

THE TRIANGLE

COMMUNITY NEWS

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QUAAMA COBARGO BERMAGUI TILBA & LOCALITIES

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Another 20 years of woodchipping our forests —yes or no?

Two current Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) which allow further industrial logging of our local native forests for woodchips are due to be renewed in 2019 and 2021. There is little time to have your say as submissions are due by 23 February 2018.

The Great Southern Forest (GSF) initiative proposes to safeguard over 432,000 hectares of our native forests.

Thirty-five community groups, businesses and environmental NGOs have now joined the South East Region Conservation Alliance (SERCA), National Parks Association of NSW, and the National Trust NSW to promote a shift in the management of State Forests—to move from timber extraction while maximising environmental and financial outcomes.

‘The RFA process fails economically and environmentally and is out of step with current climate pressures,’ says Dr Bronte Somerset of SERCA. ‘The value of the forests has increased and carbon sequestration is more important than ever before, with more jobs possible in forest landscape restoration and eco-tourism.’

Grahame Douglas, NPA NSW, applauds the principles of the Great Southern Forest (GSF) proposal. ‘There are cultural reasons why people want to protect areas,’ he says. ‘The south eastern forests and elevated landscapes represent important and unique refugia for biodiversity. Climate change requires adaptation and mitigation; this means forest protection.’

‘The GSF will safeguard our forests, foster Indigenous involvement in forest management, lift regional employment, and protect biodiversity and wildlife,’ adds Dr Rosemary Beaumont, GSF.

Sean Burke, GSF Steering Group, maintains: ‘We need to stop woodchipping and deliver outcomes for biodiversity, clean water, clean air, rich soils, climate, spiritual healing and enlightenment.’ He asks, ‘Why are we subsidising a sector which is causing so much

damage to the natural environment?’

That is the very question GSF supporters are now asking the state and federal governments. There are wiser options ensuring the long term future of our forests.

Paul Payten

HAVE YOUR SAY. See page 28 for Bronte Somerset’s step-by-step guide for online submissions. Submissions are due by 23 February.



Bernie Anderson with Turtle the Rein-cow at the very successful Light-up Cobargo in December

If you just dropped in you would be forgiven in thinking we just have fun in our beautiful south coast Triangle region. We are tipping into a cascade of festivals—the Four Winds' Summer Sounds flows into the harvest of delights at the Cobargo Show, then a feast of sounds, talents and ideas at the Cobargo Folk Festival. And it doesn't stop there—the lively, creative and fun-filled Bermagui Seaside

Fair is followed by enriching inspiration at Sculpture Bermagui with all our Easter celebrations just over the horizon.

And other things are going on—decisions are being made about our magnificent forests. With enormous work by local communities, the Murrah Reserve is being established with a deeply considered, innovative plan of management to safeguard the south east's last koala

colony. The future fate of the whole of south coast forests hangs in the balance this year. The choice is whether to continue woodchipping for another 20 years—or to re-orient forest management to climate stability, diverse economic benefit and increased employment.

You can have a say in this—see Bronte Somerset's guide to making a submission on page 28.

Letters to the editors

Open letter to BVSC

I have a few questions about the Sapphire Cove development in Bermagui that is currently being advertised and sold.

As this is probably the largest sub-development being sold at the moment in the Shire it seems strange that there is nothing about it on the Council's website, nor has there been in the lead up.

From what I understand from the original sale by the Bermagui Country Club to Paynter Dixon there was to be provision for low cost housing and provision for multiple occupancy (ie, small units on the one block). Is this still a requirement?

There are roughly 170 lots for sale. Where is the environmental impact statement? This number of new houses will have a severe impact on the water supply, the sewerage system and traffic. Parbery Avenue is a very small street - has this been taken into account?

How come Sapphire Cove is being sold when there is no infrastructure in place? With Council's new push towards renewable energy are there any requirements for the new buildings to be solar powered?

Looking forward to your response,

*Louise Brown
Wandella*

... and Council's Response

Good morning Louise,

Please see the below response to your enquiry regarding the Sapphire Cove development at Bermagui.

Information regarding the adopted masterplan for the Sapphire Cove development is contained in Clause 7.3 of Bega Valley Development Control Plan 2013 (BVLEP 2013): Bega Valley De-

velopment Control Plan 2013 [eds: this link was broken as of going to print]

DA 2010.271 was approved for an 18 lot subdivision with a residue lot, dated 22 March 2011, as stage one of this development. A modification was then lodged to change the number of lots to 14 with a residue, which was approved 23 December 2014. Attached above is a copy of Modified Development Consent 2010.271. Any works relating to this DA must be carried out in accordance with the conditions of this Consent.

Please note it is a private approved development and accordingly not a matter for Council's website.

Council does not regulate the sale of lots prior to subdivision completion. Council's role is as the Consent Authority and Certifying Authority only.

Should you wish to view further information from Council records in relation to the development, you may request this by lodging a GIPA application with Council. I have attached a copy of this application form should you wish to pursue this. Please note that a fee of \$30 applies for this service, in accordance with Council's Adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges 2017-2018.

I trust this clarifies your enquiry. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Erin Kluit

Planning Department, BVSC

Listen, Council ...

Thank you, *Triangle*, for the valuable role you play in providing a voice for the community at a time when local councils have been given increased responsibil-

ity to make decisions that are likely to have long term effects on our magnificent coastal environment. These decisions may have little consideration for the wishes of the people who live here, and scant regard for animals and the environment.

We need to convince local government to capitalise on the natural advantages which make this such a desirable place to live and not allow it to become another Gold Coast.

The old responsibilities for roads, rates, bridges and rubbish should be expanded to embrace the Aboriginal ideals of custodianship of the land, and respect for animals.

Best wishes,

*Susan Cruttenden
Dalmeny*

Christmas spirit saves a much-loved pet

Professionalism, dedication, expertise, skill, common sense and empathy: qualities shared by the team at our Cobargo Vet Clinic. I saw this first-hand at 10.30 pm on Christmas night, when my Great Dane was rushed into their Bega operating theatre with no less than three vets on hand, to try and save the life of my local identity pet (and best buddy) Jensen, who was struck down with 'bloat'.

Intensive care followed the three-plus hours of surgery which proved to be a remarkable success. Cobargo is very fortunate to have access to first-class pet and animal care in general.

It's difficult to give enough thanks and praise to the local team. My boy is recovering well, but has now broken toes in a front foot and taken the pad from his back leg! Hopefully his

DISCLAIMER

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Letters (cont.)

bad luck has come in threes, and he is now on the road to a happier 2018.

Pam and Jensen Keenan

A plea to cat owners

In spring I often saw a pair of bronze-wing pigeons in our yard, using the birdbath and strutting around in that comical, nodding way that pigeons have. Soon I noticed that the male was on his own, and hoped—*hoped*—that his mate was sitting on a clutch of eggs somewhere. But by now I should have seen her, and some young-uns—but no sign.

And today I saw the male sitting on the birdbath, his wing bleeding. He won't be around much longer either.

I used to have a cat. I loved him dearly and when he died I was immobilised with grief. I do understand. But that was when I lived in the city and was ignorant about birds, reptiles and small marsupials. Moving to Quaama brought home to me the incredible diversity in my own garden. I'll never have a cat again.

Cats do not, will never have, a place in the Australian environment. If you have a cat, please keep it inside. Cats hunt *day and night* so just keeping them in at night does not solve the problem. And please desex your cat, in case it gets out.

*Jen Severn
Quaama*

An AKT Eco-Edge Winner



Tom Alderman, aged 9, of Cobargo School being presented with his Eco-Edge competition prize by Linda Sang at Well Thumbed Books in Cobargo. Tom won with his poem *A Place I like to be*. He shared his prize with Heather Muirhead, aged 10, of Quaama School for her environmental word puzzle. Photo taken by Tom's mum Amanda. See page 5 for another AKT winner.

Thumbs Up



To local businesses who employ local kids and give them their first work experiences.

To the drivers of their cars who left them outside the pub on New Year's Eve and caught the pub bus home. Thanks.

To Bega Council for erecting the new sign within 24 hours at Wallaga Lake Beach to make it clear it is a Dogs on Lead area.

A massive thank you to the thoughtful person who found two sets of keys on Ridge Rd, Coorunna, and left them at Bates Store. Forever grateful to you.

And a big thumbs up for the Triangle Team for the Dec/Jan Bumper Summer Issue.

Thumbs Down

To

the kids who entered the Cobargo School of Arts Hall, took all the fire extinguishers and emptied them into Narira Creek, then on another time unrolled rolls of toilet paper all over the stage. Silliness.



To the people who ignore the signage on our beaches and waterways and allow dogs to romp around, disturbing the endangered birdlife unique to this area—Pied Oyster Catchers and Little Terns to name just two species. This summer the number of nesting birds is at an all-time low. Keep your dogs on lead and please take away your dog poo with you. Pristine waters do not stay pristine with people and their dogs relieving themselves on the shorelines.

To the people who dumped an enormous amount of fish waste at the boat ramp in Fairhaven, leaving a rotten, stinking mess in the environment and for the disgusted residents who live nearby.



Who does the work

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Advertising: 12pm, 19th of each month
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Advertisers please note that an extra fee may be charged for initial ad layout.

Letters to the editor

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

The Editors,
The Triangle
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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, boosted to 2300 in December so there's enough for visitors.

The holidays are over now and for many it's time to get back to whatever normal is, whether that's work or just a break from hosting family and friends that tend to come around this time of year.

We saw quite a few changes in 2017. We lost our friend Mark and welcomed babies Sasha Rose, Hanno and Ava Hope into our community. We planted 100 trees that will flower and provide shade for decades to come.

Thanks to a dedicated few, we have a tennis court for anyone to use who is interested. We have a handy new street library out the front of the Hall. Our local school has gone from strength to strength with expanded enrolment. The

scenic walking track from the bottom of Bega Street to the cemetery, along Dry River, has been weeded and planted.

Our Men's Shed is so popular it causes a Wednesday morning traffic jam on Bermagui Street. They've secured so much grant money, the rest of the Triangle's committees are jealous. Bound to be lots of activity there this year.

We celebrated the engagement, then marriage, between Debbie and Sharon, which is now legally recognised in Australia!

Our little church has seen a lot of change too. They said farewell to Pastor Joy Harris and have been enjoying the ebullient although temporary min-

istrations of Mandy Wheatley since her departure. New pastor Tim Narraway has now taken up the role. New parishioners are always welcome.

It's been quite a year. So much of what has been accomplished is thanks to local volunteer groups. The Hall Committee past and present, the QPA, the RFS, the Tennis Club, the Men's Shed and Dry River Landcare have all made contributions that have improved our village. Our volunteers deserve a big thank you. Should you feel inspired, we hope you will consider joining a group that shares your interests and helping to make 2018 another great year for Quaama.

Happy New Year!

Valentine's Day Buffet Dinner Dance at Quaama Hall

The Quaama Progress Association invites you to celebrate Valentine's Day this year at the Quaama Hall. Between 6.00 and 10.00 pm on Wednesday 14 February, the QPA will host a 1950s-themed dinner dance. The Quaama Quiisine team will cater a delicious buffet dinner of hot and cold treats, both savoury and sweet, including a selection of vegetarian and gluten free morsels. Tea, coffee, non-alcoholic fruit punch and water will be provided along with wine glasses and tumblers for your BYO alcohol. Lucky table and lots of other prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

Everyone is welcome! So whether you are single, a couple or plan to make up a party, it's time to dust off your dancing shoes, dig out your 1950s apparel and have a great night at a wonderful local



Book now for the Valentine's Day Buffet Dinner Dance at Quaama Hall!

venue. We encourage everyone to come along. Places at our special 'Singles Mingle' table are already proving popular!

Tickets for the dance and buffet din-

ner are \$25 each and pre-payment is essential as numbers are limited. Tickets can be paid for in cash or via direct deposit and then collected at the Cobargo Creators Centre or at the venue on the night.

Contact Joanne Cole on 0427 937 291, at vjc2@bigpond.com or Facebook: Quaama Progress Association Inc. to book your tickets.

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Quintessentially Quaama

Community BBQ on Sunday 4 February

The committee managing the Quaama School of Arts Hall on behalf of the community and council has undergone significant change in the last few months. Join us for a gathering on Sunday 4 February from 11 am so we can talk about what the committee has already achieved, the changes made to hall booking and usage processes, and the best ways for Quaama community members to be involved in keeping our wonderful old community building sound and usable by all.



