover?

Plant Replacement Project Leader Margaret McIver said, 'The Rotary Club of Canberra-Weston Creek has many senior members, some of whom lost everything in the Canberra fires of 2003. From their terrible experience came the idea of growing and gifting plants to the people of Cobargo.'

Would the people of Cobargo like colourful perennials to rebuild gardens, or vegetables to make summer salads? Perhaps herbs for the kitchen? Would they want trees and shrubs? Margaret asked Tania Lingard of Cobargo, and all of those things were wanted.

'Our Rotarians and friends started growing plants,' said Margaret. 'Many of our members are older and we were all in isolation at home. But growing the plants gave pleasure and purpose to our volunteer growers'.


'Now, many months later, our Rotarians have over 4000 plants destined for delivery to the Cobargo Showground on Saturday 14 November. We're looking forward to meeting the people of Cobargo, and we hope our plants will help lift their spirits and bring a touch of colour. It's our Rotary Club's great pleasure to help a fire-affected community in this small way.'

Bega Rotary has also collaborated with Canberra-Weston Creek Rotary on this project, acquiring 450 tube stock – NZ pittosporums, lomandra, grevillea and more – donated by Greenhills Propagation Nursery in Victoria. These have been potted on and will also be ready for distribution on 14 November.

Bega Rotary will be running its famous BBQ trailer on the day too.

For more information contact Tania Lingard, kaos@southernphone.com.au.





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	21st November	Great Southern
	Nights (mini festival with 8 different artists, food trucks)	
	22nd November	Muzz
	29th November	Robyn Simpson

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The Bega Woodies return to the Lazy Lizard Gallery!

We are very happy to announce that the popular and talented 'Bega Woodies' will be back displaying their woodwork in the Side Room Gallery for the whole of November.

COVID-19 has caused some difficulties and last minute alterations in our Side Room program this year, and there have been upsides and downsides. We were going to have the annual exhibition of the Frayed Edges from Quaama, something we always look forward to, as their quirky, imaginative fibre work always brings humour and diversity to the Gallery. However, due to health worries and social distancing, the group has not been able to get together this past year, and sadly had to cancel. So we wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them back next year!

For the Woodies, however, social isolation meant that they were all busy in their back sheds producing loads of woodwork with nowhere to sell or display it, as craft shops and markets were closed. And this is our gain! We all know from their exhibition last year that the variety and quality of their work was amazing, and the prices were very affordable, so we were very glad to invite them back to the Side Room.

At the moment we are not having openings at the Gallery – but the Woodies have promised to put on woodturning demonstrations

on some of the weekends – very popular last time! We'll put up the times for these on the Cobargo Noticeboard, but please come round any time and take a look at their work ... maybe even buy a lovely, locally made Christmas gift!

Naomi Lewis



Wavy-edged lidded box, London plane tree, by Paul Healey

Tea 'n' cake, 8 X 8

Are you ready?

Cobargo Creators will open the 2020 8 X 8 exhibition on Tuesday 8 December. There's no official opening but if you happen to wander in, after you have done the 'Covid ritual' the kettle will be on and there's bound to be cake to go with it. Just saying.

If you haven't finished your piece or even started, it really is time to get cracking. Entries in this exhibition will be accepted from 20 November until 3 December.

They must be 8 x 8 inches or 20 x 20 centimetres in size – original work in any medium, ready and able to be hung. The selling price for all works in this exhibition is set at \$55.

Non CC members pay a \$5 entry fee – and only two entries per person. Forms are available at the gallery, which is now opening 10 am – 4 pm seven days a week.

The Bank (à la Arts and Crafts) is flourishing – growing and enriching the lives of many. It's one of those feel-good projects that have appeared within our community this year, reminding us of the bonds, strength and support when we reach out to care and nourish each other. With all that has gone on this year there's much to be grateful for.

If anyone has a couple of hours to spare every now and again and would like to take on the care and coordination of the Bank, come along and introduce yourself.

Sandra Taylor

Our secret state



A new book co-edited by local Felicity Ruby and Peter Cronau looks at what has been unearthed about Australia recently. *A Secret Australia* brings various as yet unpublished stories to light, giving a rare glimpse into the nature of power and the powerful, and how this power is brought to bear.

