MOONBI NEWSLETTER

Moonbi Museum Committee

March 2017

Autumn Edition
MOONBI MUSEUM PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Here we are once more, Welcome to our first newsletter for 2017.

By now I hope you are all over the Christmas, New Year, Country Music Festival and settling down to normal life whatever that may be.

Boy has this extreme spell of HOT weather been hard to put up with as well as the severe storms we have been experiencing which have caused an amount of damage around the area as well as starting some bad fires around the State, I do hope it won't last for much longer however there doesn't seem to be any relief in sight yet.

At the Museum we are preparing to start on Stage 3 of the Museum extensions and by hopefully by the end of 2017 or early 2018 we will be finished stage 4 and have a Building we will be very proud of for a long time to come.

Good Health till next Time.

Bill Humphrys.

President.

Claudette's Corner.

I was thinking what to write for my News Letter, I can talk but write, that is another story.

Moonbi like all little villages has through the years special characters and one has just walked past the front of our home with his little mate from school. Yes Bob looked as proud as punch. Bob is a collector of someone's junk but for him they are treasures.

The Museum had a quiet time over the holiday period, I don't think the hot weather helped. Last weekend bought many visitors, both Saturday and Sunday locals and travellers, it was a very interesting weekend.

We have my friend Pam from Sydney staying at the moment, Pam and I worked together down there before we were married. Pam and her family of 3 girls and our 4 girls walked and took picnic lunches, we have many happy memories of walking the creeks and the hills up Gaol Creek Rd.

Until next time.

Claudette
Editorial

Hello Everyone

Well 2017 has got off to a “Flying start”- can you believe here it is March already!

From all accounts the past three months have been busy ones for most of you, and looks like being a continuing trend. We have most of our regular contributors on deck again this issue, with news of up-coming events, community meetings, etc. - If you have any spare time I am sure they would welcome your input.

We too would love to have your contributions. I know we have many talented people here at Moonbi, so how about sharing some of your experiences or expertise?

Fresh ideas can only make a better and brighter newsletter.

A happy and healthy 2017 to you all

And happy reading

- Joy Ballard 67603170
- Lee Rodger 67603993

please send emails to lrodger5@bigpond.net.au
MOONBI MUSEUM COMMITTEE

GREETINGS

Here we are again! The festive season and Country Music Festival have been and gone and are fast fading into memory. The new year is speeding on its way and Easter is on the horizon.

December Gift of Time Ceremony at the Tamworth Community Centre saw our Museum Manager, Mrs. Claudette Humphrys, being presented with a Certificate for 1952 volunteer hours contributed by our members. Well done, team!!

Moonbi Art Group have conducted two art shows in the Museum grounds during 2016 and these days were well received and most entertaining. Once again, well done all who were involved!!

Our Annual Dinner was held at the Kootingal Hotel and was well attended. A very pleasant evening! Thats it for 2016.

President, Bill, will have mentioned the next stage of the Museum extensions, set to commence fairly soon.

The Fund Raising Co-ordinator, Mrs. Joy Ballard, will be asking for your help once again. This is your Museum and your community asset – please help if you can.

Committee meets on the second Tuesday in the month – 7 p.m. at the Museum. Visitors are most welcome.

I know Easter is not till April but on behalf of our Committee I would like to wish one and all a happy and safe Easter break.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary

Moonbi Museum Christmas Raffle Results


Hat Rack- won by Daniel – Kootingal
Laser Tag Voucher- won by Julie Schmit -Qld
Rego Check- won by Kevin Forbes -Kootingal
“Dinofert” Fertilizer - won by Ross Thorneycroft - Kootingal
“Sophie Blue Dog Treats” -won by Robyn McDonal d- Tamworth
Caltex Meal Voucher- won by Ann Ware - Tamworth

Thank you for your support and special thanks to the local businesses for donations of prizes -Ray Nelson, Greg Lye (Paintball) Glen Michell, Moonbi Rural, Amanda Lord, and Moonbi Caltex.

A Mothers Day raffle will soon be on sale - so we are once again asking for your support. All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the Museum and the new extension that you will see commencing shortly.
The first regular meeting for 2017 was held at the Moonbi War Memorial Hall last evening 22nd February and was attended by all committee members.

We welcomed back President, Warwick Gadsden, who had been ill but is making a great recovery.

An extract from The President's Report reads follows:-

"I have told the Hall Committee that they are the best Committee I have ever worked with quite a few times, and recently I thanked them for coming forward to continue with some of my responsibilities for the four months I was in hospital and that includes some personal assistance. I was told by them ‘‘Well, we are used to volunteering’’. Even the Kootingal and District Lions Club volunteered to mow my lawns and tidy up at home. The people of Moonbi and around have amazed me!"

W. A. GADSDEN.

Our next meeting will be held at the Hall on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. Phone the Secretary Dorothea Vaux on 6760 3948 if able to attend.

Booking enquiries are directed to Mrs. Karin Thompson on phone 6760 3580. She will be able to answer your queries and arrange an inspection of the premises if required.

On behalf of the Committee it is my pleasure to wish one and all a happy and safe Easter. Watch out for the Easter Bunny!!!

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary

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A Message from Tamworth Region Acting Mayor Helen Tickle

The seasons seem to change so quickly, and before we know it we are now in Autumn. The change in season brings with it a new array of events around our Region.

2017 Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival
The Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival which was held for the first time in 2016 will be on again from Saturday 15 April to Saturday 29 April. The popularity of last year’s event is evident in the increased participation we have seen this year, with over 15 major events plus open days at local museums and historical societies. The foyer of Ray Walsh House will be transformed with a fantastic display of heritage items, including a guessing competition for some weird and wonderful pieces of history. We are lucky to have the Moonbi Museum participating. They will open on Saturday 22 April from 10am to 3pm for anyone wishing to take a look through.

