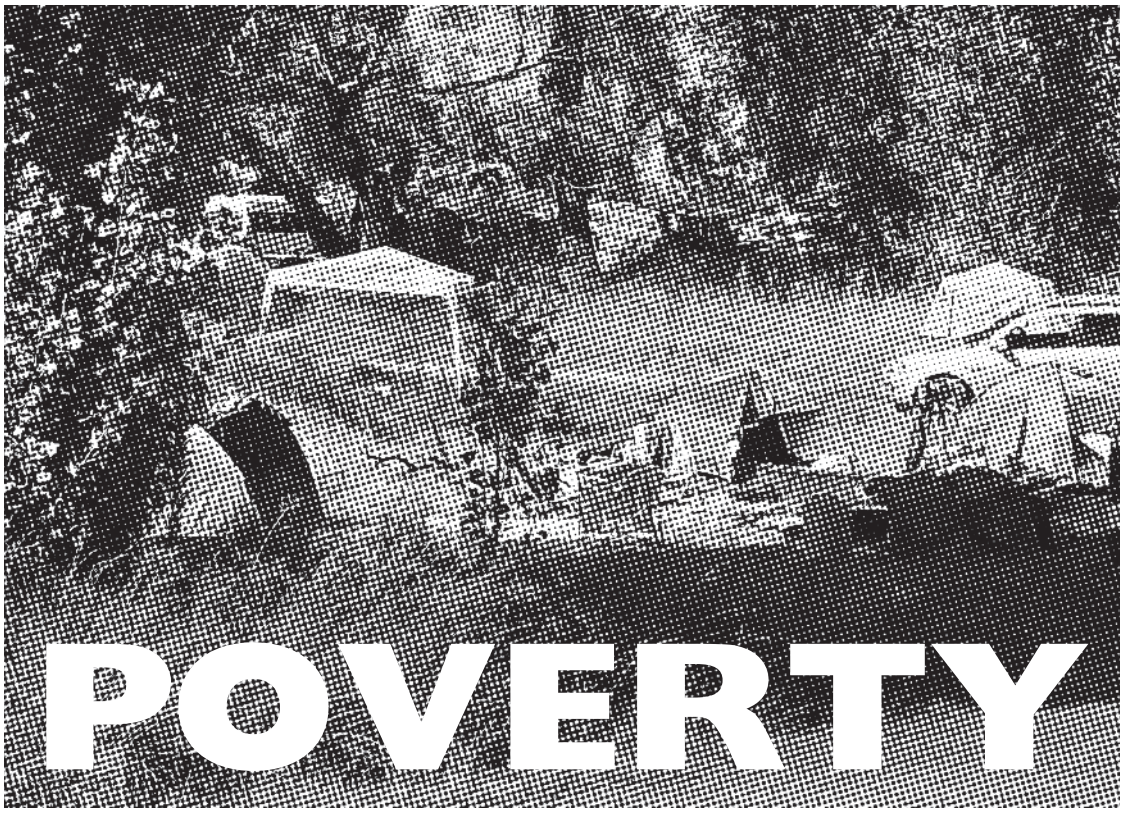
BRAIDWOOD'S
# Changing Times

Issue #81 — $2.00

Wednesday June 28, 2023

**COMING WEATHER**

| | Min | Max | Chance rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wed | 3° | 11° | 20% |
| Thur: | 1° | 11° | 5% |
| Fri: | 0° | 11° | 0% |
| Sat: | 2° | 13° | 5% |
| Sun: | -2° | 13° | 5% |
| Mon: | -1° | 13° | 20% |
| Tue: | 1° | 13° | 50% |




# An unseen problem on our doorstep

Paul Cockram and Robin Tennant Wood

With a housing shortage, rising rents and interest rates as well as the cost of living increasing, the problem of poverty and homelessness is becoming even more acute, and rural and regional areas are not immune.

One of the major hurdles in addressing poverty and homelessness is its virtual invisibility. According to Maria Bakas, the centre manager of the Braidwood Life Centre, 2021 census figures show that there are around 300 people locally living in poverty. The ABS defines poverty as the inability to provide basic necessities: food, housing and clothing.

Ms Bakas said that this can occur through any number of ways and cited examples where one partner becomes seriously ill and the other needs to cease work to look after them; or where money has to be used for medical treatment leaving nothing for rent or food. According to Ms Bakas, the demographic at most risk of poverty and homeless is women living alone in rental accommodation and people over 65.

The problem becomes more pronounced in winter. Ms Bakas said there are "a great number" of people living in cars and as well as the discomfort of homelessness, she pointed out that living in such conditions makes people vulnerable. Abuse and even assault is common.

"People offer people an area to stay in, and they think that the person living in their share owes them, which they're happy to do, but it gets bigger and bigger all the time.

"There have been assaults on people … and then they leave, obviously they don't stay and they go somewhere else."

The Life Centre has supplies of blankets and doonas and Ms Bakas said that people need wool at this time of year.

"We always have blankets. Blankets and doonas and only wool. People sometimes donate and we say, no point giving us cotton, we need wool. They're cold."

One of the most basic and vital services the Life Centre provides is to, in the first instance, listen to people's stories.

> "First of all we listen to the story from the people, to feel what the person's saying and talk it through with them. We find out what would help.

"Always there's a hamper of food. We don't have sweets, we have pasta, rice, sauces, corn. We can suit different needs.

"Some people don't cook, they can't cook if they're in a car. So we get things that they can add hot water to. Those sausage and steak things that they can add a bit of warm water, or a bit of rice. We've got some brown rice. We've got pumpkins and we've got potatoes and we've got bread and sometimes we have eggs and sometimes, not all the time, we can do emergency petrol support vouchers.

"We listen, we hear if we can help in any other way. Can we refer them to someone about housing? We have two houses, I think. I think we've got two government housing places now – we had about 18 and they've been sold."

While the Braidwood Life Centre is working to address the symptoms of poverty and homelessness at the local grassroots level, it cannot address the underlying causes of poverty, which come down to public policy and economics.

The NSW Tenant's Union has noted that each month in NSW, 2300 renters face a "no grounds eviction" which leads to an immediate cost of almost $9.5 million directly to the households, and $12 million to the NSW economy.

Prior to the state election in March, NSW Labor committed to establishing a Rental Commission to be an advocate and voice for renters, as well as the mandating of a minimum of 30 per cent social and affordable housing for developments on surplus government land. According to the CEO of the Tenant's Union, Leo Patterson Ross, change is needed urgently to ensure greater security for the one third of people in NSW who rent their homes.

Homelessness NSW, the peak agency working with other organisations to end homelessness in NSW, noted that while the federal budget handed down by Treasurer Jim Chalmers last month "contained some promising initiatives which help improve cost of living and access to health services, measures to address the housing and homelessness crisis were noticeably absent."

***ANALYSIS by Roderic Pitty***

*... on page 8*

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**EDITORIAL** *Robin Tennant Wood*

# Science before tourism in the depths

Picture a spot at almost four kilometres in a straight line from where you are now. Now imagine that distance vertically above you.

That's how far from the surface of the ocean the wreck of the Titanic lies. At that depth the pressure is around 50,000-60,000 tonnes. Other than some bizarre sea creatures that have evolved to survive at extreme depths, nothing moves at 4000 metres depth; including what's left of the Titanic – it's gone nowhere for 111 years and it's not going anywhere now.

More humans have been to the moon than have been to the bottom of the ocean, which is, of course, one of the reasons it remains such a tantalising prospect for exploration. "The last frontier", as the ocean floor is often popularly called, is the source of all measure of myths and legends. Stories abound about sea monsters and other unexplained phenomena, and such stories are all the more potent because no one can prove or disprove them. We simply have not been able to gather the knowledge.

*The Titanic submersible*

The five people who lost their lives last week in the submersible vehicle Titan, were not on a mission to gather scientific data. While one of the passengers was a maritime expert with considerable experience in underwater exploration, the purpose of the dive was not scientific, it was to look at the wreck of the Titanic.

There are two things going on here: one is the extraordinary allure of Titanic itself. The seabed is littered with the remains of many, many shipwrecks. The first evidence of sailing craft dates to around the 4th millennium BCE in Egypt – that's 6000 years ago – and humans have been traversing the oceans ever since. In that time, thousands of ships have been lost at sea and tens of thousands of lives. Yet, the "unsinkable" luxury liner that hit an iceberg in the north Atlantic and sank in April 1912 is the one that holds us in its thrall. Immortalised in no fewer than 18 feature films and numerous documentaries, the remains of the ship itself were not located until 1985, due to the depth at which it rests.

The second factor is the costs involved in extreme exploration and the risks that people will take. Each of the four passengers on board the Titan paid around $A320,000 to be there. Reports since the vessel's disappearance suggest that the company cut corners in the design and manufacture of the submersible, and that there is a worrying lack of industry regulation and oversight. The same drive that led Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos to fly into space, and which leads tycoons to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to mountaineering companies to get them to the summit of Mt Everest is what led the four passengers in the Titan to lock themselves in a tiny vessel with no escape route in order to view the Titanic wreck: ego.

The founder of the Oceangate company that owned the submersible vessel, and who perished with his four passengers, is on the record as being quite cavalier about the risk of extreme diving, saying that just getting out of bed in the morning is risky. Yes, of course it is.

> We face all sorts of risks in our daily life, but for the most part, we don't deliberately place ourselves in positions of life and death to satisfy a desire to do something no one else has done.

And we certainly don't pay for the privilege of doing so.

If, as is often said, money, doesn't buy happiness (although let's face it, a lot of us would be happier with a bit more of it), it certainly doesn't buy immunity from risk when we put ego ahead of common sense.

The ocean floor will ultimately reveal its secrets as our technological means of accessing it improve. Until then, the Titanic should not be a destination for disaster tourism.

# Braidwood FM is looking for volunteers

Yes, we are always on the lookout for people who would like to be presenters on air, HOWEVER, they are not the only volunteers needed to keep the station running efficiently, we are also looking for volunteers to help in other ways ...

