BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #77 — $2.00

Wednesday May 3, 2023

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	7°	15°	0%
Thur:	1°	16°	0%
Fri:	0°	16°	0%
Sat:	1°	16°	5%
Sun:	1°	10°	40%
Mon:	-2°	13°	5%
Tue:	0°	13°	5%

Local garlic gala dinner

Robin Tennant Wood

The Braidwood Garlic Co-op held its annual dinner last weekend with 47 people enjoying a dinner created by Bungendore chef, Ruth Gaha-Morris.

The Braidwood Garlic Co-op, which received its registration as a co-operative in November 2018, represents 20 local growers. It started as an offshoot of the Braidwood Growers' Group, which was established via a Landcare grant in 2015.

While the figures for this year haven't been finalised yet, Chair of the Co-op's Marketing Committee, Georgina Byrne, said that in 2022, members sold one tonne of garlic through the co-op.

"Growers all retain the right not to sell through the Co-op," Ms Byrne said, "so the total amount of local garlic sold will be a lot higher."

Ms Byrne said that while the dinner is an annual event, there was an obvious gap during the pandemic years.

This year's dinner, held in the National Theatre, was a 'long table' event.

"We actually had two long tables set up," Ms Byrne said, "and there was enough room for people to get up and talk with others.

"It's a great way for people to get together and we all learn from one another and it's a great way of promoting what we do.

"We're really pleased with the warm way that the event was received by everyone who was there and the response."

The dinner, which featured local Braidwood garlic, was topped off by a dessert of black garlic icecream.

Bronze Shield winning team: Margy Gardner, Deb Ferguson, Michelle Henry, Donna Kuhn and Robin Tennant Wood.

Braidwood gets the 'double' in regional golf

Mo Fairway-Green reports

The smallest golf club in the district has made a big impact on regional golf this year with the Braidwood men's and women's teams both taking out their respective Pennants championships.

Last Friday the Braidwood women won the Central Southern Golf Association (CSGA) Bronze Shield with a 4-1 victory over Moss Vale in Queanbeyan. The team was undefeated all season, beating some of the big Canberra clubs along the way, including a 3-2 victory against Royal Canberra in the semi-final.

In the grand final last week, team captain, Michelle Henry, and Robin Tennant Wood both scored 7/5 wins against their opponents, and then Margy Gardner locked in the win for the team with a 2/1 win on the 17th hole. Deb Ferguson and Donna Kuhn both squared their matches.

The full team for the Pennants season was Michelle Henry (C), Debby Ferguson, Margy Gardner, Virginia Groot Obbink, Donna Kuhn, Robin Tennant Wood, Sarah Heine and Carmen Byrne.

Ms Henry said that taking out the Bronze Shield in the same year as the men won their competition was a "great statement from the smallest club in the district."

She added that "in a nice piece of synchronicity it was great to [win the shield] on Barb Stuart's 89th birthday, as she was the captain when Braidwood last won the shield in 1982!"

Three weeks ago, the Braidwood men's team won the 2023 Senior handicap grade of Pennants with a 4-2 grand final victory over Goulburn at Royal Canberra. Winners on the day were Keith Morgan, Spiro Agnew, Allan Walcott and Brendan Sly. This is the third time Braidwood has won this grade of ACT-Monaro Pennants, following previous wins in 2012 and 2017. The full men's team was Brendan Booker (C), Spiro Agnew, Tom Duffy, John Harb, Keith Morgan, Rodney Royds, Brendan Sly, Michael Toirkens, Allan Walcott and Chris Witt.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

The King and us

The death of Queen Elizabeth II last year thrust the issue of Australia's future as a constitutional monarchy back into the light after two decades of shadow.

According to polls, a majority of Australians now favour a homegrown Head of State rather than the monarch of the former colonial power, and King Charles' coronation this weekend will be viewed by many as a foreign curiosity rather than anything to do with us.

The lavish ceremony and celebration of the King's formal enthronement is costing the British government around £100 million – that's about $A190 million. Meanwhile, the post-Brexit, post-Covid British economy is in dire straits with homelessness and poverty soaring, food shortages, astronomical energy costs and historic low business investment. The British government is hoping that the pomp and circumstance of the coronation and its associated festivities will boost public morale in a country where the monarchy has been the foundation of both government and society, with the exception of a brief flirtation with republicanism (1649-1660), since the Romans decided they preferred la dolce vita and vino rosso to cold rain and warm ale and ponced off back to Rome.

What's this got to do with us? In a word: nothing.

However, before we start screeching for a republic, it's worth remembering that we have been offered the chance to sever our ties with the UK. In 1999, we were given the option:

To alter the Constitution to establish the Commonwealth of Australia as a republic with the Queen and Governor-General being replaced by a President appointed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament.

The Australian people quietly took this proposition out the back and shot it.

The Albanese government has already indicated that they will consider the question of an Australian republic at some future time, likely in its second term, should it be re-elected in 2025. The government's first priority is the passage of the Voice referendum to provide for recognition of Indigenous people in the constitution.

In order for a referendum to succeed, it needs a double majority, that is, a majority of voters in a majority of states. Australians don't change the constitution lightly. Since federation there have been 44 referendums put to voters, with only eight being passed. The most recent successful referendum was in 1977 when we were asked four separate questions:

1 to ensure that Senate elections are held at the same time as House of Representatives elections;
2 to ensure, as far as practicable, that a casual vacancy in the Senate is filled by a person of the same political party as the Senator chosen by the people, and that the person shall hold the seat for the balance of the term;
3 to allow electors in Territories, as well as in the States, to vote in constitutional referendums;
4 to provide for retiring ages for judges of Federal courts.

All but the first of these questions were carried.

Even though support for the monarchy has waned dramatically since 1999, changing the system of government will require careful preparation and the establishment of clear ground rules. Giving voice to our First Nations is the first step. Australia is currently the only formerly colonised nation in the world that does not recognise its Indigenous people in its constitution. If the Voice referendum, to be held later this year, is not carried, it will be a major setback for any future prosecution of the republic question.

Meanwhile, enjoy the coronation show this weekend and be thankful that we're not paying for it.

Old Sunday School grand opening

Kirsty Altenburg

Come to our Grand Opening! The Braidwood Old Sunday School Hall Association is celebrating the re-opening of our historic 160 year old hall.

Everyone is invited to the re-opening of the hall at 68 Wilson Street Braidwood on Saturday 6 May from 10:00am to Noon. Please be there by 11:00am for our community cake cutting!

Many of us remember the old hall with great affection and there is much to celebrate. The heritage listed hall that needed serious maintenance and repair has been rescued. It has been carefully restored for the community to use and enjoy once again.

A reminder of the hall in 2017 when work started on the restoration project!

While it may have looked as if nothing was happening, come and see the changes! An enormous amount of work has been done to restore the hall for community use as well as becoming an emergency information and evacuation centre in times of need. Builders Hans Visser, Frank Sells from Palerang Constructions with his team, Pete the Painter and his team, Danny King, architect Eric Martin and QPRC heritage advisor Pip Giovanelli, together with many volunteers have all worked on the hall. Thanks to several grants and generous donors we have completed the project with wonderful community support. Many organisations and individuals have contributed to assist in this renaissance.

We look forward to showing everyone the recently completed renovations, including our new kitchen and meeting rooms, which are now available for hire for functions and to community groups.

Pharmacies at odds with AMA over 60-day dispensing

Robin Tennant Wood

Rural and regional pharmacies, supported by the Pharmacy Guild, are rallying to oppose the changes to medication dispensing announced last week by the federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler.

Under a shake-up of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Minister Butler announced that pharmacies will be able dispense 60 days' worth of medication rather than the current 30 days. This will reduce the cost of medications for consumers. The changes are due to be implemented in stages starting this September.

While the Australian Medical Association supports the move, the Pharmacy Guild is strongly opposing it.

Capital Chemist Braidwood pharmacist, Kayla Ferguson, has stressed that many medications currently in short supply, will simply not be available. Ms Ferguson said that pharmacies are still recovering from the former government's advice during the pandemic that people should keep medications on hand, which inevitably led to stockpiling.

Shortage of supply or non-availability of medications will affect rural and regional patients more than those in the cities, as most small towns only have one pharmacy with no alternative.

While reducing the costs of medications for consumers, this will also significantly reduce the income of pharmacies. Ms Ferguson said that up to 20% of pharmacies in Australia may become financially unviable and be forced to close, and rural pharmacies will be disproportionately represented in that figure.

Pharmacists are also concerned about patient safety with double the amount of medication in the home. Ms Ferguson believes that there is increased potential for the accidental ingestation of large amounts of medications or access to medications by children.

However, in support of the changes, the Queensland President of the AMA, Dr Maria Boulton, told ABC radio last week, that GPs are seeing patients who present in a lot of distress because of the rise of cost of living pressures.

"Whatever helps patients to access healthcare easily, safely and cheaper makes good sense to us", Dr Boulton said. "At the end of the day, what this will mean is that some patients will save up to $180 worth of dispensing fees every year. But not only that, it's also every time you need to go to a pharmacy for example, you do have to pay for travel, et cetera. So we'll save on those costs as well."

Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition returns for 2023

Emery Joseph, QPRC Environment Education Officer

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is celebrating World Environment Day by hosting the Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition for primary school students across the council area.

The competition was first launched last year, and we received some fantastic Minecraft creations from local students. The submissions were very innovative and showcased a passion for sustainability.

At last year's awards ceremony Mayor Kenrick Winchester said that we could be seeing the designs of some future urban planners.

"This competition is a great opportunity for young people to learn about important sustainability challenges and discover positive changes they can make.

"With the competition back for 2023, I'm really excited to see some brilliant new worlds created.

"The theme for the competition this year is 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution' and we're asking students to design something that reduces, replaces, re-uses or repurposes plastic.

"The competition is open to all primary school students who live in QPRC.

"You can download a standardised base world to use when building your design, then record a short, narrated video of your design for submission into the competition.

"The competition closes on Monday 5 June, which is World Environment Day."

An awards ceremony will be held on Friday June 23. A montage of entries will be displayed, and prizes are on offer for the most innovative designs. Some prizes have been provided by sponsors including Questacon, The National Dinosaur Museum, and Cockington Green Gardens.

Find out more details about the competition, download the base world, and submit your video entry at:
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/minecraftcomp

Claire and Lizzie.

Local dog trainer success at 2023 Royal Easter Show

"I love competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Lizzie, my 9 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and I love the crowd and hearing them cheer us on." said Claire.

The Sydney Royal is a showcase of so much that our local community has to be proud of and now Mongarlowe resident Claire Stalker-Booth of Amore Canine and her dog Lizzie have taken a ribbon at the dog agility trial held on the last day of the show. Claire and Lizzie took out second place in their section of the agility competition.

"Agility is such a great way to build our relationship with our dogs and all sorts of dogs can have fun learning a new skill and channeling some energy along the way. It's also great for us owners too as it gets us out learning new skills" said Claire. "It doesn't matter if you want to do it for fun only or to have fun and compete, agility has so much to offer for the young and young at heart alike."

Claire runs agility classes locally so why not give agility a try?

Contact Claire at: amorecanine@gmail.com

The Stilettos: Songs of the Andrews Sisters rock the National Theatre

Review by Barbara Gilby

It was the final one of a string of wonderful autumn days, and there was a big funeral at the same time, but a disappointingly small but enthusiastic audience took their seats in the National Theatre for a concert presented by The Q and QPRC.

The performers were The Stilettos, a trio from Canberra who presented a one hour program of hits from the era of the Andrews sisters and their own close harmony take on some more contemporary songs.

For the first part of the show, the costumes were Andrews sisters khaki and we were regaled with songs such as Chattanooga Choo-Choo and Alexander's ragtime band. The three voices blended well and the group's intonation was admirable. Jacob managed the backing tracks deftly and provided background slides for some of the songs.

A deftly handled costume change led to a bracket of more contemporary songs including "Wuthering Heights", "Heart of Glass" and "Careless Whisper". Personally, I preferred the earlier repertoire, but that's more about me than the trio.

Throughout the concert there was understated choreography that supported but didn't overwhelm the performance and there was tea and coffee available before and after the show. My friends and I emerged into the sunshine at just the right moment to walk down Wallace Street in search of lunch.

Hopefully the next matinee concert (we are reliably informed there will be more) will be more widely publicised than was this one. Meantime, keep your eyes open for further information.

Illustration by Barbara Gilby

Celebrating our Scouts

Chris Campbell

Youth members delivering handmade christmas cards to Summerfield at the end of last year.

Last week 1st Braidwood held its Annual Review Presentation, with a healthy gathering of parents, carers and community members in attendance.

This review is a mandatory part of the annual reporting process for Scouts Australia and it gives us a chance to reflect and celebrate all the great work that our Group has done over the past 12 months.

We heard from Leader In Charge Malcolm (Kaa) Campbell about how the Group has continued to be in a healthy financial position due to the fantastic effort from our Group Support Committee and all their fundraising activities that they have done. Our Committee are a lovely group of ladies who all enjoy a laugh, a cuppa and helping make 1st Braidwood a better place to be. A massive thanks to them all during 2022 and a special thanks to our outgoing Chairperson Anne McVilly for all her work and guidance. We also would like to thank all the local businesses who continue to support our fundraising efforts, we can't do this without you all.

An extra special thanks to the man who wants to stay out of the limelight- Neville Marsden, our Trustee. Our lawns are always perfect and our gardens have never looked better. Thank you Neville.

Scout Groups cannot run without Leaders and we have a very small but very dedicated team of Leaders. Skip, Loki, Quokka and Kaa volunteer their time each week, providing educational and suitable content to our youth members, they are showing our members the world, sharing life skills and giving them the opportunity to become better humans who care for their environment, care for each other and care for the community we live in. Each week our team of Leaders are there for our youth members and we thank them all for their contribution.

We had the chance to get back into camping in 2022, with State Rally at Cataract, down by the river at Nelligen and up in the mountains at Tumbarumba for the rail trail and further up at the Old Snowy campground at Tantangara, complete with wild brumbies!!

1st Braidwood have been actively involved in events across the community and helping the community, such as the QPRC led National Tree planting day, Marching at Anzac day service and then helping with the RSL lunch, chopping and collecting firewood for raffles, making and delivering Christmas cards to the residents of Summerfield and the hospital, and making more possum boxes for NARG.

Our Group has numerous community groups that utilise our facilities on a regular basis and we thank them all. Braidwood Girl guides, Hollie with her Ninjas and the Braidwood Quilters and Textiles Group.

Some of the highlights from 2022 are: Isaac, Henry and Hannah went to visit the Governor General at Government House, Canberra for an investiture ceremony with two Antarctic adventurers. Our youth members did such a great job in a formal environment.

We also had two events for our 2021 Queens Scout recipients, finally!!! Hamish, Charlie, Maxx and Tess received their awards from the Chief Commissioner Scouts NSW, Neville Tomkins. Later in the year they also attended a ceremony at Government House, Sydney with the Governor of NSW. Well done to them all.

1st Braidwood meets on Thursday nights from 6pm, during school terms. Feel free to come along if you would like to learn more about Scouts.

BCS NEWS *John Longhurst*

Earth Week 2023


Vincent, Cedar, Alpha and Riley.

Last Friday Braidwood Central School (BCS) primary students joined one billion other people in more than 193 countries around the world to celebrate Earth Week.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on 22nd of April, 1970. The event was organised by Gaylord Nelson, a United States of America Senator from Wisconsin. He was inspired to action after witnessing the damage caused by an oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in the year 1969.

The purpose of Earth Week is to bring awareness to the environmental issues facing the planet and to promote solutions for a sustainable future. It is all about building a brighter, greener, and more equitable future for generations to come.

The theme for Earth Week 2023 is *'Invest in Our Planet.'*

BCS Primary Teacher Mr Don D'Anella co-ordinated activities across the primary school.

Mr D'Anella said "The students were set research tasks consistent with this year's theme. Ipads were used to explore initiatives across the globe and their findings were used as a basis for group and class discussion. Students then participated in a practical activity planting snow pea sprouts in egg cartons."

The growing of the snow pea sprouts in the classroom over the coming weeks will be used to highlight the concept of sustainability.

Mr D'Anella said "The students will appreciate the need and possibilities for more sustainability in the production of food and reduce the number of 'food kilometres' in our consumption. Sustainability is one of the three cross-curriculum priorities in the Australian Curriculum. The activities also link to the NSW Science and Technology Syllabus."

Year 6/5/4 Magpies student, Katie was an enthusiastic participant in the learning.


Zoe and Frankie.

Katie said "It was great to participate in a world event such as Earth Day from Braidwood. I enjoyed the research task and the class discussion about investing in our planet. I'm looking forward to tending to my snow pea sprouts in the coming weeks."

BCS Principal Ms Nerida Mosely congratulated BCS primary teachers and applauded the students' enthusiasm.

Ms Mosely said "BCS welcomes the opportunity to celebrate Earth Week annually in a stimulating and practical manner. This year's studies and activities have focused on the 2023 theme *'Invest in our Planet'* whilst simultaneously achieving key syllabus outcomes."

SCAN CODE FOR EARTH WEEK LINK

www.bwdmag.com.au /changing_times_url_list.pdf


Currawongs – Years 3-4.

Farmers threaten resources companies with tractor blockade

NSW Farmers media release

NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin says farmers will do everything in their power to protect the state's food bowl from new mines and coal seam gas exploration following anti-activist rhetoric from a multinational miner.

It follows comments from Woodside CEO Meg O'Neill who complained of 'a vocal minority' of activists with 'deep pockets' during her National Press Club address this week.

NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said the big energy companies need to be reined back in with new mines and coal seam gas exploration approved for the state's food bowls.

"The McPhillamy's Gold Mine at Blayney will include an open-cut pit and tailings storage at the source of the Belubula River, along with a 90-kilometere pipeline to send 'excess' water to a coal mine near Lithgow," Mr Martin said.

"Another disruptive mine that would produce silver, zinc and lead was approved for Lue, about 30 kilometres outside Mudgee, while the NSW Resources Regulator approved the reactivation of legacy coal seam gas wells near Gunnedah during the caretaker period before the state election."

