

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 120

Spring

December 2014



In This Issue

Saving Windsor Bridge

Fires – are you prepared?

Community Care Morning Tea

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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.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 March 2015 Issue
1 February 2015**

**COVER
Merry Christmas
Mia Calphy**

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Editor's Letter

Greetings to all our readers and welcome to the Summer Newsletter, with a cover drawn by 11 year old Mia Calphy, a prize winner at this year's Arts Festival.

Our long term "cover girl" Rita Rutkovskis, who has provided us with many of her brilliant illustrations is now a resident at Hawkesbury Living, after a long bout of illness. We wish Rita a return to good health and thank her for being a Newsletter Committee member for so many years.

There have been a number of robberies on Bowen Mountain reported to police recently. Please be aware of this and keep your property safe and secure.

In this issue:-

A highly successful Community Care Morning Tea was organised by Martha and Liz. As a follow on, Christmas lunch will be on December 8th.

Harry Terry from CAWB has written an update on community attempts to save historic Thompson's Square and the old Windsor Bridge.

The BMA Calendar of Events for 2015 is published in this issue. We hope to see you at these and other functions organised throughout the year.

Happy reading and a Merry Christmas from the Newsletter Committee,

Sylvia Moorcroft

Newsletter Editorial Committee

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

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

BMA Mailing address:

PO Box 3141, GROSE VALE NSW 2753

President's Report – October - December 2014

Hello everyone....how quickly the year has flown. Earlier in 2014 the BMA held the Sustainability Fair and Car Boot Sale and the Arts Festival, both successful and enjoyed by many. The Winter Interlude held mid-year was another great event, where a big crowd was entertained by our talented local musicians and singers...while the Devonshire Tea was an added bonus. Thank you to our local RFS who provided the Fire Wise meeting to help remind us all of the need to be prepared for the coming summer and possible threat of bushfires.

It has been good to meet our new residents during the year....and a reminder that every event needs volunteers, without whom we are unable to hold these functions. Thank you to all those who give their time and expertise to ensure the success of our activities.

On behalf of the BMA I wish all our friends on the Mountain a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Geoff Moorcroft
President

Secretaries Report October – December 2014

We have experienced four seasons in one with recent hot days, rain, hail, winter turn up the heat days, summer balmy nights and snow in the mountains! Due to the weather, indoor activities became popular with a successful night out at River Orchid in October and at the “all you can eat banquet” at Kurrajong Kurries in November. A successful morning tea was held in the Park Hall in October and a Christmas Lunch is planned for December 8 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 Lunch please contact Liz. Her contact details can be found later on in the newsletter under Community Care.

The Bowen Mountain Association has seen the last three months as renovation months. A recent meeting in September with Council in regard to the upgrade of the hall kitchen resulted in plans being finalised and a new kitchen to be installed by the middle of December, just in time for Christmas. The BMA and Park committee have combined their fundraising to pay for the kitchen. The kitchen will include a new fridge, a wall oven to heat food, laminate benches with roll back rather than splash back tiles, a stainless steel finish on kickboards, spotlights from the ceiling and a double draining sink.

A fresh and different look to the Bowen Mountain website was also considered necessary with Chris Duckworth contracted to develop a new website in conjunction with our webmaster, John Wulff and Park committee president, Colin Chesterman. The new website will be unveiled early in 2015.

A walk by the Park will reveal recent removal of blackberry bushes, weeds and noxious plants. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of Joe Friend who has

been busy cleaning up the Park and planting herbs near the kitchen. With Joe's assistance we plan to clear the Bicentennial Garden and plant Australian natives in this garden.

After recent foggy night weather on the mountain with many people getting lost, driving into the wrong driveway or ending in a ditch, the BMA has written to Council requesting the installation of cats eyes and reflectors throughout Bowen Mountain. Keep a look out for these on the mountain shortly.

A successful Firewise information and demonstration afternoon operated by Grose Vale RFS was held in Bowen Mountain Park in October 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.

There has been a recent outbreak of house break-ins on the mountain. If you see anything suspicious or you have been broken into please report this to the Police, particularly the Crime Prevention police officer Hannah Watson at 4587 4099 or wats1han@police.nsw.gov.au.

The BMA is planning an abundance of entertaining activities for 2015, which are on the advanced calendar in this newsletter. Mark your diaries now! One such activity is the popular Arts Festival on May 1st – 3rd 2015. The BMA will be on annual holidays during December and will resume meetings in January 2015. 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 2015 filled with peace, happiness, good health and success.

Alison Kerr
Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

Park Report

Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee (BMPMC)

"Treasure Hunt" in the Park Geocache

One morning last month (October 2014) I noticed a lady near the fence not far from the Bunya Street entrance standing still with her head bowed. Later that same morning I noticed a number of other people at the same spot. I was intrigued as to the reason for their visitations. It turned out that the Bowen Mt Park is the location of one of the many worldwide Geocache exercises. Participants are given co-ordinates of a location where the "treasure" is hidden. With the assistance of their GPS they are guided to the location where they search for a sealed container. On finding it they unscrew it & record their name & date.

