



# Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang

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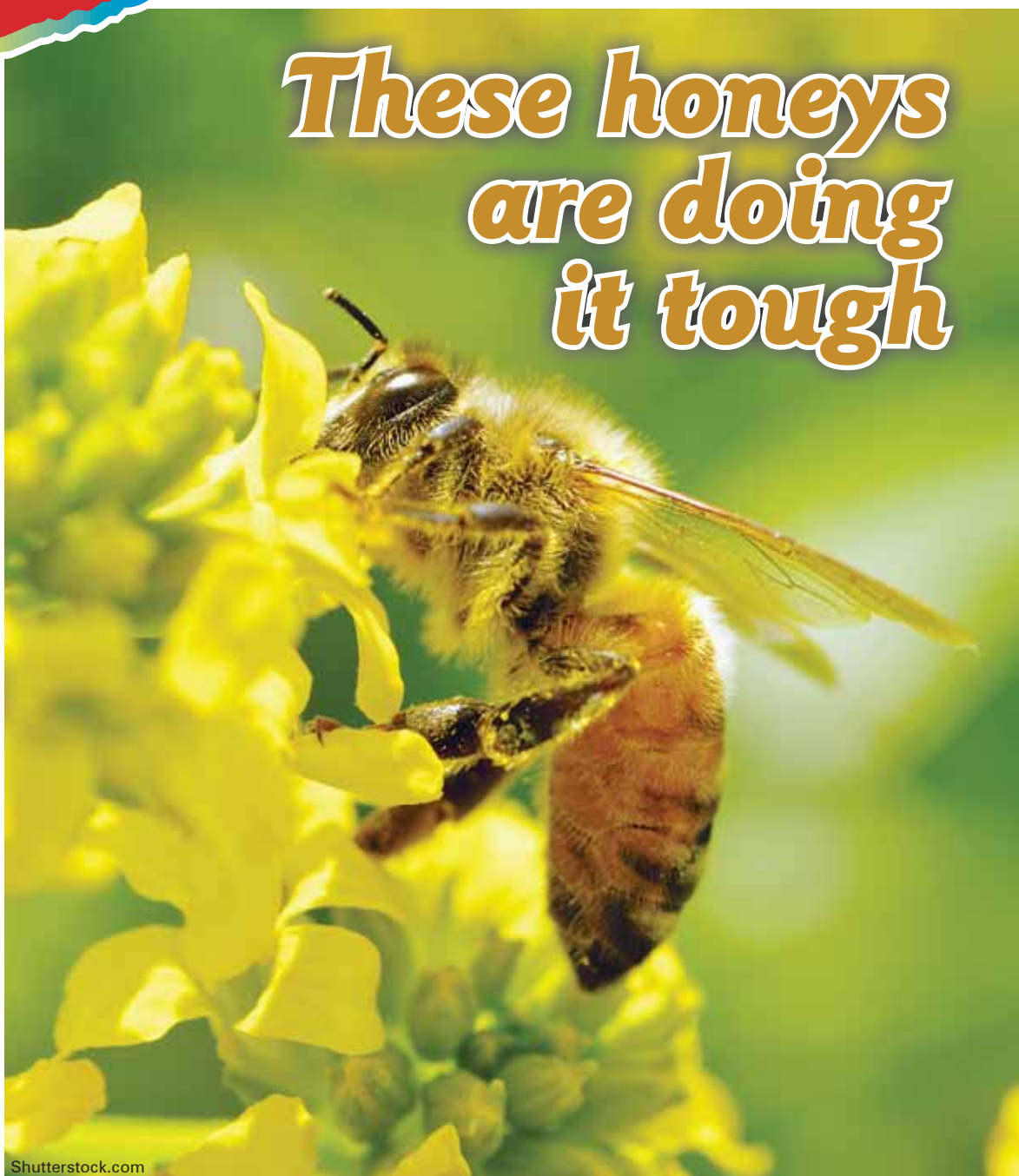
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## These honeys are doing it tough



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WHILE Australia's honey bees provide \$1.7 billion value in pollination services to Australian horticulture and agriculture, when the *Bulletin* visited commercial beekeepers, the Kershaw family, the main concern was where the bees' next meal would come from.

The Kershaws have been building up their apiary and honey 'factory' for five generations a little north of Sutton with 2,000 hives now in need of feeding and tending. The next day they would be off to seek nectar for the bees, whether it was another canola crop or bush tucker in a state forest.

The apiary grew from the great, great grandmother's work in the community garden in Sutton and grandfather Sterling developed it into a commercial business.

Sterling's grandson James, who now runs the business with his father Laurie, uncle Arthur and brother Matthew, said constant movement is the beekeepers' life, but this season is more worrying than most.

Summer heatwaves, warmer winters and other shifting weather patterns, have led to early flowering or no flowering of gums. A shortage of the beekeeper's staple, Salvation Jane (Patterson's Curse to others), due to drought and enthusiastic weed control by pastoralists has also contributed to the worsening food shortage over the past five years.

Canola crops are an important staple in this area. There is increasing international alarm about the negative impact on bees and other insects of the neonicotinoid systemic pesticides in canola and other flowering crops (seeds are treated with the pesticide which then works throughout the plant). But James said that in this area, if you don't work canola you don't have anything reliable.

### Flowering tricky in changing climate

This season, the gum trees "haven't flowered at all" he said. The flowering is cyclical over seven years, he said, but it's unusual to have all species off their flowering cycle at once.

Neighbouring Palerang commercial beekeepers the Bingley family agreed in a recent newspaper article that it was a difficult season. They said they work their bees within a 400-kilometre radius of Canberra and that a bee visits up the 500 flowers to fill its honey sack.

Local beekeepers are still better off than many beekeepers nationally who are not producing honey at all.

Cont'd p8

## Rural post offices, what next?

by Maria Taylor

LICENSED post offices across Australia, particularly the smaller ones, are in financial trouble under current Australia Post management, according to a recently-released Senate report.

Citing the report, Independent Senator Nick Xenophon said many LPOs face unsustainable trading conditions and little or no recourse to renegotiate their agreements leading to potential financial ruin.

"Many LPO operators have told me they'd be happy to receive the award wage for the long hours they work. Many LPO operators are on subsistence levels of remuneration or are eating into their existing assets to keep their businesses afloat," he said.

The *Bulletin* canvassed a number of local post office managers and while no-one was willing to speak on the record at present, the difficulties were confirmed. "We don't make the minimum wage for the time spent," said one.

We were told that while the traditional letter post income is declining, the upsurge of parcel post due to online shopping is causing major problems for local post offices both in unpaid workload and even regarding storage capacity.

It was pointed out that Captains Flat and Murrumbateman post offices closed in recent years. The Sutton store and post office is up for sale. Bungendore and

Braidwood, with larger populations, still experience similar pressures under the current system that is geared to make a profit for Australia Post.

The post is a community service, argued one owner, but it is not run that way. With the extraordinary salary (\$4.8 million) of Australia Post CEO (and former NAB banker) Ahmed Fahour making national headlines a few months ago, it was reported that Fahour said the business now is "all about parcels".

He said that Australia Post can no longer "subsidise" distribution of regular mail at a loss. It was also reported that

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# Living on the edge in Queanbeyan

## Haven for walkers, runners, bike-riders, animals and plants

Story and photos by Claire Cooper

FOR 20 plus years, I have been very lucky to live on the fringes of Queanbeyan's city area close to surrounding countryside. Early morning walks with my border collie, Tilly, in the nearby Jumping Creek area give me great joy.

As the morning sun-rays peek over the top of the Queanbeyan escarpment and penetrate the rising mist from the tree canopy, I tell myself I could be a million miles from Queanbeyan's CBD.

In reality, the Jumping Creek area is less than three kms from the centre of town. Lightly timbered grassland slopes with remnant endangered box-gum woodland and natural creeks, it is flanked on three sides by the Queanbeyan River corridor, eucalypt woodland on the Queanbeyan escarpment and the semi-rural Greenleigh estate – all of which are identified in Queanbeyan's planning documents as being areas of 'natural beauty' and of 'high conservation value'.

The unique topography, providing a mix of grassland, woodland and water, attracts a rich biodiversity of animal and plant life.

On my walks, I often come across fellow local residents of the human kind: running, walking their dogs, mountain-bike riding, or simply taking in the view and the wildlife.

### Species hanging on here

Endangered/vulnerable species I personally have sighted include: gang gang cockatoos, brown tree creepers speckled warblers, glossy black cockatoos, diamond firetails, Australasian bitterns, painted honeyeaters, and bent-wing bats.

Residents and visitors to our garden and surrounding area include: ring-tail and brush-tailed possums, sugar gliders, echidnas, swamp wallabies, wombats, kangaroos, herons, tawny frogmouths, kookaburras, a flock of corellas, grey shrike thrush, bower birds, various parrots and honeyeaters and a myriad of other birds, lizards and snakes. Many of these raise their families here.

**We all have accounts of the other local residents (the plants, animals and birds) who use the area as a natural corridor, from the escarpment to the river and into our backyards**

### Lyrebirds in winter, human heritage sites

Less than 100m from the proposed Queanbeyan bypass through the area, I have heard, then seen, superb lyrebirds in the winter months, the calls to their mates resonating around the Jumping Creek valley.

The 'Birds in Backyards' website has become an invaluable resource for me in identifying birds, providing sound bytes of bird calls as well as descriptions, habitat, etc. I am also becoming more proficient at identifying the wide range of native flora that I observe on my treks.

There are the more unusual sightings too. Several times, I have seen a small lizard I am sure is the endangered grassland earless dragon. And my husband and I have twice seen the small black and white Bandy-Bandy snake.

We also know that a koala was discovered at the back of Taylor Place in Greenleigh some years ago. Just across the river in Fairlane Estate endangered legless lizards have been identified.

There are also sites that are of aboriginal and social heritage interest. These include a possible aboriginal scar tree, an old limestone kiln, at least three old mine-shafts and foundations of an old homestead.

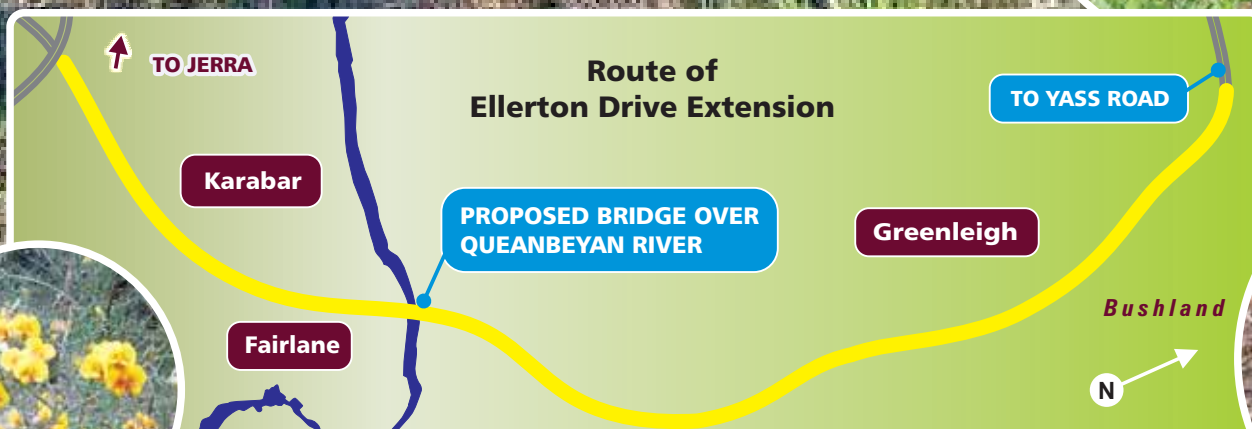
What is the indigenous history of this area? Who were the first European settlers here? Where does the name 'Jumping Creek' come from? I need to investigate further.

### The road ahead

Sadly, 44 hollow bearing trees in this area will be bulldozed if the proposed Queanbeyan bypass (Ellerton Drive Extension/Edwin Land Parkway) is built. These trees take a life-time to form and provide important habitat and food for native wildlife. They are not quickly replaced.

