



Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 10



Family Fun at the Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Sub-Plan Launch

Welcome to the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter -Issue no 10, and our second Newsletter for 2021. Our previous Newsletter was issued in February 2020, and a copy can be found on our website <https://bunyamcainc.wixsite.com/mysite>. These Newsletters are produced quarterly following the BMCAI Quarterly Meetings.

BMCAI has had a very busy first quarter this year, so there is lots of information to share with you.

May 2021 is Centenary of the building of Soldiers Road -do you know how this road was built? Find the story in this edition, along with the story of Garrow's Retreat at Munro's Camp. Really interesting reading.

Thank you again to our generous contributors who have taken the time to prepare articles for this Newsletter. This issue covers the period from mid-February to mid-May 2021.

The weather is cooling (actually very chilly today) here in the Bunyas, so find a sunny spot, grab a cuppa and enjoy the read.

Contents: Article	Page/s	Article	Page/s
Overview of BMCAI May Quarterly Meeting	2	The Story of Garrow's Retreat	11-13
Update from National Parks	3	What's been happening in the Bunyas?	13-14
Project Updates	3-5	Food for Thought: when is a Nut not a Nut?	15
News from Bunya Mts Rural Fire Service	6	Disaster Dashboards...	16
The Centenary of Soldiers Road	7-10	Upcoming Event & Membership Information	17



News from the BMCAI Quarterly Meeting 8th May 2021

BMCAI met on Saturday 8th May 2021 at the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Shed on Bunya Mountains Road. The meeting was not as well attended as the February meeting (although the benefit of that was that Fire Shed comfortably accommodated our members and did not overflow with bodies as it did in February). Given that we meet only 4 times per year, and the Management Committee consistently and diligently work behind the scenes between meetings, there is always lots of detailed information to share with members at each meeting. These meetings also provide the best opportunity to have our local Councils speak with members. Following the May meeting, we did receive some feedback that 2.5 hours was too long for a meeting. Thank you to those members who offered their thoughts, we appreciate the feedback. The Management Committee will examine this issue and determine how best to resolve it. Thank you to all who attended the meeting. Your participation was greatly appreciated.

After the meeting, many members stayed on to chat and socialise with drinks and shared nibbles. A most enjoyable evening.

What did our Guest Speakers have to say:

Cr Paul McVeigh, Mayor, Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC)

Mayor McVeigh shared copies of the new WDRC promotional book titled: *"Experience Western Downs...It's the People that make it"* featuring Bunya Mountains on pages 4 and 5 with an article titled "48 Hours in the Bunya Mountains". One of the aims of the booklet is to double the number of visitor days in WDRC and targeting Bunya Mountains as a great place to relax. This book was produced internally by WDRC staff.

Bunya Mountains Mountain Bike Trail:

Mayor McVeigh talked about the opportunities arising from fitness tourism with 1 million mountain bikes sold in Australia in 2020...a growing market. He reiterated that the Bunya Mountains Mountain Bike Project would be delivered, although the initial timeframes have not been met due to environmental concerns, primarily the identification of a Black-breasted Buttonquail habitat. The track has now been realigned to avoid that area and the state government approval processes are continuing.

Another key project for WDRC is renewable Energy:

WDRC is exploring green energy opportunities. WDRC will soon have many more wind and solar farms, with further 20 new jobs coming online soon. A pilot .8 MW hydrogen power generator is to be constructed at the Kogan Creek Power Station, with battery storage of 400mw. One important benefit of hydrogen, is that the region gets to keep the water whilst exporting the power generated. In under 10 years, WDRC will be a significant contributor to the energy market.

Ms Justyne Wilson, Arts and Cultural Coordinator, WDRC

Justyne provided background information and an update on the Arts on Top Forum to occur in the Bunya Mountains 13th to 15th May. The forum was originally planned for 2020 but was postponed because of Covid. The primary idea is to bring together artists and art groups to explore future opportunities for regional communities and their artists. A report on the Forum can be found in the Events section on page 14.

Cr Gavin Jones, Deputy Mayor and Div 2 Councillor, SBRC

BMCAI received a Community Fund Grant from SBRC to enable the Association to purchase a laptop, printer and data projector for future Association and community business, and to provide appropriate presentation equipment for future meetings, workshops, forums and social events. Thank you to the South Burnett Regional Council for providing the financial assistance to purchase this much needed equipment.



Cr Jones also acknowledged the potential benefits of the Mountain Bike Track and announced that the Kingaroy Mountain Bike Club had received a grant to extend and improve their mountain bike trail bringing it up to the standard required for State Titles.





