BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Issue #22 — $2.00

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	7°	19°	50%
Th:	11°	23°	80%
Fr:	13°	24°	60%
Sat:	11°	23°	50%
Sun:	12°	24°	50%
Mon	13°	24°	60%

Braidwood Dance Studio gets back to the groove

Kate Rafferty

Miss Emma's Braidwood Dance Studio has plié'd, chassé'd and jeté'd into the new year, with classes back on for 2021.

After a difficult period between bushfires and then Covid-19, which saw the studio's annual end of year show cancelled twice, Miss Emma says she and her students are itching to get on the stage.

"We're so ready to get back into it, now that things have started up again.

"It was heartbreaking to cancel our show for the last two years. The kids work all year, and so to not have that opportunity was so disappointing" she said.

At the end of 2019, Miss Emma and her dancers were weeks out from performing their end of year "The Little Mermaid" show when they were asked to pack-up their props and sets in the theatre.

"We were all set-up ready to go when I got a call from the police! They said I had to empty the theatre because it needed to be used as an evacuation centre" said Emma.

"The parents and I had just spent hours painting and creating all kinds of props and fixing costumes, but of course that was just how threatening the bushfires were at the time".

The studio made quick plans to re-schedule for March 2020, which were then axed due to the emerging Covid-19 pandemic.

Now with restrictions settled, and up to 30 dancers allowed in the studio at one time, preparations for *'The Little Mermaid'* 2021 are on-track.

"We've decided to keep the same theme, because we already have all the costumes and sets from our hard-work the first time!

"But we will be starting from scratch. The kids certainly haven't remembered the dances and I'll need to change some of the groups around" said Emma.

... continued on page 3

LOCAL NEWS CAN'T BE TURNED OFF

Paul Cockram hopes the small players will stay in the game

Rupert Murdoch was arguably the cleverest media mogul of the twentieth century.

As a young man he took the staid mediascape of earlier generations and scragged it. Near-naked girls on page three, short, sharp dramatic stories with someone to blame — no story was off limits; crisis and outrage sold papers.

Later, he changed the face of television with Sky and Fox News. Once again it was hammer and tongs entertainment rather than boring old deep analysis. That he left to the ABC and his more conservative competitors.

Advertising dollars followed the ratings and the ratings soared. His raw titillating entertainment found a solid market share. If Murdoch's competitors had gone to the market regulator to complain that 'tits-and-bums' journalism was eating into their profits, the young Rupert might well have said, "Suck it up baby! Get with the times."

Enter the cyber whizz kids

But while News Limited plodded on towards the world domination of media that seemed its inevitable destiny, other players entered the game.

Larry Page and Sergey Brin invented the amazing algorithm that has caused Google to rise from obscurity to ubiquity in a few decades. Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook to allow ordinary people to write words for others to read that had the same appearance as those written by trained writers and journalists. Chuck in the personal touch and a few cat videos and the traditional media didn't have a chance.

Ironically, one of News Limited's frequently spruiked demands over the years has been de-regulation of markets with the lightest possible overlay of government involvement.

To now see Rupert Murdoch, with the others trailing along behind, turn to the government and demand interference in the market place because he (and the others) nodded off at the helm, is the stuff of a comic opera.

The shock jock media has reaped what it sewed for decades. Small chunks of information, misinformation too, can and does amuse, entertain and outrage billions of people each day (and well into the night).

This is the new market that advertisers need to follow to maxemise their budget. That is how we got here and that's why traditional media is on the skids. It's up to us to work hard to find a solution if we'd prefer to be somewhere else.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant-Wood*

Government or Big Media: who's really in charge?

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away … a young nerdy Harvard University sophomore developed a program that allowed Harvard students to connect with one another via the internet.

It was an instant success. Within a year, that student had dropped out of university to run the social media company that has turned into the Facebook behemoth. Facebook has made Mark Zuckerberg a very, very rich person.

The social media platform itself has undergone various transformations over the years, with each change providing more revenue-generating opportunity for the company. No longer just a means of keeping in touch with old school friends and posting holiday photos, this is business in the stratospheric realm. In 2020, Facebook generated $US32.03 per user with 2.8 billion active users per month.

Last year the Australian government asked its consumer watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to ostensibly 'level the playing field' by producing a "mandatory code of conduct to address bargaining power imbalances between Australian news media businesses and digital platforms, specifically Google and Facebook." The code, and the legislation that underpins it, means that the digital giants will now have to pay to republish news from other media sources. According to the government's media release, this will "ensure that news media businesses are fairly remunerated for the content they generate, helping to sustain public interest journalism in Australia."

Facebook's response was to ban all media sources – or at least, links to media sources because Facebook itself doesn't publish news from media sources, only links that lead users directly to those source sites.

Media should, indeed, be fairly remunerated for its content, and while this is not going to create a lot of disadvantage for consumers – after all, we can still access news on the internet simply by going to the news sites themselves – it does, however, point to two areas of concern. Firstly, the News Media Bargaining Code will funnel revenue from the Australian government into the pocket of Rupert Murdoch, who, apart from not being short of a buck, has already benefited from a tax-free handout of $40 million over the past four years.

Secondly, if the government is honestly concerned about the state of public journalism, as Minister Fletcher has claimed, it should fund it properly. If it thinks Big Tech is making too much money, they should tax it properly.

If it's worried about data extraction, then tighten up the privacy laws. The Media Bargaining Code addresses none of these issues. Could it be that the government is simply buying favour with the major Australian media companies in what may well be an election year?

Meanwhile, Zuckerberg will not be inconvenienced one iota by the legislation. Social media will continue to make money through its huge advertising mechanisms. International news will still be accessible on Facebook because other countries see the flow of information as a good thing rather than a means of government generating revenue for private companies. Delete your Facebook accounts if you like, but neither the tech giants nor the government will care.

These happy folk, seen on the 'Resources for Regions' web page are in Singleton which presumably is in a region receiving resources from mining.

QPRC misses mining cash

Kate Rafferty

A pot of gold may be available for local projects, if QPRC and state government can secure it for the Queanbeyan-Palerang Region.

The Resources for Regions program is an initiative from the NSW Government that supports mining-impacted communities in NSW. First launched in 2012, the project intends to improve local infrastructure and enhance economic growth and productivity in the most mining-impacted communities.

Since 2012, Resources for Regions has allocated over $295 million to various local projects across the state. The program ensures that a percentage of mining royalties that flow through to the state government are set aside for impacted regions to assist with local initiatives, programs and projects.

Currently, QPRC is not eligible for funding under the program. Deputy Premier John Barilaro says this may be because Dargues Reef Gold Mine is not yet in full operation.

