

The Kangaroo Valley Voice

FREE

SEPTEMBER 2026



A feast for the senses Visual Arts in the Valley is back

**TIME TO COUNT
THE ECHIDNAS**
page 4

**VALE
BELINDA WEBSTER**
page 7

**SIGNING UP
FOR WILDLIFE**
page 16



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and play. Their sovereignty was never ceded and this always was, always will be Aboriginal land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and their continuing connection to this Country.

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The Kangaroo Valley Voice is a monthly newspaper that aims to support and develop the Valley's economic, social and communication infrastructure.

All Valley residents, clubs and organisations are invited to forward editorial submissions.

There is not a January issue of the Voice.

The deadline for all submissions for the October issue is 18 September 2026.

Please send to:

thevoice@kangaroovall.nsw.au

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The opinions expressed in the Voice are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the personal opinions of the Voice committee.

Welcome

This month I have had very big shoes to fill as Julie is away on a project. Stepping into the Editorial Director's role (although temporarily) immediately took me back to when I first became involved in the Kangaroo Valley Voice as Editor, about 10 years ago!

Being back at the helm reminded me how many things change, yet some things remain the same in Kangaroo Valley. It seems that we're still dealing with road issues (whether

it's closures or wildlife) – but hopefully that changes soon. Our creative heart continues to beat (and fingers crossed this never stops), and judging by how many events are coming up, we still love a fun time!

It's been both nostalgic and a learning curve for me this month, but I have enjoyed getting out meeting new people (how is it that despite being here since 2007 there are still people I've not yet met?).

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Sally Latham

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PLUS our regular features from around the Valley



Citrus Fest success

The Valley's very first Citrus Fest ran from 31 July to 2 August, and what a weekend it was!

Dreamed up by acclaimed local chef and food sustainability champion Angie Prendergast-Sceats from The Valley Table, the festival was born from a simple but brilliant idea: every winter, Kangaroo Valley's backyard trees and orchards overflow with citrus, and far too much of it goes to waste. Citrus Fest set out to change that, and in its inaugural year it did so in style.

The three days were packed. Beginning on the Friday night, the Citrus Without Borders dinner brought the community together around two long tables for a feast that showcased just how much you can do with a good citrus tree and a bit of imagination. (Not to mention the knowledge, experience and fabulous technique that Angie brought to each dish.)

Farm tours and a crop swap gave locals and visitors a hands-on connection to the land, while the high tea and cocktail sessions added a touch of glamour to what was otherwise a wonderfully earthy celebration. The kids' craft activities kept the little ones busy and engaged throughout, which is always a good sign that a festival has got its priorities right.

It was exactly the kind of event the Valley does best: deeply local, genuinely purposeful and enormous fun. We cannot wait to see what year two looks like.

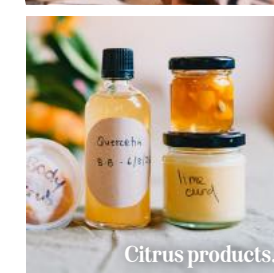
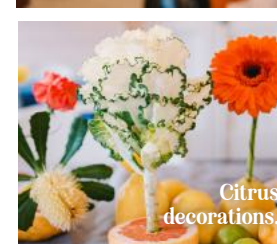
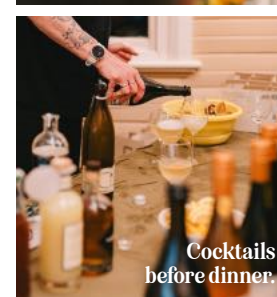




Photo: Joanna Paul

Echidna Count 2026

We're looking for a spike in numbers!

The sixth annual Kangaroo Valley Echidna Count will run from 14 to 20 September 2026. This count is being held a few weeks after the H5N1 bird flu (avian influenza) virus has arrived on the Australian mainland. As yet it is unknown which and how many species will be affected, so this count may help in assessing any impact on the Valley's echidnas by comparing next year's count with the numbers seen in this and the five previous Echidna Counts.

To take part in the count, please download the free iNaturalist App (see top-right) to record sightings of echidnas anywhere in the Valley.

If your echidna sighting is too quick to take a photo, please record the sighting without a photo. This can be done in the iNaturalist App by choosing 'No media' when recording the sighting.

If using the iNaturalist app is not possible, send details of any sighting to cksatson@gmail.com with information about location, date and time, and a photo if one was taken.

Echidnas are extraordinary animals. One hundred million years ago they branched off to a different evolutionary path from the rest of the planet's mammals, which led to a belief that they were somehow primitive fossils of an ancient world. However, recent research has shown that they are modern, sophisticated mammals with surprisingly large brains, wrinkly like ours, and capable of remarkable cognitive processing. The wrinkling of the brain surface allows increased information processing ability and is a feature of advanced mammalian brains.

The thinking part of echidnas' brains, the prefrontal cortex, constitutes 50 per cent of their brain, larger than any other mammals including humans, whose prefrontal cortex constitutes only 29 per cent of their brain. Such a large prefrontal cortex would presumably serve in decision making, planning, anticipating consequences, integrating information and controlling behaviour. However, it may reflect a specialisation unique to echidnas, with no clear equivalent to other mammals. It remains a source of fascination for comparative neuroscientists.

The few behavioural studies of echidnas have found that echidnas are capable learners. They can learn where something is located in a maze and can change their behaviour when the rules change. Their performance in learning tests was easily comparable to that of other mammals.

Echidnas have more sensory organs and sensory

cells in the tissue in their inner ear than do other mammals. They have a sense organ, the lagenar macula, which detects balance, spatial orientation and movement, but its exact role is debated by biologists because it is rich in elements iron and zinc with which birds obtain geomagnetic information for navigation. For echidnas it may play a role in sensing gravitational and acceleration signals.

Echidnas are the only land-based animal to have electro-reception sensors, enabling them to detect tiny electrical signals and vibrations in the soil, which helps them find the ants, termites and grubs that are under the ground. The sensors are located in the tip of their beak, which they have to keep moist by blowing bubbles, so a moist tip can be seen on most echidnas' beaks.

Keeping their beak tip moist also assists them to stay cool, because evaporative cooling cools the blood in vessels just under the skin of their beak, which then flows to the rest of their body and this forms part of an elaborate cooling system.

Download the free iNaturalist app



Scan this QR code to download from Google Play.

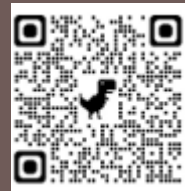


Scan this QR code to download from the App Store.



Scan this QR code for more information and the Getting Started guide.

Kate Watson
For Kangaroo Valley Environment Group



<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2026-kangaroo-valley-echidna-count> or through the QR code above.

There is more detail about echidnas, their large brains and their remarkable sensory capabilities in the Echidna Count project found at this link:



Echidnas keep their sensitive beak tip wet by blowing bubbles.

Photo: Capturing conservation.

Monotreme

What is a monotreme?

A monotreme is an egg-laying mammal.

There are only two in the whole world: echidna and platypus.

They are unique to Australia.

They both have the amazing electroreceptive sensor system. While the platypus has 40,000 electroreceptors on its bill, the echidna has only 400-2000 electroreceptors in its beak.



Photo: Lance Blackburn



Photo: Lawrence Hylton

Platy-project

September is monotreme month in Kangaroo Valley.

In addition to the Echidna Count is the Platy-project. To take part in the project, take a picnic and visit river areas to watch for platypuses and record any seen at those places. In particular, the project aims to discover whether platypuses are still living in places where they were recorded in the past. This information will help scientists in their work to protect the platypus.

The platypus is the closest relative of the echidna and is equally elusive. They are also extraordinary monotremes and with echidnas they share the distinction of being the oldest mammals on the planet, being 200 million years old.

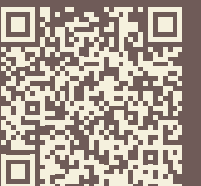
People in Kangaroo Valley have been active in recording platypus, as evidenced by this map:

The map includes areas where platypuses were seen long ago, but for which there is no information about whether they are still there. There are also places where Kangaroo Valley residents have observed platypuses for the Platy-project in past years.

Kate Watson
For Kangaroo Valley Environment Group



Details about the Platy-project can be found here: <https://www.acf.org.au/get-involved/the-platy-project> or scan the QR code to get involved today.



