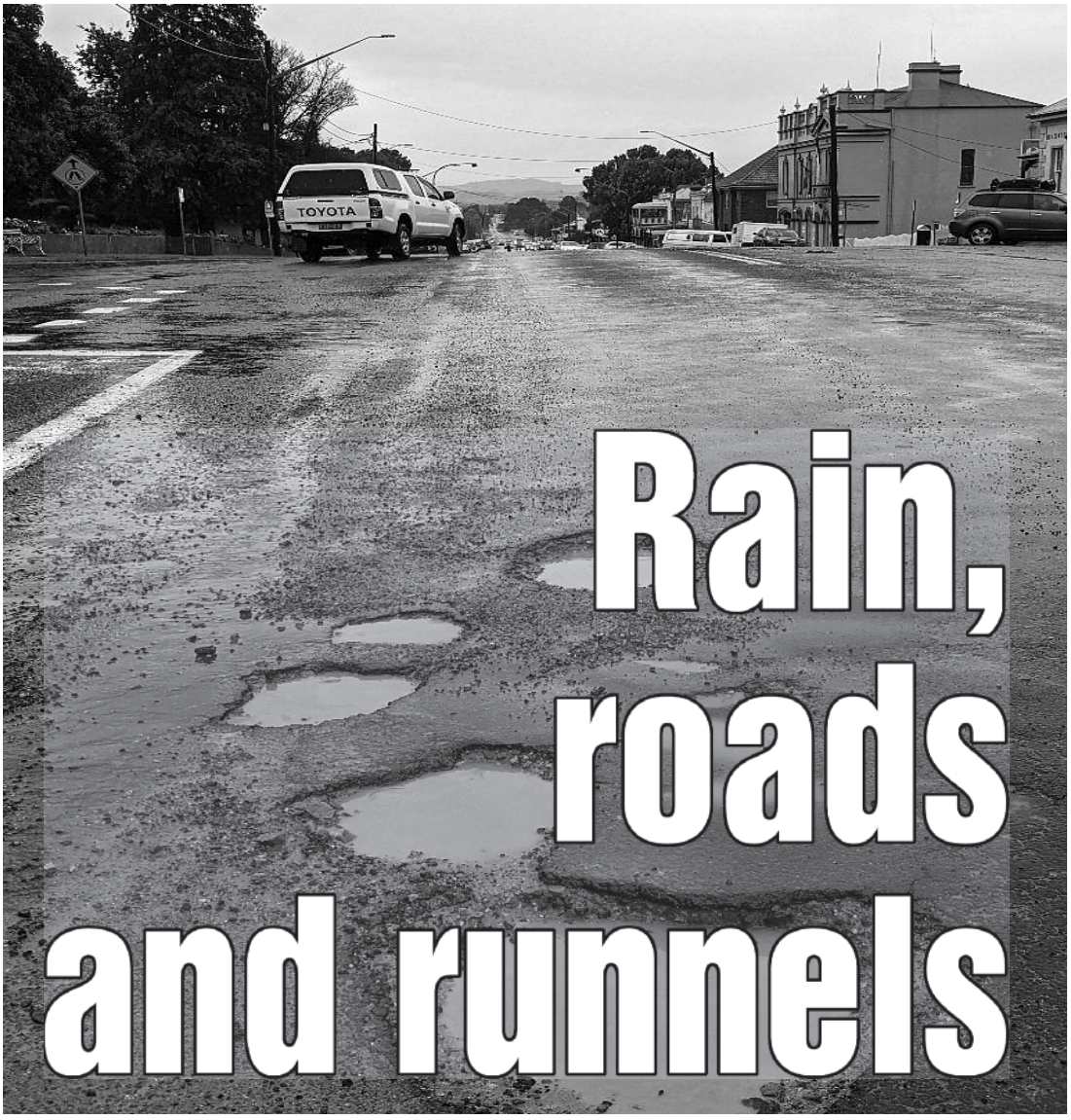
BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Issue #24 — $2.00

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	13°	22°	10%
Th:	12°	22°	40%
Fr:	8°	21°	20%
Sat:	8°	21°	20%
Sun:	7°	20°	30%
Mon	6°	20°	20%



Rain, roads and runnels

Robin Tennant-Wood

The last few days of intense rain have exacted a heavy toll on our local roads.

In particular, social media comments were made over the weekend from both local residents and those passing through regarding the potholes in Wallace Street.

One traveller posted a comment on the *Road Advice for Coast to Canberra and Goulburn* Facebook page suggesting that the Wallace Street potholes were the worst aspect of the trip from the coast:

Just drove from the bay to CBR... We counted 13 waterfalls on the Clyde ... there have been a couple of slips — but not affecting traffic. Biggest issue is the vicious potholes up and down Braidwood Main Street...

For clarification, the road we know as the Kings Highway, from Canberra to Batemans Bay, and which includes Solus St, the northern stretch of Wallace St and the eastern stretch of Lascelles St within the Braidwood town perimeter, is gazetted by the New South Wales Government under the *Roads Act 1993* as a State Road. This means that its maintenance is state government funded.

This does not mean, however, that the RMS sends out road maintenance crews. This job is outsourced to local government with state funding.

As the funding authority, the RMS assesses priorities for upgrades and repairs. To this end, there has been a lot of work over the past few years on the Kings Highway between Queanbeyan and Braidwood to improve the safety of what has been a state 'black spot'.

However, council is able to undertake urgent works or repairs on a state road where required and without prior authority. This means that the potholes in Wallace Street can be repaired by QPRC without first going to the RMS.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Look what he found!

When builder Frank Sells was working on the Old Anglican Hall the other day, he lifted floorboards in what was the 'Supper Room'.

Beneath the floor was a large stone hearth that had formed part of a fireplace when the room was part of the School Master's quarters in late 19th century.

Just by the hearth he found an old penny – dated 1920. It must have been dropped when the last major restoration & upgrade of the building was done in 1923.

Maybe Frank should drop a current coin for a future builder to discover a century hence?

Gill Burke

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant-Wood*

The pain of rain is always on the plain

Two words: flood and plain.

We've discovered this week, not for the first time, the folly of building cities, towns and suburbs on floodplains. Of course, these areas are attractive for development – they're typically flat, close to water and have fertile soil, all important factors when most of the towns along our coastal strip were established.

Yet, as early as 1817 Governor Macquarie wrote:

…it is impossible not to feel extremely displeased and Indignant at [settlers] Infatuated Obstinacy in persisting to Continue to reside with their Families, Flocks, Herds, and Grain on those Spots Subject to the Floods, and from whence they have often had their prosperity swept away …

It's not like we haven't known for a long time what happens to floodplains when it rains a lot.

The premier has repeatedly said that the weather system that has inundated NSW this week is a one-in-one-hundred-year event, but we know from experience and from climate stats that these events are becoming more and more frequent. We know that extreme weather events are becoming even more extreme. We were warned forty years ago that droughts would become longer and drier, floods bigger, cyclones and storms stronger, and that these weather patterns would speed up.

A 2017 NSW government report named the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley as having the highest flood risk in the state. Governor Macquarie probably could have told them that, but why look to history when you can commission an expensive report? The Valley covers 425 square kilometres of floodplain (those two words again: flood and plain) and most of it is underwater as this is being written.

Incredibly, however, the NSW government is planning to allow a further 134,000 houses to be built in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. That's 134,000 more families that will be at risk every time there's a flood. At what point do homes become uninsurable? There is a mountain of data and experience to show that flood mitigation measures such as raising the Warragamba Dam wall, in fact exacerbate flood risk rather than mitigate, but Infrastructure NSW doesn't appear to be taking any notice. It's all about economic development and disasters, as we know, are great for GDP.