A Secret Australia includes essays from eighteen prominent Australians on what Australia has learnt about itself from the WikiLeaks revelations – about a secret Australia of hidden rules and loyalty to hidden agendas.

However Australians may perceive their nation's place in the world – as battling sports stars, good international citizen or a dependable ally – WikiLeaks has shown us a startlingly different story. Come along to the launch on Saturday 5 December at 11 am at Well Thumbed Books in Cobargo.

Bookings are essential due to COVID. Call into the shop or ring me on 0416 039 895.

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String music bringing people together

The Riverina Summer School for Strings (RSSS) in Wagga Wagga has a connection to the far south coast despite being separated by many kilometres. Since 2010, a South Coast Music Camp tutor has also been on the staff of the RSSS and eight young people from Bega, Wandella, Bermagui and Cobargo have attended the RSSS, many of them returning for multiple visits. The students from this area have been a great cohort and most are still seriously involved in music study. To develop this connection between two such vibrant regional centres, The Triangle has kindly offered funds towards tuition assistance for 2021.

The RSSS provides high quality tuition to string students through a week-long intensive musical experience that provides ongoing inspiration and motivation. It also aims to uplift and inspire the community at large through its Sounds of Summer Concert Series, especially in this time of bushfire devastation and pandemic uncertainty.

The School was created to give regional music students the opportunity to learn from some of the best string players in the country. Not only do they gain from working with enthusiastic and talented tutors, they also learn a lot from collaborating with students from many other regions. This mixing of locals and visitors creates a positive atmosphere for the sharing of experiences and ideas, which in turn leads to significant inspiration and learning.

From 9 - 16 January 2021 Dr Susan Collins, Head of Strings at the University of Tasmania, will lead many of Australia's best string players and teachers in running four string orchestras as well as classical guitar, mandolin, HSC composition, conducting,

world music and lunchtime student concerts during the day, and presenting the Sounds of Summer Concert Series in the evenings. The students participate from 9 am – 4 pm throughout the week in preparation for the wonderful Grand Finale at the Civic Theatre on the last day of the School.

For more information about the RSSS go to www.riverinasummerstrings.com or email admin@summerstrings.com.au in regards to scholarships.

Jeff Donovan



The Riverina Summer School for Strings has welcomed eight young musicians from Bega, Wandella, Bermagui and Cobargo since 2010.

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AusMusic Month and the voices of Christmases lost

Beloved local arts organisation Four Winds is presenting some stunning concerts and events leading up to summer and the next holiday season. The grounds of the Barragga Bay site are green and gorgeous after nourishing rains, and, with some social distancing, everyone can enjoy some uplifting and sublime music from our local and visiting artists.

For November's full-to-the-brim month of Australian music (Great Southern Nights! 1000 gigs!), Four Winds, along with South East Arts, presents the fresh, engaging and original Bega five-piece, The Novellas on Friday 20 November.

These guys are Bega Valley's premier pop-intellectuals, and along with local actor Patrick Dickson will present their unique blend of literature, music and spoken word/storytelling, in the acoustically wonderful Windsong Pavilion.

The Novellas' songs are inspired by books – contemporary fiction from Australia and beyond, sparse and atmospheric. Singer/songwriter Myoung Jae Yi uses his book-reading as material and the result is a rich tapestry of jazz-infused, folk-rock-pop songs that capture the bittersweet literature that inspires them.

In this live show, peppered with readings, Patrick Dickson will don the character of 'HANT'A the Book Crusher'. HANT'A is a character from the book *Too Loud a Solitude* by Czech author Bohumil Hrabal. HANT'A has crushed tonnes of books and doesn't really know if his thoughts are his own or from his books – 'Because when I read, I don't really read, I pop a beautiful sentence into my mouth and I suck it. Like a fruit drop. Or I sip it like a liqueur...'

If you thought Four Winds was all about classical music concerts, this is the show to change your mind and perhaps confound your expectations of pop music.

But if you prefer your music classical, read on ...

On Saturday 28 November the Windsong Series continues for 2020 with the wonderful strings of the Enigma Quartet, who are visiting Barragga Bay for a residency and two concerts. Comprising Marianne Edwards and Kerry Martin (violins), Tahlia Petrosian (guest viola) and Rowena MacNeish (cello), Enigma will spend a whole week at Barragga Bay and Bermagui.