A popular part of the Festival will be Len Water’s Stories Under the Stars event which is a nighttime event at the Tamworth Botanic Gardens. Goonoo Goonoo Station will conduct a walking tour, including internal access to the Stone Store, Chapel, Butchers, School House and Homestead, followed by a ‘tasting’ lunch at the Glasshouse Restaurant. The Tamworth City Library will feature the Goonoo Goonoo Station Oral History Project which includes interviews with past residents or families who are linked to the original Goonoo Goonoo Station. Museums around the Region will also be opening their doors and inviting residents to learn more about our rich history. To find out more information, please visit www.destinationtamworth.com.au/heritagefestival

Nundle Go for Gold Chinese Easter Festival
We also have the Nundle Go for Gold Chinese Easter Festival which is held on Easter Saturday and Sunday (April 15 and 16). The event is the second largest annual festival in Northern Inland NSW, attracting over 16,000 people to the lovely village of Nundle. If you haven’t been to the Festival before, I highly recommend going to peruse the many market stalls, try your hand at panning for gold, and learn more about the significant role of Chinese and European miners and storekeepers in the development of the Nundle and Hanging Rock townships.

Taste Tamworth Festival
The 2017 Taste Tamworth Festival runs from 28 April to 7 May and is a great celebration that highlights our Region’s growers, makers and chefs. This year sees the return of the Taste Pop-Up Bar on Friday 28 April, Taste in the Park on Sunday 30 April and the Farm Gate Trail which will
allows you to take a self drive tour of farms in the Region, meet the farmers and try their amazingly fresh produce.

The Long Lunch is not on this year, instead there is a new twist on this concept. For the first time, a Dinner in White will be held at a secret location, with tickets including transport to and from, a three course ‘long dinner’ and refreshments from local wineries, breweries and distilleries. It should be a great event and is a welcome addition to the Taste Festival.

Many local businesses are getting on board, with the Pig and Tinder Box hosting an ‘eat local’ event, Goonoo Goonoo Station will be holding a degustation night and Tamworth Regional Gallery is having taste cooking workshops. Keep an eye on the website (www.destinationtamworth.com.au) as more events pop up for this great Festival.

I hope you take the chance to enjoy just a few of these amazing opportunities over the coming months and also the cooler change this beautiful season brings upon us.

For information about events in our Region you can visit www.destinationtamworth.com.au or www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au.
KOOTINGAL/MOONBI RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The hot weather continues and, as the fuel load generated by the summer rain dries out, the fire danger remains high. As you know, there have been some very intense fires across the country, some of which are still burning. While lightning has caused many of the fires, others, unfortunately, have been started by human action. Please remember, 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.

Some of our members have been on deployment outside our area, most recently to the Sir Ivan fire which burnt out over 55,000 hectares from Leadville to Cassilis and destroyed houses, sheds, fences and livestock but fortunately no human life was lost.

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 team is back in training for the Fire & Rescue NSW Firefighter Championships. The team, consisting of Kendall Thompson, Allen Madden, Tristan Laurie and Sean Barton, are back in training ready for the 2017 competition which starts at Uralla 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!
KOOTINGAL CWA - February News

Our first meeting for the year occurred on 13th February with many members attending and eager to commence the 2017 activities.

On 6th March Kootingal branch will be hosting the Wanthella group council meeting as well as the group handicraft and cooking day on 20th March. Many members have volunteered to enter cooking items while articles of handicraft are being gathered for judging on the day. Members are encouraged to decorate a hat for the Yarrowitch trophy while the branch project this year is a wall hanging depicting trees.

Our patron, Helen Squires, spoke on the unusual long running heat wave this year as well as an increase in the number of spiders that seem to be crawling around.

Joy Ballard (Ag and Environment officer) spoke on some interesting articles she had found in newspapers including silky chickens, which have black meat, being farmed for the Asian markets and the wonderful workshops being run to encourage young farmers.

In January Anne Maher and Bev Asbury attended the international school in Canberra to learn all about this year’s country of study, Nepal. Nepal is a small country north of India with a population of 31 million. Its capital is Kathmandu, the main religion is Hindu so a caste system still exists and the cow is considered sacred. The monarchy was abolished in 2008 to become a democratic republic; the current president is a woman, Bidhya Devi Bhandari. Nepal still experiences great poverty which was worsened by the 2015 earthquake. It is the gateway to Mt Everest in the Himalayan Mountains.

Our fashion parade will be happening again this year on Saturday 16th September in the Kootingal Bowling Club. Fashions will be by Ali’s Boutique in Tamworth.

This month’s branch raffle was won by Maureen McClelland.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 13th March in Cockburn Cottage at 10am. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Come at 9.30 for a cuppa. For further information please contact President Pam Wright – 67671044 or Secretary Anne Maher – 67603245
Kootingal/ Moonbi Anglican Church

With the term well under way, our regular activities are now up and running again for the year.

Our after school **Kid’s club** has kicked off on Thursday afternoons between 3.30pm and 5pm. We begin with some games then provide afternoon tea for the children. We then have some songs, puppets, story time and finish with a craft activity. All primary age children are welcome and there is no cost.

**Youth group** at Moonbi. This is for high school age every Friday night from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Moonbi Church Hall. Begins with some games, followed by a talk from the Bible and then finishes with some supper.

