



C.E.S Tindall's advertising picture for the Avoca Seaside Resort, painted in 1911

How can we get a community hall?

The idea of a new community hall for Avoca has been around since the CWA hall behind the petrol station became a private house. We now look with some envy at halls like those at Wagstaffe and Pearl Beach, seeing what they bring to their respective communities. Booked all the time, they are! Vibrant community hubs as well.

It was Carol Forthey followed by Sara Powter who first pointed out that what used to be St. David's church on Cape Three Points, might be both available and movable. The site having been sold for units, it was hard to imagine that the new owner would not be happy to see the former church put somewhere else for the enrichment of the community.

It has proved difficult to reach the owner but we heard indirectly from his architect that he might be amenable to gifting the hall rather than demolishing it. But how to move it? Well-known local builder, John Mitchell, suggested that it best be dismantled and moved in

pieces. We started researching the history of the building and were astonished to find that it could be up to 150 years old, making it by far the oldest building in Avoca. The original settler, John Moore, who gave Avoca its name, built a house above what is now the oval, in 1840. He caught the gold fever and left behind his house which burnt down in 1860. But the outbuildings were spared and one may have become the church.

In 1911, C.E.S Tindall did this watercolour (masthead image) to advertise a new Avoca guesthouse for Sydney's elite built beside the newly created oval. To the right of the red roofed guesthouse in the watercolour, are two outbuildings, the one of interest being the middle one. That's not a conclusive identification, but surely this 1925 photo of what was then the staff quarters for the guesthouse, is proof the church is at least 94 years old? It's the same building when you compare it with the church today. Four posts and a veranda, both exactly the same!



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This of course has added to our interest in preserving and reusing the old building. Now, there's a setback. The property market has slumped and the owner has decided he neither wants to build units, for which he has approval, nor relinquish the hall for the foreseeable future. This of course is disappointing but all is not lost. It's hard to imagine that at some point, if the timing still suited us, that the mysterious owner might not be happy to see the hall removed, especially as it has some asbestos in it. Not much asbestos, according to John Mitchell, based on reading an asbestos report from the Church which we've obtained. Around a week's work to remove, John estimates.

In the meantime, an Ettalong architect, Milos Obradovik, (www.sitestudio.com) is eager to design us a hall from scratch. With a volunteer build, supervised perhaps by John Mitchell, Milos suggests that a new hall, using local and recycled materials, need not cost much more than the moving and reassembling the historic one. Milos is inspired by one of the possible sites we have identified. This is two acres of lakeside land just to the west of the Scout hall. It used to be a dumping ground for sand dredged from the lake, a very pretty spot, and almost as high as road level. You've surely noticed the pumping station on Avoca Drive at the west end of this site. (see below)



The hall on this site would need to be sensitively situated in a bushland setting with picnic areas by the lake, most of the trees being left intact. This site would move the green hub of Avoca, west and, via lakeside bike and walking trails, connect with what we hope will be Bob Pickett's gift to the community. But if we were to be given the historic hall, this site (opposite Like Minds Café) would probably not be suitable, though Bob Pickett's land might.



Preferred by some, is a second site suitable for both the recycled hall or a new building. This is a smaller area beside Heazlett oval, close to where the skateboard ramp used to be (which was to the left of the big tree seen here). I've pasted the historic hall onto this spot. There is room for the building without taking out substantial trees. This site has the advantage that there is existing parking, some 26 places, right there, but less room for picnic tables

It's early days and there may well be setbacks. We've met with the Mayor who seemed enthusiastic about our plans, but has not yet got back to us with an expert assessment of the two sites we've proposed. Whatever happens, a large fundraising and grant seeking effort will need to happen. We think it would be a wonderfully unifying activity for Avoca if, with Council help, we can get a community hall, one not close to neighbours, where the singing and dancing could go into the night, not to mention everyday yoga (Wagstaffe hall has four different types of yoga classes on offer) and the action packed meetings of our fabulous Avoca Beach Community Association.

In the meantime, let's hope history gets a look in. Imagine that, a hall possibly 150 years old!. M. Rubbo.

ABCA President's Report April 2019

Another fantastic summer has come to an end. Great weather, warm water and sensational sunny days. A big thanks to all those volunteer Surf Life Savers who've patrolled our beautiful beach. Even on the more relaxed, calm days 4 or 5 hours of duty on the beach requires vigilance and care to ensure beach users are safe. A thank you too, to those professional lifeguards who do an amazing job during the week. Many of them back up for a volunteer patrol with the club on weekends.