There's an old adage that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. It seems that the 'infatuated obstinacy' that Governor Macquarie noted is still the driving force behind our urban planning. Or maybe it's just misplaced optimism – that it won't happen again or this time will be different or maybe the economy will save us.

The Gold Crusher as it was located in the rear area of the Braidwood Museum.

Gold crusher puts its stamp on Ryrie Park

Peter Smith

The dedication of the old Alma Mine gold crusher to its new site in Ryrie Park will be performed by QPRC Mayor Tim Overall at 10am on Saturday 27 March.

The Five-head stamper gold crusher is being moved from Braidwood Museum as part of Braidwood & District Historical Society's commitment to bring heritage items to the town.

The stamper battery was donated to BDHS in 1994 and will remain part of the collection of Braidwood Museum on loan to the community. The removal is timely as it makes room for the development of the Braidwood Heritage Centre.

The stamper battery was manufactured by PN Russell and Company who operated in Sydney from 1855 to 1875. It last saw service at the Alma Mine, Mongarlowe. New signage explains and illustrates how the crusher worked.

Gold was discovered near Ar-

Dargues dealing with the wet

Press release from the Mine

The Dargues Gold Mine wishes to inform our valued community that the team at Dargues has been working tirelessly to manage water during the extreme weather events of the last seven days.

All contaminated water systems are performing as designed and we are regularly inspecting them to ensure competency. Data from the Dargues weather station shows that we have had 250mm in the last 10 days and over 190mm in the last 7 days.

In accordance with the approved Water Management Plan, the ten-day design rainfall depth for sediment basins (110.4 mm) was exceeded several days ago. Therefore, these facilities are permitted to discharge via designated spillways, should the need arise. The sediment basins are operating as designed and the project is compliant with our approval and licence conditions.

Yesterday afternoon, one sediment basin was overtopping, and another was at full capacity. With the forecast for more significant rain today, we expect similar events to occur within the next 24-48 hours. The appropriate regulatory authorities have been advised of the situation.

While any sediment basin is overflowing, we will continue to operate in accordance with the Water Management Plan and implement the following:

- Continue pumping at full capacity to MWSD01 (if there is sufficient capacity) and to the irrigation fields; and
- Continue to undertake surface water monitoring at SW-1 to SW-6 and the relevant sediment basin.

We will continue to manage surface water onsite and work to prevent any material downstream impacts during these challenging times.

If you or any other community members require any additional information, please contact us via the Community Hotline on 1800 732 002 or via email on: dgm.community@aureliametals.com.au.

aluen in 1851 and was soon followed by discoveries at Bells Creek, Majors Creek, Jembaicumbene, Little River (Mongarlowe) and elsewhere in the district. The Southern Goldfields proved to be the largest and most consistent in New South Wales.

According to escort returns for six of the ten years between 1859 and 1869 the Braidwood goldfields were the biggest producers in New South Wales. Dredging continued in many areas of the district until the beginning of WWII. Today we have Dargues Gold Mine back in operation as new technology enables old areas to become profitable.

Placing the Gold Crusher in Ryrie Park will be a significant step in making Braidwood's story available to visitors and residents. It will serve as a monument and re-enforces the recognition of the importance of the goldfields in the development of Braidwood as the administrative and commercial centre of the Southern Goldfields.

Law and Order Exhibition

Following the unveiling of the Gold Crusher there will be the official opening of the Law and Order Exhibition at the Museum. Featured in the exhibition will be an explanation of why Law and Order was the dominant issue for Braidwood for its first 40 years.

On display will be extracts from the Braidwood Bench Books dating from 1837; relics from the Braidwood Gaol and references from the

The Gold Crusher being dismantled in preparation for the move to Ryrie Park.

Entrance Book; the original Police Black Book of suspected harbourers and sympathisers of the bushrangers; firearms on loan used against the bushrangers and by the police, interesting documents such as the original Will of John Clarke, father of the bushrangers and the original hand written Pass issued to a Party of Special Police in pursuit of the Clarke gang; plans and photographs of the since demolished Braidwood Gaol and original Court House.

Also featured will be an exhibition of paintings by Greg Willis. Greg's paintings tell the story of the Clarke Gang, not unlike Sidney Nolan's portrayal of the Kelly Gang, except in a very different style. Greg lives at Narooma and is a direct descendant of Catherine Clarke, the youngest sibling of the bushrangers. Greg will be present to tell his story.

Heritage Golf Day

John Stahel

The Braidwood & District Historical Society, in conjunction with the Australian Golf Heritage Association have organised a tournament to celebrate the game's history and the role sporting clubs have played in the wellbeing of our community.

The Braidwood Golf Club started in 1913 with games being played on 'The Common'. Later, a course was laid out at the racecourse and used until 1951 when the present course was opened at the Servicemen's Club.

The Heritage Golf Day will be played with hickory shafted clubs, which were the normal equipment used until well into the C20th. Wooden drivers, brassies, niblicks and mashie niblicks will be provided by AGHS.

Players are encouraged to dress for the occasion. I look forward to providing our match report.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics confirmed in Southern NSW

Southern NSW Local Health District

SNSWLHD has confirmed new COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations for health workers starting Thursday 18 March.

The new outreach clinics will be supported by the Wollongong Hospital hub and are in addition to those already available for SNSWLHD staff at South East Regional Hospital, Liverpool Hospital and the Canberra Hospital.

Second doses for Phase 1a staff will begin from 23 March, across multiple sites.

Phase 1b SNSWLHD staff have started receiving COVID-19 vaccinations at some locations where Phase 1a vaccinations have finished. Phase 1b includes all health workers.

Southern NSW Local Health District Vaccination Coordinator Leanne Ovington is pleased with the progress and efficiency of the COVID-19 vaccination roll out.

"The new outreach clinics will help us reach the last Priority 1a staff still to be vaccinated. Starting vaccinations of our Priority 1b workers is an exciting milestone for our District," Ms Ovington said.

The outreach clinics planned in collaboration with Wollongong Hospital are:

- **18 March – Cooma**
- **23-26 March – Goulburn**
- **8 April – Cooma (second dose)**
- **13-16 April – Goulburn (second dose)**
- **20 April – Braidwood**
- **11 May – Braidwood (second dose)**

Phase 1a staff who wish to receive the vaccination prior to these outreach clinics can still travel to Liverpool if they wish, there will also be opportunity to travel to Wollongong from 15 March.

Phase 1a staff from Queanbeyan and Yass will continue to receive their vaccination in the ACT.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

If you love the heritage town of Braidwood, please be aware that the QPRC, through their enforcement of the recent Building Code of Australia (BCA), is determined to convert this unique Australian town into a modern theme park.

If you disliked the metal hand rails on the Albion Hotel, you haven't seen anything yet. The BCA will ensure modernisation of all our heritage buildings, thereby resulting in the permanent loss of real character to Braidwood.

Regarding my own shop at 130 Wallace St, Braidwood, a shop that took me 3 years P/T to renovate and one that received not only positive comments from the then QPRC Heritage Advisor but also a QPRC Heritage Award in 2017 ('Highly Commended - Restoration of a Heritage Building') I am now told the Baltic Pine Regency lining boards on the shop ceiling must be covered with concrete fire-proof panels. Aside of the appearance, the massive weight on a 160+ year old structure is also a concern.

In addition, the timber external stairs to the flat above the shop must go. These have to be replaced with modern steel stairs. How will this look?

And while the enforcement of the BCA will eventually impact every heritage building in town, the 'Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards' Act of 2010 has not yet been applied to this old building. Such application would mean all original (narrow) doorways in our old buildings are at risk for not allowing wheelchair access and thereby discriminating against the disabled.

We have a council offering Heritage Awards, Heritage Grants etc. yet I fail to understand the direction they intend to go in with regard to Braidwood. What is the Council's long term vision for Braidwood?