United by their passion for chamber music, the Enigma Quartet has a pure and joyful love for what they do and how they share it with audiences. Each is a successful artist in her own right, and holds a coveted positions in Australia's top orchestras. They choose to learn, play and perform together because they love to, and it shows.

During the week, the quartet will spend time rehearsing, immersing themselves in their new repertoire, and

will conclude their stay with two beautiful concerts. Having last performed at the 2019 Easter Festival, Four Winds is thrilled to have this vibrant quartet bring their artistry to the region again.

The program includes Beethoven, Brahms and Australian composer Margaret Sutherland.

And don't forget to save the date for Four Winds' Christmas celebration. Bring your ears and voices on Saturday 19 December to join six voices from the Luminescence Chamber Singers. Enjoy the angelic sounds of these voices, conducted by Canberra Festival of Music's Roland Peelman. The songs will soar in the acoustic surrounds of the Windsong Pavilion and the Bermagui skies ... and we'll serve our mulled wine and fruit mince pies, surely bringing goodwill to all.

For information and bookings go to www.fourwinds.com.au, phone us on 6493 3316 or email contact@fourwinds.com.au.

Lisa Herbert



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Recently I was heading off to visit family 'way out west', and there's no gift more appreciated inland than fresh seafood from Bermagui. So I loaded the esky with carefully packaged fish fillets, squid tubes, prawns and oysters, and made sure I had enough freezer bricks to last the journey.

Happy cooking!

Recipes taken from *Marmalade, and other stories from la Cucina Isola* by Georgina Adamson.

As I had 'bits and pieces', I decided the best thing to make was my **Seafood Marinara Sauce**.

That, served with Il Passaggio pasta, would stretch to feed a mob and give everyone a taste of the sea.

This recipe will serve 4-6.



1. Start with a good tomato base. Soften 4 cloves of garlic, crushed, and a diced medium onion in a generous amount of olive oil. Then add one tin (or 3 fresh diced) tomatoes, three tablespoons of tomato paste, ¼ cup of white wine, a bouquet of fresh or dried herbs (rosemary, thyme, oregano), a couple of bay leaves, salt, black pepper and a teaspoon of sugar.

2. Add 2 cups of liquid – stock or water – and let it all cook down slowly for quite a while with the lid off, the longer the better so you end up with a rich sauce. Keep an eye on it and add more liquid if required. Don't forget to remove the bouquet.

3. Now for the seafood – approximately 1kg. Start with the squid cut into rings or chunks, add to the sauce and cook slowly for about 15 minutes till tender. The sauce can be turned off and left at this point because the remaining seafood is best cooked not long before serving so as not to overcook it. Use any combination of fish fillets and prawns, and finish with half a kilo of mussels, allowing them to open in the sauce.

4. Cook four cups of fresh pasta in plenty of boiling salted water – it won't take long. Drain and gently combine with the Marinara Sauce. Lovely to serve in a large bowl, topped with a generous handful of finely chopped parsley and lemon zest sprinkled over.

Something sweet

There are still plenty of lemons around so make sure you put away some jars of lemon butter for delicious desserts: a filling for a sponge or tart, in a cheesecake, or simply over ice cream. Here's my basic recipe for Lemon Butter (or curd).

1. Melt 250g unsalted butter in a large heat-proof bowl over a saucepan of simmering water.

2. Add 3 cups sugar and stir till the sugar is dissolved.

3. Add the grated rind of 6 lemons and the juice of 4, and stir till well combined with the butter sugar mixture.

4. Add 6 well beaten eggs and whisk/beat this mixture till it thickens. This may take half hour (make sure there is still water in the saucepan!)

5. Pour into sterilised jars with lids, and when cool keep



in the fridge.

I also like to put down a bottle or two of Limoncello. We've put Bhagya's Limoncello recipe on this page before, but just so you don't need to look it up ...

1. Wash and dry 6-8 lemons and peel the rind off in strips, being careful not to take too much of the white pith. Divide a bottle of vodka into two bottles and stuff the peel down the neck until each bottle is full. Seal and set this aside for a week.

2. After this time make a syrup. Bring 4 cups of water to the boil, add 3 cups sugar. Stir till sugar is dissolved then simmer gently for 10 minutes.

3. When cooled, combine this syrup with the lemon flavoured vodka (discard the peel). Decant into smaller bottles using a funnel, and seal each bottle.

