

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)
Newsletter
Issue 19- August 2023



Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 19



Welcome to the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI) Newsletter -Issue no 19, our third for 2023. Our previous Newsletter (Issue 18) was circulated in May 2023, and a copy can be found on our website at <https://bunyamcainc.wixsite.com/mysite/news>.

These Newsletters are produced following every BMCAI Quarterly Meeting.

*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**. We also share the latest information from the **Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Group**. It is lovely to be able share all this news in one newsletter and be able to give you updates about the community-based activities happening here in the Bunyas.*

The BMCAI Social, Events and Fundraising Sub-Committee has been very busy this quarter and collaborated with the Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporate to arrange and deliver the very first NAIDOC Week event here in the Bunyas. Read all about it on page 3. Another first for BMCAI was the delightful Koto music played by David Sheild at our recent meeting, and seeing Ian Harris's beautifully made Bunya wood music stands being used for the Koto's (Images page 5)

Thank you again to our very generous contributors who have taken the time to provide information and articles for this Newsletter. There is a wide variety of topics for you to explore. This issue covers the period from June 2023 to August 2023. Thank you for your interest in the Bunya Mountains and the work of BMCAI.... Enjoy the read.

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News from the 3rd Quarterly BMCAI Meeting held 5th August 2023

The 3rd Quarterly meeting for 2023 was convened at Rice's Log Cabin Restaurant with 31 attendees. Invited guests included Cr Gavin Jones, A/Mayor, and Cr Scott Henschen, Div 6, South Burnett Regional Council, and Cr Kaye McGuire, Western Downs Regional Council; Matt Cotterill, Head Ranger, Bunya Mountains National Park and David Sheild, Koto musician.

Highlights from the 3rd Quarterly meeting for 2023

National Park Report

Matt Cotterill, Ranger in Charge, Bunya Mountains National Park, provided the following information:

- Matt commenced work as Ranger in Charge on 3rd July 2023
- The re-opening of Burton's Well has been delayed due to contractor and subcontractor work still to be completed. Expected re-opening date was 17th August but that may now be delayed.
- QNPWS are expecting a big fire season. BM National Parks staff are preparing for the Fire Season, attending a Fire Prep week in Millmerran next week, are assisting with a planned burn at Main Range and have attended and assisted with wildfires in other National Parks for 6 days recently.
- Upgrade works are presently being planned for Dandabah which will include relocating the hand structure a short distance and creating a 100m (approx.) disability accessible loop into the rainforest. An interpretative station will also be created in that area.
- Feral pig control: Adam, Pest Officer for the region, is implementing a 4G tracking system from which he will be able to close traps from a distance when pigs are present in the area.

Guest Speaker: Adrian Bauwens, BPAC

Due to ill health, Adrian was unable to travel to the Bunyas for the meeting. However, he did provide the presentation he was intending to deliver titled "Bunya Mountains Die-Back". Attendees were able to view the presentation and ask a series of questions which have been forwarded to Adrian for response at the next meeting.

Key points from Adrian's presentation:

- **Phytophthora Multivora (Dieback)** is a fungal-like pathogen that infects a large range of Woody species in the Bunya Mountains. Whilst there are native Phytophthoras found in the Bunyas, this specific strain is introduced; likely originating from South Africa.
- The pathogen itself is microscopic. Because of this, we unknowingly spread this disease and there are a number of vectors that also contribute to this problem, e.g. wildlife. It can lay dormant for up to 20 years in the soil and it has the capacity to actively swim through water and attach itself to a desirable host.
- Once a tree is showing signs of dieback symptoms, it is often too late. The tree has already begun to rapidly decline and die. Typically, because of the nature of Phytophthora, everything begins in the soil and water. This means that the first wave of symptoms occur beneath the ground. Everything after that is then visible, but at that point the area is infected, thus avoiding affected areas is vital to prevent further spread.
- trees can be infected for years before any symptoms become present. This is because most hardy trees like the Bunyas, will not be afflicted by Dieback, until the tree is already under stress - e.g. drought. With that said, it is likely that most trees will be able to sustain themselves until they are met with these unfavourable conditions.
- Presence of fauna - Is there significant pig damage in the area? Feral pigs are a major vector as they often target Bunya species and other fruiting trees, essentially fast-tracking the spread of Dieback. Human traffic - Is the area often used by people? Humans have a huge impact on the spread, especially in high traffic areas such as Russell Park. It only takes a single spore to stick to your shoe for it to move onto other areas.
- The key to this problem is to prevent further spread. Whilst solutions are being addressed, it is important that we do our best to help the situation. This can be done by identifying, reporting and mapping dieback zones, maintaining hygiene practices, avoiding areas of infection and spreading awareness through community groups, accommodation and signage. As for hygiene IT IS CRUCIAL to spray shoes with a 70% Methylated spirits / 30% water solution, then removing ALL soil into a container (although spray solutions may vary, this specific one has been sourced via the Department of Agriculture).
Editors Note: Information above sourced from Adrian's presentation. Thank you so much Adrian for your assistance and helping share this very important information. We all need to work to ensure the beautiful Bunyas survive and thrive.

