BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

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COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	3°	16°	15%
Thur:	4°	17°	5%
Fri:	1°	19°	5%
Sat:	2°	16°	40%
Sun:	4°	13°	50%
Mon:	3°	13°	15%
Tue:	1°	18°	20%

It's World Water Week, but Braidwood's supply not secure

Robin Tennant Wood

This week is World Water Week: an annual event that looks to the issues of water security on the global scale.

The theme for this year's WWW conference is Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World, encouraging us to rethink how we manage water.

In January 2020 Braidwood ran out of water. The Braidwood town water supply comes from the Shoalhaven River, and when that ran dry, so did our supply. Council immediately imposed Level 3 water restrictions and commenced trucking water in on a daily basis. We moved to Level 4 restrictions at the height of the Black Summer fires.

Then general manager of QPRC, Peter Teggart, confirmed the situation, saying that "up to five or six trucks will continuously deliver water to Braidwood for about 10 hours each day (including weekends). Council is seeking State government support to cover the costs of water carting.

"The average daily usage in Braidwood has been around 490kL since the move to Level 3 restrictions. Under the new restrictions the daily target is 280kL, compared to 360kL per day under Level 3.

"We are in an extraordinary dry spell. The combination of bushfires and ongoing drought continues to place pressure on our potable water supplies. The past few months have been very challenging for Braidwood, with drought, bushfire and water all causing much concern in the community and with Council." That was three and a half (wet) years ago.

In a survey undertaken by the Braidwood Community Association to ascertain the key areas of concern of Braidwood residents, water security was the top priority. The Sustainable Braidwood group reiterated this concern at its recent meeting.

Currently, QPRC is investigating a pipeline between east Queanbeyan and Bungendore as the long-term solution to the future water supply for Bungendore. Council's webpage states the "without a sustainable water supply solution Council will need to press pause on any more development."

While Braidwood's population is not expanding at the same rate as Bungendore's there is, nonetheless, a pressing need to ensure water security.

Braidwood, Captains Flat and Bungendore are currently on permanent mandatory water restrictions. (see page 8)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant Wood*

The after party: time to get serious about women's sport

For a few weeks there we were all on board. From Sam Kerr's calf injury to Cortnee Vine's sudden-death goal, the Matildas were national heroines.

And with good reason. Thirty-two countries contested the FIFA World Cup, hosted jointly by Australia and New Zealand, and while the Kiwis' Ferns were knocked out early, the Matildas finished in a more than creditable fourth spot. The best result their male counterparts have achieved in any World Cup has been to make the round of 16 (2006 and 2022).

Suddenly, women's sport is on the national agenda.

We have two versions of sport in this country: 'sport', and 'women's sport'. The former always taking precedence over the latter in terms of resources, funding, media attention and public profile.

There are 73 statues of male cricketers in Australia, 31 of AFL players. There are five statues of male rugby league players in Brisbane alone. Add to that tally the statues of male athletes, tennis players, rugby union players, surfers and surf lifesavers and one might be excused for thinking that only men play sport in this country. At least, you would have been until last week.

There are five statues of sportswomen in Australia. That's right. Five. Shirley Strickland, Betty Cuthbert and Nova Perris (all athletics), Taylah Harris (AFL) and Sharelle McMahon (netball). No Cathy Freeman or Dawn Fraser, no Raelene Boyle or Tracey Wickham, no Evonne Goolagong, Ash Barty, Susie O'Neill, Ellyse Perry, Vicki Wilson, Pam Burridge, Lauren Jackson or Louise Sauvage. All of these (and many more) have been household names at various stages of their stellar sports careers, but somehow overlooked in public recognition.

That needs to change.

Last week, while we were still all celebrating the Matildas' quarter final win over France, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk announced that a statue commemorating the team would be erected at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium. That's great news for the recognition of this team and their World Cup achievement but it is also a step in the right direction for the recognition of women in sport in this country more generally.

In the wake of the Matildas' success, members of the Australian Women's Rugby team, the Wallaroos, penned an open letter to the sport's governing body, Rugby Australia. In it they point out that RA has told them that it's too expensive for them to fly beyond economy class, yet the Wallabies are always flown business class; that contracts are too expensive yet $5m was paid for a rugby league player; that they don't yet have a full-time coach yet the Wallabies have seven full-time coaches. They conclude with "The future of our games hangs [sic] in the balance. Over to you, Rugby Australia."

Our waltz with the Matildas might have come to an end, but the momentum needs to continue in terms of resources and acknowledgement. Bear in mind that while the Matildas were working their way up the World Cup ladder, the Diamonds won their twelfth netball World Cup, and the Emeralds finished fourth in the Women's Baseball World Cup.

(What? You've never heard of the Emeralds? Well, you have now.)

So next time you hear a coach bellow to the boys or men under his charge, "you're playing like a bunch of girls!", understand that this is, indeed, a compliment and something of which the boys can be proud.

Emergency water requests from farmers up 250%

Australia's most trusted rural charity has experienced a drastic increase in the number of drinking water requests from Australian farmers.

Rural Aid has been delivering water tank refills to registered primary producing families for a number of years.

In the past year, drinking water requests have increased by 250%.

Rural Aid CEO John Warlters said dry times have hit early and hit hard.

"Farmers around the country have been unsettled by how quickly the rain 'tap' has been turned off," Mr Warlters said.

"In June last year, Rural Aid received 6 requests for a water tank refill. In June this year, Rural Aid

Rural Aid media release

received 21 requests for a water tank refill.

"It's a huge increase and shows that the pain of low rainfall is already being felt in the bush. Rural Aid believes no Australian farmer should live without access to clean drinking water," Mr Warlters said.

In addition to paying for water carters to deliver fresh drinking water to farmers, Rural Aid also runs a tank delivery program. In the past year alone, Rural Aid has delivered 163 water tanks to primary producing households across Australia.

Victorian dairy farmer Mark Laity said the water tank he received from Rural Aid was a huge boost.

In the past five years, he's faced severe drought, life-threatening bushfires and floods on his East Gippsland property. Mark and his family ran out of drinking water in the drought.

"There was no water left here at all, not even a drop in any of the dams, they were all bone dry. The creek stopped running; the whole lot," Mark said.

He thanked Rural Aid for his tank, which provided much needed water security.

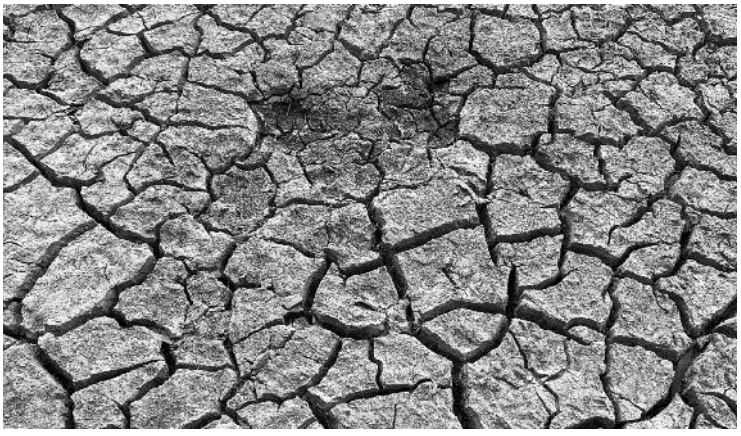
"You didn't realise how much you relied on it [water] and how much you actually did go through."

As the annual World Water Week (20-24 August) takes place, Rural Aid is asking for the public's help to top up the tanks.

"It's our aim to deliver 500 full water tanks to Australian farmers and rural communities before 2025 to equip them for survival during future disaster events," Mr Warlters said.

"Rural Aid is calling for Water Heroes in these dry times," Mr Warlters finished.

For more information on Rural Aid's Water Hero campaign, visit https://waterhero.ruralaid.org.au/



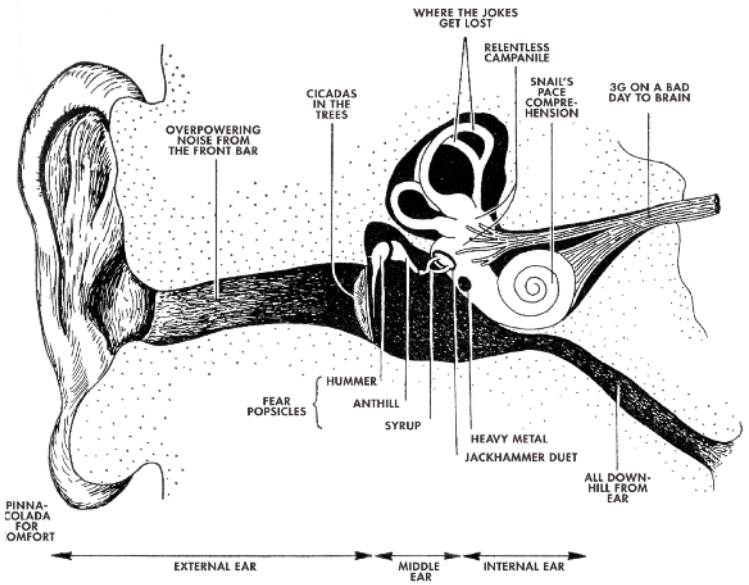


Figure 29.14 Ear of a quizzically-looking person

Sorry, what was that?

