The Bowen Mountain Association Inc. **NEWSLETTER**

No. 155

Spring

October, 2023



"Spring Blossoms" by Noela Woods

Features:

Bowen Mountain Artist – Noela Woods Spring Fire Report BMA Annual General Meeting Reports BMA Halloween Celebration John Wulff – Solar Energy 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 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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.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 search for 'Bowen Mountain'

COVER: "Spring Blossoms" by Noela Woods. Read about Noela on page 5.

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

The Treasurer Bowen Mountain Association PO Box 3141, GROSE VALE 2753

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Editor's Letter



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Newsletter, which appropriately features Bowen Mountain artist, Noela Woods' "Spring Blossoms" on our cover. Through the use of oil paints Noela brings a depth of realism to her varied paintings and portraits.

A must read is the Spring Fire Report as this season warms up, high winds dry the grass and leaves. We welcome our new Engagement officer from Grose Vale Brigade, Dylan Hayes to this important column in our Newsletter.

The Bowen Mountain Association Annual General Meeting on September 17th 2023 had as its theme "Our Community and the Local Bush Fire Brigade" Wayne Dillon, the RFS Grose Vale Brigade Captain gave a comprehensive and informative talk which drew a lot of worthwhile questions. Key AGM reports are published further on in this Newsletter.

The Bowen Mountain Association Halloween Festival is back in Bowen Mountain Park on Tuesday 31st October. Details further on in this Newsletter.

Thanks to John Wulff for an interesting and pertinent article on the future of community energy management and solar panels, which he recently installed on his house.

This Newsletter is published four times a year to coincide with the seasons ie March, June, September and December. If 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 an enjoyable and revitalised Spring.

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Bowen Mountain Association has been kept busy over the last year from 2022 - 2023 with a number of activities that sought 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 in the later half of 2022 contacted 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 clearing of undergrowth and repair of the road edges and potholes has been a welcome site on Bowen Mountain Road.

In late 2022 the BMA posed several questions to Council. 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?
- 5) walls put in place? What is happening with that corner? Have they found something?
- 6) that we should know about?

As a result of these emails and phone calls to Council, in July and August 2023 Council began to fix the potholes on Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale Roads. They have repaired the landslip work on Bowen Mountain Road below Serpentine Lane. No Parking signs are to give the local RFS access to trails. The gate on Grandview Lane is currently open.

As a result of recurring cases of COVID in the Hawkesbury, adverse weather and floods the BMA decided to investigate organising a different and unique Halloween to what we have had in the past that would be COVID safe and contactless. In October 2022 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 North Richmond who agreed to co-sponsor prizes to the value of \$250. The industrious and creative Halloween committee 2023 is currently planning celebrations in the Park.

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. As part of our Community Care Outreach, Martha and Liz delivered 30 boxes of chocolates to residents and Christmas gift packs to wish residents a Merry Christmas. The new revised Bushwalking Book proved to be very popular and sold out quickly. We have printed more copies, which are also selling out quickly. The AED equipment in the Park has been kept up to date. There is a new AED (Defib) register that is a few months old and the NSW Govt. have requested those responsible for AEDs to register them so more people are aware of their closest AED in an emergency. We are in the process of registering the AED in the Park.

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, (BMA President) 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 5th 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 18Lt. 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.

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the passing in April 2023 of our much loved, admired, respected and valued Bowen Mountain resident, John Neil Hartley, known affectionately as Neil in Neil was a lifetime member of the Bowen Mountain Association. Neil contributed significantly to the Bowen Mountain community over the years.

We were also shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Judith Mitchell in August 2023. Judith was a creative, much loved and admired Bowen Mountain resident who contributed significantly to the Bowen Mountain community and the BMA Newsletter over the years. Judith in her own special way touched the lives of many residents and children. Both Neil and Judith will be sadly missed.

Bill Kerr, President

Alison Kerr, Secretary.

