BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #76 — $2.00

Wednesday April 19, 2023

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	6°	21°	5%
Thur:	7°	17°	5%
Fri:	6°	19°	5%
Sat:	6°	19°	0%
Sun:	5°	20°	0%
Mon:	8°	19°	5%
Tue:	7°	20°	5%

ANZAC DAY 2023
TUESDAY APRIL 25

Photo: Kathy Toirkens

Don't take chances with the flu this winter

Robin Tennant Wood

With the onset of the cooler weather, the flu season is with us again.

In an article written for the Doherty Institute, Professor Ian Barr pointed out that while the 2020 and 2021 flu seasons were relatively mild, due to the fact that transmission of the flu virus was significantly lessened due to the Covid lockdowns and restrictions on movement, last year "influenza returned with a vengeance and will again circulate widely in 2023."

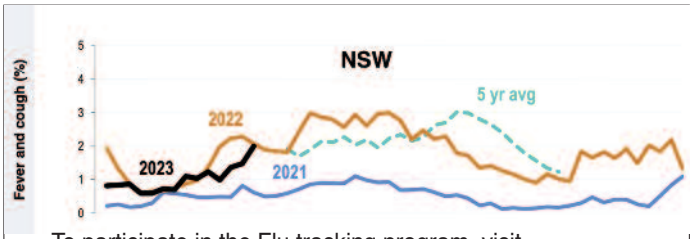
Capital Chemist Braidwood pharmacist, Kayla Ferguson, said that last year people had a lower immunity to flu due to the lockdowns over the previous two years, and it is expected that that may be the case again this year.

"The best protection is vaccination," Ms Ferguson said, and recommended that people be vaccinated before the full impact of winter. "Late April, early May is the best time," she said.

This year's vaccine comprises two international and two domestic strains of the flu virus for maximum coverage.

No appointment is needed for a flu vaccination at the pharmacy. Alternatively, vaccinations can be done at both the Medical Centre at the MPS and the Wallace Street Surgery.

FluTracking, a collaborative health project aimed at monitoring the spread of influenza outbreaks via crowd-sourced data, has already reported an increase in cases of respiratory illnesses similar to last year.



To participate in the Flu tracking program, visit — https://info.flutracking.net/

[Source of graphic: Flutracking, 16 April 2023]

The Bugle

The bugle sings its mournful song
And ne'er a word is said
It cries your names out over this land
You brave young fallen dead

It weaves a thread through every town
At dawn this April day
Your mates are all out on parade
And for your souls we pray
The bugler stands alone and tall

And right throughout this land
He brings you back to life again
As we reach out for your hand

We will ne'er again hear your footsteps fall
Nor hear your voice in song
Your deeds in battle across the seas
Have made Australia strong

Each ANZAC Day old soldiers march
We know you're by their side
And when we hear the bugle play
We know that its for us you died.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

The pursuit of happiness

The World Happiness Report for this year has named Finland as the world's happiest country for the sixth consecutive year.

But what is it that makes the Finns so happy? *The New York Times* last week attempted to find out.

By interviewing a range of people in Finland – from teenagers to the elderly, urban and rural dwellers, professionals, retirees, tradespeople, artists, students, immigrants and native-born, gay and straight – a picture emerged not so much of 'happiness', in the sense of laughing, smiling and carefree, but of satisfaction and gratitude.

The Finns, as a nation, don't pursue economic growth or personal fortune as being the endpoint of a life well-lived. They don't set high expectations and then feel cheated if those expectations are not met. Can we say the same?

If one's life fulfillment and well-being relies on others or on changing the community in which one lives to reflect one's own ambitions, then the result is going to be dissatisfaction for everyone. There will always be obstacles to progress. Rather than trying to move those obstacles to clear the path for the individual, surely a better strategy is to cooperate with others to move, albeit perhaps more slowly, along a collective path? A path that leads to well-being for everyone.

Here in Braidwood we have a unique town with a wonderfully diverse population. Yet the push for economic growth risks alienation and division. Arguments over development, expansion, zoning and tourism should more rightly be discussions about social structure. QPRC is currently workshopping its Braidwood Structure Plan which will form the foundation for future growth of the town – a rational and sensible approach – but where do we want to see Braidwood socially in ten, twenty, fifty years? Is this to be a town of boutique businesses all pursuing their own economic goals, or a cohesive community embracing progress via a shared path? Do we want this town to be another Bowral or Byron where economic progress ends up destroying community cohesion and pricing locals out of town?

The Finns have a term that perhaps best sums up their approach to life: *sisu*. While there doesn't seem to be a direct translation of the term, it refers to an inner calm, a resilience to external problems. They set realistic rather than aspirational targets and are grateful for living in a country where their well-being is supported by pragmatic policy.

In order to pursue 'happiness' as it is measured by well-being and life satisfaction, we should be adopting more inner calm and less frantic pursuit of external goals. More communal conversation and less lusting after a mythical holy grail of progress at all costs.

A seven axle B-double in Wallace Street.

Forest Harvesting in Little Bombay Area

Report to Council at its meeting 12 April

A forestry company has recently agreed with Water NSW to harvest burnt pine plantations in the Little Bombay region to the ACT and Riverina for use in the building, paper and pulp recycling industry.

They estimate that they will be harvesting and transporting about 30,000 tonnes of logs over the next 12 months. The haulage route is Tally Ho Road – Little Bombay Road – Bombay Road.

They are currently using six axle semi-trailers to haul the cut logs. They are permitted to use these vehicles without any approval from Council or any obligation to mitigate their impact on the road.

The net weight of each semi-trailer load is about 26 tonnes. lt will take about 1,154 loads using these trucks to transport 30,000 tonnes of logs. There is currently a shortage of trucks of this configuration available to the forestry firm.

They have requested that approval be given to be able to use nine axle B-Doubles to enable them to draw trucks from a larger pool and reduce the number of trucks needed to complete the job.

The allowable Gross Vehicle mass for the B-double axle groups is the same as the semi-trailer so impact on the road of each axle group should be about the same for both configurations.

The net weight of each B-double load would be about 42 tonnes. lt will take about 714 loads of B-doubles to transport 30,000 tonnes of logs. This represents a 38% reduction in truck traffic and will enable the job to be completed much faster.

They understand that they are sharing narrow roads with the public and are prepared to impose reasonable speed restrictions to allow for any road alignment issues. They can also restrict truck hours around school traffic times (same as Bombay Road).

This proposal requires approval from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) as the route is not currently an authorised B-Double route. The application to the NHVR requires the operational consent from Council to the proposed usage of the haul roads by the B double vehicle.

The benefit of reducing the number of heavy vehicles on the haulage route is significant and provides an overall benefit to the community and other road users. The following additional conditions have been added to the consent:

- That the applicant fund the grading of the unsealed section of the haulage route an additional three times throughout the logging operation period of 12 months. This is to be in addition to the routine maintenance undertaken by Council.
- That loaded haulage trucks be restricted to 80kph on the sealed sections of the haulage route and 40kph on the unsealed sections of the haulage route.
- That loaded haulage trucks not travel on the road at the same time as the school bus.
- The consent for B-doubles to be used for this haulage operation will be provided with the application from the proponent to the NHVR.

BCS NEWS John Longhurst

Sev de Campo addressing the BCS students.

Mental health presentation from Australian Olympian

Australian Olympian, Seve de Campo, visited Braidwood Central School last week to raise awareness levels of mental health amongst high school students.

Seve de Campo represented Australia at the 2022 Beijing Olympics in cross-country skiing and is now an ambassador for the Mental Fitness Program (MFP), jointly co ordinated by the Black Dog Institute and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

Following appropriate training, the program uses current and former elite athletes to deliver powerful talks to high school aged people about how to keep mentally fit through sharing evidence-based research and stories of resilience.

To date, athlete ambassadors have delivered presentations to more than 35,000 students across the country.

Seve de Campo said "I wanted to be a part of the Mental Fitness Program because I personally want to learn more about mental health and how I can be a better leader in life. The best way to learn, I feel, is to both share my own experiences with mental health and to listen to other people's experiences."

Seve de Campo highlighted the need for mental health awareness when competing at the highest level as well as in everyday life. He discussed the key elements of gratitude, mindfulness, meaning and purpose. A key to his success at the Olympic level has been adhering to a mental health plan.