★★★★

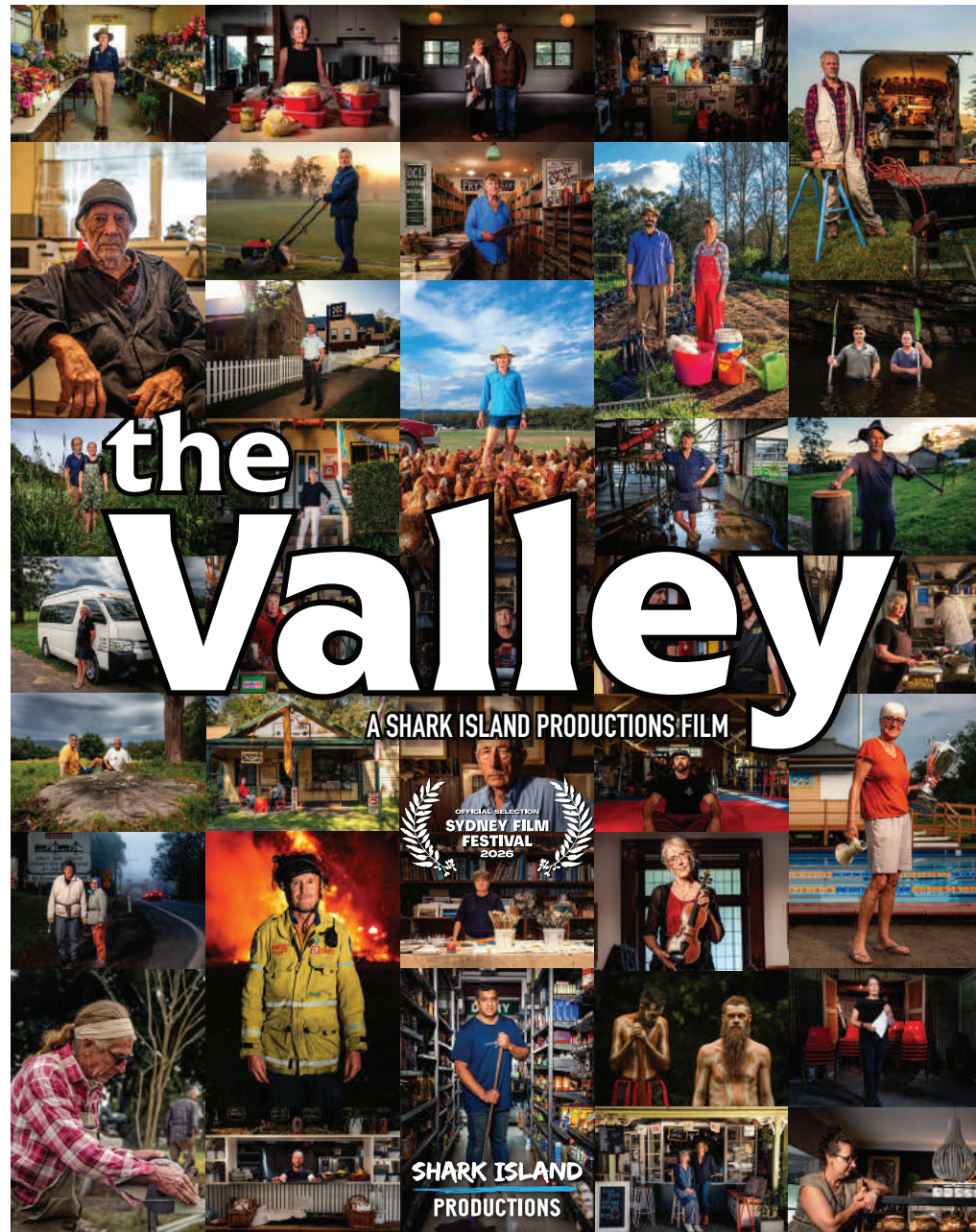
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Vale Belinda Webster

Local resident Robert Constable, the renowned pianist, composer, teacher and music education leader, reflects on the passing of his much-admired friend.

What a shock it was to hear of Belinda Webster's death in mid-August. She had not been in robust health of late, so, in a sense, her passing was not a gigantic surprise, but the suddenness of it certainly was. In the few days since then I have been reflecting on her career in Australian 'classical' music, much of which was interwoven with my own.

Careers in the 'classical music industry', if I can call it that, are not very easy to come by and are seldom lucrative. Despite this fact Belinda found her niche and made it flourish. She had the foresight to see a viable leadership role for herself through starting a new recording company to be called (not by accident) Tall Poppies. Through this label she would help Australian composers and performers of new music to have their voices heard.

When you think about it, newly written music, whether you like the sound of it or not, is the most important music of all because this is the music for which we have the responsibility to pass the creative products of our own time on to the next generation. If we don't perform this fundamental task of transmission, the music of our own time will be lost. Forever.

When Belinda started the Tall Poppies label most Australian performers and composers of new music, including myself, were being largely ignored by established bodies with recording labels such as the ABC. Tall Poppies changed that. However, not all of Belinda's recordings were of new music; some involved a 'new look' at older music. Witness, for example, David Periera's recordings of Bach cello suites, Stephen Savage's recording of Beethoven's last three sonatas, and Geoffrey Lancaster's important baroque and classical period recordings.

Belinda's first Tall Poppies CDs (three of them) came out in 1991 and her most recent recordings were released this year. Over that 30+ year period the Tall Poppies label has published nearly 300 CD recordings, all Australian composers and performers. It is quite an archive, an important stream of Australian creative history, the proper preservation of which will need to be a top priority now.

I got to know Belinda from around 1990, partly through the fact that the Newcastle Conservatorium, of which I was head, had, at

that time, one of the finest small concert halls in Australia. Our hall was a recording producer's dream come true. In those early days I allowed Belinda free use of the concert hall and free accommodation in our spare room or on our couch. Meals too. Many of the people she recorded also stayed with us and our young son, Timothy, now a leading Australian musician himself, got to 'hang out' with them, which was a profoundly positive environment for his rapidly developing musical skills. Belinda worked around our busy Conservatorium schedule, often recording throughout the night.

It was through this association that around half of the first 40 or so CDs were recorded in Newcastle. I'm very proud of the fact that I didn't charge her a cent for this. And a few years later (1994) when I developed the Stuart Piano project in Newcastle she became one of the piano's champions, as did many Australian pianists such as Ian Munro, Michael Kieran Harvey and Lisa Moore.

When Martin Wesley-Smith moved to Kangaroo Valley (Martin was a Tall Poppies recording artist), Belinda followed him a few months later, settling here in around 2001. And, as most Valley folk will know, Belinda was instrumental in starting the arts festival in Kangaroo Valley, which, over the years has blossomed into its current format as Arts in the Valley. Belinda had the foresight to quickly expand the festival so that it would include visual art and sculpture. She resigned from the committee in 2018 but must have derived great pleasure from seeing her creation succeed and blossom into the successful ventures they now are.

Vale Belinda. You found a way to be relevant in a very difficult 'industry' and your multiple legacies in the arts will live on for generations to come.

Robert Constable AM



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submissions is the 18th
of each month.

Please send all content to:
thevoice@kangaroovalley.nsw.au

Visual Arts in the Valley

A feast of art over the October long weekend



What's on, when and where?

Opening Night

Friday 2 October
6.30pm

Come along to the Formal Opening of Visual Arts in the Valley in the Kangaroo Valley Hall at 6.30pm on Friday 2 October.

Hear from the Curator, Olivia Welch from Nggununggula Gallery in Bowral, and the Judge, Steven Harvey, renowned artist and teacher at the National Art School.

They will be announcing the winners of this year's Kangaroo Valley Art Prize, Young & Emerging Art Prize and the Salon of Local Artists Prize, as well as the winners of the Children's Art competition held in collaboration with Kangaroo Valley Public School. Enjoy a glass of wine while viewing the exhibition and take the chance to purchase early in the weekend.

Art Prizes and Exhibitions

Finalists' artworks for the three art prizes will be hung in the Kangaroo Valley Hall from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday and 10am to 12pm on Monday. All finalists' artworks will be available for sale. Have your say and put in a vote for the People's Prize, which will be announced at midday on Monday!

Tours for children 6 to 10 years will be conducted at 2.00pm on Saturday and 10.00am on Sunday – come along and join in the fun.

The Children's exhibition, which includes artworks on the theme of 'Important people and places in my life' by all students at Kangaroo Valley Public School, will be held at the Anglican Church Hall on Saturday, from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Installation Art

This year we have the pleasure of including two installation artworks in our festival. First, four Kangaroo Valley and South Coast artists – Terhi Hakola, Akira Kamada, Kerry Laws and Warren Parry – will be collaborating to present a collective work, 'The River', at the Pony Club behind the hall. Second, Isabelle Bribosia, past winner in Sculpture in the Valley, will be presenting an artwork, 'Cartography of Breath', on the grassed area behind the Friendly Inn. The installations will be open the same hours as the Kangaroo Valley Hall Galleries, so follow the signs and be prepared to be intrigued and challenged. There will be an interview with the artists at 2.00pm in the Pony Club and 3.00pm behind the Friendly Inn on Saturday, so bring along your open mind and your questions.

