

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019



Welcome to BMCAI Newsletter-Issue 3

Grab a drink, find a spot in the sun and enjoy the read. The Newsletters are issued quarterly, following each meeting of the Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI). This issue covers the period May, June and July 2019.

Article	Page/s	Article	Page/s
Community Activity/ Progress Update	1-4	A new feature- Do you know the local Spiders	8
Overview of discussions and outcomes from the most recent Association meeting	4-5	Creative Pursuits	8
Other News	5-6	The Bunya Nut Recipe Project	9
Do you know the local Birds- Article 2	7	Late News	9

This issue again provides some very interesting articles provided by Association members to share with you. We sincerely thank those members for their contributions. Enjoy.....

Community Activity/ Progress Update

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

BMCAI worked with Kingaroy Rotary to acquire a defibrillator for the Bunya Mountains community. Kingaroy Rotary raised the funds for the device, and the sponsor for a trivia night organised to assist with that fundraising, was Anderson's Carpets in Kingaroy. To safely house the defibrillator required a specialist weatherproof box upon which are written instructions for the use of the device. That item alone cost \$200. South Burnett Regional Councillor, Gavin Jones, kindly offered a donation of \$200 from his discretionary funding, to BMCAI for the purchase of that box. As you can see, this was a very collaborative effort that benefits the community, both residents and visitors.

Kingaroy Rotary Club joined BMCAI members at Elz Bistro for the handover of the device on Sunday 7th July 2019. Present for the handover were 18 members of the Rotary Club, Gavin Pates from Anderson's Carpets, and 10 BMCAI members.

John Learmont kindly prepared a backing board for the device and installed it on the wall near the main doors of the Shop at Dandabah. This information was shared with accommodation providers and locational signage has been posted at various spots around the village.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

BMCAI will have an ongoing responsibility to replace the batteries in the defibrillator every 5 years and the pads every 2 years (unless the device is used when they will need to be replaced immediately afterwards.) We hope that you never need to use the defibrillator, but can we please ask that you check out where it is when you are next at the Shop or Bistro, to ensure you know where it is or can guide someone else to where it is, should such an emergency arise. Those few moments of your time may save someone's life.

A huge thank you to KINGAROY ROTARY, ANDERSON'S CARPETS KINGAROY AND GAVIN JONES, Division 2 Councillor, SBRC for your amazing contributions to facilitate the acquisition of the defibrillator for the Bunya Mountains community.



Photo 1: John Learmont, Chair, BMCAI; David Black, President, Kingaroy Rotary and Gavin Pates from Anderson's Carpets



Photos 2 and 3: the AED in situ on the wall of The Shop (near the main door)

BUNYA AVENUE FOOTPATH/ WALKWAY

Bunya Avenue is increasingly busy with both vehicles and pedestrians, especially on week-ends and in holiday periods. Prior to BMCAI making representation to the South Burnett Regional Council to reinstate the footpath, pedestrians had no option but to walk on the road and this became increasingly dangerous. Vegetation, including extensive stinging nettle, grew right up to the edge of the road and children and motor vehicles are not a good combination. It was an accident waiting to happen.

We are very happy to report that over the past 4 months significant work has been undertaken by the Council and we now have a functional footpath / walkway from the top of the road to the National Parks Office that has been sealed. The drains were also cleaned, and the messy, often muddy area in front of the rubbish bins has now also been sealed. **Thank You South Burnett Regional Council**



Photo 1: Day 1 Council employees surveying the task ahead!



Photo 2: the road seal truck working its magic!



The completed walkway/footpath

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

BUNYA MOUNTAINS ROAD – DALBY ACCESS

BMCAI wrote to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (TMR) in May 2019 regarding the deplorable and dangerous state of the Bunya Mountains Road on the Dalby side. We attached photographs that demonstrated that some of the wash outs and gutters had deepened to 30cms deep and highlighted the many other potential accident causing issues on that section of the road, such as fallen trees jutting out onto the edge of the road etc. Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC) also provided communication to TMR supporting our claims and seeking mechanisms to immediately address the most dangerous sections. TMR provided funds to WDRC and we are pleased to advise that the most immediate and dangerous components of the issues raised, have been addressed. However, in the response letter from TMR, there were no promises of a major upgrade to that road anytime soon. So BMCAI will continue to make representation whenever and wherever appropriate to have this road made a priority for a major upgrade in the long term.

