BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Issue #20 — $2.00

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	12°	19°	70%
Th:	10°	17°	60%
Fr:	10°	19°	70%
Sat:	12°	25°	60%
Sun:	13°	25°	50%
Mon	13°	29°	50%

Mayor Tim Overall with joint Citizens of the Year, Geraldine Sutton and Jamie Raynolds.

Young Citizen of the Year, Anjali Williams.

AUST DAY AWARDS

Australia Day in Braidwood

Robin Tennant-Wood

The annual celebration of Australia Day went ahead as usual at the Servicemen's Club on Tuesday with a slight twist to the presentation of the Citizen of the Year.

Instead of one Citizen of the Year, this year there were two, with Mayor Tim Overall explaining that the awards committee was unable to split the two. Geraldine Sutton and Jamie Raynolds have jointly received the honour of being Braidwood's Citizen of the Year in acknowledgement of their decades of community service.

Young Citizen of the Year is Anjali Williams, for her leadership and involvement in a range of projects, including her role as secretary of the Braidwood and District Education Foundation.

The Event of the Year was the Redbacks Bushfire Sevens Competition, which was arranged at short notice last February as a way of putting some cheer back into the town after the long summer of fires. Serendipitously, the event coincided with the best rainfall the town

... continued on page 8

All the award winners at the Club.

HOLE IN ONE!

Well done, Scotty

For a golfer, scoring a hole-in-one is the ultimate achievement, and in 35-degree heat on Saturday, veteran Braidwood golfer, Gordon Scott, did just that.

His ace on the 3rd hole was described by his playing partners as 'a beautiful shot', that came to rest against the pin before dropping into the hole.

Congratulations Gordon.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant-Wood

Our green canopy deserves protection

Anyone who has driven past some of the new housing developments in Canberra must surely have a greater appreciation of our trees here in Braidwood.

The new suburbs of Whitlam and Ginninderry are vast swathes of treeless dust, rapidly being covered with concrete and asphalt. The blocks are small, the houses are large and people buying into those suburbs will need to decide whether they want a tree in their yard or a clothesline – there's not room for both. In summer, the urban heat sink effect will increase the temperature in those treeless wastelands by several degrees over the leafy inner suburbs.

We, on the other hand, have a wonderful botanically diverse canopy in summer, affording us shade and mitigating against the urban heat sink effect. In winter, while the eucalypts and conifers retain their foliage, the deciduous exotics give us more sun and warmth.

It was heartening this week to see appreciation of our trees by the National Register of Big Trees. It's not just big trees that we have in abundance, though; we also have old trees. Trees with historic value representing the legacy of our town's founders.

The value of trees is inestimable. They don't just afford shade, protection, climate control and bird and animal habitat; they tell stories. Richard Powers' 2018 novel, *The Overstory*, is a testament to the power and wisdom of trees but also to those who protect them. In one example from the book, a farmer decides to photograph a chestnut tree on his farm on the same day in spring every year.

After he dies, his son continues the tradition, as does his son and his son after him: four generation's worth of documenting the changes of a single tree. Eventually the farm is sold, but the last of the family is left with over a century of photographs of the chestnut tracking the passage of time, not just of a single tree, but of a family, the land and the evolution of the technology used to record that time.

We may not have quite as fastidious a record of our more significant trees, but old photos of the town certainly provide documentation of our older trees and the evolution of the green canopy we all too often take for granted. Old trees are what were bequeathed to us by our forebears and should be bequeathed by us to our descendants. Of course, trees have a natural lifespan, but in the case of many species, that lifespan is far, far longer than ours.

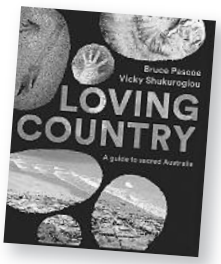
There are numerous examples of trees in this country that are estimated to be around 2000 years old: Antarctic beech trees in the rainforest hinterland west of the Gold Coast and Huon pines in Tasmania among them. Then there's the Wollemi pine, the so-called 'dinosaur tree', discovered in a remote gorge in the Blue Mountains in 1994 and which scientists have traced back over 60 million years.

Trees are our past and our future. While we tend not to notice them on a daily basis, we would certainly notice their absence. If you want to see how that absence might look, take a drive through the new Canberra suburbs.

BOOKWORM Julia Green

A new old way to see our own country

Loving Country, A guide to sacred Australia
by Bruce Pascoe and Vicky Shukuroglou
(Hardie Grant Travel 2020)



This book offers a new way to understand and travel on this land. It covers 18 regions in detail, beginning close to home with Gulaga and Biamanga, Yuin country on the south coast particularly Tilba Tilba and Narooma. Then Namadgi (Ngunnawal, near Canberra), Brewarrina NSW, Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Broome, Margaret River, Albany, Kangaroo Island, Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) and many more.

The book is beautifully presented, featuring stunning colour photographs (Vicky is an artist and photographer), as the authors outline cultural practices, dreaming stories and history from each area, as well as providing advice on connecting with local Indigenous communities in each region. (I wish we'd had this on our 2014 camping trip around Oz. We got mostly blank looks from staff at visitors' information centres when we enquired about Indigenous tours.)

Coincidentally the timing of this publication is, of course, rather good. In a recent interview with Sovereign Union, Bruce Pascoe said "The fires and COVID delayed us, but fortuitously people can't travel overseas right now. I think a lot of Australians will be stir-crazy and wanting to have a look at Australia."

Sovereign Union also asked Bruce whether this book is in competition with Marcia Langton's 2018 publication *Welcome to Country, a travel guide to Indigenous Australia*. Bruce responded, "I'm not competing with Marcia — I'm not f…ing silly. The two books are complementary, but different. Marcia does that … academic, intellectual angle, and I do the broken-down cricketer's version." His laconic humour keeps the reading lively and entertaining, despite his stated 'temptation to get a bit earnest'.

Read both, you will learn a great deal.

With acknowledgement that we live on the land of the Dhurga speaking people of the Yuin Nation.

Thanks Cath!

Cath Harrison has called it a day after six years as librarian at the Braidwood library.

The proposed redevelopment of the council building will significantly alter the library and Ms Harrison believes that the library service will be diminished as a result.

"I think their [QPRC's] community consultation was just a box-ticking exercise," she said. "People wanted the library to stay as it is, but Braidwood is being ignored by the council — it's all about Queanbeyan."

A group of local residents and library users got together to thank Ms Harrison for her valuable service to the town on her last day at work.

Maria Bakas, Cath Harrison, Karlene Blacker, Flavia and John McGrath and Roderic Pitty at Cath's farewell at the Braidwood library.

Maria Bakas reiterated the point that the library is a community hub and many local residents rely on its services.

The Braidwood community is grateful to Cath Harrison for her work and we wish her well in whatever she does next.

Belle Property puts locals first

Kate Rafferty

Belle Property Braidwood has launched a new affordable housing initiative which aims to 'put locals first' when it comes to tackling the local housing market.

Kelly Allen, principal real estate agent at Belle Property, says the new initiative will stop locals from missing out on affordable listings often grabbed by outside buyers.

"In the last couple of years, with the heat in the current market, we are seeing a lot of Sydneysiders come in, cashed-up, buying properties and really not allowing the locals to get a look-in.

"Thinking how I can give back to the community, I came up with the idea of this affordable housing initiative" she said.

The initiative will run as a register, where locals living in the 2622 postcode and looking for a house under $500,000 can put their name down. When a suitable house appears on the market, those on the register can expect a call from Belle Property and a chance to inspect the listing before anyone else.

As well as giving locals a first look, the register will give Belle Property the chance to help homebuyers along the way:

"I'd love to meet these buyers, and really give them a hand" says Kelly.

