BRAIDWOOD'S
Changing Times

Issue #97 — $2.00

Wednesday February 28 2024

COMING WEATHER

Temp	Min	Max	Chance rain
Wed	14°	30°	5%
Thur:	18°	33°	10%
Fri:	15°	29°	10%
Sat:	15°	23°	50%
Sun:	10°	21°	20%
Mon:	9°	21°	5%
Tue:	9°	25°	10%

The lights go on ...

Braidwood Show 2024

Robin Tennant Wood

It's been five years since the last Braidwood Show, with fires, floods and pestilence getting in the way of the much-loved annual event in the subsequent four years, but it's all set to return this Saturday with a new twist.

This year the show will continue until 9.00pm to allow for the formal turning on of the new floodlights that were installed last year.

Secretary of the Showground S355 committee, Grant Coe, said that there will be a brief ceremony with invited guests from Queanbeyan-Palerang Council, the Braidwood Community Bank and the local emergency services before the lights are officially turned on at 7.00pm.

The show will continue with a demonstration polocrosse match under lights and other games with a focus on family and participation.

The installation of the lights last year was stalled several times due to wet weather, but the work was finally completed in September. Mr Coe said that the lights are all part of council's management policy. He noted that during the bushfires the showground was a refuelling point for the helicopters doing aerial waterbombing and lights will enable the area to be further used as an aerial evacuation point should that be necessary.

The formalities of the illumination will be "nothing fancy", according to Mr Coe. There will be a speech and thanks to the officials whose support has made it possible, then the fun and games will commence.

Some of the exhibits and entertainment will remain open until 9.00pm to allow show goers to take full advantage of the extended program.

Braidwood Early Childhood and Education and Care facility — the Purple House at the bottom of Wallace Street.

Heavy blow for women's employment in Braidwood

Michael Crosby AM

The closure of Braidwood's only Early Childhood and Education and Care facility — the Purple House — is a disaster for parents trying to raise their young children, provide them with a high quality educational experience in ECEC and hold down a job.

Too often this is particularly a disaster for mothers who continue to bear prime responsibility for the care of young children.

Those most immediately affected have called a meeting for 4 pm on 4 March to be held at the Old Sunday School Hall. All members of the community are welcome to attend but parents and prospective parents in particular are urged to come along. We want to hear from you how this is going to affect your lives and your children. We also want to sketch out what possible solutions there might be.

The cause for the closure appears to be the inability to find qualified staff to meet the Government's mandated ratios.

The sector has been calling for professional wages in the sector since the days of the Gillard Government. Women have choices about their employment and it is totally understandable that they will pursue less stressful jobs with lower levels of responsibility if pay in ECEC remains at its current insulting level.

> The result is that educators have been leaving their profession at an alarming rate for years, the sector has huge levels of vacancies and not enough young people are starting out on the path to getting a Level 3 ECEC Certificate.

In the mix too is the small size of the Centre. With approval for just 29 places, it appears from the outside that it will always be difficult to run a for-profit centre – particularly if the operator is burdened with real estate debt.

Parents have already begun reaching out to all levels of Government – with the strong support of the BCA and the Business Chamber – but we need to form a strong lobby group at the meeting on the 4th if we are going to have any chance of fixing this problem.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL Robin Tennant Wood

The 'Google effect' on your brain

In the 1980s movie, *Short Circuit*, a military robot referred to as Number 5, is hit by lightning which transforms its wiring into something approaching human intelligence. Number 5 escapes from the military facility and goes out into the wide world in search of 'input'. Essentially Number 5 is data-mining. Everything he (yes, the robot is given a gender in this movie) sees and hears is 'input', which expands his knowledge and, supposedly, intelligence.

Short Circuit was billed as science fiction when it was released in 1986, but, as is so often the case with science fiction, its essence has become reality in the form of our current Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems.

We've all heard the amusing stories of people following Google maps or GPS directions and ending up driving into rivers or finding themselves on dead-end roads in the middle of nowhere. Reliance on technology can, however, be devastating. In 2009 an Air France jet crashed into the Atlantic Ocean after leaving Rio de Janeiro.

After the black box was recovered it was found that the plane's autopilot system had shut down and the pilots, so accustomed to using the computerised system, were unable to manually correct the situation.

Closer to home, the 'Robodebt' debacle of the last decade was caused when Centrelink used automated technology to claw back $2.3 billion in welfare overpayments. Flaws in the algorithmic decision-making system resulted in up to 450,000 Centrelink clients receiving false debt notices, in some cases of tens of thousands of dollars. There were several known cases of people taking their own lives as a result of the distress this caused.

Research is finding that as we outsource cognitive tasks to technology, we are losing our human cognitive abilities, and, it could be argued in the case of Robodebt, our human compassion. Yes, it might be convenient to hand boring tasks over to AI while we focus on the more interesting stuff, but scientists have found that 'skill erosion' and 'automation complacency' is an increasing risk in organisations.

In one major study of technological reliance in a large accounting firm, researchers found that staff had lost their awareness of the extent of what the automated systems were actually doing. They had also lost their incentive to maintain and update relevant knowledge (such as tax legislation) because the vendor and software did that for them, and as the software was reliable, they no longer bothered to check the outgoing reports for accuracy.

Artificial Intelligence is not intelligence. It is artificial plagiarism. As with Number 5's 'input', AI is a synthesis of everything that is entered into the system. Last year several Australian authors were horrified to find that their work had been used to 'input' into AI systems. The Australian Society of Authors has since advised its members to include a clause in publishing contracts making it clear that the publisher "does not include permission to use [the author's] work, or allow access to the work by any third party, for the training of AI technologies without [the author's] prior consent."

Automated systems do not have the skills of critical thinking. Researchers therefore encourage anyone who is using AI to pay attention to what the system is doing – what inputs are used, for what purpose, and what might affect its suggestions; maintain skill competence – especially where there is legal accountability for outcomes; and critically assess all results.

As for Number 5, he changed his name to Johnny 5 and escaped the clutches of the military to live happily ever after with his human friends on a ranch in the Rocky Mountains.

Hand pottery

Pottery hand building workshops are coming up in the Mud Dept. studio here in Braidwood. Join to learn the skills to make just about anything.

It will focus on cups, leggy pots and lidded boxes in the first series of workshops starting in March.

The next dates are March 16th and 17th and all the details can be found at: https://muddept.com/pages/classes-and-workshops

Or call Lea on 0447046359.

FROM THE QPRC MAYOR'S DESK


Kenrick Winchester QPRC mayor.

We are looking back at our Community Strategic Plan from 2021 and asking the community to tell us how things have changed and what should stay the same as we head towards 2042.

There are lots of ways to get involved and have your say, including completing an online survey, a hard copy survey from our customer service centres, or responding as a group using the Discussion Guide. Read the old plan and complete the survey before 15 March 2024 at: yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/update-towards-2024-csp

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We are calling for expressions of interest for members of the community to serve as representatives on the QPRC Affordable Housing Working Group. This group will help provide local knowledge on Affordable Housing issues that affect Queanbeyan-Palerang, monitor the implementation of council's Affordable Housing Strategy, and raise community awareness of Affordable Housing issues.

Meetings will be held monthly on Thursdays at 4pm in Queanbeyan. Make sure to share the skills you have that will help this group achieve its goals when you submit your EOI. To submit an EOI by 5pm Friday 8 March, visit qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Public-Notices#section-2 or send it to the Land-Use Planning team at PO Box 90 Queanbeyan NSW 2620 or email landuse admin@qprc.nsw.gov.au using the subject line 'EOI – QPRC Affordable Housing Working Group'.

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Head to Judith Wright Park in Braidwood on Saturday 9 March from 9am to 11am to help us plant some trees! The Judith Wright Gardens are located at the end of Garvey Street in Braidwood. This planting will help provide habitat for native animals and restore Flood Creek. Make sure to wear long pants, enclosed shoes, and appropriate sun protection. This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee program.

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Are your kids or grandkids keen photographers? We're running a World Wildlife Day Photo Competition where they can show off their skills and help us capture our region's unique biodiversity! Simply enter your photos of plants, animals, fungi or bugs that are native to our area for your chance to win. The competition is open to people 18 years and under who live in our local government area and there are Best Entry prizes in each of the four age categories as well as an overall prize. To learn more and submit your entries by 11:59pm Sunday 3 March, visit: qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/2024-World-Wildlife-Day-Photo-Competition

Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor

Comedy Film festival at the Braidwood Film Club in March

Now is a perfect time to join Braidwood Film Club in order to get the full benefit of the yearly $50 fee because not only you will see an assortment of interesting movies every month of the year, but on Sunday 17 March we are screening a Comedy film festival.

Starting at 10.30 we will screen *Malcolm* starring Colin Friels, followed by *Death in Brunswick* starring Sam Neill and finish with *Ferris Bueller's Day off* starring Matthew Broderick. If you want a laugh come to one or all three. We cannot take money at the door so you must be a member to enjoy the film festival and other benefits. Visit www.braidwoodfilmclub.org.au or find us on Facebook. You can join on the day.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Compression garments

Compression therapy has been used to treat chronic venous disease for many, many years, with the earliest recording dating back to 450-350BC. Compression therapy aims to improve blood flow in your veins, thereby reducing oedema and pressure in the limb. Compression can be achieved using bandages, stockings, or specially designed wraps.

