

## Eleven months on - Friends, neighbours, community



Dean, ground zero, January 2020 (photo: Isobel Markus-Dunworth)

All the excitement's over, all the fuss and attention is finished, and I'm just left with the harsh fact that it's all gone, all burnt.

All the things that I'd slowly accumulated over decades that were gonna make my dream ... gone. And just an endless queue of things to be done. All too much. Overwhelming, sapping initiative and optimism.

Lost, lonely, flat, bleak, defeated. Seems my best option is to let go of the future and just do today.

Thank God for friends, neighbours and the community. And please, everybody, keep waving when we pass each other on the dirt roads.

*Dean Dunworth  
Upper Brogo*

### Reflections on a bushfire

Ostensibly, my life is back to normal. I survived; my dogs came through unscathed; I have a new little house.

And yet, when people ask how I am, I respond, 'I'm screaming inside.' I haven't been to a counsellor – I don't know what anyone could do about this feeling, deep down in my soul, of loss, of being lost. I hope I live long enough to recover.

#### Kindness # 1

I was in a shop in Bermagui soon after the fires. The shopkeeper asked how I was coping. I was sleeping on an airbed on the floor of what was left of my shed, with my dogs.

As we were talking, a young woman approached. She said she couldn't help overhearing our conversation, that her

family had a caravan at Wallaga Lake for holiday use, that they were going home that day – would I like to borrow it? She would get her brother to bring it over. Just like that.

#### Kindness # 2

Once again, in Bermagui, looking for a gift for a friend. I came upon a word carved out of wood – 'HOME'. I wondered if I was projecting, but I did think she'd like it. I asked the shopkeeper if she'd wrap it for me. She did, then pushed it back and said, 'This is from me to you, for your new home.' I cried.

#### Contrast

It seems that a lot of folk who've been lucky enough to retain their homes have forgotten the rest of us.

*(Continued on pages 4 & 5)*

The rain has come, the grass is brilliant green, gardens are flourishing and creatures are on the move. A flood of creativity is bursting the banks as poets are word-crafting, paint-splattered artists are at the canvas, quilters are patterning, sculptors are chiselling and welding, students are cooking and filmmakers are capturing nuanced shots in several new ventures. Far South Film is supporting the growth of the screen industry in the region by attracting externally based film productions, encouraging local young and older collaborators, and launching the inaugural Far South Film Festival. Funding for the cancelled James Cook

anniversary celebrations (COVID again) has been creatively redirected to produce a documentary about local stories of the survival and resilience of Yuin culture. And 'Mother Mountain', a film about intergenerational trauma, is being shot on location around Gulaga, revealing the healing power of truth and nature.

Many people are getting their lives back together and collaboration seems to be a key to a fecund, community web. The ongoing selfless dedication of volunteers underpins the connections strengthening our community health. Yet as Christmas and New Year come around it will be a hard time for many in our community.

Christmas may not be so great for those still living in a metal pod in summer and still remaking their lives. With these people in mind, across the nation and worldwide, members of Remake Christmas have handcrafted decorations for those in our region who have suffered loss from the bushfires. Their example of love and care captures the spirit of Christmas – the hand extended in kindness during hard times. As members of Lazy Lizard gallery remind us, 'it takes two' to rekindle the creative spirit, renewal and life force.

Triangle team members wish all a joyful and safe Christmas and New Year.

## Letters to the editors

### Trump poem causes offence

I've just picked up the November *Triangle* and am frankly outraged! How can *The Triangle* feel okay about posting 'Donald's Bubble' (poem by Ian McFarlane)?

It's so very unfair to us Trump supporters. I can only think that your management has not had the time to really explore and research the true agenda that President Trump represents!

You are printing propaganda, in my view, and taking sides with the most corrupt politicians on the planet, who truly represent the crazy and deplorable underbelly of corruption in politics.

This is the very corruption that President Trump is addressing by draining the swamp.

Would it not be better if *The Triangle* stayed out of US politics, which you obviously have not researched, and stick to reporting our local news?

Tamayra Hayman  
Bermagui

### DISCLAIMER

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

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

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

### Find my phone? A dud!

My phone, a rather elderly iPhone, disappeared between Friday night and Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning I did a 'find my phone' search, which came up with an address: 6 Cooper Street, Balmain!

Well, it's probably time I replaced the phone, and as it's too old to upgrade most of the apps, I doubt if it's of much value to whoever took it.

The search cost \$15.00 and I used a debit card, not a credit card, to pay. That way, if the aim is to harvest card numbers, any illegal use will have very small pickings. You can't trust anyone coming into the holiday season!

Jo Lewis  
Akolele

### Despair, disappointment, and shame

Despair lives here in the heart of our land where animals that escaped bushfire incineration are being legally poisoned with 1080 poison, shot and trapped under the cover of the State Government's so-called Wildlife and Conservation Bushfire Recovery Plan. The native dingo has been classed as a wild dog for the purpose of eliminating it as an invasive species, in spite of its being recognised by scientists and ecologists as a unique Australian animal with a pivotal role in the ecosystem.

Shame lives here for a country that has one of the highest animal extinction rates in the world and still does not protect its natural environment or respect the spiritual and cultural significance the dingo holds for Indigenous people.

Disappointment for a federal government that shows a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the establishment

and enforcement of higher national environmental standards in order to protect our natural world from further destruction and exploitation.

Susan Cruttenden  
Dalmeny

### Unfair energy rates

In both Sydney and Bermagui, my electricity retailer is Energy Australia. In Sydney, the electricity supplier is Ausgrid, which charges supply at 0.902 cents per day, while in Bermagui it's Essential Energy, which charges \$1.485 per day. On a 90-day bill, I pay \$52 more in Bermagui than in Sydney. This is unjust and unfair.

Roger Juchau  
Wallaga

### The light of the season

Where has it gone –  
that giddy delight  
at the winking lights  
of a Christmas tree?

Seasons Greetings  
received on my iPad  
but I feel cheated –  
one less for my mantelpiece.

The child's eyes open  
bright wide. In this moment  
she loves the present bringers,  
her parents, more than any other.

Wrap the year up, the children awake.  
I would like to hand it festively back  
unforgettable year of challenge,  
though gold glitters in the ash.

How lucky I am to live this moment  
thick mist embraces the forest,  
the night has left and cool air  
welcomes the first sliver of sunlight.

The Well Thumbed Poets

# Letters to the editors

## The jab of joy

Woohoo, the light at the end of the tunnel is shining bright. Vaccines are here and rolling out in a few weeks' time - first for the oldest and most vulnerable, the frontline medical staff, but then also for the unpaid carers and personal assistants! What a bonus for a job that's not really so bad.

This news makes up for the new level-4 lockdown the majority of Scotland are about to enter into until 11 December: the cold, dark days would have been extra gloomy, but with the jab of joy coming our way, I can see lots of smiling eyes above the protective masks as the Scots hurry around to get their Christmas shopping done before the lockdown starts. But there will be few get-togethers, it may have to be 'Christmas in July' like the Australians have, this year. Nobody wants a virus for Christmas, it's not worth the risk.

First Minister Nichola Sturgeon has followed Australia's lead and closed the border, nobody allowed in or out of Scotland, possibly the first time that has happened since 1314 and the Battle of Bannockburn. A sure way to stir up national pride... Oh! There happens to be a national election next year, good on her.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Sarah Breakey  
Edinburgh*

## Guidelines for contributors

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

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



## Thumbs UP

To the Bermagui Country Club for their generous support in helping small growers and makers build up the local market with a quiet investment in the recovery of farms and food security for the community.

To the rangers who protect our environment.

To the team at Four Winds for their annual Youth Festival, showcasing extraordinary talent during extraordinary times. Also, the coaches from Beautifully Mad, and the Bega Youth Orchestra, with conductor Geoffrey Badger. The quartet from the Sydney Youth Orchestra, the individual piano, sax, guitar, and trumpet players, and all the heart-warming voices. And lastly, the parents and grandparents glowing with pride and tears.

To the volleys for organising the clearing up of small and large debris from the wreck of the Salvatore V on Camel Rock Beach

To the community members who stayed on the case of the schemozzle at Bermi's Horseshoe Bay. Hopefully resolved early in the new year.

## Thumbs DOWN

To the people who drive out along the narrow track at the rock wall at the entrance to the Bermagui Harbour. There's no reason to drive out there—quite often large four-wheel drive vehicles—and then negotiate turning or reversing. Can Council please restore the bar that used to block this off to vehicles? And while they're at it, a rubbish bin at this very popular spot would be most useful.

To the idiots who broke a bottle in the bowl of the skate ramp in Bermagui. It's going to be difficult to clean up all the shattered glass before someone is injured.



## Community Notices

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

## Who does the work

### The Editorial Committee

Linda Sang (President)  
Stuart Absalom (Vice President)  
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Book advertising space by ringing 6493 8369 or 0407 047 404 or email [advertise@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:advertise@thetriangle.org.au)

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**Narooma:** BP station, Visitors Centre, Library

**Quaama:** The Quaama Store

**Wallaga Lake:** Merrimans Land Council

### Deadlines:

Advertising: 5pm, 19th of each month

Editorial: 12pm, 22nd of each month

Letters to the editor

All communications should be forwarded to: [contributions@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:contributions@thetriangle.org.au)

### Postal address:

The Editors, *The Triangle*  
PO Box 293, Bermagui. NSW 2546  
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 2400 in print plus online visits.

(Continued from front page)



**Lindy Marshall hopes she'll live long enough to recover**

I've lived in my street for 13 years. Apart from my immediate neighbours, not one local has come forward to give me a hand, or offer me a beer or a cuppa, or even rung to see if I'm okay.

Several other survivors have had the same experience. Come on! If you know someone who's existing in a Pod or a caravan, how long since you checked on them, or offered them a meal or a hot shower? Have a heart. That could so easily be you.

*Lindy Marshall  
Verona*

### **It's a long road ahead**

Overwhelm, exhaustion, tears accompany me a lot.

I thought I'd rebuild.

Have I ever built before? No. But I don't feel like selling and don't know where I'd go.

There's still too much going on. Too many phone calls, forms to fill, people to see ... it's endless.

And the land needs restoring. Debris removed, fruit trees cut down or pruned back, burnt branches, grass mowed, vegetable garden tended, burnt poly, damaged fences, holes dug for new plants, mulching, weeding ... A few people offer help. You're a blessing.

The Pod is functional and dry. Perspex stops the cold wind blowing in the window. Every time I turn on a tap the pump kicks in for a full cycle. There's not much food preparation space so it's easier to open a can. I'm getting anxious from listening to the pump and macerator turning on and off at will. I'm exhausted.

My gifted caravan is a godsend, a nice sleeping space. But when it rains for a week I find the leaks. The wind makes short work of the annexe. Over 24 degrees and it's too hot in there. No trees left for shade. A friend gives me some timber and another builds a deck to stop me bringing in the mud. There are things to be done but it seems to require mammoth effort now and tears are just below the surface.

I secure some accommodation in Bermi. For the first time in ten months I don't have to pack up and move every three weeks. I can get a good dry sleep. Thank God for the women at the real estate agency who have witnessed me break down several times from exhaustion. They know the stories.

I grieve for the energy I used to have. Apparently, it may be another year before it returns. I cancel the build. Hopefully my time at the ocean will restore some joy to my heart.

I belong to a clan – those who lost their homes, belongings and sense of safety in the fires. We understand each other. For those in Quaama our respite comes from the Relief Centre, from Veronica and Warren Abbott. Without them, most of us would not be standing today. Love heals and helps. The many items gifted with love kept us going another day. Thank you to all who offered support. You are dearly appreciated.

*Ruth Haggard  
Quaama*

### **Don't rush my recovery**

On 27 December I left my home in Quaama with carry-on baggage. No passport, birth certificate, laptop, photos or prescriptions.

On 12 January, with new steel-capped boots, cut-proof gloves and a car loaded with identified essential items, for us and our community – water, p2 masks, first aid items, solar lights ... I returned to the



**Ups and downs. The arrival of her pod was a good day for Ruth Haggard**



**Veronica's camp on the site where her much loved old home once stood. There are still roses and ducks...**

embrace of my community. I could sob. Just a little. But not for the ash and twisted steel material remnants of our lives. For my neighbours, my friends whose names came into focus on each coloured post-it note stuck to the 'Wall of Safe' in the Quaama School of Arts Hall.

So many survivors. Too much horror.

Now our Hall is delivering her purpose, as intended by the 19th century community who built it – a community centre where we can come together to share the material, spiritual and practical resources and skills to begin again.

Ten months later, we push every day in our struggle to recover. Routine 'housekeeping' now includes tightening the guy ropes and repairing tarpaulins.

Basic 'survival' hormones are still aroused – we're not safe yet. We don't know how to do so many things. It's not fun. I used to have a beautiful home filled with reminders of who I am and where I've come from.

I'm okay. Kinda. Until I drive to work each day, my visual sense jarred by the black spikes and bare rock atop the surrounding hills. I'm not okay.

Work is great. There's routine and structure. There's my team. Together we do good stuff. But I'm jumpy. Shriek involuntarily when a colleague knocks on

my door.

Back at 'home', I don't sleep enough. I'm not taking care of myself. I want a hot bath.

Late winter, the Pod was delivered.

Pod phobia ... it's a thing! All I wanted was a long hot shower. So ... lights on, exhaust fan on, brand new electric blow heater on. Slide door closed to keep out the chilly air. Step up into clean new cubicle. The floor flexes. Flick the tap. Pump kicks in, macerator activates. Motors throb. The reek of new plastics is nauseating.

I'm holding the walls. It's a sensory assault. I'm still raw.

Over winter a new term entered my vocabulary: 'fireplace envy'. Acrid plumes rising from my neighbour's chimneys on frosty mornings. I want to go home to my own cosy fire.

The relentlessness of survival saps my stamina.

But there are roses, there are ducks, and clouds. I have electricity and mains water. There's Quaama Relief Centre – a place of resource and refuge. A place where we are loved.

I'll be okay. But it's going take a long, long time ...

Don't rush my recovery.

