BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Wednesday, May 4 2022

Issue #52 — $2.00

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	5°	18°	70%
Th:	8°	15°	50%
Fr:	1°	12°	5%
Sat:	1°	13°	0%
Sun:	2°	15°	5%
Mon	0°	15°	20%
Tue:	4°	15°	70%

Yuin men from the South Coast show Mongarlowe's fire crew how to use bark as a bush drip torch to cool burn the cultural burn area.

Joel 'Red Baron' performs heart-stopping aerial stunts over Braidwood.

BURNING THE LAND AND SCORCHING THROUGH THE SKY

Page 5 and page 9

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant-Wood*

The parable of the forest and the trees

The ABC's Vote Compass is an interesting tool.

This is the second election it has been available to voters to assess where on a social and economic matrix their own values fall, and, as such, where they should be putting their Number 1 on the ballot paper.

It's an interesting tool for several reasons, but mainly because it highlights the disconnection many people feel between their own lives, and the political system. The two are, of course, inextricably linked. As Senator Penny Wong put it, "You can choose not to be interested in politics, but you can't choose not to be affected by it."

The Vote Compass takes the user's responses to a series of questions based around current social and economic issues, and then locates the user on a matrix according to whether the person is socially progressive or conservative, and economically left or right. In many cases, however, people are surprised by their results.

The questions, on such issues as immigration, government spending on defence and education, housing, environment, wage increases for frontline health workers and aged care workers, constitutional recognition of Indigenous people, the monarchy, are all issues that are topical in the public domain.

Importantly, however, they also speak to people's personal values. The values we live by and those we would like to see reflected in our government. The sort of values one wants to pass on to one's children in order to maintain strong communities and a forward-looking society.

> Most Australians are good people. Most of us would like to see those who care for the elderly and small children adequately paid for the vital work they do.

Most of us would like to see the government put more money towards such things as disaster relief and healthcare instead of tax breaks for the mega-rich and non-existent submarines.

The real surprise that many people get when they complete the Vote Compass survey is that, where they may always have considered themselves conservative, their values do not align with their voting habits. That's because while most Australians are good people, they are fundamentally disconnected from politics. They can't, in other words, see the political woods for the trees.

Why, for example, do people who know it's wrong to lock up innocent people who have experienced the trauma of war, vote for governments that do just that?

Why do farmers who rely on water and soil in order to make a living vote for governments that will sell the land from under their feet to multinational mining corporations? Why, in short, do people vote against their own interests?

The answer is the trees that are obstructing the view of the woods. Take a step back and rather than focus on the short-term, on the one or two issues thrown up in the pathway, look at the big picture: the future you wish for your children and grandchildren.

You may not be interested in politics, but you can be sure that it's interested in you and is ready to exploit your disinterest to its utmost by pointing you to those distracting trees.

If you're interested, the ABC's Vote Compass can be found at: https://votecompass.abc.net.au/

It's not over yet

The lifting of COVID restrictions and rules surrounding isolation and close contact may have given the impression that the pandemic is over, or at least on the way out.

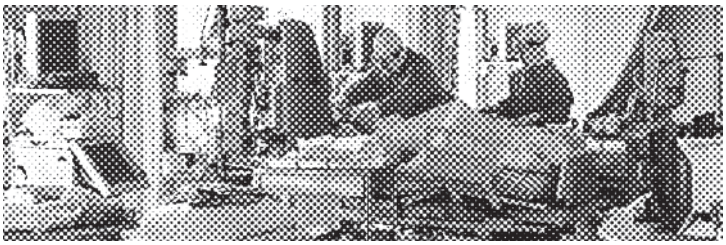
Unfortunately, however, this is not the case.

As of 2 May, NSW Health reported almost 145,000 active COVID cases statewide.

> In the QPRC area, there have been 3096 cases in the past four weeks.

The high uptake of vaccination and boosters (94% of people 16 years and over in NSW are double-vaccinated and 63% are triple-vaccinated) has meant that most people experience COVID symptoms for less than a week. The elderly and those with compromised immunity or other health issues, however, are still at major risk of developing severe symptoms requiring hospitalisation.

In order to keep abreast of the spread of the virus, NSW Health is continuing with its Sewage Surveillance Program. This program tests sewage for fragments of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, at sewage treatment plants across NSW. Before the Omicron wave, the program provided a valuable early warning system to support the NSW COVID response, particularly in regional communities.



Now that COVID is widespread in the community, the focus of the program has changed from early warning to monitoring of trends to supplement information gathered through PCR and Rapid Antigen Testing.

Moving forward, the program will sample 22 sites throughout NSW on a weekly basis. Four sewage treatment plant sites in Greater Sydney and up to 18 regional locations will be monitored weekly for up to 6 months as sentinel sites. These sites were selected for their population size, geographical spread, proximity to state borders and transport routes and for the presence of vulnerable communities. Sewage samples will also provide support the NSW Health Pathology variant research project.

> The best remedy is still prevention, and this is easily done through continued use of masks when in crowded or close situations and vigilance with hand hygiene.

Active COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations and deaths in NSW

144,350	1,513	71	24	23
Active cases	Admitted to hospital	In intensive care	Requiring ventilation	Deaths in last 24 hours

Active COVID-19 cases are defined as people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days. This has been updated from the previous definition of 28 days following an expert panel review recommendation. Cases who are in hospital are considered active.

Crs John Preston, Katrina Willis, BCA's David Anthony and Sue Murray, Mayor Kenrick Winchester and Cr Mareeta Grundy.

New councillors come to Braidwood

The Braidwood Community Association welcomed four of our QPRC councillors to a packed meeting on Tuesday night.

Mayor Kenrick Winchester was joined by Councillors Mareeta Grundy, Katrina Willis and John Preston to discuss plans and visions for Braidwood over the coming term for council.

Each of the councillors outlined their own priorities with regards to representing the wider region, with Crs Preston and Grundy stressing that as non-Queanbeyan based representatives they were both keen to, as Preston put it, "put the Region back into Queanbeyan." Crs Preston and Winchester also paid tribute to Majors Creek candidate Bill Waterhouse, who only very narrowly missed out on a spot on council.

Cr Willis said that climate change and housing affordability would be her priorities and noted that Braidwood residents have first-hand experience in both these areas.

President of the BCA, Sue Murray, said she was pleased that the association will be returning to normal face-to-face meeting scheduling after two years of sporadic capacity to do so. In the absence of full meetings, however, the committee has been meeting and committee members provided updates on BCA projects and programs.

The skatepark process is well underway, with Catherine Bell saying that they are "making great progress in a very boring bureaucratic way." She explained the complexities and legalities of dealing with such a large grant, but said that the contractors are set to start work on the project in September with the opening planned for December.

On the issue of affordable housing, Sarah Lenehy reported that the group has been using the non-contact time to do some 'fact finding' by talking to other councils and community groups about the issue. She said that a proposal will be going to council on what the Braidwood community would like to see and the group will speak with QPRC staff and councillors about the best way forward.

Community transport, a long-time problem in this area, is being slowly resolved with Martin Glover saying that there is now a service available through Valmar that can get people to Goulburn and Queanbeyan. Valmar is, however, badly in need of more volunteer drivers so if anyone is interested please contact Martin via the BCA.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Greg Buckman, the Australian Democrats candidate for Eden-Monaro in the coming federal election. Although Mr Buckman was not an invited guest, he was able to meet and talk to Braidwood residents about federal issues.

KRISTY MCBAIN MP
MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO

(Small green ballot paper)
You must number every box.
Electoral division of EDEN-MONARO.

6	HOLGATE, James	SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA
4	HOLMES, Maxwell	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
1	McBAIN, Kristy	LABOR
2	BUTLER, Greg	AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS
7	GARNON, Darren	UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY
5	NOCKLES, Jerry	LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA
3	HARRIS, Vivian	THE GREENS
8	MCLENNON, Toni	INFORMED MEDICAL OPTIONS PARTY
9	THALER, Andrew	INDEPENDENT
10	SHANNON, Boyd	PAULINE HANSON'S ONE NATION

How to Vote for Kristy McBain

Kristy McBain and Labor will:

- Create secure, well-paid local jobs by investing in construction, emerging defence industries and advanced manufacturing
- Expand high speed NBN and improve mobile phone coverage along the Kings Highway
- Build a Veterans Wellbeing Centre in Queanbeyan to help veterans live with dignity in their life after service
- Make child care cheaper and build more affordable housing so that it's easier for working families to get ahead
- Strengthen Medicare and improve aged care

Authorised by Bob Nanva, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), Level 9/377 Sussex St Sydney NSW 2000.

Scholarship winners

Palerang Financial Services media release

Palerang Financial Services Ltd has announced this year's recipients of the Braidwood & Bungendore Community Bank scholarships.

From Braidwood – Zoe Cargill, Emily Tipping, Charlie Campbell and Georgia Grant.

From Bungendore – Jazmyn Michie, Oscar Gordon, Hanah Rudd and Indiana Gordon.

Also from Bungendore, Rose Bray, who was offered a bursary.

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

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

Chairman of Palerang Financial Services Community Bank Branches, Shane Holness, said, "We want to make a difference to outstanding, local students who would otherwise be unable to start higher education because accommodation and study costs put considerable financial pressures on a family".

There have been increased challenges to face as our community negotiates through the constraints of our health situation and the ravages of difficult weather and extreme conditions. Students in particular, have been heavily impacted with the changes imposed upon their school life. Yet, they have continued on and matriculated at levels sufficient for entry into further study.

We hope that the help of a scholarship to relieve financial pressure in some way, will make a difference for their future. Our Community Bank Scholarship contribution has now reached over $200,000 and has assisted over 50 students.

Scholarship coordinator Dale Towell, continues to give praise to the generation emerging and congratulates every applicant. 'It is a pleasure to be able to offer support and an honour to be part of the process which provides encouragement, benefit and appreciation for the accomplishments of each student. Everyone at Palerang Financial Services wish each one all the very best in the years ahead'.