The new Supper Room stairs

Already we have had the steep old stairs to the supper room replaced and we've built a temporary but still sturdy ramp that means we have—finally—wheeled access to the supper room. Renovation of the eastern side veranda and stairs starts very soon. Other developments include a clear-out of all the small rooms and the kitchen with a lot of items reclaimed by their owners and numerous others identified as no longer needed.

The gathering on 4 February will

start with a garage sale of excess hall items including some building materials. Some items will be free. Then we'll discuss our planned projects, an opportunity to give us feedback on how the hall should be used into the future. And we'll explain exactly how community members can be involved in all projects, including without needing to be on the committee. Then the committee will host a BBQ for the community—contributions of salad please, with everything else provided by us.

We always need more committee members and, as we can have up to 12 on our committee, there's plenty of room for anyone who would like to join and help us to liaise with Council, manage our funds and grants and to lead the numerous projects that need to be undertaken to restore and keep our wonderful old community building sound and usable by all. Our committee currently meets on the second Thursday of each month from 10 am and all community members are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on 4 February from 11 am.

From the Quaama SoA Hall committee members

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Quaama kids shine

Rose Thompson, aged six, of Quaama won the Eco-Edge Competition (K-2 division) last year for her illustrated poem *Sparkling Bugs*. She won \$150. What will she spend it on? 'I'm saving up for a microscope so I can look at blood cells!' Heather Muirhead, aged ten, also of Quaama School, was joint winner of the Years 3 and 4 division for her clever word puzzle about whaling.



Rose Thompson plans to put her winnings towards a microscope!

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Quintessentially Quaama

Quaama RFS Report

Happy New Year, hoping all had a pleasant festive season.

With the summer finally heating up and some good rain, the growth in the Bega Valley is looking just beautiful. But if we now have a dry period this growth can become a fire danger, so please do not become complacent—remain vigilant and careful.

We have a dilemma in the Rural Fire Service. If there's no rain it poses a fire risk. If it does rain, the resultant growth then dries—fire risk. The brigade is stuck in the middle of this dilemma.

We always need more people interested in helping the Quaama RFS. Not all members need to be fire fighters—we are all volunteers, after all.

On Saturday 17 February we're holding a 'Meet the Brigade' event at the Quaama Outstation, at 1211 Upper Brogo Rd. All are welcome, but especially the residents of Verona and Upper Brogo. There are new people liv-



Operational Officer of Bega Fire Control, Tamsyne Harlen (second from right), with the Quaama crew at a training day last month

ing there that we wish to meet so we can formulate a fire plan with you.

It starts at 1.30 pm. We'll be putting on a barbecue. Just bring something to drink. Please come if you can—it's important! Meet us, talk over some ideas, get some information and formulate a fire plan. It could save your life.

Until later ... stay safe, enjoy your garden and remain vigilant.

*Graeme Spicer
Community Engagement Officer,
Quaama RFS*

Results from the Frugal Fair

Winners in the Cooking competition, judged by Mark from the Cobargo Hotel kitchen: Entrée – Bhagya, Main – Kim Taylor, Dessert – Maree Copping, Overall Champion – Kim Taylor.

Raffle prizes of the Benny's Butchery meat pack (1st) and the Cobargo Train voucher and cook book (2nd) were both won by local Quaama residents.

Art, Craft and Collectibles Fair at Quaama Hall on Saturday 14 April

The QPA is planning this event for April with valuers and dealers in attendance to appraise your treasures.

Expressions of interest from interested valuers, vendors, providores and general stall holders should be directed to Glennda Heino on 0408 411 956 or by emailing glenndah@hotmail.com.

Further information will be provided in the March Triangle.

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The weather is warming up and the gardens are growing in the Tilba area. The annual glut of zucchini is upon us once more and recipes are being frantically swapped to use up this amazingly prolific vegetable. It's lovely to see Joel and Taylor's Market Garden—'Belly Up Farm' at Clonlea, Victoria Creek, coming to fruition and producing a variety of salad greens (and yes, zucchini!) for the SCPA market stall each week. Belly Up Farm came about as a result of a SCPA Newsletter detailing local land-share opportunities—a mutually beneficial arrangement for time-poor land-owners wishing to maximise their land usage and those interested in leasing land for organic food production. Joel and Taylor (and baby Marlow) will also deliver a weekly box of beautiful fresh organic produce (15 mins drive radius at this stage) including delights such as beans, lettuce, radish, beet-root. Contact joelcentra@gmail.com or call 0414 401 958 to arrange your order. Keep it up guys, you're doing an amazing job!

Talking of markets, Tilba's has been very busy all over the summer holidays with both tourists and local residents alike taking advantage of all the wonderful produce and handmade gifts available. It's great to have such a vibrant community hub happening each week.

Most people are aware that unfortunately the Tilba Festival will not be taking place this Easter, due to lack of volunteers to make it happen. On the upside, there are some murmurs of interest from people committed to volunteering on the next Festival Committee (which is a sub-committee of the Tilba Chamber of Commerce) to ensure it happens next year. If you feel like putting up your hand please

let Pete Lonergan at the Lolly Shop know. That way, planning can start early for an even better festival experience in 2019.

The Tilba Halls are being used more and more, the beautiful new floor in the Small Hall being much admired. There will be a choice of three regular yoga classes (see separate advert) commencing the first week of February,



Gretel Bodiam, who owns and manages Bellbird Cottage in Bermagui, won Tilba CWA's Christmas Raffle. The prize was drawn at Tilba Market in December by Philip Mawer who co-coordinates the SCPA stall.

regular tap dancing starts again end of January and various one-off workshops and events happening in the next month or two including Cheryl Davison and South Coast storyteller Annie Bryant in the Small Hall (see story on page 9).

Massive thanks to Harry Bate for securing a grant to sort out the acoustics in the Big Hall and thereby increase its use for musical functions and

events—he put a great deal of his time into this and we are most grateful that his diligence paid off! The Committee themselves are hard at work planning events and priority works for 2018, congratulations to new President Deb Elton.

The CWA Room underneath the Small Hall will be on the list this year to complete and is a high priority for our fundraising activities. Halls Committee members Robyn and Tony have been going great guns selling Trash'n'Treasure and the foodie arm of the Committee will step in and provide tea, coffee and cakes plus a sausage sizzle over the Easter weekend as a fundraiser to feed our visitors whilst some of our food establishments are closed for a well-earned break. Another Hairy Concert variety bash for your entertainment is also in the early stages of development, so watch this space ...

The Tilba Food Share continues its monthly gathering, bringing together like-hearted people who are interested in sharing and promoting community food security. The next one will be held on Sunday 4 February from 10 am to 12 noon at 23 Lamont Young Drive, Mystery Bay. All welcome to attend. Bring your excess home grown produce and gardening extras, such as fruit, vegetables, herbs, eggs, seeds, seedlings, manure, worm juice, preserves etc, plus a plate of morning

tea to share. Tea and coffee are provided. If weather is bad, ring first to check the share is on. Details from Mog 0401 968 899, or Annie annie.fenn5@gmail.com.

The Tilba CWA will meet in the Small Hall on February 12 (9.30 am for handicrafts, 10 am til 11 am meeting). Their monthly Pop-up Cafes and quarterly raffles are their main fundraising initiatives. Don't miss out on your chance to win their current raffle (to be drawn in April) which is a beautiful Italian-themed offering of a pasta machine, cookbooks, colander, wine, olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Tickets are available at the weekly markets and at the Pop-Up Cafes in the Tilba Small Hall on the second Saturday of the month from 9 am to 12 noon throughout 2018. Tilba CWA members serve freshly brewed coffee and tea with delicious cakes, slices and biscuits. All locals and visitors are welcome to attend the next Café on Saturday 10 February.



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Sharing a cuppa at CWA's pop up cafe



Sally Pryor and Janine Halasz of Tilba CWA with Tristan Diethelm at Tilba CWA's Café in January. Tristan is a builder from Sydney who purchased Tilba's River Cottage property. Tristan was holidaying in Tilba with his Mum and gardener Matt to make improvements to the property which is now running as a B&B. Tristan is enjoying Tilba's community spirit and the beautiful landscape.

Farewell Comrade

The end of last year saw us farewell our favourite 'non-member' and a dear friend, multi-talented craftsman, great cook and intelligent wit Val Halasz, who sadly lost his fight with cancer much too early. His funeral was a beautiful and moving tribute to his life and those of us who were fortunate to have known him will all miss him terribly.

His wife, and our CWA President, Janine Halasz writes, 'A sincere thank you from Janine, Lee, Brad and families for your support for us after the passing of Val on 19 December and at his goodbye at Tilba Cemetery on 22 December. We also appreciate your generosity in support of the fantastic local Palliative Care Service - we have raised just on \$3,000.'

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Tilba RFS report

The past month has been eventful, and we are pleased to report we have four new prospective members.

We most enthusiastically welcome them and look forward to their contribution to the Brigade.

During the months of December and January we attended a number of call outs including small fires, motor vehicle accidents and the like.

There was one fire in Tilba Tilba to which we were not called. This incident illustrates a couple of very significant matters, and we all should take note.

One of our local well known residents was applying tung oil to some woodwork he had caringly been working on. He threw the used rags in the waste bin of his kitchen after using them—unaware that such rags can spontaneously combust when treated that way.

He awoke to find all his work on fire, and emitting vast amounts of smoke. He managed to put the raging fire out, but did suffer injury, needing medical attention.

A major catastrophe was averted because the smoke was detected in time, and he was able to act quickly with the support of his family who broke the window and allowed the smoke to clear at least at ground level.

His initial attempts to put the fire out were thwarted by complete lack of visibility and overwhelming smoke. At that time he had no idea of the cause or source of the fire. Certainly, the fire was a threat to the whole building.

Rags with linseed oil or tung oil are equally hazardous. This is a generally overlooked hazard, and we caution all to be aware of this risk.

For more information it could be worth your consulting Google.

However, this incident is a powerful reminder that we should ring 000 before attempting to extinguish a fire ourselves.

The resident did suffer both smoke inhalation and burns, but more importantly he risked a catastrophic fire and potentially fatal injury. This should be a warning to all of us.

Tilba Fire Brigade wishes all a wonderful 2018.

Harry Bate

Tilba Bites

Storytelling at Tilba

If you missed the first Storytelling event at the Central Tilba Small Hall on Sunday 28 January, never mind, there's another, on Sunday 4 February, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Yuin artist Cheryl Davison of Central Tilba and storyteller and songwriter Annie Bryant of Cobargo have come together to present *Gulaga: then, now and forever*, an afternoon in the Dreamtime through story, song and sharing.

Cheryl Davison is known for her exquisite paintings depicting her cultural landscape and for her storytelling in which she shares her personal understanding of some of the stories told and shared for generations. Cheryl said, 'Our people are all connected. From Sydney to Eden, we share the stories.'

Annie Bryant is a professional storyteller, singer and songwriter. Her recent CD, *Listen to the Land*, is 'dedicated to the people who have listened to it for thousands of years and to all who are listening now'. Annie has researched and composed new material for this unique, local event.

Families are encouraged to bring cushions and rugs to get up close and comfy, but there'll be chairs for those who



Cheryl Davison and Annie Bryant

don't bend so well. Admission is \$20 per family and includes finger food, catered by Neck of the Woods Café. For enquiries

and bookings for catering please ring or text Annie on 0435 759 732 or email Cathie at cathiemuller@optusnet.com.au.
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Oh Cobargo, here we are, the end of the first month of yet another year. With 2017 behind us, the home of the big zucchini is looking forward into the year 2018 with a sense of anticipation and abundance. It's January, the relentless holiday traffic whizzes past, caravans clog the streets and there is an insect buzz in the air. We pause to see the tomatoes ripen, take a breath of hot summer air, and reflect ... Another silly season done, tick.

Light up Cobargo went off like a firecracker. Something of a cosmopolitan phenomenon as street food vendors sweated over hot woks and brass bands and buskers played and shops stayed open way past 5pm! And there were people, people, people ... you could have been anywhere, but indeed you were in Cobargo and it was fantastic!

