

NEXT BMCAI Quarterly Meeting

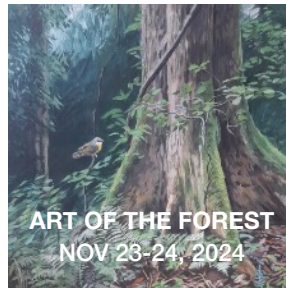
FEBRUARY 8

*This meeting will
start at 2pm*



LOT 80 PROGRESS
OCT 16 2024

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ART OF THE FOREST
NOV 23-24, 2024

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QUARTERLY MEETING
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BMCAI NEWSLETTER



The Latest Highlights

Art of the Forest Raffle - Featured artist, Frida Forsberg has kindly donated one of her paintings (valued at \$1000) as the raffle prize. Entitled Yellow Robin, her painting captures iconic flora and fauna of the Bunyas. All monies raised go to the 'Building Fund'. To purchase tickets go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CWVXB>

Road Upgrades and Repairs - The upgrade of the Maidenwell-Bunya Mountains Road is complete! What a different experience it is to drive to the Bunyas from Maidenwell. Look out for the official opening.

Changes to the BM Rural Fire Brigade Leadership - At the recent AGM of BM Rural Fire Brigade, First Officer, John Learmont chose not to seek re-election as Chairman. John had served in this role for 8 years. Janelle Peterson was elected as the new Chairperson.

Farewell for long-time BM residents Ian and Margaret Harris - After residing on the Bunya Mountains for 21 years, Ian and Margaret Harris are moving into a retirement village in Toowoomba. We are farewelling them on Sunday 1st of December at Fishers Lookout at 5pm. All welcome.

Lot 80 Development - Exciting news!! The SBRC Council unanimously agreed in their recent council meeting to offer the BMCAI a lease for the land at Lot 80. Carol Weekes and Noel Noack spoke at the meeting.

Our Partners

Rural Fire Brigade
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**Natural History
Association**
Pages 10 & 11

SubCommittees

**Social, Events &
Fundraising**
Pages 12 & 13

**Local Disaster
Management**
Page 4

**Dingo Management
Community
Education
LSFMG**
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QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

National Parks Report - Matt Cotterill, Ranger BM QPWS

- Dan was rostered on this weekend to attend the meeting but was called away to assist with firefighting.
- BM rangers Matt and Dan have been assisting with firefighting in many areas including Ingelwood, Wondai State Forest, Blackdown Tablelands NP, Salvator Rosa NP, Carnarvon Gorge NP, Wondai State Forest, Benarkin State Forest, and Black Duck Creek (Lockyer Valley).
- Cristle Starr has joined the team on 23/9/24 and is in the barracks for 3 months.
- Ivana Fuller has joined the team on 28/10/24. Ivana travels daily to spend time with her daughter, Zahli.
- Brad is currently acting Ranger in Charge in Dalby.

Mayor Kathy Duffy SBRC

- Kathy congratulated Carol and Noel on their recent *strong presentation* to the Council Meeting.
- The result was a unanimous vote to support the leasing of Lot 80 to the BMCAI for the purpose of creating a Community Meeting Place.
- Kathy noted that it was good to see local member Deb Frecklington, re-elected, whose party is now in government, and not in opposition.
- SBRC have been creating promotional videos for the sole purpose of attracting medical practitioners to the area, of which there is a shortage.
- SBRC are negotiating with TMR re the serious need for maintenance of the vegetation on the Kumbia - Bunya Mountains Road.
- With the completion of the Maidenwell - Bunya Mountains Road, an official opening is expected in late November.



Cr Linda Little, Division 2 - SBRC

- Linda advised that the SBRC have submitted a grant application for feral pest management in a bid keep the pests out of the Bunya Mountains.
- Linda explained that she and Kathy were available for consultation re Lot 80 only until the BMCAI officially moved forward with finalising the lease.



QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

BM Dingo Public Education Working Group Report - Kay Joyce

Grants

Applications have been submitted to WDRC Enviro Grants for signage, and Powerlink Grants for the production of brochures and children's activity books.

