

THE TRIANGLE

COMMUNITY NEWS

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QUAAMA COBARGO BERMAGUI TILBA & LOCALITIES

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Moodji Magic

Bermagui's Moodji community garden in Young Street is flourishing. The recent rain has given the garden a real boost, with every available bed planted out with seasonal veggies, herbs, and beneficial species.

Much of the infrastructure (trellising, borders, irrigation systems) are operational, with the new beehive thriving and the chickens settling into their new accommodation. Composting at Moodji has been given a boost with the collection of coffee grounds from local cafes, and sales of the 'mixed product boxes' at the Thursday Growers Market see everything gone in minutes. Several Bermagui cafes and restaurants are now purchasing fresh produce from the Moodji Gardens, so next time you sit down to a meal in Bermagui, you may be eating fresh, organic produce that comes from the middle of our town. That is really a 'low food miles' product!

The coming year will see a huge increase in community-based events, ranging from workshops, education programming, high school student engagement, mass planting activities, and of course, getting hands-on in the patch with our precious preschool Grub Clubbers. A special surprise will be a return visit from Costa Georgiadis in May, who along with our local celebrity chef/farmer, Paul West, will co-host a long-table community dinner.

Whilst Moodji has overcome many obstacles this past year, it's in great need of more involvement to meet its objectives. Social distancing has naturally seen a great



reduction in volunteers; however, a small band of dedicated volunteers continue to meet at the Moodji Gardens every week to take care of everything from weeding, planting, harvesting, and the washing and packing of produce for sale. Without these volunteers, Moodji would struggle to exist. Volunteers also contribute heavily to the vision of the project and have considerable input to all decisions.

This is a call out to anyone who would

like to get their hands dirty ... we need you! Come and get involved in this incredible community project. Even if you have only one or two hours to spare each week, you would be most welcome. It is a way to learn new things like permaculture, composting, planting, propagating, as well as meeting new people, having a coffee and chat under the pergola, and just getting out in the beautiful, fresh Bermagui air.

Moodji farm sessions are Thursdays from 9.30 am to 3 pm and Saturdays 10 am to midday. So why not come on down and see what's happening, talk to volunteers, and maybe join in the fun.

Moodji Gardens is a place of learning, of friendship, hard work, peace and calm, and flourishing growth and renewal, where volunteers feel good about doing something to help others.

We have a wish list! If you can donate any of the following, it would be much appreciated: three or four 'working' chickens (Isa Brown or Australorps); large, clean sheets of cardboard; a working lawn mower; two light trestle tables, and pavers.

For more information, call Dan Bakker on 0427 746 980, or make contact via eatdirtpermaculture@gmail.com. You can also check out the Facebook page: facebook.com/eatdirtpermaculture.

Carolyn Banados

The seemingly endless well-spring of creative and community activities in our region is uplifting, enriching us all. Creativity has flourished in lock-down-time and fuelled by the fire times, as local painters, ceramicists, photographers, musicians, ukulele aficionados, dancers, gardeners and writers have popped up like mushrooms.

Many activities are also in direct service to the community and visitors such as the Marine Rescue, addressing needs such as the increasing access to defibrillators, include the young and are mostly voluntary. By the way, if you want more community involvement there is a call for more volunteers at Moodji

Gardens and from Sculpture Bermagui in their upcoming exhibition and planned sculpture walk.

The plans for rebuilding Cobargo and Quaama are well underway with drafts for a business hub, nature and culture walks, and main street restoration, where the new balances with preserving the on-going visual and cultural feel of our community.

Proudly, the quality and value of local initiatives echo more widely with national recognition. Tilba Cheese has won a basket load of Australia-wide awards for their excellent products. Bermagui writer, Jessica Southern-Reid, has won the Scarlett Stiletto award for crime writing. And Tilba resident, Jody Vassallo's best-

selling children's book, *Brave-Bottomed Wombat*, offers a gentle way to open talk about the fires.

A matter for rapid community attention is the Exploration License Application (ELA) 6169. The application is for exploration and potential mining which covers 30 square km including farms, residences, state forests and national park land in the Coolagolite area adjacent to Cobargo, Quaama and Bermagui. The time for public comment is very brief and the track record of mining ventures for land degradation, waterway spillage, consequences for existing livelihoods and Indigenous heritage is highly questionable.

Letters to the editors

Response to letter: 'Trump poem causes offence.'

When reading this letter, I felt dismayed to say the least. I am a dual-nationality Australian/American born and raised in the US. I have kept in touch with the Trump presidency with a news station that shows the Democratic and Republican voices. My entire family live in America except for one son.

This comes from personal involvement. My niece is a nurse who works in a hospital that is, as most are, struggling to keep up with the deaths and post-illness caused by COVID. She says the protective gear is not the best, or enough. She has a toddler and puts her life on the line each day she works. That is what health workers do. She has a younger colleague who is now so ill post-COVID that she can no longer work, and many others who are exhausted. The hospitals are not coping. The situation is getting worse each day.

The Trump administration is the antithesis of leadership. Trump himself has been seen in big crowds not wearing a mask and boasting on his healthy recovery from the virus. He received the best possible care, which the majority of Americans do not have access to. For the millions of homeless and those without health insurance, there is no care, or very little. I have seen and heard Trump saying that people could 'inject bleach', then later saying it was a joke. Not a laughing matter.

In all the times I have listened to him speak, I have not heard him once show remorse to the millions who have died or been seriously ill from this pandemic or say sorry to their families for losing loved ones.

I go by what I see and hear, not hearsay or fake news. In my observation, Trump has shown no willingness to bring the nation together, only fuelling the flames of division. There have been far too many examples of this. I only hope that it will get better, so much emotional, physical, and environmental healing to be done. Leaders can be strong and kind.

Leila McClelland
Bermagui

A published poet with a point of view writes in *The Triangle* November 2020. A response in the December issue from a person who was offended – or was it meant as a joke, for us to read her words! Hmm.

Marisa Mascola
Bermagui

Firstly, thank you for a wonderful paper and all the news recently, I am sure it is very well received everywhere.

My concern is with the current condition of the main beach, Horseshoe Bay, at Bermagui.

Please could we have an explanation as to why the dredged sand from the bottom of the harbour was dumped there in the first place? And why was the dumping of the sand continued when it was obvious it was spoiling the look, feel, and condition of Bermagui's only patrolled beach in the middle of summer?

Residents deserve some explanation as to who authorised this in the first place? And what was the cost and who paid for it? Magically, some of the sand started to disappear when the mistake was realised. Who has paid for this? And why did it take so long to realise the error? Is the sand

now removed going to stay where it is? And who is also going to pay to restore the beach for residents and visitors alike? You cannot walk safely on the beach in its present condition. It is painful with bare feet, and objects that should not be there are embedded in the sand, waiting to pierce one's feet.

When is the sand going to be either sieved or removed and new sand, with no 'debris' in it, placed on our once pristine beach?

Rosemary Millard
Bermagui

Eds. The article 'Sifting Horseshoe Bay' on page 6 may answer some questions.

I downloaded the latest issue of *The Triangle* and the cover photograph stopped me dead. I was absolutely stunned by the composition, the light, the surroundings – the subject, who looked absolutely spent. How devastating. Of all the images that have flowed in the media in the last 11 months, this is the one that enveloped me completely. It stays on the open page on my iPad and I can't put it away.

I hope it gets the recognition it deserves, it should be shared, somehow, with a wider community. Congratulations Isobel Markus-Dunworth, that must have been a tough one to do, but what a result.

Best wishes to you and Dean.

Max Wilson & Jill Howell
Moruya

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.

Letters to the editors

The upside of lockdown

Well, it has been almost a year now, and lockdown has become very familiar. Maybe it's not the terrible torture we were expecting, in fact, there may be a few positive aspects to the situation. The news that the virus has especially bad results for those who are overweight has been the best motivation ever for losing those extra pounds, and not just for me. I see many who are looking a lot more svelte. My choice of health guru was the charming Michael Mosely and his fasting plan. It did the trick, but I found it impossible not to resent the one who says you cannot have the things you like. I felt a bit guilty about my resentfulness because he's such a nice guy, but that's the price you pay for getting the unhealthy back on track. I am sure the extra dollars made up for it, I hope so. I think he is great – now that the results are showing.

It's a simple life in lockdown. The choices are limited: stay at home or go out for a walk. It's easy. The parks and glens are peppered with walkers keeping their distance. Families are out together making their own exercise, with no more organised sport, and the children look happy, especially in the snow when the sleds come out. (*Eds. See page 39*). Children are again doing online learning, a chance for the shy to shine. Too many are afraid to show their true ability in front of peers in class, so at last an equal playing field. It took a while for the department to make sure they all had access to laptops or tablets, but that has been mostly sorted out, and the quality and quantity of online resources has multiplied exponentially. Is there anything we cannot do online?

The atmosphere may have had a slight decrease in its destruction with a lull in poisonous traffic emissions and reduced air travel. Commuters learning to work from home may have a lasting impact and a positive change. With all the time we have at home to think, I'm sure we'll start to care more and behave more responsibly.

Being optimistic, empathetic, and 'catching the crap' are three of the new daily 2021 habits I have adopted from the wonderful, straight-talking Australian Emma Murray and her free @highperformancemindfulness sessions, offered via her Instagram and Facebook. Sticking with these will surely set me off on the right foot for a fabulous, vaccinated future. She knows what she is talking about. I have enjoyed the online company of some great teachers during lockdown – BBC Maestro's Jed Mercurio, and

masterclasses with Salman Rushdie, Jeff Coons, Spike Lee, Helen Mirren, and the amazing astronaut Chris Hadfield. I doubt I would have hooked up with them without lockdown. A true bonus.

It was good to hear the positive comments about Australia and New Zealand's approach to lockdown and quarantine from local friend Alison Mackay, who works tirelessly in environmental conservation. She was highly impressed by the quick actions of our friends down under to close the borders and protect the population. We wondered why this didn't happen here, but 'oh!' we are doing it now, a year and 100,000 deaths too late... We'll have to find out why we went wrong. Without the distractions of a busy active life, we can ask and wait for the answers, no problem.

Sarah Breakey
Cumbernauld, Scotland

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.

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

Who does the work

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Carolyn Banados (Secretary),
Bhagya (Treasurer),
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Debbie Worgan
Sarah Breakey

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Deadlines

Advertising: 5pm, 19th of each month

Editorial: 12pm, 22nd of each month

Letters to the editor

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

Postal address: 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. 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.

Koala country, our country, our responsibility

Exploration License Application (ELA) 6169

Exploration License Application (ELA6169), lodged 20 November 2020, is an application to explore and potentially mine, 'metallics', possibly gold, between Cobargo and Bermagui.

ELA6169 covers about 30 square kilometres in the Coolagolite area between Cobargo, Quaama, and Bermagui, mostly on the south side of Cobargo Bermagui Road. This area suffered appalling loss to the community during and post the 2020 fires. ELA6169, if approved, could affect farms, rural and residential blocks, edges of Biamanga National Park, and state forest, as well as identified koala and other endangered wildlife habitats, including wildlife corridors.

ELA6169 includes sections of Coolagolite, Nutleys and Myrtle Creek catchments. These supply the Bermagui River catchment. Degradation of land

and/or mining products or spillage into those waterways could affect river oysters, fishing, farms, and tourism-related activities.

Property prices in the area and surrounds are likely to be affected by an approved ELA: ELAs allow mining exploration companies to 'make agreements' with landholders, allowing for exploration and further mining licences if required. These can be compulsorily arbitrated if people object. This may cause ongoing disruption to local communities through increased noise, heat, dust, road traffic, and possible enhanced fire risks.

We have been reassured that many ELAs, even if approved, are not actioned. This is not the point. As a resilient but stressed community, ELA6169 would remain an ongoing threat to confidence, lifestyle, property values, wildlife habitat,

and environment.

According to Chris from Resources Operations, the decision on the ELA is expected to be completed by 9 February 2021.

Bega District News will be pursuing this story and is aware of community distress.

