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# Bulletin

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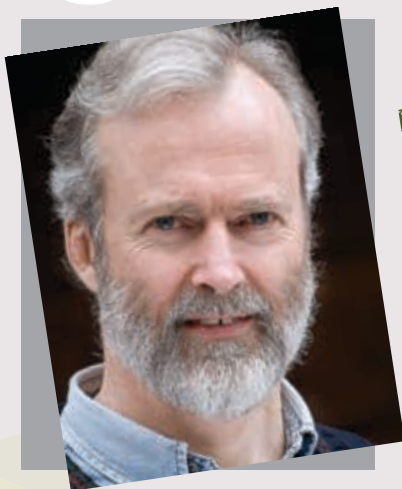
**Families**

**Farmers**

**Environment**

**Good planning**

**Sound budgeting**



**Diversity**

*Pete Harrison*



*Kenrick Winchester*

**Experience**



*Sue Whelan*



*Ian Marjason*

**Introducing candidates we endorse for council**

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**community voices**



*Katrina Willis*



*Peter Marshall*



*Brian Brown*



*Radmila Noveska*



*John Preston*



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# ECO FASHION EQUALS NEW LIFE

for recycled clothing, a great new look perhaps AND saving mass waste from landfill

by Maria Taylor

Full disclosure: I am a recycled clothing enthusiast, with much of my wardrobe coming from Queanbeyan, Canberra and other locality op shops.

So am most happy to share news about National Op Shop Week at the end of this month and the Salvos' 'The lifecycle of a donated product' and style revival campaign.

I recently visited the Salvos extensive store on Crawford Street Queanbeyan to chat about this campaign, find out who avails themselves of the shopping opportunities and remind us all where the proceeds go.

Area manager Tony O'Connell said people from all walks of life visit the Salvos. He's seen Mercs and BMWs parked outside area stores, with lawyers, accountants and varied other professionals sifting through the second-hand bargains along with students, mums and new immigrants who need to watch the budget closely. Students can and do stay for hours and Saturdays can be "ballistic", he said.

Geography is no problem. People visit the Queanbeyan and ACT Salvos stores from Bungendore or the coast and everywhere in-between. Busloads of senior shoppers come from aged-care residences.

## Retro fashion always 'in', kids clothing – why wouldn't you?

Queanbeyan store manager Karin Lee said the retro fashion opportunities are very popular. Fashion is there for every age and style. In our throw-away society, retro can even mean last season's colours. "People are looking for vintage and value," she said.

On the young people fashion front, there's choice for specific and personal tastes in popular styles like the hipster look or just projecting individuality in clothing and accessories. At \$2 or \$5 an item, why not?

Recycled clothing makes a lot of sense too for fast-growing children and "we sell a lot of kids stuff," agreed Karin. Looking around the store there is a huge range to choose from. The \$2 sale is a permanent fixture for kids clothing, she said.

And for those who need to set up or renew house, there's good value in everyday and vintage furniture items and homewares – need some extra forks or a serving platter? Plus great selections of books or DVDs when in need of a break.

## Diverting tons from landfill and millions for those in need

To make us all feel even better about recycling fashions and household items, here are some statistics both sobering and gratifying about our relationship with clothes and fashion.

Statistics that come with this campaign claim 83% of Australian women have clothes in their wardrobe worn only once or twice, and 62% own clothes that have never been worn or still have tags on. If those clothes are recycled fashions or are then donated, that's another story. Men's wasteful ways are not mentioned but men are also a prime target for recycled clothing both donating and buying.

To hit the media big time the Salvos campaign has brought in eco-stylist and TV fashion commentator Faye De Lanty who says "the lifecycle of a garment in Australia has been reduced almost to a single wear with Australians purchasing over 20kg of new clothing each on average per year".

In 2016, Salvos Stores diverted 30,000 tonnes of donated items from landfill. Unsold clothing is shredded for industrial use. "Over 90% of what the community sends to landfill can be reused and resold, and by saving it from landfill you're helping others, while getting an eco-chic look for less," said De Lanty.

The 'others' who are being helped are the recipients of aid from the Salvos. Tony O'Connell said in 2016 a whopping \$35 million was earned from donations to Salvos Stores nationally and used for the charitable work – with the homeless, those in need of food, youth support, financial-crisis support and disaster relief.

Undoubtedly, Queanbeyan's other great recycled clothing and household item stores run by Anglicare and St Vinnie's can tell a similar story.

"When you donate an item to a Salvos Store, it's just the beginning of its repurposed lifecycle, rather than the end. Your old pair of jeans or lived in leather biker jacket gets a new start rather than being destined for the bin. We restyle them in store, reinvent them with customization and sometimes they'll end up in a fashion parade or featured on the television," said De Lanty who is hosting style revival workshops (see box below).



Top: Recycled clothing fashion revival.

Above: Aaron McMahon of Queanbeyan checks out the mens' range. The Salvos would like to have more good / quality men's clothing donated, said the area manager.

## Queanbeyan plaza dreaming: perhaps not so fast

Report by Maria Taylor

REACTION FROM immediate neighbours has been mixed to the QPRC administration's concept plan for a council headquarters and civic plaza in The Q carpark.

Concerns revolve around lack of consultation and lack of planning options presented to the community, as well as business access and cost questions.

Unhappiness extends to plans for demolition of a row of what some call 'heritage' houses on Rutledge Street opposite the library, in a council deal struck in recent months with a consortium of developers who lodged an 'unsolicited bid' for the land.

It was confirmed that under Administrator Tim Overall council entered a Heads of Agreement outside the tender process with Downtown Q Pty Ltd (Milin Builders, Turnkey Projects and McNamee Development Division). However the *Bulletin* was told the land sale is still subject to further consideration "by council" and independent land valuations.

That proposal is for residential and commercial space with underground parking. Council interim general manager Peter Tegart said it will bring much-needed foot traffic into the CBD and any land >> p7





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## Editorial...



# TIME FOR CHANGE Lawlessness in the bush, local government elections

ABC's *Four Corners* recently threw an investigative bombshell: the apparently extensive theft of environmental water flows in the Murray Darling Basin, specifically the Darling Barwon system, by a handful of wealthy cotton irrigators, sanctioned at high levels by the NSW National and Liberal government.

The former state water minister and National Party representative Kevin Humphries and department bureaucrat Gavin Hanlon have been referred to ICAC by the NSW Opposition. South Australian federal politicians are calling for an independent Senate enquiry and also for a NSW ICAC investigation.

South Australia of course is directly impacted by what happens on the Darling River. Along the way, Broken Hill is a vibrant inland city that has been seriously threatened by water extraction on the Darling in recent years.

Here's the thinking: if the Darling River runs dry, just build a multi-million dollar pipeline from the Murray to the Menindee Lakes for Broken Hill. The Deputy Prime Minister and federal water minister Barnaby Joyce thinks that's an OK scenario, without explaining how it can possibly benefit the whole river system.

He also said he gave blessing to the irrigators named in the documentary so the system wouldn't be run by 'greenies' – apparently forgetting his other constituents the graziers and country town folk who testified to *Four Corners*.

It's almost forgotten that the 2013 Murray Darling Basin Plan cost Australian taxpayers \$13 billion (yes billion) to buy back water entitlements for environmental and community flows. This is the water being 'stolen' under the National Party's watch.

Even before the alleged water meter tampering and non-existent record-keeping allowing excess pumping to massive cotton farm storages, the NSW Department of Primary Industries was being helpful. They reportedly changed the extraction cap upward, particularly for low flows, after the MDB Plan was agreed to by the relevant states.

A year-long compliance investigation was shut down by the department. Senior water bureaucrat Hanlon was recorded in secret meetings with favoured irrigation lobbyists.

This bombshell follows NSW announced plans to go the way of Qld by dismantling native vegetation and fauna protections – again to please big agribusiness and pushed by the National Party. The current cast of the NSW Liberal Party appears a willing partner in its anti-regulatory ideological fervour and public asset sell-offs, and lags on environmental and some social issues.

### Forced amalgamations now at democracy cross-road

Add to that the policy fiasco of the Liberal Party's forced council amalgamations and appointment of party-favoured administrators, purportedly for more financially efficient local government. This came with a one-off bucket of state money for com-

## MEET THE CANDIDATES by Robin Tennant-Wood

WITH THE FORCED amalgamation of Queanbeyan and Palerang Councils still a sore point in some parts of the region, the forthcoming local government election is shaping up as an interesting contest. A number of former councillors from both councils are re-contesting and it is expected that there will be a large and diverse field of new faces.

