

BURRUMBUTTOCK BULLETIN

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Melbourne's loss, Burrumbuttock's gain

Two years of Covid lockdowns and restrictions, living in the western Melbourne suburb of Eynesbury, convinced Andrew and Lorelle Porter to investigate another life style.

They felt the lockdowns were having a negative effect, both academically and mentally on their four children, and wanted to do something about it.

The idea of a couple of acres in the country sounded like a good solution to the frustrations of city life.

They already had connections with friends in this area, plus they'd heard good reports about the St. Mary McKillip College in Jindera and that was another big attraction.

So they went looking and when they found the two acre block in Jacob Street, Burrumbuttock, at a price that they felt was reasonable, it didn't take them very long to make a decision.

They signed a contract for the block and a country cottage style home to be built and moved into the area.

However, with the weather interrupting construction, they are not sure when it's going to be ready to move in. Out inspecting progress are: Ryan 13, Ethan 18, Andrew, Lorelle, Amelie 15, and Sophie 11.

Ryan has already signed up with Burrum/Brock U/14s



If anyone's forgotten what the Sun looks like, don't worry, I managed to take a photo of it the other day. I'd be happy to email a copy to anyone who would like one.

Bulletin

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Closing date for copy: 24th of the month.
Please submit articles by email in Word files.
Please no PDFs

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Committed to our region.

Justin CLANCY MP
MEMBER FOR ALBURY

Authorised by Justin Clancy. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.
02 6021 3042 | justinclancy.com.au



Rural CareLink

Carers Support Group

For parent, guardians, family members and the support people who are unpaid and provide on-going care and assistance to another person.

New Members Welcome

Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the Month
At St. John's Chapel Adam's St Jindera
10am - 12 noon

If you are a Carer please join us for support, information and respite. Morning Tea provided. If you know of someone in a caring role please pass this information on.

Contact :Vickie Priscina. Carer Coordinator.

Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$5.00
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Colour	\$48.0



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Forum pushes on for effluent upgrade & land development

The campaign by the Community Forum to have our dilapidated sewerage effluent pondage system upgraded, in conjunction with the development of more residential blocks continues, with the Shire CEO Evelyn Arnold agreeing to meet with Forum reps, on site.

Evelyn agreed to the meeting following this submission:

“Prior to establishing the feasibility of subdivision of the land for residential allotments Council needs to consider the need to expand the effluent system and whether available buffer distances will exist.”

“Therefore, the Community Forum wishes to discuss and inspect the Common Effluent Disposal System located adjacent to the council-owned Gibson Drive allotment.

“As you are aware, this item is number Two on our recent priority project list for the village: *‘The present effluent pondage system needs upgrading or abandoning, with a new large capacity and efficient facility to be established.’*

“The current effluent pondage system is over-subscribed and has been the limiting factor to new subdivisions being built in the

village.

“There is a **twenty year history of inaction** over this effluent pondage system.

“As quoted in the Burrumbuttock Community Forum’s submission to Council in November 2022:

A Strategic Plan for Burrumbuttock was completed in 2006 with the support of Hume Shire Council. The plan was the culmination of a number of Strategic planning community workshops that were held in 2003.

Two of the 2006 Strategic Plan’s top projects for development in Burrumbuttock were:

1. That appropriate land be set aside for new sewerage works - the current system is considered not suitable as it is positioned in prime residential area, has reached capacity, and for other environmental reasons.

2. That further residential development occurs.

No action has been taken on these

‘priority’ projects for twenty years.

“Back in 2003, the discussion was to build a new effluent system north of the village on the north side of Urana Road near the gas pipeline sub-station, well away from the residential area.

“If this new system was built, then further residential blocks could be opened up in Gibson Drive, to support the growth of Burrumbuttock.

“There are also serious environmental concerns that the existing effluent system overflows at times into three private dams within the township, causing ecoli contamination in those dams, and eventually flowing into the Burrumbuttock Creek.”