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KIDS WORKSHOP
with Annie McCarron



Flag & Rainbow Quest
(6-10yrs)

Monday 28th September
10.00am-12.00pm





visual arts in the valley
festival 2026

2-5 October
October Long Weekend

WORKSHOP
with Kerrie Leishman



Mask Masking & Charcoal Drawing

Sunday 4th October
9.00am-11.00am



CULTURAL WALK
with Drew Longbottom



Chakola Conservation Park

Saturday 3rd October
10.30am-12.30am



WORKSHOP
with Karen Barker



Learn the art of Linocut Printing

Saturday 3rd October
3.00-5.30pm



WORKSHOP
with Anne-France Fulgence



Mixed Media Drawing

Monday 5th October
9.30am-11.30am





Continued from p.9 →

Kangaroo Valley Art Trail

This year's Art Trail has been expanded to include several interesting new studios/galleries and artists, with 13 studios and 16 artists represented. The studios will generally be open Saturday and Sunday 9.30am to 4.30pm and 10.00am to 12.00pm on Monday. Pick up a map at the Kangaroo Valley Hall or on our website, explore the depth of artistic talent in the Valley and maybe take home a new treasure.



Join the Art Trail.



Workshops

This year we are offering four workshops for you and your children to enjoy.

Children 6 to 10 years old are invited to participate in a free workshop 'Flag & Rainbow Quest' with local artist and art therapist, Annie McCarron. The workshop will be held on **28 September** from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Anglican Church Hall.

Over the October long weekend you can enjoy these workshops:

Linocut Printing with Karen Barker

Saturday 3 October 3.00–5.30pm at Studio Dairy in Upper Kangaroo River.

Mask Making & Charcoal Drawing with Kerrie Leishman

Sunday 4 October 9.00–11.00am in her studio in Upper Kangaroo River.

Mixed Media Drawing with A-F Fulgence

Monday 5 October 9.30–11.30am at Silo Gallery.

Cultural Walk

This immersive experience for adults and children eight years and over led by local language custodian Drew Longbottom at Chakola allows you to explore significant sites, learn local knowledge and reflect on First Nations people's relationship with the land and waterways.

Watch this space!

Further information about, and booking details for, the workshops and cultural walk can be found in the Arts in the Valley notice on page 8 and on our website.

Check out the Arts in the Valley website:

<https://www.artsinthevalley.net.au/visualarts>,

or our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtsInTheValley>

for the full program of exciting festival events.

Helen Lunn
Visual Arts Director

Gudula Dornseifer
Assistant Visual Arts Director

Access Denied

Two years and counting: the Tallowa Dam Road closure that's costing our Valley

It is one of the most spectacular paddling destinations in Australia. The Upper Shoalhaven River Gorge, accessed via Tallowa Dam, attracts visitors from across the country and around the world. Paddlers are drawn by what local operators describe as one of the most untouched and remote flat-water paddling destinations on the continent. It is the jewel in the crown for Kangaroo Valley, the Canoeing and Kayaking Capital of Australia, but it has been effectively inaccessible for more than 13 months.

Heavy rain events closed Tallowa Dam Road in July 2025. Cracks had developed in the road



From left to right: Travis Frenay, Katelin McInerney and Billy Hayes

surface, creating the potential for a landslide, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took responsibility for the repairs. What followed has been a frustrating and, for local tourism businesses, devastating series of delays, shifting timelines and, until recently, near-total silence from the agency responsible for fixing it.

Patience drying up

Travis Frenay of Valley Outdoors and Kangaroo Valley Safaris, and Billy Hayes of Kangaroo

Valley Adventure Company, are the two primary commercial operators who depend on Tallowa Dam access. Between them, they service hundreds of visitors each season, from first-time paddlers to experienced multi-day expeditioners. They have been patient, professional and persistent in their efforts to get answers, but their patience has now reached its limit.

In a letter to NPWS in December 2025, Frenay outlined the situation plainly: updates had come sporadically, and not from NPWS itself. "We've had numerous unsolicited updates from WaterNSW, but none have come directly from NPWS," he wrote. "Information has been distributed amongst interested parties whenever one of us has managed to

surface, creating the potential for a landslide, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took responsibility for the repairs. What followed has been a frustrating and, for local tourism businesses, devastating series of delays, shifting timelines and, until recently, near-total silence from the agency responsible for fixing it.

speaking to someone at NPWS, but that hasn't been often and the messaging has been contradictory at times." Frenay had been told in August 2025 that geotechnical investigations were under way with a view to partial reopening in September. By November, investigations were apparently still ongoing. A week before Christmas, the news arrived that there would be no lane open before the new year, and still no timeline for repair.

"The loss of business we're experiencing due to this closure is unfathomable."

The situation worsened once 2026 arrived. In June, Frenay and Hayes were finally told directly by NPWS that geotechnical investigations were complete and that repairs were scheduled to be done by December 2026. That was manageable (just). They updated their customer databases with cautious optimism and began planning for a summer reopening. Then, on 10 July, they received new advice: repair work would not start until late 2026, with completion now expected by mid-2027.

This means there is still no vehicle access to Tallowa Dam from Tallowa Dam Road, so the area will be closed for more than 24 months.

Seeking help from state member

In a joint letter to Katelin McInerney, the state member for Kiama, Frenay and Hayes put it bluntly: "The loss of business we're experiencing

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Continued from p.11 →

due to this closure is unfathomable". They described reputational damage from having to repeatedly update their professional networks with changing information, and the impossible position of being the primary point of contact for numerous other organisations that depend on access to the venue.

Their requests to NPWS have been reasonable and consistent throughout: a dedicated engagement officer to provide regular updates; priority given to the culvert replacement and road stabilisation so that a single lane with stop-go lights can be reinstated, as was done successfully following the 2022 landslide; expediting the contractor tender process; and clearer public messaging to address the widespread misconception that the entire Lake Yarrunga venue is closed, when in fact Beehive Point and Bendeela Recreation Area remain accessible.

Damn the Dam Road closure

That last point matters more than most realise – many visitors see 'Tallowa Dam is closed' and assume the whole area is off-limits, staying away entirely. Frenay and Hayes are losing not just the Tallowa Dam customers but visitors who could still be enjoying the gorge via alternative access points.

Katelin McInerney agreed to an in-person

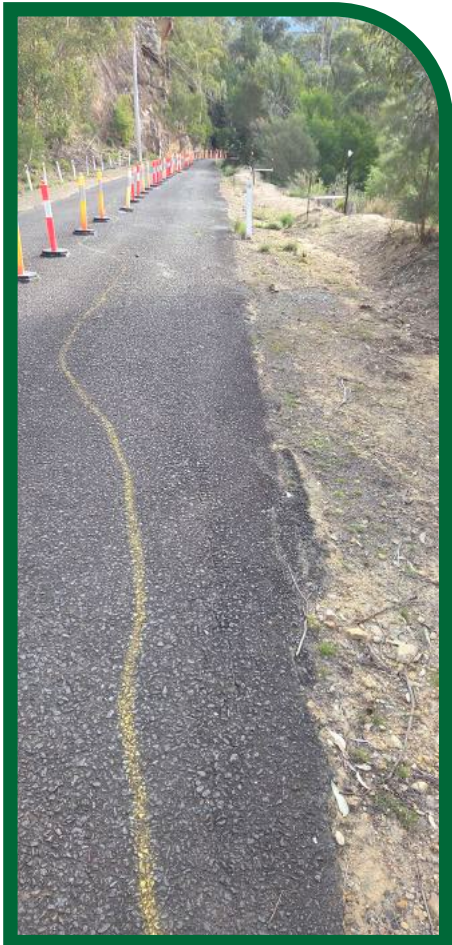
meeting with Frenay and Hayes after receiving their July letter and is now working with them to progress the matter.

But in the meantime, Beehive Point remains the primary access alternative, involving a rough single-lane gravel fire trail, limited parking, complicated shoreline access and a 200-metre carry of boats and gear to the water's edge. It is, as Frenay describes, a much more difficult access point than the bitumen road to Tallowa Dam's boat ramp, which provides the only truly accessible and inclusive option for reaching this world-class destination.

