Greeting's.

How are you handling this long hot & dry Summer we are having however as I am writing this the rain is absolutely pouring down, I do hope though we get the following heavy Rain they say we are going to get as the whole of NSW is in need of some good rain.

At last we are about to make a start on the new extensions to complete our Museum building. We received our DA from Council late in January, but we still have to wait for our Construction Certificate before we can commence the work with a lot of luck we should have received It by the time you are reading this Newsletter. We are still hopeful of achieving our completion date by the end of June all being well.

Bill Humphrys.
President.

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**Christmas Raffle Results**

Christmas Basket: Peter Hines Limbri
Laser Tag Voucher: Natasha Hazell, Kingswood
Free Pink Slip: Belinda Semple Moonbi
“Sophie Blue” dog treats: Tammy Garrett
“Dinofert” organic fertilizer: James Goodfellow Moonbi
Christmas Cake: Peter Hines, Limbri
Carton of Beer: Brian Worth, Kootingal

Our special thanks go to the donors of prizes: Greg Lye’s Kootingal Paintball, Glenn Michell’s Moonbi Service Station, Amanda Lord, Moonbi Pursehouse Rural, Pam Vincent and Moonbi General Store.

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A Mother’s Day raffle will soon be underway, so once again we are asking for your support. There are several prizes to be won and tickets will be available from the museum, the committee members or from selling locations around the villages.
Editorial

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year - and what an exciting year it promises to be! It is Tamworth district’s Bicentennial year marking 200 years since John Oxley’s arrival on 2nd September 1818, and the whole district will be holding various functions throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary.

Our own Museum Committee are planning a “Colonial Capers Day” later in the year, with lots of stalls and activities and old fashioned fun and games, so watch for the date. Get out those colonial costumes and put your thinking caps on for ideas in keeping with the theme – we would welcome your help in making it all happen.

We also hope to highlight some of Moonbi’s history in each newsletter throughout the year so please bring out any old photos or articles you may have, or even a family story passed down through the generations. I am sure younger members of our community would love to hear them.

Look out for our local historian Warren Skewes’ article on stamps in this issue, we found it very interesting. Hope any budding collectors will take up his challenge to send him an envelope covered with postage stamps of various amounts to make up the $1.00 postal charge – Are there any one or two cent stamps? We are already checking that out and working on our selection. And don’t forget to put your name and address on the back of the envelope in case you win one of his prizes.

Articles for your winter newsletter are due mid May please.

Until then

Happy Reading,

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

GREETINGS

Here we are again! The Easter Bunny is lurking in the wings and Christmas is well and truly a scene in the past.

We are anxiously awaiting news from Tamworth Regional Council to say go ahead – start the Museum project. All requirements have been complied with but we are told any day now we will be able to make a start. Waiting is not easy, is it?

Because our completion date cannot be forecast we find it necessary to postpone the Colonial Capers Day which was scheduled for 6th May to a date to be fixed – after building is finished. You will be advised of this.

It is also necessary to postpone our Archival Gathering afternoon which was scheduled for 11th March. You will be advised when a date can be selected.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month, at the Museum, at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

On behalf of the President, Bill, and the Executive, it is my pleasure to wish you a happy and safe Easter 2018.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary, MOONBI MUSEUM COMMITTEE 26/2/2018

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CLAUDETTE`S CORNER.

A New Year has well and truly started and I would like to wish you all a very happy new year and hope the weather will be a little kinder.

Our year started with our great granddaughter Violet counting the sleeps until she started big school at Kootingal with her big brother Lewis. I might add she had one set of grandparents and two sets of great grandparents to see her on this special day. Lewis was not too impressed as he only wanted to get in the gate to play with his mates.

On a sad note, Bill and I lost our Best Man Tony Ball. Tony left us, his wife Jill, family and friends with many very happy memories. Tony was very involved in all sport, he was an exceptional Hockey player. He was also deeply involved with his Church. Tony was a very well known and respected gentleman, as [Quoted] by our daughter Kylie.

On wednesday21-2-18 we were host to a group of elderly men from Tamworth who arrived on an Oxley transport bus. They enjoyed looking and leaning over the tools some with walking sticks, talking about what they had used in the past. We were complemented on the amount of history of our pioneers and our sporting history. A very enjoyable morning had by all.

I'm using this photo from the past it was taken in Moonbi in the late1800 to early 1900's hundreds of the Slaughter Yards.

C. Claudette
Tamworth Regional Council News

Taste Tamworth Festival

It's an event that celebrates the region's growers, makers, chefs and is a treat for foodies. The 2018 Taste Tamworth Festival is on from 6 to 15 April and features the return of the popular Long Lunch and Flavours on Fitzroy events, plus a new event – High Tea in the Gardens. The High Tea event will be held in the Botanic Gardens and will be a sophisticated and delightful afternoon that will serve a delicious array of treats. Flavours on Fitzroy will be held on Friday 6 April to launch the Festival and will be the first time the new Fitzroy Street Plaza will come alive in true event mode. This street party promises to be a night of spice and colour, celebrating the diverse range of cuisines on offer in our region. The Long Lunch returns to the Taste Festival on Sunday 15 April and invites you to enjoy the lush scenery of Anzac Park whilst being treated to a sumptuous three-course meal, accompanied by a grazing table served by the region’s leading chefs.

Don’t forget to take the opportunity to do a self-drive Farm Gate tour of the region where you can meet the farmers and try their amazingly fresh produce. For full event details, and to find out what other events will be on throughout the Festival, visit www.tastetamworth.com.au or contact Council on 6767 5555.

The 2018 Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival allows you to discover the region’s rich heritage, held from 19 to 27 April. Featuring a program of exciting events with the theme “My Culture, My Story”, the Festival will include cultural tours, exhibitions, open days and other events that share local stories and educate audiences about the traditions that have shaped our regional community.
The pinnacle event of the Festival is the Tamworth Regional Heritage Awards that will be held on Friday 27 April. This year, the Festival will feature exciting events including guided tours of the Nundle Woollen Mill, ‘Stories Under the Stars’ at the Botanic Gardens, ‘Paradise Market Garden’ on King George V Avenue and a cultural tour of Tamworth and surrounds with Len Waters. Tickets are now on sale for some events, visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/heritagefestival to find out more.

