

# Bulletin

**COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang**

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

## Australia Day: our new citizens and the faces of our region



"One of the most diverse cities outside of Sydney", was the theme struck by Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall at this year's Australia Day celebration. The city with a proud European multicultural history has opened its doors to immigrants from around the world. Seventeen new citizens from 14 countries were welcomed at the January 26 celebrations in Queanbeyan Park which drew a crowd estimated at 2,000 people. The immigrants came from England and Turkey, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Fiji, Philippines, New Zealand, Zambia, Canada, Jordan, South Africa, South Korea, India and Chile.

Australia Day awards went to those making a meaningful difference to community life. 'Home in Queanbeyan' – which now provides 24-hour-care for 20 mentally ill people in individual units, was named Service Group of the Year. Kevin Grainger, a long time community activist particularly on health care, was named Queanbeyan Citizen of the Year. Kevin is pictured top right with local representatives (NSW) Steve Whan and (Federal) Mike Kelly sitting behind him. Katherine Schelberger was named Young Citizen of the Year.

### INSIDE:

**Gold mine** – pushback on water, species and downstream impacts **p4**

**Property Matters:** building your dream house **p6**



RSPCA science from rural base **p9**

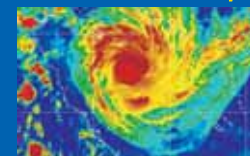
### Theatre:

Joe bends your mind **p11**

**Feb 14th:** Who was Valentine? **p13**

Anatomy of blind greed and Gig Guide **p15**

**Bulletin GETS HIT BY CYCLONE!** **see p4**



**Cleanseeds – Suppliers of quality pasture seeds since 1961**





## Butte BBQ Torch Tongs

Butte torch tongs have 2 LED lights that cast a bright beam onto food over the open fire or gas grill.



\$32.95  
including  
postage  
Aus wide

Buy them online at  
[www.anticatrading.com.au](http://www.anticatrading.com.au)  
or email [info@anticatrading.com.au](mailto:info@anticatrading.com.au)  
or call 0457 764 453

## Annie's Collectables



...for that  
something  
extra special

39 Cooper Road, WAMBOIN

OPEN 10.30am - 4.30pm  
Weekends and Public Holidays

Or by Appointment Ph: 6238 3284  
[www.anniescollectables.com.au](http://www.anniescollectables.com.au)



FOR ALL  
YOUR  
FAMILY  
HAIR  
CARE

### CUTS ON GIBRALTAR

18 Gibraltar Street  
Bungendore  
Hair extensions available

NEW SALON HOURS:  
Monday closed  
Tue & Fri 9am-5pm  
Wed & Thu 9am-8pm

Haircuts with Molly  
20% off on Tuesday

Phone: 6238 0300



Dickson  
Health  
Foods

Gluten-free products  
and much more...

Dickson Square

Dickson ACT 2602

02 6249 7356

## Bungendore Bobcat & Tiptruck Hire



For a free quote call Col

0409 326 648 or 6238 0077

Specialists in Driveway Reshaping  
Drainage and Top Dressing  
Excavator for big or small jobs  
Trenches, Post holes, Site Levelling  
Rubbish Removal, Ripping etc

## Robert's House & Garden Service

For your house needs

windows, chimney sweeping,  
gutter cleaning, painting

For your garden needs

lawn mowing, garden maintenance,  
weeding, pruning

For any other work-related enquiries phone  
Robert Dabusti 6238 1623 0412 226 788

## Just LAW

Bungendore and Erindale

For advice in matters including

Conveyancing &  
Commercial

Wills, Probate &  
Estate Matters

Criminal Law  
& Traffic Matters

**BUNGENDORE**

Unit 4, 33 Ellendon Street  
Bungendore 2621  
Tel: 6238 0192

**ERINDALE**

Unit 3, Erindale Chambers  
Comrie St ACT 2903  
Tel: 6231 4700

## QUEANBEYAN CHAINSAW & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

Authorised sales service for:

brush cutters, blower vacs, bars-chains-sprockets, vacuum cleaners,  
pressure washers, chain sharpening, repairs, spare parts, push mowers  
and ride-on mowers.

Authorised agents for:

Honda, Stihl, Toro, Kubota

**HONDA**

**STIHL**®

™ SPECIALIST DEALER NETWORK

Phone: (02) 6299 1324

Fax: (02) 6297 0348

24 Yass Road  
Queanbeyan NSW 2620



LANGLEY PINO  
eyecare

## Patients bulk billed

**Canberra City**

Opposite Canberra Centre  
City Walk, Canberra City  
6247 4748

**Belconnen**

Upper Level Westfield Mall  
(next to St George)  
6251 4433

OPTOMETRISTS and CONTACT LENS PRACTITIONERS

## BAKER DEANE & NUTT LAWYERS

### BUNGENDORE OFFICE - OPEN LATE ON TUESDAYS -

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

Ian Marjason is available for casual appointments on Friday afternoons.

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

Address: 27 Malbon Street, Bungendore

Bungendore: 6238 1340 Queanbeyan: 6299 3999

M H O'Rourke is a *family-owned* and  
*family-committed* funeral company.

M H O'Rourke has been servicing the district  
for *over 100 years*.

You can be assured that M H O'Rourke will  
*meet your family's needs*.



**M.H. O'ROURKE**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

24 hours - 7 days. Queanbeyan 6297 1052 Canberra 6166 0966

## THE FEED SHED BUNGENDORE

- ★ LUCERNE, PASTURE & CEREAL HAY
- ★ LARGE RANGE OF HORSE FEEDS
- ★ PET FOOD, FISH FOOD & BIRDSEED
- ★ GOOD RANGE OF POULTRY GRAINS & PELLETS
- ★ FEEDERS, WATERERS, RODENT TRAPS & POISONS
- ★ ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS & SUPPLEMENTS
- ★ STRAW & SAWDUST
- ★ ORGANIC PRODUCTS & ANIMAL HERBS
- ★ STEEL CATTLE & HORSE YARDS
- ★ HORSE FLOAT HIRE

SPECIAL  
Hygain  
Allrounder  
Pellets  
20kg, \$15

**OPEN 7 DAYS - 6238 0900**

32 KING ST BUNGENDORE, FAX 6238 0902

## Contact The Bulletin

Website: [www.districtbulletin.com.au](http://www.districtbulletin.com.au)

Send letters and enquiries to:

Managing Editor: Maria Taylor  
0418 731 691

Admin: Christina Taylor

Editorial: [media@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:media@districtbulletin.com.au)

Contacts advertising: Maria 0418 731 691;  
or email [adverts@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:adverts@districtbulletin.com.au)  
PO Box 302, Bungendore 2621

Associate Editor: Sonja Chandler

Contributing photographer:  
Marcele Martins

Editorial Contributors: Peter Davies, Heike  
Hahner, Di Johnson, Marcelle Martins, Doug  
Palmer, Nichole Smith, Jo Walker

Design, advertising and production:  
Sue Van Homrigh  
[sue@graphicgesture.com.au](mailto:sue@graphicgesture.com.au)

Deadline for contributions and  
advertising commitment:  
25 February 2011

In addition to mailbox delivery, this free monthly publication is available from:

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

**DISCLAIMER:** This publication has been prepared in good faith by the publisher and editors of The Bungendore Bulletin Pty Ltd on the basis of information available at the time of publication, without any independent verification. The publisher, editors and contributors, while striving at all times for accuracy, do not accept any responsibility for errors and omissions in the content, however they may arise. Readers who act on information presented by *The District Bulletin* do so at their own risk.

The District Bulletin © 2011



# Road repairs following flood damage

QUEANBEYAN and Palerang may finally have cracked the method to get millions of State road repair dollars – suffer a damaging flood.

Palerang General Manager Peter Bascomb said an estimated \$1.8 million in disaster relief repair funds would likely be forthcoming from NSW following RTA inspections at the beginning of February.

Worst hit areas in Palerang were in the Burra, Urila, Royalla areas where culverts were washed out, gravel roads eroded and the Tinderry Bridge on the Urila Road was washed away (since towed back).

Bascomb said the Williamsdale Road was blocked off for a time and “it was staggering how high the flood went above the two-metre mark”.

He estimated it might take 12 months to fix up all the road damage.

Palerang’s major damage was in the same watershed/catchment that caused Queanbeyan’s surprise flash flood. The city was declared a natural disaster area on 9 December.

Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall said that the final estimate of the flood damage bill has yet to be determined, (but) “we are expecting total costs to be close to \$2 million. The estimated damage to roads, particularly around Burra, and related infrastructure exceeds \$950,000. Other costs primarily relate to the massive clean-up of the thousands of tons of debris along the river, both upstream and downstream of the Queens Bridge”.

## K-Mart for Queanbeyan Link Plaza?

RUMOURS are rife that retail superstore K-Mart may become the major tenant in Queanbeyan’s City Link Plaza if the Council gives the go-ahead to a development application it will consider next month.

Existing retailer tenants in the Plaza have been vocal about their disappointment at the notification process, about the pending loss to businesses they built in that location and about the loss to Queanbeyan of diversity in shopping opportunities.

It has been reported that Plaza owner Trinity Funds Management is in discussions with the retail giant. Council sources have said that K-Mart representatives were at Council discussions of the proposal.

The City Link Plaza development application report will likely be submitted to the 9 March meeting of Council’s Planning and Development Review Committee (5.30pm start) which opens with an opportunity for public comment.



## Seen at the BUNGENDORE SHOW

*‘Best bird in show’ – Bungendore artist Avril Kimberlee (R) carved Dizzy Lizzie out of styrene – the torso out of a single piece. Nothing wasted, Lizzie’s sash for ‘best bird’ comes from Kimberlee’s former poultry-showing days.*

*“I wanted her to be vivacious and enjoy life,” said Kimberlee of the wine quaffing model. The artist invited local wineries to exhibit some of their wares to add authenticity.*

*Kimberlee reckons she might bondcrete Lizzie for permanence and set her up on the front porch of her Rutledge Street home.*

# Proposed solar farm – slow down?

A SOLAR FARM approved by the NSW Department of Planning about six kilometres from Bungendore may lose federal funding with proposed budget cuts to help pay for post-flood reconstruction for Queensland.

Capital Solar Farm is a subsidiary of Infigen which operates the Capital Wind Farm between the Tarago Road and Lake George (now also planning a second wind farm of 55 turbines next door).

Media releases state that the solar farm project involves the construction of 32 blocks of solar panels capable of producing 50 megawatts of electricity (enough to power 10,000 homes under optimal conditions). The solar farm was proposed in response to the federal government’s Solar Flagship Program which offered a \$1.5 billion commitment to support the construction and demonstration of up to four large solar power plants in Australia.

However, as of early February it has been reported that the Gillard government has proposed cutting the Solar Flagship Program (for a second time) by \$250 million, and deferring other funding.

## Help thy neighbour – cut clean energy jobs!

THE TAX LEVY for flood rebuilding in the next year (as proposed) will raise \$1.8 billion. The Federal Government proposes to raise another \$2.8 billion by cutting climate change programs.

Solar programs may lose \$495 million and include the Solar Flagship Program, the Solar Hot Water Rebate and the Solar Homes and Communities Plan.

While some national business organisations have welcomed the cuts, saying these are very expensive programs, others



question the logic and the fairness of cutting emerging industries.

“It beggars belief that the Government would choose to cut climate change programs like Solar Flagships, energy efficiency and the solar hot water rebate to fund disaster relief when such disaster will be made worse by climate change,” said The Greens acting leader, Senator Christine Milne.

“Slashing investment in utility-scale solar or carbon capture and storage technologies, let alone solar hot water programs, is extremely short sighted. These public investments are crucial to develop cleaner energy industries, even with a price on pollution,” said The Climate Institute CEO, John Connor.

### Green cars and solar industry again the first to go

The Age newspaper reported that the car industry and unions are also feeling whipped about by the sudden change in funding and

quoted the disappointment of the solar industry. “You don’t assist those affected by floods by causing damage to other industries,” said Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries chief executive Andrew McKellar. “It is a bitterly disappointing decision.”

Australian Solar Energy Society chief executive John Grimes said the cuts would undermine investment certainty for businesses looking to build large-scale solar power plants.

Mr Grimes said the Solar Flagship Program – which was raided last year to pay for the now abandoned ‘cash for clunkers’ scheme – seemed to be the first pot the government drew on when it needed cash.

Sources: [www.indymedia.org.au](http://www.indymedia.org.au) – levy and solar flagship program; Excerpt from *The Age – Jobs outcry over green fund cuts*, Kirsty Needham and Adam Morton, January 28, 2011.

## Cautionary tale: TOXIC WASTE KILLS FRIENDLY BACTERIA

PALERANG COUNCIL announced in mid January that the Braidwood sewerage treatment plant (STP) had been “poisoned”. Translated, this meant that the bacteria doing the work of breaking down sewerage had been killed off. This is a first for any of the three Palerang STPs in 20 years of operation.

General Manager Peter Bascomb pointed out that the Braidwood system “like most STPs, is fundamentally a biological system and it can be stopped if too much toxic material is flushed into the system. Council has not yet been able to identify the toxic substance but the EPA will be conducting more tests”.

He said the Braidwood STP was restarted with sludge from the Bungendore plant, “in much the same way that the plant was first commissioned in September 2010”. Residents should consider carefully what they flush into the system.

## One Palerang councillor resigns, speculation about a second



PALERANG Councillor Terry Branson tendered his resignation at the February Council meeting citing family reasons and that he was moving back to Sydney.

Branson’s increasing number and length of absences from Council sessions had become an issue of concern to his fellow Councillors and to some constituents aware of the situation.

Likewise, questions have dogged Councillor Ian Marjason, who has also logged frequent absences from Council sessions. Marjason has not revealed his intentions to date.

Branson served initially on the old Yarrawalumla Council, where he was

elected to office in 1999 with the aid of a populist campaign against the so-called ‘toilet tax’ – administrative charges for septic inspections.

