MOONBI

MOONBI, NSW - AUSTRALIA

MOONBI

MOONBI NEWSLETTER

Moonbi Museum Committee

March 2019

Autumn Edition
Moonbi Museum President’s Report.

Greetings.

Well what a way to kick off a New Year, a couple of wild storms more wind than rain throw in a couple of power outages and who knows what will be next especially with this extreme heat we are experiencing at the moment, at least while I am writing this it is a little cooler.

Well we finished 2018 on a good note with the Museum building completed all but a little ground work at the front. The new toilet block at the rear of the building was also completed in time for the Christmas New Year, and Country Music week. However we now need Parks and Gardens to do their bit and clean up the front gardens in the Park which will give it a more appealing to visitors, tourists as well as to the local community.

Our Museum is proving quite popular with many visitors from all over the World calling in as well as Travellers from all parts of Australia and locals from around the Tamworth, Armidale and Gunnedah regions.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite any of our Local residents who have not had the time to take this opportunity to drop in say Hello to whoever is on that day and have a look around, I think that you will be surprised at the fine collection of Memorabilia we have on display in there.

Bill Humphrys.

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Editorial

Hello everyone

Welcome to our first Moonbi Newsletter for 2019. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and may the coming year bring lots of happy hours – and hopefully lots of rain to alleviate this ongoing drought.

So many sad stories have come out of the drought, the floods in Queensland and the more recent northern bushfires, much closer to home. But disasters seem to bring out the best in people too as they try to help their neighbours, cheer up their mates and band together to fund-raise or restore morale. You may find a couple of feel good stories in these pages to make you smile or boost your faith in humanity. If you have any of your own, please share them with us in coming issues.

Let us try to bring ‘joy to the world’, not only at Christmas time but throughout the year.

Contributions to the next newsletter are due in and would be gratefully received by mid May for the June edition. These can be left at the Moonbi Post office or email the below address.

..................a blessed 2019 to you all
..................take care of each other
..........................and happy reading

• Joy Ballard – 67 603 170
• Lee Rodger – 67 603 993 or 0428 603 993
• Email - lroger5@bigpond.com
GREETINGS

On Wednesday 6th February 2019 our first meeting for this year was held at the Museum at 7 p.m. President Bill and Manager Claudette will have told you of recent happenings so I won’t go down that track.

Future meetings – March, May, June, August, September, November will be held at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday in the month. APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER meetings will be held on the first Wednesday in the month. 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. NOTE THESE ARE DAYTIME MEETINGS TO ALLOW TRC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES to attend if required. Please place dates in your diary!!

Our next meeting will be at the Museum 7 p.m. on Wednesday 6th March 2019.

TRC Seniors Week Awards 2019 (Friday 22nd February) saw President Bill accept a Certificate of Appreciation from Deputy Mayor Phil Betts. This was awarded to the Museum Committee for achievements to date which have resulted in a “finished” museum in late 2018. The presentation was attended by President Bill, Manager Claudette and Secretary Dorothea. A very proud occasion for us!!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE RESULTS Drawn at Moonbi Saturday 15th December 2018

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Colour Code</th>
<th>Prize Description</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Purple F53</td>
<td>Christmas Hamper</td>
<td>Tania Downs</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Red F 29</td>
<td>Ronson Slow Cooker</td>
<td>T. Nicol</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Blue B48</td>
<td>Christmas Cake</td>
<td>K. Adams</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Blue F44</td>
<td>Framed Print “Moonbi”/Christmas Cheer</td>
<td>R. Stubbs</td>
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Prizes 1 to 3 claimed. Prize 4 Re-donated for future use. Thank you Stubbs Family!

A big thank you to contributors, supporters and all involved in making our Christmas Fund Raiser such a success. I must make mention of the Goodfellow Family who donated a splendid pork roast! All other donors please receive our heartfelt thanks – you know who you are.

A Mother’s Day Raffle is in the planning so can we say thank you in advance for your support!

Yes, we still need your help – we now have to concentrate on the Museum interior!

On behalf of President Bill, the Executive and Members, I have pleasure in wishing one and all a happy and safe Easter and all best wishes for the future.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary-Treasurer 25/2/2019
CLAUDETTE’S CORNER.

Welcome to 2019 and hope you all had a very Happy Christmas. We had a very happy time. Christmas day was spent at David and Kylie’s [2nd daughter] home, they had all the family their and all our grandchildren including our new great grandson Aiden Wayne and his proud brother Lewis, and sister Violet, and proud dad and mum Daniel and Breanna. How lucky are we?

Between Christmas and New Year I opened the Museum for visitors, some had come for the holidays and like to visit where they grew up and reminisce over early school days at Moonbi. Kym Hyson called in from Brisbane on her way to visit relations in Tamworth. Kym left books on the history of her grandfather Victor Hyson whose family lived here in the 1900’s for the Museum records. Then there was a woman from New Zealand who had come to Sydney to have Christmas with her family, she had heard about the Museum some time ago. The family bought her up looking for the history on the Orman and Weaver families.

I am very happy with the number of visitors to the Museum, last weekend over the two days we would have had at least 40 visitors, including members of the Tamworth and District Antique Car Club.

CLAUDETTE

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Tamworth Regional Council News

Honour for Museum Committee

Moonbi Museum Committee was among the community groups honoured at the recent Tamworth Senior Citizens Awards.

Bill Humphrys (pictured far right with other certificate recipients) accepted the Committee’s certificate from Deputy Mayor Phil Betts at the recent awards ceremony at Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall.

