TOWONG ELECTS NEW MAYOR

The Towong Shire Council has a new face at the helm following the appointment of Cr David Wortmann as mayor on Tuesday.

In his incoming address, Cr Wortmann thanked fellow councillors for their support and said that he was looking forward to his term as mayor.

“It is an honour to represent our ratepayers,” said Cr Wortmann.

After paying tribute to outgoing mayor, Cr Mary Fraser OAM and previous leaders Cr Debi Gadd and Cr Peter Joyce, Cr Wortmann said that Towong’s reputation as an innovative and progressive organisation all comes down to good leadership.

Cr Wortmann also commented on the results being achieved by CEO Juliana Phelps and council’s senior management group.

“We have a great staff who work hard, are committed to the sustainability of the Towong Shire and who are achieving excellent results,” he said.

Cr Wortmann has served as a councillor since November 2008 and was appointed as mayor for the next 12 months.

In her outgoing address, Cr Mary Fraser OAM said that her last two years as mayor had been fantastic and thanked her colleagues and staff for their support.

Cr Fraser was elected to Towong Shire Council in 1997 at the first elections following the amalgamation of the Shire of Upper Murray and the Shire of Tallangatta. Cr Fraser has served eight terms as either mayor or shire president.

When asked what have been her best achievements, Cr Fraser responded that “you don’t achieve anything on your own, it’s a team effort.”

Cr Aaron Scales was appointed as Deputy Mayor.

(Courtesy of Corryong Courier)
**DEADLINE** for articles for next edition
5pm TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014
NO articles will be accepted after this deadline

Send articles in either word or publisher. Do not send PDF as articles sometimes need some adjustment to fit on page.
For group reports please limit articles to 220 words and 2 photos.

Photos must have publication approval from the subject. Please label your photos

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**CUSTODIANS OF THE WALWA CEMETERY**

As a new Trust member and Chairperson of the Walwa Cemetery I would like to explain how cemeteries are managed in Victoria.

In Victoria, public cemetaries are managed and maintained by cemetery trusts, established under the **Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003** and governed by the Department of Health, Cemeteries and Crematoria. This is unique to Victoria as cemeteries in NSW and other states are managed by local government.

Victorian cemeteries are divided into class A and class B cemetery trusts. Class A cemetery trusts are paid for their services and include Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Melbourne. The rest are class B cemetery trusts and the trust members are volunteers. Class B cemetery trusts consist of between 3 – 11 members and are currently appointed for a five-year term but are eligible for reappointment.

The current members of the Walwa Cemetery Trust (Custodians) are:

Patrea Cook  Chairperson
Ace Coughlan  Secretary/ Interment Registrar/Treasurer
Irene Palmer  Member
Kim Drummond  Member
Ros Gugich  Member
David Hanna  Member

Ace inherited the position of Registrar of Interments from his father and has been integral in the management and maintenance of the cemetery for many years with the help of trust and community members, donating their time, machinery, tools and materials. It is amazing to think how many voluntary hours Ace has clocked up over the years.

**CURRENT CEMETERY TRUST ACTIVITIES**

Irene has volunteered her time and with the help of the Walwa Bush Nursing Centre is photocopying the Interment Register and transferring interments into electronic form so we have multiple copies of the interment register. The oldest records were burnt in bushfires.

We have been successful in obtaining funding to remove dead, damaged and dangerous pine trees and this work will be carried out by contractors in the coming months.

An access gate for large vehicles will be installed, damaged ground levelled and fences will be repaired and renewed. This work will be carried out by trust and community members.

If there are any community members that would like to volunteer their services please contact Patrea or Ace.
Here are a few shots of the tiered cake stands made at craft group this month. A bit of a slow process drilling the holes, but after a bit of frustration and only one broken plate we are quiet chuffed with the result. Thanks to Red for the loan of some drill bits, and to Heather for bringing in her drill.

Gai Drummond
Tangled Threads will meet again on the third Thursday in February 2015.

BOOK CHOOKS

At our last bookclub, we had a lively discussion about our chosen book, "Revolutionary Road" by Richard Yates. Some members didn't like the book so did not finish it, but a few of us ploughed to the end!!!

None of the characters (except one) were particularly likeable, and that fact often makes a book hard to enjoy. The main characters felt the normal world was beneath them, and decided to strive for a life more exciting and fulfilling by moving the Paris. However, this never happens, and the story is full of their conversations about how much smarter more interesting and more intelligent they are, compared to their suburban neighbours. The writing, I felt, was stunning, with fabulous paragraphs that set the mood and tone of the scene in a clever way.

As the story was set in the 1950s, many of the topics eg women working after marriage, were a little dated. However, many of the group could well remember when this was the norm!! Nevertheless, the story dealt with many social issues that are still very current.

Jo had a DVD of the movie made of Revolutionary Road starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslett. I am yet to watch it.

Our next meeting which is our Xmas get-together, will be held at D's home. We bring a plate of food to share, so members, please contact D to see what she needs.

