

THE TRIANGLE

COMMUNITY NEWS

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ReBoot ReScheduled for ReBoot into summer



Gather your family and friends and head to beautiful Bermagui for the seventh annual ReBoot in Bermagui on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 December 2021. All ages are catered for and ReBoot in Bermagui is all about rebooting into summer after our protracted winter and spring lockdowns.

Kicking off the weekend's program on Saturday morning are the professionally timed Fun Runs. There will be three different runs – 1. Camel to Club – approx. 7.5k including 1.5k of beach running; 2. No hills 5k; and 3. A no adults 1.5k for the kids. After the fun of the runs, warm downs and presentations, assemble your friends and family members together and enter the team's Tug-o-War challenge. Cash prizes for winners in all events and vouchers for place-getters given.

Other ReBoot activities include yoga, Pilates, stand-up paddle boarding (SUP), surf lessons, Kids' Scoot and Skate competition, Oops the Clown, barefoot bowls, tennis and more ...

After all this activity, eat, drink and be merry at Bermagui Fishermens Wharf, the iconic Bermi Pub, Bermagui Country Club and any of Bermagui's cafes and restaurants. Many businesses are offering Reboot specials and entertainment so come along and be active in the morning and relax and unwind in the evening.

On Sunday, 5 December, the fun continues at Bermagui Surf Club at Horseshoe Bay. Starting with a new event – the escorted road bike ride to Cobargo and back – an early morning, scenic route through the beautiful hinterland of Cobargo. The main events are the ocean swims between 9 am and 2 pm. The swims are a short 350-metre swim across the bay and a longer swim, run, swim event. A healthy Bermagui breakfast is served from 8 am until 11 am and is free for those who have registered for the fun runs, swims and bike ride.

Following the swim, the champion ReBoot male and female will be awarded the prestigious ReBooter and ReBootie of the event that includes trophies and cash prizes. Sunday afternoon, head to Bermagui Country Club for the nine-hole ReBoot mixed Ambrose golf competition.

Register now and view the full program online at www.rebootbermagui.com.au and follow us on Facebook at the ReBooting Bermagui page and on Instagram.

Run, refresh, relax and renew in Bermagui this December. Spend the weekend or stay longer and explore more of Bermagui and the glorious unspoilt Sapphire Coast.

Julie Rutherford





Here we are at the end of another year – again not an easy time as the effects of the mega fires still echo through the community together with COVID restrictions and responses. Yet eager reunions are being planned with friends and family. There is a plethora of events and activities offered over summer as artists fill exhibitions, music events tune up, community gardens flourish, markets burst to life, Blazeaid’s generous work winds up with celebration, painted poles festoon Cobargo and we can expect visitors to flow into the region.

Oh, and there are Council elections on 4 December and voting is compulsory – make your vote count.

Along with contributions from the community, *The Triangle* has been planning a new venture of exploring issues that are

significantly affecting the region – the first one is housing. This region has been on the national news recently featuring the lack of any accommodation for those fleeing domestic violence and others who have received no-fault eviction notices with drastic consequences. Several articles are presented to open up an exploration of the housing issue with others to follow. Locals are invited to comment on the multi-faceted initiative of the Bega Valley Shire Council’s Draft Affordable Housing Strategy – use the Council’s website to make your thoughts about this vital issue known before 6 February, 2022.

The Triangle team wish all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Letters to the editors

Another bridge response ...

In response to Harry Bates’s letter – an hydraulic survey and modelling were conducted on the lake and the final report recommended one of three approaches.

- a culvert bridge on the southern side of the causeway with a channel dug to the mouth;
- a culvert bridge on the southern side of the causeway; or
- a series of smaller pipe openings in the same position.

The first of these approaches would increase the flow from the mouth to the back of the lake by an extra 33% and could possibly prevent the berm, that is currently partly fed by the huge build-up of sand in the eastern basin, from forming.

Tests showed that, currently, water that enters at the mouth at the start of the incoming tide barely gets further than a few hundred metres past the bridge. A direct path would enhance the direct flow to the back of the lake.

That report is on the Council’s website.

The report also indicated that the small existing bridge is a choke point for the water flow and was causing a gradual build up of sand in the eastern basin raising its level higher and higher.

Finally, if you are desperate for a layman’s/old timer’s explanation I made a video which you can find on YouTube called ‘Who Killed Wallaga Lake?’.

Cheers,

*Mark Dullow
Beauty Point*

A plea for action on Wallaga Lake

Wallaga Lake is so clearly in trouble – just go to the lake’s entrance at low tide and look west if you doubt the extent of the problem. Yet so much of the debate has degenerated into irrelevance in the face of a critical risk. And so much silence from the politicians – truly appalling.

For the record, Kristy McBain didn’t reply, Andrew Constance sent my letter on to a whole range of other departments and took no responsibility for anything (a typical response in my experience), Jo Dodds and Cathy Griff were the only councillors to reply, so much for the others. The two BVSC general managers replied, which was very good but neither intended to do anything about it.

But there was one bright light among the gloom. The Shadow Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe, recognises the degradation of the east coast lakes system as a major problem and has promised to visit this area and see for herself. At least there is some hope from Macquarie Street. Slight, but potentially game changing.

If you agree that Wallaga Lake needs urgent action (or, for that matter, the entire NSW east coast lake systems) please write to Penny Sharpe, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

You might also write to the politicians and tell them what you think about their silence.

And, for sanity’s sake, focus on the threatened future of the lake, not the past. No doubt the causeway was built with good intentions with the information they had at

the time. No blame. Just a major problem that needs dealing with now.

*Keith Bashford
Fairhaven*

NEED A CAR for a day or two?

The community car is available to borrow.

See one of the women at Well Thumbed Books or book it by phoning

Louise: 0416 039 895

or Linda: 0407 047 404

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.





Thumbs UP

Dear *Triangle* thank you for the headline article on the Gumleaf Band. How privileged we all are to share Country with the descendants of such amazing people. Remarkable.

Thank you Bega Valley Shire Council for clearing the overgrown vegetation on the roadsides of the Tathra-Bermagui Road from Baragoot to Cuttagee.

To the Quaama street trees that are thriving despite being planted at the beginning of the drought, burned in the bushfires, mowed over by Council and generally neglected.

To voters in the Council elections who have turned up to vote (prepoll) having done their research and written out their own how-to-vote cards (or taken photos on their phones) to assist them with making an informed vote.

Thumbs DOWN



To the Bermagui Country Club for allowing a 26-metre high telecommunications tower (equivalent to an eight-storey building) to be erected next to the club, at the entrance to our beautiful village. A blot on the landscape for the next 20 plus years!

To Cobargo business owners and staff who park in the main street while they are at work.

To the idiot/moron who on Monday 15 Nov turfed a wine bottle out a car window just over the bridge over Katchen Carry Creek on Verona Rd. The shards and debris on the road formed an area of hazard for vehicle tyres in the tight bridge access area. And if it was an 'accident' you're still a moron for not getting out of your vehicle at the time and clearing it up for the benefit of all local residents.

To the lowlifes who destroyed another two of the ReBoot in Bermagui signs. ReBoot is a community event run by volunteers who worked hard to raise funds for these new signs. What goes around comes around; you are on a watch list.

Who does the work

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Cheese Factory, Sweet Spot **Cobargo:**

Post Office, United Petrol, Cobargo

General Store, The Bowerbird Op Shop,

Well Thumbed Books, Information Centre

Narooma: BP station, Library

Quaama: The Quaama Store

Wallaga Lake: Merrimans Land Council

Deadlines:

Advertising: 5pm, 19th of each month

Editorial: 12pm, 22nd of each month

Thumbs / Letters to the editor:

All communications should be forwarded

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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 2400 in print plus

online visits.

Guidelines for contributors

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

1. Stories should be 300 words maximum except by prior arrangement.

2. 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

cc lsang333@gmail.com

or ph 0407 047 404

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Bega Valley Shire Council election 4 December 2021

Voters in the Bega Valley Shire Council local government area go to the polls on 4 December to choose their new council.

Candidates and the order of ballot for the Bega Valley Shire Council election have been finalised. You have 18 candidates to choose from for nine councillor positions – and you must vote for a minimum of five candidates to record a valid vote numbering the candidates consecutively from 1 to 5. You can continue voting beyond five, making sure that you number your votes consecutively. They comprise two groups – Group A, a Labor team (2 candidates) and Group B, The Greens (five candidates). The remaining 15 are non-grouped candidates, all classifying themselves as Independents, pictured here in the order they will appear on the ballot paper. The best place to find information on the candidates and their policies, questions and answers to and from them, is the Bega Shire Election Town Hall Facebook page – BSETH. It is a voters' forum for candidates to explain their policies and for you, the voter, to question them. It poses questions and answers from various organisations, without editorial favour of any candidate, and provides links to all candidates' Facebook and web pages, plus how to contact them.

Due to COVID-19 there are some restrictions on voting, masks are required in the polling places, bring your own pens etc. Pre-polling is available until Saturday. How to vote cards cannot be handed out at the polling places but are available on the BSETH page.

A referendum will also be held on council polling day to determine whether we want to directly elect our mayor or leave it, as now, to councillors to choose.

Doug Holden

Visit our Website

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

www.thetriangle.org.au

Ballot paper

Labor Team for Bega Valley's Future

Helen O'Neil, Sammie Daly - Labor

Garry Grif, Vivian Harris, Paula Park, Angus Ashcroft, Peter Laurence-Greene - THE GREENS

Karen Wright Independent, Mitchell Nadia Independent, Neil Boscoe Independent

Nathan O'Donnell Independent, Russell Fitzpatrick Independent, Tony Allen Independent

David Porter Independent, Liz Seckold Independent, Joy Robin Independent

Michael Britten Independent, Joshua Shrobridge Independent

Your 18 candidates for shire council election on December 4

Bega shire election town hall on Facebook

Your election forum

All Council candidates

In order of the ballot - two party groups 11 Independents

How to vote in the Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) elections on 4 December, 2021

There are nine Councillors to be elected in this BVSC election. No candidates will appear above the line – in fact there is no line. All candidates appear together in columns (see sample ballot paper above).

On the ballot sheet you **must** number your choices from 1 to 5 consecutively.

If you wish to vote for more candidates, place consecutive numbers from 6 in the relevant squares.

You can vote for as many candidates as you want but you **must** vote from 1 to 5. If you vote for fewer than five your vote

will be invalid; if you vote and you fail to number your votes consecutively (ie you skip a number or you repeat a number) your vote will be invalid.

There is also a separate question that you must answer. You are being asked whether the Mayor should be elected by the elected Councillors (as currently happens). Or whether the Mayor should be elected by the people – known as a popular election. The outcome of this vote will come into effect at the Local Government Elections in 2024.

Bega Valley Shire and Eurobodalla Council elections will be held Saturday 4 December 2021

These elections have been delayed for three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Voting is compulsory for all residents and property owners (resident or absentee) over the age of 18.

Contact the AEC to ensure that you are registered to vote or to change your details

Make your Council work for you on 4 December by voting for Councillors who will listen to the community and work hard to represent you!





Gourmet Coast Trail launches inaugural website

We know that the Triangle has some of the best food available in Australia. Many of us take it for granted, others recognise and celebrate what we have. Recognising the quality and diversity of food and food experiences in this area, three local food and wine producers: Fiona Kotvojs (Gulaga Gold Truffière), Greg Lissaman (Mountain View Tomatoes) and Lucy Wilson (Breakfast Creek Vineyard) saw the potential of this to support year-round tourism in this area. From this humble beginning, the Gourmet Coast emerged as a brand and the Gourmet Coast Trail was developed.

The Gourmet Coast is centred on the Triangle area and runs from Batemans Bay in the north to the Victorian border in the south. The Trail brings together over fifty food businesses offering local flavours and exceptional culinary experiences from across this region. We recognised that many small food businesses would be more visible to tourists if we featured them all together in on website.

Flowing from this, with the support of funds from the government agency, Food Innovation Australia, the Gourmet Coast Trail website was developed and launched this month.

Our vision is that the Gourmet Coast Trail will encourage visitors to explore the entire region and discover the quality food businesses here. It also helps us re-discover the incredible food we have right here at our doorstep. We encourage everyone to explore the website, share it with your friends and enjoy some food adventures right here on the Gourmet Coast. If you haven't yet visited, have a look at www.gourmetcoasttrail.com.au to see the diversity of what is available. We are sure you will identify places and experiences to visit yourself, or take your family and friends.

The Gourmet Coast Trail will help develop year-round food tourism in our region. This will attract more visitors who love gourmet food. As more travellers visit and stay longer, year-round

employment opportunities will be created and primary producers should be able to obtain a better return for the quality food they produce – helping make our communities and farms more viable into the future.

We are very proud of this collaboration with the many businesses involved. It is a powerful example of our community working together for our shared benefit. It shows how we are stronger together.

Please visit the website at www.gourmetcoasttrail.com.au. Like us on Facebook and Instagram @GourmetCoastTrail and tell your friends. Your local foodies will thank you for it!

Visit www.gourmetcoasttrail.com.au

Fiona Kotvojs



Greg Lissaman, Lucy Wilson and Fiona Kotvojs
Photo Credit: Gourmet Coast Trail



No Place Like Home

Bega Valley is experiencing a housing crisis. Regularly, we see people seeking accommodation via social media posts. These can be people relocating to the area for employment or families trying to find stable housing. They could be young people, older people, single people or people who have to move due to the coming tourist season. Add children or pets and the situation worsens.

There are many elements that contribute to homelessness. We know domestic and family violence is a leading cause of homelessness. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found that 42% of people accessing services had experienced domestic & family violence that affects all levels of society. The South East Women and Children Services (SEWACS) youth program identified the main factors for seeking support in the last financial year with 76% citing housing affordability, inadequate housing conditions, housing

crisis and financial crisis and 72.5% citing domestic violence and relationship or family breakdown.

Affordable housing is almost non-existent and the rental market is highly competitive. The start of the tourist season increases difficulty for people renting. People in normally stable housing need to seek alternative accommodation if their property is let on Airbnb. This is not necessarily right or wrong, but highlights the difficulties renters on lower incomes face in these circumstances. This situation is worse for young people seeking housing if they are on Newstart or Youth Allowance with no rental history. These are the people we see couch surfing or living rough.

I manage an organisation that covers the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shires. We support women and children who are experiencing domestic and family violence; homeless people; a youth homelessness support program; and a male outreach program. Homelessness is an increasing

reality within our communities.

The lack of sustainable, secure housing is getting worse. The bushfires contributed to this then, with COVID, we are seeing an increase in people relocating to our area as they discover that working remotely is a viable alternative. Properties are being bought as investment properties and are not available to the affordable rental market.

Without major investment from our governments in building more public and social housing, no real change is on the horizon. The great Australian dream of owning your own home is becoming nothing more than a dream for many. Finding stable housing, whether as a homeowner or at an affordable rent, should not just be a dream.