*Veronica Coen  
Quaama*

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES ANGLICAN PARISH OF COBARGO (Cobargo, Bermagui, and Quaama)

### CHRISTMAS EVE:

QUAAMA – 6pm (place TBA)  
COBARGO – 11pm Midnight Mass  
at Christ Church,  
Hoyer St, Cobargo\*

### CHRISTMAS DAY:

BERMAGUI – 7.30am at All Saints,  
Wallaga Street\*  
BERMAGUI – 9am at All Saints,  
Wallaga Street\*

### 27 December:

Bermagui 8am. Quaama 10am  
(in the School of Arts Hall)

### 30 December:

Christ Church Cobargo: A Service of  
Remembrance and Thanksgiving  
7pm All Night Vigil

*\*Due to COVID regulations, numbers will be  
restricted. It is therefore requested that you call the  
numbers below to book your seats.*

Bermagui – Nancy Whackett 0428 933 136  
Cobargo – Alan Burdon 0409 189 659



## The Relationships Australia Canberra and Region Disability Royal Commission Counselling and Support Service

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If you require support in another language, you can use the Translating Interpreting Service (TIS) free of charge by calling us and asking for an interpreter or calling TIS directly on **131 450** or calling TIS Automated Telephone Interpreting Service on **1800 131 450**.

For more information, support or to refer someone, contact us by phone **1800 324 864** or email [disabilitysupport@racr.org.au](mailto:disabilitysupport@racr.org.au) during office hours.

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# Forged in fire

The mega fires of 2019 were the biggest transformative event in south eastern Australia since European settlement, and the biggest planetary fire event in recorded and oral histories. Twenty percent of the continental forests were lost. So where are we now one year on?

An Australian National University ecologist said it will take 100 years to restore the native forests and wildlife; Indigenous knowledge holder Tyson Yunkaporta says it will be 1000 years. The natural environment has a long way to go.

The human community is in parallel realities. We have lived through powerful, forced change and are affected by that, albeit to differing degrees. For many directly impacted by fire, life is still physically basic, overlaid with days of pervasive raw feelings. So deep for some was the lived trauma that the vulnerability, confusion, terror, and overwhelm still reverberate. And now, a sense of abandonment. It seems the nation has moved on, the national government never arrived, even much of local community focus and dialogue has moved on. The initial volley of crisis services has come and gone. Support in the form of community grants will soon pass. Yet many people still need help – practical help.

There has been primal terror. Our sense of certainty is gone, probably forever. When faced with unfettered and unprecedented natural forces, critical social structures failed – communication, connection, food, water, shelter, safety, technology, government leadership. The modern French mystic, Simone Weil, writes of the experience of profound

vulnerability; she names it as ‘soul loss’. Maybe ‘soul crystallisation’ is a better term, as people find they are living in the present, the now, as fundamental values and relationships become crystal clear. In truth, life is fragile and precious. We are always vulnerable, and uncertainty is ever present.

The community’s threads of activities are rewoven, and bold new projects are planned. However, we need sensitive attention to balance the comfort of familiar, the push of enthusiasm, and the space for self-orchestrated healing. The health of our community is in its connectedness and creative, diverse wisdoms. The traumatic events cannot be changed, yet the balm of understanding breaks isolation and can ease the mental, emotional, and spiritual pain. The depth of experiences yields the gems.

Perhaps our experiences are equipping us to live and thrive together in an uncertain world – demonstrated strengths are our connectedness, care and generosity to each, and all while retaining respectfulness over and above differences. Some things are very clear – our lives are deeply entwined with the Earth, present directions of humanity are unsustainable, and transformation is already here – we have had a harsh, early introduction to the consequences of a heating planet, like a pilot study.

Together, are we stepping from the unprecedented into the unpredictable, perhaps creating a new paradigm? A paradigm is a shared and assumed way of seeing, thinking, valuing and living. Transformation occurs when the

dominant paradigm can no longer address the problems it creates. Importantly, transformation comes from the margins and never from those invested in the status quo. When social structures fail, embryonic new structures become visible *at the margins*. The map/model of an emerging and alternative paradigm can be seen in the pattern and dynamics of its relationships. Rockefeller, addressing Philanthropy Australia some years back, said that to support transformative social change, ‘look to the margins’.

We are approaching the anniversaries of these life-taking and life-changing experiences – a potent, yet dangerous time. Now, even more, we need care, love, offers of a cuppa, visits (take a cake), listening, help with physical tasks – *simple human kindness* – to help our neighbours, the people down the road, to build a living community model of love, kindness, practicality, and importantly, recognition, compassion, and inclusion.

Those forged in fire are still in a deeply transitional time, personally, socially, spiritually – the deeper the firing, the greater the tempering. It’s vital we stay together.

Rosemary Beaumont

## Maggie McKinney



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# Christmas decorations made with love

Handmade Christmas decorations from crafters around the world will be ready to be picked up from the Cobargo and Quaama Bushfire Relief Centres from the beginning of December. Members of the Remake Christmas project have lovingly created decorations for those who lost theirs in the bushfires. Decorations have been flowing in from the US, UK, New Zealand, and all over Australia, including all the way from WA, Tassie, and the Northern Territory.

While we talked about the background to Remake Christmas in last month's *Triangle*, we thought it would be special to share the stories behind some of the decorations with you.

A group of Girl Guides in Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory gave up time in their holidays to make spiral decorations with beads and sparkly pipe-cleaners. The girls were worried their decorations might not be as attractive as some of the other creations but we think people will really treasure these decorations, as they will remind them of precious ones their children and grandchildren would have made for them.

In a wonderful collaborative project, 87-year-old Shirley knitted little Christmas trees, and her daughter Carolyn then embellished them with beads and buttons and bells.

Leanne in WA made Aussie-snowmen baubles – appropriate for an Australian Christmas, the snowman has melted, and his carrot nose and his eyes and arms are floating around in the melted snow.

One of the most entertaining decorations is Santa's washing line, created by Elizabeth in the UK. Can you spot Santa's Y-fronts?

As well as decorations to hang on your tree, contributors have created stockings, table runners, wall hangings, bunting, and Christmas cards and gift tags. We have



Remake Christmas cofounder Bianca getting the decorations ready to be packed for recipients

packaged up the decorations into sets, with each set containing a selection of different decorations from different creators. No two sets are exactly alike, and part of the fun will be looking through them and choosing which one you would like!



Santa's washing line

Many of the creators included really touching notes with their parcels. People have shared what their own Christmas decorations mean to them, and also shared memories of disasters that happened where they live, like the Christchurch earthquake. One of the very touching notes was from Karen, another NSW South Coast

resident who luckily escaped the fires relatively unscathed. She shared that, in her thankfulness, she constantly thinks of those residents far less fortunate and whose lives were turned upside down. So making decorations was one of the ways she felt she could help.

These decorations have been made with so much love and care for everyone who has been through the bushfires. Hopefully you will be able to feel some of that as you unwrap and hang your decorations. Please know that so many people out there are thinking of the residents of the region this Christmas and New Year, knowing it will be a tough time and hoping you will be able to find some moments of comfort, family, and love.

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

*Juanita Watters*

## Anglican Parish of Cobargo, Bermagui, and Quaama

A challenging year is closing, and I hope and pray that 2021 is much easier than 2020! But let's not wish this year away just yet, but rather look forward to Christmas as a way to focus on the message of Jesus' birth. May we remember this blessing: 'During this Christmas season may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace. The gladness of the season, which is hope. And the heart of the season, which is love.' We can't turn back the clock and ignore the hardships faced by so many, but we can believe that good things are on their way!

A second Seasons for Growth course will be held in Cobargo on 10 and 11 December. This is a loss-and-grief course developed in Australia. It is nonreligious and inclusive and helps people in their grieving. If you know someone who may benefit, please let them know. Numbers are limited, so booking is essential. Please call Rev. Tim for more information on 0411 825 204.

As a commemoration of the anniversary of the bushfires that so greatly impacted our community, there will be a Service of Remembrance and

Thanksgiving, 7 pm on 30 December at Christ Church, Cobargo. Guest speaker will be David Bone from Regional Development Australia, Far South Coast. This will be followed by a solemn wreath laying and symbolic community activities. The church will remain open throughout the night with readings, gentle music, and prayer on the half hour. Councillors will be available and refreshments on hand. People are welcome to attend for whatever time suits them. The vigil ends at 9 am.

*Chris Richard-Preston*  
Chair, Parish Council

## Fun and funds raised in Frocktober!

Did you know that proportionally, more women die from ovarian cancer than breast cancer, due to such a high number of women being diagnosed in the advanced stages of the disease? And did you know that the average survival rate for ovarian cancer in 2020 (46%) is lower than the average survival rate for all cancers in 1975, when modern cancer research began? And, that if caught in stage 1, survival rates of ovarian cancer are as

high as 92%! However, only 19% of cases are diagnosed early due to the vagueness of symptoms and the lack of an early detection test.

How does a fact a day, a new dress or skirt a day, and a photo on Facebook to prove it sound?! All to raise awareness and funds to support research into developing an early detection test for ovarian cancer. This year I joined many others in a growing movement called Frocktober, a

real challenge for me. To join I only needed to register, then wear a minimum of one dress or skirt on one day, or you can go big and do a 'frock' every day in October!

Thank you to all who made donations. The \$700 I helped raise was added to the countrywide total of over \$690,000. Feel free to join me next year, we can have frocktail evenings, frock-swaps, and lots of other frock fun. If I can do it, almost anyone can.

Also, a pap smear does not detect ovarian cancer. See a doctor and get an ultrasound if you have any of the following symptoms:

- feeling constantly bloated
- swollen tummy
- discomfort in your tummy or pelvic area
- feeling full quickly when eating, or loss of appetite
- needing to pee more often or more urgently
- persistent indigestion or feeling sick
- pain during sex
- a change in your bowel habits
- back pain
- tiredness
- unintentional weight loss.

*Annemarie Narraway*



A frock a day to keep the doctor away. Frocktober fun for ovarian cancer research.



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# Susan Ryan, AO, 10.10.1942 – 27.9.2020

John Curtin, Australia's wartime Labor Prime Minister, once wrote, 'There are some lives which we accustom ourselves to look upon as fixed. We reckon our own passing to the twilight of eternity as a certain preliminary to theirs.' That is how I felt about Susan, who has been a fixed part of my life for over four decades.

We first met in 1975, the year she was elected as Senator for the ACT, the same year I joined the ALP and became involved in developing policies to improve the status of women. As an Opposition Senator between 1975 and 1983, she worked tirelessly to strengthen the role of women within the Party, while arguing for the changes necessary for all women to live their lives free of discrimination.

The Hawke government was elected in 1983, and Susan became the first woman in the newly formed Labor cabinet. She became Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, and Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women. She steered through the Sex Discrimination Act in 1984, despite unbelievable hostility from the Opposition, and from some within the Cabinet. That legislation forever changed the lives of women in Australia.

Until the last days of her life, Susan was still advocating justice for the aged, people with disabilities, and refugees, Indigenous rights, and for Australia to become a republic. Susan died two days before she was due to come to Bermagui to deliver books to Well Thumbed Books, and to meet with friends interested in establishing appropriate aged care in the region. She was also to come down early next year to support our U3A, by offering sessions on the legacy of the Whitlam government for women, particularly his support for their education opportunities. Many of our U3A members have been the direct beneficiaries of these policies, especially through access to free university education.

Her public life helped shape Australia and provided a living example of how one person can inspire a generation of activists. As a personal friend, she was more fun than most, a passionate lover of music, literature, and poetry, especially of the Irish variety. She was the embodiment of 'tribal loyalty'—to the nuns who shaped her social justice values, to the women who supported her, to all things Irish, and to the Labor Party with which she didn't always agree, but to which she remained attached and never stopped trying to improve.



Labor luminary and pioneering feminist Susan Ryan

Vale a dear friend, sister, and comrade. 'Deep peace of the running wave to you.'

*Heather O'Connor*



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## Cobargo Public School's 'The Day She Stole the Sun' has been released

The students of Cobargo Public School had a tough start to the year. When bushfires ripped through Cobargo in the early hours of the morning on New Year's Eve, some lost houses, others lost family members, and all have a story to tell about that day. Together, along with the help of their teacher, Campbell Kerr, Cobargo Public's Year 5/6 class have told their story – writing and illustrating a book titled: 'The Day She Stole the Sun'. The story is a testament to the courage and thoughtfulness of the students.

'The book has taught the students a lifelong lesson that positives can come from difficult experiences,' says Gillian Park, Cobargo Public School's Principal.

Some comments from the students: 'I hope the book is read by people in the city, so they understand what the bushfires were like, and also in other small towns who were burnt, because they will relate to it.' – Lila Herring. 'I reckon it (the book) was also quite good because we got to share our side of the story, not the TV producers' side.' – Nate Miller.

The book was started as part of LittleScribe's literacy program for schools, which helps students build stronger writing skills, and encourages every child to become an author.

From LittleScribe Ambassador Andrew Daddo: 'Whilst we think we



Students Ngametua Ben and Ashton Washbrook proudly show off their book.  
What a great Christmas present!

might know something of what Cobargo went through at Christmas, this story tells it in a mature, yet passionate way. Words and pictures come together to create some incredible imagery, this is a book for everyone, not just the people of a small town fighting back.'

The students of Cobargo Public School are ready to share their story. You can get involved by purchasing, reading, and sharing, 'The Day She Stole the Sun'.

Look for it locally or it is available at [www.littlescribe.com/cobargo/](http://www.littlescribe.com/cobargo/) for only

\$22.00 (inc. GST). \$10.00 from every book purchased goes to Cobargo Public School.

Debbie Worgan

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## Relationships Australia is here to help

Across the south coast region from Eden to Batemans Bay, Relationships Australia Canberra and Region are providing a free, independent counselling and support service for people with disabilities, their families, carers and others in the wake of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disabilities. The Royal Commission will look at ways to protect people with disabilities from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Counsellors are available to meet with people where they live, at another service,

over the phone or via video conferencing, at RACR offices in Bega, Batemans Bay and Moruya or somewhere else of choice.

RACR's Disability Royal Commission Counselling and Support Service offers:

- information about the Disability Royal Commission
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• interpreting and translation services, if needed to access our service.

For more information, support or to refer someone, contact us by phone or email during office hours.

Phone: 1800 324 864

Email: [disabilitysupport@racr.org.au](mailto:disabilitysupport@racr.org.au)

## U3A bushfire presentation – it's not too late to catch it

U3A have some great, informative presentations at the moment through the Zoom platform. More and more classes are being offered online, and U3A hopes to return to some face-to-face events in Term 1 next year with the implementation of our COVID-safe operating plan.

One presentation that has just concluded was the Bushfire Talk by Bruce Leaver, running over three sessions. Bushfire memories are still painfully fresh for many of us, but this talk gives an informed scientific perspective of what causes a bushfire and how we might make

our own assessment of risks and impending fire danger in future events. It also focused closely on what happened in Cobargo.