Introduced here, in no particular order, are the candidates and heads of teams endorsed by *The District Bulletin* (pictured on the cover) with a short summary of their background and vision for our communities.

**Pete Harrison**, a Palerang councillor since 2011 and mayor since 2012, has served as chair of the QPRC Local Representation

Committee since the amalgamation. A Wamboin resident, Pete believes that the challenges of serving an expanded regional jurisdiction – including city, rural, village, and national park areas – is best approached with 11 elected councillors working together towards services and solutions for "the bigger picture, without getting bogged down in the minutiae of our own individual issues". Pete is leading a team of candidates with rural residential, village and Queanbeyan business backgrounds plus council experience.

Former Queanbeyan councillor and strong community advocate **Sue Whelan** has 33 years of experience in local government, including six years as Queanbeyan's deputy mayor.

*Cont'd next pg*

munity projects to make amalgamations and administrators look good.

In some cases the interim period has seen expensive and controversial development decisions and proposed council corporate growth that will affect future budgets and ratepayers' burdens. We're left with a worrisome picture.

### Which brings us to the amalgamated QPRC council elections on 9 September

We made a decision to support candidates and teams that are experienced, diverse and with whom we share civil society values and who offer an alternative to the status quo. With local, state and federal policies that we cannot endorse, we also don't want to present teams that reflect those policies or party ties. Nor will we try to vet every candidate or team – some 'meet the candidate' nights might help with that.

More detail on our endorsed candidates and heads of ticket (who appear on this issue's cover) are profiled in the article by Robin Tennant-Wood on these pages. They are almost all experienced in local government and come from across the local government area while bringing life experience from different backgrounds.

### What do our endorsed candidates have in common?

I can say of all of them: they have shown a dedication to good governance and probity; to understanding the role of and fiscal situation for local government and its ratepayers; to listening to and consulting communities; to solving problems for residents. There's also commitment to social equity and public institutions (like housing, jobs and education); to caring for the built and natural environment; and, committing to innovative solutions. They are also all nice people and good to talk to as a constituent! So please, get acquainted. ■

### Elections 9 September pre-polling opportunities

Residents and ratepayers will vote for 11 councillors at large (who will then elect a mayor amongst them). Council terms are three years and a mayor serves for two.

### Pre-polling stations open

From Monday 28 August to Friday 8 September: Election headquarters 1 Morisset St Queanbeyan and the council office at 144 Wallace St Braidwood.

Open from 2 September to 8 September: council office at 10 Majara St Bungendore.

## Wamboin horse woman promotes Bungendore and agricultural shows



TOP RIDER and QPRC Young Citizen of the Year 2017 **Laura Worden** has represented Australia in the International Mounted games arena since 2013, most recently in the 2016 competition in South Africa. At the 2016 International, Laura and her Aussie team mates rode to victory for Australia.

While studying human nutrition at the University of Canberra, working at Contentious Character winery and continuing her horse sports and training schedule, Laura is also promoting Bungendore through the show society. She says that becoming involved in the Bungendore Show 2018 helped her really understand the amount of work and passion which goes into such an event.

"I entered my local Showgirl competition to become involved in the show society, as I wanted to connect with a new part

of my rural community and be a part of a group with a common goal – to promote Bungendore and celebrate the excellence in our region from our agricultural traditions to the emerging new ventures and talents. This experience proved to be so much more, meeting an amazing group of people and being warmly accepted into the show society."

For the 2018 Bungendore Show, Laura will be taking on aspects of the Chief Horse Steward role, as well as organising a mounted games demonstration event for the main arena for the 2018 Show. "It might appear to be a one-day show, but to be one of the best one-day shows in NSW, it takes a lot of work and planning to make the event the success it is," she said.

"I have twice been a Show Girl for Bungendore and it is part of supporting young women as regional and rural ambassadors," explained Laura. "The Show Girl and Rural Achiever awards are aimed at facilitating the engagement of young people (18 to 35 years) for the positive progression of NSW agricultural shows. I would encourage young people to get involved as we have great ideas and much needed skills to help grow and sustain our local shows," she said.

Laura is happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in getting involved with the show society, and she can be contacted on Instagram or Facebook, or reached via the Contact Form on the Bungendore Show website, [www.bungendoreshow.com.au](http://www.bungendoreshow.com.au) ■

## VOTE FOR YOU. HAVE YOUR SAY EARLY IF YOU'RE AWAY.

### NSW Council Elections are on Saturday, 9 September.

On election day you must vote at a polling place within your council area or ward. There is no out of area or internet voting at council elections. But if you can't vote at a local polling place, you can still vote.

**Vote early:** at your local pre-poll voting centre from Monday, 28 August 2017 to Friday, 8 September 2017. For locations visit our website or call us.

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◀◀ As well as stressing the importance of listening and consultation, she has a particular interest in transport and communications across the region: "Connectivity is extremely important and road infrastructure upgrade and maintenance is vital to our communities, as is telecommunications and access to radio and emergency services." Sue is heading a diverse team including candidates from rural areas.

Former Queanbeyan councillor **Kenrick Winchester** is heading a team of 11 candidates from throughout the council region. Kenrick has family roots extending from the rural region to Queanbeyan where he grew up and now lives while working in national auto fleet administration. His demonstrated commitment is to consultative and transparent government on behalf of ratepayers and the public interest. As President of the Queanbeyan East Public School P&C he sees the potential for links between schools, council, and other community organisations. "By making each organisation stronger, we make our entire community stronger." He believes QPRC should not be seen as simply an expanded Queanbeyan City.

Advocating for farmers and rural residents is solicitor and cattle breeder **Ian Marjason** from between Bungendore and Braidwood. With 25 years of experience on both Yarow-lumla and Palerang councils, including as mayor, Ian believes the most pressing matter for rural areas is to fix the planning instruments which still need updating from previous shire plans. He wants to ensure that rural areas are well served with maintained roads and minimal council intrusion over how residents use their land.

Former Queanbeyan councillor **Brian Brown** heads the Country Labor team. Brian is ex-army, has a large family and is an active community and business leader. He was instrumental in establishing the Jerrabomberra Community Bank and is Deputy Chair of the Canberra Community Bank Group. Brian believes the new council is there to build "better communities throughout the entire Queanbeyan-Palerang region... through listening to, understanding the needs of our communities and in consultation with residents and ratepayers."

**Radmila Noveska** is Country Labor's second candidate. Her family emigrated from Macedonia when she was a child and she moved to Queanbeyan 12 years ago with her husband for work. She understands first-hand

the challenges facing working parents and will fight to keep council rates low and ensure our region is an attractive place to live, work and raise a family with affordable access to local services and local jobs.

Bungendore resident **John Preston** is third on the Country Labor ticket. A communications professional and musician, he raised his family in the region and was a former member of the Wamboin Bushfire Brigade and a foundation player and committee member of the Bungendore Mudchooks Rugby Union Club.

Former Palerang councillor and community mental health worker, residing in Captains Flat, **Peter Marshall** leads the Greens ticket. An opponent of the forced merger he advocates a binding plebiscite on de-amalgamation to be held concurrently with the 2020 local government election. Peter believes that the rating structure must be reviewed and will seek to increase the pensioner rebates for rates and charges, initially by simply indexing them, but also look into how to increase them more substantially.

Second on the Greens ticket is Queanbeyan resident and community activist, **Katrina Willis**. Katrina's vision for council is to foster a sustainable environment with support for community groups to do their part [see Your

Say next page]. Sustainable transport, more cycle-ways and footpaths, greenways, rail-trails, and other forms of active recreation and tourism are part of the broader vision.

We note also that former Palerang councillor **Paul Cockram** is one of a number of candidates from Braidwood who have nominated as individuals to represent their local community. This reflects concern in the Braidwood-Majors Creek-Nerriga communities that the eastern edge of the QPRC region will be left out of decision-making. The expanded council region does not have wards, and with a highly centralised population base in the west of the region, this concern has some basis.

**As this paper goes to press, there are 80 candidates and 11 groups contesting the 11 seats on QPRC.**

**Meet the Candidate forums**

**Wamboin**, Tues 22 August, 7.30pm,  
community hall, 112 Bingley Way  
**Braidwood**, Sat 26 August, 2.00pm,  
Servicemen's Club  
**Queanbeyan**, Mon 28 August, 7.00pm,  
Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club

**YOUR SAY...**

*This month the Bulletin is giving the 'your say' space to a number of council candidates Harrison, Willis and Hogarth-Boyd on issues that will be confronting the councillors we elect in September and that reflect also on the period we have just gone through with amalgamation. John Preston is also a candidate and contributes NSW Capital Watch.*

**Question for candidates:**

**The road-network / infrastructure 'elephant in the room' for council**

by **Belinda Hogarth-Boyd**  
*Community Voice candidate for council, former Palerang Council Deputy Mayor*

THE QUEANBEYAN and Palerang Council amalgamation was announced on 12 May 2016 and it is now time for council elections next month. Since amalgamation, the Administrator Tim Overall has distributed funds under the state-supported 'Stronger Communities Fund'. This funding has now been expended and the new council will need to consider its financial sustainability and the infrastructure backlog – the proclaimed rationale for the merger.