Bowen Mountain Association



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
OCTOBER	Tuesday 31st	Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park
		Hall – All Welcome
NOVEMBER	Monday 13th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue	BMA Dinner
	TBC	
DECEMBER	Thursday 7th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Saturday16th	BMPMC – Christmas in the Park 3-7pm

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









To report a scam to the ACCC got to: https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam

If you think you have been scammed, find out where to get help: https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/get-help/where-to-get-help

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Bowen Mountain Association 2023 AGM 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 wonderful community and beautiful natural surroundings. The page was originally created as an online notice board to host information regarding community events, news and notices posted by the BMA. Over the few years the page has grown significantly due to the rapid reporting on natural disasters such as floods and bushfires. In cooperation with community resources such as the Rural Fire Service, Roads & Maritime, Hawkesbury Police and the SES, the page is able to relate real time information to residents. The page currently has over 15,000 followers from all around the globe, which is significant for a small community organisation. Typically the page posts one to two stories per week. This is usually on subjects such as bushwalks in and around the Bowen Mountain area, upcoming community events, pictures submitted by residents, Koala sightings and more. Residents help each other by locating lost pets and reporting changed traffic conditions. The page also updates residents on the publications of the Bowen Mountain Newsletter and directs them to the BMA website. If you are not yet connected to the page, open Facebook and search for 'Bowen Mountain, NSW'. Click on the 'Like' or 'Follow' button and stay up to date with everything happening on the mountain.

BMA Inc. Newsletter AGM Report

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. The new full coloured format of the Newsletter has been greatly appreciated by readers and the electronic format has been well received. Electronic copies of the newsletter are available on our website at www.bowenmountain.org.au and also via a link on the Bowen Mountain Facebook page. Hard copies are also available. If you would like a hard copy please contact the Secretary via one of the following:

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

and a copy can be delivered to you.

BMA Inc. Website Annual Report

The Bowen Mountain Association and Park Management Committee website 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. Chris's expertise in posting information, notices and the Newsletter is greatly appreciated. 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 that hits on the Website increased from October 2022,

7791 hits to August 2023 with over 10,000 hits.





Presented and sponsored by the Bowen Mountain Association Inc.

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Bendigo Bank

Major Sponsor: Cindy Cash - Ray White Real Estate North Richmond

RayWhite.

Major Sponsor: My Power Foundations – Mt. Riverview



ARTISTS OF BOWEN MOUNTAIN - Noela Woods

At 91 Noela Woods, a well-loved and renowned Bowen Mountain artist, says that "Drawing and painting have always been of interest to me but for many years they were put on the "to do again one day" list. When I resumed painting I joined a class on oil painting in Orange and I have worked in oils ever since." Noela's oil painting titled "Spring Blossoms" is featured on the front cover of this Newsletter and her frangipanis and other works are featured below.

When she and her husband moved to Bowen Mountain seventeen years ago, she joined a painting group in North Richmond led by Bernie Lavender. She painted local landscapes and historic rural buildings. This group held several exhibitions at St Peter's Church Hall during her time as a member.

An accomplished painter in oils, Noela has entered paintings in the Bowen Mountain Association Art Exhibitions, the Hawkesbury Agricultural Show and other local Art Shows. She also entered paintings in the Country Women's Association Art Show, which is held at the CWA Annual State Conference. Noela exhibited at The Bowen Mountain Arts Fest - "Art on the Move" 2019, which ran from January $11^{th} - 31^{st}$ 2019 at the Village Kitchen, Kurrajong. Noela's unique paintings drew many favourable comments. Both her paintings and drawings have adorned the front covers of many Bowen Mountain Newsletters.

These days Noela says she does not paint much. However, she has always loved to paint children. She demonstrated this love by doing a childhood portrait for each of her grandchildren for his or her 21st Birthday. "We have twenty-two grandchildren and so I will be busy," she says. She enjoys painting many varied subjects as can be shown by a selection of her artwork below.









The Future of Community Energy Management

In late March I was in Canberra at a "Meet the Author" event at the Kambri Cultural Centre of the ANU. The author was Saul Griffith, a noted environmentalist who was recently featured by the ABC on an "Australian Story". Saul has spoken directly with President Joe Biden about ways to implement environmental improvements for the USA and is in close contact with Australian politicians after moving back to Australia.

Saul Griffith feels that the only way to beat the environmental crisis of the next 25 years and keep global temperatures at a reasonable level is to replace all gas and fossil fuel energy use with electricity generated by roof top solar and stored in batteries for nighttime and cloudy days. He feels to do this properly it should be done at a community level, sharing resources for a whole community. To show the way he has set up a large-scale community project in the Wollongong/Kiama area, where he lives.

