

# The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

## **NEWSLETTER**

No. 151

# Spring

September, 2022



### **Features:**

**Reports from the BMA Annual General Meeting, 21 August, 2022**

**Plus More**

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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.

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Thank you to Diane Fairweather for proofreading.

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

**COVER:** The Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), Australia's floral emblem. Details page 5. Photo source: <https://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au/acacia-pycnantha-wattle/>

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## ***From the Committee***

Welcome to our Spring 2022 issue! The mountain is blooming with a variety of blossoms and the National Emblem of Australia – the Golden Wattle seen on our front cover. Read about the significance of this tree further on in the Newsletter.

In this issue we publish reports from the recent Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to the new office bearers who were elected at the meeting and are listed below on this page.

Please read the important fire information from the local RFS on keeping your property safe this summer. Residents and friends are invited to attend the RFS – "Get Ready – Knowing your Fire Risk Day" on 17 September.

Our ever-popular Halloween Happenings is back- with a difference due to COVID!! Please read the enclosed notice as we invite you to participate in a new, fun Halloween experience to ensure everyone is kept safe.

If you wish to contribute items of interest for publishing in the BMA Newsletter these can be sent by email to [alisonhine82@gmail.com](mailto:alisonhine82@gmail.com) by the deadline date. It would be appreciated if all text is in a word.doc file and photos are jpg.

Thank you. Enjoy a delightful Spring!

### **Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Executive 2022-23**

**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, Lara Rupac, Robin Woods, John Wulff

#### **Arts Fest Committee:**

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

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

**Newsletter** – Alison Kerr (Acting)

**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**

**COMBINED ANNUAL PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
INCORPORATING SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AUGUST 2022**

During the last three years from 2020 – 2022 the Bowen Mountain community and the Bowen Mountain Association has, like many others faced a variety of challenges and changes. We have shown that we are a strong and resilient community and Association who care for and assist each other in the face of adversity. The last three years has evidenced a heartfelt display of community spirit and care. Throughout these challenges the BMA has continued to operate in a more creative manner.

January 2020 saw a catastrophic start to the year with many friends having lost homes, livelihoods and livestock. During this time, we were extremely fortunate to have many heroes in our area; especially the local fires who toiled ceaselessly to ensure our much-loved mountain and its families were safe. The Grose Vale Fire Brigade commented on how grateful they were to the Bowen Mountain Community who followed the instructions to evacuate, clean up their properties and generally co-operate with emergency services in the fires that challenged Bowen Mountain. The fire situation kept the Bowen Mountain Association busy liaising with the local RFS, Council and government representatives. A special thank you to Lance Mitchell who worked tirelessly “behind the scenes” communicating with local RFS to ensure we were all kept up to date on the mountain via our various social media sites.

Also, the new decade of 2020 heralded a surreal and challenging year for all. Due to COVID 19, the BMA went into hibernation for the majority of the year but did not sleep. BMA meetings were conducted as scheduled throughout the year via email and some editions of the Newsletter were not published. During this year the BMA achieved the following:

- Detailed consultations with Inspector Jenkins, Inspector Ornatowski, Hawkesbury Police and Hawkesbury General Manager in regard to footpaths near Pamela Crescent needing urgent repair and concern over bike riders riding on pedestrian walkways and through the Park while children are playing. Footpaths were repaired and bollards were placed at the end of pedestrian walkways to prevent bike riders entering these spaces. Hawkesbury Police increased patrols in the area.
- The BMA endorsed a sub-committee to undertake a renewal and revision of the Bowen Mt Bushwalks book, as the last revision was the 5th edition in 2009. The Bowen Mountain Association successfully applied for grant funding from Bendigo Bank to cover the cost of printing the revised Bushwalk book. Facebook has been active throughout the year and documented this challenging year with some excellent and poignant photographs.
- The BMA worked with Susan Templeman and others to restore Telstra phones to the area when phone lines were cut for over one month to most homes. We also worked with Susan and others to fast track the installation of the NBN on the mountain.
- The BMA Community Care committee organised by Liz Rowan and Martha Allen posted letters to everyone on the Community Care list to advise them Community Care were there to assist with shopping and to have a chat during the Covid 19 lockdown. Community care packages were made and delivered to our seniors on the mountain during the year. Each package included facemasks, hand sanitizer, chocolates, lollies, a packet of biscuits, with a small card attached to the bag. Everyone said it was so nice to receive the bag and know that we were thinking of them.

