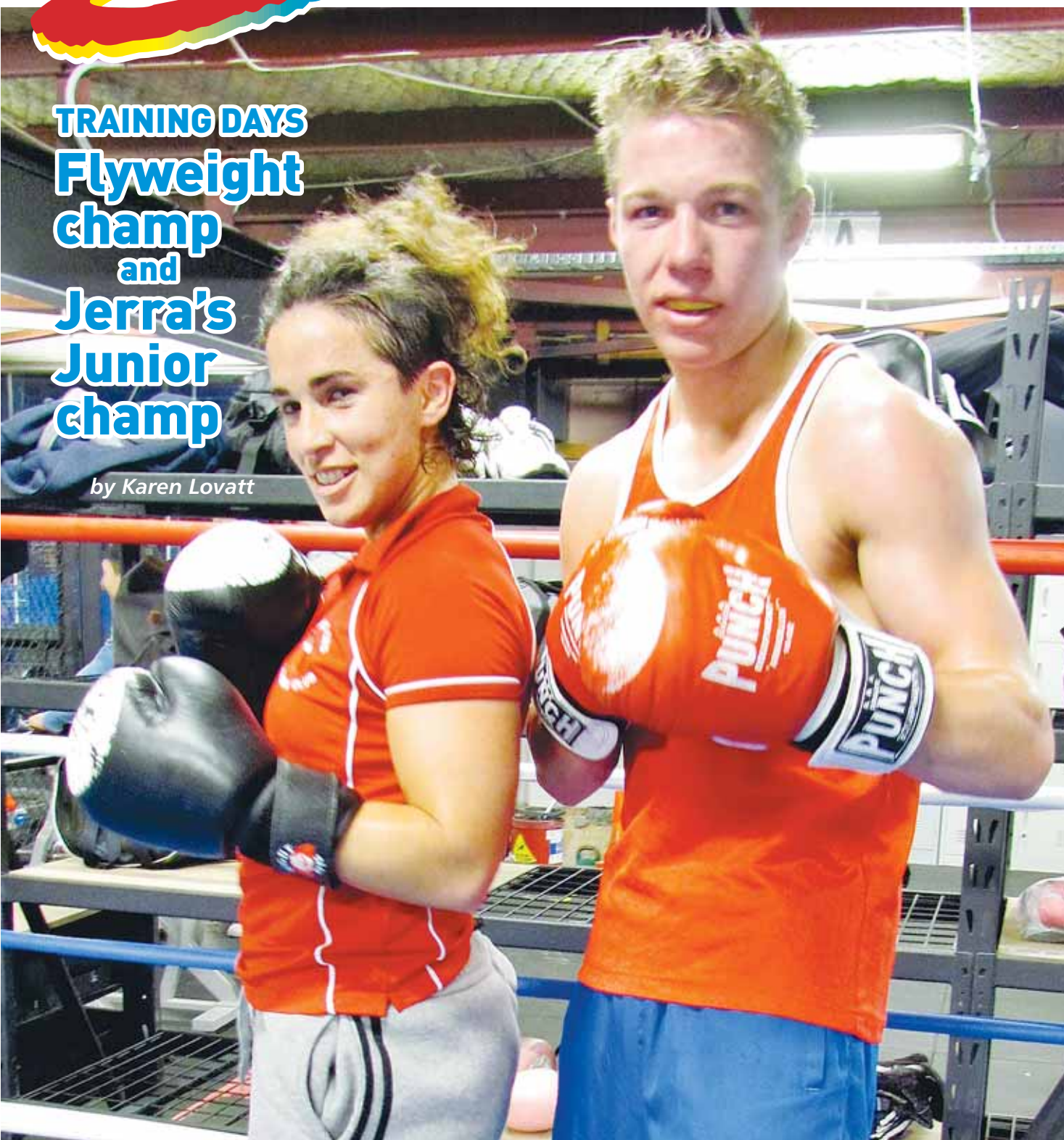


# Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

## TRAINING DAYS Flyweight champ and Jerra's Junior champ

by Karen Lovatt



WATCHING Canberran Bianca Elmir spar, gloves darting back and forth quicker than sight, you could be forgiven for thinking she was using the opportunity to take out her frustration.

Frustration at her Olympic dream in tatters, Elmir was in line to become one of the first female boxers at Olympic level and the first Australian female boxer to compete. Frustration that, a month after her hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), she still hasn't heard the verdict. Frustration at watching the Australian Olympic Team set off without her.

In May, it was announced that Elmir had tested positive to a banned diuretic – the day before she was due to fight in the Olympic qualifying tournament. Diuretics are banned because of their ability to mask other performance-enhancing substances and also induce rapid weight loss. Elmir claims she took it to reduce swelling in her ankles after a long flight.

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA) immediately handed Elmir a provisional ban. She appealed to CAS; however, the hearing did not take place until 17 July, meaning that Elmir's Olympic dream was over.

But this isn't frustration. This is intense training. Elmir is not going to let a little matter of a pending suspension stop her fighting. This training is to prepare her for the "Brace for War" Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fight on 27 October. Elmir has never done MMA before, but is looking forward to the challenge.

"I'm throwing myself in the deep end, but I just want the extra challenge of doing another sport," Elmir explained. "I'm reinventing the sport for myself, so it's just about reigniting the passion and just really falling in love with fighting again."

It's the first time an MMA card has had only women, and Elmir is excited about it. "It's going to really put female fighting on the map in Australia."

Elmir's coach, Gary Hamilton, sees it as an opportunity to keep Elmir in fighting shape while they wait for the CAS decision. He feels confident about the result.

Continued p14

*Australian female boxing hope Bianca Elmir strikes a pose with training teammate Alex Cooper of Jerrabomberra, the reigning 60kg Junior Australian champion.*

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This month, **The District Bulletin** brings you a special election issue.

We are publishing later in the month to fit in with the local elections.

**ONE TIME ONLY** you'll find our September issue on our website only, bringing you election results and analysis.

Go to our website [www.districtbulletin.com.au](http://www.districtbulletin.com.au) and click on the link to September.

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**Palerang Council Chambers:** Bungendore and Braidwood. **Queanbeyan:** Queanbeyan Library foyer; Riverside Plaza; and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres.  
**Wamboin:** Shepherd's Run.

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## WHAT FUTURE FOR OUR SCHOOL KIDS FROM STATE AND FEDERAL GOVTS?

### One parent's perspective on new programs, promises, and population increases

by Sharon Baxter-Judge

NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) is 'creating the future' with a cost-saving policy called *Local Schools, Local Decisions*.

Principals now have control of 70 percent of their budgets. On what facts/figures has this 70 percent been determined? What guarantee do principals have that this 70 percent will decrease or increase anytime in the future? To what lengths will some principals go to 'balance the books', keep their employer happy, perhaps receive a bonus and in the process isolate staff, parents and school communities?

There is no guarantee on class sizes – my own sons have been repeatedly in classes of 30+ that include kids with high level autism, Asperger's and behavior needs.

*Great Teaching, Inspiring Learning* – increase teacher salaries; introduce worthwhile consistent/regular professional development opportunities. Every single workplace has a team member that is 'slack' – why should the well-respected teacher profession be any different? Focus must remain on individual student learning outcomes, not a *balance sheet*.

These state reforms have tremendous potential, but with no additional funding provided how can individual student learning outcomes improve for every single student in our school? They won't, how can they? A state budget increase of 3 percent, when the

education CPI component rose by 6.1 percent, is not good enough. There are 1 percent more people in NSW each year.

At a federal level, *Empowering Local Schools* and the *Learning Management and Business Reform* offer an additional \$50,000 (max) to participating schools. Principals will spend this quicker than the difference between Sally Pearson winning the gold and the person who came second.

*Every Student Every School: learning and support* – let's hope this additional federal funding will assist Bungendore Public

School (BPS) kids that have learning difficulties.

There is no commitment from either government to the very obvious Gonski Review findings and the current blatant inequity in education funding – clearly evident from the MySchool website. Two thirds of the student population attend public schools and yet receive only one third of the funding.

For example, BPS receives federal funding of \$1,156 per student, Merici College receives \$7,011. These are total figures spent on National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)? Why does NAPLAN determine funding?

How can the entire school community keep informed on what is actually going on

here? The documented 'research' quoted from both state and federal government is hard to believe. I encourage all school communities to be informed, seek knowledge from every source and not only ask the hard questions of both our local state and federal members but demand honest answers.

**Ed note:** The federal government will soon release its response to the Gonski education review, according to Michelle Grattan in *The Age* newspaper. The review recommended that states put in 70 percent of the \$5 billion cost of educational reform, but Grattan says it is likely the Commonwealth would need to contribute the lion's share given the reality of state coffers. Under the proposals public schools would benefit with the biggest infusion of cash.

> p12 more letters ...

## Murder victim well-known Queanbeyan sportsman

by Karen Lovatt

TERRENCE Freebody. Many people who opened the paper and discovered that he had been allegedly murdered are unaware of the very special place he holds in the history of Queanbeyan.

If his name sounds familiar, it should be – Freebody Oval was named after him, in homage to his prowess as both a cricketer and a footballer. But there were so many more aspects to Freebody, making him a true legend of Queanbeyan.

His body was found in the home of good friend, 69-year-old Luigi Costa, who has since been charged with his murder. Costa has pleaded not guilty and the case has been adjourned while his mental state is being assessed.

Police were called to the home at about 5pm on Sunday 22 July, and according to *The Canberra Times* it was

Costa himself who called triple-zero. Freebody was found lying on the dining room floor, allegedly with stab wounds. Costa was allegedly belligerent towards officers at the scene and later recorded a high blood alcohol reading of 0.157.

Born in 1923, Freebody lived his whole life in Queanbeyan and Canberra, though he attended St Joseph's College in Sydney as a boarder, where he became renowned for his incredible skill as a cricketer and rugby league player.

However, there was no time for him to indulge his sporting talents. Australia was at war, and Freebody, like many other young men, signed up to serve his country. He was a part of the 2/12 Australian Air Ambulance and served in Borneo, Timor, Tarakan and several other areas of Asia, rescuing prisoners from the Japanese death marches.

Every year he would attend the Sydney Anzac Parade and march with his old comrades to commemorate those who had fallen.

After the war, he took up cricket and league once more, as well as setting up his own successful businesses in Queanbeyan. Freebody's Motors was the first business in the Canberra region to become an official Toyota Dealership.

He captained the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club's first grade side for many years, including a premiership in the 1957–58 season, and was accorded the honour of being named in the first ever Prime Minister's XI team in 1951.

Freebody was married to June Royal from 1950 until her death in 1990. He is survived by his second wife Leniss McNamara, as well as three children, Glenn, Brett, and Kate. He was 89. ■

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# Electricity prices

POWER prices are the latest political football in Australia with the ‘blame game’ back in full swing.

There are two main factors in the recent electricity price rises and the main one is *not* a carbon tax.

The main reason electricity customers have seen price increases is a massive investment in infrastructure that has been happening for some years.

Before the last election the Coalition accused Labor of building ‘gold plated’ electricity supply infrastructure and suggested they would reduce the cost. They haven’t done that because they can’t.

The poles and wires distribution network has seen a lot of upgrading over recent years because demand for electricity has increased significantly – just think about all the air conditioners that none of us had 20 years ago, multiply that across the state and you start to see reasons why you need more capacity in the system.

In our region, electricity users are all paying for things like a complete duplication of the power line from Cooma to Bega and major upgrades of power supplies to communities like Braidwood and Bemboka.

The Victorian Bush Fires Royal Commission showed us the other good reason

for quality infrastructure when it blamed poorly maintained (*privatised*) poles and wires infrastructure for starting some of those deadly and tragic fires.

Where we are disadvantaged as residents of regional NSW is that our power price includes the cost of electricity supply to the whole of country NSW – all the remote and expensive areas we help to pay for.

**“On the current national competition rules people in the ACT and even in Sydney are not helping to subsidise that cost.”**

But what about the carbon price? Well, the last NSW Independent Pricing Tribunal report found that the carbon price would be responsible for 7.9 percent of the 19 percent rise in power prices for (distributor) Essential Energy customers in NSW. That equates to about a \$4 per week increase.

The compensation most people are getting from the Australian Government is \$10 per week. More gains are possible with energy efficiency which also helps reduce greenhouse gases.

## NSW Capitol Watch



with  
**Steve  
Whan**

The Bulletin is pleased to welcome Queanbeyan resident, former member for Monaro and now NSW Opposition MLC **Steve Whan** to these pages with some timely, well-informed and critical commentary on issues facing this electorate in challenging times.

## Future for local governments, planning uncertain

Local government elections are almost upon us and I congratulate and thank all those people who have shown their commitment to the community by putting themselves forward.

It is unfortunate though that this election will take place before anyone knows the outcome of an extremely significant review into local government, which is not due to report until July 2013.

I think we all know that local government – particularly small councils – has huge challenges. Local government’s share of the national tax pie has declined constantly since the 1970s while at the same time costs, mandated tasks and community expectations have increased.

As with so many things, the O’Farrell Government’s solution seems to be to have a really long review. Fine you might say, but it does leave this current crop of candidates wondering if there will be major changes to boundaries, rate pegging, council roles and

powers, and so on with very little guidance from the state government.

The other area which people should watch carefully is the current planning changes. Before the election the promise was to return planning to local government. Unfortunately the current proposals couldn’t be further from that.

It is not new to have independent planning panels that will take decisions on some state significant projects away from local councils. That certainly happened under the last state government (approval for the solar farm project near Lake George is just one example).

However, the NSW government now seems to be heading down a path of completely removing from elected councils any say over large or controversial projects.

People who are cynical about the motivations of councillors might say apolitical planning decisions are a good thing, and in some cases that may be right – but not always – and we need to be very aware that arm’s length decisions also remove the ability of the community to directly express their view through the ballot box.

Australians tend to take our democracy for granted, and our cynicism about politicians at all levels sometimes leads us to accept measures which actually undermine our own ability to use the ballot box to get what we want for our community. ■

# MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

## Palerang and Queanbeyan elections

**Pete Harrison** reviews the proportional representation voting system for local government

### The basics

**1 Make sure you place the number “1” against the name of the candidate, or group if voting above-the-line, you would most like to see on Council and**

**allocate your preferences in a similar numbered fashion.**

**2. Allocate preferences to every candidate, or group if voting above-the-line, that you would be happy to see on Council, not just a minimum number.** For around 15 percent of voters, their 20th preference (if there are that many

candidates vying for the last seat) could make a difference.

**Sept 8 vote first for the candidate you would most like to see elected, and then allocate preferences to all the candidates you would be happy to see on Council.**

### More detail — mark your own preferences

The proportional representation voting system used in local government elections

includes two options: above-the-line voting, which requires the voter to place the number “1”, or even just a tick, in a single (above-the-line) box; or below-the-line voting, which requires the voter to place a number in the box against at least five (in the case of the Palerang Council) individual candidates.

Above-the-line voting in local government elections is often confused with the style of voting used in federal senate or state legislative Council elections. There is, however, a significant difference.

*Continued p16*

ADVERTISING MATERIAL

## Don’t be very afraid!

## Modern dentistry and modern health

by Dr Lucille Pereira

The thought of going to a dentist can be enough to send a shiver of fear down your spine. In the UK, research showed that visiting the dentist made people more nervous than snakes and spiders!

If you are not a regular visitor to the dentist, it might be time to try again. Modern dentistry has changed everything.

The digital age has brought improvements in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of dental disease. Modern treatments including tooth-coloured fillings and crowns, and veneers, implants and tooth whitening mean we can keep our teeth looking attractive and healthy for life.

Poor dental health has been linked to diseases such as diabetes and increased risk of heart disease as well as chronic headaches, neck and back pain. Visiting your dentist will thus promote your general health and wellbeing.

## Checkups vital for children with no fluoride in the water

Dental check-ups for children, especially for those of us on non-fluoridated tank water, can prevent a lifetime of dental problems. Dental experts recommend children start visiting the dentist at the age of two.

Finding a modern practice where going to see the dentist is a positive and comfortable experience is an important step.

Dentists who graduate from dental schools have traditionally remained in the big city, leaving our regional areas less well served. This is changing too.

For example, four of the five dentists at Dickson Park Dental Surgery in Canberra moved from cities in the UK to Australia, seeking the outdoor lifestyle in ‘The Bush Capital’.

Both Dr Lucille Pereira and Dr William Edmeades studied in London. Dr Hilary Giason studied in Newcastle, in the north of England and Dr Sally Johnston did her training in Glasgow. Dr Elise Beachley, studied at Melbourne University, and spent the last four years working with remote Indigenous communities in central Australia.

Hygienist Alanna Henderson re-located from Melbourne to Yass where she and her husband run a sheep farm.

The dental professionals at Dickson hope to take ‘The Fear Factor’ out of dental treatment and build a family practice based on kindness, trust and a commitment to providing the best dental care.

Dickson Park Dental Surgery has also invested in digital intra-oral imaging and x-rays to make sure their patients fully understand their treatment and all the options available to them.

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**“poor dental health has been linked to diseases such as diabetes, headaches, back pain and more.”**



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# HIGGS BOSON – huh?

The July discovery of the Higgs boson at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Switzerland brought big science to all our news outlets. It was wall-to-wall for a few weeks, and yet the idea is so complex that the whole thing's still a little confusing.

GOOGLE 'Higgs boson' and you get more than 35,000,000 results (4 Aug 2012); this issue, we look at a roundup of Higgs websites and articles where the explanations make sense!

## It starts with the model

We understand that things are made from 'stuff' (or 'matter', as scientists like to say); we also know that matter is made from other, smaller bits of matter – like molecules and atoms. Keep breaking matter down into smaller and smaller bits and you eventually get the most basic, sub-atomic particles.

The Standard Model of Particle Physics attempts to explain how these basic particles interact with the fundamental forces of the universe to create everything we know.

'Explainer: Standard Model of Particle Physics' ([theconversation.edu.au/explainer-standard-model-of-particle-physics-2539](http://theconversation.edu.au/explainer-standard-model-of-particle-physics-2539)) describes this complex

model and has a helpful video explaining how the Higgs boson fits into it.

## What is the Higgs boson?

From San Francisco's Exploratorium ([exploratorium.edu/origins/cern/ideas/higgs.html](http://exploratorium.edu/origins/cern/ideas/higgs.html)):

An oft-cited analogy describes it well: Imagine you're at a Hollywood party. The crowd is rather thick, and evenly distributed around the room, chatting.

When the big star arrives, the people nearest the door gather around her. As she moves through the party, she attracts the people closest to her, and those she moves away from return to their other conversations.

By gathering a fawning cluster of people around her, she's gained momentum, an indication of mass. She's harder to slow down than she would be without the crowd.

Once she's stopped, it's harder to get her going again. This clustering effect is the Higgs mechanism, postulated by British physicist Peter Higgs in the 1960s.

From CERN ([press.web.cern.ch/press/background/B01-Higgs\\_en.html](http://press.web.cern.ch/press/background/B01-Higgs_en.html)):

According to theory, the Higgs mechanism works as a medium that exists everywhere in space. Particles gain mass by interacting with this medium.

Peter Higgs pointed out that the mechanism required the existence of an unseen particle, which we now call the Higgs boson. The Higgs boson is the fundamental component of the Higgs medium, much as the photon is the fundamental component of light.

The Higgs boson is the only particle predicted by the Standard Model that has not yet been seen by experiments. Fortunately, the Higgs boson would leave a unique particle footprint depending on its mass. So scientists know what to look for and would be able to calculate its mass from the particles they saw in the detector.

## What's the Big Idea?



with  
Sonja  
Chandler

## How can we find the Higgs boson?

From *Cosmos* ([www.cosmosmagazine.com/features/online/5740/what-higgs-boson](http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/features/online/5740/what-higgs-boson)):

The Higgs boson cannot be easily observed. Physicists have turned to experiments which involve smashing together beams containing billions of particles, at high speed and within a vacuum, and watching the results.

It is thought some of the new particles created during these collisions may be Higgs bosons, though they rapidly decay into well-understood particles.

## Why do Higgs boson research?

From Nobel physics laureate Professor Steven Weinberg of the University of Texas, in the *New York Times* (14 July 2012):

... This discovery simply fills a gap in our understanding of the laws of nature that govern all matter, and throws light on what was going on in the early

*Continued p8*

## — PROPERTY MATTERS —

### Some rural res sale results this year



WE ARE on the cusp of spring, and it is a good time to review the state of the rural residential market.

In the table above are the sales figures for the first seven months of the year for rural residential properties in Bywong, Carwoola and Wamboin. The data shows the number of sales achieved in each of these areas, the highest and lowest sale prices, median sale price and the average number of days it took to achieve a sale.

For comparison purposes the figures for the same period in 2011 are also included. Also shown are the number of properties currently for sale, the highest and lowest advertised prices and the average number of days these properties have been on the market.

In summary, compared to the same period in 2011:

- fewer sales have been recorded in each area
- it took longer to achieve a sale in

	BYWONG		CARWOOLA		WAMBOIN	
SALES	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
Number of sales	7	10	6	15	6	9
Average days on market	155	143	182	120	72	75
Highest sale price	\$1,130,000	\$1,210,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,270,000	\$1,005,000	\$1,185,000
Lowest sale price	\$820,000	\$762,000	\$730,000	\$580,000	\$650,000	\$659,000
Median sale price	\$1,075,000	\$915,000	\$962,500	\$900,000	\$728,000	\$889,000
FOR SALE						
Currently for sale	12		10		17	
Average days on market	136		154		99	
Highest advertised price	\$1,395,000		\$1,375,000		\$1,500,000	
Lowest advertised price	\$890,000		\$689,000		\$649,000	

DATA SOURCED FROM ALLHOMES 14/8/12

Bywong and Carwoola

- there was an increase in the median sale price in Bywong and Carwoola
- the days on market remained roughly the same in Wamboin.

In circumstances like these it is important that, if you are considering selling, you are aware of the various marketing options to maximise your sale price and to achieve a sale in a timely manner. Likewise, if you are considering purchasing a property, I would strongly recommend that you research the market you are looking to buy into and discuss your needs with a reputable agent.

