

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 119

Spring September 2014



In This Issue

Ricks Tree Planting

Burralow Creek and Botanists Way

An Interesting Life – Howard Mitchell

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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.

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**DEADLINE for December Issue
1 November 2014**

**COVER
A Bunya Pine for Rick
Marian Hanly**

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Editor's Letter

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter and lots of good reading, including the AGM reports and names of the incoming committee members.

The Hall was packed in July for the popular Winter Musical Interlude. The audience enjoyed a scrumptious Devonshire tea while being entertained by local musical groups and the Chorella Choir.

In this issue:

Michael Campbell has interviewed Howard Mitchell who tells us of an interesting life of travelling, learning and living in many unusual places with Judith – a truly amazing life.

Colin Chesterman reports on the tree planting ceremony for Rick Jamieson.

We have published the Hawkesbury Bushwalks - Burralow Creek Walk and Botanists Way, which has been submitted by Claire Bailey. Information can be found on the Hawkesbury Council website.

Finn Jakobsen and grandchildren, accompanied by Colin Chesterman, have written about their adventurous walk along Frieda's Gully Track.

Don't forget the Grose View Public School Spring Fair on 12th October.

Cheers and happy reading, *Sylvia Moorcroft*

Newsletter Editorial Committee

Sylvia Moorcroft, Marian Hanly, Sue Hoare, Geoff Moorcroft,
Michael Campbell, John Wulff

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, Marian Hanly, Sylvia Moorcroft,
Liz Rowan, John Wulff

Sub-Committee Coordinators

Newsletter - Sylvia Moorcroft

Environmental & Planning – Robin Woods

Arts Festival Co-ordinator – Marian Hanly

Community Care – Barry Hanly, Terry Hoare,
Liz Rowan

Webmaster – John Wulff

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014

After the wonderful success of last year's Winter Musical Interlude a third Winter Musical Interlude was held on Sunday June 15th featuring a range of artists on instruments such as harp, guitar, saxophone, drums and voice. Homemade Devonshire teas were served and enjoyed by everyone.

We have planned another dinner outing to the warmth of the local River Orchid restaurant in September. Details follow in the newsletter.

At the recent AGM, Hawkesbury Police attended represented by Inspector Susanne Rode-Sanders and Acting Inspector Rebecca Barlow from

Hawkesbury LAC NSW Police who gave an informative and interesting presentation on "Snoopers on Bowen Mountain – What do I do"? They reiterated the following:

If you have snoopers on your property then ring 000 immediately and report the incident. For other concerns regarding Crime Prevention, please contact:

**Hannah Watson, Crime Prevention Officer
Constable, Hawkesbury LAC, 75057**

wats1han@police.nsw.gov.au

Alison Kerr

Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH 2014 BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK HALL

Meeting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

Present:

As per attendance record. A total of over 30 people attended the meeting. The President, Geoff Moorcroft welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from: Howard and Judith Mitchell, John Wulff, Robin Woods

Minutes: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 25th August 2013. Complete minutes of the 2014 meeting will be printed in the newsletter.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the AGM held on 25th August 2013 be accepted

MOVED: Barry Hanly
SECONDED Bill Kerr **CARRIED**

1. Reports – All reports were detailed, tabled and printed in the Spring issues of the Bowen Mountain Association newsletter. These reports were from President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Committee.

2. The meeting was then chaired by the President, Geoff Moorcroft and Vice President, Bill Kerr who introduced the guest speakers, Inspector Susanne Rode-Sanders and Acting Inspector Rebecca Barlow from Hawkesbury LAC NSW Police who gave an informative and interesting presentation on "Snoopers on Bowen Mountain – What do I do"? At the end of Police the presentation Geoff Moorcroft and Bill Kerr invited questions from the audience. A variety of questions were discussed concerning home security, snoopers, appropriate responses to

Police situations on Bowen Mountain and condition of Bowen Mountain Road. Geoff and Bill thanked the Police for their attendance.

3. Members were advised that the Department of Fair Trading form (as required) was available for perusal before being forwarded to the department.

4. The annual Treasurer's report as at 30th June, 2014, outlined the following: total income: \$11,163.75 total expenditure \$ 10,759.14; operating account balance \$ 9,151.08, term deposit \$8,503.11; total assets \$20,899.04

MOTION: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

MOVED: Terry Hoare
SECONDED Bill Kerr **CARRIED**

6. The President declared that all positions on the BMA committee were vacant and handed the meeting over to the Returning Officer, Diane Fairweather.

7. The election of the BMA Committee was then conducted resulting in the following people being elected.

Committee

PRESIDENT: Geoff Moorcroft

VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Kerr

SECRETARY: Alison Kerr

TREASURER: Terry Hoare

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Marian Hanly, Liz Rowan, Colin Chesterman, Sylvia Moorcroft, John Wulff,

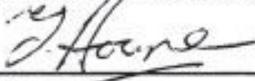
Meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc
Revised Treasurer's Report
for the Year Ending 30th June, 2014

Particulars	Expenditure	Income	Net Income	Subtotals	Balance
<u>Income and Expenditure:</u>					
Term Deposit:					
Opening Balance at 1 July, 2013					\$8,161.91
Closing Balance at 30th June, 2014					\$8,503.11
Subtotal Income & Expenditure from Investment	\$0.00	\$341.20	\$341.20		
Cheque Account:					
Opening balance @ 1 July, 2013					\$9,087.67
Closing Balance @ 30 June, 2014					\$9,151.08
Subtotal Income and Expenditure from Operations	\$10,759.14	\$10,822.55	\$63.41		
Total Income and Expenditure	\$10,759.14	\$11,163.75	\$404.61		
<u>Assets:</u>					
Current Assets:					
Cash				\$17,654.19	
Total current assets				\$17,654.19	
Non-Current Assets:					
New Ice Chest (2014)				\$354.34	
New Chairs + Timber (2014)				\$178.95	
Road Signs (2013) Depreciated @ 18% from 2013 value				\$139.32	
BBQ (2013) Depreciated @ 18% from 2013 value				\$526.50	
Other Assets from 2013 Depreciated @ 18% from 2013 value				\$2,045.74	
Total non-current assets				\$3,244.85	
Total Assets					\$20,899.04
Total Liabilities					\$0.00
Net Assets					\$20,899.04