AND then of course we did the Christmas thing, and whether you were dragged through it kicking and screaming or wore a Santa hat or Christmas bell earrings for weeks, I think I can safely say we are all glad that's over ... And so now on to this new year, with the Cobargo Show and Folk Festival just over the next hill, this year is heating up like it always does, it's summer and it's Cobargo.

We are almost done with January already, things have been happening. A gallery opening at the Lazy Lizard with the wonderful *Paperwork and Printed Matter* Exhibition by Doris Hoyne and Naomi Lewis, which you might still catch if you're quick ... Yet another fabulous Doco at the butter factory and a few merry little Saturday morning markets, which are now boasting a fish monger! We also have a hot new night spot. WHAT?! Yes! Sweet Home Cobargo in its latest incar-



Out of the bush, bringing bundles of goodies. Marco at SOAHHh ... Saturday?

nation is restobar-ing it up with regularity on Thursday and Friday nights, and you should definitely check it out for something tasty and perhaps a beer or two.

So now on to some future happenings to jot down in your shiny new calendars...

In a few short weeks Cobargo will have its first ever 'Village Artist' in residency. Aurelia Monfort, a French artist, will be with us for three months, undertaking a range of creative and immersive activities. Unlike your traditional artist-in-residency where an artist may lock themselves away in a studio and get high on oil paints, Aurelia hopes to work with the community to create a collaborative multimedia 'portrait of Cobargo', inquiring into concepts around identity and belonging, especially with the young people of the area. She has an amazing variety of media in her suitcase, including film, mask-making, drama and mime ... It's a very exciting opportunity to have fun and create things and I would encourage everyone to get into it. She already has dates booked at the Cobargo Show, the Folk Festival and the Cobargo Creators Centre on 17 February.

Thanks so much to Sapphire Mediated Resolutions, Connor Ross Sounds, The Cobargo Folk Festival and the Bower Bird Op Shop for financing the Village Artist project and making it free and accessible to everyone. The project still needs sugar daddies and mummies to reach its awesome potential so if you're keen and fancy yourself a philanthropist of sorts please email Suzy McKinnon at suzymc@ozemail.com.au

So ahhh ... another exciting thing that's been cooking for the past few months in the Cobargo School of Arts Hall is 'SOAHHh ... Saturday?' This local once-a-monther is well worth checking out.

A community, family-orientated event activating the local hall, including a pop-up cafe, and possible spontaneous and less spontaneous happenings, and of course many laughs and good times. Last month we saw a Latino fiesta of sorts, boasting a delicious cook-up of central and South American yum-mies and a pineapple piñata! They pop up on the last Saturday of the month so keep an eye out for the next one.

Of course it's festival season right around the corner and whether it's giant pumpkins and bull-riding that gets you hot or rainbow flags and fiddles, here in Cobargo we have you covered. I personally can't wait!

The Cobargo Show is opening on the 10th and 11th so don't forget to enter your giant zucchinis, zucchini pickles and zucchini jam in the show, it's bound to be a good comp this year! And then of course the Cobargo Folk Festival, now on the first weekend of March with yet another killer line-up—don't forget to get your tickets. See you all there! X

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Cobargo Conversations

It's Showtime in Cobargo 10-11 February

Cobargo Show is so close we can smell the hay, Dagwood dogs, bacon and egg rolls and maybe a little bit of manure!



There'll be two full days of jumping this year

New to the line-up this year are grass skiing, otto bin races, bubble soccer, a lawn mower race and a wife-carrying contest, which is sure to be a crowd favourite and pit neighbour against neighbour.

This year our Cobargo co-op senior campdraft will be held over Friday and Saturday night. Saturday night will also feature music at the bar from the Gary Carson Jones duo.

Sunday's entertainment will include team sorting, steer and heifer rides along with the popular Cobargo Hotel, Momen Motors and Carlton Brewery Rodeo!

Chainsaw events are growing in participation and becoming a solid fixture of our packed entertainment program, including post ripping, saw races, disc stacking and the feature event 'tree felling'! All chainsaw enquiries to June or Richard Tarlinton on 6493 7263.

Our horse events are historically well-represented, given such a small town. Saturday will have a full hack program, with the heavy horses, harness events and novelties on Sunday. Show jumpers will enjoy two full days of jumping, with competition for all levels of competitors and the awesome six-bar jump on Saturday arvo!

Cobargo showgirls will be competing and presenting at the show. Please have a chat and congratulate them if you see them on the ground and wish Sally Hoyer the best of luck for the zone showgirl comp in March.

And don't forget to enter your goodies in the Pavilion!

Full info available on our website www.cobargoshow.org.au, or Cobargo Show and Rodeo on Facebook.

Bec Miller



2018 Showgirl Sally Hoyer, Junior Showgirl Claudia Bartlett, Runner-up Brooke Bartlett, Junior Runner-up Ashley Evans

The Wedding - Happily Ever After

Well Thumbed Books, with the writer/director Robyn Freedman, is planning to stage a play in October. It will be a fund raiser for the Cobargo School of Arts.

First of all it was going to be Dimboola—theatre and food, right up our alley—then we read the play and agreed it was very dated and we could do better, especially with Robyn's input.

It will still be a wedding—we're working on the title—which to our delight involves an audience who will be the wedding guests with all the benefits.

So we are calling on all budding thespians, from grumpy old men to angelic flower girls and naughty page boys, previous experience unnecessary, to contact Robyn Freedman on 0410 525 968, Louise Brown on 0416 039 895, or you can call in and leave details at Well Thumbed Books. The auditions will be friendly and informal and we promise you much fun and the feel-good factor of supporting the Cobargo School of Arts.

Expressions of interest close on Friday 23 March. After that the fun begins.

Louise Brown

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kids' activities, comedy, Ideas from the Edge, poets, camping, food, bar
& market stalls.

For more info and early bird tickets go to www.cobargofolkfestival.com

Cobargo Folk Festival starts on 2 March, 2018

The Cobargo Folk Festival was formed by the Yuin Folk Club for the purpose of promoting folk music, lore and dance to the far south coast. The intention was to emphasise the multicultural and indigenous nature of Australia's music today and to promote opportunities for the many local and talented musicians.

When the late Cec Cox moved to Brogo from the Illawarra, he and other enthusiastic folk, Elizabeth Andalis, Margaret Opie, Len Morris, Beryl Schaeffer and many others decided to introduce a Festival, influenced by the Illawarra Folk Festival.

From its inception the first Cobargo Folk Festival in 1996 attracted high profile performers such as Eric Bogle, The Waifs, Jim Haynes, Damon Davies, John Dengate and many, many more. It was a very ambitious program, predominantly folk, but included many other genres including poetry. The Festival was held in the village of Cobargo, for the first four years but then, because of its being on the Princes Highway, the organisers moved it to the Cobargo Showground for safety reasons.

The move proved to be advantageous. The Showground had camping facilities and room for expanding a range of venues.

Over the years the Crossing Youth Venue was introduced and was also very popular.

Now in its 23rd year, the Cobargo Folk Festival has grown to be a major event on the south coast calendar.

Global Music Legends at the 2018 Cobargo Folk Festival

Andy Irvine, one of the most influential performers in Irish and world music, will join other legends Eric Bogle and Neil Murray at this year's Cobargo Folk Festival on the first weekend in March.

'We are thrilled that both Eric and Andy are appearing at the 2018 Festival. Eric's contribution to Australian folk music is extraordinary. And we are delighted that Andy—a frequent visitor to Australia—has been able to make time in his busy sched-



Eric Bogle—just one headline act at this year's Cobargo Folk Festival on the first weekend in March.

Photo: Wayne Richmond

ule to play at Cobargo next year,' said Festival Artistic Director, Dave Crowden.

'Andy's influence on folk and world music over five decades is incalculable. His travels around the Balkans in the late 1960s brought the fascinating rhythms and harmonies of that music into the Celtic folk revival,' he said.

Also performing are ten international acts from such diverse countries as East Timor, Greece, Canada, the UK, the US and Ireland.

'This is one of the best line-ups in the 23 years of the festival,' Dave said. 'Over the years, the festival has built a big reputation with both Australian and international acts, with our beautiful location and relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

'Now that the festival will be held a week later than usual, we are more closely aligned to the other major festivals around the country and that makes us a more attractive option for touring performers,' he said.

Andy Irvine was a member of the enormously influential Planxty in the 70s, then joined other supergroups including Patrick Street and more recently, Usher's Island, with Mike McGoldrick, Donal Lunny and Paddy Glackin.

At Cobargo he will be joined by Australia's Luke Plumb, for many years a driving force of Scottish folk rockers, Shooglenifty. Luke recently pro-

duced and played on Andy's most recent album, *Precious Heroes*, which will be released at the Cobargo Festival.

Candelo based singer/multi-instrumentalist Kate Burke and her musical partner Ruth Hazleton, who also guested on Andy's new album, will be at Cobargo with their own show.

Andy will be pleased to meet another of his friends at Cobargo, legendary Greek singer, Chrysoula Kechagioglou who brings her all-woman group *Purpura* to Australia for the first time, though she has toured previously with other bands from Greece.

Sticking to the 'legends' theme, Belfast piper John McSherry along with fiddler Donal O'Connor will make their first appearance at the Cobargo Festival.

The Festival is also proud to announce the appearance of singer/songwriter Ego Lemos from East Timor. Ego is a legend in that country, both for his music and for his environmental credentials and his promotion of permaculture. His song, *Balibo*, featured in the 2009 film of that name and won the award for best original song composed for the screen at the Screen Music Awards and also an APRA award for best song in a film.

More information: www.cobargofolkfestival.com or search for Cobargo Folk Festival on Facebook.

New Fire Danger Rating sign for Cobargo

Cobargo residents and visitors may have noticed the new Fire Danger Rating sign recently erected near the Hotel, on the corner of Princes Highway and Bega Street.

Designed to keep the community informed of the prevailing Fire Danger Rating, the new sign is another community service initiative of the Brigade. It is important to understand what each of the ratings means, and what we should do in each situation.

CATASTROPHIC – Critically high temperatures, very strong high-speed gusting winds and very low humidity are the very worst conditions for bushfires, with the likelihood of little or no warning of a rapidly approaching fire front. No properties in areas where a bushfire can start will be defensible.

For your survival, leaving early is the only option—do not just wait and see what happens. Pre-plan when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return.

EXTREME – Very hot, dry, windy conditions—a fire will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving, with flames reaching the tops of trees and higher than roof tops. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions, with little or no warning.

Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early



The new sign: It's important to understand what each of the ratings means

in the day. Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level, such as your home is specially designed, constructed or modified, and situated to withstand a fire, you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.

SEVERE - Hot, dry, possibly windy conditions. A fire may be uncontrollable and fast moving, with flames reaching the tops of trees and higher than roof tops. Embers may be blown ahead of the fire

and cause spot fires to start.

Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety—but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions. If you're not prepared, leave early in the day.

VERY HIGH - Hot and dry conditions. A fire will cause a threat and may or may not be easily controlled. Review your bush fire survival plan with your family. Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

HIGH – Warm and dry conditions. If a fire starts it will cause a threat and may or may not be easily controlled. Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

LOW - MODERATE – Relatively lower risk of fires starting, but keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

A reminder also that currently no fires may be lit without a permit from the RFS, and the RFS advises that the issuing of permits is currently restricted to genuine agricultural purposes.

For assistance regarding Fire Permits in the Cobargo area please contact Cobargo Brigade Captain Mark Ayliffe on 0427 936 476, or Bega Fire Control on (02) 6494 7400.

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Cobargo Conversations

CWA News

We start the New Year at CWA Cobargo with our brand new, completed commercial kitchen. We now have an excellent meeting room, plus a commercial kitchen, both available for community use at very low cost.

All enquiries re the rental please ring Mary Motbey on 6493 6428.

The loss of our friend and member Norma Allen on Saturday 20 January is felt by all members. She will be greatly missed not only at our branch but also throughout the CWA.

At the time of writing we are preparing for Australia Day with the additional excitement of the special Shire awards to two of our younger people from Cobargo.

This is the first time that this award has been given and when Bega Valley Shire realised that both winners were from Cobargo they decided to make the presentation at the Cobargo Australia Day celebrations.

Another instance of the talent that abounds in this village of ours! Well done to the winners!

The CWA meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30 am at the CWA Cottage on the Bermagui Road, next to the playground.

You are most welcome to join us for a cuppa. For more information, ring Mary Williams (Publicity Officer), on 6493 6167 or Lynne Jones (President) on 6493 8360.

