



Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Palerang - Bungendore and Queanbeyan

Going out monthly to: Araluen, Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Bywong, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Cooma Road, Fernleigh, Greenleigh, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown, Majors Creek, Mongarlowe, Queanbeyan plazas, The Ridgeway, Royalla, Sutton, Tarago, Wamboin and Weetalaba

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NEW HOSPITAL

Cheers and charges

by
Maria Taylor

THE NEW Queanbeyan hospital may still be finding its feet in the region, and may be coping criticism from a group of Queanbeyan GPs, but feedback to a community advisory committee could not be more complimentary.

Queanbeyan Councillor Tom Mavec is a member of the Queanbeyan Local Area Health Advisory Committee, which provides the consumer input to the local health service. "The hospital consistently gets wonderful reviews from people who say they were treated well there," he told the *Bulletin*.

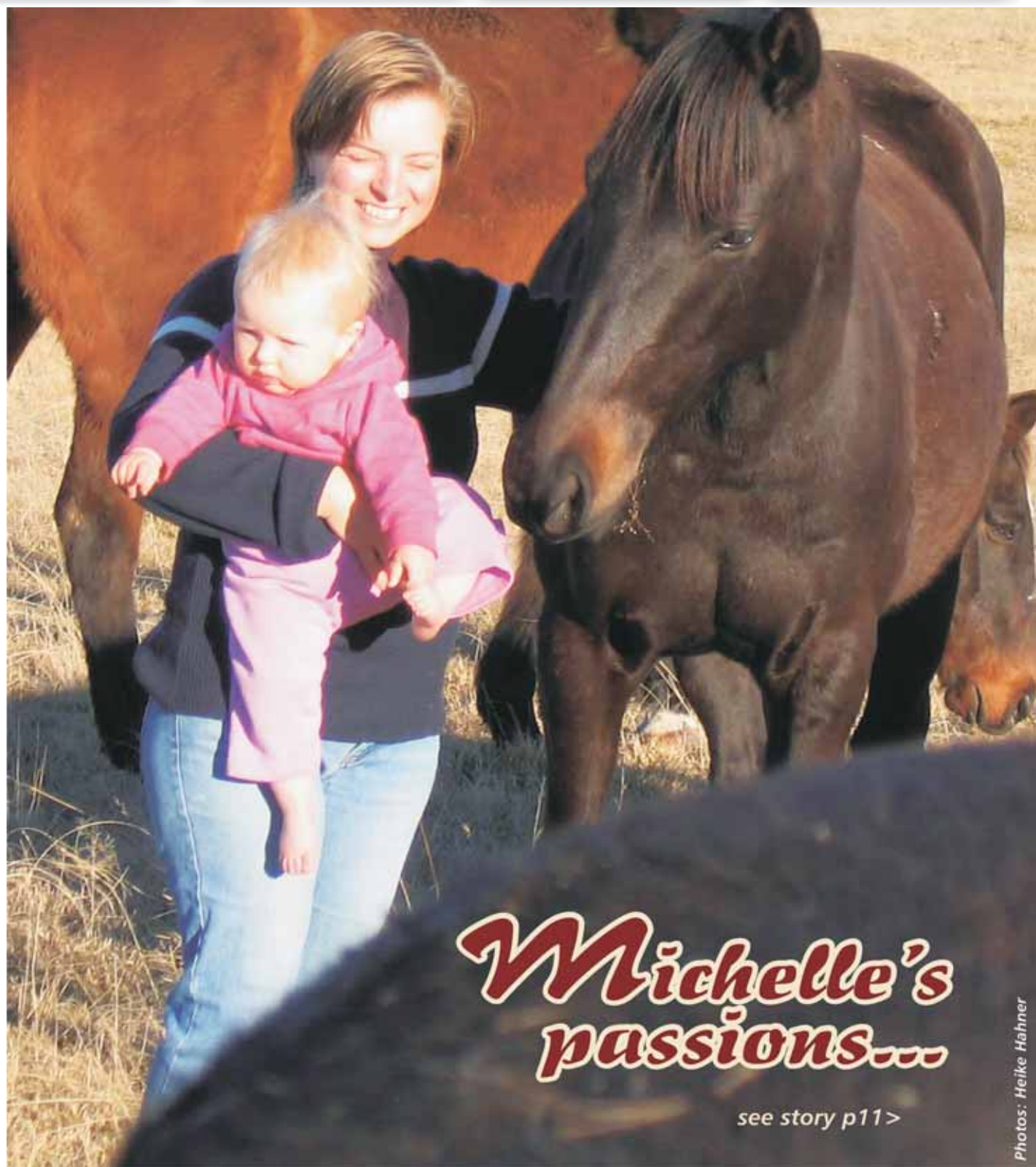
Questions about the staffing and performance of the well-designed 55-bed facility in its first 18 months (with 35 beds currently in service) have been raised recently in media reports. Criticisms are coming from some general practitioners who have served the old hospital and now the new hospital as Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs).

In the background is a dispute between these doctors and the Great Southern Area Health Service – the State government agency responsible for health services in this region. It involves differences about doctor staffing – VMO and permanent staff, levels of experience, and levels of remuneration on offer.

In an open letter this past month, five GPs again voiced concerns about the staffing situation – particularly of the emergency department and admissions with few VMOs now remaining on the rosters. They say that 6 percent of emergency department roster shifts were unfilled in the 162 days from 8 February to 19 July this year and that looking ahead to October, many more shifts are unfilled.

In addition, unfilled shifts for admitting doctors in the first half of the year meant that "20 percent of the time, patients could not be admitted to Queanbeyan hospital. One GP VMO is doing just short of half the filled shifts and that is clearly unsustainable," said Queanbeyan GP Ross Hendry. He would like to see more input on how things are run from "the people at the coalface," the doctors and nurses as well as the community.

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Michelle's passions...

see story p11>

Photos: Heike Hahner

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Marine Parks a winner

with sports fishermen, coastal businesses

THE GREENS have come out in defence of Marine Parks following the Liberal policy announcement to immediately halt the marine park process if elected.

Liberal candidate for Eden-Monaro David Gazard said in late July that the halt was necessary to allay fears among fishermen – and, importantly, the towns which their industries support – that the park would devastate their industry and deter recreational fishermen.

However Greens candidate for Eden-Monaro Catherine Moore said that the benefits of marine parks and no-take sanctuary zones have been repeatedly demonstrated in scientific studies from Australia and overseas.

“Marine Parks go a long way towards stopping the decline in fish stocks and giving them a chance to regenerate, so fishing quality for recreational anglers is not only preserved but will be improved over time.

“Both the Narooma and Bateman’s Bay Chambers of Commerce have come out in support of Marine Parks, with local businesses reporting that the region is booming, and car parks at boat ramps packed full.

“Furthermore, volunteer coastal patrols at Bateman’s Bay have reported increased boat traffic, and fishing magazines consistently speak well of the Bateman’s Marine Park, using expressions like ‘South Coast fishing on fire’ and ‘as good as it gets’.

“They attribute this directly to the creation of the Bateman’s Marine Park.

Libs: \$3 million for bypass roads

Labor: bid for funds

do we hear more?

QUEANBEYAN COUNCIL and residents are keen to prevent a lot of additional traffic from transiting through downtown as large suburban developments are established at Googong, and possibly Tralee, south of the city.

Bypass roads, that would also divert trucks travelling to the ACT from the Old Cooma Road quarry, failed to attract firm dollar commitments until now.

But it’s election time and that makes it the best possible time to pass the hat for roads and infrastructure. This has yielded results for the proposed Ellerton Drive extension and Dunn’s Creek Road with Liberal candidate David Gazard promising \$3 million under a Coalition government for preliminary studies to get the project off the ground. Sitting Labor MP Mike Kelly has promised to support a bid for funding from the Building Better Regional Cities Program if re-elected.

The bypass roads would connect the planned southern suburbs to North Canberra and Tuggeranong via the Monaro Highway and also connect to the Kings Highway in the east. If constructed, Dunns Creek Road would connect the future suburbs of Googong, and

“It is divisive and misleading for candidates to be talking about huge job losses when commercial fishing can still take place in certain areas, and these areas are negotiated with all stakeholders as part of the zoning process.

“It is just as essential that we have Marine Parks as it is that we have National Parks on land,” she said.

possibly Tralee, with the Monaro Highway. The Ellerton Drive extension provides an eastern ring road.

This would link with the soon-to-be constructed Edwin Land Parkway extension and also intersect with Old Cooma Road, providing residents of Jerrabomberra and Karabar with a much more direct route to Kings Highway. Developers for Googong, and for Tralee (if the latter goes ahead against Canberra Airport opposition), have promised major contributions.

Transport and health are sure to be issues at Queanbeyan ‘Meet the Candidates’ night on **Tuesday 10 August** – at ‘the Q’ 7pm – off the Lowe St carpark. All invited. Wamboin/Bywong will host a meet the candidates on **Thursday 12 August** at Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley way, Wamboin, 7.30pm – or watch out for others in the region.

UNFLUED HEATERS TO GO

STOP PRESS: NSW parents won a significant public health victory at the end of July with the State Government announcement that unflued gas heaters would be removed from public schools. This followed a report showing a link between classrooms with the heaters and a higher incidence of respiratory complaints.

Bungendore and Braidwood P&C Associations were active in the fight to have the heaters removed. They have extended thanks to the community and the support of Eden-Monaro member Mike Kelly for the good outcome.

But, Bungendore P&C’s Sharon Baxter-Judge said that Palerang had not yet been confirmed for the first round of heater replacements.



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NEW HOSPITAL Cont’d from p1



Hospital recruitments

Hospital Health Service Manager Robyn Harvey acknowledged that like all regional hospitals Queanbeyan can face staffing challenges. But she said only five percent of emergency shifts were unstaffed before July, and this was probably due to unexpected staff absence like doctors falling sick. Looking ahead, rosters are not filled until several weeks beforehand, explaining the still large gaps.

Ms Harvey was proud of the fact that the hospital currently has a full nursing staff. She said this year Queanbeyan recruited two permanent emergency services (ED) medical officers, two temporary ED medical officers and two VMOs who can work in other parts of the hospital as well as emergency.

“The hospital is currently advertising for general practitioners who wish to take on VMO work to assist with the admission of patients and is also recruiting for a new position of Specialist Anaesthetist to boost the hospital’s specialist theatre resources”.

Sixty patients a day, on average, are making use of the emergency department and Queanbeyan is admitting some 5000 inpatients annually — general, maternity and geriatric mostly. The hospital operates with community health programs under the same roof.

Inadequate pathology and radiology reporting also figure in the GP’s criticisms, to the point of being “medically indefensible”, said Dr Hendry. These services are outsourced and Ms Harvey said that the criticisms will be followed up.

One issue all sides seem able to agree on is the need to further explore the relationship with the ACT hospitals and the possible ‘flow back’ of patients to Queanbeyan. This would make better use of cross-border resources such as operating theatres. Queanbeyan’s are currently said to be used for only 23 out of a possible 120 sessions per month.

Dr Hendry said that it would greatly benefit Queanbeyan if some of the money now paid by NSW to the ACT flowed back, along with some patients – for example for minor surgeries. If the operating theatres were used regionally, it could take 2,000 patients per year or more off the ACT lists, coming from NSW and the ACT.

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EDEN-MONARO – Will we match the winner yet again?

by Nichole Smith

AS THE ELECTION looms, the most watched electorate in the nation once again looks set to test its position as a ‘flagship seat’, and, as has been the case for almost 40 years, conjecture as to just what this means and whether the status will be retained is as abundant as ever.

For Eden-Monaro, much of this focus is a result of its position as a ‘bellwether’. In much the same way the old political adage ‘as Maine goes, so goes the nation’ referred to the way in which the US state was considered the predictor of American presidential elections, since 1972 the NSW seat has fore-told to which party the government of the day shall fall.

Added to this prestigious standing – as one of only four such electorates remaining throughout the country – since World War II it has also been a marginal seat, one of a handful in the state now potentially more critical than ever to all sides of politics.

Currently held by Labor’s Mike Kelly with a margin of 2.3 percent, in 2010 Eden-Monaro is being contested by former journalist and Liberal staffer David Gazard and Green, Catherine Moore, a Palerang Councillor.

A very close race?

As the *Bulletin* goes to press in early August, John Warhurst, Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University, specialising in politics and government, believes it will be a

much tighter race nationally and certainly in Eden-Monaro than the polls might be indicating.

ELECTION SPECIAL



“Labor is going into the election in a better position than when it came to power in 2007 courtesy of electoral redistributions, but as with the last election, which was closer than many people realise, this too will be very closely fought. A uniform swing against Labor of about 2.3 percent could be enough to see a change in government.”

The electoral redistributions which occurred prior to and since the 2007 election are an important factor in predictions. Redistributions are required under the Electoral Act to ensure that a state is divided up in such a way that each Division has a similar number of voters. With continually increasing growth rates, this process occurs more frequently.

