

NEXT BMCAI Quarterly Meeting

NOVEMBER 2

*This meeting will
start at 2pm*



MUSIC ON THE PORCH
AUGUST 31ST 2024

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NAIDOC WEEK
JULY 1 2024

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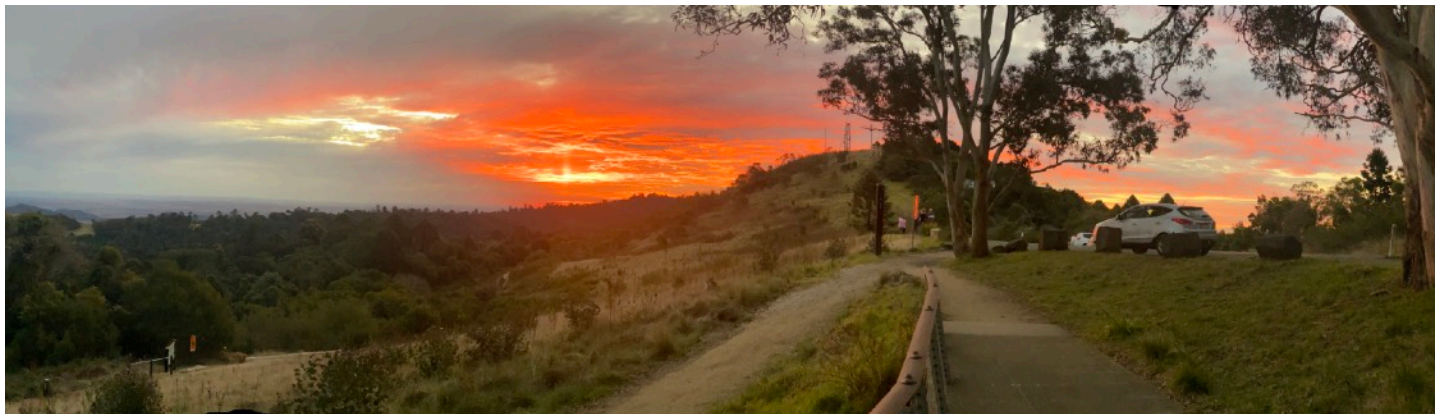


SBRC DIVISION 2 TOUR
JULY 9TH 2024

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BMCAI NEWSLETTER



The Latest Highlights

Mountain Bike Track - The track is being well maintained. The WDRC are very vigilant about closing the track when there has been wet weather. Notice of track closures can be found on the WDRC and BMCAI Facebook pages and websites.

Road Upgrades and Repairs - The upgrade of the Maidenwell-Bunya Mountains Road is progressing well. The section from Saddle Tree Creek Rd to Glencliffe Rd has been sealed. Final preparation for sealing the Glencliffe Rd to Wengen Creek Rd is currently underway.

Bunya Avenue - SBRC completed repair and maintenance to both the road and gutters on Bunya Avenue. (see page 12). The council has also moved the industrial bins in front of Allan Stirling Memorial Park, and with their regular maintenance of the park, have made it more visible and appealing to visitors. The Concept Plan for the park won't be going ahead this year.

Funding in this year's SBRC budget has included the creation of a footpath in front of the Bunya Tavern. No commencement date has been set.

Lot 80 Bunya Mts Road - The BMCAI is in full engagement with the SBRC, and associated government bodies, who have vested interests in the development of this type of venture. To date, no response to queries regarding a possible WDRC Russell Park site have been forthcoming.

Our Partners

Rural Fire Brigade
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**Natural History
Association**
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SubCommittees

**Social, Events &
Fundraising**
Pages 3 & 10

**Local Disaster
Management**
Page 4

**Dingo Management
Community
Education
LSFMG**
Page 3

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

National Parks Report - Matt Cotterill, Ranger BM QPWS

Personnel:

- Dave is a temporary ranger joining Matt and Dan until September 20th. Crystal and Ivana are the new Indigenous team members, who will be commencing on the 23rd of September.
- BM ranger Bradley Cocks is on secondment to the Carnarvon Gorge National Parkland which has been extended to the 20th of September.

