

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020



Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 7

Welcome to the latest Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc Newsletter -Issue no 7. Our previous Newsletter was issued in May 2020. Since that time, it has been heartening to experience the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and some semblance of (cautious) normality returning to our lives and community. It was fabulous that some of our members were able to meet for a general meeting in early June. Since that meeting, with travel restrictions further easing, the Bunya Mountains, has again become a hive of activity with accommodation fully booked and lots of day visitors to the area during the school holidays. The volume of traffic on Bunya Avenue has been phenomenal during this period, especially on Market Day, and we will explain in this Newsletter how the South Burnett Regional Council and BMCAI are endeavouring to find the best solution to ensure everyone's safety on Bunya Avenue.

Also featured in this issue are, the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigades' 30th Anniversary; some awe-inspiring Bunya Mountains' nature articles and photographs; another amazing travel story; our first ever Book Review and a Local Business Promotion feature. There is lots of other news also, so get comfy and enjoy the read.

This issue covers the period May, June and July 2020.

Article	Page/s	Article	Page/s
Overview of discussions and outcomes from the most recent Association meeting	2-4	Musings of a Mountain Bike Rider by Rick Mason	9-10
Update from National Parks	5	Mother Nature in the Bunya Mountains	9-13
Stanwell Generosity -First Aid	5	Let's Go to Antarctica with Pam and Nev	14-15
Celebrating 30 years of the BMRFB	6-8	Book Review by Lynne Downes	16
Out of Hibernation celebrations	9	Local Business Promotion	17

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

News from the BMCAI Meeting 20th June 2020

The BMCAI met on 20th June 2020. This meeting had been delayed from early May due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings. Whilst regretfully, we had to restrict our participant numbers to 20 people for the June meeting, it was a great meeting with lots of fruitful discussion and progress made.

John Learmont provided the Presidents' Report and we have provided that Report in full below:

"President's Report to the General Meeting of the BMCAI, 20 June 2020"

Since the Annual General Meeting in February this year, we have a new Treasurer Graeme Wright, a new Vice-President Ian Harris, and a new Management Committee member Robert Zigterman.

It has been a busy 4 months, partly because of the lockdown. We had to postpone the May General meeting, we have cancelled or postponed meetings with Telstra and Councils before the lockdown and have had 3 Management Meetings, one via a phone link. We had a couple of important meetings prior to the lockdown and a couple during the lockdown (all at correct social distancing).

The resident community generally has hardly noticed any difference during the lockdown because we live an isolated existence anyway. The biggest difference was the lack of visitors and cars driving up and down the roads. We have tried to support our local businesses with take-away coffees and food.

Secretary Carol has made sure our requests to councils have not been swept under the carpet.

On March 6 prior to the lockdown, we hosted a meeting in the Fire Shed with the Local Disaster Management Groups from the SBRC and the WDRC along with representatives from QFES and National Parks where we heard about what would happen in the event of a local disaster and the support we would receive. Because of the uniqueness of the Bunya Mountains community and our location across two regions, it was resolved to set up a sub-plan for the Bunya Mountains. We were very excited when a draft sub-plan arrived this week for our consideration.

The Right Honourable Colin Boyce MLA, member for Callide visited again and met with members of the community at Fishers Lookout.

The Association currently has a membership of 53.

Anzac Day commemorations had to be cancelled but Ian Harris mentioned what he personally planned to do and many of the locals attended and listened from a distance.

The Planning Focus Group under the leadership of Robert Zigterman has had meetings to develop the Community Plan version 2 and there will be a report later in the meeting.

The Western Downs Regional Council has responded positively to everything that we have raised with them:

- a. A locked gate has been installed on the track to the top of Mt. Mowbullen*
- b. Erosion issues on the track from Fishers Lookout and some roads in Mowbullen Township.*
- c. Consultation about the planning of the Bike Trail in Russell Park.*

Discussions with the South Burnett Regional Council are ongoing:

- a. The Bunya Avenue upgrade. Concept plans have recently been received and a meeting to discuss them with SBRC will take place next week. The Management Committee discussed them prior to this meeting.*
- b. Allan Stirling Park development*

Secretary Carol sent minutes to members and again wrote an excellent newsletter that she distributes to all residents and landowners on the Bunyas to keep everyone informed of our activities.

In conclusion thank you Carol, Ian, Graeme and Robert for your dedication to the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc.

John Learmont (President)"

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Overview of the outcomes from the BMCAI Meeting 20th June 2020:

Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Committee Sub-Plan: Following last years' devastating bushfires and the potential threat to the Bunya Mountains community, a meeting of representatives from the WDRC and SBRC Local Disaster Management Committees, QFES, Bunya Mountains National Park, Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade, and BMCAI, held on 6th March 2020 in the Fire Shed, determined that a Local Disaster Management Committee Sub-Plan would be developed for the Bunya Mountains. The aim is to ensure the safety of our community and any workers, holiday makers, visitors on the Mountains at the time of a significant event, such as bushfire, tornado or major accident.

