



Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 12



Bunya Mountains Dinner Under the Stars

Welcome to the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter -Issue no 12, the fourth and final Newsletter for 2021. Our previous Newsletter was issued in August 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 photograph above is from our signature fundraiser event for 2021, **the Bunya Mountains Dinner Under the Stars** held on Saturday 13th November 2021. See pages 5 & 6 for more details about this fabulous event.

*The BMCAI Newsletter 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 provide information and articles for this Newsletter. Read about a variety of topics relating directly and indirectly to the Bunyas. This issue covers the period from September to November 2021. Grab a cuppa and come on a journey with us...Enjoy the read.

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News from the Quarterly Meeting – 6th November 2021

BMCAI met on Saturday 6 November 2021 at the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Shed on Bunya Mountains Road. We had a great meeting, although the Secretary, who shall remain nameless at this point, did knock her coffee off the table mid meeting and an amazing thing happenedsee photo....a new cleaning crew evolved!!!



The meeting was followed by a Sausage Sizzle Supper and a viewing of some of the short Queensland B.OLD movies to celebrate Seniors Week. The best of the 10, of course, was the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Movie!! These 5 minute movies are well worth viewing, so many beautiful souls and creative people in our area and the state. If you would like to have a look then go to <https://comms.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/boldfilms>

The Key Points of Discussion from the November Quarterly meeting were:

- **From the Treasurers' Report:** BMCAI has now been issued with an indefinite Permit to Fundraise by the Queensland Office of Fair Trading. The approval and allocation of that Permit, means that BMCAI is now required to Report to Office of Fair Trading as a Level 1 organisation, meaning that its' financial books must be fully audited each year. Whilst the Auditor is usually selected and approved by the Annual General Meeting for the following financial year, the November meeting ratified Hobbs and Associates to audit our books for the current reporting period (1.1.21 to 31.12.21) and the vote for the Auditor for 2022 will be taken at the Annual General Meeting in February 2022, as per the usual procedure.
- **Community Centre Proposal Update**

The search for suitable land in the Bunyas upon which to construct a multipurpose community facility has thus far been unsuccessful and the Management Committee continues to work with both the South Burnett and Western Downs Regional Councils on this issue.

A proposal to site a community centre in Russell Park (opposite the commercial TV stations) was discussed and a detailed application was forwarded to Western Downs Regional Council seeking to site a facility on that site. The only piece of available land on the South Burnett side, is across the road from the Fire Shed. That piece of land could have been made available by QNPWS for transfer to local government, but due to the blocks small size, steep slope and obstructed road view access to Bunya Mountains Road, it has been deemed to be not suitable. The only piece of land available on the Western Downs side is 2 blocks of land located at the corner of Ensor and Tolmie Streets. This land has also been deemed to be too steep and is the headwaters of Myall Creek, and at the moment so has water running through it.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) have indicated an interest if the centre was planned for use also as an evacuation centre. If that was the case, the QRA may be able to provide funds to ensure a commercial kitchen, adequate toilet/shower facilities, storage of supplies in case of emergency, and an adequate communication system. QRA has an interest in supporting communities to solve their own problems.
- **Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Group Update**

The Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Group met on 1st September 2021 at the Fire Shed with 13 attendees, from Western Downs Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council, Emergency Management Queensland, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service, State Emergency Services and Bunya Mountains represented by Brett Mason, Ian Harris, John Learmont and Carol Weekes. Topics discussed at the meeting included:

 - The Bunya Mountains Fire Shed will be used as an Incident Control Centre in times of disasters
 - The equipment needs for an Incident Control Centre include a fit for purpose Generator, for which an application has been made to the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund
 - On behalf of the Sub-Group, BMCAI have applied for a grant from Ergon/ Energex to provide Lifeflight First Minutes Matter training in the Bunyas and to create a Disaster Response Emergency Kit
 - A Report was provided regarding the use of the Community Safe Landing Helicopter site in June for 2 emergency evacuations

