

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.
NEWSLETTER

No. 152

Summer

December, 2022



Features:
Halloween 2022
Poet's Corner
RFS Report
Plus Much 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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.

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COVER: NSW Christmas Bush. Photo "Australian Christmas Bush" by Geoff Whalan, 2015.

Source:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/geoffwhalan/23145692569>

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Editor's Letter



Holiday greetings to all our readers and welcome to the Summer Newsletter, which appropriately features the NSW Christmas bush adorning the mountain at this time of year. Interesting information about the Christmas bush can be found on Page 11.

This issue includes an invitation to the forthcoming RFS Santa Run and Christmas in the Park. Important information regarding the Summer Fire season is a must read in the Fire Report. 2022 has been another challenging, unusual and remarkable year for all of us. Once again the resilience, support and care of the Bowen Mountain community for its community has come to the fore and has been an inspiration to all. A creative and unusual style of Halloween transpired this year as the Halloween report depicts. Lance Mitchell eloquently summed up the uniqueness of the mountain in his poem penned in the style of Dorothea Mackellar which he presented at the AGM in August. Read Lance's poem and the connection of Dorothea to Bowen Mountain further on in this Newsletter.

This Newsletter is published four times a year to coincide with the seasons ie. March, June, September and December. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy, please let the BMA Secretary know and one will be delivered to you, otherwise the newsletter will continue to be available via a link on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page and the Bowen Mountain website.

Wishing you all a very happy, joyous and safe Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and successful 2023.

BMA Newsletter Committee



Bowen Mountain Association Inc. Executive 2022-23

President - Bill Kerr

Vice President – Lance Mitchell

Secretary - Alison Kerr 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**

PRESIDENT and SECRETARY'S REPORT OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022

The Bowen Mountain Association has been kept busy throughout October through to December 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 Hawkesbury City Council via phone and email to devise a priority list of Bowen Mountain community needs in particular the quality of the roads and overgrowth on the side of the road. Clearing of undergrowth and road edges has been a welcome sight on Bowen Mountain Road.

We look forward to answers from Council regarding several questions recently posed by the Bowen Mountain Association. These questions include:

- 1) Why have No Parking signs been erected in the turning circle of Lt Bowen Drive?
- 2) Why is the gate locked on Grandview Lane? What will happen in the case of fire?
- 3) When are the potholes on Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale Roads going to be fixed?
- 4) What is happening below Serpentine Lane where there has been concrete retaining walls put in place? What is happening with that corner? Have they found something that we should know about?

The Bowen Mountain Association gratefully accepted one free 3 x 3 metre gazebo from Bendigo Bank. This gazebo will be used for BMA functions in the park.

Due to COVID, adverse weather and floods the BMA has not presented the ever-popular Halloween in the Park for the last couple of years. However, this year we decided to investigate organising a different and unique Halloween to what we have had in the past. This year we brought the Bowen Mountain Halloween to the streets which involved a major competition with different categories such as best-decorated house, best-dressed child, teenager, adult and pet. People entered the competition by uploading their photos to the Bowen Mountain Facebook page where people voted for their favourite photo on the website. Thanks to Cindy Cash from Ray White who agreed to co-sponsor prizes to the value of \$250.

As part of our Community Care Outreach, Martha and Liz delivered 30 boxes of chocolates to residents. Christmas gift packs will also be delivered to residents to wish them a Merry Christmas.

Further to our reporting in the Spring 2022 Newsletter, on 20 October, 2022, the Hawkesbury Local Planning Panel of Hawkesbury City Council met via Zoom to review the development application (DA) lodged in 2021 by Optus to erect a 33 metre high mobile phone tower at 18 Lt. Bowen Road. A selection of respondents, including Bill Kerr, were each granted only 3 minutes to address the panel regarding their concerns that the tower was in breach of zoning requirements and would be far too close to surrounding residences. Subsequent to the HLPP meeting, a petition containing over 40 residents' names opposing the location of the tower was also submitted to Council by concerned residents.

In spite of these concerns, on 5 December, 2022, Hawkesbury City Council emailed advice to respondents that, back on 20 October, it had approved the DA for the tower to be built at 18 Lt. Bowen Road. We are most disappointed that Council has approved this facility to be built

within only a few metres of established residences with all the noise, visual appearance and potential radiation concerns that this will create.

The BMA is planning entertaining activities for 2023, which are on the advanced calendar in this newsletter and will be dependent on COVID and weather restrictions. The BMA will be on annual holidays during December and January and will resume meetings in February 2023. We would like to thank the Bowen Mountain Management Committee and the subcommittees for all their tireless work throughout 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.

