

## Murrumbateman E-Newsletter Special Murrumbateman Field Days Edition



### Table of Contents

<b>How the Field Days at Murrumbateman started.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What you need to know.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Communications Update.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What you're going to see.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>On the Oval and Village Green.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Horses, horses and more horses.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pastel Painters to showcase nearly 100 art works.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A Spotlight on the Region.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Volunteers still needed.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2015 Murrumbateman Field Days' Managers.....</b>	<b>8</b>
MPA President: Margaret Head.....	9
Field Days' Manager: Robert Wait.....	9
Field Days' Office Manager & Bookings Officer: Cathy Woodhams.....	10
Field Days' Grounds Manager: Bill Chapman.....	10
Field Days' IT Manager: Sandy McClintock.....	11
Field Days' Equestrian Manager: Tom White.....	11
Field Days' Catering Manager: Evelyn Everson.....	12
Field Days' Entertainment Manager: Cheryl Sahariv.....	12
<b>About this E-Newsletter.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Next E-Newsletter.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Field Days Program.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>More information.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## How the Field Days at Murrumbateman started



In October 1979 Roger Lund, a mechanisation officer from the NSW Department of Agriculture in Yass noticed the growth of small hobby farms surrounding cities and towns in NSW. He came up with the idea to showcase the latest in small farm machinery and supplies to this growing and captive audience. That first Field Days event in 1979 had 23 exhibitors which grew to more than 60 exhibitors in 1981, over 200 in 1994 and more than 400 in 2014.

The Field Days are held on the third weekend in October, now attracting over 400 exhibitors and more than 20,000 visitors from the Yass Valley region as well as Canberra, the Southern Highlands, Goulburn, Sydney and even further afield. According to Manager of the 2015 Murrumbateman Field Days, Robert Wait, the Yass Valley has a proud heritage connection to early rural Australia, from fine wool to flour mills and a burgeoning wine industry in the 1800s. That connection hasn't changed with the area now boasting a growing modern and well-known food and wine scene. The Murrumbateman Field Days is just one of the community events held under the auspices of the Murrumbateman Progress Association (MPA), which is a voluntary, not for profit, community-based association operating in the Murrumbateman area and the Yass Valley.

The Field Days has raised nearly \$1million for the Murrumbateman community over the past five years.

## What you need to know

**When:** Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2015

**Where:** Murrumbateman Recreation Grounds, off the Barton Highway

**Hours:** Saturday 8am - 5pm and Sunday 8am - 4pm

### Admission:

- **Passouts** are available at the gate if you intend coming back on the same day.
- **\$5 Wristbands** - If you would like to come back on the second day, you can purchase wristbands for \$5 at the ticket boxes or at the Field Days' office that will give you entry for the second day.

	Family <sup>a</sup>	Adult	Concession	Child <sup>b</sup>	Child <sup>c</sup>
Online	<b>\$37</b>	<b>\$16</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>FREE</b>
At the gate	<b>\$41</b>	<b>\$18</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>FREE</b>

<sup>a</sup> - 'Family' is defined as 2 adults and up to 4 children, aged 12-16

<sup>b</sup> - 12-16 year olds

<sup>c</sup> - Under 12 year old

**Parking:** Free



**Dogs:** Here in the country, we all love our dogs, but due to public health and safety issues we do **NOT** allow dogs on the site. For the safety of your pets and the safety of other visitors, please refrain from bringing your four-legged friend/s along. Of course working dogs that are competing, dogs that are part of an exhibitor's display and guide or medical aid dogs are welcome.

## More Information

For more information and other frequently asked questions, go to <http://www.mfdays.com/visitors/faqs>.

## Communications Update

Manager of the 2015 Murrumbateman Field Days, Robert Wait is now cautiously optimistic that communications services at this year's Field Days will be able to handle the traffic from visitors to the event.



He said that Telstra have now upgraded the communications tower here to Telstra's 4G (LTE) mobile network and they advise that this will be capable of providing both 3G and 4G services. Telstra have also advised that the upgrade will increase the service from 6 Mbps to 34 Mbps simultaneous downloads and it's expected the addition of more capacity to the existing tower will resolve capacity issues we have experienced in the past.

Optus and Vodafone have also made similar upgrades in the Murrumbateman area recently.

Mr Wait said that there will be up to seven ATMs at the event, one of which will run from an ADSL line which should ensure a continual service at that machine, but there were no guarantees. Exhibitors have been advised that if they have a capacity to process EFTPOS purchases manually, they should bring that facility to the venue.

## What you're going to see

Many exhibitors are returning from previous years such as the Yass Antique Farm Machinery Club with the tractor pull, shearing and damper cooking demonstrations. But farm machinery of all shapes and sizes that's a bit more modern, will also be on display and of course coming into summer, everything you never wanted to know (but need to) about snakes and what to look out for, a must in the country.