Mary Williams,

Publicity Officer, Cobargo CWA



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Cobargo GP returns after 60 years

Dr Reuben Glass and his wife Pauline and their baby daughter Rachel arrived in Cobargo in early 1958 from Melbourne. It was Reuben's first country posting as a GP. There was a rent-free house available for a doctor. He was told about the house by Russell Pretty, a family friend from Melbourne who had retired and bought a farm at Dignams Creek. Sixty years later, in December, Dr Glass was back for a visit. May Blacka organised a get-together with a lot of old patients and friends at the Cobargo Hotel.

Before his stint as the Cobargo GP, Dr Glass had had specialist training in diagnosing paediatric heart conditions at the Children's Hospital in Melbourne. On the day he arrived in Cobargo he was called out to visit me at my parents' home in Galba. I was three years old.



No 3 Banks St, Cobargo, the doctor's cottage in 1958. Tim O'Neill (Deborah's partner), Deborah Glass (Reuben's daughter, now the State Ombudsman of Victoria), Kevin Allen (Gordon's brother), Reuben and Ann Glass (Reuben's first wife Pauline died 12 years ago)

He promptly diagnosed patent ductus and endarteritis and sent me to Sydney for surgery. He probably saved my life.

Gordon Allen

To the Co-op, our award Winners



Sidonie and Dan, proud staffers of the Co-op, Thrifty Link's 2017 Store of the Year for the south coast.

Sun sets on our Community Car

It is with a level of inevitability that I have to report the demise of the Cobargo community car.

Rego is due at the end of January and, although it still goes, it unfortunately needs repairs beyond the car's budget!

It has been a great little community asset and thanks go to Rowan and Harmony Dixon, who donated the car; Susan Bear, who bankrolled the initial rego and insurance costs; and Chris, Scott and Leah who have kept it on the road.

It is now for sale for a donation to the Cobargo SoA Hall.

If anyone in the community has a car they'd like to donate, just call into Well Thumbed Books!

Louise Brown

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Cobargo Conversations

Doco captures last Mali music festival

The next monthly community documentary screening in the Old Cobargo Butter Factory will be Sunday, 18 February at 3.30pm: *The Last Song before the War*, a film by Kiley Kraskouskas.

The Last Song before the War is a touching tribute to the legendary Festival au Désert that took place in Northern Mali from 2001 to 2012.

Masterfully interspersing footage of stunning musical performances from a variety of North African and international artists (Tinariwen, Oumou Sangaré), panoramic shots displaying the quiet beauty of the Sahara Desert, stirring images of legions of Tuareg nomads arriving by camel, and interviews with musicians, fans, and the event's founder, the documentary captures both the joy and the mounting tension of the Festival's final year before it was forced into exile when Islamic militants seized control of the region in 2012.

The producers have crafted a film equally appealing to world music aficionados, international wanderers, armchair travellers and global politics junkies alike.

View the trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jovfADZXRs

Coffee and tea provided - Bring your own mug. To cover the costs a \$5 donation is much appreciated. Please come in big numbers to keep more documentary screenings possible! Visit the website for more information: www.cobargodocos.wordpress.com

Lena



The audience arrives by camel for the legendary Festival au Désert.



Ask and ye shall receive ... in December we asked if anyone could identify this crew of willing workers who dug and built the Cobargo Pool back in 1968. Thanks to Gloria Gannon who put a name to each and every one. She married fourth-from-left, too—the cool, mysterious-looking dude in the black hat. (L-R) Don Shipton, Reg Jenkins, Gary Taylor, Lex Gannon, Jack Lucas, Neville Shipton, Peter Wiley, Fred Hankins, Horrie Maseyk, Wally Ferguson, Laurie Pankhurst, John Hore-Lacey.

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Is the 'best kept secret on the south coast' finally out? Has Bermagui become THE spot to vacation over the Christmas holiday break? Well, it sure seems like it. The town just bulged at the seams with visitors, especially between Christmas and New Year.

Several businesses I have spoken to said they have never seen so many people in town, and that it has been their best year ever.

Many locals are just shaking their heads, saying they avoided town completely during this busy period. And the poor young workers at Woollies just didn't know what hit them as never-seen-before queues formed at the checkouts.

Love them or hate them, Bermagui's tourist influx is the life blood of our town and businesses wait all year for the 'feast'. Congratulations to all those hard workers in cafes, restaurants, motels, units, shops and other businesses who did a fantastic job in keeping our visitors well fed, accommodated and entertained over the holidays.

And, it seems that many visitors to Bermagui have decided this is the place to live, judging by all the 'sold' signs on the new Sapphire Cove land release. Still, anyone who has seen the television advertisement must admit that it certainly shows Bermagui to be the real jewel in the crown on the south coast, and the place to live. Ready or not, we are in for a population boost in the next few years.

The things they say and do!

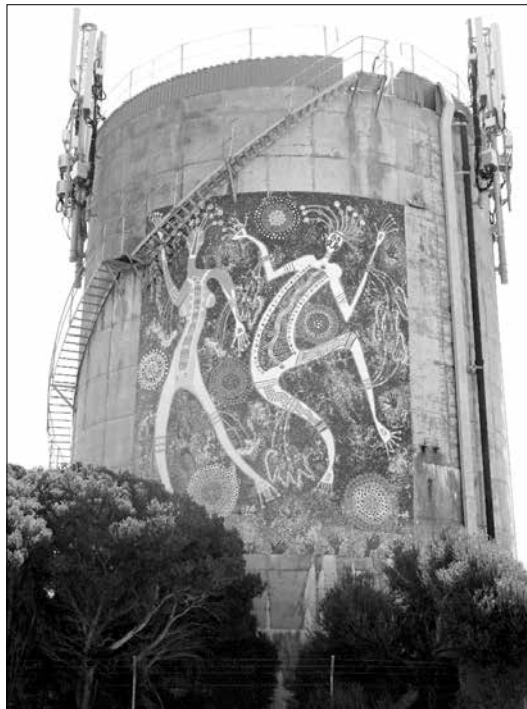
While a large proportion of our visitors are happy, relaxed and content with the laid back lifestyle of Bermagui, there are always a few who are never satisfied. Volunteers at the Visitor Information Centre have had many a laugh at some of the things people ask for. 'Where are the shops?' (Lamont Street) 'No, I mean the big shopping centre' (Er ... that's all we have here) 'Really, is that all?' Or the one who asked for a beach with warmer water because 'the ones here are too cold for the kids'.

Others come through at the peak of the tourist season and expect to find instant accommodation, 'on the beach'! Then, of course, you have those tourists who just don't care about our pristine environment and think it is OK to dump their caravan toilet waste wherever they choose, as was recently reported to have happened alongside a popular local walking track.

Water Tower ... Wow!

Often regarded as an eyesore and a blot on the Bermagui landscape, the water tower on Scenic Drive has recently become the canvas to an amazing mural.

In 2017, Bega Valley Shire Council announced the Bega Valley Mural Prize and asked local artists to submit work that could be reproduced on a large scale and



Bermagui's water tower now adorned with 'Spirit dance'

installed onto the Bermagui water tower.

'Spirit Dance' by Joe McKenzie was the outstanding winner. Joe originally painted this piece, with its friendly protective spirits, to help his young children get to sleep.

The mural has certainly made a huge change, from a drab old structure everyone wanted to avoid, to a spectacular addition to the artistic landscape of our town.

George Bass surf boat marathon

Horseshoe Bay was once again a hive of activity as the competitors in the George Bass Surf Boat Marathon pulled into shore on Wednesday 3 January. Although Bermagui didn't enter a team this year, word is they lent their boat to a team from all the way in Darwin. It's such a great sight, seeing the surf boats on their way in what is the most gruelling and difficult surf boat race in the world.

Dog Shows

The doggies will be back again in Bermagui for the annual Dog Shows and Rally O trials. Jointly organised by the Saphire Coast Kennel & Obedience Club and Bega Valley Kennel & Obedience Club,

the show is held over two big weekends, 10-12 February and 16-18 February, with the Rally O on Wednesday 14 February.

Dickinson Oval is the place to be for all dog lovers who can watch the champions being judged and see dogs perform in obedience.

'Historical' move?

Bermi whispers are telling us that the Historical Society Museum will be moving to another location. Historical Society curator Marianne Hunter is working with local Djiringanj people with a view to incorporating their story into the archive and display. Watch this space for breaking news in the weeks to come!

The 2018 Historical Society calendar has sold well again this year, and a few copies are still available at 777 or at the Visitor Information Centre.

Launch of Umbrellas

Now well entrenched into the culture of our town, Umbrellas of Bermagui was launched in style on Australia Day. Now in its fifth year, local artists once again have excelled in their creative way to produce some fantastic umbrellas. The auction of the umbrellas will be held at the Seaside Fair.

Sculpture Bermagui

The 2018 Sculpture Bermagui is shaping up to exceed the excellence of previous years. To be held between 9 and 18 March, our beautiful headland will once again be the backdrop to some stunning, sometimes confronting, sometimes puzzling and whimsical sculptural works from all over Australia.

It is truly a credit to our little town, and to the hardworking group of people who organise this event, that Sculptures Bermagui is 'growing and gaining recognition with sculptors all over Australia'. Full details available at www.sculpturebermagui.com.au.



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Bermagui Community Forum Progress Report

The Bermagui Community Forum (BCF) continues to progress several issues, principally related to improvements to town infrastructure. The BCF's preliminary town plan ideas presented at the Forum meeting on 20 November are being communicated via one-on-one discussions and feedback sessions, email newsletters, Triangle articles and Facebook, plus on a new planned website.

The plan seeks to: better appreciate the open space opposite Lamont St shops and iconic view to Gulaga; improve pedestrian and vehicle access, and parking; link the town's commercial centres, beach and facilities; and improve amenity for all through picnic tables, BBQs and play areas.

Representatives from the Forum are now scheduled to meet with Council General Manager Leanne Barnes and senior staff on 5 February in Bermagui to seek advice from Council to develop a process to move forward. If these town plans are agreed to be progressed by Council there will be extensive further community consultation.

Please contact the BCF if you have any particular comments on this or other community issues. Email: bermaguiforum@gmail.com or go to BCF Facebook page.

We are also establishing a new interactive community mailing list, similar to that servicing Cobargo. Subscribe via our planned website at www.bermaguiforum.wordpress.com

*Geoff Steel
Coordinator;*

Bermagui Community Forum

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New artwork on Bermagui's main street

A new sign on Bermagui's main street above Markets on Lamont features an artwork by local Aboriginal painter Sonya Naylor. *Seven Sisters* depicts seven spirit Guardians, protectors of seven sacred sites in this area.

The local Djiringanj word for Welcome, 'Giiyong', encourages people to come into Markets on Lamont and browse the impressive products by local creative producers and artisans, including other Aboriginal artists from around the region.

Sonya's artwork is sweetly positioned opposite the great Gulaga Mountain, a highly significant sacred mountain to the people of the Yuin Nation.

Markets on Lamont owner Stacey Kellett said, 'We had this space for signage that needed an update and South East Arts introduced us to Sonya. *Seven Sisters* is very appropriate because we sit opposite Gulaga Mountain, and both the businesses that operate out of this building, Markets on Lamont and Nourish Body & Soul, are run by women,' Stacey said.

Sonya grew up at Wallaga Lake and is inspired by the mountains and her herit-



Sonya Naylor's artwork *Seven Sisters* graces the signage above Markets on Lamont

age. She has exhibited her work at various venues around the South East of NSW.

You can find other powerful artworks and stories by Sonya at Markets on Lamont. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 10 am – 3 pm, Saturday/Sunday 10 am – 1 pm.

Sundaramani Fereti

CEFE, powering on

At the public meeting held by CEFE Bermagui at the Bermagui Country Club in December 2017 a solar bulk buy proposal was outlined and two suppliers were identified offering bulk buy prices and high quality technology. Now there is an opportunity to progress the idea and to explore the offers at a personal level.

The suppliers in question are Ekonomix and Sunny Afternoons Solar, both in association with Reposit Power.

On 13, 14 and 15 February three workshops are to be held, starting at 5.30 in the evening in the basement meeting room of the Bermagui Country Club.

The workshops will be run by Bill Caldicott and will be limited to 20 households or small businesses. Please book your attendance with Bill at wjhc@bigpond.net.au.