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Social and Events Subcommittee Report

Brett Mason, Subcommittee Chair, provided an overview of the work currently being undertaken by the Subcommittee.

Dinner Under the Stars 18 November 2023: The focus of this years' Dinner Under the Stars will be the local food and produce bounty of the Region. This years' Dinner Under the Stars will be held in a new location on the green behind Rice's Log Cabins. Local band, RYZA, was very popular last year and has again been booked for 2023. Our Chef will be Roberta Schablon from The Saucy Fork, and, the South Burnett Wine Industries Association will provide the bar service.

Tickets for 180 seats went on sale on the 1st June via an online ticketing company and were all sold by early July. With the agreement of the Chef, we added an extra 2 tables taking the event to 200 diners. As at the time of printing we have just 4 tickets still available. The excitement is building and we are looking forward to an amazing event this year.

The Subcommittee is working hard to acquire grants and sponsorship to assist in meeting the costs of the event, including the hiring of all the equipment required for the event (from teaspoons through to portaloos and a backup marquee). The Live and Silent auctions conducted at the event will be the fundraising component of the event and assist us to raise (hopefully lots of) funds for the future Bunya Mountains Community Centre. If you are able to donate an item for the Auctions to contribute to this cause, it will be greatly appreciated. Some of most successful auction fund raisers in the past 2 years have been memorabilia, accommodation packages, wine packages, glider flights, paintings, art works, tours, camping and garden products, beauty and food product packages. We sincerely thank those members who have already donated items for the Auctions. If you would also like to donate an auction item, please email bunyamcainc@gmail.com

NAIDOC Week 3rd July 2023

The NAIDOC Week celebration had to be conducted in the BPAC Hall (rather than at the Bush University) due to the inclement weather. Despite the weather, there was a good attendance at the event and it was nice and warm inside the BPAC Hall. The inaugural BM NAIDOC Event was enjoyed by all who attended and we all learnt about bush tucker, with many thanks to Kay Joyce for sharing her knowledge and expertise in this area.



Other upcoming Activities:

The Official Opening of the Mountain Bike Track 2nd September 2023

The official opening date for the Mountain Bike Trail has been announced. Please also note that **you need to RSVP to WDRC by 21st August if you wish to attend.**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LaCAPjdyrE259D01h-awDQCqX1kQpRRJl2FRYUqiuuVUMIRKQ0tIOUpTNFIYM0FMUKFHTVMxTzc2Sy4u>





LIFE FLIGHT FIRST MINUTES MATTER TRAINING -September 27. If you are interested in taking part in this excellent and practical first aid course, especially designed by Life Flight just in case you happen to be the first person on the scene of an accident or medical emergency. The training provides very practical advice and guidance about how you can best provide assistance and support until emergency services arrive on the scene. We have just 4 places still available, so if you are interested, please email bunyamcainc@gmail.com for a Registration Form.

BMCAI Community Plan 2023 -26 and Workplan 2023-26: These documents that will guide the Associations work for the next 3 years are now complete and available on the website <https://bunyamcainc.wixsite.com/mysite>

Update: the Future Bunya Mountains Community Centre:

Louis Moore, Estate Analytica, formally presented the Feasibility Study for the future Community Centre. The community facility is the missing piece of infrastructure in the Bunyas, not just needed by locals, but needed regionally also.

The next step is to acquire/ lease the land for the Community Centre. A long journey behind us and another still ahead of us.

We would like to take this opportunity to again express our sincere thanks to Louis for this formidable body of work which he did pro bono, because he, like most of us love the Bunyas and believe the project is a necessary one for the future for the Bunya Mountains.



The Interagency Meeting re Bunya Mountains Dingoes was held in the Fire Shed on 3rd April 2023 with representation from the BMCAI, Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, South Burnett Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council. A draft Bunya Mountains Dingo Management Plan has been developed. It is now time for a Bunya Mountains Stakeholder Meeting to occur to discuss the plan and determine the best way forward to ensure our residents and visitors are safe, native animals are understood and the consequences of enabling dingos to access human food is well known and should be avoided at all costs.

Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Group Meeting

The Sub Group met on 14th July at the BPAC Hall with representatives from Emergency Management Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, SES, Rural Fire Service, Queensland Police Service, Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service, Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation, South Burnett Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council, BMCAI and Red Cross.

Michelle McNeice, EMC, led the group through the recommendations from last year's desk top exercise that was initiated to test the Bunya Mountains Local Disaster Management Sub-Plan. The meeting explored how to address the 20 recommendations made by the post event report.



A Community Engagement and Get Ready Day will be held at Dandabah on 18th November from 10am to 1pm. (yes, it is the same day as Dinner Under the Stars). A Bunya Mountains Get Ready Booklet is being developed (based on a Red Cross publication they developed for Maleny -with their permission) and will be distributed on that day.



Bunya Mountains EV Car Charging Station Project:

We often have electric vehicle owners contacting a local business asking if a charging station is available in the Bunya Mountains so they can plan their road trip. BMCAI knows and understands the need, and has the support and assistance of the South Burnett Regional Council (SBRC) to bring this project to fruition.

The proposed location has been approved by SBRC. (See Site Map -Appendix 1 to this Newsletter). The proposed EV Charging Station area does not take up existing parking spaces. It is adjacent to an existing 100kVA transformer. SBRC are willing to perform the civil works (create the parking space and run conduit to enable connection)

Next Steps: The next project planning meeting will consider Charger type, size and cost options, contact Ergon re power requirements and seek a quote for any upgrade necessary and continue to advocate for funding for the charger. A long way to go but the project is beginning to gain traction.

Roads/ Parks Maintenance Update: BMCAI continues to raise with both Councils, the issue of the poor condition of the access and local road network and poor park maintenance on the Bunya Mountains.

Munro's Camp Hygiene (Foot/Bike wash) Station: It has been noted that the Bunya Mountains Mountain Bike Project identified a significant Phytophthora Multivora outbreak in the Munro's Camp area, therefore the bike track construction did not proceed in that area. In preparation for the Bike Track, the Project Team had already installed the Hygiene Station. When an additional Hygiene Station was needed in another area of the Bike Track, the Munro's Camp Hygiene Station was relocated to that area, the Wamga Trail.

BMCAI raised the issue with WDRC given that the removal of the Munro's Camp Hygiene Station exacerbated the potential for the spread of the disease. Chris Gaschk, Natural Resource Management Officer, Rural Services Team WDRC, advised that they are intending to re-install the hygiene station at Munros Camp, but at this stage are sourcing funds for the ordering of the station, and then installation upon receipt. BMCAI will be advised once the timeframes are clarified. WDRC are aware of the community position on this and have advised that they also see the value of this instalment to assist in reducing the spread of Phytophthora Multivora spores.

Bunya Mountains Road- Mowbullen Village area: At a meeting with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and SBRC in August 2021, TMR agreed to reduce the speed limit along Bunya Mts Road, (especially when approaching the intersection with Bunya Avenue), to 50klms per hour. This still has not happened and right now with increasing numbers of mountain bike riders crossing the road at the T-junction along with the rutted and broken edges of the narrow Bunya Mountains Road in this section, it is an accident waiting to happen.

James D'Arcy, Manager Infrastructure Planning, SBRC, advised on 10th August 2023, that he *"spoke with TMR in June re this matter, and they are in the process of bringing back a proposal early next month. We're happy to liaise with you once we know more As for the Bunya Mountains Rd shoulder repairs, I know our team has been working with TMR on a program for doing sections of it in September."*

Allan Stirling Memorial Park

SBRC Parks and Gardens Staff cleaned up the tables, paths and footpaths on 26th July 2023.

BMCAI is coordinating a Social Gathering and **Working Bee on the 13th October** (SBRC endorsed) to carry out the following tasks:

Whipper snip walking track, around young trees; check young trees and remove or tidy up surrounds and clean the tables and rake pathways etc

If you are available and willing join us for a productive and fun day, let us know.

The large fallen fig tree- Council approved BMCAI to investigate the use of a chainsaw sculptor to create a creature in the log (attraction rather than an eyesore). Keith Gall of Silky Sculptures was interested and photographs and a video provided for his consideration. However, Keith advised that given that is fig tree, it may break down quickly and the expense to carve and preserve the carving would make the project unviable. Therefore, BMCAI is discussing other options with SBRC. SBRC are also seeking a contractor to clear away the other pile of rubbish from the fallen tree in due course. We take this opportunity to thank Dallas, Leanne and Cr Gavin Jones for recently visiting the site and examining ways of cleaning up and improving the beautiful Allan Stirling Memorial Park.

