

Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

Locally-owned and independent – going out monthly to: Araluen, Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Bywong, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Cooma Road, Fernleigh, Greenleigh, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centre, Majors Creek, Mongarlowe, Queanbeyan plazas, The Ridgeway, Royalla, Sutton, Tarago, Wamboin and Weetalaba



Thrilling finish to Queanbeyan 'Gift': local sprinter beats the pack

Queanbeyan's Patrick Elliott gave it his all to snatch the \$10,000 Queanbeyan Gift prize in a thrillingly tight finish of the 120 metre men's race at Queanbeyan Oval on 27 November. He edged out 2010 Stawell Gift runner-up, Sydney's Richard Hankin, and Canberran Brendan Matthews. Becoming an instant local hero, after hugs and tears from friends and family, Elliott told the assembled crowd that he had just fulfilled a childhood dream and that he owed his enduring interest in athletics to the encouragement of his grandfather.

> More photos, details of 2010 Queanbeyan Gift p15

Photos: Maria Taylor

TRALEE DEVELOPMENT GETS COUNCIL GREEN LIGHT

by Maria Taylor

AFTER EIGHT years and some 10 comment opportunities for the public, governments and corporate interests, Queanbeyan Council voted unanimously in mid-November to proceed with rezoning South Tralee for residential development of some 1,600 blocks.

'Growth' was the theme for both sides of the lengthy argument around the Local Environmental Plan for the rezoning. The proposed Tralee subdivision lies south-west of Jerrabomberra and has been enthusiastically supported by the Jerrabomberra Residents' Association (JRA) as an avenue to more community facilities such as sports fields, schools and a swimming pool.

On the other side of the debate has been the commercial interest of Capital Airport Group in expanding Canberra Airport, supported by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport. Neighbouring ACT communities in Tuggeranong have expressed fears that, if South Tralee is built, more aircraft will fly over their homes.

Residents say community development pips aircraft noise argument

The Capital Airport Group has long argued that putting more housing under the general flight path to Canberra Airport will dampen its ambitious expansion plans. On paper, these would rival the intense traffic at Sydney airport by 2050 with added international and 24-hour freight flights. (Canberra airport was privatised in 1998.)

Hundreds of supporting submissions from aviation and airport groups flew into Queanbeyan from across the globe in October during the last public comment period. Mayor Tim Overall said that in total over 1,900 submissions were received – approximately 65 percent supporting the subdivision and 35 percent against.

Some 40 members of the community attended the November Council meeting and most of those who spoke urged a speedy 'yes' vote on Tralee – JRA representative Kim Howatson reminded

Council that the JRA has 300 members representing some 3,000 households.

"We need land for a high school, preschools, sports fields and places of worship," she said. "'South Jerra' must be the most scrutinised rezone in memory. But progress should not be only for the loudest voices and deepest pockets."

More housing options for Queanbeyan, in light of expected population growth, has been the compelling argument for Councillors and others, along with encouraging more healthy competition amongst developers.

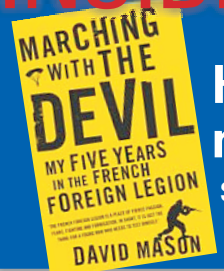
"The prime driver is the growing population of Canberra, Queanbeyan and Australia," said Councillor Peter Bray, with Canberra looking towards half a million people and Queanbeyan expecting 70,000 in the next 20, 30 years.

Planes fly over Jerra now

Councillor Bray was only one of the speakers who noted that future aircraft noise has been the main argument stalling progress on Tralee, but that

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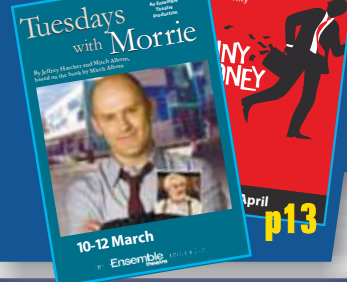
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- Bungendore: Bungendore Newsagency, Feedshed, Foodlovers.
- Palerang Council Chambers: Bungendore and Braidwood.
- Queanbeyan: Queanbeyan Library foyer; Riverside Plaza; Link Plaza (near Country Energy); and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres.
- Wamboin: Shepherd's Run.

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Captains Flat to Bougainville – off to help build a Nation

by Christina Taylor

MANY LOCAL residents grapple with ever increasing highway traffic on their way to town. On the phone from Port Moresby, Captains Flat resident Mark Smith has a laugh describing the commute to *his* work in remote Papua New Guinea.

“Occasionally when working in Bougainville I would travel by open boat as there were no roads and there weren’t many aircraft flying in. It’s a 20ft fibreglass boat with an out-board motor and we just got out and headed down the coast! It’s very exciting ... it’s also very uncomfortable!”

Originally from Sydney, Smith relocated to Canberra and began working at the head office of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) specialising in tax policy and legislation. Looking to save some money to purchase a home, 12 years ago he made the move to Captains Flat, initially renting one of the old miners’ cottages in the village.

“When I got out there I discovered that it was a great place to live, a unique small, very rural village. Everybody knows everybody.” He was wooed by the village charm and after two years he bought some local acreage and settled permanently in the community. Well, that is when he’s not in remote Papua New Guinea...

His commute is a bit longer to help collect taxes for PNG development

So, how does one initiate a working move from Captains Flat to Papua New Guinea (PNG) – one of the poorest nations in the Asia-Pacific? “I think a colleague from the ATO alerted me to an advertisement in the newspapers – I’d missed it!” Embarking on a drastic lifestyle change from Palerang, Smith admits friends and family had mixed reactions about the AusAid position in PNG.

“Some may have been a little envious, some maybe thought I must be crazy (laughs). Generally speaking, people were pretty supportive and very curious about what I’d be doing.”

Remote provinces of PNG have relied entirely on national government grants to fund necessary programs and services. This practice has slowed down development in isolated communities, and areas such as health, education and law-and-order have all been severely underfunded.

Smith’s job is to assist with the establishment of tax arrangements in remote provinces so they are able to independently collect revenue. This will in turn provide a sustainable income for provincial governments and speed up local development and provision of services.

Smith first travelled to PNG in 2004 as part of the AusAid *Enhanced Cooperation*



Pidgin English: Smith’s favourite expression is the word for helicopter: ‘mixmaster belong Jesus Christ’

Program and, after completing his original contract, was asked to return in February 2009. This time he was to assist tax development within the terms of the Bougainville Peace Agreement which was created following the end of the deadly nine-year conflict.

When speaking about his work Smith is clear that the purpose isn’t to impose an Australian solution. “In Bougainville my counterpart was the Chief Bougainville Collector of Taxes, Peter Siana. He and I worked very closely and at all times he was in control.”

Fascinating place to work, and may assist birth of a new country

During his time in PNG Smith has been able to work and travel in remarkable locations such as New Ireland and New Britain and he reveals that “a lot of the culture in the remote places has retained its authenticity and it’s absolutely fascinating”. He has also been

introduced to a range of the countless regional dialects as well as Pidgin English (or Tok Pisin). “There are all sorts of interesting words and expressions. My favourite one is the word for helicopter: *mixmaster belong Jesus Christ*.”

Drawing on his experiences in PNG, Smith says he would recommend this type of aid work “without hesitation” but concedes it’s not an easy environment to work in “There are great personal and professional rewards for those who are able to make a go of it.

“They’re heading towards a referendum in the Autonomous region of Bougainville so another reason why it’s such a fabulous opportunity for me is; I’m providing advice which may eventually assist in the formation of a new independent country.”

Smith will return to Captains Flat for Christmas and accompanying him will be his adopted daughter from PNG on her first trip to Australia. Smith estimates that he’ll continue on in PNG for another year or two. He is extremely positive about the country’s development and predicts that “it has a great future”.



Relax, no new Queanbeyan Council rate hikes

QUEANBEYAN COUNCIL is not considering further rate hikes or cuts to community and environmental services, contrary to a recent report in the *Canberra Times*, according to Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall.



Clearly annoyed, Mayor Overall called the report “erroneous”. He said rate hikes and cuts to services are “not on the agenda”, following Council’s request last year for a special 5.8 percent rate variation for three years which was approved by the NSW government in June. This money will be applied to maintenance of infrastructure like footpaths and sports facilities.

He also attempted to clarify, in a response letter to the *Canberra Times* on 1 December, a charge that Council was failing to meet its targets on adequate indigenous youth and outreach services. “These projects are just two of 28 community service programs overseen by Council ... and both projects are meeting obligations to funding bodies. The financial position of Council has nothing to do with the performance of these funded projects.”

He said a recent auditor’s report says Council’s overall financial position is satisfactory and Council in fact has a low (1.02%) debt service ratio. It has been able in this financial year to double the dollars set aside for asset depreciation – meaning fixing Council-owned buildings and venues as they deteriorate.

WATER WATER: The Queanbeyan River looking decidedly vigorous at the beginning of December. With much of south-eastern Australia flood affected, the meteorologists tell us we have just completed the hottest decade on record in modern times and the pattern is set to escalate. Intense and extreme rainfall and snowfall have all been predicted as outcomes of climate change, as evaporation increases, charging storm and rain clouds and as the oceans warm up.

This monsoonal effect is already being strongly felt in coastal northern Queensland, where a *Bulletin* colleague reports that the residential landscape around Townsville – built on a flood plain – is turning into a swamp and electrical storms are daily occurrences. Six cyclones are expected this year along the northern coast. Here or there, evidence shows that electronic communications can and will be affected. That’s just one aspect of interesting times ahead for all of us, as the world’s leaders continue to dither on emission reduction targets.

Photo: Maria Taylor

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Independent newspaper at work

Many thanks for bringing the threat to Araluen to our notice in your excellent newspaper. Do these fights never end? (And) as a former scribbler for both Murdoch and Packer I completely agree with your editorial comments.

I live in Molonglo River Drive, Carwoola, filling in time feeding the magpies, pruning the roses, and spraying the odd serrated tussock. As a break from this I am going down to Araluen to have a look and camp overnight. Keep up the good work.

— Trevor Crouch, Carwoola

Environment policy more than 'planning'

The latest policy video from the NSW Liberal Party website would indicate that 'environment' has been confused with 'planning'. There is still no environment policy as such.

The NSW ALP government also needs to be put on notice that a few token 'saves' in response to desperate community campaigns are not enough to win them votes from environmentalists.

Mumbulla and Goolaga in the South East and iconic parts of Northern NSW are not the only areas that need to be 'saved' from further logging.

A no native logging policy is required. Native wildlife corridors the length of the state are required. Training and regional development of ecotourism is required.

No burning of native forest for biomass generators is required. There's water of course. Containment of coal mining is required. Positive partnerships with federal government to promote wind, tide and solar power is required.