Mr Martin said these approvals were solid proof that a strong Independent Agriculture Commissioner was urgently needed.

> "Mining companies make billions in profits each year and help release millions of tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere, and they want free rein to do more," Mr Martin said.

"They talk about 'decarbonisation commitments' and 'keeping the lights on in Asian megacities', but the truth is this is all about money for them, and farmers and rural communities are in the firing line."

Mr Martin said farmers were deeply concerned about new mines and CSG operations that would not only disrupt food and fibre production, but also endanger town and farm water security when the next drought arrived.

"We are losing productive agricultural land to industrialisation, and this is one of the reasons we have long called for a truly independent agriculture commissioner who can make our planning laws fit for purpose," Mr Martin said.

> "As long as we've got the big end of town throwing around money and spin while manipulating the process as they try to dig up the state's best farmland, we will continue to speak out.

"If these companies want to see activism in practice, perhaps a tractor blockade of their head office is in order!"

One of NSW Labor's key election promises was to deliver a truly independent Agriculture Commissioner if elected, and Mr Martin said it was vital this role had the power and responsibility to call out the risk to food and fibre production from these sorts of projects.

"We're talking about the state's great food-producing regions here, and farmers must be able to care for the land and water free of industrial interference, not only to secure food supply, but also Australia's economic prosperity into the future," he said.

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

Community Batteries

Department of Climate Change and Energy media release

The roll out of Community Batteries to neighbourhoods across Australia continues, and Expressions of Interest are now open.

The Albanese Government's Community Batteries for Household Solar Program will deliver 400 community batteries to help lower household electricity bills, deliver reliable renewable energy and ease pressure on our power grid.

With the first round of funding for 58 community batteries announced before the election already well underway, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has been tasked with delivering the remaining 342 batteries to communities across Australia.

The $120 million round-one ARENA funding will be evenly split among distributed service network providers (DNSPs), which are organisations that own and manage energy network hardware, and other non-DNSP proponents.

Community batteries supported through ARENA's funding will provide energy storage to the distribution network, and range in size from 50 kilowatts to 5 megawatts. Applications are open for up to $20 million per application to build a minimum of five batteries.

Renewable energy is by far the cheapest form of energy and the Albanese Government helping deliver it across the country.

All of this clean, cheap and reliable energy will be connected with the Government's Rewiring the Nation plan, to modernise the electricity grid and meet the demands of the rapidly changing market.

Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen said the rollout will be welcome news to communities keen to take advantage of cheaper, cleaner energy backed up by storage.

"The Government committed to deploying 400 community batteries across Australia, and we're delivering on that commitment" Minister Bowen said.

"One in three households in Australia now has solar panels on their roofs. We have the highest uptake in the world, and we can take advantage of that for our grid and for household energy bills."

What this could mean for Braidwood

The *Changing Times* put some questions to the Department and a spokesperson for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water replied:

What does the 'community' in community battery mean?

Community Batteries are medium sized grid-connected batteries, bigger than residential batteries and smaller than large grid-scale batteries that are located in transmission networks. A community battery is around the size of a 4WD and can provide around 500kWh of storage.

Is it related to a financial model that includes some degree of community ownership?

Community batteries can support up to 250 local households by storing and then redistributing energy that has been produced locally from solar panels.

Community batteries may be owned and/or operated by retailers, electricity distribution companies, third parties (such as community groups) or a combination of these groups.

Is it expected that the community will derive any financial benefit specific to that battery (apart from the benefit to the grid in general, like stabilisation and night storage).

Community batteries will run off predominantly locally produced, rooftop solar which is cheaper than other forms of electricity generated by fossil fuels. Batteries also help with grid congestion. This helps to reduce emissions and put downward pressure on electricity costs.

As stated above, there are varying ownership models that will influence the financial model and direct community benefit.

As part of the Powering Australia plan, the Australian Government has committed $200 million to support the installation of 400 community batteries across Australia to cut bills and emissions, support the grid and provide shared storage for up to 100,000 households.

Community batteries have multiple benefits including:

- Lower power bills for households – by taking advantage of solar energy that can be stored for later use.
- Reduced emissions – by increasing the use of solar power.
- Reduced pressure on the grid – by providing network services that support further solar installations.

NSW solar feed-in tariff guide for 2023-24

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal media release

IPART has published its solar feed-in tariff guide for customers in 2023-24.

Customers can expect to receive 7.7 to 9.4 c/kWh from their electricity retailer for the solar exports they feed into the grid.

Tribunal chair Carmel Donnelly said that the value of solar is based on wholesale prices at the times that solar is exported to the grid.

"Wholesale prices have increased significantly over the last year, mainly due to the war in Ukraine which has led to higher gas and coal prices, and disruptions in several large coal-fired power plants," Ms Donnelly said. "IPART's feed-in tariff benchmark is up from around 5 cents this time last year."

Ms Donnelly said that most customers get the best value from their solar panels by using electricity when their solar panels are generating during the day. This allows customers to reduce how much electricity they need to buy from retailers.

"Solar customers can power their heaters, air conditioners, electric vehicle and pool pumps with their solar panels if they time it right." Ms Donnelly said.

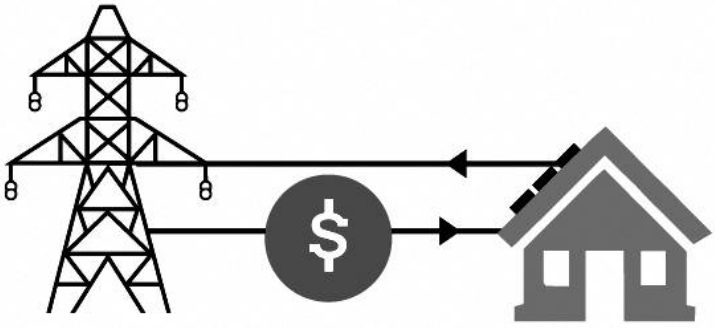
Retailers' prices are higher than the solar feed-in tariff rates because retail prices include network costs and environmental obligations. They must also recover the high costs of wholesale electricity when solar is not generating. These can be much higher than the wholesale costs in the middle of the day when solar is helping to power the grid.

IPART has also published a fact sheet showing the solar feed-in tariffs currently being offered by retailers.

"We found that some retailers offer solar feed-in prices above IPART's benchmark, but with conditions," Ms Donnelly said. "Some retailers pay a lower feed-in tariff rate after export thresholds have been reached. Other deals are only available if the customer has bought their solar panels through that retailer. Customers should consider all aspects of a retailer's offer including usage and fixed charges. The offer with the highest feed-in tariff may not be the best deal overall."

Customers can compare retailers' offers on:

www.energymadeeasy.gov.au.



THE LAW Angela Backhouse

Can employees be required to work on public holidays?

The Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) ('FWA') entitles employees to a paid day away from work on public holidays.

However, pursuant to section 114(2) of the FWA an employer can 'request' an employee to work a public holiday where reasonable. Whether 'request' should be interpretated as 'requirement' was recently deliberated by the courts in *Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union v OS MCAP Pty Ltd* [2023]. This case confirmed that employers cannot automatically schedule employees to work on public holidays as the court confirmed a 'request' should be made in the form of a question leaving the choice to work open to the employee. The Court confirmed that the request is an intention to prompt a discussion as opposed to a unilateral demand.

However, the Court's interpretation still reinforced that an employer involved in critical services, or where it is desirable for the business to remain open, can require employees to work on public holidays as long as:

- the employer has made a request for an employee to work on a public holiday;
- that request is reasonable; and
- the request is made in circumstances where an employee's refusal is not reasonable.

Do employers require the consent of employees to work on public holidays?

Employers require the consent of their employees to work on public holidays as section 114(3) of the FWA provides than an employee can refuse to work on a public holiday, if the request to work is unreasonable. Further, as confirmed in *Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union v OS MCAP Pty Ltd* [2023] an employer's request of an employee to work a public holiday should take the form of a question which allows the employee to make a decision on.

What is deemed as a reasonable request by an employer to work on a public holiday and when is it reasonable for an employee to say no?

Section 114(4) of the FWA outlines what is considered when determining both whether an employer's request and an employee's refusal are reasonable. This will depend on factors including:

- The nature of the employer's workplace or enterprise, and the nature of the work performed by the employee.
- The employee's individual and personal circumstances, such as family or carer responsibilities.
- Whether the employee could reasonably expect that the employer might request work on the public holiday.
- Whether the employee is entitled to receive overtime payments, penalty rates or other compensation for work on the public holiday.
- The type of employment of the employee (e.g. full time, part time, casual or shift work).
- The amount of notice in advance of the public holiday given by the employer when making the request, or the amount of notice in advance of the public holiday given by the employee when refusing the request.

What Act/s do employers need to be aware of when it comes to requiring employees to work on public holidays?

Employers need to be aware of the provisions set out in section 114 of the FWA as well as any additional requirements set out in a relevant modern award or enterprise agreement. Employers should also have regard to the Court's findings in *Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union v OS MCAP Pty Ltd* [2023] which reiterate the position at law when it comes to requesting employees to work on public holidays.

For more information about employment law, speak to our local lawyer, Angela Backhouse at Chamberlains Law Firm or email: WorkplaceTeam@chamberlains.com.au

Hunters and dogs arrive at a hunt by motor-scooter.

