BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #103 — $2.00

Wednesday May 22, 2024

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	1	15°	0%
Thur:	0°	16°	0%
Fri:	1°	15°	0%
Sat:	3°	14°	0%
Sun:	3°	15°	5%
Mon:	2°	15°	0%
Tue:	2°	16°	0%

Kilfeera Watermark LJ (aka Digby), a Gypsy Cob /Clydesdale / Quarterhorse cross, driven by Dayle Claxton from Candelo, with Lisa Harrington as groom, from Wandella, both from the South Coast of NSW. The buggy is over 100 years old. Photos [above and right] by official photographer Linda Mace.

Michelle Ridley and Stoic the Vast

Sally Jones on Shire Horse gelding, Darkmoor Davinci,

Supreme Champion Led Horse of the Show was Clydesdale mare, Oscarville Skye, with owner Nathaniel Arthur-Ellis and judge, Trevor McDonald from Wangaratta.

Heavy horses grace the showground

Robin Tennant Wood

The first Braidwood Heavy Horse Show was held at the showground on Saturday and it looks set to become an annual event.

The show, featuring Clydesdale, Shire and Percheron horses from about a dozen studs from around New South Wales, came out of the response to the heavy horses at the Braidwood Show.

Katie Lyons from the Pony Club.

The show was put together by the owners of two local studs, Darkmoor at Harolds Cross and Ahern at Araluen under the umbrella of the Shire Horse Breeders Australia organisation.

Cai Thomas, from Darkmoor stud, said that the response at the Braidwood show was so positive that they decided it was worth putting on a specific show. Cai and his wife Emma have been breeding heavy horses for 13 years.

A 'heavy horse' is defined as a horse that can do a day's work with a collar. These horses would have pulled ploughs, drays, milk carts and provided the labour that gradually became mechanised. They are heavier in bone structure than other breeds and are about 16 to 19 hands high (up to around 193cms). Their legacy as workers remains in such expressions as 'work horse' and 'horse power'.

From work horse to show pony? Not quite. These horses are still used to pull carriages and in formal parades, but their magnificence shines in the show ring.

Cai Thomas said that the response and success of this year's show, which was organised in about two months, has prompted them to definitely consider making it an annual event. "This is what we can do on two month's notice, so with twelve months, we can make it bigger and even better," he said.

Pony Club

While the main action was happening in the show ring, the Braidwood Pony Club volunteers were busy in the kitchen serving up hot soup and bacon and egg rolls to raise money for their forthcoming events.

In October Braidwood will be hosting, for the first time, the NSW State Mounted Games and Team Sporting Championships. The club is also raising money to buy archery equipment in preparation for classes in the art mounted archery.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

The portrait of the year*

Gina Rinehart's intemperate response to her portrait by Vincent Namatjira on display in the National Gallery has resulted in considerable mockery and hilarity across the full spectrum of social media platforms.

The portrait, along with others by Namatjira in his distinctive style of caricature, shows Rinehart with a distorted head, double chin and downturned mouth. It's not pretty, nor is it meant to be. Gina doesn't like it and generally speaking, what Gina doesn't like she can have removed. The National Gallery, however, is beyond her influence and power, so she's throwing a bit of a tanty.

According to a 2021 Guardian Australia report, Rinehart owns and controls 9.2 million hectares of Australia – a total of 1.2% of the entire landmass of the country. Some of that includes the traditional lands of Vincent Namatjira's people. She has been responsible for the destruction of Indigenous sites, wildlife habitat, unique and sacred landscapes and she has accrued vast, obscene amounts of money through doing so. Her personal wealth is around $18 billion, making her the richest individual in the country.

> Rinehart has about as much interest in what's in the national interest as she has in art, and this is where things take an interesting twist.

Before the advent of photography, wealthy and influential people became patrons to individual artists and paid them to paint their portraits. If they didn't like the result, the artist didn't get paid, so portraits were often quite flattering to their subjects. This remains the case: the only time the subject of a portrait can control their image is when they have commissioned it. If an artist chooses to paint a subject without commission, it is entirely up to the artist how that subject is to be depicted.

The first official portrait of King Charles was also unveiled last week. It has drawn a lot of criticism, but the King himself has not commented on whether he likes it or not, rather, he praised the artist for his freedom of expression. The painting was not commissioned and the King knows he has no control over how his image is portrayed. He's also well aware that personal wealth doesn't trump artistic licence.

We no longer need artists to provide faithful (or flattering) likenesses of their subjects and artists don't have to curry favour with their subjects. Which brings us back to Gina.

If Rinehart used her wealth – even a fraction of it – to support the arts or artists, or to improve health services in some of the Indigenous communities she's displaced, or to support scientific research into climate change or medical advancements, or well, anything really, her outward appearance might mirror a nicer soul within. But she's made her choices.

In a country where the arts rate considerably lower on government spending priorities than exploiting and raping the country's landscape for as much money as possible, patrons and benefactors – and there are many – have provided ongoing foundations for arts practitioners and creatives to continue to work. These people, even if portrayed in Namatjira's style of caricature, wouldn't complain because they respect the art and the process.

The takeaway message for Gina Rinehart is that (a) money and power might buy governments, but art remains beyond her reach; (b) making a big fuss over something she wants hidden ensures its maximum public exposure; and (c) greed, selfishness and ruthlessness are visible traits.

Will she understand the lesson? No. But at least it's given the rest of us a good laugh.

*A slightly different version of this text was published on the editor's personal blog on 18 May.

The Braidwood Community Book Fair

June long-weekend 2024

Now's the time to deliver your donations as book sorting is underway.

Deliver your unwanted books to our sorting/storage facility around behind St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood leave them in the car-port if we are not there.

The Fair will be held Friday 7th through to Mon 10th 2024
We request that donations are **NOT** taken to the Fair but delivered any day/any time to the above location so they can be pre-sorted. Thank you.
Contact: braidwoodbookfair@gmail.com

FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK

Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

Council is seeking feedback on our draft integrated planning documents including budgets and our revenue policy for the 2024-25 financial year.

At our meeting on 8 May, Council endorsed the Draft Operational Plan 2024-25, Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-25, Draft Service Statements 2024-25, Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-34, and the Draft Donations Policy and Guidelines. The Operational Plan sets out the actions we will take and projects we will begin in the 2024-25 financial year. It includes a detailed capital works program that is funded through general revenue (rates), grants, developer contributions, loans and reserves.

The draft budget includes an increase to our unsealed roads renewal budget where Council has allocated an additional $1.2m to provide for a third roads crew. Council has also allocated an additional $500,000 to our development assessment team to provide a fast track DA workflow to improve customer timeframes. To read the draft documents and have your say by 7 June, visit yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/2024-25-draft-integrated-plans

— * —* —* —

We're holding lots of events to celebrate World Environment Day 2024! Join us in Bungendore to plant some trees at Turallo Creek on Saturday 1 June from 9am-12pm, on Sunday 2 June there will be an educational walk in Queanbeyan from 10am, and we'll be hosting an Environmental Networking Expo in Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan on Wednesday 5 June from 4pm-6pm. We've also got our World Environment Day Poster Competition for primary school aged kids in our LGA. This year's theme is Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience and we want kids to make a poster that explores how we can restore our landscapes and preserve or protect our water sources. The poster can be up to A3 size and made by hand or digitally. Submit your entries by 5 June and find out more about these events at qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/World-Environment-Day-2024

— * —* —* —

Our new Heritage Advisors Philip Leeson Architects are available to help you look after your heritage properties. We offer a free heritage advisory service to property owners which operates on the third Thursday of each month. This is to provide advice on properties in the Heritage Conservation areas as well as individually listed properties. Appointments with Council's Heritage Advisor may be made by emailing: landusead min@qprc.nsw.gov.au

— * —* —* —

Council has secured funding for the replacement of Honeysuckle Bridge on Majors Creek Road, Braidwood. Before these works start, Monga Lane between Araluen Road and Majors Creek Road will be upgraded. Monga Lane will serve as the detour while bridge works are underway and will require a road closure so that plant and machinery can safely undertake the necessary vegetation, pavement and road widening works. Monga Lane between Araluen Road and Majors Creek Road will be closed from Monday 27 May 2024 for 3 weeks between 7am and 5pm. The road will re-open outside of work hours each day and will re-open indefinitely from Friday 14 June 2024. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program.

— * —* —* —

This Wednesday 22 May, the Council Meeting agenda includes reports to Council to renew licence agreements at Seiffert Oval, considering a development application at Mona Farm in Braidwood and an update on the Bungendore High School. Read the full agenda, find out how to make a submission and watch the meeting online at: bit.ly/MinutesAgendas

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

*** Influenza Vaccination ***

Influenza cases are on the rise

Last week, there were **2000** notified cases in NSW, an increase of 42% on the week prior when 1400 cases were reported. The number of cases being reported each week this year is much higher than those reported this time last year, suggesting we are in for a tough influenza season.

This year, influenza is appearing most prevalent in young people, with most cases reported in the **5-19** years age bracket. The next most common age group is those aged 40-49 years.

An annual flu vaccination provides you the best protection against influenza each Winter. Influenza is a highly contagious viral infection that is responsible for major outbreaks of illness around the world. Unlike the common cold, influenza can cause life-threatening illness and dangerous complications such as pneumonia and bronchitis.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, we provide a convenient, quick, and easy influenza vaccination service for everyone aged 5 years and over, in a private consultation room. We accept walk-ins Monday through Friday, so there's no need to book an appointment for you and your family.

Those aged over 65 years, pregnant women and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people are eligible or a government-funded influenza vaccination, completely free of charge.

Fees apply for those aged 5-64 years.

Walk-in vaccinations available Monday to Friday, or if you'd prefer to book an appointment, visit: www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood

We look forward to seeing you in-store!

www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Documents/respiratory-surveillance-20240511.pdf

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Relationship of Mona Farm with Braidwood

Anthony Hoy's letter concerning potential noise restrictions on Mona Farm (*Changing Times*, 8 May) raises the issue of the relationship between Mona Farm and the Braidwood community. It is an issue worth some discussion.

First, concerning noise, it is presumptuous to have outdoor live music so loud it can be heard across much of the town. It can be taken indoors, as is usual for other venues in the town. Perhaps the volume could even be turned down a bit. It seems unlikely those modest adjustments would destroy Mona Farm's financial viability.

