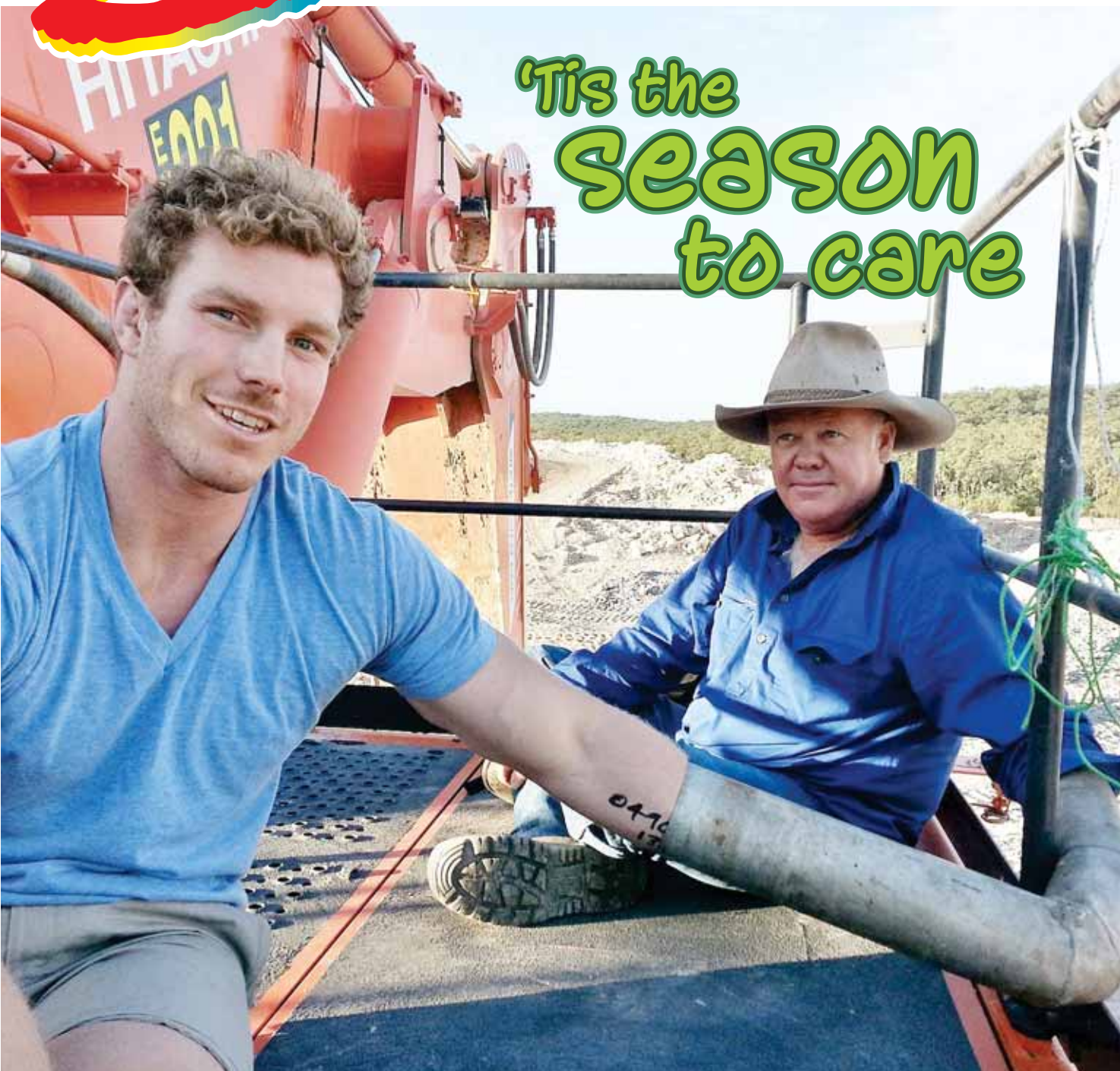


Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang



'Tis the
Season
to care



Football great helps stop coal excavators, tells us why

ON Sunday 30 November, former Wallabies captain and Canberra Brumbies player David Pocock (pictured left) and his wife Emma, fifth generation neighbouring farmer Rick Laird (right), ANU Philosophy lecturer Bruin Christensen along with other Canberrans and NSW citizens blockaded and shut down one of Whitehaven Coal's super diggers at Maules Creek in northern NSW.

They were subsequently arrested for their part in the ongoing protest against the coal project in the Leard State forest. In 2014 scores of citizens, including leaders of religious denominations, have been put in paddy wagons for standing up against big coal and its disastrous environmental, health and social impacts.

Pocock wrote an eloquent blog on his reasons for taking part which we partly bring you below in edited form. The full text is online and at www.districtbulletin.com.au.

My parents were always clear with my brothers and I when we were growing up that you have to have the courage of your convictions and that when you commit to something you must fully commit. That's why, this weekend I travelled to the Leard Blockade with farmers, activists and fellow Canberrans.

A group of us decided to take part in an action that would disable a super digger and raise awareness about the plight of the Maules Creek community, *Cont'd p13*

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Stand alone or merge?
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Health and equity fears, anger at NSW inaction on Fluffy houses

by Maria Taylor

QUEANBEYAN Mayor Tim Overall is calling for a 'remediation' program for NSW home-owners who have, or might have, Mr Fluffy asbestos in their homes. Remediation would involve buy-backs, demolition of homes and resale of properties, he said.

His call comes in the wake of a mid-November hearing held in Queanbeyan and submissions to the NSW Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation, initiated by Labor MLC Steve Whan.

The committee is hearing of the health fears, anger, frustration and long-term anxiety about loss

of income and equity experienced by owners of pre-1980 houses with loose-fill asbestos fibres in the home.

Currently there are 15 properties known to be affected by Mr Fluffy asbestos in Queanbeyan, but on ACT-style estimates the number could be as high as 60 (one percent of pre-1980 housing stock). Of the 15 known properties one is a multi-unit development with 38 householders.

Two Bungendore properties were identified in the early 1990s. So far, a firm number of rural or village properties in Palerang and Yass shires have not been identified. *Cont'd p5*

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**'Tis the season to say
thanks and wish you well**

The Bulletin team wishes you a relaxing holiday season
and a healthy and rewarding New Year. Thanks to our
wonderful advertisers, contributors and readers for another good
year of community journalism, with expanded distribution. We
definitely couldn't do it without you, and we are always happy to
hear you like what we are doing!

NO BULLETIN IN JANUARY. After our usual January break,
we'll be back a LITTLE LATER IN FEBRUARY but with greater
distribution reach! in the lead up to the March state election.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE. We will update important local issues on
the website **www.districtbulletin.com.au** in February so check
there for news on amalgamation, asbestos action or the push for
the Ellerton Drive / Edwin Land Parkway (EDE) roads – take the
opportunity to comment on EDE documents that will be on
council exhibition until sometime in February.

To discuss advertising in our expanded pre-election February
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THE DISTRICT Bulletin
COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang

We will be taking a
break until the
FEBRUARY 2015 issue
www.districtbulletin.com.au

Maria
Robyn
Sue

Giving the broken another chance at life

ONE of the lasting impressions from visiting Possumwood sanctuary in Bywong is how similar the convalescing patients from the marsupial family are to the pets around your home.

An Eastern Grey joey or a young Wallaroo appreciates a tickle under the chin or a scratch behind the ear, just like your faithful pooch. These youngsters sniff your trouser legs inquisitively, take a taste of your shoelaces (or notebook) and don't mind a cuddle.

Around 60 kangaroos of different species and ages, as well as the odd possum, wombat, lizard, crow and turtle, are currently being treated and are convalescing at the Possumwood Wildlife Recovery and Research centre.

It's run by husband and wife team general practitioner Rosemary Austen and ethics professor Steve Garlick. They are establishing Possumwood as a charity after years of doing the same good Samaritan work relying totally on their own resources, largely Rosemary's income as a GP. Weekly food, milk and medicine costs are the big items.

Caring members of the public bring in

wildlife who (themselves or Mum) have been run over by cars, attacked by dogs (or cats in case of reptiles), caught up in fences or shot by humans who consider this 'sport' or pest management.

"I started 15 years ago with fence injuries," says Rosemary. "At that time kangaroos caught in fences were always shot." Her first aid skills as a doctor came in handy to treat

wounds, give pain relief, splint fractures, heal infections, and sew pouches ripped by barbed wire.

A vet was needed for surgical aspects. She met the legendary wildlife veterinarian Howard Ralph from Braidwood (profiled previously in the *Bulletin*) in 2006 and has been working with him ever since.

Many of the convalescing kangaroos at



Story and images by Maria Taylor

Wallaroos (top right) inhabit escarpment country. In western Palerang they are found in country bordering Lake George and they are often victims of traffic on Smith's Gap as they try to retain their original pathways. Seen here, Princess Rosalinde, (so named by the daughter of the rescuer), was found on the Federal Highway.

Possumwood have a bandaged rear foot or leg, testament to Dr Ralph's surgical skills, which have laid to rest the myth that you cannot operate on a kangaroo limb.

Possumwood research – which documents care and also behavioural observations (eg post trauma stress) – helps wildlife carers, the veterinary field and the general public to a better understanding. For example, after 50 consecutive fence rescues, Steve and Rosemary found that joeys had a good recovery success rate which was less so for larger animals.

The couple present their findings in research papers to international conferences and host international visitors. They do not shy away from telling the world about Australian governments' lethal treatment of our national emblem (be it 'culling' as in the ACT or promoting the world's biggest wildlife slaughter for meat and hides). People are always shocked and amazed, they say.

Injured animals are brought in from a 300km radius including from the ACT where the official policy is to shoot rather than offer medical attention. Some area farmers, including around Molonglo Gorge also "blast away" at kangaroos, leading to survivors being brought in by caring members of the public.

The worst story told us by Rosemary, pointing to a now healthy joey Lucy, was of what had happened to her mother, who was shot through the upper jaw by some idiot in the Tinderries. When she was found cowering in a shed, her wound was totally infected and maggot-ridden, and she could not clean her baby in the pouch as they do. The joey was covered in urine and as a result had ulcers in her eyes. This is what happens.

Some 2,000 animals have been rehabilitated over the years with an average of 200–250 new residents annually who might stay for weeks or as long as a year. Once healed, the animals are released as a group to a safe country property.

"We are very satisfied to take animals who have been broken and give them another chance at life," Garlick summed up the kind and momentous task they have given themselves. ■

If you want to learn more about the work at Possumwood or support its drive to upgrade the facility, go to www.possumwood.com.au.

Go Mitch!

YOUNG Bungendore cycling champion Mitchell Lovelock-Fay ended a tough year with a triumphant win in the New Zealand SBS Bank Tour of Southlands, a challenging seven stage, 6-day Tour with Avanti Racing Team. He is the first Australian rider in 50 years to take out the Tour.

Arguably his biggest fans, his family in Bungendore, told the *Bulletin*: "Mitch took out the Queen stage, from Te Anau to the top of Coronet Peak, where he won the stage by 21 seconds and took the yellow jersey. He remained in the yellow jersey for the remainder of The Tour, posting a blistering time in the Individual Time Trial to take second place behind his team mate Joe Cooper, leaving him 41 seconds



to protect in the final stage in order to win the Tour".