As well as horses, other animal exhibitor sites will include alpacas, llamas, cattle, sheep, poultry, dogs and fish. New exhibitors this year include Lifestyle Farming Courses who conduct introductory courses for people interested in a rural lifestyle but who may not have an agricultural background or experience.

For the children, there are baby animals, rides and visits from Prime Possum, the SES Platypus and mascots from Horsewyse Magazine and Pegasus Riding for the Disabled and for the adults there's food, wine, jams and jellies in the Spotlight on the Region marquee and of course for art lovers, the Pastel Painters Exhibition. Don't forget to pick up some tickets in the Murrumbateman Menshed's raffle of the beautiful rocking horse on display in the Spotlight Marquee or take a ride in the helicopter and get a bird's eye view of the event.

## On the Oval and Village Green

So much happening here – music, dancing, drumming! Balloon games, sand art, plaster painting and how many people can we get to blow bubbles at the same time? Let's find out!

Step back to medieval times with members of the Shire of Torlyon (Yass) from the Society for Creative Anachronism or to merry old England and learn all about traditional Morris Dancing. For a taste of pure Australia, catch the sheepdog displays from the Hawkesbury Working Kelpie Stud.

## Horses, horses and more horses

If you're a lover of all things horsey, this year's products, services, displays and demonstrations at the Field Days will have you in horse heaven. The Sand Arena program will feature two full days of demonstrations from the Capital Cowgirls, Kandoo Equine, Wooback Heavy Horses and Cherry Tree Equine.



Near the Sand Arena, there will be the people from Heavy Horse Heaven, who are located in Yass, just north of Canberra. They are working hard to take in those heavy friends who are in need of some TLC or just a comfy place to live out their days.

If the 'heavies' are a bit much, stop by Cranage Miniature Horses site and check out the littlies of the horseworld – good things do come in small packages! Don't forget to also stop by the ACT Pegasus Riding for the Disabled site.

If you're in the market for horse-related products check out the Campbell Float site for the latest in horse travel and travel accessories and for young horse lovers, have a chat to the people at Horseywise Magazine.

Of course for the fashion conscious looking for the latest in country wear, there'll be a range of special country-style moleskins, boots, hats and other items on sale.



## Pastel Painters to showcase nearly 100 art works

If Picasso's comment that '...the purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls...' is true, then you will be transformed by the art on view in this year's Field Days' exhibition by the Murrumbateman Pastel Painters. Under the guidance of renowned Australian pastel artist Amanda McLean, the group has developed and created what is shaping up to be perhaps the most stunning body of works they have produced to date.



There'll be close to 100 stunning works of pastel art, produced by local artists and put together by a team of the artists themselves. Works will include larger than life florals, African inspired wildlife, Canberra monuments and of course the local landscapes, seascapes and farmscapes that we all love so much.

When visitors are viewing the exhibition, they should make sure to enter the People's Choice Award by choosing which piece of art is, in their opinion, the best artwork of the exhibition. The winner will receive a special prize from the organisers.

All works will be for sale, so for those collectors that like to have original art hanging in their homes, this will be a 'not to be missed' event at this year's Murrumbateman Field Days.

## A Spotlight on the Region

This year, the Spotlight on the Region marquee will be host to more than 20 local businesses showcasing their services and wares. There's the best in food and wine from the region and Spotlight Manager and local chocolatier Robyn Rowe will of course be showcasing her chocolates.

Shaw Vineyard Estate, Lakeview Estate Wines and Dog Trap Wines will have a comprehensive collection of wines, the Jolly Miller will have his unique cider in five litre kegs and an amazing variety of jams and chutneys from Beth's Garden Delights. La Barre will have examples of their award winning extra virgin olive oil, vinegars and infused olive oils and there'll be arts and crafts from beeswax candles to pottery.

These are only some of the fabulous local produce and items that will be in the Spotlight on the Region marquee this year. But make sure you also stop by the Murrumbateman Mensed site and buy some raffle tickets in the stunning, traditional hand-crafted rocking horse.



## Volunteers still needed

It's not too late to become a Murrumbateman Field Days' volunteer for 2015. Particularly for this week we need people to assist with the recreation grounds clean up and Field Days set up.

Volunteers should register with Lynne Moore 0447877772 or [lynnmuz@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lynnmuz@ozemail.com.au) with an indication of availability.





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## 2015 Murrumbateman Field Days' Managers

Click on the [blue hyperlink](#) below for more information on managers.