Year 7 student, Xavier Walker was impressed by the Olympian's visit to the school.

Xavier said "I found the presentation very interesting. Seve talked about his mental health routine. For example, he reflects on three things he is grateful for before sleep each night."

Ms Ashley Dexter, Student Support Officer at BCS organised the visit.

Ms Dexter said "The use of high profile athletes in the program ensured the students were engaged. It was great for Seve to share his strategies for managing his own mental health with the students."

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely said "Our comprehensive Student Wellbeing Program at BCS is very much aimed at promoting mental health amongst our students. BCS is thankful to both the AIS and the Black Dog Institute for delivering a presentation that complements our efforts. Seve's presentation was well received by the students and has set a foundation for further discussion in our scheduled student wellbeing sessions."

The National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing (2020-2021) conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics highlights the need for pro active strategies for young people.

SCAN CODE FOR LINKS TO THE ABS REPORT

FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK


Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

Subcontractors and staff have opened up access and parking on Lascelles Street, Braidwood.

We'll be continuing the work on footpaths and kerb and guttering over the next few weeks, but will be pausing some of the works on the road pavement near the IGA during this busy school holiday period. The bulk of the kerb and gutter is now complete and additional gravel has been placed to level the road surface. The footpath on the southern side of the street, and the remaining two driveways, have been poured recently too. Once we can resolve issues with some stormwater pits we will resume work on the road pavement.

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Council recently awarded the contract for work on the remaining Araluen Road land slips. Sections of Araluen Road between Braidwood and Araluen and Araluen and Moruya were some of the worst affected roads from flood events over the last couple of years. We engaged NSW Public Works and consultants to determine options and develop concept designs for repairs to 10 land slips on Araluen Road. These flood repair works are funded through the Australian and NSW Government's Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangements program.

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Council also awarded the contract for upgrades to the Braidwood Pool changerooms, control room and kiosk. The work will be done by Rice Constructions Group and is expected to start very soon. The Braidwood Pool has been servicing the community since 1966 and we're excited to finally be able to give this facility the upgrades it deserves. With funding from Round 3 of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) and remaining funds from Phase 4 of the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, we will be able to complete these overdue and much anticipated upgrades.

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The lighting and electrical upgrade at the Braidwood Showground is making good progress again after a series of delays. The contractors have been able to get most of the electric components installed. The light poles were assembled and lifted onto their concrete bases recently too. Despite some recent wet weather, contractors have been back on site working on the electrical 'fit off' of all the boards, poles and turrets before they power the site. This project is being funded through a Crown Lands Improvement fund and we hope the work will be complete by the end of April.

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IPART have let us know that our application for a Special Rate Variation is now open for consultation on their website. You can read our application and supporting documents at bit.ly/IPART-QPRC. Once you have had a look at the documents you can also make a submission to IPART until 5 May at bit.ly/IPART-yoursay. Make sure you select the correct council from the drop-down box on this page as IPART are collecting submissions for six councils in the same period.

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We will be holding a community meeting in Braidwood on Thursday 11 May at the Braidwood Servicemans Club. Join us from 6pm to 7:30pm where we will be having a brief presentation to talk about major projects followed by a breakout session for further discussion with staff and councillors. Make sure to register your attendance. [use QR code]

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There is a range of Anzac Day events being held around the LGA on 25 April. In Braidwood, the dawn service will gather from 6am and the main service will gather from 10:30am. Road closures will be in place from 6am to 7am and 10:30am to 11:30am on Wallace Street from Wilson Street to Lascelles Street, and Wilson Street from Park Lane to Wallace Street. In Araluen, the service will assemble at the War Memorial from 9am. In Majors Creek, the service will gather in the St Stephens Church grounds from 8am. For more information on other Anzac Day events in the LGA – [use QR code]

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Registrations for the QPRC Bendigo Bank Art Awards are closing at the end of the month. Thanks to our sponsors at Bendigo Bank, there is $16,000 in prize money available this year. This year's awards also include a First Nation's Indigenous Art Award that comes with $2,000 in prize money. Online registrations close 30 April and entry is open to artists who are 18 years old and over and live in the LGA. To learn more [use QR code].

SCAN CODE FOR LINKS IN THE MAYOR'S REPORT

www.bwdmag.com.au/changing_times_url_list.pdf

No Name Lane outdoor exhibition opening

THE OUTSIDER

The opening event for Frank Linder's THE OUTSIDER will be held from 5-7pm on Thursday 20 April in No Name Lane, Queanbeyan.

The No Name Lane outdoor gallery showcases incredible local artists in the recently renovated laneway in the heart of the Queanbeyan CBD. This is the second exhibition since the laneways opening in 2022.

Frank Lindner is a Braidwood photographer who won the QPRC Acquisitive Art Award in 2022. His emotive portraiture uses surroundings and props to take viewers on a visual journey.

In his artist statement Frank shared:

'laneways are usually a thoroughfare, a route between two places. No Name Lane encourages unconstrained affective states so pedestrians in Queanbeyan might be open to stopping, engaging and making what they will of this series of images.'

When: 5-7pm on Thursday 20 April

Where: No Name Lane Outdoor Photography Gallery - 63 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan

The Community Garden is there for all the Braidwood community

Erika Mordek

Whenever I post online about what's happening in The Big Garden as I fondly call it, I never really think that many people would be interested.

I have not seen any evidence of fruit or vegies being picked after a post. Usually I happen to see someone walking by, and I say: Celery! You like celery? Please take some (because there is so much of it and I don't eat it).

Or I am happy for passerbys to pick the few berries that hang over the fence because it is them or the birds. I offer rhubarb to all and sundry.

I grow food as an experiment, to see what works. I grow broad beans and Jerusalem artichoke, but rarely do I eat them; I grow them for their striking flowers. But I am equally very happy to share in their fruit. The Big Garden is a place where one can plant vegetables we may not have room for in our own gardens or just to sit and read under an apple tree.

We have a small but merry band of volunteers who come here on an ad hoc basis to weed, dig, plant and water. We don't often see each other, but we leave notes. Sunita is new to town and is a great weeder. Her bed may contain silverbeet but maybe also chickpeas. Michelle comes to weed a couple of times a week and puts me to shame in how tidy her patch is. Maggie does the tip run. I could go on ...

There are smaller beds made from bathtubs and wheelbarrows for younger children: I have yet to see any take up my offer of using them. But that is not to say that it won't happen. I still have seeds for the Spring time of Cosmos and marigold.

> Let's face it, gardening is work; there's digging and cleaning and taking weeds away. Mulching and looking after seedlings. There's the mowing.

The garden is not locked and if dogs poo in it, there's always a bin in which it will be composted. We buy horse poo from the Colonial Motel, and sheep poo from further down the road if we see the bags. The Rural is a good supply of mulch and potting mix. Seeds and plants come from Claire's, Deadwood, Hospital fete, Nirvalley Nursery, from Braidwood gardens.

As it turns out, people do read my posts and are with us in spirit.

Community response to the theft at the Big Garden on Bombay road has been phenomenal. People everywhere pull me up in the street to share their indignation and to offer their support, moral, financial and physical.

There have been offers of replacement trees and the Kemps have kindly offered to pay for the guavas. People are disgusted that anyone would steal from a volunteer organisation.

With the price of food skyrocketing, I think it would be a good idea if more of us pitched in to grow our own food, in large quantities. This would be to supplement your purchases from current fresh food stall holders at the Saturday Farmers market or the supermarket.

The ethos of the Garden is to grow food for yourself and for others. So if a few apples or strawberries disappear one musn't mind too much. The food is offered and shared. Take what you need for a meal, for yourself or your family, but not so much that there is nothing left for others.

As a community we can't let ourselves be discouraged by the few. I think the thieves came because the Garden looked tended and cared for.

In the summer I went to the Garden in every spare moment I had. I know that with the winter, I won't want to be in the cold and the wind, and the soil will be like concrete, therefore too hard to dig holes for new plantings. But there are planting plans afoot (and a garden plan in the shed).

Most of the plots are currently full, but as we are swapping some around you too could have your little corner. I would love it if people threw their ideas at me, threw their hands in to pull out weeds, and got right down and dirty planting seedlings. If you don't know the difference between a plant and a weed then don't pull anything out — walk around, enjoy the space, or sit in a chair for a minute. You can do as much or as little as you want.