He was elected Mayor several times and was appointed Council administrator in the controversial State amalgamation process that produced Palerang in 2003. The *Bulletin* will publish some of Branson’s recollections of the amalgamation period in an upcoming issue.

A by-election is now required and that will most likely be in April. One interested contender is the Wamboin Community Association President Peter Harrison.



# EXTRA... EXTRA... *Bulletin* hit by cyclonic forces!

THE LATE appearance of the *District Bulletin* in February has been due to the impacts of monster cyclone Yasi. We have been hit by this drama 2,000 kilometres away. True.

Our colleague Sue Van Homrigh, who designs the look and layout of the *Bulletin* to such good effect, now is based in Townsville. Her area lost power for over a week after trees came down on power lines during the wild and stormy night of 2 February. Townsville was hit with the force of 'only' a category one cyclone.

With the power out, it was stifling inside as the storm howled outside. Several windows and a door were ripped away. Her driveway was blocked by fallen timber. Trees were stripped bare and Sue reports that the neighbourhood now looks like an unknown landscape. A day or two after the initial shock and cleanup, friends with power and internet were able to offer Sue a place to continue working and we thank them for that.

Sue also reports that Country Energy crews have been helping their colleagues at Ergon Energy re-establish power, a massive job with fallen trees, power poles and tangled lines. Many SES crews along with the army have been chainsawing, and even using axes to remove fallen trees from roadways and houses.

'Mother Nature' has dealt Australia some furious blows in recent weeks from cyclone to flood to fire. One aspect that has received little attention is the fragility of food and other supply lines.

Sue said when the south-east Queensland floods cut the highways leading north and south a month ago there were food shortages in Townsville including bread, fresh meat and vegetables and – not so strangely – toilet paper!

Before and after the cyclone hit the shortages got even more noticeable, chicken meat disappeared, dairy got scarcer, and bread vanished from

shelves very quickly. Creating the evening meal became a creative challenge. As part of pre-cyclone preparation people were asked to stock up on bottled water which came in handy when the water treatment plant lost power.

## Loading the dice or whistling in the dark – take your pick

Without a doubt this is a massive story of heartbreak and heroism, with relief agencies, troops, volunteers and communities all pulling as one after Mother Nature's awesome tantrums. The rhetoric has also at times been overwhelming. Between the flood and the cyclone, the Prime Minister in one uncomfortable speech went on (and on) about heroic mateship, unique to Australians apparently, in the face of the 'enduring hell' of the floods. (Recall that speechwriter!)

Granted, it may become an enduring hell. *Time* magazine told the world in its 24 January edition, that Queenslanders better hold onto their sense of humour since a government study warned "that because of climate change, in the next century 'a 1-in-a-100-year event – like this year's floods – could occur 'several times a year'." Six cyclones have been predicted for this storm season.

More than twenty years ago, climate scientist James Hansen told the US Congress that with greenhouse gas pollution, humans were 'loading the dice' for more frequent extreme climate events. About the same time in Australia, one could find the following quote in a State report about climate change (all the States and the federal government had early 1990s climate change action plans, later dropped): 'It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark, but at least he listened' (Anon).

Now, I wouldn't for a moment liken scientists to the voice of God, but they have warned of the severe climate risks

of 'business as usual' in four successive international (IPCC) reports starting in 1990 and elsewhere too. The risks have also been well-understood by much of the insurance industry.

We have been warned and we did make international commitments. While many individuals have responded, as a country we have yet to lower our greenhouse gas emissions (instead there are childish arguments about 'They're not doing it! We're not going to do it!').

Instead, during the last 20 years, Australia has wrapped itself into an economic straight-jacket of selling coal and other minerals to the world and subsidising 'cheap' coal-fired electricity at home. We're told 'mate – she'll be right, just watch the dollars'. Queensland, the world's largest coal mining region, has reported revenues of \$30 billion a year. That's hard to walk away from, even at the mounting risk of extreme fires, floods and cyclones.

Except for the Greens, no politician on the airwaves is connecting the dots between maximising coal production and ever-more climate change-inducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. To grasp this and diversify would be true leadership, and true support for Australian communities and their economic survival in the longer term.

— Maria Taylor



# Lot of troubling questions re gold mine

by Jackie French

IN LATE JANUARY, the Commonwealth Government declared the proposed Dargues Reef gold, silver, copper and lead mine and ore processing centre at Majors Creek 'a controlled action'. That means it needs assessment and approval under the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act before it can proceed, due to possible impacts on threatened species and plant and animal communities.

Residents of the Araluen Valley, which is downstream from the mine site, have noted the lack of flora and fauna studies of the nature reserves and gorge bordering the proposed development. These areas provide habitat for a number of threatened species – including the endangered spotted-tailed quoll, four plant species and a mouse.

No study has been done on the effects of loss of water and pollution on the orchard, market garden, tourism and other flourishing industries downstream.

The NSW Office of Water has criticised the mining company's water use impact studies as "minimal" and inadequate and asked for a 70-day water pumping test, which Cortona Resources Ltd is reported to have rejected as impractical.

The NSW department said the impact study did not include rainfall data from the last eight years. The Southern Catchment Authority and experts employed by the Eurobodalla Shire have submitted concerns about chemicals used in mining and the effect on downstream drinking water quality for coastal communities.

## Residents meet candidates – ask for help

In late January, Araluen and Majors Creek residents and orchardists met with two candidates for the March State election in a public meeting. They told Monaro Nationals' candidate John Barilaro and Greens' candidate Paul Cockram that they are dismayed and frustrated at the limited time available to make submissions on the proposed mine and ore processing centre, and the lack of answers from the developer, Cortona Ltd, on levels of toxic chemicals proposed for the site, as well as problems of water use, noise and traffic, and the lack of any assessment of economic or environmental impacts downstream.

A representative of Cortona at the meeting refused to answer questions, but said that all questions put to him would be answered at a later date.

Area residents and other members of the public have posed questions to Cortona about the amount and composition of chemicals to process ore and control dust on the site. In particular the Dargues Reef Environmental Assessment states that xanthates will be used and the company has been asked to confirm whether this is so. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme describes xanthates and in particular their breakdown products as "associated with a number of long-term effects which include cardiovascular, neurological and reproductive effects".

The report also states that "acute health risks are possible from a transport accident in a populated area", but that too little is known about the effects of xanthates for an accurate assessment of the risks to be made.

The Araluen meeting voted unanimously to ask for political assistance for an independent assessment of the development, to be paid for by the developers, using experts nominated by the local community.

John Barilaro spoke passionately about his commitment to fair and independent assessment of developments and the need to ensure proper staffing levels for local hospitals and schools.

Greens candidate Paul Cockram said that "regardless of the effects of noise, dust and traffic, water use is the development's true Achilles heel. If the company can't work out how to control its problems with both use of limited water resources, and disposal of contaminated water, then it shouldn't go ahead".

## Boost for Queanbeyan and Bungendore

### AFTER-HOURS GP SERVICES

AFTER-HOURS services from GP clinics in Queanbeyan and Bungendore received a boost in December from the Federal Government's \$10 million General Practice After-Hours Grants Program.

Brindabella Family Practice in Queanbeyan received \$93,890 and

Bungendore Medical Centre After-Hours Clinic received \$97,767. The money is to assist practices with costs such as incentives for GPs, wages for support staff and other operating costs incurred as part of after-hours services.

A release from the office of Mike Kelly, Federal Member for Eden Monaro, said that from July 2011, Australians can access after-hours GP advice through the National Health Call Centre Network and that by 2013 Medicare will coordinate face-to-face GP after-hours services.

## Woodchipping native forests – the real costs

THIS YEAR marks the first official International Year of the Forests. As part of a summer campaign to raise awareness regarding native forests on the south coast, South East Forest Rescue disrupted access to the Eden woodchipmill on Edrom Road by way of a person sitting on a tripod twenty feet above the ground.

This peaceful action took place because deforestation is one of the biggest causes of climate change, Forests NSW are incurring a massive loss, and the chipmill (South East Fibre Exports) and its mother company, Nippon Paper Group, has been accepting logs obtained illegally and despite repeated attempts and protestations to the NSW government there has been no action.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Recent audits have exposed illegal logging of rainforest, land registered on the National Estate, endangered ecological communities, a gazetted Aboriginal Place and rocky outcrops. We have proven systemic re-occurring breaches on the south coast that show a pattern of non-compliance to the law.

The public are subsidising the logging of native forests – which hold and remove vast amounts of carbon – so they can be woodchipped and sent to Japan.

The South East Fibre Exports chipmill, owned by the multinational Japanese company Nippon Paper Group, made a \$3.8 million dollar profit last financial year yet Forests NSW incurred a \$4.1 million dollar loss before tax and a \$232 million dollar loss after tax. The Productivity Commission's Native Forestry Report 2006 stated that Forests NSW did not achieve a return that exceeded the risk-free rate of return on assets, and is not operating on a commercially sustainable basis.

We are calling for a moratorium. Certainly with regard to climate change and extinction of species it would be very difficult to argue that native forest logging was 'for the common good'.

— Lisa Stone, South East Forest Rescue, Moruya

## Dear Editor ...

### Word gets to WA

RE GOLD mining company Cortona's plans to mine in the Palarang Shire at Dargues Reef: The agony people are feeling about lack of care for land and water is acute.

These are our creeks and rivers, not mining company drains. These are our delightful, unique and precious animals and plants which could be wiped out forever by those addicted to extreme wealth.

We are being let down by deficient laws and governments which allow the unconstrained growth of mining industries, at the long-term cost of our water, food security and communities.

It is a pity politicians don't lead; they follow. Still, if they can't even see that you need water and environs more than you need gold or money they have no hope of 'getting it' and should resign.

— Bee Winfield,  
Merri Bee Organic Farm, Nannup, WA

Bee Winfield writes that she in WA and her sister in NSW are linked with the Lock the Gate Alliance, "which is an amalgamation of communities fighting destructive mining, particularly fossil fuel mining. Here in little Nannup we are fighting bauxite mining proposed for giant tracts of WA's best (probably only) decent agricultural land and in the sacred Karri forest to the south and east, in addition to coal mining proposed for Margaret River (tourist and winemaking haven) to the north and west. South-west WA is a global 'biodiversity hot spot' losing an untold amount of flora and fauna to mining and native forest logging. Communities all over Australia are trying to stop our country being turned into a quarry".



# Braidwood wants to keep jobs

PALERANG we need your understanding.

When Yarralumla Shire and Tallaganda Shire merged under the NSW State Government's policy of amalgamation, our current Palerang Shire was formed.

Braidwood had been the political centre of the Tallaganda Shire from the 1840s, and as a rural shire the town became a significant focus for the 5,000 people of that region and still is. Provision was made by the State government to retain 'core numbers' of staff in the rural centers that had previously been the capitals of their Shires.

In November of 2010, Palerang Council called a community meeting in Braidwood with a 'Discussion Paper' outlining the Council's financial security going forward and its impact on primarily the Braidwood Council Chambers (the Braidwood Literary Institute Building) for which it had to find



some \$1 or \$1.5 million for repairs and maintenance. It also discussed the 23 Council staff working in Braidwood, and suggested it would be "more economical" if the jobs moved to Bungendore.

Introducing Councillor Paul Cockram's letter (December 2010) the *District Bulletin* referred to the "leased offices in Braidwood" and the "million dollar repair job" these premises required.

Firstly I don't believe that Palerang Council has ever paid any rent for the Braidwood Council offices, and the "million dollars" Council itself suggests in its 'Discussion Paper' is rubbry. Neither Council had done any maintenance on the building since 1958.

## Let community fix the building

The Braidwood Literary Institute was built by the people, for the people of the Tallaganda region. Tallaganda Shire paid rent on part of the ground floor prior to 1958 when the Literary Institute was wound up. From 1958, the former Council became trustees of the whole building and ceased paying any rent at all. (*Palerang Council is now the Trustee in a similar role.*)

To help Council solve this expense of repair and maintenance, the local community has re-constituted the Braidwood Literary Institute committee, proposing to take over

the management and maintenance of the building, and offering to keep the status quo of the building being the place of government of Palerang Council staff in Braidwood. This is Option 4 for discussion at the next public meeting – 'One Million Dollars', anticipated expense, removed from Councils forward budget.

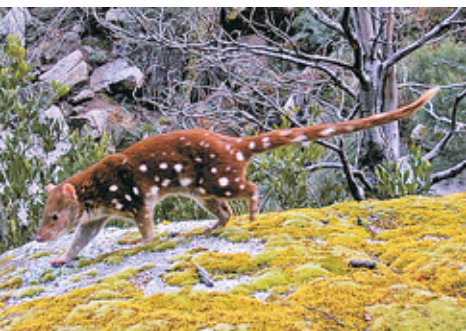
The more significant issue to our community is the proposed removal of council staff from Braidwood. We are a rural centre, and to take 23 jobs out of the town would rip the heart out of our town.

Many of these women, and they are mainly women, are mothers and have worked loyally for the Shire for up to 25 years. How would Bungendore feel if they lost 23 jobs from their town?

— Cheryl Raper,  
Elected Community Representative

*Cheryl told the Bulletin that "the Crown now is probably the owner, as they own the land".*

# 'Living legacies' grow Kosciuszko National Park



*This image of a Spotted-tailed Quoll was captured on a remote camera very near to the block which has just been added to the Park containing habitat important for this threatened species to survive.*

TWO NATURE-LOVERS have left a living legacy to Australians with the purchase of a 160 hectare holding that has now been added to Kosciuszko National Park.

The purchase of this addition was made possible through bequests to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife from the estates of Genevieve Little and Catherine Clare White. The land was later gifted to the NSW Government for the enjoyment of future generations.

The block, which overlooks the Snowy River in the Paupong area about 30km south of Jindabyne, will preserve habitat for a range of threatened species.

Director-General for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Corbyn, said today that this addition, while small compared to the rest of the park would be important for a range of reasons.

"Kosciuszko National Park is almost 700,000 hectares but every addition to this world class reserve is an important one," Ms Corbyn said.

