



Christmas party' is held. It originally started as a school picnic as a way of nurturing friendships for those children who attended 'Out Schools'. Now, for a contribution of \$6, all children under ten receive a present from Santa. Then the whole community, as well as those from Braidwood and surrounds, can enjoy a barbecue with salads and cakes.

Throughout the afternoon the children can participate in foot races, three-legged races, sack races, egg and spoon races as well as running races — all in different age categories. Everyone wins a prize of a few coins, so over the afternoon they accumulate enough money to spend with the 'Lolly Lady' at her stall. There are no jumping castles, it's just good old-fashioned fun. Throughout the afternoon's festivities there are raffles to be won, lolly guessing competitions and 'step the distance'.

After Santa has left on the fire engine and dinner is finished, both adults and children can compete in 'nail drive', 'gumboot throwing' and 'raw egg throwing' competitions.

So, as Di Izzard says, "with a bit of effort on everyone's part, this community really comes together for a common cause".

"By getting involved and making friends you become a richer person, have wonderful experiences and make lasting friendships."

The Gundillion residents have achieved a blueprint for how a close community successfully works.

JINDEN SCHOOL IN THE 1940s.



Friday night dinners with up to seventy people attending. For only \$10 per head, a two-course meal can be enjoyed by all. It's a great way to get people together and it makes a small profit which goes back into the hall's upkeep.

There have been many weddings and birthdays celebrated in the hall over the years, as well as wakes. The cemetery is situated nearby, so it's also a place for the community to say goodbye to their loved ones — near a place where they had previously loved and laughed together. The 'Gundillion Ladies' are often called upon to provide catering for these occasions, as well as in Braidwood.

On Wednesday 8th March local women once again attended the annual 'International Women's Day' luncheon. And at the recent Australia Day breakfast nearly one hundred residents were treated to a great day, all in the spirit of community, and with no charge.

The Hall is also used by historical groups and for public meetings regarding issues that affect the community. One of these of on-going concern is the lack of mobile phone coverage; obviously so important when you live in an isolated area.

You may have met some of the 'Gundillion Ladies' during the Quilt Event weekend. Their Christmas puddings and cakes, using old recipes handed down from their mothers and grandmothers, are famous. Regular buyers eagerly head to the verandah of Landmark and wait for the ladies to arrive with over a hundred cakes and sixty puddings.

This is their major fundraising event

and involves a couple of months of preparation. They are very grateful for the help from Gina and Gary Sully, who kindly cook all the puddings in their commercial bain-marie. Di Izzard is one of the main cooks and can fit up to eight cakes at a time in her oven. Whilst they cook Di completes farm chores.

On the Friday before the Quilt Event there is a working bee or 'wrap-up day' and once all the cakes are loaded into the cars, the ladies sit down to enjoy a chicken and champagne lunch and to celebrate a job well done.

On the weekend before Christmas the now famous 'Gundillion children's

## Services save day

Rebecca Soames has a cautionary story and another example of the vital role played by our excellent Local Area Health Service.

Being a mum for over eighteen years to five children, I have nursed many and varied sickness over the years. Hence, when my youngest, 2½ years, started developing the signs of a head cold, I was confident that the age old adage of Panadol, plenty of fluids and rest would see him pull through in no time.

After a night of high fevers and general discomfort I felt our little guy would be OK resting in the loving hands of my mother while I went to work for the morning. Following a call to my mum and learning that he was not improving, I made an appointment at the local doctors.

When I arrived to collect him from my mum's he was asleep though visibly still struggling with the head cold.

Once he awoke I could see he really was not himself and headed straight for the doctors.

The doctor took one look at his chest and stomach and sent us straight to the hospital.

Even after all these years of parenting I was not aware that when a young child is in breathing distress they breath with their stomachs and it is visible to the trained eye.

The wonderful staff at Braidwood Hospital soon had the little guy back on track after a time on Ventolin and a dose of Redipred.

On a follow up appointment with the doctor later he was diagnosed with pneumonia and the doctor explained that children who are experiencing breathing distress will quickly become exhausted in such situations.



REBECCA AND TOMMY.

As a community we are very blessed to have such wonderful health care services available and caring health professionals in our community. With this new knowledge I shall know in future what to be aware of and hope that this may assist others if needed too.

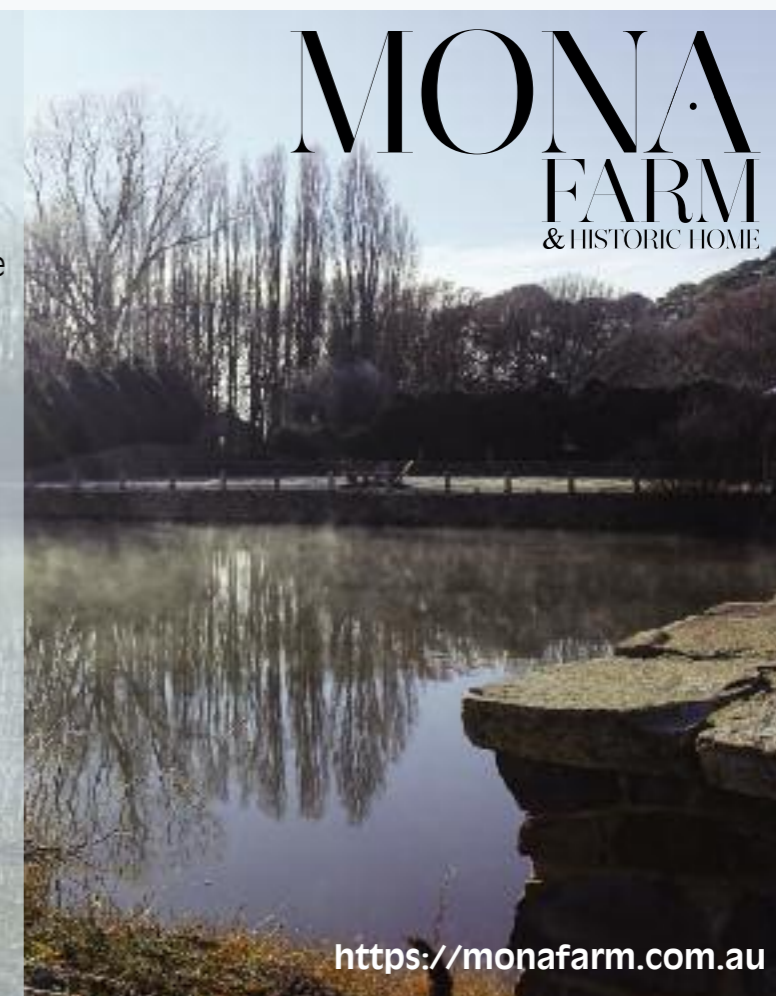
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