BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Wednesday, March 23 2022

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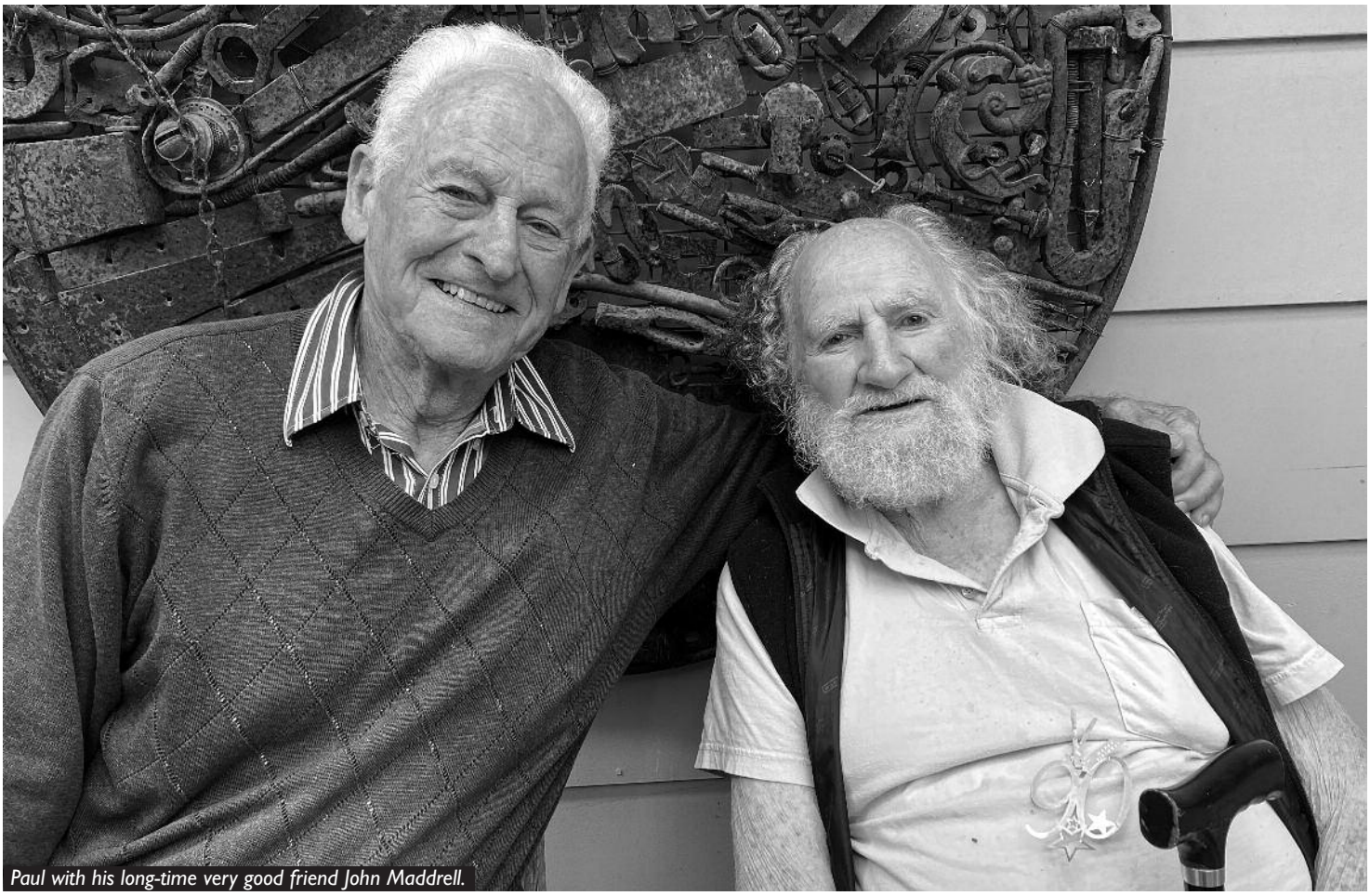
COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	15°	21°	90%
Th:	10°	18°	70%
Fr:	12°	18°	80%
Sat:	11°	17°	70%
Sun:	11°	20°	70%
Mon	12°	22°	70%
Tue:	10°	18°	40%



Paul with his long-time very good friend John Maddrell.

Winners Leone Moffitt, Diana McGrath, Nola Clarke and Jean Cargill.

MR DANN TURNS 90

Paul Dann, the man with the whippett, turned 90 recently and his friends chucked a party.

Relatives and friends gathered at his mate David's house where he made a thoughtful and mercifully succinct speech.

More pics on page 15

Braidwood CWA winners

Story on page 6

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant-Wood*

Leaving it to the children

What kind of government argues in a court of law that it has no duty of care to protect future generations?

What kind of government even thinks that way? A morally bankrupt one? One that is incapable of seeing a future beyond the next election? One that cares so little for its constituents that it will fight them in court in order to push its own harmful agenda? All of the above.

Last week the federal environment minister, Sussan Ley, claimed a victory when her legal team successfully argued an appeal against a previous decision that she — and by extension, the government — has no duty of care to protect future generations from climate change and can therefore exploit the environment for short-term profits.

The original court case was brought by a group of high school students seeking to stop the minister approving the expansion of a coal mine in New South Wales on the grounds that the government has a duty of care to protect future generations from the impact of climate change.

The concept of 'duty of care' is simple. It is a legal term applicable to everyone: we all have a duty of care to ensure that our actions do not cause harm to anyone else. By electing a government to represent us and legislate in our interests, we are, by extension, presuming our representative government will carry that duty of care.

The ruling on the appeal, overturning the original decision that the government does have a duty of care to future generations, runs to 282 pages. There are numerous complex legal reasons given for the decision, but most of them can be distilled into the simple reason that it is not the role of the court to set policy for climate change and is, rather, the role of the elected representative government. This is, of course, quite correct, but it does not detract from the government's duty of care – a point that has been made by numerous legal scholars since the appeal decision was handed down.

If the government has no duty of care to protect future generations from climate change, what other responsibilities might it shirk? No duty of care to the elderly by ensuring adequate aged care facilities? No duty of care to those already feeling the full brunt of climate change-induced extreme events by withholding disaster recovery funding? No duty of care to the population generally by failing to provide vaccines during a global pandemic?

> What, precisely, is the duty of government if not to look beyond the interests of its corporate donors and provide a safe environment for future citizens?

Most individual members of the government have children themselves; some have grandchildren. At some point they will need to look those children in the eye and explain that they celebrated a court decision exonerating them of any duty of care to those children and their descendants.

There is no longer a 'climate change debate'. It is an incontrovertible scientific fact. When high school students have to resort to legal action to stop a government destroying the country of which they will one day be the leaders it is indeed a tragic state of affairs. While the court's decision may be arguable, the government's abrogation of its moral and legal responsibilities is not: it is on show for all to witness.

Summerfield community takes the helm

This week the Summerfield Community Association was formed by the residents of Summerfield Village in Little River Road, Braidwood.

The Over 55s Village comprises independent villas and shared community facilities and gardens.

The first task of the new association was to elect an Executive Committee to manage the shared facilities. The new committee is pictured below. The new management arrangements take over from Tim Wright the developer.

There are around 60 residents who live at Summerfield, many of them participate in community activities inside and outside the village. The new Chairman of the Association Barry McDonald said, "one of Summerfields aims is to contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the wider Braidwood community."


The new committee.


Summerfield developer Tim Wright [at left] toasts the residents.

Martin Royds at the once-upon-a-time dry creek bed at Jillamatong Farm.

Jillama-gong

NSW Landcare Awards press release

Landcare groups and individuals from across NSW had their achievements recognised last week when the NSW Landcare Awards were held.

Featuring eight diverse categories ranging from farming, Coastcare and Indigenous land management, the winners were announced as part of the NSW Landcare and Local Land Services conference.

Stephanie Cameron, Chair of Landcare NSW together with Allison Harker, Acting Chair of Local Land Services paid tribute to the award finalists and champions.

"The NSW Landcare Awards are a great celebration of Landcare in NSW. The awards recognise partnerships, individuals, groups across the state as well as, and most importantly, First Nations custodians caring for country," Ms Harker said.

Winner of the Australian Government Landcare Farming Award, Martin Royds, said he was honoured to receive the award.

"To be nominated for this award and to share my story and my work is an honour. I would like to thank everyone who has supported my work, our group and joined the Landcare community over the years. It has really been a team effort.

Martin has been active in the Braidwood Landcare group since its inception in the early 90s and involved in Landcare and regenerative agriculture for over 40 years.

His property, Jillamatong on the edge of Braidwood, is a testament to Martin's integrated land management excellence and leadership practices carried out since 1985 and has been used as a demonstration farm to trial new thinking and innovative methods in farming, facilitating many field days, open days and training events both at Jillamatong and at other farms.

A 230% increase in production and significant improvements to landscape function are living proof.

Martin said the most significant impacts have been accomplished through controlled grazing, changing paddock designs, tree planting and implementing healthier water management.

Greens pick candidate for Eden-Monaro

Australian Greens press release

The Australian Greens are pleased to announce Vivian Harris as their House of Representatives candidate for the seat of Eden Monaro in the upcoming federal election.

