

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc  
(BMCAI) Newsletter  
Issue 18- February 2023



**Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 18**



**Welcome to the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter -Issue no 18, our second for 2023.** Our previous Newsletter (Issue 17) was circulated in February 2023, and a copy can be found on our website at <https://bunyamcainc.wixsite.com/mysite/news>.

These Newsletters are produced following every BMCAI Quarterly Meeting.

*The BMCAI Newsletter also provides the latest news from our two partner community organisations in the Bunyas, **The Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade** and the **Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc**. We also share the latest information from the **Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Group**. It is lovely to be able share all this news in one newsletter and be able to give you updates about the community-based activities happening here in the Bunyas.*

*The BMCAI Social, Events and Fundraising Sub-Committee has been very busy this quarter with three very successful events, the Anzac Day Commemoration, the Bunya Mountains School Holiday Activity and Bunya Mountains Walks Back in Time- In The Bush Where it Happened 2023. Read all about them on pages 5 and 6.*

*Thank you again to our very generous contributors who have taken the time to provide information and articles for this Newsletter. There is a wide variety of topics for you to explore. This issue covers the period from February 2023 to May 2023. Thank you for your interest in the Bunya Mountains and the work of BMCAI.... Enjoy the read.*

Contents: Article	Page/s	Article	Page/s
BMCAI Quarterly Meeting News: 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	2-4	News from the BM Rural Fire Brigade	10
BM School Holiday Activity and Anzac Day reports	5	Nature Stories	11
Do you need a Paino Tuner?	5	Telecommunications Contacts for our area	12
BM Walks Back in Time 2023 Report	6	Arts and Culture- Medal Mystery solved, and WDRC 10 Artists program	13
News from the Bunya Mts Natural History Assoc (NHA)	7-9	Membership Information	14
Our newest outdoor garden seat	9		

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



## News from the BMCAI 2nd Quarterly Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly meeting for 2023 was convened at Rice's Log Cabin Restaurant with 18 attendees. Invited guests included Mayor Brett Otto, South Burnett Regional Council, and Mayor Paul McVeigh, Western Downs Regional Council. Unfortunately, Ergon had to do some emergency repair work on a transformer on that same morning and the Bunya Mountains was without power for the meeting. Our venue hosts, Annette and Greg, kindly had some lights operating for us via a generator, but we were unable to deliver the powerpoint presentations that several people had prepared for us. We thank members and guests for their understanding, and Louis and Brett, especially, for their time taken preparing the presentations.

### Highlights from the 2nd Quarterly meeting for 2023

#### Social and Events Subcommittee Report

Brett Mason, Subcommittee Chair, provided an overview of the **Bunya Mountains School Holiday Activity, Anzac Day Commemoration Service** and the **Bunya Walks Back in Time -In the Bush Where it Happened 2023** events. Coverage of the events is included later in this Newsletter. See pages 5 and 6.

**Dinner Under the Stars 18 November 2023:** The focus of this years' Dinner Under the Stars will be the food and produce bounty of the Region. This years' Dinner Under the Stars will be held in a new location on the green behind Rice's Log Cabins. The local band RYZA was very popular last year and has again been booked for 2023. Our Chef will be Roberta Schablon from The Saucy Fork, and, the South Burnett Wine Industries Association will provide the bar service.

180 seats will be available with tickets on sale from the 1<sup>st</sup> June via an online ticketing company. Ticket price this year will be \$120. We will advise our reserved ticket holders of those ticketing details a couple of days prior to the release of tickets and then begin promotion of the event, once ticket sales have commenced. We are looking forward to an amazing event this year.

The Subcommittee is working hard to acquire grants and sponsorship to assist in meeting the costs of the event, including the hiring of all the gear required for event. Any products, services, packages offered for the Live and Silent auctions will be the fundraising component of the event and assist us to raise (hopefully lots of) funds for the future Bunya Mountains Community Centre. If you have are able to donate an item for the Auctions to contribute to this cause, it would be greatly appreciated. Some of most successful auction fund raisers in the past 2 years have been memorabilia, accommodation packages, wine packages, glider flights, paintings, art works, tours, camping and garden products, beauty and food product packages. Auction Items, or commitments to donate, would now be greatly appreciated. If you can assist, please email [bunyamcainc@gmail.com](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com)

**Other Upcoming Activities: NAIDOC WEEK** – July 3 Cooking bush foods with Shannon Bauwens and afternoon tea at the Russell Park Bush University, and **LIFE FLIGHT First Minutes Matter TRAINING** is proposed for September 27. If you are interested in either of these activities, please email [bunyamcainc@gmail.com](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com)

#### Update on the bid for a Bunya Mountains Community Centre:

Louis Moore, Estate Analytica, is preparing the Feasibility Study but was unable to be present for the meeting, so Gerald Tooth provided an overview of the progress to date.