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- South Burnett Regional Council reported on **Rural Addressing**. Rural Addressing is necessary to ensure emergency services can find injured/ ill patients as quickly as possible, as every minute matters. Locals frequently note ambulances getting lost in the Bunyas as the addressing is ad hoc and frequently just the property name.
 - SBRC have advised that it is Councils' responsibility to provide rural numbering in private estates and along private roads
 - On the South Burnett side of Bunya Mts approx. 200 properties need rural addressing. Council advised that they will develop a workplan, prepare a submission to the Council Infrastructure Standing Committee and identify a funding source.
 - The initial rural address is provided free to property owners but for any subsequent replacement numbering, owners bear the cost
 - Owners are usually responsible for making application to Council for a rural address, however given the complex home occupancy arrangements in the Bunyas, the Sub-Group felt it is an important safety issue and appropriate to seek a Council response. We will provide further updates as they become available.
- **Parks and Road Maintenance updates**
 - **Overgrown foliage on road warning signs below Burtons Well** and hanging branches and vines along that stretch of road were reported to the South Burnett Regional Council after the meeting and some work has commenced. Council is also liaising with Transport and Main Roads and National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding further clean up along the edges of that section of the Road.
 - **Speed change issues and warnings:** Department of Transport and Main Roads had indicated that they would make application to change the speed on Bunya Mts Road in the built-up area from QNPWS Workshop gate to Mt Mowbullan, to 50klms. We have not had a response to date and will now follow up this issue.
 - **Deep washout on Bunya Mts Road between entry and exit to Russell Park:** This issue has been ongoing for some time and every time we have heavy rain the ditch becomes longer and deeper. Whilst it is a state road and the responsibility of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, local governments do the maintenance work (with TMR approval). BMCAI had been reporting the issue to Western Downs Council for some time (that is, > 6 months!), but apparently it was South Burnett's area to maintain. SBRC have now advised that they will be repairing it as soon as they can get to it, given the recent extensive flood damage in the regional road network.
 - **It was noted that the Bunya Avenue upgrades** should have included red painted zones to alert drivers to the 30km speed zone. BMCAI will follow up with SBRC
 - **Road Opened 1921 sign on Bunya Mountains Road again** went missing. This missing sign was reported to WDRC in August 2021 by BMCAI and the meeting was advised that the sign has now been replaced.
- **Lack of wheelchair accessibility in the Bunya Mountains**

In recent months, BMCAI has had several enquiries from the public regarding wheelchair accessible walks and facilities in the Bunya Mountains. BMCAI approached National Parks to determine what they might be planning for the future. National Parks advised that current planned facility improvements include accessibility and that some thought has been given to some accessible walking tracks but not progressed as yet.

Due to the gentle slopes in Allan Stirling Memorial Park, the walking track could/should be upgraded to make it wheelchair (and pram) friendly. The walking track is currently very muddy and sticky due to the wet weather so needs some sort of gravel surface to keep the track usable all year round. Given that needs to happen, then we should make it usable for all, including for those who use wheelchairs for mobility.

The Federal Government presently has a funding round open called Stronger Communities Programme Round 7. David Littleprouds' Office has invited BMCAI to submit an application to have the track upgraded. An Expression of Interest for \$20,000 to do this work has been submitted. Liaison with South Burnett Regional Councils' Parks and Gardens staff is ongoing.

The meeting was also advised that the Munroe's Camp Walking Track, which was originally constructed by the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association, was wheelchair friendly at the time of construction. BMCAI will approach Western Downs Regional Council to determine if this walking track could be returned to wheelchair friendly status.

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Social and Events Sub-Committee Report

Using a powerpoint presentation to illustrate some of the highlights of the Sub-Groups activities in the last quarter, Brett Mason, Chair of Social and Events Sub-Committee provided the following Report:

"The sub-committee has been very busy, meeting monthly and planning for all our events



1. Bunya Rainforest Experience – 29 Sep 2021



Unfortunately, typical Bunya's weather limited attendance to about 35 people. 100 trees were planted in Alan Stirling Memorial Park in ideal conditions. It was a great day socially and educationally as we were treated to John Learmont's talk on trees and Graeme Wright's Bunya Bonsai demonstration.

The event was featured in South Burnett Today thanks to Julien. Thanks to the financial support of South Burnett Regional Council plus the donations for trees, our profit was \$943.39.



2. Bunnings Sausage Sizzles – Dalby 4 September 2021 and Kingaroy 9 October 2021



We have held two sausage sizzles so far and each time it becomes easier. At Dalby, Carol & Peter Weekes and Brett Mason & Graeme Whittaker cooked and served.

At Kingaroy, it was Ruth & Graeme Wright with Brett & Graeme. Profit at each event was approximately \$300. We sold out at Dalby so over catered at Kingaroy.

Upcoming Sausage Sizzles are Dalby on 27 November 2021 and Kingaroy on 18 December 2021.

3. Visit to the Ration Shed Cherbourg

It was a very informative and moving visit to the Ration Shed and greatly appreciated by 14 members of the Bunya Mountains community on 25 October 2021.

Auntie Jeannette was our guide for the tour. Throughout the tour she told us about her personal experiences growing up in Cherbourg and learning her history as part of the Stolen Generation.



We recommend this tour to everyone. A special thank you was sent to Auntie from BMCAI.

Suggestions for future such visits and activities are welcome.



Dinner Under the Stars



The
Bunyas
Bunya Mountains Tavern



TARONG
Power Stations

MEANDU
Mine

stanwell



On Saturday 13th November 2021, 100 diners gathered in the Bunya Mountains to wine, dine and have some fun under the beautiful night skies of the Bunya Mountains. The Social and Events Sub-Committee organised and facilitated this event to raise funds for a multipurpose

community centre in the Bunya Mountains. The event was sponsored by the Bunyas Tavern, Stanwell/ Tarong/ Meandu Mine and South Burnett and Western Downs Regional Councils. The Sub-Committee wish to say a **huge thank you to our sponsors**, The Bunyas Tavern, Stanwell/Tarong/Meandu Mine, Western Downs Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council.