*Caroline Long,
Social Worker,
Regional Manager, SEWACS*





When is a house not a home?

The Triangle is planning to run a series of articles on housing, including design, sustainability, innovative and alternative houses (we promise some interesting ones), tiny houses, houses with history. In this issue we are starting with the very important topic of the availability and affordability of housing for all. It's a 'hot topic' at the moment, calling for drastic and timely solutions.

Availability and affordability are the big issues affecting the whole country, urban and rural, and are equally critical here in the Triangle region.

There are problems particular to this area. The disastrous fires consumed the coast and destroyed many homes that are only very slowly being replaced. Many people literally 'lost their homes' and there is very little available to rent or purchase. Many people, often with children, have had to move on a number of times, which is very distressing on top of the trauma of fire.

Added to that is pressure from people outside the area wanting to purchase a part of our rural and coastal idyll and 'get a bit of it' before it is too late, possibly partly exacerbated by COVID and the trend to working from home. So any affordable housing is being grabbed, often sight unseen, and usually only let out for a part of the year, charging peak prices for holiday rentals

but left empty for the remainder of the year.

This means that many who are living, working and raising families are finding it almost impossible to find a place to reside ... for either rent or purchase.

A small minority of people have opened their doors and taken people in until they get themselves sorted with something more permanent. An even smaller group have forgone the 'top dollar' of renting at holiday prices to allow people to have something more permanent. At this peak time of year for business to recoup some of the losses they have suffered over the past few summers, the call is out for workers but the issue now is where to house them?

There are a whole lot of reasons why this deplorable situation exists, and the following articles deal with some. There are also solutions that all levels of government need to address.

A change in social attitudes is possibly the hardest one to achieve – less greed, some shared responsibility and care of others in our neighbourhood would go a long way to securing housing and strengthen our community.

We have to look after the people who live, work and sustain our community.

Georgie Adamson

Affordable Housing Strategy

Since 2017, BVSC has supported motions seeking land for affordable housing and for a youth refuge (currently the closest is in Moruya). A community group was formed by those desperate for solutions. Finally, a housing expert, Judith Stubbs, was commissioned to write Council's draft Affordable Housing Strategy. It is out for public comment on Council's website until 6 February 2022 so do have a look and *have your say* – however brief.

The report's data is stark showing the housing crisis is 'a perfect storm' in our region due to: an increasingly ageing population; scant and declining social housing and rental; pockets of very low income; massive holiday rentals and

vacant second homes; a growing mismatch of larger homes (74% with over two bedrooms) versus an increasing number of single and couple households (64% in 2016). The report projects a need for almost 2,500 affordable dwellings by 2036, with 67% needed for renters.

Residential development addressing affordable housing is complex, requiring multiple initiatives from several parties. Homelessness is at the severe end of the spectrum. Assisting other levels of housing stress, and renovating or repurposing existing rundown buildings, will ease the overall problem. Council has a large capacity to prompt change especially in terms of: *advocacy* to State and Federal government; dedicating *unused land*

for residential use; *partnerships* with community housing providers; and *planning and zoning* controls to facilitate smaller housing lots and *secondary dwellings* in specific towns (Bega, Eden and Merimbula).

The Affordable Housing Strategy calls for Council to dedicate funds and commit to implementing 21 strategies. There are challenges, especially given Council's tight budget. Nevertheless we have a moral obligation to forego top profit sometimes in releasing land for affordable housing. Hopefully incoming councillors will agree on urgent action. Housing is a fundamental human right but increasingly a struggle in our beautiful shire.

Cathy Griff

Hear Well for Christmas

You're invited!
Join us on **10 December 2021** at the **Narooma Golf Club** from **10.30am - 12.30pm** and learn about the latest hearing aids and tinnitus reduction technology.

OPEN DAY includes:

- **Tinnitus** awareness and management techniques
- 30 min hearing aid trial for the first five bookings
- Coffee and cake from the bistro
- Special open day only offer

Spaces are limited and bookings are required.

Bookings before 6 December will also receive a free hearing assessment.

For further details, please call 0411 839 414

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HEAR WELL
LIVE WELL





Home Sweet Home – or not

A home, even if very humble, offers stability, comfort, security and a space to plan a future. Affordable housing reinforces equality, health standards, social coherence and mobility together with personal well-being. A vastly different notion is a house as a purely financial investment, a tradable commodity and generator of wealth. In a country that espouses democratic fairness, a home is a human right from which the whole society benefits. In recent decades home ownership has become a marker of social division.

Relative to the median income, house prices are the highest in three decades resulting in the lowest level of home ownership since the 1947 census. Nine trillion dollars are tied up in housing – which is three times that held in superannuation. There is a rapidly growing gap between haves and have-nots due to soaring house prices. House prices flow into rising rents leading to bidding wars above the asking price.

Classic explanations for the housing crisis refer to a shortage of housing stock, high demand and low interest rates and the consequent low cost of debt. Yet addressing supply of housing by building does not necessarily correlate to lower house prices when the decision to build is motivated by maximising investor profit.

Governments' ideology is another cause of non-affordable housing. The role and responsibility of democratic government is to ensure the well-being of its citizens – yet, in the last four decades, governments' focus has become the market as successive governments have been captured by the neoliberal ideology of privatisation, deregulation, so-called 'small government' and individualisation, rather than serving the public good via the wise, strategic allocation of the commonwealth. The rhetoric that the market will sort things out is an obvious nonsense, as is

the notion of government non-intervention being desirable. The often-repeated claim that the private sector is more efficient than the public sector is not backed by research evidence.

Only governments can legislate to ensure the well-being of all. Monetary intervention by governments in housing peaked in 1966 under the Liberal-Country Party Coalition led by Menzies with a government-based housing supply to ensure citizens were adequately housed. A system of state and federal-owned banks gave low, fixed interest rate loans for primary housing, but not for investment. Then banks were privatised so the profit motive became dominant, the barrier between savings and investment banks was dissolved in the name of reform and previous opportunities, albeit rights, declined and now younger generations are seriously disadvantaged. This inter-generational inequality is reinforced with policies selectively supporting wealth consolidation via negative gearing and declining Capital Gains Tax. Throw in franking credits dispersing public money then wealth maintenance, social division and intergenerational theft become entrenched.

Australia has huge household debt tied to loans, mortgages and rent that takes 40–50% of income. This level of debt could destabilise the economy, particularly after no real wage increases in the past fifteen years. It is difficult for people on lower or even middle incomes to borrow to purchase a home, especially in cities and coastal regions. This is exacerbated by extensive casualisation of the workforce and use of short-term contracts that have become common even in sectors that were once considered secure like education. First home-buyer grants have served to push up house prices and so become a seller's advantage.

In the Bega Valley Shire, housing affordability has hit crisis levels. After five years of dedicated work by Councillor Cathy Griff, Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) has just released a Draft Affordable Housing Strategy. The data shows that 19% of houses in BVS are used intermittently or for short-term rental only – this is twice the rate for the rest of NSW. While many are desperately looking for housing, 1 in 5 houses are empty. Only 19% of occupied homes are privately rented, compared with 27% for NSW. The lack of available housing affects not only the homeless and renters but people who are offered jobs in the region but who then cannot find accommodation. Data indicates that sufficient adequate housing for renters is unlikely to be met through the private market.

Comment on the BVSC's Draft Affordable Housing Strategy is being sought – contribute your thoughts on the *Have Your Say* page on the Council website up to 6 February 2022. Perhaps the Eurobodalla Shire Council will emulate this excellent initiative.

So, where do other solutions lie? Federal and State governments need to re-engage with their basic responsibilities to citizens with the provision of social housing, re-regulation of some banking practices and direct financial structures to enable affordable housing loans. Councils can, and some are, adjusting regulations, where appropriate, that will allow multiple occupancy, granny flats, land allocation changes, rezoning and strategic partnerships. Community banks and not-for-profit lenders direct the millions from loan repayments into the communities they serve. Care of each other would go a long way to ensuring our communities have adequate secure housing and thus strengthen our social ecology.

Dr Rosemary Beaumont

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 & 28th December for holiday shopping.
 Donations in good condition accepted
 Contact: Vanessa 0408 177 131



Artificial Nesting Hollows Group – intention turns to action

The Artificial Nesting Hollows Group (part of Dignams Creek Community Group Inc) has been steadily making progress with nesting box design and production ever since COVID-19 restrictions on group work eased.

With thanks to the Bower Bird Op Shop and BVSC grants we've purchased many of the materials needed to implement the first phase of the project (the ply, hardware, camera and pole for monitoring etc).

Nick and Mark designed a hexagonal pattern for the artificial hollows that not only meets recommended specifications for nesting for each of the species we are targeting, but also provides for extra strength and more efficient use of the materials we are working with. Essentially, the boxes are incredibly strong as the panels gain strength under compression and Didi is ensuring that the few off-cuts left are being used to make small boxes for micro bats, essentially this means we aren't wasting any ply. We are keen to



Didi, Nick, Mark and Jed measuring depth for floor mulch

share the design with other groups because longevity of nesting box and zero waste are something to strive for.

As well as designing and making the hollows we've been researching and learning. We've had a Zoom education session with the Serpentine Jarrahdale Landcare group who have been working to increase nesting hollows for Carnaby's black cockatoos in WA. They shared their mistakes, what not to do and what they found has worked for them. We are planning an education session with Susan Rhind, a wildlife conservation biologist who has a special interest in hollow-nesting animals and nestboxes. We are also making links with other projects in the Eurobodalla and Bega Shires to share and learn from what is going on closer to home.

Powered along by Mark who constructed the boxes, we recently worked together to complete the finishing off jobs: sealing, installing grab points, floors etc. Angela prepared her shed that easily accommodated the materials and work stations and at the end of an enjoyable working bee we were treated to a delicious hot meal prepared by Dave.

We've identified potential sites for the nesting boxes made so far. The next job is to get the boxes up, installed and start monitoring for activity. Maggie has supplied a monitoring sheet to standardise our approach and data collection. So, after many productive meetings, we feel we are now well under way ... turning our thoughts, words and intentions into ACTION.



Angela, Kate, Mark, Jed, Martin, Didi and Maggie

Kate Gooden

Tilba Valley Winery & Ale House

closed from 20 December reopening 29 December

WHAT'S ON

Music starts at 12.00 free of charge

Sat 4 Dec	Open Mic
Sun 5 Dec	5 pm (ticketed) Benji and the Saltwater Sound System
Sun 5 Dec	The Lounge Lizards
Sat 11 Dec	Mark Austin
Sun 12 Dec	Solo West
Sat 18 Dec	Captain Ablit & The Bluetrash Band
Sun 19 Dec	12 noon Benji Fowler
	6pm (ticketed) Daniel Champagne LIVE
Fri 31 Dec	from 12 noon NYE w/- Stick Whack
Sat 1 Jan	Ben and Cass
Sun 2 Jan	Chris McGrath
Sat 8 Jan	Tim McMahon
Sun 9 Jan	Val Moogz (aka Hannah Matysek)
Sun 16 Jan	Jessica Spahr
Tue 18 Jan	Totum
Sat 22 Jan	The Chordroys
Sun 23 Jan	Robin Simpson
Sat 29 Jan	Dave Newman
Sun 30 Jan	Baeden

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The Crossing Land Education Centre, Bermagui – summer calendar



With the weather warming and restrictions easing, the Crossing plans to make the most of summer with a number of community workshops and camps for young people planned.

Head to our website or Eventbrite page for more info about any of the workshops below. Booking essential. See you soon!

- **Making gully refuges more fire-retardant – 12 December, 13 February, 13 March and 24 April.**
A one-day, Landcare-supported workshop to encourage the succession of native gullies to become more fire-retardant over time. Includes lunch, and twenty tubestock and guards to take home to plant at your place. FILLING FAST. The Landcare-led Bushfire Recovery project has been supported by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery Program for Wildlife and their Habitat.
- **Weekend green forest break – 10-12 December**
A weekend away at no cost for fire-affected families living in temporary accommodation. Bookings through Eventbrite. Thanks to the Mumbulla Foundation for supporting this opportunity.

Suicide and mental health

A plea from a suicide loss survivor

Recently my brother took his own life. This is the second suicide to create a hole in my heart. Our father also took his own life when we were young after he could not control his drinking and our mother become bedridden with M.S.

We witnessed our mother tormented with M.S. She eventually died slowly over several days. I was 13 and my brother 16 and there was other compounding trauma that we had at this young developing age. Counselling was not placed in our path at this tender age.

I found my peace with our past but it took many years of searching in a very dark lonely place most people will thankfully never have to know. My brother never did. My brother has followed my father by leaving two children fatherless.

Most people who knew my brother really well did not even know he was mentally ill, such is the case for so many who suffer in silence. We were raised in a very 'country' way, emotions were not something boys or men were expected to express. How could we with the story we had? Alcohol become my brother's medicine and eventually his poison. Alcohol had numbed his reasoning at the time.

Sharing this opens up my vulnerability to those who know me but do not know of this recent event in my life. But I do it as an honest plea to anyone who is going through the deep dark tunnel of depression and mental illness. And if anybody has children who have had severe trauma please get them professional help. Remember children will often say they don't want or need it but, I believe, as children we did not have the tools in our emotional first aid kit to process this alone.

If you as an adult cannot process what you feel and it's overwhelming you and you feel you cannot cope, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE seek help, and continue that contact if you have already made it. If alcohol or drugs is your only way of coping with the intense waves of despair, you need more tools in your emotional first aid kit.

Much love,

Raven

- **Fire-retardant design and cool burning for young people (18-30) 14-15 May, 2022**
A fully-catered, no-cost workshop for young adults in the Triangle area 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. Thanks to the Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund for supporting this opportunity.
- **For young people**
Yrs 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.

Annette and Dean Turner



Landcare refuges workshop

Buying or Selling on the Far South Coast?



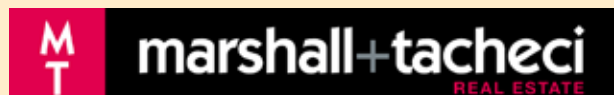
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Eurobodalla Shire Council election 4 December 2021

Voters in the Eurobodalla Shire Council local government area go to the polls on 4 December to choose their new Councillors.

You have two votes in the Council elections – one ballot paper to choose the Mayor (from seven candidates) and a separate, much larger ballot paper to choose eight Councillors (from 34 candidates including the seven mayoral candidates).

To vote for the Mayor you need to put a 1 next to your preferred candidate. Voting is optional preferential so you can also number more candidates to allocate your preferences. This means that if your preferred candidate (to whom you have given a 1) is knocked out early on in the voting, your second (or third or more ...) preference will be counted. To ensure your vote is valid – make sure you have put a 1 against your preferred candidate and, if you allocate your preferences, that you number them consecutively. Do not repeat a number or skip a number or you will render your vote invalid.

