BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #69 — $2.00

Wednesday, January 11 2023

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
We:	11°	26°	0%
Th:	13°	29°	0%
Fr:	14°	29°	5%
Sat:	14°	29°	5%
Sun:	18°	28°	10%
Mon	13°	23°	5%
Tue:	13°	29°	0%

Tara Moriarty, Terry Campese and Rose Jackson.

CAMPESE IS LABOR CANDIDATE FOR MONARO

Robin Tennant Wood

Terry Campese's preselection as Labor candidate for the state electorate of Monaro was announced only days before Christmas, but he's wasted no time getting into campaign mode.

He met with locals in Braidwood on Monday morning, accompanied by Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Rose Jackson, and Shadow Minister for Corrections, Tara Moriarty to talk about key issues for the forthcoming state election.


Meeting the locals to hear their concerns.

Campese is already a strong community advocate through his support work with young people though the Terry Campese Foundation. He also became well known throughout the region while heading up the QPRC Bushfire Recovery Program.

On Monday members of the Braidwood Community Association, the Life Centre, the Business Chamber and various local business people met with Mr Campese and Ms Jackson at the Albion.

Mr Campese told the Changing Times that his priority for the campaign is community. "I want to be a strong community advocate, that's what I see as being the most important thing," he said. "Of course I'll be discussing and promoting the Labor Party's policies, but from a personal point of view, it's all about community and listening."

Mr Campese will be continuing with his Foundation's work with youth. "That was my first concern: will I be able to continue doing that?" He remains committed to the work that the Foundation is doing in supporting disadvantaged and marginalised young people in the QPRC and wider region, as well as helping those sleeping rough to get off the streets.

Rose Jackson, the Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, said the opposition recognises the housing crisis in regional areas. "It's not just down to local government," she said. "We're talking state and federal money and an integrated plan to address the problem."

On Monday morning Opposition Leader, Chris Minns, announced that Labor will dump stamp duty for first home buyers and offer a reduced rate for homes up to $1 million. Mr Minns also said he will abolish the state government's land tax option for first home buyers.

Mr Campese said he will be getting as many of Labor's shadow ministers out to the region as possible to explain the finer details of policy.

Monaro has been identified by Labor as one of their "must win" seats if they are to win government in the March election. "So no pressure!" says Campese.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

It's on Insta-Twitter-Face … but is it true?

Welcome to 2023! This time of year is always a time of optimism and hope.

The old year is fading into the dust of memory and the new one stretches before us: a blank canvas of opportunities yet unrevealed. With warm weather, the long summer school holidays, cricket and tennis on the TV and the beach beckoning it's a metaphorical soothing balm on the sunburned skin leftover from last year.

It's no secret that the last few years have been less than optimal. Fire, flood and pandemic have all left their marks on our communities. During the 2020 and 2021 lockdowns, technology came to our rescue in ways we probably never imagined.

Suddenly, thanks to Zoom and similar platforms we were able to work from home when going to the workplace was not an option. School and university classes continued via the internet and shopping online took the place of risking crowded shopping centres. Social media also allowed us to maintain contact with each other when gathering wasn't possible.

Although COVID is still active and mutating, those at risk – people with compromised immune systems or chronic illnesses – are still able to serve as active community members thanks to the various interactive platforms, while the rest of us start to gather again. Humans are, after all, social creatures.

Our reliance on social media has a downside. Places like Facebook and Twitter, like every society humans create, have their dark alleys, seedy neighbourhoods and toxic wastelands. When American billionaire, Elon Musk, bought Twitter last year for $44million, he declared himself a champion of free speech and promised no restrictions on what is discussed on the platform. Turns out Musk is only a champion of free speech that he agrees with and 'free speech', like everything else, comes at a cost.

On the other side of the social media highway, Facebook's rules and regulations have become increasingly bizarre, with user accounts suspended for allegedly "violating community standards" that appear to be applied arbitrarily and inconsistently.

Facebook has also become a viper's nest of untruths and conspiracy theories posing under the guise of interest groups with benign names. People pushing agendas that have no basis in fact and which, because they come via a reliable platform, are believed. Not everything you read on social media is true.

Hiding behind a screen enables puts distance between the user and their audience. People write things on these platforms that they'd never say to a person's face. Abuse and harassment are rife, as is the spreading of falsehoods, and while we were thankful for these platforms when we couldn't communicate face-to-face, this new year gives us the opportunity to come out from behind the screens and again become an actual, as opposed to a virtual, community.

Social media is a useful tool for communication and the dissemination of information, but it is not always a nice place to be. This year, we might resolve to spend less time on social media and more time rebuilding our real connections.

New councillor to be decided by countback

Robin Tennant Wood

A casual vacancy has arisen on Queanbeyan Palerang Council, triggered by the resignation of Cr Jacqueline Ternouth.

Ms Ternouth's resignation was accepted at the final council meeting for 2022 and became effective on 31 December. She was elected at the 2021 council election at Number 2 on the Liberal Party's ticket.

According to former Palerang mayor, Pete Harrison, the vacancy will be filled by countback on the Liberal ticket, with the first offer going to the Liberals' Number 3, Mark Schweikert, who now effectively becomes Number 2. If Mr Schweikert declines the offer, it will go to Number 4 and so forth: Robert Boz, Ross Macdonald then Rob Schwartz.

Mr Harrison said, "if no one on the Liberal ticket was interested in participating, then I think Bill (Waterhouse) could well end up being the next in line."

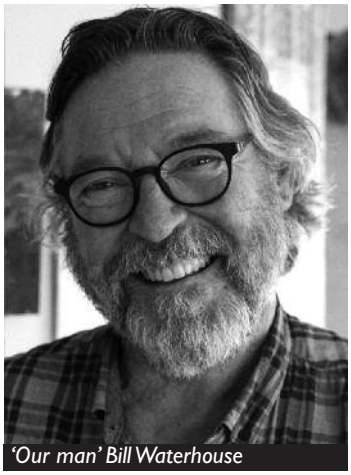
Bill Waterhouse from Majors Creek missed out on being elected very narrowly at the 2021 election, coming in at Number 12 by only a handful of votes. He received the highest personal vote tally of any candidate but was disadvantaged by being a 'below-the-line' candidate rather than leading a group.

"It would all depend on where any above-the-line Liberal preferences were directed," Mr Harrison said.

"There are enough votes there to elect anyone who could pick up the majority of those votes. The questions is, how many preferences were actually cast. When Mark (Schweikert), the last person on the Liberal ticket to be eliminated, went out, most of his votes exhausted, suggesting that a lot of Liberal voters did not offer a preference. So, if no Liberal candidate chose to participate in the by-election, as many as 75% of the Liberal vote might exhaust. In that case, there would only be around 700 votes to 'redistribute' and the only candidates who could overtake Bill on that basis would be John Mangos, at 234 behind, or Margot Sachse, who was 357 behind.

"If no one in the Liberal Group chose to contest the by-election, based on this perhaps simple logic, Bill would be the candidate most likely to succeed." Mr Harrison added that "it's all a little more complicated than that, but that's effectively the way I think things would go, given that most of the vote is above-the-line and would thus stay within the Group of the resigning councillor, provided someone within that Group chooses to participate in the count back by-election."

Bill Waterhouse has been contacted and has indicated that if invited by the Electoral Commission to fill the vacancy, he would be happy to do so.



'Our man' Bill Waterhouse

Grandma's always in the garden

Robin Tennant Wood

Catherine Bell has a fascination – both personal and professional – with wh0at she describes as the "bookends of life."

As a natural birth and maternal health advocate she assists women in exploring the landscape of pregnancy and childbirth through her system of 'birth cartography'.