The Historical Society recently placed a lovely wagon in the paddock. It might inspire us to bolder and better things. And let me not forget the council workers who do a great job tending to the trees on the path, taking their cuttings away and a fabulous job mowing, all the way to the Judith Wright Garden near the golf course. More mowing more often!

The first Sunday of the month is generally the time when the volunteers try to assemble, between 10am and noon, so I recommend coming on that day. I am usually there Wednesdays 10am to noon (weather permitting) and most Sundays. I also come in the afternoons; I like to come and go as I please. Text 0432 687 255 and I can show you around.

There is organisation in our free style.

Bath and boots wait for flowers

Dill, new peas, calendula and box choi

Weeding needed please

Collected radish seeeds [stolen]

Local girl Evie was swarmed and stung by wasps at the Recreation Grounds in 2019. Fast reactions from bystanders and a helicopter trip to hospital saved her.

European wasp season is a dangerous time

Robin Tennant-Wood

"It started slow, then just exploded," is how Xterminator's Michael Squires describes this year's European wasp season.

Squires, whose company deals mainly with control and eradication of feral animals, was motivated to extend his business into wasp control four years ago, when local girl, Evie Clark, then seven years old, was attacked and stung more than 200 times by European wasps on the Braidwood Rec Ground. The European Wasp Control arm of Xterminator was born.

For two years Squires' company has held the contract with QPRC to do wasp eradication across the entire council region, as well as servicing the wider region from Batemans Bay to Queanbeyan. This work entails setting traps as well as identifying and destroying nests. Within the last couple of weeks he destroyed a nest on council land at the southern end of Wallace Street near the rocks, which, he estimates, contained at least 5000 wasps and possibly as many as 10,000.

The traps used by the company contain an attractant that, Squires said, only attracts the European wasps and not bees. The chemical doesn't become a poison until it interacts with the digestive system of the wasp, which then takes it back to the nest and deposits it. The poison then spreads through the nest.

The chemicals are manufactured and provided by a Victorian company. "Victoria has had European wasp control in place for years," Squires told the *Changing Times*. "New South Wales has been lagging on this. The previous government didn't acknowledge European wasps as a problem but I'm hoping we can get more interest from the new government."

Ideally, says Squires, European wasp control should be a partnership between extermination companies, state and local governments, and communities.

The impact of wasp infestations is not just the danger to the human population. They pose serious dangers to agriculture and the environment as well. A study conducted by researchers at Sydney University found that European wasps were attacking and driving off native scavengers that feed on carrion.

They found evidence of native golden-haired blowflies having been decapitated by wasps. These native blowflies and other insect scavengers form part of the natural food cycle and ecosystem, but European wasp infestations are affecting the rate at which carrion decomposed and also driving off other scavengers such as dingoes and feral scavengers such as foxes.

"Vehicles are very effective vectors of European wasps – they can be transported hundreds of kilometres while they're feeding off insects squashed on the front of cars," he said. "I advise people to spray the front of their cars often. Heavy earthmoving equipment likewise."

Squires said that apart from nests, at this time of year the new queens are out looking for places to hibernate over winter. In spring they'll fatten up, mate and then establish new colonies. "Now is the time to be eradicating those new queens."

Part of the reason the wasps pose such a danger to humans and domestic animals is that they release pheromones when they perceive that they're under threat.

"For example, if you flick at a wasp on your sleeve, it will feel threatened, release a pheromone which will bring in more wasps to attack. There are always wasps flying around like a combat patrol near nests, and once they get the signal that there's danger, they will attack, releasing more pheromones to bring in more wasps, and so on."

For some reason, Squires said that they love ivy. "I always tell people to get rid of ivy around their houses," he said. "We don't know why this is the case, but we've certainly seen it."

What to do if you see a European wasp nest?

Squires said the first thing is to take a photo and send it to him. "That way we can identify it and eliminate native mud wasps." Once identified positively as a European wasp nest, European Wasp Control experts will destroy the nest and put down toxic powder to kill wasps that return to the site and set up a trap. "Removing the nest is only part of the story, because most of the wasps may be out foraging for food. We have to wait around and make sure we get the returning ones.

"European wasps are opportunists," said Squires. "They will typically build a nest anywhere there is a food source and building materials – which is pretty much anywhere!"

Initially, look for a hole in the ground where there are a lot of insects flying around. However, in very wet weather, the wasps can move their nests to higher ground, trees, the eaves of buildings or even cracks in mortar in brick buildings.

MAJORS CREEK CWA NEWS

Did someone say knitted jumpers!

Margaret Tuckwell

Deidre McDonald has been knitting for at least 45 years.

Not only has she knitted 100 CWA koala bears for the Majors Creek CWA Show Bags, but also a large variety of jumpers for children.

These will be on sale at the Majors Creek CWA stall 'Best of Braidwood and Region Makers Markets' on 22nd April at the National Theatre.

In addition, there will be blankets, shawls, scarves, and beanies for the cold months ahead.

Also preserves, cakes, slices and raffle

"Support and Buy Local."

Show Bags

Each year Majors Creek CWA raises funds which go back into the 2622 community.

This year we are selling a good old-fashioned show bag; great samples, with cooking, gardening, home wares, pampering, reading. Women in business and in turn local businesses have supported us.

Where do I get one?

At the Best of Braidwood Region Markets National Theatre

Saturday 22nd April

from 9.30 to 2pm

Bag and contents $35

(total retail value $60)

We hope you will enjoy your bag
A perfect gift for Mothers Day

Enquiries or early orders:
majorscreekcwa@gmail.com

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

Improving early childhood education and care

IPART media release

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is reviewing the NSW early childhood education and care sector to look at improvements that could be made through NSW state government initiatives and investment.

"We want to help ensure improved affordability, accessibility and consumer choice as a result of NSW state government investment."

"Access to early childhood education and care is currently unaffordable for a large number of NSW families, and we'll be looking at ways to turn this around," said IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly.

"We'll be estimating 'benchmark' prices that can be used to measure and compare fees in NSW."

High quality early childhood education and care is a critical issue for NSW families closely linked to better long-term educational outcomes for children and increased workforce participation for women.

We have today released an Issues paper seeking feedback on families' experiences of access and affordability in the sector currently used by more than 300,000 families in NSW.

"IPART would like to hear from the community, including families, as well as providers and workers in the early childhood education and care sector, about their experience and concerns."

"This input will help us formulate a broad set of recommendations to the NSW Government to ensure better outcomes for families and children," said Ms Donnelly.

There will be further opportunities to provide feedback throughout the review. We will hold online public hearings on 15 and 16 May 2023 and publish an Interim Report in August 2023.

IPART's review is focused on the NSW experience - there are also 2 national inquiries under way into early childhood education and care by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Productivity Commission.

We will make final recommendations in December this year. For more information, to take our survey, make a submission or register for the public hearings, visit our website at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

You can respond to the Issues Paper until 22 May 2023.

Innovation and collaboration for Monaro and Gippsland

Media release from Kristy McBain, Member for Monaro

Last week I had the great pleasure of touring Greater Gippsland to meet with local councils, peak associations, business and community groups.

Having grown up in Traralgon, I know this beautiful part of the country well, but a great deal has changed since I left, and a great deal will continue to change – with new challenges and opportunities across industry emerging.

This is a region that experienced extreme bushfires on the back of years of severe drought, endured disastrous floods after record rainfall, and faced COVID-19 – all of which the community are still rebounding from.

The end of white paper manufacturing at Maryvale, the planned closures of the Yallourn and Loy Yang power stations over the next decade, the hurdles currently faced by the local timber industry, as well as the significant opportunities of the Greater Gippsland Offshore Wind Project means there is significant transformation taking place across the region.

At the heart of this is the need for proactive planning, collaboration and recognition that communities are their own biggest asset. This was evident in my site visits to local businesses harnessing the assets and productive nature of the region – from Fenning Timbers Bairnsdale, the Metung Hot Springs, and the Tambo Valley Honey shop.

Kristy with Harriet Shing

I had productive discussions with local councils across Gippsland about their priority projects, and the benefits of their One Gippsland forum – which is forging a whole-of-region approach to a range of issues.

In addition to this, I met with a number of regional development leaders, including the Regional Development Australia Gippsland Committee and the Committee for Gippsland, which launched the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan during my visit.

