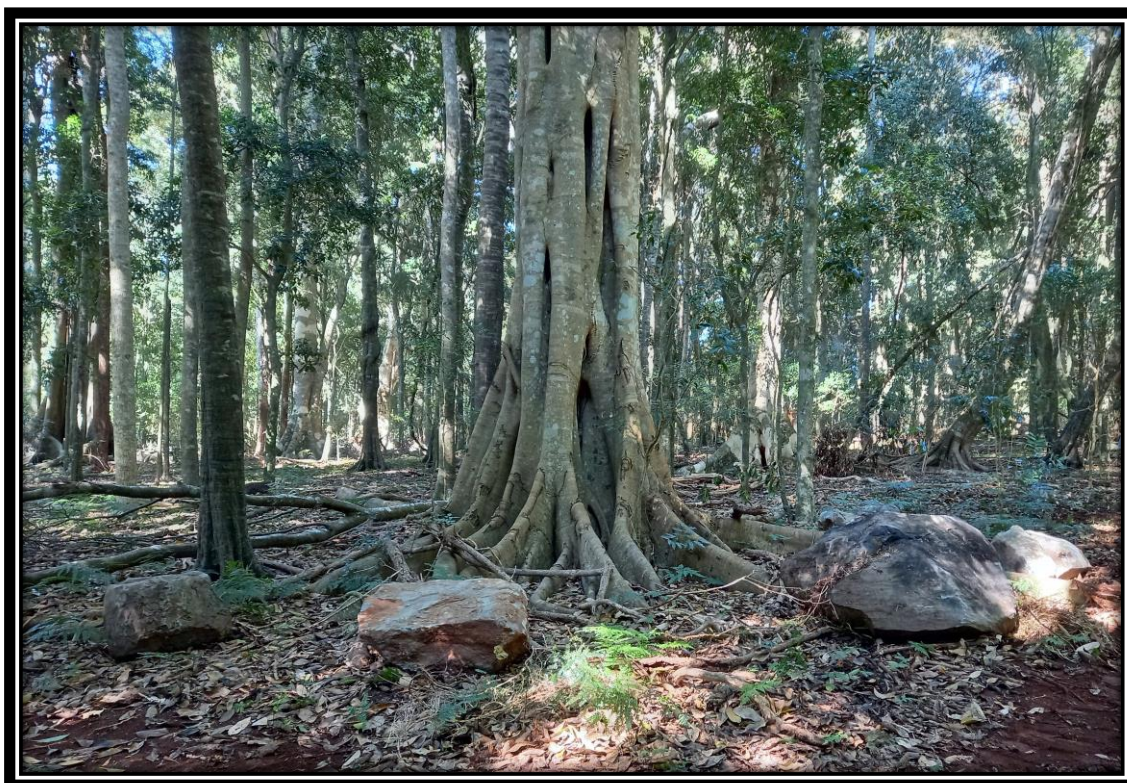




## ***Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 11***



*Allan Stirling Memorial Park- a great contemplation and bird watching spot in the Park*

*Welcome to the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter -Issue no 11, the third Newsletter for 2021. Our previous Newsletter was issued in May 2021, and a copy can be found on our website <https://bunyamcainc.wixsite.com/mysite>. These Newsletters are produced quarterly following the BMCAI Quarterly Meetings.*

*The BMCAI Newsletter now also provides the Latest News from our two partner community organisations in the Bunyas, **The Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade and the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc**. It is lovely to be able share all this news in one newsletter and be able to give you updates about all the community based activities happening here in the Bunyas.*

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

*Find a spot of sunshine, grab a cuppa and come on a journey with us...Enjoy the read.*

<b>Contents: Article</b>	<b>Page/s</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Page/s</b>
BMCAI August Quarterly Meeting	2	Bunya People's Aboriginal Corp (BPAC) Update	8
Guest Speaker: Ms Trudi Bartlett, RDA	3	Mountain Bike Trail announcement feedback	8
Update from National Parks	3	Centenary Celebration of Opening of Soldiers Rd	9
Project Updates	4-5	Social and Events Subcommittee Upcoming Events	10-11
News from Bunya Mts Rural Fire Service	6	Armchair travel: Local and Overseas!	12-14
News from Bunya Mts Natural History	7	Next Meeting arrangements	15
		Membership Information	15

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



## News from the Quarterly Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021

BMCAI met on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Shed on Bunya Mountains Road. Unfortunately, some of our members who hoped to be there, were locked down in Brisbane and on the Sunshine coast. The current pandemic situation has us all holding our breaths as we plan each meeting, hoping that we can keep life proceeding as "normal" but knowing that at any moment we could all go into lockdown again to keep communities safe.

Given that we meet only 4 times per year, and the Management Committee consistently and diligently works behind the scene between meetings, and 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 and to have a guest speaker provide some information about current and pertinent topics. Thank you to all who attended the August 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.

Recently John Learmont retired as President of the BMCAI. John is also Chairperson of the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade and he decided it was time to focus on his community work in that area. Deputy President, Ian Harris, kindly offered to take on the role of President until the next Annual General Meeting in February 2022. Thank you to both John and Ian for their commitment, significant contribution and dedication to the Bunya Mountains community.