Maria Bakas, Centre Coordinator at Braidwood Life Centre says the new initiative will do great things for young people and new homebuyers:

"This is marvellous. It's a chance to give attention to the difficulties local homebuyers are facing".

Affordable housing plan

Looking after the needs of our community

"In Braidwood today, the demand for housing and rentals is greater than what is available" says Braidwood Life Centre's Maria Bakas.

"Prices are going up for houses, and what my concern is, is that it's going to squeeze people out and people are going to have to go further afield".

While some real estate agents like Belle Property are working towards prioritising the interests and needs of locals, Maria says Braidwood is also in need of established affordable housing in the area.

"Houses are so expensive now and for medium to low income earners it's not affordable.

"I think we have to start an affordable housing co-op in Braidwood, that looks at getting some land, where we could put some houses" she said.

At the Life Centre, people in all stages of life, facing all sorts of life hurdles seek help, from employment, income, relationship breakdown and housing.

An initiative like an affordable housing co-op would work to look after those struggling to keep a roof over their head, says Maria.

"I think our society needs to take some responsibility. People can't be homeless.

"And we can't just say it doesn't matter. Because it does matter. It's about community" she said.

If you are interested in joining Belle Property's Affordable Housing register, contact Belle Property:
02 4842 1029 or braidwood@belleproperty.com

If you have care or concern about available affordable housing in Braidwood, contact Maria Bakas at the Life Centre:
0408 643 115 or mariabakas@gmail.com

A prospective reader checks out the conspiracy section.

"Read all about it ..." biggest bookfair ever!

Robin Tennant-Wood

It's one of Braidwood's signature events: the bi-annual Bookfair.

Over the past thirty years at least, this event has run over five days on both the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday weekends, drawing bibliophiles from the local region, Canberra and as far afield as Sydney.

This year the Bookfair has been extended to 10 days, finishing up on Sunday 31 January.

While the Bookfair has always been run by the Anglicans, with 100% of the proceeds going back into the community via their community-based projects, this year other community organisations have been given the opportunity to raise funds by managing the Bookfair for a day. The Anglicans are running the event as usual for the first five days, but after that five other groups will be running it for one day each.

Marjorie Lemin, long-time organiser of the event for the Anglicans, said that there were two driving factors behind this move:

"We couldn't hold the winter Bookfair last year because of the lockdown," she said, "so we had way more books than usual; and also it seemed like a good opportunity to give other groups the chance to raise money for their work."

Community groups and organisations were invited to submit expressions of interest in running the event, and the five groups taking up the baton are the Braidwood Community Association's Youth Activities Subcommittee, Two Fires Festival Inc, Braidwood Life Centre, the CWA Braidwood Branch and the preschool.

The Bookfair typically raises around $25,000 which all goes back into the Braidwood community. This year that amount will likely be doubled with a more diverse range of local projects benefiting from the funds.

According to Marjorie Lemin, when the event started they used Wisbey's shop (now Braidwood Outdoor Shop) which was unoccupied at the time. They then moved to the Old Anglican Hall before the event found its current home at the National Theatre.

The Bookfair is a COVID-safe event. Entry is via the north (side) door of the National Theatre and visitors are requested to check-in via the NSW Government app or by registering their name and phone number.

New journo on the *Changing Times* beat

Braidwood's Changing Times staff has temporarily increased by 50% with the addition of Kate Rafferty, a journalism graduate and intern from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

Kate has just completed her Bachelor of Communications with a major in journalism, but still has a year to go on a Graduate Diploma in Languages specialising in Spanish.

This is her first experience of life in a country town and she's enjoying Braidwood's laid-back atmosphere. She's particularly impressed with the scope of activities and community involvement in town.

Prior to taking up her internship with us, Kate had done an internship with ABC Radio news in Sydney, which she said is very high-pressure. She enjoys radio, which she describes as a 'dynamic form of storytelling'.

Kate will be with us until mid-February and will be covering many of our stories, so if you see her around, say hi!

Who better for our reporter to start with than the indefatigable Ros Maddrell.

Calling all Braidwood parents

Southern NSW Local Health District is seeking to understand the pre- and post-natal experiences of parents in Braidwood and surrounding areas.

If you have become parents or the primary carer of a child (0 – 5 years) since 2015, they would like to hear about what support was available to you, and what support you accessed.

As part of their ongoing research into the needs of parents and parents-to-be in the district, SNSWLHD will also be undertaking a focus group on Saturday 6 February 2021 at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club.

Please email renata.sheehan@health.nsw.gov.au to register your interest.

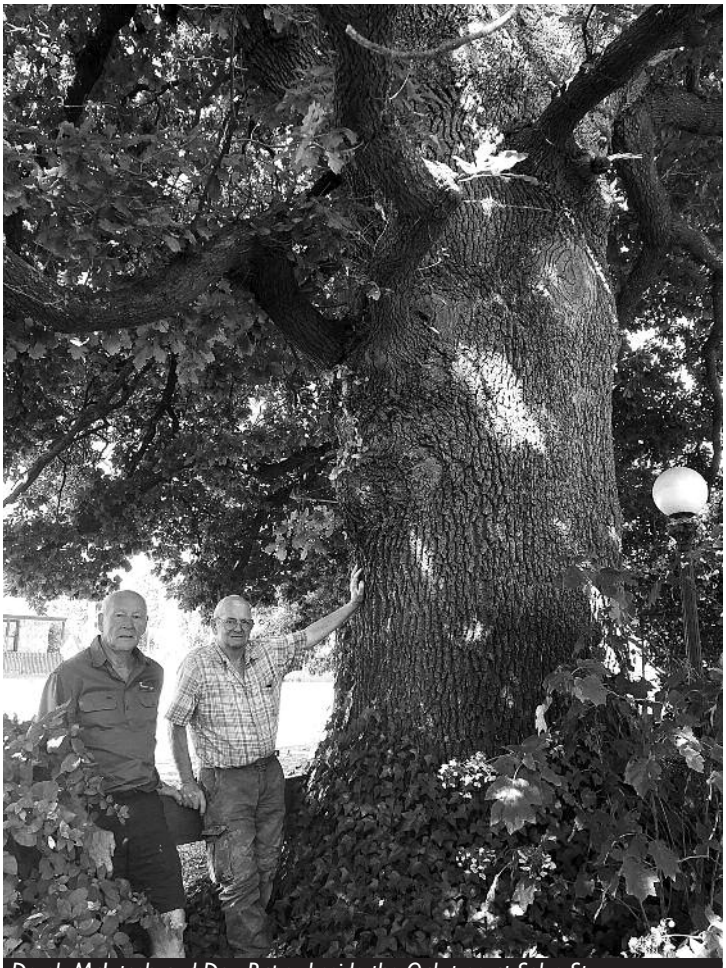
There is also a survey that you can fill out anonymously via the Southern NSW Local Health District's Facebook page.

Local birth cartographer and maternal health advocate, Catherine Bell, believes the focus group will be a great opportunity for parents:

"The focus group will give parents a chance to look back on their own experiences and consider the many options that are possible when giving birth.

"For example, we know more people are choosing induction to start the birth process. The focus group is a chance to talk about what that might look like for parents.

"Something we're also looking into is having our own midwife here in Braidwood, which could be a great support for parents as well as a great relationship to build".



Derek McIntosh and Don Raper beside the Oak tree at Solus St.

Unbe-leafably big trees

Kate Rafferty

After a weekend visit, Derek McIntosh, founder of the National Register of Big Trees has declared Braidwood the home of two impressive and sizeable trees.

With tape measure and his laser range finder in-hand, Mr McIntosh assessed two trees nominated by Braidwood residents Cheryl Raper and Margaret Royds. The Oak tree at 14 Solus Street, and the Cork Oak tree at 174 Wallace St have now been added to his 'Big Tree' register.

