

## Pfreezing for Pfizer



Rain, wind and a long queue couldn't keep them away from their vaccinations.

The planned walk-in Pfizer vaccination clinic was held on 5 September at the Lighthouse Surgery in Narooma and any thought that the atrocious weather would dampen demand was soon extinguished. The cars started to arrive as early as 6.00 am and by the time the clinic opened a 9.00 am there was a queue. A line of stoic people, some with umbrellas, all exposed to the cold and rain, stretched around the corner and down the highway to the service station. Some people had to wait for up to three or four hours in the chilly conditions. Dr Gundi Muller-Grotjan said, 'I did not hear one complaint, everybody I spoke to was patient, appreciative and understanding. I felt terrible about people waiting in the rain for hours but that's the nature of a walk-in clinic. Thank you everybody!'

The medical clinic had four receptionists working non-stop to check people in and there were six people administering vaccines, with family members and friends helping with crowd control and post-vaccination observations.

The day ran with admirable efficiency and good cheer and, although by the end of the day all those on duty were exhausted, there was a real feeling of elation that so many people, many of whom were young, had done their bit to help us all 'get out of this mess'. The team vaccinated about 620 people from the local area and beyond. Some had travelled from places further afield, such as Cooma, Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Bega Valley as well as Batemans Bay. By the end of the day the clinic's entire supply of Pfizer had been used.

The second clinic is scheduled for 26 September and this will only be open for those who received their first dose on 5 September. It is hoped that people will turn up at roughly the same time of day as they received their first dose so that no one has to queue for as long. Everyone who received a first dose is guaranteed a second dose. Dr Gundi said, 'I have put in a request for much nicer weather as well. Fingers crossed.'

*Angela Marshall*

Photo credit: Sophie Taylor



New energy and life seem to be creeping along the valleys and over the ridges. Could be spring emerging? Creativity is seeping through our locked-down world with art exhibitions and book launches planned, music resonating, sculptures being shaped, gardens planted and knowledge shared. Maybe the hardy Bermagui winter swimmers are inspiring others with their example of meeting challenges whatever the changing conditions – just dive in anyway.

Some locals, in particular, deserve acknowledgement. Stuart Cameron's pivotal work restoring coastal areas from landscapes dominated by blackberry and kikuyu to thriving coastal woodland is to be lauded and his input will be missed. Jade Allen will be taking her place at the wicket among the Sydney Sixers for the Women's Big Bash League next month, sharpening her skills and gaining valuable experience. We wish her well on the field and in her studies.

The fires have delivered a multitude of lessons and insights that, after reflection and community decision making, are now

bearing fruit. The number of activities seeded by the Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund is truly outstanding. And they remind us that there are still funds available and encourage further project applications. The Crossing Land Education Centre at Bermagui is offering a program of events covering fire-retardant planting and landscape design, permaculture and fire-resistant design for builders among other short courses. All Hands and Hearts, an international disaster responses organisation, continues to work in the region with a focus on community members having sufficient water and amenities. On a different aspect of resilience and foresight, Cobargo and District Energy Transition has funding to develop a feasibility study and load-control trial to guarantee the energy security of Cobargo and the surrounding area with the development of a renewable energy micro-grid that will ensure continuing power if the main system fails. All of these projects consolidate and strengthen the health of the community by integrating supportive practicality with discerning consideration, inclusion and an orientation towards the future.

## Letters to the editors

Last month I read with disbelief the article written by Keith Bashford titled 'Putting the bridge in the wrong place'. I am no scientist so I cannot argue against the scientific points in his article but I would very much like to address the many inaccurate facts and sweeping statements that have been included.

Cuttagee Bridge is not being replaced because it is timber, but because it is worn out and is costing ratepayers huge amounts of money in its upkeep.

Wallaga Lake may be filling up with silt, but it certainly isn't all attributable to 'upstream farms' and mining on Mt Dromedary. Sixty metres of mud and silt as stated, has not come off the mountain and surrounding farmland in 125 years. If so, Bobundara Swamp would not still be a peat swamp and Dignams, Southams and Couria creeks would be completely full and not defined creeks at all, but more like flood plains.

Many people swim in the different sections of the lake. All the local lakes have muddy areas and of course you wouldn't swim there. Plenty of prawns are caught in the lake, you don't catch prawns in the muddy sections either.

The Wallaga Lake bridge, built and then opened in 1894, is the same bridge that is there now. There was no 'similar bridge'.

Mining commenced on Mt Dromedary in 1877, some 17 years prior to the bridge being constructed. Sixty metres of silt filling the lake and destabilising the mouth in 17 years of non-continuous mining and farming with horse and plough, seems inconceivable and far fetched.

Cream was not an item of produce transported to Sydney from the Tilba

District. The district farmers were mainly dairymen and their produce, cheese and butter, was what went to Sydney.

The causeway from the bridge towards Wallaga Lake Heights was already there in some form. Paynes Island was and still is a natural high spot. So high that there was a guesthouse built and operated on it for many years.

If eminent engineers know that Wallaga Lake would be much better off without the causeway, then lobbying to build a bridge to replace it should begin. One would only hope that the current bridge (maintained by RMS) isn't removed as well. The causeway to Corunna Lake bridge heading north, should be replaced also as it presumably causes the same problems as the Wallaga causeway, without the silt build-up from the mining and farming of course.

It is very frustrating when people write articles full of inaccuracies that are then placed on the front page of this magazine. The issue isn't the story of the lake, it's the misleading and ignorant information within the telling of the story.

With regards,

Robyn Lucas  
Tilba

Dear Editor,

Lovely poem, *Blue*, by Bronte Somerset, but how sad that bower birds now use so much human detritus, blue plastic, for their bowers.

One can only worry about what impact plastic is having on bower birds and all other wildlife.

Karen Joynes  
Bermagui

Great cover story and I'm sure the science behind it is correct.

However, Google maps would seem to suggest that sedimentation at the mouth of Wallaga Lake is caused by successive sand inundation events spread in from the beach.

A simpler and cheaper solution would be to open the lake mouth at the Akolele end of the beach where it was originally.

Greg Watts, Narooma



### Correction

An article written by Peter Lacey, in the August 2021 edition of *The Triangle* about an upcoming story in Recollections magazine about the Murrah Hall Archive, is both misleading and inaccurate. Mr Lacey implies the South Coast History Society and the Bermagui Historical Society traced the archive's whereabouts and that 'their find' turned out to be an 'historical goldmine.' The Murrah Hall Archive was never 'lost' it was not 'found' by anyone. Rather, the Murrah Hall Archive was lent to Richard Reid, by Robyn Levy from her residence in Bermagui NSW.

Robyn Levy has been the sole creator/archivist of the Murrah Hall archive since 2002 and intends that this historically significant archive be digitised for future public reference.

Robyn Levy, Bermagui, NSW



### Thumbs UP

To the Cobargo pole painters who are giving us such a bright and cheerful streetscape.

To the residents of Bega Valley and Eurobodalla LGAs. We're leading the NSW Southeast region in vaccination numbers – our LGAs were between 85% and 90% first doses on 20 September!

To our publicans and restaurateurs who have been doing it tough with the 'on again, off again' restrictions. We'll be back as soon as we're allowed to be.

To people who stop and check the pouches of injured wildlife for joeys and to the people who care for them.

### Thumbs DOWN



To the selfish motorbike riders illegally riding on walking tracks and horse riders in areas they know they shouldn't be.

To dog owners who haven't bothered to check Bega Valley Shire Council's Companion Animal Policy to know where they can walk their dogs, leashed and unleashed. It is NSW State Government policy that, when out in public – including on beaches – your dog must be on leash, unless signposted otherwise – i.e. dogs are prohibited or can be off leash.

To the bad state of South River Road. This, largely one-lane, road used by walkers and cyclists of all ages is in a bad state of repair. It is being used by heavy-duty vehicles, travelling too fast (speed limit please), that could potentially cause serious erosion of the bank ultimately threatening the mangroves along the road that play an important part in the life and health of the river.

Speed and load limits are urgently needed as well as repairs to the severe pot-holes before more damage is caused.

With COVID lockdowns, most vehicles in the Triangle area are being driven by locals.

How sad then, that locals are littering our roadsides and public areas.

There is no excuse – tossers are environmental vandals.

We live in one of the best areas on the planet – please use reusable masks and dispose of garbage responsibly.

### 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. Images and graphics should be sent as attachments – not embedded into your story. Please send the original digital photo or image, uncompressed, so we have a large file to work with. Generally above 1 mb is large enough. Accepted formats include jpg, jpeg, png and pdf. Please include a caption for your photo at the bottom of the article it accompanies. Contact us for assistance.

3. Send all articles as WORD or other TEXT documents.

4. Please do not send posters or flyers! Instead, write a few paragraphs about your event and include the date, time and venue in that. And attach a photo if you have one.

5. Think about a headline for your story. Please don't leave it to us!

6. Deadline is midday on the 22nd of the month. Any questions at all, please email [contributions@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:contributions@thetriangle.org.au)

[cclsang333@gmail.com](mailto:cclsang333@gmail.com)

or ph 0407 047 404

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*The Triangle* is a community newspaper. Its aim is to provide information and news to the people in the Triangle area - the area bounded by the three mountains (Gulaga, Mumbulla and Wandella). The committee comprises volunteers who donate their time and expertise for the benefit of our readers. *The Triangle* is financially self-sufficient through donations and advertising income. Prompt payment of accounts is appreciated. *The Triangle* is published every month except January and has a circulation of 1600 in print plus online visits.



# All Hands join together to work on bushfire recovery in the Bega Valley Shire

All Hands and Hearts (AHAH) is a US-based International Disaster Response Organisation working on bushfire recovery in the Bega Valley Shire. The CEO called me in late 2019 - I had recently returned to Australia after working on back-to-back disaster response programs after earthquakes in Mexico. News of the widespread devastation of the Black Summer bushfires in Australia had reached our organisation. The CEO wanted me to form a disaster assessment team in Australia to see if AHAH could assist. I never thought that the NGO I had worked for in developing countries over the previous five years would ever launch a program in developed Australia. But the catastrophic destruction of biodiversity and wildlife, the 2,448 homes destroyed, the 5.5 million hectares of burnt land and the twenty-six deaths caused by the unprecedented fires had struck a chord and the wheels were in motion.

AHAH has been responding to natural disasters such as fires, floods, cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis all around the world since 2004. We engage in response work such as cleaning, clearing and gutting damaged structures; chainsaw work; and rebuilding homes, schools and health centres.

Fast forward eighteen months from that phone call, during which bushfire recovery efforts had been slowed by damaging floods and a global pandemic, and you'll find a small, committed AHAH team helping community members get back on their feet in Bega Valley. This project is focused primarily on WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and making sure that community members have sufficient water catchment and functional amenities. Our team is erecting 6mx7m Steeline sheds with kit-bathrooms installed in them. The roof of each shed has the capacity to capture sufficient water to fill a 22,500-litre tank.

This WaSH project is a joint effort and has multiple partners – the Bega Valley Shire Council, Rotary Pambula, Social Justice Advocates and St Vinnies – as well as our auspicing partner, Eden Access Community Centre. Other community groups (such as the tool shed library and community gardens), individuals and local businesses also support the project with advice, tools and equipment.

The AHAH model is to use skilled construction staff to guide unskilled volunteers to complete the work so people can recover more quickly from the disaster. Unfortunately, thanks to the pandemic, we do not have the number of volunteers we need. So if you are keen, you want to help and have a spare day or more, please contact our Operations Manager, Maddy, at [australiabushfirerelief@allhandsandhearts.org](mailto:australiabushfirerelief@allhandsandhearts.org) and become involved. We provide on-the-job training, equipment and tools – we don't require volunteers to have any specific skills or construction experience.

Due to finite funding, we are only here until the end of October but hope our small contribution helps community members – and the best thing about partnership projects is that they aren't dependent on one entity. In fact what we have witnessed since being here is a resilient, engaged community, strongly connected and committed to ongoing recovery. The bushfire recovery efforts were well underway long before we got here and will continue long after we leave. Thank you for welcoming AHAH and sharing just a moment of your recovery efforts with us. Look out for the purple and grey AHAH shirts in town and say hello to Dave, Maddy, Andrew, Jesse and David!

*Sarah Boulle  
International Recovery Manager, Australia*



Volunteers Jack and Bill with Site Supervisor, Jesse



Maddy connecting the steel frame to the concrete slab



The team working on the steel-framed shed





# The Crossing Land Education Centre, Bermagui - Spring Calendar

With the weather warming up and restrictions set to ease, The Crossing plans to make the most of spring with a number of adult community workshops and camps for young people planned.

The Crossing always runs events and programs in a safe and welcoming environment. All our staff will be fully vaccinated and, in line with NSW government regulations, we will also require all participants to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Head to our website (<https://www.thecrossingland.org.au/>) or Eventbrite page (<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/the-crossing-land-education-trust-32596051255>) for more info about any of the workshops below. See you soon!

**Making gully refuges more fire-retardant** – 31 October, 14 November and 12 December

A one-day, Landcare-supported workshop showing participants how to encourage the succession of native plants so that gullies become more fire-retardant over time. Includes lunch and ten tube stock plants and guards to take home to plant at your place.

**Permaculture and preparedness** – November 6-7

A fully-catered weekend workshop. Come along and learn how the principles of permaculture can help you be more prepared for disaster. One day at Brogo Permaculture Gardens and one day at The Crossing land.

