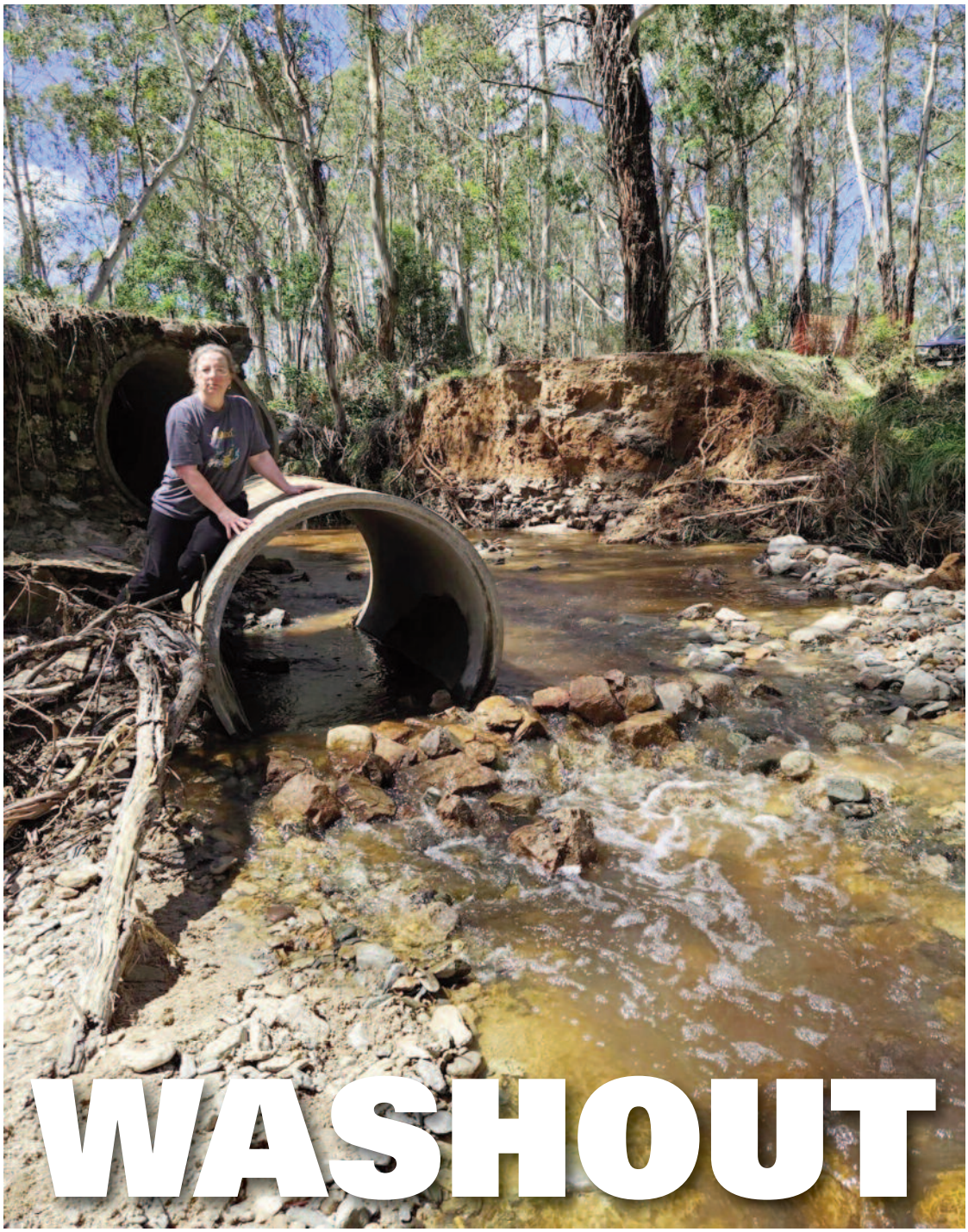
BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #94 — $2.00

Wednesday January 17 2024

COMING WEATHER

	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	15°	22°	75%
Thur:	16°	25°	5%
Fri:	11°	26°	10%
Sat:	14°	25°	25%
Sun:	15°	29°	10%
Mon:	17°	30°	15%
Tue:	17°	32°	15%



WASHOUT

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Summer storms wreak havoc

The severe storm that hit the region on 27 December caused considerable damage to roads around the Jerrabattgulla, Krawarree and Hereford Hall districts.

Hereford Hall resident, Pixie Garcia, [see pic at left] was unable to get home from town for three days after flash flooding washed away the Hereford Hall road and parts of the Cooma Road.

Ms Garcia said that her husband and a neighbour were able to construct a temporary pathway over the Hereford Hall Road washout so they could walk in supplies until the road could be repaired.

She said that the road repair was done "in one day by a fantastic team from council."

About that long, hot summer we were expecting …

Robin Tennant Wood

There's still quite a bit of summer to come, but so far the predictions of a return to an El Niño drought seem to have been washed out.

After a dry winter and a few dry months of spring, during which time council managed to fix a few roads, local farmers began preparing for drought and the RFS for potential high to extreme fire danger, we've plunged back into an extended wet season.

How and why did the Bureau of Meteorology get it so wrong?

Short answer: they didn't. Well, not entirely.

Globally, 2023 was the hottest year on record and the relative air humidity of the global land surface was the second-driest on record. The northern hemisphere summer unfolded with unprecedented heatwaves and wildfires in Europe and devasting wildfires in Canada and the US. Seventy-seven countries recorded their hottest years on record. In Australia we watched with a sense of foreboding and prepared for a blistering summer to come.

August to October last year was the driest three-month period in Australia since 1900. Queensland had a horror start to the bushfire season with more homes lost to fire in that period than during the 2019-20 Black Summer. There were fires also in Central West NSW and Victoria's Gippsland region, as well as around Perth. All of this felt typical of an El Niño cycle and locally, people prepared for the worst.

November and December, however, were the wettest on record for the south-east.

There are several factors at play with the current weather conditions. Firstly the BoM's modelling programs for long-range weather forecasting have not kept up with the impact of climate change. As far back as the 1980s, climate scientists warned that climate change would result in more extreme and

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EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

More than plastic flags

So it's come to this. Our national day has descended into an argument about cheap, plastic, Chinese-made flags and inflatable thongs.

Last week, opposition leader, Peter Dutton, grabbed the media spotlight by calling for a boycott of the large supermarket chains that are not stocking Australia Day merchandise. As media stunts go, this one has hit a new low.

Let's be quite clear about supermarkets and their decisions to stock or not stock certain items. Supermarket chains are driven by profit, not ideology. If a supermarket decides not to stock certain types of merchandise it's for one reason and one reason only: it doesn't sell and they therefore won't make a profit from it. After the event they'll be left with stores full of flag-themed stubbie coolers, party sunglasses, plastic barbecue aprons and stickers, all of which will ultimately end up in landfill. Why? Because people have got better things to spend their money on. Like food.

Self-styled 'patriots', of course, rallied to Dutton's call, flooding social media with abusive posts aimed at 'taking down' the major supermarket chains. This week a Brisbane supermarket was vandalised with obscene graffiti and an apartment directly above the supermarket had to be evacuated when a flare was ignited. People are so upset they can't buy a plastic flag that they're prepared to risk other people's lives for the cause? Such bravery? Such commitment? No. Such utter idiocy.

There are more important things to consider on Australia Day than a blind desire to boost the Chinese economy by buying cheap imported merchandise. The date has long been a point of contention. Celebrating the national day on the anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet has long been offensive to Australia's First People. While there are no plans to change the date, there have been credible suggestions to switch it to 8 May (as in, Maaaate). A bit cringeworthy, perhaps, but it would be inclusive and non-controversial. Also, it puts the public holiday later in the year rather than during the long January break.

Regardless of when it's held, Australia Day is not about buying stuff. It should, in fact, be about not buying stuff. It most certainly is not about harming people or property because of stuff. As Australia Day arguments go, this one is the most ludicrous and must be curtailed.

In the spirit of celebrating Australia Day, here are some suggested activities that don't require spending your hard-earned on plastic garbage:

- Have a barbecue with the neighbours;
- Go to a citizenship ceremony and welcome some new Aussies;
- Play backyard cricket;
- Go to the beach;
- Go to the National Gallery and check out the Australian art section;
- Go to the War Memorial and put a flower on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier;
- Spend the day in thoughtful reflection about what it means to be Australian;
- Phone, Facetime or email friends or family who are living overseas;
- Get to the Braidwood Servicemen's Club and spend some time in the company of friends and community, enjoying good music and food and celebrating how lucky we are to live in a country where we're not being bombed.