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As the business of the meeting was complete, Ian Harris introduced **Mr David Sheild, Chair of the Japanese Australia Society, Qld Branch, to demonstrate and play the Koto.**

The music stands for the Koto's that David had with him for the demonstration, had been made by Ian Harris from local Bunya timber. Ian has continued to make these stands and they are now exported to Japan.

Chair, Noel Noack, thanked David for introducing us to the Koto and the wonderful music. This was supported by acclamation from Members.

The unique and beautiful music and the Hotpot supper, provided by members, provided a very social atmosphere for our gathering after the meeting.



The music was fabulous and
so was the food!!



Many thanks to Annette and Greg Sprenger for the use of their facility for the meeting.

The Upgrade to the National Parks Burtons Well Campground

Services Park Services, QPWS & Partnerships to a pre-opening inspection of the refurbishment of the Burton's Well Camping Grounds on Friday 7th July 2023.

Visible improvements included:

- Enhanced creative landscaping using rocks and native grasses and fire-safe fire-pits
- Clear delineation of the walkway from Burtons Well shelter-shed, across Bunya Mountains Road and into the National Parks Western walking tracks
- Clearly marked car-parking places.
- Upgraded and accessible shelter shed
- A specific camping spot, fire pit and picnic table have been modified so as to better include wheelchairs.

It was noted that there was no increase in the number of toilets.



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Signage had not yet been installed at the time of inspection – but a ‘sign-shelter’ had already been erected in a prominent space to provide visitors and campers with information and maps.

Community members noted that, whilst the site around **Burton’s Well** had been cleared, it still may not be apparent where visitors could go to view the Well unless it was also clearly signposted.

QNPWS is still waiting on contractors and subcontractors to complete the final works and whilst it was expected that the Campground would be open by mid- August, it now appears that may not be achieved. So, we are still waiting on an official re-opening date for the Burtons Well Campground.

News from The Bunya Mountains Natural History Assoc

The Bunya Mountains Natural History Assoc (NHA) gathered on Saturday 12th August 2023 to enjoy an outdoor activity, followed by their Annual General Meeting and General Meeting.

NHA Activity:

Members enjoyed a walk into, and then exploring, the Bush University in Russell Park, Bunya Mountains.



NHA Annual General Meeting:

The incoming NHA Management Committee are:

President: Bernice Seton

Vice President: Noel Noack

Vice President: Carol Weekes

Correspondence Secretary: Sandy Learmont

Minute Secretary: Ruth Wright

Treasurer: Aileen Fleming

President’s annual report – 2022 to 2023- Bernice Seton:

In the last 12 months, we have only had three meetings with walking activities along the new Bike Tracks in Russell Park prior to our meetings.

I feel we need to get back to having meetings every quarter as was suggested.

Our bird leaflets are proving very popular, so the time is fast approaching for a reprint.

The Bunya’s Shop has still been the main seller of our books, during the year.

Another income earner for Cedarvale is the sale of bunya nuts, this helps towards the cost of our insurances.

Our logo has been upgraded and digitized by Charles Dove, many thanks, Charles.

We have worked closely with the Bunya Mountains Community Association during the year, allowing them to run Functions and Activities from Cedarvale. These being: “Bunyas Walks Back in Time” in September 2022 and May 2023, “Dinner Under the Stars” in November 2022 and a “School Holiday Activity” in April 2023.

A framed photograph of the view from Fisher’s Lookout towards the Yamsion District, where the Humphrys’ property was situated, was presented to Phil and Ruth in recognition of their contribution to our group over the years.

Easter visitation at Cedarvale was: Good Friday 74, Easter Saturday 149, Easter Sunday 105 and Easter Monday 64, making a total of 392 people. Well done folks who worked over this period. [annual visitor number to Cedarvale was approx 1167]



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A big thank you to all the members who have helped, in any way, to keep Cedarvale open, even if only of special occasions and in doing our monthly rosters.

I would like to sincerely thank all the office bearers, who have done most of the work in keeping us afloat during the last twelve months.

I look forward to seeing Cedarvale being repaired during the next twelve months.

During my time on the roster, I especially enjoy seeing and interacting with our junior visitors, who get lots of enjoyments from looking at and feeling items in our display.