The Councillor ballot paper is a bit different as well as being much bigger. First you need to choose whether you are going to vote above or below the line. Do not do both or you risk the validity of your vote. All candidates in this year's election are either in a political party or on a group ticket – there are no ungrouped candidates.

If you decide to vote above the line you place a 1 in the box of your preferred party or group (this means you are voting for the whole group in the order that they are listed). This is now a valid vote. But you can also then number other boxes above the line 2, 3, 4 etc. to indicate your preference for the parties or groups.

If you decide to vote below the line you can vote for candidates within their groups but in the order that reflects your preference for individual candidates. You must vote for a minimum of four candidates to cast a valid vote.

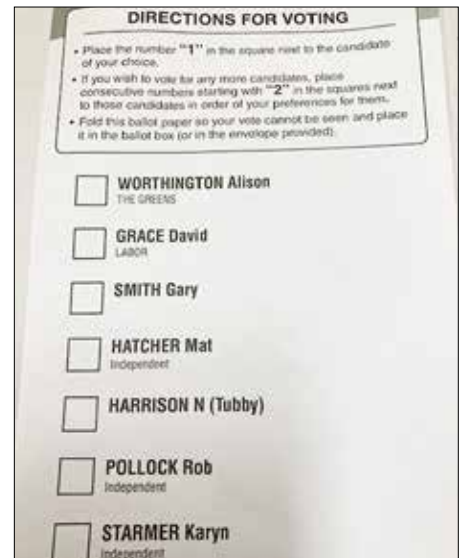
Because of COVID restrictions there will be no how-to-vote cards handed out at the polling place so it would be a good idea to research and decide how you want to vote before arriving there. The parties and groups will have corflutes at the polling places with sample ballot papers filled out for their candidates for you to scrutinise as well as QR codes that take you to a home page indicating how the group or party suggest you vote. You can take photos with your phone of examples of filled-out ballot papers to refer to or take your own how-to-vote papers in with you to guide your vote.

There are some very useful websites that can be consulted to help you make your very important decision in this critical council election:

A non-aligned group called A Better Eurobodalla (this has no connection with the group of candidates called A Better Council) has been researching the candidates and their groups and parties for over a year and has collected really good information that can be found at abettereurobodalla.org; and

The local Southern Area Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA) has collected the detailed responses (and in some cases non-responses) of the candidates to a series of questions focussing on climate change and extreme weather events. These can be accessed at shasa.com.au.

*Angela Marshall
Narooma*



At the caravan

Finally, here at the van, feeling the footprints of the sand from our walk to Durras Lake where we've come for a nature break.

Our van has stood the test of time but now it needs a coat of shine.

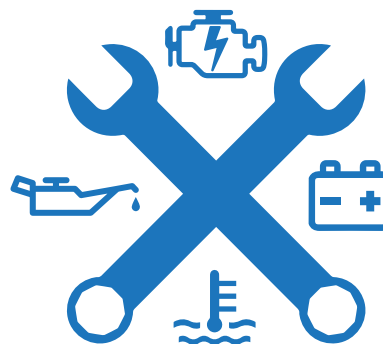
Time to move the paddleboard, rods and surfboards resting along the annex wall with memories of the kids when they weren't so tall.








Now to ponder, where to start before we travel and depart? I think we'll start in the van where our holidays all began.

Maybe next time!

Mary Murray

 We wish our valued clients, family and friends a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year.
A big thank you also for the wonderful support we have received in our first year.
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Tim, Jess and family and Rose



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Remember the village of Montreal?

Well, no, I guess you don't because, although the locality of Montreal remained with us until the late 1960s or early '70s (before Council simply took the signs down!), it was renamed Wallaga Lake because that's its location.

An overnight town! We now remember it (with a bit of help) as the village that sprang up following the discovery of gold on the beach near Camel Rock in September 1880 – that gold extended the length of the beach.

Then the population of Montreal was just over 2000, about the same as Bermagui today, and the cry was GOLD! Today, the area where so much of the action finished up in the four years of the gold rush that followed, is protected as a 'Goldfield Reserve' (of some note!) and the cry is HISTORY! – for that history is such an important part of the development of the town of Bermagui.

Then, the wealth of the place was evident! Today the wealth is not quite so clear but

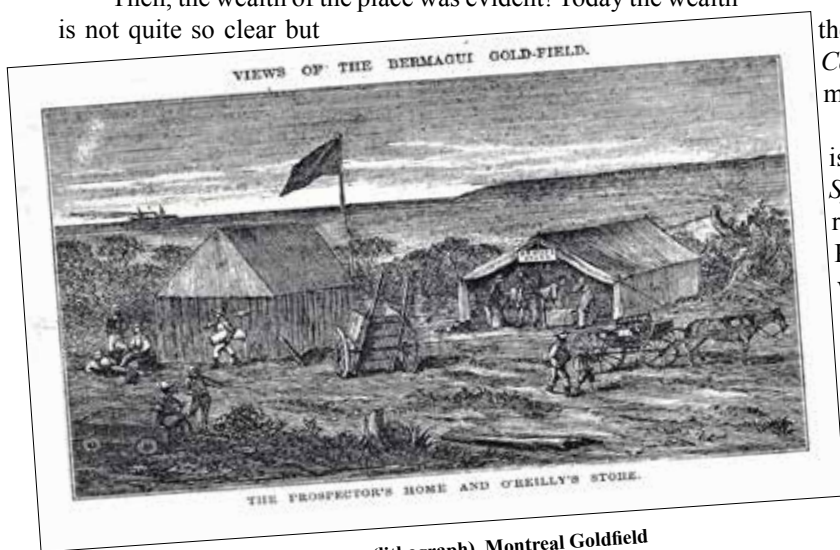
thanks to a growing team of dedicated volunteers the history is being preserved and shared with everyone from locals to visitors who need to understand more of how this area developed and what it was like 'back in those early days'.

Today, volunteers serve as trained guides (the storytellers who engage the visitors); researchers who gradually put together the history, because Montreal sits at the hub of the Goldrush Trail from Batemans Bay to the Victorian border; amateur (and trained) naturalists who identify and direct the preservation of plant and animal species that have repopulated the area; musicians to play and sing the songs of those heady days; and the volunteers who serve so importantly as managers of the reclaimed and revegetated native bushland of 140 years ago. You could say it's a bit of a volunteer's mecca.

And the near future? We launch the digital magic of the *Sounds and Voices of Montreal* and then, soon after, *The Community BioBlitz of Montreal Goldfield*. Need to know more? Come and have a yarn with us.

The accompanying lithograph of the Bermagui goldfield is from the sketchbook of an unknown reporter from *The Sydney Herald* who was sent down to report on the new gold rush happening on the long beach north of the Bermagui River. He arrived three weeks after the rush started and the vantage point of his sketch would have been a few metres south of what is now Fairhaven Way. In the background is a steamer from which optimistic miners were rowed ashore near the mouth of the river as the weather permitted as there wasn't a wharf there for a few more years.

Chris Franks



O'Reilly's Store (lithograph), Montreal Goldfield

A healthy work-life balance

We are often caught up in our daily routine with the demands of work, family and friends and forget to make time to de-stress and look after ourselves. Long-term stress can be detrimental to our health because it compromises the immune system, which can lead to illness. In order to stay fit we need to eat well, exercise regularly and let go of ongoing concerns and constant worry.

Exercise stretches both the body and the brain and enables us to de-stress and clear our minds. It increases circulation and enhances mood by releasing endorphins, the feel-good hormones, that boost positivity, relaxation and motivation. Recent studies have found that long walks in nature for a minimum of 45 minutes emulate meditation and restore our true sense of self and belonging.

Meditation can be short and sweet and become a part of your busy life. Simply find a quiet place to sit where you won't be disturbed and close your eyes. Sit up straight and take a few deep breaths, this will reduce your heart rate. Just three minutes is all it takes to stop for a moment, relax and regenerate your energy. *HeadSpace* is a free app that offers a seven-day free trial. Day one is a three-minute meditation that introduces you to the concept of meditation with a voice-guided breathing exercise. There are many types of meditation out there and it may take some exploration to find the one that works best for you.

If you would like further assistance call 0410 460 688.

Kathy Stokes
Naturopath and nutritionist

MARINE RESCUE BERMAGUI OPEN DAY & FUNDRAISER
Sunday 5th December 11am - 3pm
Bermagui Fishermans Wharf & Bermagui Country Club

 <p>BERMAGUI WHARF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Base Tours • Rescue Vessel Tours 	 <p>BERMAGUI COUNTRY CLUB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumping castle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sausage Sizzle • Jet Ski • Life raft • MR Information Trailer • Raffle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical Entertainment • Bermagui Ukuleles 11 - 1 pm • Klaus Tietz 1 - 4pm • Food available from The Terrace • Raffle
<p>Gold Coin Donation</p>	<p>Gold Coin Donation</p>

Marine Rescue supports Reboot in Bermagui and recognises the Bermagui Country Club for their ongoing support.

Summer at the Bega Valley Shire libraries

Summer is almost here and Bega Valley Shire Council's libraries have a program full of great activities lined up for the holidays.

Activities include the Summer Reading Club for kids, children's art, literacy and STEM activities, author events and an online Indyreads Summer Book Club for all ages.

'The always popular kids' Summer Reading Club is on at all our libraries, from 1 December to 31 January 2022,' Council's Library Services Coordinator, Megan Jordan-Jones said. 'In keeping with this year's theme – Uncover and Discover – young people need to read five books to uncover a secret code to book tickets to a free movie screening of *Scoob* in the library. And, if you read more than five books, there are more prizes on offer.

'Our reading programs are all about encouraging children and adults to discover great authors, wonderful tales and develop a love of reading. The Book Bingo Challenge for adults will be run again this year and we are looking forward to seeing lots of grown-ups compete for a wonderful prize of a dinner for two at a restaurant of their choice.

'Author events on our summer program include children's author, Toni Cary, previewing her latest book *Fantazma's Dream*, and Greg Bartlett and John Hughes will speak about their new books at two separate events.

'Other activities include ancestry workshops for adults, a children's poetry writing workshop with poet Kai Jensen and lessons in tool sharpening with the Bega Repair Café crew.'

Pick up a summer program brochure from any one of our libraries or read all the details on the Bega Valley Shire Library website: <https://library.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/>

Event bookings can be made online or by calling the Bega Valley Shire Library on 02 6499 2127.

Vanita Wahl



We'll be back in force in 2022

As we finish our Term 4 classes this week it is time to look to 2022. U3A Bermagui and District will be offering both face-to-face and Zoom conference classes next year. Many of us are eager to get back to the social connections offered through our face-to-face classes so this return to 'normal' is exciting for current members and, hopefully, will entice many new members.

We already have some super classes confirmed for Term 1 next year so look out for U3A's article in the February edition of *The Triangle* or check our website at <https://bermagui.u3anet.org.au> towards the end of January for full program details.

To the producers of *The Triangle* and their many readers we offer our best wishes for a happy and safe summer season and hope that many are at last able to share some time with family and friends.

Ruth Perrett, President

My story of school

School wasn't working out. I got bullied a lot. So I decided to try home schooling. At first it was weird because I didn't catch a bus, I didn't go to class and I didn't wear a uniform. When I home school the subjects are fun and interesting and I like how I'm not teased for getting things wrong. Everyone makes mistakes.

Maths is great, my dad and I found an online website to use and we just sit down with a hot drink and work through the exercises.

My favourite thing out of all the subjects is definitely creative arts, I go to dancing four times a week which is so fun. If I went to regular school I would only be able to do two of those four classes. There is a home school group that I go to once a week, we meet at different places, sometimes at the skate park or the river. I go to see my friends and we have a great time.

My home schooling plan is not strictly 9.00 till 3.00. I do maths and then work on my own projects, yesterday I finished a dress I had been making.

It does get a little lonely at times just because I don't have a whole load of kids around me but my friends are just up the road so I can always walk up and see them.

I've also noticed I have a lot more adult friends than kid friends, since home schooling. I guess that is because I am around when people drop in.

On the whole I absolutely love home schooling and have a great time.

Rose Thompson



Naomi Lewis

'I told you we should offer a click and collect option this year!'



Rose, 9 (year 5) at work

Who doesn't love pizza?

PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA! Sita's, the traveling wood-fired pizza trailer (formerly known as Ante's Pizza or Pizza On Fire), is back with new owners and a fresh new look. Harry and Jasmin, a vibrant young couple, have taken on this iconic business with the new name Sita's (pronounced SEE-TAHS) Pizza. Sita is, appropriately, the goddess of nourishment and, coincidentally, Jas's middle name! The perfect omen for what they plan to do.

Harry and Jas met in Melbourne and have shared a love of eating and creating beautiful and fresh diverse food. Jas has come home to Coolagalite and Harry has happily followed. Having been instrumental in setting up a much-loved and progressive kitchen range for the iconic business Terra Madre, Jas has had many years of creating culinary delights. This dynamic couple feels so honoured to continue to serve the community.

While all the old favourites will remain on the menu, there are also a few surprises in store with some exciting new options to bring your palate to life. Beautiful fresh salads will also be available.

Harry and Jas are passionate about using fresh, local ingredients and are committed to sourcing the best produce, which also includes produce from their already thriving vegetable garden.

This summer is already promising to be a busy one for Sita's Pizza, with the caravan parks all lined up and a few other exciting gigs on the horizon. Full schedule on page 19.

Keep your eyes peeled for the big red and white Sita's truck – coming to you this summer.



Harry Smyth

Travelling wood-fired pizza is back!

Narooma Rotary initiates Prostate Cancer Support Group



A new Prostate Cancer Support Group for the far south coast will meet at Narooma Men's Shed on the first Tuesday each month from 7 December between 6.30 and 8.30 pm.

It is a Narooma Rotary initiative, affiliated with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, and draws on the experience of the Rotary Club of Young.

'The idea is to support individuals and families impacted by prostate cancer,'

said Narooma Rotary President Andrew Lawson. 'Prostate cancer has directly affected key members of our group who would have benefited enormously from such a group at the time.'

The far south coast has a higher number of prostate cancer sufferers than the national average due to its age demographic but, until now, the closest support groups have been at Ulladulla and Yass. The new group aims to support people from Batemans Bay to Eden.

Braveheart Healthcare (Lighthouse Surgery and Bermagui Medical Centre) has officially aligned with the new Support Group. Braveheart's Dr Gundi Muller-

Grotjan said prostate cancer is quite common. 'But, generally, people don't want to talk about it, yet it needs to be talked about. A support group is a great way to get people to do that to help make them more aware,' she said. 'Generally after diagnosis and initial treatment there has been little follow up and support for patients, their partners and families. This group will go a long way to assist in that.'