The first draft of the Bunya Mountains Sub-Plan has now been developed. This is the framework of the Plan and now requires some work to include local information and develop local procedures to ensure effective levels of preparedness, and develop and test local responses to ensure an appropriate and timely response is available should a disaster be imminent or occur. The Plan development group will again meet in August to progress this Plan. Local community awareness and information sessions will be provided when the Sub-Plan is finalised.

Bunya Avenue Upgrade

Following a meeting with the Infrastructure Team, SBRC, on 10th December 2019, it was determined that there were significant safety issues for users of Bunya Avenue. Bunya Avenue is the main access road for the village to businesses, and access to the estates. It becomes a shared zone with pedestrians, motor vehicles, motorbikes, wallabies and the horse and carriage, and is particularly busy on weekends and peak holiday periods. At those times, the safety risks for road users is significant.

From this meeting, it was determined that Bunya Avenue needed a major revamp to meet the identified needs. Cr Gavin Jones and the Infrastructure Team have been working hard to source funding to assist in doing the required improvement works. The Infrastructure Team have developed a Draft Concept Plan, which has been provided to local businesses on Bunya Avenue and Management Committee. The draft Plan has been divided into 5 stages so that they can be progressed as funds become available. A follow up meeting to further develop the Plan occurred in late June and additional information was provided to the Infrastructure Team. When the final Plan is developed it will be made available for the Community.

Cr Gavin Jones advised that the Council has available \$100,000 for commencement of the Project in the new financial year and they hope to have the work completed by Christmas 2020.

Allan Stirling Memorial Park update

The planned works for the Park, including new picnic tables, repaired signage, survey of the Park boundary and clean-up of unsafe tree near a picnic table is yet to occur. The Parks and Gardens Team, SBRC, have provided some sample tree identification labels for the "tree walk" being planned by BMCAI members. This cannot progress until such time as the boundary is surveyed and marked to avoid any accidental incursion into the National Park.

Cr Gavin Jones reassured the meeting that the survey work would soon be done, and the other tasks are being progressed. However, no funds are available to include a toilet in the Park. Much discussion ensued about the need for public toilets to prevent people using the bush. The Association reassured Cr Jones that we would happy, in collaboration with Council, to prepare submissions should an opportunity arise to gain funding for a toilet.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Mountain Bike Trail Update

Mayor Paul McVeigh, WDRC, advised that the funds for the detailed design of the Mountain Bike Track in Russell Park, have been approved and that the detailed design process has commenced. Project staff will liaise with BMCAI and the Bunya Aboriginal People's Corporation and Murri Rangers throughout the design process, which will include several reports, such as an environmental assessment.

BMCAI has engaged with the Project Team to provide feedback regarding both great ideas for the track from a mountain bike enthusiasts point of view as well as minimum requirements needed for such an activity (such as toilets, carparking and emergency first aid responses) and environmental concerns including erosion, weed and pathogen spread etc.

The Project Team have accepted the feedback and BMCAI will continue to accept and collate that type of feedback from the community, to provide periodically to the Project Team.

(See also *Musings from a recent Mountain Bike ride with friends by Rick Mason (Endless Views and Wallaby Fiesta)* on page 9)

Telstra

BMCAI has maintained periodic contact with Ms May Boisen, Regional Manager, South Qld Region Telstra Office, throughout the pandemic lockdown. BMCAI provided information regarding the lack of available signal when needed most in a recent life-threatening situation, and the deteriorating signal strength and data speed, despite several "upgrades" on the Bunya Mountains.

Ms Boisen has indicated that she continues to be willing to visit the Bunya Mountains, along with a technician, to hear community concerns. However, this cannot happen until it is safe to do so and we have been advised that *"Unfortunately due to Covid, Telstra business rules are that we are not scheduling any meetings until October 2020 (this date may change depending future business directives)."*

Mayor Paul McVeigh informed the meeting that WDRC and SBRC are applying for a new tower for the Bunya Mountains under the Round 5A in the Black Spot Program. Round 5A has different criteria from previous Black Spot Funding Rounds, in that it is aimed at smaller communities and black spots along high ways etc (rather than based on a particular number of recipients that would make it viable for the applicant Telco to create the infrastructure). Bunya Mountains has been elevated to a high risk area due to isolation, safety needs and tourism requirements.

BMCAI Community Plan no 2

The feedback from focus group meetings has been included in the Community Plan no 2. Management Committee will now closely check the document before taking it to the next general meeting. A huge thank you to those who contributed.

Visitors:

Western Downs Regional Council Events Coordination Team visit

The WDRC Economic Development, Tourism and Events Team and Cr Kylie Bourne met with the Management Committee to share information about how they operate and the types of support they can provide to communities. The BMCAI Draft Community Plan No2 provided a framework for discussion at the meeting and various strategies from within the Plan were discussed and the meeting explored how they might be progressed.

Colin Boyce MP and Member for Callide 10th June 2020

Several BMCAI members met with Colin and discussed issues such as the increasing number of visitors, lack of public amenities, road conditions and the current and future need for facilities such as a helipad for medical emergencies, public toilets and a community gathering place / centre. Colin kindly prepared letters to the various State Government Ministers regarding the issues raised by BMCAI.