The Moonbi Museum Committee received a Certificate of Appreciation for its members’ efforts to preserve memorabilia, photos and history from the inception of Moonbi to the present day. The citation on the certificate recognised the committee’s efforts in overseeing the completion of recent extensions to the museum. The now “finished” museum will be celebrated with a Return to Moonbi event later in 2019.

Festival a taste sensation

The Taste Tamworth Festival is the premier food event on the region’s annual calendar, highlighting our growers, makers, chefs and diners through 10 days of events.

In 2019, Taste runs from Friday, 5 April to Sunday, 14 April and tickets are now on sale.

The events include Taste in the Park, Pop-Up on Fitzroy, The Long Lunch, High Tea in the Gardens and many other events and dining experiences.

For a full rundown of Taste Tamworth 2019 events, see www.destinationtamworth.com.au/taste-tamworth-festival
Nominate a good sport

If you know a good sport in your neighbourhood, you're encouraged to nominate them for the Tamworth Regional Sports Awards.

The achievements of players, coaches and administrators in 2018 will be recognised at the presentation on Thursday, 4 April 2019.

Nominations for efforts made between 1 January and 31 December, 2018 are being accepted until Thursday 21 March, 2019.

The 2018 Tamworth Regional Council Sports Award categories include:

- Individual Awards
- Sport Team Awards
- Coaching Awards
- Development and Achievement Awards

Geoff Sharpe (pictured right) was among the winners at the 2017 Tamworth Regional Council Sports Awards. He was named Senior Coach of the Year in recognition of his hat-trick of premierships with Kootingal Moonbi Rugby League Club’s Ladies League Tag Team.

For more information about all the categories, to nominate an athlete, coach or club, visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/sportsawards or call Council's customer service team on 6767 5555.

Water Patrols about

Moonbi, like other communities across the Region, is getting regular visits from Council’s Water Restriction Patrol vehicles.

The patrols are visiting different locations in the region at various times of the day to check residents are following the Water Restrictions rules. On the spot fines of $220 may be issued for breaches.

With Moonbi receiving its water as part of the Tamworth Water Supply, it currently has Level 3 Water Restrictions in place.

To find out more about water restrictions across the Tamworth region visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/water-restrictions or contact council on 6767 5555. To report a breach of restrictions in your neighbourhood simply use the MY TRC app.
It’s easy to wonder if we’ve done something to deserve this dry and hard time, if God has forgotten us, or if God is even there?! The good message Jesus brought to the world is God is always there, and willing to help us when we come to him.

We’ve just come from serving Walgett and Collarenebri where the drought has been set in for 6 years. We saw one crop in that time (2016). My name is Tory and I’m the new Vicar of the Anglican Church in Moonbi and Kootingal (Parish of Cockburn Valley). With my wife Jo and kids Jacob and Annika, we are glad to be here. But, to be honest, we were hoping to have left the drought behind us out west.

I spent a lot of time having a cuppa with graziers, farmers, and local business owners lamenting this drought. I think we all know a lot of the help that’s been promised isn’t getting through. It’s hard to access and hard to be eligible.

It’s very Australian to treat authority with suspicion, fear, or doubt they are there to help us. We need to be careful we don’t treat God this way, because Jesus taught us to come to him as Father, ‘Our Father in heaven.’

In fact, the Bible tells us that God made us to be dependent on him. We get so busy it’s easy to forget him. We are naturally cautious of trusting other people because we have been let down or betrayed so many times. Life can cause us to be self-reliant, and to even start thinking self-reliance is a virtue. Yet, God wants us to come to him in reliance on him. Sometimes it takes hard times to remind us of this. That’s what he made us for, and that’s what prayer is.

Prayer is depending on God as our Father, by asking him for help. Depending on God means trusting in his timing and his plans. That’s not always our timing and plans!!! But he wants us to cast our cares on him knowing that he controls the future and has a good plan in Jesus. God promises that for all who call on him as Father, he is with them. They are not alone in their struggles and pains.

Prayer is also thanking God, but that’s just another way of recognising who he is and that we need him to survive.

Prayer works because his Son came to earth to make it possible. Jesus, the Son of God, not only came to teach us how to pray but also made access to God possible. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Through Jesus, we can pray to God anytime, anywhere, about anything.

Prayer is accessible to anyone any time. No red tape or confusing paperwork. And everyone is eligible (no asset testing!). Can I encourage you to give Him a go?! Don’t forget there are many people who want to help you. Anglican Aid is offering drought assistance. That might help to pay some bills, groceries and medication, or put toward feed. You can call Anglican Aid directly (02) 9284 1406 or me on 6760 3361 / 0407 466 459, or shoot an email to tory.cayzer@gmail.com

And, if you just want a cuppa to talk with someone, I’m always available… black with no milk or sugar thanks!

God bless, Tory Cayzer (Anglican Parish of Cockburn Valley).
MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE

The revamped septic toilet system for the property was commissioned on 14th November 2018, in good time for the Country Music campers occupation. There are other improvements planned for the Hall area but more on this at a later date.

Kootingal Motor Club will once again hold their event March 8 – 10 and this is always well supported.

Information on Hiring – Availability and Rates may be obtained by phoning the Booking Officer, Karin Thompson, on 6760 3580.

She will be pleased to assist you and arrange an obligation free inspection of the premises if required.

On behalf of President Graham, Executive and Members it is my pleasure to wish all a happy and safe Easter.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary, MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE
25/2/2019

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Moonbi Art Group

Our art members have been working on a number of personal projects at this time of the year. There have been a number of absences from the group with family and friends visits over the festive season but we will be back together soon. In early December some of us were able to attend a special art workshop with a visiting artist, James Waller to try out painting portraits with oils in the manner of the old masters. This was a fascinating experience with James, who comes from Moonbi originally, but now is based in Ireland with his studio works there.