BMCAI have also been in contact with the Western Downs Regional Council to establish a mechanism so that they become aware and are able to respond as quickly as possible when there are unplanned road blockages caused by storms/ fallen trees/ rock falls etc on that road. WDRC have provided the contact details for a 1st Responder to unplanned road blockages in the Bunya Mountains/ Western Downs area. That person is **Stephen Whyatt, a Bell based Council employee who can be contacted on 0400 477 009**. If he is not available then we need to ring 1300Council. If you regularly utilise that road, it may be a good idea to have these contact numbers on your phone. That is, provided you have mobile coverage....which leads us nicely to our next article...read on....

TELSTRA COMPLAINT

BMCAI has lodged a complaint with Telstra regarding the very poor mobile service on the Bunyas. WDRC have also lodged a complaint re this problem on the Bunyas with Telstra and with the two Federal Ministers responsible for telecommunications. One of those Minister's office sought further information, so WDRC forwarded on the BMCAI letter of complaint.

BMCAI have also requested that Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone lodge our area for consideration in the next round of the Black Spot Program.

What can each of us as individuals do re this problem? flood Telstra with complaints...

The Telstra Website includes a link to enable individuals to lodge a complaint. The link is

<https://service.telstra.com.au/customer/general/forms/coverage-feedback>

Whilst it is somewhat difficult to complete (especially the last page which is a map to identify your location) given the poor internet speeds etc, it is important that we send in as many complaints as possible. A couple of members have lodged complaints through this link and received a very basic response about the, and I quote directly from their response, **"The Black Spot Bright Spot"** program!

Smile time-
A few funnies

Why are frogs are
so happy?
**They eat
whatever
bugs them.**

I' M AT THAT DELUSIONAL
AGE WHERE I THINK
EVERYONE MY AGE LOOKS
WAY OLDER THAN I DO

Why did the
Clydesdale give
the pony a glass
of water?
Because he was
a little horse.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

FISHERS LOOKOUT REDEVELOPMENT

Have you all had the opportunity to visit this new area? We understand that it will be officially opened sometime in September/ October and the date is still to be confirmed.

It is a fabulous outdoor venue and some members enjoyed a coffee and chat at the site last weekend. For those who haven't had the opportunity to visit, here are 2 photographs.

Well done and thank you Western Downs Regional Council for this beautiful new asset.



News from the BMCAI Meeting 27th July 2019

In order to provide the opportunity for more people to participate in the Association meetings, the BMCAI met on Saturday afternoon 27th July. Unfortunately, this meeting coincided with the Opera at Jimbour, so attendance numbers were down. It seems that there is a festival or activities of some sort on most weekends across south east Queensland, making it difficult to find a date that might suit everyone. However, the members present agreed to try another Saturday meeting, **so the next BMCAI meeting is scheduled for 2pm Saturday 26th October 2019.**

We would like to sincerely thank the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade for providing the venue for the meeting.

Despite having fewer members in attendance and no Council representation, the members present processed a great deal of business at the meeting. Here is a brief overview of the items discussed and the agreed actions, and in some cases, any important actions or responses that have occurred since the meeting.

The key business items are as follows:

1) Management of the Anzac Day Ceremony:

Whilst this ceremony has been managed by the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade in the past, it has now been determined that the BMCAI is the more appropriate body to manage this event each year.

2) Public Liability Insurance:

After a general discussion regarding different providers and both Public Liability and Volunteer Insurances, it was determined that the BMCAI would purchase public liability insurance from Elders Insurance through the Kingaroy Branch.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

3) Fundraising Ideas:

It was proposed to develop a new Bunya Nut Recipe Book, compiling recipes tried and tested by local cooks. This strategy will have long term benefits and keep on giving over time. See further information about this exciting project available on page 10.

The idea of re-establishing the Bunya Nut Festival down the track was also raised.