Paul Cockram

What's that I hear you ask? I'm sorry I didn't quite catch it.

Oh, you want to know what it's like to be hard of hearing? OK, I'll tell you.

Actually it is a bloody nuisance. There is a great temptation not to bother making people repeat themselves and a huge temptation to pretend to hear and hope for enough clues to guess the gaps.

Hearing loss is, more often than not, a hidden disability. In my case hearing loss most likely resulted from too much loud industrial noise at work followed by ear-popping rock music through headphones at night.

At the printing factories where I worked in the 1970s nobody wore earmuffs, even though we stood in the shadow of two-storey printing presses and communicated by sign language.

So, now the damage is done, here is my guide to living with hearing loss.

• If you can't follow the conversation, don't just nod. You'll feel unhappy, disconnected and all too often you'll get caught out failing to keep up.

• Get tested and if you need a hearing aid, do it. It takes a bit of fiddling about but a whole world of sound will again be audible. Your friends, especially partners, will love you once again.

• Don't start with the Rolls Royce model but take your time to discuss your progress with the reputable audiologist who fits the hearing aids.

Helping a hard of hearing person

• Encourage them to take a hearing test.

• Be kind to hard of hearing people, even those with hearing aids. Speak clearly and finish your sentences. There's a brain lag with depleted hearing. Rapid-fire repartee with an abundance of implied and unsaid content will quickly leave them behind.

• In group company when a hard of hearing person asks for a question to be repeated, whatever you do, don't answer the question. It's the person being asked, not the person asking, who needs helping. All too often the hearing challenged person slips slowly out of the conversation.

• Times when we need to wear masks are particularly difficult. Lip reading and cues from facial expresions are important aids to understanding conversation.

Be supportive of hardly hearing people like me and many others. You wouldn't berate a person with a gammy leg for not 'keeping up' when you're walking with them. Make the same allowance for those with gammy ears when you're talking with them.

Sorry, what was that?

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Hearing tests

in partnership with Hearing Australia

Hearing loss is when your ability to hear is reduced, making it more difficult for you to hear speech and all the other sounds in life you love. Hearing loss can be caused by many factors, but age and exposure to loud noise are the two most common causes.

The incidence of hearing loss increases as we get older. Over half the population aged between 60 and 70 years have a hearing loss. This increases to more than 80 percent of those aged over 80 years.

Changes in hearing can happen so gradually that you may not notice, so it's easy to get used to living with less than perfect hearing.

If you think you might be missing out on the sounds you love, ask yourself:

- Do you have trouble understanding people unless they are facing you?
- Do others complain that your TV is too loud?
- Do you have trouble hearing the phone ring?
- Do you find it difficult to follow conversations in noisy places?

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these questions, then a quick and easy hearing check is the first step.

Hearing Australia will be conducting free hearing checks in-store at Capital Chemist Braidwood on Wednesday 30th August, between 10am and 2pm.

Contact our team in-store or on 02 4842 2528 to reserve your free hearing check and get back to enjoying the sounds you love.

Senate President Sue Lines wirth Alison Alder in front of the Prime Ministers.

Local artist honoured with parliamentary residency

A book by Mongarlowe artist, Alison Alder, *Picturing Politics: Australian Prime Ministers 1-16* was launched at Parliament House last week by the Senate President, Senator Sue Lines and Speaker of the House, Milton Dick MP.

At the launch, Senator Lines also announced that Alison is now the inaugural parliamentary Artist in Residence.

In making the announcement, Senator Lines said that as Senate President she had been considering something that the parliament might be able to do to make a contribution to history and culture.

"I'm a West Australian, and the WA Parliament has had an Artist in Residence Program for quite some time," Senator Lines said, "and I think there's an absolute benefit to the parliament and also a real benefit to the artist.

"So the Speaker and I decided to initiate such a program here at Parliament House. And when we looked at who might be an Artist in Residence, we thought, 'well, we've got an amazing woman here right now'. And it seemed to us that Alison should be our inaugural winner of that program and be our very first Australian Parliament House Artist in Residence."

In accepting the honour, Alison said, "to be Artist in Residence is an enormous responsibility and actually pretty wild when I think of my beginnings in 1981 just across the other side of the lake at Ainslie Village in a tin shed, screen printing political posters about women's rights, an aboriginal treaty, and housing ... oh dear!

"Some things have got better, but anyway, I've worked with many people and in many communities, from the Illawarra to Inner City, Sydney, from Canberra to Outback New South Wales, and from the remotest communities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia to where I live now in Mongarlowe.

"I've worked with country women's organisations, Indigenous communities, unions and Aboriginal councils, universities, TAFEs, and schools."

Alison sees her role as an artist, not just to represent her own interests in life, but to visualise "the underrepresented histories and contemporary issues that impact on our lives, be they negative or positive, and our progress as a nation.

"There's so much to learn, even in this House where you would think we would know so much. But Australians have a great capacity to forget, when it is important to remember. And I hope that my work will in some small way provide a reminder of both how long and short our histories are, and how those histories impact upon and inform the present."

Work to start on new Kings Highway overtaking lane

Steve Whan MP, Member for Monaro media release

Work on a new Kings Highway overtaking lane at Mulloon is set to start in just over a week, Member for Monaro Steve Whan has announced.

Steve Whan was joined by Queanbeyan Palerang Mayor, Kenrick Winchester and Transport for NSW representatives near the site on Thursday.

"This work will provide motorists with a new eastbound overtaking lane on the highway between Mulloon Creek and Goulburn Road at Mulloon," Steve Whan said.

"A widened centreline and shoulders, roadside safety barriers, upgraded drainage and rumble strips will also be added to improve safety."

The new work is part of an extensive program of safety and efficiency upgrades which began last year and aims to keep the community safe and freight moving between Batemans Bay and the NSW/ACT border.

"As part of the upgrade program, work is already well under way on a new overtaking lane near Misty Mountain Road, which is due to be completed late 2023," Steve Whan said.

"Upgrading the Kings Highway has been a long-term job, we had many improvements when I was last the local member, including the major realignments between Queanbeyan and Bungendore.

"It's a task that needs ongoing commitment, regardless of changes of Government, and I'm pleased to see this latest program continuing.

"The King's Highway is a State responsibility, but it is great to be joined by the Mayor Kenrick Winchester on site, because so many of our local roads benefit from cooperation between our two levels of Government.

"The NSW government is getting on with the job of delivering infrastructure improvements for communities across the Monaro electorate and we thank motorists for their patience while this important works take place."

Transport for NSW has advised work will be carried out from Monday 28 August for up to seven months, weather permitting. Work will be carried out from 7am to 6pm weekdays and from 7am to 1pm Saturdays.

Single lane closures, stop/slow traffic conditions, and a reduced 40 km/h speed limit will be in place throughout the construction period. Access to properties will be maintained at all times.

Motorists are advised to drive to the conditions, allow an additional five minutes travel time and follow the directions of signs and traffic control.

For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW app, visit livetraffic.com or call 132 701.

For more information on the Kings Highway upgrade go to nswroads.work/kingshighway

QPRC Mayor Kenrick Winchester with Monaro local member Steve Whan.

Helen Haski and her Volvo.

EV uptake outpaces charging stations: the local perspective

Robin Tennant Wood and Paul Cockram

The price of petrol, in case you hadn't noticed, has just risen again and, according to industry watchdogs, is likely to stay there for the foreseeable future.

With a full tank of fuel now costing up to $100 for most cars and well over that for most larger vehicles, electric vehicles are starting to look more attractive. But are they as economical as they're made out to be?

The *Changing Times* spoke to a local EV owner to find out.

Helen Haski owns a Volvo XC-40, which she describes as the most beautiful car she's ever owned. Living in Braidwood and working in Canberra, Helen puts in a lot of kilometres every week. Not that she minds, saying that she loves driving through the country and considers her commute a luxury.

While Helen has installed her own charger, she says that charging stations for EVs in Canberra are "few and far between and often broken."

At home she charges her car from empty to full in about seven hours, or overnight. "I don't have solar on my roof, so I'm getting that electricity from the grid, but it is still six times cheaper than buying petrol," she says.

That's not an arbitrary guess, Helen has done the maths.

"I've had the car for, I think, about four or five months, and it's taken me a little while to compare the prices. You don't have a normal fuel gauge like in a car, you have a percentage in an electric vehicle, you know you're 20% full, 40% full and so on.