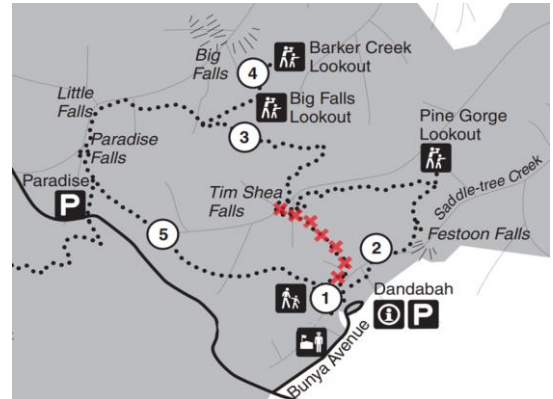
Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

National Parks Update - provided by **Tony Parkins, Ranger** - Bunya Mountains, South West Region,
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships, Department of Environment and Science

"As of today [3rd July 2020] we have partially reopened the Scenic Circuit. The remaining closed section will be opened as soon as contractors have completed the remaining Hand Rails. Please see attached Map to show the current closed section of the Scenic Circuit. I will email again when the Scenic Circuit is completely reopened."



TARONG Power Stations | **MEANDU** Mine | **stanwell**

Valuable & appreciated assistance provided- First Aid Training

The Bunya Mountains is an isolated area in terms of access to emergency medical services should they be required. Given

the narrow, steep, winding access roads, it is generally expected that it will take at least 1 hour for ambulance/ paramedics to arrive on the scene of any medical emergency. With increasing visitor numbers and the development of new activities such as the Mountain Bike Trail, it is highly likely that this community will continue to experience increasing numbers of medical emergencies. It is therefore essential that the community has trained first aiders to assist patients while waiting for paramedics to arrive.

Stanwell have kindly allocated a grant to facilitate first aid training for our community. Priority access to that training will be provided to the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade members and local residents. If training places are still available, then the BMCAI will offer that training to property owners who frequently stay in the Bunyas and local business/workers. If you are interested and want to be involved, please send us an email at bunyamcainc@gmail.com

A huge **Thank You to Karen Wall for her assistance and Stanwell** for providing these funds and this opportunity to our community to help keep everyone safe, and to Cr Gavin Jones for making us aware that Stanwell/ Tarong/ Meandu had some funds available.



"The greatest way to learn the genius of generosity is to practice it in real time with others."

Chip Ingram, Genius of Generosity

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Celebrating 30 years of service:

The Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade

The Rural Fire Service is the volunteer firefighting arm of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) which provides management for rural and semi-rural communities across approximately 93% of the state.

So lets talk about the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade (BMRFB):

How was the BMRFB started 30 years ago?

In the beginning: This section has been kindly provided by Tom Greber, first Chairman of the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade (BMRFB):

"A few locals got together, all feeling that it was time to develop a plan of fire prevention and control. Our gathering consisted of three people from the group titles estate, a rep from National Parks, one from Mowbullan house and two from Saddle Tree Creek.

What did we commence with: a collection of fire rakes, a borrowed firelighter and a knapsack sprayer.

What was our training: one afternoon we went down to the power house where we watched them unroll and roll up a fire hose.

Our first effort was: fuel reduction burning around the perimeter of the group titles estate. Try as we might we could not get a fire underway. The estate had been well maintained by much slashing virtually creating fire control. We were somewhat disappointed with our efforts on the Mountain so we agreed to go down to Saddle Tree and try our hand there. There was much grass, but here too it showed resistance. It wasn't until the next morning that a message came that there was smoke down the bottom. Two of us went down – fire rakes and knapsack included. I was the one elected to go up the slope with a full knapsack through the waist high wet grass. A patch of grass had finally decided to burn but the fire had gone out with only a smoldering old log, almost consumed, in the centre.

On another occasion we had a call that one of our group had gone down the Maidenwell Road to check out a reported fire in the scrub. When I got there, I found a sole member in amongst the smoldering fire frantically raking away.

Needless effort as this fire would extinguish itself during the moist night.

The group had a few meetings and it was agreed that equipment would be needed if we were going to get serious about fire prevention and control. Correspondences went off and the right government people were asked for support. And that's how it all started.

On 29th November 1989 BMRFB was formed at a public meeting in the Bunya Mountains. The population at that time was 150 people." (information kindly provided by Tom Greber)

The registration of the BMRFB was notified in the Government Gazette on 20th January 1990 as RF 4751.

How has the BMRFB evolved in 30 years?

Since commencing with just some fire rakes and knapsacks, the BMRFB has seen the gradual allocation of equipment and appliances :

Stage 1: The First fire Shed was constructed in land annexed from Rifle Bird Park in (approx) 1990.



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Stage 2: New fire trucks were commissioned 2000 and 2004, and are still in use today.



Stage 3: The extension to the Fire Station was completed in February 2012. This is the current Fireshed

What services are provided by the BMRFB?

The Rural Fire Service is a valued and crucial service (sometimes in life threatening situations) in the Bunya Mountains. The volunteers provide a variety of services in our community such as fire fighting, fire prevention, emergency call-outs, community education and social gatherings.

