

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No 150

Winter

June 2022



In This Issue

Flashback 2002

Mountain History

Maisie Mitchell, National Champion



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.

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**Editor**  
4572 1635

**Advertising**  
Bill Kerr – 0409 989 810

Email address for lodgement of newsletter contributions:

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

**Newsletter Mailing address:**  
**BMA Newsletter Committee**  
**37 Bellbird Crs, Bowen Mt. 2753**

**Website:** [www.bowenmountain.org.au](http://www.bowenmountain.org.au)  
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## COVER

**Newsletter covers over the years from the first in 1986 to a drawing by Marian Hanly in 1989 and more**

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## From the Committee

Welcome everyone to the 150th edition of the Bowen Mountain Newsletter, with congratulations and many thanks to all those who in some way have contributed to its publication over the past 36 years.

In this issue we reprint historical events in Flashback 2002 and Mountain History and also 'My Time as Editor' see page 7

We sadly farewell two former Bowen Mountain residents, Marian Hanly and Dale Raper.

What a wonderful achievement for our 'golden girl', Maisie Mitchell on her gold medal win. Hearty congratulations from your community.

Well done!! Read her story on page 3

Date for your diary – BMA Annual General Meeting, 2pm 21<sup>st</sup> August in the Park Hall.

Lastly, we inform our readers that three members of the newsletter committee are standing down from this issue. We sincerely thank John Wulff, Elaine Leahy and Robin Woods for their commitment, as well as Sue Hoare and Judith Mitchell for their assistance in producing newsletters.

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

**President** - Bill Kerr  
**Vice President** – Lance Mitchell  
**Secretary** - Alison Kerr  
[secretary@bowenmountain.org.au](mailto:secretary@bowenmountain.org.au)  
**Treasurer** – Liz Rowan

**General Committee**  
Colin Chesterman, Sarah Morgan,  
Karl O'Rourke, Robin Woods, John Wulff

**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 - Winter 2022

Welcome to the BMA's Winter Newsletter! The mantle of Winter begins to descend on the Mountain as colourful Autumn leaves begin to fall, creeks are running full, nights turn crisp, clear and cool heralding another magical time on our unique Mountain! It is a time to celebrate not only the beauty of our Mountain but the 150th edition of the Bowen Mountain Association Newsletter. To celebrate this achievement past editors have reflected on highlights of their time on the Newsletter Committee within this newsletter. At this milestone two of our key members John Wulff and Elaine Leahy have decided to move on from the Newsletter committee. They have devoted many hours over ten years and worked tirelessly to produce the Newsletter. We thank them for the phenomenal amount of work that they have put into the Newsletter over the years and for willingly giving up their time to produce a quality, informative and unique newsletter that has been "the voice" of the Bowen Mountain community. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

The Bowen Mountain Association has been kept busy with a number of activities that seek to improve the quality of life of Bowen Mountain residents and its community. As a result of many Facebook posts and emails to the Bowen Mountain Association, the

President and Secretary are in the process of contacting the Hawkesbury Council General Manager and all Councillors via phone and email to devise a priority list in regard to Bowen Mountain community needs in particular the quality of the road and overgrowth on the side of the road. As a result of the recent floods we have received emails from Nicole Luhr and Tracey - Community Development Worker's Hawkesbury City Council requesting that they meet with us to discuss assistance for Bowen Mountain in the recent and future floods. We will be meeting with them at a face to face Bowen Mountain Association meeting. All residents are welcome to attend this meeting. Due notice of this meeting will be given. Continuing along this line, the theme for the Bowen Mountain Association Annual General Meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> is "Our Community through Adversity" which will be a photo talk of how our community coped with adversity from 2020 – 2022, followed by a delicious home-made afternoon tea. Come and join us at the AGM! Details are in the Newsletter.

We wish you all the best for the coming season. Stay safe and warm.

*Bill and Alison Kerr*

President and Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

### The Bowen Mountain Golden Girl

At the risk of sounding like an over zealously proud parent, I thought the Bowen Mountain community might like to know that on Sunday March 27th, Maisie Mitchell (2020 Grose View School Captain) stood on the top step of the podium at Homebush Olympic Park for the National Anthem as a gold medallist in the Australian Athletics Championships.

Maisie competed in the 3km U/14 Race Walk after qualifying first at the NSW State Titles. Maisie sat in third place for the first two laps, then moved up into second, sitting just behind the leader for a further three laps. On the second last lap she made a huge tactical move, taking the lead and pushing out to an unchallengeable position. She crossed the line with a huge 7 second PB claiming the

gold medal, amidst deafening cheers from the Olympic stadium. She is now Australian Champion for this event.

Maisie has spent her entire life to date as a proud resident of Bowen Mountain. She has grown up in Bowen Mountain Park and is frequently seen running on the many tracks and trails in the local National Park, training for such an event. After years of trail running in the rain, mud, and steep sandy tracks between Burrallow and Bowen Mountain, she is no stranger to adversity and was able to dig deep in the rain and slippery track at Homebush.

