Editorial

Hello Everyone,

Another year has almost gone by and we look back on the highs and lows, the joys and sorrows, the long drought and the very recent welcome fall of rain enjoyed by some.

Now it is time to look ahead to what we hope will be a happy festive season. Most of us will be looking forward to spending some time with family and taking time out to relax. But hopefully we will also spare a thought for others less fortunate and do what we can to spread the cheer. Sometimes all it takes is a card or note in the mail- a simple phone call to say “hello I am thinking about you” - or an invitation to drop in for a cuppa and piece of cake.

This is also the time for us to say thank you to everyone involved in getting the Moonbi Newsletter out there each quarter: the Tamworth Regional Council for their news updates and printing (especially Jodie and her colleagues) – Di at the post office for distributing copies of the newsletter and collecting donations toward the museum from these -- and all you regular contributors who always rise to the occasion when you get our last minute emails and phone calls! Please keep the news coming for our March edition which will be due Mid-February.

Until then a Happy Christmas and a bright and blessed New Year to you all

Happy reading.

- Joy Ballard 676031710
- Lee Rodger 67603993 or 0428603993
- Email lrodger5@bigpond.net.au
MOONBI MUSEUM PRESIDENT’S REPORT.

Greetings.

Well hasn’t the rain been lovely I just hope we can get a lot more before Christmas as we could sure help out the Farmers if we could.

Moving on to other subjects, I am pleased to say we have finally received our occupation certificate allowing us to reopen the Museum to the public and I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to drop in and have a look at what we have that will bring back old memories of our times growing up, lots of old Photo’s and Implements from Days gone by as well as heaps of History of the District and our early pioneers.

I am also very pleased to announce that we also have the contractor who has the contract to build the new Toilet block commenced work on Monday 12/11/2018 and expects to complete the job around the end of November.

Now if we can get parks & gardens on side to clean up around the front of the park we will have a great area for travellers to pull in for a rest and a coffee break.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Till next time keep well and Drive Safely.

Bill Humphrys.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find some information on the Moonbi Lookout. The newly formed “Friends of the Lookout” are to be congratulated on working towards restoring this important Moonbi Landmark to its original condition and improving the adjoining park. Some descendants of the original workers are amongst the group but they would welcome anyone interested in local history to join them. They hope to meet again in early February in 2019.
GREETINGS

Another year draws to a close- a “mixed bag” for many of us, but we can only go forward with the thought and hope that 2019 will be better for us all.

The Museum Committee is conducting a Christmas Raffle which will be drawn at Moonbi on Saturday 15th December 2018. There are four prizes and tickets are available from Committee members $1 each.

President Bill has already told you of the Museum completion and the progress of the new toilets in Moonbi Park.

Some time in the new year we will be organising a “Back to Moonbi” day and hope you will all come along and join us for a day of catching up, telling stories, visiting the Museum and Moonbi Park, and generally taking part in our special celebration.

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NOTICE

INVITATION TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND VISITORS

You are cordially invited to visit the Museum on Saturday 15th December 2018 between 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to partake of morning and afternoon tea and have a look at a “finished” Museum. We are very proud of our achievement and wish to show it off.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

On behalf of our Committee it is my pleasure to extend sincere thanks to all our supporters and helpers – you know who you are!

It is now time to say “MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR” and wish for you all Good Health in 2019. Remember “Moonbi is a Great Place to Live”.

Sincerely,

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary, MOONBI MUSEUM COMMITTEE 19/11/2018.

DAMFYNE SWINE

Want ½ or whole pork pigs for your freezer?

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

Contact James on 0428 666 180 for more information
CLAUDETTE'S CORNER.

It seems to have been a long building progress with our extensions but well worth the wait.

We have more displays of our history and a lot of interest for families who have made Moonbi and area their home. The “Coach and Horses” built in 1856 by William McClelland later Flanagan’s Wine Shop, an Inn and Post Office, Henry and Grace Wilsons Store, William McIlveen’s Store and Post Office.

We are all very happy with our new displays, not forgetting our well which was the original Village water supply.

The Museum opening hours are once again 10am to 3pm Saturdays and Sundays, and we are open for groups through the week please ring me for bookings on 67603110.

Our family, grandkids, great grandkids and a few extras will be here to help make the Christmas pudding. We have the old coins for them to stir in and 33make a wish, yes grandma has to buy the coins back each Christmas.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

[Signature]
Tamworth Regional Council News

New Moonbi Park facilities

Moonbi is one of the first communities to benefit from Council’s public amenities improvement program.

New amenities at Moonbi Park will be ready for use by mid-December once a pathway linking it to the Moonbi Museum is completed.

Tamworth Region Deputy Mayor Phil Betts said the new facility has all the features expected in modern public amenities and will be a valued community asset. “Moonbi Park is well used by the local community and visitors while the adjacent Moonbi Museum is attracting a steady number of visitors so the new amenities will be appreciated,” he said.

The new steel framed and steel clad structure has a budgeted cost of about $85,000. There is one unisex ambulant toilet, one unisex disabled toilet and one standard toilet cubicle. The cubicle with full access for those with a disability includes a baby change table.

Eight new public amenities across the Tamworth Region are currently in the process of construction.

Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day 2019 will soon be here and the Region will host various events on January 26. In Kootingal, there is a breakfast at Memory Park in Denman Avenue (organised by the Lions Club of Kootingal and District) from 8am to 10.30am that includes games such as the thong fling, pumpkin bowling, gumboot toss and the best decorated gumboot.

Celebrations at Bendemeer (organised by the Grey Fergie Tractor Muster Committee) start with a free breakfast at Bendemeer Bowling Club from 8.30am and then moves to the Bendemeer Hotel grounds until 12.30pm for a billy boiling competition, entertainment and thong throwing.

Council Christmas closure

Please be advised that all Council Offices including the Kootingal Library will close between Christmas and New Year. Our last day of operation is Friday 21 December, 2018 and offices will re-open on Tuesday 2 January, 2019. Should you have any urgent matters during this time, please call us on 6767 5555 and our out of hours support can help you. Council wishes you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.
Come and say hello to us

We were at Moonbi on Wednesday 28 November to give local residents the chance to give us face-to-face feedback and to find out where they would like the funds from next year’s annual budget spent.

There was some great information given to us but unfortunately the weather was against us on the day with intense storm activity resulting in cuts to electricity and keeping some people away.

The good news is we will be back at Moonbi on Thursday 13 December, 2018 at Moonbi Park from 10am to 11am. We look forward to seeing anyone who missed out to catch up with us then and share your ideas with us.

Throughout November we have been visiting towns and villages across the region, asking residents for ideas and feedback about the projects and initiatives that should be considered as part of the 2018-19 Annual Budget. This has been in conjunction with an online survey we ran for those residents unable to see us in person.

Plaque to mark lookout anniversary

Council is pleased to be working with the Friends of the Moonbi Lookout to install a commemorative plaque celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the popular vantage point.

A group of descendants of workers who constructed the Moonbi Lookout gathered in September this year to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the former Cockburn Shire Council project.

This group - The Friends of the Moonbi Lookout - raised money for a plaque and wrote to Council seeking help to install it. The group plans to unveil it at a ceremony on December 5.

One outcome of discussions between Council staff and the group was the decision to install interpretive signage including historical information and photographs documenting its history. The information board, to be completed in the first half of 2019, will complement recent works Council has undertaken to improve the stone stairway at the lookout. Early in November, Councillors voted to support the installation of the plaque and to fund the information board project which is budgeted to cost $1,500 and will be covered through the existing Sports and Recreation Capital Works budget.
KOOTINGAL/MOONBI RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The bushfire danger period has been in force since 1st September, so you need a permit to light a fire and the Permit Officers are Kendall Thompson (0408 203864), Ken Hawes (0421 727535), Allen Madden (0400 316153) and Stuart Knight (0429 648227). Even with a permit, you are still required to advise the Fire Control Centre in Tamworth (6762 7641) and your neighbours 24 hours before you light a fire. And always consider the weather conditions before you light up - on days of total fire ban and on days when the fire danger rating is Very High or above, permits will be suspended. Unfortunately, if you live within a proclaimed village area (maps in the Post Office), as designated by Tamworth Regional Council, the NSW Clean Air Act prohibits you from lighting any fire (other than a 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.