> "They are two really magnificent trees, the Cork Oak in particular. That one makes it in the top champion category" he said.

Mr McIntosh also took his own 'sticky beak tour' around town, checking for any other impressive contenders.

"It's incredible what I can find on my own. Over the years there have been at least 40 or 50 trees added to the register which I came across because I went down 'this' street and not 'that' street" he said.

One of the trees that caught his eye was a large tree near 97 Duncan St. Unable to identify its species, the tree enthusiast has left it off the register for the time being.

Lyn Ellis, who formerly ran the nursery at Currajuggle Creek has classed the tree at 97 Duncan St as a *Eucalyptus Macarthurii*. These trees are native to Camden, but are known as a very widely planted farming tree.

"There used to be a lot of them in town. They're known to hold their branches quite low to the ground, which is why they were such a popular windbreak tree for farmers" said Ms Ellis.

"The one on Duncan St is definitely very old".

Dennis Dempsey, local horticultural consultant, has also taken a look at the tree on Duncan St, which he believes to be a *Eucalyptus Fastigata*. While scarce in number, the *Fastigata*, unlike the *Macarthurii*, is endemic to the region.

Without proper measurements

recorded, of circumference, height and crown spread, the age of the tree on Duncan St remains a mystery.

As for the Oak and Cork Oak trees, they are estimated to be at least 170 years old, and with quite a history, according to Margaret Royds.

"I assume the [Cork Oak] tree was probably planted by Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson when he built the Courthouse. That would've been about 1837" she said.

The founder of the town, Dr Wilson was a great benefactor to Braidwood and worked as a surgeon-superintendent transporting convicts in the Royal Navy.

He was also known for delivering many European plants, trees and animals on his trips to Australia and Braidwood.

"Usually during the period, when people were building a house they'd plant a tree that was different to all the other trees around" said Margaret.

"That way people riding through the bush would see a tree, like the Cork Oak, and know there was a house there".

For Derek McIntosh, learning the history behind the trees is half the fun:

Derek McIntosh and Margaret Royds.

"Your trees in Braidwood have extraordinary stories, just in who planted them and the lengths that have been taken to look after them.

"There are often many people connected to these trees and always great histories behind them".

As well as the stories, Mr McIntosh says he marvels in the resilience of the trees he meets and the great joy they bring to him and so many others:

"This is the wonder of all these old trees. They survive.

"Over the years, finding, nominating and learning about the trees has brought so much enjoyment to so many people. I never expected that when I first started the register" he said.

MEET THE SUMMERFIELD RESIDENTS

Suzanne and Leigh Curtiss with Suzanne's mum Gillian and grandson Bradley.

Suzanne: After I retired, we travelled up to Queensland for holidays, staying in caravan parks for the winter, and we found that it was really nice to live in a community. So we thought, "Why can't we have that all year round?"

We'd come through Braidwood a lot, and we thought we didn't want to live in a city anymore, because it was soulless. Once you give up work, it can be very soul destroying, nobody talks to you. I wanted to live somewhere where people spoke to me. I wanted to go to the shops and see someone I knew.

That's how we ended up in Braidwood at Summerfield. So now I'm very happy.

It suits us because we can still go away for winter and we're not worried about leaving our house because there are plenty of people around. We've got lovely neighbours; we help each other and that's nice. I think as you get older, it's important to have a network, and that was one of the main attractions for us. We were very careful about our decision to come here and made sure that it fitted everything that we need. I wanted to make sure that there were doctors, dentist, a bank, a post office — and Braidwood provides all that.

I've got mum staying here for a week at the moment and we've had the grandchildren staying as well. We can do that and it's great. It's also nice to have a manageable garden — especially with lockdown. We were able to sit in the back garden and have our gate open and have a cup of tea with our neighbour on the other side of the fence. So that was really nice, just having contact without having contact.

The passive solar design at Summerfield is great and we very rarely use our air conditioning. It's just amazing, it's a lovely temperature. And there's the dam and being able to look out over the hills and see the cows. We've got ducks and there are horses next door. It's nice for grandchildren to come and see something a little bit different. So it's just all the little things like that as well.

Screen printing workshop makes a stack of shirts to sell

Catherine Bell

Abby French demonstrates the intricacies of the silk screen.

Last Saturday and Sunday the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association and Braidwood Community Association Youth Activities Subcommittee ran a screen printing workshop for the youth of Braidwood.

The workshop was held in the Braidwood Regional Arts Group building, with a full house of eager creators. Each participant made a bag and a T Shirt for themselves, and extras to be sold to align with the Monster Bookfair on Saturday 30th , when the BCAYAS are hosting the fair. All proceeds from the sale of the bags and T Shirts created by our local youth, and the books sold on Saturday 30th will be going towards our effort to secure a skatepark for Braidwood.

The skatepark concept designs and progress can be viewed at:

www.braidwoodskateparkproject.weebly.com

BYPAA and the BCA were able to run these workshops thanks to Sponsorship by Braidwood Community Bank, with material donations from Megalo Print Studio, Asha Kidd, and Gilly Burke. We also acknowledge the generous tutorage of Abby French. We thank Gus Munnings and Rose Rickard for the youth mentoring they provided over the weekend, and Sarah Spencer and Graeme Spencer for assistance.

Fashion-conscious pooches need look no further!

Regular patrons at Braidwood's regular Ryrie Park Markets might have noticed a new stall last Saturday.

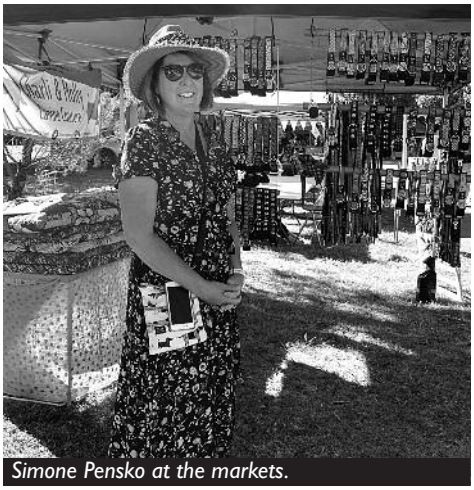
Braidwood's Changing Times' eye was caught by a display of colourful dog collars and other canine accoutrements. 'Charli and Molly Canine Couture' was having its first outing in Braidwood and this being the doggiest town in New South Wales, the business may well have come to the right place.

Stallholder, Simone Pensko, started the business making and selling 'canine couture' with her sister, Nicole. They design and make all the products they sell. The eponymous Charli and Molly are their dogs.

While the business is Canberra-based, Simone told us that they're doing quite a few of the markets around the region and thought they'd try Braidwood as well.

Collars, leads, bandanas, bowties — everything the fashion-conscious pooch could possibly hope for — is in their range. Rufus, the *Changing Times*' newshound, may well be sporting a new collar after the next markets (although he'd probably eat a bowtie).

Charli and Molly can be found online at www.charliandmolly.com or just come to the next local market.



Simone Pensko at the markets.

Recording our community spirit

Clare Young

Braidwood FM is seeking expressions of interest from members of our local community, to document our collective experience of last year's Black Summer Bushfires for an oral history/podcast project.

Potential themes and subjects to explore through the series include: survival on the frontline, community spirit, localization, The Sirens, the uprising of the Mozzies, caring for the wildlife, defending your home, The "Araloonies", looking after the children, community reporting, what we learnt, and visions for the future including sustainability, water management, and regeneration.

All participants who tell their stories will be offered their full interviews as audio files for their own records, and to have their oral history held at the Braidwood Historical Society. Five more thirty-minute radio documentaries will be woven thematically, air on Braidwood FM, and finally housed online on podcast platforms once the series is launched.