*Lance Mitchell – proud Dad*

*The Bowen Mountain Association and its community congratulate Maisie on this significant achievement. Well done! We are very proud of you.*



# 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
JUNE	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday TBC	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Winter Interlude – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JULY	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Date and Venue TBC	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Dinner
AUGUST	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA AGM – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
SEPTEMBER	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
OCTOBER	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome
NOVEMBER	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Date and Venue TBC	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Dinner
DECEMBER	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	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.

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD IN BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK HALL**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup> 2022**

**COMMENCING AT 2PM**

**COME JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS HOME  
MADE AFTERNOON TEA**

**AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE MEETING IS EXTENDED TO ALL  
RESIDENTS AND LANDOWNERS OF BOWEN MOUNTAIN**

**IF YOU WISH TO NOMINATE FOR A POSITION ON THE BOWEN  
MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – PLEASE  
CONTACT THE SECRETARY: Alison Kerr – 0419 167 088**



# Preparing for Winter in your home

Welcome to the Grose Vale Brigade's Fire Liaison Officer's Report for Winter 2022.

As winter approaches, residents of Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale are reminded to be vigilant for the potential for fires to occur within the home. All too often, house fires caused by faulty electrical appliances, heaters (including electrical, oil and slow combustion wood fires) candles and other sources of ignition, not only cause considerable damage to the home or its total loss but also threaten life.

To mitigate the risk of fires within the home, now is a good time to review your escape plans, smoke alarms, chimneys and flues and electrical appliances.

Fire + Rescue NSW notes the following:

## Escape plans

Having a home escape plan in conjunction with a working smoke alarm will greatly increase your chances of getting out safely. Every second counts.

If there is a fire in your home, do not wait, **EVERY SECOND COUNTS, GET OUT and STAY OUT** and then call Triple Zero (000). **Never go back inside a burning building.**

Remember to consider the special needs of children, the elderly or the disabled when developing your escape plan.

- Draw your escape plan, and discuss it with your whole family.
- Know and record two safe ways out of every room.
- Make sure that your windows and doors are not obstructed and can be unlocked and opened quickly if necessary.
- Practise your escape plan regularly with the whole household including pets. Your letter box is a great place to wait for firefighters arrival.
- As you escape make sure you close internal doors behind you. This can reduce fire spread and minimise damage.

## Smoke Alarms:

Did you know that you will not smell smoke while asleep?

Only working smoke alarms save lives.

- Test that your smoke alarm/s are working. If not, change the batteries or replace the alarm.
- Check the smoke alarm is in date. Smoke alarms have a lifespan of ten years.
- Give the smoke alarm a vacuum, if you haven't done so in the last six months, to remove dust and any insects.
- Test the smoke alarm regularly.

## Fireplaces and chimneys

Ensure your flues and chimneys are regularly cleaned. Place a fire screen in front of open fires to protect your family.

- Have your chimney serviced by a qualified trades person prior to using it.
- Purchase a fire screen if you do not own one. Fireplaces should always be protected by a fire screen when in use.

- Ensure your wood pile sits at least a metre away from the fireplace.
- Choose a safe place to store matches and lighters where children cannot reach and that is at least a metre away from the fireplace.

*Ensure everything is kept a metre from the heater.*

- Check your electric and gas heaters before you use them. If you suspect a fault have the item checked by a qualified repairer or replaced. Check all cords for fraying and damage. Plug heaters directly into wall sockets only.
- Do not overload power boards.
- Ensure everything is kept a metre from the heater.
- Install any new heaters and use as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Check your portable outdoor heaters before use and have serviced or replaced if required. Ensure that the area where you plan to use them is level, well ventilated and away from awnings and other combustible materials.

***NEVER use any outdoor heating or cooking equipment inside your home including those that use 'heat beads' or LPG as a fuel source. This type of equipment is not suitable for indoor use and can lead to a build-up of lethal gases, which could be deadly. Check the manufacturer's recommendations before use.***

## Electric Blankets

- Test your electric blanket before use by laying it on top of your bed, feeling the internal wires for any abnormalities and inspecting cords/controls for damage.
- Turn it on for 5 minutes and then feel for any uneven hot spots.
- If you notice any of the above the electric blanket should be replaced. Ready to pack your electric blanket away? Roll it for storage, folding can cause damage.
- Electric blankets are not designed to be used while sleeping. Consider adding additional bedding to keep warm if needed.

## Wheat Bags

- Check your wheat bags for signs of wear and tear or scorching. Replace if needed.
- Follow the manufacturers' instructions when heating, using and storing.
- Wheat bags can easily ignite or burn if overheated and need to completely cool on a non-combustible surface before storing. They are only designed to be applied directly to the body and should never be used in bed or while sleeping.

For more information on making your home safer from a house fire, visit the New South Wales Rural Fire Service website, [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or the Fire + Rescue website [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade welcomes new members. Contact Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre on 4560 6400.

