

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.
NEWSLETTER

No. 153

Autumn

March, 2023



‘Highland Cow’ by Taryn Malzard

Features:

Bowen Mountain Artist – Taryn Malzard
Vale John Neil Hartley
Good Luck Maisie Mitchell
Autumn Fire Report

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 through Facebook, the Bowen Mountain website link and in hard copy by request.

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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.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 and others for proofreading.

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Website: www.bowenmountain.org.au

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

COVER: 'Highland Cow' by Taryn Malzard. Chalk pastel and charcoal on grey pastel paper. Read about Taryn and her work on Page 5.

Subscriptions to the Bowen Mountain Association Inc. can be forwarded to:

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Editor's Letter

Happy New Year to all our readers and new residents. Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter, which appropriately features Bowen Mountain artist, Taryn Malzard's chalk and pastel Highland Cow on our cover. The Highland Cow is seen as a symbol of good luck and is a reminder to slow down and enjoy the simple things in life just like the farmers in the Scottish Highlands did. Our cover is a sign of good luck for the coming year.

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the recent passing of our much loved, admired, respected and valued Bowen Mountain resident, John Neil Hartley, known affectionately as Neil.

Congratulations to Maisie Mitchell who has qualified for the Australian Track & Field National Championships to be held in Brisbane in April 2023. Maisie will attempt to defend her National Title.

Important information regarding the Autumn Fire season is a must read in the Fire Report.

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 peaceful, healthy 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

PRESIDENT and SECRETARY'S REPORT JANUARY MARCH 2023

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Year filled with hope, peace and happiness. We are continuing to creatively present a range of Community events in a COVID-19-safe environment, which everyone can enjoy and participate in.

The new revised Bushwalking Book proved to be very popular and sold out quickly. We are currently printing more copies, which, should be available shortly for \$20 per copy. If you would like a copy please contact the Secretary, Alison via:

- 1) Email secretary@bowenmountain.org.au
- 2) Phone or Text Alison 0419167088

As part of our Community Care Outreach, Martha and Liz once again played Christmas elves and delivered Christmas gift packs wishing residents a Merry Christmas.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Neil Hartley, a much loved and admired Bowen Mountain resident who was a lifetime member of the Bowen Mountain Association. Neil contributed significantly to the Bowen Mountain community over the years. Neil will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with Ron Grey as we wish him a speedy recovery.

We are awaiting responses from Council on no parking signs in the turning circle of Lt Bowen Drive; locked gate on Grandview Lane; repair of potholes on Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale Road; concrete retaining walls below Serpentine Lane and status of the proposed Optus Tower on Lt. Bowen Rd. We will continue to update all residents on the progress of these issues.

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



EDITOR'S NOTE

In the Summer Newsletter 2022 we published Lance Mitchell's poem "Our Mountain" which was presented at the 2022 BMA AGM and was inspired by Dorothea Mackellar's poem, "My Country".

Several people wrote in and commented on how much they enjoyed reading Lance's poem and the history of Woodberry Lodge and its connection to Dorothea Mackellar. Congratulations, Lance !!!

BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION 2023

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

REPEAT ITEMS: BMA 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 of 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
APRIL	Thursday 6th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Friday 7 th	BMPMC Easter Egg Hunt – 10.30am
	Monday 10th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
MAY	Monday 8th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JUNE	Thursday 1st	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 12th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday TBC	Winter Interlude – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JULY	Monday 10th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 16 th	BMPMC – Winter Market 11-3pm
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
AUGUST	Thursday 3rd	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 14th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 20th	BMA AGM
SEPTEMBER	Monday 11th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
OCTOBER	Thursday 5 th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Saturday 7th	BMPMC – Spring Market 3-7pm
	Monday 9th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Tuesday 31st	Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park Hall – All Welcome
NOVEMBER	Monday 13th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
DECEMBER	Thursday 7th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Saturday 16th	BMPMC – Christmas in the Park 3-7pm

ARTISTS OF BOWEN MOUNTAIN - *Taryn Malzard*

Taryn Malzard is a much loved, admired and talented artist of Bowen Mountain. Taryn has exhibited widely in the Hawkesbury and beyond. She has contributed significantly to the Arts Community in the Hawkesbury including conducting children's art classes, a community support officer, an installer in both Penrith Regional gallery and Hawkesbury Regional Gallery and a guest artist at the Bowen Mountain Art Show.