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— Jane Salmon, Lindfield NSW

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'Compost was never so interesting' – the mailbox

About the proposed Groundswell 'city to soil' agricultural composting trial between Bungendore and Braidwood (Nov Bulletin p4).

Both sides need to be presented

Thank you for your comprehensive article and background regarding the King's Highway composting facility and the NSW Government's Groundswell project.

It was gratifying that you took the time to investigate and present enough information so that readers could gain a more complete picture. While speculation and insinuation may be sensational, they generally fail to give an even-handed view of the situation.

As much as we like a good story, facts from both sides are fundamental if we are to draw any real or valid conclusions. And don't we all want environmentally sound alternatives? Just 'not in my backyard'!

— Anne Goonan, Bywong

Neighbours sense bias

UFO Inc welcomes continuing debate on the circumstances surrounding DA DEV.2008.0443, the notorious composting facility proposed for the Mulloon district. It is in the public interest to get both sides of the debate and where better than in the local

newspapers? But to be useful, both sides must be presented accurately.

The proponents' arguments are bound to be biased. UFO thinks there were gross errors in the handling of this conflicted DA, including failure to notify and publication of misleading information about the location of the proposed site.

We believe these errors alone were sufficient reason to invalidate the consent given. We did not try to explain how they might have arisen: from oversight, say, or because the Council dog ate the notices, or because the Council signatory has gone to Queensland droving. These might be explanations for the other side to put, but not us.

Your readers will absorb whatever the proponents of both sides write and say, and judge for themselves the merits of the DA and the way in which it was presented and handled. The role of the newspapers is to help by reporting factually about what has been written and said. When the newspapers enter the fray themselves, expressing an opinion about the merits of the cases put, or pushing one side or the other, we believe they should do so in an editorial or opinion piece.

Dear Editor ...

Newspapers must be as thorough and transparent in their analyses as they expect the proponents to be. Newspapers need to go to source documents, consult both sides and above all, weigh the evidence. Otherwise they are mere infomercials, or otherwise biased. We think that the article 'Compost was never so interesting' in November's District Bulletin falls into both of these categories.

— David Holthouse, President UFO Inc., Mulloon

(Editor's note: The arguments of Mr Holthouse and his neighbours were extensively quoted from source material on the public record: letters to Council and letters and stories in the Bungendore Mirror. It was the Palerang Council and landholder side of the story – and the fact that every government agency had given the green light on assessment – that received no press coverage before the Bulletin story.)

Thanks for well-researched report

Thanks for the great article on the Groundswell project in Palerang. It's good to see balanced, well researched reporting. I wanted to acknowledge your efforts in talking to all the stakeholders. Your article really helps to broaden out the discussion and provides great context. Thanks also for printing the link to the Groundswell blog site.

— Simone Dilkara, Groundswell Project Manager

No easy answer between Braidwood and budget

Palerang Council is facing a million dollar repair job on its leased offices in Braidwood. The options are all difficult, having to juggle a diminishing Council budget and people's local jobs. Paul Cockram, who resides in nearby Mongarlowe, is a Councillor and a Greens candidate for State office, reports his observations of the dilemma from at least three points of view.



THE POLITICIAN stood in front of the crowd and said, "In my profession a man must wear many hats." A wag up the back yelled, "Which one are you speaking through today?" Funnily enough I have three hats now myself.

The Braidwood resident hat

Braidwood is a proper town. It has history and beautiful old buildings to prove it. It has families that have called Braidwood home for generations.

But don't mention the war – that terrible time in 2004 when the 'amalgamations' from Sydney ripped the very lifeblood from Braidwood and gave it to the upstarts from the western dormitories. The poor Tallagandrites, noble but few in number and widely dispersed, were no match for the Yarralumlers who charged across the Great Divide, grabbed the eastern spoils and scurried back to their caves in the Capital hills.

Sure, we lost the war and the reparations have been savage, but there comes a time

when the community will say, "enough is enough – you can denude us no further".

The Literary Institute building is the heart of the old Tallaganda Shire. It is the home for the east-side council workers and an iconic part of Braidwood's heritage. The remaining workers here, after the amalgamated council of Palerang moved to Bungendore, are seen as an important part of the economy of Braidwood.

There is a great fear in Braidwood that if its council staff presence is reduced to skeleton numbers, the flow-on effect will be a serious setback for a town already struggling to match the growth of Palerang's western boom side.

The Palerang councillor hat

Our job as councillors is to oversee the provision of the best services for the ratepayers and residents that resources will allow. The problem is that the council, like most other rural councils, is strapped for cash and heading for broke.

In the last management plan for the 2010–2011 year we were obliged to trim our budget by over a million dollars. We will

A heated community meeting on this topic in Braidwood at the end of November ended on a positive note.

A consultative committee is being formed involving Braidwood residents, Councillors and staff to seek solutions.

One Councillor said the sense of 'we're not alone, we're all in trouble together as local Councils' was persuasive.

need to find similar cuts in the budget in May next year. The General Manager and other senior staff have identified the Braidwood building as a potential source of savings.

Firstly, it needs repairs, ranging from on-going patch-ups for several hundred thousand dollars, through to a full make-over in the millions. Secondly, there would be savings in having all the council staff work in the one building in Bungendore. The two issues, however, are not inextricably linked and can be dealt with separately.

Nevertheless, the recommendation to council is that doing nothing is the least cost-effective option.

Continued p14

Peace on Earth and goodwill to all...

To our readers, contributors and advertising partners

The *Bulletin* again thanks you for a wonderful year. We are building our community paper with what we do best monthly — features, reports, analysis and all the sections you now see in the *Bulletin*.

Our move to include Queanbeyan is shaping up well and we all gain from a regional focus and more readership. We hope to expand on that in 2011 together with you.

THE *Bulletin* WILL BE TAKING A BREAK

UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE – DEADLINE 25 JANUARY 2011

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Maria, Sonja, & Sue, along with Christina, Nichole, Marcele, Peter, Jo, Doug, Heike, Joyce, Di, Lyn, Adam & the crew ...

Wish you all the very best for the festive season and into the New Year



Travels with Bungendore's resident adventurer

by Maria Taylor

In 1988, David Mason joined the French Foreign Legion. The story of how this former Canberra boy and now Bungendore resident trained and fought for five years with a famous army (that emerges as horrifyingly dysfunctional) is a fascinating yarn told by Mason in a new book.

Mason wrote *Marching with the Devil – Legends, Glory and Lies in the French Foreign Legion* while continuing the adventuring life melded with a legal career with the federal Department of Defence.

In 1998 with three camels, maps and a mobile phone the size of a small suitcase, he crossed Australia at its widest point from east to west, the first recorded solo walk through the Simpson Desert on this route. It gave him renewed respect for the early Australian explor-

ers like Eyre, Stuart and Sturt, who crossed the desert without maps, camels or phones.

This eight-month expedition cost him 20 kilos of weight but gained him a good working respect for camels – both wild and in-hand – as well as the gold medal of the Australian Geographic Society – plus a lot of good material for his next book that he is working on right now.

Later he attempted to walk across Lake Eyre and nearly died one night as he sank after going to sleep on top of metres of salty mud.

He has worked as a civilian adviser in Bougainville and has completed three tours to Iraq, including twice as a legal adviser to the Iraqi government. These are all reasons why it has taken two decades to write up the Foreign Legion episode of his life although he kept detailed diaries at the time.

Early explorers an inspiration

What's the adventuring life all about for him? It's difficult to pinpoint, although in the book's introduction Mason paints a picture of boyhood and adolescence in which he always felt like an outsider to the routine of Canberra suburban life.

Books were his outlet and he says he felt a strong sense of identification with 19th century explorers like the English adventurer Richard Burton, or the lesser known Wilfred Thesiger who explored the Arabian desert in the late 1940s. "I read them as a challenge and an invitation to live ... I would always be someone who needed to test himself."

A recurrent theme in his reflections on the adventurous life is the sense of something missing from the conventional path of school, university, job and then settling down in suburbia and living the consumerist lifestyle.

As a teenager he would take off on weeks-or months-long hitchhiking tours searching for answers. His mother just shook her head and said he'd grow out of it. He didn't.

The idea of risking life and limb to achieve something 'great' grew. It might have been



David Mason with the iconic hat of the Legion, the kepi blanc, and wearing his French Foreign Legion para wings, and decorations from Australia, France and the United States

climbing a mountain but instead, at age 27, he joined the Foreign Legion – chosen largely because it is accessible to foreign nationals and operates internationally.

The Legion's appeal was also one of myth and legend, totally beyond anything in his previous experience and a test indeed. By then he had spent six years in the Australian Army reserve, a job that also paid his way to an Australian National University law degree.

Partners and children were deliberately put on hold during the Legion and ensuing years. "It wouldn't have been fair", he says.

Now, sitting in a Bungendore coffee shop he looks none the worse after 20 years of intermittent severe physical challenges. In fact he looks fit, tanned and healthy, (young for his 50 years). But he confides that he's lost hearing in one ear thanks to an Iraqi bomb that exploded near him on one of his tours there a few years ago.

He tells me the first printing of the book is selling out fast, as desk-bound civilians take a virtual trip with him in France and Northern Africa.

Many of those readers may pretty quickly thank their lucky stars they are safely in an armchair in Australia and not in a Legion bush camp on endless training runs characterised by overwhelming heat and thirst alongside too many incompetent or drunk recruits, who tended to overshadow the good ones Mason met. Not to mention commanders who seemed to reside in a previous century both tactically and in management style.

On reflection Mason now says that creative people – poets, writers, painters – may live equally marvellous adventures in their own imagination without the physical discomforts.

Bungendore became his home after the 1998 walk across Australia and he has settled into village life with a new partner. They have two dogs, two horses and a more civilised lifestyle than when he first moved here and still thought it unremarkable to sleep in a swag in the bedroom. In September his book was launched by Gai and Kevin Jones at the Bungendore Newsagency and is now available at all good bookstores.

Photo: Marcelle Martins INSET SOURCE: <http://2gaysreadingbbbon.wordpress.com>

Royalla, Carwoola and Bungendore: prize-winning creek fix-ups

PALERANG COUNCIL has welcomed an environmental gold star – winning a NSW Local Government and Shires Association 'Excellence in Environment Award' for the 'Palerang Riparian Restoration Program'.

This has been a two-year program to remove weeds along two kilometres of creek bank and the restoration of native vegetation along 10 kilometres of stream bank at three sites.

The sites were Jerrabomberra Creek at Royalla, Molonglo River Park at Carwoola, and Turallo Creek at Bungendore. 14,000 plants were used in the replanting of local riparian species to help restore the land to its natural state.

