BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

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COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Temp			
Wed	-2°	17°	0%
Thur:	-3°	16°	0%
Fri:	3°	16°	5%
Sat:	2°	17°	5%
Sun:	3°	17°	5%
Mon:	0°	17°	5%
Tue:	3°	15°	10%

Huge opening launches Gallery 103

Robin Tennant Wood

In a spacious cavern tucked behind Deadwood Café and warmed by a roaring fire, local artist, Jo Parsons was relaxing on Saturday afternoon after the successful launch of her new venture, Gallery 103, on Friday night.

Work by several local artists, including Jo herself, are hung on the rustic brick walls, with ceramics and sculptural works displayed throughout.

The effect of the gallery is a comfortable, welcoming space for artists and visitors to meet, linger and enjoy art.

Jo began painting as a form of meditation to wind down and relax. Her work is abstract and colourful: bold designs vaguely reminiscent of some of Kandinsky's expressionist work. One of Jo's paintings, now on display at Gallery 103, won the People's Choice Award at this year's QPRC Art Awards.

"People liked what I was doing and then wanted to buy some of my work," she said. Selling privately led her to start selling at markets but she found that this wasn't an ideal way of selling her art.

"It was my dream to have my own space for a studio-workshop-gallery," she said. She is planning to mount exhibitions by other local artists but this is dependent upon access to the gallery other than through the café.

"At the moment we're only open during café hours," she said, "but once we can sort out legal and safe access via the laneway [at the side of the building] I'd love to have other exhibitions in here."

As well as the original art on display, Jo has had a lot of her own work printed on cards, fabrics and even umbrellas. The striking designs lend themselves well to these other media.

"I'm keeping it local: [art photographer] Stephen Best did the prints and [artist and framer] Bek Hamilton is doing most of the frames and I'm hoping to be able to invite local artists to exhibit in the future."

As well as original art and prints, Gallery 103 is about to become the sole distributor of customised speakers by Canberra-based BassCase. These are high quality speakers in vintage suitcases and valises.

Gallery 103 is open Friday to Monday at 103 Wallace Street with access through Deadwood Café.

Jo Parsons [right] and her partner Melissa Beattie.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

Elders or elderly? Our culture misses the point

Our modern Western society could learn a lot from traditional societies, if only we cared to listen.

The ongoing national conversation about the proposed Indigenous Voice to parliament refers frequently to the Indigenous elders. These are the community leaders, the custodians of traditional knowledge, the bestowers of wisdom. Those with authority to speak for others. In Australian Indigenous lore they are the ones granted the honorific titles of Aunty or Uncle, to denote the respect with which they are regarded.

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the term 'elder' as: *'a person having authority because of age and experience'*. The Cambridge dictionary gives us: *'and older person, especially one with a respected position in society.'* Roget's Thesaurus uses the following terms as synonymous with elder: doyen, seniority, superior, leader, venerable.

Elders are old people, yes, but with that age comes authority to speak for others and impart the wisdom that can only come from experience in life.

Compare the term 'elder' to that which is usually used to denote the aged in our modern euro-centric society: elderly.

Roget's gives us: senile, doddery, one foot in the grave, ageing, senescent. The Cambridge Dictionary tells us that 'elderly' is a polite term for 'old', while Oxford links it to synonyms such as geriatric. Merriam-Webster simply defines it as 'rather old'.

Spot the difference?

In a youth-obsessed society such as ours we regard getting old as a problem rather than a privilege. After all, a lot of people don't get the opportunity to get old. Magazines constantly bombard women with advice on "looking hot after 50". We're encouraged to dye our greying hair, chemically or surgically remove wrinkles and those bits of our body that are subject to the gravitational pull of the earth [spoiler alert: gravity wins. Every time]. Men are not exempt: "get rid of the dad bod" programs, hair restorer, anti-ageing creams. It's as though we're being made to feel guilty if we don't want to look young well beyond the point where it's feasible.

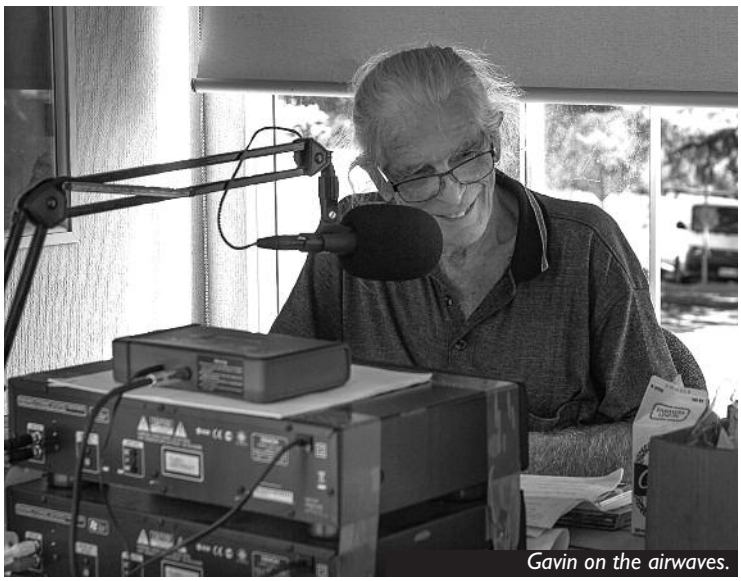
The government approach to ageing is also wrapped up in negative perceptions of age. Governments agonise about the resources that will be necessary to support an ageing population rather than regarding the aged as a resource in themselves. If political parties defer to their party elders for advice, they are ridiculed in the popular press for "rolling out the has-beens".

While it's true that as we age we are subject to more health problems and will require increasing

levels of care, government, and society more generally, see this as a one-way street whereby resources are poured into caring for the elderly with no social benefit: a drain on the public purse. We're missing the point: a point which traditional societies have long understood. The point that our elders are the keepers of our communal wisdom.

The Voice debate highlights the gap between the attitudes of traditional societies and those of the youth-obsessed west. The voices of the Indigenous elders are reasoned and speak in terms of what is good for their people and the country – both the land and the people. But they are quiet voices, often tempered by age and easily dismissed by a dominant culture that predominantly hears the shrill overtones of social media influencers, popstars and highly paid morning news anchors.

In all societies, elders are the voices that whisper our conscience. We sometimes need to listen hard to hear them but for those who do, the lessons are potent.



Gavin on the airwaves.

BRAIDWOOD FM NEWS

Presenter: Gavin Pillidge

Gavin has been a presenter on Braidwood FM since 2003 and presents varied programs each week.

On Tuesday he presents *Tuesday Eclectic Music Mix* and as the name suggest he will play music from a broad and diverse range of sources. On Thursday he will delve in to the Archives with *From the Archives,* exploring music from yesteryear.

On Saturday morning Gavin presents the *Saturday Morning* show, featuring Roger Hoskins our long time resident weather guru. On Saturday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm he presents *A Little Bit of This and That*, where you will hear everything from pop from the 60s to the 90s, country, classical, blues, jazz and folk.

Then from 4pm to 6pm Gavin continues with *Blues In The Afternoon*.

On Sundays, catch Gavin between 10am and 12 noon for *Jazz on Sunday*. Much of the music comes from Gavin's extensive collection of vinyl records. In between his life as a presenter on Braidwood FM, Gavin also manages to train new presenters and to carry out his duties as Braidwood's postal contractor.

QPRC General Manager Rebecca Ryan out the front of the old D&S Motors.

Council asks community on D&S site

Paul Cockram and Robin Tennant Wood

Since Murray "Robbo" Robertson closed the big roller door at D&S Motors in 2018, speculation has been rife about council's plans for the site.

QPRC General Manager, Rebecca Ryan, spoke to the *Changing Times* last week about options for developing the site, its potential as a gateway to the large council-owned depot behind and particularly the need for community input on what is needed and how council should proceed.

Ms Ryan began by explaining that the long-term strategy is to move the depot out to near the waste transfer station, but to do so, council needs to secure government financial assistance.

"We had applied for grant to do that, but because we didn't have everything really ready in terms of DA approvals or proper plans, it wasn't a good enough project to meet all the criteria for funding," Ms Ryan said.

"I think it was about $13 million to relocate the depot. Unfortunately, QPRC didn't have the money to match that, and I didn't have a DA approval for the project.

"The project is still in its infancy. So we will continue on with developing that."

Ms Ryan had a meeting with the ministers in Parliament House [Sydney] last week and noted that Rose Jackson [Minister for, among other things, Water, Housing and Homelessness] spoke.

"She's very on the ball and very interested in water and water security. That's another discussion, of course but what helps with any sort of funding applications is having a plan, something that the community supports, something that there's been community engagement and consultation about; a business case that's actually going to work.