Notes:

1 My tenure as Treasurer of the BMA Inc. within this report was from 01 November, 2013, to 30 June, 2014.



 T.M. Hoare
 Treasurer
 The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

16 08 2014

 Date

The 2014 Bowen Mountain Association President's / Secretary AGM Report

During the past year, The Bowen Mountain Association has experienced a number of successes with submissions to Council and a range of social activities for residents. Firstly, the new green waste bins adorning the mountain were as a result of the BMA writing to Council several times and requesting these bins. Secondly, a notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Leigh Williams on behalf of the Bowen Mountain Association requesting Council to investigate the feasibility of upgrading Bowen Mountain Road to improve access and egress especially during bushfire situations. On Bowen Mountain Road and Serpentine Lane drainage was installed and completed. The Council funding for this much needed upgrade to Bowen Mountain Road was \$125,000 and was as a direct result of action from Councillors, nearby residents and the Bowen Mountain Association Roads committee. Thirdly, snoopers were reported in several houses around the mountain. Local police were informed and will be discussing the increased number of break and enters on the mountain.

It was with great sadness that we farewelled Rick Jamieson in October 2013. Rick was a founding member of the Bowen Mountain Association and a local legend who contributed significantly to community activities.

Alison and Bill Kerr, Secretary and Vice President of the Bowen Mountain Association were invited by the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society to present an Australia Day talk on the history of the first white inhabitant of Bowen Mountain, George Meares Countess Bowen in January 2014.

In March 2014 the popular third Bowen Mountain Market Day, Sustainability Fair and Car Boot Sale was held. Twenty five stall holders set up their wares throughout the Park. A range of

Environmental Sustainability activities including the popular Rangers on the Run - Bugs display and demonstration, vegetable gardening, worm composting, native plants for a sustainable native garden, displays from Council and Kurrajong Public School were the highlight of Market Day. Children and adults took part in interesting and challenging craft activities throughout the day.

A working bee to clean up the Park and the Park hall as well as fresh paint on the walls, ceilings and poles provided by Council heralded the beginning of Bowen Mountain Association indoor activities in early May 2014 with the annual Bowen Mountain Arts Festival.

After the success of the second Winter Musical Interlude last year a third Winter Musical Interlude featuring a range of artists on instruments such as harp, guitar, saxophone, drums and voice was held in June 2014. Also, dinner outings to Thai Angelina in Richmond and River Orchid in North Richmond once again proved to be popular activities.

We would like to thank everyone on the executive committee, the sub committees, and all those who gave their time and assistance with the various events throughout the year. Also, thank you to all of you who came along to our events and we hope you enjoyed yourselves. You are what make the BMA what it is and Bowen Mountain a unique environment of creative, talented individuals who work as a team to bring Bowen Mountain spirit to the mountain

Geoff Moorcroft

President, Bowen Mountain Association

Alison Kerr

Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORT

The Newsletter has seen a number of changes this year. Sadly, our much loved Rick Jamieson died late last year, and is greatly missed by all of us on Bowen Mountain. John Wulff has taken over the daunting job of typesetting - and Diane Fairweather, who does the final proofread for us is continuing Denise Nixon's popular Personal Jottings column. Many thanks to both of you, to Lesley Carbery for setting up the Crossword and to the regular members of the team, Marian, Sue and Michael for

all their hard work.

Newsletters for Carters Road, Horans Lane and Westbury Road can be collected from Grose Vale Post Office, with thanks to Mark Martyre. Thank you to our regular correspondents, advertisers, and deliverers who help to keep this newsletter the great "communicator" it has become.

Cheers and happy reading

Sylvia Moorcroft

Rick Jamieson's Memorial Tree Planting

Colin Chesterman

About twenty people gathered in the Park on the 7th July for the planting of a memorial tree to the late Rick Jamieson.

Thanks to Terry & Sue Hoare who donated the Bunya Bunya Tree. They had gathered and propagated the seeds from the original Bunya. This tree has a direct genetic connection to the old Bunya that staved off an infection for many years but, after being hit by lightning twice and catching alight it finally gave up its life. This is the tree that Rick knew so well. It is significant for the Jamieson family and friends to have this connection with Rick in the park and also at Poets Rock where his ashes were scattered.

When I was in Japan on a cycling trip, we stayed with a Japanese family at Natasho North of Kyoto. We walked from their house with the family to the village graveyard only a block away. The close physical proximity gave them an emotional connection to their deceased family. In the same way the close physical proximity of the Bunya gives us a reminder of Rick.

Remember when in the park; give "Rick" a drink and think of him. He would appreciate that. Peter read The Desiderata as a tribute to Rick. Look at the cover page of this Newsletter for Marian's sketch of the Tree Planting.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and

ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be critical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann 1927

Park Report

Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee (BMPMC)

Park Bookings

bowenmountain.org.au/index.php/park-bookings

Working Bee

Come and meet local people and give a hand to maintain our park. When:-
Saturday September 13th 9am-1pm in the park.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

We welcome all Bowen Mountain residents to the AGM of the BMPMC. Thursday 9th October, 7.30pm in the Park Community Room

Kitchen Upgrade

We are waiting for Council to organise a quote and advise on availability of funds so that we can proceed.

