BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #84 — $2.00

Wednesday August 9, 2023

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	0°	16°	0%
Thur:	5°	14°	0%
Fri:	-1°	16°	5%
Sat:	0°	15°	10%
Sun:	-1°	15°	25%
Mon:	2°	16°	25%
Tue:	5°	17°	20%

Cate Faehrmann, NSW Greens MP, Bob Brown and Catherine Moore, Braidwood Greens and exPalerang councillor.

Big turnout for Bob Brown movie

Robin Tennant Wood

Dr Bob Brown has long been a galvanising figure in the Australian environmental movement.

A Tasmanian GP, he first came to prominence during the Franklin Dam campaign, going on to become the first openly gay member of an Australian parliament as the Member for Denison in the Tasmanian parliament, the founder of the Australian Greens, and ultimately Senator for Tasmania and leader of the Australian Greens in the federal parliament. Outside the political sphere, he established Bush Heritage Australia and the Bob Brown Foundation.

Now retired, Brown's passion for the environment and his activism remains undiminished. On Tuesday night a special screening of his film, The Giants, along with a panel discussion including Brown himself, packed the National Theatre to its rafters.

The film is the story of Brown's life as an environmental activist and politician interwoven with the story of some of Australia's giant trees: the Huon Pine, the Tasmanian Myrtle Beech and Eucalyptus Regnans.

The Braidwood community has long had a strong environmental affinity. Whether through regenerative farming, landcare, politics, clean energy, co-operative gardening or local sustainability projects, this is a town with a high level of environmental awareness.

On a sadder note

In the photo above can be seen a small video projector. It had to be brought in at the last minute when it was discovered yesterday that thieves had climbed up and stolen the ceiling-mounted projector.

This callous act is a real kick in the teeth to all the community groups who use the National Theatre's projector, especially of course, the Film Club. It's the downside of Braidwood's getting 'on the map'. Security measures, suspicion of strangers and anger all detract from the small town life we came here to enjoy.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

No time for despair

With the horror summer just experienced in the northern hemisphere, coupled with dire predictions for our coming summer, the return of El Niño conditions, the likely collapse of the Gulf Stream ocean current system and the disappearance of large sections of arctic sea ice at both poles, it's easy to become overwhelmed by the enormity of what's happening globally.

Our human responses of fight or flight in the face of danger activate, but it seems that more people have fled than are standing to fight. The coupling of despair with denial has become a standard response.

"There's nothing I can do"; "this is just an anomaly"; "things will go back to normal"; "there's no point trying to change anything"; "it's only weather": going into ostrich mode is, after all, a lot easier than facing up to climate facts. If we shut our eyes and crank the aircon up high enough we can pretend it's not happening.

Canadian scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster, David Suzuki, however, is one who is not backing down from the fight and is urging the rest of us to get back to where we were pre-Covid.

Suzuki points to 2019 as the pivotal year when, galvanised by Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg's leadership and her rousing speech to the UN, people around the world took to the streets to demand government action on greenhouse emissions and stronger climate protections.

Then along came Covid and for two years the world locked down. Climate action momentum was lost.

Scientists now believe that the tipping point is very close. That's the point at which climate change can't be stopped. We've passed the point where it could have been reversed, but there is still a chance – albeit a small one – that it can be slowed or stopped. Achieving that, however, will require concerted action by governments to dramatically reduce emissions, improve agricultural practices so that carbon can be stored in soil, and stop deforestation. In short, we need to shift our economic priorities to put greater value on water, soil, trees and air than on digging up and shipping finite resources around the world.

Quoted in the Guardian, Suzuki believes we need to keep fighting amid the climate gloom. He believes that our current mindset and plight can be traced back to the Renaissance, when, he says, "we lost the idea that we are embedded as a strand of nature dependent on everything around us – plants, animals, air, water, soil and sunlight – and instead placed ourselves at the top of a pyramid with everything else beneath us." He says this idea has only strengthened since the Industrial Revolution, but can be reversed.

The time for action, however, is now. We can no longer afford the inertia of the Covid era, and wringing our hands in despair is not an option.

Despair, according to Suzuki, is a luxury we can't afford any longer. "If you care at all about your children or grandchildren, then it seems to me you have no choice but to try. My hope is that trying shows that we believe there is a different possibility – that we can make a difference.

"But hope without action – if we say, 'well, shit, there's nothing I can do, but something will happen' – that's giving up. We can't afford to do that."

After three mild and wet summers here, the likelihood of a hot, dry period is high. How we respond to this climate challenge will define the future we want for our descendants.

Vietnam Commemoration Day
Service in Ryrie Park
18 August 2023

RSL sub-Branch Braidwood will commemorate the Australian commitment to the war in South Vietnam on Friday 18 August 2023.

This will be the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on this date in 1966. In this battle, 18 Australian soldiers from D Company 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment were killed and 24 wounded.

The ceremony will be conducted by the sub-Branch President, Commodore Terence Roach AM RAN rtd in the RSL precinct in Ryrie Park at 1100 on that day. A brief service will held and a wreath will be laid. Members of the public are invited to attend and to lay a wreath.

The Battle of Long Tan

The Battle of Long Tan was one of the most significant battles in Australia's war in South Vietnam. In August 1966 D Company 6RAR was engaged in one of Australia's heaviest actions of the war, near Long Tan. After three hours of fierce fighting, much of it in heavy rain, during which it seemed the Australian forces would be overrun by the enemy's greater numbers, the Viet Cong withdrew, leaving behind 245 dead and carrying away many more casualties. Eighteen Australians were killed and 24 wounded. The battle eliminated communist dominance over the province.

The original Long Tan Day, on the 18th August each year has come to be recognised as the day on which Australia remembers the service of all our forces in South Vietnam.

Between 1962 and 1975, 49,211 RAN, Army and RAAF personnel served in South Vietnam. 520 died and 2,396 were wounded. 4 Victoria Crosses were awarded. Until Afghanistan, Vietnam was our longest war.

The Long Tan Cross is widely recognised as a symbol of service in South Vietnam.

Drier than median August to October for large areas of Australia

Bureau of Meteorology media: 3 August 2023

For August, below median rainfall is likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) for WA's South West Land Division and most of central and eastern Australia excluding coastal NSW and Cape York Peninsula.

Above median rainfall is likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) for parts of Cape York Peninsula, the Arnhem district of the NT, and parts of northwest Western Australia.

For August to October, below median rainfall is likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) for most of Australia excluding parts of Cape York Peninsula and the Arnhem District of the NT, as well as a band from the Pilbara to western South Australia.

Areas of WA's South West Land Division, south-east SA, large parts of Victoria, northern Tasmania, and central NT and Queensland are up to three times as likely to receive unusually low rainfall (unusually low rainfall equates to the driest 20% of August to October periods from 1981 to 2018).

Affordable housing: the council perspective

Part II of our interview with QPRC General Manager, Rebecca Ryan

Robin Tennant Wood and Paul Cockram

In Part I of this interview the *Changing Times* asked Rebecca Ryan about council's development strategy for the old D&S Motors site on Wallace Street.

In this part, the focus shifts to affordable housing in a more general way.

The council adopted its Affordable Housing Strategy last month. In terms of action, Ms Ryan says that council has a range of involvement options.

"I think the first thing is availability of land, and so that's why what is important for Braidwood in particular is the structure plan," said Ms Ryan. "This is where we can look to the future and decide with community involvement where should the growth happen, where can new housing development occur.

"And then we can look at our planning requirements in town, within the village

Zone, to the opportunities for dual occupations or subdivisions or changing planning zones to enable shop-top housing or other possibilities."

Ms Ryan said that both the federal and state government are viewing affordable housing as well as key worker accommodation as very important.

As a result of this, she said, "there's lots of programs to help councils with fast tracking and planning proposals or enabling infrastructure to do innovative things to help with housing.

"We need to then talk to the community about what sort of accommodation is needed: whether it could be medium density apartments or units or some other option.

"Council need not be the developer. Council could either sell the land or use its ownership as leverage to talk to a housing provider who can then access a grant to build affordable housing. Then it could become affordable housing in perpetuity," she said.

"What's often the case is that whilst something might be deemed affordable housing to start with, because it's either a small block or a two-bedroom apartment as opposed to a three or four-bedroom apartment, it might only be affordable for the first person that buys it, but with a housing provider it can be affordable because they get funding to help subsidise people who need affordable housing.

