

Binalong News

Same old, same old. Monday morning, fine hot, dry as it has been every day for what seems like months, certainly the last week. Not a sign of rain but I think I heard the possibility of a shower tomorrow. Yeah, maybe. How and when is this rotten drought going to be over? So many jobs lost, futures lost and lives lost. Hoping and praying apparently is not doing much good.

While trying to write a bit for last week's paper in a hurry I made at least two mistakes. I apologise for misspelling Mrs Honner's name. Don and I were nominated as joint patrons at the B C Club, not joint sponsors. Don is still in the Wagga hospital, still having tests done. They really are treating him very well but gosh it is a long day to go and see him. Two hours each way. Thankfully both our kids have been here at different times so I have been able to sit in the passenger seat. I have no confidence in

driving in traffic. Actually I am glad he is "getting his money's worth" as I have just opened a letter from HCF informing me that our premium will rise \$89-70 each half year period. We have always thought it was worth having the cover even though it is so expensive. They must be very busy this morning as I cannot get through to the medical ward.

Something new for the people of Binalong those who have every third Friday afternoon free. A new resident (Penny's house) is keen to start a "Philosophy Hub" at the Cafe on Queen function room every third Friday but holding the first gathering on Friday 22nd March. Letty says "If you enjoy discussing big IDEAS why not come and join us at the Philosophy Hub?. We are friendly, free and inclusive" Philosophy literally means "love of wisdom"

"Somehow this wonderful machine keeps telling me my keys are locked"

Not much wisdom to be gained from the TV shows on lately, so many repeats and what seems to be to be just garbage. (maybe age speaking) Who would have thought that gorgeous Bondi Vet hunk would participate in the "I'm a Celebrity Show"? And now in that other one that is not a choice for me. It most likely is AGE as I can't stand the cooking shows or the Married show etc though I must admit I watched it long enough to see the wedding dresses. They seem so artificial and you can see everything is leading up to an argument (for lack of the best word which presently escapes me.)

Somehow this wonderful machine keeps telling me my keys are locked and after a useless search for help I had to turn it off, and lo and behold it then worked for quite a time, then lo and behold, keys are locked again. I wish that gremlin would leave me alone.

Galong News

Even though only eleven adults and two children turned up for 'clean up Australia' last Sunday over twenty bags of rubbish, mainly bottles, cans, plastic mugs and fast food containers were collected plus road signs, broken chairs, batteries, lengths of polythene piping and strapping, chemical drums and even a mattress. The main areas for this was rubbish was along Limestone Way, Boorowa Kalangan streets and Linden road which shows it is mainly travellers passing through our town littering the verges of the roads. Many thanks to Edna, Tina, Paula, Jordon, Chad, John, Johno, Trish and Robert who toiled in these areas. Prompt action by our local Council workers in picking up this rubbish before scavenging animals, has to be complimented.

This is the service we have been used to for years so congratulations to Mark Douglas and Matthew Stadtmiller for having the initiative to get 'demerger petitions' ready to sign as we do need our local Harden - Murrumburrah Council back before this larger Hilltops amalgamation start dictating to us of what we should be doing instead of what we actually want. Sign the petition.

The roof over the Memorial Hall and supper room has been completed and if anyone is seeking a few sheets of second hand iron, ring John on 63867229.

This Thursday, March 7th at 7 pm in the Memorial hall a special meeting with delegates from the Hilltops Council will be held to discuss certain outstanding issues.

Sunday, March 10th the 'games'day will be in operation

"The roof over the Memorial Hall and supper room has been completed and if anyone is seeking a few sheets of second hand iron"

from 11 am and perhaps Heidi will be available for painting lessons.

The courtesy bus to the Binalong Hotel will be picking up patrons at 6 pm on Friday, March 15. Please contact Glenda on 043425349 if you intend going, so that the suitable size bus can be booked.

"And this is the very latest educational toy, madam," explained the shop assistant." It has been designed to prepare the child for adult life in to-days world. No matter which way he puts it together, it's wrong."

John Killick.

Galong Masterplan on Display



A draft version of the Galong Landscape Master Plan was last night presented to Hilltops Councillors, at their meeting in Young.

The master plan concept was brought about by the current community contribution income that is generated by the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) between Hilltops and Sibelco. Under that agreement, Sibelco contributes money to a fund for community use, based on the amount of product they generate from their Galong quarry.

A priority listing of community projects was required to ensure the funds were allocated formally, and with suitable village public comment and direction.

The draft plan presented to Council in their report was prepared after a community consultation process. This process has indicated a number of projects the community would like to see undertaken. The consultants accounted for the feedback received from the public when prioritising the projects.

The report contained a list of all seven suggested projects and preliminary costings for all of them, with the total cost coming to \$2,738,444. These projects range from playground and BBQ area upgrades, to village beautification, to the creation of a town square.

With this total project estimate and the yearly VPA income, currently in the order of \$60,000 per annum, the

total projects listed would take over 40 years to be completed. The report therefore suggests that additional income from grants or alike would be required to ensure the projects were completed in a shorter time frame.

The report also notes that a higher degree of maintenance would be required than what is currently provided by the Progress Association and its volunteers. Funding of this maintenance, and the form it would take has not been clarified.

The Draft Masterplan is likely to be placed on a 28-day public exhibition period for public comment.