Hoy portrays Mona Farm as bringing an unalloyed benefit, economic and social, to the town, but there may be negatives. Mona bought up a significant portion of the accommodation in town, but for Hoy to portray that as now sometimes available to the town courtesy of Mona is disingenuous.

Perhaps it is good to have seven-day service at a couple of Mona-owned eateries, but does their financially-backed presence make it harder for other eateries to survive? Hoy's implication that other business's ethics are deficient because they do not or cannot remain open all week is insulting.

The issue of wealth inequality is not of Mona's doing, but is pertinent. Mona buildings were beautifully restored and fitted out, and I complement the owners' good taste. Yet at the time squillions were being spent on those renovations a housing crisis was developing in the town, including shortages and people being priced out of their homes, i.e. becoming homeless. It has only got worse.

I cannot but notice the disjunction between ultra-luxury accommodation for Sydney's upper crust to party heedlessly into the night and the battlers doing it tough just across the paddocks.

Mona Farm may contribute a net economic benefit to Braidwood, but it is hardly essential to the town. The town is its own vigorous community that is more than a quaint village backdrop, and it deserves to be taken seriously and treated courteously. Perhaps it could even be consulted. I don't know if Mona Farm might already help out with some of the difficulties in the community, but to do so would certainly be an act of good citizenship.

Geoff Davies
Braidwood

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare among volunteer grant recipients

Media from the office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP

The people of Eden-Monaro are strong and dynamic, and they have a solid culture of community spirit and service, and that's why the Australian Government is proud to announce another round of successful recipients for the 2023-24 Volunteer Grants.

Through the $10 million 2023-24 Volunteer Grant Round, community organisations across Australia will receive funding to purchase small equipment for volunteers or reimburse their fuel, transport, or training costs.

In Eden-Monaro, more than $65,000 has been awarded to 24 successful organisations with grants ranging from $1,000 to $5,000.

In the Queanbeyan-Palerang region, 11 organisations received a Volunteer Grant:

- Bungendore Riding Club - $1,000 to assist with first aid training for volunteers.
- HOME In Queanbeyan - $2,500 to fund background checks, mental health first aid, and first aid training.
- Lake George Support Brigade - $1,500 for a battery-operated chainsaw.
- Royalla Landcare - $2,000 to purchase a battery-operated auger to use in tree planting activities.
- Australian and New Zealand Māori Cultural School of Dreams - $3,500 to cover first aid training, camera procurement, and photography training.
- Legacy Club of Queanbeyan - $5,000 for the purchase of new computers and an EFTPOS machine to assist with fund raising activities.
- Queanbeyan Little Athletics Centre - $5,000 for the purchase of new timing gates to assist volunteers record race times.
- Queanbeyan Tigers Australian Football Club - $4,890 for first aid training and volunteer equipment.
- Emerge & See - $2,000 to fund mental health first aid training.
- Rise Above ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group - $2,000 for volunteer travel reimbursements, winter equipment and technology to assist operations.
- Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council (Braidwood) - $2,485 to upgrade the organisation's field workshop kit.

Ms McBain said, "I am very proud of the community spirit in Eden-Monaro. We have so many volunteering opportunities available – there's always something for everyone.

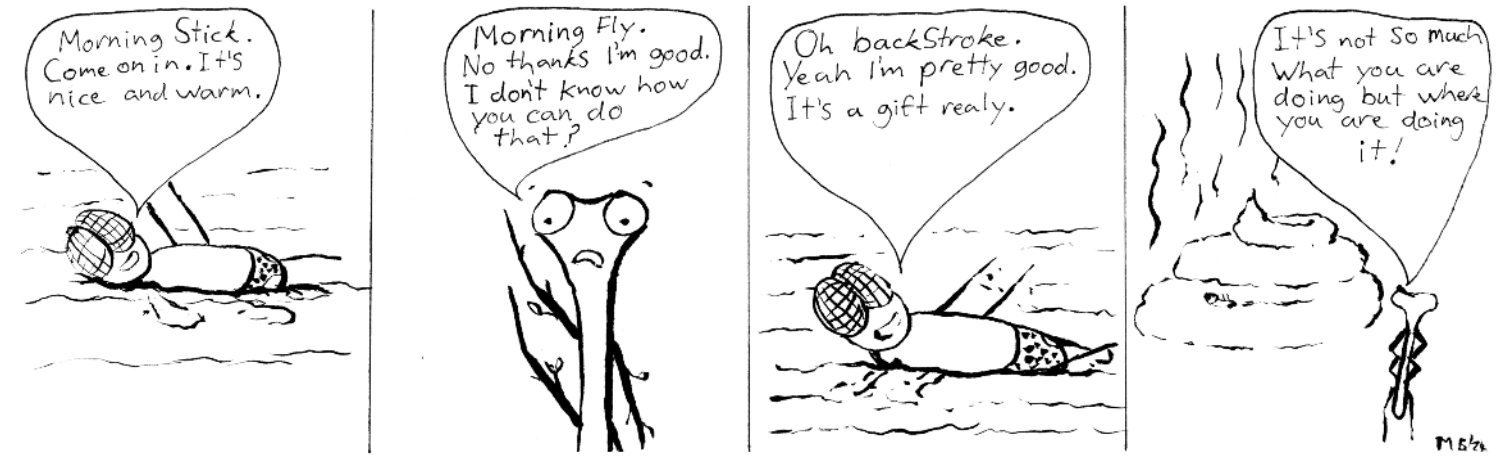
"I've listened to the varying needs of Eden-Monaro organisations and worked hard to ensure organisations receive grants that meet their individual needs.

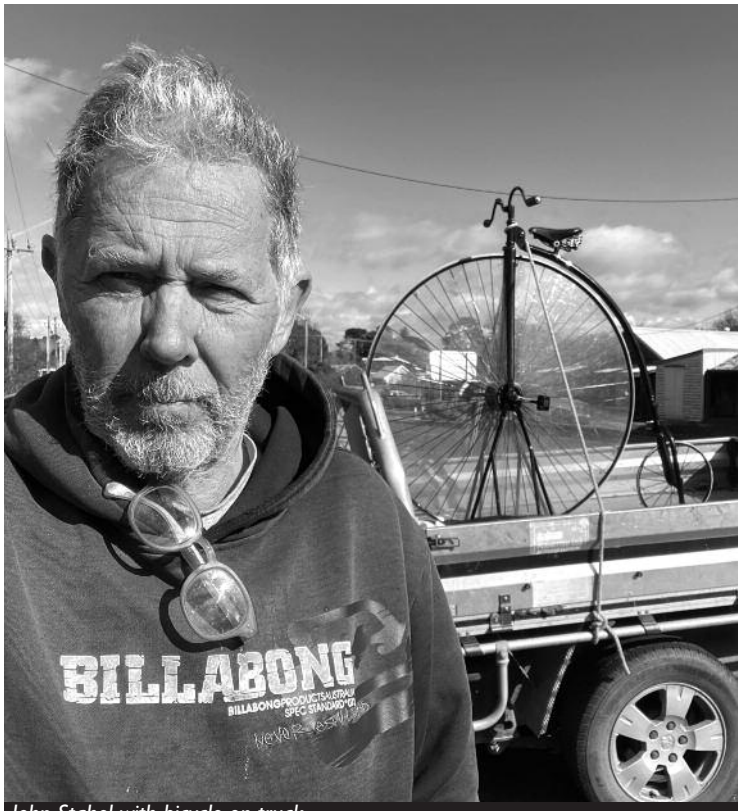
"Volunteers contribute so much to our community. Eden-Monaro has been through some tough times over the past few years, and many thousands of volunteers have lent a hand – this funding is one of the small ways we can thank volunteers for their efforts and encourage them to continue their service."

Volunteers play a vital role in our community, including in times of disaster or crisis, supporting the most vulnerable people in our community, or assisting with community events. The Albanese Government is proud to support local-led organisations to continue to deliver diverse services for volunteers.

National Volunteer Week 2024 invites everyone to discover the power of volunteering with the theme 'Something for Everyone'. Volunteer organisations in Eden-Monaro provide a wide array of opportunities and highlight how everyone can find their meaningful role in making a difference.

STICK and FLY **Mathew Little**





John Stahel with bicycle on truck.

Penny-Farthing

John Stahel puts in his two cents worth

The Powerhouse Museum in Sydney is moving and as part of that move, they're getting rid of a lot of things that they don't need anymore.

It was not items in their collection, but things like cafe tables and display cases and shop fittings.

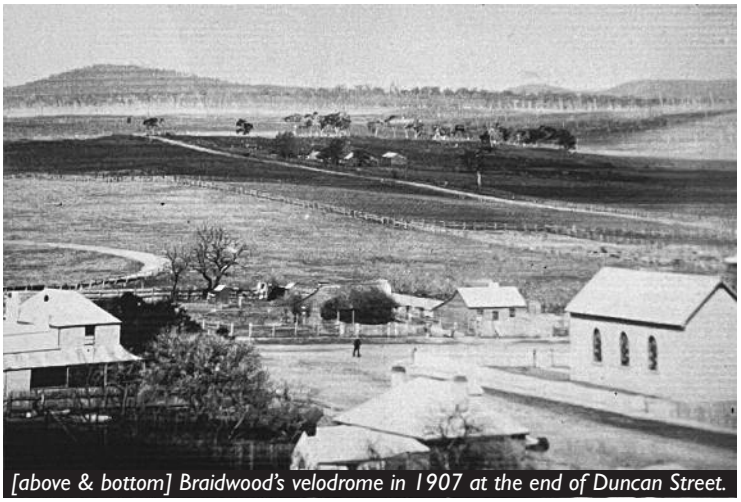
They put out an all-points bulletin to lots of creative groups. Galleries, museums, anybody they thought might be interested in using some of their stuff. They got an overwhelming response. They had 500 different groups asked for various things. They went through a long process of working out who got what, who was deserving. And the Braidwood Historical Society got the penny-farthing bicycle for the museum.

It's not an item that has any connection to Braidwood. It's not even part of their collection. The Powerhouse Museum is a Science and Technology Museum, not an historic museum. It was actually part of an interactive display about centrifugal force. It had little stairs next to it and you were able to climb on it and pedal around and demonstrate gyroscopic effect.