For more information or to express interest, please contact us:

Bushfire Recovery Centre: 6285 6789

Clare Young: 0409 778 278

Email: stories@braidwoodradio.com.au

DEADLINE: 28 Feb 2021

Production of the series would not be possible without the generous support of Braidwood Community Bank, QPRC, the Braidwood Help Fund, and Braidwood FM.

MUSIC MATTERS David McClymont

Cole Porter

When musicians (especially jazz musicians) refer to songs as 'the standards' they are referring to songs from what has become known as The Great American Songbook.

This week I'd like to tell you a bit about the Songbook and one of its greatest composers, Cole Porter.

According to the Great American Songbook Foundation, *"The Great American Songbook* is the canon of the most important and influential American popular songs and jazz standards from the early 20th century that have stood the test of time in their life and legacy." The songs were mainly written for Broadway musical theatre, Hollywood movie musicals and Tin Pan Alley publishers during the period from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Many of the songs included in the Songbook will be familiar to readers. Songs such as *Pennies From Heaven, Fly Me To The Moon, Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend* and *Almost Like Being In Love* are titles and melodies that are still known today, almost 80 years years after they were first introduced.

Why is the Songbook important? I would answer that by saying that it collects together some of the most beautiful melodies and wittiest lyrics of the 20th Century. The Songbook comforted families during the Great Depression and boosted morale during WW2. It created unity during many other challenging world events by virtue of so many people knowing, and therefore being able to sing along to, these great songs.

One of the greatest and most prolific of the Songbook composers was Cole Porter. Cole Porter was a rare composer in that he wrote both the music and the lyrics for his songs. The only other composer that I know of who had this ability was Irving Berlin. Most composers of the Songbook were teams like George and his brother Ira Gershwin, Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe, Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn et al.

Porter was born in Indiana U.S.A. in 1891 and died in 1964. He was an only child and had a very privileged upbringing. His wealthy family sent him to Yale and then Harvard Law school but he soon began studying music instead. Porter had his first Broadway hit in 1929, introducing his song 'You Do Something to Me', in a show called *Fifty Million Frenchmen*. From then on he was one of Broadway's most popular composers. Subsequent Broadway credits include: *Gay Divorce, Anything Goes, Panama Hattie,* and *Kiss Me, Kate*. Writing for Hollywood movies, Porter composed the enduring standards 'Night and Day', 'You're the Top', 'I've Got You Under My Skin', 'Begin the Beguine', 'Just One of Those Things' and 'What Is This Thing Called Love?'.

Born rich, Cole Porter became far wealthier from his song writing career. He and his socialite wife, Linda Lee Thomas, knew how to enjoy it. They hobnobbed with high society, entertaining aristocrats and bohemians in their suite at the Waldorf Astoria in New York.

In France Cole taught his Parisian friends how to Charleston in his Art Deco house fitted with marble floors and zebra skin rugs. And in Venice the Porters kept a palatial residence, the Rezzonico, with elaborate salons and a formal ballroom, though they spent more of their time throwing parties on the beach.

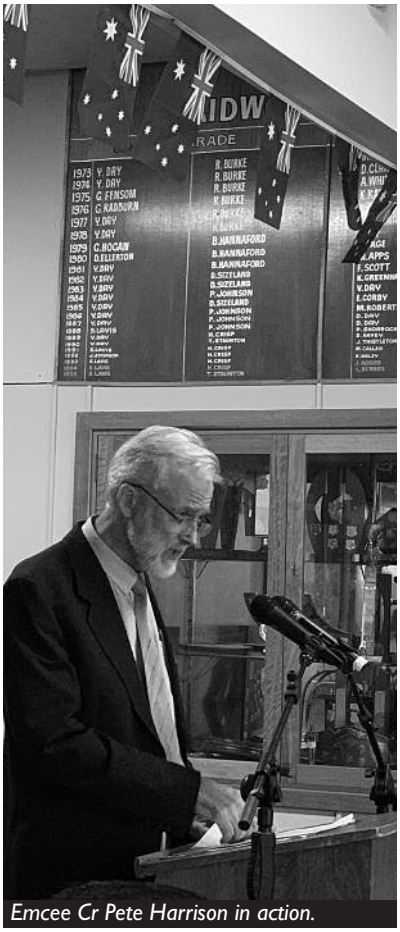
In 1937 Porter's life took a sudden, tragic turn when both of his legs were crushed in a horseback riding accident, leaving him unable to walk and in chronic pain. But he continued to write great songs. Alec Wilder in *American Popular Song* wrote, "…Porter's pain must have been so excruciating as to cause virtual sleeplessness for years. Yet this anguished man managed not only to write good songs and witty lyrics, but in 1948, to create possibly his most successful score, *Kiss Me, Kate*." This show contained many great songs such as 'Why Can't You Behave' and 'Too Darn Hot'.

New York City's Tin Pan Alley in the early twentieth century.

There have been two films made about Porter's life. The first was *Night and Day*, a 1949 film starring Cary Grant. The critics weren't keen, but the film was a huge success, chiefly because of the wealth of vintage Porter numbers in it. However, I highly recommend the film *De-Lovely*, a 2004 film starring Kevin Kline as Porter. This film is part fiction, part fact and part musical. I loved it.

My recommendation for CDs to buy of the American Songbook? There are many out there but too many of them are ho-hum. I highly recommend the series of albums that Rod Stewart (yes, Rod Stewart) did of the American Songbook. Also, the albums that Linda Ronstadt did with the Nelson Riddle Orchestra are superb.

Happy listening.



Emcee Cr Pete Harrison in action.

AUST DAY AWARDS

... continued from page 1

had recorded in years.

A Special Mayoral Award for Community Service went to Dennis and Carol McGrath, who spent eleven months in Braidwood last year coordinating Blazeaid. Mayor Overall said that this is only the fifth time the Special Mayoral Award has been awarded for outstanding service.

The mayor also noted that three citizens in the QPRC region have received Australia Day Honours for their community service: Suzanne McInnes, Matthew Chifley and Tony Wood.

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council was represented at the awards ceremony by the Mayor as well as Deputy Mayor Michael Biscotti and Cr Pete Harrison as MC. "Wombat" Bill Waterhouse clocked up his thirteenth Australia Day entertaining at the club, this year with another Majors Creek music identity, Trent Arkleysmith.

Earlier in the day, a small group paid their respects to the traditional owners of the land at the Dhurga Rock, acknowledging that the land was stolen and sovereignty was never ceded.

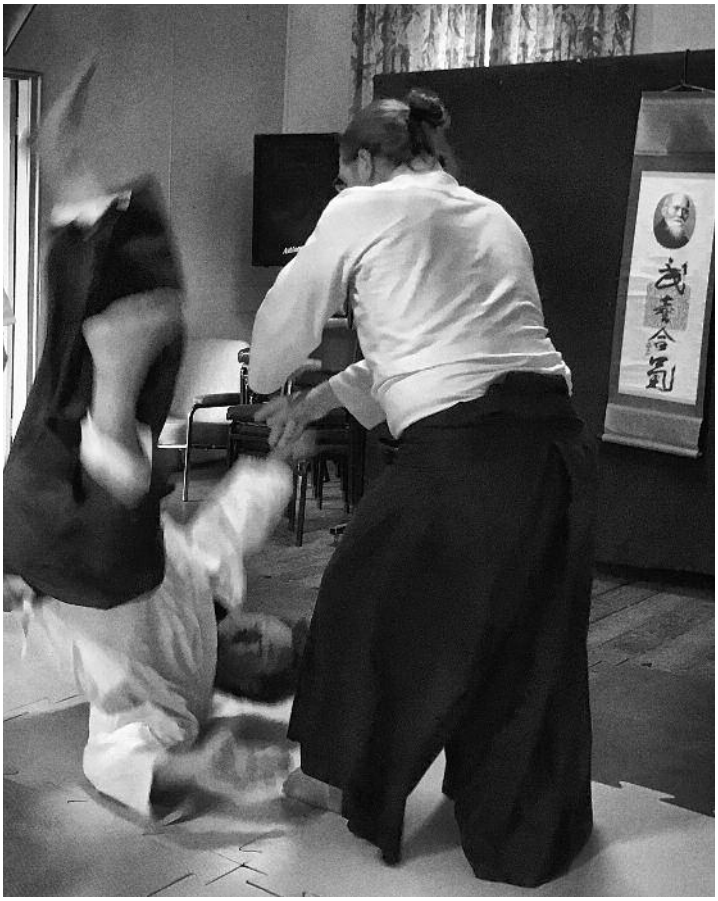
BlazeAids Dennis and Carol McGrath with Mayor Tim Overall.

