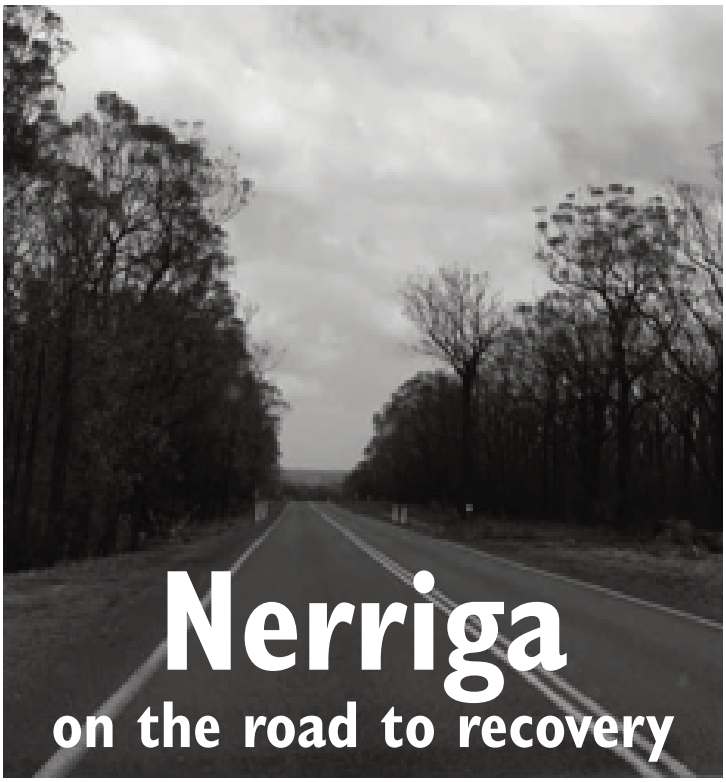
BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Issue #3 — $2.00

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	2°	15°	10%
Th:	1°	15°	50%
Fr:	2°	14°	0%
Sat:	2°	15°	0%
Sun:	5°	13°	30%
Mon	4°	11°	30%



Nerriga
on the road to recovery

Robin Tennant-Wood

Four nights before Christmas last year the Currowan bushfire that had been monstering the district for three weeks, turned eastwards, merging with the Tianjara fire, and exploded through the forest, engulfing Nerriga.

In that one night, as local residents took shelter at the pub, around 20 homes were lost, as well as numerous other sheds and outbuildings. The old Nerriga sawmill and the museum were lost, but the hall, although slightly singed when a spot-fire took hold on one corner, was saved.

Five months later, many residents are still living in temporary accommodation on their properties while they rebuild.

President of the Nerriga Progress and Sporting Association, Helen Rolland, said that many of the houses lost during the fire were weekenders, "some of them have been coming here every weekend for twenty years," she said, "but because it's not their primary residence, they are not eligible for any assistance".

Most of the permanent residents are living on their properties, some in caravans and some in buildings that escaped the blaze. A few have received accommodation pods, but others refused the offer of pods as they already had accommodation arranged and said they'd rather the pods to go those who really needed them.

The clean-up has started, with contractors, Laing O'Rourke, dismantling and removing debris. BlazeAid arrived shortly after the fires were finally extinguished and assisted in repairing and replacing fencing. Ms Rolland said that the community is impressed with the way in which the council has stepped up to the task of assisting in the recovery.

From February, QPRC crews were on site removing remove dangerous fire damaged vegetation from the roadsides. The Bushfire Recovery Team has also been active in maintaining contact with communities through local representatives and ensuring good communication and access to information from the other levels of government.

... continued on page 2

The simple life
that pulled Anne and Shane away from Majors Creek

Robin Tennant-Wood

In search of a simpler way of living, former Majors Creek couple, Anne Robinson and Shane Conroy (pictured above), have recently sold their house in the Creek and moved into a campervan while they build a 'tiny house' on their recently purchased block of land in the Bega Valley.

This is the next step in a journey that started for Anne and Shane over a decade ago, when, overworked and stressed by Sydney corporate life, Shane developed an auto-immune disease and Anne had a stress-related breakdown. They realised that something had to change.

"This was the start of our wellness journey", Anne told the *Changing Times*.

"Shane being sick and housebound was hard. We became increasingly isolated as our social and political views separated us from our social groups and we started to discuss a new life away from the city grind and with the possibility of buying our own home one day in a more affordable location."

By 2016 Shane's illness reached a crisis point and, says Anne, "life had become some kind of hell - just surviving each day and working long hours to try to save for a house. It turns out that living in the middle of the city above a bus stop and main road probably wasn't the best for keeping Shane healthy.

"We looked for houses in NSW that would be within our price

... continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant-Wood*

What is 'normal'?

As COVID-19 restrictions gradually start to lift, we have the unique opportunity to decide what sort of 'normal' we want life to return to once the pandemic has eased. Rather than relying on external factors such as government or economy, we are in the driver's seat for our future and that of our children.

While we certainly need to get our local businesses up and running again, we are faced with options which, six months ago, may not have been conceivable. Many people have discovered that they can work productively at home with more flexibility. Others have found that they really enjoyed homeschooling their children and that it opened up new learning experiences for both children and parents alike. We have the option now to work with employers and the education system to incorporate this sort of flexibility into the system so that it works for us, rather than the other way around.

With restrictions on travel, most of us have been shopping locally, and our local businesses have looked after us. This is a two-way relationship that is worth maintaining.

The NSW government's interactive Flu-Tracking website has found that since the onset of social distancing, the incidence of normal viruses such as flu and gastro has been far less than in previous years: who knew that washing our hands and keeping our distance could keep us healthy? Perhaps this is a habit we need to keep past the pandemic.

Before we try to rush back to 'normal', it might benefit us all to stop and think about what aspects of 'normal' are not worth rushing back to. After the chaos of the past three months – six months if we include the summer's fires – there really isn't any 'normal' anymore. This is our time to recreate the society we want for the future. Let's not waste this opportunity.

Nerriga on recovery road

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One of the difficult parts of the recovery process has been the fact that, with restrictions on public gatherings, the community has been unable to come together.

Ms Rolland said that while locals can talk to each other over the appropriate distancing and check to make sure everyone's OK, "we've missed being able to get together properly.