National Parks Update:

Mick Piper, Senior Ranger South Burnett, QNPWS: provided the following update:

"Foot wash stations to be installed in May. This will result in some short-term track closures as these are installed. Will be info on our website as this happens.

Some staff movements, Tony has been appointed permanently to the Ranger in Charge position. Garret who was with us has moved to Gympie. The vacancies from these movements will hopefully be filled early in the next Financial Year.

Rangers carrying out some weed work, now that school holidays are over. Our enhanced cleaning requirements due to COVID continue.

Pig control works continuing.

We're heading into the planned burn season, Tony and I keeping are keeping an eye on the weather for burn opportunities. Again, as we carry these out, information will be sent out through the appropriate channels."

BMCAI Project Updates:

Allan Stirling Memorial Park

Four new picnic tables have been installed in the Park by the South Burnett Regional Council (SBRC). Council staff did a great job in designing a low impact (on the tree roots, surrounding bushland) installation system for the tables. The project involved the construction of a recycled materials composite base frame and decking. The table settings are made from aluminium, strong but light weight and also low maintenance, which is especially important given the moist environment of the location.

Some large local rocks to provide seating have been collected and set in place at the bottom inner corner of the walking track. These rocks provide some forever seating for a few people in that area of the Park. It is such a peaceful place to linger. We have frequently been able to stand (can now sit!) and listen and observe the birds.

I have seen a Paradise Rifle Bird in the trees here on a couple of occasions.

Some smaller rocks have also been placed around the perimeter of the yarning circle.



**Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc
(BMCAI) Newsletter
Issue 10- May 2021**



We thank members, Brett and Graeme, for kindly gathering and piling the rocks ready for collection by Council. We sincerely thank Damien and Barnsy, Parks and Gardens staff members who collected the rocks and then as carefully as was possible with a bobcat, placed the rocks in position.

We are still waiting on the replacement timber sign. The old sign was rotted beyond repair and staff have had milled, a piece of the fallen tree they removed from the site (near the 1st picnic table in Bunya Avenue). They will now use timber from the Park to make the replacement sign. It should be ready to install by the end of May. Again, we need to sincerely thank Lucas Bell and Michael Hunter from Parks and Gardens staff for the care and sensitivity to the Park and environment they have demonstrated in making these improvements.

Tree identification signs: Council are waiting on the final proofs from Gumnut Place.

Allan Stirling Memorial Park in the future: BMCAI have talked with Parks and Gardens staff about developing a master plan for the Park so we can, in the future, apply for grants to install some interpretative signage (for example, birds, fireflies, plants, trees, indigenous stories) and a small nature-based children's playground near the picnic tables. It is fantastic to see families again using this Park, as was intended when the land was donated to the people. Thank you SBRC for your assistance in making this happen!

Birds of the Bunyas Leaflet Project

This is a Bunya Mountains Natural History Association (NHA) and BMCAI collaborative project.

Some time ago the Natural History Association commenced a project to compile a foldable leaflet of commonly sighted birds of the Bunya Mountains to enable visitors to identify (and maybe tick off) the birds they sight, when visiting the Bunya Mountains.

NHA were allocated some funds from the closure of the Broadwater Natural History Association, and NHA dedicated those funds to be used for the production of the leaflet.

The project stalled due to members' lack of available time to dedicate to the Project, plus the impacts of the pandemic creating an inability to meet regularly. BMCAI offered to provide coordination and secretarial support to assist in completing this Project.

Representatives from both organisations met on 12th May 2021 for the purpose of identifying what has thus far been done, developing a plan to collect the material still required, establish layout plans and a process for publishing and distribution. These leaflets will be professionally printed. We will provide further updates as the Project progresses.

Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Plan

What is the Sub-Plan? Under the (Qld) *Disaster Management Act 2003*, Local Disaster Management Groups, based in each local government area, help the community to: 1. reduce the potential damaging effects of a disaster 2. prepare to manage the effects of a disaster 3. respond to and recover from a disaster or emergency. Bunya Mountains is relatively isolated from emergency services supports and straddles two local government areas and two Emergency services districts. BMCAI and the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade initiated discussions with both Western Downs and South Burnett Regional Councils. After many collaborative meetings, the Bunya Mountains now has a Local Disaster Management Sub-Group and a Plan to provide a procedure to ensure our community receives the assistance they need in times of threatened or actual disaster, regardless of which local government or state departmental boundaries usually apply.

The Sub-plan was launched on Saturday 24th April, with an introduction and discussion about the Sub-plan for local property owners in the morning, followed by a family fun day on the lawn near the Bistro. The Sub-Plan Launch was a huge success and this is just one example of the many messages of positive feedback received. Julie Bruynius, Regional Community Engagement Officer, Emergency Management North Coast Region messaged: *"Carol it was a pleasure to be involved and work with your organisation and community. As I mentioned on the day it was the best attended and interested local emergency subgroup in community that I have seen over a number of areas and councils. So well done to you all and I hope to catch up again soon."*

Continued with photographs on the next page...