If you haven't already done it, now is a good time to prepare your property for the summer by cleaning out your gutters and removing rubbish and undergrowth from around your house and sheds. If you want some advice on the best ways to fire-proof your home and keep your family safe, visit the RFS website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare for the latest tips. If you live in a fire prone area, don't forget to make your Bushfire Survival Plan and, as they say, planning to make a plan is not a plan - do it now.

While we have had some patchy rain and the country is looking greener, a few hot days will quickly dry off the new growth, so we can't afford to be complacent. 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. 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.

Our Brigade competition team recently competed in the Fire & Rescue NSW State Firefighter Championships in Dubbo. Out of fourteen events, their results included four first places, four thirds and some minor placings, and they ended up 2nd overall out of 20 teams. They also set a new state record in one event, so had a very successful weekend.

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

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

Kootingal Lions has had a very active year with some regular activities and well as some much larger signature activities which have been reported on below. Lions have also supported small local schools to send some children away to the coast and the fund their end of year activities which relieved cost pressure on drought affected families. In addition, assistance has been given to the elderly and disabled in various ways, as donations of needed items to improved quality of life. It has been a pleasure to be of assistance where possible.

Our last major event of the year was the Lions Youth Of the Year, a programme that encourages leadership in Young people. Nominees attend an in-depth interview, give impromptu speeches and also deliver a prepared speech. All the candidates were of a very high quality presented themselves and schools beautifully. This year’s winner for public speaking was Alana Noonan of McCarthy High and the overall winner was Megan Seis of Calrossy Anglican School,(pictured with Judges) these girls will go onto the zone championship later this year.

Kootingal Lions Club hosted a wonderful Art Exhibition on Friday 12th October 2018 at the community hall in Kootingal. The organizers were delighted with the high standard of the entries. There was a wide range of mediums on display enough to inspire all art lovers.

The judge, Michelle Hungerford was impressed with the way the paintings were hung with each painting having some “white area” around it to show paintings to their best advantage. She also commented on the high standard of entries.

Local member Kevin Anderson opened the exhibition and announced the grant approval for a new ablation block for the hall. He also jokingly promised a new PA system for the hall as recent lightning had affected the one in use, which made for an amusing evening! A large crowd attended the event, purchasing and looking at art works, while enjoying a champagne supper. If you missed this event look out for next year’s exhibition on the second weekend of October in the Hall in Chaffey Street, off Chelmsford St. in Kootingal.

The proceeds of this art show go to the good causes that Lions support, some of these have been to do with assisting people with their various needs due to the drought both on a local front and in combination with Lions from other districts. You would have been aware of the Hay Runs as part of the Need for Feed program. Several local people have benefited from this. Our thanks to all who contributed to the successes of these events.

Please let us know of anything in our local area that we may be able to help with, often lending a hand to attend to some problem is all the help that is needed, sometime the help of several people makes the difference, but if you don’t tell us we cannot do it!

We have been happy to welcome some new members into our fold this year and would like to extend an invitation to you, should you wish to join to approach a member for how to do this. We do a lot more the cook sausages! However, talking of sausages, we have done quite a bit of catering for the year as well. Watch out for us at the Carols by Candlelight at Moonby House on 14th Dec. Look forward to being there with you all this year.
MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE.

Our long awaited revamp of the septic toilet system for the Hall and Pony Club is now in progress and will be completed in time for Country Music 2019.

Our next project is improvements in the Moonbi War Memorial Hall and we look forward to seeing this happen in early 2019.

It has been a busy year and it is now time to say thank you to our regular and other hirers and users for their custom and ongoing support of a valuable community asset. Thank you also to the staff of the Tamworth Regional Council for their help and assistance when needed. You know who you are!!

On behalf of President Graham, the Executive, and Committee Members it is my pleasure to wish one and all MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. Safe travel on your holidays.

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary, MOONBI WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE 19/11/2018

TAMORTH DISTRICT MASONIC WIDOWS, LADIES AND ASSOCIATES

We have had another busy year although some of our members have not been A1 due to illness, accidents or other unforeseen happenings. We have seen a drought like no other in our short history and trust we will not see another, and that in time there can be some recovery for all.

Our Annual Dinner (Christmas) is to be held following our meeting on Thursday 13th December 2018.

We meet 9.30 a.m. for morning tea, meeting at 10 a.m. and then dinner around 12 noon. Prior to Dinner there will be Kris Kringle gifts – bring a gift, receive a gift, some games (cheating not allowed), and a happy occasion for us all.

Secretary Dorothea has challenged Treasurer Joyce to a return bout of the Snakes and Ladders Championship. May the best contender win!!!

There will be a recess in January with meetings resuming in February 2019 – Thursday 14th – 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. at the Masonic Centre, Crawford St., East Tamworth.

On behalf of President Diana, Executive and Members, I have pleasure in extending Seasons Greetings to one and all. Keep safe and good health in 2019.

Contacts: Diana Cookson – 6765 7426  Dorothea Vaux  6760 3948

Dorothea Vaux, Secretary  19/11/2018
FRIENDS OF THE MOONBI LOOKOUT NEWSLETTER No 1

Moonbi Lookout today

A new group has been formed called “Friends of the Moonbi Lookout”.

On 14th October 2018, a meeting was held as a pre-cursor to forming a formal committee to look after the Lookout. About a dozen interested people turned up and decided that it might be advisable to call themselves a “steering committee” at this stage, and that they make individual efforts to notify as many other participants as possible, and to schedule another meeting early in 2019 with a view to establishing a formal committee.

This suggestion was adopted, however it was felt that some progress could be made regarding their future on the day of the meeting given that there were enough people present to make some decisions. It was decided to call themselves the” Friends of the Moonbi Lookout”. During the meeting the following charter and action plan was developed.

Charter: It was decided that the broad purpose for existing would be:
1. To pursue all avenues open to returning the facility to its original condition,
2. To liaise and co-operate with Tamworth Regional Council regarding maintenance requirements,
3. To consider all potential fund-raising possibilities in order to work with Council and other authorities regarding possible improvement projects.

Action Plan. Peter Ullman to write to Council advising them of the plans, requesting permission to install the plaque, and to suggest that Council might like to join the party by way of constructing some type of information board at the lookout. Note: This has happened, and a meeting was held on Friday 19th October between Councillor Phil Betts (Deputy Mayor), Peter Resch (Director of Regional Services), Paul Kelly, (Manager Recreational Facilities), and Peter Ullman. The meeting was very positive, and there is a feeling that Council was supportive. Following the meeting, a further letter was written asking Council to consider the construction of the information board.

A Commemorative Plaque will be unveiled at the lookout on Wednesday 5th December 2018 with ceremony to begin at 9.30 am to about 11.30 with morning tea to be provided

MOONBI PARK AND LOOKOUT
80th ANNIVERSARY
This plaque was erected on 5th December 2018 by the Friends of the Moonbi Lookout to recognise the efforts of the workers involved in its construction as a Great Depression Employment Project in 1937 – 38

The plaque as above is finished, and it has been dispatched from the manufacturer. Our collection bucket at the 80th birthday celebration provided $125.00, and Anne and Michael Myers generously donated the remainder (approximately $425), and Michael has been invited to carry out the unveiling. It was not solely because of his contribution, but Michael had a grandfather on one side, and a great-grandfather on the other side who worked on the construction of the Lookout.Anyone requiring further information could contact Peter Ullman on 0427 851 026
Vale Peter Geyer

Peter Geyer was born in Tenterfield on 21-9-1934. After attending Teachers College, he was appointed to Moonbi School in 1953. After completing his National Service at Ingleburn Army Camp, he commenced his appointment at Moonbi in March. He boarded at the home of Mrs Hales where he met the local Post master Mr Tom O’Conner who also boarded there. Peter was a very keen cricketer which rubbed off on the Coleman boys and a fanatic one-eyed St George Dragon Supporter.

