



# CULCAIRN OASIS

CULCAIRN AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

May 2023

## CANCER MORNING TEA & MAVIS GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP

The 27<sup>th</sup> April was a very special day for the Culcairn LHAC. First we hosted a morning tea to raise funds for the Albury-Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre. The event raised an outstanding \$1713 for the Centre. We would like to thank all



who supported the LHAC morning tea, the business houses, those who came and all those who donated cakes etc and their time. The Lucky Door prize was won by Vicky Sheather and raffle winners were - 1st Michelle Fagan, 2nd Des

Burley and 3rd Jenny Weston.

Following the morning tea we gathered at the MPS to present the inaugural Mavis Gardiner Scholarship to Matthew Rodwell. The purpose of the Scholarship is for

MPS staff to undertake further study to advance their qualifications. Next, we had the planting of a shrub (crepe myrtle) to honour Mavis for all she did for the LHAC over many years. We would sincerely like to thank Mavis's daughters, Dianne & Jennie for being part of the day.



Thank you from the LHAC Committee

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MATTHEW RODWELL ON BEING AWARDED THE INAUGURAL MAVIS GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP!



A very well-deserved first recipient of this esteemed award.

Mavis was a valued member of our community, LHAC committee member and instrumental in Culcairn

gaining a Multi-Purpose Service.

Mavis understood the value of and was passionate about education, wanting to be a nurse herself in her younger years, and regularly encouraged staff members to educate themselves further.

Matthew was overwhelmed and very proud to win this scholarship – having spent many hours discussing his future plans with Mavis, while looking after her in the Residential Aged Care section.

Winning this scholarship will help Matt take some of the stress away from his studies.

Matthew also owns a gym and plans to expand the services available.

He is currently upskilling in Diploma of Remedial Massage and plans to study Myotherapy in future, which will allow him to supply new services to the Culcairn community.

We wish you the very best of luck with your future studies Matt.

## CULCAIRN RAILWAY MUSEUM OPEN DAY

On a beautiful autumn's day in April, the local Museum had an Open Day, to display antique furniture, elegant stairwell, gardens and miniature trains travelling around a layout of the Culcairn Rail Station.



Among the many visitors were members of the Antique Car Club Albury/Wodonga, along with themselves they brought along a selection of the lovingly restored cars that they drive. A 'Bettle', a

Mini, Fords and I'm too young to know the others. But the management committee thank them for coming to join us for the day.

A big thank you also to the committee, who once again put in a sterling effort for the occasion. "Volunteers, the salt of the community".

## CULCAIRN SHOW REPORT

The 2023 show will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at the Culcairn Sports and Show Ground. The 2023 annual meeting of the Society elected Max Scheetz as president and Stephen Trickett as secretary. Thank you to members who attended the meeting. This year the annual membership of the society has been reduced in cost to \$10.

The Show Society can be contacted at email [culcairnshowsociety@gmail.com](mailto:culcairnshowsociety@gmail.com)

The next meeting of the society is in the evening [7.30pm] at the Sports Ground on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The Society thanks all volunteers, exhibitors, committee, members and the community who made the 2022 show such a success.

## CULCAIRN OASIS POLICY STATEMENT

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## DEADLINE

**Next deadline - 12pm Tues 6<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

Folding Date- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 1pm

Delivery Date - Wed 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

We prefer articles and advertising to be emailed to: [culcairnoasis@outlook.com](mailto:culcairnoasis@outlook.com) or phone **02 6029 8291** for more information.

## POETRY CORNER

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- Robert Frost (extract)

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

- William Wordsworth

## GARDEN CLUB - UPDATE ON CORONATION DRIVE

Recently a group of current and past residents of Culcairn met at Coronation Drive to plant a new addition to the grove of White Cedar and Kurrajong trees. This tree replaces one of the original trees planted which unfortunately did not survive.

Coronation Drive was originally planted as a part of the celebrations for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II some 70 years ago. It has grown to become a magnificent stand of trees.

To recognise the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Coronation Drive, a new Storyboard has been created giving some history of the Drive. It will be erected at the entrance to Coronation Drive. The original plaque which was placed and unveiled on the evening of the planting of the trees by the then President of the Culcairn Shire, Mr Alister Ross, will be repositioned with the Storyboard.