With summer coming on, this information is increasingly important. U3A decided to rerun Bruce Leaver's presentation as a single session on the morning of 1 December, and due to popular demand, again on the same day in the afternoon at the Bermagui Community Centre. As you are reading this in the December *Triangle*, this session will already be finished, but do not despair. The three original 45-minute presentations

have been recorded and are available to download and view from the U3A site at [www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au](http://www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au).

Like all organisations, U3A has had a bumpy year, but we do hope that our online courses and regular newsletters have provided much-needed connections for our many members. We thank our ever-creative presenters and loyal members for making the best of our troubled year. We look forward to bringing new courses and opportunities for social connections in 2021.

Ruth Perrett  
President



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## CWA Conference Committee thanks local donors

The local Committee organising the Country Women's Association of NSW State Conference in Bega in May next year would like to say a big thank you to our local South Coast sponsors and donors. Their support means we can offer some impressive prizes for our Conference Raffle.

Conference Committee Treasurer Alison Jenkins successfully applied for sponsorship from the Pambula & District Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank. They kindly gave \$2000 towards the Conference, which will be used for expenses such as printing Conference raffle tickets and posting those tickets to all CWA branches throughout NSW.

It also means we can offer a first prize in the Raffle of \$1000 in cash.

Another generous sponsor, Bega Betta Home Living, has donated a red Kitchen-Aid Artisan Mixer valued at \$749, which we're offering as the second prize. Our CWA culinary expert and Conference Committee Member, Nelleke Gorton, says it is her mixer of choice when preparing her award-winning fruit cakes.

The third prize, donated by Georgies Fine Jewellery, is a Pandora bracelet with charms, valued at \$444. Georgie, who provides bespoke jewellery through her stores in Batemans Bay, Narooma, Merimbula and Bega, loves giving back to the South Coast community by sponsoring local charities and events like the CWA Conference raffle.

The fourth prize is a set of two suitcases – travel and hand luggage,



Tilba resident Kate Ing at work in Georgies Fine Jewellery, Narooma

valued at \$424. The fifth prize is a \$200 Visa card. The fourth and fifth prizes have been donated by the CWA Far South Coast Group.

With all these wonderful prizes, where can you buy a ticket for the 2021 CWA State Conference Raffle? You have two choices: from any Far South Coast Group CWA branches from Eden to Batemans

Bay, including Cobargo, Bermagui and Tilba, or online at [www.rafflelink.com](http://www.rafflelink.com).

The raffle closes on 5 May 2021 and will be drawn in Bega.

For more information on the CWA State Conference in Bega, please contact me by email: [fscgcwa@gmail.com](mailto:fscgcwa@gmail.com).

*Lynn Lawson*

*CWA State Conference Secretary*



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Our best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas with family and friends, and a special thanks to the wonderful Triangle team for keeping us all in touch and supporting our community through a very difficult year.

It seems to me that as we move through, and are almost at the end of, 2020, tensions are rising in many areas. I'm also apprehensive as to what we will say in 2021 when something bad happens, because we all seem to be of the belief that all bad occurrences are because it's 2020: the year of doom.

A lot of projects, planning, grant applications, and community consultations have been held this last month in relation to the rebuild of Cobargo. As with all communities, there have been mixed feelings for some of the proposals, which is healthy because it indicates that people care and show an interest. We must remember that the people who make up the groups, the driving force behind all this activity, are volunteers who are doing this hard work with the best interests of Cobargo at heart.

There has also been some fantastic effort being recognised, with Ange Kane being awarded a community service award by the NSW government. Ange has done a tremendous job since the fires, being the main organiser of all the fodder that has been donated, as well as contributing to many aspects of support to fire-affected people. A well-deserved award, congratulations, Ange.

The Cobargo Crown Land Manager has been awarded the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Crown Land Manager Excellence Award at the recent Regional Achievement and Community Awards. Congratulations to all the members of the committee.

The Wandella Hall committee will be hosting the annual Christmas Tree – but with a difference! It will be held



Creek and runoff at Wandella (photo: Louise Brown)

as an open-air event, welcoming all the community to attend and have a Christmas catchup, as well as having Santa make an appearance for the children's gift-giving. There will also be games and fun dances for the children, and we will be having a raffle to raise funds for the replacement of the hall's internal needs. The event starts at 2 pm on 6 December, and there is no charge to come along, but please bring a present for each of your children, a chair, and a plate to share with one and all.

Juanita Watters (nee Myers) and Bianca Brownlow have managed to gather Christmas decorations from around the world, after Juanita showed a friend her parents' burnt box of decorations after the

NYE fire. The idea to seek to replace them gathered momentum, and both ladies were astonished with the generous donations they have received - so many, in fact, they are coming to Cobargo on the weekend of 28 November to disperse numerous boxes to those affected. Wandella Hall committee will be receiving a box after they lost theirs in the fire.

This last month we had a very hectic flood in Wandella, the waters raging with a force never seen by locals before. Unfortunately the vegetation that usually slows the waters is no longer there. On the upside, the ever present rain has enabled farmers to make terrific amounts of silage for the anticipated drier times ahead.



## CONNECTING COBARGO Inc.

- Connecting Cobargo is asking for designs from local Primary school children that reflect how you belong and connect with your community.
- The competition runs 20/11/2020 - 19/12/2020.
- 2 winners will be presented with Art Kits from 'Frame and Brush' on Xmas Eve. The designs will be printed on T-shirts

## FAMILY FUNDAY

- The Nest's Family Funday will be at the Cobargo Saturday Markets with competitions, giveaways, balloons, lucky dips, sausage sandwiches and a jellybean guessing competition.
- The T-shirts designed by local children will be available to buy at the Funday and at local shops.
- Proceeds go to future Bega Valley children's programs.

**For more information call Dalice on 0478732108 or email [pdalice@y7mail.com](mailto:pdalice@y7mail.com)**



The Bowerbird Community Op Shop would like to wish all of our supporters a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

We have officially moved to our new location at 74 Princes Highway, Cobargo, right next door to Benny's Butchery.

We look forward to seeing you over the holiday season. Our opening hours are Monday-Friday 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 1 pm.

We are always looking for new volunteers, call in and have a chat!

## Jim Salway 4.6.43 - 18.10.20

Jim Salway, late of 'Mimosa Banks', Cobargo, passed away in Hillgrove House on 18 October 2020 at 77 years of age. His funeral service was held between showers of rain at the Cobargo Showground cattle ring – a piece of turf on which he had done many laps, exhibiting his much-loved Jerseys.

From a family of Jersey lovers and breeders, Jim left high school early to work on the family farm – Rankins Road's 'Glencraig.' Here, over many years, he honed his craft in breeding and showing quality Jerseys and establishing himself as a young judge with a keen eye.

He married Madge (Cochrane) in 1969 and they spent the next 38 years dairying at 'Glencraig.' They had four children in the early '70s – Diana, Julie, Greg, and Steven. In 1988, Jim bought 'Mimosa Banks,' which bordered 'Glencraig,' and he had lived there for the past 15 years.

Aside from cows, he had interests in horses. Madge was a successful competitive rider, and he bred, raced, and sold a few pacers during the '70s and '80s. In his later years, he was a regular at the Sapphire Coast races, parking himself on the railing upstairs, where he could give cheek to anyone below. A fine athlete at school, he played league in the '60s for a number of local teams.

Jim's successes in the cow ring were far too prolific to mention. Highlights,

however, include:

1997 – Melbourne Royal, his five heifers won all their classes, earning him the Premier Exhibitor Award.

1998 – International Dairy Week (IDW), the largest dairy show in the Southern Hemisphere, he won the Champion Heifer class. Jim never cried, but he did that day!

2005 – Sydney Royal, Supreme Dairy Cow – Jim's fine cow beating his friend Rocky Allen's Holstein. Jim and Rocky travelled together to Sydney that year, with every bovine on the truck winning a blue ribbon. A remarkable effort for little Cobargo.

2011 – Jim won three Champion classes with the same heifer - under three different judges, with one judge saying she was 'the best Jersey heifer I've seen.'

Jim was always held in high esteem in the Jersey world, and in 2008 won the Distinguished Service Award for Jersey Breeding. He was the first Jersey breeder in NSW to use embryo transfer in the late '80s – a scientific marvel of the time. In 2014, at IDW, he won the prestigious Lex Bunn Dairy Industry Award in recognition of his unsurpassed and ongoing commitment to encouraging youth to become involved in dairying, exhibiting, and the show movement.

Jim was a competitive man, and whilst his achievements and awards were



significant, gladly received, and well-deserved, he remained humble. He enjoyed many close friendships, some spanning generations, and was a giving neighbour and proud Cobargo local.

Jim is survived by his family – wife Madge and children Diana and Matt, Julie, Greg and Louise, and Steven and Donna. He was Jimpop to Zane, Saxon, Piper, Ava, Lily, Chase, Delilah, and Joseph, and he was endearingly called Jimpop by many.

*Diana Jones*

emailmailmailmailmailmailmailmail The Triangle's email address is [contributions@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:contributions@thetriangle.org.au)

## A CWA 2020 round-up

The highlight of our last meeting was the presentation of a long-service badge to Ann Cotterill, who has been a valued member of our branch for 24 years. Ann served as our Treasurer for many years, doing a magnificent job.

Our cookery competition was held at this meeting, organised by our Cookery Officer, Debbie Fisher. We had the highest number of entries for many years and a wonderful variety of cakes and preserves on display. Winners will now go onto the next stage at the Group Cookery competition.

We'll be joining with the Quilters on 28 November for another craft-and-quilt giveaway. The Cottage will be open at 9 am and a one-way system will operate throughout for COVID safety. The Cottage is on Cobargo Bermagui Road, next to the

playground. If the weather is friendly there will be a plant stall outside. All welcome.

As we head into 2021, we're starting to organise Australia Day. We already have our nominee for Citizen of the Year for Cobargo, who was held over from last year as no award was made then due to the bushfire disaster. However, we're looking for Junior Citizen nominations. If you would like to nominate a junior for this award, please jot down a few notes and send them to: Mary Williams, PO Box 5114, Cobargo.

We discussed the ABC Classic online choir and were encouraged to join. We listened to the Christmas carol written by Deborah Cheetham, which sounded great. It's easy to get online and join in, it's open to all, and sounds like a lot of fun!

Our country of study for this year

is Ecuador, and we were made aware that they're in dire straits with COVID 19. Their toll could be 15 times greater than official figures because of the lack of infrastructure. We were reminded to consider other countries who are suffering so badly.

We're making our usual donations to the schools at Cobargo and Quaama, and a donation to Cobargo Preschool to assist with their raffle.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Triangle community for their support. We've had a very busy year distributing the generous donations from the wider community. We also wish for a better year for 2021, and a peaceful Christmas for all.

*Mary Williams*

## Cobargo Public School's Kitchen Garden program

The students from years 3 and 4 from Cobargo Public School participate in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program each Tuesday. The aim of the program is to provide pleasurable food



Braeden Washbrook, Harper Jessop, Wyatt Lambourn, Bowie Taylforth, Pia Alderman, Elodie Leclerc, and Oxley Wilson-Starr with their cabbage harvest



Kitchen Garden-inspired mosaic artworks

education to the students and facilitate positive food habits through fun, hands-on learning. They engage in the cycle of growing, harvesting, preparing, and sharing food, aiming to grow as much seasonal produce as possible and carry the fresh harvest into the kitchen.

We are fortunate to have the support of a local chef, Lena from Via Luna Tiny Cookery, here in Cobargo. Lena volunteers her time each week to create healthy recipes and assist the students with their cooking. Some dishes the students have created are zucchini fritters, upside-down tomato tartlets, green tomato curry, carrot mug cake, and white-bean coconut cupcakes.

Garden classes give students the opportunity to develop a practical understanding of the seasons, the weather, and the environment. Students discover how to build and maintain an organic garden and to use tools safely. There are many opportunities to link other areas of the curriculum with garden classes, such as English, maths, science, and creative arts. This year the students have created their own Kitchen Garden-inspired mosaic artworks, which will be used to decorate



Tori Callingham and Kesha Pauling with their cauliflower salad

the school.

The Kitchen Garden program has an array of health, wellbeing, education, and community benefits, and the students wait eagerly each week to participate in the program.

*Gillian Park, Principal*

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## Carols in Cobargo

A time to come together as a community and share Christmas Eve. Join us for Christmas carols in Apex Park in Cobargo on 24 December at 8 pm. Everyone's welcome. More information at the Anglican Parish of Cobargo Facebook page.

If you're a musician, we would love to have you help make music for our community. Please contact Fiona: 044 845 3422 or [fiona@kurrajonghill.com.au](mailto:fiona@kurrajonghill.com.au). Or Tim: 0402 290 170.

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## At last! Plans to renovate the RSL Hall

For the past several months there's been activity in and around the RSL Hall in Cobargo. After the trees came down – and we all had to get used to the stark nakedness of the site – there's been major earthworks, retaining walls built, and the beginnings of landscaping and planting.

For over ten years the doors have been shut to the public. The Hall's been the subject of much speculation within the community: petitions and letters sent to the Hall committee and higher up within the organisation, and letters and articles published in *The Triangle*. As we are such a small village with a dearth of public buildings, with our population on the rise, the pressure for available spaces to hire regularly or casually is limited to the Cobargo School of Arts, spaces in the Cobargo Hotel, the Cobargo Showground, and the CWA Cottage.

The RSL Hall used to be a space for hire for multiple uses/users. When I first moved to the area in 2003, the Hall was the site for the regular Saturday morning market. Most vendors were outside, but there were stalls inside as well – I remember the crocheted hangers and embellished tea towels. Outside, more excitingly, there were handmade chocolates and baked goods, a sausage sizzle, and lots of second-hand bargains. Then there was Janet selling her farm produce. It really was a vibrant market, and I remember the Hall as one of the venues for an earlier version of the Cobargo Folk Festival.

Then the Hall became a very large trash-and-treasure venue for several years. It eventually closed for business and remained closed for ten years. Walking past the other day, I saw the doors open. I got to talking to Glen Morrison, the new President



The RSL Hall in Cobargo - watch this space!

of the RSL Hall committee. I was invited into a mostly empty hall with original hardwood floors, which I am told will get sanded and repolished. The two small 'office' spaces at the front of the building are in dire need of work to replace the ceilings, which have been water-damaged. The whole building needs much work to bring it up to compliance standards before any notion of hiring it out to the public can be considered, and the timeline for such an endeavour is unknown. Many factors need to be considered, but funding is essential. At a guess, Glen hopes refurbishment will take six months to a year, but knowing we're coming up to Christmas, and that

there is unprecedented pressure on finding tradespeople and materials, it won't be a quick fix.