MEANWHILE, IT WAS ALL HAPPEN

Gibbo, Kate and Tony know a fine sausage roll when they taste one.

ING AT MAJORS CREEK

Flying in from the Club, Wombat Bill and Trent Arkleysmith belted out the tunes.



Aikido Dojo in Braidwood

The Braidwood Aikido Dojo will be holding a beginner's course.

This is an entry level course, for ten weeks. The cost is $100 per person. Any level of fitness is welcome. A young person needs to be able to listen and follow instructions for an hour.

The first class will be Tuesday the 2nd of February. 6pm to 7pm. A form will need to be filled out prior to training. The training is in the rear room of BRAG building (IGA end of Wallace St) Tracksuit pants and a t-shirt would be suitable attire. Beginners are welcome to watch the senior classes that follow.

The special class allows people to be introduced to training, in a safe and accessible way. Even if someone does not intend to train forever, it would be an insightful experience to have seen Aikido training.

The context of the training is surviving multiple person armed attack. This scenario is quite uncommon, even for soldiers and police, but it does happen. A body and mind that is prepared for a worst-case scenario, can be advantageous in all other situations.

Matthew Hulse, the instructor of the dojo, has been training for 30 years and teaching for 20. He says the principles of Aikido are the foundation of his customer service, relationships, parenting, landscape repair, business management, firefighting and manual labouring.

He is a member of ATARI — www.atari-aikido.org.au .

Matthew Hulse via Braidwood, NSW — 0438 648 468

REGIONAL INNOVATION

Dr Pia Winberg (right) with farm operator Saskia Auer at the growing ponds.

Growing a greener future

Kate Rafferty

We love it in sushi, our Sakatas and even as a dry, salty snack – not so fond of it when it wraps round our legs in the surf – now, however seaweed food products are taking a whole new turn.

CEO of Venus Shell Systems and Chief Scientist of PhycoHealth, Dr Pia Winberg is a marine systems ecologist running Australia's first seaweed food-grade farm.

The farm is located on the Shoalhaven in Nowra, next to the Manildra ethanol plant, and cultivates a unique species of seaweed which is exclusive to Australia and local to the South Coast.

"A lot of the seaweed people are familiar with on the supermarket shelves is usually brown kelp or the red nori" says Dr Winberg.

"But we grow green seaweed, which is quite different nutritionally. You can use our seaweed in more food products, like pasta, because it's got lots of trace elements that are good for health, but they're not too concentrated."

Green seaweed is high in Omega-3s and sea minerals, which out of many health benefits, targets inflammation and improves gut health.

At the farm, green seaweed is grown using food-grade carbon dioxide produced by the ethanol plant. This makes the process entirely sustainable, according to Dr Winberg, who says using wasted nutrients and available resources allows the farm to reduce carbon foot-prints as much as possible:

"We use the carbon dioxide and pump it into our seaweed pools to accelerate the growth.

"We can grow about 100 tonnes of seaweed dried on a hectare, fifty times more than wheat, and we also use salt water. We have a pipeline going to the Shoalhaven estuary, so we don't need freshwater resources" she said.

Once the seaweed is grown, it is dried and then milled into a powder. In powder form, the green seaweed has been transformed into a variety of food and medicinal products sold by PhycoHealth.

"We make pasta, seaweed corn chips, muesli and muesli snacks — and Phukka, our gold medal-winning product" says Dr Winberg.

"We sell a capsule that Michael Mosley wrote about in his *Clever Guts Diet* book called 'SeaFibre', which is our seaweed extract".

Dr Winberg's factory also works in wound healing research with the University of Wollongong. So far, the factory has successfully 3-D printed, scaffolded and made human skin, using their seaweed extract as a base.

The skin is intended to help with burn wounds, and the factory works alongside Professor Fiona Wood AM, director of the Burns Service of Western Australia.

Having completed 10 years of research in sustainability and a PhD in marine systems ecology, Dr Winberg says seaweed is a hidden gem in the agricultural world:

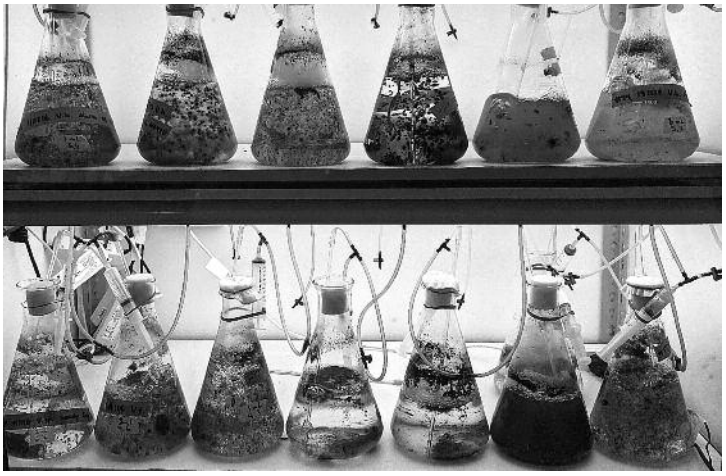
> "It's such a sustainable biomass, and it's the biggest agriculture crop in the world. It's a $13 billion industry globally and Australia doesn't grow any of it.

"From fertilisers to medical grade products, and a whole suite of things in between, it's such a platform of opportunity that's undeveloped" she said.

While most of the farm and factory production is human-focused, Dr Winberg says her eyes are set on transforming Australia's food production:

"It's really now about just scaling the industry to the next step.

"We're small, but I think that we've got a huge potential and opportunity now. There's real nutritional value in our products and they're selling well with many customers coming back for more".



Skaters seeking funding

Kate Rafferty

It's a project Braidwood's youth have been holding out for since Anders Neilsen proposed it in 1985, and if all goes to plan, Braidwood could be home to a $650 000 skatepark by next Summer.

With a location decided, designs created by award-winning skatepark designers, CONVIC and plenty of anticipation behind it, all that's left to finalise is funds.

At the moment, the Braidwood Community Association has its sights set on the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund provided by the Australian and NSW Governments.

BLERF intends to support the social and economic recovery of 47 bushfire affected communities in NSW, with communities having the chance to apply for grants from $200,000 to $20 million.

Projects must either stimulate industrial development, contribute to environmental regeneration or provide much-needed social, business or education initiatives.

Catherine Bell from BCA says the park, if approved, will do just that.

"For us, the big gap that we've got in our social community is youth activities, a space for youth. That became really apparent after enduring the bushfires, when there wasn't a place for youth to congregate or find respite" she said.

The skatepark is expected to be just as beneficial to Braidwood as the new playground in Braidwood Memorial Park, which proved to be an important local congregation point during the fires, and is now a spot many travellers can stop at to enjoy a picnic and wander into town.