*Greg Walker* Community Engagement Officer



## VALE - MARIAN HANLY

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the recent passing of our much-loved friend and greatly admired neighbour of over 30 years, Marian Hanly. Marian was both an honorary mother and grandmother to our family who shared her love, expert advice on many issues, love of the Bowen Mountain bush, gardening, culinary skills and appreciation of art, laughter and life with us. Marian passed away peacefully on Mother's Day May 8th 2022 at her daughter, Megan's home. The family bought her home to be cared for by family for the five days before her passing. She was surrounded by love and joy. The family are planning a "Celebration of Life" for Marian probably to be held in Bowen Mountain Park.

Marian was admired by the Bowen Mountain community for her warm personality, caring manner and friendship to all. Marian was esteemed for her amazing talent and technique as an artist who captured so well the essence of the Australian bush at Bowen Mountain. Marian was also held in high regard in the Hawkesbury region for her enthusiastic ability to lead a team of artists and dedicated committee members in organising the Annual Bowen Mountain Arts Festival from 2005 – 2015. Marian as Co ordinator and her hard working and talented volunteer committee meticulously organised the Art Festival for over a year setting up signs and labels for works, organising craft displays, preparing tables and paperwork for the silent auction, organising food and drinks for the Friday opening nights, erecting hessian covered display stands, hanging paintings, water proofing the marquee, arranging furniture and setting up lighting and electrical needs. The Arts Festival ran throughout the weekend with food and drinks available and a plethora of talented local musicians to entertain. People from all over Sydney enthusiastically ventured to the exhibition of many talented Hawkesbury artists and craftspeople displaying works in oils, pastels, pen and ink and air brushed paintings and photography. Crafts ranged from jewellery, wood objects, pens, and pottery, hand knitted scarves and shawls, handmade cards and cross-stitched cloths. The



Arts Festival became a much-anticipated event throughout the Hawkesbury and Sydney region. There was always a high standard of art and craft overseen by Marian's artistic and quality eye. The Arts Festival raised funds for the Bowen Mountain Community.

Most noticeably, Marian had a passion to encourage and promote the talents of young artistic children in the area, and supported their interest and potential at the Festival by filling a covered marquee with their creative works and awarding prizes to proud recipients. A huge favourite at the Arts Festival was the children's and youth Bunya portrait competition with portraits entered by 3 to 18 year olds in a range of media. The addition of the People's Choice awards proved to be popular, as did the Guest artist who ran workshops throughout the weekend. Also popular was children's art and craft activities which were available to all throughout the weekend. Many schools in the Hawkesbury district entered the children's and youth art competition for many years.

For many years Marian ran Children's Art classes after school in the Park Hall and adult art classes on the deck of her home on Bowen Mountain. Marian encouraged in children and adults a love of the Bowen Mountain bush through art. Marian loved bushwalking and one of her favourite walks was the Buralow Creek walk from the Observatory. She used to walk this track early most mornings often stopping to sketch an aspect of the bush along the way. Her art adorned the 1988 Bi Centennial plates and cookbook. Her now famous drawing of the Bunya pine adorned the 1986 Newsletter front cover and is the logo for the Bowen Mountain Association.



Marian was an enthusiastic and devoted member of the BMA Management Committee for many years. She was also an invaluable member of the Newsletter committee contributing creative ideas and drawings. Marian will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by the Bowen Mountain community. She has left us with many memories to treasure and will always have a special place in our hearts.

*Bill and Alison Kerr with  
contributions from Denise Nixon  
and Jolanta Walczynski*

## My Time as Editor

It has been some time since I was editor of the Bowen Mountain Newsletter, in fact 29 years, so I have had to put my thinking cap on.

I served my 'apprenticeship' in the initial days when the six weekly meetings were held at our house and I was the 'tea lady' and 'gopher'. These meetings gave me a good insight as to what was involved in producing a newsletter – a dedicated team, lots of hard work, following strict guidelines and keeping to deadlines.

In 1993 editor, Denise Nixon, decided it was time to hand over the baton and that's how I firstly became its coordinator, graduating to editor.

At the same time, I also did the layout, while completing a TAFE course in Desktop Publishing. I enjoyed this time, sometimes quite stressful but also rewarding, especially when you could finally breathe a sigh of relief and hold the finished copy in your hand, ready to be delivered to its readers.

After nine years, I passed on the editorship to another committee member, Sylvia Moorcroft.

Over the ensuing years I have from time to time been helping on the committee and learning new things like the internet and emails, but now the time has come to pass the baton once again

*Elaine Leahy*

### Words from Sylvia and Geoff Moorcroft

I loved working with the Newsletter Committee and with the many members of the BMA and its various committees. Geoff and I have been so privileged and lucky to have been part of such a great community venture and thank all of those we worked with to make it such a wonderful publication. Some editions ago when Geoff was the official printer, I joined the committee and worked with many talented and dedicated people .....we had great fun and sometimes quite a lot of stress to meet the deadline...good memories!!!

