



Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang

Australia Day champions in our communities

> What Dr Austen
deals with on
a regular basis,
starts p2



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What's On, back page

FAMILY doctor Rosemary Austen (above) was honoured as Bungendore Citizen of the Year this Australia Day. Rosemary spends her days tending human patients and her nights and holidays, together with her husband and veterinary help, restoring injured wildlife to health at Possumwood, a wildlife recovery and research centre in Bywong.

At any one time Possumwood has 40–50 animals in residence including kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, birds and other road and fence casualties. They even once helped an eagle recover. Across 15 years several thousand animals have been helped.

Rosemary told the Australia Day audience that many residents of Palerang and Queanbeyan have been terrific in their concern for wildlife, bringing hundreds of injured creatures to Possumwood often in conjunction with Wildcare or the Native Animal Rescue Group.

She highlighted the health benefits of getting involved and volunteering wherever it might be. And, giving a big guernsey to fellow honourees, the Bungendore Show workers, Rosemary freely admitted that she has allowed herself the time and pleasure to enter (and win) some flower arranging competitions at the annual show.

In Queanbeyan, the Citizen of the Year is Janine White, managing director of the Queanbeyan and District Preschool and non-teaching director of Harris Park Preschool. Janine was also honoured for being very involved with helping bereaved parents with the group 'Compassionate Friends'.

The Young Citizen of the Year is Gabrielle Matthews (pictured with Mayor Overall), a Girl Guide who has been extremely active in the Queanbeyan community and earned the Guide's most senior award, the Queens Guide Award.

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LATEST ON COUNCILS MERGING

Palerang shelves its special rate variation process

Question now: whole or part of Palerang to Queanbeyan and why

Queanbeyan waits on financial advice – unofficially: partial merger preferred

Councillors ask: are we being 'bribed' into agreement to keep our jobs?

Member for Monaro's survey: who is being asked?

Analysis by Maria Taylor

THE *Bulletin* provided a January update on the NSW government 'big surprise' merger proposal to split up Palerang and attach the west and some of the east to Queanbeyan and the 'rump' to Goulburn. You'll find that on our website as background www.districtbulletin.com.au.

The final decision on mergers (or not) will rest with the Minister for Local Government Paul Toole and the Premier Mike Baird. Residents who care about the outcome should take the

opportunity to speak or write directly to the Minister or address the delegate inquiries, details p6.

On p4 and 5 we provide financial arguments for keeping Palerang intact either with Queanbeyan or standing alone. We also highlight the lack so far of NSW government data that would show why the merger of two 'unfit' councils is a good idea.

Eventual rate increases might be inevitable in both local government areas as they merge. From a Queanbeyan perspective to help pay for Palerang roads, bridges or village services while Palerang residents may be paying for controversial projects like the very costly Ellerton Drive extension through suburbs or the necessary Queanbeyan sewerage upgrade.

The other way of looking at it all, as highlighted by the Labor Opposition, is the possibility of boundary rigging to benefit the reigning Coalition/Liberal Party in various electorates. In the marginal seat of Monaro with a National Party state representative, and with Liberal Party backing for half of

Queanbeyan council in particular, that is not beyond the realm of possibility.

Some recent events might make sceptics wonder again. At the beginning of February, Member for Monaro John Barilaro's office sent out a survey to gauge residents' support for the state's merger proposal to split Palerang between Queanbeyan and Goulburn.

It was sent to a Palerang list of what appear to be Coalition supporters with the injunction to "spread it around your people". A request to Barilaro's office on how the survey is being further distributed to make it representative was not answered by press time. So who else has received it? In context, members of all three affected councils (including Goulburn) have noted the remarkable absence of their state representatives for discussion and guidance to all councillors or the public.

The survey itself is biased, according to survey professional David McDonald, because the questions fail to cover the full range of likely responses, notably the option for a council to stand alone. It merely asks the 'how would you

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AUSTRALIA DAY CHAMPIONS

From p1

The Queanbeyan Show Society was presented with the Community Service Group of the Year award, while Robyn Thelning received a special award for outstanding service to the Queanbeyan YMCA and the community. Community Event of the Year was the Queanbeyan Rodeo. ■

Others honoured in Bungendore, Braidwood and Captains Flat

Braidwood Citizen of the Year – Gordon Scott, honoured for his extensive community volunteer work over decades from the medical to the educational arena, while lending his time and energy to music, sports and service clubs in the town as well.



Braidwood Young Citizen of the Year – Matilda Corby. From volunteering for the Braidwood and Village Tourism committee to her activities as player and manager of the Palerang Women's Soccer Club and youth coach. Following many high school achievements, Matilda was honoured for her skill and enthusiasm in contributing to the community and to sport.

Braidwood Community Event of the Year went to the Braidwood Gardens, open garden weekend. The showcase of local gardens draws scores of visitors to Braidwood and raises money for the pre-school. Accepted by Samara Zeitsch and Kathy Toirkens representing the Braidwood Pre-School.

More Bungendore
Bungendore Young Citizen Award for 2016 went to **Ashley Meyer-Dilley** for a wide range of community volunteering activities to involve young rural people particularly through the agricultural show movement including key roles with the Bungendore show.

Bungendore Community Event of the

Year joint winner – the George Tooke Shield and Women's League Tag Grand Final accepted by Melody Carn, Anthony Rayner, David Cooke, Jenny Amey, John Cooper, Michael Parnaby, Matt and Kim Pateman and Leanne Wood. The tag teams' first time in Bungendore events brought 1,500 visitors to the town.

Bungendore Community Event of the Year joint winner – the Bungendore Show. Numerous volunteers share the honour, accepted by Marion Whalan, President of the Show. The show brings thousands of visitors to Bungendore and proceeds are donated to local community groups like Rotary, Scouts, animal welfare and environmental groups.

Captains Flat Citizen of the Year – Judy Cross, honoured for her SES, community association, RSL and other volunteer roles including the Light Up our War Memorial fundraiser.

Community Event – went to **Light Up Our War Memorial fundraiser** Accepting, Judy Cross, Jenni Waring, Steve Brunton, Debbie Howell and Jason Platt. ■

What Dr Austen and those who care are up against

Dr Rosemary Austen wrote to the Bulletin following Australia Day:

"WE ARE inundated with rescues and animals at present. Just last week we had a 60kg male motor vehicle accident at night from Sutton Park; a very wild young male caught in wire in Bywong; a hypothermic 2kg joey with bilateral tibia fractures (he had been lying in a paddock in that heavy rain all day); and a poor mother who had been shot in the face by a landholder on Bungendore Road [near Forest Rd].

"The wound was seething with maggots and she was blinded by the bullet as it exited the face.

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Country Women with clout:

With anniversaries rolling up CWA gets younger and takes on important causes

THE NEXT time you are driving along a sealed road in rural NSW at night, eyes red from wildlife watch, have a think about what these roads would be like without white lines and ‘cats-eyes’.

Few of us remember that the painting of white lines on country roadsides and the installation of reflective ‘cats-eyes’ were a direct result of strong Country Women’s Association lobbying to reduce casualties on rural roads.

This year the CWA will celebrate a couple of birthdays in our region.

The Southern Tablelands Group (which includes Bungendore and surrounding rural residential areas) will be 90 years old, and in Queanbeyan, the local branch will turn 70. Readers might entertain the cheeky thought that these venerable events are a reflection of the age of its members. However, such is far from the case.

In fact Jo-Anne Evans, Secretary of the Queanbeyan Day Branch, says that the CWA defies the trend of voluntary organisations, and the average age of its membership is actually getting younger.

She said that in Queanbeyan it has been beautiful to watch the transfer of wisdom and knowledge between older members and young recruits as they bond and work together on new projects.

Jo-Anne believes that part of their success is because of the ability of older members to readily adapt to the internet and social media. At first it was a hurdle, she

said, as rural women had limited access to the internet. Now it is a blessing, enabling the rapid sharing of knowledge and acquis-



ition of skills that are required for CWA projects.

Modern CWA: a lot more than scones and tea

The CWA is constantly seeking to increase its relevance, with programs and activities covering many social and environmental issues affecting the lives of rural women and their families.

For example, CWA women provide ongoing assistance to victims of domestic violence, partnering with Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia, to provide direct and tangible support for women and their families in our region.

They are also advising government on the best ways to support and settle refugees in rural Australia, and are helping to improve the lives of rural women in Timor-Leste, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Papua-New Guinea.

Trudi Tritschler, Secretary of the Bungendore Branch says revival of interest in the CWA helped by start of informal evening branches to allow rural working women and business people to take part.

The organisation is not shy of contention either, and fearlessly promotes the use of medicinal marijuana and the development of legislation to enable the growing,

manufacture and distribution of marijuana remedies for medicinal purposes. The CWA has also been active in the protests against coal seam gas in the northern part of the state.

Trudi Tritschler, Secretary of the Bungendore Branch, attributes part of the revival of interest in the CWA to the implementation of informal evening branches designed to allow rural working women and business people to take an active part in CWA activities.

The Bungendore branch provides significant educational grants for schools in the region, and helps rural primary school children to make the transition to high school and do well at their studies. For Trudi the CWA is no longer ‘old school’, but a relevant and vital organisation committed to supporting rural women and their families in the community.

Vicki Hodges, President of the Queanbeyan Evening Branch, agrees. She says that the organisation is extremely flexible, and can respond quickly to crises, such as supporting the Louisa Refuge in Queanbeyan to help victims of domestic violence. For Vicki, the association is not about tea, scones and crochet doilies.