After the challenging year of 2020 where, like so many businesses and individuals the Bowen Mountain Association was forced to change its usual way of operating and postpone many events we were back in 2021 with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. We eagerly accepted the challenge to continue to creatively present a range of Community events in a COVID 19 safe environment, which everyone can enjoy and participate in. We embraced a variety of changes this year. After advice from many areas and lengthy discussions we changed the way we distribute the Newsletter. We used social media as well as our website as a trial to deliver the Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer newsletters. Copies of the newsletter were available in colour on our website and via a link on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page. Hard copies were also available. Recent statistics from our Website manager reported that “466 downloads of the newsletter took place in March 202, 216 of these were direct links from Facebook which accounted for 700MB of additional downloads.

(continued next page)

In Winter 2021 Bowen Mountain community spirit and “locals helping locals” as evident during the Hawkesbury floods. When Nth Richmond bridge flooded in March “Pantry in the Park” was established by a group of kind-hearted Bowen Mountain residents to provide much needed food and supplies to trapped residents. Eggs, milk, fruit, toilet paper, and pantry staples were donated so people could take what they needed and leave what they could for others to share. Many people offered various forms of assistance during this time, which showcased the resilience of Bowen Mountain and how we could effectively, and efficiently cope with adversity.

A diagnostic check of the defibrillator in the park showed that pads and battery needed to be replaced. The Bowen Mountain Association was successful in obtaining funding for a new defibrillator from the Bendigo Bank.

The revised Bushwalking Book was completed and available for sale. Many people as far away as Sydney welcomed the revised publication of the bushwalk book, which proved to be immensely popular particularly during lockdown where people could safely, enjoy the trails of the Mountain.

As advised by NSW Fair Trading in regard to Annual General Meetings under COVID-19, the BMA postponed its 2021 AGM until 2022. Facebook was active throughout lockdown with many people discovering the bushwalk trails around Bowen Mountain and documenting these walks challenging year with some excellent and poignant photographs.

John Wulff a BMA Management Committee member raised the need for a directional sign to be placed at the junction of Wattle St. and Bowen Mountain Road, on Bowen Mountain. BMA President Bill Kerr spoke to Richard Vaby (Roads Manager Hawkesbury City Council) regarding Bowen Mountain Association’s request. Council then manufactured this sign, which has been erected on the Mountain.

During the lengthy lockdown of 2021, our Community Care Co-ordinators, Liz Rowan and Martha Allen looked after our elderly residents needs and surprised them in December with Christmas care packages. We were also delighted that Vince made an excellent recovery. Thank you to everyone who

assisted Vince’s family in some way while he was in hospital. His resilience has been an inspiration.

Towards the end of 2021, the Bowen Mountain Association lodged an objection to the proposed Optus Tower on Lt. Bowen Rd. near Maple Street because it would be far too close to houses. 29 objection submissions were lodged to Council. The decision to proceed with this Tower has been deferred. The BMA will continue to report on progress.

A successful St Patrick’s Day All you can Eat Banquet at Thai Angelina Richmond heralded the beginning of 2022 with an end to lockdown and more “freedoms”. It was a time to celebrate not only the beauty of our mountain but the 150th edition of the Bowen Mountain Association Newsletter. At this milestone two of our key members John Wulff and Elaine Leahy decided to move on from the Newsletter committee. They have devoted many hours 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 in 2022 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. Clearing of undergrowth and road edges has been a welcome site on Bowen Mountain Road.

In these recent years of bushfires, floods and COVID 19, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the hard-working Newsletter Committee, Facebook Administrator and our Website Co-ordinator for being “the official voices” of the BMA. Furthermore, we would like to thank the Bowen Mountain Management Committee and the subcommittees for all their tireless work throughout 2020 – 2022 as they strive to make Bowen Mountain a quality environment for all to enjoy. Without their commitment, dedication and tireless efforts, the Bowen Mountain Association would cease to exist. Finally, thank you, the residents of Bowen Mountain for your interest and support of the Bowen Mountain Association and all its activities.