I met with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and was impressed with their commitment to build strong partnerships across the region to deliver opportunities and economic independence for their community.

I also met with the Victorian Minister for Local Government, Melissa Horne, and the Victorian Minister for Regional Development, Harriet Shing, to discuss how we collectively position regional communities as great places to live and areas with diverse opportunities.

The resounding theme from these meetings was the need to diversify regional jobs, to improve regional connectivity, to increase access to social and affordable housing, to capitalise on the transition to renewable energy sources, and to deliver stronger community infrastructure and better road and rail networks.

Our Government is already delivering on much of this:

- Our $15 billion National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) will mean more things are made in our regions and more jobs will be available.
- Our $1.9 billion Powering the Regions Fund (PRF) will support industry to reduce their emissions.
- Our $750 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program is funding priority local road and community infrastructure projects.
- We are investing $2.2 billion towards regional communications, including upgrades to NBN's Fixed Wireless and Fibre networks, and our Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia.
- Our Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee, a Labor election commitment delivered early, has supported over 4,700 Australians.
- We are wiping the HELP debt for eligible doctors and nurse practitioners that work in rural and regional communities.
- We are delivering 180,000 fee-free TAFE places across the country – especially in our regions.
- And we are reducing costs for people in our regions through our cheaper childcare, cheaper medicine, and energy price relief plan.

The key to reshaping how we develop our regions, like Greater Gippsland, starts with listening to the voices of community, business, and local organisations – which is why this visit was so important.

Hearing first-hand about local challenges and place-based solutions helps inform what investment and support is needed to improve the liveability and enhance the productivity of our regions – ensuring they reach their full potential.

This is our practical and collaborative approach in full swing, and part of our commitment to forging functioning relationships across all levels of government and industry.

I look forward to engaging with many of these leaders at the upcoming Australian Council of Local Government in June, and to progressing many of these ideas with my Ministerial colleagues.

THE LAW Angela Backhouse

Intrusive Tenancy applications

Tenancy applications are no picnic.

Providing information such as bank statements, payslips and employment details can be a gruelling process. Particularly, for those submitting numerous applications, attempting to secure a lease in Australia's rental crisis.

However, a growing number of prospective tenants have reported that the requested details by landlords and agents on applications are onerous and intrusive. Various reports from tenants state that they were required or asked to provide a police background check which, depending on the state, can cost anywhere upwards from $50. Similar reports have emerged of applications asking for the details of previous employers and reason for ending employment, the names of tenant's pets and veterinarian details, social media details, and even whether they own a lawnmower to upkeep garden maintenance.

Currently, prospective tenants are not required to provide any information unwillingly in order to obtain a lease agreement, however the common practice of agencies is that they will not accept applications without the information they request. Further, most tenancy applications are completed online, and will not allow prospective tenants to submit applications, unless this information is provided. In the midst of the nation's growing rental crisis, this has left prospective tenants feeling compelled to provide information, despite it being invasive and possibly unwilling to do so.

Member of the NSW Parliament member; Victor Dominello, has said in NSW, there are essentially 'no rules' on what information is requested of renters and how this information is stored and used. The NSW government crackdown on cyber security has introduced reforms earlier this year, which provide renters with some further rights and protection of their personal information including replacing the requirement for copies of passports with copies of birth certificates on rental applications. Australia's privacy law reforms have also given renters further rights to protection of their personal information, as smaller and larger agencies must now comply with their obligations under the legislation.

Alarmingly, there are still minimal regulations or laws in NSW and most other States and Territories in Australia, which govern the rights of tenants and regulate what information can be requested. In NSW, the rights of prospective tenants are limited at being requested information which is 'reasonable'.

A question which has recently become common to see on a tenancy application, is whether the prospective tenant has ever taken legal action against a landlord or attended a tribunal. This has been coined as a new method for landlords to hive out prospective tenants and many renters have reported that this was the reason for their application rejection. This sparked Victoria to introduce one of the only exceptions in 2022, reforming the Equal Opportunity Act and prohibits this question on applications, in addition to prohibiting requesting details of ethnicity, disability, gender identity and financial statements showing transactions. However, we are yet to see similar legislative changes in NSW.

Ultimately, prospective tenants reserve the right to refuse divulging any personal information they wish on applications. Some rights relating to the request of particular information may be protected in states such as Victoria, however it seems the current practice is 'Don't tell, don't get.'

OBITUARY

Anthony 'Tony' Shepherd16/2/30 – 8/4/23

Eccentric English gentleman

From the St Andrews service read by Simon and David Shepherd

This is not so much a eulogy but more a look back at my father's adventures, and there were many.

Born in 1930 in Oxford, Dad presented as an English gentleman but in reality came from a much more modest background.

He was the only child of Dorothy, a bookkeeper and Rodney, a scientist — it was a strict Methodist upbringing. As a child, he suffered from a terrible ear infection but that proved to be a ticket to a great education.

He won a disability scholarship to a prestigious school, Magdalen College, where he studied hard and earned entry to Oxford University.

But before he could go, the army called. In the Royal Engineers, he learned surveying, and how to drive, on an army truck. It sparked his lifetime love of English cars, especially MGs from Morris Garages from Cowley, near Oxford.

Back to study at Oxford, he was a resident at St Edmunds Hall and earned a Masters in Geography.

Then the world beckoned.

Tony's first teaching job was as a geography lecturer in South Africa at a college in Fort Hare. At the time it was the only college that accepted black students. It was where Nelson Mandela studied, and it was under surveillance by South African police because of the anti-apartheid movement.

His next job took him to Mekerere University in Uganda. He joined a wildlife club and while looking for giant moths in a swamp, met a young Welsh lady called Gwyneth. He offered driving lessons, they did amateur dramatics together, and later married.

They left the wedding in his red MG, of course, but were stopped by police looking for bank robbers. Married life in Uganda also saw the arrival of their first child, Bronwen.

The adventures continued with a move to Hong Kong, where they dealt with a typhoon and the arrival of a second child, David.

Then another move; to Perth, W.A., and another child, Simon ... and more adventures.

Dad flew in seaplanes, hanging out the door to photograph remote islands in the hunt for the shipwreck of a Dutch trading ship from the 1600s.

Tony also went on a university sabbatical, a study trip, where he visited the Canadian Amish to learn how to live off the grid. Maybe that was a precursor to life in Braidwood. But first came a move to Sydney, where he continued lecturing, at the University of New South Wales.

A presentation style he also used for family holiday photo sessions showing slide, after slide after slide. Anyone in Braidwood who had listened to one of his stories will know that style all too well.

His love of MG cars continued, owning not one but two, including a black and white open tourer which he nicknamed the Magpie.

Dad and Mum also become serious about saving the planet. In suburban Sydney in the 1980s they decided to shock horror — compost everything. Every screw and nail found on the side of the road was saved for later and the family were lucky enough to have one of the first solar hot water heaters in the 80s — not so hot, more tepid.

And so having almost successfully raised three children, it was time for a new career and a new adventure — in Braidwood. Tony moved to Braidwood in the mid 1990s but he had been planning to be a part of this community for a long time.

After retiring in 1988 he and wife Gwyneth bought a block of land here where they proceeded to build a rammed earth house and barn under the guidance of Hugh Krijnen and helped by friends and family.

Before the move Tony was a volunteer at the National Maritime Museum and a disability bus line driver in Sydney — a community spirit that he brought to the southern tablelands.

He and Gwyneth rented a house in Elrington St but shortly after he contracted Guillain-Barre Syndrome which paralysed him from the neck down for approximately 6 months.

Amazingly he overcame this and finally moved via Royds Lane to the house he built in 2005. Unfortunately, Gwyneth was diagnosed with dementia and passed away in 2012 after a long battle.

The community was very important to Tony. He was a member of several clubs including The Historical Society, Folk Club, various car clubs, The Men's Shed, The RSL, The Grumpy Old Men's lunch group, The Ol' Codgers coffee club, the County Class Trust in the UK which is rebuilding a steam locomotive partly with Dad's money, and St Andrew's Church where he mowed the lawns.

Tony was ahead of the rest of us. Conserving this planet was so important to him, that he never let anything go to waste, not even the wastewater. He had 5 rainwater tanks and too many buckets to count.

