The Bowen Mountain Association Inc. **NEWSLETTER**

Summer

No. 156

December, 2023



Image by Mark Abell, 2023

Features:

Halloween 2023 RFS Report Christmas in the Park 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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.

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Thank you to all those who have assisted in proofreading.

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> Editor 0419 167 088 Advertising Bill Kerr - 0409 989 810

Email address for lodgement of newsletter contributions: alisonhine82@gmail.com

> Newsletter Mailing address: **BMA Newsletter Committee** C/o PO Box 3141, Grose Vale, NSW 2753

Website: www.bowenmountain.org.au

facebook.com search for 'Bowen Mountain'

COVER: Australian Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia* grandiflora). Read about Christmas Bells on Page 7. (Image by Mark Abell, 2023.

https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/dividing-somechristmas-bells/)

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

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

10 - family - singleBendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Account No.: 1182 44003

Account name: BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION INC.









Welcome to the Summer Newsletter and Holiday greetings to all our readers. Appropriately the front cover features NSW Christmas bells, which adorn the surrounding bush at this time of year. Interesting information about Christmas bells can be found on Page 7.

Timely information regarding the Summer Fire season is a must read in the Fire Report. This report includes more local RFS brigade activity to give it a more personal experience. Once again the resilience, support and care of the Bowen Mountain community for its community has been an inspirational feature of 2023 and has been evident in people's willingness to help others in the community and make Bowen Mountain a unique and enjoyable place to live. Community spirit was evident in the enthusiastic return of the Halloween Festival which had been put on hold for three years due to COVID. Read about the creative and entertaining 2023 Halloween in the report 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 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 2024.

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 2023

One of the main aims of the Bowen Mountain Association (BMA) is to improve the quality of life of Bowen Mountain residents and its community. Throughout October to December the Bowen Mountain Association has been kept busy pursuing this aim.

Towards the end of October, on behalf of the Bowen Mountain Association, the President attended the Community Organisations Breakfast organised by Peppercorn Services Inc. There were informative presentations and slideshows from NSW Council of Social Service, NSW Reconstruction Authority, NSW SES and Department of Communities and Justice. The main aim of this workshop was to identify how these organisations could assist residents in the face of disasters such as bushfires, floods, drought and pandemics. Relevant information for Bowen Mountain residents will be published in future newsletters.

The President and Secretary in early November participated in an in-depth interview with Peppercorn Services Inc. as part of the Community Sector Disaster Capability project. For more information on this project, please visit www.ncoss.org.au/disaster-capability/

Some sample questions from this interview included:

- What disasters has your organisation experienced or seen in the Hawkesbury?
- What impact did these disasters have upon your organisation and community?
- What activities did your organisation undertake in preparation for future emergencies or in recent disasters and recovery?
- What were the barriers to your organisation in carrying out disaster response, recovery or readiness work?

We thank Peppercorn Services Inc for their generous donation to the Bowen Mountain Association.

As a result of this interview, the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding arranged a Disaster Preparation for Seniors morning tea in Bowen Mountain Park Hall on 27 November. This was attended by around 40 Bowen Mountain residents. A variety of support agencies talked about what options and help are available to assist with lawns, gardens, tree pruning, gutter cleaning, Peppercorn P-CEP – being prepared for an emergency, Habitat for Humanity talking about free help that is available for those over 65 and vulnerable people. Finally, Hawkesbury City Council – Prepared Informed and Ready – talked about Council's new dashboard and emergency apps.

Also, in December, the President and Secretary will attend the Volunteers Conference titled "Boots on the Ground" to discuss Emergency preparedness. Relevant information from the Seniors Bushfire Preparation and Volunteers Conference will be communicated in subsequent Newsletters.

We enthusiastically welcomed back the Bowen Mountain Halloween Festival in October, which due to COVID had been frozen for three years. Bowen Mountain Park was alive with witches, ghouls, ghosts and a variety of creative characters. Sizzling sausage sandwiches, creatively decorated cupcakes, and cordial filled alien IV fluid bags added to the festivities and provided a most enjoyable, fun filled night for all. Many thanks to the BMA Halloween Committee Sarah, Lance, Karl, Evette, Christine and Bill and all those willing helpers on the

night, who worked tirelessly and creatively to bring this ever-popular event once more to the Mountain. Read about the Halloween Festival further on in the Newsletter.