For this project, Narooma Rotary has also aligned with Narooma Men's Shed where the meetings will be held. The Shed is located at 41A Barker Parade, Narooma.

Laurelle Pacey



Key members of Narooma Prostate Cancer Support Group: From left – Andrew Lawson, President, with Mike Young and Julie Hartley from Narooma Rotary; Dr Gundi Muller-Grotjan of Braveheart Healthcare; Bernie Perrett and Geoff Broadfoot of the Narooma Men's Shed.



Well, the end of another year is upon us and, what can I say, it's been a hard one for all of us in many different ways. But I think that's enough said about that.

It's time to move on to a new year and hope that 2022 will be kinder to everyone, those who are suffering ill health will get some comfort, those who are still waiting for 'a place to call their own' find secure housing (see articles in this edition on housing), those who are missing families far away may hope to see them soon ... And that there are no evacuations on New Year's Eve this time around!

People will start arriving soon for their summer holidays, holiday accommodation will start filling up and businesses will be buzzing. That is what it is like living in a popular holiday destination – I can enjoy peace for most of the year and appreciate that others want to share this coastal idyll in the sunny months. May we all respect one another.

I would also like to mention that Carolyne Banados has resigned from The Triangle. Former Bermi Banterer, very capable Secretary, she has been a hard worker for the paper for over fifteen years and will be much missed. She won't be entirely hanging up her pen – watch out for future articles appearing in The Triangle. And you will see her around, always busy – she is volunteering as a guide for the Montreal Goldfields and will be popping up around town with her ukelele I am sure. Thanks Carolyne from all of us.

*Photo credits and text:
Georgina Adamson*



There's a whole lot of love growing down on this farm. Well done on being the only stall standing recently on a rainy Thursday market day. Despite the weather there was a queue for their lush produce picked that morning. Thanks Taylor and Joel.



Those nifty gals, Angela Moore (left) and Sam Davis (right), at Strangers in Paradise recently celebrated ten years in business. Well done and keep it coming – a happy addition to Bermagui shopping strip.

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MONTREAL GOLDFIELD
1880 - 1883



Building resilience at Bermagui Preschool

What a strange year (nearly two years) we have lived through! We have had to face a multitude of challenges and changes, supporting our children, families, colleagues and the broader community. During a time when many have struggled to keep their heads above water, Bermagui Preschool has implemented many activities, experiences and initiatives, using these challenges to help foster and build resilience. Here is an overview of some of the things we have learnt and some of the projects we have worked on with our children and families.

During lockdown our educators and teachers ensured collaborative relationships with families were extended to those isolating at home via our online Preschool, video chats and take-home packs. Children were able to enjoy the same activities they would have loved at Preschool and the families were thankful for the resources and ideas to support their children's creativity and learning. At home the children also enjoyed daily story time and loved to see their teachers' familiar faces. Everyone was included and made to feel a part of the continuing story.

When the children from Bermagui Preschool returned from lockdown they worked together to create a beautiful mural. It shows their Preschool surrounded by their houses. While each child drew, we acknowledged that lockdown was very tricky but the children also shared some of the things they liked about lockdown. Many of our families had shared their frustrations with us, but most of the children had positive stories to share. Children loved that they got to spend more time with their parents who usually worked away from home, many loved baking and cooking with their parents, others loved going for long walks with their families, building a go-cart, fishing ... Hopefully these are the memories of COVID our children hold. This expression through art was a great opportunity to reframe challenges and think from a positive perspective, building our children's resilience.

At Bermagui Preschool we were exceptionally lucky to find a child and family psychologist who was able to visit our Preschool on a regular basis to support our children, families and staff.

A big thank you to all the children, families, educators, teachers and members of the broader community who have helped to keep our community connected and strong.

Narelle Myers



Mural by children of their homes in relation to the Preschool.



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Bermagui Public School Report

Here we are. Term 4, December 2021. A year that has been a mental rollercoaster. Just when we thought that nothing could be worse than 2020, uhhh ... well ... we were wrong. I reviewed this year and remembered the tough times we went through. But through all of this, our teachers led the way, and home learning was made an enjoyable, and rewarding, experience due to their efforts. I speak for every student when I say, thank you.

Our school received a certificate of excellence from the Department of Education presented to Ava B (Prime Minister), and Drew (Deputy Prime Minister) for their, and every student's, admirable leadership throughout this year. Mr. Constable is very proud of the persistent, hard-working students and staff.

This, and last, term, students have been making a relentless effort to improve their attendance and make sure all absences

are explained. Due to the period of time learning from home, we have only just now been able to give students in Years 3-6 their deserved reward. All four classes were challenged to beat 90% classroom attendance and all classes were successful. The winning class was 3/4S. As the result of winning, they voted to have a party day, which was held in Week 5. Students wore miscellaneous clothing, watched a movie, then got hot chips and gelati. Congratulations to all students who competed – and especially to 3/4S!

On behalf of the Year 6 class of 2021, I can assure you that mixed with the right amount of excitement and uncertainty, we are looking forward to soaring into High School in 2022.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of being your Bermagui Public School reporter, and I hope to communicate with *The Triangle* in my years in High School

as well. So, as your Bermagui Reporter, thank you again, and goodbye.

Archie Schwarz
Minister of Communication,
Bermagui Public School

Thanks so much, Archie, Minister for Communication

The Triangle team salutes you and wishes you well in the coming years. You have been an informative and diligent correspondent – and you have made sure your copy reached us well before each month's deadline. We look forward to receiving more newsy articles from you as you progress through high school!



Ava B (Prime Minister), Brendan Constable (Principal) and Drew (Deputy Prime Minister) receive a certificate of excellence from the Department of Education.

Paying it forward

It turns out there are still good Samaritans in the world.

In early November a member of the public turned up at the Marine Rescue base and, in a very excited way, announced that he had organised for the MR Bermagui to receive brand new dock fenders – for free! Oh yeah? A fender is a very useful piece of padding that goes around the boat berth, providing protection to the boat, but had always been left off the 'essential things to have' list.

John Jennings, a self-described 'old boat bum' who owns the sailing vessel *Jodiegirl*, often drops in for a chat at the base about boats or the weather, so he wasn't immediately taken seriously. The MR members just nodded and smiled.

Then he proceeded to show a chain of emails to and from marine equipment suppliers ... and he wasn't crazy and it wasn't dodgy!

John had decided we could benefit from these fenders and had approached a recognised supplier asking that they donate some to support MR Bermagui. To his own surprise as well, he got a positive response back almost immediately from Ross Cooney, director of ProFender Australia. He measured the MR berth, sent off the specifications and they are making them up and transporting them to Bermagui – for free!

Some days just go right and this certainly was one of those days for MR Bermagui.

MR Bermagui are very thankful to John and appreciative that members of the public are willing to step up, help out and support their service.

Deb Worgan



Bermagui Emergency Guide

An emergency guide for Bermagui was recently launched in the Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club rooms at the Country Club. The Guide, that will be hand distributed to every residential home in Bermagui, Wallaga Lake, Barragga Bay and Murrah areas, comes as a response to the disastrous events of the 2019-2020 fires when the fires threatened Bermagui and people became aware of the importance of being properly prepared.

The Bermagui Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism drove the project and facilitated a number of community meetings raising issues about preparedness in the event of an emergency – be it fire, flood, severe storm or tsunami.

The meeting was MC'd by Lewis Gaha from the Bermagui Rural Fire Brigade who outlined the three most important elements underlying the Guide – understand your risk; create a plan; and put that plan into action in the event of an emergency.

John Mills, Unit Coordinator of the Bermagui SES, spoke in support of the Guide and commended the Chamber for the initiative. Funding to produce the Guide was sought from various bodies: \$10,000 from the Australian Mutuals Foundation (AMF), \$8,000 from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and \$2,000 from Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC).

Jeanette Neilson, Secretary of the Chamber, explained that the Guide was designed with loose-leaf pages, so that material can be kept up to date, and plastic pockets were placed inside the cover where important personal documents, insurance papers etc can be kept safely in one place.

Allan Douch, who has had over forty years experience in State Forestry, showed maps and talked about his Bermagui Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Protection Plan.

The Chamber would like to thank all community members who have assisted with production and collation of the material in the folders. At the time of publication it is hoped the distribution of this folder will be well underway. If you would like to be involved in the dissemination of this valuable resource, please contact Christine Bimson at the Bermagui Visitor Information Centre (BVIC) on 6493 3054 or Janette Neilson on 0448 015 558.

Georgina Adamson in consultation with Christine Bimson



Theo Zantiotis (NSW Ambulance Service), Lewis Gaha (RFS), John Mills (SES), Allan Douch, Christine Bimson (BVIC) and Jeanette Neilson

Photo Credit: Krysta St Claire

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Moodji Garden News. Walawaani all.

Like most things this year, Moodji's progress over the past year has not gone to plan. Restrictions and mandates, changing weather patterns and fluctuating availability of help has all meant 'management mayhem' despite which the patch is, in fact, looking mighty fine.

Over winter, a group of about ten have managed to prep, propagate and plant out 70% of the market beds and prep for melon and pumpkin beds.

The coops have had a make-over and the hens are ruling the roost, the bees are buzzing, the berry patch has tripled in size and there are bunches of bananas ready for the dropping, the front fence has been planted out with an array of flowering colours and a curb-side harvest table is about to be built. With the strawberry patch producing, it's great to hear that the pre-schoolers are allowed over the fence again.

Moodji Garden is adapting operations and building resilience into how we do things in light of climate change and diversity of conditions.

Moodji Gardens was proud to provide a virtual tour for the Community Early Learning Australian Resilience Project and has been invited to contribute to a Gardens Masterclass for Southern and Murrumbidgee Health Services.

The Moodji story continues to move forward, forging partnerships with neighbouring preschools, indigenous groups and local businesses, and planning an exciting new program in 2022, including the return of Costa, our patron, and another Long Table Dinner.

There is far too much to include in this article but to see future activities and view Moodji photo highlights go to www.facebook.com/eardirpermaculture.

Or call Dan on 0427 746 980.

To get your hands dirty and be involved come along to the Grub Club on Thursdays from 9.30 am – 3 pm (great morning tea and coffee) or Saturdays 10 am – 12 pm.

Many thanks to the following for their contribution to Moodji – we couldn't do without your help:

Hurst Engineering and Transformer Earthwork; Rototill hire from the Triangle tool library; and Ocean to Earth for coffee grounds and donations. Funding support from BUPA and CommonsBank is much appreciated. And also thanks to the NSW Division of Planning, Industry and Environment for their support.

Dan the Gardener



Pre-schoolers in the garden

Guidelines for caring for the beaches around Bermagui

1. Please place all litter in bins or take it home with you. This includes cigarette butts, drink containers, hooks and fishing line. Litter is unsightly and dangerous. It may injure beach users or wildlife. Street litter can reach the beach via stormwater drains at Horseshoe Bay and the Harbour.

2. Please use and stay on designated access ways and avoid walking across vegetated dunes. This minimises damage to plants and disturbance to shorebird and animal habitat. Stable dunes are more resistant to erosion. Native vegetation is protected.

3. Do not light fires on beaches or in dunes. Fires produce embers that remain very hot, even when buried in the sand, which can cause serious burns to unsuspecting people or animals, and also creates the risk of wildfire. Irreplaceable habitat is lost when firewood is gathered from beach areas.

4. Remember all Bermagui beaches are vehicle free to protect people and habitat.

5. Dogs must be on leashes at all times unless the beach is signposted as a 'leash free area', such as Beares and sections of Haywards beaches. Dogs are banned from some beaches and coast walk sections for health reasons and/or to protect wildlife habitat, so please check with Bega Valley Shire Council. No dogs are allowed on National Park beaches. Always remove animal waste out of consideration for other beach users.

6. Properties adjacent to beach reserves should be carefully maintained to prevent garden plants escaping into the dunes. Dumping of garden refuse is prohibited. This helps stop weeds growing on the dunes at the expense of native plants and avoids costly weed controls.

The beaches in and around Bermagui, and their dunes, are among our most important natural assets. Please ensure they are cared for properly.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Joynes

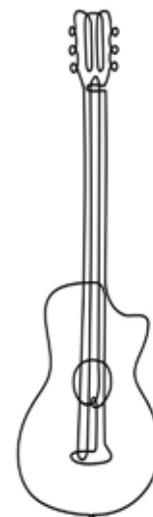
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1/1	SAT	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	REFLECTIONS (BERMAGUI)
2/1	SUN	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	INGENIA (OCEAN LAKE)
4/1	TUES	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	NAROOMA EASTS
5/1	WED	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	REGATTA POINT
7/1	FRI	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	MYSTERY BAY CAMPGROUND
8/1	SAT	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	REFLECTIONS (BERMAGUI)
9/1	SUN	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	INGENIA (OCEAN LAKE)
11/1	TUES	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	NAROOMA EASTS
12/1	WED	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	REGATTA POINT
14/1	FRI	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	MYSTERY BAY CAMPGROUND
15/1	SAT	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	REFLECTIONS (BERMAGUI)
16/1	SUN	5 ^{PM} -8 ^{PM}	INGENIA (OCEAN LAKE)

****More dates to be announced****

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Another year comes to an end. Seems like it snuck past us as we sheltered away from the world. And I'm not sure we're the same as we were! Putting together this Christmas *Triangle*, it's markedly different from Decembers past. Back in the day, there was Santa at the Hall and New Year's Eve with a band. There was light up Cobargo and plenty of general good cheer and tinsel around and about. This year, I'm struggling to find much to say!

The Tennis Club is bucking the trend and putting on an Open Day on Sunday 12 December. There will be a free BBQ with friends and neighbours. It will start at 12 noon, so feel free to come along and enjoy the day, maybe hit a few balls around, see the new shipping container and the other changes that have been made around the courts.

The AGM for the Quaama Progress Association Inc (QPA) was held on 23 October. The new committee is Glennda Heino President, Diana Holmes Vice-President, Ali Taylor Treasurer, Veronica Abbott Secretary and Caroline Long, Don Firth and Richard Parker all committee members. The current work of the QPA is focused on a variety of grants for which it has provided auspice and this will be expanded at a planning meeting and dinner in mid-December. News about new QPA happenings will be communicated via the Quaama Community Noticeboard on Facebook, the Quaama community email list and notices posted on the noticeboard at the Quaama Store so keep an eye out. New members are always welcome and you can join by contacting the QPA via email quaamaqpa@gmail.com or speak with one of the members listed above.

