

# Bunya Mountains CommUnity Association Inc Newsletter

## Issue 2 June 2019



### ***Welcome to Issue 2 of the Bunya Mountains CommUnity Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter***

*Grab a drink, find a spot in the sun and enjoy the read. Whilst one of the key strategies of this Newsletter is to share information about what is happening as a result of the Community Association meetings, we have received some articles/ information from Association members to share with you. We sincerely thank those members for their contributions. In this edition, we have the Association meeting update (page 1), coming textile art exhibitions (page 5), how well do you know your local birds (page 6), update from the Rural Fire Brigade (page 6) and Have you heard about the Natural History Association and what they do (page7). Enjoy....*

### **News from the BMCAI Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

The Bunya Mountains Community Association met on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting was well attended by 20 members. Also in attendance were: Mayor Paul McVeigh, Western Downs Regional Council and Mayor Keith Campbell, Cr Gavin Jones and Craig Tunley, Senior Economic Development Officer from the South Burnett Regional Council.

The meeting discussed and determined actions to be taken on a number of business items. Here is a brief overview of the items discussed, the agreed actions, and in some cases, any important actions or responses that have occurred since the meeting.

The key business items are as follows:

1. **Incorporation of the Association:** The meeting voted unanimously to apply for the Incorporation of the Bunya Mountains Community Association. The application was submitted after the meeting, the Association has since been advised that the Application was successful and the Association is now incorporated (and you will note the additional letters, Inc, now included in the Association name).

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2. **Defibrillator:** The Association has been advised by Kingaroy Rotary that they were successful in their submission for funds to enable the purchase of the defibrillator for the Bunya Mountains. We are now awaiting the delivery of the defibrillator.
3. **Communication Strategy:** The distribution of the first newsletter was successful using multiple distribution modes, for example, BMCAI members and BMCAI interested parties email groups, and via the secretaries of the Body Corporates. We are happy to receive feedback if there are any other mechanisms that we can utilise to ensure all Bunya Mountains property owners can access the newsletter and/or provide input or ideas to improve the content for relevance and interest.
4. **Dangerous Condition of the Dalby/ Bunya Mountains Road:** The dangerous state of this road and the potential threat it poses to all road users was discussed. Mayor Paul McVeigh advised that the Western Downs Regional Council has previously informed the Department of Transport and Main Roads about the condition of the road.

It was agreed that the Association would write to the Minister of Transport and Main Roads, the Hon Stephen Miles, the Director General of TMR, Mr Neil Scales, and the Regional Manager for the South West Region, Ms Kym Murphy, re the state of the road, the dangers it poses and the need for safe access for locals as well as the increasing numbers of visitors to the Bunya Mountains. This letter was prepared and evidentiary photographs were attached.

We have since been advised the following by the Western Downs Regional Council, and I quote: *"...the Department of Transport and Main Roads...have approved Council to carry out some minor shoulder repair works on the road. That work will occur as soon as practical. Further maintenance and vegetation works close to the road will be considered at a later stage by TMR should funding become available."*

5. **Mt Mowbullen Lookout development** –There was no consultation with the community prior to this development, so no understanding of what is actually being done. Mayor Paul McVeigh responded stating that it is about the vista and showing off the western downs side of the Bunyas. This is a major development for the Bunyas with \$200,000 being spent on the carpark and \$600,000 being spent on the viewing platform. WDRC have since provided a schematic drawing for our information and this has been attached to this Newsletter as Attachment 1, for your information.

Despite the lack of consultation, the meeting agreed that it is exciting to see development on the Bunyas and the provision of this infrastructure is a great starting point.

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6. **Bunya Avenue Walkway**- The Walkway has progressed in a couple of stages and it is expected that the walkway will be sealed when the scheduled resealing of Bunya Avenue occurs in the 2019/2020 works. Prior to the most recent clean up by Council, some regrowth was already evident.