A NSW declared noxious weed, Crack Willow had infested two kilometres of stream bank. The willows were controlled and mostly removed, along with Blackberry and Sweet Briar. Palerang is scheduling follow-up control works.

State agencies, landholders and local Landcare groups were key partners along the way.

Deck the halls but be safe about it

Christmas lighting tips come to you this month from both Country Energy and ActewAGL

IN THE SPIRIT of community service, and a safe and bright Christmas, we bring you a combined checklist from your energy companies.

Before you start

- Check your old lights for fraying cords and broken or cracked sockets.
- Use lights that have an Australian Standard or approval mark.
- If you are using lights outside make sure they are weatherproof and designed specifically for outdoor use.

When you are setting up

- Take care when working at heights and make sure you use an appropriate ladder.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing.
- Use appropriate tape, cable ties, clips or clamps.
- Don't run extension cords through doorways or windows.

Continued p8



Country Energy wishes you a happy festive season.

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countryenergy

We live here too.

Brain dump from Australia's best-dressed funnyman

by Nichole Smith

FOR MANY he is known as one half of the hugely successful comedy duo Merrick and Rosso, but for Tim Ross that's just part of the story.

He's also been an award-winning radio announcer, TV star, media personality and best-selling author. Oh, and along with being voted the best-dressed man on Australian TV, he also very publicly told Al Gore he was an **unpublishable expletive** legend.

Now Ross has just released another book, *Mum had a Kingswood: Tales from the life and mind of Rosso*, described by his publishers, Allen and Unwin, as "a brain dump of the funniest and most controversial things from Rosso's life".

Recently in Canberra as part of the launch, the multi-talented comedian is a little more coy about the content of his part memoir/part comedy routine.

"I wouldn't say there was anything super juicy but the book contains a bunch of funny stories about things that have happened to me or people in my life. Just stuff really. Wonderful stuff..."

What brand of comedy?

Ross's comedy, honed through 15 years spent with his former partner-in-crime Merrick Watts, is a knock-about, conversational style that is regularly interactive. The result is a spontaneous, energetic and often quite sly form of humour that audiences have continued to find appealing. For Ross, it's more about what comes naturally.

"It's very hard for me [*to describe this brand of comedy*]; it's the sense of humour I've had my whole life. The critics would answer 'unfunny' but I would say it's very Australian."

Merrick and Rosso first teamed up for a one-off show in 1996 and built an extensive fan base through sell-out, stand-up performances, the first of which was the intriguingly titled 'Pissheads from Outer Space'. Next came a popular stint on Triple J's drive

show before a move to host the new Nova 96.9 breakfast slot. This became a rating sensation for nine years.

The pair would also star in a variety of popular shows on both free-to-air and pay TV, the most successful of which was the inventive 'The Merrick & Rosso Show'. A mix of skits, weird stunts and parodies, the top-rating show featured a veritable who's who of guests happy to have their celebrity lampooned



including Ray Martin, Ian Thorpe, Hugh Jackman, Will Ferrell and even The Wiggles.

After all that, in 2009, Ross announced he would be leaving the breakfast show. "The show had run its course. Life is about change; most of it small and the type that you have in the console of your car for parking meters," he says of the decision.

Ross had already tasted some success as an author with his bestselling *Merrick and Rosso, The Book Volume Two*, and this latest addition to his oeuvre, is a similarly madcap book, filled with engaging stories ranging from warm and fuzzy childhood tales of billycarts and milk bars, to girls and teenage angst. It covers everything from share-house madness to "being on the telly" interposed with a variety of "raves, ideas and fantastical stories".

Although he's been around the block before, Ross says the writing process did not get any easier.

"I am easily distracted. The dumbest thing I did was joining Facebook two weeks before my deadline. That was plain stupid. In the end I had to take myself to a cave in the mountains to finish ... Ok, I really just unplugged the wireless at home and finished the book."

So what comes next for the man who says he never set out to be a comedian? "I've always wanted to perform; comedy has tended to be the most natural way of doing that for me. If this book doesn't sell well I may end up being a cab driver."

> More books, reviews p12

In the wake of good to now overwhelming rainfall this Spring and early Summer, wildflowers in the bush of Palerang and Queanbeyan have enjoyed a season not seen for many years. Jo Walker brings us a small selection of the abundance she found on a recent walk along a section of open forest and grassy woodland on the neighbourhood Greenways in Bywong. The Greenways, which thread through parts of Bywong and Wamboin, are a Council-managed reserve, dedicated to safe, non-motorised access through the countryside for nearby residents and to biodiversity protection. They also act as wildlife corridors that link with adjacent bush blocks.

THE VEGETATION consisted mostly of tall trees, with very few large shrubs, but an interesting variety of sub-shrubs, tussocks, smaller grass species and herbaceous plants. The absence of dense understorey made it easy to see the smaller colourful plants, and there were plenty of these.



Joycea pallida (Red-anther Wallaby Grass)

A tall tussock grass, it tolerates dry conditions and poor soils, but, during wet years, flower heads can reach almost 2 metres.



Goodenia hederacea (Ivy Goodenia)

A prostrate, creeping plant, usually less than 30cm across. Flowers in open and semi-shaded areas over a long period.

Xerochrysum viscosum (Sticky Everlasting Daisy)

Perennial daisy. Grows to about 60cm. Has increased noticeably in this area during the drought years.

Wahlenbergia stricta (Tall Bluebell)

Grows in semi-shaded areas, often amongst tall grasses. Tufted rosettes of bright green, hairy leaves precede the flowers.

Triptilodiscus pygmaeus (Austral Sunray)

A tiny but prolific daisy that colonizes spaces between low-growing grasses in open areas, often on poor soils.



Stylidium graminifolium (Grass Trigger Plant)

The long flower stem emerges from a tuft of greyish grass-like leaves. Prefers heavy, periodically wet soils.



Thysanotus tuberosus (Common Fringe-lily)

Grows to about 60cm in grassy woodland. The branched flower stems carry numerous buds that open over several weeks.

Gompholobium huegelii (Wedge Pea)

A small sub-shrub, often growing amongst tussocks on shallow soils. The grey-green leaves are trifoliate.



Cheiranthra cyanea (Finger Flower)

Its common name describes the arrangement of the yellow stamens. A rather open little shrub to 30cm tall.



Hibbertia obtusifolia (Grey Guinea Flower)

A small open shrub to 30cm. Reddish bracts enclose the seed after flowering. Tolerates poor soils and dry conditions.



Brachyscome spathulata (Spoon Daisy)

Usually about 15cm tall, but nearly twice as tall during this wet spring. Prefers deeper, moist soils.



Diuris sulphurea (Tiger Orchid)

A tall orchid with several flowers on the stem. Often grows amongst tall tussock grasses, mostly in open areas or grassy woodlands.

Altogether, we found seventy-four species of plants belonging to thirty-six different plant families. Probably just about every plant that occurs in this area is represented on at least one of the Greenways, and they provide a snapshot of the diversity of vegetation in our region.

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OPTOMETRISTS and CONTACT LENS PRACTITIONERS

Rural Property Guide

SALES | AUCTIONS | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Luke Jamieson
Property Manager



Christopher Dixon
Sales Agent



John Sneddon
Sales Agent









GUNDAROO 24 LUTE STREET
This charming story book cottage is nestled amidst magical cottage gardens on a 1864m² block. Inside you will find hardwood floors, a delightful country kitchen, 3 bedrooms and a big bathroom, intimate lounge/sitting room and french doors out to a wisteria-covered pergola. 2 Slow combustion fire places. **\$585,000+**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

Gardens, grazing & views



BYWONG 107 SUMMER HILL ROAD
Sprawling residence with approx 435m² under roofline on 40 acres of productive grazing land with 5 paddocks, 2 dams and a bore. The home features 4 generously sized bedrooms, 2 ensuites, bathroom, renovated kitchen with Ceaserstone benchtops and Smeg appliances, formal lounge and dining in the main residence with an additional bedroom, kitchen, laundry and living area in an attached self-contained flat. Set in lovely established gardens with a covered outdoor entertaining area, triple carport and single carport, storage sheds and stables this versatile property is 25 minutes to Canberra's CBD via easy highway driving. **Expressions of interest due by 4:30pm 22/12/10**

6262 5122 | John Sneddon 0403 139 701

















CARWOOLA 198 WIDGIEWA ROAD
This architect designed passive solar home is located on 20 acres of native bush. With approx. 216m² of living the home features galley style kitchen, segregated master with ens, zoned inslab heating, outdoor entertaining and shed. Approx. 15 mins to Qbn and 30 mins to CBD. **Expressions of interest due by 4:30pm 22/12/10**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

On the city's doorstep



HALL REGION 1246 BARTON HIGHWAY
Arguably the closest rural residential property to Canberra's CBD that is currently on the market. This custom built Blackett home features 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ensuite, formal lounge and dining as well as office space. The renovated kitchen has granite benchtops and splashback & stainless steel appliances. Off the family room is a large covered outdoor entertaining area and 12m x 5m inground pool. Infrastructure includes 5 fenced paddocks, 3 dams, bore and a triple garage with bathroom & storage space. While less than 10min to Dickson's bustling restaurant precinct and only 15min to Civic this 27 acre block is suitable for any number of agricultural or pastoral pursuits. **Expressions of interest due by 4:30pm 21/12/10**

6262 5122 | John Sneddon 0403 139 701

Spacious family home on acreage



BUNGENDORE 5377 KINGS HIGHWAY
Situated on 20 fertile acres, just 5 mins to Bungendore and an easy commute to Canberra, this expansive 4 bedroom ensuite residence was built just 4 years ago. Defined by sweeping open plan living areas, rural vistas from every window and high standard of construction and finish features include 4 big bedrooms, a stylish ensuite and bathroom, a large well appointed kitchen with island breakfast bar and an Archer gas fireplace to the lounge. A very large DLUG (auto) with internal access and a generous undercover deck area add to this homes appeal. Horse enthusiasts, those looking for prime land with cropping potential or families desiring a little more space will find this property an intriguing proposition. **\$800,000+**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

The Rural Residential

Market Report

WAMBOIN IN THE SPOTLIGHT:
Wamboin is a locality within Palarang Shire that has approximately 550 dwellings on blocks ranging in size from a few acres to a few hundred acres. Wamboin is bounded by Bungendore Road, Sutton Road, Macs Reef Road and Kowen Forest. With its proximity and easy commute to Canberra it is a popular area for those looking to escape city living to enjoy the benefits of a rural lifestyle.

The figures below show the number of sales in the area of houses and land since 2005. These figures have been sourced from allhomes.

Five houses were sold in an active November and there are currently 5 houses and 11 blocks of land

advertised for sale on allhomes. Peter Blackshaw Inner North & Rural has a proven and impressive track record for Rural Residential sales, so if you are considering a move, I would be only too happy to discuss how we can achieve a sale for you in a timely manner and at the best possible price.

