

**COMING WEATHER**

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	12°	17°	75%
Thur:	11°	21°	25%
Fri:	9°	22°	25%
Sat:	11°	19°	50%
Sun:	10°	19°	40%
Mon:	7°	17°	25%
Tue:	6°	16°	25%

# BRAIDWOOD'S *Changing Times*

Issue #126 — \$2.00

Wednesday April 23, 2025



Enda, Iyra and Luca help Felicity release the young Maccas into a quiet part of the Mongarlowe River.

## FROM LITTLE THINGS...

*The Mongarlowe Macca:*

Paul Cockram

It started with an email to the *Changing Times* from Di Bott, a driving force behind Friends of the Mongarlowe River.

“Twenty Maccas are to be released into the Mongarlowe,” it read. “If you’d like to watch or maybe carry a bucket, meet at the Fireshed.”

So I did. Along with nine adults and three bush-blitzing kids we made our way down a long winding track to the river. There,

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**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Hippocampus victorious
- Club trivia still confounds
- Home-grown rental squeeze
- Potting about Braidwood
- Tiny house field day success
- Anzac Day – the tricky bit
- QPRC mayor has his say
- Adeeba has a problem
- Redbacks reluctantly out
- Spirituality, sport and stuff



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## EDITORIAL

Robin Tennant Wood

# De-extinction? Don't fall for the hype

There is no doubt that the impact of human development and negligence has caused the extinction of a lot of species.

The thylacine, passenger pigeon and dodo for starters, while many others are hanging on by a thread. In Australia the antechinus, mountain pygmy possum and orange-bellied parrot are on the critical list, and loss of habitat is posing a growing threat to our beloved koala.

So when news broke recently that the dire wolf, a species extinct for the last 10,000 years, has been genetically reproduced and brought back, the popular media practically wet itself with excitement.

Apart from zoological palaeontologists, who'd even heard of a dire wolf until the TV adaptation of George RR Martin's *Game of Thrones* series? Dire wolf remains were first found in 1854 and named *Canis dirus* in 1858. Larger than a gray wolf with a broader head and larger teeth, they roamed the Americas until about 10,000 years ago when they disappeared.

Crucially, we don't know what caused their extinction. Was it climate change as the last ice age ended? Catastrophic ecosystem change? Did their prey disappear? Possibly all of the above, but the important question here is if we start resurrecting extinct species, what do we do with them?

The modern environment bears very little resemblance to when these animals disappeared, and it's likely that it was environmental change that caused that disappearance in the first place. What do the scientists behind this 'miracle' plan to do with their no-longer-extinct animals?

Consider the nature of a wild Siberian tiger: apex predators, highly territorial and roaming typically large territories, they are solitary by nature. They hunt elk and wild boar and generally avoid human settlement. If the last Siberian tiger in existence was in a zoo, would it actually be a Siberian tiger? It would certainly be something that looked like a Siberian tiger and had the DNA of a Siberian

ian tiger, but unless the last remaining Siberian tiger was roaming free and solitary to hunt across its territory, it would just be an animal with the appropriate DNA.

Same goes for dire wolves. Bringing them back from extinction might be a neat scientific trick (or, if you prefer, a massive breakthrough in genetic technology), but they can't be released into the wild, because the 'wild' they came from no longer exists. Therefore, their inherent wild nature, that which made them what they were, is missing.

So has the company behind this miracle actually brought an extinct species back?

In a word, no.

*New Scientist* flat out refutes the claim that Colossal Biosciences has resurrected an extinct species. After 10,000 years, any organic material left from an extinct species will not yield a full genome sequence. Colossal Biosciences used a fossilised *Canis dirus* tooth and shard of bone, but in order to construct a full genome sequence, they synthetically replicated the DNA and then identified specific genes or sequences that were different from those in modern gray wolves. They edited modern gray wolf cells by inserting the lab-synthesised versions of those *Canis dirus* gene sequences – not the original fossil DNA, but digital reconstructions of what that DNA would have produced.

It's scientifically sound and provides a wealth of information that can be potentially used in identifying and curing genetic diseases and problems. But what Colossal Biosciences has produced are not dire wolves. They are genetically modified modern gray wolves.

Extinction is forever. Once a species is gone, it cannot be brought back no matter how clever the technology. Species are not just DNA: they are a combination of their DNA with their inherent nature and their interaction with the natural environment. Get any of those factors wrong, and the consequences could be, well, dire.



Buckets to the river

## From little things ...

... continued from page 1

amongst the rocks, the little fishies were carefully released to take their chances in the wild.

Di Bott and Felicity Sturgiss from Local Land Services take up the story.

## How the magical Mongarlowe River holds new hope for an endangered species

Felicity Sturgiss & Di Bott

Last week, a small group of locals joined NSW DPI Fisheries technician, Tim, to release a further 20 Macquarie Perch (Maccas) from Cataract reservoir into the Mongarlowe River, after a quarantine period at Narrandera Fisheries Centre.

This follows on from a small number of large adults released back into the system in March 2024 and from a suite of seminal Macca Perch recovery projects on the Mongarlowe precipitated by the Friends of Mongarlowe River (FMR) group back in 2004. Today, the Mongarlowe River and its community continues to play its part in the recovery of the Endangered Macquarie Perch. While existing numbers of fish in the Mongarlowe are currently very low, a steady resupply of genetically varied fish is set to restore the river as an important refuge for the long-term survival of the Macca.

Macquarie Perch (*Macquarie australasica*) are a moderately

sized, dark coloured freshwater fish with a prominent midrib line, large white rimmed eyes and a hump of sorts at the back of its head. Adult fish are a sight to behold (for those vulnerable to such things). All shimmering black and watchful, part secretive and elusive, part dopey puppy, ill-prepared for the aggression of a brown trout, carp or a redfin perch, yet perhaps accustomed to hiding from the dominance of the Murray cod in the middle river reaches they once shared.

Macquarie Perch were once numerous across all major river systems of the south-eastern part of the Murray Darling Basin (MDB). Accounts of fish congregations 'running the river black' with their dense numbers evoke wonder around a fecund past and dismay at how much we have lost. A cumulation of negative impacts compounded the decline of Macquarie

... Macca perch continues on page 4

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# Hippocampus victorious

Robin Tennant Wood

The owner of Braidwood's Quilt Store, Bronwyn Hill, has won Best in Show at the Australian Quilt Convention for her work, entitled *Horatio*.

Bronwyn started drawing the design for the quilt during Covid. This meticulous preparation, she says, is more important than the actual execution because if the final piece is not prepared fully, the final design "can fall apart."

Bronwyn, who has been quilting for over 30 years, said that the judging of the quilts is a very lengthy process.

"It starts by sending in two photos of your quilt: a close-up and one of the whole quilt. If you pass that stage, they ask you to send in the quilt. From those, they then pick about 50 for the final judging and show, and those are then judged in seven categories, with an overall Best in Show picked from the category winners." The whole process takes about three months.

Bronwyn's quilt won the Art category.

The Australian Quilt Show is or-



Bronwyn at her Quilt Store.

ganised and run by Expertise Events which runs quilt shows in all the capitals. Bronwyn's quilt will now travel to these events and will hopefully be back in Braidwood for our Quilt Event in November.

Bronwyn's artist's statement:

*'Horatio the Hippocampus came from the formidable structure and shape of the HMS Victory. Cutting a strong presence through the ocean. Simple beginnings from a detailed drawing on brown paper. Hand selected fabrics and detailed quilting create a form of strength and power, pushing forward from the ferocious crashing waves.'*

## SERVICE SPOTLIGHT



### Influenza cases are on the rise

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.

Last week, there were over 2000 notified cases in NSW, an increase of 25% on the week prior. The number of cases being reported each week so far this year suggest we are in for a tough influenza season.

An annual flu vaccination provides you the best protection against influenza each Winter. The 2025 influenza vaccine is now available for all age groups, and contains the 4 strains expected to be most prevalent this Winter.

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 for 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](http://www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood)

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# Return of the Macca

... continued from page 2



Paul Bott releasing Macca, Dacca, Wacca, Pacca, Hacca and Slacca.

nationally important translocated populations, alongside the Yarra in Victoria and the Cataract Reservoir south of Sydney. Fish from the Murray-darling basin (MDB) were first translocated to the Mongarlowe River in the late 1800's.

Due to the isolation of remaining populations, low genetic diversity is the number one threat to their ability to persist into an uncertain future. Recently, genetics have been gathered from these translocated populations forming a key part of a program to 'crack the code' on captive breeding. Manual translocation of small numbers of fish between remaining populations is also underway, adding genetic diversity to natural breeding populations. For now, we are on a slow but steady road with only limited numbers of fish to translocate.

## The Friends of the Mongarlowe River (FMR)

On New Years Eve in 2004, FMR's Di Bott found a large, dead Macquarie Perch on the rivers edge at the community NYE party. FMR took action to find out more and were successful in gaining a Threatened Species Network (TSN) grant to study the Macquarie Perch in the Mongarlowe River. This has inspired over 20 years of activity and interest in the Mongarlowe Macca and its place in the broader Macquarie Perch population and its recovery.

The TSN funding, with the generous support of project partners, including the local fishing club, and over 110 volunteer hours was a great investment in the search for perch. The project involved

species monitoring, habitat assessment, promoting conservation agreements for connectivity and raising community awareness. FMR members also kayaked the length of the river for potential breeding sites and habitat threats.

In 2009, Burke's crossing on the Mongarlowe River was recognised as a barrier to fish passage and was as included as one of approx. 100 sites to become fish friendly. FMR was thrilled that this Banksia award winning 'Bringing Back the Fish Project' provided access to an extra 43 km of habitat for the threatened Macca and smaller native fish.

gered Macquarie Perch from 2018-2023. The project largely centres on the upper Murrumbidgee River population but took a closer look at population wide genetics in-line with priorities listed in the National Recovery Plan for the Macquarie Perch. As part of this project, the Mongarlowe River and its Maccas are part of an ongoing 'genetic rescue' effort, which includes, among other things, the manual mixing fish genetics between isolated populations across its former range, to increase the ability of the fish to survive current and future pressures on its existence.

perch populations and led to its listing as an Endangered Species in the 1980's. These impacts are from the loss of suitable habitat, the introduction of alien fish such as trout, redfin and carp, the installation of barriers to fish passage that block essential breeding and migration pathways (eg bed level crossings, small diameter piping, weirs and dams) the alteration to natural flow regimes and water temperature by dams that impact breeding cues, over fishing - a history of which is beautifully recounted by Will Trueman in True Tales of the Trout Cod - and in this degraded new environment - the proliferation of disease and parasites.

In NSW, Macquarie Perch persist in only 5 naturally occurring locations, some only a few kilometres long, and in 2 translocated populations - the Mongarlowe River and Cataract Reservoir. The Mongarlowe River is one of three



Dioni, Felicity, Enda, Paul, Luca and Iyra.

In 2011 FMR won funding from NSW Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grants to rehabilitate a severely eroded bank near the junction of the Shoalhaven River which was identified as a site where Macca's breed.

## Reaching for recovery of the endangered Macquarie Perch

In 2018, drawing on inspiration from FMR's Macquarie Perch projects, Braidwood local and LLS officer Felicity Sturgiss saw an opportunity to design a recovery project for the Macquarie Perch across the full South East Region of NSW. Land Services (LLS) in partnership with NSW DPI Fisheries secured Commonwealth funding to 'Reach for Recovery of the Endan-

In 2025, the work to recover the Macquarie Perch continues by researchers, anglers, project managers and fisho-philes around the country from all walks of life, and Mongarlowe locals are right in the fray protecting this fish, and the precious Mongarlowe River and the many timeless wonders within it.