Burrumbuttock Community Forum NEXT MEETING MONDAY 31st July 7.30pm at the Public Hall

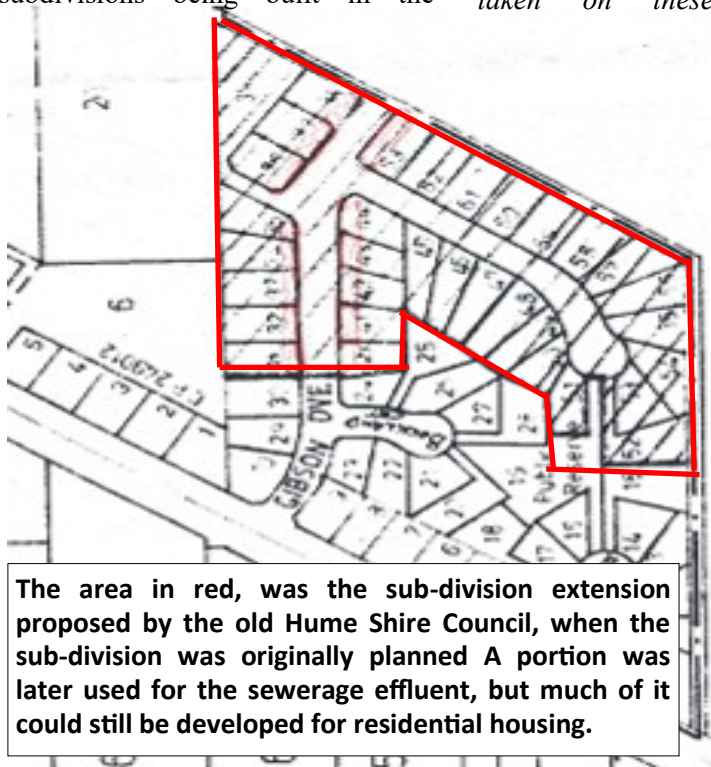
Talk about issues that affect you in our community.
Local Greater Hume Shire councillors in attendance.

Forum meetings are every second month on **the last Monday of the month.**

Here are the dates for the rest of 2023:

Monday 25th September
Monday 27th November

PLEASE POP THEM IN YOUR DIARY!



The area in red, was the sub-division extension proposed by the old Hume Shire Council, when the sub-division was originally planned A portion was later used for the sewerage effluent, but much of it could still be developed for residential housing.

ADSL internet service to be de-commissioned shortly

There is scarcely a month before the ADSL internet service will be switched off, leaving users with no alternative but to sign up for a new broadband plan.

The due date for the switch is 3rd August, which

means anyone who has not changed over to the NBN will be without a service.

The information has come from the current ADSL providers which state “Unfortunately, due to the de-commissioning of the ADSL technology by our third party supplier in your area, we are giving you notice under clause 93(h) of the Phone Customer Code terms, that it will become technically infeasible for us to continue providing with the service.

While not all users will have to change providers, such as those with Telstra, but it will be necessary to make new arrangements with them.

Failure to change over well before the de-commissioning, could result in a delay of up to ten days for a re-connection.

BURRUMBUTTOCK FIRE BRIGADE Annual General Meetng

will be held on

Wednesday 16th August 2023

at 7:30pm

in the Fire Shed Training Room.

Supper will
follow

(please bring a
plate)



Do you have Broadband Questions?

With the recent construction of the NBN Broadband tower on Brocklesby Road, an NBN representative is coming to town to bring us up to date with the technology.

Maybe there'd been fewer subscribers sign up for broadband, than expected.

Anyway the rep. will be here on Wednesday, 12th July, from noon, until 4pm. He will be at the front of the shop

The hall committee has some complaints

The Public Hall Committee is very disappointed with a recent incident at the Hall.

A shelf was installed in the public shower in the amenities block at the rear of the Hall by committee members. It was then stolen two weeks after its installation.

The Hall is run by a committee of local residents for the Council, using hard-earned funds to maintain the upkeep of amenities for the benefit of the whole community.

We would appreciate if anyone knows anything about this theft, to advise Hall committee members of the details.

The other issue that we are concerned about is the Hall rubbish bins being used for household rubbish.

The bins are for Hall usage only, including campers using the site. Therefore they are not to be used for general rubbish from private homes

Come along and meet with nbn[®]
and learn about nbn[®] connectivity in your
area. Don't miss a great opportunity to
discover what technology is available to you
and have your questions answered.

- Burrumbuttock, Wednesday 12th July 2023,
12 midday to 4pm,
near Burrumbuttock General Store

nbn[®] Local

Saints Keeping our Teens Alive



Presenters: Denise Crouch, Sam Whish-Wilson, Paul Marshall, with Mark Korzenowski, Taki Griparis & John Heagney

Having experienced first-hand the devastation of losing a young footballer in a fatal road accident, and in conjunction with having many of their Under 17's boys either driving on 'P' plates or close to it, the Brock/Burrum Football Netball again took initiative, this time hosting 'Towards Zero', - driving to survive.