Similarly, through her work with Tender Funerals, a not-for-profit community-based funeral company, she is exploring the often-taboo area of death options.

Tender is currently operating in the Illawarra and Mid-North Coast regions and is planning to open in Canberra this year, pending the acquisition of a suitable site for a funeral home.

Options for disposal of human remains in Braidwood are limited to either burial in the Braidwood Lawn Cemetery or cremation in either Canberra or Goulburn, as there is no crematorium in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region.

There is a third option with natural, 'green' or 'bush' burials becoming possible with the new cemetery in Gungahlin in the ACT. Natural burials involve the body in a fully biodegradable coffin or a shroud, buried about a metre below ground rather than

Catherine Bell

the traditional six feet. A shallow burial enables the soil microbes to act on the body and aerobic decomposition to take place quickly. Graves must be temporarily covered by some sort of wire or stone protection to prevent exhumation by wildlife, but there are no headstones or grave markers and the integrity of the natural landscape is preserved.

Natural death advocate, former ACT MLA, Caroline Le Couteur, described 'green' burials to the Canberra Times as, "instead of having a high maintenance lawn, I think many people … would be really happy to be part of enriching the native landscape and that's what natural burials do, give people a chance to enrich the natural landscape, rather than creating a different landscape." In New South Wales there are natural burial sites available in metropolitan Sydney, Lake Macquarie, Lismore and the Southern Highlands.

Another option, however, is emerging as what Catherine Bell describes as "the hot topic": human composting.

Legal and currently approved in five states in the USA, as well as Japan, composting involves an industrial composting unit that reduces the human body to soil in about 45 days.

> The process involves each body placed in an individual container packed with the starter compost.

The container is then closed, placed in a climate controlled unit and microbial transformation goes to work resulting in the formation of nutrient-dense soil. There is zero negative environmental impact and the soil can be used in any location or situation to ameliorate existing soil conditions.

"Once the process is complete," Catherine said, "there is absolutely no human DNA in the resulting soil at all. The composting process breaks down everything into dirt. If the person had chemotherapy, all those chemicals are gone. What is left is simply soil that can then be used to enrich the earth."

With land for cemeteries becoming limited, and concerns about carbon emissions from cremation – and both being very expensive options – composting sits well with the ethos of Tender Funerals.

Catherine explained that there is a loophole in ACT legislation which, while not specifying that composting is possible, doesn't rule it out as an option. Current NSW legislation, however, rules out all options apart from burial and cremation.

With Tender Funerals looking to open in the ACT, the option of composting may well be on the table for the ACT within, Catherine hopes, about five years. "Then we can start looking at changing the NSW legislation. If there's public demand and it works, there's no reason why we can't get those laws changed."

Catherine sees Tender Funerals and the wider range of funeral options as part of increasing our death literacy. "We're all going to die and we need to talk about it more. Tender encourages people to be involved in the whole process after a loved one dies rather than handing over to a company and becoming disconnected from it all. Being involved brings us closer to the realisation of our own mortality, which makes us more compassionate."

Tender Funerals has identified a suitable site for a funeral home in Canberra and if all goes well, Catherine hopes to be able to make an announcement about it in a couple of months.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The future of transport in Monaro

Media release from Nichole Overall's office

Member for Monaro Nichole Overall has announced the draft South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan is now available for communities across Monaro to have their say on the future of the region's road and transport network.

Mrs Overall said the draft Plan outlines the NSW Government's vision to build the roads and transport infrastructure of the future and is open to the public for consultation.

"This Plan lays out key projects we're currently working on and takes into account the unique aspects of Monaro and the various cross-border transport links," Mrs Overall said.

> "We're investigating the delivery of safer, more reliable, and more efficient transport connections within our South East and Tablelands region."

"Some of the key aspects for Monaro will include better active and public transport connections to the ACT, continuing our ongoing investment into improving the Monaro and Kings Highways, improving the Snowy Mountains Highway between Cooma and Bega, along with planning for Jindabyne's Southern Connector Road and continuing our very popular and successful ski season bus trial."

"We've already delivered extra bus services around Queanbeyan, providing more options, and now we're looking at more ways we can ensure better services and infrastructure for Monaro."

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Farraway said with more people choosing to call regional NSW home, projects and initiatives listed in the draft plan would cater for the expected population growth.

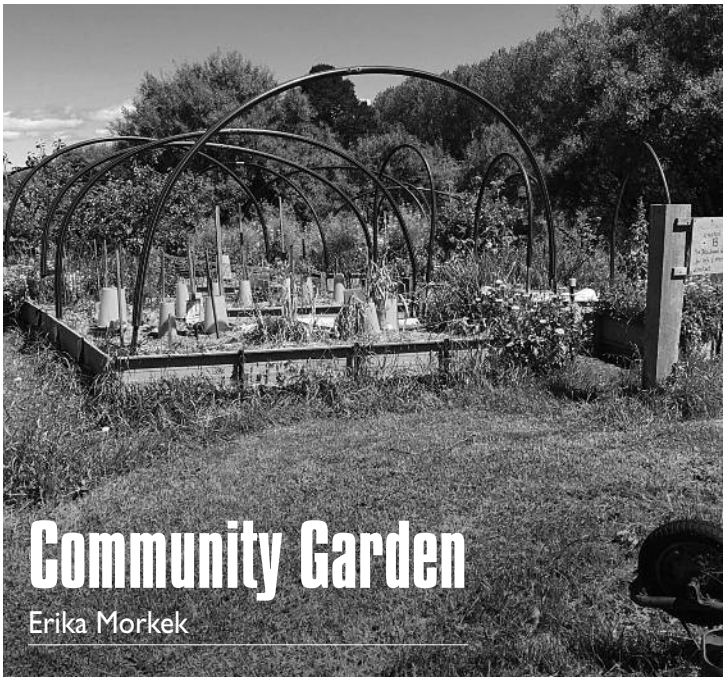
"Since 2019, The NSW Nationals-Liberals Government has delivered an additional 2,500 bus services across our regions and this plan outlines how we can expand on that," Mr Farraway said.

The draft Plan covers the Local Government Areas of Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy Monaro, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee, and Yass Valley.

Public consultation is now open until Friday, 24 February, 2023.

Following the public consultation, feedback will be considered and incorporated with the final release expected in 2023.

To have your say, visit: https://www.future.transport.nsw.gov.au



Community Garden

Erika Morkek

Do you want to find out more about gardening or growing veg?

Do you just want to chat under an apple tree? Lots of sitting places to watch others gardening. We are trialling Sunday mornings in the Big Garden in January.

Come down for a chat or a walk at the Braidwood Community Gardens on Bombay road between 9am and 10.30am every Sunday in January. No pressure, just some peace. Bring the dog (on a leash), the kids, thermos and a hat or umbrella if raining.

See you next Sunday.

Mona Farm open day

Social media announcement

Neighbours, locals, friends — Mona Farm are opening their gates on Sunday the 22nd of January 2023 in support of the Braidwood & Braidwood and District Education Foundation and you're invited!

Tag your neighbours, round up the kids and grab a picnic rug — it would be great to see as many familiar faces as possible.

Entry is $5 per person, with 100% of the proceeds going to the BDEF.

Bring a picnic rug. BYO non-alcoholic drinks and food are also welcome. Drinks from the Mona Farm bar and Tristan's gourmet pizza's will be available for purchase on the day.

Starts at 12:30pm until 4:30pm

Please use the Kings Hwy gate only. Price is $5 per person and tickets can be purchased here - https://monafarm.com.au/shop/open-day

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

The changing face of homelessness

Violet Wasson (extracts from her university research paper)

I am in Braidwood, rural NSW, sitting opposite CJ, (pseudonym) and two of her beautiful dogs, lamenting my homelessness after having returned to this small town which, not so long ago was called Deadwood, because well, it was dead.

