



Bulletin

incorporating The Bungendore Bulletin

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Golden history in Bywong, p5



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CHRISTMAS PRESENT for COASTAL WILDLIFE

TWO MAREMMA puppies from Palerang have embarked on a unique mission to become permanent guardians of a colony of Little Penguins on an offshore island close in Victoria.

Deb Clay of Mulloon Maremmas said she made the offer after reading about a world-first two-year experiment with Maremmas guarding penguins and coastal birds at Middle Island near Warrnambool, 265 km west of Melbourne.

The island lies close to shore and can be reached by foxes and dogs. Predation had caused the penguin population to crash from over 600 birds in 1999 to less than 10 by 2005.

In 2006, local farmer Allan "Swampy" Marsh, who was using the highly independent guard breed to mind his chickens, convinced local and state authorities to undertake a successful five-week trial using Maremmas as guard dogs for the penguins on the island.

With the support of Warrnambool Council and state wildlife officers, this was followed by a 12-month trial with two dogs, which saw penguin numbers reviving to the point that there are now 70 penguins re-inhabiting the island with no trace of foxes. (Keeping people who want to play with and feed the dogs off the island despite its closure has been another challenge that can compromise the training.)

Mr Marsh told Melbourne's *The Age* newspaper. "It's not an altruistic view of penguins or chooks but an ingrained sense of territory that makes Maremma dogs work, and it is far stronger in these dogs than any other domesticated breed." Mr Marsh thought his dog probably viewed the penguins as "chooks in dinner suits".

Deb Clay agrees. Maremmas protect what the owner tells them to do by training. The protection is done by chasing and barking at interlopers, rarely killing. The penguin-guarding puppies have been taken to the Melbourne Zoo for training to guide dog standards of understanding.

The Maremma is an Italian sheep dog named after the area where the breed originated. This uniquely independent dog has found a major niche in guarding free-range chickens, but also sheep, goats, alpacas and wildlife (Deb has sold a number of dogs to wildcarers in NSW). They can't be treated like show dogs or stock dogs and are perhaps not best suited to be the conventional pet in a built-up area, she says. They like human company and in the case of the island guard dogs will still have daily interaction with a ranger, but they are happy to work alone.

Warrnambool City Council continues to support the project with funding for a dog carer, dog training and monitoring equipment.

Environmental scientist and dog trainer Dave Williams recently told *The Age* that the 6-month-old Palerang puppies would take up their station before Christmas: a nice present for the wildlife.

More details can be found on the Council's website www.warrnamboolinfo.com.au or look at www.coast2coast.org.au for a PDF presentation.

Deb Clay with Angel, at six years the oldest of her dogs, in the garden at Mulloon Croft. Photos: Marcelle Martins

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Left to right: Linda Wheatland, Laura Wilson, Kevin Reardon, Steve Barraclough & Jill Hunter.

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But staying online ...**

That means we will be adding content to our online summer issue and you are invited to discuss with us displaying
your message for a nominal fee on the web *Bulletin* during this period.

The printed *Bulletin* resumes at the beginning of March 2009.

Deadline for March advertising bookings 20th of February – advance bookings welcome anytime.

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reach 6,200 plus households monthly during 2008, wish you all a relaxing holiday season
and greatly look forward to working together in 2009!



— The Bulletin team

COUNCIL TACKLES MEDIUM-DENSITY HOUSING

AT ITS DECEMBER meeting held last week, Palerang Councillors decided to get behind a proposal to hold a referendum on representation by local wards at the by-election likely to be set for mid to late March 2009. The by-election for a 9th Councillor follows the resignation of Councillor Judith Miller on medical grounds.

According to Wamboin resident Peter Harrison, who initiated the proposal, wards would lead to more efficient elections, and afford clearer representation of community interests. If a referendum succeeded it would not affect this by-election.

Councillor Terry Bransdon who put up the motion agreed. He said wards should reduce the impact of groups, mean lower campaign expenses for candidates and provide a faster election count. It should also stabilize repre-

sentation and bring a more even result than the last two elections.

Councillors also agreed to work with Burra residents to resolve with the ACT water authority (ACTEW) a proposal to lay water pipelines across private property and related environmental issues.

Council majority sticks up for better planning

Two large and controversial development proposals for Bungendore came before this Council meeting. The resulting debate and votes indicate that contrary to the first four years of Palerang Council, a majority of the current

Councillors have a firmer grasp on their responsibilities to safeguard community interest, amenity and best practice planning – or ‘ecologically sustainable development’ as all the planning documents call for.

Like a cliché from the horror movies, development of Trucking Yard Lane has re-emerged larger and more determined than before and following a familiar narrative.

Some readers may recall a 2004 battle in the NSW Land and Environment Court, initiated by the developer against the Council. Subsequently a group of Bungendore citizens countersued to protest against what was being

proposed on 8.75 hectares between the railway line and the Hoskinstown Road outskirts of the village, at that time only 47 lots.

There followed a flurry of further legal action by the same developer against conditions imposed by the Council for the development to go ahead – most of which were won by the Council but legal costs were incurred.

This past year, Navaroo Constructions is again in the Land and Environment Court suing Council over a ‘deemed refusal’ of a totally new venture which almost doubles the number of proposed lots at the site to 82 lots.

Continued p7

RURAL RESIDENTIAL WILDLIFE UNDER THE GUN

THE NSW NATIONAL PARKS and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has confirmed that commercial ‘roo shooters are coming into the rural residential zone and targeting local kangaroo and wallaroo populations.

Some of this activity may be illegal or at least highly questionable from both safety and wildlife protection perspectives. There is currently no legislation at any level of government requiring notification of neighbours, canvassing community sentiment to the local wildlife, or distinguishing whether someone is shooting on five hectares within bullet-distance of neighbouring houses or on a 2,000 hectare grazing property.

Certainly the neighbours at Rovere Lane in Bywong won’t soon forget a recent late night experience.

“I was woken by loud shots and looked out my window, and saw searchlights roaming about 150 metres from where I was sleeping” said Nora Stewart. “I leapt out of bed, got dressed and got quickly to the edge of the property opposite.

“Some of our neighbours were already there and they had confronted the shooter and asked what he was doing there at 2.30am without any notice.”

“All were in disbelief that someone could be shooting that close to houses without any warning.”

Ms Stewart said she was hosting visitors from Ireland at the time who had been admiring and photographing the local kangaroos. “People are coming half way around the world to see these beautiful creatures, while others here are busy shooting them” she said.

On Newington Road in Bywong a resident reported a recent incident of loud shots being fired around 11pm within 100 metres of a ‘house where children were sleeping’. Others have also reported regular shooting in that general area, in Wamboin and between Macs Reef Rd and the Bungendore Rd.

They call it a ‘harvest’

NPWS Regional Manager for the Queanbeyan area Scott Seymour told the *Bulletin* that 153 commercial licenses have been issued in

Continued p6

COMING IN THE NEW YEAR



Sixty-seven wind turbines capable of producing enough electricity to power 52,000 homes will go on line next year between Bungendore and Tarago. Suzlon Energy Australia says the energy produced by these 80 metre tall giants, with a blade width of 40 metres, have the capacity to produce 132.3 MW of electricity which will be fed into the grid starting in April or May.

Photo: Fred Harden

REWORKED BUNGENDORE DISCUSSION PAPER SURPRISES

The Bulletin previously reported that the Bungendore discussion paper (which will inform the Local Environment Plan (LEP) was being reworked with the financial assistance of a group of local land owners interested in subdivision.

That document has now seen the light of day and the results may surprise some people. The following are some excerpts from a report on the revised paper (‘the Report’ and ‘the strategy’, below) provided to the Bungendore Chamber of Commerce by its President **David MacLaren**.

PETER WALSH, of P&A Walsh Consulting presented his consultant’s report. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Bungendore Residents Group, NSW Planning, Palerang Council Planners, developers and the Chamber. The Consultant’s fee was funded by a group of developers with interests in Bungendore.

The Report embraces the results of the Visioning Process that the Bungendore Resi-

dent’s Group was instrumental in lobbying for some three years ago. The Report also embraces the core strategies of the Sydney to Canberra Corridor Strategy.

Some quotes from the introduction will give an indication of the Report’s vision:

“... there appears to be clear limits to major zoning changes due to water supply constraints.” (and) “The State government’s Department of Water and Energy has made clear that there are major limitations on future availability.

“Growth in Bungendore would be principally expected within existing zoned areas, and limited additional areas. With a key challenge to manage growth to safeguard local character.

“... the strategy is not supportive of significant commercial or retailing outside of the existing centre. The strategy is closely aligned to a town centre improvement regime, developed in consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, which is seen to have poten-

It is expected that this Strategy will be on public display in February with the aim to have the LEP finalised by the end the financial year.

tial for significant positive outcomes for local business and commerce.”

Mr MacLaren’s comments:

“There seems to be a lack of consensus on water usage. And there seems to be a lack of clarity at present about the second aquifer within the Butmaroo Creek catchment at Currandooly borefield.

“The Peter Walsh Report embraces the Sydney to Canberra Corridor Strategy. This Strategy favours development in towns such as Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Yass, and limited population growth in villages, and that growth deriving from infill rather than ‘greenfields’ (new subdivision) development.

“The developers contend that greenfields offers a better quality development, whereas infill is haphazard. Greenfields development offers a diversity of living that offers a wider appeal. These issues need to be worked through in detail...”

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Photo: Fred Hurdin

THE FEDERAL MINISTER for Climate Change and Water, Penny Wong, came to Bungendore in mid-November to give local Member Mike Kelly a hand in delivering on some pre-election water promises for the Palerang villages.

With Deputy Mayor Catherine Moore doing the honours for Palerang Council and other elected officials and a small contingent of media in attendance, they announced that the Rudd Government is investing more than \$6.5 million for a range of water saving and water treatment projects in the southern tablelands of New South Wales as part of its \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan.

The lion's share goes to Bungendore and Braidwood. It confirms \$3.3 million funding for the Braidwood sewerage works and \$1.9 million for recycled and groundwater projects in Bungendore. A further \$700,000 is confirmed to upgrade the Braidwood drinking water supply.

A photo op was organised on Bungendore oval which will be irrigated with recycled effluent water in the future. The rest of the Bungendore funding will go towards bringing groundwater projects on line, to overcome what the federal politicians (unlike some local ones) understand as a current water supply stretched to the limit.

"The Government has committed \$1 million to support the construction of a water supply system that will increase annual capacity

from 322 megalitres to 500 megalitres," Mr Kelly said.

Later, Senator Wong sensibly told a couple of insistent TV reporters, focused on whether major corporations' will feel pain (as some claim) with an emissions trading scheme, that response to climate change calls for changes from the status quo and that the federal government was "doing what voters asked us to do". The *Bulletin* would have liked to hear (a lot more) about all the beckoning opportunities with new energy industries but this was a day for talking about water.

Senator Wong confirmed that a majority of the catchments in the Murray Darling Basin are under stress, that water inflow to the Basin is at historic lows and government is expecting the worst of climate change impacts by 2030. This includes the Lake George and Yass River catchments and probably parts of the Shoalhaven. The Federal Government's \$3.1 billion water purchase program (to buy water licenses and return at least some water to the natural environment) was recently passed by the Senate. "There has been too much extraction and it is affecting water quality and sustainability," she said.

Confused by all this curbing and guttering and heritage talk?

Deputy Mayor *Catherine Moore* sheds some light on the issues

Council voted not to accept heritage recommendations

THERE HAS BEEN much discussion about kerbing and guttering recently, and footpaths linking various areas of the village. There are some differing views, and many issues to consider. The Bungendore Chamber of Commerce had an excellent display in the Bungendore Council offices inviting ideas from the community on many aspects of the village. Contributions demonstrated that people are interested in being involved in shaping the look of their village while recognising the need for access for prams, motorised scooters and cyclists.

A number of council areas are limiting the amount of concrete they are installing due to issues like flood minimisation. Concrete also acts as a heat bank and by covering more of the land with it we are contributing to the warming, not cooling, of places that are already hot enough in summer.