The Quaama School of Arts Hall committee continues to work on their list of projects to renovate and repair the hall. A grant has been secured from St Vincent de Paul to refurbish the supper room that includes insulating and lining the ceiling, installing a floating floor and split-system air conditioning. Then it'll get a lick of paint. Once complete, the supper room will be a much more comfortable and welcoming space for smaller gatherings. The completion of

the supper room will be celebrated with a short community art exhibition hosted by the committee. Other projects funded by the hall's maintenance funds and approved by Council include the repair of the leaking roof over the internal stairs, a portion of the cost of replacing all the external doors and the construction of an awning over the eastern doors of the supper room and kitchen. The awning will protect the new doors from the weather

and provide a useful little undercover space. If you like being involved in projects like these or would love to help out with other hall committee work, please email quaamahallbookings@gmail.com to find out how or drop in on a Wednesday to have a chat.

Yes, the drop-in days at the Quaama Renewal Centre continue. Come and enjoy a cuppa and the company of neighbours and friends every Wednesday throughout the holidays. All are welcome.

The Quaama Public School put on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* as their end of year play. In keeping with the general theme of 2021, it was only for parents to keep numbers down to COVID-acceptable levels. From what we hear, the kids did a great job. And, as part of their weekly Japanese lessons, the students learned how to eat with chopsticks! I'm sure there were plenty of laughs at school that day as well as plenty to clean up.

There are some whispers happening around the Quaama church site. Perhaps there could be something coming? Something inclusive?

Something good? It's early days so not much to say yet but I'll keep you posted as things evolve. In the meanwhile ... a Christmas Eve service will be held at the Quaama Hall from 6 pm so come along, sing Christmas carols and enjoy the company of the Anglican congregation in celebrating the birth of Christ right here in our village.

From all of us at *The Triangle*, we wish you a peaceful, joyful and relaxed holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope you all take care and stay well and we'll connect again in the February edition.



Hit a ball or two and enjoy a free BBQ at the Tennis Club's Open Day on 12 December.



Quaama School kids learn how to eat with chopsticks as part of their weekly Japanese lessons





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Another year nearly over – with many smiles and sighs of relief as we all look forward to seeing those close to us - family and friends. It's been an epic two years with challenges on all fronts. For many of us our communities have been at the core with support, generosity, care, action, friendship, planning, steadfastness and just being there. As we move into the festive season and the relaxation of COVID restrictions, here's hoping that this is a special time as we all get together. Challenges will always be part of our lives, but let's take a moment to celebrate getting to this point, spare a thought for those around us who are dealing with personal matters and reflect on ways and actions to make our world a kinder, safer, secure and sustainable place. We all have a part to play in this and now, more than ever, there is some urgency and, as opportunities occur, a chance to act. All the best for Christmas and the New Year – may it be a happy, healthy and safe time for family and friends, however you choose to spend it. Thank you for being part of our special Triangle area.

News from Wallaga Lake Village

Amanda Foster is excited about the programs and activities that are happening at Wallaga Lake, all aimed at supporting her community, providing opportunities and making the community resilient and a good place to live. As the Administration Officer for the Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), Amanda is in the ideal position to play a key role in working with the community, along with CEO, Dianne McVeity, and the Merrimans LALC Board.

Looking after and maintaining the existing infrastructure and facilities at Wallaga Lake is an important aspect of the current programs and activities. Teams of young people are currently involved in building construction and repairs as well as road maintenance including building an emergency access road. Supported by experienced tradespeople, these teams are

being employed to do major works and at the same time learn valuable practical skills. The Community Hall has benefitted with new timber decking, an upgrade to the toilets and a coat of paint. The emphasis in these programs is to build skills, provide employment and develop community resilience and self-reliance. With the help of some off-site skilled workers, including R and C Civil Group, an Indigenous organisation that works with First Nations peoples on the South Coast, the young people of Wallaga Lake will be trained to undertake maintenance and repairs to the Wallaga Lake Village houses.



Amanda Foster, Administration Officer, Merrimans LALC



Wallaga Lake construction team



Tilba Bites

The excellent Umbarra Centre, adjacent to the Wallaga Lake Village, has also received an upgrade and now boasts a kitchen with stainless steel benches and fittings and a ready-to-go coffee machine. With improved internet access, the centre is ideal for an internet cafe that can be used for Zoom meetings and other community functions. Together with the outdoor BBQ area and the centre facilities, this space has great potential for community use for a range of events. It is planned to open the centre in the near future.

Merrimans LALC is currently setting up a community pantry in conjunction with the OzHarvest program at the LALC office. Already equipped with a huge fridge/

freezer, a chest freezer and shelving, the pantry will soon be open to support the community. The pantry, as well as the improved internet access at the LALC office, the Community Outreach Centre, the Community Hall and Umbarra has been facilitated through Aboriginal Affairs COVID funding.

The Wallaga Lake Cemetery has also benefitted from some recent work. With a stunning location the Cemetery looks over Wallaga Lake towards the bridge and Murunna Point. Now with new walkways and seating placed to take full advantage of the location, it is a special place to contemplate the lives of the elders who are remembered on the Wall of Names.



Wallaga Lake Cemetery

Corkhill Corner Ceramics



Heather Butcher and Jo Weire,
Corkhill Corner Ceramics

Jo Weire is putting the space of the former Apma Gallery on the corner of Corkhill Drive and Latimers Lane to good use. As a mother with very young children, Jo found herself in a new community at Port Stephens. By chance, she started attending the Port Stephens Community Arts Centre that has a very well equipped pottery setup – this ignited her creative spirit and, with encouragement ... one of those involved, her skills developed. She moved to Central Tilba, with husband Chris and children Lilah and Tommy, and found herself with an empty and suitable space. This plus the events of the last two years, her friendship with Heather Butcher and

lots of support from friends and family have all propelled Jo to where she is today. With Heather as her enthusiastic and willing accomplice who is also getting the creative bug, Jo now has a range of appealing glazed ceramics, made in her new electric kiln. The range includes mugs, small goblets, incense holders and small plates with more items planned using the pottery wheel. Many of the items are Tilba-centric, depicting the landscape and Jersey cows, while others have intriguing lace patterns imprinted on them. Selected items are available at Tilba Real Dairy and there are plans to do workshops in the future. Jo can be contacted through corkhillcorner@gmail.com or on Instagram @ Corkhill Corner Ceramics.

Celebrating Halloween

As we emerged out of stay-at-home lockdown, Claire Leonard and Jess Hone from the General Store seized an opportunity to get the community together. And Halloween, on 31 October was just the occasion – particularly good for the local kids to get scarily dressed up and have a laugh! With the support of Tilba Real Dairy that supplied appropriately themed milkshakes – a choice of monster vomit, blood or mud! – and Tilba Sweet Spot that supplied lolly packs and treat and treasure hunt prizes, the 30 or so kids had the time of their lives. Word has it that the adults did too!

Christmas Cheer at the General Store

Claire and John invite the community to share Christmas cheer together on Friday, 17 December at 5 pm. All welcome. Keep an eye out at the General Store for details

School News

Remembrance Day commemoration this year coincided with the first whole school assembly for Term 4. Year 6, who hosted the celebration, were outstanding and led the school with confidence and respect, demonstrating a rich understanding of the importance of this occasion.

November and December are busy months as the school year heads to its completion on 16 December. Kindergarten 2022 transition to school held three days in November where the children who attended developed an understanding of the importance of wearing a uniform and participated in classroom activities. Year 6 also participated in a transition day at Narooma High School in November. During December, Years 3–6 have an excursion to the Bournda Education Centre and Presentation Night planned for 14 December. Well done to all at the school for getting through this challenging year.



Remembrance Day at the school



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<p>Naturopath Kathy Stokes, N.D. BHS (Nat), Adv. Dip. (Nat). Naturopath & Nutritionist Accredited member of NHAA Phone: 0410 460 688 kathystokes.ntpages.com.au</p>	<p>Self Storage New complex at 6-8 Pine Dr, Bermagui Industrial Estate. Individual lock-up units, secure, owner on site long or short term. Phone Mel on 0488 143 324</p>	<p>Weed Spraying Sapphire Coast Weed Spraying Our spray units and trained staff can target your problem weed areas Phone: 0412 756 291</p>
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Central Tilba Halls news

Trash 'n' Treasure Markets are back on again! Sunday 12 December, in the Big Hall from 9.00 am through until the afternoon. Two markets are also planned for January with dates to be confirmed. All markets will operate with COVID-safe practices in place. If you are interested in having a stall, please contact Janine on 0400 992 246 for information.

Central Tilba School of Arts Trust (CTSOAT) are holding their AGM on Friday 3 December in the Small Hall at 5 pm. All community members are most welcome – come along and show your support. We would love to have some new community members providing input to the management of these beautiful heritage icons. See you there!

Halls' BLER grant update: The design for the extensions planned for the Big Hall is progressing well. Features include a commercial kitchen, large storeroom, toilets, shower and lift to improve access from the lower level meeting room at the rear of the Halls up to street level. A myriad of communications are required with surveyors, fire engineers, Building Code of Australia chaps and, of course, our very own Eurobodalla Shire Council. All this is moving along nicely thanks to the Steering Committee made up of three representatives from South Coast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA) – Stuart Absalom, Tony Lowe and Peter Phillips; and three from the CTSOAT Committee – Janine Halasz, Sally Pryor and Smilie McGill. Architect, Stephanie Chiu, is exploring options and interpreting our requirements to come up with a workable design that will be tabled to the CTSOAT committee for final approval. We are anticipating the DA will be ready for submission to Council by mid-January and hope to see work commence later next year.

Please note the Halls will still be available during the construction period and we do not anticipate any disruption to bookings. If you are interested in booking either of the Halls for a regular class, one-off function or event please contact us on tilbahalls@gmail.com.

Janine Halasz and Sally Pryor

Carols at Tilba Tilba Oval

Presented by Central Tilba
Public School P&C

Sunday, 12 December, 4.30 pm

Carols with Bev Long,
BBQ dinner,
tree decorating games
and a visit from Central Tilba
RFS and Santa.



Tilba Conversations

Declan Ralph Wood

5 January 1939 – 18 September 2021

Declan Wood (O'Leary), late of Fablewood Folly, Central Tilba and Bermagui, passed away at IRT Dalmeny on 18 September at the age of 83 years. In 1969, as a young man of 21 and studying to become a Chartered Surveyor in the UK, Declan emigrated to Australia.

Leaving during an English summer he described the four-day journey – firstly on a Comet 4 (those early planes where the wings fell off due to metal fatigue) followed by twelve hours in a Super Constellation, before arriving in Sydney.

A romantic note at this point – Declan had followed Roslyn, the girl he was to marry. But her father would not allow his daughter to marry a Catholic so Declan O'Leary changed his name by deed poll to that of his mother's family name and became Declan Wood.

He had an early successful career in real estate after completing his studies and was employed by various companies including the Glebe Estates, Jones Lang Wootan and LandCom. He married Roslyn with whom he had three daughters and they lived at Dural where he was the project manager, building a magnificent home on five acres.

Following his divorce in 1976 he met his second wife, Roz, and embarked on a stimulating but ultimately frustrating appointment as the Chief Property Officer of the NSW State Railways. He then made a successful sideways move into strata management on Sydney's northern beaches.

In 1995, a sea- and tree-change decision led to the purchase of Fablewood Folly, a small farm at Central Tilba. There they created a bed and breakfast establishment and made property improvements that saw Fablewood Folly feature in the Open Garden Scheme.

He loved playing golf at both Narooma and Bermagui and he became a director of the Narooma Golf Club. With his love of timber he became a long-time member of the Narooma Woodcrafters. Once retired, holidays were taken both in Australia and overseas. He and Roz were fortunate to have visited every continent.

He became a grandfather and several O'Leary nephews and nieces have also made Australia their home.

A full and successful life. R.I.P.

Roz Wood

CARERS "LOOK AFTER YOURSELF" (LAY) REMINDER

NDIS Plans are due for renewal in the Bega Valley.

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

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

Sponsored by Nardy House

Tilba Bites - Chamber News

New shelter at Tilba Tilba Oval

Tilba District Chamber of Commerce (TDCC) is excited to announce that the new shelter on Tilba Tilba Oval is now complete and ready for use by all community members.

Following the 2019/20 bushfire disaster, TDCC supported building an undercover picnic and barbecue facility with a generator at the Tilba Tilba Oval – a project proposed by some members of the community. This followed a Bunaan (ceremony) held on the Oval by the local Yuin people in late 2019 – at which it was evident that the Oval badly needed better facilities.

The Tilba Tilba Oval, which is considered an important spiritual and ceremonial space, is situated directly between ‘The Mother’, Gulaga, and Najanuga – two significant Dreaming sites. Healing and paying respect to ‘The Mother’ through these events is considered vital to the recovery of the local people and for rebuilding resilience after the December/January bushfires. The oval is also used for a range of other activities by the local community, including by the nearby school for sporting events.

The shelter is a robust, large, covered space with two picnic tables and benches, shelter from the elements and allows for the arrangement of additional tables and seating giving elders and children, in particular, somewhere comfortable and sheltered to rest.

We were granted \$41,000 by the Community Rebuilding Trust, known as BizRebuild, established by the Business Council of Australia in January 2020. The Trust is unique as it is allowed to offer direct support for small business owners recovering from natural disasters. TDCC contributed an additional \$8,000 in funding.

The generator and barbecue have not yet been purchased, despite available funds, while the Chamber investigates how to store them securely and conveniently for Oval users.

Local builder Mark Brown did an excellent job, both in delivering the project and his commitment to and support of this community project. Despite several changes to the original specifications and a significant increase in the cost of building materials (after the quote had been accepted) due to the much-documented COVID-related impact on the building sector, he honoured his original quote, adding in downpipes for drainage and even re-seeding the grass!

Emma Gorny was TDCC’s liaison at Eurobodalla Council and she was extremely helpful and supportive throughout the



Tilba Tilba Oval’s new shelter

process. We look forward to working with her and the ESC team on the redevelopment of the children’s playground at Central Tilba that should commence in the first half of next year, supported by a grant from Vinnie’s.

Planning kicks off for the Tilba Festival 2022

The TDCC Festival Sub-Committee held its first meeting for the 2022 Easter Festival. John Scott, an accountant with Fraser Scott and a local resident and Chamber member, has kindly agreed to take on the role of Festival Treasurer. Other committee members are Kathryn Ratcliffe from Mountain View Farm, Claire Leonard from Central Tilba General Store, Jeremy Corfield and Susan Gray of the Dromedary Hotel, Michelle Crain of Tilba Treehouse and Carrie Taylor of Tilba Coastal Retreat. Anyone from the Tilba community is welcome to join the Festival Committee. Just contact Chamber President, Susan Gray, president@visittilba.com.au, to be included in the next meeting.

