MOONBI NEWSLETTER
Moonbi Museum Committee
September 2018
Spring Edition
MOONBI MUSEUM PRESIDENT’S REPORT.

Greetings,

Wouldn’t it be lovely to see some good RAIN before summer arrives with the Hot weather!

At last the extensions to the Museum are completed just waiting for T.R.C. to issue a certificate of compliance to allow us to move in and set the new displays up then we can open the doors to the public to come in to see how it looks, we will be waiting to hear your comments on the effort we have put in.

Also have a look around the Park the T.R.C. trade staff have been busy this week cleaning, sanding & painting the Notice board, tables & chairs, the Entrance sign to the park as well as giving the Big chook a face lift, boy what a difference it has made to the area.

Now if we can only get T.R.C. to move on with the new toilet block Travellers won’t know the village especially when the new PO & Bottle Shop are finished, what an improvement it will make to the Northern Gateway to the City of TAMWORTH. What do you think?

Till next time keep well & PRAY for some good RAIN.

Bill Humphrys.

Bill Humphrys.

Winter raffle results

The winner of the trailer load of fire wood was Jenny Kelly of Tamworth. Thankyou to Tamworth Landscaping Supplies who donated the wood and to everyone who supported us by buying tickets.

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Do feel free to come to the Museum meetings, they are on the first Wednesday of the Month at the Museum at 7 pm and are usually over before 9 pm.
Hello everyone

When we were compiling our June edition we looked out on bare paddocks, empty creeks and dry dams – now Spring is almost here and the outlook is even more bleak. This drought is the worst that many of us have seen, and our hearts go out to the struggling livestock and battling farmers. But one good thing that has emerged is the outpouring of support from all walks of life throughout the country and for this we must thankful.

City people are gaining an appreciation of the set backs farmers often face and the way they cope with adversity. Our hope for the future is to see that their understanding translates into continuing support and the catchcry “Buy Australian” is heeded.

On a happier note, our little village is growing with more new houses and friendly people, the anticipated new post office and adjoining liquor store well on the way and the expanded museum almost ready to be reopened. We love where we live!

Let us all pray for rain and a greener outlook for our Summer edition, due mid- November

Until then...

Happy reading..

Take care of each other.

❖ Joy Ballard 676031710
❖ Lee Rodger 67603993 or 0428603993
❖ Email lrodger5@bigpond.net.au
MOONBI MUSEUM COMMITTEE

GREETINGS

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th August 2018 and results of the elections are as follows:-

**PRESIDENT** Bill Humphrys  **V.P.1** Norm Vincent  **V.P. 2** Ray Nelson

**SECRETARY-TREASURER** Dorothea Vaux  **MUSEUM MANAGER** Claudette Humphrys

**NEWS LETTER CO-EDITORS** Joy Ballard and Lee Rodger

**MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR** Ray Nelson  **ASSISTANT M.S.** Bill Humphrys

**FUND RAISING OFFICER** – Position Vacant  **Members may be co-opted**

**COMMITTEE** Pam Vincent  Gwen Davidson  Mary Attard

Apologies were received from Brian Betts, Jan Hystek and Janelle Lewis

Meeting date has been changed to the first Wednesday in each month – 7 p.m. - January recess

Our President, Bill, will have given you a progress report on the “new” Museum. It certainly is a big improvement – remember the “Old Fire Shed”. We have come a long way since it opened on the 24th July 2010.

They do say – Hope springs eternal. What do we hope for? RAIN!! RAIN!! And more RAIN!!

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary-Treasurer  20/8/2018

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Actually, used for NEARLY EVERYTHING

**ENGINEERING, advanced MACHINING and oleostatics**

Applied to in house manufacture of production machines and tools and mechanical research
CLAUDETTE’S CORNER.

With the Museum closed we still have inquiries about past families that had lived here in the late 1800s to 1900s. These people like to know all about the Cemetery and to look at our photo display. Surprising how often we have photos of some of their decedents.

Hopefully it won’t be too long before we will be reopening the Museum as we have a few new display cabinets to organise as well more machinery to come in for display, I think it will be well worth a look when completed.

A big thank you to everyone who has put so much hard work and time into this project also the passer’s by with their encouragement.

Thank you all. CLAUDETTE HUMPHRYS.
Drought Assistance

Council is committed to assisting and advocating for families impacted by the drought. Together with Radio 88.9 and The Salvation Army, we launched the R U Aware, We Care Drought Appeal in early July and have proudly raised and distributed in excess of $180,000 in cash and kind locally.

Additionally, Council is working to erect hydrant metered standpipes in our outer towns and villages to make bulk water available to those in need, at no cost. The standpipes will be available during working hours (Monday to Friday) with the locations published via www.ruawarewecare.com.au.

We have also announced that farmers needing to dispose of bulker bags or bags used for the transport of stockfeed can now do so for free at all Council’s waste facilities. Whilst anyone facing genuine financial hardship in relation to their Council rates, can arrange to defer payment via our “Ratepayers Hardship Policy”.

If you, or anyone you know, needs assistance or advice on how to navigate the drought, please visit the “For Farmers” page on the RU Aware, We Care website shown above. Alternatively, you can contact The Salvation Army Rural Chaplains by calling (02) 9466 3544 or for an emergency assessment, call the local Tamworth Corps Officers, Captains Rhonda and Dean Clutterbuck on (02) 6762 3930.
Tamworth Regional Council News

Annual Donations Programs now open

Applications are now open for 2018-2019 with local not-for-profit groups, community organisations and charities being encouraged to seek a share of $61,000 in funding.