"The site contains vegetation communities which are not adequately conserved in other parts of the national park network, containing White Box woodlands as well as Native Cypress pines, Kurrajong trees, Apple Box eucalypts and Native Cherry.

"The new addition also contains important habitat for a range of threatened species such as Gang-Gang Cockatoos, Hooded Robins and the Spotted-tailed Quoll. The White Box woodland communities are also recognised as important habitat for the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

"The purchase was finally made possible with funds bequeathed to the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife which is a non-government fund raising body that has been raising funds for such purposes for more than 40 years.

"The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife is the only organisation in Australia whose philanthropy is an investment in our public estate, for all to enjoy," Ms Corbyn said.

## A spark can become a blaze.

Call Country Energy on **13 20 80** if you see branches hanging over powerlines.



PX1886.200.148

**countryenergy**

**We live here too.**



# Tips for buying bare land plus house

BUYING LAND only and contracting a builder is a very successful way to get the home of your dreams. Accredited builders have streamlined construction processes incorporating very high craftsmanship standards.

In 2008–09, Ben Stevenson as National Sales Manager of Village Building Co. sold just fewer than 1,000 properties 'off the plan' in this way in the ACT and NSW. In 2010, The Village Building Co., Rawson Homes, AV Jennings and Goldruby Homes (to mention a few) sold approximately 995 homes 'off the plan' in the ACT.

There are some key points to consider when buying property from a builders plan or a house/ land package, they are:

- + Budget
- + Location
- + The builder
- + Timing

## Budget

Your mortgage consultant will give you a clear

picture of how much you can spend. Do this first, it will save time! When researching builders look for any hidden costs; site preparation, inclusions, (it may be cheaper to buy a home advertised at higher price with better inclusions), legal fees, stamp duty, GST, and moving costs. In many cases you can pay a smaller deposit, say five percent rather than 10 percent, on exchange. Once the budget is set start the investigation process to find the location.

## Location

The internet allows you to do some quick research on location attributes and property availability. Refine your search through websites like [www.allhomes.com](http://www.allhomes.com), and [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au) or an independent agency like ours, [www.estaterealty.com.au](http://www.estaterealty.com.au). Look for 'land only' then source a builder, or buy a 'house land package' with a house design that is already suited to land at a set price. Builders' display homes can be visited at places like Forde in Canberra which will give you a feel of the builder's style and finish.

## Choosing a Builder

Your home is your castle, do your research. Make sure builders are licensed, have industry memberships (like Master Builder Association). Do they have a track record, or are they willing to give out testimonials? How well

do they communicate the process of building your home? Troy McNally of Rawson Homes said: "It's very important to get a clear understanding of total package price, as many builders advertise base pricing". Research and questions are imperative.

## Timing

The weather, suppliers and resources influence construction time. Your solicitor can negotiate

special conditions specifying time constraints on the builder. The construction period can give buyers extra time to save more deposit reducing mortgage principal at time of loan application.

*Good luck in your search for property. For information on buying off the plan in the Palerang District contact Ben Stevenson at Estaterealty Palerang on 6238 0911 or email [info@estaterealty.com.au](mailto:info@estaterealty.com.au).*

## Market wrap of sales

by John Sneddon



I HOPE everyone has had a good Christmas and New Year and is looking forward to the year ahead.

At the time of writing this column the school holidays are coming to an end

and extraordinary weather events are continuing around the country. Despite this there have been a number of sales of both houses and vacant land achieved in the rural villages and surrounding areas, with these sales presented in the 'Market wrap' below.

For a good deal of 2010 there were relatively low numbers of rural residential properties on the market but it would appear that the numbers being advertised for sale on *allhomes* is on the rise, providing potential buyers with more choice.

Early indications from open houses held so far this year suggest that there are still good numbers of buyers searching for the right property and they are willing to act quickly when they find it.

With interest rates predicted to remain on hold for a while and dams and waterways looking as good as they have for years, a rural change is still a very attractive proposition for many people currently living in Canberra and for those moving from interstate.

Following is the market wrap of sales achieved in the December and January period for the Bungendore, Bywong, Carwoola, Gundaroo, Sutton and Wamboin areas. The figures are sourced from *allhomes*.

### Market wrap

#### December-January sales data

	Houses		Land	
	Sold	Under offer	Sold	Under offer
Bungendore village	8	6	2	0
Bywong	2	1	0	1
Carwoola	2	1	0	1
Gundaroo	1	2	0	1
Sutton	2	3	0	0
Wamboin	1	1	1	2

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

## Is the planning process confusing?

Let phl guide you through.

Planning  
Civil Design  
Applications  
Subdivisions  
Electronic Plan Lodgement

6238 0144

13 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore 2621  
[www.phlsurveyors.com.au](http://www.phlsurveyors.com.au)



Painting • Decorating

Tim Snowdon

Tel: 6238 0693  
0405 180 980



**Estaterealty**  
palerang

[estaterealty.com.au](http://estaterealty.com.au) | 6238 0911



### Bungendore

Private Inspection  
Lot 10 Bungendore Meadow

**\$562,500**



#### High Quality, Country Lifestyle.



The Cabarita from Rawson Homes is the ultimate entertainers dream, with spaces that just go on and on this is a home to flourish in. Explore the many facets of this design and it will enthrall you as the amount of stylish features included keep on adding up. If you are thinking of building your new home don't go past this opportunity. Other designs available.

Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637



### Bungendore

Open Sat 10:00-10:45 or Private Inspection  
6 Day circuit

**\$597,500**



#### Family Entertainer



Separate living areas flow from the kitchen overlooking fantastic outdoor entertaining area. Ducted gas heating and split system air conditioners provide comfort all year round. The large nth facing backyard has established native plants, vegie patch, classic arbour, cubby, courtyard areas, also irrigation from two water tanks. 4 dbl bedrooms; master bed has ensuite, walk in robe. DLUG. Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637



### Bungendore

Open Sat 11.00-11.45 or Private Inspection  
4 Shanahan Street

**\$629,000**



#### Stylish and Elegant



4 large bedrooms have built-ins, master complete with en suite and WIR. The family bathroom is well appointed including great size bath. The high quality kitchen overlooks the informal family/dining room and fully landscaped backyard. Entertaining is a pleasure either under cover outside or formal lounge/dinning. Many features like ducted air, water feature, Nth facing back yard, double garage and more. Inspect now. Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637



### Relax while we do the work...

Estaterealty Palerang are focused on your real estate requirements.

If you're thinking of buying or selling property, phone Ben for a free market appraisal or register buying details on:

**0467 046 637**





Rural Property Guide  
SALES | AUCTIONS | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Luke Jamieson  
Property Manager



Christopher Dixon  
Sales Agent



John Sneddon  
Sales Agent

Elevated 4 bed colonial home

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 car space



GUNDAROO 9 MORNING STREET

In an elevated position in Gundaroo village, this 4 bedroom, ensuite colonial residence epitomises country living in all its glory. Deep wrap-around verandah's and beautifully landscaped gardens complete with water pond features are a wonderful addition as are the cedar french doors and windows which open off the lounge, family and bedroom areas. Inside is characterised by slate flooring with in-slab heating, an open plan timber kitchen and family area, cathedral ceilings to the lounge and 9ft ceilings to the rest of the house. A family-friendly floor plan comprises a segregated main bedroom with walk-in robe, ensuite and a study/retreat, and built-in robes to all remaining bedrooms. **Auction on site 3:30pm Saturday 5th March New Listing**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 12 car spaces



CARWOOLA 198 WIDGIEWA ROAD

Constructed by Better Building, this architect designed passive solar 3-bedroom home is located on a private 20 acres of native bush within an easy commute to town. The home provides approximately 216m<sup>2</sup> of living with all rooms generously proportioned.

**By Negotiation**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

Under Offer

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 car spaces



GUNDAROO 28 LUTE STREET

Set amidst park-like grounds (1897sqm), this 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom cedar loft home is just 6 years old & includes an open plan lounge, big kitchen, upstairs family room, huge bathroom & 2 king-size bedrooms. Also includes a slow combustion fire, 2 reverse cycle air conditioners, wrap around decks, DLUG & carport **\$590,000+ New Listing**

Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

Stylish country living

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces



SUTTON 8 NORTH STREET

Instantly appealing, this stylish 4 bedroom home boasts renovated interiors, two big living areas, a huge designer kitchen with SMEG 800mm gas oven & segregated main bedroom with walk-in robe and ensuite. Front and rear decks are perfect for entertaining and those looking for good infrastructure will find the large machinery shed & single garage particularly appealing. Year-round comfort is catered for with ducted gas heating and evaporative cooling. **\$660,000+ New Listing**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

The best of both worlds...

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces



GUNDAROO 53 MORNING STREET

Situated in the heart of historic Gundaroo village, this double brick 3 bedroom, ensuite plus study residence has been sited to maximise on privacy and solar orientation. Leading off the hall are extra large bedrooms with built-in robes, and a main bedroom suite which features an ensuite, walk-in robe plus a parents retreat/study. The feature wood stove in the parents retreat is an enticing prospect for those cold wintery nights, and double brick construction. **\$590,000+ New Listing**

6262 5122 | Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 8 car spaces



BYWONG 32 FOREST LANE

Situated approximately 30 minutes to Canberra's CBD and minutes to the thriving village of Bungendore is this gem of a rural property. Set on a level 20ha (50ac) block are two houses and impressive infrastructure, which allow the opportunity to explore a number of pastoral or agricultural pursuits. **Offers Over \$1,100,000**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 6 car spaces



BYWONG 107 SUMMER HILL ROAD

Rural residence with approx. 420m<sup>2</sup> under the roofline on 40 acres of productive grazing land with 5 paddocks, 2 dams and a bore. The home features 4 bedrooms, 2 ens, bathroom, formal lounge & dining in the main residence with an additional bedroom, kitchen, laundry & living area in an attached self-contained flat. **By Negotiation**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 car space



WAMBOIN 192 BINGLEY WAY

Set amongst established gardens in "Old Wamboin" on a 37acre block is this 4-bedroom + ensuite home with approximately 240m<sup>2</sup> of living. Built 10 years ago, the home is north facing and features spacious living areas, a verandah and is surrounded by impressive infrastructure. **By Negotiation**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 car space



GOOGONG 277 FERNLEIGH DRIVE

Stunning 5-bedroom + ens solid brick home on 5.3ha (13ac) block with creek frontage and sweeping rural views. The home features high vaulted ceilings, dbl glazing, ducted evap cooling, gas heating & a number of c'yards for outdoor living. There is a studio with a mezzanine level and a detached self-contained flat. **Expression of Interest New Listing**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

RURAL PROPERTIES REQUIRED...  
to meet strong demand  
from buyers and tenants.  
Call us today on 6262 5122.

For Lease

Hall  
\$1300 per week  
169 Church Lane

LEASED

Picture yourself entertaining in this spectacular home that features 6 bedrooms 3 with ensuites, 2 bathrooms and 4 car spaces. Modern kitchen with granite bench tops, Fire place to reception and bar to top it off.

Luke Jamieson 6262 5122



Inner North & Rural (02) 6262 5122





# Want to join a koala survey?



PHOTO: DR ANDREW CLARIDGE

THE MONARO Southern Tablelands around Cooma, Bredbo and Numeralla will be scrutinised in the coming months for evidence of the elusive koala. Southern Ranges Regional Manager Dave Darling-ton, said the survey would be part of a broader program that began in coastal forests in south-east NSW in 2007.

“The South East Forests Koala survey was the largest Koala survey of its type in NSW and was successful in gathering a considerable amount of information about the distribution and abundance of Koalas that today assists with the longer-term management of the population.

“Koalas exist across the Southern Tablelands but information on distribution could be improved. We hope to build on what we already know and improve our knowledge of koala distribution, abundance, genetic status and browse species preferences in this part of the state.

“Koala surveys undertaken in the early 2000s revealed an important population that was spread through forest and woodland areas to the north-east of Cooma. The extended drought that occurred throughout much of this decade, and associated high levels of defoliation and wildfire, may be impacting on these populations. But, preliminary surveys undertaken late last year indicate that koalas are persisting at least in some of these areas.”

Anyone interested in assisting should contact Luke McLachlan at the Jindabyne office 6495 5555.

# Addicted to SMS but proper spelling preferred

People of a certain age who have not bothered to learn mobile phone text talk can now feel part of the crowd. On the other hand, here’s an opportunity to crib the most popular abbrevia-tions.

Telstra research on the nation’s SMS habits shows half of all Australians dislike receiving SMS that include abbreviations or emoticons, with ‘totes’ (totally), ‘4COL’ (for crying out loud) and ‘wut’ (what) topping the no-go list. Other findings:

- **We love SMS.** One in 10 Aussies sends more than 10 SMSs every day, with the younger generation (18 to 24 year olds) most likely to send upwards of 40 SMS every weekend.
- **We know what we like.** The top five most regularly used SMS abbreviations are – lol (laugh out loud); b4 (before); OMG (oh my god); gr8 (great) and fyi (for your information).
- **And we know what we don’t like.** The top five most annoying SMS abbreviations are – totes (totally); 4COL (for crying out loud); wut (what); l<3u (I love you) and redic (ridiculous).

## Interestingly...

- Almost half of all Australians (46.9%) sleep with their mobile phone on or right next to their bed every night.
- More than three-quarters of seniors (aged 65 years+) send SMSs on a daily basis, with 5 percent sending between six and 10 on the weekend.

Phone company research has finally named a commonly -spotted human type – ‘the Silent Texter’: Whenever there’s a lull in conversation, silent texters pull out their mobile and start texting – they hate awkward silences.

Telstra Country Wide Area General Manager for Capital South East, Chris Taylor, said Telstra customers sent more than nine billion–SMSs in 2009–2010.



## – Gardening –

story and photos by Jo Walker

## THERE MAY BE ONE IN YOUR GARDEN, OR CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF Melaleucas – Paperbarks and Honey-myrtles

THERE ARE over two hundred species of *Melaleuca* in Australia. Their habitats range from rocky outcrops to coastal swamps and just about every type of country between.