Readers enjoyed Travellers Tales, profiles of local identities, and reports and photos of the many events that took place in the Park. Terry Hoare and Finn Jakobson entertained us with some "doggy tales" and photos of their doggy park group, which gathered regularly for dog exercise and chinwags. We read about who was doing "what and where" in

Denise Nixon's "Personal Column". We were so lucky to have so many talented artists contributing to the Newsletter, among them our much loved and sadly lost Marian Hanley and Rita Rutkovskis who could produce amazing illustrations whenever called upon. All of this work relied on the graphic design and publishing skills of Elaine Leahy, John Wulff, the very laid back Rick Jamieson, Alison and Bill Kerr, Denise Nixon, Sue Hoare and many others....and my famous red pen!

Congratulations to the BMA and to all those dedicated contributors who for so many years have made The Newsletter such a wonderful and sometimes thoughtful publication.....and to all on the Mountain who will feel such sorrow at its passing thank you for making it possible.

We miss you all....Love from

*Geoff & Syl Moorcroft*

### and John Wulff

It has been a great privilege to be trusted with the layout of the BMA Newsletter. For me this was a challenging design exercise, to produce a uniform look, which follows the standard layout of professional magazines and newspapers. I chose a two column layout for articles, which is easier to read than having long lines spread over the whole page.

Over the ten years I have been doing the layout I have prepared templates for all the pages, which I am happy to pass on to a younger member of our community, who is willing to take over. I would also be very happy to sit down and help get our new layout come up to speed. I have used the Open Source Software "Libre Office Writer" rather than "WinWord", although either would do. They are

fully compatible.

I returned to Australia in 2008 after working in Germany for 15 years. There I was a member of the Anglo-German Club of Pforzheim, where I also did the layout of their newsletter.

I met Robin Woods and moved to Bowen Mountain in 2010. I was accepted into the community immediately, which was amazing. For the first time in my life I feel Australian and at home. As a youngster and as a young engineer I was always the German kid or colleague. In Germany I was the Australian bloke. In both countries I was always more than welcome, but nevertheless a foreigner. Not until Bowen Mountain has that changed. Thank you neighbours.

*John Wulff*

## Flashback – 2002

### **BMA Newsletter, Issue No.70**

The Annual Mid-Year in the Park was deferred from the usual June event to 27 July, after certain restrictions to the public liability insurance and logistical issues were sorted.

Two Community Care coach trips were held, one in March with morning tea at Fagan Park, Dural, “Garden of Many Nations’ and a picnic lunch at Berowra Waters. In May was a trip to ‘Everglades’, Leura followed by a superb lunch at the Swiss Cottage Restaurant, in Katoomba.

There was an article on the upgrading of the Heli-pad at the end of Lt. Bowen Drive. During the fires earlier in that year, a resident had slipped from her balcony and was air lifted by Care Flight. The helicopter was unable to safely land and paramedics were lowered by cable to reach her. An ambulance then met the helicopter in a paddock at the bottom of the mountain, where after being stabilised, the patient was transported to Nepean Hospital. In her ‘grateful thanks’ letter she praised the actions of a number of people to whom she owed her life.

The (late) Monte Rutkovskis told a delightful story, “Home Invasion” on the trials of catching a cute little native mouse, nicknamed ‘Dutchy’. After dining on bacon and sunflower seeds for several days ‘Dutchy’ was eventually trapped and returned to his/her bush home.

The Streamwatch group reported on the health of the local waterways by scouring the creeks for aquatic micro-invertebrates (spineless bugs). The range and number of bugs present indicated that the water was healthy.

### **BMA Newsletter, Issue No.71**

The Spring issue of the BMA Newsletter featured the Annual Reports from the Executive and sub-committees – newsletter, bushcare, social and community care, prior to being presented at the Annual General Meeting, when Kevin Rozzoli, MP, was the guest speaker.

The Hawkesbury District Scouts held their annual Jamboree on the Air, with a weekend camp in the Park, when Scout and Guides communicated by short wave radios to groups within Australia and overseas.

The Bowen Mountain Youth Group met on Tuesday nights, enjoying recreational and social activities. Special vacation programs were also

held in the school holidays.

There was also an amusing cartoon drawn by the late Rita Rutkovkis of an altercation between a deer and a vehicle at the bottom of Bowen Mountain Road.

The Bendigo Bank was now a reality after its official opening on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2002. The North Richmond branch opened its doors for business on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2002.

The launching of local author, Neil Hartley’s novel ‘Sarah’s Child’ was held in the Park Hall, with a celebratory afternoon tea, after which Neil happily autographed copies of his book.

The Community Care outing was a coach trip to the city for a tour of Elizabeth Bay House. After morning tea in the courtyard was a viewing of their latest exhibition, *And so to Bed*. This exhibition featured various kinds of beds from baby cradles to four-posters and a display of beautiful linen. Then across the Harbour Bridge for lunch at the Willoughby Leagues Club.

The Bushcare group (a sub-committee of the BMA) met every Sunday morning working on a regeneration project at the end of Bowen Mountain Road.