Rebecca Ryan at the council depot.

"I think what's really important for Braidwood is key worker accommodation – our nurses, doctors, teachers, baristas, restaurant chefs, mechanics and so forth."

Ms Ryan said that council has been looking at crown land and talking to the local Aboriginal Lands Council because they can access funding to develop housing opportunities.

"There's a bit of crown land that we've been looking at and considering the potential to put water and sewer there and what sort of housing could be put there. It might be 12 or 14 apartments that could then have a long-term lease with police or Department of Education or Department of Health, who then have those units or those apartments for their employees, which is really important," she said.

Ms Ryan stressed the importance of the Affordable Housing Strategy noting that while there is a need in Braidwood to meet the requirements of the heritage zone, there are some innovative ways whereby the reuse of old buildings that aren't in use can be adapted.

She said that when the Affordable Housing Strategy went on public exhibition there was some good feedback from, among other sources, the Braidwood Community Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

"There were various housing providers, developers and individuals who provided good comments about that as well," she said.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Administration Aids

A dose administration aid (also known as a DAA or Webster PackTM) contains individually sealed compartments to help you take the right medicine at the right time. DAAs help you reduce the chance of forgetting to take your medicine, and reduce the chance of taking your medicine incorrectly.

Importantly, the use of a DAA can help you stay in your home longer, and make is easier for your family to assist with your medicines if you are unable to. DAAs may also be needed for patients requiring nursing care at home, or patients spendning a period of time in a resipte or Residential Aged Care Facility.

To commence with a DAA, our pharmacist will need a list of medicines from your doctor, and all your regular medicines and prescriptions that you have at home, including any vitamins. A typical DAA contains one week of medicine, however sometimes depending on the medicines you take, we may be able to pack two weeks into one pack to make it easier for you. The collection interval is usually fortnightly, but different intervals can be arranged to suit your needs.

A fee is charged for packing and supply of the DAA, to cover the time our pharmacists' spend ensuring you the packs are correct and match your doctor's intentions. Veterans' Affairs patients, and indigenous patients may be eligible for fully subsidised DAAs.

You can book an appointment to set up a DAA by visiting www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood or simply pop-in next time and chat to our team.

FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK

Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

Congratulations to Braidwood for taking out the award for best Small Town in the Canberra Region Top Tourism Town Awards at a recent tourism industry function.

This award recognises the extraordinary range of enriching experiences that Braidwood offers to visitors. It is a celebration of the outstanding efforts of the tourism operators, small businesses, arts community, primary producers and the many volunteers who contribute to our visitor economy. I particularly acknowledge the close partnership between QPRC's tourism and economic development team and the devoted volunteers who run the Braidwood Visitor Information Centre. Braidwood will now progress to the National Top Tourism Awards that are being held at Parliament House in September, where it will compete against towns from across the nation including Huskisson (NSW), Airlie Beach (QLD) and Exmouth (WA).

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On Araluen Road, contractors have been making great progress, preparing for the repair of sealed sections of the road next to the landslips and continuing with soil nail drilling and concreting of the land slips that are on the unsealed section. Subject to weather, we expect the shotcreting for the last three sites on the unsealed section which is between Araluen and Merricumbene to be between 28 August and 2 September.

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The contractors working on the Braidwood Pool upgrade have now laid the main concrete slab. They will now progress to working on wall and roof framing and begin to construct the storage shed. This stage of the upgrade will provide much needed new changerooms, in a new building that includes a kiosk, entrance and some heating improvements. This work has been funded by a grant from the NSW Government.

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Expressions of Interest for the 2023 Queanbeyan-Palerang Arts Trail are now open! We are inviting EOIs from artist studios, galleries and artist activations from all around the LGA to participate in this year's event. The event will be held over three big weekends in September/October and we are excited to share and showcase all the incredible talent we have in our region. The Trail will be in Braidwood on 30 September and 1 October, Bungendore on 7 and 8 October, and Queanbeyan on 14 and 15 October. To learn more and submit an Expression of Interest, head to visitqueanbeyanpalerang.com.au/arts-trail-registration

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We are looking for community members to 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 and providing suggestions to improve access in our community. If you have lived experience, a family member living with disability or work in the disability sector I encourage you to apply. Applications close Sunday 13 August and you can apply online at qprc.snapforms.com.au/form/qprc-access-committee-application-form. If you have any questions about the committee or need assistance to apply, call Council on 1300 735 025 or email council@qprc.nsw.gov.au

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This Wednesday 9 August the Council Meeting agenda includes reports to Council on a review of the Queanbeyan Car Parking Strategy and considering tenders for a Cooma Road water mains upgrade and a pump track in Jerrabomberra. Read the full agenda, find out how to make a submission and watch the meeting online at bit.ly/MinutesAgendas

A conversation about the Voice to Parliament

Media release from the Office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP


Aunty Matilda House

A special event was held at the Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan on Friday, 4 August 2023 to discuss the importance of constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice to Parliament.

The event was attended by over 400 community members as well as over 100 viewers online.


Kristy McBain

The community heard directly from speakers: Aunty Dr Matilda House, Ngambri-Ngunnawal Elder; Yes23 Spokesperson Thomas Mayo, a Kaurareg Aboriginal and Kalkalgal, Erubamle Torres Strait Islander man and Esma Livermore, Bigambul/Dunghutti/Kamilaroi woman and Deputy Mayor Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Member of Local Government NSW Referendum Engagement Group and Senior Officer with Reconciliation Australia. As well as Kristy McBain MP, Member for Eden-Monaro and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

The speakers discussed why constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice to Parliament is a crucial step on the path to uniting the nation and creating a better future in Australia.

"I want my great grandchildren to know that they can grow up knowing they're wanted in this country, no matter what colour, what blood," Aunty Matilda House said.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council recently passed a motion to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Councillor Esma Livermore said "You really have to question why you might vote no, and why you aren't finding out more information."

Thomas Mayo

Thomas Mayo, whose latest book *The Voice to Parliament Handbook - All the details you need* was published in May 2023 and co-authored with journalist and co-host Kerry O'Brien, followed with "We're having conversations across the country, just like this one, and people are coming with questions and open minds.

"This event is an opportunity for people in the Queanbeyan region to understand how the Voice can make a tangible change for Indigenous Australians in areas such as healthcare, housing, education, and employment.

"Community discussions like this connect us, produce discussions, and build stronger support for constitutional recognition through a Voice. This campaign is all about uniting Australians and it's been positive to see the response and welcome for us so far, including in this region.

"If you listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, whether they agree with this or not, they want to be heard. There are multiple polls that indicate well over 80 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people support this," Thomas Mayo said.

"If you don't know — find out!" Kerry O'Brien

Kerry O'Brien said "When I've gone around the country, and I've heard why Indigenous people don't trust the proposition, it's because they say, that their history, since colonial and post-colonial times has been a history littered with broken promises, and so why should they believe this. Part of the answer to that is that this one is coming from Indigenous people themselves."

Kristy McBain emphasised the importance of these conversations at the local and national levels.

"It's fantastic to see so many people across Eden-Monaro eager to engage in factual conversations about what The Voice will mean for our community.

"It is so important that we get out and have conversations and that we're prepared to be part of answering the questions as well as asking them. I think most importantly we need to make sure that we do not sit back and be idle.


Kerry O'Brien

"The feedback I've received so far from many in the community is that now is the time to do things differently – and understanding the immense value The Voice will have, is an important step ahead of the referendum."

In the coming months we will go to a referendum to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution. The Voice is a key reform in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* which asks all Australians to recognise the rightful place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in their own country by establishing and enshrining a First Nations Voice in the Constitution. This was an important opportunity for the community to come together, learn and engage in a conversation about the Voice to Parliament.

Esme Livermore

BCS NEWS John Longhurst

Layla and Ria in the braidwood Central School library.

Layla and Ria excell in public speaking comp.

Braidwood Central School students, Layla Stuart and Ria Robinson excelled in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition in Wollongong last Thursday.

Year 9 student, Layla Stuart, won through to the regional finals to be held in Lewisham later this month whilst Year 7 student, Ria Robinson, was runner up in her division.