The cool (maybe even chilly!) atmosphere was enchanting as night fell, with the area softly lit by strings of lights and candles and the South Burnett Orchestra String Quartet playing beautiful music.



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A packed program was beautifully managed by Gavin Jones, and the diners were Welcomed on Country and experienced a Smoking Ceremony, both provided by Shannon Bauwens, Traditional Wakka Wakka Owner. This was followed by a BMCAI Welcome provided by Ian Harris, President. The inspirational guest speech was provided by John Carey, Stanwell, and a great presentation of the visible planets in the night sky was provided by Donna Glass, Astrophotographer, Bunya Mountains.



Carl, Bron, Chris and all the staff of **the Bunyas Tavern** did a fabulous job, and so our wining and experience was top notch. Fabulous food, excellent service and diners enjoyed a delicious meal.

The evening included a live and a silent auction, expertly conducted by Gavin Jones, and ably assisted by Scott Henschen...what a team these guys make!!!

The Fabulous 15 Live Auction Items and their very generous donors are as follows:

A six pack of the finest Australian & French Wines: Mary Mahoney & Peter Roodvelt	2 Nights accommodation at the Bower & Bird Watching Walk: Ruth & Graeme Wright & Bernice Seton	2 Nights accommodation at Rice's Log Cabins & Grazing Platter: Annette & Greg Sprenger
A Finely Crafted Bunya Wood Coffee Table: Ian Harris	A Dark Sky Experience for 2: Donna Glass	A Framed Art Piece - Eastern Yellow Robin: Meg Noack
A Genuine Lady-Flo Cake-Tin & Hand Written Recipe (on how to vote card): Meg Noack	A Bunya Bonsai & Bonsai Master Class: Graeme Wright	High Quality Oz Trail Gazebo: Oztrail
2 Nights Accommodation at Pitta Place & Bird watching Walk: Suzy and Dallas March & Bernice Seton	A De-Lux Glider Ride: Darryl Hansen	3 nights mid week off peak Accommodation at Colonial Cottage: Christine Howard
A signed Dark Sky Image & Young Dark Emu Children's Book: Donna Glass & Meg Noack	2 comfy folding arm-chairs & award winning sav blanc in the cooler: Oztrail Leisure Products & Brett M & Graeme W	Aircombat Centre: 30 Minutes in a Fighter Jet Simulator: Kathy Taylor

The 16 Silent Auction Items and their very generous donors were:

Wooden Grader Toy: Poppy's Workshop, Bunya Mts Markets	Kokedama & Cocopith: Ramsea Nursery, Bunya Mts Markets	Hand Crafted Beauty Products: Rustic Urban, Bunya Mts Markets	Jim-Jam Jams-6 Pack: Anne & Jim, Jim-Jam Jams, Bunya Mts Markets	Wooden Hand-Crafted Christmas Decorations: Ian Harris
Wooden Hand-Crafted Christmas Decorations: Ian Harris	Wooden Hand-Crafted Christmas Decorations: Ian Harris	Hand Crafted Tree of Life: Narelle Donald, Bunya Mts Markets	Signed Award Winning Night Skies Print: Donna Glass	Barambah Cellars & Share Platter: Sarah & Stefano: Barambah Cellars
BMCAI Bunya Recipe Book & Bunya Nut Treats: Kay Joyce	Coffee Machine & Coffee Beans: Mark Folker	Coffee Machine & Coffee Beans: Mark Folker	Earrings & Coasters: Diamantina Daughters, Bunya Mts Markets	Painting Lacebark Flowers by Samantha Nolan: Janelle Petersen
Camp-master Ultralight Hiking Stove: Chris and Lyndall Wroe		MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL...YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED		

The evening was most enjoyable and a fabulous success and BMCAI says a huge thank you to all our sponsors, donors, diners and auction bidders for their support as we work towards a Community Centre for the Bunyas!



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:

- *"Not much to update since last time, planning work continues around upgrades at Burtons Well and Cherry plain. Hope to break ground early in the new year. Concept planning underway for Westcott, Paradise and our workshop. Dandabah still at an earlier stage.*
- *Enhanced cleaning of facilities continues due to COVID, boot wash down stations are now in place and maintenance of these is turning out to be a very large, but necessary job.*
- *Re accessible walks, there has been some thought put in as part of the planning process for our upgrades about improved accessible sites or areas within sites. This includes things like wheelchair accessible BBQ's, tables, dedicated campsites, parking, toilets etc. Also includes possible wheelchair accessible short tracks, but still in the planning stage.*
- *[Re Research:] Much of the research conducted on the park is carried out by researchers undertaking research through our permit system. Beyond initial approvals, local and regional staff have no input nor do we see the results. The phytophra research is different as the department is directing it. Results of this are communicated through various ways as they come to us. Any information of potential dieback on freehold would no doubt be of interest to the researchers, which Tony and the guys could pass on."*



Bunya Mountains Indigenous News from the National Indigenous Fire Network

"FireSticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation launched the Firestick Certification Framework in Boobarran Ngummin (Bunya Mountains) on Friday 8 October 2021, with a Welcome to Country performed by local Wakka Wakka man, Adrian Bauwens and breath-taking dance performances from the Wakka Wakka dancers.