Geocaching (Cache = the original definition referred to a hiding place) is a worldwide treasure hunt. There are 2 ½ million active geocaches and over 6 million geocachers worldwide. geocaching.com.au/

Bowen Mt Park 2, 14/10/14, only 3 persons have located the cache at 10 November 2014.

Kitchen Upgrade

The kitchen is "booked in" to be upgraded in early December. Existing benches and cupboards will be replaced with additional ones installed on the side wall. A larger fridge (¾ size), a heating oven and an "instant" hot water heater will be installed. In addition we will have an island bench that can be used as a servery. Conditions of hire will be modified accordingly. It is important that food heated in the oven is well covered.

Community Web site

The Community Web site is in the process of being upgraded; changed from Joomla to Wordpress so when it goes live there might be some minor changes in the booking system.

Park Hall Bookings

During December and to mid-January phone booking enquiries should be made to Brooke and Ty. Ph 4572 2213

Park Maintenance and improvements

Below is a summary of a discussion with Sean Perry (17th November) from Hawkesbury City Council concerning maintenance and improvements to the park. If you have any suggestions email them to the Park Committee -

Building

Toilets

- Upgrade- soap dispensers, towels.
- Install ceiling lining & replace skylight with dome/tube skylight. *

- Automatic sunrise/sunset opening & closing for disabled only.

Outside

Signs

- Road signs directing traffic to the park.
- Dogs in the Park (not 10m of play area).
- Don't climb onto the water tank & the roof. *
- No parking in front of gate (Bunya Cres.& Lt. Bowen Rd).

Trees

- Chop down Black wattles on road verge overhanging Lt Bowen Rd (fallen trees could block road during fires. *
- Branches resting on incoming power lines.
- Dead trees in park need to be chopped down.
- Recycling Bin
- Request that the Park be allocated a recycle bin to be emptied.

Road & Parking - Bunya Cres. entrance

- Realign verge near entrance to allow angle parking & so vehicles do not scrape.
- Repair road (bitumen edge is breaking away) & extend bitumen to park gate.
- No parking in front of gate.

Lt. Bowen Rd Parking

- Move pole (telephone).
- Extend car park (? more spaces).

Roof

- Cleaning

Power Pole- electricity/phone

- Rotting at base - replace with metal.
- Fences
- Holes need to be repaired.
- Garden/s
- Clear out, redesign & replant bi-centennial garden

* Safety issues

Colin Chesterman

Chairman, for BMPMC

bowenmountainpark@gmail.com

See you in the Park

Hawkesbury Crime Prevention Officers Recommendations

After a spate of Steal from Motor Vehicle in the Hawkesbury area Windsor Police are issuing a reminder to residents in the Hawkesbury Area to lock and secure your vehicles. Attached is a list of appropriate contact numbers for reporting matters to Police.

TIPS FOR VEHICLE SECURITY :

1. Visible belongings are a risk. Always take personal belongings with you when you leave your vehicle.
2. Install a high quality electronic alarm. A high quality, audible car alarm is a good deterrent to theft. Make sure you activate it every time you park, even if it's just for a few minutes.
3. Lock up everytime. Always lock doors, close windows and your sunroof every time you leave your car.
4. Never leave your keys in the ignition. Even if you leave your car for a minute or two, never leave your keys in the ignition. Your car can be stolen in an instant.
5. Install an engine immobiliser. Installing an engine immobiliser is one of the best safeguards against opportunistic vehicle theft. (Immobilisers should meet Australian Standard 4601:1999).
6. Park wisely. Park in well-lit areas at night. Try to avoid parking in quiet back-streets where there are few passers-by.
7. Steering wheel locks are a deterrent. While the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) recommends immobilisers as an effective vehicle theft deterrent, high quality steering wheel locks can also deter car theft. The NMVTRC suggests that, due to the time taken to fit a wheel lock, they are often neglected and left on the floor of the vehicle. If relying on a wheel lock to deter vehicle theft, you must fit the lock to the steering wheel every time you park your car.
8. Lock up your bike. Lock your motor bike, scooter or bicycle with a high quality lock, to something secure such as rails or ground anchors, every time you leave it unattended.

FIVE FAST FACTS

1. On average 1 in 70 Australian households had a vehicle stolen in the last 12 months.*
2. The majority of stolen vehicles are more than 10 years old.**
3. 54% of car theft victims admit they could have done more to prevent the theft.

4. 41% of victims of steal from motor vehicle crime admitted item/s stolen from their vehicles were visible from the street.**

5. Most motor vehicle thefts are a crime of opportunity.**

SAFEGUARD KEYS

Keeping your keys safe and secure will prevent vehicle theft.