Editors Note: The Dingo Public Education program was successful in its bid to WDRC Enviro Grants for \$7100 to assist with signage.

Dingo Signage

The Working Group has met with Chris Gaschk and WDRC Media and Communications staff to clarify the placement of signage. An engagement plan is being developed by council to begin the process of weatherproof permanent sign development, production and installation with the Bunya Mountains Dingo Public Education Programme Working Group developing and providing the content. The working group is developing a list of localities for the sign placement in collaboration with Council.

- Interim Signage has been installed in Dandabah and Mowbullán areas.
- Discussions are occurring with the Bunya Rainforest Estate.
- Arranged a meeting with SBRC to update Leanne Peterson and Cr Linda Little about this Project.

Children's Activity Book and Info Brochure

The working group are continuing to develop these resources which, if grant applications are successful, will be available free to residents and visitors on the mountain.

Dingo Sighting Reports

Due to the Dingo breeding season, sightings have been fewer but are starting to increase. The Working Group continue to collate photos sent to the dedicated email address and reply to every report, often answering questions posed by those making the report.

Social, Events and Fundraising Subcommittee Report - Russell Sturgess

Recent/Current Events

Play Music on Nature's Porch - A great success, and may become an annual event. Some musicians have indicated they will be back next year. Others who found out about it said they would like to be involved next year. Learnt a lot from this year's event.

Scenes from the Bunya Mountains 2025 Calendar - A great success, thanks to Brett Mason for doing such a great job. 500 calendars were ordered, Between retail and wholesale numbers, there have been over 200 calendars sold already.

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

Upcoming Events

Bunya Mountains Art of the Forest Exhibition - See page 10 for details of this event. There were still places left for the two workshops. Since the meeting more people have registered. There are still a few spaces left. All photos that were submitted for the calendar (successful and unsuccessful) will be on display. To buy tickets for the raffle go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CWWXB>

Fishers Lookout farewell for Ian and Margaret 1st Dec, 5.00pm, BYO chair, share plate and beverages - some soft drinks and water will be available..

Bunyas Christmas Carols Dec 22nd. BYO chair and nibbles. BMCAI will not be providing a sausage sizzle.

BM Local Disaster Management Sub-Group Report - Brett Mason

Generator for Incident Coordination Centre:

- Donna Brown, Local Disaster Management Coordinator, SBRC has purchased a 22 kVA generator for use at the Fire Shed
- It is on a trailer so can be moved as required
- Fire shed wiring has been upgraded to allow its use
- Once its "Bunya Cone" protection system is in place it will be brought to the Fire Shed.

Toilets at the Fire Shed (which will be the Incident Control Centre in a disaster situation)

- Toilet unit complete and in a holding yard
- Installation held up as some excavation is required and vegetation survey is now required

Rural/ Urban Addressing

- With the Bunya Mts so far from emergency services, every minute counts in medical emergencies, so clear identification of properties is essential
- If you haven't already, please apply for a Rural Address
- For those properties within the gated communities, SBRC have set up Urban addresses.
- Properties with Urban addresses need to display their Urban address numbers
- We are hoping to work with the Bodies Corporate to move this forward

Road Signage

- Discussions are still happening with Dept Transport & Main Roads re strategically placed warning signs to prevent people travelling to the Bunya Mts in an emergency situations.

Future Subgroup Meetings

- Now that the sub-group is established and structured, it was decided that future meetings will be held twice yearly.

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

Roads/Parks Update

Routine maintenance done 2 weeks ago -due again in 6 to 8 weeks- weather dependent. Staff also spread crushed granite around the edges of the bin slab to fill edge drop offs.

The bins were relocated by JJ Richards –the aim is to eventually have a few carparks on the area above the bin pad. The upright pipe (with no purpose), a couple of lumps of concrete on the upside of the bin pad all require removal- the hope was that the Concept Plan for the Park would be approved and include the carpark. So, this is a work in progress.

The need for the re-oiling of the Garden Seats in lower Bunya Avenue, restoration of the pedestrian walkway surface and line marking near the Park entrance, requests have been lodged through Snap , Send, Solve.