**Weekend green forest break** – 12-14 November and 10-12 December

A weekend away at no-cost for fire-affected families living in temporary accommodation. Bookings through Eventbrite.

**Design for fire for young homeowners and want-to-be homeowners** – 5-6 February 2022

A fully-catered, no-cost workshop for young homeowners and want-to-bes to develop skills and knowledge around fire-retardant landscape design, permaculture, fuel loads, fire in the ecosystem and fire-protection strategies. The Crossing will focus on practical and real-life skills you can take back to your property or community to make changes to help us all live more safely with fire.

**For young people:**

**Years 8 and 9 Landcare Wild Camp** – 19-21 November

Come along for an adventure, make great new friends, get your hands dirty planting trees and in the garden. Free for fire-affected young people in the Cobargo/Quaama district – simply email [stay@thecrossingland.org.au](mailto:stay@thecrossingland.org.au) and tell us your nearest relief/recovery centre.

**Years 6 and 7 Landcare adventure camp** – 26-28 November

Bikes, canoes, sleeping in a train carriage bunkhouse ... what could be more fun? A great way to make friends from other schools and for Year 6s to learn more about high school. Free for fire-affected young people in the Cobargo/Quaama district – simply email [stay@thecrossingland.org.au](mailto:stay@thecrossingland.org.au) and tell us your nearest relief/recovery centre.

**Years 10-12 Land leaders camp** – 3-5 December

A no-cost extension camp for young people interested in learning about fire-retardant design, assessing fuel loads and fire protection strategies.

*Dean and Annette Turner*



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## Mother Knew Best

Our mothers knew best – fashion really should be measured as cost per wear.

As the Bega Valley takes on its circular economy initiative, circular fashion will play a big part. Currently the Bega Valley ‘imports’ a high number of new, fast-fashion items every week. We know that Australians only recycle 7% of their fashion and textiles while approximately one million tons of leather and textiles are sent to landfill so this is indicative of a significant recycling issue for the Bega Valley.

It’s a source of frustration for Trisha Olsen and Corrine Harris, from Bowerbird Community Op Shop in Cobargo, and it would also affect all op shop managers and volunteers across the Bega Valley.

Trisha and Corrine are two of seven Bowerbird board members. One of the underlying values of the op shop is responsible recycling and upcycling of fashion items. They’re concerned about the increasing quantity of apparel and textile waste created by the over-production and consumption of cheap fast fashion.

Fashion waste is a significant problem globally and both Trisha and Corrine, in particular, want to be part of the agenda of repurposing fashion and textile waste more effectively in the Valley.

Bowerbird knows what will sell and not sell when they unpack bags of donated clothing. ‘It’s the cheaply-made, fast fashion items that can’t be sold on because the quality of design and fabrics is just so poor. However, the clothing made from durable fabrics, of functional design and well-constructed is what people want from op shops,’ says Trisha.

One of the principles of circular fashion is for designers to design with a purpose for garment durability and longevity so that fashion can keep circulating in the economy from user to user for decades, reducing the likelihood that it will end up in landfill sooner because it’s too valuable.

Some recycled fashion advice from Corrine, ‘When donating clothes, if the quality is too poor to wear, please don’t hand it on to op shops. Op shopping can be like a treasure hunt. It’s no longer the “poor man’s outlet”, it’s about finding something unique. Have an open mind about what you might find.’

As fashion consumers this is how we can make a difference: buy well-made, good quality pieces and keep circulating clothing. Buying quality over quantity, while letting brands know that you’re tired of the waste issues, means we put pressure on the industry to produce better quality garments that will be worn for a lot longer.

Currently, Bega Valley doesn’t have a fashion recycling facility however Trisha and Corrine are hoping that, with the news of expanding recycling programs due to the circular economy initiative, this may soon change.

Trisha and Corrine are hoping to introduce sustainable fashion initiatives through Bowerbird, such as a repair and alteration service, however this requires volunteers and they would be keen to hear from anyone who will put their hand up for this.

*Yolanda del Valle-Buetefuer*



Mabel & Maime of The Collective in Pambula specifically use end of rolls and discarded fabrics to prevent these from going to landfill to upcycle their designs.



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## Obituary – Noel Collison, former principal of Cobargo and Central Tilba Public Schools

Noel graduated from Newcastle Teachers College in 1950 and began his career teaching English at Greta Migrant Camp. His long and dedicated career saw him teaching in both primary and high schools around NSW, including at Gilgandra, Broken Hill, Tooleybuc, Central Tilba, Cobargo, Wagga Wagga and Tahmoor. He was Principal at Central Tilba from 1966 to 1969 and then at Cobargo from 1970 to 1972.

He transferred from Cobargo to Sturt Public School in Wagga Wagga in 1973, then a brand new school of which he was the first principal. Noel and his wife Cynthia were active in the Wagga Wagga community for many years.

Noel and Cynthia moved to Picton in 1985, where he retired three years later. In 2012, they returned to Wagga Wagga as they had always planned, and continued to enjoy an active life in their local community.

Noel will be remembered by all who knew him as a loving husband, beloved father, as a true gentleman and a friend to many.

*Ryan Smith  
Grandson*



Noel Collison

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# We're all in this together – a lockdown special guide to streaming services

One of the very few positive events to come out of the COVID debacle is the increased popularity of streaming services and the massive increase in quality movies and television shows available to watch on the computer or your television. ABC iView (without ads) and SBS On Demand (loaded with ads) are both free. They also have the best ratio of great shows to awful, brain-deadening ones.

With streaming services you can watch a whole series over a few nights, instead of having to survive on a drip feed of an episode per week. Netflix, Stan and a range of others are available by subscription. Netflix has the widest range, from brilliant commissioned movies to documentaries and series. Among the gems are bucketloads of dross, much of which involve murders. You can either tip your television on its side to empty out the hundreds of dead bodies after an evening's entertainment or be more selective. Search out the many great films and save yourself from mind-numbing trash.

Everyone will have their own preferences, but here are some we have liked:

## ABC iView

- *The Newsreader*: Australian, behind the scenes at a late-1980s television station newsroom, insightful, strong, nuanced.
- *The Headmaster*: An oldie but a goldie. Good man battling the odds in multicultural Sydney.
- *Movies on iView*: There are some terrific movies you may have missed. The best way to find them is to go along the top of the screen to Categories. Under categories find Movies. Scroll through hundreds. Here are some good ones ...
- *The Night We Called it a Day*: Oz comedy about the time Frank Sinatra was going to tour Australia and the unions blackbanned him because he insulted a female journalist. You will recognise Bob Hawke (played by David Field), Rose Byrne, Joel Edgerton and Dennis Hopper (as the Old Crooner himself).
- *Little Fish*: Cate Blanchet as a small-time drug addict trying to go straight in multi-cultural Cabramatta. Gritty but very believable.
- *Stand by Me*: A forty-year old classic that still works today. Warm-hearted, coming-of-age to watch with your grandchildren if they can cope with mild swearing.
- *Queen of the Desert*: Our Nic in an obscure film about Gertrude Bell, an Edwardian female explorer of Arabia and the Middle East.

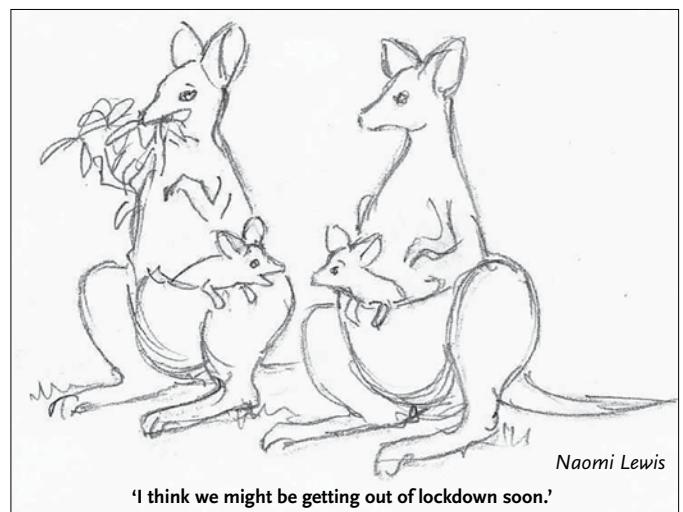
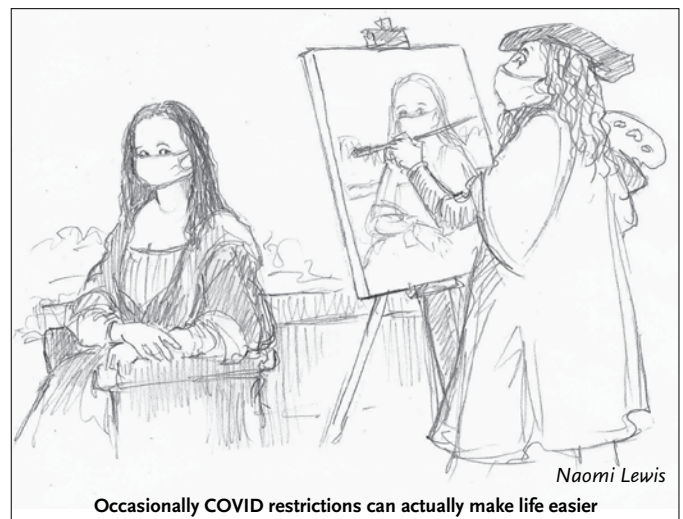
## SBS On Demand

A high percentage of SBS On Demand content is from non-English speaking countries so they have 70% of the world's best programs to choose from. Too bad they lard everything with ads so, if you watch a series of ten one-hour episodes, you will see the same ad for gambling or beer three times each episode. The silent button on my remote is nearly worn out. How did it get to this sad state of affairs?

Anyhow there are some great programs:

- *Another Round*: A Danish film about four school teachers who decide to test a philosophical theory that human beings operate at a higher level when they have 0.05% alcohol on board. Sounds as much fun as a hangover but, in fact, it is a brilliant film, funny, sad and insightful. Has won many awards.
- *Call My Agent*: Very funny French series about people who have to deal with film stars and their problems.
- *In Therapy*: A series about a psychoanalyst dealing with people who were victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris, based on the Bataclan attack in which nearly a hundred people died. It is all complicated but shows many human foibles in a context of humour, pride, hubris and fear. Brilliant, for the patient viewer.
- Special mention for a Netflix program, *Fabulous Fungi*. An eye-opener, breathtaking program full of surprises and amazing pictures.

Keith Bashford



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## Grumbles, Mumbles, Stumbles

There is a beautiful **footpath** that goes north from the Camel Rock carpark, up to the cliff's edge, following it for a kilometre, then drops down to Murrana Point at the Wallaga Lake entrance. On one side is the murmur (or roar depending on the weather) of the ocean as it comes in around the rocks and tiny islands to make landfall on Australia. On the other side the chirruping of birds, large and small, hunters or hunted. It is spring and trees and shrubs that have only been green are now flowering profusely. Even the bees contribute a lovely hum to the glorious symphony of sounds. But it isn't just sound it is sound and pictures. Wide vistas of the horizon, Montague Island to the north, Bermagui to the south, whales far out to sea or seals playing around the rocks and, sometimes, giant container ships travelling north or south. It is a great experience, stimulating for the eyes, the ears, the mind and the body.

Suddenly a bellow from behind us: 'RIDERS! RIDERS!' Julius Caesar returning at the head of his troops demanding priority at the risk of crucifixion? Scott Morrison with a new advertising campaign?

No, it is two lycra-clad, mountain-bike riders, reluctant to dismount on a steep section. The male in all-black, the woman in lime green top and black pants. What is it about people who have wheels under them that leads them to believe that this gives them priority over foot traffic on a bush **footpath**? Why do they even want to ride fast over narrow, sometimes overgrown, paths plaited by roots and stray rocks? If they stopped and settled in to the environment, looked and listened, they would learn more about themselves as well as the country they are traversing.

*Keith Bashford*

## Vitamin D is vital for health

We know that the sun's ultraviolet radiation (UV) is a natural source of vitamin D, we also know it is the main cause of skin cancer. Vitamin D is important for the immune system, calcium absorption, strong bones and muscles and during pregnancy. Vitamin D deficiency is common in depression, diabetes, cancer, autoimmune conditions and cardiovascular disease. People who work indoors full time are also often deficient.

It is difficult to obtain adequate vitamin D from food alone therefore it is necessary to obtain a safe amount from sunlight along with a nutritious diet rich in antioxidants to help prevent skin cancer. Foods that contain vitamin D include dairy products, oily fish, egg yolks, sprouted seeds and sundried mushrooms.

A person's age, skin type, vitamin D levels and the UV index throughout the day determine what will be an adequate and safe amount of sunlight. The Cancer Council recommends using sunscreen when the UV index is 3 or higher. Sensible sun exposure is a few minutes a day without sunscreen during summer between the peak times of 10 am and 4 pm. During winter, sunscreen is advised if you spend extended hours outdoors, you are at high altitudes or near highly reflective surfaces like snow, water or white sand, which all increase UV exposure. Protective clothing such as a hat and sunglasses are also recommended.

Choose an environmentally-friendly sunscreen such as the Moo Goo brand that is chemical-free and therefore suitable for all ages and for sensitive skin types.

