BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #80 — $2.00

Wednesday July 12, 2023

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	-1°	15°	0%
Thur:	-1°	14°	0%
Fri:	3°	13°	5%
Sat:	4°	15°	30%
Sun:	1°	13°	25%
Mon:	1°	13°	20%
Tue:	0°	13°	10%

Zoe Cargill

Georgina Evans

Braidwood students look to the future with rural scholarships

Two Braidwood tertiary students have been awarded scholarships by the Rural Agricultural Society Foundation (RASF), with both young people looking to return to rural communities to apply their education to future solutions.

Congratulations to Zoe Cargill and Georgina Evans who are among only seven young people from the Southern Inland Region to have received this assistance to help them continue their studies.

The RAS Foundation has announced a record seventy-three scholarships across its RASF Rural Scholarship program this week, with seven ambitious students from the Southern Inland region named among the deserving scholars.

Beginning in 2011, the RAS Foundation Rural Scholarship program provides financial assistance to rural and regional students who are passionate about the future success of regional NSW and intend to work within a rural or regional community at the completion of their studies.

RASF Manager, Cecilia Logan, said the Foundation is honoured to support the next generation of bright young minds to pursue their academic dreams.

"Pursuing higher education is often financially and emotionally demanding for rural and regional students, due to the need to relocate to urban centres, away from their family and their familiar way of life", Ms Logan said.

"The Rural scholarship program aims to ease the burden of financial stress by assisting with accommodation and education related costs, so that students can give greater focus to their studies.

"This year we were able to present a record seventy-three scholarships to students from NSW and the ACT, which we are incredibly proud of. What this shows us, and our donors, is that there is a real demand for support and the Rural Scholarships are a tangible way to help the next generation access further education."

The scholarship program is open to students across NSW and the ACT who are currently enrolled or applying for study in an accredited tertiary course at an Australian university, college, or TAFE, with no limits imposed on age or the types of degree that qualify.

The students from the Southern Inland region are studying a range of courses, from agricultural business management to medicine, and are eager to take their knowledge and skills back to their community and make a real difference.

Zoe Cargill

Zoe is completing her second year at Tocal College studying a Certificate IV in Agriculture as well as

... continued on page 2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Food waste is a disgrace
- QPRC Mayor has his say
- Chemist's Service Spotlight
- Common committee starts
- BCS Debating Teams win
- Honour Roll gets upgrade
- Homelessness Part 2
- Think Tank funded
- Constitution explained
- Open mic at Brag a blast
- Another Longhurst saga
- Bookworm and Wotzon
- Spirituality, sport, stars

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant Wood*

Food waste a national disgrace

A report published nationally last week revealed that Australians, collectively, waste around 7.6 million tonnes of food per annum.

That's over 300 kilograms for every one of us. At a time of rising food costs, a burgeoning waste crisis, increased levels of poverty and an El Niño drought looming on the horizon, we are sending edible food to landfill at a rate that is criminal in its extent.

Put in simple terms, the report estimates that one in every five supermarket bags of food is being wasted and that this wastage is costing around $2000-$3000 per household and roughly 70% of the food going to landfill is perfectly edible.

The cost at a national level is even more alarming. Our waste of food is an annual $36 million hit to the national economy and represents three percent of our greenhouse emissions. Furthermore, it's not just the food that is wasted: there's the energy and costs associated with its production, transportation and sale. The report noted that the amount of water wasted by throwing out one burger is equivalent to "running a shower for 90 minutes."

There are a number of reasons behind our cavalier attitude to food, many of which we have little or no control over. Research from RMIT found that "unsuitable packaging sizes, poor buying habits, date label confusion, and poor storage knowledge has led to the problem." Supermarket 'specials' that encourage shoppers to buy multiple products instead of just one, impulse buying and the convenience of being able to buy whatever we want whenever we want has led to a devaluing of food and cognitive and affective disconnection from food production.

Supermarket specifications on the appearance of fresh produce also contribute to the wastage of food. Fresh produce that does not meet the supermarkets' beauty contest requirements doesn't make it to the shelves. The CEO of food rescue service, OzHarvest, Ronni

Kahn, noted that the introduction of the slightly cheaper "ugly" or "imperfect" ranges of fresh produce has helped to both reduce food waste and, with the cost-of-living crisis, "people are definitely heading to these products due to the discounts."

In 2017 the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy launched the National Food Waste Strategy. The aim of the strategy was to halve Australia's food waste by 2030 and meet our obligations to Sustainable Development Goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) in the United Nations Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also helps support Australia's obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions, primarily through the diversion of food waste from landfill.

The RMIT research commented that the roll-out across the country of kitchen organic food bins, such as those our own council has recently provided to QPRC households, is a positive move, but it leads to a mindset where we "if we don't eat it, we can just put in the compost, which is better than putting it in the regular bin but the best thing to do is avoid putting anything in the bin."

If, as expected, the coming El Niño system results in higher-than-average temperatures and lower-than-average rainfall, the cost of producing food is going to increase markedly. This, on top of already rising costs of living is already being felt in the current northern hemisphere summer.

Buying less and only what we need, particularly with products such as meat and poultry that go 'off' quickly, shopping to a plan and freezing leftovers for future meals are all ways in which we can reduce food waste at home. However, we need strategic action at government level to ensure less wastage by supermarkets and the hospitality industry if we are to get anywhere near the 2030 target.

Scholarships for locals

... continued from page 1

completing a Diploma in Agriculture. Having grown up on the Cargill's family beef and lamb grazing property she understands the tough challenges the industry faces such as droughts and bushfires. Zoe is passionate about the agricultural industry and is looking forward to supporting rural businesses and communities to develop better strategies to reinforce and strengthen resilience in the future to overcome these testing challenges. Her scholarship has been donated by the Snow Foundation.

Georgina Evans

Georgina is completing her Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine degree rurally at the University of New South Wales Rural Clinical School in Port Macquarie. In her fifth-year, Georgina will complete a month of practicum in Broken Hill. Georgina dreams of living on a property again in the future whilst also being heavily involved in caring for the health of her rural community. Her scholarship is also donated by the Snow Foundation.

FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK


Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

It's been three years since the Black Summer bushfires and we are wrapping up the recovery phase in Braidwood.

Join us at the Braidwood National Theatre on 21 July from 6pm and enjoy live music from Trent and Racheal, Hamish Hudson, and the Nick Munnings Band. We will also be showing a short film called *'No such thing as Sunday'* by film makers Paul Huntingford and Matt Thane on the recovery of local producer Hamish Hudson. The event will be catered and drinks will be available too. This event is an initiative of the QPRC Disaster Hub and Coordinare.

— * —* —* —

At its meeting on 28 June, Council adopted the Affordable Housing Strategy, Operational Plan, Fees and Charges, and Revenue Policy. Our Affordable Housing Strategy includes an Implementation Plan which we will continue to review to ensure that we can deliver outcomes aligned with the strategy. Council is committed to working with state and federal governments, developers and the community to implement strategies to address this growing problem. Our 2023-24 Operational Plan — or budget — includes more than $20million of road and bridge upgrades, upgrades to pools at Braidwood, Queanbeyan and Captains Flat, and continued work at the Regional Sports Complex in Jerrabomberra and the Bungendore Sports Hub. After feedback from the community, we have added $25,000 to the budget to address European Wasp control in the LGA and funding to keep the Bungendore pool open for another season since having the lease extended. Our newly adopted Revenue Policy will extend the additional pensioner rebate of $40 to all pensioners in the LGA to support them with their rates payments.

— * —* —* —

The Old Braidwood Library has recently become the new home of the Braidwood Youth and Performing Arts Association. A few months ago, Council endorsed the use of the Old Braidwood Library by the BYPAA as a no cost hire eligible community group for a twelve-month trial period starting 1 July 2023. The BYPAA does great work supporting Braidwood's youth, providing them with activities and opportunities to engage with the performing arts. This new arrangement will give the BYPAA a reliable and suitable space to operate while also allowing Council to hire the space out for other groups and events as needed.

— * —* —* —

Repairs on Araluen Road between Araluen and Merricumbene have been going well. The first three sites on the unsealed section have been prepared for shotcrete works and the contractors drilled the fourth site ready for shotcrete last week. The contractors are currently taking a break to manage fatigue and will be back on site Monday 24 July. The road is open during this break.

— * —* —* —

Lines and signs were installed to formalise parking arrangements on Lascelles Street recently, bringing the main work of this project to an end. Staff have done an inspection to identify and program any remaining rectification work that is required in the coming months. We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we finished off this important project.

— * —* —* —

This Wednesday 12 July the Council Meeting agenda includes reports to Council on the QCCP Acknowledgement of Country Artwork, awarding the tender for Halfway Creek Bridge, and some post exhibition reports on the Sports Facilities Strategic Plan and the Fireworks Display Policy. Read the full agenda, find out how to make a submission and watch the meeting online at bit.ly/MinutesAgendas .

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Compression garments

Compression therapy has been used to treat chronic venous disease for many, many years, with the earliest recording dating back to 450-350BC. Compression therapy aims to improve blood flow in your veins, thereby reducing oedema and pressure in the limb. Compression can be achieved using bandages, stockings, or specially designed wraps.

