BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #89 — $2.00

Wednesday October 18 2023

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	3°	20°	5%
Thur:	4°	24°	0%
Fri:	5°	27°	0%
Sat:	7°	28°	15%
Sun:	10°	21°	10%
Mon:	5°	22°	0%
Tue:	1°	23°	0%

The 'One Tree' on its hill at Braidwood Ridge at the south end of town.

Safeguarding the past to inform the future

Robin Tennant Wood

"I saved the tree but not the hill," is Margaret Royds' summation of her campaign to save Braidwood's One Tree Hill.

The eponymous tree, a towering ribbon gum *(Eucalyptus viminalis)*, visible from most parts of town as a lone sentry on the hill overlooking the new development on Braidwood Ridge, was slated for removal by the Queanbeyan-based developer of the new housing estate.

Mrs Royds says, "it was claimed that the tree was diseased. As soon as I hear someone say a tree is diseased and has to be cut down, I know they're up to something."

Sure enough, when Mrs Royds got the council's arborist to investigate, it transpired that there was nothing wrong with the tree and council agreed that it should remain. While council did approve the development of the hill itself, the developer was required to build a stone retaining wall around it when cutting the circuit and marking out the building lots.

The ribbon gum has a local significance stretching back long before European settlement. A keen local historian, Margaret Royds said that Emma Coghill's 1856 diary, which records some of the earliest European settlement of the Braidwood district, notes that the area around One Tree Hill was a corroboree site. The late Yuin elder, Uncle Max (Dulumunmun) Harrison, confirmed this some years ago.

Felicity Sturgiss, from Local Land Services, told the *Changing Times* that the local Indigenous people were 'Munkata' Yuin, which referred to the fact they were sustained by the great ribbon gums.

"There are a scattering of these grand old *viminalis* from Bedervale across to Gillamatong mountain. In a similarly aged tree on Gillamatong Lane, numerous species of birds jostle for over ten hollow spaces in the one tree! Gliders would have used them too back when there were enough trees to glide between," Ms Sturgiss said.

The old cemetery

One Tree Hill was not Margaret Royds' only crusade to preserve Braidwood's history. For over 40 years she has been actively involved in restoring and mapping the old cemetery. Mrs Royds told the *Changing Times* that she was the convenor of the Braidwood and District Historical Society's Cemetery Committee. In about 1980, during a prolonged drought, the cemetery, then very much overgrown with weeds, was sprayed with herbicide.

"Then there was a storm," Mrs Royds recalled, "and a lot of the local families' graves were washed out.

"We put in a contour bank for flood mitigation to divert floodwater to the creek and then we formed a group of people who planted trees along the back of the cemetery and put in drains."

Margaret Royds

There had been considerable vandalism of some of the graves, and Mrs Royds said that the group approached the school and got together a group of students who planted the trees along the street.

> "We took the kids for a tour around the cemetery and showed them some of the historic graves and talked about the history. Best thing I ever did. We haven't had any vandalism in there since then."

Mrs Royds believes that giving the school students a sense of ownership and connection has allowed them to view the old cemetery with a sense of local pride.

Since then, with financial assistance from the Bendigo Bank and the Historical Society, Margaret

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL *Robin Tennant Wood*

The art of the story is in the listening

Humans are natural storytellers. Since our ancestors came down from the trees, we have been telling stories.

The oral tradition of storytelling existed long before the graphic and written forms as a means of carrying our history. We learn from the past in order to build a future. Whether it's a yarn told around a campfire, a tale told at Granddad's table, or a hilarious anecdote in a wedding speech, our stories are our footholds to the future.

The story of Australia is a long and very rich one. The oldest landmass on earth, it contains rocks dated to 3000 million years ago, preceding the evolution of homo sapiens by around 2999 million years. The ancient Gondwana landscape, the supercontinent that ultimately divided to form Australia, Antarctica, South America, South Africa and India, was home to towering rainforests and giant megafauna.

The first humans arrived on what became the Australian continent around 65,000 years ago, and so began the naming of things. Each mountain, river, lake and desert became known by its name. All the beaches, headlands, bays and inlets sprang to life as entities in their own right. Named too were all the plants and animals, and they became known not only for what they were, but for the food, shelter or tools they could provide. The vast unknown and unknowable Gondwana became known to the people who belonged to her and they told her story as well as their own.

In the 16th Century more people began to arrive. White men on ships that sailed along the coastline. They also took stories of this country back to their own lands, and the stories they told were written down. By the 18th Century these stories of a great land in the south had gained popular and political traction and finally a new group of people arrived to stay. Cast out from their own society, they carved a new life in this land, knowing nothing about the names and the stories that preceded them, but creating and telling their own stories. Instead of belonging to the country, however, they sought to have her belong to them.

Two hundred and thirty-five years later, we know many of the original people's stories, those that predate by millennia the stories of the various waves of settlers and immigrants that have arrived since 1788. We own our stories, but equally, our stories own us. Telling our stories is important, but a story is just a jumble of words unless it has listeners. If people turn away from the storyteller, that story will die. It needs listeners to carry it forward.

Stories bear living testament to what has gone before and inform what is to come. All the stories of Australia, those of the land itself, her original people and the later arrivals, together, weave a tapestry that takes us all the way back to Gondwana. Yet so many of us fail to see how the weft and the warp of those stories fit together. We can't see the texture of the tapestry because we have failed to listen.

When we fail to listen, we fail to learn. And when we fail to learn, we fail to grow.

The current Council — now minus one.

Cr Edwina Webster resigns

QPRC media

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has acknowledged and accepted the resignation of Cr Edwina Webster for personal reasons.

Mayor Kenrick Winchester thanked Cr Webster for her service to the community as a Councillor.

'Cr Webster is a dedicated advocate for our rural villages and farming families, and always a passionate Councillor, particularly around issues close to home in Bungendore, representing her community with energy.

'Cr Webster will be missed as a part of Council, and we wish her well. She took a specific interest in the Molonglo Rail Trail, finding solutions for the lead contamination along the railway line in Bungendore and Captains Flat and the proposed Bungendore High School.'

'As a local volunteer, Cr Webster has been championing the needs of our sporting associations in the development of the Bungendore Sports Hub and new Swimming Pool.'

Cr Webster served on various committees during her time on Council, including Lake George Bush Fire Management Committee, Lake George District Liaison Committee, Lake George Emergency Management Committee, Bungendore Floodplain Risk Management Committee, and the Mick Sherd Oval Canteen Committee.

As it is within 11 months of the next election, which will be held on 14 September 2024, Council is not able to use countback provisions to fill the vacancy. Council will apply to the Minister for Local Government to not fill the vacancy and operate with 10 councillors until the election next year.

Safeguarding the past

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Royds, with the assistance of various other community members, has surveyed and mapped the entire cemetery. This has been of huge assistance to people trying to locate the graves of ancestors, and also masons contracted to restore family graves.

A lot of the graves and headstones were broken and had to be pieced together "like a jigsaw".

Last year, stone mason and grave restorer, Karen Doyle, was very thankful for the cemetery map when she arrived to restore a grave with no idea where to find it. At the time she spoke to the *Changing Times* and said that whoever did the mapping was to be thanked and congratulated, as it minimised the time she would have otherwise spent looking for a grave.

Margaret Royds said that one of the funniest things they discovered while restoring the cemetery was the fact that the religious denominations were divided and fenced with barbed wire.

"If you were in one section of the cemetery and wanted to get to another, you either had to go out the gate, up the road and through another gate, or climb through a barbed wire fence," she said.

The barbed wire was removed as part of the restoration and signage erected to indicate the denominational sections.

While the council now manages the day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the old cemetery, Margaret and her helpers are still actively engaged in the preservation of the graves.

"We've still got one old headstone that needs to be stood up," she said.

Skatepark landscape project gets underway

Robin Tennant Wood

The Braidwood Respect Skatepark was a hive of non-skating activity last week as the project to transform the precinct into a green space and park got underway.

