THE DISTRICT
Bulletin
CAPITAL REGION FOCUS — environment, business, arts, people, politics, events

April 2017

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Wind farm pioneers

up close and personal with Tarago wind towers

by Graham Franklin-Browne

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AS A MOTORIST heading home along the buzzing concrete of the Federal Highway, I have often gazed in wonder at the wind farms on the other side of Lake George – a useful distraction near the end of a long journey as my grandkids vainly try to count each of the towers as the scene flashes by.

Squeaky clean and green, wind farms are fast becoming familiar artefacts and a massive part of our future energy mix. However sometimes progress in this industry becomes hostage to aesthetic and environmental controversy. The debate is too often hijacked by a rabid and fossil-fueled antipathy to anything with green credentials.

For me, the Tarago wind farms have always been an elegant addition to an already heavily modified landscape, and for many years I have really wanted to see them up close, and find out more about life under the giant fans.

Recently, Joan Limon and her husband Max were happy to show me around the wind towers on their sheep and cattle property near Taylor's Creek, Tarago.

Downhill from the towers, in a quiet farmhouse kitchen, Joan and Max talked about the circumstances that led them to become wind farm pioneers in this region.

Capital — 67 towers on seven farms in Lake George catchment. Woodlawn another 23 towers.

In the mid-nineties the couple were devastated when they were told that the sheep on their property might have been infected by the deadly Ovine-Johne's disease. OJD is an untreatable and fatal infection of the bowel, reducing the ability of an animal to absorb food.

The Limon property was quarantined for three years. Adding to their trauma, in the following year the region went into drought, crippling their business.

Anxious to save the farm and future-proof their income, Joan and her husband heard of a series of wind studies being conducted by the CSIRO to identify sites for future wind farms in NSW.

"We have always been keen on renewable energy," she said, "and early on we opted for solar hot water for the farmhouse. The potential to earn a steady income from renewable energy and still farm the land was a great opportunity for us".

Win-win for farmers

Based on their experience, Joan now strongly believes that wind farms are good for the local environment and the community, and when pressed could not think of any real negatives regarding their experience as pioneer wind farmers.

"Income from the towers now means farmers in this area can continue to farm profitably, but at lower stocking rates. That is good for the land, especially during hard economic times and long periods of drought," she said.

Early on and despite their enthusiasm, Joan still had to lobby strongly on behalf of themselves and other landowners for their part of the district to be considered viable for wind farming. Eventually the Limons received five offers from competing wind farm developers.

After consulting other wind farmers around the state regarding the offers the Limons signed a contract with Infigen Energy in 2002 in what would become part of Capital Wind Farm, the largest in NSW.

Following further noise and environmental surveys, construction of the towers began in 2007, and by 2009 the site was operational. There were six towers standing 80 metres high, with fan diameters of 45 metres on their property.

The construction period was an extremely busy time for the local area, with over 150 people directly employed, and of course the expected flow-on benefits to the community occurred, as workers sought accommodation on local properties, and spent a lot of money in the surrounding towns and villages.

Additional benefits to the community came from the sealing of a number of local dirt roads that the Palerang Council had previously found difficult to fund, and the donation of a brand new fire truck to the local rural fire brigade.

>> p8

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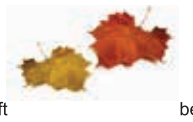

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A message from the Editor

Independent regional media more important than ever

INDEPENDENT MEDIA and journalism (not the same as publishing press releases verbatim) are arguably more critical than ever in our country. Commercial media power resides in fewer and fewer hands – in Australia mostly attached to the Murdoch corporate body with its politically right-leaning and tabloid exploitation views.

Thousands of professional journalists have lost their jobs in recent years – with the latest Fairfax cuts announced early April. The losses at Fairfax affect us with the steady disappearance of their regional reporting capacity.

More broadly, in such an un-diverse media landscape, Fairfax journalism provides a much-needed balance to the Murdoch/News Limited view on public policy – partly redressed by the emergence of *Guardian Australia* and by the ABC – when the national tax-supported broadcaster is not ducking for cover. (A recent example: Fran Kelly at Radio National spending 10 unbelievable minutes crying with a mining spokesperson about the terrible things Cyclone Debbie has wrought on the coal industry.)

Regionally we can keep flying the flag of diversity and keep on providing independent news and features that directly affect us all. Across nine years we've built print and web platforms for stories under-reported elsewhere (our focus on environment, biodiversity and sustainable solutions falls into that category), for supporting and celebrating community voices, the arts and businesses of our region, and for holding official power to account.

Our print issue size and fortunes have expanded and contracted over that time, with supportive and very-appreciated contributor and advertiser assistance. Now, with commercial and federal/state government advertising revenues falling fast across all media, we're making some changes with your help as we move on.

Two things are on the immediate horizon. With printing and distribution the most expensive part by far of what we do, we'll publish print every second month until September while we start to organise a more sustainable base.

That's June, August and September/ October for next print issues.

The website continues, is available for advertising, is boosted via Facebook, and will be updated regularly as a bigger reader outlet for those months.

Secondly we've organised a terrific local winery event as a community fundraiser for supporting our independent news and journalism. Details and where to sign up below. I hope some of you will join us!

Wishing you a great Easter break and a healthy and satisfying April. ■

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Bush climate fire and art

Sharon Field's country life complements calm and reflective botanic artistry with noisy and chaotic fire fighting.

by Susan Foxlee

BY HER OWN admission Sharon Field was "scared silly" of fires in the early days. Twenty-two years after moving to Burra, because her daughter said she wanted a horse, Sharon is now Captain of the Burra Fire Brigade and an award-winning botanical artist working full time from her home studio.

After making the move to enjoy a rural community and lifestyle, Sharon was goaded into joining the brigade by the then captain. She found the training and onsite experience interesting. Now she values the camaraderie – "Wherever you go, the yellow suit immediately brings you into the fold and you are a recognised team member".

These days Sharon has a healthy respect for fire. She confesses that hot, dry and windy days make her nervous and that many volunteers will cancel plans for being in town or for going elsewhere on those days.

DETAIL: BECAUSE THESE WINGS ARE NO LONGER WINGS TO FLY II

Some will choose to work from home or even take the day off and station themselves at the shed in readiness in case of a fire event. This is real commitment, both mental and physical. It is one that Sharon makes without doubt.

The year round investigation and maintenance of fire trails offers Sharon the opportunity to access areas that would otherwise be inaccessible. This type of work suits her inquisitive mind and artist's eye, constantly looking for new sources of inspiration.

Her quest for subject matter from the bush has rubbed off on her fire fighting colleagues, many of whom now bring their own 'burnt offerings' for her consideration.

Rich palette inspired by people, plants, animals and insects

All of these life experiences have affected Sharon's approach to her botanical painting. Once, her eye was drawn to the perfect leaf, the perfect petal. Now her interest is less about what it is than how it has lived.

The heat of a summer's day, the natural cycle of life in a harsh climate, the effect of fire, the interrelatedness of people, plants, animals and insects all provide a rich palette of ideas.

The works in Sharon's current exhibition absorb, mirror and echo the impact of people, plants and animals on the bush.

Sharon has a close relationship with the bush by living in it, but she also sees things changed by fire. While botanical art is considered an environmentally sensitive pursuit, fire is often seen as only being destructive. One activity is calm, quiet, and reflective while the other noisy and chaotic.

Does she have trouble separating or coordinating two opposite sides of the brain? No. She easily switches from one to the other – "I can easily come back to a painting!" She appreciates the interrelatedness of both.

The environment can benefit from fire. Some plants need heat and smoke to germinate and the soil needs ash. Similarly, plants today rarely live in isolation and are often impacted by their interaction with people, insects and animals.

There can be a productive intensity to fire as when hazard reduction is realised through cool burning. On the other hand, there can be a destructive intensity of the kind Sharon and her crew experienced at Currandooly and Carwoola.

All these factors impact on Sharon's work in one way or another. Her current exhibition is of finely rendered watercolour paintings entitled 'Dead Leaf Dreaming: Echoes'. While the works echo the thoughts and views of the artist, the 'artefacts' which inspired some of the paintings are also on show – including the grasshopper caught in mid-flight in the grill of Sharon's car, displaying the intricate patterns and colours in the wing, a true testament to the trained eye of an artist.

The exhibition at Suki & Hugh Gallery, Gibraltar Street, Bungendore runs from 25 March until 7 May 2017.

NSW government's embarrassing report card on environment

A MID-TERM report card on the NSW government's management of our natural environment paints a grim picture of systematic environmental vandalism as policy.

The report has been published by the Nature Conservation Council on behalf of the state's green groups. The council's chief executive Kate Smolski noted that former Premier Mike Baird and his cabinet took the meat axe to environmental legislation affecting regional NSW, from native vegetation protection to marine parks – despite Baird's declared love for the environment on taking office.