Council celebrates mid-year achievements

It’s been a busy year to date for Council, with the mid-year progress report showing success in a number of major projects. Construction milestones featured heavily in the report including the opening of the Fitzroy Street Beautification Project, completion of the Nundle Water Treatment Plant, the Manilla Road Cycleway, Tamworth Community Centre Carpark and completion of round one of the High Pedestrian Activity Zone work.

These projects link back to the Community Strategic Plan, a document which is driven by feedback from the community. Improving the Region’s roads was the number one priority for residents, and both the unsealed and sealed road program of works are ahead of schedule. The unsealed program allocates $1.19million to improve the Region’s unsealed roads including Bendemeer Station Road, Banoon Homestead Road, Wimbourne Lane, Oakhampton Road and Crow Mountain Road amongst others. The sealed program is $2.13million and is almost 70% complete. Residents are welcome to view the progress report, which is available on the TRC website (www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au).

Stay in touch

There are many ways to stay informed about projects of Tamworth Regional Council. Visit their social media pages on Facebook and Instagram, download the free ‘MyTRC’ app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store, call Customer Service on 02 6767 5555, email trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au or visit in person at any Council Office in the Region.
MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE

The next Regular Meeting of this Committee is to be held at the Moonbi War Memorial Hall, Gill St., Moonbi, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 28th March 2018. If you would like to know what we are about or may be able to spare a little time to assist in the management of a valuable community asset please come along and join us on the day. Please phone Secretary Dorothea, on 6760 3948 if able to attend.

Please contact Booking Officer, Mrs. Karin Thompson on 6760 3580 should you require information on hiring the facility. Other enquiries to the Secretary on 6760 3948.

On behalf of the Executive it is my pleasure to wish one and all a happy and safe Easter.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary, MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE
26/2/2018

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HAVE SOME OF THAT DELICIOUS
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0428 668 180
FOR MORE INFORMATION
KOOTTINGAL/MOONBI RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Finally, the weather is cooling down. 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, Allen Madden, Tristan Laurie and Sean Barton travelled to Carterton in New Zealand in November for the Australasian Firefighter Championships. As expected, New Zealand crews took out the top placings overall, but our team finished a creditable 11th out of 22 teams from several states and Fiji, with a 3rd and a 4th place in individual events. They are now back in training for the Fire & Rescue NSW 2018 competition which starts at Kelso 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/Moonbi Anglican Church

I am always reminded that Christmas is behind us and Easter is just around the corner by the appearance of Easter eggs on our supermarket shelves. It is surprising at how quickly the Easter eggs appear after Christmas. No sooner are the Christmas decorations removed, the chocolate eggs arrive. No doubt the retail shops depend upon these important religious seasons for their businesses. But I wonder if many people consider why we celebrate these seasons and enjoy the holidays (and the chocolates) which go with them. To be sure, the central celebration of Christianity is not Christmas but Easter. The purpose of Christmas was fulfilled at Easter. At Christmas we celebrate the gift of God’s Son, who came into the world to be our Saviour. The Apostle Paul summed up the purpose of Jesus’ coming in these words; “This is a true saying to be received by all; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15)

The Bible makes it very clear that we all need saving from the consequences of our sin, that is, from our failure to live as God made us to. The consequences of not being saved are too horrible to contemplate; a total separation from God and from anything good forever. We may find it offensive to admit that we need saving, but that is the truth. We can ignore it, deny it or rubbish it, but that will not change the truth that God is the One who made us and to whom we must all one day give account. If it was not important to God, why would He have gone to such trouble and pain to send and sacrifice his own Son on a cross? I have two sons, and I would not be prepared to sacrifice them for another person. But God loves us so much, he sacrificed his own perfect Son for each of us, so that the punishment we each deserve could be placed on Jesus. There is a verse in an old hymn we sing at Easter, which goes; “There was no other good enough, to pay the price of sin, He only could unlock the gate of Heaven and let us in”. Only Jesus was good enough to pay for each of our sins, and that is why he came into the world.

What should my response be to his incredible sacrifice? I could ignore God and carry on with my life without him, and hope for the best when I die. But that would be incredibly foolish. It is a gamble that is not worth taking, for it is gambling with my life forever. A much wiser response would be to trust the truth of the Bible and accept Jesus as my Saviour, and the forgiveness and reconciliation his death provides for me. How can we each be sure that what Jesus did really has paid for my sin and your sin? Because after Jesus died and was buried in a tomb, he came back to life 3 days later. The evidence for his resurrection is overwhelming. His rising confirms the truth of who He was and what he claimed, as God Son and Saviour.

As we approach Easter 2018, and see all the chocolate eggs in the shops and take a holiday, please stop and consider what we are really celebrating; that God gave up his own son for you and me, to reconcile us to himself.

You are most welcome to come and celebrate Easter with us at one of our Easter Services;

**Good Friday** (30th March) - 9.30am St Andrew’s Kootingal

**Easter Sunday** (1st April) - 8am St Andrew’s Kootingal, 10.00am St Peter’s Moonbi

God Bless

Rev Allan Beaven (Minister, Kootingal/Moonbi Anglican Church)

For more information: Phone: 0425301640, or email: aerab@bigpond.com
Kootingal Lions Club

New Lions clubs do not open very often, and when they do they are sponsored by an existing club to assist with the early first years. The Lions Club of Kootingal and District have sponsored a new club, The Australian Online and Travellers Lions Club. This is a special club with members from all around Australia. It is a club of a different sort: where members are connected by Skype for meetings and other online mediums in between meetings to keep in touch. Meetings are held via the internet using Skype. A Charter Dinner Night for the new club was held at the Kootingal Hotel on the 20th of February where the new Club was formally chartered. Tamworth Mayor Col Murray and his wife Carol attended the meeting and extended a toast to Lions International. Although members of the new group are from all over Australia, quite a number were actually present in person, and the other members were present via Skype. Pictures were uploaded of the proceedings, with a special cake decorated for the special occasion and to celebrate 100 years of Lions being cut on the night.