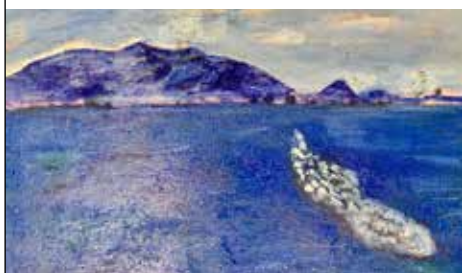
People over the age of 65 years and those with dark skin do not absorb UV sunlight as readily as others so they may require supplementation. However, relevant tests are recommended prior to supplementation to establish a safe and effective dose.

For more information call 0410 460 688.

*Kathy Stokes*

*Naturopath and Nutritionist*

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## Blue Thief

He's navy blue and bobs about,  
stealing blue from places that count.  
Goodbye to pegs from my line –  
he hides them now, under the pine.  
I take a look, dividing the branches,  
to see a bower lined with chances.  
Nearby, his blue collection he scatters –  
it's the only colour that really matters.  
His bower curves in a rounded shape  
to lure his mate from her escape.  
The dance he does is quite a look,  
it comes from Nature's library book.  
In she flies with feathers of green  
hoping that she won't be seen  
by owners of the tree that's green.  
But, alas, a click is heard, a flash of light,  
she takes her leave into the night.  
He stays and sadly sings a tune  
knowing she likes the month of June.  
She will fly back when it is here  
knowing that he will be near.

Mary Murray



### Have you heard of us?

Our organisation attracts members from the broader Bermagui district (Cobargo, Quaama, Tilba and Narooma) and we do love to see visitors joining our activities. Our presenters, drawn mainly from our membership, provide a wide range of affordable, brain-stimulating activities, talks and excursions

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Anyone can! No qualifications needed, you don't need to be retired (you just have to have some weekday spare hours), be interested in meeting people and have a curiosity to explore topics like History, Computers, Health, Travel, Nature, Technology, Film, Games, Current Affairs and Science.

### How much does it cost?

\$25 per year plus a \$3 contribution per session.

### Lockdown?

All our classes are online via Zoom to keep you safe and connected to the community. We are constrained with COVID at the moment but we continue to look forward to offering face-to-face classes next year. We expect to be able to expand into our full array of both social and learning opportunities once the health advice suggests we can do so.

### How do I enrol?

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### Questions?

Call Jan Rivers, program coordinator, on 0409 901 672.

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## We're off to the diggings! But which one?

The gold rush to the soon-to-be-named Montreal Goldfield saw some two thousand diggers descend on Wallaga Lake in the latter part of 1880. No small number to try and accommodate in an area without a town or facilities. So who were they? And where did they come from?

Montreal was, in fact, a field that was seen as part of the Dromedary (Gulaga) Gold Extension. At the time of the rush to Montreal, there were active diggings on Gulaga, at Nerrigundah (west of Bodalla), at Araluen (west of Moruya) and on the Mogo gold reefs. Diggers from all those areas would have needed to investigate this new find that was relatively handy and on the beach!! Such easy digging!

When Montreal was seen to be 'played out' by 1884, some diggers returned to the mining on Dromedary to work for wages while others would have continued south and west to try their hand at new-found diggings on Mumbulla Mountain (Nelson field), as well as smaller diggings such as Vimy Ridge in the Tanja area and around Knights Creek, and even further south to the Wolumla and Pambula fields with diggings appearing at Coolagolite and at Mt Utopia, west of Wandella.

The diggings at Montreal continued for a few prospectors – working over old claims was often a final chance to see what had been missed. But for many diggers on the track as well as optimistic locals, 'Gold was the Cry' on the Far South Coast until past the turn of the last century. Their next location was usually within walking distance and just as well as for many there was no alternative. All their tools and personal belongings had to be carried and food on the track was usually an uncertain comfort.

The details of those long walks were scantily recorded and it was often up to 'artists in the field' to record history in the making – often for limited reward. Samuel Thomas Gill contributed largely to those records with his sketches and paintings and the sketch below, of diggers on their way to the diggings, doesn't miss any detail, showing what is meant by 'taking it all with you'. They had no option!

*Chris Franks*



Everything had to be carried



Socially-distanced fashions of yesteryear

*Naomi Lewis*

### the lake

walking early a familiar track into the morning sky  
out of the dark I cross the grass  
and stand enthralled in the story

before me the lake shines like a piece of precious glass  
gently I part the rim of reeds who like gracious crowds frame  
a dewy face

the day's aria begins, lead by the rising sun,  
a swelling light of pinks and orange  
wake this dreaming shape  
transforming her body to water

all day, lake's reclining face  
employs sunbeams, wind and varied species  
to write in calligraphic style emotional states  
on her liquid slate

her role is now mercurial  
whole seasons, dramas and casual sights pass  
without leaving the slightest trace on her eternally innocent face

only grass and reed looking down are surprised  
to be upside down, frightened by their blurring,  
while accompanying trees on her edge are pleased  
to be included in today's story

on the end of day I drift back down the track across the grass  
as sunset plays its part

lake's ripples run red into the stillness of darkening blues  
celestial jewels adorn her twilight face  
swallows conduct melodies in her air  
and sunrays weave the closing notes

lake, brightly rouged by the glimmering light,  
sighs and snuggles under the eiderdown of the starry night

*by Glenda-Mai Morgan August 2021*

### Visit our Website

browse the current and back issues, recipes,  
book reviews, and gardening tips.

[www.thetriangle.org.au](http://www.thetriangle.org.au)

As I sit down to write, I am conscious of the many things that make our Triangle communities such special places and of the many things that are challenging. The start of spring has brought with it the lure of warmer weather, welcome rain, reminders of winter weather and the promises of renewal and regeneration. Yet, our communities are restricted from meeting, businesses are unable to operate and the lives of our children and young people are at a standstill. Many of the things that we all look forward to seem beyond reach. As we all try to find our place during these uncertain times, let's reach out to those around us when we can and when it is safe to do so. And, as we look forward to the easing of restrictions, it will be important for those aspects of care and support that make our communities so special to be at the forefront. Central Tilba has farewelled long-time residents and business operators, Linda and Ken Jamieson and Pete Lonergan, in the last month. The community was unable to gather to say goodbye but hopefully that can happen in the future. In the meantime we welcome new owners and residents to Central Tilba ... here are their stories. It is an act of faith in our special area by these new owners and we wish them well.

## A new era

Claire Leonard and John Matthews are the new owners of Bates General Store and Post Office. Already well known as part-time residents in the old Central Tilba Courthouse in Corkhill Drive, their move to this essential local business seems meant to be. Although they both grew up in Canberra, there are strong family links to the area – Claire spent many childhood holidays at Dalmeny and her uncle has owned property in Central Tilba for many years, and John's links go back to his great-grandfather who was the blacksmith at Bodalla.

Both Claire and John have active occupations that will continue but be scaled back to manage their new business commitments. Claire has a background in marketing and insurance and now manages small lobby groups in the medical field; John has a background in structural steel fabrication and fencing and plans to make his excavation equipment and tools available for hire. Over the past month John has been learning the ropes of running a Post Office while they get to know just what they have taken on with the store. They are both looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that include the century-old

buildings. It's an ideal lifestyle change for them both as they appreciate the sense of place and community in the Tilba district. Claire has already put her hand up and is Secretary of the Tilba District Chamber of Commerce. Welcome Claire and John and all the best. There are already lots of changes evident, so make sure you drop in and say hello.

## Tilba Sweet Spot's new owner

Jo Major is treating her arrival as the new owner as an adventure. Taking over in the middle of a lockdown when it is not possible to trade was always going to be tricky but, coupled with other events, it has been a difficult transition. She is thankful that she was able to spend a few weeks in Narooma as her twin boys got used to their new school and made new friends. Lockdown has given her the chance to use her IT skills to develop a new website that will have online sales capability. Unable to move her household here, she is very grateful to Peter Lonergan for the loan of camping equipment! While Jo is quietly working away getting to know her new business, she is pleased to be welcomed here by her neighbours.

Like Claire and John, there is also that sense that buying this business was meant to be – she discovered Tilba Sweet Spot on Facebook and thought it was just the business for her! With her husband, she will continue to run their Canberra IT and signage businesses over the next few years. Jo is completely new to the area – although she had been as far south as Mogo! Jo is appreciative of the support given to her by Peter and Robyn. Welcome Jo – you will no doubt be inundated when business can resume and everyone can stock up. In the meantime you can order online at The Tilba Sweet Spot on Facebook.



Jo Major

## What's Scroggy doing now?

Well known for his Hawaiian shirts at the popular Quarterdeck Café in Narooma, Chris Scroggy is up to something in Central Tilba, now that he has sold the Wagonga Inlet favourite. Never one to miss an opportunity for a tongue in cheek remark, he reckons this latest venture is 'Scroggy's 70s acid trip!'

After twenty years in Narooma and sixteen of those living at Tilba Tilba, Chris has a feel for the Triangle area so, when the chance came up to do something in Central Tilba, it was too good to miss. The café at the entrance to Bate Street is currently undergoing major work. Once completed, it will re-emerge as



Claire and John at the Post Office takeover



Sweetwater, which is a loose homage to a favourite bar and café in San Francisco that he and Robyn used to visit, Chris has a well-known affinity with American culture particularly the music of the south and oversized vehicles! Sweetwater will have a fully licenced bar and its smokehouse grill will serve the usual menu range as well as a vegetarian/vegan range. As can be expected from someone who has a deep love and knowledge of American Blues music, Chris plans to make Sweetwater a place to enjoy good local music along with a drink and good food.

A mid-November opening is planned with local tradespeople involved in the building work and fitout. Sweetwater will operate four nights a week, from Thursday to Sunday and three days for lunch, from Friday to Sunday. Good luck to Chris and Robyn – and we all look forward to November.



Chris and Robyn working on Sweetwater

## Tilba District Chamber of Commerce (TDCC)

Susan Gray, President of TDCC, has announced funding to undertake an upgrade at the Harold Spindler Memorial Playground. Harold Spindler was a Central Tilba resident who died in 1983. The Chamber was successful in obtaining a Vinnies community grant of \$30,000 and Council are contributing \$20,000. The playground, next to be Big Hall, will have the



Harold Spindler Memorial Playground

basketball court resurfaced with a softer material, install more playground equipment including a slide and have a new wall for ball games. As well, the cottage will be renovated with work expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the Tilba Sportsground, which received bushfire recovery funding earlier in the year for an outdoor undercover area, now has approval for revised plans and work will start in the near future. The Strategic Plan for the Tilba District continues its consultation process with both a community survey and online presentation.

## Tilba Bits

Thank you to the team at The Drom. The takeaway menu has tempting favourites, like Friday night fish 'n' chips and Sunday morning egg and bacon roll – just the thing to have a break from home cooking. Give it a try – details on the Dromedary Hotel Facebook page.

We all love the allure of the outdoors in this special area. So, if you want to get a new perspective and haven't already done the Bellbrook Farm Loop Walk, give it a go. It's about two kilometres and starts from Station Street that runs beside The Drom. Bellbrook Farm is jointly managed by traditional owners and NPSNSW. The walk starts near the Central Tilba water tower and there is a remarkable stairway down through boulders and ancient fig trees. At the halfway point there is a covered picnic table and stunning views down the valley and out to sea. Details can be found at <https://www.visittilba.com.au/tilba-activities>.

As saying farewell to friends and neighbours has not been possible, our best wishes to Sharon and Pete who left The Bryn towards the end of September. They are certain to be frequent visitors. As well, long-term Bate Street, Central Tilba resident, Liz McDonald, has relocated to the Central Coast to be near family. Best wishes to Liz.



Bellbrook Farm loop walk stairs



## Tilba CWA members are active and Zooming!

Country Women's Association of NSW's Awareness Week was on 5-11 September with a focus on the urgent need for social and affordable housing in rural and regional NSW, particularly for financially vulnerable women. In past years, Tilba CWA members have promoted CWA Awareness Week at the weekly Tilba Market. With our region in COVID lockdown this was not possible. Kristy McBain invited CWA members, throughout the Eden-Monaro region, to a Zoom meeting to discuss CWA's advocacy on the urgent need for more housing. This Zoom meeting was well attended by CWA members including four from our Tilba branch: Teresa Stubbings, Helene Sharpe, Vicky Stadon and Carol Ladd. New Tilba CWA President, Teresa Stubbings, thanked Kristy McBain for hosting this discussion and listening to our concerns.

Tilba CWA's September meeting was to be held at Mountain View Farm in Tilba Tilba but with the continuing lockdown, we met virtually by Zoom. Discussions included Tilba Chamber of Commerce's on-line community workshops; an application for a CWA education grant for a local Central Tilba school student; ongoing plans for our CWA Spring Garden Party in September 2022; further discussion on affordable housing in the Tilba region; supporting Central Tilba Public School's study of Malaysia; a new monthly dinner theme for BlazeAid Cobargo; and plans for returning to Tilba Market when the COVID lockdown finishes.

Tilba CWA would like to personally thank Peter Lonergan, who recently retired from Tilba Sweet Spot, for his generous donations over previous years. Peter has kindly supplied lolly bags for all the children attending Tilba CWA's annual Christmas Carols event. Tilba Sweet Spot lolly bags were always excitedly received by children and appreciated by Tilba CWA. A big thank you to Peter and the Tilba Sweet Spot for supporting our community.

Why join Country Women's Association? 'By joining the CWA, you will be part of a powerful organisation that will enable you to improve the world in which you live. Branch members meet once a month and participate in many different activities. From fundraising, handicrafts and cultural activities to debating current social or environmental issues.'