The Chamber is advertising in this issue of *The Triangle* calling for Expressions of Interest from people with food trucks or stalls who might want to attend the Festival as a vendor, as well as musicians and entertainers. It is hoped that performers and small businesses will predominantly come from the local area. The Chamber is also seeking offers from those who would like to volunteer their services on the day. ‘The success of the event really does depend on the effort and goodwill of everyone in the community,’ said TDCC President Susan Gray. ‘Last year’s Festival was a great re-boot after a tough few years. This year has not exactly been a walk in the park either! But we do think that 2022’s Festival can be even better than 2021. We are very grateful to everyone who helped make last year such a success but we were a bit short on volunteers and we really do need more volunteers on the day to make it happen, so we are hopeful we can get that much needed help again this year.’

Follow Tilba Festival and Visit Tilba on Facebook and Instagram to make sure you get all the updates.

Tilba District Strategic Plan

Lockdowns and restrictions have not stopped the work on developing a strategic plan for the Tilba District.

So far:

We have produced a draft action plan.

Now:

We are presenting the proposed draft action plan to a cross-section of government agencies so they can:

- better understand the Tilba district’s current strengths, challenges and opportunities and
- align the strategies of the agencies with the Tilba district through an articulated action plan.

Next:

After the busy Christmas period we will present the findings and draft action plan to the community in a collaborative session so we can garner any final feedback and create opportunities for the community to be involved in the action items!

Want to get in touch? Contact Carrie Taylor (project manager) at projects@visittilba.com.au.

We thank everyone for their engagement and valuable feedback to date and look forward to sharing the draft action plan with the community.

Tilba District Strategic Project Steering Committee

Susan Gray and Carrie Taylor



Tilba CWA celebrates another community Christmas

Tilba CWA members have a variety of community Christmas celebrations planned this Christmas – starting with an Australian-themed dinner for Cobargo BlazeAid volunteers in early December with Helen Thomson coordinating the cooking of Aussie meat pies with a salad accompaniment and a pavlova filled with local Tilba cream and seasonal fruit. Jenny Burnett is coordinating our CWA table at Tilba Market on 4 December, for which members will be cooking traditional Christmas treats such as coconut ice for sale at our market table. Annette Kennewell is helping Kim Cooke of Little Yuin Preschool at Wallaga Lake arrange a Christmas BBQ lunch for children and their families. CWA members will cook BBQ sausages and prepare fresh fruit cups, and we are hoping Santa will arrive on the Tilba firetruck. At last year's Christmas celebration, the preschool kids loved taking turns spraying water with the fire hose ... our future fire fighters! Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we will not be able to have the annual Christmas Carols event this year in the Small Hall. While our members and community stakeholders are deeply disappointed we're looking forward to an even bigger and

better celebration in 2022.

Our last meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 9 December, at Tilba Valley Winery and Ale House from 10.30 am. Following our meeting, members will stay for a relaxed Christmas lunch in the outdoor ambience of our winery. With COVID and other personal challenges it's been a tough year for Tilba CWA members so we are looking forward to regrouping and planning some wonderful events for our supportive community in 2022. This will include our Spring Garden Party on Saturday 10 September, 2022, at Mountain View Farm, Tilba Tilba. Watch this space for more details for what will be a fun filled day.

We would like to wish everyone in the Tilba region a very safe and happy Christmas. Take care and see you all in 2022.

Teresa Stubbings and Annette Kennewell

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

www.thetriangle.org.au



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Entertainers & Musicians



Scan the QR code for
further information and to
register your interest

www.visittilba.com.au/tilba-festival



It was with a heavy heart I learned of the closure of Kitchen Boys Restaurant. What a brilliant asset Cam, Ren and the staff were to our town. The amount of community support they lent to the area was fantastic. Can we say a huge thank you to you all and wish you a well-earned rest and many joyful adventures in the future.

Congratulations are extended to the young man from Wandella valley, Jackson Welsh, who has boxed his way to win the gold medal in the Australian elite Open 92 kg class. Parents Bernie and Julie and sister Emily are, understandably, extremely proud. An outstanding result.

The funding deed for the street rebuild is right on the cusp of being signed by the appropriate bodies and then the next exciting phase can start. The Business Hub is currently being constructed in the FormFlow factory. The site has started to be prepared and finally it feels as if the wheels are spinning in the right direction.

The Co-op AGM is being held on 7 December at 7.30 pm at the front of the Co-op building. It was felt to be fair to

all who would like to attend that this was the best option for all concerned. A light supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

A fabulous Melbourne Cup lunch was held at June Tarlinton's place with fifteen frocked-up ladies enjoying a fun day. All contributed with a plate of something scrumptious and the day was spent toasting the horses with some bubbly and also racking their brains with the trivia quiz, lucky seat prize and a couple of sweeps. A poem was written and read as each lady became a horse in the Cup.

The Cobargo Trail riders have been having some enjoyable rides and the last one was around the bush and beach at Bermagui. It was a little wet but very much enjoyed. The last event for the year will be a trail ride and activities day Christmas party being held at the Balas/Churchill property.

Wishing Richard Parbery and Robbie Burns a speedy recovery as they navigate their way through a patch of ill health.



Jackson Welsh (middle)
gold medal winner in his class

Anglican Parish of Cobargo – Christmas greetings

Another memorable year is nearly finished, one that has been very difficult for so many. We are incredibly fortunate in this Triangle area (and beyond) with the space and beauty around us. This is not to forget how difficult it would have been for many, both young and old, or the businesses that suffered or closed down here.

A big heartfelt thank you goes to all the health care workers, those people involved in getting food on our tables and all who kept life ticking over in this area. What an amazing job they have done! We hope and pray that from now on things will improve, businesses will start to bounce back and COVID remains at bay.

The Christmas season is upon us and let us all pause and think about the reason for the season – Jesus was born over 2000 years ago. He was a messenger of love, hope, peace and joy. Let us go into this joyous season with this message foremost in our minds. Come and join us at one of our Christmas services to hear Christ's message.

Christmas Eve – Quaama Renewal Hall at 6.00 pm
– Cobargo Carols in the Park from 8.00 pm

Christmas Day – Bermagui, All Saints Church, Wallaga St at 7.30 am and 9.00 am. Bookings are needed due to COVID spacing restrictions. Please call Nancy on 0428 933 136.

Boxing Day – Cobargo Christ Church, Hoyer St at 9.00 am

In other news – This year we have been blessed to have the Rev Martin Christensen, from Canberra, as our locum while we looked for a new rector. During lockdown we had Zoom services. Your support of the OK Shed has been amazing – thank you. Through it and Anglicare we are able to help those in need. Starting on 15 January, Reverend John Thomas will be our new rector. We look forward to welcoming John and his wife Christine into our community.

Have a very happy and joy-filled Christmas and a wonderful 2022. Stay safe and well.

Caroline Tolley
Secretary, Anglican Parish of Cobargo

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Guess who is turning 80 next year?

Cobargo CWA – that’s who! Yes, 80 years young – we began in 1942.

80 years of working for women and children throughout the district. CWA of NSW began a hundred years ago and, twenty years later, a group of women in Cobargo decided they needed a branch here. Since then, several generations have provided the Baby Health Centre (remember those?), catering etc until the present day with assistance to disaster victims and, of course, sponsoring the Cobargo Citizen of the Year Award and lots more.

During that time, the early members purchased the cottage and paid it off by catering for weddings etc. The Baby Health Centre began in temporary accommodation provided by the CWA and then moved into the front section of the current cottage. The membership has gone up and down over the years but the members hung on during the lean years, hoping that an influx of new members would come along – and they did!

Members have featured on TV, radio and in printed media. Most importantly, they have initiated changes in laws by sending motions to the State Conference and having those changes lobbied for at all government levels. Among the items initiated by the Cobargo branch that are currently being lobbied for are the provision of medicinal cannabis and having Q fever vaccine placed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits List.

So how are we travelling after 80 years? Well, COVID hasn’t helped as we still need to meet the bills even while we have had difficulty fund-raising. We pay rates, electricity, water, etc regardless of pandemics. However, we hope to pick up in our eightieth year! More members would really make a difference as

they bring new ideas, new enthusiasm and, most importantly, new friendships. Yes, new members are warmly welcomed!

We also need more nominations for Citizen of the Year for 2022. There are many people out there in Cobargo who are deserving of recognition. Jot down your nomination with your reasons and forward it to me as soon as possible at PO Box 5114 Cobargo 2550 or email maryw42@bigpond.com. It will then be presented to the committee (made up of members of our community not CWA) for their decision.

We are looking forward to upcoming events that we are organising to celebrate the CWA of NSW centenary and our 80 years. We will be holding an Op Shop Ball mid-year, for instance. Details to follow but it should be a fun event that everyone will want to be part of.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and we look forward to the New Year with optimism. We’ll catch up on 26 January for the special recognition of the Cobargo Citizen of the Year.

Mary Williams
Publicity Officer, Cobargo CWA

BlazeAid
Community Celebration
Cobargo Pub
afternoon of Saturday 18 Dec
BBQ and live music



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BlazeAid preparing to strain the last fence and twitch the last wire

On 23 December, exactly 23 months after BlazeAid set up camp in Cobargo, our teams will head out of the sportsground gate for the last official day of fencing. It will be with very mixed feelings that a lot of our volunteers will head out on that day.

In that 23 months some 703 volunteers have contributed 111,000 hours volunteering in this community. They have finished fencing on 280 properties, and there are now just 20 jobs to complete. We are now fully booked until 23 December.

Nobody could have guessed back in January 2020 that we would still be here as 2021 draws to a close. So when we head out the gate on that last day we will undoubtedly reflect back on the effort and on the achievement but, as I have said many times, the numbers only tell part of the story.

A common theme in our camp is how much our volunteers come to love this community. Sure, they keep coming back to camp for the camaraderie or to see the job done or for the cake or for the love of building a good fence. But, mostly, it is the community that draws them back. The warmth and acceptance with which we have been welcomed into this community has touched us all – whether we have lent a hand for days or weeks or months. We have made friends on the fence lines, at the pub,

over coffee and around the campfire ... in laughter, yarns and tears.

As one of our volunteers from earlier this year told me recently, 'I tell everyone about Cobargo ... everyone!'

With the help of Dave and the team at the Cobargo pub we are planning a celebration on Saturday 18 December. Details are still being fleshed out but it will likely start with afternoon tea and refreshments, a few speeches, then a BBQ, drinks and a band. We want to make this an event for the whole community – so if you have helped us or been helped by us, we would love you to join us for some, or all, of the event. Further details will be posted on Facebook and to the community email lists.

After a couple of days off for Christmas, a small team of us will begin the process of packing up the camp and restoring the grounds. We will be grateful for any assistance that the community can give us towards this. I will put a call out via Facebook and email when we need help.

In the meantime, keep an ear out for the lone piper who will pipe the teams out for their final day's efforts on 23 December.

*Jude Turner
BlazeAid Cobargo*



A motley group of Blazeaiders

Cobargo Christmas Eve Carols

Our annual Cobargo community carols will be held in the Apex Park (corner of Princes Highway and Bermagui Rd) on Christmas Eve at 8 pm. Everyone is welcome, with gifts for all children.

If you are a musician, call Fiona Kotvojs on 0448 453 422 as we would love to have you join in the music.

Perfect way to start Christmas!



Straining a fence – Ross Fackerell from Bermagui (standing), Anthony Drysdale from Bowral (kneeling), Naomi White from Merimbula (distance)

Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre

What a year it's been for the Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre! We've had community events and workshops, interactions with other services and groups, an appearance at a Senate enquiry, support from all over the country, two meetings with the Governor-General and Her Excellency, Mrs Hurley, media interviews ... all while working with our beautiful community with ongoing bushfire recovery and COVID lockdowns.

This has been a particularly hard year for people recovering from the Black Summer bushfires. COVID lockdowns and shortages of trades and materials have meant that the recovery and rebuilding process has been moving along at a snail's pace, if at all. The Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre has been working to assist as many people as possible to access grant funding, complete complicated online forms, organise referrals to other services and generally help with whatever is required in the recovery process. This work will continue into 2022 – we aren't going anywhere! We will be here to help for as long as it takes, in whatever form it takes.

We wouldn't be able to do the work we do without the assistance of some very important supporters who we would like to acknowledge once again – the Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund for our operations expenses, the Maritime Union of Australia for our rent and Vinnies for their support of our community engagement events. Without these and many other wonderful supporters, volunteers and committee members, we would not be able to provide the assistance the community still needs. We would especially like to thank Liz Martin who has been

a constant member of the team from the very beginning.

Throughout the year, COVID permitting, we have had a number of community events, starting with our Support the Girls Day, where ladies were fitted for bras and went home with one or two new bras. This was followed by a Flag Painting day for young people, who painted flags to be placed on the site of the upcoming Resilience Centre. We then hosted a persimmon dyeing workshop where people learned to eco-dye fabrics using dried persimmon and, most recently, we hosted a Halloween Party that was a hoot! Children and adults came dressed in their scariest costumes and enjoyed a sausage sizzle, music from Dust and Echoes and spooky stories from Evita Storyteller.

Sharing with the community is a vital part of the recovery process and as Cobargo has recently lost one of its most loved 'watering holes' and gathering places in Kitchen Boys, the Cobargo Relief Centre has set up a Tuesday coffee and chat morning where everyone is welcome to gather, chat, have a coffee and just be together.

Plans are afoot for some Christmas enjoyment at the Relief Centre, so keep an eye out for promotional materials and notices on the Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre Facebook page.

For any information about the Cobargo Relief Centre and how it may be able to assist you or someone you know, please email cobargoreliefcentre2550@gmail.com or give us a call on 0476 787 480.

Chris Walters



Chris Walters, Liz Martin and Danielle Murphy




Enjoying Halloween at the Bushfire Relief Centre

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Cobargo Public School Report

As we come to the end of another challenging year, we say farewell to our current Year 6 class and wish them all the best in their journey to high school.

Students at CPS have been exploring creative and imaginative writing techniques through the LittleScribe program. Stage 1 students have written about a dinosaur that came to school, and Stage 2 have written and illustrated a number of poems, including some about the recent rain.

Cobargo Public School has again hosted our incoming kindergarten students during a recent transition program, and the school continues to take enrolments for 2022. You can register online or by contacting the school on 6493 6482.

And, finally, a big thank you to the P&C and Cobargo Citizens for sending a beautiful cake to the staff of Cobargo Public School – it was greatly appreciated!

Carol Trevanion

Right: Cobargo Public School Year 6, 2021



Poetry

Frogs croaking and small
dogs barking,
Trees swooshing and
thunder crashing,
Water pattering on the soft
leaves.
Tweet Tweet, the birds sing
to the trees as they swoosh
side to side.