Thank you, Bernice Seton, President

NHA Member, John Learmont provided this interesting article for this Newsletter:

Deciduous trees of the Bunya Mountains

The first question we might ask is, 'What is a deciduous tree?' and the next question might be, 'Why are some trees deciduous and some are not?' The next question might be, 'Are there any deciduous trees in the Bunya Mountains and if so, how many?'

Deciduous is defined as the falling or shedding of any plant part and is of Latin origin. In temperate zones this occurs in the autumn when light levels decrease, and the tree detects that the photosynthesis process has reduced. It then goes into a form of 'hibernation' and its leaves lose their chlorophyll and turn yellow, orange, or brown before falling off. In tropical, subtropical, and arid regions this happens in the dry season. Many deciduous plants flower when they are leafless, as this increases the visibility of the flowers for the pollinators.

If you look at a gardening climate zone map of Australia, you will see that the Bunya Mountains are in the warm temperate zone. The climate is cooler in summer than the surrounding areas by 5 to 6 degrees, and cold in the winter with frost and occasional snow. Listed below are 4 trees here that lose all their leaves in the winter. The leaves of the first 2 on the list, turn yellow in autumn before falling off. They all remain leafless till the spring. The Bats Wing Coral tree gets its new leaves in early December and are preceded by a show of brilliant orange flowers, although the flowering is not an annual event.

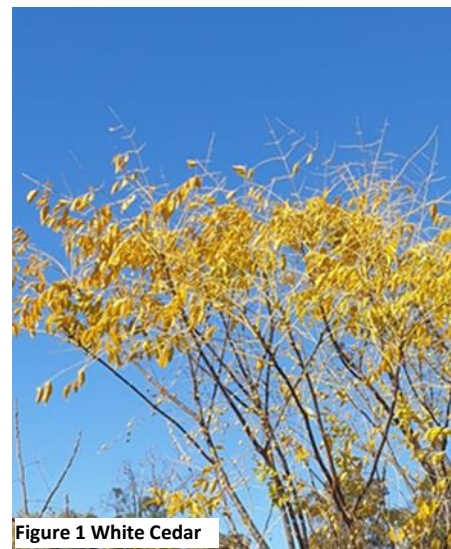


Figure 1 White Cedar

- White Cedar *Melia azedarach*
- Bats Wing Coral Tree *Erythrina vespertilio*
- Red Cedar *Toona ciliata*
- Koda *Ehretia acuminata*

Throughout Australia there are many, many species of Brachychiton trees and shrubs that are deciduous or semi-deciduous. On the Bunyas the bottle tree group are deciduous but only very briefly. The 3 species that grow here all have a leaf drop prior to flowering.

They are:

- Bottle tree *Brachychiton rupestris*
- Lacebark *Brachychiton discolor*
- Flame Tree *Brachychiton acerifolius*

The only Grevillea species that grows on the Bunyas, indeed the only member of the entire Proteaceae family to which it belongs, is the Silky Oak, *Grevillea robusta*. There is a leaf drop in spring prior to the arrival of bright yellow flowers.

Although listed as an evergreen tree, the Giant Stinging tree, *Dendrocnide excelsa*, has a major leaf drop in late November or early December. The leaves have 5-millimetre-long silicon hairs on the underside of the leaf which break off with contact to the skin. They can deliver a painful sting even when dry.

By John Learmont



Figure 2 Bats Wing Coral Tree



Figure 3 Bottle Tree

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Report from the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade

Fire Brigade Report to 19th August 2023, provided by John Learmont

It looks like the fire season is off to a flying start this year. Everything is tinder dry and there has already been a **PREPARE TO LEAVE alert** sent to people in the vicinity of a fire near Maidenwell. These alerts will be sent to all mobile phones in the vicinity of a fire. If you receive one, you should read it carefully and see if you are in the area defined in the alert and take appropriate action. It outlines the danger area by the names of roads that border the area. Sometimes the message can go to phones outside the danger area because the message system cannot be pinpoint accurate.

Membership:

Welcome to new member and firefighter, Matt Cottrell. Matt is the new Ranger in Charge of the Bunya Mountains National Park and is living on the mountain. He has already been to a number of fires with National Parks since he has been here. He has a licence to drive the trucks so we look forward to seeing him in his yellows in a yellow fire truck. We now have 10 licenced drivers.

Barry and Pat Stewart are on the road to recovery.

Peter Weekes is still having a rough time and we wish him a speedy recovery.