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

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

[above] Charlie Campbell and Georgia Grant. [below] Ahsan Razzaq, Branch staff member and Craig Pettit, Senior Manager with Zoe Cargill in the middle.

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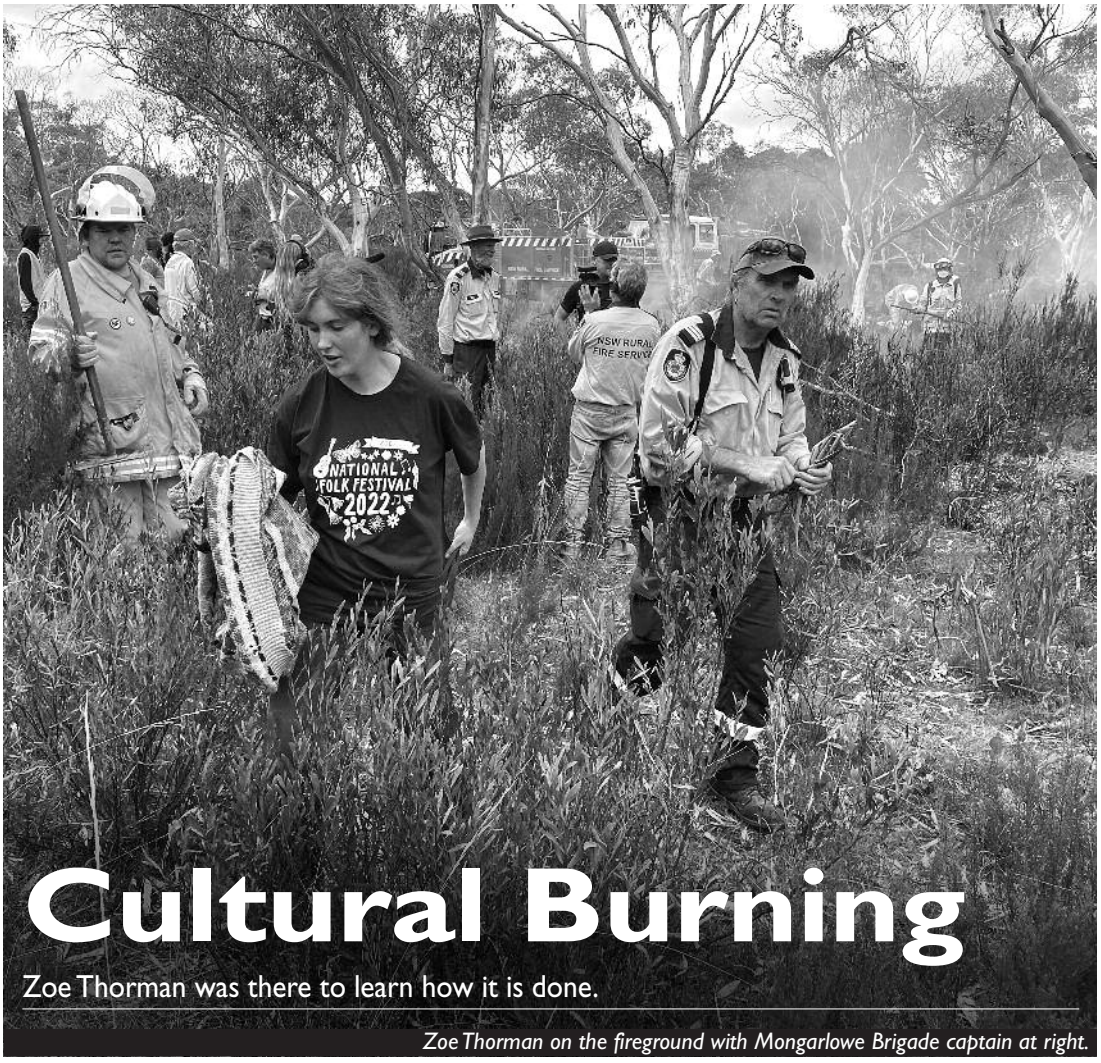

Cultural Burning

Zoe Thorman was there to learn how it is done.

Zoe Thorman on the fireground with Mongarlowe Brigade captain at right.

A cultural burning workshop was held in Mongarlowe on Walbunja Country on the ANZAC long weekend.

The two-day workshop was organised by Landcare and led by Yuin men from the South Coast, teaching the local RFS and people from the community. A group of thirty or so split off starting our own fires, following instructions from Uncle Les, Uncle Owen, Uncle Binda, Andy and the other Yuin men, watching their methods.

Andy explained, "We know a fire is healthy when there is white smoke and black ash. When it's the other way around, black smoke and white ash, it's too hot."

We pulled hanging bark from Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora)*, stopping the fire spreading to the canopy and used it to light the Kunzea bushes *(Kunzea parvifolia)* underneath. Bark caught alight from a neighbour's fire, creating a mini mosaic with small fires meeting up or burning patches.

After the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires that came so close to Mongarlowe, the ancient practice of cultural burning in Australia was put in the spotlight. In 2020 the Bushfire Royal Commission considered cultural burning practices in Australia.

In June the ABC reported, "The bushfire royal commission has been told that Indigenous land management is critical to preventing catastrophic bushfires but that in the past, Aboriginal voices have been ignored." (Davis, 2020).

Walbunja elder Uncle Owen showed me how to light bark properly. I had no fire training and was there to learn. He taught me to use one long hard piece instead of a bunch, to hold it up instead of down, and to keep it for lighting multiple fires, like a bush drip torch. We commented on the beauty of an intricate swirling pattern engraved in the bark.

He taught me words from his language, the Dhurga language and guided me through the small fires, "Stay with me, okay?" I happily stayed with him, watching his deep knowledge of Country and cool burning as he gently lit up Lomandra (*Lomandra longifolia),* the bark at the base of Snow Gums and dead branches in damp gullies. When I peeled back bark from a tree with a large soft sack attached to it, Uncle Owen told me to put it down somewhere protected, "That's spider eggs."

Certain parts of Country were too wet to burn after a lot of rain and it being too early in the year, "We need to wait until June and come back together to finish this then," Uncle Owen told us.

The fires were so calm that everyone got to know each other around them, discussing other topics amongst the slow burn, "Standing around a fire and not worrying about a fire is a good thing," Andy said. A fear of fire went away, as we learnt its gentle nature. Paul Bott, Mongarlowe Fire Captain, asked the group, "How much water was needed over the two days?" and everyone answered smiling, "None!"

The group learned of cultural burning as caring for Country, reducing the risk of catastrophic bushfires and allowing old species to return. I listened to some of the interviews undertaken for a film being made about the workshop, where many teared up talking about the importance of what we were doing.

Firies, a university student, Yuin mob and others from the community talked with deep care, emotion and urgency. Cultural burning as caring for each other, community coming together after horrific bushfires and bonding over a practice that can help save Country, species, homes and people,

"Healthy bush means a healthy community," Andy said, which became our motto for the weekend.

The workshop was run as part of the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council's *Healing Country & Community with Good Fire Practices* project, with special thanks to the NSW Government's *Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Community Grants Program* for funding the event.

The intrepid podcast crew were on hand to record the event.

OVER 55s ESTATE

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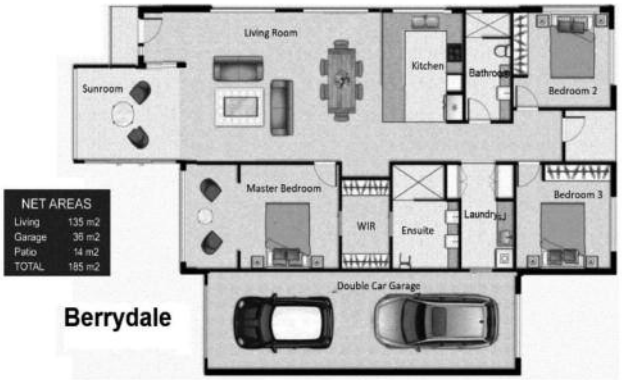
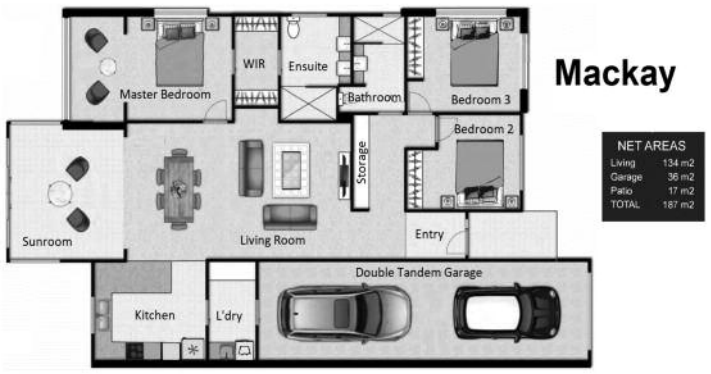
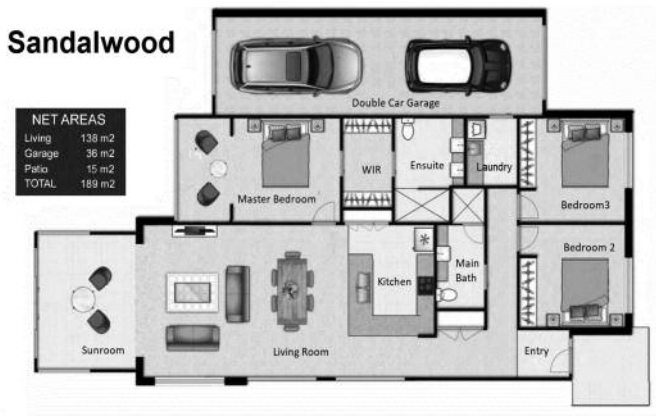






Call Jane - 0400472577 - 70 Little River Road, Braidwood – Summerfield.com.au

TELECOMUNICATIONS

Sooo good to be back…

Alison Sexton-Green's call was important to them

As everyone knows by now, mobile phones serviced by the Northangara Tower went down on the 10th April and kept failing for six torturous days.

On the sixth day the mobile phones started working again and they've been good since then.