A group of volunteers, mainly from the Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association (BYPAA) and Braidwood Urban Landcare, planted around 18 trees, mostly Japanese elms, crepe myrtles and crab apples.

The project was funded by the Braidwood Garden Club and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council.

One of the drivers behind the building of the skatepark, Catherine Bell, said that QPRC had originally promised to meet the amount of the Garden Club donation, but had, in the end, doubled it.

Ms Bell explained that the placement of the trees, on the north, east and south sides of the skatepark was determined to avoid the leaves falling on to the skating surface with the westerly winds in autumn. She said there is talk of the installation of a frog pond and habitat on the western side.

Prior to the construction of the skatepark, Rec Ground Creek was boxed in and now flows underground from behind the tennis courts on Bowler Street to the west side of Araluen Street. It is designed to withstand flooding and there is a swale to ensure that in the event of a freak storm event, water will flow around the skatepark rather than over it.

Once the trees are grown, the whole area around the skatepark, including the playground and barbecue area behind it, will benefit from summer shade, making it a pleasant recreational space for everyone.

Annie Duke, Braidwood Urban Landcare with some happy planters.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Sleep Apnoea

Overnight sleep studies $50 off during October

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

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

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

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

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

You can book an overnight sleep study, or CPAP Consultation by visiting: https://www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood ... or speaking to our team in-store.

Capital Chemist Braidwood

Hospital Auxiliary Fete

Report by Laura Moriarty

The sun sure shone down on Saturday, 14th October and blessed the annual Braidwood Hospital Auxiliary Fete with wonderful weather. Once more held in the National Theatre, and proudly supported by the Braidwood community, it was as fantastic turnout. Raising $5,387.15 a huge thank you goes out to the volunteers and those responsible for putting this incredible event on.

The raffle winners for all raffles are as follows:

First prize: quilt made by Cecily Bissett – Claire Stalker-Booph

Second prize: outdoor table and chairs – Gloria Muller

First prize: Coffee machine donated by Nomchong's – Matthew Talbot

Second prize: Hamper donated by Braidwood IGA – Peta Harvey

Christmas Cake: made and donated by Joy Thistleton – Kerrin Glover

Plant donated by Bunyip Jungle – David Bullock

Sponsored by Bendigo Bank Braidwood, Braidwood Lions Club, Cecily Bissett, Nomchong Electrics, Bunyip Jungle, Joy Thistleton, Braidwood IGA, Braidwood Butchery, Braidwood Bakery, and Braidwood Antiques.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The real divide, and the gifts still awaiting us.

One of the reasons being cited for the loss of the Voice referendum is that the cost of living is a much more pressing concern for many people.

That's fair enough. It's also true that governments are grossly mismanaging the economy, so that much wealth is diverted into the pockets of rich corporations and billionaires, creating a major social crisis.

We could instead manage for full employment and fair wages, as was done in the post-war years, and be more prosperous for it. All the labour gains of that era have been undone by LibLabNat being captured by special interests.

It's just a big shame the First People cop the resulting anger.

Meanwhile the special interests have a voice – they have special passes into parliament, and they whisper into the ears of our pollies. I'm talking about mining, gambling, arms, banks and so on. We need energy, defence, money and so on, but they are sucking us dry and not delivering what we need. So does anyone care about how THAT divides the country?

My advice – stop voting for the old parties, they are corrupt.

And on dividing the country, the modern society we have here was created at great cost to the First People – dispossession, disconnection, murder (yes) and oppression. Our gain was their loss.

They are the only group in our society for whom that is true. They do hold a special place here. One way or another we need to acknowledge that.

Another sad thing is that the First People have so much to contribute, from Yothu Yindi to caring for the land to how to get along without invading each other. Perhaps this referendum campaign will have alerted some more people to what is there for us, if we are willing to see and hear.

Geoff Davies
Braidwood

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Braidwood and Araluen vote YES

While there are overall patterns to the vote on the Voice, particular locations, including Braidwood, stand out distinctly from the pattern.

Two features of the Yes vote were first, that it was high in remote Indigenous communities, where almost all booths voted substantially for the Voice. And second, it was high among more educated voters. This second factor explains why the Yes vote in the ACT was 60.8%.

The combined Yes vote at the two Braidwood booths was 53%, comprising 63% at the smaller BRAG booth and 46.5% at the larger Central School booth. The Yes vote in Araluen was 54%, but in Majors Creek it was only 44%.

Braidwood stood out in Eden-Monaro, along with a few other rural towns, by voting Yes. Other towns that voted Yes were Bermagui, Tilba, Googong (and parts of Queanbeyan), Gundaroo, Jindabyne, Tathra, Wamboin and Wyndham.

One anomaly was a relatively large informal vote at the Central School booth, at 5.9%, which was 49 votes. This was more than twice the informal vote at any other booth in Eden-Monaro. For comparison, only three NSW electorates (all in western Sydney) had an informal vote higher than 2%. No electorate in any other state or territory had an overall informal vote higher than 1.7%.

The informal vote in both Northern Territory electorates overall was 0.8%. The highest informal vote in any NT booth was 3.9% in the Remote Mobile Team 3, where the Yes vote was 86%. In the largest remote booth in the NT, number 1, comprising 1241 voters, the Yes vote was 85.5%.

Dr Roderic Pitty
Mongarlowe

AUSTRALIA VOTES

The overall national vote:

	YES	NO
	YES 39%	61% NO
NSW	YES 40%	60% NO
VIC	YES 45%	55% NO
QLD	YES 31%	69% NO
WA	YES 36%	64% NO
SA	YES 35%	65% NO
TAS	YES 40%	60% NO

The N. T. and A.C.T. only count in the national tally.

Emil at the fryer as Esmay takes the order.

Fishing for the future

Paul Cockram and Robin Tennant Wood

Working out of a van on Lascelles Street, opposite the pharmacy, Esmay and Emil Hropic provide Braidwood with freshly caught fish and the best chips around, and she wouldn't be anywhere else.

The Hropic family are seventh-generation fishers. "We love what we do," says Esmay.

"We try to look after the fish stocks and the resources. We love to look after the community."

Esmay explains that they practice environmental fishing.

"We have bycatch reduction devices put in our fishing nets that we use, and they're all sustainably accredited through the DPI and the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries.

"Also, OceanWatch is a direct partner with us as well. They've run a course call Master Fishermen program, which we're both accredited and recognised as master fishermen in the industry."

OceanWatch Australia is a national not-for-profit environmental company working to advance sustainability in the Australian seafood industry. As well as running programs for professional fishers, it operates community-based coastal habitat restoration programs.

The Hropics have two boats, Mary Ellis and Melissa. "Then we've got the little boats," says Esmay, "but they don't have names."

They generally go out at nighttime. "We find that's very good. We only catch what we need. We use smaller gear.

"In the estuary fishing, we only do a splashing method. We don't set our gear, which enables the net to be put into the water and you let it sit for a little while and then you lift the nets up.

"Because it's not sitting for hours and hours or overnight, there's no loss of stock. There's no dead or bycatch in the fish. So the fish is optimum size. It's all measured. Anything that may get caught that's undersized is released alive. So that's the really most important thing about our fishing methods.

"Then we catch our fish and we bring it home and we process and then we bring it up to Braidwood where we are actually doing fresh trays as well as whole fish or cooking."

The Hropics sell bream, flathead, trevally, whiting, tailor and salmon.

The time between swimming and plate can be measured in hours, according to Esmay

"We catch it and bring it up here, process it straight away. You'll always be eating the previous day's caught fish. After that we eat it ourselves."

BOOKWORM

Julia Ermert

LOVE AMONG THE BLACKBERRIES

(Or, how to find a good husband)

It's a stormy windy spring, but that's what romance is like, and that's why I am reading it again.

The best romance writer you probably never heard of is Georgette Heyer. Born in London in 1902, before she died in 1974 she had written some 26 Regency romances, plus a few earlier modern books and a dozen detective stories.