4) Website

The idea of developing a website for the Association was floated. Members agreed it would be a worthwhile tool to inform community about the Association and what it does, post Newsletters, Notices about upcoming Events etc. It was determined that the website will have a password protected area for the storage of Meeting Minutes etc.

5) Social Gathering at Fishers Lookout

A social gathering was arranged for members on Sunday 4th August 2019 to celebrate the new facility and watch the sun set (if it's not too cold).

PS: this was a lovely gathering. The platform is a great place to sit, chat and enjoy great company and views. What an asset this will be to our community. Several groups of visitors also enjoyed the ambience and the views whilst we were there.

h) Wheelchair Parking

The wheelchair only parking sign has completely faded on the road outside the Shop creating difficulties for patrons who use wheelchairs for mobility to access the Shop, Bistro, Restaurant. Visitors are also parking across the pathway into the Shop because the solid lines across that access have faded, as have parking bay lines on the general use carparks. It was also noted that the number of parking bays requires extension but that is a longer term need.

PS: this issue has been forwarded to the South Burnett Regional Council.

Next Meeting: 2pm Saturday 26th October 2019 Venue: Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Shed

Other News....

National Parks Update -Kelvin Quinn, National Parks, provided the following information:

Bunya Mountains National Park walking tracks

The Bunya Mountains National Park walking tracks (including all of the popular Scenic Circuit walking track) are open to the walking public, with the small exception of the middle section of the Bunya Bunya walking track which will remain closed indefinitely. The rock-fall prevention system is installed near Festoon Falls. The nearby boardwalk and pedestrian bridge re-construction and repairs is also completed. The major walking track reconstruction works is now completed also.

The Bunya Bunya walking track, 200m middle section, remains closed indefinitely due to bunya dieback. This is a formal Restricted Access Area. Access is strictly prohibited and penalties apply. A number of people continue to ignore the signs and walk in this section. They are contributing to the death of other bunya trees and potentially spreading phytophthora pathogens to other areas of the mountain and all other areas that they visit elsewhere. Please, if necessary, remind visitors that this area is strictly closed.

As mentioned previously, further sectional closures will be necessary from time to time during construction of new boardwalks and pedestrian bridges along the Scenic Circuit walking track in the next 12 months. The old existing structures are nearing their useable life and must be replaced. It is a very expensive and difficult task. Planning and engineer works continue now. Timeframe for commencement is unknown at this stage.

Feral pig monitoring

QPWS and CSIRO continue the feral pig monitoring program with the aim of eventually targeting pig control in the best way possible for this, and other, areas.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

News from Bell – provided by Bernice Seaton

The community will soon be having another meeting about the Silo project, not much progress at present. I am also on a committee that is putting together the history of Bell and district, we meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10am at the Bell Bunya Community Centre, if anyone would like to attend. All welcome.

There is a Gardening Group in Bell too. *"Mike Wells from the ABC Radio, Saturday morning garden segment is coming to the Bell Bunya Community Centre on Friday August 23rd @ 1.30pm. The information afternoon is free to everyone and afternoon tea is provided... If you have any questions about the afternoon the Community centre is open daily from 10am and the friendly members there will be happy to answer any of your question about the afternoon."*

Our Birdwatching Group, meet the 3rd Friday of the month, to explore local areas. On **Friday the 16th of August**, we meet at the Bell Bunya Community Centre at 8.30am to explore the Bell district. After which we return back to the Community Centre for lunch.

Anyone interested in knowing more or attending, please call Bernice on 0427631080

Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade Update- Peter Marshall, First Officer

After twice having to cancel the burn because of high winds, the Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade were finally able to do a hazard reduction burn on "the pimple" between "Eungella" and "Taronga" in the Bunya Mountains Titles Estate. The burn took place on Wednesday 31 July, with 8 firefighters, two fire trucks and traffic control. Smoko and a substantial lunch were provided by the catering group.

The first photo was taken of the western side of "the pimple", after the burn was completed.

The second panorama photo was taken after the main burn had taken place. Photos by John Gaskin.

The Brigade has been really busy over the last 2 months with 8 hazard reductions done, varying in size from .25 of a hectare to 25 hectares. On top of this, 6 stacks of timber debris were burnt and assistance was given to Booie Rise Rural Fire Brigade with a 80 hectare burn.

