



December 2019

ColoVale *News*



CHRISTMAS MARKET

DECEMBER 7TH



Folks, Last Saturday a fireworks display took place at a private 50th party in Medway. The landowner employed a professional Fireworks Company who gained a Fireworks Permit from the (STATE) RFS Head Office under exemption #4. So, when I expressed my disgust on Facebook at the insensitivity in continuing with his event, the Post lit up. Why am I telling you about this? Because, in my view (and many others), this showed a total disconnect from reality – it was only earlier last week we had a total fire ban in this Shire! So the activity, whilst legal, was inappropriate. We are likely heading into the worst fire risk season for many years and our villages are tinder boxes ready to go. We all remember how close the 2013 Fires got. I hope all our residents will show a super careful community approach to any potential fire starting activity and err on the cautious side. eg Set your alerts on the great RFS app “Fires Near Me” and don’t even consider any spark generating activity.



By Levi 4W

Everyone must heed this high risk environment. Already the traditional fireworks at the Bowral Carols will not take place this season and there will be many other considerate decisions made, big and small. So, take care, act local and if you see any risky activity please contact your local RFS brigade or Council. Have a lovely safe Christmas with all your favourite people! Always happy to be contacted and look forward to your emails.

Councillor Ian Scandrett

Council mail: ian.scandrett@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Private email: ian@justfixit.org.au

Facebook: Ian Scandrett



By Lilly 4W



By Samantha 1/2W



The Men's Shed membership is still increasing, and we welcome Peter L and visitor John. When we have additional room next year, we will be able to greatly expand our activities. A local community group has asked if we could build them a Street Library, which we are happy to do. Some of our members have helped clear our Southern boundary and remove excess vegetation, in preparation for a colorbond fence to be erected. The materials will have arrived by the time you are reading this and the fence may even be completed! We have offered to keep a regular check on the RFS equipment on our site to ensure all is ready in case of a local fire, especially with current weather conditions. The Community Hall is a "Safe Place" in case of a catastrophic fire and residents are encouraged to use the facility if conditions arise (hopefully we won't have any fires!). We have had two more donations of palings as well as some very useful tools including an outdoor heater. Anyone with excess tools who would like to donate them can contact Steve on 0414 242 667, or any of our members, they are much appreciated.



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The guys have been busy making timber items to sell at our December Christmas Market stall, so come along and see some new lines, ideal for gifts. We will have some tools for sale as well. There are still plenty of push bikes available, great for grandchildren when they visit, priced from \$5 to \$30, so let Steve know what size and style you are interested in so they can be prepared and brought to the market. We also have two lightweight adult cycles for the real enthusiast, priced at \$80. A pair of prescription glasses were found at our November Market, so if they are yours, give us a call. On Thursday December 19th, we will have a sausage sizzle with the Craft and Chatter ladies, who will supply the salad, so we look forward to a good roll up of members and visitors. This will be our last morning for the year and we will return on Tuesday 14th January 2020. The New Year looks like being a very exciting one with a lot happening, so come along and join in the fun.

From all the guys at our "Shed" we wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to a very fruitful New Year.

Steve 0414242 667.

Get your lights up



Each year we run a Christmas lights competition and this year is no exception. The best Christmas light display will win a \$50 fuel voucher. There will also be other prizes for runner ups. The Competition will be Judged on the 19th of December so you must have your display on that night to be eligible.



Italian MARKET



Weather is warming and it was certainly a warm day. Luckily, the welcomed rains (about 15mm), came later in the day. Our market stalls holders are growing considerably at present, with a number of new stall holders again this month. Whilst the Pies made by the ladies of our Community Association are always a hit, the Bolognese pies made especially for the Italian theme were AMAZING! If you missed out, then come to the next market where they will be available again.

If you are thinking of having your own stall, please contact 0400 728 395

The last market of the year will be held on December 7th

See you there!!

Christmas

5B



By Mikaela 5B

FOR ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES OR TO SUBMIT NEWS
ARTICLES, CONTACT

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FOR COMMUNITY MATTERS WHERE YOU THINK THE
ASSOCIATION COULD ASSIST, CONTACT

Sue Edney, Secretary

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PO Box 280 Mittagong NSW 2575

E: moox1428@bigpond.com

What's your Password?

Last month I wrote an article on scamming and received a quite a few messages via Facebook. Some were asking about passwords and the best way to protect them. Best practice says you should have a different password for every account you own. Why? The reason is that if you use the same password across all of your accounts then you are at risk of your accounts being hacked into. If any one website that has your account information has a data breach, then all of your other accounts are at risk also.

The only real way to stop this, is to use a different password for every account. For me and many others this is not practical. I personally use a series of passwords across multiple accounts, although not ideal, it lessens the risk somewhat. Just as important is to use a "strong" password. This should contain a series of numbers and letters, both upper and lower case and if allowed a special character. A simpler way to achieve this is to substitute letters for numbers. For example if your password was "balloon", this could become "8aLLoon" or "Ba11oon". It's also important to regularly change or update them. You can also use passphrases. For example "ilikecheese" or "il1kech33s3". One last bit of advice is every now and then check the web site <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>. After entering in your email address it will advise you if your email address has appeared in any published data breaches. If it has, then your email address and the password that was associated with the breached website, was publicly published.

If your'e interested in learning more about maintaining passwords or other topics like two-factor authentication, visit <https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/>



A special thanks to the Colo Vale Public school students for their efforts in submitting designs for the December cover of the Colo Vale News. The entries were amazing and it was a very difficult decision to pick a winner. The winning front cover was designed by Ella Murray in 1/2 Waratah. Throughout this news you will also see other designs by students that we just had to share. Congratulations Ella on your awesome picture.