Washout

... continued from page 1

unpredictable weather events. In the 1980s, however, it was thought that these effects wouldn't be evident until at least the middle of this century. The accelerated impact has meant that indicators traditionally used by meteorologists, such as the Indian Ocean Dipole, are no longer accurate.

Secondly is the fact that no two El Niño cycles are the same. This one is being driven by a significant strengthening of the polar vortex. The ABC's meteorologist, Tom Saunders, explained it thus:

"Cold polar air spins clockwise around Antarctica (from west to east), but when this vortex strengthens, it contracts towards the South Pole, much like when an ice skater accelerates a spin by pulling in their limbs.

"This tightening of the vortex then draws high pressure systems from southern Australian latitudes into the Southern Ocean, and since winds blow anticlockwise around highs, a general flow from the east will become established over our country.

"This shift increases rain across eastern Australia due to the flow of moisture off the Coral and Tasman seas, aided by the absence of high pressure, which typically brings stable weather."

A third factor is the Southern Annular Mode. This refers to the north-south movement of the strong westerly winds that blow almost continuously in the Southern Ocean. If those winds are further south in summer, this tends to increase the chances of above-average rainfall for eastern New South Wales, southeast Queensland, and eastern Victoria. As Australia is a relatively dry continent, it only takes a few wet weather systems and rainy days to tip a month or season into being wetter than average. Meteorologists are more confident in associating a La Niña with unusually wet conditions than they are associating an El Niño with unusually dry conditions.

So where does this leave us for the rest of summer? The Climate Council reports that the long-range forecast for January to March is currently forecasting above-average rainfall for the south-east of the country, meaning we are likely to continue to see a fair bit of rain.

Both maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be above median for most of Australia, so there may still be some intense heat waves to come.

Keep the gumboots and umbrella handy!

The Hereford Hill bridge repaired in record time by the QPRC road crew. Photo: Sharon Dunn

STICK and FLY Matthew Little

Summer holiday thinking fun

Julian Davies, Consensus Education Foundation

Going to the beach or streaming movies may be preferred summer holiday activities, but twenty-seven young people from across our local region gathered for two full days this week of critical thinking learning.

The workshops, one focussing on public speaking and the other on debating, were held at the Jerrabomberra Community Centre on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The students' engagement and enthusiasm was wonderful to see as they discussed real-world issues, played thinking and speaking games, created and shared speeches, and took part in informal min-debates.

The workshops were an initiative of Consensus Education Foundation, the local charity whose expert tutors guided the children throughout the two days. Generous funding from the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council and Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank gave free access to the day for the students and their families, showing their vision in backing the Consensus Education program for helping local kids develop their thinking.

The students who took part in the workshop, live in different communities across our local region, and go to fourteen different schools, mostly in the QPRC LGA but a small number in Goulburn and Canberra. Consensus Education will be running similar events for local students in the future.

[above] Junior students presenting with feedback from James Smith. [below] Student, Eric Moore, giving a speech to his senior peers and Julian Davies.

Community Bank Braidwood reflects on 2023

Nick Fry and the team

With Christmas and new year festivities behind us and 2024 has just kicked off, the Community Bank thought we should reflect on 2023 through the eyes of the bank.

World wide in 2023 we all knew of the hostilities, there were earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, the Matildas captured the nations hearts, Penrith won the NRL and Collingwood held the AFL trophy aloft.

Work is almost complete with the Braidwood Showground lighting project and the Braidwood Rec Ground looks like a real sporting hub with football fields, tennis courts, netball/basketball, cricket nets and the skate park facility. The Rec Ground is also the home of Braidwood's own registered charity, Braidwood Life Centre. The Community Bank is now entering its 22nd year of providing full banking services to our community.

During the 2023 calendar year, Community Bank Braidwood were able to hand back to our district over $140,000 in the form of sponsorships, grants and donations to over 20 sporting and community organisations. Some of these include the Braidwood Scouts, Braidwood Lions and Braidwood APEX, our junior sporting clubs, Braidwood Golf Club, Braidwood and District Education Foundation, Consensus Education Foundation and the Terry Campese Foundation. There are also the recipients of our Scholarship Program.

The Community Bank branches of Braidwood and Bungendore contributions to our communities are now in excess of $8m since its inception in Braidwood in 2002 and Bungendore in 2006. Our banking model is simple and unique. A large percentage of profits made by the branches go directly back to the community. Basically, the more customers and products held, the larger the profit and therefore more funds can be returned to our communities. It's that simple! In essence, the funds returned to the community are a thank you for banking at our own locally run and operated Community Bank.

The staff and Board of Directors wish our community a prosperous, healthy and rewarding 2024.

The branch from the other side of the road.


Craig Pettit celebrating 21 years service.


Helen Farley at the official opening of the Old Anglican Hall.


Board Director Dale Towell with local artist Lesley Sykes and her painting Bush Track, Bottom Pond *, the major winner in the 2023 QPRC & Bendigo Bank Arts Awards.*

Telstra 5G rollout to cause service disruptions

Telstra media release

Telstra will be upgrading its mobile base station at Mt Gillamatong by adding additional infrastructure to bring better 4G services to the surrounding community.

The work will also prepare the network for 5G coverage to be provided once the 3G network closes as planned in June 2024, but the works will require a series of temporary outages or reduction in mobile coverage. The base station provides mobile coverage to Braidwood and surrounds, including the Kings Highway.

These improvements will temporarily impact Telstra mobile coverage at various times from Monday 5 February, until Friday 16 February 2024.

The first phase of disruptions will occur daily between 7am and 5pm from Monday 5 February to Friday 9 February 2024.

The second phase of disruptions will occur from Saturday 10 February to Wednesday 15 February 2024. The site is expected to be off the air for this entire period.

If all goes according to plan and weather permitting, residents should be noticing an improvement in Telstra mobile services by 16 February 2024.

Telstra mobile customers will receive text messages advising of the upcoming work.

Landline services, NBN internet services and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted. Any calls to Triple Zero from a Telstra mobile when the site is off air will automatically be diverted to any working mobile network for connection to emergency services.

Regional General Manager for Telstra, Chris Taylor said while our crews need to work during daylight for safety, we'll only be switching off the site when we need to and have it back on as quickly as possible.

"There's never a good time to undertake this sort of work but once it is completed, it will mean better mobile services for local residents," Mr Taylor said.

"As a company, we heavily invest in improving regional connectivity and this site is another example of our commitment. Over the past seven years to the end of FY23, Telstra invested $11 billion in our mobile network nationally, with $4 billion of this invested in our regional mobile network."

Tips for improving connectivity while works are underway For mobile coverage in the interim, if residents have access to a Wi-Fi signal at home or at work, Telstra encourages residents to activate Wi-Fi calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows your mobile to use a Wi-Fi network to make and receive mobile calls. To find out more they can google Telstra WiFi calling or just search in your settings icon on your phone.

We know many businesses use the Telstra network for their EFTPOSterminals. However, Telstra does not operate the EFTPOS network; it is operated by financial institutions. Many EFTPOS terminals can also be connected using fixed line or Wi-Fi/nbn internet connections. Retailers should contact their bank for more information and details on how to switch between these methods to ensure continuous service.

Long term benefits of the site upgrade

The roll out of 5G connectivity in Braidwood & surrounds means customers with Telstra 5G mobile devices will be able to enjoy a better mobile experience. The upgrade also brings added benefits for customers on the Telstra 4G network with more capacity, providing better network connectivity and less congestion in peak times.

"We're continuing to expand our 5G network across location and nationally we're adding new sites to the network every week. Upgrades such as these continue to demonstrate Telstra's ongoing commitment to regional Australia," Mr Taylor said.

Once completed, the Mt Gillamatong site will join more than 4,900 Telstra 5G sites on-air within selected areas of more than four hundred cities and towns across Australia. 85 per cent of all Australians now having the ability to access to the Telstra 5G network where they live.

For customers wishing to access 5G on the Telstra network, they will need a 5G capable device so for some people, that may mean upgrading their current device.

CWA NEWS *Margaret Shea*

Setting up the food and gifts stalls. Photo: Judy Robbins

Our community spirit

On Christmas day, I attended the Braidwood Community Christmas Lunch along with many other local residents.

This was the first time I have been in the ten years since it commenced.