Training in Disaster Management will be offered to members of the Sub-Group in the near future, and the SBRC and WDRC Local Disaster Management Groups will initiate a mock exercise to test the efficacy of the Sub-Bunya Mts sub-plan- at a date to be decided. If you are a property owner in the Bunya Mountains, please contact us for a copy of the Sub-Plan: bunyamcainc@gmail.com

Bunya Avenue Upgrade

The T-junction of Bunya Avenue and Bunya Mountains Road is an accident waiting to happen, due to the increasing traffic volume and size of vehicles using that corner. South Burnett Regional Council provided some further turn path analysis concept drawings showing turn paths for a 12.5m bus and 19m and 25 m low loaders.

Limited options are available to remedy this situation due to road size and vegetation. One option is to remove the centre trees and make a standard T-junction to facilitate effective traffic flow. Another option is to remove at least one or more trees to enable more effective turning lanes. BMCAI did ask about a roundabout but it appears that this would require further imposts on surrounding vegetation and the cost would be “prohibitive” for a community of this size.

Another on site meeting will be arranged to further explore these options and find the best solution. Then the need for, and access to, funding to do the job will be the next priority.

The remaining Bunya Avenue works, for example, footpath and carpark adjoining bird feeding area and “pedestrian crossings” etc are to be considered in budget discussions. Currently the South Burnett Regional Council is in the process of preparing the 21/22 financial year budget and is considering a number of projects for inclusion into the budget, of which Bunya Avenue works is one of those projects. The final outcome of projects for 21/22 financial year will be known when the budget is brought down by Council, likely to be in a couple of months’ time.

Roads/ Parks maintenance

Request for toilet at Fishers Lookout

BMCAI wrote to CEO Western Downs Regional Council on 21st February 2021 regarding the lack of amenities at Fishers Lookout. A response email was received on 20th April 2021 stating “*Council notes your request and will consider this within the project planning for the Bunya Mts*”.

Cr Paul McVeigh, Mayor, WDRC advised that the answer to our request at the moment is “*no-there is no room at Fishers Lookout for a toilet, Council will assess the best position for facilities in planning for the Mountain Bike Track facilities*”.



Safer/ Fit for Purpose Access Roads (all 3 access roads)

BMCAI prepared a paper outlining the issues and sent that to RACQ on 2nd March 2021. RACQ indicated that they will use the information for future discussions between RACQ and the Department of Transport and Main Roads as the opportunity arises.

RACQ advised monitoring for their "Queensland's Worst Roads Survey" early next year and submitting our information via that process also.

News from the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Service (BMRFS)

Working Bee: Several members gathered at the Fire Shed on 18th March 2021 for a very successful Working Bee. Lots was achieved, whilst being a very social morning. Windows and screens cleaned, cupboards cleaned, office cleaned and some trench work and preparation for the relocation of the old tank and installation of the new tank. We enjoyed a lovely BBQ lunch to complete the event. Great job by all involved.



New Truck Driver: Bunya Mountains Brigade Firefighter, Peter Taylor, recently acquired his truck license... A huge **Congratulations Peter** for going the extra mile to help keep our community safe.



Improved Telecommunications in the Fire Shed: The Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade continue to work on improvements to their Fire Shed to ensure that is functional and everything is operating well. Members can now receive and make phone calls and relay messages, thanks to a Gaming Machine Benefit Fund Grant submitted by BMCAI on behalf of the Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Group and the Fire Brigade. The Grant provided funds for mobile signal boosters for Telstra, Optus and Vodafone mobiles, and a satellite phone for the Fire Shed. The boosters, their associated antennas and back up batteries are all now installed and operational.



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 10- May 2021



New Water Tank: The Fire Brigade has also recently purchased and installed a large new water tank to ensure more on-site water storage into the future. The older, smaller tank was re-installed below the new tank. And then it rained 2 days after the new tank was installed. Luckily, Peter T. and Peter W. thought to put up a temporary downpipe from the shed to the new tank! The plumber will soon be here to re-connect the tank externally and internally. Another great job done!!



Many Fire Brigade members have been involved, over the past 4 years or so, in endeavouring to get a toilet facility for the Bunya Mountains Fire Brigade...(for readers who are unaware of this issue, see the Blue Tardis in the photos above, that is the bathroom facility for the Bunya Mountains Fire Fighters). The Management Committee have hit many roadblocks/ obstacles along the way but are a resilient and tenacious group and are continuing to work hard to address this issue. Hopefully by the next Newsletter, we will have some positive news for you! We wish them the best of luck! 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

The Centenary of Soldiers Road

Where is Soldiers Road? It is the range climb section of the Dalby-Bunya Mountains Road ...