Key activities for the new councillors will be their ability to work together to address the infrastructure funding budget [that both former councils have brought with them] and achieve financial sustainability. I put this challenge to candidates.

Palerang Council was assessed as being 'unfit' for the future based on a backlog which largely related to the road network. The backlog was calculated on like-for-like – which does not include upgrades to be fit-for-purpose such as new overtaking lanes or correcting alignment.

The road network consists of three types of roads. Firstly, local roads are the responsibility of local councils. Next are regional roads which the State Government provides funding for. Lastly, are state roads which are maintained by the State Government. Within the former-Palerang Council the road network consisted of:

- Local roads of 1,000km;
- Regional roads consisting of Tarago Rd, Captains Flat Rd, Nerriga Rd, Macs Reef /Bungendore Rd, and Cooma Rd – totalling 231km; and
- State roads consisting of the Kings Hwy, Sutton Rd and the Goulburn Rd – totalling 147km.

This article focuses on regional roads as these are key arterial roads and are of particular interest to residents.

The State Government support for these roads to the former Palerang for regional roads was:

- \$295,000 per annum (conditional on a dollar-for-dollar contribution from council);
- Supplementary funding of \$103,000 per annum (this figure was static and only for regional roads); and
- A block grant of \$1.25 million per annum.

The State also provided \$49,000 per annum for traffic facilities; \$595,000 per annum for other works; and, in 2017 council also received an increase to Financial Assistance Grant of \$2.97 million for roadworks and other infrastructure.

**How far does the money go?**  
Road works are a costly undertaking, noting that there are options on the level of work – patching, re-sheeting, or rehabilitation which is a complete re-build. The cost of road works varies with the extent of the work; ranging from \$350,000/km for a re-seal to \$1 million per kilometre for rehabilitation. As an example, the renewed section of Macs Reef Road was approximately \$1 million a kilometre. Costs for Macs Reef Rd were largely in the earthworks to correct the camber and alignment of the road.

>> p6

**Vote 1**



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**The Greens' priorities for Queanbeyan-Palerang are:**

- restore accountability and improve community consultation
- ensure rates, charges and spending are fair and affordable, and end waste
- protect village and town character, cultural heritage and our local environment
- develop an integrated sustainable transport system with better public and community transport, more cycleways and effective roads funding
- build a stronger local economy and healthier community through renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste recovery, and active recreation and tourism.



**Contact your Greens candidates**

**Peter Marshall**  
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**Katrina Willis**  
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<< So, let's assume all the state funding (including council's required dollar for dollar contribution) was used on regional roads in a given year. This would amount to a total of \$5.56 million – an average of \$24,000 per kilometre. This figure is a far cry from \$350,000 for a re-sheet or \$1 million for rehabilitation.

**State funding for regional roads leaves a large funding gap to be met by residents.**

Add to this 1,000km of local roads, and other community infrastructure such as community halls and swimming pools and you can see how an infrastructure backlog is created. In short, the state funding for regional roads is insufficient, leaving a large funding gap to be met by residents. With the amalgamation this is now a shared problem for Queanbeyan; and an election issue for candidates.

**Question to candidates**

So, I put this challenge to candidates – how will you address infrastructure and the infrastructure backlog? What standard of roads should residents have, like-for-like or fit-for-purpose? How will you structure the new entity to address this issue? And lastly, what will these decisions mean for residents of the new council area? ■

— \* \* \* —  
**Amalgamation carrots and, carrots! Anything else?**



**by Pete Harrison**  
*Community Voice candidate for council, former Palerang Council Mayor*

IF YOU HEARD the news of the NSW Government's abandonment of outstand-

ing council amalgamations and wondered where that left their "local government reform" agenda, I'm sure you would not be alone. It's a bit disconcerting that while amalgamations were apparently a critical element of that agenda, 15 of those 35 originally proposed have now been abandoned.

Mind you, amalgamations were not a centrepiece of the report presented by the Independent Local Government Review Panel back in 2013, so maybe there was some other, perhaps more political motivation for council amalgamations in the first place.

But let's not dwell on that, let's keep our glass half full. In fact, it could be said that, financially at least, the QPRC glass is fairly overflowing at the moment. It would be difficult for the average resident not to notice the many projects that have benefitted from the state's \$10 million grant, through the Stronger Communities Fund, gifted to each of the amalgamating councils.

Then, in the latest budget, QPRC has received a further \$70 million over the next two years for critical road infrastructure funding. Don't bother asking whether or not that was a further reward for compliance with the state's amalgamation agenda.

Successive Palerang Councils have been lobbying for that (road infrastructure) funding for years and if it continues to come as a result of our new structure it would wipe any financial argument against the amalgamation clean off the table.

Regardless, creating new councils was just one of three key 'directions' in the reform agenda. The second was improving council performance, a central tenet of which must surely be to embrace the issue of organisational culture.

**'Scale and capacity' – what's it mean here? And what of community representation?**

Unfortunately, this doesn't appear to have received a great deal of attention amidst the quest to build 'scale and capacity' into our bigger and better new councils. Service organisations in particular face enormous

challenges as they grow, not least of which is maintaining focus on their customers rather than the organisation itself.

And the final 'direction' was the strengthening of the system of local government. The Local Government Act has indeed been updated, and there have been improvements to the model of regional cooperation.

Perhaps of greater concern in this context might be the issue of community representation in a large, diverse council area such as ours.

The Office of Local Government was at pains to point out that this would never be a problem because elected representatives were obliged to consider the broader community when making decisions.

If we ignore the history of human behaviour for just a moment, the more practical problem in our case might simply be the disproportionate amount of time and travel demanded of our newly elected representatives (most of whom will invariably be based in Queanbeyan) in order to keep in touch with the minority, rural population.

Which brings us back to the subject of political motivation. We probably don't need to venture too far past the tele in the living room (eg *Yes Prime Minister*, *The Hollowmen*) to realise that there's very little to gain by trying to apply any level of logic to the reform agenda as it appears to have panned out. Much better to just sit back and enjoy the contents of that (at least) half full glass. ■

— \* \* \* —  
**Putting the environment back into council decisions, budget**



**by Katrina Willis**  
*Greens candidate for council*

LIKE OTHER Queanbeyan residents, I received a rates notice the other week. It came with

**NSW ALP state conference — preview of coming attractions**

**policy statements that reflect to all levels of government**

**Industrial relations, TAFE and education, privatisation, equality and amalgamation pledges**

THE LAST weekend in July saw the annual New South Wales ALP state conference held at its spiritual home in the Sydney Town Hall.

Around a thousand delegates and observers from around the state gathered to discuss and decide the policy direction for the state and federal Parliamentary Labor Parties for the next twelve months and into the future.

NSW state leader Luke Foley's address was strong on industrial relations (IR) reform.

Foley's IR commitments were underpinned by policy ideas such as: criminalising the deliberate failure to pay wages and other entitlements; overhauling franchise legislation to prevent the exploitation of casual workers; appointing workplace auditors to protect young workers; establishing a licencing scheme to regulate labour hire companies; and legislating to protect penalty rates in state awards and workplace agreements.



**High energy prices and state asset stripping**

The NSW Labor leader said a Foley Labor government would wind back privatisation in the state. He attacked the government's record on high energy prices and excessive profits for the sector and promised to re-regulate electricity companies.

Local government also featured heavily in Foley's address with a commitment to plebiscites on demerging councils forced to merge under the government, an outright ban on developers and the introduction of a cap on donations and spending.

**Local government referendum, wards proposed**

In the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) election on 9 September (full disclosure, I am a Country Labor candidate), the Country Labor ticket will campaign on a policy of introducing a plebiscite to ascertain the opinion of residents regarding a demerger. It will also offer the alternative of introducing wards in the next round of council elections should a demerger not be the preferred option.

Education, childcare and before and after hours care facilities were also targeted in the Foley address in line with the opposition's policy to address what it identifies as a crisis in the availability of schools across the state. Schools will be exempt from sec-

tion 94 local infrastructure charges and will not have to compete as developers.