Properly fitting medical compression garments can help manage many health conditions including varicose veins, venous insufficiency, oedema associated with travel or pregnancy, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prevention and tired achy legs. It's important that these garments are properly prescribed and fitted by health care professionals with appropriate training and experience.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, you can be assured that our medical compression clinics offer the best evidence-based service for your healthcare. Our pharmacists have been trained to measure and fit compression garments to ensure you leave with the best garment for you. Private consultation rooms allow our pharmacists to assist you with applying the compression garments, to ensure you can put them on at home, with or without donning aids.

Our team regularly collaborate with other healthcare professionals and can appropriately refer you if needed for further assessment or management of your condition.

This service is available Monday to Friday in the pharmacy, no referral necessary (referrals welcome if your doctor has prescribed compression therapy).

You can book a free consultation online by visiting www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood or speaking to our team in-store.

Braidwood Common s335 Committee up and running

John Tuckwell

Following a well-supported submission to QPRC by Commonwood Farm Inc in June 2022, a meeting of interested stakeholders held on 29 August 2022, and a resulting recommendation by QPRC staff, Council decided on 23 November 2022 to establish the Braidwood Common s335 Committee.

In March 2023 inaugural members of the Committee were appointed, with its first meeting held on 5 June 2023.

The Braidwood Common is a 20-hectare parcel of riparian land located on the western edge of Braidwood along Bombay Road. The Land is owned by QPRC and starts at the Community Gardens and extends to Boppins Crossing Road. The Common contains the confluence of both semi-urban creeks which drain the Braidwood township: Monkittee Creek and Flood Creek.

The Common has potential for a range of integrated and sustainable agricultural, educational, environmental, and community facilities and activities. Its proximity to town provides convenient access for local pedestrians and other users. Prior to the establishment of the s335 Committee most of the Common was commercially licensed for private grazing. However, at the eastern end of the Common, the Braidwood Urban Landcare Group (BULG), in cooperation with Palerang Council, was permitted to create and manage the Braidwood Community Gardens, and the Judith Wright Gardens, and to construct a footpath and footbridge crossing Flood Creek.

BULG and Commonwood Farm Inc also collaborated to fence and plant a wildlife corridor and walking trail beside Flood Creek, from the community gardens to the creek confluence, below the golf course lookout. To support local students, the Braidwood Central School Agricultural Program has been allowed to graze its flock of Texel sheep on the Common, and to use the space for educational activities.

Commonwood Farm and local volunteers also established two planted firebreaks of edible tree species, known as the green wedge project. These tree lanes will provide food, act as wind breaks for stock, and provide defensible living firebreaks on the Western side of town. In doing so they augment western fire protection provided by the existing vegetation in Braidwood's Creeks.

The first meeting of the new s355 Committee was mainly intended to brief members of the committee on their roles and responsibilities, as detailed in the QPRC s355 Guidelines and Council Delegations to the Committee. Specific terms of reference are yet to be approved by QPRC, but, as per the original community submission to establish the Common s355 management committee, it was agreed that its objectives would be:

- To facilitate public access and use of the Common for community recreation.
- To support social and environmental health outcomes for the Braidwood Community via public engagement with this community asset.
- To ensure sustainable agricultural practices and landscape management.
- To maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat on the Braidwood Common and improve water quality of the creeks that flow through it.
- To support sustainable local agricultural enterprise on the Common and facilitate community production of food for local consumption.
- To ensure ongoing educational engagement and opportunities for Braidwood youth and the wider community.
- To foster partnerships between user groups to further the above aims and support community resilience in the face of future disaster or disturbance.

Elected officeholders on the committee are: John Tuckwell (Chairperson); Ben Gleeson (Deputy Chairperson); Sarah Leheny (Secretary) and Annie Duke (Treasurer). Other members are: Jillian Kuchel, Sue Murray, Larry O'Loughlin, Maggie Piper, Michael Wall, with Cr Katrina Willis as the Council representative.

At our next meeting we hope to finalise our Terms of Reference; hear from existing users of the Common and from Council staff to determine how current use may be affected by the change to a s355 Committee. We will discuss possible future community activities on the Common; establish our committee's approaches to risk management; and develop an assets register, whether the Braidwood Historical Society Dray being in the Community Gardens is the best location; and the possible Queen's Silver Jubilee tree planting. The committee looks forward to facilitating and coordinating continued local use and benefit from this wonderful community asset.

Braidwood Commons s335 Committee Next Meeting

When: Monday 17 July 2023, starting at 7pm

Where: The Glasshouse (Old Library), Park Lane, Braidwood.

Interested persons can attend and contribute at the invitation of the chairperson, with only the committee members voting on an issue.


The walking path along Flood Creek.


Young food forest planting.

BCS NEWS

John Longhurst

Stage 5 debaters: Kaiya Royds, Grace Tybell, Chelsea Pharaoh, Layla Stuart

Great start for our Debating Teams

Braidwood Central School (BCS) Debating Teams have had a positive start to this year's competitions.

In the Premier's Debating Challenge the Years 7 and 8 team won their first round against Bombala High School arguing against the topic; 'That students should have a four day week'.

In their second debate against Jindabyne Central school, they again had to argue the negative for the topic; 'That Environmental Science should be a compulsory subject throughout high school'.

The students performed well but were defeated by Jindabyne.

The Team is looking forward to the third round of the Challenge, scheduled for early Term 3.

BCS Teacher/Librarian Mr Glen Smyth is impressed with the performance to date.

Mr Smyth said "Given all but one of the BCS Team are first time debaters, it is a great start to the Challenge and I am sure the Team will only gain in confidence."

The Years 5 and 6 Team are all new debaters and had a great win against Jindabyne Central School. The Team successfully argued the negative in the topic; 'That we should give primary school students two chances at any test or assignment'.

Mr Smyth said, 'The students are excited to be participating in debating and have come a long way in Term 2. They are eager to improve their skills and are keenly anticipating their next three competitive debates, which will take place early in Term 3."

BCS Years 9 and 10 Debating Team are also sharing in the success.

The Team successfully argued the affirmative in the topic 'That a player who suffers a second concussion in a season should miss the rest of the season' against Bombala High School in the last week of Term 2.

The Team will now take on Karabar High School in the next round in Term 3.

Year 9 Team Member, Grace Tybell is enjoying the challenge of debating.

Grace said, "Our Team is definitely gaining in confidence. In the last debate, we worked really well as a team and were able to focus on the key issue of safety and welfare to win. I am looking forward to the next round."

5-6 round one debate: BACK ROW Cedar Morris, Vincent Herbert, Owen Bayliss FRONT ROW Ash Little, Bridie Gleeson.

BCS Principal congratulated all students.

Ms Mosely said, "BCS engaged the services of Julian Davies from Consensus Education early in Term 2 to train our debaters and public speakers. These early results are fantastic and I am certain of further success in Term 3 as our Teams' confidence build".

7-8 round 2 debate: BACK ROW Natalie Clifton, Ruby Lewis, Farize Magsino, FRONT ROW Alfie Warner, Ria Robinson Eden Wimborne.

Braidwood Central School Honour Rolls

Bruce Keeley

Earlier this year the Braidwood Sub-branch of the RSL took on the task of obtaining a grant from the NSW Office of Veterans Affairs for the restoration and conservation of the BCS Honour Rolls located within the school.

The condition of the Honour Rolls had deteriorated to the extent that without significant repair, in time, they may have become irrepairable.

The Honour Rolls are over 100 years old and list the names of students of the school who served during World War 1.

The Braidwood Central School Honour Roll has great local significance to BCS and to the Braidwood community in general. Many of the names on the Honour Roll are of men who were part of pioneering families in this district and some descendant families still live here. A number of those listed never returned. There are five nurses listed as well

Briefly, the Honour Roll was funded by the Braidwood Public School P&C and was unveiled on the 25th April 1920, Anzac Day. The Honour Roll was unveiled by a Mr. Middleton, Inspector of Schools.

The following information was taken from the newspaper collection held by the Braidwood Museum.

"At a meeting held by the Braidwood Public School P&C Association, some discussion occurred over the Honour Rolls not being complete in that a number of names hadn't been originally included. It was decided that names could be submitted up until the 31st March for addition to the Honour Rolls, however, this was extended up until 30th June. Discussion also centred on the costs of the additions as the Honour Rolls had £14 4s 5d of P&C funds already allocated."

The *Braidwood Review*
4th March 1919.

"Subsequent to another P&C meeting it was decided that an additional 44 names would be added to the Honour Rolls. It was decided to obtain a quote for another or two wings to be added to the present boards. The outcome was that two wings would be added."

The *Braidwood Review*
17th June 1919.

"The P&C Association decided to invite the Minister for Public Instruction, Mr. James, to perform the unveiling ceremony, and if he consents, to fix a date."

The *Braidwood Review*
14th October 1919.