The Grey Fergie Muster at Bendemeer is coming up the weekend of 17/18 March. A multitude of tractors and the Land Rover Club will be attending the event which promises to be a good one. The Kootingal Lions will be catering at this event and are looking forward to seeing you there as a great community event. Any members of the community that would like to assist with the catering would be welcome, please contact Wayne Guy kootingal@lionsdistrict201n1.org.au for more details.

Lions clubs are service clubs and have been following the ethic of "we serve" for 100 years - this is the centennial year for Lions International. Kootingal Lions, in keeping with this dedication to service has recently donated funds or labour to the following organisations:
- Big Red Kidney Bus.
- Trauma Teddies.
- Stroke Foundation.
- Assistance to community members in need.

A big vote of thanks to the Tamworth Regional Council for their assistance and support of the Kootingal Australia Day Breakfast which was a great occasion. Lots of egg and bacon rolls and lots of uniquely Australian events like flinging the thong, and lots of laughs as these not quite Olympic spots were attempted! The area looked great decorated with flags etc and our guest speaker, William Makepeace, our own candidate for Youth of the year gave a well-researched and interesting speech to dedicate the day.

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Moonbi Service Station

NRMA Road Service Agent

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<tr>
<th>Mechanical Repairs</th>
<th>Rego Checks</th>
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<td>Vehicle Servicing</td>
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<td>Brake &amp; Clutch Repairs</td>
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<td>Engine Tuning</td>
<td>24hr tilt tray towing</td>
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<td>Glenn Michell</td>
<td>Phone 6760 3132</td>
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Stamp History... by Warren Skewes

You can get lots of historical information from all sorts of locations, encyclopedias, written history and even the internet but did you realise that a snapshot of historical events can be obtained from a source of pleasure that although it has taken a battering from our electronic age still continues to survive as a hobby.

I am referring to stamp collecting. Including Australia, Antarctica and its territories. There are around five thousand different stamps that can be collected starting with colonial stamps of our states from the 1850’s

On 1st January 1850 primitive Sydney view stamps were issued from hand engraved copper plates with later issues of Queen Victoria profiles produced in England. In 1888-9 the world’s first commemorative stamps were issued here.

In 1901 control of our postal services were taken over by the Commonwealth of Australia with some colonial stamps being issued, and on 2nd January 1913 stamps inscribed Australia became legal postage, the first being the Kangaroo series followed by King George VI series which appeased both forms of Government at that time.

Different watermarks, colour variations, die variations and perforations with overprints and different printers adding to range of varieties and colours.

A 5 penny Christmas issue on 29th October 1965 was the last Pound-Shilling-Pence stamps issued which gave way to decimal currency stamps, a 1 cent Queen Elizabeth variety on 14th February 1966.

Through the years the monarchs can be traced with different portraits as they aged and as new ones came to rule their realms, well as their Jubilee’s, coronations, birthdays, their heirs and their children.

Explorers, Kingsford Smith flights, opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge, submarine cables, airmail, world wars, our animals, birds, scientists, railways, world air flights, mining and communications are just some of the topics covered. Politicians, famous Australians, sporting achievements, famous paintings, sea life, historic buildings and post offices, fire engines, uniforms, entertainers and motor racing all get a showing.

Some of our prettiest garden flowers and native flora as well as the arts and humour. It would be fair to say that nothing of our culture has been missed.

The Australian stamps are of the highest standard in terms of colour and manufacture compared with stamps of foreign countries, some of which are really poor quality.

In addition to normal issue there are stamps with perforations for government departments use which was a security device to reduce theft or misuse. Some are OS (official service-on service) NSWG (New South Wales Government) while the BCOF of Japan (British Commonwealth occupation force of Japan) and denomination overprint were also used.

Value of our living standards can be followed with postage cost of one halfpenny at the start, to one dollar for a basic letter today. Time of rising inflation shows as the issues continually change in value to meet the state of the economy.

Cost of stamps vary on how you decide to collect, from Mint quality to heavily postmarked, some collect corners of sheets, postmarks or first day covers. Moonbi had one of the most unique postmarks that was in use in 2009 in the form of our big chook.

The art of un-soaking stamps off paper can be very challenging, the early issues came off easily but the latest require a good soaking in hot water to get them to lift and to roll off the layer of gum. Be prepared to damage some until you get the hang of it.

Hinge-less stamp albums are now available where stamps can be displayed without damaging them, as well they can be removed and replaced as needed

Most bookshops keep stamp collecting books, I like Renniks Stamps of Australia which displays stamps in order of issue. If entered in issue order, leave a space for missing stamps, then they can be entered without shifting the lot forward. I would be only too pleased to show how to set up a simple system, or to give information on how to contact clubs or just swap among fellow collectors.
An interesting activity... instead of sending an email, see how many stamps of different denominations you can fit onto an envelope to make up the postage cost and post it to a friend. The "old Fashioned Way" with snail mail, it will make a collector happy, and maybe they will return with a reply.

Here is a great offer from Warren... The first five replies that I receive in this manner will receive a free selection of stamps to help kick start your hobby... Don’t forget you address on the back.

Source: Renniks Stamps Of Australia 15th Edition

W. B Skewes

Warren Skewes JP FAIHA.

George St Moonbi 2353

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Margaret’s Journey to Sedgeford ay Alpha Qld

Margaret Broadbent had a fantastic Christmas with Grandson and partner at the property they work at located at Sedgeford. This property is located 40 minutes’ drive over dirt roads from Alpha, which itself is 200 km from Emerald on Bitumen so "just up the road a bit", as you all know Emerald is in Central Qld. Margaret loves the wide open spaces and “loved it all”... This includes three hour drives to check the water bores and windmills as there is no surface water on the property. They mustered 1500 head of cattle (Drought Master Cattle) over about 7 km to yards to inspect for market. Margaret reports that all the beautiful horses - about 15 of them, were drenched for their health. They are mostly Australian Stock Horses. Margaret naturally had a fabulous time with all the family, daughter and son in law and two grandsons who are grown men of 21 and 23 – fine men both. The youngest has just returned from Mistake Creek on the West Australian border where he was bull cutting and mustering.