Being part of the art scene around this area is important to us. The last quarter of last year there were a number of art shows in the area. We try to enter these usually with different art works, and the art shows all have quite a different character to each other so are well worth visiting. Uralla art show will be next where we will join others exhibiting fine art work.

The Armidale Gallery, which show the works of members of the New England Art society ltd. has a really good gallery upstairs in the mall near the post office which is open most days 10 to 3. The gallery is manned by volunteers. Some of our members are members of this group, and participate in their members displays. from a wide range of artists and art forms. Over the Christmas period, works by Mary Attard and Janelle Lewis were successful in selling their art. I would recommend this gallery to you as a place with interesting exhibits.

Contact Mary Attard on 0427605092.
KOOTINGAL/MOONBI RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Finally, the weather is cooling down – into the 30s! We have had a very busy couple of months, with fires all over the district, many burning for days and weeks, but at last our members are getting a break. The lower temperatures and some (but nowhere near enough) rain should see an end to the elevated fire danger but, as always, if you are working with welders, grinders, slashers or anything else that can cause a spark, consider the fuel load on the ground, make sure you keep a constant watch for sparks and keep a water supply on hand to douse any fire that may start. 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 prescribed fire season is still with us until at least the end of March, and you will need a permit to light a fire in the open. The Brigade’s Permit Officers are Ken Hawes (0421 727535), Kendall Thompson (0408 203864), Allen Madden (0467 003131) and Stuart Knight (6760 3059). Even when you are issued a permit, you are still required to advise your neighbours 24 hours before you light a fire and always consider the weather conditions before you light up – all permits are automatically revoked when the fire danger gets too high. And always advise the Fire Control Centre in Tamworth (6762 7641) when you light up – that way, if a passing motorist makes a 000 report, they can check it against their records before responding our members.

Unfortunately, if you live within the declared residential areas of Moonbi or Kootingal, as designated by Tamworth Regional Council, the NSW Clean Air Act prohibits you from lighting any fire (other than a cooking fire) 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. You can refer to the maps in the Post Office to find out if your property is in a designated area.

The Brigade competition team of Kendall Thompson, Billy Hartmann and Sean Barton, with a ring-in from Dorrigo Fire & Rescue, travelled to Dubbo in November for the Fire & Rescue NSW State Firefighter Championships. For the second consecutive State Championships, they came 2nd overall, bringing home a swag of trophies and medals. They are now back in training for the Fire & Rescue NSW 2019 competition which starts at Armidale in March.

The 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!
The Kootingal Lions group has had a busy time since last newsletter.

In December we were happy to be the cooks of sausages for the Moonby House Carols by Candlelight celebration. This event was going ahead nicely while we kept a weather eye on large black clouds gathering around us and hoped that they would stay away for a bit longer. However it was not to be and shortly we were engulfed in a sharp storm with wind and rain so it was all hands on deck to move people under cover and batten down the area of our BBQ set up. It was sad to see the Children all dressed to perform, getting wet before they had had their big moment but everyone chipped in to help and although the carols were washed out, some great shared moments were had because of this!

Australia Day has become one of our great fun mornings in Kootingal, we start early before its too hot with a breakfast egg and bacon roll cook up at the war memorial park in Kootingal provided free of charge. After this the fun activities take place. Contestants tried their hand at “flying the rubber thong” looking for distance and accuracy, others were rolling the pumpkin-somewhat assisted by the slope of the land. The winners of these events were awarded prizes and the overall winner having their name placed onto wonderful trophy—a huge rubber and woven wire thong, which you can see in the Kootingal post office.

Lions Clubs through out this area are still offering the need for feed drive to drought affected people. You can apply online or approach any Lions member for forms. We realise that there are many ways for people to be experiencing hardship, and help is available in many forms not just hay bales. Please let us know if you or anyone else you know could use this help.

We will be working with the Tamworth Soccer Club to provide a canteen services for Movies under the stars in February, and in early March will be providing food services for the Motor Club event at Moonbi showground on Saturday and Sunday 9 and 10th of February. We also will be hosting the Region Finals of the Youth of the Year event on 16th March. This will see one deserving youngster go onto the state finals. We will be looking for local youth for our own local “Youth of the year event” later in the year. Please consider this opportunity to suggest and encourage some young person you may know, to enter this event. More details are available online. Just ask any Lion members for more details.

Our plans for the art show in October are well under way. Hope the artists out there are painting, and others considering their plans to buy something delightful or dramatic for their home decoration or as a present.

We welcome all enquires for new members to join our happy group.
IN MEMORY
Robert William Morrison

On 10-2-2019 Robert William Morrison passed away suddenly at his home "Oakley" on the Limbri Road.

Robert was born on 19-07-1939, the only son of George Thomas 'Tony' Morrison (British Empire Medal) and Freda Lucy Mary Morrison (nee Roberts). Tony was a mail contractor and Freda a local school teacher.

About 1954 Robert was apprenticed to Bert Giesberts " Kootingal Motors" opposite the railway station on Limbri Road, then bought his boss out in 1960 before closing the business in 1990. He then worked for Helen and Coke Hayward as their mechanic on their poultry and spraying business and in later years doing all sorts of mechanical repairs in the district.

He was the 'Chev' man and loved working on old vehicles, was a 'Guru' on Ferguson tractors and their differences and made time to be a member of the local fire brigade.