Thanks to you all for your patience with all the smoke across the mountain. The next 2 weeks should see the end of the "cool burn" season..

Report provided by Peter Marshal, First Officer, Bunya Mountains Rural Fire Brigade



Travel Bugs aplenty.....

Despite living in one of the most beautiful places on earth, many Bunya Mountain residents and part time residents are curious by nature and set out regularly to explore their own back yards, further afield and global destinations. This year alone, I have heard mentions of:

a trip to explore silo art, a trip west into the sunset ending up at Innaminka, a couple on a canal boat in France for 6 months, two couples and one other member somewhere in the top end from Daintree to Darwin to the Kimberley, trips to Japan, extended cruising including the Galapagos, whilst one couple is about embark on an adventure to Switzerland, another member to China and another off to England and Wales.....***Wow I wonder how many travel miles that amounts to and what stories could be told.....***

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

Bunya Mountain's Birds- by Bernice Seaton-Article 2

As this Newsletter is covering the Spring Season, it is appropriate to discuss the movements of birds in our area. As Winter approaches and breeding finishes, many Birds leave for warmer climates. Some birds stay on the Mountain, but do not call, during the cooler months, so are often, presumed to have migrated.

One such bird is the **Noisy Pitta**, the jewel of the Rainforest floor, some do migrate, but others stay. This



Colourful Bird announces their presence with the "Walk to Work" call. Breeding in spring and summer, they place their large domed nest on a broken off stump or in between the Buttress roots of a Rainforest tree. This birds staple diet, are the large snails, which it cracks open, using a stone as an "anvil" .

The **Golden Whistlers**, herald their arrival with the lovely melodic whistle that is loud and persistent.

Also, returning a bit later, is the **Black-faced Monarch**, their call at times sounds like a wolf whistle.

Rufous Fantails herald their arrival, not, by calling, but, by their constant flitting around, fanning their beautiful tail.

Their Cousins, the **Grey Fantails**, are even more active.

Another Group of birds that return and become vocal, are **the Cuckoo's**, including the Fantail and Brush species. Their persistent calling is the males attempt to attract a mate. Cuckoos are parasitic breeders, they lay their eggs in the nests of many host birds.

Here I am only naming a few species, they use:

- Fantail Cuckoos use the nests of Fairy Wrens, Scrub Wrens, and Brown Thornbills.
- Brush Cuckoos use Flycatchers, Fantails and Robin's nests.
- The Shining-bronze Cuckoo, a resident of the Rainforest, uses nests of Thornbills, Gerygones, Fairy Wrens, Scrub Wrens and Honeyeaters.

The two Large **Cuckoos** that return are the Storm Birds of Summer.

- The **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, is a large grey bird, with an enormous bill, and has a raucous call. These birds use, Currawongs, Magpies, Ravens and Crows nests.
- **The Eastern Koel**, a larger bird, with a long tail, appears as two separate species. The male is black, with a red eye, his call is Cooee cooee. While the female is speckled dark brown and cream, with a red eye, and her call is Wirra, wirra. She is seldom seen, as is very shy. These birds use the nests of Friarbirds, Figbirds, Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Oriels and Magpie Larks. These Large Cuckoos follow the fruiting of the Fig trees.

References used.....Readers Digest, Complete Book of Australian Birds

CSIRO, The Australian Bird Guide

Other sites about Australian birds are www.birdlife.org.au and www.birdsinbackyards.net



Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

Creative Pursuits- Upcoming Textile Exhibitions

The exhibition by Darling Downs Textile Art Group titled 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle' will be held at the Lapunyah Gallery, Chinchilla from 27th September until 24th October. This is a travelling exhibition comprising textile panels created by members in response to the poem by Banjo Patterson. One of our residents, Kay Joyce is a member of this art group and has completed one of the panels in the exhibition.

The Darling Downs Textile Art group will also have an exhibition during the Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba titled "Downsize". This will be held at Glennie School from Sunday 22nd September to Friday 27th September and is part of the Quilts, Stitches and Textiles Trail event during the carnival.