**Make vocational training a public duty again**

TAFEs (proposing 70% of public education funding committed to TAFE), regulation of the adult and vocational learning sector, keeping public hospitals in public hands and the wicked problem of housing affordability all featured in Luke Foley's address. He finished with a quote from his predecessor in his state electorate of Auburn – Jack Lang – who told a young Paul Keating:

"People will tell you that you have plenty of time but the truth is you haven't got a second to waste."

**Federal party progressive policies**

The Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (FPLP) leader's address has received significant coverage in other media. Space and deadline restrictions for the *District Bulletin* mean that a full report of the FPLP leader's address will be for another time.

Suffice to say that Federal Labor has not made itself a small target in the lead up to the next election with a suite of progressive policies that would make Jeremy Corbin and Bernie Sanders proud. They include recognition of our First People in the founding document of our nation, progressive reform targeted at money paid out as income from discretionary trusts, a push for an Australian republic and tackling growing inequality. ■

a summary of how Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) spends rates revenue. I was surprised to see that the environment and health (which I assume includes food safety) receive a measly four percent.

Why so little in a place that promotes itself as offering country living with city benefits?

We often take the environment for granted, forgetting how much we rely upon it – for clean food, water and air, for the materials with which we build our homes and the things we fill them with, for the shoes and clothes we wear.

We all benefit from clean and healthy places – the forests, woodlands and grasslands, the rolling hills of our rural landscapes, and the wetlands, rivers and creeks.

A healthy environment supports our unique native wildlife. It provides places for walking, swimming, canoeing, camping, fishing, cycling, birdwatching and generally appreciating nature. It can revive our spirit and inspire our creativity.

Understanding these connections lies at the heart of shaping an ecologically sustainable future.

Prosperity – in its material and non-material forms – relies on a healthy environment. But our environment is under threat, from climate change, declining biodiversity and overdevelopment.

**Climate change impact on our region**

A NSW Nature Conservation Council report last month documented the profound negative effects climate change will have on our region without concerted action to shift the trajectory we're on to a much warmer world. (Report p8.)

So what would an ecologically sustainable community look like?

It would help transition our towns and villages to a clean energy future. Investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency will help lower power bills, create jobs in growth industries, and contribute to the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council can work to develop an energy saving scheme for low-income residents and support community groups, clubs and local businesses to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Council can also develop a climate action plan for the council's operations and the community. (Other Greens proposals for local government, below).

The Climate Council has identified how local councils can lead on climate action. Several councils in our region have signed up to a partnership [www.climatecouncil.org.au/cpp-report](http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/cpp-report). (See also our report p7.)

Other measures we can take include investing in sustainable transport, more cycleways and footpaths, greenways, railtrails, and other forms of active recreation and tourism.

**Local food production buffers against outside events**

Our region has vibrant growers and craft markets. Growing food locally provides a buffer against food price rises caused by extreme weather events, which are becoming more common. Our council can protect local food production through planning regulations and expand community gardens, which provide social and economic benefits beyond the food they produce.

The next council will develop a community strategic plan – or vision – for the next 10 years, and a new Local Environmental Plan. Community interests, needs and values need to be heard and reflected in these critical plans.

A council goal should be an ecologically-sustainable community that delivers social and economic benefits while protecting the natural environment whose preservation is critical to our health and wellbeing. ■

**Community Alliance to quiz council candidates on proposed Ellerton Drive Extension, see more at [www.districtbulletin.com.au](http://www.districtbulletin.com.au)**



## Jerrabomberra school goes solar

Report from the principal and school P&C

AT LAST, we have achieved our goal of supporting sustainable practices at the school through installing solar panels to the roofs of three classroom buildings. This was achieved through a lot of hard work by the P&C President, Bryce Wilson, countless hours of hard fundraising by the parents of the school and some funds from the Department of Education. It has been at least two years in the making. But perseverance has paid off.

This was a joint funding program with the Department and saw a 50/50 input to an \$80,000 program.



In the office foyer, a monitor has been installed so that children and community members can see the savings that we are



making on a daily basis. During the day, the power we make is being used by the school. At other times, such as on a weekend, the power produced goes back into the grid and we are paid for it. Already we are seeing savings each month and utilising a free resource – the sunshine.

Students and staff will be able to log in

and see the graphs and savings online bringing a real-time relevance to their school and modelling sustainable practices for all.

I applaud everyone's time and patience in making this happen – but it has at last become a reality! This is a first for a Queanbeyan school and we are hoping others will follow our lead. Here's hoping for lots of sunny days! ■

## Climate action: communities not 'waiting for Godot', err, federal government

### — what are we doing locally?

by Graham Franklin-Browne

UNDER THE LONG shadow of Australia's fossil fuel lobby and their elected status quo apologists, there has been a depressing reluctance on the part of the Turnbull government to breathe real oxygen into the energy debate and lead Australia's transition [or indeed visibly enter the stage of action, hence our headline about the character who never appears].

But an increasing number of local councils and a few state governments now just 'get it' when it comes to climate action and are refusing to sit and wait for federal leadership.

A recent report from the Australian Climate Council, authored by Lesley Hughes, Tim Flannery and Will Steffen (*Local leadership: Tracking Local Government Progress on Climate Change*), confirms that Australian communities have been on the frontline for a long time, and many jurisdictions are now stepping up actions to mitigate the risk and reduce the impact of climate change. See <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/cpp-report>

#### Support for switching

The report also introduces a 'Cities Power

Partnership' showcasing councils and communities that are switching to renewable energy. The ACC is providing access to resources, incentives, and publicity for councils to increase their use of renewable energy.

Some towns and cities, and some states, have already committed to 100% renewable energy targets, including Newcastle, Yack-andandah, Uralla, Darrebin, Yarra, Byron Shire, Cockburn, and notably of course, ACT and South Australia – both heavily invested in wind power as suitable in their environments.

#### How it's done

The small Victorian town of Newstead, for example, has boldly committed to a 100% renewable energy target by the end of this year. With \$200,000 in funding from the Victorian Government, Newstead plans to rent commercial and residential roof space in the local community, install solar panels, and generate 1.7 MW of solar power. The townsfolk are confident their system will produce much more electricity than they require, and plan to sell the excess back to the grid.

The Victorian town of Morland has already developed an environmentally sound, integrated transport strategy to change travel behaviour in the region. The strategy includes car sharing services, electric vehicle charging stations, and the integration of electric vehicles into the council fleet.

The Queensland government (yes, the same folk who are selling out the reef to Adani Corp) wants to build one of the world's longest electric highways. The 2,000 km highway would connect 18 cities, from Brisbane to Tully with a series of electric vehicle fast-charging stations.

Creating jobs, a \$3 million contract to build and supply the charging stations has been awarded to electronics company Tritium. Use of the charging stations will initially be free.

I have to think there is still a large smelly pachyderm in this space – will the electric highway be powered by coal? I hope not.

#### So, what is happening in / around QTown and the QPRC region?

Last week I contacted QPRC spokesperson Ricky Tozer and asked him if council would like to showcase any high impact climate actions they are currently working on or considering.

For example, is council promoting the use of clean energy or energy efficiency in their building and development approvals

process, or encouraging the development of larger scale clean energy projects?

Is council interested in developing rapid public transport alternatives between its regional population areas, or providing infrastructure for schemes such as carpooling, congestion charging, or parking restrictions? Or providing charging stations for electric vehicles, similar to Canberra and Goulburn and/or integrate electric vehicles into the council fleet?

Does Council intend to link all of its land use planning decisions to climate action?

#### What QPRC has done to date

QPRC had no immediate answers to these questions [and it should be kept in mind that the council makeup will change dramatically in September]. But a quick review of the QPRC website reveals a number of initiatives are already in progress.

For example, there is a "Sustainability Action Squad" responsible for facilitating the integration of sustainability outcomes into planning and operational processes. They use online software such as Planet Footprint to collect and analyse data on council energy, fuel, and water cost consumption. <http://www.planetfootprint.com.au>

Council has also installed solar panels across council buildings and facilities, and are implementing intelligent LED and solar panel lighting systems in our city parks.

There is a recycling unit somewhere, turning unwanted food waste into bio-fertiliser for use on council grounds, and worm farms also have been installed to reduce internal organic waste generation.

Finally, and possibly in response to the well-deserved drubbing QPRC received for the unpopular Ellerton Drive Extension project (EDE), council has announced that it will develop an integrated transport plan; sometime this year.

