

NEXT BMCAI Quarterly Meeting

NOVEMBER 1

*This meeting will
start at 2pm*



MUSIC ON THE BUNYAS

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THE DANDABAH UPGRADE

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Quarterly Meeting Notes

AUGUST 2

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BMCAI NEWSLETTER



The Latest Highlights

NAIDOC - Finally, the weather was fine enough for our planned activities at Boyne Bair Bush University to go ahead as planned. The day was well attended with the Smoking Ceremony, luncheon and craft activities being enjoyed by all. (Page 10)

Dandabah Upgrade - Despite the challenges of wet weather, the 'new look' Dandabah is making great progress. The Interpretive Hub, the wheelchair boardwalk, enhancements to the creek, and walkways are all taking form. (Page 14)

BMCAI Social Activities Successful - Over the past quarter, BMCAI has facilitated three social activities including NAIDOC and Music on the Porch and the BMCAI quarterly social gathering. The weather for NAIDOC was awesome, Music on the Porch was a bit more of a challenge. Our locals get-together for lunch and games at the Noacks' was enjoyed by all. (Pages 9 - 11)

The Community Meeting Place - Some good progress has been made with planning and approvals. Recently the Concept Plan, Wastewater Plan, Vehicle Manoeuvring Plan and Stormwater Management Plan have all been completed. Confirmation Notice from SBRC re our development application for Change of Use has been officially received and can take up to 6 months to facilitate.

Our Partners

Rural Fire Brigade

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Natural History Association

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SubCommittees

Social, Events & Fundraising

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Local Disaster Management

N/A

Dingo Management Community Education

LSFMG

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AUGUST 2 QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Grants Report - Carol Weekes

The BMCAI extends its deep appreciation to the following organisations for their generous support of the various community projects that our association delivers here on the Bunya Mountains.

WDRC Iolar Grants: \$7,100 for Be Safe Dingo Resources (allocated in 2024, to be expended in 2025).

Ergon Energy Q Community Grants: \$4,900 for a Satellite Phone in the Bunya Mountains Fire Shed for the Disaster Response Critical Incident Control Centre. Installed, waiting on final adjustments.

SBRC Community Grants: \$2,250 - the Fungi and Dingo Brochures. Completed.

Stanwell Corporation, NIAA, SBRC Indigenous Grants for NAIDOC week. Completed.

RES, Tarong West Wind Farm: : \$3,000 Sponsorship for the Bunya Mountains Play Music on the Porch.

Coopers Gap Wind Farm: Submission for sponsorship for the Christmas Carols Event - pending.

Cr Linda Little - SBRC

Draft Community Plan

SBRC sought input from BMCAI at the community meeting being held in Maidenwell Hall at 5pm on the 25th of August. (Carol Weekes attended the meeting on behalf of the Bunya Mountains Community.)

Lower Bunya Ave Footpath and Drainage

Work will commence after the completion of the Dandabah upgrade. The engineer's plan was tabled showing the footpath (in front of The Tavern), drainage and carparks including an accessible carpark. This project to be funded by the Works for Queensland Program.

Proposed EV Charging Station

This is a Yurika/SBRC joint project. The location of the charging station will now be in carparks near the entrance of the Bunyas Motel, beside The Tavern. (This idea was first initiated by locals in 2022.)

Bunya Mountains - Play Music on the Porch

Blackbutt/Benarkin Lions will provided the sausage sizzle for this event. (Linda was actively involved in the service on the day.)

Membership Renewal

Your membership and engagement in the activities of the BMCAI are threads that help to build our tapestry of community here in the Bunya Mountains!



QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

National Parks Report - Ranger Amie Wimberley, BM QPWS

(At the time of the meeting Amie was still under a probationary period. Amie has now been officially engaged as a Ranger here in the Bunya Mountains - congratulations Amie!)

Matt Cottrell sent his apology for not being in attendance.

Staff have been working on maintaining the fire trails in preparation for the upcoming fire season. Weed control has also been a priority.

Staff recently attended a firefighting refresher course in Millmerrin.

Staff have located two more scar trees in the national park. The Cultural Heritage Team are verifying their authenticity and recording the locations with the aim of protecting the trees.



BM Dingo Management Stakeholder Group

Membership includes SBRC and WDRC, QPWS, BPAC, residents, community invitees, including businesses and body corporate representatives.