Vivian has lived in the Bega Valley for the past four years and is a teacher, holds qualifications in veterinary and environmental science and currently works in retail. A mother, grandmother and long time climate activist, her announcement fittingly comes amidst International Women's Day and the extreme wet and stormy weather sweeping the Eden Monaro electorate.

Vivian Harris

Immediate implementation of proven solutions to the climate crisis will be a primary campaign focus for Vivian. "For decades science has warned of the increasing intensity of weather events. Failure by successive LNP and ALP governments to act on these warnings means we are now living in the era of climate catastrophe. The 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires in Eden Monaro and the current disastrous flooding in northern NSW are tastes of what is to come if we don't act on the science immediately and decisively", Vivian said.

The Greens climate policies include net zero by 2035 or sooner, and Australia to play a leadership role in multilateral negotiations for global carbon emissions reduction.

"Unlike both major parties, The Greens do not take corporate donations from the fossil fuel industry so our policies properly address the climate crisis and our failing ecological life support systems", Vivian explained.

Vivian is also extremely concerned that many Australians are being left behind financially. "I have lived in low socio economic areas for most of my life and once lived on Jobseeker, so I know the anxiety of rising rents and bills", she said.

"The Greens and I will fight for a fairer future based on caring for the environment and people. For far too long government policies have benefited billionaires and corporations instead of ordinary Australians. The Greens policies for a jobs guarantee, affordable housing, quality free education and health, sustainable infrastructure and manufacturing will ensure that everyone can live in dignity and have meaningful work."

Another important focus for Vivian is a treaty with First Nations Australians and support for those suffering the intergenerational trauma of dispossession. "The Uluru Statement from the Heart generously offers Australia a unique way forward to a prosperous future for all. I really want to see it accepted immediately and without reservation".

Working Bee at the Old Braidwood Cemetery

10.00am Saturday 26th March

Please bring clean tools, mowers, whipper snipper, rake or sprayer. We will be tidying up around graves and fence lines.

Contact Jill Clarke 0439005433. Remember, it is the families responsibility to look after the graves.

With lunch on the horizon it's all smiles on the long hill up from Tantulean Creek.

On the road with Huw Kingston

Huw spoke with Paul Cockram at Provisions

Southern Highlands-based adventurer, writer and environmental activist, Huw Kingston, came through Braidwood last week with a group of cyclists en route to the Snowy Mountains.

Stopping in town for lunch at Provisions before heading on to Majors Creek, Kingston, who stood as an independent candidate against Energy Minister Angus Taylor at the 2019 election, spoke to the *Changing Times* about the tour he was leading and his thoughts on current politics.

"I run a few bike tours, mountain bike tours and ski tours, and this particular group booked to go on a tour with me to New Zealand two years ago", he said.

"We're now on the sixth date of the New Zealand tour because of course it keeps getting cancelled – although yesterday PM Jacinda Ardern did announce that she's going to open up next month.

"We're now due to go there in November this year, but every time it's been cancelled I've said to the crew, 'Well, you've taken this week off, do you want to do something anyway?' So over the last two years, COVID willing, we've done a few week-long mountain bike tours and this one is riding from Bundanoon up in the Highlands to my house in the Snowy Mountains."

Kingston has what many might consider the perfect job. "We're just having a bit of fun", he said, "a great ride through some great country."

The floods two weeks ago forced the postponement of the current trip by a week when some of the river crossings ended up 10 or 12 metres underwater.

"We changed the route a little bit because some of the stuff that we originally planned to do through Kangaroo Valley and coming across from there was still closed or flooded," Kingston said.

The day before they came through Braidwood they'd been at Nerriga then "had a bit of a loop through the beautiful Budawangs and back to Nerriga."

Curiously, each of the cyclists in the group had a blue and yellow duck on their helmets.

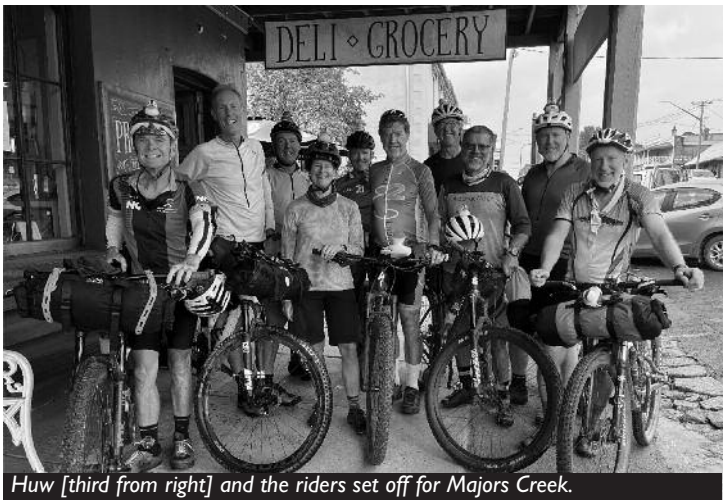
Kingston explained the ducks, saying that each of the tours he runs has a 'mascot', which is put in the care of one tour member each day.

He said, "This time, I thought, well, there's so much rain, the desperately sad business with the floods, so we ended up having a duck mascot for this trip. And then I thought, bugger it, we'll get a duck for everybody.

"And then we painted those blue as well because the duck happened to be the yellow of the Ukrainian flag. So I guess we're riding in support of the good people of Ukraine in this terrible, terrible tragedy and showing our support by our squadron of Ukrainian ducks."

While Kingston is not standing in Taylor's electorate of Hume in the coming election, he is still very much politically active and advocating for climate action. He is supporting the campaign of independent candidate, Penny Ackery who he believes is a strong candidate.

"I knew Angus pretty well before the 2019 election," he said. "As a start-up independent I gave him a good nudge from a low-key base and I think the building blocks are there now. Hopefully Penny can do well again and maybe make the independent's mark on that seat of Hume. "I think Angus Taylor and Barnaby Joyce and many others just bury their heads in the sand on the floods and many other topics, sadly."

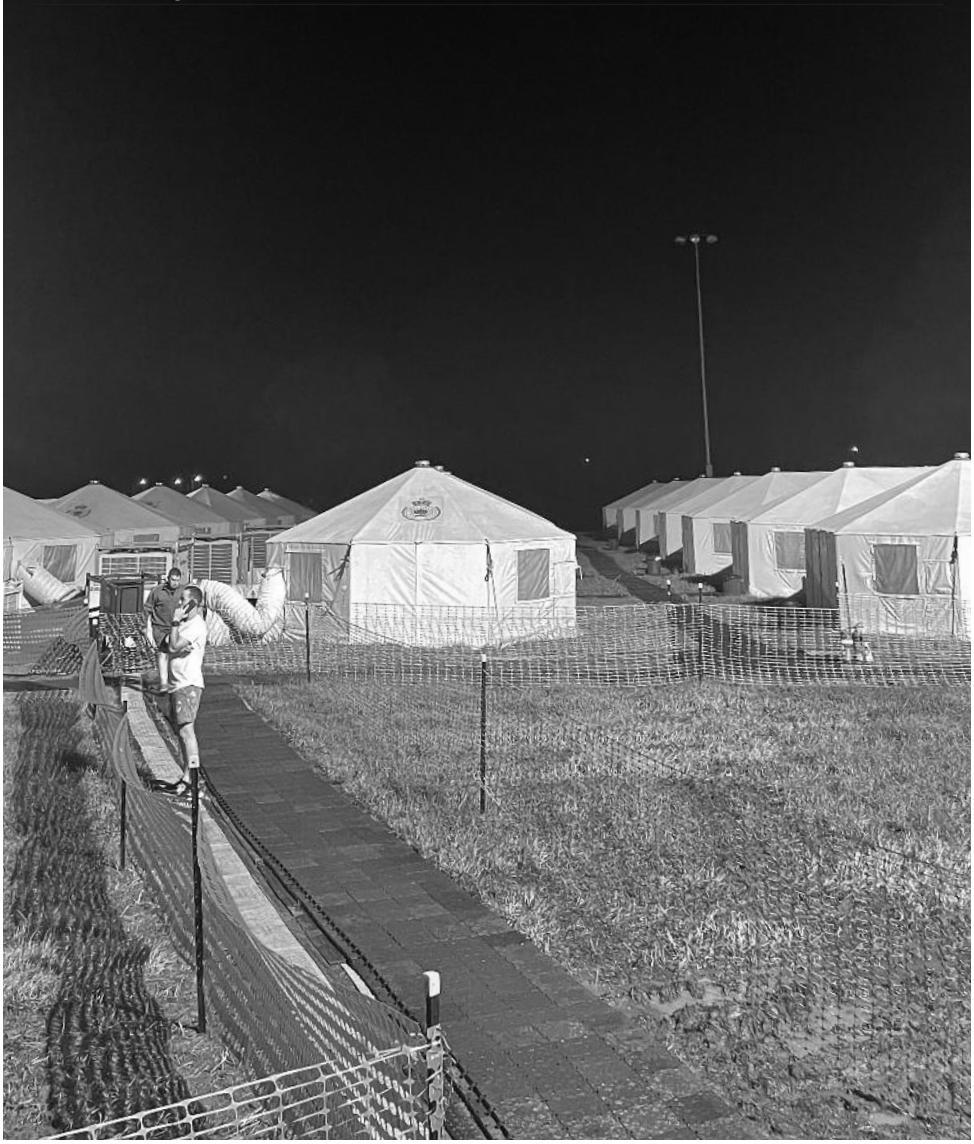


Huw [third from right] and the riders set off for Majors Creek.