CJ has been homeless for over five years, yet continues to engage with and contribute to her community in a variety of ways. My own brief experience of having nowhere to live made me wonder how she had managed for so long without losing hope. It was incredulous to think educated professional women like us could end up in this situation.

After a year away for work from August 2021 to July 2022, I returned to Braidwood only to find, like in most Australian rural towns, there was nowhere to live.

I was a few months into waiting for a rental, couch surfing and squatting, when I managed to get somewhere. It was way above my means, far more than the recommended 30% or less of one's income.

Socio-economic factors

In Australia, a rising number of people are waiting for social housing whilst properties are being sold off privately, or maintenance is being ignored as seen in the Millers Point precinct and Sirius building in Sydney. Despite social housing in Australia increasing last year from 436,333 to 440,192, mainly in major cities, the public housing waiting list last year went from 155,141 people to 163,508.

CJ cites Bernard Salt author, demographer, and columnist and Hugh Mackay, a prominent social psychologist who both warned this would happen to women like us. Based on Mackay's views, recent events have cumulatively led to a less cohesive society that has become more fragmented and more 'me' centred. He argues that the last 25 years have led to us becoming more individualistic and competitive, resulting in socioeconomic division and an increase in homelessness rates. Housing has been commodified, with governments ignoring that adequate housing is a basic human right despite Australia being a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which includes adequate housing at a cost that does not threaten or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights.

Yet, there seems to a be a sentiment that somehow being poor is one's own fault. Mackay sites many reasons one might find themselves poor or struggling despite working very hard in their adult lives. Factors that contribute to a person living in poverty include: the family one is born into, where they are born, their genetic inheritance, intergenerational experience of poverty, the schools they attend, childhood abuse, disability and catastrophes experienced during life all contributing to the likelihood of poverty and/or homelessness.

The Braidwood bubble

The Australian Bureau of Statistics showed for Braidwood significant changes between 2016 and 2021. Unoccupied dwellings are nearly 17% in Braidwood, despite the population having grown more that 10%. Twenty-three percent of homes are privately rented as non-holiday accommodation compared with 27% for the rest of NSW. The other notable change is in 2016 only 5.4% of households were spending 30% or more of their income on rent, whereas in 2021 it was 30.6% of households, placing many more people are under significant rental stress.

Air BnB has become a great side hustle for those with spare properties in Braidwood, and why wouldn't it?

When searching the AirBnB website for properties to rent in town, 14 properties were available, renting at a staggering $37,432 collectively for a five-night stay. For 5 nights, the average price was $2673.71 with prices ranging from $722 for a single room on the main street to $11,815 at Tidmarsh.

Braidwood property reports tell a more recent story and shows the average price for a home in 2013 was $325,000, in 2022 it was $711,000. The median price increase in Braidwood over the past 12 months was 16.56% for houses, compared to a National increase of 4.3% and at June 30 this year, rent averaged $430 per week. I have not seen a rental advertised for under $450 in the last 3 months other than the one bedroom off-grid converted shipping container down a dirt road, 17km from town for $350.

The demand for affordable rentals has outstripped the availability. When did things start to change for Braidwood? CJ mentions the gold mine, which resulted in an influx of workers; other infrastructure developments including upgrades to schools, a new hospital, roads and bridges, all requiring FIFO workers, all needing somewhere to live.

BCA proposal

The Braidwood Community Association have recently compiled an Affordable Housing Proposal for QPRC consideration. The BCA independently identify Mona, the mine, air BnB repurposing, lack of available land and Braidwood's heritage listing restricting new residential building. The proposal identifies 72% of current dwellings have three or more bedrooms, yet 74% of people are either living alone or with one other person.

People want to downsize, but there is nowhere to go. The impact on businesses struggling to secure employees is noticeable whilst some workers including those at the mine are living in caravans and sheds, waiting for suitable accommodation.

The historic property Mona, was bought in 2018 by Bill Pulver, the former Australian Rugby Union chief executive and his wife Belinda, for around $5 million. The Pulver's also bought a local café, one of the three local motels, and the historic Tidmarsh house, now a luxurious Air BnB guesthouse. Mona was refurbished into a boutique wedding destination employing around 80 people, and its events attract many visitors to Braidwood on a regular basis. Bill recognises the additional housing required for staff, "exacerbates the housing shortage".

He understands that the solution is not simple in addressing the housing crisis. Bill suggests the local council need to find long term affordable housing solutions which "requires accommodation that doesn't interrupt the heritage of the town". Certainly, Mona has provided significant local employment opportunities and a boost to local businesses in Braidwood. Like Alison Reichert of Troopers, who shares her story later, Mona is also struggling to find staff and Bill points to the closing of borders during the pandemic and the loss of the backpackers that are usually a highly employed segment of the hospitality sector.

Women and homelessness

Braidwoodian, Dr Maraiah Foley, previously a journalist for the Associated Press and *The New York Times*, has spent much of her research career focusing on gender equality at work. I asked her, how do women like me, like CJ, end up homeless?

Dr Foley cites the gender pay gap as a significant contributing factor, which she says is currently estimated to be between 16-20% depending on the sector. Furthermore, she identifies that careers such as childcare require skills that "are not explicitly recognised, valued or remunerated". Dr Foley gives the example of inherent biases, which leads to a devaluation of female dominated professions

such as a female child care worker.

Then if we take into account that the pay gap only reflects the statistics for those in full time work, we are missing a significant part of the picture. Many women opt to take part time work whilst their children are young, or even start a business to enable flexibility around family responsibilities. Part time work affects superannuation accrual which, Dr Foley argues, is a better measurement of the actual pay gap between men and women over their lifetimes. It also affects career progression in comparison to male counterparts who continue to work after their children are born, earning more and progressing in their careers whereas women are disadvantaged in both earnings and career progression.

There are gender differences in the pathway to and experience of poverty and homelessness. Divorce, domestic violence, breakdown of relationships, time out of the paid workforce to raise a family are all contributing factors. Currently in Australia, over 116,000 people experience homelessness on any given night and one of the fastest growing groups within that, is that of women over the age of 55. According to Mission Australia, more than 6,000 women over 55 years don't have a safe place to call home, and 60% of people seeking support from homelessness services are women.

The list of people waiting to rent as of this week in Braidwood

Troopers Rest closes its doors.

is around 60 between the two real estate agents. Businesses are starting to close, because they cannot secure workers as there is nowhere for them to live. Even if they could find a vacant property, the rents are beyond affordable for people working in hospitality, or for those in low paid jobs.

When I asked Alison Reichert whether this was why her popular Troopers Restaurant had to shut its doors, she said "It was a hundred percent the reason we closed —we could not house our skilled workers".

The *Give Me Shelter* report released in June this year, identifies just this point of being a problem of national scale. It identifies businesses are struggling across Australia to keep their doors open, staff are having to move to areas that are affordable which often pushes them beyond a reasonable commuting range. Regional businesses and coastal areas are particularly affected where many city people have relocated to, pushing up rents and property prices resulting in diminished affordable housing options. Monash University Business School Professor and former ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel suggests that the business community needs to communicate to the government the need for better housing outcomes to secure workers.

There are those that think homelessness and poverty is not their problem; comments on Braidwood's community face book pages reflect this, with some suggesting people just have to work harder, or that people would prefer to be on Centrelink as they are lazy and the government makes it too easy. I would argue that those people have not lived in poverty and are acutely unaware of what it is like to not be able to afford the rent let alone food, utilities and healthcare costs. How does one get to an interview if petrol is beyond the budget…go without food? How does one have internet for work or job searching if there is no stable home or one is forced to live remotely in order to have a roof over their head?