And not long ago he said "I beat them all. I predicted climate change 40 years ago!"

Much loved father and father-in-law of Bronwen and Rob, David, Simon and Bex, grandfather of Benjamin, Stephanie, Oliver, Harriett, Julius and Alfie.

Tony was an intelligent, generous, caring man and we will miss him so much.

[above] Gilbert and Sullivan at BRAG, everyone gets a part. [below] a letter of support to the now publisher of BCT.

29.01.10. P.O. Box 176 Braidwood 2622

Dear Paul,

Decision to stand for State Seat of Monaro

I just thought you might like a bit of hidden moral support for your decision to stand.

I myself had 26 years' membership of the Australian Democrats, a party which had a modicum of long-term vision about global responsibility. It is a pity they self-destructed, as it removed a useful holistic check on political excess.

Your list of primary concerns reads a bit like the synopsis of a course I once taught at the University of NSW, called 'Ecosystems and Man' (I was not responsible for the sexist title.) This was thirty years ago!

I am now much too ancient and broken in health to be able to indulge in much active campaigning - apart from writing the odd letter to the paper and trying to push such ideas as Transition Towns, Community Gardens, etc. Anyhow, I am right with you in spirit.

I enclose two documents you may not have seen:-

1. The article on sustainable food production for city dwellers by Julianne Schultz.

2. A page from the last issue of "Oxford Today", about their new degree in sustainable cities. I have written for details of this. Oxford is my own Alma Mater: it has a reputation for thinking outside the square and does everything except 'dream', as some people seem to think...

Curious ,is it not, that people like us, who having been raving on the sidelines about these important issues for so many years, now find ourselves almost mainstream.

Best wishes,

Tony Shepherd.

A. Shepherd.

News trivia

How well have you been paying attention?

1. Which contemporary epic voyage has been made into a 'biopic' by Netflix?
2. According to a recent report, what is Australia's current HECS debt?
3. The son of which Indian cricket great has made his own debut in the Indian Premier League cricket competition?
4. Corruption in local government has surfaced again. Which Sydney council is being investigated by ICAC for links between councillors and developers?
5. After Victorian Premier Dan Andrews visited China a couple of weeks ago, which premier is visiting China this week?
6. What country has begun shutting down its last nuclear power plants this week?
7. What is former premier, Gladys Berejiklin's, new job?
8. Senator Lydia Thorpe is in the news again. From what has she been banned after a 3.00am fracas over the weekend?
9. Melbourne has just overtaken Sydney as Australia's biggest city for the second time. When was the first?
10. The shadow Attorney-General has stepped down from his front position in order to support the Voice referendum. Who is he?

Answers: 1. Jessica Watson's solo yacht journey around the world; 2. $74 billion; 3. Sachin Tendulkar; 4. Hills Shire Council; 5. WA Premier Mark McGowan; 6. Germany; 7. Managing Director of Optus Business and Enterprise; 8. A Melbourne strip club; 9. During the Victorian gold rush; 10. Julian Leeser

'TRANSITION TO RETIREMENT' SALE

Starts: Thursday 27 April until the end of May

*Not included are
second hand and estate pieces.
Pink diamond stock set and loose stones by negotiation.

30% off all stock

Includes Kailis, Hearts on Fire, Autore all diamond rings and loose stones.

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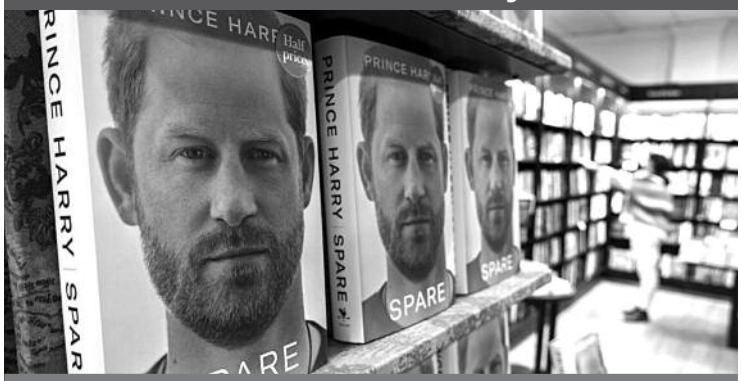

The Heir, The Spare, and The Ginger Hair

I have a confession to make. I haven't read Prince Harry's book.

I've been on the waiting list at the Braidwood library for, surely, three months, but I haven't moved up enough. Last time I checked, they had sixteen copies, with more on order, and fans were restricted to a fortnight's loan.

It's the most popular book they've ever had.

I find this rather concerning, but then, it's not my business to criticise what my readers choose to read.

Why is *Spare* (Random House Publishing Group 2023) on my list at all? It's the book of the moment, it's of general interest, and, because Australia is a constitutional monarchy, it's of particular interest. After all, Prince Harry is the king's son.

I'll pause there, as I can hear the faint creaking and grinding of hackles rising. I'm known to be a monarchist. In my opinion, the Westminster system is the most stable form of government. The power of the Crown is delegated to the Australian government. (Yes, I was in Canberra in November 1975 and I'm still one of Gough's Girls.)

A nice lot of distance there. No one person can grab, or buy, all the power.

The monarch becomes so by inheritance. No one person can grab, or buy that, either. It isn't earned, it is no longer gained by right of conquest.

A nice lot of distance there, too. We're effectively governed by a committee.

So why should we care about Harry? He's fifth in the line of succession. After King Charles III comes William, Prince of Wales, followed by his three children, George, Charlotte and Louis. Then Harry.

It used to be a rule that family groups didn't travel together, especially by plane, just in case … but now they do. And Charles is already elderly, at 73.

It just could become our business!

How about the obscene amounts of money these people are 'given,' all gouged from the taxpayer for them to swan around in fancy clothes, never doing an honest day's work in their lives, while we can't pay our gas bills? I hear that a lot.

Only the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother ever received direct funding from the Civil List. The Prince of Wales and his immediate family, which includes Prince Harry, received their income from the Duchy of Cornwall. Now Prince William inherits this vast business empire and its obligations. Hundreds depend on proper administration for their livelihood.

The monarchy — 'the Firm' — generates huge revenue for Britain, far more than what it costs that society for its maintenance. The cost to each taxpayer is roughly 1p a day.

None of this supports Harry now, since he not working for the Firm and must find his own income.

For that he has Meghan's support; she's a real hustler. She's been heard to boast that she and Harry will conquer the world. She is thinking of running for President of the United States! Does any of that remind you of Lady Macbeth?? Her husband had red hair, too, as you'll know if you read my last article.

Spare's Spanish edition — it's in fifteen languages — is *En La Sombra*: in the shadows. Harry doesn't like it there and neither does Meghan. And neither did Princess Diana. For some people there is never enough limelight. Harry comes across as an over-indulged, 'entitled' child who never grew up. Meghan is his new Mummy. I don't think his old one ever grew up, either. She was like a perpetual adolescent in sexy adult clothing, making a big deal out of her motherhood, but not preparing one son at least for the harsh realities of the life that awaited him. It was a sad fate she suffered (and I did leave flowers at the gates of Althorp!) but if she'd been home for her own boys instead of off with a playboy whose father was an arms dealer, it wouldn't have happened. No — she might've ended up like Princess Margaret, another one who didn't like life in the shadows.

Those who are born to great privilege must pay for it; they have great responsibilities. Try for one without the other and it all goes wrong.

Being a Royal on a daily basis is hard work. It's boring work as well. If you are a guest of honour at something, you have to work the room. You have to give everybody what is their due. Maybe it's just your job, but it's a peak moment in their lives, and you have to honour that.

That masterly summation comes from *Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown,* Lady Glenconner, 2020. It's one of the books I read while I was waiting for *Spare*.

I did sneak a lot of minireads in bookshops and libraries. The story opens in April as the couple pack up to leave Frogmore, because they fear for their lives and their sanity. Well, it's quite heart-rending but I didn't believe it. Another interim read was Lady Colin Campbell's *Meghan and Harry*, 2020. She, a well connected gossip columnist briefly married to the much married Duke of Argyll (not the current one) avers Meghan's biracial status is very much a plus, as it helps to modernise the monarchy. For a long time now, they've encouraged marriages that introduce useful assets to the family. They may have misjudged this time.

