

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 125

Autumn

March 2016



2016

HAWKESBURY
Australia Day
AWARDS

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

awarded to

Bowen Mountain Association

26 January 2016



Kim Ford

Clt Kim Ford, Mayor of Hawkesbury



Remembering our ex-servicemen & women

The Bowen Mountain Newsletter is a quarterly publication compiled by a sub-committee of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. and delivered free to residents of Bowen Mountain and to Grose Vale Post Office.

For verification purposes, articles submitted for publication are to include the author's name, address or phone number. Unacknowledged articles will not be published.

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PO Box 3141, GROSE VALE 2753**

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**DEADLINE for June Issue
1 May 2016**

COVER

The Australia Day Awards Certificate

Community Organisation of the Year
Photo by Jake Stead

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Editor's Letter

Greetings everyone,

Exciting news, if you haven't already heard, Bowen Mountain received the Hawkesbury Australia Day Award for 2016 Community Association of the Year. This award promotes so much pride in our beautiful mountain area, and the wonderful work done by the members of the Bowen Mountain Executive and the Sub-committees who work very hard to involve community participation in so many activities promoted throughout the year. I sincerely hope that you will all enjoy the contents of this particular publication. One other piece of excellent news is that following the ill-health of Marian Hanly, who gave so much of herself to this community, it was thought that the Arts Festival wouldn't have a leader for some time. Happily a very special lady has offered her services to try and stage next year's (2017) Art Festival. This special person's name is Stacy Jenkinson. Please support Stacy in her work, and your support and encouragement will enable her to produce an Arts Festival in her own right. Stacy I know will do her utmost, with your help, to make the Arts Festival for 2017 really special.

Thank you,

Sue Hoare

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Webmaster – Chris Duckworth

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**BMA Committee meetings are held in the Park
Community Room on the second Monday of
each month at 7.30pm**

BMA Mailing address:

PO Box 3141, GROSE VALE NSW 2753

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Greetings and welcome to the BMA's first newsletter for 2016. At the February meeting of the Management committee, resignations were received from Geoff Moorcroft, President and Sylvia Moorcroft, Committee member as a result of their forthcoming move to the Jervis Bay area. At that meeting, the Committee nominated me as Vice President to assume the role of Acting President. I would like to thank Geoff and Sylvia for their many years of service to the BMA with the Social Committee, Newsletter and Executive. We will miss

them greatly.

Because of these key vacancies the BMA would greatly appreciate new volunteers to help with our planned initiatives and activities. Please come to our meetings, which are held the second Monday of every month.

I am looking forward to our 2016 events. We hope to see you there.

Bill Kerr
Acting President

BMA 2016 Diary

REPEAT ITEMS: BMA COMMITTEE MEETING: Second Monday of every month.

DATE		ITEM
MARCH	Monday 14th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Wednesday 16th	BMA Dinner – St. Patrick's Day Tai Angelina Richmond - All Welcome.
APRIL	Monday 11th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	April 8th	Seniors Lunch – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	April 16th	Car Boot Sale and Sustainability Fair – Park
MAY	Monday 9th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JUNE	Monday 13th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 19th	Winter Interlude – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JULY	Monday 11th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
AUGUST	Monday 8th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 14th	BMA AGM
SEPTEMBER	Monday 12th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
OCTOBER	Monday 10th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Monday 31st	Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome
NOVEMBER	Monday 14th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
DECEMBER	Monday 12th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Christmas Party

AVON ON BOWEN MOUNTAIN

Hello !!!!

We are the Avon representatives, Alison and Mel Kerr on Bowen Mountain. If you would like a brochure, please phone 45 721 309.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2016

Happy New Year!!! The BMA started the New Year with a bang when it was announced at the Australia Day Awards that we had won the Australia Day Award for the Outstanding Community Organisation. We were thrilled to receive two Australia Day plaques and have photos in the Gazette. Photos of the awards can be viewed on our Facebook page and Website.

The Bowen Mountain Association has been busy planning a fun filled year of events for you. You can check the calendar of events further on in this newsletter and ensure you note the dates of these events on your calendar. The BMA will kick off the social calendar with a St. Patrick's Day dinner and the Market Day and Sustainability Fair on April 16th

in the Park.

Best wishes and good luck to Lance Mitchell who once again on March 9th – 19th is riding from Kosciuszko to Coogee to raise funds for Down Syndrome NSW. We hope all of Bowen Mountain will get behind Lance by supporting our special everyday hero by donating to Down Syndrome NSW at <https://everydayhero.com.au/event/k2c>

Looking forward to seeing you at our fun filled activities in 2016. I hope you have had a relaxing and refreshing holiday break and that 2016 is a peaceful, rewarding and fulfilling year for everyone.

Alison Kerr

Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

BOWEN MOUNTAIN AUTUMN MARKET DAY SUSTAINABILITY FAIR AND CAR BOOT SALE

**Come buy or sell your plants, fruit, vegies
seedlings, pots, small bric-a-brac, jams, cakes,**

**WHEN: SATURDAY 16TH APRIL
8.30am – 3.00pm**

WHERE: BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK

Book your car space or market stand at \$20.00

HOW:

Phone Alison: 45 721 309

**A fun family day with games, children's activities, BBQ,
music, raffles, displays, live insect displays.**

**Demonstrations of composting, building a sustainable vegie
garden, planting drought tolerant plants, weed eradication.**

**Another event organised by your Bowen Mountain Association. Join
your neighbours and friends for MARKET DAY and CAR BOOT SALE
in our wonderful park!**

BUSHFIRE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT, FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Residents of Bowen Mountain

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Newsletter. Since the issue of the November/December 2015 BMA Newsletter, fire activities in the Hawkesbury District have been relatively quiet and we have enjoyed a fair amount of rain to keep things green and pleasant.