How does one find the resilience if there has been health setbacks, mental health issues or crises that have left them without resources or unable to carry the stress?

We have known since psychologist Abraham Maslow eloquently outlined a hierarchy of needs, that humans need to have their needs met, foremost their physiological needs foremost in order to self-actualise. These biological requirements are critical for human survival and include air, food, drink, shelter, clothing, warmth and sleep.

Without our basic needs being met, humans cannot function, will find it difficult to establish order, predictability and control within their own lives, often despair will result. As Hugh Mackay points out, by fragmenting our society into those that own homes and those that don't, a humanitarian separation occurs and the homeless – 'they', are no longer us. He suggests we need to remember that some of **us** are homeless, some of **us** are struggling. "None of us is equal until all of us are equal" is a quote used by Roxy Philson, chief marketing officer of ONE — a global movement co-founded by U2's Bono and other activists campaigning to end extreme poverty so everyone, everywhere can live a dignified life with opportunity.

The consequences of poverty are identified by the *Give Me Shelter* report, which looks at the long-term costs of underproviding public, social and affordable housing. It estimates that having unmet housing will have a detrimental impact on health, education, productivity and crime resulting in an additional $25 billion in costs per year (in today's dollars) by 2052 for Australia.

The fight against poverty and homelessness isn't about charity, it is about justice and equality.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Terrarium and Kokedama workshop on February 9th

This workshop is being run by "The Studio Majors Creek' and one of our lovely locals Alex Rofe.

It will be held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club, either in a meeting room or the barbecue area depending on the weather.

Gather at 10.30 for morning tea, with an 11.00 start for the workshop.

The cost is $25.00 per person which covers all the basic materials, such as specialised growing

mix, rocks, string, drainage gravel, lava rock, activated Charcoal, river sand, decoration (rocks, wood etc.)

BYO plants and Terrarium, but there will be reasonably priced succulents available for purchase, if you wish to buy. Prices range from 2.00 to 8.00 each.

Maybe think outside the square to find suitable containers to make a terrarium. Or buy them at K-mart or Bunnings. Old glass teapots, large jars, nice tall glasses, old beer mugs ,are all useable.

There will be additional Kokedama kits and terrarium kits available at $20 each to take home or use as gifts.

Please book and pay online using workshop as a reference or you can book and pay at the Bendigo bank.

braidwodgardenclub@gmail.com

FOLK CLUB

Braidwood Folk Club Committee

There are plenty of good music opportunities coming your way in the next weeks. Here are a few notable events you might like to catch in town:

January Events:

■ Thursday 12th January, 6pm - Lily Morris concert at the National Theatre. Young Braidwood singer-songwriter Lily Morris is kicking off her first headline tour, and support acts include another local Bess Harrison! Tickets $15 at the door. This event is not run by the the folk club, however we are happy to support these local artists.

■ Sunday 15th January, 7-9pm - Daniel Champagne concert at the National Theatre. Daniel is a very remarkable guitar player and talented songwriter. Hailing from the NSW South Coast, he's spent some years based in Nashville and more than a decade touring the world as a performer. Concert tickets: $30 plus booking fee; Online via https://danielchampagnemusic.com/showsor at door (cash only). The folk club has recently taken on the management of this event and we are looking for a few more team members to help with ticket sales/setup on the night of the concert. If you'd like to help please drop us a line at braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com

■ Sunday 22nd January, 2pm - Big Sing Session at The Royal Mail pub (rear dining room) run by Braidwood Folk Club members. Similar to our December sing-along session, this will be a fairly informal group singing session with all welcome and no prior experience or musical knowledge required. Song words and instruction will be provided. Optional gold coin donation to attend the session helps cover printing costs. Come along and experience the joy of singing with others.

■ Also flagging the exciting news that a new community music group, the Braidwood UKULELE Group (BUG) is aiming to organise some local sessions for ukulele players soon. The inaugural meeting of BUG is proposed for Friday 20th January. Any uke fans out there can connect with the group via Facebook or by email to richard.jolley@bigpond.com to find out more.

February Events:

■ Sunday 5th February, 3pm - Instrumental Session at Braidwood Life Centre, Rec Ground. Instrument players of any level welcome. Participatory session where we will learn some instrumental tunes together in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

■ Sunday 19th February 2pm Big Sing followed by 3pm Instrumental Session at The Royal Mail pub (rear dining room). All welcome to participate in either or both the singing and instrumental sessions. Whether beginner or pro, just come along and join in the fun.

We look forward to seeing you out there at some of these events.

Dr Wilson's apple tree with his gardener's cottage in the backgrounnd.

Dr Wilson's apples

Gary Watkins-Sully

Fourteen years ago champion of local heritage Ros Maddrell asked me if I knew about Dr Wilson's apple tree.

I said "no" in a quizzical tone. The tree in question was old, clinging to life by a gossamer of cambium layer, a stones throw from Wilson's gardener's cottage. The fruit was too stressed to provide a identification of variety, so our first task was to propagate new trees from the existing growth.

A few buds were taken and grafted onto new stock. This little tree intrigued me. It had a spirit about it and its position suggested that it was once a much loved addition to the Wilson family. I researched Wilson's background to see if I could find some clues to the variety and it turns out that Wilson did have some close links to orchardists in his native Scotland.

His friend and mentor Henry Duncan's family had large orchards not far from where Wilson was raised on Lord Morton's estate. One of these orchards was at Gorrie Hill owned by Patrick Mathew.

One of the varieties that Mathew grew was a Golden Pippin, an ancient variety that was prone to sporting (throwing a branch that had a different looking apple on it). One such sport was a Scarlet Golden Pippin, from which Mathews had witnessed a fast track evolution and written a theory of natural selection long before Darwin came up with the idea. Darwin subsequently acknowledged Mathews prior knowledge.

By the time we had uncovered these connections our budded trees were young healthy trees baring fruit and by checking 19th century descriptions of the Scarlet Golden Pippin to our apples, we seemed to have a match.

The next question was why was Wilson growing this variety? Wilson was a Naval Surgeon at a time when the Royal Navy was experimenting with cider for the prevention of scurvy. He would have been well aware of the need to preserve sources of vitamin C, to see out the winters in a seasonal climate such as Braidwood.

The Scarlet Golden Pippin is a small apple and had long been superseded by larger eating varieties by the time Wilson was planting an orchard on Braidwood farm. Yet its reputation as an apple that could produce very strong, high quality cider was still robust.

In the 17th century a hogs head of Golden Pippin cider would often fetch more than the best French wine. So I surmise that Wilson was growing apples to make cider. By now, our project had progressed, we now had many trees and enough fruit to make around 100 litres of cider from Wilson's apple.

We thought, how can we make a cider that would be as near as damn it to what Wilson could produce on his farm. So we kept the process simple and pressed the

juice and fermented it in spent rum barrels using wild yeast. We used rum barrel because Australia would have been awash with them at the time.

The result is spectacular, a very different cider to our usual chewy ciders full of body and tannin. Dr Tom's is lighter, fruitier, with a residual sweetness, and very strong at 9.7% ABV. We would like to make more of this cider and plan to propagate more trees.

But for now we have a very limited batch of 120 bottles for sale, starting at the Braidwood Farmers' Market. This is an opportunity to taste a little piece of Braidwood Heritage.

The original tree, damaged and clinging to life.

Cheaper medicines

Media release from Kristy McBain's office

As of 1 January 2023, millions of Australians will pay up to 30 per cent less for their Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescriptions, with the maximum PBS co-payment dropping from $42.50 to $30.