Analysis since supposes much of this was pandering to the National Party 'tail of the dog' – with the current National Party dominated by miners and big agribusiness that wants to level-clear ever more crop land. Environmental destruction in Sydney was linked more to the Liberal Party's urban vision and developer links. Population pressures don't help.

"Thanks to some abysmal actions, including weakening our land-clearing laws, giving the green light to coal mining and subsidising native forest logging, our government has scored a big fail," said Smolski.

The council's list of worst environmental failures since 2015 include:

- Watering down strong land-clearing laws, which will drive species extinctions and climate change.
- Allowing expansion of coal and gas projects on farmland and in special natural areas, including in Sydney's drinking-water catchment.
- Subsidising native forest logging, which is driving koalas towards extinction.
- Reducing national parks funding, slowing reserve acquisitions to a trickle and reducing conservation work and research.
- Undermining the Murray Darling Basin Plan, which will result in less water for rivers and wetlands.

Included in the list of policies going backwards is marine protected areas that have dropped by about one third from pre 2013.

Smolski said new land-clearing codes swap destruction of native vegetation at the discretion of rural landholders with a 'carrot' of $240 million for conservation elsewhere of native vegetation or tree planting. She told the *Sydney Morning Herald* "it's laughable that the funds will be largely drawn from the Climate Change Fund levied from consumers and earmarked for emission cuts and climate adaptation". **www.smh.com.au/environment/taking-us-backwards-nsw-governments-enviroment-policies-under-fire-from-green-groups-20170323-gv4k3i.html**

A new container deposit scheme and state incentives to improve household and business energy efficiency are two positive directions.

However Greens environment spokesperson Mehree Faruqi told Sydney media that the container deposit scheme was in danger of being handed over to the big drink companies like Coca Cola (presumably in line with the ideological thinking of the Coalition government that private enterprise does everything better).

Faruqi called the current NSW government the worst in living memory on the environment, a senti-

>> next pg

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What caused most of the recent area bushfires?

BURNING OFF, both legal and illegal, caused about one-third of the bushfires started in the Tarago, Bungendore region (including Boro, Mt Fairy and Bywong incidents) and towards Goulburn between September 2016 and the end of February 2017. There were 17 incidents, most quickly put out, in a report provided to the *Bulletin* by the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Five fires were attributed to burning off. Four fires were blamed on 'powerlines', one being a transformer fire and another being the encounter leading to the infamous flaming crow incident that started the 3,386 hectare Currandooley fire (still subject to a coronial enquiry). The RFS could not immediately say what the other two powerline situations were.

Mowers and slashers and one motor vehicle stall caused a further three fires; lightning caused two; a human-caused house fire was another flashpoint; and two fires were listed as undetermined.

The fire that started the massive Carwoola blaze off the Captains Flat Rd was due to an admitted metal grinding incident on a home construction site on a hot day.

According to the Yass area RFS, the January Sutton blaze that started at Mulligans Flat is still being described as suspicious but no arsonists have been apprehended.

The RFS message is that slashing early fire breaks in paddocks, not using machinery or vehicles that can cause sparks on total-fire-ban days and not burning off when conditions are hazardous, are things residents can and should do to protect themselves and their neighbours. Powerline fires bear further investigation.

More details of the western Palerang and environs fires, 'where and when' at the end of this report at www.districtbulletin.com.au

NSW GOVT REPORT CARD *from p3*

ment also echoed by the Labor party.

Labor environment spokesperson Penny Sharp said along with lack of action on climate change, the government's policies directly risk animals and plants already on the threatened species list including koalas that are already on track to regional if not national extinction by mid-century.

"Our government has put nature and our community's health well behind the needs of developers and big business," summarised Smolski.

"With a new premier and environment minister (Gabrielle Upton, whose portfolio also juggles local government and amalgamations) on board, we have a chance to convince them to forge a different path for nature, before it's too late." ■

What matters for regional areas

Editorial comment: It is the *Bulletin's* observation that the NSW Liberal and National Parties' current ideological stance (just like their federal counterparts) prioritise privatisation and corporate profit over the public interest and welfare that should be the brief of public policy and spending of our tax dollars.

What we see instead is an outsize axe being taken to frontline services that affect regional NSW, including vocational education and environmental and land management programs along with their thousands of related jobs. Those jobs would also contribute to the economy.

The environmental harm is not trivial but remains under-reported. It should be a top agenda item for a vigilant media concerned with the public interest and 'keeping the bastards honest'. In a time of climate change and badly-conceived development and their destructive impacts on communities and our common heritage, independent media has to connect dots from the national and state to the local level because the consequences affect everyone.

—Maria Taylor

Local Land Services under pressure, bullying, job cuts

AN OUTCOME of a Liberal and National Party focus on public asset-stripping and deep job cuts in front-line public services, particularly in the environmental services, is again being highlighted – this time in the restructured Local Land Services (LLS).

The NSW Opposition has called on the government to investigate bullying in the LLS ranks calling it a 'crisis' in the regional and rural service.

Labor's shadow Primary Industries Minister Mick Veitch said a government survey has shown 10 percent of staff reported being bullied and 22 percent reported witnessing bullying.

Government response has been that it's difficult to act on information from anonymous whistle blowers fearful of retribution from senior management.

The message is that cuts and the restructure of LLS is leaving staff under-resourced and unable to carry out core responsibilities. Late last year several LLS Board Members publicly voiced their concerns over the impact funding cuts and job losses were having on LLS.

Reports say the Coalition's latest restructure will lead to the loss of a further 60 LLS staff across regional NSW. ■

On the plus side from NSW:
Sutton and area get SES upgrade

EARLIER THIS month the SES Sutton Unit was presented with a state-of-the art brand new emergency response vehicle, equal to anything used in urban areas.

Member for Goulburn Pru Goward and NSW Emergency Service Commissioner (SES) Mark Smethurst, joined by Yass Valley Mayor Rowena Abbey, did the honours. Goward said the NSW Government had made more than $175,000 available to purchase the response Light Storm vehicle, part of a five-year $46 million Operational Fleet funding project.

The Sutton unit is now on-call for emergency situations from Sutton village towards Gundaroo and also to Norton Rd Wamboin from the Sutton Rd.

Goward thanked the volunteers of the SES Sutton Unit "who have worked tirelessly to establish and grow the unit".

The Mercedes Sprinter AWD Crew Cab Chassis truck has a state-of-the-art service body with many features including roller shutters; a purpose-built chainsaw maintenance drawer; internal LED lighting; and, a custom-made protection bar fitted with a winch and driving lights.

NSW SES Sutton Unit Controller Stephen Coles said last year alone the Sutton Unit responded to 89 calls for help, including six flood rescues. ■

TEN IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE BREAKFAST

The Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council administration has seemingly extensive rate- and taxpayer-funded resources for communicating its activities and policies. For example, the monthly newsletter landing in everyone's mailbox, backed up by council advertising and Administrator messages in weekly publications.

One headline "Ten Important Facts on EDE" in the council's April newsletter caught the attention of the Queanbeyan Conservation Alliance which, to no-one's surprise, would like to draw attention to a different set of civic facts. In the spirit of independent debate, here is their written rejoinder on this controversial and expensive project.

WE NOTICED Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is using a cute way of getting their pitch for the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) across in their latest newsletter. Here are ten important things about the EDE that you haven't heard from the Council.

1. The proposed EDE isn't needed to 'flood-proof' the CBD. The dip in Bungendore Rd could be fixed for under $2 million and the low-level crossing on Morisset St could be raised for far less than the cost of the EDE.

2. The proposed EDE is not a bypass. The EDE would cut through suburbs, not skirt them.

3. The proposed EDE won't keep most heavy vehicles out of the city centre. Only Holcim quarry trucks can be directed to use the EDE.

4. The proposed EDE won't take much traffic out of the CBD. Council's best estimate is a 5% drop on projected (not current) traffic volumes.

5. The proposed EDE was the least effective option in the Googong and Tralee Traffic Study. Upgrading 13 major intersections needed to support the EDE would do more to reduce traffic congestion than the EDE itself.

6. Council's justification for the proposed EDE keeps changing. The most recent one is reducing bushfire risk. But the EDE may increase bushfire risk. For example, with new subdivisions planned in the bush area but reliant on this road being built. [Ed: see story this page of recent bushfire causes.]

7. The proposed EDE is supposed to accommodate traffic from Tralee and Googong. But it's nowhere near Tralee and most Googong residents will travel through Jerrabomberra, doubling traffic volumes and causing congestion at several intersections.