"Once the pub opens again it will be like a magnet, we'll all be able to meet up again".

The Nerriga community had received funding through Coordinare, the Australian Government's primary health network, to have a thank-you party for the RFS and SES personnel who saved the town the night of the firestorm, but, says Helen Rolland, coronavirus arrived so they haven't been able to hold that yet.

"But it will happen! Oh, most definitely!" she added.

The simple life

... continued from page 1

range and found the old bakery in a tiny village called Majors Creek, which we purchased with the help of my parents and the bank."

Anne explains that while country living worked wonders for Shane's health and allowed her to form more good habits and share what she'd learnt about health and nutrition, finding the time in between work was still a problem.

"Now we had to keep working a lot more to keep paying for our house.

"The goal was to grow our own food to save money and to take control of where our produce was coming from. We set up a flock of

Shane with the magic coffee machine.

chickens, sheep to mow, and a garden to grow but we were both now working full-time to deadlines and also trying to run a mini farm!

"While we absolutely loved living in Majors Creek, and would never look back, life had become stressful again with us both working and trying to work out this more simple life growing vegetables and looking after animals.

"So we decided to try something different. Shane would work every minute he could on making money writing and I'd look after the admin in between growing food and doing house chores and looking after animals. This would allow me to try to save as much as possible while he made as much as possible. In theory it worked quite well but it still relied on Shane working too much and risking his health again. And how could we rely on the work counting for that long? What if we didn't have this huge amount of work forever?"

In the meantime, Anne and Shane had discovered the Tiny House movement, and an idea formed to take "the future into our own hands and also take action to live the best life we could. We can't control what others do or control the political power in our country but we can take action to live differently - more simply and more intentionally," said Anne, adding "we needed to combine my desire to have a homestead but do it in a way that enabled us to have very low-debt and include our love for tiny simple living."

After looking at numerous blocks of land in the Braidwood district, and considering many options for low-cost, minimal and sustainable housing, Anne and Shane finally found a half acre block near Bemboka in the Bega Valley. As COVID-19 rolled across the country, Anne and Shane put their Majors Creek house on the market, bought the Bemboka land and, once the house sold, moved into a camper on a relative's property in the Bega district while they prepare to build their own Tiny House.

"We've been living this camper life for two weeks now and are adjusting quite well. We don't find it hard living in the camper – even with two dogs and two cats – and I quite enjoy the basic way of living. Every day I follow the sun around to try to get maximum charge on the camper's solar battery to run the heater at night," said Anne.

They've chosen to erect a kit "Tiny House" on their land with the goal of creating a garden that can grow as much as possible of what they need.

"The plan is to be debt-free by the time we are in our mid-forties and this will be because of our choices. It will be because we left all of the expectations and conveniences of society behind and really focussed on creating what we really want and need in life. We can't control what others do but we can live according to our personal values, even if our way of life isn't for everyone. We want to know that when we die, we will have tried to leave the planet better than we found it."

While sad to be leaving the Majors Creek community where they learned so much about healthy and sustainable living and where they felt so much at home, Anne and Shane are excited about this next step in their journey in self-sufficiency.

Eden-Monaro: the field firms

Robin Tennant-Wood is at the barrier waiting for all the starters to arrive

As Braidwood's Changing Times goes to print for this week, there are seven formally nominated candidates for the Eden-Monaro by-election.

These are: Kristy McBain (Labor), Fiona Kotvojs (Liberal), Dean McCrae (Liberal Democrats), Narelle Storey (Christian Democrats), Karen Porter (Independent), James Jansson (Science), and Andrew Thaler (Independent). Ms Porter is a member of a party called the New Liberals which is not yet registered, so she is standing as an independent. It is also expected that the Greens will nominate a candidate within the next couple of weeks.

Both the major parties are claiming the coveted 'underdog' status, although most recent polling has Labor with a slight edge over Liberal.

Typically, by-elections go against the sitting government, however there are unusual circumstances to consider in this one.

Eden-Monaro was regarded as the key 'bellwether' seat for 50 years, always going to whichever party wins government, until 2016 when Dr Mike Kelly won the seat back from Dr Peter Hendy. Kelly's personal standing in the electorate got him over the line again in last year's election, but without the Kelly factor, Labor might struggle to hold it, reverting it to its usual marginal government status.

Eden-Monaro is the fifth largest federal electorate in NSW and was one of the hardest hit by the bushfires over summer. Not one of the nine local government areas within its boundaries escaped the fires.

The date for the by-election has yet to be announced. It is likely that the date will be contingent upon the lifting of COVID restrictions.

For Eden-Monaro voters, this means the campaign may well stretch out for months rather than the usual weeks of a by-election campaign.

Meadows in culture

Alison Alder walks in the bush

A National Gallery of Australia social media post celebrating World Biodiversity Day last Friday (May 22), and their recognition of the importance of native meadows through an initiative called Meadows in Culture reminded me of my own introduction to 'seeing' what was under my feet.

I live on a small acreage on the outskirts of Mongarlowe. When we bought the property, just under twenty years ago, the NSW Government offered a service where landholders could seek advice from National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Sydney Catchment Management Authority experts on how best to conserve their properties in order to maintain healthy eco-systems that could support a range of land uses. Being new to the district we were keen to find out if there were any invasive weeds or animals on the property and receive any wisdom offered – so we took up the offer.

Three scientists arrived, fully armed with an incredible amount of useful information, ready to walk the talk. It turned out that, thankfully (and remarkably) there were no weeds but also wonderfully, they informed us that there was an incredible array of grassland plants as the property had not been disturbed for over twenty years allowing these plants to thrive.

WILD IRIS
Patersonia glabrata

I started to actively look. Rather than seeing an amorphous mass of soft green or brown grass, I discovered tiny creeping geebungs with their bright spikes of yellow flowers.

I saw the soft green urn heath which flowers in winter, the field of pink trigger plants swaying in summer right outside our back door and the spectacular swathes of the purple budawang flag displaying their beauty after rain. There is even a whole grove of little drumsticks which we have been careful to protect.