The book for discussion is "Eat, Pray, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert. "One woman's search for everything”

Bron

WALWA GOLF CLUB LADIES RESULTS

We have started our 9 hole comp on a Thursday, 9am for 9.30.

Instead of “Chicken Run” we have decided that we would have “Coffee/melting moment run voucher”. The winner will be entitled to a cup of coffee and biscuit/slice at the Walwa Store, now known for its lovely aromatic coffee and the true hospitality of Joyce and her staff.

We welcome all golfers to come and join us on a Thursday for not only golf on a great course, but you will be joined by our very friendly men and women who play on a Thursday.

All levels of golfer are welcome.

Results of the first 2 weeks 9 hole comp:
7/11/2014
Winner John Blackburn 24 SPts
R/Up Bob Mountford 20 SPts

14/11/2014
Winner Suzanne McKimmie 19 SPts
R/Up Caroline Staughton 18 SPts
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Call Tony
on 0413 018 416 or A/H 02 6236 3424

Walwa Community Shop
36 Main Street
Walwa Vic 3709
Open
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:30am to 3:30pm

We are always looking for donations of clothes, fruit and vegies and bric a brac. We are also in need of more volunteers so if you have a couple of hours a month to spare and would be interested in helping out give us a call. Come in and check us out or just have a chat.

Any queries contact Kerrie on 0408 696 384
**CHRISTMAS EYE** - acute seasonal corneal erosion

This has been a recognised syndrome occurring in summer months, in N.E. Victoria for many years, particularly when conditions are hot, dry and clear.

Christmas Eye is an extremely painful condition which seems to occur mainly in the border. Experts say it is most common around December and January. Alpine Health, health services manager Gill Graves says it’s also been called Harvest Eye and Canberra Eye. "We’ve had cases being reported in this region for well over 20 years,” Gill says.

Sufferers of Christmas Eye often report waking in the morning with a very painful eye which is sometimes swollen. Gill says the cause is still a mystery. "They're still not completely sure what causes it," she says. "There is some thought that it's a very small (microscopic) beetle or mite that gets into the eye in the evening and during the night it releases a toxin resulting in scraping off of layers of the cornea."

Wangaratta optometrist Robert Holloway says he treats many cases of Christmas Eye each year. "We see several cases each year, and what people present with is pain, it is very, very painful,” Robert says. The reaction occurs on the front of the eye and part of the cornea is removed. This is what causes the pain. The eye is very red, eyelids swollen and victim is very sensitized to light. "These people are in agony, and the best way to treat it is to put on a bandage contact lens to protect the eye. "We have people sleep in that lens for a couple of nights and we use non-steroidal anti-inflammatory eye drop medication." Fortunately the cornea regenerates very quickly. It is the fastest healing tissue in the body, there is no scarring or flaws and a week later the cornea is fully restored. Wearing sunglasses when outside in the summer is advocated as a preventative measure.

There is usually a story of being outdoors in the late evening, often working in the cattle yards. Then the following morning, there is the onset of severe burning and remorseless pain in the eyes, the pain lasting for four to five days. There may be photophobia (sensitive to light) and blurred vision for 2-3 weeks. The white of the eye will appear as very red. This is easily treated and the earlier you come in, the better for you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM HENRY DUNCAN**

Henry Duncan is pleased to announce that he has accepted a position to establish a Urology Unit at the Royal Darwin Hospital commencing 1st March 2015.

Duncan Urology will therefore be closed from January 2015, an active recruiting campaign, in conjunction with Jonathan Lewin, Albury Wodonga Health and Albury Wodonga Private Hospital to find a replacement has commenced.

In the process of closing down my practice I will be unable to accept any new patients, Arrangements with my existing patients for their ongoing management is underway.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to provide a service to my patients and referring doctors over the last 22 years. We have made many close friends in the medical community and will continue to call Albury home.

We are very excited, and somewhat nervous, about the challenges of working in Darwin over the next 5 years. When finished in Darwin we plan to return to Albury to enjoy our retirement.

With kind regards, Henry and Kate Duncan

**HAY FEVER is rife here at present with our good season.**

Hay fever is the common name for a condition called allergic rhinitis, which means an allergy that affects the nose. Most people associate hay fever with spring, when airborne pollens from grasses are at their peak. However, hay fever can occur at any time of the year. This is known as perennial allergic rhinitis, which is usually caused by a reaction to allergens around the home, such as dust mites, moulds or animal hair or fur or occupational allergens.

Symptoms include sneezing, a runny or stuffy nose, itchy ears, nose and throat, red, itchy or watery eyes and headaches. The symptoms of hay fever can be so severe that a person can’t sleep or concentrate, and may feel tired or unwell. Medication including antihistamines and staying indoors can help symptoms.

Your nose acts as a filter. The tiny hairs and mucus that line the nasal passages trap dust, pollens and other microscopic particles. A person with hay fever is allergic to some of the particles that get trapped in the nose, such as pollen.

An allergic reaction means the immune system treats a harmless substance as if it is dangerous, and launches an ‘attack’. The nasal passages become inflamed and more mucus is produced. Stay indoors as much as possible in spring, on windy days or after thunderstorms.