With a membership age range in the mid-thirties to forties, the modern CWA is a well-oiled and vibrant organisation – the biggest, and possibly the most powerful female lobby group in NSW – definitely an organisation of Country Women with Attitude. ■

Women interested in joining the CWA can find contact details of groups in their area online at cwaofnsw.org.au. Alternatively: Queanbeyan residents can call Nicolle Lyons on 6299 6649, and residents in Bungendore and surrounds can call Trudi Tritschler on 6238 1679.



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Why do we care about keeping Palerang intact?

Roadworks capabilities is one good reason – even for a merged council



by Palerang councillor
Belinda Hogarth-Boyd

A KEY argument for keeping Palerang intact [either stand alone or merged wholesale with Queanbeyan] is to maintain the capability of the organisation. With my HR hat on, these are the skills of the organisation that they can achieve with a particular mix of capabilities and equipment. A key capability for Palerang is roadworks.

Loss of income from roadworks can affect costs to the community in the rates and charges of merged council.

Roadworks require a range of skills. This ranges from the administrative and contractual side such as writing tenders and contracts, managing contracts, procurement, and dealing with sub-contractors. There is on-the-ground staff; equipment operators such as grader drivers, also surveyors and site workers; and those who maintain heavy equipment to name but a few. An organisation needs all of these skills to do these roadworks – and a well-functioning team to do it well.

With a split of Palerang and split of capabilities there would be a need to source these skills from the melded organisation or to recruit – which there may be limited capacity to do in the context on which the mergers are occurring. Then an organisation will have to try to rebuild the team and the equipment to do the work.

In the interim, neither Queanbeyan nor Goulburn would have all of the skills, or

equipment to do the work as Palerang has done. This would leave a hole in the capability of the region. The capability of roadworks is particularly important in a rural area where it is a key role of local council. To ratepayers, this hole would be most obvious in the services that could be provided by both new councils.

Roadworks produce income

The loss of this capability would also leave a financial hole – as the Palerang roadworks capability also conducts work for the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) on the state roads in the region – most notably the Kings Highway.

As councils have limited ways to create income, this will have a financial impact on both organisations as neither Queanbeyan nor Goulburn will have the capability to do this work if Palerang is split between them. Loss of the ability to do roadworks will also have an impact on costs to the community in the rates and charges of council.

Retaining the capability of Palerang is one of many reasons to keep Palerang intact. ■

Editor's note: Queanbeyan, we have been informed, has no road maintenance capability, staff or machines, and has previously relied on Palerang for these services in whole or part.

Attention Palerang and Queanbeyan readers these stories and the Mayor's update p6 are relevant to all our communities regarding possible amalgamation

People power prompts catch-up government

QUEANBEYAN City Council is continuing to ignore some very real concerns of residents whose lives will be impacted by some of its flakier flagship projects and regional activities.

A social impact study was recently conducted into the effects of the planned Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) on the lives of residents along its footprint in southeastern Queanbeyan – a

study that was demanded by community groups after it was discovered that council had left out a very important part of the consultation process in the planning of this project.

This has been a familiar mode of council behaviour throughout the history of this controversial project – community groups protest, and council responds by plugging the gaps. For some, this would be evidence that the process is working, were it not for the fact that our council is merely ticking the boxes.

only a handful consulted for community social impact study

In the case of the social impact statement, which was conducted during December last year, consultation was reportedly restricted to only 10 out of the potentially thousands of residents impacted by this selfish example of developer greed.

Approach to merger continues a pattern

This approach appears to continue with the discussion and controversy surrounding the coming merger of the Queanbeyan and Palerang local government areas.

In January, Queanbeyan Council voted to conduct a public forum in February regarding the proposed merger. Good news, but the forum is now scheduled for after the final decisions have been made within Queanbeyan Council regarding its preferred shape of the merger [take whole or part of Palerang or stand alone], and how it will proceed. The forum is scheduled for 16 February.

Obviously Queanbeyan ratepayers are not considered competent enough to inform these discussions prior to the final decisions. The arrogance of this approach is distressing given there are some serious financial issues for ratepayers in both jurisdictions, not least of these is the fact that a massive chunk of the Palerang council budget is spent on maintaining roads.

For their part in the event of the merger, Palerang residents may face the prospect of footing the interest bill for a badly conceived and partially funded road, (the EDE) which they will probably never use. ■

AROUND QTown



with
Graham
Franklin-
Browne

ANALYSIS ON MERGER From p1

like to be killed questions' without the 'do you want to be killed at all?' question.

Eyebrows have also been raised by a letter from the Minister for Local Government Paul Toole on the 6 January to affected mayors. It states in part "The Government remains committed to allowing councillors that are supportive of making the new council a success the opportunity to shape the future of the new council".

How to read that? Palerang Mayor Pete Harrison noted: "in line with other communications we have received (including the public address to delegates at the LGNSW conference back in October) they could be [mis?]interpreted as thinly veiled threats or enticements".

Queanbeyan Councillor Brian Brown is more direct: "It's very clear, support the merger or get sacked!" Readers can judge for themselves, but the word 'bribery' did arise spontaneously from some other councillors and residents.

'Supportive' councillors matter for a Queanbeyan Palerang future. The vote in November for Queanbeyan to stand alone narrowly beat a counter-proposal by Mayor Tim Overall and his council supporters, widely regarded as enjoying Liberal Party support.

They proposed the very division that has morphed into the state proposal. Granted, it is a logical solution from the perspective of hiving off the richer parts of Palerang with less far-flung roads to maintain.

At press time, Queanbeyan council had not voted on its merger position because financials were still not available. However, the *Bulletin* understands that 'stand alone' had lost support and that remaining questions revolved around preferred boundaries to merge with the western part of Palerang. A final council decision will come on 24 February.

As for Palerang, the following was reportedly overheard in a Macquarie Street office: "It will be good to get rid of Palerang. [The present council] is too green and independent."

[Full disclosure: Both councils have their strong and admirable points. But we are talking about process here and the best deal for all rate-payers.]

What a way to wake up Tornado, maybe, hits Hoskinstown area

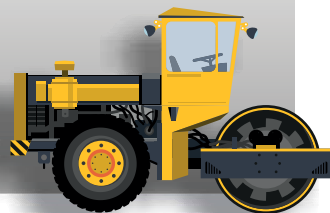
AS WILD storm cells dumped heavy rain accompanied by thunder and spectacular lightning displays across the region on the night of Saturday 30 January, some people living in Forbes Creek near Hoskinstown had a closer encounter.

It was reported that one couple woke in the middle of the night, noticed water dripping and then looked up startled to see that their roof was gone, shortly before bricks started falling on their bed as walls collapsed.

> For the full story go to www.districtbulletin.com.au

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Your Say...

Forced amalgamations:

Mr Baird ain't taking de'bait



says Palerang Councilor Richard Graham

FORCED amalgamations are sourced right from the Premier's office.

His message is devolution and merging are good and valuable outcomes for all residents. However, the message is all one-sided. There are no for and against arguments presented. No respect of local residents' will. No independent financial substantiation of his administration's claims of economic benefit for one and all. No genuine debate.

He and Minister Toole seek to make it appear there are no alternatives, including Palerang remaining whole and independent.

There are only slogans that make no sense to anyone who gives them 30 seconds of consideration.

how do two so-called 'unfit' shires, become 'fit' by just merging? No financials have been presented

Like, how do two so-called 'unfit' shires, become 'fit' by just merging? That's like saying if you owe \$800 on one credit card, and \$1,400 on another, and merge them onto a new card you won't owe as much. Really? The Premier has been a merchant banker for most of his working life – HSBC, Deutsche Bank, NAB – is that what he is implying?

You can merge two credit cards into one, but the debt doesn't go away, and the banker who does that will get a new pound of flesh.

In the case of 'unfit mergers' will that be higher rates? Lower services? More local government debt? Privatisation of government functions? Sale of infrastructure (like water and sewerage) that residents paid for, only to be charged again by new overseas owners?

Sounds like Greece, eh?

I've been a Palerang resident for over 20 years and a councillor for nearly eight. There are no material benefits for Palerang residents from the state's proposals, aside from grants offered to merging councils. Grants, which could just as well be given to non-merged councils but for the less than transparent agenda of the Ministers' proposals.

Disadvantages for all local entities In fact, my view is there are predictable disadvantages to our residents, in terms of lower levels of services, higher costs, and effectively muting local democratic representation in favour of urban control of this beautiful and special rural place.

To date, the state's media access and advertising budget has dominated the one-sided and erroneous 'merger is good' storyline. Residents know they are going to live in the outcome of this however it turns out. They want truth and debate, not the state's 'fit for the future' hype.

Ask state members to explain

Asking state members, Pru Goward and John Barilaro, is yielding nothing more than the party line. But voters need to require them to fact-check their Premier's advantage claims, with real and independent substantiation, and if not why not.

How does merging Palerang's rates and charges into what the state claims are two 'unfit' LGAs (Queanbeyan and Goulburn) bring better outcomes to Palerang (or for those other two shires themselves). Will those LGAs find money from thin-air to improve our roads and bridges, extend our pools' operating hours, or offer new services?

Will their ratepayers volunteer to get less for their rates and charges, so Palerang residents can have more? That's ludicrous. No, the reality of these mergers would be less for everyone.

Fewer LGAs will make the state's proven track-record of shifting state costs onto local government easier to do. Costs that will be paid for from higher local rates, or a merchant banker's best friend, increased ratepayer-underwritten government debt.