In terms of fires, volunteers respond to fires from many causes, for example: house fires caused by hot coals/ash, cooking fires, log fires , electrical faults; grass fires, forest fires; wildfires (often triggered by lightning); and vehicle fires and accidents. In essence, the volunteers are first responders to any type of emergency on the Bunya Mountains, for example, fires or motor vehicle accidents.

Within BMRFB, who provides these essential services?

Positions and titles what do they mean and why is this important ?

Stately simply, a volunteer firefighter helps protect their community's people and assets from the destructive force of fire. However, the rural fire service volunteers perform a diverse range of roles within the service, such as operational firefighting, operational officers, and non-operational roles such as incident management, community education, administration and catering.

The BMRFB is supported by a Management Committee. Their role is to ensure that the association conducts the business required to keep the service functioning, adheres to the legislative and regulatory requirements of the Fire Service and that the local volunteers are appropriately supported. The current Management Committee of the BMRFB are John Learmont, Chairman; Barry Downes, Secretary; John Gaskin, Treasurer; Peter Marshall, First Officer; and Kelvin Quinn.

The role of First Officers is crucial to the local Rural Fire Service. A First Officer leads the brigade in all operational aspects. Since the establishment of the BMRFB, the locals who have preformed this crucial role are as follows: Des Petersen 1989 to 1994; Al Hackwood 1994 to 1998; Michael Stirling 1998 to 2006; Bob Sommerfield 2008 to 2012; Terry Joyce 2012 to 2018 and Peter Marshall 2018 to current.

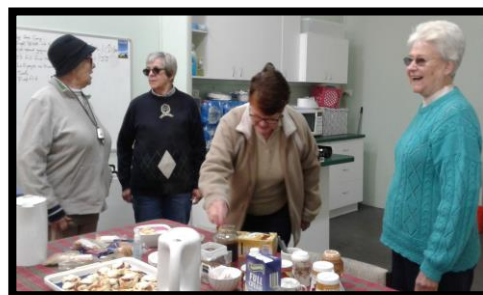
Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020



Caught on camera just prior to heading out to commence their duties are (L to R): Chris Rowe; Ian Harris, First Officer Peter Marshall; John Gaskin; and John Learmont.



The BMRFB is supported by the Catering Group who ensure the firefighters are well nourished and hydrated. This group of ladies is very capably led by Gill Marshall. Photo: (L to R): Gill Marshall; Lynne Downs; Sandy Learmont; and Margaret Harris, preparing the morning tea for the firies photographed above.

Given the horrific bushfire season experienced in 2019/2020 by much of Australia, how Is the BMRFB preparing for the future?

- To protect life and property, the brigade is commtted to being a resource available to the local community
- A bushfire Emergency Package has been prepared and distributed to all permanent and part time residents
- A Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Plan is being developed through collaboration with Western Downs and South Burnett Local Disaster Management Committees, QFES and BMCAI
- The current fire trucks will be replaced in 2021 and 2023
- Equipment is being constantly improved and upgraded, for example, new facemasks, truck tyres, truck batteries, Engel fridge, PA system, VHF radios, Kevlar helmets etc
- Membership is expanding, bringing the active membership to 50+
- BMRFB is strong, healthy and active and has:
 - Completed 37 hazard reduction burns, 5 call-outs and responded to a dangerous wildfire at Bunya Park; and
 - Completed a 14klm 4 wheel-drive training track, with thanks to two local landowners.

If you are interested in knowing more about this dynamic and valued service, and/ or becoming involed, then please phone the First Officer Peter Marshall on 0487 923 696...

PS: Late news: Do you remember reading about the B.Older Film Competition in Newsletter 6? It was a fabulous story prepared for the BMRFB by Lynne Downes. The story has been declared as a finalist in the Competition. Congratulations Lynne and Bunya Mts Rural Fire Brigade- you'll soon be movie stars- Imagine that...our very own Bunya Mountains Movie Stars.

Congratulations to all past & present members of BMRFB on your 30th Anniversary ..

A job well done to protect our community.



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Out of Hibernation Celebratory Dinner



As the Covid-19 lockdown conditions eased, the locals felt it was time to kick up their heels and find a way to once again be social. Dinner at the revamped Elz Restaurant, sounded like a great way to do that and celebrate and reconnect with friends over a lovely meal (and partake of the odd drink or two!) It was a great evening and thank you to Gill for the great idea and to all who participated.

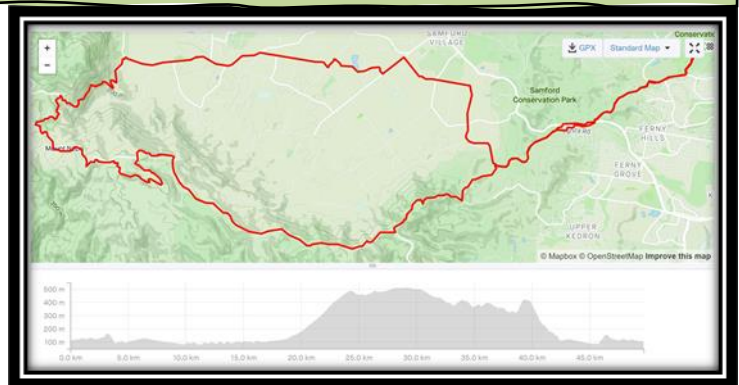


During lockdown Dan and his team used the time available to update and beautify the interior of Elz....it was a lovely venue to celebrate a post lockdown gathering of locals. Well done to Dan and his team also.