Until the building is sound and internally modernised, Glen wants people to put forward applications for usage of the Hall. These applications will be considered by an independent group to assess the priority of needs that benefits the community most. He is hopeful the community becomes involved in the refurbishment and revival of this beautiful, simple building. The RSL Hall needs to become part of the community again – and the community needs the Hall again.

Linda Sang



The interior with examples of workshop ideas of possible or pending projects facilitated by the Cobargo Quaama Business Recovery Group. Note the original RSL service light still works.



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## All I want for Christmas is ... new hope for 2021

Everyone is relishing the weather at the moment. Finally the south coast is being treated to plentiful rain and sunshine and the countryside is really glimmering like a jewel – at least along the coastal fringe. Sadly, inland, there is still much scorched earth with only small green shoots promising a little hope and rebirth. A huge contrast to this time last year when the country was brittle-dry, every day the temperatures rose, we were buffeted by hot winds, and the sky was a blanket of smoke. We waited for the inevitable and it came.

2020 has been a year like no other for most of us on the south coast, and I wonder how many will have changed perspectives about the upcoming 'festive season', and instead of focusing on spending too much on Christmas paraphernalia, will be grateful for the gift of being here. Traditional celebrations and gatherings with family and friends from afar may not be possible, and festivities will probably be a lot more subdued this year. It's hard for those of us with family overseas and in far more vulnerable countries to feel much joy, but more, hope that they will remain safe and we can be reunited sometime.

Bermagui is unusually busy for this time of year. In the past, November and early December were notoriously quieter months, as many in business will attest to – a lull before the onslaught. Locals are talking about how many more people there are in town, with main street parking at a premium already. There's going to be greater pressure on the small town this year, especially its services, when borders and travel restrictions are lifted. Bermagui has

become an extremely desirable destination. At least the busy season will mean that local businesses that have worked so hard this year to survive and operate under strict restrictions may have the chance to recoup some of their losses after a disastrous 2020 summer season.

Accommodation is going to be critical with suggestions that the town is booked out. While I sympathise with those wanting a beach holiday, a far more serious issue is the lack of accommodation for the people who have a livelihood here and keep the town running. There is an accommodation crisis in this town, with very few homes to rent, and even fewer to purchase. The smattering of properties that come up for sale are quickly snapped up for investment properties or top-dollar holiday rentals and will remain empty for a large part of the year.

We're going to be hearing more of this issue. The conversation has to be had and solutions have to be found so that we can provide accommodation for all who need it – young families, the elderly, the workers, those displaced by the fires, the people who make up the fabric of this community.

Let's celebrate the passing of a very difficult year and hope for recovery and revival in 2021 – Happy Christmas; Feliz Navidad; Buon Natale; Joyeux Noël, and Frohe Weihnachten.

### Planting at Beares Beach

Good to see some planting happening above Beares Beach, working on the 'unintended garden' that has gotten out of control along the cliff top. What, you may ask, is an 'unintended garden'? According to the sign at the entrance to the beach, it's 'mongrel landscape where exotic plants are



Replanting has commenced on the Beares Beach 'unintended garden'

running wild among the native vegetation. Its equivalent can be seen on the fringes of most coastal towns.'

Work has started on **Apex Park**. The planned 'All Abilities Playground' could not be built this year, but work on the toilet block will be completed before Christmas. It will be the same design as the new Bruce Steer facility, and work will commence on the playground early next year.

**Murrunna Point Track** is well under way with walkways at both ends, and two new viewing platforms on the cliff near Horse Head. This stunning walk is an important part of the Yuin people's heritage, and informative signs can be viewed along the way.

Good on Howard and the **Murrah Hall** team for staging some excellent music over the past month, supporting amazing local artists and giving them the opportunity

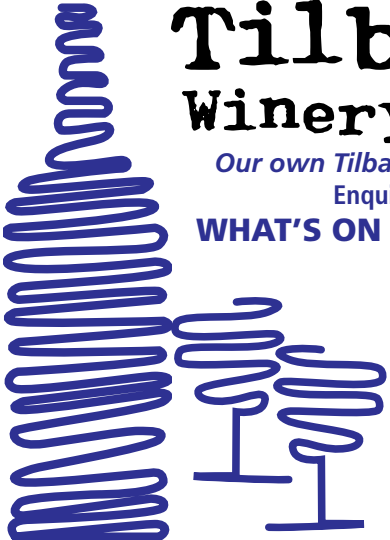


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# Bermagui Banter

of performing in front of an audience, and also bringing joy to some music-starved patrons. This was carefully planned and organised within safety guidelines, and socially responsible precautions were in place. It was also made possible with the help of a grant from APRA to enable COVID-safe musical events to happen. Sadly, when I asked Howard if there were any more events planned for the season, the answer was loud and clear, 'None'. Just too hard on many levels. Still, we'll be looking forward to returning to the Hall in the future. Enjoy the surf, Howard, and a well-deserved rest.

If you are heading to Bega for any reason, check out the new summer exhibition just launched at the **Bega Valley Regional Gallery** – *A Measure of Time* by Clare Belfrage, Jam Factory icon. Clare is a vibrant glass artist, her distinctive works characterised by patterns of fine glass lines.

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The cliffs and pebbled beaches between Camel Rock Beach and Murunna Point – which might have been stolen from *Treasure Island* – resonate strongly with my romantic English childhood. Mary and I lived near Wallaga Lake before being persuaded to move back to Canberra in the winter of 2019 for medical and family reasons. The first summer after we left, a series of catastrophic fires swept through the region with devastating results.

Horried, we watched TV images of the lovely village of Cobargo disappearing under a nightmare of flames and smoke, then spent anxious days and weeks trying to contact friends and neighbours, many of whom – we later discovered – had experienced the trauma of multiple escapes.

Keen to revisit a damaged country so fondly remembered, we were hampered by ongoing medical problems. Then the

curse of COVID complicated things even further, pushing the south coast fire tragedy into a cluttered and chaotic background, while we agonised over when best to take the plunge, worrying if locals would feel uncomfortable about out-of-town visitors.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We cleared Brown Mountain to receive a delightful welcome from Heather among the crowded shelves of Cobargo's Well Thumbed Books. Then on, down the sweepingly curved entrance to Bermagui, known locally as 'The Cathedral' due to the majesty of its towering trees, particularly in early morning or late afternoon. At the height of bushfire confusion there had been conflicting reports, one suggesting damage, and even though this was later revised, I was anxious to confirm that the Cathedral was safe. And there it was again, calm and reassuring in its peaceful transcendence.

## *Salvatore V* runs aground



*Salvatore V* battered by surf on Haywards Beach, Bermagui

It was a sad sight as the iconic local fishing vessel *Salvatore V* floundered in the surf on Haywards Beach. The vessel was firmly wedged in the sand and was being battered by the surf. Attempts were made to tow the vessel back out to sea, but it's believed the wooden-hulled boat was beyond saving and a salvage operation was to be put in place.

Luckily, all crew on board were safe during the beaching of the vessel as it returned to port. Local emergency services

such as the RFS and Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club assisted in making the area safe while assessment of the damage was being undertaken.

In a small town like Bermagui, anything out of the ordinary becomes big news, and Old Tilba Road has seen a constant procession of sightseers visiting the beach to get a last look at the old *Salvatore V*, and the passing of another piece of our fishing history.

*Carolyn Banados*

## Homecoming

In a virus-strangled and ideologically divided world, we surely need such places – environmentally, aesthetically, and spiritually.

Moments after arriving in Bermagui, Chris from Narooma's Quarterdeck, Naino from my old tennis group, Coral from the Cobargo Folk Festival, and local guru Sam were buying us coffee at the Fishermen's Wharf.

We later touched base with other friends, including the amazingly talented Tony and Kris from Beautifully Mad, Brian and Enid from Akolele, Rod and Christine from Tilba, and an old mate from my ancient DFAT days, Rob from Narooma. We returned to Canberra via the Clyde, saddened by the loss and destruction, but rejoicing in the warmth of humanity, and the hopeful green shoots of recovery.

*Ian McFarlane*

## *Pelican 1* leaves the harbour

*Pelican 1*, that large, white, Polynesian-styled catamaran moored in Bermagui Harbour, has been a familiar sight for the past 11 years. Some may have enjoyed one of skipper Garry McKechnie's whale-watching cruises, which have been running for some years now. Others will remember her role as a floating stage, part of the Four Winds Festival in 2014, a brilliant setting for performers at the wharf precinct.

*Pelican 1* is about to leave her moorings and take up her new home in Yamba on the north coast under new ownership. She will sail north in January.

The history of this majestic vessel is an amazing story. In 1997, Garry and his friends decided to make a film. They took six troubled teenagers on an 18-day voyage through Tasmania's Bass Strait islands aboard an old pearling lugger, skippered by ocean activist Peter Malcolm. Garry filmed the adventure, and in 1999, *If it Doesn't Kill You*, the critically acclaimed TV series, was released and sold around the world.

Before the release of the film, Garry and his friends formed a not-for-profit company, Saltwater Projects Ltd, and began design and construction on a new vessel. She would have low impact on the marine environment, be self-sufficient, and comfortable for long periods at sea. The layout would be suitable for research, dive operations, monitoring, and remote-area projects. Six years later, *Pelican 1* was launched by Saltwater patron Andrew Denton in Melbourne. The broad focus of Saltwater's work was to engage



The *Pelican 1* leaves the harbour

people with the sea and to inspire ocean conservation.

In 2004, *Pelican's* first voyage was a circumnavigation of Australia, to test and refine the vessel in challenging environments, and showcase her to potential clients. In Cooktown, the crew met with the Indigenous Guugu Yimithirr people from Hope Vale. It was the beginning of an important relationship for future collaboration, where they developed a multidisciplinary approach to Indigenous community development.

Their award-winning projects have combined marine science, such as turtle tagging, seagrass monitoring, coral bleaching, and dugong surveys, with arts

activities, as well as health, vocational, and leadership training.

Over the years, Saltwater and *Pelican 1* have engaged in a number of significant and inspirational projects, including 'Two Bays', which focuses on Port Phillip and Westernport bays. Working with various authorities and schools, it combines marine research, education, and community engagement to increase awareness of water-quality issues within Victoria's largest and most populated embayments. The project also highlights the importance of traditional knowledge in marine conservation, and has just been named a finalist in the Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards, with special acknowledgement to 'Captain Gaz' and the *Pelican 1* crew for keeping all involved safe, fed, navigated, and happy.

To date, *Pelican 1* has completed in excess of eighty thousand nautical miles on projects throughout Australia and the Pacific. Her new owners plan to continue some of her environmental and Indigenous work in Cape York, a great note to bow out on for Garry and *Pelican 1*.

Garry McKechnie



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## Bermagui Public School celebrates NAIDOC week

NAIDOC 2020 was celebrated at Bermagui in style, with Welcome to Country, an explanation about NAIDOC, and the presentation by Gordon Campbell of special language awards for Dhurga, one of the Aboriginal languages of our region.

Students in 1R performed a beautiful Dreamtime story, 'The First Sunrise', from the book *Gulpilil's Stories of the Dreamtime*. Gulpilil learnt the stories from elders in Arnhem Land. They prepared for the performance by creating artworks that represented the landscapes described in the story, using coloured and textured paper to create layers, and coloured pencils or markers to add more detail. These featured in the background of our performance as scenery and highlighted the importance of Country to Indigenous Australians.

The whole school was recorded singing 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes' in Dhurga, which became a very popular video on the school's Facebook page.

Stage 2 were involved in the recording of a NAIDOC music and film project, coordinated by Luke Ferguson from YWCA Canberra. Our students were recorded singing in Dhurga, as part of a wider project run by the YWCA and ATSI Education in the ACT. The song was written by a Ngunnawal woman, Auntie Honey, with the lyrics 'Place, People, Land, Heart'. It was broken into three verses, each sung in a different Indigenous local language, with one verse sung by a school in WA, another by an ATSI class in the ACT, and the final by our students singing in Dhurga. It was officially launched during our NAIDOC celebrations.

Upcoming projects: kindergarten, year one, and year two students have been learning songs in Dhurga language. Nursery rhymes have been translated by Gordon Campbell and will be filmed in the coming



Puppets and masks for the upcoming recording of 'Place, People, Land, Heart' by Ngunnawal woman, Auntie Honey. BPS students will sing the lyrics in Dhurga.



Students from 1R display the artwork for their dreamtime play, 'The First Sunrise'.

weeks by a film crew from Red Cross and Narooma High School. Students have been busy creating puppets and props to accompany their songs.

Stage 2 have been creating two books, with students illustrating and writing the texts. Year 3/4 Bana's book is titled, 'Our journey: Walawaani'. It takes the reader on a journey from Gulaga, drifting down the coast all the way to Aragunnu, stopping at beautiful places along the way. Year 3/4 Duraya's book tells of life on the Bermagui River throughout the seasons, looking at its special place in Yuin culture. It's called 'Duraya Seasons', *duraya* being the Dhurga word for river, which flows right past the classroom window. Both books feature Dhurga, which Uncle Gordon helped the students translate.

Julia Loughran,  
Bermagui Public School



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## A different but rewarding year at Bermagui Preschool

What a year it's been at Bermagui Preschool! Along with lots of challenges, we've also had an amazing year, with many awesome achievements.

At the start of the year, our Preschool Program provided a safe and familiar space for our children and families to recover and reconnect after the devastating fires that ravaged our communities, while our Mental Health and Wellbeing Program supported vulnerable children and families, with access to professional counselling and therapy right here at preschool, in a place they felt familiar and secure. A big thank-you to the following individuals and organisations for supporting our children, families, and staff: local psychologist Kate Gentle; Jan Ryan from Relationships Australia; Brendan Cook from Southern Area Community Health; Leonie James; Save the Children Fund; Bega Valley Shire Council; Mercy Foundation, and the Red Cross. This multifaceted approach allowed our preschool community to access support in a personal and individual way, which we know has helped us feel stronger and more resilient.