She's not Barbara Cartland. That pink lady, somehow with connections to the Royals —on the wrong side of the blanket, of course — famously wrote three or four books at a time, dictating them to typists. She plagiarised Georgette Heyer, who laid subtle traps for her but didn't pursue her in court. Romance writing is a billion-dollar industry, yet it's dismissed as trashy, formulaic and poorly written. Many don't own to reading it themselves, or at least, only in the past tense.

So what is 'the Regency?' Originally it covered the ten years or so (1811–1820) – that 'Prinny,' later George IV, stood in for his father George III, incapacitated by something that would probably make a good article in itself.

But from a broader, more literary viewpoint it can cover roughly 1795 to 1837.

Romance novels typically offer 'happy ever after' endings that are emotionally uplifting. Jane Austen does not necessarily do this. Georgette Heyer gets closer to it, but of course it's debatable, which is why, with both ladies, the discussions never stop!

When it comes to historical romance novels, there are arguments about definitions but most of us settle for something that feels accurate— for instance, you don't call your lovers Kylie and Ringo.

I've just finished reading *Venetia,* published in 1958, when Heyer was probably at the height of her powers. It's a love story, along the lines of Beauty and the Beast. And it starts with a kiss.

Suitably-named Venetia is the beauty, stunningly attractive, even though she's 25, old for a heroine. The beast in the case is the bold bad Baron, Lord Jasper Damerel, who owns the estate next door. He's very rarely there because he committed some rakish misdemeanour in his youth, and his family have cast him off.

Venetia is gathering blackberries. The best blackberries are not in her own well-kept estate, but in the rather wilder one right next door. Venetia runs the family estate, parents dead or presumed so, younger brothers otherwise occupied, the gamekeeper onside.

The Baron, seeing Venetia dressed shabbily — well, wouldn't you be, to gather blackberries?— and unattended by anything except a noisy spaniel, grabs hold of her and kisses her.

The new breed of 'woke' readers is horrified by what they see as sexual harassment, but it's simply social history.

Pro-feminist Venetia is not thrown by this and the ill-assorted couple become friends. They laugh at the same things. They've read the same books. In fact, they throw so many literary quotes back and forth that the reader needs to do extra reading to keep up! They respect each other. They rely on each other. Most telling, neither has ever had a particular friend.

These are typical Heyer hints for husband-hunters. Become friends first. Brain beats brawn. Be courageous. Improve your mind by extensive reading. (Yes, that's Mr Darcy, and another story.)

You'll learn a lot more about Regency worlds because these books are an education in themselves. The bold bad Baron is a heavy drinker.

When Venetia decided to fight for her love in a very unladylike manner, she went to his house, brazenly unescorted and unchaperoned, and found he had 'eaten Hull cheese, was extremely well to live, foxed, jug-bitten, drunk as a wheelbarrow, top-heavy, disguised, dipping rather deep, making indentures, a trifle concerned, taphackled, shot in the neck, castaway.'

And Heyer didn't make any of that up. Her research was meticulous.

She once bought a letter written by the Duke of Wellington, so that she could employ his style of writing. She claimed that every word attributed to him in *An Infamous Army* (1937) was spoken or written by the Duke in real life. This novel about the Battle of Waterloo, and it's a love story too, is so accurate that it was once on the recommended reading list at Sandhurst.

I like that. I don't like 'historical' novels that give details the writer could not possibly have known. I prefer my history straight.

There's a lot about clothes, too; some of them puce.

Special about Heyer books are the supporting casts. There are brothers: Venetia has two, Aubrey, a brilliant young scholar, and Conway, still away mopping up after Waterloo. Conway doesn't come home before the book ends, but we feel as if we know him, and rather too well at that!

There are suitors. Venetia has two of those as well: an impetuous youth who has read too much Byron, and a worthy man who has read too many conduct books.

There are faithful servants. Damerel has Marston, a forerunner of Wooster's Jeeves or Lord Peter's Bunter. Venetia has Nurse, who has read only one book but can quote it extensively, especially the hellfire and brimstone bits about sinners. Of course Damerel gets round her in the end. He is, after all, a practised rake!

All ends happily. Venetia's mother is not dead, but even more scandalous than Damerel ever was. Now they're equal!

Nowadays, people are still arguing about Heyer, even though she wrote her last book in 1972. Heyer hasn't been banned (perhaps the final accolade?) but she's considered politically incorrect. Along with issues of consent, there are comments about Jews, the slave trade, cock-fighting … plenty to fuss about but all social history.

No one argues about boring books. Perhaps they do ban them — think *Ulysses* — but that's a matter of personal taste.

Most of us began our addiction in the high school library, or borrowed from our mothers. My mother didn't read books, and my high school librarian disapproved of Heyer. I think now, she mustn't have really read any or she would've appreciated her technically superb style and her gift for humour. I recognise now, that's how I learnt to write.

Alas that I did not also learn how to choose a husband. *Venetia* was published in 1958, by which time I'd left school and made an early and disastrous first marriage. Like Venetia's older suitor, he tried to stop me reading novels at all. I needed to restrict myself to Dr Spock, Margaret Fulton, and their domestic ilk.

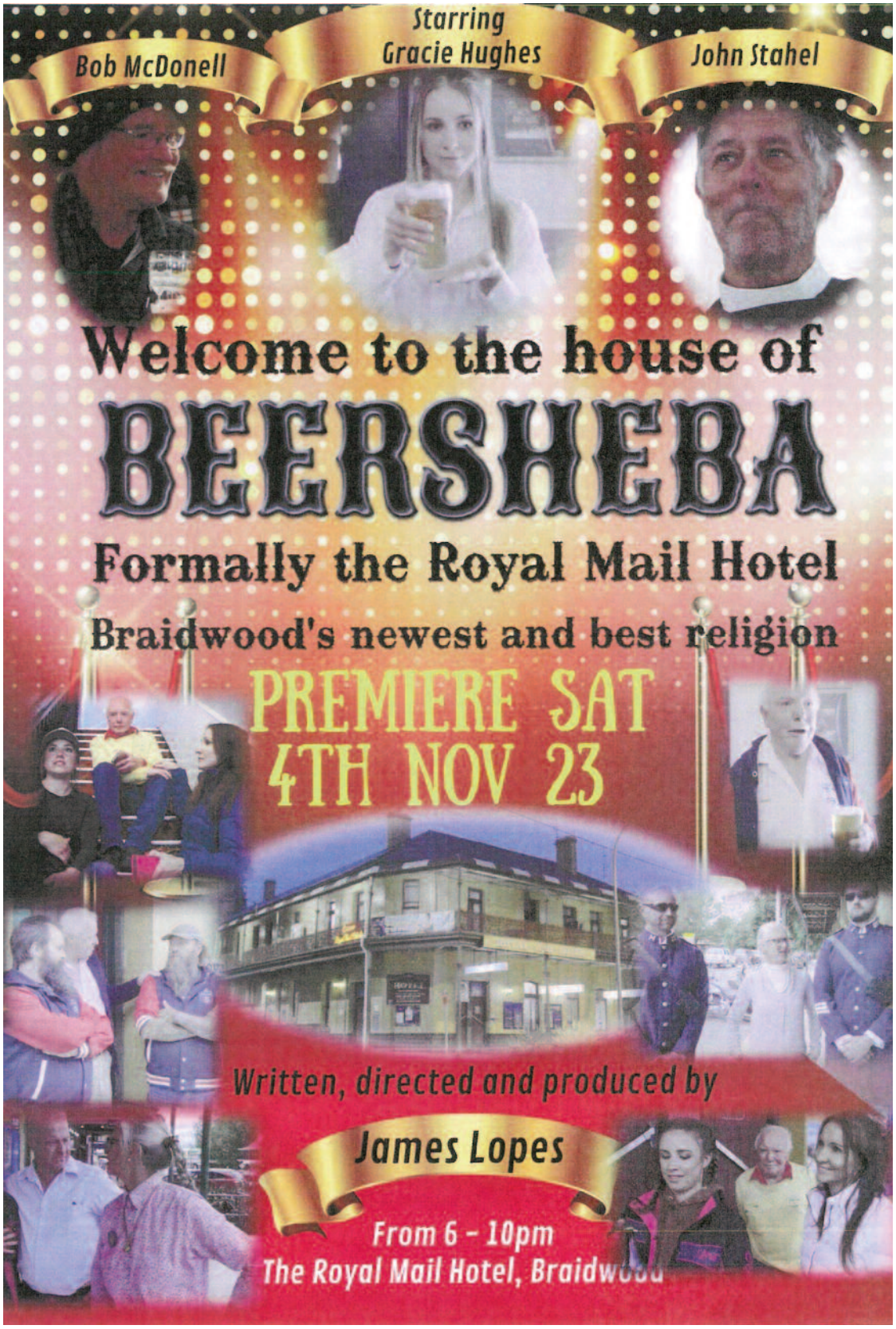
It was the Battle of Waterloo all over again …

