THE DISTRICT
Bulletin
MoVEMBER 2015
33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN
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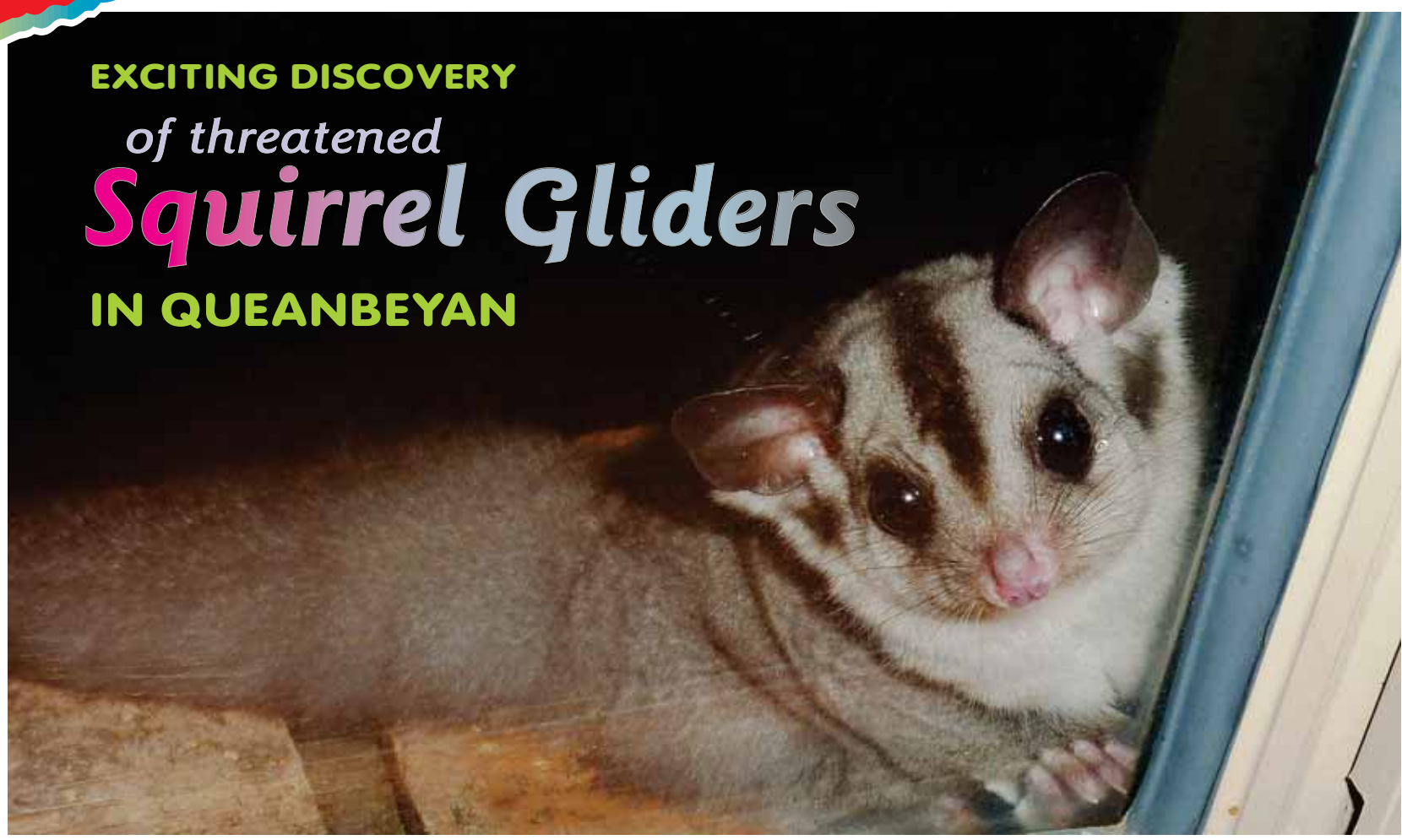

EXCITING DISCOVERY of threatened **Squirrel Gliders** IN QUEANBEYAN

Ratepayers face future
Cash cows or sacrificial lambs?

by Maria Taylor

AT THE end of October, Palerang Council was resolving to tell NSW that it wants to keep its 'stand alone' stance in the face of state pressure and dollar inducements to merge with one or more neighbouring councils.

Palerang has been rated 'unfit' because of a deteriorating financial outlook and lack of 'capacity', as are half of NSW councils.

Queanbeyan, (rated similarly 'unfit'), had not formed a response to the state at press time but is continuing talks with neighbouring councils. Indications are that Queanbeyan is not keen for a full merger with Palerang. However, "community of interest" boundary adjustments (for example to merge with western Palerang only), is of greater interest say council sources.

(Nearby, Yass has resolved to stand alone while Goulburn is talking about a super council of five shires. Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven are rated 'fit'.)

Palerang is continuing to canvass ratepayer attitudes to a proposed special rate variation (SRV). This entails compounding rate rises over the next five years in order to stand alone and be sustainable. A merger with Queanbeyan would also entail rate rises on the combined citizenry.

If Palerang council's preferred 9.5%-for-five-years compounding increase is approved (that is 7% on top of the automatic 2.5% annual allowed increase), after five years the effect would be a rate increase of 57.4% and that would be the new normal.

A less expensive option before ratepayers is a 6.5%-for-five-years increase, totalling a 37% increase. The third option is do nothing, and, as the council's communication to ratepayers puts it, 'deteriorate'.

Queanbeyan rates will rise with merger

Queanbeyan councillor Jamie Cregan told the *Bulletin* that he is sure Queanbeyan ratepayers would be worse off under a merger with Palerang.

He said Queanbeyan Council is considering advice that a merger would require a 6% compounding rate rise over five years to arrive at a 30–40% increase on general rates, as well as increases for water and sewer charges.

To continue the animal metaphors, the elephant in the room is some $80 million in backlog for maintenance of roads, bridges, flood control projects that far-flung Palerang is saddled with, (with more secondary state roads being moved to council care in recent times without proper resourcing, according to council sources).

The situation has been made worse with federal and state infrastructure grants either

>> p3

Turn to p7 for a special rate variation (SRV) supplement prepared by Palerang Council explaining income, expenditure, where SRV money would go and more.

It explains 'why' and 'what for' to inform Palerang ratepayers who are being asked to state a preference (by mid month) for a level of rate increase.

EARLIER this year, Greenleigh residents Claire Cooper and Peter Kontis emailed Queanbeyan City Council photos of a family of gliders they have observed over many years on their property in East Queanbeyan.

They sent in those and other wildlife photos to show the high biodiversity of the area where they live, and to highlight some of what Queanbeyan residents will lose if the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) (an eventual four lane roadway) is built through many of Queanbeyan's residential areas, the town's Eastern Escarpment and Box Gum Woodland.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) identified the gliders as potentially being Squirrel Gliders, a listed threatened species – similar to sugar gliders but slightly larger with bushier tails and more pointy faces.

Claire and Peter say numerous other residents in the area have now come forward saying they have also seen gliders on their properties.

OEH has required Queanbeyan Council to do more field work near their block, but Claire and Peter are lobbying for council to undertake a full environmental assessment along the entire length of the EDE route and its vicinity before any decision is made by councillors on the EDE.

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Attention local business

Free waste management assessment to help save money

LOCAL businesses in south east NSW are being urged to register for a free waste management assessment that helps them save money and time and boosts profit.

This opportunity for local businesses is being provided by the Southern Regional Waste Alliance (SRWA) – an alliance between the Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre and the Canberra Regional Joint Organisation Waste Services group of local councils – under a NSW Government Bin Trim program.

SRWA program manager Geoff Pryor said the program aims to reduce costs, save time, build staff morale and enhance

corporate reputations. Generating less waste also saves valuable water, energy and raw materials.

NSW businesses send more than 2.5 million tonnes of business waste to landfill each year. The good news is more than 70 percent of this could be reused or recycled. Over the next 18 months, the present Bin Trim project aims to help 12,000 businesses across NSW.

Trained waste assessors will provide a free waste assessment to small and medium businesses across the region. They will work collaboratively with business owners and managers to find practical and creative ways to address their waste issues.

Pryor said, "To be part of this program, companies need to register with the Alliance office – details below. Once registered, which is a simple process, a visit will be organised to the company premises by a member of our team of experienced assessors.

"In our region, the Southern Regional Waste Alliance aim is to help more than 500 companies divert commercial and industrial waste from landfill." Registration details are below.

For more information about the program, visit the Bin Trim web site of the NSW Environment Protection Authority – **www.epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim**.

For more details, contact
Geoff Pryor, BINTRIM Program manager, Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre
M 0428 930 196, email geoff@srbec.com.au
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The District Bulletin © 2015
Published monthly by: The Bungendore Bulletin Pty Ltd ISSN 1035–1299

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RATEPAYERS *from p1*

frozen or not keeping up with inflation. Rural councils are thus going backwards on just maintenance without the means for new or renewal projects that ratepayers would like, said Palerang General Manager Peter Bascomb.

Rural residential cash cows

When comparing rate income, farm holdings and thousands of rural residential ratepayers are something of a 'cash cow' for Palerang and viewed with interest by surrounding councils. These landholders get minimal services other than local roads but, because of larger acreage at inflated Canberra region land prices, pay the highest rates.

Rural residential landholders can be levied about double village or town average residential rates. Not coincidentally, a vocal negative response to the proposed SRV is coming from this sector.

At a community forum farmer David Watson startled onlookers by disclosing that he has been paying $10,000 annually in rates ("up there with shearing costs") for his farm land between the Kings Highway and Wamboin. The SRV would take that up to $14,000 or more. "What am I getting for my money?" he asked the assembled councillors, a common question.

It was noted that conversely some farmers and also non-resident haulers put a big burden on the roads with heavy trucks.

Mayor Pete Harrison acknowledged that without a major business centre to rate, "a major impost falls on residential housing" as well as farming. He said that it is "within Council's control to amend its rating policy to reduce the burden on the farmland category" adding in that case the burden will fall even more heavily on the residential category.

At a council meeting in October, Palerang councillors worried that a merger might make Palerang ratepayers liable to fund Queanbeyan city projects such as the CBD upgrade or the controversial Ellerton Drive Extension.

Councillor Belinda Hogarth-Boyd noted that Palerang would prefer to work closely with the ACT in a joint organisation structure that would confer greater 'capacity' and Councillor Richard Graham said the SRV is all about "dealing with state obligations that they are pushing down on us".

Hogarth-Boyd summed it up for Palerang councillors, as they agreed to defy the pressure to amalgamate, by saying: "chopping up councils doesn't get to the core issues of funding models and taxation systems".

Queanbeyan councillor Cregan noted: "If the state would step up with dollars and said 'how can we reduce the backlog of asset renewal' there would be a long-term benefit without penalising rate payers and forcing a rationalisation that is not sensible". ■

Looking to ACT for regional 'capacity' to do things

by Graham Franklin-Browne

THE LATE October Queanbeyan Council meeting saw some discussion regarding Queanbeyan's response to the 'Fit for the Future' outcomes however matters related to possible rate increases were dealt with in closed session.

Merger discussions are already affecting many areas of council business, including the planned migration of the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROC) into a Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO).

This is a two-stage transition to a business arrangement designed to deliver shared services, and enable the inclusion of the ACT in collaboration and strategic planning for the region.

Councillor Brian Brown was not completely comfortable with ACT involvement in a business arrangement of this nature, and was concerned about the potential for it to impact on future decisions regarding a merger with another NSW local government.

Councillor Sue Whelan recommended that council should seek further clarity, and the matter was deferred. ■

Local Council Mergers

Fit for, or Back to the Future?

AROUND QTown

with ***Graham Franklin-Browne***

THOSE of you who were brought up, or were bringing up children in the 1980's will probably have noticed, or even participated in the recent worldwide movie event of Back-to-the-Future Day.

While searching the bottom of my closet for my Marty McFly shirt, jeans, and iconic replica hover-board, I began to reflect on the farcical Fit for the Future campaign promoted by the current government over the previous year.

Turning my pockets inside out, and doing up both ties, I wondered what it means to be ready for the future, and whose future is it that we must notch up our belts and get fit for?

Following a forty-page submission to promote our future financial and administrative viability, the NSW local government review panel has disagreed with council's vision of Queanbeyan as a service provider to its rural cousins.

In a paltry two-page response, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) declared that both Queanbeyan and Palerang were definitely NOT FIT for the future under the categories of scale, and the capacity to deliver future infrastructure and services.

The push to merge is now on in earnest, and councils have until the 18th of November to make a decision on what is undeniably a politically motivated strategy.

In fact, the use of the term "independent" in the titles of the review bodies is dishonest. There is nothing independent about any of them. The only independent stakeholder in this narrative would be the general public, if it were not for the fact that legislative requirements for consultation in this process do not exist.

So what are some of the implications for the region, and where does this leave our Council in regard to delivering the rest of its major works, including the long overdue $100m sewerage treatment plant, and the unpopular and ever-festering $90m Ellerton Drive Extension project?

Certainly there is the ongoing issue of impending rate increases, as councils seek to improve their operational performance. Despite Minister Barilaro's assertion that a merger would result in rate cuts, both councils are currently investigating options under a streamlined rate variation process offered as part of the Government's basket of carrots.