On behalf of the Bowen Mountain Association, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry, healthy and safe Holiday Season and a 2023 filled with peace, happiness, good health and success.



Bill Kerr and Alison Kerr, President and Secretary, Bowen Mountain Association

BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION 2023

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

REPEAT ITEMS: BMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING: Second Monday of every month commencing in February 2023.

BMPMC - Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID 19 Restrictions all the dates and venues below are subject to confirmation. Dates may be subject to change depending on weather and other factors. Due notice will be provided.

DATE		ITEM
FEBRUARY	Thursday 2 nd Monday 13 th	BMPMC AGM – 7.30 pm BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
MARCH	Monday 13 th Friday 17 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Dinner – St. Patrick's Day- TBA All Welcome.
APRIL	April TBC Thursday 6 th Friday 7 th Monday 10 th	BMA Car Boot Sale, Market Day and Sustainability Fair – Bowen Mountain Park BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm BMPMC Easter Egg Hunt – 10.30am BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
MAY	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JUNE	Thursday 1 st Monday 12 th Sunday TBC	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Winter Musical Interlude – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JULY	Monday 10 th Sunday 16 th Date and Venue TBC	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMPMC – Winter Market 11-3pm BMA Dinner
AUGUST	Thursday 3 rd Monday 14 th Sunday 20 th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA AGM - 2.00 pm
SEPTEMBER	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
OCTOBER	Thursday 5 th Saturday 7 th Monday 9 th Tuesday 31 st	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm BMPMC – Spring Market 3-7pm BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome
NOVEMBER	Monday 13 th Date and Venue TBC	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMA Dinner
DECEMBER	Thursday 7 th Monday 11 th Saturday 16 th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall BMPMC – Christmas in the Park 3-7pm



It's almost that time of year again and the sound of distant sleigh bells can be heard on the mountain.

on December 17th 2022

Grose Vale RFS members will swap their yellows to don their Elf-Wear to assist Santa to bring the Festive Spirit to the mountain.

Santa's Official route will be published via **the Grose Vale Facebook Page**, so keep an eye out for details as we get closer to the date.



2022 Bowen Mountain Halloween



After a couple of quiet years due to COVID lockdowns the Bowen Mountain Halloween committee was really keen to get some form of Halloween celebration happening on the Mountain for 2022. When speaking with locals we were made aware that the Bowen Mountain Halloween Festival had been missed, and the return of the festival was being eagerly awaited.

The Bowen Mountain Halloween Festival of previous years is an event that takes at least six months of preparation by a very committed team of helpers. It was decided that due to the lack of preparation time and unavailability of some committee members that this year our Halloween celebrations on the mountain would be a 'taster' of what we can hopefully expect back on the mountain in future years. With the support of both the Bowen Mountain Association and Cindy Cash-Ray White North Richmond, we were able to offer some fantastic prizes to the winners of our best dressed and best decorated competitions that were run. Cindy Cash-Ray White North Richmond also ran a Halloween inspired colouring in competition that was distributed along with our Halloween flyers to Bowen Mountain residents via mailbox drop.

Even though the extremely windy weather conditions on the day were trying, we were very impressed by everyone's efforts to decorate their houses, their pets and themselves. Our competition winners were decided by popular vote on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page.

If you are keen to see next year's festival reach its former glory of past years, we need your help to make it happen! We would welcome all those interested to join our Halloween committee, or to simply make yourself available for a small job either in festival preparation or set up on the day. Reach out and make contact via the Bowen Mountain Facebook page or by contacting the Bowen Mountain Association.

Sarah Morgan – Halloween Committee



RFS FIRE REPORT – Summer 2022-23

Bush Fire Season: The Bush Fire Season for the Hawkesbury began on the 1st October 2022 and will continue until the 31st March 2023, unless otherwise advised.