One of the messages promoted on World Biodiversity Day in regard to conserving native meadows is quite simple. Become aware of what is growing and when plants are flowering. If you need to mow your grassland, ensure that the flowers have seeded and importantly don't set your mower too low – the higher the better. This also enables the plants to assist any rainfall to soak into the ground, rather than rushing away and taking all of your precious soil with it.

Keep an eye on any weeds coming onto your property. Vehicle traffic on our property has brought in dandelion seeds in the tyre treads and importing manure for my vegetable garden has brought in some nettles, but fortunately I have been able to keep these invaders under control.

Keep an eye on the small things – once you start to look you will be amazed at how much you can see right under your nose.

As we encroach on nature and deplete vital habitats, increasing numbers of species are at risk. That includes humanity and the future we want.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A big thank you ...

... to Braidwood IGA for placing someone outside for safety of the locals during lockdown.

The fact a staff member had to stand out in all weathers made me want to say thank you to those people for regulating how many people were in the shop and for wiping the handles of trolleys and baskets.

Thank you to all the other businesses in town who stayed open in difficult times.

Sincerely
Sandra Hand
Majors Creek

Plaque a memorial to the starving Irish

I believe the following Braidwood happening would make a very good public and possibly an international interest story. An old ballad sets the scene:

"How could I look to you, mother? How could I look to you? For bread to give to your starving boy, when you were starving too! For I read the famine in your cheek, and in your eye so wild, and felt your bony hand, as you laid it on your child."

Mrs. A.M. EDMOND 1848

On Thursday last, as I walked past my friend Derek Duffy's antique shop in the main street I saw a large metal plaque sitting in the window.

After reading the heartbreaking piece on the bottom, and with both Karen and I having an Irish background, I researched the small village of Clogheen in Tipperary the Irish Republic. I contacted them through the Council Committee on Facebook and we are now in social media contact.

Mark, the brother of Jane Lloyd-Jones, who chairs the Clogheen Historical Society has phoned me. Amazingly he lives in Captains Flat.

Derek and I are keen to get this plaque back to the small Irish village from where it mysteriously came from. Clogheen, is delighted to find that we have a piece of their history here in Braidwood. Some of the comments on their Facebook page even volunteer to pay for the plaque and shipping.

Clogheen is gearing up for a massive festival and their locals are extremely excited by me contacting them with this lost piece of their social history. With the virus bringing a slow-down to all our small business holders in Braidwood, and no doubt Clogheen as well, perhaps this story can raise both villages' profiles in the world.

The famine in Ireland was genocide on an incredibly cruel scale, and one that should never be forgotten.

Generations of Irish families starved and died for the want of food. A situation that was purposely put in place by a brutal 19th century British government. Even fishing and the taking of rabbits was prohibited and severely punished. The people, including the elderly and children had to resort to eating grass.

Christopher Nelson
Braidwood

Chris holds the plaque.

1st Braidwood Scouts winter fundraiser is up and running!

First prize is a trailer load of firewood, which is perfect timing with the chilly weather starting to set in.

Tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5 or 7 for $10.

Due to social distancing guidelines, the scouts are having to hold the raffle a little differently this time. Tickets will be available all week from the **Bendigo Bank** and the **Boiled Lolly**. 1st Braidwood Scouts are extremely grateful for the support of these two wonderful local businesses.

The raffle will be drawn on Saturday 30th May.

The Anglican Hall in the 1970s.

Do you have old photos?

Helen Farley

Wanting something to do in social isolation? Do you have any old photos tucked away somewhere?

We're looking for photos dating back to when The Old Anglican Hall was in its heyday, when people came together for celebrations, dances, and many other activities.

The Hall committee is putting together a book which will tell the history of this much loved, iconic building.

Your photos could be included to provide a 'walk down memory lane'.

We are also looking to restore the old metal Sebel chairs that are in need of sand blasting and powder coating to bring them to life again. Members of the community have the opportunity to be a part of a worthwhile project and pay for a seat to be restored, and be honoured with a plaque in their name. We have fifteen to be restored. Alternatively, a donation towards the purchase of plastic trestle tables would be greatly appreciated – the old wooden tables certainly are cumbersome and heavy.

With the opening date of the hall closer each day, housekeeping is in full swing.

If you are interested in any of these projects, call in to see Helen at the Braidwood Community Bank or email her at:
bwdoldanglicanhall@gmail.com
or phone on:
0434 292 994 or 0434 292 994.

Raffle tickets now on sale at Bank and Boiled Lolly

The Braidwood Community Bank and the Boiled Lolly are now selling raffle tickets for community groups during this time of social distancing.

This week it is Apex tickets for the wood raffle and last week it was for the Redbacks wood raffle. Tickets have been selling well to enable these local community organisations to continue to raise money.

It's just another example of how a community bank can help local groups when things aren't normal.

A test of intelligence

Part 2 of story that might go on a bit by Paul Cockram

Previously: *The powers-that-be are worried about Simon Saviour and his campaign against the fossil fuel industry and its supporters in government. His online activities are being investigated by the security services.*

Saviour's emails were mildly interesting but not unusual for a political activist. Lots of cross-matches with Greens and other 'lefty' types which was to be expected. He had three kids at school, nothing there really, a partner who worked as a teacher, also a leftie but nothing out of the ordinary. He had the usual buying history on Visa; dinners, consumables and the occasional Ebay purchase.

But the browser history, there was a chink to be exploited. In the last year someone using the connection at Simon Saviour's IP address had searched for, 'how to make a bomb, 'can a 3-d printer make a gun', 'civil disobedience' and other terms with an 'activist' theme. Of course in a family with teenagers it could have been any one of them but there it was, in the browser history in black and white.

Kylie Integra reported to Tom Tremble who brought Harry Crutch in to the meeting. Also in attendance was Bull Dustman whose role was more political than analytical. Bull Dustman had contacts with other agencies from other countries and was ostensibly answerable to the Director General but it seemed at times that he worked for a less visible but even higher authority. Bull Dustman looked at the dossier Kylie Integra had compiled and was satisfied. He had what his masters wanted. Back at his desk he made a call.

* * *

Simon Saviour was happy. The campaign had gone well. It was becoming easier and easier to garner support for the cause of alternative energy. Almost nobody with credibility was denying that the climate of the Earth was changing — and not for the better. The polar caps were melting, sea levels were rising and the ever-increasing summer temperatures made crop failures and bush fires depressingly predictable events.