There was however a very large bush fire caused by lightening strikes to the north East/West of the Putty Road. This fire attracted very little publicity because it did not threaten very many properties in the Hawkesbury District. A Section 44 declaration was invoked and a large number of volunteer Rural Fire

Fighters and National Parks and Wildlife volunteers were called upon to contain the fire. The fire also required the use of the large Air Tankers based mainly at Richmond Air Base. In addition Raft Team (Remote Area Fire Team) personnel were inserted by Helicopters into various locations where there was no road or Fire Trail access.

It is of interest to note that volunteer Rural Fire Service Members from the Hawkesbury District have been and still are, being deployed to the Tasmanian and West Australian Bushfire Emergencies.

Best regards to all

Terry Hoare

Bush Fire Liaison Officer – BMA Inc.

Park Report

Dogs in the Park

Make sure you have your dog/s under control all the time while they are in the park. Dogs should not be a nuisance or a danger to other park users especially children. Also, keep an eye on your dog and make sure all “droppings” are picked up, placed in a plastic bag and put in the rubbish bin.

Outside Furniture

The Park Committee is planning to repair the existing tables and seats & will install an additional table and seat using left-over slabs from the Hall Extension. These slabs have had a coat of Sikkens.

Colin Chesterman
Chairman, for BMPMC

bowenmountainpark@gmail.com

Bowen Montain Rainfall

It is interesting to compare the recent heavy rainfalls with previous months and year totals.

Year	2016	2015	2014	2013
Jan	372	183	62	230
Feb		117	110	288
Mar		85	156	113
Apr		386	71	76
May		54	0	76
Jun		45	33	140
Jul		50	11	4
Aug		20	148	9
Sep		33	26	28
Oct		68	67	17
Nov		207	33	180
Dec		120	310	58
Total		1368	1027	1219

A LETTER TO THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY

During the year a great number of community events take place in the Park and generally a large section of residents attend. A small membership fee of \$10.00 for a family and \$5.00 single contributes to the running costs of these events, production of the newsletter and ensures the continuation of the BMA. If we fall below a certain number of members we will no longer be able to provide these events for the residents and non-residents of Bowen Mountain. We need more BMA members and invite you to support the BMA and its activities by joining them. If you have not joined the BMA as a member in 2016 there is still time to join.

Please either complete the attached form or pay via electronic transfer, details below. This year membership cards will be sent to all members and the discount vouchers on the back can be redeemed at local businesses.

BSB: 633 000 Account No.: 1182 44003
BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION INC.

Please email the Secretary to notify us of your payment. secretary@bowenmountain.org.au

sincerely

Bowen Mountain Association

Kosciuszko to Coogee, 2016

Lance Mitchell

“K2C” is on again! Long term Bowen Mountain resident tells of the success of his marathon ride in 2015, and his plans to raise even more money and positive community awareness for Down Syndrome NSW this year, in March.

Regular readers of the Bowen Mountain Newsletter will remember Lance’s story from last year. Lance has lived on the mountain for 34 years and remembers his childhood with great fondness.

“Cameron Carmody and I were always mucking around in the bush behind Mum and Dad’s place, building forts, exploring, riding our bikes on the fire trails”. Perhaps the inspiration for a huge ride came from those days as a child, or his parents 11 year honeymoon cycling around the world. “It was great to see Dad’s Saxil next to my new bike on some of our training runs”, Lance says. “Dad’s bike has seen the Pyramids, most of Europe, the arctic circle and Africa. Mine has seen Kurmond!”

This year, ‘K2C’ is back, bigger than ever. Three of Lance’s friends have volunteered to join him on the ride. Like Lance, they are committed to doing everything in their power to make a difference.

It all started in 2013 when Cameron and Rebecca Carmody announced the arrival of their beautiful baby girl, Alicia. Much to everyone’s surprise, Alicia was born with Transient Leukaemia and Down Syndrome. Clearly, dealing with Alicia’s immediate health concerns were a priority, but once she pulled through the first fight, Cameron and Rebecca faced the rather sudden and unexpected consideration of raising a Down Syndrome child.

A lighthouse beam cut out through the darkness: Down Syndrome NSW. This representative organisation supports all individuals and families living in the Down Syndrome community, at all major milestones of life.

Lance wanted to repay the generosity and support provided by DSNSW to his friends and so, on World Down Syndrome Day last year, slept on the summit of Australia’s highest mountain, and then cycled some 1000 kilometres to Coogee Beach.

His efforts raised much needed funds for the organisation and generated much positive community engagement. Lance had t-shirts made up, created a website and Facebook page, handed out stickers, magnets and was even interviewed by radio personalities such as Ray Hadley (2GB), Ian Cameron and Ian Macnamara (“Macca”) (ABC). Hundreds of people followed his daily progress through video links, FaceBook posts and more.



This year Lance and his small group of everyday heroes begin their epic ride on Wednesday the 9th March. They will again sleep on the summit, and over the course of two long weeks, will cycle their way through the Snowy Mountains, the alpine forests of Tallaganda National Park, the coastal mountains of Morton National Park. From there they will descend into Nowra and follow the coast through to Kiama, Wollongong, and Cronulla. Their long journey will finally end when they run into the surf at Coogee Beach on Saturday the 19th March.

Please support this Bowen Mountain resident in his efforts to raise much needed awareness about Down Syndrome NSW.