4. Set aside for two weeks (if you can wait that long!). It makes a beautiful summer drink, served well chilled over ice with a touch of tonic. Or a nice gift.

With these two basics you can make one of my signature desserts ... **Limoncello Tiramisu**.

(Apologies to Francesca at the gelato clinic!)

As well as lemon butter and limoncello you'll need a packet of Italian Savoiardi biscuits, 600g thickened cream or 2 tubs mascarpone, and a little icing sugar.

1. Beat the cream or mascarpone with 1 tablespoon of icing sugar and stir in half a jar (or to taste) of lemon butter.

2. Brush each biscuit with the limoncello and line a dish with these. Spread a layer of the lemon cream mixture over these and repeat these layers until all ingredients are used.

3. Finish with a layer of whipped cream, cover and refrigerate until needed. Best made the day before needed for the flavours to develop.

Gardeners will always tell you they have certain favourites in the plant world, and nurserymen, although spoiled for choice, will also have a group of plants that appeal to them. Without a doubt, some of my favourites are salvias, with their extraordinary diversity of colour and habit—over 1800 species alone, without new varieties that are added almost all the time. Already this year there have been several new varieties released, and they are truly a gardener’s delight, providing rich and interesting rewards for every garden.

This spellbinding genus has blues to rival the colours of the ocean and sky, as well as rich reds, pinks, yellow, and white, along with every combination of these dominant colours. Their diversity in leaf colour and shape is second to none, from those that feel like velvet, to long and narrow in varying colours. Many varieties are used for culinary purposes, having delightful scents that can be used to flavour food of all kinds.

Most salvia species are adaptable to an extensive range of soil types, from clay to open and sandy. Where soils might need improvement, it makes sense to add organic matter like animal manure or compost. Good drainage, however, is generally advisable, and without it there is greater risk of less-hardy varieties not surviving a long, wet winter. In gardens where soil is wet for long periods, it is advisable to slightly raise the planting area to allow better drainage.

When preparing to plant salvia, refrain from adding excess nitrogen to soil, as it will give lush foliage at the expense of

flowers. Soil acidity or alkalinity play no great part in the placement of the plants, although many of the species are derived from locations where limestone is dominant. Nearly all varieties prefer a full sun position, except for those that grow in and tolerate shade. From time to time throughout the year, salvia ‘Yamagata’ becomes available, and should be sought out from nurseries.

Some taller varieties have a brittle branching habit and should be planted in a location free of strong winds. Many of the lower-growing forms are excellent in a seaside garden.

Like all perennials, salvias should be pruned on a regular basis to keep the plant in a compact form, and to promote several periods of flowering throughout the year. They are generally pest- and disease-free, with aphids and powdery mildew being a problem in the summer months. They are great to grow in a container for those who have difficult locations, or to brighten up paving where other plants might have failed. Due to their ability to handle periods of dryness, they are an ideal pot plant.

Often overlooked these days are the extensive range of annual forms available to brighten up the flower garden, where seasonal change is required.

Colours of reds, white, blues, and purple are available, and should be planted at the rear of the garden. Low-growing annuals like petunia, marigold, lobelia, and other summer flowering annuals are a

great companion planting to salvia. Check out your local nursery for the exciting range of salvia, both perennial and annual, that are now available, and brighten up your garden with these rewarding plants.



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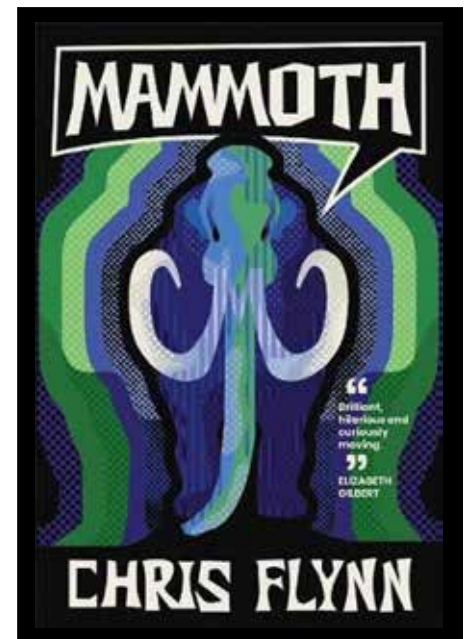
Mammoth **Chris Flynn** **UQP, \$29.99**

This very interesting book is narrated by a 13,000-year-old extinct mammoth, told to his fellow extinct creatures as they await their sale to customers in New York in 2007. As Thomas Kenneally wrote, 'Mammoth (encapsulates) the macro-history of all life in the tale of one species.' It's a strong critique of the role humans have played in destroying the natural world, but it manages to end on a note of hope.