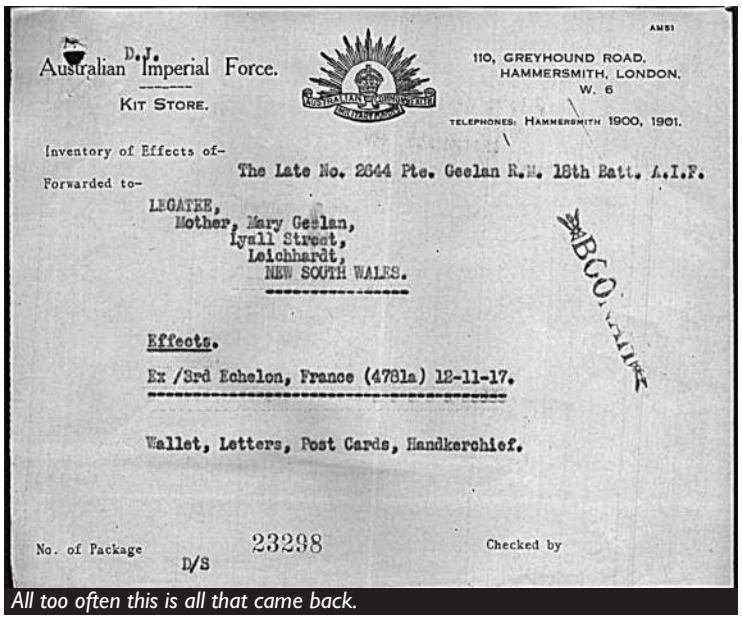
The Braidwood Review 27th April 1920. "The Honour Roll was unveiled on Anzac Day 1920. The ceremony was the first event of the day; the president of the Parents & Citizens' Association Mr. W. G. Pacey, presided over the proceedings." Quoting from the newspaper: "The honor of unveiling this handsome honor roll, which contains the names of all the ex-pupils of the school who served in the war, was conferred upon Mr. Middleton, Inspector of Schools. This gentleman rose to the occasion and delivered a very fine speech indeed. It was easily the best of the long series of patriotic orations which we have had in Braidwood."

Before the grant was made much work had to be carried out. For a grant such as this the item had to be listed on the NSW Register of War Memorials, which it wasn't, that was the first step. Quotes from a number of restorers/conservators had to be obtained; however, the Honour Rolls had to be taken to Canberra for assessment. Letters of support were also required from local politicians and the QPRC heritage advisor. Once this was collated the application could be made, and then it was a case of waiting for a decision to be made.

The Sub-branch was advised by the OVA that the Minister for Veterans, The Hon. David Harris MP had approved our grant in Round 2 of the 2022/23 Community War Memorials Fund (CWMF) for the full amount of $7412.90.

The work will be carried out by Mr. Greg Peters of Patinations Conservations Services Pty Ltd in the ACT. Mr. Peters is a master craftsman and has many years of experience in the restoration, conservation and preservation of historic items. He is highly regarded and undertakes work for the Old Parliament House and many other historic sites in and around the ACT. It is likely that he will commence work in October this year and between now and then we will come up with a plan to progress the work.

The Braidwood Sub-branch would like to acknowledge the NSW Government and in particular the advice and assistance of the Office of Veterans Affairs in obtaining this grant.


Australian Imperial Force.
KIT STORE.
110, GREYHOUND ROAD, HAMMERSMITH, LONDON, W. 6
TELEPHONES: HAMMERSMITH 1900, 1901.
Inventory of Effects of—
The Late No. 2644 Pte. Geelan R.H. 18th Batt. A.I.F.
Forwarded to—
LEGATEE,
Mother, Mary Geelan,
Lyall Street,
Leichhardt,
NEW SOUTH WALES.
Effects.
Ex /3rd Echelon, France (478la) 12-11-17.
Wallet, Letters, Post Cards, Handkerchief.
No. of Package 23298 D/S
Checked by

All too often this is all that came back.

[below left] The sad receipt that was returned to the families of fallen servicemen. [below] a newspaper report on the death of Robert Geelan, one of the names on the BCS Honour Roll.

ROLL OF HONOR

The news of the death of Robert Geelan, on active service in France, has been confirmed by the military authorities. This will cause a feeling of sadness to creep over many a friend in Braidwood, where "Bob" was so well and so favorably known. His old schoolmates will be particularly sorry to hear of the sad end of one who was ever a true and faithful friend. He was born in Araluen, received his primary education at the Public School, Braidwood, and later at the Superior Public School, Leichhardt. He served nine years in the Lands Titles Branch, Registrar-General's Department, where his great capacity, intelligence, quick-thinking and ability to grasp the intricacies surrounding his special work, lent largely to his value in his official duties. He was subsequently employed in the Commowealtnh Taxation Department, where his geniality, sterling qualities, and conduct were further recognised. He left here on the 2nd November, 1915, did duty in Egypt, and arrived in France on March 16. He was wounded at Pozieres and invalided to England. After becoming convalescent he went into the school of instruction, Tidworth, England, and passed his examination, obtaining 190 marks out of a possible 220, and promotion. He arrived back in France on the 21st June this year to receive his fatal blow in the 30th of September, after three months' hard going. His was a career that no Braidwoodite need be ashamed of. He was 31 years of age when the end came.

$750M for local roads

Kristy McBain MP, Member for Eden-Monaro media release

The next funding phase of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program, totalling $750 million, is now available for councils across Australia to nominate projects.

Phase 4 funding allocations include an additional $250 million targeted to improve rural, regional and outer urban roads. Projects funded under Phase 4 are expected to be completed by 30 June 2025.

The Australian Government has committed $3.25 billion to the LRCI program over four phases. Every local government is allocated and able to nominate projects for LRCI funding.

The LRCI program works in partnership with councils to provide them flexibility to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects relevant to their region, creating jobs and long-lasting benefits for communities.

In March, the Government extended project construction timelines for Phases 1–3 of the program. Councils across Australia now have until 30 June 2024 to complete works, giving them a much-needed extra year on the LRCI construction timeframes for all three phases.

Ms McBain said, "we've increased both the funding amount and the delivery window for Phase 4 of LRCI, because we know that this will enable councils to progress higher-priority projects that have a lasting impact in their communities.

"The feedback from the hundreds of councils that attended our recent Australian Council of Local Government was that this extension will give them more flexibility to plan for and deliver these works.

"Whether it's upgrading surfaces at local sporting fields, improving audio-visual capabilities at community halls, or repairing roads that have been washed away – councils can now lock in their grant agreements and get this important work underway.

"Phase 4 will build on around 9,500 projects supported nationwide through Phases 1-3 of LRCI, and will support a number of local employment and economic opportunities - particularly in our rural, regional, and remote areas."

Braidwood Quilters: Ann Robinson, Madeleine Boulton, Lesley Horne, June Weatherstone, Christine Payne, Lyn Kerbin and Margaret Tuckwell.

2023 Airing of the Quilts

Robin Tennant Wood

The Braidwood Quilters had their AGM on Tuesday 11 July at the Servicemen's Club with president, Margaret Tuckwell, presenting her report on last year's Airing of the Quilts and preparations in train for this year's event.

The executive were all elected unopposed: Margaret Tuckwell (President), Ann Robinson (Secretary) and Christine Payne (Treasurer), with June Weatherstone elected into the vacant Vice-President position.

The 2023 Airing of the Quilts will be held, as always, on the final weekend in November: 25th and 26th.

Farmers issue warning on food security

NSW Farmers media release

A parliamentary inquiry has been told Australia has made no progress towards improving food security over the past decade, and risks soaring grocery prices if systemic issues are not addressed.

NSW Farmers representatives told the Parliamentary Inquiry into Food Security that food systems and agriculture remained on the policy periphery, despite the cost of groceries being the second-largest household expenditure behind rent or mortgage repayments.

While the COVID pandemic and recent natural disasters had exposed the complexities and vulnerabilities in Australia's food supply chain – leading to shortages and a lack of access to affordable and nutritious food – we were no closer to being food secure as a nation, NSW Farmers Economist Brendan O'Keeffe said.

"If you look over the past five years we have lurched from disaster to disaster and I don't think many people appreciate just how close we got to being hungry as a nation multiple times," Mr O'Keeffe said.

"There was a National Food Plan published in 2013 but since then there's been no reporting on its 16 goals or how we meet long-term challenges of climate, global unrest and biosecurity.

"Agriculture is the fundamental part of our food supply, and we need to make sure Australia has a productive farming sector to feed a growing population."

Among the issues impacting food security identified by NSW Farmers were access to key inputs such as fuel, fertiliser and labour, and the impact their costs have on production and viability of agricultural businesses.

"Prices for fertiliser, fuel, lubricants, and chemicals have increased by up to 100 per cent since mid-2021," Mr O'Keeffe said.

"There needs to be more strategic investment in localised production of these inputs, because if we run out – we nearly ran out of AdBlue, for example – the whole food supply chain grinds to a halt.

"This uncertainty is making us far more vulnerable than we should be, especially when you look at the unrest we're seeing around the globe."

Productivity growth in agriculture was also an area that needed more attention and strategic investment, Mr O'Keeffe said, as it would stabilise food prices and thus effectively ease cost-of-living pressures for all Australians.

"Increasing grocery prices have hit everyone over the past year," he said.

"At the same time groceries have gone up, farmgate prices have been going down, and this means farmers just don't have the money to improve their equipment or processes to get productivity gains.