Many of Queanbeyan's suburbs will be ring-barked by the road which will cut-off the natural corridors currently used by local wildlife. Ironically, the so-called town 'bypass' will also split some suburbs, disconnecting current residential communities.

We will no longer be connected to the bush – a key reason so many residents, like us, chose to live in Queanbeyan over Canberra. Queanbeyan Council's mantra of 'Country Living with City Benefits' will be a distant memory. ■





## Queanbeyan interim General Manager

FOLLOWING the withdrawal of Queanbeyan General Manager Gary Chapman on indeterminate sick leave, Queanbeyan Council has appointed the former general manager Hugh Percy on a month-to-month basis.

Queanbeyan has a number of high profile issues to work through including a review of rates and charges, a review of the cinema proposal and public protest over roads and transport plans involving Jerrabomberra's Edwin Land Parkway and the Ellerton Drive Extension through Karabar and behind Greenleigh. ■

> **See also call for citizens to nominate for boards and committees p14**

## Queanbeyan Council's rooftop solar moves

FOLLOWING installation of solar panels on the roof of the new library building, Queanbeyan Council now has its renewable energy sights on making the RB Smith Community Centre, Bicentennial Hall and The Q more energy self-sufficient.

A council spokesperson said the solar panels will be installed over the coming two years to help reduce the cost of electricity to operate the buildings and reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions council produces.

Queanbeyan Council allocated \$385,000 across its four-year Delivery Program for the installation of solar panels on council-owned buildings.

A feasibility report to analyse council buildings' suitability for solar panels was undertaken in 2013, and a number of buildings including these were recommended.

"When council adopted its Community Climate Change Action Plan in 2012 it made a commitment to the community that it would implement actions and projects to improve its energy efficiency," said Mayor Tim Overall.

"Since then council has undertaken a number of projects, including the installation of solar panels at the library, improvements at the aquatic centre and the depot, the employment of the Environmental Education Officer and the continuation of council's internal sustainability group." ■



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## Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Braidwood and parts of Queanbeyan in back blocks of global internet speed

IT'S been a year since the Abbott Government was elected with their promise to dismantle Labor's NBN model and replace it with something they said would be quicker to roll out.

Yet one year on, Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Braidwood and parts of Queanbeyan are languishing in the back blocks of global internet speed because of complete inaction from our new Federal Liberal Member for Eden-Monaro.

Under Labor's NBN the roll out would have been well underway in Karabar, Jerrabomberra and Bungendore by now, with Braidwood not far off. The roll out to those areas stopped dead when the coalition was elected and there is still nothing at all from the NBN on when it might start again or even what service will be delivered.

I live in Karabar and this week the download speed at my house of 0.41 Mbps is some 243 times slower than the 100Mbps NBN's fibre to the premises would deliver.

Karabar residents are actually experiencing download speeds lower than the average connection speed in Paraguay, Venezuela and Kazakhstan!

Labor's NBN would have seen residents in Bungendore, Karabar and Queanbeyan getting internet connection speeds of up to 100Mbps. Instead – if they are lucky – they will have ADSL with a theoretical speed of 20 Mbps but actual speeds rarely more than 3 Mbps.

## Bad guys caught

POLICE arrested several people and have charged one with the mid-September Bywong home invasion that galvanised the region and brought out police tactical squads. A source said it was just a matter of time before the main perpetrator, Joe Daniel Rose, is picked up. He is the man who threatened and terrified an older couple at the Bungendore Road property.

Documents filed at Queanbeyan Local Court on 26 September say his accomplice, Corey Adam Brown, 29, of Giralang has been charged with aggravated break and enter and driving while disqualified and was refused bail.

Brown's then girlfriend was also named as being arrested along with a Casey resident at whose residence guns were found.

Rose was described as entering the property with a hammer, cutters and a serrated knife and demanded keys to the gunsafe. After physically attacking the man and threatening the couple, Rose made off with a .22 rifle and shotgun and met up with Brown and his girlfriend.

While police say it was a targeted job apparently following an earlier burglary at the house, they do not confirm some neighbours' speculation that the homeowners and any of the perpetrators knew each other. ■

The NBN website – after a full year waiting – still has no information at all on when homes in our region can expect to get NBN.

As I understand it some streets in Karabar already have an optic fibre cable pulled through the Telstra conduit, yet NBN Co. and the local member can say nothing about whether that will ever be connected to the premises.

There is even the bizarre possibility of these homes eventually getting the Liberals second-rate fibre to the node option with a wasted optic fibre cable sitting in the ground at the bottom of their driveway.

Australia's average speed overall is currently 7.1 Mbps which puts us a long

### NSW Capital Watch



with  
Steve  
Whan

way behind most of the developed world including South Korea with 24.6 Mbps and Japan with 14.9 Mbps. We are losing our international competitiveness while the Abbott Government fiddles.

But there is also a real story of competitiveness here in our regional communities. NBN fibre to the premises is currently rolling out in parts of Queanbeyan, it is going ahead because it was already contracted by the last Labor Government (along with new satellites for remote rural residents).

Fairly soon a person buying a house or a business in East Queanbeyan will have internet speeds hundreds of times faster than a home or business in Jerrabomberra or Bungendore. Is that really fair? ■

### Are we 'Fit for the Future'?

## If we are richer, we're fitter

WHAT do the possibility of amalgamation between Palerang and Queanbeyan and a special rate variation for Palerang have in common?

The NSW government seemingly has worked overtime with the PR gurus to come up with the catchy slogan of 'Fit for the Future' for council performance, along with the requirement that councils sketch a 'roadmap' of their fitness workout.

All councils in NSW must demonstrate by June 2015 that their muscular status vis a vis future budgetary demands is fighting fit – or face the possibility of an assisted 'merger' with another weakling.

While Palerang has not decided yet whether to seek an increased income, achieving a better financial statement and staying independent has been considered since last year and appears in the council's operational plan. The next step is canvassing the community's appetite for a special rate variation to meet growing costs.

A community consultation of some sort is reportedly imminent. Council will have to inform NSW by December if it intends to apply for the rate increase.

Palerang Council remains keener than Queanbeyan *not* to be amalgamated.

The feeling is that Palerang constituencies would lose their voice for rural and peri-urban concerns and that merging two weaker councils does not necessarily improve the budget bottom line or community service.

— Maria Taylor

## Bungendore super-size supermarket gets nod

PALERANG Councillors voted 8–1 at the October meeting to accept revised concept plans from Krnc Bros Investment Pty Ltd for a supermarket complex on four blocks facing the Kings Highway west of the Caltex station.

The original plan had been knocked back in April because a majority of councillors felt that it did not adequately blend with the existing architectural style of the village. At the same time it was a complying development so council was taking a risk by demanding changes.

They succeeded in having the original concrete box design softened with some heritage façade features and other improvements to the site design.

Where to from here is up to the developer who has five years to make something happen on the site. The *Bulletin* understands that the Krnc group has been conducting extended consultations with Metcash, parent company of IGA supermarkets. However reportedly no agreements have yet been signed and it is still possible that another supermarket chain would vie to come to the area.

The dissenting vote was by Councillor Garth Morrison who said he is worried about the effect on Gibraltar Street if the supermarket and liquor store move from there. ■

### RURAL POST OFFICES

from p1

Australia Post's recent positive income from a focus on parcels was seen as justifying the astronomical paycheck for the CEO.

Angela Cramp from the Licensed Post Office Proprietor organisation told the 7.30 Report that the top 10 executives at Australia Post earn more than \$20 million per year and the organisation pays over \$880 million in dividends to the government.

Senator Xenophon and Queensland LNP

Senator Barry O'Sullivan, a driving force in the Senate investigation, are asking for urgent government action particularly relating to a fair return for services at the coalface and an effective dispute resolution process.

"The trading conditions imposed by Australia Post on its own LPO network are unacceptable and ultimately self-defeating for an organisation serious about fulfilling its universal service obligations," said Xenophon. The question remains, does Australia Post accept that obligation. ■



# The status quo won't do: protest mounts on climate change and coal

TENS of thousands took to the streets of Australia and half a million joined around the world on Sunday 21 September in climate rallies urging governments to take action together to lower the severe risks of climate change. Australia's backward performance compares to pledges of deep cuts in emissions by other countries at the following national leaders climate change summit in New York (not attended by Tony Abbott).

In Canberra, a rally organised by the Youth Climate Coalition and



Rally for the climate and disinvestment from coal.

350.org at the Australian National University, (supported by many of the youths' elders) focused on disinvestment from coal and other fossil fuel industries and the banks and other institutions that support them.

## Bike ride for the whole family, see wind and solar power in action, get great views and exercise!

### Ride 4 Renewables at Capital wind farm Sunday 19 October

George the Bull, who made a submission to the review panel of the Renewable Energy Target, will be present as a spectator. Sponsored by Infigen Energy, the 15km family fun ride starts at 9am from Currandooley Road and finishes with a sausage sizzle provided by the Bungendore Men's Shed.

Registration is essential. For safety reasons only mountain bikes and hybrid bikes are permitted. Register via [http://bit.do/Ride\\_4\\_Renewables](http://bit.do/Ride_4_Renewables)

### Ride 4 Renewables

Where? Capital wind farm, see the map <http://goo.gl/q71WgS>

\*\*\*

### Run with the Wind fun run hosted by Infigen Sunday 26 October

- What? 5km and 10km fun run
- When? Start 10.30am, Sunday 26 October 2014
- Where? Woodlawn wind farm, see the map <http://goo.gl/q71WgS>

This popular event has been organised with the help of Veolia, the landowner, and Servion, who provide operations and maintenance services. Net proceeds from ticket sales go to the Tarago Landcare Group's Save the Lumley Road Trees project.

Register at <http://runwiththewind.com.au>.



Above: Bill Ryan, a 92-year-old, vision-impaired combat veteran is still battling the forces of destruction. He travelled to Canberra to urge action

support coal. Recent investment advice indicates this is not a bad move as savvy investors question the future of fossil fuel returns.

Consumers can buy into renewable energy alternatives, and besides solar power on the roof, that could mean switching to an energy retailer offering renewable powered electricity. Momentum and Red are two such retailers offering hydro. The ACT aims to be 95 percent renewable energy powered, relying also on regional wind resources.

on the massive Whitehaven coal mine development in the Leard State Forest near Narrabri. At stake is habitat for koala, masked owl and other vulnerable species, contamination and destruction of water and farm land on the Liverpool Plain and bad health effects for neighbouring farmers.

A growing coalition of Australians from all walks of life are protesting and getting arrested at the Maules Creek site of the Whitehaven mine. See [www.frontlineaction.org/news](http://www.frontlineaction.org/news) for images of the latest mass protests and arrests as people chain themselves to gates and machinery. To read what is at stake as defined by the locals go to [www.maulescreek.org](http://www.maulescreek.org).

Write to NSW Planning Minister Pru Goward and Environment Minister Rob Stokes urging them to reject the biodiversity management plan of the Whitehaven mine (previously associated with Nathan Tinkler of ICAC renown) and to investigate the process for mine approval. Details about the biodiversity challenge at websites above.

**Pru Goward MP** – Minister for Planning, Ph 9228 5413, [office@goward.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@goward.minister.nsw.gov.au).

**Rob Stokes MP** – Minister for the Environment, Ph 9228 5253, [office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au).

## Coal and coal seam gas industries pose 'profound risks to health' by Jenny Goldie

AUSTRALIA'S leading public health organisations fear that the profound health risks posed by the expansion of coal mining and export and coal seam gas development are being ignored in public decision making and have called for radical policies. To bring harmful polluting emissions down, they recommend an increase in the Renewable Energy Target to 60% (from 20%) and an emissions reduction goal of 50% from 1990 levels (compared with the government target of 5% on 2000 levels) by 2020.

The organisations, which include the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) and the Public Health Association (PHA), have released a

hard-hitting position paper *Health and Energy Choices*.

The paper says that decisions about energy are being made on the inaccurate assessment of costs and benefits. It says the economic benefits of fossil fuel projects in Australia are frequently overstated while the externalised costs to health, the environment and climate are overlooked or ignored.

