

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No 124

**Summer** December 2015



**In This Issue**

**BMA 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

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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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.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 March 2016 Issue  
1 February 2016**

#### **COVER**

**Kooka Christmas**  
Sandra Boronyak

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## *Editor's Letter*

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sue Hoare and I have offered to undertake the position of Editor of the Bowen Mountain Newsletter. This decision hasn't been taken lightly or without due consideration. I realise how difficult it is to follow someone who has devoted so many years and endless hours of her time during her residency on Bowen Mountain to the production of this Newsletter. Sylvia has always been extremely dedicated in providing accurate and factual information to the residents of Bowen Mountain. – I refer of course to Sylvia Moorcroft, who with her husband Geoff, have recently decided to leave the Mountain and spend more time with family. On behalf of the many residents who have relied on the news imparted to them via the Newsletter over more years than Sylvia would like to calculate, (29 is a gracious age for a lady to 'retire') I would like to wish both Sylvia and her husband Geoff a wonderful stress-free retirement. I will endeavour to give as much as possible to the continuing production of the Newsletter. I have an exceptionally talented Committee on whom I can rely to provide and support the production of this Newsletter and I look forward to your continuing interest'. Contributions and ideas from Bowen Mountain residents will be gratefully received and well considered whenever possible for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Thank you,

*Sue Hoare*

#### **Newsletter Committee**

Sue Hoare, Judith Mitchell, Robin Woods,  
John Wulff, Terry Hoare.

Distribution Coordinator: Colin Chesterman 4572 1710.

#### **Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Executive**

**President** - Geoff Moorcroft (Phone 4572 1540)

**Vice President** – Bill Kerr

**Secretary** - Alison Kerr

**<secretary@bowenmountain.org.au>**

**Treasurer** – Terry Hoare

#### **General Committee**

Colin Chesterman, Sue Hoare,  
Liz Rowan, John Wulff

#### **Sub-Committee Coordinators**

Newsletter – Sue Hoare

Environmental & Planning – Robin Woods

Community Care – Barry Hanly, Terry Hoare,  
Liz Rowan

Webmaster – Chris Duckworth

Facebook Administrator – Lance Mitchell

**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 Report

Hello Everyone and Happy Birthday to the BMA. As Sylvie and I will be moving to Jervis Bay in the New Year this will be my last report. We have had 44 years of living in this great place and many happy memories to take with us, and leaving so many dear friends will not be easy.

It was encouraging to see so many people enjoying the party on Sunday 15 November. We thank the performers who entertained us so well, and Mayor Kim Ford, who spoke highly of the wonderful

community spirit of Bowen Mountain. The Association has continued to grow from its inception in 1975, when a group of residents banded together to protest to the Council about the lack of planning by developers and the council of the time. Those people and many since have worked tirelessly to make Bowen Mountain a wonderful place to live....We thank you all.

*Geoff Moorcroft*  
President

### BMA 2016 Diary

**REPEAT ITEMS: BMA COMMITTEE MEETING: Second Monday of every month commencing in January 2016.**

DATE		ITEM
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA Dinner – St. Patrick's Day- TBA All Welcome.</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Car Boot Sale and Sustainability Fair – Park</b>  <b>The BMA Arts Festival is unlikely to be held in 2016 due to the retirement of some of the Arts Festival Committee and Marion's illness.</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Winter Interlude – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>Date and Venue TBC</b>	<b>BMA Dinner</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA AGM</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b>
	<b>Date and Venue TBC</b>	<b>BMA Dinner</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall</b> <b>Christmas Party</b>

### A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the BMA Committee and the Newsletter Committee  
to all residents and friends of Bowen Mountain.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2015

As the year draws to a close, the weather gods are ensuring we remember the rain, cold and hail of winter, the falling leaves of Autumn, the warmth of Spring and the intense heat of Summer 2014. Indoor activities have become popular with a successful night out at Mountain Palace in October and at the “all you can eat banquet” at Kurrajong Kurries in November. A Christmas Party is planned for December 14<sup>th</sup> in the Park Hall. Many thanks to Liz and Martha for organizing these events on behalf of the Community Care committee. If you would like to come to the Christmas Party please contact Liz. Her contact details can be found later on in the newsletter under Community Care.

A successful Firewise information and demonstration afternoon operated by Grose Vale RFS was held in Bowen Mountain Park in September followed by a free BBQ and drinks provided by the BMA. Many thanks to Greg, Piet and Noel from Grose Vale RFS for their collaboration in organising this event.

The Bowen Mountain Association celebrated 40 years of operation in October at their 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday party held in Bowen Mountain Park Hall. The aim of the Bowen Mountain Association is to improve the quality of life on Bowen Mountain for all residents, liaise with Council for improvements to

services, provide a variety of social and information events and provide support and assistance for emergency services in crisis situations. John Leahy eloquently writes on the event further on in the newsletter.