Lot 80 Developments

Draft Lease received from SBRC. A signed lease is required to lodge any planning application.

Lot 80 (3384 Bunya Mts Rd) is located in the Low Density Residential Zone, under the Bunya Mountains Precinct Plan, so the application will be Impact assessable. The application will be publicly notified, with newspaper notices as well as signs on the property.

Impact Assessable applications are taking around 5-6 months from time of lodgement.

Once the lease is signed, Leonie Meurant, Town Planner, ONF will begin writing the application, and handle all the town planning aspects of the application and will assist with any planning approval conditions.

Tom Newman prepared the Concept Plan as tabled at the quarterly meeting. The agreed feedback will be provided to Tom to complete the Concept Plan.

Andrew Smith, Enviro Water Design, has been approached for the site design for the onsite septic system. Tony at Kingaroy Plumbing Works will provide quotes for the system and installation.

Stormwater/Overlay Flow – Tim Hook from ATC Engineers has been approached to develop the Management Plan to assist in the location of the onsite rainwater tanks and the stormwater attenuation management plan.

Driveway approval – ONF will lodge the town planning application with TMR on BMCAI's behalf and discuss with them the driveway approval conditions.

Seeking Infrastructure Funding- A Grant Writer has been engaged : Kate Walker, from Purpose Plus will assist with this process.

See over page for concept plans which were presented and discussed at the meeting.



BM RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Overview

In the past 12 months we have received more than twice the rainfall of the year before. This has been good from a firefighting perspective.

We are sad to farewell Ian and Margaret Harris who will be leaving the Bunyas. They have been members for 20 years, Ian as a firefighter and Margaret as a support member and one of the catering team. We all loved Margaret's biscuits and caramel tarts. Ian was the chairman for 10 years and I took over the role from him. He has been a great support to me. He was an officer for many years and was secretary for a short time. Both have received Diligent and Ethical Service Medals from QFES.

On the positive side, we welcome David Blackwood who has joined as a firefighter.

The toilet block, that has been built by ASCO and that the Western Downs Regional Council had agreed to allow it to be positioned behind the Fire Shed has still not arrived. We have been told unofficially that a vegetation survey has to be done.

I contacted the Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Council and advised them that if any of their members would like to join our brigade, I could supply them with membership application forms.

Personnel Support

There has been excellent support from members.

- Second Officer and Training Officer, Peter Taylor has been a wonderful support for me. He has attended calls with John Paynter and Janelle Peterson and provided training for them and other trainee firefighters. He has put in many hours taking the trucks for services, weigh-ins, the issue with the VHF antenna and the fuses in BM52.
- Secretary Lynne Downes has been doing the correspondence and distributing information to members.
- Treasurer Rob Ziggerman has done an excellent job despite have been overseas for a number of months. He will help us transition to the new system from 1 July this year, where all income will go into an RFS account.
- Minute Secretary Carol Weekes has provided minutes soon after each meeting.
- Shed manager Peter Weekes and his team have kept everything in readiness. He has overseen the installation of 2 air conditioning units in the bay with the kitchen and built a wall and doors to divide the two sheds. Peter Taylor has maintained the outside and kept the roof and gutters free of leaves. A new gutter was installed to replace one that had rusted out. Janelle Peterson and Gary Watts have joined the Clean-up Crew.
- First Aid Officer Lyndal Rowe has maintained the First Aid packs and ordered replacements as required.

BM RURAL FIRE BRIGADE CONT'D

Fire Shed and Trucks

Sengs in Kingaroy have serviced both trucks. We have a new Truck Maintenance Crew of Janelle Peterson, Graeme Wright, and Gary Watts who will check both trucks every 2 months. Barry Stewart has maintained all batteries. Four green radios and 4 spare batteries are now kept in each truck. The extinguishers have been serviced. Pat Stewart has looked after filing in the office.

Membership

In February, Jenepher Hintz resigned as Fourth Officer and as a firefighter. We were sad to receive her resignation from those positions, but pleased that she is remaining as a Support Member. John Paynter accepted the position of Fourth Officer.