The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition aims to encourage the use of clear and effective spoken English and has been operating since 1995. The competition provides an opportunity for NSW government and non government junior secondary students to improve their confidence and develop their speech writing and public speaking skills.

Students must deliver a 5 minute prepared speech and a 2 minute impromptu speech in the competition.

Layla's prepared speech on artificial intelligence (AI) was well researched and focused on the challenge AI poses to empathetic and creative human originality.

The impromptu speech topic is chosen by the adjudicator and students only have 5 minutes to prepare a 2 minute speech. Layla used the given topic, 'One Last Time' to speak about gambling advertisements.

In both speeches, Layla was able to meet the adjudicator's criteria of a well researched and structured speech, delivered with a balance of humour and sincerity.

Layla said "Participating in the Legacy Speaking Competition for my third year, the experience continues to help me develop my thinking and speaking skills. I am delighted to proceed to the next round."

Ria Robinson, was runner up from the fourteen competitors in her division.

Ria's delivered a heartfelt prepared speech on 'Parents', with adjudicator, Ms Angela Hill, congratulating her on a strong performance, in her first year entering the competition.

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely said "BCS is performing strongly in both debating and public speaking competitions this year. Congratulations to Layla and Ria on outstanding efforts in Wollongong last week."

Water the key focus for Sustainable Braidwood

Robin Tennant Wood

Jessica Friedmann [bottom right] president of Sustainable Braidwood with the Annual General Meeting attendees. – photo: Don Jones

At its meeting on Sunday morning, the Sustainable Braidwood group identified Braidwood's water security as a key concern.

In late 2019, just before the Black Summer fires, Braidwood ran out of water. QPRC implemented Level 4 water restrictions and potable water was trucked into town via several tankers on a daily basis as the water in the Shoalhaven diminished to a series of puddles. This situation remained in force until the Shoalhaven River began flowing again after the rain in February 2020.

In one post-fires survey undertaken by the Braidwood Community Association to determine community priorities, securing Braidwood's water supply emerged as the most pressing concern for a majority of residents. Yet, Sunday's meeting heard, to date QPRC has not moved on the issue beyond pointing out that the Shoalhaven is full and flowing. That may not be the situation for long.

The meeting determined that there is a need for a full analysis of the catchment to be undertaken: inflows to the Shoalhaven, potential for water storage, and base data on Braidwood's water use. Such a report could then form the basis for action on ensuring water security for the long term.

It was acknowledged that council staff are under pressure to deliver outcomes across a vast region, and that council itself is under-resourced. However, external funding could be sought for a thorough report and analysis into the town's water supply and use, with the Braidwood community working with, rather than against, council to find solutions.

Sustainable Braidwood and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare will be working closely together on finding and implementing sustainable land management practices.

While there are around 150 followers of the Sustainable Braidwood Facebook group, there is a need to expand the group's presence in a more practical way in the community: a need to "join the dots" between problems and sustainable, community-focused solutions as well as ensuring a strong community network.

MEET THE SUMMERFIELD RESIDENTS

John and Edna Jones.

John: I'm 82 years of age and lived in many places throughout Australia. This will be the last one. I spent about 14 years in tertiary education and during that time, I was fortunate to be able to study in America, to get a doctorate. We've moved a lot, something like 26 places since we've been married. Been married, what, 55 years?

Edna: 56 this year.

John: We've got four children, and part of our decision to live at Summerfield was to live close to one of them. One of our children is a nurse and she lives in Canberra.

Edna: We were both born in Wollongong. We've gone as far up as you can in Queensland, and then come down the coast, Tassie was the furthest we could go, and now we're sort of in the middle.

John: We looked at retirement places around Canberra, but we didn't like the ripoff system where you only lease it and you seem to be always paying the money for something. Whereas here, we've got freehold, we own this place and that to me is a much more sensible way to do it.

Edna: We've got room here for the family to visit; our other daughter's coming from Rutherglen on Wednesday to stay for a little while. I like the sun coming in at the back, the north-facing, and big house, small garden. Plenty of friends to do craft with. Lots of people to talk to. Yes. And to go for walks up to the town, it's not far away, to go and have coffee. It's what I like.

Talk to Jane on 0400 472 577 Summerfield HISTORIC BRAIDWOOD

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1. Former US President Donald Trump has received a third indictment. How many criminal counts does he now face?
2. What was the score of the second Bledisloe Cup All Blacks V Wallabies match last weekend?
3. Who won last week's Gold Logie?
4. Which AFL great announced his retirement last week?
5. The Irish singer and activist, Sinead O'Connor, who died last week, became a controversial figure in 1992 for doing what on live TV in the US? (Bonus point: why did she do it?)
6. Two naval sailors from what country have been charged with supplying sensitive security information to Chinese intelligence officers?
7. ACT Independent Senator David Pocock has proposed a private members' bill to what intent?
8. The Antarctic ice shelf is causing scientists concern. Why?
9. What music legend will be performing in Australia in October-November this year?
10. What town won the Canberra Region Top Tourism award?

Answers: 1. 78; 2. NZ 23 Aus 20; 3. Sonia Kruger; 4. Lance (Buddy) Franklin; 5. Ripping up a photo of the pope (Bonus: to protest the cover-up of child sexual abuse in the Catholic church); 6. USA; 7. To enshrine a duty of care into Australian environmental law to protect children from the effects of climate change; 8. It is at its lowest level on record; 9. Paul McCartney; 10. Braidwood

BWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION *Sue Murray*

Community Plan underway

Following a request by QPRC's General Manager, Rebecca Ryan, the Braidwood Community Association is working to develop a Braidwood Community Plan.

The idea is to develop a wish-list of community priorities so that as funds become available, town amenities can be developed and improved.

This is not the same as the Braidwood Structure Plan, which is a long-term (30 year) plan for the expansion of Braidwood as the population grows. The Braidwood Community Plan will include goals that can be achieved over a 3, 5 or 10 year period.

Two years ago, in September 2021, the BCA was asked to prepare a Community Action Plan as part of the Bushfire Recovery process. Using the results of several community surveys, and through discussion with local residents, we developed a series of short, medium and long-term goals.

Reviewing this list recently, we were surprised and pleased to see how many of our goals have been achieved or are on the way to completion.

Short Term Goals, September 2021

- **Completion of skatepark** + adjacent amenities at Rec Ground. *Almost completed. Skate Park funded by a Bushfire Economic Recovery Grant.*
- **Toilets in Ryrie Park fixed** (relocate entry to accessible toilet). *Completed.*
- **D&S site redevelopment** including new public toilets and car park. *At consultation stage.*
- **More footpaths** *New paths completed on Coronation Ave, Lascelles St and Elrington St.*
- **Long-term strategic planning** for Braidwood to start in early 2022. *Braidwood Structure Plan consultation underway in 2023.*
- **Preservation of Braidwood's heritage** and promotion for tourism. *Review of State Heritage Listing underway.*
- **Pool upgrade** (funded) *Underway – due for completion in November 2023.*
- **Community hub** in the centre of town, providing information and computer/printer for use by community groups. *Progressing. BYPAA have been given access to the space in return for management and taking bookings from community groups. Commercial bookings incur fees and are managed by Council. Funding for computer/printer received from Bushfire Recovery funding.*
- **Better maintenance of unsealed roads**. *Ongoing, depending on funding available.*
- **Repairs and resealing of Wallace St** road pavement (TfNSW) *Completed.*
- **Preparation for future emergencies and natural disasters**, including upgrades to facilities suitable for assisting in evacuation and care of displaced residents. *Upgrades to Braidwood Servicemen's Club and Old Sunday School Hall for use during emergencies completed.*

Some of these projects were funded through recovery grants following the 2019-20 bushfires and have been guided by the dedicated work of local volunteers who worked on grant applications and project delivery.

Our medium-term goals included:

More trees and environmental enhancement in and around town, linked to QPRC Urban Forest Cooling Strategy. *No funding for this in current Operational Plan.*

- **Securing Braidwood's water supply** and planning for increased demand for water. *Needs to be included in final Braidwood Structure Plan.*
- **Low-cost housing** – economic impacts of shortage of labour for service industries. *QPRC Affordable Housing Strategy completed.*
- **Affordable seniors housing** (medium density) *Need acknowledged in Affordable Housing and Braidwood Structure Plans*
- **Platypus walk around golf course**. *Grass path created on Braidwood Common.*
- Development of a **shared path around Braidwood** (where access is available).