The community facility is the missing piece of infrastructure in the Bunyas, not just needed by locals, but needed regionally also. The Feasibility Study document is now in draft form and Louis is currently collating feedback to finalise the Study. Letters of support are still coming in and we are waiting on some. The BMCAI Management Committee have had some very early discussions with the Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation with a view to collaboration for the development of the "Mowbullen Cultural Precinct" with assistance from a UQ Design Team or Independent Architect Design, which is yet to be determined. A future "Precinct" could include the Bush University, the BPAC "Camp", and the new community facility.

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



The next steps for the Feasibility Study are to arrange for the development of a Building Design Impression, finalise key issues, finalise the Feasibility Study and present it to the Western Downs Regional Council in a bid to acquire/ lease the land for the Community Centre. A long journey behind and ahead....

**Community Plan review and renewal Update:** The meeting was provided with a brief overview of the updated Draft BMCAI Community Plan 2023-2026 which had been reviewed and updated by the Management Committee. The Draft Plan has now been circulated to BMCAI Members for their feedback and input. Feedback is due by XXXXXXX

**The Interagency Meeting re Bunya Mountains Dingoes** was held in the Fire Shed on 3rd April 2023 with representation from the BMCAI, Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, South Burnett Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council. The outcomes of that meeting are as follows.

- The meeting agreed that what is needed, and the way forward, should be a public education campaign that:
  - is positive in wording so as to encourage visitors to learn about dingoes; notes that the animals that they see in the Bunyas are dingoes; assists residents and visitors to feel safe and results in holiday makers still wanting to visit the Bunyas; promotes the heritage of the dingoes and their crucial role in the environment and ecosystem, and their importance as the apex predator to assist in keeping other feral pests (eg pigs, rabbits and cats) under control in the Bunyas; and ameliorates the hysteria that has evolved due to past experiences on K'gari Fraser Island.
- The meeting resolved to develop a Bunya Mountains Dingo Management Plan. The first Draft of that Plan is now with the interagency meeting participants for their feedback and input.

**Roads/ Parks Maintenance Update:** BMCAI continues to raise with both Councils, the issue of the poor condition of the access and local road network and poor park maintenance on the Bunya Mountains. It appears that the long wait time for road maintenance in most circumstances is due to the extensive work needing to be done to major roads following the flood damage to roads earlier in the year. The cattle grid on the Kumbia / Bunya Mountains Road has been removed, and on the Maidenwell/ Bunya Mountains Road, are being removed as this Newsletter is being developed. We have also been informed that the sealing of the Maidenwell / Bunya Mountains Road will begin in August/ September this year.... Ever hopeful!!!

**Rabbit Infestation Update:** The Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board has sent letters to all local property owners indicating that a survey of properties in the Bunya Mountains is about to commence. If rabbits are found on any property, it is the responsibility of landowners to remove or destroy the breeding site and DDMRB will provide advice about how best to do that.

**Mountain Bike Track Project Update** -provided by Brianna Barnett, WDRC on 5.5.23 . *"Council is currently working through the final stage of works before the trails are safely opened to the public. Currently, our contractor is undertaking some maintenance works to clear vegetation and repair pest animal damage along the trails. Over the next month or so we will be installing a small number of protective low level 'bridge' structures at specific locations along the trails. These bridges are part of our plan to effectively manage Phytophthora to avoid spread. This was identified as an additional required measure following the establishment of the trails, and we are currently awaiting materials to complete the job.*

*In addition, signage will be installed at the trailheads in the next [week] or two. The public opening is earmarked for June - we will advise the community when these plans are finalised, and a date is set.*

*We appreciate the community is excited to explore this new facility for the region, and we thank you for your patience as we move towards completion.*