Since the devastating bushfires of 2019/2020, the increasing demand for Cultural Fire services from Indigenous communities, councils, private landowners and agencies across Australia has highlighted the urgency to grow the professional workforce of Indigenous Fire Practitioners. The Firestick Certification Framework will recognise and enhance Indigenous Fire Practices in Cultural Fire across 14 different country types.



Photo by Ali Rasoul

Victor Steffensen, Lead Fire Practitioner said: "The Firesticks Certification is crucial to support our resilience as a nation. It's about getting people out onto Country and using Good Fire to heal the land. Because we know when we improve the health of the landscapes, we improve its resilience against wildfires."

We are proud to announce Suncorp as a key partner for the Firesticks Certification Program. The Partnership between Firesticks Alliance and Suncorp will formalise the Firesticks Certification and assessment framework required to ensure the safety of people and Country and leave a legacy of culturally certified Indigenous Fire Practitioners.

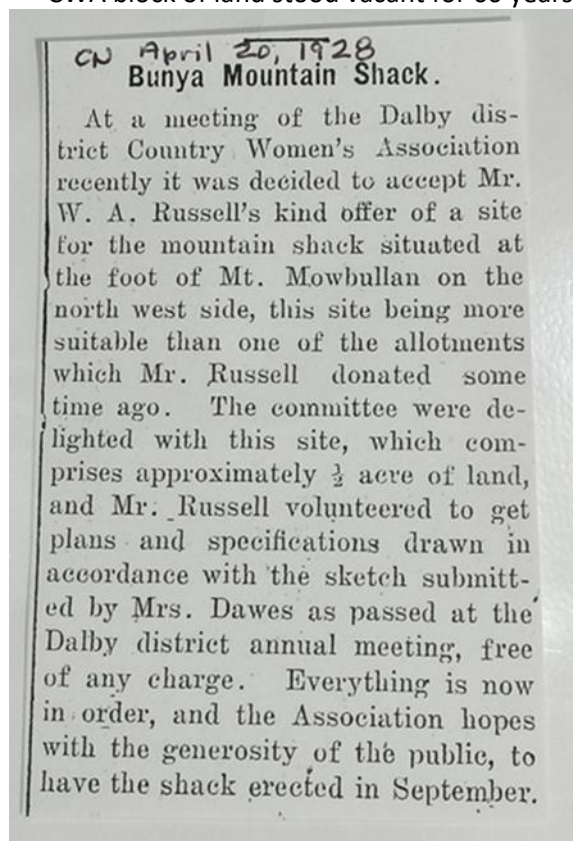
With the support of Suncorp, the Firesticks Alliance aims to mentor and certify 100 Indigenous Fire Practitioners by 2023."



A little bit of local Bunya Mountains history

Tolmie Street, Bunya Mountains, is now well established in the Bunya Mountains landscape. The history of Clear View is an interesting story. Recently, Ruth Humphrys, Bunya Mountains Natural History Association, sent us this newspaper cutting dated 20th April 1928, which provides some background information relating to the land and the "Shack".

After reading the article, I asked Ruth and Phil Humphrys (our Bunya Mountains fonts of knowledge for all things historical) and Phil says that the original Shack referred to in the newspaper article was built on the block of land. In 1951 the Shack was purchased by the Stirling family and moved to their land. It was again later moved to where it stands today (although extended in size) on a family property. The CWA block of land stood vacant for 60 years.



Opening of Clear View, the new QCWA House:

Extract from an Article in Ruth Magazine: 2016

It has been an exciting few months for the QCWA with the opening of the beautiful Clear View villa at the Bunya Mountains. The latest addition to the portfolio of QCWA holiday accommodation may have been a long time in the planning but it is absolutely stunning in reality.

The land at Tolmie St Bunya Mountains was given to the QCWA by Mr W.A. Russell of Jimbour House about 1924. The QCWA 'shack' was officially opened in 1929

and was used as inexpensive holiday accommodation for QCWA members for many years.

However, with such a harsh mountain climate, the poor old shack fell into disrepair and was removed in 1951. The land remained vacant for more than 60 years until funds became available to build something special. Clear View was officially opened in March 2016.

Clear View features modern kitchen and bathrooms, comfortable lounge and beds for up to 10 people.

Clear View Opening Day in March 2016

opening of Clear View in March; far left Maria Keys with Cr Charlene Hall and QCWA State President Robyn McFarlane, at the opening day event.