Hunting problem pigs

Ben Gleeson. This article first appeared on *insideindonesia.org*

The Minangkabau, or 'Minang', people are a notable ethnic group from Indonesia's West Sumatra province known for their many distinctive traditions.

As a primary example, Minang identity proudly combines a devout adherence to Islam with earlier agrarian customs of clan-based matrilineal property inheritance. This unique cultural integration has long been explicitly affirmed by a vibrant indigenous intellectual discourse on local religious, legal, and social matters.

The Minang and their early customs originated in the West Sumatran highland districts of Agam, Tanah Datar, and Lima Puluh Kota before spreading to other parts of West Sumatra and throughout Indonesia. Within these highland areas, extended families traditionally occupy long houses clustered in small villages and cultivate nearby plots of farmland. Rice, the staple food, is grown on terraced hillsides maintained and cultivated for centuries using local traditions adapted to the purpose.

Since irrigation water flows downstream from one property to the next, collective water management and distribution are crucial aspects of customary village organisation. Perhaps because of this, collective approaches to other agricultural issues are also common.

For example, foraging by wild pigs can cause widespread damage in terraced landscapes. Pigs destroy crops, disturb soil, and contaminate water sources with their waste. Worse yet, unchecked damage to terrace walls and water channels could cause erosion and divert irrigation flows, thus threatening collective water management for the entire community. As a result, the Minang have long employed a form of landscape-scale pig management via mass hunts, involving hundreds of participants and their trained pig-hunting dogs.

Although Islam considers both pigs and dogs haram (spiritually unclean), killing pigs and keeping dogs for a specific purpose are relatively acceptable. Thus, the Minang accept pig hunting as necessary to protect the integrity and productivity of rice terraces, and maintain the prosperity of rural communities that rely on them. Naturally, hunted pigs are never eaten, but hunts serve to suppress wild pig populations, and deter them from foraging on cultivated land. Pig hunting with dogs has become an important aspect of rural Minang culture. Minangkabau hunters are recognised for this elsewhere, and are often employed to conduct hunts in other Indonesian provinces.

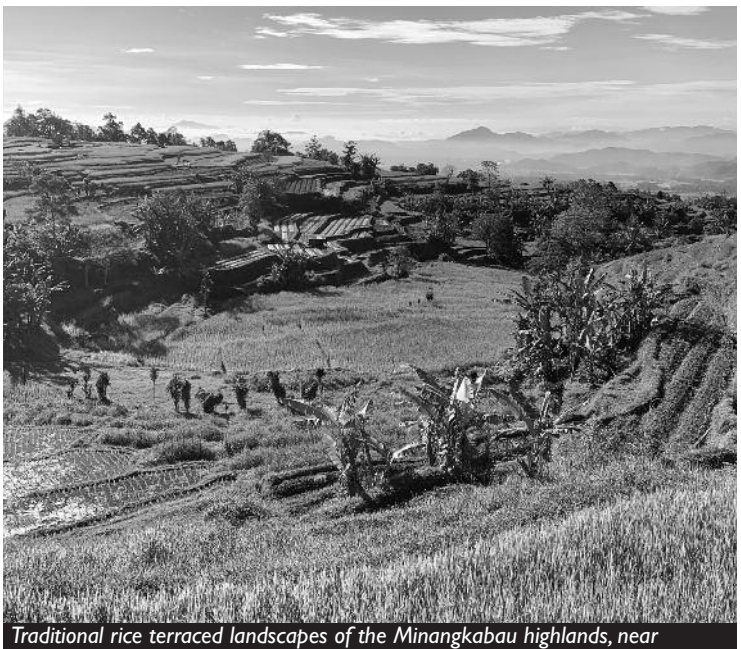
In West Sumatra, organising committees consider reports of where pigs are numerous before planning hunt locations. Hunts are usually held on Sunday mornings, and hunters often travel significant distances to attend. In villages all over the highlands, hunting dogs can be heard excitedly barking as hunters prepare to leave. The dogs travel on their owner's motor scooters, often standing in the footwell, or held in makeshift boxes at either side of the rear seat. Hunters with many dogs may transport them in cages on the backs of cars, or in small trucks.

Aside from its agricultural significance, pig hunting is a popular form of recreation. Hunters attend hunts partly to socialise with family and friends. Most make an effort to dress well, including with traditional printed scarves and conspicuous belt knives. Hawkers also attend these hunts, setting up mobile kitchens and refreshment stalls. As a result, usually-quiet rural areas and secluded tracks are inundated with hundreds of colourfully dressed people, motor scooters, and barking dogs, creating an ephemeral festival in a different location each weekend.

In recent times, pig hunting has been criticised for the apparent cruelty of packs of dogs catching and mauling a terrified wild pig to death. While hunters defend their actions as necessary to protect crops and livelihoods in rural communities, animal rights activists argue alternative control methods should be used. In response to cruelty concerns, the Indonesian government has implemented regulations intended to ensure animal welfare standards. Hunters are required to obtain permits, follow specific practical guidelines, and are discouraged from entering wildlife conservation areas.

Despite these concerns and increasing regulation, pig hunting remains a deeply rooted agrarian tradition in West Sumatra. Minangkabau hunters continue to see it as a necessary means to protect rural livelihoods and maintain quintessential cultural landscapes.

Local academic Ben Gleeson travelled in West Sumatra as part of his PhD fieldwork. Here he shares some photos and research on a local custom used to control pigs and protect traditional rice farming landscapes.



Traditional rice terraced landscapes of the Minangkabau highlands, near Pariangan, West Sumatra.

THE BATTLE OF BODALLA

John Longhurst

With eyes like saucepans and mouths agape the two grandkids swivelled.

"Now just hang on for a bit. I'll get to that in a moment."

Grandad kicked the dirt and looked skywards for what seemed ages to the young fellows.

"Now listen up you young blokes. It's another bit of history you won't find in the textbooks or on the internet so don't go fact checking. It's probably the biggest secret in the district."

The two grandchildren moved in closer as he cleared his throat and his hand went in search of missing hair.

"I've told you a bit about young Johnny Bodalla. Well truth be known, he was not a touch on his great grandfather. He was a bit of a ratbag in his day but a brilliant pilot. As you know, the ice cream from the Bodalla Dairy is pretty special. So special in fact before World War II people on the south coast, all the way to the Victorian Border, would eat nothing else.

Of course delivery was a huge problem as refrigeration was nothing like it is today and this is where Johnny Bodalla's great grandad became a local legend. He converted an old crop duster aeroplane for deliveries and painted it pink. He loaded up the plane with ice cream and would fly so low that he could throw out the ice cream to the waiting customers in each town.

They reckon he could land a cone of Bodalla Dairy Chocolate Chip ice cream into the hands of one lucky twelve year old at the Moruya school gate at 3.15pm each day. So that explains the colour of the 'plane."

Grandad took in a deep breath.

Both boys were now licking their lips but the elder jumped straight to the obvious question.

"Well it all gets a bit interesting now. You see, during World War 2 the Japanese bombed Darwin as well as launching submarine attacks in Sydney Harbour. No doubt you will learn all about this history in school and I'll take you to the Australian War Memorial when you are a bit older.

> "But the bit you won't hear about is the Battle of Bodalla."

"You see by the time the war had broken out in 1939 the ice cream from Bodalla Dairy had become famous. The rumour was it had mythical powers and explained the incredible piloting skills of Johnny Bodalla's great grandfather. The Japanese thought if they could capture Bodalla, they would have the secret ingredient to win the war."

The saucepans returned to both kids' eyes.

"Well Johnny Bodalla's great grandfather was a step ahead of the Japanese. He loaded up the pink plane with all the ice cream and took off. The Japanese soon had a whole squadron of Nakajima Ki-84s after him.

So imagine the best of the Japanese Air Force chasing Johnny Bodalla's pink 'plane over the skies of Bodalla. It was pretty similar to the New Years Eve fireworks over Sydney Harbour but all aimed at that pink aeroplane. Johnny Bodalla's great grandad dodged and weaved, flew much lower than the Japanese would even dare and then skywards in a loop to throw a well-aimed ice cream that splattered on the windscreen of these Japanese fighters. He managed to bring down three of these top planes as they did not have windscreen wipers."

"Now running low on fuel, Johnny Bodalla's great grandfather could of taken the easy option of landing at Moruya Airport but he knew the Japanese would easily capture him and the much sought after ice cream. He did an enormous double loop and then descended at a right angle to the ground and the plane has not moved since. Of course by the time the Japanese could land and get to the plane all the ice cream had melted. They headed home defeated."

"What about Johnny Bodalla's great grandfather?"

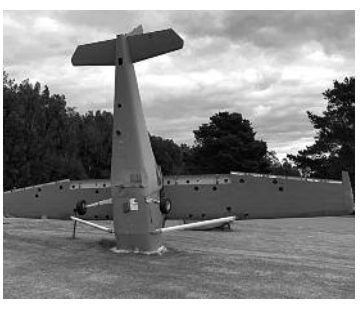
"He was able to parachute from the 'plane just in time and ended up with a grazed knee."

Both boys were now trembling.

