

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 149

Autumn

March 2022



In This Issue

Southern Bookbark Owl

Flashback Autumn 2002

Koalas on Bowen Mountain

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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.

This Newsletter is published by the Bowen Mountain Association to disseminate free and charged information for the benefit of the Bowen Mountain residents.

However, the Bowen Mountain Association does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any published material.

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4572 1635

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[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/bowenmountain.org.au) search for 'Bowen Mountain'

DEADLINE for June Issue

1 May 2022

COVER

Southern Boobook Owl

Subscriptions to the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. can be forwarded to: The Treasurer
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Editor's Letter

Welcome everyone, especially our new residents and readers.

There are several items to be aware of in this issue.

Firstly, the annual St. Patricks Day Dinner on 17 March. All residents are invited to join in a fun evening and the BMA Annual General Meeting on Sunday 21st August.

We also publish an item on the Southern Boobook Owl (pictured on the cover) and include a 'Flashback to 2002'.

The Koala has now been declared an endangered species in NSW, QLD and ACT. Keep a lookout for these precious protected animals in your neighbourhood.

Due to COVID several of our advertisers have had to withdraw their ads. If you wish to advertise your business, please contact Bill Kerr on 0409 989 810.

Our next issue will be our 150th, when a short history of the newsletter will be published. If you have anything you would like to add to this special edition, or other contributions we would love to hear from you.

See our mailing address opposite. We would appreciate it if all copy be sent by the deadline date. Thank you.

BMA Newsletter Committee

Newsletter Editorial Committee

Alison Kerr, Elaine Leahy, Robin Woods, John Wulff.

Distribution Coordinator: Alison Kerr 0419 167 088.

Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Executive

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secretary@bowenmountain.org.au

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Arts Fest Committee

Sarah Morgan, Karl O'Rourke, Alison Kerr, Bill Kerr

Sub-Committee Coordinators

Newsletter –

Community Care – Liz Rowan

Webmaster – Chris Duckworth

Facebook Administrator

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 and SECRETARY'S REPORT JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022

Wishing everyone a New Year filled with happiness, accomplishments and hope. After another challenging year of 2021 where once again we and many others were forced to postpone many events we are back in 2022 with renewed vigour, optimism and enthusiasm. We continue to be challenged to creatively present a range of community events in a COVID-19-safe environment, which everyone can enjoy and participate in.

After a successful trial in 2021, we will continue to use social media as well as our website to deliver the Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer newsletters in 2022. Electronic copies of our newsletter will now be available in colour not only on our website at www.bowenmountain.org.au but also via a link on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page. As we wish to ensure that all residents receive a copy of the Newsletter, limited hard copies will also be available. If you have already requested a hard copy this will be delivered to your letterbox as usual. If you would like a hard copy and *have not previously requested one*, please contact the Secretary via one of the following

1. Email secretary@bowenmountain.org.au
2. A note in our postbox at Grose Vale shops PO Box 3141
3. Phone or Text Alison 0419167088

Approximate 2022 dates for electronic Newsletters via Facebook and our website as well as hard copy deliveries are as follows:

End of first week in:

March (Autumn), June (Winter), September (Spring) and December (Summer).

Many Bowen Mountain and Hawkesbury residents are enjoying the new revised Bowen Mountain Bushwalking Book, which has proven to be immensely popular particularly during lockdown where people could safely enjoy the trails of the Mountain.

The postponed 2020 – 2021 AGM will now be held in August 2022. Please see the **Save the Date** notice in this Newsletter. We have a new Defibrillator in the Park after the battery ceased to function on the last one. Also an update on the proposed Optus Communications Tower features later on in the newsletter.

During the lengthy lockdown of 2021, our Community Care Co-ordinators, Liz Rowan and Martha Allen looked after our elderly resident's needs and surprised them in December with Christmas care packages. Thank you Liz and Martha. We are also delighted that Vince is making an excellent recovery. Thank you to everyone who assisted the family in some way while he was in hospital. His resilience has been an inspiration.

Book into the St Patrick's Day "All you can Eat Banquet" at Thai Angelina, Richmond. For details see the advertisement in this newsletter. This will be a COVID-19-safe event and current COVID requirements will be observed.