Planning for some of these is underway. A major concern remains the viability of our town water supply during extended drought, and as our population grows.

We will be asking the community for more ideas to update our goals and provide input into QPRC's proposed Braidwood Community Plan.

Our next BCA general meeting is on August 15th at 5.30pm at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club. We'll be discussing our wish-list, and also hearing from Braidwood Clean Energy about a proposal to create a solar-powered "microgrid" to provide energy if the main grid fails. All residents are welcome to attend.

If you can't attend our meetings, please send your comments and ideas to president@braidwoodcommunity.org.au .

After a short winter break, the Braidwood Community Association will meet again next Tuesday August 15th at 5.30pm at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club.

*The **Braidwood Clean Energy** group will present a proposal for a 'microgrid' for Braidwood, consisting of a solar farm and a community scale battery to provide the town with uninterrrupted electricity in the event of grid outages.*

We will also discuss ideas for a Braidwood Community Plan being developed by QPRC. All residents of our town and surrounding localities are welcome to attend.

BRAIDWOOD LIONS John Tuckwell

Danny Richardson, Geoff John, and Chris Richrdson.

Braidwood Lions at its quarterly lady's dinner meeting on 1 August received a visit from the local Lions hierarchy, in the form of Danny Richardson, District Governor, and his wife Chris and Geoff John, Zone Chairman.

Danny is one of 19 District Governors in Australia and is responsible for the area which encompasses South-East New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and comprises 66 Lions Clubs, 7 Leo Clubs, and 6 Lioness Clubs.

In total there are more than 1400 Lions Clubs nationally, with around 30,000 active members.

Geoff John is Zone Chairman for Goulburn, Crookwell, Bungendore and Braidwood Lions Clubs.

Danny spoke to the meeting about what Lions is doing in providing international humanitarian service, disaster relief, sight, medical research, and encouragement of youth, as well as some local initiatives in his District. He also showed a video on Dr Patti Hill from Canada, the inspiring and energic International President of Lions.

Danny was very impressed with the Braidwood Lions Young Writers Festival initiative and took away 24 copies of the books to give to other clubs in his District to inspire them.

An important formality for the evening was inauguration of Nick Turner as a new member of Braidwood Lions, who was introduced by Braidwood Club President Jamie Raynolds.

Danny Richardson, Jamie Raynolds, and Nick Turner.

Climate action progress

Cr Katrina Willis

Climate action was one of The Greens' election priorities for the current term of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

There are two critical pieces of work that council needs to do:

- Update the council and community climate action plans to refine the baseline and improve reporting so we know how we are doing; and
- Develop a clear pathway to achieve net zero emissions and achieve it preferably sooner than the current timeframes; these are too late to keep global warming within relatively safe limits. (see footnote)

While these tasks remain to be completed, this Council has made progress on a number of climate actions. Since the December 2021 election, I have worked with other councillors to make a difference in this vital policy area. With one year before the council goes into Caretaker for the September 2024 elections, it's worth looking at what progress we have made.

There are two important points to keep in mind when undertaking this assessment. Firstly, Council has a progressive majority with the three progressive election tickets (Greens, Labor and Winchester team) committed to climate action. Secondly, councils in NSW have limited power to change key greenhouse emission settings as many of these decisions are made by the national and state governments. Related to this point, council's current climate action plan states that greenhouse gas emissions from council's own operations account for just one percent of total LGA emissions.

Another relevant consideration is that like most councils across NSW, and indeed, much of Australia, QPRC does not have a pool of discretionary income available for emission reduction investments in the broader community that could make a difference. Think subsidies for low-income households to retro-fit for energy efficiency or major investments in shared pathways for active transport.

Here's a list of council resolutions that will make a difference:

— * —* —* —

Council joined the **Cities Power Partnership** in April 2022 and after seeking community input, committed to undertake five actions in areas including renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport. Membership of this network provides access to expertise and support.

— * —* —* —

Council adopted the **Urban Forest and Cooling Strategy** in 2022. Preparation of the strategy, including some new approaches to community engagement (which was challenging during COVID lockdowns), commenced under the previous council. This work is important not only for the obvious biodiversity and cooling benefits of expanding the tree canopy in our towns, but also for identifying what tree species will have the best chance of surviving in a warming and drying climate. We have yet to receive a report on how this strategy is going. Following discussions between councillors and staff, as part of preparing the 2023/24 operational plan (budget), we can now expect an annual public report on progress.

— * —* —* —

Any number of matters come to council during a year involving **upgrading or replacing facilities.** Often, these are grant funded projects. Councillors have made it clear during consideration of these matters that we expect all such projects to incorporate renewable energy unless there is a good reason that this is not feasible.

If council eventually builds a **new office and community centre in Bungendore** to replace the facilities that the Department of Education compulsorily acquired for constructing the Bungendore highschool, this will present a key opportunity to establish a net zero operational building, or as close to as we can afford to finance.

To ensure we seized this opportunity, I proposed a series of sustainable features for the building's design brief, which council supported. This provides the flexibility to incorporate as much as council can afford to finance in the initial build and to plan add-on features when funding permits. As well as reducing council's own emissions, such a building could showcase what is possible.

One of the quickest and most effective ways of reducing community greenhouse emissions would be to **phase out gas** in all new dwellings in favour of electricity, particularly given the number of new dwellings being built or planned in our Local Government Area. The ACT and, more recently Victoria, have done just that.

However, this is being stymied in NSW because the government's sustainability assessment (BASIX) for many new buildings and upgrades awards points for gas. The urgency to electrify homes and businesses makes this out of date.

When I learned I could not move to phase out gas in all new dwellings, I proposed that **council phase out gas** in its operations. All upgrades and all new construction will use electricity from now on. It is cheaper than gas, healthier for indoor use, and as renewable energy's share of electricity generation increases, it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Council supported this proposal.

As well as electrifying our homes and businesses, we need to **electrify transport**. This is in addition to expanding public and active transport. Clearly, in some parts of our LGA, people need to rely on motorised transport, including for business activities, and many of the visitors to our area will continue to travel by car, although better train services would help reduce this reliance.

QPRC has also adopted a policy and implementation plan for **electric vehicle charging infrastructure** in public places. Given that QPRC is not in a financial position to fund these charging stations itself, we will seek expressions of interest from third-party providers and receive a share of the revenue generated by them.

Related to this work, I saw the opportunity to **install solar panels over carparks** as numerous other Australian councils have done. This provides shading in the hotter climate, generates renewable energy, and where it makes commercial sense, allows for the co-location of charging infrastructure so EVs run on green electricity. When I tried to include this in new development controls for the Googong town centre, I was told we couldn't do it because we didn't have a policy covering it. So, I proposed we develop a policy to cover public and private carparks, which council supported. This work is about to start.

Future work

Below is a list of some of the key opportunities for the short to medium term. Some of this work will need to fall to the next council. With Council now on a pathway to financial sustainability, more funds should become available for these sorts of investments. Grant funding will also remain an important.

- Source more funding to expand our footpath and cycleway network. Many trips are just a few kilometres and for those who are able and keen, we need to make it easier and safer to walk and cycle.
- Use the roll-out of the newly adopted Sports Facilities Strategic Plan and the forthcoming Aquatics Strategic Plan to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Orange City Council's upgrade of Wade Park is a good example of what's possible especially if state and/or federal grant funding can be sourced, for example, the federal government's $100 M community energy upgrade fund.
- Invest in electrifying council's vehicle fleet and look at examples of other councils that have created mini grids at their fleet depots by incorporating solar PV panels and using EVs as batteries to manage electricity supply and demand.
- Strengthen our emergency planning. Extreme heat days are forecast to increase both in frequency and severity (more often and hotter). Some councils have prepared Extreme Heat Day plans and I've been talking to Executive staff about doing something similar for QPRC. Every community across Australia will need to be ready for heatwaves – they kill more people than bushfires, floods and storms.

Footnote: reduction targets adopted in October 2021

Council's operations – 30% emissions cut by 2025 off 2012/13 baseline

Community plan – 30% cut by 2030 from 2005 baseline; and net zero emissions by 2050.