The Albanese Government has delivered on our key election promise to make medicines cheaper for Australians.

"For the first time in the 75-year history of the PBS, the co-payment for general scripts has fallen.

"We heard from pharmacists, stories of their customers coming in with a handful of prescriptions asking for advice about which script they can go without, because they can't afford to fill them all.

"I am pleased that our cheaper medicines policy will make that choice redundant for millions of Australians" stated Kristy McBain MP.

The community pharmacy in partnership with the Australian Government is committed to improving patient outcomes and especially in times of rising living costs, no patient should ever have to choose between lifesaving medication and food on the table.

"For an Eden-Monaro family relying on two or three medications, this can put as much as $450 back into their household budget" said Kristy McBain MP.

In addition, from 1 January, Australians with eye disease, a rare blood disorder or asthma will have access to new and expanded medicine listings under the PBS.

Since July 1 2022, there has been additional funding approved for 61 new and amended listings on the PBS.

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO

SMS Line 0419 722 578

Program Guide

Monday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am – Martin's Morning Mix
11:00am - Space Nuts (Space News)
1:00pm – Flashback Featured Artist with Rob
4:00pm – Book Reading with Rod
5:00pm – The Andy Show
7:00pm - Hot Topics with Bill Waterhouse
9:00pm – Aussie Music Weekly

Tuesday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - The Andy Breakfast Show
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 & Vera
6.30pm – Real World Gardener
7:00pm – Crap from the past
9:30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

Wednesday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am – Martin's Morning Mix
1:00pm - Flashback With Rob
3.00pm - The Conga Line with Billy Bob
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
7:00am - Billy Bob at Breakfast
10:00am – From the Archives with Gavin
3:00pm – The Hot 30
8:00pm – 80's Pop Playlist with Rob

Friday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
11:00am - The Chill (90's to now)
1:00pm - Step Back in Time (Pop Culture)
3:00pm – The Greenhouse with Violet
5:00pm - The Atomic Countdown

Saturday
9:00am – Mornings with Gavin & Roger
12:00 – Paul's Powerzone
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

HAVE YOUR SAY

BCA Questionnaire on proposed QPRC SRV

Sue Murray, President, Braidwood Community Association

The BCA is currently compiling a submission on the options for QPRC Special Rate Variation.

As part of this, we are seeking the views of our members and the broader Braidwood and district community through a short questionnaire.

The online questionnaire can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFZ7PTJ, with a hard copy version available at the Visitors Information Centre.

All the options / scenarios being considered involve a significant increase in general rates over 3 years, and two of the options involve cuts in services.

The BCA appreciates that while none of us want to pay higher rates, some of our members would prefer to have all the services provided by QPRC maintained and enhanced, while others would prefer to see cuts.

Which option is best is not an easy thing to decide, with the BCA submission to be guided by the views of its members and the broader community.

This issue will probably be the most difficult decision Councillors have to make during their term of office. The BCA therefore urges all residents in Braidwood and district to have their say and complete the short questionnaire and indicate their preferred option by 28 January to ensure our voice is heard.

Before giving your opinion, the BCA encourages community members to study carefully the information provided by Council on their 'Your Voice' website at: https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/srv (direct submissions to QPRC due by 31 January 2023).

When considering these options, the BCA suggests community members take note of the following:

- The proposed increases are only on the general rates component of your rates bill. Garbage, stormwater, sewer access, water access and waste programs charges are not covered by this proposal.
- Reflecting our lower level of services, average residential general rates in Braidwood, at $754pa, are lower than most other areas of QPRC. For example, they are $1,773pa in Jerrabomberra, $1,532pa in Googong, 1,348pa in Queanbeyan and $1,033pa in Bungendore.
- With rates frozen for four years after amalgamation and both Palerang and Queanbeyan in financial difficulties prior to amalgamation (eg Palerang was actively considering a 7% pa SRV over 5 years in addition to the 2.5% rate cap before amalgamation – ie a 9.5% pa increase over 5 years) the need for SRV is inevitable and the situation has been made worse by delays in considering it.

LOCAL PRODUCE AT THE FARMERS' MARKETS THIS SATURDAY

"Baby you can make my car..."

Beep beep, beep beep, yeah!

Look out for the old car buffs any time you see the roller door open at the old D&S Motors.

The buffs may not be all old, though it's likely, but the vehicle being assembled certainly is.

"Everyone is welcome," says John Stahel [holding the wheel].

"If the door's open come in and have a look. You don't need to be a mechanic, there are lots of other skills needed. The more the merrier; it is a Braidwood community project."

BOOKWORM *Julia Ermert*

I read kids' books for WHAT STILL MATTERS

My final article last year was about choosing Christmas books for your babies.

Some of the top favourites go way back. That got me thinking about my holiday reading and how I would inevitably return to my own childhood favourites.

I still have a considerable collection of classic children's literature, or what is familiarly known as 'kidlit.' It's a contentious issue, but there are plenty of fan groups, online or in real time. It's frowned upon, at least for women, as it signifies for many that you haven't quite grown up. Somehow, men are still allowed to have their Biggles books.

My books might be considered YA (Young Adult) nowadays. But they're not. So what is YA, and what is a kid's book?

"A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." This is CS Lewis talking. Perhaps we should rather say, books suitable for children. Good writers write the books they want to write. It's the publishers and booksellers who find targets for them. If there are children and/or animals in the book, it goes on that shelf. That's why *Watership Down* was so hard to sell. It was rejected seven times, as too childish for adults and too adult for children. *Wind in the Willows* isn't really a child's book, and I have my doubts about *Winnie-the-Pooh* sometimes! More of him later.

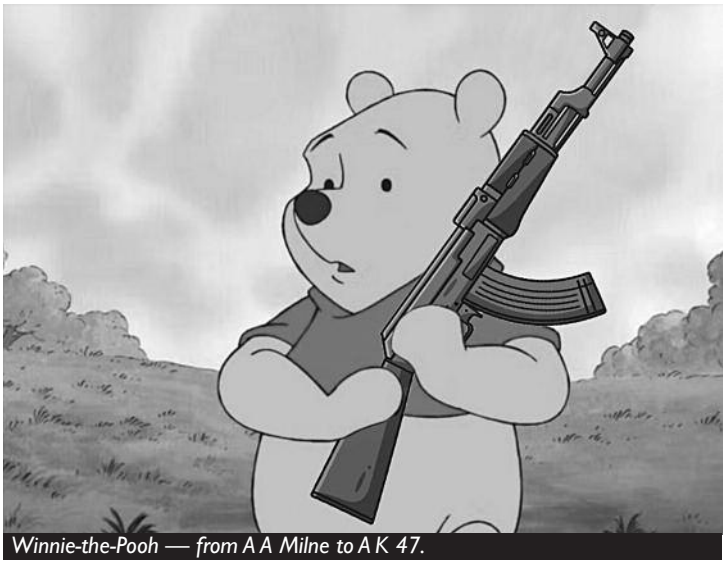
But at least, no sex, no politics. YA is a new invention, really, and seems to admit both sex and politics. They're just older children. What makes them less adult, is, to my mind, the inevitable swooning romance and the neatly happy endings. Even if there's death, it's a feel-good death. Would anyone reread one of these once fully adult?

Someone analysed the most reread of the so-called children's books. Constantly recurring were: *The Chronicles of Narnia, Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland, The Secret Garden, Anne of Green Gables, The Hobbit, Winnie-the-Pooh*.

What matters for these rereaders?

These books taught us basic truths about responsibility, commitment, bravery, choices, and how important it is to acquire knowledge. They emphasised friendship, mateship, sisterhood. They acknowledged the spiritual side of life. You don't see much of that sort of thing on the telly or in parliament these days!