Bill and Alison Kerr

President and Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

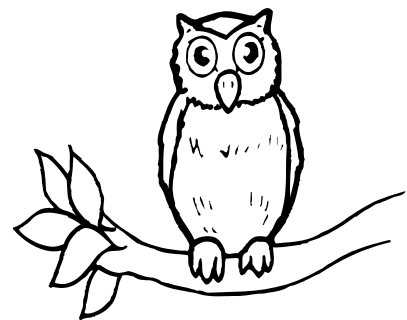
Southern Boobook – (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

You may have heard late at night or early morning the distinctive call of the Southern Boobook Owl. Its characteristic call is generally rendered as boobook or morepork, sometimes repeated incessantly, occasionally for hours on end.

This nocturnal owl is the smallest and most common owl in Australia and is identified by its plumage, which is a dark-chocolate brown and rufous brown below, heavily streaked and spotted with white. The bill is grey with a darker tip and the feet are grey or yellow. The facial disc is chocolate brown and the eyes are large and yellowish.

Southern Boobooks are mainly found throughout Australia and Tasmania. Closely related species are found in New Zealand, New Guinea and Indonesia. It feeds on insects, small mammals, (such as mice) which mainly takes place at night. Most prey is detected by listening and watching from a suitable tall perch. Once detected, flying prey, such as moths and small bats, are seized in mid-air, while ground dwelling prey is pounced upon.

Their nests are usually in a hollow tree lined with wood shavings, small twigs and leaves. The female alone incubates the eggs, but both sexes, and sometimes a second female helper, feed the young. The breeding season is from September to February, with a clutch of up to 5 eggs, with 42 days spent in the nest.



Source: Birdlife and Australian Museum

BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS 2022

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

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID 19 Restrictions all of the dates and venues below are subject to confirmation and at the moment are only proposed.

DATE		ITEM
MARCH	Monday 14 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Thursday 17 th	BMA Dinner – St. Patrick's Day- Thai Angelina Richmond. All Welcome.
APRIL	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
MAY	Monday 9 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JUNE	Monday 13 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday TBC	Winter Interlude – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JULY	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
AUGUST	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 21 st	BMA AGM – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
SEPTEMBER	Monday 12 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
OCTOBER	Monday 10 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 31 st	Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome
NOVEMBER	Monday 14 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
DECEMBER	Monday 13 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Christmas Party

Note: Dates may be subject to change depending on weather and other factors. Due notice will be provided.

St. Patrick's Day



**Come and celebrate St. Patrick's Day
at Thai Angelina, 221 Windsor St., Richmond**

**Thursday March 17th at 7pm
Delightful 2 course dinner - \$ 22**

Wear something green- prizes for best dressed

**Reservations essential on:
Alison: 0419 167 088**

**A COVID 19 safe event
All Welcome**



PARK REPORT

Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee (BMPMC)

Christmas in the Park

On Saturday 18th December, despite being an incredibly hot day, it was wonderful to see so many residents for our annual Christmas in the Park. There was a great selection of stalls to purchase last minute gifts, free kids' activities, off-road buggies, our beautiful new sleigh and of course a visit from Santa.

Our water play area and slip slide were incredibly popular and provided some cool relief to patrons. A big thank you to Robert from Kurrajong Water and Matt from Matt Hawkins Water for manning the slide and providing water on the day. We would also like to send our thanks to the Grose Vale RFS brigade and Santa for coming along, so many little faces lit up the moment they saw you.

Finally, thank you to our small group of volunteers, none of our activities would go ahead without you.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming events -

- Friday 15th April - Easter egg hunt and morning tea (donations welcome, email us)
- Saturday 16th July - Winter Market
- Saturday 22nd October - Spring Market
- Saturday 3rd December - Christmas in the Park

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can email us at info.bowenmountainparkevents@gmail.com