*Bill Kerr*, President and *Alison Kerr*, Secretary



## BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION 2022

### CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

**REPEAT ITEMS: BMA COMMITTEE MEETING:** Second Monday of every month commencing in February 2022.

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

DATE		ITEM
OCTOBER	Monday 10th Sunday 31st	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome TBC
NOVEMBER	Monday 14th <sup>h</sup> Date and Venue TBC	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Dinner TBC
DECEMBER	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Christmas Party TBC

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



#### National Wattle Day – September First

The Australian wattle is our national floral emblem and is a symbol that comes directly from the land. Wattle has great diversity (with more than 1,071 *Acacia* species) and resilience, which is why it represents all Australian people. Wattle is a unifying symbol for all Australians. There is no other symbol that says so much about our land, Australia and us. Wattle welcomes in the spring and is among the first plants to regenerate after fire, reminding us of the importance of renewal as it paints our national colours across our land. In 1910 wattle day was celebrated on 1 September in NSW, Victoria and South Australia. In 1988 the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially gazetted as Australia's national floral emblem. In 1992, the first day of September each year was officially declared 'National Wattle Day' throughout Australia by the Commonwealth of Australia. In the 21st century National Wattle Day is celebrated as a day to celebrate Australia - its land and its people.

Reference: <http://www.wattleday.asn.au/>



Daylight Saving will begin at 2am on **Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022**. On Saturday night set your **clocks forward** one hour. This is also a good time to check your smoke alarm.

### **BMA Inc. Newsletter Annual Report**

Since our last report in 2019, major changes have occurred in the Newsletter's production. Due to the COVID19 pandemic we had to combine issues 142, 143 144 and 147,148, while several of our advertisers let us know they were no longer able to advertise. (The advertising covered the printing costs).

After discussions in 2021 it was decided to turn to social media via the Bowen Mountain Association Website and Facebook page. By doing this we could cut back on printing costs, and still provide hard copies for those who requested one.

As we approached the 150th issue some members felt it was their time to step down to hopefully let a younger generation become involved in its production. The Newsletter has continuously been delivered to residents and landowners over the past 36 years providing information of general interest as well as the Associations activities. It would be a shame not to have it continue in some form. Committees past and present, sincerely thank everyone involved in the production of the newsletter over many, many years.

Newsletter Committee

### **BMA Inc. Website Annual Report**

The Bowen Mountain Association and Park Management Committee website has been progressing well over the last couple of years. It has proven to be a worthwhile vehicle for Community News and Events. Many thanks to Chris Duckworth, our Webmaster for his expert maintenance of the site greatly appreciated capabilities in posting information and notices on the site.

After a successful trial in 2021 the Bowen Mountain Association decided to continue to use social media as well as our website to deliver the Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer newsletters in 2021 and 2022. Electronic copies of our newsletter have been available in colour not only on our website at [www.bowenmountain.org.au](http://www.bowenmountain.org.au) but also via a link on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page. Our Webmaster and Facebook Administrator proficiently ensure each Newsletter is uploaded to the Website and has an easy access link on Facebook.

Usage statistics from our Webmaster demonstrate:

- 1) around 350 downloads of each newsletter, spread out over a few months.
- 2) an average of 33 visits per day.
- 3) around 500 unique visitors per month.

### **2022 AGM Annual Facebook Report**



'Bowen Mountain, NSW' is the official Facebook page of the Bowen Mountain Association (BMA). This page is used as a way of celebrating Bowen Mountain's rich history, wonderful community and beautiful natural surroundings.

Over the last three to four years the page has grown significantly due to natural disasters, particularly the bushfires, floods and landslides. The page is seen as a reliable and trustworthy online community noticeboard where accurate information from key emergency services has been communicated quickly and frequently. Key organisations such as the RFS, SES and NSW Police Force sought direct contact with the administrators of this team to communicate specific information to residents instantly. In many cases the page has been relied on as the sole news and information source as traditional media forms such as radio and print are comparatively slow.

The page currently has over 10,000 followers from all around the globe, which is significant for a small community organisation. Most posts reach an average of 8,000 people with hundreds interacting with the page frequently in a number of ways.

Typically, the page posts one to two stories per week. This is usually on subjects such as:

- Bushwalks in Bowen Mountain (pictures, instructions, videos)
- Native flora and fauna (pictures and videos)
- Significant community events
- Pictures submitted by followers (sunrise/sunset, stargazing)
- Koala sightings
- Lost pets
- Covid-19 updates (during the pandemic)
- Road closures
- Hawkesbury events

This year, reaction has been generated from the following posts:

- Live from Hanna Park video during the most recent floods (18,457 people)
- Landslide on Putty Rd (12,632 people)
- Snowfall at Mt Tomah (18,122 people)
- Photo series of traffic controller's creative take on flood signage (31,993 people)

The biggest story of the year was the initial landslide at Mt Tomah cutting the last access out of the Hawkesbury (which reached) 1,034,844 people.