Properly fitting medical compression garments can help manage many health conditions including varicose veins, venous insufficiency, oedema associated with travel or pregnancy, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) prevention and tired achy legs. It's important that these garments are properly prescribed and fitted by health care professionals with appropriate training and experience.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, you can be assured that our medical compression clinics offer the best evidence-based service for your healthcare. Our pharmacists have been trained to measure and fit compression garments to ensure you leave with the best garment for you. Private consultation rooms allow our pharmacists to assist you with applying the compression garments, to ensure you can put them on at home, with or without donning aids.

Our team regularly collaborate with other healthcare professionals and can appropriately refer you if needed for further assessment or management of your condition.

This service is available Monday to Friday in the pharmacy, no referral necessary (referrals welcome if your doctor has prescribed compression therapy).

You can book a free consultation online by visiting: www.medadvisor.com.au/Network/CapitalChemistBraidwood or speaking to our team in-store.

BCS *John Longhurst*

Stepping Up to university

Will Fitzgerald

Will Fitzgerald is the latest Braidwood Central School senior student to access the Uni Step Up Online-University Access Program in conjunction with the Australian Catholic University (ACU).

The cost-free program allows students to commence credited academic studies in Year Eleven, significantly reducing Higher School Certificate stress loads, as well as reduce Higher Education Contribution (HECS) debt.

The ACU scheme offers degree pathways in Exercise Science, Business and Health. Year Eleven students study two first year undergraduate units whilst undertaking their Preliminary HSC Course. Weekly online classes are provided over ten weeks for each unit.

Will Fitzgerald successfully completed two units of a Bachelor of Business last year.

Enrolled students have an opportunity to experience university life free of charge and gain a head start on their academic journey. The ACU provides full access to undergraduate support services as well as dedicated and experience academic staff. Successful students are in line to receive an offer to study at ACU and have their credit points counted towards their chosen degree before even commencing HSC studies.

The program is funded through the Higher Education Partnership Program enabling BCS to facilitate student access. No HECS debt is accumulated whilst undertaking the program which can save eligible students thousands of dollars.

Head Teacher Careers at BCS, Michael Wall, has been instrumental in setting up the program and securing the partnership with ACU. The program commenced in 2021.

Mr Wall said, "The program is an excellent opportunity for students to test their suitability for university studies without the cost impacts. BCS has a state of the art Senior Hub that is well resourced and able to deliver the internet broadband required for zoom lessons. The Senior hub is also staffed by highly experienced teachers who offer hands on assistance, monitor progress and provide the necessary motivation to study at a university level."

Will Fitzgerald said, "I know I want to study for a Bachelor of Business. It is great that my completed units will count towards my degree. It was such a relief to know by the end of Year Eleven that I have the capabilities to successfully study at a university level. It has significantly reduced my stress levels going into my HSC Year."

The ACU provides a range of resources to support students undertaking the online program. All textbooks and various journal subscriptions are provided free of charge and personalised assistance can be booked via online appointments with university lecturers.

Will Fitzgerald said, "I have access to STUDIOSITY, a worldwide academic network that is paid for by the university. It means I can receive assistance with my studies at any time of the day."

BCS School Principal, Nerida Mosely, is fully committed to the program.

Ms Mosely said "BCS is keen to provide a range of pathways to meet the needs of all our students. The success of Uni Step Up Online-University Access Program to date, is not only an achievement for our school, but highlights and fosters the potential of students seeking to pursue university studies from regional areas."


Outdoor furniture made from recycled plastic lids.

Lids4Kids receive another boot of lids from Braidwood

John Tuckwell

There is a desire by many of us to move towards zero waste, and we can all make a contribution.

Recently a second load of assorted lids and other small items was taken to Lids4Kids in Fyshwick, and they were delighted to receive some many well sorted and clean lids.

Lids4Kids is a national grassroots 100% volunteer project started in the ACT which supports disadvantaged people and those with a disability through recycling items too small to normally be recyclable through our yellow bins – namely items smaller than a credit card.

They collect and melt down plastic lids into moulds to make plastic bars and then construct colourful outdoor furniture.

They also take all sorts of other small items which cannot be put in your recycle bin. These include pill blister packs, metal lids, metal fasteners, office supplies, ring pulls, alfoil, metal twist-ties, wire, household batteries, bread tags, corks, rubber bands and moisture absorbers.

For plastic bottle lids (milk/UHT, water and soft drink bottle lids) it is very important that they are clean and dry as people with special needs may be involved in sorting them and may put them in their mouths. Also, please remove any white foam seals as they are a different plastic. Otherwise, Lids4Kids or I must do it. Please also separate the different items in bags or containers and sorting the lids by colour is also appreciated (it is quite a therapeutic process).

Metal items do not need to be cleaned or have any plastic removed as the recycling process vaporises the plastic.

Any lids bigger than a credit card can go in your recycle bin and Tim at Lids4Kids suggested any plastic smaller than what they collect can be put in an empty milk bottle carton and then put in the recycle bin.

Please take your lids and other small thingies to the Braidwood Visitors Information Centre at the National Theatre and leave them in the green bin outside.

Many small steps lead to big differences…

STICK and FLY **Matthew Little**

International Women's Day regional art showcase

QPRC Cultural Services media

More than 40 women artists from across the region will gather at Rusten House Art Centre in Queanbeyan to showcase and celebrate creativity this International Women's Day.

The exhibition runs from 2 to 23 March and features an abundance of artistic talent from female artists in the QPRC and ACT regions. Diverse works will extend through all the gallery spaces, showcasing a variety of materials, techniques, themes, and ideas. Local artists will be exhibited alongside works from QPRC's Art Collection.

The exhibition celebrates the importance of women artists and the value they bring to artmaking and cultural cohesion in our community. Rusten House Art Centre is proud to recognise the achievements of women as art makers, acknowledging that their contribution to art often goes unnoticed and underappreciated.

International Women's Day encourages women to celebrate their unique achievements and calls for action towards gender equity. The 2024 global theme for IWD is 'Inspire Inclusion.' This theme explores a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment. This exhibition includes all styles and artistic participation. It invests in women by celebrating their attributes and qualities as artists and recognises women artists in an industry that historically primarily applauded and celebrated male achievements.

The QPRC Deputy Mayor Cr. Esme Livermore will launch a special opening event on International Women's Day (Friday 8 March), from 5 to 7pm at Rusten House Art Centre. Council would like to invite members of the community to share and celebrate women's achievements in the visual arts through this event. Please register to attend via Eventbrite.

Image: (detail): Sally Simpson, Fragile Equilibrium, *2021, QPRC Art Collection.*

Women's Exhibition
Female artists from across the QPRC and ACT regions
2-23 March 2024

Opening: **Friday March 8, 5-7pm 2024**
www.eventbrite.com.au/e/exhibition-opening-womens-exhibition-rusten-house-tickets-845496301197
Venue: **Rusten House Art Centre**
87 Collett Street, Queanbeyan, NSW 2622.
Open hours: Wed-Sat 10am-4pm
Phone: 02 6285 6356

Website: www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Community/Culture-and-Arts/Rusten-House

Further Info: Janita.Byrne@qprc.nsw.gov.au
Cultural.Services@qprc.nsw.gov.au

BOOKWORM *Julia Ermert*

ANOTHER SUMMER STORY

1959 was a hot one in Sydney

I was only a few years older than Lisa, who at seventeen had just done 'the Leaving' and taken a holiday job at a big department store.

It was my Sydney, too.

"She looked around at the Harbour, the sky, the Bridge, Pinchgut, the fairyland foreshores, the entire glittering panorama. Intoxicated by this spectacle and by the mad throbbing of the great engine and the strange allure of the smell of its oil … the salty breeze in her hair …"

If that doesn't make you homesick, ex-Sydneysiders, nothing will. Nobody but us would understand about that oily smell on the Manly Ferry.

Lisa, whose name is really Lesley (to be more sophisticated) is headed for Mosman wharf, in the company of her supervisor, Magda. She's been invited to lunch. Magda runs the Model Gowns section at F. G. Goode and sees something worth cultivating in her new if temporary sales assistant, gawky, bespectacled, badly-dressed — but bright.

"The great glass and mahogany entrance doors of F. G. Goode's were opened promptly at five past nine every morning, Monday to Saturday … the doorman in his uniform of a lieutenant-colonel in the Ruritanian Army would touch his cap …"

Can't we all recognise this as David Jones?

If you haven't recognised the book yet, it's *The Women in Black,* Madeleine St John (1941–2006), Andre Deutsch, London, 1993. Born in Castlecrag, then a quirky upperclass suburb, Madeleine went on to Sydney University where she met that famous 'push' which included Bruce Beresford, Les Murray, Richard Walsh (her father, a Queen's Counsel, defended him in that scandalous obscenity trial over Oz magazine), Robert Hughes, Barry Humphries, Germaine Greer, John Bell … and, like them in seeing no future in Australia, eventually went to London in the sixties.

Unlike most of them, she never came back — and that's one thing that makes this novel so extraordinary.

St John lived in a council flat in Notting Hill and worked at a number of odd jobs vaguely related to writing. It wasn't until the nineties that she suddenly produced four novels, only the first of which was set in her hometown of Sydney in 1959.

She seemed to have total recall.

Lisa goes out in her lunch hour to read *Anna Karenina* in peace: "The weather was now abominably, relentlessly, hot, and she discovered that by sitting … on the rim of the Archibald Fountain, she could enjoy its cooling spray as it was blown against her …"

This was a Sydney where Bob Menzies had been PM for a decade, where wives didn't work, where men were the breadwinners, stopping at the pub on the way home but expecting dinner to be on the table at a certain time, either steak or chops.