Base Camp North

March 12, 2022

Paul Huntingford



The only difficult things about a 5am start is trying not to wake five other people in the tent while fumbling for clothes, internally cursing the squeaky stretcher and wondering why everything on this modern earth involves Velcro.

Stepping out of the tent into the drizzle before sunrise would normally be met with darkness. But not this time. Stadium lighting illuminates fifty tents of varied size, a dozen large generators, forty toilet portables, six shower blocks, two laundries and several storage shipping containers. All were placed here less than two weeks ago on the footy ground at Wollongbar TAFE situated halfway between Ballina and Lismore on the Bruxner Hwy in the northern rivers area of NSW.

A few early risers with towels and thongs are starting the shower shift that will reach peak hour around 7am, and soon after emerge from their tents in full uniform. Breakfast is 6-8am. Camp capacity is 510 people. Today is 486 with crew rotations each day of more than 100. The camp is the accommodation base for all services assisting with flood relief – St John Ambulance, NSW Fire and Rescue and the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). Crews close enough to drive here arrive in service vehicles. Those farther away are flown in and shuttled from Ballina airport. Deployment for each crew is normally 3-5 days with a few exceptions.

The NSW RFS coordinate and manage the daily operations of the camp: cleaning and sanitation, maintenance, parking, bedding, shuttle bus commuting and whatever else that looks like it needs doin'. St John Ambos attend injuries, but mostly run a very tight and friendly ship with daily covid testing: every morning for crews heading out and the ongoing new arrivals.

Fire and Rescue have a large setup on the lower end of the TAFE car park split into two sections: one is for decontamination that all crews pass through when returning from tasking – Gastro is a very unwanted affliction to take hold in the camp to say the least. F and R's other section is a small 'Bunnings'. Equipment and assorted gear available to all - masks, gloves, gumboots, insect repellent, sunscreen, wheelbarrows, shovels, buckets… The only thing missing is a sausage sizzle. Which by way of transition brings us to the mess tent.

As mentioned, breakfast 6-8am. Lunch 12-2 and dinner 6-8pm. And a fine and functional fare it is. The food is delicious, plentiful and graciously served by the catering team. For non-catering people it is generally unimaginable what is required to provide three meals a day to 500 people with vegetarian and gluten-free options from portable cooking facilities in a carpark. Especially when the main kitchen generator blows a gasket and is out of action for six hours.

Stunning and consistent and appreciated as the meals were, that paled compared to the arrival of the small coffee van in the early mornings and late afternoons. Cast an image of a dollop of honey on an ant nest. But don't get the idea that this is a holiday park at Coff's.

Emergency response volunteers and staff are helping with the worst affected areas best they can. Water has not completely subsided in some areas, but where it has the devastation is being dealt with by assisting residents and local volunteers to move damaged items and hose silt from walls.

RFS heavy plant crews have been tasked to make access paths through dead livestock, or remove them if possible. Uncountable more float past in fast flowing rivers. Combined odours of decomposition, sewerage, mould and mud defy description. As a dozer driver put it after returning to camp, "there are some things you can't un-see".

But there is no complaining at base camp north. Everyone has put up a hand to travel here. They want to help in any way possible. To rally and relieve what is still happening in the northern rivers of NSW and southeast Queensland.

Both photos by Tom Alder

CWA NEWS

Margaret Shea

Several Braidwood CWA Members attended the Southern Tablelands Group Handicraft and Land Cookery Day in Goulburn last Tuesday. We had a very enjoyable and successful day.

Congratulations to our members who came first in their sections of competition, they will now compete at State Level. Leone Moffitt gained first prize for her bag which scored ninety-eight points out of a possible one hundred. She will also share a Perpetual Trophy with Yass Branch.

Diana McGrath came first with her lovely jacket in the over eighty years section. Diana has also been teaching some local ladies how to crochet at our rooms on Mondays. Well done to our wonderful cooks: Jean Cargill came first with her Fruitcake and Shortbread and Nola Clarke was first with her Orange Cake. Jan Broadbent was placed third for her Orange Cake.

In the Handicraft Competition our eight entries gained over ninety points each. Thank you to all our members who exhibited items and everyone who entered the Land Cookery competition. We wish our members all the best as they compete at the CWA of NSW 100 Year Conference in May.

For the CWA 100 Year Celebration we, as members of Southern Tablelands Group, were asked to provide information about the decade 1972-1982 at Braidwood CWA. It was very interesting to research the events during this time and our information regarding this will be on display at State Conference in Sydney.

There were many active members throughout this time and meetings were well attended. Babies were born in Braidwood Hospital back then and members knitted booties to give to new mothers. There were some group conferences held in Braidwood. Residents of Kenmore Hospital in Goulburn were often invited to Braidwood and enjoyed meals at our rooms. They also received birthday and Christmas presents from our branch. Technical College Classes began at the rooms on the 5 September, 1972 and were held over a number of years. Towards the end of that decade, the Braidwood District was badly affected by serious drought. Local farmers were forced to go droving to keep their sheep and cattle alive. A very hard time for families who lived on the land.

The CWA catering team.

On a closing note, at the final meeting for 1982, held on December 10, this comment was made: "PUBLICITY on 2GN Goulburn should cover more worthwhile information rather than our tea and scones fundraising ."

It was good to reminisce about times past and we now look forward to being part of the future of the Braidwood branch of CWA, NSW.

Margaret Shea,
Secretary, Braidwood CWA.

Braidwood youth Fit for Life

Robin Tennant-Wood

Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain, and Terry Campese joined the leaders and participants of the Queanbeyan PCYC's Fit for Life program at Braidwood Central School recently.

Queanbeyan PCYC manager, Brett Bowden, said that the program, while originally aimed at supporting young people at risk of falling into trouble, is tailored to suit the demographic make-up of each community where it runs.

Senior Constable Jake Diamond, who leads the program in Braidwood, is from the Youth Crime and Prevention Command based in Queanbeyan. His role involves such areas a program and case management, talking to school groups and leading programs such as Fit for life.

Snr Constable Diamond explained that while the program in Queanbeyan focuses on support for kids at risk, the focus in Braidwood is more on leadership.

"We support the kids who are on the Duke of Edinburgh Award program, run leadership camps and are able to engage the kids in a number of ways to bring out their best," he said.

The program involves before-school activities as well as an annual leadership camp in the Kosciuszko National Park, where participants learn about the cultural significance of the area, gain camping and outdoor skills and see the Snowy Hydro in action.

The PCYC works closely with the Terry Campese Foundation which is a support organisation for disadvantaged young people in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region.

Campese, along with Ms McBain, Brett Bowden and Jake Diamond were putting 14 BCS students through their paces in the BCS gym early in the morning.

Ms McBain praised the program as creating a firm step between school students and leaders of the future. She would not be drawn into a comment on the release of that morning's Newspoll, which put Labor leader Anthony Albanese level with Prime Minister Scott Morrison as preferred PM.

"It's just a poll," she said. "Nothing to get excited about." She said her focus remains on representing the people of her electorate.

Ms McBain was happy to join in the morning activity, skilfully dodging an aimed basketball as she made a home run around the gym.

Kristy [at right] with the group.

BYPAA MADS Peter van Rijswijk

Calamity Jane auditions

Following the successful launch of the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association's (BYPAA) new venture, Music, and Drama Society (MADS) the previous Wednesday evening, auditions for the musical Calamity Jane were held on 16th March at the Servicemen's Club.

This subgroup of Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association (BYPAA) has been developed to address the identified needs and aspirations of the local community and creative artists interested in both amateur and professional performance. It offers continuing participation in the performing arts and a pathway for young people who no longer fall into BYPAA parameters/age range. BYPAA MADs seeks to be recognised as the 'go-to' organisation for performing arts in Braidwood region. We aim to be viable, relevant, and visible by increasing membership and through our activities and events

A strong line up of talented locals participated enthusiastically in the audition process to be a part of this version of the well-known musical. There was a buzz of excitement to be able to finally participate in a workshop and audition process that we could all attend 'in person'. with the promise of performing to an audience in June. The range of talent has proven that Braidwood is certainly

a region with multi-talented people bursting with enthusiasm to share their skills and talents with the community. It also made the selection process for the various roles a challenge for the director. The final cast announcement is pending that decision.

This version of Calamity Jane will be adapted to include local references and performed cabaret style, dinner, and show, in the last week of June. Stayed turned for further announcements of cast, crew, and performance dates.

To participate in BYPAA MADs events each person will need to register as a BYPAA member to ensure they are covered by insurance. The current cost is $5.00 individual $15.00 for a family. A supplement to this fee, participants that are actively involved in a production either as a performer or a production assistant will be asked to contribute $50.00 to support the production costs.

BYPAA MADs Patrons

BYPAA MADS would like to thank two of foundation patrons Bill Waterhouse and Wendell Peacock for their support.

