

BRAIDWOOD'S Changing Times

COMING WEATHER			
Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	11°	18°	25%
Thur	10°	21°	5%
Fri	8°	26°	10%
Sat	10°	28°	0%
Sun	12°	25°	15%
Mon	13°	25°	20%
Tue	13°	30°	5%

Issue #72 — \$2.00

Wednesday February 22, 2023

STEPPING INTO HISTORY

Paul Cockram

Braidwood Preschool needs your help to complete the much-needed new building that will enable it to increase the number of preschool places available for the community.

The Buy-a-Paver fundraiser will help with the building's finances and also provides a permanent record of your support for, and connection to, the preschool. A single paver costs \$50 and a double paver \$95.

To receive an order form, email info@braidwoodpreschool.nsw.edu.au by March 30.



Helen, Sarah and Fiona at the preschool with some young feet in waiting for the new path.

Zero, zero, zero

Five years on ... where's the new police station?

Robin Tennant Wood

In July 2018, the then Member for Monaro visited Braidwood and announced a \$1.2 million "upgrade" to the Braidwood Police Station.

At the time, Mr Barilaro was unable to specify what form the up-

grade would take, and whether it would be a new facility or improvements and upgrades to the existing police station located in the Old Courthouse.

Five years later and the *Chang-*

ing Times can confirm that:

No development application or paperwork of any kind has been lodged with QPRC for either an extension or a new building;

The block of land behind the old Police Residence has been identified by the NSW Government as a suitable location for a new police station, however the block in question, which has no main street access or visibility, is currently subject to a land claim.

A spokesperson for the NSW Police Minister, Paul Toole, said that "There is currently a land claim underway for the proposed new police station site. As that claim is ongoing, the land is currently unable to be developed. Considerations are currently underway for future development options once the land claim has been resolved."

It is believed, but has not yet been confirmed, that 'future development options' involve a de-

mountable building to be constructed off-site. Late last year the *Changing Times* reported that the new building would house up to four police officers, however it was quickly clarified that that didn't mean four police officers would be assigned to Braidwood.

Braidwood is part of the Monaro Police District. The current station is operated by two officers and is not open 24 hours a day.



Flashback to the grand announcement in 2018.

photo: Braidwood Times

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Majors Creek bursaries
- Understanding our limits
- Mayor explains the pain
- BDEF supports the next lot
- Campese has had enough
- Tarago show program
- Electric farm vehicle test
- New planks and ThinkTanks
- Blood on the bowling green
- Women's Day approaching
- Mr Smith's shop story
- Weed control workshop
- Spirituality, sport n stuff

EDITORIAL

Robin Tennant Wood

A forest of beasts

Every man has his fault, and honesty is his. Nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy.

Shakespeare, *Timon of Athens*

There's something seriously wrong with a political system when candidates fear political repercussions for behaviour which may be considered distasteful, while sitting members who have engaged in criminal behaviour are protected.

In the last fortnight we have seen two vastly conflicting scenarios regarding the actions of political candidates.

In the first instance, sitting Member of the Legislative Council, Peter Poulos, was found to have distributed an explicit photo of a female colleague in order to "get back at her" over a preselection battle five years ago.

In New South Wales, distributing explicit images of another person without consent became a crime in 2017, with perpetrators of intimate image abuse facing a maximum sentence of three years' jail and a fine of \$11,000.

Yet, Premier Dominic Perrottet's response was, "People make mistakes. No one is perfect. I've made a number of mistakes in life. The main thing is when you do, you stand up, you take responsibility for it, you apologise. That's what Peter has done."

Later in the week and only following a public outcry, the premier amended his language to say that he was "appalled, horrified and disgusted" by Mr Poulos' actions, and that he expected the Liberal Party to act. His own lack of punitive action, however, spoke louder than his words. The Liberal Party has since disendorsed Mr Poulos from their Upper House ticket for the election.

On the other hand, former Labor

candidate for Monaro, Terry Campese, felt he needed to stand aside for revelations that he attended a 'sex-themed' party in 2022 wearing his underwear, a tie and a police hat. The video footage that emerged might be distasteful and embarrassing, but it's not illegal. Who among us has not gone partying in our undies? Neither is it illegal to visit a friend who is in prison – the other trigger for Mr Campese's resignation. Campese had an intimation that political opponents were planning to smear his campaign and made the decision to quit rather than have his reputation dragged through a political quagmire.

Too often we see political leaders and party honchos covering up behaviour by MPs that would see average citizens charged with criminal offences.

Not just unsavoury behaviour, but corruption. And the more protection the perpetrator is afforded, the bolder they become in their actions.

Occasionally the law steps in: the Fitzgerald Inquiry in Queensland in the 1980s resulted in three members of the Queensland parliament and the Police Commissioner being jailed for corruption. In NSW, former MLCs Eddie Obeid and Ian MacDonald are still guests of His Majesty for their parts in a corrupt mining deal. But how bad does it have to get before the enablers of corruption abandon their protection of the perpetrators?

In Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens*, the titular character says, "the commonwealth of Athens has become a forest of beast." He leaves Athens and the political 'beasts' and goes to the woods, where he fears less the real wolves than the human wolves of the polis.

Majors Creek Festival
STA Artist Bursary

Southern Tablelands Arts and the Majors Creek Festival have joined forces to provide five Artist Bursaries for creatives to attend the Majors Creek Festival, 17-19 March 2023.

The STA Artist Bursary is your chance as a creative to be a visible part of the 2023 Majors Creek Festival and have fun at one of our region's premier music and cultural festivals. It is also a fantastic chance to interact, at a grass-roots level, with festival attendees and the "behind-the-scenes" crew of the festival.

The STA Artist Bursary is open to all creatives who are STA Members.

Majors Creek Festival is a leader and an award winner in the sustain-

able events space and Artist working with natural, recycled, upcycled or sustainable materials and idea are particularly encouraged to apply.

Find out more and about becoming a Southern Tablelands Arts member at <https://www.southerntablelandsarts.com.au/majors-creek-festival-sta-artist-bursary/> [or use the QR code on p3.]



COMMENT

Recognising planetary limits and understanding humanity's place

Maria Bakas

This age is characterised by consistent growth in energy use, economic activity, resource consumption, and a generally increasing standard of living—albeit inequitably distributed.

Climate change is frequently reported as the existential crisis of our time. I feel it is only one of a series of interlocking challenges constituting an unprecedented predicament that must be understood and mitigated in order to live within planetary limits.

I say this as it is not climate change itself (although a consequence), it is the desire for unending seeking and consuming more and more, in energy use and consumption of the cheaper products produced that such energy enables. Along with a belief that somehow humanity exists outside of this planet and its capacity to provide life to all.

Some aspects to a holistic way of seeing our place in the web of life:

- Humans are a part of nature, not apart from nature;
- Non-renewable materials cannot be harvested indefinitely on a finite planet;

- The Earth cannot assimilate pollution without consequences to all of Life;
- Fossil fuel combustion is the primary cause of ongoing climate change.
- Choices today can create grave problems for and deprive resources from future generations;
- Human behaviour is shaped by models of cultural behaviour that, while can be changed, impose barriers to change.

When we understand our place in the web of life, the abovenamed surely seem obvious: So... what is the difficulty?

Possibly attachment to cultural and economic norms developed over a few decades. Perhaps seen by people as the successful approach to better lifestyles. However, imagining and wishing for a particular way, ignoring consequences does not help us secure a successfully sustainable future on our biophysical planet. The need to open minds and hearts to the whole of Life and how one might live held in the embrace of Life, growing in wisdom and humility to live for now and support life for future generations.

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FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK



Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

year. Cr Ross Macdonald was declared elected by the NSW Electoral Commission's Returning Officer on Tuesday 7 February following a countback election. I am looking forward to working with Cr Macdonald and all the other councillors to continue to make Queanbeyan-Palerang an awesome place to be.

— * — * — * —

The Braidwood Structure Plan Discussion Paper is now on public exhibition. The discussion paper aims to start the conversation with the community and government agencies on the future growth and development of the Braidwood township over the next 30 years.

We are eager to hear the Braidwood community's feedback and have them fully involved in planning the future of their town. Staff will be available to answer questions about the paper in person at two planned community drop-in sessions on Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 20 April between 9am and 4pm at Council's Braidwood office.

Two community workshops are also being planned with dates and locations to be confirmed soon. To read and have your say on the Braidwood Structure Plan Discussion Paper by Friday 28 April, visit yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/discussion-paper-braidwood-structure-plan

— * — * — * —

The official opening of the much-anticipated new Braidwood Skatepark at the Braidwood Recreation Ground is on Saturday 25 February. From 10:30am there will be skateboarding workshops and demonstrations, live music, local food vendors, face painting and activities to celebrate the opening of the skatepark.

This project has been funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, co-funded by the Australian and NSW Governments. Council helped the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association and the Braidwood Community Association deliver this project, and thanks also to the other local clubs and community groups for their contributions. For more information on the Braidwood Skatepark, visit qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Braidwood-Skate-Park

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It's good to see progress on the

At our last meeting, Council voted to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 18% each year for three years.

We know that the community would prefer to keep all Council services without a rate rise, and that's what councillors would like too, however this is just not possible. This has been an extraordinarily difficult decision for Council, and we appreciate the time and effort the community has made to tell us about the services that are important to them and their thoughts on the proposed rate rise.

Councillors have decided on Scenario 2 in recognition of the community's feedback while also trying to ensure Council's financial future. We recognise that the rate rise under Scenario 2 is a significant increase in the general rates, but it also requires Council to look internally and bear some of the burden.

This rate increase will allow us to maintain our core services, and we will need to find savings of \$5.5million each year to remain financially viable. We will be submitting our application to IPART by 3 March 2023 which will include a report on the feedback we received for the community.

IPART will publish documents on their website and the community will be able to provide further feedback directly to IPART. IPART will then consider the application and provide a decision in May. If our application is approved, the rate increase will come into effect on 1 July this year.

— * — * — * —

We also welcomed a new councillor at our last meeting following Cr Ternouth's resignation late last

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EVENTS AND ACCOMMODATION

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- Weddings & celebrations
- Conferences

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Braidwood Memorial Pool, with tenders for the upgrades closing on 27 February. The works will include the demolition of the current office and change rooms, and the construction of a new office, separate kiosk, and new changerooms. For more information use the QR code.

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Lighting and electrical upgrades at Braidwood Showground have been delayed due to bad weather and material supply issues. Even still, work has been progressing with trenching, conduit laid and backfilling completed. The contractor has been granted an extension until 28 April but expects works to be complete by the end of March if the weather holds up.

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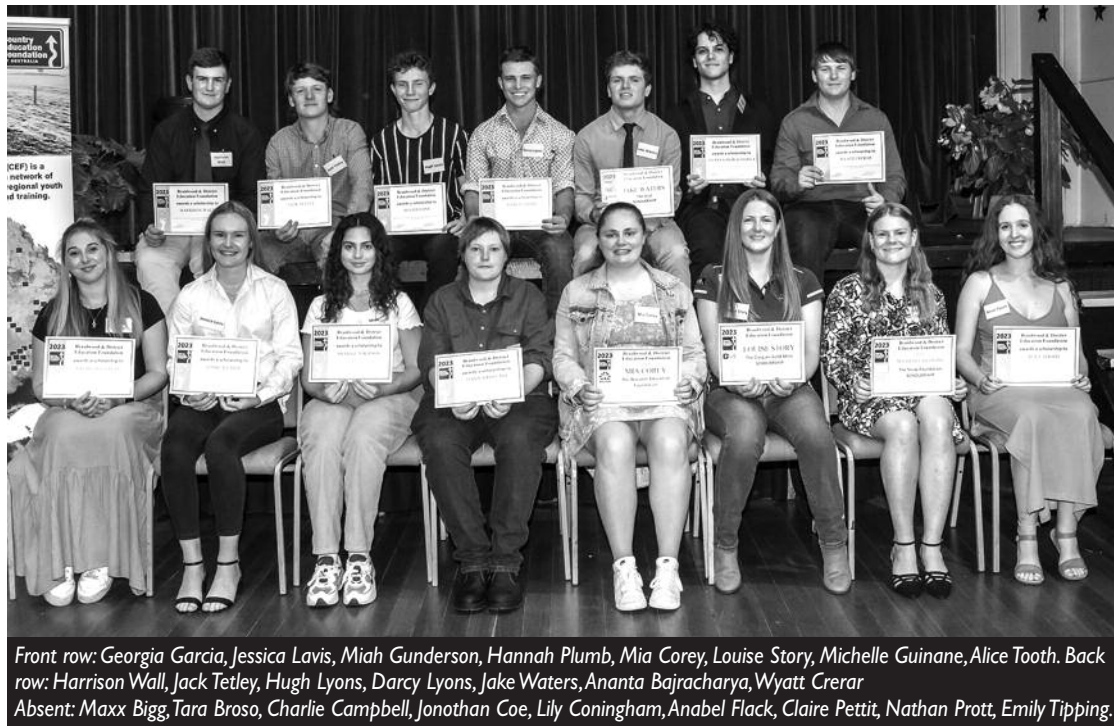
We are seeking Expressions of Interest from First Nations artists to create an original initial concept for an Acknowledgement of Country artwork for the new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct (QCCP). The art project is being fully funded by the NSW Government through Round 5 of the Department of Regional NSW's Stronger Country Communities Fund. The completed artwork will

feature in the QCCP's foyer or forecourt (or both) along with First Nations artwork that will be displayed in the walkway that connects the building forecourt and the public domain. Seating, hand rails, and plantings to support Aboriginal education activities will also be a part of the project. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by 5pm Monday 27 February 2023 to procurement@qprc.nsw.gov.au. For more information use the QR code.