The sheer diversity of Eden-Monaro

Created in 1900, Eden-Monaro was one of the original 75 electorates contested at the first Federal election and for over a century its boundaries remained largely unchanged. It stretches from the coastline of South Durras down to Eden, over to the farming communities of the Monaro, into the high country of the Snowy Mountains and covering the urban centre of Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Since 2009 its boundaries have incorporated some 29,500

square kilometres and seven local government areas (LGAs): Queanbeyan, Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Snowy River, Cooma-Monaro and Bombala, as well as most of the Palerang LGA with the somewhat peculiar exceptions of Bywong, Wamboin, and Sutton. These exceptions form part of the Hume electorate which in our area also encompasses Gundaroo (Yass Valley LGA) and Tarago (Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA), and is currently held by Alby Schultz as a Liberal safe seat.

The most recent adjustment was a result of a growth rate predicted to be in excess of 10 percent and was a virtual reversal of that which occurred in 2007, seeing the loss of the Tumut and Tumbarumba shires and the re-gaining of Batemans Bay. This has narrowed the margin from 3.3 percent to mirror the national swing needed for the Coalition to achieve government, a change of approximately 1,000 votes.

Professor Warhurst says some of the reason Eden-Monaro is so reflective of who wins government is because it is so geographically large as well as extremely diverse, the varied areas of which are relatively evenly balanced.

“In Eden-Monaro it is a fairly even contest which gives both parties a real fighting chance and makes it inherently interesting.”

Where the votes lie

Coastal booths from Moruya to Eden have traditionally provided the best results for the ALP whereas the mountain areas around Cooma and previously up to Tumut have been stronger for the Coalition and the weakest for Labor. The ALP’s strongest voting area extends from Queanbeyan into the Southern Highlands, with the party’s support in the urban base generally matching the Coalition’s strengths in the more rural parts of the seat.

Since their arrival in Eden-Monaro in 1996, the Greens have consistently polled higher here than the national average, even though their strongest vote generally comes from inner-city seats. The trend was bucked somewhat in 2007 when the primary vote remained virtually unchanged at 7.45 percent even though the national figure reached 9.04 percent. Nevertheless, the Greens continued to perform well in Palerang, achieving 12.3 percent of the vote.

Continued p5

The Candidates – Eden-Monaro –

DAVID GAZARD – Liberal



I am running for Parliament because the people of Eden-Monaro deserve better representation. Over the past months, I’ve travelled across the electorate listening to people’s concerns. The area faces many challenges, from cost-of-living pressures, to medical care shortages, to unfunded infrastructure projects.

As a small business owner who lives in Burra with my wife and three kids, I understand local families. Over the past months, I’ve spoken to thousands of residents about their problems. Households are struggling to pay the bills. People are concerned about rising costs of living. They’re worried about higher taxes. They need someone who will fight for them, but currently, they’re not getting it.

In the past three years, we’ve seen Labor make promises only to break them. We’ve watched Labor try and fail on the so-called ‘Fuel

Watch’ and ‘Grocery Watch’ schemes, which were supposed to lower the cost of living. The current government has overseen inefficient programs like BER and home insulation that have wasted billions of taxpayer dollars. We’re currently borrowing \$100 million every day, raising our national debt to over \$40 billion dollars. Waste and reckless spending like this is unacceptable, and the people of Eden-Monaro deserve better.

As a small business owner who lives in Burra with my wife and three kids, I understand local families

I will deliver real action. I will work to cut debt, eliminate waste, and reduce the taxation burden to help keep interest rates low. These steps are necessary steps to help workers maintain employment, receive higher wages, and stay ahead of the cost of living. I will work to ease the day-to-day pressures on local families.

As a small business owner, I know that government needs to empower local businesses, not

impede them. Since Labor came into office, we’ve had almost 10,000 new or amended regulations on local companies. But I will work to empower our local businesses to ensure they thrive, not impose restrictions that hurt their ability to operate.

I will stand up for better medical services. In 2007, Labor promised 36 GP superclinics across Australia, but only three are currently operational. Travelling across the electorate, I’ve spoken to mothers who have experienced difficulty delivering their children at Pambula and to people who have struggled to get specialist health services. I have made no secret of my support for permanent specialist services at Pambula Hospital, particularly with Labor failing to deliver a new regional hospital in Bega. Health is too important an issue to allow speculation to continue unchecked. People deserve certainty and they deserve the best possible care. If elected as your local member, I promise to deliver better medical services to our area.

We also need to invest in roads and infrastructure. We need a strong local member to fight for projects that will ease road congestion and increase quality of life, like the long-awaited ring road for Queanbeyan/Jerrabomberra and the Bega Bypass. For too long we’ve seen our infrastructure needs ignored, and it’s time to deliver on these projects.

We are fortunate to live in an incredibly beautiful, diverse part of Australia. But we also

face pressing challenges. If there is one thing I want people to know, it’s that I will listen and work for them. I will take their calls, answer their correspondence, and operate with a spirit of openness and accountability. People across Eden-Monaro hold diverse concerns and they need a strong local member who will seize the initiative and act on those concerns. I want to serve the people to preserve the best of our communities, to make us more prosperous and more vibrant with a better future. I hope that on 21 August I can earn people’s trust to become their voice in Canberra.

MIKE KELLY – Labor



I decided to run for Eden-Monaro in 2007 because I have a strong connection to our area, I wanted to contribute to the development of our region and I have decided to run again because I am committed to providing all Eden-Monaro residents the quality services they deserve.

I believe the main issues in the region are clearly health, infrastructure investment and education. I have worked with the local community to make sure that together we have achieved a lot for the region, but there is more to do.

House of Representative candidates for the electorate of Eden-Monaro (NSW)

Ballot position	Candidate name	Party ballot	Occupation name	Contacts (+)
1	QUILTY, Olga	Liberal Democrats (LDP)	Accountant	
2	KELLY, Mike <i>[Incumbent]</i>	Labor	Member of Parliament	
3	GAZARD, David	Liberal	Self employed	
4	FRAGIACOMO, Frank	Independent	Traffic Contoller	
5	BUCKLEY, Ray	Independent	Self Employed	
6	GRADWELL, Tom	Family First	Information Technologist	
7	BENNETT, Ursula	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Domestic Engineer	
8	MOORE, Catherine	The Greens	Artist & Councillor	

(+) For contact details please refer to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Mike Kelly MP

Federal Member for Eden-Monaro



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This material has been produced by Mike Kelly MP using his printing and communications entitlement

HUME *BIG* but invisible in Palerang

IT’S BEEN almost 40 years since the conservatives first took control of the electorate of Hume, and while once large margins have narrowed considerably, Liberal Alby Schultz is intent on winning it for the fifth consecutive time.

Schultz has held the seat since 1998. After achieving the largest margin ever in Hume in 2004, securing just over 64 percent of the two-party preferred vote, his task this time around has been made more difficult after suffering a swing against him at the last election of 8.7 percent.

Continual electoral boundary redistributions have also caused their share of headaches for both candidates and voters alike. Formerly

MATCH THE WINNER?

Predictions for 2010 are that the Greens could inspire something of a ‘climate change’ but in reality, it is their allocation of preferences that will prove most significant. “I think the Greens will poll quite strongly but preferences will decide the outcome,” said Professor Warhurst. “There is certainly the possibility the Greens could dilute Labor’s vote by taking more primary votes from them than they give back in preferences.”

Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall is very aware of the attention focused on those seats where a vote can potentially mean more.

“As a marginal seat where such a small number of voters can make a difference to who wins, the inclination is for politicians to

considered a ‘safe’ Liberal seat, Hume’s margin has been reduced from a high of 14.1 percent to 5.4 percent, the point at which it borders on being considered ‘marginal’ again for the first time since 1974.

Standing against the incumbent in 2010 is Labor’s Robin Saville and the Green’s Kevin Watchirs, who has stood for the seat twice before.

Dizzying electoral changes

Regularly described as being ‘bigger than Belgium’, Hume currently covers over 33,600 square kilometres encompassing some 229 towns and rural villages, from the tip of the northern ACT border, stretching along the Hume Highway to Yass and up to the Southern Highlands.

Numerous redistributions have resulted in almost as many changes in the fortunes of the seat. Another of the electorates created at Fed-

perhaps promise more, although such commitments are not always delivered. The priority for Queanbeyan remains funding for the ring road extension to cater for future population growth and to take pressure off our CBD and even though former NSW Labor Premier Bob Carr had pledged financial assistance during campaigns as far back as the 1990s, this has yet to come about.”

The more regularly occurring electoral redistributions may also come to affect Eden-Monaro’s current standing and fortunes. Changes open up the possibility to move from a ‘marginal’ to a ‘safe’ seat. At this point however, it remains well below the 6 percent that generally indicates movement from one to the other and so voters within the region can continue to expect a heightened level of

MIKE KELLY CONTINUED

I am concerned that all that has been achieved through the hard work of our community and government will be undone by Tony Abbott. I want to make sure that the Coalition does not have the opportunity to cut the National Broadband Network, to cut our GP Super Clinics, Trades Training Centres, not to mention the loss of 12,000 public service jobs* and the return of the worst elements of WorkChoices.

I believe these proposed cuts and changes by the coalition will damage this region. As such, I will fight to make sure this does not happen.

During my term as MP I have met and worked with local health groups on a number of issues. Discussions like these are behind the Labor Government’s decision to increase health funding by 50 percent and to fund 3,000 new nurses and 1,300 GPs over the next three years. It should be stressed that if Tony Abbott and David Gizard have their way these plans will be abandoned and we will move backward to the bad old days of Abbott’s cuts to the Health Budget.

Delivering education services and infrastructure is one of my key priorities for the region. Providing a first class education for all children and providing the skills training for the next generation is central to the growth of the area. I am proud that the Labor Government is delivering new infrastructure, such as modern classrooms and libraries, delivering computers in schools and delivering trades training for students at school.

I am also proud of the national reforms that the government has undertaken. Parents across our region have welcomed the ‘myschool’ website and a national curriculum with a focus on the basics.

I also consider the provision of high speed broadband to the region is of the utmost importance. The National Broadband Network will offer speeds of 100 megabits per second – 100 times faster than many people experience today. Local families, businesses, health services and schools will enjoy the benefits of faster, modern technology – sharing the same advantages as the cities. It will make regional economies more competitive, ensure our students have the best quality education and put an end to download delays at home and work.

If re-elected I will continue delivering investments in education, health and infra-

structure. I would like to see our local public servants keep their jobs and I want to ensure that our region gets access to the National Broadband Network. I want to ensure that the Trade Training Centres program continues and that schools expecting new libraries, classrooms and other infrastructure don’t miss out on the resources that they need.

Most importantly however, I want to make sure that our national and regional economies continue to grow. This will require steady hands at the national level and the right sort of investments locally.

**(In a media release, the Liberal candidate David Gizard said there is no policy to cut current federal public servants, but to put a freeze on hiring for two years, losing positions in that way.)*

CATHERINE MOORE – Greens



The Greens as always are campaigning on better health and public transport options and increased support for TAFE and public education generally, in line with our four principles of social and economic justice, ecological sustainability, grassroots democracy, and peace and nonviolence. We would like to see an end to cost-shifting, with local government recognised in the Australian Constitution and adequately funded so councils can deliver the services and facilities that people expect. Better funding of local government is of particular relevance to the people of Palerang, who have been hit by increased rates and charges as Council is expected to fund more and more of the activities it is required to undertake by State and Federal Governments.

Adequately funded and properly supported TAFE and public education systems are essential in rural and regional communities, as are effective and appropriate health and mental health facilities. Dental care is fundamental to a preventative approach to health care, so dental care should be claimable under Medicare. These are all important issues for people in local communities, and they keep cropping up at every election. In a just society, any government ought to make these basic services a priority.

As with social justice issues, environmental issues seem to stay the same from election to election, though the issue of the Marine Park is

interest, Hume originally covered the NSW border region and included Albury, Gundagai and Cootamundra. Initially it alternated between conservatives in various guises (Protectionists, Country Party, etc.) and the Labor Party, before becoming a marginal seat in 1931, and then losing this status in 1974 when the National Party increased the margin to a safer range.

Between 1984 and 2001 Hume was subjected to a further three redistributions, adding to the growing issues for the electorate, not least of which had been the virtual merry-go-round of sitting members. Prior to the 2001 election, Hume absorbed large parts of the Liberal seat of Macarthur, formerly the most significant of the ‘bellwether’ seats which had predicted the government of the day since 1949.

The alterations saw Macarthur contract to only 12 percent of its former size and although it would regain areas from Hume in 2007 (which

interest – at least until this election has been decided.

