



Mia Mia Messenger

Issue 5 - Christmas 2013

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Have you bought your Midsummer Night's Dream tickets yet? The early bird price is still available, but only till January 1st. You can buy and print your tickets online at www.trybooking.com/DWNF for

Saturday 18th January.

Rowanston on the Track

2710 Burke & Wills Track, Glenhope.

Tel: 54255492

www.rowanston.com

Tickets are \$70 and include a picnic meal

Early bird tickets are \$65.

The event is licensed with a selection of wines available at cellar door prices, but there's no BYO allowed. The performance commences at 6PM, you should allow time to collect your picnic meal before the start time. The winery is open from 4PM.

Midsummer Nights' Dream, one of Shakespeare's much loved and entertaining comedies, deals with the universal theme of love and its complications. It is performed by Essential Theatre which brings Shakespeare's plays to life in a most refreshing way.

There are three parallel stories: the trials and experiences of two sets of lovers camping in a magical forest, the world of the Fairy King and Queen and their elves, and a



group of rough craftsmen attempting to stage a production for the wedding of the Duke of Athens. A special feature this year is the prize for the best dressed fairy in the audience.

Tickets to this performance are a great Christmas present, even if it is a selfie.

Mia Mia Opera 2014

There will be opera in Mia Mia in 2014, but not until October. Note the date in your new 2014 diary - 11th October. The booking site for tickets is not yet set up, but for those who don't sleep close to Mia Mia, perhaps you should think about booking accommodation at a local B&B for Friday and/or Saturday evening and enjoy a longer visit to our district and out wineries.. You'll find information about accommodation options at www.heathcote.org.au.

Australia Day Breakfast

Our traditional Mia Mia Australia Day Breakfast at the Hall is on again. It kicks off at 8AM with a short ceremony and a few words from a guest speaker, followed by a traditional Australian breakfast. It's getting bigger each year, it's such a good way to catch up with your friends and neighbours.

If you have recently arrived neighbours, tell them about the breakfast. It is free supported by the City of Greater Bendigo, and sometimes by the Shire of Mitchell.

The Mia Mia volunteer catering team do a splendid job of ordering the food, organising and serving the breakfast, cleaning and setting up for the ceremony and the breakfast tables, and cleaning up afterwards. If you feel that you might have some time during 2014 to assist with some of the volunteer work around the Hall, please introduce yourself to one of those working at the breakfast and make an offer to help out at future events.

Season's Greetings to you all

What's been happening in Mia Mia?

History project

This project is advancing well. Many thanks to all those past and present community members who have provided us with stories and pictures.

We've had great support from many families including Madden, Turner, Campbell, Ross, Coombe, Marshall, Andrew, Bennett, Moroney, McDonald, McLennan and Hamilton - to mention just a few - and there's more to come with the deadline of the end of 2013 for family stories now extended to 10th January.

Through some out-of-copyright publications we have first hand accounts, such as Edward Curr's "Recollections of Squatting in Victoria." The first section of this book has wonderful descriptions of his arrival in the district in its very early days.

McIvor Times has given us permission to use any article to the present day. It ran the picture below and asked if anyone knew the people in it and we had a call from Garry Taylor in Heathcote to say that he believed it to be the family of Margaret Turner of Glenhope.



The National Library's Trove website has been most useful. The photograph of the bridge centenary that we asked about in an earlier newsletter is from Weekly Times, a Murdoch publication, and it is still in copyright so there's a fee if we wish to use it.

Copyright lasts for 70 years for anything that has been published. If it has never been published then copyright lasts till seventy years after the death of the creator. We need to identify the content creator of photos we may wish to use and get permission from that person, or the estate of that person. Most newspapers will charge for the use of photos published in the past 70 years, some will also charge for use of their stories.

We've had submissions from Howard Nathan on the pre-white settlement aboriginal history in the district, and from Bob Gray on the Eppalock Weir project. Wendy Hulls and Judy Firkin are working on the history of the schools in the area. Jim Coombe continues to

supply us with a range of stories. He has made contact with descendents of the Linklaters and the Dwyers, some of the earliest settlers in Mia Mia, who are providing valuable material for us to use. Well done, Jim. We've had several contributors ask when the book will be available. The answer is: October 2014.

There will be a final **collection day at the Mia Mia Hall** on Saturday 11th January from 11AM to 3PM.

When we have selected photos to appear in the book, we may need to request those who have the original photos to allow us to do high resolution scans from the originals. Many of the scanned images we now have are low resolution scans which will not reproduce well in the printed book.

Fire Brigade Meeting -Call for Action

At its November meeting Mia Mia's Rural Brigade Captain, Anthony Ryan, raised the issue of grass control on local roads. Calls from individual members to Mitchell Council had achieved no response. Concern was expressed for the delay in rebuilding the burned bridge on Spring Plains Road which provides one of few escape paths for locals, and access by the brigade to fight fires in the area.

Calls from individuals to the Mitchell Shire about the bridge delay were unproductive. Distribution of some photos of the grass growth in the area led to a Mitchell Shire response that was reported in McIvor Times edition of 11th December, 2013.

The Council claimed that it had developed a fire prevention program for roadsides slashing and that some of the worst roads would be slashed by Christmas and that a tender evaluation report for the construction of the new bridge would be presented to Council in December and "...works are anticipated to commence in February. Council officers are working hard to return the bridge to service as soon as possible and thank the community for their patience" said a Council spokesman.