The annual Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Heritage Awards are coming up in April and nominations are now open for three award categories. Awards will be given out for restoration of a heritage building (commercial or residential), new building design/adaptation/heritage garden, and outstanding promotion or contribution to heritage. To learn more and submit a nomination by midnight, Monday 6 March 2023, use the QR code.

SCAN HERE FOR QPRC SITE LINKS





Front row: Georgia Garcia, Jessica Lavis, Miah Gunderson, Hannah Plumb, Mia Corey, Louise Story, Michelle Guinane, Alice Tooth. Back row: Harrison Wall, Jack Tetley, Hugh Lyons, Darcy Lyons, Jake Waters, Ananta Bajracharya, Wyatt Crerar. Absent: Maxx Bigg, Tara Brosio, Charlie Campbell, Jonothan Coe, Lily Coningham, Anabel Flack, Claire Pettit, Nathan Prott, Emily Tipping.

BDEF education support

Alisa Stephens

The Braidwood District Education Foundation (BDEF) held its annual Presentation Evening on Friday 10 February, awarding more than \$70,000 worth of grants to 24 local students to support their further education.

The recipients are studying and training in a diverse range of fields including Engineering (Auto-space), science, construction management, criminology, dance teaching, carpentry, agriculture, electrotechnology, design, and commercial cookery.

As with every year since 2004,

these grants have been given to young people from Braidwood and surrounds, to help them overcome the additional challenges faced by rural and regional students embarking on university and TAFE studies and training. The BDEF is proud to support these students on their educational journeys and is committed to continuing to make a significant financial difference to students from our local area.

In addition to the grants funded by community donations, four special grants were also awarded. Mia Corey received the Waratah Foundation grant for her Bachelor of Nursing. Michelle Guinane received the Snow Foundation grant for her Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Paramedicine. Jake Waters was awarded the South Eastern Livestock Exchange (SELX) grant for his Bachelor of Agricultural Science, and Louise Story was awarded the Dargues Gold Mine grant for her Bachelor of Exercise Science/Rehab.

At the event, former recipients Shane Klomp, Brendan McGrath and Gemma Hart spoke about how their grant helped them achieve their educational goals. The audience also heard from Daniel Vardanega, of Green Homes, who shared his experience of the importance of education and supporting rural and regional youth. Joy Pratt, mother of three past recipients, also spoke about the significant impact that BDEF grants had on her family.

The BDEF is grateful to all of its donors and supporters who make these grants possible. By investing in the education of rural and regional youth, we can help create a brighter future for our community.



Monday

- 5:00am - Good Morning Country
- 7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
- 11:00am - Space Nuts (Space News)
- 1:00pm - Flashback Featured Artist with Rob
- 4:00pm - Book Reading with Rod
- 5:00pm - The Andy Show
- 7:00pm - Hot Topics with Bill Waterhouse
- 9:00pm - Aussie Music Weekly

Tuesday

- 5:00am - Good Morning Country
- 7:00am - The Andy Breakfast Show
- 10:00am - 1st Tue of Month - Our Farm with Gavin
- 11:00am - Tuesday Eclectic Music Mix with Gavin
- 2:00pm - A Breath Of Fresh Air
- 3:00pm - Bunkum, Faves & Raves with Rod, Bill & Vera
- 6:30pm - Real World Gardener
- 7:00pm - Crap from the past
- 9:30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

Wednesday

- 5:00am - Good Morning Country
- 7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
- 1:00pm - Flashback With Rob
- 3:00pm - The Conga Line with Billy Bob
- 6:00pm - Woodsongs Old Time Radio
- 7:00pm - Magic Carpet Ride with Cool Bill
- 9:00pm - An Audience with the Pope

Thursday

- 5:00am - Good Morning Country
- 7:00am - Billy Bob at Breakfast
- 10:00am - From the Archives with Gavin
- 3:00pm - The Hot 30
- 8:00pm - 80's Pop Playlist with Rob

Friday

- 5:00am - Good Morning Country
- 7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
- 11:00am - The Chill (90's to now)
- 1:00pm - Step Back in Time (Pop Culture)
- 3:00pm - The Greenhouse with Violet
- 5:00pm - The Atomic Countdown

Saturday

- 9:00am - Mornings with Gavin & Roger
- 12:00 - Paul's Powerzone
- 1:00pm - A bit of this and that with Gavin
- 4:00pm - Blues in the Afternoon with Gavin
- 6:00pm - Saturday Night Gold

Sunday

- 8:00am - Exploring the Classics with Barbara
- 10:00am - Jazz on Sunday with Gavin
- 3:00pm - Birds on a Wireless with Julie & Vera
- 6:00pm - Combined Church Service of Braidwood
- 7:00pm - The Mechie Show (Prog Rock)
- 9:00pm - Bluesbeat

For a full listing go to braidwoodradio.com.au

Campese chucks it in

Robin Tennant-Wood

Labor's candidate for Monaro, Terry Campese, has voluntarily resigned his candidacy only five weeks out from the state election.

A media report revealed that Campese had visited an old friend, Adam Hunter, who is serving a custodial sentence for drug-dealing, regarding raising money for his charity, the Terry Campese Foundation, through the Crimfit program – a fitness program where inmates raise money for charity through participation in sport.

"I have been friends with Mr Hunter since school and remain so today. If everyone who made a mistake was abandoned, it would be a very sad and lonely world," Mr Campese said.

"Mr Hunter did participate in Crimfit, 2022. The inmates as a collective choose a different charity each year, as part of their journey to rehabilitation.

A video also emerged of Mr Campese at a "sex-themed" party

last year, clad only in underwear and a tie.

In a media statement Mr Campese said, "Unfortunately, I have come to realise that, for some, politics is not about representing people but about their own power with a 'win at all costs' mentality.

"Today I'm announcing that I will step down as Labor's candidate. Not because my heart isn't in it but because I love this community too much to drag it through the media — whether they are truthful or not.

"However, I will continue to serve my community in the same way I have over the last decade, through the work of my foundation and other charities.

"Perhaps in the future things will change and we will see more community members put their hand up to be involved in politics."

The Labor Party has yet to announce a new candidate to contest the seat of Monaro.

Climate change, health lead Greens priorities in Monaro

Robin Tennant Wood

The Greens candidate for Monaro, Jennie Goldie, and Upper House candidate, Amanda Cohn, visited Braidwood on Monday to meet with local party members, community members and media representatives.

Ms Goldie, who lives in Cooma, is no stranger to political campaigns, having stood for the Australian Democrats in the 1980s and later for the Sustainable Population Party.

However, what she describes as a “deep concern about climate change” has led her to stand for the Greens in this year’s state election. Of all the parties, Ms Goldie said, “the Greens have the strongest climate policy.” She noted that current Treasurer, Matt Kean, when he was Environment Minister, succeeded in “pulling along the Nationals” with regards to good climate change policy, but added

that both major parties have plans to open new coal and gas mines which are counter to climate change action.

Biodiversity also features high on Ms Goldie’s priorities, with feral animal control a major issue. She is in favour of the eradication of the feral horses in the Kosciuszko National Park, but additionally, is concerned about the environmental damage being wrought by deer and pigs in the region’s farmland.

She is also concerned about issues where infrastructure fails to meet population growth. “For example,” she said, “the Bungendore high school simply won’t meet the demand of the population base in the long-term.”

Dr Amanda Cohn is a GP based in Albury-Wodonga. She is second on the Greens’ Legislative Council (Upper House) ticket behind current sitting MLC, Cate Faehrmann.

Dr Cohn has both a professional and political interest in health services for regional areas and her pri-

ority for the election campaign is to promote the Greens’ health policy, which includes a range of improvements to regional health facilities. These include supporting health workers in choosing to live in the regions; expanding assistance for patients who need travel support; and establishing a Rural and Remote Health Commissioner to monitor and report on the performance of NSW Health in providing health care to regional NSW.

Dr Cohn says the Greens will also support state-of-the-art telehealth facilities in rural and remote health services where this supports but does not replace on-site staff.

Both Ms Goldie and Dr Cohn

nominated housing and homelessness as a pressing problem. Dr Cohn said that the Greens would push investment in public housing and introduce a ‘rent freeze’ in order to get spiralling rental costs “under control.”

No decision has been made as to the direction of preferences on the Lower House ballot form in Monaro. In New South Wales elections, preferencing is optional and voters have the choice of simply numbering their first choice and not giving preferences. Ms Goldie said her personal choice would be to direct preferences, but added that it’s not her decision alone.

The Greens Upper House ballot form will recommend preferences.



Greens candidates, Dr Amanda Cohn and Ms Jennie Goldie in Braidwood.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pork Barrels galore

Thank you for your editorial ‘Election time: beware of magic money’ (8 Feb).

It spells out the betrayal of representative democracy when politicians manipulate the flow of money to illegitimate ends. I would just like to gently disagree with your statement that only a handful of MPs indulge in a cynical and manipulative approach.

The old parties (Lib, Lab, Nat) routinely receive ‘donations’ from groups that they then bend policies to favour. This is corruption. Just because there are no paper bags full of money, and just because the money (usually) does not flow to an individual does not change the fact that it is corruption.

The most prominent corrupting groups are the fossil fuel industry, gambling, property developers and alcohol, all of whom do great harm to our society. Citizens clearly want different policies, but the old parties serve their sponsors first.

This corrupt behaviour will change only when we stop voting

our habitual tribal identifications and vote instead for people who have not been consumed by the sordid behaviour that dominates parliament, and who wish to govern for the betterment of the whole country, not just for their rich mates. This change has begun, with the rising votes for independents and newer parties.

Geoff Davies
Braidwood

Music is back on agenda

I write to complement John Buchanan for his very interesting article in *The Changing Times* of 8th February.

The “Swing Era” was indeed a wonderful period for music. Benny Goodman became known as *The King of Swing*, a title he was not entirely comfortable with, but as it turned out, it was a title well deserved. It was certainly more apt than an earlier bandleader, Paul Whiteman, being known as *The King of Jazz*. However, that’s another story.

Around the same time as Goodman’s triumph at the Palomar in Los Angeles, he started his small band outfit with Lionel Hampton on vibraphone, Gene Krupa on drums and Teddy Wilson on piano. All four were giants on their instruments. A further innovation was the fact that Goodman had brought two great Black musicians to the public’s notice, Hampton and Wilson.

This was also the era of some of the greatest popular music composers of the 20th century. George

and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jimmy Van Heusen et al were producing songs which are still performed today and hopefully will still be performed for a long time to come.

Yes, the Swing Era was a great time for music. However, I don’t see swing dancing coming back as it was back then.

Again, thank you John for a good read.

David McClymont
Braidwood



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Tarago Show

Sunday 5 March 9am - 5pm

Wayne Baynam, President, Tarago and District Show Society



Rodney Deaman Joust Pass

Photo by Rachael Walker Photography

Only days away and everyone is excited! The Tarago Show is nearly here.

The grounds are looking great. The toilet block has had a bit of a makeover, the trees are trimmed and parking areas levelled.

