The Palerang and District

# Bulletin

DECEMBER 2009

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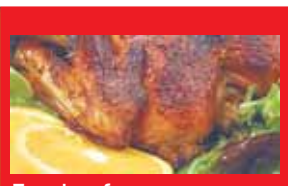

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***For that moment, he and the horse are back together, linked in mutual trust and confidence of each other's abilities.***

*Photo: Heike Hahner*

**NEALE LAVIS:**

# a passionate life

*by Heike Hahner*

EVERY NEW GENERATION accepts the inventions of the previous generations as having been around forever. We tend to forget, for example, that the car replaced the horse barely a hundred years ago. Up until that time the horse played a crucial role in human society in many areas, such as transportation, warfare and agriculture.

Many people today still feel that connection with the horse. Sadly though, in many cases the horse has become a symbol of wealth and status, a means of self-expression and it is loved for what it represents rather then what it is. Meeting Neale Lavis is meeting someone who has that direct connection to a time that pre-dates cars, computers and television and he is inextricably linked with the horse.

Neale was born in 1930 near Tweed Heads where his dad, Roland Lavis, owned a banana farm. In 1939, Roland, who had spent four years in England during the First World War, took the family to Eurobodalla to protect them from the effects of the Second World War.

In 1942 the family started a dairy farm then changed four years later to vegetables and corn. Neal chuckles with delight at the memory of the family winning first prizes with their produce locally and overseas, and says: "we have always been competitive, I suppose".

Although that might be the case, Neale's competitiveness is rarely apparent. In fact while talking to him it becomes clear that he has made major changes in his life to provide for his family rather than to follow his dream, jumping and eventing.

*Continued p8*

# ROAD RAGE

EXCESS SPEED and inappropriate driving were the causes of at least seven of 20 reported crashes on Macs Reef Road in Palerang between the start of 2006 and the end of 2008, according to Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) statistics.

Of these, eight were injury crashes with nine people reported injured, and 12 were non-injury crashes.

2009 RTA statistics were not available, but Queanbeyan police records show there was one fatality accident on the road at the Easter long-weekend and a three-car accident in October during a hailstorm.

The statistics do not divulge how many of the reported crashes occurred at entrances to local properties or the number of animal/car collisions on this road which runs through rural residential Bywong. The road traverses an area with known kangaroo crossing points, many driveways and children catching buses. The occasional risk-taking pedestrian can also be spotted.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) attends local accidents. It did so in October after traffic was stopped for three cars that ploughed off the road on a notorious stretch of hill between Denley and Birriwa (long the subject of local residents' pleas for a lower speed limit than the 90 currently in force along the whole roadway) – *see 'It's your lifestyle choice', p4.*

The RFS subsequently noted publicly the 'speedway' mentality of some drivers on Macs Reef Road who apparently abused the firefighters attending that accident for daring to impede their progress.

All of this has seemingly not swayed Palerang's Traffic Committee, which includes a representative from the state RTA and from the police as well as Council engineering staff and a Councillor, currently Howard Crozier.

*Continued p4*

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## INVEST IN GREEN BUILDINGS?

# Superfund says it's a winner

*Anne O'Donnell is excited about the realisation of a long-held goal: establishing a green building investment trust. The Wamboin resident and outgoing CEO of Australian**ethical** investment and superannuation funds, says the ethical investment company has long wanted to go in this direction, but it took until now to find a suitable cornerstone property.*

IN OCTOBER Australian**ethical** launched its ethical property trust saying the fund will invest in energy efficient buildings with a minimum 5 Green Star rating (signifying Australian Excellence), as well as medical and allied health facilities and social infrastructure.

The trust then unveiled its first property at 64 Allara Street in Civic, a four-story office building with a 5 Green Star rating awarded by the Green Building Council Australia. Features of the building include: double glazed, tinted windows, chilled beam air-conditioning and rainwater used for flushing toilets.

Australian**ethical** headquarters in Bruce was the third building in Australia to be awarded a 6 Green Star rating. Australian**ethical** refurbished and refitted (with recycled material where possible) an existing building that now provides a model of its kind. It features exposed concrete interior as insulation and heat storage, double glazing, natural air flow and lighting and minimal 'indoor pollution'. Details of the building can be found at www.australianethical.com.au/our-sustainable-practices

Anne O'Donnell says green buildings are the way of the future and investing in them is a smart business decision but that the available choice is still not abundant.

The CEO of the Green Building Council Australia, Romilly Madew, said at the launch: "A range of independent studies has confirmed that green building practices improve an asset's value by securing tenants more quickly, commanding higher rents or prices, enjoying lower tenant turnover, costing less to operate and maintain, attracting grants, subsidies and other inducements, and improving business productivity for occupants, which affects churn, renewals, inducements and fitting out costs."

Anne is a former banker who joined Australian**ethical** in 2000. She has been part of the team that saw ethical equities (small companies) consistently outperform the market despite the general 'bull' run of the last decade. She oversaw the refurbishment of the Bruce building and said the experience showed that retrofitting can be cost effective. The company spent $1.7 million for a 1,000 square metre interior facelift and fit out, a similar figure that it would have spent had it done a conventional refurbishment.

Other benefits included a reduction of land use waste with re-use of building materials, a reduction in energy and water consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions. And Australian**ethical** says that staff turnover is less within a naturally lit and ventilated office environment with better indoor air quality (a concept that many office workers struggling with dodgy air conditioning and heating systems and fumes from petrochemical-based fittings can no doubt relate to).

"A lot of people come to see the Bruce building, including architects and students. Much of the refit incorporated a commonsense approach to air movement, thermal mass and recycling." There is nothing particularly "high tech" about the building.

Harking back to those early basic years in Downer, she said most of the staff thought they had 'died and gone to heaven' when they moved into the Bruce premises.

As for living in Wamboin, Anne and her husband have been in the area four years and 'just love it'. They built their Australian homestead-style house and say the grounds (does this sound familiar?) still require more work.

Anne is stepping down as CEO of Australian**ethical** this month after 9 years in the job. "For a number of years I have planned that my third career will be as a professional company director. I think now is the right time for a change and I am also hoping to make a bit more progress on the garden."

# Pioneering ethical investment

AUSTRALIAN**ETHICAL** was a pioneer of ethical investment in Australia as far back as 1986. During much of the 1990s the emerging company kept overhead costs at a minimum by working modestly out of the Canberra Business Centre in Downer ACT (a business incubator office building).

Today, the company manages ethical equities on behalf of 20,000 investors with $600 million in funds under management in investment and superannuation/pension trusts. Its products are award-winning. Recently it was awarded 2010 Money Magazine's "best-of-the-best award" for Best Green Super Fund.

Company literature explains the difference offered by ethical screening to avoid poor social and environmental practices:

"Society is increasingly requiring business to meet the full environmental cost of production. This leads to an increasing demand for sustainable goods and services, raising the profits of the firms that supply them.

"Conventional funds invest in industries such as uranium mining, old growth forest logging, armaments, tobacco and gambling. Avoiding these areas, Australian**ethical** actively seeks positive investments in emerging growth sectors such as renewable energy, efficient transport, recycling and health."

The company also takes labour standards, employee relations and good governance issues into account. Their returns over the past decade indicate that this overall strategy very often punches above the ASX benchmarks, particularly its innovative small caps. Having stayed largely out of the resources and financial sectors in investments, it also fared better than average in the recent global financial meltdown.

As outgoing CEO, Anne O'Donnell told the *Bulletin*: "the beauty of ethical investing was that we were not invested in a lot of things that took a big hit".

The global context is the United Nations principles for ethical investment which underpins companies now managing 'trillions' of dollars, she said.

She gives an example of the balancing act often required when independently analysing the ethical standards of a company in today's merged and globalised business world. Looking at companies manufacturing bicycles (of which there are not many listed) the analysts gave a favourable rating to one that also had a fishing gear division which could have had detrimental effects on the natural environment.

The final determination was influenced by the investee company's investment in developing environmentally-friendly fishing lines that would not endanger other marine life.


Peace on Earth and goodwill to all...

**To our readers, contributors and advertising partners**

The Bulletin thanks you for a wonderful year where we have gone from strength to strength with your input and participation. We hope to build on that in 2010: bigger, even better with more of you involved, and more regional focus!

Wishing You All the Very Best for the Festive Season and into the New Year

Maria, Sue and Lydia, along with
Marcele, Penny, Jo, Doug, Peter, Heike, Matt, Catherine, Joyce, Jacinta, Brigitte, Adam & the crew ...

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## ROAD RAGE

*Cont'd from p1*

*The trouble spot on the hill between Denley and Birriwa which is also a known wildlife crossing point. Are inappropriate speeds and lack of warning signs a recipe for accidents at this point?*

The Committee has been urged by various local residents to take a more active traffic-calming approach. However residents say their concerns and suggestions are being dismissed.

Instead the Traffic Committee looks at engineering solutions to accommodate the dramatically increasing traffic flow at the current speeds. And it passes the responsibility for safety and speed reduction if necessary back and forth between its constituent members. Council engineering staff say traffic safety alerts/signs are up to the RTA. RTA spokespeople say the road and its management is a Council responsibility and when pressed say that safety notices are a police matter.

The Committee's police representative voiced the opinion at a recent meeting with residents that trying to slow the traffic is useless because the bad speeders are all locals who ignore signs. The ratepayers' Councillor representative has been saying nothing (that anyone can recall).

Macs Reef Road, used heavily by Canberrans cutting through to the coast and now defence personnel driving from Gungahlin to the new headquarters on the King's Highway, is possibly the most challenging of the regional roads in the district asking for a balance of local residents' safety needs, road conditions and visibility, wildlife crossing points, (not least for prang avoidance) with the desire for maximum possible speed for through-traffic.

*— Maria Taylor*

– Your Say –

# Traffic risks: your lifestyle choice, says RTA representative

BYWONG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION members and local parents are furious at the way Council's Traffic Committee has treated a well-meaning grant for a bus shelter on Macs Reef Road in Bywong.

"What started out as a positive project for the safety of the area's children has turned into a complete debacle," said Community Association President Nora Stewart, of the top-down decision by the Traffic Committee to move the bus stop along with the shelter to a narrow side road that essentially creates a new traffic hazard for the children and for local drivers.

"Seven children on the primary school bus now have to cross Macs Reef Road twice a day" (*at the busy road junction with poor visibility shown in the photo*) instead of just once as before when the bus pulled into a turning lane, said Gum Flat Lane resident Bridget Agerbeek. "We are all quite angry and kicking ourselves that we got this started." She said the children had walked or ridden bikes previously and would probably continue to do so but that their risk has increased.

None of the affected children live on Birriwa Road where the bus-stop will now be located. Some of their parents met with the Traffic Committee on a weekday morning in early November (The Traffic Committee includes Council engineers, one Councillor (Crozier), the RTA, and the police). Also present was Ms Stewart representing the Community Association (which also counts Councillor Anne Goonan as a committee member), and one resident from Birriwa Road.

According to Ms Stewart and Ms Agerbeek, parents' concerns and suggestions were dismissed and the RTA representative, who hails from Goulburn, suggested that children crossing a busy regional road without any traffic calming help from the authorities was a 'lifestyle choice'.

The women said they had the impression that the community consultation was treated as window dressing to a set decision.

### Report to Council incomplete

That impression gained currency when residents discovered that the subsequent staff report to Council for its December meeting did not accurately reflect the neighborhood response. The report ignored critical letters from Birriwa Road residents and implied that everyone ended up supporting the Council's plan, which Mrs Agerbeek strongly rejected.

Ms Stewart said all suggestions for improving safety on Macs Reef Road were dismissed as unfeasible, including reduced speed at certain sections and more frequent policing.

*Continued p7*

# Water limits future Bungendore rezonings

*by*
*Matt Gardiner*

OUR COUNCIL HAS TURNED a new leaf and decided the best way to secure further development in Palerang is to rewrite our Local Environment Plan. This should provide a contemporary framework for subdivision and development in our Shire.

It's fair to assume that development and growth are similar things, and will take two forms: more rural residential blocks created, and more blocks in our villages. I'll leave the big discussion on whether all development is necessary and good (it's not), and just focus here on the often misunderstood issue of Bungendore's water supply.

Does Bungendore have enough water now? The fact is that our current reticulated water supply comes entirely from aquifers below us. The current entitlement or licence is for 322ML per annum and we're typically drawing between 250 and 280ML.

### Current development blueprint takes *all* the water — that's in the village

That's pretty responsible (good) usage given the ongoing drought, frugal use, and a steadily growing number of users. The problem, however, is that the whole entitlement is already allocated with the permissible village development.

Since 2007 moves have been afoot to seek NSW Government approval for an overall licence of 472ML. Even if they approve that amount, we still need to actually find the water, clean it, and then pay for it. And the experts say we are currently at or near the sustainable limit of the aquifer.

Palerang Council's Land Use Strategy and Structure Plan for Bungendore (April 2009, by P&A Walsh Consulting) shows there is already a fair quantity of land available for subdivision and building within the village. It's worth understanding the current zoning rules mean a vast majority of village blocks can be divided down to 450m$^2$.

Yes, that's tiny and probably the opposite of what most residents expect. The Land Use and Structure Plan says there were about 2,400 residents in 2008, and it would probably grow to around 4,100.

Some local measures are already in place to minimise and reduce household water usage, and have proven effective. For example: garden watering restrictions, the home water use tune-up, rainwater tank rebate and a rebate for new front loading washing machines.

If we made greater use of rainwater from our roofs, we might further reduce our dependence on the village supply. But if the drought continues that roof supply is less reliable, and in practice the village supply will be used to assist the rural people as they run dry.

### November rainfall far short of 'average'

November's rainfall of 17mm has again failed to even come close to the November average of 64.6mm. Irrespective of whether there's man-made climate change or not (and I think there probably is), we need to plan for dry periods like this one.

Our groundwater is a finite resource. I can't help but feel there is something tenuous about our current water infrastructure and the preponderance of unregulated bores tapping the aquifer.

In a nutshell there's probably enough water available to supply the village now and cater for some development as already zoned, but there is no entitlement to more water for future development. Even if we had an entitlement to more water, we'd also need to find and pay for the water.

Further growth in Bungendore is necessarily limited by the availability of water.

### Snapshot Palerang, high water costs, low supply

It would be no surprise to most ratepayers to hear that Palerang's typical residential water charge is amongst the highest in NSW, with the amount supplied being close to the lowest too.

The NSW Department of Water and Energy's Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report 2007–08 shows an average charge in Palerang (page 66) is $1,344 against an average of comparable supply utilities of $957, and the state median of $810. See **www.water.nsw.gov.au**.

— * * * —

*Matt also reports: we just got a front loading washing machine. It's water efficient so we'll get a $200 rebate from Council and $150 from the State Government. It washes really well, but the downside is the full cycle for my work shirts takes 2 hours and 35 minutes!*

*Photo: Marcele Martins*

## Dear Editor

RUMOURS suggesting my tenure as a councillor in Palerang is about to end are wrong. I want to assure everyone in Palerang, with a borrowed and slightly changed phrase from Mark Twain, *that the rumours of my demise as a councillor are greatly exaggerated.*

It's suggested that I have resigned, or intend to, from Council to move to Sydney. It's claimed I have a job there. Wrong! I was voted back onto council for four years and will continue through that term actively looking after all Palerang residents' interests. I have also retired from employment and am enjoying that. The only job I have, or intend to have in future, is as a dedicated Palerang councillor until September 2012.

While reasons are personal, my wife and I have sold our Bungendore and Bywong properties in this Shire.

For the next two years and 10 months or so, I will be maintaining my strong presence in Palerang and continuing to play a positive role as a Councillor.

That's from the horse's mouth.

*– Cr Terry Bransdon, Bywong*

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Wild Waratah on Plumwood Mountain.

Photo: AS Green

LIFE ON THE MOUNTAIN:

# Plumwood's legacy

by Anne Edwards

THERE ARE PEOPLE we meet in life who have a potency and authenticity that is palpable; they can seem more than human. For me, Dr Val Plumwood, who died on 28 February 2008, was such a person.

Amongst many other things, she was a force to be reckoned with when it came to the protection of forests and I am in debt to her and many others who struggled for, and finally won, protection for our beautiful Monga National Park.

In the early 1970s Val moved to the Budawang escarpment and built a modest octagonal stone house with her then husband Richard Sylvan. Together they then wrote what has been dubbed the forest activists' bible: *The Fight For the Forest*.

Val was also a creative gardener. It has been, since her death, my role to care for her home and garden legacy. Sharing my musing about life on Plumwood Mountain is one way I can do this so here is the latest.

**In the waterlily folds members of the frog orchestra are bellowing in fine and full form and the nights here are a riot of sound**. The first goanna of the season has been sighted milling around near the Musgrave clearing and further down toward the gate a sooty owl was drinking from the creek.

Recent rain brought out many lyrebirds to practice their repertoire in the low-lying orchid-laden trees around the house and whilst tinkering in the garden I uncovered two baby snakes; one clearly a tiger and the other a soft yellow refuses identification.

Living here has brought me closer to snakes in more than one way and a little reading has taught me that in general Australia's venomous snakes give birth to live young and the non-venomous ones lay eggs; how endearing. Fear not that my fondness will bring me to harm; I pay great respectful distance and always announce my arrival.

Incredibly it has been seven seasons since I came to live in Val's home and garden. The first four seasons were a little wobbly with grief and rearranging my work life. I also questioned whether or not I had what it takes to care for Plumwood Mountain well and to properly address the thorny issues of fox, pig and cat control.