BYPAA MADs is looking at presenting performing arts programs from 2022, providing entertainment and participation opportunities for community members.

Patron support will help BYPAA MADs to create productions of high artistic standard, within a pricing framework, which promotes community accessibility. To thank BYPAA MADs Patrons we will provide potential patrons with two complimentary tickets to productions. Our appreciation will also be demonstrated by the acknowledgement of Patrons in show programs, newsletters, on our website and in our annual report. The annual cost of becoming a BYPAA MADs single Patron is $200.

The recent Calamity Jane audition at the Servicemen's Club.

QPRC NEWS

Braidwood Skatepark

Council has approved the tender for a new skatepark to be built at the Braidwood Recreation Ground. Experienced skatepark builders, Grind Projects, will build the park.

The park will suit beginner and intermediate skaters. Work is expected to begin in September and be completed by the end of the year.

The $680,660 Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package grant was secured by the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association with the support of the Braidwood Community Association.

QPRC will assist with project management.

Captains Flat Road

Shoulder widening and drainage work is progressing on Captains Flat Road.

Crews have been working their way along the 18.2km stretch since mid-January, preparing for the next stage of rehabilitation.

QPRC aims to begin stabilisation of these freshly widened sections in late March, weather permitting.

Draft Community Strategic Plan

After more than 1720 people participated in the Towards 2042 engagement between June and August last year, QPRC has released the draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for public comment.

The Draft CSP is on the Your Voice page of the QPRC website for feedback. The CSP will guide council as it develops the Delivery Program to prioritise projects that are important to the community.

Your feedback so far has shown that priorities over the next ten years should include infrastructure, environmental impact and sports and recreation facilities.

Proudly funded by NSW GOVERNMENT

Braidwood Says NO To Domestic and Family Violence

This Project was funded by the NSW Government. Braidwood Says No to Violence is a subgroup of the Braidwood Life Centre.

We acknowledge that this poster was created on the unceded land of the Dhurga speaking People of the Yuin Nation.

GET EDUCATED!

The firepit makes a great place for goups to get together.

Tombarra open for events and accommodation

"We are really getting back into the swing of things out here by the beautiful Mongarlowe River", says Tombarra's Nicchia.

Once again Tombarra is enjoying weekly events, weekend retreats and weekday workshops.

It has hosted Natural Sequence Farming courses, Braidwood Holistic Management courses, Aboriginal Women's Business workshops, Photo Fun, Church groups, getaways, small country-style weddings and family get togethers.

"Thank you all for coming back to us," said Niccia.

If you are looking to work with a dedicated team who put the safety of their guests first or for any other enquiries about accommodation or event hosting at Tombarra please feel welcome to call Nicchia on 0448533616.

A fungi workshop in the well-equipped Tombarra conference room.

REGIONAL REAL ESTATE

Majors Creek (EOI)

15 Hill Street,

What a great opportunity to buy this 1ha building block, featuring lovely established gardens, with some of the oldest trees in the village. It has been further enhanced with numerous deciduous trees, plants, and a magnificent photinia hedge.

Phone Kate Murphy 0410 466 318

Braidwood $899,000

53 Wilson Street,

Quaint cottage and DA approved granny flat situated on a generous 1,416sqm (approx.) block. The options are endless; live in one house and rent the other or rent both houses or use the Granny Flat as a studio, teenage retreat or inlaw accommodation; the choice is yours.

Phone Kelly Allen 0466 632 696

2022 Influenza vaccinations have arrived at Capital Chemist

Arm yourself against influenza this year with an influenza vaccination from Capital Chemist Braidwood.

New 2022 stock has just arrived and we are ready to begin administering.

There will be three options available this year:

The traditional egg-based four-strain influenza vaccine

This vaccine contains four strains of influenza that are predicted to be most commonly circulating this Winter. Vaccines have traditionally been manufactured using egg cells, which then go through a purification process. The final vaccine may have some variability in the strains, but overall, the effectiveness is very good.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, our pharmacists can administer this vaccine to children over 10 years of age, and adults who are not yet 65 years. We don't require a prescription from your doctor, and are offering walk in vaccination (no appointment necessary) most of the week.

The new cell-based four strain influenza vaccine — Flucelvax

Last year (2021), a new cell-based vaccine was introduced onto the Australian market. This vaccine is manufactured using a different process to the traditional vaccines, and as such there is less variability in the four strains included in the vaccine. It is believed this results in higher effectiveness (compared to the egg-based version) offering you better protection against circulating strains.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, our pharmacists can administer this vaccine to children over 10 years of age, and adults who are under 65 years. We don't require a prescription from your doctor, and are offering walk in vaccination (no appointment necessary) most of the week.

The Over 65 Influenza vaccine - Fluad

This vaccine is designed for people aged over 65 years and produces are stronger immune response to give better protection. The vaccine contains four strains of influenza virus, expected to mirror what is seen throughout our upcoming Winter.

The over 65 influenza vaccine provided by NSW Health free for those over 65, and for the first time will be available at Capital Chemist Braidwood this year. There will be an administration fee to cover our pharmacists' expertise, but for your convenience we will be offering walk in vaccinations most of the week for this service (no appointment or script from your doctor required!).

The over 65 vaccine hasn't arrived, but NSW Health expects to distribute it in April so we will let you know as soon as it arrives!

Walk-in vaccinations available Monday to Thursday for those aged 10-64 years. Appointments available on Fridays. Over 65 vaccine hasn't arrived yet, but we will let you know when it does.

Booking site:

https://capital-chemist-braidwood.pharmacybookings.com.au

Braidwood Lodge of Truth Installation

Martin Gilby

On Saturday 12th March, Paul Story was installed as Worshipful Master of Lodge Truth of Braidwood at the Braidwood Masonic Hall.

Overseen by the Grand Master's representative, Geoff Bunn, Paul and his Officers were installed for the ensuing period. This occasion had been much anticipated due to delays due to Covid restrictions. This was followed by a Celebratory Banquet at the Braidwood Services Club.

Guests came from Sydney, Queanbeyan, Canberra, Moruya and afar to celebrate this occasion.

[above] Geoff Bunn, Paul Story and Phil Shoemark.

[right] David Cargill, Paul Story and Martin Gilby cutting the cake at the Installation Banquet.

Paul Story presenting the Travelling Gavel to the Worshipful Master of Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew, Roger Piggot. The gavel is presented between the two Lodges at Fraternal visits and was initiated by the late Pring Raynolds.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Why coal is an each-way bet

The government both backs and undermines coal's future ahead of the federal election

Excellent analysis by the ABC's business editor Ian Verrender

The Liddell Power Station in NSW's Hunter Region is expected to close down next year.

If there is one thing our political masters have learned over the past five decades, it is that if you want to stay in power, you have to keep the power running.

With a federal election likely to be called sometime in the next fortnight, keeping the lights on once again is destined to become a major swing vote issue.

Once upon a time, it was relatively easy. Federal governments could offload blame to the states for anything that went wrong. State governments would point the finger at previous governments for years of underinvestment.

That's no longer an option. Since almost all our infrastructure has been sold off to private operators in the past 30 years, politicians no longer call the shots on this most basic of public utilities.

But that hasn't stopped them turning it into a weapon on polling day.

And since our electricity sector has become enmeshed in the rapidly escalating battle over climate change — given it is the single biggest contributor to our carbon emissions — it has turned into an ideological battleground, not just between the main political parties but also within the government itself.

Leadership challenges, spills, factional disputes and a raging war between a rump of National Party members and Liberal powerbrokers erupted into the public arena last year.

That has led to a chaotic and conflicting policy framework within the Coalition that began in 2009 and continues to this day.

It scrapped a carbon price amid great fanfare, then quietly reintroduced one.

It championed coal at home and then pledged to cut emissions on the global stage. It has contemplated financing a new coal-fired generator at Collinsville in Queensland while committing to a giant hydro battery program that undercuts the economics of coal-fired generators.

The opposition is not much better. Like the government, it refuses to openly acknowledge the inevitable: that Australia's ageing fleet of coal-fired generators is facing oblivion much sooner than planned.

Power companies switch off

Energy Minister Angus Taylor has been bristling this past month. And with good reason.

Not only was he kept in the dark by Origin Energy about the company's decision to shut Eraring — the country's biggest coal-fired generator — seven years early, his state government counterparts also had maintained radio silence, just weeks out from an election.

"This decision is bitterly disappointing for all energy users — from households to small business to heavy industry — who rely on affordable, reliable energy to prosper," the minister said in a statement..

In addition to the Energy portfolio, Mr Taylor oversees Industry and Emissions — a difficult juggling act for even the most experienced politician.

With a looming federal poll, the minister firmly sided with energy, and coal in particular. He deftly avoided any mention of how the early shutdown would help the Morrison government achieve its commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 — a promise delivered to the world in Glasgow in November.

According to Mr Taylor, the early shutdown of Eraring "will leave a considerable gap in reliable generation" and risks pushing prices higher, "like the 85 per cent increase we saw after the closure of Hazelwood".