- Don't make your keys an easy target. Never leave your keys on your desk at work or in easily accessible places like in your bag or on a table. Don't leave your keys in an obvious place at home.
- Don't hide spare keys on your vehicle. Never hide spare keys on your vehicle, even if they are not visible. Thieves know where to look.
- Never label your keys with your home address or vehicle registration.

DON'T MAKE YOUR VEHICLE A TARGET

- Don't tempt thieves by leaving valuables unattended. Never leave your navigator device in your vehicle. Never leave valuables in your vehicle. Even jackets, mobile phones and loose change can be a target for offenders. and do not leave any important documents including identification cards and papers in your vehicle.
- Never leave luggage unattended on roof racks. Never leave luggage and other valuables such as bicycles, surfboards or other belongings unattended on roof racks or other external carriers on your vehicle.
- Record your VIN number Make sure you record your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and Registration Number and store them in a secure place away from your vehicle.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR BIKE HELMET WITH YOUR BIKE. When you leave your motor bike, scooter or bicycle, never leave your helmet or other valuables unattended. Always take them with you.

LOCK UP AND SECURE. Locking out offenders is the key to prevent vehicle theft.

INSTALL WHEEL LOCKING DEVICES to prevent theft of expensive wheels and tyres.

INSTALL A SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM, which should be audible, visible (for example



Hawkesbury Crime Prevention Officers Recommendations, cont.

display a flashing light when activated) and incorporate an engine immobiliser for the best protection. (Immobilisers should meet Australian Standard 4601:1999.)

DRIVE WITH YOUR DOORS LOCKED AND YOUR WINDOWS UP. When you're driving, keep your car doors locked and your windows up if possible, to minimise the risk of car-jacking or robbery. Keep personal belongings on the floor or behind the front seats.

USE A COVER. Use a motorbike or scooter cover to deter theft.

SECURITY-MARK YOUR BIKE. To deter theft and aid recovery in case of theft, engrave your bike frame with your driver's licence number or passport number.

GET UP-TO-DATE INSURANCE against theft. Make sure your policy is up- to-date and reflects your current residential address.

Hannah Watson

Crime Prevention Officer, Hawkesbury LAC
wats1han@police.nsw.gov.au 02 4587 4099

* National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC)
(2005) ** NMVTRC 2005 *** AAMI Motor Vehicle Security
Index 2005

BUSH FIRE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2014

As I prepare this report for all readers of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. seasonal Newsletter, the temperature outside on Bowen Mountain is 40°C. And the relative humidity is very low. It is also a total Fire Ban Day as you would expect.

On Saturday 25 October 2014 the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade attended Bowen Mountain Park and conducted a Firewise demonstration for the benefit of all Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale residents. This presentation involved a considerable amount of preparation by members of the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade, particularly by Messrs Greg Walker, Piet Roebbers and Noel Callander.

Your attention is invited to the following summary of the day's activities prepared by Greg Walker who also down-loaded the attached 'Check List' from the NSW Rural Fire Service Website.

I commend the Grose Vale RFB Summary and the attached 'Check List' entitled "Are You Firewise" to you all. Please do not hesitate to give me or any other member of the Grose Vale RFB a call if you need any assistance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan.

Terry Hoare

Bushfire Brigade Liaison Officer - BMA Inc.
Tel. No. (H) 4572-1140

Are you ready for this bushfire season?

If there was a bushfire in your area, would you know what to do? Have you completed your Bush Fire Survival Plan? What is your Plan B if you are confronted by a bushfire?

These were just some of the questions addressed by members of Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade at the Firewise information session held at Bowen Mountain Park Hall on Saturday 25th October

As the bushfire season is now upon us, the theme of the meeting was Prepare, Act & Survive which not only focused upon thinking about and completing your Bushfire Survival Plan but also practical measures that can be undertaken to reduce the fire hazards on and around your property. In addition, the Brigade set up portable firefighting pumps so that residents could experience first-hand how to operate these pumps should the need arise.

The brigade also discussed the Static Water Supply (SWS) program which is aimed at identifying properties with sources of water supply such as

dams, swimming pools, tanks and other water storage facilities that can be used for firefighting purposes should the need arise.

Participating in the SWS program is voluntary and should you seek further information or wish to register your property for the SWS program then contact the RFS Hawkesbury Fire Control Office on 4560 6400.

In conjunction with the Bowen Mountain Association, Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade conducts Firewise meetings to keep residents informed how a bushfire may affect their lives and steps they can take to mitigate its impact. If you were unable to attend the last meeting but would like to know more about steps to mitigate fire hazards around your home or seek assistance in completing your Bush Fire Survival Plan then please contact the BMA Bush Fire Liaison Officer, Terry Hoare on **4572-1140** who can put you in contact with members from Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade.



Are you FIREWISE?