Ian allocated a time during the meeting to say a special thanks to John. Ian thanked John for his service to the BMCAI and outlined his outstanding contribution:

- John joined the Association when Eleanor and Wayne Kratzmann formed the Association
- John was Treasurer in April 2016
- He was elected President in January 2019, the same year as the Association became incorporated
- John has contributed to the growth of the Association and Bunya Mountains community life where he has made personal sacrifices along the way and assisted the Association into the position it is in today.

Ian presented John with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Thank You Card. The meeting thanked John by acclamation.



John responded and indicated that he is pleased with the progress of the Association and appreciated the Certificate and Card.

John followed up later with an email where he provided the following information:

*"Thank you all for the Certificate of Appreciation and the card given to me at the meeting on Saturday. I'm afraid I was lost for words and thought later of all the things that I should have said. You, the management committee, are a great team working with altruistic ideals and bringing to the table different points of view for the common good. Carol's drive has been a huge factor in our success and I thank you, Carol."*

*I have enjoyed being President of the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc and am very proud of the achievements made thus far. We have improved the safety and livability of the Bunya Mountains for both the residents and the visitors. We have provided the glue that makes this a caring, friendly place to live. This is born out by the huge membership that we have and the excellent attendances at meetings and social events.*

*We are respected by the Mayors and the councillors of the two local governments that make up the Bunya Mountains and they support us because they see what we are doing.*

*Sandy has been my 'behind the scenes' support throughout my term as President....*

*Thank you all and keep up the good work."*







## What did our Guest Speaker have to say:

**Ms Trudi Bartlett**, Director of Regional Development for Regional Development Australia, Darling Downs and Southwest Qld Region

The key points of Trudi's presentation were:

- Darling Downs and Southwest Region is one of 52 regions across Australia, all of whom work closely together to enhance and support regional development;
- Whilst partly funded by the Federal Government, they are incorporated associations and work closely with state governments and their departments
- A key aim of the work they do, is to get more grants into the Regions, by
  - getting to know their communities and making connections where necessary
  - providing data to assist with grant applications
  - provide guidance and support to local organisations and businesses
  - assist with progressing projects, and by
  - maintaining regular contact with the Federal Government and providing feedback to them about what needs to happen within this region.
- Trudi introduced the Community and Economy Portals and Grants information available on the RDA website
  - These portals provide the data necessary to back up grant applications and assist in creating a community ID
  - A training session to use these portals is being delivered across the region in August with Dalby's being held on 23/8/21.
- RDA can assist with the proposed Bunya Mountains Community Centre Project by providing the data for the grant applications, provision of support letters, providing advice on the best grants to apply for, and, in this case it's probably the Building Better Regions Fund. That fund often requires an organisational contribution (for example a \$ for \$ contribution by the applicant, but that can be addressed by getting a commitment from the state government for the Project).

Ian thanked Trudi for her presentation and we know we'll be working together into the future. **Thanks Trudi!!**



## National Parks Update:

**Mick Piper, Senior Ranger South Burnett**, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships: Department of Environment and Science, provided the following update:

- *"Contractors are currently working on the replacement of the old bitumen paths. I expect the section near the office should be completed in the next week or so. Section in campground in the following week or two after that depending on weather."*
- *Foot washing stations have been installed at all track entrances*  
[see photograph]
- *We are in the early stages of planning for a two year capital program for upgrading our major visitor areas in the park. Burtons Well and Cherry Plain will be this year. Dandabah and Westcott in Financial Year 2022/23*
- *Usual duties continue. Campgrounds currently fully open. Situation may change depending on COVID restrictions, but this is obviously done at short notice due to the nature of that situation".*





## **BMCAI Project Updates:**

### **Allan Stirling Memorial Park**

The Parks and Gardens Staff at SBRC, have had produced, and provided, the tree identification signs and they are now ready to be installed.

The replacement Park Sign (Bunya Mts Road) is ready for installation. It was cut from the fallen tree removed from Bunya Avenue footpath and is approx. 2 inches thick and weighs in excess of 150kgs so a small team of staff need to be available to install the sign. SBRC staff cut several slabs from that tree and practiced on a couple of other slabs. One of those "practice" slabs is also of good quality and will be installed at the Bunya Avenue entrance to the Park. We are hoping this will be complete by the 29<sup>th</sup> September in preparation for our the Bunya Rainforest Experience Day (more on this later in the Newsletter)...



### **Birds of the Bunyas Brochure Project**

This is a collaborative project involving Bunya Mountains Natural History Association (NHA) and Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) and is progressing well. The Project Team are hoping this brochure will be completed and ready for distribution prior to the Christmas School Holidays.

The Brochures will be professionally printed using \$450 from the closure of Lake Broadwater Natural History Association (NHA), plus \$200 committed by Bunya Mountains NHA. 1000 brochures will be printed and provided to locals and holiday makers to identify local birds. The brochures are A3 double sided and fold up. Eighty (80) of the most often seen and heard birds of the Bunya Mountains are listed in the Brochure. Attached is the draft image of the front cover of the Brochure.

Distribution of brochures will be via businesses and the National Parks Office.