Margaret said she had a “wow of a time” and really enjoyed it all ... she will go back at first opportunity.
Moonbi Art Group

Moonbi Art group have been continuing to meet after a break for Christmas where most of us were busy with family concerns. It was good to get together again to see what we each had been doing. We have been getting ready our works for Gunnedah Show, Armidale Art Prize and Uralla Art Exhibition, as well as putting works on display in various locations locally and further abroad. We have had some other artists spend time with us which has been a great occasion to meet and share ideas.

Moonbi Museum is holding an event to remember the journey of John Oxley and party through this area. We will have an art exhibition of paintings inspired by the area that was opened by his exploration which of course we would love you to come to see - watch for the date to be advertised later. You may have some suggestions of local vistas or subjects for painting.

Calling all hikers and land owners...below is an extract from Oxley journal of where he camped on Sep 3rd which must be in the Tintinhull area, I would love to know where this is and paint it in the collection of paintings I am doing, of prominent rocks of this area..... “On a hill near which we encamped, was a single mass of granite apparently thrown up perpendicularly from the bosom of the earth: it was twenty-six feet high and had six distinct sides, ending in an irregular point at the summit, and was forty-eight feet in circumference”. Lee Rodger

In Memory

Our sympathy goes out to two ex-Moonbi families who recently lost loved ones.

Ron O’Connor passed away on 20th November 2017. He and his wife Marie moved here from Caragabal, near Grenfell, in the late 1960’s and worked in the poultry industry for many years. Both their children, Murray and Cathy attended Moonbi Public school and the whole family were actively involved in school, church and other district organisations. After moving to live in Kootingal they still kept in close contact with Moonbi and their many friends.

Jean Murray (16th Feb 2018), along with her husband, the late Ross Murray, were long-time Moonbi residents, loved and respected by all. Their four sons, Eric, Warren, Phillip and Darrell, all attended Moonbi School where Ross and Jean were stalwarts of the P&C and Mothers Club, as well as helping with many other district organisations over the years. A truly lovely lady, Jean spent the last few years in the Tamworth Cottage Homes, where she was a much loved resident and will be sadly missed.
An unusual season...so much wind with this hot weather making the situation more miserable. I have been trying to grow some veggies; the zucchinis thrived thanks to some afternoon shade but everything else was flogged by the wind. Hoping by the time this newsletter goes to print we will need to pull out our rubber boots!

At the beginning of February, and after a pleasant birthday lunch at Kooty Pub, my driver decided to do a tour of Moonbi (in 48 years she hasn’t been along some of the roads would you believe!!!). Although it is so dry, it was a pleasant couple of hours, checking out the expansion of our quaint little village giving thought to – why hasn’t Council upgraded the sign coming into Moonbi from the Tamworth side – Population ???... would have to be more than 500 surely with the number of new homes popping up here, there and everywhere.

THE SEASON FOR GOLD

I am probably a sucker for that possible chance of finding the elusive big nugget, but given the chance to use a metal detector, I spend hours listening for that particular sound but bottle tops come thick and fast plus heaps of other bits of metal of no value to anyone. But you never know!!! Should anyone have a metal detector and feels like trying it out, let me know; I’ll go with you!!!

MOONBI ON THE MOVE

Things are starting to happen down in the centre of “town”, with the block now cleaned up, advice from Klaus is that the new Post Office and Liquor Store is set to begin. Then with approval granted for the extension to the Museum, there is going to be plenty of action down on the highway for a while. Being a bit of a sentimentalist for old buildings, I must admit there were no tears when the excavator moved in on the old post office building; it needed to go and the new modern buildings might be the start of something big for the village. The Museum was dealt with more stipulations than expected but that’s Council (or local government) ruling and have to be adhered to, giving Bill more grey hair. On the subject of the Museum, we badly need more volunteers to assist in the running of the show; if you are interested, please call in and have a chat to whoever is on duty over Saturday and Sunday of every weekend.

THE KNEE FAMILY ON THE MOVE

Long-time residents of Moonbi and later Mulla Creek, Brian and Anne Knee have moved to Lismore. Most people would remember Anne through her association with Moonbi School for many years; she had enormous knowledge of the school and if anyone needed to find out “something”, it was always “see Anne”. The family will be missed and all of Moonbi wish them well; family means everything and they will now be near their daughter, Rebecca, who is a vet in Lismore, with Cassandra being not that far away up in the “burbs” of Brisbane, we believe. Warren Skewes had the enviable task of moving Anne’s pot plants, and being a keen gardener, she had “several tonnes” to relocate. But Warren got them to their new location without a hiccup, due to his ingenuity to load and stack!!! While talking about Mulla Creek/Limbri area, we ventured up that way a couple of weeks ago....it is sad to see the Cockburn River with only a couple of holes of water all the way from Kootingal ... a flood in the river would be welcome.

Also on the move are former Moonbi residents, Stephen and Wendy McKerrow who have now retired from their farming enterprise and moved to the Kingswood (Tamworth) area. To those of you who are not familiar with these former residents, they once owned the property where the new Moonbi Heights subdivision has been developed along the Gap Road.

SUDDEN PASSING OF BRUCE FIELD

I am still finding it hard to believe the news of the sudden and unexpected passing of Moonbi resident, Bruce Field. As a fellow poultry farmer, I have known Bruce for many years spending many long hours with him at Egg Board meetings. Bruce followed in the footsteps of his father, Vic, into the poultry industry before joining Fielders Stock Feeds as a “rep”. A handy sportsman in cricket and baseball, Bruce will be sadly missed and our condolences go to his wife, Gal, and his daughters Kate and Sally.
CWA KOOTINGAL

Summer has been and gone, hard to believe that it is now Autumn and predicted to be 32 today! Unfortunately, we are all still looking for rain.

Since my last report, the members have been busy:

Thirty-one soft toys were donated to Ronald McDonald House thanks to Phyllis Fegan.

Anne Maher and Bev Asbury attended the Canberra International Study School, Poland being the International Country of Study this year. Anne commented that it was a great school with excellent guest speakers.

Noelene McNeish mentioned that the Fashion Parade has been booked for September 15 at the Kootingal Bowling Club. This year the fashions will be provided by Black Pepper. It has also been agreed that the very popular Christmas Stall (selling Christmas decorations) again be available during the Fashion parade.