“This is not your usual charity bike ride”, Lance attests. “This is just a few mates, doing what they can to help. We’re not athletes, we’re not high profile celebrities with a huge support crew or corporate sponsorship. We’re truck drivers, tradies, labourers. Everyday hard working family guys who see that there is a higher calling in helping others. Our video blogs are more like something from a Hamish & Andy show. We’re just out for a laugh, to enjoy life and to fight, sing, shout and represent all those people in the Down Syndrome community who have to fight so hard for the opportunities we take for granted. If all that DSNSW did was put new DS families in touch with existing families- to see how proud and strong they all are, to see that Down Syndrome isn’t a death sentence, that those parents wouldn’t have it any other way... then it would be worth doing the ride a thousand times over. We’re not looking for a cure. This isn’t a sympathy thing. We’re in it because we value the representation that DSNSW gives to everyone in the DS community and reckon an Australian ‘Fair Go’ applies to everyone.”

Keep up with the boys’ antics by ‘Liking’ Kosciuszko to Coogee on Facebook.

You can help them make a difference by donating at:

www.everydayhero.com.au/event/k2c



Down Syndrome
New South Wales

KOSCIUSZKO to COOGEE 2016

Riding to support the Down Syndrome Community

www.everydayhero.com.au/event/k2c



facebook.com/kosciuszko2coogee




St. Patrick's Day



**Come and celebrate
St. Patrick's Day
and**

**Farewell to Geoff and Sylvia Moorcroft
at Thai Angelina Richmond**



**Wednesday March 16th at 7pm
Delightful 2 course dinner - \$ 22**

Wear something green- prizes for best dressed

**Reservations essential on:
Sylvia: 45 721 540 or Alison: 45 721 309**

All Welcome

A BOWEN MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SURPRISE

At a recent BMA Senior Citizens luncheon held in the Park Hall, I met a lady who informed me that at one time between the late 1960s and early 70s a Rodeo was held on Bowen Mountain. Subsequently I asked this lady if she would like to jot down some of her recollections of happenings during this period. This was done, although having spoken to other residents who have also shared their memories of the same events, there are variations in their individual recollections. However, the overall stories are interesting and give an insight into the lifestyle here on Bowen Mountain half a century or more ago.

1, Letter from Dale.

“A Version of why Bowen Mountain (Pamela Crescent) was Subdivided”

In the early 1970's a Mr. Grant had bought land on Bowen Mountain. At one stage, a Rodeo was set up on the Mountain and the locals protested, as it was suggested that a rodeo might bring some undesirables to the area.. When I heard there was a rodeo on the Mountain, I was curious as in those days we walked up and around the Mountain regularly. All the roads around the Mountain and leading up to it were not tarred then, so I slipped through a fence and had a look for a little while. The man performing in the rodeo was very handsome. Soon after the locals had the rodeo shut down, which made the owner a bit cranky and so he subdivided Bowen Mountain (Belvedere Estate”)

2. Ian – worked at the rodeo in the shutes - loved horses.

This gentleman was a delight to speak to. He reminded me that he was only a boy really, but remembered the Rodeos. They were held on a Sunday, once a month for almost two years.

The Rodeo was advertised in the Sydney Newspapers and tourists came out to the Mountain on a day's outing. They travelled by train to

Richmond where they were met by a bus and driven up here to the actual Rodeo site. This was located approximately in the area of the Farmhouse in Pamela Cr. and extended just across the walkway between Pamela Cr. and the cul-de-sac in Lt. Bowen Road. The land also extended southward although the exact dimensions of the Rodeo site are at present somewhat obscure. Incidentally, the driver of the bus, Bob, still lives on the Mountain and recalls collecting the passengers from the train and driving them to a drop off point near the Farmhouse in Pamela Crescent. Ian also recalls stringing six or seven billy-carts together, and riding them down-hill. – Ian also added :”mind you, there was only one brake between them, but we always managed to stop!”

Another account was of the picnic lunches held on Rodeo days. The tourists would come with their lunches and shield their food from the flies with their serviettes etc, This was somewhat amusing to the locals who too had their lunches with them, but Ian said the food was often black with the flies. The locals would of course just flick their hands over their food to rid themselves of the flies and take a bite. The meeting of two different worlds – their love of the Rodeo, and the interaction between the so-called “sophisticated tourists” and the local inhabitants of the Mountain.

These are , to me, fascinating accounts of life on the Mountain, and I'm hoping that there will be readers of this article either still living on Bowen Mountain or surrounding districts who also have recollections and stories from this era. If you do have such recollections, I'd love to hear from you and your information will enable me to expand on this skeleton of information and fill in some of the gaps for our readers. Old photos would be great

Thank you –

Sue Hoare

Names of contributors supplied



Members of the BMA Management Committee proudly holding the Australia Day awards
Back row Geoff Moorcroft, Bill Kerr, Sylvia Moorcroft, Colin Chesterman Front row
John Wulff and Lily, Terry Hoare, Sue Hoare. Absent Liz Rowan and Alison Kerr

BMA WINS AWARD

The Bowen Mountain Association was the proud recipient of the Hawkesbury Australia Day awards for the Community Organisation of the Year 2016 sponsored by Hawkesbury City Council and the Richmond Club. This award nominated anonymously and voted upon by Council recognises and honours the outstanding achievements of the BMA who “always work in the best interests of the residents of Bowen Mountain. It is an honour to be able to recognise the Association's effort whilst celebrating their 40th Anniversary”.

Au Revoir Neighbour

This article is an edited transcript by *Michael Campbell* of a chat with Sylvia and Geoff Moorcroft on the verandah of their home in Bowen Mountain Road on the afternoon of Friday 29 January 2016. I've used **S** and **G** to indicate when Sylvia or Geoff is speaking respectively.

Q: How long have you been living on Bowen Mountain?

G: 45 years. 1971 we arrived, and stayed here. We walked onto the patio and said "This is it". We didn't go in the house because the view and the land was what we wanted, and the view hasn't changed much since those days. We had 18 acres of land.