The BMA is planning an abundance of entertaining activities for 2016, which are on the advanced calendar in this newsletter. Mark your diaries now! The BMA will be on annual holidays during December and will resume meetings in January 2016. I would like to thank the Bowen Mountain Management Committee and the subcommittees for all their tireless work throughout 2015 as they strive to make Bowen Mountain a quality environment for all to enjoy. A special thank you to Geoff and Sylvia Moorcroft who will be leaving the BMA and the mountain to enjoy adventures elsewhere. They will be sadly missed as they have been the backbone of the BMA for many many years. We wish them well in their new adventure! On behalf of the Bowen Mountain Association, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry, healthy and safe Christmas and a 2016 filled with peace, happiness, good health and success.

*Alison Kerr*

Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

### SYL'S “SWANSONG”

This is a short “valedictory speech” to say farewell to the Newsletter. Geoff & I will be moving to Jervis Bay sometime in the New Year - Geoff to “flat land”, and me to the ocean that I grew up by. We have had 44 of the happiest years anyone could have with our many friends in the Grose Vale Bowen Mountain area and will miss all of you so very much. I would like to thank Sue Hoare for taking on the “challenging role”(she says “trial only”), to

the new committee members Judith Mitchell and Robin Woods and to all those people involved with the newsletter ....- deliverers, correspondents, advertisers and past committee members, who have been my “rock” and saviour for over 15 years.

Good luck and keep up the good work

*Sylvia Moorcroft*



### ADOPT A ROAD



Bowen Mountain Road has been part of Hawkesbury Council's “Adopt a Road” program for a number of years. It involves clearing rubbish from non-residential sections of the road, specifically Carters Road to Grose Vale Rd, and will be left “volunteerless” when the Moorcrofts leave. We have found it an easy pleasant walk on Sunday morning, when there is minimal traffic, and Council provides any equipment needed. If anyone is interested in continuing this work contact Moorcrofts or any member of the BMA Committee or through the Newsletter.

On my walk yesterday I found a CD holder with all original well known CDs: Martha 4572 1778



## A Letter to the Bowen Mountain Community

When you are returning home after a time away, do you feel a surge of pleasure as you catch a glimpse of that distant blue backdrop and know that your home is amongst those beautiful mountains? Mind you, pinpointing the exact spot these days is a little more difficult since the demise of the Bunya Pine. Nevertheless, even without that majestic tree, you can still recognise the position of Bowen Mountain. You know you are heading towards a home and neighbourhood that is amongst those unique places in Australia, a strong and vibrant community.

Did you go along to the park in March and enjoy the market day, environmental displays, the bug treasure hunt, bite into a tantalising barbecue sausage, and enjoy the wonderful good humour that pervaded? Did you smile as you watched the children trying to find the bugs, their faces painted with beautiful designs?

Did you go to the opening night of the annual Community Arts Festival, sip wine and chat to other members of your community? Maybe you read the Bowen Mountain Newsletter and were impressed with the range of activities that is undertaken on your mountain.

Were you here when those bushfires started and crept along the ridges towards our homes? Remember as recently as August – September 2014 when we met in the Park to be briefed by the fire chief? We made sure our neighbours were OK. We were there for each other, when neighbours needed

neighbours to keep an eye out.

The above activities were all organised by the Bowen Mountain Association (except the fires of course). 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 pay via electronic transfer - see 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: 633 108**

**Account No.: 1182 44003**

**Account name: BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION INC.**

**Please email: [secretary@bowenmountain.org.au](mailto:secretary@bowenmountain.org.au) to notify us of your payment.**

Sincerely,

**Bowen Mountain Association**



# BUSH FIRE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

## NOVEMBER 2015

Dear residents of Bowen Mountain

Welcome to another edition of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Newsletter. As I am sure you would all be aware we are well advanced into the bushfire season for 2015-2016. Television images over the last few days have highlighted the dreadful fires in the south-west of Western Australia around the Esperance area of that State, particularly the tragic loss of life of four people as a result of these fires.

There was apparently only one call-out of the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade in October- early November 2015 and that was a motor vehicle accident on Grose Vale Road near Cabbage Tree Road where a young lady misjudged a corner and ran off the road.

I would like to draw our readers' attention to the Newsletter of the NSW Rural Fire Service AIDER PROGRAM – Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents. AIDER is a one off free service supporting residents to live safely and confidently in areas where bush fires may start or impact the locality. The property must be "Bush Fire Prone" meaning an area of land that can support a bush fire or is likely to be subject to bush fire attack, i.e. Bowen Mountain.

### PREPARING TO LEAVE EARLY MEANS:

- ☐ Completing a Bush Fire Survival Plan, available at [www.rfs.nws.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nws.gov.au)
- ☐ Planning where you will go, how to get there, and what you will take.
- ☐ Knowing the daily Fire Danger Rating in your area and what it means.
- ☐ Having transport organised for all members of the family, including pets.
- ☐ Actively seeking information on the fire situation and weather conditions from TV, local radio and the internet so you know when to leave.
- ☐ Having a back-up plan in case you aren't able to leave early enough. What other safer places are there you could get to?
- ☐ Talking to family, friends, and neighbours about your plan to leave early.