"It's about meeting the need of where the gap is and making sure it's got that support. With the depot, we'll need to have all the environmental studies done because there obviously would be some contamination issues that need to be resolved.

"I have to have the plan and the depot relocated or being relocated to where it potentially will be out in the industrial estate near the waste transfer station."

In stressing the need for proper planning and preparation, Ms Ryan said that the government likes to give funding to projects that can be implemented in the next 12 months.

"I want something ready for Braidwood where we can say we'll complete it in two years, that is the timeframe the politicians want to hear."

Ms Ryan believes we're still a couple of years away from that unless council can secure the resources to fast-track the process.

She stressed that the Braidwood Depot plan was a community suggestion and that the process is a partnership.

"It's the community and council having those discussions and having a look at opportunities and working out what is the best way forward."

Acknowledging also the Braidwood community's calls for off-street parking, Ms Ryan said that the car park that we are planning for out the back of DNS motors will be open for consultation.

"We'll be asking the community what they would like to see, what's important for the community. Is it a visitor information centre? Is it toilets? Is it market stalls, pop-up stalls, car parking, EV charging stations? Because that's certainly an opportunity when we are upgrading. Do we upgrade the power and put in that infrastructure at the same time so that you can have EV car charging stations?"

Consultation details

The D&S site community consultation is on the QPRC website at https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/88-wallace-street-renewal

Council is specifically seeking community feedback on heritage items that should be kept, which sections of the existing structure should be retained, whether a Visitors' Information Hub should be included in this space, and any particular design elements that should be included.

They also want to know:

- whether there are additional uses or facilities that you'd like to see
- how the car park could help businesses and if any particular signage or infrastructure could improve this
- the community's appetite for toilet facilities, smart lighting and electric vehicle charging
- general feedback on the usability and design
- if there are items of heritage significance on the site

You can provide feedback:

- by commenting on the website
- by email to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au – referencing '88 Wallace Street Renewal' in the subject line
- by mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620.

The approximate boundary of the council depot and the old D&S Motors site.

ANIMAL HEALTH — Katie Lyons

Periodontal disease is the most common disease of dogs and cats, and unfortunately by the age of two, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats are already suffering from it.

When left untreated, dental disease results in long-term medical problems. Bacteria from the teeth and resulting gum disease track into the blood stream, which leads to damage of internal tissues and organs. Dental disease has been linked to liver, kidney and heart disease, so essentially your pet's bad breath is actually contributing to a premature death.

Signs of periodontal disease in dogs and cats include bad breath, pawing at the mouth, red or bleeding gums, tooth loss, excessive saliva, not eating, chewing on one side, becoming fussy or bolting down food and/or yellow-brown tartar on the teeth around the gum line. Just like humans, it is recommended that dogs, cats and rabbits all have regular dental health checks.

A routine dental procedure includes an anaesthetic, radiographs, scale and polish of the teeth.

Dental radiographs allow us to identify disease within tooth roots and the bone and ligaments that hold seemingly healthy teeth in place. Impactions, fractures and tooth root abscesses can be visualised, in addition to any teeth that may require extraction.

Some pets won't let their owners have a good look at their teeth, so the staff at Braidwood Veterinary Surgery are happy to provide a FREE dental health check. To schedule your free appointment, please phone 02 4842 2697.

Katie Lyons is a Registered Veterinary Nurse at Braidwood Vet Surgery.

Healthy teeth (left) vs. Periodontal disease (infection of the bone and tooth support) (right)

VIEW CLUB — Vicki Walcott

VIEW Club members Lyn and Marjorie with Reverend Graham Long.

Braidwood local Evening VIEW Club met on the first Thursday night this month at the Braidwood Services Club for a night of entertainment with our guest speaker who shared his passion and work with those less fortunate.

Together we all enjoyed a tasty meal as the business matters and reports were discussed.

Lois reported on the financial status of our club and noted we will shortly make a donation to the Smith Family winter appeal.

Right now, in Australia, we're experiencing a range of crises: the escalating cost of living, a shortage in affordable housing, gender inequality which negatively impacts women's superannuation savings, and a rise in elder abuse, a form of family violence.

And, sadly, older women are being hit hardest.

Winter Appeal donations such as those given by the Braidwood Evening VIEW Club go to help make sure that those in crisis have a safe place to sleep, food, clothing and a chance to rebuild their lives.

This month's guest speaker was Reverend Graham Long who spoke of his time at The Wayside Chapel in his role as both Pastor, and CEO. He referenced the Chapels motto "Love over Hate "and shared tales of struggles, pain and adversity but also of triumph, achievement and hope.

Graham's interesting talk highlighted just how The Wayside Chapel has touched countless lives, from the streets to high society.

Thank you Graham for your insight into a world many don't fully understand.

Congratulations to our raffle winner Carol, a visitor spending time in Braidwood with her sister, Lois White.

Evening VIEW club provides women from all walks of life a chance to join a supportive, social and fun group. Come along we'd love to meet you. Braidwood Evening VIEW Club meets at 6.30pm on the first Thursday of the month at the Braidwood Services Club.

For further information, please give our President Ros Bulloch a call on 043 789 5276.

Vicki Walcott, Publicity Officer

Photo from the New Zealand news service 'Newshub'.

Farm vehicles still major concern:

Farm Safety Week 2023

Robin Tennant Wood

Farmsafe Australia has released its Safer Farms 2022 report to coincide with Farm Safety Week 2023.

The report states that 93% of all fatalities on farms are men, with 73% of those involving men over the age of 45. Australia-wide, there were 55 fatal accidents on farms in 2022 and 158 serious injuries requiring emergency treatment and hospitalisation. In the six months to June 30 this year, there have been 77 injuries and 19 fatalities on Australian farms.

> The report says that while last year there was a significant decrease in injury and fatality, "this year we see the statistics return to higher levels."

Farm vehicle accidents, specifically those involving quad bikes and tractors, account for 64% of farm fatalities. For that reason, the focus of Farm Safety Week 2023 is tractor and machinery safety.

Farmsafe Australia is particularly concerned about the numbers of children injured every year in motor vehicle accidents on farms. Almost half (49%) of injuries reported on farms involving children under the age of 18 are caused by accidents on quad bikes, motorcycles or tractors.

NSW Farmers association recognises that farming remains one of the most dangerous industries and NSW Farmers remains a strong advocate for investment to support farmers to embed and improve workplace health and safety practices. As a result, NSW Farmers has secured a four-year funding package (available until June 2025) to deliver the Farm Safety Advisory Program (FSAP) from the NSW Government through SafeWork NSW.

The Farmsafe Australia report notes that the NSW Farmers FSAP "aims to assist farming businesses and communities to build safer environments to live and work."

There are two dedicated safety advisors and the FSAP is available to assist farmers to develop an effective system to manage the health and safety risks on their farm, reduce the likelihood of farm related fatality or injury of workers, contractors, visitors or family members.

According to the report, "the program has undertaken structured interactions with 500 businesses through on or off farm advisory sessions, in-person and online workshops. "Delivery of information and assistance are conducted through one on one or group sessions, in person or online, and provision of practical resources such as checklists, safe work policies and procedures. The program has delivered numerous workshops covering topics such as harvest readiness, safer shearing sheds and easy-to-do WHS for farmers."

The full Farmsafe 2023 report can be downloaded from https://farmsafe.org.au/content/product/Industry%20Reports/

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Sleep Apnoea

An estimated 1.5 million Australians have sleep disorders, with about half of these having obstructive sleep apnoea. (Sleep Foundation, 2010)

Breathing while we sleep is important — nobody should find this fact surprising.

What is surprising, is that many people have a condition called Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) and may not know about it. Obstructive Sleep Apnoea is a condition wherein the soft tissues of the throat relax so much while you are asleep that they prevent air reaching your lungs. People with this condition wake up very briefly without remembering, so they can breathe properly. The result is a disrupted sleep that doesn't leave you feeling restored or refreshed, which in turn increases the risks of snoring, diabetes, heart disease, and daytime fatigue.

Capital Chemist Braidwood provides an Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Service for patients who have the condition; for people who are at risk of the condition; and for people who are waking up after a long sleep feeling like they haven't rested at all. The service includes:

- Diagnosis of OSA with the use of a take-home, overnight monitoring device and review by a consultant sleep physician.
- Treatment of OSA with masks and machines that provide Continual Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) to keep your airways open.
- Ongoing management to ensure your device is working well for you.

You can book an overnight sleep study, or CPAP Consultation by visiting:

https://www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood or speaking to our team in-store.