Q: What did you do with the 18 acres?

G: It was a hobby farm with the children. We had an apricot orchard here when we arrived. **S:** We ran cattle through the valley. **G:** When the orchard ran out of steam we put cattle in there and chooks. And it just happened to be a hobby farm with the children. **S:** But we used to sell. Well we mainly ate all the meat, but we might sell some of it among friends or barter. Same with milk, because Geoff milked, and we sold quite a lot of eggs from the chooks, ducks and geese.

Q: Did you have children when you arrived here?

S: Yes, the whole three. Andy was a little fella, he was a baby.

Q: So where were you before Bowen Mountain?

S: Hornsby briefly -in an old house in Hornsby that we did up like we've done here. We bought this before we married. We took a girl who'd been staying with us, and who had been in hospital, out for a drive one day. We drove her up here, and we thought we could live here. And that was it. **G:** The next day I was on the phone to the local agent.

Q: And before Hornsby?

S: Well I lived in Bondi. I was a Bondi girl. I was actually born in Ku-ring-gai, but I think I was about 3, when we moved to Bondi. Dad built a house in Ku-ring-gai, but he had a company at Alexandria and it was a bit far to travel. So we moved to Bondi.

Q: What about you Geoff?

G: Huntley's Point was my growing up area, near the Gladesville bridge. The new Gladesville Bridge took our house, and we moved to Springwood from there. So Springwood to Dundas and then I met Sylvie at Bondi.

Q: How old were you when you moved to Springwood?

G: About 14 or 15. I'm not sure now. I was working then as an apprentice printer for my father who was the director of a printing firm. I wanted to be a vet but my father said no, you can't be a vet, you'll be a printer.



Q: Did you work at Springwood?

G: No, I travelled the "fish and chip" steam train, a well known train, to Central, and from there caught the train to Wynyard. And then we moved back to Dundas, I don't know why, and then I visited Bondi and I met Sylvie later on. I was in an Eastwood group of a younger set. I was in a bush walking club and getting nowhere, and I was a bit lonely. I saw an ad in the paper one day to entice people to join a youth group at Bondi, which I did. And the very first day I was there, there was a meeting and this person borrowed my program and I looked up and it was Sylvie, and that was it.

Q: Did Sylvia play hard to get?

G: A little bit. **S:** I was very busy with other things. **G:** Yeah, you were busy, it took me a while.

Q: So what won you over Sylvia?

G: Perseverance. **S:** Oh God, don't ask me that. Yes, I think it was perseverance, I think you're right. **G:** I was there. I was in your face. **S:** He thought I was gorgeous. He treated me very royally. It's coming up to 52 years now. **G:** 55 years now. **S:** It's not Geoff. **G:** 1962 we married. **S:** 54 years.

Q: So you moved to Bowen Mountain and set up business next door, is that right?

G: No, I worked at McCarthy's for Sylvie's father who had this recycled bottle show. We'd sell bottles to the wine trade everywhere, washed and then reused again on pallets and I began to learn about wine. So I did that

Au Revoir Neighbour

for many years and then moved to the Uni as a printer. McCarthy's did the recycling and hotel ware for all the hotels and clubs.

S: My grandmother started it in 1880.

G: So I had had enough of that and I went for a local job and got into printing at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College as a printer and I learned printing. I had to travel less distance to work and got home much earlier.

Q: But you were apprenticed to your father?

G: Yes, but not in the same field of printing. It was called a photo engraver in those days, which is now redundant, and then printing at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College was actually on a printing machine. So I printed on plates or linotype. But I learnt to print on a printing machine and I stayed there for about 4 or 5 years. After a while I bought a printing machine and started printing from home. I had a printing machine in the little old barn up here. It had a fully equipped printing area and I learnt to survive there for a few years. I was printing learning materials for the instructors and I also started printing the Bowen Mountain Association newsletter, weddings – everything! So then I sold the printery in around '95 or '96 and worked for a while in printing at the council and then the RAAF base.

Q: And what about you Sylvia, What did you do when you moved up here?

S: Teaching. I did casual work at Kurrajong and Grose Vale primary schools. Then I worked at the Catholic School at Windsor for quite a while, for 10 years maybe, and then I moved to St Monica's.

Q: So both of you would have seen a few changes up here in the time you've been here.

S & G: Sure have. Development. **G:** Well Bowen Mountain road and Grose Vale roads were dirt roads back in those days. There were very few homes up here then – mainly farms. And eventually the development up on Bowen Mountain brought more people in. So it did change bit by bit to what it is now. But it wasn't obvious, living here, what was going up there on Bowen Mountain. **S:** We didn't go up there that often then – only for parties at the Stud. There was a big Murray Grey stud up there where Pamela Crescent is now. There were two houses up there then which I think they combined. One was for the manager and the other for Milton Grant, the owner, when he came up.

And the kids used to ride their scooter to school from here back then. You wouldn't do that now. And the dogs would chase wallabies down the road. **G:** And the bus came eventually.

G: Actually, when I began to print the first newsletter in 1986, I began to find out what happened up there on Bowen Mountain and started to take an interest and

became involved in the BMA (Bowen Mountain Association). **S:** They used to run the newsletter off on a gestetner machine that we used to use at school. They decided to get it printed properly in 1986. And that's how we became involved in the BMA.

Q: So you've been involved with the BMA since 1986 and Geoff, you're President of the BMA now? How long have you been on the committee of the BMA?

G: Oh, twenty years or so, I can't remember exactly, then I became vice president and then president which I've been for a three or four years, I can't remember exactly. **S:** No longer. **G:** I can't remember, I'll have to look it up.

Q: Sylvia, until recently you were on the Bowen Mountain Newsletter (BMN) committee?