Enclosed Play Area

The weeds at the end of the enclosed area have been pulled out. We have requested Council add sand under the matting and install drainage so that water does not pool.

Park Furniture

BBQ shelter furniture and the table and seat nearest the building have been sanded and given a coat of "Sikkens". The other outside furniture needs attention.

Toilet Blockage

The handicapped and men's toilet were blocked by root invasion. A council contractor unblocked them two days later.

Hello Neighbour

Michael Campbell

This article is an edited transcript of a chat I had with Howard Mitchell on the verandah of his workshop on Tuesday 13 May 2014.

Q. Howard, when and why did you move to Bowen Mountain?

We moved to Bowen Mountain in about 1982. We'd been living in Africa and we spent our last pennies on this house. We knew a farming family on the Richmond lowlands. As a youth I'd come with the Rover Scouts to assist with flood relief. They, the Biddle family, became lifelong friends. They took me under their wings and were mentors to both Judith and I. Eventually we'd come together on holidays and weekends. We spent a lot of time there.

When we'd been abroad for so many years and were searching for somewhere affordable and close to nature to settle, we went and visited the farm. We scanned The Gazette. Prices were out of reach! "Oh here's one on Bowen Mountain that's cheaper!" They were good Hawkesbury people. They sold us their car and helped us move in a fridge. We'd never owned a fridge or a car. We'd spent all we'd earned, had almost no possessions, the house was only to lock-up stage and a bit derelict. Even today there are still things to fix. We were contented because it was close to nature and there was a white daisy growing by the back step! We moved in and camped in the first house of our own

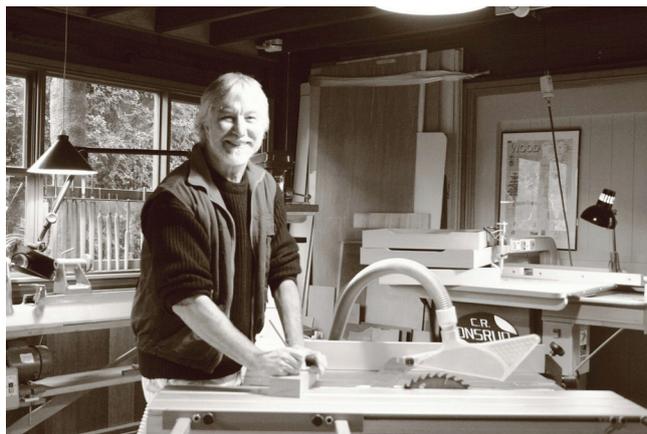
Q. What were you doing in Africa before you came back to Australia?

That was a culmination of an 11 year honeymoon and a long, long story. The concise version is that Judith and I were married in 1970 and I had this idea, this dream, that we could get to Europe for virtually nothing. We set off (believe it or not) on the ten to midnight train from Central Station Sydney... bound for London England! We got off in Bathurst and started walking.

To cut a long story short, about 4 months later, after an array of basic transport, a bit of hitchhiking and a lot of walking plus a lot of strange sleeping places and nights under the stars we somehow got across Pakistan and Afghanistan and Iran and found ourselves walking across the border into Turkey up near Mount Ararat and thinking; "We're going to make it!"

(No there wasn't a rainbow)

Our first real home was in Israel. A fisherman took us as far as Cyprus where it was easy to get into Israel. We spent about 8 months as farmers there on



a Kibbutz and we loved it. We loved every bit about it – the idealism, the youthful energy. We fell in love with the Middle East and we made heaps of friends – youths like ourselves as well as the older refugees from Nazi Europe. But we did leave when summer came, and eventually we got right into Europe. My first paying job abroad was digging ditches in Germany. We did eventually reach London after over 20 months of adventure. I worked as a technical assistant on a large engineering project. We were there for about 18 months, and being the dreamer that I am, I thought we could cycle back to Australia (After all we'd only spent \$500 and a lot of energy so far . We could do better on the return journey!) But in the way we tend to do things, instead of heading south we cycled north through snow covered mountain passes and along fiords in Norway and onto lonely less travelled coastal roads up to Lapland. Some of the days were very bleak. We worked up in Norway just near the Arctic Circle for three months cooking in a hotel. Our friends begged us to stay but by this time winter was coming .The midnight sun was swapping to very short days. We pedalled across the Arctic Circle and along the Lofoten chain. Every day was very bleak up there. You're up above the Arctic Circle, there are huge storms, winds, there are no trees – it is very barren. Then we cut across Lapland for a lonely ride down through Finland. That whole year in Scandinavia was wonderful. We worked in Copenhagen, which again we loved. We've never been unhappy anywhere.

With one thing and another, that journey continued for the next few years. We had a whole summer crossing Europe, went back to England again, cycled to all our favourite places and ended up spending six months or so in Switzerland because we were just drained of energy – We had been wet all through the Alps...We'd been frozen stiff! We did hotel work while we were there. I greeted people

at the door and helped people to their rooms. I'd been taught to cook up in Norway, so in Copenhagen and Amsterdam I'd been a hotel cook, which was very enjoyable. These sorts of jobs were good because you get accommodation, you get food and you can rest up for winter, get new parts and repair bikes.

Q. What brought you back to Australia?

Our longest journey was 10,310 km from Switzerland across the top of Africa. Six months pedalling and sleeping under the stars. Eventually into Syria and Jordan. A pilgrimage if you like, back to our first home in Israel, the cotton harvest and our friends.