- if you have a good voice and would like to record announcements for our sponsors, or maybe you might like to record the "Community Noticeboard" each week;
- maybe you might have skills in sourcing and writing grants and would like to become our Grants Administrator;
- if you are a technician with computer or broadcasting transmission skills, or, you would like to learn such skills then get in contact with us;
- if you have computer skills and could create a database of the music we have, or maybe you might like to digitise our CD collection;
- if you are good at talking with people, you might like to come along to our outside broadcasts and chat with people about the station and about becoming a member;
- how about joining our "Programming Sub-Committee", and you will involved in selecting the types of programs that go to air;
- you might even want to give the station a general clean each week, like a vacuum, sweep, mop, dust, etc.

To find out more, or if you have skills in areas you think may be of use to the station, just give Gordon a call on 0422 921 269 or email him at info@braidwoodradio.com.au

# Why should you consider becoming an on-call firefighter in Braidwood?


On-call firefighters respond to local emergency incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from their home or other workplaces. They are notified by pager or mobile phone and can balance other work, study and family commitments while also protecting and supporting their local community.

A firefighting career is one of the most important, rewarding and well-respected careers in our community. Firefighting involves day, night and weekend work.

Applications are accepted from all members of the community and are assessed on merit and physical aptitude. We employ people who reflect our professionalism and values, as well as the diversity of our community.

Further information is available at: www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=11

# Rusty's close call is a warning

Robin Tennant Wood

When John Moore heard his cat Rusty meowing in distress last week, his initial thought was that the cat had got himself caught in chicken wire or a fence. The reality was much more serious.

Rusty had been snared by a "steel jaw trap", which a spokesperson for Local Land Services (LLS) confirmed are "highly illegal in New South Wales". The RSPCA noted that the use of such devices, also called "leg hold traps", can incur fines of up to $5,500 and/or up to six months' imprisonment.

Rusty was rushed to the vet where, despite the best efforts of vet, Greg Gilbert, and his team, Rusty's paw was too badly damaged to save and his hind leg was amputated.

The trap, which was baited with a dead chook, was located on the northern part of the Hassall Reserve, bordered on three sides by houses.

Other than the distress of their cat being gravely injured, of concern to John and Jane Moore is that fact that children play on that reserve and it could quite easily have been a small hand or foot that got caught.

Wildlife and other domestic pets are also at risk with this kind of device.

The matter was reported to police and the trap handed over. Senior Constable Shane Gillett of the Monaro Police District, based in Braidwood, confirmed that the matter has been investigated and that a person has been spoken to by police with regard to the incident.

While foxes in town constitute a threat to local poultry, humane traps can be borrowed from the Local Land Services office in Ryrie Street.

Meanwhile, Rusty is making a recovery and adapting to his new circumstances.

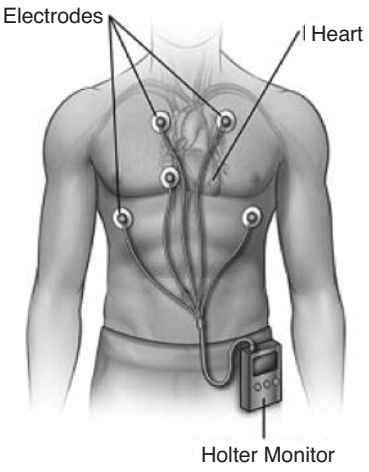
## SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

# Holter Monitor

Arrhythmias are a range of abnormalities within the heart's electrical system. Arrhythmias occur when there is a fault within the electrical system, which controls how fast or slow the heart should be pumping blood.

Arrhythmias can be a consequence of existing medical conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obstructive sleep apnoea and thyroid disorders. You may be at higher risk of developing an arrhythmia if you are overweight, drink alcohol, have a family history of cardiovascular disease or smoke.

Symptoms of arrhythmias include feeling faint or lightheaded, palpitations, shortness of breath or anxiety. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should speak to your GP immediately.




There are many ways to diagnose arrhythmias, using different types of monitors to record your heart's electrical signals.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, we use a small wearable device called a Holter Monitor to record your heart's electrical activity, usually over a 24-hour period. The results are analysed by a cardiologist and reviewed with the help of your GP.

This service is fully funded by Medicare if you have a referral from your GP. You can book an appointment online by visiting www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood or speaking to our team in-store.

**JUNE LONG WEEKEND**

## *BOOK FAIR: Somehow we've done it again!*

Trading for just 3 ½ days – 9am Fri 9th, though to 2pm Mon 12th, 1000's and 1000's of books were sold along with DVDs, CDs, records, magazines and jigsaw puzzles.

Each day was busy with a lovely buzz in the theatre as people browsed and more than once found that very book they were looking for and excitedly told us about their find.

It is very encouraging to hear people comment on the organisation of the Fair and how well it is set out. It has certainly become one of the Book Fairs to visit and visit they do, from far and wide.

Each time we run our Book Fair we streamline the organisation in some way.

With the request that no donations be accepted during the Fair, but left for sorting all year round at our sorting/storage area behind St Andrew's Anglican church, Elrington St, Braidwood, the daily work load at the Fair was greatly reduced and with all books being in their sorted boxes, it was easier to top-up as necessary.

There is no doubt we have created a popular and successful community event. Yes, a huge amount of work which, whilst it culminates at the Fair, really happens all year round as donations are received and sorting days held.

It certainly could not happen without our volunteers and we thank each one of you: the Apex 'boys' who move the boxes of books from storage to Theatre, local businesses who support us, all who give donations and all who give their time to 'work' at the Fair.

A true community effort which, after expenses has given us approx. $16,000 to spread around local community groups. Thank you one and all.

With your help, we'll do it all again around Australia Day Jan 2024.

**Marjorie, Lois & Ros: Book Fair Committee**

*Pip Thompson, Barbara Jane Gilbey, Lucy Carrigy-Ryan, Jack Chenoweth, Samuel Payne and some of the audience.*

# Canberra Strings: a winter's treat

Mary Appleby

On a blustery winter's afternoon, a crowd gathered at the Servicemen's Club for the much anticipated return of the Canberra Strings.

Braidwood's Barbara Jane Gilbey (formerly concertmaster of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Aria Award winner) was joined by Canberra Symphony Orchestra players Pip Thompson (violin), Jack Chenoweth (cello), Lucy Carrigy-Ryan and Samuel Payne (violas) to play two late-career string quintets: Mendelssohn's String Quintet No. 2 in B flat Major, Opus 87, and Brahms' String Quintet No. 2 in G major Opus 111.

Barbara Jane introduced the program, likening both works as new wine in old bottles. Mendelssohn and Brahms, while Romantic in spirit, stuck with classical forms, in contrast to their more revolutionary contemporaries Wagner and Liszt, who regarded these structures as archaic. Both Barbara and Pip offered the audience insights into the ensemble's approach to both works, as they practised together over a mere week (!) to produce a memorable program.

This began with the Mendelssohn quintet, written in 1845, two years before his death at the tragically early age of 38, and published posthumously. The first movement, Allegro vivace, was full of energy, with demented triplets interspersed with lyrical melody and underpinned by rich violas and cello. Well worth the spontaneous applause between movements, and acknowledged. The second movement involved contrast between airy pizzicato and interweaving of themes between players and some lovely solos in all parts. The third movement was utterly beautiful, restrained and poignant, again with gorgeous solo work. The final movement was full of frenetic energy, its simple theme tossed between players to create a complex fugal texture.

As we were informed, Brahms intended his G major Quintet to be his swan song, so unlike Mendelssohn's quintet, it was the product of a long career, with a concluding statement in mind. (He was actually beguiled later into writing his gorgeous clarinet works in semi-retirement). As promised, the opening was hugely dramatic – a cello melody soaring from sonorous depths to dizzy heights against a shimmery accompaniment. This work was texturally more rich and velvety, achieving an almost symphonic sound. The score allows great contrasts between different combinations of instruments, with pairings of violins against violas, and a gorgeous rich combination of violas and cellos against interplay of violins.

The yearning intensity of the second movement provided a textural contrast and showed off each instrument's melodic gifts. The busy, inventive last movement provided a finale full of energy, invention and interplay between each player. A suitably stupendous ending.

The Servicemen's Club provided (gratis) a cosy and welcoming venue, with surprisingly good acoustics. Unlike more upmarket music venues, a complimentary drink was available during interval, and one was spared the indignity of scoffing as the bell rang.

Thanks to Michelle and staff for facilitating the event.

## BRAIDWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

John Longhurst

# 'Mamma Mia' for BCS students

Thirty Years 9 to 12 Braidwood Central School Music and Drama students travelled to the Lyric Theatre in Sydney last week to watch *'MAMMA MIA'*.

The excursion was partly funded by the NSW Government Recovery Grants for NSW Creatives.

BCS successfully applied for a grant and the excursion is part of a concerted effort to promote the Arts in the Braidwood Community.

The original production of *MAMMA MIA!* opened in London's West End in 1999 and is still playing there, becoming the sixth longest running show in West End history. Since first wowing audiences and critics, the production has gone on to play in over 50 countries, in over 440 major cities, to over 65 million people.

In 2017, an all Australian creative team restaged the production to create a unique Australian production.

The feel good musical features 22 of ABBA's greatest hits to tell a magical story of love, laughter and friendship.

The students were accompanied by BCS Teachers, Ms Fiona Howell and Mr Peter van Rijswijk.

Ms Howell said "It was a great day with an 8.00am start to catch the matinee performance at 1.00pm and return to Braidwood at 9.00pm. The students sang all the way to Sydney and back and loved the musical. The production had excellent choreography and the use of colour throughout the production was remarkable. Visually, the bright hues of the wedding and beach scenes aligned beautifully with the score, and the lighting design was immaculate throughout."

For Year 10 Student, Faith Andreata, the excursion was her first experience of live theatre.

Faith said "Of course I have watched the movie *'Mamma Mia'* but the live production was a whole new experience. The authentic sound, dancing and singing has really inspired me to see more live performances."

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely acknowledged the NSW Government Recovery Grants for NSW Creatives in partly funding the excursion.

Ms Mosely said "The grant is allowing BCS to regenerate the Arts both at school and the wider community. A big thank you to our teachers who accompanied the students for a very long but enjoyable day to the Lyric Theatre in Sydney."


# BCS primary students shine in public speaking

Braidwood Central School (BCS) Primary students travelled to to Bungendore to participate in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition last week.

