

**Out of the Woodwork
The People and
Place of Bungendore**

24th June – 2nd August

SONIA TURNER

Exhibition opening and book launch
6.30pm, Saturday 24th June
RSVP on 6238 1682 by 21st June

Opened by Robert Purves
President World Wildlife Fund

Book launched by Senator Margaret Reid and Lady Helen Deane,
Patron of The Capital Region
Community Foundation.



Bungendore resident and photographer Sonia Turner has found a special way to present her visual representation of the human side of Bungendore. She worked with 41 residents of the village and its surrounds to produce a series of photographic portraits that form the core of *Out of the woodwork*.

Sonia moved to Bungendore just five years ago but in that relatively short time has immersed herself into the social fabric of her new found home. With four young school age boys and a husband keen on playing Rugby Union for the Mudchooks it would be difficult not to become involved in the community.

With a keen photographic eye and a will to capture the essence of the people she encountered over the past five years she has produced a body of work that provides a selective but diverse cross-section of Bungendore society.

Her subjects range from long time residents, both rurally and urban based to younger family members, professional practitioners, artisans, tradespeople and students. Her portraits range from traditional full faces to families in situ giving a vivid depiction of the people in the context of their living space.

Since having her first solo photographic exhibition *The Light of Day* in 2002 at the Booking Office Gallery in Bungendore she has rapidly increased her photographic skills and vision after taking part in a series of courses offered by Canberra based specialist photography group Photoaccess.

Now she has turned her photographic eye to the people of Bungendore. The result is *Out of the Woodwork*. Sonia wanted to preserve a moment in Bungendore's history and being able to achieve this through her photography has been a bonus. As she began to know more of the locals she noticed a common thread with the people resident in the village and on its surrounding properties. That thread was their eagerness to preserve this unique village and it's almost two centuries old atmosphere.

At times the project felt like a puzzle to Sonia. She had to go through her list on numerous occasions to find the right piece, the right face and story. Although she only photographed 41 people she hoped that the pieces would fit and that her goal would be achieved.

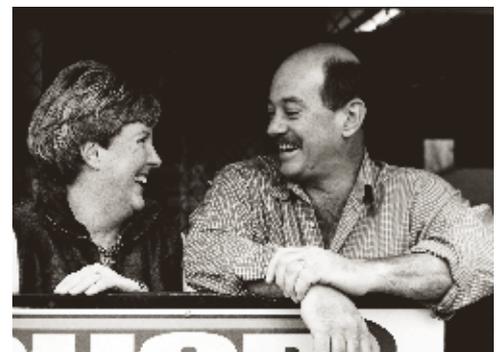
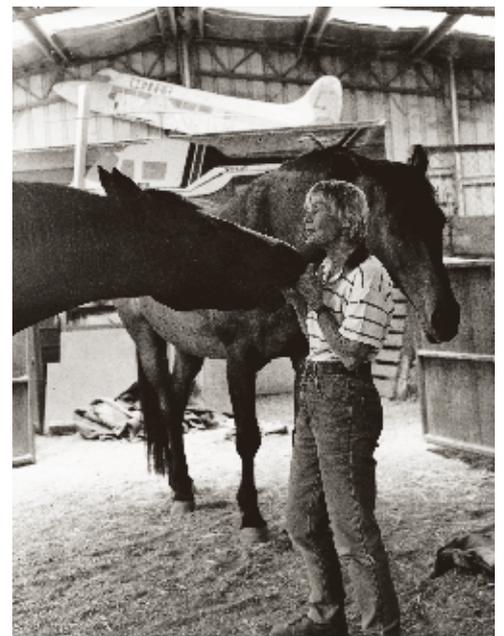
The people in her photographs have not been chosen for their historic or social values. They are people who are a part of Sonia's life or have been recommended to her by others as characters worthy of photographic representation. It is their relationship with the photographer that has led to their inclusion, producing a random cross-section of Bungendore society. The cross-section goes beyond the cultural divides of age, gender, religion, education and a myriad of other recognised demographic divisors.

With the thought in mind to extend the life of the project Sonia also asked her photographic subjects to write their personal stories with the aim of producing a book that would preserve the moment in time she set out to capture.

I was very happy to be given the opportunity of collaborating with Sonia to complement her images taken around Bungendore and on Butmaroo, and to further extend the concept of place in her book. *Out of the Woodwork – the people and place of Bungendore* is available at Bungendore Wood Works Gallery and selected bookshops in the Bungendore and wider ACT region.

When asked by a friend's mother how she came across so many interesting people for her exhibition and book Sonia answered instinctively, "They just seemed to come *Out of the Woodwork*."

Stan d'Argeavel – Exhibition Coordinator



Top to bottom

Sonia Turner *Pat Darmody* 2005
gelatin silver photograph 17.5 x 24.5cm

Sonia Turner *Christine Davy* 2005
gelatin silver photograph 25 x 19cm

Sonia Turner *Michael and Sharron Blore* 2005
gelatin silver photograph 18 x 24.5cm



Left to right

Sonia Turner *David, Tom and Colin Daniel* 2005
gelatin silver photograph 10 x 15cm

Sonia Turner *Throwing the Fleece* 2005
gelatin silver photograph 10 x 15.5cm

This project made possible through the generosity of Pirion Pty Limited, Swell Design Group, Rob Purves, Bungendore Community Foundation, the former Yarrawlunla Shire Council, Photoaccess and Bungendore Wood Works Gallery.

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gallery
BUNGENDORE

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Sonia Turner *Out of the woodwork* 2001 gelatin silver photograph 30 x 25cm



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