

# Exeter Village Association Inc.

## Annual Report January 2022 - June 2023



### Management Committee

Dawn Jonas	Chair
Stephen Blackman	Deputy Chair
Peter Noble	Treasurer
Mark Singer	Secretary
Angela Williamson	Committee Member
Dr Richard Hart	Committee Member

# A Message from the Chair

*'The only thing constant in life is change'*  
Heraclitus.

Change has certainly been the hallmark for EVA these last eighteen months - a change of Constitution and financial year; a changing of the guard on the EVA committee with no fewer than three different Chairs; continued management and staff changes at Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) and disruptive changes to the weather patterns with exceptional wet weather causing cancellations of the Exeter Village Market.

Despite these challenges, EVA has regrouped and continued to pursue its aims of advocating for the village, listening and responding to issues raised by members and residents, organising commemorative and social events to bring community together and running the Exeter Village Market as a not-for-profit venture.

This Annual Report provides more detail of the activities undertaken by the Committee in the last eighteen months.

Following the resignations of Jonathan Baxter, Jill Keyte, Linda O'Connor and Penny Pilt, who had all made very significant contributions to EVA, only four of the possible seven committee positions remained filled. This created extra responsibility for those remaining. Angela Williamson took on the role of Acting Secretary as well as Communications and Stephen Blackman became Deputy Chair with responsibility for overseeing the Market. With Stephen as support, I agreed to take on the multi-faceted role of Chair.

Angela staged a major coup, persuading Peter Noble, her neighbour and current Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee, to join the Committee as Treasurer. Dr Richard Hart was co-opted during the EVA Long Lunch and later Mark Singer joined the Committee. Mark was already sharing his architectural skills in the Pathways and Ageing in Place Working Groups, where he had revealed his skills at Minute taking. Mark later agreed to take on the role of EVA Secretary. So, we ended the year with 6 of the 7 committee positions filled.

I would like to thank the current committee members for their energetic commitment to EVA and for being a wonderful team of people to work with.

To extend the resources of the Committee and to embrace the expertise of our members, a number of sub-committees and working groups were formed during the period. We thank all the members for their significant contribution of expertise and time in particular the many hours spent facilitating the Market.

EVA has also been fortunate that its previous secretary Linda O'Connor has remained as our Public Officer, has assisted in compiling this report, and has managed the complex and demanding Village Signs project.

Previous Chair Jill Keyte continues to organise the very popular 'Meet a Local' events and to design the wonderful advertising posters. The Committee has reached out to our experienced event organisers, Leanne Haddadi and Penny Pilt, who we hope, will assist EVA with the organisation of the Community Christmas party which is run in combination with the CWA and the School. The party was a huge success under Penny's leadership in 2022.

Lastly, thanks to you, our members for participating in events, sharing your views and making EVA a relevant and listened to group in the network of Southern Highlands villages.

Dawn Jonas  
**Chair**



# Treasurer's Report

## Accounting Period

With member approved changes to the Model Constitution and registration of EVA's own tailored Constitution in 2022, the end of financial year dates changed from 31 December to 30 June. The following financial reports cover a one-off extended period of 18 months (1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023) to effect this change.

## Admin & General

Administration & general expenses are funded by member contributions. Granting members a six-month subscription extension during the financial year transition contributed to a one off \$1,079.42 deficit. Membership fees for 2023-24 were increased by \$5.00 to reflect increased administrative costs.

With the purchase of the Exeter Village Market, all association financial reporting is now done through Xero with automatic bank statement reconciliation.

## Events

A net surplus of \$7,199.60 was achieved from nine events over the period. This represents a significant turnaround on previous years, where EVA heavily subsidised events. It attests to the Committee's implementation of sound budgeting of all activities whilst providing a good mix of events to suit all budgets including free community events such as the annual Christmas Picnic in the Park.

## Exeter Village Market

Running of the Market has proved financially challenging for EVA. The abnormally wet weather in 2022 resulted in only four market days from a possible eleven, while overheads such as insurance and market management had to be met.

An improvement in weather in 2023 has seen all scheduled markets proceed.