Although we stayed open for essential workers during the lockdown period, we adjusted our program to also facilitate a Remote Learning Program. This allowed families and children to stay connected with the preschool and continue with quality early childhood education, through our live video sessions, online education, Facebook programs, and check-in phone calls.

Our Moodji Farm program has been inhibited by COVID-distancing

restrictions, but thankfully the farm has been maintained by a wonderful group of volunteers and high-school GreenTeamers, who have not just kept the project operating, but expanded its capacity, making the space more accommodating to our young gardeners. A second chicken coop has been positioned, and we can now consider introducing ducks to help them keep weeds down. Storage spaces have been built, our honeybee terrace is almost established, and a range of new structures have given the site a flash new look. Our blue-tongue lizard population has doubled to include two new junior slug eaters, and bamboo poles are giving our trellising added dimension. And now, with restrictions lifting, our preschool GrubClubbers are on the job, planting sunflowers, beans, and popcorn, with garlic harvesting, lizard-castle building, and mass carrot crunching on the cards.

Our little gardeners have also been busy turning their produce into wonderful cooking activities, culminating in our very own *Kids in the Kitchen* cookbook, filled with lots of beautiful pictures of our junior chefs, and jam-packed with wonderful recipes. Our preschoolers will be taking home a copy at the end of the year.

We were also excited to be working with Dennis Pitt, an amazing Aboriginal artist. We commissioned Dennis to create a mural at the front of our preschool, to pay tribute to our local Aboriginal culture and heritage. Our children were able to observe and talk with Dennis and put into practice the skills and techniques they had learnt from him, creating their own artwork to

take home. A huge thank-you to Dennis for creating the beautiful mural, which will inspire our current and future children and families to connect with our beautiful local country and culture.

Our Transition to School program has been able to go ahead, with our children visiting local primary schools to meet teachers and familiarise themselves with 'big school' ahead of next year. A scaled-down, child-focused end-of-year celebration will conclude our busy year, with visits from Nosy Nonna, Zamboni the



Bermagui Pre school children in front of the new mural with the artist David Pitt

Magician, and of course Santa.

For more information about Bermagui Preschool, or to be involved in any of our community projects, please email [bermikids@hotmail.com](mailto:bermikids@hotmail.com), or phone 02 6493 4183.

Narelle Myers

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**Triangle  
Photo Gallery**

There are now some delicious  
**'Food'** photos in the *Triangle's*  
photo gallery.

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a white t-shirt with a circular logo that says 'THE PACIFIC PACE'. The woman on the right is wearing a striped shirt.

As this  
month is  
a time for  
catching up  
with people,  
we are  
asking for  
photos of **'Family & Friends'**  
Send in your photos by 10th  
December. The gallery will be ready  
to view on 15th December.  
Send to:  
**[photos@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:photos@thetriangle.org.au)**

A logo for Bermagui Bobcat & Tipper Hire. It features a yellow excavator and a black tipper truck. The text 'BERMAGUI' is in large blue letters, and 'BOBCAT & TIPPER HIRE' is in smaller black letters below it. The phone number '0439164176' is also present.

**Allan Dummett 0439164176**

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## Men ... back at work!

The last few weeks have brought a rush of activity at the Bermagui Men's Shed as members move into their new home. After leaving Umbarra over a year ago the blokes were homeless for a long time, but continued to meet socially each week at the Bermagui Country Club. However, behind-the-scenes action was continuing as the committee lobbied, begged, and harassed whatever officials they could contact to secure funding to build their new Shed.

Council has been extremely helpful in sorting out issues with the land and remediating the site to make it safe to build on. When the major funding was received, the light at the end of the tunnel was finally seen. The new Shed began to rise!

Moving-in day dawned and all the equipment in storage was moved to the new building. Members quickly got to work, sorting equipment, building new benches, securing new safety equipment... and the work was all done under strict COVID safety practices.

Stage One is finally finished. Stage Two will see the construction of a smaller shed to house the kitchen, recreation area, and meeting room. This shed will also be made available for other not-for-profit community groups in the future. Once all the sheds have been built, then the much-loved BBQ area will be built, along with landscaping and gardening.

Our State MP, Andrew Constance, made a short visit to the new Shed recently and was most impressed with the progress. He has been supportive since its inception and promised to strongly support the current application for funding.

Of course, with the COVID lockdowns this year, fundraising has almost stopped. The Men's Shed relies on regular activities such as sausage sizzles and the selling of toys and other wooden



The new Bermagui Men's Shed is up and running

products through the Visitor Information Centre to fund their day-to-day running. However, a small, group has continued to work each week, collecting bottles and cans from the Ingenia and Regatta Point caravan parks and the Country Club, then feeding them into the Return and Earn machine in town. Thousands of bottles have been through the Men's Shed collection team in the past 12 months.

The future of the Bermagui Men's Shed is very bright indeed. With expansion, new members are most welcome to join in the activities. Currently the Shed opens Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am till 2 pm. You will find it at 4243 Tathra Bermagui Road, just past the cemetery.

*Carolyn Banados*



Men... back at work in the new Men's Shed



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## Sculpture Bermagui 2021 – best year ever for volunteers!



*Troubled, by Daryl Harbrow, a winning entrant in Sculpture Bermagui 2020*

Well, we had the luck of the Irish to be able to run the 2020 exhibition between the fires, floods, and COVID. We trust that disasters and crises are over... and that 2021 will be more peaceful. The 2021 exhibition, however, is shaping up to be even more exciting.

Interest from the art community is at an all-time high. Next year there is an optional 'theme' for the exhibition, which is *'On the Other Side'*. We're anticipating some interesting and diverse interpretations of this idea.

We have some new committee

members who provide a breath of fresh air and new ideas, and we thank those who have stepped down for all their hard work. There is a special team who are already planning and preparing to make 2021 the best year ever for volunteers!

This year we are also rolling out a schools' program – increasing student participation with the exhibition has long been an ambition of the committee.

Edward Willson's *Fluidity*, chosen from the 2020 exhibition for the Bermagui Business Award, was recently installed beside the 777 supermarket. We thank

Rhonda Drakos for hosting this sculpture. It can be enjoyed by locals and tourists and brings sculpture into our everyday lives.

Big news: we have a new venue for the indoor sculptures! An opportunity arose to exhibit in the surf club on Horseshoe Bay. With its stunning outlook towards Mother Gulaga, it's a remarkable site and will provide a seamless flow of all exhibits, enhancing the overall viewing experience.

All in all, hold onto your hats, folks. The 2021 Sculpture Bermagui exhibition from 6-14 March is shaping up to be unmissable!

*Di Bray*

## Dad's Army assists cancer sufferers

Bermagui Dad's Army Sunday Social Golfers and the Bermagui Country Club have once again donated a much-appreciated cheque to Bega Valley Can Assist. After a difficult year of fundraising due to the pandemic, it was a very delighted representative of the local charity who accepted \$750 at a gathering on 25 October. Mike McCann presented Lori Hammerton with the cheque, and in return, Lori thanked the golfers and advised members of the work Can Assist does, stating that COVID had not prevented people across the Bega Valley requiring financial assistance while being affected by cancer.

Since the charity was formed in the Bega Valley, over \$670,000 has been raised and donated, and the need continues. Pharmaceuticals is one of the major expenses people are required to deal with, but Can Assist also pays utilities, accommodation when away having treatment, prosthetics, fuel and food



**Bega Valley Can Assist volunteers gratefully accept a generous donation**

vouchers, oxygen equipment, and many other varied but much-needed items.

Every dollar raised remains in the Bega Valley and all members are volunteers; therefore, no administration cost come out of any donations given. All donations are strictly confidential,

with recipients referred to by an assigned number.

Can Assist meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Club Bega. For information or assistance, please phone 0439 328 634.

*Lori Hammerton*

## Removal of dredged material from Horseshoe Bay Beach

Earlier this year, Crown Lands dredged sections of Bermagui River. Dredged material was pumped to and spread over Horseshoe Bay Beach, in part to mitigate existing erosion across the beach. There were two issues with this dredged material: the sheer volume of sand (12,000 cubic metres, 22,000 tonnes) and the materials in the sand, including glass and metal.

In July this year, responsibility for this work transferred from Crown Lands to NSW Maritime, within Transport for NSW. NSW Maritime is now overseeing the Bermagui dredging project. The work scope is not yet complete, with the harbour-dredging in front of Fishermen's Wharf yet to begin.

As a result of community feedback, 98% of the dredged material will now be removed from Horseshoe Bay Beach. This remedy is principally at the recent instigation of Andrew Constance, MP.

The work will involve an excavator on the beach loading trucks, which will move the dredged material to a stockpile at the back of the beach. The material will then be trucked to the fenced Crown Lands compound behind the slipway. This trucking work is by a different contractor to that involved in the dredging. The remaining beach sand will then be sifted and contoured to the natural beach shape.

Hopefully this work will return the beach to a healthy and safe condition, and in time for the peak tourism season. Work begins on 23 November and is expected to be completed by 18 December 2020. This project will involve hundreds of truck movements and will not happen on weekends. Sections of the beach will be closed to ensure public safety.

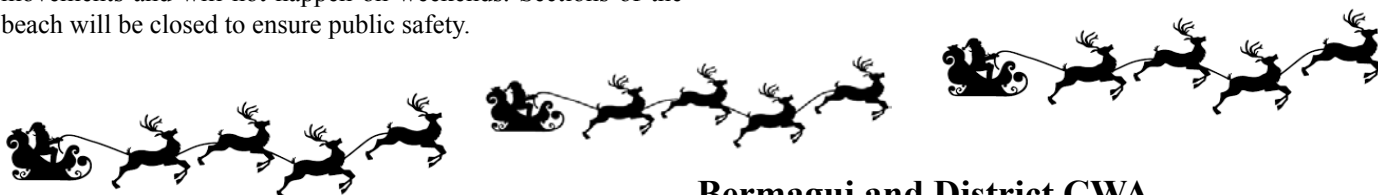


Horseshoe Bay Beach, site of the dumping – and later the removal – of dredging waste

This episode is the consequence of poor communication from and between Crown Lands, the dredging contractor, and to a lesser degree, Council. There is some concern as to the possible size of the new stockpile behind the slipway.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Robinson, Stakeholder Manager, NSW Maritime, on 0427 759 482 or [jen.p.robinson@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jen.p.robinson@transport.nsw.gov.au).

*Geoff Steel*



## Bermagui and District CWA

Due to COVID restrictions, our branch has been meeting in the auditorium at the Bermagui Country Club. This has meant that many members have enjoyed lovely lunches prior to meetings. Many thanks to the Club for their support during uncertain times.

The Annual General Meeting for the Bermagui and District CWA was held in October at the Club. The following are elected members of the committee for 2020-2021: Paula Rumble, President; Kathryn Preston, Secretary; Ruth Brooks, Treasurer; Del Gray, Heather Sobey, and Michelle Craig, Vice Presidents; Jenny Halliday, Cookery Officer; Sue Swensson, Cultural Officer; Wendy Stephenson, Handicraft Officer; Cath Renwick, International Officer; Chris Richard-Preston, Publicity Officer; Gail Whelan and Jenny Halliday, Group Councillors; Vicki Hummel, Group Cultural Officer; and Rhonda Byrnes, Group Handicraft Officer.

Trophies won by our branch at the Far South Coast Group Conference



The smiling faces of some of the 2020-2021 Bermagui CWA committee

also held in October, at the Cobargo Showground, were: Florence Perry Trophy for attendance, for branches of 30 or more members; Tilba Trophy for branch with most participation (Cookery) at group level, and Gwen Forsyth Perpetual Trophy for best branch publicity report.

The last meeting for 2020 will be at the Bermagui Country Club at 1 pm on 4

December. This year's branch Christmas luncheon will be held at Tilba Winery and Ale House on 11 December.

May the magic of the Christmas season fill our community with love, joy, and peace. Take care of yourselves and stay safe.

*Chris Richard-Preston,  
Publicity Officer*

### Marine Rescue Bermagui's Alec Percival humbled by state accolade

Marine Rescue Bermagui volunteer Alec Percival was awarded a top honour when the 2020 NSW Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA) were announced on 30 October. RESCA is a community-nominated award, and is the only time all Emergency Services personnel, both paid and volunteer, are recognised in a combined awards program.

There are seven categories of emergency services included, and each can have up to four finalists. The categories are Fire and Rescue, Marine Rescue, Surf Life Saving, Ambulance, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, and Volunteer Rescue Association.

Marine Rescue Bermagui was lucky enough to have two finalists in the running for the Marine Rescue category: Alec Percival, for his part in many hazardous missions, including saving a yacht from smashing onto rocks at night in rough seas, for which he was awarded the prestigious Commissioner's Commendation for Courage, and Steve Angelo, for his dedication to Training and Assessing. Alec and Steve were both severely impacted by the NYE fires, Alec losing his home, and Steve losing stock, sheds, and fencing, but both put the needs of boaters and MRNSW first, even at such difficult times.

Alec, in his typical humble manner, accepted the award, saying, 'Our unit in Bermagui is very well-regarded by all who know us, and thanks should go to all the members who give of their time so selflessly and with such great camaraderie. It's a great place to work.'

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, David Elliott, said the awards are a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on

the enormous contribution of emergency services workers, adding, 'This is an appropriate time to pause, reflect, and congratulate the individual emergency services for the assistance they've provided. As a state we're hugely indebted to all our emergency service personnel. We should never take for granted their commitment to protecting us, and it's important that we acknowledge the unsung heroes who repeatedly go above and beyond.'

*Debbie Worgan*



Alec Percival receives his award from Stacey Tannos, Commissioner of Marine Rescue NSW, and Michael Moore, Rotary District Governor.