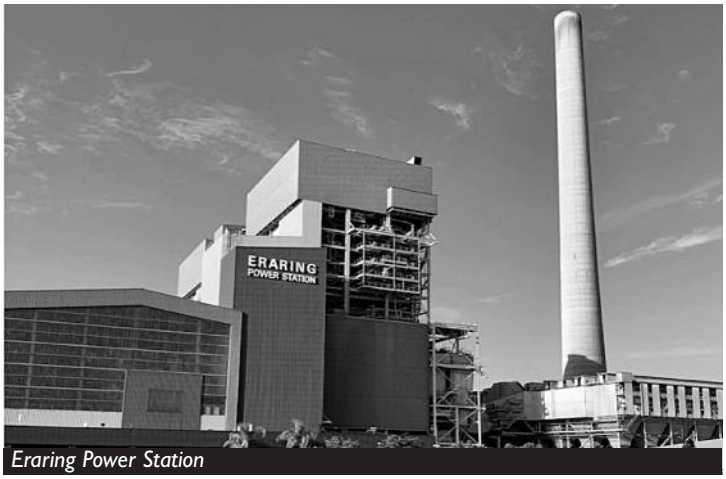
Worse was to come.

A week later, technology entrepreneur Mike Cannon-Brookes joined forces with Canadian infrastructure giant Brookfield to launch a $5.8 billion takeover bid for AGL. Integral to the deal was a plan to shut the Bayswater generator in NSW and Victoria's Loy Yang A 15 years ahead of schedule.

The lumbering AGL — which has seen its languishing share price hit by years of disappointing performances, write-downs and losses — already was in the process of jettisoning the ageing coal generators into a separate company in a desperate bid to improve the company's appeal. That deal has yet to be approved by shareholders.

While it has seen off the aggressors — at least for now — AGL itself has brought forward the shutdowns by around eight years.

Once again, Mr Taylor found himself in the trenches. He warned of the need to protect ordinary



Eraring Power Station

Snowy 2.0 will be Australia's largest committed renewable energy project.

Australians from the ravages of higher electricity prices and blackouts. Once again, however, he ignored the fundamental problem.

Both Origin and AGL are facing an existential crisis. Coal-fired generators are relics of a bygone era. They lose money. Their inflexibility renders them unsuitable to a modern power grid. And within the global investment world, they are on the nose because they are an environmental liability.

No-one wants to touch them. And with carbon prices escalating, the operating losses are likely to accelerate.

Water and coal don't mix

The Morrison government effectively signed the death warrant for Australian coal generators three years ago.

That's when it committed to two major hydro projects — Snowy 2.0 and the Marinus Link, a cable from Tasmania to the mainland as part of the Island state's Battery of the Nation program.

Both projects are hugely expensive. The Tasmanian link alone, according to its feasibility study four years ago, only becomes economic if 7,000 megawatts of coal-fired power generation are removed from the system.

That's the equivalent of all of Victoria's coal generation and a fair whack of NSW's.

In what has turned out to be an unnervingly accurate prophecy, that study predicted coal might be retired much earlier than anticipated, beginning in the mid-2020s.

The Snowy scheme is far more ambitious and far more expensive, meaning all our coal generators would need to be offline by the time it comes on stream for it to generate a profit. Otherwise, the Snowy project could become an enormous white elephant.

But the nail in the coffin for coal-fired power was hammered home by Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Glasgow late last year when he committed Australia to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

The pathway to achieving that, on the government's own numbers, clearly factors in the early closure of coal-fired power generators, given they contribute around a third of all our emissions.

The sudden collapse of our carbon price

If you run a business that pumps out emissions, you have two options. Either invest in new technology that cuts them as much as possible, or go to the market and buy carbon credits from someone who earns them from running green operations.

And thanks to former prime minister Tony Abbott, such a market now exists.

He famously may have "axed the tax", introduced by the Gillard government and openly despised the concept of carbon trading.

What isn't well known, however, is that his replacement program, the Emissions Reduction Fund, incorporated a mechanism that converted it into a carbon trading scheme.

While the Gillard carbon tax was labelled a "handbrake on the economy" at $23 a tonne, Mr Abbott's scheme has seen the price of credits soar in recent months to more than $60 a tonne. That's because, since the Glasgow summit, Australian businesses have been desperate to buy credits so they can meet the net zero commitment.

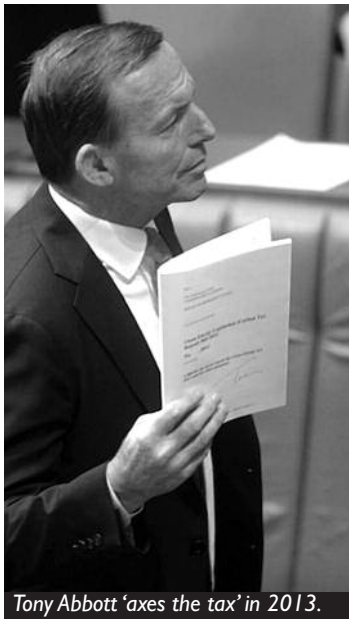
But something strange happened on our carbon credit market last week. The previous Friday night, Mr Taylor decided to release many of those who held the credits — with a contract to sell them to the government for a fixed average price of around $12 a tonne — from their commitments.

With the prospect of windfall profits — given spot market prices were north of $55 a tonne — they flooded the market with carbon credits and the price collapsed. But even at the low point of $30, they still made handsome returns.

It was an odd move on multiple fronts.

First, higher carbon prices aid the government's commitment to achieving net zero. The more someone has to pay for a carbon credit, the greater the incentive to cut emissions.

And second, given the government would have picked up the credits extremely cheaply under the contract, it effectively has handed over the windfall gains to private operators instead of keeping them for taxpayers.



Tony Abbott 'axes the tax' in 2013.

Collapsing carbon credits

The move might be a blessing for any big polluter that needs to get into the market from now on.

But many of those who bought in recent months, particularly since Glasgow, are spitting chips.

They're now nursing massive losses and are calling for the deal to be put under a spotlight.

But only if the power stays on.

LIVE SHOWS

Director Dave Letch, actors Pauline Mullen and Martin Sanders, and writer David Cole. Photo:Tom Sebo.

Dramatic baby-boomer Waltz swings by Braidwood

John Thistleton writes in the Riotact

A journalist from the 1960s and '70s, Helen's death came in 2016.

In the year leading up to her passing, she would often sit on a bench in Bondi overlooking the sea and share her thoughts on life and death with her son-in-law, David Cole, a teacher and scriptwriter from Goulburn.

He wasn't thinking about writing a play at the time, but two years later, one came to him.

"It is based on my journey with her, and her knowing she had terminal lung cancer with about a year to live and how she was dealing with that and still trying to find the upside of things, and live life to the fullest," he said.

"She was a bit of a character, a real fighter."

The Waltz tells the story of a pair of ageing radicals (played by Goulburn actors Pauline Mullen and Martin Sanders) who refuse to let society – or anybody else – dictate how they're going to spend their final days here on Earth.

The Waltz will play at Braidwood National Theatre at 4 pm on Sunday, 27 March, after being well received in Goulburn. Initially planned for a brief tour, it was performed three times at the Goulburn Club over one weekend. Among the audience was Jock McClean, a former drama teacher and theatre enthusiast, who loved it. He has worked previously with Mullen and Sanders and thought their performances were wonderful.

He said Cole had created two very believable, rather way-out characters. The language was quite ripe in places, but that goes with the two characters.

"Pauline's character (Irene) is a sweet, older baby boomer hippy who is part of the Sydney Push of the 1960s and '70s that flourished with free-spirited free love, Marijuana-smoking, drinking and lots of sex," he said.

"She plays this older lady with a great deal of wonderful, rosy-coloured nostalgia about what her life was like and she doesn't regret anything she has done," he said.

"Martin's character (Alf) is a much shier person, very reserved. He is an artist who likes to go out to the heads at Bondi and sketch, and that's where they meet. He becomes fascinated by this woman, falls very deeply in love with her," he said.

A baby boomer who lived through the late 1960s in Britain, Jock said the performance showed plenty of authenticity, verve, vitality, a lot of humour and flowed beautifully for 90 minutes.

Cole stood on a balcony above the Goulburn Club's courtyard watching the faces of people below during a sold-out performance of The Waltz.

"I've seen the play 12 times, so I'm more interested in how people are responding and how they were all engaged. You know when people are not engaged, they're shifting in their seats or whatever. No, they were all focussed, laughing and I thought, wow, they are really into this play."

He was surprised at times too.

"You think you have got a great joke, and some might laugh, but they'll laugh when you don't expect it," he said.

"A few people came up after the play to say, 'oh, I lost a partner recently, your play beautifully dealt with that passing of someone'," he said.

The five plays he has written have all been performed, three of them at Goulburn's Lieder Theatre, one with the Canberra Street Theatre and The Waltz, his most successful, is playing at Crookwell.

The Waltz director David Letch is well known in the Australian film and theatre industry, with decades worth of credits to his name. He most recently directed a production of A Tree Falling by award-winning playwright Ron Elisha. He has also collaborated with Oscar-nominated screenwriter Jonathan Hardy and worked on the groundbreaking Australian TV shows Division 4 and Homicide.

"The Waltz never lets you down," Letch said. "It's chewy, visceral, has meat on the bones, has guts, and most of all, it's really funny while also being heart-wrenching."