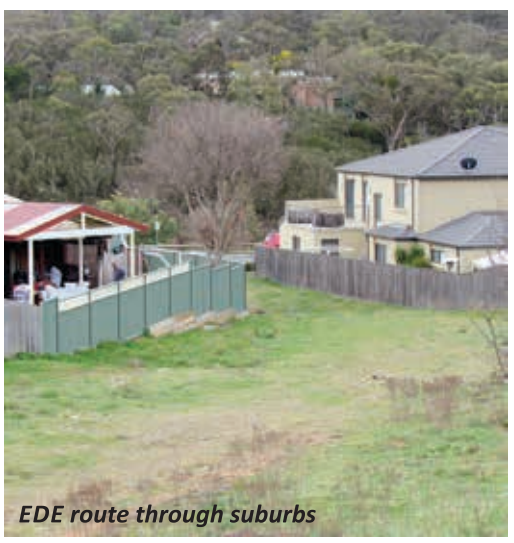
8. The decision to build the EDE was undemocratic. It was made by a NSW coalition government-appointed Administrator, Tim Overall, after the government sacked Queanbeyan and Palerang councillors.

9. There are more effective options not taken seriously. The northern (city) bypass route was developed in the mid-1990s and could be upgraded. Dunns Creek Rd would take Googong traffic directly to the Monaro Highway.

10. Federal representative Mike Kelly has unveiled an alternate transport strategy linking Queanbeyan, Palerang and the ACT, recently presented to Googong residents. A summary version includes $2 million each for the following three initiatives: • Developing a cross border strategy for public transport including commuter passenger trains. • Studies leading to duplication of Pialligo Rd from the airport to Queanbeyan (which would link to the existing northern bypass and continue to the King's Hwy). • Address flooding issue in Queanbeyan centre with an upgrade to the Queens Bridge 'dip'. PLUS $600,000 to complete studies for Dunn's Creek Rd linking Googong to the Monaro Highway.

The Queanbeyan Conservation Alliance also describes its understanding of EDE finances. See paid advert below.

Ellerton Drive Extension – not worth the financial risk



EDE route through suburbs

Residents and ratepayers will lend developers $36 million towards the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) based on current estimates.

That's because the NSW-Government appointed Council Administrator Tim Overall approved a 20-year loan, on top of **$50 million state and federal taxpayer funds.** (1)

The proposed EDE is financially risky. The Council:

— will be legally responsible for repaying the loan

— has no plan for how to pay cost overruns

— can't say how much critical intersection upgrades will cost. (2)

All residents and ratepayers will carry the financial risk of the loan and pay for maintenance and depreciation costs for the EDE.

The EDE is not worth the financial risk. The NSW Government can halt this project and re-direct funds to a real solution to our transport problems.

1. Extraordinary Meeting of Queanbeyan City Council, 30 June 2016
2. Responses to Public Forum questions 22 March 2017

Contact Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier and Member for Monaro John Barilaro

NOW while there is still time to stop the EDE.

Contact details can be found at www.nsw.gov.au

Queanbeyan Conservation Alliance, April 2017

:: Council Watch :: *with Peter Marshall (former Palerang councillor)*

IN LATE March, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Administrator Tim Overall distributed the second tranche of Strong Community Fund grants, colloquially referred to as 'The Merger Bribes'. The Administrator even alluded to this in his media release: "It is very rare for councils to have $9m to spend on community infrastructure." The take-home message must surely be that local government funding remains broken, and isn't fixed by one-off grants or forced mergers.

Communities and groups that are recipients of the funds will be grateful for the money. Some of it has sensibly been allocated to refurbishments and improvements to existing facilities, which won't add to council's running costs nor depreciation (they may in fact save money), and may actually improve council's bottom line.

However, some new facilities are proposed, with no apparent plans for their ongoing funding. This was a major issue in the recent Western Australian State Election, with the Liberal and National Parties falling out over their 'Royalties for the Regions' program, which funded infrastructure in regional areas, but not the running costs. The result was some facilities being closed by councils unable to afford to run them.

Almost $1 million has been allocated to vague 'beautification' projects in Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat. Beautification in those towns could be achieved by attending to the poor maintenance of some of council's existing assets. Some of these neglected assets are heritage-listed, such as the Bungendore School of Arts and the Captains Flat Community Hall.

There will also be disappointment in some areas that such a small proportion of the funds has been allocated to the roads and bridges which form so much of council's 'infrastructure backlog'. Renewing existing infrastructure can actually save money on maintenance and depreciation.

My guess is that the NSW Government discouraged this. It has been reported that John Barilaro dissuaded QPRC from spending $1.7 million to 'fix the dip' at the Queens Bridge, but his reason for this isn't publicly known. However, roadworks don't provide the photo opportunities for Administrators and local MPs that some of the allocated funding does.

On that topic, The Greens and Labor have both spoken out about Administrators planning to stand for election to council, highlighting the unfair and unprecedented advantage of a lengthy incumbency with absolute power and a blank cheque. Labor has even gone so far as threaten to refer any such Administrator to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

I am only aware of two Administrators who are former Mayors and who therefore may have aspirations in the September council elections – Tim Overall in Queanbeyan and Dean Lynch in Cooma. The *Canberra Times* reported that Mr Overall "is yet to confirm if he will run as a candidate in September", while some others continue to sift the tea leaves. ■

Go to* www.districtbulletin.com.au *for a report on recent visit to Queanbeyan by Labor Opposition leader Luke Foley and the most popular questions he was asked.

Easter spirit...

Community upgrades Queanbeyan Hospital courtyard

(From left) Ann Burgess, Harry Williams and Tui Dawes following the ceremony.

A NEW pergola now shades the courtyard of Queanbeyan Hospital and offers a new seating area for kiosk patrons thanks to a fundraising and construction project shared by the Queanbeyan Hospital Auxiliary and the Rotary Clubs of Queanbeyan and Queanbeyan West.

Queanbeyan Hospital Auxiliary President Ann Burgess said many present had either had the privilege of working at the hospital now, or in the past, and many others would have memories associated with being a patient or visiting the hospital at important moments in their lives.

Ms Burgess thanked those involved in the planning and construction of the structure including architect Tim Brown, Charles Vagi and builder Kim Grainger for their professional advice and expertise along with the committed volunteers from the Rotary Clubs and the Hospital Auxiliary.

The official ceremony was followed by the cutting of large celebratory cake by Patron of the Queanbeyan Hospital Auxiliary, Mrs Tui Dawes. ■

:: Environment ::

Plastic waste reduction on Braidwood radar *by Robin Tennant Wood*

I WAS RECENTLY in a Canberra supermarket with a friend, when I paused by a display of coloured boxes.

"Oh, you can't buy those," my friend announced. "Coffee pods. Think of the waste."

"Really?" I replied, and looked pointedly at my friend's shopping trolley. Every single item was packaged in plastic. Everything. Meat, fruit and vegetables nestled on plastic trays covered with acres of cling film. Other food staples were in plastic bags, or boxes wrapped in cellophane or that plastic foil stuff. There were plastic bottles, plastic boxes and a plastic bag full of plastic bags to put all the plastic waste in so that it could go into the waste stream via her bin. "Really?"

My friend saw my point and shrugged. "It comes packaged like this. What can I do?"

For people living in Braidwood, there's now an answer to that question.

A new group has grown out of community concern about the amount of plastic in the local waste stream and its ultimate impact on the environment. *Free from Plastic: Braidwood* was the brainchild of a couple of locals, including Anne Robinson of Majors Creek.

Robinson explained to me that the intention of the group is not to try to ban plastic or lobby for any legislative changes that people might find onerous or inconvenient, but to assist and support the local community to reduce plastic use. This is essentially a grassroots campaign to help people find options and solutions to our society's addiction to plastic.

Free from Plastic is also being linked through local Landcare. Rebecca Klomp, the coordinator of the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council is very enthusiastic about the initiative.

"We have been trying to get a project like this off the ground for a while now however we really needed it to come from the community so we are so pleased that this free from plastic group has formed," she said.

Klomp sees Landcare as having a pivotal role in community education and liaison.

"We have the capacity to organise educational workshops and field days on waste reduction and can promote the work of the *Free from Plastic* group through our network. We have some funding to help get the reusable bags at the supermarket organised and would be willing to partner or sponsor with the *Free from Plastic* group with grant funding."

Australians still holding tight to disposable plastic that is becoming toxic to humans – if you don't care about marine creatures

The statistics on plastic use and waste are staggering. Australians use 3.92 billion single-use plastic bags every year ... and 36,700 tonnes of plastic bags are dumped in landfill annually. Ninety percent of the waste on Australia's beaches is comprised of plastic. Despite the fact that they are recyclable, 13 billion plastic bottles are dumped to landfill in Australia every year.

Scientists are now finding that microbeads of plastic are winding up in our food and leaching toxins into our soil. There is no antidote to any of this except to reduce, and ultimately end, plastic use.

If anyone is interested in being part of this initiative, or would like further information, please contact Rebecca Klomp, at Upper Shoalhaven Landcare **upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com**

>> ALDI's position, next pg

:: Property and Legal ::

with Angela Backhouse

Guide to selling residential properties

SELLING a residential property can be quite complex, so it is important that you understand the legal process involved and what steps you need to take. Here's an explanation of this process for people intending to sell their residential property.

Do you need a solicitor to sell a residential property?