Su Wild River, Mark Lintermans, Do Bott, Paul Dann and Paul Bott.



An adult Macquarie Perch

# CLUB TRIVIA

Martin Glover

April's winning team The Peterloo Massacre 1819.



It was a little bit of something new and a little bit of something old at the last Serviceman's Club Trivia on 9 April.

The "new" was a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny that started the night off on a sweet note. There were chocolate eggs for all the tables to munch on during the night – sometimes a sugar hit is what is needed to kick-start the old grey matter!

We also had a couple of "new" Teams, "Eliza & The Funky Bunch" and the return of some members of a previous team, this time going under the name of "The Creakers". It's always nice to see some new faces, and some returning ones.

The "old" was a tie-break for Podium places at the end of the night, as we had last month – more

on that later. Before that we had some questions, and hopefully correct answers, to get through.

The "Warri Warriors" aced the first round, Music & Musicals, scoring a perfect 10/10 and playing a Bonus Round to take 20 points from the round. This was twice as many points as their nearest competitors "The Peterloo Massacre 1819". There were some high scores through the next couple of rounds on Fashion and Sport & Games, with "The Dino Nuggets" and "The Cornerstones" both scoring a maximum 10/10 in the latter round. Throwback Thursday was up next and proved to be a bit tougher, but as we went into the half-time break, the "Warri Warriors" were clinging onto their lead, 38 points to the consistent scoring by "Trivia Newton-John"

on 37. "The Peterloo Massacre 1819" were tucked up in third on 34 points, but unlike the two teams ahead of them they hadn't played any Bonus Points rounds as yet.

After the break, eight of the 12 teams played a Bonus Points round on Geography and four teams answered nine questions correctly to score 18 points for the round. TV & Movies and Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner were next up – did you know that the most amount of money paid for an individual chicken nugget is US\$997,000, I certainly didn't!

Heading into the last round, the Theme round, the "Cornerstones" were sitting pretty on 71 points, six points ahead of "Ex-Communicado", although they couldn't relax as they had already used up their two Bonus Points rounds whereas

most other teams hadn't. That was the key to the final results as while "The Peterloo Massacre 1819" ran out the winners on 82 points, three teams finished on 81, "The Latecomers", "Ex-Communicado", and "The Cornerstones". A 3-way tie-break was required.

The tie-break question was "Where does Tennessee rank in the list of US states by Area?" "The Latecomers" correctly guessed it was 36th so took the 2nd place Prize. "Ex-Communicado" were the next closest so finished 3rd, leaving "The Cornerstones" licking their wounds in 4th.

The Creative Answer Prize, generously donated by our friends at Oscars Donuts, went to newcomers "Eliza & The Funky Bunch". They raised a smile with their suggestion that the "DK" in fashion house DKNY stood for Donkey Kong, and also tried to persuade the Quizmaster that Corey Hart wore "a thong" at night, not sunglasses!

— \* — \* — \* —

Please join us for more fun on Wednesday 14 May when we will be celebrating Mother's Day. Wear something pink to win a Prize – we all also be taking donations for a Breast cancer charity. Questions start at 7pm sharp.

— \* — \* — \* —

Remember that the **Month of Trivia** is back in June. We will be running Trivia each Wednesday night throughout June. The usual nightly Prizes will be on offer, as well as an overall Prize for the best performing team over the four nights.

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# The rental squeeze hits home

Robin Tennant Wood

In the last issue of *Braidwood's Changing Times*, Laura Moriarty took a look at the issue of housing availability and the rental market. This week the issue is local: Braidwood has a housing availability problem and it's serious.

Apart from the spiralling cost of rentals, and the short-term holiday rental market reducing the number of properties available for long-term tenancies, there is the cost of relocating.

Julie Webb, a long-time advocate for renters, says that one very difficult aspect of moving tenancies is that after the tenant moves their possessions to a new location, the

end of lease clean the clean takes at least one week before their bond is paid back. "Typically, rent is around \$500. The tenant has to pay double rent at that time: for the house being left and cleaned and for the new property if they have found one," Julie told the *Changing Times*.

"Their new tenancy usually requires two weeks rent in advance plus a bond, with the previous bond not given back to the tenant until after the final clean is passed as satisfactory by the estate agents.

"So rental moves are a very costly impost on tenants, in addition to the intensified workload of moving, plus house cleaning additional

to the hours of any employment obligations occurring simultaneously. This is especially the case for low income people with few supports."

One local woman (name withheld due to privacy concerns) with young children was recently forced to move from a rental property in town and has been unable to find another rental. One of the issues she noted is the inflexibility of agencies. Even though this woman operates a successful local business, her income is via invoices to clients, which means she doesn't have a weekly payslip to prove an income.

Rental agents, she says, have knocked her back because her income is not via an employer even though she has a perfect record as a tenant. Her partner is only with her two days a week but agents have questioned why he isn't named on the lease applications. Such outdated attitudes which virtually demand that a woman be supported by a man, discriminate against women and walk a very fine line in terms of legislation.

Rentals have also become bidding wars, with rental properties going to those who offer to pay more rather than to those who may be in most need. Prioritising profit over people is hardly new, but in a small town where accommodation is tight, consigning a young family to homelessness in order to make more money is mean at best, and downright unethical.

The upshot for the young family in question is that they are currently in a motel room out of town and the woman is looking at the likelihood of having to leave Braidwood completely. The indirect result on the local community: a small business lost, three fewer children at the local school, family and support networks broken.

There is no easy or immediate solution to the overall housing availability crisis, but there are a number of ways to ease the problem in the short-term. Agents need to assess clients according to who they are and what they need instead of according to a list of criteria that is outdated, discriminatory and developed in a city head office. Another way is for restrictions on short-term holiday lets, freeing up more properties for local residents to rent.



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## ART AND ABOUT

Christine Dimmer



## Michael Warner — potter, father, business and life partner

*I sat down with Michael Warner at his store on Wallace Street and asked him how a potter ended up in Braidwood.*

It began in 1999 just after I had been made redundant from the Steelworks in Wollongong.

I was looking for adventure and wanted to press reset on everything. I wanted to work with my hands.

My sister asked me to do a mosaic on her kitchen floor and I said sure, that sounds easy, but I'd never done anything like that in my life before. I was very naïve and I bought a magazine from a local pottery shop because on the

cover was how to do mosaics. There was an article by a young woman called Libby, who was managing ceramics at Sturt Galleries in Mittagong. She had done a four-year apprenticeship in Japan and had studied ceramics.

I had never heard of anyone like that before and I thought wow. I rang her and a week later I went to Mittagong. After talking with her for 3 hours I felt like a house on fire, 3 weeks later I decided I was going to move to Japan and study ceramics. Two weeks after that I had sold everything and bought a ticket to Tokyo. Libby said she would give me a referral to an Aussie potter who was living in Mashiko - a little pottery village outside Tokyo.

He asked, when are you coming to Japan, I said I'm in Tokyo. When are you coming to Mashiko? His name is Euan Craig and he opened his home to me. He had a 3-year-old daughter and 3-week-old son. I stayed and studied with him for a year and a half.

I liked being part of the entire process from the wedging of the clay to taking it out of the kiln. It's a very quiet trade at times especially when I was working in Japan. There was no hum of an electric wheel - there is just the clay, myself and my thoughts and time passes very quickly. It was lovely and calming.

I studied with a Japanese teacher who agreed to help me as he needed help in his pottery. I learned to speak just enough Japanese to have conversations about pottery making and the fundamentals of life (I can ask for a beer and navigate my way around McDonalds).

There were hundreds of potteries in this little village in Japan and everyone did something different. There were really no limitations to what you could do. I like the making on the wheel, my apprenticeship was on throwing which was a year and a half of just making the

pots. I would typically throw a thousand of each shape and then if I was lucky, I could keep 2 or 3 to glaze and send home for presents. But it wasn't about the keeping, it was about the making and the process and the growing of skills and the recycling of pots. Occasionally I would find one that I really liked. If I'm at a standstill with my work, I just make some rice bowls and it gets me back into the groove.

After that I went to the UK and found a job on the Isle of Mull off the west coast. I worked at the Isle of Mull pottery for a few years, then a dairy farm for a year and then with Kate (Carruthers) who had her own pottery.

We came to Braidwood in 2009 because of Gilles and Olivia Bernardoff. They had lived on the Isle of Mull decades earlier and our mutual friend Charlotte asked us to deliver a gift if we were passing through Braidwood. I was just going to post it, but we decided to come and have a look around. We looked at properties and found they were affordable and a good location. And unbeknown to us, there was a good deal of traffic from Canberra which supports the shop. We supply other shops, and they all speak enviously of Braidwood because of the huge volume of cars every year.



## Housing crisis is a global problem

Robin Tennant Wood

Australian towns and cities aren't alone in feeling a housing squeeze.

The short-term and holiday rental market has impacted cities around the world where property investors are cashing in on the lucrative tourist market at the expense of long-term and local renters.

Barcelona is the latest European city to deal with a local housing crisis through legislation, with the mayor, Jaume Collboni, announcing that the city will prohibit tourist-oriented short-term rentals by the end of 2028.

"We are confronting what we believe is Barcelona's largest problem," Collboni said. "There will be no more [tourist] flats in Barcelona: We will recover the

10,101 that currently exist and make them available to those who wish to live here."

In Florence, the capital of Italy's tourist-heavy Tuscany region, the city introduced a carrot-and-stick approach with landlords, simultaneously banning new short-term rentals in the historic city centre while encouraging property owners to rent out their investment properties long-term in exchange for tax breaks. The restrictions went into effect last October in an attempt to reduce almost 18,000 short-term rentals.

In Australia, the link between short-term lets and a general housing shortage has been researched and established for over a decade, but Nicole Gurran, a professor of

urban and regional planning at Sydney University, says that it's not as simple as cause-and-effect.

"There's robust research evidence now internationally that the more short-term rentals in an area, the tighter a rental market, and you see that tight rental market flow on in terms of higher rents and higher house prices," she told the ABC back in 2023.

"The research evidence shows too, that when you take short-term rentals out of the market and return them back to the long-term rental supply, that rents also fall in an area."

However, Professor Gurran said that short-term holiday rentals were not the cause of a housing crisis, even though they did exacerbate it in some areas that were already experiencing shortages.

"Short-term rentals contribute to a rental housing crisis where there is a shortage, but it would be unfair

to say that they are the entire problem," she said.

"We see problems around short-term rentals where there's a combination of factors and inadequate rental supply to begin with, an inadequate supply of social and affordable housing and low-income earners as well who are unable to meet the high costs of rents."

Professor Gurran said that she believed the most effective way to incentivise landlords to return their Airbnb homes to the long-term rental market was placing a cap on the number of nights per year a host can use their property for short-term rental.

"Restricting the number of nights that you can rent out a property on a short-term rental platform is probably the most common way that cities try to preserve their permanent rental accommodation," she said.



Geoffrey McGinley from Adapt Homes and landholder host George Sherriff.

# Tiny House field day

## Braidwood's big ideas in small spaces

Helen Faulkner — Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber

On a sunny autumn day in the rolling hills of Reidsdale, over 40 curious locals gathered at the picturesque Baringa property to explore one of the region's most talked-about trends: tiny homes.

The Braidwood Tiny House Field Day, held on Wednesday, April 9, brought together a stellar lineup of 13 speakers and experts to unpack the possibilities, legalities, and opportunities of tiny living in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region. The event was sparked by local landowner George Sherriff's own search for clarity around tiny house regulations — frustrated by field days that left him with more questions than answers, George decided to host one that focused solely on the QPRC region.