### **BMA Newsletter, Issue No.72**

In September, 2002 the Community Care group went on a Mystery Tour of the Hawkesbury. The first stop was a visit to Eniskillen in Grose Vale, when John Maguire spoke on the beginnings of the Hawkesbury Harvest Farm Trail. From here the tour continued to Tanglin Alpaca Lodge, then a quick historic tour through East Kurrajong and Wilberforce finishing at the Windsor Smokehouse.

An item once again came to the fore on the confusion by deliverers, emergency services and visitors concerning Lt. Bowen Road and Lt. Bowen Drive. (This confusion has hopefully been resolved due to a new sign erected at the Wattle St. junction).

A new committee was formed at the Annual General Meeting, with pressure being kept on the State Government concerning the alteration to the National Park Boundaries, which encroached closer to properties. A register of signatures was tabled in Parliament against this proposal



## Words from Denise Nixon, the first editor

I enjoyed being the Editor of the Bowen Mountain Newsletter from its creation in 1986 until I was days from giving birth in 1992! There were many parts to being an editor but LOOKING BACK IN TIME - the Publishing part was a very different experience in those days!

For example to create a border for the work to sit in - I had to physically DRAW a very neat vertical rectangle on an A4 sheet and repeat that action 18 times! - for each page to be worked on!

Also each local person's contribution had to be typed on a typewriter (no computers) and each paragraph glued onto those HAND DRAWN sheets! - checking for straightness! If there was a SPELLING ERROR in typing - a scalpel had to be used to cut out the incorrect letter and tweezers were used to place the new letter in its place-and all the other articles submitted had to

be 'WHITED OUT' around the edges so that no shadow was cast around an edge to leave an unprofessional unwanted black line. IT WAS SLOW WORK!!

Fortunately I had the care and enthusiasm of the NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS to assist me - (You know who you are -thank you) ...and who did not mind doing these tedious tasks as long as there was plenty of time to chat and laugh and to enjoy the home-made yummys created by the person who allowed their home to become an editing studio for the evening! HAHA - but the REAL reason we did it was a passionate belief in the ENORMOUS VALUE OF CONNECTING the wonderful Bowen Mountain community in this informative and creative way! -and the idea still works well today- thanks to Elaine Leahy and her team!

*Denise Nixon* - BM resident with her family for 32 years

### A Short History of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Newsletter

The Newsletter began in April 1986 after a motion was passed at the Annual General Meeting on 22nd February, to form several sub-committees of the BMA. One of these being a newsletter, distributed free to all households and land owners promoting the aims of the Association and informing residents of the activities of the Association and its committees. Residents were also encouraged to submit articles they felt to be of general interest. Eight residents volunteered to be part of this initial committee, with Denise Nixon as its Editor.

Five issues were published each year. Each edition usually took six weekly meetings, with the committee not only deciding on its content, but cover art, proof-reading, chasing articles, advertising, cut and pasting, whiting-out, getting the hard copy to the printer on time, collecting the completed copies, to finally sorting for delivering to residents. Some pages were out-sourced eg the Children's page and crossword. These deliveries were hand delivered to every household by volunteers willing to walk the mountain. In 1991 to ease the pressure on the committee, it was decided to change from five to four issues a year, coinciding with the seasons.

A feature of the Newsletter has been its covers, produced by local artists or photographs. The first cover and several others featured the old Bunya Pine, (the logo of the BMA) which sadly was taken down in 2008. In 2018 the first colour issue was produced, although in 2020/21, due to the COVID19 pandemic, several copies could not be printed.

After a trial in 2021 another change was made to use social media via the Bowen Mountain website and a link to the Facebook page, with hard copies being available on request.

The newsletter relies on local advertising to cover printing costs. Thanks go to our printer, Tom for his invaluable help and to Diane Fairweather for proof-reading.

In one of my annual reports I wrote, "I am often amazed at how many people it takes to produce just one film...each one contributing some element of expertise, working together towards its final production; so it is with our local newsletter." For this Newsletter to continue it needs your support. If you are able to give your time and expertise, PLEASE speak to BMA Secretary, Alison Kerr.

*Elaine Leahy* - Committee member and Editor 1993-2002

## Community Easter Egg Hunt and Morning Tea Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee (BMPMC)

On Good Friday (April 15th ), the Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee ran our annual community Easter Egg Hunt and free Morning Tea.

Due to the cancellation of Grose View Public School's Easter celebrations because of local flooding, we also ran an Easter hat Parade for all the

kiddies who missed out. It was wonderful to see so many residents up in the park enjoying themselves. There were lots of great Easter hats about! We would like to thank all our volunteers for their help and residents who donated chocolate eggs and snacks for our free morning tea. A very big thank you also goes out to Lindt Chocolate for their very generous contribution to our event. Crazy to think we handed out over 1000 Easter eggs!

To all those who attended, we hope you had an absolutely wonderful time and hopefully we'll see you in the park again soon!