"I've worked out that the cost to charge at my home is about six times less than buying petrol, and I've worked out that if I charge at one of the charging stations in Canberra, which are fast, they cost more [than my home cost], but they're charging at 1% a minute, so it's much faster.

"My favourite charge station is actually at the Kia car dealership in Woden. I can be off and away in under an hour instead of six or so hours at home. So I find that then it's only, maybe, five times cheaper than petrol."

Charging an EV is not difficult, once you find an operational charging station, but Helen warns that it can be physically tricky.

"It [the charging slot] is exactly where the petrol bowser plugs in, exactly the same. They even make it look the same except, when you are at the service station and you are trying to put the petrol nozzle into the car, you don't have to fight with it like a cobra!

"At the moment, because it's high voltage, and obviously consumers need to be protected from that high voltage, you actually have to fight with the charger, to get it into your car."

She also warns that the few charging stations on the highway between here and Sydney are "typically very unreliable, often broken, very confusing in terms of how you interact with them.

"They're software driven instead of just paying a pump. It's very complicated for a lot of people who aren't tech savvy, who aren't used to using a smartphone or using apps. And then on top of it, they're physically, sometimes, unmanageable."

Locally, there will four chargers installed at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club. Club general manager, Michelle Griggs, said that she expects the facilities to be installed by the end of this year. Funding for the chargers came from the NRMA. The chargers will be installed at the disabled parking spots, and the NRMA is also funding a ramp at the front door and additional disabled parking spots.

The Royal Mail hotel is also planning to instal a charging station and is asking for crowd funding to cover the $15,000 cost. Contributors to the fund are being offered a charging credit of two times the amount pledged.

Helen Haski said that she would love people to come to Braidwood and charge their car and go to more places than just the bakery.

"My preference would be that they would actually get their car charged, it would take them between 20 to 30 minutes, so they would linger longer along the main street," she said.

In April this year QPRC adopted its Public Electric Vehicle Charging Plan 2030. It estimates that by 2030, "Queanbeyan-Palerang will need at least 100-175 public chargers to enable and support the expected increase in electrical vehicles over the next 10 years" and sets out QPRC's commitment to providing a minimum of 100 public EV chargers in that period. The full plan is available from the council's website.

BCS NEWS

John Longhurst

GIRL POWER

With 'girl power' sweeping the nation in the form of the Matildas and the blockbuster movie *Barbie* breaking records at the box office, 'girl power' came to Braidwood Central School recently, by way of a full day workshop conducted by Enlighten Education for Years 7 and 8 girls.

Enlighten Education Chief Executive, Danielle Miller, delivered the 'Butterfly Effect', a program for teenage girls about celebrating, challenging and changing ourselves and our world. Girls are empowered to find their voice, build connection with their cohort and school, build agency for themselves and develop positive wellbeing behaviours.

The program aims to counter the bombardment from social media, television and magazines teenage girls face in terms of what to eat, how to look and how to be liked in pursuit of unattainable perfection.

Danielle Miller told *ABC Radio Canberra:* "Things have become more complicated, particularly for young women. Girls are having to deal with incredibly adult issues while they may only have childlike strategies to fall back on. We need to teach girls how to think, not what to think".

The day started with Danielle's own story. She was badly burnt as a toddler, spending six months in hospital and undergoing five surgeries.

Danielle told the students, "It was so painful and some of the treatment was quite primitive, but it made me resilient. I remember being very little and saying to myself, 'You'll be OK, you'll be all right.' I always had a sense I could get through things and I'm very optimistic. I think that experience left me with a bit more grunt."

Danielle's heartfelt and at times humorous delivery of her own story built trust with the group and students were encouraged to share their own experiences.

Videos, powerpoints, mood music, group work, role plays and one on one conversations were used throughout the day to develop the key themes of the program.

In the workshops, the girls learnt how to deconstruct images of perfection they see and develop strategies to help them respond intelligently and objectively.

Danielle said, "Often those images are very artificial, they're photoshopped and manipulated — as are the messages. So they need to be able to see through that, so they understand that they're not just a body — that they're a somebody."

Year 8 student, Hero Bonin, found the day empowering.

Hero said, "Danielle talked about girl power and why we should not change ourselves for other people and to be proud about who we are."

Each student was given a 'joy' book which they decorated and wrote journal entries.

Hero said, "We wrote something nice in the 'joy' book about other girls in the group and shared our thoughts. We also discussed strategies to resolve conflict and the importance of remaining calm and planning ahead what you want to

BCS NEWS

John Longhurst

Internationally renowned artist at BCS

Years 9 and 10 BCS Visual Arts students welcomed internationally renowned artist and Braidwood local, Dean Cross, to the school last week.

Dean is a Worimi artist who was born and raised on Ngunnawal/Ngambri Country.

After graduating from high school in Canberra, Dean trained as a contemporary dancer at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, before embarking on a successful career as a dancer, choreographer and director. Dean worked with award winning contemporary dance company, Lucy Guerin Inc.

In 2014 he retrained in visual arts at Sydney College of the Arts, as well as the Australian National University (ANU) School of Art and Design.

He is now a highly acclaimed paratactical artist, interested in collisions of materials, ideas and histories. He is motivated by the understanding that his practice sits within a continuum of the oldest living culture on Earth – and enacts First Nations sovereignty through expanded contemporary art methodologies. He hopes to traverse the poetic and the political in a nuanced choreography of form and ideas.

He has work in the art collections of several major institutions, including the National Gallery of Victoria.

BCS Art Teacher, Ms Ruby Green, organised the visit to the school.

Ms Green said "Dean talked about why he chose to be an artist and how he shifted from an accomplished career in dance to a successful career in visual art. Referring to his own art education he discussed the quandary of making art in the school context and the dilemma of artwork being assessed. The discussion led to the subject of why art has to be about anything. He added to our understanding about the language of art and how people can read art at a variety of levels, which relate to their knowledge of art history and knowledge of the world."

Dean also discussed using found objects and collage in his practice and the process of placing unrelated things together to create intentional and coincidental meaning. He encouraged the students to be open to chance, to work with full commitment and intention, but also realise accidents can make great things happen as well.

Dean Cross

BCS Year 11 student, Romany Gleeson found the experience enlightening.

Romany said, "Dean's an incredible artist with an interesting approach to his work. His visit was engaging and provided a valuable insight into an artist's practice and his creative process. I am very grateful that I was able to meet him and hear about his artworks"

Dean was also generous with his time and provided hands on help to students with their textile artwork they are working on in the unit, 'Stitches and Story Storytelling'.

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely thanked Dean Cross.

Ms Mosely said "Dean was most generous with his time. His presentation was engaging and has no doubt inspired our students of the possibilities of exploring their creativity through visual arts."

say. The day taught me to love myself more and also you do not have to get along with everyone but that is not a reason to be mean. I like the suggestion of saying three things to be grateful for, before going to sleep each night."

The feedback from the day long program has been very positive.

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely said, "Enlighten Education did an excellent job engaging our Year 7 and 8 girls in an empathetic manner. Danielle delivered a powerful program and it will no doubt help our girls become the best expression of themselves. A big thank you for Together 4 Youth for organising the day."

Recycling your small thingies

John Tuckwell

The best way to add value to recyclable material is to sort it at source.

This doesn't happen in practice with all sorts of stuff put in our yellow lid bins. According to the QPRC website all our recycling goes to the ACT and so it is the ACT guidelines that determine ours.

These guidelines remind us that to 'recycle right' we need to 'keep out items smaller than a credit card and take lids off'. This means things like plastic bottle tops, bread ties, metal bottle tops etc are not considered recyclable. If you are like me, you never knew this and unwittingly put them in the recycling bin.

There is an answer to this conundrum in the form of Lids4Kids in Fyshwick. Many of you may know about them and support them, but they were unknown to me until two weeks ago. Lids4Kids is a national grassroots 100% volunteer project that started in the ACT. They collect and melt down plastic lids into moulds to make plastic bars and then construct colourful outdoor furniture (see photo).

They also take all sorts of other non-recyclable stuff like bread tags (as does Bendigo Bank), ring pulls, metal lids, 10c bottles (as does Royal Mail), household batteries (as does Aldi and others), squeezy yoghurt lids and blister packs.

It takes a long time to get enough of any of these small items to make it worthwhile going to Fyshwick to drop them off, but if we work together that is a different matter.

The Braidwood Visitors Information Centre has kindly agreed to be a local drop-off point. So, if you want to be part of this initiative, just collect the following items and take them to the VIC.

- bread tags • 10¢ deposit drin containers
- ring pull tops • bottle tops and lids
- household batteries • blister packs

Please separate the different items in bags or containers and for plastic bottle lids (milk/UHT, water and soft drink bottle lids), remove any white foam seals and wash and dry the lids before packing them. Lids sorted by colour would also be appreciated (it is a quite therapeutic process).