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Musings from a recent Mountain Bike ride with friends by Rick Mason (Endless Views and Wallaby Fiesta)

The other weekend 5 mates and I enjoyed... well, scratch that; tolerated a 50km mountain bike ride from Bunya Conservation park via the Pony Trails, up the Goat Track to Mt Nebo and home via Camp Mountain and the dreaded "I Hate This One Two" Strava segment back to our starting point.



Every Saturday; rain, hail or storm the self-named "Bunya Boys" (the other Bunya, not the Bunya Mountains Bunya) have a Saturday Arvo ride somewhere within an hour's drive from Bunya. We have a rule that we can't have a return driving trip greater than the mountain bike ride. Not unreasonable right?

So this Saturday, I was very keen to do the ride, hmm not for the ride but for the steps earnt. I'm doing a Global Steps Challenge and mountain biking converts to a lot more steps than actual walking. Let me tell you the outcome later...

We met at our usual spot and wow, every man and his dog was out riding their new COVID-19 mountain bike. Probably a good thing, better than staying home and Netflix'ing. Not that I have a problem binge watching a new TV series or new movie on Netflix!

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

We head out to the pony trails, there are many entry points and paths to choose, thankfully on this ride the designated ride leader chose a nice sedate route. There were some pony's ahead of us as we had to dodge some rather fresh looking... how to say... pony poo!

We cycled through Samford Valley and along Mt Glorious Road. We then cycled in single file engaging in some cycling drafting to improve the cycling efficiency to the base of the Goat Track. For those that don't know it the Goat Track is a one way gravel road which is 3 kms from the base of, to the top; well near top of Mt Nebo. Thankfully the track had recently been graded.

So, a quick rest at the base of the climb for some quick sugar free snakes, banana's and the odd muesli bar and we're off. Basically head down (not looking at the upcoming incline) and bum up grinding away at the pedals. 20 minutes later not far from the top is a shrine of soft toys. Hundreds of soft toys wedged into the bank either side of a tree. Very weird and odd and odder still that it hasn't been vandalised or damaged. No one knows why it's there.

We make it to the top and boy oh boy are some of us – ok me only – knackered! We catch our breath and start the remaining 5 km climb on the bitumen to our destination, the Mt Nebo café. On our way we're passed by Ferrari's and many motorcycles and day trippers enjoying the new travel relaxations.

The café at Mt Nebo is 446 metres above sea level - doesn't compare to Mt Mowbullun I know but it's hard work on a mountain bike compared to a car! We enjoyed well earned bacon and egg burgers which we'd all been dreaming of while slogging our lungs out climbing the Goat Track. Thanks to COVID-19 we all signed in to the guest book and kept our social distancing and a maximum of 10 people in the café. Due to us being sweaty (not smelly of course 😊) and the breeze and pending twilight, it was jackets all round as it was getting cold, not Mt Mowbullun cold, but Brisbane cold.



Much to our surprise, one of the guys (you know who you are) surprised us and paid the bill for our burgers and drinks. Thanks AP! We thanked the café owner for cooking 6 bacon and egg burgers minutes before closing and exchanged some banter with him (PS he's a great guy) and rode off. After a few kms on bitumen we came to the walking tracks, we only rode these knowing no-one would be on them at night. It was surprisingly dark in the bush. We all had our front and rear lights on. It was odd popping out of the bush a few kilometres later in twilight when we had earlier been under lights. A few more kilometres on bitumen until we came across the Camp Mountain turn off. Let me tell you about the climb to Camp Mountain.. horrible, yuck, steep, hard, long, did I say horrible. 20 minutes of granny gear hard climbing and we made it to the top of Camp Mountain. A quick rest and view of the night lights of Samford Valley and off we go.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020



The descent down Camp Mountain is normally tricky but under lights slightly harder. It's dark and the lights pick up the dust and present it to our eyes as fog. Some serious concentration and braking for the 1.2 km downhill ride.

It's a cruisy ride back to Ironbark (back of Ferny Hills) from the base of Camp Mountain, we jokingly held our breath riding past Peter Dutton's

house (the foreign affairs minister who had COVID-19). We're almost home when we are faced with a steep incline up a Strava segment called "I Hate This One Too". It destroys every great ride as it's just a horrible climb out of the valley to suburbia. We make it to the top and the COVID-19 toy bear (placed and dressed by some locals) is wearing yet another change of clothes (pretty cool). It's now 7:30pm and very dark and very (Brisbane) cold.

We make it back to our starting point some 5 hours and 50 kms later. It was a nice drive home with the car seat heating on. The longest hot shower and a relaxing cold beer later and I'm feeling ok.