### **Bunya Avenue T-junction remediation**

The Bunya Avenue/ Bunya Mountains Road T-Junction is confusing to use, and with the increasing volume of traffic as well as increasing size of vehicles trying to use that T-junction, it is an accident waiting to happen. BMCAI have been in discussions with the South Burnett Regional Council for some time, and have also written to the Department of Transport and Main Roads about the issue.

Mr Brendan Clancy from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, along with Cr Gavin Jones and 2 staff members from the South Burnett Regional Council, joined members of the BMCAI for an on-site inspection of this T-Junction on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The outcome of that meeting is that SBRC and TMR will develop an interim response that includes re-instating line marking and directional signage to assist with traffic flow. TMR will also examine reducing the speed from 60 to 50kms on this section of the Bunya Mountains Road. Once these strategies are implemented, traffic flow will be monitored over time to determine if further remediation is required.



### **Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Plan**

The Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-committee will be meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September and this meeting will be followed by Qld Disaster Management Arrangement Training. This will be the first module of that training and will provide participants with an overview of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements including the disaster management principles, local, district and State disaster management group structures and functions, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities, disaster declaration arrangements, warning and alert systems and disaster funding arrangements.

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



**Community Safe Landing Site (aka the Helipad):** In July, emergency helicopter medical evacuations were required on 2 occasions within one week in the Bunyas. This tested the Bunya Mountains Procedure and was followed up by a Review Meeting, as is required by the Procedure. Given that the Community Safe Landing Site is behind a locked gate (with no public access), the Procedure was developed to provide Queensland Retrieval Services (who allocate and direct helicopters to the required sites), and the helicopter pilots with contact details to ensure that the gate will be opened when needed and they can be transported to the emergency site if required. Local Ambulance Services transport the patient to the helicopter.

The Procedure also provides details for the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Service who hold the keys to the locked gate, to enable members who respond to the notification, to access and lock up the site afterwards and to provide transport assistance for helicopter medical staff if necessary. The Procedure is not a public document for obvious reasons, but the updated Procedure was provided to the nearby Queensland Ambulance Services, and Lifeflight, who in turn has provided the document to Qld Retrieval Services.



It is comforting to know that this service is available if an emergency arises that requires medical evacuation. Local resident, Barry Downes, required this service recently and has asked if I would pass on his gratitude to all who assisted on that day.  
[A huge and heartfelt thank you from Barry.](#)

## Proposed Community Centre

Community centres are defined as *“publicly owned facilities that provide space for local organisations and community groups to meet, and for a range of social programs, services and activities which address the social needs of a community.”* Bunya Mountains does not have such a facility or even a building such as a church hall which could be used as such a facility, so it is not hard to explain the need.

BMCAI has prepared a document which has been provided to our members, local, state and federal government representatives and is being distributed to potential corporate sponsors.

The first hurdle for the Association is to find a suitable piece of land upon which to construct such a facility and the Association is presently exploring all options. If you have some ideas, then please let us know as this is proving to be quite a challenge given the steep terrain of the Bunya Mountains and the lack of supply.

The Management Committee have also created a **Social and Events Sub-committee**, whose responsibility it will be to begin the task of fund raising for the Community Centre and to manage the Association's social calendar. The Subcommittee has developed an exciting program for the next 12 months and the details of some of these activities are provided later in the Newsletter.

**Snap, Send Solve App**...do you know about this App to report local issues such as road damage, fallen trees, mass litter, dumped shopping trolleys etc? The App will find the GPS of where you are standing, nearby the issue you are wanting to Report, and automatically allocate it to the relevant local government authority. A few weeks later you will receive a message asking if the issue has been addressed, and if not, the issue will again be automatically sent to the relevant Council so it can be addressed (in Australia and New Zealand). The best option for getting the deep gutters on the sides of Bunya Mts Road fixed is for lots of locals to Report it via this App.



### Reporting local issues just got easier

The easy and efficient way to notify local councils, utilities or other authorities of issues that need addressing in your community





**Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc  
(BMCAI) Newsletter  
Issue 11- August 2021**



**South Burnett Regional Council Community Grant:**

For this meeting we were able to use the new laptop, printer and data projector purchased through a community grant from the SBRC. **Thank you South Burnett Regional Council.**

The laptop and data projector assisted greatly at our recent meeting for our Guest Speakers presentation, the discussions regarding the Bunya Avenue T-Junction, the Bird Brochure Project and provided a preliminary look at the ticket and poster design for the upcoming Dinner Under the Stars event.

The laptop and projector have also been used for the Review of the Community Landing Site Procedure and at the recent meeting of the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association. This equipment will be widely used and appreciated by our community.



**News on upcoming events later in this Newsletter ...some exciting stuff there!**



**News from the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Service (BMRFS)**

**The Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Committee** continue to work on a bid to have toilet facilities available for their firefighters and members. One would think that getting a toilet in an emergency services facility such as this, would be relatively easy. But many people have tried to assist and have hit brick walls. This is a complex and frustratingly lengthy process due to the lack of land available (the fire shed currently fits on the leased land available to the Brigade) and that leased area abuts Rifle Bird Park.