Last Meeting: 23rd June 2025. Next Meeting 22nd Sept 2025.

Primary outcome of the meeting was to continue with the public education program.

If you would like to participate in these meeting email: bunyamcainc@gmail.com

If you want to report any dingo activity email: bunyadingolog@gmail.com

BM Dingo Public Education Report - Kay Joyce

There have been less sightings/reports of dingoes during the winter months as they are preparing for, and managing the arrival of new pups. They typically stay close to the den.

Be Safe Dingo Signage has been installed at several key tourist venues around the mountain, including the Bunyas Store.

The Bunya Mountains Dingo Brochures are available at local accomodation offices, some compendium's in rental properties, BPAC, Cedarvale, as well as Visitor Information Centres around the region.

The Children's 'Dingo' Activity Book is still in development.

Flora and fauna information (including dingoes) is being uploaded on the BMCAI website.



QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Guest Speaker - John Scriven DDSWQ Feral Pig Program Coordinator

John, along with five other coordinators are funded by the Qld State Government Feral Pest Management Program. His region covers ten local Government areas, 23% of Queensland, which includes; 58% of the grain fed cattle in Australia, 75% of the grains grown, and includes two of the largest livestock sale yards in Australia.

Feral pigs are a massive threat to biodiversity and biosecurity. Pigs are a key vector for the spread of Phytophthora (die-back) in Bunya Trees, threat to agri businesses (significant lamb and crop loss demonstrated), and the spread of diseases that can be passed on to humans, for example, Japanese Encephalitis; Leptospirosis; Brucellosis; Foot and Mouth Disease and African Swine Flu.

Feral Pig Breeding Facts:

Control is challenging as pigs are a smart animal and breed really quickly (eg like rats and rabbits).

20 pigs in 40 months will be 900 pigs.

If you eradicate 50% of 20 pigs, in 40 months there will still be 120 pigs

Need to eradicate 90% to crash the population. Currently aiming for 75% eradication.

50% of the feral pig population is under 1 year old, Life span of a pig is 6 years.

The home-range of feral pigs is relatively small. John provided data collected from the collared pig program conducted by WDRC and this demonstrated that the area they cover is about 5kms with daily trails approx. 1 to 2 kms, usually to go to a water and feed source routinely visited whilst supply is available. (Pigs don't sweat and must have access to a good water supply)

Best control mechanisms:

Exclusion fencing around water helps, but is not practical for Bunya Mts. Baiting is the best and cheapest way to control feral pigs – Hog On or 1080 baits (with Hog On being the most humane of the 2 toxins). Need to pre-feed pigs and get them accustomed to coming to feeding stations. WDRC and SBRC are supportive. Dangers (and fears) of baiting need to be understood and the restrictions of their use in residential areas. Specific feeder boxes can be used so cattle and other animals can't get to the baits- this is a safer way of distributing the baits. Hog on/ baits cannot be used within 150 metres of any dwelling. Pig hunters are ineffective, and the activity could be deemed to self-perpetuate the growth in pig numbers for recreational hunting. Trapping of large numbers of pigs is also effective if qualified staff are on hand to euthanise the pigs the next morning.



QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Guest Speaker Cont'd

Concern and need to act is urgent due to upcoming big Bunya Nut season.

So where to from here?

Needs a coordinated effort across all jurisdictions to suppress the pig numbers. WDRC is working on creating an emergency access to Little Mowbullan for emergency service access to the Mountain Bike Track - this will then give rural services staff access to Little Mowbullan, which is a feral pig hot spot.

Needs a local "champion" to push the issue forward. BMCAI MC will discuss. One option might be to add this issue to the BM Dingo Stakeholder Management Group meetings, as the same agencies are involved. The next meeting is 22nd September. If you are interested in being involved please email bunyamcainc@gmail.com

Just prior to John's talk, there was a local power outage, which wasn't restored until later that night. This impacted electronic presentations and given that the Soups etc for supper were already warm, the meeting was terminated early so that the supper could be served warm. Some of the regular reports were not presented.

General Business

Website - <https://bunyamcainc.org/>

Colin Boyd has very kindly offered to assist with maintaining the website. Colin will be focusing on the Events Page and the new BM Flora and Fauna page. Thank you Colin.

The website administrators are Brett Mason, Russell Sturgess. Carol Weekes and Colin Boyd. Any questions or comments please contact us.