"They're [Dargues Reef Gold Mine] not in full production, which I think is why we're not seeing that investment" said Mr Barilaro.

> "I want to catch up with the new owners, to find out when that will be, and when royalties kick-in. I also want to talk to council about it" he said.

Mayor Tim Overall said he was aware of the project, but was not certain if discussions had taken place between state government agencies and council.

In late 2020, 84 individual projects in 24 mining related LGAs were funded by the seventh round of the Resources for Regions program. Types of projects included new and upgraded roads, water and sewerage systems, and even sports fields.

In the Resources for Regions Round Seven Program Outlines document, eligible projects were identified as either *'infrastructure or community programs that support the ongoing prosperity of mining communities by providing economic opportunities, improved amenity and positive social outcomes'*.

These are new program outlines, updated following a review into 'Resources for Regions' by the University of Technology, Sydney's Institute for Public Policy and Governance in 2019.

Carol Mills, Director of the Institute, says this review aimed to increase relevance and accessibility of the program to mining-impacted communities.

"In the past, there was certainly an issue of a lack of awareness amongst some councils about the program and also a question about whether it was sufficiently relevant to their communities" said Ms Mills.

"Our review proposed practical ways to change that."

The Institute's recommendations have been taken into account in the new program guidelines. Following the new criteria, if the Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA were found to be eligible for the Resources for Regions program, costs of the Dargues Reef Mine could be covered. Most significant would be the deterioration of Majors Creek Road.

Until council and state government enter discussions regarding an application for Resources for Regions funding, mining-related impacts to Braidwood and surrounding areas will continue to fall on QPRC ratepayers.

Dancing times back

... continued from page 1

As well as planning 'the show of the year', Emma will be running regular weekly adult and kids' classes and also preparing for her own tiny dancer.

"Pregnancy definitely throws a spanner in the works! But I'll have some helpers on hand which will be great.

"That will help me build up the number of classes in the week. During Covid we were doing about two classes a week, but I'd love to be running three or four" she said.

> Getting back into the swing of things has also meant locating to a new venue. Classes and rehearsals will now be held at the National Theatre, instead of the Club, to accommodate number restrictions.

In the Theatre, classes can easily hold 30 distanced dancers, with space for parents to also wait and watch.

Emma says while she's excited to have a bigger space, she's interested to find a permanent venue for the studio.

"This is my 7th year running the dance school and I think I've been trying for 7 years to get our own space.

"We're constantly hiring halls, which is hard because community spaces are used by so many people, so it can be difficult to keep a regular booking or time" she said.

While the hunt for a home continues, Braidwood Dance Studio will continue giving kids and adults a chance to have fun and have a go in the studio.

"Dance is such a great way to build confidence and self-esteem" said Emma.

"And for the kids, the opportunity to perform is fantastic. It's what we work towards, and every year I love watching all the dancers come off the stage, their faces glowing. It's a real buzz." she said.


Martin Royds with healthy plants.

What goes up must come down

Paul Cockram talks with local farmer Martin Royds about measuring soil carbon

Paul: Martin, let's give the federal government, and especially the Nationals, the benefit of the doubt and assume they are fair dinkum in their desire to see a fall in Australia's carbon dioxide emissions.

It's a two-sided coin. Reducing emissions is one side of the coin and increasing absorptions is the other. The farming sector is well-placed to contribute to increasing the absorption of carbon from the atmosphere because everything on the ground that's growing takes and holds atmospheric carbon. That's the undisputed science of it.

It looks like the government is going to tie itself in knots over soil carbon testing because measurement is complex and there are questions of fairness about who started first, the variance across regions and even the variance across individual farms.

Martin: Yeah, the problem in the past is that soil testing costs have been ridiculous and it has kept people from getting involved in the market. What you're talking about is farmers getting an environmental stewardship payment?

I think that is a good idea and we have discussed over the years how to measure whether a landscape is improving. The Holistic Management organisation uses an EOV, which means Environmental Outcomes Accredited. They test on a regular basis to see whether a farm is improving or not across the whole farm. Jillamatong was one of the first farms to be EOV accredited. Here on Jillamatong they've come back year after year and said, "Yes, you are improving your soil cover, your plant diversity, infiltration rates and other criteria". All these things are one hundred percent related to soil carbon levels.

It would be of great benefit to farmers if governments looked at organisations like Holistic Management, the Regen Ag people and others, whose goal is to build soil carbon effectively, by improving biodiversity and ground cover — because we know that it all helps our bottom line in the long run and reduces farm costs.

Think of it as a ledger. One of the things we started doing a decade ago was measuring the quality of the water running off a farm. This is because if you have soil nutrients, fertiliser and chemicals washing off your farm, it is not good for your farm because you're losing all your natural assets. And if there's nitrogen, phosphorus and other chemicals in there, you are also polluting all the water. It is not good for anybody to have nutrients leaving their farm.

We've measured water running into Jillamatong farm and it had 12 parts per million of phosphorus. Then we measured it going out and it was only four parts. So our system is actually stripping nutrients out of the water.

> The problem for the federal government is that it listens to a minority of voices that are way behind the times.

The world is screaming out for something that's going to be repairing the planet, taking CO2 out of the atmosphere — and farmers can do that. There is also a desire to do something about our own health, our human health, because we're all suffering from toxic problems caused by the chemicals that get sprayed on our food. Also, it's not good food when it is grown on poor quality soil. Many allergies and poor health outcomes can be related back to the soil.

All that stuff about, "farmers don't want to get kicked in the guts by carbon reduction targets". Well, losing soil carbon is stupidity. We should be building carbon, building biodiversity and holding more water on our farms. This would be a good outcome for our farmers and better for us all financially, ecologically and socially.

If farmers are properly paid for producing healthy, nutrient-dense food we are all winners.

Oh, and a lot of carbon will be removed from the atmosphere and sequestered in healthy soil as a result.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Betty's Book Fair

About 20 years ago Zelma McKie and Betty Jones drove to a Regional Hospital Auxiliary regional meeting at either Crookwell or Cowra. In addition to their roles within the Hospital Auxiliary, Zelma and Betty were both formidable members of the Anglican Women and Parish Council.

They learnt of the possibility of a book fair fundraiser at the meeting and decided to explore the possibility of one in Braidwood . They also decided to put the idea to the Parish Council rather than the hospital because, at that time, the Anglican community was in desperate need of funds.

The problem of storage was solved by the availability of a large garage at 31 Wilson St. As an incorrigible bibliophile Vic Jones was a willing helper.