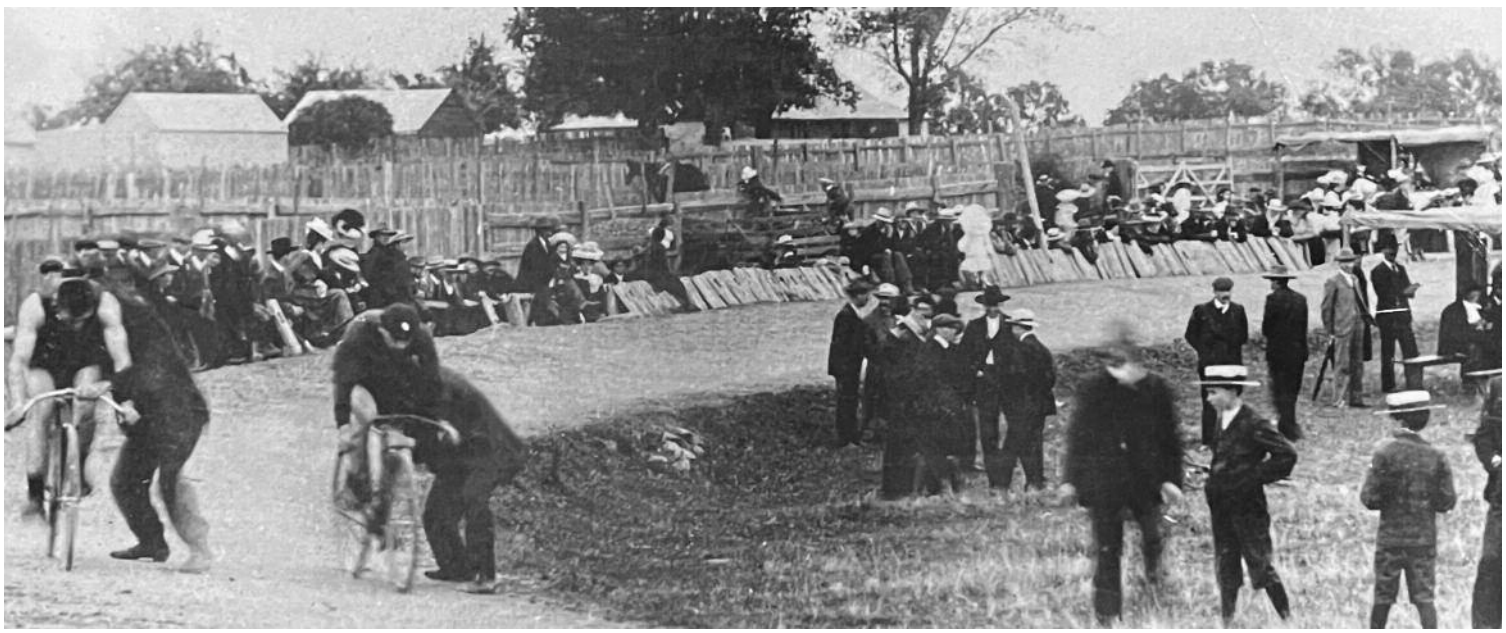
When we filled out the questionnaire stating why we wanted various things there, they had a question that said, how will you use this item? For the Penny-Farthing I said, "Well, Braidwood has a long history of involvement in cycling," which is actually true. The 1903 New South Wales cycling championships were held in Braidwood. And we still have the velodrome where they cycled — part of this velodrome anyway at the eastern end of Duncan Street.

It was a Braidwood boy, L. Littlechild who won the inaugural Goulburn to Sydney cycle race in 1902 with a time of 7 hours 52 minutes.

You can see the Penny-Farthing at William Verdon's Jewellery shop next to the Brag Arts Centre.


[above & bottom] Braidwood's velodrome in 1907 at the end of Duncan Street.


William Verdon with bicycle in shop.



BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO 88.9

Monday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
1:00pm - Flashback Featured Artist with Rob
4:00pm - Book Reading with Rod
5.00pm - 90's to Infinity
7:00pm - Hot Topics with Bill Waterhouse
9:00pm - Aussie Music Weekly

Tuesday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - The Andy Breakfast Show
9:00am - Cyberbeat
11:00am - Eclectic Music Mix with Gavin
2:00pm - A Breath Of Fresh Air
3:00pm - Bunkum, Faves & Raves
5:00pm - Blast from the 00's
7:00pm - Crap from the past
9:30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

Wednesday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
11:00am - Tracking the decades
1:00pm - Flashback With Rob
3.00pm - 00's to Infinity
6:00pm - Woodsongs Old Time Radio
7:00pm - Magic Carpet Ride

Thursday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Andy at Breakfast
10:00am - From the Archives with Gavin
4:00pm - The 60's in Aust. with Rob
5.00pm - The Conga Line with Billy Bob
7:00pm - Big Rock Radio

Friday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
10:00am - The Rock Show with Gregg
1:00pm - TC's Time Capsule
3.00pm - Blast from the 90's
5:00pm - The Atomic Countdown
7:00pm - Rock's Soft Rock
9:00pm - Raised on Rock

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 - 45RPM
4:00pm - Pop Heads
5:00pm - 100% Home Grown
6:00pm - Combined Church Service of Braidwood
7:00pm - The Mechie Show (Prog Rock)

88.9 BRAIDWOOD FM

Mike Duff

New Director Infrastructure Services appointed at QPRC

Nathaniel de Hoog, QPRC Communications and Engagement

Phil Hansen, the current Director Infrastructure Services has been with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council for 17 years, and will be retiring in early July, ending a 40-year career in local government.

Phil has had oversight over many large infrastructure projects and led Council and the organisation through our recovery efforts in the 2019-20 bushfires and then three major flooding and storm events.

The General Manager Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Rebecca Ryan has announced today that after a very competitive recruitment process undertaken by Leading Roles, Council has appointed a new Director Infrastructure Services, Michael (Mike) Duff.

Mike has had a diverse, 25-year engineering, project management and executive leadership career in the private and public sectors in both Australia and New Zealand.

He has extensive leadership experience in local government, including Newcastle City Council, where he was focused on project delivery and contracts. Mike has also lead successful asset management and capital delivery programs for clients including Hunter Water, Maitland City Council, Cessnock City Council and Transport for NSW across a wide range of civil infrastructure projects, asset renewal and maintenance plans and business improvement initiatives.

Currently, Mike serves as the Group Manager Infrastructure Services with Buller District Council, in New Zealand, overseeing infrastructure delivery, asset planning, and major capital works under key portfolios including land transport, three waters, solid waste management and property.

He has significant experience in project delivery, having worked for 10 years at Hatch Ltd, a global Engineering, Procurement & Construction Management (EPCM) consultancy as senior project manager and project controls specialist on large infrastructure developments around the world.

Most recently he completed a 12-month secondment with the NZ Government Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) as Director Strategy, National Transition Unit supporting the proposed Three Waters Reform program.

He is a qualified engineer with Honours from the University of Newcastle and held Engineers Australia membership and CPEng (Chartered Professional Engineer) credentials before moving to New Zealand under IPWEA (Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia). He has completed an MBA from the Queensland University of Technology as well as formal Project Management qualifications.

Mike will be moving here with his family and commencing in the role on 22 July 2024.

Reconciliation Week 27 May to 3 June 2024

Now More Than Ever, Let's Sing Louder Than Ever!

Janene Collins

The Reconciliation Singers, guided by Kirsten Hulse, are a group of Braidwood residents singing up Louder Than Ever for Reconciliation Week 2024. The song *Blackfella, Whitefella* by the Warumpi Band, was recorded last week to upload to the Reconciliation Australia website. Singers were backed by Steve Maher on piano, Nick Munnings on guitar and Paul Huntingford on drums.

A community picnic will be held at at the Dhurga Rock, Ryrie Park on Sunday 2 June from 12.30pm, to mark National Reconciliation Week. This will include a live performance of *Blackfella, Whitefella.* Local resident. Maggie Hickey will speak to the theme of ***Now More Than Ever*** through the lens of her work in NT communities, and the Voice to Parliament referendum campaign.

If you'd like to join, there are still some practice sessions before the live performance and everyone is welcome, you don't need experience, or to be musical. It's about adding our community's voice to those across Australia.

To join in the practice sessions turn up:

- This Sunday 19th May, 4:30 - 6pm as part of Braidwood Folk Club's Big Sing session at the Royal Mail Hotel (rear dining room) - We'll sing Blackfella Whitefella and other simple and fun songs
- Tuesday 21st May, 5 – 6pm as part of the Tuesdays All Ages Choir at the Glasshouse (Old Library)
- Tuesday 28th May, 5 – 6pm at the Glasshouse- We hope to get THE WHOLE MOB together for this FINAL PRACTICE before the performance.

For more information on 2024 National Reconciliation Week visit the website at:

www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/

And for NSW visit https://reconciliationnsw.org.au/ to register for the Reconciliation NSW Breakfast livestream on Wednesday 29 May from 7.30am to 9am.

Or visit Canberra to check out the Museum of Australian Democracy – Guided Tour: First Nations-Experiences of Democracy

MEET THE SUMMERFIELD RESIDENTS — Glennis Rossenbrock

Glennis and her daughter Armonde at the laundromat / Bees-R-Us.

I came from Sydney, a little place called Bangor, in part of the Sutherland Shire. We'd been there for 42 years so it was a big change moving anywhere I think after all that time.

Armonde was here in Braidwood and my son came down too. He shifted from Picton. My other daughter lives in Sydney.

Summerfield is a lovely place. I'm very happy here. Everything is perfect. My husband Harry would have come to live at Summerfield because he always enjoyed visiting Braidwood. He would have loved living here — I'm very happy here.

I enjoy Tai Chi in Braidwood, other exercises and yoga. There is also the knitting group.

I enjoy the barbecues at Summerfield, the drinks night at Summerfield and meeting lots of nice other residents.

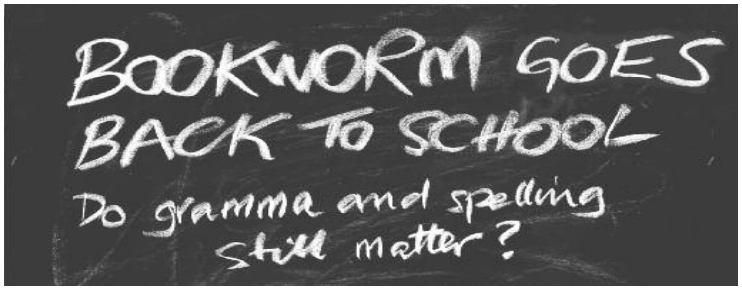
There's plenty to do, that's for sure. Plenty to choose from. You try everything and perhaps choose a few things that you like, which I've done. And I'm very happy doing them. All the people are nice, they're friendly on the street. When you walk past them, everybody smiles and says hello. It is, it's a very, very friendly neighbourhood.