Thank you to everyone who went through the ordeal of reporting the fault — it really does help. I've learnt a lot through this process. Did you know that Telstra refers to our land lines at the Charlies Forest Exchange as a 'legacy system'.

I was told that it was put in place to provide a services 'where the cable stopped'. I'm not sure what that means — but I assume it means that we have some sort of inferior cable. Makes me wonder what the future or our land lines will be.

Anyway, back to mobiles. The short story is that there was nothing wrong with the Northangara Tower (they call it the Monga Tower and so will I from here on). It was a problem with the signal getting from our tower to the Mount Gillamatong tower.

Apparently, it's all very complex and they couldn't find the problem. Its coming back at the end of each day was a complete mystery that was driving them nuts. I'm told there were three crews working on it and eventually, they worked out that a particular piece of hardware was failing, so they bypassed that hardware and it worked. So far so good and they have prioritised its replacement as a permanent fix for us.

This problem was completely separate to the other problems I've talked about, where call drop out or we get 'one way speech' calls going straight to message bank, missed call messages we never get and were we can see the bars but we just can't open the simplest of webpages or download an email.

> I have called this problem bandwidth but they don't use the word bandwidth any more, instead it is referred to as 'capacity'.

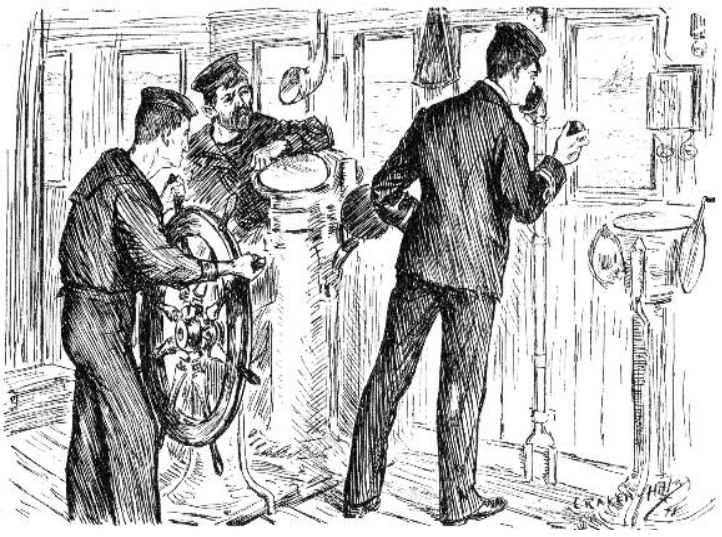
Telstra has been aware of our capacity problem for some time now and that all thanks to the number of faults that have been reported. You see, their faults system works like a heat map, the more faults we report, the more heat that shows up. The good news is, an upgrade to the Monga Tower has also been prioritised. It's scheduled for installation in the next couple of weeks, but as always, that assuming that theres not some other crisis to gazump us.

The technician I spoke to asked if we wanted to raise a complaint and what outcome we would like if we did. I talked to him about the problems we had reporting the outage in the first instance, how everything on the 24/7 app is geared towards there been something wrong with our phone — not for reporting outages.

I sent saved screen shots of the the phone number I was given to call that kept sending me back to the app and I asked why there can't be better information and updates provided on the outage page. Days of the same message, that there's a technical fault and we are working to restore it, did not inspire confidence. Couldn't there be something Iike the recorded messages and updates we get when our electricity is out?

He said this is something they are working on — that they know it's a problem and they are trying to improve the automation and information they can provide. I am not convinced — so have sent another email asking why it's so hard to provide more accurate information and updates about on their outages page. I have also suggested they could have a system where we could register to get updates, emphasising that the not knowing is almost worse than been without our phones.

I have not heard back yet, so perhaps we will need to raise that complaint. In the meantime it seems that there is some value to being the squeaky wheel — so keep logging your faults and recording the problems we have too. Let us stay on their case and keep being that squeaky wheel turning.



Irascible Lieutenant (down engine-room tube): "IS THERE A BLITHERING IDIOT AT THE END OF THIS TUBE?"
Voice from the engine-room: "NOT AT THIS END, SIR!"

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Braidwood Special Speaker Dinner:

Thursday, 12 May, 6.30 pm

Forbes Gordon extends the invitation

We are reviving these dinners in the expectation that COVID has been tamed. They will be held at the beautiful Troopers Rest.

Our first speaker this year will be Rowan Callick. The topic is:

China's response to Putin's dice-throw — China, Russia and Ukraine

It is difficult to imagine a more important topic right now - and we have a highly qualified speaker

Rowan Callick has been the China Correspondent for both the Australian Financial Review and The Australian. He has also served as Asia Pacific Editor for both papers.

He has won two Walkley Awards for Asia-Pacific coverage.

Rowan is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and has been a member of the Government's Foreign Affairs Council.

His books include *Party Time: Who Runs China and How* (Black Inc)

For informaion contact Forbes Gordon 0422 899 825

or Tony Milner 0424 507 017

For bookings, please contact Troopers Rest at 0411 107161.

Local Heritage Awards

Nick Fry

Last weekend I attended the QPRC Local Heritage Awards at the Braidwood Museum.

The awards are given each year in recognition of the community's ongoing contributions to the conservation, education, and promotion of built and human heritage across the Queanbeyan Palerang area.

A crowd of around 50 people were present. There were three categories:

- Restoration of a heritage building — Commercial or Residential
- New Building Design/Adaptation/Heritage Garden
- Outstanding promotion or contribution to heritage.

Braidwood had two nominees in Category 1, Tidmarsh and The Royal Mail Hotel. Although neither won the Category, The Royal mail Hotel received a Highly Commended Certificate for their extensive internal refresh and renovation and upgrades to the public areas and courtyard.

The audience also heard from John Stahel, Vice President of the Braidwood and District Historical Society, regarding the Braidwood Heritage Centre project.

John Stahel [above left] speaks. [below] Jamie Raynolds and Bonnie Daniels with their award.

GARDEN CLUB

Kate Chinnick

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Virginia Creeper

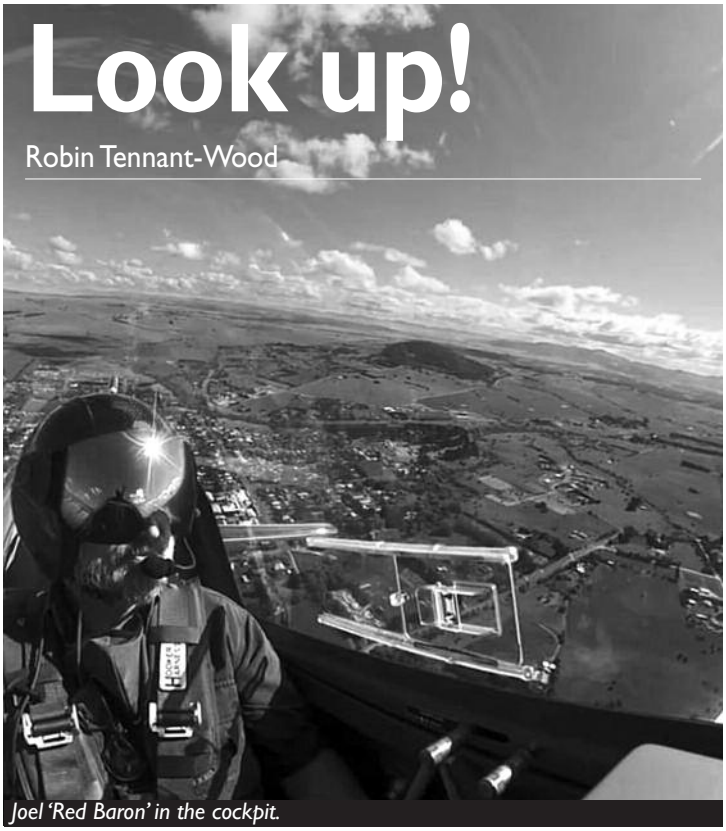
- Native to Eastern North America
- Frost hardy climber
- Named from Greek "Parthenos" - virgin, and" kissos" – creeper
- Grows to 15m or more
- Handsome compound leaves with 5 leaflets
- Attractive green wall covering in summer, turning brilliant red in autumn
- Prefer filtered sunlight out of strong winds
- Propagate from cuttings in late winter or early spring
- Ideal for growing up trees

What to do in the garden for May

- Evergreen shrubs can still be moved
- Spring flowering Camellias can be disbudded for larger flowers
- Tulips and Dutch Iris can be planted now
- Pinch back spring flowering annuals to strengthen growth
- Tidy Hellebores & apply a complete fertilizer + dolomite lime
- Monitor vegetable crops for pests and weeds
- Seedlings of Asian vegetables can be sown till mid May
- Prepare beds for Onion seedlings in late winter
- Plant new Strawberry plants
- Tie up sweet Pea plants
- Rake up fallen leaves and compost
- Try not to buy plastic wrapped early Roses as the frosts will burn them.

Look up!

Robin Tennant-Wood



Joel 'Red Baron' in the cockpit.

As a teenager, Joel Haski read the biography of American flying ace, air force officer and test pilot, Chuck Yeager and, as Haski tells it, he was hooked immediately.

He knew right then that he wanted to be a pilot. It helped that Haski's dad and uncle were aero-enthusiasts who supported his career ambitions, but becoming a commercial airline pilot was never on his agenda. Instead, he angled his career towards joyflights, aerobatics and teaching flying. Thirty years of incident-free flying later and Joel Haski is entertaining Braidwood with his practice flights over the town he now calls home.

Prior to moving to Braidwood Haski and his family lived in Sydney where he owned and managed a company called Red Baron, but a chance opportunity to help a friend restore an airstrip near Nerriga ended up in a permanent move to Braidwood in 2020.

"Red Baron was very Sydney-centric," Haski says. "It also meant a lot of weekend work because we were doing joyflights for kids. I decided that with a young family of my own I wanted to have my weekends off."

In addition to the Red Baron flying, Haski has done stunt flying and aerobatic displays for Red Bull as well as some flying for film and TV.

One of the highlights of his career was an annual trip to China to participate in air displays.