Park Management:

- QPWS have advised that the redevelopment work planned for Dandabah has been indefinitely postponed.
- The burning of the grass on the balds around Mowbullán has been carried out.
- The Mt. Kiangarow Track is still closed. QPWS is still waiting for a new foot wash station to be supplied from NZ.
- Local rangers are assisting with planned burns in regional parks, including Inglewood and Gatton.
- Some hazardous trees at Burtons Well and Cherry Plain have been removed. This resulted in some temporary closures.

Cr. Linda Little (SBRC) Division 2 Report

- Linda is actively engaged in becoming more familiar with her new role as councillor for the Bunya Mountains part of her division. Editors note: In addition to her attending the Quarterly Meeting, she was in attendance at both the SBRC Division 2 Tour and Music on Nature's Porch.
- Linda invited members to get in touch with her if they have any queries. Phone: 0419 769 994 or Email: linda.little@sbrc.qld.gov.au
- The council has been actively involved in wild pig culling (110 euthanised recently), wild dog baiting, and indicated that wild deer are an increasing problem in the Blackbutt-Benarkin areas.
- Linda indicated that the highest priorities for the SBRC are all about getting back to basics. This includes: roads, infrastructure, water (safe drinking water is a priority for the region), and waste management.



QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

BM Dingo Management Stakeholder Group Update - Kay Joyce

The Stakeholders Group met on the 29th July 2024.

- Report from the Dingo Log: 50 sightings reported since 29th April meeting. The biggest majority of those sightings were of "Limpy" the previously injured dingo who is moving freely around the mountain, easily recognisable by its different gait.
- The main focus of the committee is the work being carried out by the Public Education Working Group (PEWG); Kay, Meg, and Lynne.
- Kay reiterated that the objective of the group was to create a peaceful existence between the Bunya Mountain Dingoes and the public.
- The main points of focus at this time includes:
 - Communication with individuals and organisations in the field of scientific research re dingoes.
 - Research articles, papers, news, and media that might aid the development of initiatives.
 - Seek grants to cover the costs of dingo signs, a trifold brochure, and a children's activity book.
- In addition to the Dog Log (QR Code recording link), the PEWG have created an email address now located on the "Be Dingo Safe" signs found around the Bunya Mountains. This can be used for sending photos or responding to queries.

Social, Events and Fundraising Subcommittee Report - Russell Sturgess

Recent Events:

NAIDOC Week Bunya Mountains Activity

Held at Fischer's Lookout and BPAC hall, from 10.00am on the 1st of July. See the report on page 8 for more details.

Play Music on Nature's Porch

Held at Dandabah on Sunday the 31st of August from 10.00am to 3.00pm. See the report on page 9 for all the details.

Bunya Mountains "Art of the Forest" Exhibition

Award-winning Australian environmental artist, Freda Forsberg, in conjunction with the BMCAI, will be presenting the Art of the Forest Exhibition on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of November. To be held in a large open marquee near the Bunya Mountains Community Market between Poppies and Bunya Ave, the exhibition will highlight Frida as the principal artist, but will be supported by local and indigenous artists (including an indigenous weaver).

BMCAI will be a significant player in its logistical support and will have a fundraising opportunity through a donated piece of Frida's art (valued at \$1000), which will be raffled. Administration fees and other means of fundraising will add to the capacity for additional fundraising.

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming Events and Activities:

"Scenes from the Bunya Mountains" 2025 Calendar

Images for the calendar have been selected by a panel of three 'expert' judges. The photos were taken by mostly locals, of various scenes from around the Bunya Mountains. The calendar, produced by SE&FC member Brett Mason, will be available before Christmas - a perfect Christmas gift idea. Expected to retail for \$20.

Other Business/Projects

Bunya Nut Recipe Book

Only seven copies of the book are left. NHA reported that they are still selling the books with packets of frozen Bunya Nuts.

Fungi Brochure

Inspired by the success of the Bunya Mountain Bird Brochure, SE&FC member Meg Noack, is the driving force behind the production of a similar brochure displaying some of the species of fungi found on the Bunya Mountains. It is in an advanced stage of production and is anticipated to be released before the end of the year. Meg acknowledges the significant contribution by Mary Mahoney and Ken Chapman with this project. Many thanks goes to them both.

