BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #71 — $2.00

Wednesday February 8, 2023

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	13°	19°	25%
Thur:	13°	21°	75%
Fri:	13°	28°	20%
Sat:	13°	31°	0%
Sun:	15°	28°	25%
Mon:	12°	21°	15%
Tue:	11°	21°	10%

The suspect animal.

Early vigilance the key in local Foot & Mouth alert

Robin Tennant Wood

A suspected case of foot and mouth disease in the district has been reported to Local Land Services and investigated by an LLS vet.

On Sunday a new landholder in the Braidwood district who bought stock from outside the region noticed foot and mouth symptoms on one of their cows and called in Martin Royds for his opinion.

Mr Royds said that the symptoms exhibited by the cow were certainly similar to those on the information guide from LLS, and they immediately called the Emergency Hotline.

An LLS vet attended within hours of the notification, tests have been taken and the animal isolated pending the results of the test.

Mr Royds said that there has been an explosion in the population of feral pigs lately and if a foot and mouth outbreak gets into the pigs it will go everywhere.

> Foot and mouth is a nationally notifiable disease. Any stock showing symptoms must be isolated and the authorities notified immediately.

An outbreak in this district would trigger an immediate 3-day lockdown of the entire national cattle industry and could potentially cost billions of dollars in losses if cases are not identified early.

In this case, early notification and vigilance on the part of the landowner, regardless of the outcome of the tests, could save the industry from disaster.

This means an animal showing suspect signs of the disease must be reported to a Local Land Services District Veterinarian on 1300 795 299 or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

THE SIMPLY AMAZING BRAIDWOOD BOOK FAIR

Helen Keller and The Book Fair Committee

From Sat 21st Jan to Sat 28th the Book Fair signs were up outside the National Theatre and for the 8 days there was a buzz inside as people came from near & far to seek that elusive book and to browse the huge variety of books set out in their categories all waiting to be taken home and enjoyed.

Locals and visitors alike browsed the tables and left with their arms, and often bags, full of reading matter. Such a lovely atmosphere in the theatre all week and very uplifting to see smiles on faces as people found a much sought-after book and children clutched their special find.

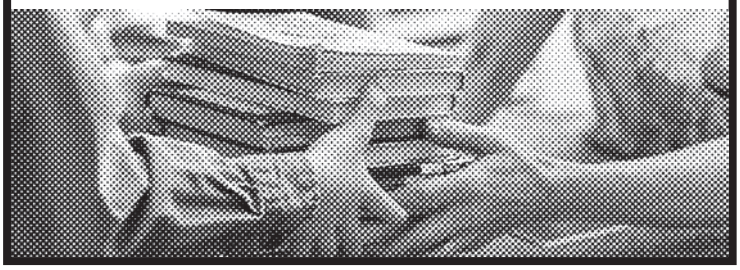
A very BIG THANK YOU to everyone who, in so many ways, helped to make it all happen. A successful Book Fair is a lot of work – made easier by the tremendous support received by you all ... and we had some fun doing it.

It truly is a Braidwood Community Event in the guise of a Book Fair and this time gave nett proceeds of approx. $20,000, enabling us to distribute funds to 11 Braidwood community groups whose members volunteered at the Fair to fundraise for their respective group.

June 2023 – King's birthday weekend – it will all happen again… and yes, we are accepting donations, for without them, the Fairs would not happen. They can be left at our storage and sorting facility, around behind the Braidwood Anglican Church, Elrington St. any time throughout the year, giving us time to sort them in readiness for the next Fair.

It makes the work of the volunteers much easier if books are dropped off at the church before the Fair rather than on the day (or days). Thank you.

Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much.



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

Election time: beware of magic money

Election season is already bringing out the magic chequebooks.

These are the cheques that appear before an election but magically disappear once the candidate is ensconced in Macquarie Street.

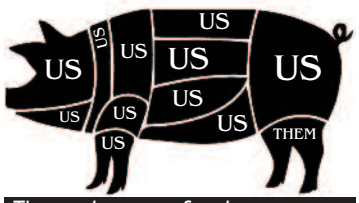
Before the last state election, our former state member, John Barilaro, promised a staggering amount of magic money for projects in this electorate. It is unclear how many of the promises have been delivered, but it was an example of magic chequebook politics at its absolute worst. The amount of virtual money being thrown around earned him the nickname "Pork Barilaro" and his subsequent comment that pork barelling is "what elections are for", indicates that he completely missed the point of democracy, which is that elections are for the people to choose a representative government.

That was four years ago. We've learned a lot since then.

We've learned, for example, via the report of the parliamentary inquiry into Mr Barilaro's appointment as the NSW Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner in New York, that it was an inside job – a "job for the boys" – rather than an independent appointment.

We've also learned that Mr Barilaro's office apparently intervened in the allocation of funds from the state's Bushfire Recovery Grants Scheme, changing the rules in order to channel funds into coalition electorates … because who you vote for is obviously more important than what you need.

While these are extreme examples of manipulation of public money and position for political gain, they are not the only example of the attitude that money will buy public goodwill. Moreover, the fact that these people – a minority within our parliaments – keep getting elected proves their point: treating voters as mugs works.



The cruelest cuts of pork.

Representative government requires more than fistfuls of magic money. The key word is representative. Representation is more than buying off the public in the few weeks before an election. It is about taking on board the concerns of the electorate and delivering on solutions; not just the Member saturating social media with photos of themself in various locations in the electorate. It's about using the position of Member of Parliament to give electors a voice in the legislative chamber, not using that position to build a cushy post-politics career.

The inevitable result of the cynical and manipulative approach to politics by a handful of MPs is an erosion of trust in politicians and in the system itself. Comments like "they're all corrupt" and "don't trust any of them", don't do justice to the majority of elected members who listen, act and work on behalf of their electorates. The rise of independent members who have distanced themselves from the two-party system has been the corollary.

We need to assess those who seek to represent us on the basis of their community credentials rather than promises of large amounts of cash. How well a person has performed as a community leader before nominating as a candidate is a stronger indication of how they will perform as an elected member than any amount of magic money.


Ben Gleeson takes the new mower for a spin.

Support for Commonwood

Annie Duke, CWF President

Commonwood Farm had a busy close to 2022 and are now looking forward to some significant changes in 2023.

In December last year we finished planting the "Green Wedge Project". This project created two living, green firebreaks on the western edge of Braidwood, and was funded by Resilience NSW and the Australian Government. In late November and early December 2022, Commonwood Farm (CWF) volunteers planted two new "Green Wedges" on the Braidwood Common.

A big thanks goes out to all helpers who came along on the two Community Planting Days and to those folks keeping the trees watered over the holiday period.

CWF is extremely grateful to receive three very generous donations to help us buy a new ride-on mower to maintain grass growth within the fenced Green Wedges. This is essential to reduce fire risk and to protect the safety of volunteers as they care for the plantings.

Three separate $1000 donations were received from The Braidwood Lions Club, The Braidwood Community Bank and Braidwood Rural and Building Supplies CRT. These donations combined to cover half of the cost of the new Husqvarna mower and CWF was able to cover the rest from our own funds.

This new mower represents a significant tool for current and ongoing maintenance needs on the Braidwood Common, including the Green Wedges, the Flood Creek Walking Trail and any future developments we undertake on The Common.

After a process of community consultation last year, CWF's proposal, asking Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council to establish a Section 355 Committee for the Braidwood Common, was unanimously supported by Councillors.

This new committee will ensure ongoing management of the Braidwood Common for broad community interests and that all assets and investments on the Common serve the community into the future.

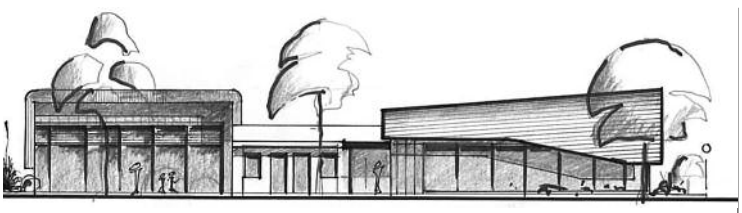
Council has sought expressions of interest for community members to serve on this new s.355 committee (see QPRC website). The new committee will be tasked with coordinating use and maintenance of the Common by user groups, to ensure land management obligations are met in a way that builds value for the community and protects this significant environmental asset.

This new management model will secure a community-focused future for the Common, within which groups like CWF and others can work to build resilience for Braidwood's people and wild creatures alike.

The support of our members and volunteers, various grant funding and the commitment of QPRC all contribute to this excellent outcome.

We would like to heartily thank the Braidwood Lions Club, the Braidwood Community Bank and Braidwood Rural CRT for their financial contributions and generous support to help equip us for the task ahead.

For details on how to get involved in Commonwood Farm and for more information, go to https://commonwoodfarmbraidwood.org/



Fitness centre approved

Robin Tennant Wood

After three years of planning and preparation, the proposed Braidwood Fitness Centre will become a reality.

Harry Shoemark has finally received all the approvals from council and is in the process of discussions with architects and builders with the hope of work commencing within the next couple of months.

The Centre, which will be located on Gillamatong Lane just up from Braidwood Rural, will comprise a gym as well as space for a dance studio and specialist areas.

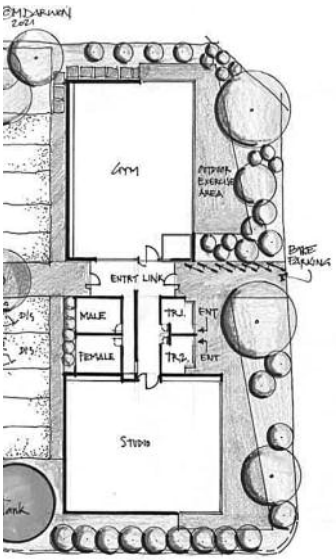
Harry told the *Changing Times* that he wanted to bring something new to the town, "something that hadn't been done before."

He said that he was aware of a lot of people who were going to gyms elsewhere, and it seemed logical to have a facility in Braidwood.

Looking ahead, Harry also said that sporting clubs and teams would have the benefit of being able to work out with purpose-built equipment in an indoor space, and in the event of emergency situations such as bushfires, the Centre could provide space for emergency service workers and volunteers to stay fit.

