

BRAIDWOOD'S Changing Times

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	0°	13°	10%
Th:	1°	13°	0%
Fr:	0°	12°	0%
Sat:	-2°	11°	10%
Sun:	-3°	12°	20%
Mon:	-2°	12°	20%

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Issue #6 — \$2.00

The election and the pandemic

How the AEC is dealing with COVID

The AEC is factoring the rapidly changing COVID-19 environment into its provision of the voting services and throughout the broader by-election process.

For this by-election, the AEC is implementing a range of safety measures, consistent with advice sought from government health authorities. This will include guidance for voters regarding appropriate social distancing and hygiene in the polling place. Hand sanitiser will be available and voting screens will be regularly cleaned by AEC staff.

The operating model for this by-election includes social distancing and hygiene measures that conform with federal and local health advice and are also within the legislative framework of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918. The infection-control advice the AEC is following has been provided by the Australian Government's Chief Medical Officer, and relevant NSW and ACT health authorities.

It is also important to note these measures, which must be enacted to protect the community, will inevitably slow the voting process. The AEC thanks all electors and participants for their patience and adherence to the new measures in the polling place and at the count centre.

Where to vote

Because of the need to spread people out in accordance with social distancing guidelines, there will be two polling places in Braidwood, plus the villages.

On polling day you can vote at:

- Braidwood Central School
- Braidwood Regional Arts Centre (BRAG)
- Araluen Federation Hall
- Majors Creek Recreation Hall
- Captains Flat Community Hall

There is no facility for pre-polling in Braidwood, but pre-polling is available at:

- QPRC Indoor Sports 1a Yass Rd, Queanbeyan
- 116 Monaro St Queanbeyan
- Pilgrim House 69 Northburne Ave, Canberra City
- Belconnen Community Centre 26 Chandler St

You asked, they said:

The two lead candidates, Fiona Kotvojs (Liberal) and Kristy McBain (Labor) were asked three questions sent in by Braidwood residents.

Here are their responses.

The Braidwood Servicemen's Club is hoping to secure grant funding to install an underground irrigation system to maximise water efficiency for the golf course, bowling green and club garden while maintaining those facilities at optimal standard. What support can you provide as local member to assist in securing grants for this purpose?



Fiona Kotvojs:

If I am elected, I will meet with the club to discuss their proposal. There are criteria and rules for different grant programs, and I will work with them to help identify the best way forward. More broadly, I will always be available to community groups and would also have a page on my website that keeps clubs and organisations informed about different grants and government support that is available to them.

Kristy McBain:

If elected as your local Federal member I see my role as advocating not just at the Federal level, but also with the State Government and local councils in the electorate. Grants typically need to be pursued with multiple agencies and levels of government and providing a heads up on funding rounds and support during the grants process are among the supports a federal member's office can provide. If I am elected I look forward to working with the community on this and other projects like it.

There have been plans for many years for a bypass road around Braidwood

to divert heavy traffic and in particular heavy industrial vehicles from the centre of town. What is your position on the proposed bypass?

Fiona Kotvojs:

I support a bypass very strongly. If I am elected, as a member of the Government I will be in position to work with the council, federal and state Ministers to deliver better roads for Eden-Monaro.

Kristy McBain:

The bypass is an important example of my philosophy - which is change must be locally driven and locally led. You cannot impose projects on communities and expect them to work for people. There has to be more than consultation - there has to be direct community involvement in planning and execution of all projects.

Question 3

During the bushfires last summer, the ABC was a communications lifeline for many parts of this region. Will you commit to increased funding for the national broadcaster?

Fiona Kotvojs:

[no response]



Kristy McBain:

With every breath in my body I will. That this Government is even talking about cuts after the horrific summer we have had and the pandemic that is still underway just beggars belief.

EDITORIAL

Robin Tennant-Wood

It might be close

Eden-Monaro is one of the most marginal in the country. Held by less than one percent of the vote, it could swing on a single issue or a single statement by a candidate.