It was a Sydney where women went out shopping wearing hat, gloves and stockings: the kind that fastened to a suspender belt. They went to the big department stores like Anthony Hordern's, Gowings, Farmer's, Mark Foy's, Grace Bros.

The saleswoman's uniform was a black dress.

Indeed, it's the minutiae of her memories that help to make St John's book so special.

"The sun had shone constantly every day now for several weeks during which the temperature had steadily, relentlessly, risen, and every wall, every pavement, every roof, was soaked in heat. People moved slowly through the miasmic atmosphere… until at last the stupendous sun sank below the the horizon and darkness laid its balm upon their assaulted senses …"

This was before daylight saving resumed.

1959 is also the Sydney experiencing the post-war wave of European migration, displaced persons leaving because of religious, ethnic or political discrimination.

Among these 'bloody reffos,' and accepting the insult with good grace, are Magda, clever, cultured and glamorous, head of the Model Gowns department at Goode's, and her husband Stefan, an accountant with a busy practice among other migrants. She is Slovenian, he is Hungarian. They met while learning English in a migrant camp— Bradfield Park? — and now rent the top floor of a house overlooking Mosman Bay. You could do that sort of thing then. They both have back stories that were 'hell' and now can hardly believe their luck.

I don't think any of us thought of that angle in those racist days.

Magda takes drab little Lisa/Lesley under her wing, smartens her up and gives her confidence.

The other two salesgirls are Patty and Fay. They are marking time at Goodes as both long for children and happy domestic lives. Patty at least has a husband, Frank, who comes home every night from the pub to consume his steak dinner but then falls asleep in front of television. It's not that they don't know what to do — it's just that they don't know how to, well, get started. The sexual revolution hadn't reached Sydney then. According to poet Philip Larkin, that wasn't until 1963, somewhere between Lady Chatterley and the Beatles. Then Patty uses her staff discount to buy a sexy nightdress…

Poor sweet Fay, 'pushing thirty,' has left her job as a chorus line dancer for the comparative safety of the all-female dress department, because the men she met 'were only after one thing' … not marriage. Magda introduces her to Rudi, 'Hungarian but not a count' — Fay borrowed *Anna Karenina* — a decent ambitious fellow who thinks an Australian wife is the way to go. He takes her to foreign films at the Savoy Theatre and dinner at Repin's. They are engaged within a month.

By the end of the book, newly stylish Lisa has bought herself a model gown at the sales, achieved an Honours Leaving pass — she lives in Chatswood so I'm guessing she attended North Sydney Girls' High — and persuaded her bigoted father to allow her to go to University (aka 'that cesspit').

Back in London, Clive James told Bruce Beresford what a b— great book their good ole mate Madeleine had written. Beresford went after the film rights. He didn't reckon on having to wait 24 years to get backing for this deceptively simple story, about the power of female friendship and the importance of acceptance and integration.

Premiering in 2018, it was retitled *The Ladies in Black.* Viewers will recognise F. G. Goodes as the old Mark Foy's building.

Actress Rachael Taylor (Fay) called it 'a love letter to Sydney.'

The last words are given to Miss Cartwright, head buyer (Noni Hazelhurst):

"A clever girl is the most wonderful thing in all Creation, you know: you must never forget that. People expect men to be clever. They expect girls to be stupid or at least silly, which very few girls really are, but most girls oblige them by acting like it."

This is not one of the things I heard in fifties' Sydney, but I wish I had.

Just as I wish I'd known a Magda …

Millions of dollars given to oil and gas companies under R&D scheme

Roxanne Fitzgerald writes for the ABC

The federal government says it will investigate whether millions of dollars of public funds that have been handed to oil and gas companies through a scheme that explicitly excludes fossil fuel exploration are 'valid and legal'.

Oil and gas company Empire Energy has received $28.8 million over the past three years under the Australian government's Research and Development Tax Incentive Scheme.

The company is currently exploring for gas in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin where it hopes to start fracking in the future.

On Thursday, in a Senate estimates hearing in Canberra, federal department heads faced questioning over the lawfulness of the money given to Empire under the scheme.

"Empire's financial reports state that it accessed the scheme in relation to drilling and fracking gas exploration and appraisal wells in the Beetaloo [Basin], even though gas exploration is excluded from the R and D tax incentive scheme," Queensland Greens Senator Penny Allman-Payne said.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources officials confirmed the scheme's legislation stipulated that "certain activities cannot be defined as a core R and D activities" and that "prospecting is one of those".

Rules of the Research and Development Tax Incentive Scheme

Th scheme's guidelines state that money cannot be handed out for "prospecting, exploring or drilling for minerals or petroleum" for the purposes of one or more of the following:

- Discovering deposits
- Determining more precisely the location of deposits
- Determining the size or quality of deposits

The Research and Development Scheme guidelines make it clear that money paid under the scheme cannot be used to subsidise 'prospecting, exploring or drilling for minerals', , and rules out pinpointing the location of gas deposits or determining the size or quality of deposits.

Late last year, Empire told the ASX it received a on top of and .

"The activity in question is not exploration to discover gas, but rather undertaking R and D activities with the purpose to generate new knowledge to determine how that gas can be extracted," Empire chief executive Alex Underwood told the ABC.

"Should the outcomes of our R and D activities be successful, this will deliver substantial energy and economic benefits to Territorians, and all Australian homes and businesses that rely on sustainable gas supply."

Empire has previously been the subject of scrutiny over different grants during a Senate inquiry into the Beetaloo Basin, after its subsidiary Imperial Oil and Gas was awarded $21 million by the Australian government.

The fragile Beetaloo Basin will suffer from water extraction and pollution.

Braidwood Special Speaker Dinner:
Thursday, 12 May, 6.30 pm

We are reviving these dinners in the expectation that COVID has been tamed. They will be held at the beautiful Troopers Rest.

Our first speaker this year will be Rowan Callick. The topic for the evening is:

China's response to Putin's dice-throw — China, Russia and Ukraine.

It is difficult to imagine a more important topic right now — and we have a highly qualified speaker.

Rowan Callick has been the China Correspondent for both the *Australian Financial Review* and *The Australian*. He has also served as Asia Pacific Editor for both papers. He has won two Walkley Awards for Asia-Pacific coverage.

Rowan is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and has been a member of the Government's Foreign Affairs Council.

His books include *Party Time: Who Runs China and How* (Black Inc).

For informaion contact Forbes Gordon on 0422 899 825 or Tony Milner on 0424 507 017.

For bookings, please contact Troopers Rest
0411 107 161

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO 88.9

Monday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
1:00pm - Flashback Featured Artist with Rob
4:00pm - Book Reading with Rod
5.00pm - 90's to Infinity
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
11:00am - 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
11:00am - Tracking the decades
1:00pm - Flashback With Rob
3.00pm - 00's to Infinity
6:00pm - Woodsongs Old Time Radio
7:00pm - Magic Carpet Ride

Thursday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Andy at Breakfast
10:00am - From the Archives with Gavin
4:00pm - The 60's in Aust. with Rob
5.00pm - The Conga Line with Billy Bob
7:00pm - Big Rock Radio

Friday
5:00am - Good Morning Country
7:00am - Martin's Morning Mix
10:00am - The Rock Show with Gregg
1:00pm - TC's Time Capsule
3.00pm - Blast from the 90's
5:00pm - The Atomic Countdown
7:00pm - Rock's Soft Rock
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)

88.9 BRAIDWOOD FM

Frontline teams helping protect local livestock

Local Land Services media

Have you ever wondered why Local Land Services biosecurity officers and vets are often at local saleyards?

Our team play a critical role in helping safeguard agriculture in NSW.

Our Biosecurity Officers and District Veterinarians regularly attend livestock sales to help ensure the health and welfare of animals in the market and protect our wider industries.

Together with saleyard staff and transport operators, our teams ensure animals are fit for transport, whilst also keeping an eye out for diseases which could have serious repercussions for the region.

"We regularly inspect livestock present at the sales – particularly looking for notifiable diseases - such as endemic virulent footrot in sheep or exotic disease threats such as foot and mouth disease in all ruminant animals," says District Veterinarian Kelli Griffin, based in the Monaro.

In 2023, South East LLS biosecurity staff and district vets undertook 199 animal disease surveillance investigations and supported 23 animal welfare cases across the region.

As Authorised Officers under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, Local Land Services help monitor for compliance within the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). Monitoring compliance within the NLIS system enables us as an industry to rapidly respond to a major food safety or disease threat.

Ms Griffin is reminding local producers that all livestock are required to be permanently identified prior to leaving their property of origin in NSW.

"All cattle are required to have an individual electronic NLIS ear tag (or rumen bolus and matching ear tag), whilst sheep and goats must be tagged with a visually readable ear tag with the relevant property identification code or PIC," said Ms Griffin.

NSW will soon be transitioning sheep and goats to electronic identification tags and eID in sheep and goats will be mandatory from 1 January 2025.

If you have questions regarding the health, welfare or traceability requirements of your livestock, don't hesitate to chat to us at the next sales or contact us at your local LLS office.

Fly strike warning for South East sheep producers

South East sheep producers are being urged to regularly check stock and take preventative measures with increasing reports of flystrike impacting livestock in the region.

District Vet Kelli Griffin said the wet end to summer is creating perfect conditions for blowflies.

"We are seeing many cases of flystrike across the southeast, with ideal warm and moist seasonal conditions across much of the region," said Kelli Griffin.

"Flystrike occurs when a blowfly lays eggs on the skin of an animal, with the resulting emerging larvae (maggots) creating a painful open wound."

Sheep with smaller strikes may show signs of irritation such as scratching, leg stamping and biting.