Without voters sending clear and unambiguous directions to the contrary, Mistery Baird and Toole will devolve and dissolve Palerang into the Queanbeyan and Goulburn urban centres. There's no transparency, and it's all smelling a bit fishy without debate.

— Maria Taylor

NBN rollout early round in Eden-Monaro battle

IT LOOKS like the federal election season is warming up, with the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro Peter Hendy emerging to fire off a press release about NBN delivery in this area, aimed at his Labor challenger Mike Kelly, the former Member for Eden-Monaro.

In response, Kelly took the opportunity to remind everyone of the NBN history to date and called Hendy's claims distortions of the facts.

Hendy claimed that if Labor returns to power, there will be delay in, "the NBN delivery in Bungendore and Braidwood as a result of their (Labor) campaign to change the rollout in Queanbeyan and the ACT... that would risk delaying the NBN in Bungendore and Braidwood from 2017 to as late as 2028".

Why would that be? Reading both sides, possibly a new round of delays (following those of the Coalition in recent years) might flow from Labor's plan to return to a fibre to the premises model that was dumped by the current government in favour of optic fibre to a street 'node' then copper wire to the premises.

"They (Bungendore and Braidwood) are all on track for NBN works in 2017," promised Hendy. "Surrounding areas of Captains Flat, Majors Creek, and Mt Gillamatong are already under construction for NBN access."

Kelly responded with a few "facts about the NBN in our region."

Upon taking government in 2007, Labor set to work "to establish publicly-owned NBN infrastructure as a wholesale platform upon which retail competition could take place, but with a policy that meant that people in rural and regional Australia would pay the same wholesale price for broadband as people in the cities."

"The Abbott/Turnbull government removed this policy so that the people of Eden-Monaro may pay more for broadband than people in our cities. It should be noted that Peter Hendy did not oppose or fight that change."

Satellite and wireless services to continue

Under Labor's plan almost all Australians were to get fibre optic cable to the premises (FTTP) with the remainder getting quality satellite and wireless services. Notable for rural residential and farm properties, Kelly flagged that the Coalition

adopted the satellite and wireless plans and this work continues (regionally).

"The former Labor Government began construction on optic fibre in Queanbeyan in January 2013... the delays in the rollout of the NBN to our region have been solely the result of [former Communications Minister Turnbull] trying to rely on the old copper system in the fibre to the node (FTTN) option.

"We know that the weakest part of the system is the old decaying copper, which is vulnerable to floods and storm and requires more power to operate, highlighted again by the recent weather in our region.

"The Turnbull government has wasted billions of tax payers' money buying back the copper network from Telstra and wasting years in renegotiations and delays. It has recently emerged that the cost of patching up the copper network will be 1,000 percent more than what the Government said it would be back in 2013."

Kelly claims that the Coalition handling of the NBN has created a "digital divide" in Queanbeyan with the northern suburbs getting the Labor model optic fibre while Jerrabomberra to the south will get the Coalition's inferior FTTN version. "This is having a serious and unfair effect on relative property values."

Tying fibre to the premises to economic development

Kelly confirmed that "Labor's plan if elected is to get the FTTP option rolling again to future proof our country and create a more reliable and cheaper to

maintain system. With this sort of infrastructure it would be my intention to actively seek investment in our region where companies can operate without having to be in the major cities" but nearby.

And the parting shot at the man whose Queanbeyan house was the centre of the coup against Tony Abbott. "Along with Mr Abbott, we have all learned not to trust Peter Hendy."

— Maria Taylor

PALERANG COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Council approved the following development applications in December 2015

Development Consents are available for public inspection free of charge at Council's offices during ordinary business hours.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2015.200	Dwelling	01/12/2015	Lot 6 DP 1185443 1 Bluskie Close BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.230	Carport and Fence	03/12/2015	Lot 46 DP 217231 31 Kurrajong Street CAPTAINS FLAT
DA.2015.211	Carport and Continued Use of 2 Existing Carports	03/12/2015	Lot 152 DP 808823 16 Knox Close CARWOOLA
DA.2015.242	Shipping Container	03/12/2015	Lot 66 DP 259405 206 Poppet Road WAMBOIN
DA.2015.219	Continued Use of Dwelling	04/12/2015	Lot 5 DP 1193114 6 Dog Rock Close MULLOON
DA.2015.212	Dwelling	07/12/2015	Lot 1 DP 1093618 147 Gillamatong Lane BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.224	Garage	08/12/2015	Lot 6 Sec 19 DP 758183 58 Modbury Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.167	Dual Occupancy	08/12/2015	Lot 1 DP 1149614 1472 Federal Highway Service Road SUTTON
DA.2015.241	Tree Removal	08/12/2015	Lot 1 DP 1172336 48 Butmaroo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.165	Boundary Adjustment	09/12/2015	Lot 4 Sec 2 DP 758183 & Lot 5 Sec 2 DP 758183 33 Turrallo Terrace BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.247	Alterations and Additions	09/12/2015	Lot 1 DP 70806 56 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.199	Shed & Pergola	10/12/2015	Lot 3 Sec 6 DP 758183 28 Modbury Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.131	Continued Use of Pergola and Deck	10/12/2015	Lot 4 DP 1073604 4369 Cooma Road KRAWARREE
DA.2015.220	2 Lot Subdivision	11/12/2015	Lot 1 DP 791113 6 Rocky Glen Road BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.246	Swimming Pool	11/12/2015	Lot 3 DP 773627 789 Captains Flat Road CARWOOLA
DA.2015.223	2 Lot Subdivision	14/12/2015	Lot 2 Sec 7 DP 758183 79 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.239	Continued Use of Swim Spa and Decking	14/12/2015	Lot 39 DP 806126 14 Elmslea Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.236	Continued Use of Carport, Pergola, Deck, TV Room, Verandah	14/12/2015	Lot 2 DP 285282 27 Mirromere Road BURRA
DA.2015.235	Continued Use of Deck	15/12/2015	Lot 2 DP 843465 61 Molonglo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.209	2 Lot Subdivision	15/12/2015	Lot 5 DP 251886 79 Naylor Road URILA
DA.2015.245	Alterations and Additions	15/12/2015	Lot 15 DP 285984 20 Fosters Lane BURRA
DA.2015.215	Shed	15/12/2015	Lot 6 DP 252132 154 Millynn Road BYWONG
DA.2015.234	Swimming Pool	15/12/2015	Lot 13 DP 1046563 389 Denley Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2015.238	Swimming Pool	15/12/2015	Lot 44 DP 258033 31 Canning Close WAMBOIN
DA.2015.240	Dwelling	15/12/2015	Lot 13 DP 1185443 8 Finch Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.257	Alterations and Additions	16/12/2015	Lot 37 DP 1017324 259 Royalla Drive ROYALLA
DA.2015.261	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	21/12/2015	Lot 23 DP 559145 1492 Sutton Road SUTTON
DA.2015.231	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	22/12/2015	Lot 11 DP 715389 398 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2015.204	Shed	22/12/2015	Lot 19 DP 1033796 21 Robertson Road WAMBOIN
DA.2015.218	Shed	22/12/2015	Lot 32 DP 244439 20 Cooper Road WAMBOIN
DA.2015.198	Two Lot Subdivision	23/12/2015	Lot 1 DP 1051083 112A Molonglo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.210	3 Lot Subdivision	23/12/2015	Lot 22 DP 754873 68 Bohmers Lane BYWONG

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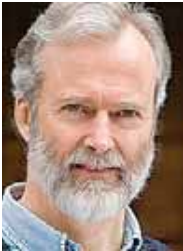
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New councils by 1 July
Update on local government
reform and special rate variation



MOST people will be aware that there's been a flurry of activity on amalgamations in the last few weeks. Here's how it all unfolded.

In December 2015 the Minister for Local Government released 35 merger proposals, involving 65 NSW councils, and in January 2016 outlined the process by which these proposals would be assessed.

The proposals have been referred to the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government (OLG), who has in turn delegated responsibility for their assessment to 18 Delegates whom we understand will report their findings by May 2016.

Delegates will hold public inquiries into the proposals for which they have responsibility during February and prepare their respective reports for comment by the independent Boundaries Commission. The Minister has indicated that he will announce his determination before the end of June, with the intention that the new councils will commence operating on 1 July 2016.

While details are unclear, in a merger it is believed that current councillors would most likely be dismissed, and new councils would operate under administration [also not clear by whom] until new elections in March 2017.

The Delegate can only assess the content of a formal proposal, or a 'minor amendment' thereof. It cannot consider anything more.

Proposal to split Palerang, and an alternate proposal for full merger
The proposal that the Minister presented in relation to Palerang was to divide our LGA between Goulburn and Queanbeyan, in spite of the fact that, for the duration of the Fit for the Future exercise we had been advised that no consideration would be given to

boundary adjustments, only full mergers. The main problem here is that a full merger is not considered to be a 'minor amendment' to the current proposal, so the present process cannot comment on whether or not the proposed division of Palerang is more of less appropriate than a full merger. In recognition of this fact, Palerang Council has forwarded an alternate proposal – for the full merger of Palerang and Queanbeyan – to the Minister for consideration.

Council's resolved position remains to stand alone as an independent council, and this is the position that council will continue to recommend in its representations. The only option presented by the Minister, however, was to divide Palerang between Goulburn and Queanbeyan – he did not provide for the option of merging Palerang wholly with a single neighbour. The only way this option could be considered in the present process was for someone, either the Minister himself, Palerang Council or residents, through a petition, to lodge such a proposal.

The reason that council has lodged the full merger proposal is because it believes this to be a better outcome for our community than dividing the current LGA – it is council's preferred fall-back position.