*John Sneddon is with McGrath Estate Agents in Dickson. John specialises in marketing properties in the rural residential areas around the ACT and can be contacted on 0403 139 701 for any further information.*

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Artist's Impression

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DEANE’S BUSES NO LONGER LOCALLY-OWNED

Deane’s Buslines has been sold – to a foreign-owned transport company

THE SINGAPORE-BASED ComfortDelGro Group, in conjunction with the Australian company Cabcharge, bought out the Queanbeyan-based bus company for a reported sum of \$53 million. Deane’s has been operating services in Queanbeyan and the surrounding areas for nearly 25 years, running charter and school services alongside their scheduled public transport service, including the only cross-border bus run into Canberra. The company was started by the Deane family in 1990 when they bought Lever’s Queanbeyan-to-Canberra service. From there it has expanded and become one of the region’s largest bus lines. ComfortDelGro runs operations in Ireland, the United Kingdom, China, Vietnam and Malaysia, as well as in Australia, and derives over 70 percent of its revenue from overseas operations. The group owns 51 percent of Cabcharge, leading to the joint purchase. Within Australia, ComfortDelGro-Cabcharge (CDC) already owns and runs services in two states. CDC operates three different bus services in New South Wales and four in Victoria. CDC is the second-largest operator in New South Wales. Their first Australian company purchase was of the loss-making Westbus service in Sydney in 2005. Since

then, Westbus has gone on to grow as a successful bus service in Western Sydney, while continuing to honour the contracts of workers. CDC have promised that there will be no job cuts or changes to workers’ conditions under the new ownership. The deal is being closely monitored by the ACT Transport Workers’ Union, who are so far satisfied with the arrangements. No changes to timetables or ticket pricing are expected in the short term under the new owners, although the ticket prices have since gone up in what Deane’s are describing as a scheduled increase. ■

HIGGS BOSON

Cont’d from p6

universe... Exploring the outer frontier of our knowledge of nature is in one respect like war: It pushes modern technology to its limits, often yielding new technology of great practical importance... In previous work at CERN, elementary particle physicists developed a method of sharing data that has become the World Wide Web. **Higgs boson humour** Finally, from a tongue-in-cheek *The New Yorker* (5 July 2012) piece in which the Higgs boson replies to a question about being called the ‘God’ particle: “... well, I’m humbled. It’s cool to know that what you do makes people happy. I love my fans. But God particle? I don’t think so! I can’t even get my iPhone to sync.” ■

The tribal love-rock musical *Hair*

WITH unpopular wars still raging and the forces of conformism still oppressing free spirits, *Hair* remains a vital expression of irrepressible youth and a joyous be-in for all ages. The iconic score is amazing. *Aquarius*, *Where Do I Go*, *Hair*, *Easy to be Hard*, *Good Morning Starshine*, *Let the Sun Shine In* and more than 30 other numbers evoke the show’s era as brilliantly as any theatre songs ever have.

The world is clearly in a different place since the hippies of this Broadway musical first bounded into our collective consciousness more than 40 years ago. However, many parallels remain – racial tensions, environmental issues, human liberties, the drugs are still around – so it is still relevant in many ways. And, on a major level, the entertainment factor, the thrill is back. It is quite a testament to the artistry of *Hair* that even now, shorn of some of its cultural significance, it still resonates. It transcends time and place. On a very basic human level, *Hair* celebrates the liberating spirit of individualism. And it does so with great theatricality. That’s a ‘universal’, no matter your generation. *Hair* is on at The Q, Queanbeyan, from 19 September to 6 October. For more information visit **www.theq.net.au**. ■

AGATHA Christie’s *The Mousetrap* has been going for 60 years and eventually arrived in Canberra with a professional company on 1 August for a short season. It was such a thrill to see full houses, wonderful actors, a marvellous set and fantastic authentic costumes. Like *Yes*, *Prime Minister* earlier in the year, these are the type of shows that bring us warm fuzzy audience reactions, even in the middle of winter! Canberra is to receive another visit from Sir Elton John and tickets are now on sale for his new show. Last time he visited Canberra, you may remember, the rain bucketed down, however Sir Elton went on to give patrons a wonderful evening. So please welcome him back with open arms to the AIS Arena Bruce Stadium on 14 November 2012. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* is surging ahead, auditioning children for the leading parts and the children’s chorus. We know of some local kiddies who are into their fifth audition and hopefully by next edition we can proudly say... they got the parts! *Chitty* commences in Sydney in November and we will have coaches going – so stay tuned.

**Celebrity couplings for SIDS and Kids spectacular** SIDS and Kids certainly had a great Fund Raiser with a twist on 11 August at The Q Theatre Queanbeyan Function Centre. What does a politician have in common with a journalist and a school principal? They all took to the stage for *Canberra Takes 2* to help fund bereavement support services for families following the death of their child. The inaugural event put together local entertainers and celebrities to provide a night of entertainment in the name of charity. Two Queanbeyan well-known locals Peter Lindbeck from Lindbeck’s Butchery and Copper Kettle’s Frank Bresnick competed against Senator Gary Humphries and Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall, as well as other identities, for the wonderful ‘sing off’ to help raise money for a great cause. Special guest singer was Maddison Catlin who had just returned from singing in China. Barry Casey, Stephen Pike and myself were official judges. The ‘Judges Choice’ went to singer Dave Evans and his singing partner for the night Natalie Forrest from Prime TV. Peter Lindbeck partnered by the beautiful Sarah Golding received the ‘People’s Choice’ award. Can’t wait for next year! — Hoping to see you in a foyer very soon, Coralie Wood

Coralie's CORNER



COMING UP: Gunning Fireworks Festival

If you love fireworks then make a note on your calendar for Saturday 1 September 2012. The Gunning Fireworks Festival is produced by Fireworks Australia who have a factory in the region and supply specialised products to other fireworks companies, film and television, touring productions and major events Australia wide. Festival-goers will be entertained by musicians including Brass’ere, a nine-piece New Orleans style jazz band who meander through the crowd as they play. There will be amusement rides, face painting, air-brushed tattoos, a reptile show and many other attractions. Plenty of stalls will showcase local handmade products including jewellery, masks and soy candles. A huge range of food and drinks will be on sale. Demonstrations will feature both indoor and outdoor fireworks and at the end of the day, the skies will light up with the colour and excitement of some of the largest fireworks on sale in Australia during a pyro-musical spectacular finale. Gunning’s community groups take this opportunity to raise funds for their organisations and a large donation is made to the Gunning District Community and Health Service – which is a non-government organisation providing clinical and home support services to the community of the former Gunning Shire. The event is put on with the assistance of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Upper Lachlan Tourist Association. Be sure not to miss this wonderful family event. Bring along chairs and blankets and dress warmly. The entry fee is \$10 per adult and \$4 for children under 14; or \$25 per family. For more information including ideas for accommodation and directions to the festival, visit **www.gunningfireworks festival.com.au**.

GUNNING FIREWORKS FESTIVAL



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- Monster Fireworks Finale
- Live Music
- Amusement rides all day
- Food & Merchandise stalls
- Childrens activities

For more information, visit our website **www.gunningfireworksfestival.com.au**

Saturday 1st September 2012 at Gunning Showground  
Gates open 4pm to 9pm

Entry – \$10 adult – \$4 child 14 under or – \$25 per family  
**www.gunningfireworksfestival.com.au**



# Chasing The Lollyman

by Sarah Newsome

ONE of Queensland's most dynamic and funny Indigenous performers, Mark Sheppard, brings his one-man show to Queanbeyan on 29–30 August.

The show celebrates Aboriginal stories, and takes a satirical look at the media and popular culture. Playing a variety of characters, weaving stand-up with storytelling and clown, Mark pokes fun at everything from *Neighbours* (what would it be like if a Murri family moved into Ramsey Street) to politics.

And along the way Mark takes a light-hearted but surprisingly deep and personal look at Murri culture.

"I don't claim to speak for all Aboriginal Australia," Mark said when I caught up with him after the Queensland leg of his tour. "I start with my story, about what it was like to grow up in Mareeba, as an Aboriginal man, as a gay man. But I am also an uncle, a brother, and a son."

**“As original as it is Aboriginal”**  
— Time Off

"What I'm hoping for here, is a conversation. To take what you know, think it over, and move on from there."

Mark believes that once you move past the political correctness and the jargon it becomes "very simple".

"It's what connects us. What it is to be Australian now, what defines us."

If that sounds a bit intense for stand-up comedy, maybe that's the point. "Humour allows us to deal with issues which would otherwise be in your face," Mark comments.

"It's not about blame. It's our history, not just Aboriginal history, and its part of the Australian identity." The show provokes an "honesty, about who we are, where we're at and where we're going."

"That is an incredible journey. And while that story might not be a 'happy ever after' one, if we can relate to our ups and downs, our flaws and how we deal with them, that makes us better people."

And the reaction from the audiences in Queensland?

"It's an incredible blessing, to have such a wide range of audiences – Aboriginal and not – and have them feel a part of it, to be swept up in the idea of a family, a connection, a community."

"I got hugged by people I didn't even know!"

Thanks to **dbase** productions, the show itself is a collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists, which embraces a new way of working together. It has been developed in association with the kuril dhagan centre, State Library of Queensland and supported by Arts Queensland. ■



**HAIR**  
The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical

Book & Lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado  
Music by Galt MacDermot  
Director: Stephen Pike,  
Musical Director: Geoff Grey  
Choreographer: Jordan Kelly

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Good Morning Starshine,  
Let the Sun Shine In**  
and more than 30 other numbers evoking a show's era as brilliantly as any theatre songs ever have.

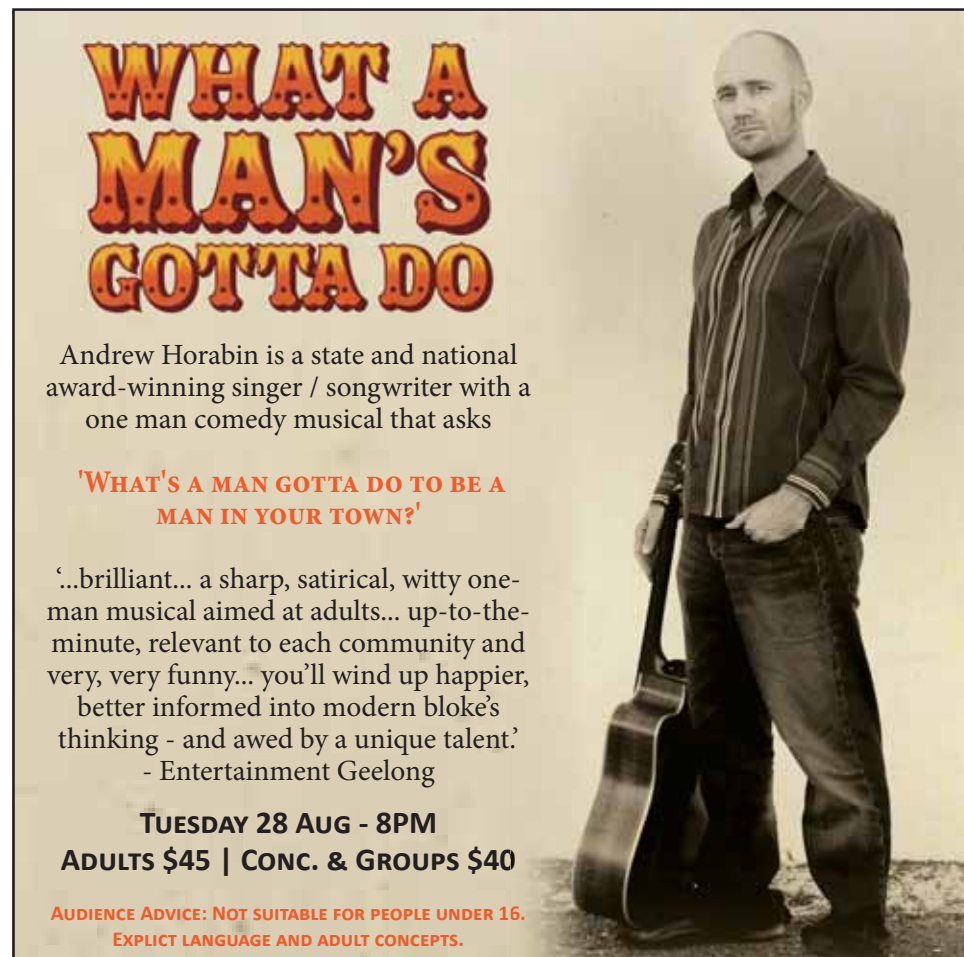
Cast Includes: Pete Ricardo, Tim Stiles, Will Huang, Rebecca Harman, James Court, Maigan Fowler, Kitty McGarry, David Collins and The Tribe.

**Bookings: 6285 6290 or [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au)**

Audience Advice: Adult themes, coarse language and nudity.

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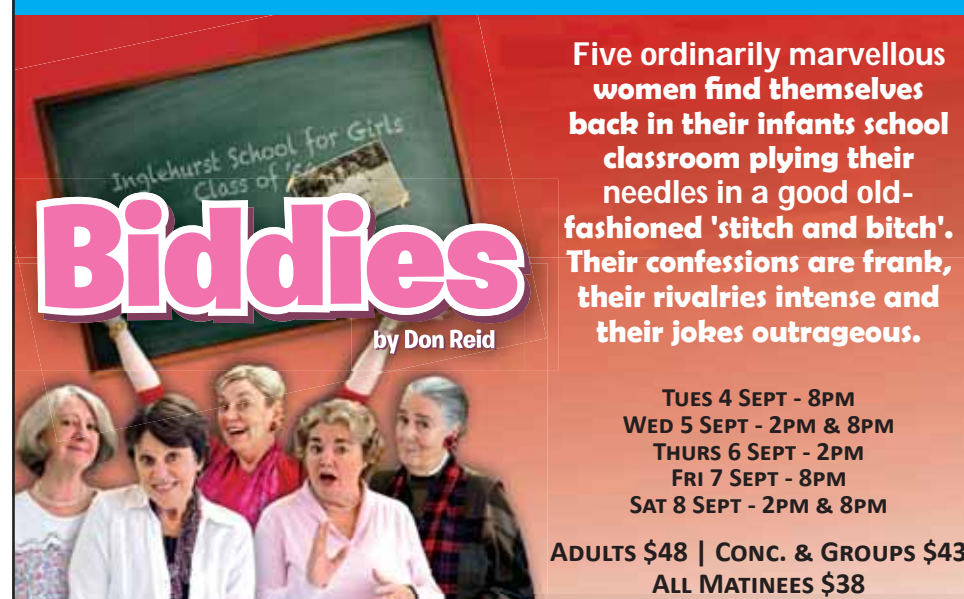
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by Don Reid

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# Picture perfect puppies in Bungendore

Story and photos by Stephanie L Anderson

LAST month, Bungendore played host to the 8th annual All Breeds Championship Dog Show. Over 1,200 dogs representing more than 90 different breeds were exhibited over the two days of competition.

As a dog lover myself, the idea of a dog show sounded great; dogs from all different breeds competing for the title of Best in Show. However, as I discovered, there is an awful lot more to exhibiting dogs than I could ever have imagined.

According to event organiser Ginnette Loft, every breed has its own standard to live up to.

“The standard sets out how every breed of dog should look,” she said. “Even down to the little things like eye shape.”

According to HowStuffWorks.com, dog show judges look at a dog’s eyes (color, size and shape), ears (shape, length and position), head (shape), muzzle (shape and length),



12-weeks-old Bubble with 12-year-old Jordan.

whiskers (thickness), teeth (kind of bite), tail (how it arches and sets), shoulders (bone and muscle), legs (muscles, stance



Dakota and owner Laura took home the ribbon for Best Utility.

and proportionality), coat (texture and length) and color (accepted breed colors).

Naturally then, becoming a dog show judge takes a great deal of studying. Some of the judges at Bungendore had travelled from as far away as Western Australia to attend the weekend.

The prize for Best in Show is a \$200 cash prize, but according to the exhibitors,



Brydie demonstrates how a good show dog stands.

it’s not the money they all fight for, it’s the prestige.

“They do it as a hobby, and for the satisfaction of winning, and the bragging rights,” laughed Loft.

If you think your perfect pooch has what it takes to be the next Best in Show, get in touch with the Bungendore and Palerang District All Breeds Kennel Club. ■

## The Sapphires: it's The Best Of Australian Film

But why has *Vertigo* been voted The Best Film Of All Time? **Judy Thompson** investigates

**The Sapphires** celebrates an Aboriginal girl group who performed for the troops in Vietnam.

Gail (Deborah Mailman), Julie (Jessica Mauboy), Kay (Shari Sebbens) and Cynthia (Miranda Tapsell) live on a remote Aboriginal community called Cummeraguna and meet an Irishman called Dave (Chris O’Dowd).

Dave becomes the girls’ manager, moving

them from country and western to soul music, thereby launching their singing careers as ‘The Sapphires’, an Australian version of the ‘The Supremes’.

There are early scenes of the girls singing in family groups, church groups and pub talent contests. Church singing seems to have been the launching pad for many soul musical careers.

Directed by Aboriginal actor, writer and director Wayne Blair in a polished first feature film debut with a crisp and funny script, the story is based on the stage play of the same name written by Tony Briggs. Tony’s mother and aunt toured Vietnam as singers.

The story is set in 1968, a year after the referendum that approved amendments to the Australian constitution removing the section which stated that Aborigines were not to be counted when reckoning population of the Commonwealth, or a state or other part of the Commonwealth.

Archival footage is used and while depicting the racism and prejudice of the times it is basically an entertaining, feel-good story.

At the end, photographs are shown of Tong Brigg’s mother and aunt as they are today. This lovely touch adds to the film’s themes of optimism, resilience and celebration of family.



Happily *The Sapphires* has proved to be a box office success, appearing slightly behind the newest Batman movie *The Dark Knight Rises* in its opening weekend in early August 2012. It is widely reported as being the best Australian film this year!

### The best film ever?

*Sight and Sound* is a British film publication that lists the results of a poll of film critics on their views of the greatest films ever. It is conducted every ten years.

Critics have listed *Citizen Kane* as the best film for over 50 years; however, this year it has been usurped by *Vertigo* a film produced by Alfred Hitchcock.

*Vertigo* was listed as the seventh best film in 1982 and has been moving stealthily up ever since.

Other films featured in the 2012 list are *Citizen Kane*, *Tokyo Story*, *The Rules of The Game*, *Sunrise*, *A Song of Two Humans*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Searchers*, *The Man With A Movie Camera* and *The Passion of Joan of Arc*.

The Guardian Film Blog ([www.guardian.co.uk/film/filmblog/2012/aug/10/my-favourite-hitchcock-vertigo](http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/filmblog/2012/aug/10/my-favourite-hitchcock-vertigo)) says that reaching the zenith “can only be bad for *Vertigo* because it marks the moment it stops being a singular work of unsettling depth and power and becomes homework”.

*Vertigo* is a strange tale of obsession on multiple levels. John ‘Scottie’ Ferguson (James Stewart) retires after a rooftop pursuit

of a criminal reveals his fear of heights. A wealthy businessman asks Scottie to follow his wife Madeline (Kim Novak) because she has been acting oddly. Madeline appears to be obsessed with a woman, called Carlotta Valdes. Carlotta committed suicide in the late 1800s.

Things are not quite what they seem. Scottie falls in love with Madeline. Or is it an obsession? Does the husband have ulterior motives? Is Madeline really possessed or is she mentally unstable? Is it really Madeline? Does Madeline love Scottie too?

Scottie again becomes paralysed by vertigo while pursuing Madeline up the steps of a church with tragic consequences. Scottie has a breakdown and is still obsessed with Madeline. He later sees a woman who looks like Madeline called Judy. Later dates with Judy involve transforming her to look like Madeline with a platinum blonde hair makeover. However, even Judy is not what she seems.

Superficially the film seems a highbrow Mills and Boon come psychological thriller with some fantastic pictures of San Francisco.

It is of the same psychological noir thriller genre as the film *Rebecca* a 1940s film, also directed by Alfred Hitchcock, based on Daphne Du Maurier’s novel about a sinister presence from the past and an unhappy marriage. *Dial M for Murder* another Hitchcock film also features a psychological drama about a husband gone bad.

The *Vertigo* DVD provides the background to the production and shows the locations used for as settings in the film. ■

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# DEFENDING RARE GRASSY WOODLANDS IN QUEANBEYAN

QUEANBEYAN Landcare has teamed with the NSW Environmental Defenders Office to challenge Queanbeyan City Council’s treatment of the Gale Precinct grassy box woodlands in its draft Local Environment Plan (LEP).

The LEP, which was passed by Council in May, is sitting with the NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure for final approval. The challengers hope for a

ministerial intervention in response to the Environmental Defenders argument.

According to Landcare spokesperson Bec Bernard, the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage recommended that the Gale Precinct, off the Cooma Rd near Wickerslack Lane, be given the maximum environmental protection (E2) under the new LEP template zones. Instead it went to the Minister as a mixed zoning

classification with some development potential of half the woodland.

“The science supports the high conservation value of this diverse woodland and its role in the regional corridor that links the Queanbeyan River, Mt Jerrabomberra and the Murrumbidgee beyond,” said Bernard. Gale Precinct is also the subject of a NSW Native Title Claim.

The zoning details were prepared by Council staff and were included with a unanimous Council vote.

A Council spokesperson told the *Bulletin* that the current zoning of Gale follows a

long history with a substantial portion of the precinct previously zoned environmental protection but also some parts zoned rural residential or rural since 1998. These classifications relied on scientific evidence from the mid-1990s.

In essence Council staff transferred those 1990s classifications as ‘best fit’ to the new categories in the 2011 LEP template. Submitted arguments about a greater need to protect the grassy box woodland were countered by another submission urging greater development, said the spokesperson. ■



## BIGGER, CHEAPER, CHEAPER Bungendore newsagency goes, more bad news coming

ARE VILLAGE newsagents the latest victims of Australia’s mania with ‘always cheaper’ and love for one stop, warehouse-style retail operations?

The closure of Bungendore’s newsagency after it failed to find a buyer begs the question. The liquidation has left a devastating impact on owners and long-time Bungendore residents and veteran retailers Kevin and Gai Jones. They lost a huge investment in upgrading and stocking the newsagency after they took over with high confidence three years ago.

People just stopped buying after the first year, said Kevin, as retailing generally fell into the doldrums. He believes people chase cheaper options elsewhere for everything except low margin newspapers and lotto tickets.

Meanwhile, as Bungendorians cast around for a new source of their metro papers, structural changes in the newspaper industry favouring online delivery are also threatening the newsagency business.

Earlier in August, News Ltd (*The Australian, The Telegraph*) announced it was changing its distribution contracts such that a newsagency must be able to distribute a minimum of 10,000 copies (to homes/offices/sub-newsagents).

Nine hundred distribution territories in NSW would be consolidated as well, possibly down to as few as 40.

The Newsagents Association of NSW and the ACT reported it is anticipating closures/downsizing/restructure of more newsagencies as a result. ■

## Industrial and community rezoning for The Poplars?

MEANWHILE, a separate LEP document proposing to rezone 210 hectares called The Poplars off Lanyon Drive – situated on both sides of Tomsitt Drive leading to Jerrabomberra – is currently on public exhibition calling for community input.

The rezone would change the zoning from rural to zones that provide for employment and community land use and environmental conservation, according to Council documents. It is part of the master plan for transforming the Jerrabomberra Valley for population growth.