To be eligible for assistance under the program, those who may apply are the aged residents and residents with disabling medical conditions and who have limited support from family, relatives, friends or other community services. To obtain assistance under the AIDER PROGRAM call Tel. No. (02)8741-4955 to request an assessment of your property.

Alternatively, call the NSW Rural Fire Service on 1800-679-737 or Hawkesbury Fire Control on 4560-6400 for further advice.

Very best regards

*Terry Hoare*

Bush Fire Liaison Officer – BMA Inc.

### STAY AND DEFEND CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Do you have a Bush Fire Survival Plan?
- ☐ Do you know what triggers are to put your plan into action?
- ☐ Is your property well prepared and maintained?
- ☐ Are you physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property?
- ☐ Do you know what to do before, during and after a bush fire?
- ☐ Do you have well maintained fire fighting equipment and does everyone planning to stay and defend know how to use it?
- ☐ Do you know what you will do if your power goes out?
- ☐ Do you have access to water for fire fighting like a dam, tank or pool?
- ☐ Do you have appropriate personal protective clothing?
- ☐ Do you have an Emergency Survival Kit?
- ☐ Do you have a back-up?
- ☐ What will you do if there isn't a fire truck?

If there is any doubt in your mind, you should leave EARLY.

## Park Report

Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee (BMPMC)

### Welcome newcomers to the Mountain!

There has been an unusually high turnover of properties recently. We hope you are settling into "life on the Mountain." and maybe we will see you in the park!

### Help Wanted!

If you are a newcomer to the Mountain or a Bowen Mountain resident and you want to be involved with the community consider joining the Park Committee. The committee works with the Hawkesbury City Council in maintaining and improving the park. The committee meets every second month and the meetings last for about 1 ½ hr. There are a number of projects (eg toilet upgrade) we would like to undertake but we would like input (suggestions and help) from the residents of the Mountain. We also solicit help and financial assistance from Hawkesbury City Council, the owners of the Park. The hire fees are used for maintaining and improving the park facilities.

### Next Meeting

Thursday 10th December, 7.30pm in the Park Hall.  
All are welcome.

### Booking the Park Community Hall

The Community Hall is managed by volunteers on

the Park committee. We want to keep costs of maintaining the hall as low as possible. We appreciate it when the hall is given a good clean after each function so that it is in as good, or even better condition after.

Bookings can be done by the Community Web Site, email or phone.

<http://www.bowenmountain.org.au/bookings/booking-community-room/>

If you agree to the conditions please fill in the form on the website. After the form has been submitted an email will be sent to you from the park email address. The Booking Officer will respond to your reply email to arrange the drop off of the bond and hire fee and the booking form. You can also check out the facilities and the cleaning equipment at this time or send an email:

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

or phone me on 4572 1710. I generally do not ring back to mobile phones so please leave a landline number or an email address.

*Colin Chesterman*  
Chairman, for BMPMC

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

## BOWEN MOUNTAIN AUTUMN MARKET DAY

### SUSTAINABILITY FAIR AND CAR BOOT SALE

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

**WHEN: SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**  
**8.30am - 3.00pm**



*Finn & Eden Mansley at Halloween*

## 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.



## Bowen Mountain Association 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On Sunday 15 December a celebration to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bowen Mountain Association was held in the Park Hall.

BMA President, Geoff Moorcroft welcomed everyone and introduced Hawkesbury Mayor Kim Ford, who opened the festivities by congratulating the Association on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and praised the association and its members for the many years of organising social functions and raising funds for community projects. He also said that in his experience the association was one of the easier organisations to work with and he had fruitful interaction and co-operation in its dealings with Council, and wished the Association many more successful years of community involvement. Mayor Ford and Geoff together cut the birthday cake while everyone joined in singing happy birthday to the accompaniment of the bagpipes.

A big thank you to:

- Claire Bailey who entertained the children with her 1970s style children's stories.
- Musicians Gary on the banjo and mandolin, Ed on the violin and Ian on the bagpipes
- Singer and guitarist Isla van der Pole.
- Adrian Bryden recited the poetry of Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson and CJ Dennis and also pointed out how, during that time, these storytellers changed the social strata of attitudes from British to "Australian".
- Jenni and Judith assisted the children to design and make 40th birthday cards
- Grose Vale Fire Brigade, who provided vital fire information
- Comleroy Road Historical Society for their display and enthusiastic explanation of local history.

- Howard Mitchell (past Chairman of the new BM Park Committee) displayed four boards of photos documenting the state of the Park before the Park Management Committee was formed and a second showing achievements of the committee - building of the Park Hall and activities such as firework nights, Christmas in the Park, Teddy Bears Picnic and other community events.

The smaller children also had great fun on the jumping castle.

There was plenty of food and drink provided by the BMA and other community members. Special thanks to Sylvia and Geoff for cooking a tasty free sausage sizzle and to Alison and Bill for their dedication in organising the event.