A very serious outcome would be the "dissolution" (read sacking) of our current councils and the appointment of an administrator to make decisions on behalf of the community.

To those of you who think this may be a good thing, just consider that the merger process could take up to two years, during which time an administrator would have authority to sign off (or not) on all major projects without public consultation. This would effectively deprive citizens of democratic representation.

The review process is not very clear on the future of our current mayors, and there is conjecture that mayors of consenting councils might be retained to assist in the mergers. Not surprisingly, there is concern around QTown that our current mayor may be positioning himself for the role of a very influential administrative assistant.

Under this scenario, projects like the Ellerton Drive Extension could be fast tracked, Cooma Road traffic could increase to even more dangerous levels, and thirty thousand cars a day could ultimately pass through Jerrabomberra, leaving the much-needed Dunn's Creek connection to the ACT to languish under Council's already extensive backlog of capital works.

Who knows? Maybe the administrator will sign off on free hover-boards for all of us. ■

The Seekers Keith Potger falls for Braidwood's charms

Braidwood ROUNDS

with ***Jill McLeod***

THOSE of us with an artistic or literary bent understand why Braidwood draws us to its doorstep. When recently meeting Keith Potger, well known member of the iconic group, *The Seekers,* I fell victim to the obvious question "Why did you choose Braidwood?" Keith's response was "Braidwood chose me".

Keith had been seeking a country retreat since 1990 and had come across a 15 acre pine-planted holding a little distance out of town. On viewing, he felt the sellers had an optimistic view of the venture's success but he stayed in town a little longer, bought a few desirable antiques and, finally, decided to put the Braidwood idea on hold.

Meanwhile, Keith's partner also had a yen for country town life and set her mind to purchase a house in Braidwood. Keith describes the final choice as being in the vicinity of "the best two bakeries in Australia".

The stage was set for Keith to carry out his wish to entertain the residents of Braidwood and district. His first venture is to present a nostalgic evening performance on Saturday, December 5, at Braidwood's National Theatre. He will draw on *The Seekers'* songs, his own published tracks and produced CDs and stories from his life and career.

Being a member of *The Seekers* does not define the man. The fact that he resides in Braidwood, let alone Australia, must be considered serendipitous.

Sri Lankan connections

Keith was born in Ceylon – now Sri Lanka – in the early 1940s. His forbears there can be traced back to the 1730s and were known as 'burghers', a multicultural population growing out of the resident Portuguese, Dutch and British nationals.

The British Government handed Ceylon back to the Sinhalese in 1948 and the increasing threat of political unrest prompted Keith's parents to move to Australia. Keith was 7 years old and his family found Australia had 'good vibes' and the population was extremely friendly.

Keith is a self-taught musician. He plays banjo, 6 and 12 string guitar (he prefers the Maton brand), keyboards and offered to bring his ukulele to the radio studio for our interview on November 21.

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Letter to Editor

Thanks Councillor Kendrick

THIS is what we need more of: councillors who can think for themselves, who actually read the documents they are voting on, because it seems that not all councillors have read their own traffic study. Some leave it to staff to tell them how to interpret the data. [*Bulletin* cover story October]

Thanks to community pressure, council has been pushed into reviewing the better options that were clearly shown in their own traffic study.

All of the hype about EDE being a bypass, even from RMS is garbage. It dumps traffic into busy residential areas at both ends. Most people clearly want to go to Canberra, so building a road in the opposite direction makes no sense, especially when the Monaro Highway takes traffic to everywhere it needs to go – Tuggeranong, Woden, Fyshwick, Manuka/Kingston, Canberra City, Russell, Airport.

Ask Googong ratepayers if they want to build a road that goes nowhere near where they need to go every day, so they have to fight their way along Cooma Road, through Jerrabomberra or through Cooma Street; or alternatively have a road that goes directly to the Monaro Highway. Even the people who think EDE is good for them because they work at Bungendore will have to travel along with 30,000 cars on Cooma Road every day.

Our thanks go to Cr Winchester and the councillors who listened to the community, and read the traffic study and engaged critical thinking. I know where my votes are going at the next election.

Alan Gray, Jerrabomberra

Goward at odds with expert body on health effects of wind turbines

THE NSW Minister for Medical Research and Assistant Health Minister, Pru Goward, recently claimed that there are negative health impacts of wind turbines despite contrary findings by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The NHMRC concluded in a February report "that there is currently no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans." Minister Goward, however, said recently that that blades from wind turbines create pressure waves that "resonate in the skulls" of people living as far away as five kilometres.

Subsequently, on 21 October, the NSW Upper House (Legislative Council) supported a Greens' motion rejecting the claim that wind farms have a negative impact on human health. According to the Greens, this leaves Minister Pru Goward in a deeply compromised position.

"A senior member of the Baird government is exploiting pseudo-science and online hysteria to damage an industry that could bring billions of dollars in investment and thousands of new jobs to NSW," said Greens MLC John Kaye. ■

This community could be 100% renewable

COUNTRY living with Robin Tennant-Wood

WHEN we moved to our 15 acres in Palerang from Canberra four years ago, our intention was to go off-grid. In the interests of cost comparison, however, I phoned (what was then) Country Energy and asked what it would cost to put on the power from the power line that ran across the bottom of our property.

The person I spoke to found the property on his map and quoted some ludicrous amount to me, which included a power pole and transformer and whatever else. I thanked him and said that he had just confirmed our decision to go off-grid. His next comment left me gobsmacked: "It's not practical. There wouldn't be more than about 20 homes in Australia that are totally off-grid."

What? I told him that I could name at least 20 people in my district alone who live with off-grid solar or solar-wind hybrid systems. Clearly he didn't believe me and it didn't matter anyway. As intended, we installed a solar PV system and I haven't paid a power bill since.

What that conversation did tell me, however, was that the energy companies are blinkered to the reality of renewable energy growth.

Act locally

Despite the current federal government's love affair with the coal mining industry, the renewable energy sector continues to grow. Not just individual households, but entire communities and towns are leaving the grid and becoming 100% reliant on renewable energy.

Could it happen here?

The town of Uralla, on the New England Tableland, used to be known as the main stamping ground, and now burial place, of the bushranger, Fred 'Thunderbolt' Ward. In recent years Uralla has become known for something else: it is a leading town in two key areas of sustainability: waste reduction and renewable energy.

With a population of around 3,000, Uralla is showing towns like Bungendore and Braidwood how it can be done.

With uncertainty surrounding the future of the councils in this region, it may be time for local communities to take the initiative themselves in setting their future directions. Uralla began its transition to 100% renewables in 2012 under the NSW government's Renewable Energy Action Plan.

Last year it was selected by the NSW government as the state's first Zero Net Energy town. Since then, town residents have been working on a Z-net Blueprint to plan and chart their transition.

Could Palerang villages go 100% renewable?

With Uralla moving steadily towards the goal of energy independence, the NSW government is inviting other towns in the state to get involved via the Zero Net Energy website **z-net.org.au**.

Despite the unwillingness of the energy companies to acknowledge it, more and more homes in this region are opting for their own power systems. And why not? The technology is improving and the cost is getting lower.

There are several ways in which towns can become 100% renewable, but with the state government offering assistance directly to communities, this is an opportunity to get on board without waiting for council to catch up. ■

At Infigen's Run with the Wind at the Capital Wind Farm last month, Jacinta Ribeny, above centre, won the ladies age 20–29 race. She is seen here with her father Frank and her friend Callum Golding who also did the run under the turbines along with many others.

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Moving beyond 'passive solar' design, windows still weak point in insulation

*by Andreas Luzzi**

TRULY sustainable buildings last for centuries. To achieve such longevity, one needs to combine a timeless design with the right choice of building solutions and deliver inherent high performance.

In previous *Bulletin* articles, I introduced the four key elements of 'Passivhaus', the importance of insulation, thermo-breaking and ventilation. In this article window performance is compared and the effectiveness of external shading highlighted.

In the same way that single-glazed windows cannot keep the cold out in winter, they also fail to keep the heat out during summer. While double-glazed solutions are enjoying significant market adoption, their true performance still leaves much to be improved when compared with the recent performance progress achieved by the building envelope.

Heat resistance values (R-Values) of typical insulated wall designs in the Canberra region are between about R3 (code compliance) and R4 (good practice). Ceilings and roofs are even better insulated to the tune of between R4 and R6.

It is therefore astonishing to observe that the performance of typical double-glazed windows sold in Australia still remains in the 'Ford Model-T era' with effective glass-plus-frame R-Values of between R0.3 and R0.45. In addition, typical sliding windows and doors, which employ brush-type 'seals' cannot really air-seal, resulting in unwanted extra heat losses.

Best-practice timber, thermally-broken aluminium, or 'UV-stabilised PolyVinyl-Chloride (uPVC)' framed double-glazed windows with low-E coating and argon-filling can raise this performance bar further to about R0.7 (provided they are not brush-sealed). While the best performance is about R1.3 for European-type tilt and turn triple-glazed timber windows, windows still remain by far the weakest point in the building envelope.

Shading windows outside for inside comfort

When it comes to shading windows effectively, external solutions are required. All of the common internal shading products are only effective as glare control but not to keep the heat out. Once the photons from the broad solar spectrum hit common double- and/or triple-glazed windows, all coated glass heats up significantly (beyond 40ºC), turning into a radiator itself.

Heat is being absorbed and trapped inside the glass sandwich. Shutters, fully tracked zipScreens or venetian blinds are the most versatile and effective external shading solutions for buildings.

>> next pg

Innovative Australian answer to the Tesla Powerwall solar system battery storage

WITH reports heralding that rooftop solar plus property-based battery storage is a 'game changer' that will disrupt the conventional grid-based electricity model, an Australian company has thrown its hat into the ring with a 'cheaper' option.

Aboriginal-owned company AllGrid Energy (Queensland based) has announced the launch of WattGrid, a new 10kWh solar energy storage system it says is around 30 percent cheaper than the same capacity Tesla Powerwall. Reportedly, deliveries may start in a few months.

According to a report on *thefifthestate* sustainable business and property website, the $11,999 WattGrid unit comprises an aluminium cabinet containing tubular lead acid gel batteries, and a hybrid 5kW solar inverter with battery management system that has load share capability with the grid and uninterrupted power supply capability.

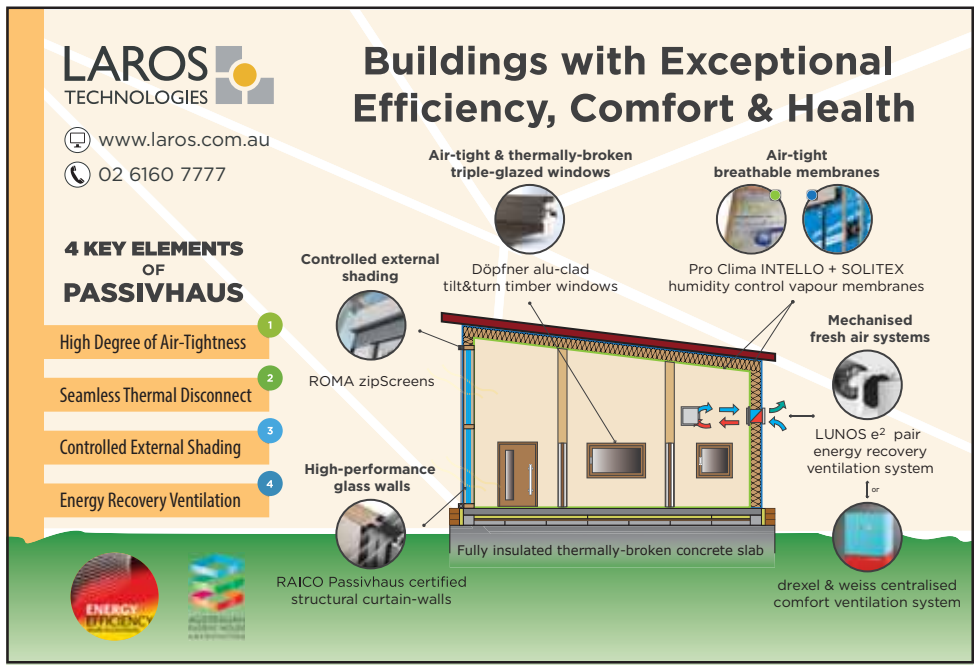
The unit is also accompanied by a software app, WattsHappening, that allows users to view real-time information and interface with the system.

The system claims to allow solar owners to maintain an energy supply profile matched to the demand profile, potentially rendering drawing grid power unnecessary.

The company additionally offers an independent remote and off-grid option called PortaGrid. The units can be supplied with an inbuilt weather station that will automatically close up the panels in the event of a severe weather hazard such as a cyclone.

The AllGrid company is an alliance between two established firms, Consolidated Industrial Holdings, which operates across the energy efficiency, engineering design and technology sectors, and DICE Australia, an Aboriginal-owned and Aboriginal-operated company in the electrical contracting and general construction services sector.