## Of magpies and Victor

It has been wonderful to learn that leeches are not waging a war of shock and terror on humans but rather simply harvesting a small meal (such a modest activity).

Because I suffer enormously from anything that bites me, (think large red welts and torturous itching), I am flabbergastered to find that hand sanitiser (alcohol based gel) effectively removes the itching sensation from leech and mosquito bites – itch free summer ahead!

The other day I was delighted to see a magpie balancing (moving toward dance) on the deadened staff head of the gymea lilly. The birds out here seem to be relaxing in my presence and Victor, the long term resident wombat, continues to bait me into games of friendship by cycling through rounds of approach and retreat.

He really has become a sturdy neighbor and stands as a reminder to me of how Val always chose to invite the more than human world into her life. This place of great charm and high drama keeps successfully inviting me to reduce my claims on the earth and realise that simple needs can lead to a high quality life.

*Bungendore Quilters Inc (BQI) support the ACT Organ and Tissue Donation Service as one of their annual projects and presented Holly the ACT Coordinator with nine beautiful 'Gift of Life' Quilts. These quilts are to brighten the area where the families wait and bring a more homely appeal to a hospital environment.*

*This year the BQI display attracted 660 visitors to view the 83 quilts made by the 37 members, a vast increase from previous years. The display of quilts held in the Bungendore hall compliments the attraction of 'Airing of the Quilts' conducted in Braidwood.*

*Visitors were encouraged to vote for their favourite exhibit and 'Viewers Choice' this year was very hotly contested with just a few votes between the first three – being Dianne Gibson, Sheryl-Ann Schaefer and Claire Ayling.*

*— Lydia Teo*

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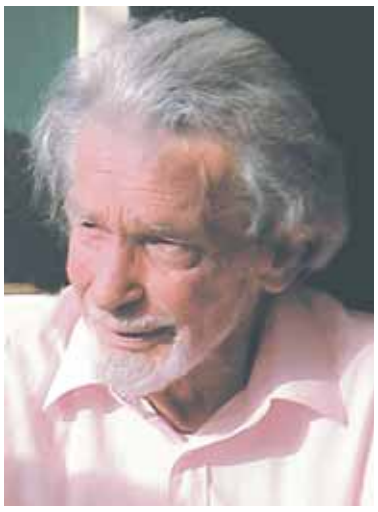
# So long Maurice, community spirit leaves lasting legacy

I FIRST MET Maurice Barnes many years ago with his architectural hat on – when he did the plans for our house extension (and excellent they were too). Later we kept up with doings in Bungendore and at Council through his 'little paper that could' the *Bungendore Bulletin*. As a community entity, Maurice's 'Bully' came out month after month for an impressive16 years (until September 2006) and formed the cornerstone of a journalistic enterprise we have now transformed into the *Palerang and District Bulletin*, back as a monthly.

Independent local journalism is mostly community service and that is a tradition which Maurice and his regular collaborators – including Brian Voce, Stan D'Argeavel, cartoonist Pat Lynch and Dougal Macdonald – firmly established to the benefit of the residents and ratepayers of what was then Yarrowlumla Shire and through the transition to Palerang. That global and national issues are also local is



an understanding Maurice pioneered in our area and a tradition that the *Palerang Bulletin* happily continues. The community will sorely miss Maurice's tilting at windmills (some of which have bowed to pressure), design excellence, great generosity and stimulating conversations, but his spirit stays with us.

*— Maria Taylor*
Palerang and District Bulletin
*Editor and Publisher*

## Taking on 'windmills' with power of pen

MAURICE BARNES, who founded the *Bungendore Bulletin* and published it for 197 issues, died on November 20 in his 80th year.

Maurice was also well known as an architect, a profession he continued to practice in parallel with his commitment to produce a monthly newspaper which was widely circulated.

'The Bully', as Maurice referred to it, was far removed from a parochial local newspaper. Although he ensured that local organisations, sporting clubs and other local enterprises were given their say, he also gave space to wider issues, national and international. His 'Bulletorials', particularly, were a forum for Maurice's comment on what he saw as important issues.

He initiated a new approach to local government coverage by inviting the mayor and councillors to submit their own columns on matters of local interest, and was largely responsible for renewing interest in council and shire activities, particularly development. Having worked with the National Capital Development Commission for many years, planning and development were subjects on which Maurice was well informed and vocal.

He bought land on the Lake Road and designed and built the family home 'La Mancha'. In latter years, he and Greta moved into Bungendore. Maurice's most recognised architectural commission locally was the Bungendore Wood Works Gallery of which he was justifiably proud, and which led to other commissions.

In the publication *Out of the Woodwork – The People and Place of Bungendore*, Maurice described his conversion to editor thus:

"What really stopped me in my tracks was my next venture (taken up in a slack building period in 1990), the monthly publishing of the *Bungendore Bulletin* which hasn't missed an issue since. Every time I begin to think I might give it up, people protest that it mustn't stop, and I can't find anyone insane enough to keep going on nothing a month. Nobody has turned up who's like me, with no commercial sense, so I suppose I'm stuck with the Bully until death do us part."

His wry prophecy was not borne out, however; he sold the publication in 2006 to Terry Bransdon, who later sold it on to the present publisher, who in turn changed the name to *The Palerang and District Bulletin*. Maurice continued until recently as a guest writer for this paper.

Maurice was farewelled by family and friends on November 25 at a memorial celebration, in the Octagon Space at the Bungendore Wood Works Gallery. (The octagon was Maurice's favoured architectural motif.) He is survived by his widow Greta and daughter Toni.

*— Brian Voce*

# History of Bungendore and shire a 'Bully' staple

*Writer Dougal Macdonald worked with Maurice from almost the beginning. Together they made a lasting contribution of local history assembled from numerous sources, many unpublished until they appeared in the* Bulletin.

**Dougal remembers:**

Maurice was a whiz at turning up Bungendore memorabilia for me to adapt for the Bully. The 1861 census, Bungendore Public School from 1868 to 1939, the wheeling and dealing leading to erection of the Bungendore Soldiers' Memorial, the wonderful reminiscences of Jane Daniel, all led to series that I enjoyed writing and nobody wrote to suggest to Maurice that he stop publishing them.

In 1998, Bungendore began preparing for the Weereewa Festival. Maurice asked me to help keep the festival before the community. That took me to the NSW State Archives, the National Library and other information repositories to locate material that became the foundation for the Weereewa story. Jill Fox and Heather Hubbard loaned the minute books of three Bungendore community institutions – the War Memorial Hall, Bungendore Community Aid and the Bungendore Rural Volunteer FireBrigade. Margaret Fletcher loaned her set of Greg Nye's resuscitated *Bungendore Mirror* which Maurice helped to produce in the 1970s and early 1980s. Other source material crossed my path.

Look for early issues of the *Bulletin* including the historical articles at Australian National Library, the State Library of NSW and the Queanbeyan Public Library.

# Community generosity and talent

**David MacLaren of the Wood Works Gallery and current President of the Bungendore Chamber of Commerce remembers:**

Maurice (also) initiated the *Bungendore Directory*; he edited the publication for a number of years on a volunteer basis as his contribution to the Bungendore Chamber of Commerce. It was the income earned from this contribution that allowed the Chamber to erect two sets of tourist signs within the Village.

As an architect Maurice designed the Wood Works building, the Bungendore School Library and Multi-function Centre as well as many commercial and domestic developments in and around Bungendore.

– What's the big idea? –

# Claims that Earth is cooling – what are the facts?

THE PHYSICS and chemistry behind greenhouse gas-induced climate change are not difficult concepts. Many economists 'get it', not to mention Queen Elizabeth II. Perhaps they have the good sense to listen to the conclusions of national science academies across the globe. British economist Sir Nicholas Stern told *ABC Nightline* recently:

"Its simple, basic science. You may not like it, but that doesn't mean it isn't so."

So what about this confusion on perceived climate cooling?

CSIRO atmospheric scientist Mike Raupach told the *Bulletin* that human-induced climate change is superimposed upon a naturally variable climate, and much of this variability is related to ocean and wind patterns like the El Nino and La Nina phenomena.

And yes, if a short time-frame is picked – like 2007–2008 – it might lead to the conclusion that the earth is cooling because 2008 happened to be on average cooler.

But this would be a false hope said Dr Raupach, who is part of a CSIRO team in Canberra working with the Global Carbon Project. There is an overall warming trend continuing from the last century and it is related to $CO_2$ levels from emissions linked to human activity. He said temperature and $CO_2$ levels have broadly been on parallel paths for the past 10,000 years during most of which $CO_2$ levels have stayed near 280 parts per million (ppm)

Not coincidentally, the 280 ppm stability allowed the emergence of agriculture and civilisation as we know it. (In the past 100 years $CO_2$ has climbed to 390ppm).

Ideas like those canvassed in the Federal government's Garnaut Report that industrial civilisation can push on to 500ppm $CO_2$ and somehow pull back safely, misunderstands this basic connection and has been discredited by the scientific evidence.

### Difference between trend and variability

Professor Barry Brook, Director of the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability at the University of Adelaide says: "Claims that global warming stopped in [... insert convenient year] underscore a fundamental lack of understanding about the difference between a trend and variability – or else a deliberate attempt to mislead people with the intent of further delaying action on climate change".

The trend for global warming is consistently upwards, but in any given month, or even season or year, the actual temperature will be variable.

### Extreme weather is now a trend but acts like variability

ANU earth scientist Andrew Glikson, who is studying the effects of atmospheric changes on the mass extinction of species has this to say:

"(Another trend is that) as the globe warms, extreme weather events ensue. For example, events resulting from the collision between warm tropical ocean and air currents and cold water and air masses associated with ice melting and southward migration of ice melt water.

*Continued p14*

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– Comment –

## This is not democracy, this is public relations

CONFUSED AGAIN by the claims of some politicians and a few geologists bagging climate change science? Just remember the politicians (of both major parties) have been lobbied hard by air-polluting industries which don't want change while they can extract and burn coal and oil, and don't want a social cost placed on that greenhouse gas pollution, ie a carbon price. (This is not the majority of the business community, by the way). Some politicians can't see beyond personal beliefs and values to be guided by the evidence, always dangerous in a public official.

Even worse, and this is a documented strategy, some fossil fuel companies and their political allies are on a public relations campaign to sow confusion and halt action and if they have a few scientists helping them, all the better. The political media worsens the confusion by playing up the drama rather than the scientific consensus. Unfortunately, bagging the science is a good distraction, and it works (judging by various dinner table conversations). The long-term losers are our children.

*— Maria Taylor*

## TRAFFIC RISKS

*Cont'd from p4*

"We were told that we would have to change to suit local traffic increases and that this was as a result of our choice of lifestyle."

"This is not the outcome we wanted for the (federally-funded) bus shelter for Bywong" said Councillor Goonan. "We selected Gum Flat Lane for the shelter based on the highest student concentration at this intersection.

"The pity is that given more time and consultation, another location could have been found on the main road – without having to direct buses, parents and children to a winding and narrow side road, which is considered a safer option only because of the low traffic flow."

*As a long-time resident of the neighbourhood in question, The* Bulletin *editor declares an interest and know-ledge of the roads in question and of the worrying traffic issues posed by Macs Reef Road as currently administered.*

# USE IT OR LOSE IT

IN CLOSING for the year, we at the *Bulletin* are as committed as ever to celebrating and promoting Palerang's many positive and creative features and talents. We like to act in partnership with our local businesses and as individuals support locally grown and produced wherever possible.

On that note, we urge our readers to consider supporting local businesses as much as possible because if we don't, and they are struggling, they may go away. The Bungendore Taxi is a case in point. Ned and Alison have lost a lot of government business due to cutbacks and are now doing it tough. They have been very generous to the community with sponsorships and we urge the community to now think of them during these holiday festivities. We would hate to lose this valuable service.

## From little things...

# community gardens start in Palerang

*by Judith Turley*

FROM LITTLE THINGS, big things grow, and, from its modest inception earlier this year, it's hoped that the Bungendore Landcare Community Garden will become a vibrant and treasured element of Bungendore society.

Community Gardens are springing up all over the country as one response to the triple challenges of climate change, social fragmentation and the highly industrialised system of agriculture which leaves many people disconnected from the natural world.

Bungendore Landcare Community Garden is a fine example of a partnership between Palerang Council and the Bungendore community facing an uncertain future. Council has provided a great site for the garden at the Council Pound in Turallo Terrace, and community volunteers have created a management structure, built a fence for the garden and produced a concept plan. Bungendore Rural Services kindly donated the materials for the new fence. Grant applications are being prepared to fund water connection, a tool shed and tools.

Our younger generation knows mainly industrial food production and centralised food distribution (supermarkets). It is hoped that families will recognise the garden as an open-air academy of the gentle art of food-growing, where children can learn in a hands-on way about where their sustenance actually comes from, and experience what Stephanie Alexander has called "the magic of growth" – that miracle which all gardeners experience and which not only gives us a unique insight into the natural cycles of our world but also helps us discover our place in that world.

For the residents who are horticultural novices, membership of BLCG will offer the chance to "learn by doing" from others with more developed skills. When nature's abundance leads to excessive productivity, there'll be opportunities to trade with other growers and to participate in local events such as the Rotary Harvest Festival planned for May 2010.

*If you would like to secure a bed at BLCG, contact Kerry Fraser at* ***kerry.fraser1@bigpond.com*** *or phone Judith Turley on 6238 1234.*

## And in Captains Flat…

# fresh food for the school canteen

IT HAS TAKEN some time but a piece of land has been identified as the site for the Captains Flat Community Garden. The site is located at the southern end of the school oval in the area surrounding the cricket nets and is available for immediate use. We have the school principal Peter Cox to thank for the use of this land and this garden project will be run as a joint school/community project.

It is envisaged that the garden will contain a number of school plots utilised to grow fresh food for the canteen as part of the schools kitchen garden project, private plots leased by members of the community to grow their own choice of fruits/veggies/flowers etc., and public plots that will provide fresh fruits/herbs to all members of the community.

The popularity of community gardens has been growing for some time now and in this current economic environment we can not discount the benefit of providing our families with cheap fresh fruit and vegetables that we grow ourselves. Furthermore, a community garden will help to bind the Captains Flat community and give its residents a sense of pride and involvement. Those interested in becoming involved in the community garden please contact Katrina on 0488 215 002.

*— Judy Cross*

***See Queanbeyan local food and garden projects, p20***

# BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

# WHERE IS RISKY AND WHERE IS NOT

THE LAKE GEORGE Zone Bushfire Management Committee has released a draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan which is on public exhibition at Palerang and Queanbeyan Council chambers until December 18 and asking for submissions.

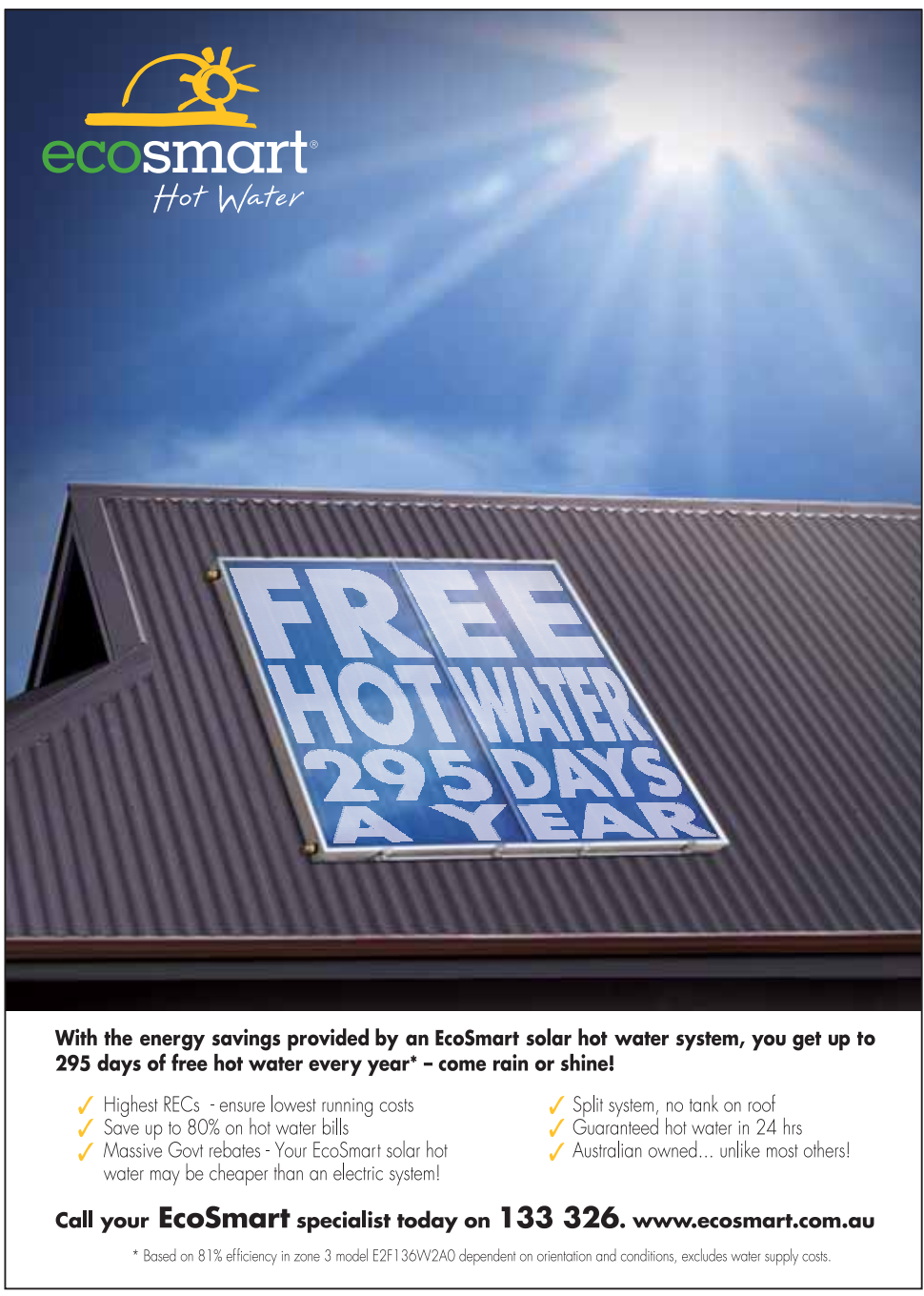
The plan suggests that Council planning should or will proceed in reference to a 'bush fire prone land' map. This means new applications for development in areas identified as 'bush fire prone' will need to include protection measure outlined in a 2006 NSW Rural Fire Service document, possibly already the status quo in a low key fashion.