The sale of real estate is a legal transaction and many complex legal issues can arise in a conveyance. Whilst you can use a conveyancer to assist with the sale of property in NSW, using a solicitor means that you will immediately have access to qualified legal practitioners to provide legal advice should any serious issues arise.

Listing a property for sale

You legally cannot put a property on the market for sale without a compliant contract for sale being available for inspection by prospective purchasers. Contracts must include a number of disclosure documents about the property. Your solicitor will need to order these documents from various authorities and will ensure that the contract contains all required disclosure material. This process can take 2–3 weeks, so it is imperative that you contact your solicitor as early as possible to get this process started, so that your listing date is not delayed.

Exchanging of contracts

Once a purchaser has been found, a contract for sale will be prepared for signing by both parties. The purchaser will usually carry out building and pest inspections on the property and obtain unconditional finance approval before contract exchange.

The purchaser and vendor will then sign identical copies of these contracts and 'exchange' them. At this point the purchaser will typically hand over a deposit of 10% (or less if agreed by the vendor). The contract becomes a legally binding agreement at this time.

Cooling off period

In NSW there is a standard 5-day cooling off period after contracts have been exchanged. The cooling off period gives the purchaser an opportunity to rescind the contract within 5 days following exchange, and will only forfeit 0.25% of the purchase price. Typically however, vendor's solicitors will require the 5-day cooling off period to be waived prior to exchange of contracts, by providing a certificate signed by the purchaser's solicitor.

Settlement

The standard settlement period is NSW is 42 days, however the parties can negotiate a different settlement period prior to exchange. At settlement, the purchaser pays the balance of the purchase price (less the deposit). Adjustments will be made to allow for paid or unpaid council rates and water usage (and body corporate fees if the property is a unit).

If (as vendor) you have a mortgage over your property, you will need to notify your bank that you wish to discharge your mortgage as soon as possible after exchange. After this notice has been lodged, the bank will notify your solicitor when they are ready to attend settlement. The bank will require payment of the loan in full on settlement.

At Backhouse Legal we have experienced staff to assist you with selling your property. If you would like more information or if you need assistance or advice about selling your property please call on **02 6280 8899** or email **office@backhouselegal.com.au** today.

Backhouse Legal

We are available for appointments in Bungendore, Braidwood and Fyshwick.

Local products a winner

Bungendore chef Christophe turned New Caledonian chef school around

NEW CALEDONIA holds a special place in the hearts of Chef Christophe and Josephine Gregoire. They met and married in Noumea. They both lived and worked in New Caledonia from 1996 to 1999, Christophe as head chef at various resorts and as a teacher at the Escoffier Hospitality School in Noumea. Josephine was a health promotion specialist with the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission.

During his time as a teacher at Escoffier, Chef Christophe successfully increased his students' chef course pass rate from 2 percent to 80 percent. "I simply changed the curriculum content mandated from France to include local produce, modified traditional French recipes to suit the unique Caledonian environment, *terroir*, and the Melanesian way of life and food culture," he explained.

How do you make a Caledonian Quiche Lorraine?

For example, the traditional quiche Lorraine recipe was changed to quiche with tazar fish, a fish which is readily available and a favourite in New Caledonia. With these simple changes the young students engaged enthusiastically in a program which was relevant while acknowledging their unique culture and environment. ■

At a recent cooking school session at Le Tres Bon with Chef Christophe: Caledonian coconut fish salad mastered by more mature students. Sourcing local products a big part of the cooking experience as taught here.

Yummy eggplant the Turkish way

Eggplants are in season either from the home garden or local markets. So here's a recipe to try.

– Grilled Eggplant Salad –

Dressing

• ¼ cup fresh lime juice • 2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander • 1 tbsp brown sugar • 1 tbsp Thai fish sauce • 1 tbsp minced hot chili pepper (eg serrano chili) or to taste • 1 tbsp minced garlic

Salad

• 12 cherry tomatoes, quartered • 1 medium eggplant, cut into thick slices • 1 small red onion, sliced • ¼ cup torn mint leaves • ¼ cup torn basil leaves • salt

Method

1 Combine dressing ingredients in a bowl; stir well with a whisk. Set aside.
2 Preheat the grill.

3 Combine tomatoes, mint and basil in a salad bowl. Set aside.
4 Sprinkle eggplant with salt and place on a grill rack coated with cooking spray or olive oil; cook 5 minutes on each side or until eggplant is done. Remove eggplant from grill rack and set aside.
5 Sprinkle onion with salt. Place onion on grill rack coated with cooking spray or oil; cook for 5 minutes on each side or until onion is tender.
6 Cut eggplant into bite-sized pieces.
7 Add eggplant and onion to tomato mixture. Add dressing and toss to coat.

Only two and a half hours flying from Sydney...

CHRISTOPHE and Josephine are passionate about sharing this French island country with you. This year they will offer you two travel opportunities.

Gourmet Tour to Noumea – New Caledonia. Tour dates 15–20 May 2017 staying at the Le Hilton in Noumea. The 5 days are jam packed with gourmet and cultural activities; cooking demonstrations by local chocolatier, patisserie, local food market demonstration, dine at the best restaurants, visit the magnificent Jean Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre and for some fun, petanque & pastis tournament on the beach at sunset.

French Cheese Festival. Tour dates 9–11 June 2017 (long weekend) staying at the luxurious Le Meridien in Noumea. Escape the winter and join Chef Christophe as he guides you through the local food market, demonstrates how to use the fresh produce and then in the evening let him guide you through Le Meridien Hotel's special French cheese dinner. Monsieur Poulard, Cheese Master has travelled all over France and selected over 130 French cheeses for you to enjoy at a special "once in a lifetime" dinner.

"Our emphasis is on creating a travel experience which is convivial, unique and based on our personal connection to this beautiful place". ■

PLASTIC WASTE *from p5*

Aldi urges plastic bag ban

ALDI DOES NOT give away free plastic bags to shoppers and never has. The German discount grocer has restarted the debate on plastic bags, by calling for a complete ban on single-use bags.

Australia is one of the worst offenders for the disposable use of plastic while other countries are banning or taxing the items.

Aldi told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that protecting the environment makes good business sense. A spokesperson noted there is no such thing as a 'free plastic bag' – the price is paid somewhere, mostly by the marine environment.

The popular chain charges for bags and anyone visiting Aldi will notice that most people somehow manage to bring their own. This is also noticeable at independent ACT or NSW supermarkets that charge for bags.

The Herald quoted a UN report that more than 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the oceans annually, wreaking havoc on marine wildlife, fisheries and tourism, and costing at least $US8 billion in damage to marine ecosystems. Up to 80 percent of all litter in oceans is plastic.

Belgium, Costa Rica, France, Grenada, Indonesia, Norway, Panama, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone and Uruguay have joined UNEP's campaign against ocean plastic. **www.smh.com.au/business/retail/aldi-reignites-debate-over-plastic-bag-ban-20170320-gv1zgs.html**

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Tour brochures or more information contact: Chef Christophe and Josephine Gregoire – Le Très Bon restaurant & cooking school
40 Malbon St, Bungendore Ph: 6238 0662 info@letresbon.com.au www.letresbon.com.au

Riesling – misunderstood star

RIESLING is a white variety of grape sadly misunderstood in Australia. Many would remember Riesling in cheap casks at kitchen parties, that sweet stuff known as 'hock' or what we had to drink before chardonnay and sauvignon blanc came along.

In fact, Riesling is one of the oldest grape varieties around and, unlike the others, it is German. The monks in medieval Germany used to cultivate the grape and were, no doubt, popular with any visitors. Much later, when Joni Mitchell sang about Rhine wine, it was probably Riesling.

:: Wine chat ::

with Corrina Baird, (a Contentious Character)

Loves cold climates

After Germany, Australia devotes the second biggest area to these versatile grapes. This delicately scented white grape can satisfy the driest of tastes or offer the stickiest of accompaniments to pudding. Some say it's the quintessential Australian summer wine. Its sharp lemony flavours can be perfect for those hot, balmy nights.

Paradoxically, it grows beautifully in cold climates like Canberra. The grape buds later than usual and its bark is naturally thicker, which protects it from frosts in spring and cold snaps in winter. Riesling grown at altitude, or southern latitudes like Tasmania, loves the cold nights that favour its acidity. Clare and Eden Valleys in South Australia boast the right terroir for Riesling.

Canberra is host to a longstanding wine competition – The Canberra International Riesling Challenge – attracting Riesling lovers from vineyards all over the world.

A German lesson

One advantage of our Australian Rieslings is they are easier to pronounce! If you want to understand German Riesling, its vigorous acidity may help you get your tongue around these:

- Trocken – bone dry
- Kabinett – sweet
- Auslese – very ripe
- Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese – dessert wines.

Special character of Riesling

Riesling is rarely blended with other grapes. Wine lovers say, "let the grapes do the talking", because, like beautiful people, they don't need enhancement. Unlike other whites, they enjoy being aged because of their highly acidic character.

