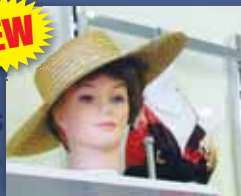




# Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

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Other Australians of the year

## Standing between us and catastrophe



PHOTO: BEN SHEPHERD



PHOTO: IAN COLLETT



**January 2013.** 'Hot as blazes' with high winds and 'catastrophic' fire conditions were forecast for Palerang, Queanbeyan and other parts of south-east NSW in early January. Indeed due to lightning strikes (cause of the Sand Hills Road fire east of Bungendore) or human carelessness with slashers and grinders, fires did challenge the greater region during that week.

They were countered by local brigades of the NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue

NSW, the ACT RFS, and backup up by the SES, as well as businesses and individuals who helped with food and supplies. In other places, fire-fighting brigades were joined by National Parks and State Forest personnel. Together they battled to contain fast-moving grassfires in searing 40 degree heat with high winds blowing burning vegetation everywhere.

Thanks to all the 'firies' and the coordination from the Lake George operational command, no structures were lost, the fires didn't spread

and no human lives were endangered in our area. In neighbouring Yass region conditions were out of control for longer: graziers lost their farm infrastructure and fodder and stock deaths were horrendous. Reportedly some 10,000 sheep and cattle died in that fire and more were euthanased afterwards. As always, the full number of wildlife dead and injured is unknown in these events.

The *District Bulletin* salutes the brave men and women who stand between us and the potential for catastrophe on the bad days and who voluntarily go out on a regular basis to face hard physical work (lugging heavy firehoses uphill for example) and often danger as they combat the 'everyday' fires that get away from people.

> **Fire focus:** How did we get to this situation? 3; Social media 5; Bungendore vehicle woes 7; Pets and wildlife 15

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**Contact The Bulletin**

**Send letters and enquiries to:**

Editor: Maria Taylor  
0418 731 691

Editorial: [media@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:media@districtbulletin.com.au)  
PO Box 302, Bungendore NSW 2621

**Contacts advertising:**

Maria 0418 731 691

— **Advertising Features** —  
Robyn Hall 0458 018 835

or email [adverts@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:adverts@districtbulletin.com.au)

**Associate Editor:**

Christina Taylor

**Editorial Contributors:**

Stephanie Anderson, Sonja Chandler,  
Heike Hahner, Rose-Marie Johnson,  
Di Johnstone, Karen Lovatt,  
Sarah Newsome, Doug Palmer,  
Nichole Smith, Jo Walker,  
David Weldrake

**Design, advertising and production:**

Sue Van Homrigh  
[sue@graphicgesture.com.au](mailto:sue@graphicgesture.com.au)

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# How Australians were persuaded to go ‘wot me worry?’ on climate change after once knowing the risks quite well

“SYDNEY will suffer twice as many days of extreme heat, four times as many severe storms and far worse flooding from huge increases in torrential rain, according to the latest predictions of how NSW will fare under the greenhouse effect.”

The *Sydney Morning Herald* published these words in 1995. The article by technology writer Gavin Gilchrist detailed a CSIRO report headlined *Greenhouse Effect Will Cause Havoc in NSW*. At that time global warming/climate change was called ‘the greenhouse effect’.

The article warned of the increased risk of extreme heat and therefore fire, severe thunderstorms and torrential rains as the likely impacts of global warming. These are now what we are coming to grips with globally as severe and catastrophic weather events. The article was far from the first on this topic.

As early as 1980 *Playboy* magazine had an indepth article on the subject quoting Australian scientists. *Newsweek* did a cover piece in 1987.

A review I did of Fairfax mainstream and business press articles from the end of the 1980s and into the early to mid 1990s, yielded hundreds of stories focused on the risks posed by the greenhouse effect on weather events, on public health, on biodiversity, on Pacific islands, on Australian coastal communities and to society in general, including the likely impacts on gardening and holidaying in the Maldives.

These articles as well as government documents and popular books all readily ascribed the cause of the greenhouse effect to burning fossil fuels in industrial societies.

Science and environment writers were still sounding the alarm in the mid 1990s. *Sydney Morning Herald* writer Bob Beale in 1996 wrote about Australia’s coal focus and its impact. He wrote it would take 420 million new trees to soak up the estimated 281 million tonnes of greenhouse gases related to the output of a new Hunter Valley coal mine, according to government calculations. (*In context, in 2004 Australia’s total greenhouse gas emissions as a country were 564 million tonnes.*)

## We were ready to act in 1990

The evidence clearly shows that over the last two decades there has not been a one-way road from lesser to better public knowledge of climate change and response action. In fact the opposite has been the case.

Twenty years ago climate scientists spoke clearly and openly about global warming and the risks of climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions particularly from burning fossil fuels. Leading politicians of both parties (*yes, bipartisan*) and the media amplified this message.