1. Peter Taylor 2nd Officer and Training Officer

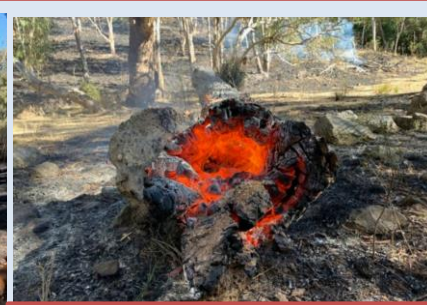


Training:

Training officer and 2nd officer Peter Taylor conducted a training morning at Maidenwell on July 15 consisting of a stack burn that developed into a bit more. It was attended by Jen Hintz, Jeremy Cockerill, Brett Mason, Graeme Whittaker, John and Robyn Paynter. Ian Harris and I remained here on call with BM51. We must always have a truck and crew on the mountain.

Burning:

In June, Peter Taylor and Peter Marshall took BM52 to a hazard reduction burn at Maidenwell and to one at Taromeo with John Paynter also. This week BM52 has attended 3 calls to the fire that started in the vicinity of Gertrude's grave at the foot of the Bunyas on the Dalby side. It also attended 2 mop-up operations at the Maidenwell fire. Peter Taylor, Peter Marshall, Jamie Marshall (his 19 year old grandson), John Paynter and I attended some of these jobs. I particularly thank Peter Taylor who attended all 5 jobs and was the crew leader.



Images of the fire in the Gertrude's Grave area.

Final image is 19 year old Jamie Marshall on mopping up duties - **Well done Jamie and thank you.**

Thank you Peter Taylor for the photographs.

Thank you all for giving so generously to keep us all safe!

Toilets:

We have not heard anything further about this.

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Fire Shed:

The Brigade has decided to install a gas stove in the kitchen so that we have an alternative source for cooking and heating water in the event of a power blackout. A quote has been accepted from Kingaroy Plumbing Works to do the job.

It was also decided to get rid of the Fire Brigade phone because members prefer to use their own phones and nobody ever rang it.

Both vehicles will have had their annual services by the time you are reading this.

I thank all members of the Brigade for your support.

John Learmont

Chairman and First Officer, Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade



Thank you Furies. Your efforts are appreciated by all of us!

Travel Yarns

FRANCE BY CANAL: Yarn provided by Meg Noack

When Meg and Noel visit grand-children overseas, their tradition has always included an 'extra adventure' to explore one location 'somewhere different'. Earlier this year, they received a kind invitation from the Zigtermans who encouraged them detour to Eastern France and see the countryside together on the Zigterman's canal boat. Having watched the Tour de France [for the scenery - not the bike-riding] it seemed a wonderful opportunity. And so it proved!

Meg writes:

"We travelled by train from Lyon to Dijon, France and were met by Anna who had been 'in town' shopping. The first joy was discovering Saint Jean de Losne where many boats were moored – and discovering the community of canal-sailors who own boats and share their wisdom, handy-person skills and journey-adventures with one another – a lively group from around the world with a good sprinkling of Aussies"



Do you know how to do this Noel?



iAnna preparing to throw that rope to Noel



CHEERS

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Walking tour of Sardinia and Corsica April 2023 – Story provided by Kathy Taylor

This was something I have wanted to do for some time. There are a number of other property owners on the mountain that have taken walking tours with the same company walkabout gourmet adventures, and I was keen to go and experience it too.

The tour was organised so you had a day of full on walking and then a travel day with a short walk and / or museum or historical sight visit. All the accommodation were boutique hotels with great food each night. Each day we went to the supermarket to purchase our picnic lunch.



The highlights for me were many starting with day one when we visited a Phoenician / Roman village which dated from the 8th century BC.

<https://www.historyhit.com/locations/tharros/>

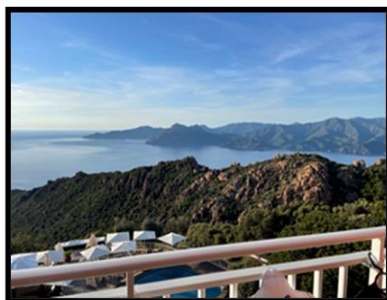


Then on to Bonifacio, Corsica

Arrived at our next hotel at **Piana** which was stunning. The walks were out to a Genoese tower Capu Rossu a 12km day followed by a nice pina colada on the beach. Then a short walk along the ancient road the following day. Then the biggest day of the whole tour was a walk up Capu D'Ortu 1294m high.