The competition has been running for 28 years and encourages primary school students to explore ideas of multiculturalism in Australia whilst practising their public speaking skills and improving their confidence.

Every year around 2,000 students are chosen to represent their schools.

Contestants presented both a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. The prepared speech must convey a multicultural message and the impromptu speech topic was based on a general, non multicultural theme.

Year 3 Student, James Stephens, spoke about 'The Story of Australia', focusing on Australian migration and its positive impact on our classrooms.

Year 4 Student, Lina Williams, spoke about her 'Multicultural Classroom', providing interesting facts about Germany as well as her personal heritage.

Owen Baylis (Year 5) and Bridie Gleeson (Year 6) both gave engaging speeches on 'Learning From the Past'.

The adjudicator, Jack Wasson, spoke positively about the students' passion and enthusiasm and thanked them for participating in the program.

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely congratulated the students.

Ms Mosely said "Public speaking is a key life skill and BCS is committed to providing our students with every opportunity to develop and showcase their skills."

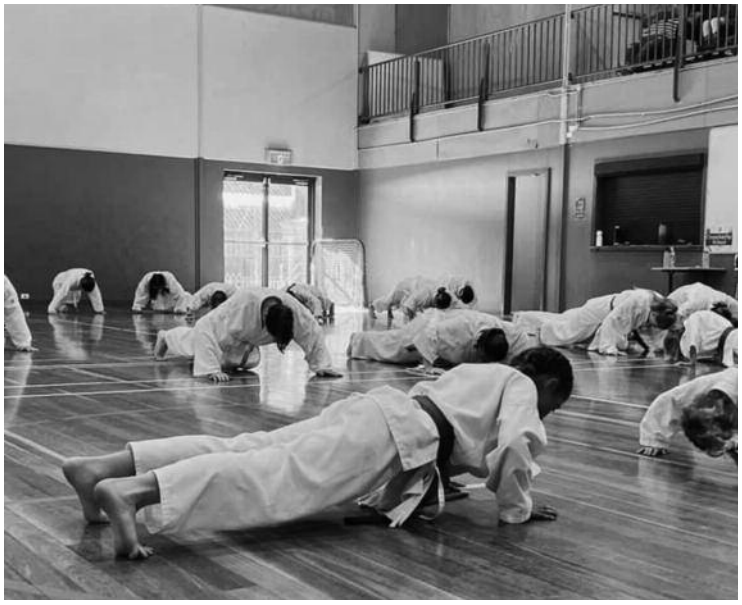
Bridie Gleeson speaks

# Push-ups for a purpose

Congratulations to the 18 members of the JSPD Martial Arts group in Braidwood who, collectively, powered through an arm-numbing 52,821 push-ups in the first 23 days of June as part of the national Push-Up Challenge for mental health.

The Push-up Challenge 2023 was in recognition of the 3,144 people in Australia who lost their lives to suicide in 2021. It began as a national fundraiser for mental health services in 2018. In six years, the challenge has raised over $26 million for mental health services with over 300,000 people "pushing for better health".

JSPD Braidwood raised $4,411 over the duration of the challenge this year, with the funds going to Lifeline and Movember.






*Lions Jamie, Ken and Laurie being installed by Craig Pettit.*

# Braidwood Lions Changeover Dinner was a 'roar' of an occasion

John Tuckwell, Braidwood Lions

On Saturday 24 June Braidwood Lions had its first Changeover Dinner since 2019 (for all the reasons we all know about) and was held at the Braidwood Servicemens Club with around 60 people attending, with many special guests including Steve Whan, Member for Monaro, Rebecca Ryan, QPRC General Manger representing Mayor Kenrick Winchester and an enthusiastic group of partners of former Lions members.

The Changeover Dinner is all about the formal handover to the new committee. But in this case the executive is unchanged for 2023-24, with Jamie Raynolds as President, Laurie Ffrench as Secretary and Ken Thomas, Treasurer.

We were lucky enough and honoured to have Keith Potger provide the evening's entertainment and as always Keith delivered a brilliant set.

There are currently 22 members of Braidwood Lions, but sadly we are losing Arvie Dobson who has moved to Canberra. In 2021-22 Braidwood Lions donated $13,580 to local causes and a further $2,640 to Lions national and international foundations.

A big thank you to all our special guests for attending, the Club for making us so welcome, the Pine Garden Restaurant for serving up a delicious Chinese banquet, Keith Potger for our wonderful entertainment and those who organized such a brilliant evening.

***Regular Braidwood Lions fundraising activities:***

- 2nd Saturday of the month: Wood Raffle outside the newsagents
- 4th Saturday of the month: Sausage Sizzle at Ryrie Park Markets
- Every Thursday from 6.15pm: Chocolate Wheel at the Royal Mail Hotel
- Long Weekend in October: Antique Fair
- Every other year: Young Writers Festival, with the next in 2024.

*Braidwood Lions Members at the dinner applaud Keith Potger.*

# The secret's in the soil

Robin Tennant Wood


It's truffle season and Ally Kemp is keen to get her truffles – and the secret behind the earthy and delicious nuggets of black gold – out to the public.

She points to three key factors for a successful truffle harvest.

First, it's the soil. "You need a good alkaline soil," says Ally. "You have to dig it up and add lime." The truffles spores then grow on the roots of typically either oak or hazelnut trees. "They'll grow on pines as well, but pines tend to be too volatile in fires."

The deciduous trees also allow light to hit the soil in autumn, a crucial factor in ripening the truffles.

Ally says, "truffles are incredibly smart. In autumn they release a chemical which 'burns off' the grass in a circle around the trees where they're growing so that light gets to the soil." They don't actually burn it, but the French term used to describe the process is brulée, which means burn.

The second factor is the dogs. "My neighbour, Julie Young, is a dog trainer and she's trained her dog and mine as truffle dogs," Ally said.

Monty and Luna, the truffle dogs, are a vital part of the team and the process. The system for training truffle dogs is to give the dogs the scent of the truffles and then hide a tiny speck of it and reward the dog when it finds it. "Our dogs can find truffles the size of hundreds-and-thousands", said Ally.

Finally, it's the teamwork. "With Julie and me and dogs it's a great team effort," Ally said. "It makes it all fun."

Ally will be selling her truffles at the Visitors' Information Centre subject to availability throughout the truffle season with some of the proceeds being donated to the VIC and the Braidwood and the Villages Tourism Association.

*"Nah, the secret's in the nose" says Monty the TruffleSniffer.*

The BaVT receives no direct funding from council and relies on sales through the VIC and volunteers in order to keep the doors open.

**Braidwood and Villages Tourism – Visitors information Centre**

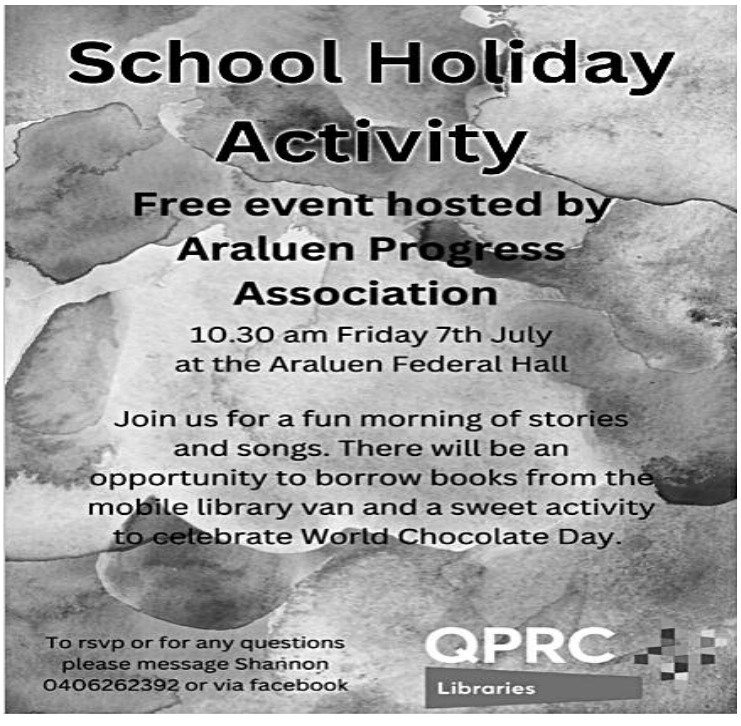
Will hold their AGM on
**Wednesday 12th July at 4.30 pm.**
at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club.

All businesses and locals welcome.

We need to keep our Visitors Information Centre **open** for the many visitors who come.

Please note we are a 'not for profit' organisation and pay rent, phone, internet and electricity bills.

All assistance gratefully received.




# Helping local communities to save on energy bills

Office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP

The Federal Government is partnering with local government to deliver energy upgrades and bill savings for community facilities like local pools, sporting clubs and community centres, so they can spend more on what they do best.

A new $100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund will co-fund upgrades with local councils and has the potential to unlock over $200 million in high-impact energy upgrades to save community facilities on bills over the medium and long term.

In Eden-Monaro, local councils own and operate many of the public sporting, community and cultural facilities people use every year, and we know that 8 million Australians use community sport infrastructure annually.

In announcing the new funding jointly with the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Jenny McAllister, Member for Eden-Monaro and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Kristy McBain said, "Local governments are trusted delivery partners of a range of services communities rely on, which is why we continue to provide them with targeted assistance to help them meet the needs of their local communities.

"We know that every dollar local governments save goes back into their community, which is why the Community Energy Upgrades Fund is great news for Eden-Monaro.

"It will mean more energy efficient operations and better experiences for our communities to enjoy.

This new funding will unlock energy saving upgrades for community facilities around the country, and it is a great opportunity for investment in Eden-Monaro. Upgrades could include replacing energy-intensive heating in council pools with heat pumps and energy efficient lighting, and battery storage at sporting fields, libraries and community centres.

The Albanese Government is committed to delivering cheaper, cleaner energy to more Australians, and this $100 million funding boost from the Albanese Government, adds to the $1.6 billion Energy Savings Package delivering upgrades for homes and businesses in the 2023-24 Budget.