### Cancer, cardiovascular disease and more associated with pollutants

Studies elsewhere have shown that localised pollutants associated with

the exploration and production of energy from fossil fuels contribute to cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological, reproductive, endocrine and kidney disorders, and cancer.

A report from Greenpeace in February about air pollution emissions from the 16 coal-fired power plants in South Africa claims that fine particulate matter causes up to 2,200 premature deaths every year, including 200 deaths of young children. The economic cost to society is 30 billion rand (AUD3 billion) per year.

Cont'd next page

Go to [www.districtbulletin.com.au](http://www.districtbulletin.com.au) for more 'Climate Watch' updates in the coming weeks





# Galahs are bringing their circus to Queanbeyan and Bungendore

GALAHS are starting to show off and perform for their partners all over Australia, as they get ready for the breeding season. Whether they are hanging out upside-down or playing soccer with pebbles on the ground, you will see plenty of playful activities at the moment.

“While often associated with noisy flocks, the galah will be spending more time in pairs playing the goofy, loved-up parent around this time of year,” said Susanna Bradshaw, CEO of the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. “Towards the end of winter galahs begin renovations and interior decorating of their nest hollows for the arrival of their eggs.

“Because many galahs live in dry, arid parts of Australia, they spend much of the day sheltering in the shade of big trees. This might be where they developed their highly social, almost human, personalities as they entertain each other during the long, hot hours.”

“Similar to humans, this pretty-in-pink parrot will often mate for life and both parents will take turns raising their babies. When the kids grow up they also have the same habit of occasionally sticking around the family home too long, resulting in some cunning parenting tactics to encourage them into the big, wide world.”

## There are plenty of creative options for living more harmoniously with galahs

Leave big, old trees in your garden (as long as they don't pose a safety risk) so that galahs have somewhere to nest and socialise. By giving galahs areas of your garden where they are allowed to feed or chew wood, they

should leave other places alone.

If you love having these characters in your garden, it's worthwhile installing a bird bath as galahs never stray too far from water and love playing in it.

## Great galah gossip

The galah can breed with other cockatoos such as the sulphur-crested, the corella and the Major Mitchell's. There are even reports of the galah and the little cockatiel producing offspring. See if you can spot these rare, unusual looking birds in a flock.

In the wild galahs usually live 25–30 years; however as pets they can live for up to 80 years.

While not a migratory species, galahs can travel large distances (over 50km) in search of food, often returning to the same roost sites each night. Galahs are strong, fast flyers and can reach speeds exceeding 70 km/hr.

The male and female galahs look almost identical except for their eyes. The females have red eyes and the males have brown or black eyes. Now that you know this tip you



Neerav Bhatt

will be spotting them left, right and centre.

## For more information

Consult the *Atlas of Living Australia* for bird species in our area

Backyard Buddies is a free program run by Australia's Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. Each month you get a Backyard Buddies email (B-mail) with tips to make your backyard inviting and safe for native animals. Galahs featured in August B-mail. Sign up for B-mail and download a free factsheet about Galahs at [www.backyardbuddies.net.au](http://www.backyardbuddies.net.au). ■

# Letters ...

We reserve the right to ask letter writers to cut back, or to decline to publish.



## Terrible event: Bungendore's first fire of season



LATE on Tuesday evening (30th Sept, a blustery and warm evening) Bungendore had a terrible start to the new fire season when – tragically – a home was destroyed by fire on Burrow's road.

I noticed the fire from the King's Hwy while driving home from work. After calling it in to the emergency services I went to the property and found that I was the first person there and that the owner was trying to put the fire out.

After helping him from the fire and smoke, and checking that there was no-one else in the house, I stood with him and watched and waited for emergency services as fire engulfed his home and destroyed it.

Having never seen a house fire before, I was struck by two things: the speed at which the fire took hold of the building; >>

## PROFOUND RISKS TO HEALTH

Australia's health position paper also notes that fossil fuel energy production releases large amounts of greenhouse gases which are the main drivers of climate change. Climate change, it says, is already increasing premature death and illness, mainly in developing countries but Australia is also vulnerable.

*Costs of climate damages on health, as well as on economic growth, environmental systems, and security are up to \$39 billion annually.*

from p5

change. Climate change, it says, is already increasing premature death and illness, mainly in developing countries but Australia is also vulnerable.

According to the Climate Institute, in a report released the same week, the costs of climate



damages on health, as well as on economic growth, environmental systems, and security amount to around \$39 billion annually. This is effectively a subsidy for the fossil fuel-based energy industry that does not have to pick up those costs.

Meanwhile, the health professionals are concerned that burning more than 20% of known reserves of fossil fuels will push global warming beyond the 2°C limit agreed by the international community. Worryingly, on current trends, that 20% will be burnt within 15 years.

They warn that Australia is not acting with sufficient speed or commitment locally or globally to avoid catastrophic climate

change. Indeed, the three-member CAHA contingent at the UN Climate Summit in New York on 23 September said in a press release that the Prime Minister's decision not to attend the Summit was “a slap in the face for the millions of Australians who want effective action on climate change”. They said the government's failure to rule out stronger emissions cuts was a “blow to Australia's

international reputation as a good global citizen”.

According to the position paper, the technology is already there for Australia to produce all its energy from renewable sources and the global community must move to a carbon free economy in the next 20 years.

## Carbon price should factor in health costs

The health professionals have called on the federal government to end all subsidies to the fossil fuel sector including the provision of infrastructure and increase the carbon price so it accurately reflects the total costs associated with emitting each tonne of greenhouse gases, including all health costs.

Also in September, the federal government released its Energy Green Paper that focuses on fossil fuels, perhaps illustrating the complaint by the health professionals that energy decisions are being made without taking into account the full costs to health and environment. ■

## Early warnings when others were quiet, death of climate-health expert

THE Canberra community and climate-health professionals world-wide are mourning the sudden death of Emeritus Professor Tony McMichael, former Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at ANU. He worked with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank on the environmental and climatic risks to health. He was an elected member of the US National Academy of Science.

Tony was a man of great integrity, intellect, humour, warmth and humanity and will be greatly missed, personally as well as professionally.

— Jenny Goldie



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<< and the sheer energy generated by the fire. The fire evolved very quickly from a smallish, ground floor fire to an all out inferno. As the size of the fire increased, the stability of the building decreased. Within a few minutes of arriving I saw and heard windows shattering, walls coming down and the roof collapsing. Despite fast and excellent work by the fire brigade, the home was destroyed very, very quickly.

The energy of the fire was so intense that the owner and I had to stand some way back to avoid the heat and the smoke. We watched as structures nearby caught fire and gas bottles exploded. It was a horrible thing to watch a person's home and belongings be destroyed. From this experience I have just one message. My message to all of you is to be prepared this summer and have a fire survival plan.

Above all else, be willing to leave before conditions become too dangerous. This owner was lucky. He noticed the fire early and was able to get out before it was too late.

— Garth Morrison, Bungendore

## Queanbeyan City Council disrespects Aboriginal people in consultation process

THE Queanbeyan City Council (QCC) seems to be hell bent on doing its best to build a road, the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) that the community does not want.

At a recent community organised forum (24 August), over 70 members of the community gathered to discuss Queanbeyan Region Transport needs. These community members came from a variety of backgrounds and represented over 10 different community groups, including the Aboriginal community.

The consistent theme across all groups was concern over the poor approach that has been followed by the QCC in consulting with the community. In attendance was Mayor Tim Overall, who commented along the lines that the QCC did listen to the community and was committed to ensuring proper consultation on the EDE occurred.

Recent events call into question this commitment to genuinely consult with the community. On 19 September, the QCC published an Aboriginal Heritage notice for the EDE. This notice invites submissions from Aboriginal persons and organisations holding cultural knowl-

edge relevant to the Queanbeyan Area.

This notice states submissions must be received within **14 days from the date of notice**. This means that the notice was published on the last day of the NSW school term and that the time for consultation falls entirely over the school holiday period.

Fourteen days may be the required period for consultation but clearly it is not enough time for genuine community input. To make matters worse, setting the Aboriginal Heritage notice to start when people will be taking a break is just not good enough. QCC has been working on this proposed road project for five years yet it offers the community just 14 days to provide feedback on this particular element.

Once again, it is a clear example of the QCC deciding that it will do what it wants, when it wants. This is clearly a poor practice but it is particularly disrespectful of the Aboriginal community.

— Asha Gare, Queanbeyan

## Response to Capital Watch Kudos for former mental health teams

STEVE Whan's concerns (*Capital Watch September*) about the mental health services in the Queanbeyan region, which I understand extends out to Braidwood and beyond, strike a chord with me. I worked as a clinical psychologist in the Queanbeyan Mental Health Team from 2004 to 2008, and I fondly remember how much the team cared for our clients. I loved the job.

There were problems, but many were outside the team's control. I was frequently told the team was one-third understaffed, but no attempts were ever made to fill those vacancies. In my whole time there, we scribbled barely legible notes into paper files.

Meanwhile, a computer program was rolled out to monitor staff activity and performance, interesting priorities, where managerial information with a significant administrative overhead, was more important than clinical information.

Because of the paper file system, clients moving to or from another area, or into the ACT, would frequently fall through cracks. Sometimes this literally had fatal consequences. Sometimes the consequence was not fatal, but very very negative. I would not be surprised if the paper file system is still in place.

Cont'd p15

## Palerang plan for zoning: updated framework of what can be developed and where

PALERANG'S long-awaited Local Environmental Plan (LEP) was finally published on the NSW Government Legislation website [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au) on Friday 19 September, with only minor changes to council's draft submitted earlier this year.

Most concerning to many residents was whether NSW would bow to pressure and change the zoning name for rural residential areas in response to a campaign that included Liberal Party stalwarts in Palerang, supported also by the Member for Monaro, John Barilaro. A significant disinformation campaign accompanied this effort that threatened to divide communities.

Despite intensive lobbying of new planning Minister Pru Goward by this group, the gazetted LEP shows the zones were accepted as council determined.

However Palerang councillors did bow to pressure from some large land-

holders and a majority voted to not use the E3 zone that would have provided greater environmental protection and a better description of some landscapes (ie bush not farmland). This is a matter that still concerns some councillors and may be addressed in the upcoming rural study.

A Development Control Plan (DCP) is now going through the council process. It spells out in greater detail developmental controls like tree removal, fencing standards, what can be built on hilltops etc. ■



Member for Monaro John Barilaro gave good citizenship awards to Mike Cramsie (centre) and Keith Gascoine who headed the campaign against zoning with environment in the name.

## 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 September 2014**

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.2014.129	Dual Occupancy – Manufactured Home	03/09/2014	Lot 6 Sec 6 DP 758183 34 Modbury Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.165	Shed	04/09/2014	Lot 1 DP 786292 106 Newington Road BYWONG
DA.2014.160	Garage and Carport	04/09/2014	Lot 2 DP 836061 104 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.183	Shed	05/09/2014	Lot 17 DP 1141290 70 Yuranga Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2014.146	Dwelling and Garage	05/09/2014	Lot 1 DP 856752 1899 Cooma Road BENDOURA
DA.2013.075	Six (6) Lot Subdivision – Lot 6 (Conservation Area)	09/09/2014	Lot 1 DP 1040122 115 Goulburn Road MULLOON
DA.2014.191	Dwelling	09/09/2014	Lot 11 DP 1183239 916 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DA.2014.159	Continued Use of Rumpus Room and Pergola	09/09/2014	Lot 2 DP 1177362 1136 Bungendore Road BYWONG
DA.2014.200	Dwelling	09/09/2014	Lot 78 DP 1172245 12 Murray Grey Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.082	Dwelling – Dual Occupancy	10/09/2014	Lot 110 DP 754870 & Lot 73DP 754870 & Lot A DP 329423 45 Foxlow Street CAPTAINS FLAT
DA.2014.197	Alterations to Existing Dwelling	18/09/2014	Lot 37 DP 1141290 231 Birchmans Grove WAMBOIN
DA.2014.186	Dwelling, Garage and Shed	19/09/2014	Lot 605 DP 755901 460 Majors Creek Mountain Rd ARALUEN
DA.2014.184	Garage	22/09/2014	Lot 805 DP 1129595 16 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.177	Dwelling	23/09/2014	Lot 39 DP 872139 179 Creek Close OALLEN
DA.2014.173	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	23/09/2014	Lot 20 DP 852614 42–44 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.188	Dwelling	24/09/2014	Lot 2 DP 1059377 86 Neils Creek Road BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.174	Garage	24/09/2014	Lot 108 DP 246084 86 Malbon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.202	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	25/09/2014	Lot 29 DP 243625 145 Candy Road BURRA
DA.2014.199	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	25/09/2014	Lot 20 DP 260711 6 Radcliffe Circuit CARWOOLA
DA.2014.171	Dwelling	25/09/2014	Lot 12 DP 1076595 63 Roseview Road MOUNT FAIRY



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Fires, floods and heatwaves have all taken their toll, particularly where temperatures on average are higher.