Splash your eyes often with cold water to flush out any pollen. Reduce your exposure to dust and dust mites, animals and animal hair or fur (dander).

Occasionally pollen triggered wheezing may occur in the form of Hay Asthma. Commencing regular antihistamine medication up to four weeks before the pollen season has been shown to significantly improve symptom control in severe hay fever.

Uncontrolled allergic rhinitis will adversely affect asthma making chest symptoms more difficult to control. A short course of oral steroids, perhaps prednisone daily for three days will usually unblock even the most resistant nose and give good symptom relief whilst the antihistamines and regular inhaled steroids get to work. The key to modern hay fever symptom control remains oral and ocular antihistamines with the addition of regular intra-nasal steroid sprays, all of which should be used continuously throughout the pollen season if good symptom control is to be achieved.

**VISITING PRIVATE DENTIST**

If you wish to see the visiting Private Dentist at Corryong, Phone 0451134171 to enquire or book appointment

**POISONS INFORMATION**

Anyone can call the National Poisons information number 131126. This is the best number to ring if anyone has swallowed or contacted a poisonous substance. They will have the most up to date information and will direct you as to what to do.

Put this number in your phone right NOW! Irene
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In 12 paddocks, total of 80 acres.
Access to stables (45), horse walker (10), horse arena,
Horse Vet Treatment Facility

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE PARK
BESIDE WALWA POST OFFICE

LED BY LOCAL MUSICIANS
SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2014 6PM
ALL WELCOME, BRING A CHAIR
ENQUIRIES: IRENE 60371222
Walwa Primary School

THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge and thank our local Telstra team member Craig Boumann, who nominated Walwa Primary School for a $1,200 grant to be used to upgrade / purchase new laptops for the students.

Telstra employees are at the heart of the Telstra Kids Fund: they direct where the grant dollars are donated. Of the millions of dollars in Telstra Kids grants available every year, every cent is donated to community projects nominated by eligible Telstra employees.

Since 2002, Telstra Kids has contributed more than $8.8 million to some 7,600 projects that connect kids to their local communities.

The $1,200 grant fund which we have received is going to be used to upgrade the laptops.

So...........THANKS CRAIG AND TELSTRA!!

We were waiting for Craig to drop in and have his photo taken with the kids. It appears he is a little camera shy!

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NOVEMBER 11TH
100 YRS AGO

The remembrance poppy (a *Papaver rhoeas*) has been used since 1921 to commemorate soldiers who have died in war. Inspired by the World War I poem "In Flanders Fields", they were first used by the American Legion to commemorate American soldiers who died in that war (1914–1918). They were then adopted by military veterans’ groups in parts of the former British Empire: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Today, they are mainly used in the UK and Canada to commemorate their servicemen and women who have been killed in all conflicts since 1914. There, small artificial poppies are often worn on clothing for a few weeks until Remembrance Day/Armistice Day (11 November).

Poppy wreaths are also often laid at war memorials.

The remembrance poppy is especially prominent in the UK. In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, they are distributed by The Royal British Legion in return for donations to their "Poppy supports all Appeal", which current and former British military personnel. During this time, it is an unwritten rule that all public figures and people appearing on television wear them; some have berated this as "poppy fascism" and argued that the Appeal is being used to glorify current wars. It is especially controversial in Northern Ireland; most Irish nationalists and Irish Catholics refuse to wear one, mainly due to actions of the British Army during the Troubles, while Ulster Protestants and Unionists usually wear them.

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IN FLANDERS' FIELDS

*In Flanders Field the poppies blow,*
*Between the crosses, row on row*
*That mark our place; and in the sky*
*The larks still bravely singing,*
*Fly, scarce heard, amid the guns below*

(Taken from School Days, Walwa Primary School)

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Aussie Drinking Habits

Will and Guy discovered that a 2011 study found that the average Australian walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that Australians drink an average of 22 gallons of beer a year. That means, on average, Australians get about 41 miles per gallon!!

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Relatively Useless and Random Australian Trivia

Each and every part of Australia is within a distance of 1000km from ocean or a beach.

30,028 square km of land is under cattle ranch. This area size is almost the same as that of the whole Belgium.

Australia has, probably, the lowest population density of any country in the world, ie, 2 people per square km. Japan has 327 people/square km.

The area of Australia that is covered by snow in winter is larger than the area of Switzerland.

The wine cask, the ubiquitous plastic bag full of wine contained in a cardboard box was invented in Australia in 1967.