Threatened species and aircraft noise have stalled previous attempts to turn this

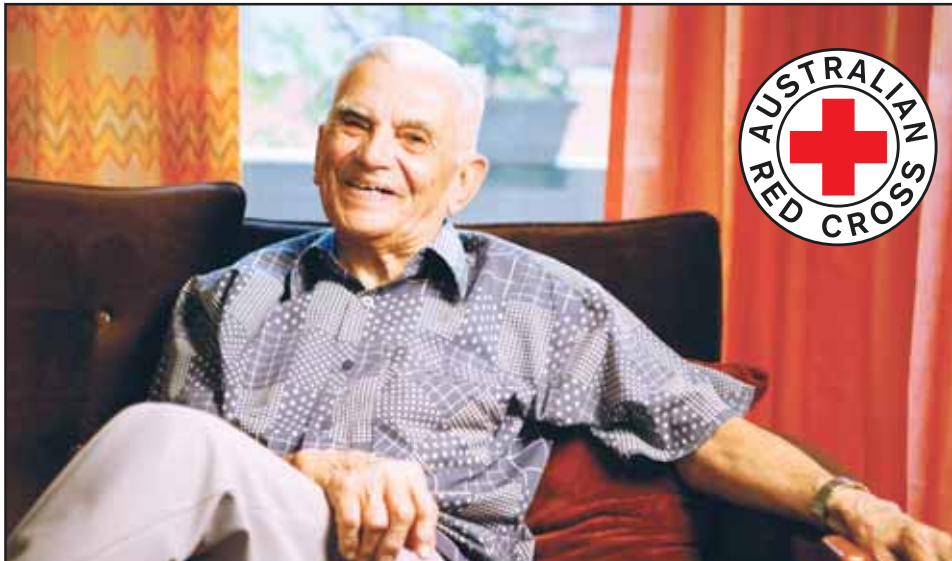
land into residential development, says the LEP’s environmental report. A current proposal is to develop a light industrial estate there.

The Greens have asked Council for a public forum on this rezone and charge that the negative response so far is an example of poor public consultation in Queanbeyan.

Spokesperson Katrina Willis said the public has an interest in the site because it contains “natural temperate grasslands and patches of box-gum woodland, both of which are listed as endangered ecological communities under NSW and federal legislation.

“The Poplars also forms part of a biolink connecting up to the Queanbeyan Nature Reserve, nearby ACT grasslands, and the grasslands and woodlands at Environa and Tralee. It is also part of the Kosciusko to Coast landscape partnership project.”

Submissions close on 14 September and the LEP documents can be found on Council’s website. (pp 68, 70 of the environmental report starts discussion of the biodiversity values).



## Telecross A free daily phone call each day to check you’re OK

Telecross is for people living at home who are at risk of an accident or illness that may otherwise go unnoticed. Our friendly Telecross volunteers make free, daily phone calls 365 days a year to support the independence of older people and those with a disability living at home. If you miss your call an agreed procedure is activated.

**For more information or to make a referral please contact the Red Cross Client and Volunteer Assessment Unit on 6234 7634 or email [caurx@redcross.org.au](mailto:caurx@redcross.org.au)**

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# Calling photographers to focus on Queanbeyan and Palerang

AMATEUR photographers from Queanbeyan and the region once again have the opportunity to put the focus on their community by submitting an entry to ActewAGL's *Postcards From Your Town* photography competition.

The 12 winning photographers will have their images featured on ActewAGL's 2013 *Postcards From Your Town* calendar and will each receive \$500 prize money. Calendars will be distributed free to schools, community groups and businesses throughout the capital region from late October and will be available from ActewAGL stores.



**WHEN THE WHITES GET DOWN AND DIRTY.**  
Powering Ahead with the Champion Queanbeyan Whites by Judy Sillis from *Carwoola* featured in the 2011 *Postcards From Your Town* calendar.

## Palerang News

### Aged care for Bungendore

Council has established a Seniors' Accommodation Advisory Committee to help assess the demand for seniors' accommodation in Bungendore, and to investigate possible accommodation models that might operate in the village. A direct outcome of the community consultation workshops conducted in 2011, Council is interested in exploring the range of available options, from independent living units through to an aged-care hostel, and operational models involving any combination of Council, community or private ownership.

The committee will comprise two councillors, the General Manager, a representative of the Bungendore Community Bank (Palerang Financial Services Pty Ltd), and three community members. Council will shortly be seeking expressions of interest from members of the community interested in serving on this committee. Enquiries should be directed to Council's Bungendore office.

### Bungendore stormwater drain

Bungendore residents and visitors would have noticed the works underway in Malbon Street during July. Flooding due to poor surface water drainage in the area has been a problem for some time. These works are designed to improve drainage by expanding the town's stormwater collection system to better cope with heavy rainstorm events. Nominal 525mm twin cell pipes have been laid along Malbon Street, between Ellendon and Butmaroo Streets, with provision for future expansion further up Malbon Street towards the railway line.

The pipe laying and box culvert construction is now complete and the road shoulder will be reinstated in the coming weeks, with traffic flow and parking in Malbon Street returned to normal soon thereafter.

### Braidwood Waste Transfer Station

Council has received a Concept Options Report that outlines a number of options for the construction of a waste transfer station in Braidwood, and reviews the transition arrangements for the closure and rehabilitation of the Braidwood landfill site.

This report sets out the design guidelines and parameters, assesses the existing and expected waste streams covering Braidwood and the surrounding waste catchment, and investigates siting considerations before proposing seven possible site locations. The report also develops an appropriately dimensioned concept layout for the facility and includes expected capital and operating costs,



**PALERANG** Bungendore Railway Station on a beautiful Sunday morning by Nicole Walker-Jones featured in the 2011 *Postcards From Your Town* calendar.

Director Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Paul Walshe said, "We've been running this competition for six years now and each year we receive a spectacular array of images that provide insight into the people, places and events that make our region so vibrant. Last year we received over 1,000 entries and we are eager to see more amazing images again this year.

"ActewAGL sponsors many events across the region and we know that there is a lot of community spirit out there. We are looking for a diverse range of photos that represent the character and community spirit of these towns."

Entries close on Monday 3 September 2012 and winners will be announced on Wednesday 24 October 2012.

For more information, including competition terms and conditions and to see photos from previous winners, visit **actewagl.com.au/postcards**. ■

## PALERANG COUNCIL

with an evaluation and comparison of the various site options.

The Braidwood Waste Transfer Station Concept Options Report will be on public exhibition until 5 October 2012. Copies are available from the Council offices in Braidwood and Bungendore, or online from Council's website. Written submissions relating to the proposal should be forwarded to the General Manager, at the PO Box or email address below, before the aforementioned closing date.

### Environmental compliance

Your Council plays an important role in protecting both public health and the local environment. Staff engage in regular educational activities including general field days on weed identification and control, and the direct provision of information to landholders through both consultation and a range of information brochures.

Council's Environmental Services compliance team is also responsible for ensuring adherence to the various environmental protection orders that are laid out in state legislation. These include the control of noxious weeds, various aspects of property development, pollution issues in both built-up and rural areas, the maintenance of on-site sewage systems, the control of domestic animals, dogs in particular, and parking in the larger villages to name a few.

In the last year alone, staff have completed around 2,500 inspections or investigations relating to compliance issues. While many of these are simply routine matters that are part of Council's legislated responsibilities, in this period 332 warnings, notices or compliance orders have had to be issued, and 119 fines have been levied. Unfortunately, several cases have had to be resolved in court.

This is never a pleasant aspect of Council's work, and many compliance problems could be avoided If there was more consultation with Council when residents are unsure about their responsibilities. Weeds are a perennial problem, but Council staff are always happy to work with property owners and provide advice on how to deal with their specific weed problems. Where any form of building or earthworks are undertaken, it is always better to seek Council advice before starting than to risk contravening some local or state regulation. In this age of litigation, the risk of invalidating an insurance policy alone, through an innocent oversight, is simply not worth it. If in doubt, phone or call in to one of the Council offices, and discuss the matter with council staff first.



## Queanbeyan update

### Experience your new Library

Residents of Queanbeyan and Palerang now have access to an enhanced community facility. The Queanbeyan Library was opened in its new premises in mid-August and now provides visitors with a much more spacious and pleasant library experience. The new Library has about 70% more floor space than the previous facility and has allowed dedicated areas for children, studying and research and history to be created. The Queanbeyan Library has some great services, including the new E-Book service, and I encourage you to come and check it out. For more information on the Library's services, including children's activities, visit our website at **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**. The new Library has been complemented by a raft of public art, both inside and out, so come and check it out. There is ample parking off Rutledge or Lowe Sts and the Library has retained its opening hours.

### New entrance signs

Residents travelling into Queanbeyan along the Kings Highway would have noticed a new Queanbeyan entrance sign. A further sign will be installed at the Lanyon Drive entrance and will add to the Yass Rd and Canberra Ave signs which were installed earlier this year. The two new signs will be complemented by landscaping in the coming weeks and should look a treat come spring when the plantings take hold. The signs and landscaping are just part of the treatment undertaken to our entrances. Under Council's City of 10,000 Trees program extensive planting has been undertaken nearly all entrances and provide visitors with a welcoming feeling as they enter our city.

### Edwin Land Parkway is now open

The largest road project ever undertaken by Queanbeyan City Council was officially opened in July. The 2.3km Edwin Land Parkway extension provides a vital link between Jerrabomberra and Karabar and forms a key part of the Queanbeyan traffic network. The extension is single lane, except for an overtaking lane heading from the Old Cooma Rd intersection towards Jerrabomberra. A pedestrian path along the entire extension provides a great walking track for residents, while cyclists can utilise the on-road cycle path to commute between the two suburbs.

### Clean-up along the River

Contractors are making good progress on the

257 Crawford St Ph: 6285 6000 Web: [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/qbncity](https://www.facebook.com/qbncity) Twitter: @QueanbeyanCity

Mayor  
Cr Tim Overall



### STOCK SHOCK

I URGE your readers to contact their local LHPA (probably

Braidwood), or visit this site

**[www.lhpa.org.au/identifying-and-tracing-livestock/property-identification-codes](http://www.lhpa.org.au/identifying-and-tracing-livestock/property-identification-codes)** to obtain information on the new requirement for all NSW property owners to obtain a Property Identification Code (PIC) if they have *any* stock on their property, whether owned or agisted, and even if it is only one animal (not yet including family pets like dogs or cats, but don't hold your breath!).

You only have until 1 September 2012 and face a fine of \$550 if you fail to comply.

Don't say you weren't warned.

— Chris Fowler, Bywong



### COUNCIL – ARE YOU LISTENING?

THERE'S NOTHING in the remit for Palerang Council obliging ratepayers to love what it does.

Since I invited the Mayor in June to experience the rainy night visibility of the intersection of King Street and the Kings Highway, a broad dashed white line has appeared across King Street. Apparently Palerang Council considers that to be an effective response to my complaint. It's barely visible by day. On a rainy night it will be no better than previously.

What the problem needs is a clear visual marker above ground level and a street light that casts enough illumination on that marker without shining into drivers' eyes.

clean-up of the Queanbeyan River below the low-level bridge in Morisset St. Council appointed the contractor at its July meeting and work commenced in early August to remove the built up debris from the December 2010 flood and also some willows. Council had hoped to gain flood assistance funding from the NSW Government to undertake this work however our application was deemed ineligible. As a result Council has had to allocate the funds from its own sources. The work is expected to be complete in September.

### Council Regional Art Award

The Queanbeyan City Council Regional Art Award exhibition was officially opened as part of Local Government Week on 15 August. This year was the first time that the award was opened to artists from surrounding local government areas. We received a pleasing 30 entries, including a number of Palerang. This year's winner was Sharon Field from Burra. Jerrabomberra brothers, eight-year-old Oliver and five-year-old Angus Primrose. The exhibition is open until 25 August in The Q's exhibition space. While you're checking it out don't forget to vote on the peoples' choice award. The exhibition space is open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.

### No place for graffiti in Queanbeyan

There has been a worrying increase in the number of graffiti attacks in Queanbeyan over the past few months. It's very disappointing that some people in our city don't respect our community assets and feel the need to graffiti them. Graffiti is a scourge on the community and in 2010-11 alone it cost ratepayers about \$40,000. This money could be better spent on a range of projects, however due to the actions of some it is tied up in graffiti removal. Graffiti is a serious problem across NSW and there are serious consequences for perpetrators. NSW Police define it as malicious damage which carries a maximum five-year jail sentence. Anyone who sees graffiti applied to public property such as amenity blocks in parks etc, should contact Council immediately on 6285 6000 or fill in a feedback form on Council's website at **[www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au)**. If the graffiti is on private property, Council advises property owners to contact the Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 131 444. The Police will complete a Malicious Damage Report which will assist in tracking the offender down.



Then there's the refurbishment of Ellendon Street between Forster and King Streets. In front of the Strata Plan units at 95 Ellendon Street the developers installed kerb and guttering and a length of concrete footpath. The cost was factored into the purchase price of the units. But without consulting the owners of Strata Plan 78514, Council wilfully destroyed the perfectly serviceable length of concrete footpath and built another in its place.

Now Council has told Strata Plan unit holders that they will be billed for the full cost of the footpath, including the section that Council in effect stole from them!

We get the politicians we vote for. Unless we speak up when they mess things up, they will start believing that they have some inalienable right to hold office.

— Dougal Macdonald, Bungendore



### PROPERTIES AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MY NAME is Jean Winterfield from SA and together with Jenny Watters in WA we coordinate THE OUTBACK HELPERS SCHEME – which is Australia-wide. We have many volunteer helpers who are able to go out onto properties to lend a hand.

Currently we have a small number of properties listed for NSW but we certainly could do with a lot more. We would be happy for big and small holdings to register [that is at no cost at all]; it's an opportunity to avail themselves of someone to help out now and then.

Continued p27



# Come to the **Gala Champagne Auction**

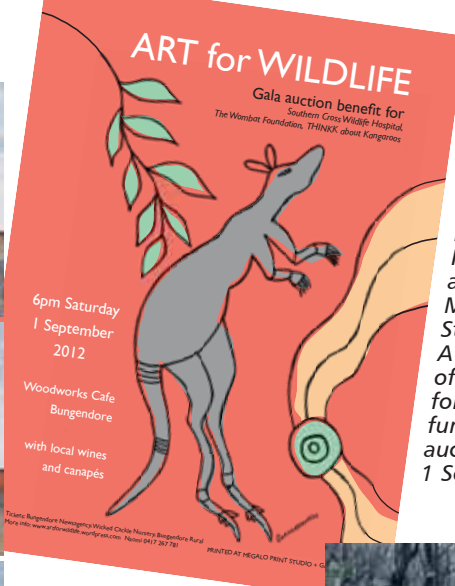
**1 September at the Café Wood Works in Bungendore**

**Jo Hollier – *Blue Wrens in a Woodpile* [No. 2]**  
Description: A/P. Hand coloured etching. Image size: 33 x 41cm. Mat size: 47 x 55cm.



**< Di Hinton – *Cinders* [No. 3]**  
Description: Photographic Print on Canvas. Photograph featured on the front cover of the 2012 Wombat Calendar, and inside as "Miss October". Image size 51 x 77cm (landscape).

**> Mick Huddleston (Garmarroongoo) – *Kangaroo, Emu, Turtle and Lizard with Billabong* [No. 4]**  
Description: Acrylic. Depicted in traditional and distinctive Arnhem Land cross-hatch style. Image 49 x 80cm (landscape).



Art for Wildlife poster: limited edition screen print designed by Michael Huddleston and printed at Megalo Print Studio, 2012. A limited series of 10 will be for sale at the fundraising auction on 1 September.

**< Adrienne Conway – *The Bush Telegraph* [No.1]**  
Description: Triptych. Acrylic. Each individual painting 35 x 45cm (landscape).  
**> Stella Reid – *New Life* [No. 25]**  
Description: Photographic Image on Canvas. Size 31 x 41cm (landscape).



**Master of ceremonies: Ken Henry**

**Guest speaker: PJ Nicholson** who studied the Bare-nosed Wombat in 1960 aged 15 by crawling down burrows and making friends with the inhabitants – possibly the first person to be brave or mad enough to do such a thing.

**Tickets** include local wines/champagne and gourmet canapes \$45. Get tickets at Bungendore Rural; Burrunj Community Support Service — Crawford St Queanbeyan, (across from the Royal); Wicked Cackle Nursery Bungendore; Ray White Braidwood; or **order tickets directly from Naomi on 0417 267 781.**

**Make a silent bid on works shown here or others on display at [www.artforwildlife.wordpress.com](http://www.artforwildlife.wordpress.com)**

**To place a silent bid:** email your contact details, the artwork title and number and your maximum bid amount to [naomi@wombatfoundation.com.au](mailto:naomi@wombatfoundation.com.au). You will be notified of the result after the auction.

There is further art, not displayed on the website, that will only be available for bidding on the night of the auction. Images do not necessarily appear in the order of auction.

**Contributing artists also include:** Richard Morecroft – photography; Jackie French and Bruce Whatley – signed print from *Baby Wombat's Week*; Alison Alder – limited edition print; and Rosie Windsor – necklace. Some of the artists contributing paintings are: Jan Barnett, Helen Fitzgerald, Ian Mackenzie, Jo Hollier, Kerry McInnis, Lucy Bonnin, Cassandra Scaife; and Catherine Moore, Stella Reid, Heike Hahner, Brett Clifton, Mark Thornton, Di Hinton, Roger Poole and Suzy Nethercott Watson, photography.

**Sponsors and major contributors to the night:** Eric and Staff at Cafe Wood Works | David MacLaren / Bungendore Wood Works Gallery | Megalo Print Studio and Gallery with Michael Huddleston | Gai and Kevin Jones | Domaine Rogha Crois Wines | Barton Estate Wines | Lyn Randall / Photothreads Custom Framing | Bungendore Rural Burrunj Community Support Service – Queanbeyan | The Feed Shed | Ray White Braidwood | Ray White Rural Bungendore, Ellie Merriman  
*The District Bulletin* | Wicked Cackle Nursery | Lake FM | Website: Chrissy Taylor

## MEGALO PRINT STUDIO + GALLERY: a regional resource for print artists

by Alison Alder

Megalo Print Studio + Gallery is a community access printmaking facility that has been operating for over 30 years in Canberra. The studio provides access to lithography, etching, relief and screen printing equipment for professional artists as well as providing classes and programs for beginners and community groups.

Megalo has a vibrant artist-in-residence program, which attracts artists from around the world, interstate and the Canberra region. Original prints produced in the Megalo studios are held in numerous public and private collections in both Australia and internationally.

Megalo also works with community groups and cultural institutions by providing class opportunities and undertaking commission printing. Recent examples of this type of work are a poster-making class held for members of Amnesty International or the printing of Michael Huddleston's beautiful artwork on the Art for Wildlife poster.

The studios and gallery are a place to make work, see work being made, learn new skills, meet kindred spirits or see some of the best printed work exhibited in the gallery.

Everyone is welcome at Megalo! ■



Screen printing the Art for Wildlife poster using an image drawn and generously donated by Aboriginal artist Michael Huddleston. The limited edition print was printed by hand at Megalo Print Studio Watson for the 1 September fundraiser. Seen here, Ingeborg Hansen and Megan Jackson printing the poster, a lengthy work of layering images.

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# Tea anyone ... maybe with a duo ... or even a trio?

YOU WOULD be correct if you guessed I was talking about cups and saucers. If coffee is your choice, then I might be saying coffee cups, coffee cans, demitasse or espresso.

The first known tea cups were Chinese and were actually shallow saucers. Because the English found them difficult to use, the cups evolved into a deeper shape, and a flatter saucer was added.

The English thought the purpose of the saucer was to pour the tea into to cool, and then drink from that. I have a stunning Minton set dating from about 1852 which has a deep (*almost 2cm*) saucer used for just that purpose.

## Cup and saucer terms

‘Tennis’ cups and saucers are so called because the ‘saucer’ incorporates both a standard saucer and a sandwich plate. You were then able to stand and watch the tennis while holding your cup of tea, and sandwich or cake in one hand.

A ‘duo’ refers to the more common cup and saucer that we use today, while a ‘trio’ refers to a matching cup, saucer and small sandwich or cake plate.

A demitasse coffee cup is a small cup, half the size of a normal cup, used to serve strong black coffee. A coffee ‘can’ is a small coffee cup with straight sides (*much like a can*).



## Collected by all, ‘crazy’ or matching

Wikipedia.org tells us that in May 2008 the international office of the *Guinness Book of World Records* confirmed the Ipswich City Council’s Mayor’s collection of 650 sets of demitasse cups (*1,500 individual cups*) as the biggest collection in the world. The Mayor, Cr Paul Pisasale, had been collecting demitasse for over 15 years at the time of the record.

Cups and saucers are possibly one of the most collected items by people of all ages from children to grandparents, and great grandparents. Cups and saucers are collected by colour, shape, age, country and/or maker.

They are affordable, ranging in price from as little as a few dollars to many hundreds of dollars. They are readily available in op shops, at car boot sales, auctions, garage sales and of course antique shops. And they are also lovingly handed down through generations.

## Stars of Spring starting to appear

AUGUST AND September both offer excellent opportunities to see many different types of objects in the night sky. Although the weather is cold now, it won’t be long before we can venture outside in more pleasant conditions.

### The stars in August and September

We are starting to see the bright stars of spring appearing low in the east after sunset. Towards the north is the bright star Vega, the brightest star in the constellation Lyra (the Harp).

Vega is the fifth-brightest star in the whole sky, and the second-brightest in the northern hemisphere. It is a white star, only 25 ‘light years’ distant (236,500,000,000,000km), and shines with the brightness of 25 of our Suns.

Interestingly, 14,000 years ago Vega was the northern Pole Star. As the Earth’s axis of rotation shifts slowly over many millennia, Vega gradually moved away from the North Pole, and now the star Polaris sits in that position. As this slow shift is a cycle, Vega will again become the Pole Star 14,000 years hence.

Vega is known to be surrounded by a large disk of rocky dusty debris, thought to be the result of a collision of planets sometime in the distant past.

A second spring star appearing this month is Altair, in the constellation Aquila (the Eagle). Altair is similar to Vega, it is white, but it is only half the distance away. As Altair appears fainter, yet is closer, it must be physically fainter, shining with the brightness of 10 of our Suns (compared to Vega’s 25).

Altair is known for having a very fast rotation speed, so fast that the whole star is squashed at the poles. The physical size of

I have customers who are creating their own ‘crazy tea sets’, collecting trios of different colours in the same shape, or different shapes in the same colour, until they have six or eight settings, making their own very personalised tea or coffee set.

My three favourite trios are: the Minton trio referred to above; a very delicate c1885 pale blue and white Wedgwood setting; and a c1887 Foley Queen Victoria Jubilee trio with an unusually shaped saucer and plate.

Whatever your passion, if you display your pieces and don’t actually use them,

## — Star Search —

with Dr David Weldrake

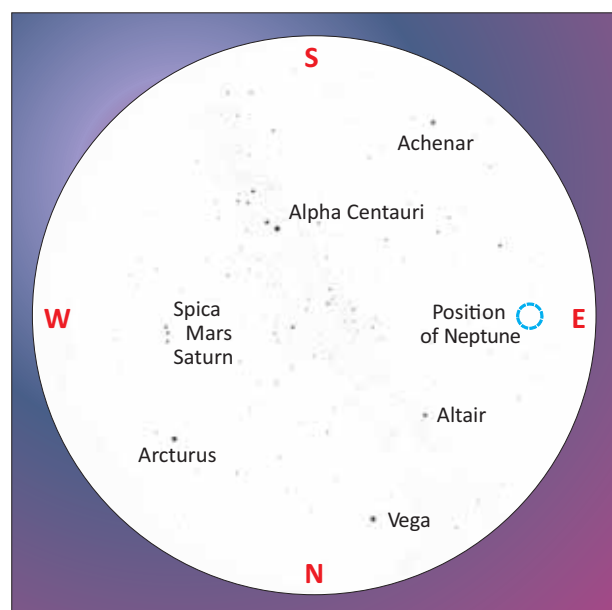
Altair was first observed in the 1960s from Narrabri, in northern NSW.