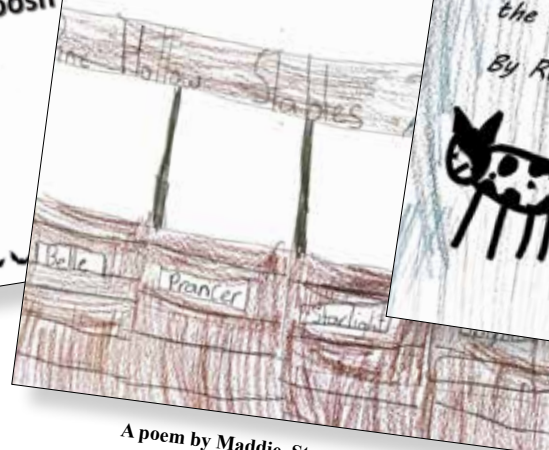
From Brock



A poem by Brock, Stage 2

Riding Day

Today is riding day, yay we cry
Clippity-clop we gallop through the sky
BANG! Lisa fell off but we helped her up
We saw a squealing pup
Click Clap goes the bit in the horse's mouth
We all giggle
As we need to get back to the stables
We kick them up and go into a gallop
I squeal all the way back.
By Maddie



A poem by Maddie, Stage 2

Farm animals

On my farm, cows are mooing,
Clucking go the chatty chickens,
Bah bah, sheep bleat to each other,
Horses neigh into thin air,
Clippity clop I hear gallop across
the wet paddock.
By Ruby Rae Kelly



A poem by Ruby, Stage 2



Cobargo Showgirl – AgShows NSW’s Young Woman Competition

Yes, we are having a 2022 Cobargo Show and that means we are looking for our next Cobargo Showgirl, now to be named Cobargo AgShows Young Woman!

The experience of previous winner and Zone representative, Carmen, was ‘nothing short of amazing and very fulfilling’.

Showgirl experience by Carmen MacGregor:

In 2019, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and enter Cobargo’s 2020 Showgirl Competition (now known as AgShows Young Woman). At the time, I wasn’t expecting to hold the title for two years, let alone for it to take me all the way to the Sydney Royal!

I knew that becoming Cobargo’s Showgirl was a great opportunity to represent an area that I was proud to have grown up in, while still being a part of the Agricultural Show community. At a local level, the program gave me the opportunity to connect with the community and to also build confidence in myself.

My time in Sydney allowed me to meet many like-minded young women who are all inspiring, driven and proud of

who they are. We participated in personal and professional development, met with incredible mentors, spoke with ministers, shared our ideas and took part in the Royal Easter Show (we even completed the Young Farmers challenge and proved that the program is about more than just wearing a sash!).

For me, the experience reminded me about who I am as a person and what drives me to do what I do. I think this program is really about celebrating what women bring to rural NSW, while creating a platform that allows us to share our voices, connect with people and grow as individuals. I would encourage any young woman out there to put her best foot forward and give the AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition a go!

Please phone June Tarlinton on 0400 350 814 or Christy Holland on 0401 383 952 for further information and to be a part of our Cobargo’s AgShows Young Woman Competition. We hope to have a mentoring and judging afternoon with Carmen on Sunday 12 December.

Christy Holland



Carmen MacGregor representing Cobargo at the Royal Easter Show.



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The Cobargo Pole Project

If you come to Cobargo you will find more beautiful painted telegraph poles. They have proliferated to around 20 in total so far, but there are more to come and some are still in progress. The artists have had to paint between rain and sunshine, empty streets and curious onlookers. The poles have been a great vehicle for expression and we all benefit, locals and visitors alike from this unique street art.

Linda Sang

1. Natalie Bateman + Carl Taylor, *Indigenous*
2. Narelle Perroux, *Grass trees*
3. Kelly Ryner, *Butchers supplies*
4. Gabrielle Powell, *Flowers*
5. Natalie Bateman + Carl Taylor, *Indigenous*
6. Nicky Hutteman, *May B*
7. Helen Morris, *Magpies*
8. Shirleyanne Meyers, *Bright designs*
9. Nicky Hutteman, *Welcome/Walawaani*
10. Maggie Thorssell, *Koi*
11. Ruth Hagger,





Basket weaving workshop run by Matt Nettheim in Via Luna's garden on a Saturday, Narelle, Elise and Trish Photo credit: Matt Nettheim



Baskets finished L-R Trish Hannan and Narelle Perroux
Photo credit: Matt Nettheim



Far south coast sculptor Richard Moffatt's Weed III residing at Rowan Dixon's Butter Factory for a time. Photo credit: Linda Sang

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Four Winds Festival 2022



After a year of uncertainty and disruption, it is a welcome pleasure to announce the return of the Four Winds Festival next Easter weekend, 15 – 17 April 2022. Returning to curate her second Four Winds Festival is Creative Director Lindy Hume, who has chosen Common Ground as the 2022 Festival theme. She explains that this theme follows from the 2021 theme, Reconnect: 'Common Ground is a theme that encourages us to focus on what we have in common, rather than what separates us, and what brings each of us to the Barragga Bay site, itself a powerful common ground, in ancient and contemporary usage. This 2022 festival will be a meeting place for artists and our audiences, for collaboration, reflection, adventures and creative works that speak to ideas of commonality and the ground we walk on'.

'I'm thrilled at the way the festival is coming together. Of course, excellence in live music will always be the beating heart of Four Winds, and next year we will welcome to our region some of Australia's very finest artists to perform a spectacular program spanning baroque to contemporary music. I love curating festivals that mix up all kinds of performance styles and genres, and the 2022 Festival will do just that. Next year we introduce new experiences to expand the festival range and show off Australia's

most magnificent performance site, the Barragga Bay Sound Shell, and surrounding locations. Highlights of the 2022 festival will feature musicians of excellence from around Australia, but also film, poetry, dance and meditation sessions with live music, video installations in local landscapes, an immersive Festival Finale – even an opera!

In parallel with our guest artists, Four Winds 2022 celebrates the creative excellence of local musicians and artists within the festival, with a focus on local Yuin culture. Four Winds will open on Good Friday with a spectacular Welcome to Country and a reinvention of last year's popular Songs From Yuin Country, followed by a special evening family event featuring film and music – free for the whole community.

Having made it through another punishing year, in April 2022 we will find ourselves together again in this special landscape at Barragga Bay among the spotted gums. Here at Four Winds with the ocean close by, surrounded by friends and birdsong, we can regroup and seek nourishment and solace in the festival community, nature, artists, ideas and music. We can't wait to announce the full line-up of artists and programming – watch this space.'

Further details will be announced in mid-December – keep an eye on our website <https://fourwinds.com.au/> or sign up to our ENews on the website for news delivered directly to your inbox (pink sign up for updates button on the Home page).

Tickets will be on sale on our website from 22 January 2022.

The Festival will be surrounded by an exciting season of Four Winds experiences with further announcements early in the year – we look forward to welcoming you back in 2022 to share incredible musical moments across the Festival and beyond!

Gabrielle Waters



Djinama Yilaga Choir Photo Credit: Ben Marden



Cobargo Creators: 8 x Eight Exhibition 2021

The much loved 8 x Eight exhibition is on once again seeing the old year out and the new year in. For many, this exhibition offers a challenge to compress a creative idea into the format of 20 cm x 20 cm (8" x 8"). It might be a painting, a sculpture or an installation; it could be pencil, paper, wire, thread, wood or metal – each year we are surprised and delighted by what turns up.

The 8 x eight works are all priced at \$55 making them perfect gifts for self, friends and family. Be captivated, bewitched and enthused by these charming and quirky small works of art. You might also have a chuckle or reflect on the works.

Cobargo Creators is a community gallery featuring the work of over a hundred local artisans using a wide range of eclectic arts and crafts and, quite possibly, created by someone you know.

If you have a project in mind and need some materials – come in to the art and craft bank located in the sunroom at the back of the gallery where all manner of project materials are available and, best of all, no charges apply.

Are you able to offer your time and energy as a volunteer in the gallery? If you are creatively minded, enjoy people, have a ready smile and don't mind being surrounded by beautiful works then come along and sign up. Training is available.

Contact email: cobargocreators@gmail.com or call 0475 734 347.

Cobargo Creators wishes you all a merry Xmas, a groovy summer holiday and a creative and inspired New Year.

8 x Eight Exhibition, Friday 3 December – Saturday 15 January

Sandra Taylor

Sticking together

The Artful 9 is a group of Eurobodalla Shire ladies who share a passion for making mosaic. Emerging from the past two years of COVID-19 ups and downs, The Artful 9 is delighted to announce their latest exhibition – *Sticking Together* – at the SoArt Gallery, Princes Highway, Narooma. The exhibition is open for viewing from Saturday 11 to Wednesday 15 December inclusive, 10 am – 4 pm and entry is free! When lockdown restrictions permitted, The Artful 9 (Jan Atkinson, Kim Dent, Judy Gordon, Carol Hellmers, Louise Lander and Vanessa Place) met in each other's homes to reconnect, share a few tears and lots of laughs, and enjoy generous helpings of delicious baked goods. Mosaic techniques, skills and creative ideas were discussed during these sessions, further cementing the friendship between the women. It goes without saying that these past two years have been incredibly difficult for everyone. By hanging in there and supporting each other through the tough times, this group of creative individuals has emerged strong and productive.

The *Sticking Together* exhibition focuses on mosaic, both traditional and modern, using a wide range of materials – stained glass, smalti, tile, re-cycled jewellery and up-cycled china – to name but a few. Alongside the mosaic pieces are works on canvas by Narooma painting personality, Gary Caldwell. *Sticking Together* offers a visually stimulating collection of artwork and decorative mosaic pieces for the home and garden, as well as some stunning wearable art. With Christmas just on the horizon, *Sticking Together* is a great opportunity to buy local and purchase a unique gift.

For further information ring Carol - 0439 426 405

Carol Hellmers

Image: *In the deep* by mosaic artist, Jan Atkinson



'Untitled' by Kingston Evans, eleven years old, from the 8 x Eight Exhibition 2021



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Art in the Triangle

At last ...*Cabin Fever Creations* comes to the Lazy Lizard Gallery!

We are proud to announce that, after the earlier unfortunate cancellation due to lockdown in September, the Bega Valley Fibre Group is now able to bring back their *Cabin Fever Creations* exhibition to the Side Room gallery for the whole of December. This is a group of highly skilled knitters, weavers, spinners, felters and much more. They will be displaying a vast array of their work, so this promises to be a really diverse and fascinating exhibition.

If you want to know more about the group and their work, refer to Delma Rosemond's article in the September edition of *The Triangle*, or drop in and admire the exhibition itself.

In January, the Side Room is reserved for the gallery members' annual exhibition. The theme this year, is – 'Something old, something new, something borrowed or something blue'. So it's anybody's guess what the Lizards will come up with but, whatever they produce, you can be sure it will be both quirky and interesting. We look forward to your visiting and giving us your opinions!

Some of our members have had a very difficult year and our thoughts are always with them, but together we have survived and thrived, and we are now even managing to increase our opening days. This has also been helped by volunteer, Ali Taylor, not a member, but a long-time gallery friend and supporter. Thank you Ali!

Finally, the Lizards would like to thank the Cobargo community for their encouragement and support over the past year, and wish everyone a safe and happy festive season, as we step into 2022!

Naomi Lewis

Right: Enjoy the sumptuous colours and textures in these woven works by the Bega Valley Fibre Group.



'Something old ... or something new? Wandering bush spirits' Naomi Lewis



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Contact:

Robyn Freedman on 0410 525 968

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Bermagui Country Club Arts & Craft Exhibition

2 – 6 March 2022

Come along and enjoy the diverse art and craft
creations mostly made in the specific arts and crafts
areas downstairs at the Club.

The exhibition is also open for non-member artists and
craftspeople to exhibit.

Application forms and details available from the
Country Club office or the Information Centre.

There will be open working studios downstairs at the
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Enquiries:

Please contact Helen Morris
helen.m.morris@bigpond.com

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Touring music is returning to the Far South Coast

Benji and the Saltwater Sound System is excited to be bringing a live show back to the Far South Coast this December. The beautiful Tilba Valley Winery & Ale House will be hosting the band on its first journey south for the year.

Since its recent formation, Benji and the Saltwater Sound System has matured quickly after being exposed to audiences at a snowballing number of live shows and high-profile festival slots.

Benji and the SSS fuses Pacific flavours with the raw sounds of the Australian east coast. Add to these, beautifully poignant lyrics and skilfully blurred genres and you have a sonic snapshot of the current South Coast NSW lifestyle.

The artists in Benji and the Saltwater Sound System have had the honour of playing at acclaimed festivals including Woodford, the National Folk Festival, Mitchell Creek Rock 'n' Blues, the Dreaming Festival, Granite Town Festival, Peak Festival, Palm Creek, Sydney Blues Festival and the Illawarra Folk Festival, just to name a few, and has received excellent reviews.

The band will play at the Tilba Valley Winery & Ale House on Saturday 4 December, starting at 5.00 pm with George Bishop appearing as the support act. Tickets are available from the venue's Facebook page at \$25.00 each.



Ben Fowler in the Solomons
Photo credit: Jade Rosskelly

Ben Fowler



Ben Fowler on guitar and Steve Russonello on harmonica Photo credit: Al Yorke

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Santa came to visit Cobargo to meet some lovely pets who behaved very well and told Santa their wishes for the holidays. He promised to come again next year!

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2021 was not the greatest year of our lives but, for avid readers, it has had some terrific highlights. Here are my selections for the best of – would love to hear which books gave you the most pleasure.

Overall favourites/champions

After Story – Larissa Behrendt; and Kazuo Ishiguro – *Klara and the Sun*

Best biography

James Campbell – *Talking at the Gates: A Life of James Baldwin*

Best political histories

Johanna Perheentupa – *Redfern: Aboriginal Activism in the 1970s*; Carolyn Collins – *Save our Sons: Women, Dissent and Conscription during the Vietnam War*.

Australian history

Henry Reynolds – *Truth-Telling: History, sovereignty and the Uluru Statement*

Short stories

Alice Munro – *Too Much Happiness*.

Crime

Anne Cleves – *The Darkest Evening*

Philosophy

David Brooks – *The Second Mountain: The quest for a moral life*

Happy holiday reading!



Pet of the Month

Kerri Brady



Socks

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Socks is a lovely six-month old pup that is a mix of English pointer, bull Arab and probably a few other things too! He is an intelligent, active fellow who is looking for a home that can keep him stimulated and occupied, ideally on a rural property. He gets on well with other dogs and will play endlessly with any other young dogs he comes across, though he is probably too much for an older dog to handle on a daily basis. Socks has fitted in well at his foster home and has become a firm favourite with his foster mother for his intelligence and charm. He does, however, need firm and consistent direction while he is going through the ‘teenage’ stage and would be better suited to an experienced dog owner. The few times Socks has been taken into town he has found it very overstimulating and has a tendency to bark, however more exposure to the sights and sounds will help this enormously but we think he will do much better if he lives in a rural setting. He would be a great mate for a single person or fit in well with a family with children over 12. He will cost you \$450.

