



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 199, Braidwood. NSW 2622

Submission re Proposed Naming of ‘Alma Lane’

The Braidwood Community Association has considered the proposal to name the laneway from Duncan Street to the rear of the QPRC Braidwood Depot as “Alma Lane”. The BCA supports naming the laneway “Alison Lane” after Alison Margaret Robertson. Our reasons for this are outlined below.

Feedback from the Braidwood community has indicated a strong preference for naming the laneway after the Robertson family, who operated the business called D&S Motors at 88 Wallace St from the 1960’s to 2018. This laneway was used by the Robertsons and their customers as the rear entrance to the business. The Robbo’s would have used that laneway literally millions of times for 60 years, while operating their business at 88 Wallace St.

Because the name Robertson cannot be used, an alternative name to recognise the family has been endorsed by many Braidwood residents. The name is **Alison Lane**, after Mrs Alison Margaret Robertson.

Alison Margaret Robertson

Alison Robertson (‘Mrs Robbo’) was a much-loved member of the Braidwood community. Attached is a copy of her obituary from May 2001. This obituary gives a clear picture of the high esteem, affection and regard for Alison held by everyone who knew her.

Alison was born in Orange and came to Braidwood with her husband Ian after their marriage in 1947. They operated D&S Motors in 2 locations in Wallace Street, and their sons David and Murray worked in the business from their teenage years. Alison operated the office and treated all their regular customers and visitors with a generosity of spirit that made her universally loved. Comments from locals who remember her well are included below as evidence of this.

Alison was described in her obituary as a “quiet, unassuming and yet remarkable woman”. She managed the D&S office during the day and taught piano after school. She performed solo and duet pieces in talent shows at the old picture theatre in Braidwood. She played the organ at the local church and in her spare time she would teach members of the “Young Farmers” organisation how to cook. She won prizes at the Royal Easter Show for her fabulous preserves.

Alison’s obituary states that “Alison was a kind and gentle soul and had a friendly warmth which infected those who came in contact with her. Numerous lives can testify to her unselfish devotion of time and energy that she willingly expended when there was a need for a friendly touch or a listening ear. She was always willing to offer practical help to her many friends, with meals or cleaning or just being a true comforter and friend. There was always a cup of tea readily available for the weary traveller and a sympathetic ear to listen to their troubles.”

The obituary continues “She wasn’t a person to hanker after the material possessions of this world: she loved the simple life and all its abundant treasures the good Lord had provided for her.”

The Robertson Family

It’s hard to adequately describe the role of D&S Motors and the Robertson family in the life of the Braidwood community. They were always there to help. Ian, David and Murray ran the local NRMA service and rescued people far and wide. Whenever they were needed, they were there. When Ian and Alison’s son David died in a tragic accident, around 1200 people gathered at the Braidwood cemetery for his funeral. His obituary (attached) stated that “The Robbos’ garage... was the centre of the town.” The number of people attending David’s funeral shows the love and respect for the family by so many people who experienced the service they provided for the district, as well as for the local community. Their work as the local NRMA service providers is legendary.

Local support for the name “Alison Lane”

Social media posts in Braidwood demonstrate a high level of support for the name “Alison Lane”.

Specific posts referring to the name “Alison Lane” received 60 “likes” and comments including the following:

“I would strongly support the name Alison for this lane as Alison would have been one of the most caring citizens in my long life in Braidwood. A very generous lady to the sick and disabled, a true saint.”

“I will never forget the great kindness shown to me by Mrs Robbo at a time when I so needed it in my life. The Robertson family are all very special people.”

“Everyone who remembers Mrs Robbo knows that she was an absolute darling of a women. I’d love to see Alison Lane.”

“I agree 100% that it should be called Alison Lane. Mrs Robbo was an absolute saint.”

A previous Facebook post proposing the name “Robertson Lane” received 150 “likes” and many supportive comments. A popular choice was “Robbo’s Lane “as this is how the locals remember the family. However the naming guidelines do not permit nicknames, and “Robertson” is too close to other names already in use.

Alison’s son Murray Robertson is supportive of the proposal to name the laneway “Alison Lane”

The name “Alma Lane”

The BCA has not received any supportive comments for the name “Alma Lane”. While there are good reasons for preserving the history and memory of the remarkable Clydesdale horse called Alma, as a representative of the contribution of the working horses over so many decades in our history, this laneway clearly has strong local associations with the Robertson family. Their tireless work keeping vehicles on the road continued the work performed by horses in our history, by keeping our residents on the road and bringing them safely home.

The 88 Wallace Street site currently being developed is a perfect location for telling the history of transport in our region, and the story of Alma could be incorporated into interpretive records of this history on the site.

Thank you for considering this submission on behalf of all our residents who remember Alison Margaret Robertson and the Robertson family

Sue Murray
President
Braidwood Community Association.

16 September 2026

Attachments:

1. Alison Margaret Robertson Funeral Booklet cover
2. Alison Margaret Robertson Obituary
3. David Robertson Funeral Report