People's First Bank Community Lottery

The BMCAI gained access to the lottery, which meant when people bought tickets to the lottery, all of the funds linked by the ticket purchaser to the BMCAI would be donated to the BMCAI. BCMAI was anticipating it would receive almost \$750 from the lottery. The Lottery closed on the 25th of July and drawn on the 1st of August. Winners were announced on the 8th of August. It's an annual event. Thanks to those who purchased tickets.

Editor's note: Unfortunately, no BMCAI linked ticket purchasers won any of the prizes.

BM Local Disaster Management Sub-Group Update

The Sub-Group met on the 7th of June. Their next meeting will be held on the 11th Sept at 10.00am at the BPAC hall. (Scones will be served at 9.45am - thanks Carol)

- At the June meeting, discussion continued on the preparedness of the Sub-group in the event of a local disaster.
- Funding for a generator and the approval for a toilet at the fire station were points of discussion.
- The Sub-group updated the Emergency Alert Ring Around System to account for changes in property ownership etc.
- From 2025, with the exception of a disaster, the Sub-group meetings will move to 6 monthly.

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Community Meeting Place Update

Expression of Interest to Lease Lot 80, Bunya Mountains Road

9th July 2024: BMCAI Management Committee submitted an Expression of Interest to SBRC.

15th July 2024: Cathy Jackson, Lease Officer SBRC, advised:

Thank you for your time today to discuss the potential trustee lease of Lot 80 on FY2562, 3384 Bunya Mountains Road. As discussed, I am currently investigating the proposed use of the reserve and seeking internal advice from multiple departments within Council including; Planning, Building and Infrastructure. I have requested that this advice be received on 27th July 2024, and will provide this advice to BMCAI as well as seeking your continued commitment to lease the reserve after all the advice has been received. Following this, I will prepare a report for Council's consideration on the request to lease."

Editor's Note: This advice was received by BMCAI on the 26th of August. See page... for more details.

WDRC Letter dated 12th May re response to the BMCAI Feasibility Study

31st July 2024: David Fahl, General Counsel, WDRC responded:

My apologies for not responding sooner. I have discussed the Feasibility Study with Council in an information forum. I have been asked to provide a formal report to Council for its consideration at the August General Meeting on 15 August. A decision is likely to be made on that date.

Editor's Note: This item of business failed to be discussed at the August General Meeting

Member Issues

Solar Maintenance - John Learmont

Inspired by an article in the RACQ Road Ahead magazine, entitled "Are Your Solar Panels Working Correctly", John did further investigation. The longterm costs of inadequate maintenance of solar panels were potentially significant, justifying a regular investment in solar panels being serviced and cleaned by someone with a Clean Energy Council solar licence, as recommended in the RACQ article.

On further investigation John presented two options for a System Health Check and solar panel clean which ranged from \$297.25 + GST by local Nanango electricians, Mangans Electrical, to RACQ charging \$399.

Editor's Note: Carol sent out an email on the 5th of August to BMCAI members, detailing service options, and included a copy of the article from the RACQ magazine.

Roads/Parks Update

See page 12 for more detail on Allan Stirling Memorial Park.

See *Latest Highlights* on page 1 for more details about Bunya Ave and an update on the Maidenwell/Bunya Mountains Road.

BM RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The most exciting news arrived this week. We are to receive a 20KVA generator that can be plugged into our power box. It will power the entire building in the event of a power outage. This has come about because the BMCAI has established a Sub-Group of the SBRC and WDRC Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG). Thank you South Burnett Regional Council and in particular Donna Brown, convenor of the Sub-Group. The Bunya Mountains Fire Shed will be the Disaster Management Centre in the event of a disaster.

Recent Activity

It has been a quiet winter period for the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade. Peter Taylor has attended a couple of hazard reduction burns with help from John Paynter and Janelle Peterson. Peter has been giving Janelle extra coaching and she has responded very well. Thank you Janelle.