Other stars visible this month are orange Arcturus, in the north-west, and blue-white Achenar in the south-east. The Milky Way still shines brightly from our rural skies, with winter being the best time to see it.

### The planets in August and September

Mars and Saturn are the only two easily seen planets on view in August and September, both visible for some months now and they continue their slow walk across the constellation Virgo. They will be easy to identify this month, however, as Mars appears to pass in-between Saturn and the distant blue star Spica.

The three will appear to line up, as seen in the chart for this month. This is called a ‘conjunction’, where multiple planets can sometimes seem to be very close together. In reality of course they are still many



remember to gently immerse them in water every six months or so to rehydrate them and help prevent them drying out and crazing or cracking.

Take care ‘til next time, Annie

millions of km apart, and despite what the media would say, conjunctions have no effect on the Earth, so no volcanoes, no earthquakes or other such end-of-the-world events!

Mars has recently been in the news with the successful landing of NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity which will examine the interior of a 150km wide crater on Mars for the next couple of years, looking for evidence that the Red Planet was once habitable.

Through a telescope, Mars shows a very small reddish disk with darker surface features and a bright white polar cap. However, because Mars is now very far away, these features are becoming increasingly difficult to see, with Mars not due to be close to the Earth again until mid 2014.

When seen through a telescope, Saturn displays its magnificent ring system and several moons, which are visible as nearby faint stars that slowly move around Saturn from night to night.

Also visible in August and September is the planet Neptune. The sky chart shows the

position of Neptune, although it is only visible through a telescope as a very small bluish disk. Neptune comes to ‘opposition’, where it lies opposite the Sun as seen from Earth, on 24 August.

In the coming months we have the opportunity to see the planet Jupiter, which will be at its best in December, but for now it shines in our early morning skies. Look out for the first quarter (half-phase) Moon on 24 August and 23 September, the best time to see the mountains and craters of the Moon using just a pair of binoculars. ■

## TRAINING DAYS

Cont’d from p1

“We think it went pretty well,” Hamilton explained. “We’ve just got to wait on the decision now, that’s all we can do.”

**The London 2012 Olympic Games included women’s boxing for the first time ever, and Elmir would have been one of the first female Olympic boxers in history but for the positive test.**

Elmir took off to Fiji with friends during the Games, but could not avoid seeing them on television.

“I was with some friends, and yeah, I sat there, and had a bit of a cry,” Elmir admitted. “I just got through the first hurdle, sitting there watching it, but then I was really interested. It was hard at the start, but then I got used to it and started enjoying it.”

Elmir says she has begun to move on from the event.

“I feel a lot more refreshed, revitalised,” Elmir explained. “I’m back to where I was emotionally before it happened. Physically I’ve still got a little way to go, because I stopped training for a while, but Gary kicks the [sweat] out of me, so it

won’t be too long before I’m back physically to where I was.”

Hamilton has worked with Elmir for three years. He says she is a completely different fighter now to three years ago.

“She’s one of the best in the world now in her weight category,” Hamilton said with a hint of pride. “Before, she was just tough and fit really, and now she’s got a lot of skills and she’s strong.

“That she’s strong, and determined is probably her strength,” Hamilton said. “She could do with a little bit of extra speed, but she’s strong and she works hard. That’s probably her two strengths.”

Elmir is going to need every bit of that strength and determination when she is finally able to set her sights on the new goal: the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

“I want to pursue the Commonwealth Games in Scotland, 2014,” Elmir said. “And then after that there is still my Olympic dream, except the city has changed, it’s now Rio 2016. And no-one is going to stop me from doing that, can I just say.” ■

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# Laying hens: breakthrough or betrayal?

by Frankie Seymour

IN AUGUST 1995, animal rights activists slipped inside Parkwood Egg Farm's battery egg production facility in Belconnen to rescue hens and obtain photographs and video footage. Those pictures of naked, emaciated hens and the vet reports detailing their sundry illnesses ignited 17 years of intensive campaigning for the abolition of battery cages in the ACT.

Over the ensuing years, the Greens in the ACT Legislative Assembly have developed no fewer than four separate bills to ban battery cages. In 1997, the first of these was actually passed by a majority of the Legislative Assembly; the Greens, together with the Independents and the ALP (then in Opposition), had the numbers in spite of the Government.

The 1997 Animal Welfare Amendment Act would have banned the sale as well as the production of battery eggs in the ACT. The ban on the sale would have protected Parkwood Eggs from closure, as long as it moved to a non-cage housing system. The ban on sales would also mean the total number of hens kept in cages throughout Australia would

be reduced commensurate to the number of battery eggs previously consumed in the ACT – and that could only be a good thing.

The ban on the sale of battery eggs required the ACT to obtain an exemption under the Mutual Recognition Act (which enshrines national competition policy between jurisdictions) and this exemption required the agreement of all other jurisdictions.

A Productivity Commission enquiry confirmed that the ACT ban on the sale of battery eggs would have no negative competition impacts on other jurisdictions; but in spite of this, no other jurisdictions agreed to the ACT's exemption. So the 1997 ACT ban on battery cages has never been implemented.



Now, 15 years later, the ACT Government has finally done a deal with Pace Farm, owners of Parkwood. The current battery cages will be phased out and replaced with a barn-type facility.

At one level, this has to be seen as an improvement. The cage housing system is inherently cruel; no improvements in care or welfare (such as reduced stocking densities or improved daily husbandry) could ever have improved it. But barn housing systems are just as crowded as battery cages.

Indeed, natural behavior in a barn is almost as impossible as in a cage. Birds find it impossible to move freely, escape from other birds, rest when sick or tired, lay eggs in private, or find enough space to even stretch their wings. There is no more natural light than in a battery shed, no relief from the stench of manure and no dust to bathe in.

Moreover, neglect is endemic to both intensive production systems. This is because of the sheer number of creatures involved and the fact that they are regarded as industrial plant rather than as sentient beings with feelings and needs not unlike our own.

The worst excesses of this neglect could be avoided if even the minimalist Code of Practice for Domestic Poultry were enforced – but it is not. And we have heard nothing from the ACT Government promising to expend additional resources on the enforcement of welfare standards at Parkwood, neither during the phase out of



cages nor after the barn facility commences operation.

All in all, it would've been far better if the ACT Government had simply not allowed Pace Eggs to renew its lease (which expires in about a decade). Once the cages were gone, legislation prohibiting any form of intensive animal production in the ACT could have been passed. Batteries or barns, broiler sheds, sow stalls, cattle feedlots, intensive rabbit or turkey farms: one pain-free, fell swoop could ensure we never again have any of these cruelties in the ACT.

Governments pay lip service to animal welfare, yet seem to be universally terrified of actually legislating to prohibit the torture and abuse of farm animals. They would rather leave animals at the mercy of free markets and consumer choice than do what governments are elected to do: pass laws implementing the people's will.

Animal cruelty in food production will only be stopped by legislation. Leaving aside the question of whether animals themselves have rights – the fact is, human beings are supposed to have rights. If we do, then we are entitled to the animal protection legislation which we, the public, have demanded of our governments again and again.

It's an appalling indictment of our democratic system that we still haven't got it. ■

ILLUSTRATION HEIKE HAHNER

## Consumer victory threatened by factory farmers

by Di Johnstone

WITH soaring demand from animal welfare-conscious consumers for free-range eggs and chicken, egg and poultry industry associations are fighting to preserve market share for factory farmers. In a counter-move, two major industry associations have applied to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for approval of new standards that would re-define the term free-range. Early this year, the Australian Egg Corporation Limited sought to register a certification trade mark (CTM) with proposed new standards that would allow a maximum stocking density for free-range eggs equivalent to 20,000 birds per hectare. This is 13 times greater than the current definition in the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Domestic Poultry*, being a maximum of 1,500 birds per hectare.

Thousands of consumers, national consumer and animal welfare organisations and free range farmers called for rejection of the proposed standards. According to national consumer body, *Choice*, the proposed

**Cage conditions: industry proposal to define free-range as allowing up to 140,000 chickens or 60,000 turkeys per hectare.**

stocking density is "substantially inconsistent with accepted standards". *Choice* has also pointed to the potential for consumers to be misled by claims that products carrying the CTM met accepted standards; the potential difficulty faced by companies that respect the current limit of 1,500 birds per hectare competing with those using higher stocking densities permitted by the CTM rules; and the potential public detriment from erosion of

consumer confidence in free-range egg labelling. More recently, several major poultry companies,

applying under the name of the Australian Poultry Industries Association, have proposed a change to standards for chicken and turkey meat to be sold as free-range.

According to GetUp, which has joined national animal welfare organisations campaigning for rejection of the new standards, these would allow chicken meat produced with up to 140,000 chickens per hectare to be classified as free range, with each chicken effectively limited to an area the size of an A4 piece of paper. Animal advocacy organisation, Voiceless, estimates the new standards would also allow up to 60,000 turkeys per hectare.

Public consultation on both applications is technically closed. There is no published date for an ACCC decision.

## PALERANG COUNCIL

### QUOTATIONS CALLED FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS

CONTRACT CW 2-2012

Quotations are invited from suitably experienced and qualified contractors for the installation of a grid-connected photovoltaic system on the roof of Council's Bungendore Offices.

Quotations will be received up to 5.00pm on Friday, 14 September 2012.

Quotation documents and specifications are available from Council's e-tender portal at [www.tendersearch.com.au/palerang](http://www.tendersearch.com.au/palerang).

Any enquiries relating to this contract should be directed to Rodney Stewart on (02) 6238 8138 during business hours.

Formal submissions should be made by the due date and time via Council's e-tender portal.

**Peter Bascomb**  
General Manager

**10 Majara Street**  
(PO Box 348)  
**BUNGENDORE NSW 2621**  
[records@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@palerang.nsw.gov.au)



## Planning & Infrastructure

### EXHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

#### Collector Wind Farm

Application No	MP 10_0156
Location	6,215Ha of land in the Upper Lachlan Shire located along the Cullerin Range, bound to the North by the Hume Highway and to the South by Collector Road.
Proponent	RATCH-Australia Corporation Limited
Council area	Upper Lachlan Shire

**Description of proposal**  
Construction and operation of up to 68 wind turbines with an installed capacity of up to 228MW, and associated electrical and civil infrastructure for the purpose of generating electricity from wind energy.

**Exhibition**  
A copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) may be viewed on the Department of Planning & Infrastructure's website ([majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)). The EA will also be on exhibition from Thursday 26th July 2012 until Monday 24th September 2012 during regular business hours, at:

- Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Collector Café, 5-7 Murray Street, Collector;
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council Crookwell Office, 44 Spring Street, Crookwell;
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council Gunning Office, 123 Yass Street, Gunning;
- Gunning Library, 92 Yass Street, Gunning; and
- Nature Conservation Council, Level 2/5 Wilson Street, Newtown.

#### Submissions

Submissions on the project must reach the Department by close of business on Monday 24th September 2012. Your submission should include:

- Your name and address;
- The name of the application and the application number;
- A statement on whether you support or object to the project; and
- The reasons why you support or object to the project.

Your submission should be marked 'Attention: Belinda Scott' and:

- Faxed to (02) 9228 6455;
- Posted to Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning & Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001; or
- Emailed to [plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au) or via the entry for the project on the Department's website ([majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au))

Persons lodging submissions are required to declare reportable political donations (including donations of \$1000 or more) made in the previous two years. For more details, including a disclosure form, go to [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations)

Under section 75H of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the Director-General is required to provide copies of submissions received during the exhibition period, or a report of the issues raised in those submissions, to the Proponent and other interested public authorities. It is Departmental policy to also place a copy of your submission on the Department's website. If you do not want your name to be made available to the Proponent, these authorities, or on the Department's website, please clearly state this in your submission.

Enquiries: 1300 305 695 or [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)



# Local government must withstand ‘back to the past’ thinking

OUR local government areas need strong, community-minded councils now more than ever, to represent existing residents and talk back to state-level politicians if necessary.

The NSW government, which dominates a lot of what happens at the local level, is signalling it wants to transport us back to some well-tried old policy recipes to cope with their budgets.

With rising populations and aging infrastructure, states are experiencing hard financial times and had previously debt-financed to keep satisfying voter aspirations. In NSW (as in Victoria and Queensland) the new/old solution is to cut the public sector and bow to the big end of the private sector to save society – well mostly Sydney – from transport gridlock while hoping to goose the construction business.

Is this really a recipe for helping the average householder, farmer or small business person, let alone those who need a social safety net? Just ask a Victorian who lived through the Kennett years; or a Queenslander after just a couple of months of Campbell Newman.

Recently, the Sydney press reported that a confidential NSW Treasury memo revealed there was no cap on the number of public service redundancies beyond the 10,000 announced in the state budget. Public sector job cuts don’t skirt Queanbeyan and Palerang and must have an impact on regional retail, real estate and service businesses, as public servants lose their incomes.

Right-wing think tanks have been pumping out the intellectual ammunition for this blueprint for 20 years and the NSW government appears to be regularly talking to them.

For example, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 11 July that the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS), which is right wing on family values and unfettered enterprise, issued a report being considered by the Health Minister. The CIS report calls Mrs Skinner’s favoured local health boards

powerless and cosmetic, and calls for more privatisation of hospital services and beds. Mrs Skinner is quoted as saying “This government is an open book on doing things with the private sector” and she welcomed proposals on everything from patient care to food supply and records management.

The same story added that privatising Port Macquarie Base Hospital became hugely expensive and the government had to buy it back. Costs were 20 percent higher than in the public sector while the majority of risks stayed with the taxpayer.

There is a proposal now by Infrastructure NSW (run by people with the same privatising mindset) to downplay public transport and instead dig up Parramatta Rd in Sydney for an eight-lane motorway and construct two other motorways for upward to \$15 billion dollars – making other spending options unfeasible for decades.

The NSW government traded off shooting in national parks for the votes to privatise more of the profitable state electricity system. It was all about gaining some dollars to put into these Sydney road projects.

This familiar old blueprint relies on privatising often profitable state-owned assets like power and communication utilities (remember Telstra?), public transport, wharves and toll roads. It’s partly a belief system and partly for short-term budget gains. Popular also is eliminating support staff for state responsibilities (public transport, health, education, science agencies, national parks, public security). It helps to bash public servants and their unions as greedy, incompetent or redundant.

Some of these ideas have been shared by successive Labor governments – it’s a matter of degree and scope. While chopping government services and jobs, weakening environmental safeguards, and handing public assets to the private sector might seem like an ‘efficient’ idea that stimulates business solutions to rising populations (who want services) and aging infrastructure, it’s a losing end game. Just look at the US and the UK now, leaders with this type of public sector

bashings and austerity thinking – backed by vilification of paying for services through taxes.

**Planning rules set to change**  
At the council level, in the name of stimulating business (read construction business) the NSW government proposes to change the planning laws and would limit the community’s right to object to development after an initial strategic plan. Our council candidate responses starting on p17 comment on this.

While the changes have some merit against frivolous objections, they should be examined closely in the current public comment phase. Residents and ratepayers get just one crack at having a say – ‘community consultation’ – about just how and how fast they want developments to proceed. It’s not clear how that fits with the just-completed LEPs in our area. Ratepayers would have no standing to protest down the track.

Settlement patterns change and people change. The discussion in Queanbeyan over the proposed Ellerton Drive extension which has been on the books for 30 years is an excellent case in point.

**Election issues**  
Transport for a growing population – whether it’s more roads or mass transit – are vexing issues for Queanbeyan in this election, as are proposed planning rezones for development of either agricultural or environmentally sensitive land in both Palerang and Queanbeyan.

Community consultation and communication continue to be major concerns in both electorates according to candidate responses. Conflict of interest has been and may continue to be sensitive. It showed up particularly in Palerang regarding agricultural land and large landholder Councillors in the LEP process of designating land use and development areas. State OK for a voting quorum of Councillors so the majority didn’t have to leave the room held up the Palerang LEP for many months.

Vote carefully on 8 September with your existing community interests and quality of life in mind. The land development lobby to stimulate business and what is called ‘progress’ is already behind the wheel in Sydney. ■

## PALERANG COUNCIL ELECTION SATURDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2012



### Election of 9 Councillors

#### You need to be enrolled to vote for the council where you live

To check your enrolment details visit our website or call us. If you are not on the roll in NSW or your current enrolment details are not correct you may be eligible to enrol or update your details when you vote early or on election day. To newly enrol, or up-date your details on the spot, just bring your NSW photo driver licence or NSW Photo Card showing your current address, and be ready to provide Australian citizenship details if you were born overseas.

#### Voting on election day

Voting will take place on Saturday, 8th September 2012 between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

On election day you must vote at a polling place for your council, or ward if your council is divided. There is no absent voting at local government elections. To check your enrolment details visit our website or call us.

#### Polling Places

A list of polling places for your council or ward is available by visiting our website or calling us.

### Voting before election day

#### Postal Voting and Pre-Poll Voting

You may be entitled to a postal or pre-poll vote. For details visit our website or call us.

#### Voting early in person

Pre-poll voting begins on Monday, 27 August and ends at 6pm Friday, 7th September 2012. You can vote in person at the following location(s).

Early voting is generally available during Council business office hours Mon–Fri. For specific operating dates and times of each pre-poll voting centre visit the website or call us.

Palerang Council Office, Braidwood	144 Wallace Street, Braidwood NSW 2622
Palerang Council Office, Bungendore	10 Majara Street, Bungendore NSW 2621
Queanbeyan Region Returning Officer's Office	256 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

You can also vote early, and on election day, at Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street, Sydney from Friday, 31st August. For more details visit the website or call us.

#### Voting by Post

You can apply online for a postal vote from [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or by calling 1300 135 736. Your application must be completed and received by the NSW Electoral Commission no later than 5pm Monday, 3rd September 2012.

#### Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all electors where elections are being held. The penalty for not voting is \$55.

#### Candidates

A full list of candidates for your council or ward is available by visiting our website or calling us.

#### CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEETS

Each candidate’s information sheet is available for viewing at [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or at the Returning Officer’s office.

### Information: [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or 1300 135 736

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50  
For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77

Linda Strika  
Returning Officer

## POLITICS TODAY



with  
Maria  
Taylor

### MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

*Cont’d from p4*

In a senate election, placing the number “1” in an above-the-line box allocates preferences through the whole ballot paper, as nominated by the group or party that receives the first vote.

In a local government election, however, placing the number “1” in an above-the-line box only allocates preferences within that group (in the order in which the relevant candidates are listed) – there are no preferences ‘automatically’ allocated to any other group.

The only way to allocate preferences to more than one group is to place numbers in the above-the-line boxes for more than one group – if there is no number in an above-the-line box for a group, no preferences will be distributed to members of that group.

**The only way to direct a preference to an ungrouped, independent candidate is to cast your entire vote below-the-line**

To be elected, a candidate needs to accumulate a *quota* of votes – a *quota* being equal to the number of votes cast, divided by one more than the number of candidates to be elected, plus one (eg if there are 10,000 formal votes cast and nine

candidates to be elected, then a *quota* will be 1,001 votes).

When ballot papers are first counted, they are ‘allocated’ to the first preference candidate (ie the candidate with the number “1” against their name). Any candidate with a *quota* (or more) at this point is declared elected and any over-*quota* votes, known as *surplus* votes, are then distributed to the nominated second-preference candidates.

In the previous two Palerang elections, the first eight candidates were effectively elected based on the first two preferences identified on ballot papers. Therefore, **when casting your vote, you should take care to identify candidates in the order you would like to see them elected.**

In contrast, *all* preferences have to be counted to decide the last successful candidate. This is an indication of how close the competition is for that last seat and the upshot is that it is important to nominate as many preferences as possible – ie **allocate a preference to every candidate that you would be happy to see on Council**, not just the first five. Your last preference could be the vote that counts.

*More info: Schedule 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 ([www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/subordleg+487+2005+sch.5+0+N?](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/subordleg+487+2005+sch.5+0+N?)).*



# Vote 1 Greens for Queanbeyan City Council on 8 September

**Involving our community, protecting our environment**



By voting for the Greens you will ensure that Queanbeyan City Council includes people committed to protecting our unique heritage buildings and natural environment, and involving the community in decisions.

**On Council our priorities will include:**

- Protecting Queanbeyan's natural environment
- Creating more transport options
- Reducing Queanbeyan's greenhouse gas emissions
- Giving the community a voice, especially in planning matters

Find out more at

[www.queanbeyanmonaro.nsw.greens.org.au](http://www.queanbeyanmonaro.nsw.greens.org.au)

Email us at: [queanbeyanmonarogreens@gmail.com](mailto:queanbeyanmonarogreens@gmail.com)



**Katrina Willis 0431 184 717 Richard Philpott 0407 213 298**

Authorised by Katrina Willis, 14 McKeahnie St Queanbeyan NSW 2620

## FIVE REASONS COUNCIL ELECTIONS AREN'T THE OLYMPICS

And meet **the candidates** who would steer local planning *by Mel Hillery*

- 1 Apart from a few certifiable exceptions, people don't spend their lives training to become local Councillors.
- 2 Federal and state governments don't put money into recruiting the most talented candidates or feeding them the right vitamins to make sure they perform at their peak.
- 3 It's not on television (*I'm sure that's the reason kids don't grow up dreaming of becoming Mayor*).
- 4 There are a few people who believe they know how to run things best and who don't want us to pay attention whilst they get on with running the show.
- 5 With all due respect, a bunch of (*mostly*) 50+ men don't look good in Lycra!

But look at it this way. What if, once Olym-

pians had won their medals, they had to go on and make decisions about whether your house was a heritage property, how big your shed could be or what rates you should pay? What if they had to decide whether a fifty-lot subdivision next door was a good thing or needed to endorse the plan for car park in the middle of your town?

Would they still be the stuff of legends? Would we still like them so much? Would they still inspire us to strive for a great future for our kids and our community?

Becoming a local Councillor needs to be about inspiring all of us towards a vision of our shared future. It isn't often about glory, but we are very lucky in this community that good people from all parts of the shire continue to put their hands up to take on this role.

We owe them this much – to put a bit of thought into our vote. Find out a bit about the people on the ballot paper and make sure the ones we vote in there are going to do the best job. Look out for the questions to candidates in the papers and go to a Meet the Candidate event. Ask someone who knows someone...

You might have reason to be thankful further down the track.

**Palerang may see 'fast tracking' of its LEP consultation and then no opportunity for community input thereafter**

In late 2012, the incoming Council may face one of the greatest challenges so far to representing residents' interests in Palerang. It is important we elect a Council with the

spine to stand up for incorporating residents' input, particularly input into our planning instruments, the Palerang Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the Development Control Plan (DCP) which are currently close to final drafts.