"Winning Tour of Southlands means a lot," said Mitch, "because I had a tough year last year with illness and injury. I spent the year riding for my team mates who I got to see cross the line first in every tour I competed, so to see all my hard work pay off was amazing and inspirational. I knew I was going into the race with good form, so for the team to put their support behind me and pay back the work I had done for them all year was surreal and to see the teamwork that went into the win. I couldn't ask for better team mates.

"Next up I have the National Championships in Ballarat in January, where I move up to the elite ranks and hope to go top 10 in the road race against the likes of Greenedge, Team Sky and BMC."

Mitch Lovelock-Fay lives in Canberra (what little time he is there) and is studying to be a teacher through Curtin University as well holding a part-time job teaching disabled children to swim.

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Health funding impacts and privatisation

I ATTENDED not so long ago the annual public meeting for our local region health service. There weren't a lot of members of the public there but it was interesting. One fact in particular caught my attention. Over the preceding year the area had experienced a slight drop in the number of people presenting at hospital emergency departments.

I delved a little for the reason. It turns out it was entirely due to a drop at Goulburn hospital which coincided with a bulk billing GP clinic opening up in town.

It illustrates the interlinking of the health system and why policy changes by the federal government can have such a massive impact on state health services. In this case it shows the potential saving – not to mention improved health outcomes – of getting people to go to a GP instead of an emergency department for routine problems.

That's also one reason federal Labor has worked so hard to block the Abbott Government's \$7 GP co-payment (or GP tax). It looks at the moment like the measure will be blocked – but the Abbott Government is still saying they want to find a way to put it in place.

Equation of hiking GP payment and load on emergency

Queanbeyan hospital currently has around 16,000 emergency department attendances per year. Department of Health modelling suggests a \$7 GP tax could push that up by over 4,300 per year – meaning greater strain on staff and longer waiting times.

Health costs are increasing rapidly (partly driven by advances in health care tech-

nology and longer lives) and they are a challenge for budgets. But the solution is not for the federal government to cost shift to the states through massive cuts to hospital funding or the GP tax.

Privatisation push will cost taxpayers more

Nor is the state government's push for privatisation of public hospital services a good option. The Coalition's privatised Port Macquarie hospital ended up costing taxpayers double the amount a normal public hospital would have cost, yet the Baird Government is still heading down that path.

The solution lies in better primary health care, putting in place measures to help people develop a relationship with their GP (rather than a tax that would stop them visit-

ing), lessening visits to the hospital. Education and healthy habits play a part so we don't see kids adopting lifestyles that will produce years of expensive chronic illness later in life.

NSW Capital Watch



with
Steve
Whan

Preventive care is not sexy to the media

The political challenge is that the work we do to prevent illness doesn't make the front page, while someone missing out on a life-saving but expensive procedure does.

It is tough to fund both properly.

Pledge of Kings Highway funding

At the recent Country Labor Conference in Queanbeyan we announced a commitment to a minimum of \$60 million over the next four years for Kings Highway upgrades.

That's at least \$15 million per year. It is a responsible and affordable commitment which would see us progress widening of the remaining narrow portions of road along with other improvements.

My disappointment is that rather than matching or even beating the commitment the Nationals and the Treasurer have said this

modest commitment can't be funded. I reckon they can do a lot better than that and I challenge the Nationals to beat Labor's commitment.

Last word though, no matter how much work we do on the road, driving at 100kph will always require care and concentration. Drive carefully and have an enjoyable and safe Christmas. ■

Confused by federal health policy? So is the government

GUARDIAN Australia's chief political correspondent Lenore Taylor reported on 28 November that following the public announcement that the GP \$7 co-payment would be shelved (since it had no hope of getting through the Senate anyway) three government ministers, starting with Health Minister Peter Dutton, came out with contradictory statements implying that the co-payment would be achieved by other means.

Unemployment in Palerang and Queanbeyan about doubled in last two years

The NSW Opposition released figures in November showing the effects of funding cuts and public sector job cuts under current Liberal/National Party policies in regional areas specifically Monaro.

Duty MLC for Monaro, Steve Whan, said the NSW government and the Nationals local representative are in denial when it comes to the challenges in the region.

He cited Australian Bureau of Statistics figures that show the Capital Region (the region stretching from North of Goulburn to the Victorian border) in September 2014 had 2,300 more people unemployed than there were in April 2011 (ABS: 6291.0.55.001 – Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery, Sep 2014).

"This is confirmed by the Federal Department of Employment's (smoothed) Small Area Labour Market figures which show that in the local government areas making up the Monaro electorate there were 1,450 unemployed people in the June 2014 quarter up from 804 in the

December 2012 quarter (the earliest date on which comparison is possible).

For example in the *Bulletin* distribution area, Queanbeyan unemployed have almost doubled and Palerang has doubled in that time span, according to these figures (which do go up and down a bit on a quarterly basis).

"What is really worrying is the head in the sand attitude of government ministers who say: 'you've never had it so good' ", says Whan. "These people are completely unable to get past their blind endorsement of the Liberal's Sydney-centric policies to focus on the Capital Region's quite different challenges."

As public sector workers demonstrated in Queanbeyan about job cuts, Whan said: "We are losing jobs in our region because of the policies of conservative governments and that flows through to other local businesses."

Visit the *Bulletin* website over the next months for more news on NSW policies and issues – www.districtbulletin.com.au

Small Area Labour Market Smoothed Unemployment

Local Government Area (LGA)	Dec-12	Mar-13	Jun-13	Sep-13	Dec-13	Mar-14	Jun-14
Palerang (A)	99	116	121	114	127	181	207
Queanbeyan (C)	405	482	511	480	509	659	731

Is amalgamation a done deal?

Not if Palerang proves itself 'Fit for the Future'



by Keith France,
Palerang Councillor

SO JUST what is 'fit for the future'? The NSW Office of Local Government states: "A Fit for the Future council is one that is: sustainable; efficient; effectively manages infrastructure and delivers services for communities; and has the scale and capacity to engage effectively across community, industry and government."

While it is true to say that Palerang has come a long way since its birth, whether these criteria can be met is a moot point. Council was proclaimed in 2004 following an amalgamation of Tallaganda and parts of Yarrowlunla, Mulwaree, Gunning and Cooma Monaro Shire Councils.

Some would express the view that Palerang was set up to fail, and over the decade it has struggled and at one point it looked >>

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Labor Duty MLC for Monaro

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Rivertown: Queanbeyan 2025



Queanbeyan's future: tourism, environment and low-rise development?

THE WINNING entry from an international design competition to re-imagine Queanbeyan's downtown for the 21st century, picked the river as central to the appeal and future development of the city (see image).

The 30 entries and many other ideas received in its \$60,000 competition have been judged a huge success by the sponsoring Queanbeyan Business Chamber.

While the initial idea was to make Queanbeyan a more attractive destination for new satellite suburbs like Googong and Tralee, the design exercise has led to a much wider look at Queanbeyan's assets and what can be done with downtown.

Councillor Jamie Cregan, who initiated the competition as then president of the Chamber, told the *Bulletin* that the winning architects have started to encourage council on ways to calm traffic on Monaro Street and add more crossings.

This would immediately make the central precinct more pedestrian and shopping friendly.

The southern end of Monaro Street has recently lost four businesses and the area is seen as struggling, partly because of lack of pedestrian-friendly access.

After years of a standard response that nothing could be done because Monaro is a state road, council's engineering division has reportedly discussed the possibility of 'reclaiming' Monaro St as a local road. It could then be managed for pedestrian traffic. Traffic speed is a major issue, said Cregan.

He also suggested current plans for the Riverside precinct should be modified to emphasize the attractions of the river flora and fauna, the wetland environment of ducks, water rats, and occasional platypus. Pedestrian and bicycle loops should be a focus for the river.

A tourism focus for Queanbeyan could build on its environmental and historical assets, he said. Meanwhile council has now appointed a planning consultant to recommend Queanbeyan's development opportunities and planning rules. ■

LOOSE FILL ASBESTOS *From p1*

Is this the tip of an iceberg, statewide? One submission with name withheld noted: "My father worked in the building industry in Newcastle NSW during the 1970s. He has a clear memory of loose-fill asbestos being pumped into the roofs of houses.

"He remembers feeling shocked at how this material was blown into insecure spaces ie the roof cavity of homes, with no regard for the fact that should a hole open up in the roof it would blow out because it was 'contained' only by the roof itself. It was common knowledge that the material used was asbestos."

A Queanbeyan resident, pleading for action, wrote how owners, friends and guests were unwittingly exposed to a class 1 carcinogen. "We purchased our house in mid-2008. In late June of this year [2104],

we received a [first time] notice from the Queanbeyan City council informing us that our house was known to contain loose-fill asbestos fibres.

"We had renovated extensively and, with assistance from friends, entered the roof space on multiple occasions to install down lights, ceiling speakers, exhaust vents, skylights and a solar air-conditioner. In doing so bundles of very visible fibres (fibres so small that you can fit thousands of them on the head of a pin) floated down into the living areas.

"Similar bundles of fibres were often floating around the house either coming through the broken manhole in the laundry, the vents in the double brick wall or from the top of the closet which had a small hole in it to the ceiling. Now when we think back to when the light filtered in through the front room and lit up the small 'dust'

particles floating in the air, our memories of these times turn from quiet solace to feelings of dread."

Queanbeyan Council has submitted a detailed history of events showing there are no legal requirements or guidelines in NSW regarding notification from one homeowner to the next or via the real estate industry, or from the state or local government.

From 1997 on, Queanbeyan did unsuccessfully request state assistance to remove asbestos in affected ceilings. A Queanbeyan resident who privately had the asbestos removed for \$50,000 testified that anxiety returned when ACT demolitions in 2014 showed the material could travel through walls to subfloors.

Only now are follow-up technical inspec-

tions starting through WorkCover. "If further fibres are discovered when we have the house re-tested, all our thoughts and dreams will be shattered, and our retirement plans destroyed," wrote this resident.

In the 2000s Queanbeyan Council eventually took the position under legal advice that asbestos detection and advice to buyers was a private property matter like inspecting for and removing termites (only more voluntary). There is no NSW law that tradespeople need to be advised, either. ■

The full submissions can be found on the parliamentary joint select committee on loosefill asbestos website via www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

You can click on the submission link at the end of this story on our website – www.districtbulletin.com.au

<< likely to stumble, but in my view it currently stands as a council that can pay its own way, while successfully providing infrastructure and services to the community.

Praise for this change in fortune must go to the hard-working staff of council and to previous councillors.

The NSW government's review panel into local government has recommended that Palerang and Queanbeyan councils should amalgamate. I believe that this recommendation had its genesis in the TCorp (NSW Government Treasury Department) assessments of both councils.

The TCorp review states that the Palerang Council is "currently moderately sustainable but this may deteriorate in the

future with the Operating Ratio projected to be in a deficit position after 2012" (note that this deficit forecast proved to be false). It also says that Queanbeyan Council was "in a weak financial position in the short term and this trend will continue".

Both councils challenged TCorp's initial assessment and after providing more information, TCorp improved its view on both but this was not sufficient to change the review panel's recommendation of amalgamating the councils. One can only wonder at this recommendation.

Surely the outcome of joining two small 'weak' councils is one larger 'weak' council, but this is up to the joint working committee to determine.

Cont'd p8



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Cycling: a lifelong healthy affair

With a rail trail for the region under consideration and bicycling at an all time popular high, the Bulletin brings you a fun meditation on the cosmic meaning and potential of human and bicycle. This is an excerpt from a Guardian article by **Peter Kimpton**, with acknowledgement of the English nature of his experiences. However, many Australians want to ride bikes in the highly built environs of foreign countries as well as the wide-open spaces of home – so it's a global story.