There are low-growing species, with others growing to the dimensions of small trees – and flower colours range from white and cream through mauve and purple to shades of red. The flowers, bearing prominent stamens, occur as small or large bottlebrush inflorescences, globular pom-poms or dense clusters along the woody stems.

The common names for Melaleucas are Paperbarks or Honey-myrtles. The former have barks of varying textures – some species provided bark for Aboriginal paintings, others have bark soft enough for bedding or to wrap food in for cooking.

The Honey-myrtles produce sweet nectar, a food source for insects, birds and possums. Some species have very aromatic leaves, and several, including *Melaleuca alternifolia*, are grown commercially for their oils.

### A variety of forms for a variety of settings...

Melaleucas are attractive shrubs, tolerant of a wide range of conditions – the following are some I’ve grown.



*Melaleuca linariifolia* has the common name Snow-in-Summer (above) for a very good reason – in December, the foliage disappears under a cloud of fluffy white flowers, a spec-tacular sight. This one grows naturally along streams, and can reach a height of over 5 metres while retaining a bushy shape.

Another tall, white-flowering species is the Bracelet Honey-myrtle, *M. armillaris*. The flow-ers are small bottlebrushes, up to 10 centimetres long, sometimes with mauve tints as they age. Adding to the attractiveness of this species are the large pink to reddish buds preceding flow-ering.

There are several cream-flowered species worth growing. *M. parvistaminea* is a local plant, sometimes growing in dense populations on moist soils. A medium shrub with dark green

narrow leaves, it carries small spikes of cream flowers, sometimes profusely.

A similar, but much larger shrub is *M. pustulata*, endemic to Tasmania where it grows along river banks and tolerates periodic water-logging. The short spikes of flowers are cream or pale yellow.

A very different cream-flowered Melaleuca is the Grey Honey-myrtle, *M. incana*. The form usually grown is a compact small cultivar named ‘Velvet Cushion’. The dense, pendant branchlets are covered in soft, narrow green leaves, and the top of the little shrub is flattish. One planted over twenty years ago at my place on a well-drained rocky bank of soil dug out when the water-tank was installed is about 1.5 metres tall and nearly 3 metres wide. Although it is a West-ern Australian species, it has survived some quite severe frosts.



### ... in a variety of colours, too!

An attractive mauve-flowered species, the Cross-leaved Honey-myrtle, above (*M. decussata*) – named for the positioning of its leaves along the stems in four distinct rows – is a variable shrub. A form from near The Grampians in Victoria is a rather open shrub, with other forms being more bushy and taller. They bear short spikes of mauve flowers and tolerate moist and periodically wet soils.

*M. thymifolia*, a smaller shrub with narrow, pale green leaves, carries mauve or pink blooms in small clusters of claw-shaped flowers.

*M. violacea* is sometimes called Table-top Melaleuca – a small shrub, it grows to about a metre tall, but is much wider with a usually quite flat top. It has a dense covering of small ovate leaves, and the violet or purple flowers are clus-tered, sometimes profusely, in the axils.

Another purple-flowered species is *M. wilsonii* (from Victoria and South Australia). The flowers on this rather open shrub grow in small clusters right along the woody stems.

A beautiful red-flowered species, the Gran-ite Honey-myrtle (*M. elliptica*) from WA is a medium shrub with grey-green elliptical leaves

“*Honey-myrtles produce sweet nectar, a food source for insects, birds and possums*”

and large, dull-red bottlebrush flowers (right). This one is a favourite plant of the local honeyeaters. I’m fond of it too – it really is an eye-catching plant when it’s flowering.

With such a variety of sizes, forms and flower colours there should be a Melaleuca suit-able for just about every garden.



## Word Search Puzzle – Dogs –

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Ogden Nash quotation.

DEILLOCBASSETHOUNDY  
RRAPEKINGESEDGREOOK  
EREDNUOHYERGNDETISS  
IDWHHLBRATAIRBZUDOU  
RGNIPERHERDASOUMPLH  
RPEUAEEAETNRRXAADB  
EPOGOPHVSRRNOEENLAIL  
TTLMRHSEATICRHACNO  
SEUAEIRBNTAHOBCHMAO  
FHHERRTEWAI PUPSASPD  
FSETNNAEEHMLSETRHSH  
I ZEEIAINUDL RTOESURO  
TR TAPLDAIDL TEHPANEU  
SL SIEDHTOAEYCGPMDKN  
AONRPUOGARNSOPIOTCD  
MHEWASRGOENN RUHYGOS  
NAITAMLADIRIGGWEDCE  
CHOWCHOWPOFGIELDOOP

BASSET HOUND  
BEAGLE  
BLOODHOUND  
BOXER  
BULLDOG  
CHIHUAHUA  
CHOW CHOW  
COCKER SPANIEL  
COLLIE  
CORGI

DACHSHUND  
DALMATIAN  
DEERHOUND  
DINGO  
GERMAN SHEPHERD  
GREAT DANE  
GREYHOUND  
HUSKY  
LHASA APPO  
MALAMUTE

MASTIFF  
PEKINGESE  
PINSCHER  
POINTER  
POMERANIAN  
POODLE  
PUG  
RETRIEVER  
ROTTWEILER  
SAINT BERNARD

SAMOYED  
SCHNAUZER  
SETTER  
SHAR PEI  
SHEEPDOG  
SPITZ  
TERRIER  
WHIPPET

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION: page 16



# COUNTRY BASE FOR RSPCA CHIEF SCIENTIST

by Heike Hahner

FOR DR BIDDA JONES, Chief Scientist of RSPCA Australia and Braidwood resident, and a mother of two young daughters, aged 10 and 12 years, the question of pony ownership had been on the table for a long time.

Her girls took riding lessons for a while to give them an idea of how much time and work was involved in owning a pony. The girls eventually decided not to own one because they felt that they could not provide a pony with its basic rights and needs for company, training, exercise and grooming.

Jones takes her work with the RSPCA and animal welfare very seriously and she says it permeates every decision she and her family make when it comes to owning and living with animals, be they native or domesticated.

Her work with RSPCA Australia carries the heavy burden of setting an example to everyone around her on living with animals, of being effective and making a difference in animal welfare matters nationally and internationally in the case of live export of sheep, cattle and camels.

Her job involves much liaising with government departments and ministers, as well as giving scientific presentations, writing reports and papers for such prestigious scientific journals as the *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour*, and writing books on animal welfare issues.

She says she often collaborates for these papers and books with other top national and international scientists such as Associate Professor Paul McGreevy from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney.



Organising RSPCA scientific seminars is also part of the job and there is an interesting one on the horizon. *All work and no play?*

## Desexing is kind

by Heike Hahner

A FEW months ago a friend of mine rescued a couple of stray cats at a petrol station in Canberra.

The big 'surprise' came when she booked the cats in for desexing: one cat was pregnant. So a little later, my friend and her rather disgruntled, not-so-much-of-a-cat-loving partner saw the New Year in with 11 cats – one of her own, two adult strays and eight kittens.

The reproductive rate of cats is scary. They are a match for any randy rabbit, being able to conceive up to four times a year. The average litter size is five, although in feral cats only two or three kittens will survive. If cats are cared for, most or all of a litter will survive.



*“The reproductive rate of cats is scary. They are a match for any randy rabbit, being able to conceive up to four times a year.”*

Dogs are not quite as prolific. Depending on the breed, bitches come in season every six to ten months and average litter size varies between two and six pups. The problem with breeding more cats and dogs lies in the fact

Different people see animal welfare differently and this is complicated by which animals are included in which categories and related legal protection. For example, dogs such as Greyhounds and working dogs fall into different categories (with different lobby groups active) from companion dogs such as a Poodle or a Labrador.

Jones' household is home to a couple of rabbits, chooks, a very happy, noisy young Kelpie cross and an assortment of native wildlife. By keeping her 'palette' of animals limited, she says she is able to provide each animal with an environment that suits its physical and psychological needs.

*A further interview with Bidda Jones is in the pipeline to unpack some of the hot topic issues in Australian animal welfare.*

that there are simply not enough good homes available for all these animals, especially for cats. This past festive season, rescue shelters and pounds have just experienced one of their worst influxes of cats and kittens.

## The fate of unwanted cats and dogs

According to the National Desexing Network (a nationwide referral system for discounted desexing available to pet owners in financial need) around 23 cats and dogs die every hour of every day in pounds and shelters nationwide. This means close to 210,000 cats and dogs are euthanased every year.

This number does not include such long-suffering breeds as Greyhounds or working dogs, who are dispatched in large, unaccountable numbers when they fail to 'perform'. Also rarely mentioned are the people – the vets, vet nurses and shelter attendants – who have the heart-breaking task of putting down perfectly healthy dogs and cats.

*Continued p14*

*Surveying the landscape this summer with Doug Palmer*

## Cutting and slashing and knowing when to get out

*There's a bright golden haze on the meadow,  
There's a bright golden haze on the meadow,  
The corn is as high as an elephant's eye,  
An' it looks like it's climbin' clear up to the sky.*

— Oh, What a Beautiful Morning,  
Rogers and Hammerstein

THOSE OF YOU who are not trapped in lead-lined boxes will have noticed that there's quite a lot of fuel around now. The hotter weather is beginning to dry off all the grass that has grown over the last few months.

While there's still plenty of green, the rain is getting sparse and there's now plenty of potential for a fire to spread through the growth, as a few unlucky souls have discovered.

So, may I exhort you to cut, cut, cut and cut? At least around your property. I realise that this is something that is easier to say than do, since it chews up time like a giant mincing machine. Anybody looking at my back garden will be saying, "Who's he to tell us to mow our lawns!" But it's still the best advice that I can give.

If you are using a slasher, or anything else that might create sparks, take care. There's enough dry fuel in the grass to catch an errant spark.

So keep an eye out behind you and make sure that you have some means of extinguishing any fire that starts. Being able to say to the fires, "Something started, but we've managed to mop it up before you arrived," has a certain *je ne sais quoi* to it.

## Generous fundraising for Queensland flood victims

It seems a little odd to be talking about fire after the floods everywhere. Various brigades undertake fund-raising activities at DFO, usually to raise money for equipment and such-like. After the floods, the funds raised were contributed to the Queensland premier's disaster relief appeal.



I'd like to thank the members of the RFS, the management of DFO and the extraordinary generosity of their patrons; to the tune of several thousand dollars.

## Plan ahead

The other subject that I want to raise this month is the gentle art of running away from a bushfire. The key decision in going is deciding to go in the first place. And the key part of going is going early.

The aim is to make sure that you are somewhere safe, with random family members all collected, long before the fire arrives. To do that, plan ahead:

- Make sure that you know what (and who) you're going to take. Have a think about pets and livestock and how long it will take to round them up or move them.
- Plan where you're going to go. Areas such as town ovals and other green, open spaces are a good first port of call. Make sure that you have at least two routes to safety.
- Have some mechanism for re-establishing contact if you get separated. Don't rely on mobile phones; if they're still working then everybody else will be using them as well.

## Research advice – DON'T shelter in a car

The main aim here is to make sure that you're



not in your car when the fire arrives. Cars have always been regarded as a very second-best option when it comes to protection.

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Council (CRC) has been conducting some experiments on modern vehicles. Their construction (all that plastic and upholstery) has made things

even more dangerous – to the point that sheltering in a vehicle should be avoided whenever and wherever possible.

If you must shelter in a car, here are a few things that the Bushfire CRC recommends:

- the best place to shelter is in the foot wells, below the windows and under a woollen blanket
- having the air conditioning on does help at the start
- face the front of the car towards the fire
- don't park the car over fine fuels, such as dry grass or litter, since that means that you'll get heat where you're hiding.

If you want more information on what the Bushfire CRC has found, go to [www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/downloads/1011\\_cars\\_firenote69\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/downloads/1011_cars_firenote69_lowres.pdf).

Although I hope that you never have to use your carefully laid plan, knowing that you actually have one gives you a path to safety.

## – RURAL FIRE SERVICE LAKE GEORGE –

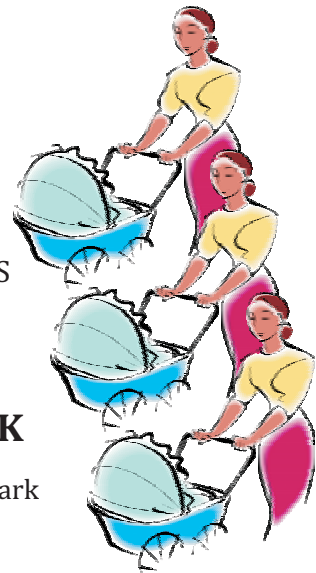
## BRAIDWOOD PRAM WALKING GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY DURING SCHOOL TERMS  
COMMENCING TERM 1 – 2011

**Tuesday's 10am**  
**MEETING AT THE MPB CAR PARK**

Come along for a walk, a chat and a play at the park

**For enquires please contact**  
**Kellie 6128 3688/0427 415 917**





# Oh what a night...

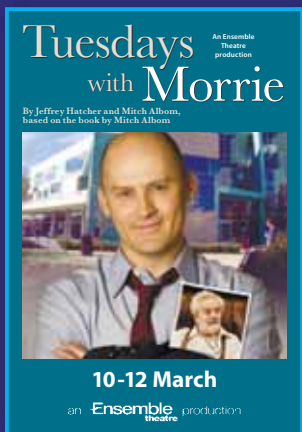
THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Queanbeyan City Council

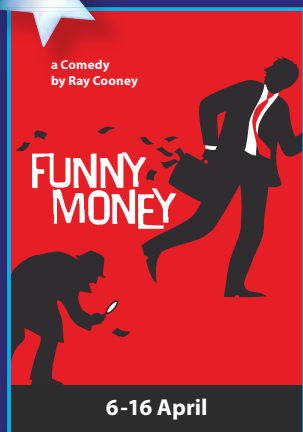
## SEASON 2011

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

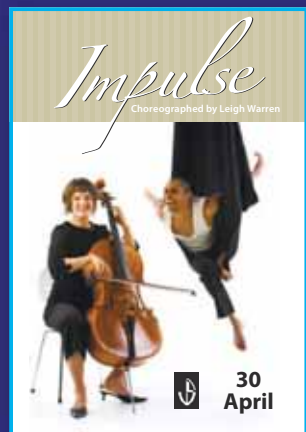
To receive your free copy of the comprehensive season brochure call 02 6285 6290. Further info: [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au)



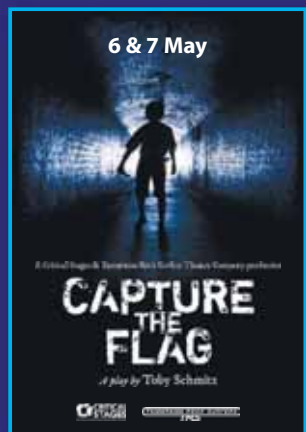
*Tuesdays With Morrie* is the best-selling memoir of all time with over 11 million copies sold worldwide. **"Tuesdays With Morrie must be among the best recent American scripts for two actors. It's hard to beat a story with this much humanity, humour, and wisdom"** – Arts Hub.