But Professor Warhurst does not envisage any change to this status in the near future. “The nature of the seat means its basic character will remain largely the same and I think it will maintain its bellwether/marginal status. In this election, if Mike Kelly holds on, the strong likelihood is that Labor will retain government.”

With as few as 3,000 votes potentially making the difference for Eden-Monaro in 2010, for the leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott, the continuing importance of the seat was abundantly clear. “We cannot win the election unless we win Eden-Monaro,” he told the nation as he started his campaign.

relatively new. The benefits of Marine Parks and no-take sanctuary zones are enormous, as repeatedly demonstrated in scientific studies from Australia and overseas. Marine Parks go a long way towards stopping the decline in fish stocks and giving them a chance to regenerate, so fishing quality for recreational anglers is not only preserved but will be improved over time.

We urgently need to put climate change back at the forefront of debate. Climate change will have huge impacts in Eden-Monaro. There are farming communities that may no longer have access to adequate water, or be able to produce the same food and fibre; coastal communities that will be affected by rising sea levels; and high country communities that rely on adequate snowfalls in winter and that are already noticing the changes from higher spring temperatures. In addition there are growing urban centres of population that rely on adequate rainfall, healthy rivers and recharging of bores for their very existence.

We need a carbon tax, and to move away from a coal-based economy to a green economy that’s based on renewables such as wind, wave, solar and geothermal. Doing this will create thousands of jobs. Eden-Monaro has huge potential to provide renewable energy develop-

ment zones, as described in the Greens’ renewable energy policy announced recently by Senator Christine Milne. The Greens’ Safe Climate (Renewable Energy Infrastructure) Bill is a vital step in planning the transition to 100% renewable energy in Australia, giving Infrastructure Australia several new planning tasks that will be essential in making that transition as rapidly and efficiently as possible. For details of the plan, visit <http://christine-milne.greensmps.org.au/content/media-release/greens-plan-100-renewable-energy>.

The Greens do not support the Eden forest furnace proposal. Both the Coalition and ALP voted recently in Parliament to make biomass burning from forests eligible for carbon credits. The forest furnace will only further entrench the destructive practice of woodchipping our native forests at a time when forests and their biodiversity need protection more than ever. The added benefits of protection would include carbon storage, helping to protect catchments and water quality and the viability of local industries like oyster farming and tourism.

The Greens are a viable option for voters. It’s more important than ever that politicians look to securing a sustainable future and it’s only the Greens who are doing that.

— Nichole Smith

House of Representative candidates for the electorate of Hume (NSW)

Ballot position	Candidate name	Party ballot	Occupation name	Contacts (+)
1	LIPTAK, Charles	Family First	Plumber	
2	BUTLER, Greg	Australian Democrats	Professional Engineer	
3	SAVILLE, Robin	Labor	Teacher	
4	MILAT, Lisa	Liberal Democrats (LDP)	Small business owner	
5	WATCHIRS, Kevin	The Greens	Teacher	
6	BUTTIGIEG, Karen	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	Caterer	
7	SCHULTZ, Alby <u>[Incumbent]</u>	Liberal	Member of Parliament	

(+) For contact details please refer to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Hume candidates: Robin Saville and Alby Schultz, p6>

The Candidates – Hume – ELECTION SPECIAL

ROBIN SAVILLE – Labor



My name is Robin Saville, a local Goulburn man, a high-school teacher who has worked in Canberra, Bowral, the Riverina and Goulburn. I am married to JJ, a primary school teacher, and we have three children (aged 6, 3 and my newest daughter was born in Goulburn Base Hospital just three months ago). I've worked overseas as a teacher too and I have learned that Australia has the best lifestyle in the world. I grew up in a small town of around 1,000 people so I know the pleasures and pressures of small town living.

I am running because I do not believe we are getting the level of representation we deserve. The central reason for my candidacy is Alby Schultz. He has become complacent, asking only one question in Parliament in 2010 and zero questions in 2009. He is taking people's support for granted. I offer Hume active representation. The current member does not.

I will work for the people of Hume and have a grasp of the issues in Hume. In Yass there is the question of the dam and the Barton Highway. That road, with thousands of car movements each day, needs Federal funding and I intend to pursue it. In Goulburn, the largest centre in the electorate, there is a need for a performing arts centre. What is the current member doing about these issues?

Health is the number one issue in this electorate, however. The ALP Government has brought about a major reform of the national health system. \$2.1 billion into NSW to reduce waiting times in emergency rooms, increase

the number of doctors and nurses, improve aged care services and boost elective surgery capacity. Many of the towns in Hume are isolated and lack health services. The Government's e-health program is essential for improving communication between medical professionals and ensuring better health outcomes. The Coalition opposes the policies such as the National Broadband Network (NBN) which will connect your doctor to bigger centres where the services are.

Public transport is sparse or non-existent in many areas and that is why my number two issue is roads. I will be a champion for this region's roads and an integrated transport system. Further, an intermodal, a transport interchange utilising Goulburn's prime position between Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, should be investigated. Personally, I also want to promote the VFT idea as part of any integrated transport system.

Labor is taking action about the lack of mobile phone coverage. This will be a priority for me. How can business compete without it? How can communication, so vital in rural Australia, be assured?

Tony Abbott has said climate change is not real. The Member for Hume agrees. He has said in Parliament that the science behind climate change is 'perverted'. I believe in climate change and that humans cause or partially cause it. Australia is the highest emitter in the world on a per capita basis. Action must be taken. Sitting on our hands and hoping it is only a temporary thing is not good enough. We need to reduce our carbon emissions and invest in renewable energy (particularly solar energy).

Julia Gillard achieved a breakthrough in the mining tax. It will deliver a tax cut for small businesses, bigger superannuation contributions and better regional infrastructure. An extra \$6 billion will be injected into regional communities in a Regional Infrastructure Fund. The Coalition will junk the mining tax and this money. They will also junk the NBN, denying Hume this connection to the world. Who really is committed to regional Australia? We cannot afford to vote for the sitting member.

[No statement received from Greens candidate Kevin Watchirs.]

ALBY SCHULTZ – Liberal



Alby Schultz, has a long and proud history of serving in public office. During a career spanning 34 years in the meat processing industry, Alby was elected and spent eight years as a councillor in the Coot-amundra Shire.

In March 1988 Alby was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly as the State Member for Burrinjuck, winning in a three-cornered contest with the Labor and National parties a seat that had been a Labor stronghold for 47 years.

Alby won the seat of Hume in the 1998, 2001 and 2004 Federal elections and was again re-elected at the 2007 election.

Alby's political career has seen him make a significant contribution to many Parliamentary committees and take an active role in policy making. At the State level he sat on committees including law and justice, agricultural and rural

affairs, justice and emergency services, police, public works, roads and transport.

Alby is married to Gloria and has two adult children. He is a proud grandfather and when not fulfilling his parliamentary duties he enjoys fishing, tinkering in the shed and spending valuable time with his family. He also enjoys painting in water colours, and pastels, riding his motorbike and is an avid gardener.

Alby is a staunch monarchist and is passionate about protecting and promoting our Australian flag, something he does through his membership of the Australian National Flag Association. Alby is active in our local community and patron to a number of clubs and associations.

He has a reputation as a strong people-first politician and encourages his constituents to provide him with facts and information on any matters of a Federal nature that impact on them.

He considers himself a strong advocate of mainstream values and is a fierce defender of the traditional family unit.

The 2010 Federal Election: youth perspective

By Christina Taylor

IT'S EARLY August and only weeks until the Federal Election will be held. So far we're missing the glitz and glamour of the Kevin 07 campaign. No catchy 'Yes We Can' style slogans.

This isn't to say that those are the quintessential hallmarks of a great election campaign... but at least there's something to remember them by. The 2010 Federal Election campaign has to be one of the most sterile we've had in a while.

There has been a constant feed of monotonous rhetoric streaming from the political arena – *Real solutions; real action; easing the burden; taking a tough stance*; etc. Enduring politicians' regurgitation of their contrived and catty press releases (with the intermittent addition of 'fair dinkum' or 'Aussie battler') is not only uninspiring, but

terrifying for those of us that will be here to endure the legacy of these ambiguous 'leaders'. Where is it that we're moving forward to, PM Gillard? What action are we to stand for, Mr Abbott?

Though, credit, I believe, is due to the Greens as they're usually quite succinct in their rejections and suggestion of policies.

Maybe it is just my way of thinking (youthful idealism, perhaps?) but I can't understand why politicians harbour such fear of speaking in a straightforward manner. If there is such love for our country, as all candidates claim, is it not worth stepping out of the box and calling a spade a spade? Acknowledge our local and national problems rather than putting resources into avoiding culpability and blaming opposing parties.

Nothing is openly put into context; it's all about a fictitious *future* that most of today's politicians will not be here to experience. I and many of my peers are sick of the weekly sledging battles between politicians and the resulting disengagement with the youth of Australia.

Continued p10

Conifers, casuarinas and native cherries – look, no leaves!

Local conifers

While the most commonly seen conifers in our region are the forests of introduced Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) we do have some of our own native conifers. Conifers

are in a botanical Class of plants (Coniferopsida) separate from flowering plants. Their fruiting body is a cone.

Local conifers occur in two families: the Podocarpaceae containing *Podocarpus lawrencei*, the Mountain Plum Pine, which grows in the nearby high country; and the Cupressaceae (Cypress Pine) consisting of 17 *Callitris* species spread throughout all the States.

A local species is the shapely Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris endlicheri*) which grows along the Molonglo Gorge and elsewhere in the shire. In the drier, more westerly parts of the State, the similar but usually taller, White Cypress Pine (*C.*

– Gardening –

story and photos by Jo Walker

glaucophylla) is more common, sometimes forming forests where they are the dominant species. The Mallee Pine, *C. preissii* ssp. *verrucosa*, is a shorter, often multi-stemmed large shrub.

Cypress Pines have very narrow leaves mostly attached to the stem with just a top 2mm or so turned outwards. The woody *Callitris* cones are more or less globose (almost spherical) and smooth with six cone segments. The Mallee Pine has a completely warty cone.

Native cherry – not to be confused with conifers

A local tree that is sometimes confused with conifers is *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, the Native Cherry or Cherry Ballart. It is actually in the Santalaceae family and can grow to 8m



Above: The Native Cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), with its fruit on the right.



or so, often forming a dense, attractive shrub or small tree which can take on a yellow-brown tinge in winter. It is parasitic on Eucalyptus roots, and, locally, seems to do well (without damaging the tree) close to *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box).

The leaves on young plants (to about 30cm tall) are dark green, narrow and up to 2cm long, but adult trees have tiny scale-like leaves which soon fall leaving the green stems appearing leafless. The flowers are tiny, cream and not easily noticed.

The fruit, however, is much more evident – a small, pale-brown, woody globe that is carried on the tip of what looks like a succulent berry. This is actually the stem of the fruit which expands and softens as it matures, changing in colour from green through yellow to orange-red.

Continued p13

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Yass

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FOR SUPERANNUATION AND OTHER PROPERTY INVESTORS

Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement in her climate change election speech that a re-elected Labor government would extend a big incentive to the commercial property sector for 'early movers' towards more energy efficiency and less greenhouse gas pollution, has been greeted with kudos from the property sector and conservationists alike.

The Property Council of Australia said the proposed \$1 billion investment allowance would help upgrade Australia's 330 million square metres of commercial building stock, most of which is more than 25 years old, and which accounts for 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Property Council chief executive Peter Verwer said the incentive "will bridge the significant payback gap between an investment in energy efficient capital and subsequent energy cost savings".

The allowance would extend the impact of the Green Building Fund to cover more building types, such as shopping centres, and would build on the innovative green technologies pioneered under the current scheme. Property Analyst **Nicola Woodward** took a look and decided there were more pros than cons and that it was an idea whose time has certainly come.

Tax breaks for green buildings: it's a new dawn and it looks good

by Nicola Woodward

ANALYSIS – at 26 July 2010... Tax breaks for Green buildings (TBGB). If Labor is re-elected, the tax break will run from 1 July 2011 until 30 June 2015 and reward building owners who undertake capital works projects to improve their NABERS Energy rating from 2 stars or less to 4 stars or more. The tax break will take the form of a one-off bonus tax deduction of 50 percent.

There are as yet few details as to the operation of the tax break but indications are that it will be available for commercial office buildings as well as some hotels and shopping centres.

The main departure from previous investment allowances is that the TBGB will be available for expenditure on both capital works (building) and depreciating assets (plant and equipment). This is a major step forward as capital works tend to form the largest proportion of capital expenditure due to the ATO's rather tight interpretation of 'what is a depreciating asset'.



To fill the gap in the end of the current investment allowance and the TBGB, the Gillard Labor Government will provide an additional \$30 million of grants within the existing Green Building Fund framework in Financial Year 2010-11.

So, what is it that is good about this policy?