The pavilion is getting ready for your entries. Non perishable exhibits can be dropped off on Friday evening 3 March from 4pm until 7pm or the day before - Saturday 4 March, 8.30am until 1pm, so they can be judged that afternoon.

The pavilion will have your usual sections, fruit, vegetable and farm produce, preserves and jams, traditional show cooking, cut flowers, potted plants, handicrafts, photography, floral arrangements, art, craft, Collector's Corner, LEGO, wool and home brew. Plus a new section — literature with Open and Junior classes and a new Class — soap making, in the craft section.

Do you need a new Mailbox? If you have time to build one from recycled materials, bring it to the Show on the Saturday to enter in our Build a Mailbox From Recycled Materials competition to win a cash prize.

The Braidwood Motor Club has confirmed their attendance at this year's Show, and will be arriving around 9.30am and departing at 2.00pm. Don't forget to vote for your favourite vehicle.

The BaaBaa Bar will be opening at 11am, with the BaaBaaQ sizzling earlier, for hot meals and next to them is The Tuckerbox (the Blue van) with the CWA selling yummy delights. Elvis's Cafe will be also

cooking up a storm. A Coffee Van will be in attendance as well.

Watch out for the Cow Pat Lotto, tickets available on the day if you missed out on the Friday nights at the pub.

Thank You to the Tarago Page Turners Book Club for their kind donation. Sales from their Dynamite Book Sale was donated to the Show Society.

There will be a Hop on Your Hobby Horse event, so if your child has a Hobby Horse bring it to the Show for a parade and Races!.

Bling Your Bike — bring your bike to the Show all decorated and go in the competition to win great prizes.

Nail It Home will be run again by the Tarago Area Women's Shed Inc. Try your strength getting the nail into the wood in the least amount of strikes.

Our local Medieval Knights will be jousting and doing skill-at-arms displays during the day. Check the Timetable on your arrival to catch these events.

The Tarago Tomato Tourney will be in attendance with the usual events, such as the Colouring In Competition, Photographic Competition, the Tomato & SAO Challenge and the different Sections such as Most Unusual or Wonkie Tomato, Best Heirloom Tomato, Largest Tomato and the Nicest Tomato Cluster. There will be a Guess the Weight competition too.

These are only a few of the attractions at the Tarago Show, so come and visit us, and have a great day out.



Don Burbidge with his newly-acquired Tuata All Terrain Vehicle.

Testing electric ATV

Don Burbidge, a Bigga sheep farmer trials an electric ATV

My experience so far of the New Zealand-designed and Chinese-made Tuatara has been pretty good overall. The machines come to Australia via a New Zealand dealership.

Overall, the machine is certainly a lot better appointed than any other electric vehicle that I've seen. It's not just a matter of taking the technology from motor cars and directly putting it into a ATV, or UTV, or side-by-side because of the different conditions you're dealing with.

Up and down, slower speeds, and using its regenerative charging are all definitely different in these vehicles to a normal electric car.

There is also a practical limit to what size batteries you can put into these vehicles because most of the power supplies to farms, unless you are near urban areas, is 240 volts, single phase. And that's the real issue.

If you've got a big battery in, It is like having a big tank but a small hose to fill it. You're not going to get enough time in the non-use pe-

riod to get it fully recharged.

I think farmers will need to look towards installing solar panels on sheds, ideally with the incorporation of batteries. For instance, my machine has 26 kilowatt-hours of capacity in its batteries.

If I had a stationary battery of somewhere around 50 to 60 kilowatt-hours, that would mean that I'd be able to charge it twice to account for any days on or days off.

I see that as a more viable alternative for a lot of farms than having to get it from the grid in the evenings.

I've had two major faults appear in the machine that I've been using. The importer of the machine is looking into it. A lot of the mechanicals have had to be re-engineered and these faults are sure to be remedied in the future.

It's a bit annoying from my point of view because I need it to do my work. I'm hoping that the dealer will come to the party with supplying a replacement of some kind. [stay tuned – Ed]





Zachary, Matthew, Cai and Liv on the job recladding the hall.

Sunday School Hall nears completion

After almost seven years of construction and renovation, the refurbishment of Braidwood's Old Sunday School should be complete by around Easter this year.

The project commenced with the new amenities block. After the

original builder, Hans Visser, retired Frank Sells took on the project.

The committee behind both the project itself and the successful Bushfire Recovery Grant that has enabled the project to continue to

completion, is thankful to both men and the teams behind them.

The kitchen has been upgraded to a full commercial kitchen while the 'original' kitchen has been restored and transformed. Helen Farley, one of the committee

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members, says it is now unrecognisable.

Currently in progress is the air-conditioning, flooring and painting: the final touches.

Mrs Farley said that the support of the community and local businesses has ensured that the restoration project will make the hall "better than new – and we can't wait to show everyone the new community asset when it is finished."

An official opening date is to be advised.

ThinkTank — Developing the thinking and communication skills of our school kids

Julian Davies

As supporters of educational opportunity in our region, the Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank has recently renewed its funding of ThinkTank, an after-school, online club that works to develop the critical thinking and communication skills of

school-age children in the Southern Tablelands.

An initiative of the charity the Consensus Education Foundation, ThinkTank uses discussion to challenge the minds of able students in an engaging and supportive way. Believing that fun is the friend of serious thought, it includes quizzes and other activities to enliven the learning experience. Students are guided by expert tutors in investigating real-world situations, current affairs and history through an empathetic evaluation of human behaviour.

ThinkTank has clubs for both junior (Year 5& 6) and senior (high school) clubs and new students are very welcome to join. The generosity of the Community Bank means tuition is free for all club members. Classes begin for 2023 from Monday 20 of this month.

The Consensus Website provides further details: www.consensuseducation.com/thinktank



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THE SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

BOOKWORM

Julia Ermert

THE SECRETS IN THE GARDEN

Things happen in gardens. Things change. People change. It can be dangerous.

So what is a garden?

How about — a place set apart from the wild, with designated boundaries, but which is always trying to return to the wild.

The first ever garden setting might be *Paradise Lost* (John Milton 1667.) It offered an environment in which the protagonists can discover and become their best selves. There are a lot of battles but not much actual gardening — unless you count picking fruit — although Adam does allude briefly to that activity. Regrettably, Satan is the most attractive character: a charming, rebellious trickster.

I won't go on with this as it's a poem. Perhaps later.

The first novel that really affected me was *The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1911. I was already aware of all the tropes: the orphaned child sent to live with the mean old uncle, the lack of boundaries, the adventures that allow her to discover her true self. But this is no child who remembers a loving mother who has bequeathed her sweetness, charm and prettiness. Mary's British Raj parents left her to the servants while they partied, so she really is 'spoiled,' but in the worst way. Now dead of cholera, the Lennox parents made no provision for her future other than to designate as guardian her mother's brother-in-law, an embittered, crippled widower. But rich. And with an estate, Misselthwaite Manor, in chilly isolated northern England.

This is as far away as possible

from hot, luxurious, teeming, colourful India. 'Mary quite contrary' can go outside, and here she discovers a hidden, neglected garden which she begins to tend. Inside, she discovers a hidden, neglected cousin whom she also begins to tend. Colin's mother has died bearing him and mean old daddy/uncle, sure he will be crippled like himself, hasn't bonded with him. Mary gets him out into the garden, with the help of well-adjusted local lad Dickon and his sensible family.

Burnett was a Christian Scientist. A healthy mind in a healthy body, good food, fresh air, gainful employment and a proper way of thinking were what she preached. That was less usual then than it is now. The book was originally written for adults and serialised in an American magazine. It wasn't much thought of by the time she died. Like Mary and Colin and the garden, it had a renaissance.

You probably all know the story as it's been filmed, re-enacted and televised so many times. The unattractive, badly behaved and sickly cousins heal each other without the intervention of the adults, who all follow suit. When the spring comes, everybody flowers.

I've probably seen all the adaptations and taken something from all of them ...even the latest, seemingly universally disliked, despite mean old Colin Firth (who could make anything into a silk purse.) My favourite: perhaps 1993 with Kate Maberley, and Maggie Smith as the mean old housekeeper.

But nothing beats what unfolds in your head as you read the book!

My most recent discovery is

Salley Vickers' eleventh novel, *The Gardener*, Penguin Random House UK, 2022. I've followed this author (b.1948) since meeting her on an Australian tour to promote her first book, *Miss Garnet's Angel* (2000), and finding I liked her blend of 'literary fiction with romantic and psychological themes.' She's also a psychoanalyst — but maybe every writer is. The plots are widely varied and I don't like all her stories, but when I do, they're the ones that stay on my shelves.

This latest uses some of my favourite themes: the renovation of an old house and its garden, family disjunction and the need for healing, the redemptive power of place and the way a landscape may hold all its past history. Romance as such is not something I would really notice and perhaps that's why Vickers seems underrated among contemporary British authors.

Protagonist Halcyon ('Hassie') Days and her sister Margot have pooled their inheritance and put their sibling rivalry on hold, to buy a Jacobean manor house and overgrown garden near Much Wenlock, in the part of Shropshire that borders the Welsh Marches. Hassie is a book illustrator who hates her current assignment and nurses a heart broken by her married art dealer lover. She was her elderly birdwatcher father's favourite. Cleverer, prettier Margot, was Mother's favourite ... who was obviously a mean, if not so old, thing.

There's an Albanian refugee hired to work in the garden and is

not really a 'terrorist.' There's a widowed vicar who is not really a 'Christian.' There's a village spinster and retired headmistress who is not really a 'witch.'

The garden must, and of course will, heal them all, and if it's a foregone conclusion, the journey is spell-binding, and all under the shadow of A E Housman's Wenlock Edge.

I know Border country is a place where anything can happen — or so the keeper of Brother Cadfael's Garden once told me. This was once goddess territory and the Old Religion still survives behind the Romano-British pre-Christian titular deity now called Saint Milburga.

Did John Milton realise the serpent in his Paradise was a goddess symbol? That meeting under a sacred tree was how we first worshipped? That passing around a fruiting bough and taking a bite was sharing Her body? That we were all entitled to Knowledge?

Best not go there. Yet.

I haven't worked out which of Vickers' characters is *The Gardener*, but that's fine.

When Rupert and I married, over thirty years ago, we marked the day with a custom-built sundial. It carried our names, the location, the date, and a maxim: *Live as if you will die tomorrow; Garden as if you will live forever.*

He didn't live forever and we didn't even stay there. But wherever we went, we established a garden. Even if we did have to keep reorienting the sundial.

2023 Concert Series launch a huge success

Limestone Consort's *Women by Women* program on 19 February was a tremendous success.

With outstanding solo performances by Ariana Odermatt on the harpsichord, Robyn Mellor on recorder and soprano, Greta Claringbould, accompanied by cellist Clara Tenniswood and violinist and leader Lauren Davis. And what an enthusiastic, receptive audience! So wonderful to see you all again for what promises to be a fantastic year of great, live music.

— * — * — * —
Coming up in March, the Concert Series presents *Oceans Together*.

A delicate, melodic and evocative contemporary jazz quartet

that'll take you on an uplifting musical journey. This breathtaking group is led by composers Mark Ginsburg and Ryan Grogan, alongside close collaborators Brendan Clarke and Fabian Hevia.

The members of this quartet all hail from the southern hemisphere — South Africa, South American and New Zealand and all based in Sydney, Australia. To have the calibre of this ensemble performing in Braidwood, in an intimate venue is fantastic and not to be missed! This tour is produced by SIMA with the support of Playing Australia and Create NSW.

Friday 17th March, 5.00pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church.

THE SERVICEMENS CLUB
MONTHLY TRIVIA NIGHT
CASH PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM
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7-9PM
COME AS A TEAM OF UP TO 8PPL OR
COME ALONE AND BE ADDED TO A TEAM!

BCA NEWS

Sue Murray

The skate park opening is on Saturday 25th Feb.

After many years of planning and waiting, Braidwood now has a state-of-the-art skate park created by the brilliant team from Grind Projects led by Steve Kelly. You may have seen kids and parents already using it (unofficially) and having a wonderful time.

At the opening there will be skating workshops and demonstrations, food, music and activities for kids.

This has been a real community project. Extensive community consultation preceded the decision to locate it at the Rec Ground. The local skating community contributed design ideas in workshops held by the QPRC urban landscapes team. During the bushfire recovery period, the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association (BYPAA) with the BCA Youth Activities Sub-Committee, decided to apply for a Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Grant to fund the skate park.