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1. Who is a recent entry, with a famous family name, into the US presidential election campaign as an independent candidate?
2. What pest has been reportedly plaguing Paris for the past couple of weeks?
3. What sport is set to be included in the 2028 and 2032 Olympic Games?
4. Paul McCartney will soon be touring a new concert in Australia. What is the name of the tour?
5. Last week a New Zealand man broke the world record for the number of bungee jumps. How many times has he now jumped?
6. A Tasmanian woman landed in hospital in acute pain after being injured by the animal she was rescuing. What animal?
7. Who is the Australian journalist who was released and returned home last week after spending three years imprisoned by the Chinese government?
8. The New Zealand national election was held on the weekend. Who is the post-election prime minister?
9. Australia's World Cup winning netball team, the Diamonds, have taken a 1-0 lead in the Constellation Cup against which country? (Bonus point: what is the name of that country's team?)
10. The Wallabies have returned home after a disastrous World Cup campaign. How many games did they win?

Answers: 1. Robert F.Kennedy Jr.; 2. Bedbugs; 3. Cricket; 4. Got Back; 5. 941; 6. Platypus; 7. Cheng Lei; 8. Christopher Luxon; 9. New Zealand (Bonus: the Silver Ferns); 10. One



BEERSHEBA

News from behind the bar

A short film about control… and religion… and love… and beer.

The government has just announced a nationwide ban on the sale, transport and consumption of alcohol as Australia enters into a new world of prohibition. Bars, pubs and clubs have two weeks to comply to the new laws.

This is where Jamie, Gracie and Bonnie need to find a way to keep its doors open and of course keep its patrons happy ... and they need to come up with an idea fast!

The government has made it clear that these new laws will not comply to any religious ceremonies involving the consumption of alcohol.

This is where Gracie comes up with an idea ... she is going to start a new religion!!!

The new religion BEERSHEBA was born and people came from far and wide to preach at the pub turned church and the rest is history ...

Stay tuned for more information in next fortnight's *Braidwood's [really] Changing Times.*

QPRC Braidwood community meeting

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council is holding a series of community meetings for residents and ratepayers around the region.

The Braidwood meeting will be held on **Tuesday 31 October, 6.00pm-7.30pm** at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club.

A brief 15-minute opening presentation will be followed by a longer opportunity to discuss matters with Council staff in small groups or as individuals. Please register your attendance below as numbers will be limited to approximately 60 people due to the room size.

Agenda:

- Welcome from the Mayor
- Brief presentation on major
- Breakout session for individual/small group discussion with staff
- General Q&A session

As the date coincides with Hallowe'en it is suggested that attendees come appropriately attired.

Free rural financial counselling for Eden-Monaro

Media release from the Office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP

Farmers, fishers, foresters and related small businesses across Eden-Monaro will be able to continue accessing free financial counselling services, with the announcement of new funding agreements under the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

The Albanese Government is investing $38.8 million to support the Rural Financial Counselling Service to deliver important services. This includes an additional $3,330,361 to the Rural Financial Counselling Service, NSW - Southern Region Inc from now till 2026.

Rural financial counsellors can assist in a wide range of scenarios including natural disaster, drought, biosecurity outbreak or commodity downturn. They can also provide case managed activities supporting and informing transition out of financial crisis, improving business profitability, or facilitating a dignified exit.

Member for Eden-Monaro Kristy McBain said the new funding agreements provide certainty to rural communities facing successive natural disasters and impending drought.

"While our farmers are sensible, capable business owners who understand the ever-changing environment they work in, it's hard to know what's around every corner," Kristy McBain said.

"Drought, biosecurity outbreaks, natural disasters, commodity downturns – there's a lot for rural communities to deal with. That is where a service like financial counselling can be helpful.

"For more than 35 years, rural financial counsellors have provided help to those in the industry who are experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship.

"I'm very proud to say that the Albanese Government is extending contracts to deliver this important service for another two years.

"Our funding commitment means counselling services can retain a skilled workforce in rural areas and not cause disruption to any clients who are already receiving financial counselling".

For more information on how to access free rural financial counselling visit the Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW website (https://rfcsnsw.com.au/) or call 1800 319 458.

Scheme to help move more people into home ownership

Media release from Housing Industry Association

The National Housing Finance Investment Corporation (NHFIC) released its annual report on Australian Government's Home Guarantee Scheme and the findings are proof that first home buyer incentives work and should continue to be supported, according to HIA Managing Director, Jocelyn Martin."The Home Guarantee Scheme is an important incentive making it easier for a first home buyer to raise their deposit more quickly and easily and in turn helping them get into their own home faster.

"The report found one in three first home buyers in Australia have been able to get into their first home by accessing the Scheme.

"It also found that around 10,860, or more than one third of all guarantees were issued to buyers in regional areas in 2022-23 up from around 7,390 in 2021-22," said Ms Martin.

"The report also showed an increasing proportion of younger buyers participated in the Scheme each year since its inception. More than half of all places under the Scheme, in 2022-23, were taken up by people under the age of 30.

"Since its inception, HIA has been a strong supporter of assistance for first home buyers, to help get Australians into their first home and achieve their home ownership aspirations," concluded Ms Martin.

Call for disabled visual artists in regional NSW to *Re-emerge* with Rebus

Award winning Canberra based Rebus Theatre is seeking disabled visual artists living in Regional NSW to contribute their art to the *Re-Emergence* film project.

The 'Re-Emergence' project aims to explore the profound impact of COVID-19, drought, flood, and bushfire on people with disabilities in the region over the past three years.

The film has been devised and filmed in collaboration with disabled actors over the last 9 months and is part documentary, part dramatic narrative, and all heart. The team wants to incorporate artworks by disable artists living in regional NSW addressing the following themes:

- **Reflections on the Past Five Years:** Share your personal journey and interpretation of the events and emotions that have defined the last half-decade.
- **A House for a Hag:** Create a visual representation of the concept 'a house for a hag' – an opportunity to explore the mystical and enigmatic.
- **Us Coming Together:** Illustrate the beauty and power of human connection, unity, and solidarity through your artistic lens.
- **Imminent Disaster:** Examine the idea of impending crisis, chaos, or change through your visual storytelling.

Disabled artists living in Regional NSW of all backgrounds, experiences, and visual mediums are encouraged to participate. Each artist may submit up to eight pieces of work and submissions can include paintings, drawings, digital art, images of sculptures, or any other visual medium that speaks to the chosen theme.

Artists will need to submit high-resolution images of their artwork (JPEG or PNG format) and include a brief artist statement (max 150 words) for each piece, explaining your inspiration and interpretation.

Rebus Theatre is a leading arts organisation using theatre and other arts to create social change. The 'Re-Emergence' project is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and amplifying diverse voices in regional NSW. The company has been recognised with three awards for inclusion at the ACT Inclusion Awards. Through innovative projects, collaborations with talented artists, and empowering storytelling, the non-profit company strives to create a more inclusive and vibrant community.

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

For more information and artwork submissions head to www.rebustheatre.com or contact sammy@rebutheatre.com.

