

The Bowen Mountain Association Inc.
NEWSLETTER

No. 162

Winter

June - August 2025

BOWEN
MOUNTAIN

50th Anniversary

ASSOCIATION



“Bowen Mountain Road, Early 1900’s”

Features:

BMA Annual General Meeting Invitation

Bowen Mountain Bird Walk Invitation

Winter Fire Report

Bowen Mountain Association History – Part 3

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 Unacknowledged articles will not be published.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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[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) search for 'Bowen Mountain'

COVER: "Bowen Mountain Road in the Early 1900's"
Photo is from the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society's Image Archive.

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Editor's Letter



Welcome to the Winter Newsletter, which features a photo of Bowen Mountain Road in the early 1900's. from the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society's Image Archive. It is relevant to Part 3 of the history of the Bowen Mountain Association further on in this newsletter, Important information regarding the Winter Fire season is a must read in the Fire Report. It is with sadness that we farewell Pete McCann our Captain and Engagement officer from Grose Vale Brigade who has been capably writing the Fire report over the last year. Pete is retiring from this position and moving westward. On behalf of the Bowen Mountain Association and the community we thank Pete for his informative Fire reports. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the incoming Captain and new Engagement Officer Jake Donaldson and look forward to working with him.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Geoff Moorcroft and Greg Baldock much loved, respected and admired Bowen Mountain residents who contributed significantly to the Bowen Mountain community. Both Geoff and Greg will be sadly missed.

Susan Templeman, MP Federal Member for Macquarie will be the guest speaker at the Bowen Mountain Association Annual General Meeting on August 24th, 2025, in the Park Hall. This talk will be followed by a delicious homemade afternoon tea. Come and join us at the AGM!

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 peaceful, healthy and successful 2025.

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

Sarah Morgan, Karl O'Rourke, Lara Rupac

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 2753

PRESIDENT and SECRETARY'S REPORT WINTER 2025



Welcome to the BMA's Winter Newsletter! It's been an unusually cold winter on the mountain this year as events and activities move inside and wood smoke fills the air.

Recently, our local RFS Grose Vale Bush Fire Brigade have seen a number of changes within the Executive Team. Their Captain, Peter McCann, has moved out west for work. We wish to thank Peter for his informative and comprehensive Bush Fire brigade articles in our Newsletter over the last year. We have been most appreciative of his valued input.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jake Donaldson to the role of Captain and Community Engagement Officer and look forward to working collaboratively with him.

The Bowen Mountain Association Annual General Meeting on August 24th, 2025, will have as its theme **'Hawkesbury Happenings – an Update' from Susan Templeman-MP Federal Member for Macquarie and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for the Arts.**

A delicious homemade afternoon tea will follow this talk. Come and join us at the AGM! Details are further on in this Newsletter.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Geoff Moorcroft, a much loved and admired Bowen Mountain resident who was a Bowen Mountain Association President for many years. Geoff contributed significantly to the Bowen Mountain Association and Bowen Mountain community over the years. He could often be seen turning the sausages and onions on the barbie at BMA events. Geoff was a lovely, quiet and gentle man who was always positive, inspiring, supportive and caring. He will be sadly missed.

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of Greg Baldock, a very special guy who lived on Bowen Mountain and was well loved. Greg was a caring and thoughtful neighbour who would do anything for you. A caring friend and good listener who will be sadly missed.

All families are invited to attend a Bowen Mountain Bird Walk to observe birds in their natural habitat on Bowen Mountain. Eric Finley and Lance Mitchell will lead the walk. Both Lance and Eric are local residents with a life-long interest in wildlife, particularly birds. Eric's interest has taken him all over the world. He has been bird watching in the Hawkesbury since the 1980s, recording over 250 species in the Hawkesbury alone. Lance knows the Bowen Mountain bush trails "like the back of his hand." He is a keen bushwalker and photographer discovering new trails around Bowen Mountain and he is one of the authors of the Bowen Mountain bushwalk book. Details of this bushwalk are further on in this Newsletter.

We wish you all the best for the Winter season. Stay safe and warm.

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



BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION 2025 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.