What unfolded was an inspiring and practical day showcasing how tiny homes could revolutionise



Kylie Coe and Mel Corey from QPRC

rural living, sustainability, and tourism in the Southern Tablelands.

### Big Picture Thinking

The day kicked off with an insightful presentation by Richard Everson from Destination Southern NSW, who painted a picture of how tiny homes and farm stays fit into the broader tourism landscape. With over \$900 million spent by visitors in the Southern Tablelands in 2024 alone, there's clear potential for agritourism to grow.

Visitors to the region—mostly from Yass, Goulburn, the South Coast and ACT—are seeking authenticity and unique experiences, not high-rises and hotel chains. Tiny homes, Richard explained, tap perfectly into this trend. They're energy-efficient, low impact, and offer the kind of 'country living' charm that Southern Tablelands promotes through its brand: 'This is Country Living'.

"Sustainability is no longer op-

portional," Richard added, sharing that 76% of travellers now look for eco-conscious options. And with a rising demand for 'soft adventure' tourism such as walking and cycling, tiny homes are perfectly positioned to host those seeking escape, without sacrificing comfort.

### Council's Stance: "Just Hurry Up and Build It"

In a refreshing show of support, QPRC's tourism and planning representatives echoed Richard's enthusiasm.

"We love tiny houses," said Tracey, speaking on behalf of Ryan Deebank from QPRC Tourism. "They offer economic resilience for farms and businesses, create jobs, and give visitors the authentic experience they're looking for."

With ageing motel stock and increasing tourism demand, the Council sees tiny homes as a strategic solution. Farmers, café owners, cleaners—everyone wins when tourism is done right.

Follow this link for the QPRC Town Planner's Fact Sheet for Tiny Homes: <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Building-Development/Building-and-Development-Forms-Checklists-and-Guides#section-10>

### Building Tiny, Thinking Big

The Field Day also showcased leading tiny home builders and advocates.

Tim from UNPLGD offered practical options from \$80k–\$150k with off-grid capabilities and a 15-year structural warranty—perfect for families, youth programs, or short-stay visitors.

Darcy from Greenlight Homes is trialling fire-safe, sustainable builds on Araluen Road, while Geoff from Adapt Homes, a Navy veteran, has designed stylish, flexible homes that range in size and meet strict fire ratings.

### Environmental Considerations

Local Land Services (LLS) added a vital layer to the conversation —

location matters. Representatives Andy and Melita led attendees through Baringa's landscape, highlighting risks tied to soil erosion, vegetation, and wildlife habitats. The Draft Native Vegetation Regulatory Map of Baringa revealed sensitive zones and stressed the importance of track placement, clearing protocols, and firewood collection. You can access this map online.

"Every decision you make on your land has a flow-on effect," Andy said. "We're here to help you make informed ones."

### Fire Safety First

No rural housing conversation would be complete without the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Danny King and Paul Bott gave a sobering but essential talk on flame zones, ember attacks, and the realities of bushfire risk.

"Know your site, plan your defence, and always have water—at least 5,000 gallons," Paul advised. They also recommended signage to indicate water access and power shut-off points, and reminded everyone that access for fire trucks can make or break a defence effort.

### What's Next?

Attendees left the open day better informed and inspired to take the next steps — some will build, others will advocate, and all left with a deeper understanding of how tiny homes could contribute to a more vibrant, sustainable regional future.

Whether it's tourism diversification, affordable housing, or simply living closer to nature, tiny homes offer big potential. And thanks to the proactive efforts of community members like George Sherriff and the Braidwood Villages Business Chamber, the conversation is just getting started.

For more updates on agritourism and regional development, subscribe to the Destination Southern NSW newsletter, visit the QPRC website, or speak to your Local Land Services team.



A happy Helen Faulkner



All photos: Gordon Waters

# ANZAC: honour the dead, spurn the myths and militarism

Geoff Davies

ANZAC Day is an occasion to honour those who died fighting for Australia.

That central purpose has become thickly encrusted with other agendas – to tell a version of Australian history, to parade the armed forces and their weapons, to glorify ‘heroic’ actions, to promote a vision of a hostile world and, covertly or not, to promote militarism and arms manufacture.

Gallipoli features large in all of this. Australia did not become a worthy nation because of the Gallipoli invasion. Our young men did not suddenly become brave and capable as their feet touched the foreign shore and many of them were mutilated by gunfire. They were already brave and capable because of the healthy and vigorous lives they lived in the young nation of Australia.

Australia was, relatively, very progressive for its time: women could vote, battlers were helped by governments, wealth was more evenly shared, and so on. Australia was also highly racist and women still lacked many other rights, of course.

One purpose of the Gallipoli invasion was to entice Tsarist Russia to join the Allies (Britain and France) against Germany. Our young men were fighting for Russia, and for Empire. The whole war

was a sordid battle among European imperial powers. Our young men were certainly not fighting for ‘freedom and democracy’ alongside Americans, as the latest absurd myth-making would have it.

Many people tried to persuade the combatants to end the slaughter, but all approaches were rebuffed by the English and French elites, according to historian Douglas Newton in *Private Ryan and the Lost Peace*. They would settle for nothing less than the total defeat of Germany, because otherwise people would feel that all the sacrifices were for nothing, and the elites would be swept from power.

In all the fighting then and since Australia has been directly threatened only once. Otherwise we have been fighting other people’s wars.

Even that one threat was plausibly a product of racist humiliation of Japan after WWI. The Japanese sought to be acknowledged on equal terms at the Versailles peace talks, but were refused, with Australian PM Billy Hughes prominent in noisily rejecting them as an unworthy race. Germany was also humiliated, by ruinous reparations required in the terms of settlement. That set the scene for the rise of Hitler.

Since WWII the US has launched several ill-conceived and highly counter-productive invasions that



From 1914-1918, 467 volunteers who were born in Braidwood or surrounding districts joined the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War. 379 survived and 88 lost their lives never to return home. [from *Marching Home To Braidwood* published by the Braidwood RSL Sub Branch in 2016]

failed, at great cost in lives and destruction. The US did help to stop the Japanese advance in 1942, but it has been high folly for Australia to join the later invasions.

There need not be a serious threat from China. If we cease our hostile provocations of them, which are rarely reported in the mainstream media, their sensible course is to trade peaceably with us. Taiwan is an internal Chinese matter, everyone agreed on that just a few years ago. The US is having a hissy fit because there is another big kid on the block. We are fools to get involved with that.

Peace is not just the absence of war. Peace is the absence of threat. It works both ways. If we do not threaten, we will be less threatened.

Intelligence analyst Sam Roggeveen has advocated a defence

policy he calls The Echidna Strategy – to be no threat at a distance but very prickly up close.

Let us honour the dead, but without military displays. Let us learn our real history, not the myths propagated by those with agendas. Let us acknowledge the follies that led to the loss so many lives. Let us acknowledge that diplomacy can be powerful, defusing hostility so disagreements don’t turn violent. Let us feel the grief of the losses, and act to reduce the chances of them happening again.

Let us cultivate our strength of character, so we have the gumption to go our own way in the world, being a constructive presence among nations, as we were briefly after WWII, when Australia was a prime mover in the formation of the United Nations.

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Authorised by Chris Stone, Liberal, Level 2, 131 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.



Scan  
for more  
information



## FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK



Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

cluded. While works are underway, traffic controls will be in place and detours may be required.

— \* — \* — \* —

Last year, we looked back at our Community Strategic Plan from 2021 and asked the community to tell us how things have changed, and what should stay the same, as we head Towards 2042. Taking that feedback from the community, we have developed a Draft Community Strategic Plan that outlines the aspirations and priorities for our local government area into the future.

We want to hear the community's feedback on this draft plan to make sure we understand their aspirations for our region. The adopted plan will inform the development of our next Delivery Program which responds to the community's feedback within a four-year work plan and our Operational Plan which spells out the actions to be undertaken within a financial year. Read the draft plan and have your say by 4:30pm 8 May 2025 at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/2025-draft-community-strategy-plan>

— \* — \* — \* —

A contractor will soon begin replacing the Tantulean Creek Bridge on Little River Road in Mongarlowe. Council crews have been doing some maintenance on the detour route to improve the road condition and line of sight, which will be via Northangera Road through to the Kings Highway.

The improvements to the detour route have included pruning and removing trees that are leaning towards the road, heavy grading and vegetation management. The road closure on Little River Road is expected to be from 19 May, weather permitting, and will be in place for approximately 12 weeks. The project involves demolishing the existing timber structure and constructing a new concrete bridge.

The new bridge will measure 18.5m by 8.42m. The project will include removal of trees, installing a temporary pedestrian bridge, demolishing the timber bridge, installing the new concrete bridge.

— \* — \* — \* —

Registrations for the 2025 QPRC & Bendigo Bank Art Awards are open! The Art Awards are a great opportunity to celebrate the work of creative people in our

region and show off their talent. This year, there is a total prize pool of \$25,000 with two new award categories — the \$3,000 Mayor's Acquisitive Heritage Art Award and the \$1,000 Bendigo Pick Photographic Award. Get your entries in online by 30 April at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Community/Culture-and-Arts/Annual-Art-Awards](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Community/Culture-and-Arts/Annual-Art-Awards)

— \* — \* — \* —

The Queanbeyan-Palerang 2025 Heritage Festival has started and there is an exciting calendar of events over the next two months. From exhibitions, museum open days and workshops, there are plenty of ways to learn more about the history of our region. See the full program at: [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/Heritage-Festival](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/Heritage-Festival)

— \* — \* — \* —

We are holding tonight's Council meeting in Queanbeyan. Some of the items on this week's agenda include naming new sports fields in Googong, bulky waste collection service options, and a range of notices of motion. Find the meeting agenda and livestream link at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I read the article about accessible parking [*Changing Times* last issue] and was quite annoyed. It's almost like, "here we go 17 parking spaces — what are they moaning about?"

Of the 17 spaces only 2 are near enough to be useful to access the main street, and one of those outside the Post Office has a very steep gutter to navigate to get onto the footpath.

This should be something to follow up and hopefully make enough noise about, so that QPRC looks at it honestly and creates more accessible parking.

Not that that will help the steep gutters, cracks in the pavement, and other issues identified by residents in a recent *Changing Times*.

We should be pushing for a solution. One day it may be us that can't get about in the main street.

Chris James  
Majors Creek

There are a range of events happening around the region to commemorate Anzac Day this Friday 25 April.

I will be attending events in Googong and Queanbeyan and hope to see lots of people there. Make sure to get along to your local event, you can find the full list at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/Anzac-Day-2025](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/Anzac-Day-2025)

— \* — \* — \* —

I'm looking forward to attending our community meetings next month and connecting with residents from around our region. Council really values the community's feedback, and these in-person meetings are a great way to discuss priorities, aspirations and concerns. One of the most important aspects of our May meetings is presenting Council's budget and integrated plans which map out the projects we undertake and services we provide. At the meetings, we also want you to help us prioritise future footpath works so that we can improve accessibility and connectivity in our region. Join us from 6-8pm in Braidwood on Thursday 15 May at the Braidwood Servicemens Club. **Register to attend at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/community-meetings](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/community-meetings)**

— \* — \* — \* —

As part of the process to deliver stormwater improvements in Braidwood, contractors will be undertaking geotechnical investigations from late April until late May (weather permitting). Initial investigations were conducted last year to explore diversion of stormwater from Wallace Street and our contractor will be completing geotechnical investigations on Duncan Street and Ryrie Street, however, some other streets may also be in-



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# Australians urged to check vaccination status as flu and measles infections soar

National Pharmacy Guild media

Australians should take action to protect their health this Autumn, advises Professor Trent Twomey, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Cases of preventable infections, such as influenza and measles have continued to rise – despite vaccination offering an effective way to protect from potentially serious illness. Australia has recorded more than 60,000 cases of influenza so far this year\*, more than the same period in 2024. Measles cases have

also surged, with 54 cases currently recorded – compared to last year's total of 57.