'Re-Emergence' is made possible thanks to funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Rebus is also supported by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres and the ACT Government.

Elizabeth Hawkes with Trish and Noel Butler.

Children's books launched at BRAG

Elizabeth Hawkes launched Trish Butler's new books with the following words ...

Most of us are aware of the benefits of reading aloud to small children.

Research has found that reading aloud to kids stimulates the hyperactive language centres in their brains, accelerates their communication skills, their social skills and literacy skills.

It's also a total joy both for the child and the reader. You catch the child when they are ready for bed in their PJs or in my kids cases their t-shirts; their teeth are clean and they are getting sleepy. You then read to them while they get lost in the magic of the story telling and viewing the pictures that transform them into another world, until their eyes are closing and they are ready to sleep.

This is how children learn to read by having the books read aloud to them. They follow the words on the page and then when it comes time to actually learn to read it happens very quickly.

Mim Fox one of Australia's best known children's book authors says, "every child should have 1,000 books read aloud to them before they learn to read themselves".

The language in books is different to our oral language. You can tell when a child has been read to because of their vocabulary.

Of course it doesn't mean 1,000 different books it could be ten of their favourites read over and over.

Here's a poem by Dan Vallely from *The Great Possum Creek Bushfire:*

It was a sleepy Sunday morning, just a little after dawning
And the town of Possum Creek was calm and still
As the animals were stirring
A disaster was occurring
As a flame burst forth upon a distant hill.

Keith [Potger] and I were visiting Trish and Noel when Trish mentioned she was going to write some children's books based on Noel's stories passed down to him from his elders. She asked me if I would like to illustrate them. I thought it would be better if they asked one of the local indigenous artists, she did, but ended up not finding anyone. Meanwhile I'd given it some thought and decided that I would really like to be involved.

These first two books are the first in the series and are not based on elder stories but one is loosely based on the stolen generation and the other is an environmental story which Trish felt the need to tell. In these two books, Dhurga language words, spoken by the Yuin people of the South Coast of New South Wales, are integrated into the English text to create this bilingual cultural experience.

There will be another book launch in Milton coming up in November. The date and venue will be announced soon.

If you would like to purchase the books they are available at Studio Altenburg, Wallace Street, Braidwood or by emailing Trish Butler on: nuragunyu@gmail.com


Archie and mum Sarah.

Open gardens tours

Narelle Doherty

Take a tour of historic Bedervale Homestead and catch a talk by gardening guru Jackie French at this year's Braidwood Open Gardens on November 4-5.

Six of the town's best gardens will throw open their gates for the event which also features an exclusive walk-and-talk with Mona Farm head gardener Gavin Hardy.

The luxury accommodation venue, open Sunday only, was originally owned by pioneer Thomas Braidwood Wilson and features a picturesque lake, Palladian-style bridge and 15 sculptures by celebrated Australian and international artists.

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A short country drive out Nerriga Road takes visitors to Oorong, a working farm that nails casual elegance with its curved buxus hedges, meandering gravel paths and mass plantings of roses, lavender and lamb's ear. Wisteria, grapevines and climbing roses shade a sunny granite courtyard and two stately pencil pines add drama to the formal front garden of this quintessential country property.

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In town, the garden of Longsight (open Sunday only) has been lovingly brought back to life by owner Samara Zeitsch. Dating to the 1850s and once home to noted parliamentarian Sir Austin Chapman, Samara carefully peeled back the layers of weeds, keeping the gems she discovered and letting them shine.

A "secret path" links the property's front and back gardens and dotted among the original plantings in the garden are swathes of teucrium "Bangay balls", a trademark of one of Samara's favourite Australian garden designers, Paul Bangay.

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Willow Tree, on the sweeping bend into town from Canberra, is a garden many locals and regular Kings Highway travellers have watched develop. Owner Lyn Slade landscaped the property from a bare sheep paddock and used her knowledge gained working in wholesale and propagation nurseries to create colour and texture all year round.

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Also in town, the 2.8 hectares of gardens at historic Bedervale surround the historic homestead and outbuildings that were built by convict ship captain John Coghill after he purchased the land for 1400 pounds in 1822.

The Georgian Colonial-style house, designed by well-known Australian architect John Verge, was built by emancipated convicts between 1836 and 1840 and is listed as a building of historical significance by the Heritage Council. Guided tours of the homestead ($20pp) will take place every hour from 10am-1pm on Saturday and Sunday.

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A 12-minute drive to goldmining village Majors Creek reveals the impressive garden of Marjorie and Randall Lemin at 7 Wilson Street. Fans of Australian garden designer Edna Walling, the couple has created a calm oasis punctuated by an impressive curved arbour and gently meandering granite walls, paths and edges constructed from local area stone.

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On Sunday, Mona Farm will be open to the public from 12pm-3.30pm with a talk by celebrated author and former Burkes Backyard presenter Jackie French at 1pm on the Homestead Lawn.

The garden tours with head gardener Gavin Hardy ($20pp) will depart at 12.30pm and 2.30pm and are limited to 20 people.

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Tickets to enter each garden are $5pp (cash at gate, under 18s free) with all proceeds going to the community-run Braidwood Preschool.

For more information, visit: braidwoodgardens.com.au

[left] Longsight, [above] 7 Wilson Street, [below] Mona Farm.

Photo by Julianne Noble

Little penguin chick hatches bring hope

Media from the Hon Dr Michael Holland MP, Member for Bega

A Little Penguin chick has hatched near Eagles Claw Nature Reserve in Eden on the far south coast of NSW, for the first time in more than 30 years.

The breeding colony disappeared from the area in 1993, and the successful hatching of this chick is the culmination of many years of hard work to create and restore nesting habitat. It is believed the chick was a few days old when it was sighted last week.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Senior Research Scientist Nicholas Carlile says, "we initially spotted a penguin pair in December 2022, when they took the first steps to developing a pair bond in a courting ritual.

"Remote cameras installed at the cove means we have been able to keep an eye on the loved-up pair over the last few months and have watched them collect materials to build a nest and eventually lay and tend to two eggs.

"We hope this newly hatched chick will be the first of many hatched in Eden and our dedicated team will continue to support the Little Penguins return to this very unique, very precious mainland breeding site," Mr Carlile said.

The Department of Planning and Environment has been working with local citizen scientists, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Bega Valley Shire Council to remove weeds, protect the area from foxes and install artificial nesting burrows in the hopes of attracting breeding pairs.

It has also installed a solar powered 'love-machine', which is a sound attraction device that echoes Little Penguin mating calls across the cove and out into Twofold Bay each night to encourage them to visit and breed.

The Department of Planning and Environment and Bega Valley Shire Council will continue to monitor the penguin pair and their chick over the coming weeks.

Little Penguins were once more common on the Australian mainland, but their colonies are now generally restricted to offshore islands.

Until now, the only known mainland breeding colony in NSW was in a secluded cove in the Manly area of Sydney Harbour. This Sydney colony has been declared an endangered population.

Breeding in the Eagles Claw Nature Reserve had previously stopped due to years of fox and dog attacks on unprotected nest sites in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Member for Bega, Dr Michael Holland, said, "A loved-up penguin pair was first spotted at Eden's Eagles Claw Nature Reserve in December 2022 and it's absolutely wonderful to hear that they not only nested and laid an egg, but also produced a little chick.

"We are so pleased that this dedicated effort from local citizen scientists, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Council has paid off and we hope this little chick marks the start of a new generation of penguins at Eden."

Applications closing for Rural Women's Award

Time is running out to apply for the 2024 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, a program celebrating and empowering the inclusive and courageous leadership of women in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities.

Applications will close on Wednesday, 25 October 2023, at 11.59 pm AEDT.

The Award acts as a springboard, inspiring and nurturing Australian women to harness their skills for the betterment of their industries and communities, while simultaneously unlocking doors to crucial funding opportunities for existing projects and businesses.

Beyond recognition, the Award also provides a pathway for personal and professional growth, offering not only access to vital funding but also a doorway to extensive professional development opportunities and a cherished Alumni network.