A subcommittee is currently working on the latest bid and hoping for a way forward to appear to resolve this issue very soon. In the meantime, if you have cause to attend a meeting at the Bunya Mountains Fire Shed and nature calls, the Tardis is your only option! (see the blue Tardis in the photo near the water tanks). A huge thank you to the members who have worked, or are currently working, so hard to resolve this issue. Your enduring dedication is amazing and we all appreciate your efforts (and wow will you be honoured when we finally get a loo!!!)

**Improved Water Storage Capacity at the Fire Shed:**

In the May Newsletter, we advised that the large new water tank had been purchased. In June, the tank was installed and fittings attached. With the recent rain, we now have plenty of water on site.



**Heritage Bank Grant:** The large roller doors on the fire shed are heavy and require much muscle to open and close them. This issue is about to be resolved as Anna, our Grants Officer, recently submitted a grant application to the Heritage Bank and was successful in acquiring funding to have automatic openers fixed to these doors. The installation is scheduled to occur in late August. Well done to Anna.

This Fire Shed improvement is **proudly sponsored by the Heritage Nanango Bank.**



**New QFES public-facing website now live:** <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/>

A new, user-friendly QFES website was launched this week. It amalgamates previous separate websites and FRS, RFS, SES and QFES content to deliver essential information in a clean, modern and logical format that is government and industry best practice. This development was undertaken after extensive community and stakeholder engagement to help determine how QFES' website could best meet community expectations and their need for quick, reliable and easy-to-find information.

# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



The result is a professional website that prioritises our end-users' experience, tailoring the content and navigation to how the community wants to interact with us. Already we are seeing users navigate to the content they need faster, and spend longer on the page.

Some of the key improvements include:

bushfire warnings on the homepage; dynamic content – delivering relevant content during emergencies improved search functionality; tailored for desktop or mobile devices, a more intuitive user experience, and clean and clear navigation.

The site will continue to improve and change as our environment and capabilities change, remaining relevant to our service delivery model and community expectations.

Visit the website and take a look around <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/>

## Kingaroy Airport Fuel Reduction burn

Recently Peter Taylor, BM firefighter, was one of the many members of regional rural fire brigades that participated in this exercise.

Here are 2 photos, provided by Peter, of the burn progressing on the day.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Welcome to the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc

### NHA Supplement August 2021, provided by Lynn England, President NHA

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Assn (Inc). held its Annual General Meeting 25th July. Our management committee for this year is: Lynn England (President), Bernice Seaton & Ron Sampson (Vice Presidents), Sandy Learmont (Secretary) with Ruth Humphries (Minute Secretary), Aileen Fleming (Treasurer). While most are continuing in the roles, we welcome and thank Sandy for offering to assist and ease the burden for Ruth. Members should note that fees for 2021/22 are now due and may be paid to Aileen; \$5 individual, \$10 family. This entitles you to attendance and voting rights at general meetings, a copy of this electronic newsletter and participation in NHA functions.

Our aging membership is in decline, both numerically and with respect to health, but we are able to continue operations at least for the forthcoming year. It must be noted that, unless we have an input of new members willing to contribute, our longer future must be in question. Only two other NHAs are still active in Queensland; Lamington & Green Mountains (Tamborine exists but is inactive). Lamington NHA has experienced a minor resurgence and recently formed a new committee. I have spoken to the Secretary (Christine Hatton) who proposed a visit to meet with some of us when circumstances allow. The idea is to collaborate for mutual support; that in itself is a spark of hope. The last 18 months have proved challenging to operations, as is the case with most other organisations. Specifically, for the NHA, Cedarvale Museum only opened on one occasion [Easter Sunday] under a covid plan, but inclement weather meant we had more staff than visitors.

One suggestion was to have some informal gatherings combining a social interaction with a discussion of matters of natural history. A naked-eye astronomy night was also mentioned; early October might be suitable with regard to weather and interesting viewing.

It was decided to continue our newsletter for the present, but as a supplement to the Bunya Mountains Community Association's existing newsletter. This maintains our coverage while streamlining production efforts as there is considerable overlap in interest. We thank Carol Weekes for agreeing to this, and we hope it involves a minimal expansion of her effort. Since the NHA produced its winter edition only a few weeks ago, this report will be our first contribution, but I urge members to forward any articles or snippets to me [at mklbengland@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mklbengland@yahoo.com.au) so we can submit a full edition next quarter. Lynn England

\*\*\*\*\*

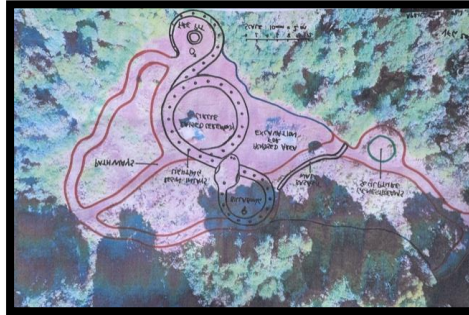
# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



## Update from the Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC):

### Bush University

On 29 May 2021, several of our members had the good fortune to participate in an information session at Fishers Lookout about this Project. An artists impression of the layout for the site was provided to participants on that day. Work on the site was mainly excavating and checking for artefacts.