Clear View Opening Photo and information shared Courtesy of QCWA Ruth Magazine.





Nature Stories from the Bunya Mountains

King parrots are dying of a wasting disease: Chris Brandon -Jones very kindly alerted us to this story on the ABC.

Suburban birdbaths and backyard feeders may be helping to spread a deadly wasting disease among Australia's king parrots.

Key points:

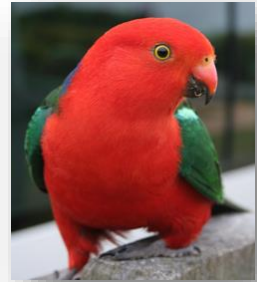
King parrots in Victoria, NSW and Queensland are dying from a disease that leaves them unable to fly. Veterinarians and researchers are investigating the cause of the disease. Backyard bird feeders and bird baths may be contributing to the problem by accelerating the spread of the disease.

Dozens of emaciated king parrots have been surrendered to wildlife carers and veterinarians in Far North Queensland over the past 12 months. But it is not an issue isolated to Queensland's north. "It's been seen in Victoria and New South Wales and other parts of Queensland," University of Sydney veterinary science professor David Phalen said.

"It's a wasting disease where king parrots gradually, or sometimes relatively rapidly, lose weight and go down to the point they're so weak they can't fly."

Cairns-based veterinarian Annabelle Olsson estimated she had examined about 40 king parrots displaying the symptoms during winter. She said wildlife carers in the region had reported many more that were either already dead or close to it. "Generally they present as very weak, debilitated, extremely skinny and just too weak to get off the ground," Dr Olsson said. "If you offer them food, mostly they have a voracious appetite. *If they still have the energy to eat they are really hungry and they'll eat as much as you can give them but they won't put on weight — it effectively goes straight through.*"

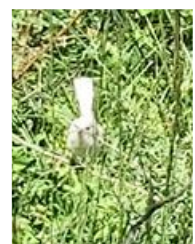
For the full article, please see <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-17/king-parrots-dying-of-mysterious-disease/100620680>



Those elusive white Super fairy-wrens...have you spotted any in the Bunyas?

Shane and Karen Traversari spotted and photographed this one in Tolmie Street on Sunday 14th November 2021.

Bernice Seton, our local birder guru previously told us in Newsletter 9, *"The Super fairy-wren, christened "Snow White" by the bird watchers, appears to be a male, as has no tan colouring around the eye. Bernice advised that it is a young bird as she has seen an adult bird feeding it a couple of times. Bernice does not think it is an albino as it has a dark eye. It is most likely a leucistic bird having no pigment in its' feathers."* Now we are wondering, is this the same bird or a family member?



The Weather...golly it's been unusual or do we just have short memories? Here are a few local photos taken of some the unusual November weather events on the Bunyas... Hail on 1st October and torrential rain and flooding on 7th and 8th November 2021..and cold South Westerly winds on 13th November!



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News from the Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc (NHA)

NHA Supplement November 2021, provided by Lynn England, President NHA

President's Piece

It is kind of the BMCA to include this newsletter as a supplement to theirs, during this period of inactivity. We hope you enjoy the read.

Kingaroy is looking lush after the recent rains, so I hope you all received your share too.

The neighbourhood frogs have been very vocal and our resident Marsh Frogs have been loud, while covering their frog-pond – and the nearby goldfish pond – with masses of their egg-rafts.

Great news – our Bird Identification brochure is now complete. When you see a copy at our next gathering, I think you will all agree the many hours of endeavour by those involved has produced a superb result.

In August, the group from the Lamington NHA was able to make their visit to the Bunyas (COVID was kind!). Some of our members were able to join them for a social day and whilst we did talk shop a little, we all just enjoyed getting out and meeting some-one new with similar interests. Read all about the visit in Secretary Sandy's report, and a special thanks to John for acting as their guide.

I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting and social gathering.

Lynn

From Secretary Sandy's Desk:

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association had lunch at Poppies with the Lamington Natural History Association on 13th October.

Five of their members came for 3 days and enjoyed our beautiful park. They walked several of the tracks and inspected Cedarvale.

Natural History Associations in Queensland are disappearing and we are amongst the few remaining groups. The Lamington group seem to be thriving. They have an active group of 20 to 30 volunteers who man their information centre located in the Qld. Parks & Wildlife office at Binna Burra.



We are looking forward to returning their visit early in the new year.

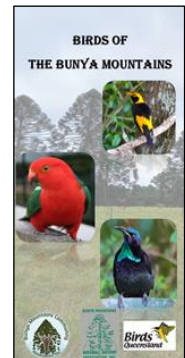
Sandy

The Natural World Report: We need some bacteria by Mike England

Last edition I presented an overview of viruses; this time I will try to demystify bacteria:-

Both groups have been responsible for past pandemics. Even the word 'bacteria' conjures ideas of harmful, disease causing microbes, and although this has a trace of accuracy, the vast majority of bacteria are beneficial – they are crucial for our health and survival; indeed necessary for the very functioning of life on Earth. The essential bacteria within our bodies can account for several kilograms of our weight, and even make some vitamins. Bacteria produce foods like cheese, yogurt, vinegar, salami, sauerkraut.