### Honey production at 20-year low

While the industry is now worth \$88 million a year according to a new report by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, nationally honey production has fallen by half in recent years and is at a 20-year low, according to the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, blaming drought, delayed crop flowering and chemical sprays.

If bees have problems in the current climate, so will the rest of agriculture and horticulture. Most Australian crops need the industrious bee for pollination.

In a very real sense, 'Bees R Us' (as well as being a product label for Braidwood area beekeeper Scott Williams, featured in our September issue). Williams discussed another looming threat, the Varroa Mite, which has decimated hives around the world, leaving Australia as the sole 'clean' country to date.

James Kershaw said beekeepers can live with Varroa, but it means using chemical controls, something not desirable for the food supply.

Amongst his other duties, James is the youthful president of the southern NSW branch of the NSW Apiarist Association.

The association of 63 members includes 10 commercial growers and the rest hobbists, now numbering some 200 in the Canberra area.

Urban sprawl, whether Canberra's creeping suburbs or Palerang rural residential homesteads taking over pastures and bushland, pose another challenge.

And the average age of beekeepers also worries James. He and his brother are not the norm. The average age is more likely to be someone in their 50s, he said. Where is the next generation of beekeepers? Will hobbists step up to a labour and infrastructure intensive business? The Kershaws did it over generations.

On the bright side, James said that Australia is still better off than the US, where on a recent study tour he observed first hand the intensively-farmed, monoculture and chemical-laden cropping and bee industries, also bedevilled by Varroa Mite and the loss of bee food habitat.

He shook his head recounting his drive across what was once conservation prairie with flowering plants, recently ploughed up for cornfields for ethanol production. Corn is "bad for bees" and honey production. "I



**Left:** A bee swarm, gathering from the extraction shed, tries to enter a hive nearby.

**Middle:** James Kershaw – Sutton honey is sold to Beechworth Honey in Victoria.

**Right:** Mudguard on a Sterling Kershaw truck – spreading the message.

— Maria Taylor

drove for four days straight through a sea of cornfields," he said. Then he took this reporter on a tour of the honey extraction plant, saying the family is still undecided where they would take their bees for a feed the next day.

### Neonicotinoid chemicals: latest global threat to bees

WHEN the European Union slapped a two year ban on the widespread use of neonicotinoids in flowering crops to further assess impacts on bee populations, these chemicals joined the weather and other agro-chemicals in the front-line of concerns about bee health and pollination.

Charles Sturt University researcher Manu Saunders wrote about neonicotinoids in [theconversation.com.au](http://theconversation.com.au). The following is from her article and the rest can be found on the conversation website under *Neonicotinoid ban eases the stress on bees*. Another detailed wake-up call comes in the October 2014 issue of the *Organic Gardener* – *A dying Buzz*.

To date, Australian research on both honey bee impact and that on native pollinators is lacking.

Cont'd next page

## 18–19 October MURRUMBATEMAN FIELD DAYS

The Murrumbateman Field Days are the Capital Region's premier small farm field day event. Open 9am to 5pm Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday.

Now in their 36th year, the Murrumbateman Field Days bring together over 400 exhibitors, displaying the latest machinery, equipment and services to successfully run a small farm, and tempting your tastebuds with local wines and produce.

There is so much to see and do including: childrens' events, gardening advice, helicopter joy rides, antique machinery, meet farm animals, dog trials and live music all day.

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# THE NEXT HOT SPOTS

THEY'RE doing it in Burra and next month will start workshopping it in Mulloon.

What is it? The Hotspot Fire Project is an innovative concept, new to our region, teaching landholders about 'cool' patch burning for combining ecological objectives with lowering fire risk and increasing landholder education about fire. It is jointly managed by the NSW RFS, which also funds the program, in partnership with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Burra is piloting the Hotspots Program in the Lake George Zone said Sharon Field, Captain of the Burra Brigade.

"This is hands-on training that provides local residents with the skills and knowledge to actively participate in fire management for the protection of their property, while at the same time ensuring healthy productive landscapes in which animal and plant biodiversity is protected and maintained."

The hotspots program started with a more broadacre focus and is now gradually coming to lifestyle blocks. It offers two extensive workshops to interested landholders in participating fire brigade regions: an introduction in spring with a followup demonstration workshop in autumn.

Field said in Burra 30 landholders have been involved. The idea is that eventually they might have the confidence to conduct their own low intensity burns with the co-operation of the local brigade and support from the hotspots statewide program.

In this area that would be Phil Paterson, Environmental Officer (Hotspots) and ecologist Kevin Taylor for the Nature Conservation



People consider what is most appropriate for their property. It might not even be fire. They learn about risk management and about the ecology of a fire-prone landscape where some plants need a bit of periodic fire for seeds to germinate or ground cover to be opened up.

At the second workshop in the autumn after an ecological assessment and learning about fuel loads, a demonstration burn is arranged at one landholder's property. Ambient temperature and cloudiness are part of the assessment.

"Typically people want to learn about fire, because we all have a



Council who conduct the workshops.

Paterson said at the first workshop landholders develop their own fire management plans with their neighbours (both public and private landholdings). They are given a big map of the property that locates things like water points, vegetation types.

fear component. The workshops make them more confident and comfortable with fire and that helps as well should there be a 'critical incident' (serious fire)," said Paterson.

"We just burn tiny patches," said Field. "It's quite different from making a line of fire with a drip torch that gives you a wall of flame. We learn to rake around habitat trees. The idea is to make a very cool burn that just tickles along to clean up rubbish." She said not much water at all is needed if done right.

She noted that tea tree thickets might be thinned by burning, or weed areas cleared for shy natives, both plant and animal, to return. "You find the green pick comes back for the 'roos and wallabies, the birds all come back and little lizards come out to investigate."

Field, like others, takes pleasure in such environmental outcomes, in her case also because she is a highly respected botanical artist in her day job.

For more information and case studies visit [www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au](http://www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au)

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### What are neonicotinoids?

Neonicotinoid are chemically similar to nicotine and they act as a nerve agent on insects. They were developed for commercial use in the 1990s, and are now some of the most-used chemicals in the world. They can be applied to grown plants or trees, or to seeds. The chemical is taken up by the growing plant and becomes part of its structure (its roots, leaves, nectar or pollen), so an insect that nibbles on any part of the plant will get a dose of neonicotinoid in its meal.

These doses may not kill the insect immediately, but over time, repeated ingestion of the chemical will build up in the insect's system and affect its health, behaviour and reproductive success.

### How do neonicotinoids affect pollinators?

Research combining laboratory and field methods have provided conclusive evidence against various neonicotinoids. Honeybees exposed to thiamethoxam were more likely to get lost while foraging and not arrive home — this reduces the colony's food stores and the survival potential of the hive. Honeybees dosed with imidacloprid also did less "waggle dancing" in the hive, which is how bees communicate the location of food sources to the colony — less dancing means less food collected.

Bumble bee colonies exposed to imidacloprid also struggled — treated colonies showed reduced growth rates and queen production was 85% less than in untreated colonies.

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## At the Flicks with Judy Thompson

# Moral dilemma and Woody Allen's latest

**Felony** is an Australian film written by Joel Edgerton starring Joel Edgerton as the main character Malcolm.

The film opens as Malcolm, a young family man and committed police officer is shot during a tense but successful drug bust. His bulletproof vest saves him.

After a celebration at the pub with colleagues he drives home and knocks a boy off his bicycle. The boy is critically injured.

In the confusion and shock after the accident, Malcolm is not honest about his part in this event. The consequences of this eat at Malcolm throughout the film.

An older detective Carl, played by Tom Wilkinson, arrives on the scene with his offside, a young officious crusader, Jim, played by Jai Courtney. Carl manages to distract Jim with some tasks related to the accident while he 'helps' Malcolm by actively preventing a thorough investigation of the incident, and coaching him on what to say. He does this because he is "one of us".

Jim meanwhile suspects a cover-up and visits the boy and his young attractive mother in the hospital. The crusader starts to look a bit grubby.

Malcolm's wife becomes involved when he remorsefully confides in her. She views the situation from the perspective of her duty to her own sons.

The dramatic climax occurs when the three men meet to discuss the incident. All

three have different views on the consequences of the accident and the cover up. Another dilemma surfaces.

While all three have behaved badly at some point they are all basically likeable and well-intentioned. But there is that proverb about the road to hell and good intentions.

You may be pleased to hear this is not a shoot-em up, car chase film but a mature film dealing with difficult issues honestly.

Paul MacInnes in his review for *The Guardian* says that the men in the film are not "raging bulls but stoic oxen who deal with their conflicts internally".

Reviews are generally positive. Highly recommended.



**Magic in the Moonlight** is the latest by the prolific Woody Allen.

Colin Firth does a Mr Darcy again, but this time in the 1920s as Stanley Crawford. Stanley is a sarcastic, sceptical, pompous, egotistical magician who delights in exposing the chicanery of mystics and clairvoyants.

The setting is a toned-down Baz Luhrmann *Great Gatsby* style with lovely vintage cars, 1920s costumes and very nice French real estate.

Stanley's old school friend asks him to help expose a young American 'mystic' called Sophie Baker. Sophie and her mother



are proposing to relieve a wealthy widow of some funds. Jacki Weaver plays the wealthy scatterbrained widow. She does it very well.

There are the usual Woody Allen relationship themes. The ease with which Sophie initially dupes Stanley lacks credibility but perhaps that is where the 'magic in the moonlight' comes in.

Many critics also mention the lack of chemistry between Stanley and Sophie. The best scenes are with Stanley and his aunt which one reviewer has described as reminiscent of PG Wodehouse.

Critics of the film, including *The Sydney Morning Herald* reviewer, feel that Woody Allen "could do better" and is rushing to achieve one film per year at some cost to film quality. He has had some big legal bills.

All that said, if you are looking for some lightweight frivolity this could be just the ticket. ■

## Antique Chat

### 'Cut to dazzle'

The ADFAS (Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society) Molonglo Plains recently hosted a very interesting lecture titled *Cut to Dazzle – Rise of English Cut Glass Crystal 1700–1831*. The lecture was presented by Caroline MacDonald-Haig who is a qualified Blue Badge Guide and conducts personalised tours through the great museums, galleries and royal palaces in Britain and America.

Mrs MacDonald-Haig explained that the Romans brought the closely-guarded secret of glassmaking to Britain during their occupation, but they did not share

the arcane knowledge of the craft with the indigenous population. The first evidence of a native glass industry in England is in 680 AD, with further glassmaking centres in operation by the thirteenth century in several areas throughout England.

In London in the 1660s luxury glass was imported from Venice. The 'recipe' for such glass was closely guarded and was known to only two people at a time as it was handed down through generations.

The first major milestone in the development of glass in London occurred in 1675. George Ravenscroft, an English merchant who had spent some time in Venice, and had traded in glass from the island of Murano, began to experiment with new form-

ulas for glass. His intent was to improve English glassware to compete with European, especially Venetian, products.

He set up his glassworks on the north bank of the Thames at the Savoy in 1673. There he began his experiments, and eventually discovered that replacing part of the volume of silica in the glass with lead oxide, called 'red lead', enhanced the properties of transparency, purity and lustre in the glass. Thus was born English lead crystal, called so because of its similarity to the natural quartz stone commonly known as 'rock crystal'.