At the pre-poll centre in Queanbeyan on Monday morning, the *Changing Times* spoke to officials from both the Labor and Liberal camps and asked how they thought it was going. Both sides admitted that it was tight and could go either way. There was no sign of over-confidence by either major candidate or their campaign team. "It'll go down to the wire," said one official, while her counterpart from the other party said, "It's tight, we probably won't have a result on the night."

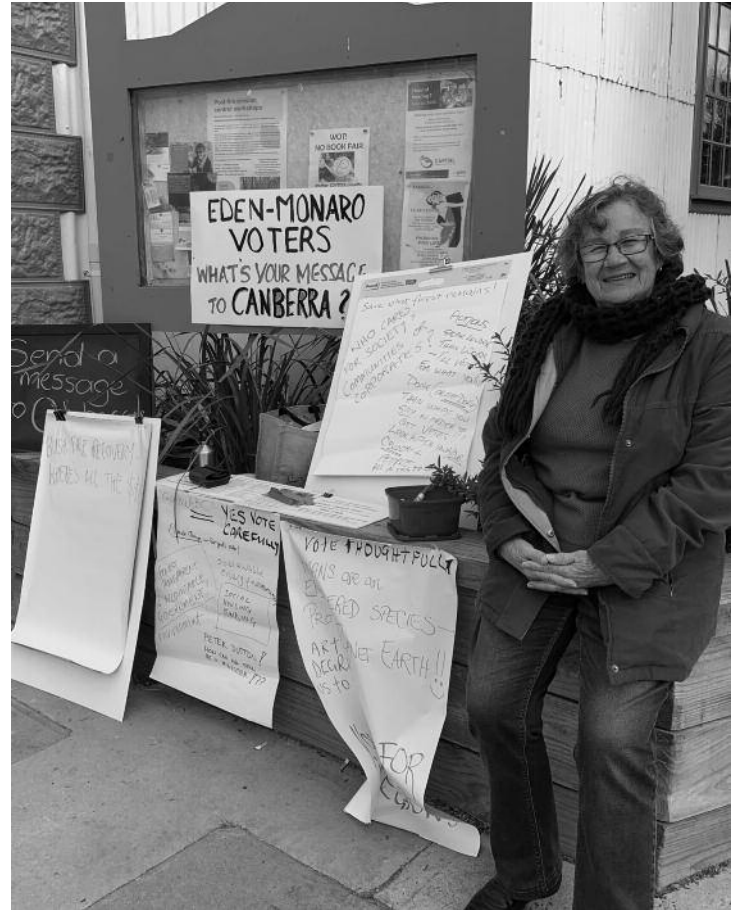
The big issues in the electorate have emerged as JobKeeper, bushfire relief and future bushfire prevention and management, and the ABC. The prime minister's equivocation on releasing the treasury report into JobKeeper before the by-election has sounded some alarm bells. Added to that is the fact that very little bushfire relief funding has been received in the region and the prime minister is still copping flak over his Hawaiian holiday during the fires themselves. On the other hand, the government's strong standing on public health and compensation to workers during the

pandemic has been seen as a big positive for the government.

It's important to remember that the outcome of this election won't change the government. The Liberal Party has recycled last year's campaign, simply peddling anti-Labor slogans. Labor, for its part, has focused solely on regional issues. Most tellingly, the Liberal candidate has been rarely seen or heard on her own during this campaign; which has largely consisted of standing behind the prime minister while he makes policy announcements. The Labor candidate, meanwhile, has taken her campaign to the grassroots with no major policy announcements.

All this, however, is irrelevant. Eden-Monaro voters won't change the government. But you can send a strong message to the major parties if you're not pleased with their performance, either in government or opposition. There are 12 independent or minor party candidates representing the full range of political perspectives and views. Tired of internal politicking, cover-ups and bland, cardboard cut-out pollies making the same statements? Sick of rorts, empty promises and cynical rhetoric?

This is your chance to tell them it's not good enough.



A message to Canberra

From people on the streets of Braidwood

In a world of advanced technology and instant communication, sometimes Old School works just as well, if not better.