Pile Burns: If you are planning to undertake a pile burn, please note the following:

1. From the 1st October, you are required to obtain a **Fire Permit** which may be obtained by contacting the Grose Vale Brigade's Permit Issuing Officer.
2. Review the Hawkesbury City Council Open Burning Policy and complete the online notification at <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/resources/forms/open-burning>
3. 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/bern-notifications>

Further information is available from:

1. The Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre on: **4560 6400**
2. 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

Residents are strongly advised to begin to review their Bush Fire Survival Plan and prepare their properties before the Bushfire Season begins



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>

Keep yourself informed on days of increased fire danger

If a bushfire is in your area or you are unsure, its important to stay up to date. In an emergency, call **Triple Zero (000)**, check the NSW RFS website (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au), download the **Fires Near Me** app, listen to local radio, local ABC, TV etc or check [facebook.com/nswrfs](https://www.facebook.com/nswrfs) or twitter.com/nswrfs



Total Fire Bans:

On very high to extreme fire days, bush and grass fires are more likely to spread and cause damage when the weather is very hot, dry and windy. Therefore, to reduce the risk of fires damaging or destroying life, property and the environment, the NSW RFS Commissioner may declare a Total Fire Ban.

Total Fire Ban means; **no fires out in the open**. During a Total Fire Ban you cannot light, maintain or use a fire in the open, or to carry out any activity in the open that causes, or is likely to cause, a fire. **No general purpose hot works**, such as welding, grinding or gas cutting can be done in the open and the NSW RFS strongly recommends activities such as using a tractor or slashing on rural properties and acreage, be carefully considered.

Can I use an electric BBQ? – you may use an electric barbeque for cooking as long as it is under the direct control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times while it is operating, and no combustible material is allowed within **2 metres** at any time it is operating.

Can I use a gas BBQ? - You may use a gas barbeque under the following conditions:

It is under the direct control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times while it is operating;

- No combustible material is allowed within **2 metres** at any time it is operating;
- You have an immediate and continuous supply of water; and
- The barbeque is within **20 metres** of a permanent private dwelling such as a home; or
- The barbeque is within a designated picnic area and the appliance is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forest.

Can I use a BBQ or pizza oven that burns solid fuel (e.g. wood, charcoal, heat beads)? - **No**. A barbeque or wood fired pizza oven that uses solid fuel, such as wood, charcoal or heat beads, **cannot be used** outside during a Total Fire Ban.

Can I undertake a pile burn during a Total Fire Ban if I have a fire permit? - **No**. Permits are suspended on days of a Total Fire Ban. Permits may resume after the Total Fire Ban is lifted, as long as the permit hasn't expired. Contact your Brigade Permit Officer or Hawkesbury FS Fire Control Centre for further information

Are there any exemptions during a Total Fire Ban? - A range of activities may be exempt from Total Fire Bans. The NSW RFS Commissioner is responsible for exemptions to Total Fire Bans and these exemptions are detailed in the NSW Government Gazette each time a Total Fire Ban is declared.

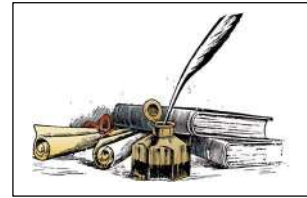
What penalties are there for lighting a fire during a Total Fire Ban? - Lighting a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban attracts an on the spot fine of **\$2200**. If the matter goes to court, you could be subject to a fine of up to **\$5500 and/or 12 months gaol**. Penalties for a fire that escapes and damages or destroys life, property or the environment can attract much greater fines and gaol terms with maximums at **\$132,000 and/or 14 years gaol**. Civil law suits can also be brought against the person responsible for a fire by those seeking compensation for losses sustained.

What is a No Burn day? - The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) may prohibit the burning of fires in the open or in incinerators by issuing a No-Burn Notice if it is of the opinion that, because forecast weather conditions, burning is likely to contribute to the build-up of air pollution. To find out if a No-Burn notice is in force check the [EPA website](#) or check the Public Notices section of the Sydney Morning Herald. A No-Burn notice will be published in the newspaper on the day it is in force; or call the EPA Environmental Information Line on 131 555.

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) search for Grose Vale.

Grose Vale Brigade Community Engagement Officer - Greg Walker

Poetry Corner



“I took some liberties with Dorothea Mackellar’s “My Country” poem.”

“Our Mountain ”

*I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons, I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror – the wide brown land for me!*

*The Covid ring-barked families, all couped up in their rooms,
The coughing sniffing mountain, the homework due at noon,
The tangle of the vaccine, where politicians foil,
The newsflash decks the tv, and the doctors all recoil.*

*Burning my heart, my country! Her endless smoke-filled sky,
When, sick at heart around us, we see our bush folk die.
We watch the smoke clouds billow and we hear the fire burn,
The roaring of an army, and for the rain we yearn.*

*And then we stare in wonder, as the thunder rolls in thuds,
The rain we prayed so dearly for, now mocks us all with floods.
With landslides, mud, and sodden socks, we see our friends afloat,
And paddle out to help them in a charcoal covered boat.*