For me, the best thing about it is that it rewards both risk and actual improvement. To take a building from a 2 stars or less NABERS Energy rating to a 4 stars or more NABERS rating is a significant achievement and if undertaken across the board will have a huge impact on the contribution of commercial property to Australia's total emissions.

As it rewards the change in ratings it is also a far more targeted reward than other suggested tax benefits, such as green depreciation. This should help level the playing field for the property owners with smaller portfolios of older buildings with very low ratings who do not have the benefit of in-house sustainability expertise. There are real concerns about the obsolescence of these buildings and hopefully the TBGB will go some way to remedying this.

The downsides?

There is still an inherent problem with using tax deductions as a carrot to encourage investment

in environmental improvements and that is that the financial decisions relating to return on investments are usually made without taking tax into consideration. This is especially true where tax deductions are deferrals of tax; we do not know at this stage whether this will be subject to a clawback on disposal.

There is also the issue of implementation. The last thing the commercial property industry needs right now is uncertainty and the possibility of a significant tax break that will not apply until 1 July 2011 may have a negative impact on the building industry in the current financial year – the stop-gap additional grants from the Green Building Fund may not be enough to offset this.

The other key issue may be in the shortcomings of the NABERS system. For example, you cannot currently rate a strata building and given the fact that many strata buildings will be in the 2 stars or below category they are likely to be further disadvantaged by not being able to access the TBGB.

There is also an element of uncertainty; NABERS ratings are not guaranteed even if you appear to do all the right things as a building owner. It can often take far longer than the minimum one year following a refurbishment to achieve the desired rating. This could have an adverse impact on the cash flow of a project which is relying on being able to take advantage of the TBGB.

How does the proposed Tax Breaks for Green Buildings compare to the Green Building Fund and the oft discussed green depreciation?

Simplicity: TBGB wins. A 50 percent deduction across both buildings and plant is about as simple as it gets. Although there will be a requirement to undertake NABERS ratings there is no mention of any further compliance hoops to jump through and as this is dovetailing with the mandatory disclosure regime these ratings will often be necessary anyway.

As the TBGB calculations will be separate to the regular depreciation regime it won't hold up the depreciation calculations on the property whilst NABERS ratings are attained.

This is of course all subject to the drafting of the legislation. The Green Building Fund involves a substantial amount of paperwork and there can be significant leakage in consultancy fees.

Improving the efficiency of commercial buildings: TBGB wins. There have to be real energy efficiency gains to qualify for the TBGB. The simplicity and clearly defined life of the TBGB will appeal across the board from the listed property trusts to the owners of single buildings versus the practicalities of green depreciation and the processes and timing issues around the Green Building Fund.

In summary, this is a neat idea from the Labor Party that could be shaped into a great policy given the right legislative drafting. How will the Coalition respond? Will they up the ante?

— Nicola Woodward is director, Apex Property Consulting

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The Sixth Australian and New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference will be held in Sydney August 10-12. The program indicates that many businesses have put in place or are looking seriously at ways to minimise energy consumption. It also scrutinises the growing body of national rating and auditing regulations for energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Details at www.climateandbusiness.com

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STOP PRESS: CHINA CAN DO IT, WHY CAN'T WE?

CHINA TO PUT PRICE ON CARBON

26 July 2010 – Reports out of China say that country will put a price on carbon starting next year. According to China Daily, the government has decided to use a market mechanism because an administrative one is too expensive; and its top 1,000 energy consumers have signed contracts to reduce energy consumption.

THE COUNTRY is set to begin domestic carbon trading programs during its 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-2015) to help it meet its 2020 carbon intensity target.

The decision was made at a closed-door meeting chaired by Xie Zhenhua, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission. "The consensus that a domestic carbon-trading scheme is essential was reached, but a debate is still ongoing

Continued p11



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Bungendore gardens in August

THE AUSTRALIAN Open Garden Scheme's new season in the Canberra region will be launched in Bungendore on the weekend of 28–29 August with a combined opening of two adjoining gardens at 34 and 36 Turallo Terrace.

The well-established gardens at 'Birchfield' and 'Piccolo' are both set among mature trees and though quite different share many common characteristics. Both gardens flow around each home and boundary planting visually links the two gardens. Visitors will in fact be able to move freely between the two gardens through a shared twig gate.

The two homes are both landmarks in Turallo Terrace, with 'Birchfield's' history spanning over 120 years while 'Piccolo' was built just 11 years ago. Marcia Voce, a garden designer and horticulturist, lived in 'Birchfield' with husband Brian for over 20 years before building 'Piccolo'. She developed both gardens.

'Birchfield' has been home to Gary and Cathy Royal since 1999 and they have been responsible for extensive renovations. 'Birchfield' has a long and interesting history and was built in Gothic-revival style by Catholic priest Father Patrick Birch. It was his private residence and he lived there for 28 years, until his death on 8 July 1914.

Visitors on the open weekend will see both gardens in their early spring phase, with bulbs beneath the trees, fresh green leaves and a scattering of blossom.

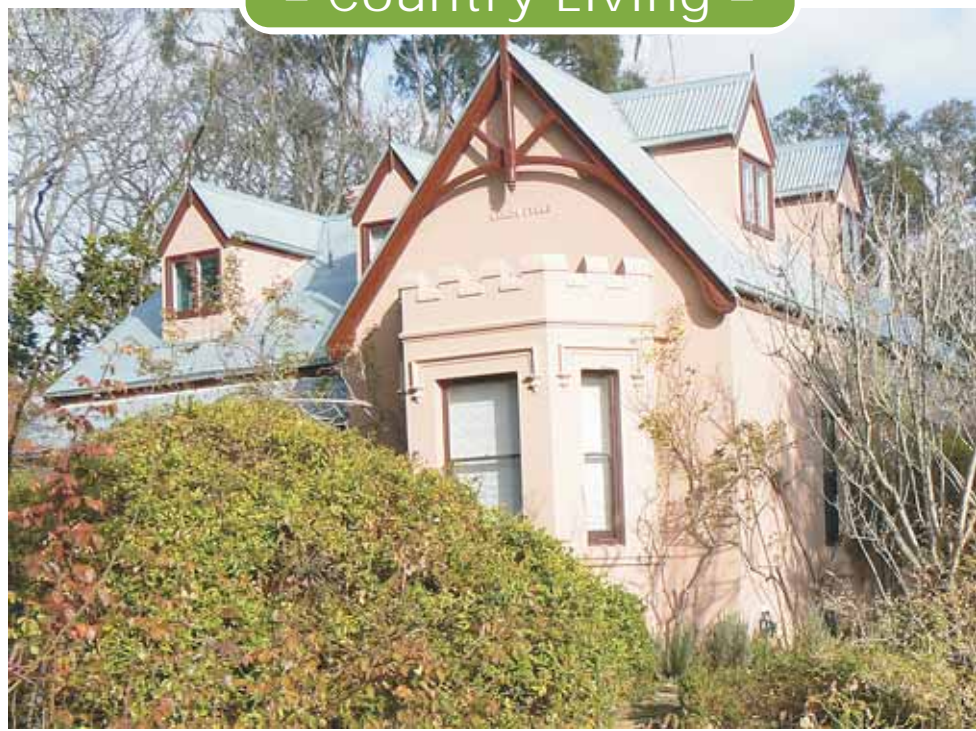
Marcia will give talks about growing and using herbs during the weekend, including references to her former herb garden, an

extensive formal garden which showcased a wide range of medicinal, culinary and aromatic herbs, as well as old-fashioned roses which enclosed the fenced garden.

The formal herb garden no longer exists as the new house was located on the site, though many of the bordering trees and shrubs are now part of 'Piccolo's' garden. The design of the house echoes the previous garden's shape and layout in many ways. Another reminder is the old windmill alongside the dam, with its vane still displaying the words 'Birchfield Herbs'.

Right: 'Birchfield' Gothic-revival in extensive garden setting.

The gardens will be open from 10am–4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, 28–29 August. Joint fee gives entry to both gardens, \$10 for adults; under 18 free. Teas and lunches will be available.



The Gardens of William Morris

By Jill, Duchess of Hamilton, Penny Hart & John Simmons
Published by Frances Lincoln Limited, 2006

Reviewed by Di Dibley

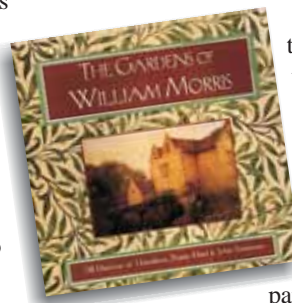
WILLIAM MORRIS, the greatest textile designer of the Victorian era is usually associated with interiors: fabrics, wall-papers and carpets. In fact it was his connection with nature that inspired his artistic work. Trees, flowers, and birds were recurring motifs and these were not taken from exotic places but were inspired by his own flourishing gardens.

Morris applied the same principles to his garden as he did to art – harmony with nature and homage to tradition. He strove to combine the old with the new; formal with the wild; order with exuberance. His perfect garden was as structured as his textile patterns.

Morris's ideal garden contained the essence of man and his history. From his boyhood reading came chivalric scenes and romantic images of knights and their ladies in vine-covered bowers. He and his friends the Pre-Raphaelite painters were stirred by the vigorous simplicity of an older, pre-industrial England.

It was the England of the Middle Ages that shaped his radical approach to art. It also formed his attitude to horticulture. True to his maxim of 'beauty and utility', he adopted the practicality of medieval gardens with their shady arbours and sensible combination of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and flowers, and combined this with his own brilliant artistry.

Morris's insistence on the integration of the garden and the house was revolutionary. Morris believed the garden should be a series of *rooms* with hedges, wattle fences and trees as the *walls*; with the straight lines of paths; and decorated with the exuberance of flowers. His gardening principles were taken up by the Arts and Crafts movement and went on to influence successive generations of garden designers.



A continuing thread throughout Morris's artistic work is indigenous flora. Local plants such as violets, fritillaries and willows are woven in intricate patterns. Flowers of meadows and streams appear in Morris's wall-papers, textiles, tapestries, carpets, stained glass and book designs.

While many of his ideas may seem quaint and romantic, Morris was a conservationist, believing that gardens were important in challenging the pollution and urbanisation of the countryside. He was concerned that in an increasingly homogenised world, the need to establish local identity grew and he considered that the very heart of a place was the regional flora.

For Morris the root of art was in nature, as he said in one of his many lectures on design "All works of man that we live amongst and handle will be in harmony with nature".

There are tantalizing glimpses into the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. On weekends, Edward and Georgina Byrne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and his wife Lizzie Siddal, and Ford Maddox Brown would arrive for joyous parties. Rossetti lived for some time with the Morris family and had a protracted

BOOKS,
AUTHORS, and
BOOK
REVIEWS



affair with Morris's wife, Jane, who appears in many of Rossetti's paintings.

The Gardens of William Morris is a gorgeous book full of wonderful reproductions of his work and the plants and birds that inspired his designs. It provides detail on Morris's own gardens. It also includes detail on the history of the Arts and Crafts movement as it gathered momentum as a concerted campaign against mass production.

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Ian Marjason is available for casual appointments on Friday afternoons.

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Truffle lunch at home

Verdict: truffles subtle, lunch terrific

SOME NEIGHBOURHOOD friends recently ventured to try this trendy gastronomic ‘must have’ at home. We have to confess up front to being intimidated by the truffle price – \$3/gm (possibly less at the EPIC farmers’ market in season) which has likened this aromatic fungus to black gold.

Needless to say, a thriving cottage industry is developing in Palerang and the Southern Highlands, Tasmania, Western Australia and places we don’t even know of, based on truffle-inoculated oak and nut trees, the ideal of a well-behaved truffle-sniffing dog, and hoards of

seasonal truffle gourmands (season just now ending).

The price stopped us from buying the ideal amount of truffle to share for the number of people who came to sample. We’re told you want to have around 10gm of truffle per person for a main dish. We bought that amount to go across four dishes and a bit of trialling with eggs ahead of time. Needless to say our truffle flavouring was very subtle. However, the dishes were excellent and, with some fine local wine, enjoyed by all.

Annie said, “It’s a great excuse to get together with friends and share some simple country cooking. Enjoy the childlike pleasure of sitting around the table with a new ‘thing’

and explore truffle – used in the greatest cuisine in the world – from which we can develop our own style.”

The chicken and salad recipes came from www.truffledogswa.com.au. More information about Australian black truffles, size and cost, serving and storing can be found at www.trufflegrowers.com.au.

AND MORE...

We also served baked Desiree potatoes, brushed with olive oil and sea salt and baked celeriac brushed with olive oil. Truffles are said to go well with both these foods along with

chicken, risotto, mushrooms eggs or pasta. They are said to have great affinity for oil or any fat to which they bind and where the aroma may be retained.