Training

In February, Robyn Bliss conducted training in CPR and First AID. Eleven members attended. Neil Davidson from Area Office delivered fourteen P3 masks, washtubs, and cleaning products for cleaning that equipment. Eight firefighters had fittings. Janelle volunteered to help with cleaning them.

In Conclusion...

Our brigade is a Village brigade. Many people come to the Bunyas to experience our cool winters. Most of these rental houses have wood fireplaces and many of the visitors have no experience in how to use them safely. We have dealt with chimney fires and related issues in the past, and have asked for training for such issues but none has been given.

The Brigade is a great asset to the community and we must strive to retain it. Apart from fighting fires and doing hazard reduction burning, we are available to respond to accidents, apply First Aid and CPR and to assist with helicopter retrievals.

The Fire Shed itself is a wonderful community asset. It has been designated as the Emergency Control Centre in the event of a disaster and contains equipment for use by the Bunya Mountains Sub- group of the Local Disaster Management Group.

At the recent Annual General Meeting, I decided not to seek re-election as Chairman after 8 years, but will continue as First Officer.. Janelle Peterson took on this position. Peter Taylor did not seek re-election as Second Officer so this position is currently vacant. Peter is continuing to be a firefighter with the brigade.

The BM Rural Fire Brigade is always keen for locals to get involved, and extends an invitation to anyone who would like to find out more to get in contact. You can contact me on 0409 6725 865.

John Learmont - First Officer. (This is a modified version of John's Chairman's report from the AGM.)

SAMPLE 'VILLAGE' ACTIVITIES OF THE BRIGADE



BM NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

by Ruth Wright

Website

Graeme Wright has completed the website for the BMNHA and Cedarvale Cottage Museum, including a QR Code. You can use the link below to access the website.

[HOME | Bunya Mountains Natu \(wrightgraeme.wixsite.com\)](https://www.bunya-mountains-natu.com)

Grant Application Successful

We applied for, and were awarded grant funding of \$21,236.50 by the Heritage Nanango Community Fund. These funds were for the replacement of the Cedarvale roof and repairs and painting of the cottage. The NHA also committed \$2000 towards repairs from their own funds. We are extremely grateful for this funding. The new roof has been installed giving the cottage a completely new feel.



Graeme Wright painting the wall. Ross Lanham in the shadows

Repairs and Upgrades

Painter and handyman, Ross Lanham, assisted by Graeme Wright (a voluntary offsider) gurneyed, repaired and painted the fencing around Cedarvale. They replaced and painted the four front posts at the cottage, and put capping on the other posts where needed. A new sign was installed. These upgrades were all funded by the BMNHA.

Additionally, gurneying and painting of the outside of Cedarvale and Hillview, including the window frames and replacing foam and netting with boards and better sealing under the verandah. was completed. We hope you come along and check out the upgrades.

BMNHA CONT'D

Brisbane Valley History Expo

On the 26th of October, BMNHA set up a display and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BMHNA and Cedarvale Cottage Museum at the Brisbane Valley History Expo at Esk. It was great to meet with people who had connections to the Bunya Mountains, and to promote the Bunya Mountains and the museum. It was also a chance to talk to others who are interested in the history of their locations.



BMCAI EVENTS NOV/DEC

Art of the Forest - An Exhibition by Frida Forsberg

Make sure you earmark the weekend of November 23/24. The BMCAI in conjunction with environmental artist Frida Forsberg is presenting Art of the Forest. Commencing at 10am (free entry) on Saturday the 23rd. not only will you have the opportunity to see the national debut of Frida's artistic interpretation of the Bunyas iconic flora and fauna, but will also have the opportunity to see exhibits of local and regional artists.



The Saturday will also be an opportunity to expand your artistic skills by attending one or two masterclass workshops being presented that day. Frida's workshop Gondwanian Landscapes is an Acrylic Painting Workshop focused on the flora of the Bunyas. The subsequent workshop is an Aboriginal Weaving workshop by Christina Howard, both costing only \$25. To register, email bunyamcainc@gmail.com.