The Waltz will play at Braidwood National Theatre at 4 pm on Sunday, 27 March. To book, visit Try Booking.

Concert another COVID casualty

With great regret, Luminescence Chamber Singers' concert scheduled for **Saturday 26 March** at the St Andrews Anglican Church, Braidwood has been **CANCELLED** due to COVID isolation of a number of members of the ensemble.

All ticket holders have been notified by email by Luminescence Chamber Singers.

The ticketing is the responsibility of Luminescence Chamber Singers through their eventbrite account.

All ticket prices will be refunded or can be transferred to one of their Goulburn, Canberra or Sydney events in the following weeks. If you have not booked, and would like to attend one of these other performances, either book online or pay at the door on the day.

The organisers of the Braidwood Concert Series send our very best wishes to Luminescence Chamber Singers, wishing them well: for safe, COVID-free and successful performances and we look forward to welcoming them to Braidwood later in the year when they will perform 'Dolce Cantavi' on Sunday 21 August and 'Drawing Breath' on Saturday 15 October, 2022.

Farmer role central to carbon reduction plan

NSW Farmers press release

The state's peak agricultural body, NSW Farmers, has welcomed moves from the NSW Government to work with farmers in a lower carbon economy.

While previous carbon reduction policies from state and federal governments saw farmers unfairly impacted, the $125 million Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program (PIPAP) will make farmers key participants in a lower carbon economy.

With farmers managing more than 80 per cent of the state's land mass, and with agriculture being an economic and social pillar of regional communities, NSW Farmers Conservation and Resource Management Chair Bronwyn Petrie said it was critical that the sector was empowered in its pursuit of lower emissions.

"Productivity is key to farm viability, and land owners and managers need workable solutions to minimise their carbon footprint," Mrs Petrie said.

> "Central to this is having an open partnership model between farmers and government, and enabling farmers to feed into carbon minimisation strategies and measures that don't compromise productivity.

"There's also an opportunity for farmers to generate new revenue streams with emerging carbon markets, and one of the intended purposes of PIPAP is to promote these opportunities."

Mrs Petrie said farmers had historically faced punitive and excessive regulation around the management of private agricultural land, but PIPAP presented a new opportunity to improve green tape for the betterment of both the environment and farm innovation.

"Agricultural land has many modern demands, and a focus on regional planning is essential to getting the right balance," she said.

"We anticipate the government's next steps following the announcement of PIPAP.

"We hope this is the beginning of an era of partnership and empowerment between farmers and government."

Tom, Laura and Christina

Anarion

BRAG Makers Market 20 March

Georgie and Silmrien

Braidwood Clayworks

Jarrah and Cynthia

Jessica

Jarrah and Judy

Pippa

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

NSW Seniors Festival 22 March to 7 April

Join us for the NSW Seniors Festival until 7 April.

Due to flooding and associated safety concerns we have cancelled the Araluen and Nerriga events. We are offering free transport to the Braidwood event on 31 March. There is also free transport from Queanbeyan to Bungendore on 4 April. Please contact **cristina.dejongh@qprc.nsw.gov.au** to arrange your travel.

Upcoming dates and locations:
31 March Braidwood National Theatre 9am – 3pm
4 April Carrington Inn, Bungendore 9am – 3pm
7 April Queanbeyan Riverside Plaza 9am – 3pm

Proudly funded by the NSW Government.

▶ Learn more at:
qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/2022-Seniors-Festival

Become an educator with Family Day Care

Have you ever thought about becoming an educator with Family Day Care?

Queanbeyan-Palerang Family Day Care are looking for educators to join their network. Benefits of FDC include setting hours that work for you, being your own boss, and working from home.

▶ Learn more at
qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Family-Day-Care

Have **Your Say**

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date (2022)
2022 Review QPRC Debt Recovery Policy and Financial Hardship Assistance Policy	28 March
Draft QPRC Community Strategic Plan	3 April
Revised QPRC Parking Policy	17 April
Renew 2620	Ongoing
Monaro Street Upgrade	Ongoing

▶ Find all the details on Council's engagement hub at
yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

Submissions can be made:
- By registering and commenting via **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au**
- By email to **council@qprc.nsw.gov.au**
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

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

▶ Documents are published at **bit.ly/DPnotices**

Council Meetings and Times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings twice each month on a Wednesday, excluding December and January. Meetings start at 5.30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from **bit.ly/MinutesAgendas**. Meetings are live streamed via **bit.ly/QPRCwebcast**.

Due to COVID-19, attendance in person is not encouraged. However, members of the public can watch the meetings via **bit.ly/QPRCwebcast** and make a presentation during the public forum via Zoom or by submitting a written presentation.

For those wanting to make a presentation on an Agenda item, you can make a:
- Written presentation - submit by midday on Tuesday
- Zoom presentation - register by midday on Wednesday

▶ Register to make a presentation at
bit.ly/QPRCinvolved

Next meeting dates are:
- 13 April
- 27 April

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.

Queanbeyan Palerang **Heritage Festival**

The Heritage Festival is on between 9 April and 1 May. We will be running events throughout the region to celebrate and learn about the history of our area.

We are part of the broader Canberra and Region Heritage Festival and we encourage residents to attend the variety of free or discounted events. Enjoy talks on preserving textiles, go on heritage walks, and visit historical exhibitions.

▶ Find our events at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events**

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
1300 735 025
council@qprc.nsw.gov.au
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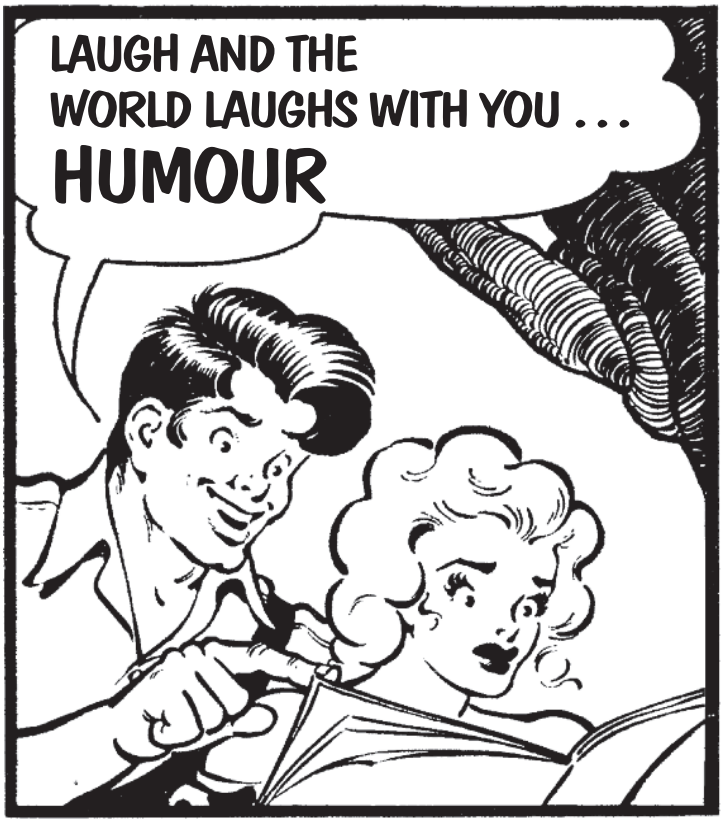
BOOKWORM

Julia Ermert



1950s Li'l Abner and Daisy Mae by Al Capp

I'm feeling mad as a March hare and it's nearly April Fool's Day. We've had a difficult month. We sure could use a laugh.

With the internet down so often, and electricity cuts making television chancy, where to turn but to books?

What makes a book funny? It's not the same for everyone. Not finding the same book amusing can severely impact a friendship, or even a marriage. I still remember my first husband's favourite, Lennie Lower's Here's Luck, which I didn't find particularly amusing. Now that I look at it again, I think of the word 'feminist,' which wasn't in existence in the fifties. Even if it had been, Lennie Lower (1903–1947) wasn't one.

We did agree on MAD magazine, which I see is just seventy years old, but there's only room here for books. No room either to debate whether humour is gender- or age- specific but those are considerations.

One of the problems with humour is that it's mostly at someone else's expense. You laugh by proxy. If it were your mother on that banana skin, it wouldn't be at all diverting. Tragedy and comedy are intermixed in life. We laugh in spite of ourselves.

Perhaps the only truly non-damaging form of humour is wordplay.

So I think of a book like *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Douglas Adams (1979).

Everyone knows it provides the answer to life, the universe, and everything, but don't be reading it in public when you come to the bit about the public toilets on planet Bethselamin. Or the effects of the best drink in existence, the Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster.

Maybe that's the definition: a funny book is one that constrains you to laugh out loud in the supermarket queue.

Judging by the reading diary I kept in 2013, I not only burst out laughing on a Canberra bus, but constantly searched out unwilling listeners. I was reading *His Stupid Boyhood*, by well-known Australian poet Peter Goldsworthy (born 1951). It's autobiographical, and my diary entry says "as a poet, he writes sublimely well and as a doctor, his observations are acute."

Yes, Dr Peter Goldsworthy is a medico, as well teaching Creative Writing at University of Adelaide. And that's no joke.