Community Meeting Place Proposal Update

As per the comments on page one in this newsletter, significant preparatory progress has been made.

Fundraising and seeking grants are the next priorities. Any suggestions for significant ways to raise funds would be greatly appreciated.

Roads / Parks Maintenance Update

In terms of maintenance and funding, TMR has determined that the Bunya Mountains access roads are "low priority roads".

That said, Bunya Mountains Road is now included in routine slashing and spraying for weeds. Missing guideposts will be restored. Blind corner remedies weren't a priority. BMCAI helped to facilitate the need for 'not suitable for longer vehicles' signs to give motorists advanced notice. TMR concurred.

BUNYA MTS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

John Learmont - First Officer, Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade

Toilet Progress

We were advised on the 29th July that the construction plans had arrived at area office, the design of which still remains as originally approved. An engineer will be engaged to design the effluent disposal system, after which tenders will be called for its construction. (John said he was busting for it to be completed - sorry John couldn't help myself!)

Fire Shed and Trucks

Peter Weekes organised a working bee to clear out the area where the new toilets will be installed. Peter Marshall condensed the locker space and disposed of surplus equipment, making room to relocate equipment from the toilet area.

Eight fire-fighters have now driven the new truck and all agree that it is much more comfortable than the old one.

General Items

At the recent meeting the Brigade decided to again provide a Fire Truck to transport Santa to the community Christmas Carols.



Hazard reduction burn for BM RFB at Stewart River. Photo courtesy of P Taylor - Facebook.

Hazard reduction burn for BM RFB at historic Taromeo Station. Photo courtesy of P Taylor - Facebook.

Special thanks to all of the members of the BM RFB, both uniformed and committee, (past and present) who have given so freely of their time to help keep our BM community safe.

BUNYA MTS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Promoting Natural History at the Bunya Mountains

Meg Noack - Incumbent President

Many visitors call into Cedarvale and Hillview – Bunya Mountains Natural History Association HQ below the Tavern. The last few months have been exceptionally busy.

Visitors Welcome

Easter was our busiest time this year - 450 visitors came through the Cedarvale doors over the three days. We have a regular roster to keep **the museum open every Market Sunday** all through the period that the National Parks Dandabah Picnic area is closed. Another feature has been the request to open Cedarvale for group visits. Various schools have visited including St Johns staff whilst on retreat, and Coolabunia School.

One hundred TAFE students from Toowoomba came during this period – a culminating activity to a unit of their course which featured the Bunya Mountains. Many of the students were teenage refugees who had never visited the Bunyas before. Other groups visiting Cedarvale [that has requested a special opening] included a Probus Group from Ashgrove, and the Big Skies Group from Western Downs.

Maintenance

We thank Graeme & Ruth Wright for their hard work in organising various maintenance projects; re-roofing, painting, and new signage. Take a walk past and you will notice the difference.

Annual Meeting

The Association members thanked and paid tribute to outgoing President, Bernice Seaton. Her work and her expertise – especially in the area of Birding has been and continues to be a valued part of the Association's activities. *Incoming President, Meg Noack* looks forward to her new role. Other Executive members remain the same - Vice-Presidents Carol Weekes and Noel Noack – as well as Secretary, Ruth Wright and Treasurer, Graeme Wright.

Neighbours

We look forward to becoming neighbours to the improved National Parks site, and amenities at the Dandabah Park and Picnic Area.

AND REMEMBER - we will always welcome new members!

BMCAI Community Plan Aim #2

Work collectively with the relevant bodies to enhance the liveability and protect the unique Bunya Mountains village lifestyle **and the cultural, and environmental heritage** of the area.

THE REFUGEE STORY - NHA

Toowoomba hosts one of Australia's largest Yazidi (Ezidi) refugee communities, who fled persecution and genocide in Northern Iraq. Since 2017, Toowoomba has settled over 2000 Yazidi people, with the Toowoomba Regional Council declaring the city a Refugee Welcome Zone. Their Kurdish dialect is the city's second most spoken language after English. Support services like Multicultural Development Australia and CatholicCare provide assistance though they face strain due to reduced funding.

(Sourced from an Ai summary of several ABC stories on the refugee situation in Toowoomba.)

The photos below are of various 'refugee' visitors to Cedarvale and the Bunyas.



Special thanks to Richard O'Shea from the O'Shea's Music Centre in Dalby for the very kind donation of a microphone stand that had its first outing at Play Music on the Porch.