GARDEN CLUB

Kate Chinnick

Leucojum '*Snowflake*'

PLANT OF THE MONTH

- Bulb native to central Europe
- Blooms late in winter
- Grows to 45cm high
- Prefers a fertile moist soil in a sunny position or part shade
- Naturalises freely, making small clumps
- Frost hardy
- Flower heads are white, bell shaped and marked with a green spot
- Propagate from division in summer

What to do in the garden for August

- Prune and spray roses later this month
- Plant new bare rooted roses (soak in seaweed solution before planting)
- Plant summer and autumn flowering bulbs
- Winter flowering shrubs can be pruned now
- Prune and feed Daphne after flowering
- Prune Crepe Myrtle, which flowers on new wood
- Cut ornamental grass clumps to the ground
- Perennials may be divided as the weather warms up
- Prune jasmines and summer flowering clematis
- Prune hydrangeas to two strong buds
- Spray peaches and nectarines for leaf curl
- Plant onion seedlings, asparagus crowns & spinach seedlings
- Check herbs for dividing and replanting
- Prepare vegetable beds for spring planting.

FILM CLUB

Our 19 August screening follows our customary pre-film shared meal with Phillip Noyce's political drama *The Quiet American*, a 2002 adaptation of Graham Greene's 1955 novel.

Note the time — 5:30pm for shared meal and film screening at 7:00pm.

Please be considerate of others; although restrictions have been lifted, do not attend if you are unwell.

You may bring any beverages, wine etc you would like; the usual BFC tea and coffee will be available.

The Quiet American

Director: Phillip Noyce Drama UK, Germany, USA, France 2002, 101 min Starring Michael Caine, Brendan Fraser, Do Thi Hai Yen.

The popular and acclaimed English journalist/novelist Graham Greene wrote *The Quiet American* in 1955.

Shortlisted for the Nobel Prize in Literature several times, he has been labelled "the ultimate chronicler of twentieth-century man's conscience and anxiety".

Like many of his works, it has been adapted for film, first in 1958 directed by Joseph Mankiewicz (who inverted the novel's plot and a created a shameless propaganda film) and again in 2002 by the Australian director Phillip Noyce.

Braidwood Film Club normally screens once a month in the National Theatre, Wallace Street Braidwood. Annual membership is $50 although we generally permit a fractional membership if joining only for the second half or last three months of the calendar year. To join, just turn up at a screening. We welcome visitors, local or travelling; just come in and introduce yourself (admission is free, as a film club we are not permitted to charge entry). See above for information about our pre-screening shared meal ('pot-luck dinner').

You can contact Richard on 0429 329 666 or the secretary Gary at 4842 8181 or email gary DOT hovey AT anu DOT edu DOT au

We've come a long way sisters! But is it far enough?

Julia Irwin

Have you ever wondered what you might be remembered for in days to come?

With me, it could well be introducing trousers for women. I moved to Canberra to teach in 1971. It was the days of the mini dress. And they were very minimal. In winter we newbies from sunny Sydney froze.

I was appointed to a new school just opening. Weston was as far out as Canberra went. As winter gripped, and people started huddling round the radiators, I approached the principal about wearing pants. Fortunately, he was, although an elderly man by the terms of the day, quite progressive, and agreed, as long as they were part of an outfit and not just slacks and a top.

Other schools, and the Public Service in general, followed our trend.

Pants have a long and convoluted history. It's thought it was horse-back riding that popularised the trend. Fragments have been dated back to the steppe tribes of three thousand years ago. But they're at least officially men's attire. Until 1993, it was an unofficial rule in the US Senate that women didn't wear them. France revoked a law about them as recently as 2013. From the dress reforms of Amelia Bloomer in 1851 to the actress Mary Tyler Moore in the 1960s, there's been a stealthy campaign. Do any of us even remember all this now?

Some US schools still ban them for their girls, quoting a Deuteronomy verse about wearing 'men's attire.' It's still more acceptable for a girl to dress 'boyishly' — is it seen as a promotion?— than for a boy to be thought 'girly.' That's degrading. And it's still pejorative to say of a marriage: she wears the pants.

I read in The Canberra Times of a woman sent out of court for appearing in a pantsuit. She was told to come back 'properly dressed.' I took note of the judge's name.

Icy Canberra may have had something to do with this (mostly) quick acceptance, but that wasn't my main reason for moving. The seventies were heady days, days of opportunity. I was a career teacher, innovative and ambitious. The Commonwealth Teaching Service, breaking away from the NSW Education Department, offered something different. This included promotion and pay increases. When I'd begun teaching in the fifties, women received 75% of the male wage. Only a very few years before that, her paid job was lost automatically on marriage, when her unpaid job of housewife and mother commenced.

But teachers were in short supply. I remember two of the reasons given for the lack of parity — she couldn't coach a sports team, and she couldn't manipulate heavy objects like those huge widows and the heavy poles that were needed for opening and closing. This was seen as laughable even then, and equal pay was phased in gradually over the next few years.

Yet on average women teachers are still paid less. The reasons are now more sinister, for being less visible. They're to do with maternity leave, being unavailable for relocation, not being paid for extra duties when a male colleague is (that sports team coaching) … in short, anything to do with having children. I remember trying to get extra training but all the courses were run in the long Christmas break, with no childcare offered.

> There was also the constant risk of sexual harassment. A friend was forced to quit because of her principal's demands. A divorcee like me, her tenure was threatened.

She complained to the Federation, but they needed more evidence. She turned to colleagues she knew were also under threat, but they wouldn't back her. Their jobs were also at risk. My friend moved into office work as she had the necessary skills.

This is now over thirty years ago. How much has changed? I fear, not as much as hoped. The Teacher's Federation, which became very powerful, would take action now. I think. But women still don't support each other the way they should, and men still feel entitled.

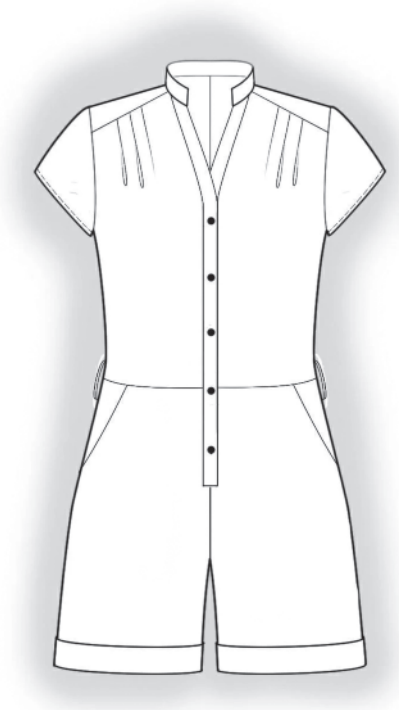
One might think working conditions in general have improved but at Craft Group a neighbour warned us all about a new pop-up fashion chain called Shein, operating online but coming soon to a shopping centre near you. Seemingly Chinese-based, it's under investigation but evidence is anecdotal. There are rumours of child labour but one certainty is that women are employed in 18 hour shifts, 29 days per month, producing 500 items a day, paid 5 cents for each. These are bright and attractive and so cheap one can buy a new wardrobe for a holiday and then dump it. But Vinnie's doesn't want them as there's no profit margin for them at those prices, as well as the clothes being unsalable with their non-fast dyes, and glue instead of stitching.

Landfill doesn't want them, with their cloth from dangerous synthetics .

I've written about fast fashion before, but I do think this is very much an issue for us women to consider.

But here I was in Canberra with a wardrobe of pantsuits, a house, and a child ready to start school. It was a great improvement on NSW.

There, even with a well-paid secure job, I could not get a housing loan. Even when still with my husband, my wage wouldn't be taken into consideration. Without a male guarantor, I could not get any kind of credit. In more enlightened ACT, I could, provided I had a dependent. So I could buy a house in

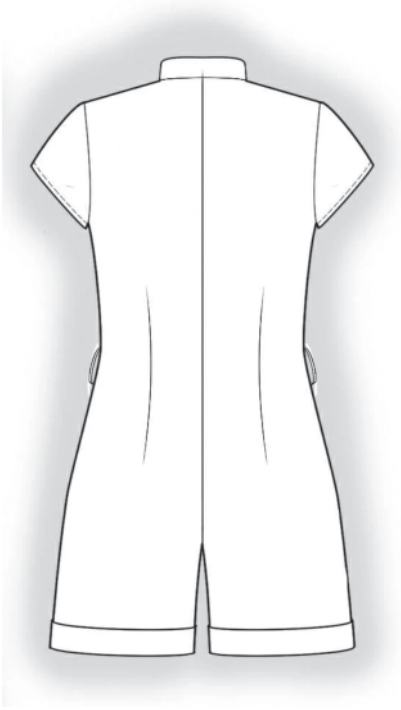


Weston, and start my child at the school down the road where I would also teach. It wasn't as easy as it might sound, but I did it!