Clive James admired Goldsworthy and there's another Aussie. How often have other writers quoted: "The book of my enemy has been remaindered/And I am pleased …"

That one does bend the rule about cruelty and Clive himself gleefully admitted the writing of it wasn't his finest moment, but somehow, he had so much fun.

> Laughter is therapy. Along with the sadness, the tragic, the pathetic, there's always the droll stuff.

If banana-skin moments can be presented with wry playfulness, we can feel better about all the skids we've taken ourselves. This might be why books about growing up stay in our memories.

Richmal Crompton (1890–1969) originally wrote her *Just—William* stories for women's magazines, thinking of naughty little brothers, but you can't categorise humour. Not that William was 'naughty,' you understand. He just wanted to help.

Only a little further along is that anguished adolescent in *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾* by Sue Townsend (1982). There was no gender bias here. We all thought it was hilarious, but few of us would have wanted to hurt Adrian's feelings by saying so. But where we might not imagine William Brown in later life, we can grow up with Adrian Mole as he courts Pandora, becomes environmentally aware, flirts with politics and opens a restaurant with only offal on the menu. You can guess its name.

Make laughter out of life's vicissitudes and they're easier to bear. I loved all Betty MacDonald's mainly autobiographical books, beginning with *The Egg and I*, which introduced the unforgettable Ma and Pa Kettle, through *The Plague and I* (1948), set in a TB sanatorium, to the end of her regrettably short life (died 1958).

Now everyone is talking, and chuckling, about *The Hundred-Year Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared* (Jonas Jonasson 2009). It seems to be a book that appeals to men and women, but perhaps more to those who are a long, long way from their angsty adolescence.

And my own absolute favourite? It's *Cold Comfort Farm*, by Stella Gibbons (1932 but a bit futuristic). Gibbons felt it ruined her life as nobody remembered she'd written over twenty serious books and was also a poet. I find it hard to sympathise.

Like Liberace, she probably cried all the way to the bank while her readers were rolling on the floor guffawing. I can't open my battered copy anywhere without a grin. I may never smell the sukebind in flower or hear the Reverend Amos warn me 'there's no butter in hell,' but now that I'm living in a rural community, I might be able to guess just what Aunt Ada Doom saw and recalled as 'something nasty in the woodshed.'

But would I laugh?

NSW Seniors Festival

QPRC press release

QPRC is excited to welcome NSW Seniors Festival back to the community for 2022.

Between 22 March and 7 April, a range of pop-up expos will be held around the LGA to help older people in our community meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and get in touch with different services, support, and activities.

After a difficult and isolating few years, this year's Seniors Festival is focussed on reconnection.

'It's fantastic to be able to get back out to our senior community with these events,' Mayor Kenrick Winchester said.

'After a tough few years restricting community events and connection, it's so important to take care of older people in our families and our region by providing them these opportunities to get out, meet new people and access these services.'

There are a number of organisations, groups, and service providers attending each event including Service NSW, NSW Health, Council of the Ageing, local Aged Care providers and community groups such as the Men's Shed, Lions and Rotary clubs, Queanbeyan Croquet Club and senior citizens groups.

Lunch and morning tea will be available for patrons at each of the events. The Queanbeyan event will have some fantastic food options available in Riverside Plaza and the others will have a catered lunch and morning tea.

There will also be a variety of activities to enjoy, such as lawn bowls, tai chi, finska, yoga and tango dance demonstrations.

Due to flooding and associated safety concerns, events previously scheduled for Araluen and Nerriga have unfortunately been cancelled.

Free transport has been arranged for Araluen and Nerriga residents to attend the Braidwood expo on 31 March as well as from Queanbeyan to Bungendore on 4 April. Registrations for transport can be sent to: Cristina.dejongh@qprc.nsw.gov.au

A little bit of archaeology

Antony Davies (posted on Facebook)

Our early fieldstone fireplace at Mount Elrington dates from the first stage of the homestead in mid 1827.

It's much larger than the other fireplaces here from that period and obviously intended for cooking rather than heating. We believe it was used by Major Elrington's nanny Mary Smith to prepare the family's meals between 1827 and 1830 while the stone kitchen wing was under construction, and that this room doubled as the kitchen and her quarters. Mary Smith lived here until her death in 1845.

The construction is interesting — a low fieldstone wall filled with a thick bed of lime, then flat granite flagstones set over the top to form the hearth. There were three later sets of brick hearths arranged over the top, and all had failed due to decades of continuous hot fires and a rabbit burrow underneath.

A hand print from the person who made it is still visible in the lime bed, and the neat pointing of the 1827 work is intact on the level that was below the hearth. An iron stump in the top left inside wall survives as evidence of a cooking crane. The fireplace was bricked up and hidden in about 1890 and has only been opened up in the last few months.

After careful cleaning we will repoint the stonework with lime-rich mortar made with sand and a small amount of off-white cement. This is critical with fieldstone buildings, and even more so with soft brick walls such as those found in all of Braidwood's 19th century buildings, because it allows the walls to gently move in different seasons without cracking. The lime absorbs moisture and resets itself each time. If you used grey cement or worse, concrete, which is very hard, the stone or bricks cannot move but the wall still does, and the consequent stress cracks up the walls and destroys the soft brickwork and displaces fieldstones, eventually causing the walls to fail, and it's almost impossible to remove without ruining the original work. It also prevents the walls from breathing so moisture is either retained or not, either way causing problems.

Bear in mind that few of Braidwood's pre 1870 buildings have proper foundations — they are just built on a pile of rocks or at best some rubble in a ditch. Modern buildings are built as one big non-flexible unit so the hard components are all designed to stay together as the building settles.

When we've finished cleaning, the original flat granite flags will be relaid as the hearth. They've all been carefully removed and numbered with chalk to allow them to be reinstated as original. We've done quite a bit of this work before, at Tidmarsh and at Mill Pond Farm, and while it's slow, messy and painstaking, but very rewarding and will last for many decades to come.

The aim is to achieve the appearance of a home that has aged gracefully over many years and accumulated character along the way, like a fine piece of antique furniture, and not to over-restore it. Original features are carefully retained and conserved, missing features are reinstated sympathetically. Too harsh a hand and you might as well build a new one.

WHAT'S HAPPENED *with Laura E Moriarty*

There will be no social column this week as your correspondent fell down her back staircase and injured her ankle really badly. It required a trip to the Queanbeyan Hospital, and she is currently hobbling around her parents' farm on crutches. It will return, properly, in next fortnight's *Changing Times*.

The Braidwood Servicemen's Club hosted a town thank you to Tim Overall for his years of service to the community.

Paul thanks his guests and especially David Eager [at right].

Jeremy was there too.

Granddaughter Aithne and daughter Larissa.

The three Pauls of Mongarlowe: III, I and II.

News trivia

How well have you been paying attention?

- Who was the Victorian senator who died two weeks ago?
- Which AFL club did Shane Warne play for before he took up cricket?
- Who is the new South Australian premier?
- What new defence initiative did Defence Minister Peter Dutton announce this week?
- Which Asian country lifted its ban on flights from Australia this week and relaxed its strict COVID measures?
- Who is representing Australia at 2022 Eurovision?
- Why was Antarctica in the news last weekend?
- What is the new subvariant of COVID called?
- Who is the captain of the Australian Women's Cricket team?
- Which Ukrainian port city has been bombed extensively by Russian military in the last week?

Answers: 1. Kristina Kitching; 2. St Kilda; 3. Peter Malinauskas; 4. A Space Force; 5. Hong Kong; 6. Sheldon Riley; 7. It recorded an unprecedented heatwave; 8. BA.2; 9. Meg Lanning; 10. Mariupol

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Braidwood Community Association has been given the wonderful donation of a hand-made quilt to raffle.

Jenny Wallace, one of our loyal members, made the quilt and it's really beautiful!

You can see it at the Braidwood Bendigo Bank where tickets are on sale for $5 each. You can also make a direct deposit to purchase tickets, at BSB 633-000, Acc no 163734. Please use Your Name-raffle tix as the reference. It will be drawn at Easter.

Sue Murray, President

Floods and mould lead to health risk for asthma

Press release

"Looks like mould there missus."

The National Asthma Council Australia is advising people with asthma who live in areas hit by flooding and heavy rains in Queensland and New South Wales to be extra cautious when starting the clean-up of their homes.

Any flood-affected residents and volunteer cleaners will face difficult conditions including mould that could trigger asthma and allergy symptoms.

National Asthma Council Australia spokesperson, Professor Sheryl Van Nunen, said the recent rain, high humidity and warm temperatures provide excellent conditions for the growth and spread of toxic mould that can be damaging to health.

"When mould is present, small particles called spores are released in the air, which can trigger asthma and allergy symptoms. The symptoms can include nose, eye and skin irritation, coughing, sneezing or wheezing and severe reactions in some people.

"Reducing the amount of moisture as soon as possible is the best way to control mould growth, so do a thorough clean and open all the doors and windows to dry out the area as quickly as possible. If you can, use fans or dehumidifiers to speed up the process," she said.

Professor Van Nunen said it is important to eliminate the source of mould growth, as well as cleaning visible mould, to stop it from regrowing.