Stallholder fees were increased by 10% in May 2023, but unexpected and therefore unbudgeted increased traffic management costs have resulted in the implementation of gold coin collections for parking in July 2023 to help cover costs.

Net losses from the Market totalled \$5,861.96 for the period. EVA provided a \$10,000 float for contingencies.

## Trees

EVA has received a donation from a local benefactor of 100 trees for Exeter, as well as \$5,000 from other residents to cover expenses related to planting.

## Village Signs

A total of \$56,238 was approved in October 2022 through the Stronger Country Communities Fund to deliver five village entry signs over a two-year period. An additional \$12,000 of EVA funds were approved by members to complete this project.

To date EVA has received the first funding instalment of \$22,495.20 and spent \$13,973.30 on underground service relocation for two sites, manufacture of the Corten sign and construction of the basalt plinth for the Exeter Road sign.

# Financial Statements

## Profit and Loss

Exeter Village Association

For the 18 months ended 30 June 2023

	ADMIN & GENERAL	EVENTS	MARKETS	TREES	VILLAGE SIGNS	TOTAL
<b>Trading Income</b>						
Donations	263.00	-	-	5,000.00	-	5,263.00
Events	-	20,542.74	-	-	-	20,542.74
Grants	-	1,000.00	-	-	22,495.20	23,495.20
Interest Income	125.07	-	-	-	-	125.07
Market Sales	-	-	31,767.00	-	-	31,767.00
Membership	2,512.67	-	-	-	-	2,512.67
Other Revenue	0.93	-	100.00	-	-	100.93
Prior Year Adjustment	1,759.00	-	-	-	-	1,759.00
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>4,660.67</b>	<b>21,542.74</b>	<b>31,867.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>22,495.20</b>	<b>85,565.61</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>4,660.67</b>	<b>21,542.74</b>	<b>31,867.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>22,495.20</b>	<b>85,565.61</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>						
Advertising	-	179.50	131.00	-	-	310.50
Bank Fees	10.03	-	1,760.00	-	-	1,770.03
Entertainment	-	745.00	100.00	-	-	845.00
General Expenses	1,728.71	3,322.20	309.06	-	-	5,359.97
Insurance	1,450.00	-	2,819.00	-	-	4,269.00
Legal expenses	-	-	836.00	-	-	836.00
Market Management & Admin	-	-	18,957.50	-	-	18,957.50
Office Expenses	47.00	-	-	-	-	47.00
Printing & Stationery	480.00	70.00	-	449.00	-	999.00
Signage	-	-	-	-	13,973.30	13,973.30
Subscriptions	-	-	378.00	-	-	378.00
Telephone, Internet, Web Services	1,472.15	-	1,296.40	-	-	2,768.55
Traffic Management Costs	-	1,075.00	8,787.00	-	-	9,862.00
Venue & Catering	552.20	8,951.44	2,355.00	-	-	11,858.64
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>5,740.09</b>	<b>14,343.14</b>	<b>37,728.96</b>	<b>449.00</b>	<b>13,973.30</b>	<b>72,234.49</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(1,079.42)</b>	<b>7,199.60</b>	<b>(5,861.96)</b>	<b>4,551.00</b>	<b>8,521.90</b>	<b>13,331.12</b>

# Balance Sheet

## Exeter Village Association

As at 30 June 2023

30 JUN 2023

### Assets

#### Bank

Card a/c	517.68
Markets a/c	7,347.14
Operating a/c	2,348.32
Savings a/c	27,397.19
Term Deposit 842	30,467.94
Term Deposit 859	10,000.00
Trees a/c	4,551.00
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>82,629.27</b>

#### Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	647.90
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>647.90</b>

**Total Assets** 83,277.17

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

Market Fees Billed in Advance	3,818.00
Membership Subs Received in Advance	3,069.61
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>6,887.61</b>

**Total Liabilities** 6,887.61

**Net Assets** 76,389.56

### Equity

Current Year Earnings	12,923.07
Retained Earnings	63,466.49
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>76,389.56</b>

## Exeter Village Market

The Exeter Village Market is a long standing and important contributor to Exeter's commercial and social fabric. In late 2021, due to spiralling costs, it looked likely that the Market would no longer continue.