Public input is the only real chance
The ball is now very much in the hands of Palerang residents. The only real chance, however slight, to influence the Minister's decision will now be through the Delegate's public inquiry and lobbying our local member, John Barilaro.

Public inquiries – see schedule below.
Please note that you must register to either attend or speak at a meeting by Friday 5 February 2016. Written submissions will however be accepted until 5.00pm 28 February 2016. Full details are available from the Boundary Review website at www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au.

Special Rate Variation off the table
In January, the Office of Local Government released a directive that no council that is the subject of a merger proposal will be eligible to apply for a SRV. As a result, any variation above the rate cap is now off the table this year, whether or not a merger eventuates. If there is a merger, the State government has stated that the current rating

arrangements will also be frozen for the next four years (ie for Palerang residents, the rates pool will only rise with the rate cap). ■

Council has created a button ('LG Reform') on its Home Page that links directly to information on the current process. They will endeavour to provide updates here as information comes to hand.

— Environment —

Barbaric forest
destruction for a
coal mine continues,
while coal price falls
through floor,
Whitehaven share
price at new lows

WHETHER it is a new Canberra suburb overrunning native grassland, a climate change-spurred intense bushfire or a coal mine in northern NSW destroying a state forest and its 'protected' species, habitat destruction continues to cause the biggest loss of biodiversity in this country.

In fact, the destruction of the Leard State Forest between Gunnedah and Narrabri in northern NSW by Whitehaven Coal and its Japanese partners, is ecological vandalism on a world scale – sanctioned by both major political parties in NSW, and at a time when the coal price is hardly making the business viable.

It's a poster child for what is wrong with NSW and Australia's clinging devotion to coal miners. Effects on farmland and groundwater, threats to sacred sites, and the noise, dust and health risks of living next to a coal mine are other top issues for locals and critics from around the country.

For three years people have protested and blockaded in the woodland and forest, making it the longest running direct action campaign against fossil fuels



Leard State Forest is the largest area of remnant vegetation remaining in the Liverpool Plains. The forest is home to **396 species of plants and animals** and includes habitat for **34 threatened species** and several endangered ecological communities. Local activists estimate the mine plans would **destroy more than 5,000ha of the forest**, including **1,082ha of rare Box-gum Woodland**. ■

in Australia. It has brought together neighbouring farmers and townspeople, the local Gomeroi Aboriginal people, and people from across NSW and the ACT including religious leaders, academics, students, 'knitting nannas' and families, entertainers and sports people – football great David Pocock was pictured on the *Bulletin* cover December 2014, locked on to an excavator and subsequently arrested. >> p10

From Crikey: The Nats and mining in the
farmlands even as the boom has busted

THESE DAYS the National Party more or less is the resources sector, with two former leaders, John Anderson and Mark Vaile, both involved in companies running coal-seam gas and open-cut mines (Santos and Whitehaven respectively – both of which are loathed by much of the community in which they're found). Former Nats are studded through the mining corps and industry peak bodies.

The Nats haven't needed to take the rising conflict between mining and farming into account. Public funding provides the base money, corporate donations from Big Mining, the extra funds – and a chance to make real money after politics. That was all ticking along very nicely for many a year.

Barnaby (Joyce) saw the protests, the blockades and the marches, and decided – like any true leader – that he better get out in front of it, wherever it was going. It was especially easy in opposition. He impressed many at the time with the strength of his campaign against the assault on farming, and his apparent willingness to work with the Greens, who were assisting the farmers in their campaigns.

But then "disaster" struck: the Coalition took power. Joyce became Water Minister, exactly the position from which to put a stop to the mad, self-defeating process of coal and CSG expansion in eastern Australia.

He flubbed it magnificently, declaring that there was nothing he could do about the Shenhua Watermark mine, which would plunge a 300-metre open cut into the centre of "black soil" country and the Murray-Darling basin. In the southern part of New England, Joyce's name is on a par with the scree and sludge they'll be pumping out of that mine, if it ever happens.

The rationale for the wholesale commitment to CSG and coal mining has been that it pumps money into rural regions. But that was predicated on a never-ending boom. When the boom bust, there was talk of it being cyclical. Now, it seems all the more likely that China and India will be producing most of their own supply domestically.

... a lot of the resource-first policy was simply a National Party elite being bamboozled by the very big money flying around. They weren't the only ones. [As] the magic pudding hasn't eventuated, the Nats will have to start representing the people who voted for them – especially as their interests start to diverge from the base of their Liberal Coalition partners. Otherwise, concerns about endangered species might be closer to home.

From Crikey, Guy Rundle, 12 January 2016, 'Barnaby and the Nats stuck between a mine and a hard place'.

PALERANG
COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Two inquiries are being held into the Minister for Local Government's proposals to split Palerang Council between Queanbeyan City and Goulburn Mulwaree Councils.

PLEASE NOTE that you must register to attend the public inquiries, even if you do not wish to speak.

- Proposed merger of Palerang (part) and Goulburn Mulwaree Councils**
Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Tuesday, 9 February 2016, from 9.00am–12 noon.
Goulburn Golf Club on Tuesday, 9 February 2016, from 1.00–6.00pm.
- Proposed merger of Palerang (part) and Queanbeyan City Councils**
Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Thursday, 11 February 2016, from 1.00pm–4.00pm.
Comfort Inn Airport International (Queanbeyan) on Thursday, 11 February 2016, from 7.00–10.00pm.

Anyone wishing to attend the inquiries must register online at <https://www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au>, or call 1300 813 020.

Anyone also wishing to speak at the inquiries should indicate that they wish to do so when they register to attend.

Members of the public may only speak once at each public inquiry, irrespective of the number of sessions being held, and the order of speaking will be determined by the Delegate. Registrations to speak will close at **12 noon on Friday, 5 February** for public inquiries that are held during the week of 8 February.

Public submissions on the proposals must be made by 5.00pm on Sunday, 28 February 2016.

Diplomatic offensive for animals, from NSW Upper House to China: Mark Pearson gets the evidence and changes minds

The Bulletin's **Maria Taylor** recently caught up with Mark Pearson, the first NSW Legislative Council representative for the Animal Justice Party (AJP), a significant milestone for the party. The AJP in NSW now has 3,000 members and counting, along with members in other states and plans to mount a campaign in the next ACT municipal election.

MARK PEARSON, onetime opera singer, psych nurse and long-time animal campaigner, now sits on the NSW Upper House cross-benches, across the aisle from Christian Democrat Fred Nile, who, thanks to personal diplomacy, has pledged to support some of Pearson's animal-friendly legislative motions.

"My job is to turn mindsets around," says Pearson. A first step, the livestock protection amendment bill, calls for sprinklers to be installed in all intensive animal operations with an eye on the increasing heat and drought besetting the landscape, as well as increasing bushfires.

Pearson's motion also calls for remote alarm systems in facilities, as well as installation of CCTV cameras, including in abattoirs. "That gets around concerns about activists getting onto properties," he says.

Building on a history of successful forays to alert international markets to the food contamination and welfare horrors of the state-supported, but private-profit kangaroo meat and hides industry, Pearson last year travelled to China.

He took with him Uncle Max, an Aboriginal elder from Sutherland area in south Sydney and a film crew. They travelled on the tail of a Barnaby Joyce-led federal government trade delegation, which promotes Australia's wildlife meat and hides trade as a great thing.

Pearson and ecologist Dror Ben Ami

have bedevilled government campaigns before. They were instrumental in the Russian review of that country's kangaroo meat purchases, which eventually resulted in the Russians withdrawing from the market for hygiene reasons. Russia banned kangaroo meat because of contamination in 2009, 2012 and again in 2014 according to a background report on the hygiene findings.

buyer beware: bacterial contamination of kangaroo meat

Pearson and fellow animal advocates have been documenting hygiene issues and welfare issues since they first travelled to Russia and the European Union in 2007.

Helped by some whistleblowers in the rarely-monitored bush killing fields, they were able to document enough instances of "chillers falling apart, blowflies everywhere, maggots everywhere," to assemble a convincing dossier. "That's when the campaign became international," says Pearson.

The issue for consumers is food contamination, he says. The strategy has been to also analyse meat samples from Australian supermarkets. This was repeated last year before the China trip. Pearson reports they again found notable *E.coli* levels in many samples and salmonella was present in some.



Another marker of a hygiene risk, he says, is when the meat has been soaked in acetic acid, vinegar, to lower the bacterial counts. The European Union, which has been sold "gourmet steak stuff", won't knowingly allow meat that has been treated with acetic acid but relies on Australia to be honest. Acetic acid use also concerned the Chinese, says Pearson, with the Chinese having just come through two food scares involving dairy and dog meat. They want more data on hygiene.

He says the Chinese are also internationally embarrassed at how they are seen to be treating wildlife for products from ivory to bear bile.

Uncle Max was asked why he had come to China. He told those who asked that killing and taking away Australia's iconic kangaroo was also an insult to Indigenous

people, to himself who considers the kangaroo a totem. Pearson said Uncle Max hit a nerve when he said the trade would bring a curse with it. And he asked: "Do you want me to eat your panda?"

The casual disdain of many Australians for their national icon (that fascinates tourists in their millions) is part of the problem. It allows the industry to convince people with its own stories of 'pest eradication' and 'sustainable harvesting'. After all, the kangaroo is not yet an endangered species like the panda, or Australia's koala – which went through a similar decimation for its skin and fur early this century and never recovered.