John Sneddon can be contacted on 6262 5122 or 0403 139 701 to assist you.

Sales in Wamboin since 2005

	Houses	Land	Median price
2005	16	3	\$635,000
2006	21	10	\$585,000
2007	25	5	N/A
2008	21	4	\$675,000
2009	26	6	\$670,000
2010*	23	10	\$759,000

* Sales up to 30/11/2010 from allhomes.com.au









SUTTON 49 VICTORIA STREET
15min from Canberra's CBD and on the outskirts of Sutton village, is an outstanding rural retreat of 6.62 acres (approx) with a 3 bedroom plus study, ensuite residence and a separate 3 bedroom 1 bathroom cottage. Features modern kitchen and bathrooms, ducted gas heating, double lock up garage, 2 licensed bores and shed. **\$1,200,000**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

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Land

Mullion
By Negotiation
Doctors Flat Road

80 hectares (200 acres) bush block with creeks, wildlife and privacy. Ideal getaway for hunting, riding or walking. Power and phone lines are available to the block. The property is approx 21km from Wee Jasper and 53km from Canberra's CBD. **John Sneddon 0403 139 701**

Have a safe and happy
Christmas & New Year from
the team at Peter Blackshaw
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STOP PRESS: NEW LEGAL CHALLENGE

Days before the November 17 Council meeting, Queanbeyan Council and the NSW Department Planning were served with subpoenas to appear in the Land and Environment Court. Capital Airport Group was charging breaches of process and other technical flaws in the decision-making. This is not the first time Council has been taken to court over this issue. However, it is expected that the Minister for Planning can proceed regardless of the legal challenge.

TRALEE DEVELOPMENT

Cont'd from p1

Jerrabomberra is in fact closer to the airport than the proposed new development and that currently planes fly directly over the existing houses. “Why do airplanes continue to fly over Jerrabomberra, while the non-residential corridor next door is not used?”

He noted that Capital Airport Group advocates a ‘high noise corridor approach’ to excluding residential housing from its flight paths rather than the accepted ANEF (Australian Noise Exposure Forecast) standards, with which the developer has complied. “What are the definitions of high noise levels?” he asked. “I have no idea. These are subjective, non-scientific and non-specific statements.”

Council background documents contend that a ‘high noise corridor’ is not an accepted concept in laws governing aircraft noise and surrounding land use. The ANEF system is the adopted land use planning tool in the vicinity of airports and recognised by all government jurisdictions.

The ANEF standards say where no housing or community facilities like schools are to be located and link to siting and construction standards where noise impacts are expected.

Councillors and spokespeople for Village Building Co, the Tralee developer, say the planning process has adjusted the subdivision to

comply with the ANEF exclusion zones by shifting housing further out. Anyone buying into the new subdivision would do so with ample warning about the aircraft issue, they say.

Council documents and Councillors also addressed the question of ‘noise sharing’ which

CAN THE JERRABOMBERRA VALLEY EXPECT THIS MANY FLIGHTS?

From testimony to the Federal Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference Committee by Ken Ineson, 10 June 2010

“You can see a very large number of freight operations, virtually all at night, totalling 22,846 per annum, or 65 per night. This is at odds with the statement made to this inquiry by Mr Rod Gilmour of Sydney Airport that virtually all airfreight is carried in the bellies of passenger planes. Mr Chan added that there are only two or three dedicated freight flights per day at Sydney.

“You can also see a large number of Boeing 747s, virtually all at night. There are a total of 5,342 night-time Boeing 747s per annum. Currently, virtually no 747s use Canberra Airport. Advice from the Ambidji Group and other experts is that the number of Boeing 747s using Canberra Airport is never likely to exceed a few per year.

“The dramatic growth of the ANEF contours for Canberra Airport contrasts starkly with the evidence given to this inquiry by Mr Rod Gilmour when he advised that the ANEF contour for Sydney Airport is shrinking. The ANEF for Sydney is based on larger and quieter aircraft already coming into service, whereas the ANEF for Canberra Airport is based on noisier aircraft already being phased out.”

has raised concerns in Tuggeranong and elsewhere. Aviation noise sharing has not been an accepted strategy in Commonwealth or State legislation, according to Council.

Ken Ineson, General Manager for The Village Building Company said that it has been a long journey since 1990. That journey has included taking the aircraft noise battle to the Federal Court and challenging Air Services Australia’s assessment of data provided by the Capital Airport Group.

The Queanbeyan Residential and Economic Strategy is accepted by the NSW Government as the plan for regional growth. It has long advocated both Googong, further south, and land around Tralee as the greenfield developments of choice. Tralee was preferred because of closeness to existing roads and other infrastructure.

The water supply for these developments has been secured through a September 2008 supply agreement signed by the Commonwealth and the ACT and NSW governments.

DECK THE HALLS

Cont'd from p5

- Ensure all outdoor connections are weatherproof. Make sure outdoor lights and fitting are designed specifically for outdoor use and heed the manufacturers instructions.
- Never install lights near a pool or spa.
- Take care with wiring and extension cords, so they are kept off the ground to avoid damage or becoming a trip hazard and never use an extension cord longer than 10 metres.

Don't overload powerboards and watch lights and tinsel

- Use a power plug board with overload protection for high-powered lights such as flood/spot lights. Make sure powerpoints, adaptors and powerboards are not overcrowded.
- Lights give out heat, so keep them away from little children and flammable materials such as wrapping paper, curtains and lounges.
- When you’re up on a ladder, hanging lights on the roof and other hard to reach areas, wear non-slip shoes and keep an eye out for powerlines. Don’t forget to secure lights properly to avoid breakage and accidents during storms and strong winds.
- Be careful when hanging tinsel and lights together – tinsel can be highly flammable and the heat from lights could easily start a fire.
- Don’t forget to switch off or unplug lights before leaving the house or heading to bed and ensure smoke detectors are installed in your home and are in good working order.
- Get the kids involved by helping to check over lights. It’s a good way to educate them about the danger of damaged electricity equipment and the importance of electrical safety.

For more tips about how to keep you and your family power safe this Christmas visit: www.countryenergy.com.au/safety. Country Energy: General enquiries 13 23 56 Supply interruptions 13 20 80 OR visit www.actewagl.com.au/safety. For electricity emergencies and faults call 13 10 93. For water emergencies and faults call 13 11 93.

Save money and energy this summer Last chance at \$10,000 energy makeover by December 13

Some top tips to save energy this summer from ActewAGL.

- Switch off your hot water system and other major appliances if you are going away on holidays.
- Turn appliances off at the powerpoint – standby power can cost a typical Australian household \$50 to \$100 per year.
- Open up your house in the evening to let in the cool night air and shut windows and doors during the daytime heat.
- Block the sun before it strikes your glass –

you could save up to \$100 per year in cooling costs.

- Cool your home by setting the thermostat to between 24° and 25°C.
 - Turn off fridges that aren’t being used – an extra fridge can cost over \$100 a year to run.
- ActewAGL Director Sales, Marketing and Corporate Affairs Paul Walshe said the company is also offering its customers the chance to win a home energy and water efficiency makeover to the value of \$10,000 until 13 December.

For more information go to www.actewagl.com.au

– Property Matters –

by John Sneddon

Gundaroo, Sutton and November in focus

THIS MONTH in *Property Matters* we are reporting the sales data for the Gundaroo and Sutton Districts. In the tables below are the sales figures for both the villages and surrounding rural properties. These figures have been sourced from allhomes and include sales data up until 30 November 2010 with the figures for all of 2009 included for comparison purposes.

As can be seen, the average sale price for houses in both villages has increased slightly this year. The numbers of sales in Gundaroo Village are similar from 2009 to 2010 but in Sutton Village the number of sales has dropped slightly from 2009 to 2010. Sales of rural properties in both districts are significantly lower than in 2009, with the average sale price also lower than in 2009.

Also included in this month’s *Property Matters* is a market wrap of sales achieved in November in the Bungendore, Bywong, Carwoola, Gundaroo, Sutton and Wamboin areas.

If you would like to discuss the state of the market in your area please don’t hesitate to contact John Sneddon of Peter Blackshaw Real Estate Inner North & Rural on 6262 5122 or 0403 139 701.

Gundaroo District Sales Data

Village houses			
House sales	2010*	2009	
Number of sales	4	5	
Average sale price	\$568,250	\$540,000	
Highest sale price	\$725,000	\$720,000	
Lowest sale price	\$435,000	\$489,000	
Average days on market	232	69.2	
Houses currently for sale	2	na	
Houses currently under offer	0	na	

Rural properties

Land sales	2010*	2009
Number of sales	3	10
Average sale price	\$594,333	\$835,333
Highest sale price	\$963,000	\$1,800,000
Lowest sale price	\$207,000	\$400,000
Average days on market	585	202
Properties currently for sale	4	na
Properties currently under offer	0	na

* Figures for 2010 are up until 30 November

Sutton District Sales Data

Village houses			
House sales	2010*	2009	
Number of sales	5	9	
Average sale price	\$319,375	\$275,000	
Highest sale price	\$642,000	\$492,000	
Lowest sale price	\$109,000	\$100,000	
Average days on market	61	119	
Houses currently for sale	5	na	
Houses currently under offer	0	na	

Rural properties

Land sales	2010*	2009
Number of sales	2	10
Average sale price	\$997,500	\$1,087,000
Highest sale price	\$1,030,000	\$1,800,000
Lowest sale price	\$965,000	\$680,000
Average days on market	111	143
Properties currently for sale	13	na
Properties currently under offer	0	na

* Figures for 2010 are up until 30 November

Market Wrap

November Sales Data	Houses	Land
Bungendore Village	8	0
Bywong	0	2
Carwoola	1	0
Gundaroo	0	0
Sutton	1*	0
Wamboin	5	0

* Commercial property

Word Search Puzzle

– Name the Christmas Carol –

The words below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of the Carol.

HYEPYLLLOHLMWCGN
TLRRDTLWSELEAAO
ILOATIEEHCKARYW
WOFHAOSLMITTORY
JJEHESGELPLHLEY
YOBHAEAEAEAEAES
UTYLSSDSTRRRNH
LNNOUTSLUHRAGOT
EESRUERSEWEUPRD
WIEESSAIASOROPL
WCADNELTKBSLLOA
INSIRYAWAELILSD
NAOTGNIZALBDNOS
DJNTSAFSUROHCGF

ALL
ANCIENT
APPAREL
AWAY
BEFORE
BLAZING
BOUGHS
CAROL

CHORUS
DON
FAST
FOLLOW
GAY
HAIL
HARP
HEEDLESS

HOLLY
JOIN
JOLLY
JOYOUS
LADS
LASSES
MEASURE
MERRY

NEW
NOW
OLD
OUR
PASSES
SEASON
SING
STRIKE

TELL
TIDE
TIS
TOGETHER
TREASURE
TROLL
WEATHER
WHILE

~~WIND~~
WITH
YEAR
YULE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION: page 16



Wishing you
a safe and
happy Christmas.