Contacts for concerns/objections:

Resources Operations:

02 4063 6600 or 02 4063 6500

email: [resources.operations@](mailto:resources.operations@planning.nsw.gov.au)

[planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:resources.operations@planning.nsw.gov.au) –

Attention

Director Resource Assessment

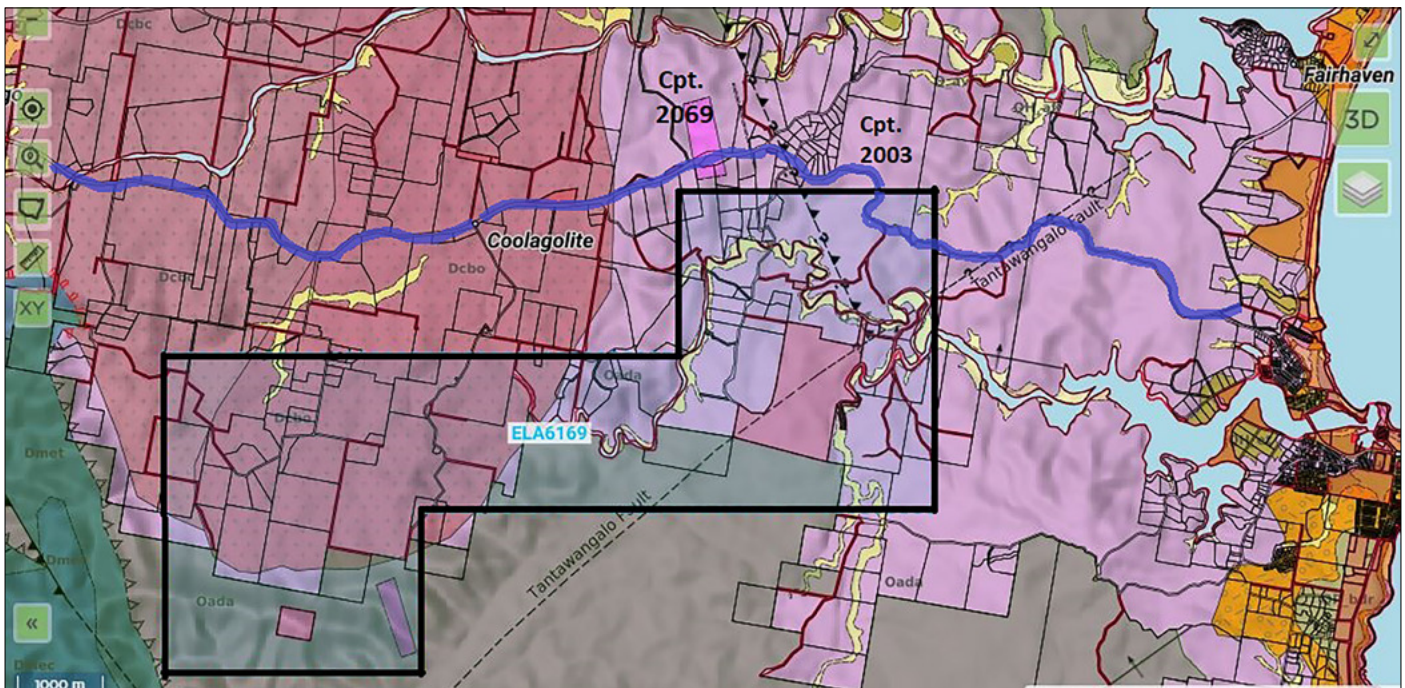
Andrew Constance, MP:

02 8574 5807

Kirsty McBain, MP:

02 6499 2227

*Jenifer James
Bermagui*



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CARERS "LOOK AFTER YOURSELF" (LAY) REMINDER

NDIS Plans are due for renewal in the Bega Valley.

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

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

Sponsored by Nardy House

The NEW *Triangle* website

The Triangle committee are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website! We've been working hard to create a whole new format and look to give a more rewarding experience when you read *The Triangle* online. We think it looks great!

It has some fancy new features.

1. The home page now offers a collection of images from the current edition to give you a visual taste of what is included and what page to find it on.

2. There is also a 'flip-book' option, which allows readers to view the current issue like a real magazine, with pages that turn and are in full colour. There is still the familiar PDF format to access if that's the way you want to read, print, or download *The Triangle*.

3. Recipes, book reviews, and gardening tips are now searchable by categories. For example, if you're looking for a dessert, you can go straight to that section of the recipes. Likewise, for the books, you can search out biographies, fiction, or non-fiction. The gardening section offers information by season.

4. We've added a collection of all our My Triangle profiles since 2006!

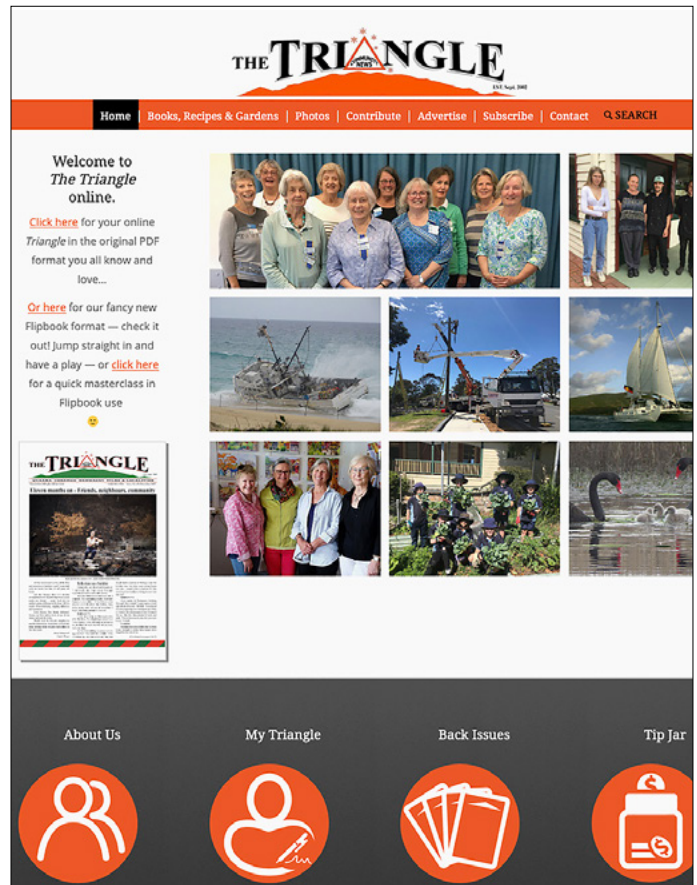
5. We've also added a 'tip jar' so as not to miss out on those online donations, which you can make via PayPal.

6. And last but not least, the back issues are all there too, going back to the first online editions in 2007.

As well as all the new features, all the photo galleries from last year are still up for you to view and enjoy, and there is still the important information about contributing, advertising, and subscribing, as well as a section telling you all about us.

We're very happy with it and would love to get your feedback, too. Go and check it out at: thetriangle.org.au.

Debbie Worgan



The new-look online *Triangle* is ready for viewing

HEAR WELL - LIVE WELL!

A new dedicated hearing care practice coming to Narooma.

Would you like assistance with hearing and communication in a caring and relaxed environment?

My name is Annemarie Narraway and I am a passionate audiologist. I love what I do: bringing communication confidence back to people. After five years working mainly in Bateman's Bay, I'm now bringing a local service to Narooma.

I have 21 years experience passionately pursuing great client outcomes in audiology. I specialise in working with tinnitus, children, and finding creative solutions to tricky situations. I have four years of university training in both speech pathology and audiology. I am committed to maintaining a highly professional, accredited service.



How can you help?

I want to create a special service for our local community. I'd like five minutes of your time with information on what you would value and need.

Call me on 0411 839 414 to share your thoughts over the phone or in person and complete a 10 question survey.

The first 10 people to complete the survey can receive a two part, obligation free, customised session. That's a 90 minute service valued at \$250, either for yourself or a loved one.

Sifting Horseshoe Bay Beach

NSW Maritime advise that in early February the remaining dredged material on Horseshoe Bay Beach will be sifted. The work will continue until its completed. Depending on weather conditions and progress rates, this may take weeks.

Sand Piper will project manage the works because it's within the scope/requirements of their contract. Work will be undertaken on weekdays only, with a spotter alongside operating equipment to ensure public safety.

The sift size will be 10mm, and the sifted rock/debris will be taken to the Crown Lands fenced compound behind

the co-op building.

When the sifting is complete, the beach shape will be contoured in consultation with Council and the surf club.

The harbour dredging works have not yet been planned. When there is a draft plan, NSW Maritime will provide information on that scope. The timing is likely to be in the coming months.

Please contact Jen Robinson at NSW Maritime on 0427 759 482 or

jen.p.robinson@transport.nsw.gov.au should you have any queries.

Geoff Steel

Very good news for chronic pain sufferers

The way we now look at health and wellness has completely changed with the knowledge of brain plasticity. This new science is the cornerstone of the Pain Management Program offered as free group education with a referral from your GP.

The purpose of the group is to share some of this exciting new theory revolutionising western medicine and transform the theory into simple exercises we can do to bring our brains to fuller functionality, and to acquire skills to improve the quality of our lives and manage pain effectively.

For chronic pain sufferers there is course in Bermagui, beginning in February 2021. The program, developed by Professor Michael Nicholas, PhD, who has worked in the field of pain since 1980, incorporates our contemporary understanding of neuroplasticity.

In the bonding group experience, and with a new understanding of our nervous system and the fresh skills acquired, an enhanced quality of life will follow naturally. We will also learn from one another and build supportive social connections.

So much has been discovered in this new field of the science of our brain and nervous system, it can literally be life-changing. Call your medical practice now and ask them for a referral to the Pain Management group in Bermagui, beginning soon. The initial intensive extends over a six-week period, with two follow-up sessions to evaluate that learned skills have become habits.

Being healthy is very contagious.

Josephine Richardson
Specialist RN & Health Educator
3resolvepain@gmail.com

Anglican Parish of Cobargo, Bermagui, and Quaama

Welcome to a new year, hoping it will bring blessings of peace, joy, and love to you and your families.

Sadly this year begins with some upheaval for the Parish. Our much loved and unstoppable Rev. Tim Narraway will be leaving us; he has been appointed to the Parish of Bodalla/Narooma, effective from 1 March. While we congratulate Tim on his new position, he will be greatly missed! Tim's care for the community has been tremendous, especially this past year, post-bushfires.

There will be several opportunities to say farewell to Tim, Annemarie, Caitlin, and Nathaniel.

The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held after the 10 am service at Christ Church, Cobargo, on Sunday 14 February. This will be followed by a BYO picnic lunch and farewell in the grounds.

Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) this year is on Tuesday 16 February, also at Christ Church, Cobargo. The evening begins at 6 pm and will once again be a free fire-recovery event for the whole community – Bermagui, Cobargo, Quaama, and surrounding areas. This will be an outdoor family event, modified to keep us all COVID-safe. You may wish to bring outdoor chairs or a picnic blanket, although some seating will be available. This will be a great opportunity to say goodbye to Tim and the Narraway family.

Reverend Tim's last Sunday in the Parish will be 21 February.

Chris Richard-Preston,
Chair, Parish Council

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 MARCH 2021 - BEGA CIVIC CENTRE

likely story

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women of the South East are invited to share their story with a live audience

do you have a true story? unlikely story? funny story? life changing story? heartbreaking story?

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Summer at the library

Summer is here and our libraries across the Shire are running a full program of great holiday activities.

Art and sustainability classes for kids and adults are on the program, as well as science and technology activities for young and old. Our STEM activities include a beginner's course on making your own website, and Electro Dough – creating shapes and sculptures using conductive dough, which are brought to life with light and sound. "Kids really enjoy putting science into practice while getting their hands dirty and having fun," says librarian Suzannah Van Den Haak.

To see the full summer program across all libraries, you can visit the Bega Valley Shire Library website, or pop into your nearest Bega Valley Shire library.

Coming up at Bermagui library:

Build your own website, introduction – Perfect for anyone thinking about creating a website and not sure where to start. We demystify the process involved and provide practical demonstrations on

how to choose a template, site design, and editing tools – Thursday 4 March, 11 am

Upcycle a book purse – Upcycle an old book into a unique and beautiful accessory. In this workshop you'll learn how to take the humble book and turn it into a chic purse. The library will be providing old books and fabric for this activity, but if you have a specific style in mind, feel free to bring your own. Suitable for adults and children over 12 – Friday 5 February, 10.30 am

Introduction to Drawing with Donna Meyer – Donna teaches the 8 Principles of Observational Drawing. Retrain your brain and turn the world into shapes and shades. Drawing is a teachable, lifelong skill and easier to learn than you think. Suitable for adults and children over 12, and all materials are provided – Friday 12 February, 11 am

Book online at:
www.begavalleyshirelibrary.eventbrite.com.au



Finley, Eddie, and Paige programming their robot at the Lego Robotics workshop in Bega.

U3A update

U3A kicks off 2021 with a mix of Zoom and face-to-face classes. Rules and regulations change regularly, but the dedication of volunteers to keep this fantastic organisation alive and well is to be applauded.

A COVID Coordinator will be present at each class to ensure compliance with NSW Department of Health, who have us registered as a COVID-safe organisation. Updates will be sent out when necessary to ensure the safety of participants.

We are pleased that Taboo Topics is being offered again – nothing quite like a good debate over a coffee! We'll also visit the Buddhist Centre in Tilba Tilba and look forward to a very special tour by Khenpo Ngawang Dhamchoe, who is one of the most knowledgeable and respected teachers of Tibetan Buddhism in Australia.