The application was successful, and we have worked closely with QPRC, the NSW Public Works Advisory and Grind Projects to deliver the project within budget. We

also obtained a grant from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for BBQ's, a shelter and additional picnic furniture. These will be installed before the opening.

We are now finalising the basic landscaping and working closely with Nate Pharoah (Revoked Skateboarders & Co) to prepare for the opening. Nate has used his extensive contacts in the skateboarding world to invite Songlines, a group of professional Indigenous Skateboarders, to provide workshops and a demo on the day.

Nate is also helping local kids to obtain skateboards and working towards providing some Personal Protective Equipment for the kids who don't have it. He has organised a raffle to provide extra funds for equipment. Nate has also provided advice on skateboarding etiquette and safety precautions, under the banner "RESPECT".

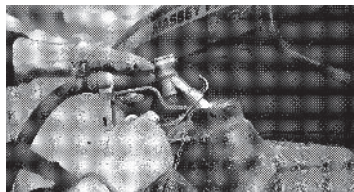
The poster artwork [below right] was created by local artists Louis Munnings and Monty Crosbie.

We would love to see you at the opening, to share in the celebrations and see this fantastic addition to the recreational facilities provided for our community in action at last.

Albo must rule out tax hike on farmers

NSW Farmers media release

NSW Farmers says the Prime Minister must completely rule out any change to farm fuel taxes or risk major protest action.



The Grattan Institute's proposal to impose road users charges on farm vehicles would drastically increase the cost of producing food and fibre when families can least afford it, James Jackson from NSW Farmers says.

"After nine consecutive interest rate rises all Australians are feeling the pinch, and here come these 'experts' with a plan to make food more expensive!" Mr Jackson said.

"Fuel is one of the most expensive input costs in producing food, and making it more expensive for farmers means families will pay more at the checkout.

"If the Prime Minister does not immediately rule out adopting this foolish plan and pushes ahead with

this madness, he can expect to see 10,000 tractors in Canberra."

Mr Jackson hosted a visit from the Prime Minister at his Guyra farm last year, and said the issue of farm fuel taxes was raised.

"People can choose to drive an electric car – they don't pay this tax by the way – but farmers cannot choose not to use diesel to produce our food," Mr Jackson said.

"The very idea of imposing a road user charge on off-road vehicles is silly to start with, but in this case it will hurt all Australians and our farm businesses.

"We need a firm commitment from the PM to rule out taxing farm fuel."



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BRAIDWOOD SKATE PARK OPENING EVENT

Saturday 25 February 2023 at the Braidwood Recreation Ground

Don't miss the official opening of Braidwood's new Skate Park built by Grind Projects.

This is a family friendly event celebrating **COMMUNITY, RESPECT, INCLUSION, and CULTURE.**

PROGRAM

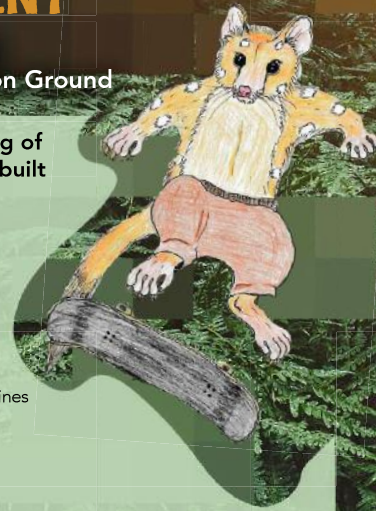
10.30 am
Skateboarding workshop with Songlines and Spinifex Skateboarding.

1.30 pm
Official opening and raffle prizes.

2.00 pm
Pro-skate demos, activities, DJ's and live music.

The Braidwood Skate Park has been funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, co-funded by the Australian and NSW governments.

Artwork by Louis Munnings and Monty Crosby





Mr Smith's shop

John Longhurst

In distant times, before supermarket shopping and credit cards, the corner store in regional centres was an essential part of daily lifestyle.

The personalised service, the daily bread and newspapers, the odd pie or milkshake, questionable fresh fruit and vegetables and of course, a grocery range with as much choice as a Soviet Russia government store, greeted the customers.

My corner store was somewhat different. For the above service and goods, I would much prefer to walk the extra block to Mr Smith's shop. The shop was always open, the service was gruff but predictable, it was a stress free engagement and most important of all, he sold Bex Powders singularly. Unfortunately, he offered credit as frequently as he smiled and his nickname 'Hungry Smith' had little to do with his ample waistline.

My corner store did some of the same, some of the time, but all of the time it provided credit. It would have receipt books with carbon paper and each dated entry with items and price was hand printed and a bill issued every month. It was handy when I was short of cash money and advantageous calculations were sometimes the outcome of shonky maths from some family members.

However, a visit to my corner store was a somewhat traumatic experience. A family with a minimum of ten people owned the store and somehow squeezed into the adjoining two bedroom house with

an enclosed verandah converted to barracks. With eight children, and a passing parade of friends and long staying relatives, it would have made more sense to replace the doors with turnstiles. It was positioned on a busy intersection, and in the times of predominant Australian manufacture of questionable cars, it was not all that unusual for a transaction to be interrupted by a car smash and sometimes, the said driver stumbling into the shop for some self invented remedy to a high alcohol level before the police arrived.

On rare, good feel days, I believed the entertainment deserved an entrance fee. It was pretty much like the characters from Ronald Dahl stories infiltrating Harper Lee's novel *To Kill A Mocking Bird*. At afternoon newspaper delivery time, plenty of prejudice would be on display, but the feral children were Scout and Jem like, in their innocence, as they laughed and mimicked old George Hill who 'wouldn't give you the dribbles off his nose' or Tully the butcher from across the road who liked to deliver one sausage at a time, for the evening meal, to extend his flirt with their mother. However, the stealing of their blind grandfather's white walking stick for blindfolded dares to cross the busy road in the quickest time, tested the heart rate of us customers.

Mostly though, I would brace myself for a visit to my corner store by ingesting two Bex Powders. To the side of the shop, more often than not, an incinerator was being stoked by enthusiastic younger members of the family,

who seemed to use quantities of kerosene from the back storage tank, with unsupervised abandon. The fumes certainly assisted the visually impaired in locating the premises.

A nosier customer could peer over the fence, to observe a range of behaviours befitting a free range zoo or a prison exercise yard. At any given time or season, random children, always barefoot and wearing ill fitting clothes in colours as random as a mixed bag of lollies, could be seen emerging dripping wet, from the manhole on top of the house water tank.

Some, apparently living in the wood heap, would protect their habitat by throwing logs of wood at a persistent younger sister's attempted invasions, while another could be spotted chasing the new pet guinea pig around the backyard with a blockbuster. An entrepreneurial child could be seen reselling homing pigeons to an unsuspecting public. For variety, they would sit like cockatoos on the roof to challenge each other to jump or imitate abattoir carcasses by hanging off the Hills Hoist. All activities would pause, at certain times, as they would gather around a purpose dug hole in the middle of the yard to somehow observe the flow of excrement when the toilet was flushed.

The only stable character appeared to be the family dog, casting a protective eye over the mayhem.

The height and depth of the back fence clearly defined the neighbour's fears and ringed, barbed wire along its top, would not have looked out of place.

Even greater barriers and challenges awaited the customer on the western side of the shop. Their patronage was threatened by a crop of corn stretching beyond the front garden, to the footpath or more dangerously, billy carts, sometimes alight, speeding down the hill. Or, on one occasion at least, an out of control tractor tyre bouncing onto the busy intersection, hitting a car and a hysterical youngest child emerging from it unscathed.

The cynical amongst us reluctant clientele believed their parents made them watch Evel Kneivel stunt clips as a means to calm them down and we seriously countenanced the wearing of safety helmets and personal protective equipment to purchase a loaf of bread.

On surviving entrance to the shop, we customers faced a roulette of service experiences. It was not unusual to spot a naked youngest family member kidnapped from the shower and held hostage in the locked bread cabinet, pleading to the customer through the glass window for release. At all times, we were totally at the mercy of the counter attendant and each item had to be individually sought. The lucky were served by the mother who juggled the family and a business, but still wrote housewife as her occupation on the census. Each transaction came with a complimentary chat and, for some, it was the highlight of their day.

For the unlucky, in the depths of winter one could shiver for ages as the siblings, parent free, would sit tightly semi circled around the fireplace, inside the adjoining kitchen, loudly arguing about whose turn it was to serve, all intent on preventing their bare chilblained legs from losing their place in the pecking order round the fire.

After the long wait, the ensuing service from the defeated sibling was curt and rapid fired, often leaving me wondering about the difficulty in putting needed income into the family till. I did protest to the mother on one such occasion, on animal welfare grounds, when I sighted a stray horse amongst them in the kitchen.

For the very unlucky female customer, it could be an encounter with the efficacious middle child. As per the custom in these days, a woman would quietly ask to see the mother to purchase personal care items, which were discreetly kept out of eye sight, and always wrapped in newspaper after sale. He would then yell 'Mum, Mrs Jones wants to see you. I think she wants to buy tampons.' For efficient transactions in future, the son meticulously stacked a whole shelf in direct eye line of the customer, with newspaper wrapped packs of tampons and sanitary pads, ensuring every customer and particularly children, point or scream at the mystery presents.

These daily experiences were a great source of revenue for Mr Smith. Most of us would much prefer the extra kilometre walk to his store and wondered whether Fawty Towers was in fact a documentary in a distant land or we were witnessing an early version of reality television.

Upsets keep bowlers on toes

Braidwood Bowling Club committee report from Facebook and photos: Kathy Toirkens



Round 3 of Barefoot went off without a hitch. Possibly the best night yet of Barefoot over the past 10 years.

No seabreeze, no storms, no drizzle, just 90 people enjoying a game of bowls. So many smiles and so much laughter is great to see. The Chicks With Attitude (CWA) put an end to the tyranny that Team Nutrition have been dishing out to jump up the ladder to second.

Backhouse Transport have claimed top spot with a week to go with an impressive display against newcomer heavyweights 30 Dirty Toes. The Raiders had a great battle with the Wylie Coyotes and most impressive about that game is watch three youngsters mixing it up with older competitors and all having fun — great work girls.

Team Biggsy held no prisoners against the G&T's recording a big win looking to jump up the ladder,

but have left their run a little late, climbing to 6th. Team Lazer though, is my pick for the tournament, improving every single week and finding themselves in the top 4, well done boys.

Many thanks to Kathy Toirkens, for putting her bowls down this week and picking up her camera for some great shots. The joy and excitement she has captured in these pics are great. Also thanks to Bowls president Damian Campbell-Davys and Secretary Nigel McGrath for helping to prepare dinner, selling of raffle tickets and setting up for the evening. Thanks to Kerri Backhouse and Jeanette McCullough and helpers for buttering all the bread, and a huge thankyou to Barry Backhouse, Steve Piper and Leigh Curtis for the green preparation. Team Tally-Ho Rollers picked up the \$150, and the winners of the raffle were, Greg Watson, Damien Bigg, Martin Glover and Lisa Hollins, thanks must go to Kerri Backhouse for organising the raffle each week and to the Braidwood Servicemens Club for their generous donation and Hold Fast Distillery for another delicious beverage. Thanks to the Community Bank Braid-

wood and Crookwell Agency once again for their support, but most importantly thanks to the 90 bowlers for showing up.

This week will see us take to the final round, before play we will do a "Spider" with cash prize to 1st, 2nd and 3rd, entry will be \$5 per team/3 bowls with 1st getting \$90, 2nd getting \$60 and 3rd getting \$30. After all the games have concluded, the top two sides will then play 1, 5 end set to determine the overall winner and runner up.

We'll see you all on the green.



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Authorised by J Lundy, National Party of Australia – NSW, Level 2, 107 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000



"We had a good game. It was a lot of fun and their [the opposition's] last bowl was the shot of the night — it landed right next to the jack. But we won more ends."

Jean Cargill



"Just don't speak to me about it!"

Reg O'Connell





More snapshots from last week's Barefoot Bowls



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Women come together this March through Art, Food and Activism

QPRC Cultural Services media release

Rusten House Art Centre steps into March in full stride with the opening of two exciting feminist exhibitions as a part of the QPRC Women's Festival, a series of events including free luncheons, curator and artist talks, community discussion circles and workshops.