"We've had a lot of setbacks with council approvals," he said, "but now all that's done and we can start on getting building work up and running. Hopefully that will happen in the next few months."

Ideally, Harry would like to see the Braidwood Fitness Centre operational within 12 months.



Cecile Galiazzo opens the show for Genevieve Swifte.

Genevieve Swifte is a contemporary artist working between drawing, photography and video. The drawings in this exhibition explore themes such as light, mirroring, empathy and the visual representation of sound and touch. Emerging from the darkroom of an alternative school in the early 1990s, Swifte's sensibilities are also informed by an undergraduate degree in drawing and printmaking, interdisciplinary collaborations and residencies in remote corners of the globe.

Genevieve Swift @ Studio Altenburg Gallery
27th January – 18th February 2023

Araluen Film Society

Reminder about next movie

Film 7:00 pm, preceded by usual Barbecue, sausage sandwiches and soft drinks for sale (6:00 pm), salads supplied by supporters. BYO (other stuff). Ice creams for sale at interval.

Saturday 11th February 2023

"Dream Horse" 2021 PG 113 min

The film tells the inspiring true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely racehorse bred by small town bartender, Jan Vokes (Academy Award® nominee Toni Collette). With very little money and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream and compete with the racing elites. Their investment pays off as Dream rises through the ranks and becomes a beacon of hope in their struggling community.

Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Owen Teale, Joanna Page, Lynda Baron, Sian Phillips and Katherine Jenkins

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty_DAhC_CLc
This movie has subtitles. Received 88% on Rotten Tomatoes Tomatometer, and an audience score of 97%.

If you have not been before, come along and try it out. Feel free to bring any guests. Any suggestions for future screenings very welcome.

L A (Tony) Hayman
Honorary projectionist
lahayman@pcug.org.au

Jenny Goldie is The Greens candidate for Monaro

Media release from The Greens

The Greens today announced Jenny Goldie as their candidate in the seat of Monaro for the March 25 NSW elections.

Ms Goldie, a Cooma resident, is a former science teacher and journalist who regularly writes on climate, energy and sustainability issues. She is active in many local voluntary groups.

"Climate change is the number one threat to people and the planet," said Ms Goldie. "It demands urgent action if we are to keep global warming to 1.5oC, that is, within relatively safe levels.

"We have to rapidly shift our economy away from fossil fuels to renewable energy; improve energy efficiency in new buildings and appliances; support public transport, active transport and electrical vehicles, and plant millions of trees to store carbon dioxide. Above all, we need to reach net zero emissions as a nation by 2035 or earlier.

"A lack of affordable housing and rising homelessness also need to be addressed. Too many low-income earners have been forced out of rental homes in Monaro and across NSW. There is not enough social housing for them.

Jenny Goldie

"Preserving biodiversity is another priority. We are in the midst of the Sixth Mass Extinction and in Australia we risk losing even iconic species such as the koala and greater glider because habitat is lost or fragmented. Habitats must be protected if other species are to survive."

Ms Goldie moved to Cooma from Michelago where she was a small landholder, dealing with weeds such as African lovegrass, St John's wort and serrated tussock. "These became not just a threat to farmers' productivity but also to the natural environment," said Ms Goldie.

"And now feral deer have become a problem across Monaro and in the high country where feral horses – brumbies – are already wreaking havoc on the alpine ecology. All feral animals, both old and new, must be controlled by reducing their numbers."

A Society with soil in its soul

Maria Bakas-Booker

How do we co-create a community with awareness of its place in the web of life, and walk each step, living with intention and informed by compassion and wisdom? Belonging wholly in the web of life.

Is it possible for humanity to live within this web and receive our vital needs with gratitude, while living happily and allowing space for future generations to live?

I feel deep concern that if this question does not resonate in our daily footsteps, our species, along with many others, will not fare well. It is intelligent to know what is truly needed to live well, and remember the generations to come.

We have learned from our culture that we can have whatever we want. We try to work out how to make that happen, without any thought of the web of life. This is fragmented living, in separation from the whole. We think things have always been this way, though in reality they have not.

It is a different approach when we are connected with earth, we tend and care deeply, to live well and nurture and grow in care and tenderness, reflect and understand what is enough. This needs to be realised and walked, not held purely as a concept.

We should not disregard what Life and many knowledgeable people are showing us. We should listen to our experiences from Earth, because to push this away, will lead to extreme suffering.

That way seems to me like seeing smoke in the distance and becoming convinced that it is a cloud formation or that the breeze will blow it out.

I see climate catastrophies occurring, while our society is stuck in thoughtless, destructive patterns of living.

Knowing only how to extract resources and take like there is no tomorrow, which there is not! It feels to me like we are saying, if I close my eyes and keep on doing what we do, economically and without relationship, then by magic something will happen to save us.

We live in fragmented and isolated ways. It is very clear that attempting to create infinite growth on a finite planet is foolish to say the least. For us to come together, we must see things in connection.

Then we understand how to tend to the oceans and rivers as we see the importance of water for all. And how to replenish and regenerate the soils, to grow our food locally in order to eat seasonal food that is nutritious and clean, with all the nutrients needed.

As Wendell Berry says, "to cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival".

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brumbies running wild

News that brumby numbers in Kosciuszko National Park have increased is a matter deep concern.

Nice as horses are, they have to go as they are too damaging for the fragile alpine ecology. Not just horses but feral pigs and deer as well. The NSW Government has not done its duty in protecting the national park — the horses should have been culled long ago.

The John Barilaro law (Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018) that protected the horses was supposedly about cultural values though, in reality, more about vested interests. Even though there was some merit in the cultural values' argument, nevertheless, cultural arguments should not override environmental values, particularly in a fragile alpine or sub-alpine environment.

It would be tragic if we lost a single species from trampling by hard-hooved animals, be they horse, wild pig or deer. They must be culled to protect the corroboree frog and other threatened species, not just animals but plants as well.

Jenny Goldie
Greens candidate for Monaro
Cooma

To Council from the BAVBC

Dear Mayor Kenrick Winchester and General Manager Rebecca Ryan [from the Braidwood and Villages Businesss Chamber].

Firstly, thankyou for taking the time to meet with our members in person just prior to Christmas. The overwhelming feedback we received from our members was positive; thankful for the open and direct communications on a range of matters including the Special Rates Variation process.

As mentioned to you during that meeting and previously, we do not believe that QPRC's model of democracy is serving Braidwood and the surrounding region well and that this issue needs serious and urgent attention.

Braidwood is the hub of well over half of the LGA's land mass. Our region is distinctly different to the urban settings of Queanbeyan, Googong and Bungendore and has unique needs and priorities. Most of QPRC is centred and focussed on most of the populations needs and priorities, which are Queanbeyan, Googong and Bungendore centric. In recent years, our community has regularly relayed this view to government representatives at the local and state level. The response we've generally received has been dismissive. We urge you to consider our view seriously as the net result of this situation is a very poorly serviced Braidwood region. It is unfair and unreasonable for this situation to go on unaddressed by our representatives and council management.

BAVBC requests a meeting with you, to discuss the many issue we face in Braidwood as soon as possible.

Jamie Raynolds
President BAVCC

SEEN ABOUT THE PLACE

Never a bridge too far for this lot seen regularly at the Servicemen's Club.

Limestone Consort

Music back on agenda

Robin Tennant Wood

For the first time since 2019 the Braidwood Concert Series has a full program for 2023.

Starting with Limestone Consort on 19 February, the Summer-Autumn program will be held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, with the August and September concerts moving to the Braidwood Uniting.

Concert organiser, Anne Sanders, is excited about the forthcoming series and the fact that so many top level ensembles are coming to our little town.

"This is the first time since the beginning of COVID we've been able to plan for a full year of concerts. We had our 2020 program planned but had to pull everything after the first one in March."

She is particularly enthusiastic about the April concert, the Australian Baroque Brass, which has been a real coup for Braidwood.

"This ensemble is six of the best musicians in the country," Anne said. "We've got David Drury, the top organist in Australia, and the ensemble is led by trumpeter, John Foster, who basically wrote the textbooks on brass instruments. The soprano is travelling from Brisbane. To get this group playing in St Andrew's is wonderful."

The atmosphere of playing in a small venue is a real drawcard for musicians.

"Musicians love playing here," she said. "It's a far different dynamic from playing in a concert hall. There's an intimacy between the musos and the audience that really affects the players' performance.

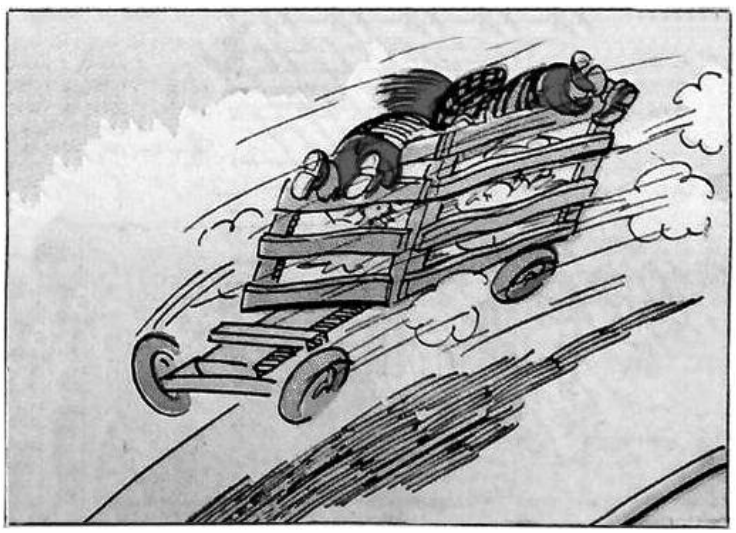
"Too often musicians feel like wallpaper when they're in a big or crowded venue, they love playing where the audience really wants to listen. It's an extraordinary dynamic and it lifts them."

The first concert, on 19 February, is Women by Women, the Limestone Consort, an ensemble of five women, will play works by female Baroque composers.

"This will be great," Anne said. "Not a lot of people know about the Baroque women."

This concert will be held at St Andrew's starting at 2.00pm. Tickets from https://events.humantix.com/limestone-consort or at the door.