I'm happy with the doctors in Braidwood, the dentist and the pharmacy.

I'm very happy with the hairdresser — all the services really. I've been helping Armonde with the ironing — because I like ironing.

I do enjoy the ironing, I must say.

BOOKWURM Julia Ermert



Albert Einstein was such a bad speller he was considered to be intellectually impaired.

To be fair, English was his second language. He still won a Nobel Prize. Winston Churchill wasn't up to much either, despite being a famous orator.

And my own Jane Austen was shocking; I've seen some of her original manuscripts. Her publisher did all the hard work. We still cherish her so dearly we've never corrected the title of the book she wrote at fifteen: *Love and Freindship*.

Spelling is a marker, an easy way to judge, classify or pigeonhole people. It's so visual. You notice it and that might be all you have time to notice. Life is busy.

We have a long history of linking spelling skills to intelligence. We think people who can't spell are ignorant, illiterate, or stupid or just plain lazy. Well, they might be, but research dating back to the 1970s shows no significant association between spelling ability and intelligence.

Now we have texting. Surely that makes spelling less relevant? If you tap in C U 2moro your sister will know exactly what you mean. Not necessarily. In order to reduce a word to its basics, you have to know how to spell it properly in the first place.

You also have to understand what those basics should be. No one teaches you this — if you experience enough text speak your brain will figure it all out for you subconsciously. After all, no one sits a baby down to have some speech lessons; they just sop it up. There is a theory that evolution has hard-wired our brains to learn to speak and to read.

Not all agree with this, but I do.

My sister is one of the worst spellers I know, although she reads a lot. She would spell that 'alot.' (She doesn't read the *Changing Times*!) When she sent me a text message, I couldn't figure it out. When I analysed it and questioned her, she'd left out most of the consonants so I was confronted by a string of vowels. But I couldn't explain to her because she didn't know what those words meant. You need a language to talk about your language.

Albert Einstein said of his pesky second language: "I cannot write in English because of the treacherous spelling."

It is a tricky language because we've borrowed bits from so many different sources. But people will judge you for it. Maybe that doesn't matter to you, but at least be aware. You might lose a job you really wanted because you didn't turn on spell-checker or have someone proofread your resumé.

Then there's grammar. The word comes from the Greek 'to draw, to write.' A grammar school originally was attached to a church or cathedral, and taught Latin to boys aiming for the priesthood.

Grammar describes how a language works. The first we know of was written for Sanskrit, around 5th century BC. The language was settled enough to need tidying up. A grammar book is a reference work summarising how most educated speakers of the language do use it. It's descriptive, not proscriptive. It doesn't list rules, it lists conventions. Some of these 'rules' come from Latin and don't necessarily suit English.

There's an anecdote about the 'rule' that forbids ending a sentence with a preposition. Winston Churchill famously said, "That is something, up with which I will not put!"

Incidentally, a **rule** is something that, if you break it, there's a punishment. That can be anything from being laughed at to being executed. Otherwise, it's just a **convention**, and you can break that if you think you can get away with it. Just be sure you understand it first.

My friend Jan (who doesn't get the *Changing Times* either, but would certainly read it if she did) went west as a specialist reading teacher. She joined local groups to make some friends. One was the CWA. They were in a quandary because their president, a worthy local lady, was due to go to Sydney as their delegate for a big meeting. This lady was well prepared for the job …except for her grammar. She said 'youse,' as in 'youse ladies need to help me get ready.' She claimed it didn't matter these lenient days, as long as you got your message across.

Jan appealed to me to arbitrate. I agreed our times weren't so strict, probably no one would say anything, but it would be a **marker**.

It was likely the sophisticated city ladies would subconsciously think: We needn't take these bushies too seriously.

No, I never found out what happened!

Yes, I can spell, thank goodness! It's as much good luck as good management. I have a good visual memory. I believe it's a trick of the brain, like perfect pitch — a sense of direction— skills with numbers — so many things.. When I was a teacher, I had to stick to the syllabus, but I put less emphasis on learning lists of words and more on spelling consciousness.

By that I meant loving language for its own sake, the sound of it, the shape of it, the history of it. How a word is spelled, used or pronounced tells so many things about it. Simplify all that and you lose half the story, and this is your story, too.

So all youse out there, speak or spell as you like, but be aware it will say something about you.

Just be sure that 'something' is what you want.

Notice of memorial: Susan Presant

Family and friends of the late Susan Presant are respectfully advised that a celebration of Susan's life will be held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club, on the afternoons of Saturday 8 June and Sunday 9 June.
Please contact Paula Boer, 0428 881 893, to advise attendance.

Winning portrait gets a sad new outlook

Robin Tennant Wood

Braidwood artist, Kate Stevens, decided that her award-winning portrait of whistleblower, David McBride, needed to updated to reflect McBride's recent incarceration and silencing.

Stevens, won the Portia Geach Portrait Prize last year with her portrait of McBride. The Portia Geach is an annual art award for a portrait by a woman artist.

McBride, who pleaded guilty to having leaked a series of documents to the ABC which contained information about potential war crimes committed by some members of the Australia's Special Forces in Afghanistan, was sentenced last week to five years in prison.

Kate Stevens met McBride, a former army officer and military lawyer, when he sat for the portrait in Sydney. She got to know him quite well and visited him in Canberra during his trial.

"The government wanted to silence him," Stevens said, "because he didn't just want a few bad soldiers to be punished, he wanted to expose the illegal actions of the politicians and military commanders who made it all possible."

McBride's lawyers had sought protection for him under Australia's whistleblower laws, however the Australian government quashed the crucial testimony of his witnesses on grounds of national security.

McBride's defence was that the higher command had acted illegally. The prosecution argued that the disclosure of military and government cover-ups was not in the public interest.

Pendor's Realm moves up Wallace Street

Robin Tennant Wood

After a hiatus of several months, the popular Pendor's Realm is set to reopen at fYRE Gallery this Friday, 24 May.

Owner, Ange Hunter, says that while it's a six-month pop-up shop at this stage, she's excited to be opening in such a great location.

Pendor's Realm is like an old-fashioned Curiosity Shoppe. Herbal products, all handmade from locally grown organic herbs, candles, wall art, jewellery, antiques, recycled fabric products and interior and exterior décor have turned the space into a cabinet of wonders.

Ange, who has been recovering from wrist surgery, had to delay her intended opening but is working at double speed to be ready for this Friday.

"I didn't think we'd have enough things to fill this space," she said. "But now that everything's in here, we've got more than I thought!"

She's planning to hold an event for Winter Solstice, which falls on Friday 21 June this year.

"Maybe have live music, mulled wine …" she muses. "Definitely some sort of celebration."

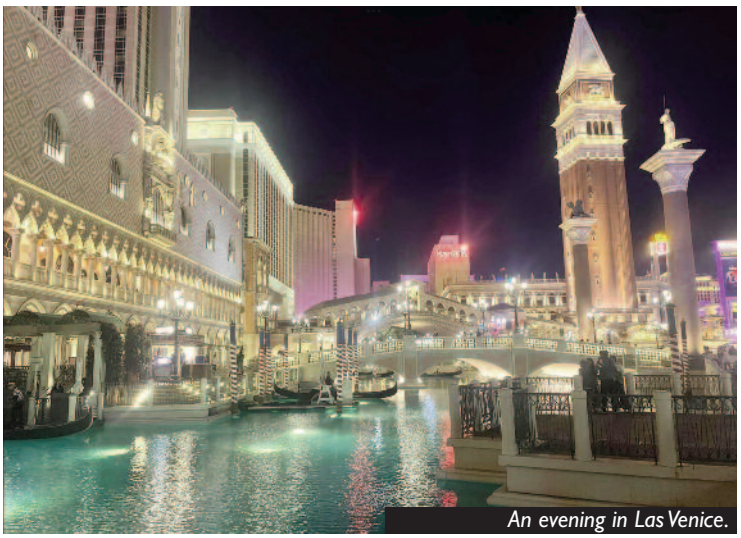
Winter Solstice celebrations are traditionally held to welcome back the light as the sun starts its journey to the southern hemisphere.

Meanwhile, Ange is looking forward to opening the doors at 84 Wallace Street on Friday for a new chapter in this exciting venture.

WHAT'S ON ... IN AMERICA

Tom and Laura's US trip

Part 2 from Laura Moriarty, *BCT* social correspondent


An evening in Las Venice.

National Park Hopping to Vegas

It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas— or so Jane Austen *would* have said had she arrived there. We pick up our travelogue from where we left off having begged Tom not to stand on the edge of the cliff.

The actual beauty of Yosemite cannot be put into words— as it's absolutely *phenomenal*. Dogwoods blossom in spring, creeks trickle and meadows bloom with flowers. The cliffs are sheer faces of rock that reach up to the heavens, and some of them fall away to nothing.

Unfortunately for us, most of the park was still closed due to winter— so the parts I wanted to see, such as the Tuolomene Meadows and some of the higher altitude areas were unfortunately inaccessible to us. However, the parts we did see— the lowlands and the roads in and out of Yosemite were utterly beautiful, and you can probably tell, dear readers, that I have fallen in love with the place by my use of superlatives.

The sheer cliffs, the shady woods— all of it filled me with a sense of awe and wonder. This place is ancient, and it feels like time has stood still there in the heart of this national park. I just wish more of the park had been open when we visited.

However, the restaurant where we had lunch, which is a famous place our host recommended called the Ahwanee Lodge, was a slight disappointment. The cornbread was dry and horrible, for one thing — and the ribs were also slightly dry. I would highly recommend going somewhere else.

We stop to take photos coming out of Yosemite, including a place where alder trees grew— I send a photo to Alison of Tom standing next to a sign saying Alder Creek with the caption "Alder creek with an actual Alder" (a pun, of course.)