There are battles yet to win: Feminist Posters 1979 to Now exhibits an abundance of screen-printed posters that use both anger and humour to graphically illustrate some of the issues and events facing women in their struggle for equal rights over the last five decades in Australia. Featuring works by Alison Alder and various artists and curated by Cindi Gillmore, who believes ... *'Feminist printmaking at this time developed its own clear-cut direct language and it needed to be - that's the*

point where women were presenting their own ideas from a woman's standpoint. The social defence was not only producing the poster but how the battle lines were drawn on a public platform.'

A Feminist at My Table is an installation featuring the work of Claire Young from a series of screen-printed tablecloths made to spark conversations about heroes – or villains – over a meal. The feminists featured in this work are Bandler, Chisholm, Contos, Cowan, D'Aprano, Greer, Goldstein and Summers, who, despite their flaws or missteps, were just a few of the women with inspiring achievements who could have been included in the work. Young's tablecloth installation will be augmented by feminist chairs produced by local female artists to



Claire Young, *A feminist at my table 2023*, from multi-panel screen-print on cotton and linen tablecloth with hem-stitched border.

reside around this provocative table.

'These exhibitions come at a critical juncture in 21st Century Feminism, in looking backwards through these historic posters, we see how the women's movement used art as a medium of information exchange and social activism. We will naturally compare those to the more recent work of Alison Alder, that eloquently states; that the battle is yet to be won and Claire Young's work that seduces you with table talk to inform and debate over the successes and failures of notable Feminists. It's all bound to get people talking – which is what we want' states Janita Byrne QPRC's Team Leader for Culture & Arts, who spearheaded the development of the exhibitions.

Both exhibitions form part of the QPRC Women's Festival that are focused around International Women's Day celebrations on 8 March. The opening event for these will take place at Rusten House Art Centre, Queanbeyan on 4 March, with feminist speakers, lunch and entertainment.

Bookings are essential for attendance: [See the QR code].

Free lunch

There are also FREE Luncheon events in both Braidwood on 8 March and Bungendore on 11 March. Bookings are essential [see QR code]. The luncheon event in Bungendore, takes place on the Saturday 11 March after International Women's Day, giving everyone an opportunity to celebrate. Both luncheons will feature a digital exhibition **'HERstory - Women of Queanbeyan-Palerang Region'**, guest speakers and musical entertainment. Men are also encouraged to attend these celebrations.

These events have been funded in part by the NSW Government Reconnecting Regional Communities Grant Program and QPRC.

Exhibition dates:

4 March – 29 April 2023.

Opening Event:
Saturday 4 March, Noon – 3pm.

Exhibition Venue:
Rusten House Art Centre
87 Collett Street, Queanbeyan
NSW 2622 Ph 6285 6356

Viewing times:
Wed – Saturday, 10am – 4pm



Image in the advertisement — Alison Alder, *There are battles yet to win*, screen-print. 2018.

Rusten House Art Centre presents

FEMINIST POSTERS 1979 TO NOW

THERE ARE BATTLES YET TO WIN!

Poster: Alison Alder

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This exhibition forms part of the QPRC Women's Festival, funded in part by the Reconnecting Regional NSW Government Grant Program
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/community/culture-and-arts/rusten-house

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Author: Jenny E. Member for The Greeny (2016 - 2017) | Editor: Peter Campbell, QPRC 2020

Pollies tackle tough topics at regional debates

NSW Farmers media release

Potholes, solar panels and compulsory land acquisition are some of the biggest issues to emerge from NSW Farmers' election debate series, which is set to heat up in the final two weeks.

The energy transition and its impact on country communities has emerged as a major issue during four debates hosted by NSW Farmers, alongside road and rail repair, water security and climate policies.

Ministers, shadow ministers and minor parties faced tough questioning during the debates in Goulburn, Bega, Armidale and Muswellbrook, and NSW Farmers Head of Policy Annabel Johnson said people wanted to know how the next government would make things better.

"This is going to be a very tight election with the cost of living crisis hurting everyone, families and farmers alike, and they're wanting to know what will be done about it," Ms Johnson said.

"Roads range from ordinary to terrible across the state, and at the same time there's this huge land development pressure – people are feeling like things are being done to their communities without any consultation.

"For those people who have their land compulsorily acquired for big new projects, there's a real question around whether they're being treated fairly and getting paid enough."

The community of Merriwa, in the Upper Hunter, was a prime example of the pressures facing rural areas, Ms Johnson said. Situated on the Golden Highway between Newcastle and Dubbo, Merriwa will become a major thoroughfare for trucks and workers building renewable energy projects. Locals raised concerns about schoolchildren crossing highway to access sporting fields, and feared Sydney-

style traffic jams without urgent intervention.

"Locals told the politicians that Merriwa isn't benefitting from all this new development, but it's bearing the burden, and it's just one of many towns facing similar pressures," Ms Johnson said.

"Both the government and opposition admitted there was a problem here, but it's not clear what the solution will be."

"It's clear we need a better method of community engagement when these big projects are proposed, and a better system of scoping out what the full impacts are."

The issue of people feeling unfairly treated when their land was acquired was an important issue for NSW Farmers and voters, with concerns people weren't receiving a fair value for their property. Ms Johnson said NSW Farmers had called for reform of the Just Terms Compensation Act to be more suitable for rural land interventions in its election platform.

With the cost of producing food and fibre skyrocketing as inflation bites all Australians, Ms Johnson said there had to be a dedicated focus on stronger regions and securing agricultural production from the next government.

"Country communities grow Sydney's food, and they want to know they won't be left behind as governments tackle economic pressures and a changing climate," Ms Johnson said.

"People have said they want to be treated with respect and dealt with fairly, and I'd say that message will come through loud and clear at our final two debates.

"NSW Farmers is telling all parties they will need to expand their focus beyond Sydney to win these crucial votes and form government."

Weed control workshop

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare media release

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council is hosting a workshop series as part of their role in assisting the Araluen Creek Restoration Project with the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group.

The chunky part of the project is the actual large scale works along the creek.

However, in addition to substantial erosion control works on the actual creek, the project is focused on the other necessary elements to look after Araluen Creek, such as riparian health and waterwatch monitoring, re-vegetation, weed control and measures to keep stock out of the creek line by fencing and providing alternative water sources. In addition, we have looked at small scale erosion control measures. Our next workshop is Saturday 25 February 2023.

The workshops are FREE plus morning tea and a light lunch provided.

Interested? Then sign up. RSVP to: or to Clare on 0412 425 665 (text and voicemail are good too).

Practical Weed Control Workshop – Saturday 25 February 2023 [see ad below]

Learn the best ways to manage weeds on your property.

The workshop will be led by Daniel Anderson of Apical.

At this workshop weed management experts, Apical, will outline restoration, remediation and weed eradication processes and principles. They will also provide practical demonstrations of weed removal and bush regeneration on site along the Araluen Creek. The focus will be on – creepers and native grasses, in particular, Madeira Winter Cherry Vine, an emerging threat in the region and weed grasses such as Serrated Tussock and African Lovegrass. Techniques will address management and control measures for different stages of growth – seedling through to mature plants.





WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY	8:30AM - 2:30PM
25	ARALUEN CREEK, ARALUEN (DIRECTIONS GIVEN UPON RSVP)
FEBRUARY	Register your interest to Clare Henderson 0412 425 665 OR upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com

At this workshop weed management experts, Apical, will outline restoration, remediation and weed eradication processes and principles.

They will also provide practical demonstrations of weed removal and bush regeneration on site along Araluen Creek.

The focus will be on – creepers and native grasses, in particular, Madeira Winter Cherry Vine, an emerging threat in the region and weed grasses such as Serrated Tussock and African Lovegrass.

Techniques will address management and control measures for different stages of growth – seedling through to mature plants.

Morning tea and lunch provided.

This workshop is part of Upper Deua Catchment Landcare's Araluen Creek Restoration project.





POKER

First Sunday of the Month

Register from 2.30pm, start playing at 3pm

First Sunday of the month.
Next Date - Sun 5th March

New players welcome!

THE LAW

Angela Backhouse

Remuneration transparency — pay secrecy clauses are now banned

On 6 December 2022, the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022* (Cth) (Act) was implemented into Australian law. The changes introduced by the Act are substantial and are considered to be the most significant reforms to employment law in Australia since the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) (FW Act) was introduced over a decade ago.

The Act sees the introduction of several changes to the employment law landscape with amendments to the law targeted at promoting job security, flexibility, and equality for individual employees. One key area of amendment is with regards to “pay secrecy” clauses.

What is a Pay Secrecy Clause?

A pay secrecy clause is a common inclusion in most employment contracts. The clause will



generally provide that an employee’s remuneration is confidential and prohibits employees from disclosing, discussing and/or comparing salaries with one another. Breaches of those clauses have previously seen employers have a valid and lawful reason to institute disciplinary action against an employee (depending on the circumstances of each specific case).

Secret no more...

However, the Act now makes it

a **workplace right** for employees to disclose (or not disclose) information regarding their remuneration and terms and conditions of employment required to calculate their remuneration i.e., hours worked, on-call/shift-work requirements, sales numbers.

By making this a workplace right, it means that employees are protected from having adverse action taken against them for making such disclosures. Further, employees are now entitled to make general protections claim if their employer takes adverse action against them for having exercised this workplace right.

Dates to be aware of

These amendments apply to employment contracts that have been entered into on or after 7 December 2022 i.e., all contracts entered into on or after 7 December 2022 must not contain pay secrecy clauses and if they do, they cannot be enforced.

With respect to employment contracts entered into before 7 December 2022, the Act and its amendments to the Fair Work Act have no immediate effect i.e., the employees are still required to

comply with any pay secrecy clauses in their contracts. However, once the contract is varied, it cannot include a pay secrecy clause i.e., once the employee receives a pay increase, promotion or other change in their role, the pay secrecy clause will not apply from the time of that variation.

The Act allows employers a grace period of six-months to update employment contracts. As of 7 June 2023, employers who enter into contracts/agreements that include pay secrecy provisions can be held liable for penalties of up to \$66,600 per contravention.

Be proactive!

Employers are highly advised to seek guidance from an employment lawyer to ensure they are meeting their obligations, complying with the new legislative amendments, and protected from potential liability. Employers are strongly encouraged to use these amendments as a catalyst to:

- Review their current employment contracts to confirm if they compliant;
- Seek advice on any amendments required to their employment contracts and workplace policies; and
- Assess any gaps in their remuneration models to ensure there are no grounds to claim that salaries are based on protected characteristics such as gender, age, race etc.

Contact the Workplace Law Team at Chamberlains Law firm on (02) 6188 3633 for further advice.



Chamberlains.
Law Firm



As part of Chamberlains full-service offering we can assist you with:

- Conveyancing
- Wills & Estate Planning
- Property Transactions
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Business Law
- Family Law



For Braidwood appointments, contact:

Angela Backhouse

 **02 6188 3600**

 Unit 1, 19 Park Lane, Braidwood



Braidwood Scouts Mega Car Boot Sale

Saturday 11th March 2023

Braidwood Scout Hall, Coghill Street

9am to 2pm

✓ Free Stalls

Bookings essential.

Contact Louise McKendry at

lcole76@gmail.com

- ✓ CAKE STALL
- ✓ EGG & BACON ROLLS
- ✓ KIDS ACTIVITIES
- ✓ HEAPS OF STALLS



1st Braidwood
Scout Group

OBITUARY

Anthony Kelly 6/6/1959 – 2/2/2023



Anthony was born on June 6 1959, to parents Bernard and Patricia in Melbourne.

Anthony was immensely proud of both his parents: his father served as a train driver with Victorian Railways (Driver 282) for 43 years and his mother was a hospital

matron at Fairfield Hospital Melbourne.

Although not particularly sports minded in later life, Anthony was a member of the Collingwood under 13 team who won their premiership in 1972.

Anthony worked in the automo-

tive detailing industry in Melbourne, and subsequently cared for his mother until her death in 2013.

After a world cruise in 2017, he moved to Araluen, opening the Christmas Shop in Wallace Street Braidwood.

In 2022 Anthony rekindled his interest in motorcycles and purchased a Ducati in which he toured country Victoria. He then fulfilled another lifetime ambition and travelled to Las Vegas, before returning to Braidwood.