Find out more at www.thefifthestate.com.au/innovation/energy/aboriginal-owned-energy-company-one-upping-tesla/76965



McGrath

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Escape to the country with this inspiring country estate set on 44 beautiful acres. This lifestyle property has been designed for families who are horse enthusiasts with its very own sand arena, round yard and an American style barn with stable and feed/tack room. The house is distinguished by three large living areas, light filled interiors and a high quality of finishes that all combine to provide an exceptional retreat for living and entertaining.

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Alexandra Charley 0417 407 249
Call 6175 0014 / 6175 0022
christopherdixon@mcgrath.com.au
alexandracharley@mcgrath.com.au

mcgrath.com.au/273600

Bywong
91 Millynn Road

6 3 4

Only five years old, this home caters for people who love to entertain or have an expanding family. Located in a lovely grazing valley, the home offers plenty of living space, indoor and outdoor entertaining areas and work from home opportunities. The main home has modern quality inclusions and plenty of space for all the family. The shed is very comfortably fitted out and offers fantastic entertaining facilities, as well as overflow accommodation and business opportunities.

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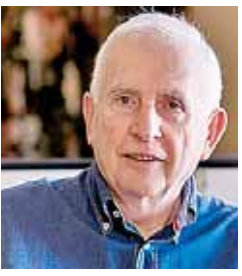
Idealised quest for perfect lifestyle not path to happiness

Heike Hahner** talks to Professor **Hugh Mackay



EVERY era has had exceptional people who have the clear mind, as well as the gifts of good speech and excellent writing skills that enable them to view and express observations of the society they find themselves in with great clarity and understanding. Hugh Mackay is one of these exceptional people.

He is well known throughout Australia as a social researcher, commentator and as a prolific author of both fiction and non-fiction books on social psychology and ethics.

Over the years I have read most of Professor Mackay's books on social psychology and came across his book *The Good Life*, a while ago. His work has struck a chord with me before but this book told me that I really wanted to talk to the person behind these ideas. We met in the gloriously green Southern Tablelands for coffee.

In his most recent books *The Good Life* and the *Art of Belonging* Mackay discusses striving for a utopian ideal of life in which instant gratification and perfection of lifestyle are the goals of our increasingly materialistic society.

Utopian visions of a perfect life may well be a symptom of Infantilism, which is the starting point of our meeting. Infantilism refers to the maintenance of infantile, childlike characteristics and behavioural traits into adult life. Mackay points out a number of these traits.

Our birth rates are falling. We fail to accept old age, death and the maturation of our bodies by removing body hair, especially from the genitals to appear as pre-pubescent children. We increasingly desire to escape reality via drugs, alcohol, media or internet. Women strive to remain physically like their children and children stay with the family for longer periods well into adulthood.

With infantilisation the focus of the individual remains on the gratification of the self, rather than focussing on others and the 'common good'. Infantilism leads individuals to believe they will find utter happiness if they reach a goal: much like a child that believes that all its happiness will be attained once it has gained the possession of a certain toy.

Mackay sees the current combination of an infantalised society with a materialistic society as very damaging. He questions the entrenched belief that ultimate happiness will result from the pursuit of satisfying the self, gaining material goods and achieving an imaginary perfect life.

Australia is the second highest consumer of anti-depressants

The statistics on how happy people are today seem to indicate that he is right. According to OECD statistics, Australia is the second highest consumer of anti-depressants in the world, after Iceland. So what is going wrong?

Obviously we are missing something in our quest for self-fulfilment and happiness. According to Professor Mackay it is the fact that although we are competitive as individuals we are also at the core a very social species.

The latest computer, iPhone or even the biggest TV screen are not a substitute for normal human to human contact.

Paradox of closer living and more isolation

All this is juxtaposed by the sharply increasing population, forcing people into closer and closer proximity to each other. As there are more of us in smaller areas we become more defensive and unable to interact, while at the same time craving the very thing we are running from.

What are Professor Mackay's recommendations for a happier society? Shift your focus from "who am I" to "who needs me?" Treat other people the way you want to be treated and most importantly participate in your community.

This may be as simple as joining a book club or the local choir. Being part of a smaller social group and contributing to society even in the most basic way makes people feel more positive about themselves, other people and their lives in general. ■

Australia's self diagnosis of chronic illness

As we prepared this article, Medibank sent out a press release with the following startling statistics that seem to bear out Professor Mackay's diagnosis.

New survey reveals 62% of Australians identify as chronically ill with 53% of them overweight, anxious or depressed

The *Medibank Health Check #7 – Chronic Disease Management – a challenge for most Australians* – has found that although a large proportion of people identify as having at least one chronic condition (62%), they are not getting what they want from the healthcare system. The survey reveals that:

- 62% of respondents have at least one chronic health condition (with people on average suffering from 23 chronic conditions)
- Reducing smoking, having a healthy diet and a good night's sleep were rated as the top 3 ways to improve health
- 94% of people want their doctor to understand their lifestyle and related health issues including chronic conditions
- But 45% of the respondents noted that their doctor was often or always too busy to discuss matters outside of the specific consultation health issue
- And that 77% of people are relying on sources other than health care providers (eg internet) for information to manage their health
- So to cater for the growing numbers of chronically ill Australians, we need a different approach. ■

Double-trouble hayfever season

IF YOU have been struggling with unusual or unheard-of allergic reactions this spring, it's not you, it's the season.

According to the ANU's Canberra Pollen Project this year has seen pollen levels twice last year's count.

Project leader Simon Haberle has a way with words, calling it the Godzilla of all hay fever seasons when talking to the Canberra media. He said it has led to record levels of asthma admissions at Canberra hospital.

More grass in the air following a wet winter and a warm start to spring has added to the pollen allergens that affect people.

Living in plant-rich areas, whether in Canberra or regionally, has the potential to cause hay fever. Exotic trees such as birches and elms and lawn grasses come out as the top culprits for many, according to the project.

However Haberle said the white tree 'fluff' common in Canberra in spring is not related to hay-fever producing plants.

The people reporting to the project also helped identify something dubbed 'thunder-storm asthma' where the condition spiked during a storm.

The Canberra Pollen App for engaging with the project is available for smartphones and more information is available at the Canberra Pollen Count website. ■

MOVING BEYOND 'PASSIVE SOLAR' *from p5*

The benefits of 'Passivhaus'

When compared globally, Australia might want to consider moving beyond the current 'best-practice' approach of 'passive solar' buildings toward the ultimate version of the 'Passivhaus' building standard where the buildings operate fully solar-electric.

This proves particularly attractive for an extra-sunny region such as Canberra.

'Passivhaus' also offers a much more versatile design and construction approach than demanded by 'passive solar' design criteria.

'Passivhaus' buildings deliver the ultimate building performance regarding energy efficiency, comfort and health. As added bonus, 'Passivhaus' buildings are built to last, hence maintaining resale value and achieving sustainability in a holistic manner.

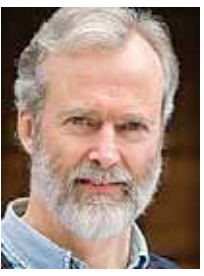
** CEO LAROS Technologies Pty Ltd. (builders of Passivhaus construction) For more information visit **www.laros.com.au**.*

PALERANG COUNCIL

Proposed Special Rate Variation

Palerang Update

with Mayor Cr Pete Harrison



IPART Report

Following from last month's column, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) did indeed hand its report on the health of NSW councils to cabinet on 16 October, and the NSW Government released the report just four days later. Perhaps not surprisingly, the report was seen to support the NSW Government's position—local government in NSW is broken and the solution is to create bigger councils.

Some 60% of the councils assessed were deemed 'not fit', either because they did not meet the State's financial benchmarks or they failed to satisfy the nebulous 'scale and capacity' criterion. Exemplifying the apparently arbitrary nature of many of the assessments, any council that agreed to merge with a neighbouring council was deemed 'fit', without any requirement to meet any benchmark.

And with that, all councils that have been deemed 'not fit' have until 18 November to 'review the IPART assessment and respond'. This response is to be provided via a web portal that basically allows a council to provide a 50-word comment and to nominate, in order of preference, three prospective merger partners. The NSW Government will consider responses from councils, decide on the next steps and inform councils and the community by the end of the year.

As some might expect, there is some debate about whether a larger organisation might be more or less efficient than several smaller ones, but the whole argument seems to miss the real issue facing many rural councils like Palerang—they are shouldered with the burden of maintaining a disproportionately large road network with insufficient financial support.

This is not a case of crying poor, it's simply a case of drawing attention to the fact that the State's regional road network is fundamentally a State responsibility that has been foisted upon regional communities in a classic example of the sort of cost shifting that is at the root of the real problem facing local government in NSW.

Fix the funding first

The reality for most rural councils is that they are not overly burdened by administrative overheads, or the inability to represent the interests of their respective communities, but by the obligation to fund a significant proportion of the cost of maintaining transport infrastructure within their area. The State funds the upkeep of all major highways, but only provides a small part of the funding required to maintain the aging regional road network.

The funding model is what's broken, not local government itself. Local councils and their ratepayers should quite reasonably expect to fund the major part of the cost of local infrastructure, but they should not be expected to shoulder more than a fair share of the burden of the State's core infrastructure responsibilities.

Palerang and Queanbeyan financially sustainable

This situation notwithstanding, the Improvement Proposals presented to IPART by both Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils were determined to meet all of the State's financial benchmarks—i.e. both councils were deemed financially sustainable. Where they both failed was on the 'scale and capacity' criterion, and purely because it was determined that the two councils *could* save $51 million over the next 20 years if they merged (although there was no indication of exactly who might be the beneficiary of these savings).

The analysis that identified this saving also determined that there was no way that Palerang could meet the financial benchmarks and that Queanbeyan would struggle to do so. Given the fact that both councils have now been independently assessed to meet all financial benchmarks, there can be little credibility in any of the conclusions arising from the merger analysis.

By the time you read this, on the basis of the community sentiment provided in the surveys that were conducted in conjunction with the *Fit For the Future* process, Council will have met to consider its response to the IPART assessment. Palerang Council is proposing to continue to operate as an independent council. ■

The rest of the material in this lift-out has been assembled to provide more detailed background information relating to Council's Special Rate Variation proposal.

Why is a Special Rate Variation (SRV) needed?

Increasing revenue through a rate variation is a financially responsible way to:

- support economic growth by funding community and transport infrastructure projects that have been identified in the Community Strategic Plan
- deliver a broad range of social and economic benefits
- fund the increasing costs of infrastructure renewal and maintenance works on roads, bridges, sport and community facilities, playgrounds, pathways and public toilets
- respond to the NSW Government's new *Fit for the Future* financial criteria
- address the funding shortfall resulting from decreasing grant funding
- address the impact of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) rate peg that has not kept up with the real cost of operating a local council.

In summary, the purpose of the proposed Special Rate Variation is to provide a permanent increase to revenue in support of Council operations. This will allow Council to deliver on our Community Strategic Plan, to provide new, and to maintain existing infrastructure and facilities. It will also allow Council to address the financial benchmarks defined under the *Fit For the Future* program.

Background

Over the past couple of years, the State Government has commissioned a number of reports into the long term sustainability of NSW councils. These reports have consistently identified problems with deteriorating financial sustainability and mounting infrastructure backlogs requiring communities to strengthen income streams or reconsider service level expectations.

In particular, the 2013 NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) report into financial sustainability in the local government sector assessed Palerang's financial sustainability as ***moderate***, as good as or better than 78% of NSW councils. The report, however, also indicated that the outlook, the forecast trend for this rating, was ***negative*** (i.e. without some remedial action, Council's financial position would deteriorate).

Council relies on two primary sources of revenue: government grants and council rates. With the freezing of indexation on some grants, and a complete lack of indexation on others, the practical reality is that grant funding is declining. The result is an increasing dependence on council rates as a means of funding council activities.

The 2013 report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP) identified this as a general problem within the NSW local government sector and suggested council amalgamations as an alternative means of improving financial sustainability within the sector.

The Fit For the Future (FFtF) program was the NSW Government's response to the ILGRP report. This program required councils to either amalgamate with a neighbouring council or propose an alternative means by which they could meet both 'scale and capacity' and financial sustainability benchmarks.

Both of these options come at a cost. In the case of a merger, there is the loss of representation and ability to influence policy decisions due to the fact that Palerang residents could comprise as little as 25% of the population of a merged entity (if merging with Queanbeyan). To remain independent, there is an immediate need to strengthen Council's revenue stream, which invariably means increasing rates through a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

In this context, the surveys conducted by Palerang Council earlier this year all showed a strong preference (54% support) to remain as an independent Council, rather than merging with one of our neighbours (21% support to merge with Queanbeyan, 8% support to merge with Goulburn).

Some basic numbers

Palerang LGA

Area: 5,147km²

Population (2011): 14,850

Length of road network: ~1,400km includes:

- State roads (fully funded by the State): 147km
- Regional roads (partially funded by the State): 231km
- Local roads (primarily funded by rates revenue): ~1,000km

Cost to rehabilitate 1km of road: $500,000 – $1 million

Cost to resheet (resurface and grade) 1km of unsealed road: ~$25,000

Timber bridges: 25

Timber bridge replacement cost: $500,000 – $millions

Operating Revenue: $25.5 million

Annual road maintenance budget: ~$9 million includes:

- Grant funding specifically for Regional Roads: ~$1.6 million
- Unrestricted grant funding: ~$600,000

What is a Special Rate Variation?