The guidelines for the Fund will be designed in close consultation with key stakeholders, including the Australian Local Government Association.

# Poverty in Braidwood and rural NSW

Dr Roderic Pitty

Poverty in Braidwood can be assessed in various ways, based on a report produced by the NSW Council of Social Service using figures for the Braidwood area from the August 2021 census.

The definition of poverty in this report is an income less than 50% of the median income. For a single person living alone in 2021, this poverty line was $504 per week.

First, there are actual numbers of people. Categorised by age, of the 434 people living in poverty in Braidwood in 2021, nearly half (210) were adults aged between 25 and 64. Over a quarter (111) were seniors aged 65 or older. There were 66 children aged 14 or younger, and 47 young people under 25 living in poverty. More women than men were enduring poverty, although there had been an increase in male poverty since the 2016 census.

Second, figures for Braidwood can be compared to other areas, generally and according to specific social or economic categories. In 2021, the proportion of people in the Braidwood area living in poverty was 11.6%. This was below the NSW average of 13.4%, but far above other areas of the QPRC region, such as Queanbeyan Surrounds, where the figure was 4%.

Third, changes since the 2016 census can be identified. Most changes in Braidwood were in parallel with those in the rest of country NSW, such as an increase in poverty among those paying off a mortgage. But the poverty rate for young people (aged 15-24) in Braidwood rose a lot more than elsewhere, so that only in this age group was the poverty rate in Braidwood higher (at 18.2%) than in country NSW (at 15.1%).

In terms of employment status, more full-time workers in Braidwood (4.5%) were living in poverty in 2021 than for country NSW (2.9%). While the rate of part-time workers in poverty was the same as for country NSW (10.1%), in Braidwood this resulted from a much larger increase since 2016 (170%) than in all of rural NSW (44%).

Comparisons are relative, and can be misleading if viewed in isolation from actual changes. Thus the proportion of people in poverty in Braidwood living in private rentals dropped compared to 2016, and to a greater degree than in the rest of country NSW. But this was simply a consequence of more poverty among people with a mortgage. The actual median rent in Braidwood nearly doubled, from $278 per week in 2016 to $526 in 2021. This trend has increased since 2021. The situation for private renters has become much worse.

Finally, it must be recognised that poverty is a major social problem with structural causes, and pernicious impacts on individuals, including chronic homelessness. This problem results from an economic system that could be reformed, by introducing a universal basic income.

This was seen temporarily during the first phase of the Covid pandemic. The unemployment payment in Australia is the lowest in all Western countries except for Greece. By 2020 it had not been raised in real terms for over 20 years. Then it was doubled for several months as a response to the economic crisis during the lockdowns. The result for unemployed people in country NSW was dramatic. Whereas in the March quarter of 2020 54% of all unemployed people in rural NSW were living in poverty, by the June quarter this had dropped to 17.4%.

The NSW Council of Social Service has recommended that basic welfare payments should be substantially raised, in line with advice to the federal Government before the 2023 budget from its Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee. If the Government had listened to that advice, one dimension of poverty in Braidwood and elsewhere would have been reduced.

*(L to R): Eduardo Gacitua, Linda McCorriston, Susan Dodds, Pip O'Reilly, Associate Professor Girish Talaulikar, and Margaret Bennett at the launch at Queanbeyan Renal Unit.*

# New initiative puts a lid on life-threatening bleeds

Southern NSW Local Health District

A new partnership between Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD) and Canberra Health Service (CHS) will improve first aid management of rare, life-threatening bleeds for local end-stage kidney failure patients on haemodialysis.

The 'STOP the bleed – Use a LID' initiative is based on a successful program created in the UK. Patients, carers, paramedics and other health workers are taught how to use a bottle top lid to effectively stop a bleed until the patient can be transported to hospital for urgent review by specialist vascular surgeons.

SNSWLHD Renal Clinical Nurse Consultant, Pip O'Reilly, who co-hosted the 'STOP the bleed – Use a LID' launch at Queanbeyan Renal Unit today, said the program is being rolled out across all Renal Units in SNSWLHD.

Ms O'Reilly says that while very rare, bleeds from an arteriovenous fistula or graft can result in significant blood loss, and even death, without fast treatment.

"Since most life-threatening bleeds occur in the community, outside of a dialysis unit, it is vital that local patients, carers, paramedics and other health professionals know what to do," Ms O'Reilly said.

"SNSWLHD and Canberra Health Service Renal Network are the first renal service in Australia to use the bottle top to manage life threating haemodialysis bleeds.

"This is a game changer for haemodialysis patients and their caregivers, giving them peace of mind that they have a quick and effective treatment ready if a bleed occurs."

As part of the 'STOP the bleed – Use a LID' rollout, local haemodialysis patients and their carers have received education and resources that include an information leaflet, fridge magnet and a Dialysis Access Alert Card.

SNSWLHD is supplying the medical-grade lids to all those who receive training.


# Bendigo Bank

## Community Bank Braidwood

is currently in its
21st year of business.

Our Community Bank model means that a percentage of profits made go back into our community in the form of sponsorships, donations and grants.

## To date, we have returned over **$3,200,000**

We can only achieve this with the support of our community supporting the Bank.

Supporting your community

## Community Bank Braidwood

$3,200,000 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.40pm

Bendigo Bank

# FINANCIAL LITERACY QUIZ

## How money smart are you?

Nick Fry wants to know

**Jane's mortgage repayment is $1500 per month. Which repayment strategy would give Jane the biggest savings? (a) Paying $1500 per month; (b) Splitting her repayment into two and paying $750 per fortnight; (c) Multiplying her monthly repayment by 12, then dividing by 26 and paying $692 per fortnight.**

ANSWER: (b) One way to save money is to make fortnightly repayments instead of monthly. As there are 12 months a year, but 26 fortnights this effectively means you are making 13 monthly repayments in a 12 month period.

**A credit card offers an interest-free period of 55 days, does that mean that you don't pay interest on any purchases until 55 days after you buy the item? (a) True; (b) False**

ANSWER: (b) The interest free period on a credit card refers to the maximum number of interest free days that are available on a purchase you make with the card. If the card offers 55 days interest free, it doesn't mean that you have 55 days to pay off each card purchase before interest is charged.

**Chloe has an outstanding credit card debt of $3,000, charging 18%pa interest. Her minimum monthly repayments are set at 2% of the closing balance. If Chloe only made the minimum repayments, she would ... (a) Pay it off in one year, (b) Pay it off in five years, (c)Pay it off in twenty five years**

ANSWER: (c) The minimum payment on a credit card is the lowest amount you have to pay to avoid a late fee. Usually it is set at $25 or 2% of the amount owing. In Chloe's case, it would take her 25 years to pay off her $3000 debt and she would pay $6521 in interest.

**When working out the sum insured for your house, you should base it on? (a) The amount you paid for the property? (b) The amount it would cost to rebuild your home, (c) The amount you would get if you sold your home?**

ANSWER: (b) When working out the figure, you need to consider the worst possible scenario, eg if the property was destroyed by fire or flood, also take into consideration demolition and removal of debris, architect fees etc.

**Piper is borrowing money to buy a car. She has the option of taking out a car loan with a balloon payment. Does this mean: (a) The repayments will be lower but she will have to pay a lump sum including interest at the end; (b) The repayments will be lower but she will have to pay a large upfront deposit?**

ANSWER: (a)

**Buy now pay later services are often advertised as "interest free" but they may charge fees. Which of the following can apply? (a) Establishment Fee; (b) Monthly account keeping fee; (c) Payment processing fee; (d) Late Fee; (e) All of the above;**

ANSWER: (e) There are a number of fees that buy now pay later (BNPL) providers may charge. The most common is the late fee. This generally ranges from $5 to $15 per missed instalment. If you consider a BNPL scheme, be sure to check when fees may apply and how much they are.

**Finn was 3 weeks late in making a payment on his credit card. Can the credit provider mark it as late on his Credit Report? (a) No, because late repayments are only recorded on mortgages; (b) No, because he caught up; (c) No, because it was less than 60 days late; (d) Yes, because it was more than 14 days late;**

ANSWER: (d) One of the pieces of information that appear on your credit report is the repayment history on your credit cards and other loans. You get a 14 day grace period before a lender can report a missed payment. This information stays on your credit report for 2 years.

**Paige has her money in a savings account paying 3%pa interest and inflation is 6% a year. After one year, would the money in the account allow her to buy: (a) More than today; (b) The same as today; (c) Less than today**

ANSWER: (c) Inflation is an increase in the level of prices of goods and services over a period of time. Paige's interest is $30 meaning at the end of the year she'd have $1030. If inflation is 6%, she'd need $1060 to pay for the same things.

**Therese has $500 to invest in a company. Brokerage fees are $20 per trade. How much would her investment have to increase for her to break even after she sells? (a) 4% or $20; (b) 8% or $40; (c) 10% or $50**

ANSWER: (b) Brokerage fees apply when you buy and sell shares. In this instance, Therese would pay $40, $20 for buying and $20 for selling. Therefore, Therese's investment would have had to increase by $40.

**12. If an investment has returned 10% over the past 12 months, is that a guarantee that it will do well in the future? (a) Yes; (b) No**

ANSWER: (b) Past performances are not a guarantee of future returns.

**The super guarantee is the minimum percentage of earnings an employer needs to pay into an employee's super fund. How much is that currently? (a) 9.5%; (b) 10%; (c) 10.5%; (d) 11%**

ANSWER: (c) 10.5%. The rate is set to increase to 11% on 1 July, 2023, then 11.5% on 1 July 2024 and 12% on 1 July 2025.

**The tax-free threshold in Australia is $18,200. What does that mean? (a) You pay no tax on the first $18,200 of your income; (b) You pay a lower rate of tax on the first $18,200 of your income.**

ANSWER: (a)

**Paul gets a call from his internet service provider saying that customer records were wiped due to a technical error and they need him to provide a few personal details. Paul should: (a) Give him the information they have requested; (b) Ask a few more questions to try to confirm the call is legitimate; (c) Not provide any details and call the organisation in question directly to check**

ANSWER: (c) You should never give out personal information, credit card details or account details over the phone or replying to an email or message. The best thing to do is hang up and call the business yourself.