Although the weather was a little cool and damp, thank you to everyone who came and joined in the celebration and helped make the afternoon a success.

Regards,

*John & Elaine Leahy*



*Happy 40th Birthday*



*Howard Mitchell's Display of Park Development*



*Community Care Display*



## Birthday Party



*Our President and Mayor Kim Ford cutting the Birthday cake*

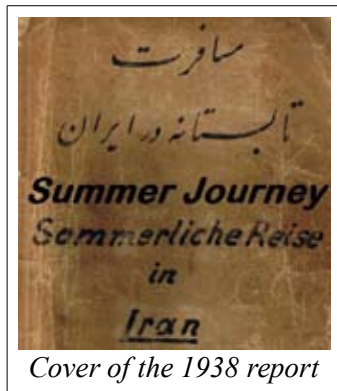


*Story teller Claire Bailey keeping the youngsters enthralled*

## Hello Neighbour

This essay was compiled by me in 2006 as an epilogue for a 90 page travel document my parents compiled in the summer of 1938 when I was 2 years old. I translated that document for my children and grand children and added this epilogue, which covers the turbulent early years of my childhood until coming to Australia in 1949.

My father Hans Wulff and his friend Willy Cremer went to school together and studied Mechanical Engineering in Cologne. When they graduated, it was the middle of the big depression and it was difficult to get jobs. Hans spent another year learning the Goldsmith Craft at the Cologne Art-School. His father, Matthias Wulff, was a Goldsmith, who had spent his journeyman years in Paris making silver and gold vessels in repoussé technique. These handmade pieces were used as masters for mass production of such vessels, which were in high fashion at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Cover of the 1938 report



A goblet made by my grandfather for his final exam as a goldsmith.

Hans then crossed the Atlantic three times as a ship's engineer on an oil tanker, since no other work was available for him. These trips left him with a very poor impression of the United States. All he saw there was the Baltimore waterfront, which must have been pretty dreadful in the early thirties. He followed this up with a year training for academic teaching. As a result he got a job as a teacher at the Technical College in Lübeck in Northern Germany. Now he and Magdalene could marry after having been engaged for seven years.

My mother Magdalene, nee Köllenbach, attended business school in Düsseldorf and then started work as a foreign language secretary, first with the Rhenania Oil Company in Düsseldorf and later with the Shell Oil Company in Hamburg, who had taken over Rhenania. She worked for 13 years at the Shell head office at the "Jungfernstieg" right on the water near the famous Hamburg town hall. She admired her boss, Herr Frank, who was Jewish. She told me

John Wulff

a lot about him during the war. She was horrified at the treatment of Jews in Germany at the time – she had personally witnessed how Herr Frank had been picked up by the Gestapo from his office in 1935. In 1938 Germans, and I imagine my parents, were still proud of their country and could not foresee what unimaginable disaster Hitler would bring to Germany and also into their lives.

Soon Hans realised, that there was no scope for promotion for him as a Catholic in the strictly protestant Lübeck. He applied for a job with the German Foreign Office in Berlin to establish Technical Colleges in Iran. He had contacts with the Foreign Office through a distant Cousin – Hermann Wulff, whom I met in Dortmund Dorstfeld at the "Wulff-Estate" in 1947 when he was in his eighties. At that time Hans already spoke 4 languages as well as Latin and Greek. One of his best friends at university was a Turk, whose parent's hazel nut farm he had visited in Turkey. I don't know when he learned Persian. As a lefthander, he had beautiful Persian handwriting. The Persian writing on the cover was done by him.

Hans and his student friend Willy Cremer got the jobs as foreign aid workers for Iran. They were responsible to the Ministry of Education in *Tehran* and started there in November 1936. Hans first established the Technical College in *Shiraz*. In 1939 he established another Technical College in *Isfahan*. In 1941 he was in *Tabriz* in the North. I presume Willy Cremer started in *Tabriz*.

The Shah of Persia at the time, *Reza Pahlavi* was very interested in these colleges. This becomes clear from the beginning of the Preface of the book "The Traditional Crafts of Persia", which Hans E. Wulff wrote in 1966:

When in 1937 the late *Reza Shah Pahlavi* addressed the staff and students of the Technical College at Shiraz, he seemed pleased that the work at the college was aiming at the training of Western-type technicians and engineers. These were the men he needed for his program of industrialization and for the development of his country. I was the principal of the College. Standing in front of a table with tools and machine parts made by the students, holding a precision instrument in his hand and facing the staff, he said: "You must be proud that your students can produce an instrument like this which, until recently, had to be imported from abroad." But later in his speech he added: "This is all very well, but doing this work, don't forget that this country has a great tradition of craftsmanship of a different kind." Turning towards the government officials he asked them to make sure that the technical colleges established classes for training in traditional crafts like silversmithing, engraving, wood carving, brocade weaving and the like. These classes were opened not long afterwards. To integrate them into my college I had to study the crafts closely and this was the beginning of my interest in them, an interest which led me to recording most of the crafts which were still alive at the time.