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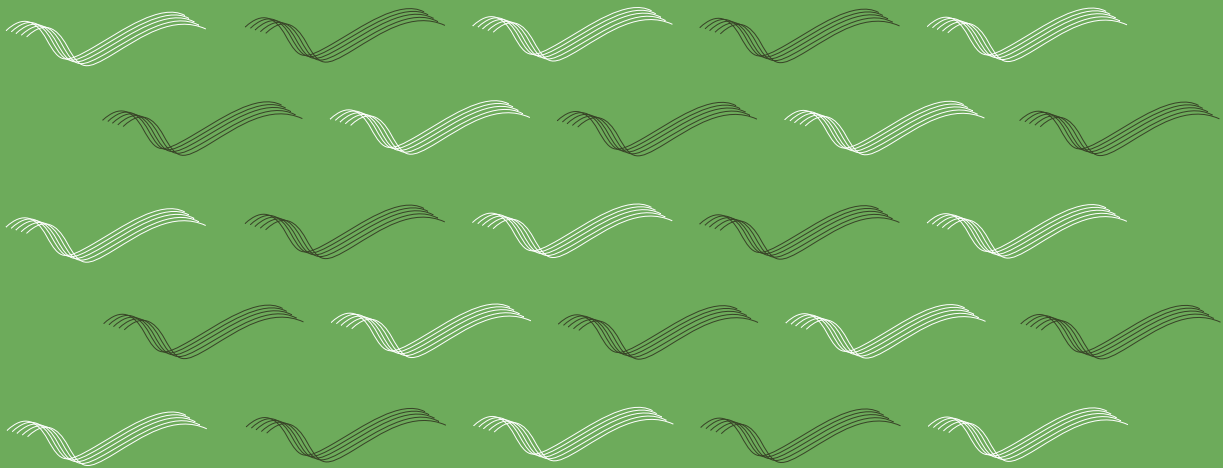
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Tickets will be on sale in January and will be limited, so stay tuned to your E-news-letters and @fourwindsAU

Four Winds has a full year of concerts already programmed for 2021, and we hit the ground running in January.

With so much good music, friends and food to be enjoyed, we know we will be seeing you all again very soon.

WE WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS, FANS AND FOLLOWERS, ALL OUR  
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AND CERTAINLY A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

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December at last! The end of the worst year in living memory for our community has arrived. Sadly the restrictions around the virus are still with us, so celebrations are few and far between, literally. Hopes for a return of Light Up Cobargo, dashed. A big New Year's Eve with live music at the Hall, not possible. No Cobargo Folk Festival! But while we are affected by this pandemic, at least we remain uninfected, the hills are green, and we can gather in smaller groups to feast and give thanks or complain. Whatever rocks your boat!

The Abbotts received some well-deserved recognition, with Andrew Constance dropping into the Relief Centre last month and bestowing upon Veronica the Premier's Community Service Award, in recognition of her herculean efforts in supporting those who were fire-affected. While accepting it, she wants everyone to know that her husband, Warren, and others who have contributed so much of their time in assisting with the relief effort, deserve to be recognised too. It's been a well-oiled



Men at work! The pole dancers at Essential Energy closed the centre of town.

machine with the Abbotts at the helm, but many hands have gone into the day-to-day running and sorting happening out of the hall, which is soon to move! Perhaps by the time we print the next *Triangle*, the relief will continue from a demountable on the Hall grounds. We know the school will appreciate getting their auditorium back, and the hall will again be available for bookings by the greater community. The permissions, planning, and funding for the demountable are all in place, so it shouldn't be long now.

The mini-market happened again this November, with the Sapphire Community Pantry in the supper room, and live jazz spilling out of the main hall. Possum boxes were being put together on the hall grounds, while a selection of plants were on offer. It was a good crowd that Sunday, super-friendly and relaxed. And bargains! The organisers had a generator to keep things working since it fell on the same day Essential Energy organised a planned

power outage to replace poles in the centre of town. Six and a half hours we were without power—gee, you sure do miss it when it's gone! And Telstra customers had to wait days for their ADSL service to be restored. Seemed Telstra didn't get the message about the outage and came late to restart the service, in a proper fashion. I digress, back to the mini-market! The next will be 20 December, perfect for picking up food for Christmas lunch at bargain prices, or gifts for family and friends. Maybe you'd like to book a stall? Call Glennda on 0408 411 956, or Veronica on 0437 263 128. See you there!

This year from hell is passing into 2021. All the positive news around the vaccine trials means we will likely see a vaccine soon, and if the weather forecasters are any good at their jobs, plenty of rain. Sounds like we'll get a well-earned break and can breathe a sigh of relief while we plan for more big weather in the years to come. At least we should be able to relax



Possum boxes assembled at the November mini-market to house wildlife affected by fire

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Beautiful plants on offer at the November mini-market

at the pub and get up close and personal with friends without having to worry about infection. Can't wait to not have to think about it! Fingers crossed this comes to pass soon.

There isn't a January *Triangle*, so farewell until February. Enjoy the holidays!

Hope you get some relaxing time with family and friends. May the summer's bounty be delicious, and everyone well and happy.



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### TERM 4 — SCHEDULED TRANSITION DAYS

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

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

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- ♦ Better Buddies program

As 2020 draws to a close, I'm sure we'll all be reflecting on the year that's been. There have been many challenges, with some things changed forever. Perhaps the most important lesson from this year is that we can do things differently – the way we work and the use of online meetings, to name a couple. Many have seen the disruptions of this year as an opportunity to start to address some of the big issues of our times, and these discussions and actions are ongoing. In our Triangle communities, there is much talk of recovery and resilience, and it's heartening to see that funding is now starting to flow to assist strongly supported community projects. There's also been an appreciation of what's important, and, for some, an opportunity to show how the past can lead to a better and stronger future.

## ***Yuin Country Explored, a landmark doco***

2020 marks the 250th anniversary of James Cook's voyage to Australia in 1770. COVID-19 has meant that many of the planned celebrations had to be cancelled or redirected. However, Eurobodalla Shire Council's funding from the National Museum of Australia has been creatively reimagined to produce a documentary about local stories of the survival and resilience of Yuin culture, including language within the Eurobodalla.

Eurobodalla Council's project officer Rebecca Osei-Agyeman, a Kamilaroi woman, and project assistant Karinya Sutar, a Wiradjuri woman, have involved Yuin Nation people from across the Shire. Filming, under the direction of Wallaga Lake man Warren Foster Snr, has finished,



Alison Walker and Warren Foster Snr during filming

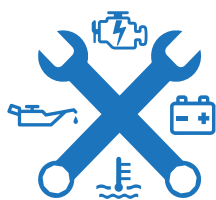
editing is underway, and the documentary is due for release soon.

Originally planned as an exhibition, the reimagined approach maintains some artistic elements, but focuses on the importance of storytelling to culture and connection to Country. The documentary includes local people telling local stories – Aunties Alison Walker, Doris Moore, Iris White, Patricia Ellis, Lillian Connell, Uncle Bunja Smith, Uncle Sam Nye, Vikki Parsley, Kerry Boyenga, Jordan Nye, Warren Foster Snr, and three local dance groups – Warren Foster Snr's Gulaga Dancers; Sharon Mason's Djaadjawan Dancers; and a group of students from Moruya High School under the direction

of Bindarray David Carriage.

I had the pleasure of talking to Alison Walker about the film. She was thrilled to be involved and to have the opportunity to tell her own stories. Alison has a regular stall at the Tilba Market, where she sells her intricate and appealing artwork.

The documentary is produced by Hiromi Matsuoka from Indigo Pictures at Bermagui and directed by Warren Foster Snr, with photographic input from well-known Australian photographer Lee Grant. Ruby Foster, Warren Foster's daughter, was mentored by Lee Grant during the production of the documentary. Keep an eye out for details of local screening dates.



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## Another film: Mother Mountain healing

Celina Stang is a writer/director who, with her family, has made Tilba Tilba her permanent home. Her connection with this area started 12 years ago with the purchase of Blue Hills farm, located above the Tilba Tilba village on a ridge of sacred Gulaga Mountain. Embracing the slower pace of rural life has enabled the family to live a more holistic and nature-based life in harmony with their surrounds and connected with the community.

Drawn to exploring intergenerational trauma and its effects on parenting has led Celina to write and direct 'Mother Mountain', a film currently being shot on location at Blue Hills and nearby Central Tilba, Bermagui, and Narooma. Described as a family drama, the movie features a dysfunctional Jewish family from Sydney, a modern Aboriginal family, and the coming-of-age friendship between their children. With its background of the historical persecution and intergenerational trauma of two of the world's oldest cultures, the story weaves its way to healing through truth and the power of nature. Gulaga, Mother Mountain to the Yuin people, is a powerful part of the story.

Celina is pleased that 'on location' has meant involving local people and the activities and businesses which support them. The cast and crew participated in a recent smoking ceremony with Auntie Vivienne Mason, Warren Foster Snr, Nicholas Hoskins, and Warren Foster Jr. Harry Bate's cattle have been filmed with local horseman Glen Thompson, and Chris Scroggy's Quarterdeck restaurant,



Mother Mountain's Jewish family, embracing the slower pace of rural life

the Mister Hope café in Bermagui, and the Central Tilba Hall will all be part of the story. The movie is due for release in the second half of next year – a local production to look forward to!

## Happy Birthday, Reva

On a bright Saturday afternoon in mid-November, the front verandah of Reva, Central Tilba's exquisite jewellery shop, came alive with the sultry voice of local singer Tash Gabrielle. Reva's owner, Layla Osta, with her staff, family, and friends, had invited the general public to celebrate 18 years since Reva opened. Together with Jess Walker's beautiful vegan cakes, the scene was set for a special celebration.

I caught up with Layla after the birthday celebration to talk about the inspiration that led to Reva's beginning. Like many of life's journeys, Reva evolved from the intersection of what was happening in her life at the time – designing, making, and selling jewellery while still teaching; buying Molly's place in a heritage-listed village; a fascination with European-designed jewellery; moving from a long-term relationship; and changing work

direction from employed to self-employed.

Today Reva is a mature business, one of many long-standing businesses in Central Tilba. With its wide range of unique and beautifully designed jewellery, Reva has a strong and loyal following which continues to grow. The bright and welcoming environment and happy local staff ensure the best possible experience. Layla, in reflecting on 18 years of business, reckons she made the right decision. It has been a good environment to raise her sons, Max and Monty, and to be part of a diverse and dynamic small-business community. And all this is juxtaposed with the challenges of 2020.

Happy birthday, Reva – a Hindi word meaning strength and creativity. Well done, and we look forward to more celebrations.



Shanna, Christa and Layla celebrate Reva's 18th birthday

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## Pies and pastries

Great news – the former Tilba Bakery reopened as ‘Tilba Pies and Pastries’ on 25 November. Lea Moffatt and Hank Jarrett, with their chef sons Ryan and Tyson, have taken on this important Central Tilba business. Hailing from Bombala, they operate a ski lodge at Perisher during the winter months. They started off seeking a pub and ended up with a bakery!

Tilba Pies and Pastries will specialise in cakes, pies, pastries, and some breads, all prepared and baked onsite. Welcome to Lea, Hank, Ryan and his partner Zoe, and Tyson – best wishes to this new business.



Zoe, Lea, Ryan, and Tyson from new bakery business Tilba Pies and Pastries

## Chamber news

The Chamber’s new leadership team is off to a flying start. With the challenges that this year has brought there are lots of opportunities to reflect, review, and take action to ensure the future can be as strong as possible. This includes joint funding from the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund to Eurobodalla Chamber of Commerce for strategic planning; an update on the Tourism Strategy from Eurobodalla Council’s Tourism Manager, Tim Booth, and a community Zoom meeting to discuss the Tilba Easter Festival.

Eurobodalla Council has also informed the Chamber that they have funding to undertake a review of all the timber buildings in Central Tilba and Tilba Tilba to assess the potential of fire risk, with the aim of improving resilience and preserving heritage. This is an outcome of the Chamber-led community process undertaken in August to develop the bushfire protection plan for the Tilba district.

The Chamber is also seeking a person

to assist with marketing and promotional support – contact can be made through the Visit Tilba Facebook page or the Chamber website – [www.visittilba.com.au](http://www.visittilba.com.au). Membership is open to all businesses in the Tilba area and has been broadened to include associate members (non-business) who wish to be involved. Details are also available at the website above. Christmas drinks for members at the Drom will follow the next meeting on 14 December.

## Central Tilba School news

November’s been a busy month in this unusual school year. NAIDOC Week, postponed from its usual mid-year time, was an opportunity for the children to continue their understanding and appreciation of local Indigenous culture. A special treat was a visit from the local Koori choir, Djinama Yilaga, who sang songs in the local Dhurga language. This important week blended into the Four Winds Spring Youth Music Festival, where local schools had the opportunity to participate. Zeeko, a group which includes local percussionist David Hewitt, visited the school in mid-November. They enthralled the children

with songs of ocean, air, and earth – stories of courage, cooperation and ingenuity in the face of a changing climate.

As the school year draws to a close, attention turns to the important progression of children through each level. This is particularly important for those moving from kindergarten to Year 1, and Year 6 students leaving for high school. The school will also hold its annual presentation night (COVID-safe) at the Central Tilba Big Hall on 15 December – a special event which celebrates the achievements of each year level and each student, and farewells Year 6 children.

## Future resilience for our halls

The late October announcement of major funding through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, with an application deadline of 11 December, has caused a flurry of activity around Central Tilba’s much loved Big Hall and Small Hall. Approved plans for a significant upgrade, much dreamt about, could proceed if a comprehensive funding application is successful. The Central Tilba School of Arts committee is working with a small local group and South Coast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA) to submit this application. SHASA works within Eurobodalla to find community-led solutions and responses for a renewable and sustainable future. There’s already strong community support for this project.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year, however you choose to celebrate. This year has shown us all the importance of family, friends, and community, so hopefully it will be a time of sharing with those who are most important to you.



Tilba school children with the Djinama Yilaga choir

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## Tilba CWA thanks the Drom

For the last year, the team at the Dromedary Hotel have been quietly collecting the pub's drink containers for Tilba CWA, with the Return and Earn fundraiser now reaching just over \$1,000. With drought, bushfire, and COVID impacting our local fundraising efforts, this donation from the team at the Drom has enabled Tilba CWA to share these funds with Central Tilba Public School and Little Yuin Preschool in Wallaga Lake. Tilba CWA would like to say a big thank-you to Susan, Jeremy, Wendy, Warren, and the whole team at the Drom for their ongoing support.

Tilba CWA has also used the Barn, the back room of the Drom for recent meetings. Zoe Burke, our Craft Officer, has arranged craft mornings in the Barn for Tilba locals and invited neighbouring CWA branches, with acceptances from Cobargo and Batemans Bay members. Zoe has introduced quirky handmade recycled paper bags—made from old copies of the *Triangle*—to create Old Age Survival Pills and Happiness Kits. These items will be on sale at the CWA table at the Tilba Market the first Saturday of the month in December and January.

This year, with COVID restrictions on singing, Tilba CWA sadly will not be arranging our annual Christmas carols in the Central Tilba Small Hall. Instead we are arranging to deliver a Christmas celebration direct to Central Tilba Public School and Little Yuin Preschool. Both the school and preschool will receive a donated Christmas tree with decorations, plus individually wrapped gingerbread biscuits for every student and teacher. We have also invited our Tilba fire truck with Santa on board to help with this Christmas delivery.