**Karl is shopping around for a new energy plan and notices one provider is offering 22% off the reference/default price. That is the biggest discount he has seen advertised. Does this automatically make it the cheapest option? (a) Yes; (b) No**

ANSWER: (b) The reference/default price is based on a scenario that may not reflect your households energy usage. Also, discounts usually assume that conditional requirements, such as ensuring bills are paid on time, are met in full.

**Isabelle only turns on the dishwasher in the middle of the night because she thinks it will save her money on electricity. Is that true? (a) Yes, if she is on a single-rate tariff; (b) Yes, if she is on a time-of-use tariff; (c) No**

ANSWER: (a) If you're on a time of use (TOU) tariff, you will be charged lower rates for any electricity used during off peak times, when there is less demand on the electricity grid. Rates are generally cheaper between 10pm and 7pm, but always check with your provider.

**Susan and her partner are shopping around for an NBN plan. They notice the plans are called NBN 25, NBN 50, NBN 100 etc. What do these numbers mean? (a) The theoretical peak download speed you could get on that plan; (b) The peak download speed you are guaranteed on that plan; (c)The peak upload speed you are guaranteed on that plan; (d) The amount of data included in that plan**

ANSWER: (a) There are a number of NBN speeds on offer in

... continued on page 12

## Financial quiz

... continued from page 11

Australia. The NBN speed you should sign up to should ultimately depend on your households internet usage. Smaller households with low usage needs may find a slower speed tier such as NBN 25 or NBN 12 gets the job done.

**Jarrod wants to upgrade to a new smartphone but isn't sure if he should buy it outright and choose a SIM separately or get the phone on a plan with a major telco. Generally, is he likely to have to pay more for the phone if he opts to combine it with a plan? (a) Yes; (b) No**

ANSWER: (b)You will usually pay the same amount for a new phone if you purchase it outright as you would if you bought the same phone on a plan from a major telco.

**Donna is looking for a new SIM only mobile plan offering about 20GB of data a month, but she occasionally uses more than that in a month. Which of the below hypothetical plans would give her the best value but help her avoid bill shock? (a) A $30 prepaid plan with 20GB of data over a 30 day expiry period; (b) A monthly $40 postpaid plan with 20GB of data with no excess data charges; (c) A monthly $40 postpaid plan with 25GB of data just to be safe.**

ANSWER: (b) While the $30 prepaid plan will ensure you aren't shocked by excess data charges, it also means that you'd need to top up the credit or buy extra data.

**When shopping for groceries, what's the most effective way to make sure you are getting the best price? (a) Get the item or quantity because it's usually better value; (b) Buy the smallest item or quantity because it's cheaper so you aren't spending so much; (c) Buy the product that has the lowest unit price; (d) Buy the item that's on special (if applicable)?**

ANSWER: (c) Unit pricing allows you to compare the prices of products, regardless of size, brand, packaging or whether on sale or not, by using a standard unit of measurement.

# OBITUARY Simon (Scoofa) Jeffery 25-12-1970 – 17-4-2023

Tom Watson

I worked with Simon at Essential Energy for the past 13½ years, and he has been one of my lifelong friends.

Simon Paul Jeffery, or to many of us, Scoof, Scoofa or Si, was born at the Braidwood Hospital on the 25th of December 1970, delivered by his Grandmother Lola Burke. He was the first of 3 boys for Paul and Brenda, with David arriving in 1973 and Marty in 1978.

With Monga Public School closing, Simon had to make the trip into Braidwood to attend primary school at St Bede's and Secondary at Braidwood Central School.

Upon finishing Year 10 Simon was determined to leave school and work at the Monga sawmill. It was at this time that Scoof said he learnt a valuable life lesson. Never leave a job on bad terms ... or in this case school. He would tell the story of how he'd left school, only for the mill to close for the final time over the summer and he would have to return to complete years 11 and 12, much to his disgust, and with a couple of apologies to some teachers, he was back to finish off secondary school.

In 1988 Scoof completed school and gained a position at the Australian National University, studying Forestry. After two weeks though, being the only person to be wearing a flannelette shirt every day, in typical Scoofa fashion he refused to return, as there were no "Normal People There". He got a job and started work at coppers sawmill in Canberra. After a short amount of time, he decided to undertake an electrical apprenticeship with J & W Electrical, completing his trade in May of 1993.

In 1995 Simon gained a position with the Southern Tablelands County Council as an electrician. With his electrical background he was soon employed as a dual qualified linesman. With the amalgamations of county councils in the mid to late 90's Simon found himself part of a 3-man crew here in Braidwood with Michael Toirkens and Peter Mathias.

Over his 28-year career with what is now known as Essential Energy Simon worked all over the Southeast of NSW helping to keep the lights on. He would always offer to assist in times of need and after disasters to help restore supply to customers. From floods, wind and electrical storms to bushfires he would assist. A couple of trips stand out for me. We were tasked to help with the cleanup in the Southern Highlands and Illawarra after a windstorm. Simon, Peter, and I went up there for 4 days to do what we could. Being the apprentice, the guys instructed me "that you won't learn anything on the ground Tommy, so up you go". It was a great trip and after 4 days Scoof got a sniff that a film crew might be attending our last site for the evening news to report on us. Well, there was a wake of destruction and Scoof never got into a climbing harness that quick, he said "I'll show ya how to do this one mate". But what he really wanted was for the family at home to see him at work helping. For those in the industry will understand that a wedge clamp can be a temperamental device, Scoof was not going to be beaten by it, compounded by the fact we received news that the news crew was no longer attending, he decided to show us how to replace an entire service, after his temper won the battle.

On another trip after the Tathra bushfires, Simon again, along with myself and Gregory headed off to help where we could. After a week of rebuilding lines and restoring supply we ended up at Bermigui. Late on a Friday afternoon and with no accommodation, as Canberra had a long weekend, Greg suggested that he head off and try the pub to see if they had any spare rooms, whilst Simon and I finished of the switching. Greg gave us a call and to our relief said the pub had had a cancellation, so we had some beds. When we got there and met Greggy in the bar, he told us the publican had donated the rooms to us as we'd been down there working after the fires and the first few rounds were on the him, but there was one issue….. Gregory had managed to swindle himself the honeymoon suite, whilst Scoof and myself got a store room out the back with a bunk bed and one mattress……..Ahh the good times we use to have, but it made for a great story, and listening to Simon recount it years later was like it happened yesterday and everyone would be in stiches.

Simon also worked as a High Voltage Live Lineworker, mainly with Peter Mathias and Richard Bunn. After Pete left Braidwood Simon and Rich would travel a lot together to Goulburn, Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and Moruya helping other crews. When Greg started with Country Energy in 2009 and me in Braidwood Depot in 2011, Scoof was more than our mate, he was on both of applications as a reference and became our mentor. He was a great wealth of knowledge and I think myself lucky to have had him as a mentor.

Scoof left the Braidwood depot in March 2019 to take a role within System Control. He enjoyed his job and loved being on the other

*Paul (Lefty), Marty, David and Simon (Scoofa).*

end of the phone, still helping to keep the lights on. I again followed him and again was lucky for his guidance in helping me transition into the office and shiftwork lifestyle.

In March 2023, we both finished our Advanced Diploma in Electrical Engineering together, and I know undertaking this course was a challenge for Scoof. He was extremely proud of himself for finishing it, as I & his family were, because at times it was touch and go that he was going to stick with it to get it done.

Simon was well liked and well known across our organisation and will be dearly missed by all at Essential Energy.

In 1996, Simon met Mel. After a few years of courting and returning home from an around the world trip with his great mate Sparra by himself, after leaving Sparra in the States where he has been ever since, Scoof thought it was time to settle down. At Araluen on New Years Eve 1999 and after a competition winning rendition of Johnny Cash's *"A Boy Named Sue"* with Craig Coe, Scoof thought "how could she say No?" So proposed to Mel. Simon and Mel were married on September 30th, 2000.

Ned and Harry arrived on the 7th May 2002 and Matilda on 26th April 2006.

Of all of Simon's achievements in life, none came close to his children. He was extremely proud of the men that Ned and Harry have grown up to be and of the fine young lady, his princess has become. On our trips to and from work he would always be telling me and keeping me up to date with how the kids were going.

Simon was a very keen fisherman and loved attending fishing club weekends with the family. In 2013 he was awarded Saltwater Champion of the Braidwood Fishing Club. He enjoyed nothing more than to take the kids to wet a line and enjoy a beer.

He loved watching his kids play sport. From setting up frosty soccer fields on Saturday mornings, to making the weekly Friday night trip to Goulburn during winter for Rugby. He coached and helped coach different junior teams until the kids were through those junior stages. He helped with Junior rugby from when the boys started in under 8's until they finished in 2014, coaching them to a premiership.

Simon was a well-rounded squash player, playing for many years in the local squash comp. In 2013 he had a fairy tale run of not only being in 4 straight grand finals but winning 4. Often on a Sunday afternoon he could be found keeping the peace and scoring Ned and Harry do battle in practice matches.

In 2012 Scoof took up the sport of Lawn Bowls. His bowls had a large Eagle as the Logo. Whenever and I mean whenever he got one close he'd yell out across the green "The Eagle has now landed" … Humorous at first to his opponents, but on the days he was on fire, I'm sure it wore thin after the 10th time, but he always did it with that laugh of his and I'm sure this made it funny for all.

Scoof's earlier sporting endeavors consisted of Rugby League, Rugby Union, and Rodeo.

He played Junior League for the Braidwood Bears in the early days and then for the Senior team in 1995 and 1996.

Scoof, along with mates Aaron and Nigel Bunn competed across the Southern Rodeo Circuit, riding bulls and broncs during the 90s.

I can recall him breaking his leg at Bungendore Rodeo, not slowing him down, wiring up our Shed for Greg's 21st, two crutches and a cast, and him performing the fire dance at said party a couple of months later, Greg reckons he can still hear the quenching sound from his feet when he made it to the bathtub full of ice. It wasn't until a couple of days later he realized he'd melted a few toes together and had to have them separated by the doctors, requiring a few weeks off work.

He also came out of retirement and rode a saddle bronc at the Braidwood Rodeo in 2012, to persuade his boys to jump on a poddy.