> "The Chinese are developing their general aviation industry to a point that will make Australia envious. They have a real thirst for aviation there. Pilots are treated like rockstars!"

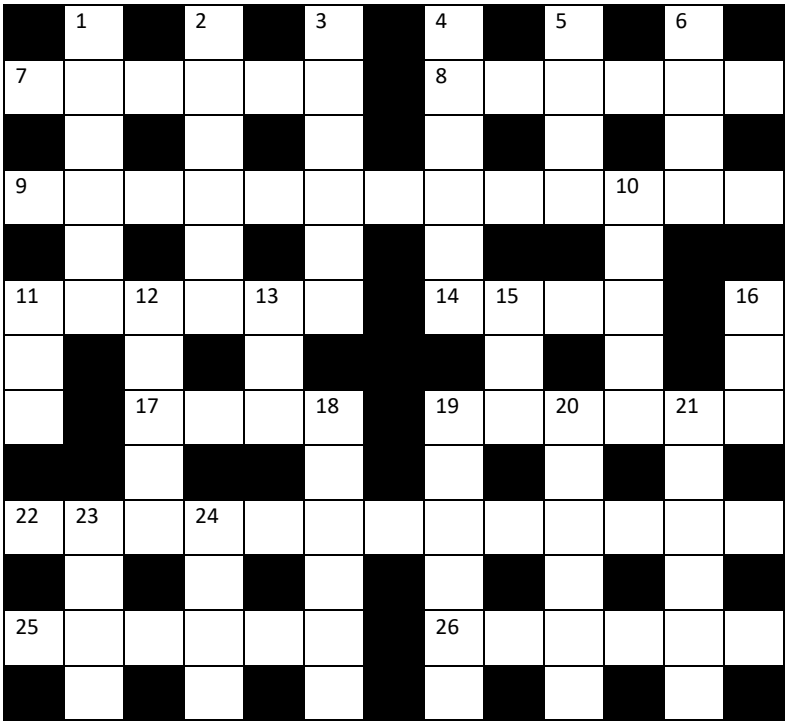
Haski's move to Braidwood means that his practice flights are a display of his aerobatic skills that we can all enjoy. In order to ensure that everyone does, in fact, enjoy the spectacle, before he schedules a practice flight, Haski will let the community know via the local Facebook page so that animals that may be alarmed by the low-flying aircraft can be secured or contained.

For the record, the plane is a German Extra 300L. The white smoke he uses during his flights is a food-grade non-toxic machine oil and the purpose of emitting the white smoke is largely aesthetic – it draws attention to the plane and describes its arcs.

The manouevre that Haski says draws the most comments and questions is the vertical drop when it sounds to the observer that the plane has been stalled. He explains that the plane is simply put into 'neutral' before hitting the throttle again to come out of the drop.

With clear autumn and winter days ahead, we can look forward to some more flying displays as Haski takes advantage of the conditions to hone his skills and, he hints, there may be a full aerial display for charity sometime in the future.

EASY BRAIDWOOD BAFFLER by Richard Manderson



ACROSS

7 Reporter
8. Local café
9. Environmental crisis (7,6)
11. Attention-grabbing vignette
14. And you? (Latin) (2,2)
17. Groups of aquatic mammals
19. Advertise pushily
22. Environmental crisis (6,7)
25. Large country
26. Balance

DOWN

1. Albo, Scomo or Dutto, for example
2. Donald, Tiffany and Barron
3. Luggage carrier
4. Left (French)
5. 1974 Eurovision winners
6. Sound of a bell
10. Pacific island
11. and 16. Social media platform (3,3)
12. Old fashioned medicine
15. and 13. Our tropics (3,3)
18. Related to forests
19. Position
20. Denizens of a European city
21. Turn a blind eye
23. Laze
24. Prejudice

The Mongarlowe mission

Suzanne Bellamy recalls the time she landed the job of community peacemaker.

My impressions moving to Mongarlowe were very quickly formed around some of the public meetings, like Friends of the Mongarlowe River.

There were key things that made it a successful period, a kind of golden period. One really important one was the building of the Mongarlow General Store, by Terry Milligan and Carol Willis. This was happening during the period when I was building my house and studio.

It lasted about 10 years and as a community centre. It became an agency for political action and people getting to know each other. The reason why I so quickly was able to feel part of the community was because there was a centre. And it's not there now and you sort of feel the lack of it. We've got the fire shed, but it's not the same, the General Store was iconic — absolutely.

I've got lasting memories of that time. Judith Wright was involved in various poetry readings, Pip Creasy organised wonderful art exhibitions there, everything had a good kind of an activist element to it.

I learned very quickly that Mongarlowe and the Braidwood region was populated by fierce women. There's no question about this. It was just extraordinary. There were pretty stunning blokes as well (and some real boofheads), but there were certainly some remarkable women. And of course the aura of Judith Wright hung over all of it and really and lifted things to another level in a lot of ways. As an artist and as writers I think we all benefited from that.

One of my memories that I really think I can now tell, is at one of the meetings early on of the Friends of the Mongarlowe River at the café. The ambience was marvellous, to have a meeting in a lovely café, eating olive paté, cups of tea and it was all very nice. And Val Plumwood used to come. And this was during a period when I believed Solvig Bass-Becking was the president.

Invariably there would be some conflict, because anywhere where there was Val, there was inevitably some rowdy engagement. It was always productive, but it was pretty damn fiery, and you had to keep your nerves to get through the meetings because there would be a lot of dispute and shouting and what have you. And this went on for some time.

Then, I'll remember this forever, I came home one day and the phone rang, and it was Solvig. And Solvig had in her own way a similar kind of aura to Judith, you took her very seriously. She was a marvellous and very creative woman. She said to me, "Suzanne, I have a job for you. I have decided as the president, that you are going to work out how we deal with Val.

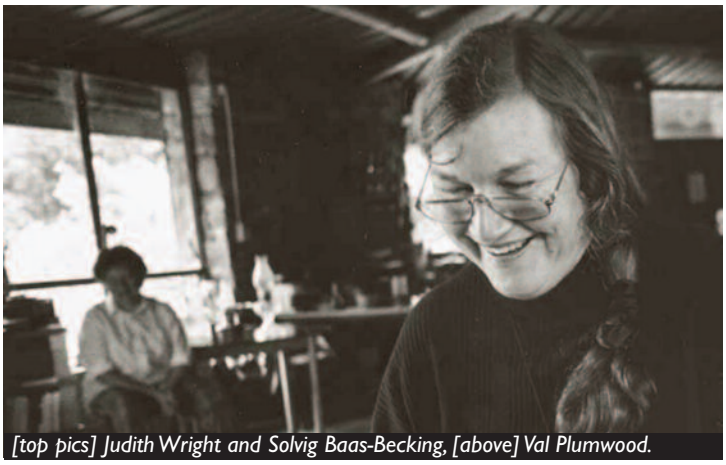
"We have to find some way through the impasse." I was just stunned because how the hell was I going to do this? But it was being given to me like a proper job. This was Solvig, I had to do it. So I gave it a lot of thought, and I said I'd do my best".

I can now talk about it because both Solvig and Val have gone and so they won't mind the good humour of the story.

I took this task very seriously and kept it to myself, then I made


Suzanne Bellamy in 2016.

[below] A poetry reading at the General Store in 1996 and [above] how it looked from the village corner.



[top pics] Judith Wright and Solvig Baas-Becking, [above] Val Plumwood.

my attempt and I think in the end it was quite a good attempt. The next time I saw Val, which might have been up at her amazing stone house in the forest, I'm not sure. I used to be so terrified of driving up there that she used to come down and pick me up at the highway because I was frightened my car would go off the edge. It was another exotic part of living in Mongarlowe. So anyway, I had this conversation with Val on behalf of Solvig.

Of course she never knew that I was working under instructions from above. I said to her, "Val, I really need to understand how your brain works. When you're at meetings, and you're screaming and shouting, and the chairperson is trying to get you to stop, what's actually going on?

"Is it that you're so engaged with your thoughts that you don't hear? Or is it that you hear but you don't think it's as important?"

And Val replied, "Oh, of course I can hear, it's just that it's all rubbish." I said, "Right, okay. Well now we've obviously got a problem."

Actually, because I didn't attack her (no one in their right mind would have ever attacked Val, except crocodiles), she actually engaged in a real conversation. What she told me was that it was through a kind of creative rage that she came to her ideas.

And I thought that was an amazing illumination. Anyway, I gave it a lot of thought and I said to her, "I think that meetings aren't your best place to function. But we don't want you not to be involved, so can we find another way for you to engage?"

In the end she was quite happy with that and she actually always had tremendous contributions to make via her research, her writing, and speaking in various ways. But she sort of more or less tailed off coming to meetings or fighting.

In fact I think it was very helpful because otherwise we were looking like we were going to lose people, because you can't actually have a functioning meeting when people don't observe meeting processes.

So I now can claim that I've never told anybody that, but I really did take it seriously that Solvig gave me this job and I felt that I managed to get some kind of a decent outcome out of that. So that's my Val and Solvig story.

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THE LAW Angela Backhouse

Buying a rural property

The process of buying a rural property or farm is a little different to buying a residential house in town.

A prudent purchaser should conduct the usual pre-contract inspections on the home and buildings on the rural land. This should include a timber pest inspection and a building inspection to discover any defects that are not usual "wear and tear". Any issues of concern in these reports should be followed up with licensed tradesmen where required.

In addition, as with "town land" the buyer must beware and will risk financial loss if the proper investigations are not done before entering into a contract.

One of the major considerations when buying rural property is whether the purpose you are buying the property for fits the use allowed by the local council and other State Government departments. It is a costly mistake to buy a property say for aquaculture in an area that does not permit that type of agricultural pursuit, or the area may have chemical residue which will destroy your organic farming intentions.

By commissioning searches and enquiries before you enter into a Contract for Sale you can minimize the risk of hidden "surprises" on your rural property.