The Fauna of interest for this year is Owls (any Owls) eleven species in Australia, the Flora of Interest is Orchid...not a specific “orchid”, but all orchids (of which there are many, in excess of 740 forms world wide), 30 specimens in Australia with varieties in each State. The Produce is Pomegranate which is rearing its head as a favoured fruit, been grown for donkey’s years but now becoming a “flavour of the month”. Favoured in more tropical areas but also grown in Sydney and South Western WA...patience is required as it takes about 7 months to fruit and about three years to grow to maturity. Can grow up to 20 feet (6 metres) in height, with beautiful red fruit. Most of those grown in a private garden are considered to be a dwarf variety but still can be about 1.5 metres tall and produce good fruit.

The “Foes” (pests) are Alligator Weed and also Deer. Alligator weed is a native of South America, in northern Argentina and adjacent countries. It is a major problem in south-eastern United States, China, New Zealand, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia and India. Alligator weed has not reached its potential distribution in Australia or within NSW, but has the ability to devastate the native grasses. Deer of course are running feral in many areas, They are protected however there are calls to have them removed from “protection”.

Our BIG 20th birthday will be celebrated this year with 9 foundation members to be honoured. It will be celebrated at West Tamworth League Club on May 24. CWA State Conference will be held in Armidale this year (at NEGS) from April 30 until May 5th 2018.

Lions Club of Kootingal Art Show will be on 13-14 of October...put it in your diary.....a very good show.

Always looking for new members to join our vibrant group so if interested please just turn up to Cockburn Cottage, on the second Monday of the month, for a “cuppa’ at 09:30 followed by the meeting at 10:00.

Cynthia Murray
Publicity.

{editors note: I have a dwarf Pomegranate that is at least 2 meters tall, and nice and bushy. It has lovely deep red fruit that often splits so I pick the fruit and freeze the little seeds and then make them into juice later. I had to google all this to find out how to do it. The flowers are a lovely red bloom and the birds love the fruit if you leave it on the tree- Lee Rodger}
Bills Garden Notes

Gardening in the last few months has been very difficult and to get anything to grow, as it is almost impossible as watering in extreme heat in some cases does more harm than good because wet soil will become too hot and this will result in cooking of plant roots and this will result in the plant or shrub dying. Pot plants are very much affected in this way as the pot material absorbs heat rapidly. Pot plants should not be exposed to direct sun's rays and should be kept in a sheltered spot, and most important do not overwater, as any plant can only absorb so much moisture in a space of time.

The soil out in the garden at present is almost dust and sand, as nearly all compost and moisture retaining elements have been reduced to dust. Soil in this condition is almost useless for growing anything as nutrients have all gone. If heavy rainfalls it will make the soil problem worse as leaching will occur because the ground is dry so far down. This is a problem in sandy country, not so much in heavy soil or clay type soil. If a winter garden is intended to be sown LOTS of compost, manure, straw or green manure, any old vegetation such as leaves should be well dug into the soil and turned over several times before planting. Keeping the soil moist if possible, will also assist in breaking down what you add to it. If you plant in ground in present conditions, even if rain falls, a lush crop will not occur as the soil is devoid of a lot of essential elements and any plant will not thrive in these conditions. Some form of fertilizer such as blood and bone or chicken manure pellets will also restore some of lost elements. When adding compost, a light application of agricultural lime will assist in the break down process.

If trees, fruit trees etc, are being planted, waiting until the cooler weather comes and good rain falls may avoid losses, as some times just pouring water onto a new tree may not save it. Some trees object to manure around their roots if it is not well rotted, so if planting only add a small amount.

This year has been a very good year for indoor plants. We have had very good results with Rex Begonias, Tuberous Begonias and several other indoor plants- but none exposed to direct sun rays. They are less work the outdoor plants and take less water, have no weed problems and are very pleasant to look at...they also have no problems with pests and grubs and birds etc. They are often easy to grow from cuttings and this saves money by not having to by new ones so often.

So good luck to all the gardener's and we hope for good rain soon.

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

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Kootingal Hardware & Electrical Phone 0267603799
24 Gate St Kootingal NSW 2352
Open 7 days Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm; 8.00am-4.00pm; Sunday 9.00am-2.00pm
News from an Ex Moonbiite

\textit{You can take the girl out of the country but you can’t take the country out of the girl}! It’s a cliché saying I know, but honestly that’s how I feel about coming home to Moonbi!

My name is Lisa and my father asked me lovingly (!!!) if I would write a little snippet for the Moonbi News about where I am now. I have got to say, I wasn’t too keen...I have always been pretty quiet and have never enjoyed the focus being on me. The last thing I wanted to do was write a story about myself! I haven’t done anything special, I honestly doubt anyone would want to read about my whereabouts and isn’t this something that gets written about someone famous or someone past?! Anyway, I adore my Mum and Dad and I adore my country roots so I simply couldn’t say no.

To keep the me focus short and sweet, I left Moonbi shy and reluctantly when I was just short of 18 and moved to Newcastle to study. I completed my degree as an OT and stayed on a few more years working in the area. It wasn’t long before I got itchy feet and decided to explore the other side of the world with my best pal. We worked and we travelled and I did the one thing that my mother and father hoped I wouldn’t do, and I met a man, meaning 2 years away turned into about 7!! I did eventually come back though and brought with me a mad but loveable Scottish husband and my first-born son William.

Work took us to Brisbane and that’s where we made our home. It was way too far away from my family but 7hrs by car was much better than 24hrs by plane so I couldn’t complain. Fortunately for me, luck also brought my eldest sister and younger brother and their families to Brisbane as well so at least I had half of my family nearby.

I now have two young boys so live in a house full of footballs, smelly socks but an awful lot of laughs and adventures. We share our time amongst camping, running the boys between hockey and football (otherwise known as soccer...I have to call it football or my Scottish husband would shake in his boots!), running a pet care business (massive career change but I love it!) and commuting in and out of the city for music practice. Music practice you ask, well it’s not your usual mix of instruments. William plays the bagpipes much to my neighbor’s contempt and Archie somehow has managed to teach himself the didgeridoo. Yep, he can circular breathe and it’s amazing! His recent claim to fame is playing for Pixie Jenkins at Bendemeer pub. They then followed this up by busking in Peel Street on one Saturday morning, I was one very gob smacked but super proud mother.