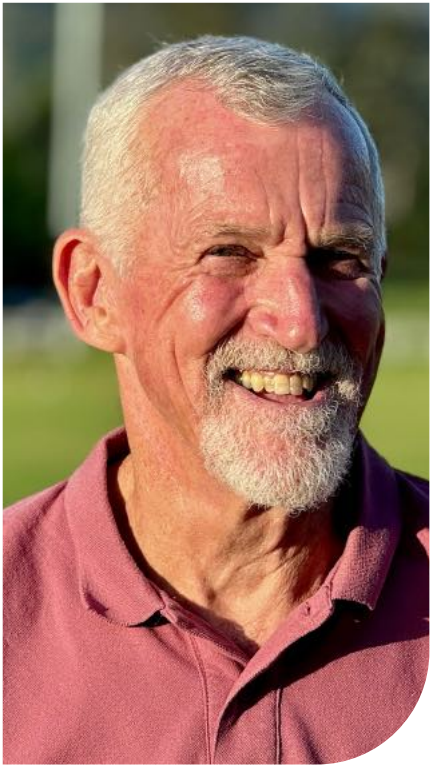
The NPWS says it is undertaking major repair works on a 1.5-kilometre section of the Tallowa Dam Road in Morton National Park, which was extensively damaged from flooding between 2022 and 2025. But 24 months without meaningful communication or a working timeline is a long time to ask local businesses and their visitors to wait.

Sally Latham

For current access information, visit the NPWS website or contact the Fitzroy Falls office on 02 4887 8244. Alternative access to Lake Yarrunga remains available via Beehive Point Road and Bendeela Recreation Area.



2026 KV A&H Association AGM



The recent KV A&H Association AGM was a positive and encouraging evening, with all existing Committee members returning for another year of service. We also welcomed a new Vice President in Jamie Salkeld.

It was particularly pleasing to see a number of community members attend and take an interest in the Show and its future. The continued support of our community, members, volunteers and supporters is greatly appreciated and is a vital part of keeping the KV Show strong and moving forward.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in so many different ways. We look forward to another great year and to continuing the work of making the KV Show an important part of our community.



And don't forget — the KV Show relies on the wonderful volunteers who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to make it happen. **We'd love to see more members of our community get involved**, whether it's for a few hours, a day or in a more active role. Come and be part of this much-loved community showcase — your contribution can make a real difference to the future of the KV Show 2027.

Stephen Wilson
President
KV A&H Association

And don't forget – the KV Show relies on the wonderful volunteers who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to make it happen.

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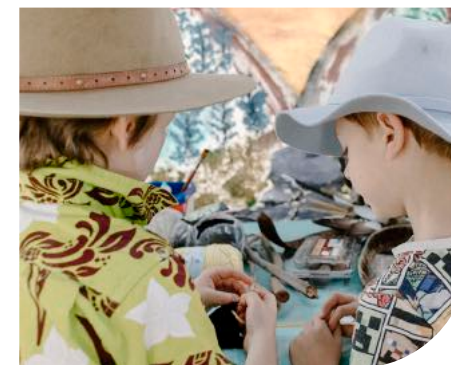


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Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

Fun for the whole family

The 19th Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival is back on 16–18 October 2026, and this year it is more family-friendly than ever.

For the first time, children 17 and under get in free when accompanied by a paying adult, making it one of the best value family days out on the South Coast calendar.

The kids' program this year has been enhanced and it's going to be something truly special. A brand new venue called The Joey is dedicated entirely to younger festival-goers, with activities, shows and interactive fun running all weekend.

Just outside, Milk Crate Circus and Planet Lava bring professional circus performers, offering circus skills coaching and equipment, including a trapeze, juggling and an acrobatics show. There is face painting, magic shows, light shows and the much-loved Maypole, as well as craft activities at the Koori Tent. Older kids and teens are well catered for too, with a dedicated Youth Competition show on Saturday night.

The fun starts even before the festival gates open, when on Friday, three acts perform at Kangaroo Valley Public School in an interactive session that gives local kids a wonderful taste of folk music. Then the students come across to the showground on Saturday to perform themselves, and this is always a hugely popular event.

Nine venues, 75 acts

Beyond the kids' program, about 75 acts will perform across nine venues throughout the weekend, spanning folk, roots, acoustic music, poetry, dance and so much more. With each act performing two to three times across the weekend, there is always another chance to catch someone you loved or someone new you stumbled across.

Get your tickets now.

Tickets are available now. Buy before 31 August for 15 per cent off the full gate price, and remember, under-17s are free!

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KANGAROO VALLEY Folk Festival

gangagruwan

16-18
OCTOBER
2026

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Watch for wildlife

One local's mission to make our roads safer

The day I spoke to Jenny Wilson, she had just taken an injured wombat into care. It was not an unusual morning for her – as a volunteer with Wildlife Rescue South Coast, days like this are simply part of the rhythm of life in Kangaroo Valley.

But Jenny is on a mission, and it starts with a question she thinks we should all be asking ourselves more often: how many animals are we losing on our roads, and why aren't we talking about it more?

An estimated 10 million native mammals, reptiles, birds and other species are killed on Australian roads each year. In NSW alone, research conducted by WIRES and Macquarie University estimated as many as 7000 animals per day are killed on our roads, but some experts believe the true figure is significantly higher.

Jenny sees this herself in Kangaroo Valley and she believes we have been too quiet about it for too long. "We need to be more vocal. The number of animals being killed on our roads is extreme."

You may have noticed the white dots painted on some of our local roads. Each one represents an animal killed at that spot. It's a sobering sight when you see first-hand how the dots are multiplying.

Attention please

The good news is that Jenny is doing something about it. She is spearheading an effort to install specially designed wildlife warning signs around Kangaroo Valley, and they are nothing like the standard orange and black Transport for NSW signs we're used to.

These signs were designed by preschool students in Robertson and are colourful, eye-catching and genuinely charming. The hope is that they will capture the attention of tourists, children and locals alike, cutting through the visual noise of the road in a way that a standard government sign simply cannot.

The first sign has already gone up on Moss Vale Road and Jenny wants more to follow. Many animals have well-established crossing points, specific spots where they move between habitats regularly, and by raising awareness of where these are, drivers can be prepared and slow down accordingly.

An estimated 10 million native mammals, reptiles, birds and other species are killed on Australian roads each year

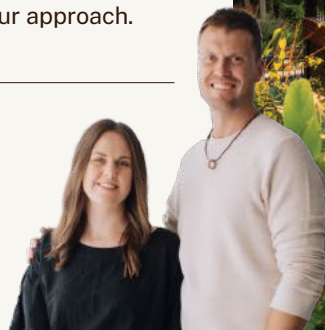


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A sign of the times

Funding the signs requires community support, and this is where you come in. Donations made via the QR code will go directly to Wildlife South Coast, and by using the reference 'KV', your contribution is specifically directed to Kangaroo Valley. Alternatively, you can contact Jenny on Facebook if you'd like to help put signs up. Jenny is committed to keeping the community updated as new signs go up, so you can see directly how the money is being spent.

Jenny is clear-eyed about the scale of this challenge, and says change needs to happen at three levels: local, state and national. As a community, we can only work at the local level, and this is where the strategically placed signs come in.

Small comfort can matter

There is something else Jenny wants people to understand about injured wildlife: when a wild animal is hurt, it does not cry out. Its instinct is to go quietly into the bush and hide. Many injured animals are never found because of this. Jenny has spent two hours sitting quietly with an Eastern Grey kangaroo, simply offering comfort after a collision. She always apologises to the animals she is called to help – it's a small thing, she says, but it matters.

Reducing road kill in Kangaroo Valley requires all of us. Slow down, especially at dawn and dusk. Watch for wildlife crossing signs. And if you do encounter an injured animal, know what to do.

Sally Latham

What to do if you find injured wildlife

If you hit or find an injured native animal, here is what to do:

Call Wildlife Rescue South Coast immediately on 0418 427 214.

They are highly active in our area and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Stay safe first. Pull over carefully, turn on your hazard lights and approach the animal with caution. Injured animals may lash out in fear. Never touch injured bats or snakes..

Check for joeys. Animals such as kangaroos, possums and wombats may have young in their pouch, so look for a bulge or movement in that area. An animal that has been dead for several hours may still have live young in its pouch. Check the surrounding area too, as joeys can be thrown clear on impact.

Keep joeys warm and quiet. If you find a joey, wrap it in a blanket or jumper, keep it in a warm, dark, quiet place and handle it as little as possible. The wildlife kits available from the KV Post Office are perfect for this. Do not offer food or water unless directed to do so by a wildlife carer.

Do not try to remove a joey

attached to its mother's teat. Call Wildlife Rescue South Coast for specific guidance.

Move deceased animals off the road if it is safe to do so, to prevent further collisions.

Slow down at dawn and dusk. Most Australian wildlife is crepuscular, meaning it is most active at dawn and dusk. Kangaroos, wombats, wallabies and possums are particularly likely to be on the move at these times.

Remember: injured wild animals do not make noise. They hide quietly in the bush. If you suspect an animal is injured, call for help even if you cannot see it.



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The Kangaroo Valley Craft Beer & BBQ Festival

Popular feasting fun weekend returns

The Kangaroo Valley Craft Beer & BBQ Festival is rolling into the back paddock at The Friendly Inn this 19 and 20 September for a milestone 10th anniversary. Reaching a decade makes it the second-longest-running competitive barbecue contest in the country alongside industry giants Meatstock.