"So without the ice cream, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour was nowhere near as successful as it could of been and they sure could have done with some of that ice cream in the Battle of Midway. In fact, the course of the war was changed as a consequence of Johnny Bodalla's great grandfather."

"Crikey, how come it has all been hushed up?"

"Well the Japanese would never want to admit that their fastest fighter plane, the Nakajima Ki-84, was bested by Johnny Bodalla's great grandfather throwing ice cream. And we would never admit that the course of the war was changed by a pink aeroplane."



News trivia

How well have you been paying attention?

1. The prime minister was criticised last week for attending a celebrity wedding? Whose wedding was it?
2. Country singer, Willie Nelson, had a significant birthday last week. How old is he?
3. Where was the State Coach that will convey King Charles to his coronation built?
4. What's the name of the stone that was transported from Scotland for the coronation? (Bonus point: why?)
5. Which African country is (again) engulfed in civil war?
6. Which sportsperson has been named as Australia's flag-bearer at the King's coronation?
7. What natural phenomenon is set to increase over the next two years due to the sun's magnetic activity?
8. The ACT government has formally apologised to the people of which Indigenous people for failure to recognise them as traditional custodians of parts of the ACT?
9. Pope Francis this week alluded to a 'secret mission' aimed to achieve what?
10. According to a defence report, how many deployable submarines does Australia currently have?

Answers: 1. Kyle Sandilands; 2. 90; 3. Australia (specifically, Manly);4. The Stone of Scone or the Stone of Destiny (Bonus: it's the stone on which Scottish monarchs have been crowned since the 12th Century – by tradition, if it's not used, the monarch cannot be regarded as the King of Scotland) 5. Sudan; 6. Sam Kerr; 7. Aurora Australis; 8. Ngambri; 9. Peace between Ukraine and Russia; 10. One.

Preparation, not process for the journey to birth

Local book promotion

We often refer to birth as a journey, yet we do not prepare for it as if it were a journey.

Instead, we process women in a standardised system, knowing they are assuming they are receiving the best possible information and know all their options. Interventions have risen beyond the point of need and into an economic and insurance-driven approach. These excess interventions have not improved outcomes for women or babies, and we are seeing a rise in physical and emotional birth trauma and post-natal depression.

This medicalised approach is dehumanising. It disregards the unique nature of each woman and the importance of the journey she undertakes. An independent and comprehensive tool is missing in current approaches to birth preparation, which limits such tools to decision aids that can be censored or directive.

Providing the means to women, independently and comprehensively, to begin their own research and to initiate a discussion with the care provider is an important step towards actualising woman-centred care. An independent, comprehensive, and woman-led process to enhance communication and decision-making can revolutionise maternity care, improving the experience for women, their partners and the care providers.

Braidwoodian, Catherine Bell is in the final throws for her PhD, evaluating her book *The Birth Map*, as this potential tool.

About The Book:

Midwives say *The Birth Map* is "the best birth plan they have ever seen, and we wish more women would do this". Partners welcome the 'if this, then that' approach to support, and report the process helps them to feel included and less stressed. Others have described it as Revolutionary.

Catherine Bell

THE BIRTH MAP takes you through the Informed Birth Preparation process, helping you to understand and determine the decision points in birth and prepare for life with a baby.

What is inside?

- Informed Decision Making
- What to expect from standard pregnancy care
- Creating your Birth Map
- General Considerations for birth, each stage of labour, caesarean, post birth
- Example map
- Space to summarise your informed decisions
- Beyond the Birth - what do you really need, what is normal?
- A glossary of medical terms
- Recommended Resources and Support Services for special circumstances.

There is more to this book than meets the eye. A wealth of resources and support is made available to you, in the free member access on Catherine Bell's website, including The Game of Birth.

This is Your Birth. Your Way. No Matter What.

BOOKWORM Julia Ermert

Jack in the Green – *Portraits by Morgan Silk*

Who is that looking at the King?

It's …

THE GREEN MAN

It was 1995 in Hastings UK. We were there for the May Bank Holiday celebrations, probably on about now.

The streets were a forest of greenery, not just as in leaves, but hair, beards, faces, skirts, cloaks … dancing, singing, revelling. Spectators wore green masks. I had an appropriate tee shirt. Leading the parade was a massive wicker shape like an animated pine tree, with a gold crown on top. This apparition was Jack-in-the-Green and by the end of the festivities he would be torn to pieces. If you could grab a bit it would bring you luck for the year.

Fortunately it's all symbolic now. We two ageing folkies had come right across the world for the experience. It was mainly the dancing that attracted us: morris, swords, rappers, solo, pairs, or in sides of six or eight, and — new thing— women were now allowed into this traditionally male craft. They danced all day, up and down the streets, in and out of the houses and pubs. Especially the pubs.

This is all in honour of The Green Man, that ancient embodiment of the natural world. All the mock (mostly!) fighting recalled the efforts of the early Christian churches to stamp out this Pagan tradition, and place Man where he belonged, in supreme control.

Even then I knew how wrong we were, and so did the then Prince of Wales; we were both 'greenies.' So it's no surprise to find a foliate head, a Green Man, on the invitation to the coronation of King Charles III. He'll also appear, surrounded by leaf decorations, on the Quire Screen in Westminster Abbey. He could always be seen carved into churches across Britain and Europe from at least as early as the 13th century.

You can also find him in my garden. There are still those who warn me I'm housing the devil.

Perhaps he is a bridge between pagan and Christian beliefs?

Who will notice him? The guest list of some two thousand is much leaner than the King's mother's of over eight thousand in 1953. Australia is represented by the Prime Minister, the Governor-General, their partners, and fourteen other worthies. There's to be a lot of purple illumination around Sydney. I'm not hearing about any green.

Joe Biden won't be there. It's not a snub: POTUS traditionally does not attend. This possibly harks back George III and 1812. Although enthusiasm for Queen Victoria did much to heal the breach, transatlantic travel just wasn't practicable for a long time. They've chosen to keep it that way, even though our late Majesty saw off some fourteen presidents.

Now the longest-reigning monarch in Europe and the world's only reigning queen is Margarethe II of Denmark. Increasing mobility problems will keep her away but she's sending Crown Prince Frederik and his wife, our own erstwhile Mary Donaldson. Local polls show 80% of Danes are keen monarchists. Not for them the expensive infighting and cut-throat power politics of electing a president! I don't think we're educated enough or sophisticated enough, yet, to make such decisions for ourselves.

I recall a Chinese saying*: The mountains are high, and the Emperor is far away.*

Perhaps it's worse if you're close up. King Charles is under fire for grinding the faces of the poor again. He chose an 'expensive' dish for his coronation feast: a quiche — made with eggs! It seems only the rich can afford eggs nowadays. And anyway, 'real men don't eat quiche.'

A true environmentalist, King Charles not only talks the talk, he eats the feast. He eats a plant-based diet to lessen his carbon impact. Two days a week, there's no meat or fish; one day a week, no dairy products. What a wuss! What about 'Feed the man meat?'

And, ladies, he doesn't do lunch, or consume chocolate or coffee, either.

People forget that the late Queen's coronation choice was Poulet à la Reine, in the fifties, when chicken was a luxury food. Roast lamb was our beast of choice then. Hers is basically a chicken curry, which could be made in advance, and eaten with a fork, to give people more time at the telly — it was the new thing then, to televise the coronation service. The recipe included **fruit** — apricots, mangoes. My father wouldn't have eaten that, and my first husband, even by the sixties, would've called it 'foreign muck.'

I bet Macbeth, 'the furious red one,' wouldn't have eaten it either.

Ginger and furious Prince Harry will be there. I wonder if they've all read *Spare*? I still haven't. There's a library conspiracy.

Meghan is staying home. One of the children has a birthday which of course takes precedence, when you're as important as all that. I note how extremely red-haired both offspring are, almost aggressively so. It's not even a colour one could call 'ginger.' It's **orange**.

Colour words … Once upon a time, we had far fewer colour words. Like the Inuits' fifty words for snow, we named only what we needed to talk about specifically.

Studying language, I learnt there were never less than three colour words in any ancient dialect and they were always the same three: black/dark/no light, white/light/pale — and red. When they added another colour, it was always the same one — a cover word meaning blue, green, watery or grey, according to context.

After that, terms could come in any order. Then they tended to be chosen from something that was that colour— orange, rose, purple, ginger.

It was one of the great disillusionments of my childhood, that no one actually had 'golden' hair.

I used to visit a friend in Fiji, and that was the most primitive language I could access. They had two interchangeable words for blue and green. The context dictated which was needed. After a few years, I noticed they'd standardised this. Now *karakarawa* was blue. If you wanted to talk about the grass, you used *drokadroka*. I asked about purple, yellow. They were the names of flowers.

Just to complicate matters, Royal invitees King Willem-Alexander and Queen Màxima from the Netherlands would know that their House of Orange has nothing to do with the fruit, or the colour. Even if they do feature it.

Now I'm off to cut myself another slice of Coronation Quiche!

The Voice debate: constitutional conservatives versus the government

Tim Rowse

In debating the words that would recognise First Nations Australians in the constitution, 'constitutional conservatives' have always been prominent.

What is a 'constitutional conservative'?