3. We walked the cliff edge the following day. Another 15klm walk



2. Capu Rossu. Great view from the top while having lunch

Sardinia and Corsica are both very different geologically. Sardinia has some mountains but nothing like Corsica where the rise up out of the ocean hundreds of meters.

The last hotel was at St Florent where we caught a ferry out to a light house on the tip of Corsica and walked back to the hotel.

This was a great 14 day adventure and would recommend anyone who is interested in walking though a country instead of driving to take a tour with Walkabout gourmet adventures. They are an Australian company who operate walks all over the world.

<https://www.walkaboutgourmet.com/guided-walking-tours.htm>



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Introducing our newest resident in the Bunya Mountains – Russell Sturgess

Russell Sturgess tells us his story:

"I am one of the new owner/residents here on the Bunya Mountains, having moved here at the end of January this year. I purchased Forest Seclusion from Graeme and Ruth Wright. I was Dalby born and raised, thus am very familiar with the Bunyas. My choice to live here reflected my spiritual values. Peace and stillness, as two of my key priorities, could be more easily sustained here.

I am the dad of four children (aged between 33 and 42) and three grandchildren (aged between 2 and 19). I am 65 later this year. My partner Rosie Rasmussen, and I, have been together almost 10 years, and celebrated Rosie's 50th up here at the Bunyas in 2021, at which time we were also engaged. Rosie and I have chosen not to (other than for one year early in the relationship) cohabit. She lives in Buderim, on the Sunshine Coast, with two adult daughters. Rosie has provided a Bowen Therapy service in Dalby, one weekend a month, for the past several years. Now she includes spending a week with me each month. I also go to Buderim for a week each month. Typically, my children will use that week I am away, for time to have a break here in the Bunyas.

If you have been to the monthly markets, you will see me there offering Numerology readings. It's a 40-year-old hobby. I was trained osteopathically and in natural therapies and had a very successful practice in Dalby during the 80's and 90's. I left Dalby in 2000, moving to Brisbane, pursuing a lecturing career which saw me teaching Bowen Therapy and mindfulness globally. I have written and published three books and am currently working on my fourth. I still work, both mentoring and training mentors online. (I have exceptionally good internet connection at Forest Seclusion, which makes that possible.)

Over the last 18 years I have been the primary carer of my youngest daughter, Adelaide (Addy) who was born with William's Syndrome. Addy comes up to the Bunyas one or two weekends each month, which helps me to have quite a full life, given everything else in my world. My hobbies include good food, good company, nature (walking), motorbike riding (I have a [quiet!] 650cc scooter), and camping. My primary focus is about living mindfully – remembering in each moment that I have a choice; to be kinder to myself, to others, and to the planet."



The Bell Bunya Community Centre: What Happens There?

Lots apparently so let's explore some of what's on offer

The Bell Bunya Community Centre, 7 Maxwell Street, Bell, is easy to find in the lovely little town of Bell at



the base of the Bunya Mountains. The Centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm and Saturdays from 9am to 12noon. Contact number (07)4663 1087 and email is bellbunyacommunitycentre@gmail.com.

The Centre is managed by members and local volunteers for the purposes of enhancing the social, economic and cultural enrichment of the rural town and surrounding districts. Hop on in, say hello, experience the welcome and support.

Activities and Services

Coffee Shop & Catering

- Light meals & Refreshments
- Commercial indoor & outdoor kitchens

Bluebells Art Gallery

- State of the Art lighting & hanging systems
- Original Art works by Members & Members of the Bell Art Group
- Regular Art Workshops

Gift Shop

Visitor & Local Information

Workshop & Function Room

- Art and Craft Workshop Space
- Small functions for up to 50 people

Self Serve Loans Library (WDRC

Branch) with Librarian in attendance
Wednesday afternoons and Friday morning

Fitness with Ease Classes

Hairdresser on 3rd Wed of the month

Be Connected Computer classes

- first Monday & Tuesday of the month (ring to book prior to the date of attendance)

A fully equipped Doctors Day

Surgery -for visiting GP's,
physiotherapist, podiatrists etc

The Rural Myotherapist

Kadi Lillis BHSC (Myo)
Mondays and Thursdays
Phone 0493 576 595 for appointments

JP on the 3rd Friday of the Month

Professional Reflexology & Reiki

Amanda McCarthy ph 0447 126 666
Every 2nd Wednesday

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Rabbit Control in the Bunya Mountains

The Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board kindly agreed to assist when the Bunya Mountains was witnessing an increased presence of rabbits. The Board conducted a survey in May 2023 in which 336 properties were surveyed. 298 of those properties were clear of any rabbit presence. The Survey identified the locations of rabbit infestation and affected property owners has since been notified.