Chemical residues, livestock and plant diseases, noxious weeds and animals

Some diseases can stay on the land long after the animals are gone even for long periods of time after de-stocking. Protection zones often prohibit certain activities on farms if affected and may stop you from keeping certain types of animals or stock at all if a significant risk exists. A search with the Local Land Services (LLS) will disclose some information regarding this.

Specific types of crops can be affected by pests, for example fruit fly and nematodes. If you intend cropping, a thorough investigation by an experienced horticulturalist is recommended. You may also want to get a soil test to establish firmly that there is no chemical residue in the soil.

Noxious weeds and pests can also be a problem on rural land. A search sent to the LLS can show any notifications or orders on the property for these issues.

Survey

A survey shows the dimensions and boundaries of the property which is particularly important when buying a rural property.

Existing fencing may not be accurate and can give an incorrect picture of the actual land you are buying. For example, if a water source appears to be within the property and in fact it isn't, a survey will show this error.

Access

A right of legal access must be confirmed before you buy a rural property.

Sometimes what looks like access may just be an easement or a stock route that can be changed and leave you unable to access your land. This should be checked particularly around Crown Land areas where they may be "enclosed roads" that look like normal roads but are actually owned by the State Government and can be closed at any time, possibly denying you access to your property.

Easements

The current plan of the land should be carefully considered for any "proposed" or "intended" easements or rights of way. Easements not on the land at the time of inspection but noted on a plan as approved may impact on your farming in the future.

Water Entitlements

Rural land without water is not as valuable. To protect your investment you should check whether the water resources are registered, as required by local government and State law. Irrigation licences, water access from rivers and water bores all need the appropriate approvals. Dams should also be checked for compliance if required in the area in which you are buying.

Conclusion

Every rural property is different and it is important that you get the right advice and assistance before and after you enter into a contract to buy a property.

Legal professionals who are experienced in rural conveyancing can assist you in properly investigating rural land for any risks to protect your financial investment.

If you or someone you know is considering purchasing rural land, contact your local lawyer Angela Backhouse on 6188 3600 or email angela.backhouse@chamberlains.com.au.

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BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO 98.5 FM

SMS Line 0419 722 578

Program Guide

Monday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am – Martins Morning Mix
1:00pm – Flashback Featured Artist with Rob
4:00pm – Book Reading with Rod
6:00pm – The Andy Show
8:00pm – It's Time
9:00pm – Aussie Music Weekly

Tuesday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
10:00am - 1st Tue of Month - Our Farm with Frank
11:00am - Tuesday Eclectic Music Mix with Gavin
2:00pm - A Breath Of Fresh Air
3:00pm – Bunkum, Faves & Raves with Rod & Bill
6.30pm – Real World Gardener
7:00pm – The Billy Bob Show
9:30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

Wednesday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am – Martins Morning Mix
1:00pm - Flashback With Rob
6:00pm – Woodsongs Old Time Radio
7:00pm – Magic Carpet Ride with Cool Bill
9:00pm - An Audience with the Pope

Thursday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
10:00am – From the Archives with Gavin
3:00pm – The Hot 30
6:00pm – Radio Jilly - With Yolande
10:00pm – Off the Record

Friday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - The Morning Mix with Martin
10:00am - The Magazine with Disko
3:00pm – The Conga Line with Billy Bob
5:00pm - The Atomic Countdown
7:00pm - Top 40 from 40 Years ago
9:00pm - Raised On Rock

Saturday
9:00am – Mornings with Gavin & Roger
12:00 – Simply 80's
1:00pm – A bit of this and that with Gavin
4:00pm – Blues in the Afternoon with Gavin
6:00pm – Saturday Night Gold

Sunday
8:00am - Exploring the Classics with Barbara
10:00am - Jazz on Sunday with Gavin
3:00pm – Birds on a Wireless with Julie & Vera
6:00pm - Combined Church Service of Braidwood
7:00pm - The Mechie Show (Prog Rock)
9:00pm - Bluesbeat

For a full listing go to braidwoodradio.com.au

Farmers must have their say on renewables

NSW Farmers media release

The head of a key Energy Transition Working Group says farmers must be involved in a government review of renewables.

Reg Kidd, chair of the NSW Farmers Energy Transition Working Group, said it was vital to provide strong input into the Agriculture Commissioner's review into on-farm renewable energy facilities.

"NSW Farmers has been calling for the role of the NSW Agriculture Commissioner to be expanded to champion the interests of farmers and regional communities in the energy transition," Mr Kidd said.

"We welcome this opportunity for rural landholders to engage with the government so there can be better understanding and consideration of agricultural land in strategic planning.

"What we want to see is the highest benefit for regions that provides opportunities and avoid negative impacts."

There was a finite amount of productive agricultural land worked by farmers to produce food for NSW, Mr Kidd said, and NSW Farmers had taken a leading role in making sure there was a balance between production and other land uses.

"So far the custodians of our rural land have been all but ignored in how to best achieve renewable energy installation in our traditional rural areas, and this review will give a voice to the damage done to date, and to the opportunity to do it right," he said.

"There is a vital need to plan upfront, not mitigate damage, so that the environment, urban and peri urban expansion and infrastructure on rural land coexist, while maintaining the productivity and cultural values of rural NSW.

"Industrial installations such as solar and wind energy plants are vital to our ongoing energy requirements and can deliver real benefits to rural land owners and communities; they just need to be in the right balance, and not divide communities and erode hundreds of years of economic and social fabric."

To access the issues paper and to provide a written submission, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup. Submissions close 5pm, May 23, 2022.

GOOD NEWS!

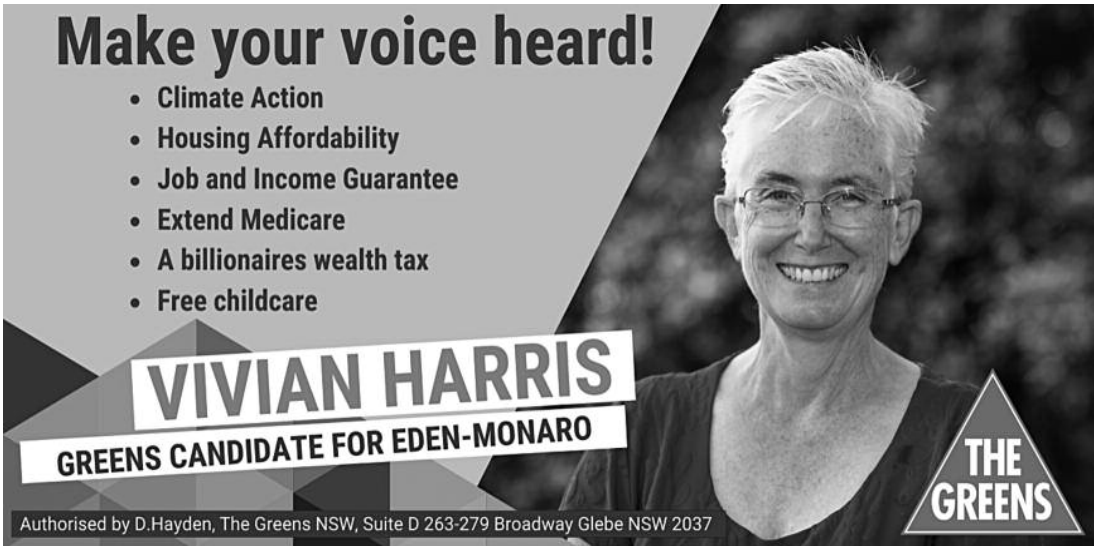
The **BRAIDWOOD BOOK FAIR** will be held again over the coming June long weekend:

Friday 10th through to Monday 13th June.

In the National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood.

Opening Friday, Saturday, Sunday 9am to 4pm: Monday 9am to 2pm

Just in time to stock up on some winter reading matter.



Summerfield Community Association, Braidwood

calls tenders for:

■ cleaning of the clubhouse, swimming pool surrounds, gym and arts and craft room.
■ mowing and/or garden maintenance.

Please deliver tenders by May 15.

To receive a scope of works and arrange a site visit please contact the secretary at:
bjgilby@bigpond.net.au

OPENING TIMES
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TUE 12pm - 6pm
WED 9am - 2pm
THUR 12pm - 7pm
FRI 9am - 2pm
Check us out:
halfcutbarberbraidwood.au
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Help stop the flu in 2022

Juliet from Capital Chemist Braidwood

Due to the last two years having low influenza levels due to the Covid-19 public health measures, it is likely the levels will rise again this year. Read on for some information about the vaccine.

What is it?

The active ingredient in the vaccines is inactivated influenza virus. It contains 4 different strains so it is called quadrivalent. The vaccine recommended for people over 65 years also has extra ingredients called an "adjuvant" which helps improve the immune response to the vaccine.

What benefit does it have?

The vaccine reduces your risk of getting influenza, having severe effects from it, becoming hospitalised or dying because of it. It also helps protects your loved ones and the community as it makes you less likely to spread the virus to others.

Who is it recommended for?

It is recommended for everyone aged six months and over, especially so for people at risk for influenza and it's complications. It is safe for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Who is it not recommended for?

It is only not recommended if you have had a previous anaphylaxis response to the influenza vaccine or any component of the influenza vaccine. If you have had Guillian Barre syndrome or are taking certain checkpoint inhibitor cancer medication it is recommended to discuss the vaccine with your doctor.

When should I get it?

The highest level of protection from the influenza vaccine occurs in the 3 to 4 months following the vaccine. It is recommended from mid April to be best protected for the peak flu season, which is usually around June to September. However, it is never too late as the virus is here year round!

Can I get it with my Covid-19 vaccination?

Yes! It can either be administered on the same day or at least 7 days apart.