Eight fire fighters had mask fittings for our new P3 masks. We received 14 masks, wash tubs and cleaning product. Janelle has again offered to be involved with cleaning them.

Membership

We have an application for membership from David Blackwood, a new resident on the Bunyas who wants to become a fire fighter. His application has been forwarded to Area Office.

Community Involvement

- Tables and chairs were loaned for a function held by the Natural History Association Inc.
- The kitchen/meeting room was made available for the BMCAI to host a breakfast for the SBRC Division 2 tour on the 9th of July.
- Table and chairs were loaned to BMCAI for their Music on Nature's Porch held at Dandabah on the 31st of August.

Toilets

Ian and I recently met with Tim Henwood, and his assistant Sandra from QFS, for a site inspection for the location of the new toilet block.

Fire Shed & Trucks

Peter Weekes has been attending to many matters in his roll of Shed Manager. Both trucks have gone to Sengs in Kingaroy for annual services and certificates. The new Truck maintenance team comprising Graeme Wright, Janelle Peterson and Gary Watts will start bi-monthly truck checks in October after Ian Harris has given them an overview of the job.

Barry Stewart has charged all the batteries and Pat Stewart continues to do the office filing. Scott Perrie came from Area Office and did a Shed inspection. Everything was in order. Congratulations Peter Weekes on doing a great job.

General

Members have all worked to keep the Brigade and the Fire Shed operational. I believe that our Brigade is functioning as well as it can, considering the size of the Bunya Mountains community and where some of our members live. I also believe that it is important to have a Fire Brigade to service the Bunya Mountains. Thank you all members of the Brigade for your support.

John Learmont, Chairman and First Officer.



BM NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Special Guest

On Saturday 3rd August we had Rod Fensham from Queensland Herbarium (DES) and the School of Environment, University of Queensland for a talk and walk. The talk was on "The Bunya Mountains: A



Cultural Landscape". Rod has done research on the balds at the Bunya Mountains and is of the view that at least some of these should be maintained by burning every few years, so that the forest does not totally encroach on all of them. The day was a great success with about 34 participants. Noel and Meg Noack kindly opened their home for morning tea, the presentation and lunch. A number of members generously provided morning tea and The Bunyas Tavern did a great job organising lunch packs for those who had preordered. The background and knowledge of participants made for great discussions, questions and conversations as well as sharing of information. Bernice Seton also opened Cedarvale Museum and had quite a few visitors through.

Recent Happenings

- On Wednesday the 21st August, John Learmont opened Cedarvale Museum for 11 visitors who were a part of a Gondwana Guides walking tour.
- New posts and a board and paint have been purchased to begin our maintenance work at the museum. The first step will be to replace the four front posts, repair the fencing and paint these items. We are also seeking funding for gurneying, repairing and painting the outside of the buildings as well as replacing the roof on Cedarvale Cottage.
- On Saturday 31st August, Bernice Seton and John Learmont opened Cedarvale Museum for the Play Music on Nature's Porch at Dandabah. They had 179 visitors. If we could increase our membership, we could open more often, as many people are keen to visit but we only have enough volunteers to open once a month most of the time.
- We are faced with the issue of many people wishing to make a purchase or make donations and we do not have an Eftpos facility, so we are working on remedying this.
- Graeme Wright has been working on a website for BMNHA and Cedarvale. Click on the link below to explore the site so far: [HOME | Bunya Mountains Natu \(wrightgraeme.wixsite.com\)](http://wrightgraeme.wixsite.com)
- Anyone interested in the Bunya Mountains, the history, landscape, flora and fauna is most welcome to become a member of BMNHA.

For more information, or to become a member, contact *Bernice Seton, President, BMNHA* (0427 631 080) or *Ruth Wright, Secretary, BMNHA* (0447 718 433).

BM NAIDOC WEEK 2024

Despite the wet weather forcing a change in the planned use of venues, the program went ahead with resounding success. 92 people attended various activities through out the day, which commenced with a

Welcome and Smoking Ceremony at Fisher's Lookout. What was then planned for the Indigenous University was moved to the BPAC hall due to the rain. The change of venue did little to affect what turned out to be a wonderful day.