In Bungendore, there are also heritage issues to consider. At the 17 November Extraordinary Council Meeting, there were three recommendations contained in the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting minutes. The first recommendation said "that any proposals to change verge treatments or gutters within any built environment be referred to the Heritage Advisor for advice before work commences."

This would seem to be a sensible suggestion that would allow consultation to take place with the heritage advisor who may suggest a viable alternative in a certain location, or ordinary kerbing and guttering in another. It can only improve the process, allowing legitimate issues relating to street-scapes to be raised.

The next recommendation was "that Council adopt the draft Bungendore Heritage Discussion Paper with the amendments agreed to by the HAC (attached) and place it

on public exhibition". This document is the result of some hard work by HAC community representatives over more than a year. The next part of the process is to call for public comment.

The final recommendation related to the demolition of any items listed in the Local Environment Plan, or on the same parcel of land as a listed item. The gist of it was that proposed demolition of listed buildings be referred to Council rather than automatically given to staff under delegation, allowing greater opportunity for participation in the process.

HOWEVER, (at the 17 November Council meeting) for the first time ever, Palerang Council voted to adopt the Minutes but not these recommendations (above), without even allowing discussion in committee to address whatever concerns there might have been.

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PALERANG COUNCIL

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Heritage Advisory Committee Vacancy

Council is calling for nominations from people in the Palerang community interested in filling a vacancy on the s.355 Palerang Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Committee was created by Council to:

- provide advice and recommendations, where appropriate, to Council on heritage conservation and management and development control plans pertaining to the whole Council area;
- assist in the review of Council's current heritage conservation management initiatives; and
- deal with heritage issues at a strategic level.

The Committee does not provide advice to Council on development applications.

There are six community positions on the Committee, with at least one each representing the Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat areas. The membership also comprises the Mayor, two councillors, the Manager of Strategic Planning and Council's Heritage Advisor. There is no remuneration for members serving on the Committee.

The appointment will be for the remainder of the current Committee's two year term which concludes in December 2009. Council would welcome applications from Indigenous people. Written nominations indicating the skills applicants have that could assist the Committee, should be marked "Confidential – Palerang Heritage Advisory Committee" and addressed to the General Manager.

Nominations must be received by Council by 5.00pm on Monday 5 January 2009.

To obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference and Position Profile, please contact John Wright on 1300 735 025.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

PO Box 348
Bungendore NSW 2621

PALERANG COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE CLOSURE CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR 2008–2009

Council wishes to advise that for the Christmas and New Year holiday period, the administration offices in Braidwood (144 Wallace Street) and Bungendore (10 Majara Street) will:

CLOSE: 3.00pm on Wednesday, 24 December 2008
and

RE-OPEN: 8.30am on Monday, 5 January 2009.

The switchboard will be unattended during this time.

The Braidwood Library will be closed from 1.30pm on Wednesday 24 December 2008 and re-open at 1.30pm on Tuesday 6 January 2009.

The Bungendore Library will close at 5.00pm on Tuesday 23 December 2008 and re-open at 10.30am on Tuesday 6 January 2008.

Council's Westpac In-store agency in Braidwood will be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm on 29, 30 and 31 December 2008 and 2 January 2009.

For details of the Braidwood Community Technology Centre's hours of operation during the Christmas and New Year period, please contact (02) 4842 9251.

All Council's waste management tips will remain open at the usual times except for Christmas Day only.

For emergency calls relating to Council's works and services during this time, please call 1300 735 025.

Council wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

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GOLD MINING TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE BUSH

Photos and story by Marcele Martins



Left: Chris Fowler takes his young visitors on a tour into local history.

The kids don't have to wait long to feel like the old miners as Chris Fowler, the hospitable guide and site manager, takes them gold panning. Crushing rocks, panning and finding golden sparkles, while learning about the process and the history of mining are certainly some of the highlight moments for them.

But this is just the beginning and the tour continues with a walk around the mining area, the reef, shafts, huts, the windlass, and the tiny children's stamper. At this stage you realise that it is not just about history but it is an exciting lesson on geology, mechanics, mining processes, bush building techniques and blacksmithing.

After a pause for lunch, the journey finishes at the historic village, with a visit to the blacksmith shop, pise huts, and the heritage-listed well constructed by Chinese well-diggers. The walk is ably interspersed with tales about the life and hardship faced by the residents and itinerants.

Bywong Town tours are oriented towards school visits which are very popular and bring thousands of children to the area each year. It is also possible to book individually during holidays. It is gratifying seeing the kids so curious and engaged in an activity that is instructive and, at the same time, amusing.

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG after the arrival at historic Bywong Mining Town to notice that the promise of a unique educational tour experience is bound to become true. A few metres from the meeting point and you find yourself sipping a welcome cup of tea and reading an appetizing recipe from Mrs Beeton's Cookbook, marketed as the cheapest cookbook in the world in 1890. First sign that the tour is also a time-travel experience.



Outdoor living once upon a time: miners did it tough.

History at our doorstep

THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE of Bywong Town to the Bungendore/Queanbeyan region is often overlooked or misunderstood. Originally forming part of the area known as the 'Gundaroo Goldfields' it is the largest remaining intact remnant of those gold fields. Many properties in the immediate region have shafts, [alluvial] diggings, or rusting machinery to link them to those early gold rush days, but Bywong Town has them all.

The site has had a chequered history from its earliest days and the original preservation is undoubtedly attributable to [one] Arthur Shepherd and his immediate relatives from 1940 to the early '60s. Whilst the 'heyday' may well have been under the Moore family in the '70s and '80s as a public tourist 'park', the recent history as an educational facility under the present site owner might well turn out to be the most important for long term preservation.

— Chris Fowler, Tour operator

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BUNGENDORE STUDENT WINS NATIONAL POETRY PRIZE

by Matilda Dabusti

THE DOROTHEA MACKELLAR Poetry Awards is the oldest and largest poetry competition for school students in Australia. It is a unique national event giving Australia's young people a voice and an opportunity to strive for excellence in literature. The Awards are one of the activities associated with National Literacy and Numeracy Week and are hosted by the Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society based in Gunnedah, NSW.

Bungendore Public School students of all ages have been entering this competition since it began in the late '80s. This year one of our Year 6 students, Lucy Raffaele, entered the competition in the Learning Assistance category and received the Runner-up prize for her poem **Kangaroo Day**.

At the Bungendore Public School's final whole school assembly, Lucy was presented with her trophy and prize. Mike Kelly, Federal Member for Eden Monaro, was a special guest at the assembly and made the presentation to her. Her family, friends and teachers are very proud of Lucy and were delighted to hear her recite her poem at the assembly.



Kangaroo Day

Ahhhhhhh.....the sun
Warming up
Nibble, nibble, munch, munch.
Yummy grass.
Bounce, bounce, bounce,
Boing, boing, boing,
Nibble, nibble, munch, munch,
Box, box, boom, boom.
Wrestle, wrestle,
Munch, munch, nibble, nibble,
Ahhhhhhh.....snooze.
Sun high in the sky,
Ahhhhh.....sun going down
Bounce, bounce,
Nibble, nibble, munch, munch,
Yummy grass.

— Poem by Lucy Raffaele

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RURAL RESIDENTIAL WILDLIFE

Cont'd from p3
Palerang allowing 9,600 animals to be shot in 2008.

He said the current situation is a difficult one for the Parks Service which is also charged with wildlife protection, and kangaroos *are* a protected native species. The Service is charged with licensing both landholders and shooters and with monitoring compliance for the commercial kangaroo ‘harvest’ which was quietly instituted in south-east NSW in 2004. This year’s kill quota for the region is 47,000 animals for petfood and skins.

“We are concerned about the number of reports we are getting of illegal shooting of ‘roos in Wamboin and Bywong,” said Mr Seymour, saying fewer reports come in from other rural residential areas. He agreed that the drought together with other pressures may have brought more animals into the area for food, water and sanctuary.

In the commercial harvest both the landholder and the shooter need to be licensed. Wildcarer Phil Machin says a number of area householders have told him of shooters knocking on their door and asking to kill kangaroos on their property with no mention of the licensing requirement.

In addition legal and illegal ‘culling’ is taking place. Culling is non-commercial but also requires licensing, theoretically involving a property assessment and evidence of detrimental agricultural economic impacts. The Intersect of the two program is not being monitored in terms of local effects on kangaroo demographics.

As for the safety angle, which concerns people across the board, it appears this has fallen between the bureaucratic layers and wasn’t factored in when the ‘harvesting’ was allowed into Palerang.

Legislative block on alerting neighbours
Mr Seymour said the state’s kangaroo management legislation does not allow for conditions to be imposed such as alerting neighbours (or

What heritage?

IT’S MORE THAN 23 years since I opened my one-man office in downtown Bungendore and made it known that I was an architect for hire. Most of the work that came to me was for new houses in rural subdivisions but there were quite a number of people who had bought a house in Bungendore town and wanted to extend it to make it work better for their 1980s lifestyle.

One of my concerns was dealing with houses that were on Yarrawlumla Council’s list of “Buildings that add to the historic character of Bungendore” as it is now named in the current Development Control Plan. On about half of the 63 buildings on that list, over the years my advice has been sought about modification, major maintenance or extension and I’ve worked on buildings adjacent to another dozen or so. Maybe 20 of the listed buildings could be said to be fair quality examples of a building type of the 19th or early 20th century but none are outstanding.

asking whether people want their community’s roos shot).

The NSW police have jurisdiction over firearms handling but have told neighbours there is nothing they can do. The trick may be to complain that someone is ‘unsafely’ discharging a firearm (or wait until someone is injured and there is proof).

The NPWS will now be sitting down with both the police and the Palerang Council “to see if we can’t do better than this”, said Mr Seymour. The public can help by reporting with good detail, (dates, names, exact locations of shooting activity or being approached to shoot).

The *Bulletin* will be following this story and encourages anyone with relevant information to contact us media@palerangbulletin.com.au or the NSW NPWS Queanbeyan office, at 6229 7057 and ask for a wildlife ranger.

The streetscape of the town shows that it’s an example of a century and a half of ad hoc development with little attempt at harmony. There’s a saying about my profession that I remember frequently: “Doctors can bury their mistakes but architects can only plant trees”. Fortunately our town’s older residential area has a streetscape dominated by trees that help to hide the poor quality of the built environment.

Infrastructure and infill

A PHENOMENON I’ve noticed over the years is the attitude of some new settlers in our town. People who moved here 20 years ago decided that, with the exception of a few minor quibbles, Bungendore was just the right size at that time and that no expansion was acceptable. Similarly, the town was just right when others moved here 10 years ago.

There’s no doubt however that people would like to move to this delightful place, with its

semi-rural atmosphere in the older parts.

The current Development Control Plan for Bungendore allows for subdivision of lots to a minimum of 450 square metres, which is comparable to the denser suburbs of Canberra and has, by the use of rule-bending enabled the euphemism of ‘town house’ subdivision. These town houses are complete with double garages and two bathrooms and are really big enough for a family of four. I hope that council will increase the minimum lot size to 750 square metres but otherwise encourage appropriate use of the existing infrastructure, including making full use of the old night soil access lanes to serve new subdivisions.



STIRRING THE POT – WITH GOOD REASON

by Matt Gardiner

OUR NEW COUNCIL has taken some very significant first steps in opening Council business to public scrutiny. Audio recording of meetings is an excellent idea. The recording of every vote (unreasonably opposed three times in the previous Council) would be a fine next step.

The initial decision to schedule public meetings during weekday business hours was regrettable. Monthly meetings commencing at 5pm is an improvement of sorts. Cr Graham should be encouraged in his pursuit of Saturday meetings, amongst many worthwhile alternatives.

Notably, many Council committees and workshops still occur on an evening after trad-

itional ‘office hours’, making it easier for participants to attend.

The reported decision to conduct the further development of the draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) behind closed doors is a retrograde step.

A draft LEP actually has some legal force, so ratepayers and developers have a right to see how it is developed. The point is, even if the community aren’t entitled to say anything during such meetings, they ought to be able to hear what is happening.

In any case only a handful of people would bother to attend and listen, but in the interests of transparency they should be allowed to.