Staying with the Surf Club, congratulations to all the Avoca Beach competitors for their outstanding performances at State and National titles. Special mention to the Nippers for a great season.

Meanwhile, it's been a busy time with a myriad of highlights and issues for the ABCA to contend with. Our recent general meeting was full of interesting, innovative ideas, two of which we cover. The ABCA continues to strive to represent community views and where possible make Avoca a better place.

Success doesn't always come easily and we are still very supportive of Bob Pickett's generous proposal to donate acres of his land for community use. We hope a way out of the present impasse can be found. Thanks, Bob, for your persistence and determination.

Stage Two of the Avoca Beach Foreshore Master Plan is about to get underway. The plan is for tiered sandstone block seating in front of the surf club and further along in front of the car park.

To their credit, Council has listened to concerns with the original plan and made alterations after consulting with

ABCA and ABSLSC members. We hope the work will be as well received as Stage One has been.

Unfortunately, there will be some disruption and the front car park will be needed for equipment storage. We will have access to the beach at all times, but it will be limited. Works are planned for May to October.

Our committee met with members of the Copacabana Community Association recently to discuss common issues, including the possibility of shuttle busses to the station, helping to keep cars off the road, an idea which compliments Ian Charlton's Orbital buses discussed elsewhere in this issue. The Copa folks are concerned about the planned seismic testing off our immediate coastline, as are we. A public meeting on the matter has been suggested.



Finally, an invitation to all to the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. 6 am at the Surf Club, and best of luck to all winter sports teams, especially the Avoca Sharks.

Steve Fortey, Pres. ABCA

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

We would love you to contribute to our newsletter. If you have a story idea but feel you can't write it, we can help. If you do a draft, we can edit and polish. We're interested in all sorts of stories with a special love of character profiles. If you're thinking of proposing an interesting character, interview the person on tape, then transcribe it to make sure you've got all the facts right. Work from that. We like business stories but don't accept those written by people connected with the business in question.

Editorial credits: Mike Rubbo: Editor | Angela Kennedy & Julie Pickett: Advertising, Proof reading
If you would like to receive a digital version of this newsletter, please send us your email address and we'll put you on the list. Send to avocabeachca@gmail.com
Also if you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, get in touch.

Avoca Beach Community Association Inc.

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Please supply your email address so that we can send you the newsletter electronically.

Balmy Waters

If you are not a fan of cold water, now is the perfect time to take your inaugural swim. The water temperature around the Central Coast in March has been hitting a balmy 26°C. There are several factors that control the temperature of our waters, but the main one is the East Australian Current (EAC). The EAC is a surface current driven by winds over the South Pacific. The EAC carries a large amount of warm tropical water from the equator southward along the East Coast of Australia. It also brings northern tropical species such as tuna and even large sea turtles south – but you all know that from Finding Nemo!

Most of the EAC splits from the coast near Sydney and heads for New Zealand. A small part of the current works its way southward past Victoria and Tasmania. The EAC is renowned for producing large eddies that can be around 200 kilometres across and hundreds of

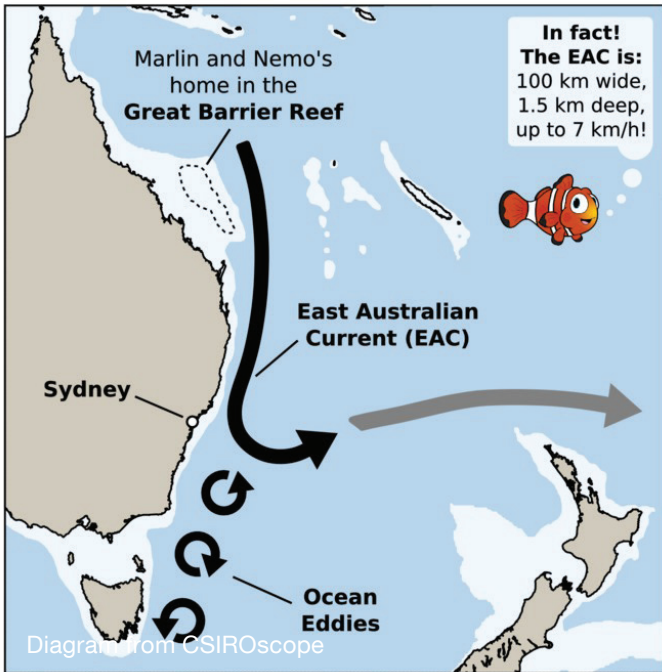
metres deep. Eddies are created as the current curves and a swirling pool of fluid rotates, affecting not only the temperature of the sea water, but also the nutrient availability and the salinity. While the EAC itself brings very low nutrients, it causes upwelling, which brings nutrient rich waters to the surface and supports the marine ecosystem and our fisheries, playing a major role in the diversity of marine life at mid-latitudes.