Event organiser and club spokesman Mark Korzenowski said 'The night was a further follow up on last year's initiative having previously hosted a Gambling and Mental Health awareness night for players and supporters'.

He said, 'We just need to get our kids to think bigger before they act, and realise that vehicles can be extremely dangerous weapons if mistreated'.

Club co-presidents Taki Griparis and John Heagney know first-hand how detrimental road accidents are to not only small communities, but such accidents like the one our club experienced last year, have major flow on effects to all communities.' 'If we can get our juniors to slow down and empower them to make wise decisions before jumping in cars with unfamiliar drivers, then the night has been incredibly successful'.

Three different presenters told their own stories based on lived experience to 30 plus Under 17 footballers and Netballers in the function rooms at Brocklesby.

First speaker Paul Marshall, a former Police officer, highway patrol and VRA Rescue NSW – Albury Captain has seen far too many accidents involving teenagers and 'P' platers. His experience is so vast that it now includes identifying bends in the road or trees by fatalities.

He warned of the dangers of speed, alcohol,

teenagers being bulletproof, as he spoke of how accidents effect many, many people.

Cutting people out of wrecked cars is not a pleasant past time and living with road trauma effects multitudes. He can also turn the average car into a convertible in under 8 minutes.

Second speaker Sam Whish-Wilson, a Howlong based former Army Medic, Paramedic and operating and theatre nurse, was very direct with the teenagers and focused her message on three main points, 1. Don't drink, 2. Wear your seatbelt, 3. Only use your phone at an accident site to call 000.

She stressed the need to leave all communications to the professionals, as when accidents go wild on social media it only results in miss-information and panic, which can lead to further devastation. Each of the points came with real life lived, local experience.

The third Speaker Denise Crouch from Transport NSW brought the finer detail, primarily based around the role speed and impact play in any accident. Stating that when doing 100km/hr it takes approx $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the MCG to stop or approx. 160m.

In Australia approximately every 46 minutes sees people either hospitalised or tragically deceased from motor vehicle accidents and she warned that the 17-36 year old category are over represented in crash statistics.

Denise said 'So often we teach our kids to drive in our good cars and then go and give them an old bomb to drivers their first car', as she explained that older motor vehicles aren't necessarily the safest vehicles for beginners.

Thanks also to the club for the beautiful complimentary roast dinner and soft drink.

Upgrades underway at Wirraminna

We have had busy times at Wirraminna this month. The upgrade of the bridge over the drain near the Discovery Centre is nearly complete.

The gabions along the side are waiting for a final fill with the lovely red river pebbles from Table Top. And on Wednesday Craig spread the special load of red gravel which was delivered last week.

This is the same gravel that was used to build the rammed earth walls of our building. Darryl took a while to track down the right quarry, so that we could upgrade the path over the bridge and the side entrance from the Recreation Ground entrance. It is a wonderful colour.

Next week we will be visited by 40 volunteers from Sydney, who travel around the state doing good environmental tasks.

They will camp at the Rec. Ground on Sunday night, work with us all Monday morning, then on to the next task. It will be an interesting morning for us.

They will fill the gabions with rocks, weed and mulch garden beds in gardens and in the Seed Production area, and plant sedges and Billy Button seedlings along the drains and shrubs on the dam bank.

We will also send out a small “search and destroy” team to find Bridal Creeper. It will be

interesting to meet them and we will learn from each other.

Approaching the middle of winter, Grevilleas, Correas, Banksias and the early wattles are flowering.

There is also colour on the ground, as a range of fungi are fruiting. A great deal of the life in the soil is made up of fungal threads, which have very important interactions with plant roots.

Winter is the main season for them to produce a variety of fruiting bodies (eg. mushrooms) and some colourful examples can be found around Wirraminna.

This weekend will also be a busy time at Wirraminna as West Hume Landcare, Birdlife Australia and the Squirrel Glider LAMP group are joining in a plant give-away morning, and a lot of locals will be gathering for breakfast, some bird watching and to collect their pre-ordered plants.





Burrumbuttock Public School

Waratah

One focus of our Literacy sessions have been to assist students in using either the description of a setting or the description of a key character to begin what will be a longer imaginative text.

During these sessions, the students have had the opportunity to work as a whole class, in small groups and independently to practise what they have been learning.