Now some family history. Johannes Eberhard Wulff (called Hans) was born on 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1907 in Lüdinghausen in Westfalia. Magdalene Köllenbach was born on 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1904 in Düsseldorf. They were married on 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1935 at the registry in Cologne and a day later they had a church wedding at St. Georg in Cologne. I, Johannes Eberhard Wulff (first called Eberhard, later John) was born in Lübeck on 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1936. Three months later, I presume in March 1937, my mother and I travelled to Iran, first by train via Berlin, Warsaw and Baku on the Caspian Sea and from there by boat to *Resht*. My father, who had already been in Iran for 4 months, picked us up at *Resht* and took us to *Shiraz*. In the summer after the trip we were in Isfahan, where my sister Hildegard Stephanie Wulff was born on 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1939. Two years later we were in *Tabriz*, where my sister Roswitha Christine Wulff was born on 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1941.

After that things became acute. World War II was raging in the East - Hitler had invaded the Soviet Union on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1941. On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1941 using Iraq as a staging area, British forces invaded Iran in conjunction with a Soviet invasion from the north. (<http://www.regiments.org/wars/20ww2/iraq.htm>). Hans heard about this on the radio and gave Magdalene five minutes to throw essentials into the car. She had just got the washing off the line, so she put baby Roswitha on top of the washing. *Tabriz* is not far from the Russian border. Dad drove south towards *Tehran* as fast as he could. This trip is one of my first memories – I can still see Russian tanks coming over the mountains trying to cut us off at an intersection. We just made it. German families who stayed on in *Tabriz* were displaced to Siberia. The last of those who came back at all returned in 1954.

We made it to *Tehran* and were camped in the garden of the German Embassy's summer residence at *Shimran* for 9 weeks, while the ambassadors tried to work out what was to happen with the Germans in Iran. In the end it was decided, that the men, including my father, were to be interned and were transported to *Basra* in Iraq. From there they were sent to Adelaide in South Australia on the New Zealand ship "Rangitiki", where they arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941 and were then taken to the "Loveday" internment camp near Barmera in South Australia.

The women and children were taken back to Germany via Turkey. I have a fragmentary memory of the bus trip through Turkey. One time the bus stopped and I could see people picking melons in a field. The bus driver hopped out and got melons for us - they were wonderfully refreshing. In *Istanbul* I can remember visiting the *Hagia Sophia* with mum

and the ferry across the *Bosporus* with its huge open steam engine. I saw a very similar steam engine in a Sydney ferry in 1950, but it was much smaller – until I realised, that in *Istanbul* I had only been 5 years old. Things were rough at the Ukrainian border. Female soldiers forcibly collected all valuables and jewellery – mum lost her wedding ring. I can remember the train trip to Austria and Christmas at the camp at Bad Kreuzen with Swastikas and lots of snow outside. Then we came to Grandmother Köllenbachs flat in Düsseldorf. I can still see the garden between rows of flats from an upper floor window.

Early in 1942 we were sent for a rehabilitation cure at the Clinic for Tropical Diseases in Tübingen. There I got scarlet fever and was put in an isolated room. I can still see mum looking at me through a small window in the wall. While I had scarlet fever Düsseldorf was bombed and the house grandmother lived in was demolished. We could not go back there. Grandfather Matthias Wulff was taking the waters at Bad Herrenalb in the Black Forest – not far from Pforzheim, where I lived until 2008. So we went to Bad Herrenalb and got some rooms with a lady there. Half a year later Bad Herrenalb changed its status and was made a "Spa of the Reich" – for big wigs only. We were told, that refugees were not wanted. So we had to find another place and an ex-colleague of mum's at Shell in Hamburg – Helma Klett took us. In the meantime she had become a potter and had transformed an old run down brick works at Fredelsloh near Hanover into a pottery for earthenware pots. The four of us lived in a 15 sqm room at the pottery for 11 months.

Then we got our own 2 bedroom flat in a 300 year old house in Moringen, which is 7 km from Fredelsloh. But there we were 7 people. Grandmother Köllenbach had one bedroom. Grandfather Wulff, whose place had also been bombed in the meantime, slept in the large living room, where we played during the day. Mother and the girls had a small bedroom and I slept in the kitchen next to the stove, which was rather cosy. Later we had a Frau Hornung there as well – her husband was also interned in Australia and she had contacted us through letters from my father. I think



*My sisters and me in 1943*

## Hello Neighbour

she must have slept in grandmothers room. Grandfather's youngest sister Stephanie – known to everyone as Aunt Fanny – had her own place in Moringen. She had been buried under her house in Bonn for two days after an air raid. Since that time she had the trembles. She had been a gifted concert pianist. I had piano lessons with her for four years in Moringen. I went to primary school there and experienced the end of the war on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. Just on that day the British troops came to Moringen. They wanted to repair a tank in our vegetable garden. My mother, who spoke good English convinced the officer to do it in the narrow yard, so that we would not starve. Later I attended High School in Northeim, which was 9 km away.