See you in the Park.

*Louise Hawkins* - B.M.P.M.C.  
Secretary

Photo Credits:- *Ashleigh Haskins*





## MOUNTAIN HISTORY

*The history of Bowen Mountain and its first white settlers is documented in the publication 'A Cook's Tour of Bowen Mountain' which was researched and written by the Bowen Mountain Association to celebrate the bicentennial in 1988. Suzanne Smith from the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society published an update to this history in their newsletter, 'The Millstone' September-October, 2021 Volume 19 Issue 5 and January, February, 2022 Volume 20 Issue 1. Suzanne has kindly given us permission to use relevant excerpts from these publications.*

### **An Early Colonial Surveyor and Pioneer**

Following a sojourn in England, in 1843-1846 George Meares Countess Bowen purchased land on Bowen Mount in the Hawkesbury, where he built a house on the highest ridge and developed well cultivated ornate European gardens and orchards. This was for his second wife, Letitia and their children, Susan, George and William. By the early 1860's, entrance avenues and extensive gardens enhanced the substantial timber home. A large section of the property is now an area of land set aside for public use, known as Bowen Mountain Park, off Lt. Bowen Road.

Bowen made a road down the western side of the Bowen Mountain escarpment into the Burrell Valley and levelled an area for rice growing. Traces of channels and embankments may still be seen to this day, together with the ruins of two cottages and some abandoned water tanks on the west side of the valley. There has always been a consistent story around the Kurrajong that states Bowen attempted rice growing in the Burrell. But Australia's first attempt at a rice crop, soon proved a failure for him.

Although Bowen held substantial land holdings at Mount Tomah, by the 1860's he had made 'Bowen Mount' his home and family seat until he began to retire frequently to Kirribilli in the late 1870's. This next phase of the story as recorded in the Australian Genealogist suggests "with the sixties going by GMC Bowen, was undoubtedly beginning to feel his age and his eldest son's name begins to appear in directories and newspaper reports, first as a resident of Mount Tomah and later at Bowen Mountain".

So it appears during the late 1870's GMC Bowen began to spend less time at his farm on Bowen Mountain and more time at his home, "Keston" at Kirribilli. Bowen died on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1889 in his 87th year and is buried at St. Thomas Cemetery, North Sydney. Most of the Bowen Mountain property went to his son George Bartley Bowen, with smaller interests going to his other children. His second wife Letitia lived on at 'Keston' and died in Sydney on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1901.

The Bowen Mountain homestead was destroyed by fire on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1914. The estate and its interests passing to his son George Bartley Bowen and then in the early 1930's to the MacKellar family (an uncle of poet Dorothea MacKellar). The area remained relatively undeveloped other than for farming and cattle, until the 1960's when the subdivision of Bowen Mountain as we know it today occurred.

GMC Bowen should most certainly be remembered as one of Australia's early pioneers. The Berambing property, Mount Tomah and Bowen Mountain areas having been pioneered by him and his family. He should also be remembered for his efforts in endeavouring to gain improvements to Bells Line of Road for the early settlers.

*References: HA MacLeod Morgan; George Meares Countess Bowen Australian Genealogist, Vol. 8; Bilpin Apple Country by the late Meredyth Hungerford (Meredyth was an inaugural member of K-CHS); A Cook's Tour of Bowen Mountain (1988); CH Curry Mt. Wilson NSW(1968)*

*Addendum with kind permission of S. Smith*

GMC Bowen made the journey to England in 1843 and, while there, married his deceased wife's sister, Letitia, in August of that year. Such a marriage would not be allowed, by law, in England until 1907, or in New South Wales until February 1876. Not deterred by the existing canon law and the Marriage Act of 1835, Bowen had banns of marriage read and a marriage ceremony was performed at the Church of St. Martin's in the Fields. However, to overcome the legal fact that their Anglican marriage was void, the couple then reportedly married for a second time, at Wandsbek—then a Danish-ruled exclave of the Duchy of Holstein—in a Lutheran ceremony, under a letter of permission given by the King of Denmark. It is a testament to the lengths to which Bowen would go to assert his own views, against both church and state. Indeed, it is quite conceivable that the entire overseas journey was necessary, only because it would not have been possible for Bowen to marry Letitia, in New South Wales.

Bowen almost certainly knew that his English marriage would not be recognised in the colony. He had an announcement notice, with details of both wedding ceremonies, inserted in the Sydney Morning Herald, three years later in 1846, after his return to New South Wales. The second marriage produced another four children, who were both first cousins and half-siblings to his two earlier children.