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



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



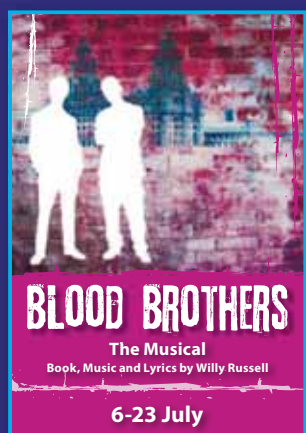
A play about history and our children, warfare and freewill. Award-winning playwright and director Toby Schmitz's new Australian play is a gripping, intelligent and unlikely story that sees coming of age meet historical apocalypse in a unique and immersive theatrical experience.



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



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



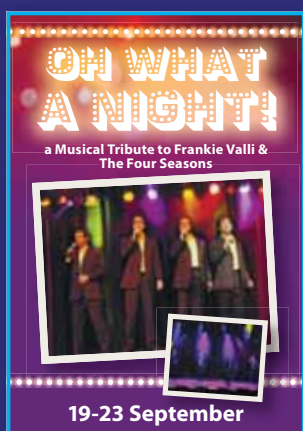
Willy Russell's classic musical *Blood Brothers* set in Liverpool is a story of twin brothers separated at birth who reunite and become friends in their childhood, unaware they are related or of the consequences their relationship will bring. Regarded as one of the all time great British musicals.



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



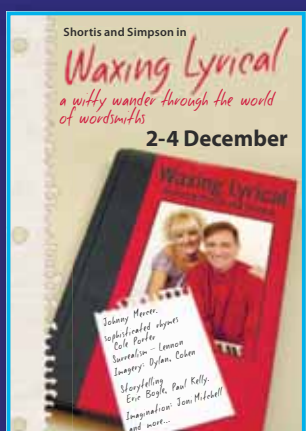
Three of Australia's top cabaret performers join forces to take you on a Magical Mystery Tour of the finest pop songs. Fancy singing along with the na-na-na bit in *Hey Jude*? Wanna give peace a chance? This is the show for you!



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



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



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

# SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE



# It's all in his mind, and yours

by Maria Taylor

IT TURNS OUT that Harry Potter, being the most famous wizard in the world, has a few trends to answer for.

One is the reported denuding of the Indian countryside of owls that are being enslaved in the bedrooms of young, middle-class, Harry Potter fans. If true, this is definitely a bad trend.

Much better is the apparent upsurge in the United Kingdom of a new generation of young magicians who delight audiences with slight of hand and illusionist techniques that seduce the most technocratic minds into accepting the impossible.

Joe Shellard is a sterling example. This young Englishman, who will be appearing at 'The Q' in March, tells me that he read a lot of Harry Potter at the age of 10 and 11.

His parents bought him a magic set and he practiced and did a lot of magic tricks at school. It didn't hurt that this

made him very popular and, already attracted to the theatre and performance, he practiced more. Hey presto, in 2007 Shellard, and another young magician in a double act, were semi-finalists in the Young Magician of the Year Competition, organised by the magician peak body The Magic Circle.

In 2009, at the age of 17, he produced a London magic and illusion show with a cast of three. This sort of thing can't hurt your future brilliant career, I suggested to Shellard over an orange juice in Manuka, not far from Canberra Grammar where he is in the middle of a 'gap year' contract, teaching drama. He allowed with a broad smile that he had a few contacts now. But at the moment he is enjoying Australia, and his drama class at Grammar. The school has links with 'The Q' to study and learn from the ongoing performances there.

In fact it was one such event last year that brought Shellard to the attention of Stephen Pike, 'The Q's' program manager. Pike invited him to give a solo performance after watching him show a few card tricks to the cast and some audience members following a performance attended by Grammar students and teachers. "Joe was doing a few card tricks, and the cast was still talking about him five

weeks later! I had to get him a gig," said Pike.

This young man – who looks like everyone's favourite boy next door, and has the friendly manners of a polished diplomat – demonstrated his masterly grasp of charming an audience at 'The Q' launch in December where he demonstrated what a good 'mentalist' can do to. The impossible you'd say.

## Pick a word from the dictionary

Joe Shellard's performance involved asking for a volunteer from a randomly-selected row in the audience. This person selected a word from the Webster Dictionary. Shellard then proceeded to guess the word (double word in fact) applying some inscrutable deductive methods that took about 10 minutes. How do you DO that?

Learning to read the finer points of body language is very important and so is a good grasp of psychology, and liking to interact with people, says Shellard. "From there it's just magic" he laughed. The net effect is like mind reading and audiences love it. He says creating illusions of this



type is always tricky. You never know if they'll work, but he has a pretty good strike rate.

He got lots of practice working restaurants table-to-table with people trying to trick him with long words.

The peak challenge was a girl who wanted to choose a French word. He doesn't speak French. But with some extra clues he says he got it anyway. Maybe its words forming in the ether? He's not telling.

Elegance and class are two elements that attract him to magic performance which reached its high-point in the Victorian era, but goes back to antiquity, as a tradition with the ancient Egyptians for example. Egyptians created illusions like reuniting a body with a head or exchanging heads between a duck and a blackbird.

If you troll the internet for 'mentalist' tricks who will find websites that offer to tell you all but usually want to sell you a book. Nevertheless a few clues can be found.

Meanwhile catch Shellard's show at 'The Q' on Saturday 26 March at 8.00pm and be amazed! More info [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

## 'The Q' and *Tuesdays with Morrie* inspire young minds

At the December launch of the 2011 program for 'The Q', several young speakers enthused about the theatre's generous outreach to school drama programs both in Queanbeyan and in the ACT. **Miles Thompson** from Karabar High gave a very entertaining speech. Here's an excerpt with a few things he had to say about the theatre and also the upcoming (March) production of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, based on the best-seller of the same name.

I KNOW the theatre was built for the community of Queanbeyan and surrounding areas like Canberra, but I'm afraid those of us who have been part of the Performing Arts faculty at Karabar and other local schools, kind of think we own it now.

You see, while our school has a long history of performing arts, it's invariably involved a series of army-level logistical manoeuvres, with convoluted trips to Canberra for performance dates. Or great shows that faded into the abyss because no-one ever saw them. Then along came 'The Q'.

Karabar's production of *Beauty and the Beast* in April 2008 was one of the first performances in this theatre – and may I publicly record how grateful we were for the Council's bravery in letting a bunch of schoolkids loose in their brand new complex. As a nervous but amorous candlestick with a thick French accent I will never forget the thrill of stepping out onto the stage to a packed house with every one of 'The Q's' substantial facilities at our disposal. Talk about "Be our Guest". It was enough to melt my wax!

Since then, we have waged World War 2 in *The Gods of War*, experienced mutiny by some *Pirates of Penzance* and lots of other educational endeavours. People now tell me school is not meant to be that much fun – but we'll never know any differently ... I am sure many people have been introduced to theatrical events at 'The Q' – and then returned for more. Every seat is a good one in this house – and every performing school student in town knows that!

We all know that Stephen Pike has managed to snare some high quality shows for our discerning tastes (what-



ever they may be) – but as far as encouraging youth in the theatre, he has also been instrumental in ensuring the drama students at Karabar get up close and personal in a classroom with people like John Wood and other cast members from *The Club*. It's awesome, it's inspiring and it's open slather for any question you want to ask. With no curtain in place, we now know what they really think of the industry, its pitfalls, its work ethic and the inspiration they can be without a script. The reality is it is an opportunity we would not have had without 'The Q' – as Mr Wood pointed out to us, the importance of grass roots theatre for the community and the individual performer.

## *Tuesdays with Morrie* – a magical read, an inspiring play

On the subject of school curriculum, I would now like to know why we weren't exposed to gems like Mitch Albom's autobiographical *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Yes, you can read the international bestseller, study the screenplay, see Jack Lemon in the movie, or run down to 'The Q' and take it in as part of the 2011 season. For those who graduated without the benefit of this unique piece of modern humanitarianism allow me to fill you in...

"Maybe it was a grandparent, a teacher or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and impassioned, helped you to see the world as a more profound place, and gave you sound advice to guide your way through it. For Mitch Albom, it was Morrie Schwartz, the college professor who taught him nearly twenty years ago.

"Perhaps, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as the years passed, the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, to ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, and receive wisdom for your busy life the way you once did when you were younger?

"Mitch Albom got that second chance, rediscovering Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Their re-kindled relationship turned into one final 'class': lessons in how to live. *Tuesdays with Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together." ([www.randomhouse.com/features/morrie/](http://www.randomhouse.com/features/morrie/))

It's a book hard to put down. The play is best served if you bring an open mind, bring an open heart, bring thoughts of someone you deeply love, and for heaven's sake bring a handkerchief. This teacher has lessons you may have heard before but I promise, morally, you won't be offended; ethically, you will be challenged; and educationally, it's well worth revisiting. I will be marking the roll on opening night – so if you're not there, you'd better bring a note from your mother...

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is playing 10–12 March. Bookings through 'The Q' box office 6285 6290. Further info [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES —

### National Association for the Visual Arts Grants HURRY CLOSES SOON

JANET HOLMES à Court Artist's Grants of up to \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for groups are to support the public presentation of visual arts, craft and design. This can include, but is not limited to, framing, media releases, media photographs, advertising, space rental, installation costs, promotional printing, mail outs, documentation, freight, travel, equipment rental, insurance, technical assistance and opening costs. More info at [www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes/janetholmes%20C3%A0courtartistsgrant](http://www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes/janetholmes%20C3%A0courtartistsgrant)

Marketing Grants for New Artists are grants of up to \$1,250 for individuals and up to \$2,500 for groups to assist professional visual artists and craftspeople in NSW to effectively promote and market their work throughout NSW, interstate and overseas. More info at [www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes/marketinggrantnswartists](http://www.visualarts.net.au/grantsprizes/marketinggrantnswartists).

Closing 15 February 2011.

### Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award

WANGARATTA EXHIBITIONS Gallery holds a biennial Award for Contemporary Textile Art. Entries for the 2011 Award are now open. Professional artists working in any style of textile media are invited to make an entry for consideration within a competitive assessment process. A judging panel consisting of the Wangaratta Exhibitions Gallery Director and two respected professionals will select a shortlist of finalists for the Award Exhibition at the Gallery from 4 June to 17 July 2011. The value of the Award in 2011 is \$5,000 including GST and this includes the acquisition of the work. Guidelines and entry details online: [www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/CA256B5800826065/OrigDoc/~5FFE77553370A3EFC2577C1001D7A6B?OpenDocument](http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/CA256B5800826065/OrigDoc/~5FFE77553370A3EFC2577C1001D7A6B?OpenDocument).

Closing 25 March 2011.

### Dungog Film Festival | Call for entries

The Dungog Film Festival, the world's biggest festival of Australian films, is now calling for entries to its 2011 program. Dungog showcases only Australian content and presents a range of films and projects to suit a diverse audience. The Festival is calling for entries across all festival categories: feature films, shorts, documentaries, television pilots, music videos and animation. The early bird deadline (discounted entry fee) is 21 February 2011 and the final deadline for all entries is 21 March 2011. The 2011 Dungog Film Festival will take place 26–29 May 2011. For film submission details visit <http://www.dungogfilmfestival.org/>.

Closing 21 February 2011.

### Arts NSW's new website helping towns transform empty spaces into arts precincts

ARTS NSW, the NSW Government's arts policy and funding body, has launched its new website at <http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au/>. The new site features quick links to information about funding and support, creative spaces, news, publications, resources and more. In addition the site presents feature videos and projects from practicing artists, as well as profiling a range of emerging and established artistic and cultural organisations and festivals. Current Arts NSW priorities include supporting creative industries, helping towns transform empty spaces into arts precincts, working with the Aboriginal arts community, and engaging Western Sydney audiences.

— Compiled by Ros Hales  
Cultural Development Officer, Queanbeyan City Council



# BUNGENDORE TO BURGUNDY – PART 3

by Liz Truman

## Bicycling through the French vineyards – an Australian dream – but don't expect a glass of wine before lunch!

Late last year we read how **Liz Truman** and her husband, Peter, went about settling into their French home. Here we read about their two-wheeled adventures through the vines. Liz and Peter split their time between Bungendore and France.

AS THE WORLD knows, the French are avid fans of *le cyclisme* and we drive past many a sweaty weekend warrior pedalling laboriously along the roads near our house. But, for the French, cycling is very much a sport, rather than a leisure activity or a means of commuting; and they take it very, very seriously – especially the men. Of primary importance for them is not so much where they are going, or how fast they are travelling, or even what kind of bike they are riding; their main concern is what they are wearing. They are always fitted out in the latest multi-coloured, logo-adorned lycra shorts and jerseys with the aerodynamically designed helmet and state-of-the-art goggles, gloves, socks, shoes and water bottles.