My shop continues to remain closed while this nonsense is sorted. First, we had the fires and the closed roads, then we had Covid and the lockdowns, then the recession and now we have the QPRC and the BCA. None of which have been of any help to a small business in Braidwood.

I would like to know how Victoria applies the BCA, as I don't see their Heritage towns facing the same threat.

While I understand the reasoning behind the BCA, it simply doesn't work with the preservation of a heritage town. We need intelligent people to review this situation, not sheep so willing to go along with whatever bureaucratic rules are placed in front of them. Is there any commonsense still out there?

Derek Duffy
Braidwood

COVID-19 is a 'serious risk'

At least 80 per cent of Australians aged over 70 years are at high risk of serious illness or death if they contract COVID-19, according to a new study by the University of South Australia.

People with high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes and cancer are more vulnerable to poor outcomes if they contract COVID-19 and having more than one of these conditions increases the risks. The study, published in the *Australian Journal of General Practice*, involved 103,422 Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients. It revealed that more than 80 per cent had at least one risk factor for COVID-19, half of them had two risk factors, and 20 per cent had more than three risk factors, including immune-related diseases and diabetes.

Of the older Australians living in the community – who comprised 88 per cent of the study participants – the most common condition was high blood pressure followed by heart disease. Those living in residential aged care (RAC), had slightly lower rates of high blood pressure but had higher rates of heart disease, respiratory conditions, and kidney disease.

Lead author Associate Professor Nicole Pratt, Deputy Director of the Quality Use of Medicines and Pharmacy Research Centre at UniSA, says the findings align with evidence from other countries where patients have been admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

Burnt out local environment receives funding support

Media release from Kristy McBain, Member for Eden-Monaro

Community organisations across Eden-Monaro have received much needed funding to support their ongoing work to repair and restore our shattered environment in the wake of the Black Summer Bushfires.

Over $1 million has been allocated to groups from the Bega Valley, Snowy Valleys, Snowy Monaro, and Queanbeyan-Palerang regions from the Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and Habitat Community Grants Program.

I am delighted to see this money flow to these committed organisations who have responded to the distress they see and feel in the landscape around us.

The environment is central to the identity of Eden-Monaro and I know many people have been carrying great sadness about the scar inflicted on our fauna and flora.

Eighty-eight projects from the $10 million fund have been announced by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

Locally they include:

- Snowy Valleys Bush Fire Recovery-Wildlife and Habitat Corridors & Reserves Project - $150,000, to assess areas of native habitat and map bushfire affected corridors and adjacent public lands to manage and implement weed treatment regimens.
- Monaro Farmers Support Spotted-tail Quoll Project - $118,000, for the integration of native tree corridors, stock exclusion fencing, targeted tree planting and weed control to supplement grassy woodland and stabilise the soil and provide habitat for the quoll.
- Wildlife Resilience Project, with a Little Help from our Friends - $150,000, focusing on Barraboo Creek (between Cobargo and Quaama) habitat and erosion rehabilitation through community workshops, cultural burns and stock exclusion fencing.
- Reintroducing Pseudomys (native rodents) Project - $150,000, for the successful release of captive-bred Smoky Mice and New Holland Mouse back into their home range state of Nullica, NSW and Googong NSW.

For a full list of grant recipients check the department's website.

Recovery is a long road for the people and places of Eden-Monaro, this funding from the government needs to be seen as just the start.

Our environment will need ongoing support for some time to come, and that work needs to be seen as an investment in the community and local economy.

to 80% of older Australians

"In the US for example, 70 per cent of older patients admitted for COVID-19 in the past year had high blood pressure, 43 per cent had diabetes and 29 per cent suffered from cardiopulmonary diseases," Assoc Prof Pratt says.

"A quarter of the older Australians that we studied live with an autoimmunity condition like cancer or may be taking medicines that suppress their immune systems and one in five has diabetes. These conditions carry a far higher risk for COVID-19 than some other conditions."

The latest statistics released by the Federal Government show that of the 904 Australians who have died of COVID-19, 94 per cent of them are aged 70 years and older.

Since the study was completed, the Government has started rolling out the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines to Australia's most vulnerable and frontline workers, including 30,000 aged care residents and staff across the country.

"Our findings highlight the urgent need for older Australians to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible," Assoc Prof Pratt says.

COVID-19 vaccination eligibility dates are available from:

https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/

OR SCAN THE QR CODE:

Rural Aid's photography competition on again

First placed winner in 2020, Kristin Walsh from the Riverina.

The hugely popular *Spirit of the Bush* photography competition has returned in 2021.

Rural Aid is today putting the call out to shutter bugs of all ages and abilities to submit their most stunning photographs of life on the land.

The winning photographs will be turned into a beautiful 2022 calendar, that will be available to purchase.

In the popular 2020 competition, Rural Aid received more than 700 photographic submissions, making it a very tough job for CEO John Warlters to choose his top snaps.

"The creative talent in the bush is outstanding and I'm always blown away by the images Rural Aid is sent," Mr Warlters said.

"Last time we ran this competition, most photographs poignantly depicted the heartbreaking reality of drought. I hope that this time round, all of our farmers have been given the chance to capture some happier pictures. I'm excited to see green shoots, frolics in the rain and fattened livestock," Mr Warlters said.

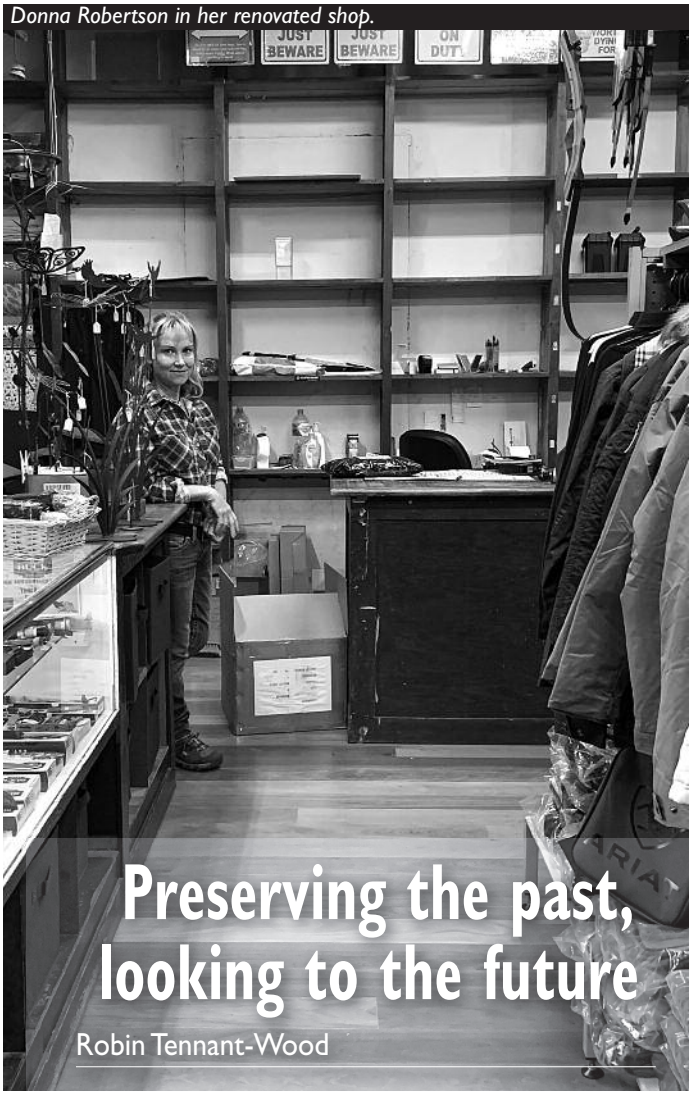
A panel of judges will determine the best bush snaps, based on twelve categories.