“The rise in influenza and measles cases is alarming,” says Professor Trent Twomey, National President Pharmacy Guild of Australia. “We know vaccines are critical in protecting public health – stopping these potentially deadly conditions from spreading.

“Vaccination is the best line of defence against influenza, measles, COVID and shingles. They prevent

infection, lower the risk of serious illness and are recommended for people over six months of age. The great thing is some vaccines can be co-administered, meaning in one visit to your community pharmacy you can get protected against a range of infections.

“1 in 4 flu shots is given at a community pharmacy, which are open into the evening and weekend, making it easier for patients to get vaccinated.”

Many patients are eligible for

free vaccines under the NIP and those living in Queensland and Western Australia can get vaccinated against influenza for free.

Adults aged 20-49 who are unvaccinated, or under vaccinated, are particularly at risk from measles. This serious condition is easily preventable with two doses of the combination measles vaccine, which provides 99% protection against illness and serious complications.

“Vaccines work. They reduce transmission and reduce your chance of getting sick. Community pharmacies are a convenient and accessible way to get protected,” Professor Twomey said.

Patients can visit [www.findapharmacy.com.au](http://www.findapharmacy.com.au) to find out more or book an appointment.

# Upgrading multicultural centres in Goulburn and Queanbeyan

Media release from the office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government will contribute \$103,000 towards upgrading the Goulburn and Queanbeyan Multicultural Centres.

This election commitment will go towards upgrading the kitchenette at the Goulburn Multicultural Centre into a proper kitchen, enabling the centre to expand its catering options and cooking classes.

The project will also help fund the fit out of the new Queanbeyan Multicultural Centre, after it recently moved locations to cater for its expanded services.

Both multicultural centres are central meet-

ing spaces for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members and this funding will enable their facilities to keep up with growing demand.

As the only multicultural centres in their respective local government areas, the Goulburn and Queanbeyan Multicultural Centres play a vital role in supporting and connecting our multicultural communities.

Consistent with past practice, election commitments will be delivered in line with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles.

Ms McBain said, “This election commitment will enhance the support the Goulburn and Queanbeyan Multicultural Centres offer and



Kristy McBain [right] with a Cultural Centre worker

ensure they stay fit-for-purpose.

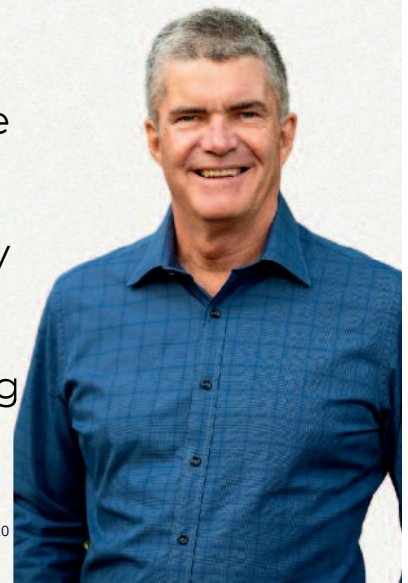
“Both these centres provide a space where individuals from a range of CALD communities can connect, interact, and feel included.

“I’m proud that a re-elected Labor Government will invest in these local services which do a fabulous job fostering a cohesive, tolerant, and integrated society.”

## Contact my office for assistance with:

Labor

• Social Housing • Service NSW • Fair Trading • Education • NSW Health and Hospitals • State Roads • Police • Ambulance • Fire + Rescue • State Emergency Service • Revenue NSW • Public Transport • National Parks • Crown Lands • Family and Community Services • Justice of the Peace Services and Applications • Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Congratulatory Messages



# I have a problem

**And so does everybody in my generation. Every. Body.**

*\*Alarm blares\* I press STOP on my iPhone. I switch the phone to silent, mute all audio so my husband doesn't wake up, and turn on the internet. Religiously, I go through WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. I put my phone down, get out of bed and go to the toilet. Exiting, I open YouTube, put my airpods in and scroll till I find the perfect podcast and then hit play so I can begin to get ready for work.*

The problem with this typical morning routine is that I have officially started my day with other people's stories, not mine. I have jumped into the world before I had a chance to jump out of bed. It's like opening your eyes and materializing between an ecstatic crowd on a street in NYC, watching someone b-boy. How would that feel? Disorienting, to say the least. But this is the routine of an average millennial and Gen Z. We wake up to a stranger tweeting about their life, watching a reel of some podcast bro telling you five ways to invest your money during recessions and then scrolling to a person twerking to the latest song. It's miserable out here and I envy the lives my parents lived - media wise.

The obvious question is why we do this to ourselves? If I asked my grandmother - scratch that, she is addicted to YouTube shorts herself - and grandfather's dead. I can only speak for myself - so why do I do this to myself? Very simply put, I do not want to think anymore. It sounds scary but is the reality for many. I do not want to wake up with anxiety for the day - I do not want to think about the investment that failed, I do not want to think about that friend I had a fight with, about my terrible hair loss (I DO have hair), about the salad I forgot to make last night, about my family back home, etc. I am running away from discomfort. Specifically, the discomfort that comes with problem solving my own life and my own circumstances. I'm hesitant to generalize but I can safely claim that this is the case of every single person in my life who cannot get off their phone, it is an escape for them.

This is not the first or last item

in history to provide us with an escape from our lives. There have been many which are still used as wonderful escapes to the daily humdrum of life. People would read newspapers on the train, books by the beach, listen to the radio or play cassettes in the kitchen. Notice how all these escapes are now, also available on your phone (ad free only with premium subscription). My smartphone serves as all serving, portable, rechargeable, space efficient device that blasts all the dopamine receptors I have. Why would I worry about my life when

THE WAY  
I THINK IT  
Adeeba Suroor



I can pop online and watch the lives (and deaths) of others. I can scroll on my device and watch Jennie perform at Coachella, dying children in Gaza, an eggless chocolate cake recipe, an infotainment video on Mughal architecture and the

Trump-China tariff war - all under a minute. Am I able to process, critically think and remember the hundreds of videos I watch every hour? Each month, there are at least four audio clips that go viral and get repeatedly played on these apps which I keep hearing those long after I have (forcedly) kept my phone away. It blurs my train of thought and pulls the leash towards what I had been scrolling for the past four hours. The audio-visual stimulation is the kind you and I have never experienced before and it is very detrimental not just to the senses and our health, but to how we experience life itself.

Calling it an escape is underestimating the chokehold that this small metal block has on the world now. I wish I could go on about how different this decade has been

from the last and what all-encompassing power this technology now holds, but I do not want to diverge. I want to talk about how it is affecting our the ability to think both critically and creatively. When faced with a difficult situation that troubles me immensely, a situation that I cannot make head or tail of, I do not hold the capacity anymore to sit and resolve it. A few moments of the punishing thought, and I tend to pick my phone, completely derailing the process of problem solving or emotional regulation.

When I then sit to think of an article to write, a sketch to scribble or a book to read - I open the floodgates to the very same thoughts that I had pushed away with my screentime. It's like stuffing your clothes in the closet, not bothering to organise them. When time comes to search for that one dress you would like to wear, you are faced with the daunting mess of

your own creation. Just as you would have to sift through all the clothes in your closet to find that dress, I now had to sit through all my thoughts before writing this article. I had to acknowledge them, accept them and promise to organize them in future so it isn't such a mess for me to pursue things that bring me joy and add value to my life.

I know it did take a while for me to reappear here, but life does get in the way. All I need to ensure, is to not get in my own way.

*\*Radar alarm blares\*. My eyes are closed, but I'm wide awake. I know what I will have for breakfast, and my clothes are pressed. I roll out of the bed and freshen up. I fill my glass with warm water and begin to get ready for the day, a quiet morning playlist humming on my iPad. I'm stirring chai and the event of the fallout with my friend creeps up. I take a deep breath and wait for it to replay in my head, over and over again. Eventually, I decide I shall write her a letter; acknowledging her issues, putting forth my side of the story and being vulnerable. The chai slowly turns golden brown, and I strain it into my cup.*



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# Time for Australian aged care to catch up on artificial intelligence

Ageing Australia media

From robots to smart toilets and metallic exoskeletons, Artificial Intelligence and technology has the potential to revolutionise aged care in Australia, because it's already happening around the world, according to a leading tech expert.

That was the message from scientific futurist Dr Catherine Ball, who highlighted the opportunities AI presents in improving care, efficiency, and safety for both residents and staff in aged care.

"As they [new technologies] come into the healthcare industry, you don't want to be on the back foot of this," Dr Ball said.

Speaking at Ageing Australia's recent ITAC conference in Melbourne, Dr Ball pointed to her current work with AI and robotics in the mining sector, where robots are being deployed in deep-ground operations to eliminate the risk of human fatalities.

She suggested that aged care could also benefit from AI-driven innovations in the near future to reduce risks and improve working conditions. Using technologies in this way could fast become the norm.

"Because the Workplace Health and Safety Act states that if there's a known and available technology and you didn't use it, you're liable," said Dr Ball, who is also a robotics expert.

One area of promise is the use of AI-powered exoskeletons to help both carers and older people with physically demanding tasks, reducing injury and fatigue.

The wearable external robotic device is taking off in countries like Japan and South Korea. They too are facing rapidly ageing populations and are investing significantly in AI and technology to support older people.

Japan has been at the forefront, said Dr Ball,



A powered exoskeleton for caregivers.

adding that Australia should look to countries in the Asia-Pacific region for inspiration rather than relying on "tech-bros" in Silicon Valley.

"Communities in the Asia-Pacific have yso much to teach us," she said.

While aged care remains an incredibly complex sector that is heavily regulated, Dr Ball said that existing frameworks in Australia are not a barrier to adopting new technologies and "regulation and legislation don't stymy innovation."

Instead, the key challenge is understanding where AI can add the most value. "We don't know what the problems are in your sector that AI can help with," Dr Ball said.

Also speaking at ITAC, Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said the sector risked being left behind if innovation was ignored.

"AI won't take your job, but someone who uses it will take your customers," Mr Symondson said, recalling a quote from a recent event.

"Innovation is everywhere. Often the biggest barriers are the ones we impose on ourselves," he said.

He described AI as a powerful tool to support a complex sector run by people who care deeply about the lives of older Australians.

Mr Symondson pointed to Cooma, a regional town in New South Wales, where council-run aged care services are likely to face severe staffing shortages due to their remote location.

"Imagine how much a place like Cooma would benefit from something like AI?" he said.

He pointed to the recent World Ageing Festival in Singapore and the memorandum of understanding signed between Ageing Australia and Ageing Asia as key steps toward fostering greater collaboration and innovation in the sector.

"You can learn things not just from the person down the road, or the person in Perth, or in Cairns, but from the person in Ho Chi Minh, or in Helsinki, or in Boston," he said.

AU FAIT

ChatGPT

Welcome to a new occasional column in *Braidwood's Changing Times*. To keep up with the changes swirling around us, *BCT* has been 'talking' to ChatGPT.