Once again, as part of our BMA Community Care Martha and Liz are providing Christmas gift packs to residents to wish them a Merry Christmas 2023.

The BMA is planning a variety of entertaining activities for 2024, 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 2024. We would like to thank the Bowen Mountain Management Committee and the subcommittees for all their tireless work throughout 2023 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 2024 filled with peace, happiness, good health and success.

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



Brought to you by the Bowen Mountain Park Management Committee



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH 3PM TO 7PM BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK

Bring your loved ones, swimmers and picnic blankets and celebrate on our beautiful mountain.



BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION 2024

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

REPEAT ITEMS: BMA COMMITTEE MEETING: Second Monday of every month commencing in February 2024. Commencing 7.30 pm In Bowen Mountain Park Hall.

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
FEBRUARY	Thursday 1st	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 12 th	BMA MEETING – Venue TBA
MARCH	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 17 th	BMA Dinner – St. Patrick's Day- TBA
	Friday 29th	BMPMC Easter Egg Hunt – 10.00 am
APRIL	Thursday 4th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
MAY	Monday 13 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JUNE	Thursday 6 th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 10 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
JULY	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Saturday 13 th	BMPMC – Trivia Night 7pm
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
AUGUST	Thursday 1st	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 12 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
CEDTEMBED	Sunday 25 th	BMA AGM
SEPTEMBER	Monday 9 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
OCTOBER	Thursday 3 rd	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Saturday 12 th	BMPMC – Spring Market 3-7pm
	Monday 14th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Thursday 31st	Halloween Happenings – Bowen Mountain Park
NOVEMBER	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Dinner
DECEMBER	Monday 9th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
		Christmas Party
	Saturday 14 th	Christmas in the Park

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

Christmas Bells

Christmas Bells known, as *Blandfordia grandiflora* is so named because it tends to flower around Christmas time (November to March). Although, occasionally it can flower at other times of the year.

The flowers, which are featured on the front cover of this Newsletter, are bell-shaped with yellow tips, and can range from being red to entirely yellow in colour. The flowers reach above the foliage on stalks that are usually about 80cm high. The leaves are about 70cm long and strap-like. Christmas Bells are a small plant of the Lily family of which there are several varieties.

Christmas Bells grow wild in the sandstone country of New South Wales between the Hawkesbury River and Fraser Island in Queensland and inland as far as Glen Innes.

Blandfordia grandiflora was first described in 1810 by Robert Brown, who collected specimens near the Hunter River. Christmas Bells were named after the Marquis of Blandford by English botanist J.E. Smith in 1804. Grandiflora means 'large flower' in Latin.

ABC News reported on December 29, 2022, "striking Christmas bell wildflowers are again blooming prolifically in a Mid North New South Wales nature reserve this summer. Christmas bells became a symbol of recovery and hope after the region was razed by bushfires in late 2019 as the delicate flowers bloomed from the burnt earth."

References:

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) (2013) *Blandfordia grandiflora*. Available at http://anpsa.org.au/b-gra.html

Australian National Herbarium - https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp3/blandfordia-nobilis.html

ABC News - https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-29/port-macquarie-christmas-bell-flowers-create-striking-display/101813212





Bowen Mountain Association Newsletter - December, 2023

2023 BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL



It was such a great feeling to see the Bowen Mountain Halloween Festival, presented by the Bowen Mountain Association, back in full swing this year after being put on the back burner for three years due to COVID. On Tuesday 31st October the Bowen Mountain Park was alive with witches, ghouls, ghosts and every other imaginable scary, and some not so scary, characters. We were all treated to a feed of sizzling sausage sandwiches, creatively decorated cupcakes, and if you dared, you could slurp on a cordial-filled alien IV fluid bag.

There were things to see in the park at every turn. An evil nun and the grim reaper graced our graveyard and a giant pumpkin man sat in wait by the hall. The blood-curdling scream of a ghoul could be heard as it flew down the park hill, and the eerie little voice from the tank beckoned for little friends to come and play.