When confronted by an approaching bushfire, there is no doubt it can be a frightening and chaotic experience. There can be no guarantee a property or home will never be lost in a bushfire but by being **FIREWISE** the community (and individual/s) can be better prepared to deal with a potential bushfire threat and minimise the risk to you, your family, home and property, and that of your neighbours.

DOWNLOAD A COPY OF YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN AND COMPLETE IT TODAY!

Do you have a Bush Fire Survival Plan? Is it more than 1 year old? Then download a copy of the Bush Fire Survival Plan or MyFirePlan smartphone app from www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY NOW!

Is your property prepared against bush and grass fires?

- Clear bush, scrub & undergrowth from your house.
- Clear gutters & tidy up under-house storage areas.
- Seal gaps to reduce embers entering your house & sheds. Ensure roofing is firmly fixed.
- Prepare firebreaks (a well watered lawn can act as a firebreak). Keep pasture growth down.
- Install metal flyscreens screens or shutters & enclose under-floor areas if possible.
- Screen vents into the roof space with fine wire mesh.
- Remove flammable items from around the house (e.g. door mats, woodpile, boxes, hanging baskets, wooden garden furniture etc).
- Vent LPG gas tanks away from the house.
- Compile emergency phone list & leave near phone.
- Join the Static Water Supply (SWS) program.

Prepare your house for a bush fire by organising sufficient Water Supplies and Fire Fighting Equipment.

Things to consider include:

- Check water, taps & hoses. Ensure hoses with metal fittings are long enough to reach all sides of house when attached to taps.
- Use heavy duty hoses with wide-spray nozzles.
- Check water supplies from tank, dam or swimming pool.
- Fit a gate valve to your water tank (a 38mm Storz coupling will assist the Rural Fire Brigade).
- Have a gate valve to fit portable pump as well.
- Regularly check petrol or diesel portable pump, if you have one, to ensure it starts easily.
- Gather buckets (preferably metal), mops, spray backpack units, ladders, rakes and shovels in one place for ready access during a fire.
- Keep, check and use battery operated radio and torches in case of electricity failure.

GO or STAY?

RELOCATE?

- **Plan for your personal protection before a fire. Decide who's the boss, who goes, who stays.**
- Plan for the safety of all family members: special plans should be made for young children, elderly persons, disabled persons and those unable to handle the trauma of a bush fire.
- Listen to local media for Bush Fire Bulletins & updates.

IF YOU PLAN TO RELOCATE - DECIDE TO LEAVE EARLY!

- If you or your family intend to evacuate (re-locate), plan well ahead of time where to stay, what to take. Know what the triggers will be to leave and how you will travel. **Remember; leave well before the fire front arrives.**

IF UNSAFE TO LEAVE OR YOU INTEND TO STAY?

- If it is too late or unsafe to leave or if you decide to remain, ensure each person has suitable clothing, including sturdy leather footwear, long pants & a long sleeved shirt or jumper (pure wool or cotton offers the best protection from radiant heat & embers), a broad brimmed hat, goggles for eye protection, handkerchiefs to tie over nose & mouth, wet towels to drape over neck, bottles for drinking water.
- Place ladder/s near indoor & outdoor roof access points.
- Fill bath, laundry tubs & sinks with water. Also fill drums & buckets for outside.
- Patrol inside & outside of the house regularly before & after the fire front has arrived and passed. Put out sparks, embers etc when safe to do so.
- **Do not** leave the house when the fire front has arrived but regularly check its progress from a safe point indoors if possible.
- **Wait until the fire front has passed before leaving the house.**

For more information contact:

Hawkesbury Fire Control Centre: 4560 6400

Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade: 4572 1356

or visit the RFS website: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au and follow the links.

Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Foreword: For those west of the river, our cars are our public transport. Living in a country area we can complain about but accept the condition of our roads but what is very hard to swallow is there are only two crossings of the river in our area. Those who use the two bridges know that traffic flow in peak traffic hours is not, in the terms of traffic engineers, acceptable.

Currently there is a once in a lifetime opportunity to rectify that situation. If the Government does not replace the current plan to replace a two lane bridge at Windsor with another two lane bridge with a more forward thinking plan, then we will face increasing traffic delays for many years to come.

Background: The Government's plan is to replace a two lane bridge at Windsor with a two lane bridge. That is the name of the project: Replacement Project. The constant statements were 'we are simply replacing like for like' and 'if you do not accept this you will get nothing'. This plan is an example of bad asset management and bad forward planning. It will not get the State moving. Just the reverse. When the Government assessed the application by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) it hired three consultants to assist in that process. They were; Heritage, Traffic Flow and Bridge Conditions. (See the Community Action for Windsor Bridge (CAWB) Webpage for the full reports). The three consultants independently advised the Government to renovate the current bridge and plan for a bypass. However, the advice was not accepted. The Project was approved by the Government on Friday, 20th December 2013 and made public that afternoon. However, the approval was given with conditions. The processes to meet these conditions have so far taken, and will continue to take considerable time. It will also cost considerably more. Over three budgets the RMS was allocated \$8.7M for planning. In the latest budget it was revealed the RMS has so far spent \$14.9M and was given an additional \$6M. The current budget for the replacement bridge is \$65M.