AS CYCLING becomes more popular, I fantasise a little about just how much humans might ride in the future. The idea that we could evolve into part-bicycle is one that pleases me immensely. It pleases me as much as reading Flann O'Brien's masterpiece of fiction, *The Third Policeman*, in which that very thought has wheels. In this wonderful book, several characters in its Irish village setting are described to not so much have ridden as to have partly swapped atoms with their bicycles. The postman, for one, has



Penny farthing, anyone? Technology has moved on since Herne Hill velodrome in 1937, but cycling's pleasure remains undiminished.

Photograph: Keystone/Getty

become 71% bicycle and, like many other locals, has developed behavioural traits such as regularly leaning against walls or, when at rest, having one foot on the kerb.

On the sad occasions when I've lost a bike to theft, I've felt a terrible loss, a physical

loss almost, as if a limb is missing... That said, I am not a bike nut (or any other component).

I am neither constantly cleaning, repairing or stripping down parts or cables or thumbing cycling magazines and obsessing about cleats or carbon forks. I shave my face, not my legs. And while it's good to be visible, I try not to resemble a neon Lycra alien with a giant shiny head and flashing lights.

Cycling allows time to see so much more than other forms of transport...

There is something just right about the speed of a bike. It allows you to cover so much more ground than walking, but you can see so much more than

from a car. On one ride I spotted an owl, rabbits and a grass snake wriggling into a bush. You'd frighten them off with a roaring engine, or even turn them into roadkill.

Cycling only makes you better

Last year I took part in a charity bike ride from John O'Groats to Land's End – 1,000



Town and country pets

Is the right nutrition the key to ward off laminitis and sensitive hoofs?

SUPPLEMENTS of the right magnesium formulation, pure sea salt and chromium yeast could be the answer to weak hoofs and symptoms of laminitis without resorting to drastic restrictions on feed intake. Check out the work of horse therapist **Pauline Moore** who has recorded years of on-ground feeding experiments reported at the website www.gravelproofhoof.org/. Here is some of what she says. (*This work was recommended by a farrier who knows whereof he speaks.*)

"Many horse-owners struggle to keep the joy of horse ownership because of a constant and expensive battle to keep their horses sound. Professional advice for hoofcare and diet often dictates the horse should be confined to restrict grazing, or removed from access to grass permanently.

"Months or even years later, the horse may still be footsore on any surface other than soft turf or sand ... The information presented on the pages of this site reports how an alternative approach to diet and management has resulted in some horses developing consistently strong feet that do not need any protection from shoes or boots on any terrain, regardless of weather conditions – a true 'gravelproof' hoof."

Moore cautions that her website is educational and is not prescriptive advice for any particular horse and owners need to consider their situation and on-ground environment. Soil testing was mentioned. Online forums also suggest that nutrition grade formulations of supplements like the key magnesium chloride (not oxide) may not be easy to source everywhere, so look

around. Pure sea salt can be purchased in larger lots from Cleanseeds in Bungendore.

A (Queensland) case study: Rory's story

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Thoroughbred gelding, unraced.

The improvements to the structure and function of Rory's feet between 2003 and 2012 have been achieved entirely by diet. There was no change to trimming technique during that period. The most signifi-

cant changes occurred from 2009 onwards at a time when exercise was limited to permanent pasture turnout as Rory was worked only sporadically.

Supplementation with magnesium and chromium, plus reduction of dietary elements such as calcium that can inhibit magnesium uptake in the horse, has allowed Rory to maintain strong functional feet with no restriction to 24-hour grazing, and no exercise beyond free-choice movement whilst grazing.

Diet 2011 onwards: oaten chaff, copra, magnesium chloride to gut tolerance, 5g chromium yeast, boron, iodine, 60g unrefined sea salt, free-choice mineral salt, toxin binder, unlimited pasture (paspalum, couch, clover, native, Rhodes), drinking water pH neutralised by sodium bicarbonate.

Find the full details at www.gravelproofhoof.org/#!rory/c24ss

I love cycling most of all because it gives me freedom. It's about being outside, the wind in your hair (that's right, you don't always have to wear a helmet) and the sights and sounds of life in the city or countryside. Why would anyone want to have a cycle exercise machine or go to a spinning class? Just get on a bike and go somewhere.

Read more at www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/bike-blog/2014/jun/19/why-i-love-cycling

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Murder, madness, drownings...

Riverside Cemetery: history and headstones Part 2

with author and history buff Nichole Overall

IT'S the final resting place of some of the city's most prominent citizens and yet the Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery is more than just where they sleep the eternal sleep – it offers a chronicle of the town's journey and a monument to its progress and its people.

Each of the thousands of headstones has its own tale to tell. Stories of injustice, murder, madness and suicide are plentiful. Similarly, drownings, poisonings, epidemics and disasters. Women dying during childbirth and tragedies involving young people and children are heartbreakingly common, revealing much about the harshness of life in the region in those early times, and the swiftness of death.

Earlier burial grounds

Initially, burials were a rather haphazard affair with many dictated by the conditions of the period. Private graveyards appeared as early as 1836 and include the likes of

that at *Lambrigg*, Tharwa, where William Farrer, saviour of the Australian wheat industry, lies. More often though, hurried bush burials were the order of the day and the first Europeans to die in Queanbeyan were interred in the area that's now the Showground, itself thought to have originally been an Aboriginal burial ground.

When an intoxicated William Clarker was killed in 1842 after being hurled from his out-of-control dray along the road to Jerrabomberra, he was literally popped into a hole in a local paddock. The discovery of what may have been his remains in 1991, revealed something more startling than just the undignified details of his death: it brought to light the previously forgotten first public burial place on the Limestone Plains.

The Oaks Burial Ground – located next door to the oldest surviving building in the region and Queanbeyan's first pub, then the

Elmsall Inn – is today part of Oaks Estate in the ACT. The gravesite is believed to have been in use since 1838, with 43 souls interred in the unconsecrated and non-denominational area.

The last burial there occurred in 1863, an Indian performer who appeared in Queanbeyan as part of a travelling troupe before being murdered by his compatriots for his share of the takings. Despite the fact the Riverside Cemetery had opened in 1846, it was presumed he was buried at the Oaks because he was Hindu.

Riverside tales

The town's newest cemetery was, of course, the reserve of Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians and Methodists, although there is one Jewish grave and one Maronite (an eastern religion aligned with Rome) located within the fenceline. Meanwhile, Aboriginal elder Nellie Hamilton, known as the 'Queen of Queanbeyan' and who was thought to have been the last Aboriginal from this area at the time of her death on New Year's Day in 1897, was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in the unconsecrated ground outside the fence.

Some notable family plots include that belonging to Queanbeyan's first Mayor (1885), John James Wright – although his name doesn't appear on the monument above his grave. It does commemorate two of his sons who lie with him, but not his wife or four daughters for they had tired of JJ's rather eccentric ways and, most scandalously given the times, left him to move back to Sydney on their own.

The Gale family vault stands close by, underneath some of the towering cypress pines dotted throughout the cemetery.



From left: the Gale family vault. Grave of William Farrer circa 1906, Tharwa.

Leading lights of the community, the Gales appear to have been afflicted by something similar to the infamous 'Kennedy Curse' said to plague the extended family of the former US President.

The Gale's 14-year-old son drowned in the Queanbeyan River in 1877 and only a year later their two-year-old daughter Ettie drowned in a well. The seventh of John's children, Charles, shot his wife Susan in 1903 and served 20 years in prison, while the eldest, Annie, died mysteriously only two years later at the age of 48. John however lived until just shy of his 100th birthday, dying in 1929.

The picturesque river setting proved to be both a heaven and a hell. Following the major floods of the 1970s there were calls to close Riverside Cemetery and this occurred in 1985. But, some residents who can trace their links back to the city's earliest pioneering families have set aside plots here and so the story of this historic and fascinating place is, for the moment, not quite at an end. ■

Ruling politicians didn't like what Obama said, but it's true

Reef under pressure

WAS it rude of President Barack Obama to single out Australia in his address on climate change at the University of Queensland recently?

In calling on all nations to do more to tackle climate change, Obama referred to climate change risks to the Great Barrier Reef, saying: "...I want to come back, and I want my daughters to be able to come back, and I want them to be able to bring their daughters or sons to visit. And I want that there 50 years from now."

CLIMATE Watch



with Jennie Goldie

to respond, declaring the reef will be "slaughtered" by climate change effects including warming seas and ocean acidification.

Obama was

"right on the money" and was stating fact, Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director of the Queensland University's Global Change Institute, told *The Sydney Morning Herald*. "We have one of the jewels of the planet in our possession and we should care a lot about climate and he wasn't getting that from our leader (Prime Minister Tony Abbott)," Dr Hoegh-Guldberg said.

SMH reporter Pete Hannam continued: "Charlie Veron, a former chief scientist at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, went further, saying the Abbott government was downplaying the dire future facing the Great Barrier Reef and coral reefs everywhere.

"In the long term, that is the whole of this century, we are going to have the Great Barrier Reef slaughtered," Dr Veron, a world authority who has scientifically named about one-quarter of all known corals, said. "There's no doubt about that at all, if carbon-dioxide emissions keep on tracking as they are."

In August, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority released its latest five-year report, *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014*. Perhaps Minister Bishop had only read the media release of her colleague Environment Minister Hunt, and not the report itself.

Cont'd p13



Foreign Minister Julie Bishop took offence and publicly criticized the president in media reports, saying he seemingly had not listened to a briefing she provided on Australia's "world's best practice...." "we do not believe that the Great Barrier Reef is in danger".

Australian marine scientists were quick

State underfunding libraries

THE Greens' candidate for Monaro, Palerang Councillor Peter Marshall, is calling for a reversal of declining state funding for public libraries and highlighting the cost shifting to local councils that has been the recent practice.

In 1979–80, state government contributions to local councils for libraries accounted for 23.6% of total library funding. By 2012–2013 this had dropped to 7.1%.

The NSW government subsidy for public libraries has not increased since 1997 under both Labor and Coalition Governments, said Marshall.

Public libraries are a valuable asset in towns across the state. In 2013, there were over 35 million visits to NSW public libraries, over 46 million items were borrowed, and over 44% of New South Wales' population are members of public libraries. Free internet access is one highly valued service.

Find out more at MLC Jan Barham's library campaign website:
<http://fundourlibraries.org.au/>



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From the uplifting to the ridiculous: two examples of modern culture

If you ever long for the days when people thought it natural to get activated against state-sanctioned injustice, taking the risks of getting out there on the front line, or you wonder what it feels like, (and this film makes it feel very good!) find *Pride* and see it. Our reviewer **Judy Thompson** explains the plot.

Pride is set in Margaret Thatcher's England. If you liked *Brassed Off* and *The Full Monty* you will love this film.

It is based on a true story in 1984 when a group of gays and lesbians in London raised more than £11,000 to help striking miners in the Dulais Valley in South Wales. They also donated a minibus emblazoned with the logo 'Lesbians and Gays support the Miners'.

Margaret Thatcher famously described the unionised miners as "the enemy within". This branding attracted the support of fellow 'outlaws', the lesbian and gay community. The film shows how both groups found they were dealing with a similar struggle.

Mark Ashton, the gay hero of the film, still admired in Wales today, demonstrated

At the Flicks or on DVD

with Judy Thompson

the importance of empathy and solidarity when facing a common enemy. In the film he points out that it is not good enough to support one cause while being blind to other injustices.