COUNCILS in NSW are subject to a system of rate pegging that limits annual rates increases in line with the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). The LGCI is determined, and the rate peg set each year (currently 2.5%) by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

This method of rate capping is problematic for rural councils because the LGCI is more geared towards the operations of metropolitan councils. In particular, while the Road Cost Index (RCI), a measure of the cost of maintaining road infrastructure, makes up around 15% of the LGCI, road maintenance often accounts for more than 30% of a rural council's budget. The problem here is that the RCI can be as much as twice the LGCI, with the result that, for a rural council under this system of rate pegging, the real value of rates revenues is in constant decline.

To address this problem, and to increase rates above the rate peg, a council must seek approval from IPART for a Special Rate Variation.

In applying for a SRV, a council is required to identify a specific time period and specific purpose for the additional revenues. The council must also ensure that the community is aware of the details of any proposed increase, and specifically the impact on general rates.

Special Rate Variations are not uncommon. They are a natural consequence of the system of rate pegging. In the last financial year, for example, SRVs were approved for 22 of the 152 councils in NSW.

It should be noted that a SRV applies only to general rates—it has no impact on water, sewer or waste charges.

> How will Council use the SRV funds? see p10

How do we compare with other councils?

While our residential rates are relatively high, they are at similar or lower levels than some neighbouring councils. Farmland rates are around the average for comparative councils, and this would remain so even after either of the proposed SRV options. Business rates are very low by comparison, and they too would remain so under Council's current rating policy.

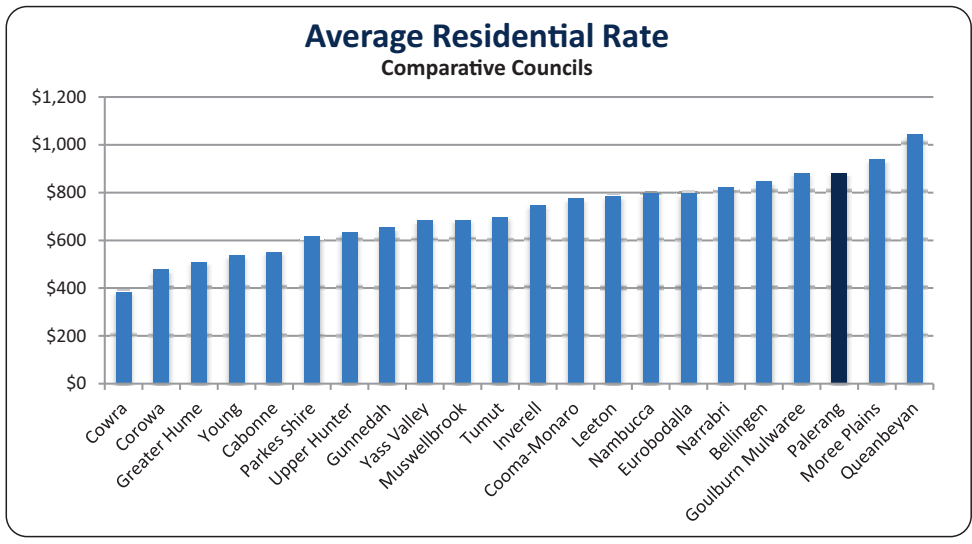
These comparisons are illustrated in the accompanying charts that compare rates in Palerang to those of other neighbouring and Group 11 (an Office of Local Government classification of similar, large rural councils) councils.

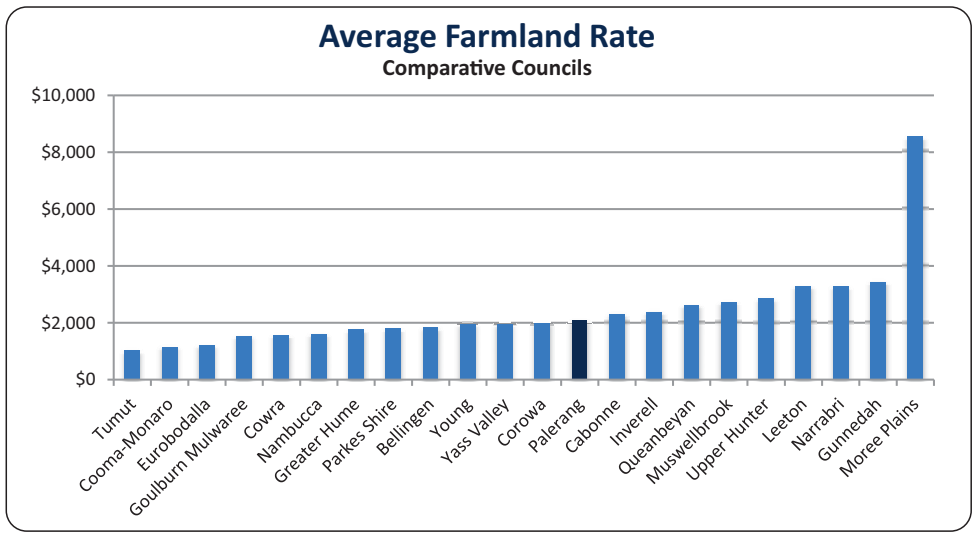
Similar comparisons with other councils show that both revenue and expenses are below average, that expenses are under control, and that bureaucratic overheads, including staff count, are low. These comparisons are consistent with a council that is managing limited resources responsibly.

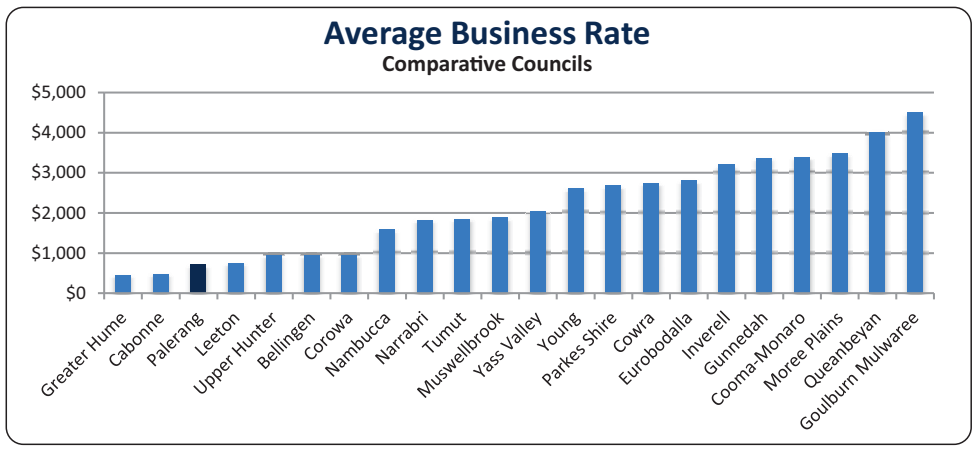
What has been the process to date?

Council last applied for, and was granted a SRV in 2006. In recent years, at each annual budget review, it has become apparent that another SRV would be required. The details of the present proposal have been prepared over the last couple of years, but the proposal itself was delayed until the FFtF process was complete, in order to ensure that the necessary financial goals were clearly defined.

The Council Improvement Proposal submitted for review by IPART included a SRV of 9.5% (comprising 2.5% estimated rate peg plus 7% special rate) each year, for 5 years. Council is also considering an alternative lower increase of 6.5% SRV (comprising 2.5% estimated rate peg plus 4% special rate) for five years.







What options are being considered?

Residents are being asked to consider three possible options as follows.

Option 1 – Deteriorate

Option 1 limits rate increases to the annual rate peg, as determined by IPART and currently estimated at 2.5% p.a., for a cumulative increase of 13.1% over five years. This would not improve the current negative outlook for Council's position with the result that:

- Assets continue to deteriorate
- Sale of assets may be required
- Possible service reductions required
- Minimal new works (funded only by developer contributions & grants)
- Possible loss of autonomy (forced amalgamation).

Option 2 – Stabilise

Option 2 provides for a proposed special rate increase of 6.5% (comprising the annual estimated 2.5% rate peg plus 4% special rate) p.a., compounding over five years to provide a cumulative increase of 37.0%. This would not address long term financial sustainability, but it would:

- Improve performance against the financial benchmarks established by the State Government
- Improve maintenance of existing assets including roads
- Not provide any significant upgrades or new assets.

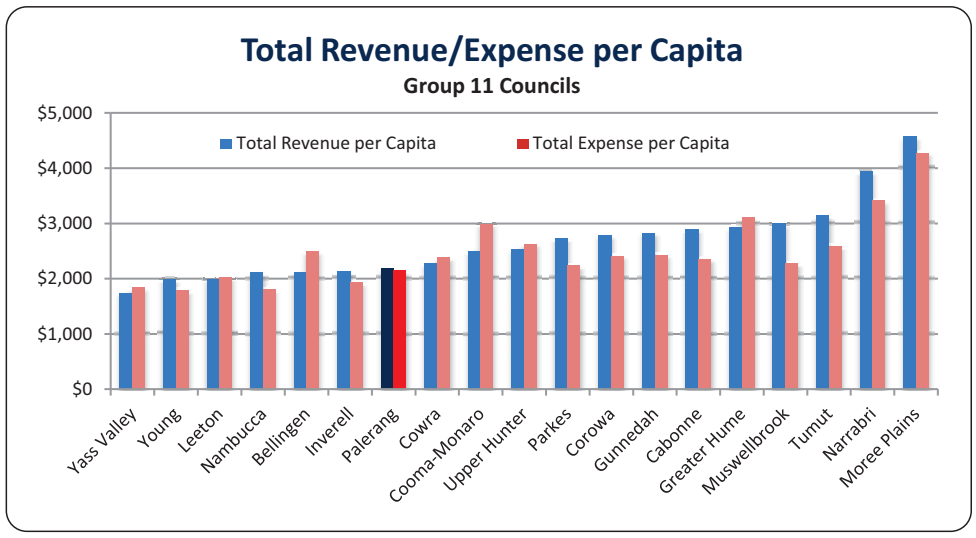
Option 3 – Improve

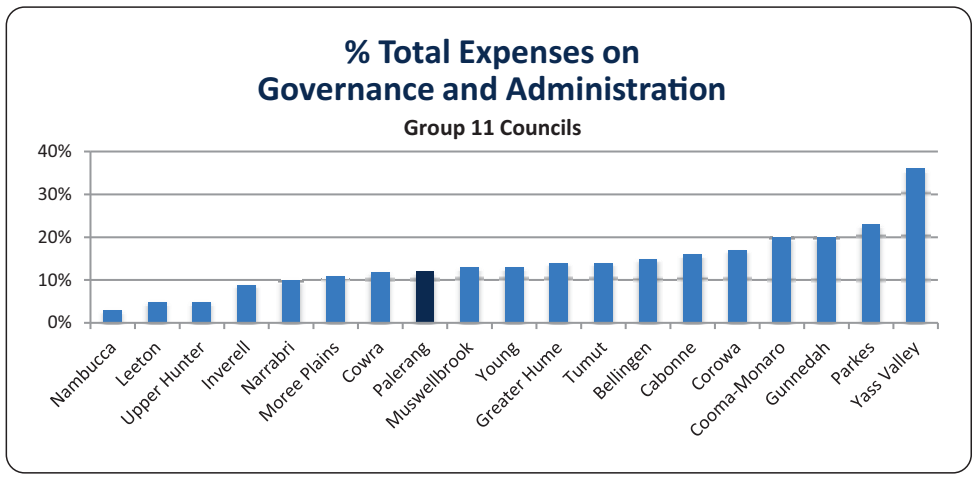
Option 3 provides for a proposed special rate increase of 9.5% (comprising the estimated 2.5% rate peg plus 7% special rate) p.a., compounding over five years to provide a cumulative increase of 57.4%. This would:

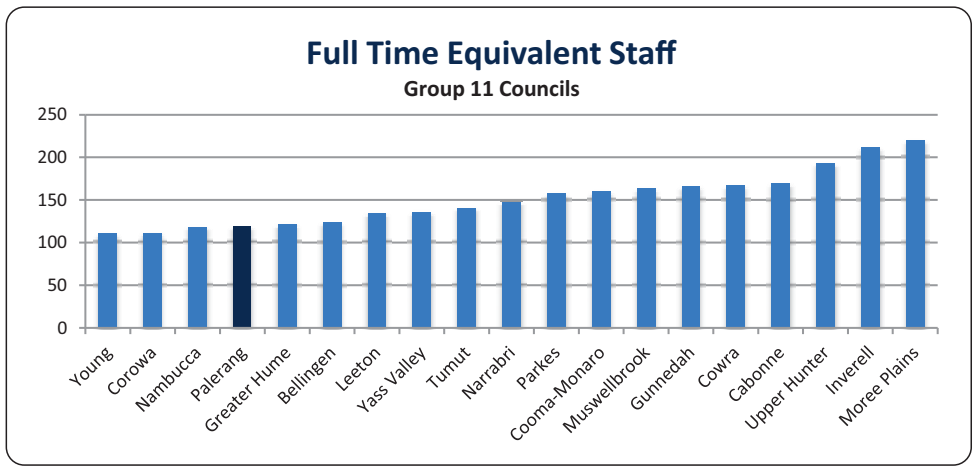
- Meet the financial benchmarks established by the State Government
- Improve maintenance of existing assets, including roads
- Improve assets and services as identified in the Community Strategic Plan.