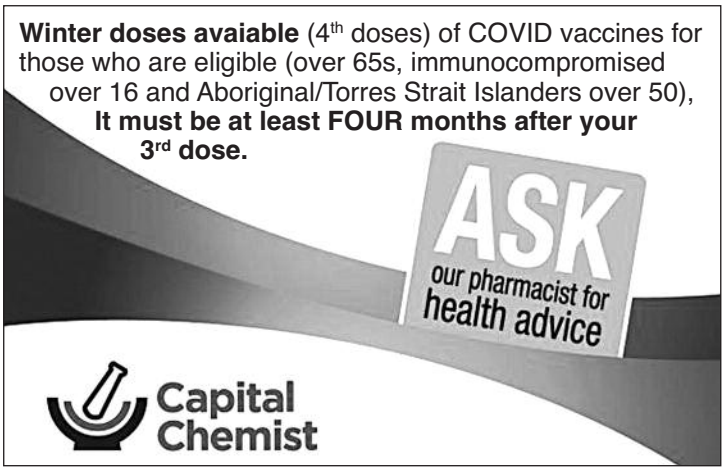
What are the side effects?

Some people experience a mild reaction that last up to a couple of days, from which they fully recover. The most common side effects of influenza vaccines include pain, redness, swelling or hardness at the injection site or/and fever, tiredness or body aches.

Is it possible to get the flu from the vaccine?

No! The side effects may mimic the signs of influenza; however, any reaction is the immune system responding to the vaccine. The vaccination is inactivated so the virus cannot replicate.

References: Australian Immunisation Handbook, NSW Health Seasonal influenza vaccination - Frequently asked questions webpage, Australian Government Department of Health Influenza (flu) vaccine webpage.



Detail from a photograph of the Federal contingent before it sailed for South Africa in 1902. Jack Alick Bond at bottom right.

Krawarree Yuin man fought in Boer War

Aaron Bloch, *National Indigenous Times*

Please note: This story contains reference to someone who has died.

Jack Alick Bond, a Yuin man from Krawarree in the upper Shoalhaven Basin of New South Wales, volunteered to serve in the Second Boer War in the early 20th century despite having no rights as a human living in the country he was defending.

Departing on January 17, 1900 as a member of the Second Contingent of the First Australian Horse, Bond went on to take part in significant battles at Poplar Grove, Zand River, and Diamond Hill, among others.

Upon his return to Sydney May 2, 1901, Bond was presented with a medal by the Duke of Cornwall and York, and future King, Prince George.

According to historian Peter Bakker, this presentation of the Queen's South Africa Medal is currently the first known Aboriginal serviceman to be presented a medal for military service in a foreign country.

The following year, Bond re-enlisted for his second tour of South Africa, this time much shorter, from February to August of 1902. His return followed the declaration of peace in South Africa on May 31, 1902.

Speaking of his time in South Africa, Jack Alick Bond wrote letters to home whilst on his first tour, which were then published in The Braidwood Dispatch and Mining Journal.

"I have seen quite enough fighting and have had some very narrow squeaks," it reads.

Bond lived until the age of 68, passing away in November 1941.

After extensive research by Bakker, Bond's unmarked gravesite was located in Botany Cemetery in Botany's Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park.

This finding led to the creation of the Jack Alick Bond Memorial Grave Committee, led by Pastor Ray Minniecon, to organise and fundraise for a grave and public recognition for the actions Bond took throughout his life and military service.

The Committee has contacted a wide range of people including extended family, local Elders, military, and historical institutions to ensure approval of any tributes or publicity about Bond.

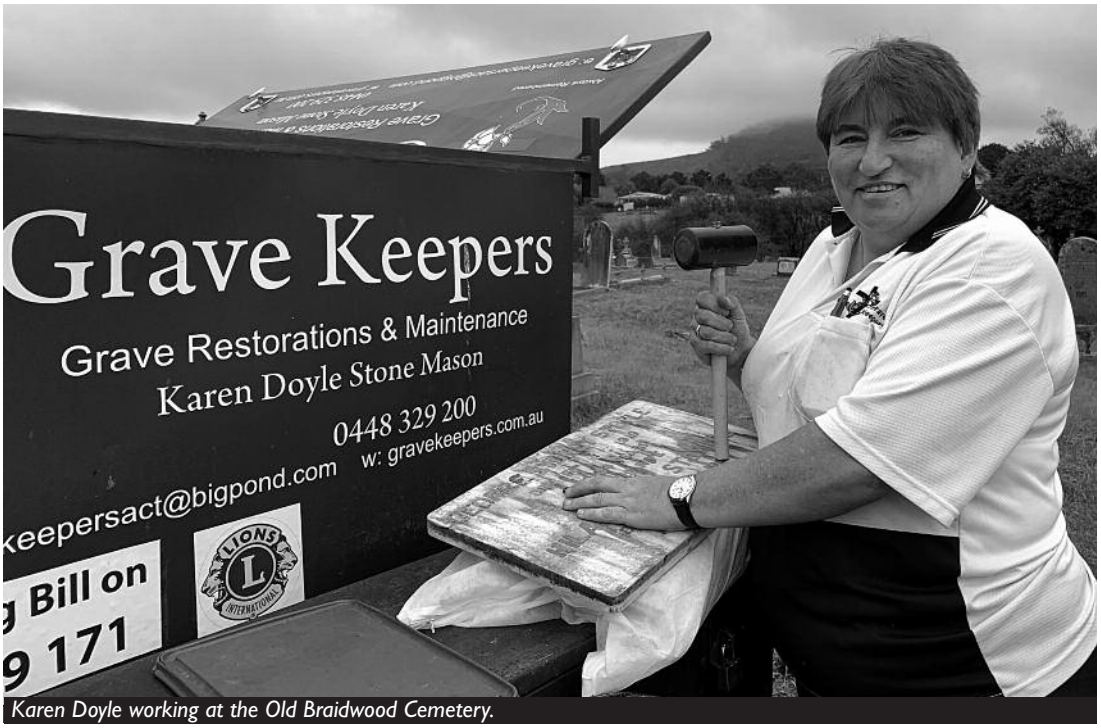
A COVID-Safe Dedication Ceremony at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park has been planned for May 31, 2021, on the 119th Anniversary of the Treaty of Vereeniging which ended the Boer War.

The Committee has plans to create an illustrated booklet on Jack Alick Bond, and is seeking fundraising to cover the costs of a full monumental grave re-dedication and plaque.

The movement for recognition the Committee hopes will serve as the rightful recognition of all Indigenous military members, as well as their communities and families.

If you wish to contribute to the recognition and celebration Jack Alick Bond, please contact Pastor Ray Minniecon at:

raymin@me.com



Karen Doyle working at the Old Braidwood Cemetery.

Definitely not a dying business

Robin Tennant-Wood

The casual observer at the western end of Cowper Street may have noticed some activity in the Old Braidwood Cemetery.

For the past week monumental mason, Karen Doyle, and her assistant, Paul Murphy have been hard at work restoring some of Braidwood's old graves.

The *Changing Times* caught up with Karen while she was working on the grave of the late John Stoyles.

The one-time Parliament House security guard explained that she got into stonemasonry almost by accident, but completed her apprenticeship in Sydney and is now among a handful of masons who specialise in grave restoration.

"I learnt the old methods," Doyle said, carefully demonstrating the replacement of lead lettering on a headstone. "Most monumental masons don't use the old techniques anymore, but on these old graves, you need to use the same techniques that were originally used."

Doyle's company, Grave Keepers, does contract work for councils as well as for individuals. In this case, she and Murphy are working on behalf of a few Braidwood families who wanted to restore their relatives' and ancestors' graves to good condition.

Doyle takes 'before and after' photos of the graves she restores to show the progress of her work. In the case of the Stoyles grave, the stone top of the crypt had been cracked and was eroding away. She removed the top and will replace it with a replica and then restore the lettering.

She looked at some of the tiny graves, some unmarked, in the cemetery. "I always take a bit longer and a bit more care with the children's graves," she said.

"I like to find out a bit about the person whose grave I'm working on," she said. "I always ask the families to tell me a bit about their relative, because when you're working on their grave for a week or so, it might sound funny, but you really feel like you get to know them."

Both Doyle and Murphy were very appreciative of the work that has gone into mapping the Old Cemetery. "If it wasn't for that map, we'd have taken ages looking for graves," Doyle said, and asked that her thanks be passed on to the people responsible (thanks, Margaret Royds!).

Murphy also noted that the main street is looking great with the new paint jobs to several buildings and the work that has gone into the gardens.

As a specialist in graves, Doyle has travelled extensively and has seen historic cemeteries not only all over Australia but also in Europe and the US. But for this week at least, it's Braidwood's founders who are the recipients of her skills.

ANZAC DAY: Girl Guides and Brownies of today and yesterday.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

National Reconciliation Week Reconciliation Walk

National Reconciliation Week is held each year from 27 May to 3 June.

This year's theme is "Be Brave. Make Change". It challenges us all to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can Make Change for all.

Join the Reconciliation Walk in Queanbeyan on Tuesday 31 May.

- Meet at Marj Christian Park - Trinculo Place 9.45am
- Walk begins 10.30am
- Ceremony in the sunken gardens of Queanbeyan Park (corner of Campbell and Lowe streets)

The official proceedings include an Aboriginal cultural performance and flag ceremony.

Community Meetings in May from 6-8pm

Community meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:

- Braidwood Serviceman's Club Auditorium, Thursday 12 May
- Queanbeyan Bicentennial Hall, Tuesday 17 May
- Bungendore Council Chambers and Foyer, Thursday 19 May

The community meetings are an opportunity to have discussions and ask questions of staff.

▶ Register your attendance and your topics of interest at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/events**

Have **Your Say**

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	**Closing Date (2022)**
2022 Draft Integrated Plans	29 May
Library Strategy	8 May
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 a 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:

- 11 May
- 25 May

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.

Vehicles for Tender

Council are seeking tenders for a white Hyundai Van and a white Holden Cruze, sight unseen and without keys. Tenders close on 18 May.

Submit tenders to: **procurement@qprc.nsw.gov.au**, no physical tenders will be accepted. Contact Tanya Paternoster on **0436 697 988** with any questions.