There is no doubt that artificial intelligence models are having an effect on journalism and writing in general. It's easy to send a piece to the bot and have it returned in seconds, grammar and spelling fixed, along with suggestions about different (and often better) wording.

The ethics of all this will be challenging for students, writers, journalists and anyone who works with words. Here at the *Changing Times* we don't fear the use of AI as a glorified spell checker but we will never pass its work off as our own.

With that said, let's hear from ChatGPT.

— \* — \* — \* —

## BCT: How extensive is your neural network?

ChatGPT: The neural network underpinning GPT-4 is among the most extensive constructed to date. While OpenAI has not officially disclosed the exact number of parameters, various analyses and leaks suggest that GPT-4 comprises approximately 1.76 trillion parameters. This architecture employs a Mixture of Experts (MoE) model, consisting of multiple specialized sub-networks, or "experts," each trained on different data or tasks. During inference, only a subset of these experts is activated, allowing the model to scale efficiently while maintaining performance.

This vast network enables GPT-4 to process and generate human-like text across a wide range of topics and styles. The model's extensive training data and sophisticated architecture contribute to its ability to understand context, nuance, and even humor in language.

If you're interested in more technical details or specific applications of GPT-4's architecture, feel free to ask!

— \* — \* — \* —

Whew! ChatGPT likes to end every answer with a question or an offer of further information. Space is limited this edition but in the future we will bring you its views on the world today — it is interesting stuff. One more:

## BCT: I've told you a bit about our local paper. Write me a poem in Dr Suess style.

*In Braidwood's town, the news is spread,  
Not just online, but read in bed.  
No need to plug, no need to charge,  
The printed page is still at large.*

*You can share it here or there,  
Pass it 'round without a care.  
No Wi-Fi woes or loading bars,  
Just stories shared beneath the stars.*

*So whether you prefer the net,  
Or paper pages you can get,  
We'll bring the news both ways to you,  
In print and pixels, tried and true.*

— \* — \* — \* —

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## Beyond the Spin

This month's topic:  
**Why Trump's Kamikaze Tariffs  
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# Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION



### Enter the QPRC & Bendigo Bank Art Awards!

The 2025 QPRC & Bendigo Bank Art Awards registrations are now open. Be in the running for one of the 12 Art Awards, with a total prize pool of \$25,000.

There are two new award categories, the \$3,000 Mayor's Acquisitive Heritage Art Award and the \$1,000 Bendigo Pick Photographic Award.

- ▶ Learn more and register online before 30 April at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-award](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-award)

**Advertising of Notices and Documents** under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and regulations documents are published at [bit.ly/DPnotices](http://bit.ly/DPnotices)

### Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Review Contaminated Land Policy	25-Apr
Review Sewer Connection Limit of Council Responsibility Policy	25-Apr
Review Backflow Prevention Policy	25-Apr
Planning Proposal to Reclassify and Rezone Land at 88 Wallace Street & 41 Ryrie Street Braidwood	28-Apr
Review Restricted Funds Policy	28-Apr
Renewal alcohol-free zones and addition 1 Farrer Place	04-May
Review of Heritage Places	04-May
19 Gibraltar Street Bungendore	01-Jun

- ▶ Find all the details on Council's engagement hub at [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)

Submissions can be made:

- By registering and commenting via [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)
- By email to [council@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qprc.nsw.gov.au)
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

### Tantulean Creek - bridge replacement detour

The detour for the Tantulean Creek Bridge Replacement will be via Northangera Road and the Kings Highway.

The detour will be in place once Little River Road closes for the bridge replacement and will add 12 minutes to travel time. The detour is expected to begin from 19 May, weather permitting - and will be in place for approximately 12 weeks.

Temporary road signs will be installed at key locations to inform drivers.

### Council Meetings and Times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings twice a month on 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 at [bit.ly/MinutesAgendas](http://bit.ly/MinutesAgendas).

Members of the public can livestream the meetings at [bit.ly/QPRCwebcast](http://bit.ly/QPRCwebcast) 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 at [bit.ly/QPRCinvolved](http://bit.ly/QPRCinvolved)

Next meeting dates are:

- 23 April
- 14 May

### 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](mailto: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.

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- Venues Technical Officer
- Administrative Officer
- Casual Library Assistant
- Manager Urban Landscapes
- Team Leader Central Waste

- ▶ For more information see [bit.ly/QPRC-Careers](http://bit.ly/QPRC-Careers)




### Queanbeyan-Palerang Heritage Festival

Join us in April and May for great local events.


There are more than 20 different talks, workshops, exhibitions, walks, tours and activities for you to be part of in Araluen, Braidwood, Bungendore and more!

- ▶ View the complete program and register at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/heritage-festival](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/heritage-festival)

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## BOOKWORM

Julia Ermert

## Wordsworth's Daffodils

As I begin this article, it's 15th April. That's the day, in 1802, that Dorothy Wordsworth wrote in her journal about the 'long belt' of daffodils she and her brother William had observed when out walking.

Then he wrote a poem about it — you know the one:

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales  
and hills,*

*When all at once I saw a crowd  
A host, of golden daffodils...*

It must be one of the best-known poems in the English language, but I've always disliked it. Why? Perhaps I suspected she saw them first, but it's him that we remember.

The siblings went walking most days and Dorothy carried with her a diary that was eventually published (not till 1897) as *The Grasmere Journal*. She publicly disclaimed any desire to be a poet (she did write for children) but he relied on her to spot for him: 'she gave me eyes, she gave me ears.' They talked over her entries each day.

When Dorothy Wordsworth (b. Christmas Day 1771) was six, her mother died. There were four sons. William the second eldest born two years before Dorothy was very close to her. The boys stayed with their father but the girl was sent far away to live with maternal relatives and didn't see her brothers again for years. They were reunited in 1787 on the father's death. Brother and sister planned to set up house together. They linked up with various of Wordsworth's poet friends, notably the unhappily married Samuel Taylor Coleridge, but nothing worked out. Respectable neighbourhoods didn't want such Bohemians amongst them and they were even suspected of being German spies ... this was the Napoleonic wars.

They needed their own place. Finally they were able to rent Dove Cottage, originally named Town End, in Grasmere for eight pounds a year. Brother John lived there sometimes and Coleridge nearby.

So he was not alone and lonely that historic April day down on the shores of Ullswater. Dorothy's particular fancy was that daffodil

seeds had floated across the water and taken root ... yes, daffodils do set seed although growing from bulbs, but they can take years to germinate.

These particular daffodils are the wild ones, called botanically '*narcissus pseudonarcissus*' with a dark yellow trumpet and paler tepals — tepals are a cross between sepals and petals and form the perianth.

They're the stuff of legends. Originally white, Persephone was weaving a wreath of them when Dis/Pluto grabbed her. Some fell to the ground and turned yellow. An alternative story has Zeus inventing them to help lure the hapless maiden for his brother. They grow on the banks of the Styx; the spirits of the dead are particularly fond of them. They call them asphodel or affodil. Some country people call them Lent lilies, or Easter lilies. The Romans brought them to Britain in 300 BC.

Coming after the cold winter, daffodils symbolise hope and rebirth, one reason the Cancer Council uses more than 60,000 of them each season.

They're a Heineken beer logo:  
'(it) refreshes the poets other  
beers can't reach.'

Some of you will have visited Dove Cottage, as I have, and found it very small, but to them it was the home they'd longed for. Soon William married Mary Hutchinson, a childhood friend of them both, and they continued to live together in perfect amity. In 1805, brother John, who was captain of the East India ship *The Earl of Abergavenny*, was lost at sea along with many of the crew. Coleridge's marriage problems increased and he was in love with Mary's sister Sara but she was not interested. Finally they separated, in 1806 according to his letters — how fortunate that everyone kept letters in those days! It makes it even more remarkable that Cassandra Austen did not. Yes, I have seen the recent television exposé on this puzzle, but we will never really know.

William and Mary had three children quite quickly, so Dove Cottage really did become too small, and he was now making a

comfortable income as a poet — with two women to look after him, he could give all his time to writing. So they rented bigger houses until in 1813 they settled at Rydal Mount, a few kilometres away. This too is open to the public. It's more the sort of place you would expect to find the Poet Laureate, although he didn't gain that honour until 1843. By this time Dorothy was quite ill, confined to the house with rheumatism (all those wet walks) and addicted to laudanum. She called it 'my treacherous friend.' This was the accepted painkiller of the day, a tincture of opium dissolved in alcohol, widely used and readily available even for children. Its dangers were beginning to be known. Brother, sister and sister-in-law struggled with this but nothing else was as effective. Dorothy had lost all her teeth, one by one, and been fitted for dentures; by the size of the bill, these may have been human teeth, although it would be past the time you could acquire 'Waterloo teeth,' that is, scavenged from the battlefields.

Two of the three children died at ages four and six, but Dora survived to adulthood. At Rydal Mount, Wordsworth had another host of golden daffodils planted

and called it 'Dora's Field.'

This is the one you'll see if you visit. Both these houses, with gardens restored as Dorothy described them, are in the care of The Wordsworth Trust and are regularly open.

And the poem? Wordsworth altered a line here and there: the last line of the first verse was originally 'ten thousand golden daffodils' rather than 'a host of ...' but the 'ten thousand' was recycled into the second verse. He also added a verse. These are typical authorial polishings. Unlike some poets, he did know how and when to stop! He leaves us with useful musings about the bliss of solitude.

Perhaps it's a poem that can be all things to all people. Perhaps my dislike stems from my late unlamented first husband, a clever man, but a typical fifties' man in despising both quiche and poetry. He would gloss it: 'I wandered lonely as a **clod** ... ' It was quite funny the first couple of times.

So it really hit home when I read that, apocryphally, Wordsworth had written 'lonely as a **cow**' and his sister had answered, 'William, you can't put that!'

I like to think she had the last word.

## ANZAC DAY 2025

### BRAIDWOOD

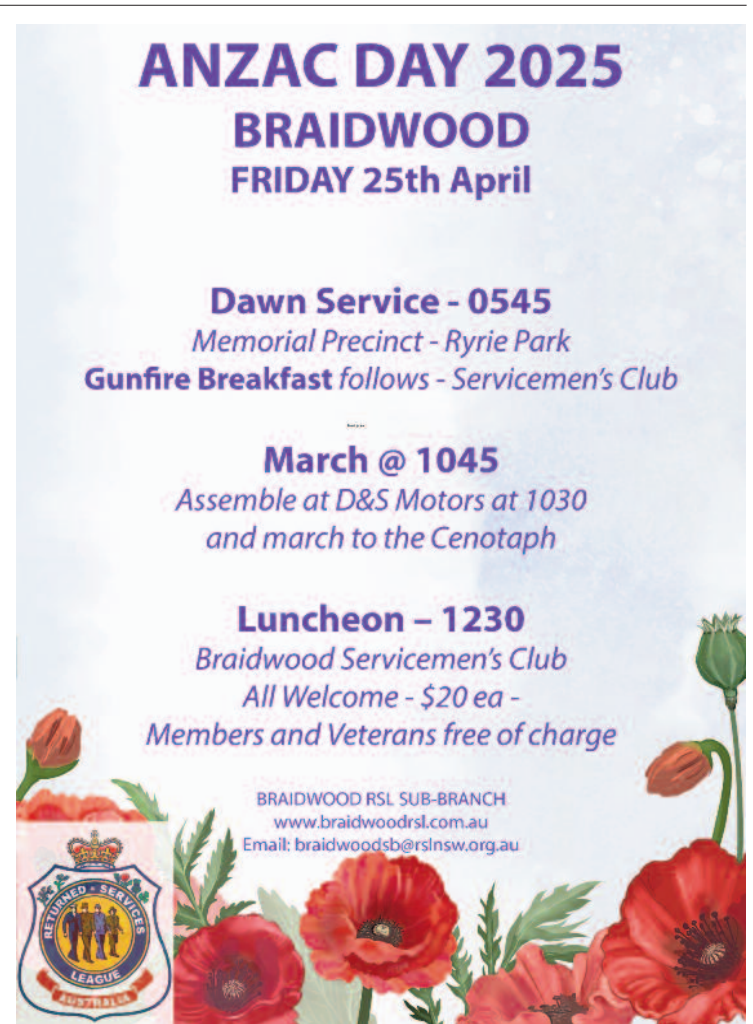
### FRIDAY 25th April

**Dawn Service - 0545**  
*Memorial Precinct - Ryrie Park*  
**Gunfire Breakfast follows - Servicemen's Club**

...  
**March @ 1045**  
*Assemble at D&S Motors at 1030*  
*and march to the Cenotaph*

**Luncheon - 1230**  
*Braidwood Servicemen's Club*  
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## Community broadcaster honoured by national archive

Mick Birtles writes from the North Coast

Radio presenter Rob Davidson's vast body of work is to be preserved for posterity by the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

A much-loved voice of community radio and a passionate advocate for Australasian music, former

Nambucca Valley resident Rob Davidson has received national recognition with the inclusion of his radio series 'Flashback Featured Artist' in the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) in Canberra.