Peter was fascinated by the school bus, a huge truck which carried a number of students to school each day, pretty cold for the kids in the winter months, he couldn’t remember the name of the “conductor”, a Mr Martin who lived up New England Gully Road.

Peter has 30 kids in his class nearly all related to each other and he thoroughly enjoyed his year at the school as it had a lot going for the kids, the parents, the Principal, Mr Cliff Garske and himself, as the students performed very well at the athletic carnival in Tamworth winning quite a few Gold Medals that year.

Peter had a soft spot for the Moonbi Hall, he though it was the local night club as he said it was there on one occasion, he met his “BLONDE BOMSHELL”, he took her home and told her he was going to marry her, and she just laughed at him!

Peter transferred to Tottenham School at the end of the year; yes true to his word he came back and married his “blonde bombshell” Gwen Flanagan at St Peters Anglican Church Moonbi, and all the Village residents turned up to watch the wedding of the year.

Peter passed away in hospital at St Georges Basin after a short illness on the 3-9-2018 and is survived by his wife Gwen, one daughter Meryl and two sons Kevin and Basil and their families.

By Bill Humphrys
ELIZABETH ANNE COLEMAN  1949 – 2018

Anne passed away on August 29th at the age of 69, tragically taken far too soon.

She was born at Tamworth Base Hospital on the 13th February, 1949... The eldest daughter of Alwyn and Judy Bryant – Brother Michael and Sister Cheryl both still live in Kootingal, where Anne grew up. She attended Kootingal Primary School and Tamworth High School. She played cricket, squash and tennis in her early years. This is also when her love of horses began.

Her first job on leaving school, was as a strapper at Dick Tooheys Horse Stud on the back Kootingal Road, she then went to work on a property at Gunning (near Canberra,) She purchased her first motor bike at this stage and rode from Tamworth to Gunning with a stopover at Parkes, where she filled in the night by going to the Parkes Horse Races. Anne then went out west to work on her Uncle’s property at Brewarrina, which was mainly sheep and then moved up to his property at Allora, in Qld to work with the horses. She then returned to work on the family farm in the early 70’s.

Anne began breaking horses as a teenager, and was renowned for her patience and gentle handling of horses. She also became involved in the Moonbi, Kootingal Pony Club for a number of years, and when Quarter horses were first introduced, Anne was the only woman to participate in the event held in Moonbi – she also became a jockey and rode in the first “female only” jockey race in Tamworth.

Anne met and married Ian, who came from a very prominent cricket family, and so her involvement in cricket began. She played in the local women’s cricket competition for a number of years and then went on to coaching, which became her great passion. She coached Moonbi Public School for many years and in recognition of time and effort, the School oval was named after Anne. She also coached Neningha Public School cricket teams and Tamworth junior representative sides for many years. Anne nurtured and helped shape the careers of many young cricketers, including her daughter Leonie, who went on to play for Australia. She was a passionate advocate for getting more girls participating in the sport.

Even after her children had grown up, Anne continued to be heavily involved in Tamworth Junior and Senior Cricket. She was Secretary of Moonbi PS Cricket Club and Secretary & Treasurer of the “Old Boys” Cricket Club for many years and as a result was given Life Membership. Anne also served on the Board of Control of the Tamworth District Cricket Association. She was instrumental in raising money for Tamworth cricket, spending many years and devoting many hours at the cricket canteen, especially during the Country Music Festival.

Anne served a year as President of the Bendemeer Rugby League Club and was a long-time supporter of the club, and Group 4, because of her boy’s involvement. She also took up golf and became an A grade golfer - she has her name on quite a few trophies.

Anne and Ian had 4 children – Terry, Craig, Darren and Leonie all were born with their parent’s love of sport, and all doing well in their chosen fields.

During her lifetime Anne fitted in so much, she never did anything by halves, it was all or nothing – she touched so many lives and will be sadly missed and remembered fondly by so many friends and close relations. Especially her husband Ian, Children and Grandchildren, Terry & Kevin, Craig, Sally, Claudia, Blake and Sophie, Darren (dec) Sharon and Rhanee and Leonie and Tamara.

REST IN PEACE ANNIE
Moonbi Art group.

It seems that the last quarter of the year is art show time. Maybe we all come out from a winter of painting to show off our works. Our group were certainly busy! Although we all paint for pleasure, it is a great compliment when someone likes your work, if they happen to wish to buy it then it funds the passion with both encouragement and dollars! We are happy to report a number of sales of paintings in the last three months.

Various members entered into the art shows in our area, bearing in mind it costs artists to enter their paintings in shows as well as delivery costs and commission -should they sell, the decision to enter can be complex. None-the-less all art shows in the area were well supported by our group and we always make an effort to go to the openings to support those arranging the events. It is amazing how different all the shows are: and we would strongly recommend art lovers to check them all out, each has something unique to show.

We would also like to thank these organisers for the work they do to bring these events to a successful conclusion, and to allow us to exhibit our works. Our members were involved with Kootingal Lions art Exhibition, and can attest to the work involved in putting an exhibition together- Kootingal Lions members are now quite art savvy! the Moonbi Museum has invited us back to have our artworks of the district on display and we have offered 30% of any sales as a donation towards the Museum.

Currently many of our group have taken the opportunity to learn the techniques of the old masters with a three-weekend workshop with James Waller- originally of Moonbi, but now an artist of international fame living in Ireland. James kindly offered this workshop to us to extend our horizons. This will keep us busy for quite a while as well as the sharing of techniques etc that takes place in the group. The group has become an incubator of ideas and a great place to seek some constructive feedback and friendship.

Now some members are hand painting their Christmas cards...save them if you get one, never know we may be famous...someday! May you have a Happy Christmas and blessed new year to you all.

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Raymond McLaren visits Jan Hystek in Holland for Moonbi Newsletter

Earlier in the year, Jan Hystek had invited me to visit Holland during his planned visit there in September. I promised that I would go, so on Thursday 13 Sep I arrived at Schiphol airport, and was met by Jan and his niece Ingrid Reemer. They unfurled a very nice banner that read "WELCOME TO HOLLAND RAYMOND". Over the next four days Jan and Ingrid are planning to take me to various interesting sites in and around Amsterdam.

The first place we went was Zaanse Schansse to see a collection of working windmills. These are quite old, but still operate performing various functions. The most interesting one for me is Het Jange Shaap, and this is a windmill that powers a vertical saw bench directly under it: It employs up to six saw blades working in parallel to saw logs into lumber. This old technology operates quite efficiently working directly from wind power.

The next day (Saturday) we visit the Cruquius, which is a giant steam powered pump, still in its original setting. This was used in draining the large lakes where Amsterdam now is. This pump is an engineering marvel built way back about 1840, and remains the largest single steam cylinder ever made, at 3.66 metres dia. This cylinder raised about 200 tonnes of water per minute to a height of five metres, using eight lift cylinders each about 1200 dia., arranged in a circle around the steam cylinder. The pump was designed and made in Liverpool, UK.

Later that day we meet Jan’s nephew Jan Paul, and we went to the Castellum, which is a museum set up specially around an old roman work boat that was found recently. It dates from around 600 BC. Jan Paul is Professor of Greek History, and knows a lot about this find and similar things. He explained that when it was found it had on board many tools used by tradesmen of the time.