Following two major climate change conferences and community forums organised by the CSIRO in 1987 and 1988 one researcher called Australians the best-informed public on the planet on this topic.

In October 1990, the Hawke federal government established an interim emission re-



PHOTO: CHRISTINA TAYLOR



duction target for the nation to lower greenhouse gas emissions 20% below 1988 levels by 2005.

Every state and territory drew up a detailed response plan. Every strategy known today to lower emissions, from efficiency and renewable energy to a carbon tax and emissions trading scheme was known then. The original Landcare one million tree planting program was started with the greenhouse effect partly in mind.

## The story for public consumption changed dramatically

But something happened. Communication from Australian policy makers and the media started to change dramatically during the 1990s to a confused and conflicted political debate by 2001 (and since) and a loss of will to act.

The state plans would soon wither as deregulation focused the energy sector on competitive sales and profits rather than managing demand for efficient use.

Where once there had been a clear narrative about risk to the whole society and a global responsibility to act, Australians were now told not to worry, that the whole ‘debate’ was too uncertain and that prompt action was not in Australia’s national and market interests.

In fact, the scientific advice to governments by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1990 has remained consistent and clear about causes, substantial risk and the need to respond sooner rather than later.

## Beliefs trumped the science

Guiding beliefs that took hold of the country in the 1990s included Australia’s destiny as an export coal and other resource quarry and a source of ‘cheap’ energy; beliefs in a techno-fix down the road that would disappear troublesome greenhouse gas emissions (eg clean coal); beliefs that caring

for the natural environment should be framed as a cost not a benefit.

Underlying, are beliefs that humans are exceptional and outside the ecological laws governing other species; such beliefs are widely held in western Christianity and therefore easy to target with coded language.

**How and why the Australian people were persuaded to radically change what they once thought they knew about global warming/climate change is a history of government and media reframing a science story to tell us how to think about it. It shows how we (and other English-speaking democracies with similar values) have wasted 20 plus years of opportunity to slow down climate change and the threats it poses to all of us.**

— Report by Maria Taylor (PhD 2012)

In the 1990s were added a whole raft of beliefs about markets ruling society and about their innate efficiency (*so we could not demand that industrial production be more energy efficient*). These beliefs were embedded in neo-liberal, economic rationalist teachings which everyone came to accept as ‘normal’.

Different academic beliefs played a role.

A standout group has been older geologists, many of whom were taught that only measurable on-ground evidence is valid. They amongst others rejected computer modelling of future events. This helps explain some of the enduring sceptic fervour that has confused the public.

It did not help either when (*sometimes in response to the sceptics*) climate scientists talked in degrees of ‘scientific uncertainty’. Lay audiences tend to interpret this standard scientific language as ‘don’t know’ and it greatly aided those who don’t want action.

After 1991 Prime Ministers Paul Keating and then John Howard were preoccupied with the economy and climate change policy disappeared into the bureaucracy – with environment on the losing side to trade and industry and eventually completing the transition to ‘can’t do’ under Howard.

Politicians became adept at framing can’t do messages with warm emotional values of nation and family – evoking ‘us’ against ‘them’ ie the greens, the Europeans the United Nations, the elites and outsiders trying to rob us of our jobs and businesses.

— Adapted from an investigation I undertook in recent years at the ANU on the communication of climate change in Australia between 1987 and 2001, what happened, how it was managed, and why.

## What’s caused Australia’s heatwave?

## And how it’s linked to climate change

by Neil Plummer, Blair Trewin, David Jones, Karl Braganza and Rob Smalley  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
(published 18 January. Named days refer to the weeks before this date.)

AUSTRALIA started 2013 with a record-breaking heat wave that lasted more than two weeks across many parts of the country. Temperatures have regularly gone above 48°C, with the highest recorded maximum of 49.6°C at Moomba in South Australia.

The extreme conditions have been associated with a delayed onset of the Australian monsoon, and slow moving weather systems over the continent.

The current event affecting much of inland Australia has definitely not been

typical. The most significant thing about the recent heat has been its coverage across the continent – and its persistence. It is very unusual to have such widespread extreme temperatures – and have them persist for so long.

The last two weeks surpasses the only previous similar hot spell in the historical record (since 1910) – a two-week country-wide hot spell during the summer of 1972–1973. On January 7 and 8 the temperature rose to over 40°C.

Continued p14



# Cheers to the fire fighters What will government cuts do to future response?

THERE ARE some weeks to go before fire season is over but we have already seen the magnificent work of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and our emergency services protecting us this summer. Unfortunately we have also seen appalling conditions lead to the loss of houses and thousands of head of stock and wildlife.

I acknowledge and thank the RFS volunteers who give their own time and put themselves in difficult and trying conditions to protect us and our properties. It is also important to thank and acknowledge all the services involved including the SES, Fire and Rescue NSW, Police, local council staff, National Parks, Forests NSW, DPI, LHPA, Salvos and many others.