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Lankeys Creek Hall Christmas Tree
Friday 12 December from 6:30pm
SANTA visiting at 7pm

Come and join the community for a festive get together. BYO BBQ and Drinks
Families with children $8
Families without children $5

RSVP Monday 8 Dec to
Ali on 6036 8164
Anna on 6036 8103
Parcels at “Whakadale” mailbox by Thursday 11 Dec
ANTI CANCER DAY AT WALWA
THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2014

A very successful fund raising event was held at the Walwa Golf Club followed by lunch in the beautiful gardens of Caroline Staughton. There was lots of tasty food also stalls and raffles

Photos by Melanie Seaborn
Friends and family gathered at “Tipperary”, Walwa on Sunday 2nd November to celebrate the marriage of Simon Lewis and Chloe Coughlan.
Much activity occurred beforehand with bride and bridesmaids getting ready, hair and makeup done with champagne flowing. Thanks to Liz McLellan for doing the makeups.
The afternoon ceremony was conducted in the orchard followed by a delicious meal catered for by Helen Marshal and Donna and Tom Greenhill and helpers, with Chris Wood and son manning the bar. Thanks to Dianne for driving the courtesy bus.
Some very funny speeches followed then the music and dancing went on till the wee hours.
All in all a lovely event and thanks to everyone who helped made it so.
Sue
OBITUARIES FOR NOEL JOSEPH JOHNSON  (pages 10, 11, 12)

Noel was born at Walla Walla on 13th March 1927, he was the second son to Joe and Hilda. He had a brother Ron and three sisters, Jean, Irene & Heather. Jean passed away.

In his early years dad lived in Albury where one of his first positions was at Bruck Mills.

Dad was gifted where music was concerned. He learnt to play the piano, he told me that he could earn more money for one nights playing at the dances in the old West Albury Hall than he could at his day job for a week at the Mill.

In his early teens, he moved to Walwa and most probably caused havoc in the town with other guys his age.

1946 –1949 dad joined the Australian Army as a driver. He served overseas in the occupation forces in Japan.

In 1949 he met and married his first wife Betty Dopper in Corryong. Betty came from a family of 14, so he also inherited a large extended family.

Noel and Betty moved to Benalla not long after and entered into a partnership with a building company where dad worked as a Carpenter/Builder. Whilst in Benalla one of dad’s enjoyments was his football. He played for Winton where he was known to kick 9-13 goals a game. They even won a couple of premierships.

In 1952, Noel and Betty had a son Gary (myself). On the day I was born, dad was attending a Lodge Meeting. Later in the evening, dad decided to jump the back fence and head to the hospital to see his wife and found he had a new son. Sneaking back into the meeting later that evening, dad told his brother Ron that he had become a father that evening. As the Lodge had a strict set of rules, and one of them was that no member was to leave the meeting until it was finished, consequently dad endured a one pound fine. He always laughed that I cost him from Day One!

Around 1955 with his new family, he moved back to Walwa to begin many building jobs along side his dad Joe. Unfortunately in September 1957 his beloved wife Betty suddenly passed away. Noel was devastated, as he had a small son to take care of on his own now. He moved in with his parents Joe and Hilda for family support and care of his young son.

The next few years were tough for dad. He had taken up a position as a truck driver with Reg Cook of Walwa. Dad coped the best he could but, spending time on the road took its toll at times. He knew that I was in good hands with my grand parents, and the extended family of Aunts and Uncles around to lend a hand.

Around 1960 dad was hospitalised with a broken leg, just one of the many mishaps for dad. He was nursed by a new young lady to the town - Pat. A courtship followed and dad had found some happiness again.

Dad and Pat were married in 1961. Pat Doyle came from a family of five, which extended the family once more. It was not long before the family grew - two brothers and a sister …Paul, Jeanette and Richard.

Dad has enjoyed 87 years of life. I have only given you a brief overview of his life to 1961, and now Paul, Jeanette and Richard will continue with dad’s life’s journey.

Hi everyone, I’m Richard, Noels youngest son.

I have some great memories to share with you today.

Dad was always a great provider and family man, teaching us all how important it is to keep the family together. One of my fondest memories was the Sunday roast at my Nan & Pop’s after church. Dad wouldn’t go to church, instead he would be sampling a few longnecks with his good friend Geoff King.

As I was growing up I loved going with dad in the truck whether it was to deliver super to farms or hauling cattle to Wodonga.

Playing the piano was something dad loved and whenever there was a footballer’s ball at Walwa hall, mum and dad would have their friends for pre dance drinks at our home, that was when dad was at his best on the piano.

Dad loved his cars also and he would never tell us when he was buying a new one. Dad and Mum would just go to Albury for the day and arrive home in a new one and it had to be a Holden.

Dad used to do a lot of cooking as Mum was a nurse doing shift work. His French toast in the morning before school and mince curries for tea were delicious.

Mum was Dad’s “love of his life” and the day we lost mum a big part of dad went with her. He survived but you could always sense the sadness in him. Whenever he spoke about her it was always finished with “poor old Mum”.

Jan and I travelled up as much as we could, getting Dad outside to tinker in the shed, mowing lawns and washing his car. Dad always looked forward to Jan’s corned silverside with mashed potatoes and beans, definitely not peas, he hated peas.

When Dad’s memory started to fade, small tasks like operating the remote controls were hard. I remember one Sunday we left and Dad was watching the horse racing channel, when we came back a week later he was still watching the horse racing channel. He joined the punters club at his favorite watering hole “the Walwa Pub” that week.