The first activity at the hall was the performance by the **Gundamena Warra Dances**. The dances were entertaining in the performance, and engaging throughout the day. It was observed later in the day that the youngest of the dance group was showing other children in attendance how to do the dancing she had performed earlier.

The **Murri Tukka** presentation and tasting by *Bruce Phillips* turned out to be a tastebud awakening. Bruce passed around taste samples as he shared his extensive knowledge of bush tucker. It would appear some of the samples were 'interesting'!!

Last but not least...

Following a very abundant and delicious lunch, attendees had the opportunity to explore their artistic talents in **boomerang decorating**.

The general feeling was that it was an excellent day. Total funds raised on the day was \$1,672, to go to the Building Fund. The day was sponsored by NIAA, Tarong Power Stations, Meandu Mine and Stanwell, and South Burnett and Western Downs Regional Councils.



PLAY MUSIC ON NATURE'S PORCH 2024



It was the first, but won't be the last. The Bunya Mountains turned on one of its better days as the BMCAI delivered a relaxed and entertaining cultural treat in what can only be described as one of nature's more beautiful landscapes. Play Music on the Porch is a global event which began in 2014, this year being its 10th anniversary. Every year on the last day of August, musicians in over 70 countries and in 1000+ cities worldwide play music on their respective porches. This year it was our turn on the Bunya Mountains.

Our Australian version was clearly stamped with the addition of a sausage sizzle, home made cakes, biscuits, and slices, and tea and coffee. And when nature throws

in a spring day on the last day of winter, then you have the perfect Aussie day. The day commenced with bagpiper Wayne Darr filling the Dandabah environs with his Scottish musical treat. Opening the event was BMCAI Chairman, Noel Noack who was followed by the day's MC, Carolyn Tillman.



About 200 people attended throughout the day. There were 14 members of the BMCAI who were involved in setting up and packing up, and serving drinks, cakes and coffee, as well as selling raffle tickets and connecting with members of the audience and the community. Carol indicated that \$1483 was raised and was being put towards the Building Fund.

The Nanango Sheddars followed Wayne Darr, and provided fantastic music all day in between other acts. Other performers included Dan Cosgrove, the Kingaroy Ukulele Players, and a spontaneous father son duo John and Ben Goodwin. Ian Harris' raffle prize of his hand crafted table was won by Russell Sturgess, and the basket of goodies as the second prize was won by Janelle Petersen. The whole day was a great success. The shared sentiment of all members of the BMCAI who attended is to do it again next year. To see the performers, go to the BMCAI Facebook page.

SBRC Councillor for Division 2, Linda Little, who is very passionate about the Bunyas, arranged with the Blackbutt Lions Club to provide their BBQ trailer to run the sausage sizzle. They did an amazing job in supporting the BMCAI. A very big thank you to the Blackbutt Lions Club.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDA FROSBERG "Art of the Forest" Exhibition - November 23rd/24th

See page 3 in this newsletter for more information.



Mount Glorious Queensland

Bunya's Christmas Carols - December 22nd

Mark it in your calendar. More information to come!



A Good Reason to Come to The Next BMCAI Quarterly Meeting - November 2 (2.00pm)

LOT 80 & MORE

SBRC Division 2 Tour

A small busload of SBRC Councillors and Council Staff visited the Bunyas on the morning of the 10th of July. Members of the BMCAI and BMNHA provided breakfast for the visitors at the fire station. It was an opportunity for both associations to discuss key priorities that required council assistance. Carol Weeks and Russell Sturgess represented the BMCAI and Bernice Seton and John Learmont represented the BMNHA.

The first thing the visitors did was to cross the road from the fire station and visit Lot 80. While on the block, the SBRC team were able to see first hand the vision and potential that this block of land holds for being an ideal site for the community centre for the people of the Bunya Mountains. Zoning, vehicle access, building size and design were all discussed as issues that will be key challenges moving forward. Following the visit to Lot 80, the visitors returned to



the fire station for breakfast and further discussions about the various needs regarding the SBRC area of responsibility on the eastern side of the mountain.