Children were entertained with eyeball and spoon races, beastly bull rush and drumming sessions in the kiosk. The always entertaining Fursuiters were out and about spreading their animal cheer, and the Grim Reaper himself made a special appearance to hand out lollies to his faithful followers. The park was pumping with spooky sounds and songs from our resident DJ, and those that hung around, the laser light disco at dusk.

We would like to thank our major sponsors: Bendigo Bank of North Richmond and Richmond, Cindy Cash – Ray White of North Richmond, Mypower Foundations of Mt. Riverview, the Bowen Mountain Association, and one generous anonymous donor. Cindy Cash and the team at Ray White North Richmond once again kindly donated the wonderful prizes for our best-decorated house and best-dressed competition winners. Without the support from local businesses our festival could not go ahead.

A fun night was had by all, and it was great to see families catching up with each other, enjoying our beautiful park and spreading the community spirit that Bowen Mountain is known for.

The Bowen Mountain Halloween Festival is organised by the Bowen Mountain Association and a small group of dedicated Bowen Mountain residents. As the saying goes "many hands make light work", many volunteers make for a bigger and better Halloween Festival! If you would like to get involved for next year, please message the Bowen Mountain NSW Facebook page. Details are on the inside front cover of this Newsletter.

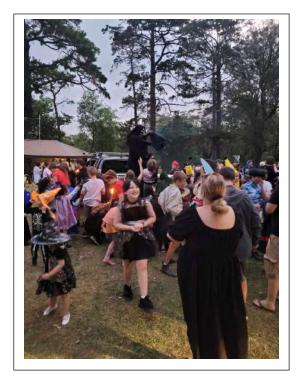




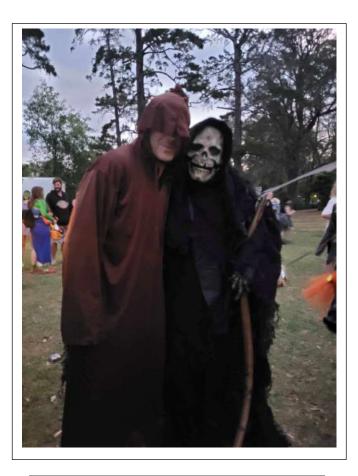
















RFS FIRE REPORT – Summer 2023-24

Summer is upon us! So far, this season has seen a mixed bag of drier weather patterns. We've been fortunate up to this point in the Hawkesbury to have experienced relatively low fire activity. At Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) we are always hoping for the best, but staying vigilant, nonetheless.

Recent fire activity in Northern NSW and Southeast Queensland has been reminiscent of our own experience during the 2019 Black Summer Fires. A number of brigade members from the Hawkesbury have volunteered to support the fire-fighting activities in this region. Our thoughts are with those affected.

Brigade Activities

Get Ready Weekend



Thank you to everyone who came along to chat to our Team on 16th September. It was a great turn out and it was good to meet some of the new residents in our community.

If you couldn't make it but still would like to have a chat, or if you need help to get your Fire Plan in place, send an email to captain@gvrfb.com and one of our Team will be in contact with you.

Group Training

Our monthly training night on 21st September saw the Team taking part in a Motor Vehicle Accident. A crash test dummy and smoke machine were used for effects, to make the training appear a little more realistic and for the team to practice their skills.





On 21st October, Grose Vale RFS hosted a joint training exercise with NSW RFS - Wilberforce Brigade and Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade.

This training consisted of a bushfire scenario, navigation and hydraulic exercise. Crews worked together to build and refresh their skills for the upcoming season.

Training sessions like this are vital in helping our brigades work together as a team. We'd like to thank our fantastic Training Team for all their hard work in putting this together.





Pile Burn Permits

As a reminder, as of September 30th, all pile burns now 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.

Our community has done a great job of adhering to Total Fire Ban Orders- thank you!

For up-to-date information on Fire Ban Orders, please see our Facebook page.

Santa on the Mountain!