I joined WEL, the Women's Electoral Lobby, and asked them to find me a sympathetic solicitor. I needed a divorce from an unproductive marriage I'd left some seven years ago. I hoped it would be easier here, because of the presence of assistance and locations, and the absence of the husband who was determined I would not get away from him.

This was before the Family Law Act of 1975, reforming divorce law (which was heavily biased in favour of men) and introducing the Family Court system. I was desperate to get free as, even after several years, he still theoretically had complete legal control over me, the son he didn't acknowledge, and my finances.

So, in time and properly dressed — yes, I had noted it was that same judge — I fronted up. I was harangued about young women who thought they could walk away from their marriages and told he would order me to return to my husband if he could but since we'd been living apart for seven years, he must reluctantly grant a divorce. But first he called me 'pert,' chose to query the dates on my marriage certificate, and to disbelieve that my husband knew what I was doing since he wasn't present. I had to come back the next day with my birth certificate and a friend of



unimpeachable repute who would swear that the signature on the paperwork was indeed my (soon-to-be-ex) husband's. He'd once been her suitor so she had the requisite credibility. If I had not fulfilled all this, I would've been denied the divorce.

Can you imagine any of this happening today? God bless Gough! With this came free tertiary education.

I was able to enrol in what is now the University of Canberra and begin upgrading my two year teaching qualification. I had not been able to go to university in the 50s, because my parents did not believe in higher education for women.

The closest I could get to university was two years at teachers college because you were paid an allowance and guaranteed a job. What it gave me was more time to think about what I wanted to do which, actually, was not teaching. Even though I attended a selective high school, female career choices were limited: teaching, nursing, or the bank. Girls who were interested in agricultural work were advised to marry farmers. Some did, meeting them on teaching, nursing or banking postings.

By 1970 men were beginning to apply for nursing training, but they expected more money, simply because they were men.

I still hear from old school friends. It doesn't surprise me how many of us suffered broken marriages, or didn't marry at all. Once when I attended a school reunion, the (gasp! male) principal asked if I'd noticed a hidden curriculum. I had. It was that women made something of themselves and contributed to the community. The matching boys' schools, such as the one my ex attended, weren't getting the same message.

Are gender-specific schools preferable? I'm glad I attended one. Am I sorry I stuck to teaching? In retrospect, no. It prepared me for anything life threw at me!

There were no female toilets in Parliament House till 1974. Women were supposed to be at home, bearing and rearing children. In 1973, Elizabeth Reid was appointed women's adviser to the Prime Minister. Perhaps she made the difference.

In 1974, Sara Dowse became head of the newly-formed Women's Affairs section. In 1975, Susan Ryan was elected to the Senate, a first for a woman. Her slogan was 'A woman's place is in the Senate.' In 1979, Maurene Horder was elected to the ACT House of Assembly, the first woman to lead a Parliamentary Labor Party and the first woman to give birth while serving in parliament.

But the men were beginning to fight back. There were claims of favouritism, of tokenism, of less well qualified women being promoted over better qualified men. Incidentally, the last time I heard this view was today, from a politically active neighbour. John Clements, a former member of the Legislative Assembly, called it 'the NSW disease,' and stepped down in protest.

I found it amongst my fellow graduates, who saw us women taking promotions positions from men who had families to keep, whereas we had husbands who should be keeping us, or if we didn't, that was our own choice. This was despite my having gained higher marks than most of them.

And the worst thing was, many women held the same view.

Asking around here, I found a neighbour who'd been a Canberra teacher recalling much unpleasantness among his female staff members who might've been expected to support each other. I realised a woman's worst enemy was not a man; it was another woman. While the men began to fight back, the women fought each other.

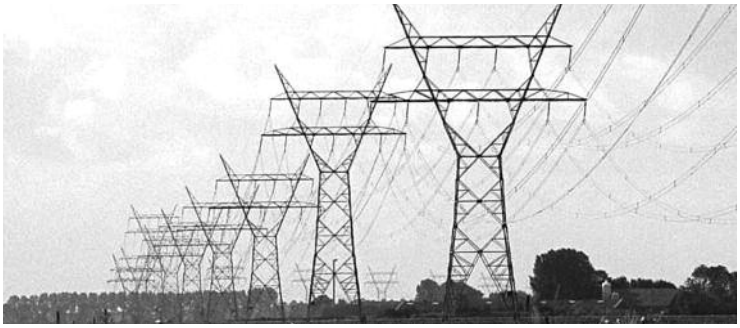
When I won a promotion over a young man who did not even have his degree, much less my seniority, it was the women who turned on me. This eventually led to my being invalided out with stress issues. I've kept on teaching in various capacities, but not for a wage.

Tanya Plibersek announced recently that women hold over 40% of the seats in both Houses of Parliament but many issues remain untouched.

Moving forward, who remembers Treasurer Peter Costello urging women to stay home and have another baby, as their duty to the country? This was as part of the federal budget of 2004. Do I really recall the news reader — surely it wasn't Juanita Phillips even then? — finishing with "Look out, Mrs Costello. He's on his way home ..."

This reminds me of all the arguments about female news readers, sports commentators, current affairs anchors — no one would take them seriously. As for women playing competitive sport …!

It's nice to see some progress, but if we forget how it used to be, we risk repeating history.



Powerline upgrade could stop farm shock

NSW Farmers media release

NSW Farmers Energy Transition spokesman Reg Kidd says upgrading existing powerlines would short-circuit community pain over transmission projects.

A proposal from the Victoria Energy Policy Centre to use existing powerline easements to house 80-metre-high pylons and high voltage powerlines was worth investigating for NSW as well, Mr Kidd said.

"We've got people being told their farms will be cut in two by enormous towers carrying high-voltage powerlines," Mr Kidd said.

"This suggestion from Victoria would basically re-purpose the existing transmission line routes, drastically reducing the pain for landholders and giving people more certainty about what will be installed and where.

"At the very least this is worth serious consideration, particularly if it will save not only time and money but also prevent disruption to food production."

The major investment into wind and solar installations across rural and regional communities had caused significant tension in recent years, with complaints of developers turning up with lines drawn on maps, Mr Kidd said.

"To date the genuine consultation has been pretty ordinary in some places, and it seems it's the result of someone in an office somewhere drawing lines on a map willy-nilly," he said.

"We've already got the potential social problems of catering for an enormous, short-term workforce during construction of these projects, with shortages of doctors, nurses and other professions likely to be exacerbated.

"Why not take the opportunity to reduce the hassle – and the expense – and repurpose the existing powerline easements?"

MOVIE REVIEW Cheryl Hannah

A 50th anniversary reproduction of the doll Cheryl was given as a child.

Hello Barbie, "let's party"

I can scarcely believe I am writing this, yet the new Barbie movie is such fun I want to add my two cents worth to all the hype.

By now, you have probably seen the movie trailer or heard grabs from the movie soundtrack. I confess to having been fascinated by Barbie since 1962 when an American friend of my father sent me a brunette bubble-cut Barbie for Xmas.

She came dressed in a red swimsuit and introduced me to the world of American dolls. I was nine years old, and I was intrigued. I guess that makes me one of the cohorts that director Greta Gerwig had in mind when she conceived of the pink extravaganza that is *Barbie* the movie in 2023.

Margot Robbie plays StereotypicalBarbie amongst the dozens of Barbies who live in the Mattel alt-universe of Barbieland. A bright pink world where girls can be anything, where the President is a black woman, and all the members of the Supreme Court are — you guessed it — Barbies.

The storyline is quite straightforward: Barbie is forced to go to the RealWorld because whoever is playing with her has thoughts of death, poor coordination and, worst of all, flat feet. Ken, her sometimes boyfriend and adoring sidekick, sneaks into the back seat of the Barbie Pink Cadilac and travels to the RealWorld with her.