Before seeking tenders on abandoned vehicles we attempt to contact the owner, notify the police in writing with details of the vehicle to find out if it may have been stolen, and hold the vehicle for 28 days whilst we wait for a response. After this time, we are able to dispose of or sell the vehicle.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
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BOOKWORM *Julia Ermert*

HOME-GROWN HEROES:

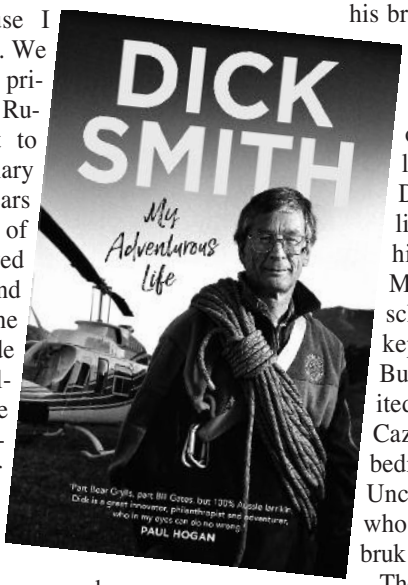
DICK SMITH —

THE BEST PRESIDENT WE NEVER HAD

I'm not a republican. Who could be, after Donald Trump?

But if Dick Smith had been in the running at the referendum of 1999, I might have wavered. All I could see were politicians. And I don't think a country that treats its female politicians badly, is adult enough to govern itself.

But perhaps I'm biased. Not only because I'm female, but because I know Dick Smith. We went to the same primary school. Yes, Rupert and I went to Roseville Primary School, a few years before Dick of course, but we lived in the same area and were active in the Scout and Guide movement so always moved in the same groups. Rupert was later Dick's scout leader — Rovers, I think, but they have different names nowadays.



Dick was always a character.

"100% Aussie larrikin," Paul Hogan says in his foreword to Dick's *My Adventurous Life* (Allen&Unwin, Sydney, 2021).

Richard Harold Smith AO, listed as aviator and entrepreneur, was born in 1944. His middle name is for his grandfather, artist and photographer Harold Cazneaux, whose work documented early Sydney as it grew and grew. Cazneaux documented its social and domestic scenes as the suburbs spread after the Harbour Bridge was erected.

Cazneaux settled in Roseville. He and his wife Winifred raised five daughters. Two of them, Joan and Rainbow, settled nearby. So Joan (Smith) was Dick's mother, and Rainbow (Johnson) was his aunt. A double rainbow was showing outside the hospital window when she was born. So romantic … and years later I went out with (we didn't say 'dated') her son Bob and Rupert went out with red-haired sister Sally. If ever I am stuck for something to write about, I can construct some interesting alternative scenarios there! Feel free to send in your ideas. If it all sounds a bit incestuous, we didn't stray far from home in those days. No one had a car. There was only the local bus, which my father and his brother owned anyway.

Sad to say, neither of us noticed little brother Dick, who lisped, calling himself 'Dick Miff,' wagged school, and kept lizards. But Dick visited Grandpa Caz, and the bedroom of his Uncle Harold who died at Tobruk.

There he found the wonderful world of wireless technology. He was soon building crystal sets and and two-valve radios. He funded the components by breeding and selling white mice, delivering for the local chemist or being a paperboy. This was quite usual behaviour in those days. Nowadays probably Health and Safety, or some such, wouldn't allow it.

He still has, framed, the first ten-shilling note he earned.

We were all lucky in those days, living in those bushy suburbs bordering Middle Harbour. We would be out all day, making up games, cooking things on rudimentary camp fires, exploring. As long as we were home by the time the streetlights came on, no one bothered. Nowadays Social Services might be after our parents!

Another big influence on Dick's life was joining 1st East Roseville Cub Scouts. Parents had cooperated in building a new hall. I remember going there for dances later; the floor was good. The scouting movement continued to mean a great deal to him, as it did to so many of us. The motto 'Be Prepared' will see you through most things.

Not that I ever wanted to tow a fake iceberg through the Heads, climb Ball's Pyramid, that jagged tooth off Lord Howe Island, with no proper landing beach, fly a helicopter solo round the world, cross the Tasman by balloon or found a multi-million dollar electronics business, but some of us prefer a quieter life. Dick met his wife Pip, a Queen's Guide, at a social, and I kept marrying ex-Rover Scouts, so there's a parallel story there somewhere. Obviously it takes more than a shared interest, but it's a start.

> Dick tells his story with verve and gusto, refreshing modesty and unfailing good humour.

'Whatever will happen to Dick?' his parents would lament when he came 45th in a class of 47 fourth-graders and then dropped out of school at fifteen.

Well, if you hadn't noticed, this book tells you. Apart from his adventures (he doesn't use the word, but the Rovers called that sort of thing 'featuring'), he made his millions without doing other people down, trashing our precious environment, getting into in the scandal rags, or neglecting his family. He knew when enough was enough.

And, it goes without saying, has the Baden-Powell Award.

— * —* —* —

> Dick Smith's given away millions, been honoured with the Order of Australia as a benefactor to social welfare, conservation and humanitarian programs, medical research, the visual arts and, of course, aviation.

Even if he is, as he says 'a bit eccentric.'

Did I mention he scaled Ball's Pyramid with my old school friend's brother? They bred us tough on the North Shore in those days. Go, Rosie School! Go, Dick Smith, our true Aussie hero!

Watch out, if there's ever another referendum.

THE ELEGANT ASSOCIATES
Deborah Thomson - vocals David McClymont - piano

Music from The Great American Songbook and more

Special guests
Leisa Keen - piano and vocals
James Luke - double bass

The Royal Mail Hotel, Braidwood
5pm, Sunday, 8th May (Mother's Day)
Tickets $15, Concession $10
Bookings essential: 4842 2488

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND OUR TOWN

Laura E Moriarty

At the Royal Mail this week, Mick Fernandez will be playing Saturday 7th May from 7:30 til late.

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The Elegant Associates are playing on Mother's Day between 5 and 6:30, including an interval. Treat yourself to an evening of the best jazz standards of the day from the Great American Songbook. They are very excited to have two guest performers, the talented Leisa Keen on piano and vocals, and James Luke on bass. Bookings are essential to avoid disappointment, and the tickets will be $15, or $10 concession.

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The Lions Club wood raffles will commence on the 14th May every second Saturday of the month for the next six months.

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Rufino and the Coconuts are finally returning to Smokey Horse on Saturday 7th May from 5pm onwards, after being canceled due to Covid last time round. It promises to be an evening of song, dance, and laughter, set amongst a Caribbean-themed eight person strong cabaret ensemble. Tickets available at http://smokeycoconuts.eventbrite.com or on the door. Tickets are $20 plus booking fee. Get in quick to avoid disappointment!

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Braidwood's Horticultural Heritage: An Autumnal Amble through the town's tree-lined streets is on this Friday 6th May from 9 am to 11 am— meet at the Rotunda at Ryrie Park. It promises to be an interesting walk and talk hosted by the Braidwood Garden Club. Free for Garden Club members and $5 for non-members.

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Braidy Baby is on 6th May from 10:00 -11:30 am, and is a weekly

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

event. Hosted by local birth and post partum doula Rose Ricketson, it is at the Braidwood CWA rooms, and provides support, resources, and kinship for those who are pregnant or in the early stages of motherhood. Tea, coffee, and cake are provided. For further information, please text 0449 187 430.

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Mahjong is on at the CWA rooms every Thursday morning from 10 am.

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Line Dancing is on at the Club from 7pm to 9pm on Friday nights.

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Folk Dancing is on at the Club from 9:30am on Monday mornings, and is free to attend.

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The Bridge Club meet weekly at the Club on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm, and is free to attend. Contact Mrs Olive Royds on 4842 1732. New members without any experience playing Bridge are welcome to attend, and there is no cost for playing.

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Wednesdays also see the Ladies Exercise Group meet at the Club from 10am to 11am, and is an informal way to get fit and have fun. Free to attend.

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Tai Chi is on at the Club on Tuesdays from 10-11 am. Irene Woodford will guide you through it, and you can pay a donation to attend.

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Movement for Wellbeing for men and women is on every Sunday morning at the Club, from 11am to 12pm, and is designed for people with mobility issues and involves gentle exercises starting in a chair and progressing to standing exercises. Warmup, stretching, movement, and cooling down with great music.

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Tango Dancing is on at the Club every Tuesday from 5:45pm and is for beginners, Wednesday evening practical sessions from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, and Saturday morning classes from 10:30am to 12pm, with Chris Watkins and Erika Mordek. $10 for classes, and please contact Erika on 0432 687 255 for further information.

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On Mother's Day the Club will be hosting a Mother's Day Lunch at $25 per person, consisting of a roast and dessert between 12pm and 2pm. Bookings essential; please call 4842 2095 to book.

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The St Vincent dePaul society meet every Friday at St Bede's presbytery from 11am to 1pm.

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Crafty or Not Crafty group meet every Thursday morning at the Anglican Parish Centre behind the Anglican Church on Elrington St from 11am to 12pm. All are welcome.

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Braidwood Parkrun is on this Saturday out at the Showgrounds from 7:45am for an 8 am start. Don't let the name put you off, it's all about having fun. It's free, weekly, and all fitness levels and abilities are catered for in this 5km walk. Bring the dog, the pram, a group of friends— all welcome.

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The Braidwood Farmer's Markets are on this Saturday, with a great selection of local produce from people such as Sully's Cider Factory, Riverbourne Distillery, Corang Estate Winery, Hazelwood Farm, and many more stalls to choose from. It starts at 8:30am til 12:30pm in the National Theatre

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BRAG are having their studio market on the 7th May from 9-2pm. It has a wide variety of beautiful handmade items for sale such as photographic prints, ceramics, and woollen goods. Come on down to support local makers making beautiful things.

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Puppy Classes commence 11th May from 7pm at the Braidwood Showground hall. Bookings are essential, as the groups are small. Phone Claire on 0488 118 823 or email her at amorecanine@gmail.com for further information.

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The Redback Rugby Union Team Annual Winter Ball is on Saturday 14th May at the Braidwood Showground Hall from 5:30pm. They are raising funds for the Braidwood and District Education Foundation. Music by Howlin Mason and Brew. Tables of 8 at $120 per person for a three-course meal catered by Vanilla Catering and a full bar. No BYO, or persons under eighteen permitted to attend. For bookings or tickets, please phone Louise Halligan on 0413 465 566.