This wonderful event is provided by some very special people, Helen Stig along with her family and sister, Julie Brown.

I met Helen ten years ago when she was cooking lunch at the National Theatre for the first time.

Having witnessed the amount of preparation involved, the large quantities of food cooked and how well it was presented, I now have the greatest admiration for these wonderful people.

Best of all, to see the great expression of joy on Helen's face when each person had their meal, is something I will never forget.

Some meals were sent out to people in our community, also.

Over the years this event has also been held in Ryrie Park, weather permitting, and having seen the work involved, I thank this lovely family for their kindness. I now think of all the people who have attended over the years and the great joy and happiness this has brought to them.

I would also like to thank Karlene Blacker and her Mum, Frances for providing toys each year for children attending. It was so lovely to see them unpacking and arranging their gifts on Christmas day.

We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful people in our Community who really do care about others.

EnergiZed

Lily Acheson

Oral history

Is the denunciation of oral history in academic spaces a result of white supremacy and colonialism?

When I was in high school I wrote a report for my extension history class responding to a self-proposed question about the importance of oral history, specifically concerning its status below written histories in society today. I was passionate about this idea of non-linear, embellished, or metaphorical storytelling as a way of preserving history long term. This way of history keeping might now be called myth or legend, which relegates it to a status nowhere near that of something that would be taken seriously in professional, literary, or educational spaces. There could of course be grounds for this relegation. Things like exact statistics are necessary for understanding and recording history, but is this solely where written history's superiority lies over oral history?

We started with the historiography of the Australian 'Frontier Wars', which saw two historians, Keith Windschuttle and Henry Reynolds fight over their opinions of data, grumbling back and forth about how poorly the other critically examined sources from the period of the wars (diary entries and other eye-witness accounts from 1788 until the early 1900s). The focus of this professional debate was not so much about the horrors or even remembrance of these 'wars', better understood now as invasion and colonial violence, but became almost completely about Windschuttle dissecting the work of his peers to denounce their findings. Most notably, he told of Henry Reynolds' exaggeration of the number of Aboriginal deaths that occurred in Queensland before Australia's federation. Windschuttle argued that this was historical malpractice and dedicated his professional efforts to the study of historiography in Australia. I believe his obsession with statistics unnecessarily derailed the history of the frontier wars and reduced Reynolds' arguments to false due to an exaggeration or misrepresentation of numbers. What did this over-exacting approach to history offer Australia in terms of its understanding of these wars, let alone an over-exacting approach to a history written by white Australians?

My teacher aptly noted at this point that history is written by the victors. How Australian. I am no historian, but I couldn't bring myself to believe that exaggerating minor details of a genocide could be used to falsify it completely.

Jacinta Koolmatrie, Adnyamathanha/Ngarrindjeri person and lecturer of Archaeology at Flinders University in Adelaide, argues that at some point in Western history the term 'myth' was slightly reformed from happenings both imagined as well as real, to exclusively imagined and unreal. As a result, this reformation deems specifically Indigenous ways of sharing information, and preserving history and cultural knowledge "into the category of the imaginary." She continues, "But they always stayed truthful to us." (Koolmatrie, Debunking the myth that aboriginal stories are just myths: The Yamuti and the megafauna Diprotodon 2020)

Experiences such as Koolmatrie's informed my perspective of oral histories as a beautiful, vital, and reliable way of keeping history alive. Childhood cautionary tales such as that of the Yamuti were passed down for generations unto Koolmatrie and are remembered and told even today. This monstrously described creature somewhat matches one of the largest ever marsupials, the Diprotodon Optatum. Even though the bedtime story is not an exact tell-all scientific recording of this mega-fauna, how this history is kept ensures that it is easily remembered, retold, and therefore preserved, whereas a written record may not have lasted the thousands of years this story has. So then, is it purely the fact that the history is written that it is the superior method? Or is it the person doing the recording that will determine its status?

Wet summer poses challenges to wine-making

Jill Bynon explains to Robin Tennant Wood

The fourth wet summer in a row has created some challenges for local winemakers.

Jill Bynon, one half (the other being husband Michael) of the award-winning team at Corang Estate Wines, said that the ideal conditions for grape growing are warm-hot dry summers with some occasional rain at night to water the plants.

"Wet summers make for difficult growing conditions," she said.

Grapes need warmth and sunshine to ripen, so with incessant rain it takes much longer to ripen the fruit. Ms Bynon noted as well that in cool climate regions such as this, we already a fairly short growing season. "Of course," she said, "when it's raining it's not sunny and therefore generally cooler.

"A lot of rain increases disease pressure on the vines, whether it's hot and wet, or cold and wet, or dry but humid. Such conditions can cause outbreaks of fungus such as powdery mildew or downy mildew, which if they set in can rot the canopy and the crop. You wouldn't eat a bunch of mouldy grapes, so you certainly can't make wine out of them."

Regular spray applications of fungicide can reduce the risks of outbreaks and the Bynons also keep the grass short in the vineyard to help minimise humidity.

"There's lots of mowing, because you can practically watch the grass grow at the moment! Selective leaf plucking also helps make the canopy less dense which helps sunshine and airflow penetration to reduce humidity.

"All these measures mean quite a lot more work than if it were a hot dry summer."

As all backyard vegie growers know, storm activity can result in damaging hail. In commercial growing, the risk posed by hailstorms is high. Hail can bruise the fruit, and if the hail is very large it has the potential to wipe out a vineyard completely.

Ms Bynon said, "If rain occurs around harvest – which for us will be towards the end of March –

when the grapes are almost ripe and getting softer can be a tricky time too, as the vine soaks up the rain, the fruit swells with the excess water and can split, which is an entry point for disease. Grapes that are full of water means reduced flavour concentration in the wine, so it's very important to avoid picking the grapes immediately after rain."

Despite all these challenges, Ms Bynon said the Corang Estate vines are currently going well, and the canopy and grapes are looking healthy. She said that if the conditions are managed closely, good wine can still be made.

"We expect veraison to occur in the next week or two – when the grapes start to turn from green to red – and the ripening begins in earnest. The long term forecast on the BoM is for a hot dry February-March which should mean the grapes will ripen well and we should finish with a good harvest in the latter part of March.

"Rain is a challenge not a disaster. The past three years have been wet summers – arguably much worse than this year – and we've still managed to make superb wines.

To Stretch

Leo Alder

Everything I've ever held has lost its shape.

Forks curl upward like overgrown nails. Doorknobs wobble and then droop. It's okay. I was reading my book and munching on an apple, while my cat lay coiled nearby. Years of patting had squeezed his body worm-like. He slithered across the windowsill, watching birds flitter in the yard. Occasionally he'd sniff delicately at a smell on the passing breeze. I fumbled with my apple to better bite at the ballooning flesh. The clock, Dali-like, ticked its irregular circles. Beyond the clothes-line, a distant couple walked hand in hand through the park.

The cat's ears went airplane. Then there was a knock at the door. The birds forgotten, he snaked his way through the room and glanced at me. We weren't in the habit of receiving visitors.

It was my ex-girlfriend. We'd dated six months before it got unbearable. She said she didn't recognise herself in the mirror anymore.

At first she'd liked the changes; delighted in showing off the hourglass I'd squeezed her into. The way I'd shaved her face down. But it never stops. The change. She started looking comical. Like Betty Boop and then an anatomical impossibility. They wanted to put her on a show for botched plastic surgery. She'd cried rivers and swatted at my hands when I tried to comfort her.

Edvard Munch The Scream

She stood at the doorway, her arms crossed against her loose dress. 'Change me back.'

'I can't,' I said.

'Try.'

The cat constricted around her leg and she looked at him with pity.

'You'll start to reform,' I said. 'Probably.'

'When?'

I thought of my childhood home. I'd seen it for sale and gone to check it out, but it wasn't how I remembered. Everything looked alien, untouched. The taps had corrected themselves. The windowsills no longer rose like peaking waves. My treehouse had once hung among the leaves like a gnarled and ruptured fruit. Now it sagged, dilapidated, paint peeling, but box shaped; my adolescent morphing apparent only as faint stretch marks in the grain, a nail curving slightly downward.

'Everything forgets,' I said. 'You'll see.'

I closed the door until it was just a crack. 'I hope it gets better soon.'

I lay down on the couch and the cat leaped up to join me. Jumping first with his front, and then his back legs. He wove himself around me and vibrated, purring. He kneaded me like dough.