On a related point, one Palerang Councillor was recently reported as vowing to never declare a conflict of interest when his own properties were before Council. If correctly reported, (*it was – Ed*) such silly and inflammatory talk diminishes our Council, and by association all of us.

(See response to these concerns from the Council’s General Manager next page.)

By-election

Palerang Council will soon have a by-election. For unforeseen reasons, one of our Councillors submitted a resignation. I send my very best regards to that Councillor.

There is no ‘count back’ from the recent election, so there will be an all-of-Shire vote. Voting will be compulsory, and the term will run until September 2012.

The process for conducting the election will be similar to the September 2008 election, but

Continued p14

Dear Editor...

Councillor resigns

Following specialist medical advice against my continuing to serve on Council, on 19 November I tendered my resignation from Council to General Manager, Mr Peter Bascomb.

To have been elected to serve as a councillor has been an honour and I regret that I will not be continuing to serve our community in that role.

My decision to resign followed deep reflection on the impact it could have, particularly on the effective representation of the Wamboin – Bywong region that entrusted me with the role of a representative, and the inconvenience to the electorate that a by-

election would present. However, as there was every likelihood that continuing with the role of councillor would result in further health issues for me, resignation was the most appropriate option both for ensuring effective representation for the community and sustainable health for me.

In the short time I was able to serve on Council I came to appreciate the efforts of the staff of Council. I acknowledge with thanks, their assistance and guidance.

In conclusion I offer my sincere thanks to those who support resulted in my election and to my former councillor colleagues for their fellowship and understanding during my short role as a councillor.

– Judith Miller, BYWONG

Will ratepayers pay for washed-out roads?

I write to draw attention to pollution occurring in our local environment as a result of new nearby development.

I live at the end of Newington road in Bywong, directly adjacent to the new Birchman’s Grove estate.

After the storm we got last week, Black Joe’s Creek, which runs through our land, was extremely muddy and carrying huge amounts of silt. The work done on the new subdivision has left large areas denuded of the top soil that was placed there at the end of the roadwork.

Continued p14

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BUNGENDORE OFFICE
– NOW OPEN LATE ON TUESDAYS –

Tanya Nadin (nee Hannaford) will continue to be available for casual appointments on Tuesday afternoons and, by appointment, on Tuesday evenings.

Ian Marjason is available for casual appointments on Friday afternoons.

Both Ian and Tanya may be available at other times by appointment or alternatively both are available Monday to Friday in the Queanbeyan office.

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Bungendore: 6238 1340 Queanbeyan: 6299 3999

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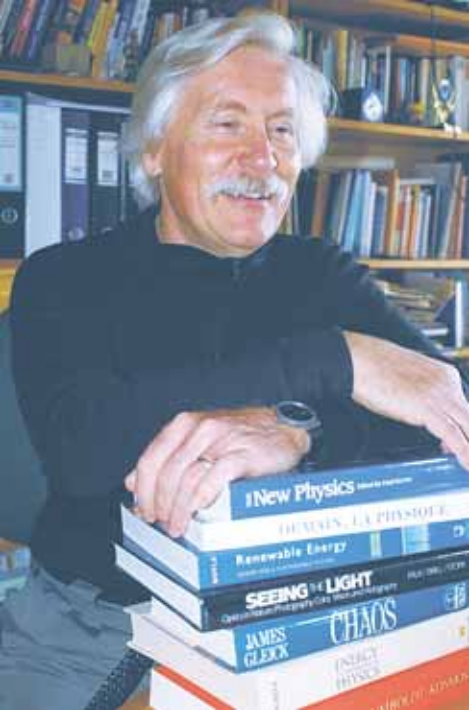
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PHYSICIST HANS BACHOR: ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF BUILDING MACHINES

(Left) Hans Bachor: blowing things up isn't his style, he'd rather build totally novel machines applying quantum physics.

the Australian Centre for Quantum Atom Optics, flings open his door. The three of us are soon on our way to Vincent's lab where I'm treated to an impromptu demonstration of a very unusual microscope.

In a joint project with the John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) at ANU, Vincent and Prof Bachor have built a microscope that is capable of a sharper look at neurons in action. A mass of dials and knobs, this instrument is about one metre tall and takes up most of the kitchen-table sized bench.

Neurons are the cells in the nervous system that funnel messages from the brain all over the body. Vincent clicks away at the computer to show me patterns of fluorescent dots on the screen, showing me how they would focus on the interesting parts of the neurons.

Vincent and the professor decided to apply new technology from quantum physics to the challenge of investigating the brain.



What's the big idea?

by Amanda Beasley

Soon they will take their finished microscope back to JCSMR where medical researchers will have their first opportunity to look at actual neurons at work.

From destruction to construction

Prof Bachor turned to the emerging field of quantum optics in the mid-eighties after a stint as a plasma physicist. Blowing things up wasn't his style, he wanted instead to build machines that no-one had ever seen before.

Quantum optics is immensely complicated, and relatively esoteric, but Prof Bachor hopes to one day create a gadget that "does something we all want". This may seem like an unambitious goal, but this is a field where manipulating single atoms and particles of light is a regular occupation.

His current research is focused on building reliable machines that can be used to verify aspects of the 100 year old theory of quantum mechanics. This is the theory of the very small, of atoms and how they interact with each other on the, err, atomic scale, and of light.

In the process, his team is getting closer to building a 'quantum recorder', a device that could be used to make massively difficult calculations, such as measuring all the properties of a molecule, in a more efficient way than just throwing a supercomputer at it.

Mentoring and growing rural residential rocks

Hans Bachor has lived in Australia for 26 years and has spent much of that time coaching and mentoring an impressive list of graduate students. He is constantly motivated by

the fact that many of these students are now professors themselves, and are enjoying their own research, in a network that spans the globe.

When Prof Bachor isn't managing several projects and many PhD students, he teaches. First year undergraduate courses allow him to become a showman and communicator, and he packs his lectures with demonstrations and challenging questions for the audience.

He also contributes to an annual event held at ANU, called the National Youth Science Forum, which gives around 500 Year 11 students a year a chance to see science in action. Ninety-two percent of students who participate in this program go on to take science or engineering at university.

Hans lives with his wife, Connie, on a 40 acre block in Wamboin, Palerang. He tells me they mainly "grow rocks" there, and are interested in finding ways to live in harmony with the pristine bushland.

Connie trains horses and riders, and Hans says what he likes about the block so much is that "when my tiny experiment doesn't work, I can go home and build another horse-yard". His grand vision these days, however, is all about science and education.

He believes that in today's world of climate change, the global financial crisis and water shortages, it is imperative that more people get interested in science, trust science, and take science seriously. "It is interesting that after having done all this science that I've ended up with questions that are essentially political and philosophical ... I'm not quite sure what I'm going to do about it, but I want to do something".

Given his impressive list of achievements to date, there's no doubt we'll see some suggestions on this matter before long.

Palerang General Manager Peter Bascomb has supplied the following information to allay fears about 'behind closed doors' workshops on planning documents and making public Councillors' strict obligations to declare financial interests.

Councillor participation in Preparation of LEP Workshops

THE LEGAL SERVICES section of the Department of Local Government has advised that these workshops can only be for information dissemination and explanation purposes. There can be no discussion by or expression of councillor interests or views in these workshops as this can only be done in Council Meetings that are open to the public.

Managing financial conflicts of interests

Where a conflict of interests is pecuniary in nature, Councillors must comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*. (*Guidelines for the Model Code of Conduct – October 2008.*)

In developing the Local Environment Plan (LEP), Council will be required to decide on various options available to control different types of development. As a result, it is likely that some councillors may be faced with a pecuniary interest that would preclude them from being involved in the process. For example, decisions on minimum lot sizes for dwelling entitlements in rural areas if the Councillor is a rural land holder.

COUNCIL TACKLES HOUSING

Cont'd from p3

Council planners have critiqued the Development Application on the grounds of excessive density, poor environmental planning and poor amenity for future residents.

Councillors had to decide whether to defend this action, upholding the planners' standards, with the implicit threat of more legal bills. 17 written objections were received from community members and the thorny issues included the 'character of Bungendore' and that proposed density contravenes the average on which the village water plan is based.

Planning chief Louise Menday said the Court had just suggested a mediated conference involving a state assessor in January and asked for instructions on how to proceed.

In the end, Councillors voted five to three to defend their position in the Court action, with Councillors Raynolds, Crozier and Graham voting against doing so.

Island in flood plain not good

However, the next item elicited unanimous

Councillor outrage at the proposal to realign Turallo Creek, shift and import thousands of tons of fill and essentially build a 40 lot subdivision on a raised island in a creek flood plain on the north eastern side of the village.

The Council received 20 written objections and a well-orchestrated and detailed public presentation from neighbouring landholders. Concerns are based on the fact that building in flood plains and riparian zones is not encouraged by any level of government and presents high risks to a local Council in terms of liability – and that was just for starters. This item will reappear at the February meeting.

The Council also voted to stick with a previous decision asking that Telstra re-site a new communications tower from its present location close to dwelling houses at Carwoola on the Captains Flat Road. The vote favoured local landholders over an argument for the public interest in telecommunications and that Telstra of course picked the best site.

FREE EYE TESTS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

PARENTS ACROSS THE REGION are encouraged to take advantage of a new State government pre-school healthy eyes initiative.

The Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) has commenced free eye-screening for four-year-olds, as part of a state-wide initiative to detect and treat eyesight problems in young children, reported local MLA Steve Whan.

The free screenings will take place at the local preschool, day care centre or child and family health centre. Some 84,000 children will be screened during the next year; a small proportion will likely be referred to a range of health care professionals, depending on their eye condition.

Early detection can be vital for some conditions that are not easily observed, say the experts.

Mr Whan is pleased to note that NSW is the first state in Australia and one of the first jurisdictions in the world to embark on an eye-screening program to help every child.

The State-wide Eyesight Preschooler Screening (StEPS) program was developed following the success of the SWISH program, which offers free hearing tests to all newborn babies in NSW.

For more information about StEPS, please contact the Greater Southern Area Health Service or visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/initiatives/steps.



More time for Christmas shopping

Extended Christmas Shopping Hours

Fri 19 Dec	9:00am to 6:00pm
Sat 20 Dec	9:00am to 5:00pm
Sun 21 Dec	9:00am to 5:00pm
Mon 22 Dec	9:00am to 6:00pm
Tues 23 Dec	9:00am to 6:00pm
Wed 24 Dec	9:00am to 5:30pm
Thurs 25 Dec	CLOSED
Friday 26 Dec	CLOSED

There are great Christmas gift ideas at Riverside Plaza with over 50 food, fashion and lifestyle speciality stores to choose from. Christmas shopping couldn't be easier with free parking, extended trading hours, hassle free shopping and friendly personal service.



Monaro Street Queanbeyan
www.riversideplaza.com
ph: 6299 2466

Priscilla says:



CONSIDER WHERE HAM and eggs come from (too often factory farms and battery cages) There are alternatives!



Mother pigs confined like this. The babies become ham and bacon.

Free-range and organic meat and eggs are available locally (for various organic/free range meats check out Foodlovers or Landtasia for larger pieces of beef. Local butchers are likely to offer essentially free-range products except for pork and chickens.

Locally produced free-range eggs are widely sold at food shops and natural health food shops in the region.

Most farmers markets also have stands offering local, free-range and organic meat products – beef, pork, turkey, lamb and chickens... we're not too sure about the prawns, or endangered fish species. Belconnen markets and Griffith have dedicated organic butcheries – so there is no shortage of supply.

For those who want to try something completely different, and give 'Babe' and the hapless turkeys a break, here's a link to a vegetarian Christmas menu. All the recipes from this menu (we bring an example below) are available from the Animals Australia website as well as links to shopping for vegetarian cook books. http://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/compassionate_christmas/cruelty-free_feasts.php

'Vegilicious' Christmas dinner Starters:

- Roasted Mushrooms with Onion Marmalade
- Parsnip & Potato Rosti with 'Cream Cheese' & Cranberry

Mains and Side Dishes:

- Cashew Nut Roast with Sage and Onion Stuffing
- Red Wine & Porcini Mushroom Gravy
- Roasted Garlic Heads with Thyme
- Butternut Squash With Whole Wheat, Wild Rice, & Onion Stuffing
- Maple and Tarragon Sweet Potatoes (see recipe highlighted on right)

Dessert:

- Fig and Cointreau Christmas cake with Brandy 'Butter'
- Cranberry Apple Crisp

Where to find speciality vegetarian ingredients

Most major supermarkets (and particularly Chinese supermarkets) stock a selection of speciality vegetarian food, such as veggie burgers, mock meats and tofu. Bungendore is lucky to have Foodlovers for organic fruits and vegetables.