**Ladies Craft group** meets every Thursday at 10am in the Moonbi Church hall. All ladies welcome.

**Men’s Breakfast**- on the first Saturday of each month 7am-8.30am at the Moonbi Church hall. A chance for blokes to meet and yarn over a hearty breakfast and be encouraged from God’s word.

For anyone who would like to explore the Christian message we have a *Christianity Explained* course which anyone is welcome to do. It runs for 6 weeks for one hour a week. In the course we look at 3 questions; *Who is Jesus?  Why did he come?  and How does my response to Him change my life forever?* The course is free and can be arranged at a convenient time for those wanting to do it.

**Easter** is just around the corner and many will be turning their thoughts to holidays, chocolates and hot cross buns. But we should not overlook the real meaning of Easter; the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What impresses me about the Easter story is that Jesus knew every detail about his death even before it happened, yet he was still willing to go ahead for our sakes. At one time he spoke of his death like this; *The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many*. The ‘Son of Man’ was an expression Jesus often used of himself. A ‘ransom’ is a price a person pays to reclaim something they have lost and of great value to them. Jesus knew that each of us have been lost to God because of our failures to live His way. Jesus also knew that each of us are of great value to God, so valuable in fact, that he was willing to give his own life as the ransom price to buy us back. Only God’s son was good enough to do that for us. And to assure us that he had paid the price in full for our forgiveness, he rose again to life 3 days later. Some people think Jesus was just a great moral teacher. But he was far more than that. He was the one who paid the debt we could not pay, to restore us to our Father in Heaven. I trust that you will know the rich blessings of the true Easter Message this Easter.

**Easter Services :**

*Good Friday -  9.30am St Andrew’s Kootingal*

*Easter Day - 8am St Andrew’s  Kootingal & 10am St Peter’s Moonbi*

For information contact  Rev Allan Beaven   Mob  0425301640
Anglican Cockburn Valley Friendship and Craft Group

Our aim is to have fun, friendship, enjoy a cuppa and share our crafting skills. We do a wide variety of crafts from patchwork, quilting, embroidery, card making, beading plus the occasional folk art and scrap booking.

Colouring in is all the go at present and we are trying our hand at some new projects programme and are having fun with some crayon crafts!!
So far we have made a lantern and at present using fabric crayons to colour in designs to iron onto our fabric

End of year Christmas celebration with a festive fun craft

Yvonne will be sharing a fun way to do cards using buttons for decorations.
Need a new book cover? Robyn will be showing us some beautiful embroidery to enhance your book cover.

"Everytime you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing"
Mother Theresa

We would love for you to come and join us. We meet in the morning tea room at St. Peter’s Church, Moonbi, starting at 10 am. Cost is $1.50 plus cost of craft item.

Contacts:
Robyn Barber 0409 603 499
Liz Bailey 67 696 404
Yvonne Wythes 67 603 446
Melissa Skarinse 67 605 250
THE MOST WONDERFUL WORDS IN THE WORLD.

A mother looks at her new-born baby, and breathes "I love you." A young man gazes upon his girlfriend and says, "I love you." A father cuddles his child and says, "I love you." We long for love. To be loved is indeed a thing most precious and wonderful. And the great thing is that this love envelopes the person so that they know they are held dear. They feel uplifted and precious, giving to all life a real glow and joy. Yet, many in this world don't feel that they are loved. As a result, anxiety, depression, and even fear get a grip on lives, bringing people to despair, with many contemplating suicide. Such is the effect of a lack of love, that life itself seems to be without meaning or purpose. Yet, there is one who loves you.

There us one who said, I have come to give life, and to give it in abundance, to make sense of it all, and make it all worthwhile. Jesus Christ came to reveal to us all that. God, the creator of all life, is a God of love. God himself tells us, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Not a love that is here to-day, and gone to-morrow. Lasting, true-love, that lasts for eternity. How do we know this? We know that God so loved the world, (that's you and me) that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. Here is love, here is great hope. It is through Jesus Christ that we are saved from misery, and lifted up to a joyful life, filled with the love we desire so much, by the God who created us. Love comes from God, for God is love. He has shown his love for us, because he sent his son into the world that we might live through him. Here is real love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. We love him, because he first loved us.

What does it mean, that Jesus was the propitiation for our sins? God is truly just and exacting in differentiating between right and wrong. He does, and will punish what is wrong. We ignore, and disobey God's laws for right living. We ignore and disobey God, our Creator, therefore we deserve punishment. But because God so loved us, our penalty was paid by another for us, in full. That is, Jesus Christ was sacrificed on a cross by the very people he was dying for, to satisfy God's righteous demand that our sins must be dealt with.

This is what we celebrate at Easter - the forgiveness of our sins, the removal of all guilt. God's chastisement was laid on his shoulders, instead of ours. That is why we accept Jesus Christ as our only Saviour. That is why we know the most wonderful words in the world are said to us, "I love you," says God.

Will you not accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and experience his love to-day? You are loved and precious in his sight.

Gordon Dandie,
Pastor at Scots Presbyterian Church, Moonbi.

Moonbi Art Group

Moonbi Art group is a meeting of art inspired people who come together to enjoy their painting and to support each other’s artistic endeavors. We have just begun the year again meeting at one of the members houses on Wednesday mornings.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our group – please contact Mary Attard 67605092.
Our thanks go to all those who assisted in our Art show in November 2016, and those who came to see our display. We hope to have our next display in Oct or November this year.
LIONS CLUB OF KOOTINGAL & DISTRICT  PO Box97 Kootingal 2352.