New is the suggestion that the Local Environment Plan (LEP) deny new developments in 'extreme' bushfire risk areas, or where protective measures cannot be put in place. While certainly sensible, "extreme" is not defined there, and, along with other general statements in this document, might invite a 'please explain' response.

More defined is the so-called 'asset register' which rates different localities and assets, like gas storage facilities and telecommunication towers, for bushfire risk location.

For example, Wamboin-Bywong is rated low risk except for Cooper, Poppet and Bingley Roads in Wamboin which happen to be near extensive pine plantations as is Captains Flat. These are rated very high to medium risk. In Queanbeyan, Greenleigh, Ridgeway and Weetalaba (on steep slopes) are rated very high risk while Braidwood rural is medium. Worth a look.

***For more information see Council advertisement, p19***



# EXCELLENT CAPTAINS FLAT PRINCIPAL RECOGNISED

*by Pip Herr*

THE CAPTAINS FLAT Public School and its community have reason to be proud as NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Awards) honours School Principal Peter Cox with an ASG Inspirational Teaching Award for 2009.

Peter Cox was nominated for the award along with 1,200 other teachers nationally. He was then short listed to 569 finalist teachers, 95 of whom were from New South Wales. Peter Cox was informed on Monday that he had won one of 8 Awards given to teachers across the State.

"I, like most teachers, don't seek awards and recognition for the work I do as an educator. We teach, care for kids, empathise with students, celebrate their successes, and promote public education because we simply enjoy doing it. I am overwhelmed, surprised and grateful to receive this award," he said.

In 2006 Mr Cox became principal at Captains Flat Public School and since that time student numbers have risen 150 percent. The last three years have seen great improvements to the facilities, curriculum and activities available to the students of this two-teacher school. He has been instrumental in the introduction of new technologies into the school. Lessons with his students now often involve digital videos, online learning tools, and interactive classroom whiteboards.

Excursions are also a key learning tool "In the last three years our school excursions have demonstrated the value of learning outside the normal classroom setting. They've allowed students to explore personal interests and learning styles, interact with nature and experience things in a sensory, hands-on manner," said Mr Cox.

Enrolments are predicted to improve even further with the Out Of School Hours Care (OOSHC) facility expected to open on the school grounds at the beginning of next year.

Mr Cox will receive his Inspirational Teaching Award on Wednesday 16 December at the school's 2009 Presentation Night. School Education Director, Mr Paul Greer, will be there on the night to present the award.

BOOK REVIEW : BOOK REVIEW : BOOK REVIEW : BOOK REVIEW

# Between the pages with a book club

*by Sonja Chandler*

JUST FINISHED READING an amazing, outrageous or disappointing book? Who can you tell? Maybe a book club is the answer; or maybe you've heard of book clubs and wondered how they worked. That was me a couple of years ago. I thought a book club might be too intellectual or intimidating for a reader like me – but I was wrong!

In early 2008 I joined the thriving Bywong Book Club. Numbers coming to the meetings increased, the one book club turned into two book clubs – BBC1 and BBC2 – and I became part of BBC2.

Book clubs don't come in just one model; there are many options, and, there are options within the many options. Here's how our club works.

We meet on a set day each month and discuss a set book. That is, we meet each month except for December and January when varying family and travel commitments see us in recess. Besides reading and discussing the set book, each club member has two other tasks: picking a book, and hosting an evening to discuss that book. It's as simple as that.

Our members are on a roster and two months before it's my turn to be the host(ess), I nominate a book. This gives everyone time to find the book (in libraries or bookshops or on the bookshelves of people they know) and read it (in theory, anyway). Books are often passed round serially; left in mailboxes or exchanged while walking dogs along the greenway.

How to choose? Favourite genre, latest release of a darling author, winner of the year's Booker prize – the choice is as varied as the number of books.

How to discuss? Simple and free-form, structured around questions found online, or, more often, a combination of both – the dialogues are as diverse as the number of readers. In our group it is rare to find a book that evokes a universal response; what excites one reader is tedious to another, which often leads to an interesting debate as the evening progresses. Current events, history, geography and life experience all contribute to our stimulating discourse.

And then there are refreshments. At the end (or even the beginning) of any good conversation are food and drink. A cup of coffee or tea, glass of wine or champagne or refreshing drink of rainwater lubricates the vocal cords. The talk continues on to other books and films, to matters literary and not. Over supper, book club members become friends.

That's how the book club I'm in works. Other clubs may differ, but all will motivate their members to read, think and talk. So, if you've recently finished a good book and want to have a chat about it, you might consider a book club.

## NEALE LAVIS

*Cont'd from p1*

### On the way to the Olympics

Horses have always been part of his life. He remembers with great pleasure riding his horses through the bush after wayward cattle, the horse picking its way through the scrub with ease and speed.

It is not difficult to see from such stories why he excelled at three-day eventing. He has a deep trust and an endless delight in a horse's agility, speed and stamina.

His horses would have found him to be strong, determined and forever positive to the outcome of events, thus providing them with the leadership and the courage they need from the rider to take any hurdle and cover any distance.

In 1957 – after winning a three-day event at Sydney's Centennial Park – Neale was selected for the Olympic equestrian team to compete in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Franz Mairinger, an instructor from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, had prepared the first Australian Equestrian team for the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1956 and was also set to coach the equestrian team for the 1960 Olympics.

To this day Neale holds Franz Mairinger in high regard. Mairinger, described by some as a gentle man with a good sense of humour, had the admirable talent to combine the natural ability of the Australian riders with his impressive experience in classic European horsemanship. It proved a winning combination for the Australian equestrian team.

*After the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Neale moved his young family to Strathallan, a property near Braidwood*

Neale won the silver medal in the individual three-day event and gold in the team three-day event. After the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Neale moved his young family to Strathallan, a property near Braidwood, where they raised sheep and cattle. He continued to train for eventing, but in 1968 decided to focus on breeding race-horses, as he said, to provide for the family.

### Near 80 and riding young thoroughbreds

Over the years, Neale has had a number of excellent racehorse stallions at stud, such as Whiskey Road, Hegemony and Interstellar, and up to 150 brood mares to look after. Whiskey Road produced the world-renowned Strawberry Road and Just A Dash, who won the Melbourne Cup in 1981.

Now nearing 80, Neale has reduced his workload to training and, believe it or not, riding young thoroughbreds. His current favourite racehorse Rocky Cobra has won seven races for him.

When asked about training, Neale is very clear on what he feels is important in the handling, training and riding of horses. He says training horses is about solid preparation and not rushing horses, and riders, through the levels.

He is adamant that a lot of accidents in horse sports come from either not having prepared properly or by over-taxing the horse. Most important to him is to observe the horse, its behaviour and demeanour closely as the horse will tell you if it can cope or not with what we are asking it to do.

### About training…

He likes to see horses completing basic training by being able to walk, trot and canter in straight lines without rushing. He stresses that yearlings should receive an early education of only 20 to 30 minutes as their concentration wanes quickly. A solid foundation to good horse training he says is teaching and discipline. Discipline for Neale is to teach the horse self-discipline and for it to accept boundaries from early on. The horse will learn to cope with stressful situations without panicking, thereby preventing it from causing damage to itself and others.

When I prepare to go, I get one final look at his passion for jumping. The walls of the living room are adorned with images of horses and people on horseback.

As he points to a painting of him on a horse jumping over a wide obstacle he explains to me the details of the jump and I can see in his face and his body the memory of that moment when both of them sailed through the air together across the jump. For that moment, he and the horse are back together again, linked in mutual trust and confidence of each other's abilities. Neale has dedicated a lot of his life and his passion to his family, but at the core of him will always be the horse.

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*Design Sandy Morphett*

# **Research shows** (what we kinda suspected) **that plants clean up indoor air**

THE GREEN BUILDING Council Australia reports that new studies from the University of Technology Sydney show any plants can improve indoor air quality and the size of the pot or plant does not matter above 200mm.

"We have found that a plant in a 200mm pot is as effective as one in a 250mm or 300mm in removing Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and it seems that any plant will perform as well as others," reports Adjunct Professor Margaret Burchett from the University of Technology Sydney.

In urban areas people spend 90 percent of their time indoors. "This is important news – it means that any indoor room or office which is air-conditioned or closed for much of the time, can really benefit from having just one 200mm pot plant in the space – and amazingly it will clean the air of the VOCs within 24 hours."

VOCs are emitted by almost all objects and finishes indoors – from plastics in computers, televisions, from most paints and from most carpets – and in turn tiny bacteria found in the potting mix 'eat up' the compounds.

A major sponsor of the UTS research has been Ambius, one of the world's largest suppliers of indoor plants which claims that indoor plants have a positive effect on the people who occupy the same spaces – they contribute to employee productivity, reduce sick days and make a direct contribution to the bottom-line of a business.

The Green Building Council now awards two points towards green star ratings for indoor plant installations.

# HELPING THE VICTIMS OF SUMATRA'S EARTHQUAKE

Bungendore nurse Kay Brien is a member of disaster response organisation 'Rescuenet' which recently sent a team to help with earthquake disaster relief in Sumatra, Indonesia. Rescuenet is an interdenominational and international Christian disaster relief agency recognized by the United Nations. It specialises in treating the victims of natural and man-made disasters in the critical early days following these incidents. This is ***Kay's account*** of her time in Indonesia.

*Kay (left) in Indonesia with fellow worker Linda from the Netherlands and an interpreter.*

THE DAMAGE IN PADANG and neighbouring Pariman was devastating. Sixty Aussie bodies were still in the four-star hotel, children's bodies were still in the collapsed schools and 75 percent of the CBD was destroyed. Responding agencies already had that well covered.

The World Health Organisation pointed out a remote area to us located in the North West

– BUSINESS PROFILE –

# BANKS 'R' US IN COMMUNITY BANK STYLE

*The* Bulletin's *standard business profile Q and A format has been suspended this time for this interesting update on Palerang's community bank, and the community bank model, provided by* ***Mick Andrews****.*

THE BENDIGO AND ADELAIDE BANK developed a Community Bank® model so that communities (especially rural communities) were able to have banking services again at a time when major banks were retracting from the rural sector. The model also aimed to provide substantial benefits to local communities. Today, Community Bank® branches provide more than just quality banking services – they deliver employment opportunities for local people, keep local capital in the community, are a local investment option for shareholders and provide a source of revenue for important community projects determined by the local community.

A Community Bank® branch is operated by a locally-owned and -operated company which is a franchise of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and delivers banking services under the Bendigo Bank brand. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank provides the coverage of its banking licence, a full range of banking products, training of staff and ongoing support.

Depositors security is protected by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's imposing track record. We are one of Australia's oldest financial institutions, we have operated since 1858 and have declared a profit in every year and we have without fail honoured our depositors.

### Face of banking changed as community model comes to villages, suburbs

Since its inception in 1998, the Community Bank® model has changed the face of banking across Australia. What was initially seen as a solution for rural communities who had lost their banking service has grown into a national network of 243 branches, covering all States and Territories. In addition, Bendigo Community Banks as a whole has returned $11 million in dividends to 60,000 shareholders across the country.

Locally, after a very successful 21-month community campaign, supported by the directors and shareholders of then Braidwood & Districts Financial Services who were operating the Braidwood Community Bank at the time, Bungendore Community Bank opened on 1 July 2006 bringing banking services back to Bungendore after a 40 year hiatus.

**Above:** *Braidwood's Mark Roberts (cutting cake foreground) was awarded the Community Bank's outstanding volunteer achiever award for 2009 (out of 135 nominations received – clearly a lot of good volunteer work going on out there). Mark was nominated for his commitment to the 220 or more kids of Braidwood and local areas that play soccer each week for the 16 week season; for his commitment to the sport as a coach, referee and mentor and well as his humility and example of good sportsmanship. In the background is Anne Monkhouse a teacher from St Bede's Primary School who accepted a $5,000 cheque for 'soft fall' for their new playground.*

*2008 Community Bank grants reported at the AGM went to Braidwood preschool for a kitchen upgrade and playground equipment; assistance towards a bus for Braidwood Central school purchased with a suite of grants; assistance for playground and tennis court in Major's Creek; a grant towards a hall for the Bungendore Scouts; and monies for the Braidwood Community Health Centre aged care facility and a new heater for Wamboin community hall.*

The Bungendore Branch has grown steadily over the past three years providing support back to the local community by way of grants to local sporting teams, the School P&C, Pony Club and the Scout Group to mention a few.

### Latest model: mobile branch manager plus ongoing community grants

With 96 percent of Bungendore commuting to Canberra every day, the strategy for the Bungendore Community Bank needed review. In October, Bungendore welcomed John Blue as the Branch Manager with a vision of coming to you; where ever you are. John will meet clients for mortgage and loan discussions at your work; at your home or at the Branch on Saturday mornings.

As the Bungendore Branch grows, so will the dollar amount of investment into the Bungendore Community. The Community Bank® model returns a proportion of the profits to the community through sponsorships and grants. In Bungendore there are a number of major community infrastructure projects on the horizon that will require the Community Bank's support over the coming years; these include the canteen at Mick Sherd oval; the scout hall on Turallo Terrace and a workshop for the Lake George Men Shed to name a few.

### Financial results

Palerang Financial Services grew by 16 percent with 700 new accounts this year, considered an outstanding result.

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the company (Palerang Financial Services Ltd) the success of the branches at Braidwood and Bungendore were highlighted. The chairman of the board, Mr Noel Wiseby advised that "While company profits met the forecast budget throughout the period of the Global Financial Crisis, overall the company made a profit and grew in the financial year, allowing for a four cent fully franked dividend payment for Shareholders.

"With our growth to date and our plans for the future we have provided over $76,000 back to the Palerang Community last financial year and we have budgeted to provide $120,000 in community funding for this financial year with a 50/50 Braidwood/Bungendore split," advised Mr Wiseby.

Company CEO Craig Petti outlined the financials of the year noting the $1.15 million in income. "The Global Financial Crisis affected us" he said, "margins were slashed, but the good news is we came out of it very well."

Mr Pettit said the bank very recently "passed a milestone of $150 million invested between the two branches. We're the biggest in the region and in the top half dozen in the state".

### Take-home message

It is important for our community that your local bank continues to receive your custom so that we are able to return profits to community initiatives. In addition, it is a great time to buy shares in the company that provides benefits into and within our local community. More information on buying or selling shares in your local company is available at your local Community Bank® branch.


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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.

**Address:** 27 Malbon Street, Bungendore
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of Sumatra where the epicentre was, which to their knowledge had not been reached as yet.

We approached the UN with our plan to visit this area and they counter-offered us six 4x4 utilities and drivers, so that we could begin proceedings straight away, and radio in our coordinates to the US Marines as we went. We began our preparations – obtaining all the food, medical equipment, etc we needed for the journey.

### Roads no longer met bridges… rubble everywhere

We visited many towns, Lubuk Basung then Kotoaur Malintang – thoroughly checking each town and speaking with any local officials. The people were afraid of being in buildings of any type and were living outside and even at times on the main roads.

Roads no longer met the bridges and we found a 30cm gap at either end. Villages and roads were destroyed completely. Everywhere we travelled there was rubble. Large multi-story shopping centres were levelled.

I did medical work everywhere we stopped and once the worst patients were attended to the rest of the folk wanted attention because there was no medical help. I was very busy.

In the Malalak district we found mass destruction. This area was devastated by earthquakes and landslides. The mountain road had been destroyed and was being re-opened as we travelled. Sixty+ people had been buried alive. A family was found huddled together clutching one another, buried.

We increasingly found reports of the locals being traumatised, so I went with the team leader and interpreter 'Jemmy' to just listen.

### Home of the tiger and an abundance of snakes

On our way down the mountain into this area, there was a landslide 20 metres in front of us as we travelled. This was an area where the Sumatran tigers were and there was an abundance of cobra snakes. Nevertheless, the people lived in the open with tarps thrown over poles for covering. There were no buildings left standing.

It was a shocking experience and our living conditions at the time were no easier than the locals. There is a huge task ahead for Indonesia to rebuild what has been lost.