Students have felt successful and demonstrated a sense of pride when reflecting on their writing and sharing it with the class.



In Mathematics Banksia have been learning about the language of equivalence. Two things are equivalent if they have the same value. Mathematicians, (that's us), record their thinking about equivalence in different ways. One way to demonstrate an understanding of equivalence is by using a mathematical story. We made up stories about birds in a nest and had to draw pictures to match.



Our gymnastics program was a huge success and our students had very positive feedback about it. We will look at running this program again in 2024.

The P&C has accepted a catering opportunity on Saturday July 29 @ the Burrum Hall.

Rebecca has put together a finger food menu and will be asking for donations of either finger food -soup, sausage rolls, mini-quiche, or monetary donations to cover bread rolls and meat, (to roast).

At this stage we are ok for helpers on the night but the more donations we receive the better our profits and investment in the school children.

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

@ BURRUMBUTTOCK

When: Mondays 6.15am - 7.15am
Fridays 6.15am - 7.15am

Where: Burrumbuttock Sports Ground

Who: All members of Burrumbuttock & surrounding communities are welcome (not just farmers), and all levels of fitness and experience are encouraged to attend!

Cost: First class is free for new members

Any age, any level of fitness, everyone can join us!

New & old members welcome!

For more information go to www.activefarmers.com.au/burrumbuttock or contact Active Farmers Trainer Allana Hayes on 0419 332 314

It cost so little . . . Colin Wiltshire's been to India



India is a country of huge contrasts, which is something which probably surprises no one, so this story begins on a busy street in Mumbai, where a young man is clandestinely cleaning shoes for 10cents a customer, while parked at the curb beside him was a Mercedes Maybach, worth almost three-quarters of a million dollars.

The reason I say clandestinely is because he works illegally, and must keep an eye out for the police all the time. A good day probably grosses him a dollar.



Apparently, he's regarded as a beggar, and begging is illegal, with the consequences of being apprehended, is to have his cleaning equipment confiscated.

I was unaware of this when I agreed to have my dusty shoes cleaned, by this guy with a worn out brush in one hand, and a plastic bag in the other.

He knelt down, produced a handkerchief from the bag, and as, unexpectedly, he took off my shoes, I stepped back onto the hankie.

He spoke semi literate English, which surprised me, since very few of the poor could, and when I asked him where he'd learnt the language, he attributed it to the fact he was from another state. Maybe that meant a different schooling system, I don't know.

Top: Estrella has her white shoes freshened up.

Middle: The narrow alley we had to pass along.

Bottom: Negotiating.



As we talked he explained about having to watch out for police all the time, and then went onto to say that if he had a shoe cleaner's box, he'd be categorised as a peddler and could work legally.

He was touting, I suspected, but who wouldn't be, if life was as arduous as his appeared to be.

Alright, the solution seemed obvious to me, "why don't you get a box?" "Because I don't have the money," he answered politely.

"How much are they"

"Two thousand five hundred rupees"

I did a quick mental calculation. At ₹50 to the dollar, that's \$50, but since the exchange rate was around ₹54, that was almost another ten percent off, making it closer to \$46.

I decided to buy him a box, but was not going to just hand him the money, so I told him I'd buy him one but I needed to accompany him and watch the transaction.

His practiced persuasive manner graduated to an excited smile, and he returned to my shoes to finish up.

It was latish afternoon, so I arranged for him to be at the front of our hotel at 11 o'clock the following morning.

Sure enough, he was waiting, smiling, and wearing a fresh shirt.

It was going to take 30 to 40 minutes to reach our destination, but he voted against my suggestion that we go by taxi.

I wondered why since the commonly used mini Hyundai taxis seemed big enough and more comfortable than the alternative.

No; he was pretty adamant that a tuk-tuk was the best mode of transport. So he, Estrella and I squeezed up in the back of a tuk-tuk and headed off.

It wasn't long before taking the tuk-tuk began making sense, as the standard of the buildings began deteriorating, the road narrowed and became little more than a dirt and dusty track.

We were venturing into the shambles of a shanty town, where the buildings were mainly single storey, home made, and built of scrap materials and plastic sheets.

Continued back page

What could I say ?

There was still more than an hour to go before we were due to board the Boeing 787 Dreamliner (ha-ha) for the twelve and half hour flight back to Melbourne. Estrella and I had been up since 5 a.m., had already made the two hour connecting flight from Mumbai (Bombay) to Delhi, and were waiting anxiously to get on with the next stage of the gruelling journey back to Burrumbuttock.