The next morning, I updated my steps and my mountain bike converted steps and wow!, 73,000 steps... that's a very big number. I was "speed checked" by the global challenge. I submitted proof that I actually had slaved away for 5 hours climbing 1,000 metres across 50 kms and they approved it. We're now in the lead. Sounds good, but now my team needs to back this up for only another 97 days!

Mountain Biking is great fun as you see some awesome sights not seen by your car and best of all you get to exercise sitting down!!

Bring on Mountain Biking at Mt Mowbullan!



Mother Nature in the Bunya Mountains, sometimes frightening but mostly awe-inspiringly beautiful

Thirsty mates: this beautiful photo was taken by John Lobban from his deck in Rainforest Estate.



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

What goes crash, bang in the night when all is quiet in the rainforest...



One recent evening , with just a little breeze rustling the leaves, this huge Mowbullan Whitewood crashed to the ground. From personal experience I can say, it got a few very relaxed hearts pumping strongly again.... This one fell in the lower end of Allan Stirling Park and across the boundary into the National Park. There is now a huge hole in the canopy.



Whilst checking out the fallen tree, this is what we found in Allan Stirling Memorial Park...how beautiful are these fungi? The smaller ones were soft and velvety to touch. Mary Mahoney kindly identified these for us as *Cymatoderma elegans* var *lamellatum* with the common name being **Leathery Goblet**. The "var lamellatum" is the Australian species.



***Every day is a day of
discovery in the Bunyas!!!***



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

The Lynx Spider (Oxyopidae) from the Bunya Mountains National Park by Dr Barbara Baehr

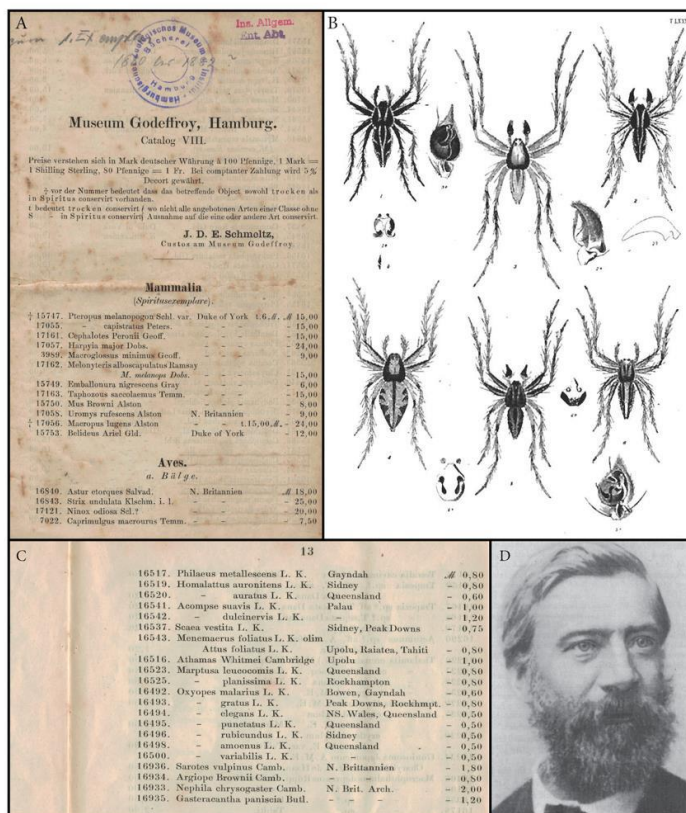
In the Bunya Mountains you can find these spiders lurking on leaves for insects, which they approach slowly, then jump suddenly, like cats. They trap their prey by placing their long, slender spiny legs around it, forming a trap like a fishing basket, and the spider then strikes by pinching with its fangs.

These two Lynx spider female images were photographed by Nick Monaghan in the Bunya Mountains. He is an amazing photographer who sees the art in nature.

Website: <https://lifeunseen.smugmug.com/Arachnids/Spiders-order-Araneae>

Lynx Spiders are active daytime hunters that do not create any webs. They are common in Australia on most types of vegetation, especially on grasses, on flowers, or in crops. Lynx Spiders are usually sleeping at night, hanging from a dragline which is attached underneath leaves or branches.

Most of the known Lynx spider species were described in the late 19th century from a German Arachnologist, Ludwig Koch, in his monumental work “Die Arachniden



Australiens” based on the original material from the Godeffroy Museum. The Godeffroy collection of arachnids at the Natural History Museum in Hamburg (CeNak) comprises more than 450 types of spider species from Australia. Compiled on behalf of Johann Cesar VI Godeffroy for his private Museum Godeffroy in Hamburg from 1861 - 1885, this is certainly the oldest major collection of arachnids from Australia.

Historic images: **A**, Front page of the Godeffroy sales catalogue No. 9; **B**, Original illustrations for oxyopids taken from L. Koch’s monumental work “Die Arachniden Australiens”, **C**, Detailed view of the sales catalogue that offers oxyopid spiders for sale (left column = Godeffroy registration numbers, right column = price per specimen); **D**, Eduard Dämel, the main collector of this historic material.