Truffles are a flavour enhancer. Fresh truffles probably smell more distinctive than they taste (compare the relative experience to the smell of freshly-ground coffee versus the taste) and certainly we found this new aroma heady – some found it pleasurable, others weren’t so sure. It came across strongly in the packing room where we bought truffles and in the jar stored at home. As for cooking, experimentation is probably the way to achieve the best results for you.

– Bywong Saturday Lunch Club

RECIPES – Good with or without truffles!

Mixed Greens with Truffle Oil Dressing

Makes 4 to 6 servings

Truffle oil dressing ingredients:

2 Tbs truffle oil (truffle oil at the lunch was improvised with Annie and Geoff’s homegrown olive oil with infusion of black truffle)
1½ Tbs extra-virgin olive oil
1 Tbs champagne wine vinegar
¼ tsp fresh-squeezed lemon juice
½ tsp sea salt
Few grindings of black pepper

Method:

In a small bowl, whisk together truffle oil, olive oil, champagne wine vinegar, lemon juice, sea salt, and black pepper; set aside.

Salad ingredients:

2 small heads of baby spinach leaves, stems removed and torn into bite-sized pieces
1 small bunch fresh basil leaves, stems removed and torn into bite-sized pieces
Onion slices (optional)
Sea salt

Method:

In a large bowl, toss the spinach and basil leaves with the Truffle Oil Dressing. Place salad mixture on individual salad plates. Sprinkle each serving with sea salt. Serve immediately.

Poussin Demi Deux (Chicken in Mourning)

This is a classic French recipe – presented by a truffledogswa.com cook.

Ingredients:

Small chickens
Butter
Truffle
Carrots, onions, mushrooms, potatoes
1 clove of garlic
Dry white wine
Chopped parsley
Flour or corn flour
Salt and pepper

Method:

Carefully work a finger between the skin and chicken breast so as to release the skin for inserting some truffle. Make a small incision in the skin in the thigh fold and again work away to release the skin. Shave some truffle, preferably fresh but frozen can work as well, place slices of truffle under the skin in a layer so as to cover as much flesh as possible. Rub a knob of butter on the skin and season the chickens with salt and pepper and sit to one side.

Prepare macedoine of vegetables to form a trivet on which the chickens will sit. So, peel the veggies and chop roughly or cut into large dice, the idea is that the veggies flavour the juices to make a better sauce; it also stops the chook from getting a burnt bum. Throw



the veggies in the bottom of a large casserole dish with one whole peeled small clove of garlic; place the prepared chickens on top. Add a good glass of white wine, most important to reserve the rest of the bottle for the chef! In the oven with the lid on for the first half of the cooking time, then take the lid off and remember to baste regularly.

Once cooked and crispy, take the chickens out and rest to one side, you should really be able to smell the truffle now! Strain off the veggies and reserve the juices from the pan, throw those veggies on the compost! In a sauce pan or the casserole dish place the juice, chopped parsley and season to taste. Boil and thicken using either corn flour or flour and water, less chance of lumps with the corn flour. If the sauce is a bit dark you can add some cream or milk to give it a creamy colour. Depending on the size of the chickens you can portion as you will and serve with nice roasted potatoes and seasonal veggies. The best most succulent roast chook ever!

Sauce variation:

Pan juices
Chopped parsley
250ml Port
1 cup mushrooms
¼ cup cream
1 tsp cornflour
2 Tbs water
Extra truffle to shave over before serving.

Lazy Chef’s Mushroom Risotto

For 4–6 people

Risotto is considered a tricky dish because it traditionally requires stirring liquids into rice over a time of ½ hour or so. But for the truffle meal we used a shortcut that seems to work OK. It involves steaming the rice ahead of time and then combining it with the other ingredients you like.

Ingredients:

2 Tbs butter; 1½ cups risotto/Aborio rice; 3 cups chicken stock (can be 3 cups water, add stock powder to taste); 3 Tbs olive oil; 1 white onion sliced; 1 clove garlic pressed or ½ tsp prepared garlic; 1 cup chopped celery (optional); 2 cups large white mushrooms sliced (or any others you like); 1 cup white wine; ½ cup grated parmesan; chopped parsley; sea salt and ground pepper; 2–4 Tbs truffle oil (we’ve been told this is actually a food chemistry concoction but approximates truffle flavouring) or 40–60gm fresh shavings of truffle (optional)

Method:

Heat 2 Tbs butter in a cooking pot with tight-fitting lid; add rice and lightly toast, stirring constantly. Pour over four cups boiling stock, bring rice to boil again and immediately turn down to simmer low, put on lid and steam.

In a heavy frypan heat 3 Tbs olive oil, fry the onions and add garlic, celery and mushrooms stirring until softened, and then the cooked rice. Stir together with 1 cup white wine; add parmesan, parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Add shaved or julienned truffles possibly mixed with a little more olive oil or use truffle oil. Mix well. If possible keep warm and let your risotto draw the flavours through for an hour or so before serving.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE Cont’d from p6 Have I met the candidates?

I have also noted disengagement at a local level, though not specific to young people. As a resident of Bywong, I’m now within the electorate of Hume. Off the top of my head I cannot name one candidate. Eden-Monaro is another story though, as it is widely publicised as one of Australia’s bellwether electorates, having been held by the government of the day for almost 40 years.

I accept fault for not seriously taking the time to look at the Hume candidates prior to Gillard’s calling of the election. But, why does one have to go out and search through a plethora of random links and newspaper articles to get a grasp on the policies and histories of these candidates who, as far as I know, have little association to this community. Where are the Hume candidates in this election campaign? (*In the Bulletin!*)

The situation which many are facing is; which of the major parties is the lesser evil? With many people now considering voting for the Greens, perhaps this will trigger an acknowledgement of the shift in Australia’s thinking, and policy will follow in accordance. Good luck, Australia.

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Horse passion to lifetime career

by Heike Hahner



THERE ARE very few young girls (7–12 years old) that are not in love, read ‘obsessed’, with horses. On 1 August, for example, girls are celebrating Horses’ Birthday, which marks the beginning of the breeding season for competition horses.

Girls’ rooms are plastered with horse pictures, their shelves populated by horse figurines and books. Riding stables swarm with girls helping (voluntarily or for appallingly low wages) to ride, rug and care for the animals they adore.

Michelle Ridley was one of these. She has photos of herself being placed on

Michelle balances a 10-month-old baby girl and a herd of horses

horseback at the tender age of 10 months. At seven, she was receiving riding lessons. Her grandfather, a breeder of all-purpose riding horses, bought her and his other grandchildren their own ponies at that time. To her dismay then, and amusement now, the pony promptly disposed of her by running under some branches and nearly finished her career with horses there and then.

She abstained from horses until she was about 12 but has not stopped since. Like many Australian country kids she attended Pony Club and especially enjoyed jumping. With time she increasingly focused on dressage, after she had “one too many stacks”. She finished Pony Club at 18, having reached Associate Level.

The one who didn’t get distracted

From this age, however, a lot of horsey girls exchange horses for boys and babies. Getting up at 3am to lug bales of hay and bags of feed, cleaning yards and stables, doing night-watch during foaling season, and exercising horses first thing in the morning, appeals to few of them in the long-term.

It made Michelle only more determined to stick with her ‘habit’. She went to study horse breeding in Wangaratta and ended up top student of her year, winning a 6-month scholarship to work at the Irish National stud – a world-class Thoroughbred stud.

She returned to Australia to work for various studs around the country focusing on breeding and foaling down, including Braidwood’s Strathallan Stud, owned then by 1960s Olympic dressage champion, Neale Lavis.

As luck would have it, by the end of the 1990s Michelle and her brother Andrew had inherited their grandparents’ farm Roscommon, at Bombay outside Braidwood. In 2000 Michelle decided she was ready to start her own horse business.

A very Australian sport

Having worked for Lavis, who was breeding Australian Stock Horses, thoroughbreds and cattle, Michelle developed an interest in Stock Horses. Her aim has been to breed horses suitable for campdrafting, stock work and showing, as well as ensuring excellent temperament and conformation.

Her stallion Roscommon Anzac won Maiden Horse of the Year and Novice Horse of the Year in 2006 in Campdrafting ridden by Ian Laurie. He also excelled in the Australian Stock Horse show ring.

Campdrafting is a uniquely Australian horse sport whereby a horse-rider team cut a steer out of a group of cattle, then take it out into an open arena and herd the steer around a set of obstacles. The skills needed of rider and horse are considerable and reflect the skills required in mustering. Michelle also competes in this sport.

In order to keep things going while she set up her business she supported herself in five jobs, including lawn mowing and pet minding. In 2001 she was offered a teaching job – Horse Industries Studies, at Illawarra TAFE – which she still holds today.

Wedding carriages – a compromise between horses and cars

However, even the most horse-mad girl appears to have a biological clock ticking. These days, Michelle balances a 10-month-old baby girl and a herd of horses. And, to accommodate a baby and a car fanatic husband, a compromise was struck between horses and cars. Michelle and Denis invested in a couple of beautiful Clydesdales and a wedding carriage, and they hire out their services for weddings and functions.

So, are the wild cattle-chasing days over for Michelle??

Although Stock Horses have moved just a little into the background at the moment, within weeks of giving birth Michelle was back riding and competing in campdrafting events. It looks like nothing will stop this girl from turning the passion of her life into the reality of running a successful horse business.

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CHINA CAN DO IT

Cont’d from p8

among experts and industries regarding what approach should be adopted,” the source said.

As a developing country, China does not shoulder legally binding responsibilities to reduce carbon emissions, according to the basic principle set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. But putting a price on carbon is a crucial step for the country to employ the market to reduce its carbon emissions and genuinely shift to a low-carbon economy, industry analysts said.

China has mostly relied on administrative tools to realise its 20 percent energy intensity reduction target between 2006 to 2010. To that effect, the country’s top 1,000 energy consumers have signed contracts with the central government to improve their energy efficiency.

But with rising domestic energy demand, administrative measures are too expensive for the country to meet its future energy conservation targets. Possible sectors for piloting carbon trade projects include carbon-intensive industries such as coal-fired power generation, said a government spokesperson.

Source: *the fifteenthstate.com.au*

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ACT Commissioner for Environment responds to *Bulletin* story

I have read the article entitled 'A curious case! Science, new ideas and the kangaroo', in the July 2010 edition of the District Bulletin, pages 4 and 14.

 THE REPORT, submitted by Dr Tennant-Wood, which had been commissioned and paid for by my Office, was peer reviewed and found to be unsatisfactory. It was released by her without my authorisation to a third party, became the subject of an uninformed media article, whereupon I was obliged to put an end to the issue by stating that the report would not be used by my Office.

Contrary to the content of your article, Dr Tennant-Wood candidly conceded to me in writing that the report had been given... 'by me to an ANU colleague. This was done without the knowledge or permission of the OCSE (Office), which I regret'. I respect the integrity that led to that admission by Dr Tennant-Wood, hence I am baffled at the suggestion in your article that she is reported as now holding a view contrary to that which she conveyed to me in writing.

In the *District Bulletin* article, you state that 'Robin Tennant-Wood and others came to see this as an academic freedom and freedom of speech issue'. No academic freedom or freedom of speech has been constrained. What has been constrained is the endorsement of the report by my Office.

Dr Tennant-Wood, in her previous role, given the circumstances, including the unauthorised disclosure of the report, undertook to refund the sum paid by my Office for the report. Full payment is expected by the end of July 2010, at which time the report becomes the property of the authors and may then be lawfully disseminated and scrutinised for such value as it may be found by others to contain.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Maxine Cooper, Commissioner

(Ed note: Neither the article nor Dr Tennant-Wood denied that the report was given to a colleague. The article stated that Dr Tennant-Wood was not the source of the report landing with the Canberra Times, which is significantly different. The Bulletin understands that the money has been refunded.)

ACT ecologist – kangaroo plan cites 400 researchers

 YOUR LENGTHY coverage of ACT kangaroos mentioned me repeatedly (*DB*, July 2010). I have three comments.

Well-informed official views are available in the new ACT Kangaroo Management Plan. The plan is unusual among policy documents in the extent to which the thinking behind each policy is made known, and the extent to which it is science-based. Referenced information is integrated into every section, resulting in more than 400 references to the peer-reviewed literature. Many popular myths about eastern grey kangaroos are 'busted'. The plan fully agrees with *DB* that kangaroos 'play a vital role in ecosystem function', but that is just the start of its ecological story. To meet biodiversity targets, some kan-

ELECTIONS:

We're concerned at all the cheap drama – you might well be too

WHAT STANDS out so far in this national election campaign, amidst the blizzard of press releases and promises, is an uneasy feeling that the politics of destruction and distraction has teamed with the media's thirst for drama to no good effect.

Coalition politicians seem to have learned from their American cousins that a steady stream of personal ridicule (or worse) and a mantra of 'the government is incompetent', 'they can't get anything done' can be good election fodder. Not getting things done has been greatly assisted by the Opposition's top-gear negativity on every single issue – no bipartisan-ship in sight.