State government begins boosting regional paramedic staffing

Media from the office of the Minister for Health, Ryan Park

The Minns Labor Government is delivering on its election commitment for additional regional paramedics, with the first cohort beginning their six-week induction programs this month.

It will see 125 additional paramedics arriving in regional, rural and remote communities by the middle of this year.

The closest location to Braidwood to to receive the additional paramedics is Goulburn.

NSW Ambulance will be consulting with the Health Services Union and local staff about the proposed locations.

The Health Services Union has been a strong advocate for more regional paramedics and has worked closely with the government on the implementation of this ambitious structural reform.

These new paramedics will join a cohort of more than 6,700 NSW Ambulance staff who share a commitment to excellence in serving their communities across NSW.

This major workforce boost will deliver better health outcomes for patients and their families, while also providing more support to our existing NSW Ambulance staff in the bush.

The NSW Government will continue to roll out the full additional 500 paramedics over a fou- year period.

The recruitment of additional health workers follows the announcement of a record pay increase for paramedics announced in December. This historic four-year agreement was partially funded from savings from the Health portfolio including savings associated with paramedic recruitment challenges such as additional paramedic recruitment.

The NSW Government's commitment to boost regional paramedics forms part of a broader suite of measures to build a supported regional workforce and improve access and delivery of healthcare across regional communities, including:

- doubling rural health incentives;
- boosting more doctors in our regional GP surgeries and hospitals through the expansion of the single employer model which makes it easier for training rural doctors to maintain their employee benefits and training support between workplaces;
- preparing to roll out health worker study subsidies for those working in regional and rural areas;
- rolling out health worker accommodation; and
- delivering safe staffing levels in our hospitals, including in the bush.

NSW Minister for Regional Health, Ryan Park, said that everyone should be able to access quality healthcare, no matter where they live, including in regional NSW.

"Our priority is to retain our existing paramedics while still delivering critical increase in paramedic numbers where they are needed most, in particular in rural and regional NSW," he said.

"We know that regional, rural and remote communities are grappling with significant workforce shortages, but we are focused on boosting, recruiting and retaining more health workers.

"We are embracing a comprehensive range of measures to do this and investing in and supporting our frontline healthcare workers with an additional 500 paramedics is a core ministerial priority."

NSW Ambulance Chief Executive, Dr Dominic Morgan, said, "I look forward to welcoming these new paramedics to NSW Ambulance, where they will be able to build upon their skills learned in training to help their local communities.

"We have completed service demand and workforce planning to determine where these important roles will be allocated in regional and rural NSW."

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO

Program Guide

Monday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am – Martin's Morning Mix
10:00am - The Rock Show with Gregg
11:00am - Space Nuts (Space News)
1:00pm – Flashback Featured Artist with Rob
4:00pm – Book Reading with Rod
5.00pm - Blast From the 90's
7:00pm - Hot Topics with Bill Waterhouse
9:00pm – Aussie Music Weekly

Tuesday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - The Andy Breakfast Show
9:00am - Cyberbeat
10:00am - 1st/3rd Tue of Month - Our Farm with Frank
11:00am - Tuesday Eclectic Music Mix with Gavin
2:00pm - A Breath Of Fresh Air
3:00pm – Bunkum, Faves & Raves
5:00pm - Blast from the 00's
7:00pm – Crap from the past
9:30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

Wednesday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
1:00pm - Flashback With Rob
3.00pm - The Conga Line with Billy Bob
6:00pm – Woodsongs Old Time Radio

Thursday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - Andy at Breakfast
10:00am – From the Archives with Gavin
3:00pm – The Hot 30
8:00pm – The 60's in Aust. with Rob
9:00pm - Off the Record

Friday
5:00am – Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
10:00am - Alt fridays's Gregg Heldon
3:00pm – The Greenhouse with Violet
5:00pm - The Atomic Countdown
7:00pm - Top 40 from 40 years ago
9:00pm - Raised On Rock

Saturday
9:00am – Mornings with Gavin & Roger
12:00 – Paul's Powerzone
1:00pm – A bit of this and that with Gavin
4:00pm – Blues in the Afternoon with Gavin
6:00pm – Saturday Night Gold

Sunday
8:00am - Exploring the Classics with Barbara
10:00am - Jazz on Sunday with Gavin
3:00pm - 45RPM
4:00pm - Pop Heads
5:00pm - 100% Home Grown
6:00pm - Combined Church Service of Braidwood
7:00pm - The Mechie Show (Prog Rock)

BOOKWORM Julia Ermert

A PHILOSOPHER IN THE GARDEN

Do your pansies look like Henry VIII?

Pansies, one of our most popular, recognisable and easily-grown garden plants — and Henry VIII?

Trying to find a connection between two seemingly unrelated things can be called *apophenia* … it's like seeing the prime minister's face in the slice of toast you just burnt. So you burst through security to call on him. It's maybe a symptom of schizophrenia.

Of course, there's the opposite. It really was the prime minister's face and you really did have an appointment you've forgotten. That's called *randomania* and you're still in trouble.

Philosophy —the love of wisdom— can help, and so can gardening.

Pansies, violas and violets are all part of the Family Violaceae. Cross-breeding and hybridisations, sometimes accidental, have differentiated them over the centuries. The name derives from French *pensées*— thoughts. In Elizabethan England, mad Ophelia said, "There's pansies, that's for thoughts." If you wanted to insult an effeminate young man, you could call him that … or even 'poncey.' That was still current in the fifties of my young days.

The popular garden pansy has two upper overlapping petals, two side petals and a single bottom petal with a slight indentation. At the centre there's a yellow 'beard,' snuggled between blotches or striations which are indicators for nectar-seeking bees.

It can certainly look like a large, showy face. By 1833 there were 400 named varieties, most colours including almost black. As I observed in an earlier article, gardeners always want to improve on Nature.

So who grew pansies resembling the much-married monarch?

Colette planned this. Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (1873-1954) was a French writer and feminist icon. Her work celebrated the body over the mind. She probably thought Henry VIII did, too.

We might remember Colette for her novella *Gigi* (1944), first a stage play and then a musical produced by Vincente Minnelli. I remember the 1958 film with Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier and Louis Jourdan. It was charming. Now it has been rediscovered by a new 'woke' generation, scandalised by its overtones of pedophilia and grooming. Remember the song *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*?

Colette would be delighted. She loved to confront people — she was also a journalist, reporting from the frontlines of World War I.

Some 150 years after her birth, we're still appreciating her.

But indulging all those appetites was exhausting.

For some peace 'for the tired spirit deep inside of me,' she told The Evening Star, Colette turned to her garden.

I'm gleaning all this from Damon Young's *Philosophy in the Garden* (Melbourne University Press, 2012): *a philosophical companion to the garden's labours and joys*.

I met Damon when he was guest speaker at a Jane Austen conference. Her garden was his subject and informs the first chapter in this book. But I've just written about that so I won't go there again. Yet.

The next author-philosopher to mention pansies is Proust. Pronounce his name with an OO not an OW: he was French, not German.

Valentin Louis Georges Eugène Marcel Proust (1871—1922) was a novelist, essayist and literary critic,

still thought to be one of the most influential authors of all time. His best-known work is the seven-volume *In Search of Lost Time*, or *A La Recherche du Temps Perdu* (1899).

Proust is also known for eating *madeleines*, small sponge cakes baked into shell shapes. The taste stimulated memories of his younger days. He had loved being in the big old garden that enclosed his childhood home, and a friend recalled visiting with him as he picked a single pansy and sniffed it, commenting, "The only flower I can smell without getting asthma."

Proust was confined most of his life to his room because of this affliction. The only plants he could tolerate were bonsai, part of the fashionable Japanese aesthetic that had overtaken France after the Americans opened trade discussions. Tiny things were pathways to a richer consciousness.

It's likely his pansies were violas, common as weeds with their striated tricolour faces of cream, yellow and purple. I know them as Johnny-jump-ups or heart's-ease. They were Oberon's love-in-idleness, the juice of which enchanted his wayward wife, Titania.

Philosophically speaking, what is a weed?

Just a plant growing where you don't want it to be!

Many philosophers have made silent partners of their gardens. It's where they are free to meditate and contemplate. Even Socrates, a city man if ever there was one, was occasionally coaxed outside the walls of Athens. Plato and Aristotle taught their students while strolling about under the trees. One-time sinner Augustine was converted to Christianity in a garden: "I flung myself under a fig tree and gave free course to my tears."