I was astounded to see displayed some the tools looked just like those used today!! There was a superb wooden jack plane, with a carbon steel blade, that looks identical to a jack plane I have in my workshop today. But most amazing is a hand sheep shears, that looks just like those used today. This tool indicates to me that they had mastered carbon steel by 600 AD, because the spring and blades of hand shears have to made from hard steel.

Next day we visited the Flower market, and this is a market on the grand scale. There are stalls with all sorts of flowers, bulbs, tubers, seeds (even tins full of Cannabis seeds) and all manner of needs for the flower bed. The market must be at least 600 meters long down the street. I believe that people from all over the world shop here for their flower needs.

And of course, we had the two-hour boat cruise around the canals of Amsterdam, quite an experience to see buildings from the canal side, rather than the usual street side.

And of course, one must visit the Red-Light District, but unfortunately, we are not permitted to take pics of the buxom, suntanned ladies in waiting!!

Then to the Rembrandt collection at the Rijksmuseum, and where a very knowledgeable young woman presented a detailed interpretation of one of Rembrandts most famous paintings, the Night Watch. This painting is like a story of life at the time, with all manner of detailed parts inserted to create a sort of historical document, like a book condensed into one painting.

At the entrance to this gallery I saw a work by one John Walton, a piece of rusted twisted cast sculpture, suspended on a steel cable from the roof of the gallery. The caption says that it “demonstrates his (John Walton’s) refusal to accept the laws of gravity”.

This arrogant attitude seems to still persist with some other Americans!

Next I went to London the attend the New Scientist Live Expo at London’s Excel center. This is programmed over 4 days, Thur 20 Sept to Sunday 23 Sept.
Each day there were many talks presented, such as Future of Alternatives, Future of Batteries, Magic of Numbers, World of Liquids, Fusion Power, Muons, NASA, The Arctic, even one about Dinosaurs. And many others.

The British Astronomical Association is here as well as the magazine Astronomy Now (which has a chapter titled "the Glory of Andromeda). The pic shows one of the timetables (this one The Cosmos) for speakers to deliver one-hour talks, there are also timetables for Engineering, Technology, and Human World. Quite a bit on the Mercury probe, Bepi Colombo as its launch date approaches, and I met Prof Nicholas Mee who has written a book about the quest for the Higgs particle. He says this is "the greatest scientific discovery in the last fifty years". I have seen some newer types of CCD, and there was a one hour session about increasing noise in the RF spectrum causing problems for radio astronomy, as well there is a society to promote the dark sky. On top of this it is really good to see so many interested and bright young people, many of them women, showing enthusiasm for astronomy and science in general. All in all, it has been a fantastic adventure in science to come for the three days.

From London I went to Ireland, landing at Dublin was nearly as scenic as Sydney, with beaches and forests and green fields quite close to the city. During my week in Ireland, I visited the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. This is a very extensive museum covering archaeology, and many things, but most notable is the fine gold work that was done around the late bronze age, or 1000 years BC. There is nearly as much gold here as in Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt!! The Dublin Art Gallery has some very impressive works, even some by a painter known as Thomas Roberts, and he actually painted some scenes a little reminiscent of our Tom Roberts as well.

The next stage of the journey was to attend the weekend meeting of the International Guild of Knot Tiers at Stourport near Birmingham.

Here I was to meet some very interesting people, and saw some of the beautiful examples of the knot tiers skills. These are the type of decorative knots that have been used by sailors all over the world for centuries for decorating their ships, yachts, boats, sea chests, tools of trade, bottles, and making mats and other decorative things, originally from old ropes around the ship, but now using fine new materials.

While there I was introduced to Peter who makes those impossible things, knots inside bottles. This is one of the most clever crafts I have ever seen.

I was able to present some of my ideas on using machined formers for making some "knot-like" structures, and people found them interesting, and I was able to provide a few for members of the guild to do some knotty "doodling". It was here that I met a Chinese knot tyer whose name is Europa, would you believe?

On the bus trip from Birmingham to Heathrow, I cold see that the country there, while still green, is actually quite affected by dry weather, and that one enterprising farmer has covered many acres of his fields with solar panels.

It seems that, like in Australia, farmers are changing from producing crops to producing electricity. There was even a story of a bushfire near London, that caused evacuation of high-rise buildings. It seems that Australia is not the only country with these problems!!

Coming home was a long journey, with a long layover of four hours at Heathrow waiting for the flight to Sydney. However, the longest was a layover of five hours at Sydney, waiting for a flight to Tamworth.

Raymond McLaren

Moonbi.

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Our local school put on a lovely book week event honouring the treasures in their area. Our school decided the community was its treasure and invited several for morning tea charmingly served by the students who also gave a recitation of poetry. Well done all.
Kootingal CWA News.

Our fashion parade was successful, we thank Black Pepper Tamworth, Kootingal Bowling Club and the community for their support.

At our October meeting we also held our Annual General Meeting and Office bearers for 2018/19 are as follows, President Pam Wright, Secretary Jillian Turnbull, Treasurer Marion O’Neill, International Bev Asbury, Cultural Noeline McNeilsh, Ag & Environment Cathy Barber, Vice Presidents Alison Waugh, Betty Anne White, Phyllis Fegan, Gillian Moore, Handicraft Beryl Seymour, Raffles Heather Stokoe, Cooking Pat Ryan, Catering & Publicity Pat Hardwick, Patron Helen Squires.

President Pam thanked the outgoing Committee & wished the incoming Committee a happy year.

The Kootingal Lion’s Club Art Show was held at the Community Hall and we were invited to do morning and afternoon teas and we thank the community for their support.

At our November Meeting President Pam welcomed new member Maree Duffy and also presented Phyllis Fegan with her Vice President’s badge. We were given a donation from the Estate of the late Anne Colman which was much appreciated.

At the Wantihella Group Conference several of our Members have been re-elected, President Betty Anne White, Secretary Pam Wright, Vice President Noeline McNeilsh and Bev Asbury, congratulations ladies.

This year we will be studying our Koalas, Kurrajong trees and our foe is carp. Our country of study is our nearest northern neighbour Papua New Guinea.

Our Learning and Sharing Award will again be awarded to a year 6 student from Kootingal, Moonbi and TinTinhull Schools at presentation night.

Our next Meeting will be on 10th December at the Kootingal Memorial Hall, cuppa at 9-30am Meeting starts at 10am, all welcome.

Greetings

A Happy Christmas

A Prosperous New Year

And Safe travelling

From Claus and Sue and all the staff at Moonbi General Store and Di at the Moonbi Post Office.
Anglican Cockburn Valley
Friendship and Craft Group

Our year has been one of fun, learning new craft skills and projects, lots of laughter and great friendships. Our crafts have included beading, embroidery, card making, making beautiful shopping bags, we even made a peg apron.

We had a great turn out again for our Morning Tea for cancer raising $451.70. There is always time for a cuppa when Robyn or Liz share a short inspirational talk from the Bible to encourage and build each other up on our life's journey. This year we were involved in sending gift boxes with Operation Christmas Child to needy children overseas.

As we draw to a close of the end of our craft year we wish you every blessing as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We would love you to come and join us, we meet in the morning tea room at St. Peter's Church, Moonbi at 10am - 12.30pm.
Cost is $1.50 plus cost of craft item.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth

Contacts:
Robyn Barber 0409 603 499
Liz Bailey 67 696 404
Yvonne Wythes 67 603 446
Melissa Skaines 67 605 259
Notes on Oxley’s Bicentennial events

Warren Skewes


Except for the Bi Centennial celebrations in Tamworth in September the discovery of this area by John Oxley and his party in 1818 has been mostly forgotten. We attended a disappointing display at Bi centennial park in Tamworth on 2nd September where there was nothing displayed about Oxley, apart from a walk following his journey locally, but there was plenty of other entertainment.