The EAC is also responsible for keeping our winter water temperatures at around 18 C instead of dropping to 12 C, a fact that year-round swimmers/surfers no doubt appreciate. You've got until July before temperatures hit rock bottom, so get out there and enjoy the warm water while you can.

The chart below shows average monthly water temperatures. Kristy McQueen

| Month | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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Green through to the sea



On April, 1st, the ABCA hosted an exciting meeting at the surf club. Some challenging new proposals were presented to the 40 some locals present and nobody felt they'd been April fooled.

Especially intriguing was the initiative of Wayne Robertson, a Balmain Realtor, with a house near the rock pool. Anticipating stage two of the foreshore development, Wayne got a local company, Spade Design, to draw up an enticing image for a greener foreshore. He's worked out how traffic could be redirected, the number of beachside parking spaces increased by about 25, green space by about 25%, and, best of all, no cars at the beachfront, something many of us have always hoped would be possible.

Wayne made his presentation to the ABCA seeking provisional support, which was gladly given, with the idea that people will have a chance to think about his proposal before the next meeting, two months from now. As you can see from the plan, traffic would no longer turn left on Vale Street to go down to the beachfront.

You'd continue on past the theatre, left onto Burns St. and then left onto Vine, one way north, to the traffic

circle drop-off point beside the surf club, and then back through a large new car park between the surf club and the 4 apartments, located on what is now the kids playground known as Ross Park.

This new parking lot for about 40 cars is a one-way east and then out of it onto a one-way Avoca Drive where there is more parking pretty much as it now is. The other changes envisage that there are more cars accommodated in a special paved but also grassed area at the front of South End Park on Burns st.

One challenging aspect of the proposal is that the Ross Park playground needs to be relocated either to the east of the surf club in the slightly larger green area, or into Hunter park, or perhaps smaller play areas in both. In any case, better exercise equipment for older folk could be a bonus. What's there now is inferior to what we once had in terms of easy use.

Wayne has been helped with this concept by Ken West, who has always favoured a car free foreshore, and Millar McCowan. They put this proposal out now for public discussion. Contact details for feedback. Wayne Robertson. 0407 732 589. wayne@realtorinternational.com



Avoca in 1930's. The Whitter house is 3rd from the right on high side of Avoca Drive.

Dancing through the years.

Marie Fuller is working on an upcoming event, a Lantern club lunch. She leans close to her iPad speaking to it with authority. She wants Google to search something for her and likes to talk to her slave rather than type. Having got the information she needs, she ends with "Thanks, Google," and adds to me, "I was always told to say, thank you."

At 94, Marie not only has an iPad and iPhone, but uses Skype, and has a Facebook page. This is one very plugged in older lady and she goes back a long way. Here she is with husband, Stan, a few years after their marriage. Looks like a nice fellow, that Stan.



I'm picturing petite Marie jitter bugging between the wars, bobbing like a top with a strapping young man, not Stan, throwing her over his shoulder. Stan was a champion ballroom dancer but couldn't jitterbug. Marie loved to dance and went out dancing as much as she could right through the second world war, never lacking

for partners. "Marie had more boyfriends than baked dinners," her mother used to say. That was before Stan.

She was born in Parramatta in 1924. When she was 8, Avoca Beach became part of her life. Her Dad was coming up to Avoca, helping to build a house for a friend, Mr Whitter near the corner of Cliff Avenue and Avoca Drive. (see above) After that, her family used to come up every weekend to camp in the park just across the road from the Whitters.

As a girl, she looked forward to those Saturday summer nights. There was dancing at the back of the village store run by Dick and Laura Pickett, situated where the Lebanese eatery now is. There was room out back where they danced to the Teddy Bears Picnic, belted out on an old piano by Dick Pickett.