As an enthusiastic EDE drubber, I will be following this with great interest. ■

## QBN PLAZA DREAMING from p3

sale proceeds would go towards the plaza works.

A number of merchants whose premises back onto The Q car park, and, like Walsh's Hotel bottle shop, rely on easy customer access from there, object to the proposed \$25 million new council headquarters going behind their premises, blocking future car access from Lowe St.

"Why couldn't they just rebuild on the existing site of council offices?" asked realtor Peter Stumbles from Elders Real Estate which is next to the hotel. He has customer parking issues, as does David Reid from WJ Gibbs Real Estate a few doors down. Reid said he currently has 18 allocated parking spaces behind the building owned by his family that also houses Country Heir coffee shop and a shoe shop.

Former Queanbeyan councillor Kenrick Winchester noted that the previous Queanbeyan council, while amenable to a civic plaza development, had assumed that the existing council offices facing Crawford St would be renovated and extended upwards for the new headquarters.

"I have these questions about consulta-

tion," said Stumbles. "It seems to me they have done things backwards. Who looked at this in the first instance and came up with these placements of buildings and a new park of trees on the (plaza) site?" Stumbles said in addition, the lack of Monaro St parking doesn't help main street merchants in Queanbeyan competing against malls with parking lots.

But another neighbour, Vince Suraci, who owns the old Tab arcade, was more relaxed about the whole thing and says any development is good.

Council's plan went on public exhibition (until mid-August). It proposes bringing an expanded administration into a new six-storey building as described, selling off other buildings, and making the plaza a tree-filled civic space between Bicentennial Hall and the library. Public parking would go elsewhere, where is unclear.

Tegart confirmed a Heads of Agreement with a "major tenant" has been signed. They would occupy some basement car parking and most of ground level and floor one. Council chambers, a casual office space called a 'smart hub' and council offices would fill the rest.

The major tenant is widely rumoured to

be the NSW Police who would move from their current bunker across Monaro St.

Tegart said council proposed to borrow \$35million from the State Treasury Corporation for the whole project with \$25 million allocated for the new administration building. The rest is for demolition works and the development of temporary car parking for the construction phase, another sore point for the neighbours. Tenant fees would contribute to paying off some of the loan.

*The Bulletin* was told by several sources that the senior citizens who built a centre in a council-owned building on site are very unhappy about being moved to the suburbs away from coffee shops and other amenities and costing more in transport. Council agreed it has held discussions with the senior citizens and Queanbeyan FM and provided both groups with alternate locations per a council report in July 2017.

While the final disposition of all this will surely rest with the newly-elected democratic council, some of the neighbours continue to worry aloud about "secret dealings" and the way things have been done. ■

Backhouse Legal

Angela Backhouse will return with Property and Legal next month

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## NEW REPORT

# Hot, Dry & Deadly: NSW plants, animals (including humans) face ultimate challenge

Review by Frankie Seymour

Safeguard and conserve what we have



**Hot, Dry & Deadly: Impacts of Climate Change on Nature in NSW** is a clear and concise document launched regionally last month by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, a peak organisation representing 160 member organisations.

The scene is set with alarming statistics from CSIRO and the NSW government on estimated impacts to temperatures, rainfall, fire and coastal inundations in NSW by 2090: temperature increases across the state ranging from 3.1–4.3°; annual rainfall decline of up to 32%; 60% more extreme fires in some parts of the state; and sea level rises of 26cm in coastal areas.

In an orderly, factual manner, it runs through the impact of these changes on the wide range of NSW ecosystems, most of which are already severely impacted by habitat loss: forests (including rainforests and swamp forest); eucalypt woodlands; grasslands; alpine lands; rivers and wetlands; coastal regions; and marine regions.

The report works with examples of vulnerable species, illustrating the severity of changes

in each ecosystem type. Some can carry the fate of many other species within their own survival.

The koala population has already plunged by 33% since 1990, including a drop of 75% in the Pilliga Forest which was until recently regarded as a koala stronghold. As forest area shrinks due to reduced rainfall, increased fires, logging and inundation of coastal swamp forests, koala populations will shrink even further.

In the alpine region, where snow has reduced by 40% since 1960, there are only 2,600 mountain pygmy possums left, occupying about 10°km. They hibernate 7 months of the year and eat mostly bogong moths when they emerge. Reduced snow cover is disrupting their hibernation cycle, and they are emerging before the moths arrive. This absence of food after hibernation is significantly reducing this species' chances of survival.

### Climate change causing trees to flower early, seagrasses to disappear

In NSW woodlands, the regent honeyeater is a critical pollinator of many eucalypt species, but its breeding patterns are closely tied to the flowering time of the trees. As climate change causes the trees to flower early, the honeyeaters are likely to starve and many trees will go unpollinated.

### seagrass meadows store more carbon per hectare than the Amazon rainforest

In marine regions, seagrass meadows are a critical nursery and feeding ground for marine animals. About 30% of seagrass cover has already disappeared. What is left is threatened by rising sea levels and more frequent and extreme sea storms.

The regional launch included some positive directions including the Repower organisation's goal of ensuring that 100% of Australia's energy will be supplied from renewables by 2030.

### NSW government polling shows 91% of the people of NSW support renewables

One failing of the report is not underlining that its dire projections are cumulative. The changes could be much more severe as a result of feedback loops between ecosystems and the climate. For example, the report notes that seagrass meadows store more carbon per hectare than the Amazon rainforest. The writers could have taken the opportunity to note that losing such a significant greenhouse sink would further contribute to climate change.

### Restoring vegetation and habitat as important as renewable energy

The report also limits its call to action to the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energies. It omits any reference to the other half of the equation, the importance of large-scale restoration of both terrestrial and aquatic vegetation. Such restoration would directly benefit Australia's ecosystems and wildlife by restoring lost habitat. It would also restore Australia's contribution to global greenhouse sinks. This is particularly so as the NSW government goes backward in allowing unmonitored vegetation clearance.

Notwithstanding, the Nature Conservation Council is to be congratulated on an impressive and readily comprehensible summary of an enormously complex issue and not merely a minor inconvenience for humans. It is potentially the worst disaster for all life on Earth since the extinction of the dinosaurs.

The message that, even now, it is not too late to avert the disaster, or at least to reduce its worst impacts, is equally important.

[www.nature.org.au/media/286888/1707-ncc-climate-nature-report-v10b-web.pdf](http://www.nature.org.au/media/286888/1707-ncc-climate-nature-report-v10b-web.pdf)

## UK supermarket Sainsbury's drops kangaroo meat

Human and pet meat could be 'riddled with pathogens'

British TV celebrity Joanna Lumley spoke out about the cruelty involved saying: "If you hate the idea, as I do, of kangaroos and their young being killed and shipped to the UK so that customers here can eat less fat, why not try giving up meat altogether. If I can do it, anyone can!"

BRITAIN'S SECOND largest supermarket has stopped selling kangaroo meat after receiving criticism from animal welfare organisation Viva! and pressure from Australian wildlife groups.

The appeal to Sainsbury's attracted a huge amount of interest and gained coverage in British national media *The Telegraph*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Grocer* and *The Sun*.

In a bid to get kangaroo meat on Britain's dinner tables, Sainsbury's began selling kangaroo burgers in over 500 of their stores in June. The red meat product was being promoted as a 'healthy' and 'low fat' barbeque alternative to beef.

>> cont'd p10



## Rezoning Australian waters to less protection – all to favour weekend fishing?

### Australian government seeks submissions, again

*The Australian government is trying to put a positive spin on its proposed new rezoning of the waters around our country to less protected areas and to allow more recreational fishing. The government is asking for your input in the next month or so. Here, Queensland environmental scientist Rebecca Hall takes a look at what is proposed and why she doesn't think it's a good idea particularly for the Great Barrier Reef waters.*

THE AUSTRALIAN Government is currently in the process of rezoning the marine protected areas within Australian waters. At present, Australia is ahead of schedule with international conservation targets of 10% of all oceans to be 'no-take' zones by 2020. We're currently protecting 36% ('no take' so-called green zones) within marine environments alone. However,

the new rezoning proposes to change this.

The current draft proposes to decrease the green zones to cover 20%, and increase the yellow zones to 43%, essentially doubling the area that allows fishing and boating activities to take place. This will impact the Great Barrier Reef in particular.

It is important to note that direct human activity is not the only driver of degradation on the Great Barrier Reef. Global warming and climate change leading to sea level rise and ocean acidification, all negatively impact the reef.

If we add back into the mix other human activity, we invite the potential for extreme ecosystem change by removing species via fishing, or damaging the habitat with boating activity. Is it really worth it just to go fishing on the weekend?