This common disregard for welfare was sketched vividly by no less than leading kangaroo industry figure Ray Borda. According to Pearson, Borda showed up in his office with a bag of bullet fragments that processors found in kangaroo meat. The point was that regardless of an official and somewhat regulated industry, too many Australian hobby shooters and landholders like to blast away at the animals anyway.

Pearson reported that in China they met with representatives of the ministries of agriculture and human health, representatives of trade and commerce and with four activist groups. The good news is that they were shown figures that in the 18- to 40-year-age group, 73 percent indicated concerns about animal welfare (as well as about health). "There is a shift in consciousness in China", believes Pearson. ■

Over 60s Home Bonus Concession Scheme

Are you considering a move or are you thinking of downsizing from your current NSW property into the Canberra market? Are you aware of the significant stamp duty savings that are available under the ACT's Government's Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme? This scheme, announced as part of the 2014-15 ACT budget, assists eligible non-pensioner home owners aged 60 years or older, to move to accommodation more suited to their needs by charging duty at a concessional rate.

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85 Fullagar Crescent, Higgins:
\$519,500+
you pay \$20 in duty – a saving of \$15,555



1/5 Allport Street, Downer:
\$620,000+
you pay \$20 in duty – a saving of \$20,580



11 Dobbie Place, Watson:
\$680,000+
you pay \$9,003.76 in duty – a saving of \$14,596.24

As you can see from the table below a property purchase of \$627,500 will see an eligible applicant save \$20,955 in stamp duty.

Dutiable value	Concessional duty payable
\$627,500 or less	\$20 (minimum duty)
more than \$627,500 but less than \$807,000	\$17.15 for each \$100 or part thereof by which the dutiable value exceeds \$627,500 (\$20 minimum duty)
\$807,000 or more	No concession

Source: ACT revenue website: 2 February 2016.

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Criminal enterprises: lucrative for some, very expensive for all the rest of us

SERIOUS and organised crime costs the Australian economy \$36 billion per year, according to a new analysis undertaken by the Australian Crime Commission.

The detailed cost analysis, which includes a cost breakdown of different organised crime types for 2013–14, is the first of its kind to be undertaken by the Australian Crime Commission. The high level findings were released to help raise the community's awareness of the impact and extent of serious and organised crime, according to a commission press release. Co-author of the report is Queanbeyan economist and criminologist John Walker.

Australian Crime Commission CEO, Mr Chris Dawson said the costs of serious and organised crime equate to “\$36 billion – or \$1,561 for every man, woman and child in Australia”.

While immeasurable impacts like families and communities destroyed by hard drugs are merely noted, other impacts that come with a dollar tag, like burglary, fraud, money laundering or medical costs of drugs and violence and insurance claims could be measured. So can the cost of prevention and response. That analysis fell to Walker and a team from Australian Institute of Criminology.

They drew on a range of information and data that reflected the costs of serious and organised criminal activity (\$21 billion) and the cost of prevention and response initiatives (\$16 billion). **For those who want to delve deeper, a public summary is available at <https://crimecommission.gov.au/publications/intelligence-products/costs-serious-and-organised-crime-australia>**

DR AUSTEN

From p2

Her joey was still alive but emaciated and severely dehydrated. A similar case from the same area a couple of weeks ago presented a kangaroo with its jaw blown off – it died.

“The killer tells people he has tags and it has been reported that he goes out at night on his quad bike and shoots anything he can find. Marcus Fillinger darted the mother for us and she seems relaxed [now] in our peaceful enclosure with the other kangaroos. Little Ian, her joey has required intensive fluid treatment and nutrition.

“Steve and I have done so many rescues over the last 15 years. Some of the rescues are difficult and dangerous but

they are the easy part of the work we do. It is the care and treatment of the rescued animals which is time consuming and challenging. At least at my day job I don’t have to catch my patients before I treat them!”

[Editor’s note: If tags are involved, what is National Parks doing giving permission to such a careless shooter to kill protected wildlife in a residential area? What will the RSPCA do about the cruelty? If these agencies want to investigate the case, they might like to contact Possumwood Wildlife.]

We have a lot of wildlife and a lot is being killed or injured: go to www.districtbulletin.com.au for a report on the abundance of wildlife in our area and the many that required medical attention in 2015.

— WELLNESS, and ARTS —

Low iron? Try alternatives to red meat

FEELING low energy, tired, get more colds and flus than normal? In the olden days, like the 1960s, there used to be a potion advertised to help those with ‘tired blood’.

In fact you may be iron-deficient, a condition that is said by nutritional sites to afflict more Australians than we might think. Iron is needed to produce red blood cells carrying haemoglobin, a protein that moves oxygen from the lungs to organs and muscles. Iron-deficiency can lower immune response and in more severe cases is called anaemia.

What to do? In western societies red meat is suggested as the main answer – which rather begs the question: what does the majority of the world that does not gorge on red meat do to stay energetic? Also, daily intake of red meat, more so processed meats, has recently been linked to some cancer risk by the World Health Organisation reports. Some people have environmental and ethical reasons not to reach for the red meat.

The good news is that, besides taking a good iron supplement sourced from your health food shop, there are many other options for getting iron into the diet. A good

start is that great staple, eggs, as well as ethically-produced chicken and fish. If you like oysters and mussels you’ll be taking in good amounts of iron.

In our region, we enjoy the labours of many small producers who offer free-range eggs, while Caroola Farms offers chickens and many produce the vegetables next on our list. You’ll find what you need at the farmers markets (p12) and Foodlovers market advertised in the *Bulletin*, and look for farm gate sales in your community – or grow your own!

Adding vitamin C in some form when you eat those iron-rich vegetables will aid absorption. Dark green leafy vegetables like

silverbeet, spinach, and kale are front line for iron. Nutrition sites also recommend whole grain cereals, legumes and pulses (beans, lentils, humus, which is chick-peas), nuts and seed – all of which are healthy anyway and get you away from processed foods.

Here’s a staple breakfast recipe regularly tried out in a *Bulletin* staff kitchen that combines at least two of the good sources of iron – eggs and silverbeet/spinach – taken with fresh orange juice and wholemeal or rye toast. Adding fruit is always good too. Lemon and passionfruit as well as berries and dark grapes are other sources of vitamin C. ■



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- 2 (or more) eggs beaten with a handful of shredded cheddar, sea salt and chopped parsley to taste
- Silverbeet leaves depending on size, one to two big ones or more smaller ones or substitute a cup of baby spinach – rip or cut the leaves and chop the stalks fine, removing the ends. Remember the greens wilt down so raw bulk should not deter you
- Chopped onion or green onion as much as you like
- Sliced mushrooms optional
- Coconut or olive oil to fry the vegetable with a teaspoon of butter optional.

In your omelette fry pan, sauté the onion and mushrooms in the oil until softened, add the silverbeet or spinach until wilted (you’ll probably be adjusting the heat from quite high to vegetable simmer and back to high as the eggs come in.) Add the egg mixture at a higher heat, as for omelettes, stir through the vegetables and let settle until scrambled egg or omelette consistency and viola! ■

From farmyard to outback while living life to fullest

4 Eclectic Styles: Bungendore Fine Art Gallery’s latest exhibition for the month of February features four exciting artists

Sandra Maw, whose works were inspired by long periods in the outback, accurately captures the essence of the Australian outback using mixed media showing the diversity and colour of the landscape.



Detail, PORTRAIT OF A HEN II

Janet Angus is an emerging artist, based in Canberra, with a Bachelor in Visual Arts with Honours from the Australian National University. Her series of oil paintings are a result of the interest in exploring the nature of domestic fowl and their relationship to humans and society. Perhaps by understanding our feathered friends more we may learn to appreciate nature and its importance in our future.



Detail, MYSTERY

Antoinette Karsten has experimented in many forms of media from pencil, acrylics, oils and mixed media. Antoinette's whimsical girl Lulu was born while dabbling with watercolours and she became the leading character in her two subsequent solo exhibitions, speaking words of truth and encouragement to women everywhere, and inspiring us to live life to the fullest.

Leonie Bell has won many awards for her natural realism themes with animal portraits, working mainly in coloured pencil, graphite, watercolour pencils and water wash creating stunning images of wildlife and farm animals.

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February Exhibition

“4 Eclectic Styles”

Janet Angus

Leonie Bell

Antoinette Karsten

Sandra Maw

Opening Saturday 6th February

ALL WELCOME

42b Ellendon St, Bungendore
Ph 02 62381640

open daily 10–4.30pm www.bungendorefineart.com.au

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY NOMAD #11

Mavis Davis and the pious pilgrims bridge France and Spain

Unscheduled stop at Monet's house

OUR PIOUS pilgrimage group is almost at the end of this ABC (Another Blinking Church) tour. Distracted and chastened by two solid days experiencing war memorials and poignant reminders of war, where to next but another church – the Basilica at Lisieux.

Built this century to honour St Thérèse, the massive edifice and its mosaics and crypt were impressive. The construction of the Basilica commenced in 1929 but stopped during the war, resuming during the 1950s. The architects were three generations of the same family – grandfather, son and grandson, taking inspiration from Sacré Coeur.

Lisieux is a place of pilgrimage being the hometown of St Thérèse of the baby Jesus of the Holy Face. St Thérèse joined the Carmelite nuns at Lisieux at the tender age of 15 dying from tuberculosis at a mere 24.

The Basilica at Lisieux is the second largest place of Pilgrimage in France after Lourdes. After paying our devotions, the pious group hurtled on to return to Paris.

We had noticed that our route took us past Monet's garden and had decided that even though this was not on our scheduled itinerary we would like to stop and enjoy the gardens, sacrificing a further afternoon in Paris.