It is the considered opinion of most experts on glass that the cut glass made during the Regency (between about 1800 >>

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## Cool and hot music coming to Iron Bar

TWO brilliant performers will entertain in October and early November at the Iron Bar, Goolabri, (look for sign off Federal Highway near Sutton). Murrumbateman folk rock singer **Matt Dent** will be performing on 19 October, and the

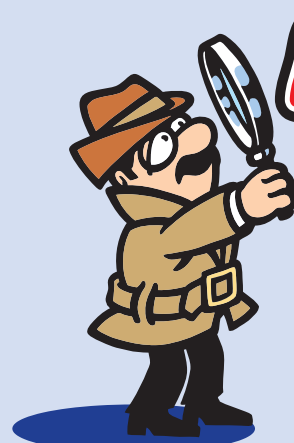


'African James Brown', **Afro Moses**, will be performing on November 2.

Matt Dent blends Aussie pub rock, with a more traditional folk sound reflecting a cultural reawakening in Australia and around the world and a move away from disposable, mass-marketed music. He draws inspiration from such greats as Paul Kelly, Neil Finn, Aussie Crawl and Hunters and Collectors. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/mattdent.songs/info>.

**Afro Moses** was born in Ghana, and hit the charts as a teenager. He is labelled as 'the African James Brown' and has stunned audiences right across the globe. Expect passion, colour, energy, powerful messages, and dancing.

For more information visit: [www.afromosesojah.com](http://www.afromosesojah.com).



**Mystery Motor Tour**

**Saturday 11 October**

9:00am-3:00pm  
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Observation Car Rally with a detective theme

Prizes, food stalls and entertainment

Save on early bird registration or \$25 per car on the day.

Register via message on [Bungendore Show Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bungendoreshow) or to [secretary@bungendoreshow.com.au](mailto:secretary@bungendoreshow.com.au)

More details p14 >





# Getting ready for ‘Sunset’ at The Q: riveting

Pauline Richards sits in on a musical rehearsal and tells us the plot

LAST Sunday, with less than two weeks until the opening night of the musical *Sunset Boulevard* at The Q theatre in Queanbeyan, the considerable creative energy of the musicians, actors and production members at their first combined cast and orchestra rehearsal could surely have powered the building. This could be felt simply

Daniel Wells as Joe Gillis and Bronwyn Sullivan as Norma Desmond. Photo Lauren Sadow.

by opening the door into the foyer where cast members were traversing their voices through music scales in preparation for the imminent rehearsal. Over and over their lovely voices climbed the scales, reminiscent of incantations sung in churches. Through the next door, the concert theatre was abuzz with the orchestra musicians tuning their instruments and warming up, Music Director Sharon Tree re-examining the score and production staff checking electronic and other essential wizardry, everyone intent on the work at hand. All good fun into the bargain by the look and sound of it.

It is an exhilarating experience to witness the creation of art and at the *Sunset Boulevard* rehearsal at The Q it was riveting. Once the cast and orchestra were assembled in the concert theatre the rehearsal began with everyone introducing themselves and their respective characters or instruments.

The rehearsal itself was intense and concentrated, refinements of the performance discussed and applied on the spot. From my seat in the theatre the atmosphere was vibrant, collegiate, focussed and good humoured.

## For those who missed the classic film

The musical *Sunset Boulevard* originated in 1950 in the film of the same name. Billy Wilder and Charles Blackett co wrote the filmscript, Wilder directed it and Blackett produced it. Gloria Swanson, a former star of silent films played the role of Norma.

The film was nominated for eleven Academy Awards, including all acting categories and won three of them. It is ranked by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films of the 20th century and was deemed “culturally, historically, or aes-

thetically significant” by the US Library of Congress.

In 1993 Don Black, Christopher Hampton and Andrew Lloyd Webber adapted the film into a musical. Black and Hampton wrote the lyrics and Lloyd Webber composed the music. The musical has since toured extensively internationally. It opened at The Q in Queanbeyan on Wednesday 8 October for a three week season.

The story is that of a neurotically self-obsessed former star of silent films, Norma Desmond, whose career foundered when sound was incorporated into films. More than 30 years after her days as a screen idol, Norma lives in an architectural reflection of herself, a crumbling mansion on Sunset Boulevard.

Her devoted former husband, Max, is now her butler. In a poignant expression of his love for Norma, Max writes and sends her fake fan mail, feeding her mountainous vanity.

In an attempt to revive the glory days of her film career, Norma writes a poor quality film script, ‘*Salome*’ with herself delusionally in mind to play the beautiful sixteen-year-old temptress. An encounter with a young screen writer, Joe Gillis encourages Norma to engage him in the promotion of ‘*Salome*’ to Hollywood producers.

Seeing the opportunity in Norma’s offer to appropriate her money to pay out his heavy and pressing debts, Joe accepts Norma’s offer as well as her invitation to move in to her home. The consequences of this very bad idea are explosive and tragic.

NOW at The Q for a three week season.

> Queanbeyan is seeking community Board members for The Q, see p14

<< and 1830) is some of the finest ever produced by English glassmakers. These years were so influential in the history of glass because technical innovations in the glass industry over the decades immediately preceding the dawn of the nineteenth century came together to make possible the splendid extravagance of Regency cut glass. By the 1740’s the furnaces had been improved so that large batches of glass could be heated to higher temperatures, yielding a finer, clearer glass. About the same time the ‘tunnel Lehr’ was introduced, which significantly improved the annealing, or controlled cooling, which is so critical in the process and resulted in finished glassware which was much more resistant to the cutting wheel. For the remainder of the eighteenth century, the cutting wheel, or lathe, used to cut glass was most often driven by hand. But this low-powered, low-speed lathe did not allow very deep cuts in the glass.

The labour-intensive nature of the usual power source for the lathe, a large flywheel operated by women or boys, also meant that the glass cutters tended to be fairly sparing with the number of cuts they made in each object. A very few of the larger glass houses did have water-powered lathes, though that did not provide much more power or speed than a hand-driven lathe. But that all changed when the steam-powered glass-cutting lathe came into use and deeper, more intricate cutting was made possible. It was then possible to cut deep prisms, fans, strawberry diamonds, hobnails and sprigs into the clear glass. The in-

creased number of deep cuts over the surface of the glass released the radiant fire in its depths, taking such objects to the pinnacle of English cut glass work.

Mrs MacDonald-Haig complemented her lecture with a series of slides showing beautiful examples of crystal through the period including chandeliers, high goblet glasses, jelly glasses, jugs, vases and of course, David’s favorite, decanters – just stunning.

Till next time, check out my website at [www.anniescollectables.com.au](http://www.anniescollectables.com.au) for some of the beautiful crystal I have available for your special occasion.

— Annie (Joyce)

Antique Chat  
with ‘Annie’ Joyce Nordsvan

## Top pianist coming to Lerida Wine, Roses and all that Jazz Festival

ONE of the most sought-after musicians in the Canberra region, pianist Sally Greenaway, will be performing at Lerida Estate Winery with Scott Temby on bass, and Matthew Ricketts on trombone in early November. They will play a mix of popular jazz standards, including music by Cole Porter, Gershwin, Frank Sinatra, and Glenn Miller. Greenaway has performed jazz piano at the London Chopin Festival, and on Liberace’s famous rhinestone-covered grand piano. She regularly performs around the Canberra region and further afield at jazz festivals. Sally Greenaway often features as a guest artist with music ensembles, including the Melbourne Composers Big Band and Canberra’s Moochers Inc. She recently collaborated with Australian soprano Louise Page to bring audiences a new twist on Gershwin and Cole Porter standards.

**Wine, Roses and all that Jazz Festival on Saturday 1, and Sunday 2 November. More details, see ad below.**

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# Allergies or neuroses: Over-grooming is a common problem

with Heike Hahner

OVER the last four years I have been hosting *Pet Tales* on Canberra Radio 2CC on some Sunday mornings filling in for the vet. Over the years I have had the opportunity to discuss an eclectic mixture of issues with our listeners. Some of the more frequently discussed issues would be barking, jumping up, destroying things and over-grooming in pets.

Over-grooming means that the pet licks or chews a body part, and sometimes objects, obsessively. In the case of body parts they may groom a leg or a flank until they have removed all the hair and are drawing blood.

Over-grooming issues can be tricky to deal with as there can be a number of causes for the problem. Here are some suggestions on how to possibly address the issue.

How long has the behaviour been going for? Is it seasonal, all year round or appears at random?

Have you changed their diet? Have you used any chemicals, such as house cleaners, weed sprays, insect repellents or insecticides in or near their resting or playing areas?

Has your dog been exposed to fleas, ants or other biting insects? Do you have any plants in your garden, grasses, etc. that may cause an allergic reaction in your pet?

What breed is your dog or cat? Some breeds are more prone to this behaviour than others. At this time of year we would always suggest to check the pet for external parasites. Ticks, fleas and mites all cause skin irritations and may result in the pet chewing furiously. Checking for the little blood suckers and getting rid of these is a priority.

Diet is the next thing to address. It is not uncommon that dogs may be allergic to

wheat or corn-based diets, additives like food colours or preservatives. You can find dog foods without these things.

Once their diet is changed there may be a quick improvement of the skin condition. Should you suspect that your dog was exposed to garden or household chemicals please see your vet immediately.

Once all the physical causes for skin allergies and itchiness have been eliminated, you may need to look at psychological reasons for over-grooming.

Over-grooming is a common behaviour trait in some breeds of dogs and cats. Many of the long-haired breeds may be very prone to skin allergies as their coats collect dust, dirt, grass seeds and other irritants. Once they start the grooming it may become a habit for them to keep chewing even though all the irritants have been removed.

Some dogs keep on over-grooming as the

owner pays attention to the behaviour by saying "Don't do that". So ignoring the dog's licking may actually help the dog to stop engaging in the behaviour. Distracting the dog with activities, such as toys and chewy treats may also help.

And finally there is the boredom factor. Some dogs may become obsessed with self-grooming as they are actually lonely and lacking stimulation in their lives.

Providing them with more entertainment, such as walks, toys, staying with a neighbour or a family friend and regular outings may see an easing in the behaviour. ■

## The good, the bad, and the unlikely: Australia's Prime Ministers

Book review by Nick Goldie

JOURNALIST and political commentator Mungo MacCallum has been around for as long as most of us have been reading newspapers. Who remembers *The Nation Review*, lean and nosy like a ferret, with those early Leunig cartoons?

Several books and many columns later, Mungo MacCallum has a new book which deals with his first love: politicians, power, and the bizarre quirks of human nature which drive them all. He is uniquely qualified for the task.

In his opening paragraphs, MacCallum notes that as a nation we have had a very large number of Prime Ministers (28). Perhaps, he suggests, this reflects the dynamism of a young bustling country – "or perhaps Australians just have a short attention span".

He notes that his own lifetime spans fifteen Prime Ministers – more than half – and that "I have known twelve of them and been on first-name terms with eleven. I offer this as my credential for presum-

ing to write about them in less than worshipful tones – that and my life-long fascination with the political process."

The early chapters deal with the founders and the federationists: Barton, Watson, Reid, Fisher, Cook – all those Canberra suburbs. What is remarkable is how much of today's Australia was set in place in those early years such as the High Court, and the Conciliation and Arbitration legislation. The Australian Labor Party for the first time held an absolute majority and the anti-Labor groups were finally rebadged as the Coalition.

MacCallum, as a good journalist, loves an anecdote, and even better, a punchy bit



of repartee. "What are you going to call it?" asks a heckler, pointing at George Reid's huge belly. "If it's a boy, I'll call it after myself," answers Reid. "If it's a girl, I'll call it Victoria. But if, as I strongly suspect, it's nothing but piss and wind, I'll name it after you!"

And Andrew Fisher, brought up in Scotland as a member of the 'Wee Frees', a particularly severe branch of the Presbyterian Church. They were, says MacCallum, "the kind of Calvinists of whom it used to be said that they disapproved of sex because it might lead to dancing."

*The Good, the Bad and the Unlikely* hits two targets. It's a ready reference for anyone who is interested in a particular Prime Minister: "Who was Earle Christmas Grafton Page? And what did he do anyway?" But it is also a comprehensive history of Australia since Federation.