S: I was on the BMN committee for a long time. Since almost Geoff started printing the newsletter. Somebody asked me to come up and proofread it. So I used to read it of a night time with a red pen. That was my job, and various people had different jobs on the committee in those days. I think after Elaine Leahy, Elaine took over from Denise Nixon, and I took over from Elaine. It's been a fair while – 12 or 14 years.

S: We got involved with a lot of people who have all moved to Kurrajong now. The chook mob, the early Grose Vale mob, because of all the kids growing up together. We had a pretty hectic social life which was a very good part of living here.

Q: When did you bring Tai Chi up to Bowen Mountain Park?

S: Well Rita (Rutkovskis), was in the Grose Vale tai chi group and she and I were talking and thought we should do it up in Bowen Mountain. I can't remember when we started up at Bowen Mountain, at least 14 years.

Q: What's the best part about living at Bowen Mountain?

G: Well for me it's the country atmosphere here. The people are very nice to be with. Friendship of course.

S: Well, I was very involved with the art group in my painting days. So there was a lot of art and craft here which we enjoyed. The social life, the people ...the ease.

G: People are important. **S:** I really lived on the beach all my life and I really only moved off to play netball and go out and then we came up here and it was just beautiful. I miss the beach though. I've always missed the beach.

Q: So are you looking forward to going back to the beach?

S: Yes, I am. **G:** I used to go sailing on the Parramatta river with a few little yachts. So I knew the water pretty well. I also went surfing after work on Friday nights at Bondi for quite a while before I met Sylvia.

We went water skiing. So yeah, water's nice to be with.

G: Back to the hobby farm. We had a hobby farm with three children. And Fiona, Heather was the second and Andy was the youngest. Well, we had chooks, and geese to farm and breed. "Grose Vale geese are great" was our motto. We used to have all these dressed geese for sale. They were dressed first at Strahan's in Richmond and then Agnes Banks.

Q: Who did you sell them to?

S: Well, Geoff advertised in the Gazette. He put this ad in with "Free Delivery". And my father said to him some bloke in Broken Hill is going to want one. So some bloke way up Wiseman's Ferry wanted one. So it wasn't viable financially, plus then we had to pay to have them dressed. Yes, so it was one of our ventures.

G: So we had quite a lot of cows and ponies of course, the whole hobby farm thing. And as the children left, Fiona first and then Heather, we had more things to do and less hands to do it with, and it was almost beyond control, so we had to cut back.

S: So that was one of the disadvantages back then, education up here. Fiona went to Bathurst to do teaching because it was only the Agricultural College here then, it wasn't the uni. And Heather went to Canberra, although she had a year of school in Indonesia before that. She went there as a rotary exchange student. So we had to downgrade.

Q: So were you still printing in those days Geoff?

G: Yes I was. **S:** And milking a cow every morning. **G:** I enjoyed that. I love cows. I love Jersey cows. We had a registered Jersey stud. I used to enjoy milking the cows. I miss that part of it.

Q: Did you have vege patches and stuff like that?

S: Yes, we did all that and we had a little orchard with fruit trees peaches, apricots and the like.

Q: Did you have any problems with the possums or kangaroos eating your veges?

S: No. We had bird trouble though. **G:** Foxes took the birds sometimes, over the fence. The cage was open on top and we had to close the top in. The foxes would come right up in the early morning and climb the eight foot fence, down the side and take the goose in their jaws and up over the top and down to the dam in the gully out of the area. Amazing! It was very sheltered down there, a bit like a jungle. There were only feathers left at the end.

S: Geoff's whole ambition was to print in the morning and farm in the afternoon. But that didn't work out. He had to print all the time to pay his printing costs. And I kept teaching. **G:** Lucky you did. **S:** I loved it.

Q: So did you retire when you stopped printing?

G: Well after I finished printing at the RAAF base, the

college and the council we said no, we've had enough printing and we went gardening together and mowing lawns. **S:** We used the little Suzuki and we used to drive around the place – we had a little gardening business.

G: It was a very handy little car, the Suzuki. 4 wheel drive. It's still there. Unregistered.

S: Geoff did gardening while I was still working. Geoff left and he found these gardening jobs, and then I kind of got out of teaching and did the gardening.

Q: How long did you do the gardening for?

G: Three or four years. **S:** Longer, probably about five years. **G:** We had to cut lawns to certain heights for people. This is serious! The grass had to be a certain height. I learnt the lesson in the end. I used to put the blades lower and lower. People said that's what I want. People liked certain heights for their grass. Very fussy some of them.

Q: Where did you get your work?

G: Kurrajong Heights, around Grose Vale, East Kurrajong with people we knew.

S: We used to go camping a lot. We were heavily into camping. We'd go out on the Colo river or around Wheeny Creek or we'd go out of Bathurst. **G:** Soffala.

S: We went around the Kimberleys and we didn't have tents. We only had swags. But when the kids were there we had tents and we didn't go much further afield than Bathurst. Then we had an old caravan that opened out and we had a few disasters with. We used to go off with everything. That was a big part of our life. As soon as there was a lull we'd go off with the chook mob camping. It was good. Rick and Jane (Jamieson) were in it. **G:** That's right there were quite a few of us up here in the same area doing things together.

Q: And were you still doing bush walking?

G: No, not like I used to, no. I got a bit slower. Bit more fussy where I would go. Safer. You, you're OK (referring to **S**). **S:** Yeah I love it. I didn't like it at first because I just spent my whole life on the beach or a netball court. I really enjoyed bush walking and then Geoff gave it up kind of, so just had to go off with other people. Yeah, he stopped. But he walked with those early bush walking clubs in Sydney.

Q: And what years were they when you did your bush walking Geoff?