Another housebound poet-philosopher was Emily Dickinson (1830–1886.) In life she was actually better known for her plants than for her poems. Out of 900, only ten were published in her lifetime. She did send them out, wrapped around nosegays she picked and arranged herself, to friends in need of consolation. The deep red roses she grew were:

'Syllables of velvet
Sentences of plush
Depths of ruby —undrained — '
her avian visitor 'a hummingbird that just sipped —me —'

In later life Dickinson rarely came downstairs, but her garden memories underscored her reflections on the shape of existence, the transience of life, the inevitability of death.

On her deathbed, belatedly making up her will, Dickinson reportedly heard a fly buzzing.

Since I began with Colette, I'll give her the last word. Dying, this unforgettable woman was attended by her housekeeper and her husband — yes, she did manage to keep the third one. She was leafing through a book of birds and butterflies. Outside, her garden glowed in summer glory. Suddenly she gestured to the window: "Look!" she exclaimed. "Look!"

Sights, sounds, tastes, scents, feelings. It's enough for any poet, philosopher, or gardener.

Farmers and families at mercy of retail giants

Media from NSW Farmers

Weighing in on the cost-of-living crisis and allegations of price gouging by major supermarket chains, NSW Farmers is calling for an ACCC inquiry into the supermarket retail sector as fair prices for consumers and farmers remain nowhere in sight.

"With grocery costs surging, consumers and their families are struggling to put food on the table – yet farmers are still receiving the same dysfunctional prices for their produce as they did when input costs were far lower," NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said.

"It has become increasingly clear that margins are not being passed through the supply chain in a fair and equitable manner, and it is farmers and families who are footing the bill."

Mr Martin said farmers were bearing the brunt of the anti-competitive behavior by supply chain middlemen, with many NSW Farmers members reporting significant abuses of power by the major chains.

"Farmers are being offered increasingly lower prices that often don't cover their cost of production, with little justification and a 'take it or leave it' attitude from supermarkets," Mr Martin said.

"Many farmers have also faced the challenge of being locked into the one buyer due to their unique specifications and requirements, and some have even reported their produce has been rejected when a buyer has discovered they are also supplying other businesses."

According to Mr Martin, consumers were also suffering under the current system, which had seen the average weekly cost of groceries skyrocket.

"Consumer research shows that the average weekly cost of groceries increased by $37 between February 2022 and February 2023," Mr Martin said.

"Not only are these price increases astonishing, but they are also increasingly unrealistic for consumers and their families in the current economic environment."

However, a review of the food and grocery code of conduct by former competition minister Craig Emerson would likely do little to address the pressures farmers and families face as a result of supermarket power abuses, Mr Martin said.

"As the Food and Grocery Code only covers a small fragment of the supply chain, it will not delve into the core issues that need to be addressed, such as price transparency and the excessive profits gained through price gouging," Mr Martin said.

"The Emerson review of the code will also rely solely on verbal testimony from stakeholders, rather than a rigorous ACCC analysis of the prices being charged to consumers, the prices being paid to suppliers and the costs supermarkets incur – which is what we desperately need.

"Failure to properly review these issues via the ACCC will likely force more farmers to exit the industry and lead to a reduction in food and fibre supply, further magnifying the rising food costs we are seeing today."

Coles and Woollies discussing their farm produce purchasing agreement.

QPRC 2024 Art Awards dates

Local artists, pencil these dates on your 2024 NARG Wombat calendars. The QPRC Annual Art Awards for this new year have been announced.

Key dates for the event are:

Online Registrations Open	April 2 Tues – 2024
Online Registrations CLOSE	April 30 Tues
Delivery of Works to the Q-Gallery	MAY 13 & 14
Art Awards Opening	MAY 23 Thurs
Exhibition Closes	June 15 Sat
Collection of UN-sold Works	June 17 & 18

HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE

Laura Moriarty

What a wild month it's been! Cooma Road getting washed away was most definitely not on the list of things we'd ever think to worry about.

Alas, though, we did have to worry about it — and hope that council get it sorted soon enough. As for everything else? Here's the what's happening this fortnight in Braidwood!

Concerts and Gigs

Bill Waterhouse will be playing at the Braidwood Hotel on 26th January from 3pm.

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Steve Kilbey performs at The National Theatre, Sunday 18th February 7.00pm

Aided only by his 12 string Guild jumbo, Steve Kilbey sings, plays and reimagines the first twenty years of THE CHURCH.

This show, that takes in all the big hits as well as many near misses, is the divine comedy and the divine tragedy wrapped up in an unforgettable evening.

Community Events

20th January marks the resumption of Film Club at the National Theatre from 6:30pm if you are a member for the shared meal and 7:30 for an 8pm screening of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, a 1990 absurdist comedy written and directed by Czech playwright Tom Stoppard based on his 1966 play of the same name. Like the play, the film depicts two minor characters from Shakespeare's play Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern who find themselves on the road to Elsinore Castle at the behest of the King of Denmark.

They encounter a band of players before arriving to find that they are needed to find what is troubling the prince, Hamlet. Mystified by the scenes in Hamlet in which they do not appear, they feel they are voyeurs and argue, ponder the meaning of their existence, and play intricate word games.

Filmed around Zagreb, Croatia and in Brežice Castle, Slovenia,the movie won the Golden Lion at the 47th Venice International Film Festival.

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The Braidwood and District Education Foundation presentation evening is fast approaching. Join us to celebrate the award winners on Friday, 2nd February at the Club. Recipients to arrive at 6:30pm and presentations will begin at 7:30 with a light supper to follow.

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

— * —* —* —

The Braidwood Hotel are having a pie eating competition on 26th January from 4pm onwards.

Funeral Notices

The funeral for Ted Hart will be held on Friday, 19th January at St Bede's Church, Braidwood from 11am. All friends and family welcome to attend.

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The memorial for Trish McPherson will be held on Tuesday, 23rd January at 11am at Vanilla Catering in the garden. Please RSVP to 0416 836 136 for catering purposes.

Markets

The Braidwood Farmers Market is on Saturday 20th January from 8:30am in the National Theatre.

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The Ryrie Park Markets are on Saturday, 27th January up at Ryrie Park from 8am.

At BRAG

Snuggle n Sing is on Mondays from 9:30 - 10:30 am during the school term. For further information, please contact Alison Coster on 0411 205 638 or email her at alisoncoster@bigpond.com

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Christina Carroll 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. Please contact Nadia McLeish for further details.

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Vera Active Pilates runs on Wednesdays with an evening class running from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Please contact Kate Morris for further details.

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Life Drawing runs on the last Saturday of every month.

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Christina has also taken on Sue Lyons's pilates classes. Tuesdays at 9:10am, Thursdays at 9:10am.

At The Club

Tuesdays

Tai Chi - 10.00 am

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

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Canasta – 11am. Contact the Club for more information

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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

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

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

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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.

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

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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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Members Happy Hour – 6-7pm weekly

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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.

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

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Darts Competition – 4:30pm for a 5pm start every Sunday.

Other Organisations

There's a new fitness class on at the pool! Aquafit with Kirsten Hulse on Tuesday evenings from 5:30pm. But if you're new, come at 5:15 so you can complete the required paperwork.

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Garden Club meet at the Club on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am—you can find more information on their website: braidwoodgardenclub.org.

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Braidwood Motor Club meet at the Club on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm—for further information, you can contact Steve Scaife on 02 4842 1664.

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The View Club meet at the Club on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm—for further information, please contact Roslyn on 0437 895 276.

The Fishing Club meet at the Club on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm.

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The Royal Mail's weekly chocolate wheel is on as always, as are their Happy Hours on Monday through Wednesday 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) 6 to 7pm

Cubs (ages 8-11 years) 6 to 7.30pm

Scouts (ages 12-14 years) 6 to 7.30pm

Venturers (ages 15 -17 years) 6 to 7.30pm

Please contact Mal Campbell at malcolm.campbell@nsw.scouts.org.au for further details.

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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.

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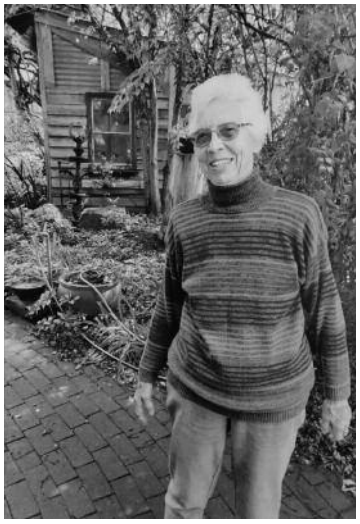
At the Braidwood Hotel Wednesday nights are our $13.00 pork or chicken schnitzel and $15.00 parmigiana nights. Thursday nights pizza specials are supreme or meat lovers pizza $20.00, or Hawaiian or pepperoni $15.00. These specials occur weekly. There are also Friday night meat raffles.