Other zones include 'blue zones' called habitat protection zones – these only prevent trawling activities, basically the opposite of the green zone. And in the middle of these two are 'yellow zones' called conservation zones which allow moderate levels of activity with some restrictions on catch and fishing style.

The current protections put in place in 2012 set 36% of Australian waters as green zones, 24% yellow zones, and 40% blue zones.

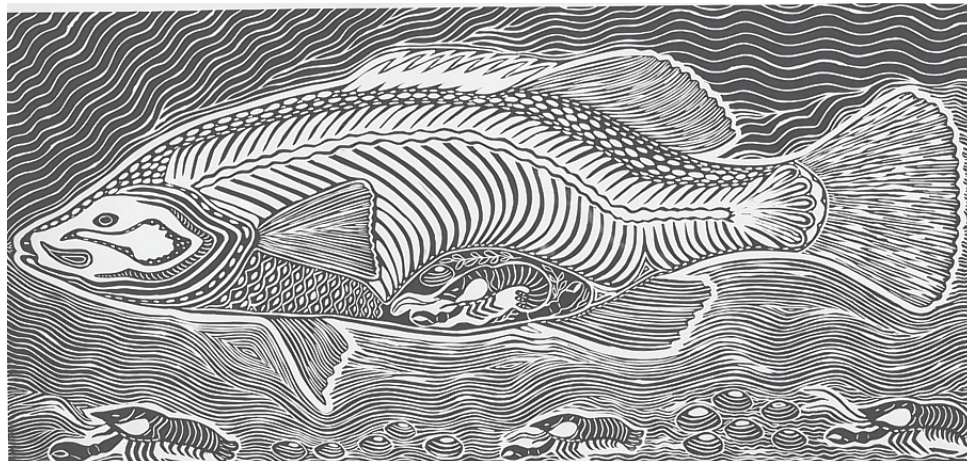
Further information, the draft itself, and contact methods can be found here:

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/>

Or a direct link for feedback can be found here:

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/get-involved/have-your-say/>

## Inland riverways exploited: artist 'Badger' Bates recalls how it was



BADGER (WILLIAM BRIAN) Bates is a Paakatji man, born in Wilcannia, NSW. Now in Broken Hill, he is well-known for his linoprints, but also works in wood, emu egg and stone carving, and metalwork.

He has spoken recently to media about the severe degradation of the Darling River due to mismanagement of water extraction and how that is destroying his country.

The following are some extracts from his discussion with Culture Victoria <https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/creative-life/badger-bates/badger-bates/> about tributaries and billabongs that were once full of fish that are now too polluted or have dried up completely.

"I was born in Wilcannia and lived all my young life in Wilcannia, just wandering up to Bourke across to Lake Yellico. I did well because I was a target to be a Stolen Generation, but my poor old grandmother, granny Moysey she outsmarted them by taking me away all the time. And then, also my young life, she learned me how to carve emu eggs and make artefacts.

Detail: *Parntu Thayilana Wiiiithi (Cod Eating Yabbies)*. © Badger Bates. 2004.

(Discussing a print) ... "there was a woman we was with at Narran Lake. Chrissiejoy Marshall... This is the Narran River, flowing into Narran Lake. And Chrissiejoy talked about when she was young. There are lots of yabbies, fish, swarms, emus laying eggs. I done these because she was sick, and when I send her this, it'll cheer her up. And this is falcons on Narran Lake again. And she talked about the black swan, which we called Yunguli, and her eggs are here. And I saw the swans flying away. She talked about fish and others, like cranes and that in the lake.

"This one I call No More Catfish. But when I was small, the catfish would've been in the water. But now, with all the pollution in the Darling River and everything, I put the catfish out of the water. Today, you very seldom get a catfish. Maybe this was a carp or pollution, I don't know. But then on the top of the print it's just all black.

>> cont'd p11



# The Mighty West

## Incomparable feeling of winning after long drought

Book review by Adrienne Ribeny who lived a parallel footy history – part of the Australian legend

BEING THE ONE true devotee of Australian Rules Football (AFL) in my Canberra-based family, I was the automatic choice to review *The Mighty West* by Western Bulldog tragic, Kerrie Soraghan (right).

I will admit to not being overly enthusiastic about drawing the short straw but I was barely a few pages in when I discovered that the author and I are kindred spirits and that our footy paths closely align. I get it – the feeling of belonging, of tribalism, and of being a ‘football romantic’ – and I absolutely get the euphoria experienced in winning a premiership on the back of a drought.

Few experiences in life compare. That said, I also acknowledge the author’s belief that “something more than a simple win-loss ratio is what connects a football team and its supporters”. It is an undefined ‘something’ that cannot be explained but can only be felt.

**If you’re not a footy fan when you start this book, you could well be one by the end.**

My interest in Australian Rules Football stems back to day dot when I accompanied my family to the local Unley Oval and to the away games to support our beloved South Australian National Football League (SANFL) club, Sturt, affectionately known as the ‘Double Blues’.

Since the inception of the Australian Football League (AFL) I have supported the Adelaide Crows (or as the author prefers to refer to them, “The Preliminary Final that Must Not Be Named” and “The Other Preliminary Final that Wasn’t Really



Very Good Either”), but Sturt will always be my No.1 team.

The Bulldogs and the Double Blues are an integral part of our history. Like the author, I also know the feeling of coming home to celebrate losing by ‘a mere’ 10 goals and to share the heartache of witnessing our club on the brink of extinction but for the herculean efforts of the ‘true believers’ to turn the books around.

Both our teams, against all odds, were to honour this lifeline by winning that elusive premiership flag in 2016, (the Bulldogs being the first to have come from seventh place to win the flag) which served to reinforce our belief that it is simply unimaginable for such proud and powerful identities to be denied their rightful place in their respective competitions. It is just as unimaginable to think of the alternative of a Footscray/Fitzroy merger, or for Sturt to become the reserve team for the Adelaide

Crows as was rumoured.

### Oh what a feeling

As a Sturt supporter I found myself transformed into a time capsule, riding the waves of reminiscence as the author described the kids who would leap the fence and jostle with their Bulldog heroes as they made their way off the Whitton Oval following the final siren, and who would “pat their muddy backs, smell their sweat and liniment and marvel at how big these boy-men were up close”. I was one of those kids and, as I close my eyes, I can instantly smell that delightfully distinctive eucalyptus liniment.

### Brave new footy world meets die-hards

Unfortunately, as the author laments, such indulgences are strictly forbidden in the “brave new world of football that many of us never really wanted” where the inevitable successes of the GWS/Gold Coast franchises, alias the “Acronyms” and the lookalike “Ronald McDonalds”, “will be a return on investment, not a fairytale”. Like the author, I too can’t quite imagine what her dad, a former Footscray player, would think of his progeny travelling hundreds of kilometres to witness a Footscray team play a five-year-old team in the outskirts of Sydney, a football outpost.

Some things never change, however, for us die-hard supporters. The “premiership croak” is alive and well from the overuse of our vocals, as too our rhythm as we yo-yo up and down on our seats in synchronisation while simultaneously directing our raucous disapproval at the umpires for their outrageous decisions – “all of them”!

Then the excuses come for the loss, with the lamest of all – “It’s only a game”. We know it isn’t and, where finals polarise our feelings, “an honourable performance, whether a win or loss, just won’t cut it”. There is of course the obligatory race to get home to watch the game again, and again, and again – with one proviso – that it be only in the event of a win. Far be it for us to be self-flagellating!

### Superstitious, not us!

We’re not superstitious – not much! God forbid if our favourite badges aren’t affixed to our scarves or if our players wear those “infernal white jumpers” when they play an away game. That’s just plain unlucky as if one of our players doesn’t run through the team’s banner. What was he thinking?! I even find myself crossing my fingers on both hands and holding my breath when my team is going for goal.

If I haven’t remembered to also cross my arms I am surely tempting fate that it will be a behind or worse! It’s those confounded “Ole Tom-style scenarios” again, the voice that says “not us”. “Why not us” Ole Tom? And when it IS us, “our city has never looked quite so beautiful”. Only a die-hard supporter can see this beauty – the euphoria one feels on the back of a finals win.

### Honest and passionate account of the Bulldogs

*The Mighty West* is an honest and passion-

ate account of the Bulldogs and their adoring fans, and is a diary of the 2016 AFL Season. It demonstrates that the club is bigger than the individual and provides great insight into what it means to be “Western suburbs, Footscray supporters, Irish-Catholics”. Although the author describes this as a triple disadvantage, and one which leaves a chip on your shoulder, she also highlights the resilience and unwavering belief of the fans in the face of interminable adversity.