After some time we set off with a loose plan, heading for Australia and thought we'd just pedal down through the deserts of Jordan and Egypt. We ended up following the Nile which was really the only route, due to conflicts, famines and disease, that we imagined possible at the time. (It wasn't really possible!) It was tough I suppose you'd say... everything about it... ridiculously so! We just kept on going down into darkest Africa cut off from the world, until there were no roads left, till there were only tracks, until the tracks ran out and we came to a massive swamp. We were in Southern Sudan, reaching a refugee outpost called Juba. For 18 months or so we lived something of a safari type existence, camped upstream by the mighty river with our little orphaned monkey and quite a large vegetable garden (which I dug with a dinner fork because there was nothing available... nothing!) dreadful equatorial heat, nights of blackness, drum beats and masses of stars. A few times it almost cost us our lives, but I'm proud to say that I hired some natives and together we built the first modern workshop there. After decades of war there was a tentative peace. These days after more decades of war Juba is now the capital of the world's newest and most fragile country.

Eventually I was offered two jobs. Joy Adamson, the lion lady offered us one job and an English company offered me a job in Tanzania. I took the job in Tanzania because there was for once a salary and it was a place where I could use my precision engineering skills. It was a massive project down on the coast. I was the site supervisor for two and a half years. So we saved and saved and saved and that virtually bought us our house. We came back to Australia and by that time Lance was born. He was born in Tanzania.

Q. What did you do for a living when you came back to Australia?

I was a stay-at-home dad. Judith was a pre-school

director. The beauty of that time was that as a stay-at-home dad, and making furniture from home, I was fortunate and privileged to work on my dream that the park should be established as a real park and that we should have a children's play ground and community building. So with a lot of help from others in the community we were able to build, establish the park and have it maintained so that no one could take it away from us. Back then, it was a park I suppose, but it was in a mess, full of snakes. It was overgrown and there was an old toilet block that the kids were using as a pre-school which was atrocious, and there was nowhere to have functions. In those days we had a lovely wagon train mentality- meaning we were all about in our 30s and 40s with high optimistic hope. We were all building our houses, learning from each other. Some of them are still here running arts festivals and community events. (I affectionately call them "The Youth club") they were so enthusiastic and still are! There was such a community spirit. There were film nights, there were get togethers and not many lights at night. Everybody seemed to know everybody. You walked through the bush to somebody's house and we loved that zeal, that zest to get on and to build a community and I became part of it, and it was just a beautiful time.

Q. How did you become a boat builder?

We'd taken up sailing as a sport and were sail racing at weekends at places like Narrabeen Lakes and Pittwater. We started travelling to all the National and State championships. Lance, our son, became a champion sailor. We were passionate about sailing and I was getting all the broken boats to fix and I enjoyed doing it. So I ended up with broken boats in the yard, repairing them and making centreboards and masts and decks. I thought, "this is special work; I need to get onto some big stuff". So I went to TAFE to learn a second trade. I joined a company. They had just started building 40 foot ocean going yachts and I became responsible for all their detailed cabinetry. When I first started working for that company, I built "The Barn" work shop so I could build yacht furniture. Soon after, they moved to Newcastle but they still wanted my work. Once my three years at TAFE was finished, I got teaching qualifications sufficient to become a trade teacher at TAFE. I was teaching the drafting, the science behind what makes a boat perform, as well as the woodworking and fibre glassing skills. My working history starts as a 15 year old shipyard office boy, to fitter/ tool maker, to contracts administration, to on-site construction; from furniture maker and restorer of broken boats, to fully qualified boat builder tradesman, and teacher of boat building. I'm recognised in the trade these days for my quality

cabinet work.

Q. You play classical guitar. How did you begin to play?

I was in quite a musical family. My aunt played in big orchestras. My brother was a rising star in the early days of television and the musical theatre in Sydney before he went to London for a career on the West End. He and I were “Incurable Romantics”. So I grew up thinking life was one big musical comedy. You know, it was all Rogers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe romantic stuff. I’d learned the piano and violin so I had the basis of music and I started strumming a guitar, singing folk songs and Judith and I would go to a folk club on Friday nights. It was a cheap outing, and we’d sing all those lovely songs. It was in the Dylan and Peter, Paul and Mary days and I realised something I hadn’t realised before - that you could play a guitar from notation the same way that you could play a piano or a violin. And that was a bit of a surprise because in those days, much as it is today, many ‘guitarists’ are strummers or sort of percussionists. So I started to teach myself. In London I took some lessons and at every chance after that I had a guitar in my lap.

About 10 or 12 years ago, I joined the Classical Guitar Society in Sydney and there I was rubbing shoulders with real mentors – virtuosos if you like, from South America, from England, from here in Sydney and Adelaide; Brilliant musicians! And I

discovered South American music - beautiful, exciting music. One of the best teachers in Sydney took me as a student for a couple of years and he polished a few things. I got a new guitar that sounded worthwhile and was expensive. I joined the Sydney guitar orchestra and I still regularly go and meet with that group.

Q What do you like so much about living in Bowen Mountain?

I love the community! We’ve spent much time in remote places. We always thought we would love to stay there, to be where we feel one with nature. Here perhaps we only feel close to nature but one with the community. That is just a fantastic balance! We belong here. We’re not into that thing where your home is an investment that gains value and where one sells it off and go bigger and greedier. OUR home is our tent... our shelter...OUR community and the nature around are the tent pegs that complete the belonging.

I suppose there are a few different “me’s”... There’s the music me... There’s the craftsman, tradie, boating sailing me. There’s the wanderer who loves to roam the cliffs of the Blue Mountains, and the wildernesses of Australia’s high country with Judith at my side. ...There’s the romantic me who has a million stories in his head of past adventures and dreams of quiet adventures to come, and there’s the me who’s a bloke that just lives on Bowen Mountain with a bunch of people that I admire and love.