1. Farming Generations
2. Drought
3. Fire
4. Flood
5. Life On A Farm
6. Farm Animals
7. Rural Women
8. Rural Men
9. Outback Kids
10. Rural Landscapes
11. Man's Best Friend
12. Small Towns

Winners will be awarded a feature in the 2022 calendar, and a Rural Aid prize pack.

Photos can be submitted via: https://woobox.com/srqwkg up until 5pm (AEST) on Monday, 31st May 2021.

See the ruralaid.org.au website for the full list of Terms and Conditions.



Donna Robertson in her renovated shop.

Preserving the past, looking to the future

Robin Tennant-Wood

When the floor behind the counter at Braidwood Outdoors started to give way, owner, Donna Robertson, knew it was time to take action.

The shop closed for a month while the old floor was pulled up and a new one installed. The building, which is around 110-130 years old and was originally two shops, still had the original floor. One of the original businesses in the shop was a photographer, and Donna thinks the other was a funeral parlour.

Did they find anything interesting under the floor when they pulled it up? "Not really," said Donna. "A few old glass photographic plates, some shillings and pennies and an old beer bottle from about the 50s."

Rather than just throw out the timber that was pulled up, Donna salvaged the best boards and joists and those have been used in the construction of the new shelving.

"I'd have liked to have used the old floor for the shelves, but the timber was just too fragile," said Donna. Instead, the old floorboards form a rustic backdrop to the shelves while the joists are now the frame for the new shelves.

"We still haven't put everything back," said Donna. But the shop is up and running again.

The new floor is brush box and should be good for another century or so.

Braidwood artist in Sydney show

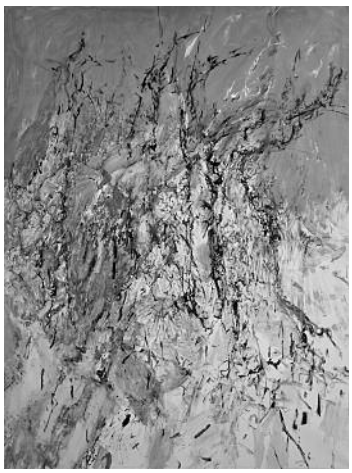
Robin Tennant-Wood

Following on from the outstanding success and reach of the exhibition, *River on the Brink: Inside the Murray-Darling Basin*, curated by Gavin Wilson for the S H Ervin Gallery in 2019, a forthcoming exhibition at the same gallery, addressing equally significant environmental issues, includes a number of major works by Braidwood artist, John R Walker.

Tree of Life: a testament to endurance is an exhibition by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian artists who are concerned for the environment and natural world, and understand the deep spiritual and physical associations that connect all forms of life.

Gallery statement:

As we cautiously emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, humanity is faced with a stark reckoning. The concept for *Tree of Life* is the central motif that signifies the challenges we face. What remains of the natural world is the one beacon in a perilous age of drought, fire, floods and plague, exacerbated by the constant reality of climate change. The recent horrific fire season experienced across the country will go down as the greatest extinction event for Australian wildlife and habitats since Colonisation.


John R Walker Fireground I (for Bruce R) *2020 — archival oil on polyester canvas 244 x 182 cm*

To temper an already dangerous over reaction to the vexed issues of hazard reduction, tree thinning and further rampant land clearing, this major exhibition led by First Nations artists will generate a fresh, positive energy towards the reclamation of diminishing natural resources. Threads woven through *Tree of Life* will recognise the deep spiritual and physical associations that connect all forms of life. Life that must be nurtured as we chart a course of action through this perilous age of climate change, pandemics and wildfires.

Tree of Life will be on show at the SH Ervin Gallery, 2 Watson Rd, Millers Point, 10 April to 30 May.

Cantors singing into Space

Gill Burke

Last Monday the Braidwood Cantors made an important recording, singing as part of the SETI 'Earthling Project'.

The SETI Institute is a California-based scientific research organisation focusing on outer space – the letters stand for 'Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligences'. Its scientists are involved in space missions and exploring the far heavens.

To bring Science and the Arts closer together SETI have an Artist-in-Residence programme. The current artist is noted composer Felipe Pérez Santiago who collaborated with astronomer Dr Jill Tarter – co-founder of the SETI Institute, to produce the Earthling Project. Launched in December last year, the Project aims to collect songs from people worldwide then use them to create a musical composition to send into space. This will then be beamed into deep space by going first to the moon on board the Peregrine lunar lander sitting on a NASA Vulcan rocket.

The songs can be songs of joy or grief; lullabies, children's or work songs or whatever the singer wishes but each has to be quite short. When 10,000 voices have been collected Pérez Santiago will create a composition from them representing 'the sounds of humanity'. Recording is done via the Project's App. Later the submitted songs and the subsequent composition will be made available on music streaming services.

The Cantors sang one of their favourite rounds 'Music Alone Shall Live'. It seemed very appropriate for the Project. It goes like this:

"All things shall perish from under the sky
Music alone shall live
Music alone shall live
Music alone shall live
Never to die."

Singing with the Cantors is always pleasant and new members are welcome. There's no audition process and you don't even need to read music. Just come along on Monday evenings at 7.30. Come to The Silken Tent, 7 Clyde Street (on the east side of the Recreation ground) and have a go.

Tidy Towns success for local projects

Robin Tennant-Wood

Four very different sustainability projects in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Region have taken out awards in the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards.

Bottle collection pays off

1st Braidwood Scouts won first prize in the Return and Earn Litter Prevention for their project to collect bottles from public events and provide a collection point for local residents. As reported in the last issue of the Changing Times, this has also been a successful fundraiser for our local scouting community, enabling them to upgrade their facilities and provide an even greater range of activities for the scouts of all ages.

Bringing farmers together for land rehab

The Mulloon Institute won the Response to Climate Change award for an ambitious project to rehydrate the landscape, capture carbon in the process and cool the earth.

The 'Mulloon Creek Rehydration Initiative –Stage 1' project is one element of the much larger catchment scale project, which is unique in Australia, not only because it has 20 farmers working together across 20,000 hectares committed to restoring natural landscape function but because of the detailed level of scientific monitoring associated with it. Stage 1 involves 1,000 hectares and three properties.

CEO of the Mulloon Institute, Carolyn Hall said, "At a time when the world is looking for solutions to reduce the impact of climate change, specifically global warming, this award is a great recognition of the important role agriculture can play, while working in unison with nature, to move the sector from a net emitter of carbon dioxide to a sequester of carbon.

"Soil can hold three times the amount of carbon than is currently in the atmosphere. Our work in rehydrating the land puts more water into the soil, which improves carbon levels and helps grow more vegetation. This in turn increases transpiration which reduces heat levels in the atmosphere. At a local catchment level, it helps farmers become more resilient to drought, fire and flood".

Mulloon Institute's ultimate goal is to rehydrate and rehabilitate 2.5 million hectares of agricultural land and to improve the resilience, productivity and profitability of over 5,000 farming families through its works, advice and support. This Stage 1 project is jointly funded through The Mulloon Institute, the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees program, the Australian Government's Green Army, the NSW Environmental Trust's Restoration and Rehabilitation Fund, the NSW Environmental Trust's Saving our Species –Scarlet Robin program, and South East Local Land Services' Rural Landscapes Program.

Little festival, big impact

The Majors Creek Festival has been a 'zero waste' event since the early 2000s when the then South-East Waste Board introduced an organic waste and recycling system for the festival to reduce waste to landfill.

This year the festival has been awarded the Environmental Communication Award for their Waste Management and Sustainability Engagement program.

Festival director, Hannah Gillespie, took time out from holidaying in North Queensland, to tell the Changing Times that, "It's wonderful for Majors to receive this kind of recognition for our work in the sustainable event space.