What's the story of Soldiers Road? Information sourced from <https://www.dalbyherald.com.au/news/diggers-find-work-mateship-on-mountain/3711791/>

"The Great War had come to a close and the Australian diggers were coming home. However, work was scarce and the returned men needed jobs. Repatriation grants were made to the Dalby Town Council and Wambo Shire Council to provide work. The councils decided to put their combined amount of 748 pounds (\$1496) into constructing a road to the top of the Bunya Mountains.

People of the town and area were calling for that project to begin. Cars were increasing in numbers and could only go as far as the foot of the mountains and a road was needed to the top. The Bunya Park Estate Co made a donation of 300 pounds so action was needed.

Hector Munro, a surveyor from the South Burnett, arrived with his pack mules and began pegging out a route up a south-western spur. It would have a grade of one in six. Munro was camped on top of the mountain near the rain forest. That location is still called Munro's Camp today.

HB Griffith assembled 32 former soldiers and, under ganger Athol Woods, work began in late 1919. It was hard, manual work with pick and shovel assisted, at times, by a tip dray. Gradually they progressed up along the spur while down in the valley they had their camp near Gertrude's grave. Jack Bennie became engineer in 1920 and worked hard to keep the project going. The dangers of war were behind them but the memories were still fresh in their minds.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 10- May 2021

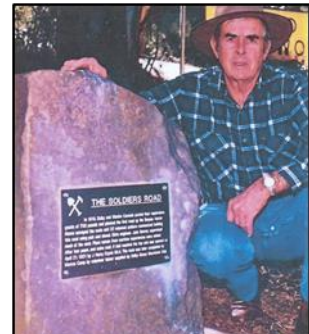


Their sense of humour was still with them as they nailed signs to trees relating their progress to wartime memories. "General MacLagan's Elbow, Mustard gas Trench, Kaiser Bill's Trench or Lone Pine," were some of their creations. Finally, they reached a dense patch of rainforest which was called the 'Meat Safe' as it was a good place to keep provisions cool.

It had been a battle to get enough money to get this far but finally it ran out and the project came to a close. Motor cars could now be driven to the top of the Bunyas but could go no further. It was then up to voluntary labour to fulfil the project...

The returned diggers of World War I had played their role. The locals all knew it as the Soldiers Road but there were no signs to establish that fact. The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association decided to remember the diggers. With the help of the Council, a sign was erected at the foot of the road and finger signs were placed to represent those returned soldiers had created.

A large stone was erected at the start of the climb on which a brass plaque was attached telling the story of work done by the soldiers. This was to be a memorial to the road builders but respect by some was sadly lacking. Within a couple of years, the plaque was levered from the rock and stolen."



Phil Humphries at the monument
created by the NHA

The Opening of Soldiers Road:

The following extract from Dalby Herald in 1921 published at the time of the opening helps to explain

See (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/215442305?searchTerm=Soldier%27s%20Road%20Bunya%20Mountains%20Opening#>) for the full article.

The Minister for Lands, Mr J. Harry Coyne, officially opened the Soldiers Road on 28th May 1921. The Dalby Herald provided a lengthy and detailed Report of the event and some text has been selected from that newspaper article to provide you with a historical context and some relevant details (and I couldn't resist popping in some samples of the language of the day ...nothing like you would see /read in today's news!)

"...It was a beautiful day and the roads were in splendid order, the journey of 30 miles [from Dalby] to the foot of the mountains being made in less than two hours...

The route lies towards the east, and the Bald Hills and adjacent heights are clearly visible to the motorist approaching the foot of the range. Passing the Bunya Mountains sawmills and the Mowbullan Post Office, it is only a short distance to the commencement of the new road which was recently completed by returned soldiers under the direction, of Ganger Athol Woods. Apart from the fact that the road provided employment for 50 [this number varies according to which article you read] returned soldiers, no one with any foresight or true appreciation of the possibilities of the district, could possibly, decry the expenditure that has been made to provide this access to the mountains.