"Fair prices at the farmgate and increased investment would make Australian agriculture more resilient and lead to more stable prices for consumers."

News trivia

1. Which Australian cricketer has just played his 100th test match?
2. Which team has won the Super Netball Trophy?
3. What country has banned the release of the *Barbie* movie? [Bonus point: why?]
4. The report from what Royal Commission was handed down last week?
5. Due to concerns about wildfires in some parts of the US, what replaced the tradition fireworks displays for the 4th July celebrations in many US cities this year?
6. France is also banning the sale of fireworks for the 14th July celebrations. Why?
7. What country has applied for NATO membership?
8. US Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, travelled to China last week to meet with Chinese Vice-Premier to discuss joint approaches to what issue?
9. A sailor was rescued from his sinking vessel in the Great Australian Bight this week. What was he attempting to do?
10. The Cronulla Sharks are reportedly considering revoking former PM Scott Morrison's 'Number 1 ticket holder' status. Why?

Answers: 1. Steve Smith; 2. Adelaide Thunderbirds; 3. Vietnam [Bonus: the inclusion of a map that depicts a controversial demarcation line in the South China Sea]; 4. Robodebt; 5. Aerial lightworks displays by drones; 6. Fears over continuing urban violence and social unrest; 7. Ukraine; 8. Climate change; 9. Become the youngest person to circumnavigate the country in the smallest boat in record time; 10. The former PM's role in the Robodebt scheme.

Homelessness: the long-term view

Robin Tennant Wood and Steve Whan

In the last issue of the *Changing Times* we looked at the issue of homelessness and poverty in Braidwood.

Even in a small town, the problem is largely hidden due to the stigma surrounding poverty, but Maria Bakas, Centre Manager at the Braidwood Life Centre, shed some alarming light on the numbers of people locally who are couch-surfing or living in cars or sheds.

Having insecure housing, or temporary or no accommodation affects most other areas of life, including mental and physical health.

While organisations and charities can alleviate many of the symptoms of homelessness by providing basics such as food, they cannot address the causes or the long-term solutions. For this, government action is needed.

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan, was elected to the Legislative Assembly in March, having previously been the Member for Monaro from 2003-2011, and subsequently a Member of the Legislative Council 2011-2015. Mr Whan is well aware of the social problems facing the region and takes a perspective from his eight years out of parliament to reflect and look to future solutions.

"One of the things that had really changed in the eight years I was out of politics was the extent of the housing crisis in small regional communities. Of course, there were housing pressures when Labor was last in Government, in Monaro those pressures were mainly focused on Queanbeyan and we addressed them by building new public housing units in Queanbeyan and Cooma, as well as supporting community-based projects like Home in Queanbeyan.

"What I have found since coming back into being the Member for Monaro is that the housing situation has got much, much worse. In Braidwood we know the former Government allowed social housing stock to be sold off without investing the proceeds in replacement, the same has happened in Queanbeyan. In Cooma and Jindabyne Snowy 2.0 along

with holiday letting and an influx of people looking for cheaper housing a few years ago means the housing crisis is now seeing homelessness (couch surfing particularly) in even the coldest parts of the electorate."

Last week Mr Whan met with St Benedicts, an organisation dealing with homelessness in Queanbeyan and heard about the explosion in the number of people they are dealing with who are at risk, or are homeless, and the numbers who are sleeping rough.

> "It is appalling and that's why I am heartened when I hear our Minister Rose Jackson acknowledging that the crisis exists in regional NSW, talking about the first steps to addressing it and that there is much to do."

Mr Whan admits there are many things to be addressed and that getting it right will take time, but he says that the new government has a firm commitment to lift the amount of social housing, improve support services and move to encourage the development of more affordable housing and housing dedicated to longer term rental.

Under the previous government, Mr Whan says that Braidwood had a net loss of social housing stock, because sale money was not reinvested back into new stock. This situation, he says, was unfortunately replicated right around the state. "Stopping the sell-off [of social housing] was one of the first things the Government announced."

He also pointed out that there has been positive moves from the Federal Government, with $2 billion in funding allocated over 2 years for new social housing and that New South Wales will be the biggest beneficiary of those funds.

With a pointed dig at the Greens, Mr Whan said that New South Wales would receive even more on top of that "if the Senate approved the Albanese Government's housing fund which would have guaranteed a minimum of $500 million per year for social housing."

He says that Labor will also "seek to address the supply issues that have seen housing prices get so high. That doesn't mean carte blanche for developers, but it does mean moving through some of the approvals processes at a much faster pace. It also will see the government seeking to build in percentages of build to rent and affordable housing in developments on crown land.

"One positive initiative for our region is happening in Cooma. The NSW Land and Housing Corporation is proposing to develop nearly 300 blocks with a mix of social, affordable, key worker and private housing on a combination of Crown Land and land owned by Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council. This welcome project started under the previous Government and has my strong support," he said.

Mr Whan stresses that he will be working over the next few years to secure "our fair share of the new social housing and working with NSW Government agencies and developers where possible to encourage a range of affordable and rental options in new developments."

Local education charity has been funded to support regional students

Consensus Education Foundation media release

The Consensus Education Foundation, a charity based in our region, is taking its ThinkTank program, which was developed locally with the support of the Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank, to develop the critical thinking and communication skills of school-age students across the south- east of our state.

The Foundation has been awarded a grant through the Office for Regional Youth under the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Long-term local resident, Julian Davies, who is the founder of Consensus, has been delighted to see the hunger for learning in our young people from across the region. 'Our team has recently completed ThinkTank workshops in Batemans Bay, Bega, Cooma and Queanbeyan, and we have been very impressed by the level of intelligent engagement with complex and fundamentally important ideas that the students have shown.' Davies said. 'Each workshop has run for a full day and involved some really challenging content, yet the students' concentration has been wonderful to behold. After the limitations imposed by COVID, it was so good to see rooms full of young people interacting through guided discussion and thinking and speaking games.'

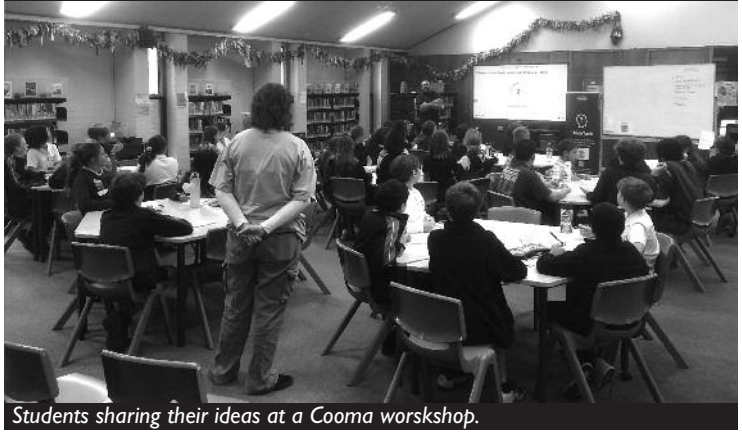
All four centres across the region have seen a ThinkTank workshop for primary students in Years 5&6, and a secondary workshop for those in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The workshops reached 309 students from 27 schools. More than 90 of those students have been selected to take part in a 10- week online course, beginning as students return to school in Term 3, to further extend and challenge their thinking and communication skills.

'In establishing the program, one of our great hopes was that connections would be created through students meeting each other from different areas in our regional community. We are optimistic that this can reduce the isolation that many able students feel in regional schools. We believe this vital kind of connection have been begun during the workshops and can be built on during the online course. We've found, with our existing local ThinkTank clubs, that this kind of ongoing interaction has seen students engage wonderfully and refer to each-other's ideas as they add to the discourse,' Davies said.

He commented that the State and federal grant has made it possible to take the local program to students across the region. 'Because the new program is based on all the work we've done with the invaluable support of our founding sponsors, the Community Bank, we can say that the vision of the Bank Board in supporting Consensus sets an example that has been instrumental in helping many more students than they could have ever expected. It's a great testament to the power of community grants.'

ThinkTank workshop in Batemans Bay, with Julian Davies engaging students. Assisting were tutors Geordie Crawford and Tara Broso.

James Smith working with students in one of the workshops in Bega.



Students sharing their ideas at a Cooma worskshop.

CONSTITUTION EXPLAINED AT BRAG

Associate Professor Elisa Arcioni [above] came to Braidwood to explain how a YES vote in the upcoming referendum will affect the Constitution and what will happen.

BCT: **On a day-to-day basis, what sort of things require Constitutional interpretation?**

Elisa: The Constitution sets up the framework of Government, ie the parliament, the executive and the judiciary and sets out what each of their respective spheres of power are, and the limits on those powers. Whenever you get a question about whether or not the parliament, a minister or the courts can do something, it will go back to the Constitution to determine if they have the power to do that in the way they've done it, or if have they stepped over a line that should not have been crossed?

BCT: **There is a fear that the more we put in the Constitution the more we'll end up in the High Court. The argument is to keep the Constitution brief and simple, and thereby let all decisions be made by the elected body and not by the judiciary, which is not elected.**

Elisa: The Voice has been drafted precisely to do what you have said, that is, to be really brief and to leave most of the detail to the Parliament. So, it is curious to see a very small number of people, some who call themselves Constitutional Conservatives, criticising the Voice for the way it has been drafted. The Voice will have one key function which is to make representations to the Government and Parliament, and everything else is then left for the Parliament explicitly.