In recent years Anthony's health deteriorated and despite his fun loving attitude to life, he spent some time in Canberra hospital recovering from pneumonia.

Unfortunately he passed away at home, soon after his return.

Anthony was a kind, fun loving person who always enjoyed a good

chat. He loved having the Christmas Shop. We will all remember him dressed up as an Elf!

Anthony was loving brother, son, and friend to many and will be sadly missed by all.



The funeral service for Anthony Kelly will be held Graveside at Braidwood Cemetery on Wednesday 1st March at 1pm.

20 more nurses for Monaro

Media release from Nichole Overall's office

Thirteen graduate nurses are joining the staff at Queanbeyan Hospital and Braidwood Multipurpose Service, while a further six are joining the ranks in Bombala and Cooma.

Member for Monaro Nichole Overall made the announcement ahead of a further midwife joining the Queanbeyan and Braidwood health services next week.

"Having an additional 20 nurses joining our hospital teams is a huge boost for our local communities," Mrs Overall said.

"The work that nurses and midwives do is at the very heart of the public health system, caring for people in our hospitals, at home and in our communities.

"Meeting the wonderful nurses Niamh and Sajan at Queanbeyan Hospital today, it was wonderful to hear their stories of moving to Monaro to further their studies and gain experience on the job."

"We know giving these opportunities to young nurses is so important as many stay in the Monaro and build a life here."

"The commitment, compassion and skills they bring to the role make a huge difference and contribute greatly to the health and wellbeing of the people of the Monaro.

"I am happy to welcome the new



Sajani Khadka, Cassandra Packwood, Nichole Overall MP, Niamh Collett

recruits to our hospitals and know that they will make a big difference to the health and wellbeing of our community."

Four further graduate nurses will start at the Cooma Hospital and Bombala MPS in July.

These graduates are amongst a record 3,600 nurses and midwives

set to start working across 130 NSW public hospitals and health services this year.

Minister for Regional Health Bronnie Taylor said more than a third of the record number of graduates beginning their careers with NSW Health have chosen to work in our rural and regional hospitals.

"It is so wonderful to see so many nurses and midwives either choosing to move to the bush or returning home so they can care for their communities," Mrs Taylor said.

"As someone who spent the best part of their nursing career at a regional hospital, I know the skills and experience these new nurses will gain will set them up for success into their future nursing career.

The latest state-wide intake of graduate nurses and midwives is an

18 per cent increase on last year. It is also the largest intake of any state or territory in Australia.

NSW Health has the largest health system in the country and employs more than 53,000 nurses and midwives, more than ever before.

Overall, between mid-2012 and mid-2022 NSW Health increased its workforce by an additional 25,700 full time equivalent staff – an increase of 25.2 per cent, including 9,340 more nurses and midwives, 4,140 more doctors, and 2,490 more allied health staff.

The NSW Government recently announced the largest workforce boost in the nation's history in the 2022-23 Budget with a \$4.5 billion investment over four years for 10,148 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff to hospitals and health services across NSW.



IN MEMORIAM

Suzanne Bellamy (1948 – 2022)

Original prints and painted murals, selected ceramic sculpture, and mixed-media works from her Mongarlowe studio

ALL WORKS EXHIBITED FOR SALE

3 March - 19 March 2023

Opening celebration from 6 - 8pm on Friday 3 March - All Welcome

FYREGALLERY

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Banish the backroom bushrangers

Elizabeth Farrelly Upper House candidate in NSW election

Did you know that Braidwood hosted NSW's second-ever Royal Commission?

In 1867 an enquiry was held to investigate the activities of energetic local bushrangers, John and Thomas Clarke. The Felons' Apprehension Act of 1866 introduced the concept of 'outlawry' to Australian law and entitled a citizen to kill any person proclaimed an outlaw, on sight.

But those bushranger activities were small beer compared with the systemic destruction and theft underway today, albeit without the guns.

Successive state governments, in thrall to corporate profit, continue to steal land, water, assets and the right to clean air that rightly belong to the citizens. They don't put it that way, of course. They are 'strengthening the economy', 'making the hard decisions' and 'creating jobs'. Yet somehow these decisions never seem to benefit you, or anyone you know.

I fell in love with Braidwood at first sight, years back, and more recently bought a small property just off the Cooma Road. I love the ve-



randa-lined main street, the excellent cafes and sourdough, the pubs, the wood-floored wine shop and the wonderful Smokey Horse. I love the leafy streets, the extraordinarily diverse community and the fact that just about everyone seems to have converted a backyard shed into a creative studio of some sort.

You'd think the government would value Braidwood. After all, it's one of the few NSW towns on the state heritage register. Yet where's the evidence? Housing is in dire straits, undersupplied and

overpriced. Services are being cut – like the recycling station near me – just as rates are to increase by a whopping and permanent 64% (after three years). Biodiversity and agricultural land are threatened by sprawl and short-term letting makes it hard for locals to find a house. It is in part because of Braidwood that I am running as an independent for election to the NSW Upper House this March.

I can't deny it's challenging. No independent has ever been elected to the NSW upper house. That's partly because NSW, as an electorate, is bigger than Texas and four times the size of the UK. It's also because everything – from donation caps to ballot-paper position to logistics – is stacked against Independents. And hardly anyone knows why the upper house matters. Most of us consider their upper house vote only when actually confronting the metre-long ballot paper in the booth.

Yet it does matter. The upper house is the house of review, supposedly wiser and cooler than the lower house. However progressive the lower house becomes it will make no difference if the upper house remains controlled by Shooters and Fishers, say, or (as polling suggests) One Nation.

Independents are far more responsive to the needs of their communities. Unlike major party MPs, they do not have to obey party bosses, faction leaders and major before they listen to their communities. For an Independent, every vote is a conscience vote.

Many of us are tired of politics-as-usual. That's why I established Elizabeth Farrelly Independents. We're tired of the lies, the posturing, the shonky backroom deals and the politicians who are little more than modern-day bushrangers in suits. We desperately need real people in government, not career politicians or political staffers groomed through the party ranks. We need people who have lived experience, who are connected to their communities and care about their futures. People who will vote and act according to the longer-term bigger picture.

These issues include government dishonesty and obfuscation; the deliberate exclusion of communities from decision making; the industrial-scale destruction of the environment for developer profit; the outrageous cost of housing and rentals; the sluggish transition to renewables; the poor planning in



Elizabeth with grandson Lachlan at the Braidwood rodeo.

our cities; the undermining of rural healthcare, banks and other services; water and waste.

We have a vision of a NSW that is lovely and purposeful, where people expect decency from their governments and interest from their neighbourhoods. Where governments and communities work together to clean the air, nurture the seas and forests, create vibrant, walkable, medium-density cities and villages and create a fair and excellent system of education. Where we all feel included in a culture and common purpose that is, in essence, this: civilised survival. Where our kids and grandkids inherit a planet as habitable and beautiful as that into which we were born.

And it can be done. If we had charged proper royalties on gas-mining just last year, we would have reaped an extra \$21 billion for NSW. That's a lot of green jobs. A lot of transition to a clean economy we simply let fall through our fingers.

Neither major party will stand up to big money. They don't have the backbone. So they can't take us where we need to go: survival.

Please, join us. Wherever you are in the state, donate, volunteer, take a corflute! Help us end the cronyism and achieve the impossible. Let's change politics. Banish the backroom bushrangers for good!

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly is a columnist, architect, author, former Associate Professor and former City of Sydney Councillor. She has built an off-grid house near Braidwood and is now running as an independent candidate for the NSW Upper House, which represents the entire state.

<https://www.elizabethfarrelly.com.au>



THE SERVICEMENS CLUB

Upcoming workshop at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club

Braidwood Everlasting Floral Arrangement Workshop

By Wild Blooms & Co

Sat 4 Mar at 2pm



Book at classbento.com.au/L/69K3-W

Whats Included:

- 2 hour guided instructions to build your own dried flower arrangement
- a variety of dried and preserved florals including palm fans, hydrangeas, lily buttons, ruscus and ferns.
- a medium size vase to create and display your arrangement in
- Champagne on arrival (18+)

If you require assistance booking or for more information contact the club on 4842 2108

Funding boost to support upgrades and new facilities at Eden-Monaro caravan parks

Media release from Kristy McBain's office

In a major boost to tourism facilities in Eden-Monaro, the Albanese Labor Government has announced that over \$677,000 in grants will be shared by seven local holiday and caravan parks to support upgrades to facilities and amenities.

The Caravan Park Grants program – which is providing \$10 million for 111 park upgrade projects across Australia – is part of Government's \$48 million package of new funding to support Australia's tourism and travel businesses and workers in their continued recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.

Grants have been offered for projects in Eden-Monaro, including:

- Capital Country Holiday Park, Sutton (\$100,000) – A new playground for children and adults, and refurbishing the old putt putt golf course and old tennis court.



- Tathra Beach Eco Camp (\$100,000) – Installation of a new, fully accessible camp kitchen, incorporating sustainable building practices and energy efficient appliances.
- Crestview Tourist Park (\$100,000) – A full refit for seven family cabins and an upgraded active playground.
- BIG4 Narooma Easts Holiday Park (\$78,995) – Providing a

Glamping experience with two loft bed safari tents, with luxury fittings.

- Kosciuszko Tourist Park (\$100,000) – To help upgrade non-powered sites to powered sites. 12 cabins will be upgraded to become more modern and sustainable, plus installation of bathrooms and showers in smaller cabins.
- Tathra Beachside (\$100,000) –

For the removal of an old amenities building, and replacement with a modern, accessible amenities building.

- Regatta Point Holiday Park, Wallaga Lake (\$100,000) – Construction of new guest facilities, reception and park entrance, introduction of EV charge points and opening up nine additional powered sites.

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and member for Eden-Monaro, the Hon Kristy McBain MP said, "Caravan and holiday parks are a popular accommodation option for families, budget conscious travellers and people keen to explore Australia, particularly in our regions.

"Our investment of over \$677,000 will improve visitor experiences at seven caravan and holiday parks in Eden-Monaro, which will encourage interstate and international visitors to stay longer.

"Better facilities will attract more visitors to experience our amazing destinations and local experiences, which will have significant benefits to our local businesses and economies."

March-May outlook: La Niña weakening

Bureau of Meteorology prediction

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) outlook for March to May indicates a further weakening of the La Niña system that has dominated our weather for the past three years.

For March, the BoM forecasts above median rainfall is likely (60 to 70% chance) for central coastal areas of New South Wales. Most of Australia has close to equal chances of above or below median rainfall.

For March to May, below median rainfall is likely (60 to 80% chance) for much of Western Australia except northern parts, southern Northern Territory, most of South Australia, south-west parts of Queensland, the western slopes of New South Wales Great Dividing Range, Victoria except the Gippsland and north-west Tasmania. Above median rainfall is moderately likely (around 60% chance)

for central parts of coastal New South Wales.

Temperatures across much of Australia will be warmer than average for the March-May period.

For March, above median maximum temperatures are likely (60 to 80% chance) for the far northern parts of the mainland, the South West Land Division of Western Australia, and south-eastern parts of Queensland, with chances increases to very likely (greater than 80% chance) for most of Tasmania. Below median maximum temperatures are likely (60% chance to 80% chance) for northern inland parts of Western Australia, and central coastal areas of New South Wales extending into the Central Slopes and Tablelands.

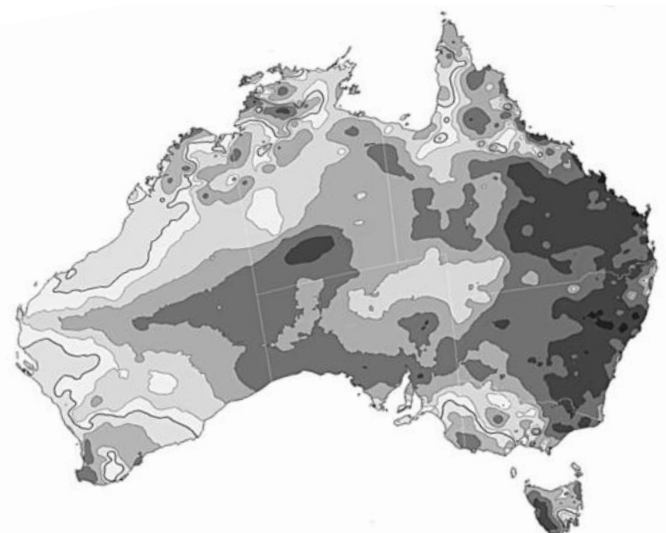
Above median maximum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) for western areas and the north

coast of Western Australia, northern areas of the Northern Territory, eastern areas of South Australia and the eastern states of Australia.