The road, which was discovered and originally surveyed by Surveyor Hector Munro, has been well and truly made and it is now possible, for motorists, or any vehicle for that matter, to rise on this well constructed track to 3050ft above sea level, and within easy walking distance of Munro's Camp, Coyne's Lookout, and even Mt. Mowbullan, to which a rough track has been made by the timber-getters from Munro's camp. The steepest part of the road is at the commencement of the climb, where the grade is one in six, but there is a resting spot for over-heated cars at the top of the rise, and further on "The Spell" provides ample space for a halt prior to the stiff pull up to Point Garrow. Except for one short pinch, where the grade is one in five, the remainder of the road is not unduly steep, being mainly a grade of about one in 14. There is one sharp corner, however, and the road is a trifle narrow in parts, but careful driving should always ensure a safe journey. After leaving "The Spell" a delightful clump of scrub is passed through and the road then rises to a



**Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc
(BMCAI) Newsletter
Issue 10- May 2021**



beautiful view of the range clad in towering Bunya pines, with Munro's camp to the north. Coyne's look-out to the north-west, and deep ravines below, sloping down to the plains which stretch in misty distance to the horizon...

On arrival at Point Garrow, which lies in a sheltered belt of forest scrub, preparations were made for the picnic luncheon... From there a visit to Mt. Mowbullan was arranged, which rises to a height of 3611ft, and from which the finest- panorama of the surrounding country is obtained....

Visitors continued to arrive in motors and on horseback, including residents from Bell, Kaimkillenbun and other parts of the district, in addition to a carload from Nanango, who travelled round through Kaimkillenbun, a distance of about 100 miles, to be present. When the Minister arrived in the State car there were in all 19 cars at Point Garrow, two other cars having remained at the foot...



In extending a welcome to the Minister for Lands, the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr Vowles, Cr A. M'Keor said they had assembled to celebrate the opening of the first section of the Bunya Mountains Road.... they were proud of the mountains and regarded them as a health resort. It was desired to complete the second section of the road at a future date and for which £700 would be required. Up to the present time £2356 had been expended, made up as follows: Repatriation Department, Dalby Town Council grant £374, Wambo Shire Council grant £374; Dalby Town Council £175; Wambo Shire Council £175; Lauds Department £350, Bunya Park Estates "£430, collections by P. Garrow £60, Wambo Shire Council (balance) £416.



The track had first been found by Surveyor Hector Munro and constructed under the supervision of the Shire Overseer of Works, Mr J. C. Bennie, with the work performed proficiently by returned soldiers ... The road was commenced in September 1919... It was the first road, he believed, that had been built to any National Park in Queensland.... Mayor Garrow did not think they should stop here. They should go up to Mowbullan. They did not mean to hang the bag up to Mr Coyne that day, but they knew their objective and should not lose sight of it until the road was finished...

The Minister for Lands, Mr J. Harry Coyne said... he had been very doubtful whether he could avail himself of the opportunity to be present, but by travelling all night he had managed it... There was some talk of resuming certain timber and exchanging other timber for it, but so far nothing had eventuated but he had been approached by Messrs Garrow, Drury and Hunter to give a certain portion of the reserve in exchange for a portion of the Clapperton Estate in order to get water. He was just stating these things to show that were it not for the energy put into the road by certain members of the district, they would not have obtained what they had. The worst part of the journey was over when they got to this point. The National Park extended over 13,540 acres, and, as all national parks were, 'was under the control of the Director of Forests. This was done to preserve the flora and he could promise that while he was connected with the Lands Department, any vandalism that could be proved on national parks would be punished with the greatest of severity...

Though the road was completed to this point, there were still, many things to be done. No road was completed on the first try, and they could not expect such a difficult work as this to be. He was sure that the soldiers had done honest, sincere work. The action in employing the soldiers had been fully justified, and he hoped that none of them were out of employment...



The Minister then declared the road officially opened, with three cheers being given for the Minister by the gathering...In regard to the road, they must not step into the past, but think of the future, and he hoped they would come up again when they were connected with the Burnett, and which would only be when the Bell-Kingaroy railway was completed..."

The Centenary of Soldiers' Road:

To celebrate the Centenary of the opening of Soldiers Road, Western Downs Regional Council have agreed to replace the Memorial Brass Plaque to the soldier roadbuilders, which was originally installed by the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association in the early 1990's but was stolen a few years ago.

The new plaque has been delivered to Council who will arrange the installation on to the original rock. The rock has been located at the base of the Mountains and the overgrown vegetation cleaned up by Council staff in preparation for the re-installation. When BMCAI are advised of the date on which it will be installed, we will advise members and interested others and arrange a gathering at the rock to celebrate the Centenary.

I apologise for the poor quality of these archival photographs. I hope you can get a sense of the image to glimpse how it was at the time.





In keeping with our historical exploration of the Soldiers Road and Munro's Camp area in the early 1920's, BMCAI member, Gerald Tooth, has very kindly prepared the following article about Garrow's Retreat.