Climate of negativity

In fact I was beginning to feel sorry for Prime Minister Julia Gillard. She has not been getting a fair go. One might not expect fairness from opposing political parties but the media carping, because it makes good personal drama, has seemed relentless. Disturbing people with drama about Cabinet leaks, backroom chatter and the ridicule that passes for debate from some opposing politicians may make dramatic radio and television but it won't have made our national life any better.

On economic management, Gillard's problem is the difficulty of reminding people, and taking credit on behalf of Labor, about things that didn't happen – like Australia not sinking in the global financial crisis, not having high unemployment in recent years unlike the US

and Europe. It's much easier to scare people with general talk about debt and taxes.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz told the ABC 7.30 Report at the end of July that Australia's strategy was correct and saved the country from a lot of economic pain while it waited for China to get back to us, so it wasn't a waste of money. Tax-payers' money would as easily have been 'wasted' and debt extended if the economy had tanked during that period.

And, while this is not the time to go into detail, I thought it was a shame that immediate negativity – from not only the Coalition, but also from the media, the Greens and green groups – greeted Gillard's well-communicated and detailed climate change policy early in the campaign (an analysis of the business incentive scheme is on p8).

Most people I spoke with didn't hear the speech and the clear arguments for a shift in our energy economy but heard critical media reports about a citizens assembly, which was really not the guts of it. Where does that leave us? Is the Coalition policy better? It is likely the Greens will have a bigger role in influencing what the major parties come up with. Why start by trashing a big step in the right direction? It seems we desperately need some positive negotiators at home as well as abroad.

Palerang Mayoral contest

Will rural conservatives continue to dominate?

PALERANG COUNCILLORS will vote in a leader in September. This matters particularly because the Mayor can have a second vote if

'Too many', 'overabundance' a value judgement?



The ACT Kangaroo Management Plan 2010 concedes that 'too many' (jargon 'overabundance') is a value not a scientific judgment. "With regard to kangaroos, the concept of overabundance is not universally accepted (eg Croft 2005a) and it has been argued that the management of native species described as overabundant is often largely influenced by social and political factors (Coulson 1998)." p38. The plan argues that in the ACT undesirable kangaroo impacts on temperate native grassland ecosystems underpins the model of 'overabundance' and limiting kangaroos to .6 to 1 kangaroo/hectare. The problem is that the issue of damage measurement is also highly disputed (eg Olsen and Lowe 2006 national review) and the model of 1 kangaroo/ha is based on Don Fletcher's 2006 PhD thesis without peer-reviewed research on the topic available.

garoos are 'vital', but too many are a problem, according to the plan.

Second, you quoted the testimony of Dr Dan Ramp, who gave evidence supporting Animal Liberation's court case last year against culling for conservation, but it should be noted that his side lost. The courts are a refined part of our democracy, with rules which bind both sides equally, expert and lay person alike. Every argument is equally liable to be tested, but when the ecological and statistical evidence for the anti-culling case was put under scrutiny, it was not compelling enough to persuade the tribunal.

Third, the article suggested that a shortage of kangaroo research funds might excuse a paid consultant for copying the roo footprint story from the internet and presenting it unreferenced in an original work. In conservation science, that practice is unacceptable irrespective of funds. Kangaroo research that has been funded in local organisations is described at www.tams.act.gov.au (along with the kangaroo plan – search for 'kangaroo'). The real research illustrated there is more interesting than most of the myths.

— Don Fletcher, Canberra

Should I? Or shouldn't I? ...DECANT

RECENTLY WE had a young man come in and ask if we had any decanters. Silly question... After showing him a number of different shapes and sizes from the thirty-six or so we have, and having a great discussion about the various uses of decanters, I asked my own personal wine expert (David) to research wine decanters. David and our son Michael dug a cellar under the house some years ago and the aged red wine is one of our great joys.

Throughout their history, decanters have played a significant role in the serving of wine. Decanters have been used for serving wines that are laden with sediments in the original bottle. As delicious as red wines can be, most of them share one condition, sedimentation.

As red wines age, crystals of potassium bitartrate form in the liquid and eventually settle to the bottom. This can cause red wines to taste bitter and prevent younger red wines from reaching their fullest flavour potential. These sediments could be the result of a very old wine or one that was not filtered or clarified during the winemaking process. The solution to this problem lies in decanting the wine before serving.

Decanting brings to mind the era of butlers at a very elegant serving table and is often asso-



ciated with port. We believe it's very important to anyone who loves a good red wine. Decanting not only removes any sediment it also lets the wine breathe. The decanter is meant to mimic the effects of swirling the wine glass to stimulate the movement of molecules in the wine which springs back to life with a quick whiff of oxygen.

The effectiveness of decanting continues to be a topic of debate at the dinner table. Some wine lovers maintain that decanting a young wine opens its aromas via aeration, whilst others argue that they can't tell the difference.

Decanters vary in shape and design. They are usually made of a material such as glass and will hold at least one standard bottle of wine. A carafe is a similar kind of vessel and is used for

the Councillors are evenly split. The Local Environment Plan is going into a critical phase as Councillors consider what planning zones they'll accept. There are concerns that some NSW environmental protection recommendations might be thrown out at this stage.

Adding to the concerns is the fact that Councillor Terry Bransdon from western Palerang, who often voted with the 'green' side for planning guidelines in rural areas, has been absent from recent LEP discussions and will continue to be absent in upcoming months. We're told he'll be travelling overseas. This takes away the voice of those who voted for him and is liable to unbalance the vote in Council.


Without him there are now eight Councillors and it is more likely that both the Mayoral and the LEP outcomes can be dominated by four Councillors – Raynolds, Crozier, Marjason and Graham – who have tended to look at issues from a like-minded perspective.

In particular there are strong feelings about landholder rights over 'their' landscape, based on tradition, when faced with development restrictions that govern the rest of the community. A pleasant surprise would be more independence amongst those four and there has been some evidence of that developing in recent sessions.

Otherwise, if the new Mayor is one of these Councillors and they stick together, any issue could be decided by the Mayor's 'casting' or tie-breaking, second vote. This is bad for our local democracy and the intent of the last Council election.

— Maria Taylor

NSW ecologists – Peer-review does not support ACT cull Localised killing ineffective

 FEW, if any, peer-reviewed scientific publications exist that would justify the killing of eastern grey kangaroos in the manner currently sanctioned in the ACT. Indeed, recent published research and reviews have shown that eastern grey kangaroos distribute themselves among habitats in open systems to improve their individual foraging rewards and so situations where grass is grazed down to eroded or deleterious levels is unlikely. Thus, localised killing is rarely justified and unlikely to have any long-term benefits as individuals redistribute themselves in the landscape. Disappointingly, the current management plan in the ACT does not rest on fully-validated scientific theory and does not establish robust and quantitative measures of accountability. Very little monitoring of biodiversity outcomes are prescribed.

Continued p14



serving wine as well as other drinks, but is not supplied with a stopper.

Decanters and carafes come in an incredible variety of shapes and patterns – from very plain and classic to beautifully cut or etched crystal such as Waterford or Royal Doulton.


Sadly, in most modern winemaking, the need to decant for the original purpose has been greatly reduced because many wines no longer produce a significant amount of sediment as they age. They are made by the wine maker to drink now. Luckily we will continue to decant wine both to serve the original purpose and remove the sediment and to preserve the ritual and elegance of the procedure.

Happy decanting till next time,

— Annie (and David)

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The soft part of the fruit is edible and quite tasty. Early settlers are said to have used these 'cherries' to make jam, but the number of fruit carried varies from tree to tree. The only time one of the trees here had a very heavy crop, some Brushtail Possums got there before me. *E. stricta* is a smaller species with edible pinkish-white fruit.

Sheoaks and Forest Oak

Another group of seemingly-leafless plants are the Casuarinas (in the Casuarinaceae family), the leaves being reduced to whorls of short, pointed teeth. These can be counted, to aid identification, by sharply pulling out the stem above the whorl.

The male flowers of this group are long, catkin-like tips to the slender stems, and the female flowers appear as reddish, fluffy globes growing on the woodier stems. Some species are dioecious, bearing male and female flowers on different plants. The cones vary in size, but are distinctive – usually between 1 to 2.5cm long, more or less cylindrical and covered in woody protuberances that shelter the seed.

Casuarinas have been divided into two genera – *Casuarina*, in which the mature samaras (winged seed) are a dull grey or yellowish-brown, and *Allocasuarina* which has shiny red-brown to black samaras.

Some local species are *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Sheoak), a tree to over 20m tall found in river valleys and *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Black Sheoak) and *A. verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak), two medium-sized trees.

A. torulosa (Forest Oak) is often found as an understorey tree in taller forests. *A. nana* is a low, often not much more than knee-high shrub, that grows in heathland and open landscapes.



Top right: Drooping Sheoak with female flowers compared to the male flowers (above left), along with the cones.

Attractive for larger gardens

Callitris and Casuarinas are easy to grow and can make attractive trees for larger gardens or acreages – Casuarinas, by the way, are attractive to Glossy Black Cockatoos as food plants. Simply collect cones and keep them somewhere warm and dry, and copious amounts of seed will eventually fall out as the cones open. Most species germinate readily when placed on a medium such as 1:1 perlite:sand, covered lightly with coarse sand and kept moist.

Exocarpos are slow to germinate and, because they are parasitic, possibly need to be potted up with a Eucalypt seedling or some other native plant.

Although these trees are almost leafless, the paucity of foliage doesn't detract from their beauty.

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A Day in the Death of Joe Egg

At 'The Q' – Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, August 11-14

LISTED BY London's National Theatre as one of the most significant plays of the 20th Century, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* is quite simply a modern classic.

Written by one of the UK's great living writers, Peter Nichols, this thought provoking and very funny play has been loved by audiences worldwide.

Brian (Bri) and Sheila are a young married couple trying save their marriage as they struggle to care for their daughter, nicknamed 'Joe Egg', who is suffering from Cerebral Palsy. They are the model of bravery and courage in the face of adversity. Living by the rule that if you don't laugh you'll cry, it's fortunate that Bri is a natural born entertainer.

But what lies beneath Bri's funny lounge room antics? We find out when two unwanted guests start to poke their noses where they don't belong. Compelling and heartfelt, the play bubbles along with exuberance, comedy and witty performances.

"It's glorious theatre. Without doubt it's a beautifully crafted work, wonderfully staged and directed."

— Sydney Stage Online

"Director Kim Hardwick has got this just right... this is a handsomely produced show."

— The Sun Herald

STAR SEARCH 2010

Calling all young performers – register now

by Sarah Gallagher, Riverside Plaza

IT'S TIME to stop singing Lady Gaga songs into your hairbrush in front of the bathroom mirror. And it's time to stop performing your amazing dance moves on the lounge room floor in front of Mum and Dad!

We know the region has got some talent and in Star Search 2010 we're searching for the brightest young stars.

With a slight change to this year's event, Star Search 2010 is open to all primary-aged school children and we're looking for all kinds of performers: from singers, dancers and acrobats to comedians, musicians and even impersonators! If you love to perform, registration is open now.

Auditions will be held at Riverside Plaza on Monday 13 and Thursday 16 September, with heats running in the September school holidays between Wednesday 29 September and Saturday 9 October 2010.

This year's amazing prize pool includes photography packages from Ideal Imagery as well as vouchers to spend in-centre. Prizes will be awarded for First Place and



Second Place, Judges' Encouragement Award and Crowd Favourite.

Our very special Star Search judges this year include singer and songwriter, Keri Russell and local artist, singer and photographer Chris Canham.

To register for Star Search 2010 visit the Star Search information booth (opposite Subway) in-centre or download a registration form at riversideplaza.com.au and drop it into the plaza at the booth before 1 September.

If you have any further questions please contact Sarah on 6299 2466 or sarah.gallagher@ampcapital.com.

Listed by London's National Theatre as one of the most significant plays of the 20th Century, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* is quite simply a modern classic.

Wed 11 August 8pm, Thu 12 August 8pm; Fri 13 August 8pm; Sat 14 August 2pm & 8pm
\$45.00 \$40.00 \$35.00

ADULTS: \$45 UNDER 26: \$35 CONCESSION & GROUPS: \$40

A Critical Stages and WHITE BOX production of

a day in the death of Joe Egg By Peter Nichols

WHITE BOX CRITICAL STAGES arts nsw Australian Government Playing Australia

BAD TASTE AND BAD ENDINGS

Premium quality shorts that will make you cringe, laugh, and wonder; with endings that often go horribly wrong.