It was suggested that a 40 speed limit sign needs to be painted on the road as some drivers are still speeding up/down the Avenue.

Mayor Keith Campbell responded saying that the regrowth would be dealt with (and that has been done) and that the painting of the 40 kilometre speed limit on the road was a great suggestion and it has been noted.

7. **First Responders re unplanned road blockage**- South Burnett Regional Council have a contract arrangement with Allan Govan as a first responder to road blockages in the SBRC area. This role includes the following services:

When advised by a business or member of the public that there is a tree across the road and blocking traffic, Allan will inspect to determine if it is within his capacity to clear the road. If the job is too big, Allan will call the South Burnett Regional Council.

Allan will deal with the blockage, if within his capacity to do so, he is available and if the tree down is on the Bunya Mountains Road or arterial roads in the South Burnett Council area of responsibility on the Bunya Mountains to the T junction of the Nanango /Maidenwell Road and down to Burtons Well. Allan will also remove injured or dead wallabies within that same area.

Allan also monitors the rubbish bins in the same area, to ensure that the bins are not overflowing and the lids ajar enabling birds to pull rubbish from the bins.

Allan has witches hats and hazard signs stored by his shed that can be accessed if necessary.

Allan is not contracted by Western Downs Regional Council for any roads in their region. Members generally agreed and advised that Allan takes great pride in the Bunyas and his work.

BMCAI will write to the WDRC seeking a similar arrangement for roads in their region.

8. **National Parks Update** -Kelvin Quinn, National Parks, provided the following information:

#### **WALKING TRACKS**

Many of the walking tracks at Bunya Mountains were constructed by crews of up to 30 staff. Most of the tracks were built over a 40 year period between the 1930's and 1970s. They require regular labour intensive maintenance and some are well due for some major refurbishment. To find current information – see our Information Centre at Dandabah, visit our web site, particularly the Park Alert section or just ask one of the local rangers. Best time for office enquiries is normally 7.00 am to 8.00 am or 2.30 pm to 3.00 pm weekdays.

**Scenic Circuit walking track** - The Scenic Circuit walking track is the most popular track on the mountain by far, but closures are now necessary to undertake some much needed work to improve this track for visitor safety and enjoyment.

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- Rock work has begun. This involves the required installation of a Rock-fall Prevention System above the Festoon Falls area. This includes removing several tonnes of loose rocks from the surface above the track, then anchoring steel netting to the broader remaining rock face. Installation of a Catch Fence to ensure the safety of our visitors will also be installed nearby. Traditional Owners are on site observing much of the works to ensure the integrity of the cultural landscape and that any potential artefacts are not disturbed.
- Soon after the rock fall system is completed, it is expected that if possible, temporary repairs will be undertaken on the damaged boardwalk and bridge below the rock face to enable the track to re-open. It is hoped this will be completed by August 2019. Subject to several variables – weather, engineer clearance etc.
- Track work contractors have also commenced major reconstruction of the Scenic Circuit track in its entirety. Works began below Festoon Falls towards Pine Gorge Lookout (which is currently closed anyway due to the rock fall issue) and they will continue to work their way around the track through the Tim Shea section and back to Dandabah over the next 6 weeks or so. Sections of this track will be closed as necessary whilst the work is underway.
- Planning is advanced for the replacement of most of the tracks boardwalks and pedestrian bridges in the 2019/20 financial year - about 10 require replacement or major works.