BMA Facebook Administrator





Presented by the Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

WE ARE BRINGING  
**THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL**  
TO OUR STREETS

And we need YOUR help! IT'S COMPETITION TIME

We are calling on all our creative BOMO residents to decorate up a storm and enter for

- Best Decorated House
- Best dressed:
  - \*Pre-school Aged Child
  - \*Primary School Aged Child
  - \*Teenager
  - \*Adult
  - \*Pet

Prizes will be awarded for each category

Competition entry photos for all categories including best decorated house should be sent via Facebook messenger to the Official Bowen Mountain Facebook Page

All photos will be uploaded to the Official Bowen Mountain Facebook page for public voting from 31st October to 2nd November

Winners for each category will be the entry photo with the most likes  
Keep an eye out on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page for more details

We invite all Bowen Mountain residents to continue to enjoy 'catching up with each other in the Park while on their "Trick or Treating" journey and if the weather and volunteer's permit we will still endeavour to set up some Halloween decorations in the Park, but our main focus will be on everyone enjoying all of our residents' efforts in decorating the streets.

Proudly Supported by Cindy Cash – Ray White North Richmond

**RayWhite®**

# **RFS FIRE REPORT – Spring and Summer 2022-23**

The ongoing rain events over the past few months has resulted in a significant increase in vegetation (grass, shrubs and forest) growth within the bushland areas of Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale. The outcome of this has seen a significant reduction in Hazard Reductions being undertaken within our District and across the state contributing to the build up of vegetation. Residents are strongly advised to begin to review their Bush Fire Survival Plan and preparing their properties before the Bushfire Season begins. When weather conditions permit, Grose Vale Brigade, the NSW RFS and NSW National Parks will continue to undertake local Hazard Reductions.

**Bush Fire Season:** the Bush Fire Season for the Hawkesbury will begin on the 1st October 2021 and will continue until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 unless otherwise advised.

**Pile Burns:** if you are planning to undertake a pile burn, you will need to undertake the following:



1. Review the Hawkesbury City Council Open Burning Policy and complete the online notification at <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/resources/forms/open-burning>
2. Notify the NSW RFS of your intention to undertake a pile burn by completing the online notification at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications>
3. From the 1<sup>st</sup> October, you will also require a **Fire Permit** which may be obtained by contacting the Grose Vale Brigade's Permit Issuing Officer.

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**.

**NOTE: Hawkesbury City Council advises the following:**

- a) Pile burns and other fires must be put out by the end of the day and **not** smoulder overnight.
- b) Within the Bushfire Danger Period, burning shall only be conducted between 8am and midnight on any day (the fire cannot burn all night).
- c) Outside the Bushfire Danger Period, burning shall only be conducted between 8am and 5pm on any day (the fire must be out by 5pm).

## **PREPARE YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN WITH FOUR SIMPLE STEPS**



### **STEP 1 - DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME**

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best, as everybody is together and focussed.



### **STEP 2 - PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON**

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, such as keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.



### **STEP 3 - KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS**

If there is a fire in your area, you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.



### **STEP 4 - KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE APP**

In a bush fire, it is important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

It is a fact. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire. Download the four simple steps today from the NSW Rural Fire website at:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>



## New Fire Danger Rating:

From the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 a new Fire Danger Rating system (FDR) has been introduced nationally replacing the old system which was inclined to be confusing and varied from state to state. The new system will provide you with a more accurate indication of the consequences of a fire, if one was to start.

The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

The table below provides you with a reference for consideration when the rating is either "No Rating", "Moderate", "High", "Extreme" or "Catastrophic" and acts as a trigger for action in your bush fire survival plan, such as leaving bush fire risk areas on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger.



FIRE DANGER RATING	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
CATASTROPHIC	<p><b>For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.</li> <li>• Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.</li> <li>• Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.</li> <li>• Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions.</li> <li>• You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.</li> </ul>
EXTREME	<p><b>Take action now to protect your life and property.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These are dangerous fire conditions.</li> <li>• Check your bush fire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.</li> <li>• If a fire starts, take immediate action.</li> <li>• If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.</li> <li>• Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.</li> </ul>
HIGH	<p><b>Be ready to act.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.</li> <li>• Decide what you will do if a fire starts.</li> <li>• If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.</li> </ul>
MODERATE	<p><b>Plan and prepare.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.</li> </ul>
NO RATING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire danger ratings are used on days when you need to take action. On days of minimal risk, 'No Rating' will be issued.</li> </ul>

**New Members:** 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 or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/grosevalefirebrigade) search for Grose Vale.