"We do have a lot of young people travelling locally, and now with limited travel, there are many travelling within their state.

"With a skatepark in town that's a whole other demographic of people who are going to stop, stay, play and spend" said Catherine Bell.

For the BCA, the state park is the next step in establishing 'Destination Braidwood', a town travellers will fall in love with, stop in, and come back to.

First and foremost, however, is creating a skatepark that fits the desires and dreams of its main users, which is why BCA will be putting their application through alongside the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association.

"Working with BYPAA we've been able to get the youth voice, and we know how marvellous that is. We've been able to talk to them and listen to what they actually want" said Catherine.

With BYPAA on board, there are even more possibilities for what Braidwood's skatepark could do, with plans to create art installations in the area, a garden, an art trail and even a heritage trail that could link the skatepark to Bicentennial park and the Flood Creek area.

Now, Braidwood's skatepark is more than ready to go. The BCA and BYPAA's application faces some tough competition, going up against so many other communities also blistered by bushfires last year.

"This is where our support letters, which will be included in the application, will be so critical. Our story is going to be the thing that really elevates us against the other applicants, and proves that Braidwood is so deserving of this grant" said Catherine Bell.

Applications are due 2pm Thursday 28 January and BCA is reaching out to locals, businesses and passers-by for letters of support.

More information about the skatepark project can be found at: braidwoodskateparkproject.weebly.com

REGIONAL REAL ESTATE AT A GLANCE

Charleys Forest $795,000

1132 Charleys Forest Road,

Located in the Charleys Forest area known for its higher rainfall and fertile soil is this 83 acre farm. The land is mostly cleared with stands of native timber for livestock shelter The property is watered by the permanent Nettletons Creek. Improvements to the property include a comfortable cottage with mains power and some shedding for storage. The property with a bit of work would make a great weekend getaway for someone looking to have some livestock, veggie gardens or just enjoy the scenic views from around the property.

Other features of the property include

* Telstra Mobile service in spots
* Grazing land
* Mains Power
* Water tank
* Caravan

Tomboye $350,000

102 Jacquet Road,

Tucked away off the Nerriga road is this 100 acre property of mostly native bushland with a few acres of cleared land around the cabin. It is mostly undulating land and is suitable for bike riding and hunting or if you are into bush walking there's plenty of room to do that too. The cabin is simple but comfortable. It has 3 bedrooms, lounge room and kitchen. It does need a bit of work but perfect for weekender use. Access to the block is really suited for 4WD or high clearance vehicles only due to the road being an unsealed road although you can get a car in if you pick your path carefully. This property is approx. 1 hour from Nowra and 2.5 hours from Sydney

Other features of the property include

* Building entitlement
* Telstra mobile service in parts
* Peaceful getaway
* Enough cleared land for some livestock
* Wood Heater
* Landline available
* 20ft Shipping container

Charleys Forest $390,000

245 Rose Valley Road,

200 acre lifestyle property located on the doorstep to the Illawarra and Sydney (2.5 hours approx.) making it an easy getaway for the weekend where you could spend your time camping, horse/motorbike riding, hunting, bushwalking you name it! The property has Wog Wog Creek running through the middle of it, there are also several mountain springs that feed into the creek from the mountains. The property also shares a boundary of approx. 400m to the Morton National Park.

Other features of the property

* Building entitlement
* Easy access only 10kms approx. unsealed road
* New fencing erected on some boundaries
* Mountain views
* Lot 70 DP 755970

Mitchell Smithers
0427 637 257
Suzanne Carter
0473 888 337

RayWhite.

ABOUT THE PLACE

"She sees shell signs on way to the seashore." The Mobil gets rebranded.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Anglican Parish of Braidwood

A COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION

It was a real privilege to be part of the recent community commemoration of the 'Day the Rains Came' as a reminder that twelve months ago the landscape was entirely different to the one experienced now, in January 2021.

As bushfires ravaged the surrounding Braidwood area there was relief when the heavens opened to pour life saving water on a parched and scarred land. The rains brought relief and respite to the charred and decimated bushland as well as rest and recovery to a fatigued and weary group of brave firefighters.

Let us never forget the anguish and trauma that goes with any losses, be they personal or property. Imagine the emotional strain and exhaustion that accompanies intense emergency situations. There are many factors that contribute to these types of emergencies, such as, tinder dry undergrowth, excessively hot weather combined with massive wind gusts fanning the flames of fury sweeping across the countryside. The level of unpredictability rises when the wind suddenly and without warning changes.

At the present time we 'APPEAR' to be emerging from the worst throes of the COVID Pandemic, but the situation remains tenuous as new cases emerge in unexpected locations at equally unexpected times and intervals. When normality seems to be returning, we are suddenly thrust into re-activated restrictions like social isolation and quarantine.

Our patience and resolve are tested to the absolute limit and yet we have a source of comfort and support that we rarely draw upon. It is important to remind ourselves that we are never alone in times of danger and despair.

Psalm 46 reminds us three times that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The thrust of Psalm 46 is that even though the earth changes when the mountains shake or the waters roar or foam that we have the calming words; "Be still and know that I am God".

Additionally, in Romans 8 we have words of consolation appropriate to any emergency when we simply don't know what to do or how to pray. Later in the Romans 8 we confront some very fundamental questions which should be a source of consolation to any of us. "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" "Will hardship or distress, peril or persecution and we could reasonably add bushfires, floods and Covid".

We are encouraged to quell our fears and anxieties knowing that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We simply must act urgently and decisively.

Rick Lewis.

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel by Dianne Bergant CSA

Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape.

The demonic seduces us in more ways than we can count and we are often caught in its web before we recognise what has happened. There have always been many and varied voices that claim to have the remedy for our ills.

Preachers and politicians have stirred up crowds and ignited their emotions. Promises have been made and predictions advanced, yet the conflict goes on, the demons continue to hold sway. The demon recognised the authority in the voice of Jesus. Do we recognise it?

When we are released by Jesus from the demons that possess us, we are freed from the stranglehold of evil and liberated to live far less encumbered and divided lives.

No Earthly reality will possess us, neither relationships nor obligations nor even religious practices. Rather, we will be possessed by Christ who liberates us for the reign of God. Therefore, whether married or unmarried, whether in the midst of the community or at its margins, we will be able to heed the voice of God in our hearts and to recognise Jesus in our midst.

No weekday Masses until further notice.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: is in recess during January.

Araluen Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm First Friday of every month. All welcome.

No Mass at Krawarree on January 31, 2021.

Father Dermid McDermott will be our supply priest from February to the end of March 2021.

Braidwood Uniting Church

Braidwood paused on Saturday afternoon as rain and regeneration were celebrated at the National Theatre.

It was the one year anniversary of the day the rain had started to fall on our fire ridden land. The community came together to say "Thank you" to share our gratefulness and joy with each other.

The rain changed everything: rain supported those fighting the fires, rain chased away the smoke and cleared the air, rain cooled and refreshed our landscape, and rain brought hope. It was our Heavenly Father, the source of all hope, that brought the churches of Braidwood together to hold a communal celebration of hope and gratitude. What a beautiful display of unity it was, as different people, from different congregations, shared their different callings to live out the Gospel.

King David declares in Psalm 133 (The Passion Translation), "How truly wonderful and delightful to see brothers and sisters living together in sweet unity."

Thank you to the three congregations for living this "sweet unity" in Braidwood: what a gift to our town. Blessings from Dr Julie Fletcher and the congregation of Braidwood Uniting Church, ph 4842 2568.

Worship service 10am Sundays, or join us on Radio Church, Sundays at 6pm on 88.9fm. Weekly Garage Sale, Wednesday 9-3. Cnr Duncan and Monkittee Streets, Braidwood.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
For Your Information

Council meetings and times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month and Planning and Strategy Committee Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 5.30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Minutes-and-Agendas**. Both meetings are live streamed via **webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au**.