1. [Margaret Head](#), MPA President
2. [Robert Wait](#), Manager
3. [Bill Chapman](#), Grounds Manager
4. [Cathy Woodhams](#), Office Manager and Booking Officer
5. Elinor Bosustow, Finance Manager
6. Anna Manzoney, Public Relations Manager
7. [Sandy McClintock](#), IT Manager
8. [Evelyn Everson](#), Catering Manager
9. [Cheryl Sahariv](#), Entertainment Manager
10. Steve Sahariv, Communications Manager
11. Lynn Moore, Volunteers Manager
12. [Tom White](#), Equestrian Manager
13. Mark Reardon, Ticket Sales Manager
14. Ray Hehir, Parking Manager
15. Robyn Rowe, Spotlight on the Region Manager
16. Larissa Witschi, Spotlight on the Region Assistant Manager



### MPA President: Margaret Head



Margaret became President of MPA in March 2015 following two years as Vice President which gave her many opportunities to learn the ropes.

A relatively new comer to Murrumbateman, she has fitted in easily and is very active in the community. On occasion you will see Margaret, a member of the Murrumbateman FRS, help out with catering.

Margaret has worked on numerous Boards and brings this experience to bear on the issues of the day. She recently brought together 12 community associations across the Shire with the view that this peak body will work closely with Council to get things done in a consolidated and structured way. Working together we will achieve more than each association working alone.

Margaret has drive and enthusiasm when it comes to Murrumbateman, and she is working tirelessly to get the infrastructure we need.

### Field Days' Manager: Robert Wait



Meet Robert Wait – he's the man in charge for this year's Field Days! A former commonwealth public servant, he was Deputy Commissioner General for Expo 88 and State Director, Department of Immigration in Tasmania.

Taking over the reins as Manager of the Field Days this year, Robert has long been involved in community work with P&C, Girl Guides, Pony Club, a volunteer with the community postal agency and Past President of the Murrumbateman Progress Association. Say hi if you see him wandering around at the Fields Days and make sure you book your tickets at [www.mfdays.com](http://www.mfdays.com)

### Field Days' Office Manager & Bookings Officer: Cathy Woodhams



While you might not see Cathy Woodhams around the Field Days on a day to day basis as she's nearly always in the office, make sure you're nice to her as she decides where everyone is going to go – she's the Field Days' Office Manager and Bookings Officer.

Cathy has been with the Field Days since 2009, moving to Murrumbateman in 1998 and was an Instructor with both Hall and Murrumbateman Pony Clubs and Event Secretary for the Murrumbateman Pony Club. She worked at the John Curtin School of Medical Research (ANU) for 30 odd years in

Immunology doing experiments and managing laboratories and also was a dental nurse in a previous life.

In what little spare time she has, she belongs to Murrumbateman Progress Association, the Recreation Grounds Committee, is part of Meryl Hunter's Book club and plays scrabble with anyone who will join her. Cathy says she highly recommends being part of the Field Days team and encourages everyone to come and volunteer.

### Field Days' Grounds Manager: Bill Chapman



From Northern Canada, meet Bill Chapman, Murrumbateman Field Days new Grounds Manager.

After backpacking around Australia, New Zealand and Asia, Bill became a commercial diver ending up in Tasmania as the Operations Manager for a salmon farm company.

Meeting and marrying native Canberran, Sarah and now settling down here, Bill has become a new father to baby George and is also studying education at the University of Canberra. He says if all goes well, he aims to be teaching at Murrumbateman Primary School when George is ready to attend his first day of Kindergarten.

Bill says he looks forward to a great Field Days this year, working with and making new friends. So, if you happen to see him doing the rounds, make sure you say Hi!

### Field Days' IT Manager: Sandy McClintock

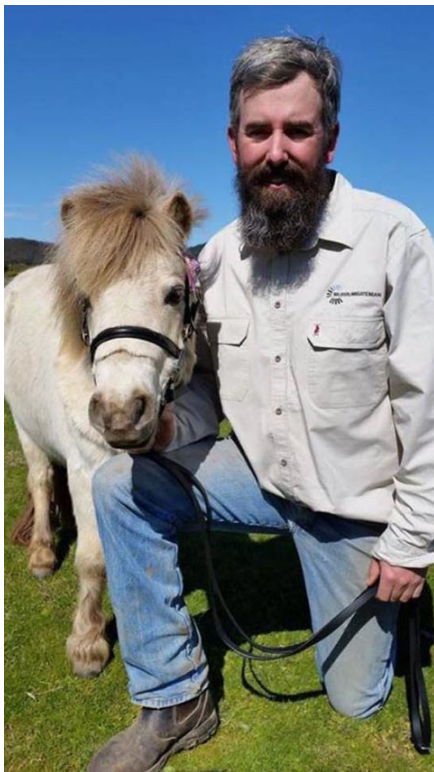


Sandy McClintock, the Field Days' resident IT guru, is usually to be found hunched over a keyboard or hidden away sorting out computer issues – he's been looking after the IT and database needs for the Field Days since 2011.