There is a good reason why this little country town festival can run with the big city giants.

The Kangaroo Valley Craft Beer & BBQ Festival is built strictly for lovers of slow-cooked meat, honest craft beer and a proper country pub atmosphere. Simply this is just the best backyard barbecue you've ever stepped into.

The back paddock will be packed all weekend with action, including lawn mower racing, the crowd-favourite piglet races, a mechanical bucking bull, carnival games, and pony rides for the kids. The region's local producers will be on show featuring Rosewood Farm and Cleaver and Co and their retired dairy beef. All the while the country's barbecue heavyweights will be competing in the official Australian BBQ Alliance and Steak Cookoff Association battles.

Great local independent breweries will be pouring cold ones across the weekend, supported by a full schedule of live music running throughout both days.

The fun starts on Friday night, 18 September, with the official Launch Party at the pub. It's a chance to meet the brewers, get stuck into low 'n' slow plates and catch up before the main gates open on Saturday.

One-day and weekend passes are on sale now at kvbbq.com.au. Kids under 12 get in free and there is a special discount ticket for locals!





Education Week

We were pleased to open up our classrooms during Education Week for parents and grandparents to look at our students' amazing work, share our fantastic Book Fair and showcase the incredible science diorama displays created by our students.

Our school was filled with proud smiles, excited conversations and a real sense of community. We are so grateful for the ongoing support and enthusiasm of our families – it is what makes KVPS such a special place to learn, work and belong.

And please note the Project Platypus information on the facing page. It's such a fabulous program, worthy of your support!

Jen Arnott
Principal

Students showcasing their work to parents.





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The Book Fair.



Younger siblings join us to have a look around big school too.



Diorama display.



Students showcasing their work.

Support Project Platypus 2026

Every two years, 40 Year 5 and 6 students from Kangaroo Valley and surrounding small schools get to do something truly remarkable: become real environmental scientists for two days.



Project Platypus, a partnership between the four schools, the Illawarra Environmental Education Centre and a UNSW scientist, takes students into our local waterways to investigate platypus habitat, study river health, plant native vegetation and witness researchers safely capture, assess and release one of Australia's most iconic native animals back into the wild. It is hands-on, immersive and, by all accounts, utterly unforgettable.

The 2026 program is now in planning, but rising costs and reduced funding mean community support is needed to keep it going. Every donation, large or small, helps cover transport, accommodation, catering, hall hire and equipment, and much of that spending stays right here in the Valley. If you would like to support us, donate using the QR code below.



How to Donate

1. Click 'Add item'
2. Select the 'General' category
3. Select 'I' in the drop-down next to Project Platypus Camp Donations 2026 and click 'Add'
4. Click 'Add Items' at the bottom of the page
5. Enter the amount you would like to donate
6. Click 'Pay Now' and complete your payment

NOTICE OF ONGOING 1080 BAITING PROGRAM



The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are conducting an ongoing 1080 baiting program targeting foxes & wild dogs in the Kangaroo Valley, Budgong and Illaroo areas. This program is for the protection of the Endangered Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (BTRW).

The baiting is conducted on:

- Various private properties
- Shoalhaven City Council reserves
- WaterNSW estate
- Crown Land estate
- NPWS estate, including: Cambewarra Range NR, Kangaroo River NR, Morton NP & Budgong NP

For more information on these locations, see the maps hosted on the Friends website at www.rockwallaby.org.au under 'Predator Control'.

This program forms part of a wider predator control program that also utilises shooting and trapping measures critical in ensuring the conservation

of the local BTRW colonies that call Kangaroo Valley home.

All bait stations in this program are permanently baited throughout the year. Therefore, these properties will have poison on them from **01-August-2026, right through to 15-August-2027.**

This baiting will be conducted using both 1080 buried baits and 1080 (above ground) ejector devices at the bait station locations. Do not touch any bait or ejector devices. Signs are placed at the entrance of each baiting location with baiting dates and which baiting methods are being used. Dog owners are reminded to ensure their pets do not wander. 1080 is lethal to domestic dogs and cats. It is recommended to restrain pets and working dogs and ensure they do not enter the baiting location during poisoning operations or to muzzle dogs if they are required to work the baiting location during and after poisoning. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance.

For any further information, or if you are a landholder interested in participating in this program, please contact the NPWS Nowra Area Office on (02) 9585 6670.

STUDIO CONVERSATIONS: Kangaroo Valley Artists Collective

Rowan Fotheringham

Seeing the spaces between

For artist Rowan Fotheringham, making art begins with being aware. Whether walking through the eucalypt forest surrounding his home on Woodhill Mountain, sketching beside the road or painting outdoors *en plein air*, Rowan is constantly observing the subtle relationships between light, landscape and form.

It is not simply the objects themselves that interest him, but the spaces between them – the rhythms of tree trunks, the patterns of branches and the fleeting play of light that transforms an ordinary scene into something extraordinary.

“I’ve always been fascinated by my surroundings,” Rowan says. “I’m the one always pointing things out on a road trip, exclaiming, ‘Oh, look at that!’”

That instinct to notice has shaped a practice spanning drawing, painting, printmaking and collage. Working across charcoal, ink, watercolour, oil and acrylic, Rowan embraces the physicality of making art by hand.

“I love the immediacy of drawing,” he explains. “With charcoal in hand you’re there in a heartbeat making marks. I’m interested in the materiality of art making – the grittiness of charcoal, the calligraphic speed of ink and brush, or the lusciousness of oil paint. There is no intervening electronic screen.”

Living on 12 acres of eucalypt forest between Kangaroo Valley and Berry provides a constant source of inspiration. The changing light filtering through the bush, the dramatic escarpments beyond and the annual shedding of bark all become subjects for exploration.

Working outdoors allows Rowan to respond directly to place. “The eye and mind flicker across the landscape,” he says, “registering areas of interest that one can magnify while choosing to downplay others.”

What fascinates him most are the rhythms that emerge through careful observation. “I am consciously aware of the spaces between things as much as the things themselves,” he says. “There is a music in the shapes defined by tree trunks and branches, and in the arrangement of trees, forest and fields across a landscape.”

That search for rhythm extends into his studio practice. Fallen bark gathered from the forest floor becomes the starting point for drawings, collages and paintings. Sometimes, unexpected human forms begin to emerge from these natural shapes.

“What developed were figures that I felt could be symbolic of the traveller in us all,” Rowan explains. “The universal wayfarer seeking an understanding of our world and our place within it.”

Rowan’s artistic journey has unfolded across photography, drawing and painting. After a career as a freelance photographer working for publications including *Australian Country Style*, *Vogue Entertaining* and *Gourmet Traveller*.

While living in Balmain he rekindled his interest in drawing and painting and focused on the “working waterfront” that was still happening outside his studio window. This led to three solo exhibitions of expressionistic works featuring the colour and texture of Sydney Harbour’s shipping movements he’d observed around the peninsula west of the bridge.

He then pursued a long-held ambition to study painting at the National Art School, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Art in 2015. He has been recognised as a finalist in major art prizes including the Wynne Prize, the Kedumba Drawing



Studio interior with Rowan’s too-good-to-burn wood collection, and large-scale drawing of ‘Chrysalis’, his floating sculpture from last year’s Sculptures in the Valley.

Award and the Adelaide Perry Drawing Prize. In 2012 he was awarded the Jocelyn Maugham Drawing Prize at the National Art School.

Throughout this journey, Rowan’s connection to the local landscape has remained constant. “My connection with Kangaroo Valley goes back to the 1970s,” he says. “There is a lifetime’s work that could be made simply by looking at our own land and the escarpments beyond.”

Looking ahead, Rowan plans to continue working outdoors throughout the district, gathering observations that will evolve into increasingly distilled studio paintings. He will also open his Woodhill Mountain studio as part of this year’s Kangaroo Valley Art Trail, inviting visitors to experience the landscape that continues to shape his work.

Follow Rowan on instagram at [rowan.fotheringham](https://www.instagram.com/rowan.fotheringham).

Studio Conversations is a monthly feature of the Kangaroo Valley Artists Collective, celebrating the artists, practices and creative life of Kangaroo Valley through thoughtful conversations and studio stories. Artist interviews by Amanda Ritchie.

Quick-fire studio questions

Coffee or tea in the studio?
Tea – Kurdish cardamom, peppermint or green..

Music, podcasts or silence while working?
Ambient, jazz, world music, classical – or sometimes silence. Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Arvo Pärt, Satie and Dylan are all in the mix.

Morning painter or late-night creator?
Ideally a daytime painter, for the light and energy – but often I grab whatever time I can.

Favourite colour right now?
I’m returning to colour after a long period of black, white and earth tones. I still prefer muted palettes and am experimenting with mixed blacks and broken colour.