After finishing our trip to Yosemite, we decide to head off on the next leg of our journey. The really long drive to Bishop that night ended up with us checking in to a Holiday Inn, which was a pretty comfortable place to stay. The next morning we decide to head up to the Mammoth Lakes, which were a beautiful sight — though there was an absolute howler from Tom. He says to me as I'm explaining that Mammoth Lakes probably had mammoths there that he thought he might see them around. I cackle, and tell him, "oh, my sweet summer child, mammoths went extinct in the last Ice Age." It keeps me entertained as we drive through more sequoias and up into the town of Mammoth Lakes, where winter is once more still in evidence— the lakes are still partially frozen and snow is banked up on the bank of the lake.

I once more remind Tom that he's the sole driver, so please don't do anything foolish. We drive back down into the town, where our choice of venue for lunch turns out to be an absolutely delightful brewery with delicious Mac and cheese. I sample some of the darker ales, and offer them to Tom, who screws up his face — ah well, he likes pale ales, where I prefer the darker, maltier ones.

The next day we pack up the car again and head for Las Vegas. We decide to check out the Alabama Hills. The hills are where several hundred movies have been shot throughout Hollywood's storied history, and the rock formations have stood in for places in Star Wars, and many many westerns over the long history of cinema. The weather is atrocious, and puts us both in an absolutely foul mood.

After that, we get back in the Jeep and drive on to Vegas, where the weather turned nasty, and the skies were incredibly weird. Driving through a sandstorm is definitely not for the faint of heart and Tom does an incredible job staying on the road.

It's a very long journey that day, and we are exhausted by the time we finally see the glittering lights of Las Vegas. However, our travails don't end there— we get to our hotel's parking garage, and Tom accidentally tries entering the garage the wrong way, which the

concierge graciously points out and lets us in the garage in the end. We unpack the car, and our bags are heavy, my shoulder hurts by the time we arrive at the check-in desk, and we make our way to our room, which is where I immediately start work on part one of this travelogue that you, dear readers, saw last fortnight.

Vegas, Baby!

Our first night in Vegas is interesting. Fremont Street is downtown Las Vegas, and our hotel is right in the middle of the city. It has casinos aplenty, and the lights and sounds of the casinos are both overwhelming and completely underwhelming consecutively. Fremont Street is teeming with people, and the pervasive fug of marijuana once more assaults our nostrils. Yet even among the crowds, with the showgirls on the street and the booming music echoing from massive sound stages, there's something both sad and seedy about Vegas— a holdover from the earlier days of the city.

We find a place to drink called The Griffin, which feels like it could be an old speakeasy. It's dimly lit, and the atmosphere is great, the drinks are tasty, and things there feel like the Vegas we came for.

Our second day in Vegas is spent doing necessary things like going to Walgreen's to get antihistamines for me, as well as bandaids. Then we head off out to Hoover Dam, as nothing is open until well in the middle of the day.

The Hoover Dam

The drive out to Hoover Dam is interesting— the flat desert country changes as we drive, and soon we come to the US Government's checkpoint there. We're asked to lift the corner of our rooftop tent for inspection, and we comply, because only an idiot argues with the United States Government when entering a facility that supplies most of the western states with their water.

Once through security, we end up having to go through a secondary security screening at the Hoover Dam facility, where we duly comply. It would be a massive disaster if anything were to happen out there— a terrorist attack would be catastrophic, so we understand why they operate with an abundance of caution.

Lake Meade and Hoover Dam were constructed during the Great Depression, we learn from our tour guides, as we go down into a concrete tunnel that once helped divert the Colorado River. It puts the Snowy-Hydro scheme to shame, actually. But the tour is interesting and educational, and I learn a few things I didn't know about the Great Depression.

We drive back to Vegas, where we discover the bar downstairs from our hotel room in the casino we're staying in has an awesome selection of both drinks and live music on offer. If you're ever in Vegas, we can both highly recommend the Fat Cat Lounge at the Downtown Grand Hotel — a delightful venue for good beer and cocktails, and the bands they book are talented and pretty damn good.

The next day sees us taking a drive out to Death Valley, which is an interesting drive. The valley begins above sea level, but in the caldera of the valley, it is well below sea level, and completely foreign. We stop before we head to the valley in an area close to Area 51, where we are warned not to even entertain the idea of trying to enter Area 51.

It means instant deportation and a permanent ban from ever entering the United States of America if you try to go there. We are told that a pair of tourists tried to go in recently, and were escorted out of there in handcuffs, however I cannot find anything on *The Guardian* website to fact check their claim. It's possible it happened.

The descent into Death Valley is marked by sea level markers, and the countryside takes on an interestingly stark appearance as we de-

... continued on page 13

SES NEWS

Robin Tennant-Wood

The publication of this fortnight's *Changing Times* coincides with the SES WOW (Wear Orange Wednesday) Day and Braidwood's Vinnie's has again come to the fore in acknowledging our SES volunteers by going orange.

You may have seen an increase in SES vehicles around the district's roads last week. On Wednesday SES members from around the region, including two Braidwood members, undertook a day of intensive flood rescue training out at Oallen Ford.

All participants qualified and are now ready to be on call for flood emergencies.

WOW Day is our opportunity to acknowledge and thank the volunteers from the SES. The local SES unit is keen to expand its membership.

There is a wide range of roles within the organisation from active field roles through to administrative and support.

For further information, contact Braidwood Unit Commander, Matt Talbott, 0427438713.

Make Your Mark: achieve your potential

Robin Tennant Wood

Monga resident, Alison Sexton-Green had already commenced training as a wellness mentor when a series of life-changing events threatened to throw her off balance.

A cancer diagnosis, a close family death, the fires, Covid and illness in the family, all within five years, would be enough to crush most of us. "I honestly don't know how I'd have got through all that without the support of the Wellness Balance Academy," she said. "With that support I was able to transform my life. I've learnt so much and now I want to share it with others."

Alison will be offering a course of six weekly workshop sessions called How to Make Your Mark. She will be using techniques of mentoring to assist participants to break the patterns and habits that are holding them back from achieving the potential they want to see in their lives.

Alison says that every moment in life has something to teach us, and a richer, more fulfilling life is achievable. "You can make a choice, you can take a chance and you can change."

Her wellness mentoring provides the insights and support you need to make those breakthroughs by helping to uncover the subconscious thoughts and beliefs that keep us stuck.

The Make Your Mark workshop is aimed at assisting people to move ahead in their business or professional life, in relationships or in creative endeavours.

Alison Sexton-Green

"The group sessions are powerful because they provide participants with a level of accountability. When we're left to our own devices we can come up with all sorts of excuses as to why we haven't done what we said we'd do," Alison said. "Having accountability keeps us on track."

Time and date for the Make Your Mark workshop are not yet, set, but Alison says that if people are interested but not sure if it's for them, they can book a 30-minute introductory mentoring session with her to find out more before committing themselves to the full six weeks.

Contact Alison Sexton-Green on 0416 110 050 or Alison@mistymatta.com

Tom and Laura's US trip

... continued from page 11

scend. We stop to take photos, and one of the markers there talks about how they tried to make a shortcut through Death Valley to California in 1849.

We take a very long road into the valley, and eventually come down into the heart of the valley, called Badwater Basin, which is like Lake George — an endorheric basin which fills up and then evaporates over time. There was an atmospheric river shortly before our arrival in America, and we are lucky enough to see the remnants of that atmospheric event when we arrive in Badwater Basin. People are walking out into the salt lakes where water laps up to their ankles, but we decide not to risk it.

We return to Vegas, and after a brief rest, head back out into the hustle and bustle to meet a local friend who took us to a place called Container Park. It has a praying mantis that breathes fire as a remnant of one year's Burning Man festival. We hang out with her for a while, before heading back to our hotel and back to the Fat Cat Lounge for drinks and a relaxing evening.

Our next few days in Vegas involve more sightseeing. A day after our trip to Death Valley, Tom decides he wants to, and I quote, "jump off the Strat." He neglects to mention that it is a vertical zip line and not a bungee jump, leaving your correspondent on the verge of a panic attack at the thought that he might be killed.

However, my fears are unfounded as he descends down the Strat on a zip line, and I wonder why I made such a big deal of it in the first place. To this day, we are still occasionally arguing over whether he told me this or not.

Afterwards, we wend our way through the Venetian Hotel and Casino, which is essentially Venice in Vegas. It can mess with your sense of time being inside one of these places, as time doesn't feel real, and the entire hotel is decorated like a version of St Peter's Square, right down to a canal flowing all the way through it.

We decide to do a gondola ride through the canal, and we are warned not to touch the water as it is filthy. Not that either of us thought we'd ever do that anyway. The gondola pilot serenades us with Frank Sinatra's *Fly Me to the Moon* and *That's Amore*, and it is a very relaxing ride through the fake indoor Venetian canals. But after the Strat, I am very glad that Tom is not trying to give me grey hairs.

Area 51 security staff

The next day we decide to check out the Vegas Mob Museum, which to anyone who has watched HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* has some particularly familiar characters decorating the walls. It talks about how the Mob built Vegas back during Prohibition as a way to make money during those years, and how they laundered money via the casinos. There are still pockets of Vegas that retain the influence of the Mob, and places where, if the walls could talk, the stories they would tell. Later on, we meet up with the same friend who we had a catch-up with at Container Park, who takes us to a really cool place in Vegas called the Millennium Fandom Bar.

The Millennium Fandom Bar is a true local's place. If you didn't know it existed, you'd never find it by yourself. It is decorated with various items from fandoms such as *Star Wars, The Corpse Bride, Mass Effect,* and *Harry Potter.* It hosts events such as a Bridgerton style ball, along with themed nights and the drinks are pretty good.

Our last night in Vegas is spent in the Arts District, where we discover the best part of Vegas. This area is pretty cool, with a pirate bar where the owner's miniature schnauzer is painted into a portrait of a pirate. We learned about the best part of Vegas on the last night in the city, and wish we'd discovered it sooner. We leave Vegas the next morning for Kansas, and family.

And so we've reached the end of my travelogue. I'm coming home!

EDEN-MONARO NEWS

From the Office of Kristy McBain, Member for Eden-Monaro

Last week the Treasurer handed down the 2024-25 Budget.

There is a lot in this year's Budget and some important announcements for Eden-Monaro which I have summarised for you below.