In Sydney the family lived in Granville. Weekends they'd go to Narrabeen, and it was at the Narrabeen surf club that she met Stan who she married in 1947 when she was 23. They had two sons, Wayne in 1949, and Grant in 1955.

Stan did his apprenticeship as a shoemaker and got special jobs sometimes. He made boots for Long John Silver for example, the famous pirate in a local film production. Came the war, and Stan was exempted, lots of boots being needed for the Army.

In the 1950s, he and two friends bought into a pair of shoe factories, one at Auburn and the other at Campsie. They made all types of footwear but were best known for sporting shoes for golfers and bowls. When trade barriers were lifted and the government allowed in Chinese shoes, 12 factories closed in one year, including theirs. The shoe business gone, Marie and Stan took over a wine bar that was being run by a relative, Stan's Auntie, at Summerhill. Business men used to come in for a drink after work. Marie played Euchre with the ladies but also worked behind the bar at night. Their wine bar did very well.

She tells a story of how one day a man came in for a drink during the day and Stan asked him what he was doing there during working hours, and the fellow admitted he was taking a "sickie." Stan refused to serve him.. The man went up to the hotel for his drink, but was soon seen again. Then there was the fellow from the nearby nursing home who came in his pyjamas. When his pants fell down, they called the home to pick him up.

Summer camping in the 60s at Avoca was wonderful. They had singalongs on Saturday nights. On special occasions they'd put on shows for other campers, performing on the back of a flatbed truck. What sort of songs did they sing those nights? Alexander's Ragtime band and Tiptoe through the Tulips. At one of these shows, their son Wayne turned up disguised as a transvestite. Marie didn't recognise him "Were you shocked?" I asked Marie? "Nothing shocks Marie said a friend, Jan Wade, joining in.

Marie remembers going to the pictures, first at the outdoor screen up at the end of Cliff Avenue next to the Hunter's house and then at the enclosed theatre, now one of Australia's most historic cinemas, also built by the Hunter family.

In December 1951, Marie was at the opening night of the new theatre. There was a double bill, both films seemingly very appropriate for the holiday camping crowd . First they showed; "Two Weeks with Love." And after the interval, "The Big Hangover."

The Fullers had a big tent with two rooms as well as an open area. Inside, they had a fridge and a double bed. One New Year's Eve, the women were preparing the food for the party when, mid afternoon, the Porta gas set the tent on fire. The manager from the football club saved the situation by dropping the tent and smothering the flames. Then, people came with canvas pieces, all shapes and sizes, stitched it up, then and there, and the party went on in the same tent that night.

The Fuller family camped at the Avoca campground every summer until they moved to a house on Avoca Drive just above the theatre. The drill was that they'd put the tent up on the October weekend and leave it there till Easter every year. It was pretty safe, people didn't steal things although one year there was a theft. Marie

lost some jewelry. They caught the fellow but she never got her rings back.

Marie remembers that when she and Stan finally moved into their house on the hill, their camping days over, she'd lie in bed hearing the singing wafting up from the camp down below, everyone having a great old time, and she wishing she was down there singing too. Stan passed away in 2004 at 85.



Marie joined the Avoca Beach Red cross club 25 years ago and became president 17 years ago, resigning to take over the Lantern club for deaf and blind children, her place as Red Cross president now filled by Jan Wade. Both clubs are fundraising auxiliaries. There used to be 10 Red Cross clubs on the Central Coast and now there are just three. Their membership is holding steady at around 35, mostly women, though they do have a couple of men.

Their big fundraiser is the golf day, the first Friday in May. Last year they had 100 golfers and raised \$9000, which was something of a record. But apart from that, they raise money with fashion show lunches. The secret to being a successful president of a club like that? Keep things harmonious says Marie be a good listener, and always, always, stay back for tea and cakes. Jan Wade agrees.
M Rubbo.

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How our Nippers went in 2019



Every year, thousands of Aussie kids' flock to their beaches on a Sunday morning to compete in Nippers, a sport of skill, hard work and a bit of luck. Avoca Beach SLSC is proud to have many formidable competitors.

This year State Championships were held from 1st-3rd March at Swansea Belmont, where the conditions were tough. The waves slammed on the sandbank and came in huge sets, resulting in multiple delays and program changes. Despite all that, our competitors tried their best and all in all, it was a successful weekend for Avoca nippers.