BCS NEWS

John Longhurst

Online boost for BCS students

BCS) Higher School Certificate students have attended online study days in Physics, Biology and Mathematics in preparation for the HSC Trials which begin next week.

The study days were conducted by Aurora College, the state's virtual selective high school servicing rural and remote students. The aim of the College is to allow students to enjoy a depth of study previously only available in metropolitan areas or boarding schools.

A range of experts, experienced teachers and HSC markers presented HSC examination advice and up to date information on course content.

Mr Bill Waterhouse, BCS Senior Student Mentor/Tutor supervised the online classes in the school's open learning area.

"Students can interact directly with the presenters after each session. The presenters have focused on surgically deconstructing past HSC questions and providing tips and strategies to deal with both the Trials and the HSC proper. It is all about maximising marks by being thorough and explicit in answering the questions."

BCS Captain, Georgie Long found the study days beneficial.

Georgie said "The study days provided advice on extending my notes and breaking down the exam questions. It is also reassuring to interact with students and staff across the state."

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely, has introduced the online study days as part of preparations for the HSC.

Ms Mosely said "The study days are timed to refine students' preparations for the HSC. They also connect students and staff across the state in real time which is a major confidence boost for regional and remote students. The highly qualified and experienced presenters and HSC markers provide insights and tips to guide our students and complement our face to face teaching strategies in the lead up to the HSC."

SPACE

TIME & ENERGY

towards the future by Paul Cockram

Out in the vast unending expanse we call the universe, two opposing forces were engaged in conversation about the past, present and future.

These two forces understood that existence is but a fleeting moment between what has been, and what has yet to come; and it is tied to a particular point of view which, in an environment extending in all directions infinitely, enables each and every point of view to legitimately, placed itself in the centre.

The two forces were that of eternal optimism and its opposite eternal pessimism. They were old acquaintances. Since time immemorial, they had watched the evolution of the tiny planet, third from the sun, both claiming vindication of their respective views as the history of the planet unfolded before them.

"Can there be any doubt now," asked the pessimist. "This world now possesses the ability to annihilate all life on its surface. Even you, comrade, must admit that this tiny planet is now more threatened than at any other time since its creation.

"Haven't I said all along that it would be the humans, with their intelligence and inventiveness, who would eventually bring about their own destruction?"

"Not so fast," replied the optimist. "Wishful thinking, is leading you to false conclusions. I'll grant you that the humans have been responsible for many unwise developments, some as potentially devastating as you say, but do not jump to conclusions without taking account of the historical circumstances.

"You have not been idle either my friend. Don't forget that last big war you orchestrated spread right across the globe and was responsible for making a whole generation of people, from many different countries, suspicious of each other and afraid of peace."

"Forget about history," said the pessimist. "Look at what has happened; there is hardly a country on the face of this planet, where the avaricious few have not granted ascendancy over their fellows.

"How can you continue to hope that your ideals will prevail in the face of so much adversity?"

"I have one perpetual advantage over you," replied the optimist. "Every new child is born optimistic, and nothing you can do will ever change that. Pessimism on the other hand has to be learned by bad experience or a corrupt education.

"Your influence can only take hold through a process of indoctrination, lies and half truths, perpetuated by cynics or others to fixed in their ways to be able to visualise anything bar that which they have seen themselves.

"It is this which sustains my hope. You require an evil apparatus; a system which will bludgeon and blunt a child's natural optimism and imagination — through the use of force, propaganda, war or trickery .

"But it is here that I will defeat you. No matter how affective you and your minions become in suppressing hope for a better future through your vile and pernicious self-interest, you will always lose ultimately through the nature of wondrous creation.

"Admit it, my friend," said the optimist summing up. "You can do your very worst to promote doom and destruction, but you cannot change the fact that every newborn human being is an optimist from birth. And if by chance or good fortune, the parents of that child have kept a little optimism of their own, with which they support and encourage the child, then the world will be steered away from the road to darkness and despair. Instead, the path will lead to a world with new ideas, a safe environment and peaceful coexistence."

I wrote this story one night in 1981 just after the birth of my eldest son Patrick. On re-reading I was tempted to change the daggier bits but then, as I still stand by the basic premise of the story, I decided to leave it as is.

Endless Possibilities — art this winter

QPRC media release

This winter Rusten House Art Centre presents *Endless Possibilities* a colourful appreciation of the natural world by the Allsorts Artist Collective.

The group have been making art together since 2010, meeting each Saturday to create their works. This exhibition presents a selection of pieces across two gallery spaces.

Endless Possibilities reflects the diverse styles of the 'Allsorts' and their artistic approaches to representing nature. The group believe nature itself is broader than representing natural environments, plants and animals.

Nature can also be defined as the set of qualities that makes a person, a group of people, or a thing distinguishable from another. Works explore individual interactions and relationships with the Queanbeyan region in a variety of media.

Endless Possibilities features the work of Stephanie Boyle, Belinda Gill, Shakir Rahman, Louise Spencer and Katie Volter. The exhibition consolidates their connection to nature in Queanbeyan and the surrounding regions. Their practices traverse an interest in animals, figure painting, still life, landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes. Materials including acrylic paint, pencil, watercolour, and mixed media have been used to describe their enjoyment of pattern and experimentation with different colour pallets.

'[The collective] engage with nature in different ways, and our personal experiences influence what we put on our canvas, our individual preferences inform our style. Even so, there is a commonality in appreciation for nature in our work, and this is what we hope to bring to this exhibition.'

[left] Belinda Gill,
Braidwood and Bungendore,
Acrylic on Canvas

[below] Katie Volter,
Cheeky Chap, *2023*

Exhibition Title:	Endless Possibilities
Artist/s:	Allsorts Artist Collective
Exhibition dates:	29 July – 19 August
Opening Event:	Saturday 29 July 2023, 2 – 4 pm.
Venue:	Rusten House Art Centre 87 Collett Street, Queanbeyan
Opening Hours:	Wed-Sat 10am-4pm
Further Info:	6285 6356

Johnny Bodalla

John Longhurst

It had to be Johnny Bodalla. Always Johnny Bodalla.

Trouble and Johnny were joined at the hip. He was either at the centre of it, responsible for it but in all cases blamed for it.

Johnny took to his year 9 'studies' at Batemans Bay High School like a seasoned veteran or as his favourite simile went like a Batehaven seagull after a loose chip.

Placing cling wrap over the toilets was funny but it was Johnny's attempt to sell the local high school to an overseas real estate developer linked to a ..... well..... former very prominent United States of America politician that had landed him in his current predicament.

And here he was, with a crowbar in hand, doing penance for the local shire council just outside of Durras. His job was to dig out charred stumps from the bushfires that had ravaged the area in a summer from hell. The consensus amongst teachers, peers and indeed students was it would be impossible for him to stuff up. The mayor himself had even marked the stumps to be dug out and his work was to be checked hourly.

Johnny laboured away, resisting all forms of reflection. It was his inability to deliver on a casino licence that had brought his real estate deal undone was the sum total of his thoughts.

He rammed the crowbar into the earth and it wedged in some underground rock. With all his weight and strength he pulled the crowbar towards himself and an almighty crack split the calm silence of the bush, bringing on a cacophony of screeching parrots that echoed across Lake Durras, startling paddle boarders and canoeists alike.

Johnny looked up at the blackened tree trunks now shrouded in a new slow burning revenge fire of green ferns bursting with life and recovery from the devastation of previous months. He leaned again on the crowbar and this time the whole ground around him shifted ever so slightly. A crack in the forest floor emerged as far as he could see either side of him extending all the way over the hills in the distance. He threw al his weight on to the crowbar and this time there was a very noticeable shift in the land. A metre wide gap sliced the forest floor. As was his habit, Johnny spun around to see who was watching. Stunned, he dropped the crowbar into the now chasm and stepped back. The land beneath him was now crunching eastwards. Seawater was rushing to fill the gap.

Sirens pierced the air and helicopters hovered above. He flicked his phone to the ABC Radio and emergency warnings were once again setting the rhythm of this once idyllic area.

The whole Eurobodalla Shire had become unstuck from mainland Australia. It was floating out to sea.

Geophysicists, scientists and engineers were immediately able to identify the cause of the crisis and descended on poor Johnny Bodalla within the hour. Johnny had severed the land link attaching the shire to the mainland at its weakest point and set off a chain reaction from Durras in the north to Wallaga Lake in the South and west to include the inland national parks within the shire.

The whole shire was now afloat.

It was an absolute disaster that dwarfed the turmoil of the summer passed.

Desperate measures were soon in place to re attach to the mainland. The entire fishing fleet of the coast were joined by the surf boats of the the various lifesaving clubs, all with ropes attached tying to guide the shire back to the mainland. Surfers even jammed their boards against the headlands and paddled furiously to help out.