O'sheas is a musical instrument store found at 25 Hospital Road, Dalby. For instruments and music lessons, get in contact with Richard on 0429 069 661.

SOCIAL, EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

Carol Weekes - Chairperson

New Brochure

The BMCAI has released its third brochure, following on from the bird and dingo brochures. Highlighting the wonder of Fungi on the Bunya Mountains, this presents visitors to the Bunyas with a whole new face of nature. Produced by Meg Noach with guidance from fungi experts, the brochure was funded by the SBRC Community Grants. They are being made available at Cedarvale, the Tavern, and local information centres.



The Locals Quarterly Gathering

Hosted at Noel and Meg's home, this gathering of locals played games, talked, laughed and ate the day away. Being a tad too cold it was decided to leave the outdoor games and just stick to playing inside. Janelle won the mini raffle! All reports were that it was very enjoyable. People got to know each other better, the food supplied by the SEFS (Social, Events and Fundraising Subcommittee) was exceptional. It is anticipated that this will be held quarterly. That said, the gathering planned for September has been postponed. More details later.



NAIDOC 2025

It has taken three years, but finally we were blessed with almost perfect weather. This meant we could include the planned Boyne Bair Bush University activities at the actual venue and not in the hall at BPAC. The day commence with the Welcome and Smoking Ceremony presented by Shannon Bauwens from BPAC. Following Shannon's talk all of the participants wafted the smoke over themselves as they made their way down the hill to the bush university, essentially a cleansing ritual.



Bonye Bair Bush University

BMCAI provided morning tea for attendees on arrival at the university. We then had the blessing of experiencing the energy and spirit of the Wakka Wakka dancers, who performed traditional dances on the main meeting circle. Their performance was very engaging.



Following the dancers, Bruce Phillips tantalised tastebuds with his Murri Tukka Bush Foods Presentation and Tasting. Following on from Bruce, attendees made their way to BPAC.

BPAC Activities

A BBQ lunch was provided by BPAC accompanied by a diverse range of cakes and slices supplied by The Tavern. It gave both the time and the space for all of those in attendance to meet and greet. While many sat around chatting, Valerie Murray facilitated an Aboriginal Cultural Weaving Workshop and Toni Phillips-Petersen engaged the children and the children-at-heart adults in jewellery making.



MUSIC ON THE PORCH

The weather forecast was spot-on, very cold and blustery winds! What a contrast to last year. Much appreciation to RES and Tarong West Wind Farm for their generous donations. Although the numbers weren't as large as we would have liked, there was a steady flow of people through the middle of the day. The cold, blustery weather stopped a lot of people actually coming and shortened the stay of those that did come. To top it off, the coffee van had power problems and couldn't serve coffee! It was so needed!

Burnett Celtic Pipes and Drums

With Russell as MC, the show started with the Burnett Celtic Pipes and Drums. Besides cold knees, it seems the cold weather became a handicap for the pipers. But, to hear the sound of the band reverberate through the forest was magical. They are a newly setup pipe and drum band, but it was obvious that the band members knew what they were about. It was the perfect way to start out the day.



The Kingaroy Ukesters

Polly, Judy, Roy, Jeff, Liz, et al delivered the spirit of Music on the Porch in their presence and their performance. They were professional in their appearance, and despite the weather were positive and enthusiastic, and their performance was joyful and entertaining. They were unexpectedly accompanied by Bob Darby, a percussionist who saw our promo, and brought his 'samba' drums to be a part of the celebration. A beaut addition.



The Nanango Sheddars Community Music

Ann, Richard, Jane, Greg and Sammy joined us, who also had others join in throughout the day. They were present last year and with highlight performances by Greg and Jane, they did not disappoint. As you can see by the attire, it was extremely cold, and add in the extremely windy conditions they all did an amazing job to weather the conditions.



The Bush Poet

This year we decided to include bush poetry into the mix, and we weren't disappointed. WRDC local Harry Pickering entertained us with his passion and gift for entertaining bush poetry. As Harry explains, bush poetry has meter and rhythm, which is why it can be adopted to music very easily.



The Musical Bush Poet

Dalby musician Bill Ramsey shared several of his original pieces that married the essence of bush poetry with a country style of music. His words conveyed the stories in an entertaining and meaningful way. It was a delightful way to finish the day.