Make this Christmas a safe one and consider these safety tips before you put up your Christmas lights.

- Check your old lights for fraying cords and broken or cracked sockets.
- Use lights that have an Australian Standard or approval mark.
- If you are using lights outside make sure they are weatherproof and suitable for outdoor use.

**Thanks for powering ahead with us in 2010.
We look forward to taking care of your energy
needs again in 2011.**

Let's power ahead. **ActewAGL**
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The wonders of tea

HEADLINE – British Women have the Largest Boobs in the World... Thanks to Tea! Got your attention? It's true – recently a well-known British evening newspaper said so (for proof see page three!). I knew tea did many things but not that.



by
Peter Davies
Shepherds Run Wines

Tea is usually black tea served with milk (never cream), and sometimes with sugar. Strong tea served with lots of milk and sugar, usually in a mug, is commonly referred to as *builder's tea*. Much of the time in the UK (and in

Australia), tea drinking is not a delicate, refined cultural expression – a cup (or commonly a mug) of tea is drunk often, with some people drinking as many as six or more cups of tea a day. And what's wrong with that I ask?

Tea as meal

I noticed a rather quaint reference to a tearoom in the 2002 Yarrowlunla LEP (still current) “*refreshment room* means a café, tea room, eating room or the like, but does not include a restaurant”. I think the last time I saw a real tea room was on a visit to Jenolan Caves in the '60s.

There used to be a tradition of tea rooms in the UK which provided the traditional fare of cream and jam on scones, a combination commonly known as *cream tea*. However, these establishments have declined in popularity since World War II.

Tea today

In 2003, *Datamonitor* reported that regular tea drinking in the UK was on the decline. Counter-intuitively, it was not coffee that was filling the gap since the sales of ground coffee also fell during the same period.

Britons were instead filling the warm drinks void with health-oriented beverages like fruit and/or herbal teas, consumption of which increased 50 percent from 1997 to 2002. A further, unexpected, statistic is that the sales of decaffeinated tea and coffee fell even faster during this period than the sale of the regular varieties. Good!

Finally, I would like to quote Billy Connolly “Never trust a man, who when left alone with a tea cosy... doesn't try it on”.



As tea spread throughout the United Kingdom, people started to have tea gardens and tea dances. These would include watching fireworks or a dinner party and dance, concluding with a nice evening tea. Tea gardens lost value after World War II but tea dances are still held in the UK.

Orange Cake

IF YOU are like me, at this time of the year you are probably seeking and collecting recipes to prepare a wonderful Christmas table. I confess that it is very difficult not to be repetitive every year when the subject is Christmas; I always prefer to make it traditional. However, with a bit of creativity we can introduce some novelty to classical Christmas dishes.



by
Marcelle Martins

During my latest train trip to Bungen-dore, I got some beautiful oranges and, in a departure from last year (do you remem-

ber our chicken with orange and rosemary sauce?) I decided that I will bake a cake for Christmas brunch.

I love to have two different cakes on my table and this year I'll put the dried fruits, the currants and the raisins aside. If you don't mind not having the traditional aromas of cinnamon and cloves perfuming your house this time of the year, I'm quite sure you will love this recipe! It fits perfectly with the

summer weather and will make your Christmas table more beautiful than ever!
Merry Christmas!

Orange cake with almonds

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 120g butter
- 2 cups plain flour
- 1½ cups milk
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Juice of 4 oranges
- 200g crushed almonds

Method:

Pre-heat oven 180°C.
Separate the 3 eggs and beat the egg whites until they are stiff. Reserve. Beat the 3 yolks, sugar and butter in a mixer until you get a homogeneous cream.
Add the flour, milk and baking powder and mix for five minutes.
Now, add the egg whites and stir very gently with a spatula.

Place into a greased baking tin and bake for 45 minutes.

Place the cake in a plate and wait to cool down.

Pour the orange juice very slowly over the cake to be absorbed.

Sprinkle with the crushed almonds.



MARKET REPORT: Cherries scarce but peaches holding up, potatoes hard hit too

IF IN the last couple of years fruit and vegetable producers were suffering from a lack of water, this year the problem is too much of it.

The rain has had a huge impact on some produce, so, for example, don't count on cherries or cheap mangos for Christmas. This is the best season to buy them but the crops were really affected and producers are struggling to supply the markets.

Vegetables that grow in the ground like potatoes and pumpkins were seriously affected too.

Dennis Henry, from Food Lovers Bungendore, said that we can replace some traditional summer fruits with strawberries, peaches, nec-

tarines and oranges (good news for our recipe!) Green leaf vegetables, broccoli, corn and sweet potatoes are all in good supply at the moment as well.

Keep this in mind next time you go shopping and try to be creative with what nature is providing us!

Park and Ride for Queanbeyan?

QUEANBEYAN COUNCIL is moving towards relocating the city's bus interchange from its current location in Morisset Street to the Collett Street carpark.

Council's agenda is to develop a park and ride facility in Queanbeyan that will encourage the use of public transport and also increase the usage of the Collett Street carpark, which has 464 car spaces and is under-used. Improvements like toilet facilities and bus shelters would need to be added. "Council is looking for grant funding from other tiers of government for the project", said Mayor Tim Overall.

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Thursday	Key Ring Cash (<i>jackpots if not won</i>)
Friday	Meat raffles drawn @ 7.30pm Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm (<i>jackpots if not won</i>) Live Entertainment* from 7.30pm to late
Saturday	Every 2 nd Sat NPL Poker Tournaments from 4pm Cash prizes
*(Refer to Gig Guide for line up)	

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Yearling Angus Rumps **\$9.99** kg
Yearling BBQ Blade **\$8.99** kg

A Cheat's Sherry Trifle

From tea to trifle. Many of us remember this yummy festive dish from our youth in post-colonial Australia – one of the better inventions of the pre-nouveau British cuisine. Here at the Bulletin we feel it should make a comeback – so here's a version contributed by Lesley Machin of Wamboin. Lesley not only is an ace snake handler and surrogate Mummy for orphaned wombats, but she also makes a mean trifle.

Serves 6–8 people.

Good enough for a special dinner party, can be made the day before and it takes little effort. A mouth-watering, elegant sweet that will have everyone coming back for more!

The ingredients:

- 1–2 packets of jam roulettes
- Sherry
- 1 packet of frozen berries (raspberries are good) thawed
- 1 carton of custard (approx. 500ml)
- 1 tablespoon of cornflour
- 2 tablespoons of milk
- 1 carton of thick cream (approx. 500ml)
- slivered almonds to decorate

Choose a trifle dish for the occasion – a clear glass dish, say 20cm across, is ideal so people can see the different layers. Cut the jam roulettes in half length wise, place these in the dish and add sherry to moisten the sponge well. Add the thawed berries as a layer.

Mix the cornflour and milk into a paste and add this to heated custard – stir continuously until the custard mixture boils and starts to thicken. Leave to cool (stop a skin forming on the custard by covering the mixture with cling film). When cooled (but not cold) spoon the thickened custard mix onto the berries.

Place the dish in the fridge to get cold. Whip the cream and spread on top of the custard layer. Toast slivered almonds in a dry frying pan until they are slightly browned (be careful not to burn them). Allow the slivered almond to cool and then sprinkle on top of the trifle. Ready to go! Don't forget the sherry!



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**NEW Mediterranean
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Bulletin Restaurant Guide		
Bungendore		
The Carrington	6238 1044	New Cathay Chinese Restaurant 6297 2092
<i>Modern Australian</i>		<i>Chinese</i>
21 Malbon St, Bungendore 2621		9 Monaro St, Queanbeyan 2620
Heritage on the Square	6238 1404	Peppers @ the Roos (Kangaroos Club) 6299 5127
<i>Pizza and Country Australian</i>		<i>Modern Australian</i>
25 Malbon St, Bungendore 2621		Cnr Stuart St & Richard Ave, Q'beyan 2620
Lake George Hotel	6238 1260	Punjabi Hut 6297 2717
<i>Bistro Country Australian</i>		<i>Indian</i>
20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore 2621		226 Crawford St, Queanbeyan 2620
Lark Hill Winery & Vineyard Cafe	6238 0266	Rendezvous 6297 9830
<i>Focus on Biodynamic Produce</i>		<i>Homestyle</i>
Bungendore Rd, Bungendore 2621		17 Monaro St, Queanbeyan 2620
Le Tres Bon	6238 0662	Star Q Deli 6297 6699
<i>Traditional French Cuisine</i>		<i>Pizza</i>
40 Malbon St, Bungendore 2621		101 Monaro St, Queanbeyan 2620
Café Woodworks	6238 1688	Diamond Chinese 6299 1288
<i>Gourmet Country</i>		<i>Chinese</i>
18 Malbon St, Bungendore 2621		Karabar Mall, Karabar 2620
Braidwood		
Bardy's Café	6238 0700	The Albion 4842 1422
<i>Gourmet Pizza</i>		<i>Modern Australian</i>
31 Ellenden St, Bungendore 2621		Unit 3, 119 Wallace St, Braidwood 2622
Harvest Café (Royal Hotel)	6238 1219	Zac's Table Restaurant 0404 026616
<i>Modern Australian</i>		(Mona Country Manor House)
34 Gibraltar St, Bungendore 2621		<i>Modern Australian with Thai & Turkish-Cypriot influences</i>
Logan's Café	6238 0585	140 Kings Highway, Braidwood 2622
<i>Homestyle and Woodfired Pizzas</i>		Braidwood Eureka Woodfired Pizzeria 4842 1019
2/12 Gibraltar St, Bungendore 2621		<i>Italian & Pizza</i>
Café Lerida	6295 6640	Wallace St, Braidwood 2622
<i>Gourmet Bistro</i>		The Royal Mail Hotel 4842 2488
Federal Highway, Lake George 2581		<i>Bistro</i>
Shepherds Run at Wamboin	6238 3842	145 Wallace St, Braidwood 2622
<i>Modern & Traditional</i>		
344 Norton Rd, Wamboin 2620		
Lambert Vineyard Café	6238 3866	
<i>Modern Australian</i>		
810 Norton Rd, Wambion 2620		
Queanbeyan		
Benedict House	6284 2868	
<i>Fresh food made on premises using local produce</i>		
39 Isabella St, Queanbeyan 2620		
Canton Chinese Restaurant	6297 5246	
<i>Chinese</i>		
232 Crawford St, Queanbeya 2620		
Central Café	6297 1335	
<i>Wide range, hearty servings</i>		
113 Monaro St, Queanbeyan 2620		
Colonial Restaurant (Golden Age Motor Inn)	6297 1122	
<i>A la carte</i>		
56 Macquiod St, Queanbeyan 2620		
Lime Leaves Thai	6299 2000	
<i>Thai</i>		
Morrisset & Lowe St, Queanbeyan 2620		
The <i>Bulletin</i> Restaurant Guide is a new and regular feature. If we have missed your restaurant or cafe within our distribution area — please drop us a line at media@districtbulletin.com.au . Advertising starting February 2011: please talk to us at adverts@districtbulletin.com.au or 0418 731 691.		