March to May maximum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) to be warmer than median for most of Australia except inland tropical areas, the far south-east of Victoria and central coastal areas of New South Wales.

March to May minimum temperatures are likely to very likely

(60% to greater than 80% chance) to be warmer than median for western and central areas of Western Australia, the far north of the Northern Territory and Queensland, south-east areas of Queensland, on and east of the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales, most of Victoria, and Tasmania. Below median minimum temperatures are moderately likely (around 60% chance) for small areas of the Kimberley and central Australia.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Laura Moriarty



Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

Arts Association, the Braidwood Community Association and QPRC with support from the NSW Public Works Advisory Team.

The International Women's Day Luncheon is on 8th March from 12pm to 3pm at the National Theatre. This free luncheon event in Braidwood on International Women's Day March 8 is part of a series of events for the QPRC Women's Festival that include exhibitions, discussion circles and talks. This Luncheon will feature a public address by Alison Alder whose work is featured in the March-April, Rusten House Exhibition There are battles yet to win: Feminist Posters 1979 to Now.

Alison Alder is a local Mongarlowe screenprinter whose latest exhibition, The Prime Ministers 1-16 is featured at Parliament House in Canberra, and is a former associate professor at the ANU.

Yoga Retreats

Rejuvenating Yoga Retreat – with Christina Jagusiak 28-30th April 2023 Murrah Dream Retreat, (near Bermagui) \$745 It's time to give back to YOU! Fill up your cup, feed your soul and nourish your whole being. A weekend of yoga, healing practices, nutritious food and heartfelt connections. <https://www.satyaliveyoga.com.au/murrah-dream-yoga-retreat/>

Openings

Fyre Gallery are opening on the 3rd March for a very special exhibition titled In Memorial, featuring the late Suzanne Bellamy's artwork. This exhibition is being curated by both Paris Sylvester and Cheryl Hannah and will be on until 19th March 2023.

Markets

Braidwood Scouts are having a car boot sale market on 11th March, and this is a reminder for everyone who wants to participate to get in touch with Chris or Malcolm Campbell.

The Ryrie Park Markets are on 25th February from 8am.

BRAG

Snuggle n Sing is on Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:30 am at BRAG. This is a fun and relaxed time to bond with your baby, to sing songs and learn rhymes that can soothe your child. For further information, please contact Alison Coster on

0411 205 638 or email her at alisoncoster@bigpond.com

Aikido is on Wednesday nights from 4:30-6:30pm. Please phone Matthew Hulse to organise attendance on 0438 648 468.

Sue Lyons runs pilates and yoga on Thursdays at 10:30-11:30 and Fridays at 10:30-12:30. Please get in contact with Sue if you wish to attend.

Christina Jagusiak runs yoga classes on Monday afternoons from 4pm to 5:15pm, and on Saturday mornings from 8am to 9 am. Please get in contact with Christina if you wish to attend.

Art for Relaxation has just started running. It is a volunteer art group run by two local artists, the group has a focus on making a positive space by using art for reflection and emotional expression. Some supplies provided, and you can bring your own too. There will be a different theme each time. Attendees are asked to contribute \$5, or whatever you can, towards materials and venue hire. For information or to RSVP, email Noelle (noelleherbert1@gmail.com) or Chloe (cfeint98@gmail.com). It starts on 14th February at 10:30am and runs til 11:30.

Life Drawing Sessions are also back at Brag this year, and they take place on the last Sunday of each month from 4pm onwards.

Songlarks is back on this year between 9:30-11:10. It is a short music class for pre-school age children, including infants from about six months old. It's about discovering the joy of music together. We sing nursery songs, play hand games and quality percussion instruments, and dance to beautiful music from around the world. The focus is on rhythm, rhyme and the changing of the seasons. These experiences nurture the developing senses of the young child fostering their imagination, imitation and play.

Each class is about 40 minutes. We meet at the Braidwood Regional Arts Group (BRAG) Building on Wallace Street in Braidwood, New South Wales.

At The Club

Jamie Agius is playing his blend

of pub rock and country music on Friday 3rd March from 8pm.

Braidwood Everlasting Floral Arrangement Workshop by Wild Blooms & Co is on 4th March at 2pm. A two-hour guided workshop on how to build your own dried flower arrangement with a variety of preserved florals, which includes palm fans, hydrangeas, billy buttons, ruscus, and ferns, along with a medium sized vase to display your arrangement in. Please book either from this link <http://classbento.com.au/l/69k3-w> or phone the Club on 4842 2108.

First Thursdays Luncheon is on Thursday, 2nd March from 11:30 am onwards. This event is \$10 to attend, and it has a choice of five different dishes, and a dessert. Bookings are not required, but are advised, as this event tends to be wonderfully social.

Singing For Fun is on Tuesday evenings and is \$5 to join. For further information, please contact Peter on 0419 431 517.

Line Dancing is on 7pm to 9pm on Friday nights.

Folk Dancing is on from 9:30am on Monday mornings, and is free to attend.

The Bridge Club meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm and is free to attend. Contact Mrs Olive Royds on 4842 1732. New members without any experience playing Bridge are welcome to attend, and there is no cost for playing.

Wednesdays also see the Ladies Exercise Group meet from 10am to 11am, and is an informal way to get fit and have fun. Free to attend.

Social bowls is on every Wednesday at 12:45pm for a 1pm start.

Tai Chi is on Tuesdays from 10-11 am. Irene Wolford will guide you through it, and you can pay a donation to attend. It is also on Fridays at the same time.

Erika's Movement Classes are on Wednesdays from 1pm, and it is perfect for those of you who sit behind a desk. Please text Erika on 0432 687 255.

Tango Dancing is on every Saturday morning for continuing stu-

dents, and class is from 10:30am to 12pm, with Chris Watkins and Erika Mordek. \$10 for classes, and please contact Erika on 0432 687 255 for further information.

— * — * — * —

Also on Tuesdays is a Squash Competition during the evenings, and bingo on every fortnight with alternating times of 1pm and 6:30 pm.

Other Community Organisations

Braidwood Swimming Club Nights - each Monday of the swimming season, from 5pm.

Events begin with 1-lap kick-board, followed by 1, 3 and 6 lap races of other strokes. New swimmers can come and try for up to three weeks, before any membership is required.

Sausage sizzle available every week.

The Royal Mail's weekly chocolate wheel is on as always!

— * — * — * —

The St Vincent dePaul Society meet every Friday at St Bede's presbytery from 11am to 1pm.

— * — * — * —

Crafty or Not Crafty group meet every Thursday morning at the Anglican Parish Centre behind the Anglican Church on Elrington St from 11am to 12pm. All are welcome.

— * — * — * —

Braidwood Quilters and Textiles meet every Wednesday down at the Scout Hall from 10am onwards.

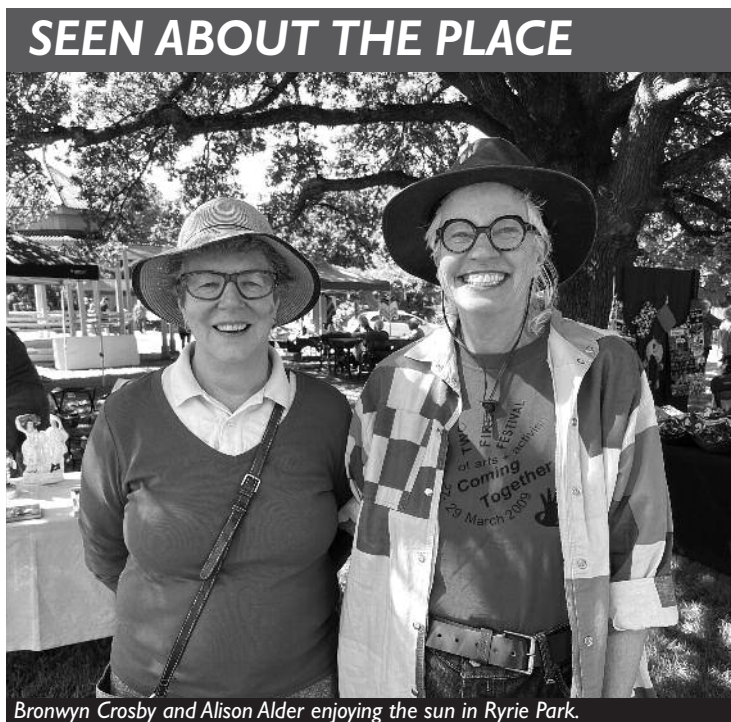
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Braidwood Health Walking Group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am at Ryrie Park. Suitable for all ages and abilities, and you can bring a walking buddy with you if you wish to have company. For further information, please contact Trish Sargeson on 0438 768 539.

— * — * — * —

Braidwood Scouts are on every Thursday throughout the school terms. Joeys (ages 5-7 years) from 6 to 7pm, Cubs (ages 8-11 years) from 6.15 to 7.30pm, Scouts (ages 12-14 years) from 6.30 to 8pm Venturers (ages 15-17 years) from 6.30 to 8pm. Please contact Chris or Malcolm Campbell.

Braidwood Guides are on every Wednesday afternoon throughout the school terms. It starts at 4pm and finishes at 5:30pm. Please contact Kim Stewart on kim@riffsanddrants.com.au for further information.



Bronwyn Crosby and Alison Alder enjoying the sun in Ryrie Park.

SEEN ABOUT THE PLACE



Bronwyn Crosby and Alison Alder enjoying the sun in Ryrie Park.

FRAMING
15 MONKITTEE ST
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BRAIDWOOD 2023 BUSINESS DIRECTORY IS COMPILING NOW

If you are a new business in town we might not have your details.

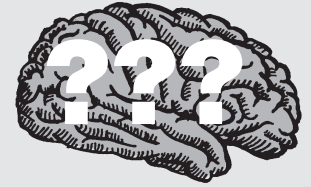
Our aim is to list every business in a directory of names and phone numbers, sorted both alphabetically and by the type of service.

The directory will be produced twice a year as a lift-out centre section in the *Braidwood's Changing Times* newspaper.

We'll be in touch with local businesses over the next few weeks to see if you'd like a simple listing or a larger ad with more details [as with the ads from last year above].

If you would like to be included, send an email to: laura@bwdmag.com.au with your details.

For larger ads, artwork based on your logo or business card can be made at no cost.



News trivia

How well have you been paying attention?

- ❑ What is the respiratory disease identified as affecting tradies working with engineered stone?
- ❑ What was the name of the cyclone that caused catastrophic damage in New Zealand's North Island last week?
- ❑ A by-election in the federal seat of Aston (Vic) has been triggered by the resignation of which former cabinet minister?
- ❑ Which team won the US football's Superbowl?
- ❑ What is the current estimated death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquake?
- ❑ What international event has kicked off in Sydney this week?
- ❑ To where did US President Biden make a secret trip this week?
- ❑ Which film won the coveted Best Film Award at the BAFTAs this week?
- ❑ And which Australian also picked up an award at the same ceremony?

III 34 countries are currently backing a proposal to have Russia and what other country banned from participation at next year's Olympic Games?

- Answers:**
- 1. Sillcois;
 - 2. Cyclone Gabrielle;
 - 3. Alan Tudge;
 - 4. Kansas City Chiefs;
 - 5. 46,000; 6. World Pride;
 - 7. Kyiv, Ukraine;
 - 8. All Quiet on the Western Front;
 - 9. Cate Blanchett;
 - 10. Belarus

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



EOIs for an Acknowledgement of Country artwork

Expressions of Interest (EOI) from First Nations artists to create an original initial concept for an Acknowledgement of Country artwork for the new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct (QCCP) are open now.

This project is funded by the NSW Government under Round 5 of the Department of Regional NSW's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The funding also supports artwork that will be displayed in the walkway that connects the building forecourt and public domain along with seating, hand rails, and plantings to support Aboriginal education activities.

EOIs must be submitted by 5pm Monday 27 February 2023 to procurement@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

- ▶ Find the artist brief at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Public-Notices

Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Heritage Awards

The annual Local Heritage Awards are on in April and nominations and now open for three award categories.