By acting locally, we are impacting globally.

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1. As Matilda-mania swept the country, what was the estimated TV audience for their semi-final against England last Wednesday night?
2. And the winner of the 2023 FIFA World Cup was …?
3. In the other big contest being held in the past week, what has been voted Australia's favourite animal noise?
4. Renowned epidemiologist, Professor Mary-Louise McLaws died last week. For what did she received an AO last year?
5. Six Australians were reported missing last week when their boat went missing off the coast of where?
6. Hurricane Hilary this week caused flooding in which US state?
7. The UK is due for a general election next year with the ruling Conservative Party facing an uphill battle to retain power. Who is the opposition leader?
8. Sinkholes are appearing randomly around Ballarat. What is believed to be the cause?
9. Australia is conducting joint naval exercises with which two other countries?
10. Three people were injured last week in a chairlift accident in high winds in which Australian ski resort?

Answers: 11 million; 2. Spain 3. Magpie; 4. Her work in guiding public health policy through the pandemic; 5. Indonesia (specifically, North Sumatra); 6. California; 7. Sir Kier Starmer; 8. Unmapped gold rush era mineshafts; 9. US and Japan; 10 Thredbo

QPRC

WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Ongoing and mandatory in Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat

Private gardens and lawns; commercial nurseries, market gardens and turf-growing businesses.	■ Sprinkler and other irrigation systems can be used to water lawns and plants only between 6 pm and 9am on any day from 1 September to 31 May (inclusive). ■ A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket or a watering can may be usedat any time. ■ At all times gardens and lawns may only be watered without causing pooling or runoff.
Lawns and plants at parks, sports amenities, golf courses and public gardens.	■ Sprinkler and other irrigation systems can be used only between 6pm and 9am on any day from 1 September to 31 May (inclusive). ■ A hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket or a watering can may be usedat any time. ■ At all times gardens and lawns may only be watered without causing pooling or runoff.
Paved areas	■ A bucket and mop or high-pressure low-volume cleaner can be used to clean paved areasat any time. ■ Otherwise, water must not be used to clean paved areas unless cleaning is necessary as a result of accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.
Vehicles	■ If not washed at a commercial car wash, any vehicle should be washed on a lawn or other porous surface wherever practicable and then may only be washed by using: (i) a bucket or watering can; (ii) a high-pressure low-volume cleaner; or (iii) a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle. ■ Boat motors may be flushed or rinsed after use.
Windows and buildings	■ Windows may be washed or gutters cleaned at any time. ■ Other parts of a building may be washed at any time by using a bucket and mop/brush or a high-pressure low-volume cleaner, unless cleaning is necessary as a result of accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.
Construction and related activities	■ Water can only be used for dust or other pollutant suppression by means of a hose fitted with a flow cut-off device or a vehicle fitted with sprinklers. ■ Unless impractical, water may only be used by means of a hose fitted with a flow cut-off device. ■ Wherever practicable non-potable water should be used.

QPRC

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BOOKWORM *Julia Ermert*

Celebrating our august women writers

You can emphasise that month name any way you like, but August in the northern hemisphere is writing time.

From the sublime to the gorblimey, that's when the ladies were at work. They were starting books, finishing books, publishing books, revising books, filming books … they were busy.

Let's start with the sublime: the divine Jane. I won't go on too long as I just wrote about her in June, and will do so again around her birthday time, but it's such a coincidence and I can't help myself.

If people ask me my favourite Austen book, I usually say "the last one I read," and probably all but the die-hard wet shirt fans would say *Persuasion*. This might be because it's the last, because it's a 'second chance at love' story, or because everyone I talk to is older and so is Anne Elliot, the female protagonist. She's twenty-seven, and her birthday is 9th August.

As if that's not enough, Jane Austen began writing this so far nameless book in August 1815 and finished it in August 1816.

By August 1817, she was dead, and buried in Winchester Cathedral with not a mention of any of her books on her tomb. Her brothers named that last book, had it published posthumously, and — most important— put her full name, her real name, on the cover.

The secret was out.

For sublimity I really should have put Alfred, Lord Tennyson first, born 6th August 1809, died 1897 and buried in Westminster Abbey, which trumps Winchester Cathedral. But I didn't. He's male and doesn't need my support.

Instead I'll mention Daphne du Maurier again. She's still quite a controversial author. *Rebecca* was once described as 'a low-brow story with a middle-brow ending,' critics condemned it as 'popular' and even her mentor 'Q' (Cambridge Professor Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch), warned her she'd never be forgiven for writing such a successful book. Alfred Hitchcock, who filmed it, always referred to it as 'a novelette.'

This sounds very much to me, as, 'a woman wrote this so it can't really be all that good.'

So, what has it to do with August? *Rebecca* was published in August 1938, so it's the 85th anniversary. Two of her short stories, well known because they were also successful films, celebrate 50th and 60th anniversaries: they are *Don't Look Now* and *The Birds*.

> I'm going to move onto the gorblimey now, although that's not really fair as I'm talking children's books and regular readers know I take this genre seriously.

Enid Blyton was born in August 11th, 1897 (d.1968.) Plenty has been said, by me and others, but whatever we think, she did author some 10 000 stories, poems and plays. Her *Five on a Treasure Island* is arguably the most famous, as a first edition could cost you $10 000, but it all depends on your criteria. As a teacher, I valued her use of language and her story-telling skills. There was not a reluctant reader, including my own son, whom I could not lure with Mr *Meddle's Muddles* or *Well, Really, Mr Twiddle!* It was always the boys who were the problem.

What catches my attention now is the current TV production of her boarding-school stories about Malory Towers. These were the only Blyton books I was really attracted to: it was such a foreign country, with all those pillow fights and apple-pie beds, midnight feasts with exotic tinned goods like pineapple, sardines and condensed milk. Now, over seventy years later, it's seen as escapist fiction from a time without technology: even the headmistress is stuck in her broken-down car all night as she has no way of summoning help. A cup of cocoa at bedtime was a luxury!

Another interesting angle, considering I recently wrote about the colour-neutral casting of David Copperfield, is the adherence to the campaign I Am Not Your Villain. This is the avoidance of using any kind of visible difference: skin colour, disfigurement, disability, scars, burns as evidence of villainy. The actors are just assorted kids. No one asks them how they got that scar or comments on their weight. Will we ever reach such an ideal?

Still very British and much the same era was PL Travers and her Mary Poppins series. I read most of these; it was no use in my day trying to be a completist. School libraries and public libraries weren't so advanced and my family didn't see reading as an activity to be encouraged.

The Disney adaptations do keep the name alive but the original books are much darker and grittier; there's plenty of biting social criticism. I was always a realist. If I'd had a magical nanny I probably would have argued with her. Anyway, Pamela Lyndon Travers (1899 -1966) was born in Maryborough, Queensland so she's really One of Us, and her papers are in the Mitchell Library.

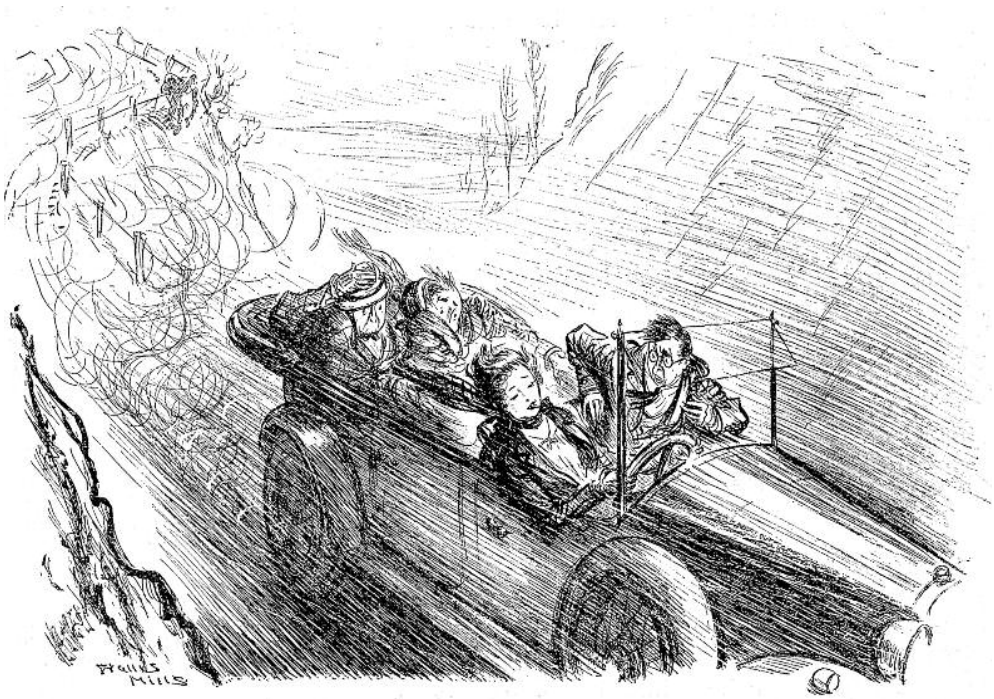
Incidentally, the original illustrations were by Mary Shepard, daughter of EH Shepard of Winnie-the-Pooh fame. Dad was too busy to take the commission.