Not only did we succeed getting in and out through the challenging surf conditions, but a few came away with medals, a huge achievement considering there were thousands of competitors from all over the state.

Medal winners include:

Josie Kendall U9's- 1st Board.

Will Tebb U10's- 1st Board

Tommy Craik & Billy Thomson U11's- 2nd Board rescue

This year, Lily Cracknell coached the U14's and they cleaned up, with team medals and individual medals, and some 4th place results as well.

The U14 results were: Declan Richardson U14's- 1st Flags, 1st Beach Relay, 3rd Mixed Cameron

Tyke Harvey U14's- 1st Beach relay, 3rd Board rescue, 3rd Board relay

Toby Armstrong U14's- 1st Beach relay, 3rd Board rescue, 3rd Board relay, 3rd Mixed Cameron

Jackson O'Mara U14's- 3rd Champion Life Saver, 1st Beach relay, 3rd Board relay

Natalia Drobot U14's- 1st U14's Board, 1st U15's board, 1st Board relay

Mia Cracknell U14's- 3rd Ironman, 1st Board relay, 3rd Mixed Cameron

Sinaed Williams U14's- 1st Board relay

Summer Tancred U14's- 3rd Mixed Cameron

A few of our U14's nippers also competed up an age in the U15's at the Opens State carnival. A special mention to Natalia Drobot who went amazing. Natalia not only won the U14 board, but also took out the U15's board which is a huge effort. A few of our U14 nippers also competed at the Australian Titles but we didn't have any results at the time that this article was written.

The U14's now move on to their next challenge of Rookie patrols, joining the clubs volunteers on patrol each weekend and doing their Bronze Medallion.

All in all, it has been a great nipper season and an awesome weekend at State, with successes and smiles all round. We would like to thank all the committee members, coaches and parents for helping us throughout the season and although we are going to miss the U14's, we can't wait for the next season ahead.

By Pearl McQueen (U13 nipper)



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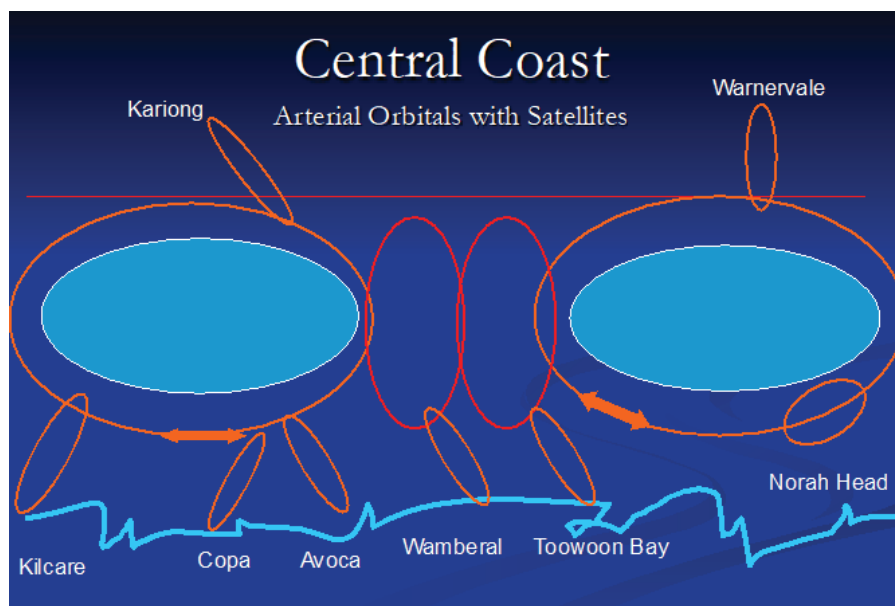
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The orbital bus idea



What are these attractive circles with familiar place names below them, trying to tell us?

Dr. Ian Charlton, well known to many as the GP on the Electric bike and a morning surfer at Avoca Beach, is very concerned about our growing obesity problem. He presented these ideas at our recent ABCA meeting.

Currently 60 % of Central Coast residents are classified as obese or overweight, a vast increase in recent years, the numbers ever climbing. It is estimated that on the Central Coast we spend \$97m per year on prescriptions to help deal with this problem. The total obesity bill for the Central Coast could be as much as \$720 million annually. Not only is obesity very costly, it makes life much less pleasant.