Traffic Flow:

RTA/RMS in its documents made these statements:

- Little improvement could be made upon the total vehicle travel time and speed for each option as compared to the existing conditions.
- The replacement of a bridge alone is unlikely to improve capacity.
- Option 1 provides very little traffic improvement.

Cambray Consulting, the consultant traffic engineers said in its report:

- The Bridge Street/George Street intersection is expected to be operating very close to acceptable limits of operation at the assumed year of opening of the project (2016).
- The Bridge Street/Macquarie Street intersection is expected to be operating outside of acceptable limits of operation at the assumed year of opening of the project (2016).
- In summary, based upon the information provided to us, it appears that the scope throughout much of the duration of the project has focussed on justifying the preferred option, as opposed to undertaking a thorough investigation into alternative options.
- We suggest that it may be prudent to 'step back' and undertake a broader study to investigate long term solutions.... This would avoid investing substantial funds into a traffic route which will have a limited 'life' due to constrained intersection capacity on the roads feeding the bridge

Bridge Condition:

- Since 2008 the weight limit on the bridge has been raised three times to the point there is no weight limit on the bridge as stated by Duncan Gay in Parliament.
- The RMS engineer stated the bridge can carry its current load until a replacement bridge is built but did not give a deadline for that to happen.
- The RTA/RMS has spent a total of \$57 000 over 19 years on the bridge. This is an average of \$8.20 per day.

Peter Stewart, the independent bridge condition engineer, who was commissioned by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to review the RMS documents said:

- The conclusion that the whole bridge is in a poor condition is not supported by the level 2 Inspection Report Ratings [B8]..
- Due to the very slow rate of deterioration it would not warrant demolition of the bridge for some considerable time
- The cracks have been there for decades and during that time the bridge has been subjected to severe flooding (overtopped approximately 64 times in 100 years) as well as increases in traffic volumes. The bridge has not exhibited any signs that it is about to fail.
- The bridge is not about to collapse in the short term.

- The bridge can be refurbished at a cost such that it can function for the next 50 years with little ongoing maintenance.
- A decision was made within the then RTA (now RMS) to replace the bridge sometime before 2003. Despite this neglect it is remarkable that no great deterioration has taken place in the last 10 years.
- So with a relatively modest expenditure (approx. \$14.5m) the bridge can be serviceable for the next 50 years within which time an alternative route will have been identified and agreed.

Heritage:

- The RMS's heritage adviser stated, the most appropriate treatment of Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge is to avoid any further negative impact and to take the opportunity identified by the Heritage Council to remove through traffic.
- She also stated that the proposed impacts on Thompson Square Conservation Area are so major the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project (WBRP) should not go ahead

Dr Mary Casey, the Government's Heritage consultant said:

- This proposed design is not based on a full understanding of the significance of the heritage values of the place, nor on any heritage design principles or conservation policies, on which to base a future design. Therefore it is not mitigating impacts on heritage but an additional impact.

Lane Widths:

- The lane widths on Windsor Bridge are 3 metres.
- This is wider than Parramatta Road, Victoria Road, some lanes on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, some lanes in Macquarie Street outside Parliament house and the list goes on.

Flood Mitigation:

- The current bridge is rated as achieving a 1:2 year flood immunity.
- The Government's proposed bridge is rated as achieving a less than 1:3 year flood immunity.
- To achieve a flood free facility the bridge would have to be built on the areas above the flood plain.

Three Lanes:

- The proposed bridge could be made into three lanes with two travelling towards Sydney. However, this is not intended to improve traffic flow but rather to stop cars backing up to block Freemans Reach Road.

Conclusion:

- Restore the current bridge for about \$15M.
- Put the other \$50M towards improving the adjoining intersections and building a bypass.
- This would provide at least another two lanes which would plan for the future to accommodate the increasing traffic numbers.

There is far more to the story than is in this article. For further information view the CAWB Webpage cawb.com.au and CAWB's Facebook.