With member approval, the EVA committee transacted the acquisition of the Market on 7 February 2022 to retain this valued asset.

Considerable work was undertaken to transfer assets, business names, web and email domains, insurances, and to set up management personnel and accounting systems in a timely manner to ensure the monthly market could continue seamlessly. Parking volunteers were recruited and stall holders assured of continued business.

Alas, mother nature dealt a cruel blow during 2022 with a third consecutive La Nina event delivering exceptional rainfall. This eventuated in the closure of Exeter Park, the grounds on which the Market is held.



In October 2022, the EVA Committee took the decision to suspend the Market until February 2023, on the prediction the wet weather would abate in the new year. The 2022 calendar markets incurred a loss and indeed so did the January and February markets of 2023 but under sound stewardship the last four markets have been better than break-even.

With firmer grounds, Council removed the barrier to onsite parking, and the markets were able to recommence. The availability of onsite parking makes the Exeter Village Market unique. Without onsite parking, visitor numbers drop dramatically due to limited village street parking.

All scheduled markets have proceeded in 2023 with an average of just under 50 stalls ranging from 43 to 58.

Making the Market financially viable is difficult, primarily due to costs for Council-required traffic management. The EVA Market sub-committee headed up by Stephen Blackman is implementing a number of initiatives including gold coin donations for parking to contribute to these costs.

A small increase in stall-holder fees has also been implemented.

The Market is administered and run by Market Manager Kate Cretney, who works tirelessly to make the Market a success for residents, visitors, and stallholders alike. It is, though, very dependent on volunteers to assist with various jobs such as parking marshals and market signage. The following residents are thanked for their contribution (in alphabetical order):

Stephen Blackman, Lloyd Bruce, Ray Carless, Ross and Kerry Coulthart, Bruce Denison, Dawn Jonas, Jill Keyte, Margot Murphy, Peter Noble, Phil Redmond, Linda and Toby O'Connor, Monica Tucker, Rhondda Vanzella, and David Williamson.



# Committee Activity

## Constitution

The 2022 AGM was significant as it ushered in a new, tailored Constitution for EVA. Previously operating under the NSW Model Constitution for Incorporated Associations, aspects of how the EVA was managed did not align with the model constitution e.g. online membership process. Many months of committee work and member consultation resulted in members voting to accept the final draft of the new Constitution which was subsequently registered by Fair Trading on 31 May 2022.

## Committee Changes

The period has been one of significant change for the EVA Committee. Jonathan Baxter in his dual roles of Chair and Treasurer stepped down on 30 June 2022. Jill Keyte, then Deputy Chair, assumed the Chair's role for an interim term until early 2023 when she too stepped down.

Secretary Linda O'Connor resigned on 3 October 2022, but retained her official role as Public Officer.

Brian Thornton accepted the role of Treasurer but due to work pressures was not able to take up the role and tendered his resignation on 11 September.

Penelope Pilt, long term committee member and communications officer stepped down in February 2023.

Dawn Jonas took on the role of Chair and Angela Williamson filled the role of Acting Secretary. Welcomed to the Committee were Stephen Blackman in the role of Deputy Chair, Peter Noble in the role of Treasurer, and Dr. Richard Hart. The role of Secretary has now been filled by Mark Singer.

## Sub-committees

Several sub-committees and working groups were formed during the period to support the progress of significant pieces of work. These are:

- Village Entry Sign Project sub-committee
- Market Organisation sub-committee
- The Character Statement sub-committee has remained to now focus on related Heritage and planning issues.
- Pathways Project working group
- Road Safety working group, and the
- Ageing-in-place working group.



## Local Government Liaison

The EVA Committee has aimed to establish good and effective working relationships with the new WSC General Manager Lisa Miscamble (appointed February 2022), her Executive Directors and with the Administrator, Viv May.

The Council under Administration was in a state of flux and this initially made communication slower and more difficult. It has however stabilised recently and the lines of communication are becoming clearer.

Formal community meetings in Exeter in the period included:

17 March 2022 - Executive Listening Tour – New GM Lisa Miscamble and key Directors

3 August 2022 - Exeter Planning and Development with WSC's Michael Park, Coordinator for Land Use Planning and Corrine Buxton, Place Liaison Officer.