*Grose Vale Brigade Community Engagement Officer - Greg Walker*

# VALE BARRY OWENS

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the recent passing of our generous, courteous, polite and respectful friend and valued Bowen Mountain resident, Barry Owens. Barry passed away in Kurrajong Nursing home on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Barry worked on the Bowen Mountain Association, Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade, and the local RSL. Barry and his wife Susan had downsized from their Bowen Mountain home to the RSL Kingsford Smith Village at North Richmond. Barry and Susan remained closely connected to Bowen Mountain attending and supporting many Bowen Mountain events. Sadly Susan passed away in April 2021.

**Excerpts from the Eulogy given by Oliver Williams** (Barry's nephew) at his memorial service at Simplicity Funerals Chapel, Richmond, Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>. Oliver fondly remembers that:

“Barry was a warm and accepting man and would call everyone his “mate”. He loved to tell a story with humour and skill and enjoyed a good laugh. Barry loved to read, and you would often find him with his cats all curled up reading books with Barry, sleeping beside Barry, weaving between Barry's legs.

Barry was born at Manly on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1936, the first of the five children. The family soon moved to Blacktown where Barry attended Blacktown Primary School, then Westmead Technical High, leaving in 1953 to enrol in the second intake of the RAAF's Junior Equipment and Administrative Training Scheme at Rathmines (Lake Macquarie). After his training, Barry served as a Sergeant in a number of RAAF facilities in Australia before being called to serve his country in Vietnam.

It was in 1968, after his tour that Barry was appointed to the staff of the Senior Air Force Officer, Tasmania, a small group located at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart. Here he made the acquaintance of the indomitable Captain Susan Williams, stationed also at the historic Anglesea Barracks, and similarly engaged in recruitment. This was a defining moment in Barry's life and the beginning of a 53-year love story. Barry and Susan were married in St Anne's Church, Top Ryde on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1970, after which he was posted to Williamtown, followed by Raymond Terrace. In 1973 Barry, by now a Warrant Officer, was posted to Butterworth, Malaysia. Returning to Australia in 1975, Barry was posted to Richmond Air Base, and they lived in an Air Force house in Windsor. During this time, Barry and Susan purchased their own home on Bunya Crescent, Bowen Mountain, but a posting to Tottenham (Melbourne) meant they did not move in to this house until 1982.

Barry retired from RAAF in, 1983, after 30 years of Service taking him all over Australia and the world. After a stint in the local Real Estate Industry, he became a “General Assistant” with the Education Department, happily maintaining the grounds of local schools, including Longneck Lagoon Field Studies Centre in Maraylia.

During their time at Bowen Mountain Barry (and Susan) became members of the local Bush Fire Brigade, and were active with the RSL community. Consistent in all of the memories of Barry was someone who lived a good life. He was humble, kind and giving. Like Susan, he lived his life giving back to others - in the military, in war, as a school caretaker and as an active contributor to his community through the RFS and RSL.

He and Susan were always giving far more than they every received.” All Bowen Mountain residents who knew and loved Barry will sadly miss him. He was a valued asset to Bowen Mountain and its community who will be fondly remembered.



# PARK REPORT

## BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMPMC)

On Saturday 27th of August we ran our annual Winter Market in conjunction with Prismatic Groups mini live music concert, Jam and Jam. It was wonderful to see so many families in the park enjoying the afternoon with some market stalls, lawn games and listening to the amazing artists despite the cold and overcast weather. Thankfully luck was on our side and the rain held off until the conclusion of the event! Our local Grose Vale RFS were also in attendance. Make sure you keep an eye out for their 'get ready' weekend coming up soon!

See you in the Park!