The program aims to benefit community groups by providing funding towards upgrades or events that enhance their existing support services and programs. Council encourages applications for things like office equipment or furniture, funding to advertise and promote local activities, hire of transport services and also to purchase resources for use in community training programs.

Applications close on Friday 14 September 2018. To find out more about the program and how to apply for funding, see www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/annualdonations or visit your local Council branch office.

Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 2 September – Kootingal Country Fair**

The inaugural Kootingal Country Fair gives the entire family a great day out for Father’s Day. From market stalls and live entertainment to displays by the Kootingal Motor Club and Manilla Engines Group.

**Saturday 13 October – Fiesta La Peel**

The main street of Tamworth comes alive with a multicultural street festival representing more than 20 countries with food, music and craft.

**Monday 15 October – Kootingal Pool opens**

The 2018-19 swimming season for all pools in the Tamworth starts on 15 October until Friday 12 April 2019

**30 November – 28 January – Archibald Prize Tour**

Tamworth Regional Gallery will be home to the best Archibald Prize portrait paintings this summer.

T: 02 6767 5555   E: trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au   W: www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au   facebook/tamworthregionalcouncil   instagram/tamworthregionalcouncil
On 27th February, 1936, members of the Cockburn Shire Council undertook an inspection of an area just to the north of the village of Moonbi with a view to selecting a site for a park and lookout.

The Shire Clerk at the time, Mr Thomas Mulvogue recommended this site, and suggested that £50.0.0 be allocated to the construction of a small park and lookout.

Construction of the Park and Lookout began in 1937 as a Great Depression Employment Project, and it was completed in 1938.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the completion of the project, friends and relatives of the original workers are gathering at the lookout on 15th September 2018 for a morning tea, and cutting of a birthday cake.

This photo was taken during the early stages of construction in 1937 showing the construction of the entrance to the park and lookout.
This photo shows what was then the new New England Highway with the old road to its left. The highway as we know it today roughly follows the line of the old road in this picture.

Here we see a group of visitors admiring the view from the newly-completed lookout. Members of the public are invited to attend the celebration on 15th September, and all you need to do is bring along a chair and morning tea, and if you plan to hang around for a chat it might be wise to bring along a picnic lunch. For any further details, or with information on the Lookout, contact Noreen on 6766 4470.
KOOTINGAL/MOONBI RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The unusual weather continues, and we have already seen some dangerous fires across the state; fortunately, the fires in our area have been comparatively minor but have still required urgent attention from local brigades. If you see a fire that appears to be unattended call 000 or, if you see anything suspicious, please report it to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Bushfire Danger Period for our area will be declared on 1st September. From that date you will need a permit to light a fire and the Permit Officers are Kendall Thompson (0408 203864), Ken Hawes (0421 727535), Allen Madden (0467 003131) and Stuart Knight (6760 3059).

Regardless of whether we are in a Danger Period, you are always required to advise the Tamworth Fire Control Centre (6762 7641) and your neighbours 24 hours before you light a fire. And always consider the weather conditions before you light up. Unfortunately, if you live within a residential area (maps in the Post Office), as designated by Tamworth Regional Council, the NSW Clean Air Act prohibits you from lighting any fire (other than a comfort/cooking fire, no more than 1 square metre) in the open at any time – we cannot issue a permit in that situation; you must apply for an approval from the EPA or the Council.

If you haven’t already done it, now is a good time to prepare your property for the summer by cleaning out your gutters and removing rubbish and undergrowth from around your house and sheds. If you want some advice on the best ways to fire-proof your home and keep your family safe, visit the RFS website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare for the latest tips.

Our Brigade team are still participating competitively in the Fire & Rescue NSW Firefighter Championships and they placed second overall in Griffith recently. Their next challenge will be the RFS State Championships at Temora in September and then the Fire & Rescue NSW State Championships in Dubbo in October.

Our Brigade is made up entirely of volunteers so if you are community-minded and interested in joining the Brigade give our Secretary, Graham Thompson, a call on 6760 3580 or come to our monthly meetings, held at the Fire Station on top of the hill at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

And don’t forget, if you need to report a fire, don’t ring individual members of the Brigade – ring 000. That way all of the Brigade’s pagers are set off and we can respond in force – and, hopefully, in time!
In Memory

Norman John Roberts

4.2.42 - 20.6.18

Norman was born in Tingha NSW, to parents Ruby and Charles Roberts, the youngest or their eleven children. He left school when he was 15 years old and proudly joined the police Force in 1962, where his first posting was in Redfern NSW, after which he spent most of his police career as a country cop. His postings included Tamworth, Attunga, Quirindi, Murrwillumbah, Newcastle, Walgett and Gosford.

He married Elaine on 12 the Septembers 1964 in St Johns Church, Tamworth. They were blessed with two daughters, Kim and Trinity and three grandchildren, Matt, Emily and Lilly, all of whom were the apples of his eye.

When Norm retired from the Police Force in 1988 he and Elaine returned from Gosford to the country to make a home together in Moonbi. Here they built their dream home in Park Avenue, where they have lived happily for the past 30 years.

His police ties continued within the Retired Police Association, where he held the position of treasurer for 23 years, only retiring from that just weeks before his illness. Another great love was lawn bowls, and the Kootingal Bowling Club were privileged to have him as a member. He was treasurer of that club for 3 years, a very good bowler and a good friend to all, and will be sadly missed from their ranks. Another aspect of his caring personality was that he was a blood donor foe a very long time.