The main reason I agreed to share a piece for my Dad (apart from finding it hard to say no to him) was the simple reason that despite where I have been, Moonbi still has a huge place in my heart! I cannot stress enough how much I absolutely loved growing up in Moonbi! I loved living in the hills, I loved the smoke and air, I loved the friends I made and the memories I have created. I loved growing up in Moonbi, I am sure I took it all for granted at the time and didn’t appreciate how lucky I really was.
William is now almost 13 and his brother Archie is coming up for 10. They have a great life in Brisbane, not far from the beach with lots of opportunities that a city can provide but I have always made sure they get plenty of visits back home. I want them to experience what I did as a child and I am so very lucky that my mum and dad and sister Belinda still live there. This allows them for a few weeks every year to play like I did. For boundaries to be loosened, for them to get their hands dirty and work hard with their Pop, for them to see where their Mum grew up and to be told stories from their Great Uncles and Aunts. They are so proud that their Pop is so involved with the Moonbi Museum and honestly, they see him as Superman, the man who can make or fix anything!

I started this piece by saying “you can’t take the country out of the girl”, well you can’t and thankfully my love of Moonbi has rubbed off on my husband Stephen and our boys as well. It may only be a small place that not a lot of people have heard of but it has made me who I am today and I thank you for that!

By Lisa Nesbitt

Photo at Bendemeer pub with Pixi Jenkins
Out and About with the Social Sleuth

Tamworth Country Music festival has long gone, but not too late to offer our congratulations to a couple of local Golden Guitar winners. Our well-known Ashleigh Dallas picked up her second “gong” for Traditional Country Music Album of the Year, for “Lighthouse”, for which Dad Brett collected an award of his own for producing the album. Being recorded in Brett’s Kootingal studio, I’m sure mum Lynette was in on the act, and Ash’s big brother Lindsay was part of the band, so a real family affair! Heartiest congratulations to you all, and to proud grandparents Rex and Adrienne.

Get well wishes to anyone on the sick list. Thinking especially of Jan Hystek who recently underwent foot surgery. We miss you from the museum Jan, and hope you will soon be back on that bike of yours, around Moonbi’s streets and roads.

Wonder how many of your remember watching Play School back in its early days of the late 1960's, 70's, 80's? If you ever did, be sure to visit the 50th birthday exhibition at the Tamworth Art Gallery, running from 10th February to 15th April with free entry. There you will catch up with Big Ted and Humpty and Jemima and all the other characters and original props- be able to see and hear visual and audio clips from the past 50 years- reminisce and introduce your own children or grandchildren to an old favourite-and be part of only 2 New South Wales cities lucky enough to host an exhibition (the other is in Albury). A big bonus on opening night was meeting up with local celebrity Phillip Quast, a past presenter. He is presently performing in “Follies”, a musical showing at the National Theatre in London, but back home in Tamworth he soon got into the Play School mode and was a big hit with the kids!

It was also good to catch up with dad Col Snr, now a resident of Bupa- and still missing Moonbi Store’s coffees he tells me.

Recently met up with an old friend, Tory McCulloch (nee Lynch) who reminisced about the close connection between Moor Creek and Moonbi families back in the 1930’s and 40’s Her family lived at “Dorothy Vale”, Moor Creek (near Lynch wood Scout Camp, who’s land was donated by the Lynches) and they were great friends with the Blanches at “the Highlands” way up New England Gully Rd. Evidently there was a foot track or “bridle path” down the hill between the two properties, and some of the young Blanches would walk or ride down once a week to get their bread, when Tamwworth’s’ Fowlers bakery did a Moor Creek run. And at one stage two of the Blanch children, Mel and Keith, stayed with Mrs Lynch through the week to go to the Moor Creek School for a whole 12 months, no doubt walking or riding up and down that hill each weekend...those were the good old days!

Congratulations to Ann and Bob Faulkner who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a family weekend at Newcastle. Their children Warren and Amanda and families and Bob’s sister Ann joined the happy couple at the Novotel for a great weekend.

A new Museum The expansion of Tamworth Hospital has allowed for a small museum of medical and hospital history to be created. It is located in the original 1883 part (near where the shop was) and is open from 10 to 1 on Wednesday and Thursday. The exhibit at present is “Nursing Services in Retrospect” the next will be about the history of the hospital. Should you have any enquiries please phone 67661914 Groups can be shown over by arrangement with the contact number above.

It is good to see the preservation objects and stories of the past, museums really are “keeping places” of community’s collective memories.
HELLO THERE IN MOONBI/KOOTINGAL: Again a busy few months rescuing and
re homing dogs it is a never ending circle as people will not get their dogs desexed. It is all very
well breeding all these puppies and kittens and giving them away or selling them for vast
amounts of money, but a lot of them end up in the pound or wandering the streets. Some folk
have very good intentions when getting this puppy or kitten and because, especially puppies are
a 'pain in the neck' at times they get rid of the poor animal. Puppies are hard work and if you put
the hard yards into training them from 8 weeks of age you will be rewarded, it is much easier to
 teach them manners when they are that old instead of leaving it until 6 months or older. Dogs
that come into my care are exactly what has happened, no training nor discipline and it is hard
work for quite awhile before the 'penny drops' to what they are supposed to do. I do not let dogs
jump up on me at all as you could have your best clothes on and the dog jumps up and puts dirt
or tears your get up, the dog does not know, plus, which is very important, they could jump up
on an older person or small child and knock them to the ground and hurting themselves in a very
bad way. There are kittens everywhere at present I have a little one who is as black as pitch and
was only approximately 5 weeks old when found dropped on the front lawn in Carthag Street.
Luckily for this little girl some school boys found her before it was too late as it was extremely
hot, they took her to the vet and because the vet surgery had an abundance of kittens I took her.
She is running all over the place and a happy healthy kitten, she is looking for a home plus
Tamworth Vets have quite a few kittens In their care very anxious for homes as they are getting a
bit bigger which makes it harder.
I have a cross bred dog which I rescued from the pound, he could not walk and was all skin and
bone, he is the most grateful dog and very gentle. I have had him for approximately 5 weeks
now and he looks great. His nails were so long they had curled around and were digging into his
pads under his feet, I think he was in some sort of crate, certainly not a concrete floor, he had
not much fur on his body it had all dropped off and there were sores on his bones where they
were rubbing. After a lot of TLC, calcium syrup, olive oil, eggs and plenty of good food he
looks magnificent. He is still is a gentle soul and would be suitable around children as long as
were not rough with him, he would be an ideal companion dog to a couple who is at home a lot
etc, the vet nurses and I decided he had Grey Hound in him hence the gentle nature, they make
wonderful pets and love being on the couch etc!!!!!
I have another cross which I think has Mastiff in her, she is a nice dog also, she came from an
awful home also and was frightened of me in case I was going to hit her all the time. She took a
few days of patience for her to work out she was safe and now she is full of confidence and
comes to me as soon as I call her for a pat. She will make an ideal dog for walking etc.
I also have a little Tenterfield terrier, he is only 14 months old and looking for a kind home, also
a King Charles x which I will have later this week, she is a female and only 16 months, I have to
assess her before she is rehomed to make sure I have the right home for her.
Last but not least I have 2 working dog (kelpie) pups who are now 18 weeks old and desperate
for a free home if any farmers out there would like these pups, they are ready for work and the
farmer that bred them is not well and I said I would help find a placement.
If anyone is interested in any of these lovely dogs please phone and we will arrange a time to see
if he/her is suitable. Please phone Jean Medlock 67605931 = 0428261573
Just where did Oxley travel through here?