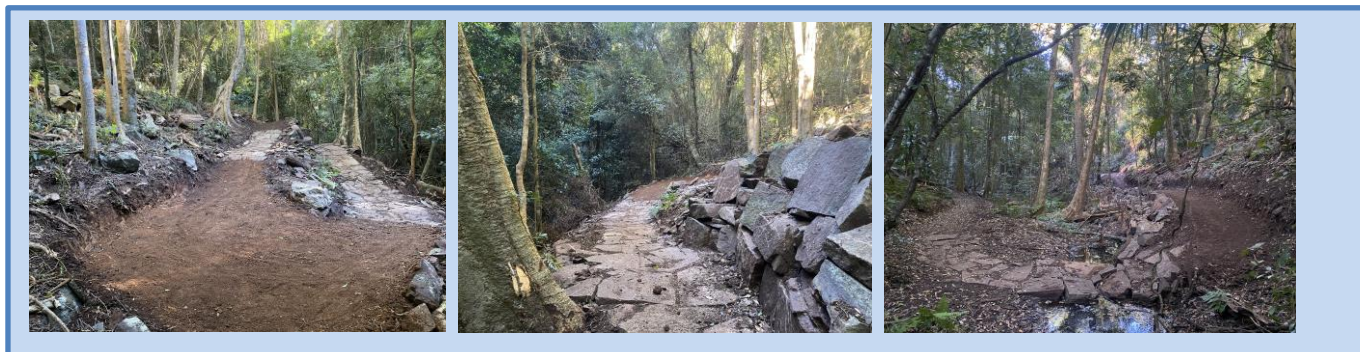


# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



*Council has some promotional filming planned to occur on site this weekend as the project is close to be finalised. You may see some additional activity at Russell Park and Fishers Lookout."*

A couple of local enthusiasts recently went for a ride to check out the tracks and advised that the track was "looking pretty good".



**Cr Brett Otto, Mayor South Burnett Regional Council (SBRC)** addressed the meeting. The key points made by Mayor Otto:

The issues raised at this meeting will be followed up. Mayor Otto is supportive of the Community Plan as he is endeavouring to have all small villages / townships in the South Burnett develop Community Plans so their aspirations for their village can feed into the Council Planning.

Tourism is growing and preparations for the 2032 Olympics are underway as Councils wish to see some benefit for local governments outside of the southeast corner. Wide Bay 2032 Planning Committee is working on this and examining a triangle of eco assets (Southern Great Barrier Reef, Bundaberg, Fraser Island, Hervey Bay and Bunya Mountains, South Burnett).

Mayor Otto also advised that there is a growing Mountain Bike Track community in the Region and the South Burnett Mountain Bike Club has secured another \$250,000 to expand their trails.

The SBRC is working with the Kumbia community to examine ways to tap into the tourism market, for example, a caravan park so that van owners can leave their vans there and travel up to the Bunyas to visit.

**Cr Paul McVeigh, Mayor Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC)** addressed the meeting. The key points made by Mayor McVeigh:

Western Downs Regional Council has been proactive in the Tourism area and has recently released their Economic and Tourism Strategy for the next 5 years. See <https://www.wdrc.qld.gov.au/files/assets/public/business-amp-development/economic-development/tourism-destination-events-strategy-document-ver-22.02.23.pdf>

Councillors Kylie Bourne (Tourism portfolio) and Kay McGuire (Community portfolio) are both active in this space.

2032 Olympics- 48,000 journalists will be visiting, thus providing international exposure of any site they visit. An opportunity exists to drive tourism and promote the concept of "the place to be". Feeding all of the visitors offers the opportunity for Agri business to provide the best quality food from net zero emissions producers.

WDRC wants to be at the "Forefront of a Changing World".

Community Centre- Mayor McVeigh applauded the change of language to "Mowbullen Cultural Precinct" and stated that this language will assist in garnering local, state and federal government support. He believes that the preferred location (Russell Park just below Fishers Lookout) is a great spot.

Roads- Mayor McVeigh advised that WDRC is struggling to repair all of the flood damaged roads in the Region. \$170m has been provided to repair extensive flood damage with 3 contractors engaged thus far to do some of this work. It needs to be completed by 30 June 2024, but it's looking doubtful that it can all be done in that timeframe. Discussions are occurring with Jake Ellwood, CEO, Qld Recovery and Peter Scales, Director General, Transport and Main Roads.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



## **Bunya Mountains School Holiday Activity 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023:**

The BMCAI Social, Events and Fundraising Subcommittee recognised that there are no arranged school holiday activities in the Bunya Mountains, at a time when many families are holidaying here. Many families camp in the National Park Campground adjacent to the Dandabah Day use area, where this activity was conducted.