She's back with TALES OF GASTRONOMIC FRANCE

by Josephine Gregoire

THE SUMMER TOURISTS were gone, we had heaven's secret mountains, valleys, lakes and gastronomique playground all to ourselves! Early morning from our hotel balcony on the banks of Lake Gérardmer I observed the lone beret-wearing elderly man on his row boat in the middle of the lake, mist rising above and around him, in full contemplation – at one with nature and the environment. One image from the photo album of our recent 10 day Food and Wine Tour of Les Vosges and Alsace in France.

It was autumn. The Vosges mountains were changing in colour, rich burnt orange and red. Each day our mini-coach driver took us to our destinations, meeting people with a passion for food and wine.

We listened to the young man who lived his dream owning a small distillery making wine from local fruit and flowers. Fabrice spent his day extracting the perfume and essence, creating ethereal liquids. We tried them all – my favourites: raspberry, bilberry and rhubarb.

Bruno, a natural comedian and extrovert – managed to engage us in the art of raising



Return of the native: Bungendore chef Christophe Gregoire visits his old hospitality school in the west of France.

goats, milking, and cheese making.

Cécile moved from Paris to help her husband raise Vosgienne cows. She studied cheese making and produces some of the best non-pasteurised local cheese *munster* – considered the smelliest of French cheeses – yet one of the most delicious.

We drove on a precarious windy road to a remote farmhouse – where we lunched on nettle quiche and nettle ice-cream in a horse stable.

Each evening we travelled to the other extreme of gastronomique continuum – our stylish dinner comprised of five courses – always starting with an *amuse bouche*, and always a cheese plate before dessert.

Other days we meandered through the villages along the famous 170 km Route des Vins in Alsace – Kaysersberg, Riquewihir, and Ribeauvillé. It was a busy time – the harvest for some of the finest white wines – Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois, Gewurztraminer, Silvaner, Edels-wicker, Muscat, sparkling wine Crémant d'Alsace, Vendange Tardives and Grand Cru.

specialist traders and choose from the selected inventory of personal care products and some cosmetics at local and regional stores

One Sunday we sat with the locals of the village, long trestle tables under the tall old chestnut trees – ate the local *delice tarte flambee* prepared fresh in the portable wood ovens, washed it down with freshly pressed wine and danced to the joyful piano accordion music – we were certainly in tune and at one with our environment, its people and the food and wine!

The highlight of the tour was a visit to Christophe's old Hospitality School in Gérardmer. We all took a patisserie class on making *madeleines* and *petite charlotte aux myrtilles*. In honour of Christophe's return to his school, our Australian guests sat down to a 5-course lunch prepared by the students. The tables were decorated with Australian and French flags. It was an overwhelmingly emotive and auspicious day with Christophe shaking hands with his old teachers in gratitude, an inspiration for the new students of his profession. The event made the local newspapers. Bungendore was famous in such a far away place.

You can also buy on-line (order-to-your-door) from the following websites:

- The Cruelty Free Shop – <http://crueltyfreeshop.com.au/>
- Happy and Healthy Foods – <http://www.veganfood.com.au/>
- Vegan Perfection: pure indulgence for healthy living – <http://www.veganperfection.com.au/>

Looking for that 'cruelty free' gift or personal care product?

Now you can also access a list of hundreds of companies certified 'cruelty free' at <http://www.choosecrueltyfree.org.au>. This certification is fairly stringent including no animal ingredients, but importantly it names brands that don't test on animals

To give an idea, here are a handful of better-known, easy-to-find brands that fall into this category – in no particular order: Jurlique, Innoxia, Yardley, Australis cosmetics, Cosmetic Innovations Australia, Natio, Red Earth, Le Tan, Sunart, the Good Oil, Planet Ark, Neways products, Australian Botanicals, Natural Instinct.

These names can often be found in major department stores or chemists. Or support the

Excerpt...

Maple & Tarragon Sweet Potatoes

Serves 8

Maple syrup and tarragon, a sweet herb, are wonderful enhancements for the flavour of sweet potatoes.

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup margarine, melted
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons dried tarragon

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Arrange the sweet potato slices in overlapping rows in an oiled shallow 2-quart casserole.
- In a small bowl, combine the syrup, margarine, juice, cinnamon, and salt. Pour evenly over the potatoes, and sprinkle the tarragon over the top.
- Cover with lid or foil and bake, covered, for 25 to 30 minutes, or until readily pierced with a fork but still firm. Bake another 20 to 25 minutes, uncovered, or until glazed and golden around the edges.

Recipe from: www.vegkitchen.com

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LAKE GEORGE: Ancient soils for good wine

Story and images by Fred Harden

Winemaker returns ...

WHILE THE WIND towers on the eastern hill-sides of Lake George grab visual dominance, and the Weerewa lookout on the Federal Highway side could be their prime viewing platform, can I suggest there's a more attractive aspect to turn towards? Running on the north western rim of Palerang shire are two wineries that tuck themselves into the last alcove of the range before you reach the flat land around Collector.

CSIRO scientist Dr Edgar Reik chose this strip of east-facing hillside overlooking a then water-filled Lake George (*see bottle label*) to develop one of the Canberra region's first vineyards (Clonakilla's John Kirk planted his Murrumbateman vines at the same time, 1971). It has proved to be a special piece of ground.

At 88, Reik still tends a patch of old vine shiraz but the land was sold to Greek businessmen Theo and Sam Karelak, who continue the Lake George brand. The recent acquisition of Madew Vineyard by the Karelak means that this strip now has just two wineries, Lerida Estate and Lake George Winery.

Vines on the shores of erstwhile Lake George

It is a special place, with access via the busy Federal Highway but set back enough to be private. There's a great view from higher on the slopes, and the hillside catches the sea mists that roll across the Highlands in summer, dropping temperature and valuable water. The soil is the beach of the old lake, sandy gravel underneath and the vines dig deep for moisture.

Although there is preparation for irrigation, even in these drought years, it hasn't been needed. The passing traffic also offers good custom for cellar door sales and both wineries have restaurants, the Lake George estate now runs *grapefoodwine*.

Winemaker Alex McKay comes back to where he started

Recently there has been a big lift in expecta-



Winemaker Alex McKay: worked in Lake George vineyard while studying art history and got hooked on winemaking.

tions for the Lake George estate wines. When the Karelak family heard that Hardy's were pulling out of the Kamberra Winery near Lyneham they approached award winning winemaker Alex McKay to see if he was interested to join them at Lake George. Alex brought Nick O'Leary who worked with him at Kamberra and together they are the new Lake George winemakers (and have added their own investment in tools and plant to the mix).

Nick O'Leary is a local, a Bungendore boy, but for Alex the place has stronger associations. He worked in the vineyard with Reik while studying art history at Uni, and the decision to turn to winemaking came from those long working summer vacations. His love of the landscape and the region is evident from his photographs that feature on his own and the Lake George Winery website.

Misty mornings, vivid autumn colours in the long oak tree lined road (once part of the Highway), and even last winter's snow that dusted the hillsides.

Alex also loves the fruit and nut trees that surround the older vineyard areas. Planted years ago, they were largely neglected but now are

receiving some care and attention. Persimmons, figs and hazel nuts are a wild harvester's delight, if you can beat the birds to them. Robbie Howard from Lynwood Café (Collector) has used some of the fruit in her wonderful range of small batch preserves. There's a good planting of olive trees around the estate and there's a small privately owned oil press in the winery.

In October last year Alex's own Collector label 2005 Marked Tree Shiraz won NSW Wine of the Year. This year it was Nick's turn with his eponymous label to win a Gold for his 2007 Shiraz at the Canberra Wine Show.



Label: On the shores of Lake George.

Recipe: Persimmons and wild mushrooms

Although we're just at the start of summer, this recipe (*on right*) so much reflects the Lake George vineyards and evokes the richness of autumn, that I suggest you store it away. All the ingredients come from the Lake George area but you can get persimmons and the mushrooms in season from good food markets if you can't pick them yourself as Alex does. These are his words. (*Those who aren't experienced hunter-gatherers take heart: any rich mushroom such as Swiss Brown or field mushroom can be substituted we're told - Ed.*)

Persimmons and Slippery Jack mushrooms

This is an autumn dish. It marries the sweet and the savoury. The persimmons are better when riper, although this dish tolerates a little astringency in the persimmons. Slippery Jack (*Boletus luteus*) mushrooms grow in pine forests during wet autumns. They are best when a few days to a week old, before the skin gets too slimy and the bright yellow sponge underneath starts to discolour. An even better substitute if you can find them, would be the Saffron Milk Cap (*Lactarius deliciosus*), which also has great flavour. The plate would then be an explosion of orange!



Slippery Jacks (rear) and Saffron Milkcaps, common pine mushrooms. If you are not a confident and experienced mushroom gatherer or can't source these from shops, substitute any other rich mushroom like Swiss Browns or field mushrooms available from supermarkets.

Ingredients (entrée serve):

- 1 persimmon per person
- 2 mid-sized Slippery Jack mushrooms per person
- Butter
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- A couple of spoonfuls of white wine
- Salt and pepper
- Flat-leaf parsley

Method:

Brush the mushrooms clean. If they are a little past their prime, remove the skin of the cap, and the sponge but leave both intact if the mushrooms are at their peak. Trim the mushroom stalk and then slice the mushrooms quite thinly.

Slice the persimmons as thin as is practicable. It does not matter if the pulp collapses a little. Place the sliced persimmon in a layer across a dinner plate.

In a pan, melt the butter and a small amount of the olive oil, and sauté the mushrooms over moderate heat. Add the white wine to the pan. Season to taste and cook the mushrooms until soft and quite well cooked through, and the wine has evaporated.

When cooked, spoon the mushrooms on to the persimmon and garnish with the roughly chopped parsley.

Suggested wines for accompaniment available from local wineries are: 2008 Lake George Winery Pinot Gris, 2006 Lerida Estate Chardonnay, 2008 Nick O'Leary Rosé, 2006 Lark Hill Auslese Riesling.

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REWARDING DAISIES

Many areas in the local region are aglow with golden-yellow daisies at the moment. Some species have a more spectacular display than others, but all are easily grown and useful as garden plants.



ONE OF THE MORE noticeable species is *Xerochrysum viscosum* (Sticky Everlasting Daisy, above). It grows to about 60 cm in height, has bright green and rather sticky foliage, and carries its bright yellow flowers for a long pe-

riod through spring and into summer. The flowers are typical daisies in form – a central disc of yellow florets surrounded by golden-yellow (and occasionally orange-tan) petal-like ray florets which are stiff and papery in texture. This plant grows mostly in shallow, rocky soils and is tolerant of dry conditions and, in a good year, produces swathes of bright colour.

Another tough little daisy is the Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), also known as Yellow Buttons (see above right). There are several forms of this species growing locally, but all are suckering plants that can cover extensive areas, sometimes quite densely, with their bright clusters of button flowers. The flower-



ing stems are shortest in the grey-leaved form – other forms with soft green foliage tend to be taller, up to 30 cm in height. They seem to prefer level to slightly sloping areas of shallow, heavy soils often on rocky sites.

The closely related *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting) is a taller plant, growing to 60 cm, with silvery or green narrow leaves covering the stems and 20 or more small golden button flowers clustered

at the stem tips. Although this is not a suckering species, it often grows in fairly dense stands. It seems to prefer deeper soils or moister sites than the previous species.