A friend of a friend posts from Helsinki Airport and it's festooned with Moomins! Thanks to Swedish-speaking Finnish-born author and illustrator Tove Jansson (1914–2001), *The Finn Family Moomintroll* comforted me through many a lonely hour. Later her adult books about life and nature on family island holidays were similarly soothing.

And now for something completely different.

My last August-born author is (Marguerite) Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943). She published many novels and poems, some prize-winning, but it was the 1928 semi-autobiographical book *The Well of Loneliness* that so enraged the reading public. It was finally banned, despite commendations of its literary worth as 'likely to undermine public morals.' Nowadays she would probably identify as binary and live in relative peace … except, maybe, in Florida. Like Daphne du Maurier, Hall, who preferred to be called John, felt she was a man trapped in a woman's body.

It's quite a Springlike day today, but if that earlier bleak August weather returns, stay home and read some of our august lady writers.



Man in front (to driver, who is taking her mother's friends for a ride in hilly country): "I MUST SAY YOU DRIVE EXTRAORDINARILY WELL. THE WAY YOU TOOK THAT CORNER!"
Candid Young Modern: "OH BILGE! THAT WAS A GHASTLY FLUKE."

PUNCH CARTOON 1930

Belt up for Braidwood Defensive Driver course 2023

Braidwood APEX media release

Braidwood APEX is again coordinating a Defensive Driver course for P-platers who live in the Braidwood area.

With the support of the Braidwood Community Bank, Braidwood Lions, Braidwood Lodge of Truth, The Braidwood Motor Club and The Braidwood Servicemen's Club, the course will be held on Saturday the 2nd of September, 2023 at the Transport Industries Skills Centre in Majura. The course runs for 8 hours.

Braidwood APEX president, Tom Watson said "The aim is to promote an awareness of factors that contribute to collisions on the road and to decrease vehicle running costs".

All applicants must hold a current Probationary Licence and will be required to produce the Licence on the day. One person per vehicle (which is provided by the applicant); participants to wear neat, casual attire. Thongs and bare feet are not accepted.

Due to the generosity of the five sponsor organisations, the cost of the course, which is $280, has been fully funded. Participants are required to pay a $50 deposit with a completed application form.

These forms are available from Braidwood Central School or Braidwood Community Bank. The $50 deposit will be refunded to course attendees. Should you wish a form to be emailed, please contact Nick Fry at the Community Bank on 48421700 or nicholas.fry @bendigobank.com.au .

Forms are to be returned to Nick upon completion.

Please note that this course is limited to 16 drivers only, with those first in guaranteed a place. Preference is given to Red P Platers, however, Green P Platers are invited to submit their interest and will be given the opportunity to participate should there be sufficient space.

Braidwood APEX will also provide a BBQ lunch on the day.

A participant from last year left this snippet of feedback:

"Look, I'll admit it — I initially signed up for the defensive driving course under the pretence that I would get to do skids. As it turns out, though, this course was way more than just skidding around a bit. The combination of theory, practice and a sausage sandwich for lunch ended up making this one of the most comprehensive and delightful driving courses I've ever done.

"Having the opportunity to participate without even paying for it is not something I take for granted. I would highly recommend this to anyone on their P- plates, as it teaches you a lot of important skills to take into your everyday driving, and honestly, this one day on the track really feels as if it is worth five years of driving experience."

The course commences at 8am (arrival time 7.45am) and finishes at 4pm.

Please direct enquiries to Derek Tooth on 0402 530 456 or Nick Fry on 48421700

Okay, okay; we know this is just the Enforcement Droid ED-209 from the movie RoboCop *but it did go feral, remember?*

Army confirms live fire of remote-control vehicle

Robert Dougherty writes on the *Defence Connect* web news service

The Australian Army has confirmed a technological leap with the firing of a remote weapon system from a remote-controlled vehicle for the first time.

The Australian Defence Force was able to fire a remote weapon system from an Australian Army M113AS4 armoured logistics vehicle during human-machine team exercise at Puckapunyal Military Area, Victoria, on 7 June this year.

The exercise was conducted by the Australian Army's Robotic and Autonomous Systems Implementation and Coordination Office (RICO) with plans to converge several emerging technology projects into a simulated future warfare environment.

During the first Land Autonomous Systems and Teaming demonstration, RICO was able to operate drones, robots, and optionally crewed combat vehicles fitted with remote weapon systems within a conventional combined arms team to defeat a simulated enemy.

RICO director Colonel Robin Smith said his organisation helps Army stay ahead of the game so soldiers and Australia aren't exposed to a more capable adversary.

"With the rate of innovation that's going on across the world, we need to understand both how to use and protect against these technologies," COL Smith said.

"We want Army to have that asymmetric advantage."

It's hoped the achievement will allow development of an armoured combined arms team for the Australian Army to reduce risk to soldiers."There's an incredible amount of potential in that range of technologies, with its true potential still to be discovered and understood, but we're certainly moving towards that," Colonel Smith said.

"We're pursuing this idea of successful failure. There's no progress without it."

COL Smith said the aim was to converge several RICO projects into a simulated future warfare environment.

"The most powerful way of operating autonomy is as a human-machine team," he said.

"We wanted to see how humans and intelligent machines can work together."

Whan meets with teachers at Club

Alisa Stephens

Our members appreciated the opportunity to meet with our local member as part of the NSWTF campaign calling on the Minns government to Honour The Deal.

Teachers are holding firm that a new award which addresses both salaries and working conditions is essential for protecting the future of public education in this state. With more than 3000 teacher vacancies in NSW, and teacher resignations outstripping retirements, it is imperative that these award negotiations are resolved quickly to turn around this crippling teacher shortage.

Steve Whan said "It was good to hear directly from Braidwood teachers about the challenges they have with staffing shortages and workload. It really emphasised that the current negotiations on a wage agreement need to be focused both on getting NSW teachers to the top of the national teaching pay scales but just as importantly on reducing the overwhelming administrative workload that is producing burn out and seeing people leave the profession."

Battery fires increasing – dispose of batteries safely

Steve Whan MP, Member for Monaro media release

Fire and Rescue NSW are responding to an increasing number of battery fires, highlighting the need to dispose of batteries safely at the end of their useful life, says Member for Monaro, Steve Whan.

Mr Whan said "Fire and Rescue NSW data shows a 20% increase in battery-related fire or explosion incidents compared to the first half of last year. Many of those are lithium battery fires in homes, garbage trucks and tips.

"The message from our hard-working fire fighters is that batteries should never be put in household bins, they should be dropped off at a battery collection site.

"When they are dropped off correctly, 95% of battery components can be recycled.

"In Monaro there are a number of drop off points for batteries including the council operated waste transfer stations in Jindabyne, Bombala, Cooma, Bungendore and Queanbeyan.

"In addition, many local supermarkets have recycling bins including most Woolworths and Aldi stores. A full list and local search can be found at bcycle.com.au/drop-off/

"Devices with embedded batteries including mobile phones should be disposed of separately an e-waste facility."

Mollie Collins — celebrated woman from the Araluen district: 'hotel keeper, florist and envisionist.

Celebrated women of Braidwood

Jill Clarke

Have you ever wondered what the women of the Braidwood District have been doing to elevate the community!

The curators at the Braidwood Museum have wondered that too and they wish to fix the balance of the history by highlighting the contribution of women to our area. The history of Braidwood has been dominated by men's roles over the last 200 years of European settlement.

There is a small area of the museum that has been allocated to highlight some of the women's stories. The worry is that there are too many stories and not enough space.

So, the solution is that the curators will rotate the stories over the next year or so. Eventually these stories will be transformed into a book.

If you have a story, please contact the Braidwood Museum and your celebrated Braidwood woman can be highlighted.

You are welcome to view our first collection of stories. The Braidwood Museum is open from 11.00am to 2.00pm each Friday and Saturday. Free entry will allow you to view the other exhibitions as well. All welcome!

THE LAW *Angela Backhouse*

Directions to take unpaid leave during temporary shutdown periods

Shutdown periods are a common business practice during calendar holiday periods such as over the Christmas and New Year period.

A shutdown period refers to a particular period when a business is temporarily closed.

Employees with an entitlement to annual leave are often directed to take annual leave during these periods. As such, employees will often accrue and keep their annual leave balance, in forethought of ensuring their balance will cover them during the shutdown period. However, where an employee has an insufficient balance of annual leave hours to cover this period, they often find themselves in a predicament. In this instance, the leave policy of many employers will require the employees to take unpaid leave.