Out of that list I regularly reread *The Secret Garden* and *Anne of Green Gables*. Both feature the healing power of greenery, countryside, open spaces, and working in the fresh air. Anyone from the Braidwood Garden Club or the matching Facebook site will know what I mean so I needn't elucidate. More importantly, both feature misfit orphan girls who finally find their true selves. The orphan trope is popular in children's literature as it gives the protagonist room to move. Perhaps more in books for girls? But think Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Or is it that males of any age have more agency?



Winnie-the-Pooh — from A A Milne to A K 47.

I was a misfit in my family and felt like an orphan anyway. My father frequently queried my paternity and I've never been sure if he was joking! I knew my mother resented it. I wasn't clever enough to satisfy Dad (he thinking first-in-class or dux of the school clever) and I wasn't pretty enough to satisfy Mum. Shirley Temple was the ideal in those benighted days. My next sibling was a boy so that was enough for anyone. The last, by a long way, was another girl but she was very pretty — plump and dimpled with golden curls.

So I often found myself shut in my room for some transgression or other — and in my room were my books, which showed me other worlds, other modes of parenting, other ways of expressing one's authentic self.

Would I have survived as well as I have without them? I don't think so.

LMM or Lucy Maud Montgomery, the Canadian writer (1874–1942) is famous now but was a misfit all her life and finally organised her own departure. Probably I would prefer *Emily of New Moon* or even *The Blue Castle*. Emily had literary aspirations, and Valancy is an older heroine and not orphaned, just a misfit because she is the 'plain' one, whatever that really means … yes, I'm remembering *Jane Eyre* here. I got her as a school prize. Like Jane, Valancy chooses her own man and marries him. But there's no sex, not even a kiss, so they're not YA. They're a class of their own. You need imagination.

I also reread — 'binged on' is now the thing to say — the five family stories of Elfrida Vipont, (1902–1992) about the Kitsons and Haverards. These are Quaker families and reference the times when that religion did not allow anything that wasn't excessively 'simple,' like ornamentation, art, music, or theatre. It's now more modern times and it's allowed for Kit and Laura to want be singer, musician, or actor, but there's still a struggle. I liked the way they lived their faith. They lived 'sacramentally,' doing even the most trivial tasks mindfully. Their school motto was 'Walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.'

And so to AA Milne and Winnie-the-Pooh. No one remembers he wrote books and plays for adults! As of about now, the Pooh stories are in the public domain, meaning anyone can do what they like with them. Copyright has gone. As if Disney wasn't bad enough! The latest is a film called *Blood and Honey*. It's a slasher/horror movie. Christopher Robin has abandoned Pooh and Piglet in the Hundred Acre Wood (he's grown up) and they've become feral and gone on a murderous rampage.

I'm going back to my childhood bedroom to inspect my bookcases …

Council's draft Affordable Housing Strategy on public exhibition

Council has prepared a draft Affordable Housing Strategy that is open for comment until the end of February 2023.

"We know that access to affordable housing has become increasingly difficult across the country and in our own community over the last few years," said Mayor Kenrick Winchester.

"In 2016, 2,200 very low, low, and moderate income households were in housing stress in our LGA. By 2041, this is projected to grow by 1,575 households to a total of 3,775 households in housing stress.

"The draft Affordable Housing Strategy offers 17 potential strategies that range from 'interventionalist' to more 'market led' options that can help us address the community's housing affordability concerns.

"The strategy is written to start the conversation with the community, so we are looking forward to hearing your feedback."

The draft strategy and its background material explain the need for affordable housing in the LGA based on a range of socio-economic data, the planning, funding and policy environment relevant to the delivery of affordable housing in NSW, and the details of stakeholder consultation that helped in developing the draft strategy.

When the public exhibition period finishes, a further report will be presented to Council in March 2023 with the outcomes of the community's feedback and details of strategy costs.

The report will include advice on the suitability of the various strategies and how they may be best implemented in the future.

You can view the strategy and have your say on our Your Voice website:
https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/draft-affordable-housing-strategy

Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is seeking feedback on priorities identified in the Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan.

The Sports Facilities Strategic Plan has been updated over the last twelve months to guide the use and delivery of current and future sporting facilities over the next twenty years.

'We have a really strong and diverse sporting community in our region and we manage a lot of facilities that support local teams, junior sports and volunteers,' Mayor Kenrick Winchester said.

'We have an above average participation rate in organised sports and a higher than average young population in Queanbeyan-Palerang and so demand for more high-quality facilities in our region is continuing to grow.

'It's important to us to have grounds that support the growth and emerging talent of our sporting community.

'We have worked with the QPRC Sports Council and local sporting groups to update the Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan with six broad strategies and a series of recommendations that reflect their wants and needs,' he said.

'The strategy reflects on the large increase in passive recreational pursuits. It is important that our facilities are accessible and suitable for the general community.'

The six strategies in the Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan include establishing sporting clusters and hubs, facility rationalisation, providing high level sporting opportunities, providing home facilities for all QPRC based clubs, providing accessible and equitably distributed unstructured recreational facilities throughout QPRC, and economic development through sport and recreation.

'Each strategy has recommendations which aim to make sure all sporting needs are addressed and opportunities for recreation, health and well-being cover the whole community. Many in our community will be spending time with family over the summer and we are accepting comments for two months so that everyone has time to have a say,' added Mayor Winchester.

Find the Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan and have your say until 15 March 2023 at https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/draft-qprc-sports-facilities-strategic-plan

More funds for Monaro schools in 2023

Media release from Nichole Overall's office

The NSW Government will allocate a record $12.16 million to 26 public schools across Monaro to deliver needs-based funding to support the individual learning requirements of students.

Member for Monaro Nichole Overall said it can be used for additional teachers, literacy and numeracy programs, as well as teacher training.

"This funding means students will have even more opportunities and support, assisting lift student outcomes and allowing them to reach their potential through a quality local education," Mrs Overall said.

"It also supports our commitment to our teachers, providing additional release time as we roll out our new NSW Curriculum, and has delivered new Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction roles in every public primary school."

"The funding is in addition to the Nationals-Liberals NSW Government delivering almost $420 million for education in Monaro, which encompasses five new school projects, including Jindabyne and Googong."

Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell said the school funding is needs-based, supporting all students to achieve their best.

"The allocations are part of a total $10.93 billion investment being delivered directly to public schools, supporting our students and improving their learning outcomes," Ms Mitchell said.

"The NSW Government is also simplifying school budgets and reducing time by Principals, allowing them to focus on improving their schools and delivering for students learning."

CRITICAL THINKING

Free summer holiday debating workshop day

Julian Davies

Consensus Education is offering free places at a debating workshop for school-age students on the 24 of this month. The day-long workshop will introduce students to the skills of debating through fun and engaging thinking games and mini-debates.

Primary and secondary students will be taught by expert trainers in separate groups. A light morning tea and lunch will also be provided.

Funding for free access to the workshop has been made possible by generous support from the Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank.

Details of the workshop:

Tuesday the 24th of January
Jerrabomberra Community Centre
9.30am – 3.30pm

To register for the workshop: https://www.consensuseducation.com/summerworkshop

Daniel Champagne in Concert National Theatre, Sunday 15th January 7pm

Young virtuoso guitarist and singer Daniel Champagne is on tour in Australia and playing in Braidwood this Sunday night. Originally from the NSW South Coast, later based in Nashville and on the road touring the world as a performer for more than a decade. Described recently as 'the finest guitar player of this generation'.

Tickets $30 + booking fee online or cash at door. https://danielchampagnemusic.com/ or contact braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com for further info.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

I hope everyone has had a wonderful, joyous time over the festive season, and that you all got what you most desired during the festivities. We're already off to a roaring start this year— maybe the 2020s will be the same Roaring Twenties of the previous century— who knows?