Once in the RealWorld, she is hunted down by the evil empire (Mattel HQ) to be put back in her box, meets the ghost of Ruth Handler (her original creator) and discovers that most girls in the RealWorld hate her for her impossible physical proportions and ridiculous beauty.

And, by the way, despite all the hundreds of aspirational professions Barbie has held since 1959, women are neither in positions of equal power with men nor likely to be any time soon. Stereotypical-Barbie is shocked.

Ken, on the other hand, is delighted. He discovers the patriarchy and is smitten with dreams of male power that he cannot wait to implement in Barbieland. He rushes home to recruit the rest of the Kens to create Kendom, where beer, surfing and female servitude are the order of the day. And war; they got to have a good old-fashioned Ken-on-Ken war to prove their masculinity.

If you want to know what happens next, I encourage you to go and see the movie. ♥ The story is fun, a little bit silly and as plastic as its heroine but underneath all the pink and glitter, another intention runs through. That is what grabbed my attention.

This film is a surprisingly successful serious attempt to explore the roots of patriarchy, to examine why it is that women hate women and men hate women: "the one thing we can all agree on", as one

RealWorld girl laments in the house of the Barbie sharman, WeirdBarbie. All the discontinued and outcast Barbies and Kens are gathered at WeirdBarbie's house. Their mission to save Barbieland may seem trivial, but their analysis of gender relations in 2023 is spot on.

So, yes, Barbie is silly, fun, trivial and deeply pink, with laugh-out-loud moments that have the theatre rocking. It can be enjoyed as a bit of fluff yet inside all that pink fairy floss Ken cries, and another tale unfolds.

Rating: ★★★★☆

ARALUEN NEWS

New playground equipment and shade sail projects are now complete

The installation of new equipment and a shade sail at the playground are now completed and seeing lots of action with a visible increase in use from visitors and locals enjoying the area.

The playground looks a treat and the grounds are a most welcoming place to stop and enjoy, have a BBQ lunch or a family gathering in a picturesque setting.

The land managers are very proud to present the reserve to the community in such a pristine state. It is a lot of hard work and dedication from applying for funding to implementing and managing projects that provide positive and worthy results, strengthen the community and provide opportunity for networking and social connections.

Playground Improvements funded by Community Building Partnership Grant – Dept of Communities & Justice

Shade sail funded by Bendigo Bank, Veiola Mulwarree Trust & Auriela (Dargues Reef Gold Mine) and thank you to QPRC for helping us out with the playground softfall.

A morning tea is being planned for late September to celebrate and thank our sponsors. Keep you posted.

Vandalism to community property

It is with great disappointment to report that we have experienced the low act of vandalism at the grounds recently with the toilet block tagged and defaced with graffiti, not only did the culprit 's' jam the toilets full of paper towel, the pump which supplies water to the toilets was turned off. Offender's' then proceeding to empty soap dispensers, toilet cleaner and sanitiser all over the walls and floor. The baby change station was covered with graffiti and has to be replaced at a cost of $1,100. The new Karcher pressure washer was also damaged and will also need to be replaced at a cost of $600 and the removal of the graffiti will be another added expense. This is money wasted!! Funds that could have been used for good things will be used to fix this damage.

The incident that occurred in the school holidays was reported to police who visited the site and photographed evidence of damage. The Land Manager will be meeting with the Monaro district Crime Prevention Officer in the near future to discuss security and crime prevention measures on the grounds. We urge the community to keep an eye out for suspicious behaviour at the grounds and call it in directly to the Police – please don't hesitate to do so. If you recognise the 'tag' or have any information regarding this incident please inform Constable Fallon from Monaro District Command. Crime Stoppers: 1800 330 000 or online www.crimestoppers.com.au

Chairperson of the Land Manager, Cath Harrison said, "I am disgusted that this senseless act was committed, it is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, an incident like this impacts the volunteers that have worked so hard to make the rec ground what it is today, it's a real punch in the guts. This type of behaviour negatively impacts the broader community as well."

Some of the damage to toilet. 'Tag' – the letters R and B.

Government calls for feedback for On Farm Connectivity Program initiative

Andrew McLaughlin: first published in *About Regional*

The Commonwealth Government is calling for public consultation on draft guidelines for its On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP) designed to improve equipment connectivity, health and safety, and support sustainable resource management for primary producers.

Announced in October 2022 as part of the Government's $1.1 billion Better Connectivity Plan, the $30 million OFCP will look to offer rebates of up to $30,000 to suppliers of a range of technologies required to improve connectivity for primary producers.

These technologies include external antennas, boosters and repeaters, gateways and routers, and portable hotspots, all of which improve coverage. These devices can help optimise productivity through equipment such as soil moisture probes, microclimate and weather monitors, water quality and water flow monitors, plant growth monitors, valve and irrigation controllers, and livestock monitoring systems.

Connectivity solutions will allow the communication between devices that support agricultural activities via the internet through one of four categories of connectivity solutions: Low Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN), cellular, satellite, and Wi-Fi.

The government says it is committed to ensuring our primary producers have the support that they need to access cutting-edge connected technology to boost productivity and global competitiveness.

"The new On Farm Connectivity Program will help give primary producers the tools they need, and it's fantastic to receive so much interest and engagement from the connected machinery sector," Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland said in a 2 August release.

"I encourage interested parties to have their say to ensure the OFCP helps improve digital connectivity and encourages the uptake of new and advanced agricultural technologies."

The program's objectives include to extend digital connectivity and enable primary producers to take advantage of advanced farming technology, to enhance a primary producer's ability to implement digital agribusiness solutions, to capitalise on the agricultural sector's productivity and growth, and to support access to new communications equipment and services by offsetting some of the cost.

The consultation process follows an initial canvassing of industry interest in late 2022 for the supply of connected machinery and connectivity equipment for primary producers, which resulted in more than 80 applications from suppliers.

Suppliers that are selected will be included on a list of eligible suppliers of equipment for the OFCP. They can sell their equipment direct to the primary producers, with an appropriate discount passed onto the buyer to be equal to the rebate they will receive from OFCP.

Consultation on the program's draft guidelines closes on 23 August, and submissions can be made via the Department of Infrastructure website: https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say

Harry and partner/editor Nicola Bowery in the newly refurbished Old Sunday School Hall and [below] with Michael Simic, the man who launched to book.

from *Time of Fire*

and it was the treeferns
astonished us all

stripped to sticks
blackened verticals
no vestige of fern-tracery
all the green light gone
lifeless we thought

but they proved us wrong
came back from nothing
out of thin air
first a knuckle then a finger unscrolled
uncurled an arm many fern-arms
entire slopes re-lit with green crowns

they roared back
and made it look easy
shrugged off our doubts
pushed up and out the muscle
deep in them
Gondwanan foreknowledge
fire-knowledge…

Harry Laing

Copies of *Time of Fire*, $20, are available from The Visitor Information Centre, Studio Altenburg or arrange it through Harry: harrylaing@bigpond.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

It's been a quiet two weeks with few adventures—unless one counts an emergency trip to the local hospital to get a hearing aid dome removed from one's ear as an adventure.

Concerts and Gigs

The Holy Soul + Bess Harrison are performing at the Smokey Horse on Saturday, 12th August from 6pm. $15 tickets at the door.

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

Venue: Braidwood Uniting Church, 68 Monkittee St, Braidwood

Time: 2pm - 3.15pm Tickets: $45 adults, $40 concessions, $35 under 35s, $25 under 18s.

Community Events

The Braidwood Film Club's monthly movie screening is on Saturday, 19th August, and will be showing The Quiet American, a film your correspondent thoroughly enjoyed when she saw it in the cinemas. The shared meal will be on, so if you turn up between 5:30pm and 6pm, you will be fed, and the film commences at 7pm.

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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, 19th August from 8:30am in the National Theatre.

The Ryrie Park Market is on Saturday, 26th August.

Gallery Openings

Culture Kitchen and Taring Padi are exhibiting at Studio Altenburg from 3rd August through to the 26th August.

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, please contact Alison Coster on 0411 205 638 or email her at alisoncoster@bigpond.com

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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 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. Please get in contact with 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.

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

At the 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.

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. For a full timetable, please look https://www.braidwooddancestudio.com/timetable here.