BMA 2014 Diary

SEPTEMBER	Monday 8 th	BMA Meeting - Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Tuesday 16 th	River Orchid Social Evening – North Richmond
OCTOBER	Monday 13 th	BMA Meeting - Bowen Mountain Park Hall
NOVEMBER	Monday 10 th	BMA Meeting - Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Tuesday 18 ^h	Kurrajong Kurries Social Evening
DECEMBER	Monday 8 th	BMA Christmas Party - Bowen Mountain Park Hall

Meet Your Neighbour – Bowen Mountain Social Evening

YOU ARE INVITED TO ENJOY A DELIGHTFUL FUN FILLED EVENING WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS AT A SPECIAL BANQUET DINNER AT RIVER ORCHID - NTH RICHMOND TUESDAY 16 Sept 2014 AT 6.30 PM FOR 7.00PM \$ 22.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES MIXED ENTRÉE, SIX MAIN COURSES, CHINESE TEA. BYO - \$2.00 corkage. Soft drinks available to purchase. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: PHONE ALISON ON 4572 1309

Burralow Creek walk, & Information from The Botanists Way website

Burralow Creek is unusual. Most of the creeks around here are confined in narrow gorges, but the Burralow valley is wide, flat and swampy, full of washed-in sediment trapped there like water behind a dam. But it wasn't a dam that blocked the valley; the drainage was disrupted when the area was tilted up as part of the uplift of the Blue Mountains escarpment.

There is evidence that the local Darug Aboriginal people lived in Burralow Creek long before colonial explorer and naturalist George Caley passed through on his epic walk to Mount Banks. On 4 November 1804 his party sheltered in a 'rock house' (overhang) overlooking the swamp. But they weren't as capable in the bush as the Darug. Their campfire escaped to spread through the valley, burning Caley's vasculum and nearly incinerating the whole expedition!

Later another early settler thought the swampy vale would be good for irrigated agriculture. A few relics of George Bowen's experimental rice farm – the first in Australia – can still be seen scattered around the flat. The grassy clearing is now just a great place to camp or picnic.

The short and easy Bulcamatta walking track skirts around the Burralow swamp and enters a beautiful little side-canyon. As the cliffs close in the gorge becomes chock full of rainforest and ferns, and then ends suddenly in a small horseshoe waterfall.

The four-wheel-drive trail climbs up the other side of the valley and through drier bush on the Paterson Range. The many different types of forest encountered are one of the special joys of this drive. To the left lies the Grose Wilderness, still much as George Caley saw it two centuries ago.

Above from: Kurrajong Discovery Trail on the Greater Blue Mountains Drive website - <http://www.thebotanistsway.com.au/page.asp?ID=8>



BOTANISTS WAY

You can drive the 90 km between the Hawkesbury and Lithgow in less than an hour and a half, but a

whole day or even several days will never be enough to explore all the sights and experiences along the way.

The Botanists Way commemorates botanist-explorer George Caley's 1804 journey from the Nepean River to [Mount Banks](#). It was an arduous trip along the northern side of the Grose Valley, during which Caley collected 31 new plants to report to his mentor Sir Joseph Banks. Many other botanists have since left their mark in unravelling the natural history of the area, including Allan Cunningham, Caroline Atkinson and Ernest Constable.

Long before white scientists came along, the Darug and Gundungurra people thrived on an intimate knowledge of local plants, their habits and their benefits. They regularly travelled the ridgeline across the mountains which the Botanists Way now follows, for trade and cultural purposes. It was two Darug men, Cogy and Emery, who showed young settler Archibald Bell the ancient pathway.

The Botanists Way links together a string of botanical attractions. Most notable are [Mount Tomah Botanic Garden](#) and the native forests and gardens of [Mount Wilson](#), but a host of other sites like [Mount Banks](#) and Burralow Creek also reveal the botanical riches of the area.

GEORGE CALEY & BLUE MTS

George Caley (1770-1829) was an ambitious man from humble origins who with skill and determination became an expert in Australian plants and animals. He lived in Australia between 1800 and 1810, working as a collector for the 'father of Australian botany', Sir Joseph Banks.

One of Caley's first jobs was to try and obtain a platypus to prove such a bizarre creature actually existed. A drawing of a specimen found on the Hawkesbury River in 1797 had been sent back to England, where people demanded to know if it was a hoax!

From the plains of western Sydney, settlers saw the Carmarthen Hills forming a bumpy line of high tops on the far western horizon. Caley aimed for the most distant of these (now Mount Banks) and, in the absence of Aboriginal advice, took a characteristically direct line across the gorges that flow south into the Grose River (through the country to the south of the current Bell's Line of Road).

Botany was not Caley's primary object but 'an enthusiastic pride of going farther than any person

has yet been' (he meant white person, but in the perception of the day, Caley overlooked local Aboriginal knowledge). With three unknown men, possibly convicts (described as three of the strongest men in the colony), and a small dog he crossed the Hawkesbury River on 3 November 1804 and headed west.

Quite rightly spurning horses as incapable of handling the steep sandstone terrain, the men carried all their provisions and equipment. Carrying loads of about 25 kg, they walked into the complete unknown for three weeks: no guide, no maps, no tent, no sleeping bag, no communication and no hope of salvation if anything went wrong.

They shot a little game, found water where they could and lay down at night in the sweat-soaked clothes they were wearing. They built shelters out of branches or, if they were lucky, found a sandstone overhang (which Caley referred to as a 'rock house') when it rained.