A delegation, including Chatty, the Principal, the Quiet Achiever, Sleepy, Tardy and the Princess, prevailed upon FIGJAM the tour Director to modify the

tour and stop at Giverny, about an hour from Paris so that we could visit the gardens.

Reluctantly, the stout, and often intransigent, FIGJAM agreed. I challenge anyone to say no to this redoubtable group.

FIGJAM, who confessed he had never visited Monet's Gardens, opted instead to wait outside drinking beer with a couple of the few male members of our group. He did use the opportunity to collect tickets discarded on the ground, no doubt to save them as evidence for tax purposes.

Monet's house, garden and lily ponds have stood the test of time and remain indescribably stunning no matter what season. Due to the season being autumn, we were apprehensive that the floral displays would disappoint.

However, around every corner, each aspect delighted and surprised us, as did the lovely house and the lily ponds. Decorated by the little Japanese bridges and carefully placed little boats we all understood the reason for the garden's world renown.

Time to say goodbye to Paris

It was a wrench to leave this place of ethereal beauty, but we had to get back to Paris, ready for a 4.45am departure. FIGJAM had booked us into the Iliade, in

the 18th arrondissement [district], which was allegedly a 3-star hotel.

The Princess and I feared for our lives as we walked around the none-too-salubrious area searching for a quick and nourishing meal. Unfortunately, nothing much was open, the streets were dirty and frequented by unsavoury characters. The Princess, frequently voicing

her concerns, grew increasingly anxious.

Our concerns were dissipated somewhat when we

stumbled on a delicatessen nearby, the patron being an impossibly handsome young Algerian man keen to practise speaking English. Charmed by his engaging accent and extreme helpfulness, we eventually had to wrench ourselves away to consume our strawberry tarts and have an early night.

We would have rated the hotel at no more than one star, however the Princess had to begrudgingly admit that the sheets and towels were clean, the wi-fi strong and

the water hot. As long as we kept our shoes on and ignored the scurrying sound of rodents we felt we could put up with the conditions for a brief night, arising unrefreshed at 3.50am.

On to Spain

All went smoothly on the early morning bus and subsequent flight to Porto, the closest airport to our final destination in the north of Spain.

A very surly bus driver picked us up at the airport for our 2.5 hour bus trip. Apparently, storing our suitcases was not normally part of her brief and she made it plain that she was not happy about that or the lack of assistance from FIGJAM.

The lady only knew two speeds: flat out and stop, and she chose the first speed for the next 150 minutes of hell. Torrential rain for the entire time did not ease the pressure of her foot on the pedal. Even Chatty was quiet and held on with white knuckles.

Brief glimpses of eucalyptus forests, beautiful harbours and platforms for mussel production flashed past the bus windows until we mercifully arrived at Santiago De Compostela, where it rains 300 days per year. ■

For those who missed Grey Nomad travels #10, still at the France WW1 memorial sites, go **ONLINE** at www.districtbulletin.com.au



SEASON 2016 ENRICH

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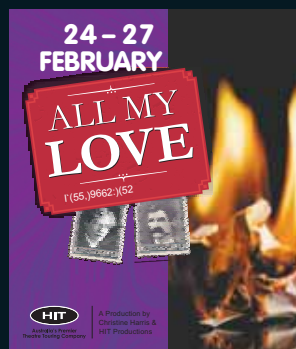
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The story of Henry Lawson & Mary Gilmore's lost love



An insight into the earliest days of the appearance of women on London stages



The nuanced manner in which Alcorn channels Bette Midler is outright clever!



A lyrical tale of adversity, survival and the environment



A thoroughly hilarious romp



A thrilling contemporary work of love in a time of revolution



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LEARD FOREST DESTRUCTION

From p6
"I am also very concerned about the plight of the koala, a threatened species which is very much loved in Japan and an iconic Australian animal. The Leard Forest used to have enough critical habitat for the koala, but Idemitsu and Whitehaven have made it virtually uninhabitable for koalas."

— Japanese researcher Akira Harada, Director of the Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN) on a visit to ground truth company statements about the mine.

Yet the destruction continues

Not far away in the equally precious Pilliga forest, other farmers and activists are taking on Santos for its coal seam gas extraction activities there.

Now the call has gone out for people to join 2016's 'The Bats Return' campaign from 13 February to end of March to try and protect what remains of the Leard State Forest, and let the country know what is happening. **Frontline action.org** has the details. The Bulletin will have a further report in March.

— Maria Taylor

What's happening re the Paris Declaration on climate change action?

by Jenny Goldie

December: Turnbull government promised to double Australia's investment in renewable energy research and development

WE FEARED the Paris climate talks, COP21 (COP is Conference of the Parties), would be a repeat of the Copenhagen debacle six years earlier (COP15). Thanks to superb diplomatic efforts by the French, however, 187 nations in Paris agreed on the 'Paris Declaration', aiming to limit global warming to less than 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C.

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Bouquets to public hospital stay, and thoughts on private versus public

VERY RECENTLY I had an unexpected and rather dramatic health event. It was of such a nature that there was no question about my contributing in any way to decisions about current or future treatment or into which hospital I may be admitted. I was transported by ambulance to Canberra Hospital and the Oncology Ward.

I had not been hospitalised for 40 years. I had kept my family's private health cover up-to-date to make sure we paid our way if and when one of us succumbed to a serious illness. My Canberra Hospital stay was over 12 days and the care, skills and friendliness of the nurses and doctors were overwhelming.

I was discharged and left the hospital without any reference to payment or receiving an account in the future.

One might still wish to take out pri-

vate health insurance. Elective surgery – ie free choice and not life threatening – may be frightening enough to prompt payment of the annual costs. Self-funded knee surgery, for example, currently costs approximately \$13,000. Shorter waiting times and choice of doctor are possible but not guaranteed.

There is a further insurance cover required to avoid higher costs and that is *hospital cover*. This must be arranged before July 1 following one's 31st birthday.

Private health cover might appeal due to the 'comfort factors' available in private hospitals and the ability to stay in hospitals of one's own choice. There are also the possibilities of single rooms, private bathrooms and TVs (Canberra Hospital has individual patient TVs !!).

Braidwood ROUNDS



with
Jill
McLeod

Onto education with 600,000 private and public school students in NSW

I WAS fortunate to come across an article written by Eryk Bagshaw in an April 2015 issue of the SMH which reported on the findings of the largest Australian longitudinal study of 4,000 private primary and public school students. The study was researched by the University of Queensland's Faculty of Health and Behavioural Science. Professor Luke Connelly prepared the report and I have unashamedly 'borrowed' the information contained therein.

It is estimated that there are 600,000 private and public school students in NSW alone. About 40% will gain places in private education. Professor Connelly questioned that if a child attended private school it did not exclude the possibility that the student may already be destined to be successful regardless of the school attended.

The question is "does the type of school create additional advantage". According to the research it does not. The professor and his team found that sending >> p11

Large-scale solar on horizon

THE AUSTRALIAN Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has announced that 22 large-scale solar projects have been short-listed as candidates for its \$100-million solar photovoltaic funding. Of those projects, two are owned by Infigen Energy: the 42.4 megawatt Manildra solar farm and the 39 megawatt Capital solar farm in our region.

The location as described by the company is: on the northern side of Tarago Road, 6 km north-east of Bungendore and 6 km south-east of Lake George. The terrain is flat to undulating on granitic and meta-sedimentary geology. Two fourth order watercourses – Bridge Creek and Dry Creek – run through the site, within the Lake George catchment. The site has been almost entirely cleared of trees and is used for grazing.

Infigen Energy CEO Miles George was at the Paris climate conference, as Chairman of the Clean Energy Council. He reported that Australia's power sector was noted. "For all the talk of innovation, Australia still relies on 1950s' technology to deliver about three quarters of its power requirements. That proportion of our power generation fleet is already beyond its design life, and Australia remains host to the world's dirtiest, heavy emitting power stations."

"The carrot to encourage renewable energy generation is the Renewable Energy Target or RET scheme. It should now be increased and extended beyond its current growth trajectory to 2020 and end date of 2030."

"We have no policy to retire old coal-fired plants to make way for new technology. There is no stick."

Tourism benefits of wind farms, eg Run with the Wind festival

Wind farms globally have become tourist attractions. The Capital Wind Farm annual 'Run with the Wind' festival draws hundreds of visitors through Bungendore

coming from the region and capital cities. This is not an isolated example of tourism potential.

Tours around wind farms are on the increase. For example the Crookwell Wind Farm (seen below) is listed as a tourist attraction on the Visit NSW website. Other examples come from all the southern Australian states, New Zealand, even the Philippines.



Infigen community project grants

The Capital Community Committee is due to hold a meeting in March 2016. If you would like to make a submission to be considered at this meeting, please contact CCC@infigenenergy.com.

More details on these stories and more can be found at <http://infigenenergy.com/capital-precinct/community-updates/newsletter-february-2016.html>

Delegates accepted that 2°C would do unacceptable damage such as the inundation of low-lying islands, many of which are Australia's neighbours including Tuvalu and Kiribati. The collective pledges that nations made to reduce emissions, however, even if honoured, will lead to 2.7°C warming. Nevertheless, good intent was there.

The big question, however, arises: how to achieve the various nations' stated emission reduction targets? Scientists have warned, after all, that achieving the 1.5°C target will require keeping most fossil fuels in the ground, yet most modern economies are still critically dependent on oil, gas and coal.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is not yet a proven technology, although, if it works at large scale, could allow the continued use of some fossil fuels. Re-forestation was presented as a solution by Australian economist Steve Hatfield Dodds, yet that might conflict with the need to grow enough food by mid-century to feed an anticipated extra 2.3 billion people. Artificial photosynthesis is another possibility though, like CCS, is yet to make the grade on a large scale.