The shire just continued to edge out to sea. Fortunately, it manoeuvred in such a way that Snapper Island slid up the Clyde River but Tollgate Islands loomed as a potential disaster.

The coastal towns evacuated to the inland.

One hundred metres from Tollgate Islands, the Shire shuddered to a halt. The suddenness made the sedate Casey's Beach rear up like a lion and then relax as the waves dissipated. The whole shire then swivelled leaving Durras facing west towards the mainland. Tollgate Islands now safely 100 metres due east.

Johnny Bodalla was the loneliest of figures, ashen faced, shamed and remorseful on the now western tip of the new island. He thought about swimming to the mainland. It was pretty obvious he could not talk his way out of this trouble.

However, the first dawn of the new island brought a calmness to the community. The soft oranges and deep reds birthing a welcoming sun softened brows.

People returned to their homes. Sea views now greeted some of the inland outposts of the shire. The coast line of the shire had tripled in length. People began to muse about the new reality. Any threats from future bushfires could be easily handled. Snapper Island could become a pristine National Park accessible from the banks of the Clyde River. The unstable weather generated by the proximity to the Great Dividing Range would no longer be an issue. Indeed, Tollgate Islands could be a mini Manhattan.

People began to embrace the new reality.

But it was the developments on the mainland and indeed world wide that clinched the fate of Johnny Bodalla.

A deadly virus COVID 19 had swept down from the Northern Hemisphere and was dismantling life on mainland Australia.

Isolation and social distancing became the order from the Prime Minister.

The Shire was perfectly positioned. It was now bushfire proof and virus free.

Johnny Bodalla was beckoned back from the sea off Durras. He was feted. He was honoured.

The shire was renamed HERO-BODALLA after him.

On the beach off Durras facing west, a massive bronze statue similar in size to the Statue of Liberty was built of Johnny. It captures Johnny grinning, school shirt untucked, arm outstretched and middle finger pointing skyward back at the mainland.

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1. The Matildas won their opening World Cup match. Who was their opponent (Bonus point: what was the score?)
2. Which European country has endured a record heatwave, a flood, destructive hail storms and a tornado all in the past week?
3. Which legendary American singer died last week aged 96?
4. Name three of the five Victorian cities that were to have jointly hosted the 2026 Commonwealth Games until last week?
5. What is the traditional name for Fraser Island?
6. Who won the men's Wimbledon final last week?
7. Last week was one of the most anticipated weeks for movie buffs this year. Which two movies were released?
8. Which prominent politician visited Braidwood on the weekend?
9. Last week Russia withdrew from an agreement that ensured the global export of what commodity from Ukraine?
10. Which Commonwealth country has hosted the most Commonwealth Games?

Answers: 1. Ireland (Bonus: 1-0);
2. Italy;
3. Tony Bennett;
4. Bendigo, Geelong, Ballarat, Shepparton, Gippsland;
5. K'gari;
6. Carlos Alcaraz;
7. Barbie and Oppenheimer;
8. PM Anthony Albanese;
9. Grain; 10. Australia

FluTracking respiratory illness activity: autumn-winter 2023

Media from flutracking.net

FluTracking has detected two notable surges in the percentage of participants reporting new fever and cough symptoms during 2023.

These peaks occurred in the weeks ending 2 April 2023 and 4 June 2023. The rise in April may be attributed to increases in circulation of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses, while the increase in June is most likely associated with a rise in influenza cases. Currently, fever and cough percentages are declining and 1.3% of FluTracking participants reported experiencing fever and cough symptoms in the week ending 16 July 2023.

Severity of respiratory illness

The percentage of participants with fever and cough who reported taking 2 or more days off work or normal duties peaked in the week ending 4 June 2023 at 1.0%, and is currently decreasing. The percentage of participants with fever and cough who visited an emergency department, hospital, Aboriginal Health Clinic or a GP (in person or by phone/video) peaked in the week ending 4 June 2023, at 0.5%, and is also currently decreasing.

The peak for time off work or normal duties in early June 2023 is larger than the peak observed in December 2022 for time off work or normal duties. In contrast, the peaks in the percentage of participants seeking medical advice in 2023 are smaller when compared to December last year, with a higher proportion of the population being exposed to or vaccinated against COVID-19 likely contributing.

Self-reported flu and COVID-19 testing

There has been a decline in testing with COVID-19 RATs since the week ending 21 May 2023. COVID-19 PCR testing has exhibited a continued decline since the introduction of COVID-19 RATs in November 2021, and is now approximating comparable levels to the percentage of participants self-reporting testing for flu. Most recently, this decline has been driven by the closure of numerous PCR drive-through testing clinics across Australia. An increase in flu PCR testing has been observed over the last four months, and less than 10% of participants are currently self-reporting testing for flu.

Most commonly reported symptoms for flu this winter

Change in the sense of taste or smell was the only symptom more frequently reported by participants with a positive COVID-19 test when compared to those who self-reported a positive flu test. Cough, runny nose and headache were the most frequently reported symptoms in participants who self-reported a positive flu test and also in those who self-reported a positive COVID-19 test.

FluTracking is always looking for more participants to help us track flu and COVID-19 around Australia. Sick or healthy, vaccinated or unvaccinated, we encourage anyone to participate.

If you know anyone who would be willing to provide 30 seconds per week to help track flu and COVID-19, please direct them to our website: flutracking.net

Disinformation report

Australian Communications and Media Authority

The ACMA has released a report outlining its views on digital platforms' efforts under the voluntary *Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation* (the code).

The ACMA's report outlines its views on the current code as well as the operation of code governance and reporting arrangements.

The key findings include:

- the revised version of the code has addressed some pressing issues. This includes a revised definition of harm that better captures cumulative effects over time, modified reporting requirements that facilitate smaller platforms to become signatories of the code, and a new outcome for platforms to provide transparency about recommender systems
- industry needs to take further steps

to review the scope of the code and its ability to adapt quickly to technology and services changes such as generative AI
- how signatories report their actions under the code must improve to enable an assessment of signatory's progress to achieve the code's objectives and outcomes
- there remains an urgent need to improve the level of transparency about what measures platforms are taking and the effectiveness of those measures.

Alongside the report, we have released findings from our research into reporting and complaints about harmful content on digital platforms.

Overall, it is clear from the research that Australian users of digital platforms are willing to complain about the harmful content they are exposed to on digital platforms but are then generally dissatisfied with the responses they receive from platforms.

The ACMA has released the report to share our insights and data. We consider this may be useful to inform contributions to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' public consultation on exposure draft legislation.

While consideration of the legislation takes place, the ACMA will continue to oversee the code and work with digital platforms to improve the current self-regulatory arrangements.

Rebekah O'Reilly (Elevate Award) and Rayleen Merritt (Excellence in Aboriginal Healthcare Award – Trusted Locals Encourage Screening (team award)

Southern celebrates achievement and innovation at 2023 Excellence Awards

Southern NSW Local Health District media release

Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD) held its annual Excellence Awards ceremony at Bay Pavilions in Batemans Bay last week.

Awards were presented to more than 160 individuals and teams across 20 categories. Quality improvement and patient safety continue to be the focus of the Awards, with new categories also recognising achievements in innovation, collaboration and sustainability.

A highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of the inaugural Dr Allan Hawke AC Outstanding Leadership Award, honouring the legacy of SNSWLHD's late Board Chair.

Manager, Patient Flow, Waitlist, and Whole of Health Program, Matthew Stephenson, was named the first recipient of this special award.

Chief Executive Margaret Bennett said the high standard and diversity of nominees and award winners showcase the District's commitment to providing excellence in care across all services and locations.

"More than 250 nominations were submitted from across a variety of health facilities, work areas and specialties, making the 2023 Excellence Awards more representative of our Southern workforce than ever before.

"The Excellence Awards ceremony is an uplifting celebration of innovation and achievement. I extend my congratulations and thanks to all nominees and award winners, who work so diligently in service of our community."

Elevate Award Winners (L to R): Rebekah O'Reilly, (Deputy Director of Nursing – Batemans Bay District Hospital, Rochelle Woolf, (Nurse Unit Manager, Operating Theatres Cooma Hospital) and Board Member, Terry Clout.

Expanded single employer model for new doctors, to cover Monaro

Steve Whan Member for Monaro media release

Access to health in Monaro will be given a boost, after the NSW Government's proposal to expand the promising Single Employer Model was approved by the Commonwealth Government.

The Single Employer Model provides a tailored, coordinated pathway for doctors wanting to become Rural Generalists during their training in public health facilities and private GP practices.