- Look for a soft, translucent colour, or golden when aged
- taste berries, apricot, nectarine, lime and lemon
- age 5–15 years for dry, 10–30 or more years for sweet
- serve fridge cold with spicy Asian or Indian food.

Noble rot

The priciest late harvest dessert wines are lovingly made from Riesling grapes left on the vine well past their usual harvest time. This encourages a delightful fungus called *Botrytis cinerea* or 'noble rot'.

Frederic Prinz von Anhalt, husband of the late Zsa Zsa Gabor, claimed he had 300 bottles of Riesling in his cellar. (He also married and divorced six wives before meeting Zsa Zsa and, according to celebrity press, sold 68 knighthoods for $US50,000 each.)

He was certainly a contentious character, maybe even a noble rotter.

Buy now

Considering their quality, many Rieslings are still undervalued. One wine you probably won't buy in a hurry is the Egon Muller-Scharzhof Scharzhofberger Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese. Translated, it means vintner Egon Muller's sweet medium bodied dessert Riesling from the Scharzhofberger vineyard – and it sells for up to $US20,000.

At Wamboin winery Contentious Character, you can buy our best Riesling for much, much less than it should really cost. Our 2003 Riesling is only $28 at the cellar-door, a bargain for its age. It doesn't come in a cask but you are welcome to take it to parties. ■

YOUR SAY...

The Hannah Cabinet is going home

See it now before it leaves in May

by Stan d'Argeavel

AFTER NEARLY four years on display at Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, the Hannah Cabinet will leave Bungendore in early May bound for Lismore.

David Mac Laren and the staff of Bungendore Wood Works Gallery wish to pass on our sympathies to the people affected by the results of Cyclone Debbie; first and foremost to those families who lost loved ones and their homes and businesses in the tragedy.

But also to everybody in southern and central Queensland and north east New South Wales, who have experienced the trauma associated with the flooding, whether it be in a minor or major way.

This gallery's association with Lismore residents Geoffrey and Rhonda Hannah and family has placed a permanent marker in our minds when we hear of approaching extreme weather events resulting in floods or fires that potentially threaten life, limb and property.

Australian craftsman Geoffrey Hannah's masterpiece and near seven-year labour of love will return home to its birthplace in his Lismore workshop in Northern NSW. The cabinet will then re-appear as the major exhibit in the new Lismore Regional Art Gallery set to open in September this year, barring any setbacks attributable to Debbie.

In hindsight it is more than likely a blessing that the Hannah Cabinet was on display here in Bungendore when Cyclone Debbie struck. Thankfully, when Geoff was stranded in Sydney and unable to get back to Lismore at the most critical point of the disaster, family, friends and neighbours managed to move Geoff's wood and stone working equipment, tools and work in progress out of the reach of the flood waters.

Had the Cabinet been in Lismore, stored temporarily in Geoff's workshop area, the job of achieving this minor miracle would have been made so much more difficult.

The cabinet, the fourth in a line of major works has 18 doors and 140 drawers and is made from 34 varieties of Australian and international timbers, 17 types of stone, semi-precious jewels and 23 carat gold gilding.

We wish to extend an invitation to all to visit Bungendore Wood Works Gallery between now and early May. This may be the last chance to view possibly this country's most ambitious and valuable piece of furniture in the southern NSW and ACT regions. The Hannah Cabinet will remain on display in the Gallery foyer until early May 2017. ■

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1 Glaring, 5 Blanc, 8 Erg, 9 Formicary, 10 Alien, 12 Erdu, 13 Temper, 15 Ache, 17 Edam, 20 Jockey, 22 Lone, 23 Again, 25 Toothpick, 26 Ohm, 27 Etude, 28 Beroom.
Down: 1 Granada, 2 Anguish, 3 Infant, 4 Garb, 6 Lecture, 7 Coypu, 11 Apse, 14 Etch, 16 Ejected, 18 Diabolo, 19 Minimum, 21 Yanked, 22 Lathe, 24 Limb.

Marjason & Marjason Solicitors

is a new law firm in Queanbeyan, established in late 2016, under the guidance of Ian Marjason and his son Henry Marjason. The father and son team practice in all areas of law and would be more than happy to assist you in any way they can.

While the firm may be new to Queanbeyan, Ian certainly isn't! He has been living in Bungendore since 1980, and has an extensive knowledge of the local area.

Ian is very familiar with local government having been the Mayor of both the Palerang Shire and the Yarrowlumla Shire.

He has practised in a wide variety of areas, but now mainly specialises in family law. In addition to this he is an Accredited Specialist in Advocacy, a Public Notary and an Accredited Mediator.

Ian's broad knowledge base as well as his friendly demeanour will reduce the stress and worry associated with your case, and give you a lawyer who is a pleasure to work with!

Henry was born and raised in Bungendore and started his legal career in Queanbeyan. Since then he has gained experience predominately in criminal law, family law and conveyancing. Henry is a young and passionate advocate who prides himself in putting his client's needs first.

Every member of staff of Marjason & Marjason Solicitors is committed to providing excellent customer service and will ensure that you, as a client, will feel heard and have your matter resolved in a timely way.

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Dear Annastacia, Josh and Malcolm

WE AT THE *Bulletin* are moved by your solemn words of warning and encouragement to swept-away Queenslanders and New South Wales people in the wake of super cyclone Debbie. We see floods still going on. Barrier Reef a mess. People losing everything and facing massive, depressing cleanups. Correct us if we are wrong, but isn't this the third very nasty cyclone to hit Queensland in 6 years? We down in formerly heat-struck southern NSW just recovering from latest year of massive bushfires and heartbreaking losses.

Having given all that careful thought, we're completely behind your work on behalf of the people. We say redouble your efforts to get Mr Adani over here now to save our economy with his massive coal mine. Ignore silly people asking you to connect hoaxy dots. Onward to the cliff face!

What happens to Australia's food supply with extreme weather like Cyclone Debbie?
Researchers publishing on *The Conversation* and printed in *The Guardian* assess the damage to the vegetable crop heartland that was destroyed around Bowen.

Go to >> https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2017/apr/05/how-cyclone-debbie-exposed-the-perfect-storm-awaiting-australias-food-supply?CMP=share_btn_link

Wind farm pioneers

from p1

Tour on Capital Wind Farm, first-hand bird observation

Joan and Max offered to take me on a short tour of their property. Driving up the hill towards the towers and against the beautiful backdrop of Lake George these graceful giants become more majestic the closer you get.

The swooshing of the fans can get a bit loud from directly underneath, but from a short distance the noise is unobtrusive. Nearby cattle and other stock are totally unperturbed.

As an active member of a local Taylor's Creek environmental group, Joan is regarded as somewhat of a local bird expert, and she was initially concerned about the potential impact from the towers on bird populations and species numbers.

With a group of fellow ornithologists she conducted a number of extensive surveys in the area before, and after construction of the towers, revealing that there had been no measurable loss of bird species as a result of the towers.

The couple also observed large groups of wedge-tail eagles regularly catching thermals around the towers, and to this date there have been no collisions between large raptors and wind tower fans. ■

Focus on Energy and Innovation

Sponsored by Infigen

Consumer report

Jump-start for Australian battery storage technology

by Graham Franklin-Browne

JUST WHAT does it take to breathe life back into the development of renewable energy options in this country?

For too long, much of Australian innovation and investment has been buried beneath a depressing cloud of coal farts, dominating the energy landscape and controlling the narrative regarding what is, and is not possible.

However, I am beginning to feel that in spite of the hostility of the current government and its astounding lack of policy, there is still evidence that the tide may actually be starting to turn. Certainly the market and "sometimes" the banking sector are way ahead of government.

The most encouraging thing about recent events is that the conversation now seems to be led by people who know what they are talking about. This is particularly refreshing after the recent spectacle of simple-minded buffoons and panty-waists juggling coal in the upper house.

So, in addition to the exciting prospect of leading edge battery technology arriving on our shores from overseas, what Australian innovations are out there already?

Well, there are quite a few, and the following list is by no means exhaustive.

Technical details and pictures of each system are from company websites listed with the description.

Thermal energy storage for South Australia

What is '1414 degrees'? No, it is not a significant geographic location; it is apparently the melting point of silica, and molten silica is a very efficient way of storing energy in the form of heat for use when it is needed.

1414 Degrees is also the name of a South Australian company that is developing a large scale (100 MW or greater) thermal energy storage system (TESS) based on molten silica technology.

The company claims the TESS will vastly increase efficiencies in renewable energy generation and help to stabilise grid supply – something that the SA government is obviously very concerned about.

Seed funding has been raised through the release of an IPO, and the company is submitting a tender for the SA Government's Energy Reform Plan to include thermal heat storage as part of SA's energy mix.

http://1414degrees.com.au

'Plug and play' solution from Queensland

In Queensland a company called Redflow is marketing small and large scale storage systems designed to store and shift renewable energy and support 'on and off' grid power systems and telecommunications.