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

DATE		ITEM
AUGUST	Thursday 7 th	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 11 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Sunday 24 th	BMA AGM – 50 th Anniversary
	Sunday 31 st	Bowen Mountain Bird Walk & Morning Tea – Park
SEPTEMBER	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Saturday 20 th	BMPMC – Spring Market – “Get Ready” Day.
OCTOBER	Thursday 2 nd	BMPMC Meeting – 7.30 pm
	Monday 13 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date TBA	50th Anniversary Family Picnic and Celebration. Bowen Mountain Park
NOVEMBER	Monday 10 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall
	Date and Venue TBC	BMA Progressive Dinner
		Teddy Bears Picnic – Bowen Mountain Park
DECEMBER	Monday 8 th	BMA MEETING – Bowen Mountain Park Hall Christmas Party
	Sunday 14 th	BMPMC - Christmas in the Park
	Tuesday 23 rd	Christmas Gingerbread House Workshop

Winter Jokes

When does winter begin?

- When autumn leaves.

What fish do you catch in the winter?

- Frozen fish sticks.

What did the icy road say to the truck?

- Want to go for a spin?

Why do birds fly north for the winter?

- It’s too far to walk.

What bites but doesn’t have teeth?

- Frost.

What happens when you catch a cold in the winter?

- You get cabin fever.



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD IN BOWEN MOUNTAIN PARK HALL
SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST, 2025
COMMENCING AT 2PM



"HAWKESBURY HAPPENINGS - AN UPDATE"
Susan Templeman-MP Federal Member for Macquarie
Prime Minister's Special Envoy for the Arts

COME JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS HOMEMADE
AFTERNOON TEA

IF YOU WISH TO NOMINATE FOR A POSITION ON THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONTACT SECRETARY
ALISON KERR - 0419 167 088

BOWEN MOUNTAIN BIRD WALK



Photo: Eastern Yellow
Robin by Eric Finley

Families and friends are warmly invited to join us on an inspiring and informative Bird Walk to observe birds in their natural habitat on one of the many picturesque Bowen Mountain bush trails.

Eric Finley and Lance Mitchell will lead the walk. Both Lance and Eric are local residents with a life-long interest in wildlife, particularly birds. Eric has been bird watching in the Hawkesbury since the 1980s, recording over 250 species in the Hawkesbury alone. Lance knows the Bowen Mountain bush trails "like the back of his hand." He is a keen bushwalker and photographer.

DATE: Sunday 31st August 2025

TIME: 8.00 am start

WHERE: Meet at the north end of Lieutenant Bowen Road at the Buralow (Observatory) Fire trail gate.

WHAT TO BRING: good pair of walking shoes, water bottle, hat, binoculars (optional but helpful).

Note: A reasonable level of fitness- enough to walk 2 or 3 kms on bush trails is recommended.

After the walk enjoy a Q & A session in the Park Hall with morning tea provided.

GROSE VALE RFS FIRE COMMUNITY UPDATE

Winter 2025

By Jake Donaldson, Brigade Captain

As we approach another fire season, the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade has been actively preparing to ensure we are ready to protect our local community.

New Firefighting Equipment

In April, one of our two stations received a brand-new fire truck, fitted with breathing apparatus capabilities. This new equipment allows our firefighters to safely enter and operate in inhospitable environments—such as structure fires or areas with heavy smoke and toxic gases—significantly improving our emergency response capability.

Recent & Upcoming Hazard Reductions

In September last year, our brigade alongside NPWS successfully completed the 245-hectare Woods Creek hazard reduction burn. These proactive operations are essential to managing fuel loads and reducing the intensity and spread of future bushfires.

Looking ahead, we are working closely with our colleagues at NPWS to plan other hazard reductions in our local area, weather permitting.

Significant Vegetation Growth

Ongoing rain over the past year has led to dense vegetation growth across Grose Vale and Bowen Mountain. This increased fuel load poses a higher bushfire risk, making preparation more important than ever. We urge all residents to review their Bush Fire Survival Plan now—before the season starts.

The Bush Fire Danger Period for the Hawkesbury officially begins on 1 October 2025 and will continue until 31 March 2026, unless advised otherwise. Hazard reductions will continue throughout this period where conditions allow.

NSW RFS Get Ready Weekend

The NSW Rural Fire Service Get Ready Weekend will be held on September 20th and 21st. Grose Vale brigade will be holding their get ready weekend event on the 20th of September alongside the Bowen Mountain Spring Fair at Bowen Mountain Park.

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

Members from Grose Vale Brigade can provide you with advice about preparing your home and developing a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

Pile Burn Reminders

If you are planning to burn on your Hawkesbury Council property, it is a legislative requirement to provide a minimum of 24 hours notice to:

- Your local Fire Authorities (NSW Rural Fire Service or Fire & Rescue NSW)
- Hawkesbury City Council
- All adjoining landowners (including across the road or waterway)

Notifying us of your planned burn can help reduce unnecessary emergency callouts.