"We're especially grateful to Vanessa (Palmer) and her team of wonderful volunteers who are not afraid to get their hands dirty. But in addition, it provides the committee with inspiration to keep improving and innovating until we can reach the zero waste target we are reaching for.

"While the festival has been heavily hit by restrictions and costs associated with COVID we are continuing our work in the background and looking forward to the best and greenest Majors Creek Festival ever in November 2022."

Citizen scientists to the fore

QPRC's Citizen Science Platypus and Rakali Monitoring Program has received the award in the Habitat and Conservation category.

The program encourages residents in Queanbeyan-Palerang region to record any sightings of platypus and rakali via an interactive platform through the QPRC website. In 2020, a total of 57 people recorded sightings of 71 platypus and 82 rakali. This enables council as well as wildlife researchers to pinpoint where these two species are prevalent and where habitat needs to be preserved or rehabilitated.

The full 2020 report can be viewed at:
https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/waste-and-environment/environment/platypus-and-rakali-2020-annual-sightings-report.pdf
Or scan the QR code and a PDF will be downloaded to somewhere on your device.

REGIONAL REAL ESTATE

Braidwood $475,000

18 Monkittee Street,

Only 10 years young, this modern home offers the investor a foot into the market and the homeowner an affordable place to call home.

Situated on a large block of 1,512 sqm, this home features a open plan living room with fireplace and vault ceilings, modern kitchen, two good size bedrooms with built ins and a modern bathroom.

Opening out off the dining room is a large deck overlooking the garden and a single garage plus garden shed.

Boro EOI

24 Kings Creek Lane,

This small acreage has a Barn Style Home, horse stables with tac room, chicken pen and veggie garden.

THE HOUSE is colourbond construction and offers a generous size open plan living with cosy fireplace and reverse cycle air conditioning downstairs.

THE LAND is 17 acres or 6.75 HA (approx.) great for a few horses, hand full of sheep or alpacas. It's divided into 4 paddocks plus 1 dam and a small water hole.

Mitchell Smithers
0427 637 257
Suzanne Carter
0473 888 337

RayWhite.

Modern Home with Glorious Country Views !

- 3 bedroom / 2 bath / 1 car - 200m² floorplan
- Located at edge of estate for your quiet enjoyment
- Easy-care home garden PLUS Community Vegetable Garden
- 5000 litre rainwater tank & no water costs
- 5.7kW Solar System giving nil or very low power bills
- Outdoor living with pull down awnings for all weather use
- Enjoy community facilities of -
  heated indoor pool / gymnasium / clubhouse / arts & craft rooms / 1 bed apartment for visitors
- Summerfield is a boutique Over 55s estate of 56 Villas
- Priced at $629,000

For an inspection call –
Jane Mackenzie-Ross
0400 472 577

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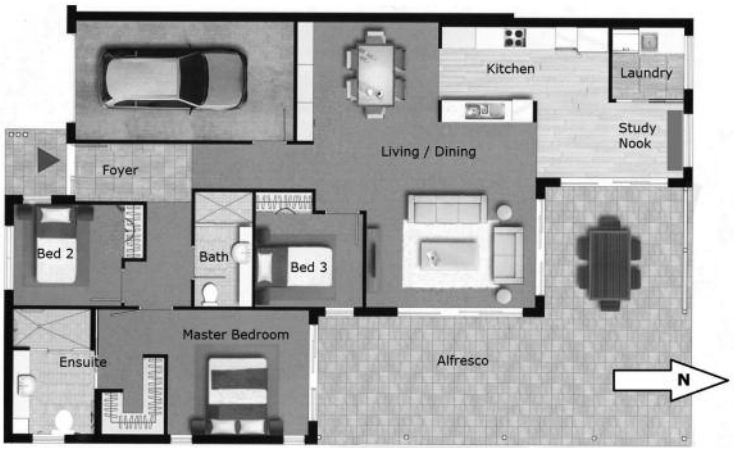


Outstanding local stude boost by Braidwood & B Community Bank schol

Palerang Financial Services Ltd once again takes pleasure in announcing the recipients of The Braidwood & Bungendore Community Bank scholarships.

This year's successful applicants were Willough Corby and Sam Daniher from Braidwood, and Maddison Darmody-Neumann and Sophia Holloway from Bungendore. Two additional bursaries were also awarded – one each to Grace Swan and India Hawkins from Bungendore.

This scholarship program was launched in the Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank Branch for the first time in 2012. It was a Scholarship awarded to first year tertiary students whose financial circumstances might mean that a university degree is out of their reach. Since that time, the Community Bank has maintained it's sup-

LIONS CLUB *John Tuckwell*

Braidwood Lions entertained by evening with Keith Potger

The Braidwood 'Ladies' Dinner night at the Royal Mail on Tuesday 16 March was a very special occasion with Keith Potger and his partner Elizabeth Hawkes being the guests of honour.

It was very appropriate that Keith spent an evening with the Lions as his middle name is Leon which translated into English means Lion. Keith provided a most entertaining evening of music and anecdotes, some of which were hilarious and some very touching. The Lions felt so privileged to be entertained by such humble but leading and eternally young musician (Happy 80th Birthday to Keith on 21 March).

In other news, Lions Officeholders have been re-elected for another year, with Frank Hansby as President, Laurie Ffrench as Secretary and Ken Thomas as Secretary. There are also a number of new members joining Lions who have significantly reduced the average age, including: Murray Harrex, Peter van Rijswijk, Leigh Curtis, James Godbee and Damien Cambell-Davis.

New members always welcome. Interested males please contact Laurie Ffrench on 0408 465 008.

Q: Which group was the first ever to reach number one in the UK charts with their first three singles and which Australian group was the first to have a number one hit in the US charts?

A: The Seekers.

Lion Laurie Ffrench, Lion Jamie Raynolds (and host) and Keith 'Lion' Potger.

ents given a Bungendore arships

port of local students, growing and adapting each year to requirements deemed necessary as the community circumstances also change. TAFE students are now included in the program and funding is not limited to one or two successful applicants, but rather, consideration is given to a wider cross section of eligible students and based very much on making study possible.

Chairman Palerang Financial Services Community Bank Branch, Shane Holness, said he was thrilled to offer these students the chance to further their education.

Shane said, "We want to make a difference to outstanding, local students who would otherwise be unable to start higher education because accommodation and study costs put considerable financial pressures on a family.

"There are families in our community facing great difficulties such as drought, natural disasters, debt and unemployment, meaning some students may not get the chance to enjoy further education.

Young people in a number of communities across Australia, including ours, will now have the chance to become professionals and skilled tradespeople, so its impact will be valuable for many people."

Scholarship coordinator Dale Towell, said this year's applicants were outstanding and it was with much pleasure that the Advisory Committee was able to chat with each one. Being part of the process where lives are enhanced and opportunities are opened to those deserving of support, is nothing less than an honour. Dale only wishes that every applicant could have received benefit but at the same time, is confident that each one she 'met' has the talent and strength to achieve whatever they choose to do in life.

Dale went on to say, "if this sample of young citizens is any indication of the generation emerging, we are in good hands. They are a credit to their families and I look forward to hearing how their lives progress. Everyone at Palerang Financial Services wish each one all the very best in the years ahead".

This is another way that our Community Bank® company commits to building stronger communities.

The Braidwood & Bungendore Community Bank Scholarship is part of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship Program, with several Community Bank branches and other partners taking part from across Australia.

For more information about the 2021 Scholarships, visit www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/scholarships.

'Aquilegia Vulgaris', *Julian Suitor. Medium: Iron*

Brag members' talent and diversity

Robin Tennant-Wood

The Braidwood Regional Arts Group's annual Members' Exhibition opens this Friday and again, after a year off due to COVID, the breadth and depth of talent in this relatively small community is on display.