We've heard from most of the

candidates, but on Saturday, some of the locals behind the successful Politics in the Park forums took to Wallace Street to see what the voters think.

"Send a message to Canberra" was the theme, and Eden-Monaro voters, whether local or passing through, were encouraged to take up a marker and write their message on the butchers' paper provided. Bushfire relief was a strong theme, but lack of accountability and honesty in government was also prominent.

Some of the comments left by voters:


"Who care for society? Communities or corporates?"

"Bushfire relief. Where's the \$\$\$"

"Honest, transparent, accountable government!"

"Save what forest remains"

"Actions speak louder than words. I'll vote for what you've done (or not done) (not) what you say in order to get votes."



Kristy McBain will be a strong local voice for:

- ✓ Secure, full-time jobs
- ✓ Bushfire recovery
- ✓ Local businesses
- ✓ Long term rebuilding and recovery
- ✓ Good local hospitals and health services
- ✓ Better roads and better infrastructure

VOTE 1

Kristy McBain

3 STAVEMILLER, M

4 JANSZON, J

5 BALDERS, IONE, N

6 HEDGECOCK, J

7 HICKS, J

8 MCLEAF, D

9 ANGELL, J

LABOR 1 McBain, Kristy

14 ROSE, R

10 ROYTER, K

2 GIFFIN, C

11 STOREY, N

12 POTTER, J

13 KOTVUS, F

NUMBER EVERY SQUARE

"I'll be a local voice for Braidwood"

Kristy McBain

Find out more about Kristy McBain's and Labor's plan for Eden-Monaro at: KRISTYMCBAIN.ORG.AU



AT THE JULY 4 EDEN-MONARO BY-ELECTION, VOTE 1 FOR KRISTY MCBAIN.

Authorised by P. Erickson, Australian Labor Party (ALP), 5/9 Sydney Ave, Barton ACT 2600.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just imagine ...

Dear Changing Times readership; does anyone else feel 'flat' when they contemplate the statements of both the government and Her Majesty's opposition? Does anyone else sense, when perusing a list of candidates, that there is some vital thing lacking?

I believe that the great failure on both sides of the House right now is that of imagination. There isn't any. In fact, this is why the arts portfolio has been relegated to Transport and Infrastructure (for Pete's sake), while artists and their employers have been abandoned and left to starve during lock-down. After all, what could the arts be for? Clearly — the government doesn't know.

There are 600,000 individuals employed in the arts sector. Nice little voting bloc, don't you think, inclusive of the best satirists in the country? Is Parliament also a little dense?

To the Federal Government, FYI: the arts (along with the sciences) are the custodians of the country's imagination. Without them, we shrivel into mediocrity. We end up without any public cultural affirmation that life is beautiful and full of wonders, that our human story just might mean something. Spiritually speaking, we are left to die in a ditch.

These days, the public invisibility of the arts as the arts sees the sector forever translated into other sectors, in order to justify its existence. Frankly, I grow tired of hearing how useful art is for helping in recovery and social work or for employing tradies presumably to build sets. I bless the tradies and the social workers but they need not double as a disguise when polities don't know what to do with these uppity creative thinkers.

What were you doing during lock-down? What were you dependent upon? It is obvious that the arts are an essential service, ought to be declared and funded as such. Write it on a poster. Plaster it everywhere. "The Arts: an essential service".

Imagine that the core portfolios in Cabinet are: Arts, the Sciences, Higher Education and the Environment. This is the heart of government. What ideas would be generated? What would our em-

phasis become? Have you just experienced a little frisson, an impulse to write down your vision and send it along to such a Cabinet? Go on, admit it, you are dying to write to someone — *anyone* — receptive to some new vision of life. You are permitted to weep with relief...

I would be interested to read about the ideas of others in these pages. What can we imagine together before 'return to normal' kicks us back into unsustainable mediocrity? Before we start e.g. mining and fracking the country and calling it 'jobs' because those with their paws on levers could not imagine anything else — and banished those who could.

Well, that's off my chest.