Here are some more exciting U3A offerings: Go to the Bermagui Library and join a discussion all about books; take a walk and observe and appreciate our local wildlife and native vegetation; stay in the comfort of your own home and feel yourself relax in mindfulness classes; learn all about colonial and post-colonial periods of Africa's history; appreciate the royal game and sharpen your chess skills, or learn how they built astounding buildings in medieval France without an architect or engineer in sight. And the list goes on!

Come and join U3A, we share and learn purely for pleasure. It's as easy as visiting www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au/membership. Term one course registration begins online on 3 February and is available on our website. Classes start Wednesday 10 February.

Ruth Perrett, President

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WHAT'S ON
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Sun 7	Two Dogs Plucking
Sat 13	Ethan Parlato
Sun 14	Jakob Poyner
Sat 20	Totum
Sun 21	Jack Jack
Sat 27	Chris McGrath and special guest 5 x world champion whip cracker, Nathan 'Whippy' Griggs
Sun 28	Stitch Duo

Located 8 km south of Narooma
or 4 km north of Central Tilba

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for upcoming events

CULTURE of KINDNESS

As an educator of many years, I have had the honour of meeting many families and their children and hearing what is important to them when selecting a school. You would be correct in thinking that quality academics as well as, broad choices, great pastoral care and extra-curricular activities are all part of the conversation when thinking about a suitable school however, these aspects are not the standout when selecting a school. I guess one reason is that in Australia we are blessed with quality schools and teachers and after all quality education is expected from families in this day and age. The standout aspect that families look for is the culture of the school –namely, is it a kind school? Will their child be happy?

Kindness sounds like a soft skill but is such a vital ingredient for society. Being kind is not often easy and creating a culture of kindness is an even bigger task. Look at online comments, road rage and generally how quick people can be to show irritation and anger. Research from around the world consistently shows that acts of kindness have a long-lasting benefit to individual wellbeing and happiness and are remembered long after the act of kindness takes place. Creating a kindness culture has been my mission as an educator as I knew so many kids that didn't like school very much and I had experienced bullying as a child. I decided to be the change that I wanted to see in schools and creating a culture of kindness has been an important passion to me. Teaching and building strong and positive characters in children are critical and importantly, teaching our young people to understand that while they can't control how others respond, they can control how they respond to others and kindness can spread. We need to demonstrate what kindness looks like, sounds like and feels like. Quite frankly, we need more of it in every part of society! Everyone can make a positive difference by the kindness they show and from this momentum builds and the culture of kindness becomes how we do things every day.

At Sapphire Coast Anglican College, we are excited about the kindness movement that we have as a College. We know that happy kids learn best! When children feel happy and are working in a positive environment committed to demonstrating kindness, their learning takes off. This is true for children and for staff. As a College staff, we know that we are responsible for creating the change that we want to see. In 2019 and 2020 we saw the positive impact that kindness can have on others due to the support provided in response to the devastating drought, bushfires and then the pandemic of Covid-19. Our values as a College are woven into everything that we do and more importantly we all demonstrate kindness through every interaction through a Christian approach. As a Pre-Kindy to Year 12 College, we have the benefit of building character qualities every year in a consistent and empowering manner. Character development together with wonderful academic choices, amazing staff and great facilities provide for a quality education but it is the culture that determines the feel of the place and how people flourish within the school. I am proud of the kindness culture we have. While we are still continuously improving what we do, we know we are making a positive difference. How do we know? When children make an appointment to see the Principal to ask if they can keep coming to school in the Christmas holidays because they love school so much, we know we are making a difference! I would have never wanted to stay at school during the holidays as a kid! Kindness really is the new cool.

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*Leonie Dippel, Area Manager,
Bega Valley Community Transport
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Welcome, 2021. After a month's break and all the disruption of the holiday season, it's great to be back to casting about the village for news ahead of *Triangle* deadlines.

There was a food share this month at the hall. I'd like to think it was because there was no January *Triangle* that not many folks showed up! It was an intimate, relaxed affair. There was a table full of homegrown vegetables for the taking, and the potluck lunch included fresh hot chips coming out of the kitchen! There was worm juice on offer, and Murray Pope brought his beautiful plants. He said he attends more to enjoy a chilled afternoon than to sell anything much. I stayed longer than expected and bought a variegated hydrangea. It was pleasant just hanging out with our lovely neighbours under the oak tree. February will be a lot bigger, as the Sapphire Community Pantry will return, and stall holders encouraged to take part. The food share will continue, with any leftover contributions given to the pantry people to be made available to the community in Bega. So come to the Quaama Community Market! Don't miss out. It starts at 11 am on 12 February. In fact, mark your calendar on the 3rd Sunday of every month. No need to bring something for the share table if you don't have anything in abundance, but a plate for potluck

lunch would be greatly appreciated. Stall holders should contact Veronica if they'd like to book a spot.

There's news from the Quaama Bushfire Relief Centre, now named the Renewal Centre. A year after the fires a corner has been turned, where the job of providing relief to those who lost so much now has a forward-looking momentum. Rather than focusing on what was, the emphasis is now on all that is possible. The demountable solution for the centre was cancelled by Veronica Abbott, so it will continue to operate centred in the hall's supper room. There was a lot of speculation about just what went down, so for clarity, Veronica has set out the full story for anyone who's interested. It's posted at the shop noticeboard and at the hall.

So the Quaama Hall is for hire again and our regular Freestyle Ecstatic Dancers are back! After a few dances in the Cobargo Hall, they report that it's sooooo much better to be home in Quaama where they started years ago. They reckon the ambience and proportions of the main hall are perfect, and the wooden floor itself is superior to both Cobargo and Brogo Halls to name just two... They've held two of their fortnightly dances here so far. Covid restrictions are in place so if you're interested in attending, you must book by contacting Bhavita by email at bhavitaklaske@bigpond.com.



Free for the taking. Fresh homegrown food made a beautiful table display at the Quaama food share.

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Judy Gillies is the embodiment of resilience, her experience of the fires published in 'Seniors' Stories'.

Judy Gillies on Field Buckets Road happened to read an email she and Rob got from the Seniors Card people. It was an invitation to write a thousand words on the subject of 'resilience' for their publication, *Seniors' Stories: Volume 6*. As the Gillies' lost their farm in the fires, she had quite a story to tell. This happened last March, when they were camping on their land with no computer, so she wrote it out longhand and sent it off. Judy's story is the definition of resilience. Instead of dwelling on the black paddocks, she saw the green growth, and she and Rob set about rebuilding their lives straightaway. Their forward-looking attitude has landed them a new home and shed, where they are once again settled under a solid roof. And, of course, her story was included in the publication. A downloadable version is available on the Seniors Card website, or find it at the library, where you can thumb through a printed version. Good on you, Judy!

A few keen sewers (jeez, that doesn't look right!) are forming a sewing group out of the Quaama Hall. The plan is to meet up once a month and bring along or start a new sewing project. A couple of sewing machines and an overlocker will be there, as well as good company, cups of tea, and expertise. It could lead to larger events (think fashion parades!) but for now the plan is afternoons of sharing knowledge and inspiration over fabric.

Drop into the hall during Renewal Centre opening hours for more information, or contact Veronica Abbott on the Quaama Bushfire Relief Facebook page.

Check out the pic of Cobargo Street resident Kirsty Cameron's malamute, Benji, and his mountain of hair! You may have seen Kirsty walking her three malamutes. Every year when the weather warms up, she has to strip their undercoats to keep them comfortable, and Benji is the hairiest of the hairy. It took two different days, as the job was so big after doing one side that she had to recover before attempting the other! Anyone know how to spin?



Benji and a mountain of hair. This is one half of a very big job.

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Barbara Johnson and Jackie Jones at the Quaama food share.

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As we move into 2021 – by the time you get this it will be February! – we have all had moments to reflect on the year that's been and the one to come. We are blessed to live in our little part of Australia for so many reasons, yet there are constant challenges for many individually, personally, within community, and politically. All of us have our own ways of facing challenges and being part of our communities. There are, and will continue to be, many stories to share.

Here are a few that bring us joy, help us out when required, showcase our area, help us make sense – or not – of life, and look to the future.

Brave-Bottomed Wombat

Children's books are often evocative and as relevant for adults as they are for children. This may be true for Central Tilba resident Jody Vassallo's very popular and timely book, *Brave-Bottomed Wombat*. With its initial print run of 3000 nearly depleted, it goes into its second run of 5000. Better known as a food writer and stylist, as well as a yoga teacher and ayurvedic healer, Jody is surprised and thrilled at its success. In the first week of January it was Booktopia's best-selling book, and Jody has been interviewed on *The Project*, *Today Show*, and *Sky News*.

There have been many comments: the daughter of a Cobargo schoolteacher asks for it to be read to her every night; the Broulee preschool has found it an important way to start talking about the bushfires, and many adults have found it a gentle way to reflect. Many have sent it to families to show what last summer was like.

Jody does not know whether there will be another children's book; however, she has found that writing *Brave-Bottomed Wombat* has helped her with her own experiences of the bushfires. As a committed RFS member, the subtle message to plan and prepare is part of *Wombat*, and she appreciates the support and comments from the Tilba community, especially Linda and Ken Jamieson at the Central Tilba Post Office, who have graciously and with good humour helped Jody mail thousands of books.



Jody Vassallo at the Tilba Market

Tilba Halls focus for bushfire-recovery funding

During December and January, work has continued on a funding application under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to significantly upgrade and improve the facilities at the Tilba Halls. While the focus of this funding application involves infrastructure enhancement, there is a strong and important emphasis on improving community resilience when faced with disasters similar to last summer's bushfires. If successful, this funding will enable the Tilba Halls an even more prominent role in the community and region than currently. The working group includes the Halls Committee plus members from South Coast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA). This is a huge funding round targeted at 47 local governments and will be highly competitive. With the deadline extended to 28 January, the last two weeks before the closure were very busy. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for a good outcome.

Tilba District Chamber of Commerce also received funding to install business internet to the Tilba Halls through Council's Eurobodalla Disaster Relief Fund. This fund receives funding from the Federal Government's Business Resilience Grants program, which helps businesses in bushfire-affected communities. This will be a very beneficial addition as it will enable up-to-date technology and connectivity for all those who use the Halls. This will be particularly useful for community forums, business forums, and numerous events.



Jason Snell receiving his citation at the RFS Christmas Dinner

Tilba Nibbles

As a January *Triangle* is not published, there are a few worthy happenings in the community that may be missed. Here are a couple that acknowledge important contributions to our community life.

The Central Tilba RFS Christmas BBQ in December was also a presentation/citation night. Volunteer service is often taken

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for granted, so acknowledgment of individual contributions by an organisation is special. To honour the commitment and work during the 2019/2020 summer bushfires, all members of the Central Tilba Brigade received a special cap, badge, and certificate. Bruce Allen, Central Tilba's RFS Brigade Captain and Area Command Officer, was also featured as part of an article by The Australian on the NSW south coast bushfires twelve months on.

Year 6, 2020 kids at the Central Tilba Public School made an album to acknowledge what 2020 was like. It's compelling and can be found at www.tilbakids.bandcamp.com. It's titled *Rollercoaster – Year 6, 2020* by Tilba Kids.

We have started 2021 with full dams and tanks but live in uncertain times. Let's hope that whatever comes our way this year brings with it some good surprises and silver linings.

Stitch does it again

What happens when a guitar and banjo-playing vocalist/dance teacher, and a classically trained bassoonist and vocalist, (who happen to be neighbours in Central Tilba), get together? Well, they form an unlikely but compelling musical duo who play '20s jazz through to '80s rock with panache and their very own musical style. Making their debut at the famous *Tilba Hairy Concert* a couple of years ago, Zoey Pepper quipped 'I don't do jams' to Bev Long, her musical partner. That appearance obviously made an impression, highlighting how the mellow tones of Zoey's bassoon playing pairs so appealingly with Bev's accomplished guitar and banjo playing and vocal style. One thing led to another and Stitch and Bitch was born, now known as just Stitch. Now with a strong repertoire, this stylish duo are regulars, particularly at local venues like the Tilba Valley Winery, the Dromedary Pub, and the Camel Rock Brewery, where their signature song, '*Bei Mir Bist Du Schon*' is always a favourite.

The Far South is well known for its diverse music community, some of whom participate in the Australian National Busking Championships. Held in seven locations around the country since 2012 and culminating with the National Championships in Cooma each year, it was held online in 2020 due to COVID-19. Stitch won the Narooma Open Award in 2019, coming third in the National Championships. In the 2020 online Championships, Stitch was announced as the National Open winners in December. Well done, Stitch, who plan to release their first recording in 2021.

Check them out at the Tilba Valley Winery & Ale House on Sunday, 28 February from 12:30.

If you're wondering where Stitch and Bitch came from, it is a colloquial name for the women's sewing groups that formed during WW1.