Norm passed away on the 20th June 2018 after a shock diagnosis and a brief battle with his illness. At his funeral his and Elaine’s two daughters paid a wonderful tribute to their father in their heartfelt eulogy. Excerpts from which we would now like to share with you.

“ He was the thriftiest person we’ve ever known- but he was also the most generous. There were many things that Dad did to make us stand on our own two feet and to make us strong independent ladies we are today. Things like: be in the NRMA or no car, being in a health fund is a must, and always have savings for a rainy day. Also make sure you search around for the best deal when purchasing something-then make sure you beat the sales person down by at least $10.00.

He was also a planner, right down to his last few hours with us. He made sure we had sorted everything out that could possibly be sorted, even getting us to take beautiful family photos, on Monday night. In his last few hours we had many chats about the plans he had in place to make sure Mum would be okay and we made a promise to him to fulfil his wishes.

Dad loved his garden, wearing Flannelette shirts, having a bet on the horses, his shed, and he may also have dabbled in home brew from time to time, resulting in the odd explosion or two. He left us last Wednesday listening to double J on the radio, with Mum and we girls holding his hand.”

A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Norm was also a well-respected and well-liked citizen and Moonbi misses him. Our loving sympathy goes out to Elaine and their family.
Around the Garden......

Well today it is a little windy, as it always is in August, so I am typing this article in the warmth of the house. I have a rare quite moment inside to myself. My daughter has lit the small fire pit and is listening to her music. The boys are off bow hunting and Craig is in his shed. I am looking out the windows towards the dry, large frog dam, watching the afternoon shadows fall over the top of the garden. It is a very peaceful afternoon.

There is so much to do in and around our gardens at the moment, to prepare for when the rains come. I didn’t water today, so I hope the plants survive until next Sunday when I will get an opportunity to water some of them. It is heart breaking with the lack of rain, but I am just looking at this as an opportunity to prune, renew plants and improve soil structure. Which I hope in the long run will help with the new plantings. I still have around thirty seedlings in the shade house that I continue to grow out and will keep until they can be planted. I have seed from many of my plants and will wait until the season improves then will begin propagating again. It will take quite some time before my garden beds will be back looking amazing again, (if they ever did!!) but we can all learn from these times. What plants are the hardest, which ones thrive and also which ones recover after been seemingly lost.

One thing I have noticed is what plants the kangaroos prefer and especially how clever they are at just nibbling the leaves. In my garden they particularly like the correas. I have decided to leave the branches with nibbled or no leaves and after rain, I will then prune. My theory in this is twofold. Firstly, I am not sure the plants have the vigour to put into so much new growth and secondly, if I prune back to the few small leaves underneath.....will this give the kangaroos an
opportunity to strip the plant of all her leaves?? Another chance to learn from our own garden environment.
Apart from our grevilleas we have some acacias starting to flower. The winter wattle — Acacia flexifolia is a small, erect shrub to 1m which bears small bright yellow ball flowers in late winter. She is very hardy and would look good in any garden style. We have many acacias in and throughout our garden. Acacia boormanii, Acacia calamifolia, A. cultriformis, A. decora, A. pravissima, A. rubida, A podarlyfolia and I’m sure I have forgotten one or two. They all flower at different times, so I have a wattle in my garden every month of the year in flower except for late January through to early March. Acacias are hardy plants and come in all leave shapes, heights, widths and form. They are worth researching for your garden.
As we head into Spring, it would be lovely to receive much needed rain, but if we don’t, keep working in your garden doing what you can. Tidying up areas, planning some new structures, making new compost. I have spent the Winter preparing my vege garden beds for Spring, but unfortunately, if we don’t get rain, I don’t think I will be able to grow our own veges. We do have a spring, that is still running and we access water from it, but we have to keep the orchard trees alive and other plants in my gardens. I really do miss my veges out my door though and the absolute pleasure of collecting them for a meal.
Let’s all learn from this time and how precious water is to us and our environment.
To a fellow contributor of this lovely community newsletter, I will say that I am going to miss your ‘This & That’ comments. Always so very informative and sometimes a little giggle. Thank you for all the interesting insights that you have given to not only myself but others within our community regarding Moonbi and it’s people. I wish you the very best.

[Signature]
Kootingal & Dist. Pony Club
Was once again proud to host the famous

Soup and Damper Night

"Well it was a very chilly night for this year's Soup and Damper Night, with the temperatures remaining neutral at 0 degrees. Two well contained bonfires welcomed constant supervision and rotation to fend off the freezing atmosphere
Inside the canteen the smells and warmth of the soups was barely enough to warm the cockles of our hearts. The laughter flowed regardless
We had approximately 12 soups kindly donated by the locals. We probably managed about 60 people brave enough to stand the arctic conditions and savour some memorable soups.
The Head Table comprising Margaret Finucane, Joy Ballard, Juan Hysteck, Marlene Sipple, Lee Rogers and Ilona Goor managed to try all the soups between them.
Margaret headed the soup Judging forum finally awarding the winning soup, a beautiful wintery Creamy Pumpkin, created by the Kootingal and District Pony Club Kitchen Staff under the careful guidance of Kylie Macpherson.
Some of the other amazing soups were Chicken and Vegetable; Beef and Barley; Potato and Corn Chowder;
Kale and Vegetable; Curried Choko; Vegetable; Explosive Roast Pumpkin; Veal and Lentil;
Crusts and Cream made glorious buns for us to enjoy.
The Desserts were Fantastic. Again the Pony Club Kitchen excelled with Kylie's Hot Butterscotch Pudding, Mrs Goor's Vanilla Slice also proved popular and Len Walls Chocolate Birthday cake was delicious!
The cold was endured and good food and friends were the winners in the end!