TOP SECRET



The Queen Elizabeth II Royal Tour of Goulburn in the 1970s

John Longhurst

Within minutes of our youngest brother taking his first steps in life, we had the wheels off the pram and it lay stripped like a marooned Torana on the side of the Hume Highway, in the middle of the backyard.

It had been a military exercise in speeding up the family's newest and final addition's advance to walking stage as the pram would become redundant. We would place him on the floor and position his warm milk bottle increasing distances beyond his reach or rig him up like a marionette puppet and, for the sake of his own advancement, ignore his cries, and urge him to move from crawling to timid steps at a rapid fire rate.

Even before our parents had fully enjoyed his first steps with the obligatory Kodak moments, we had the pram wheels on the new billy cart. The billy cart was a piece of art. We had scavenged a huge wooden crate and even the front seat of an abandoned Mini Minor and its sporty reduced size steering wheel from the tip. From our eyes, the outside looked like a Nineteenth Century coach. In fact, we laboriously used our magnifying glasses to burn in an historical rewrite LONGY, COBB & CO along each side. The driver would sit on top of the coach to steer, even though it would take thirty turns to move it an inch to the left but it was all about the look with the cool steering wheel, and it did not matter anyway, as the hill was a straight descent.

There was even a step on the back for a lookout to ride shotgun, in case there were any bushrangers hiding on the side of the hill. With further disrespect for our period piece, our older brother decided to add an exhaust system with a muffler out the back of the cart. Our haste to have it up and running meant we overlooked the need for any brakes.

The inside of the billy cart was an Aladdin's Cave of luxury with multi coloured cushions and nylon lace that had even been rejected by St Vincent de Paul, adorning the flashy seat from the Mini Minor. As a nod to our emerging chivalry we invited our sister to be the first passenger. She did not disappoint with her outfit as she was able to smuggle out Mum's cherished wedding dress for the launch. The borrowing of her best friend's older sister's Lilac Queen Crown had us all set for the commencement of The Royal Tour of our neighbourhood. Even our dog seemed to enjoy playing an oversized yapping corgi.

From our corner store at the base of the hill we laboured upwards, pushing our sister, all decked out like Queen Elizabeth 'Eleven'. She graciously waved at Mrs Smith who was holding her forlorn looking daughter even closer to her side than usual. We gathered pace near Mrs Herbert's place because she often chased us with her broom, for upsetting the tranquility of the street.

By the time we had reached the top of the hill we had a sizeable gathering of other young, free range ratbags, as onlookers, with the flash neighbourhood kid belting out the theme music to the ROCKY movie on his new ghetto blaster. In hindsight, the music to JAWS would have been more appropriate.

Our love of an audience got the better of us, and we decided a formal launch would be in order. A large bottle of the local cordial, Hopes Cherry Cheer, was borrowed from the stock behind our shop (contents drunk of course, and then filled with water) and the Queen herself did the honours and smashed the bottle on the side of the coach, before climbing back inside.

As always, that temptation to just 'kick the ball a little bit higher' overcame me and I thought it would be a good idea to have some smoke trailing out of the exhaust for the maiden descent.

Our ownership of the local corner store meant we had unsupervised access to kerosene, as customers would purchase refills from the bulk tank we had in the backyard, to use for heating.

At a very early age, I developed a fondness for fire. One of my jobs was to light the open fire in the lounge room just after the evening meal. In these days, there were no 'Little Lucifer Firelighters' and one had to make do with available resources. A good slug of kerosene one night had the chimney alight and the fire brigade in attendance before the rest of the family finished the washing up after tea. It took little convincing of even my older siblings that a good addition of kerosene to the muffler system and the addition of a frayed piece of rope as a wick would result in an an attractive blue flame emerging from the exhaust system for this maiden descent.

There was the predictable dispute amongst us about who was going to drive and who would ride shotgun on the back step of the coach but my constant possession of a box of REDHEAD matches secured my role.

With a strike of a match and a good push, the Queen began her descent. By the time the cart had reached Mrs Herbert's house an attractive yellow flame from the burning makeshift wick with accompanying smoke greeted her shaking head and our sister with one hand on the crown, used the other to wave to the imaginary crowds on either side of the hill. It was a sight to behold and I took the slaps on the back with all due modesty.

> If the scene was a movie, the director would no doubt cut from close ups of all our smiling faces on the top of the hill to the comet careering down Kinghorne Street as the yellow flames were now taking on the blueness of burning kerosene.

By the time the coach reached Mrs Smith's house, she had enveloped her daughter into the folds of her skirt. The brother riding shotgun had already bailed and was taking his chances with the bushrangers and the driver was mid flight hoping for a soft landing on the strip of grass on the side of the footpath. The Miss Lilac Queen Crown was a jigsaw puzzle on the footpath and my sister was frantically trying to exit as flames licked the sides of the runaway carriage.

I don't think the bulk of Mr Munch or the versatility of Mr Graham's large potato sack, come shopping bag, were ever a more welcome sight by the time the developing fireball reached our corner store. Mr Munch was able to bring the coach to a standstill and Mr Graham doused the flames with his hessian sack. A shaken Queen Elizabeth the Eleventh was pulled from the carriage with a lot more success than the wedding dress.

Needless to say, our make believe prawn cocktails, apricot chicken, lemon meringue pie and Ben Ean Moselle for guests and a classic Blue Nun Riesling for her Majesty went untouched at the planned civic reception in the backyard.

Our Mother ... well, our Mother.

Travel card saving for apprentices and uni students

Media release from Nichole Overall's office

Apprentices and university students across Monaro will have access to the new NSW Government $250 Regional Apprentice and University Student Travel Card helping ease the cost of travel for education and training.

Member for Monaro Nichole Overall said apprentice applications for the travel card open on February 22 – just in time for the return of face-to-face classes.

University students will be able to apply for the card in late April.

"This card will put $250 in the pocket of hundreds of local apprentices and university students in the regions to help them with the cost of travel in gaining a qualification – from apprentice chefs and chippies to those studying to be teachers," Mrs Overall said.

Minister for Roads Sam Farraway [left] and Nichole Overall at Cooma Steel.

"That's a $250 boost towards filling up the tank or catching the bus to get to work, practical blocks, TAFE or uni."

"Parents and partners can also use this card. If you drive your child or your loved one to tafe, uni, training or work, encourage them to apply for a card to help you with the cost of fuel."

"Tradies are the backbone of the Monaro, so it's important we support them as much as we can, especially when they're apprentices and just starting to find their feet," Mrs Overall said.

The prepaid debit card can be used for taxi trips, fuel, Opal card top ups, public transport and privately-operated coaches, and electric charging stations.

Mrs Overall and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Farraway stopped into local business Cooma Steel to discuss the card with the business's apprentices.

Alex, Angela and Bailey were excited to hear they would be eligible to apply.

To be considered eligible a participant must:

- meet relevant citizenship or permanent residency requirements
- reside in a regional location outside Greater Sydney and the Newcastle and Wollongong City Council boundaries
- be between the ages of 16 and pension age (currently 66 and 6 months)
- be undertaking an active apprenticeship or traineeship registered with Training Services NSW or an undergraduate university course. Courses must be full-time and face-to-face
- be enrolled in an eligible campus

More details about eligibility can be found at www.service.nsw.gov.au/regional-apprentice-and-university-student-travel-card

Applications open for black spot funding

Media release from Kristy McBain's office

The Albanese Labor Government is delivering on its election commitment to improve mobile coverage in identified locations like Kings Highway, Majors Creek, Monaro Highway and Snowy Mountains Highway by opening applications for grant funding.

The $40 million Improving Mobile Coverage Round (IMCR) delivers on election commitments to fund Mobile Network Operators and Infrastructure Providers to deploy new mobile infrastructure at 54 target locations across Australia.

In addition to benefiting regional communities, this dedicated round is also targeting mobile coverage issues along a number of major regional highways to ensure motorists have access to essential mobile services in the event of an emergency.

The IMCR was funded in the October 2022-23 Federal Budget. The Government has made significant investments to improve regional coverage through its $656 million Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia.

Member for Monaro and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Kristy McBain, said, "The Government is delivering on the promises it made to improve the mobile coverage black spots across Eden-Monaro.

"Reliable mobile coverage is key for regional communities like ours. It's at the centre of our daily lives, keeps the local economy thriving, and is vital to staying in touch in the event of an emergency or natural disaster," Ms McBain said, adding that she is looking forward to seeing this program rolled out and to working closely with mobile operators to get the best results for our community.

The Plan commits $400 million to expanding mobile coverage and improving communications resilience, including investment to fund future rounds of the Mobile Black Spot Program, and $200 million to fund place-based communications solutions through additional rounds of the Regional Connectivity Program. Consultation is currently open on both of these Programs.

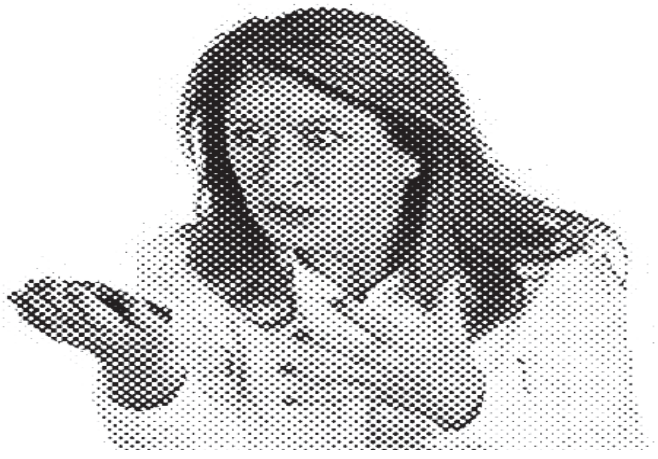
Mobile Network Operators and Infrastructure Providers will have until 5PM AEDT, 13 April 2023 to apply for IMCR grant funding.

Minister for Communicationns, Michelle Rowland, said that the Government's October Budget included one of the most significant investments in regional connectivity since the creation of the National Broadband Network over a decade ago.