The cast is wonderful, with Bill Nighy as Cliff, an understated and gentle union stalwart and Imelda Staunton as a working class woman with grit and great humour.

Recommended – an uplifting and very enjoyable film about some pretty grim times.

— * * * —

Dumbing down the dumb

Fat Pizza v Housos. Just to start the silly season off there is a film about bogans. Not sure what a bogan is? Could you be one? There is an app for that. For a mere

\$10 you can take the bogan questionnaire. Questions revolve around whether your tattoos are home-made with spelling errors, whether your children were conceived during a conjugal visit (ie in prison), how your offsprings' names are misspelt, how many teeth you have missing (at age 35), your hairstyle and if you wear Ugg™ boots or flip flops, thongs and tracksuit pants a lot. Also is your couch in the front yard?

It might be a good idea to take the quiz before you see the film. For wannabes who don't do well on the questionnaire you can always get a few tips from this film.

For the fans, this is the latest offering by Paul Fenech in his pizza and fat pizza series that started on SBS. Shot in western Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra the frantic plot drives the 'Dumb and Dumber' concept right to the edge.

The film is supposedly a satire about drug-addled or alcohol-addicted, ignorant or dumb, petty criminals or Centrelink scammers who live in the outer suburbs of



lots of places in Australia and even some in New Zealand.

I lost sight of the plot halfway in, but it starts with Bobo being released from prison fifteen years after attacking a council health inspector with a chainsaw. He now lives with Mama and starts up a pizza shop.

Running a small business certainly is tough in Sunnyvale but Mama manages to convince the state's premier to provide food vouchers at her pizza shop for the Housos instead of the full pension, which they would prefer to spend on drugs and alcohol. War is declared.

The film features constant yelling, toilet humour, heaps of sex scenes generally with two or more women, car burn-outs, punch ups and graphic swear words. It also features repetitive slapstick gags about ethnic groups, the mentally and physically disabled, dwarfs, women, 'hipsters', bikies, refugees, police and prison sex.

Fenech says Australian audiences love his films. This is truly depressing.

Not recommended. Happy Christmas!

Grand space exploration with subtext

Done for this planet, lets find another one

Interstellar

reviewed by Nick Overall

THE 2014 contribution to the space odyssey genre, *Interstellar*, starring Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway, burst forth from the imagination of Christopher Nolan of *Batman Begins* and *Inception* fame. It gives audiences a thrilling, intelligent, scientific and emotional roller coaster ride that leaves you thinking about it long after the credits roll.

Matthew McConaughey plays Cooper, a former pilot and single father trying to take care of his family and run a farm in a now transformed agrarian society, due to a blight causing crops all over the world to die. From a hidden NASA facility, it's revealed the Earth is slowly dying and that he is to lead a small group of astronauts through a wormhole near



Saturn, leading to another galaxy in order to find a planet that could support human life.

This doesn't adequately convey the depth of the plot and the mind-bending concepts this movie brings into play. Though there are a few small plot holes, especially some that emerge in the third act, these are easily for-

givable because of the otherwise tight, smart and engaging story.

There is an incredible backdrop of interstellar space, with other worlds that potentially pose just as much danger as they do safety to the explorers on board the *Endurance*, humanity's last hope.

AMALGAMATION?

from p5

First see if merger is 'fit' then look at individual 'fitness'

The NSW Government has stated that the question of amalgamation must be addressed prior to any suggestion that either or both councils can stand on their own, and to this end the councils have formed a joint working committee, assisted by a facilitator, to prepare a report within a matter of months on what an amalgamated council might look like and whether or not it might be 'Fit for the Future'.

In my opinion Palerang as it currently stands is a viable council. But we have to still prove that we are 'Fit for the Future'. To this end the council must undertake a complete internal audit of its practices and procedures, identifying areas where efficiencies or innovations might be made.

It must examine its staffing structure, review its infrastructure and reassess the delivery of services to the community, while also examining the rating structures to ensure that they are appropriate for the level of services required.

Upon completion of this two part exercise, our local councils must report to the residents so that they can decide if they want to stand alone or amalgamate.

I have heard some residents express the view that amalgamation would be preferable, but please remember that bigger is not always better. While you might be a small fish in a small pond, what would it be like being a small fish in a big pond with big fish? Local government should be for local communities. What representation can you expect to have in an amalgamated council? ■

Tempting offer on merger?

QUEANBEYAN Council announced in its November newsletter a plan to survey community opinion through a 'satisfaction survey' and a questionnaire on council's website that month.

Queanbeyan has also noted the 'carrot' aspect of the state's amalgamation proposal: \$5 million for merging councils plus access to state borrowing facilities, priority access to state funding and grants, eligibility for more devolved planning powers and streamlined rate setting process.

NSW has suggested Queanbeyan and Palerang join other south-east councils to form a Regional Joint Organisation, which coincidentally they already do as South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROG).

Interstellar is visually spectacular with amazing shots of wormholes, foreign planets, and of course the 'star' of it all, the massive black hole Gargantua. All of this remains scientifically accurate. The script was written under the eyes of an astrophysicist, and it does a very fine job of explaining to a general audience.

Matthew McConaughey delivers a strong performance as Cooper and is accompanied by similarly strong performances all round, including from other Nolan favourites including Anne Hathaway and Michael Caine.

Unlike in previous Nolan films, there are multiple moments of humour that have the audience laughing out loud, especially from the witty robot TARS, as well as an awe-inspiring soundtrack from the musical genius Hans Zimmer – do pay attention to some of the more clever uses of sound, including its absence.

A minor criticism is the film is nearly three hours in total, and features a rather linear form of storytelling rather than using something like flashbacks to explain the lengthy introduction.

Interstellar is as much a story about family as it is a space adventure, focusing on a man who must leave his family in order to ultimately protect them.

Having seen it now a total of four times, and taking something different from it on each occasion, I can wholeheartedly recommend that it's a must see these holidays.

Recommended: 4.5/5

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Jan 1 *The Imitation Game*; *Penguins of Madagascar*.

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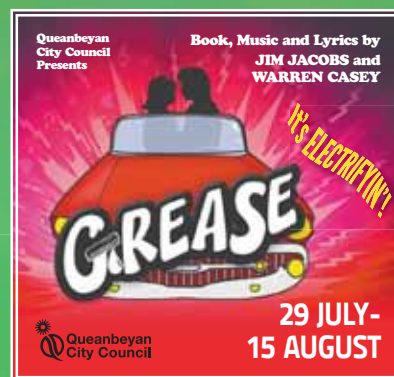
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For kids

Jill McLeod reminds us that these days our gadgets as well as our jewellery need gold. But, she reports, area residents feel truth has been first casualty in revived gold mine push at Major's Creek and waterways are at risk.

Cyanide or Sayonara?

FOR some years I have been invited to present a talk about Braidwood and its heritage values to the Year 9 students of a Canberra college. A few years ago I was asked to include some information about the controversial arrival of a goldmining company to the environs of Majors Creek, a small hamlet south of Braidwood (Unity Mining's Dargues Reef mine).

To enable me to lead an erudite discussion I called on my friend Dr Gill Burke, an independent minerals consultant and social historian, to share the floor with me. As an introductory question Dr Burke asked members of the young audience, "How many of



you have a mobile phone". All hands were raised. Dr Burke then stated that each of those phones contained a small amount of gold.

As well as cell phones a small amount of gold is used in almost every sophisticated electronic device – calculators, global positioning system units and many other small electronic units. Gold is a very efficient conductor that can carry tiny currents and remain free of corrosion.

At least one billion cell phones are produced each year and most of them contain about fifty cents to a dollar's worth of gold. Very few are recycled. A large amount of gold is never re-used and is lost to society.

Gold is considered the most useful of all metals. The primary use of gold is in jewellery. There is also bullion and coinage and use in computers and dentistry. In 2011 Australia was the second largest producer

Braidwood ROUNDS



with
Jill
McLeod

of gold (270 metric tons) surpassed only by China (355 metric tons).

That was the good news...

The fly in the ointment is the mining and processing of the

ore. Gone are the days when one could chance upon a gold nugget while walking or horse-riding.

Some small-time purists still use the old methods of panning or mini level sluicing but the name of the game today is large-scale mining and, unfortunately, the use of cyanidation, a metallurgical technique to extract gold from low-grade ore by converting the gold to a water soluble coordination complex.

Today, the process using cyanide is the most commonly used and approximately 13 percent of cyanide consumption globally is used to recover gold, copper, zinc and silver. Cyanidation is a controversial process and is banned in a number of countries.

As well as Dargues Reef, Unity Mining Limited owns mines in the Henty Valley on the west coast of Tasmania and at Bendigo. The Bendigo mine is Australia's second largest gold mine in terms of historical production, having produced over 22 million ounces of gold to this day.

The Dargues Reef ore body was originally discovered in the early 1870s by Mr James Dargues. Mining over the next 20 years consisted of sinking the main shaft and development of a small open-cut.

Additional shafts were excavated between the early operation and 1891 and then again between 1914 and 1916 by various owners. Since 2004, Cortona [since merged with Unity Mining] entered the picture. In excess of 340 holes have been drilled at Dargues Reef. A scoping study concluded that the project would support a viable underground mining operation.

Cyanide in the picture now

Unity Mining Limited's website states: "No cyanide will be used at the Dargues Reef plant". Braidwood's newspaper reported on 12 November 2014, the following extract from a press statement by the Unity Mining Limited Director and CEO Andrew McIlwain. "...the final processing of the ore will now be processed onsite, using cyanide separation".

What does a company do when it has blotted its copy book by blatantly misleading residents living in the vicinity of its mine about the use of a world-wide recognised dangerous process?

Does it stay and honour its first stated promise or does it pack its bags and say "Sayonara"? ■

Gold mine headache for state in upcoming election

ANOTHER election and again Dargues Reef gold mine looks like becoming the proverbial albatross for the state government in Monaro.

In the weeks leading up to the 2011 New South Wales election the

previous Labor government appeared to be in a hurry to approve the Dargues Reef gold mine at Majors Creek. The mining proposal from Cortona was opposed by the Majors Creek and Araluen communities due to water contamination risks from what is a highly toxic mining process.

Now only months away from the 2015 election the Baird government, looking to win a second term, is again facing opposition from the same communities. Dargues Reef mine, now owned by Unity and having been operational for just on 12 months, is seeking approval to begin processing gold on-site. This process was specifically ruled out in the original approval.

Gold processing, known as 'gold cyanidation', uses cyanide to leach the gold from lower grade ore. It is banned by legislation in two states of the USA and in two member states of the EU. In the late 1990s BHP's mismanagement of the process in Papua New Guinea caused irreparable damage to the Ok Tedi River affecting the natural environment and the populations of 120 villages dependent upon the river for water and food production.

Just weeks before the 2011 state election, ABC Rural Radio reported that National party candidate and now Member for Mon-

aro, John Barilaro, had visited the communities of Araluen and Majors Creek and told them that "he didn't want to see mining trash the environment or farming".

His government subsequently approved the mine, which has breached environmental conditions and been fined by the EPA four times in 12 months.

Response from candidates

In relation to this latest development, I contacted the offices of both Barilaro and former Member for Monaro, Steve Whan, now MLC and Labor's candidate for Monaro in March.

Whan said that while he is on record as

supporting the mine prior to the last election, the processing is not part of the original approval and he does not support it without it going through the proper channels of an EIS and full public consultation.

Barilaro's office said that he had not made any public statement on the issue and was waiting for further information before doing so.