Role for renewables

But what of renewables? Do those technologies make the grade? Back in 2000, the Germans introduced *Energiewende*, or energy transition, and looked at various renewable energy sources as possible means of replacing fossil fuels and nuclear power.

> For the full story go to www.districtbulletin.com.au

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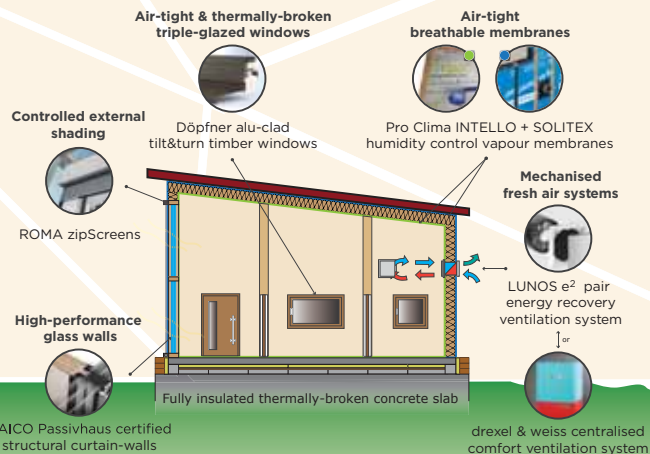
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February great month for viewing bright stars
Also, a new planet?

FEBRUARY is a great time to try out some backyard astronomy. The nights are getting longer, the weather is warm and the sky provides us with some of the brightest stars that we can see all year, and this month, a bright planet too!

The map shows the names of the most conspicuous of the bright stars. Most of the names have been around for a very long time, coming from the ancient Greeks, the Arabs and even the ancient Egyptians. Often they herald the change of a season or the time of year to plant crops.

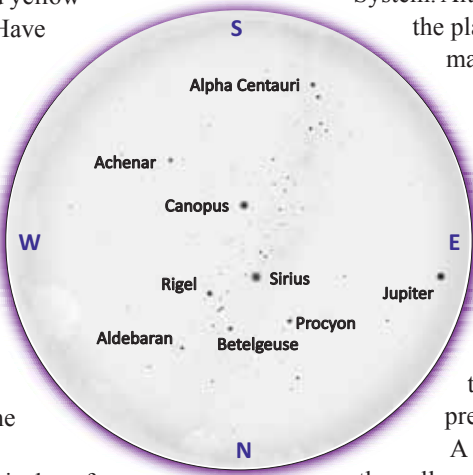
‘Sirius’ for example (the brightest star in the whole sky, directly overhead in February) means ‘hot’ and was named by the ancient Greeks thousands of years ago as its reappearance in the morning sky heralded (for them) the start of summer.

We now know Sirius is one of the Sun’s neighbouring stars and is hotter than the Sun and white in colour. It has another tiny star in orbit around it, even though Sirius is so bright you would need a large telescope to see its small companion star. We now know more about it, but the name originally given to it has been kept all those years.

Other bright stars visible are orange Aldebaran, blue-white Rigel, red Betelgeuse, white Procyon, blue-white Canopus and Achenar, and yellow Alpha Centauri. Have a look through a pair of binoculars, if you compare them the colours are easy to see.

Also visible this month is the giant planet Jupiter, shining brightly low in the east after sunset. Jupiter will be at its best for the year next month and will be described more then. Jupiter is a welcome return, after having no bright planets visible in the evening sky for the last few months.

For February, the Moon was at last quarter (half) phase on the 1st, new on the 9th, at first quarter on the 16th and full on the 23rd.



— Star Search —
with Dr David Weldrake

A Ninth Planet?

Recently there have been reports that a new planet may have been discovered in our Solar System. Although still only a theory, if the planet exists it would be a major discovery.

For the last decade, large numbers of tiny planetoids, like Pluto, have been discovered in the far distant outer regions of the Solar System. Being tiny and so far away, they are hard to see, but large telescopes reveal them, and they seem to be present in very large numbers.

A study of the way in which they all move around the Sun revealed something odd: they do not seem to move as theory predicts. By finding lots of them computer simulations have shown that there is a discrepancy between where they ought to be and where they actually are. One possible explanation is that another, currently unknown planet is pulling them away from where they should be and

pushing them around. To explain the discrepancy, this new planet (if it exists) would have to be around ten times heavier than Earth, around four times the diameter and located around 700 times further away from the Sun than we are. It would be so far away that it would have only gone around the Sun once since Stonehenge was built. As such it would be extremely difficult to see and would have evaded detection up to now. Such a planet, if real, would be similar to the planets Uranus and Neptune, but how it came to be so far away and how it survived in such a place for so long would become a subject of intense research by astronomers. They would need to think of a name for this new world too.

Time will tell if this new planet is really there. Perhaps future research will pinpoint where it is in the sky accurately enough for a survey to actually see it, or maybe it will be proved that it isn’t there at all, and there is another reason the tiny planetoids are being pushed around. In either case, humanity would have learned something new about the frozen outer fringes of our neighbourhood. ■

Chart (9pm on the 15th February) produced using the Stellarium software package

Astronomy
Dark ‘noodles’ may lurk in the Milky Way



INVISIBLE structures shaped like noodles, lasagne sheets or hazelnuts could be floating around in our galaxy radically challenging our understanding of gas conditions in the Milky Way. CSIRO astronomer and first author of a paper released in *Science* Dr Keith Bannister said the structures appear to be ‘lumps’ in the thin gas that lies between the stars in our galaxy.

“They could radically change ideas about this interstellar gas, which is the galaxy’s star recycling depot, housing material from old stars that will be refashioned into new ones,” Dr Bannister said.

Dr Bannister and his colleagues described breakthrough observations of one of these ‘lumps’ that have allowed them to make the first estimate of its shape. The observations were made possible by an innovative new technique the scientists employed using CSIRO’s Compact Array telescope in eastern Australia.

Astronomers got the first hints of the mysterious objects 30 years ago when they saw radio waves from a bright, distant galaxy called a quasar varying wildly in strength. They figured out this behaviour was the work of our galaxy’s invisible ‘atmosphere’, a thin gas of electrically charged particles which fills the space between the stars.

“Lumps in this gas work like lenses, focusing and defocusing the radio waves, making them appear to strengthen and weaken over a period of days, weeks or months,” Dr

Bannister said. These episodes were so hard to find that researchers had given up looking for them. But Dr Bannister and his colleagues realised they could do it with CSIRO’s Compact Array.

Pointing the telescope at a quasar called PKS 1939–315 in the constellation of Sagittarius, they saw a lensing event that went on for a year.

Astronomers think the lenses are about the size of the Earth’s orbit around the Sun and lie approximately 3,000 light-years away – 1,000 times further than the nearest star, Proxima Centauri.

Until now they knew nothing about their shape, however, the team has shown this lens could not be a solid lump or shaped like a bent sheet.

“We could be looking at a flat sheet, edge on,” CSIRO team member Dr Cormac Reynolds said. “Or we might be looking down the barrel of a hollow cylinder like a noodle, or at a spherical shell like a hazelnut.” Getting more observations will “definitely sort out the geometry,” he said.

So what can these lenses be? One suggestion is cold clouds of gas that stay pulled together by the force of their own gravity. That model, worked through in detail, implies the clouds must make up a substantial fraction of the mass of our galaxy.

Nobody knows how the invisible lenses could form. “But these structures are real,

and our observations are a big step forward in determining their size and shape,” Dr Bannister said.

— CSIRO press release

— Big Idea —

BRAIDWOOD ROUNDS *From p10*
children to Catholic or other independent primary schools has “no significant effect” on any of these outcomes.

The team believed there were far more important factors – the background of the child’s family, including income, social circles, the number of people who had completed high school in their neighbourhood, their parents’ educational attainment, and health factors such as the weight of a baby at birth.

Dr Geoff Newcombe, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, while dismissing the study as “questionable” (high school statistics were not available), has the last word and hopes the people in the nurturing neighbourhood will buy the “correct weight” children “lots and lots of books”! ■

PALE RANG
COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Council approved the following development applications in January 2016

Development Consents are available for public inspection free of charge at Council’s offices during ordinary business hours.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2015.225	Boundary Adjustment	06/01/2016	Lot 2 DP 1090675 & Lot 1 DP 1132024 & Lot 1 DP 1200955 670 Monga Lane REIDSDALE
DA.2015.216	Dwelling	06/01/2016	Lot 10 DP 1185443 6 Bluskie Close BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.244	Deck	06/01/2016	Lot 16 Sec A DP 2726 15 Malone Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.237	Shed	13/01/2016	Lot 72 DP 1019288 100 Shearer Drive ROYALLA
DA.2015.248	Dwelling	14/01/2016	Lot 13 DP 1141290 108 Yuranga Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2015.256	Addition to Existing Shed	14/01/2016	Lot 18 DP 261590 8 Merino Vale Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2015.221	Signage	15/01/2016	Lot 6 DP 113033 83 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.254	Dwelling	18/01/2016	Lot 17 DP 1185443 130 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.249	Change of Use	19/01/2016	Lot 1 DP 70806 56 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.243	2 x Sheds	19/01/2016	Lot 1 DP 719656 & Lot 9 DP 238238 222 Doust Road LAKE GEORGE
DA.2015.263	Horse Arena	19/01/2016	Lot 2 DP 774245 200 Urita Road BURRA
DA.2015.233	Dwelling	19/01/2016	Lot 61 DP 755944 6294 Nerriga Road NERRIGA
DA.2015.260	Deck	20/01/2016	Lot 46 DP 255514 137 Radcliffe Circuit CARWOOLA
DA.2015.226	Dwelling	20/01/2016	Lot 1 DP 1210636 57 Modbury Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.273	Residential Alterations and Additions	21/01/2016	Lot 801 DP 1129595 8 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.220	2 Lot Subdivision	27/01/2016	Lot 1 DP 791113 6 Rocky Glen Road BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.264	Swimming Pool and Garage	29/01/2016	Lot 5 DP 1039392 610 Northanger Road MONGARLOWE

— What's On — February 2016

Send announcements to
whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

During FEBRUARY

Exhibition: 4 Eclectic Styles

Janet Angus, Leonie Bell, Antoinette Karsten and Sandra Maw. Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore. Ph 6238 1640 or see www.bungendorefineart.com.au. More p8 this Bulletin.