Before seeing the Australian Story or having heard of Saul Griffith I have had similar thoughts for just our household at Bellbird Crescent. I installed a 6.6 KW 18 panel solar system two years ago, which has been generating more than three times our needs of electricity on most days. We had been selling the rest to the grid. Since we have trees shading the system in the afternoon, I decided to buy a *Tesla Powerwall 2* battery with a 15 KWh capacity at \$15,700 last November. It was installed in the middle of March. Since then we have not needed any power from the grid, except in some prolonged rain periods. Our power bill for 26 Jan 2023 – 17 Apr 2023 was \$1.88 credit. Even in the winter months we are 100% off

grid on sunny days and between 60 and 80% off grid on cloudy days. At that rate the battery might even pay for itself in 7 years, although I did not expect that when I bought it. I bought it as my contribution to near zero emissions for our household. I have also installed a heat pump hot water system from Ecogenica, which is currently available for only \$33 (The NSW government pays the rest). Heat Pumps reduce the power requirements for hot water to a quarter. For details contact me.

An interesting comment at the Canberra event was made by Bruce Chapman, the designer of the HEX loan system for students. To make sure that everyone in Australia can afford to install solar panels and batteries, a loan system like HEX should be set up. Everyone qualifies for such a loan (no requirement whether you can pay). Those that can pay do so, the rest have their loans deferred - forever if necessary.

The economic advantages to Australian households and the country as a whole, if a large-scale adoption of such schemes can be achieved, are enormous, as calculated by Saul Griffith. I feel the Bowen Mountain community should be a part of it.

- Quarterly Essay: Saul Griffith, The Wires that bind -Electrification and community renewal.
- Saul Griffith, The Big Switch Australia's Electric Future.

John Wulff





- The 18 latest generation solar panels with feet to point them to the sun cost \$3.900 fully installed.
- The Tesla Power Wall 2 with a clever control unit at the top left to maximise power to the household.
- The Ecogenica Heat Pump hot water systems was installed 14 days after I applied. It was an afterthought to make our house most energy efficient.



RFS FIRE REPORT – Spring 2023

Welcome to the Grose Vale Brigade's Fire Liaison Officer's Report for Spring 2023. We would like to begin by acknowledging the contributions of the outgoing Grose Vale RFB Community Engagement Officer, Greg Walker. Greg has been a tireless figure in our community raising awareness and building partnerships over the course of many years. Thank you Greg for all that you have done for the community!

On Saturday September 16th we hosted our Get Ready Weekend at Bowen Mountain Park. The turn out on the day from residents wishing to discuss their Fire Plans was fantastic! Everyone, regardless of whether they had an existing fire plan or not came away with something new to consider. A big thanks to the Bowen Mountain Park Committee for their support in running the BBQ for the day!

The main themes we are covering in this edition are:

- ✓ Bushfire Preparedness✓ Changes to the Fire Danger Ratings
- ✓ Information about Pile Burn Permits

Preparing for Fire Season

Bush fire is a part of life in Bowen Mountain and Grose Vale. So you need to live bush fire ready.

That means knowing your risk and having a plan for what to do during a fire.

You can make your plan online in as little as five minutes at www.myfireplan.com.au

There are four simple steps to get ready for bush fire season:



STEP 1: DISCUSS

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. Download the Step 1 discussion guide (PDF, 985.3 KB).



STEP 2: PREPARE

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, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home. Download the Step 2 checklist (PDF, 595.5 KB).



STEP 3: KNOW

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. Download Step 3 (PDF, 227.4 KB).



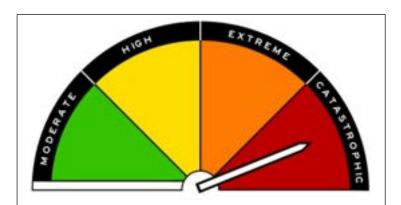
STEP 4: KEEP

KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area. Download Step 4 (PDF, 219.1 KB).

It's 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.