A RECOLLECTION OF THE BUNYAS IN THE 80S

Past residents of the Bunya Mountains, Tom and Carol Gerber (early '80s to 1990) recently reached out about how much they were enjoying our newsletter, and Carol forwarded this piece of prose that she wrote. We thought it was worth including. The photos on the next page were taken in the early 80s.



My Other Love



Silence, ghostly silence, then drip, drip, drip as an early morning dew forms from the night mist. Visibility is zero until, in likeness to a flower, a unique phenomenon unfolds. Giant icons emerge as the mist thins and the sights of a new day appear.

Birdcalls break the silence and sound illusive in the remnants of the mysterious, drifting mist. I watch and listen for there is such an eerie quietness. Then movement on the ground; something hops.

A speckled green Bowerbird, a female or juvenile, hopping about attracts my attention. If this bird is a female I anticipate the arrival of the iridescent satin blue male with his sky-blue eyes. He appears, and then he flirts. It becomes obvious that his bower isn't too far away. I watch intently, follow, and then satisfy my curiosity, when, under a spreading tree I see a perfectly structured grass and twig bower, decorated with all blue, drinking straws, flowers, tape and paper. The ritual dance begins. The exhibition performed by the shimmering male would impress any female.

Something gives me a start. 'That was a crying baby?' I listen. Again, I hear the crying. A speckled green Catbird is moving in short leaps from branch to branch in a nearby tree. It resembles the female Bowerbird but the green is much brighter. I watch. The baby cries again. I realise the sound has come from the cat bird. He likes me to mimic his call as he continues with the crying and leaping from branch to branch.

I hear a crack from a breaking twig; something's coming. A very self-confident black figure appears. The early morning light reveals touches of yellow and red about his head. He puffs up the yellow membrane that hangs about his neck and at the same time makes a loud burping sound. All the while he is scratching around bushes that fruit with small orange berries. He appears to beckon me to follow him. I do. To my amazement a mammoth mound of sticks and leaves comes into view. Mr Scrub Turkey takes great self satisfaction from this arrangement of the forest debris. I notice the ground for a great distance around his structure appears swept clean. Building and spreading the mound to keep it at a perfect temperature is a full time job for this old master of successful incubation.

The mist slowly dissipates and the majestic icons of the rain forest surround the whole area. The forest floor appears to become scattered with a moist carpet of fallen leaves. The aroma of this decaying mass is fresh and clean. This rainforest has very distinct tall stately trees throughout. These have large drooping branches and resemble a pine, dark green and majestic. Underneath one I find a cone. It is heavy and about football size. It is starting to break apart revealing many individual nuts. These unique trees that produce large cones are Bunya pines (*Ararcaria Bidwillii*). The sun's rays glint through and the grandeur of this whole panorama with its flora and fauna makes me all the more eager to explore further.

A RECOLLECTION CONTINUED...

There are walking tracks leading off into the beckoning, dripping rainforest. I become intrigued. I must see more. Running creeks of clear water shower over lichen covered rocks. In the surrounding untroubled rainforest fungi have formed on fallen trees, an abundance of ferns cling to decaying logs and moss covered rocks. The sound of the running creek gurgles louder until it drops over an unexpected ledge to form a tumbling waterfall. Down, the track goes, and as I look up to the rim of the waterfall my eye catches massive elk and stag horns fern perched in the overhead canopy. The height of some of these trees is awe inspiring. They must be hundreds of years old. I reach a clearing and the view from this vantage point is infinite.

There is movement here on the outer edge. High on the extremity of a dead bough my attention is drawn to a rare sighting of a paradise rifle bird and his mate. I have the opportunity to view yet another of nature's courting exploits. With wings spread into an arch above his body and dance steps that would impress even the most accomplished. The ritual begins. In likeness to a revolving crystal in the sun's rays the striking colour of the male becomes apparent. Time elapses without thought as this rare, natural phenomenon takes place.

A flutter catches my eye. Red fire tails and tiny blue wrens with antenna-like tails are busy flitting about the grass catching insects for their breakfast. Swamp wallabies enjoy green kikuyu grass as they munch closer. Highlighting the dark, almost black, of their fur are touches of an orange-gold colour down their chest. Tiny, pointed faces with black eyes peek from their mother's pouches. An abundance of this species makes me confident that this is a happy place for 'swampies'.