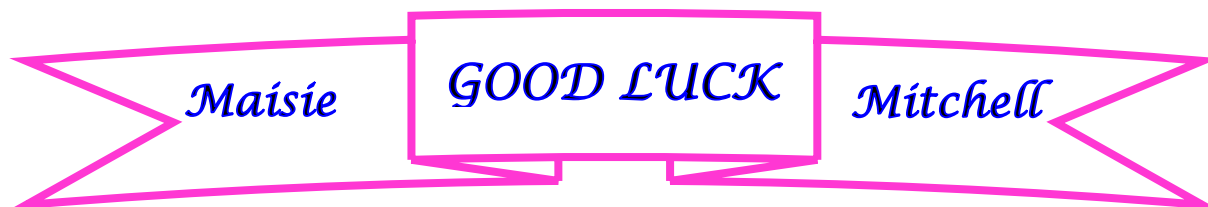
Her artwork 'Highland Cow' is featured on the front of this Newsletter. This artwork is chalk pastel and charcoal on grey pastel paper. Taryn writes "this work was created as a surprise 70th gift. The recipient being of proud Scottish blood and possessing a fondness for the character filled Highland Cows he had seen throughout the Scottish Landscape, the subject matter was a perfect match, and thankfully very well received!

Taryn says that "as a resident artist of the mountain, I absolutely love being surrounded by an abundance of subject matter. Every morning I bush walk with my furry companions and rarely return without a photo or two for inspiration, especially handy with a coming exhibition at Village Kitchen, Kurrajong, in June! I've found myself in a new role of employment with Council. I still have strong connections with the Gallery in Windsor, but working out in the communities with various support agencies, coordinating Yoga or Fitness classes, and off course my favourite – art and craft sessions, bring a joy to my everyday work life."

"Each Monday in Bowen Mountain Park at 9.30 we have a free yoga session followed by either Digital Literature (Tech Support) or my easy fun arty sessions. For more information on what is available at any of the Community Hubs in the Hawkesbury, follow this link www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hch."

"Here are some pictures of my latest work, some of which will be shown at the upcoming Hawkesbury Show on 28th April – 30th April 2023."





Congratulations to Maisie Mitchell who has qualified for the Australian Track & Field National Championships to be held in Brisbane in April 2023. Maisie will attempt to defend her National Title. She has been training exceptionally hard all year and hopes to better her times once again.

Maisie is an active leader in our community and her school. Over the last 12 months she has achieved an amazing track record in her passion for Track and Field. Her achievements include qualifying for Australian Track & Field Championships, winning:

- Gold Medal Australian Track & Field Championships,
- Gold Medal NSW Short Course Championships,
- Gold Medal CHS (Combined High Schools) State Championships and
- Bronze Medal, NSW All Schools Track & Field

Maisie is a future leader of young women in our community and sets a high standard of achievement among her peers. We are proud that Maisie is a member of the Bowen Mountain community and wish her good luck and every success as she strives to defend her national title at the upcoming Australian Track & Field National Championships.



Maisie in the middle of both photos.

BOWEN MOUNTAIN HISTORY UPDATED- Part 2

The history of Bowen Mountain and its first white settlers is documented in the first edition publication "A Cook's Tour of Bowen Mountain", which was researched and written by the Bowen Mountain Association to celebrate the Bi-Centennial in 1988. Recently Suzanne Smith from the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society published an update to this history in their newsletter The Millstone July - August 2022 Volume 20 Issue 4. Susanne has kindly given us permission to use relevant excerpts from these publications here.

The property at Berambing was part of the original GMC Bowen *Bulgamatta Estate* and one of the first land parcels granted to retiring Veteran's West of the Tabarag Ridge, Bilpin to Mt Tomah, in the late 1820s, early 1830s.

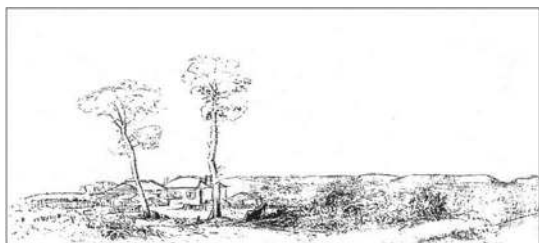
Over the Tabarag Ridge to Berambing We arrive at the estate of GMC Bowen Esquire (whom Bowen Mountain is named after) and his 2,560 acres, 4 square mile (approx. 1030 hectares) in extent, named Bulgamatta. Granted in 1829 in consideration of his services in His Majesty's Army, under regulations published in September 1828.