Dad's on Track

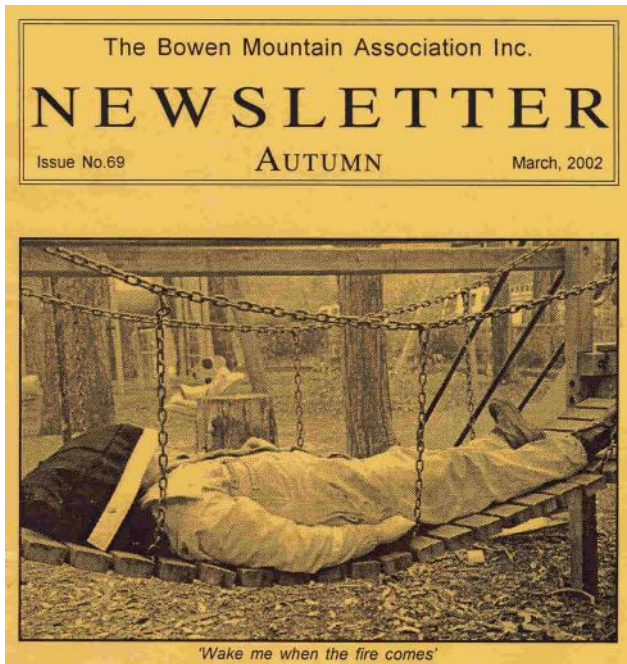
A special mention also goes out to newly established Dad's on Track, they are doing an incredible job raising awareness for men's mental health, so please get behind their cause.

See you in the park! *Colin Chesterman*, Chairperson

Louise Hawkins, Secretary



Flashback – Autumn 2002



'Wake me when the fire comes' was the caption under the cover photograph of a volunteer firefighter having a rest on the swing bridge in the park. This issue was mainly devoted to the devastating bush fires in the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury area over Christmas 2001 and into January, 2002. The Park was inundated with equipment and fire personnel from the local area, Victoria and Northern New South Wales, while the hall became a 'canteen' preparing and serving food and drinks for the volunteers.

The fire started about midday on Christmas Eve 2001 at the end of Cabbage Tree Road, along the Grose River. For four hectic days, with westerly winds, high temperatures and low humidity, the fire continued and by Boxing Day threatened Grose View Public School and several properties. Local brigades were busy with help from water bombing helicopters. By the fourth day the fire was threatening to burn against the westerly wind and would have posed a threat to Bowen Mountain. But thanks to the great efforts of the brigades who had cleared the vegetation below the Vale of Avoca Lookout, this didn't happen and the fire was extinguished.

Meanwhile a fire was believed to have started on 3rd December near Mountain Lagoon by a lightning strike which smouldered spreading slowly until on Christmas Eve about midday ash from the fire ignited near Wheeney Gap. This fire spread east at great speed on Christmas Day fanned by westerlies, low humidity and high temperatures. Fifteen homes were destroyed and many others threatened on Comleroy, Cedar Ridge, Blaxlands Ridge and East Kurrajong Roads.

On 2nd January there seemed to be imminent danger of the fire coming across the gully between

Kurrajong Heights and Bowen Mountain. In the middle of the night residents received a note saying that any evacuation should be done by 9am the next day. The situation on 3rd January again was looking grim for the mountain – the fire only had to move about a kilometre down the Buralow Creek to the junction with Tabaraga Rill. Another letter box drop was organised to let residents know of a meeting at 7.30am in the Park, where evacuation options were outlined.

On 5th January firefighters and residents constructed a trail behind Maple Street and between the top part of Bowen Mountain Road and Serpentine Lane. On 6th January the fire had been contained to a point 2km further to the west and at about 10pm it started to rain (27mm). At a de-briefing on 7th January it was reported that no active fires had been seen on Patterson's Range, although fires continued to burn at Mountain Lagoon and along the Putty Road.

The Warimoo fire burnt houses in the lower Blue Mountains and spread to Springwood and Winmalee, continuing to burn down to the Nepean River with spot fires in Londonderry. If the wind had changed to a southerly Bowen Mountain again would have been threatened.

On Sunday afternoon 17th February 2002, Windsor District Baptist Church was filled to capacity as people from the Hawkesbury District paused to give thanks to those who served beyond their call of duty during the fire season.

In cooperation with the Grose Vale Rural Fire Service and the BMA many residents attended a community debriefing in the Grose Vale Community Hall on Sunday 3rd March.