Well that’s just a few of many fond memories with Dad. So from myself, Jan and grandchildren Tom, Ciara, Bec, Ben, Jaz, Brooke, Shaun, Great Grandchildren Chad and Hudson. We love you Dad and will miss you greatly.
Hi, for you who don’t know me, my name is Jeanette. I am apparently the Spoilt, Only Daughter of Pat & Noel.

I would like to talk about the love and care Dad received all throughout his life.

He was luckier than most as he had two loves of his life. He had his first love Betty until she passed away, then he had my mum Pat for 39 years. When Mum passed away, the family thought that Dad would probably be lucky to live any longer than a few years, if illness didn’t get him we felt sure a broken heart would.

Lucky for us Dad lived for a further 15 years after Mum’s passing. This was mainly due to the love and support he received from the Walwa Community.

The Walwa Bush Nursing hospital staff made sure that Dad received the best care possible, nurses would visit each day to give him his tablets and check on him to make sure everything was ok. He also had the carers – Kerryn, Gaill and Ro. These girls would make sure Dad was showered, house cleaned, shopping done and any other chore that Dad required and if they felt he wasn’t looking or feeling well they would call back later on that day to make sure he was alright.

I would also like to speak about some of the special Walwa people in Dad’s life: Kerryn and Jack Daly – Kerryn was a carer for dad but once she started working for dad they soon became very good friends. Kerryn has a son - Jack, who also became a very good friend to Dad. Kerryn used to drop Jack off to sit and talk to Dad while she went to do some shopping or whatever – apparently they got into quite a bit of mischief when together. One day I get this phone call from a very upset Kerryn who told me that Dad’s scooter had been damaged that day. She wasn’t sure what had happened or even who had been driving the scooter but she was guessing that it was Jack. When she tried to get out of Jack and Dad what had happened they couldn’t tell her anything, they weren’t sure but apparently the brakes had failed. After some investigating, she found some damage on the shed out the back, which was caused by the scooter. There was no way that Dad or Jack were going to dob on each other. Even though Jack was getting the blame, I wouldn’t be surprised if he wasn’t covering up for his mate Noel.

Les Hanes – Les lived behind dad and he used to deliver Dad’s papers every day. This was just an excuse for Les to check to make sure Dad was OK each morning. Les and Dad had their barneys but all in all, they were good mates. Les would call me on the sly to let me know if Dad had had a fall. I had to promise Les that I would never tell dad that he had called me. He said he thought Dad would go crook if he knew Les was keeping me informed, I believe that Les didn’t want anyone else to know that he was a kind caring person.

Sue, Leonard and Flynn - They lived next door to Dad. Leonard kept Dad’s wood shed full, with the help of Flynn. Sue was Dad’s hairdresser, lawn mower, generally the first port of call if Dad needed help. There was many a night that Sue would be up in the middle of the night and would see Dad’s lights on. She would go over to Dad’s to check and see if he was alright, most of the time Dad had just left the light on or the TV going so she would turn them off and go back home to her bed. Other times he may have had a fall and was unable to get up by himself so Sue would have to call Leonard or Flynn to come and help. Dad couldn’t speak highly enough about these lovely neighbours.

I would like to say thank you to the whole of the Walwa Community. There are too many to name individually. Dad would have been in a nursing home many years earlier if it hadn’t been for these caring people.

The final stage of Dad’s life was in the nursing home at Bupa. I could never have guessed that he would have received such care when he moved to Wodonga to a home where he didn’t know anyone. He struggled to accept that he was there permanently but always said that he was looked after well at Bupa. I witnessed this mostly over the last four weeks of Dad’s life. The staff couldn’t speak highly enough about Dad. They even cried with us when he passed away.

Finally, as my brother said, Dad loved his family.

Al: Pop always spoke about when you were four years old and walked into his home with a new little puppy for him after his old dog died. He swore he would never have another pet but you changed his mind. Apart from his grandkids, Scally was the best little buddy for Pop.

Dan: Pop loved it when you stayed with him, even though you spent most of your time in Flynn’s shed playing the guitar and drums, the louder you guys got, the better he loved it. Pop loved the kids playing music no matter how loud it was.

Bruce: I was so lucky that I had a father that not only loved me and my children he absolutely adored you. His favourite saying to me about you was “he’s a good man, don’t you lose him”.

And me, well I think it’s time that I acknowledge that yes, I was Dad’s spoilt only daughter and am very proud to hold that title. Love you always Dad, hope you rest in peace. Jeanette
My name is Paul Johnson and I was born in 1962. I was the first child to Pat and Noel.

In his early years, Dad was a truck driver for Reg Cook in Walwa. He drove a Leyland-Beaver then was upgraded to the Leyland Mastiff with a V8 Perkins engine. Including a two and half deck stock crate, all of which were his pride and joy.