Option 3 is Council's preferred option, as this will enable us to meet all of the State's financial benchmarks and provide a solid foundation for longer term sustainability.

Under the current proposals, any rate increase would be permanent so that, after the period of the SRV, rates would continue to rise by the rate cap—they would not revert to the current level.







What has Council done to date to reduce its costs and/or raise its revenues?

Council has worked over several years to reduce costs through lower staffing levels and reviewing all expenditures to ensure streamlined operations and enhanced efficiencies through innovative practices including the use of relevant new technology. Council has pursued resource sharing with neighbouring councils in many areas including auditing and Information Technology.

Actions taken to date to strengthen its revenues include:

- successfully generating substantial revenue through external work such as roadworks
- ensuring annual balanced budgets, with expenses in line with revenue
- limiting its expenditures on governance and administration to below average
- acknowledging that business rating income is below that available to many other councils
- streamlining operations with innovations such as drones used for weed mapping and technology enabling remote control of sub-stations
- reducing staff costs achieving full time equivalent staff numbers to around 30 less than group average.

Council has assessed that a new and permanent source of revenue is required via a special rate variation to address identified priority projects, infrastructure maintenance backlogs and to be 'Fit for the Future' over the long term.

What will be the impact of the proposed SRV?

For General Rating purposes, properties are classified as residential, farmland, business or mining, (although the mining category is not particularly relevant in Palerang) based on the dominant use of the property. The table at right provides an overview of the increases expected based on the average land value in each category.

Annual Rates Increases for each Option, for properties of average unimproved value under Different Rating Categories

			Rating Year				
Rating Category	**Average Land Value**	**% Rate Increase**	**2016–2017**	**2017–2018**	**2018–2019**	**2019–2020**	**2020– 2021**
Residential	$248,000	Option 1 – 2.5%	$23.06	$23.53	$24.22	$24.83	$25.45
		Option 2 – 6.5%	$59.95	$63.84	$67.99	$72.41	$77.12
		Option 3 – 9.5%	$87.61	$95.94	$105.05	$115.03	$125.96
Farmland	$404,000	Option 1 – 2.5%	$45.41	$46.54	$47.71	$48.90	$50.12
		Option 2 – 6.5%	$118.06	$125.73	$133.91	$142.61	$151.88
		Option 3 – 9.5%	$172.55	$188.94	$206.89	$226.54	$248.07
Business	$163,000	Option 1 – 2.5%	$17.15	$17.58	$18.02	$18.47	$18.93
		Option 2 – 6.5%	$44.59	$47.49	$50.58	$53.87	$57.37
		Option 3 – 9.5%	$65.18	$71.37	$78.15	$85.57	$93.70

How will we use the funds raised by a special rate variation?

Council proposes to apply the funds raised by a proposed special rate variation to:

- meet required benchmarks to be "Fit for the Future",
- address the FAGs grant shortfall following the state government decision to freeze indexation payments, and
- to provide seed funding for projects identified as priorities by the community across the council area including:
  - roads renewals and upgrades
  - town and village renewal and upgrades
  - flood works
  - improved playing fields
  - drainage
  - hall improvements
  - community development services
  - a full list of identified projects over the next 10 years is available on council's website at **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/srv**).

What are the times and the actual process for the consideration of the proposed Special Rate Variation?

There are six key steps in the proposal development process.

1 **Council Resolution**
August – December 2015
The decision to consult with the community to assess interest was made at the Council meeting of August 2015.
Community feedback and amended Delivery Plan and Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) incorporating the proposed SRV projects will be considered by council in December 2015 for exhibition and further consultation.

2 **Community Consultation**
October 2015 – January 2016
Actions include writing to all ratepayers with a brochure/newsletter, holding public meetings, providing website information, media releases, newspaper advertising and information updates, conducting postal, online and telephone surveys.

3 **IPART Notification**
December 2015
Council advises IPART whether it will be making an application for a SRV.

4 **Report on consultation feedback**
February 2016
All feedback received during the consultation process will be reported to council at its Ordinary Meeting of 4 February 2016. Council then determines whether or not to make a formal application to IPART.

5 **IPART Application**
February 2016
If Council resolves to apply for a SRV a comprehensive application must be submitted to IPART.

6 **IPART Determination**
May–June 2016
IPART undertakes formal assessment of the application.

Hardship Policy

We understand that there may be ratepayers in our community who could experience hardship as a result of a rate increase, and we are reviewing our Hardship Policy so that we can offer assistance in such cases. The draft Hardship Policy is currently on public exhibition until 11 November 2015.

Have your say

Council is seeking community input via several means prior to making any final decision in relation to making an application in February 2016. Property owners and residents within the Palerang Council area are encouraged to provide feedback via any of the following:

Fill out the survey

Post Return the reply-paid survey that you received in the mail (or get a copy from any Council office)

Online www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/srv

Make a written submission

Post The General Manager
Palerang Council
PO Box 348
Bungendore NSW 2621
or drop your submission in to the council offices at Bungendore or Braidwood

Email srv@palerang.nsw.gov.au

Attend public meetings

Following the initial round of public forums, updated planning documents that incorporate the proposed SRV will be prepared and placed on public exhibition during December 2015 – January 2016. Council will hold further public meetings during this period.

For more information

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions is available on Council's website at: **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au/srv**

PALERANG COUNCIL

Section 94a Development Contributions Plan 2015 (Draft)

Public Exhibition Under Clause 28 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*

This draft plan applies to all land within the local government area of Palerang outside of the town boundaries of Bungendore and Braidwood. It will be applied to State Significant and other major developments, excluding subdivisions.

The primary purposes of this contributions plan are:

- to authorise the imposition of a condition on certain development consents and complying development certificates requiring the payment of a contribution pursuant to section 94A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- to assist the council to provide the appropriate public facilities which are required to maintain and enhance amenity and service delivery within the area
- to publicly identify the purposes for which the levies are required.

The draft plan is on public exhibition at the Council's Administrative Offices, 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood between normal business hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm weekdays, from **Wednesday 14 October 2015 until Friday 13 November 2015**.

Copies of the draft plan are available from the Council offices and can otherwise be viewed on Council's website: **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au**. Any person may make a written submission to the Council on the draft plan until **close of business on 13 November 2015**.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

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records@palerang.nsw.gov.au

Privacy: Submissions with the author's name and contact details will be provided to Councillors for consideration. However, names and contact information will be removed when the submissions are included in public documents such as Council Business Papers.

PALERANG COUNCIL

Public Exhibition of

The Draft Palerang Waste Management Strategy 2015–2035

The draft Strategy document, prepared by URS for Council, is an update of the previously adopted 2005–2025 Strategy document and reflects changes that have occurred since 2005 when the original strategy was implemented. The new document:

- updates the current waste management practices in the local government area (LGA);
- updates the Waste Strategy to reflect the introduction of new State wide waste management policies and regulations;
- identifies opportunities to work with the regional waste group, South East Resource Recovery Group (SERRG), for introduction of innovative resource recovery programs for problem waste;
- identifies priority areas for the next 20 years from 2015 to 2035; and
- reviews Council's waste fees and charges.

The draft Waste Strategy is on public exhibition at the Council's Administrative Offices, 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood between normal business hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm weekdays, from **Wednesday 14 October 2015 until Friday 13 November 2015**.

Copies of the draft Waste Strategy can be viewed on Council's website: **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au**. Any person may make a written submission to the Council on the draft Waste Strategy until **close of business on 13 November 2015**.

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Annemarie Wiegerinck

Nature's hidden patterns

BUNGENDORE Fine Art Gallery's November exhibition, 'Close to the Sky', opening Saturday 7 November 2pm will be featuring award winning Victorian contemporary artist Annemarie Wiegerinck.

Annemarie migrated from the Netherlands in 1971 and spent many years in the Snowy Mountains before moving to Bright Victoria.

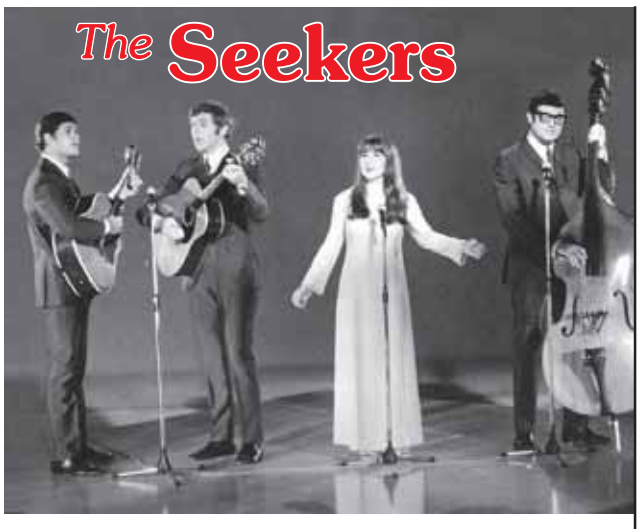
Her paintings are built on detailed charcoal drawings then painted over in a fluid oil paint wash. Annemarie is motivated by nature's hidden patterns and she portrays its wild untamed beauty leading to her vibrant and colourful creations.

Her paintings are a celebration of life born out of a profound connection with the Australian land and her love of the bush and the outback. ■

KEITH POTGER *from p3*

He writes songs and is preparing the production of his fourth CD.

Having been away from Australia in the UK between 1968 and 1978 following the first disbanding of *The Seekers*, Keith returned and wrote songs and performed solo throughout the 1980s. In 1988 he wrote and produced stage musicals for Australia's Bicentenary celebrations.



Keith performs for and has official connections with many organisations such as being Patron of Variety WA (2001–2009) and was Chairman of Support Act Ltd Victoria. He continues as a board member. He is a Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA and a Celebrity Ambassador for Variety Victoria and Variety International.

In September, 2014, the four members of *The Seekers*, were appointed as Officers of the Order of Australia (AO).

There is more to know about this interesting life. Enjoy An Evening with Keith Potger *at the National Theatre, Braidwood, December 5, and watch for news on further entertainment in 2016.*

Trees+ at Bungendore Wood Works Gallery

THE *Trees+* Exhibition was officially opened by Romanian wood worker Zina Burloiu and features the works of Terry Martin (woodworker), Sue Cochrane (pastel artist) Malcolm Pettigrove (pen and ink artist) and Zina.

The four will each display works based on their love and respect of trees, both as the provider of the raw material and the visual inspiration for their works of art.

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery's artistic director proudly announced that Zina will become the gallery's second International Artist in Residence, (Swedish woodworker Per Brandstedt was the gallery's first International Artist in Residence in 2002).

A qualified engineer, Zina also studied sculpture for three years at the Brasov School of Arts known today as Transilvania University of Brasov. After training with her uncle, a respected traditional carver, and after 25 years of experience and success, by 2013 Zina had become the most well-known and respected traditional woodcarver in Romania. Not only was she successful in her own country, but she had made a name for herself as a teacher and demonstrator internationally in many countries including China recently.

Zina has always dreamed of visiting Australia: "I often watch television programs about the Australian countryside and I am so looking forward to seeing it for myself.

"I also want to try new materials, and develop new ideas based on my experiences there. It will also be wonderful to meet Australian artists. This is a wonderful opportunity for which I am very grateful."

Zina will take up her residency at Bungendore Wood Works Gallery in conjunction with the *Trees+* Exhibition and will work and demonstrate both in the Gallery and at David MacLaren's wood workshop and studio located near Bungendore Village. ■

Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery
Presents
Exhibition by Aboriginal artist
Michael (Garmarroongoo) Huddleston
Date: Friday 13th November 2015
Time: 6.00pm **Launch by Jeff McMullen**
245 Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach ACT
Contact: 02 6251 4371 **Mobile:** 0400 382 068 / 0400 382 084
Email: Burrunju@indigenoussupport.org.au
Website: www.aboriginal-arts.com.au

QBN ART TRAIL
Sunday 8 Nov 2015
Take a self-guided tour, or for $25p/p, hop on the Arts Trail Bus Tour and travel in comfort. Enjoy a picnic lunch & afternoon tea.
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November Exhibition
open daily 10-4.30 pm
bungendore FINE ART

Close to the Sky
Annemarie Wiegerinck
Opening Saturday 7 November
Meet the Artist
Saturday 7 November 2—4

42b Ellendon St , Bungendore
Ph 02 62381640
www.bungendorefineart.com.au

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Bungendore history gathered by local writer

THE history of a place is more than its momentous occasions. It's the everyday life of its inhabitants too. Their ups and downs; the vagaries of the weather and its effect; their resilience, energy and sense of community spirit.

From the very first time that Kim Hedrich read an article in the National Library's Trove collection she was hooked. Here was a window into the past, articles written at, or near, the time that they happened.

Here were stories that are no longer published in newspapers because they are considered small and uninteresting. They created a picture, better than any that could have been painted, of life through the years as Bungendore and Australia grew and developed.