In recent years, he travelled extensively in eastern Australia and also to Alice Springs. His holidays, in earlier years were spent cotton chipping and told many stories of those times and the people he met. He regularly ate at the Caltex servo and can be remembered driving his EK station wagon (pinky) or old chev truck which originally was his tow truck. He had an incredible memory of early Moonbi/Kootingal and loved to go on trips to share his knowledge and locate places of interest in this area, as well as attending motor shows and tractor treks.

We will all miss the kind hearted, generous man, who was a model of humanity and loved by all those around him.

: Warren Skewes

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TAMWORTH DISTRICT MASONIC WIDOWS, LADIES AND ASSOCIATES

Our year commenced with a meeting on Thursday 14th February 2019 at which activities, speakers and functions were determined for the year. We will be trialling a picnic lunch on several occasions in response to a request from several of our members.

Four of our members celebrated the 80 year milestone in recent weeks and joined forces for a celebration dinner which I believe was an occasion to remember. Our good wishes to these valued members.

We meet at the Masonic Centre, Crawford St., East Tamworth on the second Thursday in the month – 9.30 a.m. morning tea, meeting at 10 a.m. then lunch around 12 noon, either self catered at the Centre or eat out at a selected venue. Further information is available from President Diana, 6765 7426 or Secretary Dorothea on 6760 3948.

On behalf of President Diana Cookson, Executive and Members I have pleasure in saying – Have a happy and safe Easter and spare a thought for those less fortunate. Help where and if you can!!

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary 25/2/2019
Old Buildings – by Warren Skewes

Ever wondered about the oldest surviving building in Moonbi? Moonby House circa 1895 comes to mind as well as the Murray/Campbell brick house on the corner of Gill and Thomas Streets named ‘Silverstein’ circa 1912, the Coach and Horses cellar at the corner of Gill and George Streets circa 1856 and the old Post Office/Shop circa 1940 at Gill and Charles Streets with the recently restored Bushell’s sign.

Since October I have been researching a church building, now at Gill and Thomas street which is now the supper room of St Peter’s church.

In 1875, Andrew Rodgers bought land just before Attunga on the eastern side, just adjacent to the Tamworth Manilla road and before the Garthowen Road turn off. Soon after he built a church on that land, approximately 300 meters before Garthowen road and opposite where McKnights now live. Opposite in McKnight’s paddock was a blacksmith shop, the original Attunga school and later a Catholic church. That same land was surveyed in 1863 by B C Filde to include many streets for the Attunga village. Attunga gradually grew on the northern side of Attunga creek, near a railway siding and more out of flood reach. Near the intersection of Attunga creek and the Peel river on the western side was an old river crossing for the Curraububula to Manilla track that bypassed Tamworth.

On the 24th May 1885 about nine years after the first church was built, a new church was built and opened. It was a much larger structure and was known as the Union church, a place where all religious denominations could congregate.

An early recorded wedding on the 6th of the first 1880 was between William Bowden and Rebecca Rowlinson in the old church. Then one large wedding in the new church was between Andrew Rodgers and Lillian Benson with a reception at Attunga Manor. Another was for Charles Moss and Eva Evans with the group alongside the church posing for a photograph on June 9th, 1909.

The Manilla Express and Tamworth Daily Observer reported on many gatherings there and of ministers “Youngerman” and “Colwell” officiating at services during the 1888 to 1927 period.

Around 1927 the church building was moved to Garthowen and became St Mark’s Church. Then 1958-60 period it was again moved to Thomas and Gill Streets intersection and became the supper room for St Peter’s church.

I have found many ornate copper artefacts as well as broken wine and beer bottles and very thick porcelain from the 1880’s era, at the original site. So a good time must have been had by the parishioners. The church land at Attunga was first surveyed on the first of the eleventh 1892 and recorded on the 3rd of the twelfth 1892 with a group of six as joint trustees. It had a two-rail timber fence surrounding the boundary. Three large trees survive at the site. It has now been resurveyed and fenced and will be called “Reunion”.

Moving the building to Garthowen and then to Moonbi would have been an immense project, considering the vehicles of the 1920s (or horse teams) and by more modern means in the late 1950’s.

I would like to hear from anyone with more information or photographs, or who may have shifted the building.

Reference Sources:
THE HISTORY OF ATTUNGA and DISTRICT – Bernie Blanch
A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF TAMWORTH
MOONBI PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY BOOK
MOONBI HISTORY 1882-2007
John McKnight
Joy Ballard

Warren Skewes JP FAlHA
Moonbi – February 2019
**Bill’s Garden Notes**

What gardens you may well ask? It is almost impossible to grow anything at present, with the excess heat and lack of rain. Watering in the heat is of little use to any plant as the water gets hot and causes cooking at the root system and the plants will die. This mostly occurs with hot days. You will have losses if a plant withers just throw it out as the chance of recovering is very slim.

This year has been the best year that I have had for some time growing melons, both rock and water melons. We are still picking them at present. The vines were just loaded. We have been here for 18 years and it is by far the best crop that we have ever had, which is a bit hard to explain why in such a dry, hot time.

The only thing that I can put it down to is preparation where holes were dug approx. 2ft deep and filled with well rotted compost and some horse manure, then kept well watered. This is most important as the fruit is forming and through until ripening. As the melons ripen, water can be reduced as too much can cause mould and bottom rot where the melons come in contact with the ground.

My tomatoes this year were a complete failure, plants just died from the bottom up and had to be pulled out. The previous two years were very good and I would be very interested if someone could tell me why this has happened and is there anything that could be done to prevent this occurring in the future?