The following week Kay and I took Joy Ballard to Walcha and to Langford house just south of Walcha township for the celebration of Oxley’s arrival there with owner Barry Marshall. Here we attended “Oxley’s Room” crammed full of Oxley memorabilia, a lock of his hair, notes, photographs, walking cane etc, and a limited-edition book of Oxley’s diaries from his two expeditions in 1817 and through this area in 1818.

Joy was invited to sit and read extracts of his journey from crossing the Peel River, Cockburn Valley and River and to Walcha and toward the coast to a captivated audience in the room.

Lunch followed and then a picturesque journey home through Woolbrook, Erstane station and to Bendemeer via Bendemeer Station- Nursten Road, over the top of the mountain range where the views east and South are something to behold. A panorama of huge tracts of land can be seen from the mountain tops which would rival the sights tourists travel hundreds of miles to see. This is the land Oxley traversed on his way to Walcha, and these views are right on our doorstep.

Thanks to Joys daughter Tracy who tracked down a limited-edition reprint in England, I now have a treasured copy of his journals diary as well as other books I found that tell the current location names the Oxley named differently on his journey.

As he complained in his diary about damage to his instruments some of his readings of longitude and latitude are now being researched. A surveyor friend has explained that the Longitude reading (from Greenwich meantime in England) are extremely sensitive to the accuracy of the watches he carried and it was explained that for every second his time was out equates to 30 meters in distance! Should his watch be out by 5 minutes this would equate to nine kilometres.

In Fairness, the distance would not have mattered too much in his travels but to go to these exact readings today would maybe put you in a different east west location to what he explained. No satellites in the sky and computerised instruments that are used today, just old fashioned sextants and Barometers to measure height etc were at his disposal as well as triangulation of certain hills they climbed.

For us to walk from the Peel river to Walcha in seven days would be challenging, as well as finding a suitable track to negotiate the mountainous range, Oxley and his man and pack-horses carrying their supplies no doubt did an incredible Job.
Notes on Oxley's Bicentennial Events

Lee Rodger

I have been curious about the course of Oxley's journeys through this region for years, as a child I could never understand why he had carried the anchor, out near Oxley- vale, all that way but later discovered that it was put there to mark the 100th anniversary of his passage. Now, as an adult, I have found a copy of the Journals on the internet (see previous editions of this newsletter) and decided I would be part of the 8 km walk that Oxley took just before the party crossed the Peel river. Buses were provided to take people out to the site, and the way was well marked with horseman going ahead. Every 500 meters there was an information post with extracts from the diary, providing a breather for the walkers. At the end, where the party crossed the Peel, was a map of the local part of their route- and the Lions club made a welcome sausage sizzle for us all I wonder what was Oxley's groups' menu that day 200 years ago.

The next week it was hard to choose which event to attend in Walcha so we choose to go to Apsley George where the National Parks ranger told us about the research of many others into Oxley's journey through the area. It was great to have a Local Aboriginal Elder there as well, she told us about the area from their unique perspective. It was most informative: the aboriginals had trading paths through the area that were far less demanding and could have assisted Oxley had either party been aware of it. Some local people had done much to preserve area for the future around here as they appreciated the unique character of the land and its history. Oxley appreciated the ease of travel through the Peel and Cockburn Valleys, however he had an extremely difficult time making his way down to the coast then had the difficult coastal walk around all the estuaries and the Myall lakes to Port Stephens.

We need to appreciate the number of explorers who found ways through the Australian landscape so different from what they were used to and at the same time acknowledge that the original inhabitants had adapted themselves and a way of living to be able to flourish here for centuries. Now we carry the touch into the future and are looking for the beast of both worlds for a sustainable future for us all.

sources: Oxley's Diaries – Search for the inland sea.

Around the Garden.............

It is once again late on a Sunday afternoon, there is no breeze and it feels like a lovely Spring evening. I can hear the wattle birds crackling away and a willie wag tail, with its sweet song in the background. There is the eastern spinebill also. At the moment it is very quiet and still. The last rays of the sun are on the hill on the opposite side of our property. Soon the sun will set.

We have had some rain. Not nearly enough and not continuously enough either. I have lost so many plants now and the gardens really look very sad. Today I began pruning the bushes that the kangaroo either ate or destroyed branches as they reached for more foliage. These plants will recover, but just don’t look their best. We haven’t had kangaroos in the garden since we did have rain as they must be finding food elsewhere. Last weekend I trimmed all of the native grasses in the bed and I am hoping that with the little rain we have they will spring to life. Last Sunday we also went around with the chainsaw and took out more of the larger bushes that have succumbed to the prolonged drought. I seem to have big beds of not much, when in a normal season they would be bursting with flowers, birds, insects and lizards. The bottlebrushes that are remaining are putting on a nice show, but just not enough diversity in my garden at the moment. Flowers are very small. I wonder do they have as much nectar in a dry season as they may in a good season??

In the shade house I still have plants to put out when we get more rain....and I am still propagating seeds that I have collected over the years and cuttings from my garden. They will not however fill the beds and I will need to purchase a lot of native plants when this drought is over. It is heartbreaking after so many years of hard work, but to look on the brighter side, I can replant what plants I know did well and also find some new ones that I may not know about. I look at the opportunity to continue to improve the soil structure. Over this year I have been topping the beds with a straw layer to add something extra to the soil. I really miss our cow manure. For many years I thoroughly enjoyed walking through the paddocks with a wheel barrow, shovel in hand chopping up manure and then spreading over the garden beds. Sourcing good clean manure isn’t that easy. The plan was to top the straw with the woodchips mulch, but as we just haven’t been getting good enough rains, I have to leave the beds with the straw layer until those rains come. Unfortunately, even a little rain, brings on weeds so quickly through the straw layer. Always something to do in a garden.

It has been twenty one years that we have been here on our little patch of dirt....no pun intended....and I wanted to finally get our property sign designed and installed, which I am working on and also complete our entrance to the property. Earlier this year we had to take down a huge stringy bark which had succumbed to the long dry. It was a big job, with a neighbour helping and a scissor lift hired, it was done within an afternoon. However we left the big stump as I said ‘I might do something with that’.

Well that stringy bark stump now has a large, sculptured, metal eagle welcoming visitors to our property. I still have to do a wire nest around him. We are getting there. There is always something to be done here. Most times I feel like I am failing at getting it all done.

We have got a little bit of a vege garden going as we did get good early Spring rain, but those few hot days don’t help. We have in quite a few different tomatoes, some carrots, beans, three different onion varieties and zucchinis. Craig has some melons on the go. Let’s hope we get something out of it all. We of course have all the usual ones that pop up, like spinach, salad lettuce leaves, potatoes and all of our
herbs. I just love walking out the door into the vege garden and picking for dinner or lunch. So fresh and flavoursome. Our vege garden in less than three meters from our door, it just brings me so much pleasure.

As this is the Christmas/Summer edition of our local newsletter, I would like to wish all of our community their family and our friends a very relaxing, enjoyable Christmas time. It may be a little difficult to purchase fresh plants for your friends & family this year, but a good book on native gardening or a voucher for them to purchase new plants when the rains come, will make a welcome gift. A little pack of new gloves and hand shovel, or ceramic/clay herb signs are always a lovely alternative.

Merry Christmas everyone, let's hope that this long drought breaks soon and the environment can begin to recover. Enjoy the lovely summer evenings, keep your ears open to the beautiful sounds and let your eyes feast on the changes around you. Stop, slow down and take it all in. These are just small moments in time, that build to become our life story.

Happy Christmas.