Redflow features zinc-bromine battery technology in 'plug and play' modules for commercial and utility applications in high densities ranging from 10 kWh up to 600 kWh, and have just released what they are calling ZCell domestic modules which will store and deliver 10 kWh of energy each day.

Redflow claims that there is no capacity loss with age using their technology, and the ZCell modules employ fire retardant electrolytes.

https://www.zcell.com

Domestic storage batteries designed for Australian conditions

West Australian company Magellan Power offers two residential lithium-ion phosphate (Li-ion) battery systems that have been specifically designed for Australian conditions.

They can be stored in garages or under the eaves beside your house and used to store power from solar PV systems or directly from the grid at times when energy costs are the lowest.

Batteries, inverters, and management system are included in one box, and the units can be stored outside and operate in temperatures ranging from -10° and 55° Celsius.

The batteries can be used with existing solar systems and are time of day programmable including night tariff charging.

They also allow selling of stored energy back into the grid at times when the price for energy is highest.

http://magellanpower.com.au/Products/Renewable-Energy-and-Energy-Storage-Systems/Residential-Scale-Energy-Storage

New adaptation for lead acid battery technology

The Brisbane-based company AllGrid, began marketing a 10kWh system last year, under the name WattGrid 10.

Wattgrid features a tubular gel version of lead acid technology, offering a battery that can operate in four different modes; solar, battery only, grid backup, and time-of-use arbitrage (prioritising energy flow back into the grid at peak pricing periods).

http://www.allgrid.energy/wattgrid-10/

Australia's first fully branded and integrated energy system

Adelaide company ZEN Energy claims to have developed Australia's first fully branded and integrated solar energy system with two residential battery storage solutions on offer.

The lithium-ion phosphate system comes in two standard sizes, 10 kWh and 20 kWh.

ZEN Energy also offers the ZEN Freedom Powerbank for households that want to go off-grid.

This unit ships with an 11kVa back up diesel generator.

https://www.zenenergy.com.au/residential/battery-storage-solutions/

Supercharged lead acid battery hybrid

Sydney company Ecoult markets domestic to medium-scale lead acid battery storage known as the UltraBattery.

Designed to maximise PV home consumption the product displayed here is a domestic unit called the UltraPOD powered by UltraBattery technology.

Medium scale UltraBattery units are already available, and although the unit pictured here is pre-production and currently available only as a prototype, it is worth checking out.

The UltraBattery technology has three applications:

- fast transfer of energy for PV and wind turbine outputs
- sustained release of stored energy for domestic use
- standby backup power for grid outages.

Originally developed by the CSIRO, Ecoult claims the multipurpose UltraBattery can out-perform lithium based technologies in terms of its capability for charging and recharging.

http://www.ecoult.com/applications/multipurpose

Consumer choice

As you can see, there is a lot of choice in the market, and for households contemplating an integrated off-the-shelf system (solar PV plus batteries), or just adding storage to their existing system, deciding which way to jump at this stage can be very confusing, not to mention expensive.

Luckily there is help out there.

The following Solarchoice website provides consumer information regarding most Australian and imported energy storage products, systems, and technologies.

https://www.solarchoice.net.au

Tell us your story. What are you up to with regard to renewables?

Do you have an interesting renewable energy project, or know of a project, that you would like to share with our readers?

It doesn't matter how DIY, large or small the project is, if you would like other people to know about it, please email your details, and a bit about your project to the address below, and we can tell your story.

Contact Graham at grahamfb@iinet.net.au

This photo was taken during an emergency exercise to practice vertical rescue at one of Infigen's windfarms near Lake George. The 'victim' is a dummy that gets lowered with a turbine technician.

Go to www.districtbulletin.com.au for a report on latest Tesla battery coming to Australia 'Tesla upgraded battery storage systems'.

ALSO: Jenny Goldie — Energy security and climate change commitments, what are we doing?

Save the date

Internationally acclaimed vocalist at Cafe Wood Works mid-May

"I LOVE THE way you sing, you have a fan in the way you phrase…it's perfect" – Tony Bennett – (a fine recommendation indeed).

Originally from Sydney, Gregg Arthur now calls the United States home, living in Los Angeles and travelling all over the world to perform the music he loves.

Gregg's training and education are firmly based in the tradition of jazz vocals and the great American Songbook. He uses his considerable abilities to interpret what he calls the "new standards", pop and smooth jazz classics.

In the United States, Gregg performs and writes with legendary pianist Tom Ranier, and has a residency with the beloved (bassist) Pat Senatore Trio at prestigious venue Vibrato, owned and presented by renowned trumpeter Herb Alpert.

Currently Gregg is recording his new album *Last Call* at Capitol Records in Los Angeles. He has recorded eight albums and seven compilation albums with orchestra for ABC Classics & Jazz/Universal Music.

In addition to Tony Bennett, radio king Alan Jones in Australia, Michael Parkinson on the BBC in the United Kingdom, and Don Heckman in the LA Time, together with other musicians, sing his praises.

"As the former pianist/conductor for Frank Sinatra, I want to say that having worked with Gregg Arthur, I believe that he has all the necessary talent and vocal acuity to follow in the footsteps of Mr Sinatra, and effectively disseminate the great music which Mr Sinatra loved so much," said Vincent Falcone, Frank Sinatra's pianist and conductor.

Accompanying Gregg at Bungendore will be Peter Locke on piano, Craig Scott on bass and Andrew Dickerson on drums – 3 of Sydney's foremost jazz musicians. ■

They will perform at Café Wood Works on Saturday 20 May.
Bookings can be made at Café Wood Works or on 6238 1688.

Queanbeyan Art Society exhibition April

Gallery, O'Neills Cottage, 6 Trinculo Place (next to the river and Queens Bridge)

The Queanbeyan Art Society has 115 works hanging in the Gallery from the Queanbeyan Leagues Club Art Competition/Exhibition for the month of April 2017. This is an annual event and there are more large works than in previous years. QAS member Mark Redzic was the overall winner for his oil 'Cotter River'.

The Society has a new Art Exhibition every month and the May 2017 is for members 'Inspired By A Master'.

Above: Mark Redzic in front of his winning painting in oil 'Cotter River'.

Right: Eric Strachan's winner of the pastel section 'Muttonbird Island', detail.

CAFÉ WOOD WORKS

ArtSound fm 90.3 fm 92.7

wood works gallery BUNGENDORE

The Peter Locke Trio with GREGG ARTHUR

"I love the way you sing. You have a fan in the way you phrase… it's perfect" – Tony Bennett

Originally from Sydney Gregg Arthur now calls the United States home, living in Los Angeles, California and travelling all over the world to perform the music he loves.

Gregg Arthur – Vocals Craig Scott – Bass
Peter Locke– Piano Andrew Dickeson – Drums

3 Course Dinner & Concert $80pp
Bookings in the Cafe or Phone 6238 1688

Saturday May 20 6pm

Menu
Salt&Pepper Flathead fillet salad tartare
Chicken Breast w chive mash steamed greens & pesto cream
Sticky Date Pudding, whisky butterscotch & double cream

Canberra artists' petition on loss of funding

Dear fellow artists and art lovers

Canberra has always been a city that values art and artists, in all they do to enrich Canberra, its surrounds, and the community.

In December 2016 the ACT Government made an un-announced, unprecedented 66% drop in funding to Project Funding in the ACT Arts budget for 2017. This is deeply worrying to many Canberra artists.

In response to a letter co-signed by over 160 of Canberra's leading artists, the incoming Arts Minister Gordon Ramsay announced that an additional $230,000 of funding will now be distributed for 2017 Projects. This was very welcome however it is still only 65% of previous years' funding.

The arts sector has come together to form the Canberra Arts Action Group to ensure that this doesn't happen again. The group also calls upon a need for greater transparency and consultation with the ACT arts community for the benefit of all. A five point petition will be put to the Legislative Assembly calling for this change.

If you wish to support our local artists, and believe that art should be an important and valued part of our community, please sign it. The petition can be found at **www.canberraplusarts.com**.

Please pass this information to any in your circles who are patrons, practitioners or lovers of art. It would be great if we could all stand up to be counted. ■

[Note from the editor: The funding slashed from the arts is similar to the annual budget applied to killing native wildlife in "Bush Capital' nature parks, that friends of wildlife fear is about to start again. What are they thinking?]

OPERATIC RECITAL

"... What a brilliant, uplifting and spell-binding two hours"

VOCI STUPENDE
AT BRAIDWOOD

30 April 2017 at 2.30pm
St Andrew's Anglican Church
47 Elrington St

Afternoon tea available in interval
available from the
St Andrew's Anglican Church Committee

Ticket Prices
Adults $45 / Pensioners $35 / Students $25
Family 2a+3c $110 / Under 17yrs $15 / Under 5's Free
Group Bookings 10+ $35 each

www.trybooking.com/259703

PURCHASE TICKETS
AS ABOVE or AT THE DOOR
www.vocistupende.com
JANE FRASER 02 6778 1233

The other Carwoola Fire victims tended at Possumwood Wildlife centre

ON A RECENT visit to Possumwood in Bywong we met 'Scruffy' a young joey whose ears, while looking normal, feel like leather. They were burned in the Carwoola fire along with his little hands and feet. The ears may have to be amputated. It's not clear he will survive.