Bacteria (and some allies) taxonomically comprise the kingdom Monera – so are distinct from animals, plants, fungi and protists (=protozoa). They are the simplest, most primitive, living organisms, reminiscent of very early life-forms. All are tiny, typically 1-to-5 micrometres so visible through a decent





microscope (other cell-types are many times larger, some many thousands of times). They compensate for size by occurring in vast numbers, in fact the total biomass of bacteria is approximately the same as that of the rest of the natural world. More important than size or abundance is design; the Monera have simple cells, structurally different from others. These are termed prokaryotic ('before kernel'), while all other cells are eukaryotic ('good kernel'). Like plant cells, prokaryotes are usually surrounded by a cell wall (of peptidoglycan, not cellulose, lignin or chitin), with pili (minute 'hairs') that allow bacteria to adhere to each other or to surfaces. Some bacteria are motile and have a flagellum. Inside the wall is a plasma membrane, enclosing cytoplasm which contains free ribosomes and a single strand of DNA – but little else is obvious. By contrast, eukaryotic cells have many internal membrane-bound organelles, such as a nucleus, mitochondria, lysosomes and often chloroplasts. Biologists think these internal structures originated as an extreme form of colony, where some prokaryotes ended up living inside another prokaryote, eventually evolving into highly specialised cellular organelles within a eukaryotic cell. Prokaryotes reproduce by fission – splitting followed by regrowth. This allows rapid increase in number; a single bacterium can become over a million in about four hours. This process is asexual, but sometimes genetic material is exchanged between adjacent cells via the pili, this is necessary for bacteria to evolve.

Although all Monera show a coherent design, there is great diversity in shape and this is used to categorise them: spherical (cocci), rods (bacilli), curved (vibrio), threads (filamentous) or corkscrew (spirochete). Many bacteria are solitary but others form colonies; pairs (diplo-), chains (strepto-) or blobs (staphylo-). Another way to categorise bacteria is by the way they take up stains. A biologist named Christian Gram developed a way to stain the cell wall, and found that there were two outcomes; some have a thick wall and take up his stain producing a dark colour – gram positive, the rest have a thin wall so have less colour if stained – gram negative. Actually, there is another type, mycoplasma, which have no cell wall – more about them soon.

Most bacteria are heterotrophic; like animals, they absorb complex organic compounds, breaking them down to provide energy, releasing carbon dioxide & water. Their size and simple structure precludes being predators, so bacteria are the world's great recyclers, secreting enzymes to decompose waste, by-products and dead bodies of plants and animals, returning the chemical components for reuse. When Fungi appeared on Earth, they occupied the same recycling niche, setting the stage for competition on a global scale. Some Fungi developed a powerful chemical weapon; one we call antibiotics. These chemicals attack the cellular wall, so are more effective on gram +ve bacteria, less so on gram -ve types, and have no effect on mycoplasma. Thus mycoplasmal pneumonia is very difficult to treat; is this a portent of a world of antibiotic resistance?

Some bacteria don't wait for organisms to die before feeding, and 'parasitise' them. Most cause little harm, indeed are usually beneficial. We cannot survive without symbiotic bacteria in our gut, skin and elsewhere. Grazing animals need bacteria to digest their food, even koalas depend on them to detoxify eucalyptus oils. A few are pathogenic, and cause disease. Human examples might include tonsillitis, pneumonia, septicaemia, syphilis, tuberculosis and the great plagues. Tetanus is the result of a toxin produced.

There are photosynthetic bacteria, using the energy of sunlight to power their metabolism and make oxygen. Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic bacteria that form long chains, so have a blue-green thread-like appearance, and produce deadly toxins. They can proliferate in water (fresh, brackish or marine) when excess nutrients accumulate from pollution or excrement / fertiliser run-off. For some reason, we mistakenly refer to them as blue-green algae – they aren't algae. The Rickettsia are parasites of insects, arachnids or leeches and sometimes cause illness in animals or plants. A human disease, Queensland tick typhus is one local example. It is carried by scrub ticks, but prompt removal of the tick (within hours) seems to prevent transmission. Overseas ticks can also carry another bacterial pathogen, a spirochete named Borrelia, which causes Lyme disease; this is often incorrectly confused as being Rickettsian borne – it isn't.

Finally, I'll mention a primitive group of allies named Archaeobacteria or Archaea. These are bacteria-like, but often are chemosynthetic (obtain energy from chemical sources); some live in salt crystals, some in oil, others dissolve metals like gold or iron (recall images of 'Titanic' being consumed) while some convert atmospheric nitrogen into useful ammonium salts. Still others live at high temperatures near deep oceanic vents, consuming sulphides or ammonia, and might be like the first life-form to appear on

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Earth 3.5-billion years ago. There are archaeobacteria that inhabit oxygen-poor places, like swamps or the gut of animals – including humans - releasing methane, a profound greenhouse gas.