### **Summary of expected closures**

- Some partial closures of the track will continue until about August 2019. Other partial closures are expected in about early 2020 when the new boardwalks and bridges are constructed.
- Dandabah to Pine Gorge via Festoon section – remains closed till about August 2019.
- Pine Gorge to Tim Shea section – closed from 13th May to about 31st May 2019.
- Tim Shea to Dandabah – closed from about mid-May to mid-June 2019 – 2 week window expected. First part will remain open for as long as possible.
- It is expected that at least some parts of the track from the main entrance at Dandabah will remain open at all times eg. Worst case expected is that for a short period of perhaps a week or two, only several hundred meters of track will be open from the main entrance. The nearby track from the large bridge behind the Bathouse – Dandabah to Paradise etc – will remain open at all times also. Remember that we have many other tracks to enjoy throughout the park too.
- Part closures will again be necessary from time to time in 2019/20 (Possibly early 2020) whilst the boardwalks and bridges are being constructed. We shall be aiming for minimal closures outside of peak periods.

### **Burton's Well to Cherry Plain walking track -**

- The 4 km section of track from Burton's Well to near Bottle Tree Bluff Lookout is closed (from 14th May) until about the 28th June 2019. Works are underway to finalise the reconstruction work along this track. Some ranger teams from other bases are coming to assist with some of the work in the hope to minimise the closure period.

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The Burton's Well to Mount Kiangarow track and also the Cherry Plain to Bottle Tree Bluff Lookout remains open and unaffected by this closure.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Feral pig research** – In collaboration with the Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and CSIRO, the Qld Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) will conduct research and monitoring on the movement and control of feral pigs on the park. Work will be quite intensive and involve several disciplines. It is hoped that the outcome will lead to better knowledge and resourcing resulting in more effective targeting control methods especially at the Bunya Mountains ie. more “bang for our buck” and less pigs.

**Bunya pine dieback** – We don't have all the answers yet. It is a difficult venture. Substantial resources are being directed to this project. Monitoring of dying and dead bunya trees carries on. Phytoththora, and other, research continues. The feral pig research project has some strong links to this monitoring. QPWS, DAFF, CSIRO, The Qld Herbarium and other agencies have obvious concern for this newly discovered issue here and are all assisting in trying to determine the exact cause and nature of the issue. Control and containment is a matter to deal with and some preliminary planning is underway but further investigation is required to confirm the cause of the dieback and the future paths we must take.

### 9. Future meeting dates

Tuesday evening meetings may not suit ratepayers who do not live in the Bunyas (although 2 Brisbane based and 2 Kingaroy based members were present at this meeting, along with 1 from Bell). Would teleconference /skype be an option? Poor telephone signal would be an issue.

The Management Committee has agreed to schedule the next quarterly meeting to a Saturday afternoon to give more property owners the opportunity to be involved in the Association. The next meeting is 2pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and will be held in the Fire Shed.

### OTHER NEWS

#### Upcoming Textile Art Exhibitions:

**Tangled Threads 19 Exhibition – titled “Remnants”** will be held at the Kingaroy Regional Art Gallery from Monday 1st July until Monday 29th July 2019. The Official Opening is 6pm Thursday 4th July 2019. The exhibition will feature wearable art and a display of works created from textiles using a diverse range of fabrics and manipulation techniques. 2 of our Bunya residents Carol Weekes and Kay Joyce will be participating in this exhibition.

The exhibition by **Darling Downs Textile Art Group titled 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle'** will be held at the Lapunyah Gallery, Chinchilla from 27<sup>th</sup> September until 24th October. This is a travelling exhibition comprising textile panels created by members in response to the poem by Banjo Patterson. One of our residents, Kay Joyce is a member of this art group and has completed one of the panels in the exhibition.



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The Darling Downs Textile Art group will also have an exhibition during the **Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba** titled **"Downsize"**. This will be held at Glennie School from Sunday 22nd September to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September and is part of the Quilts, Stitches and Textiles Trail event during the carnival.

For those interested in craft, our local Bunya Craft group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station from 7pm to 9pm.

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE LOCAL BIRDS?

After Carol asked me to write an article, on a bird of the Bunya Mountains, I gave it a lot of thought, which one? Not a real common one or an unknown one, to start with. So I settled on a bird you always hear, when you visit the Bunyas, but you seldom see it.