As any changes to the mine development need to be approved at state, not local, level it is vital that both major party candidates are clear on where they stand so that voters are able to make a clear and informed choice at the ballot box. ■

Spectator POLITICA



with
Robin
Tennant-
Wood

Putting heavy debt burdens on new teachers and nurses, young people – profit ideology over good policy

UNIVERSITY of Canberra Vice Chancellor Stephen Parker has issued a stinging critique of the federal government's attempts to deregulate universities and charge students higher fees.

His speech, published on the ABC's *The Drum* said in part: "These reforms are unfair to students and poorly designed policy. If they go through, Australia is sleepwalking towards the privatisation of its universities. And ironically they will be the death knell of our peak group, Universities Australia, which could not survive them for long.

"I compared universities with public utilities where the then managements were initially encouraged to be 'commercial' and 'competitive'. Then they were actually pitted against private providers. Then the utilities were privatised themselves, and required a complete focus on private profit.

"The privatisation that we are sleepwalking towards may or may not involve shareholders and the stock market – but it will involve the removal of the public voice.

"The impact on women and certain professions will be worse, as Ben Phillips and I have demonstrated in articles in *The Conversation*, when we modelled the likely HECS debts of female scientists, nurses and teachers based on typical career trajectories.

"So wake up Australia if you want to preserve your children's life chances. Wake up academia – especially those of you who write about public policy but have been strangely silent on this issue.

"Wake up senators – you know not what you are playing with – you are aiding and abetting a fraud on the electorate.

Read the full article at www.abc.net.au/news/2014-12-02/parker-uni-deregulation-speech/5933302

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In the 1970s it was not just Whitlam, this Liberal was still truly a liberal

Reviewed by Nick Goldie

YOUNGER readers may find it hard to imagine, but there was a time, not long ago, when leaders of the Liberal Party were in fact liberal, even conservationist.

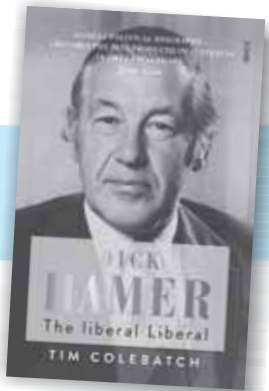
"Today that might sound implausible, but in the early days of the conservation movement, many of the activists were Liberals, and the message of environmentalism was understood, if anything, better on the Liberal side of parliament than the Labor side."

This is from the fine new biography of Sir Rupert ('Dick') Hamer, by veteran economics journalist Tim Colebatch.

The cover describes Hamer as "the forgotten reformer of the 1970s", and the Liberal Victorian Premier has indeed been overshadowed by the memory of Whitlam, the Labor Prime Minister. In fact, the two men often worked closely together, and it was Whitlam's federal money which made much of Victoria's progress possible.

Dick Hamer came from a traditional conservative background. He attended Geelong Grammar, studied law, and played an honourable role as Lieutenant Hamer at the Siege of Tobruk. After that, his managerial skills were recognised by the Australian Army, and he became an increasingly senior Staff Officer. Following the war he maintained contact with the army as an officer in the part-time militia.

Dick Hamer, the liberal Liberal
by Tim Colebatch
Scribe, 2014



Before Dick and after Dick

Many commentators have remarked how Australian history is divided into "before Gough" and "after Gough". In Victoria, it was before and after Dick Hamer.

Before Dick Hamer, a very conservative Australian Labor Party did battle with an even more conservative Liberal establishment. The state was led by the abrasive duo of Bolte and Rylah, who were rusted-on opponents of change. Bolte in particular was hostile to anything that smacked of education, and was constantly attacking and being attacked by the teachers unions. He loathed the arts, and happily supported the death penalty. The Liberal Party worked closely with land developers, and Melbourne was being demolished, piece by piece, to make way for unplanned suburbia.

Eventually, the Bolte-Rylah duopoly came to an end, and a younger generation of Liberals moved in to take their place. At their head, the quietly-spoken Dick Hamer.

It was a complete about-face. Hamer was dedicated to education, was a passionate lover of the arts, opposed (successfully) capital punishment, and above all, believed in town planning. The best of 'Marvellous Melbourne' was preserved, inner-city terraces were no longer permitted to be demolished, parklands were established between the suburbs (which were based on a web of efficient train lines). Arts centres sprung up in every regional town.

Where Bolte had been contemptuous of decimalisation, and regarded daylight saving as some sort of plot, Hamer welcomed



these innovations.

Further, he allowed for the advancement of women in the public service, and relaxed Victoria's antique censorship laws. (Melburnians were allowed to go to the theatre to see *Hair*.)

Colebatch's *Hamer* delivers its share of criticism, but it is a magnificent biography of a man who deserves to be remembered by Australians of all political persuasions.

This review also appeared in the Cooma Monaro Express

Lists of Note
compiled by Shaun Usher
Canongate 2014

Reviewed by
Pauline Richards

WHAT do Leonardo da Vinci, Norman Mailer, Sir Isaac Newton, two 10th century Tibetan monks, Marilyn Monroe, Charles Dickens, Martin Luther King, Thomas Edison, Captain Beefheart, Tina Fey, Francis Ford Coppola, an unknown 3rd century AD author, Susan Sontag, and the Motion Pictures Producers and Distributors of America have in common?

The answer is that, apart from all being individual or groups of fellow humans, they wrote lists. So what? Many of us do – shopping lists, reminders, must do's, codes of

conduct, instructions, personal desires and reflections, conditions of entry, impacts, priorities. Lists of such subjects help us manage life's complexity, its plethora of aspirations, challenges, duties and dreams.

Lists of Note is a fascinating collection of lists, itself an enormous list. I received this book as a convalescence gift and love it.

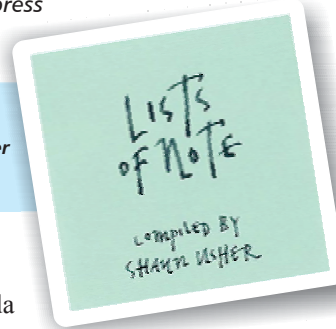
It is a treasure trove that was uncovered in the forensic trawling of libraries by its compiler, Shaun Usher. As he researched material for his first compilation, *Letters of Note*, Usher unearthed the 125 gems that comprise this, his second book.

A beautifully produced volume, its scope spans centuries and cultures, providing insights that are touching, terrifying, deeply moving, funny, chilling, revolting, inspiring, surprising. As a glimpse into the minds and endeavours of the brilliant, the mighty, the famous and the 'just like ourselves', it is almost addictively intriguing.

Apart from its undeniable voyeuristic appeal, the breadth of time and topics that occupied the minds of the remarkable list writers, represented in the compilation, is extraordinary. Consider the following titles and authors of some of the gems Usher shares with us:

Topics to be Investigated (Leonardo da Vinci), *The Integrated Bus Suggestions* (Martin Luther King), *Kiss June* (Johnny Cash), *The Armory Show* (Pablo Picasso), *Advice to Chick Rockers* (Chrissie Hynde), *Handwritten Dictionary* (Nick Cave), *The Mafia Decalogue* (The Mafia), *The Fifty Dwarfs* (Disney), *Don'ts for Women* (bicycle Riders), *Must Make Effort to Do* (Marilyn Monroe).

Also, *The Cowboy Code* Cont'd next page



HOLIDAY READING!

Have you ever wondered how we landed in this fog of indecision about climate change?

A new book by the *Bulletin's* editor Maria Taylor takes you into the incredible untold story of how Australia buried its knowledge on climate change science and response options during the 1990s – going from clarity to confusion and doubt after arguably leading the world in citizen understanding and political will to act in the late 1980s. Throughout, the international science assessments stayed consistent.

More relevant than ever in the current political climate, the history and analysis of how we got to this point breaks down myths and drills into the political narrative that seeks to tell us what to think on this number one environmental question that will affect everyone.

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Fifty Shades of Grey Nomad (2): international air travails (or, life wasn't meant to be easy)

Dear Diary: I guess a few little hitches on the long journey to Europe are to be expected. First, our flight connection from Rome to Budapest was postponed for 24 hours due to an Alitalia strike, leaving only four days for a quick trip to visit the rellies in Hungary.

Next, my travelling companion, the 'Princess', somehow omitted to advise me that she had been suffering several food allergies and chronic diarrhoea for months prior to the 28-hour journey to Rome. This, coupled with her insistence of us having the window and middle seats, ensured that our exercise regime, and that of our aisle seat neighbour (to prevent deep vein thrombosis), was embedded in the entire journey.

The Princess seized the five hour stop-over at Dubai airport to scrutinize the variety of pharmaceuticals designed to plug her system and prevent any indiscretions, should our ability to raise our neighbour from deep slumber take longer than expected.

The next thing I see is a vision of the Princess waving regally as she departs on the golf cart 'Ambulance' on the way to the doctor, only to reappear just before the gate was closed for boarding. It was my turn to need a doctor for heart palpitations. The Princess's bionic hip also ensured that she was disrobed and frisked at every gate.

Rome sweet Rome airport

We settled in for the last leg of the journey to Rome. Due to the Alitalia strike, what seemed like 20 planes disembowelled their contents simultaneously on arrival at the international Terminal of Rome Fiumicino airport. Bedlam!

The upside to this was that as there were so many people squeezing through the gates at customs that even a photo of Foghorn Leghorn would have passed the lack of scrutiny of passports. A short bus ride to the airport hotel and in no time we were human again.

Once the correct gate had been determined for our flight to Budapest (easily done once the orderly queue sporting several genuine Hungarian moustaches was sighted), we joined the queue for the airport bus. Flat out was the only speed. The driver's foot seemed to plant even more firmly on the accelerator at the Stop signs which heralded the fact that the route crossed the runway at several points and caution should be exercised.

The breakneck speed ensured that we arrived prior to the plane doors being opened resulting in the cultivation of a suntan while queuing on the stairs and tarmac for close to an hour.

All hopes of retaining our fashionable hairdos were quashed by the gale force winds and the arrival of another plane taxiing up within 50 feet directly behind us. What does one do in such circumstances? Take a selfie, of course.

Ahh, Budapest

On arrival at Budapest Airport we nearly kissed the tarmac like the Pope. We hadn't seen our Hungarian cousins for three years and from the bounty provided at every meal they believed that we hadn't eaten since our last meeting.

Their usual high standard of hospitality was exceeded and we were taken to many familiar tourist sites such as the Mathias Church, the Fishermen's Bastion and the magnificent Parliament House, as well as being treated to a massage and swim in the natural hot water of the Gellert Spa, the very interesting Hospital in the Rock, the plenty of the Csarnok markets, the Dohany Street Synagogue (the largest in Europe) and the trendy Ruin Bars. We travelled on the driverless train in the underground and the longest trams in Europe.

Unfortunately the Princess's malady returned with a vengeance. Within 48 hours she had been seen by a doctor, had an ultrasound by a specialist, tested, diagnosed, treated and provided with a report in English for her GP, all at a reasonable cost. Perhaps Hungary will be the next popular medical destination?

Back to the dreaded Rome airport and some serious frisking of the Princess on arrival. At the hotel we met the first of our travel companions for the tour. I will call her 'Chatty'.

Rome proper, angel choirs and the tour starts

Our hotel in Rome is just around the corner from the wonderful church of San Giovanni in Laterano where the pious pilgrims in our tour group went to Mass on Sunday. The service was beautiful with several cardinals – including one whose voice rivalled that of Andrea Bocelli – enchanting.