The expansion will see an additional 80 Rural Generalist trainees per year, beginning at the commencement of the training year 2024.

The model is based on an innovative program trialled in the Murrumbidgee region and will now be expanded to more regional Local Health Districts including Southern NSW, potentially, giving more people in Monaro greater access to locally available healthcare services.

Rural Generalists are GPs who provide primary care services, emergency medicine and have training in additional skills like obstetrics, anaesthetics or mental health services.

This specific training will ensure GPs have the right skills to practice in rural settings and can address the individual needs of regional, rural and remote communities.

This announcement by Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler will ensure the creation of attractive and secure training opportunities to foster the next generation of rural generalist doctors in NSW.

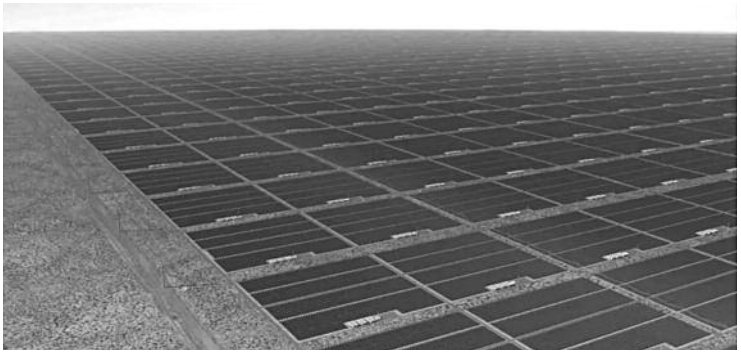
Member for Monaro, Steve Whan said "I've heard very positive things about the single employer model and I am excited it is being extended to our area.

"From my discussions with our health service, it looks to have great potential in communities like Cooma and Bombala – where doctors can gain experience in the local hospital and a GP clinic.

"It is a program that has the potential to improve access to Doctors in regional communities and importantly promote more doctors obtaining rural generalist skills."

NT Sun Cable solar project to start off with domestic focus

Giles Parkinson writes in *Renew Economy*



Quinbrook Investments, which has teamed up with billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes to take control of the Sun Cable project in the Northern Territory, the world's largest solar and battery proposal, is to lead the first stage of construction with a focus on the domestic market.

The development of what could be a $30 billion plus project have effectively been split in two – with Quinbrook taking charge of the domestic component, using its expertise in large scale solar farm developments to secure supplies, customers and co-investors.

Grok Investments, the Cannon-Brookes investment vehicle which also has a stake in Quinbrook, will focus on the potential exporting solar power to Singapore via a subsea cable. If that part is successful, then the Sun Cable will potentially be built to the scale originally proposed – 20GW and 42GWh.

Until then, the Sun Cable will be built at a significantly smaller scale, and in stages, with the size limited to the potential of finding new customers and green industries to supply from the solar project in Elliott, and delivered via a proposed 800km transmission line.

"The bare bones of the project looks really attractive to us – and how investors invest with Quinbrook, to give them differentiated opportunities and long-term renewables infrastructure. This ticks a lot of boxes," Scaysbrook said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Where we feel we can add value is to bring the optimum project solution to the onshore renewables component of Sun Cable, and that makes really a lot of sense because at the end of the day getting the cheapest optimum solution into Darwin is mission critical."

Scaysbrook also says that Quinbrook is looking to add wind energy to the Sun Cable project. Wind is often a forgotten factor in large solar projects planned for Australian arid regions, but the reality is that it is in fact a strong resource, and often blows mostly during the night time when solar is not operating.

Quinbrook's strategy is interesting as it appears to be a hybrid version of the two competing visions that Cannon-Brookes and iron ore billionaire Andrew Forrest had for the project.

Cannon-Brookes remains committed to the export potential of a 4,200km sub sea cable, while Forrest said the project would only make sense if it supplied local industry and green hydrogen production.

Scaysbrook says in his statement that if solar can be provided to Darwin at a competitive price, then it could pave the way to exports to Singapore.

"We've got a good handle on the likely build cost for the onshore renewables part, given that's kind of what we do for a living," Scaysbrook said.

"I don't get carried away with all of the tags about this being the biggest renewables project in the world."

"With a project of this scale, you can deliver enough renewables into Darwin to do domestic green hydrogen manufacture. And you could also export enough of the power up to Singapore that was sort of bandied around as the amount that Singapore would want."

Scaysbrook said Quinbrook will look to bring in investors from Europe, the UK, the US and Canada as it develops the Sun Cable project.

"This will be a United Nations of global capital represented investing in these projects."

Seeking disabled adults in regional NSW

Rebus Theatre media release

Rebus Theatre Presents *Re-Emergence:* A Film Celebrating Adults with Disabilities in Regional NSW.

Re-Emergence is an innovative film project that spotlights the talents and perspectives of disabled adults from regional NSW. We are seeking disabled adults to participate in this groundbreaking initiative, sharing their remarkable stories on the big screen.

Through engaging and enjoyable filming workshops, Rebus Theatre aims to explore the profound impact of COVID-19, drought, flood, and bushfire on people with disabilities in the region over the past three years.

No acting experience is necessary, and participation is free of charge. Carers are also warmly welcomed to accompany and support participants throughout the project.

"Rebus Theatre believes in the power of storytelling to amplify diverse voices and promote inclusivity," said Sammy Moynihan, Director of Re-Emergence at Rebus Theatre. "We encourage individuals with disabilities in regional NSW to seize this incredible opportunity, connect with their community, and leave an indelible mark on the world of cinema."

To express interest and become part of the Re-Emergence film project, please contact info@rebustheatre.com .

Dates and Times:

Film workshops will take place at The Hive in Queanbeyan on the following dates. If you are unsure about attending the specific location, we encourage you to reach out, as we are eager to hear from anyone interested and will adapt the project to accommodate all involved. Lifts can be arranged as needed.

- August 12 and 13: 10:30am to 4pm each day
- August 26 and 27: 10:30am to 4pm each day
- September 9 and 10: 10:30am to 4pm each day
- September 23: Collective filming day, bringing together ensembles from across Regional NSW. Details to be confirmed.

Rebus Theatre is committed to providing a supportive environment throughout the project. Two support workers will be available during workshop days, and additional assistance can be arranged upon request. An enrollment form will be provided to outline accessibility requirements and specific support needed. Additional carers are welcome, with arrangements to be made through your NDIS package.

About Rebus Theatre:

Rebus Theatre is a leading arts organisation dedicated to promoting inclusivity and amplifying diverse voices in regional NSW. Through innovative projects, collaborations with talented artists, and empowering storytelling, Rebus Theatre strives to create a more inclusive and vibrant community.

Bob Brown coming to National Theatre

Braidwood Greens media release

To mark 30 years since the foundation of the Braidwood Greens, and in preparation for three days of action for Native Forests in Australia, Bob Brown will be visiting Braidwood on Tuesday August 8 as part of a film tour visiting Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane.

In 1993, not long after the formation of Braidwood Greens, the first Bob Brown in Braidwood event took place with a packed crowd in the now defunct restaurant of the Doncaster Inn.

A happy koala

Now Bob is back, and this time he will speak in the National Theatre after the screening of The Giants, a film about his life, activism and political work. While looking back at a career that spans the Franklin River campaign, the formation of the Australian Greens, the Tarkine campaign and a remarkable period as a Senator, the film also explores the hidden life of threatened trees.

Greens member and event organiser Catherine Moore, who is collaborating with the Bob Brown Foundation to make it happen, says she is thrilled that it is finally (though suddenly!) taking place.

"Some people still believe that Greens cost jobs. No, it is greed that costs jobs, and tax-payer-subsidised native forest logging practices that are continuing in NSW and Tasmania right now are costing the public millions each year.

Swift parrot

An *SMH* report from 2022 revealed that 'the Forestry Corporation was ... hit with $78,000 in five fines from the NSW Environment Protection Authority for illegal logging in Mogo, Bodalla and Boyne State Forests shortly after the Black Summer fires'.

"This is unsustainable, no matter what government-owned state logging corporations might say to the contrary. The end of native forest logging and a swift move to plantations has to happen now.

"A sustainable forest industry has to be sustainable for employment too, and ending native forest logging does not have to mean a reduction in employment in the timber industry.

Forestry is not sustainable when it ignores the recommendations of the Natural Resources Commission report that came out after the Black Summer bushfires in 2019-20, a report that was kept secret by the previous NSW LNP government and which called for suspension of timber harvesting in three 'extreme risk' zones including some on the South Coast?