The NSW Planning Minister Brad Hazzard has indicated that he wishes to step away from the previous government's LEP process. It is likely that councils like Palerang who are at the point of public exhibition of their LEPs will be hurried through the public consultation phase to fast-track the gazetting of these now 'old-style' LEPs to make way for the new proposed system by the end of the year.

There is a catch. Under changes foreshadowed for the new NSW planning system, it is being suggested that public consultation will be undertaken in detail at the

*Cont'd next page*

## Integrity Fairness Leadership Vision Trust

**Richard Graham**  
**Independent**  
**for Palerang**

**VOTE**



**below-the-line**

**community: prosperity - ecology - connectivity - safety**



I first met Richard in 2005. Since then we have had many opportunities to exchange advice to help further sustainable landscape restoration.

In propagating my knowledge and vision of sustainable landscape processes, I have worked with many people with many agendas over the years. What I value in Richard is that he is a reliable and solid citizen. I believe he has the heart of a naturalist without all the politically motivated rhetoric that accompanies politicians trying to claim the green moral high-ground.

Richard's work in the development of Landtasia wetlands is very admirable. It is an example of his willingness to do more than talk about landscape values and put his own resources into making it happen. The same can be seen of his earlier restoration of Mulloon Creek at Kings Highway.

Lastly, he can take advice as well as he gives it. I think his kind of natural skill and intuition is valuable to have at all levels of government.



Peter Andrews OAM  
Founder  
Natural Sequence Farming  
Author

I have known Richard Graham for about 14 years and am very pleased for this opportunity to write a reference for him.

During this time, I have known Richard as both a friend and a colleague and have been witness first hand to his generosity of spirit - be it to those closest to him or to the community as a whole.

During the past 4 years I have greatly admired Richard's commitment to Palerang shire as a sitting Councillor, knowing the dedication and determination he has shown to doing what is in the best interests of the Shire. His concern for the Shire's future is genuine and he brings to the role of Councillor his integrity, sound business knowledge and his absolute faith in its potential for prosperity.

Having lived in Palerang for 20 years, I am aware of the issues the Shire faces and I am confident that Richard's contribution will help it continue to thrive and prosper.



Edwina Fitzgerald  
Bungendore Resident,  
Businessperson,  
and Parent

Richard Graham is a man I am proud to support as a councillor for Palerang Shire. He'll bring important skills to the governance of the Shire which are embedded in his long and successful experience as both Chairman and Chief Executive of a large Australian based international company.

These skills may be summarised as follows:

- ☐ Financial management,
- ☐ Engagement with residents,
- ☐ Service Delivery and Efficiency,
- ☐ Structure and Protocol, and
- ☐ Ability to relate to the challenges faced by the General Manager and senior staff.

Richard is also committed to the rebuilding of the farming base of the Shire and pioneering new strategies and new enterprises to cope with impending climate change. He also has a strong interest in connecting the community with the environment that we are stewarding for our children and grandchildren.



Antony Coote AM  
Organic Farmer  
Founder  
Mulloon Institute

[www.richardgraham.com.au](http://www.richardgraham.com.au)





## MEET THE PALERANG CANDIDATES

Four candidate teams and four independent candidates are contesting the Palerang Council elections, after a bruising previous four years that saw five Councillors retire, three after just one term in office.

Running as ungrouped Independents are incumbent Councillors Paul Cockram of rural residential Mongarlowe, Richard Graham with agricultural enterprises east of Bungendore and long-serving Councillor Ian Marjason also with agricultural land and farming business outside Bungendore. Otherwise, Cockram runs a graphics business, Graham is the CEO of an international IT firm and Marjason is a senior solicitor. They are joined by new candidate Ian Peters from Araluen who is a construction project manager.

Also incumbent from the last Council is rural residential Wamboin's Pete Harrison who has brought together a ticket called Community Voice, not to be confused with Community First. The latter community/green alliance has all new faces after the retirement of Cath Moore and Judith Turley. Palerang's Future and Palerang Country Labor are the other two tickets that introduce themselves on these pages.

The *Bulletin* has received responses to a questionnaire from the four tickets and three of the four independent candidates which we bring to you as a community 'meet the candidates' service. Responses are in alphabetical order.

**As a candidate for the next term of Palerang Council, do you agree / no opinion OR neutral / disagree with the following statements?**

**A priority must be to cut red tape for new development and assist further population increase in Palerang villages and rural areas (ensuring more ratepayers).**

### Paul Cockram

Yes, we must always be mindful about unnecessary complexity in our planning permissions. Palerang, especially in the west, will continue to attract more ratepayers; we can't change that. Council's job is to fit the new residents into our existing community while preserving the environment and the neighbours' amenity.

### Community First

DISAGREE. Growth will inevitably happen but it needs to be planned for in a strategic way, and evolve naturally, not be imposed on our communities, and it must take into account factors such as the quality of life of existing residents, changing demographics, fuel costs and environmental constraints, all the while recognising that more ratepayers will not solve our financial woes because an increase in the rates base is not proportional to the cost of providing infrastructure etc.

### Community Voice (Pete Harrison)

NEUTRAL. Red tape is, by definition, undesirable. Appropriate regulations, however, are not red tape, but the means by which population growth and development can be encouraged while protecting the amenity of existing residents.

### Country Labor (Garth Morrison)

NO OPINION/NEUTRAL.

### Richard Graham

DISAGREE. While I fully agree with cutting red tape (ie unproductive bureaucracy), I disagree with the statement that this should be for the objective of increasing local population. Growth is a reality of our world, and Palerang is not a fortress island. The issue

for today's planners, as it has been for past ones, is how to do that sustainably and allow character to evolve.

### Ian Marjason

AGREE. The new development process is unnecessarily complicated and needs simplifying.

### Palerang's Future

Yes; the DA [development application] process needs streamlining and to be made fairer (particularly for existing residents). We agree that controlled and considered population increase in the western end villages (Canberra's dormitory suburbs) is desirable, but there is no pressure to populate the eastern, rural villages, which service the farming community and enhance the tourism potential of the LGA as a whole.

**Regarding population: the new council should work with the community and with expert input such as the recent West Palerang water study to develop a sustainable population plan.**

### Paul Cockram

Nobody wants to live in a town with water restrictions. Our job is to encourage water conservation while setting our growth scenario using the projected water availability figures as the upper limit to future population.

### Community First

AGREE. Absolutely – for a community to stay healthy, growth cannot be infinite and needs to be planned and planned for, and must not be at the expense of our natural resources/environment/biodiversity.

### Community Voice (Pete Harrison)

AGREE. This is obviously a sound approach to planning.

### Country Labor (Garth Morrison)

AGREE.

### Richard Graham

AGREE. Such research, consultation and planning has been and remains at the foundation of Council planning. It would be folly to think that things were otherwise. As with other spheres of government, the weight Council

gives to any one subject input is a matter of fitting it into a larger, more complex social, economic and environmental picture.

### Ian Marjason

These matters must also be looked at in the context of the regional plan

### Palerang's Future

A qualified 'Yes' as the cited water study isn't up to the task. However, the basic premise of seeking expert input for decisions affecting the Palerang community is wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged.

**A new Council must follow the existing community vision and strategic/operational plans developed in 2011 and earlier community workshops.**

### Paul Cockram

Listening to the community is now a prime directive from the state government. Distilling a cohesive community plan from all the forums' butcher's paper notes will continue to be a challenge for council.

### Community First

AGREE. Yes, but not just the existing vision etc – consultation needs to be ongoing, and aim to involve a cross-section of the community so it is not just those with vested interests who are heard.

### Community Voice (Pete Harrison)

AGREE. We are basically in agreement, but it should also be recognised that these plans will need regular review, with appropriate community input, to ensure that they remain consistent with the aspirations of the community.

### Country Labor (Garth Morrison)

NO OPINION/NEUTRAL.

### Richard Graham

AGREE. Yes, in the same way that Council brings into its planning processes expert research in order to then compose policies that balance the social, economic and environmental factors to achieve the most broadly acceptable community outcome.

### Ian Marjason

There have been some changes since the early community vision and strategic plans. Further consultation is now required.

### Palerang's Future

DISAGREE. Whilst recognising the previous work, an incoming Council must have the freedom to develop its own plans, but it must then 'sell' their merits and the reason for change (if any), to the ratepayers and the wider community.

**Subdivision planning should be left to developers and not be altered by council staff. Developers are building subdivisions all the time, so they know what's best in a given situation.**

### Paul Cockram

This must be a trick question. Every community where residents have invested their assets needs to know there are rules in place to

preserve their amenity and the value of their property. That's the difference between a civilised society and the wild west.

### Community First

DISAGREE. It is essential that we consider "best" for whom and that the needs of communities are put first, because the concept of "planning" is meaningless when development is allowed to happen in an ad hoc way and not as part of an overall plan that reflects an agreed community vision, not forgetting that it is the aim of developers to make a profit.

### Community Voice (Pete Harrison)

DISAGREE. Developers most certainly have expertise in certain areas, and can provide valuable input into this process, but the process must ultimately be subject to the will of the broader community, through policy set by their elected representatives and implemented by Council staff.

### Country Labor (Garth Morrison)

DISAGREE.

### Richard Graham

DISAGREE. Council planners have the best knowledge of the Palerang planning instruments and Council and state planning policies.

### Ian Marjason

DISAGREE Council should control any new developments.

### Palerang's Future

DISAGREE. Subdivision decisions should be in the hands of the elected Council, having regard to the arguments of the developer,

## FIVE REASONS Cont'd from p17

determination of the local LEP, but that once this is adopted there will be little room for residents to challenge individual development decisions once it has been shown that they are LEP compliant.

Is Palerang going to lose out on public consultation twice?

Although we may be all very tired of the apparently never-ending LEP process, we can look to the Olympians to inspire us. We need endurance to see the entire process through, we need Councillors with an inspirational vision for the future and we can never give up until we have the gold-standard LEP.

On the other hand, local government planning policy doesn't quite get your blood pumping the way a final minute goal by the Opals does... so...

**"If you are going to go to sleep, please make sure the driver is awake at the wheel!"**

Mel Hillery is the public officer for Future PLANS, the Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability. She can be contacted at [melophorus@bigpond.com](mailto:melophorus@bigpond.com) or on 0427 440 335.

# SOLAR ENERGY IS THE FUTURE

Local government can lead the way in upgrading to cheaper and less-polluting sources of energy. Lower electricity bills will allow council to improve its level of service to the community. I've been working hard to get council support to have panels installed on our Bungendore office roof.

I'd like to follow this with solar arrays at the pumping stations – and then investigate council-run, community benefit solar farms. All it takes is practical solutions and the political will to get moving.

Support solar. **Vote 1 Paul Cockram** (and then at least four other candidates below the line).

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN LEAD THE WAY



**VOTE**  
**Paul COCKRAM**  
**IN PALERANG**

Authorised by Paul Cockram, 64 Budawang Road, Mongarlowe NSW 2622 0417 459 775







**INTRODUCING COMMUNITY FIRST**

Community First comprises five women and two men from across Palerang, with diverse skills and active in their local communities.

Belinda Hogarth-Boyd (left) from Bungendore, works in the public service where she specialises in auditing and human resources. She is also a snake handler for Wildcare, which has given her an appreciation of the delicate balance of the environment. Belinda is looking forward to applying her skills in planning and analysis with a people focus to Council.

Peter Marshall from Captains Flat is employed by the ACT Government as a psychologist. He is active in a number of local community organisations and is particularly keen to further openness and accountability on Council.

Sandra Hand from Majors Creek works for numerous community groups often in the role of treasurer. She has sometimes found herself critical of Council so has put herself forward. They are supported by Geoff Langford (Bungendore), Cecily Dignan (Burra), Bronwyn Richards (Braidwood) and Naomi Henry (Doughboy).

**Council should take the lead on expanding the network of recreational and biodiversity greenways throughout Palerang.**

**Paul Cockram**  
Yes we should.

**Community First**  
AGREE. Council is well-placed to expand these networks through strategic planning and zoning decisions.

**Community Voice (Pete Harrison)**  
NEUTRAL. It is perhaps not so much Council's responsibility to take the lead in these matters as it is to recognise the importance of such initiatives and actively support, primarily through appropriate policy development, the community groups and developers that need to be the driving force behind such activities.

**Country Labor (Garth Morrison)**  
NO OPINION/NEUTRAL.

**Richard Graham**  
Yes, and Council should seek grants to contribute to this cost.

**Ian Marjason**  
AGREE. The previous Yarralumla Shire was a pioneer in recreational and biodiversity

green ways. I have always been a strong supporter of these as they are an important part of our rural, residential lifestyle.

**Palerang's Future**  
Council should appoint a full-time Heritage and Tourism Officer who would work with a community group to develop such a network, as well as research and develop opportunities for appropriate tourism-related recreational development.

**The Palerang Local Environment Plan (LEP) may possibly be reviewed by new Councillors and goes out to public exhibition early in the life of the new Council. It is the framework for future development. Do you agree: Environmental safeguards need to be spelled out in detail to avoid challenges and conflict.**

**Paul Cockram**  
AGREE. Environmental safeguards need to be spelled out in detail to avoid challenges and conflict.

**Community First**  
AGREE. This will also reduce costs in the long-term in case of court action by developers, and any safeguards need to be values-based and



**Vote 1 – GROUP C**

**COMMUNITY FIRST** FOR PALERANG

<http://palerangcommunityfirst.org/>

Authorised by Belinda Hogarth-Boyd 6 McCusker Drive, Bungendore NSW 2621

not proscriptive, as unanticipated loopholes can develop in the future that haven't been prohibited.

**Community Voice (Pete Harrison)**  
AGREE. Sufficient detail is required to protect the character of existing communities, the amenity of an area, and to provide certainty to property developers. Loose legislation simply moves debate and conflict out of the Council chamber and into the wider community. It is Council's responsibility to recognise the interests and will of the broader community and set policy accordingly.

**Country Labor (Garth Morrison)**  
NO OPINION/NEUTRAL.

**Richard Graham**  
AGREE. Environmental safeguards are spelled out in detail in the state environmental and planning instruments. I do not believe Council has the resources nor needs to proscribe redundant or more restrictive conditions than the state does.

**Ian Marjason**  
Environmental safeguards are largely contained in State Government Legislation. The LEP and the DCP contain complimentary environmental safeguards.

**Palerang's Future**  
NEUTRAL. There is a risk of becoming too prescriptive by trying to write an exhaustive list. This also tends to support the 'Rule of Lawyers' rather than the 'Rule of Law'. The more complex a system or description, the less control you have of it. Council needs to retain some control to enable its operations and support its community.

**As long as proposals comply with State law, local councils should refrain from additional (localised) regulation limiting landholders' and developers' development applications.**

**Paul Cockram**  
DISAGREE.

**Community First**  
DISAGREE. The whole point of a 'Local' Environmental Plan is just that – that it is local, and ought to be relevant to the unique conditions of the shire.

**Community Voice (Pete Harrison)**  
DISAGREE. While this is the way some people view local planning regulations, a more enlightened view might be that they exist to provide a greater degree of certainty for the local communities. State law must necessarily allow for the fact that one size does not fit all, across the whole of the state. Local regulations are essential to help retain and develop the individual character of individual communities within Local Government Areas.

**Country Labor (Garth Morrison)**  
DISAGREE.

**Richard Graham**  
AGREE. So this gets back to the reply for the previous question; that if Council were to have more stringent conditions than the state has proscribed, on what basis would that be determined.


**Ian Marjason**  
AGREE Council should be careful not to make life too difficult for people wishing to live in the Shire. If matters are addressed by State Law is it pointless Council dealing with them again.

**Palerang's Future**  
NEUTRAL. We support the development of localised regulations in principle, as local Councils know the local area best, but these need to be simple, unambiguous, well publicised and applied even-handedly.

**A rural settlement study should be conducted before finalising how subdivision can occur on agricultural land in Palerang. All ratepayers are affected because Council has a fiscal obligation to maintain roads to any such new subdivisions. Another issue is the viable retention of agricultural land.**

**Paul Cockram**  
AGREE.

**Community First**  
AGREE. Community First supports the undertaking of a rural settlement study while recognising that subdivision of land needs to be approached in a strategic way which does not negatively impact on the ability of farmers to undertake farming activities; farmers should be able to conduct their business in a sustainable way so that their businesses are viable. We



**Garth Morrison Country Labor is optimistic about Palerang Shire's future**

With close to twenty percent growth in recent years, Palerang is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Growth brings with it great opportunity, but also great risk. Country Labor will work to ensure that opportunity and risk are balanced to meet the best possible outcomes for the Palerang Community.

Garth Morrison Country Labor is here for the long haul. If elected, we will focus on making our council:

- ✓ Consultative
- ✓ Sustainable
- ✓ Responsive to local needs

**VOTE 1 for the Country Labor Party on September 8**

Authorised by Terence Quinn 106 Sandhills Road Mt Fairy NSW 2580

**INTRODUCING PALERANG COUNTRY LABOR**

Garth Morrison lives in Bungendore with his young family. He is an IT consultant and project manager and runs his own business from Bungendore. Garth believes that Palerang has great opportunity to grow in size and prosperity but must ensure that infrastructure, services and facilities grow and align with the needs of the community.

Mike McColl lives at Buckingham Estate in Bungendore. He is retired from the public service and private enterprise. He has served for years on the Buckingham Community Association Executive Committee and is a NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer. He believes that community comes first in all Council decisions.

Fernando van der Linden, also retired and from Bungendore worked in the public service with a background in economics. He has been a volunteer with the NSW State Emergency Service for 15 years. Jil Chapman is from Braidwood. Her background is in agricultural education. Alison Smith is also from Braidwood.



believe that we are caretakers of the land and as such have a responsibility to leave it in a better state than we find it.

**Community Voice (Pete Harrison)**

AGREE. This issue is much more complex than can be illustrated with simple examples. Subdivision regulations have a direct impact on the very fabric of a shire, well beyond the levying of rates or the financial management of agricultural enterprises. As such they should not be changed arbitrarily, to simply suit one sector of the community. A rural settlement study is the accepted means by which the impact of any changes to rural land management policy should be assessed, before considering any change to legislation.

**Country Labor (Garth Morrison)**

AGREE.

**Richard Graham**

NEUTRAL. I presume in answering this question that the use of the word 'subdivision' here is to imply village or town-like subdivision, in which case I agree with the statement. The more normal interpretation of subdivision in the rural zone context is for agricultural blocks with dwelling entitlement. In that case I would disagree with this statement.

**Ian Marjason**

A rural study should be conducted at some stage. However, the State Government has not made it a requirement for the LEP. A rural settlement study needs to be done to fix up the planning discrepancies between the old Tallaganda and the old Yarralumla. A major part of the study should be directed to retention of viable agricultural land.

**Palerang's Future**

AGREE. Palerang is essentially a rural LGA and we need to keep this in mind when considering how subdivisions of agricultural land can occur, having regard to the differing needs of applicants and other ratepayers.

**Communicating with residents is an important council function. If you think so, comment on how it might improve in Palerang.**

**Paul Cockram**

AGREE. That is the million-dollar question. Vital decisions about strategic planning direction should not rely on community forums alone. These by their nature attract activists, some with self-interest, rather than reflecting the wishes of the 'silent majority'. The worry with the recent NSW planning guidelines is with the phrase, 'once the community has set the strategic direction, planning will be able to proceed unhindered'. There should never be a cut-off point for community consultation.

**Community First**

AGREE. The Council website needs to be improved so that it is easier to access Council documents, meeting papers etc. The e-list needs to be reactivated immediately, with notification about its existence advertised in all the local papers and community newsletters. Council meetings could be broadcast on the net. Council meetings could also continue to rotate through the shire on a regular basis, and Council could undertake regular surveys to gauge community opinion on particular issues, such as it has done with waste.

**Community Voice (Pete Harrison)**

AGREE. The first step would be for *all* Councillors to believe that this was important. The next would be to also believe that "communicating with residents" involves more than simply "telling residents what Council is going to do". Only when Council policies reflect the input provided by residents will residents become fully engaged.

**Country Labor (Garth Morrison)**

AGREE. I would like to ask the community if they think current mechanisms are working and for them to offer suggestions on how to improve it.

**Richard Graham**

AGREE. I'd like to see Council webcast its meetings so residents who can't get to a meeting

# Vote for Progress on September 8th



William Rutledge

Trevor Hicks

Mark Schweikert

David Holthouse

James Falkiner

Kerry Bos

## Our 9 point plan for PALERANG'S FUTURE

1. Contest all Rate increases through efficiency dividends.

2. Responsible new development with greater benefits for the Palerang community.

3. New and innovative road safety infrastructure and progressive sealing of dirt roads.

4. Extension of urban roadside collection services to include green waste.

5. Provide support for constructive, sustainable tourism & heritage projects.

6. A better deal from Civic, Sydney and Capital Hill.

7. Make residential development applications processes simpler and fairer.

8. Community consultation and awareness of Council business through web and smart phone apps.

9. Establishment of a Community Leader Emergency Management Network to care for Palerang residents during local disasters.

VOTE

1

GROUP B

PALERANG'S FUTURE

Further details of our policies and candidate profiles can be found at [www.palerangsfuture.com](http://www.palerangsfuture.com) or follow us on **facebook**. PALERANG'S FUTURE

Authorised by Mark Schweikert, PO Box 212 Bungendore NSW 2621. Printed at Freshcreative, 3/56 Bayldon St Queanbeyan NSW 2620

in person can still participate. Maybe the meeting rules could change to allow for online questions too. I'd also like to see annual surveys of residents to proactively seek Council performance feedback.

**Ian Marjason**

Communication is a two way thing. Councillors should always be available to meet with their constituents. Council can issue a newsletter on a regular basis and issue regular press releases. Public meetings can be held where deemed appropriate.

**Palerang's Future**

AGREE. PALERANG'S FUTURE is a strong supporter for greater transparency of Council business. We want ratepayers to know what is going on. To that end policy number eight of our nine-point policy plan says:

- All Council meeting minutes, once agreed and endorsed by Council, will be published on the Council's website, eliminating the current practice of Council staff manually emailing them out to requests.
- Sound recordings of meetings will also be made available for download with the eventual aim of video recording of Council meetings for later download.

Everything available over the web should and will be made available through a smart phone app.

**Please comment on the following: The last term of Palerang Council saw an ongoing debate about Councillor land-holdings and conflict of interest potential with some subdivision proposals. In your view what is the best resolution of conflict of interest potential for Councillors given also the state of NSW position now.**

**Paul Cockram**

In a perfect world, councillors would have a display next to their name plates at council meetings displaying their land holdings in hectares. As the debate about minimum lot sizes, averaging or whatever proceeded, the increase or decrease in the value of the councillor's holding could be displayed in real time. That should fix it.

**Community First**

The state government's decision to allow developer and large landholder councillors to take part in decisions relating to planning and rezoning of their own land is extremely concerning. Maybe all planning decisions that posed a conflict and did not have to be sent to

## INTRODUCING TEAM PALERANG'S FUTURE

The team of six is led by Bungendore Elmslea resident Mark Schweikert, a Director in the Department of Defence. His team consists of Captain's Flat resident Trevor Hicks, small business owner/operator; retired Rear Admiral David Holthouse AO, farmer from Dougboy Hill via Braidwood; global investment company CEO and finance media commentator James Falkiner of Foxlow; William Rutledge of Bungendore, semi-retired accountant; and Kerry Bos of Burra, former air force officer and retired engineer.