If you are concerned and would like to assist, the following is suggested. You may sign CAWB's letter to the Premier, copies of which are at Thompson Square; you may send your own letter of concern to the Premier, councillors and candidates for the forthcoming State election; and/or you may join CAWB by volunteering to help staff a 4 hour shift in Thompson Square either on a weekly basis or filling in when someone cannot make it. Harry Terry can be contacted on 4579 6053 or hm.terry@bigpond.net.au



**ARTISTS OF THE MOUNTAIN
PREPARE TO RELEASE YOUR
CREATIVE SPIRIT
FOR THE 2015**

**BOWEN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY
ARTS FESTIVAL**

OPENING NIGHT 1st MAY

CHILDREN'S ANNUAL ART COMPETITION

**LOCAL HAWKESBURY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE ONCE
AGAIN INVITED TO DISPLAY THEIR
AMAZING TALENT AND COMPETE FOR SOME
GREAT PRIZES .**

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 2015 EDITION
OF THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN NEWSLETTER. MEANWHILE, IF YOU WOULD LIKE
MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT MARIAN Tel. 45721510

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION
PLEASE CONTACT JENNY Tel. 45722554

Halloween on Redgum Crescent



A number of children celebrated Halloween on the Mountain. Marian and Barry Hanly of Red Gum Crs. were visited by the following “trick and treaters” Finn, Eden, Courtney, Felicity, Caitlin, Erin, Rachel, Ashlie, Tia, Jasmine, Abbi and Maxine.



Bowen Mountain Community Care Group Morning Tea

On Monday 13th October, it was my pleasure to attend a morning tea held at the Bowen Mountain Hall for residents living on the Mountain.

When I first walked into the hall, I was greeted by the sight of tables which had been decorated with festive table cloths and ornaments, and very friendly smiles from people I knew and people who were not known to me at that time. The atmosphere was one of welcome and friendliness. It didn't take very long to make oneself known to the newer residents on the Mountain, and to catch up with people one seldom sees from month to month.

Thanks to Liz Rowan and Martha Allan, the morning was one of many conversations shared with those around the table. The added delight of morning tea, which had been provided by those present, was enjoyed by all. There were approximately 22 people assembled, and at times

the laughter and chatter reminded each and everyone present of the camaraderie that exists.

The forthcoming Christmas luncheon organised by the Community Care Group was discussed and it was agreed that this event should be held on Monday 8th December 2014. 11.30a.m. - 2.00pm.

Sincerest thanks to a very busy Liz Rowan who managed to find the time, together with Martha Allan to organise this event despite their somewhat hectic schedules, and I'm sure that those of us who attended the morning tea on the 13th are eagerly looking forward to the 8th December to renew acquaintances and hopefully meet new residents now living on Bowen Mountain. If you are interested in attending, please call Liz Rowan on 4572-2416 or Martha Allan on 4572-1778

Sue Hoare



Quolls on the Mountain

A number of residents have reported seeing the Eastern Spotted Quoll in gardens and bushland near their homes. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are conducting research into koala numbers in the area and are also interested in recording

similar statistics on quoll sightings.

A Warning: keep your chickens securely locked away, as Quolls can be responsible for reducing numbers in the poultry department. *Editor*

AVON ON BOWEN MOUNTAIN

Hello !!!!

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

Christmas at St Andrew's

St Andrew's Uniting Church
25 West Market Street,
RICHMOND
Phone: 4578 3820

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

2pm: Christmas Carols.
The Christmas Story through bible readings.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday 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 1.00PM: 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 2015

28th December 9:00am service only

– From 4 January to 25 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
Cafe style

No Children's or Youth programs in school vacations

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:
or
or

Liz Rowan 4572 2416
Terry Hoare 4572 1140
Barry Hanly 4572 1510

Invitation

Community Care Christmas Lunch



Monday 8th December 2014
11:30am - 2:00pm
Bowen Mountain Hall

RSVP Liz 4572 2416
by 5th December

BMA 2015 Diary

JANUARY	Monday 12 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
FEBRUARY	Monday 9 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
MARCH	Monday 9 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Saturday 21 st	Car Boot Sale and Sustainability Fair - Park
APRIL	Monday 13 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
MAY	Friday 1 st – Sun 3 rd	Arts Festival
	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JUNE	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 14 th	Winter Interlude

Survey – Potential Development of a Community Garden

Joe Friend is a new local who has undertaken many hours of work in and around the perimeter of the Park removing many weeds including blackberry and lantana; and assisting Colin Chesterman with the planting of a herb row at the entrance from Bunya Crescent. He is interested in the possibility of forming a group to discuss concepts for a

community garden or some form of garden improvements to the Park. Please contact him on friendjoe7@gmail.com with subject BMA Community Garden. Joe can also be contacted on mobile: 0431 688 918.