For some unknown reason, I suddenly had an uncomfortable feeling, stood up and padded both my trouser pockets, then my back pockets! My wallet was not there! My expletive was audible but soft, as I looked down at my wife. “My wallet’s missing,” I exclaimed, and now both our eyes were open wide in disbelief.

Whenever I’ve travelled abroad, I’ve always been meticulous about two things. My wallet and my passport, and the fact that my wallet was now missing certainly roused some alarm in me. However, a quick mental audit of its contents, made me realise it was not the end of the world, nor would it interfere with our travel arrangements, as would a lost passport. But let’s try and find it.

“Where did you have it last?”

“I don’t know,” my mind was working backwards over the last couple of hours. “Yes I do, at the security inspection station, when I put it in the tray scanning tray. I must have left it there.”

It made some sense since the guy ahead of me in the line had been a nuisance, having problems with one of his trays being rejected because his bag was too large, he’d failed to have a laptop in a separate tray, and he was confused.

Once through the screening he was still bumbling, so I pushed passed him and took my trays from further up the line. Possibly this may have resulted in my leaving my wallet behind.

But that was a long back from departure lounge 48B, through seemingly acres of duty free shops restaurants and bars, through customs and finally to the security station. I’d already tried going backwards through the system on our arrival, almost three weeks early, and had ended up embroiled in a heated argument with a security bloke.

Anyway, I had no alternative and started back at a brisk pace. Ah, an information counter, good! One thing I’d learnt rather quickly in India, is that if you need information, and ask someone who looks to be in authority, the reply is often one of three things.

They don’t know, they don’t understand, or they refer you to someone else. The girl behind this counter referred me to someone else, further down the track.

At the next counter, my luck changed, and the pretty petite littlr woman took my obvious concern seriously and left me standing, to hurry off across the alleyway to speak to a chap in military garb. He looked up and signalled me to come across, and my spirits lifted.

I explained my predicament, and he nodded his understanding but said nothing. Closeby, two casually dressed men were watching us, then my military man walked over to them and presumably explained my problem.

Again I was signalled to approach, and my spirits lifted even more since there was something about their body language which was reassuring, and plainly they were high caste, and I sensed returning to the security station was going to happen.

Not only was their dress casual but so was their self confident manner, especially of the one who had seemed to have taken on the responsibility of helping me.

“Follow me,” he said in fluent English. Sure!

Continued Page 10



**It’s surprising the people you meet in India.
Estrella with Brett Lee, during India’s IPL.**

Rare Kingfisher spotted

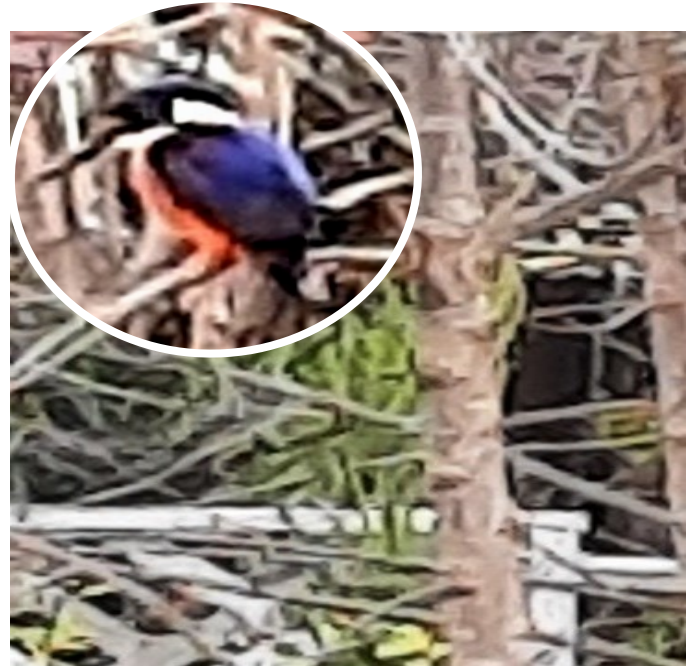
Not very often seen in this area is the Azure Kingfisher, but this one was spotted recently by Barry Mott, when he was walking along Howlong Road, on his way home from the shop.

It was some distance away but he took a chance with his phone and managed this picture. A bit blurry but pretty good just the same.