"Our Government recognises that all Australians deserves world-class mobile coverage, no matter where they live, work or travel," she said. "This dedicated funding provides an opportunity for Mobile Network Operators and Infrastructure Providers to help locals in Eden-Monaro, motorists and tourists in identified areas with unreliable service.

"The Government will continue to invest strongly in expanding mobile coverage".

Further information on the IMCR – including the list of targeted sites – is available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/phone/mobile-services-coverage/mobile-black-spot-program.



BOOKWORM *Julia Ermert*

Her first love …

… was a pony. If I ask around my women friends, I'll find this is so often the case … and none of them have forgotten!

Interestingly, it's only recently been discovered (New Scientist, October 2021) when and where horses were domesticated: on the steppes of central Eurasia around 2200 BC. One of the difficulties has been that modern horses look much like the ancient horses we picture from cave paintings or reconstructed skeletons. It's not like the difference between wolves and, say, chihuahuas.

The domestication of horses revolutionised travel and warfare. For our purposes, it meant people could ride them. Children in particular had more freedom.

It's usual in children's books to give the protagonists freedom to get out and about, have adventures and develop their best selves, by getting rid of authority figures. They can be orphaned, sent away to boarding-school or to a mean old uncle, shipwrecked, hospitalised, lost on the moors, or find their way to the future or another dimension. Or they can acquire a horse, learn to care for it, saddle up and gallop away.

Possibly the first horse book to attract attention is *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell (published 1877.) It wasn't meant as a children's book but more an animal welfare dissertation. I remember my confused early reading of it. Perhaps because it's written in the first person, I couldn't really get a feel for the main character. Anna Sewell was crippled by a mismanaged childhood accident and was reliant on horse-drawn carriages to get around. This was her only book. But with fifty million copies sold, it's one of the best-selling books of all time.

The pony book idea seems to have started with Joanna Cannan in 1936, coincidentally my birth year. Her husband was badly wounded and traumatised in the Great War, so she became the bread-winner, writing at the kitchen table. Their Oxfordshire home had its own stables and there were three daughters, including twins. By the time they were fourteen and fifteen, they, home-schooled, were running a riding school, and soon writing from their own experiences. They were Josephine, Christine and Diana Pullein-Thompson.

I don't know why I didn't read the Pullein-Thompsons; in those days it was purely a matter of chance what reading matter came one's way and mine was not a bookish family.

Ponies, by the way, are not young horses (foals), but a smaller breed and so, more suitable for children.

Later I found friends reading them and also the *Flambards* books. This series, by gender-disguised K.M. Peyton (born 1927), begins in 1967 with orphaned but potentially wealthy Christina being sent to live with a mean old uncle, who has two sons and lots of horses. By the time I caught up, I preferred her more mature-age books, but I admired her writing-style.

So my first memorable pony book was *My Friend Flicka* and then its sequels *Thunderhead* and *The Green Grass of Wyoming*. Unusually, or perhaps because they were American, the protagonist was a ten year old boy. Ken McLaughlin lived with his parents and older sibling on a ranch in Laramie County, which sounds idyllic, but Ken is a misfit, at home and at boarding school. He is dreamy and easily distracted. Father is a dominating, impatient man who expects his sons to make him proud. Howard is a good scholar and better sportsman, bound for West Point. Poor Ken!

Author Mary O'Hara (d.1980) ran such a ranch with her Swedish husband, and kept a diary. She was also a screenwriter for silent films.

Ken has been promised his own pony as a bribe, and father's pride forces him to keep his word. Ken has his pick but falls violently in love with a totally inappropriate filly. Later named Flicka (Swedish for 'little girl'), she is beautiful and self-willed. She has 'bad blood,' because her dam was lured from the herd and impregnated by a notorious wild stallion.

Flicka doesn't want Ken or the life he offers. I must've been Ken's age — I recall I couldn't pronounce some of the words — but I totally got it. Ken will dare anything for Flicka, even his father's wrath, he will risk his own life, facing out a prowling cougar, but can Flicka love him back, and is he harming her by his passion?

This is a book about love, particularly first love, and I think more accessible than, say, *Romeo and Juliet/Westside Story* or various YA novels, like *The Fault in Our Stars*. It's about sacrifice and interdependence, gentleness and sensitivity.

In the end, Ken puts Flicka's good before his own and she comes to him of her own accord.

I think I forgot about horses later, except for brief brushes with the likes of *Brat Farrar*, Josephine Tey (pub.1949), or *The Horse Whisperer*, Nicholas Evans (pub.1995). Those are not primarily horsey books, being for adults. I also fondly remember sheikhs galloping over the desert sands, snatching unwary maidens off their steeds galloping (more slowly) in the opposite direction.

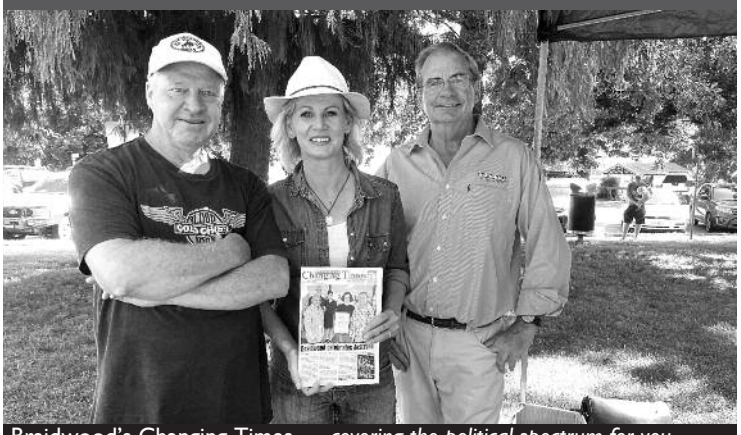
So is a horse better than a boyfriend? It could seem so. He's more likely to return your affection, and less likely to betray you. But a horse is a herd animal, so you can't keep just one! And if the spare one dies, you have to replace him, and then … and polygamy still isn't allowed.

I never got my pony, even though my father had been a drover, fondly recalling his own first horse, named Texas for the Queensland border town where he was acquired. My father acquired my name around there too: from Julia Creek. I did learn to ride, through the pine forests that once cloaked the Canberra Arboretum area. I wasn't very good at it but I loved the evocations.

To conclude, my first love was not a pony. Although I was still only eight, he was a sailor named Pat.

But that's another story.

LOOK WHAT THEY'RE READING



Braidwood's Changing Times — *covering the political spectrum for you.*

Key to Jillamatong regenesis, *2023; watercolour, graphite and coloured pencil on cotton paper; 57 x 76 cm.*

Patterns in the land and on the wall

Robin Tennant Wood

Artist John Wolseley's current exhibition at the Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery in Paddington might be familiar to Braidwood people.

Drawing heavily on his time at Martin Royds' Jillamatong, Wolseley's *Regenis - Slow Water - Deep earth* exhibition is about interpreting the patterns of the landscape.

"John first came to Jillamatong Farm about eight years ago," Martin said. "He had come out here for the Two Fires Festival and we were introduced then.

"Then a couple of years later he started the *Earth Canvas Project*, which teamed up some of Australia's top artists with farmers. They each see the land differently. While farmers will be looking for weeds or sick animals or fences that need fixing, the artists look to the patterns in the land. By talking the two groups were able to both see the land differently."

The exhibition, *Earth Canvas*, that resulted from the collaboration, toured nationally before ending up at the National Museum last year.

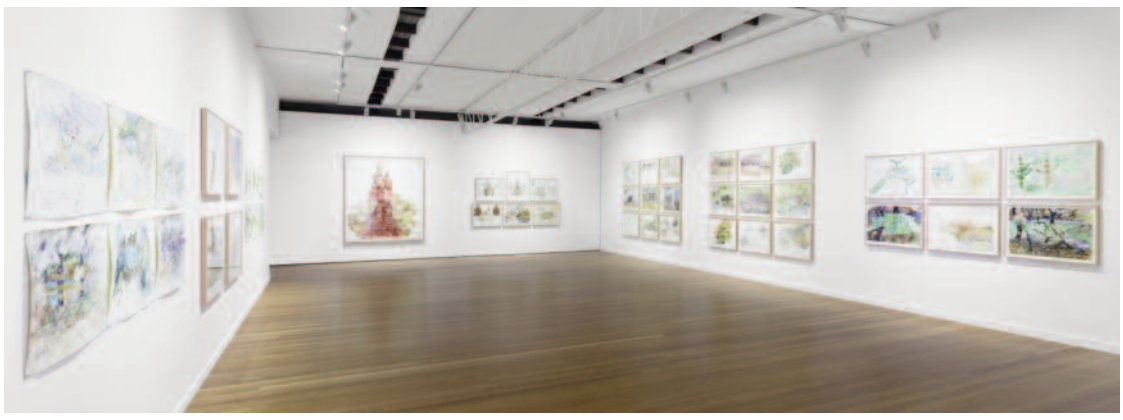
Meanwhile, Wolesley was introduced by Royds to Peter Andrews, the father of Natural Sequence Farming. Andrews taught him how to see the various aspects of the landscape as the vital organs of the land itself. Part of the key to land repair and regeneration, Royds said, is being able to see the patterns in the landscape. Something artists do naturally but farmers have to learn.

"We can think of the trees, the rivers, the dams as the lungs, kidneys, liver of the land," said Royds. Wolesley translated this concept into his latest exhibition.

"There's a lot of Jillamatong in this exhibition," said Royds, who, along with some of the artists from the Earth Canvas Project, was invited to the exhibition opening in Paddington.

In the works on display Wolesley has incorporated the concepts of the vital organs of the land into the works themselves, some showing the waterways as a vascular system and in others, he has written words indicating the role of certain landscape features play in keeping land healthy.

The exhibition at Roslyn Oxley9 shows until 25 February.



Keith Potger entertained the guests [above] and later Wendy McMahon Bell drew out the lucky door prize.

192 feet hit

Tom Watson

A great turn out of 96 bowlers taking part for Round 1 of Barefoot 2023.

There were a few hiccups with minutes to spare, with one team not showing. Fortunately there were a few extras hanging around, and lucky for them — they were the team who won the $150. Good karma to the Raiders and thanks to Barry, Wendy and Liam.