The fossil fuel lobby was on the back foot. Its supporters in government were sounding more ridiculous by the day. The whole notion of ever-increasing consumption and chasing some idea of 'higher living standards' was being questioned. It was the right time in history to stand up and say, stop, we're going the wrong way, we could do it differently.

Simon Saviour had been an outspoken critic of blind adherence to the capitalist consumption model. It had been a hard message to sell for so many years and he had been tempted many times to give it away and just go with the flow. But he and others like him had stuck it out and now, with the whole capitalist model crumbling, his time had come.

Just a few more sleeps to the election and Simon Saviour and his supporters were sure that this time they would have the numbers to really make a difference in the political landscape.

* * *

They came at dawn. A posse of police cars brought uniformed and plain-clothed police down the driveway straight to the front door, the side doors and the back door. Simon Saviour and his family were woken by a sudden and insistent banging on all sides.

Open up, police, came the cry. Simon looked at his partner in alarm but even then he was clear-headed enough to assume it was some sort of mistaken action intended for another address. He opened the front door and in they barged.

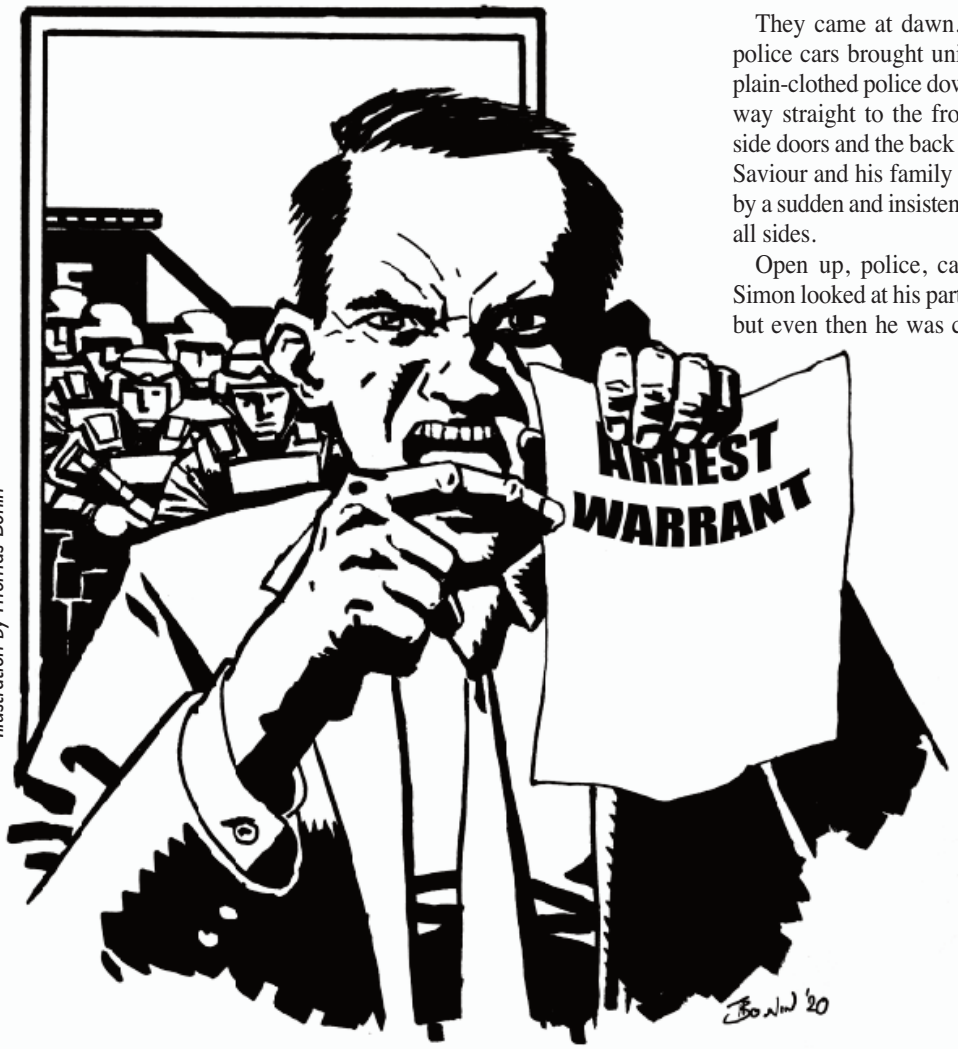


Illustration by Thomas Bonin

The officer in charge waved a warrant and said, we have reason to believe you are in possession of material for the sponsoring of terrorism.

You are instructed to accompany us to the police station and we have a warrant to seize all computers, electronic devices and storage media.

Simon Saviour watched helplessly as all his family's mobile phones, iPads, laptops and computers were packed into labelled boxes and taken. After being told to get dressed, he too was taken away.

* * *

Bull Dustman and Harry Crutch regarded the assortment of devices with interest. One of Bull Dustman's sidelines was to run a service for the Police providing expert forensic analysis of electronic devices and their contacts.

Excellent, he said. I think we have everything we need here. Harry, get Ten Nindo in here to go through this stuff. Ten Nindo was one of the Section's young IT nerds who saw the world in megabits and terabytes and never questioned what was asked of him.

When Ten arrived Bull Dustman gave him his brief. We have a suspected terrorist in custody and these are his computers. Do a thorough search and see if you find anything we should know about.

If you could find something incriminating with a matching URL in his browser history, that would be most satisfactory for us and quite rewarding for you.

* * *

The report came back, the tip-off was vindicated. Simon Saviour did indeed have links with terrorist organisations via links and correspondence found on his computer. He was brought to the interview room and presented with a copy of his past year's browser history. All search items connected with terrorism had been highlighted.

Do you admit that this is your browser history? Detective Inspector Mervyn Forequarter laid the sheets between them. Simon Saviour thumbed through the pages. It was futile to deny it.

continued next BCT edition ...


Maggie Hickey with one of her famous rugs.

Artists: get fired up!

Robin Tennant-Wood

The Braidwood Regional Arts Group (BRAG) is calling on local artists to exhibit in an exhibition proposed for late this year entitled 'Art on Fire'. Artists in any and all media are invited to enter work on the theme of last summer's bushfires.