The format for the evening will be a Q&A session followed by one-on-one interviews with the suppliers. The

subjects covered will include retail power prices, the types of technology, specifications and warranties, design and size of a system to fit your needs, the cost and the return on the investment, and finance offers including low interest loans. Please bring a recent power bill to the meeting.

The solar suppliers responded to an Expression of Interest from Clean Energy for Eternity Bermagui, but Clean Energy for Eternity Bermagui is not in a position to recommend any particular technology or supplier. Any contracts will be made directly with a supplier.

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The Seaside Fair lives on!

Join us on 10 March when the Bermagui Seaside Fair celebrates reaching 21 years!

As popular as ever, over the last 20 years the Fair has showcased Bermagui and the far south coast of NSW to the thousands of locals and visitors that come to this part of the coast.

Come and see or, better still, get involved with the fancy dress street parade. This year's theme is 'Down by the Seaside'! Also make sure you check out the great arts, crafts and photography that our locals create, including the Postcard Art competition, and of course the Umbrellas painted by local artists which are available to buy at the auction on the day.

Our new committee has some great new ideas and this year we have a giant water slide for big kids to whiz down! There's also a jumping castle and mini slide to keep the smaller ones entertained while you wander the market stalls. And don't miss out on our leisure displays with caravans, campers and more.

Want some live music? We do that too! From morning to night we will have the Battle of the Bands and



Bermagui Seaside Fair's new committee. Seated from left: Marianne Hunter, Fiona Hanks (Secretary), Karen Howard, Jacqui Howarth. Back from left: Dennis Olmstead, Christine Bimson, Trish Olsen, Brian Evans, Nicky Collins (Treasurer), John Mills (Chairperson), Lyn Williamson

other headline acts that will keep you going until the fireworks start at 9 pm!

If you have a business or service that you want to get out there to the thousands that visit on the day, please email

bermaguiseasidefair@gmail.com or check out www.bermaguiseasidefair.com and see how we can help you get involved.

Christine Bimson

Bermagui **SEASIDE** fair



Fancy Dress
Street Parade
"Down by
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**BATTLE OF
THE BANDS
GIANT
WATER SLIDE**

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*Umbrellas
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AUCTION

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SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 2018

U3A: breaking stereotypes

Have you ever noticed on TV that whenever a news item comes up about 'the elderly', they are shown playing cards, lawn bowls or something like that? Is that what younger people think we do? It certainly isn't all we do!

It is definitely not the case when it comes to the University of the Third Age, or U3A. Come to any U3A Information and Registration Day at the Bermagui Country Club auditorium at the beginning of each term, and you'll find the hall packed with people enrolling in creative, energetic, intellectual and interesting classes, all asking questions and catching up on news from others.

Bermagui U3A has a good reputation for its diversity, its interesting excursions and the quality of its courses. This is our eighth year of operation. There are



U3A Information and Registration Days are busy times in the Country Club auditorium.

so many talented people spread around the lakes and hills, providing wonderful inspiration for classes, sharing their own special interests and passions with others for no cost except the hire of a room. The whole idea is to share what we know with others—it's like a learning cooperative.

Our next excursion (14 February)

will be to the best exhibition I have ever seen, including overseas. It is at our National Museum in Canberra: Songlines. It complements a series of courses we presented in 2017 on a range of indigenous subjects. If you haven't had a chance to see the exhibition already, why not become a U3A member and join the group on 14 February?

Our next Information and Registration Day will be on Wednesday 7 February at the Country Club from 10 am to noon. Membership is \$25 per year, and you can enrol in as many classes as you wish over the whole year. Most classes are held at our Community Centre. You can check us out at www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au or contact our President, Jan Rivers, on 6493 6300.

Kerry Davies

Bermagui and District CWA plans for 2018

CWA ladies enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at the Bermagui Hotel before going on a break over the festive and holiday season. Committee members have now organised an exciting program for 2018. Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month in the CWA rooms which are situated at 10 Corunna Street, Bermagui.

The first meeting of the year will be a special occasion with three members, Shirley Carter, Michelle Craig and Del Gray, being presented with Life Membership. The meeting will be preceded with a luncheon at 12 noon on Friday 2 February. Please come along to celebrate with these long-serving and hard-working ladies.

The Bermagui CWA participates in handicraft and cooking competitions, cultural and community events and also conducts fundraising for local and State projects. Guest speakers and games days

help to provide a varied and entertaining range of activities for members. Regular craft mornings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.30 am.

There is exciting news for members and other groups who hire the meeting rooms. Early this year there will be long-awaited renovations to the kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Bermagui and District CWA welcomes visitors and new members. For more information please contact the Secretary, Mrs Kathryn Preston on 6493 5887



Teri Hopkins, Paula Rumble, Pam Beaumont and Anne McKechnie at the Christmas function.

or email kfpreston@bigpond.com, or me, Publicity Officer Chris Richard-Preston on 0407 741 902 or daveandchrisr-p@bigpond.com.

Chris Richard-Preston



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(sponsored page)

The Triangle's Eco Edge Page

This year the Eco-Edge page will have a different flavour. The page's sponsor is calling it 'open page, open heart' which we're interpreting as meaning, 'express yourself and send it in!'. It might be a poem or short story, or a

piece of creative prose, or a profile of someone in our community. It might not even be writing! A drawing, painting or photo might be your mode of expression.

This is your page, no age limits, and each month we'll publish our

favourite(s). Send your stuff to contributions@thetriangle.org.au. We're really looking forward to seeing what turns up.

This month's piece is a reverie of summer by Sandra Taylor of Wandella.

SUMMERTIME

It is the season of summer storms, throngs of people and noisy cicadas.

Cloud and humidity flag a lot of our days.

Our afternoons flaunt a grand drama of jagged slivers and sheets of lightning, great rumbles of thunder and blessed rain.

Our valleys are green with bales rolled up in paddocks.

The threat of fire recedes.

My neighbour Christa talks of making a 'Jenny Craig' paddock for her cows.

Vegies are thriving and markets are stuffed with home grown produce.

Roads stream with Winnebago's, boats, caravans and dogs leaning out car windows.

Brightly coloured holidaymakers wander our beaches and villages.

Campgrounds crowded with sandcastles and wave riders, barbeques and fishing yarns.

Roy sits on a bench in the main street watching the world go by; happy to chat about the weather, the time of day, and his memories of people and place.

Busier than last year for some and not so busy for others.

A relative thing then.

Cicadas have been particularly deafening this summer.

At Mystery Bay campground

there was a couple of six-year-old lads from Wollongong, Ari and Harley. I was on my way to Billy's beach for a swim and they were sitting on the side of the track with a cardboard carton chockablock of cicada shells. A sign 'CI C D A shells \$1, live nice one \$50'.

The nice one was a green grocer in a separate plastic container.

How's it going?

\$2 so far, says Ari, who admitted that Harley had done most of the collecting. They demonstrated how a shell can cling onto your t-shirt.

That's cool, a brooch! I said.

They gave me a puzzled look.

Oh never mind.

The forest is also summer busy.

The warm air thick with frog chorus, birdsong and fragrance.

White thorn bush, angophora, tea tree and buddleia flower.

Butterflies dragonflies mozzies are all on the go.

Leeches will be next to appear.

Turtles bask on logs at the edge of dams and echidnas snuffle their noses into likely spots.

The black swamp wallabies keep court around the house—they are coming up onto the verandah for the grape leaves, standing up on tippy toes to pull a leaf

down within reach.

Honeyeaters hang about on bottlebrush and grevillea.

Goannas large and small stalk the more interesting smells and a black snake comes out early before the rain and curls up on bricks outside the kitchen window.

Water skinks prowl house and verandah—I have taken to keeping a wooden spoon in the sink and a branch in the bathtub so they can climb out. Smooth surfaces not their strong point.

Come night, dark silent shapes swoop through the trees.

Wombats, ever-curious, make deposits on any changes they identify in the bush.

Possums run the roof, using it as a launching pad for their dinner activities.

Life in the forest never switches off; there is always a murmur, a rustle, a peep, a creak, a whisper, always, Always Life going about its Busyness.

Sandra Taylor



AKT international is a Cobargo company dedicated to developing technologies for the most effective recovery of nutrients from waste streams. These technologies are at the forefront of the "war against waste" operating in some 40 countries ranging from Greenland to Patagonia. In conducting our business we take seriously and expend effort with issues of environmental protection, art, cultural advancement, intergenerational equality and social cohesion.

Four Winds Easter Festival Youth Program

One of the challenges of being the Artistic Director of an established festival such as Four Winds is keeping true to the vision of the founders while bringing some elements which reflect the current Artistic Director's passions and interests. James Crabb—Four Winds AD and classical accordionist—is passionate about many things, but is particularly focused on young people developing a love for live music, as well as where music meets other artforms such as theatre.

Therefore it's not a surprise to see a Youth Program integrated into 2018 Festival. On Good Friday, musician, choreographer and circus artist Sam Thomas will lead a workshop for young people which will explore the physicality of music from many perspectives—from body percussion to circus. The workshop will take place in the Bermagui Community Centre while many Festival artists will be giving pop-up performances in and around town.

Sunday's activities for young people focus more on technology. During the weekend, young people will be invited

to talk with Festival musicians and take sound samples and film on their mobile devices, which they will then mix to create their own sonic artworks, guided by young Australian composer Holly Harrison. The results will be posted on-line so that the participants can share their work widely.

The theme of music and physicality is not only at the heart of Friday's youth program but also 'Sideshow Alley', another new element for the 2018 Easter Festival. Sideshow Alley, presented in the Windsong Pavilion, evokes bygone days and showcases seven short works which have a music theatre element to them. Imagine you are walking through a Victorian arcade, you drop a coin in a box and something unexpected happens—that's Sideshow Alley.

These new elements will complement the key Festival days in the Sound

Shell at the Four Winds site. Presented by ABC Classic FM's Guy Noble, the program embraces familiar classical music and some amazing collaborations to bring us larger scale works which will not only bring the sounds of contemporary Australia to the Festival, but those of other ancient, far-off continents.

Tickets are on sale for the Four Winds 2018 Easter Festival via www.fourwinds.com.au or by calling 6493 3414.



James Crabb, Artistic Director of Four Winds
Photo: Chris Sheedy

Fresh Salt – creative responses to exceptional landscape

Two of the region's peak cultural institutions are joining forces, shaping a dynamic new art experience.

The Fresh Salt exhibition will be launched on Friday, 2 February, representing not just a creative collaboration between the Bega Valley Regional Gallery and Four Winds, but also the region's visual artists, musicians, composers, choreographers, and creative writers.

The works on show are the result of three field trips to eight exquisite estuaries between the sacred mountains of Gulaga and Mumbulla in Yuin Country. Underlying the significance of the project is the cultural conversation that has transpired between Aboriginal elders, scientists, historians, farmers, council workers, residents, and artists.

Fresh Salt aims to raise com-



Image - Peter Cotton Midden - Wallaga Lake, Composite photograph on Gold Fibre Gloss, archival links

munity awareness about the ecological and cultural significance of the area through the power of art.

'We are fortunate to live and work in an exceptional and dynamic landscape. Fresh Salt is a creative response to that, through images, words, movement, or music,' said Four Winds Artistic

Director, James Crabb.

Side by side with the art, the project has created time—time to talk regardless of background or expertise and celebrate a shared interest in the Bega Valley.

Regional Gallery Director, Iain Dawson said, 'For our 30 year anniversary, this exhibition represents the ethos behind the origin of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery which opened after 40 years of agitation by the local arts community.'

Fresh Salt opens at 6 pm on Friday, 2 February at the Bega Val-

ley Regional Gallery for an exclusive two week season. This opening will be more than speeches—live performance works will enhance the evening.

'Fresh Salt is a triumph and a real example of how art helps us share, process, reflect, and better understand the world,' James Crabb said.

Join BVSC Mayor, Councillor Kristy McBain and BVRG Director Iain Dawson to celebrate the launch of

FRESH SALT Creative Responses to Eight Exquisite Estuaries

Friday 2 February 6pm
Zingel Place, BEGA NSW
exhibition continues to Saturday 17 February
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Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm



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Helen Morris Pauline Balos **Peter Cotton** Robyn Williams **Sharon Field**
Veronica O'Leary **Justina Legoe** Gloria Florez **James Lynn** Lyndal Jenkins
Paul Jackson Cheryl Davison **David Gallan** Lee Cruse **Delia Silvan** Lee Pemberton
Paul Hopper Sky Etherington **Victoria Nelson** David Hewitt **Trevor King** John Reid
Chris Stone **Holly Downes** Tony King **Kris Ralph** William Risby **Natalie Risby** Cathrine Wishart



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Image: Madden - Wallaga Lake, Composite photograph on Gold Fibre Glass, archival ink.