If you see a cyclist around here dressed in baggy shorts, tee shirt, sandals and a dorky helmet or sun-hat, you know he is not a Frenchman. He is Dutch or Australian. If you see a woman cycling around here, it is me.

My *promenades à vélo* around Marcheseuil necessarily involve a lot of trudging on foot while pushing the bike uphill. So about once a week Peter and I load the bikes into the car, make the short trip to the Canal de Bourgogne or the Canal du Centre and pedal for hours along the canal paths which are obligingly flat, except for gentle rises where they pass a lock. A long ride along a canal, greeting friendly barges and fisherpersons and pausing for a cold beer at a waterside café, is heavily endorphin-producing, I find.

Peter has progressively purchased a veritable stable of old bikes, mainly Peugeots, which he has tinkered with and brought up to scratch for our guests to use. Some of them say that it is the first time they have ridden a bike since they were children.

### Late summer pedalling

We choose a mellow yellow late summer day for a cycle trip through the vineyards, packing the bikes and a picnic lunch in the car and driving east to the outskirts of Chassagne-Montrachet.



When we first saw it in June it was an elegant and tranquil town of stately stone houses, wineries and *caves* with signs tempting the passer-by to enter and taste their wares. Today it is a riot of activity with minibuses transporting grape-pickers to the vineyards, trucks bringing trailer-loads of grapes back to the wineries, and assorted bins and bits of machinery being moved around. The traffic makes the narrow cobbled streets almost impassable, even for cyclists, but we wind our way through it all, enjoying the clamour and sniffing the air which smells of ripe fruit and sulphur.

The gently undulating cycle paths wind around the plantations, through a dark green carpet of gnarled old vines that roll across the valley and up the hills on either side. I can't help but stop and eat some of the fruit; the *pinot noir* grapes are very ripe, shrivelling on the vine.



The pickers, clustered in small groups, are dotted around the landscape. We stop and watch a team of men and women working close to the path. They are calling out to each other in a language I don't recognise, a Slavic language I think, and the women are wearing headscarves.

Some are crouching, cutting the low-hanging bunches which they put into the panniers that others carry on their back. When the panniers are full their bearers walk to the end of the row, bend double and empty them in glorious purple profusion over their head into a trailer. I feel strangely privileged to be witnessing all of this, this beautiful scene that I only ever expected to see in an old painting or in an illustrated book of Bible stories.

### Trouble slaking a thirst before lunch – but maybe it's for our own good

It's tiring work, even for us tourists, so we stop at Santenay for a glass of wine. Here we experience for the first time the French phenomenon of the open, half-full or completely empty, café which turns away customers. It is 11.25am and we alight at the 'café-restaurant' in the square, leaving our bikes in the racks provided. All the tables outside are unoccupied. Some of them are set for lunch but we sit at one of the unset tables.

At around the same time a group of Dutch cyclists arrives and, apparently wanting only refreshments, they too sit at unset tables. Then

we all wait for someone to come out and take our orders (unless you are an acknowledged regular you do not go to the counter of a French café). I take advantage of the delay to go to the toilet and notice that there is absolutely no-one inside except for a man standing behind the bar. After ten minutes a couple of the Dutch men go inside and return with beers. After fifteen minutes, at 11.40, I go inside to inquire about getting some wine but the barman has disappeared.

While I am there the kitchen door bursts open and a middle-aged woman comes storming through, flapping a dishcloth and yelling at me to get out. She goes outside and rails incomprehensibly at everyone else, then marches back inside, slamming, actually *slamming*, the door behind her. Through the open window I innocently call out to her, inquiring whether we can get some drinks. Absolutely not, she says. It is 11.40. What kind of people come to a restaurant at that hour, expecting to be served drinks, when the official lunch period begins in only twenty minutes? I retort that, in fact, we arrived at 11.25, but she is unmoved.

Over the next few months we are to encounter this phenomenon several times, particularly in tourist towns. Many cafés will not serve people who arrive after 11.30am wanting only a drink. Why? Because:

- such people would occupy a table which may otherwise be used by customers having lunch, and/or
- the staff can't serve anyone because they are too busy preparing lunch for customers who haven't arrived yet.

Even if you promise to leave by midday, they won't let you in. Some places even have bouncers at the door to repel undesirables – ignorant foreigners who have no respect for the daily routine of French businesses.

On the edge of the town we come alongside the Canal du Centre and pedal up its path towards Saint Gilles, stopping at a picnic spot to eat our cheese and courgette pickle sandwiches. On the way back through Santenay, at about 1.30, we ride past the café in the square, expecting to see evidence of a brisk lunch trade, but, alas, there is little to be seen. But the woman who drove us away wasn't to know that it would be slow day, was she? And who knows whether that glass of wine that I didn't have would have tipped me over the edge into alcoholism.

*This is the last installment from Liz for now, but not the end of her story – no doubt her adventures of living between cultures and continents will continue. Who knows, maybe some of us readers have been inspired to embark on adventures of our own!*

## A different view of city built on sand



### Hello Dubai

by Joe Bennett

Simon and Schuster  
RRP \$A35

by Di Johnstone

THIS IS a quirky little book by Joe Bennett, a New Zealand writer and newspaper columnist, about one of the most unusual cities in the world. The book's subtitle "Skiing, Sand and Shopping in the World's Weirdest City" pretty much sums up the book and is a good reason for reading it.

Bennett, author of the well reviewed *Where Underpants Come From*, tracing the route of cheap underwear out of China, approached Dubai on the back of vigorous criticism of it. After a brief initial visit he had echoed the views of British journalists who had described it as

brash, cruel and exploitative and predicted the dunes would reclaim a despised city built on sand. But he visited again and returned fascinated – and more forgiving.

Bennett reminds us this is an Arab Muslim state that over 30 years has welcomed thousands of temporary residents, who helped to build it from almost nothing into an extraordinarily successful capitalist economy. He opens with memorable vignettes of western expatriate enclaves in a city built on sand, literally. We read of the lush golf course, beautiful neat houses and gated communities built on dunes, across the road from the desert and slow-moving camels.

It is an artificial world carefully tended by an army of silent, largely invisible low-paid immigrant workers. Then there are the splendid, expensive shopping malls, including one with a massive internal ski slope, and fantastical high-rise buildings. Indeed much about Dubai

## BOOKS, AUTHORS and BOOK REVIEWS



is surreal, including the expatriates (largely western) who live strange but very lucrative lives.

Bennett enjoys but sees beyond the glitz and goes looking for the underclass of immigrants. He seems quite an approachable fellow and succeeds in making superficial contact with individuals living in enclaves largely hidden from the rest of the city. There is a surreal aspect to this, too. Many are from south Asia and, although at the bottom of the heap, are earning more than they could at home. Keen to stay, they don't want to risk attention that could see them required to leave.

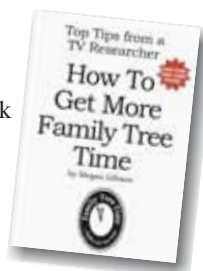
### High rises in stark contrast with old culture in countryside

When, adventurously, Bennett sets off to drive through surrounding Emirates he discovers a hint of Dubai's former culture, often attractively unspoilt. However, there is a stark contrast with Dubai, which has succeeded where other neighbours have not.

Bennett helpfully provides a broad-brush history of Dubai and the region, including about the treachery of the colonial British. The Emirati rulers are enigmatic and shadowy figures – powerful and autocratic phantoms in the landscape.

## Timesaving tips for 'family tree' fans

MEGAN GIBSON is a freelance researcher who recently delved into the family trees of famous Australians, working for the hit genealogy TV show *Who Do You Think You Are?* She has compiled a book of 50 timesaving tips for family tree researchers of all levels, along with practical examples, anecdotes and worksheets, called *How To Get More Family Tree Time – Tips for the Time Poor!*



This easy-to-read book explores topics such as organisational systems, how to make the best use of your time on the internet, the benefits of listing your sources, timesavers when travelling to research locations, getting portable, Megan's Favourite Timesaving Question and more.

Continued p15

He explores, too, the political tightrope Dubai walks in a highly volatile region. He takes a more charitable view of Dubai's success than he had previously, although he points to cracks that could bring it down.

Ultimately this is a travel book. There are acute insights and the writing is entertaining. For those who have never visited, it is a good introduction to Dubai and the Emirates around it. It is an encouragement to visit – and to look below the surface and beyond the obvious. If there was a final message it was if you want to see Dubai in its prime, go soon – as the prime may not last.

**SHEPHERDS RUN**  
AT WAMBOIN

**The Harvest Festival is on again!**

Come for grape stomping, live music, pétanque, market stalls, AND of course our fantastic food and wine.

**Sat 2 & Sun 3 April from 10am–4pm both days.**  
For more info see our website  
[www.shepherdsrun.com.au](http://www.shepherdsrun.com.au)

---

**Opening Hours:**

**Fri:** From 11am – Lunch from 12noon, Wamboin Wine Down from 4pm

**Sat:** From 11am – Lunch from 12noon, Dinner from 6pm

**Sun:** 11am until 4pm – Lunch from 12noon

---

**Telephone 6238 3842**  
**Open 7 Days-a-week for Larger Functions**

**Wamboin Winery**  
**344 Norton Rd WAMBOIN**



# What the world needs now is ...

YES, you are right, it is love, actually. So don't forget – Valentine's Day is coming up on 14 February and also remember "Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love." – Albert Einstein.

Sorry for the terrible cliché, but it's difficult to write about Valentine and not be assailed by quotes such as:

*The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine  
The lot was cast and then I drew  
And Fortune said it shou'd be you.*  
(Anon 1784)

## Once upon a time...

One of the most popular Saint Valentine stories is that he lived in Rome when the country was

under the reign of Emperor Claudius II. Emperor Claudius was hard-hearted (seemed to go with the job) and continuously engaged Rome in bloody battles.

In order to keep fighting, he needed to keep recruiting soldiers.

However, to his disappointment Claudius found that men were not willing to join the army because of their attachment to their wives and families. In order to get rid of the issue, Claudius passed a callous decree that banned engagements and marriages in Rome. He also decreed that anyone who married a young couple would be put to death.

Young men and women found a saviour in Valentinus or Valentine. Even at the cost of



by  
*Peter Davies*  
*Shepherds Run Wines*

his life, Valentine stood against the unjustified order and secretly arranged marriages with the help of Saint Marius (*Christian marriages were particularly frowned upon at a time when Christians were being persecuted, which is why he ended up a Christian saint*). When Claudius finally twigged to Valentine's defiance, he was brutally beaten up and put to death on 14 February, about 270 AD.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their Valentines would be. They would wear these



names on their sleeves for one week, hence to 'wear your heart on your sleeve'!

By 1800, printers had already begun producing a limited number of cards with verses and

sketches, which ushered in the less personal but easier practice of mailing Valentines. That, in turn, made it possible for the first time to exchange cards anonymously, which is taken

as the reason for the sudden appearance of racy verse in an era otherwise prudishly Victorian.

It's easy to blame certain modern greeting-card makers for reinventing Valentine's Day, which just happens to be between Christmas and Easter (a quiet trading period), but that would be cynical of us, wouldn't it?

So what would YOU like to do on Valentine's Day this year? There are many ways of showing a special one your love, such as gifts of flowers, chocolates, perfume, wine, and of course a Valentine's card, but remember the setting can be all important, so be romantic, take your time and plan before hand.

## Speak your love with wine

Speaking of wine, all the local wineries have selections for Valentine's Day, such as sparkling whites and reds, rosé or delicate white wines and more. Give them a call, wine and love match perfectly.

Finally, another quote, this time from the master...

*"No sooner met but they looked;  
No sooner looked but they loved;  
No sooner loved but they sighed;  
No sooner sighed but they asked one another the reason;  
No sooner knew the reason but they sought the remedy;  
And in these degrees have they made a pair of stairs to marriage..."*  
— William Shakespeare,  
*As You Like It*

### Peter says:

*"Come to our romantic Valentine's Day dinner from 6.30pm at Shepherds Run winery, 344 Norton Road Wamboin. Special menu with glass of bubbly on arrival".  
Phone 6238 3842 for bookings.*

*Have a good one,  
Peter Davies, Shepherds Run Wines*

## – MARKET REPORT –

# Bananas and pineapples will be scarce but local produce OK

by *Marcele Martins*

AS WE REPORTED in our last issue, some crops like cherries and mangoes were seriously affected with the unexpected heavy December rains.

Now, with the flood catastrophe in Queensland leaving farms under the water, the seasonal veggie production is ruined.

On top of that, the cyclone in the north of the country (including areas around Cairns, Townsville, Innisfail, Ayr, and Proserpine and more) has punished bananas, sugar cane and other tropical crops. So don't get surprised with their prices in the coming weeks.

Fortunately the weather conditions around us are fine so our local producers are doing very well supplying the markets. According to Dennis Henry from Food Lovers Bungendore, this is the time to take advantage of seasonal peaches, nectarines and grapes – all of them deliciously fresh and easy to find.

Also, Dennis can still guarantee some beautiful Asian greens and tomatoes. So I suggest you increase your salad and stir fry repertoire to colour your summer meals!

**Tips:** Remember that tomatoes LOVE balsamic vinegar and olive oil. And for a special and authentic Asian stir fry, don't forget the flavours found in a good soy sauce, oyster sauce and coriander!