Much of this is history by allusion. What a lot can be learned about Australia by the early career of "Black Jack" McEwen, who, almost a boy, became eligible for a soldier-settler's grant. "He convinced the authorities to give him thirty-eight hectares of untilled land in Victoria, and for the next

Cont'd p15

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# We seek him here, we seek him there...

**Robin Tennant-Wood** surveys Eden-Monaro representative Peter Hendy's one year record of interacting with small business and the community

A YEAR ago the voters of Eden-Monaro maintained the electorate's 'bellwether' status by electing a new federal member representing the incoming Abbott government. Dr Peter Hendy's election campaign was well-resourced by the Liberal Party, recognising the importance of winning the seat.

I interviewed Peter Hendy for the *Bulletin* in July last year, just two months before the election. At that interview he told me that he was "in [the election] for small business." He told me that small businesses in the region, the "lifeblood of our country

towns", were struggling because of the (former) Labor government and that the internet was having a huge impact.

He didn't offer any solution to this, just noted it as a problem. Later in the interview when I asked about the Liberal Party's internet and communications policy for the region, he spoke only about the former Howard government's plan to eliminate mobile phone black spots.

He also stressed at that interview that he was in favour of "sustainable expenditure on health, education and roads".

At the Braidwood Two Fires Festival, earlier in 2013, Hendy spoke as part of a panel with then Member for Eden-Monaro, Dr Mike Kelly, and Greens candidate, Catherine Moore. When pressed on the Liberals' approach to climate change he insisted that the party agreed with the

## Spectator POLITICA



with  
**Robin  
Tennant-  
Wood**

scientific position. "We're not anti-science", he stated at least twice in that discussion.

Since his election, Dr Hendy has become the Incredible Invisible Member.

Invisible to small business; invisible on matters of funding for health, education and roads; invisible on anything related to climate change; invisible to the electorate generally.

Peter Hendy warms a seat on the government benches and has ceased to appear in much of the electorate he represents, including the major centre of Queanbeyan.

Given the Abbott government's first budget, and its nonsensical attitude to climate change and renewable energy, Hendy's reluctance to appear in public is hardly surprising.

### Mining tax went along with small business concessions

If small businesses were struggling before, things have certainly not improved. When the government scrapped Labor's mining tax, they also abolished the tax concessions for small businesses linked to it, including the company loss carry-back provision, which allowed loss-making businesses to claim back tax they'd paid in previous profitable years. They also slashed the accelerated depreciation allowances or asset write-offs.

The proposed GP co-payment and changes to pensions will have a direct and adverse effect on Eden-Monaro's 10,500 pensioners, and the changes to higher education fees will make life a lot more difficult for rural school-leavers to attend university.

## When a 'green meeting' is 500 electors supporting renewable energy

When around 500 people attended a meeting in Queanbeyan on 10 September to discuss the federal government's proposed changes to the Renewable Energy Target (RET), Hendy was invited to attend, but declined, saying he "doesn't attend green meetings".

Perhaps he isn't aware that the renewable energy industry provides up to 15,000 regional jobs in solar alone. Maybe no one told him that over 15,000 small businesses across Australia have invested in solar energy through the installation of PV panels. Or that the small business solar PV and solar hot water companies still rely on renewable energy certificates sold to electricity retailers (who under the RET have to buy or support a certain amount of renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions).

Did no one mention to him that wind-farms in this electorate generate over 400 GWh of energy per year, much of which is bought by the ACT. With more wind projects proposed, this sector could provide permanent economic and energy sustainability to the region?

If no one told him any of these things, then they could at least have suggested that 500 constituents in one room wanting some answers on energy and economic sustainability for the region is not a 'green meeting'. It is a group of electors and provides a good opportunity for the local member to state the case of his government.

And maybe that's just the problem.

Keeping a low profile might be a way of deflecting hard questions, but the Invisible Member is becoming very conspicuous by his absence. ■

## Community radio and country living

# Meet Braidwood 94.5 FM

BRAIDWOOD Community Radio (2BRW 94.5 FM) is now enjoying its 12th year of operation. To understand the significance of community radio in the life of Australians generally, and in a small country town such as Braidwood in particular, it is important to have a few facts and figures under our belts.

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA), the peak body, has 270 member stations, while a further group of smaller organisations service approximately 100 stations. There are over 20,000 volunteer broadcasters and support staff and a national listening audience of 5.2 million each week

Adrian Basso, the President of the CBAA, made the following comment in August 2014 in the association's magazine. "When I wrote...last...it was just after the budget was released where we discovered community broadcasting was spared having its funding program 'abolished', as recommended by the Commission of Audit."

He continued, "While our federal funding never has any guarantees...it was encouraging that the government chose to continue its many years of support. This is a credit...to the services we provide for 29 percent of Australians who tune in every week".

### Braidwood ROUNDS



with  
**Jill  
McLeod**

Community television stations were not so fortunate and will only be licensed till the end of 2015.

As recently as September 3 community radio's national current affairs program *The Wire* spoke with Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Communications, who stated the Australian Government was supportive of community radio being part of a future digital radio framework.

### Australian music shines on community airwaves

In turn, community radio throws its support behind Australian music which it champions through CBAA's Australian Music Radio Airplay Project (AMRAP). Since September 2009, 39 percent of music aired on community radio is Australian, a 5 percent rise in the last five years, and 2,000 hours of Australian music is aired everyday nationwide.

AMRAP's distribution arm serves 4,200 Australian musicians and 2,427 broadcasters from 287 community stations order music, amounting to 245,251 tracks, to include in their programming.

But let's go back to Braidwood Community Radio (also known as the *Barbed Wireless*).

**The broadcast radius now extends to over 50kms**

Cont'd p15

## — LIVING WELL —

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## INVITATION

Learn how we can all help to:

- Build a resilient local food economy in the Canberra region
- Make local food more accessible by bridging the gap between producers and consumers, including discussions about a new regional producers market

The information session is hosted by Regional Development Australia Southern Inland in collaboration with numerous community groups working in the sustainability arena.

**When** 5.30pm for 6.00pm until 8.00pm, Wednesday 15 October 2014

**Where** Theatre, Lower Ground Floor, National Library of Australia, Parkes Place West, Canberra

**RSVP** By Friday 10 October

**Enquiries** Contact Donna on (02) 6297 0933 or [donna@rdasi.org.au](mailto:donna@rdasi.org.au)

Free parking available after 5pm. Light refreshments will be served.



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## Seeking legal and local government expertise for new rates committee

FOLLOWING a number of mistaken rates and charges to Queanbeyan households in the past six months, council has established an advisory committee going forward and is seeking nominations for several positions requiring professional expertise.

The Committee has been established to review the rates and charges Council levies for water consumption, water access, sewer access and domestic and business waste charges and the associated policies and procedures.

Expressions of interest are sought for two positions on the committee.

### Independent legal advisor:

*Applicants must have an understanding of the Local Government Act and Regulations. Applicants must not be a member of Queanbeyan City Council's legal panel, must not be representing any ratepayers who have received supplementary notices from Queanbeyan City Council and must not represent the Queanbeyan Residents and Ratepayers Association.*

### Experienced local government practitioner/administrator:

*Applicants must have a sound understanding of Local Government and the Local Government Act and Regulations.*

Deadline for nominations to the Rates and Charges Advisory Committee is Tuesday 18 October 2014.

The Rates and Charges Advisory Committee includes Cr Sue Whelan (chairperson), Cr Peter Bray, Cr Jamie Cregan and Cr Brian Brown.

### Applicants can apply

via email to [council@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qcc.nsw.gov.au), in mail to PO Box 90 Queanbeyan NSW or delivered in person to 257 Crawford St.

For further information on the committee visit [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au).

## Theatre lovers: consider nominating for The Q Board, nominations close 14 October

QUEANBEYAN City Council is seeking four community representatives to sit on The Q Board.

Council requires four representatives with relevant theatre and financial experience to sit on the Board for two-year term. Members of the Board must not be involved with any group or organisation that hires the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre. Membership of the Board is voluntary and members do not receive remuneration.

Other members of the Board will include Queanbeyan Mayor, Cr Tim Overall, Council's General Manager and the Chair of the Cultural Development and Public Arts Advisory Council, Cr Judith Burfoot. The Board will meet on a quarterly basis at a time determined by the Board.

"The mission of The Q Board is to enhance the cultural and economic development of Queanbeyan by optimising the attendance and use of the centre so that it becomes a key facility for the community which contributes to local well being and prosperity," Cr Tim Overall said.

The role of The Q Board is:

- To review the program of season touring productions and in-house productions selected by the Program Manager.
- To report to the Council on the financial performance of program operations and building operations, the patron attendance at the facility, the outcome of the season productions, commercial hires, community hires and other incidental uses.
- To promote the season of touring productions, in-house productions, amateur productions, and the venue for commercial and community hires, conferences and functions

to the local and regional community through their networks to increase utilisation and patron attendance.

- To oversee the future business planning for the arts centre and review progress on the five-year Business Plan annually.

"Since opening in 2008, the centre has grown into one of the state's best performing arts centres with up to 30,000 patrons attending annually. The Board provides an additional level of operational oversight and will also ensure The Q continues to grow into the future," said Cr Overall.

*Nomination forms and selection requirements can be downloaded from Council's website at [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au) or obtained from Council's Customer Service Centre at 257 Crawford St, Queanbeyan.*

**Deadline for nominations is Tuesday 14 October** and they can be emailed to [council@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qcc.nsw.gov.au), delivered to 257 Crawford St Queanbeyan or mailed to PO Box 90 Queanbeyan NSW.



*This magpie was raised from a baby and released. Photo: Philip Machin*

SPRING has arrived and Wildcare is preparing for the usual influx of baby birds that come into care at this time of the year, from September through to January. Most orphans are baby magpies, but there are plenty of others, such as rosellas, pee wees, plovers, swallows and the occasional kookaburra and wedge tailed eagle.

Wildcare's mission is to rescue, raise, rehabilitate and release native wildlife back into the wild. Check out our website at <http://www.wildcare.com.au>.



## Monster garage sale in the Flat

THE Captains Flat Community Garage Sale returns for the fourth consecutive year on **Saturday 18 October from 8am to 1pm**. Now a regular event in the Captains Flat calendar, the success of the garage sale is proof that 'one person's trash is another's treasure' and that there is no shortage of households with stuff to sell nor any shortage of those keen to bag a bargain.

For those who are less familiar with the concept of a 'Community Garage Sale', the idea is to encourage an entire village or town to hold multiple garage sales, all on the same day, all at

the same time. The addresses and details of the top three items for sale are organised on a map of the town so that visitors can plan their route around the sales (first-in, best-dressed as they say!).

As usual, maps will be available (for a gold coin donation) from the Fire Shed from 8am, where the Captains Flat Rural Fire Service will also be running a BBQ at very reasonable prices. Also making a return this year is the Markets' Plaza Theatre Café serving fresh coffee and tea outside the Community Hall, the proceeds of which will support a chosen charity.

Whether you're a garage sale tragic or are simply looking for a fun spring day out in a beautiful, historic location, make sure you put Saturday 18 October in your diary! Don't forget to come prepared with cash (no ATM facilities) and allow plenty of time to make the most of what is sure to be a great day.

— Kerenza Brown, on behalf of the Captains Flat Community Association

## Can you look after a baby?

We have a huge range of amazing bird-life in our region and it can be an absolute privilege to help raise a baby bird and release it back to the wild. Wildcare needs a few more volunteers and would love to hear from anyone who is mostly home during the day and is interested in caring for baby birds.

Magpies are the most common baby bird coming into care. And to give you an idea about what is required to look after them, they need feeding every couple of hours during the day with a mixture of mince and additives.

Fortunately they sleep at night! They grow quickly and after about 4 weeks they are ready to move on to a pre-release site where they only need feeding twice a day.

Other species have different requirements, but Wildcare can help with all the necessary training, support and equipment requirements.

### Wildcare needs birdcarers

Maybe you could help with rescues and temporary care too? Our 'hotspots' for incoming birds are Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Yass, where many of our members work during the day.