The Character Statement sub-committee met Michael Park again to discuss how Council can better protect village character by ensuring development complies with Exeter's Development Control Plans.

EVA committee members also attended Council consultations on Strategic Planning, Low and Medium density planning, and on the 2023/24 Operational Plan.

## Advocacy

### Heritage

In conjunction with the development of the Exeter Village Character Statement, EVA stepped up its advocacy for heritage protection for our village's many historic buildings, places and significant trees. WSC recently initiated for consultation a draft Shire wide Heritage Study and it is understood that more protections for Exeter are included in its recommendations. A final report will be prepared by external consultants. If approved by Council it will go on public exhibition for comment.

### Over-development of the Shire

As a member of the Southern Villages Group EVA joined with other Wingecarribee groups to challenge the Shire population increase recommended in the first version of the NSW South East and Tablelands Regional Plan. Dawn Jonas was part of a three-person delegation to the then Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts. The group stressed that the Shire's infrastructure could not support such a large increase in population and that it was important to preserve the unique historic rural villages, towns and landscapes of the Shire for the benefit of residents, visitors, urban dwellers, and for future generations. The Minister agreed that the increase was too ambitious and it was later reduced. EVA is aware that the pressure for more housing in the Shire will not disappear so it will be important to advocate that any development is sympathetic to its setting, is people friendly, connected and sustainable and preceded by the provision of the necessary infrastructure.

### Mobile coverage

EVA has continued to advocate relentlessly for better mobile coverage from Optus and Telstra. Optus is now providing its mobile

services from the NBN tower in Ringwood Road and Telstra have recently attached their mobile equipment to the tower, so it is hoped the immediate village will enjoy better coverage. Vodaphone are also providing services from that tower. Coverage is still patchy in parts of Exeter and advocacy will continue.

### Exeter Park and Village Seating

EVA has been informed that its request for two extra bench seats between the trees near the Hall Car Park have been slated for funding in the WSC '23/24 budget. These benches will provide shaded seating for market-goers and those attending other outdoor events at Exeter Park.

In addition, residents have requested that seats be provided at a number of locations around the village so that frail or elderly walkers who wish to rest from time to time are able to do so. This will be followed up as part of the overall Council led village place planning.

### Second Exeter Park Entrance

EVA has actively supported the Exeter Village Hall Management Committee's submission for a second entrance into Exeter Park. This would ease traffic congestion on Exeter Road and at the entrance to the park, particularly on Market and major sporting days.

### Exeter Station Car Park

With assistance from Wendy Tuckerman MP, State Member for Goulburn, EVA is advocating for improvements to the surface of the car park which is currently badly potholed and has broken and bent fencing.

### Tree Protection

EVA continues to support members in their efforts to protect significant trees in the village. Council's process for assessing and determining whether a tree should be removed has been brought into question and this is an issue which EVA will follow up.

## **Ageing in Place**

An issue facing many Exeter residents is the prospect of having to move out of the area as growing older makes maintaining large houses and properties untenable. Exeter has neither the type of infrastructure nor services to support what is now known as 'ageing in place'. This dilemma led a group of residents to approach EVA for help in facilitating discussion on potential solutions.

The 'ageing in place' concept avoids the dislocation and isolation that can occur when one is forced to leave the social networks and 'place' that has been home. It offers independent housing for rent or purchase with shared support programs and services.

Several meetings have explored the feasibility of a small architect-designed, community-driven housing development in the Village within walking distance of the commercial hub. Drawing on the expertise of Council representatives, Robertson resident and community housing developer Neville Fredericks, respected local Vine Lodge developer Madeline Malcolm, and Exeter resident Mark Reader who has community housing experience from the UK and NSW, discussions covered scope, cost and town planning issues. On the premise the development is wholly resident driven, key issues identified include community management options, funding options, and the need to ensure adherence to the Exeter Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan. Discussions are ongoing.