The roses are just surviving at present, I’ve had quite a few losses even with good care and watering, so there is not much more that one can do. Dead heading is important when plants are under stress, also cutting back any excess growth will help. I don’t think putting lots of manure around the base of the roses is a good idea, as this tends to hold the heat of the day. A very light application would be the best idea.

If you intend to sow winter plants, weather permitting, it is now time to prepare the soil for later planting. Digging deeply and adding manures and compost. This gives it time to settle and for you to turn the soil several times. This distributes the compost through out the soil which is good for the root systems of the plants. Keeping the soil moist is also a good practice. I don’t think it is a good idea to plant too early as a lot of plants like cool soil. If we get a warm Autumn the plant growth will be very slow. This in some cases results in stunted plants and flowers will not be what they should be.

Indoor plants also have been very good this year, despite the heat, Rex begonias have been outstanding. We have a good selection of plants at present and tuberous begonias are starting to flower now that the intense heat has gone.

In these days of small blocks of land to build on, it is a wonder that some of the upmarket homes haven’t included a conservatory as part of their living area. Not just a lean to out one side of the house. With the cooling and heating systems that are available today, a conservatory could be built as part of the home, no doubt costs would be a factor, but a home with a conservatory would be worth more. They are very popular in England and this could well be the case in Australia.

Living plants have a soothing affect on people after a stressful day at work. To sit amongst indoor plants gives a calming feeling and a small water feature also helps as the sounds of moving water adds to the atmosphere of the area as one sits down with a cup of tea or a cold drink. I know that some will say that having green plants, has no effect on relieving stress, but trials have been done on this area and certain results have been good.

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**Want 1/2 or whole pork pigs for your freezer?**

**We could even organise to have some of that delicious pork cured as ham or bacon**

**Contact James on 0428 668 180 for more information**
Kootingal CWA News

Our Monthly Meeting was held on February 11th in the Kootingal Memorial Hall. President Pam welcomed Members back after their Christmas break.

Arrangements are well underway for the Cookery/Handicraft day to be held at the Kootingal Memorial Hall on Monday 25th March. Our guest speaker has been arranged to talk on honey, a product of study this year.

For our Ladies who make trauma teddies and knitted toys we now have our own filling on hand for you to use, thanks to the Lion’s Club for their donation.

Phillip Group sponsor Education Awards and we are pleased to announce that a grant has been given to Ebonie Wood to help her with her year 7 studies.

International report, Anne presented her report after attending the Dubbo study seminar on Papua New Guinea, which was very interesting. Handicraft Officer Beryl needs more craft ideas and we need more cat items for competition.

Kathy spoke on honey, which is a major export item for Australia. Honey is actually heavier than water and has lots of vitamins, so is a very good natural product.

We are organizing a cake stall outside the Kootingal IGA Store on Saturday morning 13th April, and we are also having a Mother’s Day raffle. We would like donations of goodies, please bring them to our next Meeting.

Unfortunately we have not had any good rainfall in our District for our farmers but hope that autumn may bring some welcome rain.

Our next meeting will be held in the Kootingal Memorial Hall on Monday 11th March at 10 am. Cuppa at 9-30am.

Pat Hardwick Publicity Officer.

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Moonbi Service Station

NRMA Road Service Agent

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Glenn Michell
Phone 6760 3132

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Andrew Barber Transport

Owner/Driver
M: 0427 213 285
E: andrewbarbertransport@hotmail.com.au
PO Box 62
"Anderwood"
53 Back Limbri Rd
Moonbi NSW 2363

- Livestock Transport
- 22ft, 2x1 Non Bruise Float
- Hay Cartage
- All General Cartage
- Hydraulic Auger Bin
- Portable Grain Auger
- Auger Hire

"Your Friendly Reliable Service"
MOONBI
MASONIC VILLAGE
Self Care Units

We offer a range of units at affordable prices. RFBI retirement villages offer safe, comfortable, independent living for over 55s, in a warm and welcoming environment.

You're free to enjoy the communal barbeque area as well as crafts, recreation activities and functions held in the historic Coach House.

If you would like to have a tour of our village, please contact Lisa on 02 6766 0400

The Village also offers all residents maintained gardens and a village bus.

Masonic Villages
It's how to live...
Moonbi Masonic Village is set on 52 acres overlooking the Moonbi Ranges.

And across to Kootingal. They provide 33 Self Care Units which some are available for sale and some for rent. They have a mix of one and two bedroom units.

The Village has a bus service that operates down to Kootingal, some residents catch the bus together to go for a cuppa and others to play Bingo and for company at the Kootingal Bowling Club. Residents also have a monthly meeting in the old historic Coach House where a lovely afternoon is provided. It’s a nice time to catch up for a chat and to share some company.

The residents also catch up for regular coffees and love to spend time in their gardens when the weather allows. Their maintenance crew does all the hard work, including mowing, whipper snippering and also general maintenance.

The residents also use the RFBI Village buses to do monthly bus trips, they have travelled to Nundle for lunch and a scenic drive, just one destination. Every Sunday church services are held in the Coach House and a lovely morning tea is provided as well as a nice hot cuppa.

SUMMERS IGA Phone 0267603204
5 Denman Ave Kootingal NSW 2352
Open 7 days Monday to Saturday 6.30am to 7.30pm; Sunday 7am to 7.30pm

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
HELLO FROM JEAN’S ORPHANAGE: This heat has been hard to take as I am sure you will all agree, it is especially tough on the animals, but with any luck it has nearly ended and we will all have an easier time and with any luck plenty of rain.