The NFSA officially accepted the

collection on 3 March 2025, preserving for posterity over 300 programs that chronicle the careers of Australian and New Zealand musical acts.

Each episode dives deep into an artist's career, showcasing both chart-topping hits and the lesser-known singles that shaped the nation's popular music history.

Program lengths range from 25 to 108 minutes, reflecting the breadth of content and careers covered.

Rob launched Flashback Featured Artist in 2004, and it has aired on numerous community stations, currently including 2NVR Nambucca Valley Radio (105.9FM), Braidwood FM (88.9FM), 2ARM-FM Armidale (92.1FM), and 2GHR Greater Hume Radio Holbrook (96.7FM).

The program highlights not only household names but also lesser-known artists whose influence was often localised but impactful.

Rob's journey in community radio began in Braidwood, NSW, after he moved from western Sydney in 1999.

With no local station, Davidson was central in founding Braidwood Community Radio, which launched on Australia Day 2003.

His efforts were recognised with a Cultural Achievement Award from the Tallaganda Shire Council in 2004.



Rob Davidson

In 2015 Rob joined 2NVR in the Nambucca Valley, initially intending only to present.

However his commitment quickly led him to roles in sponsorship and finance, where he significantly increased the station's income and community engagement.

His legacy at the station and across Australian community radio endures, not just through his broadcasts, but now through their preservation in the NFSA.

With a lifelong belief that Australian talent could rival any in the world, Rob created Flashback Featured Artist to celebrate it.

Thanks to the NFSA, future generations will also be able to hear those stories.

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# April Falls Month focuses on staying active daily

Southern NSW Local Health District media

This April Falls Month older people living in south-east NSW are being encouraged to look after themselves with regular exercise and activity to help maintain independence.

'Falls Prevention is everyone's business' is the theme of this year's April Falls Month, an annual event supported by the NSW Fall Prevention and Healthy Ageing Network to encourage older adults to become more active and reduce falls.

Brodie Palmer, Health Promotion Officer at Southern NSW Local Health District, emphasised the importance of staying active.

"Keeping active is one of the best things we can do to maintain our independence as we age. Regular exercise helps improve balance, strength, and confidence, making everyday activities easier and reducing the risk of falls," Ms Palmer said.

"Whether it's joining (or starting!) a Heart Foundation Walking group, taking part in a local exercise class, or using the Active & Healthy directory to find a program that suits you, there are many ways to stay moving. Every little bit of activity counts, so find something you enjoy and make it part of your routine," Ms Palmer added.

Ms Palmer explained that Southern NSW Local Health District's physiotherapy teams work closely with community members to provide targeted support and interventions for those at risk of falls or frailty.

NSW Fall Prevention and Healthy Ageing Network Lead Advisor Professor Cathie Sherrington said staying physically active is the

single most important thing we can do to stay independent as we age.

"During ageing, our bodies change, losing muscle strength and coordination so the more active we remain, the better chance we have of maintaining our physical function," Prof Sherrington said.

Improving balance and strength in our legs allows us to complete regular daily activities more easily, including getting up and down stairs, in and out of cars, negotiating uneven surfaces and reducing the risk of falling.

If older people are feeling unsteady on their feet or are having eyesight changes or pain in their feet seeing specialists such as a physiotherapist for balance and strength testing, an optometrist for vision changes and a podiatrist to reduce foot pain can help to maintain independence. See your GP for issues that worry you and for referrals to other health practitioners.

"Falls prevention is everyone's business and research has shown that regular exercise can reduce falls in older people by 23 per cent. Importantly, slowly building up high-challenge balance exercises can increase the effects of exercise by up to 40 per cent," Prof Sherrington said.

Explore helpful resources for falls prevention on the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission website and learn how to stay active with guidance from the NSW Fall Prevention and Healthy Ageing Network. Looking for a local exercise group? Visit the NSW Active and Healthy website to find programs that support strength and balance.



Illustration by Alison Alder

## News trivia



### Have you been paying attention?

- 1 The USA is this year celebrating the 250th anniversary of what event?
  - The birth of Jane Austen
  - The start of the American Revolution
  - The arrival of the Pilgrims
  - The birth of George Washington
- 2 Meanwhile, the UK is celebrating the 250th anniversary of ...
  - The departure of the Pilgrims
  - The end of the American Revolution
  - The birth of Jane Austen
  - The blowing up of the Houses of Parliament by Guy Fawkes
- 3 Australian F1 driver, Oscar Piastri, leads the Formula 1 drivers' championship following his win in which Grand Prix event last weekend?
  - Saudi Arabia      ➤ Monaco
  - Melbourne        ➤ Singapore
- 4 The federal election will be held on ...
  - 3 May      ➤ 10 May
  - 17 May     ➤ Election? What election
- 5 Australia's first federal election was held on 29 March 1901. What number election will the coming one be?
  - 41st      ➤ 45th
  - 48th      ➤ 50th
- 6 Over this Easter weekend a record number of lives were lost in Australia due to what?
  - Traffic accidents   ➤ Accidental shootings
  - Snake bites        ➤ Drowning
- 7 North Bondi RSL made the news this week by announcing that they are ditching what traditional part of Anzac Day?
  - Two-up game      ➤ Dawn Service
  - Reciting of the Ode   ➤ The Lord's Prayer
- 8 Opening in Sydney in June to celebrate its 40th anniversary is what Andrew Lloyd Webber musical?
  - Jesus Christ Superstar   ➤ Phantom of the Opera
  - Evita                  ➤ Cats
- 9 Pope Francis died on Easter Monday. According to his wishes, he will be buried where?
  - Basilica del Santissimo Sacramento in his home city of Buenos Aires
  - St Peter's Basilica, Vatican
  - Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano, Rome
  - Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica, Rome
- 10 A fictional version of what happens inside the secretive conclave to elect a new pope was published as a novel and has recently been released as a movie, Conclave. Who wrote the book?
  - John Grisham      ➤ Ian Rankin
  - Robert Harris     ➤ Paula Hawkins

Answers on page 21

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### Anglican Parish of Braidwood

#### PEACE be with you

'There is a lot of noise inside', she said, with her typically perceptive way of summing up the situation.

We talked of ways to order life that reduced the stress, of finding quiet time, of meditation. We all know the difficulty of finding quietness, some calmness or peacefulness, when you are living with the constant demands of modern life, especially if you're an active, working mum. The noise outside can seem at times impossible to escape, but how to deal with the noise inside?

— \* — \* — \* —

When Jesus appears to his locked-away followers hiding in a room, in this week's Gospel (John 20.19-31), the first thing he said to them was 'peace be with you'. I think their room would probably have been quiet, as they were in fear of their lives, but 'inside' would have been anything but.

Greeting somebody with peace was not unusual, but the peace Jesus wished for them was not just a greeting but also a gift. A gift achieved on the cross and given to be experienced now in real life. This peace he gave brought a completeness or what our culture and the Bible refers to as wholeness. Like being restored to a way of living that has always been intended for us, relationship that encounters the One beyond ourselves.

And the noise inside? Maybe some regular down time, even meditating on what is good, and maybe that is relational, for restored relationships restore peace.

Peace be with you.

David Luckie, parishioner

— \* — \* — \* —

Thank you to everyone who joined us on our Holy Week journey – from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday to Easter Sunday! Many new faces – visitors

and locals, some new to Braidwood region - and wonderful gatherings for the various services. We thank Rev Jane and the lay leaders for all the service preparation and everyone involved in cleaning and preparing St Andrew's church, for well catered hospitality and fellowship in the garden. For regular service updates, news and information follow us on facebook: Anglican Parish of Braidwood.

Join us this coming Sunday 27th April at 10am for Morning Prayer at St Andrew's Anglican Church, 47 Elrington St, Braidwood as we continue the Easter season celebration of new life.

ANZAC Day 25th April Majors Creek:

8.30am in the grounds of St Stephen's Anglican Church, Hill St.

ANZAC Day 25th April Braidwood:

6am Dawn service at Cenotaph, Wallace St

9.30am Blessing of the Wreaths, St Bede's Catholic Church, Wallace St

10am March

10.30 Assemble at the Cenotaph

11am Wreath laying at Cenotaph

11.30am Commemorative service, Ryrie Park

### Braidwood Uniting Church

#### Lost!

Soon after Christmas, Hot Cross Buns were for sale in the shops!

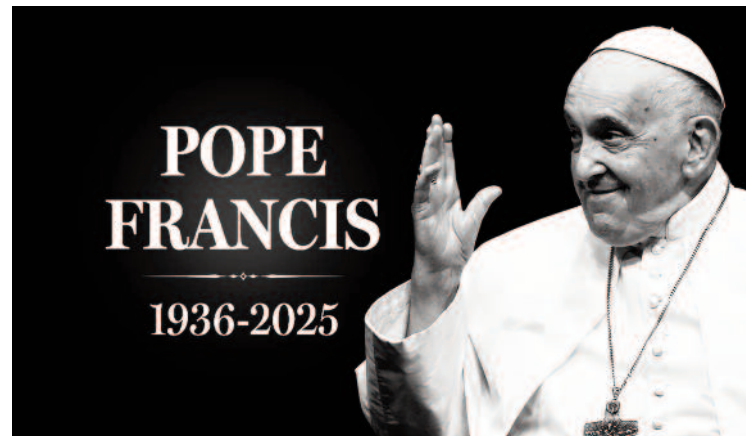
Shoppers exclaimed, "Christmas is just over and 'their' pushing Easter Buns already!" Yes, I said that too.

But what does this really signify? The teachings we used to have about Easter seem to have gone. Is it just about feasting on tasty buns and an excuse to eat lots of chocolate eggs?

As children, in my family, we went to Sunday School and when older, to Church Fellowship. Our parents went to Church, occasionally. Tradition, Faithfulness, and Jesus' teachings were firmly fostered.

On Strove Tuesday Mum would make pancakes. This was the start of Lent, a time when we were restricted from having lollies or fizzy drinks (not that we ever did have many of those treats, back then).

On Good Friday, Mum would rise early and prepare a large platter



of thickly buttered Hot Cross Buns. She would sing as she brought them to the table "Hot Cross Buns, one a penny two a penny.... Etc" My Mother would remind us that the cross on which Jesus was crucified, and the spices and dried fruit symbolised the spices used to embalm Him. By Saturday evening, all the buns would be gone, because that part of Easter was over.