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. Foodlovers in Bungendore offers a good range of free-range ham, pork, turkey and chicken as well as organically produced meats and smallgoods. Free-range and organic often overlap in meat production. The revamped Coles in Riverside Plaza also offers RSPCA-inspected free-range as well as organic pork and ham (you may have to ask for the ham), chicken and turkey.

Most food stores now offer free-range eggs. The farmers markets and the Saturday morning market at the Canberra Expo grounds also have stalls with free range and organic meat. That is true as well for beef. Locally, Greenhills Beef and Landtasia can supply you with organic grass-fed beef via the internet.

So enjoy a happy but kinder holiday season and go free-range.



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

**SUMMER
SUNSET
MARKETS**

Look out
for special themes
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November and
December

The Sunset Markets offer enticing food stalls, live music and entertainment, a great range of markets stalls selling products by our local artists and crafts people, gourmet foods, collectables and much more!

Every Friday until 17 December, 5–8pm
at 256 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan (opposite the Council Chambers)

– Look for the signs –
– plenty of parking nearby –

For more information contact:
Ros Hales 6285 6170
or ros.hales@qcc.nsw.gov.au

The focus is on
high quality local handmade arts
and crafts, local produce and food suppliers as
well as local entertainment to enjoy as the sun goes down.

What's the **best book** you read in 2010?

BYWONG BOOK Club 2 dipped into mystery, murder, memoir, magical realism and history in 2010 – but clear favourites were *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*, and *The Poisonwood Bible*.

Both novels are award-winners, both have had rave reviews. One debuted at #2 on the *New York Times* Best Seller list, and the other was merely selected as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

But these are not the reasons they're worth reading. Ultimately, both are the sort of novels that spring to mind when someone asks "What's the best book you read this year?"

"*The Yiddish Policeman's Union* by Michael Chabon just blew me away," said one member. "It's not just that it's a breathtaking imaginative feat – an alternative history where a settlement for Jewish refugees in Alaska is coming to an end after forty years. It's a detective story, a love story and a murder mystery.

"There's a parade of small, perfectly formed portraits of eccentric characters which can make you sigh, smile and shudder- and sometimes all three. No wonder the Coen Brothers want the film rights."

And *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver is equally impressive. It's been called a "beautiful, heartbreaking, and unforgettable epic". It offers a compelling exploration of religion, conscience, imperialist arrogance, and the many paths to redemption.

Set against the backdrop of the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium and its devastating consequences, it follows the story of the wife and four daughters of a fierce, evangelical missionary who seeks to 'convert the natives'. What follows is a suspenseful story of the family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the three decades in postcolonial Africa.

Bywong Book Club 2 looks forward to a fresh crop of great titles in 2011 courtesy of Read Around Canberra. For more information on support to set up a bookclub, contact ACT Library and Information Services on 6205 9000.

– Sarah Newsome

The Widow Clicquot:
The story of a champagne empire and the woman who ruled it

by Tilar J. Mazzeo
Harper Collins RRP \$A32.99

Review by Di Johnstone

AUSTRALIANS ARE big champagne drinkers. Over Christmas and New Year many of us will celebrate with a fine bubbly. Some might even buy French champagne. But how many of us know anything about this special drink, other than the hint of luxury, light headedness and laughter that is usually associated with it?

Mazzeo is a self-described cultural historian and wine expert from a wine growing region of California – and she reveals some surprising truths about champagne. For example, the famous Dom Perignon, traditionally credited with discovering champagne, did not. Indeed he and his monks tried to stop the formation of pesky bubbles from spoiling his famous abbey's still wines. And champagne was the invention of the British, long before the French.

But at the heart of this book is the remarkable Barbe-Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin, better known as the Widow (Veuve) Clicquot, the name on the champagne with a distinctive yellow label. While the brand she pioneered is a passport for luxury, the Widow herself was a petite, plain and very pragmatic businesswoman, who became a great entrepreneur when this was highly unusual for a woman.

Born in Reims before the 1789 French revolution, she narrowly avoided its excesses. When rampant mobs stormed religious places, she was rescued from her Catholic school and hidden by a family retainer. She later married a young man who dreamt of making and selling champagne, produced in the region's small vineyards, to a luxury market across Europe. It was a tricky industry. Harvests were unpredictable, unforseen temperature variations saw whole vintages explode and the fragile brew spoiled easily when it travelled. Her husband's business regularly skated close to disaster.



BOOKS,
AUTHORS, and

BOOK
REVIEWS



A brave woman in the 18th century

When her husband died suddenly, the newly widowed Madame Clicquot initially took and then quickly dropped a male business partner and ran the business herself. As a widow, she enjoyed economic freedoms not available to married women in the 18th century, but it was still a brave move. She relied heavily on a trusted journeyman, who opened up the highly lucrative Russian market, selling her champagne to the tsars and the extensive Russian aristocracy.

She was politically astute and, faced with continuous upheavals in France and chaos across Europe during the Napoleonic era, she found clever ways around potentially disastrous economic blockades. She saved her Reims cellars from looting by successive waves of invading Russian and French troops through supplying them with champagne to celebrate their short-lived victories.

The Widow Clicquot helped make a local wine a global commodity. She introduced methods that made mass production of champagne possible and the product widely available, and pioneered international brand recognition. She became an iconic figure in France, a role model for businesswomen and her business is still thriving some 200 years later.

The book is well written with both original historical research and some speculative material. Mazzeo also provides much fascinating information about the making of champagne.

Having read the book I bought a bottle of the bubbly. Not cheap, but knowing its story I felt ready to enjoy it. This Christmas why not give someone special this very readable book? And if you are feeling extravagant, a bottle of the Widow's champagne to go with it!!

Candles and Christmas

I LOVE candles, particularly at Christmas time. They make you feel spoilt, and create calmness and a general mood of warmth, relaxation, and even romance. But not a lot of people know the history of candles.



David Whyte of Wamboin chats with Joyce about candles and collectables.

Symbols of Christ and friendship

Historically, the Christmas candle is a single large candle that is lit on Christmas Eve symbolising Christ, the light of the world, but it can also represent the star of Bethlehem. The candle burned throughout the night to mark the nativity – lighting the way for Mary and Joseph.

People in some countries place the Christmas candle in the middle of an Advent wreath with four smaller candles around the wreath. One of the small candles is lit each week that leads up to Christmas, then the large Christmas candle is finally lit on Christmas Eve.

Many people hold to the tradition of placing a Christmas candle in each front window of their house as a welcoming symbol of friendship.



by 'Annie' Joyce Nordsvan

Candles through time

An ezine article by David Kubicek entitled 'Candles Through the Ages' contains an interesting brief history of how candles have been made and used from ancient times until today.

As early as 3000 BC, the Egyptians made torches by soaking the pithy core of reeds in molten tallow derived from animal fat. The Romans, who also used tallow, developed the first candles with wicks, which were used to guide travelers and light buildings.

The early Chinese moulded candles in paper tubes and used rolled rice paper for the wick. They made the wax from a concoction of an indigenous insect and seeds. The Japanese made candles with wax extracted from tree nuts. In India, early candle-makers boiled the fruit of the cinnamon tree for wax.

In the Middle Ages, candle-makers began using beeswax which had the advantage of burning cleanly with no smoky flame or acrid odour but the disadvantage of being very expensive.

In the late 18th century, the booming whaling industry initiated the first revolution in candle making since the Middle Ages. A wax produced by crystallising sperm whale oil, spermaceti, also burned clean and smelled pleasant. In addition to having the excellent qualities of beeswax, spermaceti wax kept its shape and burned longer. Because it was harder than beeswax or tallow, it also addressed the problem of melting in summer.

In 1834, Joseph Morgan invented a machine that allowed for the continuous production of moulded candles, using a cylinder with a movable piston that ejected candles as they solidified. With the advent of mass production, most people could easily afford candles.

By 1850, paraffin wax (made from oil and coal shales) was in production. It burned cleanly, didn't produce a repugnant odor and was less expensive to produce than the preceding waxes. Because paraffin had a low melting point, stearic acid was added to make the candles more durable. By the end of the 19th century, most candles were being made from this combination.

Continued p14

'The Q' gains audience, more shows

TICKET SALES and theatre bookings for 'The Q' Performing Arts Centre in Queanbeyan made a healthy leap forward in 2010.

30,000 tickets went for both the theatre season – organised by 'The Q' program manager Stephen Pike – and outside touring productions like Jimeoin.

Regional dance schools (including from Canberra and Bungendore), the Indonesian embassy and international conference organisers were among those who took advantage of the mid-size venue that tends to garner rave reviews as an interactive space from both performers and audiences. Karabar High and Canberra Grammar were among the schools whose performing arts programs learned from 'The Q's shows and used the space during the year – a rare opportunity for highschool and college.

"We had 18 sold-out performances in the past season", said Pike. Musicals –including the Queanbeyan Players' production of *Fame* – topped the popularity charts and the dance school events and name performers also attracted large audiences.

A pleasant surprise was identifying the best-attended play. That was the comedy *Caravan* produced and cast locally, through 'The Q'. The fact that the play had a two-week run no doubt helped. This contrasts with the challenge of reaching audiences for new Australian works that tour and come to town for two or three nights.

Building on the 2010 success, Pike said next year's lineup will again include a Queanbeyan-produced comedy, *Funny Money*, and a musical, *Blood Brothers*.

Looking to 2011 season

Funny Money has been reviewed elsewhere as a classic farce, with the UK *Sunday Times* being moved to write: "farce lovers are in for two and a half hours of inspired, demented bliss".

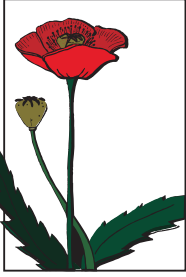
Blood Brothers is the story of twins separated at birth who come together as best friends from different socio-economic backgrounds. The personal and social clashes are woven into a powerful story that is told with humour and soaring music as it leads to inevitable tragedy. Playing in the West End of London for more than 20 years, *Blood Brothers* is considered an all-time great musical. And it will soon be playing in the theatre near you.