Since that time, and despite some wet weather interruptions, real progress has been made on this amazing Project. I recently had the pleasure of visiting Jason Lawless, VFG Landscape and Construction, on site to chat about the Project and check out the progress. Jason explained that they are hoping to have the Project complete by the end of November and an Official Opening in February 2022. Until that time, they are not seeking media exposure about the Project as it will be worth the wait to introduce the public to the completed Bush University and its stories and structures etc.

However, Jason was happy to show me the foundations for the Rainbow Serpent, the platforms for the raised ceremony circle that is now taking shape and his visions of how the structures will blend into the landscape and offer connection to country and a place of sanctuary for the Elders and community. So that you can have a peek, Jason was happy for me to take a photograph from the track above so that you know the work is making good progress and looks like the image above. We all look forward to seeing the Bunya Mountains Bush University. Congratulations to Jason, his team, BPAC and all involved in this wonderful Project.



### Mt Mowbullian Clean-Up Day– Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

BPAC is planning a significant weed clean up on Mowbullian as the season has resulted in a massive weed infestation including extensive wattle regrowth. So BPAC Rangers and Emergency Services Work Experience Cadet Students will have a working bee on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

The Bunya Mountains resident community are invited to don their gardening gloves and help out. The clean-up will be followed by a sausage sizzle so we can all get to chat and talk about our favourite topic...Bunya Mountains! Watch this space, we will provide more details as they come to hand.

## Western Downs Regional Council : Mountain Bike Trail

commence in late August and be completed in 8 months. The community reaction to the announcement demonstrates that we have a diverse, dynamic and engaged community because we have seen essentially 3 types of responses, those being *"fantastic, can't wait"* to *"environmental vandalism"* to *"I'll sit on the fence and wait to see what happens"*. However, all 3 groups feel that there has been a general lack of consultation and transparency in this Project and share similar concerns and these are:

- The one Community Consultation meeting re this Project indicated that follow up consultation would occur to provide responses to the issues raised and that didn't happen
- Potential environmental degradation in an environmentally sensitive area
- Future maintenance availability for the track and facilities
- Potential biking injuries- QAS and SES is at least 1 hour away
- Lack of the provision of updated maps

The Members at the recent meeting agreed to write to WDRC and seek a joint BMCAI, WDRC and Common Ground Trails meeting to discuss the concerns. We will advise when we receive a response.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WDRC recently announced that the** contract for this Project has been awarded to Common Ground Trails and that the Project would





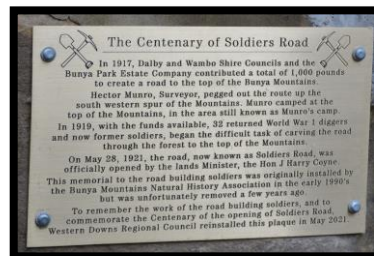
## Centenary of the Opening of Soldiers Road Celebration

On 4th June 2021, the Bunya Mountains community gathered at the base of Soldiers Road on the Bunya Mountains-Dalby Road for the purposes of celebrating the Centenary of the opening of the road by unveiling and dedicating a new memorial Plaque. This road is called Soldiers Road because WW1 returned soldiers became road builders and constructed the first road up the Bunya Mountains between 1919 and 1921, giving access to motor vehicles for the first time. With that first section completed (to within 1 kilometre of Munros Camp), the road was officially opened on 28th May 1921.

In the past, the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association recognized the phenomenal road building efforts of the returned WW1 diggers, and set out to find a way to honour and remember those achievements.

Whilst the locals all knew this road as the Soldiers Road, there were no signs to establish that fact. The Natural History Association, with the help of the Council, had a sign erected at the foot of the road. A large stone was then erected with a brass plaque attached by Mr Phil Humphrys of the Natural History Association, telling the story of the amazing work delivered by those soldiers. Unfortunately, this memorial to the soldier road builders was not respected by some members of the public, and sadly the brass Plaque was levered from the rock and stolen a few years ago.

To assist with the Centennial celebrations, Western Downs Regional Council, replaced the Plaque. Cr Kay McGuire, Western Downs Regional Council addressed the gathering. The guest of honour at the celebrations was Mr Phil Humphrys, who some 30 years after unveiling the first plaque, unveiled the new Plaque. The Plaque was dedicated by Lutheran Bishop Emeritus, Rev Noel Noack.



**Thank you Western Downs Regional Council for your assistance with this Project.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Social and Events Subcommittee Update

The Social and Events Subcommittee of BMCAI has been formed to develop and facilitate a social calendar of activities, some purely social in nature, but also including activities whose primary purpose will be to raise funds for the future Bunya Mountains Community Centre. Since formation on May 26, this group has been beavering away and come up with an amazing range of activities for the next 12 months or so. Let's have a brief look at some of these events. More information and updates will be provided as each event draws closer.

