

Riverside Times

January, February, March 2021
Edition 34

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This issue covers mainly Christmas Events for 2020. Don't worry it's only eleven months to Christmas 2021

A little note from Patricia

Wishing you all a safe and happy New Year. Unfortunately we are still subject to restrictions but coping very well.

Ann and Bernard Woodward have settled in well at Villa 22. We hope they are here for many happy years.

Julie and Graeme Mitchell are preparing to move to Unit 36 at the end of January. May they have a good moving day.

I think everyone who attended our Christmas Lunch on the 18th December had a very enjoyable time. I had excellent feedback about the menu. We all extended our thanks to the Directors for their generosity in paying for that function. It has been a long time between functions for many of us.

We had a good roll up for Christmas Eve in the community centre with half outside in the BBQ area and the other half indoors wishing they were outdoors too! What a lovely evening with a gentle breeze blowing to add to the festivities.

Then on New Year's Eve another function with a good serving of sausage and mash all around.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who are so generous with their time - shopping, cooking, serving and clearing up. It would not be possible to have these functions without you.

Now here we are with reduced numbers in the centre and cutting back on our visitors. Never mind the break out was good while it



lasted. It will happen again. Thank you everyone for being careful.

I don't know who said this but I like it.

'Warm-hearted people always seem to find a way to make others feel good. They look for no rewards or medals'.

STAY SAFE
[Patricia](#)

Birthdays and Community Centre Diary

Please refer to Christine's Village Monthly Calendar of Events and Birthdays. You are welcome to join in any of the events currently available.....

Scrabble	(Monday)
Arts and Crafts	(Wednesday)
Boys' Club	(Thursday with an occasional Sausage sizzle)
Card Games	(Friday)
Readers' Group	(monthly as advised)

Don't forget that Lenore (villa 15) keeps a good supply of hand-made birthday/etc. cards (around \$4) in the Community Centre, together with an honesty box for your purchase. If you require a card for a specific occasion (i.e. wedding, etc.) contact Lenore.

Our Authoress, Elaine (v 16), is cheering us up once again with her Christmas story

I met Santa at the bins. I knew it was him. He had a white beard. I hadn't seen him here in the village before. So I said "I haven't seen you before, are you Santa?"

He said "I didn't think I'd be here so soon."

"why? What happened Santa?"

"I was retrenched from my long-time job."

"What are you going to do now?"

"Firstly, I'm going to grow my mo longer for Movember and then I'm applying for job-search."

"How's that working for you, Santa?"

"I'm having trouble with the job-search application questions e.g. 'what was your previous job?' Well, if I say "Santa" the public service clerks think it is a big joke and throw it in the bin."

Q. 'What previous positions have you held?'

A. Well, I've only ever been Santa – long time.'

Q. 'What jobs have you applied for recently?'

A. "Well my arthritis won't let me climb down chimneys anymore and I'm not allowed to talk to children in shopping centres. I'd have to wear a mask and the kids wouldn't know who I was if my beard got tangled up.'

"Sorry to hear it, Santa."

"Never mind, I've moved to this lovely retirement village which does NOT have chimneys, just AIR-CON, bless them!"



A way to tell if you're Australian (thanks Wendy)

You understand that rough times create strong, resilient, loving communities but would now like a break from the constant fire, flood, drought, hail and Covid.

You debate over Australia Day, but accept the public holiday without question.

You believe that stubbies can be either drunk or worn.

You believe the best looking people in the world are those wearing the uniform of the Rural Fire Services, or its equivalent in other states.

You pronounce Melbourne as "Mel-bin" and Penrith as "Pen-riff".

You know that "you" has a plural and that it's "youse". (*oh please, spare us*)



Our Betty can still “shake a leg” with Helen



Roslyn catching up with old friends Ann and Brendan (villa 22)



Margaret and Frank villa (villa 43)



Irene and Brian (villa 8)



The Boys' Club



Sharon and Chris (villa 25)

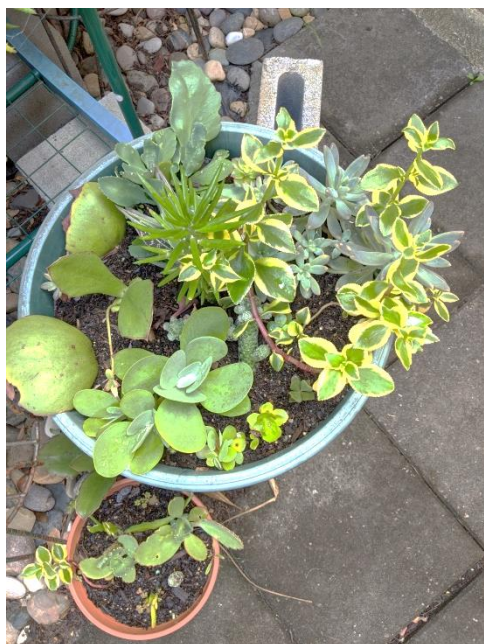


The Wednesday Art group



Curly celebrated a birthday milestone in December

If you want some plants that need very limited care and want them at no cost to you contact Chris (villa11). She has lots of succulents wanting a new home that you can choose from.



AUSTRALIAN FOOD HISTORY

1794 Hawkesbury area settled



Hawkesbury duck 1790s

Settlement of the Hawkesbury area was initiated by Lieutenant Governor Major Francis Grose to help make the colony self-supporting. The rich land along the Hawkesbury River became known as the “granary of the colony”. The farms at Pitt Town Bottoms in the Hawkesbury area are Australia’s oldest still under cultivation.

The Hawkesbury River was named by Governor Phillip in 1789 and explored by an expedition two years later. In 1794, Francis Grose reported that “I have settled on the banks of the Hawkesbury twenty two settlers, who seem very much pleased with their farms. They describe the soil as particularly rich, and they inform me whatever they have planted has grown in the greatest luxuriance”. (Historic Records of NSW, Vol. 2)

The produce from the Hawkesbury area supplemented that of Sydney and Parramatta. Among the early settlers to take up land in the area was James Ruse, the colony’s first free farmer, who sold his property at Parramatta to take up land on the Hawkesbury. In 1807 Governor Bligh established Australia’s earliest model farm in the area.

Production in the early years centred on wheat, maize and pigs. A Government granary was erected at Green Hills on the south bank of the river and produce was taken by boat for transportation to Sydney town. However, severe floods in 1801, 1806 and 1809 caused great losses. Settlers subsequently moved their homes and stock to higher ground but continued to cultivate the river flats.

In 1810, Governor Macquarie named five “Macquarie towns”: Richmond, Windsor, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Wilberforce. After the Blue Mountains were crossed in 1813, grain from the Hawkesbury area became less important to the colony. However, the region remained the chief supplier of vegetables.

A Google Report