Wed 1 September 7.30pm
ADULTS: \$16 CONCESSION & GROUPS: \$12

Short Attention has amassed a library of Australia's premier, award winning short films originating from the very best up and coming directors such as Elissa Down from *The Black Balloon* fame and many more.

short attention

arts nsw A.R.T.S. ON TOUR NSW

Winner of the Rodney Seaborn Playwright's Award 2008

A Christine Dunstan Production

inside out
by Mary Rachel Brown

Fri 10 September 8pm; Sat 11 September 2pm & 8pm
ADULTS: \$45 UNDER 26: \$35 CONCESSION & GROUPS: \$40

Audience Advice: Strong Language suitable for 15 years and up

Tue 21 September 8pm; Wed 22 September 8pm; Thu 23 September 2pm; Fri 24 September 8pm; Sat 25 September 2pm & 8pm

ADULTS: \$47 UNDER 26: \$37 CONCESSION & GROUPS: \$42 ALL MATINEE TICKETS: \$29

Steaming

Jally Productions presents Nell Dunn's internationally acclaimed, unashamedly raunchy comedy...

Audience Advice: Full Frontal Nudity and 'Mild' Course Language
Smoke machine will be used

jally

COMING SOON TO 'THE Q' – QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
Enquiries and bookings: 6298 0290 or www.theq.net.au



'WASTE NOT': QUEANBEYAN BETTER PALERANG HAS WAY TO GO

IT'S A FAIR bet the issue of waste stream management won't get a mention in the election campaign. Perhaps it should, for the issue affects every household and most businesses in Australia.

Just before the election was called, on 5 July, the results were announced of the 21st meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) – which is a meeting of Commonwealth, State and Territory Environment Ministers. In the resultant meeting communiqué the issue of waste was covered: *The (EPHC) reinforced its commitment to action on waste management issues, and today's meeting marked progress on the implementation of the National Waste Policy, and on electronic waste.*

At the recent SERRROC meeting held in Bungendore, some very interesting figures were

presented about waste-stream data relevant to the National Waste Policy and discussed at the EPHC meeting. Compared to the domestic recycling rate of 42.7 percent for all NSW, the SERRROC region recovered 39.3 percent.

Within SERRROC however, Palerang has approximately only a 12 percent rate of recovery of domestic waste, whereas for Queanbeyan the recovery rate was approximately 58 percent.

The total amount of domestic waste material for Palerang is approximately 13,000 tonnes whereas for Queanbeyan it is approximately 17,000 tonnes. If we look at a per capita generation of waste per week, it seems Palerang has the highest rate among SERRROC councils at around 17kg per week compared to the SERRROC average of approximately 7kg per week.

PALERANG COUNCIL

*Looking for a better work life balance? Tired of the commute to Canberra?
Fed up with paying for parking? Like a long weekend out of every two?*

Revenue Officer – Rates Assistant (Readvertised)
(\$43k to \$50k per annum dependant upon experience)

Ultimately we want someone who is enthusiastic, motivated and keen to learn. Working in the finance team, you will be responsible for assisting in the day-to-day administration of the Rates functions of the revenue area. Preferably you would have an understanding of administration within a Financial Services office with a focus on accounts receivable or the rating process, however, good customer service skills and sound computing skills are a good start.

Further information for the position may be obtained from, Ms Kerryl Bennett, Senior Rates Officer, on (02) 6238 8111 or 1300 735 025.

Information packages – may be obtained from Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, and 144 Wallace Street Braidwood, or on Council's website, www.palerang.nsw.gov.au under 'Your Council/Positions Vacant'. Applicants are requested to address all criteria listed.

Previous applicants will be considered and need not reapply.

Applications close COB Monday 17 August 2010.

POSITION/S VACANT

CASUAL POOL SUPERVISORS
(\$20.45 per hour plus a 25% casual loading)

- Do you enjoy working outdoors and are flexible in the hours you work.
- Then consider working for Palerang Council at one of its three pools during this summer season.

Successful applicants may be required to work at any of Council's pools located at Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat. The operating season is from 30 October 2010 to 20 March 2011.

A Senior First Aid Certificate and Bronze Medallion are the minimum mandatory qualifications required to perform the duties of these positions. Desirable applicants will have a Royal Lifesaving Association lifeguard licence.

A 'Working with children' check and comprehensive medical with a Council approved doctor will also be required prior to appointment.

WASTE FACILITY ATTENDANT
Permanent Part-Time, Nerriga Waste Facility

Palerang Council is looking for a suitably experienced person, with high energy levels and who enjoys a challenge to work as waste facility attendant. Applicants will be required to work two days at the Nerriga Waste Facility and one day at the Araluen, Majors Creek or Braidwood waste facility.

The position involves the supervision of public access to the facility, grounds and plant maintenance, transfer of waste and recycling.

Duties will be carried out weekly Sunday to Tuesday for 21 hours with weekend loading and offered at a grade 5 in Council's salary system as defined in the Local Government (State) Award. The base hourly rate is \$19.38 per hour.

A satisfactory pre employment medical is a prerequisite of employment to the position.

Enquiries regarding the above positions should be directed to Mr Barry Osmond, Assistant Engineer – Operations on 6238 8111.

Applications close COB 16 August 2010.

Information packages – may be obtained from Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, or 144 Wallace Street Braidwood, or on Council's website, www.palerang.nsw.gov.au under 'Your Council/Positions Vacant'. Applications should address the essential and desirable selection criteria and include details of qualifications, experience and the names and phone numbers of work related referees.

General Manager, Palerang Council PO Box 348 BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

These data were presented to the SERRROC meeting by representatives of the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. The comparisons are based on data supplied by each council.

Organic waste collection may change figures

Before jumping to conclusions about the causes for these results more analysis needs to be undertaken. For example, the Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils are preparing for the collection of organic waste, which will impact upon these figures. Then there is the very nature of the local government areas as well.

From the SERRROC perspective, the availability of waste-stream data is just the beginning. The data will shed light on what is happening in the community. It also raises the question of what strategies might be adopted to avoid more domestic waste generation.

Ministers see data collection as a priority area for action. SERRROC councils must there-

fore take the time to consider data sets, reflect upon analysis, query whether the right data was being collected and work through the strategies to improve waste diversion from landfill. Pity such an important issue doesn't get a mention in election campaigns.

DEAR EDITOR

Cont'd from p12

Recent legal proceedings in the ACT (Majura case before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal), called expert witnesses to forestall killing and allow proper scientific evaluation prior to action. It highlighted considerable ineptitude amongst those justifying such killing. Despite the wealth of peer-reviewed science brought forward to substantiate claims for a permanent stay of execution, the judges sided with the ACT government. The primary reason given for dismissing the arguments put forward over three days of evidence was parochial: residents outside Canberra are apparently unqualified to comment, despite many years of research on kangaroo management issues. Such parochialism is contrary to the nature of good science within which most respected and rewarded scientists operate.

To address what many scientists perceive as an imbalance in the way science is used in management decisions relating to these iconic species, we have established an academic think tank on kangaroos at the University of Technology of Sydney (called THINKK). Our aim is to encourage academic discourse in an open manner and to provide the Australian community with accurate information on issues such as localised killing and harvesting for meat and hide products. Informed and educated debate is essential to enable Australians to sustainably and humanely engage with native species.

— Daniel Ramp, Dror Ben-Ami
and David Croft,
(THINKK, UTS)

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For further information or to discuss, please first send an email to Maria at media@districtbulletin.com.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



THE PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Powercor Network Services is an engineering, design and construction services business providing energy solutions to customers throughout Australia.

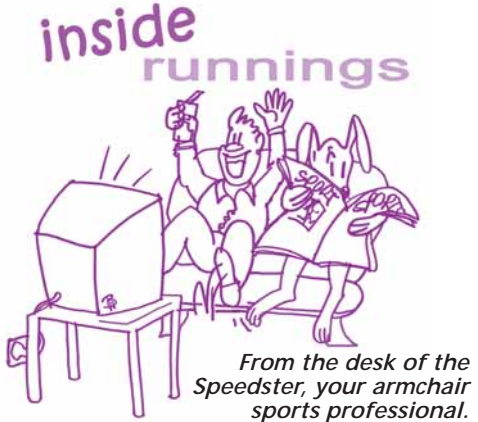
We pride ourselves on exceeding our clients' expectations in terms of project delivery, safety, environment and service continuity.

Powercor Network Services is calling for expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals and companies who can supply one or more of the following services near Canberra and the surrounding region.

- Civil providers to deliver general earth and building works, underground conduit and pit installation
- HV/LV underground cable installation, jointing and testing services
- Transmission & distribution lineworkers
- Electrical and control cable installation and termination (Industrial Wireman)
- Installation of electrical plant, steel structures and general electrical works (Power system electricians/Electrical Fitters)
- Protection and control testing

Expressions of interest are sought from suitably trained and qualified companies or individuals to provide these services for a current electrical construction project and potential ongoing relationship.

Interested parties should email Mr Randall Long, Project Manager, Powercor Network Services Pty Ltd at rlong@powercor.com.au with a brief description of skills, authorisations and previous work history.



From the desk of the Speedster, your armchair sports professional.

The 'premier' men's Canberra basketball team, the Gunners, have just finished their season – somewhat gladly one would have to think – losing a record 16 games in a row, and all up winning only four out of 26 games.

Showing them how it's done, in the State League, the Queanbeyan Yowies downed Penrith at a home final between the western and southern conference champions. Finishing the season with only a single loss, the team – named after a big, hairy, mysterious creature – is now just one win away from a grand final appearance as elusive as its name sake.

One is the only number
F1 driver Mark Webber's results are more topsy turvy than the car he flipped a few short weeks ago. In July he won the British

Grand Prix, then came a somewhat disappointing sixth in Germany, but is again Number One on the Championship table after winning at Budapest.

Webber only has to ensure he keeps reigning champ Jenson Button in the back blocks another seven times and he may very well wrest that totally exclusive title of World Champion from Button's vice-like grip.

Woeful Wallabies

At the opener of the Bledisloe Cup against NZ on July 31, a bit more history was created when three boys from the same home town – yes, of course it's Queanbeyan – were on the paddock at the one time. Matt Giteau was joined again by Saia Faingaa as well as Saia's twin brother Anthony in what our highly (un)reliable sources suggest is the only time this has ever happened. It also made the Faingaas the 40th set of brothers to play for the Wallabies and only the third set of twins to do so. Shame of course that such a moment had to be completely blotted out by the unedifying spectacle of not simply being beaten by the All-Blacks, but smashed into oblivion.

Don't frighten the chooks

In the Monaro Division 2 rugby competition, with teams spread from Taralga and Crookwell to Booroowa and Tuggeranong, the Bungendore Mudhooks are on a roll and continue to head the table. The finals series will take place in the second half of August,

with the grand final scheduled for 4th September.

Skirts all round

On August 6, the Minister's Invitational Seven netball team, captained by ACT Sports Minister Andrew Barr, will take on a team of local media celebrities. The likes of Canberra Capitals coach Carrie Graf and Brumbies head Andrew Fagan will line up in an attempt to retain the trophy the Minister's team won last year. Fortunately, skirts are not compulsory. This will of course be followed by a 'real' Australian Netball League match between the Canberra Darters and the Territory Storm, where the Darters hope to bounce back after a loss to the AIS in their opening round.

Win some, lose many more

Showing true country town grit, Dave Furner's Canberra Raiders are holding on by the skin of their teeth to try and make it into those elusive NRL finals, but after a season more inconsistent than the current election polls, they can't afford to lose any of the remaining rounds if they stand any chance.

In the Canberra Raiders Cup, the Queanbeyan Kangaroos are the first club to beat every other team in the competition this year and despite going down to reigning premiers, the Goulburn Bulldogs, have now snuck past them to be second on the ladder. Belconnen United Scholars are still firmly entrenched at the top and five points ahead.

Who's got talent

In the AFL, at just 15, Sam Jensen became one of the youngest players to ever don a Queanbeyan Tigers jumper following his elevation to the first grade side after kicking 18 goals in three matches in the Tigers Under-18 Grade team. As the Tigers have moved from near the top to closer to the bottom of the ACTAFL table, seems they might be in need of such youthful enthusiasm.

Sports fans should feel free to email their sporting observations, witticisms and arm-chair critiques to: thespeedster@live.com.au.

That's amazing!

Fresh Science is a national competition that identifies new and interesting research being done by early-career scientists around Australia. In June, winners were announced and their research topics included black holes, wind and bushfires, and uses for pig waste. Here are three medicine-related Fresh Science winners.

Insulin that doesn't need a fridge or a needle?

MANY PEOPLE with diabetes require daily injections of insulin to manage their condition. Existing forms of insulin need to be kept cool or they start to degrade and become inactive. Thus it is a challenge to supply insulin to people in areas where fridges are scarce. Chemist Bianca van Lierop and colleagues at Monash University have been working on this problem.

They used a series of chemical reactions to strengthen the bonds within the insulin molecule – without changing its natural activity. The improved stability of the insulin allows it to be stored at room temperature. In addition, they're using this new knowledge to work at developing a form of insulin that could be delivered by pill.