Bare shoulders and arms are not permitted in the church and the scarf vendors hoping to capitalise on this bargained hard. It was worth the effort as the scarves started at

12 Euro each but the Princess, a force to be reckoned with, beat them down to 3 Euros. The next day they were 2 for 5.

The several fresh fruit and vegetable market stalls in a riot of colours, flavours and scents



— Hungary —

From L to R: Stuffed cabbage to feed the masses; trendy Szimplakert Ruin Bar; Gellert Spa; and colourful market stalls.

contrasted with the ancient monument of the Colosseum.

It was nice to see something ancient other than myself in the mirror and the members of our group. Getting to know them slowly and I have already identified Chatty, Sleepy, Tardy, Stinky, Smokey and the 'kids' (a

young, mid 50's couple from regional Victoria) as well as the Tour Director, F.I.G.J.A.M.

I wisely 'encouraged' the Princess to catch cabs, which were very reasonably priced, to save her energy. Not saying the Princess whinged a lot; but the cobblestones, distance, 29 degree heat, the humidity, too many stairs, not enough elevators, too much scaffolding and long queues to get into tourist sites were mentioned on more than one occasion. I hope the taxi driver didn't understand English.

Brett, our easy-on-the-eye young American tour guide was not only very easy on the eye but very informative. It's possible Brett's theory that tens of thousands of Jewish slaves built the Colosseum in atrocious conditions and died doing so put things into perspective for the Princess.

The extensive scaffolding did not detract from the awe-inspiring experience of visiting the Colosseum, but was really too much at the Trevi Fountain. We did manage to throw coins into the makeshift pond so we'll be back! The Dome of Pantheon in Rome lived up to the reputation of being

the largest dome in the world for 1,300 years.

In the square outside the Pantheon we find a very colourful and noisy protest against Vladimir Putin, complete with images of him sporting a Hitler moustache. After a hearty dinner I discover to my delight that the hair dryer does in fact reach the cupboard so I can dry our clothes carefully rinsed in the hand basin. ■

— On the tour with Mavis Davis

SUMMER READING

Cont'd from p11

(Gene Autry), *Ten Commandments of Guitar Playing* (Captain Beefheart – according to Captain B, guitarists should 'listen to birds for they know everything about sound'), *Olympic Victor List of 3rd Century AD* (author unknown), *How My Life has Changed* (Hilary North, survivor of 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers), *The Fake Books of Charles Dickens* (Charles Dickens), *Michelangelo's Illustrated Shopping List* (Michelangelo), *Marilyn Monroe's Dream Lovers* (Marilyn Monroe) – and no, former President Kennedy is not on it.

As frank and sincere human records, these lists are often deeply moving. Sylvia Plath, for example, 20 years old at the time of writing her list and a future Pulitzer Prize winning poet was already struggling with mental illness.

In her list Plath penned a list of ten earnest, girlish and heart wrenching hints to herself urging calm and a commitment to being 'cheerful'. She concludes with a poignant and stern postscript to

herself "Remember, you're a hell of a lot better off than 9/10ths of the world anyway!" This is a heart wrenching read knowing that in 13 years, at just 33 Plath would be dead by her own hand, leaving a husband and young children and the high probability of unwritten masterpieces.

If I have any question about the content of this book it concerns the often argued 'public's right to know' issue. What, if any, information about a famous individual should be off limits?

The inclusion in *Lists of Note* of Einstein's 'Demands' is such an example of a clash between the public appetite for intimate information about famous people and the right of every person, famous or unknown, to personal privacy.

In Einstein's case, his list is a bossy and punitive list of conditions he drafted (apparently only for the eyes of his wife and possibly his lawyer), spelling out what his wife must accept for the sake of their children, if their dysfunctional marriage was to continue.

Rightly or wrongly, my tremor of guilt about devouring such information does not overcome my regard for *Lists of Note*. ■

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OPTOMETRISTS and CONTACT LENS PRACTITIONERS

the Leard State Forest, the local Gamilaroi whose country and sacred sites are being destroyed, and all of us who are beginning to suffer the impacts of climate change.

Getting to this point

[Sitting in the shade of an acacia tree in Zimbabwe in 2010] I was chatting to Paul, an incredibly charismatic and intelligent man. He'd been a teacher before the Zimbabwean economy crashed and now worked as a community worker.

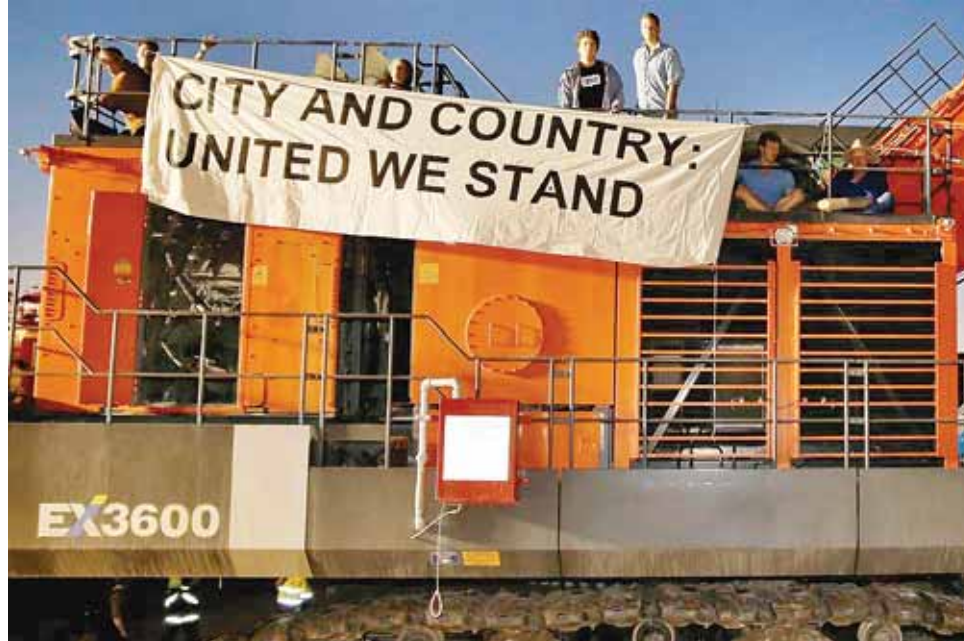
He looked me straight in the eye as he said, "What we are really worried about is this climate change. We here can do nothing about it. It is rich countries, like yours, that have caused this problem. We are paying the price and we have no resources to deal with these challenges."

This weekend I found myself similarly trying to find shade while having a chat with a farmer. This time I was chained to the farmer – Rick Laird – on an enormous super digger in Whitehaven's Maules Creek mine.

Destroyed forest and coal dust

Rick is a fifth generation farmer. The Leard State Forest was named after his forebears. Like Paul, Rick is faced with the daunting challenge of what our extractive fossil fuel industry means for his future, the future of his land, and of his children. Whitehaven Coal is mining just a few kilometres away from his property.

First, questions were raised over the approval of the mine in the Leard State



Forest – one of the last remaining areas of nationally-listed and critically endangered Box-Gum Woodland.

Second, Rick is faced with a coal mine just four kilometres from his children's school. Over 18,000 tonnes of coal dust will blow across the region over the life of the mine, raising the risk of asthma in his kids. Apparently, only a few days earlier, Professor of Community Health and IPCC contributor, Colin Butler, took action at Maules Creek to highlight the health risks associated with coal dust.

How can we possibly try to prevent catastrophic climate change while opening new coal mines? What does this mean for people like Rick and Paul, who are already carrying the burden of our reliance on

extractive fossil fuels? And, what can we possibly do about it?

All around the world people are resorting to non-violent direct action and civil disobedience to highlight the deep inequalities represented by the climate crisis. Stopping new coal mines could [also] result in huge investment in the renewables sector which would employ more people, as the mining industry seeks to automate employed positions.

Since 2012, over 280 people have shown a commitment to stand alongside

Call for immediate stop work at Maules Creek mine; investigation of mine approvals in endangered Box Gum Woodland; and Whitehaven conduct since.

Send views to Pru Goward the Planning Minister at 9228 5413, and office@goward.minister.nsw.gov.au

farmers and the local community. Until this weekend I have never participated in non-violent direct action. I have always hesitated – concerned about the impact this might have on my career.

After being arrested and processed, the constable looked at me sternly and said, "You don't want to continue down this road. The ramifications are simply not worth it."

I understood his warning but ... if I ask myself the question – what would I want people to do to help me if I was in Rick Laird's position? Then I know I made the right decision.

We all have a role to play. ■

CLIMATE WATCH from p7

Australian government report disputes Julie Bishop's beliefs regarding reef

In fact, the 311-page report says the greatest risks to the reef had not changed. These risks included climate change, poor water quality from land-based run-off, impacts from coastal development and some remaining aspects of fishing.

The northern third of the reef might still be in good condition but, in contrast, "key habitats, species and ecosystem processes in central and southern inshore areas have continued to deteriorate from the cumulative effect of impacts". For instance, dugong populations, already at low levels compared to a century ago, had further declined in these areas. Humpback whales and loggerhead turtles are recovering but only slowly and only after significant declines.

Climate change remains the most serious threat and is already affecting the reef with far-reaching consequences for "decades to come". Sea temperatures are rising, leading

to added risk of coral bleaching, ocean acidification will increasingly restrict coral growth and survival, and there are likely to be more intense weather events.

The extent of these impacts will depend on how effectively the issue of rising greenhouse gases will be addressed worldwide. The impacts of increasing sea temperatures and acidification will be "amplified by other impacts such as nutrient run-off".

Meanwhile the federal government agrees to the dredging of the inner channel and dumping of spoil, not on land but elsewhere in the inner channel; it facilitates the development of nine mega coal mines in the Galilee Basin, five of which would be larger than any currently operating in the country.

Were the basin a country, this development would make it the seventh greatest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet. To assume 10,000 coal ships can ply the inner channel every year without accident is to defy rational argument. ■

Climate

Politics in the pub

Callum Golding reports on a new avenue for those who want to take their money out of institutions that support coal mining.

OVER 100 people turned out at the Uni Bar in Civic for politics in late November. Aside from the healthy bar tab, there was an additional reason for such a large turnout, and that was Simon Sheikh and Tom Swann.

Simon was the national director of GetUp! for six years, and Tom a spokesperson for Fossil Free ANU, and a major player in the recent engagement that lead to the ANU divesting millions of dollars away from fossil fuels.

The main topic of the night was around Sheikh's recently launched super fund, 'Future Super'. "Divesting is not just a moral statement, but now a sensible financial decision, as the scales tip and renewable energy costs drop," he said. "It is becoming

increasingly obvious that divesting from fossil fuels has zero effect on return."

He said not only does 'Future Super' give the people of Australia a viable place to invest their money ethically, they are also fully aware that the more people start to divest, the more noise they are creating for the rest of the super industry who have already begun to flinch.

With divesting an increasingly viable way to have citizen voices heard, momentum is building in Canberra for not only individuals but also the ACT government to get out of fossil fuel stocks.

Learn more about Super Future at www.myfuturesuper.com.au.