He carted fertiliser from Shelley and distributed to farms in the area and regularly delivered from Albury-Wodonga to Walwa. He carried stock around both sides of the Snowy Mountains and was the first driver to try out new runs on difficult and unknown terrain. He also helped to build the Dartmouth Dam haul road and the Snowy Hydro road. In those days, drivers used to carry out the repairs and maintenance on their own trucks, which was another thing that Dad was more than capable of doing.

Dad was a larrikin, and wasn’t frightened to have a go at anything. I recall many years ago we had to move Nan’s piano from her home to our home. The way this was to be done was on the back of a truck. Dad decided that it would be a bit of fun if he played the piano on the back of the truck as it was being driven around corners and down the main street of Walwa, which he did and did beautifully. It was the talk of the town for many years later.

Dad loved kids and spending time with his grandchildren. The first question he would ask any of us was “how’s my kids” and then he would want a blow by blow detail of what they are up to. It didn’t matter what the grand kids did he was always very proud of them and as long as they were happy then dad was happy.

Another one of Dad’s loves was his cars. It became obvious to us quite some time before it became obvious to Dad that he was no longer able to drive his car. The deciding factor for Dad to stop driving was when he started to get cream paint from the driveway fence on his car as he was attempting to reverse out of the drive. As soon as his car was damaged that was the end of him driving as he couldn’t possibly have dents or marks on his precious car.

He then progressed to a three-wheeler scooter. The scooter was good for Dad as this meant that when Corey my son, was mowing the lawns he was able to follow him around and make sure the job was being done right. I remember one day Corey was going out the front door to go and mow the lawn, with this Dad got on his scooter and took off down the driveway around the corner and down the main street of Walwa, which he did and did beautifully. It was the talk of the town for many years later.

He then progressed to a three-wheeler scooter. The scooter was good for Dad as this meant that when Corey my son, was mowing the lawns he was able to follow him around and make sure the job was being done right. I remember one day Corey was going out the front door to go and mow the lawn, with this Dad got on his scooter and took off down the driveway around the corner and up on to the nature strip, as usual he was going too fast and he rolled the scooter – this wasn’t the first time but the decision was then made to upgrade to a four wheel scooter. Unfortunately Dad didn’t see the need to slow down on any of his scooters and the local Cop pulled him up one day and told him if he didn’t slow down he would get booked. This didn’t go down well with Dad as he thought that he wasn’t going too fast and anyway he wasn’t in a car so how much damage could he cause.

Eventually the need came to look for a wheelchair, but whilst looking I found an electric scooter that I thought he would like more. One of the nurses at Bupa was telling us a story about how Dad would drive his electric wheelchair into the dining room and up to a table, problem was that he didn’t use the brake often and he would slam into the table and knock everything flying, he was always very apologetic. Not sure if the Electric Wheelchair was a good idea but it certainly made him more mobile.

In the last few months of Dad’s life Mysel, Robyn & Corey were lucky enough to be able to spend quite a lot of time with Dad either in the hospital or in BUPA. Corey especially spent some real quality time with Dad and always had Dad smiling. If I happened to visit without Corey, Dad would let me know in no uncertain terms that this wasn’t to happen and he expected to see Corey with me next time I visited him. These memories are so precious to us.

Corey, Robyn and myself have many, many wonderful memories of Dad that will be treasured forever. It’s been 15 years since Dad had a beer with Mum, I can just see them both sitting back, having that beer and catching up on old times.

Poem written by Sue Martin and read at Noel’s funeral:

FEEL NO GUILT IN LAUGHTER by Sue Martin

Feel no guilt in laughter,
He’d know how
Much you care.
Feel no sorrow in a smile
That he is not here to share.

You cannot grieve forever;
He would not want you to.
He’d hope that you could carry on
The way you always do.

So talk about the good times
And the way you showed
You cared,
The days you spent together
All the happiness you shared.

Let memories surround you,
A word someone may say
Will suddenly recapture a time,
an hour, a day,
That brings him back as clearly
As though he were still here.
And fills you with the feeling
That he is always near.

For if you keep those moments,
You will never be apart
And he will live forever
Locked safe within your heart.

Puzzle: At a recent Pets Anonymous reunion, the attendees were discussing which pets they had recently owned. James used to have a dog. The person who used to own a mouse now owns a cat, but the person who used to have a cat does not own a mouse. Kevin has now or used to have a dog, I can't remember which. Becky has never owned a mouse. Only one person now owns the pet they previously had. Rebecca said very little throughout the meeting and nobody mentioned the hamster.

Can you determine who owns which pet and what they used to own?
CRT Agmate Rural Services
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Please contact us for orders
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WALWA MEDICAL CLINIC

Doctor’s in December & January

Dr Carmel Love
Dr David Hunt
Dr Clare Rocznioik

Appointments can be made with the following practitioners

Counselling - Emilia Barrow on 3rd & 17th December & 14th & 28th January
Physiotherapist;
4th, 11th, 18th December & 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th January - Ph: 6076 3200

Maternal Health Nurse - Marie Kirk by appointment - Ph: 6076 3200
WALWA BUSH NURSING CENTRE
PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2014

In presenting my President’s report for 2014 I feel a sense of pride to be able to speak for a team of people who, through great determination have weathered some extremely difficult times over the last 12 months. In my 2013 report I wrote of the continuing challenges facing us in providing best quality practice in our small rural health service. 2014 certainly brought its share of those challenges, but my overwhelming sense of ‘WBNC, Year 2014’, (despite all the complications faced), is of a professional, positive and dedicated team who continue to make every effort to ensure delivery of innovative and proactive service. This team consists of the many people, including staff, volunteers and the many clients who remain committed to making our district a great place to live by helping to maintain our responsive, caring and sustainable health and community service.