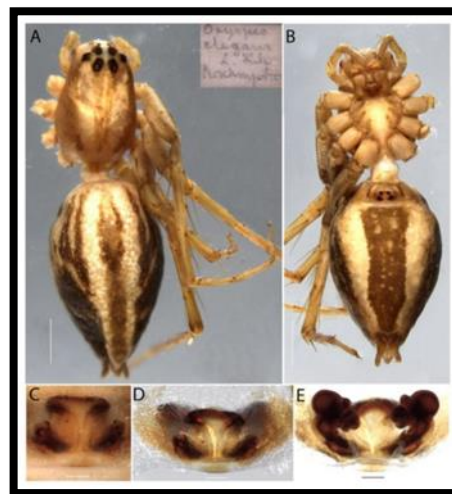
Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

The Bunya Mountain Lynx Spider resembles this recently described "*Oxyopes godeffroyi*" from Rockhampton which I discovered in 2017 when I documented the Lynx Spiders of the Godeffroy Collection in Hamburg.

Oxyopes godeffroyi Baehr, Harms, Dupérré & Raven, 2017, female holotype (ZMH- A0000008): **A**, dorsal view; **B**, ventral view; **C**, epigyne, ventral view; **D**, epigyne, ventral view, cleared; **E**, epigyne, dorsal view, cleared. Scale bars: habitus 1.0 mm, epigyne 0.1 mm.



The Bunya Mountain Lynx spider is most probably a new species and not described yet.

Article kindly provided by Dr Barbara Baehr, Research Scientist, Terrestrial Environments (Arachnida), Natural Environments Program.

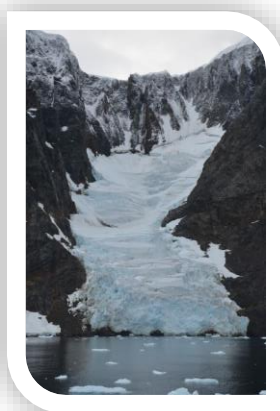
Email: Barbara.Baehr@qm.qld.gov.au | network.qm.qld.gov.au



ANTARCTICA -an amazing travel story kindly provided by Pam and Nev Pollard

This trip was on the family bucket list. Pam and Nev combined their birthday wish lists and chose Antarctica for the holiday. We all converged on Melbourne, then travelled via Santiago, Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, at the very tip of South America and boarded our ship – the Ocean Diamond.

Good documentaries give a sanitised version of Antarctica –professional photography, wait for the best days, adjust your filters etc. In fact, one of the perks was, the professional photographer recording the trip gave lectures on how to do just that – including post photography enhancement programmes.



In a way, we had our own sanitised trip with 11 days of almost perfect weather (for Antarctica). That included the double crossing of the Drake Passage, which is usually rough to very rough.

No documentaries could ever replace being there. If the following sounds like an advertisement for Quark Expeditions, we apologise. What is considered a small ship – about 300 passengers and 300 crew – meant anyone who wanted to, could get on the Zodiacs. Each was driven by a trained guide, who was also an expert in some aspect of Antarctica, eg. Biology, Marine Biology, Ornithology, Geology, Botany and History. The Expedition Leader's mantra was to maximise time out and about on the land or water, seeing the icebergs, glaciers and wildlife up close and personal.



We managed two excursions a day. One might be exploring in the Zodiacs and the other landing to look at penguins, seals and remnants of earlier historic expeditions.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Back on board there was a nightly recap of the days' outings, a plan for the next day and voluntary attendance at lectures by the guides on their pet subjects. This may sound dry but they were expert at entertaining you with their subject. Despite all this, our age was showing with people nodding off (due to the combination of excellent food and the odd drink) which we blamed on warm and cosy after being like a penguin in our yellow suits during the day.

Often, we travelled overnight, but any sighting of interest, eg. the first site of mainland Antarctica, whales, albatrosses etc. were broadcast so you could get to a good vantage point. We were woken early for the spectacular view as we travelled through the Lemaire Strait. This was a great photo opportunity, with both sides having towering cliffs and glaciers at close quarters. The soundtrack included the occasional scrapping on the hull of small floating icefloes (called growlers) and louder noise as we ground our way through larger areas of ice.



The top of the pops for daily entertainments was being with the penguins, who totally ignored and tolerated humans. We sat for ages watching their antics. Close living caused the odd squabble over space, a bit of larceny (stealing pebbles from a neighbour's nest) and noisy chicks harassing any passing parent for food. We had a laugh watching their ungainly scabble over rocks and steep icy slopes, until our turn came and we had walking poles!!!

The seals were more sociable and played Peek-a Boo with us,

as they popped up around of the Zodiac. Some "sun-bathing" on the ice floes seemed to be posing for the cameras.



We were looking at distant sightings of whales, when one popped up 6 metres from the Zodiac. Strangely no one got a photograph, just a hell of a fright.

From a photography perspective, getting up close and personal with icebergs was phenomenal. What incredible blue/ green colours and patterns! Thank heavens for digital cameras. The glaciers were just as spectacular.



One of the special outings was kayaking through the ice floes. It got hairy when the guides explained we were getting iced in and we had to make a fast exit to open water. Even though we were in

wetsuits the odd splash from the paddles

gave us an idea of the water temperature, so we piked on the Antarctic Plunge.