Bunya Mountains has a significant indigenous history and an amazing diversity of plants and animals and both those aspects of the Bunyas provided opportunities to share information about the Bunyas and create learning experiences for children (and adults!) The Social and Events Subcommittee liaised with local members with expertise, Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and created an afternoon program which included a "Let's Discover" program, a free sausage sizzle and movie screening of the movie "Sing2" (along with free popcorn!). We greatly appreciated some funding assistance from the South Burnett Regional Council's Small Local Build – Small events grant program, Shannon Bauwens, sharing indigenous knowledge, Brad Cocks from National Parks talking about being in the National Park and what it like to be a Ranger and members, Kay Joyce and Meg Noack's work on developing and delivering the Program and the delightful tucker with popcorn, expertly prepared by Janelle Petersen, and sausage sizzle prepared by Bret & Graeme. **Your efforts were greatly appreciated** by the 84 people who participated in the event. A wonderful time was had by all .... a few photographs:



## **Bunya Mountains ANZAC Day Commemoration 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

ANZAC Day dawned damp and cold in the Bunya Mountains but many people joined us on site in Bunya Avenue to pay their respects. The Ceremony was beautifully and sensitively delivered. Thank you to all who arranged, contributed to the service development and delivery and those who attended and participates in the Ceremony.



## **Piano Tuner available to tune pianos in the Bunya Mountains**

Do you have a Piano in your Bunya Mountains house? If yes, does it need tuning? Jen Hintz has found a piano tuner who is willing to travel to the Bunyas. No dates have yet been set. If you are interested, please contact Jen via email [hintzpj@gmail.com](mailto:hintzpj@gmail.com) Cost at the moment is \$250, if we get more jobs, he will drop the price. Looking for at least 2 others.

\*\*\*\*\*





# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



## **Bunya Mountains Walks Back in Time – In the Bush Where it Happened 2023**

The program for this event selects a number of sites of historical and cultural significance in the Bunya Mountains and facilitates access to the sites, many of which are on private property and not usually accessible by members of the public.

This year's event was again funded by AGL Coopers Gap Wind Farm. The funding enables the Subcommittee to hire a shuttle bus to transport participants to the activity sites. We would like to sincerely thank our site hosts for their generosity, and all our volunteers for all their hard work over the weekend to ensure that everyone had a great experience.



The amazing Saturday lunchtime entertainment was provided by 3 children and their teacher from the St John's Lutheran College and Whipmaker and Braider, Chis Barr, for more information see [www.dbbraiding.com](http://www.dbbraiding.com).

The Mothers' Day Food Hamper raffle was won by Julie Avishai... Congratulations Julie...we hope you are enjoying all those treats!





## News from The Bunya Mountains Natural History Assoc

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association (NHA) is a volunteer organisation that also manages and operates the Cedarvale Information Centre and Museum. Like all community-based volunteer organisations, NHA needs to raise funds to cover operating expenses, including insurance. NHA has created various ways of raising funds, such as, the sale of books relating to Bunya Mountains flora and fauna and local history. During the Bunya Nut season, NHA members collect Bunya Nuts (all from private property and not from the National Park) and shuck and freeze those nuts, and then make them available for sale when Cedarvale is open.

From time to time, the NHA members weigh the frozen nuts into 500 gram bags so they are sale ready. Recently, on one such occasion, some visiting children decided to assist NHA members, Bernice Seton and John and Sandy Learmont, by weighing and bagging the nuts. A most enjoyable time was had by all, as you see in the attached photographs.

Thank you visiting children for your help!



### Did you know? Some fun facts about Bunya Nuts:

[As told on "An evening with Richard Grant" on SBS 27 JAN 2022 -Article by Lucy Rennick]

***"These giant bunya nuts are a key Indigenous food as well as snacks for dinosaurs. Yep, they've been on the earth that long... Weighing up to 10 kg, you want to watch out for falling nuts. These edible pine cones have been a key part of Indigenous culture for thousands of years.***

*For anyone familiar with bunya pine trees (Araucaria bidwillii), summer is associated with a distinct and interesting botanical phenomenon. Each January at the Australian Botanic Garden in Sydney's Mount Annan, the bunya pine trees begin to drop their cones.*