The unveiling of the Storyboard and Plaque will take place at the entrance to Coronation Drive on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023 at 2.00pm. Following the unveiling, an afternoon tea will be provided by the Culcairn Garden Club. Shire Councilors, original participants of the tree plantings, and the wider Culcairn Community are all invited to attend.



L-R : Richard Odewahn, Ross Brand, Trevor Smith, Janice Smith, Joyce Gardiner, Warwick Balfour, Marion Wright, Lindsay Lowe.

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## CULCAIRN PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Hume wins again

The sporting prowess of the Hume team came to the fore when Hume and Hovell met on the battlefield at the Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals. The sportsmanship displayed by all our students was



exceptional. There is always a winner, but it was great to see all our students supporting their sporting house and each other. Congratulations to Hume on a great effort. Commiserations Hovell, you will get them next year.

### Chocolate heaven

Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter Raffle. We managed to create 17 fantastic prizes. The raffle was drawn, and winners notified on our last day of school for Term 1. There were also some amazing Easter bonnets parading under our COLA. Well done to all our students, we hope you enjoyed your Easter.



### Celebrating and caring for our Mums

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) will be running a Mother's Day gift stall for students to purchase that special gift for Mum. The stall is an annual activity for the SRC and is very popular with the students who can buy something for as little as \$1.00 or blow all the pocket money on the high end \$6.00 range. It's nice to buy that present for Mum without her standing next to us. The school will also host a picnic lunch for all the special women in our lives on Friday 12 May. We look forward to seeing you.

## HENTY-CULCAIRN PROBUS

Henty/Culcairn Probus met at Henty Community centre 12th April 2023. Our President Yvonne Booth welcomed us all. Beryl Meyer took up her new position as our club secretary, and our Treasurer Heather Collis gave her report. Neil and Julie Parker told us about possible phone and computer scams, and Janet Beverley gave an update on Avondale and the anticipated occupancy certificate. A big thank you from Yvonne and the sea men who receive our beautifully beanies. They are much appreciated and much needed.

Sybil Ritchie was our five-minute speaker. She told of her father being fourth of ten children and eldest boy, and how he went farming at Ganmain and then to war, and how he met his future wife, a qualified tailoress, in Glasgow. Sybil's parents were married at Ryan and her mother learned about cooking on a wood stove, from neighbours. The family from Glasgow came to Australia and some went to school in Henty. Sybil has worked in Melbourne and Sydney and has had two corner stores in Wagga Wagga, as well as working at the Prince of Wales motel in Wagga Wagga. We thank Sybil for sharing her family story and very busy life.

After morning tea, June Bahr introduced Robyn Wood, whose family she has known for fifty years. Robyn spoke on falls prevention. The information from Robyn was aimed at those over sixty -five years, particularly the people using walking sticks and walkers and their fit for our height and width and discussing this with a physiotherapist. Robyn spoke of eating well, wearing well-fitting nonslip shoes, annual medical testing as well as dental and eye checks. Most importantly, Robyn spoke of needing to keep our bodies strong, so we are less likely to have falls. Thirty-seven percent of injury deaths are caused by falls and it is every one's business to prevent falls.

We should have ICE (in case of emergency) phone numbers in our phone and do gentle exercise to help ourselves and that can be as basic as a daily 20 minute walk.

After a most interesting question and answer session, following her chat, Robyn was presented with a Probus pen as a token of our thanks.

Yvonne most often closes our meetings by sharing an interesting quote. Today's was "Be the reason somebody smiles today". Our next meeting is May 10 at Culcairn Bowls Club, 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start. Hope you will join us and stay for lunch, smiles and friendship after our speakers.



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**Meals on Wheels**  
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**We are very excited to announce that we are commencing "Outreach Hubs" in both Culcairn and Walla Walla.**

Commencing in April, on the third Wednesday of every month, will be at the Culcairn Council Office between 10.30am and 12.30pm and then at the Walla Walla Memorial Hall between 1.30pm and 3pm. Look out for our vehicle and street signage! Upcoming Dates for Culcairn are: Wednesday's, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Our staff are available to help you with enquiries regarding our services, Meals on Wheels, Social Support, Food Services and Transport. We will be able to help you with My Aged Care enquires and registration as well as the process of registering to receive referrals for our services. We will have menus, Social Support and Transport information available on the day. Meetings with our staff will be one on one and strictly confidential. We look forward to meeting you in Culcairn and providing these services face to face across the council area. If you have any questions, please give Sue a call on 02 60363677.