Thank you for your kind help and donations"

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MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of this Committee was scheduled to take place at Moonbi on Wednesday 29th August 2018 at 10 a.m. The day meetings have proved suitable especially during our cold winter.

Enquiries on bookings should be directed to Bookings Officer, Karin Thompson, phone 6760 3580 and she will be pleased to assist you. Obligation free inspection of the facility is available if required. Once again, please phone Karin to arrange this.

Why not consider this venue for your next function and support your local community.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary 20/8/2018
Kootingal and District Lions Club have had an interesting three months since the last newsletter. Our Major fundraiser and service to the community has been to assist on a regular basis the Soccer Club in Tamworth by manning their canteen. We have all added to our culinary skills, attended to rostering and turned up on frosty mornings to feed the multitude. Apart from the camaraderie of the services there has been a distinct learning curve about the rules of Soccer as those in the know instructed those who were not fans, all this from the vantage point of the upstairs canteen in the few quite times when everyone was playing.

Of course, of greatest note is the drought relief programme “Need for Feed”, helping to distribute feed to those in need, has been a big project with many clubs cooperating to achieve results. This cannot work if we do not know who is in need. This may also impact in other ways such as need for groceries or toiletries, vehicle problems, medical expenses and perhaps knock on problems to others in the community affected by drought in different ways. If you think you could use some help or know someone you can pass this information on to, please ask a Lion member or go to the web site www.needforfeed.org fill in the application form under the heading apply for assistance. This site is well worth a visit even just to lift you heart at the good people and work they are prepared to do. Wonderful volunteers all!

Lions Clubs world-wide, have some specific aspects they are working. One of these is issue of Diabetes which is one of the most pervasive and fastest-growing diseases in the world today. We are making attempts to educate people about the potential risks associated with this disease as there is a surprising lack of knowledge about the three types of Diabetes (type one- insulin dependent, type two non-insulin dependent and gestational diabetes in pregnant women.) A multi club raffle of a car raised $74,000 with proceeds to go to Lions club NSW and ACT Save sight and health care Ltd, for their work.

You may have noticed the number of Women in our club. Our International President Gudrun Yngvadottir, a lady from Iceland, has a vision for her Presidential year As the first female International President of Lions Clubs International, Gudrun Yngvadottir has chosen to champion the unique contributions of women to our organisation. She will raise her voice so those without a voice can be heard, and strive to close the gap between men and women in leadership roles.

We are delighted that our David Emanuel is our district governor. He, along with Lady Lion wife Jill recently attended the Lions international convention in America and have come back with ideas and suggestions about how we can engage using many of the new “media” available to us making Lions more accessible in this changeable world where people are much more mobile. Any one of our members would be happy to discuss with you what we do and the spirit of this great group of people to get a feel of how these groups operate.

Our next big local event is the Lions Kootingal and Art show. This will be at the Community Hall in Chaffey St (near the preschool) on the 12,13, and 14th of October. Entries are now open online at http://kootingal.nsw.lions.org.au/news

We are looking forward to another great show this year. Please come and join us for opening night on the Friday and enjoy an evening of hospitality with us and the distinguished guests.
3 DAY ART WORKSHOP HELD AT KOOTINGAL
8th, 9th & 10th NOVEMBER
Lessons in oil & acrylic will cover
tonal techniques, colour mixing and perspective
in still-lifes and landscapes.
The 3 day course is $350
Includes morning & afternoon teas and lunch.
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For more information,
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Moonbi Art Group

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.

We have had a productive three months since last newsletter. There have been entries to a number of the art shows of the area and pleasingly a number of sales from various locations. Another member has joined our group and we have had a few visitors as well. One visitor was from South Africa, along with Australian host, another a visitor off the road who saw the signs and last week a child bought in by her grandmother because she wanted to know what we did there. We were happy to show and tell particularly to add interest for young people.

We are looking forward to a number of art shows in our local area shortly; Our own Kootingal Lions Club exhibition at Kootingal Hall in Chaffey street, The Bendemeer sale and exhibitions showing, and the exhibition in Nundle just after. All three draw some different works and even if paintings are exhibited at all three the locations etc can have a bearing on how people “see” the works. We would encourage you to visit them all and assist the local communities that are holding them by showing your support. Even in the unlikely event that no paintings are sold they provide funds from entries of art works and door entries etc to support their local communities, and a local event to support their creative members.

This area is fortunate to be able to offer some excellent art training workshops, our local lady Penny Shephard will hold a workshop in October and later in November, James Waller, a noted artist and son of a local resident, will return from Ireland on a visit and has agreed to offer workshops with him for us to benefit from his world-wide experience and masterful techniques. I would suggest you look him up on Goggle if you are interested. Many of our members have travelled close to home and further afield and have been stimulated to paint form what they have seen there, so watch for these in our next art show.

And lastly a word of encouragement, you are never to old or too young to begin drawing, painting or creating, if it pleases or relaxes you that’s all that needs to happen.