In the third part of the Voice proposal it says that the Parliament shall have power to make laws with respect to the Voice, including its function, composition, powers and procedures. The very argument that the Constitutional Conservatives make is a bit of a furphy, because the Voice is designed to sit within that tradition of saying that we set out the basics in the Constitution and we leave the detail to be changed over time.

A really great example is to think about who gets to vote. The Constitution did not set that in stone, it set a default, because it had to set up something, but then said, 'the Parliament can choose what the franchise is'. For example, at Federation in 1901 women could not vote, except for in South Australia and WA but in 1902 the Parliament legislated to give white women the vote, and again in 1962 to give all women the vote. That is the benefit of having a model which sets out the basics in the text and leaves everything else for the Parliament.

BCT: **Do you think people could be assured that more decisions of Government won't end up in the High Court if the yes vote gets up, than would currently be the case?**

Elisa: Well, of course there is the possibility of more, because there is a new institution, so there may be some cases in the High Court as once the Parliament sets up the details someone may challenge that decision. But the most likely outcome of such a challenge would be the Court saying, has the Parliament kept within its sphere of power, or stepped over the line? However, the way the provision is drafted is so broad it is hard to think of legislation that the Parliament could make that would be invalid.

At the beginning of the Constitution, after it had been written, there were challenges to how the Parliament was set up, to how the judiciary was set up and how the executive operated. But once the High Court set a standard there was not a floodgate of litigation. The concern that everything will be clogged up and government will be slowed down is completely out of keeping with how our courts operate.

BCT: Some people fear that every time that the Voice puts in a suggestion to Parliament and Parliament says, 'no way', they are going to say, "Okay, you have not done what we said and we are going to take it to court."

Elisa: Yes, that is a specific concern that has been raised by a couple of members of the opposition but they clearly haven't understood the different roles of the Parliament and the executive. A lot of the heat in the debate in the media has been about the capacity of the Voice to make representations to the executive.

But the basic way to understand that is that the ministers and public servants exercise their functions under legislation that has been made by the Parliament, where the Parliament decides what the minister or members of the public service have to take into account in making their decisions. It is going to be up to the Parliament to decide whether or not the minister has to do what the Voice says — to consider it, or to ignore it.

And the Parliament can choose any of those options. What you are likely to see, if it passes, is a more generous Parliament actually wanting the executive and the Parliament to listen to what the Voice says and take it into account. Not necessarily do everything the Voice asks for, but they might draught legislation in a way to say, 'when you are exercising your power we want you to take into account what the Voice has said, and consider it as part of all of the factors that you consider'.

But equally, in the future, you might have a Parliament that has been elected by a different type of community where views have changed, and that Parliament could shut down the impact of the Voice. And that is the beauty of this proposal — it is actually going to track what the community and the community's expectations are. But it is not going to lead to litigation because everything the executive does under legislation is controlled by that legislation. If the legislation says you have to take it into account, well they have to. And if the executive doesn't follow the rules then of course you can challenge it.

Which is, in fact, what happens now. We already have legislation that specifically requires or allows a minister to take into account Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander views or interests. And we have litigation that looks at when a minister acts and does or does not take that into account — but there has been no open floodgates of litigation. In fact, the biggest cases have been when businesses and corporate interests have been upset that their interests have not been taken into account when something occurs in relation to Aboriginal affairs.

BCT: **Do you see any dangers in adding the Voice to the Constitution?**

Elisa: The danger might be that some people's expectations are disappointed. There may be people who expect the Voice to be able to do more than it has been drafted to do, because it is not aimed at giving the Voice legal power to force anything. It is a modest proposal which will enable the Government and Parliament to hear representations from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Elisa Arcioni is an Associate Professor in Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney Law School. She teaches and researches in constitutional law, focusing on questions of membership and exclusion. She is leading the Law School's efforts in community legal education regarding the Voice, to assist electors to be informed in voting in the referendum.

THE LAW Angela Backhouse

Planning for and appointing a literary executor

Have you engaged in a creative endeavour that you want to see continue after your death?

Probate law deals with property. Most people accept that it will cover real estate, money, shares, investments of various kinds, even superannuation in the right circumstances. What about the fruits of your creative labours in your lifetime – artistic works, a best-selling novel, sculptures, letters between you and your muse? Often, the creator of the works wants to see their work promoted and their legacy maintained after their death – but wants to exert control about how that is done, who can exploit their works for profit and who shares in the profits that flow.

In this article, we look at drafting a will that captures your creative work, or transfers control of works that you have been given custody of during your lifetime. In further parts we will look at how to administer an estate that includes a "literary estate" component and what kinds of issues and disputes can arise.

Literary estates, literary executors, creative works, oh my!

A word first on the use of the phrase 'literary' – this concept is not limited to writers, novelists or essayists. It comes from a time prior to the advent of computers and the digital age of many and varied forms of art and creative work – think the works of Charles Dickens, the letters to and from Sigmund Freud.

A literary estate is a division made by a will maker to separate and specially govern certain property – the 'literary estate' – and to give that power to a person or company whose role is to administer, promote and potentially generate profit from the literary estate – 'literary executor'. It is not a phrase with an accepted legal definition – the scope and the role will depend on the terms of the will itself.

It is essential that you obtain competent legal advice on the drafting the appointment of your literary executor. Courts have been required to interpret poorly drafted

clauses with results that are not particularly helpful for the people left behind.

Who can do it?

It almost goes without saying that anyone you appoint as executor needs to be someone you trust – this is just as true for a literary executor. You need to be confident that the person who you select will follow your directions, and will abide by limitations or restrictions you place on them. We suggest you discuss the various reasons for your choice with your solicitor to ensure that it is drafted to meet your wishes. If you have an agent who works with you in your endeavours, they may need to be involved. There might be questions of multiple jurisdictions if your works are distributed around the world.

What if the person dies themselves, or resigns?

No-one lives forever, even if they structure their affairs very carefully and so your will must also deal with what happens to the role if your chosen person or people no longer can, or wish to, act in that role. It is essential you get competent legal advice about this aspect as it can be one of the most problematic aspects of the appointment of a literary executor, and one which may not come to head many years after you have passed, and indeed may come up after your chosen person has themselves died!

What does a literary estate cover?

The scope must be clearly identified in a properly drafted will. Literary works, artistic works, associated intellectual property will need to be identified with precision and clarity. In days gone by the tasks of the literary executor may have included revieing the private papers, drafts and notes of a deceased person to see what falls into the category. These days it will include a review of the contents of hard drives, computers, cloud storage, mobile devices.

The role can include directions as to the care, maintenance, preservation and commercial exploitation (or not) of the works. The Australian artist Martin Sharp – a cartoonist, songwriter and filmmaker – appointed literary and artistic directors whose job was to work alongside his 'general' executors in order to arrange for licencing, reproductions and sales of his works after his death.

Does the literary executor get paid?

As with so many questions in law, the answer is 'it depends' – in this case it depends on what you want. You might wish for the beneficiary of the profits of your literary estate to also be the person who you give control to. You might wish for the person to be paid a certain stipend or sum, or perhaps a percentage of the gross or net profits that their labours generate. It is a matter for proper advice and you weighing up the options available as to what you want in this regard.

What to do next?

There are clear needs to deal with your literary estate and we encourage anyone who is thinking of how to structure the protection, promotion and potential commercial exploitation of their creative works to get in touch with our expert solicitors to discuss their wishes further so that it can be put into clear and effective drafting.

— * —* —* —

Contact Chamberlains Law Firm today to book an obligation free consultation to discuss your estate planning requirements.

ABOUT THE PLACE

BRAG OPEN MIC NIGHT

WHAT A NIGHT!
[top] Dron fires up the crowd; [above left] Reuben 'comedienne extraordinaire' had them in stitches; [above right] Erika had them bopping; [left] the Total Fire Band scorched through their numbers; [right] Laura galloped her way through "The Man From Snowy River". Bring it on again!

Braidwood FM is still 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

The Voice: Our gain was their loss

Geoff Davies

I'd like to present some simple points being obscured by all the fuss about the Voice to Parliament.

There is an overriding reason to single out the First People of this land from all the rest of us immigrants, and descendants of immigrants: our gain was their loss.

The society that now occupies this continent was created at the cost of the dispossession and near-genocide of the First People, including the spiritual rupture of being separated from their Country and the loss of much culture and many languages.

This is true of no other group in Australia. Whether you arrived here yesterday or are descended from first fleet convicts, as some of my ancestors were, you benefit from this grand theft. The very least we can do is acknowledge this fact of our history.

The First People are now asking for a little more than acknowledgement. They want a purely advisory body that can't be abolished at the next change of government. They want to have their own unchallengeable expertise on their unique situation taken into consideration. It is hardly a radical request.

There have been such advisory bodies before. The sky did not fall, but the advisory bodies did. They were abolished by new governments in acts of partisan spite or arrogant paternalism. If the existence of an advisory body were required by the Constitution then it could not simply be abolished.