The first Book Fair was held in Webhy's (now Braidwood Outdoors) because both Zelma and Betty enjoyed a long association with Deeb. It was called Betty's Book Fair. This year's 10-day book fair is a great legacy.

Betty Jones (nee Gourlay) 4 February 1929 – 31 October 2017; Vic Jones 7 January 1924 – 30 November 2008.

David Jones
Braidwood

Concert at National Theatre

How lucky we are in a small community to have Keith Podger and Elizabeth Hawkes to organise such a fantastic concert as we saw the other night. The Steve Kilby concert was the best .. thank you both.

Margaret Tuckwell
Braidwood

Araluen Road gets a re-sheet and trim

QPRC media release

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has commenced work to fix flood-damaged sections of Araluen Road.

Araluen Road extends from near the village of Araluen, south of Braidwood, through the Eurobodalla Shire Council region to Moruya. The road suffered significant damage during heavy rains and flooding in 2020. The upcoming works will improve the road surface and drainage on the damaged road.

With the work commencing on Monday 15 February 2021, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor, Cr Tim Overall said this project was one of many in the region that have become necessary due to fires and floods in 2020.

"I believe I am speaking on behalf of most residents of Araluen and surrounds when I say that this much anticipated works will come as great relief to users of the road," said Mayor Overall.

Araluen Road primarily serves local residents. It can also provide a link between Moruya and Braidwood. However, with damage in both the Queanbeyan-Palerang and Eurobodalla sections of the road as a result of fires, floods and periods of heavy rain leading to mud and rock slides, travellers passing through the region have been strongly discouraged from using the road.

The planned repair works includes gravel re-sheeting of approximately 10km of Araluen Road from south of Neringla Lane to Pigeon Gully. There will also be vegetation trimming and select drainage repairs.

Residents and motorists using Araluen Road will experience an increase in truck and construction equipment movements between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, for the duration of the works. Drivers are urged to exercise caution when travelling through the work site and on roads leading to the work site that will be used by trucks involved in the project.

To ensure safety of motorists and road workers, traffic controllers will manage traffic passing through the project during the day. Delays of up to 15 minutes may be expected.

The project is anticipated to take approximately six weeks and is expected to be completed by the end of March 2021, weather permitting.

Common-sense approach to local vaccine rollout

Media release from Kristy McBain MP

Frontline health workers in Eden-Monaro no longer face an 11-hour drive to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Last week I was contacted by doctors and nurses in the electorate who were facing two days off work and time away from their patients and loved ones in order to take part in phase 1a of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Health workers were told they needed to travel to Liverpool Hospital in south west Sydney to receive their jab, potentially leaving hospital and local GP clinics short staffed — a situation that was simple unworkable and unfair.

I met with the Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt on Thursday to express my deep concern and that of our local health professionals — and I thank the Minister for his time.

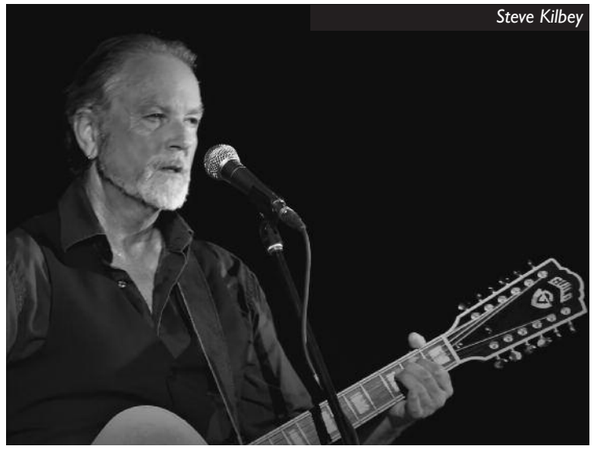
I am pleased to report that Liverpool Hospital vaccinators will now travel to Southern New South Wales to vaccinate health staff.

This is a common-sense solution for frontline workers who have carried the weight of bushfires and the pandemic for over 12 months now.

Thank you to local health leaders who raised this issue with me – you know your community and what's needed.

The people of Eden-Monaro have risen to the challenges of the last 18 months with dignity and a deep commitment to each other.

The rollout of the vaccine will help our resolve and bolster our dedication to see this through and continue to build a strong renewal.



Steve Kilbey

Across from the Church

Leroy Plummer

Friday night saw the Braidwood National Theatre filled to capacity.

A packed audience enjoyed the music, stories and personality of Steve Kilbey, front man from the 1980 classic Aussie band The Church, best known for songs like 'Under the Milky Way' and 'Unguarded Moment'.

Steve kept us entertained with a raw acoustic style, with clever segues from the occasional glitch to a moving new song. I'll admit his stage presence had me a touch envious, with an endearing slight tension in his body and that unmistakable voice, we felt we'd all known him personally for years.

Keith Podger of The Seekers joined Steve in a duet to sing 'Under the Milky Way' and I switched my camera on to find ... "no space"! All good, I sat back and enjoyed the song.

Thanks to Liz and Keith from Circle Music for bringing artists to Braidwood.

Post-fire recovery of wet sclerophyll forest on the southern coastal ranges of NSW. In this location fire mainly affected the understory and tree ferns were among the first species to reshoot. Photo: Robert Godfree

Plants most at risk after megafires

CSIRO and The Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research

Australia's 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires severely impacted hundreds of plant species.

While the prospects of recovery for most appear to be good, some species remain vulnerable, according to research published by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research.

The researchers compared remotely sensed satellite fire hotspot data with records of plant occurrence from herbarium collections to discover the plant species and ecosystems impacted in the burnt areas.

CSIRO researcher Dr Robert Godfree said the fires burned close to eight million hectares of forest, woodland and shrubland across the south-east of Australia.

Many of the fires occurred in ecosystems that make up a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

"The scale of these fires and the number of plant species and communities affected was unprecedented for the region," Dr Godfree said.

The researchers found that 11 megafires each more than 100,000 hectares in size combined with many smaller fires to extensively burn 17 major vegetation types, including remnant rainforests and diverse eucalypt forests and woodlands.

More than 800 native plant species had more than half of their populations burn, with some experiencing fire across their entire ranges.

An unusual feature of the 2019-2020 fire season was that many widespread species were among those severely affected.

The researchers also studied the bushfire recovery traits of more than 200 plant species and found that most, including many rare species, are resilient to fire.

"These results suggest that we can be a little more optimistic about the ability of many plant species to recover after the fires," Dr Godfree said.

However, the researchers found that targeted recovery efforts will probably be needed to support vulnerable species that are killed by fire.