One piece of advice I have for everyone this summer is not to get complacent about the risk of fires. While we don't have the right conditions for another horror fire season like the summer of 19/20, we have the very real risk of grass fires with the grass around our properties being dry enough to cure, and thus start proper, out-of-control grass fires if left to burn. **REMEMBER — ALL FIRES REQUIRE A PERMIT, and you must phone local fire control to gain it, or fill out the form here:** https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications

02 6128 0600 is the number for Lake George District Fire Control.

GIGS AND SHOWS

12th January at 6pm kicks off a strong musical start for the year with the pretty amazing Lily Morris!

Local songwriter Lily Morris is kicking off 2023 with her first headline tour and will be making her first stop at The National Theatre, Braidwood with special guests Hana Stretton (Naarm), Cathy Diver (Nipaluna) and Bess Harrison (Yuin Country) on Thursday, Jan 12.

Tickets available at the door $15.

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A.GIRL AT THE SMOKEY HORSE THIS FRIDAY 13th January from 5pm onwards.

From the underground Hip hop/RnB scene of Western Sydney, A.GIRL has emerged into national recognition with a swag of raw talent, attention-grabbing moments of musical brilliance and a sing-rap style uniquely hers. Raised in Australia, A.GIRL also proudly owns her Maori heritage.

A.GIRL is the family nickname given to 22 year old artist Hinenuiterangi Tairua. After the release of just three tracks she won Next Big Thing at the FBi Awards, won triple j Unearthed's festival slot at Listen Out, was tipped as a rising star by UK's Wonderland Mag and "one to watch" by Ticketmaster.

50% of sales from Capital Brewing's "Karma Keg" will also go towards Girls Rock! Canberra - a community arts organisation working to increase the participation of young people of marginalised gender identities in music.

Tickets are limited, so if you haven't bought one yet, please visit http://smokeygirl.eventbrite.com to snag one of the remaining tickets. I will be there. I hope to see some of you there, too.

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Daniel Champagne in Concert - National Theatre, Sunday 15th January 7pm

Virtuoso guitarist and singer Daniel Champagne is on tour in Australia and playing in Braidwood this Sunday night. Originally from the NSW South Coast, later based in Nashville and on the road touring the world as a performer for more than a decade. Described recently as 'the finest guitar player of this generation'. Tickets $30 + booking fee online or cash at door. See more at https://danielchampagnemusic.com/ or contact braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com for further info.

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Car Show sponsored by the Royal Mail on 21st January from 8am to 4pm. This event promises to be a fun day at Ryrie Park, with lots of fun things to do—sausage dog races, drag queen races, five different food stalls, lots of vintage and antique cars and trucks, so come on down!

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BRAIDWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE invites all interested parties to attend meetings at the Club on the third Thursday of every month from 6pm.

MARKETS

The Farmers Market is this Saturday, 14th January from 8:30am to 12:30pm in the National Theatre, and is well worth supporting, as it is one of the longest-running farmer's markets in this region. With its usual fare of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as cider, garlic, plants, and of course, whiskey, it is worth coming down for it! This is the last farmer's market for January, as other events have booked the National Theatre on the usual Saturday schedule. It will return to its normal schedule in February.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Chocolate Wheel is on every Thursday night at the Royal Mail, as well as the member's draw.

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QPRC have a free open pool day this Friday, 13th January for young people aged 12-25.

AT THE CLUB

Singing For Fun is on Tuesday evenings and is $5 to join. For further information, please contact Peter on 0419 431 517.

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Line Dancing is on 7pm to 9pm on Friday nights.

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

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The Bridge Club meet weekly 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 from 10am to 11am, and is an informal way to get fit and have fun. Free to attend.

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Social bowls is on every Wednesday at 12:45pm for a 1pm start.

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Tai Chi is on Tuesdays from 10-11 am. Irene Wolford will guide you through it, and you can pay a donation to attend. It is also on Fridays at the same time.

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Erika's Movement Classes are on Wednesdays from 1pm, and it is perfect for those of you who sit behind a desk. Please text Erika on 0432 687 255

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Tango Dancing is on every Saturday morning for continuing students, and class is 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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Also on Tuesdays is a Squash Competition during the evenings, and bingo on every fortnight with alternating times of 1pm and 6:30 pm.

OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS

Snuggle n Sing is on Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:30 am at BRAG. This is a fun and relaxed time to bond with your baby, to sing songs and learn rhymes that can soothe your child. For further information, please contact Alison Coster on 0411 205 638 or email her at alisoncoster@bigpond.com

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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 Quilters and Textiles meet every Wednesday down at the Scout Hall from 10am onwards.

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Braidwood Breast Cancer Coffee Group invite people who have either had breast cancer, are going through breast cancer, or are currently supporting people with it to an informal morning tea on Thursday, 12th January at 10am. This is at the Club, and you can either text Kim Stewart on 0484 252 337 or email her at kim@riffsandrants.com.au – alternatively, you can just turn up! This is a free event sponsored by Bosom Buddies, Braidwood Servicemen's Club, Sam Maher, and Riffs and Rants.

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Parkrun is on at the Braidwood Showground every Saturday from 7:45 am for an 8 am start.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Happy New Year!

Brush away old heartaches.
Learn from our mistakes.
Another year is finally over.
A new dawn awakes.

Let the old year out.
Welcome the new one in.
Bury the bad things of the past
As a new year now begins.

Make your New Year wishes
As simple as you can.
Pray for peace and love,
Not for wealth or fame.

Pray for health and happiness.
Pray for your fellow man.
Pray for all the ones you love.
Pray for those who've lost their way.

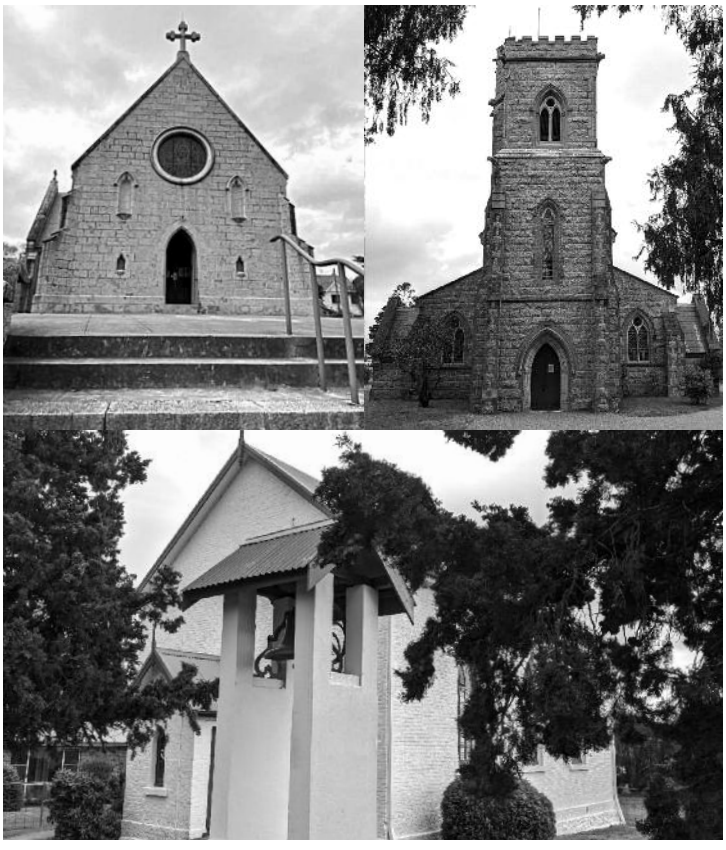
As the midnight hour chimes,
We leave the old and embrace the new.
I wish the things you wish for yourself,
And may God's love stay with you.

