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Brr, it's a bit cold sitting here in the office at the furthest end of the house from the warm fire.

I'm reminded of a story someone once told me about cultural differences. Apparently in some European countries to start a conversation with, "sure is cold today, eh?" is to display a degree of brain damage — it's stating the obvious.

I guess though, "nice day today", is a safer greeting than, "I see we're still on track to destroy the planet's atmosphere from anthropogenic carbon emissions; how are you going?".

Enough of global politics. In the last issue I was lamenting the lack of, at that time still, an advocacy group for Braidwood. I'm pleased to report that the QPRC-inspired and initiated 'Braidwood Connect' is gathering momentum. The last get-together at Yately House was well attended and with a bit of luck will keep it up.

One of the benefits of the amalgamation of Palerang and Queanbeyan councils has been the availability of more staff specialising in areas of local benefit. Economic development and tourism are two that spring to mind.

Having political representation for Braidwood and surrounds is quite a different matter. With only eleven new QPRC councillors to be elected in September to replace the nineteen in the two councils previously, it's inevitable that local representation will be lessened.

The quota of votes for each QPRC council position will be in excess of 2000. That's a tall order in our region where to get half that number requires being loved by nearly everyone. Of course the final couple of positions are quite often filled by candidates with less than a full quota but it will still be difficult.

Political parties and solid community associations will likely fare better than the odd hopeful who 'just wants to have a go'. That is the benefit, or drawback, of 'above the line' voting. Many voters will look for a group, put a 1 in a box, grab a sausage sandwich and head home.

My suggestion is to look closely at the ballot paper and vote at least 1, then 2 then 3, or more is better, for the people you trust to do the job wherever they are on the paper.

Good luck in September.

Paul

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BWD is published by Artplan Graphics 64 Budawang Road, Mongarlowe NSW 2622

Telephone: 0417 459 775 email: paul@artplan.com.au

Printed by: Trendsetting, Fyshwick ACT

2017 WINTER BWD