End of term assembly is Tuesday 17th December at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along for a formal goodbye of our year 6 students. The last day of School will be Wednesday 18th December with school returning on Wednesday 29th of January. Lastly, Kindergarten 2020 enrolments are still open so contact the school to enrol now.



By Campbell 1/2 W

Summer Gardening

With Angie

Lycopersicon (Translates to wolf peach) better known as our favourite salad vegetable the tomato, is botanically a fruit but legally a vegetable. Since purchasing my latest book on tomatoes, I discovered a whole new world of heirloom to supermarket varieties and this year I have decided to go all out and try some new varieties. I am testing what does best here in the cooler months and shorter overall growing season that is part and parcel of the southern highlands. At our next Colo Vale market, I will have for sale some tomato plant varieties, as they will be excess to my test beds. So, what type of tomato should you grow, determinate or indeterminate? Firstly determinate only fruits for a short period and some set all their fruit at once so when the plant finishes ripening the fruit it dies. Indeterminate keeps growing and needs staking so the plant can keep fruiting. If you have space to put a trellis, then that's the best way to go. Lycopene which is the red pigment of tomatoes has many health benefits if you follow a healthy eating diet.

Should you prune tomatoes? Trials conducted found that yields dropped 25% after light pruning and 83% after heavy pruning. Pruning sets back fruit production so plants don't have enough time to recover in short to medium growing seasons. Choosing which tomato best suits you is best done by looking at what you use your tomatoes for. Salads or soup some varieties are sweeter than others and some have quirky flavours for frying or maybe jam making and canning. Come see me at the Colo Vale markets or at our next garden club at Bunnings on the last Wednesday of the month. In December we are having a special one on the 18th. Come along and make something for yourself or as a gift. Book with Abbs our activities organiser. I will be scouting next year for guest speakers and will be bringing some bling to gardening in the Highlands. January will be our time to get ready for the February garden club so I hope to have interesting tomatoes for tasting.

Angie



Submit an Article

Do you know something that's news worthy? A local that deserves recognition? Everyone has a good story to tell and we want to hear yours. Submit your articles by emailing colovalenews@gmail.com or message us on facebook



By Hayley 5B

School Holiday ideas

www.colovalecommunity.org.au

School Holidays are just around the corner. While its great to spend time with the kids, as a Father of 4, having them home all day can be enough to drive you insane. You need to get them out and being active. I've put together a few activities that are worth while and wont cost you an arm and leg.

1. **Hiking/Walking tracks:** There are many local tracks around that are easy for most. Cave Creek at Hilltop is one that my kids love and it's a great spot. It has toilets and a picnic area. Lake Alexandria hosts a number of walks, the most popular being 40 Foot Falls. This track begins at the rear of the Lake and has a sign posted directing you to the track.
2. **Bong Bong Bike Track:** Chuck the bikes in the car and take the kids for a ride along the Bong Bong Bike track. Lots of nice scenery and what kid doesn't love going out riding bikes?!
3. **PCYC Mittagong:** They offer many full day activities like Archery, Gymnastics, Bootcamp, Little Ninjas and Dancing. Bonus is that you can use either the Active or Creative kids voucher throughout each holiday timetable!
4. **Dingo Sanctuary, Bargo:** It's a conservation and breeding program for up to 32 pure Australian Dingo's. You can get up close with Dingo's for a very reasonable cost.
www.dingosanctuarybargo.com.au
5. **Colo Vale Tennis Courts:** Hire the courts and take the kids for a hit of tennis. Sports field, play and picnic area with BBQ's and toilet facilities. Courts can be hired for \$15 an hour. Rackets and balls included, Call Linda on 0415 500 981 (closed 18th - 21st for resurfacing)

Want more footpaths?

Pedestrian safety has been a long standing issue when moving around parts of Colo Vale. Whilst the footpaths up to the school and other areas are invaluable, we need more. The amount of people walking up to the service station has increased considerably, and now with the new Colo Vale Pizza being such a massive hit, this has increased exponentially. We often see new mum's navigating the road with prams, and children walking or riding their bikes on the road after visiting the service station. This, added with the speeding issues continuously reported, is a recipe for disaster. The Colo Vale Community Association is campaigning Council to build a footpath from the service station up to the community hall and we need your help. This was previously promised by council and never delivered. If you agree with us then contact Council by either calling (02) 4868-0888 or email mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au and express your support



By Jasmin 4W



COLO VALE COMMUNITY Notice Board



Craft & Chatter

Every Thursday from 9am to 12 noon. \$3 donation. Morning tea provided. Ladies bring your craft or just come for a chat. Ring Kath on 0400 728 395

Village Mens Shed

Mens Shed meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 12noon \$3 for morning tea. Come and socialise with other men in the area. Make something, do some wood work or just hang out and chat. Call Steve on 0414 242 667

Hall Bookings

Having a Celebration? For all Hall bookings please contact 0490 320 179

Indoor Bowls

Indoor Bowls every Wednesday evening 7pm. \$3 donation with supper provided. Just turn up at the hall or call Kay on 0413 364 918

Market Stall Info

Stalls available for \$15 outside or \$25 inside. Car boot sales \$15. Bookings must be confirmed by 12 noon Thursday prior to the Market otherwise your stall will be reallocated. Bookings can be made by calling Kath 0400 728 395

Public Meetings

Next Community Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 28th of January, 6pm**. All Welcome. Come along and have your say on important issues in our community. We need your help to keep Colo Vale great. For more information contact the Community Association President Elyse White on 0414 633 077

Welfare Officer

If you know of a community member that should receive Sympathy Cards, Flowers, or a visit please contact Kay Mackenzie on 0413 364 918