I became interested in Oxley’s explorations through this area, wondering where they actually went, what was the season like and can we still see what that they would have seen? I found a copy of the journals of his trips online to answer my queries about the exploration. Here is just some of what I found, I do hope you will find it interesting:

John Oxley led two expeditions the first in 1817. It set out south and west from Bathurst until progress was blocked by the many wetlands of the Lachlan river. They returned to Bathurst in August after 19 weeks of hardship. A second expedition set out from Bathurst in late May 1818 following the Macquarie River with boats, for some time, until this disappeared into “an ocean of reeds” – now known as the Macquarie marshes north west of Coonamble. They turned north east after this, discovering the Castlereagh river, and enduring some terrible weather and severe floods in the area through July. On 8th August Oxley and Evans climbed the mountain he named Mt Exmouth in the Warrumbungle’s (he called them the Arbuthnot’s range) then turned east to struggle through more flooded area where the boggy ground and quicksand were common occurrences. The horses had to be loaded and unloaded and frequently rescued, this was taxing for men and animals and used food and equipment. About Aug 28th they came across a fertile plain with good feed and sound footing. They named the area the Liverpool Plains. This was a vast relief to men and horses who had suffered hunger and thirst and very difficult conditions before this.

The map in the Tamworth Historical Society, shows them being in the area of Curlewis at the end of August 1818 with various campsites in the Tamworth region with the night of 4th September being spent at a camp close to the Kootingal side of the junction of Moonbi creek with the Cockburn river, the next camp on the 5th September was on the Calburv Creek (as it is called on the map) this may well be some distance up the creek that you follow if you go over the big bridge at Limbri. On the 6th September they camped close to the MacDonald river after a very steep and rocky climb. When they reached this area and the area on top of the range toward Walcha, Oxley’s diaries comment on the natural loveliness, fertility and abundance of game of the area.

The exploration party had a very difficult time with the broken country around the Walcha escarpment, finding themselves on the wrong side of Apsley gorge so had to retrace their steps back to find a crossing at the head of the falls and naming them. This was followed by a harrowing trip down to the coast. They saw the sea for the first time from the top of Mount Seaview: but that is still a long way to the coast and a long difficult trip along the coastal area broken by estuaries and lake systems to Newcastle and settlement where they arrived on November 6th 1818. In the space of 20 years the first settlers arrived.

I do hope you will look up these references it’s a long but interesting read. Lee Rodger

You can read about Oxleys two expeditions on this e book
https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/o/oxley/john/o95j/complete.html

These are some extracts from the diaries’ as they are written ... means the text is abridged

About the Cockburn area Sep 3rd 1818... The country easterly appeared broken into a series of rocky detached hills: and on descending this range, we found an immediate change in the quality of the soil, being in the valleys of a light coarse sand, the surface covered with gritty particles as from pulverised coarse granite.... On a hill near which we encamped, was a single mass of granite apparently thrown up perpendicularly from the bosom of the earth: it was twenty-six feet high and had six distinct sides, ending in an irregular point at the summit, and was forty-eight feet in circumference. The valleys, though sandy, afforded us plenty of good grass and water, and the hills furnished abundant employment for the botanical collector.

September 4th 1818. — After leaving the valley in which we encamped, we entered one much more extensive, and communicating with Goulburn Vale. Between five and six miles on our route, we reached a beautiful small river coming from the eastward and joining Peel’s River, of which it appears to be a principal branch. For the remainder of the day’s journey, we proceeded up the fine valley which this stream watered, bounded on the north and south by lofty and fertile hills covered with rich herbage, having numerous smaller valleys and streams terminating in this principal valley..... The rocks and stones which composed the bases and summits of these hills, were not less various than their form: scarcely two were alike. Granite, coarse porphyry, freestone, and whinstone were frequently found on the same hill, and the beds of the streams were of every variety of pebble. This fine stream received the name of Cockburn River.
Around the Garden ........

Well I don’t know what your garden is looking like at the moment but ours is a little tired and dry. No amount of watering is replenishing the soil or the plants really. Every week I go out into the garden to find another plant has succumbed to the prolonged dry. It is disheartening, but I keep on working in the gardens and preparing for when the rains do come.

So we started putting the wood chip on just before Christmas time on some of the beds as they had a layer of straw and fertiliser put on them in the Spring and were now ready for the next layer. We did this to improve the soil structure and to help with water loss. This weekend I will be continuing this process with pruning back, feeding and laying down straw. By pruning back the plants after flowering you are rewarded with healthy growth that has time to harden off before the onset of frost and also the plants produce more flowers. I will then place wood chip over the top in the next couple of months.