- 1) **Bunya Mountains Dinner Under the Stars Dinner Under the Stars – 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.** This event will occur behind the Bunyas Tavern. Carl and his team at the Bunyas Tavern will serve a delicious 3 course meal and Carl has donated his staff labour to us free of charge. Stanwell and Western Downs Regional Council are sponsoring the event. The Subcommittee is presently busy arranging all the details for this significant event. Tickets will be \$85 per person and will go on sale very soon. This is a first for the Bunya Mountains and will be the first "big" fundraiser for our future Community Centre. More detailed information coming soon.

**Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc  
(BMCAI) Newsletter  
Issue 11- August 2021**



- 2) **Bunya Rainforest Experience – 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021** in Allan Stirling Memorial Park. This event will occur in the second week of the school holidays and visiting families may also join the locals on that day.  
The activities for the day will include a welcome to country from BPAC, information on the Auracarias (incl Bunya Trees) by John Learmont, the planting of seedlings with bunya timber stakes to record participant names (so the next time they visit the Park they can check on “their” tree). A Bunya bonsai demonstration provided by Graeme Wright will also feature. Participants will be invited to bring a picnic lunch. Promotional flyers will be distributed next week.
- 3) **Trivia Night – February 19, 2022 at Poppies.** Save the date for a fun evening out with good friends and (no doubt) lots of laughter. Further details will be forthcoming nearer the time. The evening will involve trivia games and food, with drinks available for purchase.
- 4) **Bunnings Sausage Sizzles** – recognising the importance of widening the fundraising scope to areas “off the mountain”, Bunnings Sausage Sizzles will be used as a fundraising activity at Dalby and Kingaroy Bunnings stores. Brett Mason and Graeme Whittaker have volunteered to lead each day - Brett as “BBQ Captain/Greeter” and Graeme as “Cook”. Two to three other people are required each time to serve, take the money, make up the rolls, get the onions on in the right order!, squish the sauce etc.  
Frohies Butchery at Yarraman have offered to supply the sausages at cost. Helpers are available for the first Sausage Sizzles in **Dalby on 4<sup>th</sup> September** and the 2<sup>nd</sup> sausage sizzle in **Kingaroy on the 9<sup>th</sup> October**. Please let Brett know if you can help out with future sausage sizzles (Bunnings generally will not book months in advance so we don’t yet know future dates). Contact Brett at [brett@whitmas.com](mailto:brett@whitmas.com). If you happen to be in Dalby or Kingaroy on that dates above, come on in to Bunnings and get your sausage and drink and say hello.
- 5) **Bunya Mountains Walks Back through Time** – These activities are to be modelled on the “open gardens” type of event where the many historical locations on the mountains are opened up once a year to visitors. This concept is in early stages of discussion and will be developed further as it has huge potential given the large number of historical sites. As with the Dinner Under the Stars, this event has potential to become an annual event. If you have some ideas or would like to assist with this type of activity, then please let Meg know.
- 6) **Cherbourg Rationshed Museum Visit:**  
This event has now been rescheduled to **10am Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.  
**Background:** The idea for establishing a historic precinct in Cherbourg grew out of the celebration of Cherbourg’s Centenary in 2004. Sandra Morgan and her sister Lesley Williams were collecting items for a historic display when they discovered that the **old Ration Shed (constructed 1927)** at the bottom of the footy oval – still intact. It was from the Ration Shed that those on the Settlement received rations, primarily flour, sugar and meat and at times rice, oatmeal and sago, in exchange for work undertaken within the Settlement. They decided that the building should be preserved and relocated back to the centre of the settlement and adapted as a museum.  
The success of the project prompted several members of the community to consider the conservation of other historic buildings, specifically the Superintendent’s Office, Boys Dormitory and Domestic Science building. The group wanted to create a space where they could tell their stories, share their painful past and celebrate their survival. (information sourced from the Website)  
**For the tours:** A volunteer community elder will lead the tour group through various exhibits. Short local documentary films will be screened. Topics covered include “Living under the Protection Act”, “The Rations system”, “Stolen Generations”, general history of the Cherbourg community.  
This is an opportunity to understand the history from the indigenous perspective and broaden our knowledge to better understand the events of today’s Australian way of life for our First Nations People. **If you would like to participate in this Tour, please let me know asap as we need at least 10 people to participate (and max 20).** For those people travelling from the Bunyas, we will carpool for those happy to do so.  
**Cost:** \$25 per person. Email: [bunyamcainc@gmail.com](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com)
- 7) **Fathers’ Day Gathering at Fishers Lookout. 5pm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September..** Bring along nibbles to share and BYO drinks and a comfy fold up chair. Joins us to watch the sun set as we reminisce and tell tales with the Dads, Granddads, Uncles and Great Granddads.

\*\*\*\*\*





## Armchair Travel: Let's go local and across the seas!

In these times of restricted travel, let's enjoy a couple of travel stories from Members. John and Sandy Learmont share a story and photos of a spot they found on a recent van trip that has links to the Bunya Mountains, and Kathy and Peter Taylor tell of their cruise trip (before the pandemic changed travel!!!) Enjoy.....

### The Weengallon Aboriginal Rock Wells

by John Learmont

These Rock wells are of significant cultural importance to the Aboriginal traditional owners of this land situated beside the Barwon Highway west of Goondiwindi. There are four large wells up to 12 metres deep, and a number of smaller ones.