A tool or material you can’t live without?
Charcoal. Its immediacy gets me making marks straight away.

Best creative advice you’ve received?
“Just do it. Make a start, keep it loose and work the whole picture up together.”

In conversation

Do you plan your works carefully or allow them to evolve as you go?

I usually begin with a strong connection to a place or subject – that’s the reason to start a work. I’ll often make sketches, drawings or collages before moving into paint, but the process isn’t always easy or without struggle. I’ve learnt to resist the temptation to fiddle, to make decisive marks and keep moving forward. Somewhere about two-thirds of the way through, I often realise I’m no longer thinking consciously about what I’m doing. That’s when the work really begins to find itself..

What part of the creative process do you enjoy most?

I enjoy the point where an initial observation begins to transform into something of its own. A quick sketch might lead to a drawing, collage or painting, and each stage allows me to simplify, experiment and discover something I hadn’t anticipated. I like that sense of not quite

knowing where an idea will eventually lead.

When do you feel most connected to your work?

When I’m completely immersed in observing the landscape. Working en plein air, the eye and mind flicker constantly across the scene, registering details, relationships and patterns. Those moments of complete concentration – when you’re no longer analysing but simply seeing – are when I feel most connected to my work

What advice would you give someone wanting to start collecting art?

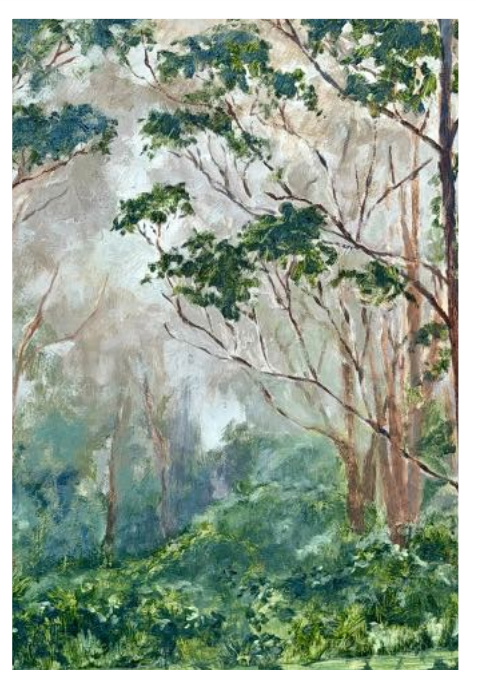
Go to exhibitions at local and regional galleries as well as major Sydney galleries. Talk with gallery staff and join their mailing lists. Go to openings and talk with artists. Buy what you like, not what you think might be a good investment. Instagram is a good way to view artists’ work and follow their process and developments.



‘Forest Wayfarer’, collage: paper, ink and cardboard, 111cm x 85cm.



“I am consciously aware of the spaces between things as much as the things themselves. There is a music in the shapes defined by tree trunks and branches.”



‘Mist, Cathedral Valley’, oil on board, 40.5cm x 50.5cm,



A diet composed only of animal products will not meet all our nutritional needs.

The value of plant foods

Freak out for freekah and go far for farro.

Animal products such as meat, poultry, fish and other seafood, eggs, milk, cheese and yoghurt are seen by some as the essential component of a meal. I have no problem with appropriate consumption of animal foods, although it's important to recognise that a diet composed only of animal products will not meet all our nutritional needs.

Plant foods are an essential component of any diet and can supply everything the body needs with the exception of vitamin B12 (now added to some plant 'milk' substitutes).

Fruits and vegetables

There's no question that a healthy diet includes fruits and vegetables. As well as being great sources of many vitamins, fruits and vegetables provide some types of dietary fibre as well as a variety of valuable minerals.

Australians' consumption of both fruits and vegetables sits well below the daily recommended two serves of fruit and five of vegetables. (A serve of fruit is approximately the size of an average apple; for most vegetables, a serve is either ½ cup cooked or 1 cup raw.)

Our intake of both fruits and vegetables is falling as consumption of ultra processed foods has risen to over 40 per cent of the average Australian adult's and more than 50 per cent of children's kilojoule intake.

Many people also report the rising cost of living is contributing to their lower intake, especially of fruits.

Grains/cereals

Grains are highly nutritious but some people now try to avoid them because they think carbohydrate is 'bad'. As I've been discussing in these columns recently, it doesn't make sense to categorise what we choose to eat on the basis of protein, fat or carbohydrate. As the World Health Organisation points out, we should focus on foods, and design our dietary guidelines on foods not nutrients.

In choosing grains, those that are minimally processed are excellent choices, whereas highly processed grains, as found in many breakfast cereals, instant noodles, cakes, biscuits and confectionery, should be minimised.

Top healthy choices include: wholegrain or wholemeal breads; wholegrain breakfast cereals such as rolled oats or a decent muesli (those without added

sugar and unhealthy fats); brown or black rice (at least in place of white rice on occasions); and products such as barley, millet, corn, buckwheat, teff, polenta and cereal-like products such as amaranth and quinoa. Products sometimes called 'ancient grains' are particularly beneficial. These include whole wheat products such as freekeh and farro – both regular foods for humans in some areas of the world over many thousands of years.

Freekeh is made from green durum wheat, harvested while green and then roasted and dried. Farro may be made from spelt, emmer or eikhorn – three species of hulled wheat that retain their husk – and is a key ingredient in some traditional Italian recipes. These products are now available in most Australian supermarkets. Cook them as you would cook rice and serve them hot or use with vegetables and an olive oil dressing in delicious and hearty salads. Teff is rarer but is the tiny grain used in the wonderful Ethiopian injera bread.

All these grain products supply many types of dietary fibre, some important B group vitamins and valuable minerals. Most are also excellent sources of protein in varying levels. Rice has less protein than other grains, whereas oats, freekeh and farro have more than most. Quinoa may be new to many people but it's a good source of protein, dietary fibre, iron, zinc and magnesium as well as vitamin E and folate. As a bonus, it also has a small but valuable amount of 'good' fat. Barley follows a similar pattern, as does millet with a little lower but still valuable contribution of iron.

Protein continues to be the current 'in nutrient'. Unfortunately, this zeal is leading to highly processed forms being added to many foods. Such additions easily tip total dietary protein well above what the body needs or can use. Some very active people can use the excess for energy, but it mostly adds to body fat. The advantage of getting protein from plant foods is the inherent dietary fibre that is filling and helps curb excess intake.

Legumes – dried beans and peas

Those working in sustainable food futures

promote legumes because they are highly nutritious, fairly easy and economical to grow in many areas of the world, can be stored without refrigeration – and they're cheap.

Legumes are excellent sources of protein, dietary fibre, iron, zinc, many vitamins of the B complex and vitamin E. If you were stuck on a desert island with some dried legumes, you could sprout them to get vitamin C. Leave the sprouts to grow a little and there's some beta carotene that your body could convert into vitamin A. The only nutrient missing is B12 – useful forms of which are found naturally only in animal foods.

To add to their virtues, the carbohydrates in legumes are absorbed slowly and help even out fluctuations in blood sugar levels. This makes them especially useful for people with diabetes or those trying to lose excess body fat.

Most dried legumes need an initial overnight soak before cooking but cheap, versatile canned legumes are readily available, some adding the benefit of 'no added salt'.

To finish our plant-based meal, here is a list of some common legumes:

Aduki beans – reddish coloured. Popular in China and Japan.

Black beans – small kidney shaped. Popular in South America.

Black-eyed beans – small white kidney shaped with a black spot and a thin skin so they cook quickly without soaking. Popular in Greece, India and the Middle East.

Borlotti beans (also called Roman, cranberry, saluggia, roseco) – plump beige or brown and speckled. Popular in Italy.

Butter beans – a large white bean from Peru or smaller ones from Mexico. Popular in South America.

Cannellini beans – oval, white beans of the haricot family, first cultivated in Argentina. Popular in Mediterranean countries.

Chickpeas – also known as garbanzos, light brown, nutty flavoured. Popular in Middle

Eastern countries, Spain, Greece, Italy, Asia, India and North Africa.

Fava beans – dried broad beans. Popular in Europe, the Middle East, Egypt and India.

Fulmedames – small round brown beans. Popular in Egypt.

Haricot – used for canned baked beans, also called navy beans. Popular in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean areas cooked from their dry state.

Kidney beans – usually red, but may be brown, black or white. Originally from the West Indies and popular in South America.

Lentils – dried peas, originated in Syria. Popular in India, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Delicious green/blue lentils now grown in Australia.

Lima beans – larger variety of butter bean, originally from Peru.

Lupins – large beans now bred to have low quantities of dangerous alkaloids. Grown in Western Australia and used in some gluten-free flours.