**If you are a new advertiser, email us for information & a booking form.**

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## CULCAIRN OASIS NEWS

We would love to receive more articles from all our Culcairn community groups in order to make our newsletter varied, interesting and enjoyable for our readers. So if your group has news you'd like to share with our wider community we'd love to hear from you.

We would also love to hear from more individuals who have a particular interest and who would like to contribute to the Culcairn Oasis. Please e-mail details to [culcairnoasis@outlook.com](mailto:culcairnoasis@outlook.com) or phone David Gilmore on 6029 8291.

**Please note this publication is available online at [www.culcairn.nsw.au](http://www.culcairn.nsw.au) [www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)**



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## CULCAIRN DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE

Drug and Alcohol counselling at Culcairn weekly, the service can be provided via tele health sessions outside of the day held in Culcairn.

Enquiries or self-referrals – contact Albury Community Health (02) 6058 1800 or Mobile 0477359255. This service is provided by Albury



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## CULCAIRN MPS NEWS

Hello and welcome to news from the residents at the Culcairn MPS.

What a month we have had during April. For Easter our residents celebrated with a BBQ lunch followed by an Easter egg hunt out in our courtyard. It was such a lovely day with the weather that most of our residents were out and hunting with staff.

For our art program we have used coloured air dry clay. We used the piece by an Indigenous Australian Elaine Russell titled "Lachlan River, our childhood dreams" (1994). We discussed together what we thought the piece was all about and the conclusion was that it was a family that was having a picnic by the river. One resident had made a comment that they really enjoyed the activity and it was therapeutic for their hands.

We would really love to have some volunteers from the community to come in and enjoy our art program with the residents. You don't need to be arty at all, just being able to have a chat about our pieces with residents is all that is required.

## "THE SHED" NEWS—Culcairn Men's & Community Shed

Our Afternoon Tea on 19 April 2023 was a good time with a few new faces coming along. The event was proudly sponsored by Hume Bank. As well as some new faces we had representatives from Henty, Albury, and Holbrook.

If you have something that needs a little TLC or if you would like a hand with a project then drop in and speak with one of our members who may be able to give you some guidance.



We have repaired chairs, tables, bedheads and given a door a new screen.

We meet Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. All ages welcome on either day.

Are you interested in arts & crafts or woodworking or perhaps setting up a small vegie plot we would love to hear from you or just needing time out or a chat then you are most welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat. It is a great way to meet some new people, so come along.

Membership is \$50 per year, necessary to cover all insurances. Contact 0408 211 565 Cris McPaul



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Project Timeline:

## CULCAIRN BUSINESS DISTRICT UPGRADE

Greater Hume Council is currently upgrading the Culcairn Business District with the installation of new drainage pipes, kerb and channel, footpaths, development of a central Plaza area (see attached for artists impression) and replacement of some of the plane trees with Chinese Pistacho trees.

Council is in regular contact with the business operators and landowners affected as well as the Culcairn Community Development Committee. The contractors have advised that depending on the work being undertaken, there will be a loss of several parking spaces between 3 to 10 days as they progress along Balfour Street. Council and the contractors are also working on minimising the impact of the works on access to businesses, however there may be occurrences where this is unavoidable.

Currently work is progressing well along the southern side of Balfour Street, with the current weather conditions assisting the contractors. New drainage pipes have been installed and work has commenced on the kerb and channel along with a new standard footpath between Fraser Street to the Lane between Fraser and Blair Streets.