During COVID-19:

- All Council meetings are closed to the public
- All Council meetings will be live streamed at **http://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/**
- Councillors and staff are encouraged to participate electronically
- Where councillors and staff choose to attend the meeting physically, appropriate spacing will be put in place
- Members of the public can submit written presentations or register to present via video call on items on the agenda online at **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/public-involvement-at-Council-meetings**
- If you have made a submission on a development application or a plan/project that is being considered by Council, we will let you know when it is being presented to Council for consideration
- Questions on Notice can still be submitted on any Council-related matter by completing the form at **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/public-involvement-at-Council-meetings**

Next meeting dates are:

- 27 January - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 10 February - Planning and Strategy Committee Meeting

Written Questions on Notice

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

Documents on Public Exhibition - Your Voice

Proposed Deed of Amendment Big Island Mining Pty Ltd Planning Agreement

The Deed of Amendment generally updates the original planning agreement and amongst other things includes the following amendments:

- Deletion of the one-off contributions that have already been paid by the Developer to Council;
- Amendment to the annual payment by the Developer towards road infrastructure works by increasing the payment amount and clarifying that the payment is to be put towards ongoing pavement upkeep along the haulage route being that part of Majors Creek Road which lies between the development and Araluen Road;
- Clarification that s7.11, 7.12 and s7.24 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 are not excluded from applying to the development and that the contributions payable by the Developer are to be taken into consideration for the purpose of s7.11;
- Inclusion of an enforcement clause providing for a bank guarantee in favour of Council in the event of non-payment of the contributions payable under the Planning Agreement.The plan is also being amended to update the map illustrating the area to which the development control plan applies.

Submissions willl be accepted until 19 February.

Find all the details on Council's engagement hub at **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au**. Submissions can be made in the following ways:

- By registering and commenting via **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au**
- By email to **council@qprc.nsw.gov.au** (referencing the item in the subject line)
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to the Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

Development Proposals

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The following development application has been received by Council:

Application Number:	DA.2020.1675
Applicant Name:	William Pulver
Property Being:	Lot 3 DP 839479 140 Little River Road BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622
Proposed Development:	Building upgrades to existing Mona Farm buildings, alterations/upgrades to 'Woolshed' function centre, use of the marquee as ancillary to the existing approved 'Woolshed' operations, change of use for certain buildings to guest accommodation, change of use to ancillary guest accommodation uses, addition of water tanks, effluent treatment systems, business signage, and use approval of eight sculptures
Consent Authority:	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Notification Period:	11 January 2021 to 8 February 2021

Availability of documents

The development application/s and documents accompanying the application/s may be viewed on the QPRC website: **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au**

Submissions

Any interested person may make a written submission to the consent authority in relation to the development application. Submissions are to be received within the notification period. If the submission is an objection to the proposal, the grounds for objection must be clearly stated.

Please note that all submissions will become public documents and may be included in Council reports, published on Council's website and/or discussed at meetings. Applications referred to a Council meeting may include the name and address of the person making the submission as part of the information included in relevant Business Papers.

If you make a submission, you must disclose donations or gifts made to Councillors or Council staff. This is required under s147(5) of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Significant penalties apply for non-disclosure.

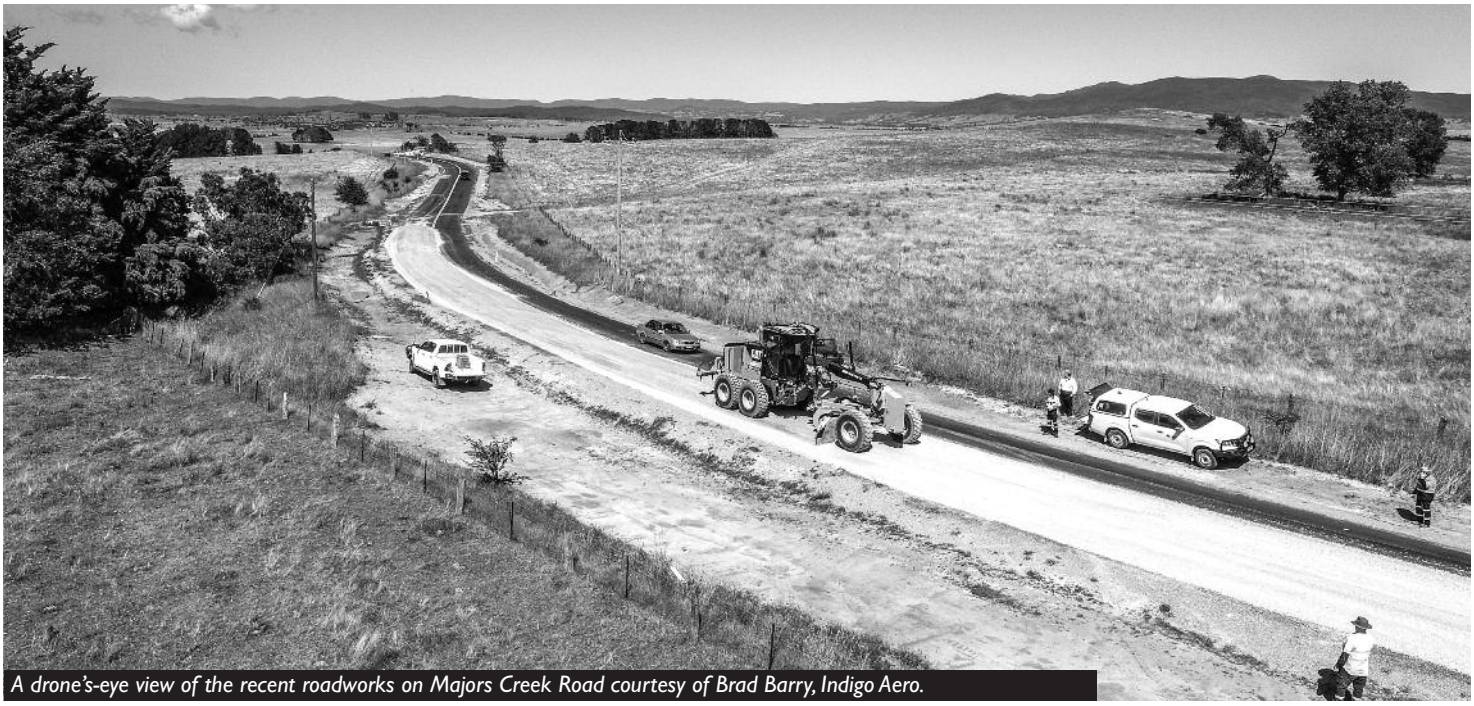
Please see Council's form *"Declaration of Political Donations and Gifts for Submittors"* on Council's website **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au** for completion and attachment to your submission.

Submissions can be made in the following ways:

- By email to **council@qprc.nsw.gov.au**
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

For further information, please phone 1300 735 025.

Peter Tegart - CEO
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Ph:1300 735 025
Web: **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au**
Email: **council@qprc.nsw.gov.au**
Facebook: **@QbnPalerangRC**
Twitter: **@QbnPalerang**



A drone's-eye view of the recent roadworks on Majors Creek Road courtesy of Brad Barry, Indigo Aero.

Bend on the mend

Kate Rafferty

Roadworks at Majors Creek Rd are expected to wrap up in a few weeks, with repairs including a fresh seal, and a widening of the road to 8 metres.

In November 2020, QPRC allocated $600,000 from the Roads to Recovery budget to stabilise 1.52km section of the road. Those repairs are now in action.

Rehabilitation to the remaining sections of Majors Creek Rd is still to be completed, including between Dargues Reef Gold Mine and Araluen Rd and also the replacement of Honeysuckle Bridge.