Why join Tilba CWA? For fun and friendship, and to focus on local activities and needs in our rural community. We are inclusive and welcoming and love to have drop-ins at our monthly meetings and craft mornings. We meet the second Thursday of the month at 10.30 am. All local women are invited to attend our upcoming Tilba CWA monthly meeting and AGM on 14 October. Please contact our Secretary, Helene Sharpe on mobile 0438 257 189, to confirm meeting venue and details.

Annette Kennewell



Screen shot of CWA members across the Eden-Monaro Zooming with Kristy McBain MP to discuss the urgent need for more social and affordable housing.



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## Howzat? Cobargo girl, Jade Allen, to play cricket in Tasmania

I was scheduled to leave on 23 September but I'll now be travelling down to Tasmania a bit later for the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) set to start on 14 of October. The tournament consists of eight teams, all competing in twenty-over cricket. I'll be joining the Sydney Sixers for the WBBL07 season. Arriving in Tassie will be followed by a two-week quarantine period, complying with the Government rules on travelling interstate. As a youngster, it's a great opportunity for me to gain exposure to higher levels of cricket, playing and training with the likes of Alyssa Healy and Elyse Perry, both of whom are international players.

On top of this, I'll be completing my HSC in Tasmania, balancing studying and training to achieve the best result before I attend University next year. School has always been an important part of my life and I've always tried hard to achieve the best results, so the HSC will be an exciting, although stressful, time when it starts in mid-November.

Post-WBBL comes the Women's National Cricket League (WNCL) season, which is the fifty-over format. I've also picked up a two-year contract with the NSW Breakers who are based in Sydney. The two contracts were very surprising, although they will allow me to continue and venture out into different experiences to work on my cricket. Moving up to Sydney will be my next step, commencing higher education and living up there for the next chapter of my life. The step from pathway cricket to professional cricket will be big – just learning about the level of professionalism the girls undertake is huge – and learning more about the way a professional team plays and trains will be beneficial for my game.

*Jade Allen, Cobargo*



Jade in action

## Cobargo CWA Zooms ahead

CWA's year runs from October to October each year, so we are preparing for our AGM. At one stage, we thought we may have to postpone this due to COVID-19 however, if all goes well, it seems we may be able to have a 'proper' meeting after all! It will be so good to see everyone again. Our last meeting was on Zoom – and it was good to see everyone but it wasn't quite the same, as we all know.

Every year we hold cookery and handicraft competitions. These are open to everyone so, if you are interested in entering, please contact us at one of the numbers below and we can send you details.

At the last meeting it was decided to open the cookery competition this November to the public and everyone is invited to come along to the Cottage. You will be able to view (and possibly sample) the array of cakes, preserves etc. prepared by the talented cooks at Cobargo CWA and others.

More details about the date of this event will be advertised, so please keep a look out if you are interested. It is a good opportunity to watch the judging as I have found I learn quite a lot from the judge's

comments as they explain why one entry is better than another. Plenty of cooking tips are given out too!

At the end of the year, we compile a report on what we have achieved. The community support was mentioned in our distribution of donated handicraft goods. One of our members completed a course on dyeing alpaca wool and another on operating chainsaws with a view to trying her hand at carving tree stumps.

Two of our members have been doing research into pimelea plants some of which can be toxic to cattle. It appears that the species that can be purchased at local nurseries are not in this category.

As you can see from the above, we cover a range of interests and we need more members to keep this organisation alive and well in Cobargo. If you are interested in coming along, please ring either our President, Ann Holub, on 0451 825 726 or Lynn Lawson on 0411 432 533 or me on 0447 401 725 for more information. We offer a diverse range of interests and a warm welcome where you will be readily included and supported.

*Mary Williams, Publicity Officer,  
CWA of NSW Cobargo Branch*



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## Funds still available – think about it!

The Committee of the Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund (CCBRF) would like to remind the community that the fund is still operational and invites applications for projects aimed at helping community recovery. The fund was set up after the fires in January 2020 to assist the recovery of the community from the 2019/2020 bushfires.

We have now funded some 37 community projects. These include funding for the Cobargo Bushfire Recovery Centre; construction of storage units for families who lost their homes in the fires; transport of IBCs for those who lost their homes; crisis food support for bushfire-affected residents whose circumstances were further affected by COVID-19; support for the establishment of the Triangle Tool Library and the Cobargo Community Garden; the bike skills training course in Quaama; the Cobargo Painted Poles Project; healing, mental health and trauma support through physical therapies; and the purchase of a new smart television for Cobargo Public School. The fund also provided seed funding to assist with the development of plans and grant applications for a number of community-led NSW Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects, including those to rebuild the main street.

The Committee conducted a recent review to make sure that the fund's operations continue to serve the recovery of the community of Cobargo and the local region, twenty months on from the fires and despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. Australian Business Volunteers were engaged to facilitate the review that took place in August

The focus areas for the Fund were reaffirmed as:

- community-owned and led projects from Cobargo

and the broader area, including Quaama, Coolagolite, Verona, Upper Brogo, Yowrie, and Wandella;

- supporting the rebuilding of the Cobargo main street, not to fill any potential funding shortfalls in the building projects but focusing on the creation and beautification of public, shared and green spaces in the village. This could include a special creative work of thanks 'from the heart of Cobargo to the heart of Australia that donated funds';
- using art, music and culture to continue to support the healing of our community;
- supporting resilience-building efforts for the future of Cobargo and the local area; and
- supporting projects that focus on mental and physical health.

The Fund committee would welcome project applications that continue to help local communities recover from the fires. Current committee members are Shane Black, Carolyn Cole, Debra Summer, Deborah Gough, Inna Skyrpay, David Wilson, Don Green, Mike Nicholas and Zena Armstrong. If you have a project idea that you would like to discuss with a committee member or questions/suggestions about the fund's operations please email [cobargofund@gmail.com](mailto:cobargofund@gmail.com).

The committee meets on the third Thursday of each month. More details about how to apply can be found here: <https://cobargoecoverfund.com/application-guidelines/>

*Zena Armstrong*

## COBARGO MAIN STREET REBUILD Community Consultation Event

### ***“Dialogue with the CCDC”***

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**Saturday 23rd October 1.30pm—3.00pm**

Your opportunity to find out more about the progress being made with the Cobargo Main Street Rebuild Project being undertaken by the CCDC Limited with the support of the \$9.62 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Grant, and about the structure and governance framework of the CCDC Limited.

\*For more details, including venue and online options to attend, please visit our website at:

**[www.ccdc.org.au](http://www.ccdc.org.au)**

*The Cobargo Community Development Corporation Limited is a community owned not-for-profit company*





# Cobargo Conversations

## Grow food, share knowledge at the Cobargo Community Garden

Despite the COVID-19 lockdown, the Cobargo Community Garden has been busy.

All Hands and Hearts continues to work on the Tool Shed. It looks so fancy we are reconsidering making it the Kitchen Shed.

Once we can shift some of building material out of the Garden Shed we'll open it up to the community on Saturday afternoons. You will be able browse our extensive library of gardening books. Or you could just sit on the veranda with a cuppa and shoot the breeze.

### 10x10 Backyard Veggies

Cobargo Community Garden has been running a ten-week veggie gardening course, in partnership with the Tool Library, Vinnies, Bega Seed Savers, Anglicare, Red Cross, Salvos and Eden Community Access Centre.

With over thirty years' experience of growing veggies, Thea Constantaridis is providing weekly mentoring sessions for our participants to help them get their backyard veggie patches up and running.

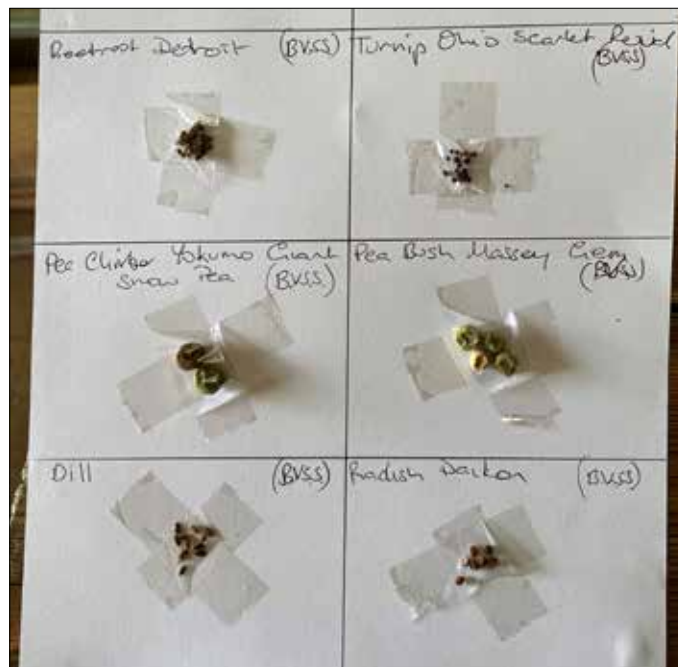
Register your interest in attending another 10x10 with Monica Considine at [monica.considine@gmail.com](mailto:monica.considine@gmail.com)

### Cobargo Community Garden weekly working bees

With the lockdown lifted, we have resumed our weekly working bees. You will need sturdy shoes, gloves, a hat, water to drink and garden membership (\$5). You can join on the day or email Harry at [harry.binnendijk@gmail.com](mailto:harry.binnendijk@gmail.com)

Join us on Mondays (10 am to 1 pm) for garden infrastructure projects or on Thursdays (10 am to 1 pm) for general gardening and maintenance.

Cheers from the CCG working group, hope to see you soon,  
*Harry, Monica, Margaret, Stephen, Cornelia and Cecile*



A big thank you Margaret Carlin for designing these Seed cards for 10x10 participants



Monica making the first cup of java at CCG with many more to come.

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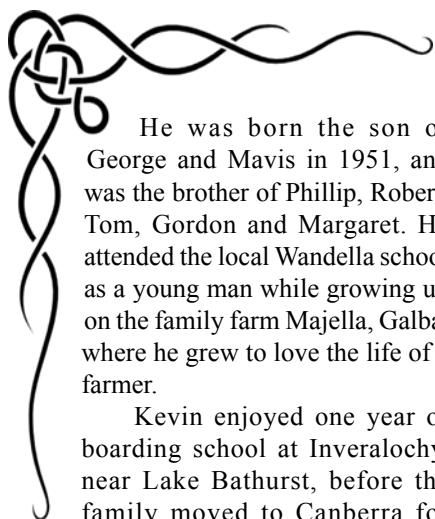
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## In loving memory of Kevin George Allen 17 June 1951 – 8 September 2021

He was born the son of George and Mavis in 1951, and was the brother of Phillip, Robert, Tom, Gordon and Margaret. He attended the local Wandella school as a young man while growing up on the family farm Majella, Galba, where he grew to love the life of a farmer.

Kevin enjoyed one year of boarding school at Inverloch, near Lake Bathurst, before the family moved to Canberra for their children's higher education. He attended St Edmunds until he secured work as a butcher at the age of sixteen. He often returned to the Yowrie region to help on family farms, before he and his brother, Phillip, were offered an opportunity by his uncle to take over the property Oakside. It is this farm that would become the centre of Kevin's universe.

At thirty he married his fiancée, Jeanette Pankhurst, and they lived together at Oakside before their eldest daughter Katie was born in 1983, followed by eldest son Patrick, who unfortunately passed due to complications. Twins George and Laurence were born in 1984, and youngest daughter, Sarah, born in 1986. Three more boys arrived: Daniel, Damien, and Benjamin in 1990, 1992 and 1994 respectively.

Kevin's family remembers him as a dedicated father who sacrificed much for his children. In 1997 he moved the family to Moruya so that the children would have access to quality education and they were welcomed to the area by a loving community. At the same time, he maintained the farm, often spending his weeks split between Moruya and Cobargo.

Kev is also remembered for his love of community and his volunteering work.

He was heavily involved in the Cobargo Show Society as both a committee member and president, dedicating himself to maintaining and improving 'the best little show on the coast'. He loved his time volunteering with the local SES, and was a regular helping out at any sausage sizzle or working bee, whether it was for schools, churches or other organisations.

Kevin loved a chat, whether over a cuppa or over the phone. Many of us are going to miss his regular calls.

Beyond his family and volunteering, Kevin's life was his farm, but like all those who live on the land, it is a business of

defined by the things they own, but by the spirit of their character and in this Kevin and all those affected shone through with their carry-on attitude.

He was known as Tiny or Butch, Jerry, Kev, Big Kev or Dad and, with the advent of four grandchildren, he became Poppy.

He believed that someone's greatest achievement in life should be their children. He lived that belief. He was not a man who succumbed to mediocrity. His advice on relationships: 'Kill them with kindness. Make it too hard for them to not like you'. He was no shrinking violet and lived a life full enough for many men. He did not let



Kevin leaves behind wife Jeanette; children Katie, George, Laurie, Sarah, Daniel, Damien and Ben; and grandchildren Madison, Jasmine, Lachlan and Brandon.

boom and bust, floods and droughts. He was no stranger to these challenges and always provided for his family. Then, on the eve of 2020, a terrible blow fell. That great bushfire took Oakside along with many other properties and the lives of his dear friends.

But in a way this loss confirmed for us what we had always known. People are not

his span of years dampen the enthusiasm of his friendships nor the pride he had in his offspring.

Kevin, we are saddened that your body gave out before your mind, but we know you have found the peace that you needed.

Vale Kevin George Allen.