What has changed?

As of 1 May 2023, employers are prohibited from directing employees covered by any of the 78 impacted modern awards to take unpaid leave during any business shut down periods.

This change follows the 22 December 2022 decision of the full bench of the Fair Work Commission to amend 78 of the modern awards by implementing a clause which protects employees from being forced to take unpaid leave during shutdown eriods. These amendments are now in operation. Some of the impacted awards impacted include:

- *Clerks—Private Sector Award 2020* (clause 32.5).
- *General Retail Industry Award 2020* (clause 28.4).
- *Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2020* (clause 30.4).
- *Professional Employees Award 2020* (clause 18.4).

The changes also impose an obligation of employers (in all 78 impacted modern awards) to provide their employees with a minimum of 28 days' notice in writing, notifying employees of the dates and details of the temporary shutdown period.

How does this affect you?

Employers of employees covered by any of the 78 impacted modern awards need to be aware that they are now prohibited from directing employees to take unpaid leave during a shutdown period. Employees equally should be aware of their entitlements regarding leave during their workplace shutdown period.

As the Christmas and New Year period approaches, employers must be aware of their obligations in the following circumstances.

If the employee has a sufficient annual leave balance:

- an employer cannot direct the employee to take annual leave; and
- can mutually agree with the employee to take paid annual leave during the shutdown period. This agreement must be in writing.

If the employee does not have a sufficient leave balance:

- the employee can come to a mutual agreement with the employer to take unpaid leave for the shutdown period. This must have the genuine consent of the employee and must be in writing; or
- if the employee's applicable Award permits, the employee can agree to take annual leave in advance during the shutdown period.

If the employee does not have a sufficient leave balance and does not agree to take unpaid leave or leave in advance:

- the employer can allow the employee to work if this is in line with the needs of the business; or
- the employer must pay the employee for the time for which annual leave cannot be taken.

The changes significantly impact the management of employees leave during shutdown periods. Navigating these changes can be complex for many employers and ensuring that your business is protected can be difficult. Now is a crucial time to seek legal assistance to review any existing employment contracts, leave policies or procedures to ensure compliance with the new provisions and protection of your business from potential liability.

Contact the Workplace Law Team at Chamberlains Law Firm for further information about employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Voice, controversies and problems

Voting in Australian elections is rightly, not enough for the various Aboriginal groups and nations which shows something is wrong in our rather sleepy democracy.

For many thousands of we non-Aboriginal Australians need a Voice also to parliament after decades of voting having none or little of our concerns dealt with on a national level, in a country where two major political clubs are allowed to own politics with no justification whatsoever.

All is scatty, and the bottom third or so of the population is in rather a dismal state, black, white and brindle. Economic growth but no economic or cultural development, nationalism dwindling to little or no control over our economy; as ever we are the long paddock of overseas interests. In the 1915 survey by the Commonwealth government a third of our wealth went directly overseas, so nothing has changed. Local products are at the lowest level than ever. We are integrated ever more with the U.S. pop culture, its military, and we even follow local North American news as though it is our own.

That is different problem, but if the Voice succeeds the Aboriginal population will have to deal with what now, all Australian policies cannot or don't want to alter. No sacred sites are permanently secure from the current raking of wealth without cease over of the entire continent by large investors — and some Aboriginal groups don't mind this, but want a share of it.

The dramatic decline of our traditional Western culture is visible. The Opera House hasn't even got a proper orchestra and the National Art Gallery can't keep out the rain. At the local level in the endless suburbs it is more desolate. Decline in literature, philosophy, political science, music, religion, all replaced by International Pop, with education near confined at schools and universities to Business Studies, Science and Technology. This mainly serves the financial oligarchs of New York, Tokyo, Beijing and Moscow, and the technological march of militarism. There is no public debate on these problems in the public arena on any ethical or political level, only about finance and debt.

The lack of critical studies today is reflected in the Voice in one instance out of many. It has been stated, with what proofs is difficult to discover, that some tribes, families or nations, grew crops, created towns, and had ingenious ways of managing conservation and could control erosion.

The term First Nation itself contains two dubious definitions which only the burying of some facts can be allowed to pass. There was and is no Aboriginal nation; tribes, sub-groups and nations were and are independent, much as Europe is not a nation. Lumping people together because of colour is not good enough. Today's Aborigines are not the First but the Nation Immediately Before white conquest and settlement. How many invasions, new peoples, came down and across from the north over sixty thousand years, what internal conflicts and shifts of boundaries occurred we don't know but to assume otherwise is unworthy propaganda. A few changes and migrations have been traced.

> The upshot is that the aboriginal movement now is no different to any political movement, it's a political party with aims, different views among different members over the entire country. And why not? Go for it!

There have emerged in public speeches spurious racial beliefs, which aren't opposed, that 'Aboriginality' cannot be diluted which is biological nonsense. In any case no cultural qualities or beliefs emerge in infants from the womb and all have to be taught. In direct contradiction older Aborigines are strenuously educating the young in Aboriginal ways for they know this would wait forever to emerge by itself.

'Aboriginality' as a concept or an inborn fact is a fantasy and another form of racism.

The sad thing is, with modern Western cultural, religious and political science bankrupt, so many convert, as to a religion, to Aboriginality, on the basis of having such an ancestor. This nonsense is not opposed even in scientific circles. It demonstrates rather the yearning for so many in these crass and completely commercial times, for belief, a religion, with all the arts of poetry, legends, song, rituals and dance that can be practised. Thus, what we have is now a religious movement like Methodism over two centuries ago, not a racial question.

When anyone tells someone like myself (this repeated endlessly in the media) "you're a migrant," this immediately puts me off, and I reply, "rubbish, I was born here." It reminds me of the rigidness of boarding schools where the 1st years have to give way to any senior to them with extra deference and privileges. We all have the same relationship to Nature and reality, all human, just different attitudes and insights and mythologies regarding the same mysteries in each culture. And don't we treat all yesterday's arrivals as citizens and equals as soon as possible?

Endless apology and guilt won't change anything of the dismal history of the entire planet which is the story of wars, displacements, massacres, drivings-out and reduction to slavery. All are guilty in some way but constant confessions of guilt don't alter the past and endlessly telling people they are victims doesn't do them much good either.

A sad thing, close to mockery, is to continually 'acknowledge' Aboriginal lands even if they are buried completely under the weight and spread of buildings, of motor transport, concrete, factories and other pollutions with no semblance of the old Australia visible. And the countryside cleared and smoothed for crops.

We older Australians are experiencing the same destruction of loved country a few generations back, with the dreadful expansion of 'cities' and rural decline and neglect (in my case, old Pennant Hills, Terrigal, Horsley Park, Whitton and Coomealla); cities becoming ever closer to being like Mexico City (without its giant squares), not squalid like Mumbai, but resembling in thousands of close-tiled roofs of housing more like up-market refugee camps served only by supermarkets and clubs.

As an old Aborigine interviewed sitting near the Darling River told a reporter, "it's industrial and financial capitalism which is the real enemy" — so beyond these days our control.

The Australian Constitution itself is a difficulty. It is relevant to so little in Australian life and decisions and contains absurdities such as The Prime Minister and the Governor General may each sack the other depending on who is the quickest on the draw. Another, the G.G is the Commander of the Armed Forces. Whole banks of lawyers oppose each other with contrary views on its wordage and application, it is so shoddy. Even the U.S. cannot avoid like conflicts over its more relevant and attractive constitution. There is no such thing in law or politics as a Voice, only the order of words on pages which are endlessly debatable. And life and its problems always jumps ahead.

One thing is near certain, whether Yes or No wins the referendum it will not be the end of the debates but will stir supine Australian political life, a very good thing.

Julian Woods
Lower Boro

Damaged power lines at Cobargo following the 2019-2020 bushfires.

Solar farm and battery to provide resilience

Helen Haski, President Braidwood Clean Energy Inc.

Braidwood and its surrounds are connected to the electricity grid via a high voltage line from Captains Flat.

This line runs overland and if it gets broken, our community ceases to have power until it is repaired. This line between Braidwood and Captains Flat could be broken due to hazardous weather or bushfires. The town of Cobargo knows this all too well, as the 2019-2020 bushfires destroyed the poles and wires and left them without power for 10 days.

Braidwood Clean Energy (BCE) has been talking to ITP, a developer of town scale solar farms, about making our community more resilient and less vulnerable to grid outages. Since the fires, ITP has been helping Cobargo by building a 'microgrid' which will mean that if they are disconnected from the grid, they can operate independently. ITP is now proposing the same for Braidwood and is seeking funding from the government body ARENA, to do so. This microgrid for Braidwood would consist of a solar farm and a community scale battery to provide the town with uninterrupted electricity in the event of grid outages. ITP is currently securing land from private landholders between Braidwood and Majors Creek area in preparation. When these contracts are finalised, the location of the land will be shared by ITP and if the microgrid proceeds, the neighbours of the nominated land will be consulted via the DA process.