He was found by a kind Carwoola resident, thrashing around in pain in a patch of tea-tree. No sign of mother. Wildcare was called and 'Scruffy' came to Possumwood.

One of the problems that can happen for wildlife with a bushfire was apparent at Carwoola, said Rosemary Austen, who runs Possumwood as a wildlife primary care and recovery centre with her partner Steve Garlick. Dr Austen was Palerang Citizen of the Year last year. Cases requiring surgery or more intense intervention go to Dr Howard Ralph out at Braidwood.

"The wildlife run ahead of the fire trying to get away," said Austen. At Carwoola they fled towards Captains Flat Road and ran right into a line of fire trucks and residents' vehicles, noisy helicopters overhead etc. They turned and fled back into the fire.

About 40 kangaroos and wallabies have been rescued by Wildcare with the aid of local rural residential landholders, some of whom had lost their own homes. They are now in various stages of burn recovery with carers, a lengthy process.

If you want to learn more about the work at Possumwood or to donate for the burn recovery medical expenses go to **www.possumwood.org**. Wildcare is also raising money for veterinary medical expenses.

***Dr Rosemary Austen** changing burn dressings with volunteer help at Possumwood. About 14 fire-damaged kangaroos and wallabies are recovering there currently.*

Wildcare needs to raise $20,000!

Please donate to:
Commonwealth Bank
Account name:
Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc
BSB: 062-593
Account number: 10216803

Email treasurer@wildcare.com.au for a tax deductible receipt

Possum charms:** Wildcare has an amusing story this month about a cute albino character. Find it at **www.districtbulletin.com.au

POLLY'S BIGGEST CANCER MORNING TEA — SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY 25 MAY

Calling for items or vouchers from your business for raffle prizes, silent auction, noisy auction, chocolate wheel, door prizes and lots more.
If you can assist please call Pauline 6238 1996 or email psegeri@bigpond.com

NSW Land for Wildlife Forum
28th & 29th April 2017, Queanbeyan

The NSW Land for Wildlife forum is an opportunity for private landowners, government agencies and other interested parties to come together and showcase the benefits of conservation by landholders.

- Guest speakers, displays
- Promoting practical benefits
- Providing first hand knowledge / field trips to local properties
- Creating natural connections

Contact the CEN on (02) 4349 4756
email lfwnsw@cen.org.au
for more information / register online

at www.cen.org.au

This Swamp Wallaby joey was rescued from the pouch of mother who was run over on Macs Reef Road in Bywong recently. It was brought to Possumwood which tends to road orphans and fence-injured wildlife with depressing regularity. Readers are reminded that slowing down on roads marked with wildlife crossing signs (including Macs Reef) will save lives, and avoid vehicle repair costs.

Thanks from Carwoola

ON BEHALF of the residents of Carwoola, the Carwoola Community Association would like to thank the NSW and ACT fire and emergency services for saving lives and property during the February fire.

We would also like to thank all those individuals, volunteer groups, organisations, local businesses, clubs, markets, nurseries, NGO's and banks for the many donations of money, goods, plants, expertise and time since then. So many of you have stepped forward to help us rebuild after the recent devastating bushfire!

The staff of Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council also deserve our gratitude for their unstinting efforts in organising meetings, fundraising and generally helping us make recovery a reality. Together we are moving through this complex process to a safer future.

And, finally, a big thank you to the residents of Carwoola for sticking together and helping to build and strengthen this wonderful community.

— Lucy Costas, Secretary
Carwoola Community Association

UNDERSTAND ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATE AUSTRALIA

DEMENTIA ESSENTIALS

CHCAGE005 Provide support to people living with dementia

3 DAY PROGRAM

Topics include:
- person centres care
- the nature of dementia
- effective communication
- impact of dementia
- activities for living and pleasure
- understanding changed behaviours and developing effective responses

VENUE: Queanbeyan Kangaroo Leagues Club
Cnr Stuart St and Richard Avenue
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

START DATE: 1 May 2017 (Day 1); 8 May (Day 2); 15 May 2017 (Day 3)
9.00am–3.30pm each day

COST: Fully funded

SUITABLE FOR: All staff working with or caring for people with dementia

Participation at all three sessions is essential.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Email: nsw.education@alzheimers.org.au
Call: 02 8875 4682

Funded by the Australian Government

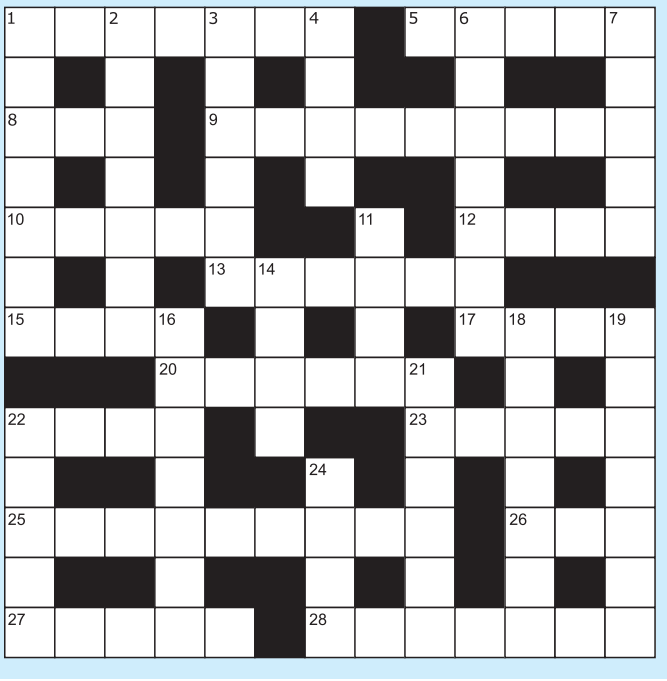
VISIT FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU FOR ALTERNATIVE DATES AND LOCATIONS

Crossword

Solution p7

Across
1 Shining intensely (7)
5 Highest peak in the Alps, Mont _____ (5)
8 Work unit (3)
9 Mound of earth made by ants as they dig their nest (9)
10 Strange (5)
12 Official literary language of Pakistan (4)
13 Sudden outburst of anger (6)
15 Throb dully (4)
17 Mild yellow Dutch cheese (4)
20 Person who rides in horse races (6)
22 Single and isolated from others (4)
23 One more time (5)
25 Small strip of wood used to clear food from the mouth (9)
26 Unit if electrical resistance (3)
27 Musical study (5)
28 Sleeping chamber (7)

Down
1 Island state of the eastern Caribbean, Capital of St George's (7)
2 Extreme mental distress (7)
3 Baby (6)
4 Clothing of a distinctive style (4)
6 Deliver a talk (7)
7 South American rodent resembling a small beaver (5)
11 Vaulted recess (4)
14 Corrode, as with acid (4)
16 Put out (7)
18 Juggling game consisting of a spool which is whirled and tossed on a string tied to two sticks (7)
19 Lower limit (7)
21 Pulled suddenly (6)
22 Wood turning tool (5)
24 Jointed appendage (4)



Local diverse farms secure food, grow local economies

by Penny Kothe

WHAT'S SO special about local farms and local produce? Why bother when you can buy everything at the supermarket?

Whether it is climate change, fossil fuels, peak oil or another of the global impacts on our food and water, the industrialised food system is dependent on the transportation of cheap global commodities. This is open to huge shocks that limit our ability to be self-sufficient and have enough food and water should push come to shove.

A more localised approach to food production shelters us from such shocks.

Remember the family farm? When every backyard had chooks, grew veggies and slaughtered their own meat. You can still do that today, but who has the time?

"Obviously, if you have the time, growing your own chickens for eggs or meat, having a vegetable garden and perhaps a few fruit trees may be the best way to secure at least some of your own future food, but for others we must depend on farmers around us," says Colin McLean, President Southern Harvest Association.

Added Bronwyn Richards: "prior to the introduction of chemical fertilizers, leading to large-scale broadacre farming, most food was produced locally and most people participated in some way in its production".

Richards and her partner are farming on the village scale. Wynlen House is a micro farming enterprise on just under 1.5 acres in Braidwood. It is an organic four-season, cool climate, slow food farm selling produce (vegetables and meat) all year to consumers.

The industrialisation of farming means that most local food produced ends up being sent to larger cities for centralisation and comes back to us through Coles and Woolworths.

Greenhill Farm, owned and run by the Oliver family is an exception. Set on 1,100 acres near Bungendore, Greenhill Farm grows grass-fed beef and a range of vegetables.