Azure Kingfishers are beautiful little blue-and-orange bird with a long, pointed bill.

Often rather shy and inconspicuous, they're found along rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds—almost any fresh brackish habitat with small fish.

Often perches quietly in trees over water; most often seen in very fast low flight as a turquoise flash over the water. Easily detected once its high, shrill whistled call is learned, even if the bird itself is hidden.



What could I say continued:

As we walked he asked, "Where are you from."

"Australia"

"Ah," was his nonchalant reply. Unusually, when an Indian knows you're Australian, they respond with a list of their favourite Aussie cricketers, but not this chap.

He was letting on nothing.

"What's in your wallet?"

Why, I thought but answered anyway, "Drivers licence, gun licence, two debit cards, medicare card, not much money," what difference does that make.

"Ah', more nonchalance.

Finally, back in the security station Estrella and I began looking through the pile of trays where we'd stacked ours', while our man went across to the chap monitoring the scanner, but he had no good news.

My carry-on hand luggage was a small back pack, which our man decided he wanted. I took it off, handed it to him, he returned to the scanner, had the line of bags stopped, and put my pack through, for a look-see.

He was definitely a person with considerable authority, as all the staff seemed to be aware, but I couldn't see the purpose of screening my back pack. But I wasn't going to argue.

However, when he returned with my bag, he laid it down on the counter, pulled the flap open, pushed his hand to the bottom of the front of the bag, and pulled out my wallet.

I should have been embarrassed, but the relief was considerable. Now I understood why he wanted to know about my wallet's contents.

He knew what to look for on the scanner. Smart forethought, I thought!

As we walked back, I asked him who he was but he just said he was on a surveillance exercise in the airport.

"Are you police, or military?"

"Police."



Holbrook Landcare Network

'Fellow Hills' Working Dog School
22nd - 23rd July 2023

Who said you can't teach old dogs new tricks?

Looking for an opportunity to get out with your four-legged offsideer and hone-in on your working dog skills? Join us, alongside Trainer Ben Coster from Wandabar Stockdogs, for a two-day, sheep-orientated Working Dog School.

Where	COST
Fellow Hills, Holbrook- Culcairn Road, Morven NSW 2660.	Attendee + Dog \$220.00
When 22nd - 23rd July 2023	Fence-Sitter (no Dog) \$120.00

RSVP
RSVP & Payment by 14th JULY - Unless all spots filled prior

[Register Here](#)

Camping Available On-Farm | BBQ Provided Saturday Night
Tea & Coffee Provided | BYO Lunch

HOLBROOK WORKING DOG CLUB



Contact Jess Armstrong or Rachael Daniel at Holbrook Landcare Network on 6236 3181 for more information



King's Birthday Honours 2023

Farrer 2023 King's Birthday Honours recipients

Mr Noel GRAHAM AM (Deniliquin) For significant service to agriculture through the rice growing industry.

Emeritus Professor Lindy MCALLISTER AM Inaugural head of speech pathology, CSU (Albury).

The late Mr Brian CHISHOLM OAM For service to the community of Berrigan.

The late Mr Peter Raymond DOWLING OAM (Moulamein). For service to primary industry.

Mr Howard JONES OAM (Coomella) For service to conservation and the environment.

Denise KNIGHT OAM (formerly of Jindera) For service to local government, and to the community of the Greater Hume region.

Councillor Ruth Elizabeth McRAE OAM (Jerilderie) For service to local government, and the Murrumbidgee community.

Rosalie WILSON OAM (Thurgoona) For services to Athletics.

Australian Fire Service Medal

Mr Peter LUGSDIN (Hay)

Public Service Medal

Mr Terry DODDS (Moama) For outstanding public service in local government leadership through emergency management.

Public Service Medal

Mr Brett STONESTREET (Griffith) For outstanding public service to the community of Griffith



2023 Regional Conference Humanitix

Enjoy 2023 Regional Conference, Hosted at Charles Sturt University, Albury-Wodonga, 386 Elizabeth Mitchell Dr, Thurgoona NSW 2640, Australia, Sat 24th Jun 2023, 8:45 am - Sun 25th Jun 2023, 3:00 pm AEST. Tickets are between FREE-\$35. Only on Humaniti

Want to go? Paula can help

Hello folks,

Through the Regional Landcare program, I have a bit of money left to support active nature loving/Landcare volunteers to attend conferences... this would be a good one to go to since it is on our doorstep.