Bev Long and Zoey Pepper with their award

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Tilba Real Milk wins again



Wow! In the 2020 Dairy Industry Association of Australia (DIAA) NSW Product Competition, Tilba Real Milk won an amazing six golds and two silvers. These distinguished awards were announced in late 2020 for the following products: Gold – Full Cream Un-homogenised Jersey Milk, Double Cream, Haloumi, Kinnoul Hill Camembert, Mystery Bay Kelp Vintage Cheddar, and Bredbo Black Garlic Vintage Cheddar; Silver – Low Fat Un-homogenised Jersey Milk and Persian Fetta. This is an impressive result for this family owned and run business and their hard-working team.

The DIAA is a professional association that provides a forum for communication, continuing education, professional growth, recognition, and fellowship for all members, sectors, and participant organisations involved with the dairy industry.



The Tilba Real Milk team with their winning products


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Tilba Bites

A chapter of Central Tilba's modern-day history has ended. Philip Dulhunty, OAM, passed away peacefully in Sydney late last year, family by his side. He touched the lives of so many, including residents in Tilba and surrounds. To say all that could be said about Philip in this small space is impossible, but I will attempt a snapshot.

There was a joke that Philip had nine lives, and he certainly used them all. He survived WWII, was one of the first at ground zero in Hiroshima, survived two plane crashes, one of which I witnessed, and a hijacking thrown in for good measure.

My family met Philip when I was seven; he was what we locals call 'first-generation Sydney'. He purchased the Haxstead property at Central Tilba from land developer Bernard Lewis in 1980, and he and second wife, Lenore, took over the restoration of the old homestead, previously decorated by Dame Zara Bate. I still remember nude fresco wallpaper in the lounge, and the black kitchen and red bedrooms! An outdoor tennis court with lights was installed, much to our excitement, and locals were welcomed for croquet and tennis.

He was the first in the area to commence holiday letting of a private residence, with quite a few famous guests staying over, including fellow friend and entrepreneur Dick Smith, who landed his famous chopper on the front lawn, UK skating duo Torvill and Dean, and an Aussie actress.

Philip loved aviation, flying his seaplane from Sydney and landing on either Tilba or Corunna lakes, depending on depth at the time. He was chairman of the Seaplane Pilots Association Australia until he died aged 96.

His achievements and inventions were incredible, the following only skimming the surface of his long list. He

made the first laptop, commenced the first air service between Port Macquarie and Sydney, introduced hydrofoils onto Sydney harbour, and co-invented the Aqueon, a dolphin-kick swimming machine.

Philip was a greatly social person and loved meeting people, a story, and even more, to tell a joke or a tale. I'll never forget the way he inserted 'alfalfa' into every word and appeared to be speaking a totally bizarre language. I'll remember him always giving his time to others and politely listening to the stories of anyone and everyone he met. He inspired me to have a go while having a laugh, and then having another go if you couldn't get the bloody thing right!

Philip employed many locals from Tilba & Narooma as he constructed all sorts of things, including the Observatory Hill house overlooking the ocean. Philip's daughter, Jinks, continues his vision, focusing on regenerative farming and biodynamic principles, and has been embraced by the Tilba community.

Philip, you will be greatly missed and remembered fondly by many. I will always be forever grateful for meeting the man who loved to fly in the sky. Always remembered with love and fond memories.

*Lee-Anne Eddie
Mystery Bay*

Obituary

Philip Wellesley

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Lee-Anne Eddie and Philip Dulhunty

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Tilba CWA news

In December, Tilba CWA helped with Christmas celebrations for Central Tilba Public School, Little Yuin Preschool, and Tilba Rural Fire Service; it was a pleasure and privilege for Tilba CWA to cater for Tilba's RFS Christmas BBQ dinner and awards night.

Our members also enjoyed a Christmas party at Narooma Kinema,

watching the feminist film *Misbehaviour* with popcorn and choc-tops.

Following a holiday rest in January, we are resuming our regular monthly meetings and craft mornings in February. Tilba CWA meetings are held the second Friday of the month, and craft mornings are twice monthly, the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Zoe Burke,

our Craft Officer, has arranged free community craft mornings in The Barn at The Dromedary Hotel from 10 am Monday 8 and 22 February, and all are welcome to attend. Zoe says, 'Come and have fun, bring your own craft project or learn something new.' For more information on Tilba CWA craft mornings, please contact Zoe on 0433 114 374.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Friday 12 February at 10 am in the Barn at The Drom, with an Ecuador-themed lunch at the pub from 12 noon. Our International Officer, Vicky Staddon, is coordinating this lunch, and we invite all local women to join us. Vicky is encouraging members and guests to wear traditional Ecuadorian costumes, with a prize for best-dressed. For more information on our Ecuador lunch, please contact Vicky on 0429 000 165.

Why join Tilba CWA? As our Secretary, Helene Sharpe, says, 'It's an opportunity to participate in Tilba community life with a friendly group of Tilba ladies.' Helene found that joining has helped her meet more people in the Tilba region and feel part of our community.

At our next monthly meeting we will be discussing Tilba CWAs participation in the local Land Cookery and Handicraft competition in Bermagui in March, the Tilba Easter Festival in April, CWA State Conference in Bega in May, and COVID-safe fundraising initiatives to benefit our local education and health facilities. All women are welcome to join.

Annette Kennewell



Helen Thomson and Annette Kennewell at the RFS Christmas BBQ

The Tilba Festival is back in 2021!

On Easter Saturday 2021, April 3, Central Tilba will again open the gates on the Tilba Festival and share a great day out for locals and visitors alike. Join us once again on Bate Street for a full day of live music, market stalls, an amazing array of food, traditional street games, and great entertainment for the kids.

One of the best days out on the NSW south coast for over 30 years, and the highlight of the year for the Tilba district, the Festival is a celebration of the heritage, local produce, and creative and musical talent of this amazing community.

The Bate Street businesses come together with stallholders, food producers, and entertainers to deliver a day that all the family will enjoy and remember long into the future.

Organised by a small group of enthusiastic local volunteers, the Festival

is a not-for-profit

community event. Proceeds from the day directly benefit the Tilba district through donations to local community groups, including the School of Arts Trust and the CWA.

Musicians, entertainers, and stall holders interested in participating in the 2021 Tilba Festival need to email: stall@visittilba.com.au. Demand is expected to be high and space is limited, so get your request in as soon as possible!

COVID-19: The Tilba Festival 2021 is being planned in line with current NSW Government restrictions and will be implemented according to NSW Health guidelines in place in April 2021. Updates will be posted to our social media.

Susan Gray,
President,

Tilba District Chamber of Commerce



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Welcome to a new *Triangle* year! No need to say too much more about our past year – enough to say that those of us who are here have lived through an extraordinary year of challenges and lived to tell the tale. Some customers who come into the bookshop ask me how the town is doing after the fires, and I always have to think about it. It's such a big question, and I can only answer for myself. However, I can say that the town is very operational despite the losses of some properties and businesses and the effects of COVID-19. We have all had to adapt to unthinkable situations and make the best of living in our 'bubble' here in Cobargo and surrounds.

Sitting in the car park at Kitchenboys on New Year's Eve, celebrating with friends and some of the community – Cam, Ren and the crew put on a great BBQ as thanks for supporting them through the year – we all watched the endless stream of cars, RVs, caravans, and boats on their way back to Victoria. It looked like the Christmas holiday season ended then. As it turned out, the vacuum the Victorians left was filled up by Sydneysiders and Canberrans still wanting to have a holiday, and in turn, support the south coast economically. We love our seasonal tourists, but we honour our local supporters all the more!

It's crunch time for some big grant submissions from not-for-profit volunteer groups that were formed as a direct response to the needs of the community and the business community. There is an overview of submissions from the Cobargo Quaama Business Recovery Group Inc. on page 21.

The Cobargo Green Recovery Inc. is another group working hard, with grant proposals in the pipeline. They are thinking big, and why not? Last November, in partnership with Rotary in Bega and Canberra, they helped organise a big plant giveaway to fire-affected people and the wider community, with 700 people turning up at the gate and thousands of plants taken. Later on, in December, Green Recovery members helped landscape the RSL grounds, another community space that is being refurbished.

At ground level, the Cobargo Community Garden group have almost completed their shed with the help of Shed Angels and funds from the Cobargo Bushfire Recovery Fund. After the decking and verandah roof are done, and the water tank installed, their next garden project is to create wicking beds – raised garden beds that have their own self-watering system, which are low-maintenance and water-efficient. Sounds like I need those in my garden! There will be an open day announced soon.

For a small country town affected by last year's fires, we have been galvanised by the energy of individuals and groups of community members determined to make a difference to our village and surrounds. We celebrate our volunteers.



Community Garden shed in progress



The Bega Woodies made it, the fire brigade helped them put it up – how many does it take to erect a notice...?



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Cobargo Conversations

Ronald James Corby passed away in Canberra Hospital on 17 December 2020, surrounded by his family, with his graveside service held at Cobargo Cemetery on 23 December.

Ron was born at the original Bega Hospital on 23 March 1952, the first-born child to Ron and Nita Corby, and brother to Irene, Joan, and June. Home was Niagara Lane, Kameruka, until around 1954, when the family moved out to Kaloola, Wandella.

Ron attended Wandella School until 1964 when it closed. It was around this time his pop, Bill Britten, gave the family some horses, sparking Ron's keen interest in wheeling and dealing. When he got his licence at 17, he found some freedom and worked for Jimmy Harris as a farm hand for a year or so, but his real passion was horses, so he purchased a truck and started buying, breeding, breaking, selling, and showing. In 1975 he bought Dandy Britches, an Appaloosa stallion from Windsor, which was his pride and joy and unbeaten in the show ring, then in 1977 bought a bulldozer, and two years later started contracting.

Between building dams and clearing blocks and house sites, he somehow continued his horse obsession into the '80s, when he would meet the love of his life, Gloria, taking on a ready-made family of

five at the age of 32. They made their home at Munglebar, near Quaama, for a few years and grew the family by two. With a full house, it was time to build their own, and in 1988 they built the house they called home for the next 32 years. The farm was never big enough to make an income off, so they made the most of it and had fun raising horses, goats, sheep, dogs, cows, and all types of poultry—even some ostriches!

Growing up in a big family, there was always lots of fun to be had, and Ron loved having all the kids around. There were fishing trips to Bermagui, camping, and lots of good memories made. When grandchildren came along, Ron was in his element again! He adored them all.

Ron and Gloria lost their home in the 2020 bushfires and had just moved back into their new home on the family farm in November. Ron is survived by his wife, Gloria, and children Darren and Deb, Vicki and Darryn, Tammie and Brett, Jodi and Shannon, Peta and Matthew, Jade and Stak, and Craig and Tamara. He was Grandpa to Jackson, Tom, Harry, Sam, Elijah, Tiffany, Madison, Kyle, Blake, Mason, Myles, Beau, Matilda, Zoe, Cooper, Kayleb, Mack, Lane, and Blair, and Great-Grandpa to Theodore, Luka, Pixie, Loki, and Fletcher.

Obituary

Ronald James CORBY

23 March 1952 –
17 December 2020



Ronald James Corby, late of Wandella



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Project overview of the Cobargo Quaama Business Recovery Group

With many projects being proposed in Cobargo by various groups, it is difficult to be across all the information, so the Cobargo Quaama Business Recovery Group Inc. would like to clarify some points regarding the two projects we are leading:

1. Cobargo Business and Community Hub - Business Council Australia.

2. Main Street Rebuild Plan - Submission - BLER Fund.

Business Council Australia did not offer Cobargo a blank cheque. Working with one of their partner members, they offered a building, to be used by fire-impacted businesses prior to the main street rebuild.

The Main Street Rebuild project, separate from the BCA project, is currently applying for government funding through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, which many projects in Cobargo are submitting applications to. The Cobargo Quaama Business Recovery Group Inc. has been working on the main street submission for most of 2020, and the voluntary hours being applied to this submission by many is huge. Submissions close 28 January 2021, and approvals are expected from 30 June 2021.

The Business Council Australia project, the Cobargo Business and Community Hub building, will only be available to recovering businesses for a set period, to assist economic recovery for them and, importantly, Cobargo, with one unit to be set aside for community use. Business Council Australia will set the guidelines in consultation with CQBR Group Inc.

The Cobargo Co-operative have donated the use of their land for the BCA project. Several sites were considered, with the Co-op site being the most suitable, central location available, ensuring the main street is free for the rebuild.

After the recovery period and businesses have returned to the main street, the Co-op will have use of 50% of the building for their own business needs. It cannot be rented out for profit. The remaining 50% will be for community use.

If you would like to support either of these worthwhile projects, letters of support or questions can be forwarded to: cqbrgroup@gmail.com.