We know a lot of Australians are doing it tough. Our Government's number one priority is easing cost of living pressures. That's why as part of this Budget we are:

- Delivering a tax cut for every taxpayer – 75,000 taxpayers across Eden-Monaro will receive on average a tax cut of $1,633.
- Giving every household connected to the grid $300 off their power bill.
- Wiping $3 billion in student debt and fixing indexation – including for 13,600 students in Eden-Monaro.
- Investing in new bulk-billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and freezing the price of common medicines.
- Delivering the first back-to-back increase to Rent Assistance in more than 30 years – this will benefit 4,395 households in Eden-Monaro.
- Investing $90 million in TAFEs and industry registered training organisations to bolster the number of skilled construction worker training places.
- Improving access to affordable Early Childhood Education and expanding Paid Parental Leave.
- Investing an additional 24,100 Home Care Packages, to support people live independently for longer.

This Budget is also about steering Australia through a globally uncertain time, and setting us up for the future.

That's why we've announced that we're:

- Building a Future Made in Australia. We're creating new, secure, well-paid jobs in our regions and suburbs. And we're building the infrastructure and clean energy that's needed to power new growth and a new generation of advanced manufacturing.
- Building 1.2 million new homes by the end of the decade. We need to build more homes, more quickly, in more parts of the country. That's why we're giving $1 billion to state governments to help kickstart construction. Our ambitious Homes for Australia plan will help more Australians rent, build and buy.

These are just some of the measures announced to help make a real difference to people in Eden-Monaro, and across the country.

This Budget strikes the right balance between providing cost of living help and doing what we can to beat inflation.

Because of our responsible economic management, the Government has been able to forecast a second consecutive Budget surplus.

BOMBAY TRAIL RIDERS

Vicki Walcott

Woolla Camp Ride April '24

The Braidwood district offers horse riders a variety of terrain and outlooks.

From temperate forest, open country and bush mountain tracks we ride to discover more of the natural beauty of our region whilst enjoying good company and our equine companions.

This ride ticked all the boxes. Despite the fact I didn't attend this ride, Bindi has given me a wonderful ride report and photos supplied by Wanda and others show many happy faces in weather that really turned it on for the awesome four days riding adventure on the Woolla Camp Ride this year.

Six adventurous ladies and Jack met at Neringla, saddled their horses, packed the trailer to be driven in, and rode 9.2 km on dirt roads, narrow winding trails and over creek crossings to arrive at Woolla; our camp on the Deua River for the next 3 days.

On Day 2 the group woke up to a foggy morning promising a lovely day. After a yummy breakfast cooked by Jill and Sandy, riders headed out with Terry as the guide to find the waterfalls.

Riding along a dirt track until it became too overgrown, riders had to leave the horses and go by foot; however, the hard slog through the vines, over the rocks and logs was well worth the trip. The waterfall was just beautiful, flowing well with fresh sparkling clean water.

A 10 km round trip back to camp for lunch then off again to check out some ruins along Woolla creek. That night the group were joined by some guests who also enjoyed the big camp oven baked dinner cooked by Sandy and Jill.

Crossing the Deua River.

Bindi admitted she took it as her weekend off, sitting in front of a blazing fire and nodding off to sleep, until rudely awoken. "I had to do the dishes, oh well one can always dream".

On Day 3 everyone was up early and wow, there is nothing better than sitting by the fire with a coffee watching the day come to life. Another cooked breakfast before saddling up and heading out.

Along the steep sloping trail riders climbed to take in a lookout over the valley below before a small detour to some strange rock formations at the river. This truly was a beautiful place to be riding through. Before detouring again to check out some more ruins, we finally arrived at Alpine homestead for lunch.

That night back at the Woolla camp, everyone reflected on having had favourable weather and how well the horses had fared considering the daylong ride was 35.9 km, which included crossing the river 28 times and climbing to a height of 1241m.

Bindi reported all up a great long weekend away with our horses was had by all and on Day 4 we packed up and rode back to Neringla in readiness to head home. Thankyou Jack for keeping the billies full, Jill and Sandy for our great meals, and the rest of us who pitched in wherever we were needed.

— * — * — * —

The next ride on 26 May is the Shoebridge Track Ride. This track, narrow in places, is about a 3-hr steady climb to a fire trail at the top. If the weather is good, I'm told the views are spectacular.

If you are interested in joining The Bombay Trail Riders please email:

bombayriders1@gmail.com or phone our President Jillian 0448 001 278 to discuss membership.

We ride on the last Sunday of each month.

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Sue Murray

Hello to all or BCA members and supporters,

You will have heard that Council has received a Federal Govt grant of $3m to provide a carpark behind the old D&S site. Thanks to Kristy McBain for her advocacy on our behalf. Kristy's support is very much appreciated.

The design for the proposed carpark was open to public comment in mid 2023. However there are still questions being asked about the details and about future plans for the site, including the current Council Works Depot.

Dereek Tooth addresses the meeting

We invited Derek Tooth, QPRC Manager Contracts and Projects to our meeting on Tuesday May 21st, to discuss the current plans. Derek explained the proposals for Stage 1. The future of the site is still open to consultation, and no firm plans are in place. These will require further consultation, and of course more funding.

— * — * — * —

For some time, the BCA has been following up on the need for community transport for our residents. With no public transport, it can be hard for older residents in particular to get to surrounding towns for medical appointments, shopping and social outings. We have investigated different options for this. Trish Sargeson will report on what we have found out, and what the future options might be.

— * — * — * —

QPRC have released their Draft Integrated Plans for 2024-25, and the public consultation on this is now open until 7th June. A summary of these plans was presented at the QPRC Community meeting held in Braidwood on Thursday May 16th. These plans contain a huge amount of detail about Council's operations and finances. The Operational Plan for 2024-25 is in effect the Council's budget for the next year. John Tuckwell is examining the plans to prepare for our BCA submission.

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1. The first official portrait of King Charles was unveiled last week. Who was the artist?
   - ➤Damien Hirst
   - ➤ Jonathan Yeo
   - ➤David Hockney
   - ➤ Mandy Payne
2. And while we're on the subject of portraits … who painted the Gina Rinehart portrait that she wanted removed from the National Gallery?
   - ➤Kate Stevens
   - ➤ Ben Quilty
   - ➤Del Kathryn Barton
   - ➤ Vincent Namatjira
3. The head of which sporting body has publicly support Gina Rinehart's request to have the painting removed (despite admitting he's never set foot inside the National Gallery)?
   - ➤NRL
   - ➤ Cricket NSW
   - ➤Qld Swimming
   - ➤ Athletics Victoria
4. The president of which nation was killed this week in a helicopter crash?
   - ➤Libya
   - ➤ Iraq
   - ➤Syria
   - ➤ Iran
5. Which Australian celebrity chef/restaurateur announced their retirement this week?
   - ➤Kylie Kwong
   - ➤ George Calombaris
   - ➤Matt Moran
   - ➤ Poh Ling Yeow
6. The 15th incarnation of Dr Who has arrived. Who is the new doctor?
   - ➤Ncuti Gatwa
   - ➤ Tom Holland
   - ➤Daniel Radcliffe
   - ➤ Anna Taylor-Joy
7. New data showed how regions across Australia rank in well being. Which local government area came out on top?
   - ➤Queanbeyan Palerang, NSW
   - ➤ Noosa, QLD
   - ➤Northern Beaches, Sydney
   - ➤ Yarra, Vic
8. Scientists in the NT have discovered the fossil of a diprotodon that would have been around between 112,000 and 123,000 years ago. What nickname was it given?
   - ➤Thelma
   - ➤ Sheila
   - ➤Beryl
   - ➤ Shirley
9. Medical researchers and paleoanthropologists have found significant changes in the size of the human brain as it is now, compared to 100,000 years ago. How has it changed?
   - ➤Increased by 8.4%
   - ➤ Increased by 18%
   - ➤Decreased by 13%
   - ➤ Decreased by 1.2%
10. The prime minister of which country was shot last week in an assassination attempt?
   - ➤Hungary
   - ➤ Slovakia
   - ➤Croatia
   - ➤ Greece

Answers:

1. Jonathan Yeo; 2. Vincent Namatjira; 3. Qld Swimming, 4. Iran; 5. Kylie Kwong; 6. Ncuti Gatwa; 7. Northern Beaches, 8. Shirley, 9. Decreased by 13% (and they don't know why, but I have a few theories), 10. Slovakia

Celebrating Southern's outstanding midwives and nurses

The office of the Hon Ryan Park MP, NSW Minister for Health

The professionalism, dedication and compassion of nurses and midwives across southern NSW was recognised this week, as part of local celebrations for International Day of the Midwife (5 May 2024) and International Nurses Day (12 May 2024).

Minister for Regional Health Ryan Park said the District's 1200-strong nursing and midwifery workforce is at the heart of healthcare delivery in the region, providing acute, preventative, primary and community care.

"I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the exceptional care, dedication and commitment to service that nurses and midwives in Southern NSW Local Health District exhibit every day within our health facilities and community settings," Minister Park said.

"Our nurses and midwives provide high quality, compassionate care to patients and their families, often during some of the most challenging times of their lives."

As part of the celebrations, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health Dr Michael Holland also announced the winners of Southern's 2024 Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

"I extend my congratulations to SNSWLHD's Nurse of the Year Ms Rochelle Woolf and our Midwife of the Year Ms Sonia White," Dr Holland said.

"In her role as Nursing Unit Manager of the Perioperative Unit at Cooma Hospital, Ms Woolf has proven to be a passionate patient advocate and is well known for fostering feedback and empowering her staff to deliver a seamless experience for all those in their care.

"In her role as a Midwifery Unit Manager at South East Regional Hospital in Bega, Ms White has held a strong focus on improving clinical practice and systems that impact a woman's experience and has worked tirelessly this year to implement the new Midwifery Group Practice model of care at South East Regional Hospital."

Ms Woolf and Ms White are also nominated in the 2024 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards, which will be held in Sydney later this year.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2024-25 Draft Integrated Plans on exhibition

We are seeking feedback on our 2024-25 Draft Integrated Plans:

- Draft Operational Plan 2024-25
- Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-25
- Draft Service Statements 2024-25
- Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-34
- Draft Donations Policy and Guidelines

▶ Read the plans and have your say at **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au**

Adopt a cat in May!

Our Animal Management Facility is filled with fantastic cats looking for their forever homes.

You can adopt a desexed cat in our care for $100 or a non-desexed cat or kitten for $250 (this includes a voucher to get the cat desexed, vaccinated, and microchipped) until 31 May.