1. Restoration of heritage building
 2. New building design/adapation/heritage garden
 3. Outstanding promotion or contribution to heritage
- ▶ Learn more at qprc.nsw.gov.au/Building-Development-Heritage

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
New fee school hire of sportsfields	23 February
Review Asset Accounting Policy: Depreciation and Impairment	24 February
Draft Affordable Housing Strategy	28 February
Revised Cat Containment Policy	8 March
Proposed name for South Jerrabomberra Town Park central lawn	13 March
Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan	15 March
Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy	16 March
Braidwood Structure Plan Discussion Paper	28 April

- ▶ Find all the details on Council's engagement hub at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Submissions can be made:

- By registering and commenting via yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au
- By email to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

Council Meetings and Times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings twice a month on a Wednesday, excluding December and January. Meetings start at 5.30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from bit.ly/MinutesAgendas. Meetings are live streamed via bit.ly/QPRCwebcast.

Members of the public can watch the meetings via bit.ly/QPRCwebcast and make a presentation during the public forum via Zoom, by submitting a written presentation, or in person.

For those wanting to make a presentation on an Agenda item, you can make a:

- Written presentation - submit by midday on Tuesday
- Zoom presentation - register by midday on Wednesday
- ▶ Register to make a presentation at bit.ly/QPRCinvolved

Next meeting dates are:

- 22 February
- 8 March

Written Questions on Notice

Questions on notice from the community must be submitted in writing or via email to public.forum@qprc.nsw.gov.au by 12pm on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. All questions and responses will be tabled at each Public Forum, provided to the person who asked the questions and published on our website.




Work with Council

- Town Planner
- Building Surveyor
- Contract Management Officer
- Procurement Officer
- Program Coordinator, Financial Accounting
- Program Coordinator, WH&S and Wellbeing
- ▶ For more information see bit.ly/QPRC-jobs


Advertising of Notices and Documents under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulations

- ▶ Documents are published at bit.ly/DPnotices

Follow us on social media

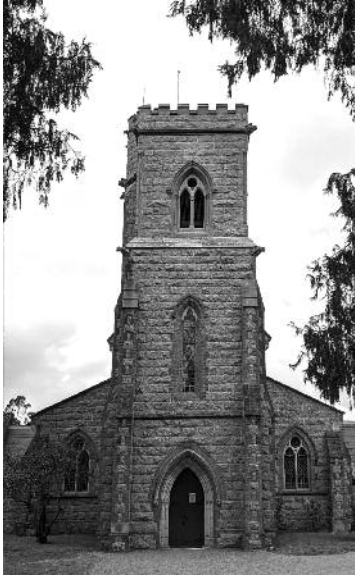
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Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

eepurl.com/codv-v 

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
 PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
 1300 735 025
council@qprc.nsw.gov.au
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Give God all the glory.

A frog was running out of water, so he asked two birds to transport him to a nearby pond by having each bird carry one end of a stick in their beak while he bit down on the centre and held on.

It was a sight to behold: two birds, one stick, and a frog in the middle. A cow looked up, saw the trio passing overhead, and asked, "Who thought of that?" The frog couldn't resist. Pride prevailed over prudence. "It was meeeel!" he yelled as he plummeted to earth.

Don't make the same error. 'Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall' (Proverbs 16:18)

Why are you good at doing what you do? For your own comfort? To save for your retirement? To bolster your self-esteem? No, these are all bonuses, not the main reason. You're good at what you do for God's sake. It's about Him, not you!

Read and ponder these words in your heart: "Wealth and honour come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion, people are made great and given strength' (1 Chronicles 29:12)

Keep in mind that the blessings you enjoy every day are yours only because God favoured and smiled on you.

An extract from 'The Word for Today' a Christian Vision Publication

Wednesday 22nd is Ash Wednesday, often called the Day of Ashes, it starts the season of Lent by focusing the Christian's heart

on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a unique Ash Wednesday service. Our service will be held at 10am in St Andrew's Anglican church.

Sunday 26th Feb at 10am join us for a service of Prayer and Praise. This will be followed by a quick cuppa and the Parish AGM.

Parish contact: angbraidwood@bigpond.com

Braidwood Uniting Church

On the road

Last week I wrote this note from Cairns. It was an unexpected visit caused by the sudden death of a good mate.

We'd had a friendship that lasted 40 years and in that time we had shared many adventures. I'm glad I was able to go at short notice and thank Steve from our congregation for stepping in so generously. I thought the humidity of Cairns was going to finish me off too. I don't know how anyone lives in such humidity. I was keen to be on the plane home. As it happened, I fluked a seat next to someone I'd also known for 40 years. I explained that I am deaf, and in a plane stone deaf, but it didn't stop them talking to me non-stop for 3 hours.

Today I'm sending this note from Tasmania as we visit with my older brother and his wife who live in the little village of Sheffield. We are surrounded by narrow country roads and the speed limit everywhere is marked at 100 kms. I would think rather than fines for speeding, the system here must be a prize given to anyone who can reach the speed limit.

Yesterday a young mum spent



some time sharing with me her best insight into happiness. She explained that we must detach from all the things we hope for or from which we expect to obtain happiness and hope. This included in her case, her husband and her precious little child. I mostly listened rather than engaged because I'm probably a bit foggy from travel. I could see the wisdom in needing to be to some extent, a separate person from partner and children. My gut tells me though that love and suffering go together in one sense and to embrace both is life. Some years ago we lost our son. He was just 30 years old and he left behind 3 little girls. The pain and the shock of this loss remains but I couldn't bear a life without such pain. I hope to never live as if he'd never lived. The pain though unbearable has become part of my DNA. Maybe this lady will drop past again and we can explore this some more.

— * — * — * —

How I wish I was in Braidwood for Saturday 25th, when the Skate Park opens. There are demonstrations morning and afternoon by expert skaters and the official opening will be at 1.30 pm. Drop past just to encourage our precious young people and show you support and don't forget to buy a sausage for lunch from our fabulous BCS students who are raising money for their end of year formal.

See you soon,

Graham Long

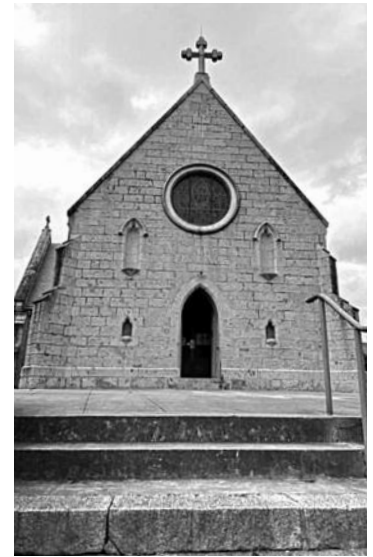
St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 4:1-11 GPBS 221/2/23

A Single Act of Goodness Israel wandered for decades in the desert, not yet having learned how to be a faithful, holy people.

They demanded that God "turn stones into bread," or at least to send bread from heaven and water from a rock. Israel demanded continual signs of God's intervention and interest. They even worshipped the golden calf, hoping that it would safeguard them better than Moses and his God.

When Jesus enters the desert, he faces the same Exodus temptations. But where Israel falters, Jesus remains steadfast. What does this single victory over the devil mean, against the sad tribulation of centuries of failure on the part of the rest of us? What can Jesus' victory mean, when I fall to the lure of sin again and again?



The example of Jesus' faithfulness may keep the saints on course during great trials; but a common sinner like me can keep an eye of Jesus' example while still fainting under the spell of self-interest. The real power of Jesus' victory over temptation is that it destroyed the necessary relationship between sin and death. I may fall to sin along the way, but the ultimate victory belongs to God.

Pray

Jesus, as the forty days of Lent continue, we are reminded of the power of evil in our lives. May we have the insight to uncover and renounce any temptation that we face. Amen.

Ponder

Tackle your demons! Address the "golden calf" in your life by resisting its false exercise of power over you. Don't let the false gods make decisions for you, and bend you to its counterfeit purposes! Follow the real leader, Jesus! What strengthens me in moments of temptation?

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Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm on 25th February.

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011

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First Thursday Lunch for March is on 2nd, commencing at 11.30am. Call the Club to book or for transport.

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Weekend Mass time: Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil)

Weekday Mass: Ash Wednesday 22nd February at 10am.



Send news, views, tips, letters to the editor and local stories to: times@bwdmag.com.au

GOLF NEWS

Men post second draw

The Men's Pennants team captain, Brendan Booker, reports that last week Braidwood hosted the eight clubs playing in our group of men's pennants.

Highlight of the day was lots of positive comments from our visitors, and written feedback from the ACT Monaro District captain complementing the Braidwood course presentation and hospitality.

Many thanks to all who helped in course preparation, volunteering on the day and cooking the barbeque & slices.

Our team managed a hard fought 3 - 3 draw with the current premiers, Goulburn. Our winners were Keith Morgan, Allan Walcott and Michael Toirkens.

Reminder to members:

Member's subscriptions were due at the end of January and if you haven't paid them by the end of February, your Golfink will be marked "unfinancial".

RESULTS -

Saturday February 18 - Michael Tillman Ryan Trophy- Many thanks Michael

Men's Single Stableford
Winner: Brendan Sly 34 pts c/b
Runner Up: Scott Gwinn 34 pts
3rd Place: Keith Ferguson 33 pts
Men's NTP 8/17: Allan Walcott
Jackpot 12th (\$190): Allan Walcott 84cm

Ball Comp: M. Fitzgerald 31, B. McDonald 30, C. Witt 29, A. Wal-

cott 29, K. Morgan 28, A. Herbert 28

Handicap Changes: Scott Gwinn down 1 to 26

Women's Single Stableford-Iso-
bel Mutton Trophy 1st Round

Winner: Michelle Henry 39 pts

Runner Up: Deb Ferguson 33 pts

Ball Comp: Donna Kuhn Handicap Changes: Donna Kuhn out 1 to 32



More success for Nelson

Braidwood golfer and BCS student, Nelson Sargent, has been selected at representative level for the ACT Region Boys to play in in Hobart, 11-14 April. He will then be playing in the Australian Interstate Series in the ACT.

Nelson, who plays off a handicap of 2, says he maintains good practice routines but that his golf is still a "work in progress".

As well as playing regularly in the Braidwood competition, he also plays in Canberra and at the Catalina Club in Batemans Bay.

STAR TIMES

Itsastrangeloveindeed

It goes like this. A great many of the weapons of war are produced in American states whose elected representatives go to great lengths to support their state's industries. Add some foreign policy to the mix and the market for weapons of war can be extended to cashed-up allies. That's us. "Look, up in the sky. It's a drone, it's a plane, it's a submarine. No, it's Superscam!" It seems that both our major parties are suckers for glossy brochures, pored over in the war room like Airfix catalogues, all in the vain hope that we can punch above our weight. We plan to buy really spiffy stuff to save us from 'you-know-who' — all the while hoping that 'ykw' doesn't get so offended as to stop buying, at bargain basement prices, all the stuff we wrench from the soil like there is no tomorrow. And that's ironic because we don't take delivery of all the spiffy stuff until then.

Moneydownthedeloitte

Oh the tragedy. Scores of richlisters have been robbed of their reddieys by a savvy foreign fella. As a guide to spotting an investment scam your stars correspondent has prepared this guide: If the main spruiker is the boss of one of the world's largest 'professional services network', run. If the money seems likely to be a massive return based on an Indian government bond issue, for the betterment of its citizen's roads, you should run even if it might yield massive profits because, hey, it's theft from poor people right?

TrustmeIwasadoctor

And then I made the most amazing discovery. Some of the things we buy in the supermarket are rubbish. But before I tell you exactly which foods to avoid I'd like to string you along a bit with pictures of guts and people grimacing. The solution to all nutritional woes can be found in some simple steps that you too can follow if you can stand to have the actual answer drawn out until your credit card leaps out of your wallet or purse, desperate to help you find everlasting well-being.

Inventinginabedroom

It's a cruel world for inventors too. Quite a few teenagers, who may be on some type of spectrum, have made discoveries that could change the world if only big business were not pulling out all stops to stymie their efforts. Free electricity, ridded mosquitos, cheap drones — and many more. But just for tonight, if you're quick: 09:59, 09:58, 09:57 etc ... you can get one for only \$48.75 plus p&p, or \$73.69 if you buy an extra one for a friend.

STOP PRESS

GET ON THAT SKATE BOARD

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