In 1946 the civil internees in Australia were released. They were given the option to be sent home by boat or to stay in Australia. Herr Hornung opted to come home and I remember him crying, while watching the Australian film “The Overlanders” with us in Northeim. This made a great impression on me. Over 50% including Hans elected to stay in Australia – he did not believe the Nazis would lose their influence quickly enough. Hans had to work till 1949 to earn enough money to pay our passage to Australia. The 8<sup>th</sup> of August was the big day. We did the first stage of the journey by horse and carriage from Moringen to Göttingen on

the Autobahn – would you believe! Then by steam express train via Frankfurt to Genoa, with an overnight stop in Basle. We arrived in Genoa in a heat wave and it turned out, that the ship was delayed for three days. Mother had left Germany without any money. Dad had sent train and boat tickets as well as £75, but Thomas Cook in Hamburg were going to give her that money in D-Marks, which was still a very soft currency then. So she let the money go back. That was typical of her. So we had to sleep on marble tables in the waiting room at Genoa Central Station. We crept around Genoa in the heat feeling hungry. All we had to eat in those three days was a lemon gelato each afternoon at the pier, which was given to us by a nice Italian, who must have admired mum. I still regard Italian gelato as a life saving food.

Eventually the “Surriento” with its two chimneys came to the pier. The voyage through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea took us to Naples, Port Said, Colombo, Fremantle, Melbourne and Sydney. Finally on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1949 we rounded “Bennelong Point” and I will never forget the overwhelming sight of the Harbour Bridge slowly coming into view. The Surriento docked at Walsh Bay Pier 4, where today there is a theatre. After 8 years we were a family with a father again.  
*John Wulff*



PS: The excerpt on the opposite page is from the travel document, which I mentioned at the beginning of this essay. The story of how dad managed to acquire a luxury car used to be very amusing to my sisters and me when we were little – as was the whole 90 page book, which was one of our few picture books and a link to our dad in Australia.



*The day we arrived, together in Hyde Park*

Do you have an interesting story/ Would you, could you share it with us? We'd love to hear from you . Please contact the Newsletter committee [bmanews@bowenmountain.org.au](mailto:bmanews@bowenmountain.org.au) to have your story published.



## Excerpt from John's parents Summer Journey in Iran

*The Swedish ambassador to Iran had an "Auburn" car, which had a faulty hydraulic overdrive in the rear differential. On a trip with the Swedish Crown Prince, the gears would crash ominously under the rear seat, every time the chauffeur changed gears. The Crown Prince told the ambassador to get rid of the car. Dad took it and called it "Bruno", because it was the colour of milky coffee.*

... "Bruno" had been jacked up two weeks before the start of the holidays - its front axle was

straightened, the steering adjusted, the springs renewed, in as much as they were not up to the terrible roads - in short he was overhauled. My students *Abolfat Frutan* and his brother *Hassan Ali* were my trusted helpers, not to forget *Passiar* - always thirsty for knowledge and last but not least General *Keschawars*, who got his nickname, because he was better at giving orders, than doing some work himself.

Stop at *Fassa*, near *Shiraz* on the first day. ...



**Fig 4.** *Miane Djangal* - in the Middle of the Jungle! (more than 5 trees). "Bruno" and dad with his students.



**Fig 5.** Cemetery Mosque in *Fassa*.



**Fig 6.** The first houses of *Fassa*.



**Fig 7.** *Fassa*. The date palms are in the garden of the local school.



**Fig 8.** On the way to the school is the Bazaar, the centre of each town.



**Fig 9.** A cool dip in the "Holy Water" near the fire temple.

Welcome to the timeline of seasons and environmental changes for the Blue Mountain foothills (Grose Vale-Bowen Mountain region). This includes a seasonal weather calendar, and notes on native plants, fauna, and weeds. There will be opportunities to learn more through participation in workshops or field trips with others. The information provided here will extend your pleasure during bushwalks, or provide contacts to assist you in your gardens. Thanks to Chris Stanfield for notes

on reptiles, frogs and mammals, and Keith Brandwood of Cumberland Bird Observers Club for notes on birds. We also plan to make much of this information available on the BMA website, where readers' photos and comments can add to its success. Chris, Keith and others are also available to conduct bushwalks in the next few months. We will be posting more details in the BMA CALENDAR. Please contact 0414 672 014 if you can offer your own experience to this program.

### IN FLOWER: PLANTS of BOWEN MOUNTAIN NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY (SUMMER MONTHS)

The production of **Bowen Mountain Bushwalks** undertaken in 1994 by Rick Jamieson and others contributed to enjoyment of unknown numbers of locals and visitors to our area. When Rick and others formed the Environment Committee in 2010, it was thought we could add more detail, including colour photos, via the website and newsletter. This is a start. It includes some suggested trails from the booklet. Each season in the newsletter will list just a small number of the vast array of trees, shrubs and

smaller plants which can easily be seen. Other notes on their part in the natural system will be added. Another useful illustrated guide to carry into the bush is **Native Plants of the Blue Mountains** by Margaret Baker and Robin Corringham. The photos are excellent!