Please contact me if any volunteers are going and I can reimburse them for the ticket.

For a few from further afield, I may also be able to supplement their accommodation

Paula Sheehan | Holbrook Landcare



List of Committees and Contacts

Anglers Club	Jocelyn Beale	0476 215 200
Bethel Lutheran Church	Paul Jarick	0427 263 224
Burrumbuttock Bulletin	Marion Vile	0425 852 702
Community Forum	Colin Wiltshire	6029 3216
Pigeon Club	Ron Boulton	0488 459 060
Cemetery Trust	Barry Mott	6029 3339
Cricket Club	Dave Williams	0427 260 234
Fire Brigade	Jeff Litchfield	6029 3227
BB Saints Football Club	Noel Livermore	6029 3375
Netball Club	Rachel Koschitzke	0414 949 290
Hall Committee	Marion Vile	0425 852 702
Holy Cross Lutheran Church,	Craig Severin	6035 1211
Pre School		6029 3343
Primary School		6029 3253
Recreation Ground	Janice Whitty	0403 759 396
Tennis Club	Ashley Lindner	0458 293 328
West Hume Landcare	Kathie LeBusque	0408 443 261
Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre		6029 3185

Justice of the Peace

Barry Mott 0400 987 151, Sue Robey 0409 111958
 Fe Coleman 0408 263 305, Jeff Litchfield 6029 3227

Fire Emergency - 000

Fire Communications Officer, Jeff Litchfield ,6029 3227

Defibrillator & Oxy Viva at Fire Shed

Jeff Litchfield 6029 3227 The Shop 6029 3240

Council

Roads, Storms & Drainage	0419 405 768
Water & Sewerage	0408 691 637
Ranger/Impounding Officer	0427 556 659

OPENING HOURS

Burrumbuttock Transfer Station

1st Sunday of the month 2.00pm to 4pm
 3rd Sunday of month 10.00am to 12noon

Shop, Post Office Phone Norm or Janice– 6029 3240

Monday to Thursday	8am-5pm
Friday	8am-8pm
Saturday	8am-10am

Farmers Inn Hotel Phone Mardi – 6029 3218

Monday to Friday	1pm - close
Tuesday	3pm – close
Saturday	11am – close

The Indian shoe box continued:

The tuk-tuk picked its way through the bustling people, and roadside stalls of food, vegetables and clothes.

I could now see why the taxi was a bad idea.

When we stopped, it was adjacent to an alleyway, squeezed between a couple of rather mangy looking shops, with what looked like living quarters above.

Sajay (Estrella had asked his name by now) stepped out of the tuk-tuk, beckoning us to follow him into the passageway. Surprisingly once inside the dimness, everything was swept clean, and debris free.

While outside, the street was a hubbub of people and litter, inside the depth of this shanty alley, the cleanliness was surprising.

The walkway lacked even a dust film , the surroundings structures well maintained, and I was a little flabbergasted by the apparent cooperation and community spirit, which surely was responsible for the overall maintenance.

When we reached our destination, it was a high step up into the small apartment type place, whereupon we removed our shoes and entered. There was a kitchen, lounge and bedroom all in one, and behind the door, I guessed there was an abolitions cubical. Just how the plumbing worked in such circumstances is beyond me.

There were two older women present, and since there were no chairs about, they directed to sit on the edge of the bed.

Okay, but this was nothing like the workshop I had expected and I was wondering where the shoe box was going to come from.

When another gentleman appeared, he reached into an overhead cupboard and produced two boxes and a tin. They were obviously second hand, which meant I was dealing a trader, not a tradesman.

Not surprisingly, the price was no longer two and a half thousand, now it was three and a half, and the trader ignored Sajay when he said he'd told me the price was two and a half.

In the end, I agreed to pay three, as I was in no mood to bicker for half an hour, and I felt the money would be put to good use anyway.

My concern from the beginning was not to fund any drug habits, and this almost pristine mini environment and tidily dressed people was reassuring.

For Sajay, who supported his mother and two sisters, the box was about to change his life. No longer would he need to sneak about the streets, quietly petitioning people with dusty looking shoes.

Now he could hang up his shingle and set up his box at one of Mumbai's railway stations, where he was confident of making a good living.

And with 2.2 million people riding Mumbai's trains every day, I could understand why he was optimistic about his future.

For me, it cost \$55. So very, very little when it changed, not one person's life, but three of his family as well. That evening we spent that much on a meal.