*George Allen*

### CARERS "LOOK AFTER YOURSELF" (LAY) REMINDER

NDIS Plans are due for renewal in the Bega Valley.

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

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

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## Community Energy for Cobargo

The collapse of the power grid during the 2019/2020 fires and the knock-on effects on telecommunications, banking, water, sewerage, fuel, refrigeration – so many of life's basics – are not likely to be easily forgotten. Cobargo people will also remember the bushfire in September 2018 that started as a result of power lines clashing in high winds. Spurred on by these experiences, a group of residents from Cobargo and the local area, has been looking at ways to improve energy security for the village and the district more broadly. As Cobargo and District Energy Transition Inc (CADET) they have been working with Australian renewables experts, ITP Renewables, to develop a project that recently received \$1.36m in Australian Federal Government funding from the Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund for research and development of remote microgrids

in regional Australia. This is not part of Bushfire Recovery funds, but instead it's a component of the nationwide effort to make regional areas less reliant on the electricity grid and to provide cheaper and more localised energy sources. ITP Development will be completing a feasibility study and load control trial for a microgrid in Cobargo. The microgrid would be an upgrade to the existing electrical grid in Cobargo that would, in the event of a power outage of the main grid, allow the town and surrounding area to maintain power with its own generation capacity located within the town. The aim is to provide locally sourced, uninterrupted power for the whole town even if the main grid lost power or connectivity. The study will look at building a community-owned microgrid as a long-term power supply resilience measure, including the ability to manage

individually-owned energy systems. This will keep money in the town and provide affordable, low-emissions power to the community.

The goal of the project is to complete a feasibility study and deliver a complete project plan and design with all the necessary approvals, ready for deployment. The microgrid feasibility study will establish costs, timelines and technology options; progress Council, environmental and grid connection approvals; and prepare engineering, procurement and construction documentation. It will also study new customer load-management technologies that could reduce the size and cost of the microgrid. Different devices will be tested to understand their control systems and customer preferences.

Discussions with interested community groups, including the Cobargo School of Arts Hall Committee, had begun before lockdown. The project team will be seeking volunteers for the load-control trial and will hold a community consultation with residents as soon as COVID allows. In the meantime, keep watching the Cobargo Community Catch-up page on Facebook and in *The Triangle* for updates.

*Stephen Jones,  
Secretary, Cobargo and District Energy  
Transition team*



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It certainly has been windy.... Photo credit: Louise Brown

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

<b>Accountant</b> <b>Fredrick Tambyrajah BSc MA MACC MIPA</b> <b>Individual Tax Services</b> 44 Princes Hwy Cobargo NSW 2550 Phone: <b>6493 6006</b> Email: <b>fred@itaxservices.com.au</b>	<b>Carpenter</b> <b>Brogo Carpentry</b> All jobs big and small, give me a call <b>Matt: 0416 570 045</b> <b>brogo.carpentry@gmail.com</b>	<b>Electrical Services</b> <b>HRES Electrical Services</b> * Electrical * Solar * Air-conditioning <b>Harley Ray &amp; Elena Savchenko</b> <b>0419 229 634</b> <b>hresselectrical@gmail.com</b> <i>Lic 259014C CEC: A8330620 ARC RTA: AU38859</i>
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At the time of writing we are still in a state of hibernation, but nothing is stopping the natural world from bursting into spring with a vengeance. The bush, our 'natural garden' that does not require tending, is putting on a spectacular display with trees and shrubs bursting with blooms, intertwined with vines and creepers, down to vibrant ground covers and delicate orchids. Those fortunate enough to have their own gardens, whatever size, are being rewarded with colourful displays and there is a pervasive perfume in the air. How fortunate that our permissible walking and exercise routines allow us to still enjoy the pleasures of spring.

## Primary Ethics\* – good news

We are so excited to have four people on track to be brand-new Primary Ethics teachers at Bermagui Primary. Having struggled for Terms 2 and 3 to have enough volunteers to keep Ethics classes running, our recruitment efforts were rewarded.

The four fresh and enthusiastic women, all extremely interested in the program, will most likely be completely trained and ready to go by the time you read this. Now for the not-so-good news. We were hoping to all be in classrooms for Term 4 but unfortunately the Department of Education has decreed that, due to COVID restrictions, we will have to wait until next year to relaunch the program with enough volunteers for all the children enrolled in Primary Ethics.

\*Primary Ethics is offered as an alternative to 'non scripture' at primary schools across the State. It aims to offer children an opportunity to learn to listen and be tolerant of others' opinions and to express their own views. The curriculum has been carefully scripted and approved by the education department.

If you are interested in this alternative to not attending

scripture classes for your child next year, ask the school for more information or call either Cath Renwick (0419 491 104) or me, Georgina Adamson, (0448 629 042)

*Cath Renwick and Georgie Adamson*

## Thanks to the teachers

I would like to send a personal message and thank you out to the teachers at our local schools. They are not only putting great effort into making sure the children are supplied with work for home schooling, but also keeping in touch and checking on their well being, as well as posting messages, stories and activities to keep them in touch.

Bermagui Preschool is putting story time on line for the children to watch and preparing little learning and activity packs for the children to do at home. It all helps to keep them active and in touch.

## News flash!

The Bermagui Growers and Market will commence again on a weekly basis from Thursday 21 October.

The new operating times will be from 4.00 pm during daylight saving hours.

## Omission:

In last month's edition, the article about the Kids' Whale Art Trail only mentioned the Bermagui Preschool's involvement. In fact all the children in Bermagui were involved – Bermagui Public School, Little Yuin Aboriginal Preschool, Little Lambs and the Family Day Care services. A big thanks to all involved.



## U3A Bermagui & District Inc

**U3A offers classes taught by local members for members. Membership is available to the whole community. We will return to face to face classes when the COVID situation improves but for now all classes will be online using the Zoom platform. If needed, assistance is available to join 'The Zoom Room'.**

**TERM 4 CLASS ENROLMENT IS ONLINE  
OPEN FROM WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021  
VISIT [www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au](http://www.bermagui.u3anet.org.au)  
OR SEARCH "U3A Bermagui"**

Course enquiries: phone Jan Rivers on 0409 901 672

**An overview of courses on offer for this term so far ...** Movie Review (Be Your Own Critic), Breathing Exercises & Mindful Meditation, History and Development of Afghanistan, Dying with Dignity, Streetscapes of the Triangle (new session) and Women's Forum (new sessions), and as part of our Earth History series: The birth of Eastern Australia (a turbulent half billion year history) and Mass Extinction (the great dying that positioned the survivors). We have our old favourites on offer again: Australian Literature, Apple Technology, Book Chat, Taboo Topics. Many of our classes are now available to view or listen to online. Find them on our website, <https://bermagui.u3anet.org.au/online-resources/>.

We hope to offer Bush 'n Birds (guided walks) around Bermagui but these will depend on COVID restrictions. Please check the Term 4 program on our website for updates.



## A whale tale rediscovered.

Recently, while doing some research into stories about whales for the (sadly cancelled) Walawanni Muriyira Waraga Day celebrating the start of the whale season and launching the Sapphire Coast Whale Trail initiative, I came across a little lost treasure.

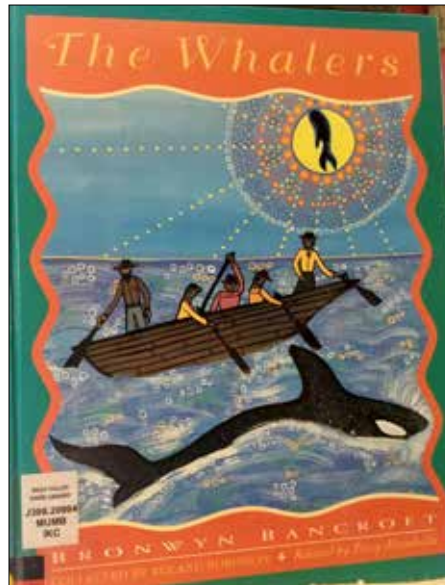
*The Whalers* is a beautiful illustrated story-book as told by Uncle Percy Mumbulla to Roland Robinson. Uncle Percy Mumbulla was an important storyteller and elder of the far south coast Aboriginal community, and he spoke of the involvement of the Aboriginal people in the early whaling industry at Twofold Bay (Eden). It tells the story of the special relationship the Aboriginal people have always had with the environment.

The book is illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft, a Bunjalung woman from Tenterfield. She has illustrated a number of traditional stories in her bright contemporary style blended with Aboriginal motifs. The story is the narration of Percy Mumbulla talking about the special relationship the Yuin men had with killer whales who guided them in the whale hunt.

Roland Robinson has collected and transcribed many Aboriginal stories from

across Australia to make them available to all.

Unfortunately this important book is out of print and it is difficult to access although there is still a copy at the Bermagui Library. If you have a copy of this book (published in 1996) treasure it or pass it on, maybe to the school or preschool library. It's an important story to be told and preserved, as relevant today as it was when published.



## Feathered friends returning from the north

It's time for our feathered friends from afar to start visiting our shores again as the weather warms. Keep a look out for some of these birds as it's becoming more and more difficult for them to make their amazing journey from the extreme cold of the northern hemisphere to feed up in preparation for their return flight home to breed. It's an incredible story of endurance.

I hope we can see some of the signs warning that these birds nest in certain areas and do not like to be disturbed (especially by dogs) replaced. Unfortunately signs are either ignored or vandalised and removed. There are plenty of dog-free zones for the pooches, so let's make these fragile visitors welcome and safe.

If you would like to know more there is good signage and identification at the end of South River Road and the Library and Info Centre will have more information. I would love to meet with anyone who is able to identify and has an interest in the species that come here on their annual pilgrimage.

Please get in touch with me at [bermagui@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:bermagui@thetriangle.org.au).

## 2021 Whale Watching Season - Aug to Nov!

See one of the world's most amazing migrations!  
2 hr tours departing from Bermagui Wharf  
aboard *Bubbles* our 24-metre stable, powered catamaran.  
Whale sightings guaranteed or your money back!  
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## 26-metre high Optus tower at Bermagui Country Club

The Bermagui Country Club has advised that they will be submitting a Development Application (DA) to Council for a proposed 26-metre high Optus communications tower on one of their old tennis courts.

This tower will be in a prominent position in the middle of town. In the Club's opinion, 'the net benefit that the facility brings in terms of providing essential telecommunication services outweighs its unavoidable visual presence'.

The existing facility needs to be relocated from its position on the old water tower on Pacific Drive. Other locations that are on higher ground and on a site with less visual impact could be investigated e.g. at or near the Nutleys Creek Reservoir tower at the back of the Bermagui Heights Estate. Putting this tower at sea level in the middle of town is maybe not the best choice.

It is noted that CPS Global, on behalf of Optus, sought residents' feedback, including by consulting with people in seventy residences in the immediate vicinity of the proposed tower. The Club advises that no feedback or objections were received.

The Club advises that a DA will be submitted to Council for this project by the end of September. If you have any views on this issue it is suggested that you submit comments on the DA to Council.

*Geoff Steel  
Bermagui*

## Blight on the Bermagui skyline

Bermagui Country Club, together with Optus, is moving forward with plans to construct a 26 metre (85 feet) high telecommunications tower. As a comparison, the existing tennis court lights are 15 metres (52 feet) high.

This tower will be situated on the old disused tennis court site next to the existing tennis and netball courts as well as the highly sensitive coastal wetland reserve. The wetland and creek area is a low-lying, protected site and is prone to tidal inundation and regular flooding.

Due to the proposed site being at the lowest point in town, the massive metal tower needs to be exceptionally tall and will loom above the treeline and be visible from over 80% of the Bermagui township and rural surrounds. It will be a blight and constant eyesore when seen against Gulaga mountain, our beautiful coastal town, its skyline, headlands and river system.

While I am not opposed to communication improvements and upgrades for the local community and visitors, perhaps a more appropriate site on Bermagui Country Club land should be found.

A more elevated and camouflaged site could, potentially, enable construction of a shorter, less visually invasive tower that would not impact the landscape, streetscape and natural beauty of our unique rural coastal town so severely.

Be sure to look out for further notifications and social media communications.

*Wayne Burke  
Concerned local resident and an active member of the  
Bermagui Country Club for more than 35 years.*



Superimposed image of what the tower would look like at the country club.

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## Bermagui Dune Care farewells Stuart Cameron

Since Bermagui Dune Care was re-formed in January 2003, Stuart Cameron has been involved in all aspects of devising and implementing plans that have greatly improved not just the local coastal environment, but that of the entire Bega Valley Shire and into neighbouring Eurobodalla.

Far South Coast Landcare Coordinator, Jess Bettanin, said, 'Stuart has made an amazing contribution to land management in our region and has put enormous skills and energy into rehabilitating the area around Cuttagee Head.

'Stuart was also the long-running project officer for the Coastal Weeds project and has played a very large role in keeping our coastline pristine and healthy. We thank Stuart for all his hard work, skills, enthusiasm and contributions, and wish him well as he heads further north to Narooma.'

On Sunday, Bermagui Dune Care farewelled Stuart. He was awarded a Bermagui Dune Care Life Membership t-shirt by member Gail who noted how important Stuart has been to the group.

Coordinator Karen Joynes said, 'He has been a stalwart of our group, providing vital knowledge and assistance, as well as great company. I am sure everyone wishes Stuart the very best for his new life in Narooma. Their gain, our loss.'