State and territory winners are awarded a $15,000 grant generously sponsored by Westpac. Importantly, the program welcomes applications from women across Australia, irrespective of their location.

AgriFutures Australia, Managing Director, John Harvey said AgriFutures are committed to the future growth and advancement of the Award as a means of identifying, celebrating and empowering women.

"If you are passionate about creating impact, innovating, and making a difference in rural and regional Australia, we want to hear from you," Mr Harvey said.

"By participating in this program, you will become part of a dynamic network of over 350 accomplished women who have been acknowledged for their exceptional contributions to rural industries and rural and regional Australia."

The 2023 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award National Winner, Nikki Davey said winning the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award has been a game-changer.

"On both a personal and professional level, being involved in the Awards has boosted my confidence and helped transform my business." Ms Davey said.

"It elevated my potential, provided essential funding, and thrusted my brand into the spotlight, while connecting me with new audiences and communities. I would say to anyone considering applying, if you've got a project that fits the bill, then don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and join the ranks of incredible women driving change and innovation in rural Australia."

AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant

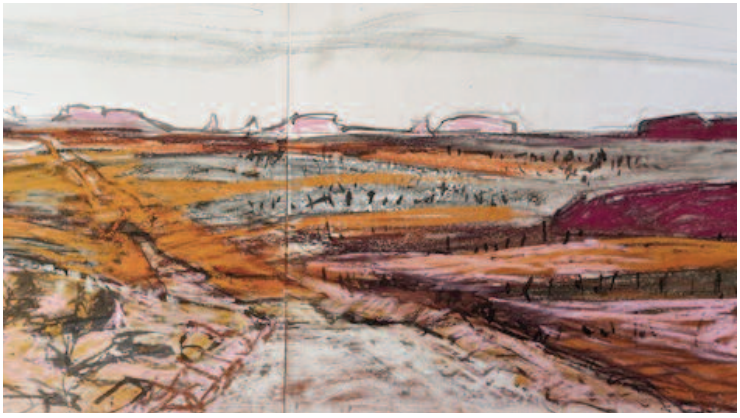
AgriFutures also runs a program called the AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration grant. While this runs separately, it complements the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award.

The aim is to provide a leadership and development opportunity to women who are not quite ready to apply for the Award.

Each year, seven Australian women will be granted with a learning and development bursary of up to $7,000 for professional development to enable them to bring their idea, cause, or vision to life.

The Rural Women's Acceleration Grant is one of many AgriFutures Australia initiatives ensuring our rural industries prosper now, and into the future.

For more information and to apply for the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, visit our website at https://agrifutures.com.au/opportunities/rural-womens-award/ For more information on the AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant visit http://agrifutures.com.au/opportunities/acceleration-grant/



Kim Mahood, Australian author and artist, continues her exploration of central Australia through these new works — a landscape she knows intimately from her road trips crisscrossing the country over decades.

This is Kim's second solo exhibition at Studio Altenburg. *"The middle of somewhere"* Gallery One – October 20 - Nov 11.

Braidwood artist Drew Moynihan says of his work -

"We all know that peoples experiences of life are really funny, profound, elemental, majestic and extremely heartbreaking. Maybe my art is trying to keep up with this intelligence, offering some gaps and cracks for our souls." "Dumb art for smart people" Gallery Two – October 20 - Nov 11.

[top]
Kim Mahood
South of Alice *2023*

[left]
Drew Moynihan
Backyard bat *2022*

Kim Mahood — *The middle of Somewhere*
Drew Moynihan — *Dumb art for smart people*
Exhibitions open Friday 20th October.
Conversation with the artists and drinks on
Sunday 29th October at 3pm.

Studio Altenburg

0413 943 158
104 Wallace Street
Braidwood

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO

Braidwood FM Inc. will hold its AGM on
Wednesday 25th of October 2023 @ 5pm
at The Braidwood Servicemens Club.

All Braidwood FM members are invited to attend.

Please confirm your attendance by email to
info@braidwoodradio.com.au on or before Monday
23rd of October.

Bringing university closer to Eden-Monaro

Media from the Office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP

The Albanese Government is making it easier for people living in regional communities across Eden-Monaro to go to university.

Applications are now open for 10 new Regional University Study Hubs (stream one) to be established around Australia, giving more students from the bush access to tertiary education.

The Albanese Government is investing $66.9 million to double the number of University Study Hubs across the country, enabling more students in rural, regional and remote Australia to access and complete higher education without having to leave their communities.

In response to the Universities Accord Interim Report, the Government will establish up to 20 additional Regional University Study Hubs across stream one and two, and up to 14 new Suburban University Study Hubs.

The Regional University Study Hubs will provide spaces to support students, including those from low socio-economic backgrounds, First Nations students and people with disability.

This builds on the success of 34 existing Regional University Study Hubs – including the Country Universities Centre Snowy Monaro in Cooma.

Kristy McBain Member for Eden-Monaro said this will make it easier for young people across Eden-Monaro to access tertiary education in their own communities.

"The postcode you live in shouldn't be a barrier to getting a degree, and this opportunity could be lifechanging for regional communities like Eden-Monaro.

"The Hubs will provide support close to home for students that would otherwise need to travel long distances to get to and from an inner-city campus."

Minister for Education, Jason Clare, said these new Study Hubs deliver on the first recommendation of the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report.

"Today, almost one in two young people in their 20s and their 30s have a university degree. But not everywhere. Not in the outer suburbs and not in regional Australia," Mr Clare said.

University of Wollongong

"The Accord Panel makes it clear that we need more people from the regions and outer suburbs to get a university qualification.

"I want more young people to get a crack at going to university and we know that postcode is a massive barrier for young people getting that chance."

Assistant Minister for Education and Regional Development, Senator Anthony Chisholm, said existing Study Hubs have already supported more than 3,400 rural and regional students.

"This program removes barriers for students in regional and remote areas who want to peruse a tertiary education, while keeping them in the communities they love," Mr Chisholm said.

"I encourage eligible organisations to submit applications to establish a Study Hub in their region. These Hubs are a great way for people to access and study a wide range of courses from educational institutions across Australia without having to leave their communities."

This is the first funding round for 10 additional Regional University Study Hubs, a second round for the following 10 will open at a later date.

Eligible organisations in regional and remote Australia are now invited to apply. Applications are due by 5pm AEDT, 15 December 2023.

Applications will be assessed by a panel as part of a competitive process, with the new Hubs expected to be operational from mid-2024.

More information about the Regional University Study Hubs program and how to apply can be found at: https://www.education.gov.au/regional-university-study-hubs

January 2024 Braidwood Community Book Fair

Only 3 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

BOOK LAUNCH AT REIDSDALE ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

A new book of selected poems by

JEREMY LOCKHART NELSON:

SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI

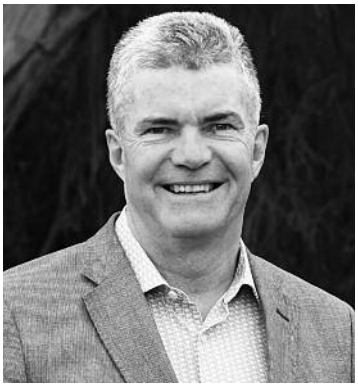
(SO PASSES THE GLORY OF THE WORLD)

will be launched on
Sunday November 5, 2023
2.30 pm

at the former St Bernard's Church
153 Sawyer's Ridge Road, Reidsdale

If you are coming, please let John Fulcher know (for catering)
Phone **0423 749 464**
jsfulcher@gmail.com

The book (200 pages) is available from Amazon books ($25)
Launch price $20.00



Whan promoted to state cabinet

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan, has been appointed Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education in a ministerial reshuffle by Premier Chris Minns.

Mr Minns said that the appointment of Mr Whan, who was a minister in the former Labor government, will boost the government's focus on skills, domestic manufacturing and the importance of TAFE to regional NSW.