Grose Vale Brigade is proud to once again host Santa for his annual tour of Bowen Mountain! This year Santa will be visiting on Saturday afternoon, 16th of September. Listen for the sleigh bells and sirens, but if you miss him, he will finish the tour with a visit to the park for photos with the young and young at heart!



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.

Please Donate

To do the work of rural firefighting, and keep all these wonderful community events going, we need your support. You can donate by using the QR code below. We value your time and support!



CULINARY CORNER



Here are some Festive Treats to enjoy over the Holiday Season

CHRISTMAS COCONUT ICE SNOWBALLS

Ingredients

2 cup icing sugar

4 cup (360g) desiccated coconut, plus 1/2 cup extra.

395 gram can sweetened condensed milk

3 drops pink food colouring



Method

- 1. Sift icing sugar into a large bowl. Add coconut and condensed milk; stir until well combined. Transfer half the mixture to a separate bowl. Add food colouring to one portion; mix until well combined.
- 2. Roll teaspoons of each mixture, separately, into balls. Place on a baking-paper-lined baking tray. Roll in extra coconut. Chill for 1 hour or until firm.

Makes 40 and takes about 15 minutes, this is a great Christmas recipe for the kids to make and you can change up the colours.

Christine Johns



PORT and PUDDING ICECREAM

Serves 6-8 (Great for the leftover Christmas cake or pudding)

Ingredients

2 ½ cups crumbled cake or pudding ½ cup port 1 litre softened vanilla ice cream 200g cream cheese

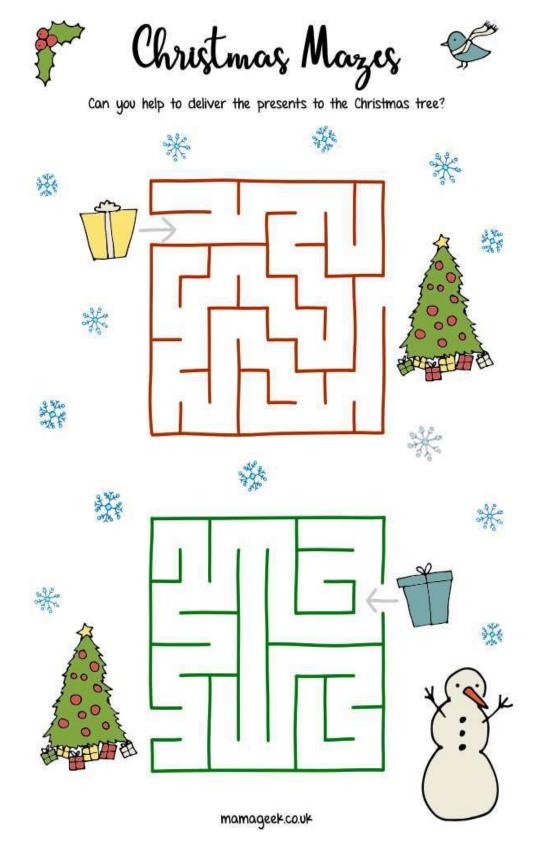


Method

Combine cake with port and mix well. Add ice cream and cream cheese. Pour into moulds and refreeze.

St. Matthew Close Kept Recipes, New Norfolk, Tas.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



COMMUNITY NOTICES

The BMA Community Care Committee 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)

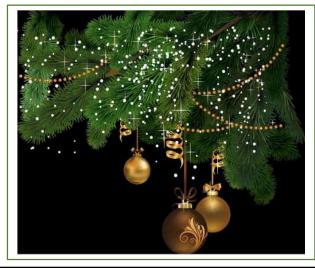
Click "Like"

You will find lots of up to the minute information from the Mountain.

Christmas Jokes:

- What did Santa say at the start of the race? Ready, Set, Ho, Ho, Ho!
- Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

 Because they always drop their needles.
- What kind of photos do elves take? Elf-ies!
- Why is a foot a good Christmas present? Because it makes a good stocking filler!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2022 GRADUATING STUDENTS!







YEAR 10 and YEAR 12.

We are very proud of your persistence, resilience, <u>initiative</u> 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

BOWEN BUSINESS









Community Bank North Richmond and Richmond

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