If you have any further questions or wish to make comments please contact Council via email

### Work Completed by Contractor

Stormwater Drainage Fraser St (Balfour St to Billabong Creek) 27/3/2023

### Work in Progress by Contractor

Stormwater Drainage South side of Balfour St (3 Weeks) 17/4/2023

### Work Scheduled by Contractor

Kerb and Channel South side of Balfour St (3 Weeks) 8/5/2023

Footpath South side of Balfour St (4 Weeks) 5/6/2023

Drainage North side of Balfour St & into Railway Pde (3 Weeks) 26/6/2023

Kerb and Channel North side of Balfour St and West side of Railway Pde (4 Weeks) 24/7/2023

Footpath North side of Balfour St and West side of Railway Pde (5 Weeks) 28/8/2023

Installation of electrical conduits for future lighting of trees on both sides of Balfour St, 11/9/2023

installation of structural soil for tree planting and installation of three taps in street (2 Weeks) 11/9/2023

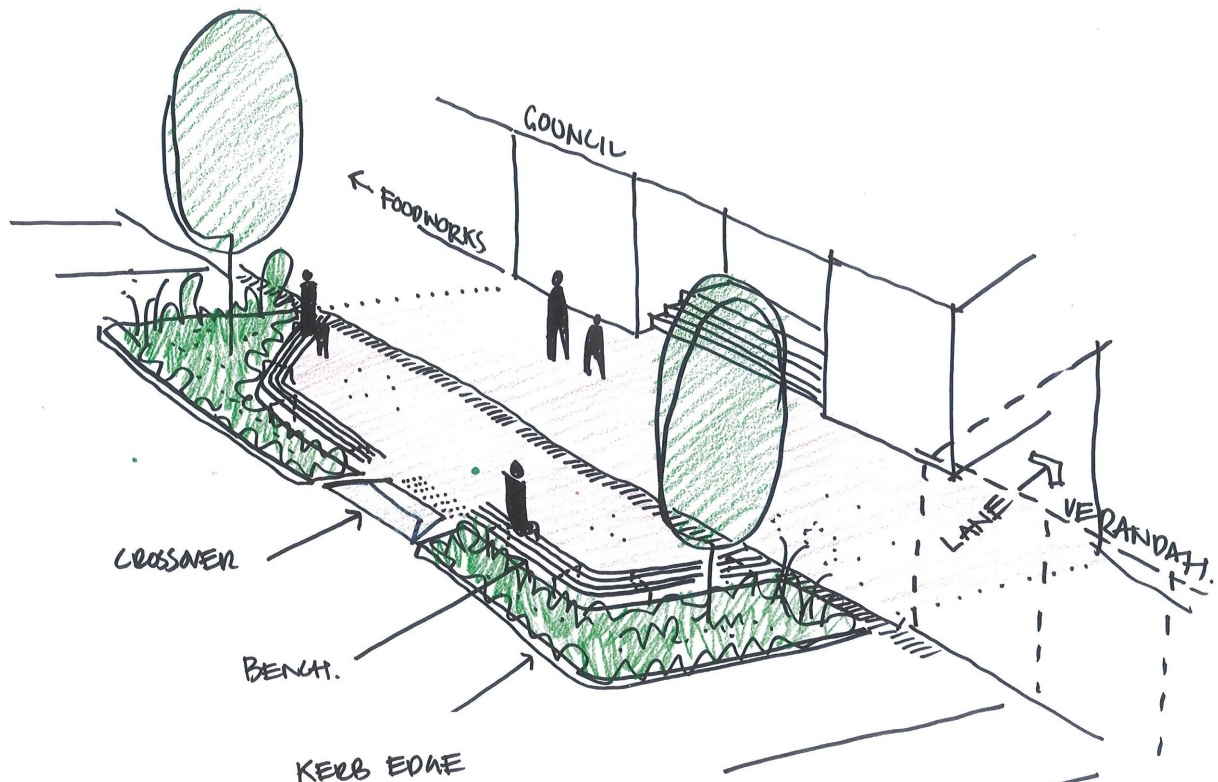
### Work Scheduled by Council

Line marking of parking bays (1 Week) 18/9/2023

Planting of 20 x Chinese Pistachio Trees (1 Week) 25/9/2023

Picture:

Artist's Impression of Plaza Area



## IN YOUR GARDEN

No frosts yet, but wet and cooler, as the last month of autumn sees shorter days and lower temperatures.



