

# THE COUNTRY NETWORKER

REACHING ACROSS AUSTRALIA

APR/MAY 2023



# Calling all photographers!

## The Country Networker cover photo competition!

Would you like your landscape photograph featured on the cover of the Country Networker?

Send your Australian Landscape photos to [networker@countrynetwork.com.au](mailto:networker@countrynetwork.com.au) and the best photo each month will be chosen as the cover photo for the magazine.

Photos should be in portrait orientation if possible, and not contain identifiable people.

Show off your part of the world to other Country Network members.

Please also include a short introduction about your photo, a little about yourself and where the photo was taken.

So get clicking and we look forward to featuring the winning photograph on the cover of the next issue of the Country Networker.

Entries Close: 15 March 2023

**OOPS!** Ok, so the digital team were a little overworked with the new website and forgot to add photography as an interest. For all you keen photographers out there, you can easily add this to your list of interests on your profile and find other photographers by updating your profile, simply click on the 'Your Account' button and then update profile, select photography under interests and your profile will be updated!

THIS MONTHS COVER IS  
FROM JOHN HOLDEN:

"URBAN FOREST IN  
MALVERN EAST,  
MELBOURNE.

IT'S NOT A LARGE FOREST  
BUT IT'S A BIT OF THE  
BUSH IN A LARGE CITY.

I LOVE IT BECAUSE IT  
ATTRACTS BIRDS AND  
IT'S REFRESHING TO  
WALK THROUGH."

-JOHN HOLDEN.



# president's report

## Hello Networkers,

A big welcome to new members to Country Network. I hope you enjoy reading this April/May Country Networker publication.

Pete and I travelled to Sydney for the Mardi Gras Parade, and there we met up with Lindsay and David while walking down Oxford Street. We settled in on our milk crates and cushion at 2:30pm and spent the afternoon chatting and watching the crowd go by. The parade started at 7:00pm with the Dykes on Bikes on parade with their loud machines really getting the crowd revved up. They were followed by Bears on Bikes similarly revving those engines. After they left the Parade started.

This was my first time seeing it on the street. Last year I sat in comfort in the Showgrounds. After the parade finished, we wandered back to our hotel and crawled into bed with one very tired body and sore feet from standing too long. Next year we will book seats to watch the parade. On the Monday after the parade, we left for Melbourne to catch up with family and friends. Our next stop was downtown Port Fairy where we stayed with family. Pete and I come from the western district Port Fairy for me and Port Campbell for Pete. We caught up with family on both sides and managed a visit to Mount Gambier to see friend Rob of the bionic foot.

Being in Victoria enabled Pete and I to attend two luncheons. The first was in Bendigo and it was great to catch up with members who I had only spoken to on Zoom. This was the first Bendigo lunch organised by Area Coordinator Paul and it was a great success. Members travelled from the northern side of Melbourne to attend which was great to see. Our second lunch was the Geelong area lunch held at the Belmont Hotel. Once again, we met up with members whom we had not seen for a long time, and this was great. We left around 2:30 as we had to travel to Benalla on our way home. March finishes with a trip to Sydney on the train to attend The Rocky Horror Show at the Theatre Royal. Both Pete and I are looking forward to this show.





We are steadily gaining new members through the new website. The Digital Team reported that there is great interest in the website, and this was excellent news. As with all situations we gain some and we lose some. So far three members have resigned from CN for various reasons. If you do decide that CN is not for you, please fill in your reason for leaving as this will help us plan for the future.

### **We need you to step up.**

There are a number of unfilled positions in Country Network and you guys need to contribute to the success of CN into the future. We do need a Membership Chairman. This position entails keeping track of new members and sending details to the Area Coordinator concerned. Simple job that does not entail all that much of your time. The Country Networker needs an editor. We have a template set up and all you need to do is a little bit of spade work to complete the publication. We also have guest editors who can complete a publication if you are not available.

Area Coordinators are needed for a number of areas. This is mainly welcoming new members through a letter and seeing if you can organise a luncheon, morning tea, escape to the country for a weekend or whatever. You may find someone in the area to undertake these tasks. On the next page is a list of Area Coordinators and the vacant areas we have. To those Area Coordinators in the position, thank you for a job well done. We also need a Convenor for the group. Someone to run a zoom session and report back to the Committee with any problems or requests the Area Coordinators are grappling with.