Garrow's Retreat on the edge of Munro's Camp in 1924

The Tailor, Sailor and Soldier's Road

Peter Garrow was a pioneer of tourism in the Bunya Mountains and fierce advocate of protecting the unique natural environment 100 years ago.

He was also the driving force behind the construction of the Soldiers Road that opened up the mountains to recreational car travel.

Peter Garrow was a tailor who wore many, many coats in the Dalby community he made his home from 1908 until his death, at 54, in 1933.

The son of a farmer he was born in Ballandallock in Banffshire, Scotland on January 16, 1879. At the age of 12 he was apprenticed to a tailor in Glenlivet, a town now world famous for its whisky, distilled on the Minmore Estate.

Bursting at the seams with a sense of adventure he joined the crew of a windjammer as an ordinary seaman making the treacherous passage "around the Horn" on the way to America where he worked on a number of vessels.

He eventually returned to England, and in London entered the service of Hill Brothers, famous Bond Street tailors, who counted the royal family amongst their clients.

Among Peter Garrow's personal clients was King George V.

Having the measure of the King wasn't enough to slake the young tailor's thirst for travel and he was soon on the high seas again working for his passage to Sydney, back to England and then returning to Australia, landing in Brisbane with a new bride.

In 1908 they made their way to Dalby where the Garrows set up a tailoring business.

Peter Garrow threw himself into public life in Dalby with seemingly endless energy.

He was Mayor twice, in 1921 and from 1924 to 1927. He was President of the Chamber of Commerce, on the Hospital Committee, the State School Committee, in charge of the Electric Light Authority, in the Fire Brigade, an avid golfer, in the Dalby Town Band, on the School of Arts, President of the Rifle Club, Chieftan of the Caledonian Society and an active Mason among other things.



It was however in his long-standing role as Secretary of the Bunya Mountains Club that Peter Garrow played a major role in transforming the mountains from a logging site into a publicly-accessible, protected, tourism and recreation area.

It was said of him at the time: "Peter Garrow dreams of the Bunya Mountains."

Part of his obituary in the Dalby Herald reads: "When the Bunya Mountains became known as a tourist resort, famous throughout the Commonwealth, Mr. Peter Garrow was the man who had made it largely possible. His work, physical work as well as mental, to make the road and to encourage tourists to the Bunyas is now bearing fruit, and with the late Mr. Russell, whose monument he had placed on the Mountains, Mr. Garrow takes a leading place in making possible this heritage to the people."

The road referred to is Soldier's Road that was opened in 1921. The funding for the road was Federal Government grants for the repatriation of soldiers after World War One. It was Peter Garrow who convinced the Dalby and Wambo Councils to pool their repatriation funding and commit to building the road with the labour of soldiers returned from the trenches in Europe.

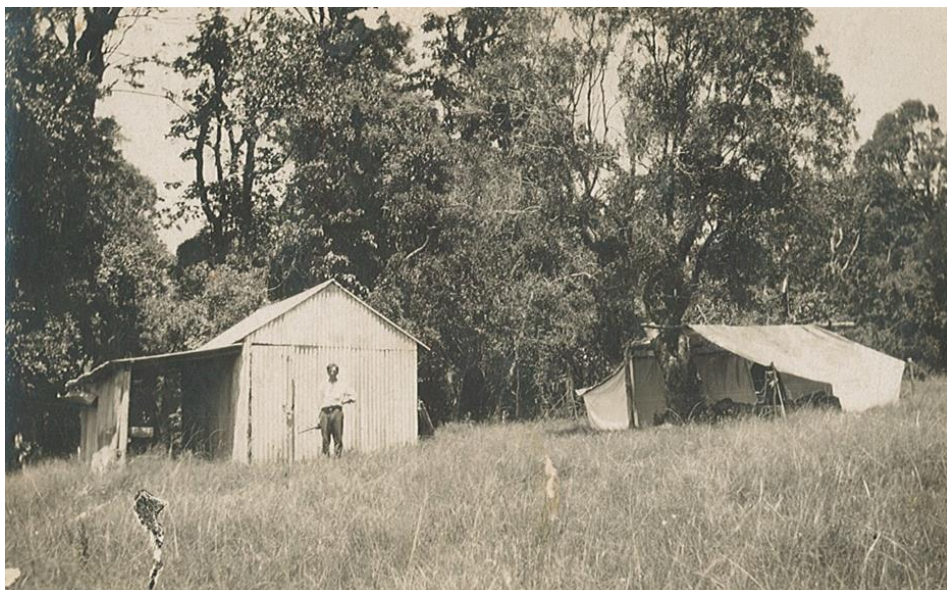
Along with Bunya Mountains Club President Bill Fink they also convinced local landowner and MP Wilfred Adams Russell to gift his land on the Bunya Mountains to the people of Dalby, creating Russell Park and protecting the western side of the Mountains from further logging.