At 58 Miles – is the residence of Mr Bowen (Bowen's house was on a section of the Bulgamatta property now known as Chapel Hill in Berambing Crescent. Stone foundations remain as the under-structure of one of the current buildings). On the right are Mr Bowen's Huts listed on early surveyor's maps and mentioned in earlier government documents.

Due to the condition of the road many of the grants failed. Although GMC Bowen banded together with the Veterans in an effort to petition for improvements to the road in particular over the Tabarag at Kurrajong Heights, their efforts failed. Petitions were submitted to the Surveyor Generals Dept. in May 1830, June 1831, including letters from Bowen, dated 26 October 1831 and 28th May 1832. It was at this time that Major Mitchell was focused on a new pass at Mt Victoria to by-pass the Mt York route. Consequently, Mitchell's response was a "NO" to the petitions.

Bowen spent six years working his property at Bulgamatta with the assistance of convicts and an insightful account of the results can be found in the notice of auction appearing in the Sydney Herald 4th January 1836. There is an elegant stone built dwelling house erected on the land ...it contains a good-sized entrance hall, three sitting rooms, four bedrooms, two store rooms, a dairy, kitchen and pantry ...there is an extensive barn, stable, garden and shrubbery ...sixty acres of cleared land, 45 of which is in an excellent state of cultivation. (This is referring to the area of the original estate we now know as Chapel Hill). The auction notice goes on to state that there is a sawing mill erected on the property, turned by water. (The mill was on Bowen's Creek in the ravine below the Wollemi Wilderness Cabins.

Suzanne Smith



Bulgamatta, Berambing - original Bells Line of Road grant to Lt. GMC BOWEN Pencil sketch by Conrad Martens inscribed:

"From Mount Tomah, Bowen's July 18, 1838"
Courtesy of the State Library of NSW

VALE - JOHN NEIL HARTLEY
8.3.1925 – 9.3.2023

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the recent passing of our much loved, admired, respected and valued Bowen Mountain resident, John Neil Hartley, known affectionately as Neil. Neil passed away peacefully at Cedar Place Aged Care Facility Kempsey Thursday 9th March 1 day after his 98th birthday. He was a delightful, funny man with a wry sense of humour who loved life. Neil contributed greatly to the Bowen Mountain community always opening the toilets in the Park and ensuring all rubbish was put in the Park bins and put out on the road for collection. He was a Life Member of the BMA and generously offered his land opposite the Park for parking at many Bowen Mountain Association events. His historical barn was the home of the Bowen Mountain Art Show for many years.

Excerpts from an interview with Neil. which appeared in the BMA Newsletter Spring 1993 recorded by Martha Allan and Lionel Windsor.

“John Neil Hartley was born at Eagle Junction, Queensland in 1925, where he spent the first five years with his older brother Desmond and younger sister Velma. His parents separated and his mother moved the family down to Sydney, where they lived with their grandmother at Vacluse. At the age of seven years, Neil contracted severe mumps, which destroyed his cochlea (inner ear) and by his fourteenth birthday he was totally deaf. Neil was educated at Scott’s College, Bellevue Hill School and Woollahra High School. At age fourteen it was decided that Neil enter the Deaf and Dumb Institute (as it was called then) to learn “to sign”. But, instead, he learnt to lip- read for eighteen months and was well in advance of anybody else in the group.

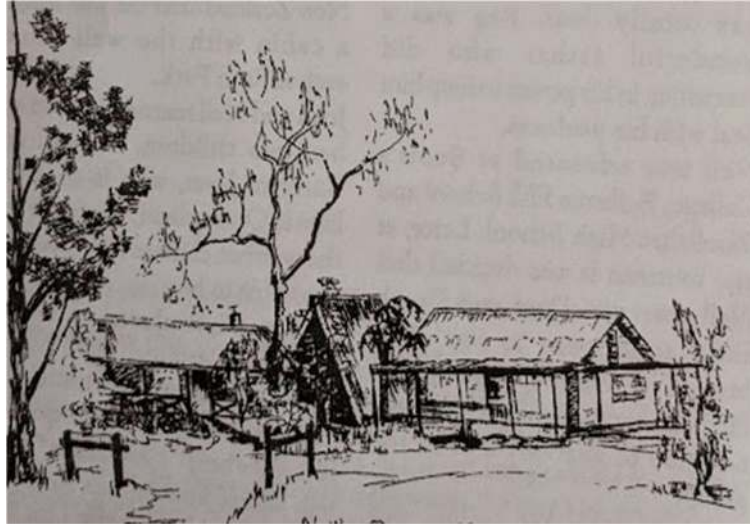
At that time, his father was secretary of Dental Services, the biggest dental laboratory in Australia. He suggested Neil take on an apprenticeship as a dental technician, which he reluctantly accepted. To his own surprise he “fell in love” with the work from the word go and later specialised in chrome castings. By the age of twenty-three he was made Manager, a position he held for thirty-two years. During the early days of Dental Services he met Margaret Joan Scrimgeour (known as Joan). They married in 1948 and had two children.