The group of six says Palerang Council too often has been mired in red tape, controversy and procrastination. "Too many times Council have applied unnecessary and expensive red tape to residents. Council and ratepayers money should be used to help the ratepayers, and not inadvertently hinder them" said ticket leader Mark Schweikert.

"We're eager to work and the residents, who have had enough of the here and now crisis management approach of the current council, are eager for progress," said number two on the ticket Trevor Hicks.

the Joint Regional Planning Panel could be delegated to staff.

**Community Voice (Pete Harrison)**

Regardless of the position taken by the NSW government, the ideal situation would be for all Councillors to embrace the same concept of a conflict of interest as is held by the broader community, and to act accordingly. Residents must then, when they vote, take care in considering the background and integrity of candidates who nominate for election to Council.

**Country Labor (Garth Morrison)**

So long as conflicts of interest, real or perceived, are declared and all dealings are above board and, I do not see any reason to modify the way that the Council currently manages this process.

**Richard Graham**

The state has legislated an exception to Councillors leaving the room in the drafting of a Council's LEP. The reason for this is it is unlikely any rural council could assemble a quorum of councillors that have no property ownership either directly or through a close relative. The practical safeguard against one Councillor trying to feather his own nest would be that there are nine councillors who vote on all matters not just one.

**Ian Marjason**

There is always going to be concerns of conflict of interest potential where a Councillor owns a house or land in the Shire and it is because of this that there has been delay in finalising the LEP. If the question of conflict of interest ever arises in a councillor's mind

## Independent Palerang candidate — IAN PETERS

I've decided to run for council because I care about the future direction of the Palerang LGA. I want to make the council, our governing body, accessible to us all with a focus on everyday issues that concern you and me. My aim is to improve accessibility, and I want to represent my neighbours and my community. The key issues that I see are:

- Previous councillors have failed us. Running their own agendas ahead of real community issues, and running the shire into the ground.
- Lack of communication from councillors and staff. Through my community group roles, I have attempted to contact various councillors and their staff seeking information and advice to serious community issues, to no avail.
- Community associations are treated as a nuisance rather than a valuable part of solving issues that residents care about.
- An absence of direction and planning by council, for now and into the future. These appear to be common themes in many of the conversations I have had with residents across the Palerang LGA. I am committed and enthusiastic and not afraid to make your voice heard in our council. It's time to take back our council for the residents and make a better future.

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August 2012 *Bulletin*



then it is more than likely that he/she has a conflict of interest and should err on the side of caution.

#### Palerang's Future

We feel it has been counter-productive of some local media and other groups to type-cast current Councillors as either “Developers” (ie bad) or “Community” (ie good) and it would be disingenuous and disastrous for a similar mind-set to develop in reporting the new Council’s discussions and decisions. Palerang is a rural LGA and it follows that its ratepayers will include landowners with holdings of sufficient size to enable subdivision. Are they to be disenfranchised and vilified? Of course not. We prefer to think that the enforcement of transparency in the Council’s decision-making and application of well-defined rules concerning the declaration and handling of both real and perceived conflicts of interest should work in local government as it does in the state and federal legislatures.

**Please nominate four (or more) priority action areas for you/your ticket if you are elected to Council.**

#### Paul Cockram

- Promoting solar energy harvesting to save money on power bills.
- Getting the community consultation right.
- Keeping up our level of community services, perhaps with more emphasis on council/community partnerships using volunteerism (such as the recent successful construction of a walking trail and bridge over the creek in Braidwood).
- Doing everything we can to reduce council’s infrastructure backlog.

#### Community First

- Ensure that Council plays a proactive role in the protection and conservation of the natural environment and heritage qualities of the shire.
- Educate developers, builders and purchasers to create more sustainable development comprising smaller houses and incorporating passive solar, double glazing, etc.
- In response to the proposed abolition of much of the current planning legislation, work to retain State Environmental Planning Policies and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and see the Palerang LEP process through to its final conclusion.
- Seek funding for a Rural Settlement Study, to be undertaken by an independent consultant.
- Promote two-way communication with residents.
- Find ways to further community aspirations for social services and amenity.

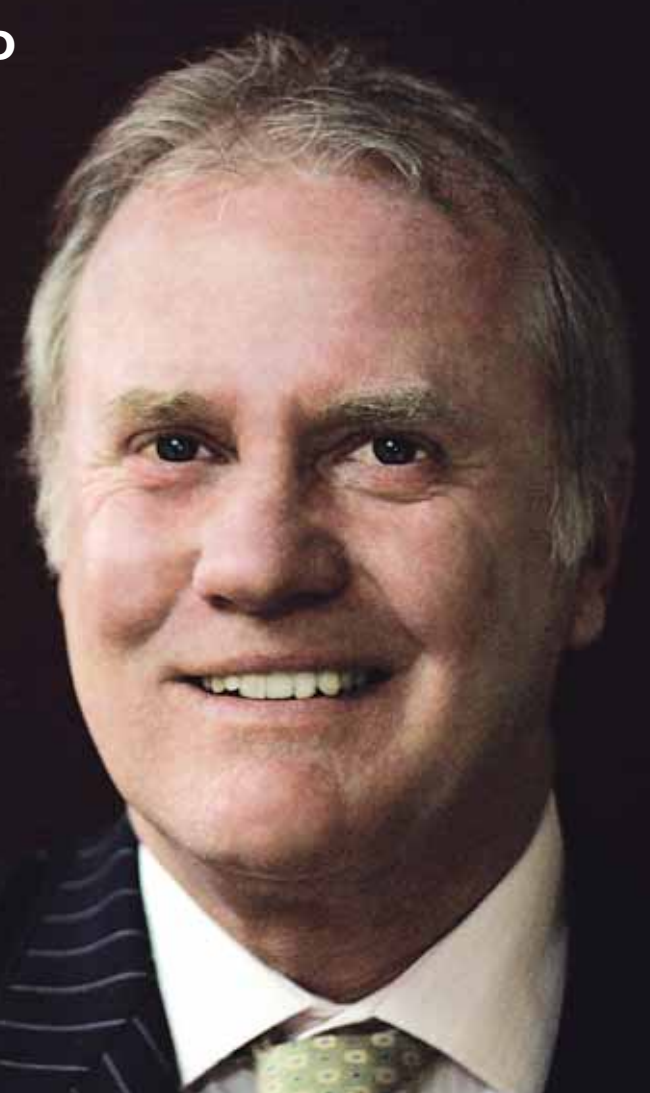
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IN A CHANGING WORLD  
IT’S NICE TO KNOW  
SOME THINGS ARE  
CONSTANT IN LIFE

RE-ELECT  
IAN MARJASON

LOOKING AFTER YOU  
FOR  
25 YEARS

Written and Authorised by Ian Marjason  
3815 Kings Highway Bungendore NSW 2621



- Where possible, make Councillor Information Sessions open to the public.
- Reactivate Palerang membership of Southern Tablelands Arts (STARTS).

#### Community Voice (Pete Harrison)

- Continue to improve Council’s approach to community engagement.
- Improve planning legislation to protect the amenity and lifestyle of existing residents.
- Continue to foster a fundamental culture of service within Council.
- Encourage greater transparency in all Council activities.

#### Country Labor (Garth Morrison)

- Out of school hours care (OOSH) care programs in Captains Flat and Braidwood, the bridge at Captains Flat and the conduct of a rural settlement study. Before and after school care provide a great deal more than simply care to children. The OOSH program provides flexibility for young families. It enables them to find work and ensure that they can provide for their continued living

within the Palerang community.

- A resolution to the issues with the Captains Flat Bridge. Neighbouring councils and governments have been able to resolve similar issues with temporary bridges and alternate routes. These options, as well as a permanent solution, need to be explored to ensure that the Captains Flat community is not put out any longer.
- A rural settlement study needs to be conducted as part of the process to refine and finalise the Palerang LEP. Country Labor will strive for social justice, equality and fairness and enabling the Palerang community to achieve to its potential.

#### Richard Graham

*[no response supplied]*

#### Ian Marjason

The most important thing for the new Council is to finalise the LEP after public exhibition. If the state government had not delayed the process in granting councillors

exemptions to deal with it (*Ed note: this pertained particularly to Councillors with large rural holdings on the last council*) it would have been done over a year ago.

Also Council must continue the strong financial management of the previous councils. It is because of this that Palerang is in the shape it is today. It is sound financially, but there are not the funds available to do all the things we would like. Alternative revenue-raising needs to be looked at not just rate increases.

Also Council should look to streamlining the development process. It is too complex and difficult for most people who deal with Council.

#### Palerang's Future

- Contest all rate increases through efficiency offsets.
- Responsible new development with greater benefits for the Palerang community.
- New and innovative road safety infrastructure and progressive sealing of dirt roads.
- Extension of existing urban roadside collection to include green waste.

## Popularly elected mayors Getting more popular

by Nichole Smith

QUEANBEYAN will be one of only 38 councils throughout NSW to popularly elect its Mayor at the local government elections on Saturday, 8 September, and despite the idea being raised, Palerang will not follow suit.

Since 1980, Queanbeyan has popularly elected its Mayor for a four-year term while the majority of the 136 councils across the state, including Palerang, choose the person to fill the top job from amongst the ranks of elected councillors every 12 months.

Queanbeyan overturned almost a century of tradition when it elected Alderman David Madew as the city’s first popularly elected Mayor following the outcome of a referendum. The town’s first Mayor, JJ Wright, had been appointed from amongst the original nine aldermen elected to the inaugural Borough Council in 1885.

There is currently a growing trend for Mayors to be directly appointed by the

people with 10 councils since the 2008 elections adopting this form of voting and others looking to referendums to change the way they elect their Mayors.

Advocates of this method suggest it provides greater stability for Councils and gives more of a voice to residents. Those opposed however, claim that a popularly-elected Mayor may not have the support of a majority of Councillors, making the enacting of decisions potentially difficult.

### Whether Mayors should be elected, part of review

This issue is also one of a number to be addressed by the state government as part of its plan for extensive local government reform.

At the end of July, Queanbeyan hosted one of a series of state meetings intended to determine the future of NSW councils including potential amalgamations, delivery of services and alleviating some of the financial difficulties imposed by rate pegging.

The outcomes will be reviewed by an Independent Local Government Review

## EARLY MAYORS: ALL IN THE FAMILY Long serving, women too and now a link to murder

Since the election of Queanbeyan’s inaugural Borough Council in 1885, there have been 25 Mayors, only three of whom have been popularly elected.

Given the relatively small population base in the early stages, many who served on Council were related: Arthur Collett twice served as Mayor while his nephew James Collett served as an Alderman, and brothers William and James Pike both had a turn as Mayor.

In something of a ‘Mayoral dynasty’ however, the Land family served in the top job through three generations. Fred Land served the longest uninterrupted term as Mayor, occupying the position for

almost 17 years and assumed a role his father, Henry Thomas Land, as well as his grandfather, Edwin Henry Land, also held.

Land Senior also achieved a number of firsts: while the fourth Mayor of Queanbeyan, Edwin was the first to have been born locally and remains the youngest Mayor ever elected (at 32) but was also the first to die while in office only seven years later.

The first woman, Margaret Donoghoe, was not elected to Council until 1950 and it was another 12 years before the next followed in her footsteps. Hope Marland went onto become the first female Deputy Mayor and served almost 30 years in local government.

Whilst a considerable accomplishment, Mrs Marland’s record was nevertheless outdone by William Freebody, an Alderman for 39 years and appointed Mayor on three occasions. In a more tragic turn of events, it was Alderman Freebody’s son, Terence, who was murdered in Canberra in July. ■



## MEET THE QUEANBEYAN MAYORAL CANDIDATES

We are told that in the Queanbeyan Council races most tickets that want to be elected and make a contribution to Council policy also put up a Mayoral candidate, because otherwise the media ignores them!

On that basis the *Bulletin* presents a ‘meet the candidates’ for Queanbeyan Mayor which also reflects their candidacy for councillor positions, with the exception of independent Ann Rocca – who is only in the Mayoral race.

We also present the Greens’ team position, despite no Mayoral candidacy because they are mounting a vigorous policy-driven campaign for a Council slot or two.

The fifth Mayoral/Council ticket headed by Queanbeyan Business Council President Jamie Cregan did not respond to our

request for input. The *Canberra Times* reported on the Mayoral race in mid August. It quoted Cregan as saying he would corporatise many of the functions of council and “use council labour to generate profits and relieve some of the burden on ratepayers”.

None of the other mayoral candidates are calling for the local Council to be turned into a profit-making business.

Issues in Queanbeyan include Council and community relations, how growth and development proceeds and particularly what the transport solutions for the city might be. In the following pages, the candidates kindly introduce themselves and answer our questions on these issues.

Residents’ Association (Vice President); Curfew 4 Canberra (Founding member and Vice President); Friends of Stringybark Hill (Founder and President); Jerrabomberra PS P&C Association (Executive Committee); Jerrabomberra Preschool Action Group (Founding member).

I will be a candidate for Mayor and Councillor.

**As the Mayor position is a leadership role what is your primary goal if you were re-elected (elected) Mayor of Queanbeyan? This also leads to the question of what is your vision for Queanbeyan?**

### Tim Overall

My only goal is to implement the Community’s 2021 Vision as put forward in 2006 and validated in 2011 through extensive community engagement:

“It is the year 2021... The Vision begins...

A thriving lively city with a strong community spirit, based on its county values and the warmth and friendliness of its people. The city celebrates its natural setting and its rich heritage, preserved in its built form.

The city, suburbs and surrounding rural and residential areas cater for a multicultural population of 50,000 which enjoys a diverse lifestyle; a growing economy; retail, health, education, recreation and cultural services; contained investment in the city’s infrastructure; a sense of safety; and easy access to Canberra, Sydney, the mountains and the coast.

...and a bypass takes heavy vehicles out of the CBD and built up areas with traffic flowing easily between suburbs and the CBD...”

### Ann Rocca

My priority is to have a more transparent council, with decisions argued in a more public fashion than occurs now, with more accountability and more engagement with the community. It is at the heart of our democracy that residents can engage with city leaders and decision makers, and understand the process.

My vision is that Queanbeyan’s growth is managed in a way to provide good amenity for new residents and that new development does not disadvantage existing residents.

### Sue Whelan

My vision for Queanbeyan is to have it take its rightful place as the premier regional city in the area. It’s not all about the economy, it’s about being taken seriously by state governments in their consultations about planning, water etc. Currently Council is told what is happening, rather than being involved. I would ensure Council is at the table before the decisions are made. That means the planning of the city and how we grow and where, eg Tralee. ACT negotiates as a state and we need a seat at that table. Community Vision 2021 indicated people still want that country feel. I support greenfields developments because we are getting too much urban infill and losing that country town feel and heritage. I want to encourage the corner store. I don’t want us to become a dormitory suburb of Canberra.

### Brian Brown

The primary goal of any local government is to provide quality services and facilities for the entire community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively.

All of Queanbeyan’s residents deserve the benefits of our prosperity. Therefore, my primary goal would be to ‘restore the balance’, by refocusing and spending more in our suburban areas to revitalise our local shopping centres, playgrounds and sporting venues.

My vision of Queanbeyan is a vibrant growing city that offers opportunity and wellbeing to all its residents, a prosperous town centre and successful suburban areas with all the community facilities residents would expect in a modern thriving community.

**Katrina Willis (running for council not Mayor)**

The Queanbeyan-Monaro Greens are seeking election to ensure that the next Council

### Incumbent Mayor Tim Overall and GROUP F Community Independents



From left: Peter Bray\* AM, Michael Biscotti, Toni McLennan, Vic Trajanoski\*, Tim Overall, Trudy Taylor\*, Steven Petkovski, and Rena Spears. \* INCUMBENT COUNCILLOR

### Running for Mayor: personal background in 150 words, starting with incumbent Councillors

#### Tim Overall

Married to Nichole with two children attending local schools.

Mayor, Queanbeyan City Council since 2008, Councillor 2004–2012.

Economics Degree ANU.

National Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, RA Inf.

**Positions held:** General Manager, McIlwraith Group Ltd, Sydney; General Manager, Coal Resources of Queensland Ltd; Managing Director, Singapore Shipping Corporation, Singapore; Chief Executive, Ambulance Service of NSW, Sydney; Executive Director, Australian Red Cross, Canberra.

**Awards:** AUSTRADE/ACCI Export Achievement Award (1986), Coal Resources of Queensland Ltd.

**Previous Directorships:** Singapore Shipping Corporation Ltd; Regional Container Lines, Thailand; Coal Resources of Queensland Ltd; Ambulance Service of NSW; Havelock Community Housing Association ACT (Board

Chair); Australian Technical College Queanbeyan and Region (Board Chair).

**Previous Community Service:** Deputy Chair & spokesperson, Queanbeyan Health Council; Vice President & Appeal Coordinator, Queanbeyan Red Cross; Volunteer, Meals on Wheels; Convenor, Southern Cross Charities – raised \$95,000 for Qbn Hospital, Qbn Ambulance, Qbn Children’s Special Needs Group.

**Currently:** Mayor and Councillor, Queanbeyan City Council. (Fully committed to serving the Queanbeyan /Jerrabomberra community).

#### Ann Rocca

I am an experienced councillor who is independent both politically and financially, with a track record of hard work and standing up for what is right.

I have been actively involved in the Queanbeyan community since I arrived in 1977 and believe I have the capacity, the energy and the time to devote to leading Queanbeyan to a more inclusive and progressive future.

**Community participation:** President, Australian Red Cross Queanbeyan Branch from 2009 ; Red Cross Zone Representative SE NSW; Patron, Queanbeyan Players; Convenor, Empower (Eden Monaro People Only Want Employment Rights) Queanbeyan’s Your Rights At Work group (2007– continuing); Founding member, Queanbeyan and District People for Peace; Volunteer cook, St Benedicts Community Day Centre.

**Record in the 2008–2012 Council:** This term I have submitted notices of motion on many topics, such as: disclosure of election funding before elections; general manager remuneration; information report be provided from councillor workshops and inspections; motion enabling public question time that satisfied all GM’s and mayor’s stated concerns; allocate funds for pedestrian bridge over Buttles Ck behind Spotlight; workshop on water pricing and QCC/ACTEW agreements.

Served as Deputy Mayor 2002–04, 2004–05, 2007–08.

Initiated (as a Councillor): The Q, Queanbeyan’s prize-winning performing arts

centre; Aboriginal consultative committee; extra funding for showground; cultural centre steering committee; cultural advisory committee; staff position of cultural development officer; Axis youth centre.

I have nominated for election to the position of Mayor of Queanbeyan City Council. I am not a candidate for councillor.

#### Sue Whelan

Sue was born in Sydney and grew up in Henty – country NSW. Moving to Canberra after finishing school, she worked for the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra and for the Industries Assistance Commission, a Federal Member of Parliament and the Commonwealth Bank in Queanbeyan.

Married to Queanbeyan local John Whelan with three adult daughters and twin grandsons.

Elected to Council in 1983 Sue has been re-elected at each subsequent election. Sue has been Deputy Mayor for a total of 6 years. Also held Leadership positions in both Public Libraries NSW and the Australian Local Government Women’s Association

Involved in community organisations including the BEC and the YMCA.

Standing for both Mayor and Councillor.

#### Brian Brown

Married to Anne Brown with five children: Hayden (17), Rebecca (13), Samantha (12), Daniel (12), Jack (10).

**Military Service:** Australian Army (Royal Australian Artillery) 1983–1993.

**Membership/Committees:** Molonglo Banking Group (Director); Regional Development Australia – Southern Inland (Deputy Chair) (covers local government areas of Bombala, Boorowa, Cooma-Monaro, Goulburn-Mulwarree, Harden, Palerang, Queanbeyan, Snowy Mountains, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley and Young); Queanbeyan Health Services Advisory Committee; Community Fire Unit; Curfew 4 Canberra; Jerrabomberra PS P&C Association; Jerrabomberra Residents’ Association.

**Former:** Queanbeyan Business Council (Executive Member); Queanbeyan Local Traffic Committee; Jerrabomberra Community Bank Project (Chairman); Jerrabomberra

Panel with the Minister for Local Government, Don Page, promising “the people of NSW can expect nothing less than a genuine shift in the way local government operates across the state.”

The Local Government Association has lobbied for a variety of changes including the recognition of local government in the Constitution as well as the remuneration structure for Mayors and Councillors in an effort to see more appropriately qualified people attracted to the roles.

It has been noted that, on average, Councillors who are assumed to spend an average of 20+ hours per week on council-related activities, would receive an hourly rate of about \$15 and for Mayors, who can spend between 40 and 70 hours per week, it is a similar figure.

Such time-commitments and responsibilities, often in conjunction with families and careers, inevitably preclude many from considering running for office at the local level. ■



includes councillors able and prepared to take a long-term view so that greater Queanbeyan lives within its ecological limits. We will also work to provide more opportunities for people to participate in decision-making about the kind of future we want to create.

**Name four other specific priorities for the next Council and why.**

**Tim Overall**

- There are more than four and all are priorities:
- Revitalise and beautify Monaro St – Stage II CBD Master Plan.
  - Actively facilitate and progress a cinema complex.
  - Beautification and enhancement of the Karabar Shopping Precinct.
  - Implement a Qbn/Jerrabomberra Parks improvement program.
  - Re-construction of Old Cooma Rd – the realignment.
  - Complete the design and environmental work for the Ellerton Drive Ring Road – for construction target 2016–17 or sooner.
  - Undertake design and environmental work for the Dunns Creek Rd from Old Cooma Rd to Monaro Hwy.
  - Complete Freebody Oval Cricket and Riverside Soccer Facilities and continue upgrades of sports facilities including Seiffert Oval.
  - Priority to securing funding for a Regional Sporting Complex, Jerrabomberra Valley.
  - Construction of the Jerrabomberra Community Centre Extensions.
  - \$450,000 for new cycleways, \$400,000 for new footpaths – in addition to a new cycleway to be incorporated into the Old Cooma Rd realignment project. Grant funds could add to the above.
  - The 10,000 trees “City of Trees” Project – Stage II.
  - Priority for schools, community and sports facilities – Googong and Tralee.

**Ann Rocca**

Seriously engage with the community on major issues, earlier in the process, not just at the end after decisions are made.

Reinstate measures to bring about more transparent decision making, ie a public question time that is convenient and useful; make minutes from council workshops and briefings available to the public.

Implement the 2009 Council resolution to develop a strategic transport plan.

Note where savings can be made in Council’s budget and encourage implementation of those changes so that another rate rise is unnecessary.

**Sue Whelan**

Commence planning for a regional sporting facility in the South Jerrabomberra Valley.

Continue to maintain and improve current Infrastructure including roads, footpaths, water and sewerage assets, playgrounds and parks.

Improve access to the river including improved cycle/walkways from Jerrabomberra.

Investigate solutions for the road network to improve safety and traffic flow.