Spare looks like an easy read, thick paper, large font, short paragraphs:

Granny was gone.

Pa was king.

It sounds enough like Harry but is of course by ghostwriter JR Moehringer, novelist and Pulitzer Prize winner, who supplies the literacy my teacher's eye does not detect in Prince Harry.

By his own admission, he is 'not really big on books,' and said 'who the fook is Faulkner' when presented with *Spare's* epigraph *The past is never dead. It's not even past.*

Anyway, we have this laddish rapscallion who still believes his deceased mother is in touch with him and who certainly sees bogeys at every turn… even making fun of his hair. That hair, to my mind, is a mark of the true royal line. Red — ginger — strawberry blonde — the Gaelic bán — that's partly the origin of 'Bonnie' in the name of the Young Pretender. Our ancestors weren't specific about colour names. They didn't need to be.

That hair goes back at least to Edward IV. And, maybe, Macbeth! The Hanovers brought in the darker hair. All the Spencers have red-blond hair, and some speculative lineages show that family as the rightful heirs. In that way, Diana was the perfect match.

Harry should cherish his hair, among other things.

I've read books about surviving in polar conditions. Anyone remember Paddy Pallin? Dick Graves? Dick's wife was our Sea Ranger Skipper; we had a six-oar boat we took out on Middle Harbour. All the advice was there, like not letting your appendages get frostbite — and since it was, then, mainly men who did this sort of thing, that meant, all your appendages.

Get more into books, Harry!

An on-line session with students and Julian Davies [top centre].

Local kids connect with learning to think critically

Paul Cockram

On afternoons after school, students from across the Southern Tablelands, gather online to take part in ThinkTank, a club that engages them in developing their critical thinking and communication skills.

ThinkTank is an initiative of the Consensus Education Foundation, a charity founded by Julian Davies, a long-term volunteer in school education in our community. The charity is dedicated to bringing together young people from across the region so they can meet other inquisitive kids and learn to work together to effectively evaluate information from the world around them.

The classes involve students interacting as they are guided though approaching the discussion of complex societal issues with empathy and reasonableness. They watch short videos and examine diagrams that help them learn to assess evidence. They also take part in a weekly quiz that helps build their general knowledge while having fun in relaxed competition.

Davies commented, 'My colleague James Smith and I teach the Southern Tablelands classes, and we're thrilled to see students from different schools interacting and learning from each other.

> Able students can often feel quite isolated in their classrooms, and we believe having this way to meet peers who share a real eagerness to learn is valuable for their welfare as well as for their education.'

Last year, our local Community Bank was the founding sponsor of ThinkTank and is again supporting the program throughout this year. This generous funding makes it possible to extend the opportunity to more students—currently two junior and one senior class a week.

BRAIDWOOD CONCERT SERIES

2023 Autumn Program

Wow! What a note to finish on!

Braidwood Concert Series' final concert for the 2023 Autumn Program by Australian Baroque Brass was an outstanding success!

Congratulations to artistic director, John Foster and his exemplary ensemble and congratulations to the amazing audience of 110 plus 4 children and 1 dog!

There were so many highlights, however, the world-first timpani and trumpet piece 'Taking the Hill' and Anna Sandstrom's ethereal soprano voice deserved the standing ovations they received.

Masterly musicianship combined with wonderful theatrical surprises.

It really was something very special to be part of and to be there.

World record attempt to jump the Wollondilly on a second-hand bike

John Longhurst

For us kids, Evel Knievel was the ultimate superhero. For our local hospital, he was the reason for a packed Emergency Department.

Even though Evel Knievel failed in his attempt to jump the Grand Canyon, he did inspire us to try to jump the Wollondilly River, at the bottom of our street, on a push bike. It was a stunt that evolved over time as loyalties shifted from superhero to superhero.

The Wollondilly River snaked its murky way on the edge of Goulburn. It had none of the reverence of the Murray, Darling or even the Lachlan Rivers. Our parents would opt to drive us the fifty miles after Mass on a Sunday for a swim on the sandy banks of the Shoalhaven River. The Wollondilly River certainly held no historical significance and was more like an embarrassing, unwashed relative who came for Christmas, never left, and was kept in the side room. In fact, the city was built more to one side of the river, such was the intent to minimise its presence. The roaming Gypsies who camped by its banks for weeks on end were strictly off limits to us kids as kidnapping was their apparent speciality. The banks of other parts of the river were covered in blackberry bushes and we took our chances with tiger snakes to fill our bellies. A child's fall and drowning from the new bridge over the river, four hundred metres from our place, added to its mystique. The absolute sworn sighting of crocodiles in the river by an older sibling only underlined the danger in attempting to jump the river on a Malvern Star Bicycle rescued from the tip.

Our early devotion to the Japanese television program, 'Shintaro' was part of the lead up to the stunt. Partly because he had near black pyjamas, but mainly because he was the youngest, our brother became the despised 'Ninja' and our team of Shintaros would jump from the verandah roof into the backyard, hunt him down and tie him to the wooden garage door. We would then unleash a barrage of star shaped weapons made from empty large tins of Streets Ice Cream from the shop. We allayed his fears somewhat, by applying a blindfold, but our precision with the star shaped weapons ensured a ring of tin stars, embedded in the wood around his head, was the only damage done. My suggestion that Shintaro could perform this task with a blindfold, was vetoed by an older sibling.

Our shift of loyalty from Shintaro to Evel Knievel necessitated a move from the backyard to the banks of the Wollondilly River. We began our stunt careers by securing a 44 gallon drum and waited for Marsden Weir to be overflowing to see if one of us could survive the drop. Alas, the prevailing drought meant we soon got bored with watching a 44 gallon drum, with the youngest inside, bobbing around in the river waiting for a downpour so the weir would overflow and the drum drop ten metres to the stagnant pool of water below.

We ventured further downstream, to a nearby housing development, which had left mounds of dirt and we were able to mould them into a series of jumps of increasing height, for us to speed across on our bicycles towards the river. The highest, of course, was just near the riverbank and the challenge was to jump it and then immediately brake on landing, otherwise the swirling, crocodile infested Wollondilly River meant certain death.

Before too long, we needed to add an extra dimension to the stunt. At the base of the last jump we convinced some of our younger, ever present, audience to lie down, face up, and see if we could jump their bodies at high speed and still avoid crashing into the river. Of course, each successful jump necessitated just another body, but our wary audience soon opted for the safety of chasing Mr Whippy up the street. Once again, our youngest brother was coerced into believing it was a great opportunity to enter the Guinness Book of Records as the final body, but the Dragstar tyre marks across his stomach meant we had failed on a technicality.

Our feats were gaining neighbourhood notoriety and I guess we were providing the modern day equivalent of after school care. Kids would happily part with cream buns, mint patties, golden roughs, wagon wheels or a bag of mixed lollies to join us. I'm pretty sure their parents were impressed by their developing imaginations as they recalled their day at meal times.

Undeterred by the setback of jumping bodies, we decided the next logical challenge would be to jump the river. After school each day, we pilfered from the nearby building site to build the mightiest of ramps at the edge of the river. Despite all our combined skills, a rudimentary knowledge of either physics or mathematics was missing. Today, it would take a split second laptop calculation to realise our huge ramp needed to be three times higher, at a corrected angle and with a bicycle travelling at 150 miles per hour to successfully cross the thirty metre river.

The selection process for our Evel Knievel was a no brainer. The toughest kid in the street was always going to be the candidate, either through his fists, or more logically his daredevil feats to date. Whilst we would marvel at setting off row after row of Tom Thumbs, with machine gun fire fascination, in the lead up to cracker night, our Evel Knievel did the heavy lifting with letterbox after letter box blown up by Tuppeny Bungers. When we went looking for blackberries by the river, he went in search of tiger snakes. The local ambulance station balked at buying the venom he milked from the snakes for some kind of safety reason.

Unlike the real Evel Knievel, who seemed to prevaricate for ages, with all sorts of experts weighing in on the dangers, before his attempt to jump the Grand Canyon, we proceeded without trial or risk assessment. All our preparation went into the public relations exercise before the jump. We made television cameras out of cardboard boxes and painted them black with the logos of the ABC and TCN 9 on the sides and a big boom microphone was fashioned from a mop. Our commentator was dressed in a 'borrowed' oversized, pale blue safari suit with his hair slicked back with layers of Brylcreem for the 'live cross'. Our very own Evel Knievel was draped in a sheet, tie dyed by some local try hard hippy, but the soft purples and peace signs seemed a little out of place to say the least.