Coming into the Autumn I will be feeding the trees and shrubs that are singular in lawn areas and laying down mulch around the root systems. This will help with moisture retention and also protection into early Winter.

I have continued to propagate from seeds mostly over the Summer months and have plants ready to be planted out when the rain arrives. With some of the pruning’s I will take tip cuttings to have new plants for the Spring.

Autumn is a lovely time to be out in your garden. The days are not so hot and there is always some interesting wildlife in and around your plants. Remember to feed your lawns, prune, mulch and weed your garden beds but most importantly enjoy your garden. We always have lots of things to be done in the garden, but that just keeps us out there and active. I intend on having a late Sunday cup of hot tea with a freshly baked piece of cake as the cool of the Autumn afternoon casts shadows around my garden. I love that late afternoon time. Watching the birds busily about their day or splashing in the bird baths. What a pleasure.
TAMWORTH DISTRICT MASONIC WIDOWS, LADIES AND ASSOCIATES.

Notice of name change from Tamworth Masonic Widows and Ladies Association to Tamworth District Masonic Widows, Ladies and Associates effective as from 15th December 2017.

Membership is open to widows of Masons, wives and partners of Masons, and Masonic brethren.

We meet at the Tamworth Masonic Centre, Crawford Street, East Tamworth on the second Thursday in the month – 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m.

We have guest speakers on popular topics, and take lunch at the Centre or at a venue decided by the Committee on alternate months.

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

On behalf of the President and Executive I have much pleasure in wishing one and all a safe and happy Easter.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary, TAMWORTH DISTRICT MASONIC WIDOWS, LADIES AND ASSOCIATES 26/2/2018.

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Wilson family news ...from the top of the range

Hoping you've all had a wonderful Christmas and new year.

We have started another school year already. Our eldest daughter has entered Year 1, our middle daughter is in the school readiness room at pre school and our youngest daughter has started her first year at pre school.

It's hard to believe that all 3 of our girls are at school. It only feels like yesterday that they were tiny babies. Alan and I managed a few hours of child free time yesterday to enjoy a spot of fishing at Split Rock Dam (Manilla), followed by a quick stop at Molly Mays and the beautiful pub across the road, finished off with Manilla Bakery pies for lunch. What an amazing region we live in, I must say Manilla is just such a beautiful town I just love heading out there.

We are looking forward to a few trips this year starting with a short getaway to Iluka and working our way north again later in the year. Alan is heading up to Darwin for another fishing adventure to finish off the wet season which they refer to as 'run off'.

Bendemeer Play Group is held on the following 2018 dates at Bendemeer Pre School starting at 10am, all welcome.
For further details please don't hesitate to contact Gubi Gabun children's mobile service on 6772 3120.

12th & 26th March, 9th April, 14th & 28th May, 11th & 25th June, 23rd July, 13th & 27th August, 10th & 24th September, 22nd October, 12th & 26th November.

Until next time, The Wilsons
The way we were

Snippets of Moonbi history down through the years

I heard it once said that Moonbi went from “a village with three pubs and no churches to one with three churches and no pubs”

The Pubs – or Inns - were there in the 1850’s to 60’s catering for travellers on horses, on foot, or in horse drawn vehicles and acting as changing posts for the coaches.

The Coach and Houses Inn was built in 1856 by William McClelland on the block where the little stone cellar still stands, on the highway, diagonally across form the Caltex services station. It was later bought by Bridget Flanagan and used as a wine shop.

Swains Moonbi Inn was also established in 1856 by George Swain, a little further north along the highway towards the Thomas St corner

The Bird in Hand Inn was on the opposite side of the highway, presumably where William and Sarah McIlveen operated a store and wine shop in the early 1860 and later on a post office.

Then in the next century came the three churches.

Moonbi Union church was built in 1836 on land donated by George Streeting. Opened on 5th Dec 1936 this building still stands- Now it is Scott’s Presbyterian Church. There is a plaque on a granite rock in Moonbi Park naming and commemorating the families involved in its’ building.

St Peters Anglican Church was also opened in 1936. Formerly a church in Limbri, the building was transported and opened on 23rd Dec 1936 by Bishop Moyes. In 1960 another former Church at Garthowen was brought to Moonbi and re-erected as a church hall. On 22nd Sep 1977 disaster struck, A fully laden semi trailer failed to take the highway bend and ploughed through a house, knocked over a large tree and ended up in the church. The building was demolished and a completely new church was erected on the site and dedicated on 15th Nov 1981 and has been in continuous use ever since.

St Gerards Catholic Church was also build in 1936 on land next to the Coach and Houses Inn donated by Frank and Nellie Brennan, Firstly part of St Nicholas parish in Tamworth and later the Dungowan parish. Services ceased with parishioners attending the nearby Marie Therese Church in Kootingal. This Moonbi church has now been converted into a private dwelling

Now two Churches and a liquor store – we wonder what might happen down the track!
KINDER 2018
9 excited new Kindergarten students started at big school this year. They have settled in amazingly well. I imagine the kinder students and Miss Reilly, although very tired, will have been bursting over last few weeks with excitement from their new experiences.

MISS REILLY’S & ROSELLAS CLASS 2018

MRS HARRIS’S HAWKS CLASS 2018

MISS ABRÁ’S BUDGIES CLASS 2018

2018 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
I would like to introduce our 2018 Student Leaders to our educational community. Our leadership team is made up of the two School Captains, two Vice School Captains and two Sports House Captains, a library president, ATSIC president and SRC President.
I am very proud to introduce our 2018 School Leadership Team, Chelsea McDonald, Olivia Robertson, Corie Forsyth, Summer Foster, Lauren Robertson, Giselle Slater and Jack Casey.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS / PARENT HELPERS
Moonbi Public School is very fortunate to have outstanding parent support in assisting us to implement our many and varied school programs. This support is very important to us and is a key part of our partnership with parents and the community. If you are able to help out in the classroom or gardens please contact the school on 67603151.
The NSW Department of Education and Communities’ requires schools to have volunteers, complete a Working with Children Check. This check is free of charge for volunteers but must be completed before entering into child related work. To complete a Working with Children check please follow the links at http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/