It's a little overwhelming that

Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Braidwood aged care community information open door

DATE: Tuesday 14th February 2023
TIME: 10am to 12noon
VENUE: Braidwood Servicemen's Club
1 Coronation Avenue, Braidwood

An opportunity to discuss aged care in the Braidwood Region, including:

- Services
- Support
- Transport
- Self-management of packages
- Aged care training & career pathways

COMMUNITY LUNCH AT THE CLUB

Anjali Williams

Around ninety people attended the Community Lunch at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Thursday February 2.

The next lunch is the first Thursday of March, the 2nd of March at 11.30am. $10 per person for lunch, dessert and tea or coffee.

Everyone is welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS ST BEDE'S

150 STUDENTS IN 2023

t the green

our little club has filled this event of 32 teams of triples, where clubs with a much higher population pool would struggle.

Barefoot Bowls in Braidwood is definitely something the community looks forward to and we can't thank you all enough for turning up.

We must thank the volunteers for the night also. Without them we wouldn't have our greens to play on. And a very big thanks to Community Bank Braidwood and Crookwell Agency, and the Braidwood Servicemen's Club, without whose support this event wouldn't be what it is.

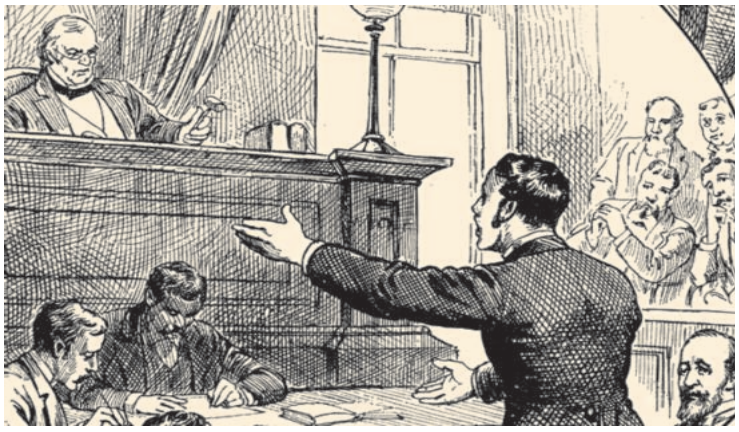
Our raffle was made up prizes donated from the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and a huge thankyou to Gavin from Hold Fast Distillery and Braidwood Hotel for the very generous donation of four delicious treats for raffle prizes.

A minor note going into Week 2: **Only one "Pro" (regular player) per team please**! (Penalties apply). We'll see you all on Thursday.

THE LAW Angela Backhouse

Should you go to Court without a lawyer?

— undertaking the trial alone



At first, it might seem like a great idea to represent yourself in court.

How hard could it be? Nobody knows your case better than you; the intricate details are your first-hand knowledge. And maybe you've even been told that you are quite convincing at making arguments!

There are lots of examples of people without legal training doing a reasonable job in front of a magistrate or a judge. However, there are a number of reasons why you might consider hiring a lawyer, and ideally a good one, before tackling the challenge of representing yourself.

Emotional investment

Legal matters are themselves emotional life events. If you've been through a business breakdown, a divorce, or in a car accident, you know how overwhelming these events can be. It is difficult to detach and realistically approach your situation from a clear perspective. A good lawyer will tell you what you need to hear, which is unfortunately not always the same thing as what you what you want to hear.

When representing oneself in court, it is easy to become emotionally involved in your case, which could cloud judgment and make it difficult to present a strong argument. Emotions are not evidence; and they can often work against you, it is important to remember that.

Adverse bias

In the words of the Honourable Justice Faulks "Most judges tend to couple the word self-represented litigant with an expletive. It is customary to regard them as difficult, time-consuming, unreasonable, and ignorant of processes of the law."

In Kenny v Ritter, and in a great number of other matters, the Court recognises a need to provide a self-represented litigant with some assistance. However, this is taxing on a judge's energy levels, and patience. Underlying this is also a conflict between the principle of fairness; the judge's desire to help the solo litigant while maintaining the principle of impartiality. It is a difficult balance that by representing yourself, you are asking the court to undertake.

Lack of legal expertise

Lawyering requires a thorough understanding of substantive laws, procedures, and rules of evidence. Without legal training, it is difficult to know what evidence to present, what arguments to make, and how to make them successfully. The legal system is intricate and complex, even for those of us equipped with a law degree! Within one matter there could be multiple different approaches that a lawyer might choose to pursue, and each could lead to very different outcomes. Things can turn quickly in a court room, and you want a sharp, experienced perspective on your side.

Time and money

Preparing for litigation demands time and effort. Representing oneself requires extensive research, document preparation, and witness preparation, all of which can be time-consuming and overwhelming. If you already have a fulltime job and/or a family, the work required to prepare your case could quickly reach a tipping point where you might simply run out of time.

Often a person will represent themselves due to how much money a lawyer will cost. This concern is very valid. Legal costs can, sometimes, be disproportionate to the nature of the proceedings before the Court.

Most law firms, including Chamberlains, have payment options that can help ease the financial burden of litigation. And if you go to court on your own, and you lose, you might also face a costs order being made against where no only will you could also have to pay the other side's legal costs (or some of them) even if you did not incur any yourself.

Can you go to court on your own behalf and represent yourself? Absolutely.

Should you think twice before you do so? Absolutely.

At Chamberlains, our expert disputes team can assist you with all stages of litigation.

Contact us today for an obligation free appointment with our experienced team.

We're with you.

THE GREAT RATE DEBATE

BCA Submission on the QPRC Special Rate Variation Proposal

Sue Murray, President Braidwood Community Association

Summary

- While the need for an SRV was inevitable, the timing for this could not be worse given the cost-of-living crisis many are facing.
- Council's core funding is being squeezed by both federal and state governments. The BCA urges QPRC and the Local Government Associations to increase their lobbying activities to improve the core funding by both federal and state governments.
- Ratepayers want a Council that delivers the services they need at a cost that they can afford and a Council that improve its efficiency and does not over-extend itself.
- There is a perception that the previous Council has over-committed to many major capital projects, over-extending Council's commitments and workload.
- The dramatic increase in loans is an illustration of this. Since amalgamation $99.2m in loans have been taken out with a further $113.1m flagged for the future, bringing the total loans to a staggering quarter of a billion dollars ($253.9m). The fact that Council has been refused TCorp loans recently underlines its serious financial situation and can only increase cost to ratepayers.
- The BCA urges Council to carefully scrutinise all existing and new projects where a final commitment is not yet made and only commit to new projects where clear value is demonstrated. The BCA wants to see accountability and transparency.
- The BCA believes Council should seriously consider deferring or cancelling the Monaro Street upgrade project and redirecting the $15.25m allocated toward rural roads where the needs are much greater.
- The BCA believes Council managers need to focus on a coordinated delivery of services to ensure that all projects are delivered on time and on budget and that QPRC undertakes a full review of managerial and administrative practices to improve efficiency and reduce waste and duplication.
- Cuts flagged under Scenario 1 would seriously disadvantage rural areas where there are fewer services. Many community activities rely on small funds from Council that are multiplied by community in-kind and financial contributions. These activities can represent the heart of a local community.
- Loss of community services such as community halls and meeting spaces, pools, libraries, customer service centres and depots would adversely impact small communities in terms of employment, local businesses, education and the physical and mental well-being of residents.
- The BCA supports engaging the community in seeking improvements to Council services. The BCA recommends that seeking engagement of the community, and in particular staff, in suggesting efficiency improvements should be part of Council's ongoing work practices.
- The BCA does not agree with the use of dividends from the water and sewer funds to prop up the income of the general fund.
- The possibility of reducing the number of Councillors is not supported by the BCA. Reducing the number of Councillors will lead to a further concentration of representation in the areas of highest population, leading to a reduction in democracy.
- The BCA undertook a survey of its members and the broader community in the post code area 2622 on the SRV. The results are included and discussed at the end of our submission.

[See the BCA website for the full submission.]

The BCA operates as a consensus organisation and clearly from the results above there is no consensus within our community, nor its membership. Therefore, as an organisation, the BCA cannot give preference to any of the scenarios presented.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Jazz: The Swing Era

"THE DANCING YEARS"

John Buchanan, jazz historian

"One of the fascinating apsects of civilisation and cultures is how certain periods seem to stand out as more memorable and significant than others. Indeed, despite the cyclical ebb and flow of historical sides, and the never-ending fluctuations of action and reaction, there are times when unique or extraordiary events take place that defy the historian's complete understanding."

Gunther Schuller from his book "The Swing Era" 1988

The Swing Era was a unique period in the history of popular music. A period when a new musical form encouraged the youth of the country, both black and white, to take to the dance floor like never before.

During the 1920s an exciting new dance music was gradually introduced into the ballrooms and dance-halls by black bands, largely made up of musicians from New Orleans, who had moved north looking for work with the introduction of prohibition across the country. Whilst nearly all major hotels and nightclubs were reserved for white bands, laying their gentle form of dance music, it was left to a number of mainly new black bands, with their growing number of customers in many new speakeasies, nightclubs and ballrooms, to introduce a new form of "hot" music that would gradually appeal to both black and white dancers.

The worldwide Depression that followed the 1929 Wall Street crash had the entire nation fastening its economic belt during the early 1930s. Jobs became scarce as the music and the entertainment industries suffered. More and more Americans were forced to rely on the free entertainment provided through their radios.

In 1934, when ninety per cent of American homes owned a radio, the NBC network conducted a survey of their listeners tastes and preferences, discovering that dance music far and away provided the most popular type of radio program. The McCann-Erickson advertising agency sold the idea to the National Biscuit Company that they should sponsor a national weekly dance program to be broadcast by NBC's network over their more than fifty nationwide radio stations.

The first "Let's Dance" program was broadcast on 1 December 1934 with three bands providing a variety of dance music. A young Benny Goodman, who had just formed his first real dance band, was one of those chosen to provide the music for one hour of the program each Saturday night.

In the 1930s, ninety percent of American homes had a radio.