The prototype for the exhibition was the highly successful 'Art on Farms' exhibition held in 2018, which united the two areas of farming and art, showcasing our local farmers who are artists and artists who are farmers.

The end result of the Art on Farms exhibition was a professionally produced book, made possible through funding from the Braidwood Community Bank. A similar book is planned for Art on Fire.

President of BRAG, Maggie Hickey, speaking to the QPRC Bushfire Recovery Team meeting last week, stressed the therapeutic value of art in trauma recovery. It is also an opportunity for the local arts community to come together in a social forum. Unfortunately, no sooner was the Art on Fire exhibition planned than it had to be placed on indefinite hold. BRAG is hopeful that it will be able to go ahead in December this year.

BRAG will be inviting anyone from the region to submit fine art in all media, craft work of all types, as well as poems and essays and even songs from participants. Each participant may enter one item. Any aspect of the bushfires or their aftermath is suitable for this exhibition and book.

Watch the BRAG website (https://www.bragart.com.au/) or Facebook page for updates.

Your priorities to the fore

Sue Murray, President, Braidwood Community Association

Braidwood Community Association has been surveying members and supporters about their priority projects for Braidwood in the future. Given a choice of 15 projects, members have selected their top three priorities. We are still collecting responses and final results will be assessed this week.

So far the top choice is 'greater resilience and sustainability in Braidwood and villages infrastructure'.

This seems to reflect the experiences of our region during the bushfires, floods and lately the Covid-19 lockdown.

Other top priorities for our members are footpaths and bike paths within and around the town of Braidwood, and facilities for our younger residents, including a Youth Performing Arts Centre and the long-awaited skate park. The footpath over Monkittee Creek is seen as a serious safety issue for many residents. Other needs identified are heritage protection, security lighting and a water refill station in Ryrie Park, the swimming pool refurbishment and library services.

Results of this survey will be used in BCA submissions to Council on several documents currently open for public consultation. This is our opportunity to influence decisions by Council and have a voice in the decisions they make for our town and district.

Individual submissions can be made to Council as well. Check out the QPRC Your Voice page and register to comment if you haven't already done so. These consultations close in the next few days so be quick if you'd like to comment.

BCA continues to represent the community on the QPRC Bushfire Renewal group. Weekly discussions with representatives of our villages and service organisations are conducted by Zoom and are led by QPRC community development staff. These discussions cover many aspects of the recovery process. The QPRC recovery team advise that comments and ideas can be shared with them by phone (62856789) or email (recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au). They are there to listen to how you are managing or coping, what issues you are facing, what help you need, and any ideas you have for community renewal.

Information is shared on the Queanbeyan Palerang Bushfire Recovery Facebook page as well. There may be ways to access assistance that you are not aware of, and there is a lot of helpful advice available. The best way to find out is to ask the QPRC Bushfire Recovery team led by Terry Campese and Sharon Alles.

Young writers bring hope

Award-winning, best selling author Jackie French

It's been an … interesting … year. Few authors would dare to put vast bushfires, two floods and a global pandemic all in the first few months of a single year into a book. Who'd believe it?

Our community has stood together through it all, joining or helping local organisations and each other. We've seen how strong social bonds help us cope, or even survive as the flames approach or after they've savaged and passed by.

The stories from the younger members of our community are going to be tales from a year that won't be forgotten, when our local fires were so bad they were known around the world, and the smoke seen from space, a year when the whole planet faced an unknown virus.

You may not write about this year. But fiction can tell as much or more about a period than purely factual history, as it tells us how people feel, and what they thought about, or even what they had for breakfast.

The entries collected from this year may be valuable documents for decades or hundreds of years or even longer.

They are also going to be fun, and fascinating. Your stories will link our community again. Memories fade; burnt trees grow new leaves and a new shape, but your stories will remain, the face of the young people in strong and courageous community.

Entries for the Braidwood Lions Festival of Young Writers close on 26 June!

Further information at: www.braidwoodyoungwriters.com

Pieces can be written on any subject, be in any genre (eg. narrative, persuasive, poetry, etc.).

Jackie French is patron of the Braidwood Young Writers Festival. Jackie is a renowned local author who has written over 140 books and won more than 60 national and international awards. She was the 2014-2015 Australian Children's Laureate and the 2015 Senior Australian of the Year.


Jackie in her garden with other fruits of her labour.

Do you have any of the following flu-like symptoms such as:

■ **fever** ■ **sore throat** ■ **head aches** ■ **fatigue**
■ **aches and pains** ■ **runny nose** ■ **cough**
■ **breathing issues**

Testing is available but you must first call – 1800 999 880 - Option 1

Goulburn Base Hospital & Health Service
130 Goldsmith St, Goulburn NSW 2580
Entry through the 'old' main entrance at Goulburn Base Hospital. Daily 9am-5pm Signage in place.

Queanbeyan District Hospital & Health Service
107 Collett St, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Entry at the rear of the hospital with dedicated parking on Erin Street. Daily 9am-5pm Signage in place.

Eurobodalla Health Service
2 River St, Moruya NSW 2537
Moruya Pathways building (right hand side of hospital), with the entrance through the door closest to the road. Daily 9am-5pm Signage in place.

Bega Valley Health Service
4 Virginia Drive, Bega, NSW 2550
A 'drive through clinic', located prior to the main drop off area of SERH. Traffic controllers are there to guide you. Follow the signs at the main entrance. Daily 9am-5pm Signage in place.

Cooma Health Service
Bent Street, Cooma, NSW 2630
Cooma Hospital & Health Service Directly outside ED in the car park. Daily 9am-5pm Signage in place.

For all the above centres you must first call – 1800 999 880 - Option 1

Outside these hours? Call Southern NSW helpline **1800 999 880 (option 1)**. We can organise a test at your local hospital emergency department or help make alternative arrangements.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Cars to be protected from uppity trees

Edited from another RMS press release

Following up from the last issue's report about the new poplars to be planted along the Braidwood approaches of Kings Highway, the NSW Government Roads and Maritime Services has announced that work is starting.

Kings Highway tree planting commencing

The new poplars will be planted 6.5 metres from the travel lane to ensure the safety of motorists while maintaining the historical and aesthetic value of the corridor into the future.