You could help by picking up the birds, usually from a vet or a member of the public, and caring for them until they can get to a permanent carer. If you think you may be interested, please contact

**Maryanne on 0411 422 897 or at [birds@wildcare.com.au](mailto:birds@wildcare.com.au)** for more information.

On a related note, many of the baby magpies (and other youngsters) that come into care each spring probably don't need to be 'rescued'. Fledgling magpies generally spend some time on the ground when they first leave the nest, while they are learning to fly, with mum and dad on guard close by.

Of course if they are injured or in imminent danger, we should help. One option is to place the fledgling on a branch out of danger – or even better in a bucket, with leaf litter in the bottom, and hang it from a nearby branch – and watch to see if the parents to return.

*If you need advice about baby birds, or any other native wildlife that needs help, contact Wildcare 24/7 on 6299 1966.*

## Art for Wildlife Gala Auction and Exhibition

November 1 – Café Woodworks Bungendore, 6pm

### Hedonism and Wildlife go together!



Exquisite, Original Treasures, Delicious, Tempting. A great night out at a great place.

That's what you get when artists and wildlife supporters meet naturally. Come and enjoy and bid for an original piece of art to help make a difference to wildlife.

Mix with special guests and artists whilst sipping delicious cold climate wines and tasting the innovative Gastro Nosh created by the gourmet guys at Café Woodworks and Eric's silver service team.

Special guests include SBS presenter Belinda Green, Dr Howard Ralph, MC Alistaire MacGibbon, auctioneer Ellie Merriman.

Generous artists: Helen Fitzgerald, 'botanical artist' Sharon Field, renowned Children's Laureate Jackie French and Bruce Whatley. Also Jo Hollier, artist and printmaker; Roger Poole, photographer; Kerry McInnis; Mike Macgregor; and Ian (Bill) McKenzie. Some are emerging as the new leading forces in the art world – such as award-winning exhibitor Joanne Barby, who is currently exhibiting at Woodworks Bungendore. Also pieces from Canberra glassworks; author-signed children's books; local quilters, wood works; and more.

Profits will go towards building a Mobile Wildlife Care Unit, staffed by volunteers, led by Dr Howard Ralph from the Southern Cross Wildcare Centre. Tickets from Café Woodworks Bungendore 6238 1688. Cindi or Heather [wallaroochase@gmail.com](mailto:wallaroochase@gmail.com) 0419 164 283. See updates on Facebook.

**Wildcare Training** – 2014 Snake Handling courses on 14/15 Nov and 5/6 Dec have a few places for new recruits and members of the public. Contact [training@wildcare.com.au](mailto:training@wildcare.com.au) or Laurel 6297 8806 for further information, to receive a flyer and to register.

## Shiny Bum Singers present a musical melodrama: Rampant Bureaucracy

FUNDRAISER for Pegasus, riding for the disabled. Afternoon tea by CWA. **When:** Saturday 1 November 1.30 to 4pm. **Where:** Weston Creek Community Centre, 8 Parkinson St Weston. Tickets \$15 cash only. **Contact:** Joan (CWA) 6281 4833; Annette (Shiny Bum Singers) 0412 101 543.

## Mystery Motor Tour: Saturday 11 October

FUNDRAISER for the 2015 Bungendore Show to fund some great entertainment.

Each car requires at least a driver and a navigator, but the more eyes the better in this battle of wits. Load up the kids or make up a team of friends and come along. Even better, come early and treat the team to a bacon and egg roll brekkie before the big event, to get those brain cells working.

For more info and contact details see ad p10.



## Total lunar eclipse this month

## Milky Way, galaxy central, moves to the west

OCTOBER is a transition time when the bright stars and vast Milky Way of winter start to give way to the fainter stars of spring. The Milky Way is starting to settle towards the west after sunset, with the bright red star Antares leading the way. Rising in the east to take it's place are blue white Fomalhaut and white Canopus.

Low in the north are white Vega and blue white Altair, with yellow Alpha Centauri completing the picture towards the south west.

The Milky Way we see defines the central disc of our galaxy. As the Milky

Way moves towards the west during spring we start to see the space around its southern pole. This provides a clear line of sight, and we can see many other more distant galaxies. Indeed, during spring, thousands of them are visible across the sky through backyard telescopes, visible as very faint smudges of distant light.

### The planets in October:

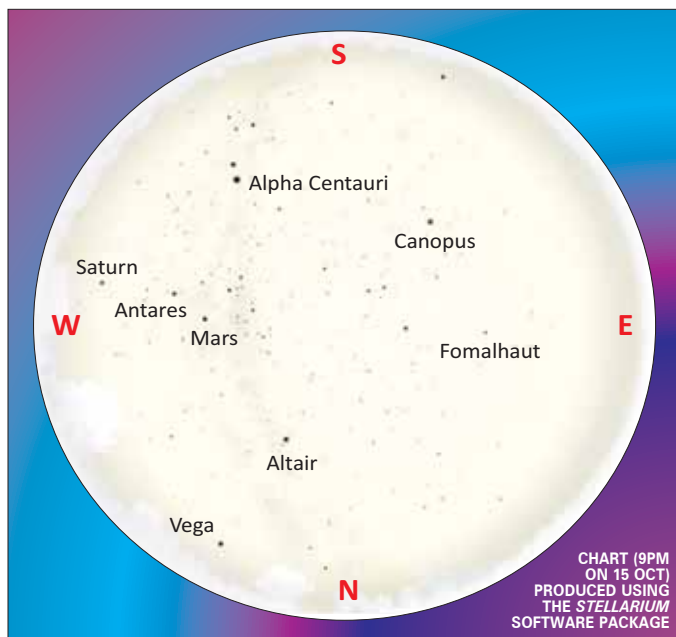
#### Mars and Saturn continue to shine

October, as per last month allows us a continued chance to see Mars and Saturn, shining in turn as reddish and yellowish 'stars' towards the west after sunset. In between the two is the red star Antares, in the constellation Scorpius.

Eagle-eyed people can also spot tiny Mercury, appearing as a fairly conspicuous white 'star' low in the west after sunset. Mercury moves very quickly, as it is the closest planet to the Sun, and will only be visible for the first part of the month.

## — Star Search —

with Dr David Weldrake



Jupiter and Venus are also visible, although early in the morning. Look for two very bright 'stars' in the east before sunrise. Jupiter is higher up the sky, and Venus rises just before the Sun. Venus will return to our evening skies early next year.

### October 8 total lunar eclipse, red or purple

October gives us an excellent opportunity to see a total lunar eclipse, which occurs this month on the evening of 8th October.

Lunar eclipses occur at the time of full Moon, only in this case the Moon passes into the shadow cast by the Earth. As the Moon shines purely by reflected sunlight, moving into the Earth's shadow causes it to fade out, gradually going dark over a period of an hour or so.

Once the Moon is totally immersed in the Earth's shadow, a period called 'totality', it can turn a dark red or purple colour, before gradually moving out of the Earth's shadow and resuming it's normal appearance. During

totality, lunar eclipses can be a variety of different colours.

The Earth's atmosphere causes light to be bent or 'refracted' onto the Moon during the eclipse, and if the atmosphere has lots of dust in it, caused for example by a volcanic eruption somewhere in the world, then the Moon will look very dark. If the Earth's atmosphere is clear of dust, the Moon will be a brighter red. This time around the Moon should be a fairly bright reddish copper colour, but it is very hard to predict exactly what it will look like.

Lunar eclipses occur fairly regularly, but sometimes we have to wait a couple of years for the next one. The most recent was

back in April, and the next is due in April 2015. The reason they tend to happen at around the same times of the year is no coincidence; the alignment of the Earth, Moon and Sun occurs more frequently around the equinox.

The first phase of the eclipse will occur at 8:18pm, after which the Moon will gradually move into the Earth's shadow, and will be totally eclipsed at 9:27pm. Between then and 10:22pm the Moon will be a coppery-red colour, before moving back out of the shadow again and back to normal by 11:32pm.

Lunar eclipses are there for all to see, they do not require any optical aid, just a clear sky and are well worth a look. Don't miss this opportunity!

For October the Moon was at first quarter (half phase) on the 2nd, full on the 8th (hence the lunar eclipse), at third quarter on the 16th and new on the 24th. ■

## BOOK REVIEWS from p12

few years lived in a shanty on a staple diet of wild rabbits. His only reading was a dictionary, which he devoured from cover to cover, giving himself an extensive vocabulary which was to become a constant surprise to his urban colleagues."

And on to Gorton, Whitlam, Holt, Hawke and Keating. Whitlam on Gorton: "I'm rather disappointed in the Prime Minister. Before this campaign we had a distinct understanding – that he wouldn't tell any lies about me if I didn't tell the truth about him."

It's not all clever quotes, though MacCallum keeps them coming. It's full of wit and expert knowledge and readable all the way.

The Good, the Bad, and the Unlikely: Australia's Prime Ministers, Mungo MacCallum, (Black Inc, 2014), will be available at Miss Ruby's Bookshop, Braidwood.

This review also appeared in the Cooma-Monaro Express.

## Red gums: panorama of Australian natural history

FLOODED Forest and Desert Creek, by Matthew Colloff. CSIRO Publishing's just released ecology and history of the River Red Gum. You'll enjoy a wide-ranging history of the red gum's central role in the economy, society and envi-



## FUN AND FAME!

The *Bulletin* is seeking monthly contributors with knowledge and an enquiring bent in any of the following areas: rural matters, education, health, arts and entertainment, local politics. EXERCISE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOUR We'd love a column that takes a light-hearted look at lifestyle country living. REWARD mainly getting your name in lights both in print AND online, but negotiable. We're also looking for a cartoonist and marketing expertise both print and online.

Contact us TODAY at [media@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:media@districtbulletin.com.au).

ronment of Australia, and the shift now to greater conservation. Available as an e-book. More information at [www.publish.csiro.au/Books](http://www.publish.csiro.au/Books). The *Bulletin* will donate a copy to the Bungendore Library.

## Where was Tom Wills born?

TOM Wills: First Wildman of Australian sport, by Greg de Moore. Following our popular cover story on Wills in September, here's the definitive history so far by Sydney psychiatrist Greg de Moore. Greg writes that there are still gaps in the record and encourages history sleuths to get involved.

"It is an amazing story ... I am not just saying this because I wrote his biography but because it touches so many areas of Australian historical and cultural life.

"I would really appreciate any assistance at the Molonglo end because (although I spent over 10 years of detailed research) it was the Molonglo end that was in many ways the most mystifying. This was because of the absence of archival material.

"Tom's birthdate we have pretty clear ... the official archives are confusing on this point but we have family letters that pinpoint it as 19 August 1835.

"His birthplace you might think should be bleedin' obvious but alas it is not ... I spent years running down evidence and there is still some doubt. The strongest piece of evidence for his birthplace came in a retrospective article from one of Tom's friends written in the 1860s based on diary notes of Tom Wills in which the place of birth is stated as the Molonglo region. This was also mentioned in other documents.

"Regardless of exactly where on the Molonglo he was born his first years are incontrovertibly linked with the area.

"I am very open to further information about the precise location of his birth."

Contact Greg, [demoore7@optusnet.com.au](mailto:demoore7@optusnet.com.au)  
This book will be available at Miss Ruby's Bookshop in Braidwood.

## LETTERS from p7

As a Councillor in Palerang, I have no contact with the Queanbeyan health service (whatever they call themselves this year). However, there's a one-off consultation coming up soon which I will attend. I sincerely hope we can get Area Health Services to talk more to their communities, instead of listening only to their masters in Sydney.

If Steve's description of changes is correct, it seems that the era of preventative health care may be over, before it ever really had any effect. The idea of GP co-payments are another sad sign of that. In what other universe could deterring people from seeing their GP be a good thing?

— Peter Marshall, Captains Flat

## BRAIDWOOD 94.5 FM from p13

The inspiration and planning, handled with courage and conviction by Rob Davidson who continues as the volunteer Station Manager, started in 2001. 2BRW is a NFP incorporated association that adheres to the Community Radio Code of Practice.