In 1996 Scoof started playing Rugby Union for the Braidwood Redbacks. He played in the premiership winning team of 1997 and again in the runners up team of 1999. He was among the first group of players to reach the 50-game milestone for the club. He continued his love of Rugby up until only a couple of years ago playing for the old boys, the Daddy Long Legs. He is a well-respected Clubman and loved watching the boys run out in the Red and Black Strip, especially his boys over the last few seasons.

Scoof was always keen to help others. In the early years of the quilt event and even last year he would help with the hanging up the quilts, as he had access to long ladders to reach all the vantage points up and down the main street, and up until out of his control circumstances looked forward to decorating and illuminating the large pine tree in the park for Christmas.

In 2018 he became Apex's Santa Claus for the Christmas raffles. He loved doing it and the kids all reckoned he was the best Santa ever. It didn't matter what the kid asked for, Santa had a special way to say "Of course, you can have three sparkling unicorns" or "Sure, I'll get that electric downhill mountain bike for you", but every year he had his elf Matilda there to help deliver happiness to the children of the community.

There's a sport that Simon was very fond of, and we never got to see him at full potential. The story delivered by him is a thing of legend as all his yarns were. But Scoof could have been a world champion downhill skier, if only he had better negotiating skills. For some reason he never could work out that he was kicked off the mountain as his skis, consisting of a pair of work boots, Tek screwed to two fence palings didn't cut the mustard.

Scoof was a man that lived his life to the fullest. A real true blue Aussie larrikin, and part time magician, delivering magic and card tricks to anyone he could bail up. He loved his family and friends and was loved in return. A great mate to many and the best storyteller many have met. He had a way of engaging his audience with his hand signals and laughter and nothing was ever too serious.

We'll miss ya mate and always be thinking of the good times you've shared with so many. Thanks for the memories.

**BOOKWORM** *Julia Ermert*

# POETRY

I was lunching with my son, a chef, and reminiscing about family cooking.

My late husband was a stickler for the rules, measuring everything exactly, and even driving for half an hour to buy a missing ingredient. I was more slapdash, measuring by sight, gauging by consistency, and using a certain undefinable mouthfeel to substitute something already in the pantry. It worked for both of us.

My son leant forward and said seriously, " A cook must learn the proper techniques before taking shortcuts or making variations."

Inspired, I shot back: "That's just like writing poetry!"

A neighbour recently asked why I never wrote about poetry, but only novels, memoirs, and non-fiction.

So, on this day of the Winter Solstice, I decided I would. The largest poetry event in the world, the International Poetry Festival, was held earlier this month in Rotterdam — although they would be thinking summertime there. A recent US study found that poetry readership was increasing amongst the young, and 22 year old Amanda Gorman, who read at Joe Biden's inauguration ceremony in 2021, now has 4.5 million followers on the internet!

Closer to home, my Summerfield neighbour, Jeremy Lockhart Nelson, has released his current collection *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi.*

We would both agree that only poetry can come close to dealing with the passing beauty and glory of this world.

The very earliest form of spoken language was probably a kind of poetry: humans created words to give shape to their world and to their existence and to share new ideas.It goes back to the dawn of language when human sounds became words, carried by the music of the voice, and back to the great poets like Homer who for generations told stories in song. Poems are still made to be heard rather than read. In the 18th century, an Italian philosopher, Giovanni Battista Vico, suggested that 'the first people were poets.'

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Two centuries later, another philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein, argued that 'the limits of my language are the limits of my world.' Perhaps the best-known saying about poetry came from the 19th century English poet Shelley: 'Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.' He meant that poets' creative imaginations can change the ways we think. Shelley believed, as did people in ancient societies, that poets are prophets.

The oldest surviving 'printed' poem is *The Epic of Gilgamesh,* pressed onto baked clay tablets in wedge-shaped characters known as cuneiform some four thousand years ago in Mesopotamia. It's a quest story, about the hero-king's search for immortality and his realisation that death is inevitable. Some of its themes are still recognisable: a huge flood, an ark, a deceiving serpent. More surprising is that Gilgamesh himself, a quasi-historical figure, has a committed and obviously romantic relationship with his male travelling companion, and spurns the advances of the goddess.

Do we still read,
let alone listen to,
stories in verse-form?

I've read several recently. A new retelling of the 1400s classic *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,* this one lacks known authorship. My translation is from a 17th century pen on parchment manuscript, translated into modern if dialectical English by Simon Armitage (b.1963), the current Poet Laureate (Faber & Faber 2008.) I'm up for anything set in Camelot, but also admire Armitage's accessible handling of the unfamiliar rhythms and rhyme schemes, heavy on alliteration.

*The fields were dazzling, fixed with frost,*

*and the crown of sunrise rose scarlet and crimson ...*

With less enthusiasm, I noted that here too, the hero's quest is constantly interrupted by the wiles and lures of the beautiful women he meets along the way. Why blame us, fellas?

Speaking of women, the original authors of all these sagas are unknown and/or presumed to be male. However, one name is known: the very first person to attach a definite name to a poetic composition. It's Enheduanna, born around 4,200 years ago in what is now Iraq, and high priestess at a temple. She wrote poems, edited hymnals, and possibly taught other temple women how to write. Archaeologists published her in the 1920s, but she is still very little known.

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More up-to-date is Canberra's Penelope Layland (b.1962.) I've enjoyed her verse-story *Beloved* (Recent Work Press 2022) drawn from Dorothy Wordsworth's letters and diaries. This too is a love story, between a brother and a sister, separated as children and then together for the rest of his life. And no women are vilified in this quite passionate story, even though William did get married in the middle of it all!

I've been making no distinctions between 'Poetry' and 'Verse', but Jeremy reminds me that Poetry is 'the art of rhythmical composition, written or spoken, for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts.' Some poetry is verse and verse is not always poetry in this sense though they are often used interchangeably. Many people write the kind of verse that uses a familiar rhythm and ends lines with rhyming words. Many beautiful (and not so beautiful) hymns have used his form because it is easy to sing. Readers can, and do, argue endlessly about these distinctions.

Jeremy says: 'I write the vision that is given to my mind. That can be about anything, really. I can't write poems on demand. I have to wait for the inner call that compels me. Then, the work is to sing this gift into being until I know that this 'song' is properly made and finished. Sometimes this shaping can take years. All this is a mystery, so it can never be fully explained.' His wife, Catherine, tells me she can hear him singing his newest poem around the house.

Bohemian philosopher Franz Kafka (1883–1924) had problems with deciphering words at all, because, what experiences did the reader bring to the text?

"One tries to imprison life in a book, like a songbird in a cage, but it's no good." Some of his books he deliberately left unfinished, to make room for the reader.

Poets today rarely, if ever, earn their living through their vocation. For many years, Jeremy was a teacher- in rural communities and eventually at Sydney Grammar School where he taught English Literature for nearly three decades. He doesn't call himself a poet because he says it is an honourable title that can only be conferred by others.

Jeremy's most recently published poems have appeared regularly in *Quadrant* magazine.

In June this year Jeremy, now 90 years old, published his new collection of selected poems, most of them written since he came to Braidwood twenty years ago. You can find the book on the website of Amazon Books Australia, adding 'Jeremy Lockhart Nelson, *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi.*'All his manuscripts, published and unpublished, are held in the archives of Sydney Grammar School.

May the songbirds be always safe around Braidwood!

## ABOUT THE PLACE

Giles Bernardoff pops up for the next few weekends in the fYRE Gallery.

The indefatigable 'all weather' Lions at the Ryrie Park markets.

The car project comes alive in the old D&S Motors building.


The 'YES' campaigners in Ryrie Park.

# Powerline inquiry welcomed by state's farmers

NSW Farmers media

NSW Farmers has welcomed a Parliamentary Inquiry into undergrounding powerlines, calling it a win for common sense and community safety.

Multiple renewable energy projects proposed or under construction in regional areas would require new power lines to connect them to the grid, Energy Transition Working Group chair Reg Kidd said, but too often landholders were being ignored by the big developers.

"We support a robust inquiry, because it will find that there are places where undergrounding wires is a win-win for production and community amenity that has not been addressed to date," Mr Kidd said.

"Until now undergrounding has been ignored or dismissed as too expensive, not because of a cost/benefit analysis, but rather through the lack of will to fully investigate the impacts of huge infrastructure on rural communities.

"There has been a lot of just drawing lines on maps and justifying route selection in order to minimise cost and get onto the next project, and the real impacts of above ground infrastructure have not been assessed, and this is what this inquiry will reveal."

While proponents said overhead powerlines were cheaper than running lines underground, Mr Kidd said, those claims did not stack up when compared to the damage caused by bushfires.

According to a Wollongong University study, there was strong evidence the consequences of fires caused by transmission were worse than fires from other causes, and that fires caused by electrical faults were more prevalent and burned larger areas during elevated fire danger conditions. The total economic cost of bushfires was set to almost double in the next 40 years, according to a conservative estimate from Deloitte, to about $1.3 billion per year by 2060. For context, the damage from the Black Summer fires alone was estimated at $230 billion.

"We have lost hundreds of people to these horrific bushfires, and the economic cost is in the hundreds of billions," Mr Kidd said.

"We need to improve the understanding of disaster risks – such as from overhead transmission lines – and then collaborate and coordinate to build resilience and address the long-term costs of natural disasters.

"Underground power lines might cost more now, but we would argue that if they save lives and improve firefighting efforts then that is money well spent."

Mr Kidd said balancing the cost of underground power lines against the potential risk and losses caused by overhead power lines was vital to getting a full understanding of the situation.

"The imposition of compulsory hosting of towers and wires that severely impact operations on many properties and diminish their value can be addressed through thoughtful planning, including underground placement where appropriate," Mr Kidd said.

"Put simply, we have heard from a number of members that they believe they are being asked to accept what would never be considered for city residents.

"We need an urgent remedy for the planning mistakes of the past and said there must be greater consideration of the lifetime costs and benefits of undergrounding power lines from the outset of every project to protect communities."