Jane Ahlquist,
Majors Creek

Where there's smoke there's ire

So, they've extended the date for bringing in the ban on imported nicotine vaping juice.

I signed a few petitions to stop the ban, one of which happened to be coordinated by senator Matt Canavan.

As a result, I received an email from his office in regards to the upcoming election and how the Nationals' representative for this election supports vaping.

This was my response.

Thanks Senator Canavan, however, it takes a bit more than just the support to legalise vaping to swing my vote.

I do live in the Eden-Monaro electorate but I will not be supporting the National Party either in this election or for likely, any more to come.

Climate policies, gender and race equality policies, action on the implementation of the findings of investigations into black deaths in custody ... these are some of the things which may sway my vote, not vaping.

I signed the petition because I do want vaping to be legalised as it has helped me get off cigarettes. I also believe that it is hypocritical to ban vaping whilst nicotine products such as cigarettes, gum and patches are still available to the 18+ public, albeit at heavily taxed prices.

I did not sign this petition to be sent political emails from the office of an elected National Party politician.

Alan Hickey
Mongarlowe

(Unfortunately, I can't say best of luck and mean it in regards to the upcoming by-election.)

Over to you now

Robin Tennant-Wood

Candidates wrap up their campaigns

The retirement of Dr Mike Kelly early this year has put the nation's political focus on Eden-Monaro as we went into a by-election campaign.

This electorate has long been regarded as the 'key bellwether': it was won by Bob Whan for the Whitlam government in 1972 and until 2016, has been marginally held by whichever party is in government.

In 2016 Kelly regained the seat he held for the Rudd and Gillard governments from 2007-2013, unseating the Liberal government's Dr Peter Hendy. Kelly has held the seat for the opposition since then.

At last year's federal election, Kelly narrowly held the seat by 0.9%, or around 1600 votes.

This by-election sees a virtual Melbourne Cup field of 14 candidates vying for your vote. The candidates are, in the order they will appear on the ballot form:

- 1 Matthew Stadtmiller (Shooters, Fishers & Farmers)
- 2 James Jansson (Science Party)
- 3 Michael Balderstone (HEMP Party)
- 4 James Holgate (Independent)
- 5 Trevor Hicks (Nationals)
- 6 Dean McCrae (Liberal Democrats)

- 7 Joy Angel (Sustainable Australia Party)
- 8 Kristy McBain (Labor)
- 9 Riccardo Bosi (Independent)
- 10 Karen Porter (Independent)
- 11 Cathy Griff (Greens)
- 12 Narelle Storey (Christian Democrats)
- 13 Jason Potter (Australian Federation Party)
- 14 Fiona Kotvojs (Liberal)

Politics in the Park

Despite the cold weather, the four separate Politics in the Park forums have been well-received and well-attended. While these sessions were originally conceived as a COVID-safe alternative to the traditional Meet the Candidates nights, they



have proved to be a lively and informal way of getting to know the people who are asking for our vote.

Karen Porter was the first candidate to attend, followed by Kristy McBain, Cathy Griff, James Holgate and Jason Potter. Matthew Stadtmiller was keen to speak but was unfortunately unable to work a date into his schedule.

The candidates were all given the same questions on notice, then fielded 'questions from the grass'.

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THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