It's a book that made me want to read more about extinct species and to try to find a simple book on palaeontology, about

which I know nothing. It really stretched my sympathy for all the creatures we have destroyed – and, indeed, are continuing to destroy – at the same time as despairing at the destruction perpetuated by humans against each other.

Flynn's descriptions of the failed uprisings in Ireland, of the practices of the Nazis in Germany and the greed of colonisers could well leave you in despair. But there's just enough hope in the ending to lead you to question how our generation could do it better and help repair the damage. Apart from the serious aspects, the story is told with a lovely, gentle humour, leaving me in love with the extinct penguin. One for Christmas and holiday reading.



Pet of the Month

Badger is a beautiful, affectionate male cat whom we estimate to be about ten years old. He'd make a good companion cat for a quiet family living in a rural setting or a single person with no other cats or dogs. He's been living on a rural property with one of our adult cat carers, who adopted him herself about 18 months



Badger is an affectionate cat who just wants company and kindness.

ago but she and her partner have started their retirement and have moved into town, and this setting is not at all suitable for Badger.

It's quite clear from what background information we have, as well as from his behaviour, that Badger has been mistreated in the past. Despite this he loves human company once he learns to trust, and with his new carer this has only taken a few weeks. His first carer found him at his happiest when she stopped work for the day and sat in her chair in the dairy. He'd get up on her lap and there he stayed and purred and purred until she had to get up herself. His new carer has also found that he loves and needs human company. He's a special boy who would be great company for a quiet person who potters around outdoors a lot – he just needs lots of kindness and company. Badger is desexed, chipped, vaccinated, worm/flea treated and vet checked. Cost \$25. Please phone 0400 372 609.

All animals available through AWLNSW are microchipped, desexed, vaccinated, wormed, and flea- and tick-treated. Their adoption fee is subsidised in the hope that rescue pets will be people's first choice and that eventually we'll be able to stop unwanted litters. Please note that potential dog owners will need to have

secure dog-proof fencing and be suited to the needs of the animal.

You can view available animals on our Facebook page (AWLNSW Far South Coast) but you will need to call us on 0400 372 609 to enquire about any of the cats, kittens, dogs and pups available for adoption. If you would like to become a member please call 0400 372 609. If you have lost or found a companion animal please call BVSC Companion Animal Facility on 6499 2222.

Desexing is crucial in managing the overpopulation of dogs and cats on our streets. An un-desexed kitten can fall pregnant at four months old, leading to generation after generation of kittens – up to 20,000 kittens within two years. A desexed animal is healthier and less prone to disease and infection, is safer and often lives longer, and doesn't display as many anti-social behaviours.

Desexing vouchers are available at all vet clinics in our branch area (Bega Valley Shire) for local residents who hold a Centrelink Pension Card. AWL Far South Coast will subsidise the desexing by \$125 for female dogs and cats and by \$100 for male dogs and cats. Simply make a booking with your vet, show your pension card and you only need to cover the balance of the desexing cost.

Community Notices

In recognition that meetings are not happening at the moment – at least, not in the ways they used to – we're placing 'Community Notices', the inside back page, in storage for the time being.

Let's hope we can bring it back soon. Before we do, we'll be contacting all groups to make sure that details – contact names and numbers, meeting times and places – are still correct.