I have had a very sad week with the death of my two year old terrier cross bitten by a nasty brown snake. It must have been very potent and she died quite quickly. I did get her into the vets but unfortunately her heart could not cope, a very sad time indeed as she was so young. I did see a baby brown snake earlier, in fact it went over my shoe, luckily I did not move when I felt something, it then continued. I found out later that the young snakes are very vicious and just keep biting so maybe Rosie encountered one.

I have had a very busy time rehoming, it is like a revolving door here at times, which is good as I can keep filling the pens with little dogs that are homeless. They have all gone to good homes and I have made a lot of people happy, which is what I like to do.

At present I have a very large puppy, he is a Mastiff x Great Dane and only 19 weeks old but as big as my cattle dog. Paddy is a very placid dog and I have encouraged him to be a very gentle boy and he is really good with other dogs plus puppies and cats. He is just a big whooze and needs a home that will continue keeping him gentle and a kind dog so he will have a lovely long life with an understanding family. No small children although he gets on with children really well. Please give me a ring if you can give Paddy a home..........named after Paddy Ryan !!!!!!

I also have a Jack Russell female only 6 months old, she is a lovely little girl and would appreciate a long walk a day and gets on with other dogs. Next I have 2 Pomeranians x Shitzu puppies, one male and one female, they are pretty little dogs and full of life. Also, 2 terriers one male and one female they are only approx 1 year old, they are only little dogs. I have a puppy which is a mystery package, heaven only knows what she is, I rescued her from really bad conditions and she would have died if left there even for a couple of days. She was starving, full of worms and frightened out of her wits, she is really fit and active now, she is wormed, vaccinated and has a lovely full tummy and actually putting on weight, I do not have a clue how big she will grow but she will never be a big dog, she just have HUGE ears.

If anyone is interested in any of these dogs please phone me and I can fill you in, I also have a cat which is about 5 months old now, I have had her desexed etc as I did not want her pregnant so she is ready to go.

I keep getting calls re kittens that have been bred and now they cannot find homes for them, I had three calls on Friday alone. I try to impress on folk to get your cats and dogs desexed, there are a huge amount of kittens and puppies around, especially kittens. One woman said ‘what right did I have asking people to desex their cats’ as a rescue person I reckon I have every right as myself and a few others who care for these poor unwanted animals get very tired of picking up yet another dumped animal who, with no fault of theirs find themselves on the street or pound and hope they get rescued.

Well that is all I have for this quarter and hopefully all these orphans that cross my path get rehomed in a short time.

HAPPY WALKING. Jean Medlock........................67605931. 0428 261573
Moonbi Public School

K1 CLASS 2019
5 excited new Kindergarten students started at big school this year. Joining the K1 class they have settled in amazingly well. I imagine the kinder students and Mrs. Harris, although very tired, will have been bursting over last few weeks with excitement from their new experiences.

2019 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
I would like to introduce our 2019 Student Leaders to our educational community. Our leadership team is made up of the two School Captains and four Vice-Captains. Each school leader is responsible for leading a Legacy Project team. Legacy projects have been introduced to give students a stronger voice, sense of ownership and a greater feeling of belonging.

Each team will choose a project of their choice to improve the school for future students, hence leaving behind a legacy for future generations to aspire towards. The projects will also develop real life leadership skills that will not only prepare them for high school but also for the workforce. Skills such as project management, promotion, financial management, record keeping will be some of the many skills they will all learn.

I am very proud to introduce our School Leadership Team, Jack Casey, Giselle Slater, Tyler Townsend, Summer Forster, Corie Forsyth and Chloe Johnson.

NEW STAFF
Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Ellie Parker and Daniel Sharman to our teaching team this term.

Ellie comes to us from the 2/3 class at Junee Public School and is very excited to be teaching our 2/3 Class. Ellie is joining family in Moonbi and I have no doubt will be a wonderful addition to our community.

Daniel has returned home to Tamworth after teaching at Woolooware PS for the past 2 years before heading overseas next term. We are very grateful to Daniel for stepping in until Ellie could take on the 2/3 Class. Daniel will oversee sport and professional learning release this term.

2/3 CLASS 2019

4/5/6 CLASS 2019
It's a beautiful last day of Summer and there is a coolness in the air as it moves along with the slight morning breeze. A king parrot has a morning drink from one of the bird baths and a flock of parrots flies noisily overhead. A can hear the blue wrens and that familiar call of the eastern spinebill. A magpie warbles in the distance and one of our dogs is munching on a bone at my feet. It is quiet and peaceful. An absolutely gorgeous morning.

We have discussed the ongoing drought and lack of rain, though some have been lucky to be under pockets of storms. Last week we had one of these quick storms. 20ml of rain, which was much welcome, small hail and a ferocious wind that lasted for around six minutes. We lost quite a few endemic wattles and small trees in and around the garden were twisted and torn. It took Shaun and I four hours to clear up and chainsaw the timber on Friday. It was all over in around half an hour. Neighbours further along the road had no rain.

Even though we are heading into Autumn where it is usually such a busy time in the garden, preparing seedlings for planting and scratching loose the mulch around the garden beds, there is still some things that can be done throughout the drought. I thought we could discuss this and bust a few native plant myths.

Autumn is a lovely time in the garden. This year I will be continuing to weed the beds, I will be feeding with dynamic lifter and blood n bone as well as slow release fertiliser. Then I will water in well. We are lucky enough to still have a spring running into our well. We have been very conservative with this and I make sure I water deeply with a handheld hose on most of the smaller plants and use the sprinklers for around 20 minutes on the larger plants. I am mulching with a thin layer of straw. I am doing this for two reasons: 1 – to improve the nutrient levels in the garden soil and 2 – to have a light covering to suppress weeds and to keep in what moisture the beds may receive.