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FOUR WINDS
2018 Easter Festival

'From the Shed'—Woodwork by Ivan Hollins at the Lazy Lizard Gallery

This February, to celebrate the summer season, we are having 'From the Shed', an exhibition of woodwork by Ivan Hollins in the Side Room. Ivan's fine woodwork is already familiar to us, as he was part of a group exhibition at the gallery last year, and his work was so well received that he has been persuaded to go it alone this time.

Ivan often manages to combine some fascinating old pieces of ironwork with his beautiful timber creations. He spent the first forty years of his life in Mallee country, near Mildura, and he has always had an intense interest in old farm machinery and in

all things natural. Working with our native timbers and old machinery bits has been a long-time passion of his. Go and check out his amazing front fence in Avernus



Coffee table/box, made from vintage machinery parts and Victorian Boxwood by Ivan Hollins



Boxes, pyramids and free-form Huon Pine bowl, by Ivan Hollins

Street in Cobargo—it's a local landmark.

Ivan's show runs for all of February, with an opening morning tea and 'meet the artist' on Saturday, 3 February between 10 am and 12 noon.

Our feature artist in the main gallery this month is our newest member. Luch is a carpenter and joiner who also makes an array of fine furniture and all sorts of wooden items, with a particular interest in the use of local and Australian timbers. Since joining us a couple of months ago, Luch has been adding to his display of exquisite woodwork. His versatility and sensitive handling of different timbers can be seen not only in larger pieces, like his lovely wooden bench, but also in the delicate beauty of his smaller pieces.

Naomi Lewis

Entries now open for River of Art Prize 2018

Prizes and finalists for this prestigious event will be selected by a panel of three well-known professional artists – Ken Taber, Rita Wagner and Pauline Balos.

A first prize of \$2000 will be awarded to the artist of the winning work. Second place will be awarded \$250, and third place \$100.

Entry is open to artists living on the NSW South Coast, from Milton to the Victorian border.

Awards will be presented on Thursday 17 May 2018 at the SoArt Gallery in Narooma as part of the official launch of the River of Art Festival.

Finalists' works will be exhibited during the festival at the SoART Gallery. Other artworks submitted will be on show in a Salon des Refusés at the Narooma School of Arts' Studios.

Both exhibitions will run from 18 May to 2 June, with many works for sale.

Go to the River of Art website—www.riverofart.com.au—for details and online entry forms.



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Finally, it's official — our environment is an asset!

The NSW Government recently dedicated state forest areas between Bega and Bermagui as Flora Reserves with the primary purpose to conserve the south coast's last known koala population. Prioritising protection of an 'environmental asset' is a first. Overarching values include conservation of threatened species, the rich Aboriginal heritage and cultural landscape, and nine coastal lagoon, river and creek catchments while timber harvesting is excluded.

The drastic reduction in koalas and their habitat is mainly due to decades of intense logging and urbanisation. After logging, casuarina species dominate and habitat trees (eg woollybutt) struggle. To regenerate koala habitat, strategies include low intensity burning, thinning of casuarina, raking, seeding and seed trees together with corridors for connection across the landscape.

Dialogue with Elders is building trust with the Indigenous community, the largest neighbour. A significant contribution is integrating cultural burning into the management plan. Indigenous knowledge is in the landscape if you know how to read it and Indigenous knowledge-

holders identify where to have cultural burns. Cultural burns are small scale, low intensity, with a trickling, patchy nature which ensures the safety of small creatures. Cultural burning brings Indigenous people back on Country, is of ecological benefit and is highly appropriate for sensitive areas, eg koala locations, town borders. It can co-exist with legally required strategies and is widely supported by the agencies involved.

Fire management strategies aim to protect human life and valued resources. They encompass a whole-of-landscape and whole-of-government approach and must fit with Council risk plans. The RFS, now separate from Council, is involved in the fire management planning. A key initiative in this plan is increased support to landholders and residents to improve asset protection, neighbourhood support networks, and capacity for carefully considered responses in the event of wildfire (see the website for maps).

Inappropriate fire regimes can have deleterious effects on forest health and increased risk to threatened native plants and animals, their food sources and shelter, and also soil condition, hydro-

logy and other environmental conditions.

Strategic Fire Advantage Zones are identified; burning these areas is to reduce the intensity of a wild fire. These burns are in mosaic patterns of 100-hectare blocks bounded by roads and creeks and are usually on the west of valued areas. A burn plan, required for each fuel reduction burn, includes a pre-burn assessment for assets - and now for koalas in the reserve. Frequency of burns depends on the vegetation types and fuel loads. Fuel loads as tonnage/ha and the 'fuel ladder effect' (whereby fuel links ground level to the canopy) are assessed mostly from the air. Fuel reduction frequency is around seven years and is executed in autumn. Cultural burning occurs later in autumn and is annual. Spring burning has more risks such as strong, unpredictable winds and the potential for the area to stay dry.

The Murrah Reserves Draft Plan 2017 is a deeply researched, innovative model for future interconnections between the environment, communities and agencies (available at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au>)

Rosemary Beaumont

A busy month for the Anglican Parish

An exciting event in our parish took place on Sunday 28 January. The Commissioning Service for Reverend Tim Narraway was held at Christ Church, Cobargo. We welcome Tim and his family to the area and look forward to an exciting new era in the life of the parish.

As the school year begins, the Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers are busy preparing for their classes in Bermagui, Cobargo and Quaama public schools. These classes represent all denominations. There will be a SRE Teachers' Blessing Service at 11.00 am, Tuesday 6 February, at All Saints' Anglican Church, Bermagui. All are welcome.

As in past years, there will be a Harvest Festival Service at this year's Cobargo Show, at 8.00 am on Sunday 12 February, in the covered seating at the main arena. There will also be a Children's Activities tent at the Show. This will feature kids' craft at 10.00 am and 2.00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Night



Family and friends enjoying the community carols presented by the combined churches of Cobargo on Christmas Eve

is always an enjoyable event in the parish. Come along for taste sensations and a good chat at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 13

February, at Christ Church, Cobargo.

Chris Richard-Preston

Blessing of the animals



Rev Mandy and Jake at the Blessing of the Animals service at All Saints Anglican Church, Bermagui in November

Have your say on our forests: time's short

The NSW State Government has made two calls for your opinions, one on the past and one on the future of our public native forests.

STAGE ONE to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), due 23 February 2018
STAGE TWO to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), due 12 March 2018

See streamlined instructions and suggested submission content here: www.serca.org.au/rfas/saving_our_forests.html

Logging for woodchips:

- disrespects Aboriginal culture
- destroys species and their habitat
- causes soil and water runoff
- ruins beauty
- stops carbon sequestration
- exacerbates changes to climate
- costs taxpayers – is heavily subsidised
- dries out forests from canopy removal and increases fire risk
- creates monospecies forests and some forests don't regenerate

Also, plantations can supply our domestic wood needs.

Attend one of three DPI drop-in sessions:

Eden: 13 February 1.00-2.30pm, Eden Fishermen's Recreation Club, 217 Imlay Street.
Batemans Bay: 14 February 12.30-2.00 pm, Coachhouse Marina Resort, 49 Beach Road.
Tumut: 15 February 12.30-2.00 pm, Tumut Golf Club, Fairway Drive.

Your stories, your experience, your histories and your opinions matter. If you have questions, or difficulty with the process, please just call me on 0487 635 539.

Bronte Somerset



Come to life at the Vineyard!

Open Daily 10.00am- 5pm for wine tasting, cellar door sales, snacks and lunches.

February events:

*Sunday live music: 4th Richo's Ragtimers 1.00 start free entry
18th Chris O'Connor & Damian Coen 1pm start free entry*

Social Bridge: Wednesday 7th from 2pm

'On the Lawn': Sun 25th Feb The BEEZ from Berlin, @4pm \$15

Signposted off the Princes Highway,
4 km north of Central Tilba. Tel: 4473 7308

Call for Volunteers at The Bowerbird Community

Op-Shop in Cobargo

**Many days available, or
half days**

**Any help appreciated
Enquire at the shop**

General News

Triangle area features in new *Recollections* Magazine

The February issue of the South Coast's free history magazine, *Recollections*, is now available and stories about the Triangle area feature prominently. To start, the centre spread contains numerous historic pictures of mining Mt Dromedary (Gulaga) and an interesting story about various attempts made to extract gold from the mountain.

Three pages are devoted to the history of Bermagui's Four Winds Festival and the other activities of the Four Winds organisation. Four Winds celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

The accompanying photographs vividly illustrate just how much the Four Winds Easter Festival has grown in those 25 years.

And there is an informative piece outlining how the early settlers on the South Coast acquired land. One of the very first of these was William Tarlinton, who brought cattle to the area in 1832 from his runs near Braidwood.

From elsewhere on the South Coast, there is an especially humorous story about lions escaping from a circus in Batemans Bay and the efforts that were made to recapture them. This event was reported in Cobargo's newspaper as 'providing the townspeople [of Batemans Bay] with about as great a sensation as they have had for many a long day'.

And there is a scathing, but extremely interesting, old poem about one of the managers of the Kameruka Estate near Candelo.

In the Triangle area you will find *Recollections* in local libraries, at the Quaama General Store, Well-Thumbled Books, Cobargo Creators and from Bates General Store in Central Tilba. It is also available free in PDF format by



Front page of the February 2018 issue of *Recollections*

simply emailing 'Send *Recollections*' to southcoasthistory@yahoo.com. information about *Recollections* and the South Coast History Society.
Phone 0448 160 852 for further *Peter Lacey*

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General News

One evening on the Cobargo/Bermagui Facebook Noticeboard ...

Jade Hutchison 17 January
17:57

LOST WEDDING RING!!!!

Date on the inside of the ring:
06-11-93

There are also initials on the ring, if you own it or know anyone who's lost a wedding ring please message me the initials you believe is on the ring!

Found on this beach [map indicated Horseshoe Bay] while my family and I were on holidays in 2010. I am from Sydney and have been trying to find the owner or a way of contacting the owner which has been hard considering I'm not from the area! I would absolutely love to return it to its original owner as I have had it for so many years! Please share around!

Lynnette Schaefer 17 January
20:30:

Is it a man's ring? My husband lost his and that is our date which is engraved inside. He would have lost it over 5 years ago. Oh my god my heart is racing!

Jade Hutchison: Yes it's a man's wedding ring! It has initials on the inside as well! And the size of the ring too!

Lynnette Schaefer: We didn't have initials engraved but mine has the letters A.C. (Angus & Coote)

Jade Hutchison: It says A.C. size

35 and 6-11-93. Yes, I have your husband's wedding ring then ... I found it



Paul, Jade and Lynnette met at Mittagong Railway Station on Sunday 21 January for the handover

in 2010 in the sand on the beach!! I've been trying to find the owner for years!!!

Lynnette Schaefer: Oh my god thank you so, so much, we have looked everywhere. We live in Cobargo and go to the beaches around all the time. It's something that you never stop looking for, always keep my eyes out just in case it appears to me in the sand. A couple of times we have thought of replacing it but never got around to it

Jade Hutchison: Over the moon that I've finally found the owner! Makes me so happy to know that ring will be back in the right hands after 8 years, always been my mission to find the owner and today's the day!!! Amazing what social media can do, in under 2 hours as well!



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Become a volunteer literacy tutor!

Reading and writing are probably the most important skills a child learns at school, but it's not always easy. You can make a real difference to local children's lives and happiness. Many of our tutors, like Verna Mackintosh, coordinator of our Bega High Program, believe it's one of the most satisfying volunteering tasks they've ever undertaken.

For almost ten years, locally established Youth Educational Support Service, YESS, has operated successfully in eight public primary and high schools from Narooma to Bega. It is seeking new volunteer tutors willing to give from an hour and a half to three hours a week of their time. You need no formal background in teaching, just a willingness to help children. Tutoring starts in mid-February and is at the schools during term time.