"Unfortunately, bleach will remove visible mould but won't kill the spores underneath and it may also irritate sensitive noses.

"We recommend that everything that has been touched by floodwaters will need to go and this includes soft furnishings like carpets, floor underlays, mattresses, cushions and couches.

"Depending on the extent of the flooding, some residents may be able to remove visible mould on hardwood furnishings by cleaning with naturally fermented white vinegar solution or other mould-reduction cleaners.

"However, even if you have thoroughly cleaned your home you can still have problems with mould. It can grow in places we don't even think to look - walls, clothes, books and toys, so anything that has touched floodwater should ideally be removed and discarded safely," she said.

The National Asthma Council Australia has issued the following mould prevention checklist:

Dry or remove wet carpets and furnishings as soon as you can

Be ruthless with the clean out, if possible – hidden damp can cause ongoing problems

Consider using a dehumidifier to help dry out the space

Remove any visible mould by cleaning with naturally fermented white vinegar solution

Keep an eye out for mould in the unflooded areas of the house

If you have concerns about asthma for yourself or a family member, see your health professional.

For more information on asthma and allergies, visit the National Asthma Council Australia website: nationalasthma.org.au

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Braidwood Anglican Church

In Luke 15:11-32 we have a detailed account of the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Parables are real-life stories or situations with deeper meanings and messages about ethical behaviours and questionable actions of the story characters. Such is the case with the Prodigal Son. It would be so easy in this story to be dismissive and say we've heard it all before.

What's new about a family feud between warring parties who seem unable to agree on the issues involved with family assets and inheritance entitlements? Superficially, this story seems like a straight forward dispute between two brothers who lay claim to a father's inheritance which give rise to greed and jealousy.

Culturally, it was inappropriate to seek one's presumed inheritance before the father had even died. However, the younger son fronts up with a request for an early payout. He wants the money and he wants it instantly so he can wander off to a foreign country and live the high-life.

He gets his wish but the extravagance of his actions soon leads him into poverty and desperation, a long, long way from home. Having squandered his generous inheritance, he is forced to scavenge for food and survival. In this sense it is a story filled with ingratitude and lust.

Degradation and humiliation cause this bedraggled, miserable figure to come to his senses. As the contrite son drags his dishevelled body wearily towards home, we must never forget that the father had been cheated, humiliated, insulted, manipulated and temporarily ostracised by his profligate son.

Two very real questions are posed: How can anything good come from a situation of ingratitude and embezzlement? Secondly, where does forgiveness find its identity and source? There is a comparison that needs to be made here with the older brother.

When he sees his brother returning to a party of celebration he was overcome with righteous indignation. His dutiful, loyal and faithful service descends into grumbling and muttering against his younger brother. He was filled with recrimination and resentment that surfaced as anger, jealousy and outrage as he openly berates his father.

If you read this passage you will notice three important actions; first, the younger son admits failure and sin, there is genuine remorse and repentance. Second, the father lovingly responds, 'This my son was dead and is alive; he was lost and is found'. Finally, the father again reassures the older son with words of comfort; 'you are always with me and everything I have is yours'.

To see this incident purely as a family-based feud is to miss the deep spiritual realities being espoused through this befuddling family crisis. There is an undercurrent of spiritual reconciliation decidedly on show here as we are also meant to see the wonderful love and forgiving grace of God.

There may well be secular components in this parable but the great theme throughout the passage is God's willingness to welcome back sinners at the first sign of repentance. The passage goes far deeper than we often assume, and the overriding theme of reconciliation is to be enjoyed, celebrated and welcomed.

This parable is not about taking sides with either of the two sons, we cannot afford to be indignant or self-righteous like the older son. Equally, we must be willing to come to God the Father through Jesus Christ in an attitude of contrition and penitence.

In Christ, our Heavenly Father comes out to meet us in whatever state we find ourselves with a generous and gracious offer of forgiveness.

Rev. Rick Lewis

St Bede's Catholic Church

REFLECTION on the Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been.

We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed

the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic.

He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the

Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

The church is now open to the public. During Mass masks are no longer mandatory but please wear one if it reassures you. All other aspects have returned to pre-covid times.

World Day of Prayer in Braidwood has been cancelled this year due to the weather.

Mass times: Tuesday at 10am and Saturdays at 6pm.

Braidwood Uniting Church

It made me smile when I read the quote: "Peace begins with a smile.

"Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at; do it for peace. Let us radiate the peace of God and so live His light and extinguish in the world and in the hearts of all men (sic) all hatred and love for power." (Attributed to Mother Teresa)

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you…Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

To hold peace we need to guard our heart; to keep our eyes and mind focussed away from the trouble and the fear. Mother Teresa's idea of concentrating on smiling is a practical way to move our focus from trouble and on to being a peace-bringer. Who can you bring peace to today? Smile away Braidwood.

Blessings from Dr Julie Fletcher and the congregation of Braidwood Uniting Church. Sunday Worship 10am, Radio Church 6pm on 88.9fm. Weekly Garage Sale, Wednesday 9-3. Cnr Duncan and Monkittee Streets.

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Ladies pennants season off to a good start

The ladies' golf Pennants season got off to a positive start last Friday with a win against Federal at Federal.

The team of Deb Ferguson, Virginia Groot Obbink, Michelle Henry, Donna Kuhn and Robin Tennant-Wood chalked up a 3-2 win against the home team, with Virginia and Michelle winning their games and Robin winning hers on forfeit when her opponent retired injured.

The start of the ladies' Pennants season was delayed by a week when the Braidwood course which was to have hosted the season opener, had to be closed due to the rain. That game has been postponed until April. This week Braidwood plays RMC at Belconnen.

The men's Pennants team completed their regular season matches with a loss to the undefeated Goulburn team. The final scoreline was 4-2 with Keith Morgan and Allan Walcott both continuing their undefeated run for the season. This Thursday Braidwood will host all the teams in the competition pool.

Despite Bill and Belinda Pulver being unable to attend this year's Mona Cup due to their special event (and we sincerely wish them all well for the occasion!), they insist we go ahead as normal. As such, a sheet will be on the noticeboard in the clubroom for the nomination of 4-person Ambrose teams on Easter Saturday April 16. Members can enter a whole team or just put your name alongside others looking for a game that day.

The Meet and Greet for new members was well received by all who attended on Saturday with several new members and partners coming along to get to know the current fold. We look forward to seeing them out on the course soon. It was lovely to also see Therese Lindwall at the event and many thanks to Therese for continuing her sponsorship of the Jim Lindwall Trophy for another four years from next year.

Results: Saturday March 19

Men's Single Stableford – Rodney Royds Trophy. Many thanks Rodney for your generous trophies.

Winner: Nelson Sargent 34pts

Runner Up: Keith Ferguson 33pts

3rd Place: Allan Walcott 30pts

Ball Comp: Brendan Sly 29pts, Spiro Agnew 28pts, Roger Hovey 28pts

NTP 3/12: Allan Walcott

Handicap Changes: Keith Ferguson down 1 to 22, Rodney Royds out 1 to 19

Women's Single Stableford – Isobel Mutton Trophy 1st round. Thanks to Len Mutton's for the ongoing support

Winner: Debby Ferguson 29pts

Runner Up: Michelle Henry 25pts

Ball Comp: Robin Tennant Wood 21pts, Barb Stuart 21pts

NTP: Not Won.

STOP PRESS

ANCIENT BRIGHT THING APPEARS IN SKY

STAR TIMES

Oneinthreethousand

Now that the Rural Fire Service has been seconded to help with floods as well as fire, it might as well have an extra F in the acronym. So, RFFS. Although given the slow way our governments are coming to grips with climate change, perhaps just FFS would be more descriptive.

Puttingthelameinblame

Mr Perrottet told the press, "The focus now should not be on blame but on being honest, working out what mistakes were made, owning them, learning from it and making sure they are never made again." It could be argued that doing all those things does actually involve accepting the blame.

Theyhaddessertaswell

The NAB is having a bad day in the gambling court. It's hard to tell the inquiry with a straight face that you really thought a few million dollars run through an overseas gambler's debit card was just for food and accommodation. Anyway, said the former 'chief risk officer' he had developed frameworks and an ethics panel while he was responsible for managing risk and anti-money laundering at The Star from 2016 to 2019. He did admit under examination that, "it did not operate as well as I would have liked because for a long period, it really didn't meet".

Windisnotforbreaking

The Prime Minister is on record as saying he supports, "fair dinkum power generation that works when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow". Now hear the Minister for Energy and Emissions: "This will create a range of important new opportunities, particularly in our regions, by enhancing the delivery of affordable, reliable power and creating thousands of new jobs," Mr Taylor said. And — he's talking about a big investment in off-shore wind farms. Hoo-ray! They get it eventually.

Youayepeeistreachery

Gosh you shit me simple Clive
With all your bluster, so much jive.
No Lyons, Menzies or even Hughs,
Those three blokes would blow a fuse
To hear you dare to use their name
Then make up stuff so very lame.
Freedom! freedom! freedom!
Free from thought and free from care,
Advance a policy if you dare.
You've nothing of any sense to say;
Just waiting for election day.
If you'll never say a word that's true,
In new-speak please, STFU.

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