The station began broadcasting on Australia Day 2003, on a Test Broadcast License. The transmitter was located on the roof of the studio and the broadcast radius was 10 kilometres. On 1 May 2003, a Temporary Broadcast License was granted and on 25 January 2004, the transmitter was relocated to Mt. Gillamatong and transmission began on frequency 94.5 FM.

On 22 November 2004, a Permanent Broadcasting License was granted by the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

The broadcast radius now extends to over 50 kilometres. The station reaches Captains Flat, Bungendore, Wakefield Park near Goulburn, down Clyde Mountain to Nelligen and, on occasions, Batemans Bay.

Closer to home it can be enjoyed in the Gundillion, Nerriga, Mongarlowe and Majors Creek areas and there have been some reports of reception in Araluen.

The station's modus operandi: finances come from individual and business memberships, donations, business sponsorship, and grants made available for equipment purchases.

Program content is varied but mostly music-based. The youngest presenter is 13 and the oldest is in her early 70s. The station arranges interviews either by phone or in studio and nationally recognised personalities, performing artists and polities join presenters on a regular basis.

The station proudly boasts that two 2BRW volunteers have won Braidwood Australia Day Awards – Station Manager Rob Davidson in 2004 and technician Paul Brody in 2008. A long-time presenter received a Monaro medal in 2014 for service to community radio.

So tune in, arrange an interview, or have fun presenting on Braidwood Community Radio.

[The editor of the Bulletin also enjoyed a recent on-air chat with presenter (and our columnist) Jill McLeod, who contributes her time with twice weekly shows. Stay tuned for all the good music and interviews. We'll be back with a book launch later in the year!]

## Oh! it's October

the market @ bungendore

Sunday October 19th 9am–3pm  
at the War Memorial Hall

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

jewellery

giftware

soaps & lotions

local art & craft

garden products

toys & models

cakes & pastries

tea & fresh coffee

guitars & amps



textiles

preserves

hand knits

candles

cookies

mosaics

homewares

greeting cards

beads & findings

pottery & ceramics

local grown plants

prints & paintings

fruit & vegetables

clothing & footwear



# What’s On – October 2014

Send your announcements to [whatson@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:whatson@districtbulletin.com.au)

## During October

**Pat Howell & Wilma Southan – *Palette of Colours***  
Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore.  
Ph 6238 1640 or see [www.bungendorefineart.com.au](http://www.bungendorefineart.com.au).

**Until Thursday 9**  
**Exhibition – Jenny Sheppard & John Murphy**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Painter and wood sculptor join forces again to present their latest creations. For more ph 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Until Sunday 19**  
**Canberra Botanical**  
M16 Art Space, Griffith, 10–5pm daily. Botany as art and a tool to assist botanists and horticulturists. For more ph Wendy 0407 466 580.

**Until Saturday 25**  
**Sunset Boulevard**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Classic story of scriptwriter Joe Gillis and his relationship with Norma Desmond, a silent movie star pushed into obsolescence by the advent of the talkies. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. For more ph 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au). See review p11.

**Until Thursday 30**  
**On the Verge**  
FORM Studio & Gallery, Aurora Ave, Queanbeyan. An exhibition of paintings, sculpture and poetry by Sharon Field, Natalie Maras and Elizabeth Lawson. Email [claire@formstudioandgallery.com.au](mailto:claire@formstudioandgallery.com.au) or see [www.formstudioandgallery.com.au](http://www.formstudioandgallery.com.au).

**Saturday 11**  
**Queanbeyan River Festival**  
As well as being able to watch or participate in the races, you'll find lots of free activities including 'come and try' sessions of kayaks, stand up paddles and water balls, bike powered cinema, platypus walk, fishing workshops, food stalls, market stalls, Clearwater Sculpture prize, music and free children's activities. Fun for all the family! For more see [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/Discover-Queanbeyan/Events/Queanbeyan-River-Festival](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/Discover-Queanbeyan/Events/Queanbeyan-River-Festival).

## EVERY MONTH:

**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](http://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](mailto:markets@captainsflat.org).

**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](http://www.bungendore.com.au)  
[www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au](http://www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au)  
[www.visitbraidwood.com.au](http://www.visitbraidwood.com.au)

**Bungendore Mystery Motor Tour**  
Bungendore Show Ground, 9–3pm. Staged by the Bungendore Show Society to raise funds for the 2015 Bungendore Show. Follow the clues for a bit of old-fashioned fun! Contact: [secretary@bungendoreshow.com.au](mailto:secretary@bungendoreshow.com.au). More p10.

**Gundaroo Music Festival**  
Come along and enjoy local bands and live entertainment including Daryl Braithwaite. Fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease. 10am–10pm. \$25 per person (\$50 family pass). For more info@[gundaroomusicfestival.com](http://gundaroomusicfestival.com) or see <http://gundaroomusicfestival.com>.

**Sunday 12**  
**Explore Glenburn / Burbong Historical Precinct**  
Visit and explore The Glenburn shearing shed complex, Colverwell graves (1837), Coppins Homestead ruins (1891) and orchard and Kowen public school (1882–1906). Meet at Queanbeyan Museum, 9.30am. For more [www.npaact.org.au](http://www.npaact.org.au).

**Wednesday 15**  
**Australian Capital Region Food Hub Information Evening**  
National Library, 6–8pm. Learn how to build a resilient local food economy in the Australian Capital Region and make local food more accessible by bridging the gap between producers and consumers. For more contact Donna 6297 0933 or [donna@rdasi.org.au](mailto:donna@rdasi.org.au) or see [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/australian-capital-region-food-hub-event-2-tickets-13302442965](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/australian-capital-region-food-hub-event-2-tickets-13302442965).

**Thursday 16**  
**Small Biz Bus**  
257 Crawford St (adjacent to Council Chambers), 9am–3pm. Meet a business mentor and connect with your local Small Biz Connect Advisor when the Small Biz Bus rolls into town.

**Bushfire/storm Preparedness Sessions**  
Queanbeyan, RB Smith Community Centre, 7–9pm. Learn first hand about what to expect this bushfire and storm season. For more ph Lorena 4842 9252.

**Saturday 18**  
**Monster Community Garage Sale at the Flat!**  
Are you a garage sale tragic or are simply looking for a fun spring day out in a beautiful, historic location!! Maps available for gold coin donation from the Fire Shed, BBQ by Captains Flat RFS and the Markets' Plaza Theatre Café outside the Community Hall. For more Kerenza Brown 0438 600 447, see p14.

**Saturday 18 and Sunday 19**  
**Murrumbateman Field Days**  
Over 400 exhibitors, displaying the latest machinery,

equipment and services to successfully run a small farm, and tempting your tastebuds with local wines and produce. More details p8.

**Sunday 19**  
**Miss Muddy Canberra**  
Exhibition Park. A 'women's only' 4-6km obstacle and mud festival. Includes colour, mud, climbing, crawling, slipping and sliding and lots of laughter to raise awareness of breast cancer. For more <http://www.missmuddy.com.au>.

**Ride 4 Renewables**  
Capital wind farm. 15km family fun ride starts at 9am. For details see p5 and [http://bit.do/Ride\\_4\\_Renewables](http://bit.do/Ride_4_Renewables).

**Tuesday 21**  
**Bushfire/storm Preparedness Sessions**  
Bungendore, Council Chambers, 7–9pm. Learn first hand about what to expect this bushfire and storm season. For more ph Lorena 4842 9252.

**A Surprise Morning with Queenie van de Zandt**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Queenie's new cabaret show for 2014 is bursting with great music, exquisite vocals and some very funny belly laughs. For bookings ph 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Thursday 23**  
**Googong Sustainable Housing: Community Workshops**

RB Smith Community Centre, 6pm. How to improve the health and sustainability of your new Googong home through material choice. At this workshop you will learn about the problems with 'non-green' materials, what green materials are, their attributes and benefits and how to make some materials 'greener' by substituting or using alternatives. For more email [kaya.michener@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kaya.michener@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

**Saturday 25**  
**Queanbeyan Uniting Church Annual Spring Fair**  
Rutledge St, Queanbeyan. The event will include a variety of market stalls, free entertainment and children's activities. A fun day out for the whole family. For more ph 6297 9046.

**Burra Open Gardens**  
Burra & Googong, 10–5pm. The annual even organised by the Queanbeyan Lions Club.

**Sunday 26**  
**Queanbeyan Arts Trail & Open Studio**  
Take a self-guided tour around 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. The Art Trail Bus Tour is another way to enjoy it. Running from 10–3.30pm, lucky ticket holders will travel in comfort enjoying light refreshments and a picnic lunch, \$25pp. Tickets available from The Q Box Office,

Live Music Sundays from 2pm

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Friday 11am - 10pm  
Saturday 11am - 6pm  
Sunday - 11am 6pm

GOOLABRI DRIVE  
FEDERAL HWY SERVICE ROAD  
**SUTTON PARK**

**IRON-BAR.COM.AU**

**GIG GUIDE: October**

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

**Friday 10**  
**Sax in the City**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.  
**Hit Parade**, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

**Sunday 12**  
**Minh Ha – The Acoustic Sessions**, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

**Friday 17**  
**Swizz**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.  
**Hit & Run**, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

**Saturday 18**  
**Pete Denahy**, Loaded Dog Hotel, Tarago.

**Sunday 19**  
**David Green**, 12–3pm. Piano, performing from Broadway musicals, movie themes, jazz and more. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.  
**Matt Dent – The Acoustic Sessions**, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri. See p10.

**Friday 24**  
**Calum**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.  
**Bell & Wade**, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

**Sunday 26**  
**Carlos Perez Martinez**, 12.30–3pm. Classical Spanish guitarist. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.

**Friday 31**  
**Adam Conroy**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.  
**Solid Gold Karaoke**, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

**Sunday 2 November**  
**Afro Moses – The Acoustic Sessions**, 2–4pm, the Iron Bar, Goolabri. See p10.

ph 6285 6290 or email [culturalservices@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:culturalservices@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

**Run With the Wind**  
Fun run at the Woodlawn Wind Farm. 5 and 10km courses, kids U12 free. For more <http://runwiththewind.com.au>.

**Wednesday 29**  
**Queanbeyan Council Community meetings**  
Fernleigh Park Community Hall, 6pm. These meetings are a great way for Queanbeyan residents to stay up to date with Council activities, events and projects. Email [communications@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

**Friday 31**  
**Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight Tour – Family Tour & Midnight Special**  
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](mailto:qbn@qbncityofchampions.com.au) or see <https://www.facebook.com/mysteriousqbnbymoonlight>.

**Coming up in NOVEMBER**

**Saturday 1 and Sunday 2**  
**Wine, Roses & All That Jazz Festival**  
Lerida Estate, Federal Hwy. Live music with popular jazz pianist Sally Greenaway, 12.30–3pm, special gourmet menu, two cases of wine to be won. Bookings 6295 6640.

**Sunday 2**  
**Late spring walk greenways Millpost Loop**  
Walk from Bywong Hall west, then south across Birchmans Grove to explore beautiful community reserve then onto Birchmans Estate and then on to Millpost Hill for great views. For more ph Nora 6230 3304.

**Wednesday 5**  
**Queanbeyan Council Community meetings**  
Queanbeyan Council Chambers, 6pm. These meetings are a great way for Queanbeyan residents to stay up to date with Council activities, events and projects. Email [communications@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

**Thursday 6**  
**Bushfire/storm Preparedness Sessions**  
Braidwood, Council Chambers, 7–9pm. Learn first hand about what to expect this bushfire and storm season. For more ph Lorena 4842 9252.

**Googong Sustainable Housing: Community Workshops**  
RB Smith Community Centre, 6pm. How to improve the health and sustainability of your new Googong home through material choice. Learn about the problems with 'non-green' materials, what green materials are, their attributes and benefits and how to make some materials 'greener' by substituting or using alternatives. For more email [kaya.michener@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kaya.michener@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

**Friday 7 and Saturday 8**  
**Charity Book Fair**  
RB Smith Room, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, Fri 5–8pm, Sat 10–2pm. Thousands of fiction and non-fiction books. Also available *Queanbeyan – City of Champions* (\$49). For more ph 6299 9590.