The WBNC is a vital service for our community and I sincerely thank all those people who truly understand this and have continued to support the centre through some trying times. The resignation of Dr Moodley so soon after he accepted the role of permanent GP, and right on Christmas was not only a shock but also a great disappointment to all of us. In retrospect following his presentation at last year’s AGM, it was apparent that his heart lay in emergency medicine and sadly, not in general practice.

With the departure of Dr Moodley the Board of Management and CEO are once again faced with the challenges that surround recruiting a suitable GP for our community. It has become apparent over the last few years that it will be extremely difficult to attract the right GP for Walwa; one who has both the experience and ability to work as a sole GP in a rural practice.

While it is an ongoing project to attract the GP we need it is frustrating at times for both staff and clients but we must be patient as we continue to advertise the position. The Board has more than ever been convinced that we must carefully consider any applications from GPs. We not only need a vocationally registered GP, but we also need one with general practice experience. In all previous instances the lack of experience lead our GP’s to feel the work load was too much and the job too demanding.

Of significant challenge during this time is maintaining the viability of the Centre. To attract an experienced GP to Walwa will be extremely costly. With falling patient numbers it is difficult to maintain the service as we barely attract enough funds to cover our costs. If our patient numbers continue to decline the viability of the Medical service is further threatened.

Although the cost of locums is high and we understand that rotating locums is not ideal, the Board is in full agreement that this is our best option. There are various benefits to the hiring of locums not the least is their experience and ability to meet the demands of a solo practice. Having locums also give us more flexibility: we are able to vary session times based on demand. We are able to employ locums who enjoy working in Walwa and who show care and consideration for our clients and deliver the best service possible. To ensure a sense of continuity for individual patients, the staff has been able to develop a short list of locums to attend on a rotational basis. Several of these most experienced locums have been booked for return visits well into the New Year. These locums bring many years of experience to the practice and work extremely well with the staff. We are indebted to many of these doctors for showing their loyalty to our community while they still continue to practice in other Centres, as is their inclination.

The issue of financial sustainability seems to be ever ongoing as we rely on both state and federal funding for the Bush Nursing Centre and our 24 hour accident and emergency. Due to Federal Government budget changes there is the possibility of funding cuts from this area in the New Year. We are pro actively lobbying to ensure that we do not have any of our grants withdrawn. Through the Towong Alliance and our agreement with UMH&C we continue to work with representatives of both State and Federal Governments to ensure our funding into the future.

Through the Finance and Risk Management sub committees we continue to actively looked at ways to assist in resolving the financial challenges that face us. Although the purchase of the Harvey St home was an incredible investment to make at the time, it was very successful as an incentive to attracting a GP to Walwa. It was home to both Dr Neale and Dr Alexander. Ongoing costs of maintaining the house and no permanent GP in sight, led to the decision to sell the home and the sale early this year allowed us to consolidate our BNC assets.

During the year there have been some worthwhile achievements that have the potential to relieve some of the financial costs of running the Centre. We were successful in obtaining a $30,000 grant for installation of solar panels from the State Government. This will significantly reduce our massive power bill. We also obtained funding for kitchen renovations which will include a new dishwasher, oven and refrigerator unit. Replacement of old equipment has a potential cost saving benefit as well.

Lighting throughout the building will be replaced with power saving globes further lowering our power bill.

Through The Towong Alliance, which is an association between WBNC, UMH&C, Tallangatta Health and the Towong Shire we have been able to negotiate a significantly reduced gas price by collaborating and contracting together.

This year we have been unable to give the time that it really needs to promoting the blocks at Mountain View. This project potentially holds the key to building population and increasing clients to the medical practice. A number of recent studies show that one of the biggest issues in the Upper Murray is a lack of affordable housing. Both Corryong and Tallangatta Health Services are looking at our model in order to create more housing for their communities. As well as building population the opportunity to provide low cost housing in Walwa opens up options for our local elderly folk to remain close to families when retiring from properties or downsizing homes. Members of the Mountain View Subcommittee and the Board will refocus on developing innovative ways to promote the sale of these blocks.

Sue Martin is to be thanked for the work she continues to carry out on behalf of the Mountain View subcommittee, liaising with Albury Wodonga Real Estate Agencies who are now advertising land and house packages for us, on their websites.