## **Road Safety**

The issue of road safety and traffic control, particularly in the hub of the village, has been pursued by EVA for years on behalf of concerned residents. With momentum growing around pedestrian walking paths, in 2022 a Road Safety Working Group was formed.

Improving safety at the four-way intersection of Badgerys Way and Middle, Bundanoon and Exeter Roads is not easy because of its geometry, the increasing numbers of vehicles often travelling at greater speeds, and the

increasing numbers of pedestrians who may not always use defined crossing routes.

Further, the State Government is responsible for Exeter and Bundanoon Roads and WSC is responsible for the remainder making obtaining agreement on any change a challenge.

The working group, drawing on the expertise of its members and in consultation with a traffic engineer, has consulted with local traders, met with senior traffic engineers from WSC and devised a number of potential solutions including reduced speeds through the village, and pedestrian crossings at key pedestrian access points.

Work continues to keep this topic on Council's agenda with assurances that any proposal will go on public exhibition.

## **Village Networking**

EVA has continued its representation of Exeter and Sutton Forest on the Southern Villages Group in which Wingello, Penrose, Bundanoon, Canyonleigh and Tallong are also represented.

The group enables the Southern Villages to have a voice in the Shire where the larger towns tend to dominate. It also provides an opportunity for the villages to share information and confer on common issues of concern. Council's Place Liaison Officer often attends to listen to any concerns and to act as a conduit to Council and to provide information on Council issues and programmes.

This year the group has campaigned for the retention of the 355 Hall Committees which were recommended to be disbanded. We confirm that they will be retained and a Council based e-booking system is being steadily introduced across the shire.

Dawn Jonas has convened the group for several years and EVA members Angela Williamson, Mark Singer and Stephen Blackman have represented EVA.

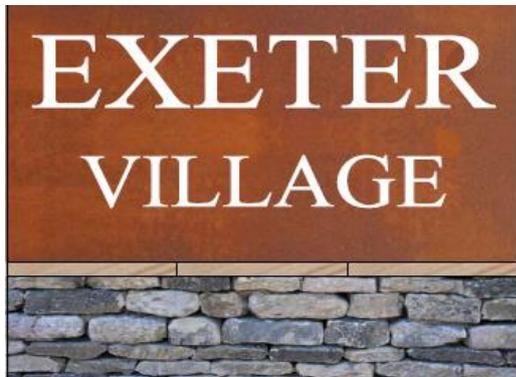
## Submissions

An important part of the work of the EVA Committee is reflecting the concerns of our members in formal submissions. During this reporting period the following submissions were lodged:

- 28 Feb 2022 - S355 Committee (Hall Management) Submission to WSC – to support the retention of management committees for village halls. (Successful outcome)
- July 2022 -NSW Department of Planning proposed changes to Employment Zones
- November 2022 - NSW South-East & Tablelands Draft Regional Plan Regional Plan 2041. EVA responded querying the size of the population increase proposed for Wingecarribee given the lack of infrastructure, and the desire of local residents to preserve the character and green spaces of the Highlands and to prevent urban sprawl. EVA, as a member of the Southern Villages Group, was also represented at a meeting between the then Planning Minister, Anthony Roberts MP. and representatives of other Wingecarribee community groups with similar concerns.
- NSW Draft South-East & Tableland Regional Transport Plan 2041 – refer Appendix for summary of the submission.

## Projects

### Village Signs Project (in progress)



In October 2022, a funding grant of \$56,238 was approved through the Stronger Country Communities Fund for the construction of five village entry signs (see above). This was in addition to the \$12,000 of EVA funds approved by members at the November 2021 general meeting.

This project has proved to be a complex one, with the roadside works approval process transitioning to the NSW Planning Portal and frequent staffing changes in Council causing delays to required approvals. Additional risk mitigation was required due to significant underground services at both the Exeter Road and Bundanoon Road sign sites. This required professional utility location reports to ensure no accidental damage occurred during construction.

Progress has been made with the Exeter Road entry sign completed and the Bundanoon Road sign soon to commence.

The remaining three sites on Werai, Ringwood and Middle roads have been deemed unsuitable for the initial basalt stone plinth design due to steep culverts and a revised design has been commissioned.