**Brian Brown**

- Restore transparency, integrity and community empowerment to a Council that seems to have lost the community’s respect by not listening to its needs and concerns. Require that Councillors’ pecuniary interests are available to the public online and bring back question time to council meetings.
- Rebuild and reinvigorate local community infrastructure and facilities that have become dilapidated or are nonexistent. For example, rejuvenate the basketball and netball courts in Karabar and build a multipurpose sports hall and preschool in Jerrabomberra.
- Instigate a new Roads and Transport Plan that incorporates the ‘community element’ and provides common-sense solutions to our growing transport needs. Build a ‘real’ bypass that caters for all of Queanbeyan and that takes the trucks out of Monaro St.
- Conduct an audit of Council finances and introduce financial responsibility and a greater level of transparency into the Council Budget process.
- Develop and implement a Sustainable Integrated Transport Plan incorporating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and off-road tracks (greenways) in rural areas. This will lessen dependence on private cars, thereby reducing traffic congestion, noise and air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the demand for more roads.
- Develop and implement a Climate Change Action Plan, which would include measures to develop and report on greenhouse gas emissions and actions to reduce them. This will help Queanbeyan transition to a clean energy future.
- Strengthen development controls and design standards to boost the energy performance of all buildings and improve the amenity for people living in multi-dwelling developments. This will help reduce living costs through energy savings.
- Develop a 10-year strategic plan to sustainably manage all of Queanbeyan’s natural assets and protect our biodiversity. This is particularly needed because of urban and rural growth pressures and climate change impacts.

**Group A — Sue Whelan for Mayor**



Team from left: Benjamin Sada, Sue Whelan, Jason Webb, Liz Parker and Harry Waltman.

**Vote 1 Sue Whelan for Mayor**  
**Vote 1 Group A for Council**

Written and authorised by J Whelan 29 John Bull Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

**Brian Brown**

If elected Mayor, I would offer a more collaborative style of leadership – inclusive and genuinely accepting and considering all community input. I would make Council more open and accountable – have question time, open days for council, make officials more available to the public to explain their decisions. If there are bad processes or policies identified from the public – we will change them, not just say ‘this is how it’s done’.

I will make Council non-political, like the Australian Public Service – council officials should not be commentators and critics, barracking for one side over the other, particularly at election times.

**What leadership agenda would you like to see from the next Mayor?**

**Katrina Willis**

Queanbeyan needs a Mayor who understands the importance of our local environment to our health and wellbeing and the value residents place on it, and who is prepared to protect it.

We also need a Mayor committed to better community consultation and prepared to explore new ways of involving more people, genuinely listening and collaborating with people who have different views.

**Name some ideas for getting the widest and best community input on issues and services and note how that would be different from what is happening now.**

**Katrina Willis**

Some of our ideas include:

- exploring the use of online forums and precinct committees to provide regular forums for local residents to meet councillors and discuss concerns and issues
- conducting a series of Queanbeyan Conversations – public forums for debate about major issues that would benefit from extended consideration
- holding regular dialogues with Queanbeyan’s business operators, not only with the business council and Queanbeyan Development Board
- making more use of public meetings and where appropriate, the public inquiry provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, for major/strategic planning matters.

Far too often Queanbeyan City Council opts for minimal consultation on important matters, doing enough to meet its legal obligations and little more. On Council, The Greens will work for an immediate public review of the current Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.

**How would you lead on community input – some ideas for getting the widest and best community input on issues and services and note how that would be different from what is happening now.**

**Tim Overall**

Continue the program of extensive and thorough community consultation, which has included and will continue to include

**Katrina Willis**  
**on behalf of**  
**GROUP E**  
**QUEANBEYAN**  
**MONARO**  
**GREENS**

*The Bulletin* put some of the same questions to the Greens ticket as to the Mayoral candidates and their tickets. While the Greens are not running a Mayoral candidate, they are the only others with a full ticket and widely publicised program. In reality, almost all the candidates running for Mayor will in the end be selected as a Councillor or not.

*Queanbeyan Council candidate Katrina Willis working in her community garden. The Greens will work to identify more sites for community gardens.*



**Since the current Mayor is standing again, what would change under your leadership? Give specific examples and also note what you would initiate that is not on the agenda now.**

**Ann Rocca**

Please see my answer to the question about leadership and vision. Also, I would ensure that the general manager’s performance was reviewed in line with his contract of employment and that Councillors were involved in this process in a meaningful way.

**Sue Whelan**

Women bring a different perspective to Council and I think it is time we had that different perspective at the head of the team. My leadership style is really consultative and I don’t do things without talking and consulting with people. It’s perhaps more community-minded leadership.

I don’t think we always explain to the community why we are doing things. It’s time to look at how we consult. I’d like to see Councillors more involved with the community and more of a team built between the Councillors and senior staff. I’d like to see more of discussion of principles and ideas rather than personalities.



scheduled community public meetings, special public meetings, weekly public forums, special public forums (eg, road network planning, public transport, climate change, parks, council rates) public hearings on key planning matters, have-a-say days at shopping centres and council organised community events and community surveys (both to households and online).

I have an open-door policy and will continue to meet with residents on any matter at any time.

#### Ann Rocca

I would increase the number of community meetings and allow for a genuine dialogue with residents; bring back a meaningful public question time after or before council meetings; encourage all councillors to explain the reasons for their decisions in council meetings; hold public meetings on important matters such as Local Environment Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs); engage properly trained social scientists to implement consultation on major initiatives.

#### Sue Whelan

I think we need to try to engage people online more without reducing the ordinary consultation. I think we have to change the way we do community forums, they're not working at all.

#### Brian Brown

Queanbeyan Labor would review the Council's community advisory committees with a view to expanding, reinvigorating and making them more representative of the community at large. It will look for further opportunities to involve the community in decision making, for example through participatory budgeting and citizen juries.

Queanbeyan Labor will promote greater transparency in the development process by considering initiatives such as community/developer accords to enable the community a seat at the negotiating table at the beginning, not the end, of the development process.

**Transport is a challenging issue for Queanbeyan with some major projects on the drawing board and community calls for public transport and bicycle paths. What is your position on the proposed Ellerton Drive extension?**

#### Tim Overall

My position is in accordance with the Community Vision 2021 which has been put together following extensive community engagement in 2006 and validated again in 2011.

The Council adopted Community Vision 2021 includes a number of key directions and strategies including "Implement the Googong and Tralee Traffic Study to construct Ellerton Drive through partnership agreements with three levels of Government".

The Ellerton Drive Extension is essential to: avoid road network failure in the future as

Googong grows to a population of 16,000; and direct Googong traffic away from both the CBD and Jerrabomberra.

#### Ann Rocca

The Ellerton Drive extension (EDE) has been on the books for many years, but the current Council is unaware of its implications; that is why I put the questions on notice recently and received the answers that can be viewed on my website [www.annrocca.com](http://www.annrocca.com) on the page *Greenleigh Residents Group questionnaire*.

#### Sue Whelan

Transport is a huge challenge, but by working with both the NSW and ACT governments through organisations like SEATS to ensure Queanbeyan has a voice in determining how the city grows I believe we can address the transport issues.

#### Brian Brown

Council currently does not have an overarching transport and traffic plan that incorporates future transport and traffic needs or issues such as cycleways and public transport. Queanbeyan Labor will initiate a comprehensive study that will cover these issues, and seek the broadest possible community input.

Queanbeyan Labor believes that a combination of the northern bypass, Dunns Creek Rd and improvements to Monaro St, such as vehicle load limits and pedestrian friendly crossings, will provide a better long-term traffic solution than the Ellerton Drive extension.

#### Katrina Willis

Since the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) was first proposed housing has expanded along the route. Also, the 2008 Queanbeyan Local Biodiversity Study identified high conservation values along the proposed route and the area's significance as a biolink. The Greens believe Council needs to recast the assumptions in the city's traffic plan that there will be no increase in the proportion of trips taken by bus or bicycle. Queanbeyan's primary goal should be to reduce vehicle movements by providing more options for sustainable transport including buses, car sharing, walking and cycling.

**What is your understanding of community concerns or reaction to Ellerton Drive extension plans as a city bypass and also to proposed Jumping Creek new subdivision along the route?**

#### Tim Overall

**Ellerton Drive:** The concerns relating to Ellerton Drive are essentially those of a very small number in the community who in most cases have acquired a property adjoining or near to the 33-year-old and clearly marked wide road corridor. Over 93 percent of the corridor avoids residential development.

It has always been known the road would be built in the future.

The design of the roadway (a single lane in

### Brian Brown and GROUP B – County Labor



Brian Brown (left), Judith Burfoot (number 2 on our ticket) and Ben Duggan (number three on our ticket). The rest of the Team is made up of Lyndell Tutty (number four), Steve Curren (number five) and Anne Walter (number six).

each direction) needs to avoid proximity to the rear of the handful of residences as far as is possible. As with the Edwin Land Parkway, the design will incorporate appropriate noise amelioration measures in regard to the few residences so affected.

**Jumping Creek:** Council has resolved and built into the new Draft Local Environment Plan that there will be no access via Greenleigh to any possible future residential development at Jumping Creek.

Any proposed development design needs to be very sensitive to the local environment and to have undergone thorough environmental assessment involving community consultation.

#### Ann Rocca

I have always supported a ring road for Queanbeyan but recent planning decisions such as the rezoning of Jumping Creek (which will be on the *other side* of the EDE) have brought the EDE route into question.

Council needs to plan for transport infrastructure and heed this plan when considering approaches from developers for rezoning.

#### Sue Whelan

It's an issue for the people up in Greenleigh who feel they haven't been consulted enough and gets back to how we consult and when we consult, not just telling residents that's what Council has done. I'm happy to review Jerrabomberra concerns about having Dunn's Creek Rd as an alternative to putting a huge amount of traffic down through Edwin Land parkway.

Those roads have been on the strategic plan for a long time and the argument is that concerned residents should have known they were there but I know they were always told it will never happen because the money is not there. We need to acknowledge that the community has a stake in what's happening and discuss proposals as a dialogue.

Before we approve anything at Jumping Creek we need to have a good look at what is proposed. If it goes ahead it will need access off Ellerton Drive. There's a lot of issues to be solved including environmental and funding

I don't hear any real clamour for a bypass. I always thought of it as a heavy vehicle bypass to Monaro St and to alleviate the flood issues. Now it's suggested as a commuter road and that's what the traffic study looks at.

#### Brian Brown

Ultimately, residents want to know that their concerns are heard and being taken seriously. The current Council have a woeful record of community consultation and the community generally feel they don't get a fair go. Queanbeyan Labor will ensure that all residents get a chance to have their say and every effort is made by Council to mitigate or alleviate those concerns.

#### Katrina Willis

Residents are concerned about the proposal to construct a high-speed road close to their homes and which would require the destruction of native forest and pose a threat to wildlife.

The expansion of housing along the proposed route means that the EDE no longer would bypass Queanbeyan. The Greens have argued against the urban-scale housing planned for Jumping Creek. The site is unsuitable for such housing because of high bushfire risk and the potential adverse impact on the Queanbeyan River. The EDE would divide Greenleigh and Jumping Creek estate. It would also isolate parts of Fairlaine where housing located below the roadway would be exposed to substantial traffic noise.

**Do the traffic studies that include Ellerton Drive as a way to link Googong with the ACT need revision or updating commensurate with 2012 residential patterns and linking road traffic, eg congestion on Yass Road?**

#### Tim Overall

The traffic study was adopted in 2010. The underlying assumptions have not changed.

The issues of peak hour traffic congestion on Piallago Road to the Airport and Canberra Avenue are the subject of my regular meetings with the ACT chief minister and government officials. I can assure the community that both medium term and longer term solutions are undergoing planning.

#### Ann Rocca

I have been concerned about Googong–Tralee traffic study from the outset and made my concerns heard in the council meeting that adopted it. My concerns remain with the process – there was no community involvement, no public scrutiny of the process or participants, and a dominance of the Googong and Tralee developers on the working party that determined the outcomes of the study. Additionally, the study was on technical data only – no social impacts were considered. Because the process was so flawed the recommendations cannot be relied on.

#### Brian Brown

Yes, they need updating. It will be a priority.

#### Katrina Willis

The Greens are committed to developing and implementing a Sustainable Integrated Transport Plan. This will provide the opportunity for reviewing all road plans.

**Do you have any alternative proposals to this city bypass?**

#### Tim Overall

As a result of community engagement, I moved at the council meeting that additionally Dunns Creek Road to the south of Jerrabomberra be also included in the future Roads Network Plan. This was supported by Council.

#### Ann Rocca

Council needs to implement the 2009 resolution to undertake a strategic transport plan, including meaningful consultation and debate.

#### Katrina Willis

We should review the northern bypass

### Ann Rocca — Independent



Independent and incumbent Councillor Ann Rocca is not seeking re-election to Council but is taking a run at the Mayor's job.



option, in addition to my responses to previous questions.

**Public transport proposals? Funding for bike paths that lead to work?**

**Tim Overall**

It is one of my specific priorities.

**Ann Rocca**

Queanbeyan is slowly building bicycle paths according to its adopted plan. The Queanbeyan Bicycle Users Group has offered some very constructive comments on this.

**Sue Whelan**

One of the answers is decent public transport. We have Deane's buses but they are a private company. ACTION buses aren't allowed into Queanbeyan so that's something we certainly need to talk cross-border about. We need to look at this seriously, not just Queanbeyan but Bungendore as well and the HJOC. It's a state discussion that should involve us.

I would certainly support increased funding for bike paths.

**Katrina Willis**

**Public transport.** Queanbeyan needs a better bus service providing more extensive network coverage, better links to ACT bus services and a more attractive fare structure. Improving public transport is a core issue for The Greens and will be part of developing a Sustainable Integrated Transport Plan.

**Bicycle Plan.** Since finalising the Queanbeyan bicycle plan, Council has allocated very little funding to bike paths and spent even less – and made no implementation timeline. On Council The Greens will work to incorporate the bicycle plan into a Sustainable Integrated Transport Plan and provide a means for regular community review.

**Business for Queanbeyan and region.** Please give some examples of what you would advocate to bring new business and jobs to Queanbeyan – keeping in mind we all know the current challenging retail environment with plenty of new competition from the ACT.

**Tim Overall**

The Queanbeyan Development Board (comprising the Mayor, an elected Councillor, Council Officers, representatives of the Queanbeyan Business Council, the Capital Region Business Enterprise Centre and Community Representatives has this matter on the agenda and will be giving further consideration to appropriate marketing strategies.

The Draft LEP for The Poplars provides for employment lands including a business park.

(The new competition is primarily from the Canberra Airport's Retail Precinct of which the ACT Government has no control. Canberra retail businesses are being similarly impacted.)

**Ann Rocca**

Queanbeyan has a lot of workers in commonwealth and NSW offices as well as council workers. Many of these shop in the CBD and enliven the precinct. The foresight of federal and previous state members in arguing for locating these departments in Queanbeyan is paying benefits now.

Queanbeyan's many small industrial blocks are perfect for emerging businesses, particularly in the arts. This should be encouraged.

Council's previous economic development unit has been abandoned and if it were reinstated to work with the business council, we might see more businesses come to Queanbeyan.

Some years ago I introduced a scheme where Council offered a financial incentive for CBD businesses to improve the appearance of their premises. The scheme resulted in shops being painted and the main street being brightened up. This scheme has also been abandoned in this term of Council.

**Sue Whelan**

Create an environment where business can flourish. Development applications dealt with in a timely fashion. Make sure our business rates are reasonable, land is available, CBD, appealing industrial and commercial space. Googong, Tralee will extend business options.

There are a lot of hidden gems in the city that people aren't aware of and we can help with promotion about what's here and access to the airport etc and work with the Queanbeyan Development Board to start doing that.

**Brian Brown**

Queanbeyan Labor would establish a professional Economic Development Unit within Council that is accountable to elected representatives on Council with the following roles:

- work with the local community and local business to establish their needs;
- work with state and federal governments and regional bodies such as SEROC and RDASI;
- work to establish the Queanbeyan LGA as the regional economic hub for south-east NSW.

Queanbeyan Labor will work with the Queanbeyan Business Council and the business community to develop plans to encourage businesses to establish and grow in Queanbeyan. We need to stop wasting millions of dollars on upgrading pavers in the CBD and find a real solution to encouraging businesses to invest in Queanbeyan.

**Katrina Willis**

On Council The Greens will:

- Focus on protecting and promoting Queanbeyan's natural advantages as a small city with a unique built heritage and proximity to natural areas.
- Facilitate economic activity that helps the city make the transition to a clean energy future eg energy upgrades for all premises; renewable energy/solar hot water installations; and electric car infrastructure.
- Investigate opportunities from improving resource recovery and reuse of organic waste, goods and materials.
- Promote more recreational and tourism opportunities based on our local natural environment, eg developing native flower and birdwatching trails, recreational activity alongside and on Queanbeyan River and Googong Dam, and cycling opportunities.

**Give us some idea of your vision of preserving or enhancing amenity for existing residents as distinct from catering to growth and new residents.**

**Tim Overall**

Refer to my specific priorities, p24.

**Ann Rocca**

Many developments presented to Council don't fit on the block and the developers ask Council to vary setbacks, private open space, allocated parking, deep-root planting areas and so on. I have been the only Councillor on this Council to consistently speak out about such variations. Almost without exception Mayor Overall and his team have supported these variations to the adopted guidelines.

Council's minimum requirements are very basic, and to vary them I believe almost always leads to an unacceptable outcome for new and existing residents. Developers need to understand that Council's planning instruments will not be varied to satisfy developer greed. Unfortunately this is not the majority view of the current Council.

**Sue Whelan**

Existing amenity is one of the reasons we're refurbishing all the parks. Same goes for the roads for current ratepayers, library, heritage, improving the suburban shopping centres as well. All those community activities we do. Improve public transport to improve amenity and encourage business here so people don't have to travel to work.

Councillors should not feel pressured by developers to make decisions that are against the best interests of the community just because developers want it, even if in Brad Hazzard's words they're 'Mum and Dad' developers. That is one of the concerns about the new state planning legislation. The community should not be taken out of the planning.

**Brian Brown**

It is critical that we retain Queanbeyan's 'uniqueness' and 'country feel'. Queanbeyan Labor will NOT sell off public space such as

parks and parklets. Labor values our local heritage items and will protect them from development and degradation. Labor will improve our public amenities and ensure they are clean and well maintained, cater for children and those with a disability and are open when people need them.

**Katrina Willis**

Some of our ideas for broadening economic activity will benefit existing residents. The Greens are also committed to protecting community assets. We campaigned against the sale last year of city parks.

One of the Queanbeyan Conversations we would like to have is about the size of our city. One of the features of living in this city is its strong sense of community, a benefit that comes from being smaller rather than larger.

**Same question in regard to conserving Queanbeyan's existing natural environment, flora and fauna.**

**Tim Overall**

Council has recently adopted a new Queanbeyan River Corridor Management Plan and Platypus Awareness Strategy.

In the new Draft LEP, significant areas including the Eastern Escarpments are zoned Environmental Protection.

**Ann Rocca**

Queanbeyan has been doing a better job in conserving its natural environment. Some examples are: Mt Jerrabomberra is now in council ownership; environmental offsets have to be provided for major developments; new subdivisions are designed with fauna travel routes; there are platypus in the river near the Leagues Club.

However, Council refused my motion to allow a public meeting for the draft LEP for The Poplars, which I understand has the second-largest *Rutidosis* colony in the world. Community members should be able to have as much input into these important planning documents as they can and not be prevented from doing so by Council.

**Sue Whelan**

It's again about preserving that country feel where you can still see wildlife wild, rather than in a cage somewhere. It is about maintaining the escarpment. It's something I'm fairly passionate about.

**Brian Brown**

Queanbeyan Labor has long been at the forefront of protecting our local natural bushland and river ways. If elected Queanbeyan Labor will:

- plant more trees in parks and public spaces to facilitate family recreation while also sustaining native birds and animals
- promote and provide education about local sustainability ideas, such as water-saving plants and household waste recycling
- develop a local community energy plan and investigate a range of low-cost means for residents to reduce energy costs
- facilitate efficient waste reduction and recycling including e-waste and chemical waste
- protect remnant natural ecosystems by increasing the connectivity and size of wildlife habitats and biodiversity corridors.

**Katrina Willis**

On Council The Greens will:

- work to establish a local environmental education and resource centre;
- support more community education activities;
- divert more waste from landfill, including organic waste
- work with community groups to plant native species throughout the city and rural areas, creating pockets of biodiversity.

**Finance. Council has been criticised by some for a recent one-off rate increase to maintain footpaths and other infrastructure that Council is obliged to do. There has also been criticism of long-term borrowing for cityscape improvements. Here's an opportunity to explain the benefits and impact on ratepayers of both these methods of financing.**

**Tim Overall**

Almost all councils in NSW have introduced Special Rate Variations. Palerang has had five and Eurobodalla has had seven. Queanbeyan introduced its one-off 5.8% adjustment to rates in 2010 with demonstrated community majority support – equivalent to around 88c per week for the average residence. An increased pensioner rebate was also introduced.

Council at long last has a robust and detailed 10 year CityCARE infrastructure maintenance and renewal program.

**Borrowings.** Long term borrowings are for capital projects including part of the CBD works, the new library and other new infrastructure. In reviewing its debt service ratio, Council resolved as follows in July:

1. That Council note that its Loans Borrowing Policy is consistent with the Australian Government's Ernst and Young Report and demonstrates a proper and sound financial management strategy as recommended in that report.

2. That Council note that at the close of the 2011–12 financial year that Council's debt servicing ratio, including internal loans, is consistent with the objectives outlined in the Ernst and Young report and that Council recognise that the ratio is at its lowest level for many years.

**Would you do it differently from the current administration and how?**

**Ann Rocca**

Council has borrowed about \$10 million in this term and repayments are around \$1 million per year. The special rate rise generates just over \$1million.

It makes sense to borrow for capital works if they are urgent and they cannot be funded in any other way. It could be argued that borrowing for the \$5 million Crawford St upgrade and the multi-million dollar library move was premature. These projects could have been managed with more planning and less cost.

**Sue Whelan**

Queanbeyan was one of the last to ask for a special rate variation to cover a huge deficit in maintaining our roads, parks and footpaths so I have no problem with it. I have had no complaints from anyone about it. We're borrowing for capital works and we're not paying a great deal of interest. The new library is a great community asset and we wouldn't have been able to do it if we didn't borrow money. Spreads the financial load across everyone who will benefit from it.

**Brian Brown**

Queanbeyan Labor will put in place an independent audit of the entire Queanbeyan City Council as soon as possible after the election of the new Council.

Under our leadership, particularly the creation of an Economic Development Unit, we would see a greater level of investment from the business sector and a more successful grants program that will go a long way to providing sustainable funding for new and existing Council-driven projects.

**Katrina Willis**

The approach to fees and revenue collection, including rates, must be fair particularly for low-income earners.

On Council The Greens will:

- move for an independent review of Council's approach to revenue raising, including the 5.8 percent Special Rate Variation (SRV) and the rating system;
- review the exemption from Section 94 contributions for new commercial and industrial developments;
- commit to protecting community land and assets;
- investigate further opportunities for reducing costs through better environmental performance.