The range of flowering period is shown in brackets. Italics are used for the botanical name which is more useful if more information is sought via references including websites.

Sago Flower *Ozothamnus diosmifolium* (Oct-Dec), Blue Flax Lily *Dianella caerulea* (Oct-Feb) Black Wattle *Callicoma serratifolia* (Oct-Dec) Hairy Clerodendrum *Clerodendrum tomentosum* (Oct-Nov)

Blueberry Ash *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (N-Dec), Christmas Bush *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, (Nov) Smooth-barked Apple *Angophora costata* (N-D) Prickly Paperbark *Melaleuca stypheliodes* (Nov-Dec) Crinkle Bush *Lomatia silaifolia* (Nov-Feb) Paperbark Tea Tree *Leptospermum trinervium* (Nov- Jan)

Water Gum *Tristanopsis laurina* (D-F) Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii* (N-F) Red Ash *Alphitonia excelsa* (D-M) Grey Myrtle *Backhousia myrtifolia* (N-D) Old Man Banksia *Banksia serrata* (D-J) Narrow-leaf Geebung *Persoonia linearis* (Dec-Jul) Flax-leaved Wattle *Acacia linifolia* (Dec-apr)

Red Bloodwood *Corymbia gummifera* (Jan-Apr) Hickory Wattle *Acacia implexa* (F-M) Blackthorn *Bursaria spinosa* (J-Apr)

**Notes:** Blackthorn's dense prickly branches provide protection for smaller birds against predators. The flowers are an important source of nectar for butterflies and a range of beetles. [More information on Blackthorn at PlantNet](#)

Many spring flowering plants are now setting seed. This can become a high protein and carbohydrate food source for ants, birds, lizards and small mammals. Some seeds are wind-dispersed eg grasses, some daisies, weed species eg cats claw creeper, crofton weed, fire-weed.

**Where to see some of the selection:** Water Gum, LillyPilly, Grey Myrtle, Coach woods, ferns, and other rainforest species on the **Pipeline Track** down to Burralow Creek

Bloodwoods, Banksias, tea-trees, boronias and pea flowers on the **Observatory Trail**.

Waratahs, wattles, Burrawangs and a range of Eucalypts and related trees on the **Southern Trail**.

**SUMMER WEATHER:** Details are from the Springwood climate figures rather than Richmond. ([www.weatherzone.com.au/climate/](http://www.weatherzone.com.au/climate/))

SUMMER (December, January, February). Hottest months, hot NW winds can fan bushfires. Violent storms in February with lightning; high rainfall helps to disperse seeds.



**Weather: Long-term averages**

- December Mean Max temp 26.2C, Mean Min temp 15.2C Mean rain 98.3mm
- January Mean Max temp 28.5C Min 17.0C Mean rain 120.2mm (Hottest month)
- February Mean max temp 26.2C Min 16.8C Mean rain 132.5mm (wettest month)

**BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN THE SUMMER MONTHS BOWEN MOUNTAIN AND SURROUNDS:**

All the migrants from the north will have arrived and be busy establishing their breeding territories. The obvious ones by their loud and persistent calls are the Koel, Channelled -Billed, Brush and Pallid Cuckoo s. Less noisy are Rufous Whistlers, Sacred Kingfishers, Dollar Birds, Leaden Flycatchers, Rainbow Bee-Eaters and Cicada Bird. This is just a small sample out of the more than 100 species inhabiting this area. Many young birds are leaving nests. Sounds of the Golden Whistler and Spotted Pardalote are heard; Whipbird comes into garden in misty rain periods. Satin Bower birds are constant garden visitors as well as Noisy Miners which have successfully raised several broods here.

**MAMMALS:** Young mammals are now dispersing which may lead to more road kills eg young foxes, and wire casualties in barb-wire fences eg gliders, possums, flying foxes, as well as electrocution in power lines eg ringtail possums. Male koalas roam out of parent territory, and risk being chased by dogs. Other species known in the area include the sugar glider, ringtail and brush tail possums, echidna, antechinus, swamp wallaby, koala, bandicoots, and quolls.

**REPTILES:** The whole area is an important reptile habitat with a wide diversity of small to large skinks, dragon lizards and snakes. The best message is to avoid confronting dangerous reptiles; there is no reason to attack them. Call WIRES or known reptile handlers if necessary. Clear debris, keep grass short.

Common snakes: Diamond python, Green Tree snake, black snake coming into gardens. Less common sightings: death adders and brown snake, small-eyed snake. This is a prime activity time for reptiles, as they come out of the cooler months.

Sandstone Leaf-tailed Gecko uses garages and dark spots, near lights at night. Blue tongue lizards are on the move hunting invertebrates. Please restrict use of snail baits in garden.