A 'constitutional conservative' is someone who worries a lot about the fact that the High Court of Australia has the authority to make decisions about the meaning of words in the constitution. Such decisions have the force of law. Constitutional conservatives point out that judges are not elected. Members of parliament are elected, and so law made by parliament has a democratic foundation in a way that law made by unelected judges can never have.

Holding this view, constitutional conservatives wish to limit the law-making activity of judges. Every word in the Australian Constitution is 'justiciable'. A matter is 'justiciable' if it is something that a court has the authority to rule on. Constitutional conservatives are very sceptical of any suggestion that we add words to the Constitution. They are particularly worried when those words describe 'rights'. To add justiciable 'rights' to the constitution gives more scope for what constitutional conservatives call 'judicial activism'.

The Albanese government is proposing that the voters of Australia add words to the constitution to give Indigenous Australians (as the Voice) the right to 'make representations to Parliament and the Executive' – that is, a right to be listened to by those who pass laws (Parliament) and by those who implement laws and policies (Executive). A right to be listened to is a dangerous right, according to constitutional conservatives, because if Indigenous Australians were ever to complain to the High Court that the views of the Voice had not been properly considered by the Executive, the High Court is likely to tell the Executive how to properly consider, in future, the views expressed by the Voice.

Many Australians would see nothing wrong with this. Why should Indigenous Australians not ask the High Court to set out for the Executive some standards of careful and thoughtful listening? What would be the point of having the Voice, if its 'representations' could be easily ignored? No-one is suggesting that the Voice be obeyed by the Executive; advocates of the Voice want only that the advice of the Voice be heard thoughtfully and in good faith.

However, what defines 'constitutional conservatism' is the fear that by ruling on the question of how the Executive should listen the judges would weaken the Executive's capacity for effective government. A common constitutional conservative assumption is that High Court judges are prone to sympathise with Australians whose rights have not been respected. High Court judges are notorious (in some circles) for thinking that Indigenous Australians have suffered much injustice. Look what the High Court did in 1992: against Australian legal precedent, the High Court recognised 'native title' as a corrective to a history of unjust property laws.

> When constitutional conservatives condemn the proposed Indigenous Voice amendment as 'constitutionally unsound', they tap into an apprehension of 'judicial activism'.

In 2011, the Gillard government appointed an Expert Panel to recommend 'technically and legally sound' ways to recognise First Nations in the constitution. The Panel took seriously its obligation to avoid any proposal that was not 'technically and legally sound'. However two of their four proposals came under fire from constitutional conservatives.

One Expert Panel proposal was to replace the 'race power' (s.51(xxvi)) with a new 'head of power' whose purpose would be 'the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.' The other was a new section prohibiting laws or government actions in which 'the real, supposed or imputed race, colour or ethnic or national origin of any person is a criterion for different treatment.' The Expert Panel in 2012 qualified this ban on racial discrimination by recommending additional words that allowed 'different treatment' if its purpose was 'overcoming disadvantage, ameliorating the effects of past discrimination, or protecting the cultures, languages or heritage'

These two rights – to be helped rather than harmed by laws and policies that recognised Indigenous Australians as different - suffered a torrid critique. Some critics (such as Tony Abbott) accused the Expert Panel of advocating a 'bill of rights' for Indigenous Australians. Such critics predicted that if Indigenous Australians were to run cases in the High Court against government policies and laws, it would empower one branch of government (unelected judges) to set standards for the other two branches of government in their dealings with Indigenous Australians.

For example, Warren Mundine's December 2011 statement that the Panel's recommendations were the work of 'lawyers and intellectuals and academics' drew on well-established apprehension about the law-making role of the judiciary in Australian politics. Just before quitting the Labor Party in 2012, Mundine said: 'I prefer laws to be made by elected parliamentarians, not members of the judiciary.' Shadow Attorney-General George

GARDEN CLUB

Chris James

Flower of the month

Anemone hupehensis
(Japanese Windflower)

- Species from central and western China
- A perennial with fibrous roots
- Can be almost evergreen in milder climates
- Has flower stems to 1.2m tall in Autumn
- Flowers are white, pale pink and deep rose
- Prefers woodland conditions in rich soil
- Propagate from seed in summer or division in winter

To do in the garden for May

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

Brandis urged Australians to heed Mundine, 'one of Indigenous Australia's most intelligent and respected figures.' In the same month, Bob Carr – a senior Labor figure soon to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate - argued that for the constitution to prohibit racial discrimination would be an 'invitation to activist judges.'

The Gillard government did not endorse the Panel's embattled recommendation when it introduced the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill late in 2012. This short statute did two things. It set a 'sunset' date for a referendum. And it affirmed terms of Indigenous recognition on which both Government and Opposition could agree. What they agreed on was to omit the words of recognition that the Panel had recommended be put into the constitution: words requiring 'advancement' to be the purpose of laws about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To refer to 'advancement' as if it could one day be Indigenous Australians' constitutional right was not something Labor was prepared to fight for in 2013.

It was a relief to both major parties that the advocates of Indigenous constitutional recognition dumped the Panel's contentious 'rights' agenda, conceding that neither side of politics was prepared to conduct a referendum on putting a right to 'advancement' and a ban on racial discrimination in the constitution. From the second half of 2014, advocates of Indigenous constitutional recognition presented an idea that at first seemed easier to agree on: an advisory Indigenous Voice to Parliament. In their Uluru Statement from the Heart Indigenous Australians rallied behind that idea.

However, by October 2017 it was clear that the proposal to put the Voice in the constitution was not winning bipartisan support. The Turnbull and Morrison governments liked the idea of an Indigenous Voice as long as it was only legislated. In December 2021, the Morrison government released a possible design for such a legislated Voice - the report by Professors Tom Calma and Marcia Langton. In this model, the Voice would speak both to Parliament and the Executive, but it would not be mentioned in the constitution, so a government could abolish it if it became a problem. Calma and Langton hoped that the right of a legislated Voice to be listened to would not be a justiciable right - that is, they hoped that Voice legislation would not enable anyone to complain to a court that the government was not really listening to the Voice. Many Indigenous people criticised this as too big a concession to the fears of constitutional conservatives.

Differentiating itself from the Morrison government, the Labor Party promised that it would hold a referendum on putting a Voice in the constitution. In making that promise, it was careful not to endorse the Calma-Langton model of the Voice. Since coming into power, the Albanese government seems cautiously to have acknowledged the worth of the Calma-Langton model. In March it confirmed the constitutional amendment that it would like us to vote on this year: an Indigenous Voice with a right to make representations to Parliament and Executive.

The constitutional conservatives have risen up in full-throated opposition. Fears of High Court 'activism' have returned, for there is no doubt that the relationship between a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice and the Executive branch of government would be justiciable in the High Court. Constitutional conservatives now fear that the Albanese government's proposed amendment would create something unprecedented: an Indigenous right to have their submissions listened to, enforceable by a court. The main business of the current Joint Committee of the Parliament is to hear debate about whether it is 'constitutionally sound' to create a Voice that has a justiciable right to be listened to by the Executive.

That committee reports on 15 May, and the government will then legislate the words that we will all vote on in a referendum later this year.

So far, it seems that Labor is prepared to risk creating a justiciable right for Indigenous Australians to be listened to by the Executive. If the Albanese government sticks to its guns on this issue they will be defying constitutional conservatives' fear that to create a 'right' is to empower judges. I don't hold 'rights' and judges in suspicion, and I will be voting for such an amendment.

Emeritus Professor Tim Rowse holds honorary appointments at Western Sydney University and the Australian National University. His books include two about the life and work of Dr. H.C. 'Nugget' Coombs: *Obliged to be difficult* (Cambridge University Press, 2000) and *Nugget: a reforming life* (Cambridge University Press 2002). His *Indigenous and other Australians since 1901* (NewSouth Press 2017) was short-listed for the Prime Minister's Australian History Prize and the Ernest Scott Prize in 2018. With Murray Goot (FASSA) he is writing a history of the debate about the constitutional recognition of Australia's First Nations.

Helping people into home ownership

Office of Kristy McBain media release

The Albanese Labor Government will help more people in Eden-Monaro into home ownership sooner through a significant expansion of criteria for the Home Guarantee Scheme.

The Home Guarantee Scheme allows eligible Australians to purchase a home with as little as two percent deposit and avoid paying Lenders' Mortgage Insurance – potentially saving thousands of dollars on a new home.

Eligibility criteria for all elements of the scheme – including the First Home Guarantee, the Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee, and the Family Home Guarantee – will be expanded as the Government continues to address Australia's housing challenges.

From 1 July this year, friends, siblings, and other family members will be eligible for joint applications under the First Home Guarantee and the Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee. These guarantees had previously been restricted to people that were married or in a de-facto relationship, in addition to single applicants.

Eligibility will also change for the Family Home Guarantee, expanding it from single natural or adoptive parents to eligible borrowers who are single legal guardians of children such as aunts, uncles and grandparents.

The guarantees will also be expanded to non-first home buyers who haven't owned a property in Australia in the last ten years. This will support those who have fallen out of homeownership, often due to financial crisis or relationship breakdown.