How can what used to be known as Forestry Tasmania, now rebranded as Sustainable Timber Tasmania profess to be sustainable when it simply waits till Swift Parrots have made their annual trip north to go in and log their trees?

Tree hollows are home for Swift Parrots, but when they come back, their homes have been destroyed along with the rest of the forest by Forestry Tasmania.

It is estimated that there are only 750 of these birds left in the entire world and yet our national environment laws are so weak that their homes are not protected under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act because logging is exempted.

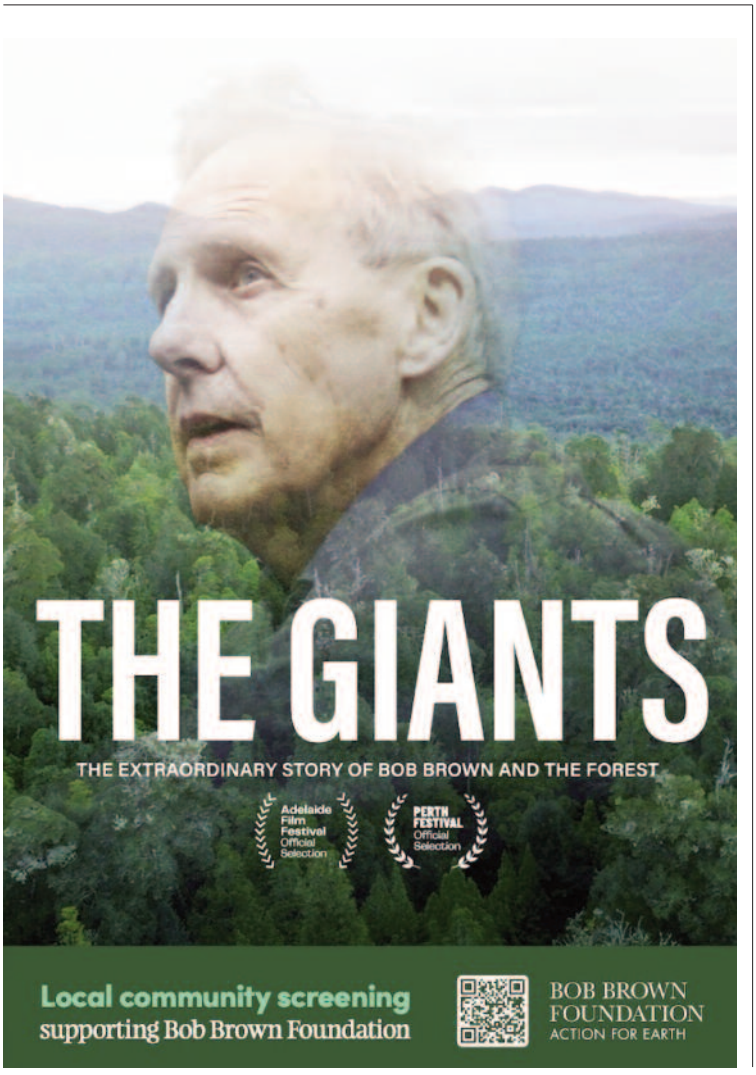
Protecting our forests has become crucial since the devastating fires of 2019-20 where on the Southern Tablelands/South Coast alone nearly half a million hectares was burnt in the Currowan fire, and people died and/or lost their homes and livelihoods as a result. The majority of what was burned was native vegetation, not to mention the inestimable number of creatures that were incinerated along with their habitat. In all, 5.5million hectares of land was burnt in NSW and about 50% of that was native forest.

It is time for Australia to protect and preserve its remaining native forests for their intrinsic ecological, climate and biodiversity values and for what they can do in mitigating the worst of the climate crisis."

Use the QR code to buy tickets, which are only $10 and selling fast. Soup and bread and some sweet treats, as well as tea and coffee, are included. Drinks will available for purchase from the bar.

All profits from film sales will go to the Bob Brown Foundation and all profits from drinks sales will go to the Braidwood Regional Arts Group (BRAG).

Catherine Moore is the founder and convenor/secretary of Braidwood Greens, previous Greens candidate for local state and federal elections including in Monaro and Eden-Monaro and was a Palerang local government councillor between 2004 and 2012.



Bob Brown in Braidwood
for a special screening of *The Giants* and celebrating the 30 year anniversary of the formation of Braidwood Greens.
5.45 for 6pm
Tuesday August 8
in the National Theatre

Tickets are available here:

LOCAL FILMS *Paul Huntingford*

Film premiere at the National Theatre last Friday night to a full house.

Sunday a success on Friday

Last Friday night a near full house watched 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.

The National Theatre crowd enjoyed live music from Trent and Rachel, Hamish Hudson, and the Nick Munnings Band.

The OZHELP van was outside offering free check ups for mental and physical health.

Film maker Paul Huntingford gave the *Changing Times* his take on the film.

"It is a short documentary about a local organic food producer recovering his sustainable income after the Black Summer fires.

"Three years on. Fires: a picturesque riverside farm in the Deua Valley turned to ash on the 4th of January 2020. Floods: weeds, mud and more weeds. And pestilence. What's a humble farmer to do?

"Hamish Hudson was already a solid example of a modest existence. A lighter footprint on this beautiful earth. But there are always other lessons to learn. To adapt and find new inspirations. What if there was no such thing as Sunday? Or, what if everyday could be?"

The movie will how hit the festival circuit so stay tuned for news of future screenings.

Hamish Hudson on his farm.

The OZHELP workers were on hand for health checks. Paul Cockram having his blood pressure taken while Luke Watson looks on.

BOOKWORM Julia Ermert

JANE AUSTEN

Putting a different complexion on things

As I begin to write this, it's 18 July. In 1817, this is the day that Jane Austen died.

She'd been ill for some time and the family had brought her to Winchester to see a particular doctor. It's still something of a mystery, what killed her. Jane Austen wrote about her face as being 'black and white and every wrong colour.'

Now doctors suspect Hodgkin's lymphoma. In terminal stages, the complexion can show red spots, which gradually progress to purple, then darken, and in some cases, turn black. Then, like a bruise, they turn green, fading to yellowish brown. It was indelicate to talk about bodily matters, so we don't have much detail. Perhaps those were the letters that were destroyed or censored.

If Jane Austen's doctors could not name what she had, they did know it was incurable, and a week later she was buried in Winchester Cathedral. There's an elaborate tombstone, which detailed her many virtues, but did not mention her books at all. This was because it was also indelicate for a young woman to make money by writing; it was akin prostituting herself.

It's not that there were no female writers about then. She herself read and recommended the Gothic novels of Mrs Radcliffe. Slightly later there was Mrs Gaskell and about the same time, but in France, there was Madame de Staël.

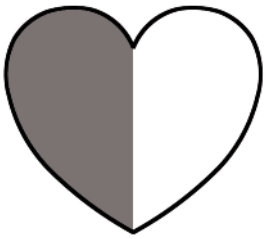
And there was George Eliot. But George Eliot used a masculine pseudonym, as did the Brontës somewhat later, and the other women were using their married names. Therefore, it could be considered that their husbands had supervised their work, and there was nothing indecorous in it.

Jane had published four books in her lifetime: *Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*. The first was authored by 'A Lady,' the second by 'The Author of Sense and Sensibility,' and so on. After her death her brothers issued the first book, the never-published *Northanger Abbey*, and the last, *Persuasion*, and then they made the big reveal.

Our local group went to see the 2019 movie interpretation of David Copperfield. What had this to do with Jane Austen? Well, any excuse, but we were interested in how it might justify Dev Patel, who is Indian, portraying David Copperfield, as surely there were no people of colour in in London, England in those days —- or were there? Dickens was about five when Jane Austen died; he depicted the London that was to come.

In fact, the film did not justify this at all. He just **was**. There were many actors of colour portraying various characters, and there was no rhyme or reason given for this. They were simply using their good actors.

At least in theory, it has to be a good idea to be more openly inclusive. Discrimination is insidious, especially with AI taking over. I've read of a soap dispenser in Silicon Valley, programmed to work only for white hands. And self-driving cars which stop at pedestrian crossings, but will they recognise only white faces as 'people?'



There were Africans in Britain at least as early as the third century: 'a division of Moors' was listed in the Roman armies that worked on Hadrian's Wall. Shakespeare used and depicted people of colour in his works. There's Othello, a war hero. There is the 'tawny Moor,' with the status of a nobleman, who comes to Venice to woo Portia.

Both men come to a bad end, but that's Shakespeare for you.

There were all the employees of the East India Company, who were originally encouraged to settle down and raise children with local women. They brought them home, with plenty of money to give them a place in society.

By Regency times there were about 20 000 people of colour living in Britain.