Narelle Cooper



Usually on a Thursday at Lena's Via Luna and James's Valiant Coffee, mums and bubs gather in the garden and do what mums and bubs do. Shout out to the redoubtable James, who prepares drinks for mums and many babykins to suit, and Lena, who always has freshly baked muffins to share.

(Photo Credit: Felice Vachon)

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CWA News

At Cobargo CWA we have already gotten underway in 2021. An appearance on Channel 10's morning show, Studio 10, gave our secretary, Lynn Lawson, the opportunity to thank everyone for the generous donations over the past year, and to remind everyone we need help with BlazeAid volunteers and in clearing the thick undergrowth that has resulted from the heavy rains. Daniel Doodie (previously of South East NSW ABC Radio) conducted the interview after appearing from our cottage kitchen wearing a frilly apron, bearing, yes, a plate of scones!

The following week we hosted

the Australia Day Celebrations at the Cobargo Showgrounds. A much shorter function due to COVID-19 restrictions, and no Australia Day Ambassador; nevertheless, the Scouts cooked their sausage sizzle, with provisions provided by CWA. The Cobargo Citizen of the Year Award was greeted with great delight by those who attended. Ros Hewett of the Bowerbird Community Op Shop was a most worthy recipient, it was agreed by all.

We are now looking forward to the CWA State Conference in Bega in May. Although it's difficult to organise in these COVID times, the local committee is

building a Conference that will reflect the best Bega and the far south coast has to offer.

We continue at Cobargo with our COVID-safe meetings, where we offer friendship and support to one another, as well as provide information, and what's most important – fun! If you would like to join us, please call Ann Holub on 0451 825 726, Lynn Lawson on 0411 432 533, or Mary Williams on 0447 401 725, and we can give you details of our next meeting. You are assured of a warm welcome!

Mary Williams – Publicity Officer

In loving memory of **Ailsa Louise Mustard**, born 19 October 1933, who passed away on 19 January 2020. Ailsa lived in Cobargo and was the twin sister of Mervyn Rodwell, mother-in-law of Robert Salway, and grandmother of Patrick Salway, both of whom lost their lives in the fires. She is loved and remembered by her twin brother, Mervyn, his wife, Shirley, and the whole Rodwell family.

We remember **Robert and Patrick Salway**, who lost their lives on New Year's Eve in the bushfires. We will remember them always. Not a day goes by when we don't think of the Salway family and the community that suffered in the fires. Love, Uncle Merv, Aunt Shirley, and all the Rodwell family.



Chris Norris and granddaughter Hazel – next-generation mechanic

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Hope from The Crossing

This December was my first visit back to Bermagui and the south coast since last summer's bushfires. My mid-north coast had suffered too, I knew the strain of daily fire alerts, evacuations, smoke instead of air, skies that were only shades of brown, and the sound of sirens and helicopters. But down here it seemed even more dramatic, with more villages severely impacted—nobody could ever forget those Mallacoota beach images—and the drive down the highway showed how vast the fires' spread had been. I was overwhelmed with sadness for the terror and loss of the creatures... and the people.

I came partly to revisit The Crossing near Bermagui, to write an article for *The Owner Builder* magazine. I knew it had escaped the Badja Road fire and would not be quite so depressing. In fact, it proved the opposite, as Annette Turner told me the story of The Crossing, how their dream of a place for young people to learn hands-on about living sustainably became reality, and how she and her husband, Dean, found the perfect place here almost 25 years ago. Annette also acknowledged local support from Bega Valley Shire Council, IMB, groups like Probus, long-term donors such as the late Neilma Gantner, and too many individuals to name.



Annette and Dean Turner from The Crossing

As Annette related instances of luck and generosity, I felt this place a worthy magnet for such 'serendipity', of great community and social benefit for our youth. For the leaders and shapers of our future, it symbolises the renewal needed in this bleak time of climate change and COVID.

So I was buoyed by the optimism and positive, ongoing action in the camps and courses, and the chance for adults too,

to stay in a living permaculture system through their unique Airbnb setup.

The Crossing is an integral part of this community, as shown by the Badja Fire Edge Road Gatherings held there, and the resulting Facebook page from those discussions and learnings. Their website now also has information on fire-retardant design.

The Crossing gives me hope.

Sharyn Munro



A group of youths getting dirty building the tool shed

Farewell to 2020, a year no one will forget.

There seemed to be a feeling of quiet and uncertainty on the days leading up to New Year's Eve, with memories of the same time last year weighing heavily on peoples' minds, for some more than others.

But, for many visitors to the area it did in fact mean another evacuation, same time as last year! When border closures were announced mid-afternoon on 31 January 31, there was a mad flurry of activity. Cars were hastily packed, accommodation abandoned as visitors made a dash to get over the Victorian border before it closed due to a fresh outbreak of COVID in Sydney. For many it was a re-enactment of events the same time last year, under less threatening circumstances. It was hard to believe that the town was emptying out once again at the peak trading time for businesses that were hoping to recoup some of their losses over last year.

Bermagui had been 'psyching up' for a big season and a huge influx of visitors into town, with accommodation booked out for months before the start of holiday season. No one anticipated the fickle hand of COVID would mean that many had to cancel holiday plans and stay put in their own states. This of course impacted on

local business planning for a bumper year.

I spoke with a few business owners to get their comments on the events after New Year's.

Maddy O'Connor of 'Neighbourhood' coffee house and patisserie, spoke of the event being 'unsettling and weird', putting everyone on edge.



Other shopkeepers reflected the same opinion. While they had been anticipating a booming summer trade, overnight, businesses had to make quick decisions and changes with the sudden drop in customers, and staff and stock levels had to be re

assessed. There was also a psychological effect and loss of stamina after building up to expect a busy time.

But, trade has picked up, and a new wave of visitors are taking advantage of vacancies and some discounted accommodation. Others spoke of a shift of demography amongst visitors to the coast. People from all over NSW who would normally not visit at this time of year taking the opportunity to have a summer holiday at the beach and come to an area that needs supporting.

The feeling of most business owners I spoke to was that despite the 'hiccup' at the beginning of the year, the town was settling back to steady summer trading now, albeit much quieter, almost like summers of old. A steady but manageable rate of visitors. All that's missing is the fair that used to visit...but now that's reminiscing.

The summer is a ripper, the weather has been kind, the blue waters are glistening, lakes are open again, there is often a late afternoon storm with a little rain to keep gardens happy, and people are out and about enjoying the best of what Bermi offers. And hopefully trade will improve enough to keep the businesses happy. Just the way we like it.



U3A Bermagui & District Inc

U3A offers classes taught by local members for members. Membership is available to the whole community. Some classes are now being held in person; others will be online using the Zoom platform

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An overview of courses and activities for this term so far ...

Old favourites such as: Australian Literature, Apple Technology, Book Chat, Mindfulness and Stitchers & Crafters.

New Classes/Courses: Bush n Birds, Into Africa, The Queen's Gambit, Ukulele, Ukraine, Medieval Architecture, The Secret to Catching Trout and Friday Film & Lunch

All details will be available in our Term 1 Newsletter and on our website.

Bermagui Banter

The annual Car Boot Sale, held every summer in the Country Club car park, has become a regular event, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Last year's event couldn't be held, for obvious reasons, so this year's, which raises money for the Bermagui Bowlers, should be a bumper one; everyone has been cleaning out their sheds!

It will be held on 6 February (see poster for details) in the car park at the Bermagui Country Club, and run under strict COVID requirements.

If it's hot, come prepared with your own water, hat, or umbrella. There will be a sausage sizzle run by Bermagui Men's Bowls and a coffee van onsite. Don't miss this popular event.

Unfortunately the Seaside Fair has been cancelled this year. It's hoped that it may be rescheduled for October, so watch this space. COVID seems to again be calling the shots this year, making it very difficult to plan anything.

Apex Park has new toilets, a vast improvement on the old block and accessible for all. Work on the all-abilities playground will commence after the long weekend in January, as well as completion of the ramp at Bruce Steer Pool.

The new boat ramp opposite Bermagui Bait and Tackle is proving a popular facility, not only for boat owners to launch their craft, but a great spot for anglers young and old, with better access to the channel and less chance of entanglement on rocks and oysters.

The Murunna Point walk between Camel Rock and Wallaga Lake car parks has always been a well-known walking trail with spectacular views and a well-documented significance as an Aboriginal cultural walking trail. It has been enhanced by the completion of two viewing platforms, making it a great walk for

locals and visitors, but remember, this is a no-dog zone, so keep your pooch at home – and your eyes to the ground on hot days for the slithery ones!



The new viewing platform between Camel Rock and Horse Head Rock



The new viewing platform at Horse Head Rock



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Bermagui Banter

Bournda EEC would like to acknowledge the contribution of Chic Osgood. A good mate of inaugural BEEC Principal Jack Miller, Chic was instrumental in organising excursions to Bournda from a number of schools when the Centre was first established, way back in 1976. As well as providing country kids from out west a unique opportunity to experience the delights of the coast, the excursions helped put Bournda EEC on the educational map as an outstanding venue for outdoor and environmental education.

If my recollection of history is correct, Chic also was involved in setting up the initial Bournda excursions from Forbes High School, which I was fortunate enough to help organise from 1993 to 1999. That played a part in my getting a position at BEEC, so I am indebted to Chic's contribution to my great fortune in landing a job here.

We extend our sympathy and condolences to Chic's wife, Jill, and his family and friends.

*Doug Reckord
Bournda EEC Principal*

Teacher, grazier, oyster farmer, instrument maker – Chic was all of these.

Raised in Sans Souci, Chic's early life was centred around boats – 16-foot skiffs. His father, Chilla, was a founder of the Georges River 16-foot Skiff Sailing Club, and later its commodore (and cleaner). Chic sailed first as bailer boy, later graduating to for'ard hand, and finally skipper in the lovely old cedar skiffs.

After matriculating from James Cook High School, he studied at the University of Technology in Sydney, graduating as an industrial arts teacher in 1963. Following teaching appointments over several years in the Riverina and central west, he was appointed deputy and then principal of Cobar High School in 1985, a position he held until medical retirement with cancer in 1996. The school subsequently honoured Chic by naming its new library after him. He remained a staunch defender of public

education and equality of educational opportunity throughout his long life.

His years at Cobar were productive in other ways. He and Jill bought a local 30,000-acre property on which Chic, assisted by their three young sons, ran 3,000 merino sheep in his spare time; he was never frightened of hard work. When his failing health forced a change, Chic and Jill moved to Wapengo, where they bought a commercial oyster farm. He worked that diligently for more than ten years.

As his condition deteriorated, and following his final move to Bermagui in 2002, he took up woodworking again. From his small home workshop, and over his last few years, he constructed more than thirty magnificent cellos, violas, and guitars, most of which he gave to family and friends. As a mark of the quality of his work, one of his cellos, donated by him as thanks to St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, was auctioned for \$10,000.

A generous and modest friend to many people, myself included.

He will be greatly missed.

Jack Miller

Obituary

Charles (Chic) OSGOOD

27 September 1944 –
29 December 2020



Chic with his last cello



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Bermagui Banter

When Stefan first arrived here in the mid-eighties and hung out his shingle, I could not believe my good fortune. He was both life-changing and life saving.

I am so grateful that Stefan chose this place to live and share his wisdom and skills. We had a master in our midst. And with the image of the dear man collecting firewood in his forest, decked out in his Bavarian hat and waistcoat, as if a refugee transported from the Black Forest in a northern winter, I know that he too was pleased to have made this place his home.

I'm finding it hard to process the undeniable fact that our dear friend has gone.

Stefan was intuitive, thorough, compassionate, and refreshingly candid... he cut right through. His maxim was, 'Moderation in all things'—yet not without exception!

I loved the way he thought about the world and its vagaries. I felt a strong affinity, as if we spoke the same language. We enjoyed many long raves and rages together.

Stefan became our family doctor, proudly entered on every school enrolment form—we didn't need a GP... we had Stefan. My youngest daughter, Ramanee, remembers the softness of his hands as he gently held her little ones to make her feel safe. She would sit patiently on his magnificent chair with lion heads on its arms, in front of his unique old cabinet, watching those same hands scanning the pages of his books, skimming the surface... The only thing that made her nervous about seeing Stefan was knowing that he would ask her about her poo!

He not only saw our family of five through many times of dis-ease, he also administered to my goat, Nirvana, after a snakebite, and... one evening when I found my kelpie dog frothing at the mouth and unable to move (another snakebite), it was Stefan I took her to, with amazing results.

My faith in him and his massive reference books was well-founded, time and time again, and visiting was always very good for the soul.

You could ring Stefan at any time. He was readily and willingly available, and if he wasn't there, his recorded message brought a smile to my face.

I remember about 30 years ago he commented that although he knew I would continue to 'burn my bra', that for my overall wellbeing, perhaps I should wear one, too!