By the third day Caley was 'thunder struck with the roughness of the country'. Much of the landscape they traversed remains unchanged today, protected in the Grose Wilderness of Blue Mountains National Park.

Standing today on the cliff-top above the wild junction of the Grose River and Wilderness Brook, on the same rock where Caley stood after five days' arduous travel, makes it easy to understand his fears and to be impressed by his determination. 'For some time I was at a loss to know how to cross this deep valley, which seemed to bid defiance to man.' Undaunted, he forced a difficult pass through the cliffs to the bottom of the valley.

Lowering the luggage

At length I found a place where water fell down in heavy rains, which by the help of the bushes, and the small shrub like trees, I descended. Afterwards I proceeded along the edges of the rocks, which in some places was by far worse, than descending by the bushes. Finding that this was the only place, where any likelihoods appeared of getting down, I returned, persuading the men that they might easily get down by lowering the luggage. We set to work in jmhmaking a cord out of twine, by which we lowered it down, but in doing this, we were obliged to have different stations. When we had got it down the perpendicular part, we were under the necessity of handing it from one another, along the edges of the rocks in places .

Bowen Mountain Park

Our park is used by many people, and not just at the weekend. Kids play there and are often barefooted - so it is not nice to step on dog droppings.

George Caley's journal, on descending into the Devil's Wilderness

[NB The Devil's Wilderness is west of Bowen Mountain & south of Bell's Line of Road. The area is still known by this name today on today's maps]

Caley and his men climbed out the other side of the valley without delay. In keeping with some of his other gloomy names, like Dark Valley and Dismal Dingle, Caley called the great valley The Devil's Wilderness. After a hard, hot and thirsty day, Caley only just managed to find enough water to camp (in a place he called Luminous Valley, after the glow-worms). His men were dispirited but Caley revived them with a 'short harangue'.

Caley eventually found the main ridgeline and reached Fern Tree Hill (now Mount Tomah) on 10 November, where he described lush rainforest: 'We came into ground destitute of underwood, but thickly set with trees, and was very dark. Saw 4 pheasants' (ie. Lyre-birds).

Delayed by rain, fog and inaccessible ravines (that now delight the modern canyoner), they gained the summit of Mount Banks on 14 November. Here Caley was confronted with the stupendous cliff-bound gorge of the upper Grose, and concluded that the mountains 'must forever remain an unsurmountable barrier to the extension of the settlement'. He later wrote to Banks that ...'the roughness of the country I found beyond description. I cannot give you a more expressive idea than travelling over the tops of houses in a town.'

The return walk was just as tough. Caley tried to follow his outward route but mistook his course in several places. On 23 November and short of food, they made their final dash of more than 42 km, from western side of the Hawkesbury River all the way back to Parramatta.

[NB It's because Caley found the going so difficult that this area of the mountains, called by Governor Macquarie 'Carmethen Hills' because it reminded him of an area in Scotland by that name, that it was not farmed. This is why the region from Windsor to Lithgow still has 90% of the flora that existed before white settlement, whereas Sydney & its suburbs only has 10% of the flora from that time still extant today].

Submitted by *Carol Bailey*

The park is a good place for our dogs to run and play, so if you take your dog there, please bring a plastic bag and clean up any mess. *Finn Jakobsen*

A Walk to Frieda's Fall and a "Frozen Dog"

Colin Chesterman and Finn Jakobsen

16th April 2014, 9.30-12.30pm

Colin, Finn (Farfar, Danish for grandfather) and Finn's grandchildren; Sophie, Abigail and Oliver set out along Lt Bowen Rd heading to Maple St. following one of Rick Jamieson's descriptions in the "Bowen Mountain Bushwalks". Heading up the hill we met Judith & Howard where we inspected their sandstone slabs stones laid in a new path. We had a look at the spectacular view from their platform, looking down the gully, not appreciating the difficult descent that is ahead of us. We headed off again deciding it was too early for morning tea despite the kids' protests. After walking down Maple Street into the bush we lost the track and slide and wend our way down the very steep slope. Abigail offers encouragement to Sophie who says she "does not want to be here" and the tone of her voice and her crying certainly supports that. We are relieved to make it to the gully where the going is a lot easier, and Sophie is able to walk unassisted. We follow the gully down through ferns, small bright orange fungi and turpentine trees seeking out the more open route. We occasionally stop to make sure everybody is ok and admire the beautiful Frieda's Gully. Our snack break is at the top right hand side where our view of the Falls is obscured by trees.

We are keen to descend to the base where we are greeted by a beautiful sandstone amphitheatre and a set fire with stones and firewood in place. The water descending over the cliff was not as spectacular as there had not been any recent rains. It was more like "Frieda's dribble". On our return Farfar reprimanded Oliver for knocking over the orange and blue fungi with a stick- "you should not destroy nature" he said Oliver's retort was "Well Farfar, what about those branches you broke when you pulled yourself up that embankment?" The return trip via Duffy's Trail at the back of the houses and through Yvonne & Don's place was easier than our approach to Friede's Gully.

I was reminded on this trip of the circuit I did a few years ago with my sister Meg, her husband Richard and Neil's dog Lance, a beautiful English Pointer. We continued on from the waterfall and headed to join up with the Buralow Fire Trail. We were confronted with a rocky buttress. This ascent was a little bit challenging for us two legged creatures but impossible for Lance. Richard had to lift him up and I had to gather him and put him on top of the cliff. The poor dog froze with fright which was fortunate for us as we were not scratched by the wild movement of his legs.