Good Friday children were not allowed to run around or make too much noise when playing; we were reminded that it was the day that our Saviour died for us. We had to respect that!

Sunday we all went to Church. It was a day of rejoicing, and for us children, the promise of Easter Eggs. At first the eggs were just coloured and decorated boiled eggs, but later Mum yielded to the more popular Chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny was not known to us.

Monday was a holiday; we went for a big family picnic! What a lovely family tradition! Where has that all gone? Maybe those Christians who do care, should try to re-introduce these forgotten "traditions" to their families, you may be surprised by what comes out of that. Let's be strong in our faith; respect, revere and remember what Easter is about. Jesus might well say, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Please let's not 'lose' Easter.

Irene Murtagh

### St Bede's Parish

#### Pope Francis dies at 88, leaving a legacy of mercy and reform

Pope Francis, the first Jesuit and the first pope from the Americas, has died at the age of 88.

The beloved pontiff passed away peacefully in the Vatican City, leav-

ing behind a legacy marked by compassion, humility, and a tireless commitment to the poor and marginalized.

Elected in 2013, Pope Francis – born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina – sought to reorient the Catholic Church toward mercy and simplicity. His papacy was defined by bold calls for environmental action, outreach to the peripheries of society, and a deep pastoral concern for the faithful across the globe.

Pope Francis served the church with profound humility, compassion and dedication, touching the hearts of millions around the world.

The Vatican has announced a period of official mourning, with details of funeral arrangements will be announced in the coming days. The College of Cardinals will soon convene in a conclave to elect his successor.

As the world reflects on his enduring impact, millions mourn a spiritual leader who sought to be, in his own words, "a shepherd with the smell of the sheep."

We ask all to join together in prayer for the repose of his soul and for the Catholic Church as we enter a period of mourning and transition. Let us also pray for the College of Cardinals as they prepare for the election of a new successor to St Peter.

— \* — \* — \* —

All are invited to commemorate ANZAC Day with us at St Bede's Church.

Join us for a special ANZAC Day Service and blessing of the wreaths on Friday, 25th of April at 9:30am. Together, we'll pause to remember and honour those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

Following the service, please stay for a cuppa, a time to share stories, connect and reflect.

All are welcome.

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# Redbacks withdraw for 2025

Nick Kemp

The Redbacks Committee has made the difficult decision to withdraw the Redbacks senior men's team from the Southcoast Monaro Competition.

We are truly sorry for the impact this will have on the other teams in the competition, our players, Club sponsors and our community generally. In the coming weeks, we will work with affected stakeholders to iron out the impact of this decision.

We knew our 2025 season was going to be challenging following the retirement of many of our successful 2024 squad. Our pre-season squad numbers were small, but we were boosted by a relatively large influx of Fijian players from Goulburn which lifted our overall squad to around 23.

Still marginally viable, the Committee decided that this was enough to enter the season. Being marginally viable, we were mindful of trying to minimise the impact on the rest of the competition of a potential withdrawal from the competition.

It's fair to say the quality of the small squad was great. Unfortunately, after a promising trial against Royals and our first competition game against Bungendore, a red card, a couple of injuries and a very limited bench we've taken the hard decision that in the interests of player welfare we cannot

continue to compete in the competition. With the ebb and flow of player availability, it was clear we would struggle to have 15 players available each week. From a duty of care perspective, the Committee feels this would be unacceptable.

A second issue is that the Committee has had great difficulty attracting volunteers to help with team and club management. Realistically, we are at least three volunteers short of what we need to meet our obligations and duty of care. This has also been a consideration in making this difficult decision.

Our coach, Will Bennett, has reached out to the Queanbeyan Whites to discuss the viability of trying to keep our squad together and joining their lower grades. In principle, this has been agreed upon, and we'll see how this unfolds. The Whites have been generous to the Redbacks in the past few years, allowing us to train there occasionally and supporting with opposed training.

The Redback Club will continue to focus on fielding junior teams which have promising numbers and will plan to recenter a senior men's team in the competition for the 2026 season.

This has been an extraordinarily difficult process and decision for our Committee.

## The bunnies that weren't welcome at Easter

NSW Farmers' Junee Branch Chair Martin Honner said landholders in the Junee, Illabo, Wagga Wagga and surrounding districts were losing the battle to contain the destructive pests as they were reported in unprecedented numbers across the Riverina.

"Every night, our paddocks are crawling with thousands of wild rabbits, who are ravaging our crops and pastures until there's not a skerrick left on the ground.

"Numbers are well and truly past crisis point, and no matter how hard we try to contain these rabbits ourselves, the sheer scale of the population means we need huge

investment, manpower and recognition of this problem if we can ever hope to get it under control."

NSW Farmers' Conservation and Resource Management Committee Chair Bronwyn Petrie said funding for coordinated, targeted pest control programs was needed to address the serious threat presented by the pests across the state.

"What the federal government has promised to spend on fighting pests and weeds is a pittance compared to the problem, and our state government also needs to increase funding for coordinated pest control programs if we want to see any shift at all."

**Answers to the quiz in page 19:** 1. Start of the American Revolution; 2. Birth of Jane Austen; 3. Saudi Arabia; 4. 3 May; 5. 48th; 6. Drowning (tragically, 9); 7. Two-up; 8. Cats; 9. Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica; 10. Robert Harris



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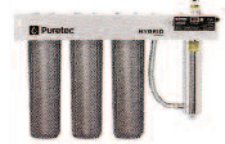
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## HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

### Concerts and Gigs

**Daniel Champagne** is BACK!!! For one show only in Braidwood on Friday, 2nd May from 7:30pm in the National Theatre.

The young virtuoso recently described as “the finest guitar player of this generation” has spent this year selling out shows all over the globe and will be bringing his dynamite live show back to Australia in 2025! Friday 02 May, 2025 - The National Theatre, Braidwood  
Doors open from 7:00pm / show starts at 7:30pm.

<https://events.humanitix.com/daniel-champagne-live-at-the-national-theatre-or-braidwood?hxchl=mkt-sch>

— \* — \* — \* —  
**Rufino and the Wreckage** are BACK at the Smokey Horse on Friday, 23rd May from 5pm onwards!

— \* — \* — \* —  
**Bush Gothic** launch their new album, What Pop People Folk This Popular on Friday, 23rd May from 7:30pm. Bush Gothic are thrilled to be performing in Braidwood at the Braidwood National Theatre.

### FILM CLUB

On Saturday April 26 our film club screening is **S raphine**, a French biographical drama about S raphine Louis, a real-life artist and Wilhelm Uhde, the German art critic/dealer who befriended and supported her.

5:30pm for our usual 6:00pm shared meal with the film starting at 7:00pm

Next day Sunday 27 April we host three films to support Queanbeyan and Palerang Regional Council's Heritage Festival. These are open to the public so please mention it widely to your friends and colleagues. The QR code on the posters (and on the second page of the newsletter) gives quick access to the relevant website page.

10:00am Sunday

**Forty Thousand Horsemen**

2:00pm Sunday

**Kangaroo**

5:00pm Sunday

**Gallipoli**

### Markets

The Braidwood Farmers' Markets will be on Saturday, 3rd May from 8:30am in the National Theatre.

### Gallery Openings

**Art Tuesday Art Group** are having a show at BRAG from 9th - 11th May. Artists include Julie Baker: acrylics, oils. Grace Reid: oils. David Dawes: oils. Debra Herman: watercolours. Pen Hanley: mixed media collages. Opening is at 6.00 pm Fri 9th then following Sat and Sun - 10.00 am-3.00 pm.

### AGM Notices

**Braidwood Folk Music Club's** AGM will be held 4:30-6pm on Sunday 4th May at the Royal Mail Hotel.

### Funeral Notice

A memorial service for the late **Pauline Elizabeth Godfrey**, former teacher at Braidwood Central School, will be held on Monday 28 April commencing at 11.00am at St Andrews.

### ANZAC DAY

#### BRAIDWOOD

Dawn Ceremony at 6am followed by a gunfire breakfast at the Club.

Main Ceremony at 10:30 am at the town cenotaph and ANZAC Day parade, followed by a Diggers Lunch at the Club from 12:30pm.

Two-Up from 1:30pm in the Club auditorium

A pipe band will be coming through to play at the Royal Mail Hotel.

#### MAJORS CREEK

Assemble at 8am on Hill Street with the service to begin at 8:30 in the St Stephen's Church grounds. RSM Cole Busby DSM (Ret'd) to speak

There will be a commemoration of Pte. Clarence Cregan, born in Majors Creek to mother, Mary Jane Cook, who was sadly killed in action on 27th August 1915 taking Hill 60 at Gallipoli.

### Community Events

**Spiral Ring Making Workshop** at Blue Kingdom on Saturday, 3rd May. Guided by Jewellery Alchemist: Jess Louise Jewellery @jesslouisejewellery

Step into a world where metal meets magic.

Join us for an intimate workshop with Jess Louise, a modern-day alchemist and the creative force behind



Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

hind Jess Louise Jewellery. Known for transforming raw materials into soulful, wearable art, Jess invites you into her world of fire, form, and transformation.

In this hands-on session, you'll craft your own spiral ring — a timeless symbol of growth, journey, and inner evolution. Guided by Jess's intuitive approach and years of Alchemy experience, you'll learn to create, shape and finish a unique piece that's charged with your personal intention.

Workshop Details:

Date & Time: 3rd May 2025 - 1pm - 4pm

Location: 103 Wallace Street Braidwood . The Blue Kingdom, Blue Lounge Braidwood

Entry Via - Blue Kingdom laneway or through Deadwood Cafe.

For any queries please contact Jess Louise through her Instagram handle or Nicki at Blue Kingdom @bluekingdombraidwood / 0499001104

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**Goulburn Mulwaree Landcare Landscapes and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare** are proud to support a visit to Frank Egan's Farm on the Durran Durra Creek near Braidwood. Come along and learn from Frank Egan and see how he has restored the catchment area and headwaters of the Durran Durra Creek.

Frank will be speaking about caring for the land through the natural revegetation, grazing and nutrition, and landscape management practices that have restored his property to what it is today!

When: Sunday 27th April from 10:00am till 12.30

Where: 478 Halls Lane, Durran Durra, 2622

Cost: \$10

Food: Light Lunch provided

<https://events.humanitix.com/frank-egan-restored-headwaters-of-the-durran-durra-creek>

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**The Braidwood and District Heavy Horse Show** will be taking place on 3rd May 2025 with a focus on all heavy horse breeds in the area. If you would like to come, please see the website for all the details. There is an inaugural cup this year named after the exceptional heavy horse sire Alma, who was brought over to Australia in the 1850s.

### At BRAG

**Snuggle n Sing** is on Mondays at 9:30-10:15am. For further information, please contact Theresa Pengelly at pengellyte@gmail.com

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**Christina Carroll** runs yoga classes on Monday afternoons from 4pm to 5:15pm. Please get in contact with Christina if you wish to attend on 0414 385 051.

— \* — \* — \* —  
**Songlarks** is 9:30-11:10 on Fridays. It is a short music class for pre-school age children, including infants from about six months old. Please email Nadia McLeish at nadiamcleish1@gmail.com for further details.

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**Life Drawing** runs on the last Saturday of every month.

— \* — \* — \* —  
**Christina** has pilates classes. Tuesdays at 9am, Thursdays at 9am.