As part of the 2023–2024 Budget, the government has committed $9.8 billion to build new and upgraded schools and other educational facilities. The budget also included an additional $112.0 million to meet the TAFE funding shortfall and 1000 extra apprentices across the NSW Government by 2026 at a cost of $93.5 million.

Mr Minns said, "the appointment of highly experienced former Minister Steve Whan to cabinet will ensure another strong voice for regional NSW at the centre of government.

"Steve has represented all communities, but particularly rural and regional NSW, with distinction throughout his career as a former Minister for Rural Affairs, Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Small Business.

"He will bring his considerable skills and experience to helping rebuild TAFE and the VET sector after decades of under-funding."

ALL THAT IS

With such a momentous defeat at the referendum, it is with a sad heart that I write the opening to this fortnight's what's on in Braidwood. I am disappointed that the Voice to Parliament did not get through, and we need to take a long, hard look at our country and how conservative politics won out over a change so desperately needed. The Voice was a chance for true recognition of our First Nations peoples.

But on a much happier note, here's what's happening in Braidwood this fortnight, and it promises to be an absolutely cracking fortnight.

Markets

The Braidwood Farmers Markets is on this Saturday, 21st October from 8:30 am in the National Theatre.

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The Ryrie Park Markets are on Saturday, 28th October from 8am.

Concerts and Gigs

Beersheba opens at the Royal Mail Hotel on 4th November.

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Jamie Aigus is playing at the Royal Mail Hotel on 28th October from 7:30 until late.

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This month's Film Club Screening will be on 21st October for an 8pm start in the National Theatre. *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom* a delightful drama set in mountainous Bhutan and directed by Pawo Choyning Dorji, a 40 y.o. Bhutanese who studied in the US.

HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

Set in an isolated mountain community in Bhutan, it is a gentle tale of an unmotivated teacher who finds meaning in his life when forced to teach in a remote village. Stunning scenery and fine natural acting from non-professional Bhutanese garnered such a warm global reception that it ended up with an Oscar nomination.

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For film club patrons who wish to share a meal, please arrive between 6:30pm and 7pm.

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The Luminescence Chamber Singers are back with another excellent concert on Saturday, 21st October at 3pm at the Braidwood Uniting Church. Tickets are available to purchase online at https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/994790?mc_cid=3046cfda43&mc_eid=b840b13e16 or at the door on the day.

Gallery Openings

The Altenburg presents:

Kim Mahood – *The middle of Somewhere*

Drew Moynihan – *Dumb art for smart people*

Exhibitions open Friday 20th October.

Conversation with the artists and drinks on Sunday 29th October at 3pm.

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FYRE Gallery opens on 3rd November with a new show by DeAnn L Prosia, titled Taking a Line for a Walk with a gallery floor talk at 2:30pm on Sunday, 5th November.

At BRAG

Snuggle n Sing is on Mondays from 9:30 - 10:30 am. 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.

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

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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 1.00pm

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

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.

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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.

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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.

Other Community Organisations

Braidwood Dance Studio classes recommence on 17th October at the Old Sunday School Hall. This term we will be working towards a performance. All kids enrolled can perform at the Community Christmas Party in the National Theatre! Braidwood Dance Studio is so excited to perform in front of our community! For further details, please contact Miss Georgie on 0457 991 116.

Tuesday

10:45- 11:15 am Tiny Tots 1+
3:30- 4pm Preschool Ballet 2+
4- 4:30 pm Junior Ballet 6+
4:30- 5 pm Junior Tap 5+
5- 5:30 pm Senior Acro 8+
5:30-6:30 pm Senior Ballet 10+
6:30- 7:30pm Low Impact Bums and Tums Adults

Wednesday

3:30-4 pm Preschool Hip Hop 2+
4- 4:45 pm Junior Hip Hop 5+
4:45- 5:45 pm Highschool Ballet 12+
5:45- 6:30 pm Adult Tap
6:30- 7:30 pm High- Impact Bums and Tums Adults

Thursday

10:45- 11:15 am Tiny Tots 1+
3:30 - 4 pm Junior Acro 3+
4- 4:45 pm Senior Tap 8+
4:45- 5:30 pm Senior Hip Hop 8+
5:30- 6:30 pm High-school Hip Hop 12+
6:30 - 7:30 pm Zumba Adults

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

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

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

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

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Braidwood Health Walking Group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am at Ryrie Park. 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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Braidwood Pistol and Target Shooting Club invite new members to join. They offer introductory shoots and club pistols for anyone who would like to experience pistol shooting. If you are interested, please contact braidwoodpandtsc@gmail.com for further information.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

Australia Day Awards nominations open

The Young Citizen Award is open to people between 14 and 26 years of age on 26 January 2024 and the Citizen Award is open to people over 27 years of age.

The Community Event Award is open to any event which has contributed to the Queanbeyan-Palerang community between November and the following October each year.

This is a fantastic way to celebrate people in our LGA who have gone above and beyond to make our community the best place it can be.

▶ Nominate by 4:30pm Friday 1 December at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/australia-day-awards**

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

Household **Chemical Cleanout**

Council in partnership with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation and the NSW EPA will be holding two Household Chemical Cleanouts on Saturday 25 November 2023.

Drop off household amounts of batteries, solvents, and household cleaners, oil and more from:

- 8–11am at the Braidwood Transfer Station
- 1-4pm, Collett Street Car park, Queanbeyan

▶ Learn more at **cleanout.com.au**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Public Interest Disclosures Policy 2023	26 October
Proposed Memorial Garden	10 November

▶ 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 Council offices

Work with **Council**

- Leading Hand - Intermittent Works
- Customer Service Officer
- Corporate Planning and Improvement 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:
- 25 October
- 8 November

Written Questions on Notice

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

Community meetings in October

We are holding community meetings Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan.

These meetings are an opportunity to hear from Council and staff about local projects and services and ask questions about issues that matter to you.

Join us from 6-8pm on:

- Monday 23 October - Bungendore Multipurpose Hall at Bungendore Public School
- Monday 30 October - Bicentennial Hall, Queanbeyan
- Tuesday 31 October - Braidwood Servicemen's Club

▶ Register to attend at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/events**

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
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council@qprc.nsw.gov.au
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au

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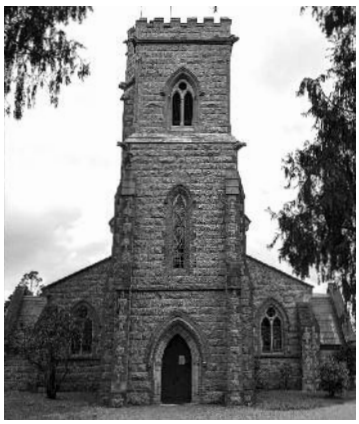
NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Weathering the Seasons

'For everything there is a season' Ecclesiastes 3:1

When God gives you a vision, be prepared because with every vision comes a sacrifice.

The road to triumph is full of tests and trials. But God has promised that there will be a harvest; *'Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.* (Psalm 126:5-6)

That scripture teaches us two things:

There is a season for weeping. This is not an excuse for passivity or a posture of weakness that reduced you to tears because life is not fair, and things are tough. Nehemiah was moved to tears over Jerusalem's ruins. Then he developed a plan, put together a team, and rebuilt it.

What moves you? What do you feel passionate about?

There is a season for reaping. Everything in life has a reason and a season. When you understand the reason and maximise the season, you become like a tree which yields its fruit in season. Fruit won't grow before its time. That's why you must discern your life's changing seasons and adjust to them. That's particularly true when it's time to stop weeping and start reaping; otherwise, you will miss your harvest. Tears are for the sower, but joy is for the reaper.

So, when your season changes, harvest your field with joy. You have paid your dues; now it's time to enjoy what God has promised you.