IN MEMORIAM



On behalf of our family, we would like to let you know that our beloved Mum, Granny and Partner, Trish McPherson, passed away peacefully in Braidwood Hospital at 5.49am on New Years Day.

Thank you to all the Nurses, Carers and Doctors.

She dearly loved this Community and we believe that her strength, kindness and humour touched many of the people here.

Irreplaceable to her family, she will live in our hearts forever.

HART, Edward "TED" George. Sadly passed away on Friday 12th January 2024, at Braidwood Hospital,

Aged 81.

Dearly loved Husband of Wendy, Adored Father of Scott, Michelle and Jason (dec) Cherished and Proud Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend Ted's service which will be held at Saint Bede's Catholic Church, Braidwood on Friday 19th January 2024, with the service commencing at 11:00am, following on to the Braidwood Cemetery.

Rosary will be said 20 minutes before the service commences.

Reminder
Weather Permitting

Cricket at the Araluen Rec. 21 January

Muster up your teams and get ready for the Australia Day Cricket Bash at the Araluen Recreation Reserve.

Time: 10 am
BBQ lunch at a small cost. Monies raised from BBQ will be used to purchase balls etc.

High school in Bungendore update

Media from the office of Steve Whan Member for Monaro

The NSW Government is committed to delivering a new permanent high school for the Bungendore community as soon as possible.

In December 2023, the NSW Land and Environment Court issued a ruling that owners' consent from the Minister for Crown Lands should have been sought prior to lodging the planning application for the permanent high school in 2021.

The decision to overturn development consent was another disappointing step in this process beset by failures made under the former Liberal National government that have delayed the building of this much needed school.

The former government's secrecy around its planning for the new school failed to meet the community's expectations, and I appreciate that School Infrastructure NSW has now apologised for its administrative error.

The court's decision was about an error of process and not the merits of the plan for the school.

Since the debacle presided over by the previous government, the Department of Education has been working through the approvals required to deliver the school in as timely a manner as possible.

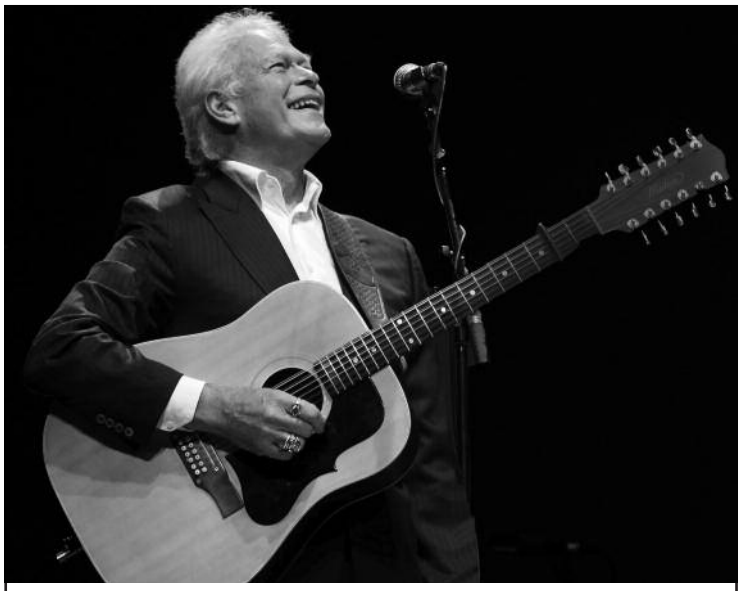
This includes working with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

While there are no current plans to appeal the court's decision, the department has taken steps to reserve this option, which is standard legal process.

The site selection process was subject to an independent review, and while the preferred site is not perfect, this location best meets the needs of local students.

I expect the department will continue to work with the DPHI to progress the statutory planning process for the new school and will keep the community updated.

Concept plan for the new school. Photo: The Riot Act



Modern heat pumps save money both in heating and cooling.

Low income houses to get $206m boost

Zihan (Fred) Zhang writes in *ecogeneration*

Federal and NSW State Governments have jointly unveiled a $206 million package aimed at funding energy-saving upgrades and expanding access to solar power.

In a collaborative effort to alleviate cost-of-living pressures for tens of thousands of NSW households, both governments have committed $87.5 million each over four years for energy-saving improvements to more than 24,000 properties across the state.

Social housing properties, often ranking among the least energy-efficient homes, are considered in this initiative to alleviate cost-of-living pressures for tens of thousands of NSW households.

Upgrading these homes from a 1-star to a 3-star energy rating can reduce energy consumption by 30 per cent, leading to decreased power bills.

The funding will facilitate upgrades such as heat-pump hot water systems, ceiling fans, reverse-cycle air conditioners, solar systems, insulation, and draught proofing.

Priority will be given to older, less energy-efficient properties and those in extreme heat and cold locations.

Additionally, the Albanese government has earmarked $30 million to assist low-income households and apartment residents in funding rooftop solar installations or gaining access to a portion of a solar garden community energy plot.

The Solar Banks program is expected to benefit around 10,000 households, potentially reducing power bills by up to $600 annually by allowing households to buy the share of a medium-scale solar farm.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasised the government's commitment to providing clean, affordable energy to all Australians.

"Saving energy means saving money, which is why we're continuing to deliver cost of living relief for families that need it most without adding to inflation," Albanese said.

"We want all Australians to have access to cleaner, cheaper energy. Renewable energy for social housing helps power bills and is good for the environment."

Premier Chris Minns highlighted the importance of addressing the cost of living, making it a top priority for NSW as the state's energy transition is brought "back on track".

"We are proud to partner with the Albanese government to deliver cheaper, cleaner energy to some of the least energy-efficient houses in the country," Minns said.

Energy Minister Chris Bowen said Labor was helping those currently left out of energy efficiency to "reap the rewards of the clean energy transformation".

"Critical energy upgrades in social housing properties and strong solar energy incentives for apartment block residents across NSW will deliver cleaner, cheaper energy to more Australians," he said.

According to Labor, a further $1 million will be invested in community renewable energy projects on the far south coast, aligning with Labor's election commitment.

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1. We all know that Queen Mary of Denmark was born and raised in Hobart. What was her surname before marrying (then) Crown Prince Frederik, now King Frederik X?
   - ➤ McDonald
   - ➤ Donaldson
   - ➤ O'Donnell
   - ➤ Donald

2. Matildas and Chelsea FC captain, Sam Kerr, has just had surgery for what injury?
   - ➤ Patella tendonitis
   - ➤ Broken ankle
   - ➤ Dislocated shoulder
   - ➤ Anterior cruciate ligament

3. How many tests did recently retired batsman, David Warner, play in his test career?
   - ➤ 87
   - ➤ 101
   - ➤ 112
   - ➤ 138

4. Which veteran broadcaster has been accused of sexual misconduct against multiple young men?
   - ➤ John Laws
   - ➤ Alan Jones
   - ➤ Neil Mitchell
   - ➤ Chris Smith

5. Who is the highest ranked Australian player in this year's Australian Open tennis?
   - ➤ Alex De Minaur
   - ➤ Nick Kyrgios
   - ➤ Daria Saville
   - ➤ Thanasi Kokkinakis

6. The movie *BMX Bandits* has just passed its 40th anniversary since release in 1983. Which Australian actress did the movie put on the road to international stardom?
   - ➤ Nicole Kidman
   - ➤ Cate Blanchett
   - ➤ Toni Collette
   - ➤ Claudia Karvan

7. Which movie won the Best Drama award at the Golden Globes?
   - ➤ Anatomy of a Fall
   - ➤ Past Lives
   - ➤ Oppenheimer
   - ➤ Maestro

8. Directed by Sofia Coppola and released late last year, what movie is a biopic of the wife of Elvis?
   - ➤ Maestro
   - ➤ Priscilla
   - ➤ Poor Things
   - ➤ American Fiction

9. For the second time in a month, a volcanic eruption has threatened which fishing town in Iceland?
   - ➤ Keflavik
   - ➤ Njardvik
   - ➤ Reykjavik
   - ➤ Grindavik

10. Which Australian politician is currently undertaking a landmark (and diplomatically tricky) trip to the Middle East?
   - ➤ Anthony Albanese
   - ➤ Jim Chalmers
   - ➤ Penny Wong
   - ➤ Tanya Plibersek

Answers:

1. Donaldson; 2. ACL; 3. 112; 4. Alan Jones; 5. Alex de Minaur; 6. Nicole Kidman; 7. Oppenheimer; 8. Priscilla; 9. Grindavik; 10. Penny Wong

Up the main street we go. Photo: Gordon Waters

Nominate for the 2024 Heritage Awards!