He was worth listening to, and I did. His skill and understanding and advice has now benefitted three generations of our family. Stefan touched many lives, and his legacy is huge.

It was a shocking summer for all of us, and Stefan suffered huge losses. And yet he bounced back. Reinvigorated, almost.

I will always remember his warm hugs, his enquiring mind, and his many asides... inevitably some classic comment on the 'state of affairs'. It has been an honour to know him, and I do know that Stefan knew how much he was loved and appreciated.

Stefan trod this earth with great consciousness and respect. We are going to miss him.

Rici Tandy

Obituary

Stefan TALMATSKY
14th September 1950 –
23rd December 2020



Stefan Talmatsky

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Let the music play!

Bermagui's own ukulele group, the Bermagui Ukalips, are back in business and raring to go! The 2020 lockdowns and isolation meant the whole group, some 23 members, were unable to gather. However, once safe to do so, members started meeting in small groups of four to six in private homes.

Group leader, Lori Hammerton, kept in touch with these groups, often attending to introduce new material and arrangements. 'It was interesting seeing the small groups learning the same songs, and then seeing if it all came together when the whole group met again.'

To end what has been a challenging year for everyone, Lori decided to finally get the whole group together in December for a big get-together/Christmas party. The gathering was held at a nearby rural property, so plenty of social distancing available. Members excelled themselves, bringing a fabulous variety of food, and just a little 'champers' to get us in the swing. Even Santa made an appearance!

Sessions have now resumed, and the group are making plans for the year ahead. The Bermagui Ukalips support the Bega Valley Can Assist charity, which provides support and financial

assistance to cancer patients in the Bega Valley. In the past the group have raised much needed funds by various means, such as busking in the local community. The group recently performed outside the Woolworths supermarket in Bermagui and will be playing at the upcoming car-boot sale at the Bermagui Country Club on 6 February.

New players are always welcome to join the Bermagui Ukalips. In fact, to enrich our sound and rhythm, the group are actively seeking a bass guitar/ukulele player to keep us in time, and/or a percussionist – drum, tambourine, bongos etc. If you play any of these instruments and would like to be involved with this fun group, love the music of the '60s, '70s, and '80s and belting out a song or two, please give Lori Hammerton a call on 0459 027 308.

Lori will also be running a beginner ukulele class through U3A in first term. No experience necessary, just a sense of fun and adventure as you learn this easy little instrument. Check out the U3A website, bermagui.u3anet.org.au, for more information, or give Lori a call.

Carolynne Banados



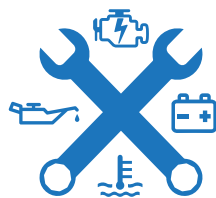
The Bermagui Ukalips... finally back together and ready to make music again.



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Bermagui's Christmas spirit

The Narooma Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society has again benefited greatly from the generosity of the Bermagui community. In November and December, Bermagui residents were asked to contribute to a Christmas Hamper Drive organised by the local Horizon Bank branch and Woolworths supermarket, with a large collection box placed near the checkouts at Woolworths for donations of Christmas fare and pantry items. The response was particularly commendable, given the challenges our communities faced with bushfires and the pandemic.

When the drive concluded, the Narooma St Vincent de Paul Society members took delivery of a large quantity of donated items. These made it possible to pack additional hampers for distribution to families and individuals in the Narooma, Bermagui, Cobargo, and Bodalla areas.

The quality and variety of the

donations this year again ensured that hampers contained both pantry items and treats—Christmas puddings, cakes, hams, and sweets. These make the hampers even more special for the members of our community who receive them.

In total over 60 hampers were distributed by St Vincent de Paul Society members last year. This is on a par with the last three years, when Horizon and Woolworths also tapped into their town's Christmas spirit to support Conference's hamper initiative.

Narooma Conference extends a big thank-you to the good people of Bermagui, you helped make Christmas much better for many people who are doing it tough at present. A big thank-you also to Julie from Horizon Bank's, and Woolworth's manager, Michael, for their great support. Bermagui can be proud of its Christmas spirit.



From left: Anne, Julie (Horizon Bank manager), Mike, Michael (Woolworths manager), and Bill with donations.

Bermagui and District CWA

The Bermagui and District CWA will be having their first meeting for 2021 on Friday 5 February at 1 pm. There will be a sandwich luncheon at 12 noon to welcome the new year's activities, and to enable a catchup of happenings over the Christmas break.

The Bermi branch of CWA welcomes new members and visitors. CWA is a great way to meet people and become involved in the local community, offering a broad range of activities such as cultural, handicrafts and cooking, international studies, environmental issues, game days, and participation in community events. If you are new to the area, lonely, or find you now have more time on your hands, come along and say hello!

*Chris Richard-Preston,
Publicity Officer*



CWA ladies enjoying some Christmas cheer at the Tilba Winery and Ale House –from left: Gail Whelan, Vicki Hummel, and Rhonda Byrne.

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Horizon Bank supports Heart of the Nation

The original yellow Wiggle, Greg Page, attended Horizon Bank's head office in Wollongong recently to welcome them as a member of Heart of the Nation. Greg congratulated Horizon Bank on making the potentially life-saving decision to install defibrillators in all of their branches in the Illawarra and along the South Coast.

Greg, who experienced a sudden cardiac arrest earlier this year, subsequently founded Heart of the Nation. Its key focus is being able to provide better outcomes for people who experience cardiac arrest in the home, at work, or in public places. He said, "It's great to have Horizon Bank on board as Heart of the Nation members. The installation of defibrillators at their branches shows they're committed to providing aid to anyone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. I encourage businesses to follow Horizon Bank's lead."

The programs and initiatives that Heart of the Nation provides serve to support the recommendations of bodies and organisations such as the Global Resuscitation Alliance and the Australian Resuscitation Council. Community groups, clubs, businesses, workplaces, shops, schools, or any type of organisation that has a defibrillator onsite that could be used by any member of the community, can join Heart of the Nation.

When you join Heart of the Nation, you give consent to pass your information on to ambulance services in your state or territory

to form part of a register. This will allow 000 staff to guide those assisting to the nearest defibrillator.

John Stanfield, CEO of Horizon Bank, said, "In the event of someone experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest, we want to let the community know Horizon Bank has a defibrillator available. We truly care about our customers, staff, and the general public. This is a tangible way of showing our commitment to our communities. It's a small cost to potentially save a life."



Kim Morris (Marketing Manager, Horizon Bank) and Greg Page

Marine Rescue Bermagui is feeling accomplished

Congratulations to our newest crew member Deb Worgan. Deb passed her operational assessment for Marine Rescue Crew rating today. This encompasses preparing *BG30* for departure, helming the boat, anchoring, attaching a tow to a broken-down vessel (thanks to Pete Ford, John, and *The Jane Too*), rafting *The Jane Too* up alongside *BG30*, and delivering boat and occupants safely to the wharf – as well as reacting confidently and competently to a medical emergency and man-overboard scenarios. Phew! You must be exhausted, Deb. Well done.



Volunteers saving lives on the water
(Photo credit: Babs Stevens)

Is or isn't it the start of a goldrush?

Well, rumours that a Western Australian mining company are hoping to start a successful mineral exploration on the western outskirts of Bermagui – and by mid-February – may no longer be just a rumour!

What sort of minerals? Best to remain vague and not cause too much excitement, although the legacy of mining is usually always the same – land compromised for most other use for an indefinite period.

If it is gold they're looking for, it wouldn't be the first goldrush for Bermagui – far from it, as that first one happened in September of 1880, now 140 years ago, and the legacy left is not the usual scene of environmental damage. Montreal Goldfield heritage site, comfortably fitting between Wallaga Lake and the sea, has had time to repair and impress!

Left as an unusable mining site, littered with hundreds of shafts and looking pretty forbidding into the 1930s, it has now seen nature reclaim its own – no legislated remedial requirements called for in those days!

Undisturbed for most of the last 140 years, the native vegetation has carried out a process of restoration that displays most impressively what the bush looked like before any significant European settlement in the area we now see as Bermagui.

Since the fires of last summer, which narrowly spared Montreal, we have seen a burst of growth that highlights the range of plants that called the Wallaga Lake coastal area home.

To date, and with sound expert help, some 12 or more food species have been identified as those utilised by native inhabitants of the area.

Parks and Wildlife rangers suggest it's a 'botanical rarity' to see a restoration take place unimpeded by human activity. And yes, its relative unique legacy is seen by the custodians of the Goldfield, acting on Bega Valley Shire Council's behalf, as a legacy well worth preserving.

Anyone for a spot of botanical gardening?

Chris Franks

Sculpture Bermagui

It's not long now before the headland is alive with an array of wonderful sculptures for us all to enjoy! This year the Indoor entries will be housed in the surf club, which makes for a seamless transition from Indoor to Outdoor exhibits. This COVID-safe and free exhibition runs from Saturday 6 to Sunday 14 March and is something to mark on your calendar right now. The program is nearly finalised and will be available soon, check our website, Facebook, and Instagram for information.

It's great that the businesses in Bermagui are beginning to bounce back after the pain of last year's fires and the effects of COVID. The Bermagui Business Award fund is looking healthy, and we thank those businesses that continue to support our event. Another very notable mention is the increased involvement and support of the Bermagui Country Club. Not only does the club currently host a couple of sculptures, including the famous 'Hot Head', but they have doubled their People's Choice - Outdoor Sculpture prize money, and are offering in-house discounts to those who volunteer. Plus we're adding several new prizes from local businesses this year. Without such generous support, we could not attract the quality and number of artists we do.

The exhibition committee has been working hard to secure a grant to facilitate the development of a Bermagui Sculpture walk, so we can enjoy thought-provoking pieces all year round. These works will be commissioned and enhance existing landmarks and help to illuminate historical events. We are hopeful we may finally be able to move ahead with this project.

We need you! Everyone involved in Sculpture Bermagui is a volunteer, and all are integral to the success of the event – it simply wouldn't proceed otherwise. Currently we're looking for new volunteers for a variety of roles. It's a great way to get to know other locals if you're new to the area. It's also a great time of the year to enjoy our splendid locality combined with unique sculptures.

For 2021, some of the volunteer roles have been refined:

Overnighters perform a (usually) passive 'caretaker' role for the outdoor sculptures at two sites: on the headland, and adjacent to the surf club.

Greeters, not surprisingly, perform a greeting role at both the headland and the surf club info areas. They will also sell catalogues, inform visitors about other events and activities, and count visitor numbers.

Art Guides focus on the outdoor sculptures (headland and foreshore), engaging visitors in the works and the artists.

Sales Volunteers perform a sales and support role at each location, headland and surf club, enabling everything to run as smoothly as possible.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cath Renwick at volunteer@sculpturebermagui.org.au or 0419 491 104.

Check out our website, sculpturebermagui.org.au, and social media for updates – we'll see you in March!

The Sculpture Bermagui Committee



'A Wound' by
Andrew Townsend
and Suzie Bleach

Sisters in Crime Award

A local Bermagui writer recently won the prestigious Sisters in Crime's 27th Scarlet Stiletto Award, making her mark on the literary field in Australia by claiming the overall prize. The awards, announced in late November, attracted a record 241 entries from every state in Australia, with numerous published authors and professionals in the short list of 27.

Jessica, 25, was presented with the \$1500 Swinburne University of Technology Award and the coveted trophy, a scarlet satin shoe with a steel stiletto heel plunging into a mount. She also won the \$750 Mystery with History award sponsored by Every Cloud Productions.

Bermagui's
Jessica Southern-Reid
beat off stiff competition
to win the
Scarlet Stiletto
trophy for women's
crime writing.



Jessica is a first-time crime writer who is currently in the process of crafting her first novel. She said she was thrilled to have made the short list and stunned to have won the competition. "There are just so many talented female writers out there, and to be considered to be up there with them is absolutely amazing. I am still having trouble believing it."

Due to COVID the awards, which are normally announced at a gala ceremony in Melbourne, were presented online by actor Nadine Garner, star of *City Homicide* and *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, and the ceremony was compered by author Jane Clifton.

Former winner, Professor Christina Lee, said the pandemic had provided an environment that produced a wonderfully diverse bunch of stories. "There were bushrangers and time travellers and pilots and hitwomen and nice old ladies; there was poisoning and bludgeoning and some things too distressing to recall. Quite a few stories mentioned the pandemic, some just in passing, some as a central pillar of the plot. This year also saw a lot more horror, and rather more supernatural weirdness than usual, perhaps inspired by those strange COVID dreams we've all been having."

Jessica's story, *Death in the Skies*, can be read in *Scarlet Stiletto: The Twelfth Cut*, a collection of the winning stories available as an e-book from the publisher, Clan Destine Press, or from Booktopia, Amazon, or iTunes. Eleven earlier collections are also available at www.clandestinepress.net.

Christie Reid

The Other Side Exhibition

...of what? ...of where? ...of who?