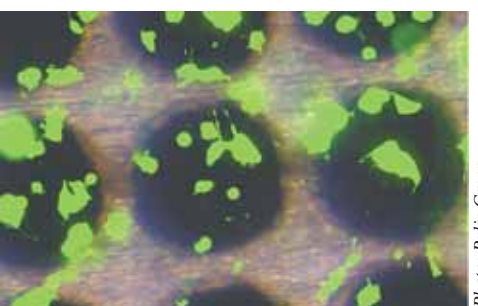


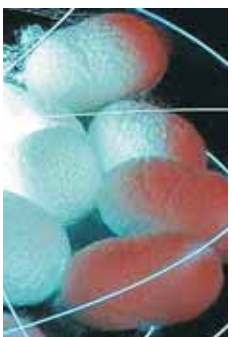
Photo: Rylie Green

'Electric' plastics for bionic eyes and ears

BIONIC DEVICES, such as cochlear implants or robotic limbs, connect into the nervous system. At present, the electrodes used to do this are made out of metals such as platinum and iridium. But our bodies immediately tag the electrodes as foreign material and try to separate them off by growing scar tissue around them. Biomedical engineer Rylie Green, who is part of the bionic eye research team at the University of New South Wales, has created conductive bioplastics which can substitute for the metal electrodes in bionic implants.

The conductive bioplastic electrodes have rough surfaces which encourage the attachment of cells. This means that the bioplastic electrodes can pass electrical current to cells more

efficiently than the smooth metals. Rylie has incorporated natural body proteins into the plastics. These proteins help cells near the electrode survive and grow and can reduce scar tissue formation – this is important for implant recipients where the existing tissue is already damaged, as with most deaf and blind patients.



Silk microchips for medical testing

SILK IS made up of a protein called fibroin. Purified fibroin forms a clear material that can be used to

embed tiny drops of thousands of different biochemical compounds. The compounds can then be simultaneously exposed to and react with body fluids such as human blood. University of Sydney physicist Peter Domachuck and colleagues have created microchips that measure oxygen by using silk embedded with haemoglobin (the oxygen-carrying molecule in blood).

Biochemical compounds embedded in silk retain their activity and this enables the silk microchips to monitor medical conditions. In addition, silk doesn't trigger the human immune response when it comes into contact with tissue – making silk a unique material for use in implantable microchips that can sit in or under the skin and detect chemicals in the blood.

> All the Fresh Science stories are at <http://freshscience.org.au>.

The Australian Science Festival is happening 2–15 Aug in Canberra and I plan to check out some of the events. Topics range from the science of poker and taste perceptions to future transport and what it means to be human. And, Shortis & Simpson will be elucidating the **Sounds of Science!** (See p16.) Check out the program at www.sciencefestival.com.au for times and venues.

– What's the big idea? –
with Sonja Chandler

The Couch Guide to August

Given politics can be something of a blood sport, the election on August 21 is worthy of a mention in this column!

Be prepared for Webber's competition to do little more than waffle at the Belgian Grand Prix on Aug 29.

We can only hope the next Wallabies clash against NZ on Aug 7 is an improvement on the last, although at least the Aussies are not looking quite as bad as the Springboks (once, twice, three-times down!) who they take on again Aug 28.

The end of the NRL season draws near with the closing rounds before finals at the end of August /beginning of September. Anyone else looking forward to a Grand Final where the Melbourne Storm doesn't play?

And for the Sports Poll of the Month:

Do you think the Melbourne Storm should be kicked out of the NRL for rorting the salary cap?

No – but all records of their Premierships should have the following qualification: 'This is a work of fiction'.

Yes – there's no place in sport for cheaters who get caught.

Maybe – if I actually knew what the salary cap was.

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Ongoing

All Hand Made Gallery
1 Murray St, Collector, Saturday and Sunday 11am–4pm. Visit the recently renovated art gallery. The gallery will feature a variety of ceramics, homewares and textiles and more pieces will arrive in the coming months. For more information contact Helen Stephens on 0410 037 359 or visit www.allhandmadegallery.com.

Throughout August

An Exhibition of Paintings on Silk
Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore. Local artist Carole Osmotherly has recently been working on silk paintings depicting water views and landscapes. General viewing hours 10am–4.30pm. For more info contact the gallery on 6238 1640.

Saturday 7
3rd Annual Captains Flat Big Bake Off
Captains Flat Market, Foxlow St, entries received from 9–10am, judging at 10.30am. There are three age categories and age-specific baking categories including: biscuits, slices, cakes and decorative. Entry is free, for details and an entry form visit www.captainsflat.org and click the Big Bake Off link.

Fireside Festival Event: Italian Dinner at Crowe's Restaurant
Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 23 Cork St, Gundaroo. Enjoy a beautiful meal, a performance by the Adam Hole and Marji Curran Band and go into the running for some fun prizes. To book call 6236 8155 or 0411 039 505.

Tuesday 10
Meet the Candidates – Eden-Monaro Electorate
‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 7pm. This function will give residents a chance to ask questions of the candidates and it will also give the candidates an opportunity to put forward their ideas for Queanbeyan and the rest of the Eden-Monaro electorate. Light refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday 11 – Saturday 14
A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg
‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Listed by London’s National Theatre as one of the most significant plays of the 20th Century, *A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg* is a modern classic. Compelling and heart-felt, the play bubbles along with exuberance, comedy and witty performances. See ad on p13 for show times and prices. To book call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au.

Thursday 12
Meet the Candidates – Hume Electorate
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley way, Wamboin, 7.30pm. Local residents of Bywong, Sutton East and Wamboin were moved from the electorate of Eden-Monaro to Hume. Candidates for the seat of Hume have been invited to address local residents and take your questions. This is the chance to meet your aspiring representatives. Tea and coffee will be provided after the meeting for those who would like to chat in a more informal environment.

Dick Smith's Population Puzzle
Entrepreneur Dick Smith has been bringing the challenges of ‘growth’ to the front of public discussion as discussed in the *Bulletin* in June. His documentary *Dick Smith's Population Puzzle* will show on ABC1 at 8.30pm.

AT ST MARY’S and COUNTRY PARISHES
MASSES: First & Third Sunday of the month 8.30am
Second, Fourth & Fifth Weekend (Vigil Mass) – Saturday 6.00pm
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MASS 9.00am
LITURGY OF THE WORD: THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9.00am
Hoskinstown – 10.30am 1st Sunday of the Month
Tarago – 10.30am 2nd Sunday of the Month
Gundaroo – 10.30am 3rd Sunday of the Month
Reconciliation: 30 minutes before the Weekend Masses
Baptisms and weddings: By appointment



What’s On – AUGUST

Compiled by Christina Taylor
Send your announcements to whatson@palerangbulletin.com.au



Friday 13 – Sunday 15
Shortis & Simpson – The Sounds of Science
CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross St, Canberra. This is an original theatrical performance written by local duo, Shortis & Simpson. As a part of the Australian Science Festival, the pair use music and theatrics to make science accessible, informative and highly entertaining. Bookings essential, tickets priced from \$20. For performance times contact Canberra ticketing on 6275 2700 or www.canberraticketing.com.au.

Saturday 14
The Great Wamboin Curry Night
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 7.30pm. All diners bring along a prepared dish which is displayed and then on offer to all attendees. A prize will be given to the best dish selected by a secret judge. BYO drinks, plates and cutlery. No reservation needed, entry cost is a gold coin donation. For more info contact Lofty or Joan Mason on 6238 3258.

Sunday 15
National Capital Orchestra
‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 3pm. In its Winter Concert for 2010 the orchestra will perform Anton Bruckner’s mighty *Symphony No. 8 in C minor* (‘the apocalyptic’) completed in Vienna in 1890. Tickets are priced from \$10–\$25, for details call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au.

Saturday 21 – Sunday 22
Cheese Making Workshop
The Old Cheese Factory, 92 Sawyers Ridge Road, Reidsdale. Make cheese with award winning cheese maker Barry Lillywhite. Day 1: Fetta, Table Cheese and Ricotta. Day 2: Estella Blue, Danablu and Paneer. One day \$250 or both days \$495. For more info or to register call 4846 1999, 0407 292 181 or email cheese@braidwoodmade.com.au.

Saturday 28 – Sunday 29
Out of the Winter Garden – Open Gardens
Two adjoining gardens at 34 and 36 Turallo Terrace, Bungendore, 10am–4.30pm. Joint fee of \$10.00 gives entry to both gardens, no charge for children under 18. See p9 for details.

Tuesday 31
Busting Out!
‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 8pm. An uplifting celebration of bouncy songs, wobbly jokes and thigh-slapping sketches! Tickets are \$49.90 for adults and \$46.90 for concessions. Group discounts are also available. For more info details call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au, www.busting-out.com.

Wamboin Conversations about Religion
St Andrew’s Church, cnr Norton Rd & Poppet Rd, Wamboin, 7.30pm. The second of three public discussions between Wamboin resident Dr Jeremy Shearmur, a Reader in Philosophy at ANU, and Fr Peter Grundy, an Anglican priest and local pastor. All are welcome, free of charge. The final discussion will be held on 28 September. For more info call Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202.

– Plan ahead for September –

Saturday 11 – Sunday 10 October
Tulip Top Gardens
Federal Highway, Sutton, 9am–5pm daily. A 10-acre garden of magnificent tulips, daffodils, and other spring flowers. For info visit www.tuliptopgardens.com.au.

Saturday 25
Annual Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 6.30pm.

– GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

AUGUST:

Friday 6
Ka Tere Oke, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Rigby, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
Karaoke. From 8pm, Captains Flat RSL Club, 59–61 Foxlow St, Captains Flat.

Friday 13
Alice Plumb, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Kerri O’Keefe, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 20
SWIZZ, 7.30, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Brittlejack, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
Hit Parade, 8pm, Kangaroos Club, Cnr Stuart St & Richard Ave, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 21
Simply Bushed, 9pm, Loaded Dog Hotel, Wallace St, Tarago.
Snow Party, 8pm Walsh’s Hotel, 40–48 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 27
Backlash, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
Mal Osbourne, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

SEPTEMBER:

Friday 3
Country Music Night, 7,30pm, Royal Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday
Capital Region Farmers Market
8–11am, EPIC grounds, Mitchell, www.epic.act.gov.au.
1st Saturday of every month
Captains Flat Country Market
Captains Flat Community Hall, Captains Flat, 10am–2pm. Old fashioned country market under-cover in the Community Hall, bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email www.captainsflat.org

2nd Sunday of the month (bar January)
Queanbeyan Cottage Markets
Queanbeyan River, short distance from Queanbeyan Town Centre on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets. 9am–2pm. Over 100 stalls with high quality craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, handknits, pewter and silver jewellery, children’s toys, honey, jam chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Come spend the day, stay for lunch and enjoy the atmosphere while the children enjoy the rides and jumping castle! Call Kristen Ballard 6299 0219.

3rd Saturday of every month (bar July, August)
Wamboin Produce Market
Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–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, 9am–2pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.

Windellama Country Market
Windellama Hall, Cnr Windellama & Oallen Ford Roads, 10am–2pm.

4th Saturday of every month
Braidwood Markets
Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Lots of treasures to be found! Call Geraldine Sutton 4847 5061.

1st and 2nd weekend of every month
Captains Axe Woodworks
55 Foxlow St (old Post Office) Captains Flat, 10am–4pm. Bush furniture, antiques, collectables, model cars and old tools. Something for everyone! Wanted – old tools, farm machinery and collectable items. Call 6236 5799.

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

www.kingshwytodiscovery.com.au
www.bungendore.com.au
www.visitqueanbeyan.com

– QUEANBEYAN – LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

Local Government Week is on right now and while readers of the *Bulletin* will miss the start, here are a few events for the weekend or ongoing that showcase the wide range of services provided by Council.

Ongoing
‘The Q’, 253 Crawford Street. The Queanbeyan City Council Art Award Exhibition for 2010 will continue at ‘The Q’ until Saturday, 21 August.

Saturday 7
‘The Q’, 253 Crawford Street, 10.30am. A presentation for the general community with practical information on the range of careers and jobs available in Council, and how best to find and apply for them.

Saturday 7 – Sunday 8
The Queanbeyan Printing Museum, 20 Farrer Place, 2–4pm. The Printing Museum is a great place to explore the development of newspaper printing in Queanbeyan, with fully restored and operating printing presses and displays from the late 1800s through to the 1970s.

The Queanbeyan Historical Museum, 10 Farrer Place, 1–4pm. Explore the rich and diverse history of Queanbeyan from earliest times through to more recent times in a series of exhibitions and displays.

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Not overheating or overcooling your house is a big step
to better energy efficiency.”
Virginia, Country Energy

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1800 ENERGY or 1800 363 749 www.countryenergy.com.au/calculator

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