Know Your New Fire Danger Ratings



FIRE DANGER RATING	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
CATASTROPHIC	 For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas. These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.
EXTREME	 Take action now to protect your life and property. These are dangerous fire conditions. Check your bush fire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready. If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.
нідн	Be ready to act. There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. Decide what you will do if a fire starts. If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.
MODERATE	Plan and prepare. • Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

NO RATING

 Fire danger ratings are used on days when you need to take action. On days of minimal risk, 'No Rating' will be issued.

Pile Burn Permits

In recent months we have seen significantly drier weather leading into this bushfire season. A large portion of the emergency call outs our brigade has attended have been resulted from pile burns that have burned out of control.

As of September 30th (the October Long Weekend) all pile burns will require a Burn Permit. More information about Burn Permits can be found here: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/know-your-risk/Bush-fire-hazards-and-your-property/fire-permits

To obtain a permit, call Hawkesbury Fire Control on 02 4560 6400.

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 02 4560 6400.

CULINARY CORNER

Here are some Halloween recipes to try.

SPIDER DIP

Ingredients:

Spider

- 500g pizza dough balls
- 500 grams pizza dough balls
- 1 free range egg, lightly beaten
- free range egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup poppy seeds
- 1 quarters cup poppy seeds
- 1 black olive, halved, sliced
- black olive, halved, sliced
- 200g green beans, trimmed
- 200 grams green beans, trimmed
- medium carrots, cut into sticks
- cucumbers, cut into sticks

Bloody Tomato Salsa Dip

- 1/4 red onion, finely diced
- 1 quarters red onion, finely diced
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 clove garlic
- 400g no added salt diced tomatoes, strained
- 400 grams no added salt diced tomatoes, strained

Method:

Step 1 of 5

Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan-forced. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

Step 2 of 5

Use 1 dough ball to create the spider's body on tray. Use remaining dough ball to make 1 golf ball-sized head, then roll out 16 x 5mm-thick legs with remaining dough. Attach head and 8 legs to the body by pinching dough together. Arrange remaining legs on second tray.

Step 3 of 5

Cover trays with a clean tea towel, then place in a warm place to prove for 45 minutes or until almost doubled in size. Brush with egg, sprinkle with poppy seeds, then bake for 20 minutes or until golden. Remove from oven and cool completely. Cut a 10cm circle from the top of the spider's body, ensuring not to cut all the way through. Remove bread from centre of body and reserve.

Step 4 of 5

Meanwhile, to make the bloody tomato salsa dip, process all the ingredients in a food processor until finely chopped. Season with pepper.

Step 5 of 5

Pour dip into spider's body. Place olive slices on head for eyes and serve with legs, vegetables and reserved bread.

Christine Johns











CHILDREN'S PAGE

HALLOWEEN JOIN THE NUMBERS



HALLOWEEN JOKES

Why did the zombie skip school? He felt rotten.

What kind of tests do vampires give their students? Blood tests.

What do you give a vampire when he's sick? Coffin drops

Why are ghosts bad liars?
Because you see right through them.

What's a witch's favourite subject in school? Spelling.



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 2023-24 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.

My Tank Water Made Me Sick!

By Liz

Just a reminder to get your water tanks cleaned out every 2 to 3 years. For the past 3 months I have been unable to work due to illness, after numerous visits to hospital and doctors, no one could diagnose the problem. My sons found the issue - my tank water!

I phoned Troy from Pristine Water Systems who, upon hearing of my illnesses, immediately drove, out of his way, to my house and inspected my tank. It was severely contaminated with dead rats etc. It has now been cleaned and a new filter system installed. I'm now healthy again! I highly recommend this company,

(Pristine Water Systems, Mobile 0427 815 125, See advertisement on back page).

5 Tips for Keeping Your Water Clean and Healthy (Source: Adapted from NSW Private Water Supply Guidelines, NSW Health, February, 2016, p. 9. https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water /Publications/private-water-supply-guidelines.pdf):

- 1. Keep your gutters and roof clean;
- 2. Remove any overhanging trees and shrubs;
- 3. Fit a Whole of House or Under-Sink Filter System:
- 4. Inspect and clean insect & overflow screens;
- 5. Have your tank professionally cleaned and sanitised.

Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:

"Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."

Wife texts back 10 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now!"



BOWEN BUSINESS







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