Advanced cases of strike generally have large wounds that are wet and dark with visible maggots present on the animal. Large strikes can result in depression, weight loss, and stock becoming separated from the mob or laying down and eventually dying.

The advice to producers is to monitor sheep closely, especially during high-risk fly periods, and treat struck sheep quickly. Controlling the risk of flystrike leads to better health and welfare outcomes for your sheep as well as more money in your pocket.

"Treatment of affected sheep is imperative to prevent losses and poor animal welfare," said Kelli Griffin.

"Chemical control can also be used to treat or prevent flystrike. As flies can develop resistance to chemicals, it is best to use an integrated management plan rather than relying on chemical alone."

"If you are treating struck animals, remember to check that the product kills maggots rapidly and is therefore suitable for treatment, not just prevention of flystrike."

Management strategies can also play an important part of strike prevention. Control dags by treating underlying causes such as worms or bacterial diarrhoea. Think about the timing of shearing and crutching.

More information regarding treatment and prevention of flystrike can be found on the LLS website www.lls.nsw.gov.au or by contacting your local District Veterinarian.

Three New Pre-Schools for Monaro

Member for Monaro media

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan says the announcement of new Government co-located preschools at Queanbeyan East, Queanbeyan South and Jindabyne public Schools is great news for Monaro families and a vital boost to early childhood education.

A record $769 million is being invested to build the 100 new public preschools across NSW, including three in the Monaro electorate, all to be built over the next three years.

Steve Whan said "after more than a decade of decline in education outcomes, the NSW Government is prioritising quality education in the early years, giving every child the best start for success.

"Co-locating public preschools with existing schools will ensure children are ready for kindergarten and will assist busy working families with cost-of-living pressures, help avoid the double drop off, and make the transition to school as seamless as possible.

"This is a vital commitment to growing communities. The shortage of pre-school places is not new, and for a decade very little was done to address it. We've got a lot of young families in Queanbeyan and Jindabyne and this improvement in access will deliver their kids the best possible introduction into the education system.

"By investing in 100 new public preschools and building three right here in Monaro, we are sending a clear message that our children's education is a top priority for this government.

"Co-locating the preschools with primary schools will create education hubs that will benefit students and their families and ensures that our schools are at the heart of our neighbourhoods.

"We have some terrific community-based pre-schools in Monaro, but the demand outstrips their capacity and with our Labor focus on early childhood education we do expect demand to keep rising.

"This wonderful announcement will mean so much to a large proportion of our community, and I look forward to seeing the doors open in just a few years."

This is part of the NSW Labor Government's historic investment in early childhood education, which includes a $60 million commitment to build and upgrade 50 preschools on non-government school sites in areas of greatest educational need. The NSW Government has also committed up to $29.4 million to expand the number of early childhood workers in NSW through a scholarship program, which has seen a record number of applications. The Government has also provided $17 million to support capital works for early childhood services in areas of need.

Perhaps you could help with Braidwood's Purple House Steve?

CWA showbags are back!

Do you remember the old-fashioned show bags we used to get with the cute little samples?

Well it's back at the Braidwood Show this year. Majors Creek CWA have been sourcing and making all sorts of treats over the months leading up to the show.

Cooking, gardening, reading, pampering treats and more. Valued at $100 and priced for sale at $35 proves great value and is locals supporting locals and paying it forward.

Thank you to our supporters Bees R Us, Braidwood Bugle, Braidwood Community Bank, Braidwood Food Market, Braidwood Pharmacy, BreastScreen NSW, Cancer Council, CWA NSW, Mrs A Flack, Rural and Remote Mental Health and naturally our wonderful members.

Busy hands have been making bags and all kinds of terrific items. Funds raised go back to the Braidwood community and districts like the local schools and our hospital. Majors Creek CWA was established in 1936 and is still enjoyed just as much today. New members are always warmly welcomed.

You can pre-order your showbag to ensure you don't miss out. Great to enjoy yourself or as a gift. Contact: Helen Farley 0434 292 994 or Margaret Tuckwell 0430 388 111.

Contents: Handy Homemade Bag, linen tea-towel, black garlic, jam, Bees R Us Lip Balm, water bottle, CWA Bear, Lavender Chicks, personal tissue holders, pot holder, daffodil bulb, bath bomb, notepad & paper, nail file and more.

Surprise guest at Braidwood CWA

When Braidwood's CWA members gathered to enjoy a craft afternoon last week, they were not expecting a drop-in visit from the U.S. Ambassador. But that's what happened.

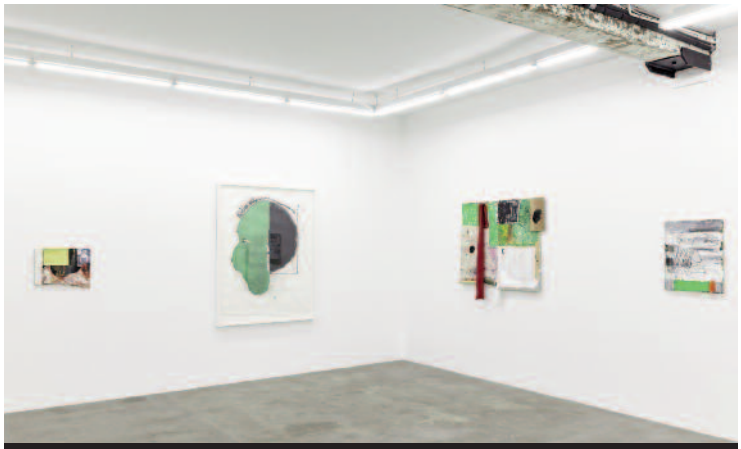
Her Excellency, Caroline Kennedy, was passing through town and happened to notice the activity at the CWA rooms and called in for a visit.

Always noted for their country hospitality, the ladies provided Ms Kennedy with a cup of tea and were happy to explain their various activities to her.


U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy

While no one snapped a photo, it's nice to know that Braidwood is still firmly on the map for passing Canberra-based dignitaries and we're confident that Caroline Kennedy will take a wonderful impression of our town back to the US when her ambassadorial term is completed.

A history punctuated by gunfire



Installation view of BLACK SMOKE WHITE WALLS, *Gertrude Contemporary, 2024. Photo: Christian Capurro*

Local artist, Dean Cross, has orchestrated concurrent exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne this summer, as part of his trilogy of shows investigating the complexities of Australian history, addressing physical and idyllic collisions through abstracted arrangements of text, collage, line, and colour.

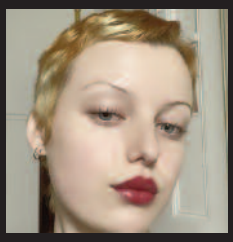
Described by the artist as a "constellation or cloud of ideas", these shows are atomised across space and time, speaking to the density of the subject matter.

BLACK SMOKE WHITE WALLS, exhibited at Gertrude Contemporary in Melbourne, explores the violence upon which Australia was built and reimagines it as a single, quantifiable moment in our history rather than an ambiguous period so deep in our past and out of reach. Instead, this show highlights the moment of the first gunshot over this land. Because of the vast notoriety of the interaction, this moment between settlers and first-nations peoples often fades into obscurity of mass opinion and historical perspective. Cross is more interested in the reality of this moment as it is, uncontaminated by retrospective attitudes, alternatively focusing on how this gunshot marked a tangible separation between pre- and post-violence, and how the symbolic echo can be heard today. The artist explains:

"The sound waves are still travelling out from that point in time and space… every act of violence big or small is directly related to that first one."

Dislocating the shows in this way speaks to the incomprehensible breadth of the initial moments of colonisation and its ramifications. This point in time cannot be so easily understood or presented singularly and is therefore presented operatically fragmented between multiple galleries.

EnergiZed



Lily Acheson

OVERTURE (GODZILLA) is considered an opera-like manifestation of ideas, with *BLACK SMOKE WHITE WALLS* as the rehearsal or propositional space of them. In this way, the Gertrude Contemporary show exhibits an unfixed presence, existing in a state of flux and searching for a settled form. As per this strategic separation, *OVERTURE (GODZILLA)* exhibited at Station Gallery in Sydney explores the complex history of Australia through collisions of material, creating new connections through abstracted arrangements of text, colour, and collage. Recognisable motifs and characters are invited into fresh visual conversations through their encounters with an array of materials such as cotton, vinyl, synthetic polymer, steel nails, laminate flooring, expanding foam, wool, ochre, timber, hessian etc. Imagery with such symbolic weight is divorced from its context, therefore inspiring reconsiderations of iconic histories.

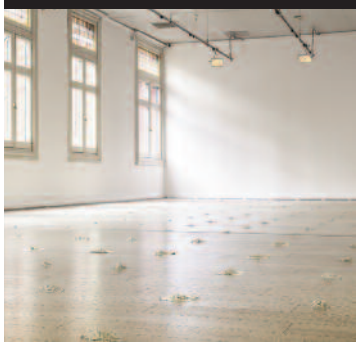
By inviting iconic imagery of the Western canon and notorious figures of world history, audiences are presented with their own ideas of nationhood and cultural memory. Motifs include the Ned Kelly helmet, visualising it in its simplest form while still completely recognisable to the audience as a literal figurehead of the Australian psyche and identity. Images of Mao Zedong are peppered throughout the series, relaying the history of photographic propaganda and the power of divisive imagery, divorced from context, and met with playful connections of colour and texture.