Most of the Hoary Sunray Daisies (*Leucochrysum albicans*) in this area are white with a yellow central disc, but there are populations of a yellow form on the Bungendore-Tarago Road and also along the Kings Highway west of Braidwood. This grey-leaved little daisy is usually less than 30 cm tall, extremely hardy, and seeds heavily so that after a few years a small patch can spread to cover a considerable area.

The toughest yellow daisy that I've grown has to be the Yellow Burr-daisy. It is a neat little perennial with bright green stems and foliage. The narrow leaves are scattered sparsely along the stems, and more densely at the base of the plant where they are slightly larger and toothed. This one carries a good display of bright yellow globular flow-

ers which develop into spiny burrs. It grows in dry exposed areas – and will even come up in the almost non-existent spaces between pavers!

Xerochrysum viscosum, *Leucochrysum albicans* and *Calotis lappulacea* are all easily grown from seed scattered directly onto the garden. *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *C. semipapposum* are best grown from cuttings of short, non-flowering stems.

All of these daisies flower at the same time as the white-flowered form of *Leucochrysum albicans* as well as *Cassinia longifolia* and *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (both shrubby daisies with clusters of white flowers). Grown together, with possibly a touch of blue from plants such as Bluebells (*Wahlenbergia* spp.) or *Derwentia perfoliata*, they could make an attractive garden needing only minimal care.

LOT OF INTEREST IN RE-CREATING NATURAL WATERWAYS – by a workshop participant

AROUND 200 PEOPLE came to hear Peter Andrews speak about Natural Sequence Farming and track over Tony Coote's Mulloon Creek Natural Farms demonstration property in early November. The farm lies in the headwaters of the Shoalhaven River, in a floodplain pocket of the Mulloon Creek catchment. It suffers the common maladies of soil erosion and deep creek incision from decades of inappropriate farming.

The Southern Rivers CMA and Mr Coote successfully applied for funding under the National Landcare Program to demonstrate Peter Andrews' approach to restoring agricultural land. Work stated two years ago. Both sides of Mulloon Creek were fenced over 3.5 km. The team built a series of 13 complexes into or near the creek and planted thousands of grasses, reeds, shrubs and trees.

One aim is to reverse erosion by encouraging deposition within the creek and on the floodplain. The strategically-placed complexes, created mostly with rocks and revegetation, works to slow down and filter the water flow. The works also aim to

“Over time, the creek and floodplain will become reconnected, raising the water table on the floodplain to support pasture growth.”

restore the natural hydrology by raising the level of the creek. The intention is that over time, the creek and floodplain will become reconnected, raising the water table on the floodplain to support pasture growth.

Visitors were guided along the 13 built complexes in groups by Peter Andrews and members of Upper Shoalhaven Landcare, Southern Rivers Catchment Authority and Natural Sequence Farming. Over the two years, this section of the creek has



Above: Weir built with rocks. Other complexes were built using strategically placed rocks, logs, branches and soil.

been transformed into a chain of ponds with pools and structures slowing water flow during rain events and allow-



One of the chain of ponds created by slowing water flow and encouraging revegetation.

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LANDCARE AND FENCING

Fencing for landcare may sometimes have the unintended consequence of fencing wildlife out of traditional water sources or migration routes. The Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority CMA has numerous incentives programs which frequently subsidise fencing. Some like the Bush Incentives Program require wildlife-friendly fences. Other programs such as the Shoalhaven Illawarra Riparian Partnerships Program do not require specific types of fences but wildlife-friendly fences are encouraged. The website www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com offers ideas and case studies for more thoughtful fencing.

SO NATURAL: A&A WORM FARM WASTE SYSTEMS

THE WORM FARM Waste System is a non mechanical single chamber system which processes sewerage, waste water plus organic garbage using worm technology.

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The Worm Farm Waste System processes food waste including onions, dairy, meat, bones, weeds, flowers and all other organic material generated onsite.

This environmentally-sustainable solution translates into 90 percent less garbage, leaving the site for landfill disposal. Imagine the incredible impact this would have on our environment if 90 percent less garbage left every site for landfill.

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A & A Worm Farm Waste Systems design and install systems for food manufacturers, restaurants, schools, unit development sites, ski lodges, oil refineries for food waste from the staff canteens, animal waste etc. Anywhere organic waste is generated.

All organic waste is processed by the worms and may only leave the system in the format of worm castings. Combined with the processed waste water, the worm castings and some worm eggs contribute to the benefit this natural liquid fertilizer. A system of sub surface disposal will be installed within the surrounding gardens.

For more information contact:
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COMING NEXT YEAR to The 'Q'

Queanbeyan's The 'Q' performing arts centre introduced its 2009 theatre season with a sparkling comedic hour delivered by Queenie van de Zandt (alias Jan van de Stool, international musical therapist who will appear in June next year) and, behind the scenes, program manager and director Stephen Pike who, with his team, has pulled together an enticing line-up of theatre from across Australia.

Assuring the audience that she is famed for not belting her high notes ("that is violent") and with a nod to her offstage female group, *Mam-*

mary Memory, Queenie got Stephen to display his own much more impressive singing skills (with just a touch of belting) in a rendition of 'Anthem' from the musical *Chess*. Slated for July, it's described as an exploration of championship chess and Cold War politics with, of course, a romantic triangle and a bunch of terrific tunes and is directed by Stephen as a local production.

It's just one of 15 offerings from mostly touring theatre companies 'high profile' and 'boutique' for the season that starts in February.

With a lively mix of drama, mystery, comedy, musical theatre and music performance there is something for every taste and that's how Stephen planned it.

We may be erring on the side of comedy, but here are a few samples.

In March *The Needle and the Damage Done* with English stand-up comic Fiona Scott Newman delivers what critics have called an "uproarious" exercise in bad taste exploring the worst musical recordings of the 20th century – giving new meaning to dodgy vinyl.

The wonderful Australian character actor John Wood makes a return appearance in May (from *The Club* last season) in an Australian classic *A Stretch of the Imagination* about Australian life and icons, growing old, memory, environment and living in the bush.

In late June *Baby Boomer Blues* comes from the Perth theatre company along with reviews calling this tale of middle-aged marriage "exceptionally funny".

The August production of *Thursday's Child*, for teenage to adult audiences, was nominated for the Children's Book Council of the Year Award. It is an ultimately hopeful exploration about destiny and a family's struggle on an isolated farm during the Great Depression. ("Obviously with a lot to say for today" deadpanned Queenie who wondered whether the parents of the main child characters, Tin and Harper Flute, had to have been hippies.)

Embers is an original production with special resonance for our region coming in September. Produced by the HotHouse Theatre Company from Albury Wodonga and the Sydney Theatre Company it was written by Campion Decent. (Must have had hippie parents too, quipped the host).

Campion was there to introduce this play about bushfire and how rural communities cope. It was conceived in 2003 following the devastating fires in Gippsland and also in the ACT. Many hours of interviewing and true stories have gone into the narrative. "We must not forget the extraordinary stories from our own backyard," he told the audience.

You'll find more descriptive information and all the 2009 season programs outlined on The 'Q' website www.theq.net.au.

Starting mid-January 2009, The 'Q' will also be offering pre-show dinners at the Performing Arts Centre from 6pm and in February the coffee shop will be open from 10am weekdays and on Saturday.

– Maria Taylor



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

EATING WELL AT CHRISTMAS = Less is more and bulk up on delicious fruits and veg

THE LEAD UP TO CHRISTMAS can be stressful; and it seems to start earlier each year with workplace Christmas parties often starting in November. It's easy to overindulge in not-so-healthy foods at this time, but eating well doesn't mean deprivation of all things celebratory. With a little planning and preparation it is possible to stay on track with your healthy eating plan and still enjoy the festivities.

So the challenge is: how to maintain healthy eating over the holiday season? – a time when we let our guard down and throw caution to the wind. Well, it's about enjoying the treat foods in moderation (YES, there is a place for treat foods in a healthy diet), and enjoying summer fruits and vegetables in abundance, and perhaps a tippie of your favourite beverage.

Remember, for good health it is important to eat two serves of fruit and five serves of vegetables each day. One serve of fruit equals 1 medium piece of fruit (apple) or 2 smaller fruits (apricots), and 1 serve of vegetables equals 1 cup raw (salad), or ½ cup cooked vegetables.

Practical tips for surviving holiday feasting

How does this translate into practical help to prevent the over-indulgence that many of us repent for on New Years Day? By following the following tips in the

lead up to Christmas and New Year, you'll be able to enjoy the festivities without falling off the healthy eating wagon.

- Look for healthier options in your restaurant meals when attending office celebrations, for example, choose the vegetable-based meals.
- Choose meals with vegetable-based sauces instead of rich creamy sauces.
- Choose side salads or steamed vegetables instead of herb and garlic breads or chips to accompany a meal.
- If you are eating with friends offer to bring an interesting salad or crudites of vegetable sticks and vegetable-based dips (tomato salsa).
- Choose small servings of lean meats and bulk up your meal with lashings of your favourite vegetables.
- Consider a vegetarian meal 1 or 2 days a week, lentils, beans & chick peas are inexpensive and a great source of protein and fibre (Australians often don't eat enough fibre each day). *Continued p16*



THE EIGHTH SHOW @ FyreGallery Braidwood

WOMAN: WORKS ON PAPER BY AND ABOUT WOMEN – woodblock and screen prints, etchings, drypoint and lithographs" opened at FyreGallery on Friday 14 November to an enthusiastic crowd of Braidwood folk and others in the know about fine art in regional Australia.

Once again this little boutique gallery in Braidwood has demonstrated why it is earning itself a national and international reputation for surprising everybody. Visitors to the show have commented that the quality, variety and sheer aesthetic pleasure of the 84 pieces of art on display are stunning.

In addition to works by Thea Proctor, some of the highlights are works by Elaine Haxton, Phyllis McLachlan, Sybil Craig and Isabel De B. Lockyer. Works on paper by William Dobell, Roul Dufy, Fred Williams and Adrian Feint also feature.

There is plenty to pique the interest of those who love works on paper and those who have yet to discover the pleasure of viewing affordable fine art.

WOMAN is presented in association with Josef Lebovic's Sydney gallery. The show runs until 22 December. Located at 84 Wallace St Braidwood, FyreGallery is open 11am to

4pm Thursday to Monday. Other times for viewing can be arranged by calling Cheryl Hannah on 4842 1142 or 0429 666 619.



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"Absolutely hilarious" – *The Age*
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attended the introductory day of the clinic described here. The contrast could not have been greater with the methodology used nearby on a stream of unfortunate young Arabs being readied for the show circuit along with their female owners (the horses came in calm and trusting and within two minutes were being aggressively confronted by the trainer and a chain to get the required (fearful), heads-up body language response. And this went on for 30 minutes with each horse. The most unedifying display I've witnessed in a long time. Trying hard not to watch and get upset in the next arena were the participants of the TTEAM clinic described here: learning a method so different, so calm, cooperative and fun as to seem from another planet. It is not just for horses but is said to work for dogs and other animals cooperating with humans. Check it out for yourself – Maria Taylor.

LISTENING, NOT JUST WHISPERING

by Brigitte Heyer

The goal is not to get the horse to do something, no matter what, but real communication

IMAGINE A COCKTAIL of 12 horses, including Warmbloods, Andalusians, Arabs, Appaloosa, Stockhorse, Arab-Welsh Cross and a barely handled Brumby mare, all with issues, plus owners. Add eight hands-on participants and ten observers. Top off with TTEAM (Tellington TTouch) instructors Robyn Hood and her daughter Mandy Pretty from Canada, Ro Jelbart, TTEAM practitioner from Sydney and Connected Riding instructor/participant, Trisha Wren from New Zealand.

Some had heard about TTEAM, some had no idea what to expect. Enthusiastic from day one, at the end of the clinic some participants had tears in their eyes (TTouch-ed!) and the changes in the horses were amazing during the five day course held at the Canberra Equestrian Centre in November.

What makes TTEAM so special as a method for humans working with horses (and other animals), beyond its unique

TTouches and Ground Exercises, is the attitude. The goal is working in harmony and trust, which creates lasting success.