At our meeting on 21st February 2017 we had the pleasure of hosting the Crosby family, 4 generations and what a great night to hear their story about how they began their music and the places it has taken them. The Crosby Sister, Dad and Daughters all sung the we had the young ones do their story and hear from Ethan who is a talented song writer. We also inducted Lee into the Club and presented her with the Centenary Membership Badge and Certificate to Lions International and diner Badge for this Club.

We invited all clubs from our Region 5 area to join in the fun of the night on 21st and we welcomed Bingara, Nundle, Willow Tree, Tamworth, Peel Valley, Lions On Oz clubs and the members who made the special effect to be part of this meeting. Some 58 Lions in attendance and a great night and chatter and fellowship was enjoyed. Special congratulation go to Lions Warwick Gadsden, Eric Murray and Paul Nagle who have received 20 year Monarchs Awards for their service to Club and community. Lion Norm Maher has been award the 15 year Monarch for his service work. All these awards are presented by Lions Club International in appreciation for the service preformed.

We are in the process of planning our ANZAC Day Celebrations to be held at Memory Park Kootingal with the march to commence from Kootingal School at 8.00am on Anzac Day. We are pleased to have the Moonbi –Kootingal Pony Club join in the march with their horses.

Remember “were there is a need there is a Lion” and if you now of a situation that needs some help please contact by email or letter with the details as we may be able to help. We are always looking for helpers to assist with projects please come forward so we can put you on the register.

We are keen to collect old reading glasses and stamps that can be used to recycle to raise money for ongoing humanity work carried out across the world by Lions. Your old Glasses can now be dropped in the collection Bin at the Kootingal Chemist. Remember to drop your old aluminium cans into the collection bin at the top of Chelmsford Street Kootingal at the Garage. Remember the Lions Motto is We Serve and you may want to be a part of this great service club- we would love to hear from you as two more hands, help many.

David Emanuel Club Membership Chair. Ph 0408297287.

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Welcome to 2017!!!! I have a really good feeling this year at Moonbi Public School. It is going to exciting to hear all the news from students and teacher on what they are learning and what sports are happening.

The P&C runs a healthy canteen for our student’s teachers and volunteers on the day every Friday. Canteen gives the students the opportunity to learn how to order from a menu. Learn how to count money and make decisions on their own. Canteen runs 1 day a week and is run by volunteers. Volunteers help prepare the orders and serve the students. The money the canteen raises goes back into the school and back into the student’s education Thank You, Jackie Robertson, for your amazing week end week out running of the canteen. And a big Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to help on canteen days.

Healthy Harold mobile classroom is always a favourite with the students. The P&C every year provides the funds so the students get this opportunity. Healthy Harold our educators bring to life lessons that empower children to make safer and healthier choices, now and in the future. From reports from students and teachers, they enjoyed his visit.

Sandwiches and Coffee is what the P&C will be selling at the Moonbi Motor Show. I am so excited to be out with the Moonbi Community. Please come to the hall and have a freshly made sandwich and a chat. We also welcome any helpers that would like to join us. Many hands make less work and more conversation!!

Our school welcomes any parent, carer or community member who would like to be involved in any of our extra-curricular activities. We always need assistance with the new garden program, We are looking for someone with a green thumb that might be able to show us a few handy tricks in the garden. Assistance with our cooking program, class reading or many of our sporting opportunities. If you have any interest, then by all means contact the school or see anyone of our new and old friendly P&C. It is a great way to experience the vibe the students have about being at Moonbi Public School.

The P&C has a long tradition of being very supportive of the school and families.

Mrs. Jennifer Hernando-President

Q: What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?
A: a receding hare-line

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Moonbi - Kooty

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MOONBI PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Moonbi Public School
Showcase Evening!

The Showcase evening will involve:
- ‘Getting Ready to Fly’ information available for parents
- Showcasing classrooms and students work samples.
- Meeting the staff
- School banking and uniform displays.
- Lots of Easter fun for the kids!

This evening is for new, current and future students and their families!

We will be extending our Transition Program this year and starting in Term 2. The program will run every Friday for terms 2, 3 and 4. Interested families are invited to attend our Showcase Evening!

Ph: 67603151  Charles Street

Sir Ivan bushfire charity drive

Things we need:
- Clothing
- Household items
- Non perishable foods
- Animal food
- Children’s toys, books
- Bedding
- Any other items you believe would be helpful

Moonbi Public School will be raising non monetary donations for the families of the Sir Ivan bushfire. A lot of families in these areas have lost everything and we are hoping to help them in any way possible. If you have anything you are willing to give, please bring it to the school and Mrs Chloe Begley will take it to the center in Coolah, where they will make sure the people in need receive it.

If you are able to help in any way with these items, please drop them off at Moonbi School in bags and boxes for easier transport. Any larger items please contact Chloe on number below.

Contact:
Chloe—0488017978 - if you have any large items
MPS—67603151
Coolah Council

Enrolments K-6 for 2018 NOW OPEN
If you know of a child turning 5 by the 31 July 2018 that maybe interested in joining us
Contact the school on 67603151
THIS N THAT

BRIAN BETTS

This long hot summer just seems to be never ending. Records are being broken all over the state, and these are records that have stood for many years, so it is made to wonder is it really climate change or a one off? The part that concerns me are the number of storms, and bad wind storms that are happening. Wind can do such a lot of damage in a short time, just ask Ray and Maureen Nelson and their neighbours, it must have been a mini tornado. The only good part is the limbs that have fallen are easy to cut up for next winters wood.

Lettons on the move

Popular residents of New England Gully Road, Brian and Michelle Letton have made the short move to Sandy Road, Kootingal. Tha trotting fraternity hope that Brian will find suitable space to keep his pacers in work as we can ill afford to lose trainers.