## Women of Courage

KAY BRIEN is featured in a new book called *Australian Women of Courage*. Author Robyn Hipkiss says "This book tells the stories of a further five Australian women who have courageously pushed through personal barriers to conquer new horizons. The women in this book – Hildegarde Palafox Mendoza, Kay Brien, Tamra Wilson, Evelyn Garrard and Kerrie Levinson – have overcome obstacles such as anorexia, ill health, the death of loved ones, separation, divorce and being declared clinically blind, to go on to lead full and fruitful lives. They are not super-women – they are ordinary women who have embraced life. Their stories inspire others to accept, as they did, the challenge to achieve their dreams."

*Available for purchase direct from the author* ***jrhipkiss@optusnet.com.au*** *or from Christian Bookworld, Rae Street, Belconnen; Woden Christian Bookshop, Woden Bus Interchange; or Smiths Alternative Bookshop, Alinga St, Canberra City.*

FAST TRACK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A 'GREEN TICK'

## Take a look at Albury Environment Plan

THE ALBURY CITY Council is in line to receive a 'green tick' from the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) for its new Local Environment Plan (LEP) which will be exhibited at the same time.

DECCW Director General, Lisa Corbyn, said Council's LEP achieving 'Biodiversity Certification' would offer significant benefits for the community and the environment.

"Council and DECCW have been able to consider the planning for the shire in the broadest context. The LEP identifies precisely which areas are appropriate for future development and urban expansion and which areas will be protected because of their environmental values.

"Getting this biodiversity protection upfront, means that the need for further environmental assessments prior to major developments may be considerably reduced.

"The Albury area contains some sites that are highly significant because they contain endangered ecological communities such as inland Grey Box Woodlands and habitat for threatened species such as the Superb Parrot and Squirrel Glider. These assets will be protected under the current proposal.

"DECCW will only recommend Biodiversity Certification if the draft LEP can improve or maintain biodiversity within the Council's boundaries," Ms Corbyn said. If there are changes to the LEP after the exhibition that affect the protection of native vegetation then the Biodiversity Certification proposal will need to be reviewed.

"A final decision to Biodiversity Certify Council's LEP will be made by the NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, after considering all the comments and final documents".

The proposed certification report is available online at **www.environment.nsw.gov.au**.

*Members of the Lake George Day VIEW Club and the Bungendore Evening VIEW Club would like to wish all VIEW Club members, friends and supporters a happy and safe Christmas Season and prosperity in the new year. Next year, 2010, is a milestone year for the VIEW Clubs of Australia who will be celebrating 50 years since the first VIEW Club was started.*

*Now there are VIEW Clubs in all states of Australia with some 60,000 members. All Clubs are closed in January and will resume in February. Lake George Day Club will hold its first meeting on Tuesday February 16, 2010 at 12 noon at Logan's Cafe in Bungendore. Bungendore Evening Club will hold its first meeting February 2010.*

*We look forward to a year that is full of friendship, new members, fun and support of the Smith Family. Happy holidays!*

Letter from Stoney Creek…

## EMERGENCY SERVICE BRIEFING

A SCENARIO in which a motor vehicle accident developed into a localised grass fire and escalated into a devastating bush fire was the focus of the emergency service evening in the Stoney Creek Hall on 27 October was fortunately hypothetical.

The impact of the Geoffrey Robertson-inspired presentation on about 90 guests at the evening was quite palpable.

Facilitated by Bob Summerville, the presenters' panel featured the Rural Fire Service's Chris Quinn, Stoney Creek Rural Fire Brigade Captain Neil Cleary and Kym Solten from the Captains Flat SES.

NSW Police Senior Constable Peter Spence, Paul Batista from the Lake George Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and Graeme Clifton were also on the panel.

Chris Quinn explained changes to the fire danger classifications and emphasised evolving processes such as the new fire danger signs and reinforced the current RFS message, 'Prepare. Act. Survive.'

### SES guidance for evacuation

Kim Salton said that the Captains Flat SES is the primary response agent for all emergencies. She said the SES provides guidance during evacuations, assuring residents they will only be directed down major bitumen 24-hour accessible roads and warned about evacuating through neighbouring properties to avoid inadvertently heading towards the fire.

The LEMC's role is to coordinate support agencies such as the NSW Police, NSW Fire Brigade, NSW Rural Fire Service, Department of Primary Industries and Department of Health.

Spokesperson Paul Batista stressed that **preparation is the key to survival during the bushfire season and that people should prepare a personal kit, be aware of the emergency warning signal and have radios, torches, generators and protective equipment available.**

Stoney Creek Brigade Captain Neil Cleary cautioned that the three trucks and thirty volunteers would be unlikely to meet the needs of 500 residences during a bush fire emergency.

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MAHA8922/SYN

# THE YOUNG AND THE SLOW FACE OFF ON OUR ROAD

INSURANCE COMPANY AAMI commissions some interesting research and this time it has discovered that drivers young and old are trading accusations of hazardous driving – Why are we not surprised?

A release from the company says each group consistently identified the other as being the most hazardous, highlighting how differing behaviours behind the wheel can often lead to dangerous, and sometimes confrontational, situations in traffic.

"With young drivers – by their own admission – more prone to speeding than others, they are likely to view slower vehicles, often driven by older drivers, as potential road hazards. Correspondingly, older drivers identify the aggressive driving style of some of the younger road users, particularly P-platers, as a major risk," said AAMI Corporate Affairs Manager Yves Noldus.

Not surprisingly, both groups are convinced they are not a major hazard on the road, with young drivers (under 25) ranking themselves as 'better than average', and drivers over 55 considering themselves the least hazardous.

### Speed is the thing

The suspicion that relative speed is a major factor in perceptions about hazardous road behaviours seems to be confirmed by research findings relating to L-platers, another drivers group commonly associated with slower travelling vehicles. In fact, the AAMI study found that drivers under 25 are more critical of L-platers than older age groups are, with one-third (32%) saying L-platers are hazardous on the road.

***"Somewhere between handing in their L's and getting their P's, young drivers seem to turn from villain to hero in their own minds, but from inconvenience to hazard in the minds of more experienced drivers," Mr Noldus said.***

AAMI's research is based on an independent telephone and internet survey of 2,523 Australians, conducted by Sweeney Research across all states and territories. Collected data is carefully weighted in line with current ABS population demographics to ensure any extrapolation of results is representative of age, gender and population on a regional, state and national basis.

### And now, some downright scary findings

AAMI's 2009 Young Drivers Index shows one in six drivers 25 and younger admitted to speeding most of the time vs one in 40 for drivers 55 and over.

## 'HOT SPOTS' AND DRIVER BEHAVIOUR MAIN REASON FOR 'ROO PRANGS

A new study of 5,000 accidents involving cars and animals supports the thesis that driver behaviour (possibly assisted by local authorities with education and signage) can effectively reduce the number of animal-vehicle crashes

The University of NSW study by biologist Dan Ramp identified areas around Canberra and Yass and related highways as hotspots, presumably due to still abundant populations of kangaroos and sometimes wallabies and their traditional crossing paths.

Dr Ramp said driver attitudes about risk and collision are a key factor in the high number of prangs and a slower pace with alertness or awareness would do much to diminish these encounters.

# WE LOVE FLYBUYS or something like that

*by Lydia Teo*

CAN YOU AFFORD to ignore these facts?

- We all love reward cards – 82 percent (82%) of us according to the latest research – *As seen on ACA 13/08/09.*
- Sixty-one percent (61%) of Australians surveyed stated the availability of rewards affected their decision where to shop.
- Sixty-four percent (64%) of consumers surveyed wanted a choice of rewards and not be restricted to one.
- A staggering 9 million Australians currently participate in a reward program – *Galaxy Research.*

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- increase sales?

Do you think that rural living makes your business immune to shopping trends? Well think again! If your customers are not encouraged to stay with your business by being rewarded in some way all they need to do is jump in their car and shop elsewhere.

The best way to keep customers is to provide extra value – whether it is by being courteous, prompt, or providing a far superior product or service. Joining a loyalty program is another great way to encourage customers to stay with your business and increase their spending dollar with you.

*If you want information on one such program go to* ***http://www.shopsavenwin.com.au/***

# December competition

**Describe the method that works best for your business in keeping your customers loyal.**

The best answer will win a signed copy of this month's book give-away *Kick start marketing – the no nonsense system for boosting your small business* by Linda Hailey.

This book has been written specifically for small business owners. There are no long-winded theories, no big business examples or boring case studies, just a practical, common-sense system that should help you really boost your business.

The author and presenter Linda Hailey introduces and explains her 'Kickstart' system in simple, easy-to-understand terms using practical exercises as a way to help you analyse your situation and develop a strategic marketing plan tailored to your own business. Find out a range of real life examples from a range of businesses that have used Linda's 'Kickstart' marketing techniques to increase their revenue and profit.

*Jewellery designer Lina Zanil won the previous book competition.*

If you realise the need for marketing your business and don't know where to start, or your business is facing a threat from a changing market or competitor then you need to read this simple practical reference book on marketing your small business.


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## CLAIMS THAT EARTH IS COOLING

*Cont'd from p6*

"In the extreme this threatens to result in the disruption of the (continent-warming) Gulf Stream, triggering several degrees drop in temperature over western Europe and NE America, as has repeatedly occurred during the recent glacial-interglacial history of the Earth.

"No doubt if (God forbid) this happens, climate denialists will claim 'global cooling'...

"It is essential to make a distinction between climate trends and annual or even multi-annual variations, as based on advanced studies of the recent climate history of Earth.

### Earth record shows mammal evolved with lower temperatures

"Mammals flourished on land only since $CO_2$ levels declined below about 450 parts per million about 34 million years ago, with subsequent decline of mean deep sea temperatures below 6°C and onset of polar ice sheets. Prior to about 11,500 years ago hunter-gatherer humans had to repeatedly migrate as glacial and interglacial eras interchanged, and could only commence agriculture from about 8,500 years ago (the Neolithic) once climate conditions stabilised.

### Atmospheric conditions heading back three million years

In summary: "The atmosphere is extremely sensitive to 'forcing' (ie being influenced by) minor levels of greenhouse gas, which affect the physical and chemical processes and energy level of the atmosphere-ocean-biosphere system, including interchange of $CO_2$, $CH_4$ and oxygen between vegetation and animals.

The influence of human activity in releasing over 300 billion tons of carbon into the atmosphere since the dawn of the industrial age, raising $CO_2$ levels to near 390ppm has severely upset this delicate balance, raising the atmospheric energy levels by some 1.6 Watt/square metres **and threatening to return the Earth's climate to conditions which existed three million years ago (mid-Pliocene), when temperatures were 2–3 degrees higher than at present and sea level higher by some 25+/-12 metres."**

*Christians act on climate change > p23*



# Green-house gases and the new-born vegetarian epicure

*by Peter Davies*

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, before it was even fashionable, obesity and global warming were subjects for discussion only in the rarest of professional journals; riding a bicycle meant you couldn't afford a car, and 'organic' was just a branch of chemistry.

I have a vegetable garden of sorts, small but amazingly productive and of course a restaurant where we buy in box-loads of the best local fruit and vegetables in season. Both seem to produce vast quantities of leaves, peelings and other discarded plant material. Sometimes our chef, Caroline, rescues some for her thriving pigs. On other occasions I attempt to recycle the scraps into our rapidly growing compost bin.

It is my belief that I have the finest mulch in Christendom: from 100 percent organic, weapons-grade table vegetables, no twigs or grass clippings or leaves, just a huge julienne of lovingly sourced, expensive but high-quality fruit and veg, nicely rotted.

"From delivery to compost heap in less than a day," is my motto, and it has given me a soil-enriching agent so concentrated I'll wager it was worth more by weight than gold, caviar, or cocaine.

### Stay with me now...

I love my meat, red or white, small or large, turf or surf, so it came as a rude shock to learn recently that I should "eat food, not too much, mostly plants". It's true I have high cholesterol and a hereditary predisposition towards heart disease, but, hell, you've got to die of something.

And then came the outcry over the statement by a 'leading climate-change campaigner', who declared that, "meat is a wasteful use of water and creates a lot of greenhouse gases. It puts enormous pressure on the world's resources. A vegetarian diet is much better".

Not only that, the green campaigner announced that meat production is responsible for 18 percent of global $CO_2$ emissions, but the methane in cow and pig wind, both farted and belched (I should discuss the gaseous consequences of a vegetarian diet), is 23 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

We've known for a long time that a fully vegetarian world would be more sustainable and better able to feed its growing billions. But we didn't care. It would be far too boring, totally unfair on all the luscious breeds of meat animal that would be neglected into extinction, and obviously the gaseous benefits of doing away with the livestock would be totally negated by the chronic farting of nine billion vegetarian humans.

### Meat as garnish to the perfect veggo lunch

So we must tread the middle path, for the sake of our heart-health, wallets and planet, and just eat less meat. Meals, except on special occasions, should be plates of vegetables, enlivened with a little bit of flesh. It was a way of eating that got us from the dawn of time to about 1960, and if we get back on it, it'll help us to keep going as a species for just as long again.

Soo... I have designed the perfect vegetarian lunch – five dishes of vegetables to share: There would be spinach mixed with corn: serious green fibre and antioxidants with sweet golden nuggets. There would be a very robust, creamy celeriac mash, which must have a lot of potato in it to give it that sort of fluffiness.

Grilled leeks and unfeasibly tasty cauliflower (one could almost forget, shopping in town, that cauliflower is supposed to have a taste) with a mustard sauce. There would also be beetroot and carrots roasted with cumin, which affects each vegetable in a slightly different way, and nicely facilitates their contrast, and then also some pistachio nuts for crunch and protein.

And finally a red cabbage, braised down to a soft pinkishness, with flecks of blue cheese and walnuts. By the time you have piled these lush, mineral-rich, vitaminic, earth-mothering and brilliantly colourful morsels on to your plate, there would be barely room for the meat part of the meal.

### Don't forget the pud

For being so good, I would also suggest a reward at the end of the meal. How about a pudding? I would suggest a serious plum crumble, or a wonderful sticky toffee pudding, a dense sponge, a sliver of a brisk little lemon tart, or pavlova. All of these with lashings of thick double cream, though there is also custard, for weird people.

So that's me, having the lunch of my life with five veggie dishes, second helpings of pudding, and barely a scrap of meat. The future starts today.

*– Peter Davies*
*(with a little help from Giles Coren)*


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| Friday | Meat raffles drawn @ 7.30pm |
| | Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm (*jackpots if not won*) |
| | Live Entertainment* from 7.30pm to late |
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*(*Refer to Gig Guide for line up*)
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# Christmas
## and the perfect menu

by
*Marcele Martins*

CHRISTMAS IS AROUND the corner. (How many times have you already heard this?) Decoration, guest list, presents … There's a lot to do, but if you are like me at this time, you are really focused on the 'perfect menu'. *Isn't it too early to think about this?* some might ask. And I'll tell them as a food lover, nothing is more important than a beautiful set of delicious dishes or meals.

In my country, we celebrate Christmas on the night of 24th with a dinner that starts late and lasts until midnight. At that point of the party, we leave the table, exchange gifts, and came back to have the deserts.

Traditionally, we have hot dishes of poultry (usually turkey), ham and fish. As side dishes, colorful salads with seasonal vegetables and special rices (yes, riceSSSS). Not to mention the appetizers. It sounds exaggerated, and you are right. It is.

Thinking like that a couple of years ago, I was so busy with presents and guests that I decided to save my time in the kitchen and had only a 'one choice' meal. *Why do we need more than that?* I thought. The menu was roasted duck in orange sauce, with sides of salads and one simple rice. Very delicious by the way, lots of compliments but… don't get me wrong, it was not the same.

I felt something was missing…actually, it didn't seem like a Christmas party but a normal dinner. I discovered that all that profusion of different flavors and smells are not something overdone. It is part of the event.

So, since then, presents and decoration can wait. I make myself spend lots of time thinking first of what I consider the 'perfect menu'. You can eat turkey all year long if want but, call me silly, it is not the same. Christmas has something that I can't really explain.

The food takes on a whole new meaning with our loved ones sitting around, celebrating. There is no better time to do lots of delicious sauces, cookies, cakes … every single minute in the kitchen will be worth it when you see the big smiles around the table. This is my real Christmas present (if you are a cook, you know exactly what I mean).

I know the Christmas meal is all about tradition, but if you are not afraid to innovate, and to put the item 'food' on the top of your to-do list, here are three delicious recipes that you can start considering (it is not early, believe me!) and make your menu… perfect!

*Merry Christmas!*

## – Recipes –

### Roast turkey with orange and rosemary gravy

***Ingredients:***

3 kg turkey
4 cloves of garlic mashed
3 bay leaves
salt and black pepper
600ml of orange juice
1 good handful of fresh rosemary
1 tbsp of flour

***Method:***

- Leave your turkey marinating overnight with a mix of garlic, bay leaves, salt and pepper.
- Place the turkey in a roasting pan, pour the orange juice and the rosemary on it, and place in oven (low heat, 160°C) for two hours or until tender.
- Once roasted, transfer the turkey to a dish and drain the liquid.
- Pour all the liquid in a small pan and over low heat add the flour and stir until boiled.
- Serve the sauce immediately with the turkey.

### Cod Fish with mashed potatoes

***Ingredients:***

1kg smoked cod fish
4 cloves of garlic mashed
1 medium brown onion, finely chopped
5 tbsp of extra virgin olive oil
100g Kalamata olives, pitted
1 bunch of fresh coriander finely chopped
5 tomatoes peeled and chopped
1 tbsp of tomato paste
salt and black pepper to season
2kg cooked potatoes
3 tbsp of butter
500ml of full cream milk
100g grated Parmesan cheese
salt

***Method:***

- In a big pan, heat the olive oil, add the garlic and the onion and let them fry for two minutes.
- Add the tomatoes and the tomato paste. Pour in 100ml of water and place the cod fish. Season with salt and black pepper. Let it cook in low heat for approximately 20 minutes.
- Add the Kalamata olives and the coriander. Turn the heat off and reserve it.
- Mash your potatoes, add the butter, the milk and the salt. Mix until you get a homogenous cream and reserve it.