I have learnt the significance of the numbers 54 and 61 and have experienced the fans openly weeping to have made the finals after 24 years, some may well be those “starry-eyed young men who camped out in 1961” in the hope of clinching a finals ticket. I have flinched when reading of the jeers of the “callow private school-boys” and marvelled at the man in Bulldogs colours on Grand Final day holding aloft a sign reading “Here to represent parents, aunts, uncles and cousins who’ve passed away since 1961”.

I can also appreciate the significance of the famous statue of E.J. (Whitton) decked out with red, white and blue ribbons and a scarf. The same accolade has been bestowed upon the Double Blues’ legend, Jack Oatey.

### It’s not all serious

I have also enjoyed the comic relief along the way – after all, the Irish are known for their humour. I laughed at the “Three-Peat-ers” (Hawthorn), the “Bourgeois Blues” (Carlton), the “most irritating team” (North Melbourne), the “impertinent upstarts” (Bulldogs) for daring to win and, yes, even at the “least likeable” (Crows) “for the hideous memories that team conjures up”.

In the excitement of driving to western Sydney to witness her beloved Bulldogs in a preliminary final, the author is “on the alert for signs and omens as the miles fly by”. As for the unusually-named town of ‘Mittagong’ she encounters, the author is sure that she has “read it’s an Aboriginal word for Western Bulldogs.” Such passion is so infectious.

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to attend a night game at the Manuka Oval in Canberra between the Bulldogs and GWS. Whilst the result may have previously been a matter of indifference, I soon discovered that my sojourn with *The Mighty West* left me barracking voraciously for the red, white and blue! Alas the four points were not to be theirs on the night. Although I felt the anguish of the Bulldog’s fans for missed opportunities, I was also reminded of their eternal resolve to endure. This is a valuable lesson to us all.

As a true devotee of AFL, I thoroughly enjoyed the passion and humour of *The Mighty West*, which is extremely well researched and which provides the reader with some interesting statistical information. If you’re not a footy fan at the commencement of reading this book, you could well be one by the end.

PS, I agree with the author that the Bulldogs’ coach, Luke Beveridge, is a Plan-tagenet King Richard III look-alike. ■

## Also this month...

The Bulletin’s *Michelago-based book reviewer (and writer) Nick Goldie took a look for us at two book releases in July, both, you’ll agree, quite topical on the political front, coming from quite different genres. You’ll find these on our website [www.districtbulletin.com.au](http://www.districtbulletin.com.au)*

### Is the President a Russian spy?

It’s 1980, and the Cold War is at its worst. There’s a belief that if the Americans pull out of Europe, Soviet forces will be at the English Channel within weeks. At the heart of the matter, the loyalty of the President of the United States is compromised.

This is a weirdly prescient novel by the late English author Ted Albeury, first published in 1980, and now released by Dover Publications under the original title: *The Twentieth Day of January*. The book opens with a quote from the United States Constitution that the terms of the President and the Vice-President shall end “at noon on the twentieth day of January”... *continued on the website under this title.*

AND

### Why are we stuck on climate change action?

Shadow Minister Mark Butler explains the Australian federal policy sink hole

As Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Mark Butler could be expected to come up with the goods in his new book *Climate Wars*. And that’s just what he does: a careful and considered account of good Labor initiatives and not-so-good Coalition undoing of these initiatives, most especially by Tony Abbott.

As a general reader, not associated with any party, I read this book with interest. I’m not sure that I learned very much, and I was not moved to man the barricades, but there is a good lay account of the science, and an overview of the policies of both sides of what some still consider a debate.

To me, Butler is most interesting when he deals with the nuts and bolts – or the poles and wires – of practical climate policy. Batteries for example. Australia, he says, has enormous natural advantage in wind and solar. In the past fifteen years, the number of homes with solar panels has exploded from hundreds to millions.

“As a result, Australia is regarded as a natural market to lead the global adoption of household batteries to store excess power,” he says”... *continued on the website under this title.* ■

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## From Tarago felled-tree hollow to WA

ALEX is a Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo and is a very lucky lad. Discovered, as a tiny 10-day old chick in the hollow of a felled tree at Tarago (between Bungendore and Goulburn), he was picked up by a couple of inquisitive Samaritans, taken to the vet, who then passed the bird to Wildcare for rehabilitation and release. But this little fella had a different destiny to the norm.

Maryanne, Wildcare's bird coordinator in Queanbeyan, took on the job of initially raising Alex prior to handing him onto Nadia who specialises in bird care. As Maryanne says, "Raising a chick from such an early age is not easy."

They require considerable care, in terms of temperature and humidity control. And they need feeding with a syringe every couple of hours. It can be a challenge, but this one made it and within a few months had grown quickly to close to its full-grown weight of about 700 grams."

"The problem was that Alex was raised alone, and didn't know how to be a cockatoo. And as Wildcare and neighbouring wildlife groups didn't have a companion bird to match him up, he became very humanised. He could not be released back



Alex before (above) and after.

into the wild, as he would always seek out the company of people.

Normally in such a case, if an animal cannot be released, authorities stipulate it has to be euthanized. However, under the NSW Code of Practice for raising and releasing orphaned wildlife, there was a slim option to keep him alive, as a permanent care animal.

Maryanne and Nadia wanted the best possible home for Alex and found exactly that, all the way across in Western Australia at the Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre.



Kaarakin was very keen to have Alex to help raise public awareness. They already have other species of black cockatoos and have huge aviaries and facilities. There is no doubt Alex will have a great life at Kaarakin. To transfer Alex, there was a need to get permission from the NSW and WA governments and then it was a matter of organising the flight across the continent.

Maryanne and Nadia paid for the long journey across to Perth. Maryanne, says, "He has apparently settled in very well – happy to chat away to the staff and get along with the other permanent care parrots. Overall, Kaarakin can have as many as 150 parrots at any time in rehabilitation and permanent care."

If you need any help with wildlife matters, get in touch with Wildcare on 6299 1966. And if you are interested in caring for injured and orphaned birds (or other wildlife), check out their website [www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au).

— Philip Machin, Wildcare

### UK SHOPPERS DROP ROO MEAT from p8

Experts from both UK and Australia have expressed their concerns about the health implications of consuming kangaroo meat and warned that it 'could be riddled with pathogens'. Five years ago, independent testing had found dangerously high levels of Salmonella and E.coli in kangaroo meat bought from Australian supermarkets. In 2014, dog 'treats' made from kangaroo meat were withdrawn because of Salmonella contamination.

In addition to the potential health risks, Viva! warned the grocery chain of serious animal welfare issues surrounding the killing of kangaroos at night, without monitoring, in isolated bushland settings. Horrendous injuries are a statistical reality causing much suffering. In the UK it is a common misconception that kangaroos are farmed.

The sale immediately sparked media controversy, particularly when British TV celebrity Joanna Lumley spoke out about the cruelty involved in the killing of the animals.

Viva! has campaigned against the sale of kangaroo meat since the late 1990s. Recently the group also successfully stopped major British supermarkets Morrisons and Tesco from selling the meat.

Sainsbury's has confirmed that the supermarket is no longer selling the product and confirmed that they have no plans to re-stock the meat.

See Viva!'s updated fact sheet <https://www.savethekangaroo.com/factsheet> that includes details of a brand new kangaroo butchering facility recently closed down because of health concerns.

Source: Viva!

## Major supermarkets pledge phase-out of one-use plastic bags

**Every second, 159 single-use plastic bags are used in Australia – more than 10 million new bags each day.**

**In NSW, up to 61 million bags are littered each year.**

**More than 70 percent of the rubbish entering our oceans is identified as plastic.**

**Plastic kills up to one million sea birds, countless fish and 100,000 sea mammals each year.**



THESE FIGURES, supplied by the NSW Opposition, come as the announcement was made in mid-July that Woolworths and Coles will be phasing out one-use plastic bags in the next 12 months.

The welcome news means that Woolworths for example will be phasing out a staggering 3.2 billion lightweight plastic bags per year and there is no reason to think Coles was handing out less.

The decision affects stores in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. Other states – South Australia, ACT, the Northern Territory and Tasmania – have state-wide bans in place and Queensland is said to plan the same next year.

The ABC, which has taken a lead on exposing waste, says Woolworths will be offering durable, re-usable plastic bags at a cost of 15 cents, along with multi-use hessian bags. Locals will know similar arrangements are already in place in ACT supermarkets and are now considered unremarkable. Many people bring their own bags to ACT supermarkets and some national chains, Aldi in particular, only offer durable plastic bags for a price and people manage, bringing their own.