These include epiphytic orchids, which grow on other plants and lost much of their habitat during the fires.

"Unburnt areas that contain these species are now scattered across the landscape and these take on added importance for conservation.

"The scale of the Black Summer bushfires has also clearly left some ecosystems at risk, particularly remnant Gondwanan rainforests. In some parts of NSW more than three-quarters of remaining rainforests burnt.

"Many rainforest species living in remnant forests that don't often burn tend not to cope well with fire.

"The ranges of some of these species have potentially shrunk, leaving the populations very vulnerable to further disturbance and changes in climate.

"The scale of the fires also means that recovering populations of even widespread species may need additional assistance to prevent adverse impacts of disease, grazing by feral animals, and drought," Dr Godfree said.

Additional information on plant impacts

- The Black Summer fires burnt more than seven million hectares of eucalypt forests and woodlands and more than 300,000 ha of rainforest.
- An estimated 816 vascular plant species had more than 50 per cent of their populations or ranges burn.
- More than 150 species of native vascular plants are estimated to have experienced fire across 90 per cent or more of their ranges.
- Species particularly vulnerable to the bushfires include epiphytic orchids, which grow on trees, and fire-sensitive rainforest species.
- More than three quarters of rainforest communities were burnt in parts of New South Wales. These contain many ancient Gondwanan plant lineages that are now only found in small, fragmented ranges.

Report illegal hunting

A Braidwood resident was disturbed on Sunday by the sight of the part carcass of a feral pig – a lactating female – that had been deliberately dismembered, gutted and placed on the side of the road on Sandholes Rd near the reservoir.

Apart from the grim nature of the discovery the resident held concerns regarding public safety in the event that people are hunting within close proximity to the town. She was also concerned that the pig had been deliberately placed in that location:

"This was not a dog attack. The legs are cleanly cut off and two breasts left. It looks very deliberate. Also no gut contents so animal was killed, butchered and gutted somewhere else, then left there," she told the *Changing Times*.

A spokesman for Monaro Police District confirmed that hunters are required to have permits from the Lands Department in order to carry out hunting on public or private land.

"Even if a person has permission to hunt on private land, they still need the necessary permits," he said.

He has encouraged any local residents who believe that illegal hunting is being carried out to report it to local police. "We can't investigate if we don't know it's happening," he said.

Braidwood Police can be reached on 4842 2101. If the station is unoccupied, the call will be automatically transferred to Queanbeyan.

Concerts to start 'popping up'

Robin Tennant-Wood

The first of what is intended to be a series of 'pop-up' concerts will be held at the Braidwood Uniting Church on Sunday 7 March, 2.00pm.

This follows the resounding success of the house concerts earlier this month featuring local acclaimed musicians, Trent Arkley-smith and Rachel Johnston.

Concert organiser, Anne Sanders, says that while we still have the uncertainty of COVID and the possibility of lockdowns, the pop-up format is a workable alternative to the former popular St Andrew's Concert series.

For the first of these concerts, Braidwood will be welcoming *Fønix*, a talented young trio comprising James Fortune, who has played the flute and piccolo for Opera Australia Orchestra for over 20 years, Tommasso Girotto, an exciting young guitarist, and Margie Iddison, a cellist, formerly with Opera Australia Orchestra. James has performed twice previously, to acclaim, in Braidwood with the Three Piece Suite ensemble.

Fønix will be presenting a lively and inspiring program including some contemporary works for flute, guitar and cello.

Bookings (online via Humanitix) are absolutely essential and if Covid restrictions require the event to be cancelled, all bookings (including booking fees) will be fully refunded. If you have booked but are ill, please do not attend and notify the organiser prior to the event so a refund can be processed and your ticked reissued.

Local Thursday bus service

Margaret Tuckwell

Valmar Community Transport runs a bus service for Braidwood every second Thursday.

A return trip costs $20 for an adult and $10 for a child.

This service can be used by anyone in the Braidwood area in need of transport into Goulburn or a pre-organised location — for example to Batemans Bay, Queanbeyan/Canberra etc. They are open to suggestions on destinations.

The next run is Thursday 4th March 2021 – pending numbers. Valmar is hoping to have the service available every 4th Thursday at this stage but can offer the service fortnightly if there is a demand.

Please register your interest in this service by calling the Goulburn Valmar Office.

The service will only continue to run depending on numbers, so please register as soon as possible.

The bus pickup times will begin in Braidwood at approximately 9am into Goulburn or wherever has been organised.

Pickup times in the afternoon will be at approximately 13.00 from Goulburn Square bus stop on Auburn Street, or other pre-organised location.

For all enquiries about transport and bookings contact Valmar on 4821 2933 or 4821 1644.

Scooting about by sun

Meg Osborn

Tombarra, due to its unique position by the Mongarlowe river, set in natural bushland with the sounds of nature always at the forefront, has always been a place of peace, relaxation, meditation, and healing.

Those of us both living and working here are so often in awe of the wonderful sounds of nature such as the soothing sound of the running river, the calls of the black cockatoos soaring overhead, the individual songs of the many birds including the kookaburras, magpies, butcher birds, lyre birds, Saturn bower birds, the various parrot families, and many more.

We have had resident wombats out grazing on the fresh grass, seeming not to mind our company as we walk close by.

The greatest privilege is to have a king parrot sit on your wrist, and consume a handful of sunflower seeds, or to sight the platypus playing in the river. Both are exciting and humbling experiences. There is always a natural focus here to preserve and nurture rather than destroy.

Of absolute joy, particularly to this author, has been a recent addition to help with and make a positive difference to her workload, while at the same time reducing our carbon footprint at Tombarra.

Just as the heavy lifting, carrying, and trudging from point A to B, the distance between being both considerable and repetitive, was becoming overwhelming, a vehicle arrived to make a massive difference. A golf buggy (my terminology), which, tongue in cheek, I had jokingly requested some time ago.

This particular buggy however, is so very much more, and this is where I feel Tombarra jumps to the front of the line, leading the charge in reducing our carbon footprint, combatting global warming and therefore creating a better future.

Perhaps now would be the correct time to disclose the fact that this is a solar powered vehicle.

Meg with her solar buggy.

Being of a considerable mature age, I still feel amazed and excited every time I hop in and turn on the ignition. In my wildest dreams, I never imagined that I would be given the chance to drive a vehicle powered entirely by solar energy.

Gone is the constant engine noise. I drive in silence, yet the power is immediate and awesome. It goes like a rocket, and is just so much fun, especially when shooting the breeze, and of course offering to taxi our manager Nicchia, and anyone else who may require transportation.