2011 will offer a bonanza of vintage musicals at 'The Q' – *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Sweet Charity*, *Oklahoma*, and *Me and My Girl*. *Ashes to Ziggy* is a musical tribute to David Bowie coming next March. A ripper tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons is part of the regional touring plays showcased on the following page (right). The full program can be obtained from website for 'The Q': www.theq.net.au.

Starting out the year, Jimeoin will be back to tickle many a funny bone on 4 February. And *Oklahoma* will be waltzing through the corn from 11–27 February. Plus, we nearly forgot (how could we!) there's a 14 January visiting production called *Puppetry of the Penis – Live*. We have not researched this, but it's said to be fall-down funny.

– the Bulletin theatre department

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Oh what a night...

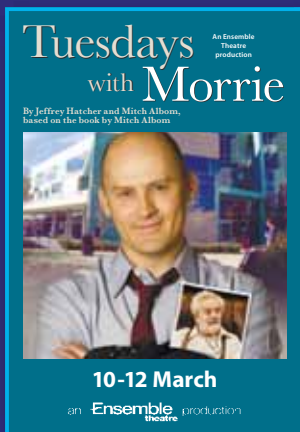
THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Queanbeyan City Council

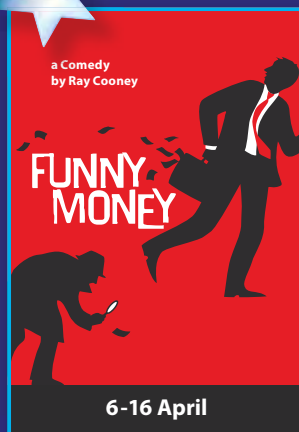
SEASON 2011

In 2011 The Q is excited to present you with a season of drama, comedy, musical theatre, dance and music. Featuring national and international touring companies as well as local artists, all chosen to have you leaving the theatre thinking "Oh what a night..."

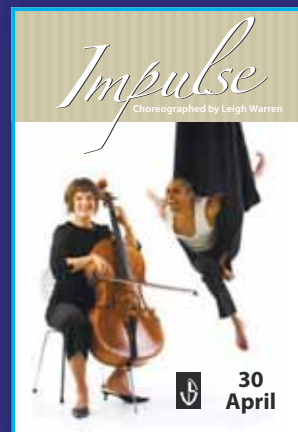
To receive your free copy of the comprehensive season brochure call 02 6285 6290. Further info: www.theq.net.au



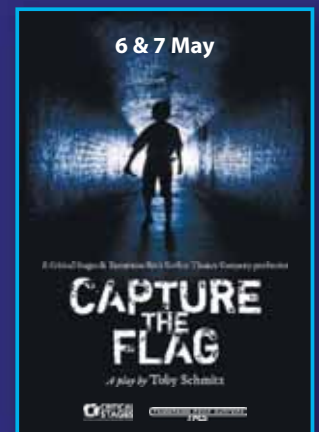
Tuesdays With Morrie is the best-selling memoir of all time with over 11 million copies sold worldwide. **"Tuesdays With Morrie must be among the best recent American scripts for two actors. It's hard to beat a story with this much humanity, humour, and wisdom"** – Arts Hub.



What would you do if you found £2 million of someone else's ill gotten gains in used bank notes and thought the owner had no way of tracing you? Well lets see what happens when Henry does. In the style of Fawlty Towers this impossible situation leads to increasingly hysterical situations.



Impulse is an exhilarating production of two dance works (*Impulse* and *Shimmer*) which combine live music and movement with cutting-edge visual technology to create an unforgettable sensory feast. It won 'Best Choreography' at the Australian Dance Awards in 1999.



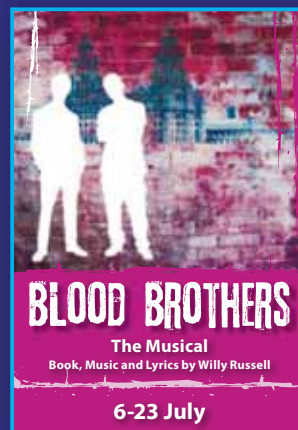
A play about history and our children, warfare and freewill. Award-winning playwright and director Toby Schmitz's new Australian play is a gripping, intelligent and unlikely story that sees coming of age meet historical apocalypse in a unique and immersive theatrical experience.



A sophisticated and hilarious glimpse of cleavage and beyond which promises to make your heart sing! **"Ladies, grab your bloke and get him to come along. You need to see this..."** – ABC Radio, Brisbane.



William Shakespeare... overdone, overwhelming, overrated – underground! Well think again... A fast-paced, hilarious and eye-opening experience. **"Cleverly written script... hilarious physical theatre... totally engaging. A standing ovation from the audience"**. – Sue Gough, The Courier Mail.



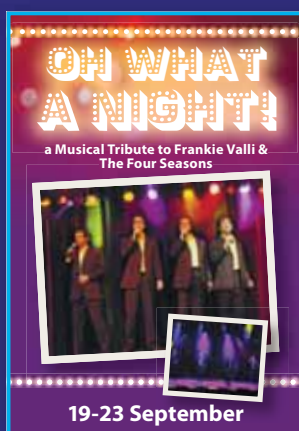
Willy Russell's classic musical *Blood Brothers* set in Liverpool is a story of twin brothers separated at birth who reunite and become friends in their childhood, unaware they are related or of the consequences their relationship will bring. Regarded as one of the all time great British musicals.



John MacNally has released a vast number of phenomenally successful albums worldwide. In this performance you will hear him sing a variety of songs which will include: *You Raise Me Up, La Vie En Rose, Galway Bay, You'll Never Know How Much I Love You, Danny Boy* and many more.



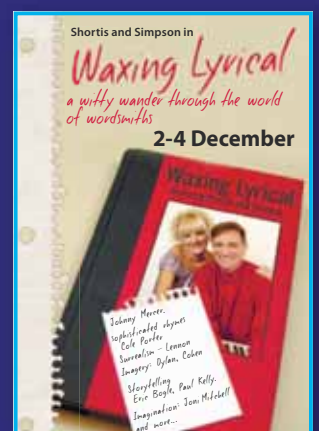
Three of Australia's top cabaret performers join forces to take you on a Magical Mystery Tour of the finest pop songs. Fancy singing along with the na-na-na bit in *Hey Jude*? Wanna give peace a chance? This is the show for you!



Direct from Las Vegas to The Q - *OH WHAT A NIGHT!* is an exciting musical revue based on the songs of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. You'll enjoy hits like *Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like A Man, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, My Eyes Adored You, Working My Way Back To You, Let's Hang On*, and many more.



A fun, sophisticated and sexy story about love, life and loss, *Love Song* explores the power of imagination, and questions perceptions of reality and illusion. What does it mean to love? Is love a delusion, or can the desire and energy of new love generate its own reality?



Featuring Shortis and Simpson *Waxing Lyrical* is a fascinating look at some of the world's great songs and songwriters, from the point of view of the lyrics. *Waxing Lyrical* is more Gilbert than Sullivan, more Hart than Rodgers and more Ira Gershwin than George.

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

Does Palerang heritage need protection?

by Judith Turley

AT THE second Local Environment Plan (LEP) extraordinary meeting for November, Palerang Council debated this motion:

MOVED that prior to Council making any entry of a property into a heritage register, planning instrument or similar listing of Council, it must obtain the informed written consent of the property owner or trustee to do so, unless the property is already listed on the State Heritage Register.

Speaking against the motion, members of the public argued that owners who resist listing are those most likely to demolish or damage heritage sites and voluntarily-listed properties are least likely to need protection!

While our Shire doesn't boast any of the 'wonders of the civilised world', Palerang heritage is OUR heritage and it's unique. At Burra you can visit the spectacular London Bridge Arch as well as the London Bridge Homestead. The Foxlow Bridge, visible from Captains Flat Road, is a fine timber bridge (dating from 1896) which richly deserves protection from the threats of modernisation.

Then there is the Old Bywong Town mining site, the Victorian splendour of 'Birchfield' and various colonial stone buildings in Bungendore, and the charms of Braidwood. There are 491 items on the proposed Palerang list for heritage designation; of these, 127 are currently listed and new items have been included based on heritage studies.

There are many good reasons for us to preserve evidence of past eras. Old buildings are a constant reminder of the rich tapestry of our past and connect us with those who went before us.



Old Bywong Town

Photo: Marcelle Martins

Colonial-era houses, with their low-roofed verandahs, remind us that the first settlers were often smaller people than we are today. The simple stone buildings they built were cold in winter unless heated by a raging fire, and that need for firewood contributed to the transformation of the landscape.

Heritage a big tourist drawcard, Queanbeyan's loss

It would be a great shame if lack of appreciation of the value of history led to the loss of remnants from Palerang's past. Not just for the above reasons but because our economy is somewhat dependent on the tourist dollar. Heritage is a big drawcard for visitors; Palerang has it in spades.

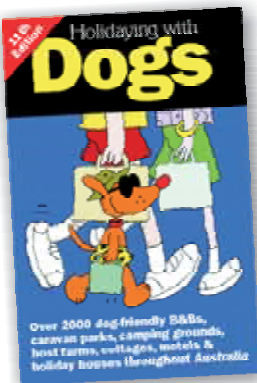
However, Queanbeyan has suffered a huge change in character due to the demolition of many outstanding old buildings such as the Court House, Commercial Bank and Post Office, not to mention most of the sixteen old pubs. The

last of those to bite the dust was the Victoria Hotel, which was replaced by Riverside Plaza.

During the 1980s, a swag of fast-food joints in east Queanbeyan replaced some charming old houses, including Jane Swan's Cottage which was one of the oldest buildings in Queanbeyan, with a colourful history which included being dismantled brick-by-brick and re-built on higher ground after a flood.

A well-researched and extensive Heritage List in the LEP should prevent similar threats to Palerang's character and heritage. To achieve such protection we need legislation that overrides whims and fashion.

Residents can look at the list of significant sites and buildings in their local area that Council is suggesting for heritage listing. Council staff are in the process of consulting with owners of these listed items. The list can be found attached to the LEP business paper of 28 October on the Council website.



Holidaying with Dogs

Review by Di Johnstone

WITH THE holiday season approaching, responsible dog owners will be worrying about arrangements for the care of their dogs while they are away.

But leaving dogs in good care

is only one solution. Another is to take our beloved pooches with us. This wonderful

book is a guide to how you can do this.

There was a time when taking a dog with you on holiday was practically impossible. But now there are an extraordinary number and range of places across Australia that allow, and in some cases actively encourage, you to take your pets.