That is all they are asking for. It is little enough. Governments could still just ignore it. Its funding could be slashed and its existence reduced to a token. There would be no great burden on the Parliament, on the executive government or on whitefella society. The blackfellas would not be able to steal our back yards and push us into the sea.

The Sydney Reconcilliation walk in 2000. It's time to make it happen.

The Constitution is not the place for detail. Its role is to specify general principles of governance. That is why the proposed insertion into the Constitution is brief and fairly simple.

The details of how the Voice would function would be left to the government, acting through the Parliament. The time to worry about the details is after the referendum is passed, if it is passed. They could be changed at any later time.

Celebrating the life of Malcolm (Will) Gilfillan

24th Feb 1944 - 29th May 2023

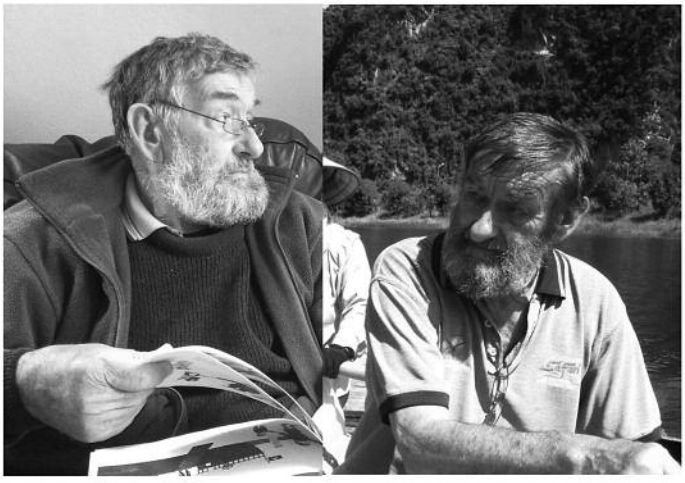
Date: **Saturday, 29 July**
Time: **1:30pm – 4:30pm**
Place: **Araluen Federal Hall**

Afternoon tea will be provided

RSVP: **jo@shev.it (Please RSVP by 20th July)**

We welcome your photos or written anecdotes/stories/ memories of Malcolm to be used for his wake.
Please email any photos and/or stories to: jo@shex.it

Please share a maximum of 3 photos. For each photo, as the file name, please use your name and a brief description of the photo.



Johnny Bodallaps pool problem

John Longhurst

"Bloody crisis, mate. Bloody crisis!" He cursed to no one in particular.

Before him lay all the plans, costings, submissions, letters, feasibility studies, government grant applications, artists drawings, architects' plans, aerials photo shots, timelines and even a scaled model of proposals for a new swimming pool.

The Mayor shook his head.

The local youth swimming club had even sent in a YouTube video clip and some bloody Tik Tok thing. He fiddled with his laptop, scratched his head and swore again.

"Bloody hell!" This pool proposal was a nightmare.Twenty five metres or fifty metres.

A twenty five metre pool suited the budget but a fifty metre pool had lots of community support. And then there was the heating problem.

"Bloody dilemma!"

The debate went on. More consultants' reports. More costings. More "letters to the editor". More submissions.

"Crikey!" There were even medical submissions about the onset of repetitive shoulder strain injuries if lap swimmers had to turn twice as much in training if a twenty five metre pool was the outcome.

Pressure.

What to do?

He grimaced. Get Johnny Bodalla on the job.

Now Johnny Bodalla was not your average year nine student at the local high school. In fact, he wasn't much of a traditional student at all. He took a more inventive approach to his studies.

Maths was the classic example. He hated the certainty of the subject with every calculation having a fixed outcome no matter what. It all seemed pretty pointless when the answer was in the back of the textbook anyway. His teacher would write up an intricate equation on the board with a neatness and preciseness that further annoyed him. He would guide the class through the solution in a step by step, perfectly logical manner. The maths nerds in the class eagerly copied down the formula.

Now Johnny was a bit obsessed with the number 2. It annoyed him how it and neatly divided every other number perfectly in half in a division.

Johnny's hand shot up. "All good, sir but what if....."

A collective groan.

"I'm just saying..... what if that number two in that equation was feeling a bit off. You know a bit crook on a given day. Say it was feeling a bit one and a half rather than the full two. I'm just saying..... kind of stuff things up eh?"

It was these kind of comments that labelled him a smart arse and he was consistent with this approach across all subjects. But he loved English. He loved spinning yarns and he delivered them in such a convincing manner that the extraordinary became the possible. He would take an accepted fact, mould it, spin it and embellish it but leave even the most sceptical thinking "maybe".

It was this particular skill that appealed to the Mayor. Johnny had helped out the shire with this inventive approach during the recent bushfires and the pandemic.

It was risky but the Mayor was under a lot of pressure. He knew Johnny's solution to the problem would not be evidence based. In fact, it was always the reverse but he was just so convincing.

Johnny agreed to meet the Mayor, during school time of course, and arrived at the proposed site on his skateboard chewing gum after recess.

The Mayor rubbed his forehead and outlined the issues and Johnny nodded away. Johnny then borrowed a shovel from a nearby council worker and dug a small deep hole. He borrowed the Mayor's glasses and peered in.

"Maybe so" was all he said.

He then guided the Mayor down to the bank of the river at the bottom of the street and pointed out how the width of the river changed in any given twenty four hour period. He pointed back to the hole in the ground. Both sets of eyes went back and forth repeatedly. Johnny extended and then contracted his arms over and over again.

"Yeah..... yeah.... they're called tides, Johnny. It's a tidal river.

Geez mate. You sure you should be out of school?"

"Nah..... don't think so. You're getting mixed up with the sea. Those things happen on the beach. Look.... see how they built the old bridge. It opens up when the river stretches and closes when it contracts. They worked all this out before. That's why this new bridge they're building will never work. It won't open up when the river stretches."

The Mayor ran his hand through his thinning hair as Johnny explained the details of the plan.

The Mayor shook his head.

Johnny knocked up a model to convince the Mayor. It was all extremely logical and compelling but the council would need convincing.

At the council meeting Johnny presented a great pile of paperwork for each member of council. There were graphs, timelines, detailed plans, sketches, weather forecasts, expert opinions, costings, ledgers, an environmental impact study, geological data and even a scaled interactive model.

He then presented a PowerPoint collage he had cut and pasted from a range of sources. He was completely across his brief and the intricacy of the presentation was delivered in a rapid fire manner that used language to suit the passions of the audience. He peppered his presentation with "bottom line", "forward estimates" and "debt consolidation " for the fiscally minded. The socially aware nodded with "inclusiveness" and "access" and the conservationists smiled with "carbon neutral" and "sustainability". All faces beamed at the mention of "innovative", "cutting edge" and "forward thinking".

But of course there were questions. Most of the hands shot up.

The first one on a specific costing figure.

In a flash, Johnny referred everybody to the figure on page 27, clause 8, sub clause 3(b) of the independent financial study.

Each council member rifled through his/her documents.

At a pace that was somewhat bewildering, Johnny continued "Now take that figure and apply it to the forward estimates document, I have labelled 'Attachment B'. As you can see this figure lines up with page 32, clause 6 of the Environmental impact Study that I have colour coded in green."

Councillors struggled to keep pace and an array of documents was scattering about each of them.

"If we now apply this figure to the timeline labeled 'Attachment E' it will justify the measurement on page 11 of the architect's report in 'Attachment G'. As you can see on the interactive model, if you now apply that figure to the possible outcomes slide mechanism which you will find at the bottom left hand corner, the forecasts for river movements will then link back to slide 7 of the PowerPoint which I will now flick up again. Hence, the costing figure you refer to."

There were no more questions.

The details were so complex and intricate it left the councillors nodding sagely.

But overall, his plan was breathtakingly simple. He could satisfy everyone and come in under budget

It was extraordinary.

The pool was constructed.

According to Johnny, there was a lag time on this particular piece of land that linked the pool to the nearby river. As the earth rotated and the earth's crust moved, this piece of land would remain static for a period and then catch up. Stretch and then catch up. Stretch, river expands, bridge opens. Stretch, static, contract bridge closes. Over and over again like clockwork.

Johnny used this phenomenon to construct a twenty five metre pool out of concentrated elastic tiles. At the calculated times, the pool would stretch to precisely 50 metres for a period and then contract. Pool use was timetabled accordingly.

All at the cost of a twenty five metre pool.

The solution to the pool heating was even simpler.

Johnny designed four fixed temperature gauges. One was permanently set at 21 degrees Celsius to convince the hardy lap swimmer, another at 24 degrees for the leisure swimmer, a third at 26 degrees for the aquarobics and even one at 28.5 degrees to show the very particular therapeutic pool users. Solar powered smoke machines were concealed around the pool for winter users.

In all, the new pool was an absolutely ingenious solution to a seemingly intractable problem. Everyone was catered for.

But there was one problem with Johnny's calculations. Every now and then, the pool would extend to the full fifty metres but with a five degrees angled tilt for just one minute before righting itself.

Johnny explained it was probably just the number 2 having a bit of an off day.

Even this small fault had a most positive outcome.