*If you don't think this is a big deal, you should know that they used to be dinosaur food millions of years ago - bunya pines have been on this earth for that long. The trees can grow up to 35-45 metres high and live for about 600 years. The pine cones that fall each year can weigh up to 10 kilograms, and contain bunya nuts, large edible seeds that have held both cultural and culinary significance for Aboriginal Australians for thousands of years.".....*



# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



**Cedarvale is generally open on Market Days and Easter Sunday.**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Bernice Hansen and daughter, Jeni, visited Cedarvale. Bernice came in to check on the Red Cedar Cabinet restored by her brother, Max Behm, and donated to Cedarvale by the family. The cabinet was originally used as a telephone cabinet in the Mowbullan Guesthouse by her grandparents, William and Anne-Marie Chandler. The Chandler's were Bernice's grandparents, and the first lessees and operators of the Mowbullan Guest House.

This visit by Bernice and Jeni set several things in motion. Bernice shared some stories, as provided by her Mum, about her childhood whilst living at the Guesthouse. As we were to learn on that day, Bernice's Aunt Moz, had recorded many stories of that time and Bernice still had the book of those stories.

This gave us the opportunity to learn lots more about the early days at the Guesthouse, and we approached Bernice and Jeni about coming to the Bunya Mountains to tell some of those stories at the upcoming **Bunya Mountains Walks Back in Time- In the Bush Where it Happened** event in May 2023. Bernice agreed but went one better and approached Auntie Moz's son and daughter-in-law to come along and tell the stories, which they did. It felt like we were back in the day as the stories were beautifully articulated and are a great tribute to the courageous pioneering spirit of the women of the Chandler family.



Bernice has now presented a full copy of those stories to the NHA and Cedarvale. If you are visiting Cedarvale and would like to learn about the setting up the Mowbullan Guesthouse and the adventures of Anne-Marie Chandler and her daughters setting off to Brisbane to purchase the furniture and fittings, come on in to Cedarvale and have a read. Beautifully written and an entertaining story. Many thanks to the Chandler family descendants for sharing



their story and their ongoing interest in the Bunya Mountains. Another rich piece of the Bunya's European history now in Cedarvale.

\*\*\*\*\*

## More of the Marianne North Story:

If you were fortunate enough to have participated in the Munro's Camp activity for the Walks Back in Event in either 2022 or 2023, you would have heard about the English artist, Marianne North (1830-1890), and her Bunya Mountain's paintings completed during her travels in 1880-1881, as told by Mayor Peter Garrow (aka Gerald Tooth, BMCAI Vice President). Here John Learmont kindly shares another episode relating to the history of Marion North and the Bunya Mountains.....

*Sandy and I received a phone call out of the blue in late July a couple of years ago from a bloke in Cairns who was coming to the Bunyas the following week looking for spots where Marianne North had painted scenes of the Bunyas in 1880.*

*Fortunately, I knew who he was talking about, having read her story in the folders in the reading room at 'Cedarvale' and having seen the Marianne North tree in Western Australia which was the subject of a previous article in the NHA newsletter.*



# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



*His name was Dr John Dowe (pronounced like 'cow' he told us) and he was an adjunct research fellow from the Australian Tropical Herbarium, James Cook University, Cairns. He was also a Research Fellow at the Montgomery Botanical Centre in Florida, USA. He specialised in Palms and has named about 25 new species in various parts of the world. He was very interested in the Picabeen palms that are here, telling us that the Bunyas is the most westerly location in Queensland for them.*

*The reason he came here was that he had an interest in Marion North and also in photography. He wanted to locate the sites of her paintings on the Bunyas and photograph them in the present day.*

*He sent photos of the sites painted by Marion North that he wanted to identify, so Sandy and I went looking around the Bunyas before he arrived to try to find them. We were able to positively identify 3 of them.*

*What an interesting day it was and he was such a nice bloke. He had stayed in Dalby the night before and I met him at Munro's Camp at about 7am to show him one of the scenes that we thought that she had painted. The sun had not long risen and was in the wrong position for the photo and he decided to get it on his way back to Dalby in the afternoon.*

*Unfortunately, during the day the Murray Rangers burnt it, so it was just a blackened landscape. We tramped over the black and found a rock on which we believe Marion would have sat to do the painting.*

*After he left here he went to the Palms National Park near Cooyar that he described as 'a pleasant surprise...tens of thousands of palms, certainly one of the densest groupings of Picabeens that I have seen'.*

*He has subsequently published a paper about his trip in February 2020 in 'Cunninghamia' the journal of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney.*