#### **"The Eastern Whip Bird".**

A bird of the Forest and Scrub undergrowth. It has diagnostic territorial call's.

Size....25 to 30 cm. Upper parts Olive, with a black head and a large erectile crest and bold white patches on sides of its throat. It has a grey and white belly, a stout bill and a long tail.



The call is one of the most iconic sounds of forests of Eastern Australia. Male's call is a softer Chuk -chur followed by a prolonged gradually rising whistle, terminating in a loud, explosive, Whip – crack. The Female's call, immediately follows the males, with an answering, Chew – chew or Choo – ee. Other calls from the birds, when foraging are chuckles and chatter.

And if alarmed, they give a harsh scolding call.

They spend their time, turning over leaf litter, with their powerful legs and feet, to expose insects and small invertebrates. They are optimistic feeders and will eat small seeds if available and will take small birds, such as Superb Fairy Wren's eggs and young.

These birds rarely fly far, preferring to run and hop through the undergrowth and across open spaces. They are sedentary birds, remaining in the same territory all year round. This area covers approximately 5 to 10 hectares. They mate and stay together for many years. The female makes a cup nest of sticks and bark, which is lined with finer grasses and placed in dense vegetation, within a couple of metres of the ground. The female also incubates the two eggs, while the male, brings food to her at the nest. The young birds are fed by both parents. Sometimes two broods are raised in a single season. These birds are secretive, but can be curious, and will be seen, if the observer remains patient. An iconic bird of the Australian Bush.

Information provided by Bernice Seton, references: [www.GraemeChapman.com.au](http://www.GraemeChapman.com.au).

Other sites about Australian birds are [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au) and [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

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### HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT.....

#### THE BUNYA MOUNTAINS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The Brigade was established in 1990, has 2 medium attack fire trucks, and 6 new members have just joined (4 firefighters and 2 support). The Brigade is a resource available to the local community. It currently does burns of timber stacks greater than 2mX2mX2m in size. This year 5 have been undertaken so far for lot/home owners.

Also the Brigade is keen to undertake hazard reduction burns to reduce the risk to property from wild fires. This year 2 have been carried out and 5 are planned for June/July.

**For further information or to talk over possibilities, the First Officer Peter Marshall can be contacted on ----- 0487923696**

#### THE BUNYA MOUNTAINS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC

### HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT....

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association has been in operation since 1976. Over the years, members have been involved in recording information about Bunyas. The early history



of white settlement has also been recorded. Some of our members are specialists in areas such as tree identification, bird identification, early settlement and the timber industry.

Over the years our members have probably walked to all areas of the Bunyas, studying the plants and wildlife.

Our two buildings "Cedarvale" and "Hillview" (directly behind Cedarvale) are open each Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by members who work on a

roster system. We also open on the Sundays when the Bunya Mountains Markets are operating. General Meetings are held on the last Sunday of January/March/May/July/September/November, and visitors are always welcome on these days. We open at other times for special requests.

The Museum displays show many natural exhibits of plants, animals and birds, also implements from the timber-felling and timber-milling years. There is considerable written history, and a photographic collection.

Our active membership is made up of people who live on the Bunyas, near the Bunyas, and live as far away as Chinchilla, Kingaroy and Toowoomba.

**'Cedarvale' Information Centre** is Operated by the Bunya Mountains Natural History Assn.

#### **OPENING TIMES**

10am-3pm SATURDAYS (Groups by appointment ph 0409625865)

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### **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.

Membership is just \$10 per person per annum. If you are a returning member or would like to become a member, 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  
Institution: Heritage Bank  
BSB:638070  
Account Number: 14018187  
*(please ensure you include your name in the  
Reference so that the Treasurers 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 [carolweekes53@gmail.com](mailto:carolweekes53@gmail.com)

### **Next BMCA Meeting:**

**Date: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Venue: Rural Fire Brigade Shed**

**Time: 2pm**

***We'd love to see you there.....***