As I said at the start, we need some bacteria, and there are very few we can do without.
Mike England

Notice of Next Event and Meeting: The Bunya Mountains Natural History Associations

NEW YEAR MEETING AND SOCIAL GATHERING will be held

at the "Yarning Circle" Allan Stirling Memorial Park at the top of Bunya Avenue,

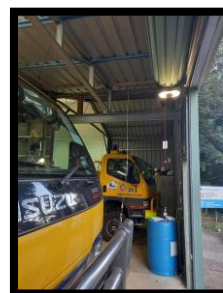
11am Sunday 16th January 2022, for a General Meeting, followed by lunch.

BYO chair, picnic, and INSECT / TICK REPELLENT

Report from the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade

In the previous Newsletter, we reported that the Fire Brigade had been successful in acquiring a grant from the Heritage Nanango Bank to have automatic openers fixed to the heavy roller doors. The automatic openers have now been installed and it is now a much easier job to open and close the roller doors, thanks to the grant from the Heritage Nanango Bank.

Heritage | Nanango
Community Branch



Recent all important prevention work:

Stack burn at Maidenwell was a joint exercise of Maidenwell & Bunya Mts Rural Fire Brigades on 21st August 2021.

Photo: 2nd officer Dean Cullen and 3rd officer Steve Bliss from Maidenwell FB and Peter Taylor.



Four firefighters from the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade burnt a large stack on private property on Monday 15 November. They were Brett Mason, Graeme Whittaker, Peter Taylor and John Learmont.

A permit had been obtained by the property owners several weeks previously because the stack was bigger than the minimum size of 2m x 2m x 2m for which no permit is required. It had to be renewed after the initial expiry date had passed because of unfavourable conditions to light up.

Although it took a considerable time to ignite, it was mostly just ash by nightfall.



The Brigade will help with such burns on private property once the property owners obtain the necessary permit.

Did you know about the

Maclagan Squeeze Box Festival which is held each October (for the past 18 years), in the small Queensland country town of Maclagan at the base of and on the Western side of the Bunyas, and is the only accordion festival in Australia with performers and punters dedicated to keeping alive the paino accordion, button accordion, concertina and harmonica.

The Festival is flourishing and you can view a video about this years event here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=391696819351413> . The next Festival will be held on **8th October 2022**. If you want further details, you can email maclagansqueezeboxfest@gmail.com .





Bunya Mountains Cattle Creek Cave

We've heard about it and are aware that in the past, some locals have visited this cave. The information and photograph below were kindly provided by Gary Carey. This cave is not on designated National Parks Walking Tracks,

therefore you would need to seek locational information and permission from National Parks to access this area.

The extract below (including the cave map) is taken from the **Helictite Journal** dated **October 1971** and the article was written by A. Graham, Brisbane.

The existence of a small cave in Tertiary basalt in the Bunya Mountains, Queensland, has been known for some time, but has only recently come to the attention of speleologists. The origin of the cave is uncertain, although multiprocess formation or modification of an original lava tube is suggested. The cave contains a small colony of Miniopterus schreibersii.

Location and History

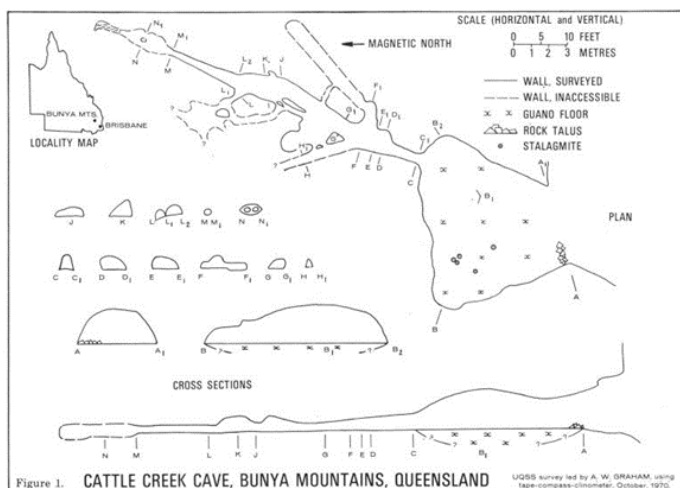
The cave is situated on the western side of the Bunya Mountains National Park, 90 miles northwest of Brisbane, in a small cliff face in the upper valley of Cattle Creek. Details of access are available from the Park Ranger.

Originally the cave was included in the property of Mr. C.J. Stirling, who subsequently donated 40 acres of land including the cave to the National Park. In 1965, a vague report (author unknown) of a limestone cave on Cattle Creek was printed in the "Darling Downs Naturalist". Confusion resulting from the occurrence of calcite formation in the cave obviously led to this incorrect identification. The cave is now visited fairly regularly by adventurous tourists.