The great benefits to all of us at Tombarra include time and energy saving, meaning in the end, it is a human being, not an exhausted, drained zombie returning home from a day at work.

And thanks to John Gannon for wiring up the buggy.

More tree-changers move in

A warm and furry story (plus a sad bit) from Tiandi Wildlife Sanctuary

The koalas who were rescued during the Black summer fires from the Nerriga and Sassafrass areas have begun the final leg of their journey to return back to the wild.

A team of specialist vets and koala carers have devoted immeasurable time and energy rehabilitating these and other koalas rescued during the black summer bushfires. They have been in large koala enclosures that provide 4 metres of climbing hight, which is more than the 3 metres of climb hight required under the koala rehabilitation code of practice.

The final stage now is for them to spend some time in a 40 metre by 40 metre enclosure with large trees to ensure full climbing fitness prior to release back into the wild. Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust recently built this enclosure at Tiandi Wildlife Sanctuary near Nerriga, as part of preparations for this final stage.

Tiandi Wildlife Sanctuary, is run by Julia Gibb and a group of wonderful volunteers. The sanctuary which has been operating for nearly 14 years provides care and rehabilitation for kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroo's and possum species. The sanctuary is located in the natural territory for these koalas, therefore having the correct species of trees for the koalas to forage. "We very privileged and humbled to be a part of the journey to see these amazing creatures return to their natural world after having been through so much". Says Julia Gibb.

Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust run a 1800 acre koala sanctuary near Cooma, that was destroyed during the Black Summer Bushfires. Tragically three American flight crew were killed when their Lockheed EC130Q Hercules Large Air Tanker crashed after dropping a load of fire retardant on the Two Thumbs Wildlife Trust koala sanctuary on the 23rd of January, 2020.

It is important that we remember Captain Ian McBeth, First Officer Paul Hudson and Rick DeMorgan jr and the great loss suffered by their wives and children. The owner of the property, James Fitzgerald, has been rescuing and rehabilitating koalas for over 10 years, and was part of the team caring for the koalas following the fires, along with Dr Karen Ford from ANU.

The pictures below are of "Trevor" who had active chlamydia disease, which has been successfully treated with assistance from West Queanbeyan Veterinary Hospital and the Koala Health Hub at Sydney University Trevor is the first koala to be brought to the Tiandi Wildlife Sanctuary for "Koala Bootcamp".

CONFESSIONS OF A ST. BEDE'S OLD BOY

Remember in the good old days when "Plover" rang the bell
When good boys went to heaven and bad boys went to hell.
When the sisters from the convent first taught us the golden rule
And Sister Margaret Mary, was the terror of the school?

When we all marched down Wallace street in navy blue procession
On our dreaded way to church to make a good confession
When Trudie Hearne had the pub and "Mussie" had the paper
When Chewying's had the Monterey — our life was such a caper.

Past Taffa's shop and Braidwood busses, the saddler Charlie Styles
The old men sitting on the steps would give us all big smiles.
Next came Reesons' baker shop then Tallaganda Shire,
Across the road to Paulie Nomchong's with everything for the buyer.

Next was Mr Munn's garage then Wiggens'es the baker
I've probably missed a few, they'll come back to me later.
We would file into the church like sheep into the pen
Make our way into the box and come out half grown men.

We would dawdle back to school comparing all our penance,
Hail Mary's and Our Fathers, but some got a longer sentence
We were all aghast when "Skinny" told, The Rosary was his fine
He was awful silly to confess, that he drank that altar wine.

For variety we would walk back up the other side
Past the Blue Moon and the butchers, we had nothing left to hide.
A quick glance at Deeb Wehby's and the cafe Mum and Dad,
Then check out all the coming flicks and grade them good or bad.

We'd poke our noses thru the door at Chuchins' Cafe Royal
With Pat and Bill behind the counter and Raymond on he boil!
Charlie Wilsons' Fords for sale, a new Zepher on the floor
We'd be very smartly hunted if we ventured through the door.

Running late we'd canter fast, a quick glance in Len Muttons'
Past Sherlock's and the paper shop then pause to do up buttons,
S.R. Buttles' on our left, then "Chungys'" barber shop
Cross over at the bank of "Wales", into the park we'd hop.

Then back into the classroom cold, our heads down for a while
At three O'Clock when school came out, was when you'd see us smile.
So that's my little jaunt down old memory lane,
I know I've missed quite a few and for that, I'll wear the blame.

Allan McGrath 2004

MUSIC MATTERS David McClymont

Andre Previn

When I sit down to practice piano, I like to play simple classical pieces to keep my reading ability up to scratch. Just lately I have been thinking about pianists who are equally adept at both jazz and classical music. Quite a few pianists trained as classical musicians before adopting jazz as their preferred mode of expression. John Lewis, Nat "King" Cole, Ramsey Lewis, George Shearing, Keith Jarrett, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans are names that come to mind. However, I want to talk about a predominantly classical musician who could also play jazz beautifully, Andre Previn.

Previn was born in 1929 in Berlin. Luckily for the Jewish family, they were able to leave Germany before the war, arriving in the U.S. in 1938. Before the age of twenty Previn began arranging and composing for Metro-Goldwyn Mayer. He would go on to be involved in the music of more than fifty films and would win four Academy Awards. He served as music director of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and was chief conductor of the Royal Philharmonic. His last posting was as music director of the Oslo Philharmonic, a position he held until 2006.

Previn described himself as a musician who played jazz, rather than a jazz musician. Nevertheless, he proved to be a gifted jazz-piano interpreter and arranger of songs from the Great American Songbook. He worked as piano-accompanist to singers of jazz standards, from Ella Fitzgerald to Doris Day. He worked often as a trio pianist, usually with bass and drums, collaborating with dozens of famed jazz instrumentalists. Previn also memorably filmed TV shows with Oscar Peterson (1974) and Ella Fitzgerald (1979).

Previn's most famous jazz composition is the song Like Young, with lyrics written by Paul Francis Webster. I recommend you watch Ella's version of this song on YouTube. It has Herb Ellis on guitar and Bobby Short on piano. Ella is in top form, although watching these clips from Playboy's Penthouse is a bit cringe-worthy these days.

Dizzy Gillespie said of Previn "He has the flow, you know, which a lot of guys don't have and won't ever get. Yeah. I heard him play and I knew.

> "A lot of guys, they have the technique, the harmonic sense. They've got the perfect coordination. And, yeah, all that's necessary. But you need something more, you know?"