Tribes are believed to have used them when passing through on their way to the Bunya Mountains.

There are also a number of grinding grooves and evidence that ochre was obtained for ceremonial use.



### Cruising on the QE II April 2019 by Kathy Taylor Brisbane to Tokyo

We departed Brisbane on a beautiful Autumn day in April 2019. As this cruise was going to have many sea days we chose a room with a balcony. The first few days were cruising up the Queensland coast watching some of those small islands that you see from a plane go by.

Our first port of call was Milne Bay on the tip of mainland Papua New Guinea. With most cruises you wake up either already docked in port or just arriving. With Milne Bay we sailed into port in the early morning to see families in their tinnies zooming across from the other side of the Bay on their morning commute to work and school. We chose to go on a tour that took us to a craft market which included a traditional dancing display in the morning, followed by a tour of the second world war memorials after lunch. We were surprised to see so many children in traditional dress, and were told that when a cruise ship arrives, they take a day off school, dress up and work for money.





# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



Next were a few more sea days where we had settled into a routine of a lazy breakfast, Peter playing table tennis in the morning and me going to a Zumba class. Back to our room for R&R then off to lunch. Afternoons where either a movie, or a talk on our next port of call, followed by a few laps of the deck before dinner and a show in the theatre.

Our second port of call was the Island of New Britain north east of the main island of Papua New Guinea. We woke as the ship was cruising into the port to see a smouldering volcano on the other side of the bay. The weather by now was getting quite hot with 30 degree plus days and humidity that you could cut with a knife.



Our tour today would be to the war cemetery and museum then to the food markets and a traditional dancing display. We boarded our bus and were greeted by our tour director for the day a local gentleman, who told us this was his first day taking tours, so off we went for our days adventure. As we headed to the war cemetery at the other end of the island we noticed groups of people standing on the side of the road all waving vigorously as we went by. They were waiting for a truck to come by and pick them up to go to town, this was carpooling on a whole new level. No seatbelts here, they were packed in until there was no standing room. They had just finished the wet season and the road had been washed away it was now a dirt track with pot holes the size of the minibus filled with water. It made for slow going but allowed us to get a good view of the people, villages and the surrounding forests.



The war cemetery was very moving, set in such a beautiful surround. The museum consisted of all the Second World War items that had been collected around the island from both sides of the conflict. Then off to some Japanese tunnels and a Japanese war memorial. This turned out to be on our tour guides family farm, which he then proudly introduced us to his extended family. We returned back to the main town along a road on top of the island and where zooming along doing 100k in a 60k zone. Peter asked our tour guide what you needed to do to get a licence here. He said he didn't know he didn't have one as he didn't own a vehicle. The food and craft markets where interesting and the traditional dancing different from the main land dancers we had seen a few days before. The people of Papua New Guinea we encountered are very proud of their country and a happy people always smiling and waving. The majority of them are subsistence farmers growing small crops and keeping pigs and chickens. Our guide told us he grows palms for oil and cacao. The price of palm oil was down and he was having problems with insects in his cacao crop hence he had taken a tour guide job.



Next port of call to be Manila in the Phillipines. But before then we had quite a few sea days as we crossed the equator. Again back to our daily sea day routine, with a visit from a helicopter in the middle of the ocean. We were told it was from a nearby fishing fleet, they use the helicopter to spot the shoals of fish then direct to boats to the area. Cruising up beside giant volcano islands as we got closer to the Phillipines.



# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



Manila was an early morning cruise into port with the local fishermen out in the dawn in their small boats and the cruise ship blowing its horn at them when they got too close. Manila is a large modern city with a high rise building skyline, the total opposite of New Guinea.

Our chosen tour for the day had been cancelled so we caught a bus supplied by the cruise ship into the centre of town and were delivered to the main shopping mall. We were early and had to wait for it to open, so chose to go for a coffee. If you wanted to go to Starbucks you had to submit to a search of your bags and a metal detector wand to get in, so we went to Dennys where there was no such requirement. We sat for an hour drinking coffee and watching the passing scenery not a bad thing to do in a foreign country. To get into the mall there were two lines one for men the other for women, through a metal detector and a bag search. We managed to get on an afternoon tour of the old city which took us to the old Manila hotel, Rizal gardens, then on to Fort Santiago built by the Spanish in 1571 and finally to the beautiful San Agustin Church built around 1600. Manila is a very large and busy city with a stark contrast of rich and poor as you drive around seeing the poor living in shacks built wherever they can.



Next port was Nagasaki, Japan. But before then a few more sea days and a close visit from the Chinese navy as we cruised up the South China Sea. We opted for a full day tour to a traditional Japanese village and a Japanese castle which included a museum outside of the city. Then on to a traditional Japanese lunch, and a visit to a town that had been destroyed by a volcano eruption. As we had been to Nagasaki many years before and had been to most of the tourist sights, which included the museum at the Peace Park and memorial to the bombing of Nagasaki by the Americans during world war 2 it was nice to see the wider area of Nagasaki.