Lee Rodger

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SUMMERS IGA Phone 0267603204
5 Denman Ave Kootingal NSW 2352
Open 7 days Monday to Saturday 6.30am to 7.30pm; Sunday
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Kootingal Hardware & Electrical Phone 0267603799
24 Gate St Kootingal NSW 2352
Open 7 days Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm;
8.00am-4.00pm; Sunday 9.00am-2.00pm

__________________________________________________________________________________
Bill's Garden Notes

Gardens are still at a standstill as dry times have limited planting of lots of things. With the soil being so dry it is difficult to grow anything, but having said that, I have had best gardening success that I have had for some time with cabbage ready to use, spinach, carrots, beetroot and turnips and rhubarb all in advanced stages. This was achieved by a raised garden complex. The method I used was to make a garden with surrounds 40 to 50 cm high and build up the soil in 4 stages. The base was filled with any leaves and dead plant matter, to about 10cm deep then horse manure to about the same depth. Then rotted compost and finally new garden soil which was an organic mix. 3 in 1 garden mix would also be ok. Garden lime was added to the first three layers, this helps to break down the leaves to compost, some blood and bone was added to the garden soil. Black plastic was put into the garden bed before starting and up the sides of the surrounds, this limits the loss of moisture and assist to break down the rough material. During times of heavy frosts, if you dug down, it was warm under the top surface, and seemed to retain its warmth even on cold days. I am sure this is why things grew so well- and no excessive watering was required. I can only assume that sandy soil is fairly poor in nutrients and certain things need to be added for good results.

In-door house plants are a good idea so you always have something green and flowering inside that grows in the colder months. Primula Obconica are an excellent plant to grow as they flower in the colder months, are easy to grow and may last for several years if looked after. At present we have lots out in flower and they will do so until the hot weather comes. They require a good soil and to kept watered from time to time - once a week in cool weather is enough. The blooms are very attractive and last a long time, when they get a bit spent just prune them off and a new lot will appear. We have had the same plants for several years and they are cheap to buy and grow quickly. They stand cold air but I would not expose them to the outside frosts.

I have taken a risk and planted out lots of pansy's and Phlox and hope it rains soon, if you wait to plant and the hot weather comes, they will not perform well so may be worth a try and plant some and just hope for rain. So best of luck for whatever you decide to plant.

Bill

Editors note. I have been reading about the importance of plants inside for cleaning the air. This especially good if you gas heating, also watering the plants puts moisture and oxygen back into the air and the plants process renew the air. Here are a few English ivy and devils ivy, peace lilly, Chinese ever green, Boston fern, spider plant and bamboo palm- just check they are ok with your pets. Lee.
HELLO FROM MOONBI – KOOTINGAL. Things are looking grim, but the ever optimistic that I am, prays that rain comes soon to help this drought ravished land. On a nicer note I have rehomed heaps of dogs since I last wrote my column. I had a dear older dog she was 10 years old and the lady went into a nursing home. Bree was the nicest dog and loved running around and playing with the rest of the ‘crew’. Her teeth were worn down and she had a terrible flea allergy which was promptly fixed up and she also ate really well, too well at times. Running around fixed the weight problem and she has gone to a wonderful home with one of our paramedics and another older dog. She went to Stef’s grooming in Porcupine Lane and got all tidied up and now looks a million-dollar dog. That is a really good story. The elderly lady whom I got her from is enjoying herself in a retirement village so happy ending all round.

I have at present been trying to find a home for a young cross breed, she is a solid little dog about the size of a staffy, white with black spots, I have had her since she was 8 weeks old she is now about 16 weeks and a nice dog. She will follow you anywhere and comes when she is called, funny dog and gets on with everything, good with children but I would suggest older children ie over 10 years old. My other little orphan is a cross breed also, her father was a mastiff (really nice dog) and the mother was a cross, she was an extremely gentle soul, poor as anything covered with fleas, full of worms, but grateful for a pat and a bit of kindness. I only took one puppy as I had to get rid of the fleas and worms which took a bit of time, now she looks beautiful and is a very gentle soul like her mother. Ruby I called her, is now about 5 months old and a really nice dog, she is obedient and gets on with everything also including cats and hocks, she will be a reasonable sized dog but not huge. Good natured again older children.

Please phone me if you can find room in your home for either of these two dogs as I am anxious to place them with a really good family.

I also have a really lovely cat, she is an adult cat but only about 2 years old, she came from sad circumstances but her disposition of life has kept her a lovely affectionate feline. She is an indoor cat and very clean and loves to head butt whilst purring away there. Let me know if you are able to take her.

Only a few weeks ago I had 9 dogs looking for homes and 7 found homes which is great as 9 is a lot of hard work plus my ‘crew’, they are all taught manners and they know I will not have cranky dogs. They all got on well and chased each other round a track, it was really funny watching the antics, little ones going hell for leather with the big ones racing behind not able to take the corners so quickly. They got wise in the end and stopped and went the other way, the little ones would do a ‘wheelie’ and take off in another direction. Anyone who cannot see the funny side of dogs playing misses out on so much, it keeps me sane plus I laugh so much even though there is a lot of work involved.

As I said previously please phone if you would like a pet or just advice.
67605931 mobile 0428261573. Jean
The Country of Study, this year, for the Country Woman’s Association has been Poland. The presentation on the life of Antoni Polosak was made by his daughter, Teresa, clad in Polish national costume, on the occasion of Kootingal Branch CWA International/Cultural Day held at Kootingal War Memorial Hall on 25th June 2018.

Teresa, together with husband Roman and faithful companion 17 year old Russell, has resided at Mulla Creek for the past 22 years. Teresa was Foundation Treasurer for Kootingal Branch CWA on its inception in 1998 and has held the positions of Agricultural/Environmental Officer and Publicity Officer and is still a staunch member, being awarded Long Service Leave bar earlier this year. She has also been Agricultural/Environmental Officer and Publicity Officer with Wantheila Group CWA.

Although Teresa’s name is spelled Teresa it should be pronounced TERESSA!! Her father chose this name and sometimes shortened it to Tressa!!

I thought you should know a little of Teresa’s local history!