One thing that I really need to do is to get my compost working better. My beds being a granite soil, really need this organic matter to improve the beds overall, soil structure and plant growth. I am determined to do this across all beds whilst they are so sparse, before I replant out the beds. There are several ways this can be done and I am going to try a few different methods. I will let you know what works best in our situation.

Native Plant Myth 1 – NATIVE PLANTS DON’T NEED WATER

Whilst native plants have evolved to withstand long periods of dry, once established, most native plants can survive these times, however, if you want your plant to not just survive but thrive, you do need to water them. Regular deep watering. If you are able to keep water up to them either once a week for smaller plants, fortnightly or monthly, they will survive to flower another day. There are some very large plants that have not watered much at all eg: mostly the Hakeas, but other plants I try to water weekly, others fortnightly etc. I have still lost many plants though, as no amount of watering replaces a good drop of rain.

Native Plant Myth 2 – NATIVE PLANTS DON’T NEED FERTILISER

Many plants can grow reasonably well in very infertile soils, however to reach a plants full flowering potential, there are several species that benefit from feeding regularly and at the correct time. A good quality low phosphorous native plant fertiliser is ideal.

Native Plant Myth 3 – NATIVES DON’T REQUIRE PRUNING

If you want your plants to be at their best, prune! Some right from the start, tip pruning regularly and others after flowering and larger shrubs, to shape and tidy. For tip pruning, you can do this as you wander by. Just pinch out the tips with your fingers. This will result in a bushy, tight shrub that will produce many flowers. Bottlebrushes, grevilleas and tea trees etc respond well to pruning after flowering, behind the spent flower heads, this encourages new growth which the following season’s flowers are produced on. Which in turn gives you a plant abundant with flowers.

It is tough at the moment and many plants are struggling and not flowering at their best, but we can do as much as we can for them by, improving the soil in which they grow, watering deeply, pruning them back and learning from this difficult time. It is disheartening at the moment and there are community members amongst us that are doing it tough, be kind to everyone, smile and make their day. Invite a neighbour into your garden for a cuppa or a glass of a lovely beverage, have a chat and a laugh, it may just make a word of difference to them. I hope that we get some rains soon and they fall gently on our garden beds and fill the tanks steadily right to the top. Embrace this wonderful season, observe your garden and learn from it all.
Out and About with the Social Sleuth

Get Well Wishes – To anyone on the sick list, recovering from operations or undergoing other treatments, our thoughts and good wishes are with you. One who comes to mind is Eileen Nelson, who is recovering from a broken foot and also awaiting a knee replacement – TBH is becoming a second home! Thinking of you Eileen.

Best wishes also to our young people who have moved onto high school, further education or entry into the work force. Good luck in whatever you are undertaking and please keep us posted on your new ventures. We are proud of our Moonbi youngsters and enjoy hearing how life is treating you.

Best Wishes – Welcome to any newcomers to our village. We do not always get to know who you are, but would love to say hello, so please feel free to pop into our museum and meet the volunteers or give the editors Lee or Joy a call and they will arrange to meet up for a cuppa and a chat. We are pleased you have chosen Moonbi as your new home.

Recently ran into former Moonbi resident Adele McGaffin (nee Streeiting). Del is very gifted musically and taught a few local young people before her marriage, since then she has been a member of the Tamworth Choral Society for many years and hardly ever misses one of their performances, despite her failing eyesight and no longer able to read the music. She told me that her very first stage appearance was as a very young school girl in the Moonbi Hall!

Pay it Forward - Recently a friend was telling me about something nice a stranger had done for her whilst she was out shopping – a little while later one of her own ‘do good’ stories came out. On Christmas Day she was driving out to the Lawn Cemetery and noticed an old Kombi Van pulled into the rest area along that stretch of the Gunnedah Road. Sitting or standing around it were half a dozen little children and one parent, a mother. She felt sad that here it was Christmas Day and there was no sign of Christmas cheer, no toys, no laughter and no visible food laden table. So, she went home and filled a shopping bag with fruit left over from her freshly made fruit salad, a Christmas cake she could do without and a regifted box of chocolates and coaxed her daughter to go back out with her for moral support. Yes, the gifts were happily accepted, smiles all round and even a hug around her ample waist from one little boy......

Another young girl noticed an elderly lady who she knew slightly, fuelling up her car, very slowly and keeping an eye on the mounting dollars. It was just after Christmas and this young girl, knew the old dear had to watch her pennies so she went over and gave her a hug and quietly went in and paid the bill. I hope she too has something nice done for her somewhere down the track.

Yet another feel good story..........our own co-editor Lee, has been on a very commendable mission of her own. One of her childhood friends, now living in Adelaide, has been under going cancer treatment and doing it tough. So Lee, sensing help and moral support was needed, dropped everything and has spent the last two months with Angela in Adelaide, sitting with her during chemo sessions at the hospital and generally being the good friend we all know she is. Good on you Lee!!
An update on our local young people in the snowfields of Canada

Canada - Assessippi Ski fields- Alina Ditchfield Goor

Alina is feeling the contrast to Australia at the moment, she is freezing!! When the weather drops to a very cold minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, they shut the lifts and only the carpets work! Minus 40 degrees is the same temperature in both scale and I'm sure Alina would agree is very very cold. Alina is living in The Inglis Hotel Manitoba Canada. She drives about 10 km to the Assessippi Ski Resort Area where she works as a Ski and Snowboard Instructor. It is a small resort with 3 chairs lifts. She teaches School Groups called Ski League and she also teaches the juniors in care or day groups called Assessippi Aces. She has also done individual and groups lessons. She has had lots of requests and seems popular.