Ricky Tozer from Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council says Council has applied for funding to repair the rest of the road under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, with successful applicants being announced from June 2021.

Braidwood library changes

Ricky Tozer QPRC Customer and Communication manager

At its meeting in December 2020, QPRC agreed to finalise designs for the proposed changes to the Braidwood customer service centre and library before seeking tenders.

The project was established with the intent of providing a joint library and customer service counter which would provide a greater level of service for Braidwood residents, increase security for staff and to allow the upstairs area of the building at 144 Wallace St to eventually be returned to community space.

Council has been considering changes to the ground floor operations of the Braidwood office and library since June 2019, with the design being subject to consultation with staff and the community on a number of occasions.

Following strong community and staff feedback in 2019, the plans were revised to ensure that access was maintained from Wallace St and that the plans reflected the requirements of both the community and staff into the future. Revised plans were developed in consultation with staff, the Braidwood Community Association and the Braidwood and Curtilage Heritage Committee prior to further public consultation in October-November 2020.

Features of the revised plans for the ground floor of 144 Wallace Street include:

- Access retained from Wallace Street and Park Lane
- Construction of a link between customer service and library. Requires removal of one window.
- Combined library/customer service desk (counter) with dividing sliding door
- Space for 19 staff at ground level, including hot desks
- Relocated children's area in library (same size)
- Relocation of records from first floor to the Old Library in Park Lane
- Staff meeting room, security and amenities
- Small smart hub

To provide for a joint library and customer service counter, the current children's library will need to be relocated within the library, noting that it will not be reduced in size and the library will offer the same programs that are currently provided.

As part of the works in the library, Council will engage a library design specialist, as used with the recent refurbishment of the Queanbeyan library, to review the layout and operations of the library. This will improve functionality of the library and provide a better user experience.

Under current arrangements, the Braidwood library is closed between 12.30pm-1.30pm Monday-Friday to allow staff to have a lunch break. From time to time, the Braidwood customer service centre is also required to close over the lunch period due to staff shortages. By providing a combined customer service/library counter, Council will be able to ensure a continual level of service for the community during this time.

It is not Council's intention to reduce the number of staff working in customer service or the library at Braidwood and will continue to employ dedicated Customer Service Officers and Library Assistants. While subject to further consultation with staff, there may be some tasks that each position can undertake at the combined counter – ie Customer Service Officer to check in/check out a book and a Library Assistant can accept rates payment.

By expanding the level of service at the library, Council will provide an additional 250 hours of service per year. Council may also explore offering general customer service transactions (rates payments etc) when the library is open on Saturdays, further expanding the level of service for Braidwood residents.

Council's Digital Economy and Smart Community Strategy includes actions to develop smart hubs in Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Bungendore.

A smart hub would be a user-pay service for start-up businesses and residents who are able to work from Braidwood instead of travelling to Queanbeyan/Canberra and don't have appropriate facilities at home. Users of the smart hub will have access to professional services such as printers, Wi-Fi etc. Council will continue to offer free access to library computers for residents.

0 200444 202002

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

Golfers keep their cool on a hot day

Golf Club newsletter

Despite the heat on Saturday, the golf competition recorded some close scores.

Results: Playing a 2-ball stableford, Maree Uren and Brendan Sly won with 45 points on a countback from Vanessa Ferguson and Keith Ferguson in the runner-up position. Robin Tennant Wood and Brendan Booker came in with 44 points, with Margy Gardener and Mark Newman, and Judy and Gordon Scott one point back both on 43 (with Gordon's hole-in-one giving them five points on its own!).

The Junior Clinic, held last Wednesday to Friday, was extremely successful and Virginia Groot Obbink & David Jones did an excellent job. Many thanks to them both and to the volunteers who gave up their time to help with the 28 kids who thoroughly enjoyed it.

Reminder: Members are reminded that it is a requirement of the NSW Govt that you "check-in" with the NSW Service App or QR code. If you don't have the app, sign in by clicking webform and entering name and phone number or if you don't have a phone, you can ask a friend to add you as their dependant or you can ask the bar staff to check you in.

Handicap changes: Robin Tennant Wood down 1 to 30; Judy Scott out 1 to 33; Gordon Scott down 1 to 29; Brendan Booker out 1 to 8; Alec Henry out 1 to 29.

Coming events:

Sat 30 Jan: 2BBB stableford

Sat 6 Feb: Braidwood Races

Men's and Women's Monthly Medals – stroke

Sat 13 Feb: Men's Single Stableford (Michael Tillman-Ryan Trophy)

Women's Single Stroke (Jackie Clark Trophy)

Young golfers show their style

Robin Tennant-Wood

The Junior Golf Clinic held last week at the Braidwood Golf Club was a huge success, with 28 youngsters taking to the course over three days.

The Junior Clinic is held annually in January and usually draws around 20 children and teens. This year the enrolment exceeded expectations, but the club volunteers who assisted over the three days were all full of praise for the youngsters' behaviour and, importantly, their success in mastering some of the basic skills of the game.

Under the tutelage of Damon Welsford, the pro from Royal Canberra Golf Club, the juniors learnt the basic skills of driving, chipping and putting, and were able to put those skills into action on the last day with a game of golf.

Braidwood Golf Club president, Keith Ferguson, took the opportunity on Saturday to thank the club members who gave their time to assist the pro over the three days. He noted that the clinic was a wonderful event for kids and an opportunity for the young members of our community to learn from such a highly-regarded professional golfer.

"Damon is absolutely brilliant with the kids," he said. 'He doesn't just have them swinging a club, he makes it fun."

Brendan Sly, Catherine Bell and Chris Nelson, parents and grandparent of children who attended, all said how much their children had enjoyed the three days and were thankful for the opportunity provided for them to learn a new skill as well as have fun.

STOP PRESS

TENNIS PLAYERS FORCED TO SURF THE NET INSTEAD OF SERVING TO IT.

GONG GIVERS MAKE A POOR COURT CALL.

STAR TIMES

Putashrimponthebarby

Perhaps the trick with Australia Day is to be grateful for the serendipity that has us living in this great land but without being silly about it. We have lost a great deal by ignoring the wisdom of the ages that Indigenous Australians possess. Covering the land with sheep, wheat and the holes of mining is not working. Belonging to the land rather than owning the land is a profoundly different way of looking at our natural resources.

Whoseheadonthemoney?

Thanks to Paul Keating, newcomers are required to pledge allegiance to, 'Australia and its people ...' to become one of us. But when an Australian (no foreigners or dual nationals please) is elected to the Federal Parliament they are required to swear an oath or take an affirmation to Queen Elizabeth II and her heirs and successors before they can take their seat in Parliament.

WhataboutttheFalklandswar

For the armed forces it's even more archaic with, '... and that I will resist Her enemies and faithfully discharge my duty according to law'. That's a bit tough, asking our soldiers, sailors and aircrew to pledge to fight in wars that involve Great Britain. And they have the cheek to make us wait in the 'rest of the world' queue when we get to Heathrow.

DoIwanthiminmypocket?

Of course Lizzy is a dear old thing, beloved by a generation of Australians still living in a *Womens Weekly* colour supplement with all the nice hats and stuff. But she's getting on a bit and Charlie is a different can of worms altogether. He will be our king and our politicians will swear allegiance to him rather than to the people who elected them. Not happy royalists; you are doing a disservice to our country to oppose an orderly transition away from the British monarchy.

Justaharmlessphonecall

Prince Charles, while married to Princess Dianna was evesdropped while on the phone to Camilla Parker-Bowles. "Oh, God. I'll just live inside your trousers or something. It would be much easier!" is part of what he said. The rest is not fit for a family newspaper — look it up for yourselves.

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