BUSH FIRE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

AUGUST 2014

Hello again to all readers of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc, seasonal newsletter. This edition will be issued in September 2014 and readers are reminded that the Bushfire Season may be brought forward to the first of September this year. This has already been approved for local government districts to the north of Newcastle and may be extended south to the Hawkesbury District.

As a result of a possible severe fire situation in 2014-2015 we are urged to update our copies of the NSW Rural Fire Service – Bushfire Survival Plan - 'PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE'. For more information on this subject, residents should telephone Hawkesbury Rural Fire District Head Office in Wilberforce on Tel. No. 4560-6400.

Greg Walker – Training Officer for the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade has provided some very useful information concerning what is known as the new Government approved 10/50 rule which covers the new laws to allow residents in a designated 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area to:

1. Clear trees on their own property within 10

metres of a home, without seeking local Council approval; and

2. clear underlying vegetation such as shrubs (but not trees) on their own property within 50 metres of a home, again without seeking the necessary approval.

More information can be obtained by residents accessing the RFS Website to check if they are covered by a 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area.

Your local Rural Fire Brigade Captain – Paul Dillon can be contacted on mobile No. 04 5925-9630 or at home on (02) 4572-1356.

You are reminded that if you decide to use the 10/50 rule to clear vegetation on your property, you will be responsible for the cost, especially if you need the services of tree surgeon/specialists to cut down large trees within 10 metres of your home.

Sincerely

Terry Hoare

Bush Fire Brigade Liaison Officer

Hawkesbury Highway Patrol Officers are holding another Young Driver Awareness program on the 7 November, 2014. Experienced Highway Patrol police will share their experience and advice with young drivers or soon to be young drivers. If you are aged 15 to 18 and are soon to get your licence or are currently on your red or green P's you are encouraged to come and participate. The evening is very confronting for young people and their parents. Videos created by the Victorian Transport Accident Commission are used to



reinforce the message of road safety and driver awareness.

If you think either you or your child might be interested please email hawkdriver@police.nsw.gov.au and an information pack and application will be forwarded to you. Places are limited. If the demand exceeds the places we will add an additional date later in 2014. We receive many

complimentary remarks from participants and their parents about how the program has changed the way they view road safety.

Noise sources and time restrictions

I saw this little note in a newspaper. Think about it. Finn Jakobsen

Noise should not be heard in neighbours' residences during these times.

Power tools: 8pm to 8am on Sundays and public holidays; 8pm to 7am on weekdays and Saturdays.

Swimming pool and spa pumps: 8pm to 8am on Sundays and public holidays; 8pm to 7am on weekdays and Saturdays.

Music: midnight to 8am on Fridays, Saturdays or

any day preceding a public holiday; 10pm to 8am on any other day.

Air conditioners or water heaters: 10pm to 8am and public holidays; 10pm to 7am on weekdays.

Motor vehicles: (except when entering or leaving residential premises) 8pm to 8am on weekends and public holidays; 8pm to 7am on weekdays.

Source: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Community Care

The Community Care committee invites any members of our community in need of assistance with transport to medical appointments or to local social events to

contact us.

Phone: Liz Rowan 4572 2416
or Terry Hoare 4572 1140
or Barry Hanly 4572 1510

Invitation

Community Care Morning Tea

Monday 13th October 2014

10am - 12noon

Bowen Mountain Hall

(transport available if needed)

RSVP Liz 4572 2416 by 10th October



Services available in the Hawkesbury

Meals On Wheels

3/36 Riverview St North Richmond

Shirley 4571 1633

Janet 4571 1655

Hawkesbury Neighbour Aid

4587 3934

Peppercorn Community Transport

4504 7022

Seniors Information Service

Phone Referral Service: 131 244

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1800 350 792

Peppercorn Lawn Service

4587 0208

The Women's Cottage

4578 4190

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Personal Column

Welcome to the following families who have recently made Bowen Mountain their home. We hope that you find the tranquility and great community spirit of Bowen Mountain!

- Di- Noto family Giovanni, Janisa and Jonathon to Bellbird Crescent who have moved to Bowen Mountain for the view, great atmosphere and cleaner air.
- Jo and Matt Scanlan who have moved to Lt Bowen Rd from Agnes Banks. Jo says she enjoys the 'quiet, bush setting around her, the park and the air smells cleaner.'
- Brett and Linda Draper and their children Callum (8), Megan (5) to Pamela Crescent from Glossodia. Linda said they 'had friends up here and loved the area, the view, bush setting and the neighbours are friendly.'

Farewell to the following, who leave the mountain, we hope you take fond memories of your time spent here.

- Farewell to Megan Middleton from Pamela Crescent who has lived on the mountain for the past 8 years and is downsizing.
- Doris and Steve Wellington who are moving to Culburra. They bought the land in Bowen Mountain in 1977 for \$4000. Recently Doris and Steve have become proud grandparents to Georgia Rose. Doris says she 'can't wait until Georgia is at school so she can babysit during school holidays.'
- *We welcome new additions to Bowen Mountain and hope they have many positive experiences here and to more celebratory announcements.*
- Sally and Ben Maw from Grandview Lane welcomed their son William with a spectacular entrance on Friday 11 July. Sally says 'we didn't make it to the hospital. He was born on our front porch, caught by Ben. The ambulance arrived about 20mins after he was born. We are all doing well.'
- Colin and Denise Chesterman are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Karl to Peggy McNamara. Family and friends celebrated this happy occasion with a lunch party including a mobile pizza oven at Bowen Mountain Hall.

- We must congratulate Norman Bruce of Wattle St, Bowen Mountain for being listed on the Queen's birthday honour roll and awarded a medal in the Order of Australia for service to a small community in East Timor for the past 12 years. Well done Bruce!