American psychologist Moshe Feldenkrais found that a lesson can be learned and a pattern changed in one single session, provided the approach uses non-habitual movements and there is no pain or fear involved. Linda Tellington-Jones, who developed the TTEAM method, worked with him and learned this in the 1970s to augment her acclaimed career as a rider and teacher. (TEAM is an acronym for 'Tellington-Jones Equine Awareness Movement' and the added T acknowledges the importance of touch therapy, diagnostics and communication that is now integral to the method.)

Many horse people know no better than to use a degree of force or intimidation (watch an Arab in training for halter classes). They feel uncomfortable, but unsure how else to get results. You could see a sigh of relief going through our ranks that at last, intuition was right, and there is a better way!

Strive for balance, avoid resistance

We had a number of large-framed horses whose balance was so forward they found it hard to slow down. The various leading exercises helped them re-balance and rate themselves. We learned that to pull back results in resistance and that there are more effective ways to slow down a horse, which rely on body language and subtlety.

The Brumby was very tense and frightened, and had been hard to catch. She learned to negotiate a labyrinth with just a soft rope around the neck, following the signals of the wand. By the end of the clinic she came up to people, because people now

Jenny Andrews and Cyrus – touching exercises. Here's a tip: horses ears' can be gently massaged to guard against shock.

Holiday reading – the good, and the ugly!

MORE VIRTUAL TRAVEL

by Penny Poore



Swimming with Crocodiles

by Will Chaffey

ISBN: 978140538423
Pan Macmillan RRP
\$32.95

Will was only 18 when he took a great leap and flew from the USA to

Australia. The decision to make the trip was prompted by depression and disillusionment, when he failed to get accepted into various universities despite having a top-notch high school diploma. The amazing adventure that then unfolded was to prove both life-changing and life-threatening.

Upon his arrival in Australia, Will met Geoff Cunningham, who could best be described as an adventurer, traveler, and herpetologist (a researcher of reptiles and amphibians, yes I had to look it up!), and the two new friends embarked on a journey far into the Kimberley at the top end of Western Australia.

The narrative is well written, with a good balance between the true life drama and delivery, often humorous, of an abundance of information about encounters with the local wildlife and the breathtaking scenery and plant life. Will's descriptions make for fascinating armchair travel which you probably *don't* want to try yourself.

Will and Geoff walked from the headwaters of Prince Regent River to the falls of the King Cascade; this was a 40-day journey which had never been documented by any white man previously.

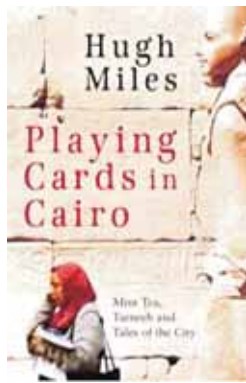
At the end of this trail they expected a regular boat to appear but because of a storm it didn't and they were faced with the realization that with basically no food other than what they could catch themselves, they would have to walk out. At that point their incredible struggle for survival began in earnest. A 70 km return walk to civiliza-

tion without maps, this struggle lasted a total of 60 days in the wilderness with the very real possibility that they wouldn't make it.

Parts of the book describe their dips taken with freshwater crocodiles. Both guys felt fairly safe in this activity with the knowledge that the diet of 'freshies' is mainly fish, smaller reptiles and birds, and generally not humans. However, their encounters with salt water crocodiles are more vivid and spine chilling and thoughts of lurking 'salties' hang over the trip – as they do in the fabled Kimberley.

At the point when they had to live off the land, intricate descriptions were made in Will's journal about food menus, and discussions arose between the friends over the possible merits of cannibalism.

Will managed to complete the journey intact with no limbs nibbled upon by animal or human. The journey brought a whole new perspective to his life and an incredible respect and appreciation for the natural world. You gain a real sense of the author's hopes and fears for the future, his sense of self-discovery and his feeling of a true place of self within a fragile natural world.



Playing Cards in Cairo

by Hugh Miles

ISBN:

9780349119793

Publisher: Hachette
Livre RRP \$35.00

This is a wonderful tale embracing life, love, fun and faith.

Hugh Miles is a somewhat jaded and cynical Englishman, a freelance journalist by trade, who arrives in the chaotic, polluted and noisy capital of Cairo.

There he meets Roda, a beautiful Egyptian doctor and promptly falls head over heels in love

“a lesson can be learned and a pattern changed in one single session, with non-habitual movements and provided there is no pain or fear involved”

The goal is not to get the horse to do something, no matter what, but to develop communication that allows us to at least try to understand why the horse does not do as we ask, and instead of bullying it, helping it to overcome the underlying issue at its own pace.

Ask – wait for the response. Give options and alternatives. Use variety. Relax. Breathe!



with her. She introduces him to her inner circle of middle-aged female friends and their traditional Egyptian pastime, a bridge-like game called Tarneeb (many Egyptians have a passion for card games – think of Omar Sharif and his success in the competitive world of standard contract bridge playing!)

Through these all-female players, Miles finds himself in a completely unique situation; he manages to gain an incredible insight into the lives of a group of young Muslim women at the very heart of this ancient city.

He provides detailed information about their lives, much of which he has gleaned whilst listening thoughtfully to their life-stories amidst the pressures of everyday living with traditional Islamic values. Their stoicism, humour and unflappable courtesy are greatly admired along with their fascinating culture.

Nadia copes with a baby and an abusive husband; Yosra has an addiction to prescription drugs; Reem comes to terms with plastic surgery gone wrong; while her sister attempts to conceal her secret love-marriage from her family.

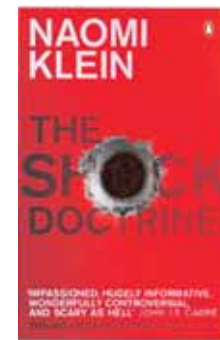
Hugh finds himself upon a very swift learning curve as a new arrival in the city: for example, it is extremely unwise to use a curse involving the word 'mother' within earshot of a Cairo cabbie!

There is a happy ending to the tale, Miles actually converts to Islam, and he and the lovely doctor marry. He celebrates with champagne: "I have changed my religion, not my culture."

SHOCK AND AWE:

the amazing story of how a free-market, anti-public sector ideology took over much of the world in 50 years

(The Bulletin asked two reviewers to take a look, without any political instructions!)



The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism

by Naomi Klein

ISBN: 9780141024530

Publisher: Penguin RRP
\$26.95

by Penny Poore

This is an incredibly thought-provoking book which has found great international success, a bestseller written by Canadian journalist, author and activist Naomi Klein. This is her third book following on from *No Logo* and *Fences and Windows* which also served to challenge facts and ideas surrounding the effect of certain countries' policies and ethics.

The central argument of the book proposes that the free market policies developed by Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman and the Chicago School of Economics were instituted in countries such as Russia under Yeltsin, Chile under Pinochet's rule, the Asian 'Tiger economies' in the late 1990s but also in the USA after Hurricane Katrina devastated areas of New Orleans. It looks at the relationship of government and regulation to industry, the consequences of which are now being felt as the 'financial meltdown'.

In a moment of high panic in late September, the US Treasury unilaterally pushed through a radical change in how bank mergers are taxed – a change long sought by the industry. Despite the fact that this move will deprive the government of as much as \$140 billion in tax revenue, lawmakers found out only after the fact. According to the Washington Post, more than a dozen tax attorneys agree that "Treasury had no authority to issue the [tax change] notice."

meant comfort, not because she was made uncomfortable until she faced them. She was thinking rather than reacting.

Two 'rushy' endurance Arabs had lots of tension throughout their bodies. Robyn taught us a variety of intriguing TTouches to

help re-program the nervous system and free the horses of the pain, with excellent success. I could go on for pages!

Riders and hands-on participants were given a balance exercise. We experienced how easily we lose our stability in the habi-

tual posture we all thought desirable, and how much more stable we can sit in the saddle when we adopt a slightly different position which allows us to engage our core muscles.

Finally, saddle fit – or 'saddle does not fit'! While this is a complex topic, it helps to at least realise that if the saddle we use causes the horse grief it hinders him from doing what we asked in a supple, relaxed frame.

“a commitment to fairness and ethics, not just in the treatment of animals, but as a way of life”

OK. You are the horse and someone is pulling on you, what do you do instinctively? (Instructor Robyn Hood, on right, is Linda Tellington-Jones' sister.)



Clinic participants comment:

“Two weeks after the completion of the TTEAM clinic I have started riding King, my 8-year-old Arabian endurance gelding. He has just had a ten week spell due to some soreness after his last 80 km ride. Normally after a spell, King is very snorty and spooky and VERY high headed for several days when I start working him. Yesterday, the first day of riding he was very, very relaxed, did not shy once and carried his head comfortably low. He walked and trotted very calmly. He was the same today. Not a shy in sight, even when a plastic bag blew across the road in front of him!”

– Colleen Clancy

“I walked Indy (Arab x Welsh) back to Illoura yesterday, and I wish those of you who only saw her as a quiet pony plodding around the arena could have seen her WALK! I won't say it was stress-free, but the times I asked her to wait and stop, she actually did listen, which is a step forward. We walked down Hindmarsh Drive and Streeton Drive, through underpasses, past dogs, past trolleys, along a back street footpath, she was patted by excited teenagers and still stayed focused. And no jogging...”

– Maxine McArthur

“Stryder (Australian Stockhorse) took 20 minutes to load for the trip home, and I am setting up some poles, boards etc for him to become familiar with and build up his confidence, so that next year he will walk straight on, and off one step at a time!”

– Amanda Reid

“I have also used the TTouch on my son who had damaged his shoulder while building and although at first he didn't believe such a light touch could help was amazed by the results. My 80-year-old mother also noticed the benefits when I did it on her back. I can't believe how far reaching this one course has been.”

– Margot Lustenberger

“Linda works with horses through cooperation, not confrontation. Every horse person should know Tellington TTouch!”

– Dr. Reiner Klimke, Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Dressage

Naomi also explores how this ideology was brought to bear on countries affected by disaster and war, specifically in Iraq, where the economy was privatised under the Coalition Provisional Authority. Despite the fact that under normal circumstances this implementation would probably not have been a popular and democratic choice, let alone actually accepted, it succeeded because the country and its people were in a state of turmoil following the war.

She also claims that these 'shocks' are in some cases, actually manufactured solely with the aim of pushing through exceptionally unpopular reforms, the Falklands war for the UK is cited as a prime example of such a diversionary crisis.

A sobering study in our current financial climate. If you want to read a real-life horror story then this is highly recommended!

by Jack Palmer
Moving capital from the public to the private sector

Naomi Klein is a journalist of world stature. In this deeply researched book she relentlessly exposes the ruthless methods of global capitalism and shows how an economic ideology (of unrestricted markets) can come to rule the world.

She opens with an investigative report into events in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. There, bewildered refugees were learning that a “disaster” was in fact an “opportunity”. Corporations were delighted that destruction of housing would enable them to seize valuable land for development. The dispossessed, reeling in shock, were too disorganised to resist.

These events are the paradigm of “grab and oppress” operations throughout the world that have gained momentum since the 1970s when, covertly supported by the US government, the notorious Pinochet hit Chile's democratically elected leader, Allende, with a coup.

The sequence of control was that the measures prescribed by Milton Friedman, of the Chicago School of Economics, enforced a rapid sale of the country's assets to private corporations. Such inequitable seizures can only be carried out when a population is in a state of shock.

A parallel from the medical world

As an ancestor of economic destabilisation, the now discredited medical treatment of electro-convulsive therapy, in vogue in the 1940s, was used to effect change in mental illness.

Continued p16

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Promote reasoning not instinctive reactions
(excerpted from the TTeam literature)

TTEAM seeks to understand animals on many levels: physical, mental, behavioural, and emotional. It offers ways to re-educate 'problem' animals, ways to start training young animals so they do not develop problems, and useful, methods of handling and interacting with all animals. The premise is that when an animal 'resists' it is because the animal is fearful, is in pain, or doesn't understand what is being asked. We assume that animals can think and reason: and they can't if they are afraid or confused. We use techniques that minimise fear, and therefore instinctive responses. We do not rely on desensitization, habituation, domination, or repetition. TTEAM methods enable the handler/teacher to teach a variety of skills without frustration, teach confidence in the human/animal bond, and create a willing partnership based on mutual respect.