▶ Read more at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/animal-adoption**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	**Closing Date**
Bungendore Place Plan	24 May
Draft Queanbeyan Sporting Gallery Policy	24 May
2024-25 Draft Integrated Plans	7 June
Amendment Seniors Housing - Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Environmental Plan 2022	10 June
Amendment to Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Local Environmental Plan 2022 - Reclassification of 19 Gibraltar Street Bungendore from Community to Operational Land	17 June

▶ 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

Work with **Council**

- Security Administrator
- Projects Engineer
- Manager Development
- Leading Hand Intermittent Works
- Development Compliance Officer
- Community Development Officer
- Child Development Officer

▶ For more information see **bit.ly/QPRC-Careers**

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 May
- 12 June

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.

Find grants in Queanbeyan-Palerang

There are Cultural Grants and ClubGRANTS currently available for organisations and individuals. You can also head to Grant Guru to search for current grants.

▶ Learn more and apply at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/grants**

World Environment Day **Poster Competition!**

As part of World Environment Day we are hosting a Poster Competition for school age children.

Students can share their vision to restore our environment digitally or by hand on paper up to A3.

▶ Read more and enter at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/wed**

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

Follow us on social media

@QbnPalerangRC
@QbnPalerang
@QbnPalerang

Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

eepurl.com/codv-v

Earlier intervention services pave the way to reform

Beyond Blue media statement

The Federal Government's commitment to earlier intervention will give more Australians access to mental health support while relieving some pressure on the system, says Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman.

Ms Harman said while there was much more to do to build a mental health system that matches all Australians' needs, new investment to establish a free digital early intervention service represented a major step towards the structural reform that remains long overdue.

"Right now, many people are feeling pressure in their daily lives, whether from high costs of living, loneliness, relationship issues or workplace stress. The evidence is clear that if we can address these issues as soon as they emerge, we can prevent them from snowballing," Ms Harman said.

Earlier intervention services for depression and anxiety are effective for anyone feeling unsettled, low, alone or overwhelmed. They encourage early action to stop issues from spiralling and having a more significant impact on a person's life by equipping people with strategies to self-manage and build resilience.

Earlier intervention options, which have strong and lasting recovery rates, have the potential to support people at all levels of need, from mild to moderate and even emerging severe symptoms as part of a stepped model of care.

Ms Harman also welcomed an additional two years of funding so Beyond Blue can continue to support small business owners who are doing it tough – the Budget commits $10.8 million over two years to extend the Small Business Debt Helpline and Beyond Blue's NewAccess for Small Business Owners service.

"Beyond Blue has been developing models and advocating for evidence-based earlier intervention services for more than a decade because, as various mental health inquiries have found, these options have the potential to support millions of Australians as part of a redesigned mental health system," Ms Harman said.

"Earlier intervention and prevention matters. That's why Beyond Blue's new strategy is all about making it easier for people to feel better earlier, to get well and stay well."

In 2020, the Productivity Commission estimated half a million Australians who were not accessing any mental health support and up to two million being treated with medication and/or individual therapy, could benefit from these kinds of options. The Commission estimated that 450,000 people receiving support through Better Access could be better served through such services.

Ms Harman welcomed the Budget's expansion of the clinical workforce at Medicare mental health centres, adding it was also important to keep developing complementary workforces.

"There will never be enough clinicians to meet the nation's mental health needs. So, as well as continuing to expand existing workforces, we need to nurture and grow other workforces that help address different levels of need across the community."

Ms Harman also welcomed investment in youth mental health, wrap-around support for people who have complex mental health needs, a new peer workforce association and funding for First Nations Peoples.

She said redesigning the mental health system would take time and steadfast bipartisan support. "There is no part of the mental health system that doesn't need fixing and, by spreading a $361 million investment across the spectrum, from emerging distress to severe and complex needs, this Budget acknowledges that," Ms Harman said.

"But to be clear, this funding does fall far short of what's required for the scale of change that's needed for Australia to provide appropriate support for people with lived and living experience of mental ill- health and their supporters.

"Such transformational change must be planned and executed in a careful, sequential way through collaboration between states, territories and the Commonwealth and it must start now," Ms Harman said.

Beyond Blue

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Ilse de Ziah and Ian Date

De Ziah and Date

Internationally acclaimed duo Ilse de Ziah, cello and Ian Date, guitar in concert at the National Theatre.

De Ziah & Date take a cello and guitar on a new journey! They deliver a spellbinding musical performance with Ilse de Ziah, cello and Ian Date, guitar. Beautiful renderings of melodies interwoven with captivating improvisations. The duo have an original take on musical styles from around the world creating a deeply emotional journey for the listener. Moments of great musical beauty and a deep love of music and its traditions makes seeing and hearing them live a moving and transformative experience.

They will include music from their new debut album *Here & There.* This is the show you want to catch!

The debut album *Here & There* from cellist Ilse de Ziah and acoustic guitarist Ian Date is a masterpiece of classy compositions, good feels and improvisations that are truly virtuosic. Composed and recorded in Ireland and Australia during 2023, they unite their influences of world music, surf music, jazz, trad, improvisation, classical, rock and contemporary to create a fresh new instrumental genre for the ear-weary.

With successful individual careers, De Ziah & Date have won awards for music and film, including Best Documentary for the Irish music film Living the Tradition which they show as part of their live performances.

In their captivating live concerts Ilse de Ziah and Ian Date perform their debut album, tell beautiful stories, and screen *Living the Tradition*, an enchanting journey into old Irish airs.

More info next edition.

Kickstart winter with wellness!

At this time of year we are susceptible to respiratory illnesses, poorer circulation, joint pain, lower energy levels and often more negative emotions.

Just as we support our physical health and immune, we need to support our mental health and immune.

In this yoga workshop we will explore an array of practices incorporating Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine to amplify your wellness.

W I N T E R = N U R T U R E

It's time to fill your cup, rejuvenate, restore and replenish your whole being.

Includes movement, breathing practices, meditation, a scrumptious afternoon tea and relaxation. 2 hours $40. Saturday 1st June 3-5pm

For more information, email or call Christina on 0414 385 051

— * —* —* —

Exciting News from Hold Fast Distillery and Troopers Rest

Hello, Hold Fast community! We have some fantastic news for all our patrons and visitors. You can now enjoy the complete range of Hold Fast products along with delightful meals at our very own cellar door – the historic @troopersrest in Braidwood.

Visit Us at 202 Wallace Street

Step into a piece of history and experience the charm of Troopers Rest, where our exquisite spirits and wines meet gourmet dining. We're fully stocked with amazing options to suit every palate.

Join us for a memorable dining and tasting experience:

- Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 10 AM to 9 PM

Savor Delicious Meals

Alongside our top-notch spirits and wines, we're thrilled to offer a great selection of food. Whether you're in the mood for a light snack or a hearty meal, our menu has something special just for you.

Come for the Spirits, Stay for the Food

Troopers Rest is not just a place to taste our spirits; it's a destination where good drinks and good food create unforgettable experiences. Bring your friends, family, or that special someone for a truly enjoyable outing.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Trinity Sunday: A mystery to be lived

A week after Pentecost, which remembers the gift of the Holy Spirit, we mark Trinity Sunday – and most preachers run a mile!

How do we name God? In celebrating Trinity Sunday we are celebrating the Christian way of naming God – as Trinity, as three-in-one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We might do well to start with the short story by the science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke in which some people make a visit to a remote monastery high in some isolated mountains that, they hear, is on the verge of an important breakthrough. The purpose of life, according to this ancient order of monks, is to name the nine billion names of God.

After a long and arduous journey the pilgrims arrive at the monastery to find that their spiritual search, which had been going for many centuries, is now being computer assisted – name after name is being generated by the computer, and in fact, the abbot reports, on this very day, around 8 o'clock in the evening, they will arrive at the nine billionth name of God.

The travellers depart concerned about how the monks will react when nothing happens at the completion of their task. They return by the same arduous route down the mountain, heading for the airport. At 8 pm, as they ready themselves to board the plane, one of the travellers looks up at the sky. One by one the stars are going out.

What a great parable! When we imagine that life is a problem to be solved, rather than a mystery to be lived we kill the very treasure we are seeking. (Of course in the world of AI, the monks would have been able to solve this "problem" in an instant!)

Yet how do we name God? Don't worry the stars are not going out anytime soon – in two thousand years of thinking and debating we are still only nudging at what this might mean.

In the 4th century Gregory of Nazianzen, one of the giants in early Christian theology, began a poem on the Trinity in this way: "To speak of the Godhead is . . . like crossing the ocean on a raft, or like flying to the stars with wings of narrow span." Our human capacity to think and speak of God is so limited. It is good and helpful to recognise this.

But he went on to say how his encounter with God, as Trinity, had transformed his life: "In the one God are three pulsations that move the world. Through them I became a new and different person when I came out of the font … into the light – a human being restored to life from the dead. If God cleansed me so completely, then I must worship him with my whole being."

A mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved.

Rev Jane Foulcher,
priest-at-large

— * — * — * —

Join us this coming SUNDAY 26st May, Trinity Sunday 10am at the National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood for an ecumenical service, led by Braidwood Uniting Church. Check out our Facebook page: Anglican Parish of Braidwood for updates. Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 or admin@braidwoodanglican.org.au

Braidwood Uniting Church

We're back

For the past month my wife and I have travelled across a lot of Australia.

We had a wonderful time although there are few joys like that of returning to your own little home and to the best bed in Australia.

As an experiment I decided to tip $50 to everyone who served us in any way while we were on the road. Although my wife was happy when I ran out of $50 notes, she fully backed this experiment. It became clear that few people ever receive tips of any kind let alone a $50 tip. Most people were either disbelieving or even suspicious and so reluctant to accept our tip. We didn't change anyone's life but we sure caused a lot of people to have a good day. To a young kid on minimum wages, this is a decent sum of money.

To a young person I would say, "My wife and I are on holiday. We're having a wonderful day, and we'd like you to have a good day too. You could be at home with your eyes fixed to a screen but you're here working and that has really helped us to have a good day." The look on the faces when it dawned on a young face that this was just a genuine "thank you" was marvelous.

In Victor Harbour we were served lunch by a delightful young woman. I gave her my speech about how we'd had a great day thanks to her and we'd like her to have a great day too. At first, she said, "You can't. That's too much." I replied, "I think I can and its just the amount we are tipping everyone while on holiday." The young woman hesitated and then blurted out, "I'm raising a 3-year-old on my own and everything is hard." It was such a thrill for us to be able to lift this woman's day.