Dorothea Vaux, Moonbi Museum Secretary 20/8/2018
Hi Everyone,

It’s been an exciting year so far at Cockburn Cottage! As some people may be aware Cockburn Cottage is now operating as GoCo Kootingal under Gunnedah Shire Council. You may have seen our new signs out the front of the cottage.

Who is GoCo you might ask? GoCo is a specialised aged care service providing many supports to a large number of aged clients within the New England and North West areas, including social support for individuals or groups; transport; meals; flexible respite; and goods, equipment and assistive technology.

GoCo Kootingal will continue to offer support to our older clients within the community, operating Monday to Thursday from 8:30am-4:00pm. We will continue to provide centre-based social support group on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am-2:30pm, and social support craft group each Wednesday from 10:00am-4:00pm, with a gentle exercise group also offered on Wednesday from 10:30am-11:30am.

We would also like to offer the opportunity of volunteering with GoCo to assist staff in the delivery of supports within the community or the centre. If you would like further information in regards to any of our services or volunteering in the delivery of our services, please drop in and see our friendly staff at Cockburn Cottage or phone them on (02) 6760 3937. We are still located at 8 Denman Ave, Kootingal (directly opposite the IGA).
**Out and About with the Social Sleuth**

**Birthday Greetings:** Two of our well-known Moonbi residents recently had cause for a double celebration-Harold Murray turned the big 90 on the 30th July and wife Sybil reaches that milestone on 6th September. Daughter Kim and Granddaughter Holly (son Rodney’s daughter) organised a delightful party for them at the Kootingal Hotel on Saturday last (11th August) attended by over forty relatives, close neighbours and friends. To add to the great joy of the occasion their grandson Brett and his Fiancée Kati had travelled all the way from Helsinki in Finland to surprise them. Well-deserved accolade’s Hal and Sybil and we add our congratulations and best wishes to you both.

**Travellers in our midst:** The Lions club are pleased to welcome back their New District Governor our own David Emanuel from Moonbi. David and Jill’s trip to Las Vegas for the international conference took 36 hours from leaving home before they saw a bed for their tired heads. However, they said that they “really enjoyed the opportunity and have both learned much from the event”.

Other Moonbi-ites who have enjoyed overseas travel recently are the Attard’s and Lewis’s on a joint trip to Fiji and myself Lee on an interesting visit to China, Jan Hystek is currently back “home” in Holland visiting his family and friends. We may well have missed others but hope all have enjoyed themselves and get home safely.

**New Baby on the block:** Congratulations to Phillip and Laura Barber on the arrival of their first child. Dustin Wyatt was born on 12 June 2018, another beautiful grandson for very proud grandmother Cathy.

**Get Well wishes:** To anyone on the sick list or recuperating from operations. One who comes to mind is well known villager Neville Michell who is out of action at the moment. He recently underwent ankle surgery in Newcastle and is still not very mobile, being chauffeured around by wife Brenda. So, hope you don’t need him to answer an NRMA call any time soon!

**Young success:** One of Moonbi Store’s younger staff members has even more reason to smile these days. Young Elly Chapple celebrated her 16th birthday, managed to get her “L’s” first up and is going through the process of obtaining her trials licence. Ellie is carrying on the trotting dynasty started by her grandfather Noel many years ago, then aunt Debbie and mother Julie and of course father Dean. Younger brother Jack is another graduate of the mini trotting fraternity, also set to go a long way, and grandmother Robyn is always there supporting them all.

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**TAMWORTH DISTRICT MASONIC WIDOWS, LADIES AND ASSOCIATES**

The Annual General Meeting of this association is scheduled to take place at the Masonic Centre, Crawford Street, East Tamworth on Thursday 13th September 2018 – 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. Lunch will be taken at an outside venue on that day.

There will be NO MEETING in October but there will be a regular meeting on Thursday 15th November 2018 – 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. Following the meeting we will visit Carmen’s Restaurant for lunch.

My best wishes to the incoming board to be elected on 13th September. Some of our members have not had a good year healthwise but hopefully things will improve with warmer weather to come.

If the Gods are listening – PLEASE LET IT RAIN!!!

*Dorothea Vaux, Secretary 20/8/2018*
The New and Old of China

My trip to China came up rather unexpectedly and with little preparations so we just “took the tour” where it led us, to the new and the old of China.

Our midnight arrival in Beijing shocked us with the heat of the city in midsummer—still 31 degrees after leaving here in frost. Beijing is city of 21.71 million, the majority housed in vast high-rise complexes that you cannot see the extent of for the smog. The housing seems to be in blocks of about 10 to 20 very high rises all of the one pattern then another pattern is used elsewhere. There was not much sign of oriental sloped roofs on any new building. Beijing had hosted the Olympics and was extensively tidied, but some protest and awareness of their history arrested this, saving some lovely areas of the city that were much older.

Each day our trip took in some specific aspect you might expect from China, and gave opportunity for us to be parted from our money by skilful sales talk. Each place gave an excellent talk and display and the staff were unfailingly courteous with some grasp of English. Using credit cards at these places was no problem and they always had modern clean toilets. On successive days we went to a pearl place, a jade factory, a traditional medical centre, a tea growing region and showhouse, and a silk showroom, all of which were interesting — and did I mention airconditioned. The temps in the daytime were 36-37 degrees. So it was AFTER we had visited on of these places that we were taken to outdoor attractions, to walk in this humid heat and often made us feel like wimps not wanting to walk in this heat.