More detailed information on the TTeam methods can be found in a series of published books, training videos and articles.

You'll find them on the website: www.ttouch.com.

Email: ttouch@cia.com.au, ttouch@shaw.ca



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Position No. 929
Queanbeyan**

Warrigal Care is looking for personnel to assist with a range of care services to clients in their own home. This will include cleaning, cooking and showering as well as other personal care duties.

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For further information:

Contact Beatrice Vann on 02 6297 3511

Applications to be forwarded to:

Employment Services, Warrigal Care,
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- ★ ORGANIC PRODUCTS & ANIMAL HERBS
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- ★ HORSE FLOAT HIRE

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IT'S FIRE SEASON: SO FIRE PERMITS ARE A LAST RESORT Here's why and how

by Doug Palmer

IT'S NOW THE FIRE SEASON and all the fire danger meters have neat little signs under them saying, 'No fires without a permit.' Apart from the 'no fires' bit, which should be fairly obvious, I'd like to talk about the 'permit' bit.

These signs aren't for the attention of the forces of nature. I can't imagine a lightning strike suddenly screeching to a halt and saying, "What? No fires? I never knew!" Instead, they're reminders to landowners who, perfectly legitimately, use fire to manage their land.

Why light a fire at all? The answer gets back to the 'fire triangle,' the three essential ingredients that make a fire: heat, oxygen and fuel. We can't do much about heat until our giant weather-control satellites take to the sky. Eliminating oxygen seems a little extreme; ending all life on Earth, except for certain archaic bacteria, looks a little like an over-reaction.

So that leaves us with fuel as something that we can control. In the non-fire season, reducing fuel levels by burning them helps protect property by reducing the amount of fuel that is likely to catch.

In the fire season, all this changes, since the likelihood of things getting out of control rises with the rising temperature and falling moisture. However, there are still times when

there really, honestly is something that needs to be burned.

That something, generally, needs to be either pretty compelling or pretty special. Deceased livestock comes to mind, since it needs to be cleaned up. Another example is a bonfire for a (very) special occasion.

Generally, stuff that you have left over from winter and didn't get around to getting rid of doesn't count. There would have to be a pretty compelling reason to burn it, rather than leave it until some time past the end of the fire season when it's safe to burn it. Something that is a direct threat to property might do it. But, even then, there needs to be some good reason why you can't simply cart the fuel away to somewhere else.

Permit process

By now, there should be just about nobody left in Palerang still nodding and saying, "OK, but how do I get a permit?" So I'll just have to create a figment of my imagination. That person needs to contact their local brigade

captain (or the senior deputy captain). Lake George Zone fire control will be able to supply you with their contact details; you can contact fire control on 6297 1840, during office hours, 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

Before issuing a permit to such a figment, the brigade captain will need to come and look at what they want to burn. This may not happen straight away, since these people are volunteers and will have to organise the visit around their own work commitments.

If the captain agrees that it just can't wait, he or she will issue a permit. The permit is time-limited, with a *maximum* of 21 days from issue. The permits come with conditions attached, one being that you can't light up if the fire danger is 'very high' or 'extreme'.

And then, take a deep breath. Anyone burning anything in the fire season is still expected to follow all the guidelines for hazard reduction (see box below).

I'd like to thank Chris Quinn, your friendly Lake George Zone fire mitigation officer for the information in this article. Any mistakes, distortions or channelling of instructions from subtle alien invaders are, of course, my own.

GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

See http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?CAT_ID=517 for hazard reduction guidelines.

At all times, you may have to have a hazard reduction certificate. This controls the environmental effects of burning and is different to a fire season permit. See http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?cat_id=1271

THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS... for CanTeen help



Golfing for a good cause: Christine Wallace, on left, with Debbie Rek.
Photo: Marcelle Martins

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the annual CanTeen Charity Weekend at Goolabri Country Resort. Goolabri raised over \$18,000 for young people living with cancer. A great time was had by all which consisted of a 9-hole Golf competition on Saturday, a 5-course auction dinner on Saturday Night and an 18-hole competition on Sunday. This was the event's 11th year and the weekend for CanTeen is expected to be bigger still next year. Prizes and auction items were donated by both local and Canberra-based businesses. Please see the website for a list of all who contributed or to find out how to get involved in the event for next year. www.goolabri.com.au

— Ben Luton,
General Manager Goolabri

DEAR EDITOR

Cont'd from p6

The problem that was exposed last week is likely to re-occur every time we get a storm like the one we got last week. I estimate that in the last 10 years we had storms of this magnitude at least once every 24 months.

After the linens have been submitted to Council, I guess Council's approval will indicate the start and duration of the defect liability period.

Once this period has expired, the responsibility for storm damage to the roads falls upon the Palerang ratepayers – a price which none of us wants to pay for commercial development.

I think Council should be stating, publicly, for the peace of mind of ratepayers and neighbours:

1. What remedial actions have been taken to rectify this problem.
2. How long is the defect liability period?
3. If the drainage work has been carried out in accordance with the specification that was approved by Council, is the Council liable for any damage that has taken place?

— Jean-Pierre Favre, 'Wattlespring',
Bywong NSW

STIRRING THE POT

Cont'd from p6

only one person will be elected. I would expect the ballot to occur in early 2009.

Importantly, there is no requirement for the new Councillor to come from the same locality or group as the retiring Councillor.

In electoral terms the nominations will be extremely interesting, with great potential for 'split' votes. For example if Wamboin stood five candidates, it is likely that no single candidate would get the bulk of the Wamboin votes first up. As such there is arguably some benefit in not standing too many competing candidates from one area.

Our current crop of Councillors are all fine folks, but as a group they do not demographically reflect our broader community. Here are the facts.

- Our remaining Councillors are 75% male. Yet Palerang's population is only 50.4% male (2006 Census, ABS).
- By age, 49% of Palerang residents are less than 40 years old. No current Councillors there.
- 35% are aged between 40 and 59 years. A few Councillors there.

HISTORIC HUT ALMOST BURNS PARK SERVICE SAYS – WATCH CAMPFIRES!



The NSW Parks Service and firefighters secured a narrow escape for historic Delaney's Hut in the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park last month after a carelessly-

abandoned campfire flared up only metres away, destroying two hectares of bushland.

The hut had only recently been rebuilt after burning down in 2003. Regional Man-

- 16% are 60 years or older. More Councillors there.
- None have their usual residence serviced by our water, sewer and waste collection.
- About 30% of Palerang residents live in our main villages: Braidwood, Bungendore or Captains Flat. Exactly none of the Councillors do.

“Wouldn't it be great to see a dynamic young woman from one of our villages elected?”

Hopefully an open-minded, progressive thinker who can learn the ropes very fast too! With our current Council closely balanced on many issues, it could be a 'balance of power' position as well.

Sadly, the current 5pm meeting starts, which run to deep in the night, would greatly challenge this exciting new Councillor. Meeting arrangements could effectively restrict nominations to retired people, those without caring responsibilities or, on the other hand, those whose work can release them to attend meetings.

Should we hope for a better Council already? Of course we should – it just takes the right person!

FIRE BRIGADE'S CHRISTMAS BASH

The Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade held its Family and Community Christmas Party at the Wamboin Fire Station on a beautiful Tuesday December 2 evening. Santa arrived right on time (circa 6.20pm) aboard the big red fire truck to the delight of the 120 or so children and adults. Attendees included Sutton and Queanbeyan Brigades, officials from the NSW RFS, Lake George FireZone, Wamboin Brigade members, and residents from the local and surrounding community.



I've got a red shirt too but what about that beard and funny hat... Photo: Cliff Spong

PALERANG COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received by Council from
3 November to 7 November 2008

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2008.0405	Shed, Patio & Rainwater Tank	3/11/2008	13 Eyre Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0406	Metal Garaport	3/11/2008	26 Osborne Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0407	Dwelling & Two Sheds	5/11/2008	43 Whisperer Place ROYALLA
DEV.2008.0408	New Rumpus Room & Verandahs	5/11/2008	1560 Captains Flat Road CARWOOLA
DEV.2008.0409	5 Lot Strata Subdivision & 4 Villas	6/11/2008	53 Duralla Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0410	4 Lot Strata Subdivision & 4 Villas	6/11/2008	27 Mecca Lane BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0411	Dwelling	6/11/2008	15 Westwood Circuit BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0412	Shed	7/11/2008	1230 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DEV.2008.0413	Shed	7/11/2008	Bendoura Street MAJORS CREEK
DEV.2008.0414	Pool	7/11/2008	47 Millpost Lane BUNGENDORE

The following applications have been received by Council from
10 November to 14 November 2008

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2008.0415	Alterations & Addition to Dwelling	10/11/2008	220 Mathews Lane BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0416	Dwelling	10/11/2008	28 Southfork Place ROYALLA
DEV.2008.0417	Single Storey Dwelling, Shed & Relocation of Building Envelope	11/11/2008	83 Millynn Road BYWONG
DEV.2008.0418	Pergola	11/11/2008	200 Bidges Road SUTTON
DEV.2008.0419	Erect a Single Storey Dwelling	12/11/2008	51 McCusker Drive BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0422	Relocatable Dwelling & Shed	13/11/2008	Lot 15 DP I088465 Rossi Road ROSSI
DEV.2008.0423	Tree Removal	14/11/2008	ELMSLEA CREEK CORRIDOR 29a Elmslea Drive BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0424	Tree Removal	14/11/2008	43 Forster Street BUNGENDORE

The following applications have been received by Council from
17 November to 21 November 2008

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2008.0425	Alterations & Additions	17/11/2008	593 Majors Creek Road JEMBAICUMBENE
DEV.2008.0426	Gazebo	18/11/2008	42 Warramunga Close WAMBOIN
DEV.2008.0427	Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling	18/11/2008	169 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DEV.2008.0428	Dwelling	20/11/2008	691 Hoskinstown Road BUNGENDORE

The following applications have been received by Council from
24 November to 28 November 2008

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2008.0429	Swimming Pool	24/11/2008	10 Ireland Place BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0430	Swimming Pool	24/11/2008	8 Ireland Place BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0431	Dwelling	24/11/2008	Lot 2 DP 1071842 Mooneys Road CURRAWANG
DEV.2008.0432	Relocatable Office	24/11/2008	391 Grove Road LAKE GEORGE
DEV.2008.0433	Alterations & Additions to Dwelling	25/11/2008	127 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0434	Pergola	25/11/2008	7 John Dwyer Crescent BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0435	Alterations & Additions to Existing Building	25/11/2008	Lot 116 DP 755918 Charleys Forest Road MONGARLOWE
DEV.2008.0436	Dwelling	27/11/2008	74 Webbs Road MONGARLOWE
DEV.2008.0437	Provide Entertainment at the Royal Hotel	27/11/2008	34 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0438	Dwelling	27/11/2008	96 Red Box Place ROYALLA
DEV.2008.0439	Extend Kitchen	28/11/2008	32 Clare Lane BUNGENDORE

The following applications have been received by Council from
1 December to 5 December 2008

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2008.0440	Remove Tree	1/12/2008	199 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2008.0441	Alterations and Addition to “The Criterion”	2/12/2008	56 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2008.0443	Continuing Use and Expansion On-farm Composting; Construction of 2 Sheds to Support Farm and OHS Operations	1/12/2008	867 Butmaroo Road MULLOON
DEV.2008.0444	Removal of Pine Trees	3/12/2008	45 Malbon Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2008.0445	Removal of 15 Radiata Pine Trees	3/12/2008	435 Macs Reef Road BYWONG
DEV.2008.0446	Remove Covered Sheep Yards	5/12/2008	Lot 980 DP1128302 Majors Creek Road MAJORS CREEK

PUBLIC NOTICE

WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR PALERANG VILLAGES

Water consumers connected to the Bungendore water supply scheme are reminded that Level 2 Water Restrictions are still in force.

Level 2 restrictions for Bungendore village means hand held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle, a bucket, a watering can or a dripper system may be used to water lawns and plants between 7am and 10am and between 7pm and 10pm on alternate days as per the ‘odds and evens’ system.