Please get in contact with me at [president@countrynetwork.com](mailto:president@countrynetwork.com) if you are interested in any of the above jobs.

To all members who are on the sick list or in hospital, we wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you back on your feet real soon.

Regards

*Jeffrey P. Sproal*

President



## **VALE David Sergeant**



It is with much sadness that we advise of the passing of David Sergeant, the Founder of Country Network back in 1977. He is survived by his wife Beth, we offer our deepest condolences to his family.





## **Area Coordinators**

WA – South West & Great Southern : **Vacant**  
WA – Rural North: **Vacant**  
WA – Perth Metro: Cliff Moores  
Victoria – Western: Chris Peters  
Victoria – Gippsland: David Adams  
Victoria – North Eastern Paul West  
Victoria – Geelong Area: Kerin Byrne  
Victoria – Metro and Eastern: Neil Warner  
Victoria – Ballarat: **Vacant**  
Victoria – Bendigo: Paul West  
Victoria – Mildura: **Vacant**  
Tasmania – Northern and Southern: Tony Furmage  
South Australia – Rural: Michael Stokes  
South Australia – Adelaide Metro: Michael Stokes  
Queensland – Inland: **Vacant**  
Queensland – North: **Vacant**  
Queensland – Lockyer Valley: **Vacant**  
Queensland – Sunshine Coast: Rodger Thomson  
Queensland – Gold Coast: **Vacant**  
Queensland – Brisbane Metro: **Vacant**  
Australian Capital Territory & Queanbeyan: David Bengner  
NSW – South Coast: **Vacant**  
NSW – Inland North: **Vacant**  
NSW – Inland South: Mark “Spud” Russell  
NSW – Albury/Wodonga: Dean Shawcross  
NSW – North Coast: Lindsay Sheppard  
NSW – Sydney: John Wenborn  
NSW – Central Coast: **Vacant**  
Northern Territory: Michael Stokes



# 2023 AGM

## 2023 AGM 20 - 24th October 2023 Singleton, NSW

*Keep the date free!*

The AGM will be held in **Singleton** this year, October 20th to 24th.

Situated on the banks of the Hunter River in New South Wales. Singleton is 197 km north-north-west of Sydney, and 70 km north-west of Newcastle. The Hunter Valley is within easy reach of Newcastle Airport

Singleton is a beautiful riverside town in the Hunter Valley, with rolling vineyards, colonial heritage and outdoor adventure. Just north is beautiful Lake St Clair, a popular waterway for fishing, kayaking, sailing and waterskiing.

More information will be available soon, with bookings via the Country Network website opening in the coming months.

There will be a host of activities, meals and perhaps some cheeky wine tastings over the weekend.

We look forward to catching up with everyone at the 2023 Country Network AGM!



## meet a member



## PRIDE CUP 2023

Richmond Union Bowling Club(RUBC) CountryNet member, Peter Kennet, competed in the 4th Annual Pride Cup at Richmond Union Bowling Club last month.

He joined over 80 other LGBTIQ+ people and their allies playing lawn bowls on a lovely sunny Sunday in Melbourne. After the Welcome to Country and a reminder of the importance of inclusion in community sport, Peter donned his toga with his other 'Rollin' Romans' (Glenn, Jemal and Brendan) and hit the greens. It was a great day with everyone embracing (and wearing) every colour of the rainbow.

The games were played in a great spirit and brought the best out of everyone. Peter's team was voted best dressed in their togas. The occasional wind gust revealed more of the 'Romans' than their opponents could cope with!!! Although the competition was tough, at the end of the day, Peter's team was one of 3 teams with 4 wins from 4 games. This earned them 2nd place behind the winning team from Fitzroy Victoria Bowling Club. Huge thanks to RUBC for hosting this wonderful event.

Their hospitality and lunch was second to none and very much appreciated by all players.

**This is YOUR Networker!**



## **IS THE COUNTRY NETWORKER LOOKING A LITTLE LIGHT ON THIS MONTH?**

Do you enjoy reading the Country Networker? Catching up on the happenings around the country?

Well this month there's something missing... YOU!

The Country Network cannot be produced without you, your stories, your contributions and your photos. Your contribution doesn't need to be perfectly written, world changing or even especially gay.

You'll be amazed at the interests of our members around the country, and without you the Country Networker is just an empty page.

Please send your contributions to [networker@countrynetwork.com.au](mailto:networker@countrynetwork.com.au)