***Combine the fish and potatoes like this:***

In a big baking dish, place one layer of the mashed potato (use a spoon to spread) then place the cod fish pieces and at last, another layer of potatoes. Sprinkle the parmesan cheese over it and put in the oven to gratin.

### Rabanadas

***(traditional Portuguese Christmas desert, excellent for the day – after breakfast)***

***Ingredients:***

2 French baguettes, cut into 2cm thick rounds
1L of full cream milk
1 can of condensed milk
3 eggs
1 L of frying oil
250g of sugar
2 tsp of cinnamon powder

***Method:***

- Mix the milk and the condensed milk and place this mix in a bowl.
- Beat the eggs (white and yolks) with a fork and place them in a bowl.
- Heat the oil in a wok or in a big fry pan.
- Dip each french baguette round first in the milk mix, then in the beaten eggs.
- Take each one to the wok, fry both sides and dry them on a plate with absorbent kitchen paper.
- Finally, mix the sugar and the cinnamon and sprinkle on the baguette rounds.

## Priscilla says:

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

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. Locally, Food Lovers offers free range meats (see ad below). Belconnen markets and Griffith have dedicated organic butcheries – so there is no shortage of supply.

*Mother pigs are confined like this. Their babies become ham and bacon.*


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# WHO LIVES IN THE GARDEN

## and what's for their tucker?

story by Jo Walker

MOST GARDENS PROVIDE a home for one or two lizard species; larger properties, with a wider range of habitats, usually harbour many others. Because lizards need an external source of heat to warm them sufficiently to take on activities such as hunting for food, they are easy to observe as they bask on rocks and fallen logs – and, unfortunately for some, on the warm bitumen of local roads.

Many of our local lizards are in the skink family, Scincidae. The smallest of these are the Grass Skinks (*Lampropholis delicata*) and Garden Skinks (*L. guichenoti*), fast-moving little animals that can be seen darting through grasses or perched patiently on low-growing shrubs waiting for the odd spider or ant to come along.

I once saw a tiny skink trying to catch a newly-emerged cicada as it attempted to climb out of reach. The skink finally took a small mouthful of cicada and let it go on its way.

The Three-toed Earless Skink (*Hemiergis decresiensis*) is a much shyer skink usually found under deep leaf litter or rotting logs where it feeds on spiders, ants and other insects. It has glossy dark skin and only three digits on each limb. The Red-throated Skink (*Eulepis platynota*) is easily identified by its orange-coloured throat.

### Blue-tongued and sometimes blotched

All of the above are smallish lizards, but other commonly seen skinks can be over 30cm long and are thus a bit more visible. One of the better known of these is the Eastern Blue-tongue (*Tiliqua scincoides*), a large, silvery-grey lizard with darker bars across the body and a wide black stripe extending from the eye to the ear.

A similar lizard, the Blotched Blue-tongue (*T. nigrolutea*), lacks this dark stripe, has large pink or yellowish blotches on the back, and the darker scales are not in distinct bars. Both Blue-tongues will eat fruit and fungi as well as insects and sometimes carrion.

Another large skink is the Shingleback (*Tracheydosaurus rugosus*). With its large, thickened scales and short, thick tail, it is unmistakeable. In some parts of the state, it varies in colour, usually being much lighter than our local blackish form. This lizard will eat insects and dead animals (I saw one eating a long-dead, desiccated frog a while ago), but also feeds on flowers and berries. Recently, I saw one moving through a patch of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, snipping off the yellow flower-heads and munching them contentedly.

Photo: Martin Butterfield

*Bearded Dragon.*

Cunningham's Skinks (*Egernia cunninghami*) live in family groups in rocky outcrops or, more usually in our region, in hollow logs or tree stumps. In an old yellow box log on my place, a family of about ten variously-sized lizards can be seen sunning themselves in the morning sun. These lizards are dark to sandy brown with spiny scales, most noticeably along the tail. Insects form part of their food intake, but much of their nutrition comes from plant material.

### Dragons lay eggs too

Dragons (*Agamidae*) are another group of lizards common in this area, represented by the Jacky Lizard (*Amphibolurus muricatus*) and the Eastern Bearded Dragon (*Pogona barbata*) amongst others. Last year, a Bearded Dragon laid her eggs in a rock garden near my house. She carefully excavated a hole in the hard soil near a rock, backed into it and laid her eggs, then scraped the soil back over them and tamped it down firmly with her body. The whole process took nearly an hour.

There are also several gecko (*Gekkonidae*) species in the area, perhaps the most common being the Stone Gecko (*Diplodactylus vittatus*), often found hiding under rocks or fallen timber. This greyish-brown little lizard has a zigzag light stripe along its back and a short bulbous tail. Like other geckoes, it can give a loud barking call.

Many species of lizards reproduce by laying eggs, but some give birth to live young.

Photo: Jo Walker

*Cunningham's Skink.*

Of those mentioned here, the Three-toed Earless Skink, Blotched and Eastern Blue-tongues, Shinglebacks and Cunningham's Skinks all give birth to fully-formed and usually immediately active young.

These are just a few of the local lizards. They are fascinating little creatures, and worth keeping a lookout for. A handy book for identifying local lizards is *A Field Guide to the Snakes and Lizards of New South Wales* by Gerry Swan (1990).

Photos: Martin Butterfield

*Top right: Common Blue-tongued Lizard. Middle right: Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard. Above: Shingleback Skink.*

# The zen of raspberry growing

*by Eleanor Rope*

I WRITE THIS with great anticipation of the joys of the coming raspberry season. It is a pleasure for me to be in my orchard, whether fruit-picking, weeding, pruning, trellising and/or fertilising. Even with no other human present, I am never lonely, with nature as my companion, entertaining me with the orchard's seasonal changes, and the ever-changing bush smells, bird song, and colours.

Last summer I even had the joy of hearing and seeing a clutch of young kookaburras learning how to laugh. Though their first attempts were feeble, they soon made a splendid choir. But I am asked to write about berry farming, not birds – so back to the topic.

Raspberry canes are deciduous and come in many varieties that allow a farmer to plan a full fruiting season. In theory, in the Canberra region, raspberries could be ripening in early December. But we concentrate on growing varieties that fruit a few weeks later, as they generally have better quality fruit.

### Rewarding for years to come

Most varieties that we grow will fruit through to the first heavy frosts of autumn. Our canes are sourced through commercial suppliers. If well cared for, they fruit for years once settled.

Our rows of canes run north/south, and we plant about three per metre, though they soon multiply. We like to adhere to organic principles, planting in a river loam, and using natural fertilisers – generally duck and chook poo.

Any surplus eggs are dug into the beds, as this can attract worms aplenty. I hope that the fledgling kookaburras do not over-indulge at breakfast – numerous worms are essential to the health of the berry canes.

Canes are at least waist high when grown and fruiting. The more vigorous varieties require trellising. In a perfect world it would be good to be able to net the paddock to prevent bird damage but we have used only minimal netting to date.

This year's good soft spring rains and early warmth have brought our canes on early. I can already see flower buds and a just a few tiny hard green berries beginning to appear.

### Picking the fruit and communing with nature

In summer, a year of effort in the orchard is amply rewarded when ripe berries roll off into the picker's hand. I pick onto trays lined with paper towel. The trays are soon refrigerated to let the berries cool.

Moisture and lack of air can bring mould. Berries must be kept unsealed, as well as cool and dry, before being put in punnets.

During the season, picking, sorting and packing requires an hour or more each day to keep on top of a crop of maybe 3,000 canes. I don't suggest such an enterprise to everyone. Just a few canes in a household garden will provide wonderful fruit for a family.

Any day that I wander along the rows brings me pleasure even though my activity might be as mundane as checking the weeds, trellising of canes, and observing cane growth and soil moisture levels. Being a part of the whole cycle is a meditative pleasure. It is not really work.


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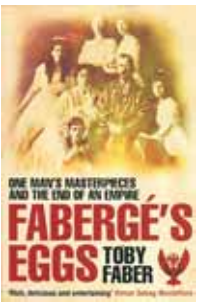
CANINE COMMUNICATIONS

# Jewelled eggs and revolution in Russia

*by Di Johnstone*




## Fabergé's Eggs: One Man's Masterpieces and the End of an Empire

***by Toby Faber***

Pan Macmillan. 2008 (paperback, 2009). RRP A$24.99

THE FABERGÉ NAME evokes images of some of the most celebrated treasures of modern times, and the story of the creator of these treasures is just one of the absorbing stories in *Fabergé's Eggs: One Man's Masterpieces and the End of an Empire* by Tony Faber.

This book is a fascinating account of the history and fate of the famous Fabergé eggs. The eggs, given each Easter by the last Russian Tsars to their Tsarinas, were magnificent in design and workmanship. They are of enduring fascination for their beauty and the tragedy and intrigue attached to them.

The first part of the book traces the story of master jeweller Carl Fabergé, his workshop and his relationship with the Imperial family which, for some 20 years, saw him produce jewelled masterpieces to mark Easter in the Imperial household.

The first of the eggs, given by Tsar Alexander III to Tsarina Marie Fedorovna, and which, when opened, contained a delightful 'surprise', led to further orders and increasingly elaborate and extravagant creations of later years. The downfall and execution of Tsar Nicholas I brought an abrupt end to royal orders for Fabergé eggs.

The book cleverly intertwines the story of the eggs with that of the Russian Imperial family in the final years before the 1917 Revolution. There is an intimate and moving portrait of the family of the last Tsar, engulfed in its own sadness and overwhelmed by the tide of history. The eggs form part of this family portrait and reflect it. *Continued p19*

# WIRED TO CONNECT

***by Heike Hahner***

IN HIS BOOK *Social Intelligence*, Daniel Goleman described humans as being "wired to connect". By this he meant that the very design of our brains is to be social and to engage with other humans. We can probably safely expand on that and say we are also drawn to connect with other beings on this planet, especially our closest companions – dogs, cats and horses.

Billie Dean (pictured on right) would be an excellent example of a human being "wired to connect". She has worked as a journalist, is the author of 10 children's books, a film maker of three movies, an actress, a comedienne and a teacher.

Her main focus has always been animals and her intense desire to communicate her, and, more generally, our, connection with animals and the wellbeing that both parties can derive from each other's company.

Her earliest memories of experiencing a connection between herself and the natural environment and with animals were at the age of 10. She calls those experiences telepathic or being psychic – an ability to receive mental images and messages from other beings, such as horses and dogs.

Billie is not alone in her belief of spiritual and psychic connections between all living creatures. Throughout ancient cultures, up to modern times, such beliefs have been documented. Billie's connection with these ancient cultures is demonstrated by her studying with elders from numerous native cultures, including Aboriginal, Maori, Native American, Hawaiian and Celtic. This training and focus has also led her to write her first major work, *Secret Animal Business*.

### Living in harmony with all living things

In this book she combines all her skills and previous experiences to encourage, explain and instruct on the topic that is most dear to her: "living in harmony, with respect and reverence to all living things". She encourages us to allow them to speak to us in their silent or forgotten language.

For Billie Dean animals are teachers and spiritual guides, who are loyal and who love unconditionally. She proposes that we would have a better society if we were to take on some of their qualities. In her book she uses storytelling and exercises to outline a better pathway for living with the natural world, animals and each other.

*Secret Animal Business* also looks at animal health, diet and behaviour, as well as hospice care, rescue and finally, the future.

### Is individualism creating happiness?

Although we have better living standards than ever before in human history, the constant push for individualism has paradoxically resulted in the increasing isolation of the individual. More and more people are craving to re-establish their connections with other humans, nature and animals. This book offers help and advice on how to communicate again and to live in harmony with our surroundings – often lost in the pursuit of financial gain.

If you are after cold, hard, scientific facts then Billie Dean's book is not for you. However, if you want a look at the world through the eyes of ancient knowledge and wisdom, about our connection with all living beings, be they tree or dog, believing that we can make this world a better place for all of us including our natural world, then, this book may be just the thing for you.

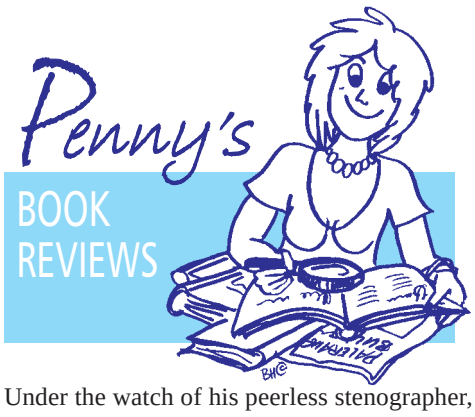
*Secret Animal Business* can be purchased at Gallery Altenburg in Braidwood or online: www.billiedean.com

### ALSO SEEN ON YOUTUBE...

"We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate for having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein do we err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with the extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings: they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth."

***Henry Beston – The Outermost House (1928)***

# Penny's holiday wishlist



## The Lacuna

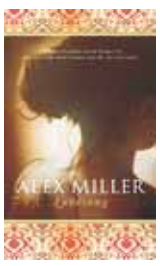
***by Barbara Kingsolver***

ISBN 97805712562640
Publisher Faber & Faber
RRP $29.95

BORN IN the US, reared in a series of provisional households in Mexico, Harrison Shepherd is mostly a liability to his social-climbing mother, Salomé. From a coastal island jungle to the unpaved neighbourhoods of 1930s Mexico City, his fortunes never steady as Salomé finds her rich men-friends always on the losing side of the Mexican Revolution.

He aims for invisibility, observing his world and recording everything with a peculiar selfless irony in his notebooks. Life is whatever he learns from servants putting him to work in the kitchen, errands he runs in the streets, and one fateful day, by mixing plaster for famed Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. Making himself useful in the household of the muralist, his wife Frida Kahlo, and exiled Bolshevik leader Lev Trotsky, young Shepherd inadvertently casts his lot in with art and revolution.

A violent upheaval sends him north to a nation newly caught up in the internationalist goodwill of World War II. In Carolina, he remakes himself in America's hopeful image. Under the watch of his peerless stenographer, Violet Brown, he finds an extraordinary use for his talents of observation. But political winds continue to push him between north and south, in a plot that turns many times on the unspeakable breach – the lacuna – between truth and public presumption.




## Lovesong

***by Alex Miller***

ISBN 9781742371290
Publisher Allen & Unwin
RRP $33.95

STRANGERS DID NOT as a rule, find their way to Chez Dom, a small, rundown Tunisian café on Paris' distant fringes. Run by the widow Houria and her young niece, Sabiha, the café offers a home away from home for the North African immigrant workers at the great abattoirs of Vaugiraud, who, like them, had grown used to the smell of blood in the air.

But when one day a lost Australian tourist, John Patterner, seeks shelter in the café from a sudden Parisian rainstorm, the quiet simplicities of their lives are changed forever. John is like no-one Sabiha has met before – his calm grey eyes promise her a future she was not yet even aware she wanted. Theirs becomes a contented but unlikely marriage – a marriage of two cultures lived in a third – and yet because they are essentially foreigners to each other, their love story sets in train an irrevocable course of tragic events.

## Nine Dragons

***by Michael Connelly***

ISBN 9781742371542
Publisher Allen & Unwin
RRP $32.99

HARRY BOSCH is assigned a homicide call in South LA that takes him to Fortune Liquors, where the Chinese owner has been shot to death behind the counter in a robbery. Joined by members of the department's Asian Crime Unit, Bosch relentlessly investigates the killing and soon identifies a suspect, a Los Angeles member of a Hong Kong triad. But before Harry can close in, he gets the word that his young daughter Maddie, who lives in Hong Kong with her mother, is missing. Bosch drops everything to journey across the Pacific to find his daughter. Could her disappearance and the case be connected? With the stakes of the investigation so high and so personal, Bosch is up against the clock in a new city, where nothing is at it seems.

## Halfway to Hollywood

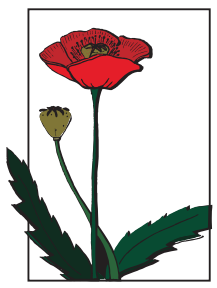
***by Michael Palin***

ISBN 9780297844402
Publisher Hachette RRP $55.00

THIS SECOND volume of Michael Palin's enthralling diaries covers the 1980s, when the ties that bound the Pythons loosened as they developed their separate careers. They played their final performance together in the legendary *Monty Py-thon's Meaning of Life* in 1983, following a live performance at the Hollywood Bowl.

Writing and acting in films and television would take up much of Michael's life, culminating in the smash hit *A Fish Called Wanda* in which he played the hapless, stuttering Ken (and for which he won a BAFTA for Best Supporting Actor) and the first of his seven celebrated television journeys for the BBC. The decade – and this volume – ends with the hugely successful *Around the World in 80 Days*, which sees the start of a new career. Compelling, and as much a biography of the entertainment world in the 80s, this is a book not to be missed by Palin fans. *Continued p21*

Annie's Collectables



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– HERBAL HINTS –

*by herbalist Catherine Bird*

# Herbs to hedge an overdose of festivity

DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON, those of us who lack a little self-discipline can tend to overindulge. Fortunately, nature provides us with herbs for extra support.