Stuart's initiation of the Coastal Weeds Project freed up the group from constantly removing sea spurge from local beaches (not getting very far, it should be noted). As a result, Karen said, 'We have been able to put a lot of energy

into rehabilitating Cuttagee Headland, under a Plan of Management devised by Stuart. The change from kikuyu and blackberry to coastal forest is phenomenal and satisfying. We've also been assisted by Far South Coast Landcare, the old Catchment Management, Bega Valley Shire Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.'

Stuart later replied, 'Many thanks everyone, it was such a lovely farewell you all gave me, albeit I do feel quite sad to be leaving our Dune Care group.

I'm awed by what we have achieved – it is hard to recall that Cuttagee Headland, not so very long ago, was little more than kikuyu and blackberry and is now well on the way to being a self-sustaining coastal forest which must provide habitat for vastly more diverse fauna than could live here before. We've done a great job! My very best wishes to you all.'

*Karen Joynes  
Coordinator,  
Bermagui Dune Care*



Stuart receiving NSW Coastal Management Local Hero Award from then Bega Valley Shire Mayor, Kristy McBain, in 2018



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Stuart (on right) with Dune Care member Rod, where once only kikuyu and blackberry grew

# Bermagui Banter

## Bermagui and District CWA

Bermagui ladies are looking forward to meeting again and catching up on news and friendships. The October general meeting will be held 11 am on Friday 8 October. This will be followed by a sandwich lunch and then the annual general meeting at 1 pm. Members are reminded to mask up and also to bring membership dues (\$43) – if you have not already done so.

It is with sadness that we inform you that our loved member Hilda Mardell passed away last month. Hilda was always full of fun, ready with a joke and laugh that lifted spirits. She loved to dress-up and always participated in Music and Drama, International Days and the Bermagui Seaside Fair Parade bringing a smile to many faces.

*Chris Richard-Preston  
Publicity Officer,  
Bermagui and District CWA*



Hilda Mardell in one of her many costumes!

## Aged Care Home Services for Bermagui locals

Residents of Bermagui waiting on a home care package to be issued to them can receive aged care home services in the interim period delivered by IRT, thanks to funds from the Thomas Cairney Estate. Five local residents were in receipt of this financial support during the financial year to 30 June 2021.

The following key criteria will apply to be eligible for the Thomas Cairney Scheme. The applicant must

- be 65 years or above or experience issues associated with aging;
- be a citizen of or have permanent residency in Australia;
- have been a resident of Bermagui NSW for at least one year;
- be able to establish their identity;
- be financially disadvantaged;
- receive or be eligible to receive a full pension or, in extenuating circumstances, pass an alternative income and assets test; and
- be eligible to receive a Government-funded home care package or, in extenuating circumstances, have relevant care support needs as determined by an IRT assessor.

If you are interested and think you might be eligible please discuss this with your local GP or contact IRT on 134 478.

*Geoff Steel, Bermagui*

### ATTENTION NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE!

### The Mumbulla Foundation annual grants round opens Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021!

Find guidelines and the application link on the  
website [www.mumbulla.org.au](http://www.mumbulla.org.au)  
Applications close 10 am Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

For help call Ian on 0419 882 025 or Mick on 0401 988 276



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## Bermagui Brigade, NSW RFS

With the 2021 fire season underway, the brigade has been inundated with requests for fire permits. It's fantastic that so many residents are taking responsibility for clearing their land and preparing their homes for any fire event that may arise this season. However, the brigade has already been called out to burns that had not been lodged with the RFS at the time of the burn. It's important that we work together to follow the right process - this protects you and saves the brigade from unnecessary call outs. All permit requests must be made via email and include your phone number and location of the burn, a Permit Issuing Officer will be in touch to set a time to visit and assess your property and, where applicable, issue you with a permit. This permit is valid for approximately 21 days but residents **MUST** still notify the Fire Control Centre (FCC) either by phone (4474 2855) or by using this QR code nominating the day of the burn. Please go to the NSW RFS website (<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>) for more information on regulations and pile burns. Burn piles cannot exceed two metres long by two metres wide by two metres high with a two-metre clearance of flammable material around the pile. Anything larger will be considered a hazard reduction and requires a separate process.

Part of the program, 'Caring for Country, Yuin Youth', an initiative sponsored by NSW Police, included a BF19 (Basic Firefighter) course and was run at Narooma High School. Peter Standen, Ivan Stringer and Lewis Gaha were instrumental in driving this successful program. Big shout out to Narooma and Central Tilba brigades for providing support. Cooperation and collaboration is the basis of a strong community, fire awareness

and skills are its protection.

Initial works are under way for extensive renovations to the Bermagui Fire 'shed'. A big thanks to local businesses for their support and patience. I'll have more to report in later issues as we move closer to opening up.

Maggie McKinney  
President



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**MARINE RESCUE OPEN DAY**  
Sunday 3rd October  
Bermagui Fishermen's Club  
11am - 3pm  
Bermagui Country Club

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## Bermagui Blue Balls 2021

Here in Clayton's COVID Land, our swim season progressed throughout the 'official' 18-week time frame. The last four weeks we were subjected to lockdown conditions that resulted in a staggered start to ensure we didn't exceed the permissible numbers. Shouted, socially distanced, post-swim conversations completed our forty-five minutes of mental and physical health activity.

Some regular faces of recent seasons appeared infrequently but a core group of hardy souls turned up week after week. Throughout the season all the usual conditions prevailed: mill pond; nose-crunching shore dumps; monster swell generated by an east coast low; cloudless

## The water's still cold!

skies; apricity (go and look it up!); leaden skies; drizzle; windless; gossamer zephyrs; and spanking nor-easterlies.

A regular event at the end of the season is the presentation of the Clubperson of the Year award. Marian Manning, the incumbent, made a delightful speech beautifully encapsulating why we all willingly choose to embrace the challenges of winter ocean swimming. Marian then presented the Wim Hof trophy to the 2021 recipient, Elizabeth Johnson.

Bermagui Blue Balls is a winter swimming group that might be able to meet again properly next winter, which will be our ten-year anniversary.

*Debbie Worgan*



Elizabeth Johnson knows all about the benefits of a cold dip and the ongoing commitment to swim in any temperature, with a good sense of humour, when embracing the cold waters of Horseshoe Bay.

## More native foreshore vegetation clearing by Bega Valley Shire Council,

Bermagui Headland/Blue Pool carpark, 26 August 2021. Photos taken 27 August 2021.

*Jack Miller*



Coastal vegetation at headland, predominantly *Acacia sophorae* (coastal wattle), prior to clearing. Over the last few weeks these native shrubs were alive with wrens.



*Eucalyptus botryoides* (bangalay) in Blue Pool carpark felled and woodchipped.



Coastal vegetation, predominately *Acacia sophorae* (coastal wattle) cleared and woodchipped.



Coastal vegetation cleared to cliff edge and woodchipped. It is now possible to drive over the cliff unimpeded.



Happy spring, everyone! It's hard not to start off with this damned virus again. Seems like forever that we've been adjusting to it, just as it's been adjusting to us. And, in this neck of the woods, we've had it easy! Look around the world and we can't complain. Yet we've been having to stay apart and not go out and, in the case of the most recent lockdown, it was all because of the detection of the virus in Merimbula's wastewater and two people registering false positives. I suppose an abundance of caution beats packed hospitals any day. But it has been a strange and unsettling time for many of us, even those of us who qualify for the confidence of the fully vaccinated. At the moment (I'm writing this on 18 September), we're out of lockdown and the spring weather is inspiring. We can go to the pub again or to kayak at the Brogo Dam, which was closed during the lockdown. Go figure. How does one share a virus while paddling in the Brogo Wilderness? I digress. By the time this issue is published, who knows what the situation will be. And that is perhaps the hardest part of all – the insecurity of it. The inability to make a plan, to stock a business knowing you'll be able to pay the bills, the invisibility of the threat and, sadly, the political overtones around the measures to keep it under control. So we carry on and cross our fingers for better times ahead.

It was good news for young families – the Quaama School reopened just in time for the kids to get together again and reconnect with friends and teachers before spring break. That first day back was the last day of the term and a 'mufti day' where kids didn't need to wear a uniform (in the business world, it's called 'casual Friday'). Whatever it's called, students were given extra time in the playground catching up over fun activities that

the teachers had planned. And hats off to the school – they did a fabulous job holding online classes for the kids during lockdown. They ensured that no one was left out. They rose to the challenge really well, incorporating new tech in their toolboxes to keep it all interesting and engaging for students. Well done! And the school looks forward to Kindergarten orientation and the guidance from NSW Education that they'll be following into next year. Parents and kids are lucky to have such a great little school in our village. Enrolments are happening now. For more info (and lots of fantastic pics if you scroll down and click on their newsletter!) go to their website. It's a cracker! [quaama-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://quaama-p.schools.nsw.gov.au).



In-person learning is back but in-person playing is even better!



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The Quaama Renewal Centre is back on too, holding a regular drop-in centre at the Quaama School of Arts supper room and garden every Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm. This is for everyone (that includes you!). It's a space where anyone can come for company, conversation, respite, distraction and connection as well as to share information, skills and bounty. There will be hot drinks and treats, games, and art and craft supplies for anyone who's feeling creative. Bring your instrument on the day and jam under the oak tree or play a game of Scrabble. Our Hall has been a hugely important place for so many these last couple of years and the community owes it some much-needed TLC in return. So regular working bees are being planned to give the hall back some well-deserved attention. You can join a group taking on a particular renovation project or adopt a patch of garden to tend over the season and watch it bloom. Many of us

may have missed human contact during lockdown and have been feeling a bit isolated so coming together on Wednesdays is a great way to reconnect with friends and neighbours. Support groups and services are encouraged to come along too for continued community engagement.

The community mini market will return this month on 17 October, and every third Sunday as before. People who can't drop in on Wednesdays can still enjoy some Quaama community spirit. I look forward to the Sapphire Community Pantry arriving with a truckload of food at super cheap prices. We're also encouraged to bring along any excess produce we might have in the garden to share. Anyone interested in having a stall of trash and treasure, crafts, plants or whatever it is you would like to sell are most welcome to come along. Stalls are only \$5! Email Glenda on glennadah@hotmail.com to book.



School kids build a da Vinci bridge out of sticks and test its strength.



Remember our mini-markets? They're starting up again on Sunday 17 October.



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#### **TERM 4 — SCHEDULED TRANSITION DAYS**

(Please note: due to COVID-19, dates will be confirmed closer to the time).

- ♦ Mon 1 November (9:30-11:30am)
- ♦ Mon 8 November (9:30-11:30am)
- ♦ Wed 17 November Cobargo Preschool Visit (9:30-12:15)
- ♦ Tues 23 November (9:30-12) includes parent information session.

#### **The Small School with a Big Heart is offering:**

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- ♦ Small Schools combined camps
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- ♦ Orchard



### SCULPTURE Bermagui is getting ready while the world turns ...

The external world is testing us lately, so how have you been coping? A rhetorical question, really, as we do what we have to and move on. Meanwhile, our inner worlds appear to be very active with so much artistic expression popping up from all spheres of life.



*Kirlian Growth by Shannon Stone*

Here at SCULPTURE Bermagui we have been busy with a team of students building our new website as part of their curriculum course work. It launched quietly in mid-September and is a great improvement. One little task for you, if you have time, is to check it out and tell us if it works for you. It is here at [www.sculpturebermagui.org.au](http://www.sculpturebermagui.org.au) – we'd appreciate your feedback.

Our call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) went out to artists in September and already they are responding. We've had questions about whether there will be the need for an online event for 2022, however we are planning for 'live and bold'. In fact, 2022 could be another record year, given so many other exhibitions have been cancelled. Sculptors and art lovers might see SCULPTURE Bermagui as an opportunity to make up for the past year. Please send positive vibes to add your support.

The SCULPTURE Bermagui management team has several new people on it and we are expanding special focus subgroups. There are now six identified streams of activity: Event Manager, Communications, Curation, Volunteer, Funding and Education. If you are keen to contribute, we have roles to fill.

All of this new organisational development has put us in the best ever position to maintain a solid platform for delivering our increasingly popular exhibition for locals and visitors, offering greater support to Bermagui businesses, as well as promoting artists and public art with far-ranging benefits to our community.

Contact [support@sculpturebermagui.org.au](mailto:support@sculpturebermagui.org.au) for more information on your particular interest.

*Paul Payten  
President, SCULPTURE Bermagui*

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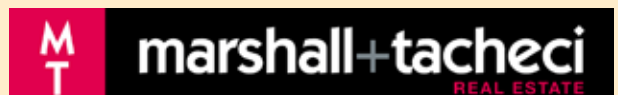
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## Book Launch at Well Thumbed Books

Originally scheduled for an earlier date, now lost in the fog of lockdown, the launch of Matt Nettheim's stunning photographic portrait book will be taking place on Saturday 9 October, 10.30 am at Well Thumbed Books, Cobargo. This will be a COVID-sensitive event, taking place outdoors with well-spaced seating and limited numbers. Phone Linda on 0407 047 404

Featuring highlights of the artist's 30-year career as a newspaper, social documentary and film stills photographer the official launch will be somewhat of a performance style event with Matt playing original live music to a slideshow of his images, as well as introducing the book and taking questions from attendees. Please stick around afterwards for light snacks and tea and the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the limited-edition publication.

*Matt Nettheim*



*Hot Fuzz, London*

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*Adam Driver on the set of Tracks*

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## A double bill at the Lazy Lizard Gallery

Okay, here we go again ... riding the COVID/lockdown not-so-merry-go-round!