Louise Hawkins, Secretary, Colin Chesterman Chairperson BMPMC

Photo credits: Ashleigh





# CULINARY CORNER



## WATTLESEED CAKE



### Ingredients:

- 150 gm eggs (about 3 large eggs)
- 185 ml vegetable oil, plus extra oil for greasing (¾ cup)
- 185 ml orange juice (¾ cup)
- Finely grated rind of 1 orange
- 150 gm honey
- 125 gm brown sugar
- 125 gm molasses
- 6 gm wattleseed powder (see note) (2¾ tsp)
- 185 gm plain flour, plus extra flour for dusting
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ¾ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- Whipped butter and honeycomb, to serve

### Method:

- Whisk eggs in an electric mixer on medium speed until pale and creamy (4-6 minutes). Reduce to low speed, add vegetable oil, orange juice and rind, honey, brown sugar, molasses and wattleseed and mix to combine (1 minute). Add flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and 3gm (1 tsp) salt and whisk until well combined (10 minutes). Cover and rest batter for 1 hour.
- Preheat oven to 200°C fan forced. Lightly grease a 10-cup non-stick kugelhupf or bundt tin with oil. Dust with flour to lightly and evenly coat. Pour cake batter into tin, place on middle shelf of oven, reduce oven to 170°C and bake until a skewer inserted comes out clean (40-50 minutes). Cool cake completely in tin on a wire rack, then invert onto a platter and serve with whipped butter and honeycomb. This cake is best eaten on the day it's made but will keep for 2-3 days stored in an airtight container.

### Notes:

Wattleseed powder is available from Herbie's Spices, Outback Pride and The Essential Ingredient.

Alison Kerr (inspired by Gourmet Traveller)

## WITCHES' FINGERS

### Ingredients:

- 100 g almond flakes
- 2 tbs green liquid food colouring
- 125 g butter softened
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 egg yolk beaten
- 1/2 cup icing sugar sifted
- 5 tbs caster sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 2/3 cups of plain flour



### Method:

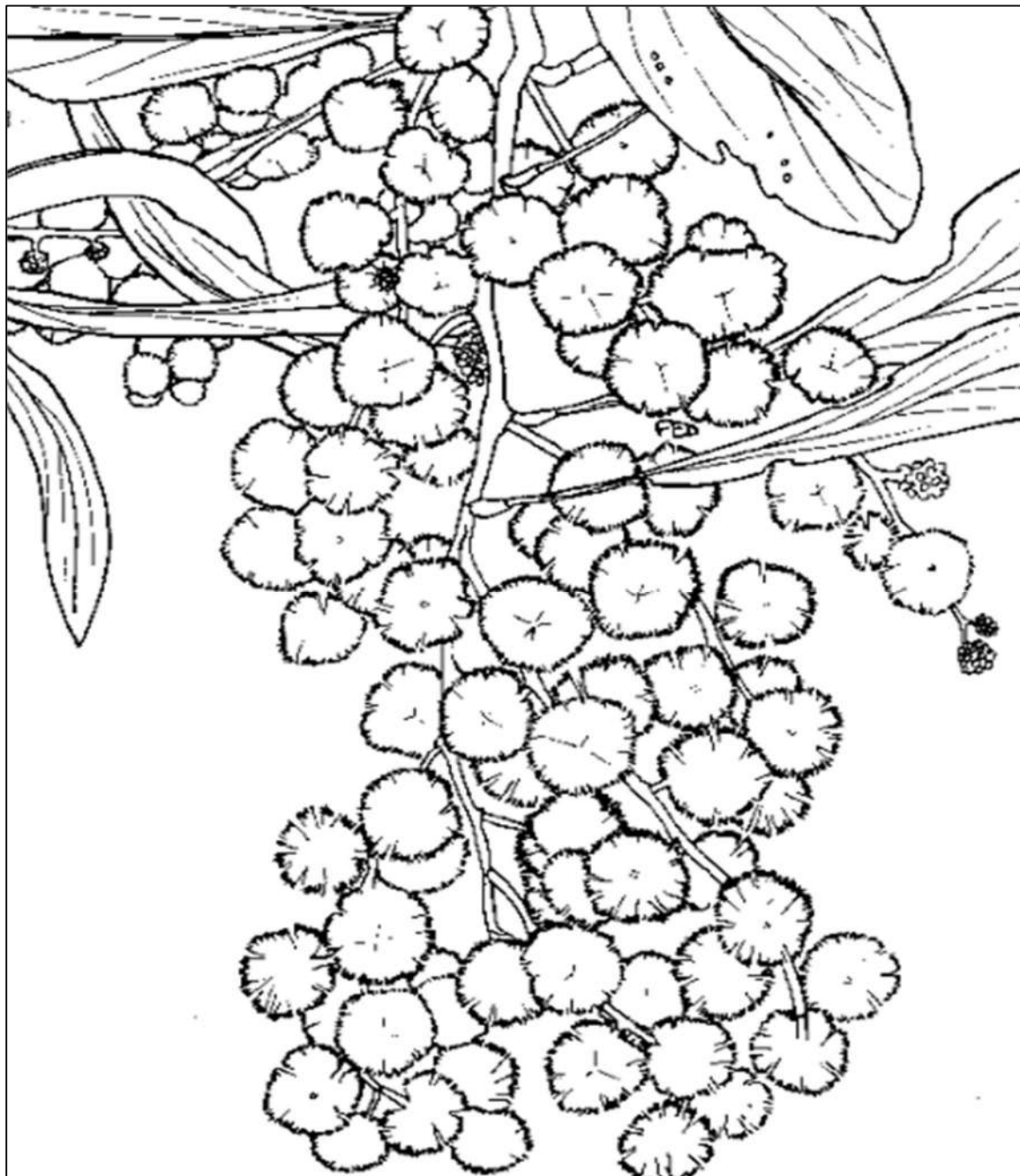
- Place 24 fingernail-shaped almond flakes into a small bowl and pour over the food colouring. Leave to soak while you make the biscuit dough.
- To make the biscuit dough, using a mixer, cream the butter and eggs until combined. Beat in the icing sugar, caster sugar, vanilla and salt and mix until smooth and creamy (about 2 minutes).
- Still using the mixer, add the flour and mix until just combined. Form the dough into 2 disks and cover in cling film. Refrigerate for 20 mins.
- Preheat oven to 180°C or 160°C fan forced. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper and set aside. Remove dough from refrigerator and roll 12 finger shapes from each disk. Use a sharp knife to cut knuckle ridges into the dough and pinch together for knuckles.
- Place an almond fingernail on each fingertip. Bake for 12 minutes.
- Remove from oven and dip each finger end into the food colouring.