The Opposition has pledged to get NSW in line with the more environmentally responsible states on banning plastic bags, if elected next time. (20% of estimated single-use plastic bags fall outside of the reach of the big supermarkets).

"NSW is mired at the bottom of the pack when it comes to protecting our environment with plastic bag pollution continuing unabated, and new tree clearing laws coming into effect next month with the support of the Liberal and National parties," said Opposition leader Luke Foley. ■

### BACK TO BEING MUM AND DAD AGAIN

With the help of the NDIS, Ron and Lynne's children David and Belinda are now independently living out of home. It's given them more time to enjoy their retirement and go from being full-time carers to just being Mum and Dad again.

**The NDIS is now available in the Queanbeyan region.**

**Find out how to take charge of your future at [NDIS.nsw.gov.au](http://NDIS.nsw.gov.au)**





## At Bungendore Fine Art in August

Mick Doust landscapes ... seen here Shoalhaven at Warri.



## KANGARA CONCERT SUNDAY AUGUST 27th

### FRENCH IMPRESSIONS featuring the Renoir Ensemble



NEXT UP IN the Kangara Concert Series is a delightful concert by the Renoir Ensemble – Anna Murakawa, violin (centre), Anneliese McGee-Collett, cello (left) and Kimberley Steele, piano (right) – titled ‘French Impressions’ featuring works by Roussel, Chopin and Chaminade.

Come and enjoy this bouquet of beautiful French chamber music to lift the spirit and hear the soaring combination of

strings and piano!

Anna Murakawa, originally from Brazil, has studied and played violin in many countries around the world, including Bulgaria and the USA. Teaching at the University of Louiseville, before moving to Australia, Anna now teaches at the Sydney Conservatorium.

Anneliese McGee-Collett studied at the ANU School of Music with David Pereira, and in 2011, won the ANU Margot Lewin Prize for Cellists. At the Sydney Conservatorium of Music she was awarded the Patricia Bell Merit Scholarship for her postgraduate studies, and is undertaking a Master of Music (Performance) studying with Julian Smiles.

Kimberley Steele’s passion for music has led her to work in diverse roles: accompanist (Sydney Conservatorium, ANU School of Music), Education Lecturer (Australian Catholic University), and as a freelance artist she founded the foray quintet and Steele-Knight Duo. In 2016 she performed alongside Sumi Jo and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

2.15pm @ Cooinda Hall, Kangara Waters, 2 Joy Cummings Place Belconnen

\$25 all tickets, cash at door. Price includes a generous afternoon tea.

For further information and details of all concerts, Chrissie Shaw: mobile 0407 079 748 [www.musicatkangara.wordpress.com](http://www.musicatkangara.wordpress.com)

### Whats on at The Q?

*The District Bulletin* regrets we have to inform our many interested theatre goers that the current QPRC administration, after adding additional layers of management bureaucracy to the arts program, has decided no-longer to share its ratepayers-funded regional theatre program with *Bulletin* readers (after a long and happy association). We are hoping this situation can change in the future.

— Maria Taylor

## VINEYARD, WINERY, CELLAR-DOOR & KITCHEN

Our menu is designed to be shared and paired with our wines. Snuggle up to the bar or the fire and enjoy a complimentary tasting from the Founders Museum Collection of fine aged wines.

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## ‘Vast’ by Ingrid Bowen



SYDNEY-BASED artist Ingrid Bowen will open a solo exhibition at Suki & Hugh Gallery, on 19 August.

The exhibition entitled ‘Vast’ presents a series of whimsical watercolour landscapes that will resonate with viewers from our region. The paintings respond to a feeling of ‘exhaling’ or decompressing for the artist who describes a sense of release when driving away from urban centres.

“I really love the air and the scenery of inland and alpine NSW. I’m happy to admit I’m a city girl but a country girl at heart, with an idyllic view of rural life. Nostalgia and connection to the country is an integral part of my practice, I’m fascinated by combining remembered and imagined details of a place, and in particular the emotional response we have when viewing or visiting particular landscapes,” says Bowen.

Largely self-taught, she works in a studio space at Eramboo Artist Environment in Terrey Hills on Sydney’s northern beaches. Surrounded by National Park and with lively wildlife as neighbours, the location is quintessentially Australian and presses into her studio and artworks, mingling with collected memories and inspiration from her travels and connection to rural Australia.

Exhibition Saturday 19 August to Sunday 1 October. Opening reception with the artist on Saturday 19 August from 3–5pm. All welcome.

Gallery, Susan: 0412 029 045 / [susan@suki-hugh.com.au](mailto:susan@suki-hugh.com.au) Ingrid: 0401 142 854 / [ingrid-bowen@bigpond.com](mailto:ingrid-bowen@bigpond.com)

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### ARTIST BADGER BATES from p8

“If we don’t try and look after the environment a bit more, I’d say our future is just black. We’re going to have nothing. You know? So that’s why I just do it in my artwork.

“I find sometimes to go and talk to politicians, it’s just a waste of time. Getting up at a meeting and saying this is what you do, and this is what you’re doing. Because when us black people do it, lots of times we just trouble-making black people. So what I try and do is put my statement in my artwork.

“And why I like working in black and white is because it puts me in mind of my mum and dad. But also, put me in mind of myself.

“I always say that I got two cultures. I got a black culture, I got a white culture because of mum and dad. I’ve got two gods. Because we got, Guluwa, our dreaming, and we got Jesus Christ because I went to Catholics school. And then I got two laws, I got the black people’s law and I got the white fellows law, you know. And I respect them both.” ■

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# BOYD MEETS GIRL

Classic guitar and cello concert,  
Café Wood Works

by Stan D'Argeavel

NEW YORK-BASED Australian classical guitarist **Rupert Boyd** is acclaimed as one of the most talented guitarists of his generation. He has performed across four continents, from New York's Carnegie Hall, to festivals in Europe, China, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Australia.

Active as both a soloist and chamber musician, he regularly performs throughout the world as part of the Australian Guitar Duo with guitarist Jacob Cordover, and in Boyd Meets Girl, with cellist Laura Metcalf.

*Classical Guitar Magazine* describes his as "a triumph of brilliant, assured playing". The

Guitar Foundation of America says Boyd's playing is beautifully refined, with gorgeous tone... musically and technically flawless.

Cellist **Laura Metcalf**, renowned as a compelling soloist and chamber musician, has been acclaimed for her "brilliant" playing (*Gramophone Magazine*), "gorgeous cello legatos" (*Washington Post*).

She performs regularly with the wildly popular cello-percussion quartet Break of Reality, and recently was selected for an ongoing world tour as musical ambassadors of the US State Department. Outside of the classical realm Laura has performed on the David Letterman, Conan O'Brien, and Today Shows, and alongside such artists as Adele, John Legend and Nas.

**Café Wood Works dinner and concert Saturday 26th October from 6pm. Details, see ad below.**

# Kuniko Kato appearing in Canberra

by Gary France

THE GROOVE Warehouse is proud to host international Percussion/Marimba icon Kuniko Kato (Japan) in a 2-day residency as part of her 2017 Australian national tour. Her concert will feature music by JS Bach and more.

Kuniko is a soloist who is recognised around the world as one of the most gifted and significant percussionists of her generation in today's contemporary and classical music scene. Her technical virtuoso, exquisite musical insight and expressive, yet elegant performance style continues to attract not only audiences, but named maestros and composers too.

She is renowned for her flawless technique when playing both keyboard and percussion instruments, which blend seamlessly with her profound musical intelligence. Kuniko's native Japanese DNA gives colourful language and dimension to her superb interpretations. Kuniko studied under the world marimba legend, Keiko Abe, at Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo.

For complete listings please go to <https://www.groovewarehouse.com.au/events.html> or call the Groove Warehouse 6260 2847





# BOYD meets GIRL

Boyd Meets Girl pairs Australian classical guitarist Rupert Boyd with American cellist Laura Metcalf, in an ensemble who perform a diverse and exciting mix of works from the baroque through the modern day

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

A bubbling Champagne with Entrée of selected morsels in the Gallery.  
Main Course of Coq au vin with luscious Lemon Syrup Cake Dessert in the Cafe then settling in for a sublime acoustic performance in the Octagon ArtSpace

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# MARJASON & MARJASON

S O L I C I T O R S

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

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

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

He has practised in a wide variety of areas, but now mainly specialises in family law. In

addition to this he is an Accredited Specialist in Advocacy, a Public Notary and an Accredited Mediator.

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

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

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