We would like to wish the following residents a Happy Birthday

- A special mention to Brendan Saunders, Sam Baldock and David Cotter who will be celebrating their 18th birthdays on September 11th, October 9th and November 24th respectively.
- In September Matilda Beddoes and Lucy Vigar
- In October, Sebastian Doyle, Lachlan Terawsky, Maxine Freeman, Lincoln Beddoes, Erica O'Brien and Leila Moran.
- In November Eryn Dodds, Ben Morgan, Nicola Kitley, Indianna Merton and Imogen Sinclair

And a belated Happy Birthday to those I missed out on mentioning last newsletter.

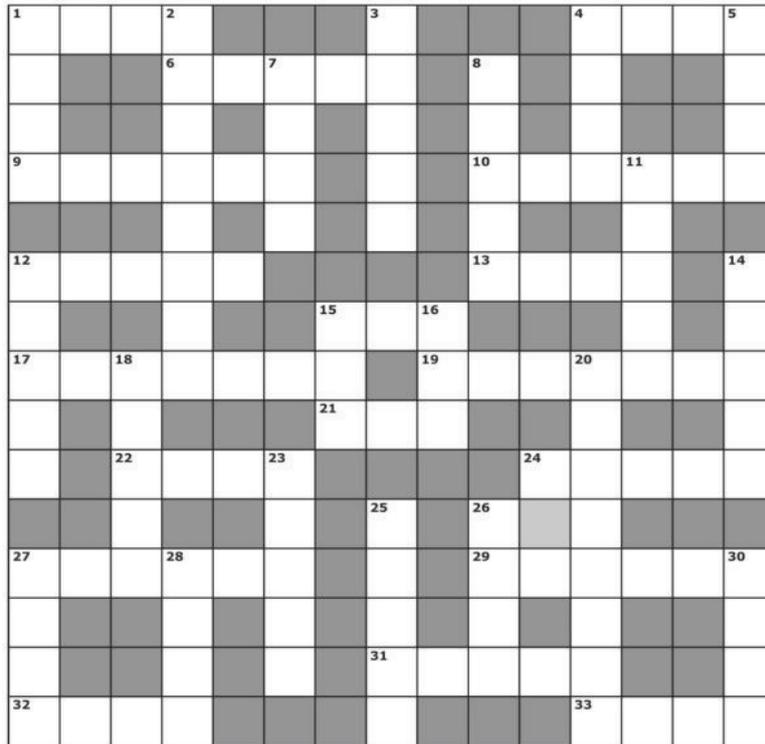
- Terry Hoare who turned 80 on July 18th and to our young resident - Liam Feltis who turned 18 in May.
- A belated happy 10th wedding anniversary to Lance and Hope Mitchell who grew up on the mountain and are now raising two beautiful kids on the mountain.
- We think of our HSC students on the mountain who are preparing for this examination at the end of their schooling. Special mention must go to Tamara Saliba, Liam Feltis and Sam Baldock whose relatives wish you the best of luck.
- On my inquiries around the mountain, I have also discovered that there is a fibre art group that meets every second Wednesday. For more information please contact Glenda Ewin on 4572 2692. A great excuse for a coffee and chat.

Remember to let me know your joyous news by text with your name and phone number titled BMA on 0414905875, drop it into my letterbox- 16 Bunya Cr or put it on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page.

Diane Fairweather

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CROSSWORD

by Lesley Carbery



ACROSS

1. Food baked in pastry casings (4)
4. Meat from calf (4)
6. Cultural Senior or leader (5)
9. Meat from older sheep (6)
10. Building manufactured in sections (*colloquial*) (6)
12. Small herb branch about 5-6 cm long (5)
13. Fencing sword (4)
15. Shell holding green peas (3)
17. Art of paperfolding (7)
19. Hindered or prevented (7)
21. American soda (3)
22. Fingerprints (*colloquial*) (4)
24. People who live in Scotland (5)
27. Citrus fruit (6)
29. Urban youth music genre (3-3)
31. Small oval palm fruits (5)
32. Winter food served in bowl (4)
33. Serving of food (4)

? = *Cryptic Clue* (where you need to find the way of reading the clue that leads to the solution)

DOWN

1. A stone fruit (4)
2. Coming to rest (8)
3. Chips at fast food outlet (5)
4. Absolutely foul (4)
5. Meat from young sheep (4)
7. Completed or finished (4)
8. Round crisp fruit - green or red (5)
11. ? Type of mushroom where crops are grown (5)
12. Cooking apparatus (5)
14. Keeps out of sight (5)
15. Apple seed (3)
16. Served with crackers (3)
18. Asian country known for curry (5)
20. Tendency to 'get away from it all' (8)
23. Cut of beef (5)
25. ? Steak for cutting (5)
26. Close (4)
27. Winter breakfast cereal (4)
28. Lowest level of high tide (4)
30. Outer layer of piece of fruit (4)

JUNE SOLUTION



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Community Notices

BOWEN MOUNTAIN BUSHWALK BOOK

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with other people from Bowen Mountain.

To go to the BMA facebook Page
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.

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 16 August
Saturday 13 September
Saturday 11 October
Saturday 15 November



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 Adrian Saw on 4572 1568

Tai Chi



Come and join us in Bowen
Mountain Park
On Sunday mornings - weather
permitting
Start at 10:00 am

For more information,
Phone Sylvia on 4572 1540

Spring Fair

Grose View Public School
Sunday 12th October 2014

It will be a fun day out for locals or visitors to the Hawkesbury and will include:

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- Chocolate Wheel • Crafty Nook
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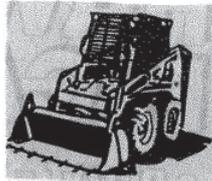
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