Marrow beans – large white beans, cooked and pureed and widely used in Greece.

Mung beans – tiny green beans often ground into flour or sprouted. Popular throughout Asia.

Peas, dried – available as blue peas or split green or yellow varieties. Popular in Middle Eastern countries, India, China and Europe.

Pigeon peas – usually grey and native to Africa, also known as red gram, congo peas or arhar. Can be eaten raw but are mostly dried and split and used in parts of Africa.

Pinto beans – deep pink, kidney-shaped beans, popular in the Southern United States.

Soy beans – small, light-brown beans from China now used to make tofu, soy protein, 'milk', sauce, flour and oil, or fermented to tempeh.

Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM
Nutritionist



The ideal way to achieve desirable levels of fruit and vegetable consumption is to grow your own.

KVV Book Club

This month's book:

My Friends

by Fredrik Backman

This month we review a novel by Fredrik Backman, *My Friends*. Fredrik Backman is a Swedish author most famous for his best-selling novel *A Man Called Ove*.

My Friends is two stories in one. The first centres on a group of four friends during a summer 25 years ago. Ali, Joar, Ted and 'the artist' are troubled 14-year-olds living in a seaside town. At the end of the summer the artist paints a painting of three tiny figures at the end of a pier. The painting becomes famous and a quarter of a century later an accidental meeting brings an 18-year-old runaway artist, Louisa, into the story.

Ted is now a bookish introvert, nearly 40, and he has just lost the love of his life. Louisa has also just lost her best friend. Louisa wants to know the story of the three figures at the end of the pier. Most viewers of the painting don't even notice the figures and think it is just a beautifully

wrought seascape.

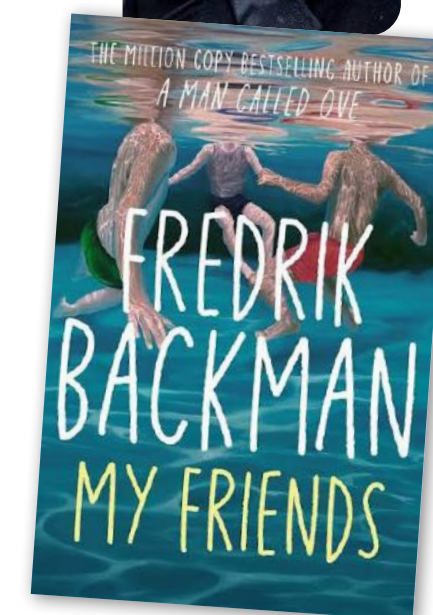
Ted and Louisa could not be any more different characters but their stories and the story of the painting unfold together with tears, heartbreak, love and laughter. Fart jokes and humour offset the domestic physical and emotional abuse that all these children suffer.

The chapters of the novel alternate between the present and the past. The book is a study of grief, trauma, healing, love and loyalty. At its heart it is about belonging and the healing powers of both profound friendships and art.

The teenagers have troubled lives. All the characters are flawed and anxious in some way. But their strong bond of friendship gets them through. They leave each other at the end of each day during that summer with a simple "Tomorrow" – a promise of strength to get them through whatever the night holds: abuse, anger, pain and loss.

The book is also a reflection on the lasting and universal impact of art. The artist states that for him art is "... love. Grief. A story."

I enjoyed the beginning of the book. However, at over 400 pages it was about 200 pages too long. It started to feel very repetitive, try-hard and even a little saccharine. The life affirming and uplifting themes end up feeling overused and a bit trite. You really get the points Backman is



making about half-way through. Nevertheless, it is an easy and positive read that Backman fans are sure to love.

Next month ... watch this space! I am tossing up a few good reads.

Cathryn Ferguson

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Festival set back

The two-week delay of the Berry Writers' Festival has presented logistical challenges



Artistic Director
Tori Haschka

was surprised and disappointed to discover on 16 June that 'Red Hot Summer' was coming back to Berry on 24 October – right in the middle of our planned dates," said Artistic Director Tori Haschka.

"It would have been impossible for it to occur on the same weekend as [the] Berry Writers' Festival," said Ms Haschka. "Not only from the perspective of access, parking, accommodation and the disappointment of making our audiences choose between two grand arts events in the town. It simply came down to a decibel level."

The festival committee was left with no other option but to look at alternative dates. The rescheduled festival has managed to retain 80 per cent of the original programming, as well as securing some new speakers who were previously unavailable.

Ms Haschka feels that despite its short lifespan the festival has already achieved a level of notoriety. "The mark of a great festival is how many authors – from Marc Fennel to Sally Hepworth, Jacqueline Maley, Tony Birch, Paul Daley, Richard Glover, Jennifer Robinson and Holly Wainwright – are thrilled to come back again."

Community support

The Berry Writers' Festival's place within the community isn't limited to attendance, as a cast



of local volunteers was called upon in 2022 and 2024 to ensure it ran smoothly, and this year is no different.

Carol Hopperton, the festival's lead Volunteer Coordinator, explained the importance and scope of these roles, which include more public-facing jobs like greeting attendees and managing queues, as well as helping out the attending authors in a variety of ways.

"We have people who we need for set-up ...

"It simply came down to a decibel level."

bringing in the equipment, moving the chairs, making sure the signage is there, making sure everything is ready for the festival to go ahead," she said.

Mrs Haschka explained that even accommodation for the guests is a notable logistical challenge, and one that relies on community support. "We have some wonderful accommodation donors in town who volunteer their guest cottages for authors and without them the festival wouldn't be possible."

The organisers are hoping for the best festival yet this year, despite recent hurdles. "We are in contact with local representatives, including Shoalhaven Council, and urging that systems and processes be put in place to protect major events in our town from a similar situation," said Ms Haschka. "We are looking to build on the great work that has been done and solidify this festival's reputation as one of the best regional festivals in Australia."

Joshua Hutchinson

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Based in Kangaroo Valley

Football news and events from KVFC

A great school holiday of football in Kangaroo Valley



Kangaroo Valley Football Club (KVFC), has enjoyed a fantastic year of football, with the April and July school holidays providing some memorable opportunities for young players both on and off the field.

The club held two two-day Skills Clinics – one during the April school holidays and another during the July school holidays – bringing together young footballers from Kangaroo Valley as well as Mittagong, Berrima, Cambewarra and Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs.

The clinics were delivered by KVFC Technical Director George Fallah, President Dean Mackechnie, Vice President Jason Shepherd



and coaches Andy Grant and Ron Bower, with the focus firmly on helping players develop their skills, understanding and enjoyment of the game.

Across the four days of clinics, players benefited from small-group work, individual feedback and a positive, challenging environment, while having the opportunity to spend extended time developing their football.

A Soccerroo in Kangaroo Valley

One of the highlights of the Skills Clinics was a specialist goalkeeping session with **Jim Fraser**, former Soccerroos goalkeeper.

Jim worked with a group of aspiring young goalkeepers, putting them through a challenging and enjoyable session and sharing his experience of playing at the highest level of Australian football. For the young goalkeepers, the opportunity to train with a former Soccerroo was something they are unlikely to forget.

Jim’s involvement also came through an existing football relationship with George, with the two having worked together at Blacktown City and with NSW State squads. It was a great example of how the relationships built throughout football can create opportunities for young players in a regional community.

Kelly Cross visits KVFC

The club was also extremely fortunate to welcome **Kelly Cross**, a highly experienced FIFA Technical expert and Sydney FC Technical Director coach, to Kangaroo Valley.

Kelly spent time with parents and players, discussing player development and the role that coaches and families can play in helping young footballers progress while continuing to enjoy the game. Kelly then took the players onto the field for a practical training session, giving them the chance to experience his coaching first-hand.

Kelly and George have worked together over many years at Blacktown City, NSW State squads and the NSW Institute of Sport. George holds an AFC A Diploma and has had a long coaching career across grassroots, representative and elite youth football. Those long-standing football relationships provided an opportunity for KVFC’s young players to benefit from Kelly’s experience here in Kangaroo Valley.

As George explained: “I’ve been lucky enough to work with some terrific people throughout football, and it’s great when those relationships can provide an opportunity for our players here in Kangaroo Valley. The important thing is that the kids enjoy the experience and hopefully take something from it.”

Kelly was equally positive about his visit to Kangaroo Valley. “It was a pleasure to be there,” he said. “There are really good signs for healthy grassroots football in Australia, and Kangaroo Valley is a great example. Lovely people, beautiful scenery, and a real connection to the game.”

A club opportunity

KVFC President Dean Mackechnie believes these opportunities are particularly valuable because they are being made available within the local community.

“It’s really great that our players are being given these opportunities within Kangaroo Valley and for the children to have access to people like Jim and Kelly,” Dean said. “It’s great to see that even though we are a small regional community club, we can provide an environment where all levels of ability have access to these opportunities that 99 per cent of Australia do not get.”