In his capacity as conductor, Previn enjoyed a long relationship with the medium of television. He featured in Meet André Previn (1969) on London Weekend Television. He made many guest appearances on shows such as a memorable appearance on the The Morecambe and Wise Show, with comedians Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, in 1971. This involved Previn conducting a performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto with Eric Morecambe as the inept soloist. Previn accuses Morecambe of playing "all the wrong notes"; Morecambe grits his teeth, grabs Previn by the lapels, and retorts that he has been playing "all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order". For a good laugh, find this skit on YouTube.

Previn died on February 28, 2019, aged 89. Few, if any, musicians managed to combine his skill as a jazz musician, classical composer and orchestra conductor at such a high level over the course of such a long career. What album would I recommend? Try The Jazz World Of Andre Previn. It has some wonderful tracks on it.

Before I go, I would like to mention the sad news of the death, at age 79, of composer/pianist Chick Corea. He recorded with Miles Davis' band and played a key role in helping the trumpeter make the transition to a more contemporary, plugged-in sound on albums like Bitches Brew. Following his work with Davis, he formed his own ground-breaking electric band, Return to Forever, which played some of the most vibrant and dynamic music of the fusion era. He was an innovative musician and a fine educator. Vale Chick Corea.

Chick Corea

QPRC

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
For Your Information

Council meetings and times

Members of the public are welcome back to our Council meetings from Wednesday 24 February.

Following months of community participation via Zoom, our Queanbeyan Chambers have been set up to accommodate both councillors and the community. Importantly, we still have the capacity to welcome you via Zoom if you are unable to make it to the meeting. If you are attending in person, we do ask that you check in with the Service NSW QR Code, respect the social distancing guidelines and if you aren't feeling well, please stay at home and join us online. We do have limited space in the Queanbeyan Chamber, but will have some overflow space available in the Bicentennial Hall.

The agenda for next Wednesday's meeting is available at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Minutes-Agendas**. If you'd like to make a presentation on any of the matters on the agenda, you can make a:

- Written presentation - submit by midday on Wednesday
- Zoom presentation - register by midday on Wednesday
- Verbal presentation - register by 5.30pm on Wednesday at the meeting

Register to make a presentation at **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Public-involvement-at-Council-meetings#section-2**

If all goes well in the Queanbeyan Chamber on Wednesday, we will start working on the Bungendore Chambers for future meetings.

Next meeting dates are:

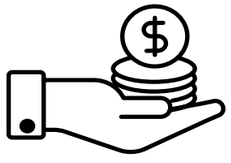
- 24 February - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 10 March - Planning and Strategy Committee Meeting

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.

Queanbeyan-Palerang clubGRANTS 2021

Category 1 Community Clubgrants



Each year ClubGRANTS helps tens of thousands of local community organisations, sporting groups, and charities to make a difference in their local area. Last year, clubs allocated more than $100 million to deserving causes through the ClubGRANTS program.

Get funding for your not-for-profit organisation by applying to complete your next project and help to support your community.

To be eligible to apply, you must be a not-for-profit organisation and provide: community welfare or social services, community development, community health services or employment assistance activities. You are also eligible if you or your organisation is involved in community or professional sport.

The funding round for QPRC opens on Monday 15 February 2021 and closes 28 March 2021.

Please see the website for more details on elibility and to apply **www.clubgrants.com.au**

Development Applications available online

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The applications on notice may include development applications and applications for modifications of development consents for designated development, State significant development, nominated integrated development, threatened species development and Class 1 aquaculture development. Find more information and links to documentation at **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/development-and-planning-public-notices**

Application number	DA.2021.1015
Applicant	Coe Planning Services
Property	Lot 1 DP 1018507 52 Ryrie Street BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622
Proposed development	Alterations and additions to existing dwelling
Consent authority	QPRC
Notification period	15 February to 16 March 2021
Relevant approval bodies	Office of Premier and Cabinet
Approvals required	Heritage Act 1977

Submissions

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.

Have Your Say

Projects and initiatives up for community comment	Close Date (2021)
Draft Cat Containment Area Policy	1 March
Proposed road closure Majara Street Bungendore	3 March
Queanbeyan STP Environmental Impact Statement	9 March
Monaro Street Upgrade	Ongoing
Renew 2620	Ongoing

For all items:

Find all the details for each of these projects 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 Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

Register through **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au** for updates and information about upcoming projects and proposals out for community comment.

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**

Joseph Jenkins swagg'n it.

Tinker, taylor, soldier ... farmer

Martin Royds questions the proficiency of our early 'farmers'

I read an article the other day that said, "we brought European farming techniques to Australia and they were inappropriate for our landscape".

We did not bring European farming techniques here. If you go to Europe you will see that they rest their land. They let it recover and fertilise it. Initially we didn't need do that. It was a land of abundance and we helped ourselves.

The reason is that the people who moved into farming were not farmers. We had ex-gold miners, who were very good at washing the soil away, or convicts, or police, or politicians.

We didn't get many farmers coming to Australia. It was people with no experience at all. But they were able to make huge amounts of money by just sticking a mob of sheep in a paddock and leaving them there.

The book, *Diary of a Welsh Swagman* tells the story of Joseph Jenkins who came to Australia in 1868 and wrote a diary. He was an acclaimed farmer from Wales. Something happened with his wife and family and he left them behind and decided to swag around Victoria for 20 years.

He was about 50 years old and he wrote in his diary every single day. He wrote of what the Australian landscape looked like, what the Australian 'farmers' were doing at the time.

"I cannot believe how productive this land is [yet] these farmers do not fertilise", he wrote. They didn't take any of the muck out of the cities and put it on their farms, which is what fertiliser was in 1868.

"They farm year after year after year the same crops" he said after he went to a place where they were growing huge onions for eight years straight.

> "We would never be able to do that in Europe. The soil would collapse."

But by the 1870s, he's writing about erosion gullies ripping up the valleys, how the farmers do not prepare for dry times or prepare for floods. He can't believe how poor the farming systems were.

Australian farmers did flog the place and as we went into the 1890s we had massive erosion and the country fell apart and the rabbits took over. Rabbits are an indicator of a collapsing landscape when they take off in plague proportions like that. Weeds too, are indicators of a collapsing ecosystem. We'd done so much of damage before 1880 and there are no photographs and few records.

When we look at Streeton's paintings of a blown out landscape with dead cows and dead trees we need to remember that it wasn't like that in the 1820s when the 'farmers' first arrived in Braidwood. Before that time it had beautiful pastures and fertile soils. The records tell of a soil that was damp and spongy.

After the Second World War, what did we again do? The Soldier Settlement Scheme sent blokes coming back from the war shell-shocked and busted and told them, 'Here's a block of land for you — farm it.'