All three guarantees will also become available to eligible borrowers who are Australian Permanent Residents, in addition to Australian citizens.

In total, 35,000 places are available per year across the First Home Guarantee, 10,000 places per year to 30 June 2025 under the Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee, and 5,000 places per year to 30 June 2025 under the Family Home Guarantee.

The Home Guarantee Scheme is administered by the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation, to be renamed Housing Australia, in partnership with a number of participating bank and non-bank lenders.

Kristy McBain, the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Member for Eden-Monaro said, "We know that households are changing, which is why we are making a number of sensible changes to the eligibility for the Home Guarantee Scheme – because having a safe and secure roof over your head is the number one issue for people in Eden-Monaro.

"We have already supported around 340 single and joint applicants in Eden-Monaro into home ownership through the Home Guarantee Scheme – and this expanded eligibility will help more people secure their own place to call home.

"This builds on last year's increase in the number of places available and the establishment of the Albanese Labor Government's new Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee – which has supported more than 4,700 people across our regions."

More information on the scheme can be found on NHFIC's website.

SCAN HERE FOR KRISTY MCBAIN'S LINKS

www.bwdmag.com.au/changing_times_url_list.pdf

Calls for Labor to honour election commitment

Robin Tennant-Wood and Paul Cockram

A Bungendore community group is calling on the Member for Monaro, Steve Whan, to honour his pre-election commitment to push for a review of the high school siting process.

Prior to the state election, Mr Whan said that "the process has been appalling and the secrecy around the decision made is unjustifiable". He said that if elected he would "seek to make [the process] public and would potentially advocate an independent review into this project".

Spokesperson for the community group Save Bungendore Park Inc (SBP), Carolyn Cole, said that the community of Bungendore needs and deserves a high school that is fit for purpose and with room to expand.

"We are now calling upon Steve Whan and the NSW Labor Government to honour his pledge.

"Many voters in our community changed habits of a lifetime and put their trust in Steve Whan and NSW Labor ministers to get this review underway as soon as possible and publish the findings to the Bungendore community.

A search by the SBP group of government documents released under Standing Order 52, has revealed that the current site was dismissed as "unworkable" by the Department of Education's own expert review group.

According to Ms Cole, assessments of alternative sites appear to have been skewed to support the current site selection and were not therefore considered in good faith.

In a statement to media, the SBP group said that, "trust needs to be restored after the divisive behaviour of our former local member. We want to move beyond the divisions that have fractured our community and work together to deliver a top rate school for Bungendore.

"The chosen site is dogged with issues of crown land legalities, heritage loss, destruction of community facilities and traffic safety issues. In addition, the EPA has now declared the adjacent rail corridor as significantly contaminated land. This is potentially the most immediate concern for families and the community at large".

Extracts from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority Declaration, currently out for public submissions, state that:

"Elevated levels of lead and arsenic were found after completing shallow soil sampling on the land. Potential harm may be caused to human health and the environment due to the presence of contaminants. EPA believes the land is contaminated significantly enough to warrant investigation under the act because of potential of harm to human health and harm to the environment".

"The approved use of adjoining land for residential and school purposes may increase the risk of harm caused by contaminants of the land".

"There is potential for contaminates to have migrated or are likely to have migrated from the land by way of airborne dust or mobilisation of sediment in surface runoff".

Speaking for the group, Ms Cole said that on a positive note, documents released by the Department of Education demonstrate clearly that two alternative locations for the school remain viable, offering relatively unconstrained growth, convenient to new residential subdivisions to the south and north (respectively) of the town and excellent transport connections with the traffic and infrastructure issues which affect the current proposal.

The Save Bungendore Park group is calling on the Minns government to:

- Conduct an independent review without delay, to establish the reason for the apparent overlooking of Crown Land legalities, heritage loss, destruction of community facilities and traffic safety; issues;
- Select one of the alternative sites and get the school started therefore avoiding the delays associated with the Bungendore Park site; and
- Allow the Department of Education to decide the future of the 7/8 high school and work with the EPA to ensure that the health of Bungendore primary school and 7/8 students is of the highest priority in its risk mitigation processes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

With the start of May having arrived this week, the weather turning colder, and the definite sense that winter is truly on its way, this is a month full of interesting and varied activities.

I myself have been busy planning an event, and it will be coming up very soon— but this is not the column for that. If I was the Lady Whistledown of Braidwood, it would be perfect fodder for her style of gossip. With that being said, however, let's get into the nitty-gritty of what's going on in our wonderful town and surrounding villages.

Markets

The Braidwood Farmer's Market is this Saturday, 6th May in the National Theatre from 8:30 am with the season's freshest produce on offer. There will be plants, whiskey, cider, fresh fruit and vegetables, along with other wonderful items. Come on down to see what's there, and maybe snag a bargain for Mum.

Community Events

First Thursday Community Luncheon is on at the Club on Thursday, 4th May from 11:30 am, and costs $10 to attend. This month features a look into the past at the music and songs that were used as forms of community gatherings to encourage morale in the 1920s and 1930s. Presented by Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney and Dr Susan West, they will lead you through the songs of the times between the two world wars.

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The Old Anglican Sunday School Hall is officially opening this Saturday, 6th May, at 10 am, with cake cutting at 11. This hall has been lovingly renovated and now has an excellent new kitchen and meeting rooms. The Sunday School Hall can be found at 66 Wilson Street next door to the Braidwood Pre-School.

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Braidwood Folk Music Club's 2023 AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th May, 6:30pm at the Servicemens Club. Please come along to hear more about the club and ideas for supporting great local music opportunities in 2023 and beyond. To RSVP or for further information contact us at braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com

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Womens Circle— a sacred space for all women, will be on Sunday, 21st May from 11:30 am to 2:30pm and will feature breath meditation, women's circle, and sharing of food. For further details please contact Alison Stutchbury at alison.stutchbury@gmail.com or on 0488 692 149.

Gigs and Concerts

Mick Fernandez will be playing at the Royal Mail on 13th May.

Gallery Openings

Studio Altenburg are opening a new exhibition of Millie Black and Hillary Warren. Come along for opening drinks and to meet the artists on Saturday, 6th May from 3pm. Millie Black's current exhibition is titled Wilderness Series and is hanging in Gallery One, and Hillary Warren's current exhibition is titled In Focus, and is hanging in Gallery Two.

Mother's Day Specials

The Royal Mail Hotel is offering a complementary glass of wine or champagne with a meal on Mother's Day. Spoil mum with an excellent meal at the Royal.

The Major's Creek Pub is offering a delectable menu this Mother's Day, which is always worth a drive out to the picturesque little village outside our wonderful Braidwood.

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

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.

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 in Braidwood, New South Wales.

At The Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!

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

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

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

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Braidwood 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.

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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.

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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
Draft Child Safe Policy and revised Code of Conduct	25 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
Join us for our community meetings from 6pm at:
- The Braidwood Servicemens Club on 11 May
- The Bungendore Multipurpose Hall on 16 May
- Queanbeyan's former Axis Youth Centre on 18 May

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

Work with Council
- Management Accountant
- Cemetery Services Officer
- WH&S Officer
- Sewage Treatment Plant Operator
- Return to Work & Wellbeing Officer
- Town Planners
- Building Surveyors
- GEOs (Transport)

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

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023
27 MAY — 3 JUNE

QPRC Waste Info app
Download the new QPRC Waste Info app on Android or iOS for updates on waste collections, reminders about what can go in your bins, and access to forms.

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:
- 10 May
- 24 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**

Christmas in July - stallholder applications open
Does your business have a flair for Christmas-inspired food, merchandise or entertainment? Our famous Christmas in July market is back at the Queanbeyan Showground on Saturday 8 July and we are accepting vendor applications.

▶ Complete the form today at **bit.ly/QPRC-es3**

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

Braidwood Uniting Church

Fully Alive

Three people have made contact with me in the past few days to tell me about their new life.

I knew each of these in a time when addiction had robbed them of life. In each case, I would not have been shocked if I'd been contacted to say that one or all three had lost their battle and lost their lives. It's a marvellous week when someone tells you of their life beyond addiction. It's humbling to know they wanted me to know of their new life.

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The book "Chasing the Scream" caused me to think differently about addiction. Johann Hari argues that the key issue is not any properties in the substance (or habit) that is the focus of the addiction, rather, the key question is not what you can see but rather, what is missing. He says that if you take rats addicted to water laced with heroin and put them in an environment where they can flourish as rats - loads of toys, plenty of room, lots of opportunity to nest and create new rats - that the animals will choose to drink fresh water rather than water laced with heroin. Its a powerful argument.

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The good of life is multiple ie lots of things need to be present for a human life to flourish. For addicts, usually there is only one good in life; that which is the subject of their addiction. A life that flourishes needs to have some element of various things - activity toward a healthy body, sleep and rest, at least one hobby, friendship, intellectual learning, community involvement and a sense of wonder. The wonder can be labeled 'religion' but its essentially that which causes you to ponder the size of the universe and to discover that you are not the centre of it. All of this is needed for a whole, flourishing life.