Our last stop was to be the port of Yokohama just outside of Tokyo. I had organised a pickup by a private limousine to transfer us to our hotel. We had decided to stay at the hotel we had used many times just outside of Tokyo at Shinagawa. It is on the main high speed train line and one stop from Tokyo. Instead of flying home straight away we stayed for 5 days so booked ourselves a 7-day train pass. I had worked out that it was cheaper than paying for daily tickets and we could book a seat if we needed to which ensured we could catch that particular train.

Day one, we decided to revisit Hiroshima we had been there before on our second trip to Japan. There is nothing like travelling on the Shinkansen (high speed train) the equivalent distance of Brisbane to Sydney in a few hours. Peter always likes to take his GPS with him to check our speed this time our top speed was 300kph, but on previous trips we had travelled at 305km. Hiroshima peace park is a very moving place and one that everyone should visit once in their lives.



Day two, we stayed close to the hotel. I had been reading about the 47 Ronin and had watched a movie about them prior to our holiday. A few blocks from our hotel was the Sengakuji temple built in the 1600's. It is the final resting place of the 47 Ronin and their master Asano Naganori. It is a sad and very moving story of loyalty.





# Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter Issue 11- August 2021



Day three, we travelled to the city of Nara. Nara was the original capital of Japan it is full of Castles, temples and beautiful parks. I had read about the deer that are a religious symbol for the Japanese that roam freely in the parks. They ask that you only feed them wafers that you purchase from official sellers. We purchased a package and by the time I had the wrapper off I was surrounded. Then they started nipping me because I wasn't feeding them quick enough.

Day four, Peter had worked out a rail station that the Shinkansen travelled through but didn't stop so wanted to go there to stand on the platform and watch them come through at full speed.



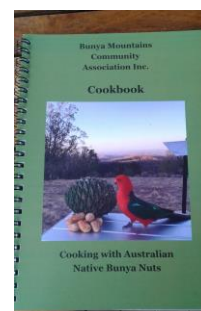
Day five, we had never travelled north of Tokyo so decided that we would catch the train to Sendai 3 hours north, have lunch and come back. It was a very interesting day with us catching the new upgraded high-speed trains called the Hayabusa, made to travel at 360kph but have been limited to 330kph due to the noise level. We travelled through Fukushima and on to Sendai being the two main towns effected by the earthquake and subsequent Tsunami in 2011. The area was still around Fukushima was still relatively uninhabited with only a few houses and farms.

Day six saw us off to the airport and on a Qantas flight back to Brisbane. What a diverse holiday! From the towns and people of New Guinea to the cities of Japan some very old and others very modern. However just when you think Tokyo is all shining lights and high-speed trains you come across a temple tucked away between high rise buildings dating from the late 1500's.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BMCAI Bunya Nut Recipe Books

Looking for some stocking fillers for Christmas...We have had the Recipe Book reprinted and have ~ 150 copies of the Book (in stock). We encourage members to ask family and friends if they'd like to buy a copy of this publication (Retail Price of \$20.00). The Natural History Association has plenty of frozen nuts for sale and in stock, so if you want some nuts to give with the Recipe Book, let us know and we'll arrange to have them ready for collection.



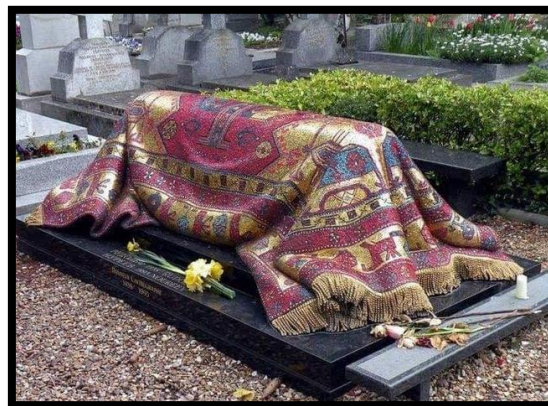
\*\*\*\*\*

**Now this has nothing whatsoever to do with the Bunya Mountains, but it is beautiful and well worth sharing.** (Thank you to Lynne Downes for sharing this with us)

### It is not a carpet!

It is the tomb of dancer Rudolf Nureyev. The carpet which covers the tomb is not actually a carpet but a tombstone made of mosaics, a spectacular work of colours, the realism obtained in terms of shape, folds, colours and textures makes it one of the main tourist attractions of the Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois cemetery in Paris.

Designed by his friend Ezio Frigerio whom he met after one of his functions, following a performance of the ballet, Romeo and Juliet.



How remarkably, amazingly beautiful is that .....

\*\*\*\*\*



**Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc  
(BMCAI) Newsletter  
Issue 11- August 2021**



**Date Claimer...Next Meeting: 2pm Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Venue: Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Shed**

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

After the meeting, we will test out the sausage cooking skills of our master, Graeme Whittaker, and enjoy a Sausage Sizzle.

The Social and Events Subcommittee will arrange the sausage sizzle, salads and a dessert. Members participating will drop \$5 in the hat to cover the costs of the ingredients for the event...that will save you looking for something to bring to the meeting to share afterwards.

However, we only provide tea and coffee, if that is not to your tastes, or you will need or want other drinks, then bring them along with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

***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 here.***

**Upcoming Event & Membership Information**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:bunyamcainc@gmail.com)

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