Cobargo Creators present their annual members exhibition: *The Other Side*. Come along and take a walk with our creators – discover where their exploration/ interpretation of 'The other side' has taken them. Opening 11am Saturday 27 February 2021.

We wish to give a big thank-you to all those who entered into the 8 x Eight exhibition – loved by locals and travellers, it once again inspired and delighted all.

The next community art project by Cobargo Creators is children's art classes with Robyn Williams. These after-school weekly classes will start in February. If your child is interested, please come into the gallery and register, or email cobargocreators@gmail.com.

Sandra Taylor

Artspace exhibition opening – 6 in 7

Being in lockdown or restricted as to how many people you can socialise with can be a blessing in disguise. For some it may have been prosecco, sourdough baking, and vegetable gardening, but for these six very talented local artists it has been a productive time. They work in a range of mediums and have come together to show what they've been doing during 2020. The result is a very local and personal collection celebrating the beauty of our area, as well as the challenges faced in the double whammy of 'post-fires/Covid-19 spaces' we all live in now. Having art as a release is something many aspire to – here we see six individuals' art in practice.

The exhibition, *6 in 7*, will be held at Artspace, Shop 7 Bermagui Fishermen's Wharf, from 25 February until 17 March 2021. The opening will be held on 25 February between 5 and 7 pm, for artists to chat with any patrons. There will be limited numbers allowed inside, dependent on COVID rules at the time, but the view from the deck is wonderful to take in while you wait your turn.

Pauline Balos, Ivana Gattegno, and Doris Hayne are three painters who have distinctive and unique styles to admire in the works they are hanging for this exhibition. Pauline discovered everyday objects in her home in Bermagui, and captured reflections in glass marbles or shiny silver objects to produce a twist to her still-life paintings. Still life was how it felt in those early months of COVID when she found herself living inside her home more than ever.

By comparison, Ivana found herself drawn to work in the open air and was inspired by the Argunnu area in the Mimosa National Park and views over Wallaga Lake. She has also made a series of organic ceramic forms echoing her striking ink paintings of the forests, rocks, and beaches. Her ink drawings of iconic yet



Peter's wooden sculptures



Peter in his studio

still quite secret places in the Mimosa Park gives her paintings even more cache. Where is that rock formation exactly? You will find yourself setting off to find where Ivana was when she made her art, 'en plein air.'

Doris found the feelings of defeat after the horror of the fires gave way to hope as the green shoots began to appear around her Cobargo home. Her paintings are a gentle reflection as the year progressed, with the electric green of regrowth slowly dominating the black around her.

Mia Karlsson is the only glass artist in the exhibition. She says, 'Looking back at the past year, I find that in many ways it has almost been like a reflection of my typical work cycle. Beginning with the very intense, fast-paced, fiery hot work of blowing the pieces, then shifting into the slow, mindful, solitary (introverted) process of drawing, cutting, sandblasting, and engraving the glass.'

Jenny Mein found herself imagining life under the sea to find inspiration for her sculptural ceramic pieces. Her imagined coral-like forms kept her creative output going, with less visits possible than usual from family and friends. Her home studio became filled with these delicate hollow vases and organic pots, which can be viewed at the Artspace in this exhibition.

Peter Storey found his collection of timber piling up to the extent of becoming a hazard, so never one to waste anything, he set about making layered timber sculptures. Finely sanded, oiled, and polished to highlight the beauty of the timbers that contrasted and complemented each layer. Whilst Peter aspires to larger objects, he found 2020 was his year of small but perfectly formed sculptures so none of his timber trove was wasted.

This exhibition presents a diverse and wonderful gathering of artistic objects that each speak of the possibilities of beauty even when faced with exceptional events. Don't miss out on this exhibition, you will be inspired to look forward to 2021.

Ann Maree Menager



Doris in her studio



Mia in action

Spirits of Earth and Sky at the Lazy Lizard Gallery in February

Well, here we are in 2021! Thanks to all the dedicated members who were able to step in and help out over the past year, the gallery has not only survived but is doing well.

First up for this year's Side Room exhibition we have something special... something to remind us that despite the trials and tribulations of last year, we are nevertheless very privileged to live in such a lovely part of the world.

Spirits of Earth and Sky is an exhibition of photographs by Alex Bell and includes both landscapes and many bird photographs, especially the white-bellied sea eagle. Many of these, especially the eagle pictures, were taken around Narooma and Corunna Lake.

Alex is a perceptive photographer, with an instinctive talent and a strong empathy with the natural world. He is also very modest, and the best way to introduce him is to use his own words: 'My name is Alex Bell. I am a 64-year-old Indigenous Australian. My journey in photography started seven years ago, when I bought a camera to take photos of the white-bellied sea eagles I would encounter on my fishing trips.

'I spent many enjoyable hours interacting with these birds and trying to get photos of them. I am not a professional photographer, and have never done any photographic courses, but I hope to try and capture photographs good enough to show to others and inspire some to have a go themselves.

'Thank you so much for taking the time to read my profile.'



'White-bellied Sea Eagle' by Alex Bell

Alex's exhibition will be in the Side Room for the whole of February, so please come in for a look – support the gallery, support Alex, and take in some great photographs!

Naomi Lewis



'White-bellied Sea Eagle with fish' by Alex Bell



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Four Winds Festival 2021 – A celebration of life, with music at its heart

After a tough twelve months that included the cancellation of the Four Winds 2020 festival, we are again ready to celebrate and reconnect – with music, with one another, with nature.

Under the creative direction of Lindy Hume, this year's festival will be a multi-arts festival with music at its heart, including a completely free day at the Barragga Bay bush site.

The program reveals some new adventures for Four Winds and welcomes some of Australia's most brilliant artists to the Sound Shell stage, including a sensational swathe of south coast locals. The Goldner String Quartet, soprano Taryn Fiebig, the baroque sounds of the Muffat Collective, vibrant pianist Stefan Cassomenos, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellows, members of the ACO, and many others will be joined by their peers in contemporary dance, theatre, and contemporary and popular music. We will experience the voices of Lior, The New Graces, Lou Bennett, Heath Cullen, Indigenous guests Kyarna Rose, Matty Walker, Gabadoo, our Koori choir

Djinama Yilaga, and other genres including filmmaking and poetry/spoken word. There is even a cocktail lounge, where ABC's Graham Abbott will hold court in the late afternoons.

For a completely free opening day on Friday 2 April, Yuin artists join the musician-storytellers of Candelo for a joyous all-in celebration of the music, dance, language, and cultures of this place.

Local actor/director William Zappa's three-part reworking of Homer's epic *The Iliad Out Loud* has earned standing ovations at Sydney and Adelaide festivals. Over three sunset performances at Four Winds, Zappa and his team of actors and musicians will tell Homer's millennia-old tale of war and destiny. Zappa says, 'I'm very excited to bring this great story to Four Winds. The venue is about as close to an ancient Greek theatre as we are likely to experience in these COVID-19 times. Can't wait!'

An exciting addition to the Sound Shell program this year will be a visit from Australia's beloved Sydney Dance Company. We'll be astonished by the



Local actor William Zappa has created a version of Homer's 'The Iliad' for Australian audiences physicality and power of the extraordinary athlete-artists, performing Rafael Bonachela's *Cinco*, with live music from a string quartet of Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellows.

A further program highlight is *Compassion*, Nigel Westlake's stunning collaboration with singer Lior. *Compassion* is, as Hume says, 'simply a work we all need to hear now. Its gorgeous music and Hebrew/Arabic text appeals to our human grace and connectedness.'

Need another reason to celebrate? Four Winds chalks up its 21st anniversary festival this year!

The whole festival experience will be enhanced by the Four Winds legendary hospitality, local food, and refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you to celebrate, and to reconnect safely and joyously. The 2021 Four Winds Festival will run over the weekend starting 2 April, with the free Community Day on the Friday.

Visit our new website for all the program details and ticketing info: www.fourwinds.com.au.

Lisa Herbert



Four Winds present *Cinco*, with Sydney Dance Company's Chloe Leong (Photo Credit: Wendell Teodoro)

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Leave the World Behind

Rumaan Alam

Ecco Press, \$25.99

This is the third novel by this author, of whom I had never heard. It has received terrific reviews, so I have chosen it to kick off 2021.

My first comment is that if you are one of many of us who are still feeling fragile after the challenges of 2020, you might want to give this a miss for a few more months. The central question of the novel is, 'What's happening?'

A middle-class white couple with two teenaged kids has escaped from New York to an isolated rental house, to get away from the madness of the city for two weeks. But then the owners of the house, a wealthy older African American couple, arrive, in a desperate bid to find safety from a disaster that has left New York without power and communications.

Are they to be believed? How can their story be checked now that phones and TV aren't working? What other sources of information are available? How to explain the sudden onslaught of medical problems, of inexplicable behaviour by the native birds and animals, and a noise that is like none that any of the six characters has ever experienced?

There are layers and layers to this novel, not the least being the insecurity of men who are used to wielding power and influence, of a generation never having to cope without phones and social media, and of white people confronting those of colour who have so many more resources than they possess.

A very challenging social commentary, but not for the fainthearted.



NEED A CAR?

Need a car for a day or two?

The community car is available to borrow.

See one of the women at

Well Thumbed Books

or book it by phoning

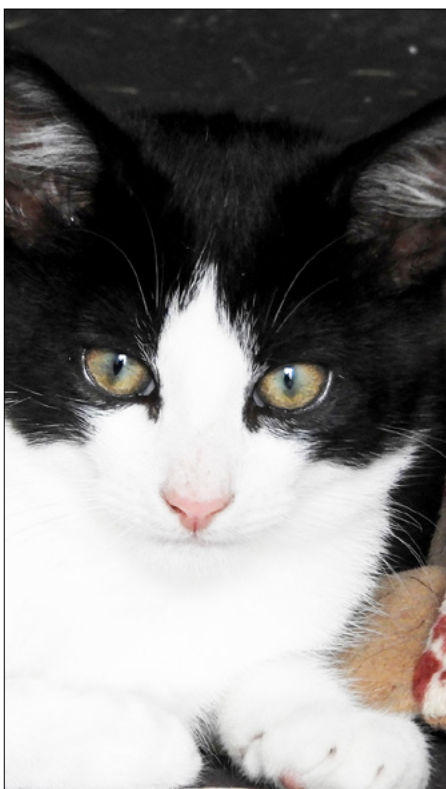
Louise on 0416 039 895

or Linda on 0407 047 404

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reviews, and gardening tips
going back years.

www.thetriangle.org.au

Pet of the Month



Just one of the sweet kittens ready for their forever home

Another beautiful litter of kittens! These guys are about 15 weeks old and are a lovely bunch. Jackie and Jupiter are girls, and Jet and Jesse are the boys. They are playful and friendly, though Jupiter can be a little more reserved than the others. They are all looking for new, loving homes. Cost is \$220 each or \$330 for two! If you are interested in any of these gorgeous kittens, or any of the others kittens we have in care, please give our enquiry number a call – 0400 372 609 Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

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).

Birds and bees

This is a story about the birds and the bees. No, not that one, but one about our fine feathered friends and those helpful little pollinators and collectors of nectar

that we often forget about in our gardens.

We, as gardeners, tend to overlook one of the most crucial elements of gardening when designing a space, and that is to

these around the perimeter of a vegetable garden or near an orchard will encourage them to forage, and in turn move on to pollinate those areas.

These tireless little workers can travel several kilometres to forage, and like everything and everyone that works hard, are always looking for a drink. It's not hard to overlook the need to provide water for them. The provision of a water vessel is paramount to their survival, and every endeavour to keep it topped up is as important as watering the plants. Bees can easily drown in an incorrectly shaped bowl, so one with a 'landing pad' where they can land and walk down to the water is a help. There are some locally made bird baths that have been especially designed to cater for bees.

Attracting birds to our gardens is another story. Apart from the nectar feeders, like eastern spinebills, most birds are just visitors to our gardens, and apart from cleaning up insect pests, do not do much in the pollination process. There is a distinct pecking order amongst birds, and the selection of certain plants will avail the smaller birds of somewhere to hide from the larger, like wattle birds, who can be bullies. Plants like grevillea, hakea, and westringea amongst the natives, and camellia, hydrangea, and viburnum in the introduced species all work well.

Water again is crucial in their survival, and a bird bath, similar or the same for the bees, will help. Small birds can also drown in the bath if the sides are too steep. Planting near the bird bath can help them find security, but not too close, as cats may hide amongst foliage in readiness to attack.

Birds all have different diets, so by including a wide range of species in the garden, from nectar-producing plants through to seed- or fruit-bearing plants, will provide food for all categories of birds. Feeding native birds with shop-bought seed is not recommended, as many of the seed types do not suit all birds and can be detrimental to their health. In some cases, they can lose the ability or need to forage. If the artificial feeding stops, birds that have become reliant on you feeding them can starve.