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PALERANG COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Council approved the following development applications in November 2014

Development Consents are available for public inspection free of charge at Council's offices during ordinary business hours.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2014.242	Tree Removal	11/11/2014	Lot 2 DP 706523 31 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.244	Tree Removal	11/11/2014	Lot 82 DP 226923 65 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.178	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	14/11/2014	Lot 6 Sec 7 DP 758152 13 Solus Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.208	Boundary Adjustment	14/11/2014	Lot 6 DP 519457 & Lot 2 DP 713618 133 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.210	Dwelling and Garage	14/11/2014	Lot 5 DP 1132936 267 Foxs Elbow Road WARRI
DA.2014.241	Dwelling	14/11/2014	Lot 60 DP 1170008 52 Hereford Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.246	Entrance Gate	20/11/2014	Lot 50 DP 1018536 301 Cartwright Avenue SUTTON
DA.2014.238	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	20/11/2014	Lot 720 DP 1068066 33 Larmer Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.231	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	20/11/2014	Lot 5 DP 812696 157 Farringdon Road BOMBAY
DA.2014.235	Swimming Pool	20/11/2014	Lot 13 DP 207600 70 Brindabella Place CARWOOLA
DA.2014.240	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	21/11/2014	Lot 21 DP 773627 84 Molonglo River Drive CARWOOLA
DA.2014.048	Commercial Building	27/11/2014	Lot 8 Sec 11 DP 758183 19-21 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.245	Cabana and Open Pergola	28/11/2014	Lot 1 DP 855540 120 Gum Flat Lane BYWONG

Going to the tip' ritual pulled into 21st century

PALERANG'S new waste management facilities at Bungendore and [Macs Reef] Bywong opened for business on 5 December with a whole new approach to waste management. Gone are the days of free dumping into a hole in the ground.

"The emphasis will be on recycling and recovering reusable resources from our waste stream," said Palerang Mayor Pete Harrison.

The new facility at Bungendore, including both a Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Resource Recover Facility (RRF) is at the centre of Palerang's new waste management strategy. Waste collected at regional points at Captains Flat (already in operation for several years) and Bywong will go to Bungendore. From there, general waste is sent on to the Wood-lawn Bioreactor, near Tarago, and recyclables to the Remondis material recovery facility in Hume.

A one-way path through the site on the Tarago road passes recycling stations and drop-off points for reusable items before arriving at the general waste disposal bins.

Recycling at the Bywong WTS will include paper, plastic bottles, glass, cans, batteries, oil and e-waste. Larger or more bulky items including green waste, tyres, mattresses, building waste, white goods, chemicals and dead animals will need to be taken to the Bungendore facility.

Both new facilities will include popular buy-back centres for reusable items starting in early 2105.

Charges will now apply at the tips since Council must pay for disposal. Recyclables and reusable items come under the general waste charge so can be deposited for free (if separated) while a gate fee is levied on the disposal of general waste.

The tip pass issued to all Palerang ratepayers entitles residents to a 33 to 45 percent discount on gate fees. Out-of-area users of any of Palerang's waste facilities will be charged the full rate.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



It's Wildcare calendar time again

WILDCARE'S 2015 wildlife calendar is now on sale! Better than ever. And still only \$10. Money raised helps rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned animals. See Squiggy in April (pictured) Buy one for friends, neighbours, relatives and you. Help to sell them too. Contact: Lorraine 0439 599 032 or email lj100@bigpond.com.

Problem wastes such as paints, gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, all types of batteries, various types of oils and fluorescent tubes will also be received free of charge at the Bungendore facility.

Limited opening hours

The WTS in Bywong and Bungendore facility will operate Fri afternoon through Monday morning. Check the council website for more details.

Scholarship support for Palerang students

PALERANG school leavers have the opportunity to kick start their tertiary education with the

help of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's largest ever scholarship program. As part of the 2015 scholarship program, Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank® Branches will support two gifted local students who might otherwise find it hard to attend university.

Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank® Chairman Shane Holness said the \$5,000 scholarship was part of the branch's ongoing commitment to youth development.

"The growing cost of attending university can rule out many young people's chance of following their dreams," Shane said. "We want to make sure our local students are supported to continue their education, which will not only be a benefit to them but also to the wider community."

Shane said the Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank® Branches Scholarship was awarded based on academic achievement, community involvement and financial need. The successful applicants will initially receive funding for one year and depending on academic performance, the scholarship may be renewed to assist the second year of study.

This will be the fourth year that scholarships have been awarded by Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank® Branches. Last year's Scholarship supported local students Tarryn McClenahan-Brown to study Creative Technology at JMC Academy and Timothy Callan to study Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University.

Tim extended his thanks saying "this scholarship has made a huge difference in my life by

relieving the financial burden university creates. Without this scholarship I would be unable to support myself whilst studying and unable to pursue my desired career as an agricultural teacher."

Next year up to 220 students will be supported across Australia as part of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group scholarship program. The 2015 program is the Group's biggest yet, offering about \$1.5 million of support in partnership with the Community Bank® network, Rural Bank, Rural Finance, University of Melbourne and La Trobe University.

Scholarship applications opened on Monday 1 December; close on Friday 23 January 2015 and will be assessed in early 2015. For more information on the 2015 scholarship program, visit the Braidwood or Bungendore Community Bank® Branch, or go to www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/scholarships.

— press release

New homeless service

Barnardos Australia and long-time Queanbeyan community organisation Molonglo Support Service have been successful in winning the NSW government tender to provide a new service called **YOUR PLACE** Housing Support Service. Your Place will support women, men, and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to find a safe place to live. It will encourage and support partnerships with local housing service providers and a wide range of other services in the community to ensure people receive the help and support they need to find a home and keep a home. **For more information contact 6297 5827.**

— press release



JUPITER WIND FARM Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

The purpose of the CCC is to provide a forum for discussion between representatives of the applicant, the community, the council and other stakeholders on issues directly relating to the assessment, and if approved the environmental performance and operation of the wind farm. Ongoing community relations are also an important function of the committee. The CCC will meet regularly for the life of the wind farm. For more detail on the CCC process and role of members please refer to the NSW Department of planning wind farm guidelines 2011.

http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Portals/0/PolicyAndLegislation/NSW_Wind_Farm_Guidelines_Web_Dec2011.pdf.

The main selection criteria for CCC members are:

- Willingness to contribute constructively to the committee and represent the concerns of the local and broader community.
- Experience and confidence in providing feedback to the community and relevant stakeholder groups.
- Resident in the local area with a broad awareness and knowledge of local issues.

The CCC process for the Jupiter wind farm commenced in June 2014. Expression of interest closing dates were extended several times in July 2014 as the department of planning were reviewing their CCC process. On 15 September 2014 the minister for planning announced that the department of planning would be responsible for membership selection for the CCC. To follow the new process for CCC membership the Department of planning is calling for Expressions of interest for the Jupiter wind farm. **Please note applicants who have already applied through EPYC need not re-apply as these applications have been provided to the Department**

To obtain the application forms please contact Tracy Bellamy from the department. She can be contacted on (02) 9228 6106 or email tracy.bellamy@planning.nsw.gov.au

Expressions of interest close on the 21st of December 2014.

For more information please call 1300 896 189 or visit our website at www.epyc.com.au
EPYC PTY LTD

PALERANG COUNCIL

NOMINATIONS: AUSTRALIA DAY 2015 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, Monday, 26 January 2015.

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. Sports person of the Year

Nominations, closing 5.00 pm on **Friday, 19 December 2014**, 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 2015 Nomination", Palerang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

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

PALERANG COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE: OFFICE CLOSURE CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR 2014-2015

For the Christmas and New Year holiday period, Council's administration offices in Braidwood (144 Wallace Street) and Bungendore (10 Majara Street) will:

CLOSE: 3.00pm, Wednesday, 24 December 2014

RE-OPEN: 8.30am, Monday, 5 January 2015

The **switchboard** will be unattended during this time.

The **Braidwood Library** will be closed from 3.00pm on Wednesday, 24 December 2014, and re-open at 10.00am on Monday, 5 January 2015.

The **Bungendore Library** will close at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 24 December 2014, and reopen at 10.30am on Tuesday, 6 January 2015.

All **Council's waste management** landfills will remain open at the usual times except for Wednesday, 25 December 2014, Christmas Day.

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

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

PO Box 348
Bungendore NSW 2621

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

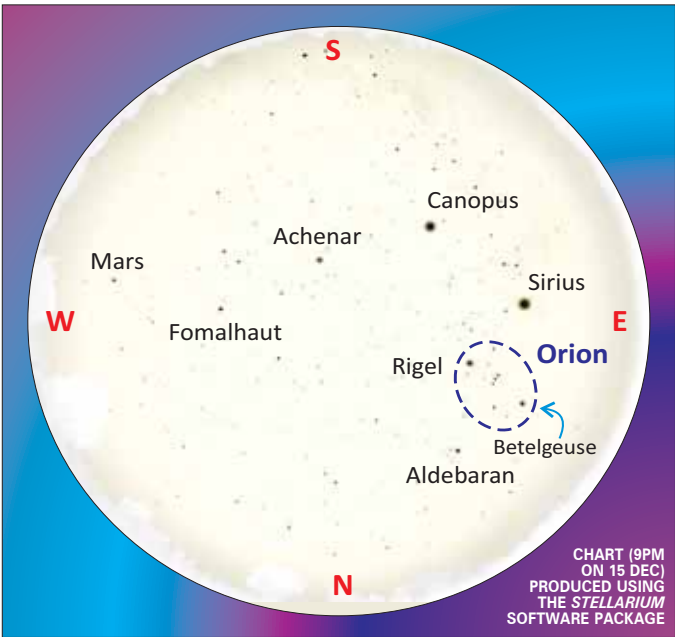
Meteor shower mid-month

DECEMBER gives us short, warm nights, and the stars of summer have returned to the (late) evening skies. The map for this month shows the return of the constellation Orion, with its easily identified belt of three bright stars, rising in the north east.

To either side of the belt are the blue-white star Rigel (described last month) and the red supergiant star Betelgeuse. Can you see the colour difference between these two stars?

Also visible this month is orange Aldebaran, low in the north east in the constellation Taurus, blue-white Fomalhaut and blue-white Achenar high overhead, white Canopus to the south east, and the brightest star in the whole sky, white Sirius, low in the east.

December's stars are bright, and this is no coincidence, as they all lie in the same spiral arm of the Milky Way within which we also reside.



FREE: Country Living Classifieds

For sale

7'x4' Bell Canvas Sofala **Off-Road Camper** + boat rack. \$6,500. 2007 **Hyundai** Santa Fe Elite CRDi Auto 4WD. \$14,000. 1996 **EFII Fairmont Ghia**, Tickford XR6 Auto. Ph 4849 4222.

Wanted

Good quality pasture or **meadow hay**, wanted for ponies, in small rectangular bales. Prefer no older than last season's crop. Ph 0400 997 981, Sandra. Gundaroo.

Old Postage stamps of any denomination, any country, any condition. PHILATELY PROJECT c/- Bungendore Post Office NSW 2621. No need to affix postage; will pay postage costs on receipt. Ph Holly 0416 034 698.

Fresh produce and yummys

Muesli. Custom-made muesli, porridge, trail mix made fresh from locally sourced ingredients. Your choice of gluten free, paleo + vegan options. Free delivery to Sutton Village, www.themueslibarcanberra.com.au.

Inelda's "Bush in a bottle", 100% lemon scented iron bark, powerful antiseptic, antiviral, anti-inflammatory. Australian made, order online www.inelda's.com.

Gourmet garlic: white, Italian, French and many others. Available locally. Restaurant quality. You have not tasted fresh garlic until now. Wamboin. 0405 455 360.

Farm produce: eggs, fresh rhubarb and crisp asparagus bunches. Gardening services. Martin, 0432 851 914 www.martinsorganics.com.au.