Robin Woods – 4572 1635

For Sale

RED CEDARS – Improved Cultivars
ROSEWOOD SEEDLINGS and FIREWHEEL TREES

for BMA residents – Xmas Price \$5

contact Joe: 0431 688 918

friendjoe7@gmail.com

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Culinary Corner

Honey Spiced Chicken Wings

This recipe is from the Bowen Mountain Cookbook which was published in 1988 for the bicentenary. It contains a history of Bowen Mountain and a large number of recipes submitted by Bowen Mountain residents. This recipe was submitted by Susan Owens. I used this recipe and the wings were delicious. Enjoy
submitted by Michael Campbell

Ingredients

- 16 -18 chicken wings
- 3 tablespoons peanut oil
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons tomato sauce
- 1/3 cup honey
- ¼ teaspoon five spice powder
- 1 clove garlic, crushed

Method

1. Cut the wing tips away from the chicken wings and place the wings in a large bowl.
2. Mix the peanut oil, soy sauce, tomato sauce, honey, five spice powder and garlic. This is a thick mixture.
3. Pour over the chicken wings and stir to coat each chicken wing evenly.
4. Leave to stand for at least one hour
5. Place the chicken wings and any sauce around them in an ovenproof casserole
6. Bake without a lid, for about 45 minutes in a moderate oven, 180 -190 °C.
7. Stir the wings occasionally in the sauce. If they begin to become too dark in colour, cover the top with some foil.



---oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo-----oOo---

Orange Syrup Cake

submitted by Marian Hanly

Ingredients for the Cake:

- 250g butter
- 1cup sugar – or reduce to ¾ cup and use some sweetener
- 3 600g eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon. vanilla essence
- 1 tablespoon finely grated orange rind
- 1 ¾ cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon bi carbonate soda

Ingredients for the Syrup:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 5 peaches cut into wedges (or kiwifruit pieces)

Method for the Cake:

1. Grease a ring cake pan.
2. Beat butter and sugar till light and fluffy.
3. Add eggs, one at a time, beating till combined
4. Stir through vanilla, orange rind & sour cream.
5. Fold in sifted flour, baking powder & soda until just combined
6. Place mixture in tin
7. Bake at 160 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes.
8. Stand for 10 minutes before turning out

Method for the Syrup:

1. Bring sugar, orange & lemon juice to boil.
 2. Reduce heat add peaches (or kiwi fruit) and simmer for 5 mins
 3. Pour Syrup over the cake while hot
- Serve with cream

Personal Column

Good Luck and Farewell

- Good luck to the following Year 6 students who are entering High School next year; Eryn Dodds, Jaylen Bilbija, Mia Calphy, Erica O'Brien, Olivia Murray, Georgia Tesoriero, Mackenzie Tesoriero, Nicola Kitley, Declan, Miles, Liam, Holly and Jack.
- Good luck to Kyan Merton, Kiara Tulk and Sierra Robinson who are beginning Kindergarten next year. We hope you make lots of new friends.
- Farewell to Barry and Sue Owens from Bunya Crescent who have moved to the retirement village in North Richmond after spending 32 years on the mountain. They have both been involved in the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade (Sue as secretary since 1987), BMA Association and B.M Park Committee. Sue says they chose to live in Bowen Mountain because of the 'crisp air, wonderful view and warm-hearted community spirit. I also hope to continue our happy association with the mountain.'

Introducing our new babies

- Sarah and Glenn Cassim from Lt Bowen Rd are pleased to announce the arrival of Henry, born on the 24th July. He is a younger brother for Wyatt.
- Congratulations to Kara and Joshua Lucas who welcomed Eden Rain into the family on September 1st weighing in at 3.3kg. He is a younger brother for Ryder.
- Congratulation to Tim and Chris Dominguez from Lt Bowen Rd on the arrival of their first grandson Oscar. Chris has already had to fulfil her grandmotherly duties by looking after him for a full weekend soon after his birth. She didn't have to be asked twice.

On a sad note, we would like to extend our condolences to Mary Sykes and children Niamh and Eamon of Bellbird Crescent on the death of Peter Sykes. He passed away on 5th September after suffering a long illness. The family has resided on the mountain for 27 years.

Welcome to the following families who have recently made Bowen Mountain their home.

- Sue Quigley and partner Vic of Bowen Mtn Rd. They have moved from Penrith with their 2 cats, Gus and Holly and rescue dog Marley, to be closer to work and for a tree change.
- Angela and Shannon Codd with their 2 young boys, Emmerson (8) and Austin (3) from Quakers Hill. Angela said they 'always wanted to live on Bowen Mountain and found an amazing house' in Currawong Crescent. "The neighbours welcomed us and I love the kids playing outside. I love living here"

We would like to wish the following residents a Happy Birthday

- **In December**, Charlotte Merton, Samantha O'Brien, Miah Matthews and Daniel O'Brien
- **In January**, Tala Goodall, Maisie Mitchell and Sally Biddell and in **February**, Flynn Morgan, Chloe Snell, Jaylen Bilbija, Austin Codd and Harry Munroe