Did Jane Austen know any of them? It's possible she met Dido Belle, mixed-race niece of the Earl of Mansfield. She certainly met the white cousin raised with her, so perhaps used the story as background for *Mansfield Park*. There's Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, descended from 'a black branch of the Portuguese Royal House.' You'll have to watch *Bridgerton*, that guilty pleasure for Janeites, for more about her.

It was Andrew Davies, with his far-reaching knowledge of all things Austen, who, perhaps, began it all with *Sanditon*. Austen had completed not quite twelve chapters of her new novel satirising seaside health resorts. Famished fans welcomed this new Austen fare, and there was definitely one coloured character, the wealthy Miss Lambe, 'half mulatto, chilly and tender,' — she felt the cold — and where there was one, there could be others.

The fans didn't mind about that. They minded that the lovers, Charlotte Heywood and Sidney Parker, did **not** get together.

The darkly sardonic and unshaven Sidney, who barely appeared in Austen's book, was played by Theo James. The last time I saw him was in *Downton Abbey*, as the lusty, dusky Turkish diplomat Kemal Pamuk. He charms his way into Lady Mary's bed, only to expire in her arms. Now he expires between episodes of *Sanditon*.

"Jane Austen wrote love stories," insisted an ardent reader. "She sets up the lovers in the first chapter and marries them in the last. She never disappoints."

There speaks someone who hasn't read any of the books, even is she has seen all the screen adaptations. Take *Pride and Prejudice*, for one. Sure, Lizzy meets Darcy. But she really fancies Wickham. Then she receives a proposal from Cousin Collins — who, at least in theory, is quite a good catch.

Then she meets surely the perfect man for her: the amiable and eligible Colonel Fitzwilliam. But he tactfully warns her off; he needs a dowry. Then his even more eligible cousin Fitzwilliam Darcy proposes!

It seems impossible now not to know it **will** all work out, but Colin Firth, perhaps the most famous Mr Darcy, had never read the book, and was seriously concerned that it wouldn't, going by the foolish way his character acted.

No, Jane Austen did not write 'love stories.'

It's surely time for another remake of *Pride and Prejudice*. Might we next see a Mr Darcy who is rather more suntanned than usual?

ARALUEN LIBRARY NEWS

The Street Library is back from holidays looking very "refreshed". Thanks to Rob Cowan for his excellent facelift of our street library. Please add to, or take from, this great community asset, or just have a look; but whatever you do ... keep reading books.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

This past weekend has been an interesting one. Visiting family up in the Hunter Valley meant having to see just how degraded the land around the open-cut coal mines has become.

On our way back into Muswellbrook one night we counted seventeen live kangaroos on the roadside, some of which were trying actively to cross the road. It is a sad testament to mining that the kangaroos are forced onto the verge where they once would've had free and unfettered access to grasslands where the open-cut coal mine is. To quote Shakespeare, *oh what a piece of work is man!*

Concerts and Gigs

Former leader and founder of the Greens Party Dr Bob Brown will be in Braidwood on 8th August for a very special event at the National Theatre. Doors will open at 5.45 so you can get some soup and take your seats for the welcome and film.

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B.A.C.H. Luminescence Chamber Singers. Sunday 13 August.

In this concert of musical cyphers, Luminescence Chamber Singers join forces with guest artist Anna Freer (violin/voice) to perform Bach's monumental Partita no.2 in D Minor, interwoven with some of Bach's most beloved chorales.

Braidwood Uniting Church, 68 Monkittee Street, 2pm - 3.15pm Tickets: $45 adults, $40 concessions, $35 under 35s, $25 under 18s.

Community Events

Quilt event challenge quilt fabric 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.

Markets

The Braidwood Farmers Market is on Saturday, 5th August from 8:30am in the National Theatre.

Gallery Openings

Culture Kitchen and Taring Padi are exhibiting at Studio Altenburg from 3rd August through to the 26th August. There will be a meet the artists session and official opening on 5th August from 3pm at the gallery. Braidwood's very own Julian Laffan is a part of Culture Kitchen and has worked with the Indonesian artists in the Taring Padi Collective for several years.

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Artworx by Julie will be open on Sunday, 13th August from 10am to 2pm. There will be many new pieces and a lot of half-price artwork. You can find Artworx by Julie on Coronation Avenue.

BRAG

There's a new class this term at BRAG!

Snuggle n Sing is on Mondays from 9:30 - 10:30 am. 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, contact Alison Coster on 0411 205 638.

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Sue Lyons runs pilates and yoga on Thursdays at 10:30-11:30 and Fridays at 10:30-12:30. Contact Sue if you wish to attend on 0438 381 603.

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Christina Jagusiak runs yoga classes on Monday afternoons from 4pm to 5:15pm, and on Saturday mornings from 8am to 9 am. Contact Christina if you wish to attend on 0414 385 051.

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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.

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Vera Active Pilates runs on Wednesdays with an evening class running from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

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Life Drawing runs on the last Saturday of every month.

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James Sheedy Personal Defence Dojo will be running at 5:30am on Fridays. This is a tae-kwon-do dojo.

At the Servicemen's Club

Tuesdays

Tai Chi - 10.00 am

Bridge - 1.00 pm - New players welcome, Contact Olive Royds 4842 1732 or Rose Ribbons 0421 939 151 for more information. Free to play.

Squash Comp - Evenings - School Terms, check out Braidwood Squash Club Facebook Page for more information.

Wednesdays

Social Bowls - 12.45 pm to begin playing at 1.00 pm

Trivia - 1st Wednesday of every month. 6.30 pm to begin playing at 7.00 pm. $5 to play.

Squash Comp - Evenings - School Terms, check out Braidwood Squash Club Facebook Page for more information.

Tango - 5.30 pm Tango Lessons, Contact Erika Mordek 0432 687255 for more information

Thursdays

Golf Club's Chook Run - Thursday Afternoon

First Thursdays Community Lunch - A community lunch the first Thursday of every month at 12pm. Everyone in the community is welcome to come along, enjoy a meal and catch up with others from the community. The cost is $10 per person and includes lunch, tea/coffee & dessert.

Fridays

Tai Chi - 10.00 am

Friday Raffles - Every Friday Night, Raffle Tickets on Sale at 6.00 pm, Raffle drawn at 7.30 pm

Members Draw - The Members Draw will be drawn anytime between 7-9 pm and will jackpot up to a possible $5,000

Line Dancing - 7.15 pm, Social Line Dancing. Contact Maureen Robertson 0413 795 630 for more information

Saturdays

Golf Comp - 12.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Sundays

Movement for Mobility - 11.00 am - 12.00 pm. Contact Erika Mordek 0432 687 255 for more information

Social Bowls - 12.45 pm to begin playing at 1.00 pm

Poker - 2.30 pm to begin playing at 3.00 pm. First Sunday of the Month.

Clothes Swap Party! 12th August at 2:30 pm for a 3pm start. Bring any and all clothes you no longer wear or want, (no more than 10 items per person) and drop them to the club a week prior to the party (Tuesday 8th August through to Friday 11th August). Tickets $10 per person.

Other Community Organisations

Braidwood Dance Studio commences term 3 of lessons in the freshly renovated Old Sunday School Hall. All classes will be held at the Sunday School Hall this term.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Braidwood Guides are on every Wednesday afternoon throughout the school terms. It starts at 4pm and finishes at 5:30pm. Contact kim@riffsandrants.com.au .

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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

Join the **Disability Access Committee**

The committee meets quarterly and plays an important role advising Council on projects and matters that relate to our Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

If you have lived experience, a family member living with disability or work in the sector please apply.

If you have any questions about the committee or need assistance to apply please call Council on **1300 735 025** or email **council@qprc.nsw.gov.au**

▶ Apply online until 13 August at **bit.ly/QPRC-AC**

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**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	**Closing Date**
Draft Asbestos Policy	27 July
88 Wallace Street Renewal	10 August
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

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

Enter the **Tidy Towns Awards** 2023

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW are calling for businesses, community groups, schools and individuals to be part of their Sustainable Cities and Tidy Towns Awards 2023.

There are a whole host of categories you can apply for.

▶ Learn more and apply by 31 July at **kabnsw.org.au/sustainability-awards-nsw**

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:
- 9 August
- 23 August

Written Questions on Notice

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

Work with **Council**

- Management Accountant
- Casual Library Assistant
- Casual lifeguard and swim instructor
- Assistant Development Engineer
- Coordinator, Buildings and Facilities
- Library Assistant – Acquisitions and Scheduling
- Senior Strategic Planner
- Building Surveyor
- Animal Attendant
- Trainee Admin Officer

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

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

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@QbnPalerang

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eepurl.com/codv-v

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Braidwood Uniting Church

You're Invited

Alex Todicescu grew up in rural Romania and began violin lessons at the age of ten. He pursued music studies in Bucharest, graduating from the Conservatoire, and in Brussels and Paris.