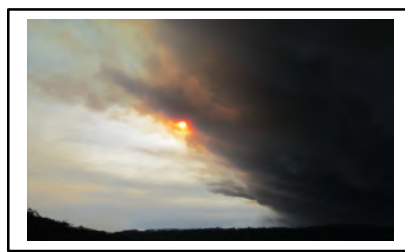
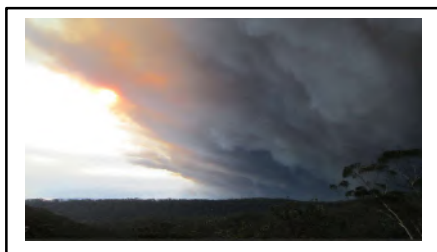
Are you ready to make a difference to your community? Become a NSW RFS volunteer.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the world's largest volunteer fire service, made up of more than 70,000 dedicated volunteers right across NSW. NSW RFS volunteers are ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round, attending a range of incidents from bush and grass fires to house and structure fires, road accidents and assisting at other events like floods, storms and searches.

Sign up online at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/join-the-nsw-rfs> or contact us on Facebook.

Stay safe, stay prepared.

Jake Donaldson
Captain, Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade



Gosper's Mountain
Fire approaching
Bowen Mountain.
Photos by Liz
Rowan, 2019.

Vale Geoff Moorcroft
5/3/1935 - 6/5/2025



Family and friends were saddened by Geoff's recent death. He was a well-known member of our community for over 50 years before retiring with Syl to be with family at Jervis Bay.

Geoff spent the early years of his life at Huntley's Point in Sydney and at Springwood where he became an avid bushwalker. After marrying Syl, who grew up at Bondi, they lived for a short time at Hornsby where Fiona, Heather and Andy were born. The family moved to a small farm on Bowen Mountain Road, Grose Vale where they settled in to the "good life" as Geoff called it. He opened a printery in an old packing shed on the farm and became very involved in the communities of Grose Vale and Bowen Mountain. For many years, Geoff printed the BMA Newsletter while Syl worked on the committee and as editor.

Many locals came together recently to celebrate Geoff's long and wonderful life at a "gathering", as he requested, in Bowen Mountain Park - with lots of talk, wine and singing. Geoff loved music and social gatherings. He was a kind and generous man, and we all miss him but know that his spirit will always be with us.

HOW and WHY THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED

Part 3

This is an article written by John Leahy, a long-time resident of Bowen Mountain and lifetime BMA member documenting the history of the formation of the BMA. This is Part 3 of a series of articles, which will be published in subsequent Newsletters on the history of the BMA. We will be featuring these articles as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Part 2 explained how Hawkesbury Council gradually realised that the BMA had very sound and legitimate grounds for complaint regarding land subdivision and rates. Members of the Bowen Mountain Association worked with Colo Council in a joint planning sub-committee in 1975 to produce mutually co-operative recommendations for the redevelopment of Bowen Mountain. The outcome of this mutual co-operation between Council and the BMA is discussed in Part 3 below.

“In 1960, when developers, Milton and Alfred Grant Pty Ltd who owned Kurrawen Stud subdivided the Bowen Mountain Estate, by some incredible means, 650 residential blocks were allowed to be subdivided. The majority were approximately 1/8 acre. The centre section, now called Belvedere was left undeveloped at this time and was subsequently used as grazing property and orchards.



Photo of Bowen Mountain orchards in the 1950's which is now called Belvedere.

Photo courtesy of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society's Image Archive

The joint planning sub-committee members were John McSullea, Shire clerk. Gary McCully, Dept. Shire Engineer and members of the Bowen Mountain Association Executive. In 1975 this sub-committee recommended a building code, (*Report on Redevelopment of Bowen Mt, Colo Shire, 1975.*) which would maintain the amenity of the area by amalgamation of smaller blocks, allowing a maximum clearing of 300 m² on any block, and the provision of water storage tanks of 5,000 litres minimum. It also rejected the water and sewerage proposals of the feasibility study and recommended on-site disposal in the southern area of Bowen Mountain and package treatment plants for smaller blocks in the northern sector.