Close by, I see a brilliant red and green king parrot. This curious creature sits on a branch looking down first with the right eye and then with the left. He holds something in his claw and slowly lifts it and takes a bite. I hear a click and it is obvious that seeds are for breakfast. I become aware that in bird life the male species is far superior in appearance to the female because the male king parrot is a handsome, striking bird. The female although very colourful does not compare with the male.

Whip birds crack with lingering sound as they explore the inner depths of the rainforest. Remnants from the night miner's diggings, probably bandicoots in search of small ground creatures to satisfy their hunger, are visible. Dew drops sparkle on gossamer spun webs that adorn small bushes. The bluest of blue sky hangs like a roof over this unique thrust of nature. I realise time is of the essence to fully appreciate and understand this unique marvel of nature called the Bunya Mountains. This is nature in its most wondrous form. One is easily persuaded to relax, enjoy and learn. All human senses come to life amongst these majestic icons.

By Carol Gerber.



THE DANDABAH UPGRADE

These pictures were taken on Monday 1st September.

The Entrance



This will be formed into the new entrance signage to the Dandabah Picnic Area. You can see two oval shaped structures that will be formed into Bunya Nuts. As all of the parking will be removed from the entrance, this will be replaced with walkways, waterways and grassed areas.

All parking will be found further down into the picnic area. The current bus parking zone is being replaced with a bus drop-off zone. The entry grate is being replaced with road pavement.

The Visitor Information Building

This will provide visual and interactive displays explaining key elements of the Bunya Mountains Rain Forest as well as detailing the walkways through the forest. The right picture is the walkway from the entrance to the Hub. There will be a rock based water way from near the old car parks, passing under this bridge/walkway and finishing near where the dirt is exposed on the left.



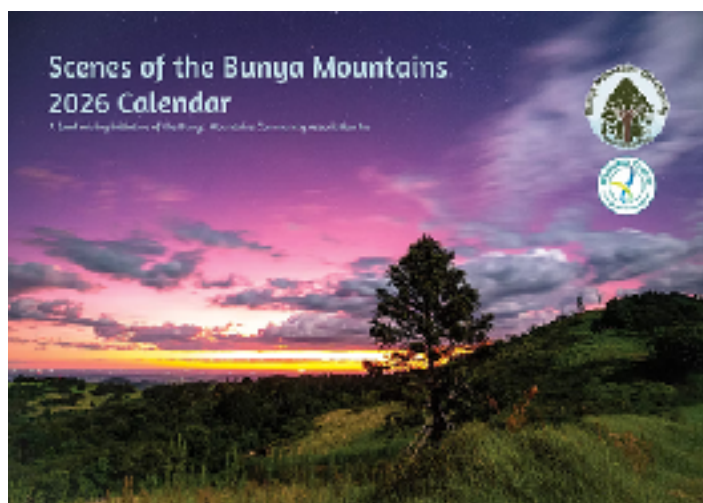
The Persons With Disability Boardwalk

Found in the back right of the picnic area, this boardwalk will give an authentic 'taste' of the forest walk experience. The platform at the eastern loop (seen in the middle photo) will allow you to bask in the tranquility that is indicative of the forest. This will be a worthy Bunya Mountains experience for anyone unable to walk the forest trails.



LOCAL UPDATES

Scenes of the Bunya Mountains 2026 Calendar



The image selection process is complete. The Calendar is looking fabulous and is being printed as we speak, so will soon be available for purchase. We wish to sincerely thank everyone who sent us beautiful images. All entrants have now been advised if their entry is being utilised in this year's Calendar. BMCAI will be displaying all submitted images in the Bunya's Tavern later in the year.

The Scenes of the Bunya Mountains 2026 Calendar will be available for sale via our website <https://bunyamcainc.org/>.

Whilst we are waiting for the printed copies to arrive, the Calendars can be pre-ordered on the website with the following link: <https://www.bunyamcainc.org/category/all-products>

The Bunya Singers

It's official, the BMCAI has created their very own singing group under the enthusiastic guidance of Delyth Boyd. It's anticipated that their first public performance will be at the BM Christmas Carols on the 14th of December.

They have selected and are practicing a very diverse range of Christmas themed carols and songs. Anyone wishing to be involved please get in contact with Meg Noack. It's a lovely opportunity to engage with each other in a whole new context - learning! It's fun, challenging and rewarding.