While seeking political asylum in Holland in 1968 he devoted his life to playing the viola even though he continued to this day, teaching violin. Many of his students have gone to professional careers around the world.

Claudia Douglas grew up in the Blue Mountains with the Grose Valley as her backyard. She could sing before she could talk. She studied piano and cello at the Sydney Conservatorium and furthered her studies at Melbourne University. Claudia played in Sydney as a freelance musician for many years with many happy collaborations with local and overseas artists.

At 10 am on August 6th at Braidwood Uniting in Monketee St, our Sunday service will be wrapped around the music of these two extraordinary artists. This will be a service for lovers of fine music or for people who are able to let fine music soothe away for a time, the troubles of life.

You don't need to be familiar with any religious tradition. The strings will do the praying. An opportunity like this doesn't often present itself. Your attendance won't put your name onto a mailing list. It's an extraordinary gift made by two outstanding musicians and everyone is warmly invited to share in the moment. There is no charge except the charge you'll get from being inspired by the finest music.

Graham Long

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Growing older with grace

According to statistics, by the year 2030, one in five of us will be seventy years of age or older.

That's about 20 per cent of the world's population. Millions of us will live to be a hundred or more.

Does the thought of ageing make you anxious? If so, it's time to re-examine your value system.

With God, the contents are more important than the package and in order to make peace with your wrinkles, you must come into agreement with Him.

Ultimately, it's not the number of days in your life that count but the quality of life in your days.

Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine. Note what the host of the wedding reception said: "Everyone brings out the choice wine first… but you have saved the best to now." (John 2:10)

And that can be the story of your life too. You don't have to suffer from gerascophobia (the fear of ageing). Keep fighting, keep growing and keep moving forwards. By your attitude towards life, you can change the way people around you view ageing. The Bible doesn't just promise long life, it promises quality life.

"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you." (Proverbs 3:1-2)

The secret of enjoying the aging process is to build a close relationship with God and live according to His principles.

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

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Refresh your relationship with God and come along next Sunday 30th July to our worship service at 10am in St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood. Morning tea will be served after the service.

Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 or angbraidwood@bigpond.com

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 13: 44-46 by Brendan Byrne, SJ.

Today we reflect on the last two short parables, that of the Treasure in the Field (v. 44) and the Pearl of Great Value (vv. 45-46).

Seeing them as a pair allows a common pattern to emerge. Two persons from different situations (a day labourer? a merchant with professional expertise?) both come upon something which they dearly desire to possess. For both, however, immediate possession is not possible. There is a time gap between finding and possessing. Both have to sell all they have in order to finally obtain ('buy') what they so desire. But the mere sight of what they dearly long for so relativises the value of everything else as to render them free to make the sacrifice with joy.

The Future

The parables address a central feature concerning the kingdom of God (for Matthew 'kingdom of heaven'). The kingdom is essentially future; it is not yet something one can 'possess'. People who really catch a glimpse of it from Jesus' preaching know they have come on a treasure that will fulfil lifelong desires and aspirations. He cannot yet 'deliver' it to them or place them within it but the glimpse of it that he communicates fills them with such joy that they have the freedom to 'sell all' in order, one day, to gain it.

The parables are essentially descriptive. They are not about what one 'ought' to do; they simply describe what happens in the life of people who have caught a glimpse of the kingdom. While not yet within their grasp, it is already bringing joy, freedom and hope to human lives.

The outstanding historical example of such transformation would be St Francis of Assisi. His commitment to radical poverty did not come to him as a hard moral demand. It flowed in complete freedom from the 'treasure' of divine love that he had come upon in such high degree.

Essence of Christian Spirituality

The two brief parables encapsulate the essence of Christian spirituality. Christian life requires a measure of detachment. It requires freedom from being completely absorbed and immersed in the attractions, pleasures and concerns of this world – not because these are bad in themselves but because we have been 'captured' by a sense of God's love and God's future for us that relativises all these things and puts them in their place. We do not yet possess the treasure but the prospect of it, unseen but grasped in faith, is already working transformation.

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There will be Masses in our country churches:

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

Araluen Mass: Tuesday 8th August (Mary McKillop's Feast Day) at 11am. 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.

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Mass Saturdays (Vigil) at 6.00pm

Tuesdays at 10.00am

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

The Braidwood Women's Open Day is coming up. Sunday 10 September is the date to remember for this popular annual event.

Members are requested as always to donate prizes for the raffle table. This event is a big drawcard and a major fund-booster for our little club.

The Match Committee has decided that in order to protect the course, preferred lies on any fairway have been reinstated.

The club is also looking for cheap ute or trayback for use around the course. It doesn't need to be registered as it will only be used for course maintenance. Please contact the club if you have, or know of one.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Womens Open Day- Sunday September 10.

Golf Presentation- Saturday December 2, after Golf. (Date Change due to a Club Booking). There is a very generous Lucky Door Prize(thanks to the club) for those who stay for the presentation....A YEAR'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP is up for grabs so reserve the date in your diary now!

RESULTS-Saturday July 22

Men's 2BBB Stableford Nick Fry & Rob Martin Trophy- Many thanks to Nick & Rob.

Winners: Barry McDonald & Michael Tillman Ryan 44pts

Runners Up: Chris Witt & Michael Toirkens 42 pts

Men's NTP 6/15: Chris Witt

Jackpot 17th $100: Not Won

Ball Comp: Terry Hughes & Allan Walcott 40, Rob Martin & Phil Wilson 37,

Keith Ferguson & John Harb 36

Women's Single Stableford – Michelle Henry Trophy. Grateful thanks to Michelle for her sponsorship.

Winner: Donna Kuhn 32 pts

Runner Up: Deb Ferguson 30 c/b

Women's NTP 3rd/12th: Donna Kuhn

Ball Comp: Margy Gardner 30, Pat Woodberry 26

Coming Events

July 29 Saturday: Medley Mystery , Daargun Aboriginal Corporation Trophy

Legacy Day. Jones Memorial,

August 5 Saturday: Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medals

BOWLS NEWS

Congratulations to Cara Patton and Kerri Backhouse, winners of the Sunday Social Jackpot.

Last Sunday saw 14 players take to the green. Stan Wisbey and Barry Broadbent were too good for Martin Gilby and Tom Watson, winning 19-13.

Jeanette McCullough, Pedr Weir and Barry Backhouse felt the wrath from Liam Osmond, David Cargill and Barry Osmond 23-7, and Cara and Kerri outplayed Sanders Watson and Margaret Wisbey winning 19-9. The Jackpot Draw gave Cara and Kez the win.

At the following committee meeting, it was decided to suspend the jackpot recommencement until later on in the year, so Sunday social bowls will return to $10 entry.

Thanks to our members for trying out something new.

STOP PRESS

VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS COMING TO SERV. CLUB

STAR TIMES

Havingachoiceonvoice

In keeping with the principle, not followed by half the media, of representing both sides of the argument, here goes: "Vote yes if you hope for the best. Vote no if you fear for the worst."

Inanoceanofaccessories

Subteens and movie buffs everywhere were gobsmacked to learn that Barbie Land is actually situated in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California. It's called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and it is the size of France. It contains 800,000 tonnes of plastic and kills many thousands of marine animals each year. Worrying also is the observation that some species are adapting to this web of microplastic. Said one disgruntled Garbage Patch doll, "I wouldn't live there for squids!".

Itwasn'tmetheytoldmeto

It has long been the perogative of the well-connected to use 'dealing with demons' as an excuse for almost anything they're caught for. The defence implies that its is the demon's fault really; and it's the demons who should be punished. But of course you can't bang up the demons without the perp so as long as there is an opportunity to sow a scintilla of doubt about anyone's culpability the ourcome is to acquit both the demons and their remorseful host. Of course the same courtesy need not be applied to poor people whose demons are always hungry.

Seeyerroundyersuckers

Another fellow whose grip on morality is a bit iffy has slipped the net. "I'm sorry M'lord, it seems that Mr Slimebottom has 'severed all ties' with Australia". Who would even believe a lawyer who says his client is living in, 'an undisclosed location'? Hmm, not even a mailing address for the hefty legal representation bill? And where is Border Force in all this? It seems they can keep people who want to get in out, but not keep people who want to get out in.

Justforyourowninterest

Interest rates are a tax. The rich people collect it and the poor people pay it — simple. Pay off your credit card without delay, it's the only way to beat them.

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Contributions desperately welcome.