Brian is the most underrated country music star, deserving of many a golden guitar but somewhere in the system politics rears its head and gets in the road, anyway, keep trying Brian.

Trotting Topics

While on the trotting scene it’s great that the Tamworth Club are now the owners of the Tamworth Showground. There may have been long term benefits if they had pursued the Sydney Road site but the risks of ending up with nothing were too great. Now the committee can work towards making improvements to the Showground site showing appreciation to the members who have stood by them, and encouraging new members to the sport. Tamworth is the only club in NSW, who, in the past twelve months has had full fields for every meeting, and that’s something to be proud of.

Cruising Chaffey Dam

What a pleasant afternoon we had recently when our son Mark, and his son Thomas took my flat bottom ‘cruiser’ complete with its electric outboard for a spin on Chaffey. With a sturdy walking speed, we explored all the new fishing spots now with its expansion and it sure is different. Chaffey always was lacking in tree cover for the fish, now it’s perfect, some trees will survive the ‘drowning’ with others on the way out already but still good cover. We were fortunate to hook a couple of yellowbelly but to be out on the beautiful lake just on sundown until dark was magic.
Randwagor Hopping

If you have any interest in cricket ‘its’ no secret we have a world class bowler in Josh Hazlewood, a very Bendemeer product. With ability laid on, the development of Josh is gaining interest as to who first spctted this ability. I’ve noticed a couple of well credential Tamworth coaches have put up their hand as to having something to do with it. Well maybe they did but the initial keen eye was our Anne Coleman who spotted this exceptional sportsman. So, whatever heights this tall man achieves we will always say that our “Mrs C” steered him in the right direction in his early years.

While on cricket, “hot off the press”, is the news that ex Moonbi School pupil and now Farrer boy Conrad George has been selected in the NSW State 16 yrs side. A boy with good skill with his ‘leggies’ and with a lot of hard work could make a career out of cricket, but that’s a fair way down the track. We will watch out with interest, might be another Shane Warne!

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| RUBBER CONVEYOR BELTS, split into SPLITBELT | **Rubber mat type products** used in zillions of ways in the agricultural, industrial, landscaping and terraforming industries |
| SPLITBELT with holes, known as HOLEYBELT !!! | |
| PVC BELT with holes, known as ENVIROBELT | |
| Industrial grade BLASTING MATS | |
| Agricultural grade WOVEN MATS | |
| UTE MATS, HORSE FLOAT MATS, STABLE MATS | |

| ENGINEERING, advanced MACHINING and oleostatics | **Applied to in house manufacture of production machines and tools and oleostatic research** |
Bills Garden Notes

Hot weather and pot plants don’t go together very well, as some of us would know after the hot spells lately...but there are a few things we can do to prevent plant losses. One important thing is to move the pot plants out of the sun as much as possible as when exposed to the sun for long periods the soil and pot will get very hot and will cook the roots of some plants. The plant will wilt, and no amount of water will revive it so don’t waste time and water, better to discard it. Watering in extreme heat will also cause plants to die. Many pot plants dislike their roots being in warm soggy soil, a good idea is to give them just enough water to keep them alive and to limit fertilizer as it also creates heat in pots ...however we will always get losses not matter what we do.

Now is the time to prepare our gardens for our winter crops whether they be vegies of flowers. Dig the beds you intend to plant later on and apply manure and compost to the soil and dig it in deeply. Do this several times before planting as this will assist the things we have applied to the soil to decompose. Some may say the soil is too dry to do much with, and compost and manure may not rot away. But this is not the case as the natural things that are in all soils and the insects that live in the ground will assist in the decomposing process, and if rain falls all the better. Aerating the soil by loosening it up from time to time will all help.

Growing our own plants from seed has a lot of advantages, cost is one of them, as punnets are expensive for what we get in them, and plants are not grown in natural soil, as anyone that buys them will observe. When the plants are planted in our own gardens the soil is not what they were grown in and is not compatible to the root structure. Growth will be slow and some cases the plant will die. This is why growing our own plants is a good idea.

Plant boxes should be about 100 ml deep. Placing sheets of newspaper in the bottom will help retain moisture in the mix. Any good potting mix can be used for the first 75mm of soil, but I have had good results too, with adding about 1/3 of the mix needed from my garden soil, this prevents roots from not being compatible when they are planted out. A layer of seed mixture should be spread on top, about 15mm deep is plenty, this will help the seeds to germinate quite quickly. Also, growing our own helps when we plant out, leaving a few in the tray so if some don’t survive they can be replaced easily saving time and money. A hot house is good for growing our own plants. When watering use of a light spray is a good idea, but don’t overwater as this can cause seed to rot, fertilizer should be used very sparingly. Too much causes spindly growth and the fertilizer already in the seed and potting mix should be all young plants require. Let the seed boxes get some sun for a few hours each day to grow stronger plants.

Apologies - Kim’s Garden section will not be included this month owing to Kim’s time and energy being needed due to a slight accident in the family. However Kim hopes to be back in the next issue. We are sure Kim would want us to encourage you to water as necessary, dig and mulch and enjoy your garden!

Jottings from Lee

Summer season! We have had some very hot weather over summer which we hope is behind us, and the storm of Feb 4th created havoc up parts of New England Gully Road and the Common Road and in the timbered areas adjacent as a violent storm felled many trees. Despite heat and some violent storms, we have had good rain falls and in general our Valley does look lovely. Let’s hope Autumn continues with this.