Working closely with teachers and the NSW Education Department, YESS uses MULTILit, a highly effective literacy program developed by Macquarie University, to provide one-on-one tutoring for students selected by the schools' learning support teachers (see www.multilit.com). The NSW Education Department provides new tutors a day of MULTILit tutor training in early February and YESS provides further support.

Over the last nine years, YESS volunteers using MULTILit have achieved wonderful results in boosting students' reading skills, hence enhancing their confidence, class participation and success at school. You can read more about YESS at our website, www.yess.org.au.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please call me on 0423 780 498, or email potts_perkins@bigpond.com.

Frances Perkins

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General News

The rise of the minor parties: what, if anything, to do?

In Australia, since the 1970s, the electorate has become increasingly disenchanted with the major parties. Lately this has accelerated. At the last federal election, the minor parties (including the Greens) attracted 36% of the vote. But this pattern is not spread evenly across the population; the minor party vote is a lot higher in regional areas. This city/country divide was reflected in the Brexit vote, and in Trump's election in the US.

What's driving this, and what, if anything, should governments do about it?

The Grattan Institute's mission is to work out what governments can do to make Australia a better place, so they've been much exercised lately with these questions. So on a drizzly Tuesday night in January we crowded into the CWA Rooms in Bermagui to hear Dr John Daley, the Grattan's CEO and speaker for the first Bermagui Institute dinner for 2018, distil down a complex mix of current economic, institutional and cultural issues to leave us with the regions, migration and discomfort with 'the other'.

Carole Broadhead catered with a wonderful selection of curries, all profits going to the charity Mahboba's Promise.

Full report: www.jennifersevern.com.au

Jen Severn



Grattan Institute CEO John Daley spoke at the first Bermagui Institute Public Dinner for 2018.

Vale Elizabeth Smee

Bermagui has said goodbye to one of its much loved residents, Elizabeth Smee, who passed away on 18 December, 2017.

Elizabeth moved to Bermagui in 1987 and, almost immediately, signed up as a volunteer at the Bermagui Visitor Information Centre, which was just a small shopfront in those days.

Elizabeth continued to work as a volunteer at the Visitor Information Centre until two years ago, when mobility issues caused her to give up her beloved work providing friendly and helpful advice for visitors to Bermagui. She mentored and trained many new volunteers, and saw a lot of changes, mainly the development of the Centre into what it is today, and the move from

Lamont Street to its current location.

Other volunteers at the VIC recall Elizabeth's passion and her determination—or was it an obsession?—to get everyone who came to the Centre to sign the visitors' book!

Elizabeth was also a keen supporter of the Bermagui Sports Stadium and taught many young people her chosen sports of badminton and table tennis.

She also dabbled in the arts and became quite a proficient painter, often generously donat-



Elizabeth Smee, a much loved resident, will be missed.

ing her artworks to local community organisations for fundraising.

In 2013 Elizabeth was named Bega Valley Shire's Citizen of the Year. She was completely humbled by this award, telling those around her that there were others more fitting. Well, those who knew Elizabeth thought it was a well-deserved reward for her generosity, kindness, gentleness and tenacity.

Thank you, Elizabeth. You will be missed by many.

Carolyn Banados



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Heart to Heart Meditation Group

Join us each fortnight on a Saturday afternoon 12.00 to 3.00 pm in Beauty Point to read and discuss the Ageless Wisdom teachings of Alice A Bailey. This perennial knowledge is available to all people at whatever level of understanding thus far on their soul's evolution.

These fascinating and fundamental ideas help us look at the deeper expression of our thoughts that guide us on our life's journey.

We hold monthly full moon meditations based on the esoteric teachings.

Contact: Lorraine van der Linden, 6493 3061

Mulching ... a must

In my opinion as a horticulturist, nurseryman and gardener, mulching garden beds, whether shrub or vegetable, is one of the most beneficial tasks that you can undertake. The benefits are many, from weed suppression to moisture retention and, just as important, as an insulator against frost and heat.

There are many products available and the type we use depends on several factors.

Do you want the mulch to be a short or long term solution? The decision comes down to whether the garden or plant you are mulching is something like a vegetable or flower garden or a permanent shrubbery or tree planting.

In the case of the flower or vegetable garden there are two methods of mulching: a soft mulch like sugar cane or straw, or shredded cow manure.

In both cases these products are short term but are of great benefit to the garden. Both decompose over a short period, and through their decomposition process retain moisture around the plants and improve the structure and the texture of the soil.

The long term benefits of this are an improved ability for the soil to retain moisture but, more importantly for the plant, to take up nutrient and develop a good root system which in turn helps it through periods of stress.

The other forms of mulches like gravel and woodchips are more long term and should only be used on shrub beds and around trees. Wood chips, whether hardwood (Eucalyptus) or softwood (pine), also have a shelf life but

their ability to retain moisture for the plants is better than no mulch. Wood chips have one issue—in their decomposition process they tie up the nitrogen available to the plant so regular supplementary fertilising is required to counter this.

My favourite form of mulch is



a river gravel, which is usually a by-product from sand dredging along rivers. Although some people will say that this is not that necessarily friendly



for our environment, the benefit for our plants should take precedence.

Gravel mulch has great benefits like not blowing away in strong winds, particularly in coastal gardens, and that it is usually a one-off application, as it doesn't decompose like wood and straw mulches.

If you live in a fire-prone area, gravel does not burn and therefore is of great benefit. It is a bit more expensive than the wood mulches but in most cas-



es is a one off application. A minor top up in several years might be required.

A few other things to consider when using mulches are that mulch can prevent light showers of rain reaching the soil surface thus robbing the plants of moisture. In dry periods it is advisable to rake back the mulch from around the plant trunk, saturate the soil and then place the mulch back. Similarly when applying fertiliser the process should be repeated.

Call into your local nursery and discuss your situation with the nursery person. Undoubtedly you will be given the right information for your situation.

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Soft Footprint Recipes

Margaret Goddard

Smells of river mud and ripening fruit, sounds of summer bordered by cicada drumming. This is the setting of two continents close to my heart; Australia and India – a brother-in-law's eggplant curry and my long dead mother's special biscuit recipe.

Eggplant Curry



2 tbsp oil/ghee
 ½ tsp black mustard and cumin seeds
 ½ tsp cumin seeds
 1 tbsp grated ginger root
 1 diced onion (optional)
 1 tsp salt
 ½ tsp turmeric
 1 tsp sugar

1 kg diced eggplant
 1 tomato, chopped
 1 green chilli, seeded and chopped
 Fry the seeds and ginger root (and onion if using) in the ghee or oil.
 Add salt, cumin and turmeric and stir.
 Add sugar, eggplant, tomato and chilli, and a little water.
 Cook, covered, for 45 minutes.

Murray River Brétles

½ cup butter
 ¼ cup sugar
 1 egg
 grated rind of one lemon and one orange
 a few drops of vanilla extract
 1 cup 'dry' stewed plums/rhubarb (very lightly cooked without much liquid)
 1-1 ½ cups of sifted plain flour
 1 tbsp lemon juice
 ½-1 cup finely chopped almonds (enough to coat the biscuits)

Separate egg and keep both yolk and white.

Cream butter and sugar.

Stir in the egg yolk, grated rind, a few drops of vanilla and stewed plums/



rhubarb. Beat well.

Add sifted plain flour (dough should be dry and firm) and lemon juice. Cover and stand in cold place till firm.

Roll into balls, dip into beaten egg white and toss in chopped almonds.

Bake in moderate (180C) oven for 30 minutes.

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 or phone Jan Rivers on 0409 901 672**

An overview of courses and activities so far ...

Old favourites such as: Pliability, Indigenous Culture & Traditions, Computer Classes, Linguistics, Tai Chi, Australian Literature and many more ...

New Classes/Courses/Excursions: Travel Tales Celtic England, Geology and Landscape of our Coast and Region, Opera Explored, Ukelele Classes, The Mystery of King Arthur, WIRES talk.

Many other courses are being finalised and details of these will be available in our Term 1 Newsletter and at the Information & Registration Day.

Classifieds

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Please note: we will discontinue
classifieds after one month unless advised
by the advertiser. A small donation (in the
tin) will be appreciated for classifieds.

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 as large an
image as possible 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! We cannot reproduce or insert
them. 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. Have a think about a headline
for your story. Believe us, we're
usually quite braindead at the end
of our editorial meeting and can
only come up with lame puns
and cliches. Don't leave it to us!

6. Deadline is **22nd of the month.**
Any questions at all, please email us

**contributions@
thetriangle.org.au**

Book Review

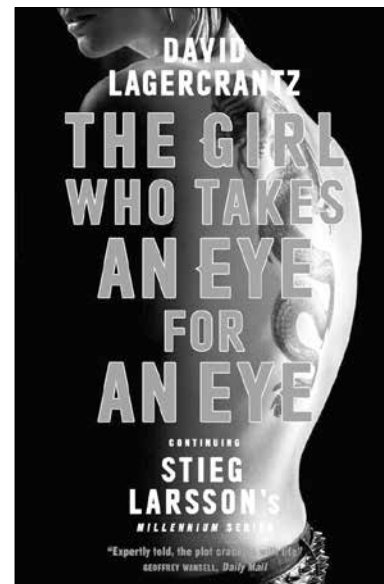
Heather O'Connor

David Lagercrantz

*The girl who takes an eye
for an eye, \$32.99*

I'm sure many of you read the trilogy written by Steig Larson about the amazing Lisbeth Salander. Following Larson's death, some arrangement must have been made with the family to continue the series, which was a world-wide success. The result is this novel, but it's rather difficult to recognise the original Lisbeth. She seems to have morphed into a much more 'normal' woman, with the odd lapse into anti-social behavior. The upside of this is that we don't get nearly as much detailed description of her technological genius, and also that the level of violence has fallen about 100%. The downside is that she is rather colorless.

We first encounter her in a prison where she is targeted by a particularly nasty inmate, and where she takes it upon herself to defend a vulnerable young woman whose fate is tied up with family honour violence. She is still connected to Mikael Blomkvist, although even he has lost a fair bit of his charisma. The story is not nearly as complicated to follow as those of the Millennium series, and is still a good read.



But as a stand-alone, I doubt it would have attracted as much attention as the original.

The stand-out book from my Christmas reading is by an emerging Indigenous writer, Claire Coleman, entitled *Terra Nullius*. It's in the Bermagui library. I can't get it out of my mind—always a good indication from someone who often forgets what I've read a week ago! Highly recommended.

Pet of the Month

Deb Cox



Indi's owners moved to Queensland and couldn't take her with them.

Indi the 5 year old medium sized mixed breed loves to run and stretches out like a greyhound in full flight. She has been a good family dog but her owners moved to Queensland and couldn't take Indi so she is looking for another loving, secure and active family or owner. Indi can jump most fences so a six-foot colourbond fence is ideal and mostly she is happy to hang around with her human. To learn more about Indi, please call AWL-FSC on 0400 372 609.

Animal Welfare League NSW Far South Coast Branch also have several other dogs and pups available for adoption including Willow the 2 year old medium sized mixed breed, Ricco the black and white 2½ year old male dog, Minnie the 4 month old German Shorthaired pointer x Kelpie, Jindy the 2 year old female staffy, Toby the male 3 year old Cattle x, Inca the 9 year old Siberian Husky, Ella the 10 week old Sharpei x staffy, Ruby the year old Sharpei x Staffy and Indi the female Staffy x. All dogs come de-sexed, micro-chipped, immunised, wormed and treated for fleas, from FSC AWL \$350 and pups \$375 due to second vaccination. Enquiries can be made by phoning 0400 372 609 or check our Facebook page Animal Wel-

fare LeagueFarSouthCoastBranch

If you need financial help to have your pet de-sexed please collect a subsidy application form from any Bega Valley Shire vet before your animal reaches 6 months of age. Please note that Far South Coast Branch Animal Welfare League NSW volunteers raise the funds to support this de-sexing subsidy in the Bega Valley Shire and do not receive any government funding.

Helpful Hints: Responsible pet ownership begins at home. By keeping your pet contained within your property you can prevent them from getting lost or injured, or becoming a nuisance to neighbours and vehicles on the road.