ITP will design, construct and sell the infrastructure to shareholders, and Braidwood residents will have the opportunity to invest. The solar behind the microgrid will double the renewable generation capacity of the local grid to 75%1 and contribute to Australia's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, including the government's goal of 82% renewables by 2030.

Call to Action

This initiative is made possible with grant funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and without this funding the microgrid cannot proceed. ARENA will require letters of support from Braidwood's community groups to consider funding this initiative, with the deadline for these letters of support being the end of August. The short-term goal of BCE is to secure these letters from various community groups around Braidwood.

Braidwood Clean Energy Inc. (BCE) was established to promote renewable electricity that is low-cost, community-based, and resilient. A not for profit, BCE also aims to reduce our electrical consumption by promoting energy efficiency measures.

BRAIDWOOD CLEAN ENERGY

$1250 in prizes for student photo competition in QPRC

Cassandra Miller, QPRC Communications and Engagement

Council is inviting school-age children to enter their photos of Spring in Queanbeyan Palerang.

"*Picture This ... Spring in QPRC* is a competition for young people to show their photography skills and have their work exhibited in our community," said Mayor, Cr. Kenrick Winchester."

The competition is a fun way for students to share what they love about living here, whether it's their friends, family, the landscape, or something else.

We'd love to see images that capture in a photograph what the spring season means to you.

There are two age categories, 5-12 years and 12-18 years, which will be judged by an award-winning local photographer and exhibited at the Bungendore Artisan Markets.

The photos will be shown at the Markets from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 23 September. This will also be the community's only opportunity to vote for the People's Choice award.

The prizes are sponsored by the Braidwood and Bungendore Bendigo Community Bank Branches and include:

Best Photo 5-12 years

Bendigo bank account with $500

Best Photo 12-18 years

Bendigo bank account with $500

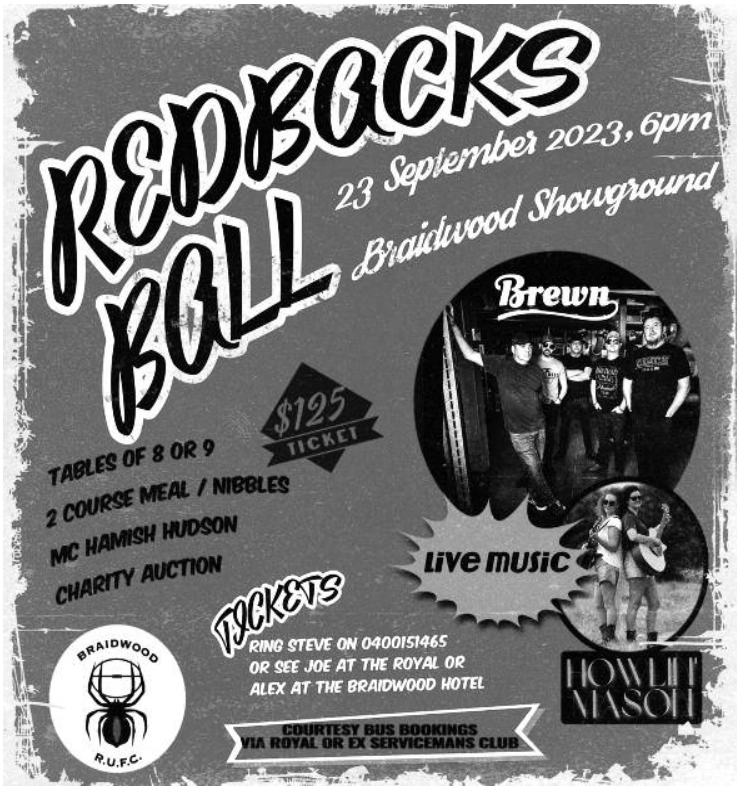
People's Choice

Bendigo bank account with $250

Entrants must be residents of the Queanbeyan Palerang LGA and submit their photos online between 21 August and 18 September at bit.ly/QPRC-PTS

All the prizes will be announced at 2pm on Saturday 23 September at the Bungendore Artisan Markets.

Find the complete Terms and Conditions at bit.ly/QPRC-PTS



Araluen Creek Restoration Project 2021-2023 — celebration and project video launch

Larry O'Loughlin, USLC

Over the last two years since 2021, Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council has assisted the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group with their Araluen Creek Restoration Project 2021-2023.

It has been a very big project for Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group and the challenges were ongoing: Covid, nineteen extraordinary rainfall events, landslips causing delays for delivery of materials and all of this managed by a voluntary committee. Yet it is done.

The chunky part of the project was large scale erosion control works along the creek. However, the project also focused on other necessary elements to look after Araluen Creek, such as building community awareness, riparian health and waterwatch monitoring, re-vegetation, weed control and measures to keep stock out of the creek by fencing and providing alternative water sources.

In addition, we have looked at small scale erosion control measures that landholders can put in place. In June 2023, Soil Conservation Services completed the last big erosion control works, May 2023 saw another two planting days and the completion of filming for the project video. Meanwhile a website is being created to tell the project story.

To mark the end of the project Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group in partnership with Upper Shoalhaven Landcare are hosting a celebratory afternoon tea to thank everyone who has assisted with the project, all the volunteers, participants and presenters of workshops as well as anyone interested in learning more about the project. The afternoon will also feature the premiere of the project video.

All welcome, please let us know if you can attend. (see ad)

What: Celebrate the Araluen Creek Restoration Project 2021-2023 plus watch the premiere of the project video by local award winning filmmaker Clare Young

Where: Federal Hall, 5989 Araluen Rd, Araluen

When: 2.00pm, Saturday 9 September 2023

Afternoon tea will be provided. Contact Larry on 0419 266 110 for more information.

Upper Deua Catchment Landcare

WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

By now, we should all have received our official referendum booklet from the Australian government about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

I was actually surprised to see it turn up on Monday, as I was quite young when the last referendum happened, and I don't recall receiving the same booklet when we were asked if Australia wanted to become a republic. This booklet outlines both the case to vote yes and the case to vote no, and is worth a quick read-through, even if you already know which way you're voting.

Markets

The Ryrie Park Market is on Saturday, 26th August from 8am.

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.

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Braidwood Tennis Club's AGM is on 23rd August at 7pm at the Club. New members welcome.

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 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 1.00pm

Trivia - 1st Wednesday of every month. 6.30pm 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. For a full timetable, please look https://www.braidwooddancestudio.com/timetable here.

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 tterms. 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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Braidwood Tennis Club are doing a Fast 4 social singles competition on Sunday, 27th August from 10am to 1pm. For further information, please get in touch by email on braidwoodtennisclub@gmail.com or message/call George on 0447 543 860.

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Braidwood Pistol and Target Shooting Club invite new members to join. The club has served Braidwood for more than thirty years, and caters to all members of the community. They offer introductory shoots and club pistols for anyone who would like to experience pistol shooting. If you are interested, please contact braidwoodpandtc@gmail.com

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

Bungendore Artisan Markets

The Artisan Markets will come alive from 10am to 2pm, on Saturday 23 September.

Vendors will line both sides of Ellendon Street, along with free face painting for the kids and some live music to add to the atmosphere.

▶ If you would like to come along as a vendor, please register online at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/events**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	**Closing Date**
Council-Related Development Application conflict of interest policy	24 August
Draft Contaminated Land Policy	31 August
Review Crown Road Management Policy 2023	7 September
Annual Donations 2023-24	13 September

▶ 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**

- General Equipment Operator
- Leading Hand Construction Grader
- Manager - Transport and Facilities

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

Heritage Grants APPLY NOW

Heritage Grants help local residents complete works to preserve their heritage buildings.

Applications for the 2023-24 grants are now open and close midnight Monday 30 October.

For more information or to answer specific questions you can get in touch with our Land-Use Planning Team on 6285 6276 or email landuseadmin@qprc.nsw.gov.au

▶ Read the grant guidelines and apply at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/Community/Grants-Donations#section-2**

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:
- 13 September
- 27 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.

Volunteering Expo in Queanbeyan

Are you looking to give back to your Community, have some time on your hands or want to make new friends?

The Volunteering Expo is the perfect opportunity to chat with all kinds of organisations and learn about volunteering opportunities in our community.

It is a FREE event, with live music and a BBQ. It's on Sunday 17 September from 10am - 3pm at Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan.

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

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

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Think carefully before you speak.

Here is a Bible verse we should all commit to memory: *'The one who guards his mouth protects his life; the one who opens his lips invites his own ruin'* (Proverbs 13:3)

Simply put, your tendency to speak without thinking will keep getting you into trouble.

The story is told of a vacuum cleaner salesman who had been given a remote rural area as his territory. He was going from farmhouse to farmhouse on his first day on the job, attempting to sell vacuum cleaners.