Lee

Country Music Festival in Tamworth saw many of us with visitors in caravans and tents as well as in house guests. Our Hall area had a nice number of visitors as did Kootingal Oval and Bowling Club. It is good to be able to offer this hospitality and to allow so many more people to enjoy the delights of our area as well as the festival itself. Joint editor Joy also had a big surprise when Gran daughter Kerran arrived on her doorstep from Perth. She and her cousins really enjoyed the county music and time with Joy.

Email your articles to Lee Rodger at lroder5@bigpond.net.au and checkout the Moonbi Museum Facebook page, you can send articles or photos to Lee and she will add them to the Facebook page for you.
Out and About… with the Social Sleuth

Happy 70th birthday Brian Betts! I was privileged to be amongst the 50 or more family and friends celebrating this big occasion on the new back deck of their Braefarm Rd home. Wife Trish and their children and grandchildren certainly did Brian proud, with nibbles and drinks, a great buffet meal and the most fantastic birthday cake, adorned with a colourful “icing photograph” of his renowned pacer Aeyeska Dream. It seemed such a shame to cut it!

Amongst the many tributes to Brian from family and friends were those from a couple of old army mates—John and Sue Burton who came up from Tea Gardens and Peter and Faye Southwell all the way from Yass. Adding to the party atmosphere were songs from good friend Brian Letton, and a photographic display depicting a well-lived life. Altogether a great party enjoyed by all and could not have happened to a nicer bloke...

Baby News: Heather and Alan Martin of “Glen Ayr” are now very proud grandparents. Daughter Alana and husband Phil Clarke have a new baby girl, Georgia June born on 5th Dec ‘16 in Auckland New Zealand. Trips across the “ditch” to do their share of spoiling have already taken place and no doubt there will be many more.

Get Well wishes to anyone on the sick list or undergoing surgery and a special hello to Luke Kelly up at “Blue Moon” – hope the motor bike survived the mishap!

And how wonderful it is to see Moonbi legend Warwick Gadsden back on deck again—you know the old saying, “you can’t keep a good man down”

Lovely to catch up with ex-Moonbi school teacher Joanne Hughes and husband Glen when they popped into the museum recently. Now living in Aberdeen with children Isobell(13) and Thomas(11), Jo is still teaching in Scone while Glen is enjoying a new path in his ministry being school chaplain at Aberdeen and Scone schools.

Another Moonbi school teacher from the 1960’s also keeps in touch – anyone remember Bev Daniel (now Wallace)? She and husband Hugh are long-time residents of Berkeley Vale down on the central coast, enjoying retirement and the company of daughters and grandchildren. Moonbi holds many happy memories for Bev who taught during the Ross Piper years.

Community Spirit: One again accolades are due for Andromeda’s Raymond McLaren. Always ready to help out our many organisations in whatever way he can, both financially and otherwise, Raymond excelled himself by putting on a great “welcome to Moonbi” BBQ there at Andromeda. Designed to bring newcomers to the village and some of the old hands together, a happy crowd enjoyed his hospitality, helped by staffs Peter Marr and Anette Williams and her family. Great BBQ cooks. Congratulations and many thanks Raymond.

Arty Talk: The afore-mentioned Raymond McLaren has some of his “Art of the Engineer” pieces on display at the Tamworth Regional Gallery for the coming weeks so do pop along and check out another facet of this Moonbi identity.

Whilst talking art, another local artist Janelle Lewis, has her own one-woman exhibition in the foyer of Ray Walsh house from the 6th to 28th March – don’t miss it. Also check out this month’s featured artists work in the Moonbi Museum. Erryn Whitten’s metal sculptures are really something to see, and his and Brenda’s young son Liam has contributed some of him very worthy paintings.
Old roads and Swaggie

I recently had the pleasure of making contact with Grant (John) Cadoret, the now celebrity swaggie, who had been walking the east coast of Australia for about thirty six (36) years. I found him at Nemingha and had a long talk to him again, as well as between Bendemeer and Uralla a couple of days later. With a face book page people are continually tracking and making contact with him with supplies to help for his next few days.

His health seems to be fines although he continually takes a rest on the road side and contacts his family regularly after being missing for a long time until the ABC story reunited them. He does not ask for help and assistance and says he has become quite used to posing for photographs on his journey. He is now in the Walcha area after doing a loop to Inverell and Grafton. It is six years since our last contact, he signed my poem book where I wrote about him. He has a good memory and knows spots where he camped previously. He has become an Aussie Icon just because he is doing what he wants and not what the social normality expects.

I have recently read many books on Bushrangers including one by Edgar Penzig “Ben Hall The Definitive History” which debunks much of the folklore surrounding Ben Hall and his gang. Ben Hall grew up in the Murrurundi area. Edgar told me that word of mouth and folklore can quickly muddy history and his books relied on Government and police documents and records in his research, for the truth.

On a local note Russ Blanch recently wrote “Thunderbolts last hours” which gives a closer insight into what really happened when he was shot near Blanches Inn a few hundred years south of Thunderbolts Rock near Uralla. Thunderbolt also held up Wilson Store and McIveen’s Inn in Moonbi. With the mystery of “was it him or not” I’ll let you decide but this puts a clearer picture on what really happened.

It also revealed another mystery that I am trying to trace regarding the route of the Old North Road. This book shows the road following Kentucky creek from Rimbanda to Kentucky Station, at some stage it was rerouted (Great Northern Road) to where the New England Highway crosses Carlyle’s Gully. The old road would have kept to higher ground to make it easier for wagons and coaches to cross creeks and gullies closer to their tributaries.

The “Union Inn” near Rimbanda on the Old North Road was shifted about three miles to just south of the present Carlyle’s Gully bridge and renamed “Australia Inn” so that it could keep trading with the passing traffic on the new road. The ridge opposite is called Thunderbolts Ridge.