If you are interested, please give our enquiry number a ring – 0400 372 609

(phone hours are Monday to Friday 9 am-5 pm). All animals available through AWLNSW are microchipped, de-sexed, vaccinated, wormed, and treated for ticks and fleas. 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 our Facebook page (look up Animal Welfare League, Far South Coast Branch). You can call to enquire about any of the many cats, kittens, dogs and pups available for adoption.

De-sexing vouchers are available at all vet clinics in our branch area 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. Show your pension card to the vet and you only need to cover the balance of the de-sexing cost.

As the weather is now getting 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.



It's that time of year when you press pause on the diet and turn your attention to recipes that bring back memories of gatherings and Christmases gone by. Even as we may feel a pang of sadness or nostalgia for those days or for those who may no longer be here to share the day, rest assured that there is a new generation coming behind and new memories to be made.

We thought we would share some special recipes with you from our Triangle team members that we hope you'll make your own.

A couple of savoury nibbles to have on hand over the festive season. Or you can place them in small jars and give them as gifts.

Tapenade

Ingredients

- 1 cup Kalamata olives
- 2 cloves garlic
- ½ cup raisins
- 2 tbs fresh oregano
- Juice 1 lemon
- 2 tbs olive oil
- Black pepper

Process all except the oregano then pulse it in at the end.

Marinated Olives and Feta

Olives: Place in jars with a fresh bay leaf, rosemary, black peppercorns and thyme. Cover with olive oil.

Fetta: Cut into cubes and place in a jar with the same flavouring ingredients as above. You may add a whole small chili if you like some heat.

Spiced Nuts

Buy unsalted nuts (cashews, macadamias, almonds – your choice) and toss them in a bowl with some spices or a spice mix. Drizzle in enough olive oil to coat and roast in a medium oven for approx 10 -15 minutes. When you can smell something delicious it is time to get them out. Cool and jar.

Here's a very simple and delicious way of using an abundance of parsley. It's versatile and goes well with meat and vegetables.

Parsley Oil

- A couple of good handfuls of parsley
- 1 clove of garlic
- Juice of half a lemon
- Extra virgin olive oil

Place the parsley, garlic and lemon juice in a food processor. Process until well mixed and fine. Continue processing while adding olive oil until the mixture goes a little milky.

Store in a sealed container in the fridge until ready to use. Enjoy. This is a delicious way of using an abundance of parsley. It's versatile and goes well with meat and vegetables.



Chocolate Pecan Pie

For the crust

- 150 grams (1¼ cups) plain flour, plus more for dusting
- ¼ teaspoon fine sea salt
- 140 grams unsalted butter, chilled and cubed
- 2 to 4 tablespoons ice water, as needed

For the filling

- 170 grams (1½ cups) raw pecan halves
- 85 grams unsalted butter
- 60 grams dark chocolate, chopped
- ¾ cup corn syrup
- 4 large eggs
- 100 grams (½ cup packed) light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons bourbon whisky
- ¼ teaspoon fine sea salt

Method

1. Make the crust: In a food processor, pulse together the flour and salt. Add butter and pulse until the mixture forms chickpea-size pieces. Add ice water, 1 tablespoon at a time, and pulse until the dough just comes together. It should be moist but not wet. On a lightly floured surface, gather the dough into a ball. Flatten into a disk with the heel of your hand. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to 2 days.
2. On a lightly floured surface, after removing plastic wrap, roll out dough to a 30 cm circle. Transfer crust to a 23 cm pie plate. Fold over any excess dough, then crimp edges. Prick crust all over with a fork. Chill crust for 30 minutes.
3. While the dough chills, heat the oven to 190 degrees. Line chilled crust with aluminium foil and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake until very pale golden, 5 to 10 minutes longer.
4. Reduce oven temperature to 175 degrees. Spread pecans on a rimmed baking sheet. Toast nuts, shaking pan occasionally, until fragrant, 8 to 10 minutes. Cool.
5. Make the filling: In a small saucepan over low heat, melt butter and chopped chocolate, stirring until smooth, leave to cool.
6. In a large bowl, whisk together cooled chocolate-butter mixture, corn syrup, eggs, sugar, cocoa powder, bourbon and salt. Pour the mixture into the prepared crust. Arrange pecans over filling. Transfer to a large rimmed baking sheet. Bake until the filling is just set when the pan is jiggled, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove pie from the oven and cool completely on a wire rack before serving.



Summer hints

Summer is with us again and with it come many tasks required to keep our gardens looking their best and, if the weather forecasters are right, we might be in for a wet summer.

Even if we get the forecast rain it is important to remember that for those of us who garden in pots, watering of these is an important practice. Plants suffer a lot of stress in pots as they often miss out on watering, due to their being in a rain shadow in the garden. They might be under a covered veranda, eaves or a large tree and miss out as we see the garden being rained upon but we forget the pots. And, usually, rain is not sufficient and they dry out very quickly leading to wilt and subsequent leaf and flower drop. Liquid fertilising can take place at the same time and that in turn keeps the plant growing well.

Pest and disease control is also on top of the list during a wet summer. Keep an eye out for aphid infestation on roses (also on new growth on other plants) as the aphids like the warmer weather and can do some serious damage to plants. Use a complete insecticide and fungicidal spray to control any pest on the roses including black spot and powdery mildew.

Stone fruits will suffer if it is a wet summer as they are very susceptible to brown rot. Adopt a preventative spray program with an organic fungicide to keep this disease in check. There are many organic forms available on the market.

Applying sprays in the early morning, allows the chemical

to dry out on the plant before the sun hits the plants and, more importantly, when many beneficial insects are not yet around so they won't be harmed.

If your plants are looking a bit unthrifty and you have watered and fertilised them, do a check for scarab grub. They usually appear around this time and feed on the small feeder roots of the plants, causing great stress to the plant. They quite often appear in pot plants – so you might have to quickly tip them out and check if you can see them in the potting mix.

There are many other pest and disease issues that can arise, too many to mention here. Check with your local nursery person who will be able to help. Take photos and take samples into the nursery, so we can get a good idea of the problem.

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

A repeat planting of summer salad vegetables can take place assuring you of a continual supply of delicious food. Remember to water your tomatoes at root level and not from overhead. This will also prevent disease activity. Using a fertiliser high in potassium will enhance flowering and, therefore, more fruit.

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



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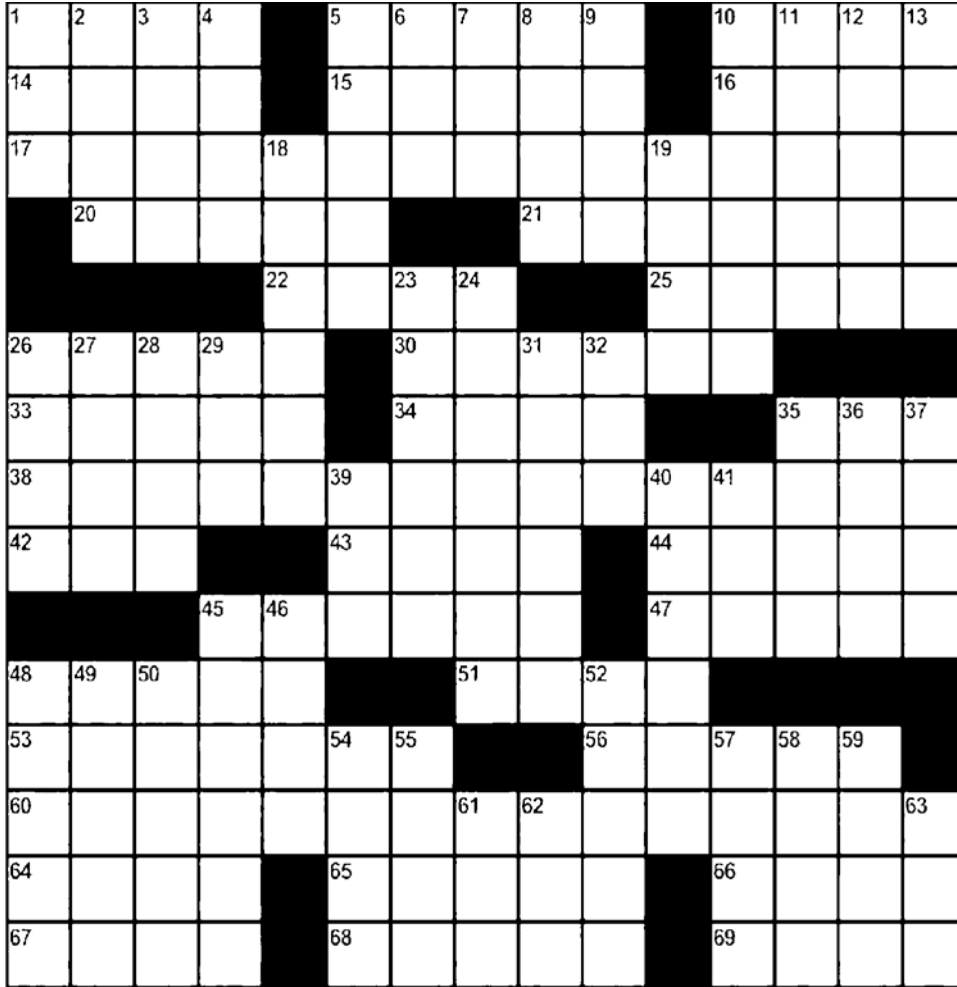
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12. Preface, for short (5)
13. Thing of solid value (6)
18. Interlock (e.g. gears) (6)
19. Copycat (4)
23. More melancholic (6)
24. Moved stealthily (7)
26. Dogs' feet (4)
27. Margarine's old name (4)
28. Bucks' mates (4)
29. Squid dye (3)
31. Cuddly warm (6)
32. Make mistake (3)
35. Quality of sound (4)
36. Desert characteristic (4)
37. Employs (4)
39. Keanu _____ in The Matrix (6)
40. Use tokens (6)
41. Anger (3)
45. Matted wool (6)
46. Eye ____ (4)
48. Highest points (5)
49. Oar's fulcrum (5)
50. Common _____ (5)
52. 2004 US Presidential candidate (5)
54. The Orient (4)
55. From a great distance (4)
57. Wander (4)
58. Ancient civilization of the Andes (4)
59. Italian volcano (4)
61. Scottish two (3)
62. Earlier Common Market initials (3)
63. Stitch a folded edge (3)



ACROSS

1. _____ mater (4)
5. U.S. term for new cadet in military academy (5)
10. 'New' seed (4)
14. Having little fat (4)
15. Mary _____ in The Maltese Falcon (5)
16. German boy's name (4)
17. Mormons (5, 5, 5)
20. Emulate a skunk (5)
21. Express disapproval of (7)
22. A sudden inspiration (4)
25. George _____, author of Silas Marner (5)
26. Small raised platforms (5)
30. Blood vessel (6)
33. 'I knew it all _____!' (5)
34. Cuckoo clock feature (4)
35. Greek T (3)
38. Too-busy people with only two days to exercise (7, 8)
42. 'Mayday!' cousin
43. Conger _____ (4)
44. Sesame Street resident
45. Small section of cauliflower or broccoli (6)

47. Ownership documents (5)
48. Confused (2, 3)
51. Earth wall to keep out seawater (4)
53. Clinton daughter (7)
56. Spooky (5)
60. Time passing in calendar units (5, 5, 5)
64. 'What _____ can I say?' (4)
65. One who saws (5)
66. Adolescent's outbreak (4)
67. Plant embryo (4)
68. Square-jawed, cartoon detective, Dick _____ (5)
69. Respectful address to a lady (4)

DOWN

1. '_____ together, now!' (3)
2. Meadows (4)
3. Damon of Hollywood (4)
4. Against (4)
5. Jacket for cold weather (5)
6. Mind-altering drug (3)
7. Anticipated arrival time (3)

8. Australian artistic dynasty (4)
9. Scottish Gaelic (4)
10. Jumper weather (6)
11. Vietnam's capital (5)

Answers on page 46

SUDOKU

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



For the fridge door

DECEMBER	WHAT	WHERE	TIME
Weds 1 all Dec	Bega Valley Fibre Group exhibition	Lazy Lizard Side Room	10 am - 3 pm
	Bermi Seniors Club, Xmas Lunch \$10	Bermagui Country Club	11.30 onwards
Fri 3,4 +5	Lois Irwin: Art in the Shed @ HOTH	39 Geall Rd, Cuttagee	10 am - 4 pm
Fri 3-15 Jan	8 x Eight group exhibition	Cobargo Creators	10 am - 3 pm
Sat 4	Open Mic	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Benji & the Saltwater Sound System ticketed: Tilba winery FB pg	Tilba Winery & Ale House	5 pm
Sat 4 + 5	ReBoot: fun physical activities	Bermagui and environs	Check online
Sun 5	The Hoops	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
	Howlin' Mitch	The Drom	4 pm
	The Lounge Lizards	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sat 11-15	Sticking Together Mosaic exhibition	SoArt Gallery, Narooma	10 am-4 pm free
	Mark Austin	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sun 12	Stick Whack	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
	Rick Bamford	The Drom	4 pm
	Solo West	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sat 18	Stitch	The Drom	4 pm
	Whiskey Dram Blazeaid party	The Cobargo Hotel	8.30 pm-11.30 pm
	Captain Ablit & the Bluetrash Band	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sun 19	Soul Stories	The Drom	4 pm
	Benji Fowler	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Daniel Champagne Ticketed: Winery FB pg	Tilba Winery & Ale House	6 pm
	Al Watts Blues Band	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
Sun 26	changoTRee	The Drom	4 pm
	Aylagaze	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
Fri 31	Stick Whack	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Roxygen	The Cobargo Hotel	9 pm-12.30 am
JAN 2022	Ben & Cass	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sat 1	Chris O'Connor	The Drom	4 pm
Sun 2	Chris McGrath	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Robz Simpson	The Drom	4 pm
	Ron Callo	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
Mon 3	Andrew Wortes	The Drom	4 pm
Sat 8	Tim McMahon	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Solo West	The Drom	4 pm
Sun 9	changoTRee	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
	Val Moogz (aka Hannah Matysek)	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Jacob Poyner	The Drom	4 pm
Sat 15	Dust 'n Echoes	The Drom	4 pm
Sun 16	Jessica Spahr	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Ako	The Drom	4 pm
	Howlin' Mitch	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
Tues 18	Totum	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sat 22	Benji Fowler	The Drom	4 pm
	The Chordrys	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
Sun 23	changoTRee	The Drom	4 pm
	Robin Simpson	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Alice Williams	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
Wed 26	Joe Driscoll	The Drom	4 pm
Sat 29	Dave Newman	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Red Heart Blue	The Drom	4 pm
Sun 30	Baeden	Tilba Winery & Ale House	Noon
	Drive Time	The Cobargo Hotel	5 pm - 8 pm
	Solo West	The Drom	4 pm

For Church Services over Christmas go to page 30.