*John Learmont*

For access to the paper and more information about this topic, please visit:

[https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/378b1a53-f74c-44cc-b1cf-87815e345721/BGD0569\\_Cunninghamia-2020-DOWE-Marianne-North-paintings.pdf.aspx](https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/378b1a53-f74c-44cc-b1cf-87815e345721/BGD0569_Cunninghamia-2020-DOWE-Marianne-North-paintings.pdf.aspx)



*Marianne North*  
Fig. 1. Marianne North, date not known, reproduced from the frontispiece of *Some Further Recollections of a Happy Life*, Selected from the Journals of Marianne North Chiefly Between the Years 1859 and 1869. James Cook University Library.



**Have you noticed this beautiful garden seat installed about halfway down Bunya Avenue?** This garden seat was beautifully restored by Ian Harris, with assistance for the powder coating of the ends/legs by Simplicity Powder Coating, Dalby. Following the donation of the completed seat by Ian and Margaret Harris to the Bunya Mountains community, the South Burnett Regional Council Parks and Gardens staff installed it on Bunya Avenue for your use. Enjoy

\*\*\*\*\*

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



## Report from the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade

**Membership:** I was pleased to submit to Area Office this week, an application for membership for Lisa Wuersching. Lisa has bought 'Whispering Heights', the house opposite the Fire Shed and is living there with her 2 dogs. She wants to become a fire fighter. Her father was in the RFS at Bribie Island.

It is good to see Barry and Pat Stewart are both on the mend and well enough to go travelling again.

Thank you Brett and Graeme for looking after the batteries in Barry's absence.

At the end of March we farewelled Bob and Val Sommerfield who have retired to Toowoomba. Between them they had contributed almost 50 years to the Brigade. They came to the Bunyas in April 1998 and Bob held the positions of 1st officer, 2nd officer and 3rd officer. He was the officer in charge when we fought the fire at the restaurant. He was awarded the National Medal and the Diligence & Ethical Service Medal. Val looked after the administrative work and catering. She was awarded the Diligent and Ethical Service Medal.

The Marshalls arrived home from their trip and the Zigterman's left on theirs.

Peter Weekes has not been enjoying the best of health and we wish him a quick recovery.



**Training:** Peter Taylor has conducted another informative training morning where participants used the 'lay flat' hoses.



This has never been done before in my time in the Brigade. Their advantage is that they deliver a huge volume of water to a fire. Their disadvantage is that they empty the tanks very quickly. Training dates have been set till early next year. They are 15th July, 16th September, 11th November, and 27th January. Peter puts a lot of thought and effort into our training. Please



put these dates in your diaries and come along. You may learn something that could save a life. It could be yours.

**Toilets:** In late March Lynne Downes received a phone call from Craig Magick, Acting Superintendent, Regional Manager, North Coast Region advising that he would be looking after our request that QFES, on behalf of the Brigade, would arrange the acquisition and installation of an 'Operation Kenny' facility and negotiate with WDRC for its placement behind the Fire Shed. He made a commitment in an email dated 11 April to provide regular updates. We are still waiting to hear further about this. Meanwhile surveyors have confirmed the property boundary.

### **Fire Shed:**

(a) An audit was done by Ian Clark from Area Office. There was nothing to follow up and that is a credit to the efficiency of our Shed Manager, Peter Weekes. He mentioned the pump exhaust on BM51 and asked if the operators used hearing protection when it is running. I showed him that in both trucks we have protective earmuffs with earplugs to attach to the new green radios so the operators can hear radio messages over the noise of the pumps.

(b) At the February meeting it was decided to establish the capacity for electrical de-energising a building and a meeting has been sought with the Area Director about this.

(c) With the purchase of second Stihl electric chainsaw, each truck now has one plus 2 batteries. Waterproof bags have been ordered for them.

Our Brigade has had a quiet autumn period and everything is in readiness for our next callout.

Thank you to all members of the Brigade for your support.

John Learmont, Chairman and First Officer, Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade

\*\*\*\*\*



# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



## ***Nature Stories..***

**Do you keep your screen doors closed** when the glass sliding doors are closed? This photo is a recent visitor to the Learmont household, looking for somewhere warm for Winter. This carpet python was at least 3metres long.