Geology

The basalt of Lower Miocene age (Stevens, 1967) crops out over the whole of the National Park. The total thickness of basalt in the vicinity of the cave is about 1,750 feet, and maximum elevation about 3,622 feet above sea level at Mt. Mowbullan. The cave, 30 feet above the floor of the valley, is about 2,250 feet above sea level.

Examination of the cliff face revealed a layer of altered vesicular basalt, mottled black, red and purple, with abundant zeolites, overlain by fresh unaltered basalt. Clear definition of there being two flows is obscured by encrusting calcareous deposits on the cliff face. However, such a sequence is generally considered to be typical of successive flows.



Cattle Creek Cave. Photo taken 2016 by Craig Hunter



Kingaroy Transformation Project

- *Celebrating the South Burnett through street furniture, technology and artwork.*

Article provided by the KTP Team, South Burnett Regional Council

Acknowledging that the social and economic wheels of the South Burnett would not turn, if not for all the towns and villages within it, a Hub and Spoke concept was developed in the design of the Kingaroy Transformation Project.

To celebrate our rural roots and sense of regional community, back lit lanterns designed to give the emotive feel of a fire pit have been incorporated within the design. The regionally inclusive concept of the lanterns will facilitate education on surrounding towns and villages. Each of the lanterns will have a QR code which will link to information and events of the corresponding town/village, to inspire visitors to discover the South Burnett, increasing their time spent within our region.

Back lit lanterns with Bunya Nuts, the words "Bunya Mountains" and QR code will be on display within the CBD. Lighting colours are also programable, which means they will have the ability to change colours for different events or causes.



The Shared Community Zone in Glendon Street is designed to remain open as a carpark during trading hours and easily activated into an inclusive space for community activation. The cultural significance of the Bunya Mountains, the geological formation of the South Burnett (volcanic soils and Stuart River) and linkages to the regions towns and villages have all been incorporated within the Shared Community Zone design.



The Southern end of the shared community zone will feature back lit pillars designed by local indigenous artists, depicting an artistic representation of the Bunya Mountains. Seating will be featured interpreting the yarning circle and signifying the importance of connection. Along the center of Glendon street will feature in pavement programable lighting to represent our volcanic history and the Stuart River.

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(BMCAI) Newsletter
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The Northern end of the shared zone will celebrate the Towns and Villages of the South Burnett through sand blasted rays within the pavement.

For more information on the Kingaroy Transformation Project, please contact Council on 4189 9100 or ktp@sbrc.qld.gov.au



We do not have an Armchair Travel feature in this edition, but thought you might appreciate this little gem: how beautiful is this....

Aerial shot of a carpet created from 500,000 dahlia and begonia flowers at Grand Place in Brussels Belgium. Every two year about 100 volunteers show up to create this astonishing Floral Carpet that Stretches out 19,000 square feet. Every two years it is a different cultural theme. This one is an Elaborate piece honoring Mexico & Aztec Culture. An Exquisite Floral/Cultural Master piece.



Finish every day and be done with it.

You have done what you could.

Some blunders and absurdities

no doubt have crept in;

forget them as soon as you can.

Tomorrow is a new day;

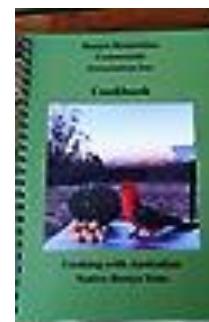
begin it well and serenely

and with too high a spirit

to be encumbered with

your old nonsense.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Looking for some stocking fillers for Christmas? We have plenty of copies of the Bunya Mountains Community Assoc Inc Cookbook: Cooking with Australian Native Bunya Nuts available and in stock. (Retail Price of \$20.00).

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Association has plenty of frozen bunya nuts for sale and in stock, so if you want some nuts (\$8 a Kilo) to give with the Cookbook, let us know and we'll arrange to have them ready for collection.....



Upcoming Events and Membership Information

**Date Claimer...Annual General Meeting and Next Meeting:
2pm Saturday 5th February 2022**

Venue: to be advised

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

Do you own property or reside on the Bunya Mountains?

If yes, you are invited to join the BMCAI. As our membership grows, so does our ability to lobby Government, local Council and other organisations for improved services and conditions on the Bunya Mountains. Your active participation will help enhance the Bunya Mountains experience for all who live, visit, work and play here.

Become a member so you can have your say and become involved in future activities. All Bunya Mountains property owners are welcome to make application to become a member. Membership is just \$10 per person per annum (1st January to 30 December each year. If joining between 1st July and 30 December, then it will be \$5 per person for that first part year).

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)

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:

It has been fun chatting with you. Please feel free to provide us with feedback and some thoughts about how we can improve/ enhance this Newsletter. Send your ideas to bunyamcainc@gmail.com

Best wishes to all from BMCAI.....Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our valued members and supporters.