Addressing this history and visually responding to modes of Western memorialisation is clear in Cross's practice, presenting new connections and ways of being under the ongoing effects of colonialism and capitalism. This is evident in the ongoing installation work ***MONUMENTS***, first exhibited in 2016 and continuing every two years since. A site and time-responsive work, *Monuments* is itself 232 handfuls of Ngunnawal/Ngambri ochre and gold leaf, representative of each year of colonisation. The piece is designed to have a life of its own irrespective of the artist's presence, therefore inherently possessing aliveness and durability. *Monuments* is a work hyper-aware of a lack of Aboriginal monuments anywhere in Australia, especially in our major cities. With this in mind, Cross questioned whether it was appropriate to use Western modes of memorialisation for Aboriginal histories or realities. While the use of a bronze plinth in this case of remembrance would easily read as a figure of importance to a Western audience, the exploration of alternative and opposite iterations of memorialising gave way to this display of the work. If Western memorials are fixed, *Monuments* must then be un-fixed, in space and time.

The golf leaf in physical contact with the ochre serves as a reminder of different modes of material extraction, exploring the hierarchical separation of the two processes and, as a result, the materials themselves. In the context of this work especially, Cross displaying this as ceramic pushes disciplinary boundaries and declares all clay and ceramic work as country. To Cross, custodianship of the work takes precedence over ownership of it, as he feels this work is not to be owned but to be fostered and presented over time.

The artist often presents disparate imagery in collaboration, considering the separation between the known and the unknown, pre- and post-violence, and the nationhood of precarity to ensue. Instead of memorialising these histories as if we are at the mercy of them though, Cross's works are delivered with an intrinsic hopefulness of moving past retrospective perceptions of ourselves. We are invited to unlearn restrictive colonial thinking structures while being reminded of our history in this way. The idea of the absolute is traded for the fluid.

MONUMENTS, *4A Gallery, 2020. Photo: Kai Wasikowski*



Installation view of OVERTURE (GODZILLA), *Station Gallery, 2024.*

2024 BB champs — The Grass Cutters; Luke, Billy and Damien with Nick Fry.

Tie-break finish to Barefoot Bowls 2024

Report by Tom Watson

Barefoot Bowls for 2024 concluded on Thursday night with another great turn out of 32 teams. That makes a total of 384 players for the tournament.

Going into the final night there were still 8 teams who could take home the trophy. The Grass Cutters however hung on to clinch victory in a tie breaker against Here For Beer with the Banana Splitz bringing home second and JG Earthworx third. Congratulations to Biggsy, Billy and Luke.

Team Scomo's Sticky Gnocchi picked up the lucky team prize and The Banana Splitz picked up best team on night with a +21 win across the two sets.

Again, thanks to Kathy Toirkens for capturing the great night. Your passion for bringing out the good times had by all is truly unmatched.

Thanks to Dylan, Steve and Barry for prepping the greens, and providing a quality playing surface.

Thanks to Damian Campbell-Davys for again getting everyone fed, and to Kerri Backhouse for organising such great raffle prizes.

A big thankyou to the bar staff for keeping everyone hydrated.

Without support from the Community Bank Braidwood and Crookwell Agency and the Braidwood Servicemen's Club we wouldn't be able to turn on such a great event for the community, so thank you very much.

The biggest thanks though, goes to our little community for getting behind this great event and continually supporting it. We had an age range from 8 years old to 88 years old — and every cross section of our great community was represented. It truly is something remarkable.

We are looking forward to Barefoot Bowls 2025.

Nick Fry with the triumphant junior bowlers.

Creatives' Kickstarter

Robin Tennant Wood

Braidwood writer, Penny Hanley, is passionate about creativity.

The author of two novels and several non-fiction works, and holding a PhD in Communications, Penny is bringing her knowledge and experience to Braidwood locals.

An 8-week course called Kickstart Your Creativity is commencing on 14 March and is open to anyone and everyone who has ever wanted to write.

The course will comprise a series of 2-hour weekly workshops to be held at BRAG. Penny's approach is to bring a synergy between left brain (creative) and right brain (rational) thinking.

She says that society is generally left-brain dominant, and certainly, our social and political systems are geared towards supporting employment and studies in areas that reduce or hamper creative thinking. Creative pursuits are regarded as hobbies or leisure activities rather than avenues to employment.

Penny's creativity kickstart course will use language to teach writers about the literary tricks used by the professionals. Participants will also learn techniques of editing and revising their work.

As a teacher, Penny has a gift for spotting the potential in students. The work they produce, she says, can be very revealing and intimate.

The weekly workshops will be on Thursday evenings, 6.00-8.00pm at BRAG, starting on 14 March and finishing on 2 May. The cost is $200 for BRAG members and $240 for non-members.

Bookings are essential: contact the BRAG secretary, Bek Hamilton, on 0410 506 451.

Helen Haigh, Sophie Cottier and Vickie Lee showing off their morning harvest.

Bush regeneration a constant vigil

Paul Cockram and Robin Tennant Wood

A trio of dedicated bush regenerators have been recently assisting landholders in the region to protect and maintain native vegetation.

Braidwood's Changing Times spoke with Helen Haigh and Vickie Lee.

Helen refers to herself as a "retired bush regenerator who still likes pulling weeds", and it's maintaining that vigil against the incursion of feral weeds that is at the heart of what these women do.

Retired only in the sense that she moved on to a different career path, Helen is still active in bush regeneration. The Australian bush, she says, "is very hardy" and will recover with a good seed bank. "But," she warns, "it always needs help. Everything in the environment needs help from us to help care for country. We're only here for a short time. We have to look after it and it looks after us."

Vicki explains that where native vegetation is well developed and "has been here for thousands of years, it's really important to keep that intact and protect it from any weed incursion coming from other areas that possibly have weeds.

"It's the boundary effect, seeding weeds coming in from other properties. And then, also birds drop [weed] species – birds eating berries and then flying over and dropping the seeds and then those plants start growing."

Both women stress the need for vigilance in ensuring that weeds don't get a footing in native vegetation communities.

"You've got to keep on top of it constantly to keep the vegetation communities intact. And it's a really precious thing. These vegetation communities represent the biodiversity on this property we're on now and you'll lose some species if you let other things take over. So, it's important to protect them and keep them stable."

Vicki noted also the role of water in facilitating the spread of weed species.

"We've had a lot of rain recently, and so seeds can be carried in water. And then also with water, if we go on a very dry area, the water will provide the sustenance to germinate the seed bank of weeds that may have been sitting there for a while.

"So, all of a sudden it feels like you've got a lot more weeds and you have to spend a bit more time making sure they don't spread during those times when they can thrive."

Bush regeneration by eliminating weed incursions was pioneered by the Bradley sisters, Joan and Eileen, in the early 1960s. The sisters, both biologists, began a system of 'minimal disturbance' bush regeneration. They used their method, now known as the Bradley Method, to successfully clear weeds from a 16 hectare reserve in Ashton Park, part of the Sydney Harbour National Park.

Modern bush regenerators base their techniques on a combination of the Bradley method of minimal disturbance with the latest in biodiversity and ecology research.

Weeds a 'slow-moving bushfire'

NSW Farmers media

Farmers are fighting a "slow-moving bushfire" as invasive weeds such as African lovegrass and serrated tussock explode following a wet summer.

NSW Farmers Cooma branch chair Craig Mitchell said the state's struggle with weeds had reached a tipping point, with some public and private land managers failing to meet their responsibilities.

"We need to think of invasive species like African lovegrass as a slow-moving bushfire," Mr Mitchell said.

"When there is a bushfire, we all get out there and help put it out.

"We need to have the same attitude when it comes to weeds if we're going to have any chance of getting them under control."

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) estimated in an average year, pest weeds and animals cost farmers at least $5.3 billion, with weeds accounting for 82 per cent of the total cost.

These costs would continue to increase, Mr Mitchell said, and were being compounded by the time and resources required to control the issue on-farm.

"With weeds like serrated tussock, it takes me weeks to get it under control and it's getting worse every year.

Failure of some land managers to address the problem remained a great concern, as weeds continued to gain ground throughout NSW.

"As these invasive species cover more ground, we're seeing farm production decrease and the cost of production skyrocket as farm businesses grapple with the problem.

"The problem is not confined to farm profitability – unique native grasslands are being slowly overrun and degraded by weeds," Mr Mitchell said.

"Constant vigilance is now the only way forward when it comes to weeds – as soon as you see them, you've got to control them."

As NSW awaited the appointment of an Independent Biosecurity Commissioner to improve future management of invasive species, Mr Mitchell urged all land managers to work together on weed control.

"We need a cross-tenure, cross-landscape approach to managing weeds that's more intensive and enforceable than anything we currently have in place," Mr Mitchell said.

"Until we get that, we need to create and execute a solid weed control plan on our own properties, or else we risk losing the battle."

A DOG'S LIFE

Heike Hahner

Spot goes to the park

Let's just say if Spot had lived in Braidwood, his chances of going to the park would have been pretty slim.

So, it's not surprising that in recent weeks the issue of should Braidwood have a dog park or not has been increasingly discussed on social media and on the streets.

There is no doubt that Australians love animals, 61% of Australians are pet owners, of which 48% are dog owners and, most importantly 73% of all pet owners live in rural and regional areas, places like Braidwood. Pet owners do not only represent more than 60% of the population but they also love to spend money on their pets. The value of the pet industry in 2021 was 14 billion and is one of the industries that has steadily grown by around 4%, on average, every year since 2012.

If available, dog owners will use dog parks regularly, and apart from providing 'just' a venue for exercising dogs, dog parks will deliver a range of social and health benefits for both people and their dogs. Dogs who are exercised regularly are far less likely to display a range of behavioural issues, like roaming, barking or being destructive. So basically, this means, a happy, non-barking, non-roaming dog = a happier owner and a happier neighborhood.