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This week the gospel reading in all our churches is where Jesus says, "A whole life (life to the full) is the point of my project" but he says, "thieves everywhere abound". So, what's missing? When I was younger, motor bikes were an important hobby. They've gone now and I've never replaced them with another hobby. I used to hurt myself through lack of sleep once but lately my life is more whole in that department. All these human goods need to be worked on, built over time. Neither friendship or community are instant and both require determination to create and nurture. Sometimes the "thief" is something that is good in itself. Work is a human good but if it squeeze out the other human goods, its a thief. Religion bring us to awe which is so important but we all know that it can be the thief too. A good life is a balance. Jesus makes it clear enough that he wanted people to have whole, balanced lives and he wanted us to be awake to the many ways in which evil people and good, will rob you without a second thought.

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Wishing all our readers a happy, whole, holy, flourishing life.

Graham Long

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

LIVE FOR WHAT MATTERS!

If you work harder you can earn more money, but you can't earn more time. To coin a popular song: 'Time may be money, but your money won't buy time.'

There's an old story about a man who worked the late shift at a factory and walked home just after midnight. One night he took a shortcut through the cemetery. Failing to notice the new grave that has just been dug in the centre of his path, he fell into it. After several unsuccessful attempts to get out, he decided to relax until morning when someone would be around to help him.

As he sat in the corner of the grave half asleep, a fellow traveller who had overindulged at a local pub stumbled in beside him. Desperate to get out, the drunk started yelling and clawing frantically at the sides. At that pint our hero reached out, touched him gently on the leg, and said, 'It's no use , friend. I've tried. You'll never get out of here.'

Not surprisingly – the drunk did! He jumped out!

A periodic visit to the local cemetery might help you re-evaluate and reprioritise your life. For example, it might encourage you to stop and ask yourself what you're really living for.

Solomon had an 'aha moment' like that: "All my hard work here on earth…. I must leave to others everything I have earned." (Ecclesiastes 2:18)

A rut is simply a grave with the ends kicked out. Don't just make a living; get out of your rut and make a difference.

Don't just leave an inheritance; leave a legacy that will enrich the lives of those who follow you.

An extract from "A Word for Today" a Christian Vision Publication.

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Come to lovely Majors Creek next Sunday 7th May, and join us at 10am for a service in little St Stephen's Anglican church, Hill St, Majors Creek followed by a cuppa & chat in the Recreation grounds opposite the church.

There's no cemetery nearby!

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of John 14:1-12 by Greg Sunter

Historical Context – It is for the best…

At the time of this gospel's writing, some 70 years after the events it describes, amazing things have taken place in the early Christian community. Rather than everything falling apart with the death of Jesus, the message of Jesus has spread further than he himself could ever have accomplished. It is the departure of Jesus from their midst and the sending of the Spirit that really prompts the disciples to act on what they had experienced while Jesus lived among them. The gospel writer has Jesus saying that he has to go away so that the disciples can reach their potential.

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Scriptural context – The gospel of John

The gospel of John is very different from the other three 'synoptic' gospels. The other three have a very narrative style and can be seen together as different recounts of the same events. Whilst the gospel of John also has some beautifully narrated stories, it is better known as a more theologically reflective piece of writing. It assumes that the readers of this gospel are already familiar with one or more of the others, so it doesn't need to tell the story again. Rather, it presents a sweeping image of God, through Jesus, reaching out, in, through, and with love to the people.

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Living the Gospel – The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

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First Thursday Lunch at the Club is on May 4, commencing at 11.30pm. Bookings essential for the bus.

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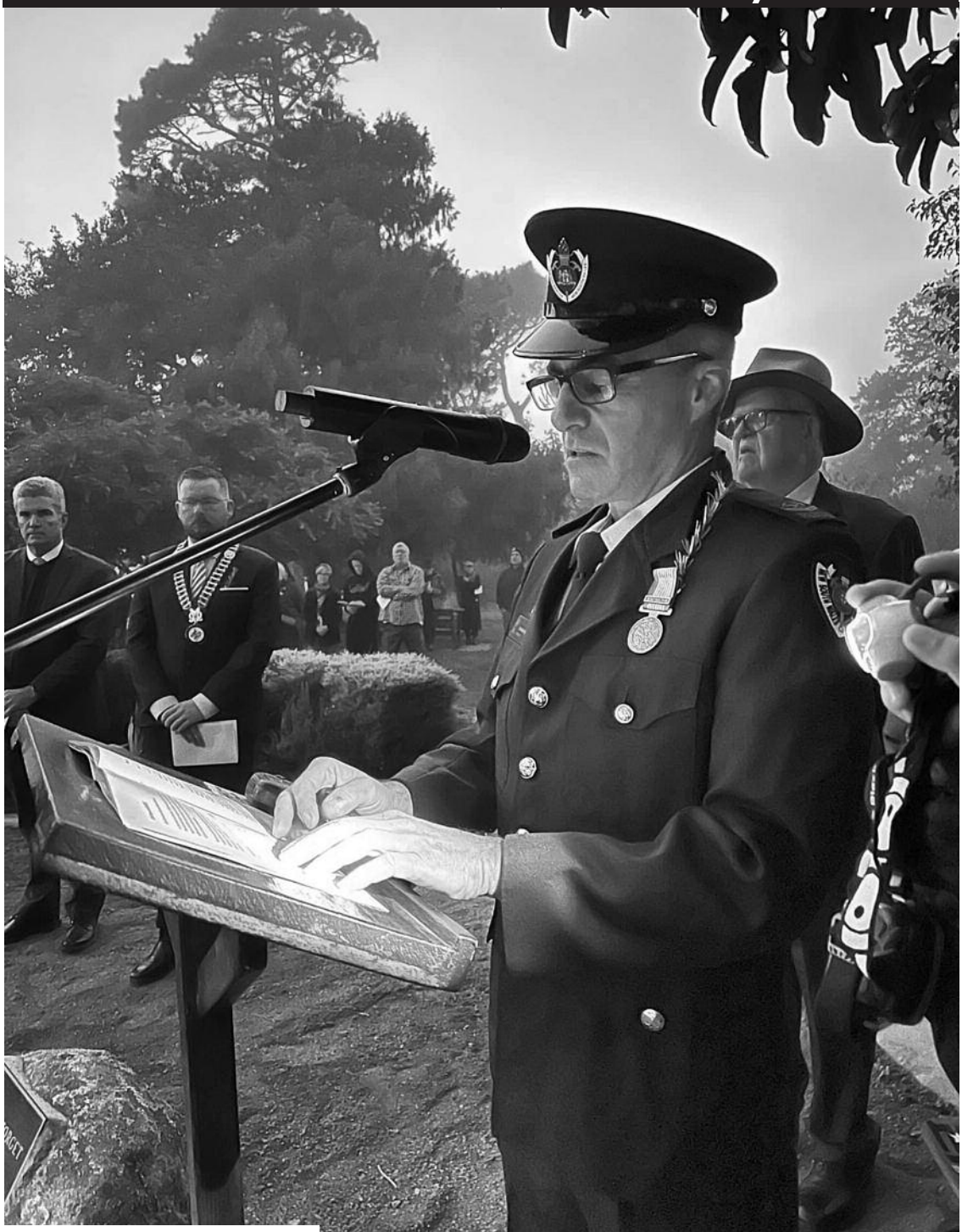
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: has been postponed until 23rd May.

0 200444 202002

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

WE REMEMBERED THEM – Anzac Day 2023



STOP PRESS

STAY WARM SHOP LOCAL

STAR TIMES

MeandmyDegeneration

Isn't it odd how we feel our understanding of the world is a bit more modern and up to date than that of our parents while simultaneously seeing our children as a bit naive. Ha! No contradiction there, what? We're happy souls cruising through a life bookended by naps, nappies and sloppy food served up with a condecending babbble.

Globalsubjugation4u

We must preserve 'rules-based order' in the world say the well-off and the arms dealers. So it is well to remember the golden rule: 'He who has the gold makes the rules".

Postseatnestfeathering

With breathtaking audacity, in their last act, the outgoing NSW Liberal government allowed Transport for NSW to lock us into $5 billion contracts for another eight years of a sub-standard private bus network. That's a long time to wait for a bus running so late it was cancelled and therefore didn't trigger the late running penalty in the juicy contract.

PostCovidprofitkeeper

Who'd have thought? So many of those businesses taking the jobkeeper money are now chucking it in. Buzzarding about are the 'restructure' outfits like Para, Site & Leech, who offer services such as ridding your business of pesky creditors and reprinting the letterheads for a fresh start.

Godsavehimandhelpus

'Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury's modest digs, said it was hoped the significant change to the historic service would result in a "great cry around the nation and around the world of support for the King" from those watching on television, online or gathered in the open air at big screens. When the Archbishop proclaims "God Save The King", all will be asked to respond: *"God Save King Charles. Long Live King Charles. May The King live for ever."* A spokesman for Lambeth Palace said the homage was a particularly exciting technological advance.' Only North Korea does it better and we laugh at them writing down their leader's 'divine' utterances as if they come from God.

Don'teventhinkaboutit

University of Texas researchers are working on mind reading software that looks at the brain waves produced by hearing text and reverse engineers it to produce text from thought. "We believe it's important to keep researching the privacy implications of brain decoding and enact policies that protect each person's mental privacy," researcher Jerry Tang said.

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Contributions desperately welcome.