We apologise to everyone for promising exciting exhibitions in one breath and then cancelling them with the next but we're sure you all understand that this is the new normal. So we will carry on planning and rearranging, hoping that everything can go ahead, but remembering that, in the end, the most important thing is that we all stay well and stay safe.

So, here's the state of play at the moment:

*Cabin Fever Creations* by the Bega Valley Fibre Group, promised for September, was postponed but we are delighted that we have been able to reschedule this exciting exhibition for December (just in time for Christmas shopping!).

Zoe Burke's *Deadwood Form and Function* exhibition of amazingly creative driftwood sculptures, that was fully reviewed in the August edition of *The Triangle*, was also postponed but, we are happy to announce, it will now be happening this month in part of our main gallery space.

Then, at the same time, in the Side Room, we have an exhibition called *Handmade-Homemade* by Margie James that, by the sound of it, will be full of fun, creativity and gift ideas!

Margie says of her work: 'This exhibition covers a wide range of homemade products – handmade felt bags and pods; felt, dyed with assorted leaves from local areas and handsewn into hot plate mats, pouches and sewing kits; t-shirts dyed with assorted leaves, to create wonderful patterns; handmade Christmas decorations of elves, owls and gingerbread men; bird finger-puppets; silk scarves; cards; bookmarks; and homemade marmalade ... a handmade something for everyone!'

As far as the gallery goes at the moment, we are still trying to sort out which days we will be open, so best check our Facebook page for updates.

Also, Zoe has offered, if necessary, to make phone appointments for people who want to see her exhibition. Her number is 0433 114 374.

So here's hoping you will be able to come in and enjoy the gallery once again ... we have certainly been missing you!

Naomi Lewis



*Forage Baskets, driftwood sculpture by Zoe Burke*



*Homemade-handmade felted treasures  
by Margie James*



Patto's beadwork on display at her and daughter Polly's exhibition called *With Gratitude* held at the Lazy Lizard in March earlier this year which was supported by the CCBRF.

The fund supported both Cobargo art galleries to assist local artists who lost homes, studios and tools of trade to get back on their artistic feet. It was quite difficult for arts and cultural micro-businesses to obtain business-focused bushfire relief funding to restore their income streams. We supported our galleries, which otherwise may have found it hard to keep up the flow of artworks needed to keep trading.

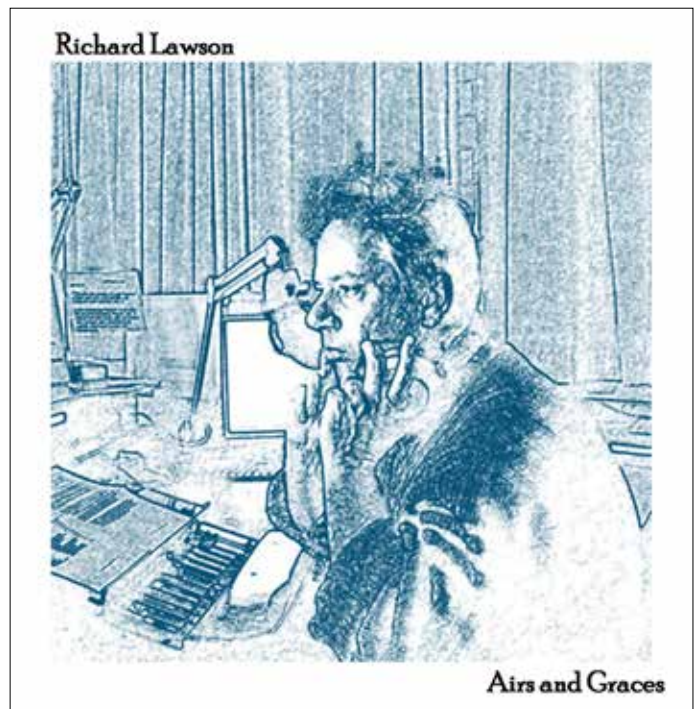
### Local musician, Richard Lawson, releases new EP

Richard Lawson is probably better known locally as the guy who sells delicious olive products under his Figtree Foods label. However, up until 1992, he was the drummer for the legendary Australian punk band, Lime Spiders. Lured back into the music industry in 2006, after running an organic olive farm and guesthouse at Mudgee for several years, he has not stopped since. His eighth album, EP *Airs and Graces*, was released in August and is being widely aired on local FM and ABC radio stations.

Musically talented in both voice and instrumentals, Richard's music spans electronica to folk and soundtracks, and all genres in between. His re-emergence in the music industry has resulted in a flurry of activity – touring nationally with bands Home Rule and Blue Valentine; composing and recording his own music; releasing albums, some under his own Figtree Food and Music label, both solo and in collaboration; running radio programs; directing and promoting the Gulgong Folk Festival; teaching music locally; and playing and touring in the group Honey, with his wife, writer Elizabeth Walton.

Richard and Elizabeth now reside at Mystery Bay where they continue to maintain a productive organic garden. Music and food combine in a synergy as reflected in Richard's label, Figtree Food and Music, and through both recorded music – that can be accomplished completely at home – and the Figtree Food products. Expect to hear a lot more of Richard and his music on local radio, through interviews and, when restrictions ease, at local venues. And if you want a taste of the latest, search for 'Richard Lawson Kingdom Come' on YouTube.

*Stuart Absalom*



*Airs and Graces cover*

*The Triangle's email address is*  
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## A Neighbourly Natter

The back screen door snapped shut and Baz stretched and blinked into the afternoon sun. He rubbed his eyes, scratched his head but his attention was piqued by the soft humming tunes from his neighbour's backyard. He needlessly checked his watch as his parched tongue guided him to the fridge in the back shed.

Armed with two cold ones, Baz spent a moment looking over the fence. The neighbour's back garden was meticulously presented, with straight rows of goodness-promising vegetables and herbs. His neighbour squatted amongst the plants, her floppy, wide-brimmed, straw hat slightly frayed and faded, a link to summers past. Her hands moved deftly from plant to plant with regular pauses to massage the soil.

'Hey, Chu Hua, how about a beer? I think it's in the rules to have a chat with the neighbour.'

Chu Hua looked up and the thin film of perspiration made her face glow. Her single movement from squatting on her haunches to standing, without groan or grimace, had Baz straightening his crook knee and rubbing his back.

Suitably distanced they both raised their stubbies in cheers and Chu Hua took a long sip.

'Thirsty work eh, Chu Hua? How did you learn to grow a garden like that?'

Chu Hua patted her brow.

'Well, Barry, my parents had a market garden and every bit of space was used. It's a case of working out what grows best, good compost and if you tend to it daily you don't need chemicals. We used to pick

the produce daily and get it to the markets before dawn. It was hard work but my parents were very good at it and they learnt it all from their parents.'

Baz nodded and raised an eyebrow, 'Where did you grow up?'

Chu Hua's laugh lines mapped her face. 'La Perouse in Sydney, Barry. You thought I was going to say China but, no, my parents used to farm the La Perouse Market Gardens. It's been there for over one hundred and fifty years and they still do most of it by hand. In fact, it's heritage listed these days which saves it from the development vultures. So Barry, my family has probably been here a lot longer than yours.'

Chu Hua scanned Baz's backyard and took in the half-completed gardening projects and smiled broadly.

'How did you learn to NOT garden so well, Barry?'

Baz laughed out loud and took a decent drink.

'That's a bit rough, Chu Hua. As a kid, I was as keen as mustard. One spring I planted some carrots and then checked every day for results. My mother obviously felt sorry for me and dug in some whole carrots. I was tickled pink with these instant results and planted more varieties of vegetables. I became a bit surprised when ripe strawberries appeared in the cucumber plants one morning and downright

suspicious on finding cleanly cut pumpkins the day after.'

Chu Hua's teeth glistened in the sun.

'Anyhow, Chu Hua, it all came to a sudden end when the old man cemented the whole backyard. He was not keen on gardening at all and even hated mowing the lawn. On top of that, he was sick of the neighbours, who had perfect gardens, complaining about us kids digging tunnels into their yards to retrieve tennis balls from backyard cricket. Old Mrs Crawford, from next door, got the fright of her life when a head popped up amidst her sunflowers.'

The neighbourhood kookaburra flew off at Chu Hua's laugh. She again scanned Barry's backyard. 'Now Barry, my mum would say, "Yǒu qí fù bì yǒu qí zǐ" which translates as like father like son.'

*John Longhurst*

## SCULPTURE Bermagui

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from sculptors wishing to exhibit in

SCULPTURE Bermagui 2022, 5 - 14 March 2022



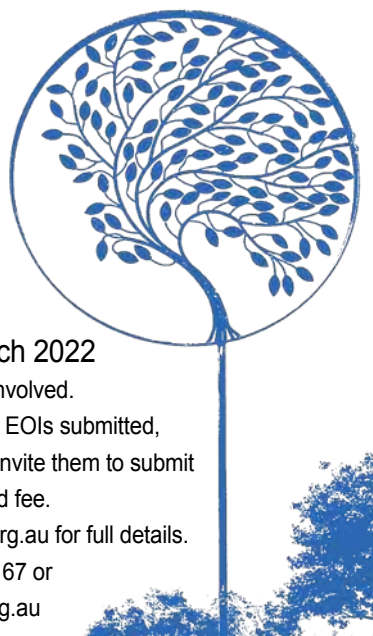
Bermagui

There is no cost or obligation involved.

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## ***The Labyrinth*** **Amanda Lohrey** **Text Publishing, \$24.99**

This is the winner of the 2021 Miles Franklin Award and currently shortlisted for The Age Book of the Year – a great reward for the 74-year old Tasmanian writer. It tells the story of a woman who moves to a small village on the south coast of NSW in order to be close to her son, recently sentenced to years in a local prison for homicidal negligence. So, beyond exploring the challenges involved in the new life of a sea changer, it also delves into the fraught relationship of mother and son: his fury and failure to acknowledge the consequences of his actions; her determination to stand by him regardless of his behaviour towards her.

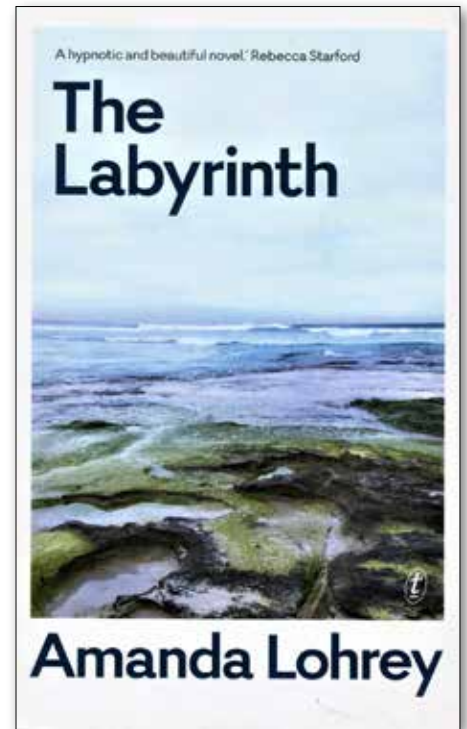
How the woman, Erica Marsden, heals and restores herself relies in large part on her willingness to accept the

kindness of strangers, as she sets out to build a labyrinth in her garden. Despite her determination to isolate herself, her life becomes entangled with her neighbours and, more importantly, with an undocumented refugee whose expertise she needs to complete the project. In the process she learns about the restorative power of art and the consolation that comes with being connected to community, both of which are strong themes in these times of fire recovery and coping with a pandemic.

A powerful message is that family disasters have no neat endings: people don't just 'move on', 'get over it' – survival requires heroic determination.

The deeper into the book I went, the more I could relate to the struggles people meet and endure as they try to adjust to circumstances totally beyond their control.

This is recommended reading for lock-down early spring reading.



## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR *THE TRIANGLE* INC**

*This meeting date has been changed to*  
**Monday 15 November, 12pm in Cobargo -**  
**venue to be advised**  
**Held with appropriate COVID restrictions**  
**Contact 0407 047 404 to attend**

### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS ACROSS**

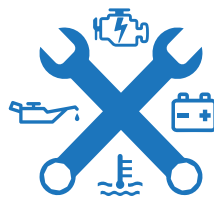
1. Julia Gillard 6. John F. Kennedy  
8. Ronald Reagan 12. Donald J. Trump  
14. John W. Howard 16. Helen Clark 18.  
Gough Whitlam 19. Jacinda Ardern  
20. Robert Menzies 21. Ben Chifley

### **DOWN**

2. George W Bush 3. Pierre Trudeau  
4. Margaret Thatcher 5. Tony Abbott  
7. Donald Rumsfeld 9. Gandhi 10. Kep  
Enderby 11. Malcolm J. Fraser 13. Paul J.  
Keating 15. Adolf Hitler 17. Bob Hawke

### **FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS ANSWERS**

1. Steve Irwin 2. Rupert Murdoch 3. Ian  
Thorpe 4. Rebel Wilson 5. Heath Ledger  
6. Errol Flynn 7. Michelle Payne 8. Kerry  
Packer 9. PL Travers 10. Baz Luhrmann



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# Pet of the Month

Kerri Brady

If you are looking for a companion and you love staffies, this little nugget might just be your perfect match. Banjo is a happy, energetic, three-year old staffy cross bull terrier with all the lovable qualities these types of dogs bring to the table. This fellow loves to play and tugging games are his all-time favourite. He loves hanging out in the yard with you and when you go in he wants to be inside and beside you, as part of the family. Banjo loves going for drives in the car and is great with kids (teenagers are best as he can get a bit excited at times) and he is house trained. He was brought up in a family setting but over the past year circumstances changed and he has spent a bit of time outside by himself so he is looking for a family to love him again. Banjo would ideally be suited to an only-pet household with a secure yard. He will flourish with daily leashed walks and off-leash games and play with someone who will spend time with him and continue his ongoing skills training. Banjo will cost \$390. If you are interested in Banjo or any of the kittens we have in care, please give our enquiry number a ring – 0400 372 609 (phone hours are Monday to Friday 9 am-5 pm).