G: Oh, 1954 up to the early sixties. I went on a few epic walks a few times - three or four day walks. We'd go to Kanangra Walls near Jenolan Caves, a place called Cloud Maker near Kanangra Walls, up near Oberon. There were a lot of three day, four day walks across Wild Dog Mountain ranges. We stayed at night in tents. You were worn out, so you do sleep.

Au Revoir Neighbour

Q: Did you go on any of those Sylvia?

S: No, I walked with Sydney Uni when I was studying teaching. Geoff took some of our crowd on bush walks, but they were beach crowd. **G:** They took umbrellas and high heels with them. **S:** They were surfy types they didn't like it. **G:** When I rang up to join the Bondi youth club, it was Sylvia's sister I spoke to and she said, what do you do. I said bush walking. She said bush walking? I now know they didn't do bushwalking hence there hesitation in bushwalking. **S:** We used to spend our lives on the beach. I like bushwalking now.

Q: Geoff, you said you did national service at Bendigo?

G: Yes, around '55, '54 roughly. We learnt to fire a gun, Owen guns, Brenn guns, throw a grenade and do bayonet practice. I could not do that. I joined national service and I had to do all these exercises to kill people. Well in the end I didn't do any of those exercises, I became a woos. So they asked, Moorcroft what do you actually want to do. And I said sir, I'd like to not actually fire a gun if I can help it. So he said, well I've got a place for you to go. You can go to Bendigo to do mapmaking. And it wasn't only me, there were four of us in the same platoon. And I said thank you sir. So I went to Bendigo at camp Fortuna and were there for 2 months and we learnt how to make maps. It was almost a holiday compared to what I was used to doing with all these dramas with bullets and hand grenades and so on. There was some war pending but it never happened. I can't remember what war. It could have been the Suez crisis. It was compulsory. In the end we went from Bendigo to Studley Park at Camden. It's a well known heritage building and acreage. And they used to have this big shed where we put our wall to wall printing machine on the truck so we could print anywhere, anytime. So we learnt how to do printing on the run and then we got disbanded. So that was the end of my printing career with the army. But I survived the awful part. I could not do that.

Q: How old would you have been then?

G: Somewhere in the range nineteen to twenty –one. I was delayed for two or three years for national service because printing was a protected industry. But they got me in the end. **S:** The bottle industry was protected. They needed their bottles. **G:** Yes, recycled wine bottles were very important in those days. **S:** Yes, you couldn't go to war if you were in the bottle industry. **G:** Liqueur bottles, wine bottles,

S: So after you left school you went to TAFE? **G:** I went to the Technical College to learn printing and was apprenticed to my father. So I was 18 when I was supposed to be conscripted, but because I was printing, it was delayed until I was twenty, because it was a protected industry. I had to go sometime.

Q: Where did you do your teacher training Sylvia?

S: Sydney University. Sydney teachers' college which was at Sydney University. And then I did an upgrade at Wollongong University. I did it via distance education and used to go down once a month on a Saturday morning for a tutorial.

Q: So tell me about your parents Sylvia, were they born and bred in Bondi or did they come from elsewhere?

S: My mum was an only child, and she was carted around because dad was a bank inspector. She finished off school at Sydney High. Dad was one of a large tribe – a big Irish catholic family and most of the time they lived in Bondi and for a while in Ashfield. He ended up running this family bottle washing business that my grandmother started. When dad stopped, one of the cousins took over. Mum was a primary teacher. She taught at Richmond central school for a while before I was born. And they lived up at Mt. Kur-ring-gai for a while in this house that dad built. He was a bit of a hobby builder. I mean he's done an awful lot of strange things on this house. He had a great personality. **G:** There's a story there.

Q: What story do you mean Geoff?

G: Mum and dad were older than parents normally are when they had a child. Dad was older than mum and dad and mum had sisters and family but they weren't together very often. So I really had no relations I could talk to in those days and I was on my own quite a lot with two older parents. Anyway, it was very quiet where we were living in Dundas, nothing happening and I went to Bondi and met Sylvia's parents and my life changed after that because they had family. And Ma and Pa were able to show love to the guests they had in their house, whereas my parents didn't have the knack of doing that. I couldn't bring friends home to my house. So I found a loving family. I was part of the family from the word go, instantly. Ma and Pa were very supportive of me. So for my mum, I was her sort of companion a lot because dad wouldn't go with her. So I was her male companion. So I sat her down and told her you've got to meet my fiancé who is coming here. So I bought her to the front door and said, Mum this is Sylvia, then she faints because I was serious and she didn't think I was.

Q: So where in Bondi were you?

S: Well it was North Bondi and there was a paddock and we used to walk through the paddock to the beach. It was at Brighton Boulevard up near the tram terminus, but virtually across the road from the beach.

G: It was a funny thing, having met her family it was so noisy - I couldn't get a word in. I would go and hide in the sun room, go and hide and tell myself to calm down, calm down it'll be alright. **S:** The uncles would say to him there was always somebody there now look Geoff, just remember that the Wesslinks know

everything so it's no good you trying to tell us anything. So we know everything and we're not going to listen to you and if you listen to that bit of advice you'll be right. **G:** I survived. I'm still surviving.

S: Dad's father was Scottish, but his grandfather was German and a professor at Edinburgh University. So he came across to Edinburgh. And he never came out here but grandpa came out here. And grandma came from Ireland to New Zealand. So dad was really the first generation Australian. Grandma started a bottling company over in New Zealand.

Q: Where are you off to from here and what will you miss most?

S: We're moving to Jervis Bay. I will love being back near the ocean. I've always been a surfer chick and Geoff loves walking on the beach. There's lots of great bush as well as beaches down there. We'll miss Bowen Mountain and the Hawkesbury and friends we'll always treasure. We'll never ever have the same life and loves we've had here, but with luck we'll meet friends and get to value our "sea change".