PenDon. Fresh juicing mixes, ready to go: super food Kale, english spinach, mint, parsley, celery mix. Perfect "Green shot" to start the day. Norton Rd Wamboin. Always fresh seasonal produce. Orders 6238 3447.

Home grown, home-made bring, buy & swap. First Sunday of every month. Contact Wild Rose Organics, Ellendon St, Bungendore 6238 1422 for details.

Services

Clean up with **free scrap metal pick up** and take away. Ryan 6230 8281 or 0426 961 916.

— Star Search — with Dr David Weldrake

The planets in December: Mars in the evening, Jupiter in the morning

December allows us a continued chance to see faint and distant Mars, low in the west after sunset. Mars is now approaching the Sun as seen from Earth, after being closest to the Earth back in April, and will pass behind the Sun in June 2015. After that it will reappear in the early morning sky. Mars appears as a faint reddish 'star'. Through a telescope right now it is very tiny and only large telescopes can make out surface markings.

The only other bright planet visible in our skies during December is the giant planet Jupiter. Being seen at its best after the new year, for the time being Jupiter can be seen in the eastern sky, rising after midnight. Jupiter appears as an unmistakable bright yellowish star, and for this month is a beacon for early risers.

Jupiter will be opposite the Sun in our skies, and hence at it's best, in February 2015. More details will be provided then. Through a telescope Jupiter is a very impressive sight, with the planet's four largest moons and extensive colourful cloud details visible.

Geminid meteor shower – December 13–14

December gives us the opportunity to see one of the best meteor (or shooting star) showers of the year, which reaches its maximum on the night of the 13th December. This shower is called the 'Geminids',

named after the constellation Gemini which is where they appear to come from in the sky.

Meteor (shooting star) showers occur throughout the year, but almost all of them are best viewed from the Northern Hemisphere, meaning here in Australia hardly any showers are well seen. The Geminids are an exception, and should produce a shooting star every couple of minutes if conditions are good. Look towards the north and you should see a few. Geminid meteors are generally quite bright and slow, so are very easy to spot.

Shooting stars occur all the time in the Earth's upper atmosphere, and, despite the name, are not stars at all but are tiny particles of space 'dust' that burn up in the atmosphere. They move at incredible speed, hitting the atmosphere at 80km per second, the impact with the air causing them to heat up and be burned away instantly in a flash of light.

Larger, rarer particles produce brighter shooting stars, larger ones still sometimes make it to the ground, and are then called 'meteorites'. The dust that burns up usually originates from the tails of comets. When the Earth passes through the stream left behind by a comet, a shower of meteors is seen. The Geminids are a little different in that they originate from an asteroid, called 'Phaethon', and not a comet.

Meteor showers last for a week or so, but they always have a short peak. For the Geminids this year that will happen on the 13th December. Have a look towards the north around this time late in the evening and you should spot a few.

The Moon in December was at full phase on the 7th, at last quarter phase on the 15th and new on the 23rd. It reaches first quarter (half) phase again on the 29th. ■



Santa visited council's Crawford Street party in late November.

GIG GUIDE: December

First Friday of the month: Music and Poetry
Royal Hotel, Bungendore, 7.30pm.

Friday 12

Akoustics, 9pm, Lake George Hotel, Bungendore.

Swizz, 8–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.
Hit & Run, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Sunday 14

Scott Grouber – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Friday 19

Third Party, 9pm, Lake George Hotel, Bungendore.

Adam Conroy, 8–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

The Jukes, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Wednesday 31

Karaoke, 9pm, Lake George Hotel, Bungendore.
Rhymes with Orange, 8–11.30pm, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Sunday 18 January

Ben Chan – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Going to Uni for the first time in 2015?

Braidwood and Bungendore **Community Bank®** branches

Scholarship coming soon.

Applications are invited from eligible students in the local district attending university for the first time in 2015.

Drop into your nearest branch at 1/33 Ellendon Street, Bungendore - 6238 0547 or 93-95 Wallace Street, Braidwood - 4842 1700 for more information.



Bendigo Bank

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bendigoadelaide.com.au/scholarships

The Braidwood and Bungendore **Community Bank®** branches 2015 Scholarship is a management account of Community Enterprise Foundation Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. S48890_3 (232110_v1) (24/11/2014)

During December/January

Lesley Wallington

Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore. Ph 6238 1640 or see www.bungendorefineart.com.au.

Until Sunday 14

2014 Christmas Mailbox and Gate Decorating Competition

Any mailbox or gate in Bywong or Wamboin can win. Deadline for photos 8pm, December 14. For details see www.bywongcommunity.org.au/events.

Friday 12

Summer Sunset Markets Christmas special

5–8 pm Crawford St, Queanbeyan, next to council chambers.

Saturday 13

'Keep it Local – Shop in Queanbeyan'

Monaro St, Queanbeyan, 10–3pm. One day shopping event with specials and promotions from participating retailers. Book signings, High Tea, competitions and more. Great chance to support local business and do your Christmas shopping!

Queanbeyan Rotary's Annual Family Christmas Party

Walsh's Hotel, Queanbeyan, 12.30pm. Two-course lunch, \$31pp. For more ph Doug 0402 431 021.

Saturday 13, Sunday 14

One2STEP 2014 End of Year Production

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Get lost in time, as One2STEP Dance Academy presents 'Dancing through the Decades'. This performance hand-jives and hustles through history. For more ph 6285 6290 or see www.theq.net.au.

Friday 19

Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight Tour – Nightmare before Christmas Special

Join author Nichole Overall for a tour through Queanbeyan's heart and hear fascinating tales of mystery, mayhem, tragedy and the other-worldly that have unfolded over the course of 175 years. Bookings essential, for further details/costs, email qbn@qbncityofchampions.com.au or see www.facebook.com/mysteriousqbnbymoonlight.

Wamboin Community Christmas Carols

Wamboin Community Hall, 7pm. All welcome, young and old, with proceeds to the Salvation Army. For more see www.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

<< Gig Guide, p15

What's On – December 2014

Send announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

Dive into December

the market @ bungendore

Sunday December 21st 9am–3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

Looking for Xmas presents?
All your favourite stalls
with gifts galore!

jewellery		mosaics
giftware		homewares
soaps & lotions		greeting cards
local art & craft		beads & findings
garden products		pottery & ceramics
toys & models		local grown plants
cakes & pastries		prints & paintings
tea & fresh coffee		fruit & vegetables
guitars & amps		clothing & footwear

Saturday 20, Sunday 21

Eden Dance Academy 2014 – Retro Party Mix

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Eden Dance Academy's Performance 'Retro Party Mix' is a joyous and stunning exhibition of dance featuring ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop and tap. For more ph 6285 6290 or see www.theq.net.au.

Sunday 21

Qbn Bowling Club Celebrity Family Fun Day

Campbell St, 10am. Come along and meet and play with some of our local celebrities and help raise some much needed funds to help our Club. Cost \$25pp, kids free, includes a BBQ lunch. Raffles, auctions, prizes for best dressed teams and more. For more ph 6297 1228.

Queanbeyan Carols in the Park

Lowe Street, Queanbeyan. For more see www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au/carols-in-the-park.

Wednesday 31

New Year's Eve in the City

Family concert in Civic Square will feature a national headline act supported by local artists, along with spectacular fireworks displays at 9pm and midnight. For more see www.visitcanberra.com.au.

Coming up in JANUARY

(besides casual holiday fun)

During January

Charity Book Fair Closing Sale

Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets. After many years, the Charity Book Fair is closing and a final clearance sale will occur each Thursday to Sunday throughout January.

Thursday 1 to Sunday 4

Summernats Car Festival

Head to the Street Machine Summernats Car Festival to see the best street machines, hot rods, sport compacts and special interest vehicles. For more see www.visitcanberra.com.au.

Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15

Destination NSW Home Ground Cricket Tour

Braidwood Recreation Club January 13; Freebody Oval Queanbeyan January 16. Stopping at 27 towns along the way, this roadshow of cricket themed entertainment is not to be missed, so join the fun as the Home Ground Cricket Tour rolls into town.

Wednesday 14

Prime Minister's XI vs England

Be there to see the Prime Minister's XI continue their battle with England under lights at Manuka Oval.

Friday 23 to Monday 26

Braidwood Monster Book Fair

National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood. Contact Marjorie 4846 1243 or Lynda 4846 1495. Email braidwoodbookfair@gmail.com. Benefits Anglican Parish of Braidwood.

Saturday 24

Canberra Hot Rod Association, Australia Day Show 'n' Shine

Queanbeyan Park, 11–1pm. Check out some amazingly beautiful old modified cars; strike up a conversation with the old time 'Rodders' and join the Queanbeyan Mayor in voting for your favourite car (people's choice).

Monday 26

Australia Day Celebrations

Queanbeyan Park. Citizenship Ceremony, Family Fun Day in the Park and much more. Come and join in the celebration of what it means to be Australian.

Palerang will celebrate in Bungendore, Braidwood and Captains Flat.

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

Capital Region Farmers Market

EPIC grounds, Mitchell, 8–11am. A genuine farmers market offering a diverse range of fresh seasonal food straight from the producer to the consumer and an opportunity to discuss with growers. www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au

1st Saturday of every month
(except January)

The Captains Flat Country Markets

Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Handmade items, craft, jams, pickles, gourmet doggy treats, preloved goods, cakes, biscuits, plants and much more! Stalls \$12. Call either 0438 600 447 or 0407 661 834 or email markets@captainsflat.org.

2nd Sunday of the month
(except Jan)

Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

Queanbeyan River, on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets, 9–2pm. Craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, jewellery, toys, honey, jams, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Call Kristen 6299 0219.

3rd Saturday of every month
(except July/August)

Wamboin Produce Market

Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

3rd Sunday every month

Bungendore Markets

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce.

Windy Hall Country Markets

Windellama Hall, 10–2pm, craft goods, Devonshire tea, deli delights and more. For more contact Bob Shaw on 4844 5001.

4th Saturday of every month

Braidwood Markets

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Call Geraldine 4847 5061.

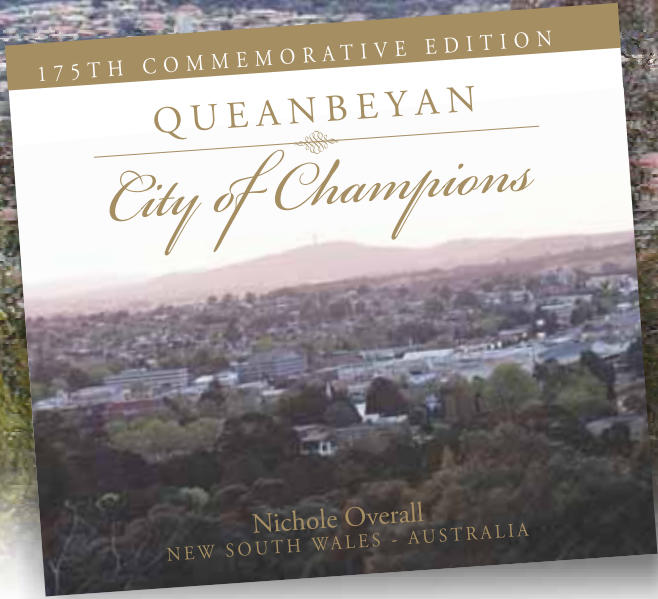
More on regional and local events
and local tourist attractions:

www.bungendore.com.au

www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au

www.visitbraidwood.com.au

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