### **Scat finding report :** by Anna & Robert Zigterman

This is a small postscript to the address about dingoes given to the Bunya Mountains Community Inc by Jenna Appley and Linda Behrendorf from National Parks Dingo Management at the February 2023 meeting. The women stayed with us at Bidwillii the night after their talk. They were very pleased to meet our resident echidna on the way down to the laundry. We also went for a walk to Fishers Lookout on Sunday morning and I was impressed by their enthusiasm for every form of fauna we came across, big and small. One of our observations was on the new bike track where it crosses the driveway that goes up to Endless Views just opposite the Bidwillii driveway.

It was a large scat (turd if you're not in polite company). Linda became very excited about this and could describe it's position, large and proud in the centre of the track, as being indicative of a confident animal relaxed in its own territory. She encouraged us to collect the scat and post it off for analysis. This was a personal career first. We were given the address of someone who provided this service but there was confusion about getting the information back to us.

We have recently heard back and the news is this. The scat is from a canis species (ie it could be a dog or a dingo). The analysis was of scat formation and contents not DNA so the brief report could not give further information about it's source. The analyser did comment that there was no evidence of the animal eating any commercial dog food. The scat contained fur from a red-necked wallaby. So, it could have been a dingo and it certainly contained evidence of the local wallabies in its diet.

Should you be interested in some scat analysis of your own, the service used was

### **Georgeanna Story : Scats About**

Phone: 02 48461238

Mobile: 0429 779 928

Address: PO Box 45 Majors Creek NSW 2622

Website: [www.scatsabout.com.au](http://www.scatsabout.com.au) Email: [scatsabout@gmail.com](mailto:scatsabout@gmail.com)

The following information is from the Scatsabout website.

Price List From January 1st 2022:

- Analysis of predator scats from \$14 per scat
- Identification of non-predator scats \$9 per scat
- Analysis of hair samples \$9 per sample
- Specimen sample photo poa
- Report preparation poa
- Analysis of owl and raptor pellets from \$14 per pellet
- Analysis of hair tube tapes and wafers \$9 per tube
- Analysis of stomach contents from \$25 per sample
- Data analysis poa

### **Sample Collection and Transport**

To reduce hydatid exposure risk it is requested that all scat samples be stored in paper bags to allow for heat treatment prior to analysis. For your own safety also remember to always use protection when handling scats. Samples can be sent via post or courier. For courier address please contact Georgeanna. For samples that have a particularly strong smell, please double bag the collection in plastic bags to limit odour.

### **Another opportunity to do some 'citizen science'! Robert and Anna Zigterman**

\*\*\*\*\*

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc  
(BMCAI) Newsletter  
Issue 18- February 2023



**Thinking outside the box':** Could rewilding native animals include dingoes?

Scientists are starting to think outside the box when it comes to 'rewilding' — a practice of reintroducing native animals back into their habitat — but could bringing in predators like Tasmanian devils also help deal with foxes and feral cats on mainland Australia?

Read the full story <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-08/scientists-rewilding-native-species-say-tasmania-key-to-success/102048758>

More interesting and recent documentaries regarding dingoes can be accessed from these sites:

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2021/02/the-impact-of-eradicating-dingoes-from-the-landscape-are-visible-from-space/>

<https://theconversation.com/the-dingo-fence-from-space-satellite-images-show-how-these-top-predators-alter-the-desert-155642>

[https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/dingoes#are\\_dingoes\\_protected](https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/dingoes#are_dingoes_protected)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Regional Contact details – from Telecommunications service providers** (provided following the BIEDO NBN information session held in the Bunya Mountains on 31 January 2023).

**NBN**

Scott Rowe  
Community Engagement Manager  
E: [scottrowe@nbnco.com.au](mailto:scottrowe@nbnco.com.au)  
P: 0429881697

Deborah Mead  
Business Lead  
E: [deborahmead@nbnco.com.au](mailto:deborahmead@nbnco.com.au)  
P: 0439 438 334

Karen Shipp  
Community Ambassador  
E: [karens hipp@nbnco.com.au](mailto:karens hipp@nbnco.com.au)  
P: 0437 189 953

**Telstra**

Matt Thornton  
Regional Engagement Manager  
P: 0407 590 529  
E: [matthew.thornton@team.telstra.com](mailto:matthew.thornton@team.telstra.com)

**SkyMesh**

Aaron Payne  
Sales & Operations Manager  
P: 0432 612 817  
E: [aaron.payne@staff.skymesh.com.au](mailto:aaron.payne@staff.skymesh.com.au)