The window of opportunity for the tree planting is during autumn, so the planting is expected to be done in the next month.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, there will be no community tree planting event. However video coverage of the tree planting will be available on the RMS website:
https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/kings-highway/braidwood-roadside-hazards/

As outlined in the Tree Management Plan developed with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, the council will be responsible for the ongoing, long-term maintenance of the trees after they have been established.

A roadside safety barrier will be installed on each side of the road on the northern approach to Braidwood to protect motorists from the current trees while the saplings grow and mature.

Advancements in roadside barrier technology have reduced the amount of deflection required behind the guardrail meaning the majority of the current trees can be safely protected by barrier without having to be removed.

This work is expected to be complete by the end of June 2020.

The future for events

Suzanne Gearing: Chair, B&V Business Chamber

Events are going to be amongst the last to bounce back from the pandemic. It is highly likely that the government will place restrictions on attendee numbers until at least early 2021, although outdoor events where people can follow social distancing rules will make a faster come-back and will be allowed larger numbers than indoor events. Stage 3 restrictions, allowing up to 100 people, with the possibility of more, is likely to occur after mid-August, but that is assuming there is no new outbreak in the interim.

What does this mean for Braidwood and our event calendar?

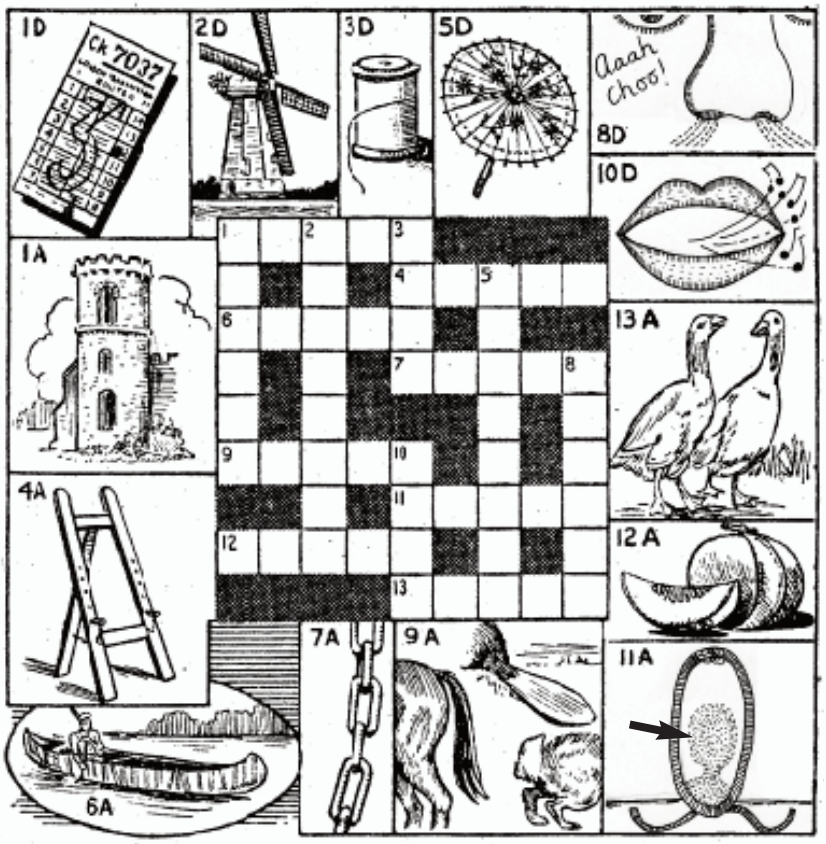
We still have a good chance of being able to hold events during our peak period from November onwards, with some adjustments. Competition between regions for the tourist dollar is likely to be fierce, so early planning and additional advertising is essential. Government regulations are likely to have an expectation of appropriate social distancing, health monitoring and contact tracing.

This may mean splitting the event between a number of locations, moving events outdoors, creating online ticketing even if the event is free so that attendees can be traced, creating entry points where temperatures can be taken, having hand sanitiser stations and providing clearly defined health standards for food vendors and stallholders.

The Chamber is available to help you redesign your event to meet restrictions and has a range of checklists available to help you manage health requirements. Email:
secretary@bavbc.com.au or
chair@bavbc.com.au

Playtime Puzzles

A Picture Cross Word



PUZZLE No. 1:

USE the pictures to solve the crossword. 1D is 1 down, 1A is 1 across and so on.

PUZZLE No. 2:

REARRANGE the letters at right to reveal the last name and first initial of a famous young environmental activist. Write the name on the line below.

E	H	U
G	R	B
T	G	N

PUZZLE No. 3: A spelling challenge. Fill in the blanks.

K R I S _ Y M _ B _ _ N

L A _ _ _ L L _ S S T R E E T

M _ _ K _ _ _ _ E C R E E K

C _ R _ _ _ K _ _ L _ M O U N T A I N

ANSWERS to *'CHANGING TIMES'* #2 Playtime Puzzles.

PUZZLE No. 1: The bear says, "**MY HOME IS VANISHING**".
PUZZLE No. 2: The famous Tasmanian is **TRUGANINI**.
PUZZLE No. 3: GLADYS **BEREJIKLIAN**, MOUNT **KOSCIUSZKO**, FIONA **KOTVOJS**, **JEMBAICUMBENE**, **JERRABATGULLA**.
PUZZLE No. 4: **RON** and **NEIL** are dressed alike. (Apart from dodgy printing.)

Vale Keith Lyons

Obituary by Sam Lyons

Keith with his wife Sue and Grandchildren 2014

It is with great sadness that the Lyons family and the Braidwood community farewell Dr Keith Lyons, who died on 13 May at the age of 68.

Keith was born on 7th May 1952 in Buckley, North Wales and was given a good start on his learning journey by his Grandfather, who among other things taught him to write in the compact, neat and unique script that helped Keith to graduate from Mold Grammar School, University of York, Loughborough College and the London School of Economics.

While at York, his desire for equality and justice came to the fore when he joined the anti-apartheid movement.

In the following years he continued to speak out about the impact of apartheid on sport with his vocal opposition leading to him being banned from travelling to South Africa.