Hedrich asked: "Could you begin to imagine what it was like to see the first car you had ever seen? And the fact that it could get you from Bungendore to Queanbeyan in just over an hour. It must have seemed amazing at the time. And it was worth reporting on in the Bungendore column of a newspaper somewhere."

Not only lifestyle has changed since then but also the language in use. No longer do we see long, complex sentences used when a few words would suffice.

This is a town steeped in history, with stories of soldiers, the mysterious Marulen Tiger, an intriguing mystery of burnt bones, and much more.

The book is a taste of what happened in and around Bungendore from 1835 to 1954 told through the eyes of those who reported the events of the day. Hedrich hopes it will encourage people to dig further, and expand on some of the stories covered in the book.

Kim was born in Canberra and grew up in Bungendore, living in three different houses. She could often be seen riding her skewbald pony, Billabong, going on trail rides, and competing at sports days. She worked at the National Library for 30 years in various positions before turning seriously to local history.

The author asks that you find out more and reserve your copy at www.echobooks.com.au/bungendore_history.

Moving, quirky story of child's battle for acceptance, coping with deafness

El Deafo
by Cece Bell
Amulet, 2014

Reviewed by Pauline Richards

THIS touching and comic memoir written for children eight years and older is inspired by the author's childhood need for acceptance by her peers when she was six years old and learning to cope with deafness.

El Deafo is both a moving and quirky depiction of the courage and initiative a young child is capable of in striving to gain acceptance and friendship. The light heartedness of its comic strip format and seemingly straightforward content is a gentle and effective vehicle for conveying the intensity of a child struggling to fit in and make friends.

Cece's deafness required a hearing aid, not a discreet device of today's miniaturised aids, but a chunky box called a 'Phonic Ear' which was strapped to her chest over her clothes. In addition, the class teacher was fitted with a microphone that amplified her voice into the Phonic Ear receiver.

As necessary as the device was to enable Cece to hear, it was a powerful visual statement marking her difference from her classmates. Ironically, the key to overcoming the marginalisation that came with Cece's deafness became the Phonic Ear itself.

'Phonic ear' of massive proportions and superhero status

To her advantage and relief she became aware that not only did the device render the class teacher's voice audible to her in the classroom, but also anywhere the teacher happened to be in the school building, including the staff room and the lavatory.

Bingo! Cece did not hesitate to capitalise on this newly acquired super hero ability to warn the class when the teacher was returning to the classroom. This gave them time to forego bedlam and be seated calmly at their desks by the time their teacher entered the room.

Cece became an acknowledged "force for the good of the class", *El Deafo* the superhero and a funny one into the bargain. Together with her courage, her sense of fun won serious cache and acceptance with her classmates.

She was the only child in the class who could not only hear and report on their teacher's imminent return to the classroom, but report to the class of their teacher's 'tinkle tinkle', then cascading flush in the lavatory. This was an effective diversion to a bodily function shared by everyone. Acceptance by her classmates and developing friendships ensued, including stirrings of particular interest in and from boys.

El Deafo is an engaging and touching read. However, an uncertainty about the book is its capacity to engage child readers as sympathetically as it has adults (*El Deafo* won the prestigious 2015 John Newbery Medal and the 2015 Guardian's Children's Prize). A child living the realities of childhood does not share the 'benefit of hindsight' of an adult who has long left childhood behind. Therefore children may not appreciate the humour and quirkiness of a book grounded in childhood concerns. Nevertheless, as child readers are no more a homogenous group than adult readers, this is yet to be seen.

El Deafo certainly has the capacity to inspire important discussion with children concerning the impact of difference and ostracism and how we cope with it. ■

Across: 1 Spiral, 4 Softer, 7 Noises, 9 Ultimate, 11 Wadi, 14 Dilemma, 15 Ogle, 16 Bing, 17 Nominal, 18 Even, 21 Marietta, 22 Lactic, 24 Evelyn, 5 Shelve. **Down:** 2 Sinew, *Illiad*, 3 Are, 4 Sentimental, 5 Flammable, 6 Rife, 8 Sublimation, 10 Thence, 12 Angora, 13 Identical, 19 Vital, 20 Nacre, 21 Mite, 23 Ash.

Catch up with the latest instalment of *Fifty Shades of Grey Nomads*
ONLINE at www.districtbulletin.com.au
Grey nomads #9: Mavis Davis and her Australian tour companions are still in France spending a "poignant, heart-wrenching day touring World War I sites"

Psychic readings de-mystified

by Brigitte Heyer

EVERYONE is psychic to some degree. Our intuition is our safeguard against danger.

Some cultivate it, some ignore it. To use our intuitive abilities to help others through so called readings requires a particular tuning, just like your radio when you want to listen to a particular station.

Out of our four main brain waves, the intuitive frequency is Alpha, and to some degree also Theta. Beta is think-think-think mode, in which giving a good reading is impossible, and in Delta you are blissfully asleep!

We experience Alpha when we meditate, and whenever we live totally in the moment – reading a book, painting, composing, playing with your kids or pets, good sex (not if you are mentally creating your shopping list). Forgetting the before and after, being here now. To give a good reading, Alpha is essential.

Amazing messages can appear during a reading, so specific in nature that it is impossible to make them up. These include current scenarios as well as incidents from the past, aspects of future developments and even messages from people no longer amongst us, like the grandmother spirit bringing up 'that friggin ostrich' – which made sense to her granddaughter who recalled grandmother being chased by an emu when visiting a farm where they were kept.

A good reading is about empowering and inspiring beyond showcasing psychic ability. Because it can be pretty amazing, it is tempting to put the cart before the horse and make the psychic-ness in itself the main objective, when really it is just a great tool for helping people see their situation more clearly, so they regain hope and their lost mojo.

Life is all ups and downs. Some of our desired outcomes won't happen, but some things we dread won't either. In my experience, unpleasant predictions come with the appropriate guidance how to best handle the situation, or even turn it around.

A truly intuitive reader is usually fairly accurate, but you won't get 100%. One reason is that the messages don't always appear in nice, clear sentences, we have to put them into words, and slight misinterpretations may occur.

>> p15
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SQUIRREL GLIDERS *From p1*

"We are very excited that other people in the neighbourhood have also seen gliders. This needs to be thoroughly investigated and substantially more actual field work needs to be done along the EDE route and general area before any decision is made," said Peter.

Aware that some on council are determined to push ahead with the controversial roadway, Claire and Peter sought expert advice to ensure the gliders will be protected. Ecologists with extensive experience working with gliders have advised that it is indisputable that there are both Squirrel and Sugar Gliders on their property. They have also managed to record the Squirrel Gliders calling.

Experts they consulted note the significance of finding Squirrel Gliders in an area where they were not previously recorded. The gliders' preferred habitat of large hollow-bearing eucalypt trees, particularly box gum woodland, is subject to fragmentation and is shrinking at a rapid rate, being destroyed through road and housing development. The only other inland population in NSW is an endangered isolated population near Wagga Wagga.

Peter Kontis and Claire Cooper; gliders seen here from their Greenleigh window.

The $100 million EDE is vehemently opposed by many Queanbeyan residents and associations who see it as a huge white elephant – as they claim it will make a negligible difference in removing traffic from Queanbeyan's main street, waste $50 million of Government grants, and destroy significant high value native bushland and the amenities of residents with significant noise.

"The EDE will bring thousands of vehicles through the gliders' habitat and mean that 30,000 vehicles a day will likely travel through Jerrabomberra (12,000 a day more than if Dunns Creek Road was built instead of the EDE)," said Claire.

"There were significant limitations in the Species Impact Survey conducted by council for the proposed EDE. It's hard to believe that just 1.5 hours was spent looking for mammals and no nocturnal surveys were conducted. Combine this with the admission of limitations in marking hollow-bearing trees in the area, there is no wonder the squirrel gliders were not detected. It begs the question of how many other species 'not previously recorded in the area' were missed in the process."

"This discovery is great news for Queanbeyan and the glider species," added Peter. "If Council is smart, it could use the existence of the gliders here in Queanbeyan as a draw-card for eco-tourism, bringing dollars into the town, and get the local community, schools, Wildcare, Landcare etc involved in a management plan for the species' continued survival". ■

GO TO www.districtbulletin.com.au
For more on this story
Endangered Squirrel Gliders found in East Queanbeyan, path of roadway

Lobby your members of parliament for urgent action

The Quakers on upcoming climate change talks

"Australia and Malcolm Turnbull have a moment of choice about how we face the future together"

In the Bulletin's *continuing series on religious groups' response to climate change,* ***Jenny Goldie*** *interviews* ***Adrian Glamorgan*** *from the Quakers*

THE Quakers are renowned for their commitment to peace and justice. With climate change threatening the collapse of ecosystems, and in turn that of living species, they have extended that commitment to include sustainability of the planet.

As the vital climate talks in Paris loom, the Quakers hope that humanity will act 'urgently, fairly and sufficiently' on climate change, otherwise the most vulnerable communities now and future generations will suffer, they say.

Adrian Glamorgan is an award-winning Quaker journalist; author and broadcaster; and co-convenor of the national Quaker Earthcare committee. Speaking by phone from his home in Perth, Glamorgan told *The Bulletin* that direct lobbying by Quakers of their local Members of Parliament – including Julie Bishop as Foreign Minister – has to happen if we are to have strong climate action.

"But we also need a change in how we deal with the landscape and environment. It is important how each if us carries ourselves, of walking lightly across the world," he says.

With the Quakers commitment to peace, did they regard climate change as a security issue?

"Yes, it's definitely a security issue," Glamorgan says. "Climate change is likely to put pressure on already vulnerable people who depend on rains coming when they should, of flowers flowering when they should.

"Climate change is a threat to the natural world and thus puts pressure on human beings in agriculture. In addition, sea level rise will make life difficult for people in low-lying areas. Others will be subject to flash floods and bushfires."

The Rosenberg's Monitor (tagged 'threatened' due to development activities) is making a welcome reappearance in parts of western Palerang. This visitor cleaned out the rabbits under the deck of a Bywong landholder known to the editor.

Looks at how military drives climate change

Glamorgan says we also need to look at how the military drives climate change. War misdirects human energy; wars are wasteful. The military is interested in oil reserves.

"There's a strong connection between high fossil fuel use and the way armies use war or the threat of war to achieve strategic ends," he says.

He says there's another dimension. According to the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists 2015,* the doomsday clock has shifted from 10 minutes to midnight to three minutes to midnight. Why? "Unchecked climate change, global nuclear weapons modernisations, and outsized nuclear weapons arsenals," it says.

And then there's the counter-intuitive problem of nuclear winter. According to Glamorgan, a nuclear war between India and Pakistan would eject enough debris to affect cloud cover for 20 years.

"Anywhere from 900 million people to 2.3 billion people would be vulnerable, yet nobody in the media thinks this is big news.

"We have a disconnect with nature. We're in a state of collective denial. Our current model of behaviour is driving our climate into peril, yet no-one is looking at an alternative relationship with nature."

Will the climate talks in Paris help? Will they keep global warming within 2°C?

"No, they won't keep global warming within 2°C," says Glamorgan. "But who knows, you have to do the best you can. I do think the US, China and Europe are aware; they have acknowledged there's a problem.

Turning everything into a commodity is a trap

"Our selfishness has led to the Tragedy of the Commons; we're acting as though someone else has to do it. Yet the way we function best is through cooperation. The alternative is destructive, both materially and spiritually."

Glamorgan says the present system is relentlessly trying to tell us that we need to commodify anything that's precious for it to have any value.

"Yet our experience tells us that the best things are so simple and so much about being in nature and relishing the moment. They are really about appreciation and gratitude.

"But the potential is there in Paris. In the past we thought we could play around, thinking it could go on forever. Now, Australia and Malcolm Turnbull have a moment of choice about how we face the future together." ■

ACROSS THE RADAR: The following questions were in last year's Grade 12 examination (*these are genuine answers*).

What is a turbine?
Something an Arab or Sheik wears on his head. Once an Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.

How is dew formed?
The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

What are steroids?
Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs. (*Shoot yourself now, there is little hope.*)

What happens to your body as you age?
When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?
He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery. (*So true.*)

What is artificial insemination?
When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

How can you delay milk turning sour?
Keep it in the cow. (*Simple, but brilliant.*)

What is the fibula?
A small lie.

What does 'varicose' mean?
Nearby.

What is the most common form of birth control?
Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium. (*That would work.*)

Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section.'
The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

What is a seizure?
A Roman Emperor. (*Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit.*)

What is a terminal illness?
When you are sick at the airport. (*Irrefutable.*)

What does the word 'benign' mean?
Benign is what you will be after you be eight. (*Brilliant.*)

Name the four seasons.
Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Recipes: Summer barbies coming up

Omi's best potato salad

From Maria's recipe shoebox

- Use Desiree potatoes because of their waxy and non-crumbling texture. Boil, 4, 6, 8 potatoes for smaller or larger salad. Let rest overnight or some time if possible. Easier to peel.
- Slice thinly and salt as you go along.
- Slice spring onions or mild white onion (¼ or ½ depending on quantity); gherkins as much as you like, small and some larger pieces; slice some capers – also as much or little as you like; chop and add a small bunch of parsley;
- Optional add, ½ a firm apple like Pink Lady or Granny Smith, peeled and cut small. Optional, one or two hard boiled eggs cut into 8ths – can decorate with them.