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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s355 Braidwood Common Committee meeting

Monday 14 August, 7pm

'The Glasshouse' (Old Braidwood Library), Park Lane

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

Join the **Arts Trail**

We're inviting expressions of interest from artist studios, galleries and artist activations to participate in the 2023 Queanbeyan-Palerang Arts Trail.

This year the Arts Trail will be enhanced with a significant marketing campaign to promote our creative community to relevant local, regional and interstate markets.

Dates for 2023
Braidwood – 30 September and 1 October
Bungendore – 7 and 8 October
Queanbeyan – 14 and 15 October

▶ Learn more and register your interest before 9am Monday 28 August **qprc.nsw.gov.au/arts-trail**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	**Closing Date**
88 Wallace Street Renewal	10 August
Council-Related Development Application conflict of interest policy	24 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**

Work with **Council**

- Casual Recreation Facilitator
- Finance Officer
- Revenue Officer
- Graduate Engineer
- Projects Engineer
- Manager, Transport and Facilities
- Leading Hand – Construction Grader
- General Equipment Operator
- Trainee Admin Officer

▶ 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:
- 23 August
- 13 September

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.

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**

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

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eepurl.com/codv-v

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 14:22-33 by Fr Michael Tate

Keep Rowing!

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to 'the other side', the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory.

Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. Many of our contemporaries are openly hostile or contentedly indifferent.

In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We are not to throw Tradition with a capital 'T' overboard.

To jettison the spirit-led experience of the Church over two millennia will not help us. Discerning tradition from nostalgia, we must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures: 'Do not be afraid.'

PPC and whole of parish meeting: Tuesday 15th August following the Mass to celebrate the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary at 10am. This is the follow-up meeting to discuss the prospective developments of the Presbytery and to prepare ourselves for taking over from Brother Brian.

All members of our parish community are encouraged to attend as the decisions we make this day will affect the future direction of our parish.

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Sacramental Programs: these will now be 'Parish Based' and will be conducted in the Church on the Saturdays preceding the ceremony. Reconciliation will be held on 9th September, with preparation sessions on Saturdays from 5-5.45pm on 12, 19 & 26 August and 2 Sept. If there is any child not yet registered for the sacramental programs but would like to participate, could the parents please contact Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011, to be included.

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There will be Masses in our country churches:

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

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

An Amazing Promise.

The God of the universe said: 'Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know' Jeremiah 33.3

What do you think your chances are of getting through on the phone to a president or prime minister? Zero! Yet, regardless of your education, sophistication, ethnic background or financial status, you can talk to God and He will talk back to you. He doesn't just promise to answer your prayers but to 'show you great and mighty things which you do not know.'

Sometimes we say. 'It's the not knowing that scares me.' Companies close and workers get laid off. Routine medical check-ups reveal life-threatening challenges. Terrorists threaten our safety and politicians betray our trust.

A little boy prays, "Lord, bless Mummy, Daddy, baby and me… and Lord, take care of yourself, because if anything happens to you, we're all sunk!'

You say.. 'But I'm not a Christian! He has spoken to you at least once. And if He will speak to you once, He will speak to you twice. But you have to talk to Him and let Him talk to you through His Word and his indwelling Spirit. Sometimes God waits before He answers you because He is working on both ends of the line. He is working on the thing you prayed about, and He is working to get you ready for it. Sometimes the second thing takes longer than the first.

'O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!'

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

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Pray along with us next Sunday, 13th August at 10am Sunday Worship Service: St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood. Time for cuppa and chat afterwards.

Parish contact: 0497 486 233 angbraidwood@bigpond.com

Braidwood Uniting Church

Save this date

Sydney's most famous choir, Cafe of the Gate of Salvation is coming to Braidwood. Led on this occasion by well known founder and choir master, Tony Backhouse. The choir sings mostly songs born of the age of slavery. Although the choir can tear your heart out, mostly their concerts are joyful and uplifting.

About 25 singers will be in Braidwood for a concert on October 14 and 15. The Saturday evening concert will include some community singing that the choir will teach the gathered crowd. Both Saturday and Sunday concerts will be held at St Bede's. Saturday evening will begin at 7 pm and Sunday morning will begin at 10am.

I'm hoping all three churches will be involved on Sunday morning (this has not been confirmed yet but I'm hopeful). The concert on Sunday will be mostly joyful, stirring singing but we also hope to bed farewell and say 'thank you' to our precious Brother Brian who has served the catholic community and all of Braidwood for so long. If you know Brian, he is a humble man who would hate a fuss but lets make this extraordinary man, suffer just a little on that day.

I can hardly imagine that an opportunity like this will come to Braidwood ever again so, make a note in your diary and reserve the date. Plan to come and you'll be inspired and you'll have fun.

There will be no cost as the choir are making a gift to Braidwood.

Plan to come and I promise it will become a highlight of your 2023.

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

With the warmer and lengthening days, members and visitors are advised that the Saturday competition is reverting to a 11.30 check-in 12.00 hit-off.

The club is looking for a cheap tray-back or ute for use on the course. It doesn't need to be registered. If anyone knows of one that might be available, please contact the club.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Braidwood Women's Open Day- Sunday September 10. The entry flyer is up on the board now and notices for entries have been sent to all the regional golf clubs. Entries close Sept 1.

Donations for the Raffle Table will be greatly appreciated and can be left in the golf room at any time from now. This is one of the signature events on the Braidwood sporting calendar, so let's make it a good one!

Golf Presentation- Saturday December 2, after the regular competition. (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 August 5

Men's Stroke & Monthly Medal

Winner: Michael Fitzgerald 69 nett

Runner Up: Terry Hughes 72 nett

NTP 8/17: Michael Fitzgerald

Ball Comp: Andrew Clark 75, Keith Morgan 75, Keith Ferguson 77, Don Burke 77

Handicap Changes: Michael Fitzgerald down 1 to 27, Andrew Clark out 1 to 23, Chris Witt out 1 to 21

Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal

Winner: Deb Ferguson 77 nett

Runner Up: Virginia Groot Obbink 78 nett

Ball Comp: Carmen Byrne 80

Handicap Changes: None

Coming Events

August 12 Saturday: Men's Single Stableford – Spiro Agnew Trophy

Women's Single Stableford – Braidwood Beauty Studio Trophy

August 19 Saturday: Committee Meeting 10.30 am

Men's 2BBB Stableford – Greg & Les Hart Trophy

Women's Single Stableford – V & M Trophy

Women's 2BBB Stableford – Lucille Farm Trophy

STOP PRESS

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, FIND OUT

STAR TIMES

Notrumpingthisbloke

The 77-year-old Republican left his golf course in New Jersey to travel to the nation's capital and declared that it was, "a great honour" to be charged for having challenged a corrupt, rigged and stolen election". When asked how he plead, Mr Trump replied defiantly, "Not Guilty!"

Socceringittothembaby

Ex-president Trump also found it neccessary to tweet about the FIFA World Cup: "The 'shocking and totally unexpected' loss by the US Women's Soccer Team to Sweden is fully emblematic of what is happening to the [sic] our once great Nation under Crooked Joe Biden. Many of our players were openly hostile to America — No other country behaved in such a manner, or even close. WOKE EQUALS FAILURE. Nice shot Megan, the USA is going to Hell!!! MAGA,"

iConsumeiConsumeiCon

For the April-June period, iPhone sales of $US39.7 billion – a 2.4 per cent drop versus the same period last year – came in below analysts' expectations, as did the iPad, down 20 per cent year-on-year, and the Mac line, down 7.3 per cent. Now markets analysts are worried that Apple products are satisfying their users for too long and we're not ditching them annually like we should. Oh deary me.

It'sthefedsunderthebed

"The state has to increasingly embed itself – not majestically, sitting at the apex of society, dispensing justice – but the state has to embed itself invisibly into global networks and supply chains, and the virtual realm, in a seamless and largely invisible fashion, intervening on the basis of intelligence and risk settings. Increasingly, at super scale and at very high volumes." This is the vision of Mike Pezzullo architect of the Department of Home Affairs as it subsumed the Federal Police and ASIO — as revealed by George Brandis no less.

Notakneejerkreaction

A friend of ours has had a knee replacement and it's taking some time to regain the required degree of knee bending. He's being measured every day in what's known medical jargon as a 'protracted recovery'.

Braidwood's Changing Times is published by Artplan Graphics, 43 Wallace Street Braidwood 2622.
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Contributions desperately welcome.