The setting sun silhouetted our hero and his tie dyed cape fluttered in the breeze as he mounted the bicycle on the rise, two hundred yards perpendicular to the river for the sprint to the ramp. It was pretty much a Neil Armstrong moment at the first push of the pedal and he quickly gathered speed, but well short of the required 150 miles per hours. The leap was executed perfectly and Steven Spielberg captured a similar image in the movie E.T. years later as our Evel Knievel climbed high into the sky. It was all such a pity that the television logic of Professor Julius Summer Miller foreshadowed his fall way short, and not even to halfway across the river.

It was straight to the local library to seek an exemption for our mounting library fines from the stern librarian so that we could borrow books and work out what we would need from the tip to build a human canon.

GARDEN CLUB John Tuckwell

Nimmitabel & District Garden Club visits

On 5 April the Braidwood Garden Club hosted a visit by over 20 members of the Nimmitabel & District Garden Club on a perfect autumnal day.

On their way to Braidwood, they first visited Nithsdale at Ballalaba. Where they enjoyed morning tea and Nithsdale's 'park like' garden with Tim and Janie Lenehan explaining some of the history of this important historic property.

Then it was on to David and Jennie Sutherland's delightful 'secret' garden in the heart of Braidwood which is full of surprises. Nimmitabel members also enjoyed lunch there provided by the Braidwood Garden Club committee.

Finally, they were treated to a visit to the stunning Bedervale Homestead, where Sonia Horan not only put on a show, but also kindly shared some of her figs and cuttings with the visitors.

Our guests said they had a fabulous time and offered to reciprocate a visit to them at a future date.

Some of the members stayed over to go shopping next day, while others said they would be back having been provided a list of all the shops and a map by the Visitors Information Centre.

Rising mouse numbers a cause for concern

NSW Farmers media

Farmers are on the lookout for increased mouse activity with reports of increasing damage to crops and fodder across the state.

Two years after a mouse plague saw vehicles, buildings and towns infested while crops were destroyed, NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin is urging growers to be extra-vigilant about mouse activity.

"Members are telling me they're seeing mice again all the way from Queensland down to the Victorian border and out west towards Adelaide," Mr Martin said.

"We need everyone to keep an eye out for mice, in particular use their chew cards, and report any activity to authorities.

"It's important to stay on top of this issue so we can avoid a repeat of the 2021 mouse plague, so please if you see something, say something."

In 2021 the rodents swarmed rural and regional communities, chewing their way through hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of crops, damaging farm machinery, vehicles and buildings in the process. People reported being "sickened" by the sight of 'carpets' of mice on our highways.

Farmers and rural landholders are urged to report mouse activity by visiting: feralscan.org.au/mousealert and download the chew card template.

[Use the QR code on page 3]

WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

This week marks the true start of autumn, with ANZAC Day just around the corner.

While tradition holds that there is the first frost around this time of year, it seems past few years have proven this tradition is a myth. Already, the trees are losing their leaves and the days are growing shorter. This is the perfect weather to start up the slow cooker, huddle around a fireplace, and drink wine, whiskey, and other beverages.

CONCERTS AND GIGS

Sionnach Rua's Great Irish Songbook will be in Braidwood on 23rd April at 3:30pm at the National Theatre. This is said to be an authentic, lively celebration of Irish Traditional Music with Irish songs and stories. For further information, and tickets, please go to https://circlemusic.iwannaticket.com.au/event/sionnach-ruas-great-irish-song-book-Mjg3MzU

Side note: Sionnach means fox in Irish, which is why there's a fox on the banner outside the National Theatre.

— * —* —* —

Chalkie White is playing at the Servicemen's Club on Friday, 21st April.

MARKETS

The Best of Braidwood Market is on this Saturday, 22nd April in the National Theatre between 9 and 2. Come and support the wonderful and talented artisans of this town and snag a gift for Mum for Mother's Day.

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The Ryrie Park Markets are also on this Saturday, 22nd April up at Ryrie Park.

ANZAC DAY SERVICES

The Dawn Service will be at the Cenotaph at 6am on Tuesday, 25th April, at 6 am, followed by a gunfire breakfast at 6.45am at the Club. Following on from this, there will be the form-up for the parade at 10:30, with the march at 10:45 am.

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At 12:30 the Club are also putting on a BBQ lunch (please book for this through the Club Sub-Branch), and finally there will be games of 2-Up from 2pm.

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At the Royal Mail, 2-Up will be available to be played from midday onwards, as well as the annual pipe band performances.

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Changing Stories and *Sojourns* are both exhibitions at the Altenburg Gallery until the 29th April.

Rabbit. Duck. Mirror. Cat is on at the Fyre Gallery until 30th April.

OTHER COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

The Garlic Grower's Co Op is hosting a dinner at the National Theatre on Saturday, 29th April from 5pm for a 6pm sit down dinner. Tickets are $65 per person, or $60 for a table of eight for a three-course meal. It is going to be a garlic themed dinner, including garlic ice cream. Please call Liz Peschler to book tickets on 0447 544 001.

BRAG

Snuggle n Sing is on Mondays 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.

— * —* —* —

VERA-ACTIVE pilates runs at BRAG on Wednesday at 9:30am.

— * —* —* —

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

— * —* —* —

Songlarks is 9:30-11:10 on Mondays. 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.

At The Club

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.

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.

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

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.

"Hoo-ray!" Out the front again.

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.

Also on Tuesdays is a Squash Competition during the evenings, and bingo on every fortnight with alternating times of 1pm and 6:30 pm.

Other Community Organisations

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 group meet every Thursday morning at the Anglican Parish Centre behind the Anglican Church on Elrington St from 11am to 12pm. All are welcome.

— * —* —* —

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.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

Special Rate Variation open for consultation

Our application for a Special Rate Variation is now open for consultation on IPART's website.

- ▶ Read our application at **bit.ly/IPART-QPRC**
- ▶ Make a submission until 5 May at **bit.ly/IPART-yoursay**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
AMENDMENT Googong Development Control Plan P10	21 April
Braidwood Structure Plan Discussion Paper	28 April
Draft Contaminated Land Policy	1 May

▶ 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 Meetings in May

Learn about projects, services, and more at our community meetings in:

- The Braidwood Servicemens Club from 6pm on 11 May
- The Bungendore Multipurpose Hall from 6pm on 16 May
- Queanbeyan's former Axis Youth Centre from 6pm on 18 May

▶ Learn more at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/events**

Work with **Council**

- Strategic Planner
- Town Planners
- Waste Operator
- Building Surveyors
- Casual Customer Service Assistants
- Sewage Treatment Plant Operator
- Coordinator, Human Resources & Organisational Development
- Chief Financial Officer
- Revenue Officer
- Management Accountant
- Cemetery Services Operator

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

NSW **Volunteer of the Year Awards**

Nominations are open for the 2023 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. Send in a nomination before 16 June and help recognise the contributions of an individual or group in your community.

▶ **volunteering.com.au/awards/2023-awards**

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**.

Members of the public can watch the meetings via **bit.ly/QPRCwebcast** and make a presentation during the public forum via Zoom, by submitting a written presentation, or in person.

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:

- 26 April
- 10 May

Written Questions on Notice

Questions on notice from the community must be submitted in writing or via email to **public.forum@qprc.nsw.gov.au** by 12pm on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. All questions and responses will be tabled at each Public Forum, provided to the person who asked the questions and published on our website.

Advertising of Notices and Documents under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulations Documents are published at **bit.ly/DPnotices**

ANZAC Day Services

Tuesday 25 April is Anzac Day and there are Dawn and Day services in Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan. Araluen, Captains Flat, Googong, Jerrabomberra and Majors Creek are also holding services.