Tiananmen square was our first attraction, it is huge and very hot for us, sense of history does capture your imagination, then we crossed under the road to the Forbidden City where we could have spent a month, just so much to see. The scale of everything is so huge. It is well worth calling up a national geographic you tube on your electronic devices to get an idea. It was quite awe inspiring to be there and see the workmanship, artistry and history of it all.

The second day’s main attraction was The Great Wall. As you know it is in several sections built over many centuries. We were taken about an hour out of Beijing to a part that was a garrison about from 500 years old, but now had been restored where needed. Just seeing in in real life was quite stunning. I cannot begin to imagine the effort in constructing on these slopes at all in scorching summers and freezing cold winters. It is built of bricks weighting 20 kilos each, and the wall is 20 to 30 ft high (6-9 meters) and 10ft (3m) wide. All the buildings around the area were interesting, in traditional building styles and very strong construction, some rock and a lot of brick. The wall traced its way along these steep ridges with watchtowers every few hundred meters. We found it was a formidable climb up uneven stairs from about 10cm to 30 cm in no set pattern in temps of 37 degrees, the views from these heights were breathtaking —and I only made the first tower as I hoped to live to see the rest of the trip. We slept very well that night! Defending this wall would require great physical fitness at the least.

The next day’s high light was the traditional medicine centre. Their doctor’s practice both Western and Chinese medicine and see a place for them both. After that we went into the city proper on a sight-seeing trip, then visited some of older areas, having dinner at a retired Kung Fu fighters place- of three rooms—where they gave us all a traditional family dinner, and kindly welcomed us and answered our questions. Many smaller places have no toilets but every 100 years was a toilet block.

We caught a bullet train south the next day which was quite an experience. The next day visited the area where China tea is grown, which is very pretty, fresh and nice and had many more traditional Chinese features. The best tea is picked from fresh little leaves in March-April which the government takes as its own, then next lot is for Chinese top-quality consumptions and the last lot get into tea bags and sent here! We were taken to some lovely gardens and had a boat trip in the beautiful area of Hangzhou’s west lake and later we went to Suzhou and walked some of the old alleys and had a trip on the one of the many canals there, and a chance to see some old china on a more personal scale.
Our visit to the silk place was interesting, by then we had spent our money so were not buying silk bed covers, just a few souvenirs. When we went into Shanghai—where 24.18 people call it home—we were pleased to see that a lot of greenery wherever possible, despite the inevitable enormous quantises of high rises to house the population. Shanghai is very cosmopolitan and home of the old concession areas from the time of the Opium wars between England and China (The Boxer rebellions) so of much historical interest. The new sections of the centre of the city are very impressive and now is the financial capital of China.

Most Chinese homes have three generations—Grandma and form the time of Mao-Zedong from 1949, Mother from the time of the one Child policy (1979-2015) and the child of that time—now grown with a child or two of their own. There may be a number of adults all involved in the children's life. Yet family life is very important. A small pension is paid at 50 years old, and people do retire from their work about then at 80 a long live bonus is paid regularly. Boys need to be able to show the girl of their choice that they have a good education, job and a house before they can marry so much effort is put into them to achieve this.

We were told that Chinese don’t like cold water, it uses too much energy to warm to body temperatures, in fact hot water is always available for tea and noodles, so visitors here find our habits odd and say they find it hard to get hot water for their own uses.

Modern China is as modern and as capitalist as we are. The desire for the best quality of life is there, the Government owns all the land. Most small holdings were not apparent where we were, and we saw only big areas of farming in the countryside and more high rises to house them. In the city areas there were little garden allotments in amongst the most extensive road systems or well-planned public gardens in these areas which is good use of land and gives lungs to the city. Most shops that we were exposed to now had a stated price and no bargaining. We were not taken to many places where you could bargain and I had the feeling that this is being discouraged, except for the preservation of some “old China” cultural places. Our accommodation was first rate and I feel that China is well worth a visit, but be prepared for different cultural and political outlooks and the incredible changes of the new China as well. Bear in mind what I saw and felt may be very different from another person experiences, and of course China is a huge place.

Lee Rodger

Urgent The drought relief programme “Need for Feed”, is helping to distribute feed to those in need. If you think you could use some help or know someone you can pass this information on to, please ask a Lion member or go to the web site www.needforfeed.org fill in the application form under the heading apply for assistance. Please apply before Sep 21 so you can be included in the next fodder run.

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News from the Wilsons at the top of the range

Hello everyone

It's very dry up here sadly, and we've just had another tree fall only this afternoon which has completely blocked our driveway.

We celebrated my Mums birthday a few weeks back and Lilly's 5th birthday a couple of weeks afterwards. I'm looking forward to another lovely wedding anniversary next month, followed by Alan's birthday and then Ruby's. Before we know it, it'll be Christmas again!

I enjoyed another fabulous weekend at Shine women's conference (a North West Church event) held at the beautiful Tamworth town hall last weekend.

I'm actually very busy at present completing my Assistant in Nursing (AIN) at Tamworth TAFE 2 days a week, however I'm thoroughly enjoying the course and look forward to the future employment prospects in the community services sector this line of study might offer me.

We have a lot on our plate until the end of 2018, we are heading down to Bendigo in Victoria for a wedding in October and then heading to Wauchope for another wedding in November. We are hopeful that visiting the Fraser coast will still happen at some stage but life is just very busy right now and so we will hold off until after Christmas to arrange another adventure.

With these dry conditions we remain vigilant and hopeful that rain will fall in our district sooner rather than later.

The Wilsons

Can you help us. Our new and improved museum could use some extra hands at the museum to show people through on the weekends, if you could give just a few hours some weekends during the year this would be a big help. Would you be willing to be listed as “an interested person” for these occasional times.