The Board also informed our community about Rabbit Scan which is part of the Feral Scan website used for monitoring a variety of pest animals. Rabbit Scan can also be accessed via a smart phone app.

The Board further advised that reducing or removing access to potential breeding sites will assist with the long-term control of rabbits in the Bunya Mountains.

It does appear that the rabbit numbers are continuing to decline, although a community member spotted this healthy looking rabbit across the road from the fire shed on 15th August 2023.



Information for all property Owners/Managers

Ground Harbour is a term used to describe something stored or placed on the ground that a rabbit uses for cover and potentially breeding. This can be in the form of a pile of tree branches stacked up over time, sheet iron, building materials and shipping containers. Materials should be stored 400mm up off the ground, this is less secure and exposes rabbits to predators. Piles of timber and garden waste should be burnt on a regular basis rather than creating a large pile which then creates a higher risk when burning. Shipping containers should be raised 400mm up off the ground as well.



Preventing rabbits digging burrows is the best option and can be achieved by removing the opportunity. Most of the houses we inspected had some materials stored beneath them. If the underside of your house has a dirt floor or dirt areas, materials should only be stored there if they are up off the ground (400mm), this includes firewood. Inspect the area under your house on a regular basis. A rabbit burrow will have an entrance tunnel about 4 inches across and for a single burrow there will be between half and a full wheelbarrow of soil dug out. If you find a burrow you will need to dig it up ASAP, use a length of poly pipe in the burrow to follow while you dig it up.



Long term damage caused by rabbits includes loss of habitat for native animals, loss of plant species and they are a food source for predator animals. Other damage can include foundations of houses, rabbits digging burrows around or under foundations can increase the chance of subsidence. Rabbits will also dig under water tanks and concrete slabs, infrastructure damage can be expensive and difficult to repair.

Dense vegetation can provide cover for rabbits, but it can also hide burrows out of view making it difficult to locate and remove them. Areas of interest can be identified by an increase in rabbit activity (scratchings and droppings) along the edge of the vegetation. This should prompt owners to inspect the immediate area for burrows.

If there are any questions please put them together and email them through or call me direct on the number below.

Nathan Ring

Compliance Coordinator - 0417 794 872

←This flyer, provided by the Board, provides some information about what to look for and the damage that can occur from rabbit infestations. (Please note these images were not taken in the Bunya Mountains)

FOUND:



These were found at our place at Bunya Mountains Rd. (residential area)

If anyone recognises them and would like them back, they could ring us on 0409 625 865

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Thank you for your company -we hope you enjoyed reading the latest news from the Bunya Mountains Community Organisations.

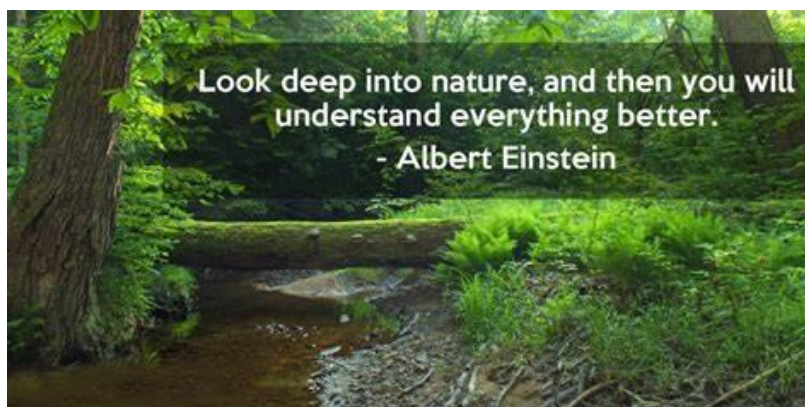
Do you have a nature story, general interest story or travel yarn to share with our Newsletter readers?

We'd love to hear it...send it to bunyamcainc@gmail.com for inclusion in a future newsletter.

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We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers good health and happiness.

We would also like to thank you for your support and we look forward to many more conversations and fun times in the future.



*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, \$20 per couple or \$30 per family 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).

If you would like to become a member, we are happy to send you an Application for Membership Form. Request a Form by emailing us at: bunyamcainc@gmail.com

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

We'll touch base with again in November 2023 following our fourth and final meeting for 2023.

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Appendix 1: Site Map for a future Bunya Mountains EV Charging Station- SBRC 1.8.23

Site Map for Future Bunya Mountains EV Charging Station- Map provided by SBRC 1st August 2023



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