Have you recently renovated a heritage building in the Queanbeyan-Palerang area?

Has someone in your neighbourhood created a beautiful heritage garden, or restored a heritage property that you admire?

Do you know someone who is making an outstanding contribution to heritage in Queanbeyan-Palerang, through scholarship, promotion, or excellent artisanship?

Council's annual celebration of heritage, the **Queanbeyan-Palerang 2024 Local Heritage Awards**, are just around the corner and you can nominate now.

The event acknowledges people who work hard to care for and preserve heritage in our community whether it's their home, a garden, publication, or creative promotion of heritage.

There are three award categories:

1. Restoration of a heritage building – commercial or residential
2. New building design, Adaptation, Heritage garden, or Sustainability and Greening of a Heritage Place
3. Outstanding promotion or contribution to heritage.

All winning nominations receive a framed certificate and the winning applicants in categories 1 and 2 are awarded $1,000 in cash.

Nominations close midnight, 28 February 2024.

Winners will be announced during the Heritage Festival celebrations which run from April - May. The date for the Awards ceremony will be announced in early 2024, keep an eye on our Facebook page and website.

Nominate today at or contact Council's Land-Use Planning Team on **1300 735 025**.

QPRC

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Come and see!

For all the slick marketing and advertisements in traditional media or on social media platforms, nothing beats the power and effectiveness of word-of-mouth.

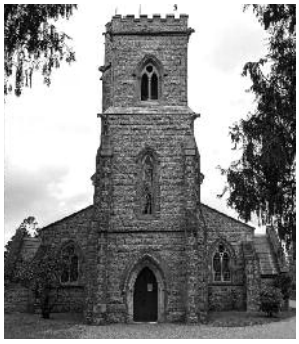
The growing buzz around a play, a band or concert, an exhibition, a book, a film – something extraordinary – the experience of which is passed from one friend or trusted source to another and gathers excitement as it passes like a wave building, "Trust me, you've got to see/hear/read it."

The gospel reading from John reveals the handover from John the Baptist (as witness and preparer) to Jesus as "God's chosen One", where the Baptist seeing Jesus passing, says to two of his disciples, "Look, the Lamb of God" and they began to follow Jesus. The momentum builds quickly. One of those was Andrew, who went to find his brother Simon Peter to tell him, "We have found the Messiah." The next day Jesus meets Philip and invited him to follow. Philip, like Andrew, goes to find his friend Nathanael saying "We have found the Messiah… Jesus of Nazareth". Nathanael replied, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?", to which Philip excitedly replies, "Come and see!"

Sceptical though he was, Nathanael can't resist his friend's invitation. There is an exchange between Jesus and Nathanael, where Nathanael asks, "How do you know me?" to which Jesus replied, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." This is Nathanael's moment of epiphany and he responds "Rabbi, you are the Son of God".

So within two days, two of John the Baptist's disciples start following Jesus. One of them, Andrew, calls his brother, Simon Peter. Jesus then asks Philip to follow him. Philip asks his friend Nathanael, all on the strength of "Come and see". That's five disciples, all from Bethsaida, a fishing port on the Sea of Galilee. Hidden in the ordinary. An unlikely Messiah from a hicksville farming village, drawing ordinary working men from a fishing port.

Things are moving pretty fast. There is a breathlessness in the brevity of John's gospel pace.



From the epiphany of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist confirming Jesus as the Messiah, to his gathering of disciples, only days have passed. And this is before Jesus has started his teaching. And what he has to reveal is about the revolutionary power of God's love. Trust me, you've got to see/hear/read it!

(google search for David Suchet reading the Gospel according to John on youtube).

Anne Sanders, parishioner.

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Join us this coming SUNDAY 21st January at 10am for Holy communion at St Andrews Anglican Church, Elrington St, Braidwood, followed by a welcoming cuppa and chat. Check out our Facebook page: Anglican Parish of Braidwood for updates.

Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 email: admin@braidwoodanglican.org.au

Braidwood Uniting Church

Eyes to see

It's a wonderful time of year. When I see the main street so full of cars, it so satisfies to know that all those people are spending money in Braidwood businesses.

In more quiet times, I sometimes go to a local store and think to myself, "How are you making money?" Although I'm 2 or 3 days a week in Braidwood, I live at the Bay and the same phenomenon takes place there. Often, I visit a café and I'm the only customer in the shop; it's good for conversation with the owner of the business but

I often wonder how they survive. In this busy season, it does my heart a world of good to see a queue that fills the shop and even spills out of the shop.

Walking along our beaches at this time of year is a joy too. I love to hear children squealing with delight as they paddle in the water. Yesterday I saw some kids with tiny boards that I imagine were Christmas presents. To hear them express both fear a delight because the tiny wave approaching was just a little larger than the tiny wave that had just gone. I look at parents with young children and precious memories flood back for me. I'm just an old man walking past but I feel like saying to parents, "these are the toughest and best days of your life". Generally or at least in our case, at that stage of life, money is tight. Everything seems to cost a fortune and just taking a holiday is a massive achievement. It's likely just the time when something goes wrong back at work, or the car develops a problem or some family tension looms large. I used to work so hard that on the few occasions when I took a break, I often felt unwell. But these little family groups are making happy memories. Happy memories that form a foundation for little kids who tomorrow will be teachers, lawyers, bus drivers and generally running our world. It's fascinating for me to see how differently mums and dads generally work when on holidays. Yesterday I saw a mum a good way up from the water, changing an infant while the dad was in the water with a couple of young children, throwing one them into the air. I don't think many mums throw their children into the air. Such parents need eyes in the back of their heads as little kids like this and water presents a danger every moment. Thank God for young parents that find a way to get all of this done for their kids.

For those of us who had parents who created happy memories for us, this is a season for remembering and giving thanks. My parents provided plenty of happy memories and I wonder now how they did it on next to no money at all. My mum would welcome our feral friends home and provide food and it's a complete mystery to me how she managed with no money to make it happen. It's also a season to remember when we had little kids. At the time I thought I was quite grown up but on reflection, I think we were kids who had kids. The most precious memories of mine don't come from the achievements of my work but from the time we spent together as a little family with our kids. We weren't perfect parents but we must have been good enough because our children were good and are good people.

Wishing everyone eyes to see the blessings and best wishes for 2024.

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St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of Mark 1:14-20 by Richard Leonard

Seeing today's Gospel is set by the water's edge, this story seems appropriate.

One day, three men were hiking and unexpectedly came upon a large raging river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so. The first man prayed to God, 'Please God, give me the strength to cross this river.' In an instant God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, after almost drowning a couple of times.

Seeing this, the second man prayed to God, 'Please God, give me the strength and the resources to cross this river.' In an instant God gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times.

The third man had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, 'Please God, give me the strength and the resources ... and the intelligence ... to cross this river.' In an instant God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, went upstream a couple of hundred metres, then walked across the bridge!

The three men's prayers were all about gaining something: strength, resources and intelligence. Today's readings are about gaining things too. Unlike the instant answer to the hikers' prayers, Jonah, Paul and Mark know real gain usually comes less dramatically and quickly, and involves letting go of something as much as it involves taking it on. In the Christian life this is called conversion, and it's at the centre of our life of faith.

Christian conversion is not a once-in-a-lifetime moment. It can happen every day in a rich variety of ways. It involves a change in attitude as much as a change in lifestyle.

All three readings show a different facet of conversion. Jonah calls the Ninevites to social conversion. St Paul, who reveals a very strong expectation that the end of time is near, calls the people of Corinth to a conversion of mind. And through relating the call of Simon, Andrew, James and John, St Mark tells us about personal conversion.