There were many roads and tracks north of Bendemeer to Uralla besides the previous mentioned ones. The Airlie road followed the eastern side of the (Muleurindie) McDonald River to Retreat, and many years ago I found a long stretch of original corduroy road which was made from Saplings and small trees sideways across the boggy or swampy patches. From Retreat the road went to Balala and on to Uralla or deviating opposite Tilmunda through Danehurst to Balala.

Can you imagine if one track became Boggy or flooded another cross-country track was used to get to the destination instead of camping and waiting for floods to recede or the ground to dry out-while we now complain of potholes or corrugated roads that wait to be repaired!
So - did the Old North Road go north of Bendemeer turn East through what is now Talbingo and Clifton to Rimbanda and follow Kentucky creek to Kentucky Station? Hopefully more research and old maps will unravel the mystery.

Balala is very interesting as it, like Kentucky Station was a mini village where stores and blacksmiths were set up for the large properties and also used by travellers on their way north or to the Uralla goldfields. It still has many old buildings that can be viewed from the road, they date back many years and my relations worked here. I hope they can be preserved somehow. We don’t seem to have a good record of allocating funds to preserve these type of buildings, or old huts and buildings seen from the roadside.

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<th>Sources</th>
<th>Above article by Warren Skewes JP, FAIHA</th>
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<td>“Ben Hall the Definitive History”</td>
<td>Bar-s-dot</td>
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<td>Edgar Penzig FAIHA</td>
<td>George Street</td>
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<td>“Thunderbolts Last Hours”</td>
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Map of area hand drawn by Warren Skewes
Notes from the Wilson’s

Hi there, Happy New Year ! Can you believe we are already 2 months down in 2017 !

We had a lovely quite Christmas at home this year which was just lovely, Al was home this year so the girls were super excited to share Christmas with him. We visited the wonderful light display at the Betts home in Kootingal on Christmas Eve, how lucky are we to live in amongst such a beautiful community that has such a generous family who open their home and share the magic of Christmas with families. A BIG thank you for your time and efforts, Betts family of Kootingal.

Term 1 of the school year has seen our eldest daughter Kaitlin start school in K1 at Moonbi School which was such an easy beginning due to the amazing ‘transition program’ that Moonbi School offers to students during the year prior to them entering full time schooling.

If there are any locals interested in joining the P&C at Moonbi School please pop it into your calendars that The AGM will be held on March 14th at 6pm (at the old school residence, beside the school building). There is always a need for volunteers and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We have also started sending Lillian (our middle child) 2 days per week to Kootingal & District Pre School now that Kaitlin is in full time schooling. Leaving me 2 full days a week with just Ruby (Miss 2), it’s such a change to be able to spend quality time with only 1 child at a time. It also gives me a little more time to fit some more study into my schedule, which scarly enough I am half way through already. Where does the time with small children disappear, I cannot believe Kaitlin’s at school already, catching the bus every morning and afternoon, all grown up.

Gubi Gabun Children’s Mobile Service is continuing to provide their play group meets at Bendemeer Pre School during 2017. The following dates are applicable to the Bendemeer playgroup: 27/02, 13 & 27/03, 8 & 22/05, 26/06, 24/07, 14 & 28/08, 11/09, 9 & 23/10 and 13 & 27/11. The cost involved is $15 per family per term, 10am start (please provide a morning tea for your children). Any enquiries can be directed to Suzi on 6772 3120 or 0428 723 120.

Alan has managed to finish a number of projects over the Christmas break around home leaving us with time to take a family holiday which will give me lots to write about next newsletter. We are also going away for a weekend prior to that and the kids are so excited to venture out and spend some extra time with Dad. I am very much looking forward to some family adventures, however I am sure to be home sick thinking about our little village whilst we are away.

Until next time, stay safe and plan ahead for high fire danger periods.

The Wilson’s at Timbarra
HELLO THERE FROM MOONBI/KOOTINGAL:
from Jean Medlock

As I write this it is actually cooler thank goodness, last weekend was a shocker I managed to get all my crew through except on Monday morning I found my lovely old horse down, she tried to get up so I called the vet and we made the decision to 'put her to sleep', it was more than likely the thick smoke which was really bad during the night, she was having trouble breathing. My other horse was really distressed and thanks to Lou Hysor she has a friend to keep her company. How I got through this really hot weather was a lot of effort, I brought the dogs inside, all 8 of them, I put an old bedspread on the floor of the kitchen/living area (luckily vinyl), then put wet towels on top and with the overhead fans plus a moisture fan, which only used 2 lts of water, kept the place cool. (really good investment). When the dogs got hot they lay on the towels, they were all very good and mainly slept all day, the younger ones found things to play with. I also had the budgies inside, they have a big cage with wheels, I also put a wet towel on top of their cage which must of worked as their wings were not sticking out. My poor chooks survived, I wet the ground in the morning and lunch time plus evening, they have crater like holes where they dug into the ground, but they looked OK when the terrible weekend finished. I hope the terrible hot weather is behind us now and we can get outside and enjoy the garden, walking etc. I was walking the dogs at 5.30am and it was still too hot and we cut short our walk a few times.

I have two little Chihuahuas looking for a home, one is very shy, he was born in June 2016, so still young, he is a funny little dog and good with other dogs, the next one was born August 2016 and he spent his life in a caravan, he loves being outside with the other dogs, but would prefer to be inside at night me thinks. Both are desexed, microchipped and vaccinated and ready for a good home. Also is a little terrier dog, probably Maltese cross, he is about 5-6years old, nice natured, he has everything done to him also and looking for a good home, all these dogs are good with cats, mind you the Chihuahuas are smaller than the average cat!!!! If you can find a room in your home and heart to give these animals a home please get in touch. I have a Whippet female also wanting a home, please ring if you are interested in her, she is still with the owner and I am awaiting a spot to place her.