*Frew, Charlotte, BALLB Hons (2012). "Marriage to a Deceased Wife's Sister in Australia and England 1835-1907 (Thesis presented for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Macquarie University, Sydney)". pp. 75, 76, 77, 78.*



## WINTER WARMTH

### Minestrone (4 big serves)

#### Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 rashers bacon  
1 onion chopped  
1 carrot  
1 zucchini  
2x425g cans tomatoes  
6 ripe tomatoes (chopped)  
2 cups chicken stock  
¼ cup risoni pasta  
1 tsp sugar  
salt/pepper  
400 gram can butter beans  
¼ cup chopped basil  
grated parmesan cheese  
shredded basil

#### Method:

1. Heat oil – saute bacon, onion, carrot and zucchini for 3 minutes.
2. Add mushrooms and saute for 1 minute. Stir in canned tomatoes, stock, fresh tomatoes and risoni.
3. Bring to boil and simmer 30 minutes till cooked.
4. Stir in sugar, salt and pepper. Add beans and basil.
5. Serve with extra basil and parmesan.

Enjoy!

*Sylvia Moorcroft*



### Marian's fool-proof chocolate pudding (serves 4-6)

#### Ingredients:

##### Pudding Sauce

1 cup self raising flour  
3 tablespoons cocoa  
½ cup (100g) brown sugar  
4 tablespoons good quality cocoa  
125 mls milk

##### Sauce

3 tablespoons cocoa  
1 cup lightly packed brown sugar  
380ml boiling water  
2 tablespoons (30g) melted butter

#### Method:

1. Sift dry pudding ingredients straight into a medium oven-proof basin.
2. Stir the melted butter and milk together until well combined.
3. Mix cocoa and brown sugar together and sprinkle over pudding batter. Gently pour boiling water on top and immediately bake pudding in moderate oven (180 degrees) for 35 minutes.
4. Allow to stand for a couple of minutes before serving with cream or ice cream.

Yummy!

*In memory of Marian Hanly (vale 8.5.22) who first submitted this recipe for the BMA's Newsletter.*



*This is the simplest and easiest cake recipe I know!*

### Mary Berry Apple Dessert Cake

#### Ingredients:

350 g self raising flour  
1½ level tsp baking powder  
250 g caster sugar  
3 large eggs  
225 g melted butter  
½ tsp almond extract  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
400 g cooking apples, peeled and cored  
40 g flaked almonds

#### Equipment:

Deep 25 cm loose bottomed cake tin (spring form)

#### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 160 °C/fan 140 °C/gas 3
2. Lightly grease the cake tin
3. Melt the butter in the mixing bowl (micro-wave)
4. Measure all the flour, baking powder, caster sugar, eggs, almond and vanilla extract on top of the melted butter.
5. Mix well until blended, then beat at higher speed for a minute.
6. Spread a bit less than half the mixed dough into the prepared tin.
7. Cut the peeled and cored apples into 2 mm slices. The Italian apple corer in the photo does that in one operation. Cut each lot of slices in half.



8. Lay all the apple slices on top of the dough in the tin, piling them mostly towards the centre.
9. Cover the apples with the remaining dough.
10. Sprinkle with the flaked almonds.
11. Bake for 1¼ to 1½ hours until golden and coming away from the sides of the tin.

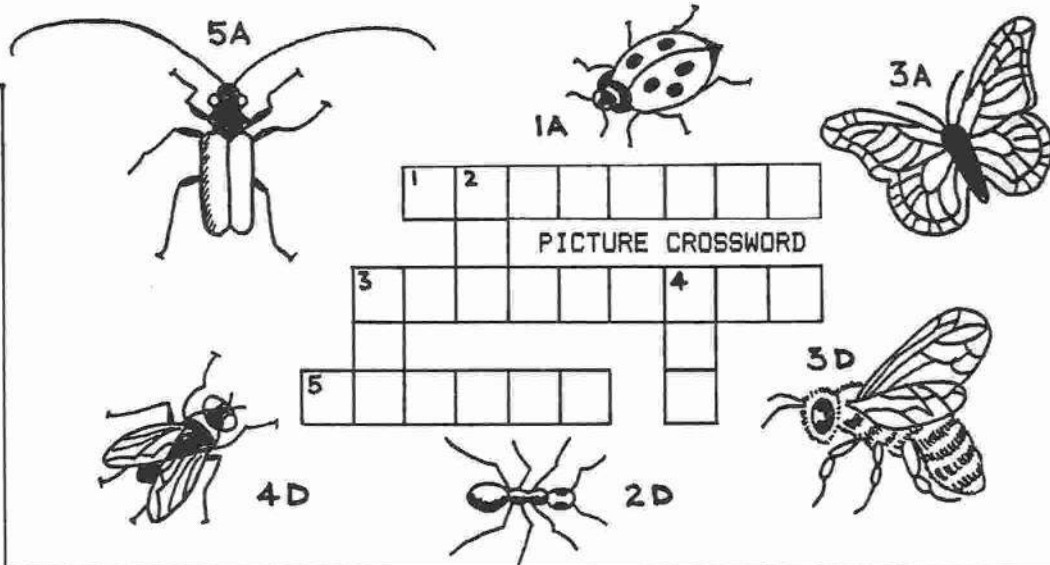
Serve warm with ice-cream or crème fraîche as a dessert, or with coffee in the morning as one would a Danish Pastry, again warm, dusted with icing sugar.