The BMA Community Care Sub-Committee reported on their Christmas get-together on 7th December enjoying a delicious lunch cruising down the Nepean River on the paddle steamer "Nepean Belle", entertained by the Captain on the pianola.

The Bendigo Bank Steering Committee was busy producing various computer models to confirm that the new bank would be viable, with a target to be in operation later in the year.

On Thursday evenings the Bowen Mountain Youth Group, operated by Colo Wilderness Mobile Resource Unit, held activities for the 12-18 year-olds with an invitation to attend the 2002 Youth Festival 'The Big Thing' in Colbee Park, McGraths Hill. Hawkesbury Community Transport also operated a free 'drop home' Youth Transport Service from Richmond Station from 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights to Richmond, North Richmond, Wilberforce, Glossodia, Windsor and Bligh Park.

Source: BMA Newsletter Issue No.69

Autumn Fire Update

Significant rain was experienced by the Sydney metropolitan region and surrounding districts during the summer period. The area surrounding Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale was again most fortunate not to have any serious fire events. The rain, wetting the vegetation and leaf litter as well as increasing the soil moisture has contributed greatly to reduce the incidence of bush fires locally.

During the past few months, Grose Vale volunteer members have taken the opportunity to prepare for hazard reductions, continue training and review operational procedures.

1) Bush Fire Danger Period and Fire Permits:

The Bush Fire Season for the Hawkesbury District is likely to finish on the 31st March and resume on the 1st October 2022.

2) Fire Permits:

Residents are reminded that Fire Permits for pile burns are still required up until the end of the Bush Fire Danger Period and notification to council to register your burn is required all year round.

3) The key things to remember

- You need a fire permit to undertake a pile burn if it is undertaken during the Bush Fire Danger Period. There are heavy penalties if you don't follow restrictions or rules.
- Getting a permit is free and easy. Further information is available from the Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre on: 4560 6400 and the Hawkesbury City Council website: <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/resources/forms/open-burning> or contacting Hawkesbury City Council on 4560 4444.

4) What is a Fire Permit?

Fire Permits help to ensure fire is used safely during the Bush Fire Danger Period. A permit imposes conditions on the way a fire is lit and maintained, and can only be issued by authorised Permit Issuing Officers. The permit system ensures agencies like the NSW RFS know when and where landholders intend to burn, to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place so that fires remain under control. The Permit Issuing Officer may add any conditions deemed as necessary but all permits have standard conditions such as:

- the permit is to be carried by the permit holder, on site, at the time the fire is lit.
- the permit is to remain on site with those present until extinguished, if applicable.
- the fire must be supervised at all times unless the permit says otherwise.
- notifications are given to the NSW RFS, and adjoining neighbours at least 24 hours (unless specified otherwise) prior to the fire being lit.
- the permit may be varied, cancelled or suspended, depending on weather conditions.

5) When are permits required?

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March, however it may vary due to local conditions. If you are planning to light a fire in the open during this time, you will need a Fire Permit. Also depending on the type of fire, a permit may be required all year round. For example, a Fire Permit is required at all times if a fire is likely to be dangerous to a building.

6) When are permits not required?

Fire Permits are not required for fires for the purpose of cooking food, provided that:

- the fire is in a permanently constructed fireplace at a site surrounded by ground that is cleared of all combustible materials for a distance of at least two metres all around;
- the fire is completely extinguished before leaving.

7) What else do I need to do?

Before lighting the fire ensure that:

- it can be contained and controlled within the specified area
- it does not contain toxic materials, such as rubber tyres, plastics, paint etc; and
- it must not cause an air pollution problem by producing excessive amounts of smoke. If you have a permit, it is your responsibility to:
- check whether a Total Fire Ban is in force on the NSW RFS Fire Danger ratings and Total Fire Bans page: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>. If there is, your permit is automatically suspended.
- check whether a No Burn day has been declared on the EPA website.
- check the expected weather conditions.
- notify and check with your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire and Rescue NSW station prior to lighting.
- follow any conditions restrictions listed in your permit.

8) Applying for a permit?

If in doubt about whether you require a Fire Permit, or to apply for one, further information is available from the Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre on: 4560 6400 and the Hawkesbury City Council website: (see above under 3)

Fines and penalties for illegal burning Substantial fines and prison terms of up to 12 months may apply to persons found to be in breach of the Rural Fires Act 1997 and its Regulations.