Garrow realised another dream. He had building materials (Cypress pine and corrugated iron) delivered to the end of the road at Meatsafe. He and his friends then carried the materials on their backs the rest of the way to Munro's Camp, to a one-acre block gifted to him by A.W. Russell.

On the edge of the bald, in the shade of the rainforest, he then built a hut, with a majestic view east over the South Burnett towards Tarong.

The hut was known as Garrow's Retreat and he went there at every opportunity with friends, family and sometimes visiting naturalists. It was the first recreational accommodation on the mountain, and as such could be seen as the start of the permanent tourism industry on the mountain.

After falling into disrepair in recent decades, and being repeatedly "bombed" by the towering Bunya Pine that now looms over it, the hut is being brought back to life by its latest owners as a 100-year-birthday present for this small but significant building.



The first version of Garrow's Retreat with an earthen floor constructed in 1921 of cypress pine and corrugated iron carried from the end of Soldier's Road at Meatsafe.



Later Garrow added a wooden floor, closed in verandah and a fireplace

What's been happening in the Bunyas?

Anzac Day Service: Saturday 25th April 2021 The Bunya Mountains Commemorative Service was well attended this year with between 200 and 250 residents and visitors joining us for the Service creating a communal feeling. Ian again proficiently and expertly organised and led the service.

The Lone Pine is beautifully healthy thanks to Ian's care and attention and we were delighted when we arrived at the site on the morning of the Service to find lots of poppies arranged at the base of the Lone Pine. Following the Service, a Dad and his 2 daughters currently on holidays, came to tell us that he works in a cemetery and is usually busy with Anzac Day services there, but because they were in the Bunyas this year, they brought the poppies with them to share with the Bunyas community. How lovely is that! The Family were happy for us to retain the poppies to be used in future years, so they have now been carefully stored for next year. Thank you so much if you happen to be reading this Newsletter.

Peter Taylor also had the pleasure of telling some visiting children his late Grandfather's story and explaining his medals. Thank you, Peter.



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc
(BMCAI) Newsletter
Issue 10- May 2021



Arts on Top, Regional Arts Form, Forum Bunya Mountains 13-15th May 2021

Justyne Wilson and the Arts and Culture Team at Western Downs Regional Council, organised a fabulous 3 day Arts on Top Forum. The primary idea was to bring together artists and art groups to explore new perspectives on the role of Arts in our Regional Queensland Communities. All available tickets were sold for the event and all available accommodation was booked.

A variety of keynote addresses, presentations, panel discussions, master classes, ranger walks and workshops occurred across the 3 days. Anne Keam, Arts and Cultural Officer, WDRC, curated and facilitated an Outdoor Pop-up exhibition of art work featuring local artists and displayed in a variety of ways such as light boxes, projections, photographing and printing of artwork on to fabric and hanging as banners or on to corflute boards for installation in the grounds of Poppies. Bunya Mountains residents' contribution included works by 10 artists who either live locally or have in the past or have had a long term connection to the Bunyas, and all artwork related to the Bunyas in categories such as birds and plants of the Bunyas.

BMCAI applied for, and was successful in gaining, 8 x 1 day bursaries to enable local artists who had contributed artworks for the pop-up exhibition to participate in the Forum. Here are some photographs of some of the artworks included in the Pop-up exhibition.

A huge Thank You to Justyne, Anne and the Arts and Culture Team at WDRC for creating these wonderful learnings and experiences for our community.





Food For Thought: When is a Nut not a Nut?

This article has been kindly prepared and provided by Mike England, Bunya Mountains Natural History Association.

Last month, fellow NHA member John Learmont asked for my opinion on the appropriateness of using “nut” in the term bunya nut. The question was specific to warnings of nut allergy. Members might find these thoughts informative.



At a strictly botanical level, a 'nut' is a fruit, a single seed encased in a hard woody shell formed from the ovary wall, it does not split or open naturally, is usually edible (or at least not toxic) to humans and other vertebrates. Very few things called nuts are botanically 'nuts'; acorns, hazelnuts & chestnuts are. Botanically, a nut is a fruit, and the shell is the dried ovary wall. Araucaria & Pinus are both in the division (phylum) Pinophyta, and as non-flowering plants, they do not form fruit, so bunya nuts and comparable 'pine nuts' are NOT ACTUALLY 'NUTS' - but they are nut-like.