Thomas Collins  
Senior Accounts Executive  
P: 0421 094 286  
E: [thomas.collins@staff.skymesh.com.au](mailto:thomas.collins@staff.skymesh.com.au)

**OPTUS**

Nick Channell  
General Manager  
P: 0407 431 976  
E: [Nick.Channell@optus.com.au](mailto:Nick.Channell@optus.com.au)

**Activ8Me**

Rod Hill  
Channel Manager APN  
P: 0417 169 644  
E: [rod.hill@apn.net.au](mailto:rod.hill@apn.net.au)

\*\*\*\*\*





A photograph of two men shaking hands in front of a large wooden sign. The sign has a saw blade graphic at the top and the text "Site of the", "ENGENV", and "SAWM". The man on the left is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, blue cargo pants, a baseball cap, and sunglasses. The man on the right is wearing a blue button-down shirt, dark pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses. They are standing in a field of tall grass under a blue sky with clouds.

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 18- February 2023



"Council is dedicated to creating active, vibrant communities and this project is a fun, interactive way to support the arts and cultural community we have here in the region and raise the profile of these talented individuals, while inspiring others to embrace their creative side."

The artists featured include Kylie Bourne, Hilary Coulter, Sarah Davis, Seth Gerke, **Meg Noack**, Chris Osborne, Christopher Rigg, Jayne Rohrlach, Alicia Streten, and Kay Vidler. Each video runs for 1-2 minutes and gives an insight into the creative lives of each artist, captured by videographer Clancy Sinnamon.

The videos will be shared on Council's corporate social media channels starting May 2023 and hosted online via the Western Downs Arts website, promoting the arts community into the future.

The 10 Artists: Finale will also feature in its own exhibition opening 28 July 2023 at Dogwood Crossing, Miles as well as in a virtual 3D exhibition to be hosted on the Western Downs Arts website...

**Entries are now open** (and closing 10<sup>th</sup> July) for those artists interested in being involved in the next **Western Downs Regional Artist's Exhibition**.

The **Theme** is: **ESSENCE**



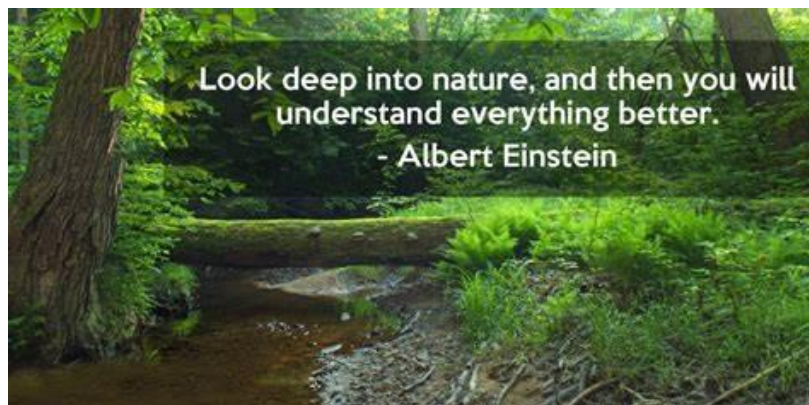
For more information contact Council on 1300 COUNCIL (1300 268 624) or visit [www.westerndownsarts.com](http://www.westerndownsarts.com)

**Do you have a nature story, general interest story or travel yarn to share with our Newsletter readers?**

**We'd love to hear it...send it to [bunyamcainc@gmail.com](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com) for inclusion in a future newsletter.**

*We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers good health and happiness.*

*We would also like to thank you for your support and we look forward to many more conversations and fun times in the future.*





Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc  
(BMCAI) Newsletter  
Issue 18- February 2023



*Do you own property or reside on the Bunya Mountains?  
If yes, you are invited to join the BMCAI. As our membership grows, so does our  
ability to lobby Government, local Council 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.*

Become a member so you can have your say and become involved in future activities. 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 (1st January to 30 December each year. If joining between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 30 December, then it will be \$5 per person for that first part year).

If you would like to become a member, we are happy to send you an Application for Membership Form. Request a Form by emailing us at: [bunyamcainc@gmail.com](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com)

***It has been fun chatting with you.*** Please feel free to provide us with feedback and some thoughts about how we can improve/ enhance this Newsletter. Send your ideas to [bunyamcainc@gmail.com](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com)

***We'll touch base with again in August 2023 following our third  
Quarterly meeting for 2023.***