*Core of my heart, my country! This mountain of rainbow gold,
For flood and fire and plague, she pays us back threefold.
For mountain folk are hardy, like a flock of black red-tail,
Adversity may shake us, but together we’ll prevail...*

Lance Mitchell, 2022 (Presented at the 2022 BMA AGM)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Dorothea Mackellar's connection to Bowen Mountain*

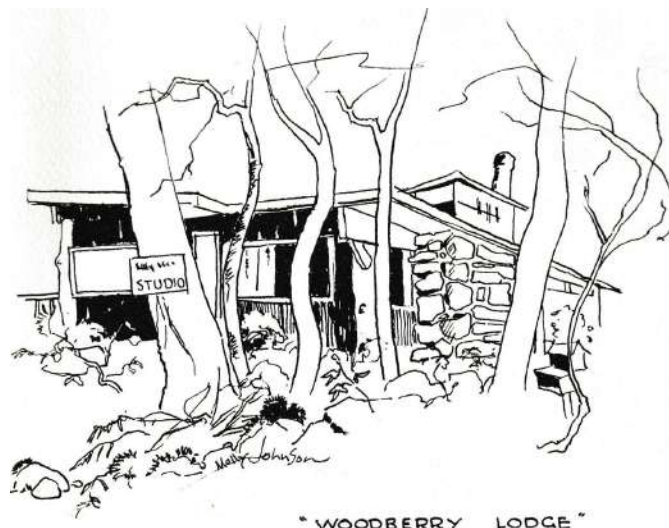
In the Bowen Mountain Association Newsletter Issue No.11 April, 1988 a drawing (below) of Woodberry Lodge by the then resident artist Molly Johnson was the cover feature. An article in the Newsletter states that "Woodberry Lodge is probably the oldest remaining structure on the mountain, being somewhere between 75 and 85 years old and used as a coach-house.

In the 1930's, a man named Mackellar bought the coach-house and a huge tract of land. He lived in the white farmhouse, which is now situated in Pamela Crescent. It must have been a shock to the coach-house, used to the jangle of harnesses and champing of horses, when Mackellar used it to garage his Rolls Royce!

Dorothea Mackellar, the Australian poet most renowned for her poem, "My Country," was a relative of this owner. Folklore has it that she may have even penned some of her poetry from the Lodge itself.

After Mackellar, the old coach-house was sold to a Mr. Southern who used it as a weekender. John Woodberry, a carpenter, then bought the property, revamping it and engraving "Woodberry Lodge" in the front doorsteps".

Reference: 1987 -1988 Interviews with local residents Molly Johnson, Wal Clewett and Florence Hough.



New South Wales Christmas Bush

The New South Wales Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*), which is prevalent on Bowen Mountain at this time of year is a shapely tree with distinctive pink or red bracts in summer which appear during the Christmas period hence the name of the bush. It is a wonderful natural cut flower or indoor display, which can be used as a Christmas decoration. The abundant red coloured star shaped sepals house the seed which is shed in February when they turn a light tan colour. The Christmas bush can last up to and beyond 100 years.

Reference: Fact sheet - <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au>

CULINARY CORNER



Here are some Festive Treats to enjoy over the Holiday Season

BAILEY'S DIP - A YUMMY FESTIVE SEASON DESSERT

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup Baileys Liqueur
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 250 grams of light sour cream

Method:

- Mix all ingredients together well, until nice and smooth. Spoon into a serving bowl, refrigerate. When firm and ready to serve, place on a platter of fresh fruit and berries to dip. Serve with toothpicks for ease of dipping fruit.
- Note: If you don't have Baileys try some Butterscotch Schnapps. Strawberries, bananas, grapes and blueberries are wonderful dipping fruit with this festive dip.

Lynette Grant.



FESTIVE PUNCH

Ingredients:

- 200g fresh or frozen raspberries or strawberries
- 2 tbs caster sugar
- 2 tbs lemon juice
- Ice cubes, to serve
- 1.5L rosé prosecco or raspberry-flavoured sparkling mineral water, chilled

Method:

Step 1

Combine the raspberries, sugar and lemon juice in a medium saucepan over high heat. Cook, stirring, for 5 mins or until sugar dissolves and raspberries collapse. Strain through a fine sieve into a jug, using the back of a spoon to press as much liquid through as possible. Discard solids. Cool.