For the Fridge Door

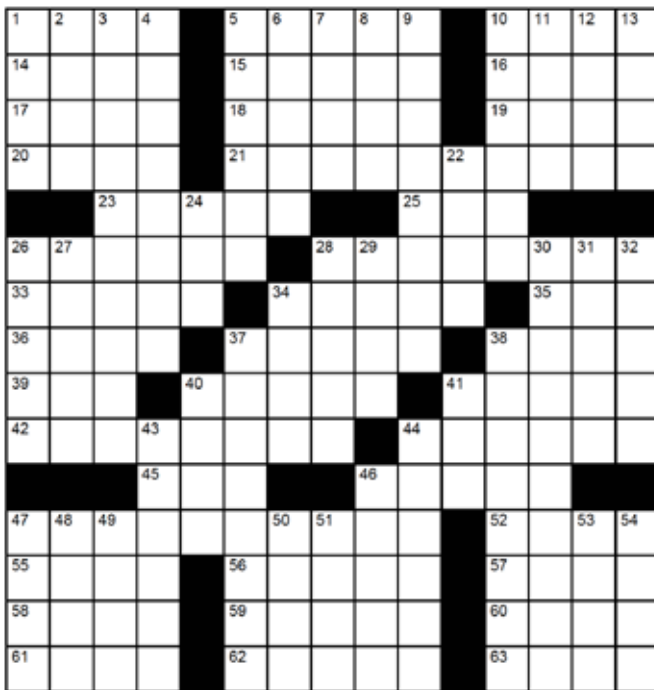
NOVEMBER	WHAT	WHERE	TIME
Sun 1	Live music: Roddy Reason	Tilba Wines and Ale House	12.30 pm
	Live music	Cobargo Hotel	5 pm
Sat 7	Monster Garage Sale	All over Cobargo	from 8 am
Sun 8	Live music: Stitch	Tilba Wines and Ale House	12.30 pm
	Live music	Cobargo Hotel	5 pm
Thurs 12	Bermagui Growers and Makers Market	Bermagui Country Club	3 pm
	Quaama Progress Assn AGM	Quaama Hall	4 pm
	Webinar: Building energy-efficient homes	Bookings: www.energy_efficient_appliances.eventbrite.com.au	6 pm
Sat 14	Rotary Plant give-away and BBQ	Cobargo Showground	All day
	Bermagui Tool Library Open Day	Country Club carpark	10 am - 12 noon
Sun 15	Quaama Mini-Market	Quaama Hall Grounds	12 noon - 2 pm
	Live music: Glen Mood	Tilba Wines and Ale House	12.30 pm
	Live music	Cobargo Hotel	5 pm
Thurs 19	Bermagui Growers and Makers Market	Bermagui Country Club	3 pm
Fri 20	The Novellas & HANT'A the Book Crusher, \$25	Windsong Pavilion (bookings www.fourwinds.com.au)	7.30 pm
Sat 21	Great Southern Nights (eight different artists, food trucks)	Tilba Wines and Ale House	12.30 pm
Sun 22	Live music: Muzz	Tilba Wines and Ale House	12.30 pm
	Live music	Cobargo Hotel	5 pm
Thurs 26	Bermagui Growers and Makers Market	Bermagui Country Club	3 pm
Fri 27	AGM Central Tilba School of Arts Trust - Halls Committee	Tilba Small Hall	6 pm
Sat 28	Enigma Quartet	Windsong Pavilion (bookings www.fourwinds.com.au)	1 pm, 5 pm
Sun 29	Red Cross Market	Dickinson Oval	8 am - 12.30 pm
	Live music: Robin Simpson	Tilba Wines and Ale House	12.30 pm
	Live music	Cobargo Hotel	5 pm

<p>CROSSWORD ANSWERS</p> <p>ACROSS 1. Tsar, 5. Hedge, 10. Ahoy, 14. Apse, 15. Onion, 16. Cone, 17. Pass, 18. Steel, 19. Coca, 20. Stop, 21. Tetrameter, 23. Cover, 25. RIP, 26. Spinal, 28. Vegetable, 33. Crass, 34. Liven, 35. Ban, 36. Rate, 37. Wager, 38. Tend, 39. Ate, 40. Gamin, 41. Forgo, 42. Medieval, 44. Furrow, 45. Gee, 46. Aorta, 47. Stink bombs, 52. Itch, 55. Coco, 56. About, 57. Lily, 58. Odor, 59. Noose, 60. Loop, 61. Tone, 62. Deter, 63. Ante</p> <p>DOWN 1. Taps, 2. Spat, 3. Associated, 4. Response,</p>	<p>CAN YOU NAME IT? ANSWERS</p> <p>1. candle, 2. candy, 3. candour, 4. cannibal, 5. Canada, 6. cancel, 7. canter, 8. canoe, 9. Cancer, 10. canteen, 11. cantaloupe, 12. Cantonese, 13. canvas, 14. canal, 15. Hostet, 6. Enter, 7. Diet, 8. Goer, 9. Enlarger, 10. Accept, 11. Hoot, 12. Once, 13. Year, 22. Mien, 24. Was, 26. Scram, 27. Praise, 28. Vigil, 29. Even, 30. Aberration, 31. Tango, 32. Endow, 34. Lama, 37. Waveband, 38. Tortilla, 40. Geek, 41. Fur, 43. Ignore, 44. Foster, 46. Abuse, 47. Scot, 48. To do, 49. Icon, 50. Oboe, 51. Moot, 53. Clot, 54. Hype</p>
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emailmailmailmailmailmailmailmail The Triangle's email address is contributions@thetriangle.org.au