There is another middle European version that uses more vegetables like cooked peas and carrots and maybe celery mixed in so it becomes more vegetable salad than just potato. Nice too.

Using mint as herbal flavouring is also a nice variation with the basic potato salad.

Dressing:

For 6–8 potatoes – 1/8 cup or less sunflower or similar oil (not olive), similar amount white vinegar, 2–3 teaspoons of seeded mustard and pinch of sugar plus 2–3 tablespoons of egg mayonnaise, and/or good quality aioli (Maille is a good brand), to make it creamy. Another variant our mother used is to add a few tablespoons of Heinz 'Salad Dressing'. Squeeze of lemon brings out the flavours.

Mix all this dressing together and adjust to taste or quantity. Add ¼ cup water, stir and pour over the vegetables. It will soak in over a little while. You can adjust further if you think it's too dry with more dressing mix.

Enjoy!

Greek Tzatziki

(cucumber yoghurt dip)

- 1 kg tub of greek yoghurt (light or full fat depending on your preference (full fat gives a thicker, creamier dip but light is better for your waist-line).
- 2–3 cucumbers (continental or Lebanese)
- 2–3 cloves of garlic
- 1 lemon
- Olive oil
- Salt and black pepper

IMAGES ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY

Put ¾ of the tub of greek yoghurt into a mixing bowl. Grate the cucumbers roughly. Put the grated cucumbers onto a clean teatowel and squeeze out as much excess liquid as you can from the mixture. Put the grated cucumber into the bowl with the yoghurt. Squeeze the juice from a large lemon and add that to the bowl. Crush the garlic cloves, ensuring the garlic is minced well and chop the remainder into tiny pieces. Add to the bowl. Mix all the ingredients together. Add a good dash of salt and black pepper and give it a generous drizzle of good quality olive oil. Mix again.

Tzatziki will store for several days in the fridge and is great with roast potatoes, and as a condiment for any BBQ meal. It is generally better the day after making as all the ingredients have melded together.

Great for using leftovers too!

Claire's Spanish Frittata

- 6 large potatoes (diced into cubes)
- 1 large onion (chopped into large slices)
- 1 handful of green beans (top and tailed and chopped into smaller lengths)
- ½ green capsicum (chopped into chunks)
- ½ red capsicum (chopped into chunks)
- 1 broccoli (chopped into small florets)
- 6 eggs (beaten)
- Oil

Dice potatoes into cubes and deep fry for several minutes until just golden.

Remove from oil and drain.

In a deep-sided frying pan (with oven proof handle), lightly fry the onion, green beans, capsicum (red and green), and broccoli for several minutes until all are just cooked through.

Mix all cooked vegetables, including the potato cubes, together in a large bowl, then leave to cool. Once cooled, mix in the beaten eggs making sure all veggies are well coated with egg.

Heat a little oil in the frying pan, ensuring the sides of the pan are well coated with hot oil. Pour the veggie/egg mix into the pan and push the veggies firmly into the sides of the pan with a spatula. Cook the frittata for 2–3 minutes ensuring that the sides of the frittata have sealed in the pan.

When nearly cooked through, pop the frying pan into either a heated oven, or under a grill to cook the top of the frittata. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly.

Invert the finished frittata onto a serving plate. ■

PALERANG COUNCIL

NOMINATIONS – Australia Day 2016 Awards

Council is calling for nominations from throughout Palerang for community awards to be presented at celebrations in Bungendore, Captains Flat and Braidwood on Australia Day, Tuesday, 26 January 2016.

The categories for the awards in each town and surrounding areas are:

1. Citizen of the Year
2. Young Citizen of the Year (under 25 years)
3. Community Event of the Year

Nominations, closing 5.00pm on **Friday, 18 December 2015,** may be submitted by organisations, community groups or individuals.

Nomination forms are available from Council's offices in Bungendore (10 Majara Street) and Braidwood (144 Wallace Street) or by telephoning 1300 735 025 or (02) 6238 8111. They may also be downloaded from Council's website at **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au** under Community Services.

Completed nominations should be returned to Council in an envelope marked "Confidential – Australia Day 2016 Nomination", Palerang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

For further information, please contact Debby Ferguson, Manager Executive Services, on (02) 6238 8111 during business hours.

PALERANG COUNCIL

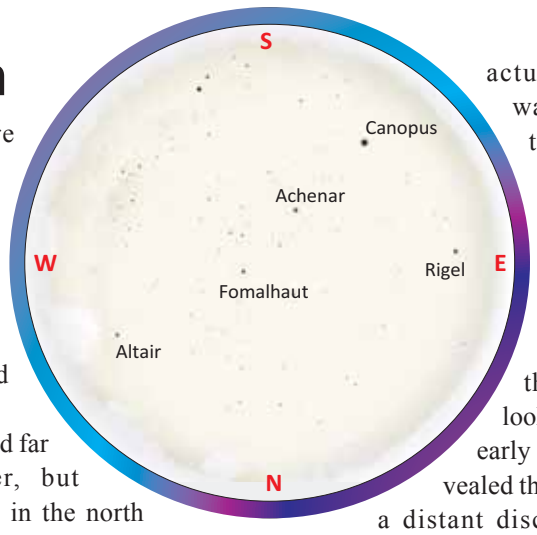
Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.* Council approved the following development applications in October 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.2015.138	Renovation of Existing Building	01/10/2015	Lot 1 DP 598830 119 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.177	Shed	07/10/2015	Lot 2 DP 1061604 225 Bidges Road SUTTON
DA.2015.187	Continued Use	08/10/2015	Lot 13 DP 245149 8 Brooks Road BYWONG
DA.2015.154	Dwelling	08/10/2015	Lot 81 DP 1172245 18 Murray Grey Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.139	Dwelling	09/10/2015	Lot 330 DP 755911 Jinglemoney Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.145	Signage	09/10/2015	Lot 2 DP 809425 17 Coghill Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.107	Upgrade property access	12/10/2015	Lot 124 DP 774284 219 Douglas Close CARWOOLA
DA.2015.181	Patio	13/10/2015	Lot 20 DP 855517 14 Ashby Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.129	Continued Use of Dwelling	13/10/2015	Lot 3 DP 1176838 138 Jones Road MANAR
DA.2015.156	Dwelling, Studio, Shed and Two new building envelopes	15/10/2015	Lot 18 DP 1141290 60 Yuranga Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2015.170	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	20/10/2015	Lot 2 DP 862387 43 Webbs Road MONGARLOWE
DA.2015.126	Manufactured Home	20/10/2015	Lot 37 DP 251886 545 Urila Road URILA
DA.2015.189	Shed, Retaining Wall, Awnings and Deck	20/10/2015	Lot 829 DP 1129595 9 Lithgow Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.176	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	20/10/2015	Lot 18 DP 559330 51 Coronation Avenue BRAIDWOOD
DA.2015.162	Shed	22/10/2015	Lot 11 DP 755901 14 Naughton Lane ARALUEN
DA.2015.191	Shed and Vary Building Envelope	22/10/2015	Lot 9 DP 285984 142 MacDiarmid Road BURRA
DA.2015.163	2 Lot Subdivision	22/10/2015	Lot 1 DP 758183 73 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.169	Shed	27/10/2015	Lot 12 DP 847224 595 Captains Flat Road CARWOOLA
DA.2015.150	Shed	27/10/2015	Lot 5 DP 270600 99 Brindabella Place CARWOOLA
DA.2015.179	Amenities for Existing Shed	27/10/2015	Lot 2 DP 1004265 5 The Forest Road BYWONG
DA.2015.178	Convert Garage to Rumpus Room	27/10/2015	Lot 39 DP 1042127 59 Whisperer Place ROYALLA
DA.2015.205	Dwelling	27/10/2015	Lot 2 DP 1000568 Back Creek Road MONGARLOWE
DA.2015.196	Alterations and Additions	28/10/2015	Lot 2 DP 1172336 48B Butmaroo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2015.193	Shed	28/10/2015	Lot 10 DP 246156 239 Bidges Road SUTTON

Origin of the Moon



NOVEMBER nights are warm and growing shorter, with the stars of winter setting in the west. The bright stars of summer are beginning to appear, reminding us that hot dry weather is just around the corner.

Bright stars are few and far between in November, but include white Altair low in the north west, with white Fomalhaut, blue-white Achenar, white Canopus and blue Rigel strung across the sky.

This month is rare in that there are no bright planets visible in the evening sky. Early risers, however, can see an alignment of Venus, Mars and Jupiter, making an impressive sight in the early morning before the Sun comes up.

The Moon – where did it come from?

The Moon is perhaps the only object in the sky that everyone who has ever lived has actually seen. It was the seventeenth century invention of the telescope that enabled people really to work out what it was that they were looking at. Those early telescopes revealed the Moon not as a distant disc that moves across the sky, but as a whole new world, with mountains, valleys and craters.

It was all very confusing. What exactly is the Moon and how did this neighbouring world come to be?

Later, better technology produced better telescopes that gave us ever clearer views, but still more questions. Spaceprobes were sent to orbit the Moon in the 1950s and 60s, and gave us our first close up look at the features that the first telescopes had revealed and the astronauts of the Apollo moon landings brought back several kilograms of rocks to Earth for laboratory analysis.

It was not until after all of this that scientists finally understood where the Moon came from, with a fiery birth more than four billion years ago.

The Moon is thought to have formed as the result of a giant impact. Another planet (actually given a name, 'Theia'), which was about a third the size of Earth, smashed into our planet not long after the Earth was formed. Back then there was no life, and the Earth would have been molten, and would have been almost totally destroyed by Theia's impact.

The impact debris formed a ring around the Earth, which, over time, slowly came together through gravity and shaped itself into the Moon. With the passing of the aeons the Moon cooled and was subject to intense bombardment from space by passing asteroids, which formed the craters that now cover its surface.

A large crater is formed on average once every 50 million years. There has been enough time since the Moon formed that almost every part of its surface has been subject to an impact. As the Moon has no atmosphere, the craters are never eroded, providing a unique insight into the conditions of the Solar System all those years ago.

The Moon is often thought of as dead, and it mostly is. There is no weather on the Moon, the Apollo astronaut footprints will not be blown away by the wind or rained on. In fact they will be visible to anyone who happens by, seen in the dust for millions of years to come. Not a lot happens there now, but in the past the Moon was geologically active, with volcanoes and lava flows.

Accompanying this article is a close up picture of the Moon (covering around 200km on a side) taken by the author from his back garden in Bungendore, showing some surface features produced in those early days of volcanoes and lava. The main feature visible is a series of cracks on the Moon's surface, which were once channels of flowing lava. The lava dried up more than a thousand million years ago, leaving behind these scratched out valleys, remaining for all eternity.

The picture also shows mountains and hills, flat plains and craters, large and small. The smallest ones are only a few kilometers in size. The Moon has an incredibly varied surface. If you have a small telescope, take a look at the Moon when it is at half-phase (20th November), you can see these surface features for yourself. ■

— Star Search —
with Dr David Weldrake

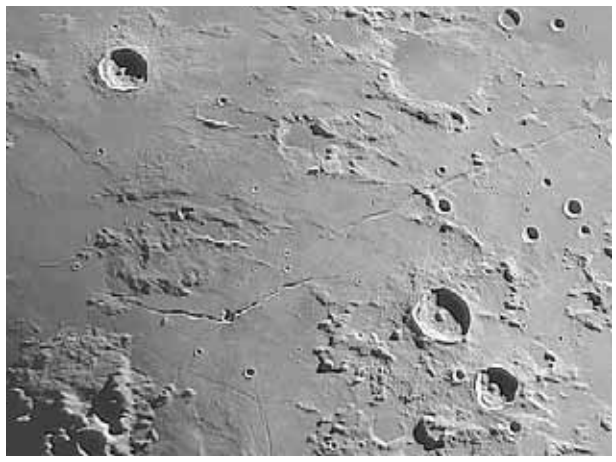


CHART (9PM ON 15 NOVEMBER) PRODUCED USING THE *STELLARIUM* SOFTWARE PACKAGE

NSW Premier Baird blocks report on stranded fossil fuel assets

NSW Premier Mike Baird blocked a report from the Office of Environment which warned that Australia must make its post-2020 carbon reduction target as ambitious as its trading partners. Otherwise, says the OoE, Australia risks being left with 'stranded' fossil fuel assets and missing out on investments in new technologies.

Australia has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 26–28 percent on 2005 levels by 2030, equivalent to only 19 percent on 2000 levels, the baseline that most other countries use. The Climate Change Authority also uses this baseline, and has duly recommended 40–60 percent reduction for Australia.

While the US has used the same baseline as the Australian government (2005), nevertheless, it has promised an equivalent target (28 percent) but to achieve it by 2025, not 2030.

Dr John Kaye, Greens' member of the NSW Upper House, has noted that 85 percent of electricity in NSW is still coming from coal and gas and called on Premier Baird to draw up a timetable for the closure of the state's coal-fired electricity power stations.