Au revoir Bowen Mountain and thank you – from

Syl and Geoff



**Community Choir
&
Kurrajong Public School Children's Choir**

present

Winter Concert

Venue: Community Centre, McMahon's Park, Kurrajong
Date: Sunday 19. June 2016 @ 2pm
Tickets: Family \$25, \$15, cons \$10 afternoon tea included

Martha 4572 1778
Sue 4572 1140

BUSH NOTES FOR BOWEN MOUNTAIN

February with its initial high rainfall followed by warm humid days has led to a burst of growth not seen for a long time. The gardens around us are buzzing with the sound of mowers and other machinery clipping, cutting, trimming and blowing as attempts to bring it under control continue: at home, I have given over the vegetable plot to a huge pumpkin vine and enormous tomato bushes smothering all else. The three chooks do their best to control the snails, but enjoy the new forage nevertheless and any attempt to get them back to their coop in the late afternoon is doomed as they duck into the luxuriant growth!

This leads me to consider the bush and gardens around us in a different way for this issue of the newsletter. We are different in context from urban areas where bushlands have been fragmented into patches along roadsides or parks. Bush surrounds

our whole area and is taken for granted, unless we are alert to threat of fire, or notice the passage of birdlife close to where we live.

We need to look more deeply into relationships between flora and fauna to appreciate the way that they survive. Animals feed directly on plants in many ways. These relationships have co-evolved over time and also benefit plants in different ways including pollination, seed dispersal and nutrient cycling.

Many animals eat plant-feeding animals. A major benefit to plants is the control of herbivores, especially insects.

The following table from an article by John Reid [Australian Native Plants Society <http://anpsa.org.au/APOL17/mar00-1.html>] gives examples of animal-animal food relationships

Food Source	Eaten by....
Insects including caterpillars, grubs, moths, flies, mosquitoes, psyllid galls, aphids, lerps (formed by psyllids), ants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insects including ladybird beetles and larvae, lacewing larvae, praying mantises, robber flies, parasitic wasps • Spiders • Lizards • Frogs • Many birds including wrens, thornbills, pardalotes, whistlers, cuckoo-shrikes, honeyeaters, rosellas and magpies • Mammals including Sugar Glider, Brown Antechinus, Echidna and bats
Spiders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds including Striated Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote, White-throated Treecreeper, Grey Shrike-thrush • Frogs • Mammals including Sugar Glider and Brown Antechinus
Snails and slugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluetongue lizards

Our garden is a source of some food and habitat; that may be obvious, but less obvious is that it is part of a habitat corridor which links patches of vegetation that enables animals and plants (via seeds) to move between patches that otherwise might be isolated. Genetic material of animals and plants (via animal pollinators) also moves with animals along corridors. Migratory bird species will continue to visit remnant sites that are connected by habitat corridors, but will decline in isolated sites. Some examples of smaller migratory bird species which may occur in our area include the Black-faced Monarch, Sacred Kingfisher, Rufous Fantail, and Satin Flycatcher. The larger species such as Koels and Channel-billed Cuckoos are more obvious and so far continue to turn up in spring.

Nomadic or locally migratory bird species include the honeyeaters, silvereyes and lorikeets which follow the flowering cycles of plants.

Bird movement through our garden has changed over this last month. No longer dominated by the Satin Bowerbird tribe, I have been delighted to see a pair of Eastern Whipbirds using the dense foliage and ground litter to fossick for seeds and insects. High seed production on the Native Peach tree (*Trema tomentosa*) has also attracted several birds rarely seen around here: the Lewin Honey-eater and the Brown Cuckoo-Dove both guzzled as much of the tiny black fruits as they could while being threatened by the Noisy Miner family which tend to dominate this patch as their own.

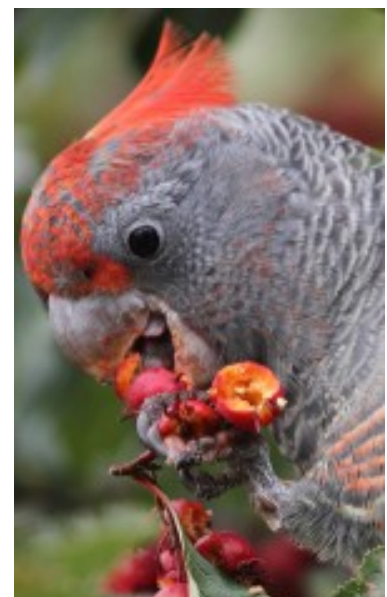
Forest Oak *Allocasuarina torulosa* and the Black She-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis* both flower around this time although you would be hard-pressed to see the flowers as these are without petals, and the sexes are separate: the male trees release clouds of brown pollen; the female flowers are tiny reddish hairy clusters at the ends of branchlets. What is special is that the seeds are one of the preferred food sources for Gang Gang cockatoos. You may come across a smattering of eaten cones when bushwalking. The Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*) has been spectacular in flower on the eastern side of the mountain, as well as for its change of bark as it sheds the rough grey coat for a bright salmon undercoat, noticed especially in the rain. Wattles have mostly set seed now, food for many parrots and also ants which harvest the seeds, attracted by the fleshy oil-rich elaisome (or seed stalk), which they bury and store. The seeds survive and germinate with the next soaking rains. Lillypilly (*Acmena smithii*) have set their white fleshy fruits and when ripe will be food for the rainforest birds, possums and flying foxes. Many banksias are now flowering in the woodlands and heaths. During the later months into winter, their nectar-rich flowers are important food for honey-eater birds and small mammals such as Pygmy possums and Feathertail gliders.