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**Moonbi Service Station**

**NRMA Road Service Agent**

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<tr>
<th>Mechanical Repairs</th>
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<td>Engine Tuning</td>
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<td>Glenn Michell</td>
<td>Phone 6760 3132</td>
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Travel memories of Lisa and Lesley McNee to the battlefields of Europe

Lisa and I took a 6 day Battlefields tour of Europe, Ypres in Belgium was first stop and very memorable with visits to museums in Ploegsteert, Passchendaela, to view Hill 60 and Messines Ridge, the site of the 3rd Australian Division attack from 7th to 10th June, 1917. The bus diverted a short distance from Ypres to Ballicul Cemetery so Lisa and I could lay some red poppies at the grave of a great, great Uncle, Tom Wilkinson, who died from wounds on 9th June at the Battle of Messines: possibly the first family member ever to be able to visit.

We had an unforgettable experience attending the Commemoration Ceremony at the Menin Gate, held at 8pm every night. Hundreds of people seem to appear from nowhere, tension and emotion builds as it gets closer to time. Three members of the Ypres Fire Brigade play the Last Post, then the Exhortation lines from” are read, the last line being repeated by everyone. The ceremony ends with two bugle calls, either the Reveille or the Rouse, both symbolize the beginning of a new day.

There are so many well-kept cemeteries and memorials over the Somme region commemorating all those Australian soldiers who died or were killed in the fields in WW1. The toll is something in the region of 46,000, more than who died in WW2. We visited many cemeteries over the few days. Seeing the words “soldier’s name unknown” on a grave is very sad.

We stayed for 2 nights in Saint Quentin to visit Pozieres, Mouquet Farm, Pheasant Wood Cemetery, VC Australian Cemetery, the “Cobbers” memorial, Bullecourt battlefield and the “Digger” and “Slouch Hat” memorials. Every site had a beauty and sadness. Villers-Bretonneux cemetery and National Memorial was memorable, along with the new Sir John Monash Centre.

We arrived in Peronne on the 31st August, first visiting the Historical de la Grande Guerre which houses a special exhibition dedicated to the Australians and the Battle of Mont St. Quentin, putting the battle operations into context with its detailed animated relief map. Later we drove up to the 2nd Division Memorial at the Mont St. Quentin site, each laying a single red flower in a small moving ceremony, conducted by a kindly Seventh Day Adventist Minister tour member, remembering all those who took part in this Battle one hundred years ago to the day.

Our tour ended officially the next day, but about a dozen of us having been invited by the Office of the Mayor of Peronne to stay on to take part in the Commemoration events of the 1st and 2nd of September, the official dates of when all of Peronne was finally captured and in the hands of the Australians in 1918. We were very honored to be invited to take part, meeting with the Australian Military Personnel, before and after the main Remembrance Ceremony at the 2nd Division Memorial on the 2nd, a concert by the French Military and a cocktail party after the Memorial Service. A local lady told us the history of Peronne in WW1, how the locals, surrounded by German soldiers, were forbidden to eat their own crops and food, couldn’t leave, and could only have what the Germans decided to give them, if they refused they starved. They were forever grateful when the Australians attacked finally freeing them. We were taken down to Clery to see exactly the area leading up the long hill to Mont St. Quentin, where the 17th Battalion began the
The capture of Mont St. Quentin has been described as the finest feat of the Australian Imperial Force and involved Australian soldiers from many Divisions, the 3rd and 5th, along with the 58th British division. The Germans lost 5000 soldiers, half were prisoners, the Australians lost 3100 and the British just over 1000.

We have been so very fortunate to be able to travel to France for this special year of commemorations, to learn of the bravery our soldiers under dreadful conditions, those who survived, and sadly those that died in the fields, two words are heard so often in descriptions of the Australian soldiers in WW1, courage and bravery. We really do have to be so thankful to them all for our freedom today, to never forget them, and be so very grateful we live in such a beautiful country and value all that we have because of them.

Hello from Kootingal & District Preschool Inc

We have had an exciting year throughout 2018 filled with many wonderful adventures, investigations, explorations and lots of fun! One of the highlights for our preschool children were creating scarecrows for the Kootingal Country Fair.

These two scarecrows took pride of place out the front of our service for a number of weeks, and the children greeted them everyday upon arrival and departure. The scarecrows were named 'Percy Pumpkin' and 'Jade'.

Kootingal & District Preschool are now taking enrolments for 2019 for 3 to 5 year olds.

If you would like to enquire about a possible position within our community based preschool for 2019, please feel free to give us a call on 0267603861 and speak to Kim or Bec.

You are also most welcome to pop in for a visit. We are located at Lot 21 Chaffey Street, Kootingal.
Bills garden notes

Now that the first flush of rose blooms are past their best – and have they been good this spring! It is important to dead head them as leaving old spent blooms on the bush does no good, and takes a lot of strength as they tend to form a type of berry- the rose hip-which is of no use and retards new growth. Spraying with a Seasol mix, along with a rose fertilizer applied around the base of the plant and a good soaking, seeing no heavy rain if has fallen latterly, will give them a good boost up to the next flush of flower.

Tomatoes are fairing well now the nights are getting warmer as they do not like cold nights or hot days. Make sure that they are kept well watered but avoid watering the foliage, a hand-held hose is best directed around the base of the plant. I have some tomatoes well advanced and climbing on the stakes with lots of blooms and tomatoes already on them. With a bit of luck, it may be a good year for them but beware of fruit fly as fruit gets towards ripening, a spray may be a good idea as a deterrent – a fairly weak mix at first is a good practice. As the plants show the first sign of slow growth a sprinkling of tomato food may be required from time to time.

Lots of summer things can be sown now, pumpkin. Squash, cucumbers and melons- these require good rich soil and well composted material added to the soil and well-rotted manures they are gross feeders, they also need to be well watered. If the soil is allowed to dry out on hot days they wither quite quickly. If this occurs it takes some time to fully recover so take care in this regard as lack of water can cause young fruit to drop off and it delays the next crop as new flowers have to form with the process starting again. Mulch can be used around vines but if lots of rain falls, in some cases, this causes moulds to form which may be detrimental to the plant and may cause it to die. I am not a fan of heavy mulching around any plant as if only light rain falls it doesn’t reach the roots and is of little use at all, however some people use it with good results so if it works for you by all means use it.

Well-rotted compost added to the soil where any plant is to be grown always seems to give good results and it retains moisture and this eliminates a lot of watering. Some plants object to wet soggy ground as any plant root system can only absorb a certain amount of moisture and in very hot weather excess water in the soil can become very warm and no plants root system can cope with hot water. This causes what is known as “coking”, this is something that occurs with pot plants and with the pot being exposed to hot sun for long periods can then become very hot and the plants wither and die very quickly. Move your pot plants out of the sun and into shade in hot weather to avoid these losses.

Merry Christmas to you all From Bill

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

Kootingal Hardware & Electrical Phone 0267603799
24 Gate St Kootingal NSW 2352
Open 7 days Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm; 8.00am-4.00pm; Sunday 9.00am-2.00pm
Hi Everyone,

We have been busy at the Centre on a Tuesday and Thursday over the last two months, celebrating Halloween Eve and the Melbourne Cup. We are now in the process of organising our Christmas festivities.

We currently have vacancies on a Tuesday for our Social Support Group and can organise transport to and from the Centre if this is an issue.

We also have our gentle exercise program every Wednesday at Cockburn Cottage with Andrew Ryan from the Kootingal Gym. If you would like to come along please give Rachel or Janette a call on 6760 3937.