Game On

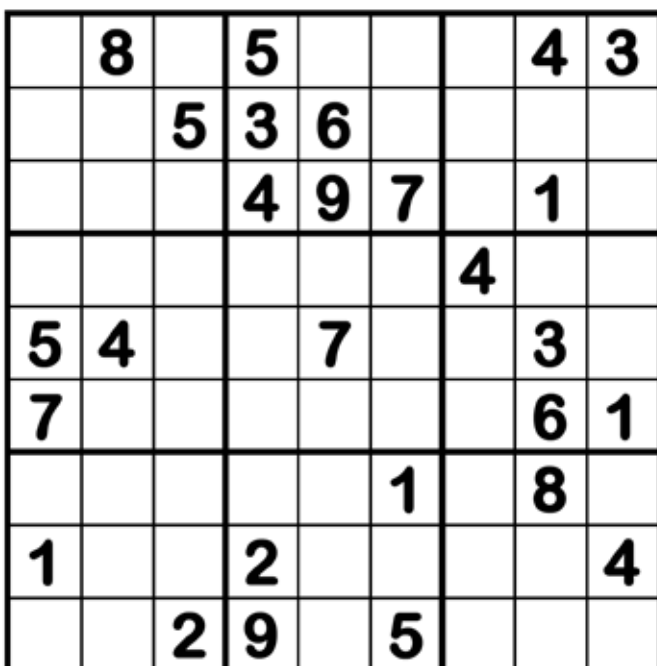
CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Peter I, for one
5. Border plant
10. Sailors' call
14. Altar location
15. White vegetable
16. Ice cream holder
17. Football option
18. Girder material
19. Comedienne Imogene
20. "Halt!"
21. Verse of four measures
23. Show fear
25. Dead letters?
26. Kind of cord
28. Chill out
33. Unrefined
34. Energize, with "up"
35. Block
36. Hourly charge
37. Bet
38. Look after

SUDOKU



39. Chowed down
40. Neglected boy
41. Abstain
42. Middle Age
44. Plow's trail
45. "Gosh!"
46. Heart line
47. Smelly pranks
52. Desire
55. Fashion designer Chanel
56. Circa
57. Showy flower
58. Unpleasant smell, US spelling
59. Hangman's knot
60. Air show stunt
61. Strengthen, with "up"
62. Dissuade
63. Increase the risks, with "up the"
9. Darkroom apparatus
10. Click the OK button
11. Knee-slapper
12. One time
13. Academic period
22. Demeanor
24. Is no longer
26. "Beat it!"
27. Go on and on
28. Watch
29. Square
30. Mental lapse
31. Argentine dance
32. Fund
34. Buddhist leader
37. Range of frequencies
38. Mexican staple
40. Nerdy one
41. Animal hair
43. Slight, in a way
44. Encourage
46. Bullying, e.g.
47. Kilt wearer
48. Type of list
49. Desktop feature
50. Double-reed instrument
51. Open to question
53. Congeal
54. Extravagant publicity

Crossword solution page 35

CAN YOU NAME IT?

Identify these words that begin with "CAN".

1. A can that gives light. _____
2. A can that is sweet. _____
3. A can that is truthful. _____
4. A can that is a savage. _____
5. A can that is a country. _____
6. A can that crosses off. _____
7. A can that is a way a horse runs. _____
8. A can you can row in. _____
9. A can that is an astronomical sign. _____
10. A can taken on hikes. _____
11. A can that is a fruit. _____
12. A can that is a Chinese language. _____
13. A can used to paint on. _____
14. A can that is used for irrigation. _____
15. A can that is a bird. _____
16. A can that is a card game. _____