Fixed hoses are not permitted under Level 2 conditions.

Captains Flat and Braidwood schemes remain on Water Conservation measures. Sprinkler and other irrigation systems may be used to water lawns and plants only between 6pm and 9am on any day. Hand held hoses fitted with trigger nozzle, a bucket, or watering can may be used at any time.

Further information concerning the above can be obtained from Council’s website.

The water restrictions will be reviewed as necessary.

Peter Bascomb PO Box 348
General Manager Bungendore NSW 2621

PENNY’S BOOK REVIEW

Cont’d from p13

The patients were “cured” and left numb and ineffective. Horrifyingly, the methods were eagerly studied by the CIA, as has come to light at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. Prisoners are left dazed and powerless. Similarly for sovereign nations. Corporations, indoctrinated with Chicago School economics, pounce after shock events to install inequitable economic regimes. The Falklands war and the 2004 Tsunami are shown to have been just such opportunities.

Klein’s detailed investigation of world events is highly readable and is supported by extensive detail. It is a depressing revelation of the power of corporations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

However, it ends on a cautiously optimistic note. There is an increasing emergence of sovereign rights from grass roots in hard hit countries. Latin Americans are regaining individuality and gradual economic self-determination. (As a personal aside, Australia began to wake up in 2007, and the US, dramatically, in 2008).

...And in Australia

The Canberra Times editorialised on the occasion of Milton Friedman’s death in 2006: “Friedman’s ideas also came to have considerable influence in Australian politics. His visit in 1975, straight from Chile, was at the invitation of a Sydney stockbroking firm...

That the Labor government of Bob Hawke and Paul Keating continued to embrace Friedmanite-inspired policies as ardently as any conservative government shows how mainstream and widely accepted Friedman’s ideas were by the mid-1980s. John Howard’s reforms, right down to his push to wean Australians off their dependency on the age pension (plus Work Choices which was being ramped up in 2006 – Ed), continue to reflect the economist’s thinking.

CANCER COUNCIL HELPLINE

LONELINESS, STRESS AND FEAR of it being the last Christmas before dying have been named as the biggest concerns facing thousands of southern region residents affected by cancer over the festive period.

About 80 percent of more than 3,000 calls to Cancer Council NSW’s Helpline (13 11 20) over an average festive season are from people worried about how cancer will affect them and their families. The helpline will remain open during the up-coming period.

PALERANG COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF DRAFT ADVERTISING AND NOTIFYING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

At its extraordinary meeting of 17 November 2008 Council approved the draft *Palerang Advertising & Notifying Development Applications Development Control Plan* with some minor amendments concerning its relationship to other plans and to clarify that notification of adjoining landholders includes properties within 5 metres of the boundaries of the development site.

The draft DCP provides consistency in notification and advertising across all of Palerang and enables public consultation and submissions at appropriate times. The draft DCP will apply to all land within the Palerang Local Government Area.

The draft DCP amends *Yarrowlumla Council Development Control Plan 2(v) Village Zone, Yarrowlumla Council Development Control Plan Rural and Rural Residential Zones*, and *Yarrowlumla Council Development Control Plan 7(e) Environmental Protection Zone* by deleting the notification policy in Appendix 1 of each plan.

The DCP comes into effect immediately.

Peter Bascomb Council Chambers
General Manager 10 Majara Street, Bungendore
PO Box 348
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

Across the radar screen...

Queensland Jackaroo and ‘The Man’

A Queensland jackaroo is overseeing his herd in remote territory when suddenly a brand-new BMW advances out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a designer suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the cowboy, ‘If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?’

The jackaroo looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, ‘Sure, why not?’

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel Spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the cowboy and says, ‘You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves.’

‘That’s right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves,’ says the Cowboy.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the cowboy says to the young man, ‘Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?’

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, ‘Okay, why not?’

‘You work for the Australian Government’, says the Jackaroo.

‘Wow! That’s correct,’ says the yuppie, ‘but how did you guess that?’

‘No guessing required.’ answered the jackaroo. ‘You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used all kinds of expensive equipment that clearly somebody else paid for. You tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don’t know a thing about cows ... this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog.’

WHAT'S ON: December

Wednesday 10

Bungendore Late Night Shopping

Various shops throughout Bungendore, 4–9pm. Get all your last minute Christmas shopping done locally during this one off extension of shopping hours. Santa will be in town from 6.30–8pm!

The Premier's Christmas Gala Concert

Sydney Entertainment Centre, 10.30am and 2.30pm. This year's theme is "Are we there yet" and performers include Helen Dallimore, David Harris, Melinda Schneider plus many more. More than 30,000 seniors are expected to attend the two concerts. Tickets are free for anyone over 60 in NSW (limited to four per person) and are available from www.ticketmaster.com.au, at Ticketmaster outlets or by phone 1300 855 501.

12–24 December

red.blue – an exhibition of works by Catherine Moore

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Cnr Bourke St & Church St. Exhibition will be opened by Robin Wallace-Crabbe, Saturday 13 December from 2pm. Gallery opening hours Tuesday–Friday 10am–5pm, Saturday 1–4pm.

Saturday 13

Captains Flat Carols by Candle-light

The Wilkins Memorial Park, Captains Flat, 7pm start. The event will be held in the hall if it rains on the day.

Jerrabomberra Christmas Carols

The David Madew Ovals, Bayside Cir and Coral Drive, Jerrabomberra, 4.30pm.

Performances include Tony Hayley and the Connexion Big Band, Frank Sinatra Impersonator, choirs and much more. Santa will arrive via the SnowyHydro Southcare Helicopter with goodies to give away. There will be free Carnival Rides, free raffle prizes etc and drinks and snacks can be bought onsite. Entry is by gold coin donation.

Sunday 14

Hoskinstown Christmas Carols

Sts Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Rossi Road, Hoskinstown, 6pm. Supper to be held afterwards in the Community Hall. All are welcome.

Wednesday 17

Bungendore Primary School Music, Dance and Drama Night

The night will feature competitors from the talent competition plus dance groups, ensembles, music string groups and the school band will perform throughout the evening.

Saturday 20

Bungendore Music and Poetry

Heritage on the Square, 2–4pm. There will be a Christmas theme this month! The stage will be open to a variety of performers and anyone who wants to have a go. Food and drinks will also be available. For more details call Lorraine on 6238 1903 or 0404 188 524.

Braidwood Market

Ryrie Park, Braidwood, 8am start. Local plants, natural products, crafts and cooking.

Sunday 21

St Philip's and St Mary's Joint Community Carols

St Mary's Church, 7–9pm.

Wednesday 24

Vigil Mass

St Joseph's Church, Cnr of Harp and Morning Sts, Gundaroo, 8pm.

Family Service

St Philip's Church, Gibraltar St, Bungendore, 6pm. Carols and Communion will also be held at 11pm.

Carols and Communion

St Thomas's Church, Captains Flat Rd, Carwoola, 8pm.

Thursday 25

Carols and Communion

St Philip's Church, Gibraltar St, Bungendore. Two services will be held, one at 8am and one at 9.30am.

PLAN AHEAD: January

12–24 January

red.blue – an exhibition of works by Catherine Moore

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Cnr Bourke St and Church St. Gallery opening hours Tuesday–Friday 10am–5pm, Saturday 1–4pm.

Wednesday 14 – Sunday 18

Menopause The Musical

Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, Crawford St. Enjoy this smash hit at The Q in Queanbeyan. Bookings on 6298 0290.

Saturday 17

Wamboin Market

Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–12pm. Locally grown produce including fresh vegetables, eggs, seeds and selected plants.

Sunday 18

Bungendore Market

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, 9am–3pm. A variety of stalls with arts and crafts, local produce as well as trash and treasure.

Sunday 25

Bungendore Show

Bungendore Showground, Matthews Lane. Cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, donkeys, mules and horses events will return this year. The pavilion will house a diverse range of exhibits, from flowers

to photography, handicrafts and needlework, preserves, home brews and vegetable and farm produce. For more info see www.bungendoreshow.com.au

Friday 30 – Sunday 1

Bungendore Country Muster

Bungendore Showground, Matthews Lane. Come see the only 'all Australian' country music festival in Australia! The festival really begins on Saturday at 2pm with the Stan Coster Memorial Australian Bush Ballad Award being held at 8pm. Sunday is non-stop music from 10am–6pm. The event also flows into the town with busking in the street on Saturday, a bush poet's breakfast and entertainment at various venues in the village leading up to the weekend at the showground. For more info see www.bungendorecountrymuster.com.au

WHAT'S ON IN BRAIDWOOD AND DISTRICT IN DECEMBER

Friday 12

Apex Christmas in the Park

Ryrie Park, Braidwood. Spend the evening with friends and family in charming Ryrie Park.

Saturday 13

Braidwood Film Club Screening

The Historic National Theatre, Wallace St Braidwood, 8pm. This month the movie is the popular 2006 film *Kenny* directed by Clayton Jacobson. Note: The January 10 screening will be *The Seven Year Itch*. The Braidwood Film Club welcomes new members.

Saturday 20

Gundillion Hall Christmas Party

1.30pm start.

Runs until Monday 22

Woman, Works on Paper by and about Women

FyreGallery, 84 Wallace St, Braidwood. Open Thursdays to Mondays this is an exhibition of woodblocks and screenprints, etchings, drypoint and lithographs.

Runs until Thursday 25

Paintings by Hugh Walker

Len Mutton & Co, Wallace St, Braidwood.

Send 'What's On' info and community notices to...
Chrissy@palerangbulletin.com.au

EATING WELL AT CHRISTMAS

Cont'd from p11

- Choose fruit-based desserts at restaurants, or take a fantastic fruit salad or summer pudding to enjoy with friends when sharing lunch or dinner.
- Include small amounts of your favourite treat foods on special occasions. The trick here is to allot yourself a small portion, put the rest back in it's storage container, and savour each morsel.
- Drink plenty of water, especially in between alcoholic drinks (alcohol is dehydrating), aim for at least 1.5–2 L per day, particularly in hot weather.
- Take time to go for a daily walk with a friend, aim for at least 30 minutes each day.
- Take time to reflect on the year that was, and look forward to the new opportunities the coming year might bring.

If you fall off the wagon get back on the next day, commit to your health. Get up, get moving, get involved, get informed, get healthier! Have a great festive season, and may you spend it with family and friends!

– Tracy Harb, APD, A Healthy Plate, Nutrition and Dietetics

Contributions to The Bulletin in 2009

We hope you have enjoyed the first year of the *Palerang and District Bulletin*. As we find our feet as a feature magazine for the region, we will welcome more contributors for 2009. If you have knowledge and would like to write an occasional or regular column that suits our direction or covers some of the areas we currently do not (or not enough), such as sports across Palerang and region, the visual arts, antiques, education and health, or contribute to Council watch, please contact us to discuss.

With very best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

– Maria Taylor



TAWNY OWL FAMILY RESCUED

A *WILDCARE* STORY to brighten your day. Recently a property owner came across an adult tawny frogmouth at the base of a tree with an injured wing. She realised the bird needed expert help and she contacted *Wildcare*. However, the property owner also noticed the adult tawny had two young chicks nearby, so they came along with mum too.

As Lyn, one of *Wildcare*'s expert carers said "Once in care the injured bird was taken to a vet surgery for examination, which revealed an injury to the outer edge of the wing and a more serious one underneath. Fortunately there were no breaks. The wound was cleaned and antibiotic cream prescribed to be applied twice daily for two weeks.

"The injured tawny is to be held until her wing has healed and then she can be returned to her home territory. Interestingly, for the first five days in the aviary the injured tawny spent her days not far off the ground on a branch she could get to by hopping on a log. But after two weeks she has worked her way up to higher branches and is able to fly.

"As for the two young ones, they have been joined by another orphaned tawny that was found alone elsewhere. This orphan immediately became accepted by the other three and they are all getting along together. Over the last three weeks the youngsters have visibly grown and have appetites to put teenagers to shame. These birds will be released back into the wild as a group and there is no reason why they won't have a great life with no ill effects from their brush with humankind." For any wildlife help and advice, telephone *Wildcare*'s helpline 6299 1966.

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