On Sunday, doors open at 9.00am (free entry) with the art exhibition being officially opened by SBRC Mayor, Kathy Duff, at 11.00am. There will be various speakers, including the primary exhibitor Frida Forsberg. Over the course of the weekend, some of the art on display will be for sale. There is a silent auction of some of Ian Harris'

woodwork, and of most importance is the drawing of the raffle of Frida's piece which she donated to the BMCAI entitled Yellow Robin.

If you are unable to attend the weekend and would like to purchase tickets for the raffle you can do so at <https://www.trybooking.com/CW/WXB>



(Left) Frida Forsberg - Environmental Artist.



(Right) Yellow Robin - Raffle Prize

BMCAI EVENTS NOV/DEC CONT'D

Bunyas Christmas Carols

While you're here at the Bunyas for Christmas, or just having a pre-Christmas weekend with your family remember the BMCAI Christmas Carols event. Presented on the porch of Cedarvale Cottage, this will be a carol's event that reflects the more traditional core values of Christmas. As the name suggests there will be Christmas carols, but there will also be Christmas stories, songs, and reflections on why we even celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus. Of course a Christmas celebration wouldn't be complete without Santa Claus.

Bring a chair, your singing voice and maybe some treats. A lovely way to connect with family and friends.

On this occasion the BMCAI won't be providing food and drink.



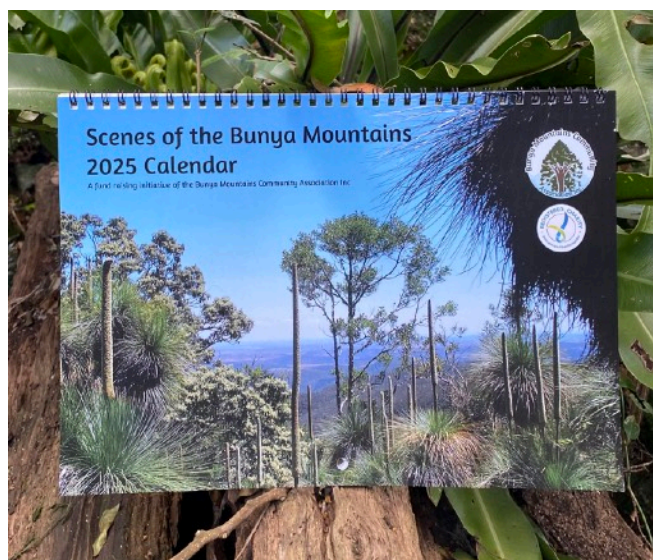
Ian and Margaret Harris' Farewell

Sunday the 1st of December, 5.00pm, at Fishers Lookout., Join us as we take a moment to farewell two of our community's favourite people. Ian and Margaret have lived on the Bunyas for 21 years, and engaged in significant roles in the community, and for many are dear friends. Bring your own chairs, some share food and your own beverages. We look forward to seeing you there. BTW, you might get to see a magical sunset!

Scenes of the Bunya Mountains 2025 Calendar

This is a fundraising initiative of the BMCAI for the community centre. You can purchase the calendars via email. These would make a great Christmas present, and even a lovely visual addition to a kitchen or office.. If you have friends and family in age-care, this would be something they'd appreciate,

If you live in the SBRC or WDRC areas, there might be business that would be happy to sell them, i.e. Pips and Cherries Cafe in Bell recently took some to sell. Any assistance you can give us please get in touch. bunyamcainc@gmail.com.



IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN AT THE BUNYAS

by Meg Noack

A group of dear friends arrived to visit the Noacks. Two adults and a bird-loving daughter. Quite a bird-party was happening on the Noack deck. Right about then, Noack relatives and their young children also arrived. Some slight re-arranging was required. The grown-ups took over the deck for a different kind of party. [Yes the birds were a bit miffed] Finally serenity, laughter and good food.