### 100 Trees Project (in progress)

EVA is supporting this village beautification project which is co-ordinated by a local resident group convened by Tim Littlemore. Exeter Designer Plants have donated 100 trees and consultation is underway with village residents as to species and planting

locations. An additional \$5000 towards associated planting costs has also been made by other residents.

### Pedestrian Access - Exeter Pathways Project

The Village community has long held concerns that car dependence and lack of walking access affects resident health & wellbeing (particularly older residents and school children). Limited opportunities for walking have a direct impact on social and community connections. Access for most village residents from home to key Exeter places – the school, railway station, Village Hall and oval, church and commercial hub is quite difficult without driving or being driven.

To this end EVA has spent years negotiating with Council to improve the accessibility and safety of the village centre.

In 2021 the Southern Highland Greens commenced a Pathways Project and in mid-2022 sought the support of EVA. With aligned objectives, an EVA Exeter Pathways Working Group was formed to progress the issue.

To date the EVA Pathways Group has met with Council officers on site with plans that identify desirable and safe path locations along Exeter, Middle, Bundanoon, Ringwood and Werai Roads, to connect Exeter residents and places.

Related pedestrian access issues addressed by the Pathways Working Group in 2022-23 include:

- negotiating traffic-calming improvements with Council at the road intersection and approaches outside the General Store to improve pedestrian safety
- negotiating a new rail crossing with Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to allow safer walking and cycling. This includes ensuring the design of the fencing around the crossing is sympathetic to the age and heritage of the Station
- negotiating pedestrian crossings at the Exeter intersection and, for school

access, across Ringwood Rd to School Lane

- Arguing the case for decomposed compacted granite surface for Exeter path construction.

EVA is hopeful that Council will consider these path plans, and commit funds for the 2023-24 budget for staged works. Community consultation is a significant element of any Council implementation to discuss and negotiate concepts and local impacts that will provide ongoing safety, health and community benefits for Exeter residents.

### **Daffodil Project**

A further 700 daffodil bulbs were planted in 2022 and 120 more in 2023 around the trees in Ringwood Road and Exeter Park. This brings the overall planting to 1,820 in this village beautification project. In addition, two wooden planter boxes and tulip bulbs were supplied by Council and planted by Fran Simons and Stephen Blackman. Inadvertent mowing may impact the floral display for Spring 2024 as bulbs produce the best blooms when foliage is allowed to die down naturally.



### **Exeter Village Character Statement**

The Exeter Village Character Statement was completed in August 2022 and distributed to EVA members for comment. It was also distributed to WSC General Manager, WSC Administrator, Manager of Strategic Outcomes, Director of Communities and

Place and to Wendy Tuckerman MP and the Southern Highlands branch of the NSW National Trust, and the Berrima Residents' Association. The EVCS has been positively received by both residents and the Council and has increased awareness of the wealth of heritage and historic places in the village.

### **Exeter Elms Replacement (completed)**

This long-term project in association with Exeter Designer Plants, has replaced the five Exeter Elms (*ulmus exoniensis*), originally discovered near Exeter, England birthplace of James Badgery founder of Exeter Village NSW. They were planted to honour the five men from our village killed in action during World Wars I and II.

Unfortunately, the original trees did not survive, but replacements propagated from original root stock and raised to mature saplings now take pride of place once again in the War Memorial precinct at Exeter Park. Thanks to Council's Tree Officer, Charlene Ferguson, and her team for planting and staking the elms and to resident, Melanie McGrane for undertaking to water them as necessary.



## Commemorative Events

EVA continued its tradition of hosting the ANZAC and Remembrance Day services in Exeter.

### ANZAC Day



Both the 2022 and 2023 ANZAC commemorations were well attended with over 200 people paying their respects at each ceremony.

The 2022 service was slightly pared back, with the wet weather and soft ground impeding the full turnout of Light Horse Troopers. Sgt Silas Sonter and his horse Pumba singularly mounted guard. Exeter / Werai resident, serviceman and author, the late Frank Tennant was the guest speaker. Frank shared extracts from John Masefield's book on Gallipoli - suitably sombre and beautifully written prose.