With frequent parties and the temptation to consume alcohol in larger amounts, your liver needs to be supported and protected. St Marys Thistle (*Silybum marinanum)*, in the Northern Hemisphere commonly known as Milk Thistle, is not one for long-term use, but if you know there is the likelihood of drinking alcohol to excess or the possibility of a hangover, try a dose before leaving for the party, and have a further dose on return. This may reduce the symptoms of a possible hangover.

There might also be a tendency to enjoy culinary delights that add extra padding. Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) has been labelled the dieters herb for many centuries. This time of year is not the time to be policing our intake and missing out when everyone else is enjoying the feast, so adding a cup of fennel tea to your day will assist with the digestion of rich food your gut is not used to breaking down and utilising.

It is the herb, in teaspoon doses, that helps cresty ponies when they need to shed an excess kilo or two or need to be confined to the bare paddock.

### Joint supplements for humans and horses

The Christmas break is also a time for rejuvenation and regeneration. It's a time for relaxation and a good opportunity to assist your joint health while exercise is not high on the social calendar. A joint supplement containing glucosamine is worth putting on the shopping list.

For the horse who is having a break from his training routine try a blend of herbs including ones that feed the muscles and joints such as frankincense (*Boswelia carterii*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and celery seeds (*Apium graveolens*). It is good practice to maintain athletic ability by nourishing the muscles and joints when the body routine is resting or in a low-impact phase of training.

Keep your herbal approach simple during the festive season. To help your digestion after an overindulgence or to cool down on a hot day have a cup of peppermint (*Mentha piperita*) or lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) tea. A cup of chamomile (*Matricaria recutita)* tea will help sleep if opening presents in the morning is on young minds. If you have a household that is not receptive to a cup of herbal tea during the festivities, diffuse digestive essential oils in the background – basil, orange, fennel and peppermint – will keep the mood at a family occasion light and make it easy to fill tummies with all the delights on offer.

***For advice or further information visit:***
*www.happyhorses.com.au and blog www.naturalanimals.net*

– RURAL FIRE SERVICE LAKE GEORGE –

***Doug Palmer** surveys the risky business of country living and today explains the finer points of the Fire Danger Index*

# ITS NOT YOU, ITS SPRING

ONE OF THE MORE confusing things that happen in Spring is the fire danger index zooming up and down like a demented flea. Hot days may be low and cold days high. There is some method in the madness, though.

The basic elements of the fire danger index are sun, wind and rain and it's the rain that leads to all kinds of delayed effects. In a forest, there's moisture in the deep ground, in the litter layer on the forest floor and in the air.

Left to itself, the moisture will go from damper areas to dryer areas.

Rain wets the litter, which acts like mulch and holds on to the moisture. Good rain penetrates into the soil. When it's dry, the reverse happens. Water is released from the litter into the dryer air. If the soil is damp, then moisture starts moving from the reservoir in the soil into the litter.

If you want to, you can think of a big dam (the soil), a small dam (the litter) and a creek (the air). The big dam and small dam are connected by a small channel. The small dam and the creek are connected by a larger channel. If the creek floods (it rains), then water flows into the small dam and, if there's enough of it, into the big dam. When the creek is dry, then water quickly flows out of the small dam and, more slowly, out of the big dam, replenishing the small dam.

It's the litter that burns and, as anyone who has tried to light green wood will tell you, the amount of moisture in the fuel has a big effect on how well it burns. All of this is encoded into a number called the *drought factor* that essentially tells you how much of the litter will get burnt up.

### Hot and cold days and the drought factor

The drought factor leisurely follows the rains. Since Spring is a mixture of dry spells, sudden heavy rains and showers, hot days and wintery bluster, the drought factor can turn a hottish day into a low fire danger or a coldish day into something more dangerous.

On a more practical note, I'd like to make a small comment about the getting of fire permits. Even outside the fire season, you will need a permit if the burn could endanger a building. The flowchart at the back of *Before You Light That Fire* is a little ambiguous. Whether or not the burn could endanger a building *is in the opinion of the permit issuing officer*. So if there is the slightest doubt, please get a permit.

In the meantime, happy everything to everyone.

## Across the radar screen

In the medical system we trust!

*Actual writings in a Mpumalanga Hospital (South Africa) Register*

1. The patient refused autopsy.
2. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
3. Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
4. Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.
5. She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.
6. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
7. On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
8. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
9. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
10. Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.
11. Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
12. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
13. I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.


**DIETITIAN**

***Professional Nutrition Advice including:***

- Weight Management
- Gastrointestinal Disorders, IBS
- Food Allergies & Intolerances
- Fussy Eaters
- Paediatric Nutrition & More...

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***6238 1417*** *for an appointment*
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**WILD ROSE ORGANICS**
Village Square,
Malbon St, Bungendore
mobile: 0413 482 762
phone: 6238 1422


Antique Chat

*with Joyce Nordsvan*

# The season for remembering and giving

IT'S THE EVENING of a very 'significant birthday' for me and thus gives cause for some reminiscing with some equalling significant and very much-loved friends.

We met in 1970 when we were all in our very early '2's, (or 20's) and transferred to Darwin with the ABC to put TV to air for the first time. Many of us were a long way away from families for the first time, a bit apprehensive about Darwin, the Territory, the isolation and the strangeness of it all.

In next the four years we had babies and supported each other through the uncertain first years of parenting. Cyclone Tracy imposed challenges that we had never even dreamed of, but we survived as we were evacuated to locations which isolated us from each other.

The next 35 years have seen marriages, divorces, children, grandchildren, the death of parents and siblings, retirements, health challenges and other major life changes. We've laughed until we've cried, we've cried until we've exhausted our tears, we've provided advice and support to each other, and to each other's children who we consider our own, and who consider our special friends to be extended parents to them and their children.

We have formed enduring friendships that allow us now, often after many years between visits to resume conversations we didn't get to finish before as if we hadn't drawn breath in between.

### The 'do you remember when' gift

I'm particularly thinking of this tonight as I head into the '6's' because the gifts I have received from both of my 'best friends' who have travelled from Brisbane and Adelaide to be with me, have been chosen and made with love, and in the knowledge that they will be appreciated.

I am finding this year people are looking for that gift that has a particular meaning and brings or recalls special memories. The 'Do you remember when...' gift. It's what I am looking for when I think about my husband, daughter, son, grandchild, sister or brother. It's something that affectionately brings the giver and the memory immediately into your mind when you look at it or use it.

I wish you, and your families and special friends, a beautiful Christmas which creates those special memories for many years to come.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

### The November mystery item

The group of brass containers and cutter, with their brass tray, are for the storage and preparation of betel nuts for chewing. The containers would have contained the uncut nuts (about the size of a nutmeg), lime powder and leaves. The cutter, here in the simple undecorated form of a bird, is for cutting the nuts for mixing with the lime and then chewed as a paste.


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# Ho Ho Ho from Town and Country Dogs

WE ARE ALL looking forward to the next few weeks: summer temperatures, holidays, food, sitting on the beach or veranda with a good book, meeting up with friends and family. The Christmas period is a busy and, for most of us, a pleasant time.

Sadly, the family dog is sometimes overlooked or even dumped at times like these. Here are a few hints to make the hotter months and the Christmas holidays just as pleasant for your dog.

On holiday, make sure your dog is easily identifiable so, if lost, he is quickly returned to you. Dogs must be microchipped these days, but make sure he or she also has a tag on the collar that has your holiday address and phone number on it. Suitcase tags, available at most newsagents are great for that. A lot of dogs are returned very quickly because they have clear identification.

### Avoid ticks: some dogs highly allergic, fresh water and shade essential

The local coastal regions are home to the paralysis tick. If ticks are found early, most dogs will recover well from their toxin. However individual dogs can be highly allergic to the toxin and will die if bitten by the tick. You can find products at the vets and most pet shops to give your dog protection from ticks.

Frequent searching of your dogs' body especially after walks is recommended.

Early detection aids the recovery rate. If you are worried after a tick bite, take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.

If you leave your dog in the car, leave the windows open, but use security mesh to avoid people putting their hands into your car! On the back of the ute your dog will still need shade to be reasonably comfortable in hot weather. Please avoid keeping your dog in or on metal during the hotter part of the day as the metal heats up.

The most important thing is to have unlimited access to fresh water and shade.

## – TOWN & COUNTRY DOGS –

*by Heike Hahner*

Dogs do not sweat like we do. They cool their bodies by panting and it is not uncommon during the hot months for dogs to suffer from overheating, which can result in death if it is not recognised and treated early.

### At home with a carer, or kennelling

If leaving your dog, make sure you and your dog know the carer well or that they come recommended. Leaving the radio or television on may help some dogs to settle when you are not around. An idea is to ask your neighbour or a friend to check on your dog, even with a carer.

A lot of dogs become very distressed if their owner does not return over several days and some start to display nuisance behaviours such as barking, howling or digging. Having that extra person turn up can help a lot of dogs cope better with the loneliness when their owner has gone away for a few days.

If kennelling your dog remember: BOOK EARLY. If you have not kennelled your dog before it is advisable that your dog is vaccinated for kennel cough. Inspect the kennel before you commit yourself and your dog to a stay. Kennels vary greatly in what they are willing to provide for their charges so find one that suits you and your dog's needs.

Finally, although it is hot your dog still needs exercise. Most kennels provide excellent yards and playtime for their doggy customers. If you hire a carer ensure that your dog gets a walk at least once a day.

### Hiding from the festive spirit

If you are staying home and having family and friends over, ask yourself if your dog is as social as you are. There are plenty of dogs that like a lot of people and kids around. However, for those dogs that get stressed by crowds and noise, have a safe place ready. This can be in the garage, laundry or a spare room, as long as your dog is safe from playing kids and noisy adults. Leave him with a bone or chew toy and fresh water. Make sure no one can have access to him.

On this note a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the *Town and Country Dogs*!

## JEWELLED EGGS *Cont'd from p17*

Each egg was carefully designed to appeal to the recipient and many reflected significant events in the life of the family or the nation. Some eggs were poignant, some whimsical, others triumphant and those during wartime subdued and patriotic. The author also draws a link between purchases of such vastly expensive decorative items and a failing monarchy out of touch with its people.

### What happened to the precious eggs? Look to adventurers, eccentrics, millionaires...

The second part of the book deals with the fate of the eggs after the Revolution. Although many Imperial treasures were destroyed or disappeared amidst the chaos of revolution, many Fabergé eggs survived. There is an intriguing account of how the Bolsheviks catalogued Russian treasures so these could be sold to the capitalist west to support their revolution.

And then there is the extraordinary story of the adventurers, eccentrics, millionaires, royals and others outside Russia who collected the eggs. It is a rollicking tale with a final surprising twist.

With his investment banking background, the author also gives a critical appreciation of the 'worth' of the Fabergé eggs over 100 or so years, detailing how fluctuating economic conditions and the dictates of fashion significantly affected their value.

There is information too about the techniques of the Fabergé workshops, especially about enamelling, and the making of individual eggs in a way that does not diminish their allure.

The book contains photos of some better known eggs, the Imperial family and latter day collectors.

A book for anyone interested in these jewelled treasures and in Russian history.

## Lake George Zone Bush Fire Management Committee
## PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT DOCUMENT

### Lake George Zone Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

The **Lake George Zone** Bush Fire Management Committee is currently seeking comments on its draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) which has recently been prepared.

The draft BFRMP covers the whole of the **Queanbeyan and Palerang** area. It includes information about the local area and specifies works to be done to manage bush fire risk in the area.

The draft BFMRP applies to all land in the **Queanbeyan and Palerang** area including private land.

The draft BFRMP will be on exhibition for a period of 42 days from **Friday 6 November 2009** until **18 December 2009**.

The Draft BFRMP is on display at the following locations:

- Palerang Council, 10 Majara Street Bungendore
- Palerang Council, 144 Wallace Street Braidwood
- Queanbeyan Council, 257 Crawford St

Copies of the draft BFRMP may be obtained by contacting (02) **6297 1840** during office hours.

Written submissions on the Draft BFRMP can be sent to the BFMC by email to **lakegeorge.zone@rfs.nsw.gov.au** or by post to **PO Box 2234, Queanbeyan NSW 2620** The closing date for submissions is **18 December 2009.**

For further enquires, contact **Inspector Vladimir Bohdan** on **02 6297 1840** or **02 4842 2516,** or **lakegeorge.zone@rfs.nsw.gov.au**.

## Braidwood Out Of School Hours (OOSH) Care Facility

### Expressions of Interest Sought

Council is seeking expressions of interest from people who enjoy working with children and would like to be part of the Braidwood OOSH facility, located at the Braidwood Central School. Council is seeking to fill several positions for the 2010 educational year, including a temporary part-time coordinator for a maternity leave placement, and casual and relief assistants.

Council is flexible in its approach to filling these positions; however potential applicants need to note that OOSH's session hours are from 3.00–6.00 pm, Monday to Friday during the school terms.

Qualifications in childcare are preferred, although not essential. Council is willing to train the successful applicants in mandatory qualifications, such as Senior First Aid Certificate and Food Hygiene.

As these are designated positions under the Child Protection Act, a Working with Children Check is mandatory.

Expressions of interest close on **Monday 7 December 2009**. Further information may be obtained from Debby Ferguson, Manager Executive Services, on phone 1300 735 025 or (02) 6238 8111 or email: records@palerang.nsw.gov.au

Information packages, which include details of essential and desirable criteria for the positions, may be obtained from Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, and 144 Wallace Street Braidwood. The information is also available on Council's website, **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au** under Your Council / Positions Vacant. Applicants are requested to address all criteria listed.

Council is an equal employment opportunity employer and offers a smoke-free work environment.

**General Manager**
**Palerang Council**

PO Box 348
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

PALERANG COUNCIL

*Queanbeyan is the main regional growth centre identified in the NSW government Sydney Canberra Corridor Strategy. That means potentially good things – less far-flung development on the urban fringes, related infrastructure needs and automotive energy consumption. But, as* **Katrina Willis** *reports, growth comes with a new set of challenges if residents want to keep their own and the city's relaxed and pleasant lifestyle.*

# INNOVATIVE GROWTH OR LIFESTYLE LOSSES?

## QUEANBEYAN GROUP LOOKS TO FUTURE

I'VE BEEN THINKING of changing the signs that mark the entrances to Queanbeyan City. The ones that proclaim – *Country Living, City Benefits* – to something that more accurately reflects what's happening to the town, something like: *Country Living, City Inconvenience and Frustration*.

Queanbeyan has growing pains. Everyone is talking about the traffic – the peak period congestion, the inability to get out of side streets on to main roads, plans for new roads and wider roads, and the noise.

Everywhere you look, cottages on small blocks and their old fruit trees and gardens are being knocked down for medium density development that aims to squeeze as many dwellings as possible into the space, yet the cost of each new townhouse is almost the same as the single dwelling they replace. There's nothing particularly affordable about this housing.

Heritage cottages are crowded out, neglected, or left unprotected. Mature trees are bulldozed for housing; we get a few slight shrubs in their place. The ACT Government is building a new industrial area across the road from Queanbeyan's major medium density residential precinct.

And the Federal Government has approved 24-hour operation of Canberra airport whose flight paths already affect different parts of Queanbeyan City.

So much for country living. Like many cities and towns across Australia, Queanbeyan is confronting the impacts and costs of potentially 'unsustainable' development.

*population near double by 2031 – how will water be provided?*

The State government-endorsed residential and economic development strategy proposes the city's population should grow from around 40,000 now to 70,000 by the year 2031. Yet the CSIRO has forecast reduced water availability under climate change for the Murrumbidgee catchment, one of the most degraded in the Murray-Darling Basin.

**Can 70,000 people live the way that 40,000 live now, and still preserve what's left of our natural reserves, our green spaces, the river corridors, our variety of native animals and birds, our unique built heritage, and our 'country town' character while reducing our contribution to climate change?**

**Some of us think 'probably not', so we are working on making the shift to a sustainable way of living. The Queanbeyan City Sustainability Initiative (QUEST) has been formed under the auspices of Queanbeyan Landcare to raise awareness, undertake activities and events, and mobilise the talents, skills and enthusiasm in the city.**

**Since our launch in June we have promoted our initiative at the Queanbeyan City Enviro Expo and the Spring Fling market. We conducted a short beginner's food growing course with the support of the Canberra Organic Growers Society, and with the support of QCC we held an information evening on the raft of rebates and grants available from different governments for energy and water efficiency improvement, solar hot water and renewable energy systems.**

**We are now setting up working groups to focus on different aspects of food sustainability: establishing a regular market for local and regional produce, establishing more community gardens, showing people how to use local seasonal produce and conducting more gardening courses, and produce exchange between home and community gardeners.**

**Everyone needs to eat and many people gain pleasure and a sense of satisfaction from growing their own food. With so much of the city being turned over to medium density housing, and new development flagged for the Jerrabomberra Valley and Googong, we need to ensure that space for growing food is incorporated into new residential developments.**

### The real cost of food production

Food accounts for around 20 percent of Britain's greenhouse gas emissions. I know of no similar work that has identified the full greenhouse impact of food in Australia; not just agriculture (14.8 percent) but transport, manufacturing, refrigeration, cooking and waste disposal, although the Australia Institute has estimated that Australians throw away $5 billion worth of food each year. So there seems plenty of scope to make food production and consumption more sustainable.

There is another imperative, too. *The Guardian* (UK) reported two officials from the International Energy Agency last month stating that the world is much closer to running out of oil than official estimates admit.