Now in a newly published 11th edition (for 2011–12), this enormously popular guide takes you to the places in Australia, over 2,000 of these, where you can take your dog, whether it is beaches, forests, farms, holiday cottages, caravan parks or motels.

There is a bit of planning involved, and you always need to check about the requirements of the accommodation before you set off. *Holidaying with Dogs* also gives you helpful advice on how to travel safely and responsibly with pets.

If you really can't take your dog, there are also names of many potential pet sitters.

No dog owner should be without this book. Ask for it at your favourite book store or check out www.holidayingwithdogs.com.au.

(Di says: I have taken a dog on holiday to Pub Hill Farm, Narooma and to Mogendoura Farm, near Moruya, both featured in this book. They were both great places for dogs. Pub Hill Farm gets a 'five paw' rating.)

NO EASY ANSWER

Cont'd from p4

The Monaro Greens candidate hat

The funding model for local government is hopelessly broken. Under the Constitution, the Federal government can't directly fund local government to provide basic services.

It can use our GST and income tax to buy 14 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters for nearly \$100 million each, but it has trouble funding the grading of your local road, keeping the library open all day or keeping municipal rates affordable.

Local government is now being told by the NSW State government (without a hint of irony) that it must become more democratic and listen to the people. The new Integrated Planning and Reporting dictate obliges Palerang council, like other councils, to develop a 10-year plan.

We need some solidarity here folks.

Come along to the Council's 10-year strategic plan workshops and demand better services. But don't expect the Council to be able to provide better services under our current funding model.

Get on to your local members of both the State and the Federal governments, candidates as well, and make sure that they're going to support the Constitutional change that is required if local government is to have any future at all.

As for the workers in the Braidwood office, I think the jobs should remain in Braidwood to keep that town's economy buoyant. If supporting our local communities means that we make do with one less fighter plane, I mean, who would notice?

CANDLES AND CHRISTMAS

Cont'd from p12

Candles as gifts

In the 1800s, grocers and candle-makers in England gave loyal customers a large Christmas candle as a Christmas gift. Today's Christmas candles come in a variety of scents, shapes and sizes. The giver can always give a unique gift that symbolizes the history and traditions of Christmas. This is why candles are such a popular gift idea.

We wish you and your families a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We'll be in Wamboin over the break, so if you'd like to drop in we would love to see you.

— Joyce

joyce@anniescollectables.com.au

PALERANG COUNCIL

NOMINATIONS

AUSTRALIA DAY 2011 AWARDS

Council is calling for nominations from throughout Palerang for community awards to be presented at celebrations in Bungendore, Captains Flat and Braidwood on Australia Day, Wednesday, 26 January 2011.

The categories for the awards in each town and surrounding areas are:

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

Nominations, closing 5.00pm on **Wednesday, 5 January 2011**, 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 2011 Nomination", Palerang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

For further information, please contact Council's Community Services Officer, Mell Hayes, on (02) 6238 8111 during business hours.

PALERANG COUNCIL

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES 2010–2011

At its meeting on 4 November 2010 Palerang Council adopted a proposed amendment to the 2010–2011 fees and charges in relation to **subdivision certificate applications**, principal certifying authority nomination and weeds re-inspections. The proposed amendment is on public exhibition from Wednesday 24 November 2010 to Wednesday 22 December 2010.

Council welcomes submissions during the period of public exhibition. Submissions will need to be received by Wednesday 22 December 2010. The amendment will be formally adopted by Palerang Council after consideration of submissions received at a Council meeting to be held on Thursday 3 February 2011.

The proposed amendment is available for inspection at Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood during normal opening hours. The amendment can also be viewed on Council's website at www.palerang.nsw.gov.au.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager
Palerang Council

PO Box 348
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

The lists of Development Applications which are received each week and determined each month are available on Council's website under 'Planning and Environment' on the home page www.palerang.nsw.gov.au; email records@palerang.nsw.gov.au.

HAS AUSTRALIA gone off sport or something? Seems we can't win a chook raffle at the moment. Our national rugby team has been called 'the worst ever'; our cricket team 'is in disarray'; the Socceroos can't score a goal; and in the rugby league, the Kangaroos appear to have taken a lesson from the Wallabies in how to lose to New Zealand – is anyone else depressed? The recent successes at the Commonwealth Games also don't really make amends by the way, given the level of competition. It's certainly a long way from our 'golden year' of 1999 when we were the world champions in tennis, union, league, cricket, surfing, netball and hockey! And before you start writing in bemoaning the fact that Australians are too obsessed with sport and it's about time we copped a beating to make us realise that there's more to life, let's remember why it's really so important to us: given we are regularly seen as the, to put it

inside runnings

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

politely, 'bottom end' of the world, it's nice to occasionally come out on top.

I had a dream

The dream has ended. F1 driver and Queanbeyan boy Mark Webber was so close to realising his ambition of winning the Championship after eight years on the circuit and more bad luck than a black cat walking under a ladder. Unfortunately he has had to take the back seat to his teammate Sebastian Vettel, who took out the title after winning just one extra race. Webber's third place finish overall, with four wins for the season, is still quite the accomplishment however and certainly bodes well for next year.

Ashes to ashes

Australia currently ranks fifth when it comes to our national past-time. Fifth! And things don't look much like improving if our current Ashes performance is anything to go on. According to one local cricket die-hard, "to lose the Ashes at home is a fate worse than death" and for Ricky Ponting this might be the outcome for his cricketing career should he lose the precious urn AGAIN ... hot tip for the 43rd Captain of the Australian cricket team – local boy Brad Haddin!

The Queanbeyan Gift

And speaking of things Queanbeyan, in the third-richest footrace in Oz, it was another local, 22-year-old Patrick Elliott, who took out the men's Queanbeyan Gift at the end of the November – the first Queanbeyanite to do so since the reintroduction of the race in 2000. In the tightly contested women's gift, Commonwealth sprinter Melissa Breen and last year's

Stuff we're (pretty) sure was said:

"Our team is united in a common goal: to keep my job."

– Ricky Ponting, Captain of the Australian Cricket Team

"Gits should take some tips from me – I know how to keep a bench warm. It's what I spend most of my season doing."

– Raider Trevor Thurling on Wallabies flyhalf Matt Giteau being benched

winner Charlotte Van Veenendall were not in the top three led by Sydney's Christine Wearne.

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

Proud parents have told the *Bulletin* that not only Queanbeyan but also Bungendore young runners were well represented in the junior races which feature large on athletics calendars.

– TOWN & COUNTRY DOGS –

Holiday on the coast kills lovable rogue

by Heike Hahner



THERE MIGHT be a few people around Braidwood who are relieved to hear

that nine-year-old Jack, a Maltese/Jack Russell cross has passed away from paralysis tick bite.

Jack was a bit of a rogue at times, biting the postman and chasing utes, and some visitors would keep an eye on him for fear of receiving a nip. But to others Jack was a gorgeous, friendly little dog, who always greeted us with a big smile and a happy yip.

Sadly, what happened this week to Jack's owners, Jan Esman and Sandy Fisher, could happen to any caring dog owners who thought they'd done the right thing by their dog. Jack was treated with a popular tick medication and Jan and Sandy thought him safe from ticks.

Apparently he showed no signs of illness until a few hours before his death, five days after returning home from the coast. He became paralysed in the back legs, deteriorated quickly and died. The tick was found under his collar.

Ticks outsmarting medication?

We all know about paralysis ticks and their lethal effects on dogs, but what was news to many of us was that the medication may not save your dog. Bidda Jones, chief scientist for the RSPCA Australia, had a similar story to tell of nearly losing one of her dogs three weeks after returning from a coast visit. This dog had also

been treated with tick medication and the tick had lain dormant until the medication had worn off and then bitten the dog.

If you are planning to take your dog to the coast, or anywhere where paralysis ticks can be found, be sure to search your dog thoroughly for ticks every day. It is important that the tick is removed carefully; ensure it is not squeezed as this may empty the toxins into the dog's blood stream. If you are unsure about what to do when finding a tick, rush your dog to the nearest vet (who will be able to safely remove it).

Other holiday reminders with dogs

Remember to:

- always provide shade and fresh water
- search for ticks, grass seeds, etc.
- clip long-haired dogs if you don't like brushing your dog daily
- book a place in boarding kennels or pet minder NOW or you may miss out.

Make sure your dog is micro-chipped and wears a collar with his name, your phone number and/or the number of your vet or a friend. Dogs that are easy to identify get returned home sooner if they get lost. Suitcase tags are ideal and cheap if you are travelling around.

— Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Town and Country dogs

For specific questions – contact Heike on hhahner@bigpond.com or phone: 4842 7143

PALERANG COUNCIL

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FEES AND CHARGES 2010–2011

Council at its meeting of 4 November 2010 adopted a proposed amendment to the 2010–2011 fees and charges as they relate to its **truckwash facility at Braidwood**.

The proposed fee structure is as follows:

- Annual charge for electronic key – \$25/year (incl GST)
- Subsequent keys for same account – free
- Flagfall for use – \$5.00 (incl GST)
- Usage charge – \$0.55/minute (incl GST)

The proposed amendment will remain on public exhibition from 8 December to 19 January 2011 with submissions to be received from interested members of the public over this period.

The closing date for submissions is 4.00pm 19 January 2011.

Formal consideration of the proposed amendment and any submissions received is expected to be undertaken at Council's meeting of 3 February 2011.

Further information about this proposal may be obtained from Council's website at www.palerang.nsw.gov.au.

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Women's final Queanbeyan Gift. "Pocket Rocket" Christine Wearne from Sydney (left) snatched a photo finish victory and the \$4,000 prize from Jacinta Doyle (centre) who came in third and Laura-Jane Hilditch, second.



At the finish line in the men's final: Patrick Elliott (green) first place, Stephen Shepherd (yellow) fourth place, Richard Hankin (black) second place and Brendan Matthews (white) third.

DUCK THAT RECYCLE NO MORE

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council has teamed up with Mobile Muster and Oxfam Unwrapped to recycle mobile phones and use the proceeds to deliver ducks, yes ducks, to needy families in Africa. No, the ducks won't be Christmas dinner but rather productive egg layers for families in Mozambique, according to Mobile Muster, a nonprofit recycling group. Two mobiles equal one duck, we are told.

Ninety percent of materials in mobile phones, including their batteries, chargers and accessories can be recycled. So turn in your old mobiles, batteries, charges and accessories by 31 January.

Local collection points are Queanbeyan Library or Queanbeyan Waste Minimisation Centre (5 Lorn Road) or visit www.mobilemuster.com.au to find your nearest location.

Post them in for free by either downloading a MobileMuster/Oxfam Unwrapped reply paid label from www.mobilemuster.com.au or by picking up a free recycling satchel from your nearest Australia Post outlet and following the packing instructions.