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

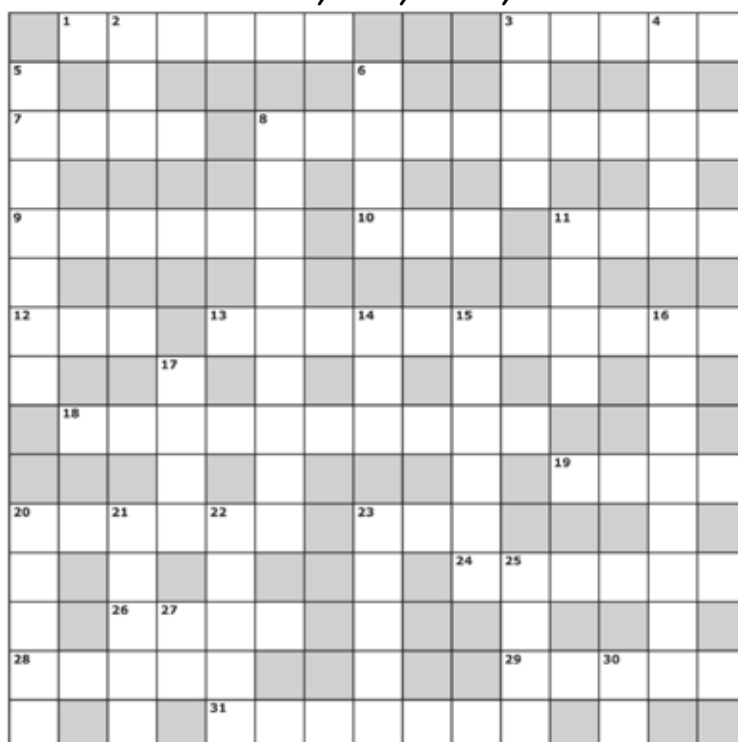
Congratulations

To John Leahy of Currawong Crescent on receiving his third Award in the 2014 Governor General's World Scouting Awards. The Silver Koala medal is for distinguished service to Scouting. John is Regional Activity Leader for Radio, Science and Technology for the Greater Western Sydney Area. The medal and citation were presented at a dinner held on 23 October.

B-R-A-V-O-O-O, John

Birds and Other Things

by Lesley Carbery



ACROSS

1. Invasive bird pest is an ----- myna (6)
3. These birds are the symbol of peace (5)
7. Birds hatch out of these (4)
8. Large black-and-white birds with resounding bell-like voice (10)
9. ? Australian cockatoos are also fools (6)
10. Manner or method (3)
11. Teams that advance to the next round without playing an opponent have these (4)
12. Fluid used in writing or printing (3)
13. Birds with bill and tongue adapted for extracting nectar from flowers (11)
18. Australian kingfisher bird that laughs a lot (10)
19. Small, active bird with a short, upright tail.(4)
20. ----- Islands in the Atlantic Ocean where this bird originated (6)
23. Domestic animal that is predator of birds (3)
24. Oldest surviving gold-rush town in Australia on the Turon River (6)
26. Stately aquatic bird with long, slender neck (4)
28. Sounds made by birds are musical ----- (5)
29. Parasitic insect that lives on birds (5)
31. Large birds that are eaten for Thanksgiving or at Christmas (7)

DOWN

2. Drink made with beaten eggs is an egg--- (3)
3. Soft fine feathers that cover a bird (4)
4. Soaring bird of prey on the Great Seal of the USA (5)
5. A flightless, aquatic bird with wings reduced to flippers (7)
6. Black bird that makes squawky sound (4)
8. Large flightless rainforest bird (9)
11. Bowl or tub in garden for birds is a bird---- (4)
14. Large flightless Australian bird (3)
15. One of many herons, usually white, with long, gracefull plumes in the breeding season (6)
16. Large colourful parakeets with broad/flat tails (8)
17. Long upholstered couch with a back and arm rests (4)
20. ? Made of paper and used to construct tall buildings (5)
21. Built by birds for depositing their eggs and raising their young (5)
22. Large piece of meat baked uncovered in an oven (5)
23. Young bird (5)
25. Nocturnal birds of prey with large eyes (3)
27. You and I
30. You and me

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



SEPTEMBER SOLUTION

P	I	E	S			F			V	E	A	L
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Community Notices

BOWEN MOUNTAIN BUSHWALK BOOK

5th Edition now
available from

Kurrajong Newsagency
\$8



**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>
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 13 December 2014
Saturday 10 January 2015
Saturday 14 February
Saturday 14 March



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**

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

from

the Newsletter Committee

Kurrajong Anglican Church

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 6pm - Family Service and dinner

Christmas Day 8am - Traditional Holy Communion Service

9:30am - Family Service

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**

**Last Park meeting: 14 Dec.
Christmas Lunch : 21 Dec.**

CAROLS IN THE PARK

Saturday 13th December

Kurrajong Memorial Park

Old Bells Line of Rd, Kurrajong

Family fun time from 6pm

Carols from 7:45pm

FREE!

Free...

Face painting

Jumping Castle

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Kurrajong Anglican Church

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Kurrajong Baptist Church



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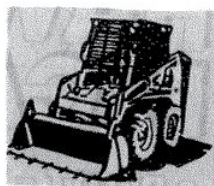
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