It is therefore no wonder that a 'people and money savvy', expanding city like Western Sydney installed the largest dog park in the Southern Hemisphere at Shale Hills Dog Park in 2020. This award-winning dog park, commissioned by the Western Sydney Parklands Trust, covers an extraordinary 5.2 hectares of parkland providing dogs and their owners with a meticulously designed dog park to engage, refresh and stimulate their bodies and minds.

There are agility obstacles, water features and fountains, sniffing areas with chamomile, lavender and thyme, a separate exercise area for small dogs, self-guided obedience areas, as well as shade and resting stations for dogs and their owners to enjoy after their exercise. It's a lucky Spot indeed who lives close to this dog park.

Unlike other towns, like Bungendore, Canberra, Goulburn, let alone Sydney, Braidwood has no safe areas to exercise a dog. The available green areas are either off-limits for dogs, are unfenced and shared with either sporting events, walkers or sport enthusiasts, or at worst with the ever-increasing and, frequently speeding, local and tourist traffic.

Although the surrounding rural areas are picturesque and seemingly inviting for dog walks, car and truck traffic is allowed to travel at speeds, even on dirt roads, that are dangerous not only to dog owners walking their dogs, but also to joggers, horse riders and cyclists.

Add to that that the paddocks adjacent to the roads are populated with cattle and sheep and many farmers see any dog in the vicinity of their stock as a potential threat to their livestock. Subsequently walking your dog on local rural roads holds little appeal for many dog owners, even less to risk him running off- leash.

It isn't possible to allow your dog to stretch his legs safely further out in the local bush regions either. Dogs are prohibited in many local regions to protect native animals. Dog owners, hoping to walk their dog away from traffic and livestock, are also presented with the constant threat of various baits, which include rabbit bait, yes, although it's meant for rabbits, it is apparently also toxic to dogs and cats; and of course, the ever-present 1080 baits, intended for free-living canids like foxes, dingoes and wild dogs. Its therefore no wonder that there is an increasing call for the growing dog-friendly population of Braidwood for a dog park.

> There are some possible down sides to dog parks. Issues, such as accidents, aggression or fear-based issues triggered by an aggressive encounter at a park certainly need to be considered.

Dog fights can happen, but in general are rare if clear guidelines are displayed at the entrance of the park, and of course, that visitors to the park adhere to those guidelines.

Some health issues like kennel cough need to be considered, as they are more readily caught in highly frequented dog areas, such as dog clubs and kennels. However, most vets these days will recommend kennel cough vaccinations anyway as a routine vaccination.

Overall, a dog park can be a great additional green space for any city, where locals and visitors can exercise their dogs in safety. As Western Sydney has demonstrated these can be award winning designs if done well, but they don't however need to be off such superlative standards as Shale Hills Dog Park; though I doubt few dog owners would complain to have access on a regular basis to such a stunning park.

A good Dog Park should provide some basics such as a securely fenced area, seating, shade, drinking water, add to that some attractive landscape design with some agility obstacles and a water feature, and it's easy to see why a dog park can become an interesting and attractive addition to any modern cityscape.

Heike Hahner is a local Dog trainer and Psychology Consultant with 34 years experience working and training dogs. She specializes in interspecies relationships and has worked with horses, sheep, livestock, pets as well as native animals.

Shale Hills dog park in Sydney. Photo: Daniel Tran

HAPPENING ABOUT THE PLACE — Laura Moriarty

This fortnight should be an amazing one, with the Braidwood Show back on for the first time since COVID and terrible weather. Many local shows are dying, due to lack of community support, so if you can enter something, please do.

It promises to be a great day out. There's also an abundance of music this fortnight, from drums and bass to classical music to Michael Simic at various locations throughout town.

Concerts and Gigs

Dauntless is coming to the Smokey Horse on Saturday, 2nd March from 3pm onwards. It's with great excitement that we can now announce Sydney dnb lords DAUNTLESS and RELOAD are headlining our next show, with local support from Moonstompa, Mariana Dub, Pon Fe Hi Fi and Karuna plus the Headz are Rolling dons Tidy and Samwise!!!

Tickets are $15 on the door, or can be booked online at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dauntless-and-reload-drum-and-bass-showcase-with-local-supports-tickets-804315548457?aff=oddtdtcreator for $15+booking fee.

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Songbirds are coming to Braidwood's Uniting Church on Saturday, 2nd March from 2pm.

Songbirds celebrates the breathtaking virtuosity of Australian birdsong with an array of original Australian chamber works commissioned by Ensemble Offspring.

To book, please visit https://events.humanitix.com/ensemble-offspring-songbirds-braidwood

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Shortis and Simpson are back with local music legend Michael Simic on Saturday, 9th March from 7pm onwards. Shortis and Simpson have done it again with the latest presentation of their series UNDER THE INFLUENCE! This time their "victim" is local hero MICHAEL SIMIC.

Please book tickets here: https://circlemusic.iwannaticket.com.au/event/under-the-influence-shortis-and-simpson-with-michael-simic-MzA5MjU

Social correspondent Laura Moriarty

Markets

Braidwood Farmer's Markets are on this Saturday, 2nd March in the National Theatre from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Community Events

The Braidwood Show is back this year on Saturday, 2nd March. It should be an absolutely amazing time, so please support your local show. It promises to be a great day out, so come along to see what talented people are doing in our community!

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In the same vein, the beer judging for the Braidwood Show will be held at the Royal Mail Hotel on Friday, 1st March. Please contact Matthew Hulse on 0438 648 468 for the time of judging.

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Tree Planting at Flood Creek is being organised by QPRC to happen on Saturday, 9th March at the Judith Wright Gardens from 9am to 11 am.

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Learn to skate! Join us for a fun day of Skateboarding at Braidwood Skatepark! Sunday March 3rd at 11am. Canberra skateboarding are running an extra FREE Learn to Skateboard session from 11am - 1pm followed by a community skate jam with the @revokedmobaustralia crew and some extra obstacles from @rocknrollo.ramps to skate.

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Women's Circle will be on Friday, 8th March with Alison Stuchbury from 6:30pm to 9pm at the Old Sunday School Hall on Wilson Street. This will then occur every second Friday of the month. Please get in touch with Alison on 0488 692 149 for further information.

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First Thursdays Community Luncheon is at the Club on Thursday, 7th March at 11:30am with a "Thinking Caps On" theme. There's a choice of five dishes plus a dessert, and at $10 a person, it's an absolute steal. Bookings are not essential, but are recommended to make sure you get your meal choice, so get in quick to book at the Club on 4842 2180.

At BRAG

Snuggle n Sing is on from 9:30 - 10:30 am during the school term. For further information, please contact Theresa Pengelly at pengellyte@gmail.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 Fridays. It is a short music class for pre-school age children, including infants from about six months old. Please email Nadia McLeish at nadiamcleish1@gmail.com 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 at veraactivebraidwood@gmail.com

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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 9am, Thursdays at 9am.

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Aikido is on during the school term on Wednesday afternoons, but please contact Matthew Hulse for further details on 0438 648 864.

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

Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association are beginning a mixed choir to commence on Tuesday, 5th March from 5pm to 6pm every Tuesday. The first official performance of this choir will be ANZAC Day. All are welcome to join—for more information please have a look at bypaa.org

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BRAIDWOOD DANCE STUDIO CLASSES START BACK 6TH FEB 2024

We are excited for another year of dance. We will be running ALL classes at Sunday School Hall (The Anglican Hall) this term at 68 Wilson Street, Braidwood, NSW, 2622

Please see timetable below and visit our website to secure a spot!

If you are unsure of the right class for you or your child, do not hesitate to contact Miss Georgie with any questions. To Enrol Now visit our website www.braidwooddancestudio.com or phone Miss Georgie- 0457991116

braidwooddancestudio@gmail.com

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

Parkrun is on every Saturday at the Braidwood Showgrounds from 8am unless otherwise noted.

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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.

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

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

— * —* —* —

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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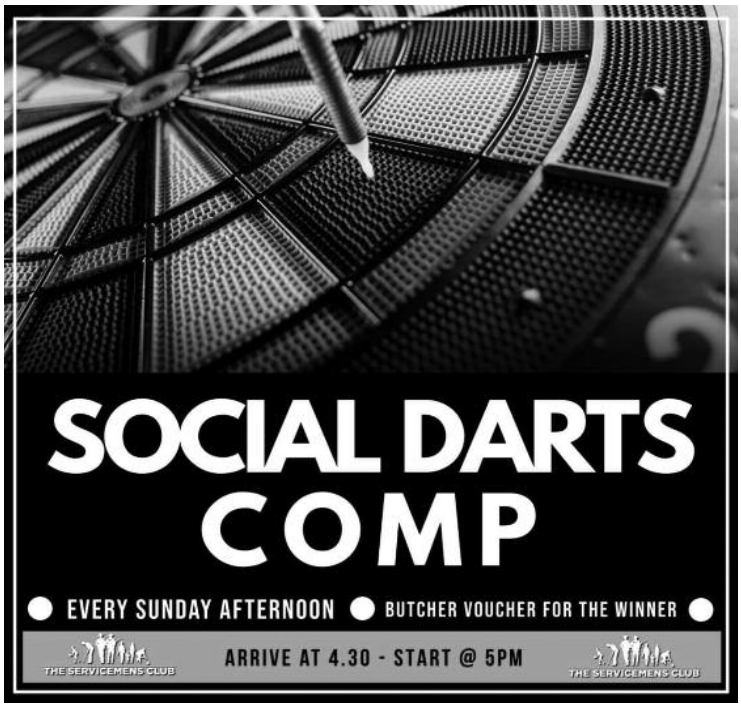

Braidwood Scouts are on every Thursday throughout the school terms.