Published by Family Friend Poems December 2018

All are welcome next Sunday to a service of Holy Communion: 10am:

St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood.

Followed by a cuppa & a chat.



St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the gospel of John 1:29-34 by Dianne Bergant CSA

Christianity is an historical religion.

It not only unfolds within the joys and disappointments of time and place, but it is rooted in actual events that took place in the lives of real people. The Christ to whom we commit ourselves is not a mythic character, a figment of communal religious imagination.

He is someone who was born into history, at a specific period of time, in a particular place.

He was known by real people like John the Baptist; he submitted himself to historical rituals like baptism. He had followers who testified to the truth of both his existence and his life. Jesus was a man of history.

Like Paul, we too have been called to be apostles. We received this call when we were baptised. The beginning of the year, with its custom of making new resolutions, is a wonderful time to remember to what we have committed ourselves. At times it seems that our own apostleship is no less daunting than was Paul's.

However, it is no less immediate either. Whether the period of history is the first half of the first century, as was the time of Jesus, or the second half, as was the time of Paul, or the twenty-first century, as is our time, salvation unfolds within the events of time. Furthermore, the followers of Jesus always return to the events of his life in order to discover the meaning of the events in their lives.

These past events are reinterpreted in the ongoing present. Discipleship is never otherworldly.

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The markets this month are on January 28th. Always an interesting event to visit. There are always treasures to be found, plants to buy and a Lions sausage or steak to enjoy.

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January is always a quiet time for the parish so enjoy the sunny weather. The parish calendar will return in January.

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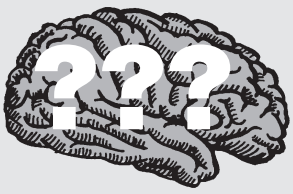
Weekend Mass time: Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil)



News trivia

How well have you been paying attention?

1 How many tests did Australia win in the 3-test series against South Africa?

2 What is the title of Prince Harry's tell-all autobiography?

3 What 'big news' did former tennis champion, Ash Barty, reveal last week?

4 Who is the subject of journalist Niki Savva's book, Bulldozed?

5 Which enduring rock star is in Australia for his farewell tour?

6 According to a recent report, which is Australia's most "lightning prone" capital city?

7 What annual festival was held in Canberra last weekend?

8 What date is the Lunar New Year this year?

9 Which female tennis player and former Australian Open champion has withdrawn from this year's Australian Open?

10 Supporters of the former Brazilian president stormed the congress protesting his election loss. Who is the former president?

Answers: 1. 2 (with the final one a draw); Spare;
3. She and husband Garry Kissick are expecting a baby;
4. Scott Morrison;
5. Elton John; 6. Darwin;
7. Summernats;
8. 22 January;
9. Naomi Osaka;
10. Jair Bolsonaro

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

GOLF NEWS

Golf year gets going by hosting ACT Veterans

The volunteers who attended the working bee last Wednesday to prepare the course for the ACT Vets' day on Monday made a great difference to the course with trees trimmed and debris cleared.

Thanks to Keith Ferguson and his helpers Spiro Agnew, Allan Walcott, David Jones, Roger Hovey, Rod Royds and Michael Toirkens.

The club provided a BBQ lunch for players. Hosting these events is a useful fundraiser for the club and the assistance of members in preparing the course and providing food and refreshments is appreciated.

RESULTS: Saturday 7 Jan '23

Men's Stroke & Monthly Medal

Winner: Rodney Royds 60 nett
Runner Up: Roger Hovey 65 nett
Men's NTP 8/17: Nelson Sargent
Ball Comp: Keith Morgan 69, Gordon Scott 69, Brendan Sly 70, Nelson Sargent 71, Tom Duffy 71

Handicap Changes:

Andrew Clark out 1 to 20, Tom Duffy down 1 to 30, John Harb out 1 to 14, Roger Hovey down 1 to 26, Rodney Royds down 2 to 20, Gordon Scott down 1 to 32

Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal

Winner: Donna Kuhn 70 nett
Runner Up: Carmen Byrne 71 nett c/b
Putting: Margy Gardner 26
Ball Comp: Virginia Groot Obbink 72, Di Freeman 72, Margy Gardner 73,
Handicap Changes: Di Freeman out 1 to 34, Donna Kuhn down 1 to 33

Coming Events

January 9 Monday: ACT Vets (9am hit off)
January 14 Saturday: Men's Single Stableford - Brendan Booker Trophy
Women's Single Stableford – V & M Trophy
January 21 Saturday: Committee Meeting 10.30am
Men's Single Stableford - Andrew Clark Trophy
Women's Single Stableford – Robin Tennant Wood Trophy
January 26 Thursday: Australia Day
January 28 Saturday: Medley Ambrose – Vicki & Allan Walcott Trophy

File photo: Gordon Waters

Touch footy

Nick Kemp

The Braidwood Touch Football Club is planning to commence a short Touch Football season on Tuesday 17th or 24th January, 6:30pm at the Braidwood Rec Ground.

QPRC have advised that they believe the grounds will be at a suitable standard by then. The competition will be mixed women/men/juniors. We plan to run the season for 10 or so weeks depending on the number of teams participating.

If you wish to enter a team, please leave a comment with your contact details and team name. If you are a player/s without a team, please leave your details and we'll attempt to place you in a team. Teams will be required to nominate a primary team shirt colour.

Team organisers / coordinators (or your team representative) are strongly requested to attend a competition meeting on Tuesday 10 Jan, 6pm at the Rec Ground.

If you have any questions, please leave a comment or contact Nick Kemp on 0408151829.

STAR TIMES

Rightroyalmesswhat?

Harry and Megan have hit the cyberwaves with their latest Netflix potboiler 'Spare'. Millions of innocent people from all walks of life's first thought was that they too could make a doco about the time they kneed their brother in the nuts. But it was too mundane and eventually we all agreed that the next doco about privileged prats should be called 'Spare Us'.

Matterofconvenience

The Soothsayers and Residents page was humming with outrage. "It's not right the way people from out of town are stopping in Braidwood just to, (1) relieve themselves in our public toilets and, (2) that as well." "Let's charge the buggers then," said someone. "Nobody carries cash." "We could have a, 'wipe 'n swipe' then," came the reply. "I know," said another, "Let's charge them for parking in our town with a permit for locals." But by then the topic had morphed into overstaffing at council so adding a parking inspector wasn't going to get a gong. Interest waned as the subtopics meandered aimlessly and many punters wandered off to watch in awe at how Harry and Megan only put sustainably harvested toilet tissue down the Royal Doulton.

Planespeakingpranged

Air Cdre (Ret) Chris Westwood, former Commander of the RAAF's Surveillance and Response Group, said, "The F-35 will come into operational service as the most advanced, fully integrated, fully fused package of multi-spectral optical and RF sensors in aviation history." He continued on to say that, "Using an advanced high bandwidth stealthy datalink, each [F-35] shares its observed tracks with other F-35s, increasing the speed and accuracy with which the formation can characterise the threat environment across large volumes of the battlespace."

Realwarfaremeanwhile

Back on the ground in an actual war, the Ukraine fighters have been given a handbook for the daily struggle under occupation. In the document, advice given to government workers includes suggestions to "misunderstand" orders and "ask endless questions", while priests have been encouraged to take up employment as postal workers to administer to parishioners. Meanwhile doctors have been encouraged to overprescribe medications to their patients in order to facilitate the transfer of medical supplies to the underground. Real war is not nearly as sexy as it sounds in the sales brochures.

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.