Keith had the opportunity, while he studied for his PhD at the University of Surrey, to refine his interest in learning through an ethnographic study. This paved the way for his unique approach to observing sport and laid the foundation for his future career in performance analysis. Sport was a central part of Keith's life, as a rugby player, coach, performance analyst and coach mentor. The roles he performed were diverse, from lacrosse to canoeing, made possible by his ability to observe patterns and his desire to support people.

The suicide of his brother John in 1982 had a profound effect on his life after which Keith became more introspective. His wife Sue believed that it was this moment that solidified Keith's desire to help others, especially those going through difficult times. Following Keith's death, a number of the coaches he mentored recounted that Keith was often the only person to contact them after defeats or when they faced difficulties. When most people stayed quiet in times of trouble, Keith was there. Keith believed the time to step forward was when things were hard.

Keith (far right) while playing for London Welsh.

A triumphant moment for Keith came when he finally got to travel to a unified South Africa in 1995 as part of the Welsh Rugby World Cup Team. He later recalled that one part of that trip, an outreach project to teach young black South Africans to play rugby, was one of his happiest moments.

Keith moved to Australia in 2002 with his family, who were the core of his identity. He loved being at home with his wife, children and later his grandchildren. Keith unconditionally supported his family in their endeavours and would travel the globe or stay awake for days to help them if they were in need. For his son Sam he spent thousands of hours on the riverbank watching and coaching regardless of the conditions, never complaining and always shouting encouragement.

The belief in the need to help others in their time of need led Keith to volunteer for the Rural Fire Service (RFS). For years, Keith was there when the community needed him, fighting fires and helping at road traffic accidents. The camaraderie of the RFS gave Keith the supportive community that he had always hoped to create for others but for once got to experience for himself. Keith recounted one particularly difficult fire where he had to protect a house and its occupants – a mother and four children – from a fast-moving bush fire. After hours of effort, Keith and his fellow crew mates saved the house, something that brought the normally reserved Keith to tears when reflecting on the positive impact he had on that family's life.

Keith's unique skill was to make everyone with whom he communicated know they were valued and their experience mattered

Ultimately this included those that provided him with care while his battled lymphoma of his brain. It was a real comfort to Keith's family that they could spend that final year with him, focussing on his health and the family. His daughter Beth reflected that this was his last journey in learning, as he embraced the new skills he needed and the new people he could share his time with.

Keith in his RFS yellows in 2012.

Following several rounds of chemotherapy and radiotherapy Keith died in The Canberra Hospital at 1:30 am on 13th May 2020 surrounded by his family.

Just 10 days before his death Keith wrote for the last time in a birthday card to his wife Sue. His handwriting was still compact, neat and unique, a fitting tribute to the power of a supportive teacher willing to invest in learning, an investment Keith made in so many, for whom life is better because he was there.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Joan, and his brother John. He is survived by his wife Sue, and his two children, Beth and Sam, his grandchildren Ivy and Jolyon, and his sister Judith.

A memorial will be held for Keith in Braidwood soon. The Lyons family had originally planned for Saturday 23 May, however they are very grateful for the support from so many and have decided to wait a bit longer in the hope restrictions will be further eased. Information will be shared as soon as possible.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Incorporating St Andrews Braidwood, St Stephens Majors Creek, St Pauls Ballalaba Gundillion

PUBLIC NOTICE 21st May 2020

The Anglican Parish of Braidwood advises that, due to COVID-19 all our parish church buildings will continue to remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future. This decision has been made in light of the strict requirements we would need to meet in order to open them up and our ongoing concern and care for people who use our buildings. Parish Council will reassess the opening of our church buildings as time goes by.

The church grounds however remain open as a place of comfort and for your private devotions.

If you come to sit or walk in the grounds please respect others' physical space and remain at least 1.5 metres from others who may be there.

In terms of local worship options at this time you may wish to:

join our service on Zoom at 10am Sundays – contact:

anglicanworshipbraidwood@gmail.com for log-in details OR

listen to the ecumenical service at 10am Sundays on Braidwood Radio.

There are also currently a lot of 'worship offerings'online and on the television which you may wish to explore.

God is my refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46

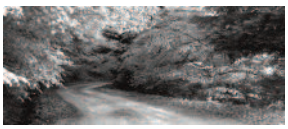
Email: angbraidwood@bigpond.com

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BRAIDWOOD

Great Truths That Adults Have Learned

1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.

THE MANY ROADS OF LIFE



The significance of our relationship with family is regularly mentioned in scripture. Through the difficult and intense moments in our life, it is our family that can provide comfort and reassurance. And moreover, when the members of our family are going through hardships, we can provide assistance to them. In essence, the family should be a symbiotic support system that strengthens and encourages each of its members.

Unfortunately, this is commonly not the case as we've seen a general breakdown of the family over the past couple of generations.

The Church is also a family, albeit also not always perfect. A family which supports, encourages and nurtures its members. It is a loving and concerned group of imperfect human beings like you and I who are, under God, endeavouring to be your family.

Remain calm. Wash your hands.

If you're reading this the world has NOT ended... there is time to experience the family of God.

Parish Scribbler

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BRAIDWOOD UNITING CHURCH

Jesus says, "I am the light..." Leonard Cohen says, "There's a crack in everything...that's how the light gets in."

We can get tricked into thinking that it is us at our best, our good behaviour, or our public face that brings us the light of Jesus, and then reflects that light out to the world. However, Cohen would remind us that it is our cracks, our flaws and failings, it is our vulnerabilities that let the light shine through us.

It is our acknowledgement of having need, of not being perfect, of being vulnerable that provides space for abundance that comes from our generous God. Rather than hide from God through shame of our weakness, like Adam and Eve did, we can bring all our weaknesses to God.

For God IS love, and love covers over all our failings. There is no judgement here, only compassion and strength to keep walking.

Blessings from Dr Julie Fletcher and the congregation of the Braidwood Uniting Church (drjuliefletcher@gmail.com). Please join us on Braidwood Community Radio for Church on Sundays at 10am.

Ballad of the blue vase

Luka Bloom, an Irish singer writes after visiting Braidwood

I know; this is an odd image to mark the transition from 2019 into 2020 — but if you have a moment, bear with me ...

April 2019, I drove through quite a bit of New South Wales. One of our drives was from Katoomba to Sydney, down the coast to Mollymook by the sea, and into Milton for a show. Then on past Batemans Bay, onto the Kings Highway and through the woods and hills to Canberra.