The eldest child of the group offered to use 'Uncle Noel's Zero-Turn Mower.' This was an offer too good to refuse. While he mowed, the remaining children stopped their exploring of the nearby scrub and began happily playing some kind of throwing game in newly mown grass. But then the game changed. All younger children were crawling on their hands and knees. Perhaps the game had changed to animal charades? The adults didn't worry. They were busy cheering and filming the new 'mowing-expert' whose confidence and speed were rapidly increasing!

Soon it was time for the families to depart. We waved one family off. The parent of the other children chose to have a rest before departing. It was then we found out! The 'hands and knees' game was, in reality, an earnest search for a lost ring! A family heirloom that had been reshaped as a special daughter gift! "And Mum is not to be told – yet... pleeease." Pleaded our small friend.

We were true to our word. We hunted around carefully. Very carefully. No luck at all. We talked about who should finally 'tell mum'... And then it was time for the last family to depart! Noel spent more time fruitlessly searching. The small, gold ring appeared lost forever. "There is only one more thing to do," said Noel. "Let's call Peter Taylor and see if he can come with his metal detector."



'Sure', Peter said, 'happy to help'. So, one Sunday afternoon, Peter and Kathy came to visit. Peter got dressed into his metal-detecting gear and the hunt began! Noel pointed out the general area. Peter had a 'poke around' at first, and then began sweeping with his detector. Very soon... beep beep... 'Got to check this!' Peter dug into the ground and held up some metal. 'Oo! No! Only a bit of old fencing wire! Definitely not the ring.' Back to sweeping and waving the detector over the ground.

THEN... Just a few minutes later another, a much louder 'beep!' And there - under a tuft of grass was the ring! No one had to dig anymore! We gave a loud cheer in the paddock and Noel took a photo! Thank you Peter!

One very happy and thankful young girl – and a relieved Mum pass on their thanks too!

RURAL SKETCHERS SOUTH BURNETT

by Patricia van Kemper

Rural Sketchers South Burnett is an informal group of people interested in sketching *en plain aire* (outside) somewhere in the South Burnett! This month we headed to the Bunya Mountains. Sketchers walked and sketched in various places on the lovely rainforest trails.

We meet monthly on the 1st Sunday of each month from 9-11am. Wherever we are, we like to support the local community and enjoy a cuppa together after sharing our sketchers. There is no cost or expectation of attendance, and everyone brings their own sketching kit, hat, water bottle and chair.

If you'd like to join us, follow the Rural Sketchers South Burnett Facebook page to know where we're sketching next! You would be very welcome!



UPDATE ON PHYTOPHTHORA PATHOGEN

by Noel Noack

Phytophthora is a very serious pathogen affecting Bunya Pines and many other plant species. Some years ago some very old Bunya Pines were infected and died. This resulted in a popular track being closed in the Bunya Mountains National Park (BMNP), to prevent the spread of the disease. Research is currently being conducted by Dr Louise Shuey (Senior Forest Pathologist – Qld Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries). She is researching the possibility of finding an effective vaccine. National Parks have introduced foot washing stations in strategic positions in the BM National Park, Russell Park and Munro's Camp track entrances in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

Recently (on 10 Oct 2024) Dr Shuey brought to the Bunya Mountains Sarah Dunstan, and Dr Matt Lawrence from the plant clinic at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. They are very interested in Dr Shuey's research because they are also researching the disease in Wollemi Pines and other plant species. Also accompanying this team was Dr Alistar McTaggart who is conducting research into certain fungi chemicals related to possible medical applications.

The team collected soil samples from an affected Bunya Pine on "Araucaria" (the property of Noel and Meg Noack). They also held meetings at BPAC to discuss Murri Ranger observations concerning this problem.

... continued



(L-R) Alister McTaggart (fungi researcher), Dr Louise Shuey (Senior Forest Pathologist - Qld Dept. of Agriculture), Sarah Dunstan, Dr Matt Lawrence (Plant Clinic - Phytophthora - Royal Botanic Garden Sydney) and Noel Noack.