Step 2

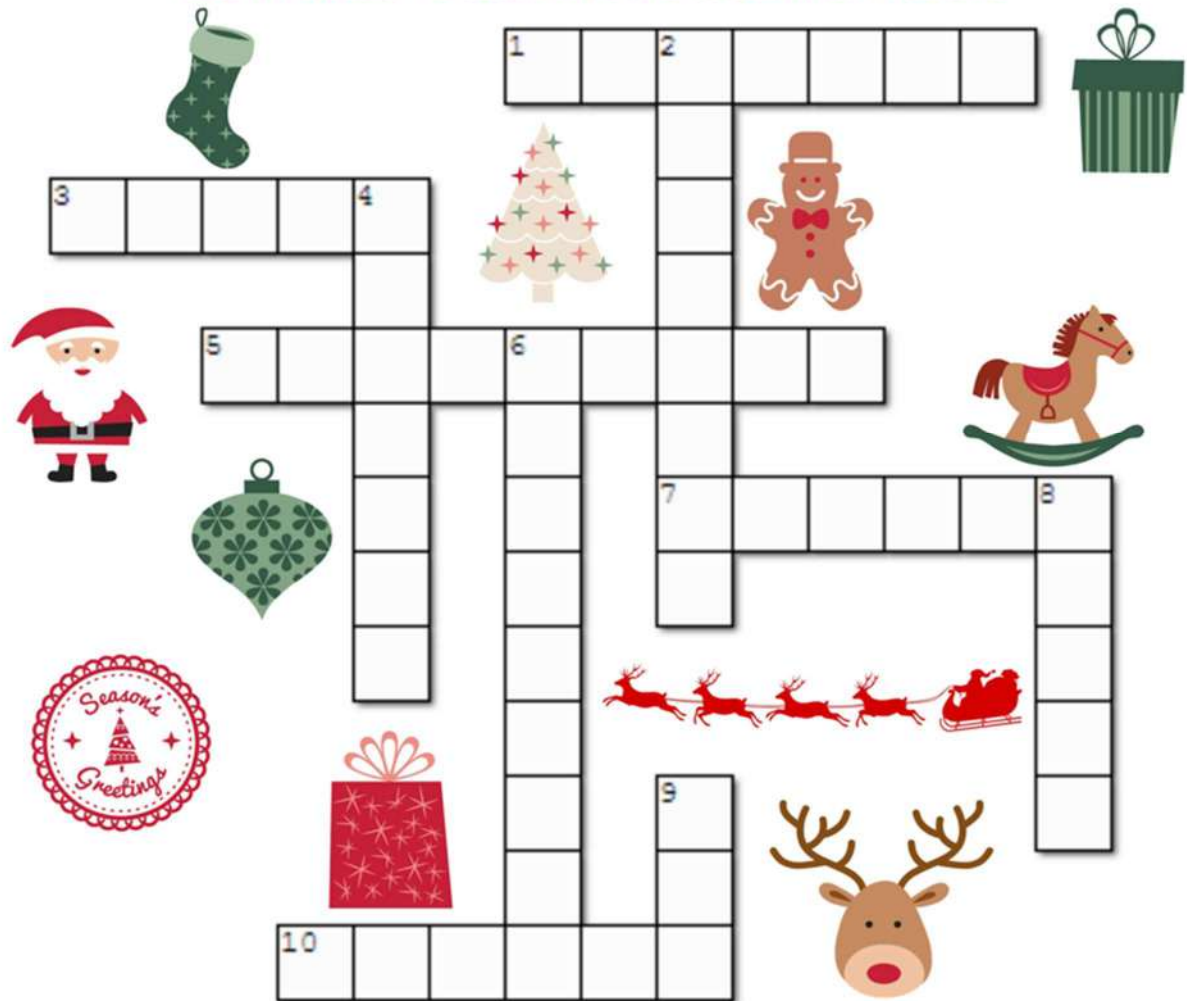
Pour the raspberry mixture evenly among serving glasses. Top with ice cubes. Pour over the prosecco or mineral water and serve immediately. Serve with strawberries, raspberries and mint sprigs.

Alison Kerr

CHILDREN'S PAGE

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. _____ to the world!



WWW.THRIFTYMMMASTIPS.COM



A Christmas Crossword to Enjoy!

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

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

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.

Wishing all Bowen Mountain Residents and Community Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a safe, healthy and peaceful 2023!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2022 GRADUATING STUDENTS!



YEAR 10 and YEAR 12.

We are very proud of your persistence, resilience, initiative and success in what has been a most challenging year of schooling.

WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.

THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION AND ITS COMMUNITY

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K O

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