The *Changing Times* had a preview during the week. Hanging the exhibition on Monday, Maggie Hickey, said that while it's not the biggest exhibition the group has mounted in terms of quantity of work, it's the biggest in terms of previously unexhibited members submitting works.

"We've got so many pieces by new members and people who haven't previously exhibited,' she said. There's also a lot of diversity in the work. "I think this is one of the effects of COVID. People have had the time to experiment." Several regular exhibitors have tried new approaches or new media with the results of their innovations on show.

Well-known local artists, such as Kate Carruthers, Robin Wallace-Crabbe and Merrilyn Rice have all submitted work in their distinctive styles. New exhibitor, Barbara Merrony, has a pastel work on display that is reminiscent of a Dutch master, with evocative light highlighting a calm domestic scene. Virginia Wallace-Crabbe has submitted a couple of works in which she's taken a new direction in medium, painting on corrugated iron.

Unlike BRAG's last exhibition, the powerful *Art on Fire* exhibition held late last year, the Member's Exhibition has no theme. "This is always for the artists' own expression," Maggie said.

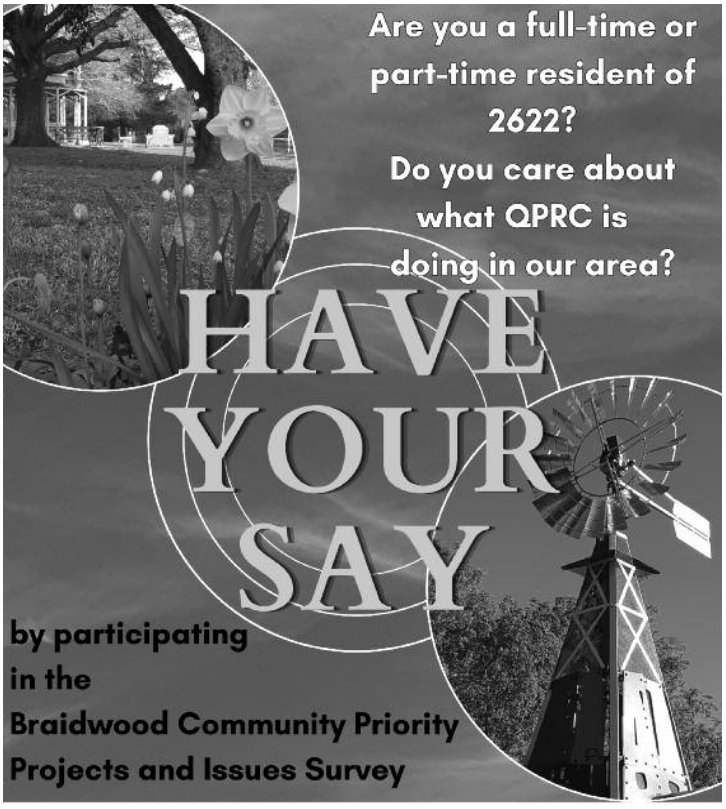
This year there will also be a slightly different approach to showing the event. As well as the Opening Night and usual opening hours, the exhibition will also have a social occasion on the evening of 9 April.

Kylie Dominick explained that this will be an event for people to come along and socialise, mingle and have fun with great food and live music from 7.00pm.

"The bar will be open, we'll have a live band playing, there'll be great food and we hope people just want to come along and enjoy themselves," said Kylie.

The BRAG Members' Exhibition opens this Friday night, 26 March at 6.00pm. It will be open every Saturday and Sunday until 11 April, as well as Mondays 29 March and 5 April and from 4.00pm on Friday 9 April.

BRAG AFTER HOURS
Friday 9 April
Live music from 7pm
***** GOOD FOOD *****
ART VIEWING & SALES 'TIL 9pm



www.surveymonkey.com /r/BLCZYLK or use this QR Code

closes on 26 March 2021

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BCA NEWS — Sue Murray

The roads ahead

Braidwood Road Projects were the main topic of discussion at the Braidwood Community Association meeting held on Tuesday March 16th at the Club.

Lascelles Street

The long-awaited plans for the Lascelles St upgrade were revealed by Derek Tooth from QPRC. Apart from rehabilitating the road surface between Wallace St and Ryrie St, there will be major improvements to stormwater drainage along Lascelles and Wallace Sts, changes to pavements and replacement of existing trees. New plantings of Chinese Pistachio and Gleditsia (Honey Locust) trees will replace the existing trees.

Kerb extensions and a pedestrian refuge at the corner will make this a safer crossing for pedestrians. The kerb extensions will also deter heavy vehicle traffic from using this as an access route.

The plans do NOT include a roundabout, and the existing "give way" arrangements will not change. It is hoped that the work will start in August and be completed by December.

Nerriga Road

Barry Osmond from QPRC explained the plans for the intersection of the Nerriga Road and the Kings Hwy. This upgrade is Stage 4 of the improvements to the Nerriga Road, funded from the Monaro Palerang Roads Package. The intersection needs upgrading as the Nerriga Rd is a designated heavy haulage route.

Monkittee Creek Bridge

The Monkittee Creek Bridge pedestrian pathway was discussed. Barry explained that while there is funding from Transport for NSW for the proposed railing alongside the path on the bridge itself, there is no funding yet for the pathways on each side.

This is a dangerous crossing for pedestrians, and the long-term plan is to build a separate pedestrian bridge. Again this is dependent on funding. The BCA will continue to lobby for the required funding for the footpaths and eventually a separate bridge.

"Have You Say"

A reminder to all residents to complete our "Have Your Say" survey currently underway. You can nominate the issues and projects that are important to YOU. Complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLCZYLK. Not online? Paper copies are available at Bendigo Bank, the library, the Club and The Visitors Information Centre. Responses are need by 5pm on March 26th, in time for a submission to Council before the QPRC Operational Plan for 2021-22 is finalised.

Neighbours Day

Come and help celebrate Neighbours Day with us on Sunday March 28th in North Ryrie Park, where a community picnic will be held from 12.00 to 2.00pm. BYO picnic, kids, a picnic blanket, and join us for a chat with friends and neighbours. New residents are very welcome to come and introduce yourselves. This is an informal gathering to celebrate what a great community we live in, and the social connections which help us in both good times and bad.

MUSIC MATTERS David McClymont

I'm sure you all noticed that the U.S. Grammy Awards ceremony was held on 15th March.

The Australian equivalent of the Grammy Awards is the ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) Awards which is held in November. As these awards carry with them considerable status for the nominees and the winners, I thought this week I would talk a little about them.

The Grammy is any of a series of awards presented annually in the United States by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS; commonly called the Recording Academy) to recognize achievement in the music industry.

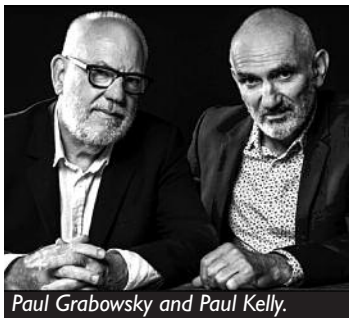
Winners are selected from more than 25 fields, which cover such genres as pop, rock, rap, rhythm and blues (R&B), country etc as well as production and post-production work, including packaging and album notes. Four general awards are also given for record, album, song of the year, and best new artist; in total more than 75 awards are presented. Those who win a Grammy receive a golden statuette of a gramophone.

Since the first Grammy Awards ceremony in 1959, the statuette presented to winners is a gold-plated gramophone, also known as a phonograph or record player. The name Grammy is an homage to the gramophone and its revolutionary impact on the music industry. Winners included Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and the Kingston Trio.

The number of awards has increased as musical genres have emerged. Rock was first recognized as a genre by the academy at the 1980 ceremony and rap at the 1989 presentation. An award for best music video was first handed out in 1982 to acknowledge the growing influence of the medium.