These days we regularly hear God's call in personal terms. It's sometimes called 'me and God' theology. Modern hymns reflect it best. We regularly sing about how Jesus died 'for me', or that 'here I am Lord' or that 'I will follow you'. Individually these lines are all true, the problem is that they tend to play down the more ancient and biblical social dimensions of our call to conversion. In the Bible even though God and Jesus call people to conversion through personal relationships, there is no hint that this is where it stops. Every call leads to the wider community, to the people of Israel in the Old Testament, and out to the entire world in the New Testament.

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Today's readings provide a litmus test for our conversion. If our faith has become a self-help club, where we talk about 'my' God, 'my' prayers, 'my' Church, 'my' Mass, we are in need of conversion. We don't need to leave God's personal love for us behind, we just need to see it as a necessary preparation for belonging to the people of God as we engage with the world at every level. We are challenged to reject the idea that it's me-and-God-against-the-world, and welcome in the idea that it's us-and-God-in-the-world.

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The Requiem Mass Ted Hart will be held on Friday 19 January commencing at 11am. The Rosary will be said at 10.45am. Please come early and say the Rosary for Ted. It was his daily prayer.

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Weekend Mass: Saturdays at 6pm.

Australia introduces Nature Repair Market Bill to revitalise biodiversity

NSW Landcare media

The Australian Government, has announced the introduction of the Nature Repair Market Bill.

This innovative legislation aims to address the alarming deterioration of Australia's natural environment by facilitating private investment in environmental restoration and conservation.

In a landmark move, the Australian Government, through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water, has announced the introduction of the Nature Repair Market Bill. This innovative legislation aims to address the alarming deterioration of Australia's natural environment by facilitating private investment in environmental restoration and conservation.

The Nature Repair Market Bill seeks to create a structured and transparent marketplace where businesses, philanthropic organisations, governments, and individuals can invest in nature repair initiatives. This market is expected to generate new opportunities for landholders to enhance and manage their lands more effectively, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Aligning with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Australia commits to protecting 30% of its land and seas by 2030. This goal is in response to the 2021 State of the Environment Report, which highlighted the worsening condition of Australia's natural environment.

The Bill recognises the significant role that the business and private sector can play in nature repair. By offering a science-based, legislated framework, it encourages these sectors to demonstrate their environmental credentials through positive nature-related outcomes.

The Nature Repair Market Bill will enable the Clean Energy Regulator to issue tradeable biodiversity certificates to Australian landholders for projects that protect, manage, and restore nature. These certificates, ensuring integrity and transparency, can be sold to various stakeholders. The Bill provides for a public register to track these certificates, offering standardised information to facilitate comparison and valuation of projects.

A critical aspect of the Bill's success hinges on educating and empowering landholders. In this regard, working closely with Landcare groups becomes pivotal. Landcare, known for its dedication to managing environmental issues in local communities, offers landholders a wealth of knowledge and resources to improve biodiversity on their properties. Through events, workshops, and assistance with grants for environmental management and restoration projects, Landcare provides practical and invaluable support. This collaboration ensures that landholders are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective environmental stewardship.

The market is inclusive, allowing all landholders, including First Nations peoples, conservation groups, and farmers, to participate. Eligible projects include improving or restoring native vegetation, planting local species, and protecting rare habitats.

The legislation underpins the nature repair market with robust provisions for science-based project assessments, public accountability, and transparency. An independent Nature Repair Market Committee will advise on the integrity of the scheme, ensuring projects meet biodiversity standards.

Uniquely, the market will operate parallel to carbon markets, allowing landholders to receive certificates from carbon projects that contribute to biodiversity. This alignment aims to streamline participation for landholders in both markets.

The Australian Government plans further consultation in 2023 to refine the market's details, with the aim to commence trading in the second half of 2024. This ongoing development will include methodology determinations and rules, ensuring the market's effectiveness and integrity.

The Government acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their enduring connection to land, sea, and community. This acknowledgment underscores the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge and practices in environmental conservation efforts.

The Nature Repair Market Bill represents a significant step in Australia's journey towards environmental restoration and sustainability. By fostering collaboration between government, private sectors, landholders, and organisations like Landcare, Australia is poised to make a substantial impact on its biodiversity conservation efforts.

Landcare grants

Up to $250,000
Closes 5 February 2024
Grants of up to $250,000 for projects that develop knowledge and skills in protecting and restoring our environment. The Environmental Education program funds projects that develop, broaden and transform the community's knowledge, skills, and intrinsic motivation to engage in sustainable behaviour and encourage participation in protecting the environment.

Up to $10,000
Closes 26 February 2024
Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities (populations under 15,000).

Up to $25,000
Closes 26 February 2024
Supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities to implement initiatives that prevent and prepare for future climate impacts, or recover from existing disasters in the medium to long-term, generally 1-10 years after the disaster.

Upper Shoalhaven Landcare

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

It was a case of playing golf while keeping watch on the sky last Saturday, as Braidwood's golfers set off under what looked to be stormy conditions.

Fortunately, however, the storms skirted to the west of Braidwood and the resulting breeze lowered the temperature a bit.

All club members are reminded that Annual Membership fees are now due and the final date for payment is January 31. Membership cards for 2024 will be held at the Club for all members residing in the 2622 area. Please note that unpaid financial members will be removed from the database and will need to reapply for membership.

RESULTS: Saturday January 13- Men's Single Stableford - Don Burke Trophy

Winner: Allan Walcott 38 c/b

Runner Up: Keith Ferguson 38

3rd Place: Steve Glenday 36

Men's NTP 6/15: Not Won

Ball Comp: Tom Duffy 35, Billy Lang 35, Chris Witt 31, Ted Emmett 30, Roger Hovey 30

Handicap Changes: Keith Ferguson down 1 to 23, Steve Glenday down 1 to 23, Allan Walcott down 1 to 12, Terry Hughes out 1 to 31

Women's Single Stableford - Robin Tennant Wood Trophy.

Winner: Lorinda Stuart 35 c/b

Runner Up: Margy Gardner 35

NTP 3/12: Margy Gardner

Ball Comp: Donna Kuhn 34, Virginia Groot Obbink 32

Handicap Changes: Lorinda Stuart down 1 to 21, Donna Kuhn down 1 to 31

On 6 January the first Monthly Medal comp for the year was held with John Harb and Margy Gardner taking the men's and women's honours respectively.

The ACT Vets' event scheduled for Monday 8 January was unfortunately cancelled due to the bad weather.

Coming Events

January 20 Saturday: Committee Meeting 10.30am

Men's Single Stableford - Andrew Clark Trophy

Women's Single Stroke – Jackie Clark Trophy

January 27 Saturday: Medley Ambrose- Australia Day Weekend Deadwood Emporium & Nomchong Electronics Trophies

February 3 Saturday: Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medals.

The Parkrun is on again!

STAR TIMES

Procuratorfiscalfollies

Going to the big smoke can be an expensive affair. The full cost, though, is revealed only after the party is over and the guests have returned home. In our case it was lunch at the Botanic Gardens. The parking meter was temperamental but we got the credit into it eventually — not cheap, $38 for two hours. Time flew and realising we would be partying a bit longer, another $20. Alas, a week later in the mail came a bluey for $92 for overstaying the meter. It must have been a nanosecond between the two payments. Realising that we had actually paid all we were required to, we looked up the appeal process option on the electronic payment form. Many tedious link clicks later, and feeling the will to live slipping away, we finally settled on the payment option. $150 for 2½ hours!

AdvanceAustraliawhere

Australians all let us rejoice,
Especially those who came by sea.
Like frogs in pots we wait to boil,
So goddamn blissfully.

So that's the problem with Australia Day. It is a great country but it doesn't become greater by banging on about it. What would help would be if we looked at what our elected leaders are doing to make it possible to honestly sing in joyful strains, "Advance Australia Fair".

Prescriptionforasucker

In my youth I once needed the services of a doctor. She asked me, "Do you smoke?" "Yes," I said. "Do you drink much alcohol?" Again I answered, "Yes, a fair bit." "Well," she said. "I don't think there's much I can do for you if you care so little for your own health." Tough love but true. Especially the smoking bit. I think I stopped soon enough but only time will tell. And that brings us to vaping. The government has decided to require vapers to obtain a doctor's prescription and a visit to the chemist. Media reports suggest that 450,000 Australians will, with or without joyful strains, seek a prescription for nicotine vapes each year. The hope is that this will keep them in the 'health' system paying a higher price designed as a disincentive to doing it at all rather than them going to the cheaper backyard dealers. Huh?

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Contributions desperately welcome.

STOP PRESS

GOOD GOLLY MISS BROLLY