The Locals Quarterly Gathering

A gathering had been planned for Sunday the 14th of September, but has been cancelled. With Music on the Porch just being completed, and quite a few of the locals being away, it was decided it placed too much demand on those remaining to get it organised. This is something we would like to continue to do, as the two previous events have been very well received. Our next gathering will be October/November sometime. Look out for details in the near future.

End of Year Events

The last BMCAI Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday the 1st of November at 2pm.

BM Christmas Carols will be held on the 14th of December and it seems that the same venue as last year could well be ready for use by that date.

NATURE ON THE BUNYAS

The Fig Tree - John Learmont (with thanks to Wikipedia)

With the Bell Birdwatching group a couple of years ago, and again in May this year, we visited a farm where the Bunya Highway intersects the Great Dividing Range. It was there we saw a huge strangler fig that had the shape of a bottle tree inside its trunk of coalesced roots. The fig had probably started as a seed dropped by a bird in the bottle tree many, many years ago. Its roots slowly travelled to the ground, became a big tree, strangled the bottle tree that died and rotted away a long time ago.

On the previous visit a couple of us tried to identify the species but were unable to do so as there was no fruit. This time there was some fruit and it has been identified as *Ficus obliqua*, the small leafed fig. It can grow to 60 metres in height with a similar crown width and a trunk diameter of 3 metres. It can live for 500 years and is used as a shade tree in parks, but is also an indoor plant, and even a bonsai. It is native to eastern Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia and islands of the south-western Pacific. All parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine in Fiji.

The fruit is yellow to orange, 6-10 mm in diameter and spherical in shape. The birds that possibly come to eat the fruit are rainbow lorikeets, brown cuckoo-doves, rose-crowned fruit doves, wompoo fruit doves, wonga pigeons, topknot pigeons, silvereyes, pied currawongs, black-faced cuckoo shrikes, Australasian fig birds, green catbirds, regent bowerbirds, satin bowerbirds and Lewins honeyeaters. It would also provide food for gliders, possums, rats, flying fox and other animals as well as fig wasps, butterflies and thrips. This tree is a living treasure.

Grimley Street Fungi - Russell Sturgess



False Turkey-Tail can be found only in hardwood forests. Its odour has a faint smell of bitter almonds.



Artists Conk-*Ganoderma applanatum*. This shelf fungus can live for several years. Also only found in hardwood forests.



Possibly a *Fomitopsis orchracea*. Officially classified in 2011. Only grows in hardwood forests. It has a faint sweet odour.



Artists Conk-*Ganoderma brownii*. A single mushroom can last for decades. Mostly found in deciduous woods.

These certainly don't hold the same appeal as many of the other forest mushrooms, but they are just as interesting. I had no idea how many varieties of Fungi were here in the Bunyas, and I experience great delight when I see a variety for the first time. The new Fungi brochure is a treat.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE BUNYAS



A brave small audience at Music on the Porch.

SBRC Mayor, Kathy Duff with Carol & Russell at Music on the Porch.



New picnic tables at Dandabah.



Burning of the Balds at Monroe's Camp.



Supper at the last Quarterly Meeting.



Wild pig road-side damage at Burtons Well.



Warmer seating at the last Quarterly Meeting.

Donate to Help Us Build a Bunya Mountains Community Meeting Place



No Cash... No worries... Use this QR Code to donate via our Trybooking Fundraising Page.
Please note that at this stage any gifts are not tax deductible.



Thank you for your support

Office of Fairtrading, Qld. Certificate of Sanction to Fundraise no CF14549817

Become a member of the BMCAI

If you own a property or reside at the Bunya Mountains, then you are invited to become a member of the BMCAI. As our membership grows so does our ability to lobby government, local councils and other organisations for improved services and conditions on the Bunya Mountains. Your active participation will help enhance the Bunya Mountains experience for all who live, visit, work and play here.

All Bunya Mountains property owners are welcome to make application to become a member. Membership is just \$10 per person, \$20 per couple or \$30 per family per annum (Jan 1 - Dec 30 each year. From Jul 1 - Dec 30 will be \$5 per person for the balance of the year). If you would like to become a member we are happy to send you an Application Form. Request a form by e-mailing us at bunyamcainc@gmail.com.

Do you have an article of interest?

The best way to reach out to me with content for the newsletter, is by email - russellsturgess@me.com. If you want to get in contact by phone, and have a chat, you can reach me on 0405 711 771. You can also forward articles etc to bunyamcainc@gmail.com.