Joeys (ages 5 - 7 years) in temporary recess, pending numbers.

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.

— * —* —* —

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.

— * —* —* —

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.

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Motion Ninja Academy

Ninja training is held weekly in Braidwood during school terms for children aged 5+. Ninja training with MNA doesn't only teach self-defence, it teaches an integrative framework for personal development via movement and self-awareness for whole-body wellness and most importantly, a whole lot of FUN! Next Class: Mondays at 4pm during the school term. For more information: Contact Hollie on 0482 955 340

Community Bank Braidwood supports Tender Funerals Canberra Region

Tender Funerals media

Catherine Bell has been on an endeavour for 5 years to bring not for profit community led Tender Funerals to the Canberra Region.

It is with great joy and gratitude that Catherine reports that Tender Funerals are set to open a fabulous new facility at 49 Laverton Avenue, Fairbairn. Community Bank Braidwood and Bungendore have been foundational support in this endeavour, generously supporting the journey with $50 000.

"The board of directors of the Community Bank realised the importance of not only affordable funerals but also the opportunity to make that choice. Funerals can place a financial burden on families at a time when they have lost a loved one," Community Bank Braidwood manager Nick Fry said.

This new facility not only represents a significant advancement in funeral care options for the Canberra region but also embodies the spirit of community participation and compassion. Tender Funerals are setting a new standard for affordable, inclusive, and personalised funeral services.

Catherine Bell, Chair of Tender Funerals Canberra Region

All are welcomed to join Catherine for a Tender Talk at The Glasshouse on Saturday March 16th 11am. Tender Talks are an opportunity to ask questions and discover your options and responsibilities when it comes to dying, death and funerals.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QPRC

Tree Planting on Flood Creek in Braidwood

Join us at Judith Wright Gardens at the end of Garvey Street in Braidwood where we'll be planting trees along Flood Creek.

Please wear long pants, enclosed shoes, and sun protection.

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee program.

Bin Trim Equipment Rebates

New incentives are on offer in NSW workplaces to reduce waste, and increase recycling as part of a $6 million rebate initiative over the next three years.

There are rebates of up to $50,000 covering up to 50% of the cost of small-scale, on-site recycling equipment or technology.

▶ Learn more about eligibility and apply at **epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim**

Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Jerrabomberra Pump Track	4 March
2024 Review of QPRC Investment Policy	14 March
Queanbeyan River Path - Thorpe Ave - Glenrock Drain	14 March
Update - Towards 2024 - Community Strategic Plan	15 March

▶ Find all the details on Council's engagement hub at **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au**

Submissions can be made:
- By registering and commenting via **yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au**
- By email to **council@qprc.nsw.gov.au**
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

Responsible pet owners

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 requires dog owners to take all reasonable precautions to prevent their dog from escaping. This includes making sure fences and gates are properly locked and in good condition.

It also means keeping your dog on lead and under control in public areas.

Keeping your dog properly contained isn't just for their own safety, it's for the safety of the entire community as it helps to prevent dog attacks.

▶ Learn more about responsible pet ownership at **qprc.nsw.gov.au/animals**

Council Meetings and Times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings twice a month on a Wednesday, excluding December and January. Meetings start at 5.30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from **bit.ly/MinutesAgendas**. Meetings are live streamed via **bit.ly/QPRCwebcast**.

Members of the public can watch the meetings via **bit.ly/QPRCwebcast** and make a presentation during the public forum via Zoom, by submitting a written presentation, or in person.

For those wanting to make a presentation on an Agenda item, you can make a:

- Written presentation
  - submit by midday on Tuesday
- Zoom presentation
  - register by midday on Wednesday

▶ Register to make a presentation at **bit.ly/QPRCinvolved**

Next meeting dates are:
- 13 March
- 27 March

Written Questions on Notice

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

Work with **Council**

- Labourer (General Equipment Operator)
- Customer Service Officer
- Trainee - Community and Recreation
- Building Surveyor
- General Duties Ranger
- Records Officer

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

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

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

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eepurl.com/codv-v

Hold supermarkets to account say farmers

NSW Farmers media

Fresh allegations of price gouging behaviour by supermarket giants should be a wake-up call to fix Australia's unfair supermarket duopoly, NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin says.

The claims detailed by Four Corners on Monday night came amid mounting scrutiny of the supermarket sector, which was welcomed by both consumers and farmers.

Mr Martin said the market power abuses reported by the ABC in the "Super Powers" episode of Four Corners would further enrage farmers and families who had been grappling with unfair prices at the farm gate and the checkout for too long.

> "These reports that suppliers are having to pay for price increases on their own products are not isolated, and nor are they the only example of anti-competitive behaviour we are seeing from these mega players in our supermarket sector," Mr Martin said.

"For years, we have heard reports of farmers copping abuses of market power at the hands of the supermarkets, and this behaviour has ranged from offering contracts on a 'take it or leave it' basis all the way through to paying farmers prices that are well below the cost of production.

"Giant middlemen are making super profits while farmers and families on either end of the supply chain struggle, and we need meaningful competition reform to fix this obviously broken system."

Amidst growing media and government attention, Mr Martin said a total transformation of the nation's competition environment was necessary if fair food prices were ever to be achieved.

"Make no mistake, the many enquiries into this matter are welcome news for farmers and consumers who have been battling these retail giants for too long," Mr Martin said.

"However, this extra attention won't solve anything unless there is real action to implement the outcomes of governmental inquiries, and effect true, meaningful competition reform.

"There is far too much profit being sucked out between the paddock and the plate, and Australians deserve better than what they've been getting at the farm gate and at the supermarket checkout.

"The next time you're at the checkout, ask yourself if you're getting a fair deal. That's how farmers feel."

News trivia

Have you been paying attention?

1 In case you've been living under a rock, Taylor Swift is currently touring Australia. How many shows is she performing here?

➤ Five ➤ Seven
➤ Nine ➤ Eleven

2 The cities to be graced by her presence are:

➤ Sydney and Melbourne
➤ Sydney, Melbourne and Perth
➤ Sydney and Brisbane
➤ Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane

3 Russia's Vladimir Putin has just given North Korea's Kim Jong-Un what as a gift?

➤ A Moscow property ➤ A Russian-built nuclear missile
➤ A nuclear submarine ➤ A luxury limousine

4 Melbourne Demons AFL player, Joel Smith, was accused last week of:

➤ Sexual assault ➤ Insider trading
➤ Trafficking cocaine ➤ Drunk driving

5 Residents of Cape Town, South Africa, complained of a foul stench wafting over the city last week. The smell was traced to a livestock carrier at the city's harbor, holding 19,000 of which animal?

➤ Cows ➤ Sheep
➤ Pigs ➤ Pigeons

6 The Oscar-winning filmmaker Sam Mendes announced plans to make four separate biopics about the members of which band?

➤ Queen ➤ ABBA
➤ The Beatles ➤ Kiss

7 A lunar lander made by a private company touched down safely on the moon this week. What is it called?

➤ Hydra ➤ Odysseus
➤ Titus ➤ Icarus

8 The Australian T20 team has just completed a clean sweep in their match series against which team?

➤ India ➤ South Africa
➤ West Indies ➤ New Zealand

9 Champion equestrian, Shane Rose, caused a stir last week, by appearing in a show jumping event dressed in what?

➤ A tutu and wig ➤ A 'mankini' g-string
➤ Football shorts and rubber thongs
➤ A pro-Palestine t-shirt

10 A south coast man believes he has found 'nests' belonging to what creature?

➤ Bunyip ➤ Thylacine
➤ Yowie ➤ Hoop snake

Answers:

1. Seven; 2. Sydney & Melbourne; 3. Luxury limo; 4. Trafficking (or attempting to traffic) cocaine; 5. Cows; 6. The Beatles; 7. Odysseus; 8. New Zealand; 9. Mankini; 10. Yowie

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Braidwood Uniting Church

Where do we start?

In many ways, even now, society runs on trust. Yet our trust is evaporating like a shallow pond in a hot summer.

We're not ever sure when the news is news, or just opinion. Like a dripping tap we've come to distrust all sources of news. I suspect a large part of the community has entirely lost interest in news, preferring instead entertainment in some form. The phrase, "fake noos" rolls off the tongue easily, insulating us from the need to seriously process information. Conversely, not so much like evaporation but rather like drinking from a firehose, the offices and officers once trusted have been exposed by various royal commissions to be not worthy.

In consequence an elevated sense of anxiety is not unusual. For some of us, clinging to minutia brings some comfort. Allowing small things to loom large in a sense creates a sense of the familiar even if not always 'in control'. But whether anxious or distracted, either way we are less equipped to identify either fraud or genuine leadership. We're in danger of responding to the loudest voice as if volume and authority have anything in common.

For many the only certainty is in the realm of feelings. Feelings do reliably tell us how we feel even though they are a bit of a roller coaster, one second grinding up hill, the next flying downhill. Always fascinating even when unhelpful.

We are in a dangerous moment. The background evaporation of trust and the shock of betrayal from so many that we do what we can to preserve a sense of wellbeing as if that was the same as being well. We've become well equipped to dodge any claim to truth since any sign of feeling "unsafe", "threatened" or "offended" will lead to a lawyer or HR manager. I suspect classes in how to have difficult conversations respectfully would help.

grahamlong@mac.com

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Presence

There is a growing awareness of the importance of Presence in relationships as our modern life deals with increased distractions.