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

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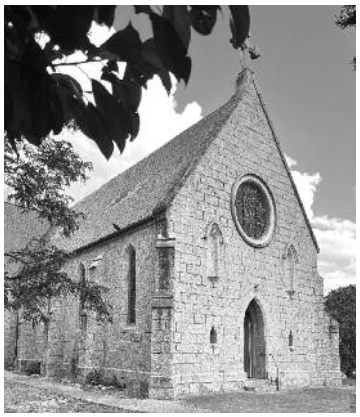
Next Sunday, 22nd October is Anglicare Sunday. An Anglicare representative will be speaking at the10am worship service in St Andrew's Anglican church, Elrington St, Braidwood. There will be time for a cuppa and chat afterwards.

Anglicare supports individuals, families and communities in urban, rural and remote areas. They do this by providing quality care, tackling poverty, relieving human suffering and healing illness.

Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 angbraidwood@bigpond.com



St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 22:15-21 GPBS 17/10/23

What is a tax? In the best of circumstances, it's a private payment for the public good.

It's how individuals contribute to the interests of the community of which they're a part. In the time of the Roman empire, taxation among the occupied provinces was a troubling matter. It could be argued that what went into the pocket of Rome went out of the province for good.

Those who questioned Jesus about taxes, of course, weren't asking for a moral decision. They wanted him to betray himself by being politically incorrect in front of the people. And Jesus, of course, was above politics, framing his answer in larger terms than the Pharisees cared to consider. Those who were obliged to Caesar should certainly make payment in the coin of the realm. But those who are obliged to God – and who isn't – owe a debt to be paid in the province of the human spirit. It is this larger obligation that should capture our concern.

Do we commit more of our time, energy, and resources to Caesar or to God? What do we currently give to Caesar that belongs to God?

— * —* —* —

Pray

Go boldly into the world. Go seek out new ways to be God's holy ones. Go into the world with God's good news. You are the message. Be the message. Do the message. Live the message. As you go the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit go with you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

— * —* —* —

Café of the Gate of Salvation Choir concert and Ecumenical Service. [see photos on back page] A wonderful concert was held last Saturday evening in St Bede's Church. The church was full and everyoone enjoyed themselves. Pictured are the choir and the congregation that attended. The Sunday service was mostly choral with prayer and readings. Rev. Des Macguire thanked Brother Brian for his service here in Braidwood, especially his work in ecumenical activities and then presented him with a quilt made by Jenny Wallace.

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Mass Saturdays (Vigil) at 6.00pm

No weekday Masses for the foreseeable future.

Braidwood Uniting Church

Love not lollies

Two evenings ago, I had the extraordinary task of conducting conversations by text with several people who were suicidal.

These are folks I've known for years and formed friendships that have endured good times and bad. Two people had been battling addictions, trying so hard and failing so completely that the will to live was fading. One was homeless (but like most homeless people, has a mobile phone) and one was a wealthy man but still in hospital. None of the people could get to see me so it was conversations via text message.

This sort of evening is not a regular occurrence. Lots of people from Sydney are regularly in touch but this just happened to be a dread night for each of these folks. I was telling a good friend in Braidwood about this evening and he said, "You must have been so wrung out by the time you got to bed." I guess the truth is I was tired and these were difficult conversations to have via text message however, I learned years ago that I don't have the power to fix people. All I can do is present with them and that's

really all I've got. It makes me a big disappointment to those who are looking for magic but for some who just need to know they are not alone, it's enough. All I've got is love not lollies, presence not presents.

So, I slept well and didn't wake up with an emotional hangover. My heart was heavy but heavy with meaning. I wasn't weighed down and the issues weren't transferred from my friends to me.

It took many years and many mistakes for me to learn that people are not problems to be solved but just people to be met. We live in a culture where we are constantly trying to solve problems. When we treat people as problems to be solved, even with the best heart in the world, there is a push away that is felt by the person who is, "the problem". There are some people who play a game called, "I bet you can't solve my problem." It's a game that always ends in misery for everyone.

— * —* —* —

God is a disappointment too for those who seek magic. As far as I can tell, he promises to be with us; that's it. Love not lollies, presence not presents.

grahamlong@mac.com

Vale *The Beagle*

Braidwood's Changing Times is saddened to learn of the death of Lei Parker, the founder, editor and publisher of *The Beagle*, a long-running online newspaper based in Moruya and covering the Eurobodalla region.

Lei published his last issue about three weeks ago, announcing at the time that the *Beagle* was ceasing publication due to ill health. In his final editorial he quoted Bob Dylan's anthem, *The Times are a-Changin'*.

Lei was a pioneer in the world of independent local news. With the corporate takeover and subsequent closure of many small regional papers, including the *Braidwood Times*, his example has been followed in various forms around the country.

May his legacy be long.

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Braidwood Golf Club held its Men's and Women's Foursomes Championships on Sunday 8 October in perfect golfing weather over 27 holes.

Men's Foursomes Champions: Brendan Sly and John Harb (121 gross)

Nett Winners: Chris Witt and Keith Morgan

Nett Runners Up: John Stahel and Keith Ferguson

Women's Foursomes Champions: Debbie Ferguson and Robin Tennant Wood (154 gross)

Nett Winners: Michelle Henry and Margy Gardner

Nett Runners Up: Carmen Byrne and Sarah Heine

The individual club championships will be held over three rounds, commencing on Saturday 21 October, with Round 2 on Sunday 22 and Round 3 on Saturday 28.s

The Bev Kain Memorial Stabrose is to be played as the lead in to Presentation Night on Saturday December 2. The Monthly Medal will now be played on December 9.

Results, Saturday 14 October

Men's Single Stableford – Michael Fitzgerald Trophy

Winner: Gordon Scott 34 pts

Runner Up: Allan Walcott 33 c/b

Men's NTP 3/12: Allan Walcott, Hole In One

Ball Comp: Tom Duffy 33, Keith Morgan 32, Barry McDonald 31,

Roger Hovey 31, John Harb 31

Secret Six-Holes 1,5,7,12,16,18: Allan Walcott 13 & Roger Hovey 13

Handicap Changes: Don Burke out 1 to 35, Keith Ferguson out 1 to 20

Women's Single Stableford – Di Freeman Trophy.

Winner: Margy Gardner 32 pts

Runner Up: Deb Ferguson 29 pts

Ball Comp: Donna Kuhn 28, Barb Stuart 25, Di Freeman 25

Handicap Changes: Barb Stuart out 1 to 38

Café of the Gate of Salvation Choir concert and Ecumenical Service last Saturday evening.

STAR TIMES

Skipadinattentionspan

Do you ever watch Facebook videos that promise a great deal but take ages to get to the point?

"Have endless free energy, be blessed with gut health,
"Just wait for the punchline, you'll wallow in much wealth.
"The big boys don't want you to hear what I say,
"Oops here's an ad, but don't be sad, it's going to be okay.
"Stay in the room, we'll soon resume, snake oil spruik cast wider,
"I know you've looked and on me you're hooked, the Facebook content provider."

Uberdoobedoobedon't

Uber definition: *'denoting an outstanding or supreme example of a particular kind of person or thing'*. In the Australian context it means a well-heeled foreign company that makes a killing from selling take-away food at profitless prices to people too lazy to go out. Uber itself makes no food nor does it own the vehicles that transport the food. Drivers are paid the least amount to cover the cost of running their own vehicles. So now it's reported: "Uber warns the price of meals ordered from its food delivery app could rise by 85 per cent, and the cost of ride-share trips by 60 per cent, under the Albanese government's sweeping industrial relations reforms to give a pay floor to gig workers." The food outlets are sandwiched, but the drivers deserve better pay. 'Uber' being a, 'supreme example of a particular kind of person or thing' doesn't mean it's in the right.

Thebeautyoflanguage

A woman stood before the dock accused of having pretended to be a doctor for years without any qualifications. As a defense her barrister had a go. He said his client had, "an underlying psychological fragility which made it difficult for her to say no in social situations'. Qatar Airways too has a way with words. Asked why it co-operated in the deportation of people the Qatar's Ministry of the Interior ordered out without reason a spokesperson said the carrier was, "required to facilitate travel arrangements for individuals who no longer hold residency rights to remain in a particular country".

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Contributions desperately welcome.

STOP PRESS

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