Due to the expansion of our program in the Kootingal/Moonbi areas we are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the following:

- Transporting clients to and from appointments as well as shopping (vehicle supplied)
- Assistants for our Tuesday and Thursday Day Centre helping with meals and interacting with the clients
- If you have a special skill and would like to share it with our group such as instruction in craft etc we would love to hear from you
- Volunteers to assist with our many gardens including vegetables

If you are over 65 and would like some assistance to access services or even just some information on what is available in your local Community. Please give Rachel or Janette a call at the Centre on 6760 3937.
Our well-known Moonbi businessman and friend Raymond McLaren recently celebrated his 80th birthday with a great BBQ party at Andromeda. Among the many people present were friends from his childhood days at Glen Innes, work associates from his long business career and friends from all walks of life. Raymond paid tribute to them all in a very interesting run-down of his life and Zelman’s poem about his father carried on this theme of a long and fascinating life. Of course Andromeda’s manager and Raymond’s ‘right hand woman’ Annette and her team provided fabulous food and ensured the whole night ran smoothly and a great time was had by all. Many more happy birthdays Raymond.

Fellow octogenarian Jan Hystek recently had yet another extended trip home to Holland and enjoyed time with family there. We are sure Moonbi’s Canine population missed the doggie treats he hands out on his regular walks around the village!

Another local identity Bob Williams has health issues, and recently spent some weeks in Tamworth Base Hospital. He is presently in Mackay Nursing Home awaiting a room at Moonby House. Bob said to say hello to everyone and do pop in to see him and have a chat if you get a chance. In the meantime, we all send our good wishes.

Long time Moonbi and Kootingal resident, Daphne McClelland is also now a resident of Moonby Nursing Home where she has settled in nicely and is enjoying lots of visits from family and friends. She always loves reading our news letter so I will make sure she gets her own copy.

Moonbi School held a moving Remembrance Day service to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI. Conducted by the students themselves with speeches, poems, singing and laying of a wreath and individual poppies for each Moonbi service man from that conflict. We who attended could not help being moved by the sincerity and respect shown by all the young pupils.

Local boy Jack Chapple played a big part in Kootingal Schools Remembrance service and as school captain was also selected to be part of Tamworth Town Hall service on the 11th November, where he said a prayer and laid a wreath. Another fine example of what great young people we have growing up in our village.

Speaking of young citizens, good luck to all the school leavers who are looking to further their studies, seeking employment or taking a gap year. Whatever your choices we feel sure you will do you parents, your schools and our village proud.

Believe big adventures await some of our older teenagers who are working overseas for the next few months or maybe longer. Lincoln Williams is already in Canada where he has a job as a lift attendant in Jasper, Alberta during the Ski season. He is already experiencing temperature of up to minus 17 degree and it’s going to get colder! Two other Moonbi boys, Angus and Connor Lang are also working in Jasper. And the girls are not to be left out- Alina Ditchfield-Goor has also left for Canada where she is enjoying a holiday in Vancouver at the moment. Next week she flies to Assesippi in Manitoba, where she will learn and become a skiing instructor, and in the summer months use her horsey skills by taking people on trail rides through the mountains. We hope to keep you posted on their experiences in future newsletters.

A surprise visitor to Moonbi recently was Beau McCormack. He and his parents Fred and Dawn and his brother Tyrone, lived at ‘Glen-Ayr’ just up the highway back in the late 1960’s-70’s. Beau and his wife now live in Cairns. While here they had a nostalgic visit back to his old home and also caught up with class mates, Kylie and David Adams and Leanne Betts, at the Museum, where they reminisced and had a great time going through old school pony, club and village photos.

Stop Press! We have just been told the press will be at the lookout for the placement of the plaque marking 80 years of existence of the Lookout. A great morning tea is planned for 10.30 am on the 5th Dec2018 so do come on up and join in the event.
HELLO THERE IN MOONBI/KOOTINGAL: Thank goodness for a small amount of rain, hopefully as I type this newsletter it will give us heaps overnight and tomorrow.....hopeful as always.

I have been busy as usual with my rehoming, as Mel from the pound describes it as a revolving door, they come in and they go out .....which is wonderful that all these lovely dogs have found new homes. There seems to be a shortage of small dogs at present which is good in a way, but the larger breeds are hard to find homes for.

At present I have a cattle dog x kelpie, he is approximately 7-8 mths old and good natured, he does not seem to have any working dog in him, he is good with my chooks, other dogs and obedient. He has been desexed, microchipped and vaccinated so he is ready to go to a good home. Someone who will walk him regularly, maybe on a few acres and someone who will be kind to him, he will reward you with being good and lie at the back door and wait for you to do something.

I also have a little cross breed pup, he is about 14 weeks old with a curly tail, he is a nice little bloke and would be good with anyone with good fences.

Next, I have a dachshund x chihuahua she is approximately 18 months old and desexed etc. She is very shy and will take a special person to adopt her, but once she has got used to you she will follow you anywhere. I will know if she will be OK with your family, preferably someone who has retired and at home, she gets on with other dogs and cats etc.

Now the warmer weather has arrived it is time to make sure you have adequate water around and plenty of shade. I have seen some dogs in the blazing sun half frazzled and the owners do not realize what that poor dog is going through. I feel like sticking them out there for a while to so they can see what it feels like, but I don't I just make polite suggestions !!!!!!!

Another thing that some folk forget about is nails, especially dogs that are inside most of the time, they do not wear down. I have seen nails that are actually poking into the skin, especially the dew claws which are on the side of the front paws. Back ones are usually removed when desexing takes place, but in general they do not appear. Dogs cannot walk properly with such long nails and it is quite painful. If you are unsure about cutting your dog's nails, make an appointment with one of the vet nurses or the vet and they will cut them for you. Especially black nails are a worry as you cannot see the quick as you can in pale nails. Clippers can be purchased in any of the pet shops and they will last you forever.

Next which I rarely mention is ticks, if you are going over to the coast or an area where there are ticks, make sure you give your pet adequate medication well before you set out. You can phone ahead and talk to a vet in your holiday area and find out if they have a tick problem in that area and what medication they recommend. Your vet will usually stock most brands or can get some in for you. Ticks can get in all sorts of funny places which we do not have to worry about here, they get in between the toes, in a tiny little pocket along the ear flap, shoulders, neck etc and they might not show any sign until they arrive home and go down rapidly. So prevention is easier than getting a huge shock with a very sick dog on your hands. Cats also if you take your cat away.

Well that is about it for this newsletter, if anyone would like to adopt a dog or kitten (I have 2 desperate for a home) please phone.

HAPPY WALKING.......... Jean Medlock ........67605931 or 0428 261573
IMPORTANT OFFICE CHANGES
OPEN Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 3.30pm
The school now has a mobile; 0436665862. This phone is for text communication only.

You're invited to
Moonbi Public School Presentation Night 2018
5.30pm
Wednesday 5 December 2018
MPS COLA Gardens
RSVP: 67603151

Every moment matters.
Registrations for 2019 Transition Program Now Open
Call 02 67603151 for more information

KINDERGARTEN 2020 APPLY NOW
MERRY MONDAY

Monday 10th December 5pm - 7pm
Everyone is invited to Moonbi Public School’s Community Christmas Party!
Charles Street, Moonbi

Showbags $8.00
A visit from a special guest
P&C BBQ
Free Face painting

Other Snacks available! $$
STALLS
Free Jumping Castles

Please note all children must have parent supervision. Please wear suitable clothing. Wear your swimmers and bring a towel.
A SPECIAL HOLIDAY

We left home on 03/08/2018 and returned home on 12/10/2018.

After spending a few days on the Gold Coast spending time with Greg & Colleen & their families, we caught a train to the Brisbane airport on the evening of Monday 6th August.

We flew on Emirates Airline to Edinburgh via Dubai and Birmingham. At Birmingham we had to go through Border Security. The sign at the end of the queue said approximately 20 minutes wait time. It took us nearly 2 hours to get to the front of the queue and then about a minute to show our passports and tell the officer why we were visiting the UK.

Arrived in Edinburgh 7th August and had an easy exit to a taxi. The centre of Edinburgh is about 30 minutes from the airport and our accommodation (student accommodation) was just off the Royal Mile.