## LAKE GEORGE HOTEL

20 GIBRALTAR ST, BUNGENDORE  
PH 02 6238 1260  
EMAIL – lakegeorgehotel@gmail.com

## WHAT'S ON

<b>Monday to Thursday</b>	Happy Hour 5pm to 6pm
<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday</b>	Schooner Draw – Drawn @ 6pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pool Comp 7pm Cash prizes
<b>Thursday</b>	Key Ring Cash ( <i>jackpots if not won</i> )
<b>Friday</b>	Meat raffles drawn @ 7.30pm Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm ( <i>jackpots if not won</i> ) Live Entertainment* from 7.30pm to late
<b>Saturday</b>	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat NPL Poker Tournaments from 4pm Cash prizes

\*(Refer to Gig Guide for line up)

## THE GEORGE RESTAURANT & BISTRO

— OPEN 7 DAYS —

DOING BREAKFAST ON SAT & SUN MORNINGS FROM 9AM

Lunch: 12pm to 2pm (7 days)  
Dinner: 6pm to 9pm (7 days)

Light refreshments from 2pm till 5pm  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons

Wednesday & Thursday Nights  
\$12 Rump & \$12 Schnitzel

Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday Nights  
Order from the children's menu by 7pm and only pay \$5

We also offer blackboard specials



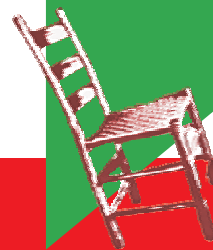
## Visit Bungendore's new Italian restaurant with head chef Angelo

## cafe wood works

on Friday and Saturday nights  
from 6pm

**Jazz 5 March:** Rick Price  
Singing all his hits, including  
Heaven Knows and Not A Day Goes By

Bookings preferred  
**6238 1688**  
18 Malbon Street Bungendore



## ORGANIC AND FARM DIRECT PRODUCE BULK MEAT SPECIALIST



SILVER BIRCH TREES



GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

**6238 0018**  
Kings Highway, Bungendore Village



### BULK MEAT

Yearling BBQ Blade **\$8.99** kg  
Yearling Angus Rump **\$9.99** kg  
Yearling Porterhouse Steak **\$15.99** kg

### FARM FRESH PICKED VEGETABLES

SPINACH **\$1.50** bunch  
ZUCCHINI **\$3.99** kg  
COS LETTUCE **\$1.99** kg

### FARM DIRECT

Peaches **\$3.99** kg  
Nectarines **\$4.99** kg  
Riverina oranges **\$3.99** /4 kg bag



OPEN 7 DAYS

**FOOD LOVERS Café**  
Vegetarian Lunches



## Grant money available

A REMINDER that the Veolia Mulwaree Trust's first funding round of 2011 is now open. Community groups and organisations from the Wingecarribee, Oberon, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Upper Lachlan, Goulburn Mulwaree and Wollondilly Council areas are eligible to apply. Organisations may apply for a donation of up to \$1,000 by filling in a simple one-page form, or may apply for a grant for larger community projects. Guidelines and application forms are available from [www.mulwareetrust.org.au](http://www.mulwareetrust.org.au) or by calling 4822 2786. Four funding rounds will be held during 2011. For eligible organisations, see Veolia ad below.

## Whooping cough: Make sure vaccinations are up-to-date

MURRUMBIDGEE & Southern NSW Local Health Networks Director of Public Health Tracey Oakman has reminded parents to ensure their young child's vaccinations are up-to-date.

"Children should be vaccinated at two, four, six, 12 and 18 months, and then at four years. The four-year-old vaccines can be given as early as three-and-a-half years. It is important children are vaccinated on time," Ms Oakman said.

She said there has recently been a significant increase in whooping cough (pertussis) among primary-school-aged children and a modest increase in high schools. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby and can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and worse at night. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children.

"If your school-aged child has younger siblings, it's a good idea to check that they are up-to-date with their vaccines," Ms Oakman said. Parents who suspect the disease should see a GP.

"It is important that carers are vaccinated so they don't contract pertussis and potentially expose the baby they are caring for," Ms Oakman said.

For more news, see [www.gsahs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gsahs.nsw.gov.au).

## Bungendore Public School Community Fair, Sunday 3 April 2011

BOOKINGS are open for market stall holders. It's a great opportunity to earn some extra money, promote your products and help the school. For more information and to book please contact Mel on 0428 892 338 or Sharon on 0419 027 533.

## Cancer: lifestyle or genetic risks?

THE CLEAR (Cancer, Lifestyle and the Evaluation of Risk) study is being conducted by the Cancer Council NSW to aid the treatment and prevention of cancer by assessing the impact of lifestyle and genetic factors.

Eligible participants are those who have been diagnosed with cancer for the first time in the past 18 months. Participation involves completing a one-off questionnaire (which takes approximately 30 to 40 minutes) and providing a blood sample, the latter being optional. Partners are also encouraged to complete the questionnaire if they have not been previously diagnosed with cancer.

To get involved is simple. All you have to do to register your interest is send an email to [clear@nswcc.org.au](mailto:clear@nswcc.org.au) or call this toll free number (in NSW) 1800 500 894. Alternatively you could visit our website at: [www.cancercouncil.com.au/clearstudy](http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/clearstudy). Information is available in other languages if English is not your first language.

All information collected will be used by the Cancer Council NSW to improve prevention and treatment options for those diagnosed. It will be a big step forward in the fight against cancer.



**BOOKS, WEATHER AND BOOK REVIEWS** *Cont'd from p12*  
"Researching a celebrity's family tree is the same as for you and me," Megan says, "It's just good old-fashioned hard work, although access to many digitised collections, such as newspapers, has sped the process up a bit. One of my highlights was finding long-lost recordings of singer Christine Anu's grandfather. It inspires you to keep going in your own research, as you never know what you will find next."

### Bungendore bound

Gibson says she wants to help people in regional communities who don't always have the access to resources that city people do. So she is coming to Bungendore on Saturday 19 February to give a talk and to sell her book. She'll be at the Bungendore School of Arts on Gibraltar Street, from 2.00–4.00pm.

The cost is \$5 at the door. For more details visit [www.familytreetime.com.au](http://www.familytreetime.com.au).

## SCIENCE IN 2011 – SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

*It seems that 2011 is being feted at the global level for a number of scientific subjects – including chemistry and forests! In addition, this year is an anniversary year for many milestones in science.*

### A big party for chemistry

*Chemistry—our life, our future* is the slogan for

the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011. The year is about increasing public appreciation and understanding of chemistry in meeting world needs; encouraging the interest of young people in chemistry; generating enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry; and celebrating major historical events in chemistry including the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie's Nobel Prize for Chemistry for her discovery of radium and polonium.

*Water: A Chemical Solution* – is a global experiment that will see students from around the world exploring one of Earth's most critical resources. It highlights the role that chemistry plays in issues of water quality and purification and results will be uploaded to a global map.

IYC 2011 events will be held at the local, regional, national and international levels. A full program of events, tours, exhibitions and functions has been planned for Australia celebrating the art and science of chemistry. The national launch of the IYC in Australia was 8–9 Feb at Parliament House in Canberra ([www.raci.org.au/events/event/iyc-2011-national-launch](http://www.raci.org.au/events/event/iyc-2011-national-launch)). Follow events on the website [iyc2011.org.au/](http://iyc2011.org.au/).



with  
**Sonja Chandler**

industry – employing over 86,000 people and with a turnover of around A\$15 billion a year.

Globally, the World Bank estimates that more than 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods.

According to recent statistics, around 13 million

hectares of forests were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year between 2000 and 2010. During this time in Australia, the drought contributed to our loss of forests. 2011 is the year for us to unite and celebrate sustainably managed forests. Info about Forests 2011 in Australia is at [www.internationalyearofforests.com.au/](http://www.internationalyearofforests.com.au/).

### Anniversaries of a scientific sort

If you still need another idea to celebrate 2011 as a year of science, here are just a few events that might provide inspiration:

**100th anniversary of: [in 1911]**

- Thomas Hunt Morgan begins to map the positions of genes on chromosomes of the fruit fly.
- Heike Kamerlingh Onnes discovers superconductivity in mercury cooled close to absolute zero.
- Wilhelm Wien wins the Nobel Prize for Physics for determining the laws of radiation, particularly of the radiation of heat.

**350th anniversary of: [in 1661]**

- Publication of Boyle's *The Sceptical Chymist* introduces the modern concepts of element, alkali, and acid and refutes many of the ideas of Aristotle and Paracelsus on the chemical composition of matter.

**400th anniversary of: [in 1611]**

- Johannes Kepler's *A New Year's Gift*, or *On the Six-cornered Snowflake* is the first published description of the hexagonal nature of snowflakes in the West, although this characteristic was known earlier in China.
- Marco de Dominis publishes a scientific explanation of the rainbow.

From *The Timetables of Science – A Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in the History of Science*, by Alexander Hellemans and Bryan Bunch, 1988, published by Simon and Schuster (ISBN 067162130-0).



### Celebrating and conserving forests

The UN General Assembly declared the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests. It may surprise some of us, but, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, forestry and wood products make up Australia's second largest manufacturing

### DESEXING IS KIND

*Cont'd from p9*

#### Why do they do it?

There are many reasons why people breed dogs and cats, "my dog is so special", "I want him/her to have the experience of fathering/having a litter", "he/she is going to win me the big money", "kittens/pups are so cute", etc.

But nowhere in these statements is there any concern for the animals that are going to be produced. Few producers of pups and kittens worry about or place serious restrictions on where their pups and kittens ultimately end up.

One final issue with desexing is the cost. For the service, some vets charge the equiva-

lent of two weeks pension money for a retiree, thereby contributing to people delaying or not desexing pets at all. My advice would be: shop around as you would with any other purchase as there can be substantial differences in the price charged.

#### For more information:

phone RSPCA ACT on 1300 477 722, 6287 8100 or [www.rspca-act.org.au](http://www.rspca-act.org.au). Also, there is the National DesexingNetwork whose long-term goal is to end pet overpopulation by making desexing more affordable to all. For information [www.ndn.org.au/directory/myarea](http://www.ndn.org.au/directory/myarea) and they can be contacted at [info@ndn.org.au](mailto:info@ndn.org.au) or phone 1300 368 992.

# Veolia Mulwaree Trust

## GRANT & DONATION FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS & CHARITIES

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust invites funding applications to support projects for the benefit of the local community or charitable purposes under its 2011 Community Grant and Donation Program.

The following local community organisations may apply for funding:

- Sporting Groups
- Rural Fire Brigades
- Service Clubs
- Schools
- Preschools
- Progress Associations
- Community Health Services
- Churches
- Charities
- Any other non-for-profit organisation which complies with the community grant guidelines.

[www.mulwareetrust.org.au](http://www.mulwareetrust.org.au)

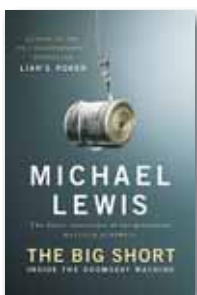
Projects located within the local government areas of Goulburn Mulwaree, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Oberon, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan and Wollondilly are eligible to apply.

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust manages the community trust fund established by Veolia Environmental Services, operators of the Woodlawn Bioreactor near Tarago.

Guidelines and application forms are available from [www.mulwareetrust.org.au](http://www.mulwareetrust.org.au) or by calling (02) 4822 2786



# In the land of the blind, one-eyed is king



## The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday machine

by Michael Lewis

Allen Lane  
RRP \$39.95

by Sarah Newsome

AFTER THE 2008 meltdown in the subprime mortgage market, the question was: how did so many smart people fail to see what was happening?

But a handful of renegade investors did see. And they made a fortune in the bet of a lifetime that author Michael Lewis calls 'The Big Short.' Lewis presents us with a colourful cast of misfits, including Steve Eisman, a foul-mouthed cynic, Michael Burry, a one-eyed ex-doctor with Aspergers; and Charlie Ledley, a kid with "the tangy, sweet smelling aroma of a dropout". Each of them saw through the folly and fraud and found ways to bet against the fiasco, when everyone else thought they were crazy.

And despite the fact that these guys were essentially betting on the collapse of the multi-trillion dollar subprime mortgage market – and by extension, the global financial system – it's hard not to cheer them on. They tried to warn of the impending crisis, but Wall Street was either too greedy to listen or too stupid to care. Each supplied a missing insight, an attitude to risk, which if it had been more prevalent would have prevented the meltdown.

As an insider, Lewis puts together a readable account of some mind-bogglingly complex events and financial transactions.

"The details were complicated, but the gist of this money machine was not: It turned a lot of dicey loans into a pile of bonds, most of which were triple-A-rated, and then took the remaining bonds and turned most of those into triple-A-

rated CDOs ... and then it used credit default swaps to replicate the worst of the existing bonds, many times over." In other words, it turned lead into gold.

*The Big Short* is a roller coaster ride from the origins of the crisis to the collapse of the Wall Street investment banks and bailout by the US government. Along the way we meet "the people who saw it coming, the people who were asleep at the wheel, and the ones who were actively driving it off the cliff".

But this story goes further than just an account of what happened. It reads like a modern day morality tale. And as the best morality tales do, it shows us the culture which allowed these personalities to flourish. It's a "deeply corrupt" system, Lewis says, which "exists to rip people off".

"Greed on Wall Street is a given – almost an obligation. The problem is the system of incentives which channelled the greed."

Take for example, the investment banks which leveraged themselves up to 35:1 in anticipation of short-term gains. Their traders operate without restraint from their CEOs, and no one – not even the bond traders themselves – was fully aware of the risks they are running. And as public companies, those risks have been effectively transferred to shareholders.

Or take the rating agencies, ostensibly there to provide some grown-up supervision. Their risk ratings directly affect the price the financial products are traded for. But their models are flawed and the agencies are hopelessly outclassed by those that seek to exploit these flaws. Agencies also depend on the fat fees they collect from the banks for rating new products. The riskiest of bonds – backed by mortgages almost certain to default – receive the same 'gold standard' rating of US Treasury bonds.

And as for the regulators? As the doomsday machine cranks up, Charlie Ledley becomes sure

that either one of two things is true. Either he's crazy, or the system is rigged. He meets with the SEC and takes them through it, and they simply failed to understand. The SEC never followed up.

As for the humble investor, Lewis has compared them to "a small furry creature raised on

an island without predators removed to a pit full of pythons".

But as scathing as he is about the "crooks and morons", Lewis doesn't fail to comment on government bailouts, while the traders and CEOs responsible walked away with millions.

And the moral to the story? In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.