Santa Paws is coming to town once again. He will be in Cobargo on Sunday, 14 November at the Cobargo School of Arts Hall from 9 am to 1 pm and Merimbula on Sunday, 21 November at Coastal Grooming from 9 am to 1 pm. All pets welcome. Cost \$25 for a sheet of photos in various sizes, Christmas cards and emailed photos. Phone Kerri on 0407 222 549.

All animals available through AWLNSW are microchipped, de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed and treated for flea and ticks. Their adoption fee is subsidized 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 suitable for the needs of the animal. You can view available animals on the Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/AnimalWelfareLeagueFarSouthCoastBranch](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalWelfareLeagueFarSouthCoastBranch), but you will need to call Animal Welfare League FSC Branch on 0400 372 609 to enquire about any of the many cats, kittens, dogs and pups available for adoption. (AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000222.)

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. De-sexing vouchers are available at all vet clinics in our branch area (Bermagui, Cobargo, Bega, Merimbula, Pambula and Eden) for local residents who hold a Centrelink pension card. AWL - Far South Coast will subsidise the de-sexing 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 de-sexing cost.

As the weather is now growing warmer please remember not to leave pets in cars. It is against the law and is a very cruel death. Phone police if you find a dog shut in a car and they are panting.



Banjo



Obi, Santa and Moses



## Berry delicious



Often overlooked when selecting food plants for the garden is the extensive range of berries that are available in the marketplace for the home gardener. Always available during the winter period as bare-root plants but more varieties are now being made available as plants in pots with well-established roots and can be planted, near enough, all year around.

Although some can take up a fair bit of room in the garden it is best to select a site where they can be grown undisturbed for many years, similar to the regular-sized fruit trees we might grow in our gardens.

Most of the varieties can share the same patch of ground as each other as they prefer similar soil and growing conditions to each other. The only exception is blueberries that tend to prefer a more acidic soil than other species.

Soil preparation consists of a generally well-drained position with an alkaline pH. Full sun is important as is soil with added well-rotted animal manure to achieve good structure and texture.

The site should be generally fenced and covered to keep birds and animals away from the ripening fruit and structures should be built to support the vines.

**Blueberries:** These are probably the most widely grown group of berries in the Australian berry market and are best suited to an acid pH soil with some protection from extended periods of extreme summer heat.

There are several varieties that suit our climate and, when selecting your varieties, purchase five or six different ones that will fruit from November though to March thus not providing a glut of berries

at the one time. They are a shrub and can be planted even amongst other garden plants.

Other shrub-like forms of berries include currants, with black, red and white varieties available, and English gooseberries.

**Raspberries:** This group of berries has slightly different needs to grow as they require a support to grow on, generally a fence-like structure with three or more strands of wire spaced evenly apart so the canes can be gathered together and not just ramble across the ground. Like all berries they require a sunny position and need to be protected from birds.

Other shrub-like forms of berries include currants with black, red and white varieties available and gooseberries.

The soil should be well-drained and a well-rotted animal manure added to increase the texture and structure of the soil.

There are generally about four varieties available including summer and autumn ripening varieties. Varieties include Chilcotin, Heritage, Autumn Bliss and Chilliwack.

Varieties of brambleberries similar to raspberries that are available include some more unusual types: marionberry, silvanberry, youngberry and thornless blackberry. The blackberries are compact growing and non-invasive.

**Strawberries:** There are many varieties available in the marketplace today and they can be purchased either barerooted in the winter or as container-grown plants when the weather warms up. Unlike the berries mentioned above, that are long-time growing plants, strawberries should be replaced every four years or so as they tire and become unthrifty. Again, like all food-producing plants they require a well-drained, compost-enriched soil and need to be protected from slugs and snails. There are some great varieties available including: Big Sweetie, Sumo, Tioga and Red Gauntlet. And there are a couple of newish varieties that have flavours like pineapple and bubblegum – great for the kids.

There is much to know about growing all these amazing berries and a trip to your local nursery will help you in making your decision as to what to grow.

Most good nurseries should have supplies of all these varieties available now in pots so the decision to get them into the ground soon will have you eating them by the end of the year.

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Mark Twain claimed that cauliflower was just cabbage with a college education but I think he's pithy but wrong. We eat the leaves of a cabbage but the pre-flowering part of a cauliflower. Cauliflower is a quite distinctive vegetable and, if you're relying on growing your own, it is a really good winter to early spring crop that doesn't handle heat well. We grow and eat cabbage year round but, for us, cauliflower is a strictly seasonal vegetable and there has been a super-abundance of cauliflowers coming in from the garden over the last few weeks with a couple more to

come. But, fortunately, we really like them and each year I find new ways to prepare them – soup, fritters, warm salads, roasted whole and in pasta sauces or stir-fries as well as the obvious comfort food – cauliflower cheese. This year's big hits have been a whole roasted cauliflower (big on visual drama as well as great flavour); a pasta sauce with cauliflower, leek and pumpkin; and a side dish (hot) or salad (room temperature) of roasted cauliflower with nuts, sultanas and saffron. Roasting cauliflowers really intensifies the flavour and they char dramatically and beautifully.

## Whole roasted cauliflower (recommended by my brother)

- 1 cauliflower
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt

Find a baking dish that neatly fits your cauli, trim off the outer leaves, cut the base so that it sits flat and cut a cross in it. Drizzle the olive oil over and sprinkle with sea salt.

Bake in a hot oven for about an hour (longer if it's a very big beast, shorter if it's petite). A sharp paring knife should go through the thickest part with ease.

### Dressing:

- ¼ cup good quality olive oil
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - 1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard
  - 1 tablespoon salted baby capers, rinsed
  - 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
- Whisk all ingredients together.

Once cauliflower is well cooked and very tender, pour the dressing over it and present it whole at the table for people to help themselves.



## Cauliflower roasted with sultanas, pine nuts and saffron

(This is a Sicilian combination of flavours – great as a side dish but it's also a terrific salad, maybe for a COVID-safe picnic?)

- 1 large cauliflower broken up into florets
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup (80 grams) pine nuts (last time I made it we were out of pine nuts so I used slivered almonds and the result was also excellent)
- ½ cup (60 grams) sultanas
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced finely
- pinch of saffron threads
- ½ cup (125 mls) chicken or vegetable stock

Place cauliflower florets in a single layer in large shallow baking tray in a hot oven (180-200° C). Drizzle over olive oil, sprinkle with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Roast for a bit over five minutes. Add the pine nuts, sultanas and garlic give it all a stir and roast for another five minutes. Pour over the saffron and stock (I heat the stock and add the saffron threads to it while I'm doing the initial dry roasting – you get better colour and flavour from them that way). Bake for another 5-10 minutes or until most of the liquid has been absorbed, giving it an occasional stir.



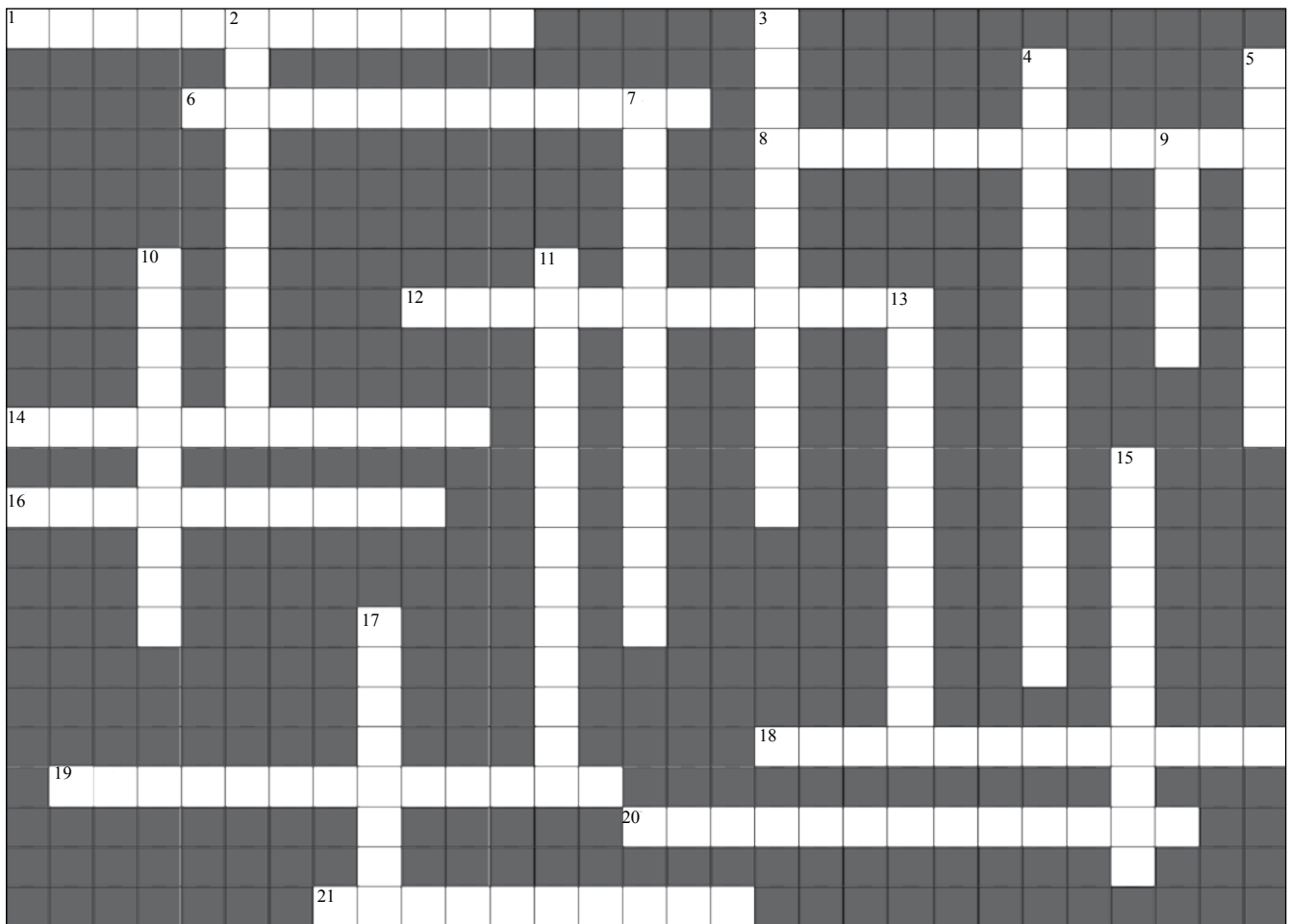
And, because spring is here, the asparagus is just starting to appear and the chooks are outdoing themselves ... so start the day with the healthiest of breakfast indulgences:

## Soft-boiled eggs with tender, fresh asparagus spears

(for dipping into the eggs). No recipe needed because it's all in the name! You can add a sprinkle of sea salt, some fresh ground black pepper (to your eggs), a squeeze of lemon juice and/or shaved parmesan (to your asparagus).

# Game On

## POLITICAL QUOTES CROSSWORD - WHO SAID THIS?



### ACROSS

1. 'I will not be lectured about sexism and misogyny by this man.' (5,7)
6. 'Ask not what your country can do for you but what can do for your country.' (4,1,7)
8. 'No matter what time it is, wake me, even if it's in the middle of a Cabinet meeting.' (6,60)
12. 'I'm a very stable genius.' (6,1,5)
14. 'We will decide who comes to our country ...' (4,1,6)
16. 'Girls can do anything. We do do anything and we expect to be treated as equals.' (5,5)
18. 'Well may you say "God Save the Queen", for nothing will save the Governor General.' (5,7)
19. 'To me, leadership is not about being the loudest voice in the room.' (7,6)
20. 'A man may be tough, concentrated, successful money maker and never contribute to his country anything more than a horrible example.' (6,7)
21. 'You have to be quite clear about what you believe in, whether popular or unpopular, and you have to fight for it.' (3,7)

### DOWN

2. 'Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people and neither do we.' (6,1,4)

3. 'Living next to you in some ways is like sleeping with an elephant.' (6,7)
4. 'Don't follow the crowd, let the crowd follow you.' (8,8)
5. 'I don't think it's a bad thing that we always have an enormous amount of women simply doing housework.' (4,6)
7. 'There are known knowns, there are unknowns and there are unknown unknowns.' (6,8)
9. 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' (6)
10. 'Traditionally Australia obtains its imports from overseas.' (3,7)
11. 'There's no such thing as a free lunch.' (7,1,6)
13. 'He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up.' (4,,1,7)
15. 'If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.' (5,6)
17. 'Any boss who sacks anyone today for not turning up is a bum.' (3,5)

### Answers on page 36

If you have a game, quiz or crossword that you would like to see on the Game On page, send it to [contributions@thetriangle.org.au](mailto:contributions@thetriangle.org.au) with your email address. We'll try to include it.

### CAN YOU NAME THESE FAMOUS AUSTRALIANS?