Christine Johns



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### A PICTURE OF GOLDEN WATTLE (ACACIA PYCNANTHA) to COLOUR IN



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#### DID YOU KNOW:

The Golden Wattle grows to a height of 8 metres. It is the official emblem of Australia and features on stamps, notes and official crests. It has long stamens, which give the flower a fluffy appearance. The flowers have been used for perfume making and the wood for prized woodwork. As a tree it is used to control soil erosion and as a windbreak. It is drought tolerant.

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# 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 website for social events.  
Phone: Liz Rowan 4572 2416

## CRAGO OBSERVATORY

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



## JOIN THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION!

It is that time of year to join/ renew your membership of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc (BMA) for the 2022-23 membership year.  
\*Single Rate \$5.00 \* Family Rate \$10.00

Your membership will assist the non-profit BMA to run all its activities such as musical events, fairs, markets and Halloween throughout the year and publish the Newsletter.

### EFT Details:

Bendigo Bank

Account Name: Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 1182 44003

Note: Please state your Surname, first initial and 'Membership' in the Reference/ Message section (Example: "Bowen G Membership").

If you are a new member, could you please email the secretary, Alison Kerr at:

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

with the following details First Name, Last Name, Address and Contact Number.

Thankyou

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.***

## The Feathertail Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*)



This Feathertail glider recently sought refuge from the cold and wet in the home of Robin and John on Bellbird Crescent. Photo: John Wulff

The feathertail glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) is the smallest gliding marsupial in the world, named for its long feather-shaped tail. The scientific name for this species means pygmy acrobat.

(Source: <https://wildlife.org.au/publications-resources/species-profiles/mammals/gliders/feathertail-gliders/>)

## NSW RFS Get Ready Weekend 2022

The NSW Rural Fire Service Get Ready Weekend was held on September 17-18, with the Grose Vale Brigade providing advice in Bowen Mountain Park on Saturday, September 17 from 10 am to 2 pm.

This was a great opportunity to speak with members from Grose Vale Brigade about having a Bush Fire Survival Plan and knowing what to do in the case of a bush fire, to keep you and your family safe.

Members from Grose Vale Brigade provided advice about preparing your home and developing a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

For more information, contact the Grose Vale RFS Brigade.

Preparing for the fire season is as important as ever, and the Get Ready Weekend was the perfect time of year to get ready.



# BOWEN BUSINESS



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