An independent Commissioner, W.A.C. Dale, reviewed the objections to IDO3, together with the sub-committee planning report and recommended that houses be built with 20,000 litre water tanks and on-site disposal of effluent on blocks larger than 4,000 sq. metres or pump out on smaller blocks (Colo Council Business Papers, 3/907-3). Council endorsed the recommendation, which went to the State planning Authority where the law would be changed. Most of the Commissioner's recommendations endorsed the report of the subcommittee except that relating to the release of land of 4,000 m². Most of the blocks on Bowen Mountain were smaller than 4,000 m². There was no detailed recommendation for the redevelopment into larger blocks.

The Bowen Mountain Association was *most unhappy* with the Commissioner's recommendations and the apparent contradictory behaviour of the Council, as it appeared to negate the work of the BMA in participating in the planning committee (Abnett, Robert B, *The Bowen Mt. Estate*, August 1976). Part of the explanation was later traced to lack of communication within Council and confusion in converting imperial to metric measurement. At the BMA's AGM in 1976 members reluctantly decided to abandon the appeal against the local rates as they realised that most of the money could not be reclaimed as it had been spent on the feasibility study. Solicitors had recommended that negotiations would be preferable to continuing legal action (*Letter* – Solicitor George P. Rhodes & Co., 5th January, 1976.) Another consideration was that “*continued court action would to some extent damage the reasonable working relationship which had been established with the Council*” (BMA circular 3rd Dec. 1976.)

The 1976 BMA AGM was also notable for the election of Milton Grant to the BMA executive. Milton Grant was the original developer of Bowen Mountain who then owned Kurrawen Stud. It had been decided to expand the executive to seven members to give non-resident landowners' a say in the running of the Association. The BMA agreed that at least four positive outcomes had resulted from the mutually co-operative recommendations between Council and the BMA subcommittee for the redevelopment of Bowen Mountain. These were:

- 1) part of the original \$50 per ratepayer was eventually used to tar-seal major sections of Bowen Mountain roads.
- 2) The struggle against rates and redevelopment of Bowen Mountain created a strong bond of community spirit, which has influenced those who came after.
- 3) The professional and constructive proposals put forward to Council developed a climate of mutual respect and cooperation, which extends to the present day.
- 4) The principles and conditions established in formulation ID03 were to positively affect future subdivisions on Bowen Mountain.

Belvedere – the Redevelopment of the Stud – Kurrawen Pty Ltd – Director – Milton Grant.

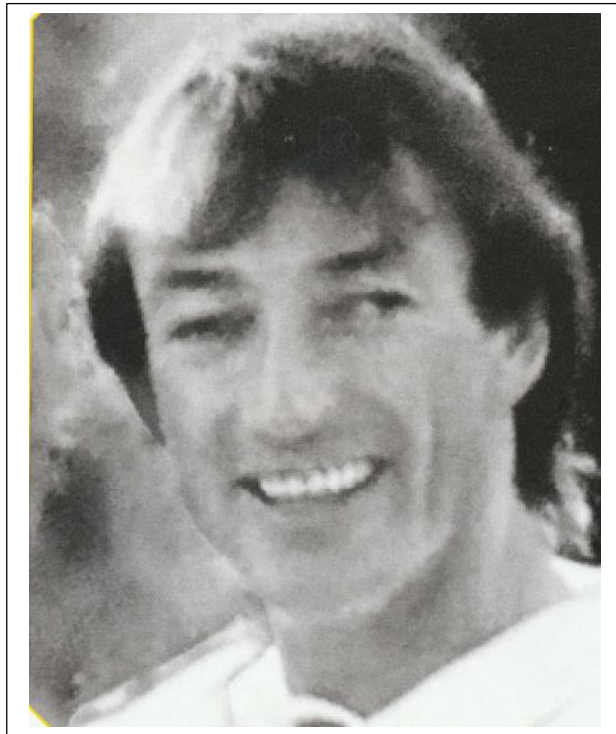
The original subdivision of Bowen Mountain included the central area, known as “The Park” which was to be dedicated as recreation area. Unfortunately, Colo Council never secured the deeds, and they remained the property of “Bowen Mountain Park Development Pty. Ltd, of which Milton Grant was a director. Towards the end of 1975, the two companies submitted to Colo Council a “proposal for eventual future development of land owned on Bowen Mountain, Shire of Colo”. The plan showed the Stud and half of The Park subdivided into 65 building blocks. within a minimum area of 1,000 m². Half of the Park was to be subdivided into 5 building blocks and the other half into 2 larger blocks: one designated “proposed Community Centre” and the other “Shop Site, Playground and Parking”.”. How the Bowen Mountain Association influenced the Belvedere subdivision, and the year developers attempted to take control of the Association will be revealed in the next newsletter.