Wishing our Tilba community a safe and relaxing holiday season, filled with peace and happiness.

*Annette Kennewell*



Miranda Bate with carer Sally Ann Bertram in the Barn



## Halls News

The Halls membership drive has been really successful, a huge thanks to all who have joined as members and/or made donations. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and willingness to support your local community halls. We hope to have some new people also willing to put up their hands to be involved in the committee, which is very exciting for those of us who are somewhat seasoned and who've been involved for some time!

Bookings are beginning to come in again steadily, as things start to open up again. We have had a number of inquiries for weddings, and it's really encouraging to know that people in the community are considering their local iconic heritage buildings as a venue for their special day. Keep us in mind if you'd like to host a meeting or an event of some type – the halls are looking beautiful, the polished floors have really made a difference to their appeal, and to our ability to keep them clean and at their best.

We are currently pulling together information for an exciting grant opportunity in conjunction with SHASA... watch this space for news about this next year.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all – here's hoping the next year brings people some peace and tranquillity, something that's been in short supply during the past one.

*Sally Pryor*



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## Cobargo Creators – diverse and beautiful

Meet one of the entries in this year's 8 x Eight Exhibition opening 8 December - *Swan Family*, photographed by Kingston Evans in September at Pambula's Panboola Wetlands. Kingston is ten, loves taking photos, and is very curious about birds, animals, nature, and most everything else. Come along and see the diverse range of quirky, colourful, stitched, printed, thoughtful, and stunning creations that have been entered, and if the hat fits, buy it. All pieces are available at \$55 each, and possibly created by someone you know! The creative possibilities of our south coast community continue to inspire and delight us, as well as the many who come to enjoy our area.

The Cobargo Creators held its AGM in November and welcomed two new members onto the committee. Our thanks and deepest appreciation to the outgoing pair – Lorraine James and Beth Dogan, aka the Baking Buddies. We'll miss them.

There's no end to the creations to be discovered in the gallery. Come in have a look, buy yourself something beautiful – not to mention presents for all sizes, shapes, and leanings. We have a bit of everything, from tiny walnut pincushions to a giant cross, handmade clothing, scenes on shoes, biscuits, soaps, jewellery, scarves, bags,



*Swan Family* by Kingston Evans, part of the 8 x Eight Exhibition

cards. There are also lighthouses, exquisite pottery, wooden boxes, macramé hangings, and paintings. The treasures go on and on. From our younger members, the saplings, we have rooibos chai tea, succulents in jars, feather mobiles, and crafted paper

penguins.

May this season be kind and peaceful for all in our community. The Cobargo Creators wish everyone a gentle and loving time.

Sandra Taylor

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## A year to remember at Four Winds

Although there seemed to be a pause, a quieting down through our coastal winter, here at the end of November it feels like we've hardly caught our breath.

Our first live performance in the Windsong Pavilion took place in October this year – notable for its lateness. But then in November our Spring Youth Music Festival took off and filled five days with school visits and performances, recordings and rehearsals, workshops and photo sessions and coaching. Suddenly the world didn't feel so empty of music after all.

The inspiration we all took from our emerging musicians during the Spring Festival was unexpected. The resilience of our young people was on show in abundance – the thoughtfulness, the consideration and mindfulness. And the talent.

Visiting musicians from Sydney Youth Orchestra's stable of educators and musicians were mightily impressed with the talent and proficiency of our regional youth. Our Koori choir Djinama Yilaga touched all hearts, old and young, with their proud singing in Dhurga language. Parents glowed as their progeny dressed up and rehearsed for professional recordings in the Windsong Pavilion. And the Pavilion walls rang with the sounds of young voices, tin whistles, guitars, a harpsichord, pianos, trumpets and strings.

But we hadn't finished the year yet. November also saw performances by local lit-pop band The Novellas, who had many recent shows cancelled due to bushfires, and a week-long residency, embracing outreach workshops and performances by highly regarded string-queens Enigma Quartet.

Christmas celebration in song ... if like us you'd like to say



Members of the Sydney Youth Orchestras worked closely with our local musicians (photo: Lisa Herbert)

fare thee well, or even 'here's your hat, what's your hurry?' to 2020, join us for a celebration of song in a year where singing has been all but banned, as we welcome members of the Luminescence Chamber Singers. Accompanied down the hill from Canberra by the wonderful Roland Peelman, this will be a heavenly and luminous Christmas moment in the Windsong Pavilion.

The Luminescence Chamber Singers is a virtuosic vocal consort based in Canberra. Since the ensemble's earliest iteration in 2013, the choir has gained a reputation for presenting exciting and excellent singing, typically performing unaccompanied and unaccompanied.

Our community Christmas carol singalong may not be going ahead, but there will be much magic in the air at Nature's Concert Hall, as these sensational voices are lifted into the Windsong's wings, under the direction of Canberra International Music Festival's Mr Peelman.

In a year such as this one, the healing nature of beautiful voices, combined with Christmas spirit and goodwill, should be a fitting moment for us all to give thanks that it's finally December, and to hope that January will hold new adventures, in music and otherwise.

There's no rest for us at Four Winds in January – we're presenting several shows, residencies and performances, re-invigorating the beautiful floors of the Windsong Pavilion, and of course announcing our Easter Festival Program, under the guiding and expert hand of Festival Director and now Tathra resident, Ms Lindy Hume.

With COVID-19 forcing us to focus on our immediate surroundings and community, it's an opportunity for our Easter Festival to truly celebrate our local culture, our Indigenous culture, and our fertile regional status. We're not lacking in a thing, and it's an opportunity to make a song and dance about ourselves, we of the South Coast.

At the end of a year that has seen many changes – to how we view and appreciate music, how we value live performance – with highs such as the visit from ACO members and a resilient Youth Music Festival, but also the departure of our lovely staff member Rachel Niemoeller, we look forward with hope and expectation to a new year filled with beautiful music, harmony and love.

*Lisa Herbert  
Communications at Four Winds*



Djinama Yilaga Koori Choir featured young singer Shakeela Williams (photo: Ben Marden)



### Riverina Summer School for Strings 2021

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## 'It Takes Two' at the Lazy Lizard Gallery

It's the Christmas season and the Lizards want to celebrate! Despite the fact this has been a ginormously difficult year, we have survived, the gallery has survived, and Cobargo has survived, and the Lizards feel the need to acknowledge and celebrate this. And so, undaunted by adversity, we are once again proudly holding our annual exhibition of new works by the gallery members. This time, however, we're giving it a bit of a twist. In the spirit of cooperation, which has supported us all through these harrowing times, each member is asking a non-member artist to work with them, and together create a collaborative work; thus 'It Takes Two.'

Since the fires, many local artists have found it difficult to 'get going' creatively again. It has been more than the loss of property and materials, it was somehow the loss of spirit that left many of us creatively inarticulate. Working with the encouragement and support of a fellow artist on a joint project has inspired us all, helping to rekindle that creative spark.

This will be a very special exhibition. I have not seen any of the finished works as yet, but I can assure you, you will not be disappointed. 'It Takes Two' will run for both December and January, and new exhibits will be added over that time, so you will definitely need to drop by on a regular basis to check it out and say hello! You will also have an opportunity to meet the artists (socially distanced of course) around 6 pm on 4 December.

Last but not least, the Lizards have asked me to say a big thank-you to the community for their support over the past year – your kindness is much appreciated.

Shirleyanne Myers



Gill Morgan, Shirleyanne Myers, Sally Raspin, and Carol Taylor

## Seasonal inspiration in 'pentametric' verse!

It's been inspiring for us to read diverse types of poetry and to explore our own poetic skills—some for the first time—in a congenial and supportive environment, often online. Thank you to Kai Jensen who generously shared his time and experience with this meaningful and satisfying mode of expression. Also, thank you to our hosts, Well Thumbed Books.

For Christmas we applied iambic pentameter to rhyming couplets, such as: *If music be the food of love play on ...*

First thing on Christmas morn' gaze at the view  
if you can't sense the sparkle, well poor you!

My parents gone, no more a family  
and yet I love to dress a Christmas tree.

We'll make a cake with dried fruit and brandy  
hot prawns on the barbie, a cool stubby handy.

Umbrellas kids and beach and sunburn spray  
it all seems much more hallowed Christmas day.

If Mum were here we'd raise a glass of wine  
to long ago when one star brightly shined.

For warmth and truth with gifts of love untold  
this day replace myrrh, frankincense, and gold.

It's Christmastime this year is nearly o'er  
sing praise for that and shout hallelujah!

*The Well Thumbed Poets*

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## South East Arts



Gabadu and producer Ricky Bloomfield in the temporary recording studio setup at Umbarra Cultural Centre

A busy year for this organisation, the peak Arts and Culture development body for south east NSW. Currently SEA is producing a compilation album of First Nations songwriters living across the Yuin Nation. This is one of a range of community engagement projects in the lead up to the second Giiyong Festival in 2021, to be delivered by SEA and Twofold Aboriginal Corporation at Jigamy, near Eden.— go to [www.giiyong.com.au](http://www.giiyong.com.au) for details. The album will be a key piece of merchandise for the festival and raise funds to support the biennial event. Up to 10 artists and bands from Wollongong

to Eden will be featured on the album, a unique mix of country, hip-hop, folk ballads, pop, and rock.

This is the first time songs by First Nations musos and songwriters living in this region has been compiled and will be a great tool for these artists to promote themselves and the region, also providing an opportunity for their professional development. Many of the artists haven't had the experience of using a recording studio before and are benefiting from the professional support they're receiving. SEA will also deliver songwriting workshops in the months to come.



Far South Film Inc. is a one-year-old not-for profit organisation of filmmakers and content creators that has already achieved much in the SE region.

The association has big plans for supporting the growth of the screen industry in the region both through attracting and supporting external film production in the area and also through encouraging collaboration between local screen creatives to shoot their own stories for the screen.

With a dedication to developing young filmmakers, this year the association has run three filmmaking workshops and two online screen-acting workshops for youth.

During Seniors Week, a filmmaking workshop attracted great interest from older citizens in the Bega Valley keen to use their devices and cameras to create their digital stories.

An intensive online professional-development on DaVinci Resolve colour



### Far South Films

grading put local filmmakers through their technical paces.

Audience development is also an important part of the mix for Far South Film. Pre-COVID, a screening of Australian feature *'Ride Like a Girl'* prefaced by three local short films proved to be a big success at the Picture Show Man in Merimbula. Far South Film was also designated the Local Area Champion for My Cinema My Film Festival, a collection of some of the best Australian and international films from the 2020 Sydney Film Festival/Travelling Film Festival, screened on the last week of November at the Picture Show Man.

On 23 August, the inaugural Far South Film Festival was launched online to an audience Australia-wide. Regional filmmakers from around the country entered short films, many reflecting life in regional Australia. The festival was generously sponsored by Bega Valley Shire Council, South East Arts, Nullarbor Consulting, JD Shaw, Screenworks,

The recording project, carried out at Umbarra Cultural Centre, was made possible through a grant from the Drug and Alcohol Foundation, and SEA has engaged local sound engineer Ricky Bloomfield from Bear Productions to record and mix the album. Look out for the release date and launch in 2021 of this fantastic album.

Artless Bastards! SEA podcast

In response to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and the cancellation of creative events, SEA is producing a new podcast called Artless Bastards, featuring conversations with artists and creative producers from across the region. The show is hosted by the entertaining Andrew Gray and Jazz Williams from SEA, as a way of keeping the local industry connected and supported. Monica Davidson from Creative Plus Business is a regular guest, she runs creative business workshops and training and has worked with many artists living in the south east. Andrew Gray said, 'Anyone with an interest in art and culture, as well as just learning about the people in their region, will enjoy this new show.' If you haven't tuned in yet, put your feet up and enjoy an episode... just like in the good old radio days. Episodes can be found at [www.artlessbastards.com.au](http://www.artlessbastards.com.au).



ArtsHub, StageFlight, and Merimbula School of Music.

Members enjoyed networking events, round-table discussions, and expert presentations during the year. When COVID restrictions came in, these activities were transferred online with great success.

South East Arts has commissioned Far South Film Inc. to develop a four-year strategy to develop the film industry in the region, which covers the Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, and Snowy Monaro. To this end, the association has been conducting meetings with key stakeholders, and sent out a survey to filmmakers and stakeholders in the region.

The strategy will be delivered by the end of 2020, and Far South Film looks forward to the increased creation of screen stories and films in 2021.

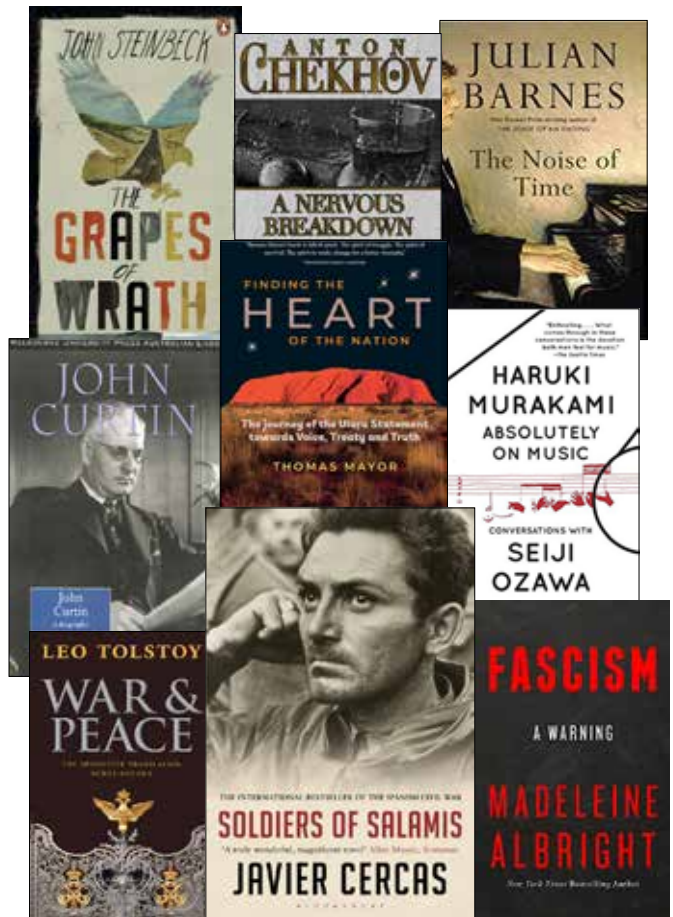
*Hiromi Matsuoka*

What a year it has been for readers! I thought I would end the year with a summary of my 'best and fairest' by category.