For those interested in craft, our local Bunya Craft group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station from 7pm to 9pm.

Introducing a New Feature- Spiders of the Bunya Mountains

The Fishing Spider of the Bunya Mountains by Dr Barbara Baehr

The Bunya Mountain Rainforest is home to one of Australia's most unique spider species: the fishing spider. The spider was discovered in 2018 by Dr Robert Raven, curator and spider expert at the Queensland Museum, and was given the scientific name of *Dolomedes briangreenei*.



Photo1: *Dolomedes briangreenei* male (Photo: R. Raven) has bright white bands of hairs on its sides, which is different to the females, that have narrow lateral bands.



Dolomedes briangreenei Raven & Hebron 2018 female (Photo: R. Raven) waiting for prey



Dolomedes briangreenei female (Photo: Qld Museum) with eggsac between her fangs.

What makes fishing spiders so special is their semi-aquatic hunting style. The spiders live on the shoreline of rainforest streams and touch the water surface with their front legs to detect the vibrations of potential prey including aquatic insects, arthropods that have fallen into the water and little fish. They can walk on water without breaking surface tension, but more impressively they can dive underwater. This is due to their dense hairs that act like a plastron trapping air, enabling them to breathe under water.

Another fascinating thing about fishing spiders is how they reproduce. Female fishing spiders carry their egg sacs between their fangs until the spiderlings are about to hatch. Then they attach the egg sac to a three-dimensional web, where the females stay guarding her young. The web is a specialised type of web

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

for the rearing of the offspring, and helps the spiderlings catch small flies for food. The webs are quite distinctive and therefore fishing spiders are also often referred to as nursery-web spiders.

The spider's scientific name *Dolomedes briangreenei* honours Prof Brian Greene, world renowned physicist and co-founder of the World Science Festival Brisbane. He is one of the world's leading experts in exploring and explaining the effects of gravitational waves in the universe, which is also where the name fishing spider originated as they use vibrations to hunt their prey.

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New Project – Bunya Nut Recipe Book

Members of BMCAI have decided that our fund-raising project will be the production of a **new Bunya Nut Recipe Book**. This is an exciting project and our esteemed Treasurer, Kathy Taylor, is coordinating this project.

By way of process, Kathy will organise the collection, testing and collation of recipes into the new Recipe Book. This book will be published and distributed to various venues (for example visitor information centres) for sale.

So, do you have one or more recipes using Bunya Nuts that you can share and would like included in this new recipe book. Please also provide the recipe owners' name so that can be included alongside the recipe in the new book. Kathy is keen to avoid overly long and complex recipes, that very few people would try if they were included in the book. Also, if you have a photo or photos of completed dishes to include, that would be fantastic.

Please email all material to Kathy Taylor at the email address: spectre-rdd@bigpond.com

If you have hard copies, then please email Kathy to discuss how the recipes can be collected.

Timeframe: Can you please have your recipes to Kathy by the end of August?

Thank you in anticipation of a new recipe book filled with lots of goodies featuring Bunya Nuts (and a bumper harvest early next year to try out all these beautiful recipes!!!)

Late News...

Colin Boyce, MP and Member for Callide, will be visiting the Bunya Mountains on Friday 16th August and joining us for a picnic lunch and meeting on the new Fishers Lookout platform. If you are available and interested in joining us for the occasion, please email me carolweekes53@gmail.com or phone 0429069613 for details and so we have catering numbers.

Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)

Newsletter

Issue 3 August 2019

Would you like to assist or support the work of the Association in enhancing the Bunya Mountains experience for all?

Then become a member and join the Association 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). Now that we are into 2nd half of the year, then the fees are \$5 per person.

If you are a returning member or would like to become a member, we are happy to send you an Application Form and 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
Institution: Heritage Bank
BSB:638070
Account Number: 14018187
(please ensure you include your name in the Reference so that the Treasurers 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 carolweekes53@gmail.com

Next BMCA Meeting:

Date: Saturday 26th October 2019 Time: 2pm

Venue: Rural Fire Brigade Shed

We'd love to see you there.....Enjoy the journey and the destination!