UPDATE ON PHYTOPHTHORA PATHOGEN CONT'D

by Noel Noack

Dr Shuey shared that:

- she is keeping a regular check with drone photos on the extent and development of the Phytophthora in the Bunya Mountains. Drone images of tree-tops are an excellent way to detect phytophthora early
- testing is being carried out on a possible vaccine for the disease in Bunya Pines.
- dogs are being trained to identify Phytophthora on Lord Howe Island
- **a handy mixture of 70% ethanol/methylated spirits and 30% water applied in a spray bottle or applied to cleaned footwear (free of mud) is effective in eliminating the phytophthora pathogen.**
- phytophthora is spread in water, especially during wet weather.

There is much more to be learned about this disease which seriously threatens the Bunya Trees. We are most appreciative of the interest and commitment of Dr Shuey in helping us understand the disease, managing it, and researching a vaccine to counter it's spread.



(Left) Sarah Dunstan collecting soil samples, assisted by Meg Noack (Right) Dr Matt Lawrence collecting soil samples from *Araucaria*, Meg and Noel Noack's property.

COMING AND GOING

David and Kathy Blackwood - Welcome

David and Kathy moved into their Tolmie Street home on the 10th of July this year. Going into semi-retirement, they had sold their Chinchilla motel having found their 'dream' home here on the Bunyas. Their first visit to the Bunyas was in 2014, where they totally fell in love with it. They had seen their Tolmie Street home come up for sale on line, and came up to inspect it on a Thursday and signed the contract for its purchase on the Sunday.



The things that really appealed to them about living in the Bunyas was first and foremost the peace and quiet, the abundance of nature, and no traffic or trains at 2.30 in the morning. They saw living here as a healthy option. One of the appealing qualities was the small population, but in spite of that, the community that was here were quality people who were engaged both in serving the community and connecting with each other.

Kathy and David have been together for eleven years, having met at Kathy's workplace. They share a love of 'community service' previously being involved in, amongst other things - show societies, chaplaincy and street stalls. While David could be called a 'jack of all trades' given his diversity of skills, Kathy still does part-time book work, but, together they will offer temporary motel relief management. They love being here on the Bunyas, and feel right at home with our little community,

Ian and Margaret Harris - Farewell

Ian and Margaret will be permanently leaving the Bunyas in early December. Having lived on the mountain for 21 years, in this generation, they are part of a small handful of locals who have been here for that long. They purchased their block in the mid '80s for \$10,000. It wasn't until a decade later that they decided they should get on and build a home.



What they like most about living here is the peace and quite, the natural environment, the very pleasant summers with no humidity. What they liked least was the fog and drizzle that could last for days.

Both Ian and Margaret have been actively involved in the Bunya Mountains community, participating in leadership in the Fire Brigade and the BMCAI, service roles on their committees, and community service. They could be described as stalwarts, a rare commodity these days, although very common here in the Bunyas. Their absence will be noticeable, and they will be missed, Coffee gatherings at The Tavern won't be the same. What they said they will miss most is the community, the friendships, the sense of belonging and the lack of 'hurly burly'. We wish them well on their next chapter.

EUROPEAN HISTORY OF MUNRO'S CAMP

by Gerald Tooth

Guest speaker at the recent BMCAI Quarterly Meeting was local BM home owner, Gerald Tooth. Situated at Munro's Camp, and a keen historian, Gerald was able to share interesting snapshots of the historical development of Munro's Camp and the Bunyas more extensively.

He explained five key historical facts about Munro's Camp::

1. It was the site of the first timber chute on the Bunya's - Joseph Carbines 1863
2. It was captured in oil paintings by Marianne North in 1880.
3. From where the first surveys of the mountains were conducted. Hector Munro 1910.
4. First recreational buildings on the mountain. Peter Garrow (1921) and Bill Frank (1926)
5. Instrumental in shaping the Bunya Mountains as an eco tourism destination, Wilfred.E. Russell 1927.



Gerald referred to these pioneers by their careers. The Sawyer, The Artist, The Surveyor, The Tailor, The Plumber and The Politician.

Quoting Wilfred Russell's observation of the Bunyas, "The place for a perfect rest. The entire absence of pests, danger and worry make it a little bit of heaven."

Become a member of the BMCAI

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

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

Do you have an article of interest?

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