As part of our three year rolling accreditation program Melinda spent quite a deal of time working on this year’s review process and was given with excellent feedback from the review board, which commented on the excellent running of the centre; notably making favourable comparisons to some much larger city hospitals. It was an outstanding outcome and a reward for Melinda’s hard work.
This year saw the retirement of both Tony and Gayl Sullivan after many years of service to the Centre. Tony has been responsible for literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to refurbish the hospital into the centre it has become, and to provide many of our programs. Gayl worked in the Medical Practice, then the Bush Nursing Centre for a total of 17 years and her remarkable IT knowledge and calm capacity to organise and problem solve is certainly missed.

A special recognition must go to both Sandi and Irene. Irene has worked at the WBNH/WBNC officially for 25 years, but in fact more than that, as she started and stopped and worked as a casual for some years prior to her official start date in 1989. What a fantastic commitment to our community.

And, Sandi reached 25 years on March 1st 2014. Both ladies are totally dedicated to providing a caring and compassionate service to the WBNC far beyond the walls of the Centre.

Having Colette Connors return to a position at the centre has also been a highlight of this last year, Colette is an excellent nurse who fits our model of health extremely well.

I acknowledge the importance of our Towong Alliance which has the potential to help with lobbying for funding into the future and also acknowledge the valuable support and assistance given by the coordinator Tricia Hazelegger.

In closing I would like to thank all the staff in whatever capacity for their dedication and enthusiasm. When faced with major adversity the staff has been able to stay composed and patient and work through the problems, at times finding some rather elegant solutions to pretty extraordinary challenges. When Dr Moodley resigned and we were no longer able to dispense from the pharmacy in January, the staff simply got on with finding a solution that did not inconvenience our clients.

The Board acknowledges the excellent capabilities of the staff and feel that the WBNC has the people on board to make a positive difference to the future of our service.

Once again I thank Sandi, on behalf of the Board and the community. It has been a tough year and at times Sandi had every reason to throw her hands in the air in despair and walk away but she stuck with us and continues to work unshakably to deliver the best rural health service available to all in our community. Primary health care is her passion. She is our lynch pin.

Finally to my fellow Board members. What a year! Standing here last year who would have thought how challenging it would be. I must thank you all for working so well together, for your support and intelligent guidance, your honesty and forthrightness. It has not been easy and there are still hard times ahead but we all have the same goal to guide the WBNC forward to a prosperous future delivering a full range of health services to our community.

To our community, a reminder that this is your community owned health service and it relies on the goodwill and loyalty of everyone in the district to enable it to both survive and to prosper. Please be ambassadors for the WBNC whenever you can. We as a Board are only your representatives here to guide and monitor. It is up to the people of the district to show their desire to maintain this service which is such a vital and integral part of our community.

Margi Fury

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**THANK YOU**

A big thank you to
Neva Taylor,
Betty Hallinan and
Elma van de Hoef
for helping with the folding of
October Walwa World

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**JINGELLIC SHOW MEMBERSHIP**

A Friendly Reminder to All Members
to pay their Membership before the end of November
to have their names in the Jingellic Show Book.

Other wise all Membership have to be
paid by the last day of this year, 2014.

Cecilia

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**IMPOSSIBLE PUMPKIN PIE**

*From Woolly Wombat Recipe book*

*Submitted by Angela Hunt*

Large pie plate

3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup pastry mix (Bakeo Brand)
2 tablespoons butter
2 cups mashed pumpkin
1 can evaporated milk (1/2 x 375ml can)
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla essence
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon salt

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease pie plate. Beat all ingredients till smooth. (1 minute in blender at high speed).

Pour into plate. Bake until knife comes out clean. (50-60 minutes)

Cool and decorate with whipped cream and sprinkle with nutmeg.
424 caravans attended the Rosewood Country Music Festival 2014. For most of the week approximately 7-800 people attended daily. Radio Upper Murray broadcast the Wednesday evening campfire concert from 7-9pm.

However due to internet problems we were unable to broadcast on Thursday and Saturday. We did daily (lunch and tea breaks) mock broadcasts and were received extremely well by both organisers and entertainers and the paying public.

The festival ran from Wednesday to Sunday and was one of the best so far. Radio Upper Murray have been invited to Rosewood 2015.

Special guests were Mem Webster, Peter Pratt, Christina George, Alan Webster, Tony Shepherd and Tom Maxwell all congratulated RUM on their effort, display and encouragement.

Bob Ledo
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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am - 3:30pm</td>
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<td>5:30-6:30pm</td>
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<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>10:30 - 3pm</th>
<th>Community Shop Kerrie</th>
<th>11:45am - 3:30pm</th>
<th>Planned Activity Group WBNC Kylie</th>
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<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>9-10am</th>
<th>Catholic Church Exposition</th>
<th>9-9:30am</th>
<th>Ladies Golf Caroline Walwa Golf Club</th>
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If you would like your group or activity listed in the calendar please contact Irene at mail@walwabnc.com.au
Contact Phone Numbers: WBNC 02 6037 1220  Penny 02 6037 1275 Caroline 02 6037 1271 Kerrie 0408 696 384
Walwa General Store & Newsagency

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Dinner:  Monday - Saturday  6.00 - 8.00pm

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