The ARIAs are the flagship event of the Australian music calendar - a celebration of all that is great and popular in local music.

The very first ARIA Awards were held in 1987 at the Sheraton Wentworth Hotel in Sydney, recognising excellence and innovation across all genres of Australian music. Those very first ARIAs were hosted by Sir Elton John and winners included INXS, Crowded House and a young John Farnham. Since that time, the



Paul Grabowsky and Paul Kelly.

ARIA Awards have developed into Australia's pinnacle Awards ceremony, forging careers and playing host to countless memorable moments and performances.

ARIA members can be artists, record companies, CD distributors, manufacturers, etc. Each year, all ARIA members are contacted by the ARIA Awards Event Producer with details on how to submit recordings for consideration by the ARIA Awards judging panel.

Six categories are judged by the Voting Academy which consists of up to 800 representatives from every area of the music industry ('Academy'). Five awards are determined by popular vote. These are song of the year, best international artist, best Australian live act, best video and Telstra ARIA music teacher award.

So, what about winners this year? Well, as far as the Grammys go, Taylor Swift won the album of the year and Billie Eilish won the song of the year. I am not in a position to comment on either winner. However, in the 'lifetime achievement' category, Lionel Hampton won a gong.

If you haven't heard of Lionel Hampton, he was the vibraphone player with 'The King of Swing', Benny Goodman, in the 1930's. Truly a great musician. But, the poor fellow died in 2002! Why did it take so long to recognise him? On another note, I recommend you have a listen to jazz vocal nominee Carmen Lundy, a very skilful, innovative singer.

The ARIAs have recognised a collaboration between Paul Kelly and Paul Grabowsky with an album called *Please Leave Your Light On* and Katie Noonan with an album called *The Sweetest Taboo*. In my opinion, Paul Kelly is one of Australia's greatest songwriters and Paul Grabowsky one of our greatest pianists. I highly recommend their album.

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

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

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

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

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

For a full listing go to braidwoodradio.com.au

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.**

Our Queanbeyan Chambers have been set up to accommodate councillors, the community and digital participation via Zoom. We ask that In-person atendees check in with the Service NSW QR Code and follow current Health advice. There is limited space in the Queanbeyan Chamber, however, there is some overflow space available in Bicentennial Hall.

For those wanting to make a presentation on an Agenda item, 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**

Next meeting dates are:
- 24 March - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 14 April - 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.

Have Your Say

Projects and initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date (2021)
Draft Asset Management Strategy	6 April
Monaro Street Upgrade	Ongoing
Renew 2620	Ongoing

For all items: 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 Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

Notification of Road Name Proposal

Notice is hereby given that Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, in pursuance of Section 163 of the *Roads Act 1993* and Part 2 of the *Roads Regulation 2008* proposes to use the following name as a road name within the Council area:

Proposed Road Name: Halfway Creek Road

Description: The new access road to the Bungendore Sports Hub originates from the new roundabout, to be constructed on the corner of Malbon and Molonglo Streets in Bungendore. The new road heads to the west of the roundabout.

Origin of Name: The name has a strong geographical connection to the area as Halfway Creek runs along the eastern edge of the Bungendore Sports Hub (currently under construction) before passing through a proposed culvert under the new access road.

Written comments are invited and will be received up to **5 April 2021** at PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620**.**

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

Notices and documents required to be advertised under NSW planning legislation are now published online at Council's website.

Documents can be viewed by accessing:
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/development-and-planning-public-notices

Dine & Discover NSW

Dine and Discover across Queanbeyan-Palerang

The Dine and Discover Program is now active with NSW residents over the age of 18 able to apply for 4x $25 vouchers through their MyServiceNSW account. The vouchers are:

- 2 x $25 Dine NSW Vouchers to be used for dining in. **These can be used from Monday to Thursday.**
- 2 x $25 Discover NSW Vouchers to be used for entertainment and recreation. **These can be used 7 days a week.**

The vouchers can be used at participating NSW businesses that are registered as COVID Safe. They cannot be used on public holidays and are valid to 30 June 2021.

To find participating businesses across our region see: **visitqueanbeyanpalerang.com.au/dine-discover-on-the-treasure-trail/**

or head to the Dine and Dicscover page where you can search by postcode or suburb: **mybusiness.service.nsw.gov.au/dine-and-discover/business-finder**

For local business owners wanting to participate head to: **nsw.gov.au/covid-19/dine-and-discover-nsw/dine-discover-nsw-business-registration**

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

The Doncaster Inn

Jill Clarke

This hotel was the first hotel built in Braidwood.

Andrew Badgery and William Roberts purchased 3 blocks of land at auction on the 9th July 1840 to the east of the market square (present Ryrie Park). They built their hotel in approximately 1841. Patrick Goulding was the first licensee. (May 1841 signed by Thomas Wilson and Thomas Bell.) The Badgerys also built their residence adjacent and had a large orchard and vegetable garden to supply the hotel with fresh produce.

When Andrew Badgery died in 1856, Maria aged 43 became hostess. She extended the building in 1861, adding a billiards room and several accommodations rooms.

A little side story was told to me the other day by David Gargill; his grandmother Emily Sharpe was employed as a 14 year old in this establishment. She told her family that Mrs Badgery and she slept in the same room as Maria was often concerned for her safety in the times of the bushranging. She also had a firearm at the ready.

Maria retired in 1865 with much fanfare as she was a well-liked community member. Another formidable lady, Mrs Darke, was another hostess a few years later. Maria one of the well known Braidwood identities died on the 6th of June 1888. The papers reported:

'The deceased lady was of a most benevolent disposition, and was beloved by all classes of the community.'

After the loss of the liquor license, the building was abandoned until Braidwood's Good Samaritan Sisters were in need of a 'home'. The newly arrived nuns lost their first convent due to a fire in 1878 which was located next to the present day ambulance station and adjacent to the little lane.

The Sisters stayed at the Doncaster Inn building until the Roman Catholic community decided to build a new convent (the present two storey historical building). The Sisters moved to a temporary accommodation until the old Doncaster Inn was demolished and the new building was erected and dedicated in 190??

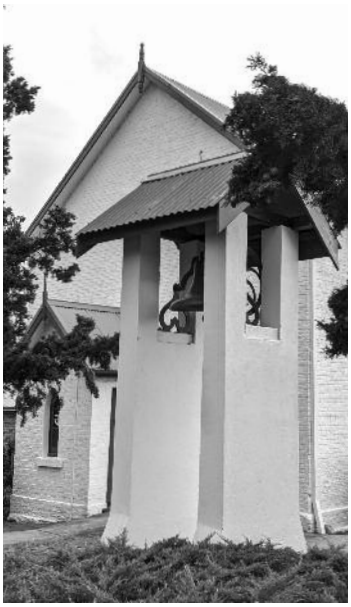
The Sisters lived there until the mid 1970s (local boarders were accommodated until the 1950s) and then it was sold to various owners for accommodation purposes for now on 50 years. Much renovation to the Old Convent and to the Badgery home has added to our historical fabric.

For many years after her death Braidwood community members and the local newspapermen often remembered her kindness and community guardianship.

'Mrs Badgery as a lady, as a townswoman, and friend are too well known to need editorial comment.'

The Goulburn Herald and Chronicle, 1865

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Braidwood Uniting Church

In the early 80s Supertramp sang, "It's raining again..." It sure is: the clouds have come, they have opened up and emptied themselves over our community.

For some it's an inconvenience — the washing won't dry, changing a flat tyre becomes more complicated, floods make roadways impassable. For some the rains bring the fear of "what if's..." — what if the water rises, what if our home is inundated by water, what if I can't get away when I want to. For some it's a relief — filling empty water tanks, watering plants and veggies, flowing into dams and reservoirs, bringing growth before the soil gets cold.