SHOP LOCALLY FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT
FRED HILLIER’S CERAMICS GALLERY
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TEL: 6760 3662
KOOTINGAL CWA

Weather has really gone "mad", still no rain but hopefully some on the weekend (Aug 25/26), minus 13 in "Frost Hollow" (formerly Bendy) this morning, the coldest that has been recorded this year!

The 20th Birthday lunch on May 24 was a great success with representatives from seven branches of the Wanthella Group and 22 members of the branch attending, including 9 of the original members who were presented with their 20 year attendance badges by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Helen Tickle. The Birthday Cake was cut by Melva Roberts (the inaugural President and Jill Crocket, the newest member of the branch. The Charter members who attended were Joan Pettit, Teresa Kuczera, Heather Stoke, Melva Roberts, Alison Waugh, Dorothea Vaux, Pat Ryan, June Chen and Anne Maher

In the last three months the Branch has participated in several International and Cultural Days, be they in Woolomin, Somerton and the branches' own day, with success all round. The next Primary Product to be studied is "Alpaca" and Bev Asbury is to find information to present to the Group Council. The country of study is France and the medical research project is Endometriosis.

September 15 will see the Fashion Day at Kootingal Bowling Club and all are invited. A trading table will be up and running on the day. Proceeds will go towards Drought Relief.

A motion which has been proposed and seconded and forwarded to group is that "The Policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the reduction of Daylight Saving by a month and hence run from October 1 to March 1" Carried unanimously.

As you may be aware, Cockburn Cottage has been sold to a private entity (was TRC owned) and as a result we have been offered the use of the Kootingal Hall, overall for reduced fees and as a result the branch has been meeting in the Kootingal Hall (behind the Library) effective June 11 meeting. Same format, morning tea at 09:30 with the meeting to commence at 10:00 on the first Monday of each month.....visitors are always welcome.

Cynthia Murray
Publicity Officer.
KINDER 2019 APPLY NOW
for Transition Classes or register your interest to get notified of upcoming events.

Every student counts.

Ready to Scar Kindergarten 2018 Transition Sessions

Every moment matters.
Transition Lessons Every Friday 9.00am-3pm starting Friday 11th May 2018
For more information Call (02)67603151

2018 FOOD & FIBRE

This year's Food & Fibre Day centred on designing and creating entries for our local community events - Tamworth Show and Kootingal Country Fair. Students were involved in a variety of different activities:
- Scarecrow building
- Insect hotels
- Mobile Garden making
- Garden art
- Cornucopia – Building a creative display for fruit and vegetables.

Please come along and see us perform at Kootingal, Sunday 2 September 2018 at 11.30am or visit the garden section at Tamworth show 31st August - 1st September 2018 to see our entries.

AGQUIP 2018

On Tuesday 21 August the whole school travelled to Gunnedah to visit the Commonwealth Bank AgQuip, Australia's largest and premier primary industry field day. AgQuip 2018 was an outstanding experience MPS students and as part of our Future Focused project students were able to see and speak to exhibitors firsthand about the changes technology is making in the field of agriculture.

IMPORTANT OFFICE CHANGES
OPEN Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 3.30pm
The school now has a mobile; 0436665862. This phone is for text communication only.
The Light Horse Charge At Beersheba, Poem by Michael A Berriman

This is a battle for young and old ears
A loosely held secret of some 100 years
The battle of Beersheba won with bayonet and horse
And the skill of our riders, our most precious resource.

Beersheba so well placed, on a map it was grand
A railhead with water and surrounded by sand
It was here the Allies fought their fight so well
Commanded no less than by brave Harry Chauvel.

The Light Horse formed up behind a sand ridge
Some four miles of ground, via open sand bridge
It led to the Ottomans and deep trenches so real
And the Light Horse feared weapon, two feet of cold steel.

Rifles were slung over young soldiers backs
A bayonet they carried to advance their attack
Final orders given and the last of the talk
They crested the ridge, their mounts 'at a walk'

The horsemen were tense, this charge now too real
One hand on the reins one hand held cold steel
The order was bellowed, 'move at the trot'
The ranks held positions and jokes there were not.

In half the two miles the enemy opened up
Most bullets flew high, but some hit their mark
Take the wells came the order from the 4th on the right
Win the battle today and we sleep here tonight.

The Light Horse now charging with a thousand dry cries
The dust and the sand bought tears to their eyes
What a magnificent spectacle, one observer did say
The charge at Beersheba, this was their best day.

A battery from Essex hit the enemy and their gun
The Light Horse were moving so fast on the run
They jumped the first trenches four feet wide and some too
Right over the defenders leapt the Light Horse so few.

With bayonet then bullet they put enemy to flight
And continued with skirmishes until day became night
Some fifty odd horsemen slept the sleep of the dead
The Light Horse had won, their innocence shed.

This was a charge that history will acclaim
From this day on warfare was never the same
A courageous mix of rider and horse
Ending thousands of years of the great cavalry force.
KOOTINGAL LIONS CLUB

ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

Kootingal Community Hall
Chaffey Street  Kootingal

12 October 2018
Opening Night 6.30 pm
Admission $15 at the door
Including light refreshments

13 -14 October 2018
Exhibition Continues
Daily 10am - 4pm
Admission $5 at the door

Painting Coordinator:  Janelle Lewis
Mob: 0439 955 128
Email: kootingallionsclubartexhibition@gamil.com

The Committee of the Kootingal Lions Club Art Exhibition would like to thank all our Exhibitors and Sponsors for their support of our 2018 Art Exhibition.