Dean said he hoped the experience would have an impact beyond football. “Hopefully it inspires some children to take their football further, but most importantly, grow into better human beings by being around these people.”

From the training field to the Community Hall

After Kelly’s training session, players, parents



and coaches headed to the Kangaroo Valley Community Hall for a barbecue before watching the Soccerroos take on Türkiye.

The barbecue was a genuine club and community effort, with KVFC parents and committee members helping prepare the food, organise the hall and make sure everyone was looked after. At 2.00pm, families gathered around the big screen to watch Australia take on Türkiye. There was plenty of excitement as the Soccerroos secured a 2-0 victory, giving everyone even more reason to celebrate.

Afterwards, parents and committee members stayed behind to clean up the hall, ensuring it was left in good order. It was a simple but memorable afternoon – football, food, families and the opportunity to watch Australia’s national team together.

Building a football community

While the football development opportunities were an important part of the school holiday program, perhaps the most significant aspect was the sense of community surrounding the events. Young players had the opportunity to train with experienced coaches, learn from people who have played and coached at the highest levels of the game, meet other young footballers and simply enjoy being part of football.

For KVFC, that is an important part of the club’s philosophy. George Fallah, KVFC Technical Director, noted: “We want our kids to enjoy football and have opportunities to learn and develop. But just as importantly, we want them and their families to feel part of the club and the

Continues on next page →



Continued from p.31 →

wider community. Days like this are a great example of what can happen when everyone gets involved.”

George believes the opportunities being created today could potentially have impacts well into the future. As he explained: “Looking further ahead the opportunities being created today could potentially have an impact well into the future. Who knows where the journey might eventually lead? Maybe one day a young player who started out kicking a football here in Kangaroo Valley will pull on the green and gold for Australia. Who knows – maybe KVFC will one day be known as the little country club that helped develop a future Matilda or Socceroo. For now, though, our focus is simply on giving our young players the best environment we can to learn, develop, make friends and enjoy the game.”

The four days of Skills Clinics, Jim Fraser’s goalkeeping session, Kelly Cross’s visit and the World Cup afternoon all demonstrate what can be achieved when **coaches, players, parents, volunteers and the broader community work together.**

For a young club, these are important building blocks – creating opportunities for young players while building friendships, memories and a strong football community in Kangaroo Valley.

Football brought everyone together, but it was the people of KVFC who made it special.

*Jason Shepherd
Vice President
Kangaroo Valley Football Club*



July school holiday clinic.



News from the Pews

Church of the Good Shepherd Kangaroo Valley

Hello to you all!

Jesus says “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30).

One of our hopes at the Church of the Good Shepherd is to be growing together in welcoming and witnessing to the KV community and beyond with the good news of Jesus through love, words and action.

As a result, in September we’re about to form a more solid partnership with Anglicare to do

just that. The mission of Anglicare is ‘to serve people in need, enrich people’s lives and to share the love of Jesus’. We feel this is a really important mission to support.

There are so many people in the Shoalhaven – including Kangaroo Valley – who are in need as a result of loneliness, financial hardship, domestic violence and change of circumstances. On Sunday 20 September at 10.00am, Brett Fahey and Gary Eastment from Anglicare will be speaking about concrete ways we can partner with Anglicare in our local community and the Shoalhaven region. You’re welcome to come along and hear them speak.

To make a day of it, after the service we’ll have a community picnic on the church grounds from about 11.30am onwards, which you’re welcome to come along to. Just bring your own food, your friends and a picnic rug.

*God bless you all
Andrew Paterson*

Anglicare’s Gary Eastment coming to Kangaroo Valley in September.



Kangaroo Valley was well represented at the joint annual Presentation Night of the Berry Bowling Club, held on 8 August 2026.

Winners and Runners Up include:

- Laural Ferrington (absent on the night) who, together with Chris Yeo, were Runners Up in the Ladies Minor Pairs Championship.

- Ron Nelson, the winner of the Challenge Singles event.
- Bob Dunn, part of the winning Mixed Fours team and a member of the Men’s Fours and Men’s Triples Teams who were Runners Up in the respective competitions.
- Irene Dunn, part of the winning Mixed Fours competition.
- Rob and Deb Folkard, together in the Mixed Fours team that were Runners Up.

- Adam Rigney, who won the Men’s Major Singles Championship for the fifth time after beating six-time winner Mark Power in the final.

Congratulations to all the Winners and Runners Up on these achievements and we encourage all players to renew their efforts in the 2027 competitions.

Rob and Deb Folkard



Ladies President Gillian Portener thanking Deb Fokard for her contribution to the Club.



Challenge Singles Runner Up, Frank Picciolini, President Tige Lidbetter and winner of the Challenge Singles Ron Nelson.



Runners Up Mixed Fours Rob Folkard, Deb Folkard and Derek Raymond – missing Tina Ballard, presented by Tige Lidbetter (second from left).



Mixed Fours winners, Ruth Willdig, Irene Dunn, Bob Dunn and Terry Hayes.

GOLF

As winter draws to an end our course is looking great and visitor numbers have grown. We have all enjoyed our challenging greens and beautiful fairways.

Saturday 18 July was our Stableford round with good numbers of members and visitors hitting the course. Congratulations to Suzanne Greer, winning with a fantastic 37 points, followed by Ben Day, visitor from Kareela Golf Club, with a score of 36 points, followed by Alex Kecney, visitor from The SCA Golf Club, with a score of 34.

Saturday 25 July was our Stroke round, Monthly medal round and the final round of the Medal of Medals 2025-2026 competition. Congratulations to Robbie McDonnell with a great round of 77 winning the Medals of Medals competition and the Medal round, followed by Gorden Thomson with 77, followed by Allan Harvey with 79.

Saturday 1 August was our Stableford round. Again, an amazing number of competitors, with 20 visitors playing. Congratulations to Michael Fraser, visitor from Concord Golf Club, winning with 34 points, followed by Chris McVeigh with 33 points, followed by Tony Bryan, a visitor beaten on countback with 33 points also.

Saturday 8 August was another Stableford round. Congratulations to Jake Neville, a visitor from Mollymook Golf Club, with an outstanding round with 40 points, followed by his brother Matthew Neville, visitor from Sussex Inlet Golf Club, with a great score of 38 points, followed by Suzanne Greer with 33 points.

Saturday 15 August was our Par round. Congratulations to Chris McVeigh with +3, followed by Callum Heywood, visitor from The Country Club, St Georges Basin, with 0, followed by Jorden Birtles-Crute, another visitor from The Country Club, with -1. Congratulations to Ian Thomas winning the Eclectic completion by 0.65 of a stroke, well done Ian. Ian has won the Eclectic competition for the past three years.

Over this reporting period our club has enjoyed an influx of visitors playing in our competitions – some 50 or more, which has been wonderful. The course is in great shape, with challenging greens.

Happy golfing everyone! Stay safe and until next time ...

Allan Harvey,
KVC Captain



Robbie McDonnell
– winner of
Medal of Medals.



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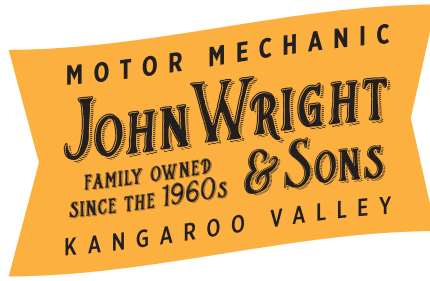
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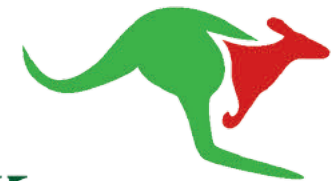
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WEEKLY

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Cuppa & Kids	Anglican Hall Tues 9–30am
KVRFS Training at Station	Wed 6pm
After School Kids’ Club	Anglican Hall Thu 3.20–4.30pm
FIG Community Garden	Thurs 10am–12pm
Women’s Care & Share	Anglican Hall Thurs 12–2pm
Anglican Church	Traditional Service Sun 8.30am
Contemporary Service and Sunday School	Sun 10am
Mass	St. Joseph’s Tue–Thur 9–9:30am and Sun 11am

MONTHLY

A & H Meeting	KV Hall Mon (2 nd) 6pm
KV Rural Fire Val Meeting	Mon (1 st) 7pm
KV Historical Society Contact	Tues (2 nd) 10am
Trivia At The Friendly Inn	Tues (2 nd) 7pm
Lions Club Meeting	Tues (4 th)
Brogers Creek Landcare	Sat (Last)
KV Farmers Markets	Sun (2 nd)
Fishing Club Competition Day	Sun (Last)

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Men’s Group	Friday: (1 st & 3 rd) 7.30 am
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