## News trivia

1. Thousands of people marched over the Harbour Bridge last weekend in advance of what major sporting event?
2. Anthony Blinken last week became the first US Secretary of State to visit which country?
3. The military group that threatened to stage a coup in Russia last week shares its name with a German opera composer. What's the name?
4. How far under the ocean's surface is the wreck of the Titanic? (Bonus: what year did it sink?)
5. What is the name of the company that owned the lost submersible vessel last week?
6. Who was the former Labor leader who died this week while attending a trade meeting in Germany?
7. What's theme for this year's NAIDOC week?
8. Demand for which pop star's imminent tour crashed the ticketing websites last week?
9. PM Anthony Albanese has announced assistance for Ukraine in a package which includes how many military vehicles?
10. The annual Cockroach Cup in WA's Pilbara region sees what sort of creatures competing?

**Answers:** 1. FIFA Women's Soccer; 2. China; 3. Wagner; 4. 3800 metres (Bonus: 1912); 5. Oceangate; 6. Simon Crean; 7. "For our elders"; 8. Taylor Swift; 9. 70; 10. Cockroaches

# OBITUARY *David Paul (Lefty) Jeffery 14-2-1951 – 4-6-2023*

Maddi Bennett

To those who don't know me, I am Marty's partner, Aubree's mother and the daughter-in-law of my loved father-in-law Paul.

David Paul Jeffery, born in Sydney on the 14th of february 1951, was a much welcomed son to June and David Jeffery. Paul's early years were lived in the southern Highlands, Exeter, where he was surrounded by his loving grandparents, aunts and uncles.

The family was completed with the arrival of his sister Moya in 1954, with whom he always had a close and loving bond. The premature death of Moya in 2013 had a profound effect on Paul; always missing his little sister.

In the early 1950s the family moved to the area to take up work with the Mckay family at Nithdale. Thus began the Jeffery family making the Braidwood area their home.

The family moved to Monga in the 1960s with Paul's father David returning to the bush work and sawmilling that he always loved. Paul enjoyed a happy childhood in Monga surrounded by many friends, who remained friends throughout his life. Monga was a thriving community in those days, with over 50 children attending the Monga school and a dance hall renowned in the district for dances and community get-togethers.

After completing primary school in Monga, Paul traveled by bus to Braidwood Central school for high school. On leaving school he chose to work with his father cutting mine props that were big in demand those days. And so began his lifetime love of timber and life in the bush. In time he moved to the sawmill where he enjoyed the mill life and the companionship of his work mates. Eventually in the later years becoming the mill manager.

In 1968 Paul met the person he wanted to spend the rest of his life with – Brenda.

Paul and Brenda married in 1970, setting up home in Monga and welcoming three boys into their lives, Simon, David and Marty. It was in 1987, Simon and David were in high school, Marty still in primary school that the mill was closed down overnight with no warning – putting many families out of work and a home. Paul was offered a transfer to Bega,

however, always thinking of his boys, he did not want to have to disrupt their education by changing schools as Simon was in his final year and David was in year 9. So being the optimist that he was, when the Monga Village was up for sale he brought the village and set out to look for work.

Paul put his hand to whatever was available to support his family, including time on the soil conservation, Service Station work and cutting and selling firewood.

In the late 1980s Paul commenced permanent work at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club assisting the groundskeeper, Mr Ray Neilson, on the bowling greens and golf course. Paul and Ray enjoyed many years working together and formed a strong friendship. Paul enjoyed this outdoor work and the friendship of the club workmates.

During these years the boys Simon, David and Marty all completed school and ventured off to Canberra to follow their career choices. Simon completing his electrician apprenticeship, David an Environmental science degree at Canberra University and Marty a mechanical apprenticeship with Subaru.

As the boys all had to live away from home there was always rent and living away from home expenses that had to be found for the boys. Paul, as always, put his family first and at times worked three jobs to make ends meet.

2003 came around, and much to Brenda's horror, Paul decided to buy his own service station and work for himself. Marty had been in Canberra for seven years and was wanting to come home and work in the service station with his Dad. So Brenda relented and joined them. And so began 20 years of Paul, Brenda and Marty working side by side everyday with the help of David and Simon giving them a break and the grandchildren in later years.

During Paul's life he had many interests and hobbies. He always loved his holidays away with Brenda visiting different countries and experiencing new cultures. He enjoyed the company of Zoe and Phil on many holidays and always talked about the fun times they had together. In later years he loved the cruises he and Brenda went on with Bunty and Harold, enjoying the cruise ship life of luxury.

Paul also had a great love for Wadbilliga, looking forward every year to packing up the kids and the dogs and heading off to some of his best holidays, catching up with the Bourke inlaws. In time he built a nice holiday home there that his family and grandchildren still love to visit.

But always the biggest love of Paul's life was Brenda and his boys, who brought into his life six precious grandchildren, Maddy, Annabelle, Ned, Harry, Matilda and Aubree. To Paul (Pop) every grandchild claimed their special places in his heart. He loved to hear their stories and adventures they were having. He nurtured a close relationship with each and every grandchild, knowing that Pop was always there for them, whether for help, advice or just a good catch up and laugh.

Paul may have left us for now but will forever be in our hearts and remembered for the kind, gentle, generous loving man that he was. We know he will always be watching over us while enjoying a beer, a good laugh and a happy time with his loved son Simon.

*Paul and Brenda*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

Oh how frustrating it is not to have a working laptop! My brother very kindly gave me his old Macbook Pro, and I'm seriously impressed with it.

Does this mean I've joined the "dark side" as PC users say, or the "right side" as Mac people say? Who can tell? One thing I am enjoying thus far is no more blue screens of death. But, on with this fortnight's What's On!

### Concerts and Gigs

Folk Club Concert Night Thursday 29th June, 7-9pm at the Old Sunday School Hall, Wilson St Braidwood - Be entertained by award-winning Old Time/ Bluegrass style artists 'Corn Nut Creek' and favourite local talent. Tickets $20/ $15 for folk club members/ concession. More info and tickets at https://events.humanitix.com/corn-nut-creek or buy tickets cash at the door. Great music, great company... and a great heating system in the beautifully refurbished hall. Would love to see you there!

— * —* —* —

BRAG are having an open mic night on 7th July from 6pm. There will be food, the bar, and all kinds of wonderful performances. Don't miss it!

— * —* —* —

Zac's Paydirt Popup at Casanova's is back on Saturday, 1st July. Bookings are essential. Please call Casanova's on 4842 2394 and let them know if you have any dietary restrictions. $70pp.

### Community Events

Braidwood Dance Studio is having a disco on Thursday, 29th June from 4:30pm to 6pm at the National Theatre. There will be snacks and drinks for sale, along with face painting and prizes to be won.

— * —* —* —

The Braidwood and Villages Tourism Association are having their AGM on Wednesday, 12th July at 4:30pm at the Club. All are welcome.

— * —* —* —

'Coming together for Yes' event on Sunday 2nd July and joining other groups throughout the country to show support for the' Yes' campaign in The Voice to Parliament referendum. All are welcome to join us for a free sausage sizzle in Ryrie Park next to the Dhurga Rock from 12noon to 2pm on Sunday 2nd July.

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First Thursdays Christmas in July will be on the 7th July, and will feature a performance by Barbara Jane Gilby. Still only $10 to attend, and with the usual delicious fare plus tea and coffee, it is not to be missed!

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The Club's Karaoke competition is back! Participants need to be 16 and over, with their songs selected by no later than 7pm on Friday nights for a start time of 8pm. Starting Friday, 4th July, it will run until 25th August.

— * —* —* —

Pub Painting is back at the Club this year too, and is on Saturday, 15th July from 2pm. Participants are required to register their interest at http://pubpainting.com.au

### Gallery Openings

Stephen Hartup's latest photographic exhibition, titled Shoreline/Creekline, will be at Studio Altenburg from the 6th July, with a meet and greet the artist along with celebratory drinks on Saturday, 8th July from 3pm.

### Markets

The Braidwood Farmer's Market will be on again in the National Theatre on Saturday, 1st July from 8:30 am.

### At the Club

Christmas in July is on again this year! Save the date for 14th July 2023 for raffles, mulled wine, an ugly Christmas sweater competition, and much more! This starts at 6pm on Friday, 14th July and tickets will be drawn at 7:30pm. Don't miss it!

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

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

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

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

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

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

• 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.

### At 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 6:30-7:30 pm. 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.

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

• Vera Active Pilates runs on Mondays between 6pm and 7pm, Tuesdays from 9:30am to 10:30am, and an evening class on Tuesdays from 6:30 and 7:30pm, and finally on Wednesdays 9:30 am to 11:30 am, and an evening class running from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

• Life Drawing runs on the last Saturday of every month.

### Other Community Organisations

The Royal Mail's weekly chocolate wheel is on as always, as are their Happy Hours on Thursday and Friday nights!

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

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

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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.

— * —* —* —

Fit for Life meet every Monday and Wednesday morning from 7:30-8:30 am at Braidwood Central School. Breakfast is provided after an active workout.

# Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

## Christmas in July Markets

Join us for the Christmas in July Markets at the Queanbeyan Showground from 9am on Saturday 8 July.

There will be carols, local produce and gifts, festive food, our Christmas inspired competitions, and jolly activities.

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

## Road Closure Notification

In accordance with the *Roads Act 1993*, the link road between 6 and 10 Rutledge Street, Queanbeyan will be closed and cease to be a public road.

The short link road previously provided access to the Lowe Street car park from Rutledge Street.

▶ Written objections (via email or delivered) to the closure will be accepted until 26 July.


## Have Your Say

| Projects & initiatives open for community comment | Closing Date |
|---|---|
| Draft Contaminated Land Policy | 30 June |
| Draft Aquatics Strategic Plan | 6 July |

▶ 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

## FOGO Reminders

It's important to remember that the FOGO bin is only for food scraps and garden waste. Things that CAN'T go in the FOGO bin include:

- ✖ Plastic bags
- ✖ Nappies or wipes
- ✖ Paper towel
- ✖ Building waste, dirt or gravel
- ✖ Polystyrene
- ✖ Pet poo or kitty litter
- ✖ Cardboard

▶ Read more a at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/FOGO**

## Work with Council

- Manager – Economy, Place & Arts
- Access to Information Officer
- Heavy Vehicle Inspector (SEWOL)
- Human Resources Officer
- Building Surveyor

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

## 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:

- 28 June
- 12 July

## 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.

## Community and Business grants - Grant Guru

Sign up with Grant Guru to find current business, event or community grants.