His background in computing started in the 1960s and he has been developing database applications in MS Access for more than 20 years. He has operated a consulting company that involved computers, statistics and genetics for more than 20 years and has worked at University of Sydney and the University of New England Armidale in both research and teaching capacities.

Sandy has worked in many countries around the world but is now retired in Murrumbateman and while you may not often see him at the event, if all the IT goes smoothly, it's kudos to Sandy!

### Field Days' Equestrian Manager: Tom White



The Murrumbateman Field Days' Equestrian Manager Tom White isn't backward in dealing with small details. Tom is responsible for the event's equestrian program and from his own little seven year old Polly at home, this year he'll also be playing with the big boys, the Yass Wooback Clydesdales.

Tom works for Prime7 television in the Ingest Department which is responsible for all the television commercials, news updates and news bulletins going to air – he says that basically, he gets paid to watch TV.

As a local resident since 2011 Tom started volunteering for the Field Days almost immediately and was hooked. He says it's an amazing sense of achievement walking around during the event and seeing everyone happy and all working well and it's also a great way to meet the locals. So if you love horses, this year the Sand Arena at the Field Days will be the place to be. Come visit!



### Field Days' Catering Manager: Evelyn Everson



Meet Evelyn Everson, Murrumbateman Field Days' Catering Manager.

Evelyn was born and brought up in a small town in southern Germany, working in five star hotels in Switzerland and London. It was here that she met and married Richard – a chef from Canberra working on the QEII cruise liner. She joined him on the QEII and after two world cruises and not a lot of sleep later decided to head back to dry land.

Evelyn and her husband eventually returned to Australia and built Schonegg, a boutique B&B and restaurant in Murrumbateman. She says living in a small rural community is about "Be part of it and help other people".

Since 2001, Evelyn has been involved with the Field Days. In 2013 she became the Catering Manager and sees her role as helping the community catering groups achieve the best outcome possible and also to be a liaison with Yass Valley Council's Health and Safety Inspector.

Evelyn says she is in absolute awe of all the work the community catering groups' volunteers put in to achieve the best for their respective community groups. To see this kind of involvement she says, makes Murrumbateman a very special place – and makes her very proud to be part of the Field Days' team.

### Field Days' Entertainment Manager: Cheryl Sahariv



If you love music, dancing and entertainment, say hi to Cheryl Sahariv, Murrumbateman Field Days' Entertainment Manager.

Cheryl and her family have been in Murrumbateman since 2003 and she's been volunteering with the Field Days since 2007. But now the whole Sahariv family is involved with husband Steve as the Communication Manager, son Curtis announcing and daughter Shianne running the Village Green Stage.

Away from the Field Days, Cheryl has always been heavily involved with the local Murrumbateman community from the Yass Amateur Swim Club to the local Dazzle Dance Academy. She works full time as a Facilities Manager for ESS and any spare time is spent in her veggie patch.





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## About this E-Newsletter

These E-Newsletters are put together by Clair Dupont who is the Murrumbateman Progress Association (MPA) Secretary.

She decided to put these newsletters together to better inform the Murrumbateman Community. Older E-Newsletters can be found [HERE](#).

If you have any information that you would like to include in an E-Newsletter or would like to receive the E-Newsletter via email including other information please email her at [information.mpa@gmail.com](mailto:information.mpa@gmail.com) or subscribe to the MPA mailing list [HERE](#). Any comments also welcome.

Thank you to all the people who have contributed information for this E-Newsletter. It is much appreciated. Please note some of the information may/will be used in the next issue of the [Murrumbateman Services Directory](#) (MSD).

Please note all E-newsletters are being sent through the MailChimp MPA Mailing List. If you are on the list but have not received this E-Newsletter or any other emails please check your junk mail.

## Next E-Newsletter

The next E-Newsletter will be released on **Monday 19th October 2015**. This will be the Murrumbateman October E-Newsletter. If you would like to receive future editions of the Murrumbateman E-Newsletter, please click [HERE](#), and subscribe to the MPA mailing list.

## Field Days Program

For a preview of this year's program, you can buy the current copy of The Land which has a special Field Days' insert or on Wednesday, the Yass Tribune will have a special Field Days' wrap with the program and a full list of exhibitors.

## More information

We encourage everyone to pre-buy their tickets online – it saves money and there's no coping with long lines at the ticket boxes on the day! Also for more information, check out the Frequently Asked Questions in the Visitors section of the website [www.mfdays.com](http://www.mfdays.com).

*We look forward to seeing you at the  
2015 Murrumbateman Field Days!*