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland with a population of approximately 489,000 however in August it swells to about a million people. We had arrived in Edinburgh with the month-long Fringe Festival in full swing. The Fringe Festival claims to be the biggest arts festival in the world and most of it is concentrated in the top half of the Royal Mile & the surrounding streets.

The Royal Mile runs from Edinburgh Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. While in Edinburgh we explored the palace and the castle, the Old Town and the New Town (built in the 18th century), St Giles Cathedral, the Royal Yacht Britannia, and museums. We could've seen a lot more, but we did a lot of walking and festival activities. Plus, we used the Hop on Hop Off buses & did some walking tours.

After 6 days in Edinburgh we headed to Stirling after picking up a hired car, visiting Roslyn Chapel on the way.

We didn't stay in Stirling but stayed just out of Stirling in student accommodation. Stirling University is in a park of over 300 acres & has its own town like facilities (shops, banks, clubs, pubs, medical centre etc.) and a castle. Student accommodation consists of small rooms with ensuites. The rooms are in groups of 5 to 10 rooms called a flat. Each flat has a communal kitchen and sitting areas. Each building has other facilities just as study areas, gym, recreation areas, and sometimes a laundry.

As well as doing a lot of walking around Stirling we visited Stirling Castle, the Church of the Holy Rude and the Wallace Monument (which is a very tall stone tower on top of a hill built to honour Scotland's hero Sir William Wallace). Stirling is a pretty city that seems to mix the old and new well. There are many second-hand shops in Stirling which make window shopping quite interesting.

After staying at Stirling for two nights we headed for Glasgow for the next three nights. Glasgow is a beautiful ancient city and Scotland's largest city. Our accommodation was close to the town centre, so we were able to walk to George Square.

We used the Hop on Hop off buses in Glasgow in Glasgow. Among the places we visited were, Glasgow Necropolis (lots of large memorial stones and sculptures, many famous people buried here), the Botanic Gardens, the Riverside Museum and Tall Ships, St Mungo Cathedral and Museum and the Tenement House. We spent a long time at the Riverside Museum and Tall Ships, it is a museum for all things relating to transport over the centuries.

Located in Buccleuch St, just around the corner from where we were staying is The Tenement House which I found fascinating. It displays a time capsule of life for an ordinary working person in the
early 20th century living in a tenement building. While the UK has lots of very old buildings, it like many other countries, tends to knock down buildings when they are 50 to 100 years old to replace them with something new and “better” (that’s my opinion).

After Glasgow we returned to Edinburgh for the Royal Military Tattoo and more festival activities, and more student accommodation. If we ever return to Edinburgh it would be in August (even though it is very expensive in August) and we would go to the Tattoo again. We enjoyed Edinburgh a lot, plus it was good for our fitness levels. We saw a lot but there is a lot we didn’t see.

From Edinburgh we headed to Aberdeen, checking out Scone Palace and Arbroath on the way. Scone Palace is near the city of Perth and is a large gothic mansion built at the beginning of the 19th century but there have been buildings there for many centuries before hand. Kings have been crowned here, including Macbeth, Robert the Bruce and the James I to VI. The palace is still a family home and is very impressive, but the gardens are even better.

Arbroath is a little fishing village famous for Arbroath Abbey and smoked haddock. Rob’s mother was born here, and she came to Australia with her parents shortly after. We had fish & chips for lunch at the edge of the Marina in memory of her, the sea gulls joined us. The are many signs around advising people not to feed the seagulls.

Arbroath Abbey was founded in 1278 for the Tironensian monks and it remained a monastery until 1560. Arbroath Abbey is where the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320 declaring Scotland’s independence from England. Today the Abbey is in ruins, with some buildings remaining. There is also a modern museum on site explaining the abbey’s history.

While at Aberdeen we drove out to Dunnottar Castle near Stonehaven. The castle is on top of a cliff edge and is described as a ruin, however I think it is very well persevered for an ancient building. This castle, like many others has a gruesome history. Although we drove out to the castle, we certainly got our daily excise getting from the car park and back.

Driving back to Aberdeen we visited Stonehaven Harbour, had lunch, visited the Tolbooth Museum and the Stonehaven War Memorial. The War Memorial looks like an old ruin from a distance but close up it has its own beauty. It was designed to reflect the lives ruin by war.

In Aberdeen we walked through gardens, visited the Maritime Museum, St Machar’s Cathedral and saw the Jersey Boys at His Majesty Theatre.

Our next stop was Inverness with a day trip by buses & ferry to the Orkney islands. Beautiful scenery between Inverness and John O’Groats, then a trip across to Burwick via ferry. Then a bus trip to Kirkwall and St Magnus Cathedral. We visited Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar and The Standing stones of Stenness. We also saw woolly pigs. Very long day and although we enjoyed it, we were reminded why we choose to hire a car and not be tried down by a tight schedule.

The next day we had a long sleep-in, late breakfast and a relaxing day just wandering around Inverness. We did manage to fit in a visit to St Mary’s Catholic Church. Lots of colour after visiting old cathedrals plus beautiful stained-glass windows. A window installed in 2013 is dedicated to St Mary MacKillop.
Notes from the Wilsons at the top of the range

We have recently returned from 2 weeks on the road in our camper after celebrating a friend’s wedding in Bendigo, Victoria. We followed that up by spending beautiful and relaxing ‘down time’ as a family with a friend from Cootamundra at Blowering Reservoir near Talbingo in Kosciuszko before returning home for 24 hours and then heading off again to Mt Seaview (near Port Macquarie) for another wedding. I have been so busy lately, I’ve almost finished my placement and will soon have my Cert 111 Individual Support which I’m hoping will give me a head start to completing my EN registration within the next couple of years.

The girls are growing up so quickly and our Lilly is set to begin full time at Moonbi Public School with her big sister in term 1 of 2019. She will be attending her pre school graduation early December and Ruby will then move into the purple room at Kootingal pre school and start her transition to Moonbi Public School in 2019.

We have so much happening in the final term of school with concerts etc it’s always such a busy time of year, although I must admit I absolutely love Christmas and find it such a joyful and peaceful time.

We are planning on heading north to Fraser Island in the new year and I cannot wait. I am so excited to get out and about again, camping under the stars is my most favourite thing to do, my parents always took me camping as a child and I love taking my kids camping. It’s just so amazing to be back to basics and enjoy one another’s company.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and New Year.

The Wilsons.

OMNI Recreation Men’s Shed: who do know who may like these services?

OMNI Recreation Men’s Shed has Regular Morning Tea from 10am Every Monday
Bus from BUPA Retirement Center 2nd Monday Monthly, Birthday Celebrations

Journey For Health : Monthly Bus Trip, Pick Up & Return from Home,(if Housebound)
We need name address and phone , we provide Morning Tea & Lunch (All Free)

Also Upgrading Westdale Memorial Park Landscaping Flowers and Picking Vegetables
Monthly Bar-B-Q, Social day next Australia Day 26 January
We also offer Walking For Pleasure, North Tamworth, Monthly 8am
Contact Jim 67664269, tamworth.jim@gmail.com
John 0488 116 680, Mike 0421 866175

Happy Christmas to you all
Best Wishes from Jim

The Lions club Need for Feed in this area has been the recipient and distributor of many parcels of household items, feed for livestock and also in some instances able to help with some extra costs incurred because of the drought. Thank you to everybody who helped in numerous ways to make all this possible. The many stories of gratitude are just so heart-warming.
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
At TWILIGHT
in the grounds of
MOONBY HOUSE

14th December 2018 from 6:30pm
Presented by the Combined Churches of Kootingal and Moonbi

Items Presented by Local Schools
Music provided by the RSL Band

Lions Club Sausage Sizzle from 6pm