When he arrived at one farmhouse, he knocked on the door and was met by the farmer's wife who asked him what he wanted. Without asking permission, he shoved right past her into the kitchen and said, 'I'm selling vacuum cleaners.' Shocked, she replied, 'Wait a minute!'

But he demanded, 'Ma'am, before you say anything, I want to show you something.' Then he reached into his bag, pulled out a packet of dirt, and threw if across her kitchen floor. 'If my vacuum cleaner won't pick up all that dirt,' He bragged, 'then I'll eat it!'

She looked at him and said, 'Well young man, you'd better get busy, 'cause we don't have electricity!'

How often do we have to eat the words we so recklessly toss on the floor of everyday living? Be careful.

Jesus said one day, we will give an account for every idle word we speak. So unless you want to eat your words, think carefully before speaking.

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

Stories from scripture will be read next Sunday 27th August, during our 10am worship service in St Andrew's Anglican church, Elrington St, Braidwood.

All are welcome – you are invited to join us for the service and, as we have electricity connected, a cuppa will be served after the service.

Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 angbraidwood@bigpond.com

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 16:13-20 by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings this Sunday highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it.

Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

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Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm Saturday 26 August

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly wood Raffle. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Home cooking is much appreciated. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench 0418 262 011

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Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated this Sunday 27th August. The theme for the year is, Live, Learn, Love - A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

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Mass Saturdays (Vigil) at 6.00pm

No weekday Masses until further notice.

Braidwood Uniting Church

Rough inspiration

"Graham, you talk to this boy and tell what will happen to him if he keeps misbehaving".

These were the words from a very upset voice that called me yesterday. The voice belonged to a foster mother who I have known for a long time. While I'd say she is a rough diamond, she is certainly a diamond. She's given her life to caring for kids who would otherwise have no-one. But being a "big stick" has never been one of my strong points. I tried to let the woman talk long enough for her to calm a little before I spoke with this little boy who didn't know me from a bar of soap.

The more we talked the more I discovered that the woman had many things that contributed to her frustration. She's not a well woman. She has pushed her own health concerns to the background for many years on the ground that she is needed by kids who cannot afford for her to be unhealthy. A couple of weeks ago she got some news that cannot be ignored. There are financial pressures. There always have been, but recently a car playing up, and expenses related to the children have added a degree of anxiety. There is a complex tangle of family relationships and in an exercise of poor timing, marriages appear to be ending while unexpected pregnancies are a worry.

Add to all of this, is a boy whose mother is in prison and who is unlikely to be released any time soon and even if she was, it seems unlikely that she will make the effort to care for her 10 year old boy. He is being excluded from school regularly because of some bullying behaviour and he has certainly made life hard for the foster mother. He's only 10 years old and I can barely imagine what he's seen and known in his short life. The foster mother loves him, really loves him but she's a bit inclined to yell harsh words when under pressure.

This story doesn't finish with "an answer". I have no magic wand. I couldn't frighten a little boy even if I wanted to. It's true that there are massive consequences at play. If the boy was to lose his foster mother, his future looks bleak, but he doesn't know it; how could he possible know it. What I do know is that the foster mother is an unsung hero who gives all she has for the sake of any child who needs her. She isn't keen on religion and yet she's the best example I know of all the things that I aspire to be. By the time our call finished, the world seemed to be a lot better and she had found again her bottomless pit of love and mercy.

There are some good people in the world.

grahamlong@mac.com

January 2024 Braidwood Community Book Fair

Only 5 months to go!

Now's the time to deliver your donations as book sorting is underway.

Deliver your unwanted books to our sorting/storage facility around behind St Andrew's Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood

Please leave them in the car-port if we are not there.

The Book Fair will be held Wed 24 through to Sun 28 Jan 2024

We request that donations are NOT taken to the Fair but delivered any day/any time to the above location so they can be pre-sorted. Thank you.

Contact: braidwoodbookfair@gmail.com

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Saturday competition results, August 19

Men's 2BBB Stableford – Greg & Les Hart Trophy. Many thanks for your continuing support & good to see you Greg. Cheers to Les.

Winners: Mike Fitzgerald & Don Burke 46 pts

Runners Up: David Goddard & Terry Hughes 44 pts c/b

NTP 6/15: Nelson Sargent

Ball Comp: Barry McDonald & Tom Duffy 44 , Allan Walcott & Rodney Royds 43

Handicap Changes: David Goddard down 1 to 32, Barry McDonald down 1 to 33,

Michael Toirkens out 1 to 7

Women's Single Stableford – V & M Trophy. Many thanks to Wendy and Anthony for your ongoing sponsorship.

Winner: Debbie Ferguson 37 pts

Runner Up: Donna Kuhn 29 pts

Ball Comp: Margy Gardner 28, Judy Scott 25

Handicap Changes: Margy Gardner out 1 to 30

Coming Events

August 26 Saturday: Medley 2BBB Stableford - Michael Eisen Trophy

September 2 Saturday: Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medals

September 9 Saturday: Men's Single Stableford – Terry Hughes Trophy

Women's Single Stroke – Di Freeman Trophy

September 10 Sunday: Braidwood Women's Open Day

Don't forget the Braidwood Women's Open is coming up on Sunday September 10. Entries close Sept 1 and the entry form is now up on the board. Donations for the Raffle Table will be greatly appreciated and can be left in the golf room at any time. We would be very grateful for any help with food preparation and donations for raffle prizes. Our Open Day is renowned throughout the region for the country hospitality we put on for our visitors.

Grateful thanks go to Allan Walcott, Rodney Royds and Keith Ferguson who attended the working bee last Tuesday. They spent the morning filling up and seeding a lot of the irrigation lines across the 4th fairway.

STOP PRESS

HAD ANOTHER BOOSTER YET?

Braidwood runners hit the streets (and the trails)

When Braidwood's Parkrun was put on indefinite hold late last year due to the installation of the new lights at the showground, a small group of local running enthusiasts took matters into their own hands.

Ben Ebejer moved to Braidwood last year and thought social running would be a great way to meet local people. Also, he says, he was sick of running on his own. He mustered up a few more runners, started a Facebook group so they could stay in touch easily, and the Braidwood Running Co was up and, well, running.

The group has a schedule which Ben says is "not set in stone" of two group runs a week: Monday or Tuesday morning starting at 6.30am from Ryrie Park, and Thursday evening at the Rec Ground at 6.30pm. These times may change with daylight saving in October.

Additionally, there is a monthly "long run", either a trail in the Braidwood area, or just some longer laps around town. One of the highlights for the group so far was the Kowen Forest run last month, with a number of Braidwood participants who all enjoyed the outing immensely.

The group has a core membership of around 10, but Ben says they average only three or four on most runs. However, he is keen to see the group grow. Contact is via Braidwood Running Co Facebook group or Instagram.

"This is where I post all the information around any organised runs that are coming up or just fun things happening in the running world," said Ben.

The onset of warmer weather may be an added incentive for runners to venture out.

Meanwhile, Parkrun is hoping to restart in the near future. Watch the Braidwood Parkrun Facebook page for news. Parkruns are held at 8.00am every Saturday. Until the Braidwood Showground reopens, the nearest Parkruns are Batemans Bay, Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra Mountain Reserve or Goulburn.

STAR TIMES

Facebook'emDanno

"There's only a few hours to go until we close the gate on the giveaway of this beautifully rare 1975 Holden LH Torana SL/R 5000. This Aussie classic is the real deal, a genuine SL/R 5000 with matching numbers. Get double entries now, and we could be calling YOU tomorrow when we draw the winner." That is really weird, it must be a time warp. I get the same FB message every night and there is always mere moments to go before the draw.

YoucanKISSmybutt

"Following the investigation, as part of a court-enforceable undertaking accepted by the ACMA, the licensee agreed to deliver sensitivity training to the program hosts, producers, censors and other relevant staff." Yet again those two rude, but high-rating, announcers have gone beneath contempt and suffered the wrist-slapping wrath of the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

Acompletedisconnect

"Decarbonising our world requires a collective, global effort by countries and companies working together. Trafigura is helping to decarbonise commodity supply chains and provide a bridge to a low-carbon world." This is what the website says. In other news though one might find this announcement. "Australian Pacific Coal Limited refers to its announcement ... that it had received a non-binding Letter of Intent from Trafigura Pte Ltd, for up to US$50 million in debt funding to enable the restart of Dartbrook underground coal mine in the Hunter Valley.

Electrickyarguments

And of course all the doom and gloom stories about EVs are all the rage. To whit: *"Electric vehicles get a lot of energy from regenerative braking, which is the process of getting some power back from stopping or coasting. During city driving, you use your brakes a lot, which reduces your energy consumption. However, while driving on the highway, there is far less or even no braking, so the batteries drain quickly."* The person who wrote that must have slept through science class.

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Contributions desperately welcome.