Call into your local nursery for more advice on looking after these very much needed little friends to our gardens. I look forward to keeping you up to date on all things gardening and wish you a happy 2021.



Illustration credit: owlthingsfirst.blogspot.com

provide food and habitat for birds and bees.

In attracting bees to your garden, we must understand they do most of the pollinating of our fruit trees and vegetables. It is therefore essential that we provide plants that will attract them, and then in turn, after visiting our flowers, they move on to the flowers and blossoms of fruit trees and vegetables.

Bees are particularly attracted to plants that have blue, purple, orange, and yellow in their flower colour. Lavender, agastache, echinacea, rudbeckia, and borage are some of their favourites, and planting

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I was pretty chuffed to be asked to share some of my recipes in *The Triangle* this month.

When I moved to the area three years ago, I knew very few people. *The Triangle* helped me familiarise myself with the region. I still remember nervously advertising my yoga classes in *The Triangle*, then being amazed and humbled by the wonderful turnout of locals who welcomed me into town by attending.

Soon after arriving in Tilba, I penned a new cookbook, *The Yogic Kitchen*. All of the photos in the book are taken in my home or around Tilba, and the recipes below are some of my faves. If you have kids heading back to school, you might find these good lunchbox fillers.

More recently I've written a children's book about the bushfires, *Brave-Bottomed Wombat*, and again the incredibly positive response from the local community has been overwhelming.

I have to say, I've come to learn this past year that the best recipe for a good life is living in a town where people cheer one another on through the good times and hold out a hand in the tough ones.

Marinated chicken with coconut chutney

A few things about these drummies. Firstly, to ensure they cook evenly on the BBQ, make sure you score the thickest part of the leg. A couple deep diagonal cuts will do. Dilute the yoghurt a little as it helps the marinade stay on the chook. Lastly, make extra chutney as it is divine and tastes great on everything, and it is suitable for all doshas, which is a bonus!



- 1kg chicken drumsticks, scored
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 2 cloves chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup (125ml) coconut yoghurt
- 1 tsp each coriander, cumin, and garam marsala
- 1 small red onion, grated

Coconut-Lime Chutney

- 2 Tbs desiccated coconut
- Zest and juice of 2 limes
- 1 tsp coconut sugar
- 1 green chilli, seeded and chopped
- 2 Tbs chopped coriander
- 2 Tbs coconut oil
- 2 Tbs water

Place the chicken, turmeric, garlic, spice, onion, and lime juice in a shallow dish and mix well to coat the chicken. Cover and refrigerate for as long as time permits; overnight is ideal.

Bring the drumsticks to room temperature 30 minutes before cooking.

Preheat oven to 200C. Line a tray with baking paper and arrange chicken on it. Bake, turning several times, for 40-50 minutes or until cooked through.

To make the coconut-lime chutney, place all ingredients into a food processor and process until combined. Serve the chicken topped with coconut-lime chutney.

Vegan choc peanut butter cake

- 1 cup almond meal
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 1/2 cup coconut sugar
- 1/2 cup cacao
- 3 Tbs buckwheat flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 Tbs chia seeds
- 2 tsp peanut butter or hulled tahini
- 1 cup mashed banana – about 3 small ripe bananas
- 1 cup (250ml) coconut water

Topping

- 1 ripe banana
- 2 Tbs cacao
- 2 Tbs maple syrup
- 1 Tbs hulled tahini
- Flaked coconut and maple syrup to serve

Preheat oven to 180C. Grease and line a heart-shaped cake tin or 20cm springform tin with baking paper.

Place the almond meal, coconut, coconut sugar, cacao, buckwheat flour, baking powder, and chia seeds into a bowl and mix to combine.

Combine the peanut butter, banana, and coconut and then fold into the dry ingredients.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared

tin and bake for 40-50 minutes or until a skewer comes out mostly clean when inserted in the centre – it will be slightly moist because of the nature of the cake.

Allow to cool for 10 minutes in the tin before turning onto a wire rack to cool completely.

To make the topping, place the banana, cacao, maple, and tahini into a food processor and process until smooth and creamy. Spread over the cooled cake, top with the coconut and drizzle with the maple syrup.



Zucchini and pea fritters

- 1 cup lightly mashed peas
- 1 cup grated zucchini,
- 3 egg whites, beaten
- 1/4 cup rice flour or gluten-free flour
- 50g Tilba Real Dairy Persian feta
- 1 Tbs shredded mint

Place the peas, zucchini, and mint into a bowl. Whisk together the egg whites and rice flour until smooth. Pour into the pea mixture and stir to combine. Fold in the feta.

Heat oil in a frying pan and cook tablespoons of the batter until bubbles appear and burst on the surface. Turn and cook the other side until brown.

For the Fridge Door

FEBRUARY	WHAT	WHERE	TIME
Tues 2	Taiko Drumming open day (book with Reiko) 0474 065 667	Cobargo School of Arts	4 - 5.30 pm
Wed 3	<i>Spirits of Earth & Sky</i> exhibition	Lazy Lizard	10.00 am
	Registration U3A	www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au	online
Sat 6	Car Boot Sale	Bermagui Country Club	8 am - 1 pm
	Live music: Tony Jagers	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
Sun 7	Live music: Tony Jagers	Dromedary Hotel	4 - 7 pm
	Live music: Two Dogs Plucking	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
Mon 8	Tilba CWA craft morning	The Dromedary Hotel	10 am
Fri 12	Tilba CWA monthly meeting	The Dromedary Hotel	10 am
	Quaama Community Market	Quaama Hall	11 am
Sat 13	Live Music: Ethan Parlato	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
Sun 14	Parish AGM & farewell picnic	Christ Church, Cobargo	11.30
	Live music: Jakob Poyner	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
	Live music: Soul Stories	The Dromedary Hotel	4 - 7pm
Tues 16	Shrove Tuesday	Christ Church, Cobargo	6 pm
Mon 22	Tilba CWA craft morning	The Dromedary Hotel	10 am
Sat 20	Live Music: Totum	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
Sun 21	Live music: Jack Jack	Tilba Winery and Ale house	12.30
	Live music: Ako!	The Dromedary Hotel	4 - 7 pm
Mon 22	Tilba CWA craft morning	The Dromedary Hotel	10 am
Thur 25	Opening: 6 in 7 exhibition	Artspace, Shop 7 Bermi Fisherman's Wharf	5 - 7 pm
Sat 27	Opening: <i>The Other Side</i>	Cobargo Creators	11 am
	Chris McGrath & special guest Nathan 'Whippy' Griggs	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
Sun 28	Live music: Stitch Duo	Tilba Winery and Ale House	12.30
	Live music: Solo West!	The Dromedary Hotel	4 - 7 pm



Walking along a snowy canal during lockdown in Cumbernauld, Scotland. (Photo Credit: Sarah Breakey)

25. vesper 29. Ang Lee 30. over 31. mete 32. doff 33. idea 34. admittable
36. tip 39. slump 40. nonsense 43. alamide 45. optical 47. eagle 49. art
52. snare 53. image 54. venue 55. ester 56. chat 57. hour 58. apt 62. ten
1. The Mahogany Ship 2. 1974 3. 1911 4. 1860 5. Western Australia
6. David Jones 7. Coffin Harbour 8. Pinchgut 9. Nambour, Queensland
10. The Reverend John Flynn 11. Rose Hill, Sydney 12. The Spirit of
Progress 13. Harry Houdini 14. Monte Bello Islands 15. Kingston 16. The
MacDonald Ranges, NT 17. Corps 18. Sir Edmund Barton 19. Queensland
and South Australia 20. A Queensland coalfield

20 AUSTRALIAN TRIVIA QUESTIONS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS
ACROSS
1. brat 5. soap 9. gas 13. rule 14. elder 16. echo 17. anon 18. addle
19. scow 20. condo 22. toadstool 24. engraving 26. Tar 27. item
28. earldom 32. dial 35. set 37. native 38. odd 39. springy 41. net 42.
female 44. pol 45. ogre 46. failure 48. neap 50. ram 51. assertive 56.
champagne 59. times 60. Hobo 61. plant 63. cant 64. auld 65. terse
66. ague 67. tree 68. teen 69. leer
DOWN
9. Gestalt 10. according 11. shoo 12. howl 15. red 21. oat 23. stray
1. brace 2. runon 3. along 4. tendril 5. sea 6. oldtimer 7. addon 8. pelage



CAR BOOT SALE

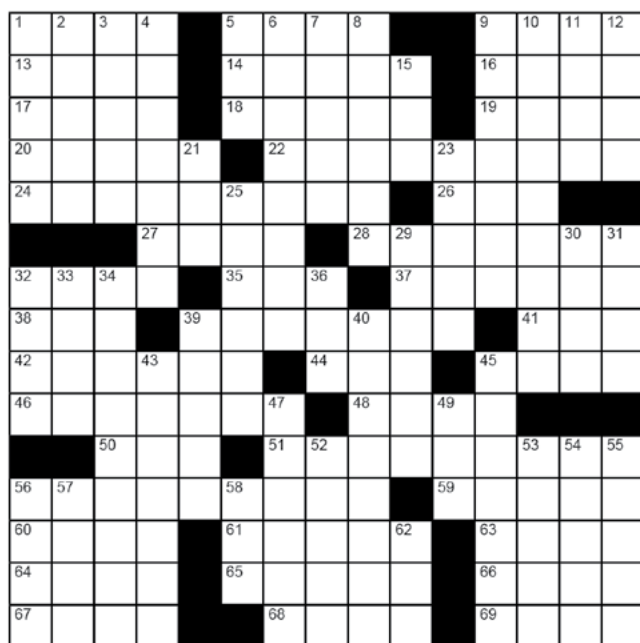
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Sale 8am-1pm
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\$20 per space
To reserve your car boot space
or for more information
call us on 02 6493 4340

Game On

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Little terror
5. Wet bar?
9. Knife wound
13. ____ of thumb
14. Church V.I.P.
16. Bounce back
17. No name
18. Throw for a loop
19. Garbage hauler
20. Complex unit
22. Deadly mushroom
24. Schongauer work

26. Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
27. Twosome
28. Noble position
32. Retro phone feature
35. Established
37. Indigenous
38. Not quite right
39. Full of bounce
41. Fishing equipment
42. Like cows and sows
44. Campaign pro
45. Shrek, for one

46. Bomb
48. Certain tide
50. Computer capacity
51. Emphatic
56. New Year's Eve staple
59. X, in maths
60. Tim Conway film, "The Billion Dollar ____"
61. Factory
63. Quitter's word
64. Word sung on 12/31
65. Concise
66. Flu symptom
67. Arborist's concern
68. Numerical suffix
69. Give the eye

DOWN

1. Hold steady
2. Talk at length
3. Follow follower
4. Plant stem extension
5. Mermaid's milieu
6. Veteran
7. Annex
8. Animal fur
9. Type of psychology
10. Word in a 1978 John Irving book title
11. "Get lost!"
12. Kennel cry
15. Primary color
21. Cereal grass
23. Dogcatcher's catch
25. Evening bell
29. "Brokeback Mountain" director
30. not under
31. Dole (out)
32. Tip, as a hat
33. Brainchild
34. Deserving of respect
36. Word of advice
39. Dry spell
40. Mumbo-jumbo
43. Pie preference
45. Type of illusion
47. Young raptor
49. It may be framed
52. Capture
53. Likeness
54. Locale
55. Aromatic compound
56. Chew the fat
57. Rush follower
58. Envelope abbr.
62. After nine

AUSTRALIAN TRIVIA



1. Claimed to be buried near Warnambool is which 400 plus year old ship?
2. In which year did Cyclone Tracey hit Darwin?
3. When did Lasseter claim to have found the reef of gold named after him?
4. In which year did Burke & Wills set out from Melbourne to cross the continent from South to North?
5. Within the borders of which state is the Principality of Hutt River Province located?
6. Which department store opened its doors on the corner of George and Barrack Sts. Sydney in 1838?
7. Where would you find the 'Big Banana'?
8. What was Fort Dennison known as?
9. Where would you find the 'Big Pineapple'?
10. Who started the Royal Flying Doctor Service?
11. Where was James Ruse's successful farm?
12. Which royal blue luxury train started running between Sydney and Melbourne in 1937?
13. Who was the first man to make a controlled, powered flight in Australia?
14. Where was Australia's first atomic test held?
15. Where would you find the 'Big Lobster'?
16. Where would you find Ormiston Gorge?
17. What does the C stand for in ANZAC?
18. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?
19. Through which two states does the Birdsville Track run?
20. Who or what is Blair Athol?

Crossword solution page 39

SUDOKU

		6	8	4				
2		1		6				7
	3	9					1	
				9	8	3		
	6						9	
		7	3	2				
	4					1	3	
7				1		8		4
				3	5	7		