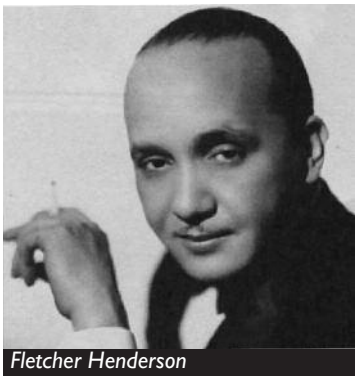
After signing with NBC Benny found himself a little short of band arrangments to be able to provide a full one hour of dance music for each weekly program. To overcome this problem he sought the help of the great black band leader Fletcher Henderson who had been leading one of the finest dance bands in New York since the 1920s. Fletcher agreed to help and it was his partnership that Benny that was to lay the foundations for the Swing Era that was to follow in the 1930s.

The first seeds of the Swing Era actually date back to 1924 when a young Louis Armstrong, just a year after he left New Orleans, agreed to spend around twelve months with the Fletcher Henderson band in New York. During that time Louis, working with Fletcher and his musical director Don Redman worked out a basic musical basic musical that was eventually followed by most of the 1930s swing bands. It involved interplay between the brass and reed sections, usually in a call-and-response fashion, or with one section playing supporting riffs behind the other. The arrangements also began to include more featured solos passages.

With the "Let's Dance" program being broadcast for three hours from each Saturday night in New York, the time difference between the East and West coasts meant that it was heard three hours earlier at peak time on the West Coast, thereby reaching a much wider radio audience than in other parts of the country. Many listeners on the West Coast organised weekly dance parties and other events to help them enjoy this exciting new period in the history of dance music.

After almost six months on the national airwaves the "Let's Dance" program suddenly, due to a labour dispute within the sponser's company, was taken off the air on 25 May, 1935. To keep the band together Benny signed on for a cross-country tour to the West Coast setting off in the Spring of 1935.

They were a fine young group of musicians playing an exciting new form of dance music. By the time they went off air in New York they had all benefited from more than seventy Fletcher Henderson arrangements.



Fletcher Henderson

Because of the time difference factor with the radio program, the size of the crowds that greeted the band increased as they travelled west. As they were reaching the end of their tour they received a great reception when they pulled up to McFadden's Ballroom in Oakland. Benny recalled "It was impossible for me to beleieve that so many people had come to see us. When the manager finally finally opened the door to the public the crowd surged inside and jammed up against the bandstand.

"I called for "King Porter Stomp", one of Fletcher's real killers. Finally the truth got through to me. We were causing a riot. What was even more amazing, the fans seemed to get wilder and wilder as the night wore on."

The final stop on the tour was the Palomar in Los Angeles, a huge ballroom out on Vermont and Second. They arrived there on the 21 August 1935 and were greeted by a huge crowd. Whey started playing their Fletcher Henderson arrangements Benny remembered how the kids started standing in front of the bandstand seeming to recognise the musicians and know their solos and how half the crowd stopped dancing and came surging around the bandstand and how "that first big roar from the crowd was one of the sweetest sounds I ever heard in my life, and from that time on the night kept getting bigger and bigger, as we played about every good number in our book."

It was generally agreed that the Swing Era was born that night at the Palomar. Benny Goodman had hit the jackpot. The Swing Era would soon dominate the American social world with almost every nightclub, ballroom and restaurant featuring this new music to the dancing public. The songwriters of Tin Pan Alley helped the country through The Depression as Ameri-

Wallace Street Medical Centre changes hands

Robin Tennant Wood

There are changes afoot at the Wallace Street Medical Centre, with new branding.

The new owner is Dr Rotimi Akerele. Dr David Sutherland will continue to consult along with Dr Sajeeva Polgolla. Jennie Sutherland has retired.

Dr Rotimi's wife Laura is a practice nurse and will be attending the medical centre as well with Robyn Goodwin joining her as a second practice nurse. Dr Rotimi plans to recruit a female GP in the near future.

Dr Rotimi Akerele.

Dr Rotimi is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and brings with him a wealth of experience in all areas of general practice. After completing his medical training at the University of Ilorin College of Health Sciences in 2008, he has accrued extensive training and work experience in both clinical and managerial roles in Nigeria.

Dr Rotimi is passionate about providing support for patients with mental health challenges and has completed the Focused Psychology Strategies Skills training program by RACGP in order to effectively achieve this. Rotimi has Professional and Advanced Certificate in Skin Cancer Medicine and General Dermatology.

With background extensive surgical experience in Africa, Rotimi has had excellent outcome in diagnosis and surgical management of skin cancer and other minor procedures including excision of lumps/cysts and removal of ingrown toenails. Rotimi also has a special interest in Musculoskeletal Medicine and pain management with a Certificate in Musculoskeletal Medicine from the Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine (AAMM).

He treats chronic pain and musculoskeletal dysfunction using a number of non-surgical alternative treatment modalities targeting the cause of symptoms while helping to manage pain and improve function.

Ms Gale said that all the allied health services will continue at the practice: physiotherapy, ultrasound, psychology, podiatry, chiropractic and sleep and hearing.

Southern NSW Local Health District reminds NSW patients that you can claim financial assistance towards travel and accommodation costs if they need to travel more than 100km one way, or 200km in a week, for specialised medical treatment that is not available locally.

Ask your social worker or healthcare team today, call 1800 478 22 or visit iptaas.health.nsw.gov.au/for-patients to find out if you are eligible.

cans, of all ages danced the foxtrot to the gentle ballads and lindy-hopped and jitterbugged to the "hot" numbers. A new exciting music had introduced America into it's first great period of popular music. The Benny Goodman orchesatra and the other leading swing bands were to remain the prominant influence on American popular music until the tragedy of World War II was to change everything so much.

The popularity of swing music and ballroom dancing faded during the years after the war. The young people who had danced their way through the Depression years of the 1930s and returned home after the war were naturally much older, and in most cases they chose to devote themselves to establishing a civilian career, getting married and raising a family.

The spirit that gave rise to the Swing Era was lost, never to return. Today, school children seldom hear such music as today's radio stations have virtually abandoned the music that it helped to popularise during the wonderful years of the 1930s.

ARALUEN UPDATE

Lyn Irving

As previously advertised in the *Araluen Star* newsletter we have the opportunity to have representatives from the Aging and Aged care Group from the Department of Health and Aging speak to us in Araluen on Tuesday 14th February from 1.30 – 2.30.

They are keen to discuss aged care services, build collaborative networks and identify needs of people in more isolated areas. There will also be representatives from other agencies including Dementia Australia, Aged Care Advocates and PLAN CARE representatives.

They will also hold a session in Braidwood from 10am-12.00pm and in this session there will be a wider range of speakers and topics addressed. If there are insufficient numbers for Araluen they will only hold the meeting in Braidwood this time. If you are aware of others in the community who do not have access to this email please let them know.

Message me on 0458 670 040 to find out if the meeting will be Araluen or Braidwood.

Action needed to halt a fracking nightmare

NSW Farmers Media Release

Farmer blockades of mining trucks will escalate unless real action is taken to resolve land and water use conflict, NSW Farmers warns.

Police were called to a state forest near Gunnedah after more than 60 farmers blockaded Santos trucks amid a dispute over potential water extraction and fracking. Local communities feared the Sub-Artesian Basin and aquifers could be forever polluted if coal seam gas projects went ahead, and saw no option but to take action after the NSW Government renewed a petroleum exploration licence in the area.

NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said this sort of conflict was likely to escalate if decision-makers remained "out of touch" with communities.

"There is a growing disconnect between the people making these poor decisions about regional communities and those who actually live there," Mr Martin said.

> "We called for an independent Agriculture Commissioner at the last election to try and head off these sorts of conflicts, but sadly we're four years down the track and the conflicts are growing.

"It is absolutely clear that there is an increasing problem here, and we are calling on all sides of politics to really prioritise this matter before the March 25 election."

Following the 2019 state election the NSW Government appointed Daryl Quinlivan as Agriculture Commissioner within the Department of Primary Industries. While he had written two reports for the NSW Government, the rising number of transmission and energy installations and 'state significant projects' signed off by Ministers were seen by many as proof the planning system was broken. Mr Martin said NSW Farmers members were of the belief that without true independence and resources to call out poor planning decisions or policies, the Agriculture Commissioner would continue to be ineffective.

"People are very impressed with Mr Quinlivan's knowledge when they hear him speak, but his advice must translate to better outcomes," Mr Martin said.

"We are calling for a statutory Agriculture Commission with oversight of productivity, agricultural land use, and natural resource management to urgently get the state's planning system fit for purpose.

"An effective planning strategy balancing agricultural production with a growing list of other land uses will not only help prevent the conflict we saw at the weekend, it will be the most important legacy any state government can leave for agriculture and our nation's food security."

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

Wow, what an action-packed fortnight we had!

I have a few apologies to make regarding some of the events I have put in in the past—I did not, for example, know that Parkrun was not running and I only found out via Facebook about that. I also have to apologise to Ingrid Mae for not putting her event in from the previous weekend—again, I only go with what I am told is happening. This is why it's vital to email me for information you wish me to print, and I am contactable on laura.e.hurley@gmail.com.

And now, onto the events happening this fortnight!

Gigs and Shows

Lost Legends of Australia Rockumentary is finally here. It will be on 11th February, 2023 at 7:30pm at the National Theatre. Here's the details of what's on offer!

The lost legends of Australian music deserve to be recognised and this showcase certainly does that, paying great respect to those who have passed on.

They were the stars who put their stamp on the Australian music scene and took it to international awareness. The Bee Gees, Chrissy Amohlett, Bon Scott, Doc Neeson, Shirley Strahan, Billy Thorpe, Michael Hutchence and many more are brought back through their songs, stories and audio-visual presentations. This in-depth "rockumentary" is performed by The Dead Singer Band, a group of singers and musicians who've played in some of Australia's chart-topping combinations.

The songs, the music, the costumes and the sheer spectacle of it all combine to create a wondrous experience.

Tickets are essential, and can be bought from the link below.

https://circlemusic.iwannaticket.com.au/event/lost-legends-showcase-MjgxNTM

— * —* —* —

Limestone Consort's Women by Women are performing at the Anglican Church on 19th February from 2pm.