The rising cost of oil will have enormous impacts on our lives. We can wait for the disruption and the additional costs it will impose, including higher food costs that will hurt low-income earners most, or we can start to transform the way we live – so that we live within the limits of the planet's resources, while providing enough to meet all people's needs.

We hope that QUEST will pave the way to a transition town movement in Queanbeyan City to work on community-owned renewable energy systems, much better public transport services, more local social and economic activity, and preservation of our irreplaceable built heritage, natural landscapes and biodiversity. In all, a better quality of life, which is really what sustainable living can deliver for us all.

*To find out more about QUEST contact Katrina Willis on 02 6284 4113 or email: katrinawillis@iinet.net.au*

## Across the radar screen

Radar screen brings you: 'Beyond the big idea' *ta da* this year's Darwin Awards for least evolved thinking, but let's face it, amusement is worth a lot too!

### The glorious winner:

When his 38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach , California would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

### And the honorable mentions:

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

*(We at the Bulletin feel the one below is misplaced and actually brilliant thinking!)*

After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.


## TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERATIONS AT THE BRAIDWOOD OFFICES OF PALERANG COUNCIL

CONTRACT 08E1

Tenders are invited and will be received up until 2.00pm Tuesday 19 January 2010 for the provision of construction and alteration works at Palerang Council's heritage listed Braidwood Offices.

Copies of Specifications for the works may be obtained by contacting Council's consultant architects Eric Martin & Associates, 10/68 Jardine Street, Kingston ACT 2604 on (02) 6260 6395 during business hours.

All enquiries concerning these works should be directed to Mr Glen Hatherly on the above number.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

**Peter Bascomb**
**General Manager**

PO Box 348
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621
Email: records@palerang.nsw.gov.au

PALERANG COUNCIL



## POOL OPERATION HOURS 2009–2010 SUMMER SEASON

**OPENING DATES** FOR ALL POOLS: **SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2009**
**CLOSING DATE** FOR ALL POOLS: **SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2010**

OPERATING HOURS FOR ALL POOLS:

| | |
|---|---|
| ***31 October 2009 to 18 December 2009*** | |
| EVERY DAY | 12 Noon – 7.00pm |
| ***19 December 2009 to 29 January 2010*** | |
| EVERY DAY | 11.00am – 7.00pm |
| ***30 January 2010 to 14 March 2010*** | |
| EVERY DAY | 12 Noon – 7.00pm |

PALERANG COUNCIL

***NOTE:*** *Hours of operation shown are subject to weather conditions.*



## AUSTRALIA DAY 2010 AWARDS

Council is planning activities, including the presentation of community awards, in Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat to celebrate Australia Day (Tuesday, 26 January) 2010.

The categories for the awards in each area are:

1. **Citizen of the Year**
2. **Young Citizen of the Year (under 25 years)**
3. **Community Event of the Year**

Nominations for awards in the above categories are now invited from throughout Palerang and may be submitted by organisations, community groups or individuals.

Nomination forms are available from Council's offices in Bungendore (10 Majara Street) and Braidwood (144 Wallace Street) or by telephoning 1300 735 025 or (02) 6238 8111. They may also be downloaded from Council's website at **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au** under Community Services.

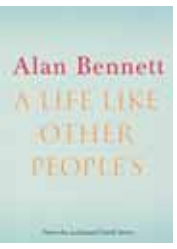
Completed nominations should be returned to Council in an envelope marked "Confidential – Australia Day 2010 Nomination" at the address below by 3.00 pm on Thursday, 24 December 2009.

For further information, please contact Council's Manager of Executive Services, Debby Ferguson, on (02) 6238 8111 during business hours.

PALERANG COUNCIL

## PENNY'S BOOK REVIEWS

*Cont'd from p17*

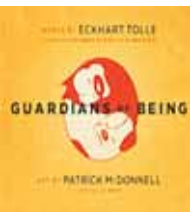



### A Life Like Other People's

***by Alan Bennett***

ISBN 97805715248124
Publisher Allan & Unwin RRP $26.99

ALAN BENNETT'S *A Life Like Other People's* is a poignant family memoir offering a portrait of his parents' marriage and recalling his Leeds childhood, Christmases with Grandma Peel, and the lives, loves and deaths of his unforgettable aunties Kathleen and Myra. Bennett's powerful account of his mother's descent into depression and later dementia comes hand in hand with the uncovering of a long-held tragic secret. A heartrending and at times irresistibly funny work of autobiography by one of the best-loved contemporary English writers.



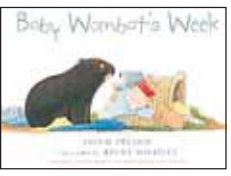

### Guardians of Being

***by Eckhart Tolle & Patrick McDonnell***

ISBN 9781401924317
Publisher Hay House
RRP $24.95

THE COLLABORATION between renowned author Eckhart Tolle and illustrator Patrick McDonnell is a match made in heaven. Together they created a book that is a fun, easy to read and was simply delightful. The illustrations, both beautiful and whimsical, combined with Eckart Tolle's words are priceless. It is doubtful once you pick this book up and start reading it, you will be able to put it down.

Another book that's priceless and impossible to put down is titled, ***Being Here: Modern Day Tales of Enlightenment*** by award winning authors Ariel & Shya Kane. Check out both of them!




### Baby Wombat's Week

***by Jackie French***

ISBN 9780732286941 Publisher Angus & Roberston RRP $24.99 (Readers 1+)

THE STAR of the bestseller Diary of a Wombat is back – with a new mouth to feed! Cuter, stroppier and even more determined than her mother – meet Mothball's baby. Like any growing family, this baby wombat and her mum are finding it hard to fit into their home. When setting out to dig a new, bigger hole with room for them both, Shaggy Gully's newest resident gets some help from a friend, causes more mayhem than Mothball ever did, and sorts things out in hilarious style.

### Where the Wild Things Are

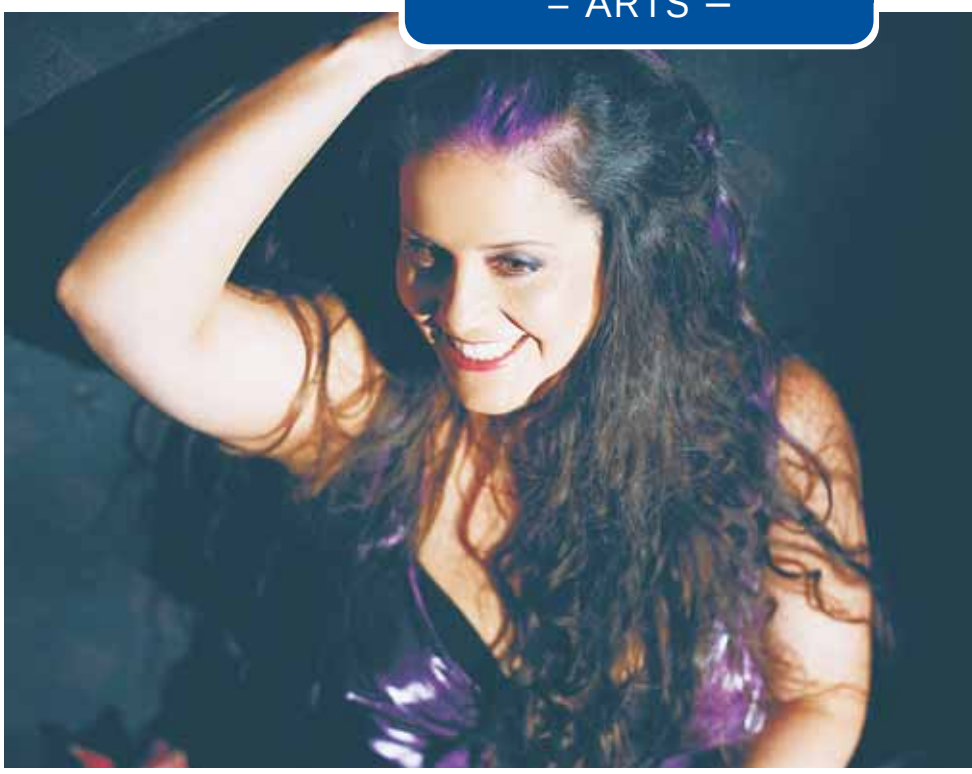
***by Maurice Sendak***

ISBN 9780099408390 Publisher Red Fox
RRP $19.95 (Readers 4+)

THE MUCH-LOVED favourite children's bestseller in paperback and now released in a film version

Originally published in 1963, it has become a much-loved favourite children's best-seller, and an acknowledged classic of 20th century children's picture books. Maurice Sendak said: "Max, the hero of my book, discharges his anger against his mother, and returns to the real world sleepy, hungry, and at peace with himself... from their earliest years children live on familiar terms with disrupting emotions: fear and anxiety are an intrinsic part of their everyday lives, they continually cope with frustration as best they can. And it is through fantasy that children achieve catharsis. It is the best means they have for taming Wild Things".

# JAZZ TREAT at The 'Q'



THOSE SUBSCRIBERS and hangers on (like the media) who were given the chance to hear jazz vocalist Michelle Nicolle and her instrumentalist colleagues at The 'Q' in Queanbeyan a few weeks ago, were awarded a special treat.

Considered a world-class interpretive jazz performer who can channel Ella Fitzgerald and other classic 'skat' or interpretive jazz singers, Michelle did not disappoint her fans and those new to her music in the audience.

It is a measure of what a regional performing arts centre like The 'Q' can bring to local audiences, albeit mostly as a one-night stand and little-advertised. So it pays music lovers and aficionados of fine performing arts, including dance as well as theatre, to keep a good eye on The 'Q's program for the year. The theatre lineup is below and more program details as well as holiday events can be accessed on The 'Q' website **www.theq.net.au**.

During the past six years Michelle Nicolle has toured jazz festivals internationally in Asia, Europe and the Pacific and won the 2001, 2003 and 2004 Australian Jazz Vocalist of the Year Aria Award. Many call the Melbourne-based arranger, band leader and jazz vocalist Australia's first lady of jazz.

Her band, which has Geoff Hughes on guitar, Tom Lee on bass, and Ronny Ferella on drums, is equally impressive.

*More on Michelle and the albums released by this smooth-as-single-malt jazz quartet can be found at* ***www.michellenicolle.com****.*

PALERANG COUNCIL

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

**The following applications have been received by Council from**
**2 November to 6 November 2009**

| Application No | Description | Received* | Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2009.0320 | Dwelling | 2/11/2009 | 32 McDonald Road ROYALLA |
| DEV.2009.0321 | Tree Removal | 5/11/2009 | 42–44 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0322 | Tree Removal | 6/11/2009 | 1 Mathews Place BUNGENDORE |

**The following applications have been received by Council from**
**9 November to 13 November 2009**

| Application No | Description | Received* | Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2009.0323 | 2 Lot subdivision | 9/11/2009 | Willow Forest Road NERRIGA |
| DEV.2009.0324 | Pergola, Shed & Carport | 9/11/2009 | 28 Day Circuit BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0325 | Shed | 9/11/2009 | 26 Hyland Drive BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0326 | Tree Removal | 10/11/2009 | 60 Molonglo Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0327 | 20 Lot Subdivision | 10/11/2009 | 1 King Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0328 | Dwelling, Shed and Garage | 11/11/2009 | 746 Mount Fairy Road MOUNT FAIRY |
| DEV.2009.0329 | Shed | 12/11/2009 | 65 Duncan Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0330 | Inground Swimming Pool | 12/11/2009 | 79 Birriwa Road BYWONG |
| DEV.2009.0331 | POPE | 13/11/2009 | 40 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE |

**The following applications have been received by Council from**
**16 November to 20 November 2009**

| Application No | Description | Received* | Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2009.0332 | Pergola | 16/11/2009 | 35 Larmer Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0333 | Boundary Adjustment | 16/11/2009 | 36 Turallo Terrace BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0334 | Transportable Dwelling | 16/11/2009 | 272 Foxlow Street CAPTAINS FLAT |
| DEV.2009.0335 | Additions and Alterations to Dwelling | 16/11/2009 | 175 Tarago Road BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0336 | POPE Licence for Gundillion Hall | 17/11/2009 | Rfs Krawarree & Gundillion Hall 4274 Cooma Road KRAWARREE |
| DEV.2009.0337 | Two (2) Lot Subdivision | 17/11/2009 | Part Lot 21 Section 5 DP758152 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0338 | Dwelling | 18/11/2009 | Lot 41 DP1001917 Half Moon Road MONGARLOWE |
| DEV.2009.0339 | Alterations & Additions to Dwelling | 19/11/2009 | 26 Osborne Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0340 | Dwelling | 19/11/2009 | 5 Lithgow Place BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0341 | Shed | 20/11/2009 | 367 Mathews Lane BUNGENDORE |

**The following applications have been received by Council from**
**23 November to 27 November 2009**

| Application No | Description | Received* | Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2009.0342 | Dwelling 2 sheds & Temporary Occupancy of Existing Shed | 23/11/2009 | Lot 1 DP1089987 Foxs Elbow Road WARRI |
| DEV.2009.0343 | Tree Removal | 23/11/2009 | 203 Bowen Street CARWOOLA |
| DEV.2009.0344 | Swimming Pool | 24/11/2009 | 785 Norton Road WAMBOIN |
| DEV.2009.0345 | Swimming Pool | 24/11/2009 | 565 Plains Road HOSKINSTOWN |
| DEV.2009.0346 | Pergola | 24/11/2009 | 41 Arena Place ROYALLA |
| DEV.2009.0347 | Tree Removal | 24/11/2009 | 203 Bowen Street CARWOOLA |
| DEV.2009.0348 | Garage with awning | 25/11/2009 | 20 Hyland Drive BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0349 | Dwelling | 25/11/2009 | 21 McCusker Drive BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0350 | Two (2) Lot Subdivision | 25/11/2009 | Lot 144 DP750013 Lucky Pass Road CURRAWANG |

**The following applications have been received by Council from**
**30 November to 4 December 2009**

| Application No | Description | Received* | Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2009.0351 | Dwelling & Garage | 30/11/2009 | 9A Hassall Circuit BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0352 | Dwelling | 30/11/2009 | 91 Wilson Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0353 | 'A' Frame Sign | 30/11/2009 | 33 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0354 | Home Business | 1/12/2009 | 66 Canning Close WAMBOIN NSW |
| DEV.2009.0355 | 3 Lot Subdivision | 1/12/2009 | 1139 Bombay Road BOMBAY |
| DEV.2009.0356 | Dwelling | 1/12/2009 | 8 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0357 | 3 Lot Subdivision | 1/12/2009 | 1139 Bombay Road BOMBAY |
| DEV.2009.0358 | Dwelling | 2/12/2009 | 88 Tarago Road BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0359 | Shed | 2/12/2009 | 1686 Captains Flat Road CARWOOLA |
| DEV.2009.0360 | Dwelling | 3/12/2009 | 222 Macdiarmid Road BURRA |
| DEV.2009.0361 | Tree Removal | 4/12/2009 | 35 Nummerak Close CARWOOLA |

PALERANG COUNCIL

## COURT DETERMINATION – Correction

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* the following development applications have been determined.

| Application No | Description | Determined | Address | Stage/Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2008.0325 | Subdivision for 82 residential lots | 26/08/2009 | Lots 19, 20, 21 and 22 DP 1062506 70–74 Trucking Yard Lane BUNGENDORE | Approved |

Development consents are available for public inspection, free of charge, during ordinary office hours (8.30am–5.00pm) at Palerang Council offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood.