"We started selling our beef direct to our customers in 2007. We were sick and tired of selling beautiful organic cattle to feedlots where they were treated with a systemic worm medicine, vaccinated, hormone implanted and given medicated grain and hay. We were at the mercy of a handful of buyers and had little control over the price. All our good work seemed wasted, and we could hardly even pay the bills," says Sue Armstrong.

Today their produce is available at EPIC Market every Saturday morning and monthly at the Southern Harvest Farmers Market in Bungendore. Greenhill Farm is fully certified organic/biodynamic (Demeter).

The Southern Harvest Association is helping to revitalise our local food economy through education, access to markets and growing the number of producers. The existence of local food establishments such as Food Lovers Market in Bungendore, Provisions Grocery and Deli in Braidwood and Farmers Markets including the Southern Harvest Farmers Market in Bungendore are important.

Another local producer is Tweenhills Chestnuts. Fresh chestnuts are available from April to June. This family-operated chestnut orchard at Hoskinstown was established in 1997 and has 1,200 grafted trees on 10 hectares. Chestnuts are harvested, washed, cooled, inspected, and graded into sizes on-farm, using state of the art equipment.

The Bungendore Harvest Festival, 28–30 April, celebrates local food, fibre and farming and features a number of local farms from across the region.

Our region, within close proximity to Canberra, is ideal for small-scale farming, with larger hobby blocks of 100 acres providing enough room to explore both horticulture and larger animals. Whether you choose to grow seasonally or explore alternative options for farm income, a productive farm is certainly within reach.

Tourism is another aspect of small farms. For example, providing a country lifestyle experience, Mona Farm is a gracious luxury estate located in Braidwood. Currently a working equestrian farm, it also offers five star service, for anyone who is looking for somewhere extraordinary for a wedding, corporate event or private retreat. ■

Find out more about local food and farming at the Bungendore Harvest
www.southernharvest.org.au

What's On

THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Proudly brought to you by Q-One Performing Arts

QPRC Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council | one Aquatics Performing Arts Indoor Sports Community Facilities

April 2017

Now – until Saturday 22 April
Les Miserables
The Q, Performing Arts Centre, Queanbeyan. 8pm. Cost from $40.
Based on the novel by Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables* travels with Jean Valjean, as he runs from the ruthless Inspector Javert on a journey beyond the barricades, at the centre of the June Rebellion.
For more information visit **www.theq.net.au.**

Now – until Wednesday 31 May
Take Something Beautiful
Bungendore Fine Art Gallery, 42b Ellendon St, Bungendore. 10am– 4.30pm.
Helen Pain's artworks are bright and expressive. She finds her inspiration in the natural world, and in the imagery and rhythms of poetry and music.

DETAIL: LONE GUM – OUT OF ALICE

For more information visit **http://bungendorefineart.com.au/**

Tuesday 11 April
Backyard aquaponics
Canberra Environment Centre, Cnr Lennox Crossing and Lawson Cres, Acton. 6–8pm / $25.

:: LOCAL MARKETS ::

1st and 3rd Saturday of every month
Braidwood Farmers Markets. National Theatre, main street of Braidwood, from 8am–12.30pm. **www.braidwoodfarmersmarket.org.au**

Every Saturday
Southern Harvest Farmers Market. Anglican Church Hall, off Butmaroo St, Bungendore, 9am–Noon. **www.southernharvest.org.au**

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

1st Saturday of every month (ex-January)
Captains Flat Country Markets. Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 9.30–1.30pm. Enquiries to Maggie on 0473 113 398.

3rd Saturday of every month
Wamboin Home Produce & Craft Market. Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh locally-grown produce, home baked cakes and pies, native plants, jewellery and craft. Excellent cafe. Kids playground. Contact Lance and Meriel Schultz 6238 3309.

3rd Sunday every month
Market @ Bungendore. War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce. *See ad pg 2.*

The Queanbeyan Market. Queanbeyan Park, Lowe St, Queanbeyan, 9–1pm. Fresh produce, crafts, handmade goods, kids' activities and more, with emphasis on supporting regional farmers, producers and local small business.

Windy Hall Country Markets. Windellama Hall, 10–2pm, craft goods, Devonshire tea, deli delights + more. Bob Shaw 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.

5th Saturday of April & July
Market In Tarago. Town Hall, Wallace St, Tarago. 9am–2pm. Eclectic mix of stalls: Craft, Art, Produce Seasonal (CAPS) Market. Jenni Cole 0429 200 456.

More on regional / local events; and tourism visit
www.visitbraidwood.com.au
www.bungendore.com.au
www.visitcanberra.com.au
www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au

Gurkan Yeniceri, goes through the basics of everything you need to know about setting up and maintaining your own backyard aquaponics – a no waste, closed loop system for growing veggies.
For more information visit **www.canberraenvironment.org**

Tuesday 11 April
Sutton Landcare Group
Sutton Public School, 7.30pm.
Movie-length DVD *Seeds of Time* to be shown that chronicles the campaign by agriculturist Cary Fowler to raise global awareness of the need to change agricultural practices to mitigate the effects of climate change.
For more information contact Marchien Van Oostende 6273 6295.

Wednesday 12 April
The Rheingans Sisters
National Library of Australia, Parkes Pl, Canberra. 6–7pm / free.
Winners of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for Best Original Track in 2016, fiddle-singers Rowan and Anna Rheingans make bright, playful, bold folk music that nods to traditions without ever being bound by them.

Friday 14 to Monday 16 April — EASTER
Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market
Easter Saturday morning 15 April, Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way.
Special feature: Easter Bonnet Hat Parade and judging.

Saturday 22 April
Growing a medicinal garden
Canberra Environment Centre, Cnr Lennox Crossing and Lawson Cres, Acton. 1–3pm / $25.
Learn about growing your own medicinal garden with Sarah Aylott, a garden educator with the Australian National Botanic Gardens.
For more information visit **www.canberraenvironment.org**

Thursday 27 April to Sunday 7 May
Canberra International Music Festival
Canberra Fitters Workshop, Printers Way, Kingston. 6.30pm.
This annual treat includes over twenty expertly curated concerts from around the globe.
For more information call 6230 5880 or visit **www.cimf.org.au**

Thursday 27 April
Making zero waste products
Canberra Environment Centre, Cnr Lennox Crossing and Lawson Cres, Acton. 6–8pm / $25.
Bianca Jurd will show you how to make 3 common household products for your body, kitchen and surfaces using non-toxic ingredients. She will also discuss how to drastically reduce your household rubbish.
For more information call 4349 4756 or visit **www.canberraenvironment.org**

Friday 28 April, Sat 29 April
2017 Land for Wildlife Forum
Jerrabomberra Centre, Queanbeyan. 9–4pm.
Free to members and regional providers.
Land for Wildlife is a free voluntary scheme and property advice program that marries nature conservation of native animals and plants with sustainable land management.
For more information, registration visit the Community Environment Network website, **www.cen.org.au** *See poster p10.*

Friday 28 April
Ignite Walk, Canberra
Patrick White Lawns, Parkes, Canberra. 5–11.55pm.
Challenge yourself with a 7km, 14km or 21km walk to support people living with cerebral palsy. Live entertainment, neon light installations included.
Visit **www.ignitewalk.com.au**

Saturday 29 April
Cattle husbandry for small farms
Sutton (address provided after booking). 9am–3.30pm / $27.13 (includes booking fee).
Topics covered include breeds for small farms, pasture and feeding, worms and drenching, vaccinations, basic health and management.
For more information visit **www.smallfarmscapital.org**

Saturday 29 April
The Capture of the Clarkes
150th anniversary spectacular re-enactment. Braidwood Showground, Braidwood. 2.30pm (gates open at 12.30 pm). Adults $10, children $5, family $30.
The re-creation of the six-hour gun battle will be historically accurate but condensed to about half an hour.
For more information visit **www.braidwoodmuseum.org.au**

COMING UP in MAY

Saturday 20 May
The Peter Lock Trio with Gregg Arthur
Café Woodworks, Bungendore. 6pm / $80 pp.
Enjoy a three-course dinner while listening to the Peter Lock Trio with Gregg Arthur. For more information contact Café Woodworks on 6238 1688. *See info p9.*

Wheels of Wamboin
Wamboin Hall, Bingley Way. 9am–1pm.
2017 celebrates 75 years of the Jeep. "A vehicle forged in the needs of war that grew into one of the world's most recognized brands... On a cold still night you can hear the voices of those poor deluded Jeep owners yell across the Wamboin valleys, "I bought a Jeep!" – Peter Evans, *Wamboin Whisper*.

Tuesday 30 May
Queanbeyan Reconciliation Walk
Queens Bridge, Ray Morton Park, Trinculo Place, Queanbeyan. 10.30am.
Each year Council holds a Reconciliation Walk from the Queens Bridge to Reconciliation Garden in Queanbeyan Park. On arrival in the park there will be an official ceremony, followed by a BBQ.
For more information contact kyla.harvey@qprc.nsw.gov.au

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