Winter Vegies should be in and growing well now. However, there is still time to put in later crops of broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, broad beans, kale, spinach, and silver. Peas-snow peas, sugar snap peas and podded peas will do

well through the colder weather. Plant garlic corms now.

Lettuce of different varieties can be grown in pots. Single leaf picking types are good to grow and last a long time.

Pumpkins should be ready to harvest now (or in June) in the next few weeks as the plants die, and the skins harden off. Do NOT store on concrete, as this causes pumpkin to lose water content and deteriorate quickly. Store them on a rack in a shed or on suspended wire netting.

Olives are fruiting well now, and Mother's Day is said to be the day on which to pick them. There are recipes available for preserving olives - not difficult but takes time. I preserved some years ago and my family and friends enjoyed eating jars of them.

Cyclamen and Chrysanthemums are popular for Mothers' Day. Potted Plants are available and last much longer than cut flowers.

Callistemons (or Bottle Brushes) are beginning to flower now and will continue throughout winter and spring. These beautiful trees or shrubs attract native birds, who enjoy the nectar. Camellias are out in May, early Sasanquas now and later in June and July we will have an amazing variety of Japonicas. There will be shows in Albury and Wagga which will be worth a visit.

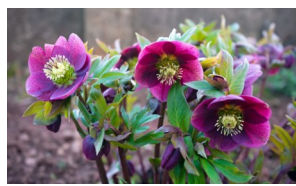
Deciduous hibiscus can be pruned in June after the leaves have fallen. I take about 1/3rd of the growth off. Rose pruning can start in June and continue into July. Remove dead wood or crossed branches.

Divide Agapanthus and other clumping plants using a sharp spade to cut through root system. Start a new parch, pot some up or share pieces with friends and neighbours.

Bare rooted roses, autumn deciduous trees, and fruit trees can be ordered in May for planting in June.

Citrus are setting and ripening now. Yellowing leaves are a sign of an iron deficiency. Use an Iron chelates spray on the leaves to correct this problem.

Small Roses grow well in pots. A new one for me in the last year is "Grand pa's rose" a beautiful red bush with perfect slow opening buds This rose is ideal for picking just one stem for a special person.



Hellebores do well in a cool, shady, position in your garden. White to almost black in colour and single and double forms of are available.

Stay warm and keep safe.

## CULCAIRN GOLF CLUB LADIES TOURNAMENT

Our Ladies Tournament was held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April on a beautiful day. Thank you to the 40 ladies who travelled to Culcairn. The course was in great condition considering the 8 inches of rain we had received in the month prior. The lunch was delicious, many of the visitors commenting that they mostly come to Culcairn for the food! Congratulations to the winners on the day:

Division 1: Di Tyrell Miller and Glenda Frichot (Howlong), Runners Up – Rawinia Smithenbecker and Sandra Kilo (Jindera)

Division 2: Mirisol Webb and Skye Trescowthick (Holbrook), Runners Up – Sylvia Spring and Vicki Lawson (Wagga City).

A big thank you to Drummond Golf for their continued support of Culcairn Golf Club. Thank must go to our volunteers who made sure the course was in the best condition it could be –

Joe Warren Graham Moore, Martin Smith and Stuart Lowe. Thank you also to helpers in the kitchen – Sue Warren, Bev McMullen, Betty Scheetz and Heather Lowe. Thanks also to Janelle Doust, past member and Captain of Wagga City who always organises a great contingent from Wagga to come to our tournament and for her write up for Riverina Womens Golfing Association and the Oasis.

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## I TESTED POSITIVE FOR BABY, SO WE BOUGHT A HOUSE.

Many perfectly sane people might stop and wonder why a pair of coffee loving, movie going, foodie, city dwellers like my artsy husband and career driven self would go and decide to leave the bustling city of Melbourne, Australia and take ourselves off to a tiny little town called Culcairn. Well it's an interesting story...let's live the adventure together.

Close to 3 years ago my husband and I discovered, with surprise (and by surprise I mean as though a time bomb had been pushed through the mail slot with a count down of two seconds left), we were expecting a new addition to the family. No, not a puppy or a kitten, hopefully fewer feet and more intelligence. High expectations, I know.