What to do? Overseas estimates suggest that if people were to take public transport, this would nudge them into an extra 8.3 minutes of extra walking per day which in turn could reduce obesity rates by 40-50%. Sounds miraculous but it may explain why European countries, using public transport much more often, have far less obesity.

How to make public transport more user-friendly? That's what Dr Charlton's been working on. He's come up with bus routes which loop the loop!. The two large loops circle our major lakes, hooking up with two central loops which in turn connect to the local loops, as you see on the diagram. Bus services would be much more frequent than they are now since each loop, given convenience, would be much better patronized.

In the case of Avoca, you might wait no more than 10 minutes for a bus circling through the village, up Three Points and down Ridgeway and around the Round Drive, taking you to a second loop at Kincumber.

There, you'd hook up with another frequent bus, taking you to Gosford, Erina, et cetera. A second change would put you on the loop to the Peninsular

The buses would either be free, based on successful European loop systems, or offer greater frequency with the fare at a dollar a trip. The Central Coast is a well defined region with only two bus companies to deal with, an ideal opportunity for undertaking transport trials.

There has already been one successful trial. With the Gosford Free Green Bus loop, patronage went from 400 to an impressive 4000 per month after its introduction. Similar routes at Woy Woy and Wyong are logical next steps. Ian envisages incorporating the present inefficient school bus service into the loop route service for greater flexibility and cost benefits

Ian has been road testing his concept extensively. He's had meetings with 30 different groups including the Secondary Principals Association, Central Coast Regional P and C Association and Gosford and Wyong Shire councils. Approximately 300 residents across the Central Coast have been involved in the discussion over the last 2 years. Public transport in outer metropolitan regions is a recognized difficulty for transport planners but new thinking can vastly improve on what we have.

His background. Assoc. Professor Ian Charlton has been a general practitioner in Kincumber NSW for 19 years. He holds a teaching position with Newcastle University and has been a past president of the Avoca Primary and Gosford High P and Cs. He also plays the drums. Feedback appreciated. lancharlton11@bigpond.com. Phone 0419496254

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Not so prickly



Bronwyn van der Graaff is one of our most lauded local artists. Recipient of more than 47 art prizes and awards, she's been a finalist for the Dobell drawing prize, Art gallery of NSW, winner of the Gosford art prize, Gosford regional gallery, Gold medalist, Royal Horticultural Society, London, and many more.

She used to be a lawyer, something she didn't enjoy much. Then, she had an accident, injured her back and, with a strange turn of fate, this led her into art full-time. She'd always loved art as a little girl, and vividly remembers the day in primary school when a charismatic artist came to the class and did large blue things which fascinated her. "He seemed so happy and confident." That made a huge impression.

Recently, she's been living at Mount Beauty for six months, drawing and painting snow gums in the area, working towards 7 large commissions. It was tough work, in and out of the car and then sometimes on cross-country skis, looking at thousands of trees for the one that appealed, each tree being subtly different.

Apparently when the bark peels the colours of the snow gums glow. Fortunately her best trees were near the Falls Creek car park and that became her base. She'd hold colour swatches up to trees since the colours were so strange, so hard to match.

She'd draw on the spot, fingers getting numb, and then take her drawings back to her makeshift studio in the little town of Mt. Beauty. Meanwhile her partner, Justin, was working for the ski fields, driving a snow cat. His work had taken them to the area and Bronwyn, ready for change, found what she wanted too.

She grew to love her trees. "There's something so sinuous almost erotic about them though I didn't want to distort them into humanoid shapes." She is after all a botanical artist and extremely faithful to the way nature is, to how perfectly adapted to the environment those wind bent trees were.

When not drawing, they explored the area. Bronwyn fell in love with the Victorian Alpine towns, with Bright, with Beachworth and Yackandandah. Like me, she loves the way those towns preserve their history, how they seem to be free from frantic change that besets us on the coast. We agreed that such places would be nice to live in though being by the sea, is also wonderful.

She is now at the point where her big works command higher prices. "How do you feel when you're priced out of the range of what many people can afford?" "I still do lots of small works like my feathers on the vellum which are very affordable, selling for between \$300 and \$1000.

"And I never tire of doing my Cacti (for which she is famous) They have a certain menace about them which I like." "Are you the Merchant of Menace?" She laughs. "I like that. I've just finished a big drawing of a prickly pear. It's now travelling around Australia in a group show till 2020. Exciting rather than menacing, I hope."

M Rubbo



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