Trevor Hicks

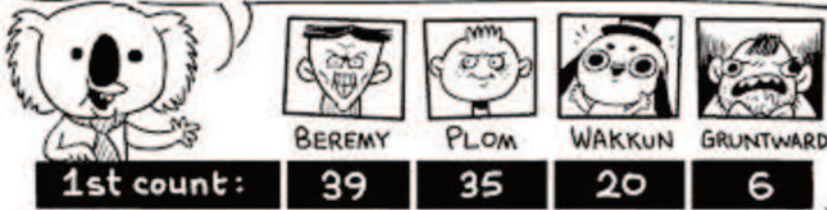
EDEN-MONARO



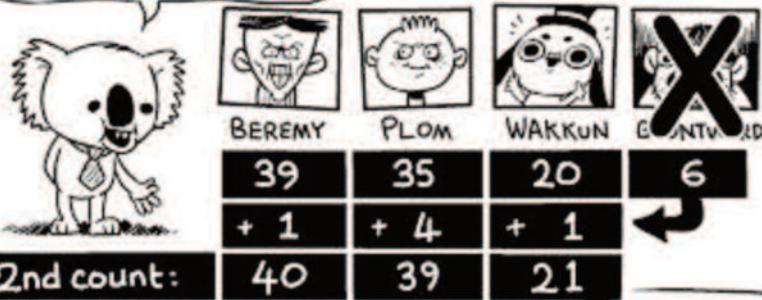
Authorised by G Kerr, National Party of Australia — N.S.W., Level 2, 107 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

PREFERENTIAL VOTING EXPLAINED

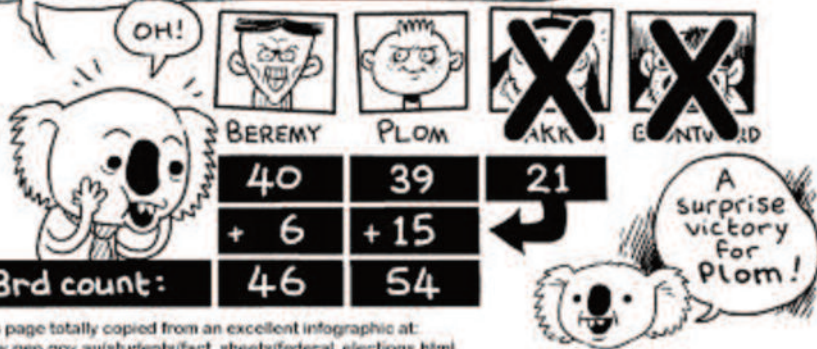
To win a seat, a candidate must end up with an **ABSOLUTE MAJORITY** — that is, over 50% of the total votes. Let's say your electorate has 100 voters: 51 votes are needed to win.



First the "1" votes are counted. But look — no-one has 51 votes or more! So the loser, Gruntward, is eliminated. But the six people who voted "1" for Gruntward now have their "2" votes (second preferences) counted and transferred to those candidates.



Still no-one has an absolute majority of 51 or more! So Wakkun is eliminated, and his votes transferred according to the next preferences.



This page totally copied from an excellent infographic at: www.peo.gov.au/students/fact_sheets/federal_elections.html

JobKeeper Scheme

ato.gov.au/jobkeeper

Jobkeeper shaping as a major issue

Last Friday Treasury Secretary, Dr Stephen Kennedy, presented his review of the JobKeeper scheme to Treasurer Josh Frydenberg. Speaking on Sunday morning, however, Prime Minister Scott Morrison would not commit to releasing details of the review before the Eden-Monaro by-election.

New research from The Australia Institute, however, has found that nearly two-thirds of voters in the electorate of Eden-Monaro want the Government's JobKeeper program extended for some or all industries beyond its current September expiry date.

The Australia Institute commissioned uComms to conduct a survey of 643 residents across the New South Wales federal electorate of Eden-Monaro on the night of 15th June 2020.

Key findings:

- Two thirds of Eden-Monaro voters (64%) say that JobKeeper should be retained beyond September.
- Nearly half of voters (46%) want JobKeeper to be extended for certain industries.
- One in five voters (18%) want the JobKeeper extension to apply to all industries.
- Just 25% of voters want JobKeeper to end for all businesses in September.

"The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are profound and will be long lasting," said Ben Oquist, Executive Director of The Australia Institute.

"Our research shows that there is a strong desire amongst Eden-Monaro voters for the government to extend the JobKeeper program, either for specific industries or for all businesses.

"Like so many communities around Australia, the local economy in Eden-Monaro has been severely hit by both the bushfires of last summer and the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic impacts of those crises will be felt well beyond September and the voters want to see the economic support from this government do the same."

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VOTE CLIMATE

VOTE 1 GREENS



EDEN-MONARO
BY-ELECTION JULY 4

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