AL-ANON

Bega, Tuesdays 5pm, rear 7th Day Adventist Church, Upper St (opposite pool). Ph 6492 0314

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Bermagui Saturday 2pm, Anglican Church Hall
Ph Dave on 6493 5014

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

Far South Coast Branch promotes the welfare of companion animals and responsible pet ownership. Meeting at Tathra Beach Bowling Club 11am, Sunday April 23rd, Sunday June 25th, Sunday August 27th. Call 0400 372 609

ANGLICAN PARISH OF COBARGO

Bermagui: All Saints- 1st, 2nd 3rd Sundays 10.00am 4th Sunday 5.00pm. Cobargo: Christ Church - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays 5.00pm. Quaama: St Saviours- 4th Sunday 10.00 am. 5th Sunday - One service in parish at 10 am rotation. Contact Alan Burdon 0409 189 659

BERMAGUI KNOW YOUR BIBLE

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

BERMAGUI BADMINTON CLUB

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

BERMAGUI BAPTIST CHURCH

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

BERMAGUI COUNTRY CLUB ARTS SOCIETY

Monday: Porcelain Art; Tuesday: Art, Needlework/Quilting; Thurs: Leadlighting/mosaics Fri: Pottery, mosaics. Visitors, new members welcome. 6493 4340

THE BERMAGUI MARKET

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

BERMAGUI & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

Needs new members. Those interested please phone Ray Clements on 0477 017 443.
Meet 1st Thurs each month at Cobargo Hotel & 3rd Thurs at Bermagui Hotel at 6.30 for 7.00pm

BERMAGUI INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Friendly, social group meets for Indoor Bowls at Bermagui Country Club every Monday afternoon. Names to be on list by 2:00pm, games start at 2.30pm. No experience necessary. For information ring Bob Whackett on 6493 3136

BERMAGUI GARDEN GROUP

1st Tuesday every Month 10.00am until 12 noon, venues vary, phone Heather Sobey on 6493 5308

BERMAGUI CROQUET CLUB

Bermagui Country Club, Thursday 2 - 4pm. New players always welcome, tuition and friendly games always available, equipment provided.
Call Dave, 6493 5014.

BERMAGUI TINY TEDDIES PLAYGROUP

Fridays 10-12 during school term. Newborn, toddlers, all welcome! CWA Hall, Corunna St, Bermagui. Gold coin donation. Lots of toys, other mums and bubs, great for meeting other mums in the area.

BERMAGUI DUNE CARE

Meets on the third Sunday morning of each month
Contact: bermaguidunecare@skymesh.com.au

BERMAGUI SES UNIT

No. 1 Bermagui-Tathra Rd. Bermagui.
Meetings every Tuesday 6pm. Ph. 6493 4199

BERMAGUI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting First Wednesday of Month, 2.00pm at Museum in Community Centre, Bunga Street. Researchers & helpers welcome. Ph Allan Douch 0428 427 873 or Marianne Hunter 0419 173 607.

BERMAGUI U3A

(University of the Third Age)
Lifelong Learning Opportunities
For a full list of courses and timetable visit:
www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au

BERMAGUI URBAN FOOD FARMERS (BUFF)

community gardening and growing activities - various times and sites. 'Grow to Eat and Eat to Grow'. Contact Paul on 0466 013 153 or visit www.facebook.com/BermaguiUrbanFoodFarmers

BERMAGUI WEIGHTLIFTING CLUB INC.

'Working with Weights'
Open Monday and Wednesday afternoons at the Bermagui Sports Stadium.
Contact: John Preston - accredited coach
Ph 02 6493 5887 mob 0429 179 184

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weekend Mass times.
Bermagui- Sunday 7:30 am Cobargo -Saturday 5pm

COBARGO DISTRICT MUSEUM

Meeting 5 pm 2nd Wednesday of the month Cobargo
Newsagency : researchers, old photos, information and new members welcome. Contact
Vicky Hoyer 0422 377 278 or Ken Redman 6493 6406

COBARGO GARDENING & FRIENDSHIP CLUB

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

COBARGO SHOW MEETING

2nd Wednesday every month, 7.30 pm - CWA Rooms. Contact Ros Mead 6493 6948

COBARGO PRE-SCHOOL

Child centred, play based preschool education for 3-5 year olds in a happy, creative & caring environment. Monday-Thursday. Ph 6493 6660

COBARGO PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Families welcome every Thursday 9-10.30am. A good transition for children to become familiar with the surroundings & teachers. All ages welcome. Bring along a piece of fruit to share. A small donation would be greatly appreciated. 6493 6660

COBARGO SoA HALL COMMITTEE

Hall bookings and inquiries: Linda 0407 047 404
email: cobargohall@gmail.com

1ST COBARGO SCOUT GROUP

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

COBARGO TOURIST & BUSINESS ASSOC

Monthly meetings 2nd Tuesdays at Well Thumbed Books, 6pm. Contact: David Wilson on 0401 398 141

COBARGO CWA

CWA Rooms, 2nd Tues of the month, 10.30am.
cwa.cobargo@gmail.com. Cottage Hire 6493 6428

COBARGO & DISTRICT RED CROSS

For meeting dates or catering enquiries
phone 0488 048 701, 6493 6948 or 6493 6435

MOBILE TOY LIBRARY

& Parenting Resource Service. All parents of chn 0-6 welcome to join. Cobargo - once a month on a Wednesday 1.30pm- 2.30pm at CWA cottage, Bermagui - every 2nd Friday 10.30am - 12pm in the Ambulance Station. Quaama - Wed. by prior arrangement. Enquiries: 0428 667 924

TILBA MARKET

Home grown, Hand made, Grow it, Make it, Sew it, Bake it every Saturday 8am to 12, Central Tilba Hall
Stall booking essential, phone Kay on 4473 7231

TILBA VALLEY WINES BRIDGE CLUB

1st Wednesday every month from 2pm. All standards catered for - partners not necessary. Visitors to the area especially welcome. Further details: Peter 4473 7308

QUAAMA / COBARGO QUILTERS

Meets Mondays 10am - 3.30pm in the CWA Cottage, Bermagui Road, Cobargo, and welcomes anyone who does patchwork, quilting, or any other needlework. Lorraine James 6493 7175 or Mary Cooke 6493 7320.

MT DROMEDARY UNITING CHURCH

Bermagui: Sundays 9am at the Union Church, West St. Bermagui, Cobargo: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 11am; 4th Sausage sizzla at 7pm & praise night at 6pm, Cobargo Bermagui Rd.
Minister Rev. D. Oliphant. Ring Col: 6493 6531
Churches also at Narooma and Bodalla

MYSTERY BAY COAST CARE

Contact: Richard Nipperess 4473 7769. Meet: 9.30 - 12.30 first Wednesday of the month at the swings.

LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS

Cobargo SofA Hall every second Sunday. Set up, 1.45pm. Drawing, 2-4pm. Naomi 6493 7307.

DIGNAMS CREEK COMMUNITY GROUP

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

OPEN SANCTUARY@TILBA

Gatherings at Holy Trinity Church Tilba Tilba on the 2nd and 4th Saturday evening of each month at 5pm. Music, meditation and shared reflections, supper afterwards so please bring a plate if able. Meditation group meets every Wed at 10 am.
Inq: Rev Linda Chapman 0422 273 021.

HEART TO HEART

2nd & 4th Saturday of month from 12:30 to 3.00pm at 2a Brighton Park Road, Beauty Point. Discuss the Ageless Wisdoms of Alice A. Bailey teachings. Phone: Christine on 4476 8732 or Lorraine on 6493 3061

QUAAMA MEN'S SHED

Meets Wednesdays from 10am at the old fire shed, 20 Bermagui Street, Quaama. All men are welcome. For information contact John Preston (President) on 6493 5887 or Ron Higgins on 0408 788 528.

WALLAGA LAKE/BERMAGUI MEN'S SHED

Meets Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10am at Umbarra Cultural Centre, Akolele. All men are welcome. For information ring Bill Johnston (president) on 6493 5447 or Fergus McWhirter on 6493 4360.

THE YUIN FOLK CLUB

The Yuin Folk Club organises the annual Cobargo Folk Festival and hosts folk music concerts throughout the year. Details at www.cobargofolkfestival.com. For info ph. Secretary Carolyn Griffin 0400 391324, Treasurer Zena Armstrong 0402067615 or email info@cobargofolkfestival.com

Community Notices

are advertised in *The Triangle* for non-profit groups free of charge. If details change, please advise us at contributions@thetriangle.org.au

For the Fridge Door

FEBRUARY	WHAT	WHERE	TIME
Thurs 1	Full Moon dance & gathering	Quaama Hall	6 pm
Sat 3	Heart to Heart Meditation, ph 6493 3061	Beauty Point	12 - 3 pm
	The Hoops	Cobargo Hotel	8.30 pm
Sun 4	Live music: Richo's Ragtimers, free	Tilba Valley Wines	1 pm
	Community BBQ	Quaama Hall	11 am
	Storytelling: Cheryl Davison & Annie Bryant	Tilba Small Hall	5 - 7 pm
Tues 6	SRE Teachers' Blessing Service	All Saints, Bermagui	11 am
Wed 7	U3A Information and Registration Day	Bermagui Country Club	10 am - noon
	Social bridge	Tilba Valley Wines	2 pm
Fri 9	Blue Child Collective 'Wattle Tree Corroboree'	Murrah Hall	6.30 pm
Sat 10 - Sun 11	Cobargo Show	Cobargo Showground	From 8.30 am
Sat 10 - Mon 12	Dog Show	Dickinson Oval, Bermagui	All day
Sun 11	Blacksmithing demonstration	Galba Forge, 345 Yowrie Rd, Wandella	1 pm - 5 pm
Tues 13	Pancake Night	Christ Church, Cobargo	6 pm
Tues 13-Thurs 15	CEFE solar w/s, enq. wjhc@bigpond.net.au	Bermagui Country Club	5.30 pm
Wed 14	Valentine's Day Buffet Dinner Dance, \$25,	Quaama Hall ph 0427 937291	6 pm
Fri 16	Ecstatic freestyle dance	Quaama Hall	6.15 pm
Fri 16 - Sun 18	Dog Shows	Dickinson Oval, Bermagui	All day
Sat 17	Quaama RFS BBQ	1211 Upper Brogo Rd	1.30 pm
	Live music: The Jason Lee Band	Cobargo Hotel	8.30 pm
Sun 18	Live music Chris O'Connor Damian Coen free	Tilba Valley Wines	1 pm
Sun 18	Comm doco 'The Last Song Before the War'	Old Cobargo Butter Factory	3.30 pm
Sun 25	The BEEZ, \$15	Tilba Valley Wines	4 pm
MARCH			
Fri 2-Sun 4	Cobargo Folk Festival	Cobargo Showground	All day
REGULARS			
Mondays	Quaama/Cobargo Quilters	CWA Cottage Cobargo	10 am-3.30 pm
	Weekly meditation	Kamalashila Centre, Tilba	10 am - 11 am
	Yoga Classes with Sara	Bermagui Surf Club	10 - 11.15 am
	Dru Yoga	Cobargo School of Arts	10.30 am
1st Wednesday	Bermagui Historical Society meeting	Bermagui Museum in Community Cent.	2 pm
	Social bridge	Tilba Valley Winery	2 pm
Thursdays	Mind Body Stillness Meditation	The Courtroom, Princes Hwy Cobargo	10 am-11 am
	Bermagui Growers' Market	Fishermen's Wharf	2.30 - 5 pm
1st Thursday	Lions Club meeting	Cobargo Hotel	7 pm
3rd Thursday	Lions Club meeting	Bermagui Beach Hotel	7 pm
Saturdays	Worldwide dance and aerobics	Bermagui Community Centre	10.30 am
2nd Saturday	CWA Cafe	Small Hall, Tilba	9 am - 12 pm
1st Sunday	Reclaim the Riverbank Working Bee	Rob's corner, Quaama	9.30 - 11.30 am
	Tilba Food Share	Call Annie: 0409 443 064	10 am - 12 pm
3rd Sunday	Cobargo/Quaama food swap	Call Tam: 0409 882 944	10 am-12 noon
Last Sunday	Bermagui Red Cross Markets	Dickinson Oval	9 am-12 noon
ART			
Fri 2	Opening 'Fresh Salt'	Bega Valley Regional Gallery	6 pm
Sat 3	Opening 'From the Shed' Ivan Hollins	Lazy Lizard Gallery	10 am

Email your events with date, time and venue to contributions@thetriangle.org.au by the 22nd of the month