*John Wulff*

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

BILL. 'WHERE DO FLEAS GO IN THE WINTER?'  
BEN. 'SEARCH ME.'

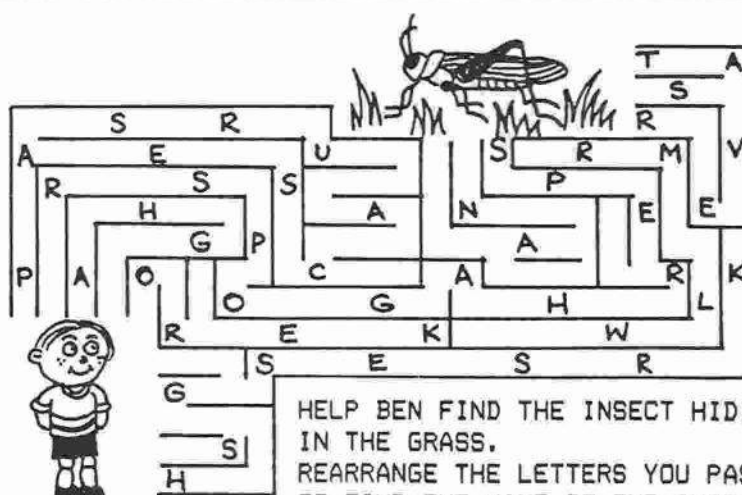
Q. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ANTS IN THE WORLD?  
A. ELEPHANTS.  
Q. WHY DID THE MOTH EAT THROUGH THE CARPET?  
A. IT WANTED TO SEE THE FLOOR SHOW.



F	L	E	A	M	R	O	W	W	O	L	G	W	ANT	LADYBIRD
N	L	A	D	Y	B	I	R	D	V	G	N	N	BEE	LOCUST
I	S	O	S	A	C	A	M	S	R	Z	S	S	BEETLE	MOSQUITO
P	R	A	Y	I	N	G	M	A	N	T	I	S	BUTTERFLY	PRAYING MANTIS
O	Q	L	C	E	E	O	S	Y	I	L	C	E	CICADA	SILVERFISH
K	F	A	W	A	S	S	L	C	V	R	T	E	COCKROACH	STICK INSECT
C	D	A	R	Q	H	F	K	E	I	I	L	L	CRICKET	TERMITE
A	S	W	U	O	N	I	R	C	M	T	O	B	DRAGONFLY	WASP
P	I	I	P	O	N	F	K	R	E	C	B	A	EARWIG	
G	T	P	G	S	I	E	E	E	U	E	N	O	FLEA	
O	E	A	E	S	T	T	B	S	E	T	X	M	FLY	
R	R	C	H	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	GLOW-WORM	
D	T	Z	H	C	A	O	R	K	C	O	C	N	GRASSHOPPER	

## WORD SEARCH

FIND THE INSECTS HIDDEN IN THE PUZZLE. YOU CAN GO IN ANY DIRECTION, BUT ALWAYS IN A STRAIGHT LINE.



HELP BEN FIND THE INSECT HIDING IN THE GRASS.  
REARRANGE THE LETTERS YOU PASS TO FIND THE NAME OF THE INSECT.

GEORGE. 'SO YOUR FATHER COLLECTS FLEAS.'  
JOE. 'SCRATCH.'

Q. WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU CROSS A FLEA WITH A GLOW-WORM?  
A. A DOG YOU CAN SEE IN THE DARK.

ANSWERS: PICTURE CROSSWORD: 1A LADYBIRD, 2D ANT, 3A BUTTERFLY, 3D BEE, 4D FLY, 5A BEETLE. MAZE: GRASSHOPPER.

## 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](https://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.**



### The So Grand Bottlebrush

Through the bush I saw golden torches  
of  
sunlight on the bottlebrush  
Standing tall for all to see, but  
there was nobody there but me to see  
the beauty  
A beautiful girl,  
a beautiful boat or  
a beautiful meal,  
are for some the best things,  
BUT that bottle brush  
will not break my heart,  
does not need painting and  
does not give me indigestion  
It just is and gives me pleasure  
without asking for anything in return,  
Oh, beautiful shrub, you are so grand.

### Vale Dale Mary RAPER

Late of Bowen Mountain  
peacefully passed away on 20th March  
2022 aged 79.  
at Uniting Care, Richmond

The last remaining member of her immediate family, Dale born in Sydney spent more than 50 years, with her late mother, Hazel in their little cottage, 'Mt. Peaceful', in Grandview Lane. She loved her bush surroundings and writing poetry.  
'The So Grand Bottlebrush' is one.



### St. Patrick's Day Dinner

On 17 March the BMA held its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Thai Angelina in Richmond. A small group of stalwarts braved the weather and the pandemic to enjoy a delicious meal. There was plenty of Bing's delicious green curry as well as a wide variety of other all-we-could-eat delicacies on hand. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Thanks to Bing and Thai Angelina for a wonderful time!





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Instagram Herbyart

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