John Leahy (Edited for publication by the BMA Newsletter Editor)

🎵 VALE GREG BALDOCK

5/11/1963 - 11/5/2025 🎵

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Greg Baldock, a very special guy who was a well-loved, respected and admired Bowen Mountain resident for many years. Greg was a caring and thoughtful neighbour who would do anything for you. He was an enthusiastic and accomplished guitarist who loved to party with the neighbours. One of Greg's favourite songs was "Forever Young" by Bob Dylan, which was played at his Celebration of Life. Greg married his childhood sweetheart Fi in Bowen Mountain Park in a delightful ceremony. Greg was the father of two sons, Joe and Sam whom he was intensely proud of and encouraged them in all their activities and interests. He was a caring friend and good listener who will be sadly missed.



CULINARY CORNER



PUMPKIN SOUP – A WINTER WARMER - *Vegan friendly*

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large brown onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 kg pumpkin (butternut or Kent), peeled & cut into 3 cm cubes
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 medium potato, peeled & chopped
- 1 litre (4 cups) vegetable stock
- 1 cup (250 ml) coconut milk (plus extra for drizzling)
- ½ tsp ground cumin (optional, for warmth)
- Salt & pepper, to taste
- Fresh parsley or coriander, for garnish

Method

1. **Sauté aromatics:** Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add onion and garlic, cooking until softened (about 3 mins).
2. **Add vegetables:** Stir in pumpkin, carrots, and potato. Cook for 5 mins, stirring occasionally.
3. **Simmer:** Pour in vegetable stock and add cumin if using. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 20 mins or until vegetables are tender.
4. **Blend:** Remove from heat. Using a stick blender, blend until smooth.
5. **Finish:** Stir in coconut milk, season with salt and pepper, and reheat gently.
6. **Serve:** Ladle into bowls, drizzle with extra coconut milk, and sprinkle with parsley or coriander.

Christine Johns

BOB & BILL'S BEST BBQ SAUCE - All measures are approximations

3 heaped dessert spoons brown sugar
1 tbsp mixed or Italian herbs
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
3 tbsp tomato sauce
5-10 'squirts' Tabasco sauce

Mix ingredients in a small bowl so that the brown sugar dissolves. Adjust mixture to taste by adding more of desired ingredient(s). Enjoy on or beside any barbequed meal. This sauce goes great with red meat, chicken and vegetables. *Bill Kerr.*

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Winter Weather

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them both
horizontally and
vertically.

K	K	T	U	M	Z	U	W	X	R	H	X	F	P	V	C	H
S	E	I	T	F	S	U	B	Z	E	R	O	M	A	F	O	G
F	R	O	S	T	C	A	M	C	R	H	A	I	L	L	L	D
U	T	U	F	L	R	O	O	L	G	A	L	E	A	U	D	R
W	Q	J	X	E	I	H	J	O	T	Q	R	A	A	R	S	B
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X	N	N	I	P	P	Y	A	D	S	G	U	I	K	Y	A	W
B	O	S	L	U	S	H	Q	Y	O	P	I	F	C	S	P	I
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U	D	P	S	L	M	J	O	I	A	H	A	E	L	E	L	D
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Y	H	I	F	Y	V	P	M	Q	X	N	N	G	R	I	K	L
M	G	C	I	S	T	O	R	M	C	O	L	D	D	X	U	L
J	T	Y	W	R	V	V	T	Y	A	X	Q	B	I	J	W	G

BLIZZARD

FOG

RAIN

BLUSTERY

FREEZING

SLEET

BRISK

FROST

SLUSH

CLOUDY

GALE

SNOWDRIFT

COLD

HAIL

SNOWFLAKE

COLD SNAP

ICICLES

STORM

CRISP

ICY

SUBZERO

FLURRY

NIPPY

WIND CHILL

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Community Care assists residents of our community in need of assistance with transport to medical appointments, local social events, or general information regarding Hawkesbury Community Services.

Community Care organises social morning teas and luncheons for residents in the Bowen Mountain Hall. Transport is available if needed. Please check the newsletter and website for social events.
Phone: Liz Rowan 4572 2416

CRAGO OBSERVATORY

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



JOIN THE BOWEN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION!

It is that time of year to join/ renew your membership of the Bowen Mountain Association Inc (BMA) for the 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.



I wanted to go jogging, but it looks like rain



Why did Dad stop using his loyalty card to scrape ice from his windshield?

- He only got 10% off.

What's an ig?

- A snow house without a loo!



BOWEN BUSINESS



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