## ILLUSIONARY EARNINGS: when investors want to believe in a house of cards

- **2005:** Millions of people in the US with shaky credit histories are encouraged to get adjustable rate mortgages – where repayments skyrocket once the low 'introductory' interest rates revert to higher standard rates. Loans are on-sold to investment banks which pool thousands of home loans to create mortgage bonds. The pools are carved into pieces according to risk of making a loss.
- **2006:** The mortgage bond market grows rapidly, outstripping the treasury bonds market. The number of subprime home loans quadruples in a decade, while the quality of underlying loans drops. Bonds show illusory earnings, with increasing mortgage default rates hidden by the pool, and high growth in new loans. Some investors realise mortgages will begin to default once the introductory rates lapse, and bet against the bonds by buying credit default swaps, a form of insurance by triple-A-rated insurance companies such as AIG. Meanwhile, investment banks build pyramids of paper – hundreds of mortgage bond packages called CDOs

(collateralised debt obligations) which are rated better than the original bonds. The CDOs hide the increased risk by complicating it, and thus 'turn lead into gold.' A further product to entice investors is synthetic CDOs, comprised of credit default swaps.

House prices start to fall, and homeowners can't re-finance based on increased home value. Defaults start to happen. Bond prices initially remain stable, as Wall Street props up price.

- **2007:** Demand for mortgage bonds and CDOs backed by subprime mortgage bonds stalls. Most major investment banks, and insurance companies have CDOs which nosedive in value, and the complexity of CDOs and synthetic CDOs make it next to impossible to estimate their exposure. In March, losses total \$240 billion.

- **2008:** By September major investment bank Lehman Brothers fails and Merrill Lynch is bought by the Bank of America. In October the US Government steps in with major bailouts to avoid any further losses.

## 'Build your own boat' THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY IS INVITED



PHOTO: RICKY TOZER

QUEANBEYAN CITY COUNCIL is encouraging entries and inviting the public to the 2011 Queanbeyan Regatta on Saturday 12 March. The regatta is a mix of races on the Queanbeyan River accompanied by a family festival on the river bank and in Ray Morton Park. There will be food and refreshments, information stalls, entertainment and activities for all ages.

'Build Your Own Boat' is the major focus of the regatta every year. "We have had some amazing craft entered, ranging from some exceptional highly-engineered craft to some highly recycled craft," said Philippa Moss, Council Manager of Family Services. "We would particularly like to invite you to consider making an entry for this category. The criteria are fairly broad and creativity will be rewarded and encouraged. The focus is on fun and participation, not speed or engineering brilliance."

### Invitation to participate...

## Queanbeyan Regatta 2011

Saturday 12 March  
2.00–5.00pm



**Boat races (including Kayak/ Canoes and Build Your Own Boat) on the Queanbeyan River along with a family festival on the river banks**

- food and refreshments
- information stalls
- entertainment
- and activities for all ages

Entry forms and information available from  
Queanbeyan City Library or please contact  
Cheryl Rule [cheryl.rule@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cheryl.rule@qcc.nsw.gov.au) or 6285 6522

### Performing at the Lake George Hotel during Australia Day festivities



## – GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

### FEBRUARY:

#### Friday 11

**Music and Poetry**, 7pm, The Provincial Pantry, Village Square Bungendore.

**The Guitar Cases**, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

**Romeo**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

**Hit Parade**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

#### Sunday 13

**Libbie Doyle** (local lass), 3–6pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

**Mick On Wheels**, 8pm, Walsh's Hotel, Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

#### Friday 18

**Al Green**, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

**Crushed Ice**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

**Hit Parade**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

#### Sunday 20

**The Bridge Between**, 5pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.

*Australia Day saw local bands in full swing for fun and for charity. Blues, rock, country and folk are all interpreted by the considerable local talent. Following a now traditional musical jamboree at the Argaet's property in Wamboin the night before, on Australia Day local bands raised money for flood relief with Triple J. On the Friday they raised the roof at the Lake George Hotel with sets by Eagle Medicine, FeralBlu, Sweet Smoke (pictured), and Toadfish Chutney and on the Sunday most of these and other local performers gave freely of their time to play at the Bungendore Show.*

#### Friday 25

**The Morning After**, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

**Backlash**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

**Hit Parade**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

#### Saturday 26

**Adam Hole & Marji Curran**, 8pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.

### MARCH:

#### Friday 4

**R & R**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

#### Friday 11

**Back to Basics**, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Campbell St, Queanbeyan.



# What's On – February

Compiled by Christina Taylor

Send your announcements to [whatson@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:whatson@districtbulletin.com.au)

## EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

Capital Region Farmers Market

8–11am, EPIC grounds, Mitchell, [www.epic.act.gov.au](http://www.epic.act.gov.au).

1st Saturday of every month

Captains Flat Country Market

Captains Flat Community Hall, Captains Flat, 10am–2pm. Old fashioned country market under-cover in the Community Hall, bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email [www.captainsflat.org](http://www.captainsflat.org)

2nd Sunday of the month (bar January)

Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

Queanbeyan River, short distance from Queanbeyan Town Centre on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets. 9am–2pm. Over 100 stalls with high quality craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, handknits, pewter and silver jewellery, children's toys, honey, jam, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Come spend the day, stay for lunch and enjoy the atmosphere while the children enjoy the rides and jumping castle! Call Kristen Ballard 6299 0219.

3rd Saturday of every month (bar July, August)

Wamboin Produce Market

Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–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, 9am–2pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.

Windellama Country Market

Windellama Hall, Cnr Windellama & Oallen Ford Roads, 10am–2pm.

4th Saturday of every month

Braidwood Markets

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Lots of treasures to be found! Call Geraldine Sutton 4847 5061.

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

[www.kingshwytodiscovery.com.au](http://www.kingshwytodiscovery.com.au)

[www.bungendore.com.au](http://www.bungendore.com.au)

[www.visitqueanbeyan.com](http://www.visitqueanbeyan.com)

perpetually on the wrong side of  
from page 8: A door is what a dog is  
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION

Throughout February

Dry Land Exhibition

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, Malbon St, Bungendore, 9am–5pm. Admire works by glass blower, Keith Rowe in this display of exquisite glass full of spontaneity, excitement and passion. The works are based on the artist's forays into the sights, sounds and scents of Western NSW and Queensland. The exhibition will run until 7 March.

Tuesday 8 – Saturday 26

Fantasy and Nostalgia – Paintings by Julie Ballis and Kay Watts

'The Q' gallery, 235 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, Mon–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat 10am–3pm. Julie's nostalgic portraits of well-known film stars of the 1920s reflect her long-term interest in theatre and film, especially of the '20s era while Kay's colourful naive paintings are rich in fantasy and symbolism and it is easy to see why she has been approached to illustrate poems, books and videos.

Thursday 10 – Sunday 13

Australian Blues Music Festival

Various venues around the city of Goulburn. Four solid days of Blues music performed by world class musicians such as: Jan Preston, Ray Beadle and the Doc Neeson Blues Band. For details on performing artists, venues and ticket prices see [www.austbluesfestival.laing-entertainment.com.au](http://www.austbluesfestival.laing-entertainment.com.au).

Friday 11 – Thursday 27

Oklahoma!

'The Q', 235 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The classic musical get a local outing with style and gusto. Set in Oklahoma in 1906, it tells the 'corny' story of cowboy Curly McLain and his romance with farm girl Laurey Williams. For more info on show times and prices visit [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) or call 6285 6290.

Saturday 19

Chat with Megan Gibson – Family Tree Researcher

Bungendore School of Arts, Gibraltar St, Bungendore, 2–4pm. She's delved into the family trees of famous Australians on the TV show *Who Do You Think You Are?* and now Megan Gibson is visiting Bungendore to share timesaving tips for family tree climbers. Entry is \$5 at the door. BYO afternoon tea. More info p12.

Wamboin Bush Fire Information Session

Wamboin Fire Station, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 11am–1pm. The Wamboin brigade will cover bushfire survival, personal and property preparedness and ways to stay informed. There will also be a 15-minute video. Raise any questions with the professionals and discuss fire safety with your neighbours. Refreshments provided. Details at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/firebrigade/>

Race Meeting at Braidwood 'Braidwood Cup'

Braidwood Showground, Kings Hwy. The Braidwood Jockey Club invites you to a fantastic day at the races in the country. There are fashions in the field. Bring a picnic and soak up the atmosphere. Racing gets underway at 1pm with the highlight being the 'Braidwood Cup' at around 3.30pm. For more information, contact 4842 2623.

Friday 19 – Saturday 20

Summer Rhythm Festival

Goolabri Resort, Goolabri Drive, Sutton. The two-day festival focuses on roots, reggae, funk, dub and electronic – anything with rhythm! Bands include The Beautiful Girls, The Red Eyes, Los Chavos, and heaps more. This is an 18+ event and all proceeds go to Beyond Blue. For tickets and details visit [www.summer-rhythm.com.au](http://www.summer-rhythm.com.au).

Thursday 24

Live Animal Exports

Manning Clarke House, 11 Tasmania Circle, Forrest, 5.30–7.30pm. Learn about the issues that make this trade so controversial. Australia is the world's largest exporter of live animals. Every year millions of sheep, thousands of cattle and other animals leave Australian shores bound for slaughter in other countries. \$15 for non-members/ \$10 for members (includes wine and nibbles). Bookings essential – Please RSVP by phone 6295 1808 or email [info@manning.clark.org.au](mailto:info@manning.clark.org.au).

Friday 25 – Sunday 27

Royal Canberra Show

Exhibition Park, Flemington Rd, Mitchell. Canberra's largest all-ages event is staged annually by the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society. With agriculture at its core, the Show has broadened to reflect more entertainment, educational features and exhibitions. There's something for the whole family! For details visit [www.rncas.org.au](http://www.rncas.org.au).

Saturday 26

Wildlife Rescue Course

Braidwood Servicemen's Club, Coronation Ave, Braidwood, 10am–4pm. The Native Animal Rescue Group (NARG) is holding a basic wildlife rescue and first aid course. The course is free! NARG and members of the public are welcome to attend. To register your interest contact Lesley on 6238 3717 or [machin4@bigpond.com](mailto:machin4@bigpond.com).

Sunday 27

Pony Express Challenge

Bungendore Showgrounds, Mathews Ln off Bungenore Rd, Bungendore. An exciting day with three challenges open to riders of all ages and their horses! For details visit [www.brc.org.au](http://www.brc.org.au).

– Plan ahead for March –

SHOWTIME!

Friday 4 – Saturday 5

Community Art Show

Queanbeyan Public School (QPS) is holding its inaugural Community Art Show in the school hall, Isabella St, Queanbeyan. On show will be quality art work, primarily from local artists, available to purchase. The Art Show will be the school's major fundraiser for 2011 and will be enjoyed by the Queanbeyan community as a whole. Artists interested in showcasing their work should contact Melinda Hayward on 0417 692 578 or email [mshcwhayward@bigpond.com.au](mailto:mshcwhayward@bigpond.com.au).

Saturday 5

Braidwood Show

Braidwood Showground, Kings Hwy, Braidwood, from 9am. This event offers something for all ages including horse, sheep, cattle (both commercial and led), poultry and dogs sections as well as junior pets. There will be sideshows, sheep shearing and a wide range of industrial displays, school works and entertainment events. For more info visit [www.braidwoodshow.com.au](http://www.braidwoodshow.com.au).

Rick Price 'The Essentials' Tour

Cafe Woodworks, Malbon St, Bungendore. In this solo acoustic show, Rick Price connects with the audience with his extensive repertoire of story telling ballads and soulful rhythm and blues songs. Tickets are \$78 to \$85 which also includes a 4-course dinner. To book call Cafe Woodworks on 6238 1688.

Sunday 6

Tarago Show

Tarago Showground and Entertainment Area,

Braidwood Road, 9am–5pm. A great country show featuring a championship dog show, reptile display, shearing competition, vintage cars and engines plus competitions for children of all ages. Entry \$8 adults, \$4 concession, children under 16 free. For more info call 4849 4222.

Clean Up Australia Day

Various locations – from 9am. Confirmed locations include: Queen Elizabeth Park, cnr of Morisset and Collett Sts, Queanbeyan and in Bywong, Macs Reef Rd, Bungendore Rd and the Old Federal Hwy and their respective feeder roads. To register a Clean Up Site online or to find local sites where you can register as a volunteer, visit [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au).

10–12 March

Tuesdays with Morrie

'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. "A surprisingly funny and tender play, full of quick one liners and insightful banter, beautifully performed" (*Australian Stage online*) More details p10. Info on show times and prices visit [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) or call 6285 6290.

Thursday 10

French-themed Charity Concert

Albert Hall, 6.30–8.30pm. Albert Hall's 83rd birthday will be celebrated with a French-themed opera concert. The Embassy of France is associated with the event and the featured performer is renowned baritone, Christian Beste. Tickets are \$25 (adult) and \$15 (concession) and all proceeds go to Cystic Fibrosis Australia. To book, call Hilda on 0422 805 196 or email [concertcharity@yahoo.com.au](mailto:concertcharity@yahoo.com.au).

Saturday 12

Queanbeyan Regatta

Details p15. Human-powered boat races. The popular Queanbeyan regatta is back for 2011 with racing challenges for do-it-yourself boat builders, canoeists and kayakers. Register now. A family festival is happening alongside in Ray Morton Park.

Saturday 19

'Capital Punishment' Mountain Bike Race

The racecourse links the fabulous single track riding around the Nation's Capital. Kowen Forest, Sutton Rd XC track, Majura Pines and Stromlo Forest Park all feature! Visit [www.capitalpunishmentmtb.com.au](http://www.capitalpunishmentmtb.com.au) for more info.



Look out  
for special themes  
during  
February and  
March

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

Every Friday until 25 March, 5–8pm

Now at 253 Crawford Street – in the courtyard outside the Library and in the Conference Centre



For more information contact:

Ros Hales 6285 6170

or [ros.hales@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ros.hales@qcc.nsw.gov.au)

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

**PETER BLACKSHAW**  
MARKETING QUALITY PROPERTY

**Rural Property Guide**

FEBRUARY – see p7