Kaye says that with major economic powers like the US and China moving to clean energy, these coal-fired stations could become stranded assets. He called on Premier Baird to support the Greens' legislation currently before the NSW Upper House that would introduce binding targets for large scale renewable energy projects.

From: http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/blocked-nsw-climate-report-backed-big-emission-cuts-warned-of-extreme-weather-20151005-gk21pv.html#ixzz3pMQaYxvV

PSYCHIC READINGS *from p12*

On the other hand, the regular positive feedback is often mind-boggling regarding some hard-to-believe predictions that all happened exactly like that, including time frames. The reader needs to totally trust what is coming through, and deliver it.

Psychic readings are not logical so why use logic to pick a reader? Trust your gut feeling when you hear about a psychic, or see their picture. Testimonials are a good guide, but ultimately you would feel drawn to someone and not be keen on another, for no logical reason. One might come highly recommended and yet you might pick a different one, even with little experience, and get a fabulous reading.

Do not invest your life savings in Powerball, go for a divorce or move to Alaska because it came up in the reading. The final decision is still your responsibility, and your intuition has something to say as well!

— Brigitte Heyer is a psychic reader in this area.

PALERANG COUNCIL

Palerang Business Advisory Board

Expressions of interest from business representatives

Expressions of interest are invited from members of the Palerang business community interested in being appointed to Council's newly formed Business Advisory Board.

Membership will include Palerang Council's Mayor and General Manager and representatives from the Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre and Regional Development Australia.

Council is seeking to fill a further three external positions on the Board, and these should include at least one representative from the Bungendore business community.

Copies of the Terms of Reference and the Small Business Friendly Councils Charter are available from Council's offices in Bungendore (10 Majara St) and Braidwood (144 Wallace St) and also on Council's website.

Expressions of interest outlining the contributions that they believe they can make to the Board, and addressing the Terms of Reference and the Charter, should be forwarded to the General Manager, Palerang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

For further information, please contact Council's General Manager, Peter Bascomb, on phone (02) 6238 8111 or email **records@palerang.nsw.gov.au**.

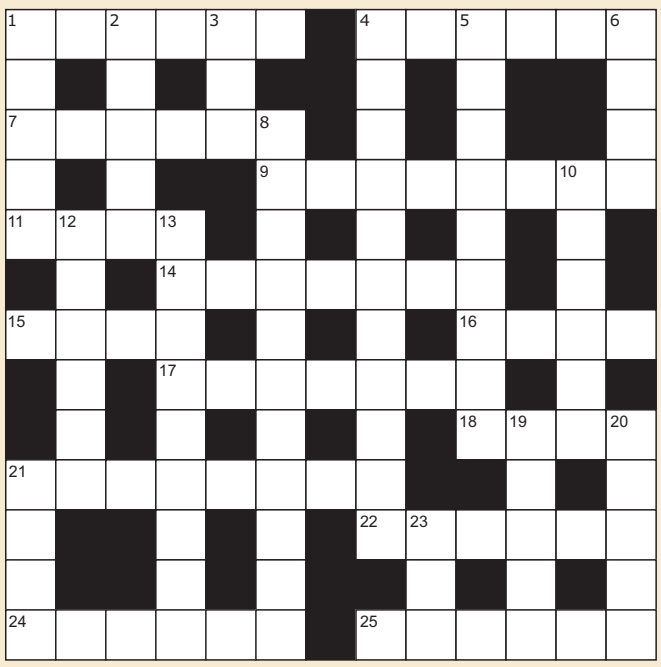
Submissions close at 5.00pm on Friday 20 November 2015.

Crossword

Solution p12

Across
1 Corkscrew (6)
4 Less harsh (6)
7 Sounds (6)
9 Final (8)
11 Dried-up river bed (4)
14 Quandary (7)
15 Stare at lustfully (4)
16 Mr Crosby, singer (4)
17 Insignificantly small (7)
18 Divisable by two (4)
21 Pop Larkin's eldest daughter in *The Darling Buds of May* (8)
22 Acid found in milk (6)
24 English author of satirical novels, ___ Waugh (6)
25 Hold back to a later time (6)

Down
1 Band of inelastic tissue connecting a muscle with a bone (5)
2 Greek epic poem attributed to Homer (5)
3 (They) exist (3)
4 Insincerely emotional, maudlin (11)
5 Possible to burn (9)
6 Over abundant (4)
8 Modifying an impulse to one that is socially acceptable (11)
10 From that place (6)
12 Mohair (6)
13 Indistinguishable (9)
19 Absolutely necessary (5)
20 Iridescent internal layer of a mollusc shell (5)
21 Minute arachnid that lives on an animal (4)
23 Group which released the album *Meltdown* in 2004 (3)



What's On – November 2015

Send announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

During NOVEMBER

Anne Marie Wiegerink
Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore. Works by Carmel Cox, Pam Edwards, Joyleen Kitto and Robyn Langley. Ph 6238 1640 or see **www.bungendorefineart.com.au**.

Avi Amesbury
FORM Studio & Gallery, Aurora Pl, Queanbeyan. Paintings by Stephanie Haygarth. For more **www.formstudioandgallery.com.au**.

Until Sunday 6 December
Trees+ – An Exhibition & Celebration of Trees
Bungendore Wood Works Gallery. New works by David Voigt. Opening by Pamela Griffith Artist-Printmaker. For more **www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au**.

Until Saturday 14
The Art of Lest We Forget
The Q Exhibition Space, Crawford St Queanbeyan. An exhibition by the Queanbeyan Art Society.

Until Sunday 15
The Mikado
The Q, Crawford St Queanbeyan. The classic Gilbert and Sullivan operetta is back for the Queanbeyan Players' 50th Anniversary! For more **www.theq.net.au**.

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8
ActewAGL Queanbeyan Show
Queanbeyan Showground. A variety of activities and entertainment for the whole family. **www.queanbeyanshow.com.au**.

Queanbeyan Open Studio and Arts Trail
10–4pm. This highly anticipated annual arts event allows visitors to take a self-guided tour around some of Queanbeyan's many art studios and galleries. Meet the artists, tour the studios, watch demonstrations and add to your private collection with original artwork available for sale. Arts Trail Bus Tour tickets are available from The Q Box Office or call 6285 6290.

Sunday 8
Men From Snowy River March
Monaro St, Queanbeyan, from 10.20am. A re-enactment of the March which originally occurred in 1916, aimed at boosting numbers for WW1. Queanbeyan was one of nine towns which the March passed through. For more see **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Wednesday 11
Remembrance Day

Braidwood – Ryrie Park, 11am.
Bungendore – Gibraltar St, 10.30am.
Queanbeyan – Moore Park, 11am, opening of Red Cross Rose Garden and Gazebo.

Thursday 12 and Friday 13
Party Train Mural Painting
Henderson Rd, Queanbeyan. Geoff Filmer of Graffik Paint will be leading workshops for local young people, aged between 12 and 17 to design and paint a mural on train at Railway Park. To register or more information **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Friday 13
Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight
Friday the 13th
Join author Nichole Overall for a Halloween with a difference! Tour through Queanbeyan's heart and hear fascinating tales of mystery, mayhem, tragedy and the other-worldly that have unfolded over the course of 175 years. Bookings essential, for further details/costs, email qbn@qbncityofchampions.com.au or see **https://www.facebook.com/mysteriousqbnbymoonlight**.

Sunday 15
Market Day Steam Train to Bungendore
Queanbeyan Railway Station. Be fascinated by the wide range of country scenery the train travels through en route to Bungendore. For more ph 6284 2790, email federalcityexpress@gmail.com or see **www.arhsact.org.au**.

GIG GUIDE: November

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

Friday 13
Calum Howarth: 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Saturday 14
Col Finley: 9pm–12am, The Loaded Dog, Tarago.

Sunday 15
Jazz & Shiraz: 12.30–3pm, Lerida Estate, Federal Hwy, Collector.

Friday 20
Sax in the City: 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Sunday 22
Jazz & Shiraz: 12.30–3pm, Lerida Estate, Federal Hwy, Collector.

Friday 27
Wayne Ryder Duo: 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Sunday 29
Jazz & Shiraz: 12.30–3pm, Lerida Estate, Federal Hwy, Collector.

Tuesday December 1
Comedy Night @ The Royal: 9pm, Royal Hotel, Bungendore.

Now it's November

the market @ bungendore

Sunday November 15th 9am–3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

Looking for Xmas presents?
All your favourite stalls
with gifts galore!

jewellery		mosaics
giftware		homewares
soaps & lotions		greeting cards
local art & craft		beads & findings
garden products	textiles	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	preserves	local grown plants
cakes & pastries	hand knits	prints & paintings
tea & fresh coffee	candles	fruit & vegetables
guitars & amps	cookies	clothing & footwear

Friday 20
QUEEN – Bohemian Rhapsody
The Q, Crawford St Queanbeyan. The ultimate QUEEN experience live! Featuring Thomas Crane 'the best Freddie Mercury in the world'. For more **www.theq.net.au**.

Friday 20 and Saturday 21
Braidwood Film Club
National Theatre, 8pm Friday: *Casino Royale*. 3pm Saturday: *I Love You Alice B Toklas*. 8pm Saturday: *Dr Strangelove*.

Friday 20 to Sunday 22
Majors Creek Music Festival
A wide range of entertainment with headline acts such as Women In Docs, Heath Cullen & his Band, The Timbers and Kate Burke. The market place will have an array of food and drinks, quirky fun stalls, musical instruments, creative clothing and organic products. For more see **www.majorscreekfestival.org**.

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22
The Queanbeyan Gift
Queanbeyan Park, 9–5pm. One of the most prestigious athletics carnivals in the country. Come along and join the fun. For more **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Queanbeyan Swap Meet & American Car Nationals
Queanbeyan Showground. This is an all types, all makes swap meet which will be held at Queanbeyan Showground in conjunction with the 'Big 3 Car Show' (for all Ford, GM and Chrysler vehicles) and the American Car Nationals car show. For more see **www.americancarnationals.com.au**.

Wednesday 25
Burra Social Club Dinner
From 6.30pm. A progressive Googong estate adventure and treat. To join the fun and find out what to bring contact Rosemary 0429 863 146 or flanaganbr@yahoo.com.

Saturday 28
21st Annual Braidwood Airing of the Quilts
Quilts displayed in every window and balcony on the main street of Braidwood! For more see **www.braidwoodquiltevent.org.au**.

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29
Bungendore Quilters' Annual Quilt Exhibition
Bungendore Memorial Hall, Saturday 9–7pm, Sunday 10–4pm. Featuring displays of hand-made quilts, patchwork and textiles. It includes a members' challenge, raffle quilt, quilt block hunt and lucky door prizes. Adults/over-15 $2, children free. For more see **www.bungendorequilters.com.au**.

Open Garden
36 Turallo Tce, Bungendore. 'Piccolo', the garden of Marcia and Brian Voce, will be open from 10am–4pm in conjunction with the annual Bungendore Quilters Exhibition. Admission $6.

Sunday 29
People's Climate March
Parliament House lawns, 12pm.

COMING UP in December

Friday 4
Festival of Ability
Queanbeyan Park, 4–8pm. Celebrating the International Day of People with a Disability. Lots of free entertainment for all ages, jumping castle for the kids, information stalls, food and live performances from Amber Nicholls (*The Voice*) and Night Train.

Bywong Community Christmas Drinks
Bywong Hall, 6–8pm. An opportunity to catch up with neighbours and to meet new people. For more see **www.bywongcommunity.org.au**.

Saturday 5
Braidwood Farmer's Market
National Theatre, Sat morning until 1pm.

An Evening With Keith Potger
National Theatre, Braidwood, 7.30pm. Keith Potger, formerly of The Seekers will draw on Seekers' songs, his own published tracks and produced CDs and stories from his life and career. Tickets $30. For more details 4842 1144.

Made by Hand at Bungendore
Bungendore War Memorial Hall, 9–3pm. A unique opportunity to explore some 'must see handicrafts' that have been created by talented locals within our region. Discover a broad range of exciting quality arts and craft items, along with other hidden treasures. A variety of light snacks, cakes and enjoyable coffee, will also be available on the day.

Sunday 6
Book Launch – *Bella Blue Heeler's Wacky Dream*
Tussock Cafe, Braidwood, 4–6pm. With an introduction by Robin Wallace-Crabbe and a reading by Sally Davey. For RSVP 4842 2704.

Live Music: 12.30–3pm, David Green on piano plays music from major Broadway musicals and themes from movies, contemporary music and a heap of jazz. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway Collector.

Friday 12 and Saturday 13
Braidwood Dance Studio End-of-Year Show
National Theatre, Braidwood.

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, 10–2pm. Handmade items, craft, jams, pickles, gourmet doggy treats, preloved goods, cakes, biscuits, plants and much more! Stalls $12. Call either 0438 600 447 or 0407 661 834 or email **markets@captainsflat.org**.

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

TREES+

TERRY MARTIN + ZINA BURLOIU
SUE COCHRANE + MALCOLM PETTIGROVE

wood works gallery BUNGENDORE

www.bwoodworks.com.au
Phone 6238 1682
Malbon St, Bungendore
gallery@bwoodworks.com.au

Exhibition continues until December 6