Being present feeds our relationships and our soul. In this week's gospel reading Jesus does something that symbolises the radical change coming that would forever change a person's experience of presence of the divine. In John 2:13-22 he famously upturns the money changers tables and drives out the cattle and sheep from the Jerusalem temple.

The stuff that Jesus did had meaning and a lot of what he did upstaged the temple, seriously getting up the noses of the powerful. The temple for Jewish people was the place of God's presence.

However, the centre of Jewish national and political life was also seen as oppressive, run by and for the powerful. When the powerful demanded a sign from Jesus to answer for his hugely disruptive actions he replied, 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up'.

This sounds like a crazy thing to say and an impossible thing to do, if you interpret Jesus literally. But John says, 'he was talking about his body'. Jesus in predicting his death and resurrection was speaking of his own body as the new temple.

The time for the Temple was coming to an end and Jesus was saying that God's presence was no longer going to be found in a place, but in a person.

David Luckie, parishioner

— * — * — * —

Join us on Sunday 3rd March, 10am for Holy Communion service at St Andrew's Anglican Church, 47 Elrington St, Braidwood, followed by a welcoming cuppa! Always check our Facebook page — Anglican Parish of Braidwood — for updates. Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 email: admin@braidwoodanglican.org.au

St Bede's Parish

Reflection on the Gospel of John 2:13-25 by Fr Michael Tate

Where does God really dwell?

The Ten Commandments are badly named. Rather, they are the Ten Responses which should characterise a liberated people, freed from slavery by 'the Lord, your God'.

By the time Jesus came on the scene, the Temple in Jerusalem was no longer a fit dwelling place for a God who desires to free people from oppression and exploitation. To the contrary, Jesus saw the Temple ideology as placing undue burdens and shackles on people.

His anger at this erupted in dramatic street theatre. His overturning of the tables of the money-changers signalled the overturning of the Temple system.

What Our Lord revealed to uncomprehending authorities was that His body was the true sanctuary. The body of Jesus of Nazareth is the dwelling place of God, the habitation of the Lord God who liberates people. In short, God's sanctuary is not a place, but a person.

We could take a moment to pray, using the Ten Responses to review and guide our reflection and practice as we move towards Easter. This will help us to celebrate the enigmatic saying: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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New Mass time of 5pm commences Saturday 2 March.

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Braidwood show is on Saturday 2 March.

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First Thursday luncheon March 7 at the Club. Commences at 11.30am.

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Preschool Fair & Pig Races Saturday 16 March. Details to come.

Weekend Mass: Saturdays at 5pm.

18th February 2024
Quadragesima Sunday

Sunday was a magenta day —
the bishop came to dedicate a new piano—
I knew him by people's faces:
they had that special
"I'm talking to a bishop" look—
I knew him by the colour of his shirt
which was magenta:
that magic colour just halfway between
red and blue …
but not called that:
crimson? maroon?
we less-than-respectful laity
called it 'episcopal pink.'
It's Lent so the altar frontals
were magenta too
though the bishop would say
purple or maybe violet.
Outside
the weather joined in:
thunder obbligato with
pizzicato hail
conducted perhaps by
His Satanic Majesty
(Lent is traditionally a busy time for him)
Outside the crepe myrtles
dressed in magenta too—
I hope the bishop noticed

Julia Ermert

Pauline Coady, Sister Jane Keogh, Wendy McMahon-Bell and Amanda Davies.

Poetry for social justice

Robin Tennant Wood

There was a full house at the Old Sunday School Hall on Sunday afternoon for a poetry reading by local poet and performer, Wendy McMahon-Bell.

The event was organised by the St Bede's Ecumenical Social Justice Group to raise funds to continue their work in supporting refugees currently in indefinite detention in Papua New Guinea.

Sister Jane Keogh from the Manus Lives Matter group in Canberra, explained that there are currently 52 men being held at Australia's behest, but the Papuan government ceased supporting them last November. As a result, the men, many of whom have families with them, have no food, no electricity, no money and their accommodation is insecure at best.

The Australian government provided funding to the PNG government to support the refugees, who come from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and across the Middle East, but the PNG government claims there is no money left and the refugees are Australia's problem.

Sister Jane told the Changing Times that some of the men have been accepted for resettlement in Canada and New Zealand, but the process has stalled. There are also grave concerns about the mental health of many of them.

"One of the men's mental capacity has declined to the point where he is simply unable to make decisions," she said. "He has been accepted for resettlement in Canada, but his mental condition has made him incapable of actually signing the documentation."

Sister Jane maintains a vigil on the corner of Kings Avenue and Capital Circuit in Canberra between 4.00am and 9.30am on every parliamentary sitting day. "I know it's dark and quiet at that time, but I'm in a well-lit area and the politicians can see me on their way to Parliament House," she said. "I stand in the dark to symbolise the darkness that these men are living under."

Amanda Davies from the St Bede's group stressed that the people stranded in PNG "sought Australia's protection, and are now detained indefinitely."

The St Bede's group is raising money to support Hussein, one of the detainees. Sister Jane said that supporting individual detainees is important as it provides a personal link between supporters and the person they are helping.

From such a grim subject, the poetry reading was light and fun. Harry Laing introduced Wendy McMahon-Bell, describing her poetry as "warm and witty, just like her."

The poems chosen by Wendy for the event were grouped loosely into themes, including her childhood, much of which was spent with her grandparents during the latter stages of the Second World War, her Camino de Santiago walk and nature.

More than 60 locals attended the event, filling the renovated hall to capacity and putting into perspective the fact that fewer than that number have been abandoned in PNG by the government.


Harry Laing introducing Wendy McMahon-Bell.

0 200444 202002

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

GOLF NEWS

Braidwood Golf Club hosted the Men's Pennants last week, with players from Gungahlin Lakes and Gold Creek taking on the challenge of Braidwood's narrow fairways and small greens.

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with course preparation (for mowing, clearing debris, marking GUR etc) and making things run so smoothly on the day: barbecue cook, Chris Witt, ball spotters John Harb, Tom Duffy, Spiro Agnew, Steve Glenday and John Stahel, our starter Brendan Booker, referee and photographer Michelle Henry.

MONA CUP

This year the annual Mona Cup will be on Saturday March 30 and is a 3 Person Irish Medley. Members wishing to play are required to organise their team before play please. Hit off will be at the normal time.

RESULTS: Saturday February 24, Medley 2BBB Stableford – Deadwood & Nomchong Trophies (thanks to Dee and Eddie for your sponsorship)

Winners: Robin Tennant Wood & Michael Toirkens 47 pts

Runners Up: Craig Sloan & Barry McDonald 44 pts

Women's NTP 2nd to 6/15: Robin Tennant Wood & Barb Stuart

Men's NTP 3/12: Michael Toirkens

Ball Comp: Barb Stuart & Tom Duffy 43, Michelle Henry & Don Burke 43

Handicap Changes: Robin Tennant Wood down 1 to 35, Michael Tillman-Ryan down 1 to 35, Craig Sloan down 1 to 44, Wayne Fanning out 1 to 16, Mark Neman out 1 to 15

Birdies: Men 2 Pars: Women 6

Chris Witt cooks up a storm on Pennants day.

Coming Events

March 2 Saturday: Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal

March 9 Saturday: Canberra Day Weekend

Men's Single Stableford – Jim Lindwall Trophy

Women's 2BBB Stableford – Durran Durra Truffles Trophy.

STAR TIMES

Who'srunningthisdump?

Have the lunatics taken over the asylum or have they been running it for centuries? George Orwell's take, revisited by Pink Floyd, was that all the sheep in the farm will eventually fall victim to the pigs and dogs. It does seem to be the case.

#1:Coalmustbeprotected

The Opposition has the government on the ropes over coal subsidies. Echos of 'Electricity Bill' still haunt the Labor party and it will leave no lump unburnt in its efforts to keep electricity prices down. Why? Honesty is out of fashion that's why. We are not clever enough it seems, to cope wirth the idea that coal-fired power stations are failing and no-one wants to build newer ones because they can't compete with wind and solar. But the switch to renewables is neither easy nor cheap. But giving our money to coal companies to try to hold down the real cost of making electricty, money diverted from hospitals, teachers, preschools et al, is a dead end. It's obviously disasterous for the climate but worrying about that is out of fashion in government thinking just now as angst over the next election polls takes priority.

Thatisaguninyourpocket

There's nothing to say really about crimes of passionate insanity. It does seem though that the NSW Police don't have careful oversight of where their guns are. There's nothing wrong with police taking on a bit of work after hours, event security and the like, but it seems unnecessary surely for them to book their handguns out on those ocassions. If you can win a fist barney you don't need a gun — and surely much less so if you lose.

Tripacrosstothewildwest

Last week I travelled across our vast continent to Perth — the first time for me. Stupidly I didn't pay the tall tax to get a seat that doesn't remove all feeling from your legs before you overfly Port Augusta. For reasons to be revealed in a future edition we stayed in John Curtin's house at Cottesloe Beach. The National Trust have bought a few former Prime Minister's houses. It's modest and delightful and reading Elsie, his wife's account of travelling to Canberra put my whinging into perspective. No four-hour flight for her. It was a week on the train.

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Editor: Robin Tennant Wood
Layout/production: Paul Cockram
Contributions desperately welcome.

STOP PRESS

SEE YOU AT THE BRAIDWOOD SHOW