We're not rich. We're on the Aged Pension and Braidwood Uniting pay me a little on top of the Pension. We're at a stage of life when our expenses are minimal. Our idea of a great night out is a great night in. We're cheap to keep. This holiday has taught me that in our position, if you think money is tight, then it's tight BUT if you learn the measure of, "enough" then there is always surplus. I've never had such a small income and I've never felt richer than we are today.

Back in the saddle now. Grateful for our community at Braidwood Uniting. It's good to be home.

grahamlong@mac.com

St Bede's Parish

REFLECTION on the Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20 by Richard Leonard

One of the things we often hear in times of domestic, local or international crisis is that 'everyone pulled together'.

We are rightly proud, and a few times amazed, at how people can set aside their differences and strive for the common good. Sometimes this experience of working together has the long-lasting benefit of breaking down boundaries. Other times, sadly, old enmities, prejudices and suspicions return when the crisis is over.

Trinity Sunday celebrates that whether we are in crisis or not, in season and out of season, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit do nothing but 'pull together' to love and save us. What we glimpse as the best attribute of our family, town or nation defines who our Christian God is, and what they see, how they judge and the way they act toward the world.

A famous icon of the Trinity depicts the three persons at a table where there are four place settings. The final place, in the lower half of the painting, invites the viewer to take the seat and join them. It's profound theology and masterful art, but we can quickly misunderstand it.

We are not just personally invited to join in the very life of God, and pull together with them in their loving and saving of the world. The seat at the table is reserved for all of humanity.

In practical terms it is impossible to profess belief in the Trinity, on the one hand, and then work at things which pull the human family apart, on the other. It is scandalous to hold to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and be known as racist, bigoted and sexist, to not care about refugees or those who die each day of starvation. We cannot keep signing ourselves in the name of a Triune God and then work hard at getting richer and more secure while the rest of humanity grow poorer and lack the necessities for human dignity. Ghandi once said, 'I love the New Testament and the Christian ideas about God and I would take the waters of Christian baptism tomorrow if I saw Christians practise what they the preach.'

Trinity Sunday is not about theological mathematics, working out how three goes into one. It's about gaining the strength at this Eucharist to pull together to see that all of God's children have the opportunity to hear the good news of how much God loves us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so can take their privileged place at God's table. Most people will learn about the saving love of God primarily through the way they observe us seeing, judging and acting.

It's not by accident that in our Catholic tradition the usual moment we invoke the Trinity is when we make the sign of the cross. It reminds us that 'we cannot have our cake and eat it too'. Every time we profess the Trinity we recommit ourselves to die to self so that God's saving love may be realised for everyone, everywhere.

So let's not only profess our belief in the three persons that make up our one God, but live the life that goes with it, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

— * — * — * —

Weekend Mass time: 5pm Saturdays.

Switching for the future

Sometimes you have to ask, what would our electricity generation system look like if it was designed and run by people with technical skill and a social conscience?

Certainly it would not be close to the pig's breakfast of competing interest that decades of privatisation has left us with.

Clear the decks. Start with what we know. The burning of fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide at a rate that is upsetting the Earth's climate. If you don't believe that then this article is not for you. There are alternatives to fossil fuels and we use them already in an ever-increasing percentage of our energy needs. Energy from the sun, solar, wind, tidal, is free for the cost of harnessing and is much less damaging for the future of the planet.

TIME & ENERGY

towards the future by Paul Cockram

Householders and industry have been embracing solar power for over twenty years now. The governments, NSW and Federal, have lurched from plan to plan, mostly to support people spending their own money, often with a government subsidy, to invest in solar.

So it's a bit of a shock to be told that we now produce too much electricity during the daytime. Who would have thought? Not, it seems, the people we have running our power generation and supply network. Those people have had decades to lie at night wondering where the power will come from when the sun is not shining.

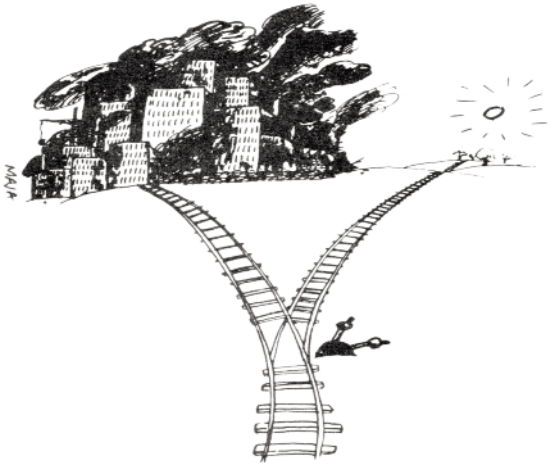
They're not trying. Handy tips in newsletters picked up by the press are not really a coherent strategy. "Put your hot water heater on a timer and constrain it to only coming on in the middle of the day." Brilliant! Where's the government campaign to publicise that, perhaps with a subsidy to pay an electrician? Has it escaped their notice that a hot water heater cannot simply be connected to a Kambrook timer from Eddie's or Bunnings?

Storage is essential but unfortunately Essential is not yet serious about storage. We need more and bigger batteries. Pumped hydro makes for very good storage, long lasting and a simple system to run but its capital cost is high. Private companies will not do it. They lurch from dividend to dividend while their bosses profit from short-term productivity bonuses.

They're not trying. If the Labor government really wants to invest in "Made in Australia" it couldn't do better than investing in "made for Australians". It needs to invest in taking control of our energy future. Be honest Albo. It's not going to be painless for everyone but for the sake of our children, mate, be honest.

The government must take control of the message. Coal is finished as a desirable way to make electricity and gas is almost as bad. Admit it. We know that fossil fuels need to be used in the short term to keep the lights on but let's agree that it's now a known tragedy and needs to stop as soon as possible.

If the government fails to own the message about addressing the impending disaster of climate change it will lose office. Then we might get the other lot who, under the current leadership, are away with the nuclear fairies. It we get them running the show Australia will lose another half decade, at least, of progress towards a sensible and sustainable future.



A huge thank you to all the past and present Volunteers who have spent time at the Braidwood Visitors Information Centre over many years. We are the only Visitors Information Centre between Canberra and Narooma open all year.
Our recent request has provided us with a few more Volunteers but we still need a few more either weekly, fortnightly or once a month for day (10-3) or half day.
It is a great way to meet more people in our region, families who have lived here previously, and visitors.
Contact me if you are able to help. 0430 388 111.

Margaret Tuckwell

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Members and visitors are reminded that winter check-in times for the Saturday competition are now in place: check in by 11.30, hit off at 12.00.

RESULTS - Saturday May 18 - Single Stableford – Michael Toirkens Trophy. Thanks Michael for your sponsorship.

Winner: Andrew Clark 36 pts

Runner Up: Keith Morgan 35 pts

Men's NTP 3/12: Peter Bacon

Ball Comp: Tom Duffy 34, Mike Fitzgerald 33, Terry Hughes 33, Mark Newman 32,

Peter Bacon 30, Michael Toirkens 30

Handicap Changes: Peter Bacon down 1 to 19, Leigh Curtis out 1 to 27, Chris Witt out 1 to 20, Mark Newman out 1 to 17, Michael Tillman Ryan out 1 to 36

Birdies Men: 1

Coming Events

May 25 Saturday Medley 2BBB Drawn after play - Concept Café Trophy

June 1 Saturday Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal

June 8 Saturday King's Birthday Weekend, Men's Single Stableford – Mike Fitzgerald Trophy, Women's Single Stableford – Bunyip Jungle Trophy

June 15 Saturday Committee Meeting 10.30am, Medley Ambrose – Will Sanders Trophy

June 22 Saturday Men's Single Stableford – Allan Walcott Trophy, Women's Single Stableford – Java Braidwood Trophy

June 29 Saturday Medley 2BBB Stableford Aggregate – Majors Creek Pub Trophy

Playing in the weekly Chook Run last week, Donna Kuhn's tee

shot (pictured) on the 9th could not have been in a less playable situation!

SEEN ABOUT THE PLACE

QPRC Councillors Katrina Willis, Mareeta Grundy, Deputy Mayor Esma Livermore and John Preston came to Braidwood this month for the QPRC community update session. Our man Bill Waterhouse was there to keep an eye on them.

STRANGE TIMES

Perniciouspowerplaying

Are you paying to much for your electricity? The chances are the phone rang while you were cooking dinner and a nice person asked you if you'd like a better deal. "Are you effin kidding me?" you exclaimed while watching the baby drop her new phone into the Avocado & Spaghetti delight and the toddlers watching Andrew Tate videos and looking darkly towards their sister. You're not alone. They tricked you and it's legal. When you agreed to opt for a special plan you got a discount for a year and then the bill went up right after that. The ACCC watchpuppy know that nearly half of NSW households are paying more than the 'default market offer' which is the maximum amount retailers can charge if you kick up a stink. Do it!

Whatisartcanyoudigit?

Swimming honchos dived in at the shallow end when the nice people from Hancock Prospecting suggested that their cashed-up patron might not be too keen on her portrait in the National Gallery. "I just paint people the way Aboriginal people see them," said artist Vincent Namatjira. That sounds reasonable. The founder of the now $36 billion empire, Lang Hancock, had some quite startling solutions to the Aboriginal 'problem'. "That's all in the past," claimed a Hancock spokesgnome. "These days we only want to sterilise their artwork." After a brisk towelling down, the chap from Swimming Australia released a statement saying, "I don't get what all the fuss is about. I've never been to an art gallery, I'm just a sports administrator".

Notrightsowhatisleftnow

Dear oh dear. The Labor government thinks its use of the words 'abate' and 'offset' are a real gas. Those bods in the fossil fuels industry must throw the very best cocktail parties. Watch now as 'abate' means revisiting that tired old trope 'carbon capture and storage' as if it actually exists. 'Offset' is quite likely going to mean, "See that forest over there? We could have cut it all down but, good on us, we won't." Then they whip out the calculator and sell the avoided emissions to the gas industry.

Braidwood's Changing Times is published by Artplan Graphics, 43 Wallace Street Braidwood 2622.
Editor: Robin Tennant Wood
Layout/production: Paul Cockram
Contributions are always welcome.

STOP PRESS

S.O.S. CALL S.E.S.