Leading the 2023 Braidwood Concert Series Summer/Autumn program is Women by Women, presented by Limestone Consort: a concert of music by female Baroque composers, performed by female musicians. A special treat and according to Rob Kennedy the Canberra reviewer, 'a gem' of a performance: "Concerts of music entirely by female composers are all too rare, but this one having all-female performers as well, ealso provide why we need more of them."

This is the first performance in Braidwood by Limestone Consort since 2019 and it promises to be a wonderful welcome return. The Consort players include Lauren Davis, leader and violin; Greta Claringbould, soprano; Robyn Mellor, recorder; Clara Teniswood, cello and Ariana Odermatt, harpsichord. The women composers include Barbara Strozzi (1619-1677), Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665-1729), Isabella Leonarda (1620-1704) and Anna Amalia von Preussen (1723-1787).

Tickets are essential, and can be purchased here: events.humanitix.com/limestone-consort

— * —* —* —

The Elegant Associates are back for their first show of 2023! Playing on Sunday 12th February from 5pm until 6:30 pm at the Royal Mail. Deborah and David, along with guest bassist Luke, make an extremely wonderful ensemble and it's lots of fun. Bookings are essential, so please phone the Royal Mail on 4842 2488 to ensure you don't miss out on this wonderful evening of song.

— * —* —* —

Riff the Guitar Player is playing at the Royal Mail on the 16th February.

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Ingrid Mae is performing at the Major's Creek Sunset Sessions on 12th February from 3:30pm. Playing a mix of her country rock songs and popular hits from 70's - 90s. Band featuring the talented Mickey Pye, Rock Guy and Brett Bamford. Show opener is local favourite Drew Tisdell.

It's going to be a lovely afternoon performing outside, bring your picnic blanket and enjoy the band

Markets

Braidwood Scouts are having a car boot sale market on 11th March, and this is a reminder for everyone who wants to participate to get in touch with Chris or Malcolm Campbell.

The Braidwood Farmer's Market is on 18th Feb at the National Theatre from 8:30 am.

BRAG

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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Aikido is on Wednesday nights from 4:30-6:30pm. Please phone Matthew Hulse to organise attendance on 0438 648 468.

— * —* —* —

Sue Lyons runs pilates and yoga on Thursdays at 10:30-11:30 and Fridays at 10:30-12:30. Please get in contact with Sue if you wish to attend.

— * —* —* —

Christina Jagusiak runs yoga classes on Monday afternoons from 4pm to 5:15pm, and on Saturday mornings from 8am to 9 am. Please get in contact with Christina if you wish to attend.

— * —* —* —

Art for Relaxation has just started running. It is a volunteer art group run by two local artists, the group has a focus on making a positive space by using art for reflection and emotional expression. Some supplies provided, and you can bring your own too. There will be a different theme each time. Attendees are asked to contribute $5, or whatever you can, towards materials and venue hire. For information or to rsvp, email Noelle (noelleherbert1@gmail.com) or Chloe (cfeint98@gmail.com). It starts on 14th February at 10:30am and runs til 11:30.

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Life Drawing Sessions are also back at Brag this year, and they take place on the last Sunday of each month from 4pm onwards.

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The Drishti Yoga Retreat, lead by Christina Jagusiak is on 14th February at 5:30 pm and runs until 8 pm. The Sanskrit word drishti is commonly translated as "view," "gaze," or "point of focus." It's where we place our attention. Where our gaze goes, our energy naturally follows and the quality of our gazing is directly reflected in the quality of our mental thoughts.

In this workshop we will explore intentional focal points to connect with anja chakra. A great way to shift the perspective, to get a new view on what you see, how you see it, and discern what you want to direct your energy on. Movement, breathing, mediation and of course, dinner included. 2.5 hours $45 For more information, email or call Christina on 0414 385 051.

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Songlarks is back on this year between 9:30-11:10. It is a short music class for pre-school age children, including infants from about six months old. It's about discovering the joy of music together. We sing nursery songs, play hand games and quality percussion instruments, and dance to beautiful music from around the world. The focus is on rhythm, rhyme and the changing of the seasons. These experiences nurture the developing senses of the young child fostering their imagination, imitation and play.

Each class is about 40 minutes. We meet at the Braidwood Regional Arts Group (BRAG) Building on Wallace Street in Braidwood, New South Wales.

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.

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

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

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.

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Braidwood Breast Cancer Coffee Group is on Thursday 16th February at 10 am. This recurs on the third Thursday of the month, and if you want more information regarding this, please contact Kim Stewart on kim@riffsandrants.com.au

Other Community Organisations

The grand opening of the Skate Park will be on Saturday 25 February. The excitement is building and preparations are underway for the grand opening of the skatepark, built by the incredible Grind crew.

The skatepark opening will be a wonderful celebration of this community project. The Braidwood Skate Park has been funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, co-funded by the Australian and NSW governments.

This project has been delivered by the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association, the Braidwood Community Association and QPRC with support from the NSW Public Works Advisory Team.

— * —* —* —

The Braidwood & District Education Foundation (BDEF)'s 18th annual presentation evening, to be held on Friday 10 February at the Braidwood Servicemans Club. The event will see the awarding of 24 grants to young locals who are continuing their education at TAFE, University and through traineeships in 2023.

The event will be a night of celebration, with the grant recipients and their families, along with donors, members of the BDEF committee and community leaders in attendance. It will be an opportunity for the community to come together and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of these young people and the support they have received from the BDEF.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support the BDEF, this event or celebrate the achievements of these young people in our community, follow the BDEF on Facebook and Instagram.

— * —* —* —

Braidwood Swimming Club Nights - each Monday of the swimming season, from 5pm.

Events begin with 1-lap kickboard, followed by 1, 3 and 6 lap races of other strokes. New swimmers can come and try for up to three weeks, before any membership is required.

Sausage sizzle available every week.

— * —* —* —

Braidwood Garden Club are hosting a Kokedama and Terrarium workshop at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on 9th February at 10:30 for an 11 am start. This includes morning tea, and will cost $25 per kokedama or terrarium, with plants available to purchase on the day. Book and pay at the Braidwood Community Bank, and for further information, please call 0408 625 156. Bookings are absolutely essential.

The Royal Mail's weekly chocolate wheel is on as always!

— * —* —* —

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

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

Braidwood Health Walking Group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am at Ryrie Park. Suitable for all ages and abilities, and you can bring a walking buddy with you if you wish to have company. For further information, please contact Trish Sargeson on 0438 768 539.

— * —* —* —

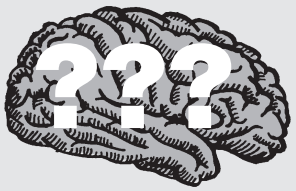
Braidwood Scouts are on every Thursday throughout the school terms. Joeys (ages 5-7 years) from 6 to 7pm, Cubs (ages 8-11 years) from 6.15 to 7.30pm, Scouts (ages 12-14 years) from 6.30 to 8pm Venturers (ages 15-17 years) from 6.30 to 8pm. Please contact Chris or Malcolm Campbell.

— * —* —* —

Braidwood Guides are on every Wednesday afternoon throughout the school terms. It starts at 4pm and finishes at 5:30pm. Please contact Kim Stewart on kim@riffsandrants.com.au for further information.

SEEN ABOUT THE PLACE

Monaro candidateTerry Campese and MP Jenny Aitchison at the Club with the boys.



News trivia

How well have you been paying attention?

1 What airborne device was causing concern in the US last week?

2 The small WA town of Bridgetown has banned the sale of what product to under 18-year olds?

3 What reform has the NSW government proposing for poker machines?

4 Which Australian sporting team is playing a Maori team in New Zealand this week?

5 Who was the former Pakistani leader who died this week?

6 Pope Francis has just visited which African country with the largest number of Catholics in Africa?

7 Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum is exhibiting the largest number of paintings ever exhibited in one place of which Dutch artist?

8 Which veteran country music performer has won a Grammy Award this week at the age of 89? (Bonus point: what was the award for?)

9 What horse won last Saturday's Braidwood Cup?

10 A review of what NSW Government program, administered by former Monaro MP John Barilaro, has been referred to ICAC?

Answers: 1 A Chinese spy balloon; 2 Energy drinks; 3 Cashless gambling; 4 NRL Indigenous All Stars; 5 Pervez Musharraf; 6 Democratic Republic of Congo; 7 Hans Vermeer (28 of the 45 Vermeer paintings known to be in existence); 8 Willie Nelson (Bonus: Best Solo Country Performance); 9 Bon Frankie; 10 Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Program.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

Queanbeyan-Palerang **Heritage Festival**

The Australian Heritage Festival is on throughout NSW from 10 April to 14 May. As part of this fantastic celebration of Australia's natural, cultural, built and Indigenous heritage we will again run events in Queanbeyan-Palerang.

This years theme is Shared Stories which provides an opportunity for the community to access events and exhibitions, celebrate through ceremony and performances, share knowledge through talks, walks and tours, and have fun bringing heritage to life.

The full program will be available in March!

Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 5 March

Schools, community groups and organisations can participate to help clean up our region.

▶ Learn more and register your event at **cleanupaustraliaday.org.au**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	**Closing Date**
QPRC Financial Statements 2021-22	9 February
Local and Family History Collections Policy	22 February
New fee school hire of sportsfields	23 February
Review Asset Accounting Policy: Depreciation and Impairment	24 February
Draft Affordable Housing Strategy	28 February
Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan	15 March
Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy	16 March
Braidwood Structure Plan Discussion Paper	28 April

▶ 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

Community and Business grants - Grant Guru

Find business, event or community grants with Grant Guru. Advanced filtering helps you find grants that you may be eligible for from a range of providers. The website also has other valuable information and tips for grant applications.

▶ Learn more at **qprc.grantguru.com.au**

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:

- 8 February
- 22 February

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.

Work with **Council**

- Town Planner
- Building Surveyor
- GEO (transport maintenance)
- Leading Hand - Construction Grader
- Lifeguards and Learn to swim teachers

▶ For more information see **bit.ly/QPRC-jobs**

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

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

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

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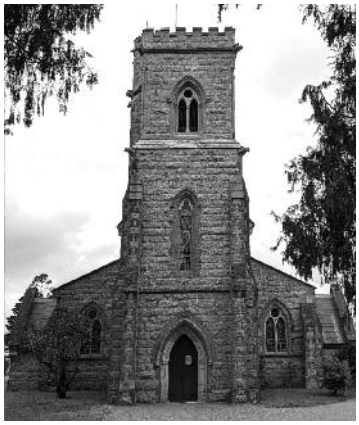
eepurl.com/codv-v

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Anglican Parish of Braidwood

The Story of your Bible

The early Bible was not available in English, but was only available in Latin, the language of the clergy, and those Bibles were chained to the podiums of the cathedrals.