- **Best re-read of an old favourite:** John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- **Biography:** Lloyd Ross, *John Curtin*.
- **Politics:** Madeleine Albright, *Fascism: A Warning*.
- **Indigenous studies:** Thomas Mayor, *Finding the Heart of the Nation*.
- **Novel:** Julian Barnes, *The Noise of Time*.
- **Spanish Civil War:** Javier Cercas, *Soldiers of Salamis*.
- **Music:** Haruki Murakami, *Absolutely on Music: Conversations with Seiji Ozawa*.
- **Short stories:** Anton Chekhov, *A Nervous Breakdown*.
- **Biggest achievement:** finally read *War and Peace*!
- **Big thrill:** finding anything written by Donna Leon I haven't read.

Sitting beside the bed in preparation for summer: Niall Williams, *This is Happiness*; D J Taylor, *Orwell: The Life*; Bain Atwood, *Telling the Truth About Aboriginal History*; David Daniell, *William Tyndale: A Biography*.

Happy reading to end this unforgettable year.



## Pet of the Month

Minky is a handsome male grey-and-white domestic short-haired cat. He is friendly and will allow you to pick him up, but not for too long, and he likes to sit beside you but not on your lap.

An outdoor cat run would be ideal for Minky, because although he's been an inside cat, he makes a beeline for the door whenever it's opened. Due to his temperament, Minky would best suited to a home that doesn't already have a cat. Minky is almost 4 years old, and desexed, chipped, vaccinated, worm/flea treated,



Thanks to AWL, Santa Paws makes another tour of the Far South Coast wanting to know who's been naughty or nice

and vet checked. Cost \$150. Please call 0400 372 609 Monday to Friday 9 am - 5pm for more information and a photo.

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

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

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

The Far South Coast branch of AWLNSW produces an annual calendar featuring many of the pets that were rehomed by the branch over the previous year. You can pick up a copy for only \$20 at all Bega Valley Shire vets, Montague Vets in Narooma, Coastal Grooming, Merimbula, and Supply Central Eden. You can also call 0400 372 609 to have copies posted to you or family and friends (postal charges apply).

## Summer tips

Summer is with us again, and with it come the many tasks required to keep our gardens looking their best, and hopefully, this year, not as tragic as last summer.

Although we have had some amazing rain, and more forecast to come during the summer, there will still be a requirement to water the garden, whether garden beds, lawns, or pots.



Garden beds require a good soaking at least every 7-10 days using a sprinkler and not a handheld spray. Watering with a handheld spray is basically just a waste of this valuable resource. Invariably the surface just gets a wetting and water does not reach the feeder roots of the plants, thus encouraging a shallow root system. In periods of extreme dry conditions, plants with shallow roots dry out very quickly and place the plant under stress, often leading to death.

Similarly, with lawn watering, it is best to deep-water a couple of times per week to encourage deep rooting of the grass. This, again, will assist in preventing the grass drying out. Lift the mower blades up a couple of notches, as more leaf will help the plant through hot days.

Many of us have installed pots into the garden, and the watering of these is an important practice. Plants suffer a lot of stress in pots because they often miss out, as they are in a rain shadow in the garden. Because it has rained, you may expect that they have been watered. Usually rain is not sufficient, though, and they dry out very



quickly, leading to wilt and subsequent leaf and flower drop. Liquid fertilising can take place at the same time, which in turn keeps the plant growing well.

Pest control is also on top of the list during summer. Keep an eye out for aphid infestation on roses and new growth on other plants, as the aphids like the warmer weather and can do some serious damage. Use a complete insecticide and fungicidal spray to control any pest on the roses, including black spot and powdery mildew. There are many organic forms available on the market. Practices like watering plants in the early morning and placing the sprinkler in such a position so overhead watering cannot take place will also assist in the prevention of fungal diseases.

Spring flowering perennials can also do with a tidy up during this month, removing spent flower heads and any unsightly foliage that might have died. This will encourage another flush of flowers and carry through until autumn.

A repeat planting of summer salad vegetables can take place, assuring you of a continual supply of delicious food. Remember to water your tomatoes at root level and not overhead. This will also



prevent disease activity. Using a fertiliser high in potassium will enhance flowering; therefore, more fruit.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to providing more great gardening tips in the New Year.



## TILBA NURSERY

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'Tis the season to celebrate and to share good things to eat! *The Triangle* reflects the diversity of cultural inspiration and wants to share recipes that are proven people-pleasers, not culturally themed – just delicious! All good for a shared table

## Ruby Red Vegetable Salad

Georgina Adamson

A colourful summer salad – vegetables are roasted and caramelised, served with a rich balsamic dressing, and finished with glazed walnuts and cranberries. A variety of vegetables can be used, and quantities will vary depending on numbers but keep the pieces similar in size.

Roast 1 bunch baby beets (or 2 larger beets cut into quarters) by placing on baking paper, drizzling with olive oil, and seasoning. Make a parcel and wrap in foil. Place in mod-high oven until tender, then unwrap parcel and slip the skins off.

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large pan and gently fry 2 sliced or wedged onions till they start to soften, then add half of a finely sliced red cabbage. Toss together and season, turn low, place lid on and cook slowly. When reduced add 1 tablespoon brown sugar and balsamic vinegar until you have a caramelised mix.

Cut 1 or 2 sweet potatoes (or pumpkins) into small chunks, toss in olive oil and salt, and bake till tender. Throw in a punnet of baby tomatoes at the same time and pull them out when they're just collapsing, then 2 red capsicums, grilled, baked, or barbecued, however you like them!

Combine all of the cooked vegetables in a large bowl and dress with a good balsamic and a drizzle of olive oil, then garnish with a handful of walnuts that have been lightly caramelised in olive oil and brown sugar. Complete with a handful of cranberries or pomegranate seeds.

## Apple Chips

Sarah Breakey

Serves 2

- 4 tsp coconut oil
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 large red-skinned apple

Preheat oven to 130C/fan 110C. Line a large baking tray with nonstick baking paper.

Melt the coconut oil in a small saucepan with cinnamon over a low heat and set aside.

Top, tail, and core the apple. Finely slice into discs just 3-4mm thick.

Brush the cinnamon oil all over the apple slices, then place in a single layer on the baking tray. Bake for 1.5 hours, or until very dry and quite crisp.

Switch off oven and leave the apples to dehydrate further for 2-3 hours.



Cook's Tip: If you are making these in larger quantities, store any uneaten apple chips in a lidded container and eat within a couple of days.

## Blood Plum Sauce

Linda Sang

- 250g ripe blood plums
- 2/3 cup fish sauce
- 6 whole star anise
- 2 cinnamon quills
- 1/3 cup lime juice



Bring 1 cup water and 1 cup sugar to the boil, turn to low heat for 5 minutes until slightly reduced. Add plums, fish sauce, and spices. Simmer for 1 minute or so then stir in lime juice.

I like to make at least double the recipe. Better still, make lots and bottle it

for gifts. I use this sauce with a Chinese BBQ roast duck. I usually have a duck in the freezer, which I've deboned and portioned into 4 packages – 2 breasts and 2 legs, with the extra bits of meat and skin divided between the packages. Portions can be used sparingly with stir-fries, noodle dishes, and Asian salads. And use the bones for a great flavoured stock. But for a standout dish, use the whole duck (boned) sliced. Heat in 160C oven, covered with foil, for about 10-15 minutes. Place in a serving dish with the warmed sauce poured over. Serves 6 with rice.

## Pecan Pie

Bhagya

A 23 cm pie pan lined with shortcrust pastry, lightly blind-baked  
3 eggs

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup Karo light corn syrup
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla or 3 tablespoons bourbon
- 1 1/2 cups pecan halves, lightly toasted

Preheat oven to 190 C.

Whisk all the ingredient together except the pecans until well blended. Stir in the pecans and pour into the pastry shell. If you want to decorate the pie, reserve some of the prettiest pecans before toasting them and place the raw nuts in a circular pattern on top and brush with melted butter.

Bake for 40-50 minutes or until the pie has a uniform 'domed' appearance, then remove to a wire rack to cool. Serve with cream or vanilla ice cream.



# For the Fridge Door

DECEMBER	WHAT	WHERE	TIME
Tue 1	Bermagui Men's Shed	4243 Tathra Bermagui Road	10 am - 2 pm
Thu 3	Bermagui Men's Shed	4243 Tathra Bermagui Road	10 am - 2 pm
Fri 4	Meet the Artist	Lazy Lizard Gallery	6 pm
Sat 5	Tilba Market	Big Tilba Hall	8 am - 12 noon
Sun 6	Wandella Christmas tree	Wandella Hall	2 pm
	Live music: Steve Benic	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12 pm
Tue 8	8 x Eight Exhibition commences	Cobargo Creators	
	Bermagui Men's Shed	4243 Tathra Bermagui Road	10 am - 2 pm
Thurs 10	Bermagui Growers and Makers Market	Bermagui Country Club	3 pm
	Bermagui Men's Shed	4243 Tathra Bermagui Road	10 am - 2 pm
Sat 12	Tilba Market	Big Tilba Hall	8am - 12 noon
Sun 13	Live music: Jay McMahon	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm
Thurs 17	Bermagui Growers and Makers Market	Bermagui Country Club	3 pm
Thurs 17 - Tues 22	'In Harmony': Nadja De Brennan and Michelle Peterson	SoART Gallery, Narooma	10 am - 4 pm
Sat 19	Live music: Kim Churchill, \$30	Tilba Winery and Ale House	6 pm
Sun 20	Quaama Mini-Market	Quaama Hall Grounds	12 noon - 2 pm
	Live music: Benji Fowler	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm
Thurs 24	Bermagui Growers and Makers Market	Bermagui Country Club	3 pm
	Carols in the Park	Apex Park, Cobargo	8 pm
Sat 26	Tilba Market	Big Hall Tilba	8am - 12 noon
Sun 27	Live music: Stick Whack	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Sun 10	Live music: Dave Newman	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm
Sun 17	Live music: Moondog	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm
	Quaama Mini-Market	Quaama Hall Grounds	12 noon - 2 pm
Sat 23	Live music: Roddy Reason	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm
Sun 31	Live music: Robin Simpson	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30 pm

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS



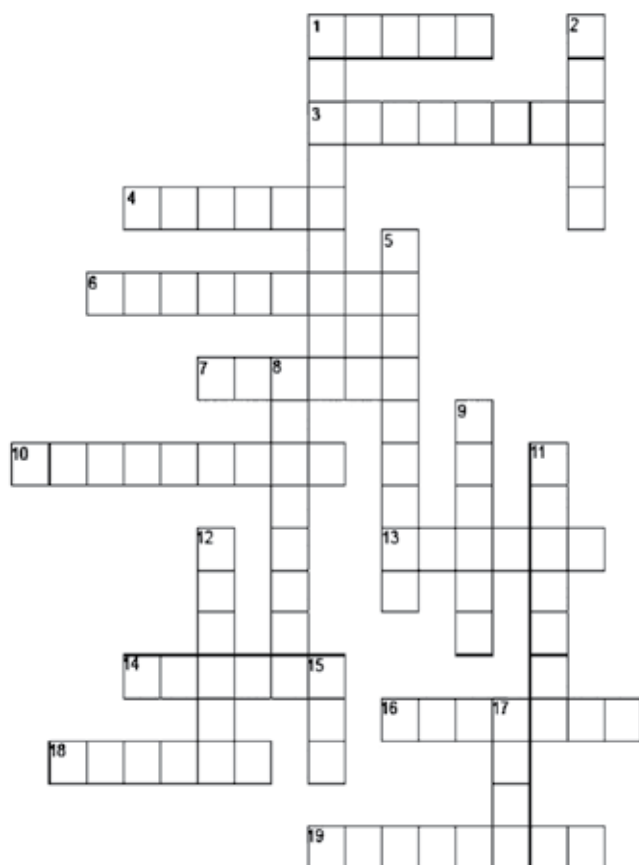
**DOWN**

1. CANDYCANE  
2. JESUS  
5. BETHLEHEM  
8. STOCKING  
9. JINGLE  
11. SNOWMAN  
12. ADVENT  
15. ELF  
17. MAGI

**ACROSS**

1. CAROL  
3. NICHOLAS  
4. TURKEY  
6. SNOWFLAKE  
7. JOSEPH  
10. MISTLETOE  
13. EGGNOG  
14. SLEDGE  
16. CHIMNEY  
18. WREATH  
19. YULETIDE

## CROSSWORD



Crossword solution page 43

## WORD SEARCH



CANDY CANE	JINGLE	REINDEER
CAROLS	HOLLY	SANTA
CHRISTMAS	LIGHTS	SLEIGH
DECEMBER	MERRY	STOCKING
ELVES	NORTH POLE	TREE
GINGER-BREAD	ORNAMENTS	WINTER
	PRESENTS	WREATH

## ACROSS

1. Christmas hymn
3. The original Santa Claus
4. A bird traditionally eaten at Christmas dinner
6. A crystal of snow
7. Father of Jesus
10. What you stand under
13. A traditional drink
14. Vehicle used by Santa
16. Santa enters the house through this
18. Christmas decoration for the front door

19. Another name for Christmastime

## DOWN

1. A hook shaped candy
2. December 25 is his birthday
5. The birthplace of Jesus
8. A sock filled with goodies
9. The sound bells make
11. A figure made from snow
12. The four weeks leading up to Christmas
15. A mischievous fairy
17. The three wise men belonged to this group



## JOKES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?<br><i>A rebel without a Claus</i> | 1. What goes "oh oh oh"?<br><i>Santa walking backwards</i>   |
| 1. What do you call Santa if he lives in the South Pole too?<br><i>Bi-Polar</i>           | 1. What do you call people afraid of Santa Claus?<br><i>Claustrophobic</i>   |
| 1. What nationality is Santa Claus?<br><i>North Polish</i>                                | 1. What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?<br><i>The Christmas alphabet has Noel</i> |
| 1. What do you call Santa's helpers?<br><i>Subordinate clauses</i>                        | 1. What's the difference between Santa and a knight?<br><i>One slays the dragon, the other drags the sleigh</i>              |
| 1. What did Santa say to his wife?<br><i>It's going to reindeer</i>                       |  |