— \* — \* — \* —  
**Aikido** is on during the school term on Monday nights at 5pm and Wednesday nights at 5pm in the back room but please contact Matthew Hulse for further details on 0438 648 864.

— \* — \* — \* —  
**Vera Active Pilates** Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the front room

### At the Club

**Happy Hour** is on at the Club for members every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 5pm to 6pm. Members get 20% off their drinks until 2025.

#### Tuesdays

**Tai Chi** - 10.00 am

— \* — \* — \* —

**Bridge** - 1.00 pm - new players welcome, contact Olive Royds 4842 1732 or Rose Ribbons 0421 939 151 for more information. Free to play.

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**Canasta** – 11am. Contact the Club for more information

— \* —\* —\* —  
**Squash Comp** – Evenings - School Terms, check out Braidwood Squash Club Facebook Page for more information.

**Wednesdays**

**Social Bowls** – 12.45 pm to begin playing at 1.00pm

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**Trivia** – 2nd Wednesday of every month. 6.30pm to begin playing at 7.00 pm. \$5 to play.

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**Squash Comp** – Evenings - School Terms, check out Braidwood Squash Club Facebook Page for more information.

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**Tango** – 5.30 pm Tango Lessons, Contact Erika Mordek 0432 687255 for more information.

**Thursdays**

Golf Club's **Chook Run** – Thursday Afternoon

**Fridays**

**Tai Chi** – 10.00 am.

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**Friday Raffles** – Every Friday Night, Raffle Tickets on Sale at 6.00 pm, Raffle drawn at 7.30 pm.

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**Members Draw** – The Members Draw will be drawn any time between 7-9 pm and will jackpot up to a possible \$5,000.

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**Members Happy Hour** – 6-7pm weekly

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**Line Dancing** – 7.15 pm, Social Line Dancing. Contact Maureen Robertson 0413 795 630 for more information.

**Saturdays**

**Tango** is on Saturday mornings at 10:15 for beginners, and 10:45 for intermediate students. For further details, please contact Erika Mordek on 0432 687 255

**Golf Comp** – 12.00 pm - 4.30 pm

**Sundays**

**Movement for Mobility** – 11.00 am - 12.00 pm. Contact Erika Mordek 0432 687 255 for info.

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**Social Bowls** – 12.45 pm to begin playing at 1.00 pm.

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**Poker** – 2.30 pm to begin playing at 3.00 pm. First Sunday of the Month.

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**Darts Competition** – 4:30pm for a 5pm start every Sunday.

**Other Organisations**

**Folk Music Club:**  
 Sun 4th May - Tunes and singing 3-4:30pm at the Royal Mail Hotel - Session style but audience welcome!... Followed by the Braidwood Folk Music Club's AGM 4:30pm-6pm

Sun 18th May - Tunes + Big Sing afternoon: Tunes Group 3-4:30pm; Big Sing 4:30-6pm at the Royal Mail Hotel

Sun 1st June - Tunes (Instrumental) Session 3-4:30pm at Braidwood Life Centre

Sun 15th June - Tunes + Big Sing afternoon: Tunes Group 3-4:30pm; Big Sing 4:30-6pm at the Royal Mail Hotel

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**Braidwood Academy of Creative Arts** (formerly BYPAA) have regular events at the Glasshouse during school term: Mondays- Creative Media 3.30 - 6.00 pm (incl Youth Hour on Braidwood FM);

Tuesday - All- Ages Choir 5 - 6pm

Wednesday - Circus Workshop 3.30 - 5.30 and Facepainting 6 - 7pm

Friday - Young Maker's Studio 4 - 6pm.

For a full list of activities please look here: <https://www.braidwood-creative.org/>

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 Second Sunday on the Common—Commonwood Farm's regular monthly working bee on the **Braidwood Common**. 10am to 12 noon. Contact Annie Duke 0450 283 241.

— \* —\* —\* —  
**Down to Flow Yoga**

Mum Tums: Tuesdays: 11:00-12:00pm

Braidwood Yoga Studio next door to the Smokey Horse

Mums and Bubs: Tuesdays: 12:30-1:30pm

Braidwood Yoga Studio next door to Smokey Horse

Cost: \$22

Sound Healing: Fridays: 5:30-6:15pm

Braidwood Yoga Studio next door to Smokey Horse

Cost: \$18

Every second Sunday

2hr Yoga and sound healing 8:45-10:45am Araluen Federal Hall in Araluen

Cost: \$28

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**Braidwood Folk Club** low-key music session will be held on Sunday, 2nd March at 3pm for those

who aren't at Cobargo Folk Festival or Bermagui. Please email [braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com) for further details—venue will be decided subject to demand.

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**Health Walking Group** on Wednesdays meet at **St Bede's Church** (opposite V&M) at 9am. All welcome. For further information, please contact Cathie on 0427 442 097

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**Braidwood Men's Shed** meets on Tuesday and Friday every week starting at 9AM. New members are most welcome.

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 The **Braidwood Garden Club** runs garden visits usually on 2nd Thursday of each month. This is flexible and is subject to change, depending on the availability of public and private gardens. Information available on [www.braidwoodgardenclub.org](http://www.braidwoodgardenclub.org)

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**Parkrun** is on every Saturday at the Braidwood Showgrounds from 8am unless otherwise noted.

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**Braidwood Motor Club** meet at the Club on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm—for further information, you can contact Steve Scaife on 02 4842 1664.

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**Braidwood View Club** meets at 6:15pm on the first Thursday of the month. Contact Judy on 0410 688 273.

— \* —\* —\* —  
 The **Fishing Club** meet at the Club on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm.

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 The **Royal Mail's** weekly chocolate wheel is on as always, as are their Happy Hours on Monday through Wednesday nights

— \* —\* —\* —  
 The **Royal Mail** also have **Joker Poker** on Wednesday nights with all proceeds going to Apex, as well as seafood tray raffles on Friday nights—proceeds to the Redbacks, and Thursday night meat raffles with all monies going to the Lions Club. **Jag the Joker** is up to \$900. Thursday Night Footy Comp closest to the score wins a bottle of wine. Members Draw is up to \$450 at the Royal Mail!

— \* —\* —\* —  
 The **St Vincent DePaul Society** meet every Friday at St Bede's presbytery from 11am to 1pm.

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

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

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**Braidwood Scouts** are on every Thursday throughout the school terms.

Cubs (ages 8-11 years) 6 to 7.30pm

Scouts (ages 12-14 years) 6 to 7.30pm

Venturers (ages 15 -17 years) 6 to 7.30pm

Contact Mal Campbell at [malcolm.campbell@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:malcolm.campbell@nsw.scouts.com.au)

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**Fit for Life** meet every Monday and Wednesday morning from 7:30-8:30 am at Braidwood Central School. Breakfast is provided after an active workout.

— \* —\* —\* —  
**Braidwood Pistol and Target Shooting Club** invite new members to join. They offer introductory shoots and club pistols for anyone who would like to experience pistol shooting. If you are interested, please contact [braidwoodpandtsc@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodpandtsc@gmail.com) for further information.

— \* —\* —\* —  
**Braidwood Dance Studio** runs classes at the Old Sunday School Hall (The Anglican Hall) at 68 Wilson Street, Braidwood. For the weekly timetable go to: [www.braidwooddancestudio.com/timetable](http://www.braidwooddancestudio.com/timetable)

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**Braidwood Junior Soccer Club:**

Coaching skills clinic will be held on Saturday, 3rd May from 7:50am at the Rec Grounds. Email [admin@palerangunitedfc.com](mailto:admin@palerangunitedfc.com) to book your place.

— \* —\* —\* —  
**Rising Star Tennis Academy NSW** are running a school holiday tennis camp 22 Apr - 24 Apr in Braidwood for ages 5-16 years, all abilities welcome.

Register here <https://www.risingstartennis.com.au/rstas-holiday.../>

And make sure you are registered for Junior membership at Braidwood tennis club through:

<https://play.tennis.com.au/braidwoodtenni.../Membership/Join>



Send news, views, tips, letters to the editor and local stories to: [times@bwdmag.com.au](mailto:times@bwdmag.com.au)

## GOLF NEWS

### Women make the Pennants finals

Despite losing their final pool match, the Braidwood Women's Pennants team has finished second on the ladder in their pool and will now meet Burns Belconnen in the semi-final this week, to be held at Murrumbidgee Golf Club at Kam-bah.

Our team played the last qualifying round at RMC last Thursday. While we suffered a team loss, a couple of the matches went to the 18th and could easily have gone the other way for us. Winners were Debby Ferguson 7/6 and Robin Tennant Wood 1 up.

Good luck to the team this Thursday.

#### Mona Cup

Easter Saturday, 19 April 2025, turned on a perfect day for 13 mixed teams of four to play an am-brose event for the prestigious Mona Cup.

Sincere thanks to Bill and Belinda Pulver for sponsoring this hotly-contested trophy and for providing delicious grazing platters

and drinks for the players after the game.

Bill and Belinda organised six teams of visitors from Sydney to play against seven teams of local golfers for the Cup.

There were many compliments from the visitors about the condition of the course.

Winners: Michael Toirkens, Rodney Royds, Wayne Fanning and James McCauley (nett 52½)

Runners-up: Bill Pulver, Joan Curtis, Jan Deane and Patrick Allaway (nett 55 5/8)



Runners-up: Patrick Allaway, Joan Curtis, Jan Deane and Bill Pulver.



Winners: James McCauley, Rodney Royds, Wayne Fanning, Michael Toirkens, with Mona Cup trophy donors Belinda and Bill Pulver

#### Next week

Saturday, 26 April Medley 2BBB Aggregate (drawn after play) for the John Harb Trophy

#### Coming up

Thursday, 24 April Women's Pennants semi-final against Belconnen at Murrumbidgee

Friday, 25 April ANZAC Day

Saturday, 3 May Stroke event for the Men's and Women's Monthly Medals

Saturday, 10 May Men's single stableford for the Rod Coady Memorial Trophy

Women's single stableford event for the Helen Goddard Memorial Trophy

### STARS FOR 2025

#### Everygoodboydeservesfruit

A reader of the stars (so there's at least one) emailed with an alternative to my Roy G Biv mnemonic about the order of the spectrum. 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain'. Other readers might like to send in their own.

#### Abraintthesizeofaplanet

Following on from the story on page 14, and because I'm running late this issue, here is ChatGPT's answer to the question: Tell me why concern over climate change is not just a greeny academic plot to keep the woke agenda alive?

"ChatGPT said: • Climate change concern isn't some 'woke' agenda or academic conspiracy – it's grounded in science and observable facts. The planet is warming, and the main driver is human-released CO<sub>2</sub>, mostly from burning fossil fuels. • This isn't opinion; it's been measured and confirmed by scientists worldwide over decades. • What's changing isn't just temperature. We're seeing stronger storms, longer droughts, rising seas, and more extreme weather. These changes affect everyone – farmers, homeowners, businesses, and governments – regardless of political beliefs. • Taking climate seriously isn't about being trendy or political. It's about managing real risk. Even oil companies and the military plan for climate disruptions because ignoring them could mean massive costs. Preparing now is smart, not ideological. • And this isn't just a Western issue. Countries like China, India, and Gulf states are investing in clean energy and climate resilience. They're not doing it to please activists—they're doing it to stay competitive and stable. • Yes, some people wrap climate change in politics or push broader agendas with it. That's fair to question. But the science itself is solid. Concern over climate change isn't about being 'woke' – it's about being awake to what's happening."

So you can tell Plugger down at the pub that it's not a question of believing in climate change, it's a case of understanding it.

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.

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### STOP PRESS

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