In parallel to the botanical definition, there is an everyday meaning. Most people apply 'nut' to any firm, dried, oily, larger seed that is edible and crunchy. This is a much broader term and includes true nuts. It also includes peanut, almond, cashew, pistachio, pecan, walnut, Brazil nut, Queensland nut, candlenut & coconut – none are true nuts. Usually the term 'culinary nut' is given to these, implying they can be consumed and utilised in the same manner as true nuts. Peanuts are technically not nuts (a legume, a type of pea having several seeds in a non-woody pod); similarly almonds (a type of peach, a drupe - a fleshy fruit with thin skin & the seed in a central pit) or cashews (a drupe that protrudes from a fruit that looks like an apple). That said, I'll continue to eat 'peanuts', sell 'bunya nuts', and eat my 'mixed nuts', although I know most actually are not nuts; if talking to a botanist, I'd use a more formal meaning. I guess that is an excellent compromise; after all, jellyfish, starfish and silverfish aren't actually fish, but we use these terms with no problem. Sometimes the word 'nut' is even used for more diverse things, like gum-nuts.

Society has got itself into a muddle by using the term 'nut allergy'. Things called 'nuts' come from a diverse group of different botanical families. It is true that some people do show an allergic response to one or several things called 'nuts', but nothing particularly associated with that name initiates the allergy; some things called 'nuts' might do so, others might not, and things not called 'nuts' might as well. As a good example; I have a friend for whom peanuts, cashews or almonds cause an anaphylactic-type reaction, over-ripe bananas and latex cause a similar reaction, but bunya nuts do not. It is coincidence some are termed “nuts” and none are botanically nuts anyway. There is a particular chemical that is in all of the things my friend reacts too, only some are called Nuts.

While compiling the above, I thought of some other words where the botanical meaning differs markedly from everyday usage. Another often misused is 'berry'. Botanically a berry is a fruit formed when one or more seeds become encased in a fleshy pulp that develops from the ovary. The pulp is usually edible. Botanically, blueberries & currants are berries, but so also are grapes, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, bananas, melons, avocados and capsicum. However strawberries, blackberries, raspberries and mulberries are not berries (botanically). A pome is very like a berry, but the flesh is derived from something other than the ovary. The most common pomes are apples, pears & loquats.

We might also consider the words 'fruit' and 'vegetables'; most things mentioned above are botanically fruit that form from a flower. A fruit is a mature ovary containing seeds. Examples of things that technically are fruit include: true & false berries, pomes, true & culinary nuts (but NOT bunya- or pine nuts), also pumpkin, beans, peas & peanuts, choko, marrows, corn & other grains, gum-nuts, rose hips, and many other things



edible or inedible. But botanically, figs are not fruit, at least not when we eat them; they are fleshy flowers (only later, after they are fertilised by a wasp crawling inside, do they form tiny grit-like seeds, so might then be considered fruit). The red part of the rosella isn't a fruit either (calyx, the 'cup' that supports the flower), nor is rhubarb (stem). Vegetable should be applied to the non-reproductive part of a plant; examples of vegetables include: potato, lettuce, cabbage, Brussels-sprouts, rhubarb, celery, carrot, beetroot, onions, garlic, asparagus, most herbs. Finally I might mention edible flowers (actually, many flowers are edible); examples we do eat include cauliflower, broccoli... and figs.

Disaster Management Alert Systems:

Did you know that you can view current alerts such as power outages, road conditions, fire and weather warnings from the state's primary emergency information sources on social media dashboards for most local government council areas in Queensland? The local government disaster dashboards often have links to the neighbouring council area's dashboards, so you just need one Dashboard link on your mobile phone, tablet or computer. The link is provided on this flyer. Please let us know if you require assistance.



DISASTER DASHBOARDS

WESTERN DOWNS & SOUTH BURNETT COUNCILS
WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES

When disaster strikes, go to disaster.wdrc.qld.gov.au or
dashboard.southburnett.qld.gov.au

When disaster strikes, essential information can be the difference between life and death. Now all of this information can be found on the **Western Downs or South Burnett Regional Councils' Disaster Dashboard**. The Disaster Dashboard includes real time information from Council, emergency services and Ergon, while displaying current weather warnings, road status updates, social media posts, school closures and activated evacuation centres.

Emergency News

Road Conditions

Power Outages

Weather Warnings

🔗 Important Links

📏 River Heights

📞 Emergency Contacts

🔥 Bushfire Notifications

📡 BoM Radar

During a disaster go to disaster.wdrc.qld.gov.au or dashboard.southburnett.qld.gov.au and be informed.

**Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc
(BMCAI) Newsletter
Issue 10- May 2021**



Next Meeting: 2pm Saturday 7th August 2021
Venue: Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Shed
We'd love to see you there.....

***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***

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 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

***Best wishes to all from BMCAI.....Stay Well, Stay Safe and have a great Autumn/
Winter 2021.***