▶ A complete list of events and further information is available at **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/events**

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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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

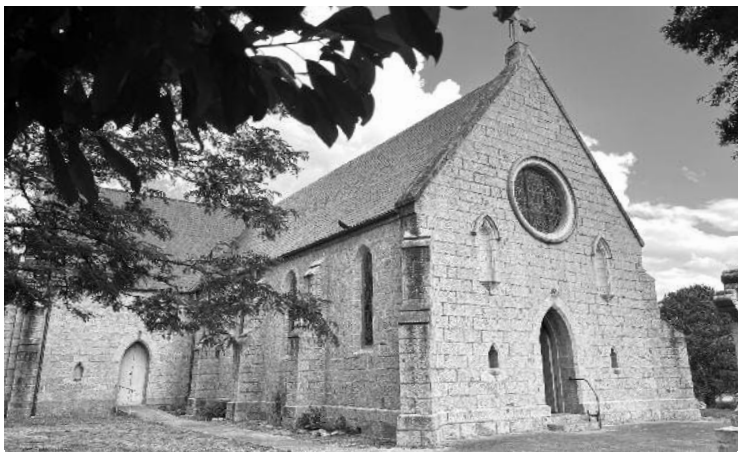
Anglican Parish of Braidwood

School Prayer

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule.
For this great nation under God
Finds public mention of Him odd.
Any prayer a class recites
Violates the Bill of Rights.
Any time my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.
Teach us of stars, of pole and equator—
Make no mention of their Creator.
Tell of experts in Denmark or Sweden,
But not a word of what Eve did in Eden.
The law is specific, the law is precise—
Praying out loud is no longer nice.
Praying aloud in a public hall
Upsets believers of nothing at all.
In silence alone can we meditate,
And if God should get the credit—great!
This rule, however, has a gimmick in it—
You've got to be finished in less than a minute.
So all I ask is a minute of quiet.
If I feel like praying, then maybe I'll try it.
If not, oh Lord, this plea I make,
Should I die in school, my soul you'll take.
–Author unknown

Pray freely with us next Sunday, 23rd April: 10am: St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood and stay for a cuppa & chat after the service.

Parish contact: angbraidwood@bigpond.com 4842 2423



Man dies when ute rolls

Monaro Police District release: Tuesday 18 April

A man has died after his ute ran off the road and rolled at Braidwood overnight.

Emergency services were called to the Cooma Road shortly before 8pm on Monday and found the driver and sole occupant of the ute had died at the scene.

He has not been formally identified but is believed to be aged in his 50s.

Officers attached to Monaro Police District are conducting inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the crash, and a report will be prepared for the information of the Coroner.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Braidwood Uniting Church

Yesterday I took a phone call from a young woman who told me that she didn't know where she was or how she got to the unfamiliar location of this phone call.

I knew the woman as a teenager years ago and last I heard, she was in Queensland. My strong hunch is that she is using some hallucinogenic substance. She was driving a car when she called. At my insistence, she pulled off the side of the road for the remainder of our conversation.

Addictions promise the world and deliver nothing. I know that a couple of years ago, the young woman's husband died and it left her homeless, penniless and with two kids, living in a small car. She lost custody of those two kids and not long ago had a baby while she was in goal for a relatively minor matter, a consequence of addiction.

The authorities in Queensland removed the baby from her care and circumstances have made visits to the baby frustratingly difficult. It's likely that the baby will never be living with his mother.

I knew this woman in better days. I've seen the good in her and knew that for some years before her husband died, she was working hard and managing two energetic boys. I think in those days, drugs were a social habit but since her life has collapsed, the only good left appears to be the relief that drugs give.

__ * __* __* __

Another call, also yesterday, informed me that a young fellow paid the ultimate price for his addiction. His addiction was gambling, which at his level, brings on as much suffering as any drug in the world. His parents had bailed the young bloke out at unthinkable cost to themselves but he'd gone on a binge again and run up a debt

of hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's a sad day today.

__ * __* __* __

In a culture of addiction, we ought to help each other identify the early signs. Addiction happens when all the goods of life are reduced to just one. Addicts are fanatics in a way. The good of life is multiple and our health depends on us keeping a variety of things alive and present. We need to be learners; we should be reading something, anything that stretches our thinking; we need rest; we need play; we need work; we need friends; we need community; we need sense of wonder (religion in the best sense). A good life has all these things and its worth the effort to put back such things if they have been lost. We need each other's help for a balanced life and really, its a matter of life and death.

Graham Long

Margaret Jill Burke
"Jill"

23 October 1931 - 14 April 2023

A funeral service for Jill will be held on Friday 28 April at the Uniting Church, Braidwood commencing at 10am. Interment to follow at the Braidwood cemetery.

M.H.O'Rourke
Family Australian Owned
Telephone: 6297 1852

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Belinda and Bill Pulver bookend the merry winners.

Mona Cup draws huge field

The annual Mona Cup golf tournament was held in near perfect conditions on Easter Saturday.

A huge field of 58 players, comprising local club members and visitors, teed off in a four-person ambrose event.

A local team of Debby and Keith Ferguson, Rodney Royds and Brendan Booker were the winners, presented with the coveted Mona Cup by Bill and Belinda Pulver. Food was provided by Provisions and Braidwood Golf Club thanks the Pulvers for their sponsorship of this popular annual event.

On Thursday 13 April, members Barry MacDonald, Chris Witt and Roger Hovey sponsored a 3-club event. Players reported having a lot of fun and winners received generous prizes.

Congratulations to our junior, Nelson Sargent, who made the cut in the Australian Junior Amateur Championships played in Tasmania last week and scoring a creditable 30th placing.

Saturday 15 April Men's Results: Single Stableford – David Goddard Trophy with thanks to David for his sponsorship

Winner: Brendan Sly 34pts

Runner Up: Michael Toirkens 31pts

3rd Place: Barry McDonald 30pts

Men's NTP 6/15: Brendan Sly

Ball Comp: Keith Ferguson 29, Terry Hughes 29, Tom Duffy 29, Roger Hovey 29, Rodney Royds 28

Handicap Changes: David Jones out 1 to 23

Women's Results: 2BBB Stableford – Hyland Trophy with thanks to Margy Gardner for her sponsorship

Winners: Debby Ferguson & Carmen Byrne 45pts

Runners Up: Michelle Henry & Pat Woodberry 40 pts

Women's NTP 3/12: Debbie Ferguson

Ball Comp: Robin Tennant Wood & Donna Kuhn, Barb Stuart & Margy Gardner Handicap Changes: Carmen Byrne down 1 to 38.

STOP PRESS

NUCLEAR WASTE SINKS FUTURE

STAR TIMES

Somedaystheresnotime

You see, when you leave the back page as the last one to do, if you've had other things to do on production day you might be stuffed. Steam I ran out of.

Ohnowhatapackofdills

Ken Henry is a wise bloke and a good economist. It's a pity he doesn't get a bit more pushy. His latest figures show that:

• Between 2005 and today, and in round figures, mining's share of our total exports has doubled from 30 per cent to 60 per cent. Manufacturing's share has fallen from 40 per cent to 20 per cent. Everything else – mainly agriculture and services – has fallen from 30 per cent to 20 per cent.

• Mining employs a very small proportion of the Australian workforce, generates about 60 per cent of Australia's exports, about half of pre-tax profits (mostly repatriated overseas to foreign shareholders) and exposes the Australian economy to highly volatile global commodity prices and a heavy strategic dependence upon a single buyer, China. Is that the same China we might go to war with? Hello?

Goodgrief [repeat #28]

Centennial Coal, which supplies about one-third of NSW's coal-fired energy, said in its submission to the federal government trade and investment committee that bank executives often cite the 'grief to income' ratio, referring to the backlash experienced from green and activist groups, and the broader public. The total destruction of a 'livable atmosphere to income' ratio, presumably, is something different again.

2.5mtroops [repeat #27

The Australian Department of Defence is getting a makeover. The new Minister wants it renamed the Department of Offence. " There no point in waiting for the Reds to thump us for no reason at all when we can bait them at every opportunity and give them a reason," he fumed. 'Reds under the LEDs' is the new fear to instill in a community that's not really sure its government hasn't lost the plot.

Lossisasadsong [rep#24]

A songless bird is a song of woe, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo. 'The widespread loss of habitat means the regent honeyeater has been reduced to its last 200-400 individuals spread over 300,000 square kilometres ranging from Queensland to Victoria. The birds are apparently changing their birdsong. In some cases, they are forgetting their song entirely and instead adopting the calls of other species, the researchers found'. It seems that baby birds learn the song from their parents and as numbers dwindle mistakes are amplified and perpetuated.

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