That's right, we were now expecting a baby in the August of 2020.

At first we weren't interested in moving to the country, perhaps that is a misstatement, I should say, we hadn't thought about it, plain and simple; it hadn't even crossed our minds. In fact, we asked about buying the small, but fun, two bedroom house we were renting at the time. Then



COVID hit the world, and Melbourne went into strict lockdown never really emerging from it for the rest of 2020. When you have a freshly popped baby human and *literally* cannot leave your property, a total of 350m2 (3567ft2), one tends to go a little stir crazy! Plus, when the little squirt you didn't plan for can't sit still to save his life, you realise things need to change.

About three months had passed and our baby boy still hadn't been able to meet his grandparents on my side of the family; thus, we decided this was no way for our child to start his life. For the sake of trying to provide the best, healthiest, and happiest upbringing for our boy, we left our jobs and took up a lifestyle we hadn't in a million years expected to! The house hunting commenced. Our Shire of



choice? The Greater Hume. We wanted to be somewhere with family nearby and it was conveniently located almost exactly halfway between both sets of Grandparents. After a short period of

hunting we stumbled upon what we now affectionately call our 'little country cottage'.

This house was nothing like what we had originally envisioned! Our check list included an ensuite, 3 bedrooms, and a small, manageable, back yard. We didn't want to be bogged down with house chores, the plan was for both of us to continue working when we relocated.

However, what we settled on... had no ensuite, rather, the second bathroom was comprised of a dinky little shower located randomly in the external laundry. The laundry trough was the 'sink', and, finally, the toilet was a leaky roofed, poorly flushing, stained bottomed, yellow lidded, outdoor 'dunny'. Oh so convenient in -4 degree weather come winter. Our 'cottage' had 5 bedrooms, not the desired 3, and rather than that small, manageable, backyard, which would need little more than an occasional mow, it had a little over an acre and a quarter of land attached.

What were we thinking?!

Were we out of our minds? I mean, we had decided to purchase a house just because we thought it was 'quaint' and loved it at first sight, so... probably, I'll let you be the judge of that.

We put our offer in, one that was (thanks to the COVID triggered exodus from cities) quite outrageously over the asking price. Then, before we knew it, we were the... I'm struggling to find the right adjective here, proud? trepidatious? insane? you get the gist... owners of a messy scrap of land and an ancient house that met exactly none of the needs we started out thinking we had!

So in we moved on the 7th of May 2021. And that my friends is how this crazy rollercoaster started.

- Written by Ysha Tucker  
(New Culcairn Oasis Editor)

## HUGE GATHERING AT HOLBROOK CAMPDRAFT WEEKEND

Organisers of the Holbrook campdraft over the weekend say it was a resounding success and have thanked everyone who contributed to the planning and execution of the weekend.

Despite the threat of rain, competitors and onlookers flocked to the event at Holbrook Racecourse and competition was lively in all classes.

The sport continues to grow in popularity and secretary of the Holbrook Campdraft organising committee, Bec Sim says the community support for their event is overwhelming.

"We are so, so lucky with our cattle donors, we couldn't run it without them; some of the competitors that actually ride are actually donors." Sally Bryant—ABC



Horseman Scott Bandy, winner of five 'Man from Snowy River Challenge' titles, father of 2023 winner Travis

Bandy, was one of the successful riders at the Holbrook Campdraft on the weekend.



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## **WOOLPACK INN MUSEUM NEWS** Little Billabong Cemetery

Through the efforts of Elin Humphries another headstone has been discovered at Little Billabong. James Walter Morley was a Rabbit-trapper on Hillside Station and reported missing, his death and that of Albert Martin about two weeks before (another rabbit trapper) had made the news all over Australia. Sergeant Morris went searching for James Walter Morley and found a pea rifle with an empty shell, nearby a human skull and a thigh bone, around it Morley's 11 dogs lay around the bones that had been gnawed. About a fortnight

before Constable Smith (Culcairn Police) went searching for Albert Martin missing on Thugga Station and found Martin's several savage stag hounds guarding a pea rifle, a hat with a hole in it, a shin bone and ribs. Information from Howard C. Jones' book 'Astonishing Tales from Albury.'

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