They had little experience, and the people before them had no idea either. The Aborigines did, but we didn't listen to them. They did grow crops. They had murnong [yams] and grain crops. But we did not want to see that and we ignored it.

And in far too many corridors of power we're still ignoring it.

Braidwood Community Radio

Program Guide

Monday
5am – Good Morning Country
7am – Martins Morning Mix
4pm – Book Reading with Rod
5.30pm – The Green Horns with Nick, Violet & Hamish
8pm - It's Time
10pm - Aussie Music Weekly

Tuesday
5am – Good Morning Country
7am - The Fred Nurk Show
3pm – Bunkem, Faves & Raves with Rod & Bill
4pm - A Breath Of Fresh Air
5pm - Top 200 of the 70's
6.30pm – Real World Gardener
7pm – The Billy Bob Show
9.30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

Wednesday
5am – Good Morning Country
7am – Martins Morning Mix
10am - The Magazine with Disko
3pm – Pop Heads
6pm – Woodsongs Old Time Radio
7pm – Magic Carpet Ride with Cool Bill

Thursday
5am – Good Morning Country
12.30pm - The Parish Pump
1pm - The Billy Bob Retro Countdown
3pm – The Hot 30
7pm - I love the 70's
8pm - Simply The 80's
9pm - Hero of the Zero's
10pm - Off the Record

Friday
5am – Good Morning Country
7am - The Morning Mix with Martin
12.00 - The long Lunch with Disko
3pm – The Greenhouse with Violet
5pm - The Atomic Countdown
7pm - Raised On Rock

Saturday
9am – Mornings with Gavin & Roger
11.15am – The Parish Pump
12.00 – I love the 70's
1pm – A bit of this and that with Gavin
4pm – Blues in the Afternoon with Gavin
6pm – Saturday Night Gold

Sunday
7am – Sunday Classic with Martin
8am - Exploring the Classics with Barbara Jane
10am - Jazz on Sunday with Gavin
12.00 - Covers
3pm – Birds on a Wireless with Julie & Vera
6pm - Combined Church Service of Braidwood

For a full listing go to braidwoodradio.com.au

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Braidwood Uniting Church

King David was described as "a man after God's own heart."

David knew to depend on God when going through tough times. This kept him in the right frame of mind to face the many challenges he was confronted with. Psychology, too, tells us of the importance of keeping our mind focused on positive things: of the many health benefits of a life of gratitude. David journalled throughout the book of Psalms, pouring out his thoughts by writing prayers, poems and speeches. As the emotions are expressed and subside David often finds himself in a healthy place of gratitude. In Psalm 92 David reminds us of this as he prays to God, "It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening." And as he continues to focus on the positive, David declares, "You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me!" (V 4). As you walk through your week, may you too join with David and declare gratitude for the many good things God showers over us in Braidwood.

Blessings from Dr Julie Fletcher and the congregation of Braidwood Uniting Church. Worship 10am Sunday, Radio Church 6pm on Braidwood Community Radio, Weekly Garage Sale: Wednesdays 9-3. Cnr Duncan and Monkittee Streets, Braidwood.

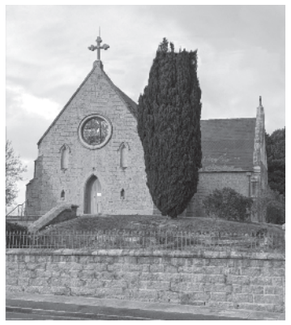
St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Mark 1:12-15 by Dianne Bergant

Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of



the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus's proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

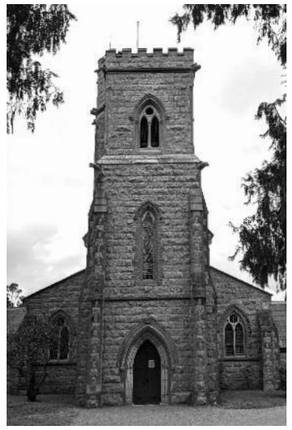
No weekday Masses until further notice.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

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

Social Justice group meets: 7 March at 10.30am in the Church.

Meet and Greet with St Bede's School teachers following Mass on 20th February. 'Drinks and Nibbles Under the Bell'. All provided and all welcome.



Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter.

In Western churches, it begins on Ash Wednesday. During Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection, Christians who observe Lent typically make a commitment to fast, or to give up something—a habit, like smoking, watching TV, swearing, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate, or coffee. Some Christians also take on a Lenten discipline, like reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God.

Strict observers of Lent do not eat meat on Fridays, often opting for fish instead. The goal of these spiritual disciplines is to strengthen the faith of the observer and develop a closer relationship with God.

Here are the important dates of Lent & when they occur in 2021

Important Dates of Lent

Brief Overview of Significance

- Ash Wednesday: The beginning of Lent, a day of reflection and repentance from sin. February 17, 2021
- Palm Sunday: Celebrates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. March 28, 2021
- Holy Week: The week leading up to Easter. March 28 – April 3, 2021
- Maundy Thursday: Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. April 1, 2021
- Good Friday: Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. April 2, 2021
- Easter Sunday: Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his victory over sin and death. April 4, 2021

All Braidwood churches will be holding services on these listed days. Check with your preferred church for service times.

Keep Persevering

Before you were born, God anticipated your arrival and had a specific plan for you. And that plan involves dealing with problems and overcoming obstacles because that's how character is developed. The mark of a successful person is his or her ability to see problems as opportunities instead of obstacles. And the most important lessons take place not when you celebrate the good times but persevere during the bad ones. Indeed, that's why the bad times make the good times so good!

If you know anything about the birth of baby giraffes, you'll know that the first parts to emerge are its front hooves and head. Then the entire calf appears, tumbles three metres to the ground, and lands on its back. Within seconds the baby rolls over and stands, struggling to move those gangly, untried legs. Then sometimes, an amazing thing happens. The mother giraffe positions herself directly over the newborn calk, looks it over, kicks it and sends it sprawling. If it doesn't get up – she kicks it again! And when it grows tired of the struggling, she kicks it again to stimulate its effort to stand. In fact, every time the baby manages to get to its feet, the mother kicks it again. Her actions may seem cruel to us, but she's preparing her child for survival. Unless that little calf learns to get up quickly and run with the herd when danger comes, it won't survive.

So, what's the lesson here?