**PO BOX 348, BUNGENDORE NSW 2621**

PALERANG COUNCIL

## DEVELOPMENT DETERMINATIONS

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* Council determined the following development applications in

**October 2009**

| Application No | Description | Stage/Decision | Determined | Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEV.2008.0080 | 5 Lot Subdivision | Approved | 13/10/2009 | 5723 Captains Flat Rd HAROLDS CROSS |
| DEV.2009.0025 | External Coolroom | Approved | 21/10/2009 | 101 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0162 | Swimming Pool | Approved | 8/10/2009 | 152 Hogan Drive WAMBOIN |
| DEV.2009.0163 | Alterations and Addition to Dwelling | Approved | 8/10/2009 | 156 Newington Road BYWONG |
| DEV.2009.0168 | Boundary Adjustment | Approved | 13/10/2009 | 114 Currandooley Rd LAKE GEORGE |
| DEV.2009.0176 | 2 Lot Sub Division | Approved | 1/10/2009 | 656 Tarago Road LAKE GEORGE |
| DEV.2009.0181 | Alterations & Additions – Patio | Approved | 6/10/2009 | 276 Kain Cross Road KRAWARREE |
| DEV.2009.0187 | Glasshouse | Approved | 30/10/2009 | 884 Bungendore Road BYWONG |
| DEV.2009.0190 | Dwelling and Garage | Approved | 28/10/2009 | 9 Robinson Lane BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0194 | Garage | Approved | 8/10/2009 | 88 Poppet Road WAMBOIN |
| DEV.2009.0200 | Shed with Toilet | Approved | 6/10/2009 | 91 Wilson Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0201 | Shed | Approved | 1/10/2009 | 6 Larmer Street BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0202 | Swimming Pool | Approved | 15/10/2009 | 11 Wild Terrace BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0209 | Shed | Approved | 14/10/2009 | 158 Royalla Drive ROYALLA |
| DEV.2009.0211 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | Approved | 20/10/2009 | 31 Coronation Avenue BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0213 | Dwelling | Approved | 15/10/2009 | 12 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0214 | Shed | Approved | 13/10/2009 | 16 Keder Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0216 | Dwelling and Shed | Approved | 16/10/2009 | 86 Macdiarmid Road BURRA |
| DEV.2009.0221 | Dwelling, Earthworks and Remove Existing Dwelling | Approved | 21/10/2009 | 113 Gum Flat Lane BYWONG |
| DEV.2009.0223 | Manufactured Home | Approved | 7/10/2009 | 6 Burke Street MAJORS CREEK |
| DEV.2009.0224 | Garage | Approved | 1/10/2009 | 4418 Kings Highway BUNGENDORE |
| DEV.2009.0228 | Shed | Approved | 7/10/2009 | 2 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0230 | Relocatable Dwellings (Dual Occupancy) | Approved | 6/10/2009 | 2707 Captains Flat Rd PRIMROSE VALLEY |
| DEV.2009.0231 | Dwelling and Garage | Approved | 6/10/2009 | 13A Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0232 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | Approved | 6/10/2009 | Lot 163 DP754887 Off Little Bombay Rd BOMBAY |
| DEV.2009.0235 | Shed | Approved | 29/10/2009 | 34 Saddle Place ROYALLA |
| DEV.2009.0237 | Shed | Approved | 6/10/2009 | 8 Llewellyn Drive BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0246 | Dwelling and Carport | Approved | 21/10/2009 | Lot 11 DP837840 Off Cooma Road BENDOURA |
| DEV.2009.0250 | Tree Removal | Approved | 20/10/2009 | 28 Araluen Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0251 | Shed | Approved | 6/10/2009 | 210 Larbert Road LARBERT |
| DEV.2009.0267 | Garage | Approved | 20/10/2009 | 3 Bowler Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DEV.2009.0269 | Tree Removal | Approved | 12/10/2009 | 341 Williamsdale Rd BURRA |

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**PO BOX 348, BUNGENDORE NSW 2621**

## Great wildflower display in
# Kosciuszko National Park

Photo: Mary Green

*The NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) anticipates a spectacular wildflower display in Kosciuszko National Park this summer after it received good spring rains. From buttercups to heath flowers, more than 200 different species will deliver a spectacular show which should just get better through the holiday season until early January.*

*A Parks spokesperson said by far the best location to witness the annual wildflower display will be the Main Range Walking Track with other great opportunities from the top of the chair lift at Thredbo and the walk up towards Kosciuszko summit from Charlotte Pass. The Porcupine walk and areas around Perisher and Guthega as well as parts of Mount Selwyn will all offer some wonderful opportunities to see what we think will be a great display this season. More information available from the Snowy Region Visitor centre.*

# Bringing faiths together to care for the Earth

*'Creation care' has emerged as a major stream in Evangelical and other Christian communities. This is the belief that Christians have a biblical responsibility to the environment – along with care for the poor and protecting the sanctity of life.*

*'Dominion' over the earth in this interpretation means not domination but stewardship. Richard Cizik, former vice president of the National Association of Evangelicals, has emerged in the US as a major spokesperson for this viewpoint and has spoken out strongly on the need to take action on climate change.* **The Christian Post** *reported on his lecture on interfaith creation care on Earth Day this year.*

WASHINGTON – Surrounded by Muslims, Sikhs, Jews, and Christians sitting in the pews of a United Methodist church, Cizik spoke about the need for new strategies and ideas to advance the environmental issue.

"The best strategy is to bring religious communities together with scientists," Cizik declared as the keynote speaker of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington's Fifth Richard W. Snowdon Lecture. People of diverse faiths and spiritualities, as well as people with no faith at all, Cizik said, can easily have dialogue and work together when it comes to protecting the Earth.

"The tinder is dry, the condition is right and all it takes is a heart here and a match there and the interfaith religious community is going to wake up," he said during the 'Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth' program. Cizik has been at the forefront of the green evangelical movement and an outspoken advocate for evangelicals to put creation care among their top priorities.

For years, he travelled across the country to speak at churches, Christian colleges and secular universities about the need for environmental care through a change in personal lifestyle combined with government policies. With evangelicals, he argues that creation care is a more holistic understanding of the evangelical pro-life stance.

### Uniting scientists and Christians to protect the earth

In 2007, Cizik partnered with Harvard scientist (*psychologist*) and Nobel laureate Eric Chivian to form a coalition of evangelicals and scientists to press the US government to change its environmental policies while at the same time mobilizing members of the faith community to make personal lifestyle changes. (*In 2008 they were named amongst* Time Magazine*'s 100 most influential thinkers and scientists, globally – Ed.*)

Later that same year, Cizik also teamed up with the US government to host a luncheon where dozens of evangelical leaders learned how to make their church building more energy efficient. The event was the first religious-government partnership to tackle energy consumption in religious facilities.

But Cizik's evangelical-environment push has not gone without obstacles. Several prominent evangelical leaders, including James C. Dobson, Gary L. Bauer, and Tony Perkins, were angry that Cizik seemingly spoke on behalf of all evangelicals on the issue of global warming. They argue that there is no consensus within the evangelical community that global warming is real and mainly man-made.

The conservative evangelical leaders also charged Cizik of diverting attention away from more important issues like homosexuality and abortion. However, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) board members sided with Cizik and affirmed that creation care is an important moral issue for the organisation. (*Czik later parted company with the organisation due to his more liberal views on the social issues of homosexuality and abortion.*)

*– extracted from a report by Michelle A. Vu,* Christian Post *Reporter, posted on The Christian Post website*

# Living with wildlife, some tips

*Flying Fox caught in barbed wire.*

YOU DON'T HAVE to get up close and personal with wildlife to actively support it and ensure it stays around our local areas for our pleasure and that of future generations – even these days for tourists to see and as property selling features! Whilst many parts of our rural residential region (and Queanbeyan) are blessed with an abundance of wildlife, there are also large areas where it has been eradicated though farming, wide-scale culling, development and ignorance.

Interestingly, we at Wildcare find more and more property owners are asking how they can live in harmony with wildlife – such as wombats, kangaroos and snakes that might other-wise be seen as 'pests'. Many want to turn back the clock and re-introduce wildlife that disappeared over the years due to loss of habitat and human intervention.

### Good deeds: remove some un-needed fencing and net sensibly

Any property can be made into a more wildlife-friendly environment. We all know about controlling dogs and cats, which cause immense damage, but we do not always think about the impact of barbed wire, mesh fencing and fence wires that are too low or high. If it is not needed, why not start to remove some it?

Use bird netting in a sensible way – keep it off the ground to avoid a slithery surprise and prop it away from trees and shrubs to prevent birds and bats being trapped. Bird netting needs to be checked regularly to see if any animals have become trapped. Avoiding the use of pesticides and poisons is sensible too.

Other pro-active measures are to set bird-baths up high, and down low water bowls in safe sheltered areas for lizards. Packing out the garden with native plants and trees is a sure way to attract a host of wildlife.

### About roses, natural areas and driving to conditions

If you are keen on roses and some other flowers, you may already know that possums love them and wallabies (sometimes kangaroos) do too – be patient, put a barrier around new starts or grow something else. (Roses usually make strong comebacks after being pruned by hungry marsupials during the winter months.)

Leaving areas of your property or garden largely untouched will supply homes for wildlife that need tree hollows or logs. On the roads, drive at a modest speed and be aware of wildlife crossing points near you to avoid expensive bumps and squashed animals. Don't mow verges with the road and you won't attract kangaroos to the roadside.

We are still blessed with the company of kangaroos, shy wallabies, echidnas, possums, wombats, parrots and a host of other birds, bats, lizards, turtles, snakes, spiders and other members of local ecosystems. These are things we can do to enjoy their presence and live alongside.

*If you need help or advice about wildlife contact Wildcare – 6299 1966 or the Native Animal Rescue Group (Braidwood area) – 4846 1900.*


2010 Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival

**Art Competition**

15–16 May 2010

**$2,000 in prize money**

Registration Closes 16 April 2010
Entry Form with Terms and Conditions is available upon enquiry to
**harvest.festival@y7mail.com**
or from the Bungendore Post Office

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**

Bungendore Foodlovers Market

**EXCELLENT TURNOVER**

**OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND**

**GREAT LOCATION**

Inspection by appointment only
**Phone owner 0401 241646**
Owner wants to retire.

# What's On – December

*Compiled by Jacinta Ribeny*

**Send your announcements to whatson@palerangbulletin.com.au**

**Until 21 December**

### The Art of Hall Thorpe and Ethleen Palmer

Australian artists of the 19th and 20th century. Fyre Gallery, 84 Wallace, St Braidwood. Visit **www.hannahfyre.com.au**.

**Tuesday 1 – Monday 21**

### 2009 Mortimore Prize

Kiku Arts, Bungendore. A selection of finalist works. Visit **www.kikuarts.com.au**.

**Tuesday 1 – Thursday 31**

### Pam Padavon

Bungendore Fine Art. For more info visit **www.bungendorefineart.com.au**.

**Thursday 3 – Thursday 31**

### Michael Retter with Scott Mitchell – Maquetry

Bungendore Woodworks Gallery, 18 Malbon St (Kings Highway), Bungendore. Wood Masters Series. Visit **www.bwoodworks.com.au**.

**Sunday 6 – Wednesday 30**

### Queanbeyan City Travel

Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Place. Members Competition/Exhibition. Call 6297 8181.

**Tuesday 8 – Saturday 19**

### *Local Presents*

Queanbeyan Conference Centre, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Local artists and craft people are invited to get cracking on one-off or production pieces ripe for Christmas gift giving! All items to be $300 or less, $20 to participate 22% commission on sold items. Make a little or a lot-items replenished as they sell. Tuesday 8 Opening Night Christmas party with lucky door prizes and festivities aplenty! Call Georgina Perri 6298 0170 or visit **culturalservices@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

**Thursday 10**

### Bungendore Late Night Shopping

Bungendore Village, 4–9pm. Late night shopping is on again and every year it gets bigger and better. Old favourites such as Santa's street strolling, sidewalk specials, wine and treat tastings and twilight buskers will all be there. Many businesses see the night as a chance to thank loyal customers and staff with a drink and a bargain and newcomers will enjoy the surprise happenings. A great night of shopping, food, entertainment and a chance to see Santa Claus!

**Friday 11 – Saturday 12**

### *Christmas Allsorts*

Bungendore War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 7.30pm. BATS (Bungendore Amateur Theatrical Society) presents The Christmas Allsorts Show – a show of comedy, sing-a-long, sketches, Christmas pantomime, games and trivia plus Santa! There will be a special matinee performance for children on the Saturday at 2pm. Tickets available from Summit Gifts and Wares and Cuts on Gibralter. Adults $15 and Children $5; BYO dinner and drink.

**Saturday 12 – Sunday 13**

### Eden Dance Academy Concert

The 'Q' Queanbeyan Arts Centre, 253 Crawford St. 12.30pm & 6.30pm on Saturday, 2pm on Sunday. Tickets on sale Saturday 7. Box office: 6298 0290.

**Saturday 12**

### Car Boot Market

Rotary Club Queanbeyan, Queen Elizabeth Park, corner of Morisset and Lowe Streets, 10am–2pm. Call 6299 0219.

**Saturday 12 – Thursday 24**

### Exhibition featuring varied media works of Braidwood area artists

Suzanne Bellamy and Gilly Burke National Theatre, Braidwood.

**Thursday 17**

### Apex Christmas in the Park

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood. Christmas fun for the kids and all the family in the centre of town.

**Friday 18**

### Carols at Wamboin

Wamboin Community Hall. Commences 6pm with an appearance by the jolly gentleman in red himself! The 'formal proceedings' will be followed, as is the tradition, with a sausage sizzle for all the family. All welcome, young and old, with proceeds to the Salvation Army.

**Saturday 19**

### *The Castle*

Braidwood Film Club, National Theatre, Wallace St, 8pm. For details call Michelle 0427 577 183 or Aaron 0428 715 077.

**Sunday 20**

### Carols in the Park

Queanbeyan Park, Lowe St. Picnic 5.30pm, Carols 7.30pm. Wet weather venue; Queanbeyan Conference Centre, 253 Crawford St. Candle and song book available on the night. Call 9299 7307.

**Saturday 26**

### Horse Racing – Boxing Day

McCrae St, Queanbeyan. Call 6299 2398, email **hq@gracing.com.au** or visit **www.gracing.com.au**.

### Helping Hands Christmas Donations

Bungendore Helping Hands. Donations of non-perishable food items, Christmas food, sweets and drinks. Collection boxes located at Anglican Church, Bungendore Post Office, Bungendore Public School and Food Works Supermarket. Packing of hampers at St Mary's Church, all welcome! Your donation will give those in need a better Christmas! Call Jenny Leake 0421 029 744.

## Plan Ahead: JANUARY

**Tuesday 26**

### Australia Day Celebrations

Queanbeyan Park, Lowe St, 5pm, Fireworks Spectacular at 9pm. Wet weather venue; Queanbeyan Conference Centre, Crawford St. Call 6298 0290.

**Saturday 30 – Sunday 31**

### Bungendore Country Muster

Bungendore Showground, Matthews Lane and Village, Bungendore. Showcasing some of Australia's finest Bush Balladeers. $25 per person/per day, children under 15 years free. Call 6238 0224, email **bungendorecountry muster@yahoo.com.au** or visit **www.bush balladeers.com.au**.

**Sunday 31**

### Bungendore Show

Bungendore Showground, Matthews Lane, Bungendore. Events include cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, donkeys, mules and of course horses. The pavilion will house a diverse range of exhibits, from flowers to photography, handicrafts and needlework, preserves, home brews and vegetable and farm produce. There is also much scope for younger entrants, with children's classes in many sections. Adult $10 and Children under 15 years free, Camping $5 per night. Visit **www.bungendoreshow.com.au**.

## EVERY MONTH:

**Every Saturday**

### Queanbeyan Arts Market

City Link Plaza, Morisset, St, 9.30am–2pm.

**Every Saturday, Sunday**

### Local produce market

Benedict House, Queanbeyan 39 Isabel St, 10am.

**1st Saturday of every month**

### Captains Flat Country Markets

*(Bar January.)* Captains Flat community hall, Foxlow St, 10am–2pm. Old-fashioned country market, antiques, trash and treasure and local produce.

**3rd Saturday of every month**

### Wamboin home produce markets

*(Bar July and August.)* Community Hall, Bingley Way Wamboin, 9am. Local produce, craft items, honey milk and cheese and more.

**4th Saturday of every month**

### Braidwood Markets

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am–2pm. Local crafts and cooking, plants and natural products, lots of treasure to be found! Call 4847 5061 for more information.

**3rd Sunday of every month**

### Bungendore Markets

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9am–3pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.

### Windellama Hall Markets

Windellama Hall & Grounds (intersection of Windellama Rd & Oallen Ford Rd), 10am–2pm. Call 4844 5001.

**1st & 2nd week of every month**

### Captain Axe Woodworks

55 Foxlow St (old post office), 10am–4pm. Bush furniture, antiques, collectables, model cars, old tools. Something for everyone! Call 6236 6799.

**Every Wednesday Night**

### Free Pool

Lake George Hotel, Bungendore.

### Bungendore Bridge Club

Community Centre, 7pm. Bungendore.

**Every Thursday**

### Queanbeyan Health Walking Group

Queen Elizabeth Park, Cnr Morisset and Collett Streets, 9am. Call 6255 8999.

**More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:**

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

## – GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

### DECEMBER:

**Adam Conroy.** Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 5–8pm. **Sunday 6.**
**Trixie Craig & Pete Galvin.** Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 5–8pm. **Sunday 13.**
**Jamie Agius.** Royal Hotel, Bungendore. **Sunday 13.**
**Andy Daniels.** Royal Hotel, Bungendore. **Sunday 13.**
**Wedded Bliss.** Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 5–8pm. **Sunday 20.**
**Local Muso's Get Together.** Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 5–8pm. **Sunday 27.**
**Sean Hale & Friends.** Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 8pm. New Year's Eve! **Thursday 31.**
**Rob Wilson.** The Loaded Dog Hotel, Tarago, 9pm. New Years Eve, **Thursday 31.**

*Photo: Marcele Martins*


**Certificate IV in Small Business Management**

FREE COURSE through 'NEW ENTERPRISE INCENTIVE SCHEME (NEIS)' in conjunction with Capital Region Enterprise Centre

bec Capital Region BEC

**FREE Information Session:**
**Monday 14th December 2009 – 2pm–4pm**
**Capital Region BEC, 1 Farrer Place Queanbeyan**

Are you an eligible job seeker interested in starting and running a small business? You may be able to access assistance through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) with business mentoring and support during your first year of business operation.

for details, ring Kellie: 02 6230 4633

for more details contact Blended Learning International on 6230 4633

Blended Learning International



For more info... www.strangehours.com.au

**1st Summer Rhythm Festival and Fundraiser**

**At Goolabri Resort**
**Sunday 13th December**
**from noon till 11pm**

(All proceeds go to Tim Markcrow – a 17-year-old Canberra boy – his family, and the Spinal Injuries Association.)

**– Endorphin – King Tide – Ganga Giri –**
**– Hancock Basement – Little Smoke – Dub Dub Goose –**
**– Tonight Alright – Ben Drysdale – In The Flesh – plus more ...**

**Tickets available from Moshtix:** Standard $39; Student $29

Bringing musicians together and promoting the arts, sustainability and down-to-earth revelry.

*This year the festival will raise money to support the family of Tim Markcrow (enabling them to stay with him in Sydney). He suffered a severe spinal injury during a competitive motorcycle sports event.*

**Goolabri is 9 minutes north of Canberra in the Sutton district.**