The 2023 service recognised the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's participation in the Vietnam War. The guest

speaker, Rick McCarthy OAM, a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, gave a moving address, sharing his memories of training in Queensland and the reactions of the Australian public on his return home. He shared his new project '*Honour Our Fallen*' which aims to place an Australian flag on the grave of every Australian serviceman.

In keeping with the Vietnam War theme, Angela Williamson sang *Broken Blossoms* composed in 1967 during that long conflict.

The Moss Vale Light Horse Troop was back in full force with Sergeant Graham Brown bringing his beautifully restored World War I General Service wagon behind a pair of horses.

### Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day 2022 commemorations drew a small attendance as, for most, it is a working day.

Local resident Ross Coulthart, author of several books on the experiences of World War I and II servicemen and women, reflected on the service of nurses he had interviewed in his working life as an investigative journalist, as well as addressing the on-going suffering of those who return with PTSD.

Exeter Public School Captains spoke of women's varied service in wartime.

Wreaths were laid by EVA, Exeter CWA, Exeter Red Cross, Exeter Public School, Exeter RFS, and WSC representatives.

Rev. Robert Meischke conducted his last commemorative service before leaving the Parish.



At all commemorative services, The Last Past and Reville are beautifully rendered by Werai bugler, Robert George.

## Social Events

### Meet a Local

A very popular addition to EVA's social events, the 'Meet a Local' series, organised by Jill Keyte, showcased our village's amazing array of talented residents.

In 2022, intimate settings and restricted numbers gave members and guests the opportunity to get up close and personal with personalities including acclaimed actor John Gaden, AO, reporter and best-selling author Ross Coulthart, and skilled local winemakers Mike and Katrina Archer of Dawning Day Wines.



John Gaden, AO and Jill Keyte



Ross Coulthart



In the first half of 2023, the 'Meet a Local' series extended its reach to local subject matter experts, giving members access to the gardening, grafting and propagating knowledge of John and Anne McKenzie of Exeter Designer Plants with a workshop and tour of their impressive gardens.



In April it was Marlie Horse Stud owner, Aleks Berzins and his family, showcasing the time-honoured use of draught horses in agriculture and farming practice. This proved very popular and was a 'sell-out' event.



### Heritage Walk

Also in April, local resident and historian, Linda Emery led a fascinating excursion to Sutton Forest, reliving the history of the settlement from the graveyard of All Saints Anglican Church. Linda related stories of some of the early settlers buried there - from convicts and soldiers, farmers, and publicans, to spirited pioneer women and their children. These stories are captured in Linda's book, *'Tales from a Churchyard'*.



The funds raised from Linda's walk were kindly donated by Linda to EVA for the purchase of daffodils for the village.

### Open Garden

Spring 2022 heralded an exciting event for members and the general public with an Open Day at the beautiful Thenford Lodge, the home of local resident, the Hon. John Sharp, AM. The weather held out to allow visitors to tour the beautiful formal gardens, lake and lake house, sculpture walk and after, to partake of a delicious high tea served in the converted barn. John and partner Rosemary were gracious hosts, making all visitors welcome.



### Members' Lunch

Continuing the Spring theme, an Italian themed 'long lunch' was hosted for 40 members and guests in the picturesque setting of Exeter Oval on the verandah of the Village Hall. With perfect weather, delicious food by Black Hen Catering and floral decorations by local resident Lisa Preston, the event represented all that is wonderful about country living.



## Christmas Picnic in the Park

Santa (aka Tim Littlemore) came to Exeter Park again to the delight of the village children. Held on school break up day, energy was high with entertainment by Antoine (ex Hooley Dooleys), games on the oval, a food van and sausage sizzle hosted by Exeter Public School P&C, art and craft activities and a stall run by the ladies of the Exeter CWA.



A truly whole village event that saw over 200 residents and visitors throw picnic rugs down and enjoy themselves.



## Information

### Welcome Pack

The EVA Welcome Pack updated for 2022/3 has been sent to new members and can now

be requested through the Exeter Village Association website.

### Newsletters

For over 30 years, EVA has been producing member newsletters in an array of formats from quarterly print broadsheets to our now digital e-format. The monthly e-newsletter keeps members informed of happenings in the village, upcoming events and WSC news. It is a conduit for CWA, RFS and the school community to get local information out to a broader audience.