*Leaf-tailed gecko*

Water dragons are found around ponds & pools, the pink-tongued skink is arboreal, and needs hollow tree to survive, or house cavities eg brick work. Reptiles are opportunistic feeders..eg will use damaged termite nests for a high protein meal. Lace monitors seen on very hot days after Christmas, take chicken eggs, and chooks. Rats are sources of food for variety of reptiles. Small skinks are seen fighting to establish territory. Gardeners may come across communal nests of 30-40 small rubbery eggs when gardening. Tortoises are also dispersing to new ponds after heavy rain – there is increasing concern that many suffer road kills and injuries.

**FROGS:** Some recent heavy rainfalls have increased the activity as male frogs call to females to breed. Usually these are heard rather than seen as many are more active at night. Local species include



*Blue Mountains Tree Frog*

Peron's Tree Frog, the Bleating Tree Frog, active now till late Jan; Blue Mts Tree Frog from early spring onwards, Striped Marsh Frog, Common Eastern Froglet, and the Little Green Tree Frog. Your garden pond or water bowls may provide some cool shelter under shade for these important creatures!

*Robin Woods*



*Crinkle Bush*



*Blue Flax Lily*



*Sago Flower*

## 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

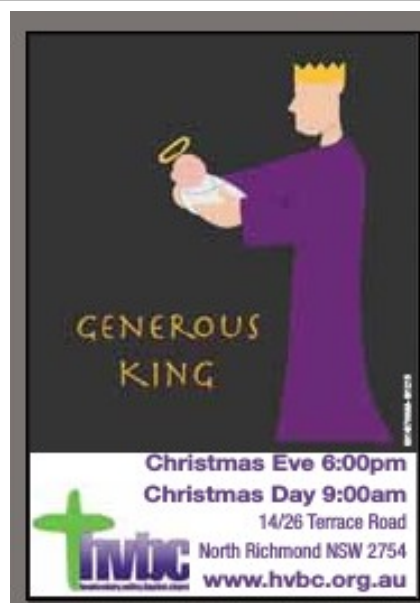
### **Invitation** **to all residents**

**Community Care**  
**Christmas Lunch**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**2015**

**11:30am - 2pm**  
**Bowen Mountain Hall**  
*(transport available if needed)*

**RSVP Liz 4572 2416**



**Christmas at St Andrew's**  
St Andrew's Uniting Church  
25 West Market Street,  
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Phone: 4578 3820



**SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER**  
2pm: Christmas Carols.  
The Christmas Story through bible readings.

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Thursday 24th December  
A FREE event for families, in the Christian tradition  
6.30 - 7.00pm: Sausage Sizzle and drinks  
7.00 - 8.00pm: Family Christmas Carols with a live Nativity.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE 11.00PM: Carols & Communion Service**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
9.00am: Christmas Day Celebration Service

*You are invited to come to these events and celebrate with us the birth of Jesus.*



**St Andrew's Uniting Church**  
25 West Market Street,  
RICHMOND

### **Summer Sundays 2016**

27th December 9.00am service only  
— **From 3 January to 24 January** —  
9.00am Family Worship every Sunday in St Andrew's Church followed by Morning Tea  
6.00pm *Sundays@Six* modern worship in the Auditorium Café style  
*No Children's or Youth programs in school vacations*

### **Sundays from 7 February 2016**

We return to 3 services each Sunday  
8.30am Traditional Worship  
10.00am Family Worship  
6.00pm *Sundays@Six* Modern Worship  
+++++  
Children's and Youth programs begin at 10.00am on Sunday 7 February  
SEE: [www.richmonduniting.org.au](http://www.richmonduniting.org.au)  
or PHONE: 4578 3820





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Subject: **HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIST**

[bmanews@bowenmountain.org.au](mailto:bmanews@bowenmountain.org.au)



## Community Notices

### BOWEN MOUNTAIN BUSHWALK BOOK

5<sup>th</sup> edition

Ring Yane Jamieson  
4572 1321



**Join the BMA facebook Page and connect with other people from Bowen Mountain.**

To go to the BMA facebook Page

Go to [www.facebook.com](http://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 from mid January  
For more information phone Sue: 4572 1271

**Attention all: this is your Barista**  
*I would like to cordially thank each and every  
one of you for your time and contribution  
towards the Grose Vale café with your sugges-  
tions and answers. I've taken on board all that  
you have said and will do my best in meeting  
your wishes.*

Tomas

### 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 December**  
**Saturday 2 January**  
**Saturday 30 January**  
**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 Ortué  
on 0422 300 649*

### Tai Chi Shibashi

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Mondays at 2:00 pm  
contact U3a office on 4578 2333

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## Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve:**

**6pm followed by dinner**

**Christmas Day:**

**8am—Traditional service in Old St Stephens**

**9:30am—Family Service in the hall**



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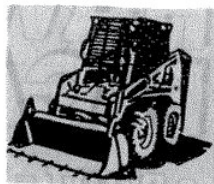
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