Debt financing is acceptable for capital works that provide long-term benefits but The Greens are concerned about the draw down of reserves for operational expenses and Council has foreshadowed further SRV.



THE RAISING Hope Education Foundation is a new not-for-profit organisation established to ensure all students in Canberra and the surrounding regions have more opportunities to build their confidence, believe in themselves and feel worthy.

It will operate as an endowment fund that provides financial assistance to programs that achieve these aims. It will also run specific programs for local primary schools, high schools and colleges.

Raising Hope was founded by Queanbeyan resident and ANU student (and Labor Party candidate for Queanbeyan Council) Ben Duggan with the support of Raiders star Terry Campese and local MP Mike Kelly.

Ben Duggan said he was encouraged by the community support for Raising Hope. "I have been impressed with the encouragement from school Principals, parents and teachers. As someone who has grown up in the region, I feel passionate about ensuring all local children complete school with the knowledge that they can go out there and achieve anything."

Raising Hope is currently working on a student mentoring program. University students from ANU, UC and ACU will be trained and sent to local high schools to mentor students one on one to boost their confidence and provide an older role model.

Terry Campese and Canberra United star Grace Gill have also agreed to participate in a reading program to assist local primary school students who need extra encouragement to read. For more information see [www.raisinghope.org.au](http://www.raisinghope.org.au)

## Goodwin wins two National Residential Care Awards

### Hearing assistance focal point

CANBERRA'S longest-standing provider of aged-care services and accommodation, Goodwin Aged Care Services Limited, has achieved national recognition in the form of two Better Practice Awards.

Presented by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency, Better Practice Awards are presented annually to providers that demonstrate innovation and continuous improvements for the aged-care industry. Better Practice Award winners are industry leaders who drive quality and improvements.



From left: Goodwin Farrer Manager of Residential Care, John Penca; Goodwin Human Resources Manager, Shayleen Barlow; Chair of the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency, Dr Andrew Refshaug.

## PROPERTIES AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Cont'd from p12

Quite often, stations or farms, have jobs that need doing, (eg painting, some carpentry work, a major spring clean in the house, a garden overhaul, cooking, dressmaking, mechanical jobs, fencing, the list is endless) and it is beyond their means to employ staff to do that, when the position is only for a few days, a week or a month.

People who wish to visit will be expected to pitch in and help, as it is not a 'free holiday stay' scheme. Remember, though, this is *their* holiday, so leave them plenty of time for recreation, sightseeing, reading a book, relaxing – whatever. Keep in mind that they are a *helper*, not an *employee* ... albeit a willing helper.

We do our best to place helpers and hosts together at a time that suits both, but of course,

Goodwin received awards for staff development and retention and the Goodwin Hearing Aider Program.

Goodwin's Chief Executive Officer, Chris Lamont said "Aged-care providers need to show innovation in staff retention and development to match consumer demands and the provision of quality care for older Australians relies on workforce skills, stability and ongoing improvements in services and accommodation."

"In partnership with the ACT Deafness Resource Centre, Goodwin was able to provide free monthly hearing aid management programs at all three Goodwin locations, improving resident confidence and increasing social interaction.

"Staff, residents and their families now have a greater level of understanding of the issues and anxiety generated through poor hearing, and how to better manage hearing impairments."

— Jamie Custer

## Save the date – Friday 21 September Richard Heinberg: The end of growth

The Australia Institute is pleased to join with Sustainable Population Australia (Canberra) to host a talk by the Post Carbon Institute's Senior Fellow Richard Heinberg.

Author of ten books, and widely regarded as one of the world's most effective communicators of the need to transition away from fossil fuels, Richard will address the topic *The end of growth: Peak oil and the economy of the future*.

The event is also co-sponsored by ACT Peak Oil, SEE-CHANGE and the Nature & Society Forum and will be chaired by The Australia Institute's Richard Denniss.

The talk will be held on Friday 21 September at 7pm in Manning Clark Theatre 2, at the Australian National University, Canberra. Entry is by gold coin donation. Information at [www.population.org.au/heinberg2012](http://www.population.org.au/heinberg2012). Bookings through [richardheinbergin.canberra.eventbrite.com/](http://richardheinbergin.canberra.eventbrite.com/). Inquiries to Jenny Goldie at [jenny.goldie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jenny.goldie@optusnet.com.au).

## Applications open for bank school-based Indigenous Traineeship Program

INDIGENOUS high school students are being encouraged to apply for Commonwealth Bank's Indigenous School-Based Traineeship Program, which is now open for applications.

The Traineeship program will begin on 10 December at Commonwealth Bank branches in Gunghalin, Queanbeyan and Dickson.

Commonwealth Bank is offering up to 70 new traineeships in its branches across Australia, adding to the 89 current school-based trainees currently working with the Bank.

In 2009, the Bank set a target of providing 350 employment opportunities for Indigenous job seekers and July saw the Bank achieve this target, with positions being filled by trainees from the school-based program, plus full-time

this may not always happen. It is up to the 'helper' and 'host station/farm' to negotiate between themselves, suitability, for final arrangements before a visit.

So, if you are interested in joining and being a host station/farm, please contact Jean in Mount Gambier SA on 08 8725 4463 or mobile 0407 973 059 or by email [jeane@icisp.net.au](mailto:jeane@icisp.net.au) or Jenny on Mt Clere Station, WA on 08 9981 2943 or fax 08 9981 2959 or email [mtclere@harboursat.com.au](mailto:mtclere@harboursat.com.au). Visit our website [www.outbackhelpersscheme.com](http://www.outbackhelpersscheme.com) for further information.

— Jean Winterfield, Mt Gambier

PS. If there is anyone out there who would like to become a helper we would love to hear from you as well.

## — COMMUNITY NOTICES —

trainees, direct recruitment and university cadets from various age groups across Australia.

The Indigenous Employment Strategy forms part of the Commonwealth Bank's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The Bank's RAP is a formalised commitment to Indigenous Australians which was launched in July 2008.

Commonwealth Bank also provide opportunities for its staff, customers and the wider community to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures through a variety of methods including cultural awareness workshops and visits to Indigenous communities to gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous people and their culture.

Traineeship applications close on Friday, 28 September.

For further information, applicants should speak to their school Careers Advisor or contact the Bank's Indigenous Banking Team on 1300 700 964 or [Indigenous.Recruitment@cba.com.au](mailto:Indigenous.Recruitment@cba.com.au).

### Indigenous Literacy Foundation

#### Book / DVD Fair

Sat 8th Sept 2012 - 9am

Bungendore Public School

[www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au](http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au)

How can our great school community help both remote Indigenous students & our own school?

**Easy.... Please donate any pre-loved books & DVD's.** We need **BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS**. Books can be dropped off at the school office during schools hours or at Cleanseeds (45 Molonglo Street) during office hours.

**Please bake a cake, muffins, biscuits for the cake stall.**

**CAKE STALL**

BPS parents & care givers have a brilliant reputation when it comes to baking (some of us anyway :) Please bake a cake, biscuits, slice, muffins, rocky road or even ginger bread men, if you can. Goodies can be delivered to the office between 2 & 4pm on Fri 7th or to St3D's classroom on Sat morning from 8am.

NB: Due to NSW Health Regulations all ingredients used must be listed, unfortunately if anything donated is not labeled we are unable to sell it.

**So when you go to vote, bring along some change & call in to pick up a bargain and some morning or afternoon tea.**

**All proceeds from the book fair will go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, all proceeds from the cake stall will go towards the purchase of a third flag pole for the school.**

Thank you so much for your support

## For the rural diary

Chemcert training in Queanbeyan on 18 September.  
For more information or to enrol call 1800 444 228; or email [enrol@chemcert.com.au](mailto:enrol@chemcert.com.au).

## New apps for farmers

Yass Area Landcare Network reports that Smart Phone Apps for Smart Farmers can help while away those hours whether on the tractor or in the study. The PDF document has 123 pages of apps applicable to farming excellence that can be downloaded to the smart phone, iPad and some android phones.

To view a copy, type into your internet browser: [www.agex.org.au/Apps%20Book.pdf](http://www.agex.org.au/Apps%20Book.pdf).

— \* \* \* —

## WEEREewa FESTIVAL 2014 short story competition announced

The 2014 Weereewa – a Festival of Lake George Short Story competition is now open.

The themes for the short story competition revolve around the word AWEsome for student



sections and AWE-inspiring for the adult section.

AWE, an acronym for ARTS, WATER (WEEREewa), ENVIRONMENT, is the over-arching theme of the 2014 Weereewa Festival.

In conjunction with the short story competition, the Festival has established a Writer in Schools program. The committee is delighted that Canberra writer, Tania McCartney (above), will be working with students in a number of regional schools.

Tania is an Ambassador for the National Year of Reading 2012, representing the ACT. She will visit some schools in the Lake George region to talk about her experiences as a writer and to encourage the children to write for the 2014 competition.

To find out more about the Writer in Schools program email [brobinson@home.mail.com.au](mailto:brobinson@home.mail.com.au).

Entries to the short story competition from adults and school students will be received from 1 August 2012 to 31 May 2013. Details, entry forms and conditions can be downloaded from the Festival website [www.weereewa.festival.org](http://www.weereewa.festival.org).

### PALERANG COUNCIL

#### Development Approvals

**Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979**

**Council approved the following development applications in July 2012.**

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

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2012.028	Solar Farm	02/07/2012	Lot 1 DP 577415 1475 Bungendore Road TARAGO
DA.2012.127	Residential Alterations & Additions — Shed	03/07/2012	Lot 521 DP 1059913 42 Hyland Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.102	Dwelling	03/07/2012	Lot 11 DP 17081 Araluen Road JEMBAICUMBENE
DA.2012.136	Alterations & Additions to Dwelling	05/07/2012	Lot 4 DP 57134 131 Duralla Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.140	Shed	05/07/2012	Lot 503 DP 1059913 6 Hyland Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.144	Shed	06/07/2012	Lot 28 DP 262289 Bowler Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.096	Continued Use of Studio	10/07/2012	Lot 1 DP 528218 2219 Hoskinstown Road FORBES CREEK
DA.2012.122	Dwelling & Garage	10/07/2012	Lot 813 DP 1129595 22 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.137	Dwelling	11/07/2012	Lot 32 DP 248653 132 Sugarloaf Ridge Road PRIMROSE VALLEY
DA.2011.338	15 Lot Subdivision	13/07/2012	Lot 23 DP 615854 33 Trucking Yard Lane BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.163	Alterations & Additions to Dwelling	17/07/2012	Lot 626 DP 1061647 6 McCusker Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.123	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	17/07/2012	Lot 27 DP 239020 98 Wyoming Road BYWONG
DA.2012.112	Dwelling	18/07/2012	Lot 39 DP 1141290 226 Birchmans Grove WAMBOIN
DA.2012.124	Dual Occupancy	18/07/2012	Lot 110 DP 832039 138 Half Moon Road MONGARLOWE
DA.2012.048	Dual Occupancy	19/07/2012	Lot 25 DP 755911 593 Majors Creek Road JEMBAICUMBENE
DA.2012.125	Alterations & Additions to Dwelling	19/07/2012	Lot 3 DP 86338 183 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.138	Dwelling	23/07/2012	Lot 9 DP 1035108 Mundy Street MAJORS CREEK
DA.2012.168	Sign	30/07/2012	Lot 7002 DP1030346 MCKELLAR STREET RESERVE McKellar Street BRAIDWOOD



**During August**  
**Exhibition – Sheryl Miller: Nature’s Edge**



Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St Bungendore. For information phone 6238 1640.

**Until Friday 24 August**  
**5th Annual Queanbeyan City Council Art Award**

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 10am–4pm Monday to Friday and 10am–3pm on Saturdays. View the entries and the winners.

**Until Monday 27 August**  
**Exhibition – Eucalyptus and Lotus**  
Form Studio & Gallery, 1/30 Aurora Ave, Queanbeyan. A collection of beautiful relief prints, etchings and collograph prints based on the iconic and symbolic nature of two great plant groups by Jane Dunn. For more information phone 0430 359 776, email [claire@formstudioandgallery.com.au](mailto:claire@formstudioandgallery.com.au) or see [www.formstudioandgallery.com.au](http://www.formstudioandgallery.com.au).

**Until Friday 31 August**  
**Fireside Festival**  
Over 25 regional venues across Bungendore, Yass, Hall, Murrumbateman and the Canberra region. A series of events celebrating winter. See [www.firesidefestival.com.au](http://www.firesidefestival.com.au).

**Sunday 19 August**  
**Annual Spring Poultry Show**  
Goulburn Show Grounds, 9am. Free entry, refreshments available.

**Friday 24 August**  
**Police Attestation Parade**  
NSW Police College, Goulburn, 11am. Traditional ceremony where students are accepted as Probationary Constables. For more information phone 4828 8525.

**Saturday 25 August**  
**Puppetry of the Penis 3D**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. WARNING: This show will contain traces of nuts! For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Makers Market**  
Fyre Gallery, 84 Wallace Street, Braidwood. Braidwood’s first Makers Market, 10am–2pm. This is a handmade market only and any makers are invited to participate. Bookings essential by email [sjrjlbfinches@gmail.com](mailto:sjrjlbfinches@gmail.com). For more information phone Jennifer 0427 267 797.

**Sunday 26 August**  
**Australiana**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 11am and 2pm. Join Impressions Dance and Fitness as dancers explore the wonders of Australia and the experiences

— GIG GUIDE: AUGUST —

**Friday 24 August**  
**Phat Kat City.** 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.  
**The Nuts.** Queanbeyan Bowling Club.  
**Silver Spurs,** folk, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

**Saturday 25 August**  
**Wayne Ryder Trio.** country, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.

**Friday 31 August**  
**Hit Parade,** 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.  
**Hit & Run,** rock/pop, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

**Sunday 2 September**  
**Sunday Latin & Gypsy Swing,** 12.30pm, Captains Flat Hotel.

**FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH**  
**Music and poetry returns to Bungendore**  
Following the sudden closure of the Provincial Pantry, talks with Scott from the Royal Hotel resulted in a successful alternative venue. We'll enter our 18 year as a cultural event with the gig to be held on the Royal's entertainment stage on the first Friday of the month starting at 7.30.

The musical sets will be a bit longer, and poets will present two poems at a time.

All acts are requested to be well-rehearsed to ensure the ongoing success of the event – if you think your piece is a bit too wobbly, maybe you should consider holding it over until the next time. More info or to discuss give Danny Velnaar a call on 0413 502 428.

**What’s On – August and September**  
**Send your announcements to [whatson@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:whatson@districtbulletin.com.au)**

and culture that make up this fine country! For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Monday 27 August**  
**Capital Region BEC Presentation: How to increase the value of your business**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 6–8pm. Covering all you need to know about business fundamentals. Free entry but bookings are essential. See [www.crbec.com.au](http://www.crbec.com.au).

**Tuesday 28 August**  
**Literary Lunch with Alison Booth**  
Kangaroos Rugby League Football Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan, 12.30pm. Themed tasting plate lunch and discussion with the local author of *A Distant Land*. Cost: \$25pp. For more information or bookings phone 0438 718 910 or email [catriona@nibblez.com.au](mailto:catriona@nibblez.com.au).

**What a Man’s Gotta Do**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A hilarious one-man comedy musical. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Tuesday 28 August – Saturday 8 September**  
**Exhibition – Close to Home**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Opening night Tue 28 Aug 5.30–7.30pm. Australian Photographic Society – Contemporary Division, 21 artists from the Australian Photographic Society present their most recent work in an annual exhibition. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Wednesday 29 August**  
**Public Seminar – Health & Wellbeing**  
Captains Flat Hotel, 7.30pm. For more information phone 6236 6201.

**Wednesday 29 – Thursday 30 August**  
**Chasing the Lollyman**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A celebration of urban Indigenous identity that takes a satirical look at the media and popular culture. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Wednesday 29 August until Sunday 9 September**  
**Summer Paralympic Games**  
Support our local athletes including Angie Ballard in London. For more information see [www.london2012.com/paralympics](http://www.london2012.com/paralympics).

**During September**  
**Exhibition – Alana McLean: The Road Back**  
Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St Bungendore. For information, phone 6238 1640.

**Until Sunday 2 September**  
**Terra Aqua Exhibition**  
CSIRO Discovery, Gallery, Clunies Ross Street, Acton. An exhibition of paintings by Anne Tassie and digital photography by John Tassie and Ian Haynes. For more information call 6246 4620 or email [louise.obrien@csiro.au](mailto:louise.obrien@csiro.au).

**Until Sunday 30 September**  
**Exhibition – Maynard Walters**  
Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, 22 Malbon St, Bungendore, 9am–5pm every day. A nostalgic and romantic viewpoint of the country and city through the workingman’s eyes. For more information visit [www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au](http://www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au).

**Saturday 1 September**  
**Gunning Fireworks Festival**  
Gunning Showground, 3–10pm Annual fireworks festival with one of the largest display finales outside of Sydney. For more information phone 4845 1051 or email [info@gunningfireworksfestival.com.au](mailto:info@gunningfireworksfestival.com.au). See p8 this issue.

**The Naming of the Women**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Kaleidoscope Productions presents a new oratorio written and composed by Vivien Arnold. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Art for Wildlife Fundraising Auction**  
Bungendore Café Wood Works, 6pm. The artists come from Bywong, Wamboin, Bungendore and surrounds and are raising much needed funds for research, survival and specialised care for our Australian native wildlife. For more information phone Naomi on 0417 267 781 or email [cyberjoey@bigpond.com](mailto:cyberjoey@bigpond.com). See p13 this issue.

**Tuesday 4 – Saturday 8 September**  
**Biddies**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Vulnerable, feisty and in full bloom, these gals are everything... except old! For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Saturday 8 September**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**  
For more information visit [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info).

**Bungendore Public School Indigenous Literacy Foundation Book/DVD Fair**  
Community Hall, Bungendore Public School, from 9am. Mountains of pre-loved books, DVDs and computer games will be available for sale. There will also be a cake stall with lots of yummy treats to buy.

For more information see [www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au](http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au).

**Sunday 9 September**  
**Carwoola Kite Capers**  
Stoney Creek Community Hall, 12noon–3pm. Competitions and prizes for the children, stalls, sausage sizzle and refreshments.

**Monday 10 – Tuesday 11 September**  
**I, Bunyip**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, The mystical world of creatures from our Indigenous folklore. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Tuesday 11 – Saturday 22 September**  
**Exhibition – The Art of Nature 2012**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. An exhibition by members of Wildlife and Botanical Artists Inc. (WABA) featuring stunning art works inspired by flora and fauna; both 2D and 3D works will be on exhibition. For more information, phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

# Spring into September

## the market @ bungendore

Sunday September 16th 9am–3pm  
at the War Memorial Hall

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

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

**Wednesday 19 September**  
**Hair – The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The dawning of the Age of Aquarius. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Jerrabomberra Residents’ Association**  
**General Meeting**  
Jerrabomberra Community Hall, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 22 September**  
**Annual Wamboin Bonfire & Fireworks Night**  
Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way. From 5.30pm, adults \$5, kids \$2, family \$10.

**Tuesday 25 September – Saturday 6 October**  
**Exhibition – Symphony of Spring**  
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Local artists Nicola Breen and Sui Jackson present their latest works inspired by nature’s gifts of springtime. For more information phone 6285 6290 or see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

**Friday 28 September – Monday 1 October**  
**Lilac City Festival**  
Seiffert Oval, Goulburn. Annual festival with fireworks and entertainment (gates open 4.30pm); Auburn St parade 3pm Sunday; gardens and floral displays; music; dancing; doll, teddy bear and craft show, children’s activities. For more information phone 4821 1839.

**Saturday 29 September – 7 October**  
**Rotary/Queanbeyan Art Society Art Show**

**EVERY MONTH:**  
**Every Saturday**  
**Capital Region Farmers Market**  
EPIC grounds, Mitchell, 8–11am. A genuine farmers market offering a diverse range of fresh seasonal food straight from the producer to the consumer and an opportunity to discuss with growers. [www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au)

**1st Saturday of every month (except April)**  
**The Captains Flat Country Markets**  
Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Stalls \$12 call 0410 597 227 or email [www.captainsflat.org](http://www.captainsflat.org)

**2nd Sunday of the month (except Jan)**  
**Queanbeyan Cottage Markets**  
Queanbeyan River, on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets, 9–2pm. Craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, jewellery, toys, honey, jams, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Call Kristen 6299 0219.

**3rd Saturday of every month (except July/Aug)**  
**Wamboin Produce Market**  
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

**3rd Sunday every month**  
**Bungendore Markets**  
War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce.

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

**4th Saturday of every month**  
**Braidwood Markets**  
Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Call Geraldine 4847 5061.

**More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:**  
[www.bungendore.com.au](http://www.bungendore.com.au)  
[www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au](http://www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au)  
[www.visitbraidwood.com.au](http://www.visitbraidwood.com.au)

City Walk, Canberra. Open to all artists. For more information see [www.qarts.com.au](http://www.qarts.com.au).

**Sunday 30 September**  
**Taralga Historical Society Open Day**  
Taralga Museum, from 1.30pm. Arts, crafts, stalls, produce, fun and games for all the family. For more information phone 4840 2084.

– Plan ahead for October –

**Until Friday 5 October**  
**Exhibition – Anything Goes**  
Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl, Queanbeyan.

**Saturday 6 October**  
**Harden Kite Festival**  
Harden Picnic Racecourse, 11am–5pm. \$700 in prizes and lucky draws to be won. Jumping castle, merry-go-round and free face painting for the kids. Lots of food and market stalls. Classic vehicle display for car enthusiasts. Demonstrations of paragliding, kite buggy, land boarding, radio control model flying and, weather permitting, ballooning, live music. For more information phone Ken on 6386 3526 or email [hardenbearings@bigpond.com](mailto:hardenbearings@bigpond.com).

**Sunday 7 October**  
**Irish Woolfest**  
Main Street, Boorowa. Full wool merino sheep rampage down the main street of Boorowa leading the colourful Street Parade. For more information see [www.irishwoolfest.boorowa.net](http://www.irishwoolfest.boorowa.net).

**SWEET POTATO**  
**\$1.49 kilo**

**AVOCADOS**  
**2 for \$1.60**

**NEW SEASON STRAWBERRIES**  
**\$2.99 punnet**  
or 2 for \$5

**CHUCK STEAK**  
**\$8.99 kilo**

**WHOLE RUMPS**  
**\$7.99 kilo**

**WHOLE YEARLING ROUND STEAK**  
**\$8.99 kilo**

**WHOLE PORTERHOUSE**  
**\$12.99 kilo**

**WHOLE SCOTCH FILLET**  
**\$14.99 kilo**

**BARE ROOTED FRUIT TREES**  
**Available now! \$24 ea**  
or (5 for \$100) or (10 for \$180)

**AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS**  
**in 6” pots \$7 ea**

**POTTED COLOUR**  
**\$1.60 ea**  
10 for \$12

**FOOD LOVERS Café**  
Vegetarian Lunches, Hot Coffee

**Supporting our local community with EVERYDAY LOW PRICES**

**6238 0018 OPEN 7 DAYS**  
Kings Highway, Bungendore Village