One day she was the crash test dummy for a handicap ski chair. She said she really enjoyed it although she was out of control because she was all strapped in as you can see in the picture.

She has made lots of friends and appears to be dating her first Canadian boyfriend Tyler!! She has had Root Beer which she described as a sarsaparilla drink. And the National Dish Poutine is fried potato covered with gravy and melted curded cheese.

Canada – Alberta- Lincoln Williams

Lincoln's time in Canada has been a great learning experience for him; he is living and working in Jasper, Alberta Canada which is a 7 hour bus trip from Calgary. Jasper has a population of around 5000 local's in the winter, but this increased to close to 20,000 plus in the summer. It is way too cold for the locals in the winter.

Lincoln's job is as a Lift operator or Lifty as they are called in the Winter months, he would start his day in the dark and end his day in the dark, example in January the sun rose at 9.00 am and set a 4.45, the days are getting longer now.

Earlier in the season Lincoln got to see a Lynx on the mountain, a cat which is rarely seen in the wild, they can grow up to 100 long and 50 cm tall, awesome creature.

There was a huge cold snap a few weeks ago and Lincoln took the opportunity to see what he could freeze, as it turns out, if you jump in a hot Jacuzzi, wet your hair and shake it in the cold, it will freeze.

Lincoln is returning home in May, something we and his girlfriend Abby is looking forward too.
We are excited to be back in full swing as we head into 2019 with many new families joining our preschool community. One of the highlights of this term so far, has been the development of our garden area thanks to an Early Childhood Environment Grant. Our preschool children have been delighted to explore and investigate new and inviting areas. We look forward to autumn when the weather cools down a touch so that we can complete our garden transformation with trees and plants.

If you have a child aged between 3 and 5 years and are interested in joining our wonderful little preschool community, please feel free to give us a call and speak to Kim or Bec. Alternatively, feel free to pop in for a visit and we can chat with you about your child and your family needs, and also give you a tour of our service.

Kootingal and District Preschool Inc
Lot 21 Chaffey Street,
Kootingal 2352
Phone: 0267603861
kooti_preschool@bigpond.com

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Storage units available:
Large: 1.0m x 3.6m
Medium: 0.7m x 5.2m
Small: 0.5m x 3.6m

CARAVAN  FURNITURE
Yachts  Cars  Helicopters etc.

STORAGE
Moonbi - Kooty
PH: 6766 3399 Century21

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MOONBI LOOKOUT

When you’re out and about
It’s well worth a climb
At any time
The view is breathtaking
Think of the making
Those hard-working men up above
Without gloves did a mighty job.
Their hands never empty
With blisters a-plenty
Built during the depression in 1938
Those men never late
They built it together
In all kinds of weather
The hard toil
On the soil
All made by hand made it so grand
With picks and shovels
And crow bars, the lot
All used on the spot
A beautiful plot
We have the lot.

We will be out
To look about
They came and they went
But mixed no cement
So to ease our pain
We rang once again
And a voice said
Press this button
And press that button
and with all the commotion
we hadn’t a notion
again a voice spoke
which again was no joke

Moonbi Lookout will be 80
We will be celebrating
A date to remember
The 25th of September
Council said the rocks
Will be replaced
We very much appreciate
Your hard slog
An almighty job
A great big Thank You
To the hard-working men
We did it for them
a picnic is our choice
we just need a voice
we will gather together
no matter the weather
we will enjoy the day
whatever we play
the lookout is there
for all to enjoy

PLEASE DON’T DESTROY

Noreen Maher July 2018
FRIENDS OF THE MOONBI LOOKOUT

The movers and shakers for improvements to the Moonbi Lookout have now gone a step further and formed a committee known as “Friends of the Moonbi Lookout”, with a management committee as follows:
Chairperson – Colleen Easterman
Secretary – Peter Ullman
Publicity Officer – Annette Miller
Sub-committee – Clarrie Betts and Lynne Maher.

The group held their first meeting in Moonbi on Sunday 3rd February 2019, and plan to have regular meetings on the last Saturday of every second month, commencing with the next meeting to be held on

27th April 2019 at the Kootingal Bowling Club commencing at 3:00 pm.
Anyone with an interest in the Lookout are welcome to attend.

The group agreed that their main charter would be:
1. To pursue all avenues, open to returning the facility to as close as possible to its original condition,
2. To liaise and co-operate with Tamworth Regional Council regarding maintenance requirements,
3. To consider all potential fund-raising possibilities in order to work with Council and other authorities regarding possible improvement projects.

Council has been advised of the formation of the group, and they have advised that they will contact us in due course following input from various Council officers.

The group also has an informal get-together for lunch at the Longyard Hotel in Tamworth at 12:00 noon on the last Friday of every month, (except December and January), and once again, all interested people are welcome to join in.

Further information can be obtained from Peter Ullman on 0427 851 026.

Editors note: there is a photo of the lookout on top of the Big Bolder on the front of the newsletter.
Financial assistance and food vouchers are available through your local Anglican Church for any drought-affected members of the community.

Please contact Koolingal & Mooball Anglican Church, Minister Tony Cayzer on 0407 466 459 or 6760 3361, or the Diocese of Armidale Office on 6772 4491 to find out more and to request assistance.