Civil law suits can also be brought against persons responsible for fire, by those seeking compensation for losses sustained.

Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade welcomes new members and if you are interested in joining your local Brigade please contact Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre on 4560 6400.

Culinary Corner

IRISH STEW – an Autumn St. Patrick's Day tummy warmer

Ingredients:

1.25kg lamb chops, trimmed
3 brown onions, chopped
1kg potatoes, peeled, sliced
2 carrots, peeled, thinly sliced into rounds
2 tbsp tomato paste
3 beef stock cubes, crumbled
coconut
1 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves, chopped
1/4 cup mint leaves

Method:

1. Cut chops in half. Place flour in a plastic bag and season with salt and pepper. Place chops in bag and shake well to coat. Transfer chops to a plate. Reserve flour.
2. Preheat oven to 130°C. Place onions, potatoes and carrots in an ovenproof dish. Top with half the chops. Repeat layers with remaining onions, potatoes, carrots and



chops.

3. Whisk reserved flour, tomato paste and 2 tablespoons cold water in a large jug until well combined. Slowly add boiling water, whisking constantly. Add stock cubes and parsley. Stir to dissolve stock cubes.
4. Pour flour mixture over chops. Cover and cook for 4 hours or until meat tender and sauce thickened. Sprinkle with mint and serve.

Seamus O'Flaherty

HELPING TO PROTECT OUR BOWEN MOUNTAIN KOALAS



We have often marvelled at how fortunate we are to live on Bowen Mountain in a unique wildlife and flora environment. Recently, we have become aware that families of koalas have chosen Bowen Mountain to be their home. We now need to ensure we maintain, protect and safeguard the endangered koala's habitat and restore key koala strongholds particularly after the fires. Bowen Mountain is helping to protect our koalas by erecting koalas cross here signs on major roads around the mountain. Interestingly, the University of the Sunshine Coast has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund to Regenerate Australia. One of the innovations is solar panels for koalas. Tiny lightweight solar powered tags attached to the ear of a koala will assist in finding and rescuing koalas from the path of an oncoming fire. These tags will last a koala's lifetime. We are not sure if the Bowen Mountain koalas will be part of this program.



Pie in the Park

On Friday afternoon 18 February registered members of the community had an opportunity to discuss any issues with Susan Templeman over delicious Bilpin apple pies.



Daylight Saving will end at 2am on Sunday April 3rd. On Saturday night set your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to check your smoke alarm.