Grant Guru allows you to narrow down your search by activity, industry and current and future grants. The website also has other valuable information and tips for grant applications.

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

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

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

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# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### St Bede's Parish

***Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 10:37-42***

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we are faced with the cost of discipleship, but we are also comforted by the promise of the providence of God.

Baptism is for us both death and life. Through it we enter into Christ's death and we die to lives of selfishness and sin. Through it we rise with Christ to a new life freed from everything that previously held us down. As glorious as this new life might be, it requires death to our old ways of living, and this is always difficult.

The cost of discipleship cuts right to the core of our beings, it lays bare the very structures of kinship. Baptism recreates us as children of God; through it we are given a new life and born into a new family. The bonds of discipleship are now even stronger than the bonds of blood. Discipleship requires our very lives. As disciples we can no longer put ourselves first. We must be willing to spend ourselves and to be spent, to serve others in the day to day unfolding of life. We may find such commitment very demanding, but that is part of the cost of discipleship. God promises that if we lose our lives in this way, we will really gain them. If we are unselfish in the way we share ourselves with others, we will be enriched through our generosity. If we spend ourselves and are spent in our service of others we will be filled with blessings unimaginable.

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Braidwood Groups will be participating in a 'Coming together for Yes' event on Sunday 2nd July and joining other groups throughout the country to show support for the' Yes' campaign in The Voice to Parliament referendum.

All are welcome to join us for a free sausage sizzle in Ryrie Park next to the Dhurga Rock from 12noon to 2pm on Sunday 2nd July. We hope you can join us to demonstrate your support for the 'Yes' campaign and talk about how we can spread the word.

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There will be Masses in our country churches:

Krawarree Mass: Sunday 30th July at 11am. Lunch in the hall afterwards.

Araluen Mass: Tuesday 8th August (Mary McKillop's Feast Day) at 11am. You may like to have lunch at the pub afterwards.

Nerriga Mass: Sunday 20 August at 11am. Lunch afterwards at the pub.

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Vinnies Winter Appeal is still open. If you are able to make a contribution to the Vinnies Winter Appeal, please do so by using an envelope from the church or Vinnies shop and posting it in, donating online at www.vinnies.org.au or by calling 13 18 12. Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

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Vinnies Braidwood is looking for donations of blankets.

Your donation of blankets will be sold in-store here at Braidwood to assist with providing Emergency relief to members of our community needing assistance with their electricity, food, petrol, living expenses, medical expenses and clothes. If you are in need of assistance, please call 13 18 12 and the Vinnies Relief team can arrange help.

Braidwood and district thank you in advance of you support with donations

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Mass Saturdays (Vigil) at 6.00pm
Tuesdays at 10.00am

### Braidwood Uniting Church

One of the most liberating things I ever learned was that I couldn't fix anyone.

I'd spent much of my working life operating on the assumption that people could be fixed if given the right circumstances. Around me were agencies and individuals who seemed impressive in their claims. Most making the claim that if "only they get enough funding" all manner of social ills would be cured. I wanted to be one of the 'great ones'. I liked to think that I had some special insight that could compete in this market.

In due course I began to see that most of the systems in place that aimed to fix people, actually made sure that the "needy class" would be forever the "needy class" and the "helping class" would be forever the "helping class". The more meetings the helping class attended, the seminars and qualifications, the more the use of particular language, the more set everyone became in their place. I detect no bad motive in the helping class but almost never did I see anyone move out of the "needy class" to become one of the "helping class". The helping class was full of good people who wore themselves out in an heroic and never ending, losing battle.

I observed an ironic development as people in the needy class started to learn enough of the language of the helping class in order to win some tiny battle or other. In short, the needy class knew they were problems and they expected to be treated as problems. They both resented and manipulated their status as, problem people.

In time I faced my impotence to fix and I discovered that people were not problems to be fixed but people to be met. I was shocked to observe that when people were met; when they discovered that they were no longer alone, no longer a case but a person, they moved toward health under their own steam. That's how it actually works. As far as I can see, that's how it always works.

— * —* —* —

The more we relate to each other as problems to be fixed rather than people to be met, the lonelier we all become. When people feel alone, the 'right answers' of no help. When people feel met and are part of something bigger than themselves, they walk straighter and start saying 'thank you' and really mean it. In every aspect of my church, community life and family life, I aim to fix nothing but hope I might meet some.

Graham Long

### Anglican Parish of Braidwood

***FAITH THAT BRINGS RESULTS.***

Here are three truths from scripture that will make your faith more effective:

**Believe that God is.** The force of the language used here is much more than a vague acknowledgement of God's existence. Mankind claims scores of gods, but the God of the Bible is not one of them or even the best of them. He is the only true God! And scripture says He is uniquely, genuinely, permanently present and active.

**Believe that God is able.** When two blind men approached Jesus seeking healing, He asked, *"Do you believe that I am able to do this?" 'Yes, Lord,"* they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, *"According to your faith let it be done to you."* (Matthew ( 28-29)

Immediately they could see. Jesus knew He was able to heal them, but he wanted them to know He was able. Until you believe in God's ability to meet your need, you have no ground on which to base your confidence and prayers.

**Believe that God is willing.** After knowing He is able, you must take a step of belief. A leper approached Jesus saying, *" Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."* Jesus… touched him, saying , *"I am willing; be cleansed."* And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (Matthew 8:2-3)

Is God willing? Consider His claim; He, not we, goes on record as being *"a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* That leaves no room for doubt. Today, God is not only able but willing to meet your need.

*"Believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Hebrews 11:6

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

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Our worship service Sunday 2nd July will be held at 10am in St Stephen's Church, Hill St, Majors Creek. It's a lovely little old stone church and a beautiful place for worship – we'll have the heaters on! This will be followed by a BYO lunch in the Recreation Grounds opposite the church or, if weather is inclement, in a private home nearby. Visitors are very welcome.

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Parish contact: 4842 2423 angbraidwood@bigpond.com

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

## GOLF NEWS

# Braidwood shows up the big clubs – again

In bitterly cold conditions last Thursday, the Braidwood ladies took on ten other regional and ACT golf teams at Belconnen Golf Club to contest the Canberra Shield. Braidwood won with a total of 6.5, narrowly edging out Gungahlin Lakes Golf with 6.

This is the first year Braidwood has been able to field a full team of eight players for this annual competition, last year having fielded a composite team with Goulburn. The team of eight this year included one player playing her first interclub matchplay tournament and one playing only her second.

Braidwood captain, Michelle Henry, noted that when the Canberra Shield was instigated in 1990, it was restricted to ACT clubs with only Yass as a reserve in case there were insufficient Canberra clubs to make up the full draw.

"It's even more of a kick to win a trophy we once weren't invited to play," she said.

The Braidwood team of Michelle Henry (C), Debby Ferguson, Margy Gardner, Virginia Groot Obbink, Sarah Heine, Donna Kuhn, Robin Tennant Wood and Carmen Byrne all individually played one-on-one matches with opponents from different clubs, scoring six wins, one draw and one loss.

Adding the Canberra Shield to the Braidwood trophy cabinet along with the Bronze Shield Pennants and the men's Senior Pennants trophy has certainly elevated Braidwood Golf Club's status as a club not to be messed with!

***Last week's results:***

Saturday June 24 Medley 2BBB Stableford – Majors Creek Pub Trophy with thanks to Jackie and Rowan Clarke for their generous sponsorship.

Winners: Donna Kuhn & Allan Walcott 64 pts

Runners Up: Debby & Keith Ferguson 62 pts

3rd Place: Michael Fitzgerald & John Harb 60 pts

Men's NTP 3rd & 12th: Not Won

Women's NTP 8/17: Debby Ferguson

Ball Comp: Spiro Agnew & Roger Hovey 58, Rodney Royds & Michael Tillman Ryan 58.

*Sarah, Scarlett and Jade at the Redback's ladies day.*

## STOP PRESS

# ON THE WAY BACK TOWARDS SUMMER WHOOPIE

## STAR TIMES

### Ah-shud-uppa-ya-voice

The aptronymically-named Alex Antic wants to know if we can be sure the Voice to Parliament representatives will be 'actually' Indigenous. It seems to have escaped the Senator's attention that communities should be free to elect whoever they like to represent their interests.

### Tanksforthethought

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reports that Defence officials have sadly had to decline to send anything useful to Ukraine. "we've scrounged a bit of old stuff still up on bricks since Vietnam, but our latest defence acquisitions don't actually work," they almost said. The *SMH* went on to suggest we might send them our Abrams tanks, which of course the work experience journalist called the 'Abrahams' tank. We don't have that version — it being the one where the barrel is shortened at birth.

### MorontheUkrainewar

Wagner overlaps Orwell in the tragedy that is Ukraine. The soldiers attend a morning briefing to be told who is today's enemy. "We're not politically motivated" says the Wagner Group recruitment billboard. "If you're whiling away your life in prison, we have an exciting opportunity for you to shoot at people for a regular-ish monthly wage.

### Andthenjoiningthedots

BHP has proudly announced: "Exciting news!! We have fully implemented autonomous haulage at our iron ore mine in Western Australia. South Flank is now fully autonomous for its primary haul fleet, with 41 haul trucks converted and around 185 pieces of ancillary equipment able to operate safely around them in the site's five AOZs. Congratulations to everyone involved!" No people are needed to remove our natural resources and send them off for export. Leave it all to the robots.

### Bitratesandheartrates

You know the terrible feeling you get, usually the end of long weekends, when the dreaded message, "Failed to refresh feed" interrupts your Insta/Face/Binge/Net/Stan/Tube veg-out on demand? Bother! Actually band width is nothing at all to do with overweight musicians. It's what we lack when little Joffré and Chârtreüse are flogging Call of Duty in the back of the Beema as they crawl up the hill from the Bay. Some good may come of it. Look across the room. Is there someone else over there looking equally annoyed? How about trying that really old technology? It's called conversation.

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Editor: Robin Tennant-Wood
Layout/production: Paul Cockram
*Contributions desperately welcome.*