This consisted of jumping off the ship, in just your cossie, into 1 degree C water. No Thanks!!!!



Throughout the trip the birdlife was a constant companion. The wandering albatrosses, the standout bird and, as a parting gift, soared around the boat as we sailed back into Ushuaia.



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Book Review: *The Mirror & the Light* by Hilary Mantel

This is our very first book review brought to you by Lynne Downes, Bunya Mountains Book Lover and Coordinator of our local Book Club. We hope you enjoy this review and maybe even have a read of this trilogy, if you have not already done so. Many thanks to Lynne for taking the time to provide this review for us.

Hilary Mantel, *The Mirror and the Light*

During the recent period of restricted social interaction I settled in to read *The Mirror and the Light*, the much vaunted conclusion to the Wolf Hall trilogy, which first appeared in 2009. The second volume, *Bring up the Bodies*, was published as far back as 2012, so it's been a long wait.

I hesitate to mention here that both of the first two books in the trilogy won the Man Booker prize. Hesitate, because such information in the eyes of some is an instant turn-off. Not so for this reader, who would willingly give the 2020 award to *The Mirror and the Light* as well.

The novel continues the saga of the life of Thomas Cromwell, beginning with the execution of Anne Boleyn and concluding with Cromwell himself on the executioner's block.



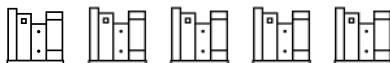
The language is everyday modern English. It is written in the third person, from the perspective of Cromwell. The use of the present tense conveys a sense of immediacy to the tale. Complicating the flow of the story, at least initially, is Mantel's insistence on referencing her central character as he: no matter what name precedes the pronoun, he refers consistently to Cromwell. Once accustomed to this peculiarity, the reader should have no problem.

Mantel's grasp of the wide sweep of history is impressive, along with the imagination with which she injects the past to make it live again. The picture she paints of Thomas Cromwell is of a man very much a product of his time. On the one hand, he is capable, hard working, loyal to his friends, a caring family man who has known sorrow and loss; on the other he is politically astute, ambitious, self-serving, vengeful and downright cruel if it suits his purpose. And his purpose is to serve his all-powerful king, Henry VIII. His whole life becomes a cat and mouse game. Lose and you die.

Of course, he loses. We know that. Yet Mantel treats him with a degree of empathy such that we find ourselves hoping for the ultimate survival of this very flawed but very human figure.

The Mirror and the Light, a hefty tome of well over eight hundred pages, is a great and rewarding read. Once I'd finished it, I felt compelled to begin the entire trilogy all over again.

- Lynne Downes



Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers. - Charles W. Eliot

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Local Business Promotion:

Dan and his staff at **the Bunyas** have been busy during lockdown making changes and enhancing the décor within the restaurant.

It looks lovely ...do you want to know what they've done? Then, there is only one way to find out and that is to visit and see it first hand!

But firstly you need to know:

The Bunyas are currently limited with seating capacity due to Covid-19 restrictions, so Dan would like to highlight the following:

- **Please book ahead even it is just for a coffee or drink in the tavern- phone 4668 31 31;**
- Trading hours:
 - Tavern and Restaurant is open Wednesday through to Sunday, with take away available each night
 - Tavern and Cafe is open 10am – 6pm Monday and Tuesday, with takeaways available by ordering in the tavern up till 6pm on those nights

These arrangements will be in place until covid restrictions are further eased.

The Bunyas are excited to announce that they will be introducing some new events in the next few weeks, so do watch this space for exciting updates. As soon as the information about these events can be released, Dan will provide them to BMCAI and we will circulate that information.

Wonder what those activities will be?



Fabulous New Look at Elz Restaurant

The Bunyas have a position available:

FULL TIME CHEF WANTED

Live-in position at the Bunya Mountains Tavern

Contact Dan direct for details

M 0429685150



A: Bunya Avenue, MS 501 Bunya Mountains via Dalby Q 4405
E: info@thebunyas.com.au **W:** www.thebunyas.com.au
P: 07 4668 3131

Accommodation · Bottleshop · Coffee Shop · Conferences · General Store · Shackleton's Whisky Bar · Real Estate · Tavern · Weddings & Functions

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 7- July 2020

Would you like to assist or support the work of the Association in enhancing the Bunya Mountains experience for all?

Then become a member and join the Association 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 per annum (1st January to 30 December each year. If joining between 1st 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. You are welcome to pay the annual fee at any quarterly meeting or pay directly into our bank account using the following details:

Bank Account Name : Bunya Mountains
Community Association Inc
Institution: Heritage Bank
BSB:638070
Account Number: 14018187
(please ensure you include your name in the Reference so that the Treasurer knows who has paid)

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

Next BMCAI Meeting: Date: Saturday 7th November 2020

Time: 2pm Venue: Rural Fire Brigade Shed

Guest speakers will be attending from the Cooper's Gap Windfarm

We would love to see you there.....*Enjoy the journey and the destination!*



Congratulations BMRFB- 30 years of dedication and service to our Community.