Various issues discussed over breakfast included; The critical need for a community centre here on the Bunyas; The die-back of the Bunya Trees; The Concept Plan for Allan Stirling Memorial Park; The unfinished Bunya Ave project; The condition of local roads and the overgrowth of road reserves/ lantana. Following the meeting at the fire station the 'tour' continued onto Cedarvale and they held

further discussions with the executive and members of the BMNHA.



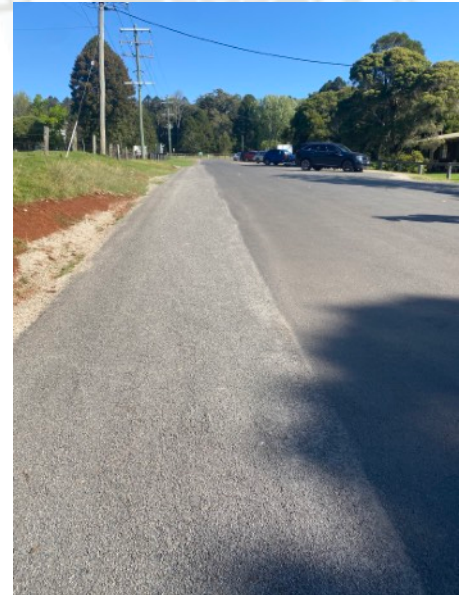
SBRC BUNYA MOUNTAIN'S MAINTENANCE



There used to be a 20cm indentation on the road's edge.



The gutters were so blocked water flowed down the road.



This is across from the Tavern. Used to be 10cm drop here.

SBRC under the leadership of Mayor Kathy Duff (the lady in pink in the picture at the bottom of page 11) and our Division 2 representative Linda Little (the lady with the arm in the bucket on page 13) have been instrumental in getting things happening up here on the mountain. BMCAI wish to acknowledge their commitment, and that of their department managers and staff, to the Bunyas.



Lot 80 being cleared.



The 'new look' in front of Allan Stirling Memorial Park in Bunya Ave,



SBRC now have a maintenance crew servicing Allan Stirling Memorial Park, every 8 weeks.

BMCAI CANDID MOMENTS



General Meeting Faithfuls



Carol @ NAIDOC



Meg the Musician



Winners are Grinners



Keep up y'all!



Good Heavens!



You can count on us!



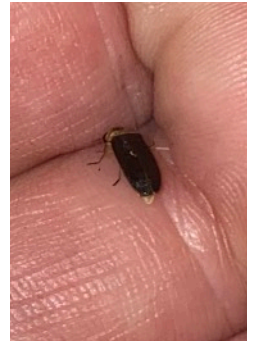
Get on board Russell!



Carol can twist arms,

FIREFLIE SEASON OCT - NOV

Fireflies are not 'flies', they are beetles, and in Australia there are about 25 species, over 2000 globally. The Australian ones belong to the Lampyridae family, meaning "shinning ones" in Greek. They were first recorded by Banks on the Endeavour voyage in 1770. The fireflies here in the Bunyas are crepuscular, that is, active during twilight. On average, the life-span of an adult is only four nights. The flash is in essence a 'mating call' alerting potential mates. Females, who are often flightless, wait on the ground for an appropriate male to fly by, at which time she will blink in response.



The males with the brightest flash and who lasts the longest are the ones who attract the females. Research has shown that a beetles flashing can last for 30-40 minutes. Fireflies are most active in the hour after sunset, and more so in dark nights with a new moon. Fireflies need damp soil and leaf cover, as found in a rainforest, to complete their lifecycle. So, where does the light come from? The light emanates from the lower abdomen from an organ called a photophore. The middle layer of this photic organ is comprised of light producing cells called photocytes. These cells contain nerves, air tubes and three substances called ATP, luciferin and luciferase. They undergo a two-step chemical reaction that gives these beetles their name.

Predominately, fireflies are seen between mid October and mid November but weather conditions can have a significant impact on that timeframe. Two popular places to see fireflies here on the Bunyas are at the Southern end of Fisher's Lookout and Allan Stirling Memorial Park.

References: *The Chemistry of Fireflies* by Lexie Webster.

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.