Neil was introduced to Bowen Mountain around 1950 by his father-in-law, the late Colin Scrimgeour who owned quite a few acres on the mountain. After managing his own dental laboratory in Pymble, in need of money Colin Scrimgeour sold his property to Neil who had “grown to love the mountain”. Retiring from his city job, Neil moved his business to Bowen Mountain in 1973 and set up a dental laboratory in his front shed, which is pictured below and is still here today. Neil’s dental laboratory on Bowen Mountain was a widely known and very successful business.

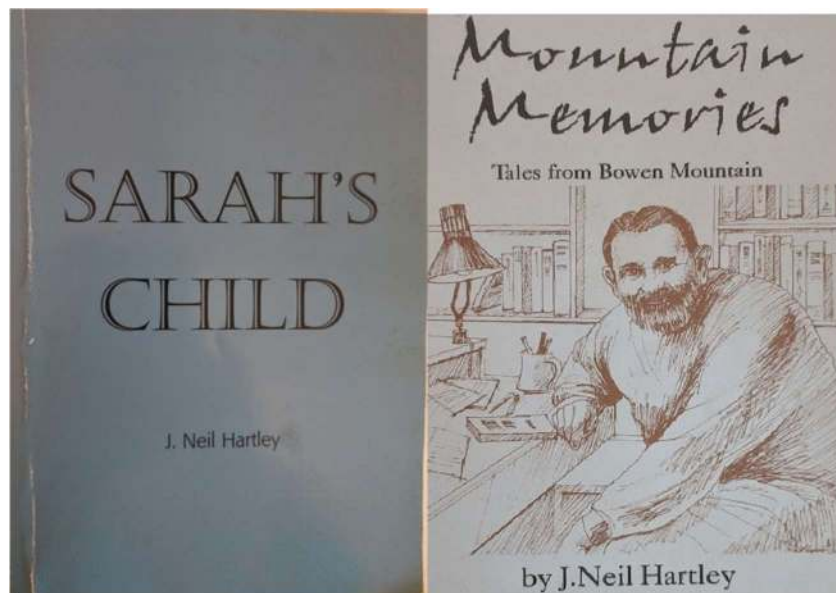
Excerpts taken from Pat O’Toole’s presentation with Jenny Griffiths at the Australia Day KCHS breakfast meeting reported in the Bowen Mountain Association Newsletter June 2019.

Neil loved to tell and write stories, penning Sarah’s Child, Lady of Arron and Mountain Memories – Tales from Bowen Mountain. All Bowen Mountain residents who knew and loved

Neil will sadly miss him. He was a much loved, respected and valued asset to Bowen Mountain and its community. Neil will always be fondly remembered.



Neil's Bowen Mountain Home – Sketch by Julianne Steward



Neil penning one of his stories – Sketch by Rita Rudokovis



Neil Hartley's Stable

RFS FIRE REPORT – Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Fire Liaison Officer's Report for Autumn 2023 edition of the BMA Inc. Newsletter.

Sydney and surrounding regions have continued to experience rain events during the summer period with the area surrounding Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale again most fortunate to not have any serious fires. The absence of strong winds and timely rain moistening the vegetation and leaf litter as well as increasing the soil moisture, has contributed greatly to reduce the incidence of bush fires locally.

Grose Vale volunteer members continue to develop their preparedness to respond to emergency incidents through ongoing training and reviewing operational procedures while also preparing for planned Hazard Reductions.

Bush Fire Danger Period and Fire Permits:

The Bush Fire Season for the Hawkesbury District is likely to finish on the 31st March 2023 and resume on the 1st October 2023.

Planned Burns (Pile Burns) and Fire Permits:

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

The key things to remember

- You need a fire permit to undertake a pile burn if it is undertaken during the Bush Fire Danger Period. There are heavy penalties if you don't follow restrictions or rules.
- Getting a permit is free and easy. Further information is available from the Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre on: **4560 6400** and the Hawkesbury City Council website: <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/resources/forms/open-burning> or contacting Hawkesbury City Council on **4560 4444**.
- **You need to notify the NSW Rural Fire Service** of your planned burn at least 24 hours prior to undertaking the burn. This can be done by completing the online form at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications>



What is a Fire Permit?