This was over a four-day period in mid tour. Before leaving Braidwood, I asked for a minute to visit the public bathroom on the main street. Entering a public bathroom can be a challenge sometimes. As soon as I opened the door of the public loo in the main street, there was this little blue vase, holding fresh flowers in this immaculately clean bathroom. I was so surprised I took a picture.

And I thought about the person who took the time to pick the flowers, and leave the wee vase in this public loo. It said to me, 'Welcome to our town. Enjoy the facitilies. We are happy you stopped by; and maybe leave the place as clean as you found it'.

It gave me a lovely little moment of sensing the community spirit of Braidwood NSW.

The welcome, and the trust.

[BCT: It is local flower afficianado Margaret Tuckwell who put the flower in the 'bathroom'.]

Facebook is not the place to go for knowledge — the library could be better

Penelope Swales, academic and activist

If you start watching anti-vaxx or Coronavirus conspiracy content on YouTube, the algorithm will show you more of that content because it thinks you like it. You are not 'doing your own research'.

You are being played by an algorithm that is designed to keep you engaged for as long as possible so it can show you ads.

Also, once content gets more than a certain number of views, the person who posted it might start getting paid, so it is in their interest to attract your attention and the easiest way to do this is with outrageous claims.

The social media giants have been criticised for years for making money out of this business model. But now that they're cracking down on it, that cab be taken as confirmation that the accusation must have been true.

Add to this that a lot of this information comes out of Russia or from the far-right. Both have a vested interest in weakening democracy via breaking down trust in government and mainstream media.

Government and mainstream media often do a good job of this themselves and this is being seized upon and exploited.

Try not to be too gullible, folks. And learn some history. Pandemics are a thing. So is fascism.

Don't enable either.

Women's defending champion, Jackie Clark, takes her putt on the 2nd, watched by Margy Gardner and Debby Ferguson.

Defending men's champion, Michael Toirkens, teeing off in cold and blustery conditions in Round 1 of the Golf Club Championships on Saturday.

Distance less of a problem for golf

Robin Tennant-Wood

In what can only be described as weather best suited for indoor activities, seven women and 10 men teed off on Saturday for Round 1 of the Braidwood Club Championships.

Played under social distancing guidelines this year, the Championships are played over three rounds, with the second played on Sunday in more clement weather conditions.

The final round of the Championships will be played next Saturday 30 May with the timesheet schedule the same as the first two rounds. Players wanting to play in the normal day competition will tee off before the Championship players.

At the completion of the Round 2, the men's and women's defending champions, Michael Toirkens and Jackie Clark are both ahead. The nett competitions are still up for grabs with Mark Newman and Robin Tennant Wood currently in the lead. Rodney Royds and Don Burke are leading the gross and nett scores for the men's B Grade Championship.

Players will have noticed the impressive new signs that have been installed on the tees. The club is looking more like a 'Royal' course! Many thanks to Leigh Curtis for the installations.

The course and greens are playing well and in good condition for the championships with thanks to Keith Ferguson and Mark Newman for their hard work. It is a true credit to the work of our volunteer members that Braidwood is maintained to such a high standard.

Championship scores at the completion of Round 2

Men's A Grade Gross :
Michael Toirkens with 159
Brendan Sly with 167
Mark Newman with 169
Simon Briggs with 174
John Stahel with 177

Men's A Grade Nett :
Mark Newman with 143
John Stahel with 147
Nelson Sargent with 150
Michael Toirkens with 153
Nick Fry with 153

Men's B Grade Gross :
Rod Royds with 191
Ted Emmett with 192
David Jones with 198
Don Burke with 199
Michael Fitzgerald with 204

Men's B Grade Nett :
Don Burke with 147
Michael Fitzgerald with 152
Rod Royds with 153
Ted Emmett with 154
David Jones with 156

Women's Gross
Jackie Clark 174
Deb Ferguson 188
Donna Kuhn 205
Virginia Groot Obbink 207
Robin Tennant Wood 209
Di Freeman 214
Margy Gardner 217

Women's Nett
Robin Tennant Wood 113
Di Freeman 115
Deb Ferguson 128
Jackie Ckark 129
Donna Kuhn 130
Margy Gardner 136
Virginia Groot Obbink 138

Eden-Monaro election date is set for Saturday July 4.

BCT ALLSTARS

Gimme
How big is your TV ... what? It doesn't cover the wall? Get on down to Hardly Normal and grab a monster screen on no deposit, no interest and no repayments until COVID-21.

Canker
Your creativity this month is through the roof. Caution is indicated if you need to go up there to install a huge reception tower for your new TV.

Lost
Queuing up for stuff might be the new normal. Perhaps you could sign up for 'QueueStart', where an un-employed person will hold your place in the line while you have a coffee and then text you when they're near the front.

Virtue
The week you should focus on bonding and harmonisation. Sort of like araldite meets a capella. At least the group won't break up if the pieces are clean.

Liberal
So what's a gal to do. Here you are preselected for a seat with a good chance and your old man has a record for the saying the awfullest things. Don't take him to meet-the-candidates night perhaps?

Scorporation
Sit back and watch the environment face the music in the latest installment of 'Six o'clock Frack' — it's a gas man. Wherever there's a bloke in a hard hat surrounded by a maze of giagantic plumbing, someone is making, or is expecting to make, a motza.

Sagginpuss
Congratulations, you and your boss have realised that you can work from home. Enjoy it while you can. Your boss will soon twig that you could have been in the Phillipines, except that you aren't and a lesser-paid worker is.

Aquatic
If you dig a hole at BCS and go down 800 metres, then excavate a cavern at that depth that goes from Wallace Street to Ryrie Street and all the way to Jeremy's, that's Snowy 2.0.

Pieces
From there you need to tunnel to Araluen but if you needed a drink at the pub after all that work, haplessly you'd actually still be about 150 metres below the town.

Airy
Where's all that dirt going to go you might well ask. There a quite a lot of questions to be answered and it might end up being Snowy 2.Oh, oh.

Thesaurus
And the word of the week is 'Quibi'. It's another hey boomer mob product, thinking they're being cool, but really just giving young people yet another way to cop a recurring debt.

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

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