Then John Wycliffe, a prominent professor of divinity at Oxford University, said, "This is not right. People should be able to read the Bible in their own language."

Church leaders branded him a heretic and an instrument of the devil.

Like Noah, who pounded the nails into the ark while people ridiculed and scorned him, John Wycliffe began translating the Scriptures as a flood of persecution emerged around him.

When he finally completed his translation of the Scriptures, he wrote this in the flyleaf of the first copy of the English Scriptures: "This Bible is translated and shall make possible a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.'

Five hundred years later, President Abraham Lincoln borrowed that statement for his famous Gettysburg Address.

Thirty years after Wycliffe died, he was again proclaimed a heretic. Consequently, his body was exhumed, his bones were burned to dust, and his ashes were cast into the river Swift.

From the river Swift they spread to the river Avon, then into the river Severn and then into to ocean … and thus, John Wycliffe's ashes are an emblem of his doctrine now dispersed all over the world.

Hence apostle Peter writes, "The word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.'

An extract from The Word for Today a Christian Vision publication.

Hear the Bible being read next Sunday 12th February at 10am, during a service of Morning Prayer in St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood.

All are welcome to attend… there'll be a cuppa to enjoy afterwards.

Braidwood Uniting Church

The Rhythm Method

Our youngest two grandchildren are coming to stay at our place for a couple of days.

For both of these treasures, sleep is a concept closely related to death. When life is so much fun, they don't understand why adults want to turn it off for some hours each night. While the kids dread sleep, the grandparents anticipate it with the joy that belongs to a birthday. They are yet to work out that in order to fully live the next day, sleep is needed at night. Actually, sleep and awake, are equally important for life.

How important for us to move to the rhythm of life. Awake asleep, daytime nighttime, summer winter, breath in breath out. Just as important, intimacy and longing. Intimacy cannot be maintained. It ought not be maintained. Intimacy comes and it goes. We could change partners daily or we could understand that intimacy comes and goes, and comes again.

Its an odd thing but when life comes for us in the morning, rarely

do we greet it with joy. We have fallen into a comfortable sleep and for some hours we have ordered the world to suit ourselves. Life comes in the morning often as a rude shock. Likewise, intimacy. You can't make love and do the shopping or clean the car - you might get thrown out of the IGA. But shopping and washing cars are important.

In a moment of intimacy, no-one is an expert. When intimacy leaves, everyone is an expert. My wife is no thing, and when I love her, what I know is no thing. When intimacy leaves, I'm so smart I can advise her on every matter.

It may not be the fashion but there is healthy and ancient wisdom the rhythm of regularly meeting as church. How easy, how certain, how necessary it is that we live in the world of the mundane. We solve problems non-stop. So much so that people around us tend to become problems to be solved rather than people to be met. The invitation to church usually comes as inconvenient. Its a bit like life coming for us after sleep. But life and love are always disrupting smaller plans. One day, consider showing up to one of our churches in Braidwood. The roof will not cave in and maybe you'll be captured by the Awesome.

Graham Long

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 5:17-37 GPBS 7/2/23

We Are Given What We Choose

For 2000 years we've been living in the final chapter of this amazing story. Before it ends, Jesus wants us to get positioned for what's next even as we live in the undeniable context of what's now.

For instance, we're tempted to feel pretty good if we don't kill or commit adultery. Not bad, eh Lord? The religious folk of Jesus'

time said the same thing because they led morally correct lives according to the law. Don't kid yourself, Jesus advises. Claiming righteousness now puts us in a bad position for the dawning kingdom. The truth is we're ALL sinners in need of forgiveness. "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick?" Jesus asks later in Matthew, "I'm after mercy, not religion" (9: 12 - 13).

In light of this, it's better to settle our differences than to maintain conflicts. Reconciliation is key: that's why it's a sacrament! It's a visible sign of the inward reality of the kingdom. But to claim it, we have to practice it. Only by living in forgiveness do we experience it.

— * — * — * —

Weekend Mass time: Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil)

Tuesday Mass: 10.00am

Ash Wednesday 22nd February at 10am.

Leading Queanbeyan lawyer and former Palerang mayor Ian Marjason died recently.

Mr Marjason, who founded the Marjason & Marjason law firm with his son Henry seven years ago, retired on June 30. He practised law for more than 35 years.

He had commitment to public service, sitting for more than 25 years as a councillor on the Yarrowlumla and Palerang councils from 1987 to 2012. He was twice elected mayor of Yarrowlumla Shire Council (1993-96 and 1999-2002) and mayor of Palerang Council (2008-2009).

Mr Marjson was president of the Bungendore Show Society for more than 10 years.

He stood unsuccessfully for the Liberal Party in the seat of Monaro at the 1999 NSW state election.

Ian Longfield Marjason
14/9/1951 - 10/1/2023

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Men win season Pennants opener

Braidwood Golf Club's Men's Pennants team had a great start to the season with a 5-1 win over Yowani at Goulburn.

Winners were Tom Duffy, Rodney Royds, Spiro Agnew, Allan Walcott and Brendan Booker. Special congratulations to Tomon a big win in his first pennants match.

Saturday February 4, 2023 Men's and Women's Monthly Medals

Men's results:

Winner: Barry McDonald 69 nett

Runner Up: Michael Fitzgerald 71 nett

Men's NTP 3/12: Rodney Royds

Ball Comp: Steve Glenday 73, Terry Hughes 73, Roger Hovey 74, Tom Duffy 74, Allan Walcott 74

Handicap Changes: Barry McDonald down 1 to 34, Rod Royds out 1 to 21

Women's results:

Winner: Deb Ferguson 69 nett

Runner Up: Robin Tennant Wood 77 nett

Putting: Deb Ferguson 29

Handicap Changes: Maree Uren out 1 to 27

Coming Events:

February 11 Saturday: Men's Single Stableford – Rodney Royds Trophy; Women's 2BBB Stableford – Helen Goddard Memorial Trophy

February 16 Thursday: Men's Pennants at Braidwood 9.30am

February 18 Saturday: Committee Meeting 10.30am Men's Single Stableford – Michael Tillman Ryan Trophy Women's Single Stableford – Isobel Mutton Trophy 1st Round

February 25 Saturday: Medley 2BBB Stableford – Ted Emmett Trophy

Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal

March 11 Saturday: Canberra Day Weekend (ACT) Medley Irish 3 Ball Stableford- Witts End Trophy

March 18 Saturday: Committee Meeting 10.30am Men's Single Stableford – Jim Lindwall Memorial Trophy Women's Single Stableford – Isobel Mutton Trophy Round 2

Are you thinking about taking up golf or maybe you're a regular golfer wanting to fine-tune your swing?

Luke Humphries (golf professional at Goulburn) is holding a second coaching clinic at the Braidwood Golf Club on Sunday, 12 February from 9am - 3pm. There are half- hour sessions available for $60 or a full hour for $100. Juniors can have a group lesson for $25 each. Please contact Debby Ferguson on braidwoodgolfclub@gmail.com if you'd like to book a lesson.

Touch footy back on

Words and photographs from Redbacks Facebook page

Touch football has started on Tuesday nights with over 100 hundred men, women and juniors participating.

It's great to see the Rec. Ground back in action.

A big thank you to Jason Robinson from QPRC outdoor staff who has done an immense job in getting it ready .

Redbacks rugby muster and registration day Thursday 16th Feb at the Rec. Ground for juniors and senior womens and mens. A bit of touch footy , barbecue and drinks.

Fitness started Monday night 6th Feb. This is open to all Braidwood people wanting to get rid of the last of the Xmas cheer.

The rugby club will be hosting a pre season 10 aside invitational knockout on Saturday 18th of March.

Many teams will be playing with all our juniors , womens and mens teams participating.

STAR TIMES

Didn'tmeantobegreen

"Most people I know think that I'm crazy", sang Lidia ... oh, no wait. That was **Billy** Thorpe.

Goingbrokeatgreatrate

Council to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), "Help! Our finances are going down the gurgler and we need to put the rates up." IPART: "You must consult with the community first". — Three months later, "Yep, done that." IPART: "What did they say?" Council: "They said we're a bunch of incompetent ninnies who wouldn't work in an iron lung". IPART: "Good-O, tick the box and you can bung the rates up."

Lawcanbevagueatthetop

So the man who was once the Attorney-General remembers, under questioning, that he thinks someone said that Robo-debt was legal but he can't now recall who it was. "I couldn't say if it was Department of Social Services or Human Services, and it happened quickly, and we moved on because it just wasn't the focus of what was going on." A shame about the focus really because life then became utterly miserable for thousands of people who are only now, 'just moving on'.

Neverinashopnearyou

How is that so many fifteen year-old boys, perhaps with autism, but it's not alway the case, have invented great boons to humanity? Whether it be gizmos to halve your electricity bill or a nifty device to rid the world of mosquitos, they all have something in common. The inventors and their discoveries are in dread fear of big business trying to shut them down. Of course they are bravely continuing to produce their miracles secretly online but only if you hurry. This week only $49.95 or $75.50 if you buy three.

sdgshw

"OpenAI, the creator of the popular chatbot ChatGPT, has released an 'imperfect' software tool to identify text generated by artificial intelligence as worries grow in academic and teaching circles that its tools could enable widespread cheating. It allows the start-up to sell to both sides of a burgeoning arms race that could extend beyond the classroom into people trying to spread, and detect, things such as online misinformation campaigns fuelled by AI-generated content," reports the tech section of the paper. Of course it might not have been written by a person at all. There are easily accessible free programs on line now that will write a 'best seller' for you. Just give it a list of characters and some plot devices and press 'GO'. Journalism is at the most risk. It's pretty shallow in places already and it's not hard to see...hardtosde...harsee ...the end.

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Contributions desperately welcome.