A wily, generously proportioned grey haired local swimmer picked this precise time to set a new world record for the 50 metre freestyle. It was the equivalent of swimming downhill for one lap at the given time.

It became known as the BODALLAP.

BOOKWORM

Julia Ermert

DISPELLING THE DARKNESS

with books … books … and eye surgeons

There are millions of books in the world, probably hundreds of millions.

A few years ago, Google somehow managed to count 129,864,880. The average American (they're the ones who count this sort of thing) reads twelve books a year. For the average Australian, one who reads this page, I might guess fifty — slightly fewer than one a week.

How are we ever going to finish those TBR (to-be-read) piles?

Americans have figured that out as well. Using one of those life insurance calculators, a woman of 80 can expect to live another 10 years, with time to read another 500 books. Men, you'll die one year sooner and so, read 50 fewer books.

It doesn't go higher than 80, so I don't know what happens overseas if you're much older than I am!

The Summerfield Scribblers once wrote: *Putting black marks in white spaces makes magic happen*.

Are our brains hard-wired to read? That's called The Cognitive Neuroscience of Reading and you can look it up. Let's think about the magic.

Last issue I mentioned *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, written in cuneiform in Mesopotamia some 4000 years ago, but that was a book. Maybe forty thousand years ago there were cave scratchings that did tell a story. I also surmised early reading was in verse formats. A recent decipherment may question this. Archaeologists not two years ago read:

May this tusk root out lice of the hair and beard.

This was scratched into what we would recognise as a nit-comb, in seventeen tiny Canaanite letters on elephant ivory, from the Israel of 3700 years ago. There was even a fossilised louse or two. Some of the letters are recognisable today: X O Q V and W.

Poetic or practical? Well, it's all a value judgement. But we can 'read' it!

I liberated another book from the Braidwood Book Fair — Alberto Manguel's *A History of Reading*, HarperCollins, London, 1997. I bought it mainly for its illustrations of people reading, with a goodly proportion of them women. Allowing women to read has long been an issue; they should be satisfied with what their husbands tell them. Sound familiar? And although they may be shown as reading, that did not necessarily mean they could write.

Writing could be seen as a trade; you contracted it out. Your secretary, who might be a slave, did it, or you found someone in the marketplace.

I'll quote Manguel's description of my favourite, since I can't better it:

Stark naked, a well-coiffed Mary Magdalene, apparently unrepentant, lies on a cloth strewn over a rock in the wilderness, reading a large illustrated volume (Emmanuel Benner, Swiss-French, 1886.)

The image is monotone, but as you would expect if you've been following me, that carefully-crafted hair is reddish, if not actually ginger.

Manguel's mother was about as unsupportive as mine. "Go out and live!" she would exhort him.

Mine would say, "Get your nose out of that book!" giving me a boring household job instead. It's always been a subversive activity. Authority can't tell what's going on in your mind.

Getting back to that ivory nit comb reminds me of the reader's ivory tower. Anyway, that started me on a long career of locking myself in the toilet or using a torch under the bedclothes.

An episode of *The Twilight Zone* concerns the last man on earth after a nuclear disaster. An avid reader, he now has all the books in the world at his disposal. Then he breaks his glasses.

So many famous writers had eyesight problems, from Homer and Milton on. Way back, they got a slave to read to them, or a daughter, or used a disc of glass or crystal. Pliny noted that bloodthirsty but short-sighted Nero watched his gladiators (and burning Christians?) through an emerald.

Somewhere in the 13th century, someone thought of hitching a pair of discs together to make spectacles. The first painted depiction of this life-changing phenomenon is by Tommaso da Modena in 1352, on the nose of Cardinal Hugo de Saint Cher. They were known as rivet spectacles, two round lenses in thick frames, hinged above the bridge of the nose so the grip can be adjusted.

> Yet how many classrooms have we been in, where short-sighted children were mocked, teased, and bullied for needing glasses?

An older friend remembers her first clear sight being of her mother's tear-stained face; her pretty little girl had to wear jam-jar spectacles. Ann was just delighted to be able to see.

Now my friends, neighbours and peers are having cataract surgery.

Attempts at this go back some four thousand years. It involved dislodging the clouded lens and pushing it out of the way. This could be done by a good whack across the face, or by more finicky breaking it up with a thorn and pushing the bits aside. If you were lucky, you got back some sight. Sucking the bits out with a hollow tube worked better still. One sufferer who left a fascinating record was the Reverend Patrick Brontë. On 19th August 1846 Charlotte took her blind father to Manchester for this quite new operation. His Dr Wilson was going to cut away the cataract, instead of just pushing it aside.

Father and daughter recorded the experience. He wrote, 'The feeling, under the operation, which lasted 15 minutes, was of a burning nature, but not intolerable …'

Yes, he was completely conscious. There was anaesthesia by then but it caused vomiting, and eye operations required immobility. The Reverend Patrick then spent the next month flat on his back with his eyes covered, attended night and day by his daughter and a hired nurse, the swelling kept down by leeches. He regained his sight but lost it again towards the end of his life, a sad old man who had outlived all his brilliant family.

Tough times. If you're a television viewer, you'll have noticed things didn't improve much, except in the way of anaesthesia, until quite modern times. Remember the cook in *Downton Abbey*, and Sister Monica Joan in *Call the Midwife*?

It was 1978 before implants, made of silicone, became possible, and 1986 before a laser probe used light energy to remove the cataracts. This was invented by a woman, Dr Patricia Bath. Charlotte would've approved.

Macular degeneration is the big problem nowadays. It can be delayed, but not cured. When my husband died of throat cancer last year, he was going blind because of MD. I was his reader, more appreciated than Milton's daughter, taught to pronounce and write several languages but not understand them. 'One language is enough for a woman,' opined Papa. 'Our sex made us unworthy,' said the daughter we now know as Deborah.

I doubt my husband could distinguish my face in the crowd on his last morning. Now I wonder who will dispel this last darkness so the magic can still happen?

It could well be another woman.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

It seemed like this fortnight was going to be a quiet one, but my sources have been active and telling me all sorts of wonderful things are afoot throughout the bleak and bleary month of July.

I hope we're all continuing to keep warm and well through this winter and into spring. Two more months to go until the start of spring, and your correspondent cannot wait — spring is my favourite season.

Concerts and Gigs

Wrapping Up Recovery.

It's been three years since the fires, and we are wrapping up the recovery phase in Braidwood.

Join us at the Braidwood National Theatre on 21 July from 6pm and enjoy live music from Trent and Racheal, Hamish Hudson, and the Nick Munnings Band.

You can also watch a short film, No such thing as Sunday, by film makers Paul Huntingford and Matt Thane on the recovery of a local producer Hamish Hudson.

There will be free catering.

Drinks are also available.

— * —* —* —

Jamie Agius is playing at the Royal Mail on Saturday 22nd July from 7:30 pm.

Community Events

BYPAA says let's join the circus!

This is going to be a free fun workshop that you will not want to miss on Thursday 13 July and Saturday 15 July. We have three expert teachers from Warehouse circus who will help you learn and develop new skills.

Also, on Friday 14 July we will be screening at the Glasshouse the Lego Movie for primary aged young people and Pirates of the Caribbean for the older ones.

Finally, the grand opening of the Glasshouse on Park Lane will follow the combined warehouse circus workshop plus lots of other activities. More details on the way.

Sign up now as you will not want to miss these FREE events.

— * —* —* —

Come down and taste the fare of Java Braidwood—next door to Eureka Pizzeria. The restaurant opens on Saturday, 15th July and there are two spots in which you can come and sample the delicious food— 12pm and 6pm. Please RSVP to Daniar on 0422 261 115.

— * —* —* —

Quilt event challenge quilt fabric is available for pick up at the quilt shop now. Three gorgeous colour ways to choose from! Quilt shop is open from Thursday to Monday so come down and get your fabric between 10 and 4.

— * —* —* —

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

Markets

• The Braidwood Farmers Markets are back on Saturday, 15th July in the National Theatre from 8:30 am to 12:30pm.

• The Ryrie Park Markets are on Saturday, 22nd July from 8 am.

Gallery Openings

Gallery 103 opens to the public on Friday, 21st July from 5pm to 8pm. This gallery will be Jo Parsons' personal studio and an exhibition space for many talented local artists, so come on down for drinks and nibbles in the back of Deadwood.

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

• 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. It's about discovering the joy of music together. We sing nursery songs, play hand games and quality percussion instruments, and dance to beautiful music from around the world. The focus is on rhythm, rhyme and the changing of the seasons. These experiences nurture the developing senses of the young child fostering their imagination, imitation and play.

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

• Vera Active Pilates runs on Wednesdays with 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

• 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

QPRC Waste Info app

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

▶ Head to the App store or Google Play and download **QPRC Waste Info**

Book a **Kerbside Clean Up** Online

Use our online booking system for your next kerbside clean up. The program is available in some urban areas of Braidwood, Bungendore, Captains Flat and Queanbeyan which have a three-bin kerbside collection service.

▶ Learn more about eligibility and book at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/Waste-Environment/Waste**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Draft Asbestos Policy	27 July
Draft Contaminated Land Policy	31 August

▶ 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

Annual **Community Grants**

Applications are open for our Community Grants.