Until Sat 28

Summerside Festival

Celebrating everything good about summer in the Capital, this month-long festival will be full of alfresco dining events celebrating local and seasonal produce, opportunities to taste the best of the region's wines as well as innovative and exciting performances, events and exhibitions highlighting local talent. For more www.thepoachersway.com.au.

Sat 6

Wildcare Training

Karabar Community Centre, 9–4pm. Want to be a Wildcare volunteer and help rescue and care for wildlife? Wildcare is holding a basic reptile and turtle shell repair training course. For more 6297 8806.

Waitangi Day 2016

Queanbeyan Park, from 10am – 4pm. Queanbeyan's 'Waitangi Day 2016' celebrates New Zealand's National Day – Maori and Polynesian entertainment; live music; dancing and traditional food. Bring your family/chairs/blankets. Further information Pat Cotter on 0427 743 492.

Sat 6 & Sun 7

Bungendore Country Music Muster

Bungendore Showground, 12pm–11pm. 18 Hours of entertainment, 24 top line Australian entertainers. More at www.bungendorecountrymuster.com.au.

Mon 8

Bungendore Chamber of Commerce General Meeting

Bungendore Community and Sports Club, 6.30–7.30pm. For more www.bungendore.com.au.

Tue 9

Queanbeyan Evening Branch Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW Meeting

Function Area, Queanbeyan Golf Club, Brown St. New members welcome. Join us for dinner at 6.30pm, meeting commences at 7pm. The CWA aims to improve conditions for country women and children. For information contact Branch Secretary Nicole Lyons on 0409 323 569.

Thu 11

Public Inquiries Council Merger Proposal

Details along with where and when p6 this Bulletin.

Thu 11 to Sat 13

4000 Miles

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. As an overnight

GIG GUIDE: February

First Friday of the month: Music and Poetry
Royal Hotel, Bungendore, 7.30pm.

Fri 12 Swizz: 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Fri 19 Bill Olsen: 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Sat 20 Ben Ransom: from 2pm, The Loaded Dog, Tarago.

Fri 26 Wayne Ryder Duo: 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Fresh produce from your regional farmers –
veggies, meat, eggs, honey and much more...



2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Memorial Hall 9am–1pm
Market Cafe open serving hot tea/coffee, cold drinks and hot/cold food



Southern Harvest Farmers Market at Bungendore

Southern Harvest Farmers Market in Bungendore is celebrating a successful first year

Join us on **Saturday 13 February** from **2–4pm** at the Memorial Hall for an after-market gathering, just bring a plate of regional food to share and we'll fire up the BBQ.



couch-surf turns into an extended stay this emotionally compelling drama unearths a surprising parallel between two generations. For more www.theq.net.au or 6285 6290.

Sat 13

Braidwood Cup

Bungendore Showground. Annual race meeting at Braidwood held every year with full TAB and betting facilities. For more 4842 2623.

Valentine's Day Restaurant Train

Canberra Railway Museum. Take a romantic train ride to celebrate the occasion. For more 6284 2790 or see www.arhsact.org.au.

Burra Summer Ball – In Full Swing

Burra, gates open 6.30pm, band begins at 8pm. Tickets \$35, BYO drinks, food, plates. For bookings 6236 3939.

Sun 14 Valentine's Day

It's the Emma Show

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Your favourite Wiggle, Emma, is singing and dancing her way from Wiggle Town to perform for you in her own live show. For more www.theq.net.au or 6285 6290.

Thu 18

Book Launch – The Manner of Their Going: Prime Ministerial Exits from Lyne to Abbott

Royal Hotel, Queanbeyan, 11–12pm. A new book by local and prominent media commentator Norman Abjorensen. For details www.theroyalqbn.com.au.

Sat 20

Junior Ambrose Golf Day

Queanbeyan Golf Course, from 3pm. 10 holes with presentation and light meal after. For more www.queanbeyangolf.com.au.

Community Bush Dance

Queanbeyan Showground. Family fun with live music, experience traditional bush dancing, spit roast and damper, coffee and kids activities. Family \$10 or \$5ea. Proceeds to Cancer Council NSW. For more 0427 939 786.

Sat 20 & Sun 21

ObstaSplash

Bungendore Showground. Australia's most epic Inflat-able Obstacle Course. Slip, stack, splash, music and mayhem. It's time to get the mud out and the fun back in. For more www.obstasplash.com.

Sun 21

Shortis and Simpson at the Spiegeltent

Civic Square, 6.30pm. Up-to-date political satire. Tickets \$35/\$30. For more canberratheatrecentre.com.au.

Tue 23

Meditation at Burra

41 London Bridge Road, Burra, 7.30pm. Start with a

Fly into February

the market @ bungendore

Sunday February 21st 9am–3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

All your favourite stalls
Come along for a browse
Enjoy a variety of refreshments

jewellery	mosaics
giftware	homewares
collectables	greeting cards
local art & craft	beads & findings
garden products	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	local grown plants
cakes & pastries	prints & paintings
tea & fresh coffee	fruit & vegetables
soaps & lotions	clothing & footwear

cuppa and then meditation for 20 minutes. For more 6236 3651.

Wed 24 & Thu 25

All My Love

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. At the end of the 19th century, Mary Gilmore was introduced to the young Henry Lawson. As their friendship developed, Mary found herself caught in the midst of an intense relationship between Henry and his formidable mother, the suffragette Louise Lawson. For more www.theq.net.au or 6285 6290.

Fri 27 to Sun 28

Cobargo Folk Festival

Cobargo Showground. For more www.cobargofolkfestival.com.



Sun 28

2016 Carnivale – Multicultural Festival

Queanbeyan Park, 10–4pm. The much anticipated Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival. Come and see over 20 spectacular performances, including high energy African dancers, traditional Maori show, the very energetic Macedonian Dance Troupe, the majestic Egyptian Folkloric Dancers, the colour and movement of Mexico Lindo, stunning Belly Dancers and much, much more. Arrive for the performances, stay for the food and free family activities, the dancing and all round warm feeling that is within our multicultural community! All are welcome. For more www.qcc.nsw.gov.au.

LOCAL MARKETS:

1st and 3rd Saturday of every month

Braidwood Farmer's Markets

National Theatre in the main street of Braidwood, from 8am–12.30pm. www.braidwoodfarmersmarket.org.au.

Every Saturday

Capital Region Farmers Market

EPIC grounds, Mitchell, 8–11am. A genuine farmers market offering a diverse range of fresh seasonal food straight from the producer to the consumer and an opportunity to discuss with growers. www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au

1st Saturday of every month (except January)

The Captains Flat Country Markets

Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 9.30–1.30pm. Enquiries to Maggie on 0473 113 398.

2nd and 4th Saturday of every month

Southern Harvest Farmers Market

Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–1pm, (opposite Food Lovers Market).

2nd Sunday of the month (except Jan)

Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

Queanbeyan River, on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets, 9–2pm. Craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, jewellery, toys, honey, jams, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Call Kristen 6299 0219.

3rd Saturday of every month (except July/August)

Wamboin Produce Market

Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

3rd Sunday every month

Bungendore Markets

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce.

Windy Hall Country Markets

Windellama Hall, 10–2pm, craft goods, Devonshire tea, deli delights and more. For more contact Bob Shaw on 4844 5001.

4th Saturday of every month

Braidwood Markets

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Call Geraldine 4847 5061.

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

www.bungendore.com.au

www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au

www.visitbraidwood.com.au

Nominations for the **Palerang Council** heritage awards are now open.

Nomination forms are available from Council's website

www.palerang.nsw.gov.au

Coming Up in MARCH

Sat 5

Braidwood Show

Braidwood Showground. Pavilions of country produce and animals and displays in the main arena; horse displays and competitions plus show jumping; beef cattle, sheep, alpaca and poultry exhibitions; farm and dairy produce, vegetables and fruit displays; handicrafts, art, photography, and floral displays. Entrance \$10. For more 4847 5095 or secretary@braidwoodshow.com.au.

Wed 9

Morning Melodies – Bring Back the Baritone

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Celebrating the baritone voice through some of the greatest music ever written. For more www.theq.net.au or 6285 6290.

Le Très Bon

Tour Dates 2016

Gourmet Tour
Nouméa,
New Caledonia
16–21 May

Food & Wine
Tour to France
Alsace & Les Vosges
16–27 September

Travel with a French Chef!



Tour brochures or more information contact:

Chef Christophe and Josephine Gregoire – Le Très Bon restaurant & cooking school

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