EVA's long time newsletter editor, Penny Pilt handed the reins over to Angela Williamson at the beginning of 2023. Penny will be remembered for the personal insights she brought to the newsletter – vivid vignettes of scenery, weather and life in the village.

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### Appendix

Summary of [EVA submission to the NSW SE & Tableland Regional Transport Plan 2041](#). (Note: these points were integrated in the Draft Plan in the pertinent section.)

1. More frequent efficient bus and passenger train services, accessible stations, and track upgrades to provide a range of economic, social & environmental benefits - reduced car dependence (with lower emissions), greater social mobility, and improved health. Greater use of electric taxis and smaller electric buses to provide more flexibility and fewer emissions.

2. Population growth should be gradual and within the capacity of the transport and road infrastructure. Extensive car dependent 'suburban' settlement patterns should be avoided in order to retain the region's unique landscapes & heritage, food production potential and attractions which sustain the local visitor, agricultural & tourist economy.

3. The final Plan should refer to current 2021 Census figures of private vehicle ownership.

Exeter's vehicle ownership may again be higher, reflecting greater car dependence, the older demographic of Exeter Village, and distance from the service centres of Moss Vale and Bowral.

4. Transport for NSW and Council work together in consultation with local communities to develop and provide walking, accessible & cycle paths in and between villages, enhancing the connectivity & economic viability of Wingecarribee Shire. Pathway types & materials should reflect the rural character of Exeter Village.

5. The Transport Plan to include provision for fenced rail-side trails along the current Main Southern Railway for walking & cycling links, linking Wingecarribee Shire villages & connecting to regional centres of Moss Vale, Bowral, & Mittagong (Ref. FTS P1.2). EVA would support a Moss Vale to Exeter fenced rail-side trail as a start.

6. Wingecarribee Shire Council in consultation with residents, consider adopting the '15-minute neighbourhood' as a key planning policy in the Shire, & consider the FTS allocation of road user space policy to all Shire roads as a design & planning principle.

7. Wingecarribee Shire Council in partnership with other levels of government & the private sector, consult with the Exeter Village Association to design and implement safe and effective off-road pathways and traffic calming measures, while retaining the unique character and heritage of the rural village.

8. Encourage partnerships to provide small-scale investments that will improve neighbourhood liveability and reduce road congestion. This may require support for the Shire to progress the Moss Vale bypass to ease traffic congestion in the town.

9A. Support the Draft Plan for Council to partner with the Department of Education and key stakeholders to improve safe walking, cycling and public transport access to Exeter Public School, by building paths & levelling grass verges for safe child pedestrian & bicycle access from homes to Exeter Public School, & extending the school speed zone on School Lane.

9B. Support the Draft Plan & install speed warning feedback cameras on both ends of the 50kph limit zone on Ringwood-Werai Roads, & add a 60kph speed limit sign on the Werai side of Ringwood Road to improve safety of walkers and vehicles exiting Rockleigh Road.

10. Support the Plan's recommendation to *Improve priority for walking trips in villages such as reallocating road space to wider footpaths.*

11. Request Council to endorse the Draft Plan's recognition of the critical role of public transport in improving the connections between small towns & villages to their nearest centre, improving day return service frequencies between the smaller towns and villages and their nearest strategic centres, and recommending consideration of electric mini-buses to increase flexibility, reduce road damage, and save running costs.

12. Require Councils to monitor and publicise quarterly figures of estimated transport emissions within their Shire boundaries, including vehicle use & fuel consumption in Shire areas, & track the benefits resulting from increased opportunities for walking and cycling and from the use of improved public transport.

13. That Councils adopt the Draft Plan Guiding principles for place-based planning and Road User Space Allocation Policy and Procedures to maximise the benefits of roads, streets and public spaces for safe and healthy community benefit.

14. That the Department approach Wingecarribee Shire to trial low-cost transport solutions which can be used to test permanent changes before, or instead of, modelling. These solutions can be made permanent or reversed once their effectiveness is evaluated.