Grasses and sedges are now flowering and setting seed. Choosing plants for our gardens, we often overlook the value of these plants which flower and set seed over a long period, and many birds can be found enjoying the nutlike fruits. Sedges include Gahnia, Carex, Lepidosperma and Lomandras. Grasses, suitable for any garden, include the tussock forming plants such as *Themeda australis*, Kangaroo Grass. This plant is usually dormant during cool months, and begins to grow and flower late in spring, and continues to flower through to autumn, providing a reliable source of seed for birds such as Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots. These birds are also fond of *Danthonia* species as well as *Microlaena stipoides* and *Entolasia stricta*, particularly if these are allowed to grow uncut to maturity. Smaller birds such as finches and silvereyes also delight in feeding from these grasses, providing constant opportunities to observe them closely. The fallen seeds and dying grass stems also are important as food or habitat for insects which in turn attracts birds and small skinks.

Many of these smaller native plants can be seen and purchased at Hawkesbury Council's Community Nursery at Mulgrave Rd, McGraths Hill (adjacent to the animal shelter). Open Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm or by appointment. Phone (02) 4560 4651

AUTUMN WEATHER (March, April, May) Milder temperatures, fewer high wind speeds, lower rainfall, Much lower humidity. Long-term averages:

- March Mean Max Temp 25.0 C , Mean Min Temp 15.3 C, Mean rain 122.2 mm
- April Mean Max temp 21.9 C, Mean Min Temp 12.1 C, Mean rain 81.5 mm
- May Mean Max Temp 19.3 C, Mean Min temp 9.1 C, Mean Rain 69.1 mm



PHOTOS Hairpin Banksia Banksia spinulosa Kangaroo Grass Themeda australis GangGang Cockatoo Hop Goodenia Goodenia ovata

Community Care

Community Care assists residents of our community in need of assistance with transport to medical appointments, local social events, or general information regarding Hawkesbury Community Services.

Community Care organises social morning teas and luncheons for residents in the Bowen Mountain Hall. Transport is available if needed. Please check the newsletter and web-site for social events.

Phone: Liz Rowan 4572 2416
or Terry Hoare 4572 1140

Invitation
to all residents
Community Care Seniors
Lunch

Friday 8th April 2016
11:30am - 2pm
Bowen Mountain Hall
(transport available if needed)
RSVP Liz 4572 2416

Easter Services, St. Andrews

Maundy Thursday 24th March: 8pm Tenebrae

Good Friday 25th March: 9.00am worship service

Easter Sunday 27th March:8.30 am worship service

10.00 am worship service

6.00 pm Celebration service

hvbc North Richmond

Easter services times

Good Friday, 9.30am and 7pm

Good Sunday is 9.30am and 5pm

The theme this year is the Shadow Proves the Sunshine

Kurrajong Anglican Church
Easter Services

Good Friday

8am Traditional service

9:30 am Family Service

Easter Sunday

8am Traditional Service

10am Family Service

7pm Youth Service



Kurrajong Anglican Church

Easter hat & mask making workshop

Saturday, 19 March 2016

2:00-4:00PM

Kurrajong Anglican Church
1005 Grose Vale Rd, Kurrajong

Join us for a fun filled afternoon, games, music, craft and find out about the first Easter.

Parents and carers are welcome,
enjoy complimentary Devonshire Tea at our Garden café.

Pre-school children are welcome with a supervising adult.
Children can choose one from four craft workshops
(\$5 each including materials and light refreshments)

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RSVP by 16 /03/2016

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Email: admin@kac.asn.au

www.kurrajonganglicanchurch.org.au



KIDS KORNER

*Little Barry Bilby had a fly upon his nose
Little Barry Bilby had a fly upon his nose
Little Barry Bilby had a fly upon his nose
So he flipped it and he flapped it
And it flew away*

*Poor little Barry Bilby
Poor little Barry Bilby
Poor little Barry Bilby
So he flipped it and he flapped it
And it flew away*



Community Notices

BOWEN MOUNTAIN BUSHWALK BOOK

5th edition

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Go to www.facebook.com

Create your facebook account (this is free)
Search for 'Bowen Mountain'
(the logo is the Bunya Tree)

Send a 'Friend' request to get accepted.

You will find lots of up to the minute information from the Mountain.

Tai Chi

Come and join us in Bowen Mountain Park on Sunday mornings - weather permitting

Start at 10:00 am for a relaxing hour

For more information phone Sue: 4572 1271

CRAGO OBSERVATORY

The Observatory is operated by the Astronomical Society of NSW and is located at the northern end of Lt Bowen Road, about 200 metres past the gate on the fire trail.

Residents are welcome to attend our stargazing evenings on the listed **Saturdays** - subject to weather.

Saturday 5 March
Saturday 2 April



Please remember to cover your torches with red cellophane as you approach the observatory. White light causes the pupil of the eye to contract and it takes 20-30 minutes to regain dark adaptation.

For further information, and to confirm Friday openings, contact Carlos Ortue on 0422 300 649

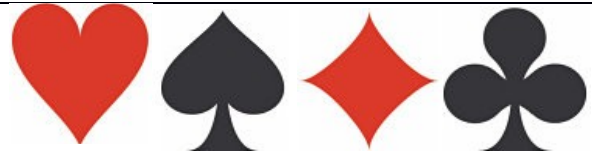
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Wednesday 11 am – 3 pm (with lunch break)

Friday 10:30 am – 2pm (no lunch break)

Note –

The sessions on Wednesday are designed for beginning players. There are lessons at 10am. When you are ready, you can then play at 11am.

The cost is just your time. The club will be able to organise a partner for you. If Wednesday is impossible, Tuesday before bridge (5:45) is possible if you can organise at least 2 others.

Phone Pat Chamberlain on 0245 721 411

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