Kid's Korner

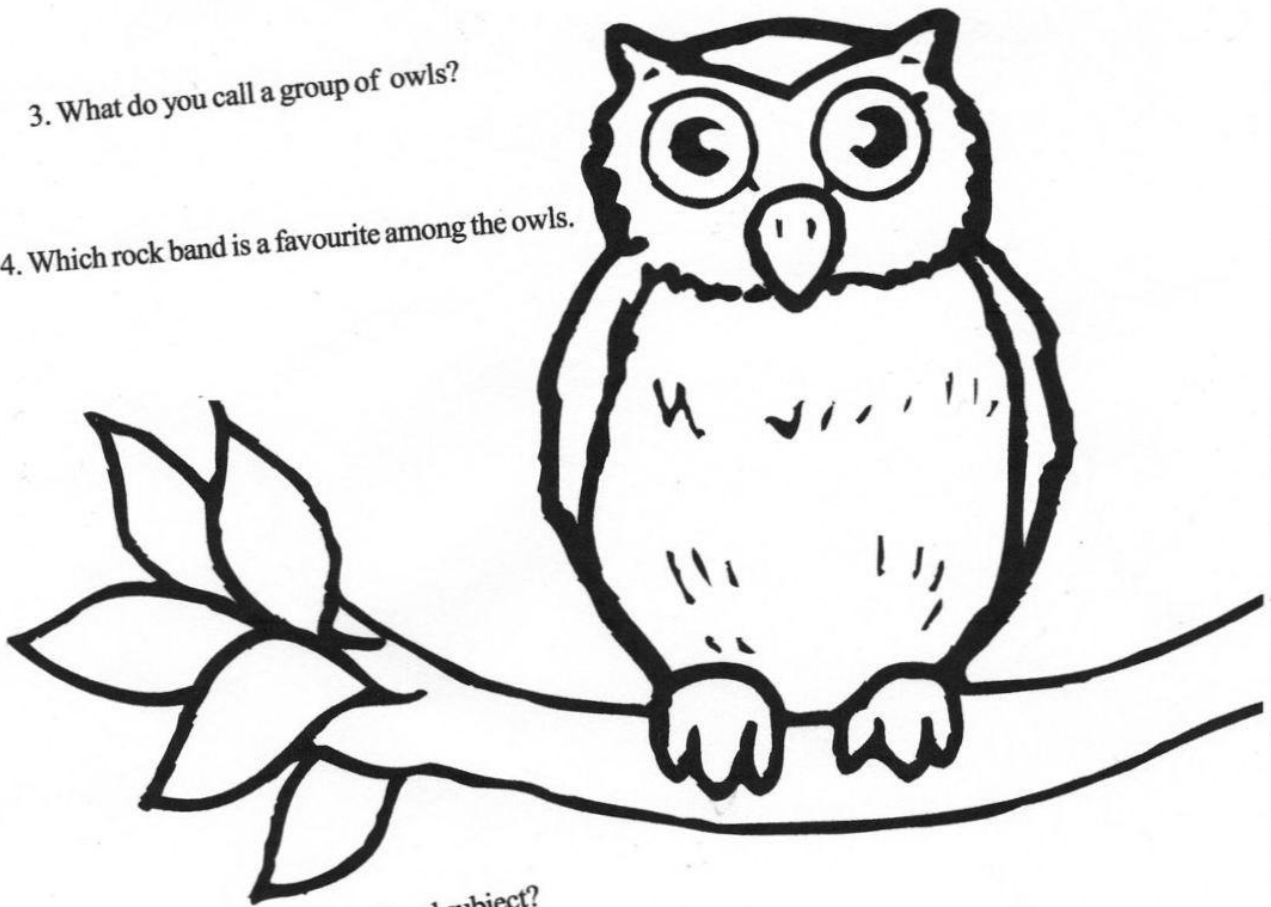
A picture to colour

1. Which holiday do owls love most?

2. What type of books do owls like?

3. What do you call a group of owls?

4. Which rock band is a favourite among the owls.



5. What was the owl's favourite school subject?

6. What do you get when you cross an owl and an oyster?

7. Who was the most famous owl magician?

8. How can you tell when an owl has laryngitis?

Answers:
1. Owl-oween, 2. Hoo-dunits, 3. A parliament, 4. The Hoo, 5. Owlegbra,
6. Pearls of wisdom, 7. Hoo-dini, 8. He doesn't give a hoot.

Community Notices

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

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

Phone: Liz Rowan 4572 2416

Join the BMA facebook Page and stay connected with other people from Bowen Mountain around the world.

Go to www.facebook.com
Create or open your facebook account
(this is free)
Search for 'Bowen Mountain'
(the logo is the Bunya Tree)
Click "Like"

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

CRAGO OBSERVATORY

Crago Observatory is closed for renovations. No public or member observing nights are currently available.



Pat O'Toole receiving the K-CHS Australia Day Award 2022 in recognition of her significant ongoing contribution to the Society including several years as Treasurer. Secretary Marguerite Wyborn presented the Award Certificate.

UPDATE ON OPTUS TOWER, ROADS AND UNDERGROWTH

Proposed Optus Tower on Lt. Bowen Rd. near Maple St. - 29 objection submissions have been lodged to Council to date. The decision has been deferred. We will continue to report on progress.

Roads and Undergrowth - The President and Secretary of the Bowen Mountain Association Management committee are in the process of contacting the Hawkesbury Council General Manager and all Councillors via phone and email to request a priority list be devised in regard to Bowen Mountain community needs. In particular the quality of the roads and overgrowth on the side of roads should be high on the list. We will continue to report on progress.

SAVE THE DATE

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION INC.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD IN BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK HALL

SUNDAY AUGUST 21st 2022

COMMENCING AT 2PM

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HOME MADE AFTERNOON TEA**



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