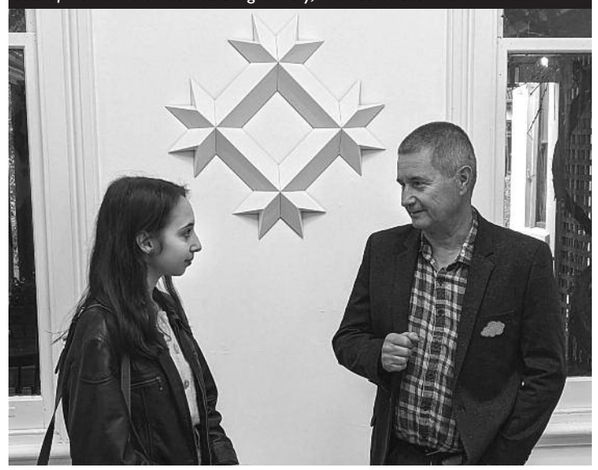
When life knocks you down – get back up (see Proverbs 24:16). During difficult times you learn some of your greatest life lessons through sheer determination and perseverance.

Marjorie Lemin

An extract from 'The Word for Today' a Vision Christian Media publication.

ABOUT THE PLACE

[above] Robyn Campbell and Altenburg Gallery's Cecil Galiazzo with a work from Robyn's 'Terrain' exhibition. [below] Changing Times intern Kate Rafferty with Gilbert Riedelbauch with a work in his 'Digital Fabrication' series. Both sets of works are on at Altenburg Gallery, Wallace Street until 6 March.



CLASSIFIEDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

Marshall 50yr celebration Electric Amp.
Messa Boogie Rect-O-Verb 50watt amp.
Laney A1+ Acoustic Amp. Fishman Loudbox Mini. Acoustic Amp.
Electric guitars: 'Gibson Firebird.
'Fender Strat. Jimmy Hendrix.
'Fender Strat. Ancho Pablano Custom Shop.
'Fender Strat. 1956. 60yro Anniversary.

A hand crafted Cutting Edge Strat.

Acoustic guitars.
'Takamine Santa Fe.
'Crafter TC035.
'Martin LXK2
'Maton AP5 Pro
'Cort L300V

Vintage semi acoustic.

1953 Hofner. Good original condition, hard case.
Braidwood 0408 065 433

On the Road 65Plus

Staying independent and safe

Residents of Araluen are invited to a FREE workshop on road safety, older drivers licencing and refresher of road rules.

Monday 8 March 2021
10am – noon
Araluen Federal Hall
Morning Tea provided

WANTED
Scottish Highlands cattle
Call: **0437 577 334**

0 20044 202002

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

Barefoot bowls

Gary Collard

It was great to see many family groups enjoying the night.

Next and final for this series will be held on Friday 26th, 5:30 register, 6:00 on the green.

Support from Braidwood Community Bank is appreciated as always.

Some photos from last Friday night:

Golf back to normal

Golf Club newsletter

Good luck to the Senior Men's Pennants team who will be playing their home game at Braidwood on Thursday 25 February.

The Match Committee has decided to remove the final COVID procedure of marking our own cards and all normal match procedures are now reinstated. All preferred lies remain in place for the foreseeable future.

The jackpot has finally been won! Well done to Mark Newman who placed his tee shot 750mm from the pin on the 3rd hole to take out the prize.

Results Saturday 20 February:

Men's 2BBB Stableford – Tom Duffy Trophy

Winners: Michael Toirkens and John Harb, 47 pts on a countback

Runners-up: Don Burke and Michael Tillman Ryan 47 points

Ball comp: N.Fry and R.Martin, A.Henry and R.Royds, B.Booker and A.Clark

Men's NTP: Andrew Clark

Women's 2BBB Stableford – Hyland Trophy

Winners: Deb Ferguson and Jackie Clark 44 points

Runners-up: Bec Bloomfield and Jackie Clark 41 points

Ball Comp: L.Stuart and F.McGrath

Women's NTP: Margy Gardner

Handicap changes: M.Tillman Ryan down to 30; R.Royds down to 19; D.Ferguson down to 18; R.Bloomfield down to 42

Coming events:

Saturday 27 Feb: Medley 2BBB Stableford, Ted Emmett Trophy

Sunday 28 Feb: Women's Brindabella Shield Pennant match, Gungahlin Lakes

Saturday March 6: Men's and Women's Stroke match – Monthly Medals

Sunday March 7: Women's Brindabella Shield Pennant match, RMC

STOP PRESS

FACEBOOK ROLLS OVER GOVERNMENT ROLLS OVER PUBLIC GETS ROLLED OVER SO SNAFU

Majors Creek cricket

Marcus Lyons

Seven players turned up from each side to play on a perfect Saturday morning.

It was decided to give each batsman 7 overs with 5 runs lost for every dismissal. After much good humour and shenanigans the game was declared a draw.

STAR TIMES

Sitbackrelaxdontlookout

A driverless car has once again hit a pedestrian causing much consternation. Perhaps we're on the wrong track anyway and we'd be better off investing in trains which, as a percentage of driver to passengers, are near as dammit driverless anyway. If pedestrians and cars share the same space then the armoured species will always beat the soft one out of its shell no matter who or what is attempting to be in control.

Youshouldagonebefore

A more pressing issue for gig boffins re driverless cars will be to sort out the destination input method. Will the car get annoyed if, just before reaching the destination after deftly avoiding contact with fickle human-controlled vehicles, you say, "Darn it all I might have left the gas on, we'll have to go back". Or your husband tells the car, "turn right here, it's much quicker" and the car says, "no I don't think so" ... and then you must play adjudicator.

Illuminationorobfuscation

The purpose and definition of quality journalism, hopefully, is to provide the most digestible information in the least words. Of course if you can't find a job as a journalist and need to slum it as a politician's media advisor, it's the other way round.

Abunchofsquigglesonpage

Ideas are darn amazing phenomena. They can pop into one's head at any time, day or night. A writer with skill can capture an idea, convert it to words not unlike cryptography. If the reader is blessed with a good sense of cryptanalysis, the vision of the writer is transferred intact to the reader, perhaps even improved. It's OCR at its best. Adobe Acrobat® thinks it does a good job of optical character recognition but even children perform better in ways it can't even dream.

Picturereplaces1000words

Why is it that the great classics have so few accounts of cats slipping on the lino or falling off the mantelpiece? Perhaps words for all their power are not as good at portraying side-splitting banality as a YouTube video.

Apieceofvealthatconsumes

And so to Facebook. Seductive but useful instant connection to friends and family. Sprinkle in a few news headlines that pique the interest and life seems complete. We now all exist as data sets and advertisers use the data to shape our views and consumption habits. Maybe every now and then revert to the old fashioned Facebook. Go to a library, sit, face book, turn pages and listen to what the writer is saying. Savour the pictures in your head, for when they go — there's only the cats.

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