There's an old saying in the country: "You can't make money in the dust, but you've got a chance in the mud." While maybe not a definite fact, it does speak to the optimism of the farmer.

One of the delightful things about our God is that no matter our response to the rain, be it joy, fear, or annoyance, He is with us, keeping us company: celebrating with those who celebrate, comforting those who mourn, bringing strength to those who are fearful.

May you be mindful of His presence with you today. Blessings from Dr Julie Fletcher and the congregation of Braidwood Uniting Church.

Worship on Sundays at 10am. Radio Church at 6pm at Braidwood Community Radio. Weekly Garage Sale on Wednesdays 9-3, cnr Duncan and Monkittee Streets.

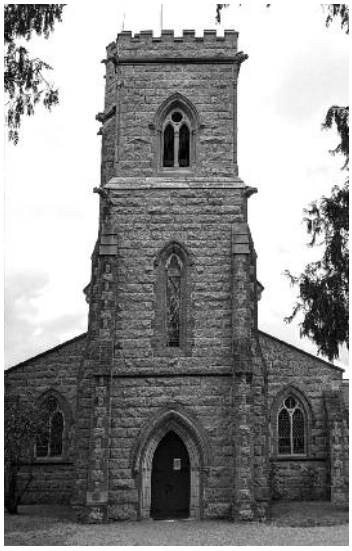
Anglican Parish of Braidwood

EASTER MESSAGE — THE CHANGING TIMES — A TALE OF TRIUMPH

Globally and nationally, we live in uncertain times. Daily news reports are dominated by natural disasters and global pandemics that are not contained within national boundaries. We look for certainty in the midst of uncertainty, for hope when all seems dismal and dangerous. The catch cries of recent months reflect the sheer frustration of the human condition with no instant solutions to unthinkable misfortune. The relevant authorities tell us we MUST engage in uncharacteristic behaviour that we may never have dreamed of. Modern life has become defined by catchphrases like; 'Social Isolation', 'Social Distancing' and 'Lockdown'.

Where do any of us find hope and certainty in the midst of all this current doom and gloom?

Commercially we are bombarded with messages telling us that the solution, albeit temporary and transient, is to be found in Easter bunnies or bilbies, along with the mass consumption of chocolate eggs and hot cross buns. Of course, the hot cross bun has a poignant Easter symbol etched on the top crust reminding us of an even greater conquest by one who also experienced, frustration, isolation, and misfortune in the interests of human reconciliation and redemption. At Easter we are summoned to reconsider the great sacrifice that was made for our salvation in the person of Jesus Christ which ex-



tends way beyond the commercial hype that seduces us into acts of personal indulgence.

The Easter story is a bit like an emotional rollercoaster but spare a thought for the central character in this mission of reconciliation and redemption. Here was an unarmed innocent who found himself in a placed of no escape as armed captors moved in to arrest him. There were no second chances, no surprises, no escape clauses, no secret suspense, just humble compliance to the will of God. Here we are exposed to both the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ. Jesus takes the initiative and asks his captors, "Whom do you seek?" and then readily identifies himself with three short words, "I am he!" The arraignment or trail before Pilate descends into pure farce as the inquest is marked by confusion and complexity, by condemnation and contradiction. Let us not think for a single moment that the world in which Jesus lived was a romantic paradise where loving your enemies was easy. Enmity and hostility had gained a fragile though temporary triumph.

Jesus then suffered the absolute indignity of being nailed to a Cross. Crucifixion symbolised brutality, deprivation, exposure, and prolonged agony as Jesus was reviled, spat upon, hardly an aesthetic or compelling sight. It would be an understatement to say that it was barbaric, demeaning, humiliating and treacherous and yet Christ did it for the greater good. Let us pause and look imaginatively at the Cross. De we see the nail pierced and the arms stretched out as if to summon or welcome us into his warm embrace?

It is critically important to realise that the Cross was not the end of the Easter story because God in Christ had the final triumph and victory through the resurrection. The most flimsy and tenuous position is to take the view that somehow the resurrection was some fictitious, legendary myth. There is more ample evidence in all the Christian gospels that the resurrection was a witnessed event with historical validity.

It is not some figment of a fanciful and wild imaginative mind. There were too many post- resurrection appearances to dismiss the historical reality as mere fantasy. The words uttered to the two Marys', who came to visit the tomb, "He is not here; for he has risen!" have a resonance that echoes down through the ages. We too can be confident that all Jesus said and did prior to his execution came to pass in the fullness of time. The resurrection was indeed the defining moment of authentication by God. Jesus was no maverick Messiah in the line of other fraudulent claimants. He truly was God's portrait , God's Son.

However the phrase, "He has Risen!" strikes you, the central affirmation is splendidly unavoidable. By examining the resurrection of Jesus, many people have been forced to the conclusion that if Jesus has been raised from the dead then he has to be alive and equally accessible to all of us today. There is simply no valid reason not to try and get to know him! Through the resurrection the great freedom fighter for humanity is let loose on the world. How will we respond to that compelling invitation in these modern days of doubt and uncertainty?

(An Easter Message from Rev. Rick Lewis – Rector St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Braidwood)

St Bede's

Reflection on the Gospel of John 3:14-21 by Dianne Bergant CSA

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

No weekday Masses until further notice.

Vigil Mass: Saturdays at 6.00pm.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

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

Social Justice Meeting: Sunday 11 April in the church at 10.30am.

CLASSIFIEDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

0 200444 202002

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

NO GOLF NEWS, NO FOOTY — JUST WATER ...

Fallen tree and Cleaning up: Barbara Dawe [below] Waiting: photo by Gordon Waters

STOP PRESS

WHERE'S YER GLOBAL WARMING NOW, EH? SOMEONE IS BOUND TO SAY.

STAR TIMES

Sorryformenotsorryforyou

Yesterday, XY [the man] apologised profusely to XX [the woman] as well as to his family, constituents and other supporters . "Even though I am only hearing of this matter as stated by Ms XX in the article now, I hear her voice and will not dismiss her," he said in the statement. "In reflection, my personal depiction of this event is irrelevant. Simply put, my behaviour caused her pain, showed her disrespect and was unprofessional. I was wrong, I am sorry, and I take full responsibility." If you did not know the story of how XY, pissed as a fart, groped the back of XX even as far as unclasping her bra, you would not get the gravity of the assault by listening to his 'apology'.

Asifitisnotwetenoughalready

All the latest coming and going in parliament house bring to mind the time when Labor's 'sports' minister John Brown had consensual sex with his wife in his office on his parliamentary desk. His wife Jan then left her knickers on the desk in the office next door as a calling card. The late, great Ron Tandberg, then drew one of the greatest political cartoons ever. He showed Brown's receptionist looking out of the frame saying, "I'm sorry sir, the Minister is out ... er ... in ... out".

Whowatchesthemisimportant

ASIO has announced that it is revising the way it categorises threats to our security. "People often think we're talking about skinheads with swastika tattoos ... Today's ideological extremist is more likely to be motivated by a social or economic grievance than national socialism. More often than not, they are young, well-educated, articulate, and middle class – and not easily identified" said the ASIO boss. Hmm.

Asongoflossisasadsong

Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo. A songless bird is a song of woe, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo. In the news it says, 'the widespread loss of habitat means the regent honeyeater has been reduced to its last 200-400 individuals spread over 300,000 square kilometres ranging from Queensland to Victoria. The birds are apparently changing their birdsong. In some cases, they are forgetting their song entirely and instead adopting the calls of other species, the researchers found'. It seems that baby birds learn the song from their parents and as numbers dwindle mistakes are amplified and perpetuated.

Startingoverfromthepetridish

Australian scientists have started human cells developing without parental supervision. "It took months for the government to get their heads around this. Eventually, they said they would like us to stop creating them until we decide how to proceed," Professor Polo said.

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