TRADE DAY IN BRAIDWOOD
Thursday 26th May 2022
Our 28th Annual Trade Day Phone orders welcome
Great prices on Stihl Chainsaws, Fencing, Drenches, Chemicals, Cattle Handling Equipment and much more
Over 60 companies participating
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Once a year specials on rural merchandise

FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT

LODGE OF TRUTH BRAIDWOOD NO. 26
UNITED GRAND LODGE OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY.

Ever thought of becoming a Freemason? Freemasonry is made up of men from all walks of life, serving their community while engaged self-improvement, building friendships and seeking excellence in all pursuits

Lodge of Truth, Braidwood has been in our community for over 160 years and we invite you to become a member of Braidwood's longest serving fraternity.

If this interests you, please call Phil Shoemark on 0427 422046 for more information about membership.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Braidwood Uniting Church

The Ancient wisdom poetry of the Hebrew people has a well known phrase: I've seen it printed on posters of beautiful rainforest scenery, it's been printed on t-shirts, and many a song has been created upon it.

The phrase comes from the book of Psalms, chapter 46, verse 10, "Be still, and know that I am God." A fairly well-known verse, yet it's not until you actually read it in the Bible that you see it's only half of the poets' verse. Can you recite the other half? While I know the first half really well, the second half is unfamiliar, and never springs easily to mind. Yet it is these trailing words that show us the consequence of the first. The end of Psalm 46:10 declares to us, "I will be honoured among the nations. I will be honoured in the earth." (NIRV) The poet is pointing out a cause and effect: if you pause, take a deep breath, and focus on the eternal Triune God, then God will be honoured. Being still to understand more about who God is, and how God sees things, changes who we are, and flows on to make a difference in our world. I hope there's some space in your life this week where you can pause, breathe God in, and know His transformation in your world.

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

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Life generally, and the Christian life in particular can be a bit like an athletics relay, we go through many transitional changes which are not always smooth, or painless.

Sometimes we face what seem to be insurmountable hurdles that are confronting and debilitating. At various pressure points on our pilgrimage through life we often find ourselves asking: 'Where do I turn next for help and assistance?' From Creation to Eternity the scriptures provide us with a coaching manual beyond reproach and without comparison and yet so often we look only for immediate or earthly solutions. The one thing that must be said in defence of God's coaching manual is that it consistently warns of wilful disregard of God's precepts.

John 10 is all about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the flock. Here in the midst of disbelief and doubt is the one who laid down his life for the sheep (humanity is here intended). He expressly tells them so, but they still don't catch onto the full implications of his message. In verse 22 we are told Jesus came into their midst talking about the Good Shepherd, the real shepherd, the king who would come and show up all the others as a bunch of phoneys. The message of Jesus was controversial and dangerous and yet Jesus persisted with his claims, reminding the gathered crowds that he had been with them for a considerable time and yet they had either failed to notice him or ignored the advice delivered.

In verse 25, Jesus says quite plainly, 'I did tell you but you do not believe, haven't you noticed the miracles that I performed in my Father's name!' It is a fairly culpable indictment when Jesus tells you that what you have seen or heard has made little or no impact upon you. It is a simple fact that that you can't ignore all the evidence and claim to be a follower. If you don't listen, if you don't see, or choose to ignore what you do see, right before your very eyes, then you cannot possibly belong to the sheepfold. The relationship between the shepherd and the sheep is just as reciprocal as the relationship between God and us through Jesus Christ. The reciprocity between Jesus and his true followers is further emphasised in the reassurance, the guarantee if you like, that those who recognise Jesus' voice and respond accordingly will be safe forever.

How often do we hear these messages and allow them to wash right over us? We should never see the words of scripture as obsolete, outmoded or unworthy of being taken seriously. It is quite a stretch to condemn God's holy word to the trash can of historical obsolescence. We need to embrace it and reject all claims that it is somehow obsolete or irrelevant as some would have us believe.

St Bede's Roof Repair Complete

Now that the work is complete, the Parish Council of St Bede's intends to mark the Completion of the Repairs to the Roof by holding a Parish Dinner.

The 700+ mm of rain that fell whilst the work was in progress gives us confidence that the roof has been rigorously tested – it can with stand prolonged heavy rainfall without leaking! The completion of this work is a very significant occasion. We know that the slates were installed in 1880 to replace the original wood shingles from the original construction which started circa 1856, so we are hopeful that the repaired roof will be good for another 140+ years!!!

St Bede's is a key element of the heritage of the town, whose significance is recognised on the State Heritage Register of New South Wales. Its presence is a noteworthy part of the story of the town and its heritage for all the people of NSW.

The maintenance work that has now been carried out was essential to safeguard the structure of the church so it can continue as an enduring symbol of faith in the future, to tell the story of the people who settled the area and their vision. The work has ensured that St Bede's will not only continue to enrich the present, but to protect it for future generations.

The Grant from Heritage NSW provided matching funds – 50%, to enable the Parish to carry out the repairs, which cost $299,530.

In addition, the Braidwood Community Bank provided matching funding for cleaning up the extraordinary amount of dust dislodged during the roof repair, in particular the overheads, as well as the painting of the gable ends; the cost of the additional work was $22,873. The BCB matched the parish funding by providing 50% - $11,437.50

The dinner will be held at the Braidwood Services Club in the evening of Saturday 14 May, cost $25 per head.

We hope that as many of our parishioners as possible will attend to celebrate this occasion to congratulate ourselves. It is indeed a significant achievement! RSVP by 6 May to: Braidwood@cg.org.au

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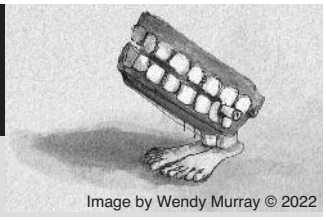
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Send news, views, tips, letters to the editor and local stories to: **times@bwdmag.com.au**

GOLF NEWS

Semi-final time for Braidwood ladies

The Braidwood Ladies Bronze Shield Pennants team finished the home-and-away season undefeated after beating chief rival Bowral at RMC last week. The ladies will now meet Goulburn in the semi-final this Friday.

Members are advised that with the onset of the colder weather and shorter days, the match committee has decided to bring the competition forward: Players must register by 11.30am on Saturday in order to have everyone out on the course by 12 at the latest.

Once again our great bunch of volunteers removed the fallen tree on the edge of the 5th fairway, and the cut branches on the side of the 4th & 2nd fairways. We couldn't have a wonderful golf course without your help so grateful thanks to Keith Ferguson, Spiro Agnew, Roger Hovey, Mark Newman, Gordon and Judy Scott and Rod Royds and his ute!

The Club Championships commence on 21 May. Members wishing to play in the championships must have played a minimum of eight handicap rounds at Braidwood since last June in order to qualify. There will be daily round on each day of the championships for any players who don't qualify but who wish to play.

Welcome to our new members, Sarah Heine & Carmen Byrne who played their first competition round yesterday.

Results:

Saturday April 30

Men's 2BBB Stableford - Peter Young & Aaron Clarke Trophy
Winners: Keith Morgan & Rod Royds 42pts
Runners Up: Andrew Clark & Michael Toirkens 39pts
Balls: Roger Hovey & Alan Walcott 38pts, John Harb & Nelson Sargent 36pts, Terry Hughes & Don Burke 34pts
NTP Men 3/12: Michael Toirkens
Handicap Changes: Rod Royds down 1 to 18, Mark Newman out 1 to 14

Women's 2BBB Stableford – Helen Goddard Memorial Trophy. Many thanks to David Goddard for his generous sponsorship.
Winners: Carmen Byrne & Margy Gardner 37pts
Runners Up: Deb Ferguson & Robin Tennant Wood 31pts
NTP 3/12th: Carmen Byrne
Balls: Sarah Heine & Michelle Henry 30pts, Judy Scott & Barb Stuart 25pts
Handicap Changes: Robin Tennant Wood out to 33, Sarah Heine out to 3.

Robin Tennant-Wood, Braidwood's Changing Times *editor comes out swinging. Photo: Martin Gilby*

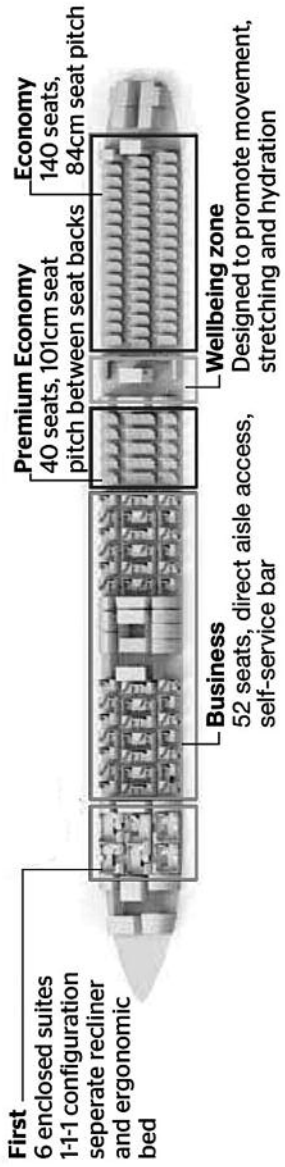
STOP PRESS

PROTECT OUR OLD FOLKS AND MASK UP FOR THEM

STAR TIMES

Modernworldexplained

I'm sorry but you'll need to turn the paper on its side this issue to get the story of the stars. Go on, do it now and then I'll tell you the rest.



Legroomformebutnotyou

Above is an ad for the new Qantas passenger layout. It neatly sums up the way the whole world is currently organised and of course Alan Joyce is quite proud of it. See how the first class and business class sections seat 58 people in half the aeroplane. The rear half of the plane crams in another 180 whose seats vary in their effect from mild cramps to deep-vein thrombosis. "Oh but", I hear you cry. "If it was not for the high business class price, the economy seats would cost even more. But they do cost us more that's why they're called business class. Poor people buy their own tickets and rich people add it to the cost of whatever they're selling to us. 'High'-way robbery.

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