PARVO virus is still around, but not so bad as it was a month ago, please do not get complacent with vaccinations, puppies need three to be fully immunised and then it is once per year. Funny enough some folk do not realise they have to have their dog vaccinated yearly, they think it is just the initial puppy jabs. There is a vaccination which is 3 yearly, but I find it wise to have the dog checked over once per year to make sure their teeth, eyes etc are well, leaving a 3 year gap is a long time for something to go wrong and not found.

If you are interested in any of the above please phone: Jean 67605931 - 0428261573
Trip to Portugal World Cup Horseball 2016

Going to Portugal for the horseball world cup two months ago was truly the best experience of my life. Flying out from Tamworth with the whole team on the 8th of August was a very emotional time for everyone. There were many tears from either the fear of flying or the fear of leaving our homes for such a long time.

Despite this everyone was bussing with excitement and I couldn’t believe it was actually happening. I had been counting down the days, minutes and seconds for this plane to leave since I first found out I was on the team in November 2015. The first plane was the scariest as every time it turned you felt as though you would fall out the window but it didn’t even last an hour.

We were soon at the Sydney Airport and had lost the team manager as he had to find his bag that he left on the plane with all his passport and important stuff. We all went and did some shopping until our flight to Dubai was called everyone’s mouth fell open when we saw the size of our next plane, it was huge! An Airbus A380!

During that 15 hour flight there were many movies watched and the stash of mars bars in the back of the plane was shortly found and raided by certain members of the teams. Dubai Airport was busier than the centre of Sydney there were people going everywhere and we all got lost. The time there was 3 in the morning and we were having pizza and Mum and Dad had wine and beer. We had no idea what time it was, if we were tired, if we were hungry, we were all just completely out of whack.

Flying to Madrid we took Dubai’s biggest air bus and it was the best plane we had excepting that we were delayed because the baggage unpacker vehicle got caught underneath the plane. Most people finally got some sleep on that flight but not me. I had to get through as many movies as possible and treasure them being in English.

When we landed in Madrid Mum, Dad and I didn’t go with the team onto Portugal. We were going to look around Spain and hire a car and drive down to Portugal but we had lost one bag (the one with all my uniforms in it). The baggage people assured us that it would come the next day so we went to our motel and ordered our first Spanish meal with little idea of what we would end up getting.

4 days later after spending every night in cramped hotel rooms where the bathrooms would actually be in the bedroom we arrived at our hotel in Portugal. It looked just as run down as all the rest (we also found out that bathroom tiles are a popular choice of decoration for the outsides of buildings in Portugal). The inside wasn’t that much better but the people running it were the most kind helpful people you could ask for.

We booked our room using google translate, dumped our bags including the one we had lost as they delivered it to this hotel thankfully and drove to the horseball
grounds to meet our horses. The horseball grounds were not very far away from our hotel and just down from the middle of ‘Ponte De Lima’ which was the small village we were staying at.

The set up was amazing, with 2 playing fields and stadiums and shops and bars. The stables were demountable ones all set up with the countries flags. We had a look at the teams horses we had hired. The senior team’s ones were very nice and belonged to our coaches riding school. The junior teams were little ponies that were also from his riding school except from the two that were Spanish Shetland ponies. Nobody knew which horse they had yet but we had our preferences.

We came back the next day and got assigned our horses we got to ride them for half an hour but some people couldn’t because the saddles hadn’t turned up yet. Next day was the first day of the world cup and my 16th birthday. We went and fed our horses and had breakfast as a team like we did for every meal in the food hall.

The rest of the day went by and we had our first game against Belgium at 8:40pm in the main stadium. There were so many people watching and the team was nervous and excited, we did lose but it was a big eye opener to how differently they play and how different it was to ride these horses. After all our games in that week we made friends with the teams afterwards and they would cheer for us and we would cheer for them. We played Belgium, Portugal, Spain, France and Italy in the junior division.

The whole atmosphere of the Portugal World Cup 2016 was amazing. The people were so friendly and happy. It was a really positive fell and watching the pro-Elite’s play was intense. They were very good players and they played a hard game. Just watching them taught us a lot about how to improve and inspired us to get better and come back in 4 years to the next World Cup.

The week ended with a very fair and friendly game against the French, then there was a presentation in the main arena, then everyone had a big party and said their farewells and promises to stay in touch. While we were over there we made some good friends and travelled around after the cup ended and had a look around their stables and riding schools.

The whole month that I was in Europe I really enjoyed having a look around the different cities like Paris, Lyon, London, Barcelona but my highlight definitely was the World Cup in beautiful Ponte Da Lima. The next best highlight was the feeling of relief I got when we landed back in Tamworth.

Thankyou to everyone for your support and help in our teams Overseas Adventure.

It was truly an amazing experience

Alina.
TAMWORTH MASONIC WIDOWS AND LADIES ASSOCIATION

Our first meeting for 2017 took place at the Masonic Centre, Tamworth, on Thursday 9th February and was well attended. We discussed the Calendar of Events and arrangements are being made for guest speakers, luncheons and outings.

Further information may be obtained by phoning President Mrs. Diana Cookson on 6765 7426 or Secretary Dorothea Vaux on 6760 3948.

On behalf of the Committee it is my pleasure to extend Easter Greetings to one and all.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary.

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