Fire Permits help to ensure fire is used safely during the Bush Fire Danger Period. A permit imposes conditions on the way a fire is lit and maintained, and can only be issued by authorised Permit Issuing Officers.

The permit system ensures agencies like the NSW RFS know when and where landholders intend to burn, to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place, and so that fires remain under control.

The Permit Issuing Officer may add any conditions deemed as necessary but all permits have standard conditions such as:

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

When are permits required?

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March, however it may vary due to local conditions. If you are planning to light a fire in the open during this time, you will need a Fire Permit.

Also depending on the type of fire, a permit may be required all year round. For example, a Fire Permit is required at all times if a fire is likely to be dangerous to a building.

When are permits not required?

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

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

What else do I need to do?

Before lighting the fire ensure that:

- it can be contained and controlled within the specified area
- it does not contain toxic materials, such as rubber tyres, plastics, paint etc; and
- it must not cause an air pollution problem by producing excessive amounts of smoke.

If you have a permit, it is your responsibility to:

- check whether a Total Fire Ban is in force on the NSW RFS Fire Danger ratings and Total Fire Bans page: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>. If there is, your permit is automatically suspended.
- check whether a No Burn day has been declared on the [EPA website](#).
- check the expected weather conditions.
- notify and check with your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire and Rescue NSW station prior to lighting.
- follow any conditions restrictions listed in your permit.

Fines and penalties for illegal burning

Substantial fines and prison terms of up to 12 months may apply to persons found to be in breach of the Rural Fires Act 1997 and its Regulations. Civil law suits can also be brought against persons responsible for fire, by those seeking compensation, for losses sustained.

Smoke Alarms

Now is the time to check and test your smoke alarms ensuring you have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home. You should also change the battery at least every 12 months. More information is available from the NSW Rural Fire Service <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/home-fire-safety> or the Home Fire Safety page at Fire & Rescue NSW <http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au>

Become a Volunteer in the NSW Rural Fire Service

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.

Greg Walker

Community Engagement Officer

Grose Vale Brigade.

CULINARY CORNER

Here are some lovely recipes to try especially when the weather starts to change.



EASY CREME CARAMEL

Serves 2 (double the mixture to serve 4)

Ingredients:

1 cup coconut milk or cream
2 eggs
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
1/4 cup maple syrup
pinch of salt



Method:

Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees Celsius.

Lightly grease ramekin tins

Beat eggs until fluffy, add sugar, salt, vanilla and coconut milk or cream and mix well.

Cover bottom of each ramekin dish with maple syrup, then add 1 more tablespoon.

3/4 fill each ramekin dish with coconut or cream mixture.

Bake in oven in a tray filled with water at least 1/4 of the way up the side of each dish.

Cook for 1/2 hour or until a fork comes out clean.

Sarah Morgan

ROSTI

Ingredients:

2 finely chopped onions
6 peeled potatoes
1/2 cup flat leaf finely chopped parsley
Salt and pepper
110g butter
Sour cream to serve



Method:

Cook the onions in an oiled pan over medium heat for 5 minutes, until soft. Set aside.

Coarsely grate potatoes. Place in a clean dry tea towel, squeeze to remove as much water as possible.

Place potatoes in a bowl. Add sauteed onions and parsley (reserving some for a garnish). Season with salt and pepper. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat, then spoon portions of potato and flatten. Cook for 6-7 minutes until golden brown. Turn over and cook on other side for 5-6 minutes. Repeat until all the mixture is cooked, adding more butter to pan as required.

Serve hot with a dollop of sour cream. Garnish with sprinkling of parsley.

Elaine Leahy

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Vegetables Crossword

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword puzzle grid with the name of each vegetable following the numbers and direction indicated. Use the word bank if you get stuck.

16

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ARTICHOKE	CUCUMBER
BEEF	EGGPLANT
BELL PEPPER	GARLIC
BROCCOLI	MUSHROOM
BRUSSEL	ONION
SPROUT	PEAS
CABBAGE	POTATO
CARROT	PUMPKIN
CORN	RADISH

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.



Diamond Python (*Morelia spilota spilota*):
This 2.5m beauty came to set up home for a week at our place in February. I found her when I almost put a ladder on top of her before realizing it. She is now hopefully happy in her new surroundings at another location off the Mountain. Bill Kerr



REMEMBER: Daylight Saving will end at 2am on Sunday April 2nd, 2023. On Saturday night set your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to check your smoke alarm.



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