Eligible community groups or organisations can apply for Category A General Assistance grants or Category B venue hire donations. This year, grants of up to $3,000 under Category A, and venue hire donations worth up to $2,000 are available.

▶ Applications close 31 July.
Learn more at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/grants**

Work with **Council**

- Manager Environment and Compliance
- Human Resources Officer
- Team Leader - Resource and Systems Librarian
- Management Accountant

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

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:
- 12 July
- 26 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.

Wrapping up Recovery in Braidwood

It's been three years since the fires and we are wrapping up the recovery phase in Braidwood.

Join us at the Braidwood National Theatre on 21 July from 6pm for live music, a short film and catering. Drinks are also available.

This event is an initiative of the QPRC Disaster Hub and Coordinare.

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

Follow us on social media

@QbnPalerangRC
@QbnPalerang
@QbnPalerang

Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

eepurl.com/codv-v

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 13:1-23 by Greg Sunter

The teaching of Jesus is grounded firmly in the Jewish world of the 1st Century.

For most of his listeners, that world was an agricultural one and so the stories Jesus told were about the everyday realities of peoples' lives. He told stories about vineyards, wheat fields, building houses, planting seeds and reaping harvests. The imagery he used was drawn from the lived experience of those he taught. Jesus used a style of storytelling that was popular at the time: parable. A parable is a story with a moral or a lesson. A parable usually involves an extended metaphor and, at its heart, is teaching the listener about how to live or how to behave.

Another feature of parables is that they can be understood at different levels. At one level, there is the literal meaning of a parable – what it says is what it is about. In today's gospel, the parable of the sower can be read or heard as a literal story about sowing seed and the lesson one might take from it is to be careful where you throw the seed when sowing. At another level, parables have a metaphoric meaning. In this instance, Jesus actually explains the symbolism of the parable to his disciples. There is a further, interpretive level of a parable where a modern reader asks, 'What has that story got to say to me here and now?'

In his conversation with the disciples, Jesus makes clear that only some people are open to understanding the depth of the message contained within his parables. Some people will only ever hear the story and never hear the message. Mind you, he still has to explain the parable to the disciples! He has just chastised those who fail to understand and yet walks the disciples through the parable step by step!

Scriptural context – A Parable Chapter

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

— * —* —* —

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm Saturday 22 July Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly wood Raffle. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011

— * —* —* —

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. We are currently working on where to have lunch as the pub is closed on a Tuesday.

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

Mass Saturdays (Vigil) at 6.00pm

Tuesdays at 10.00am.

Braidwood Uniting Church

Restoration

At the ancient temple of Apollo were two signs at the entrance; "Know yourself" and "Nothing too much".

The ancients knew that the ordinary business of life was a process in which you could lose yourself.

But for the ancients, "finding yourself" was not a task of finding that which made you unique but rather it was remembering what it was that you shared with all of humanity. It was to recapture the task of being human and being human, was a task; it was a project.

The project was never about being coddled into comfort. Various thinkers and schools of thought all saw humanity as a kind of end goal, something toward which we all need to strive, along the way learning to master pain and importantly, learning to master pleasure. Not all pain was bad and not all pleasure is good. Gosh we could use some ancient wisdom.

Some might want to tell me that Epicurus taught his followers to pursue pleasure. It's true although the poor man has received thousands of years of bad press. Epicurus taught that pleasure was found not in accumulation of things but rather in constructing a simple life. He said, "Nothing is enough for the man to whom enough is too little". He encouraged his followers to eat simple food, live in simple dwellings and take pleasure in the simple. It is in the pursuit of much that we forget our common humanity.

— * —* —* —

It's odd but one of the things I love about Sundays is seeing all the cars parked outside our little white church, tucked away in Braidwood, where folks gather to remember some ancient words, sing some old songs and remember our common humanity. We say prayers not seeking magic but seeking a return to simple humanity. We look at each other. We hear each other sing and speak. It's a cause for simple joy.

— * —* —* —

This week we'll pray, "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul."

grahamlong@mac.com

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

SHARING OUR LIVES

One of the major benefits of joining a church or community group is the support and encouragement we receive from each other.

The Bible says we were not meant to be alone: *"It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."* Genesis 2:18

One of the characteristics of the early church was their faithfulness to connectedness because they knew connectedness doesn't merely happen. They met together daily. They ate together. Over time, however, that happened less. So the writer of Hebrews said: *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another."* (Hebrews 19: 24-25)

Serving one another encourages both parties and gives us a sense of purpose knowing that our service to others is changing lives. People respond to knowing they are not alone in their pain and that someone cares enough to listen and reassure them that this situation will pass.

Every day, everyone you know faces life with eternity on the line, and life has a way of beating people down. Every life needs a cheering section!

Every life needs a shoulder to lean on once in a while.

Every life needs a prayer to life them up before God.

Every life needs a hugger to wrap some arms around them sometimes.

Every life needs to hear a voice saying, "Don't give up. You are loved"

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

— * —* —* —

You are not alone! Join our friendly gathering in St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood next Sunday 16th July at 10am for a contemporary communion service followed by a cuppa and a chat. Children are welcome and time is set aside for them during the service.

Parish contacts: 4842 2423 angbraidwood@bigpond.com

BRAIDWOOD BOOK FAIR PROFITS GO BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

We're happy to announce that the distribution of net profit from the June Braidwood Book Fair has been made and the recipients were:

Braidwood Apex Club – Life Centre – Preschool – Education Foundation – Youth Performing Arts Assn – Urban Landcare Group – Community Assn – Scouts Group – Girl Guides Group – Old Sunday School Hall.

It is such a great pleasure to be able to financially support these community groups.

The Book Fair Committee: Marjorie, Lois & Ros

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Brave souls, obsessives or just plain bonkers?

Last Saturday, as anyone who put their heads outside their doors for more than 30 seconds will attest, was pretty cold, even by Braidwood winter standards.

The apparent temperature peaked at 2.2 degrees and the wind, straight out of the Snowy Mountains blizzard, didn't abate all day, coming in gusts of up to 80kph. Add to that, rain, sleet and a few windblown snowflakes and it was a good day to stay indoors in front of the fire.

And yet, undeterred, Braidwood golfers, headed out for their regular Saturday competition.

One player did confess to the Changing Times that she came close to withdrawing after five holes due to the cold, but didn't want to let her partner down. That's the Braidwood spirit that has seen the club net two pennants and one Canberra trophy this year.

Last week's trophy was to have been the Daargun Aboriginal Corporation Trophy, timed to coincide with Naidoc Week, but trophy donor, Keith Morgan, was in hospital for surgery and Will Sanders generously stepped in to accommodate the change of plan. The club wishes Keith all the best for a speedy recovery and we hope to see him back on the course soon.

RESULTS: Saturday July 8 Medley 2BBB Stableford Will Sanders Trophy

Winners: Carmen Byrne & Don Burke 39 pts

Runners Up: Donna Kuhn & Mike Fitzgerald 38 pts

Men's NTP 8/17: Keith Ferguson

Women's NTP: Not Won

Ball Comp: Lorinda Stuart & Keith Ferguson 35, Will Sanders & Roger Hovey 33

Handicap Changes: Tom Duffy out 1 to 29, Will Sanders out 1 to 21

Coming events:

July 15 Saturday: Committee Meeting 10.00am (change of meeting time)

Men's Single Stableford – Don Burke Trophy

Women's Single Stableford – Dojo Bread Trophy

July 22 Saturday: Men's 2BBB Stableford – Nick Fry & Rob Martin Trophy

Women's 2BBB Stableford – Michelle Henry Trophy

STOP PRESS

AI BOT SUES STUDENTS FOR STEALING ITS WORK

STAR TIMES

Kerbingourenthusiasm

So me mate was getting out of his car next to the new kerb extension on the Provisions corner. He looked at it askance. "That's not 45 degrees!" he declared. "That contractor needs a protractor. Are they gunna paint funny-angled lines all the way up Lascelles Street or ease their way back to 45 degrees?". Aha! A closer look at the new signage would have solved his dilemma.

Inafunnyestateofmind

A four-bedroom house on a 450 square metre block goes for about $1.2 million. There is a primary school, a tiny plaza and a cafe. Plans have been lodged for a shopping centre and, adjoining the golf course, a country club. The glossy A3 brochure says: " Locals say that at Bingara Gorge you are 30 minutes from almost everything!" Yes, well, perhaps the copywriter needs to have a Bex and a lie down.

GoingforChinasyndrome

The *Sydney Morning Herald* is gunning for China again. That puts Paul Keating right in its sights. It seems PK can say nothing critical of the West or Europe without being branded a China stooge. Of course this is the same masthead that blared, a few months ago, "RED ALERT" right across the front page in support of an egregious claim that we will be at war with China within three years. Someone at the *Herald* needs to take charge. We don't call them 'Red China' these days in the same way that we don't look for 'reds under the bed'.

Havemoresomoretolose

Great news. The wealthy are getting right behind action on climate change. "Within the climate space, we believe there's a rapidly emerging investment thesis that we find exciting around food, agriculture and natural capital," gushed the investment advice. Now we know it's real.

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