In our area we have seen a lot of looking back at the 2003 fires over the last few weeks and I think we can see that we are now much better prepared.

When I was Minister for Emergency Services, and again at the fire control centres I visited in the last couple of weeks, I noted just how well everyone works together.

That's because NSW got it right in ensuring that everyone knows exactly who is in charge and what the roles are – you might think that's fairly obvious but in Victoria in 2009 that wasn't the case.

## RFS, DPI cuts

Amidst all the good work has come a worrying note for the future. The government has demanded cuts from the RFS. Bizarrely, rather than admitting the cuts and addressing them the minister and some government MPs sought to fib about them.

They claimed there are no cuts and even claiming the last Labor Government cut funds (in fact it substantially increased them). Given the RFS commissioner wrote to all staff saying they had to make cuts to meet government targets, the government's comments seem disingenuous.

What we know is that 24 RFS staff have been made redundant and that 2012 saw the lowest number of new or refurbished tankers rolled out for over a decade (177). We don't know yet what the impact will be on training and support for our volunteers.

Other area cuts that could affect future responses are in the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). DPI and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) have been helping farmers treat stock and find fodder

for the surviving animals. It's a tough job, many animals have to be put down and we know that farmers have lost many thousands of head.

In our local area my last information is that the fire near Cooma saw at least 2,450 head die and more than 200 kilometres of fencing destroyed. I have been told that the Sand Hills Road fire between Bungendore and Braidwood didn't see stock deaths as high but still it has kept the local vet and DPI busy.

Will they be there to help in future? Budget cuts mean our area has already lost our valued agronomist and it's clear that DPI will have far fewer expert staff on the ground.

## Still time to comment on catchment service boundaries

We've seen over the last couple of weeks what a great job DPI staff do. The problem is the minister's new structure and budget cuts have not considered future emergency responses.

In my last column I highlighted the need to comment on boundaries for the new Local

Land Services (LLS), the new structure with fewer staff on the ground is part of the same restructuring.

Unfortunately it is too late to stop the cuts – the minister went ahead with those without consultation. It's not too late though to comment on the structure and role of the new

LLS and I would urge people to get onto the DPI web site and make sure their opinion is heard.

Interested members of the community can provide input through the Have Your Say site: <http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/local/landservices> which also has dates for the upcoming community consultation workshops.

After every major fire season our emergency authorities take a careful look back to see what they could do better in future. After this one they will be able to say generally that we were well prepared for a very difficult and challenging set of conditions and our emergency services performed well.

I only hope that government budget cuts don't see us lose vital elements of that preparedness in the longer term. ■

## NSW Capital Watch



with  
Steve  
Whan

# Shooters and national parks

*Next month the NSW Government will start to make good its controversial political trade off: recreational shooting in national parks in return for the Shooters' Party's two votes in the Upper House to sell off more electricity assets.*

*Graham Scully on behalf of the Kosciuszko Huts Association (and Graham is a local resident too) says this cynical deal is highly risky to humans and native wildlife and deeply incompatible with the values behind the creation of national parks. Many of the parks in Palerang's and Queanbeyan's immediate vicinity will be affected.*

SEVENTY-NINE national parks, nature reserves and conservation areas have been selected for so-called 'conservation shooting' by amateur shooters. In the southeast, affected parks include Southeast Forests (inland from Merimbula), Tallaganda (between Queanbeyan and Braidwood), Wadbilliga (west of Cobargo), Morton (east of Braidwood) and Kosciuszko.

National parks were established to protect the native flora and fauna, and are also there so that Australians and overseas visitors can enjoy these lovely places and learn about our unique environment, heritage and culture.

Up to now, they have been places where people go seeking peace and tranquillity, where families, young people from Scouting, Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and Out-

ward Bound go in safety to experience and learn about our wonderful Australian bush.

There are over 50 historic huts and homesteads in Kosciuszko National Park, visited and loved by people of all ages from all walks of life.

The Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) has been caring for these huts and homesteads for over 40 years, as well as recording histories. We have over 550 members from all states and with members of affiliated clubs and organisations our reach is around 2,000 individuals.

The KHA is appalled at the prospect of amateur shooters being handed access to Kosciuszko National Park, the largest and most popular park in NSW. From 1 March every visitor will be asking "will I come across a shooter?"

*Cont'd next page*

## Opposition says NSW Govt cannot assure biosecurity

THE O'FARRELL government has no credibility in asserting that NSW biosecurity protection will not be affected by budget cuts to the Department of Primary Industries and the move to form Local Land Services, according to Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan.

"Biosecurity is all about protecting our state from pest and plant and animal diseases like equine influenza, foot and mouth, Newcastle disease and even locust plagues.

"The problem is that the O'Farrell government still hasn't finalised the structure, funding, governance or even boundaries of the Local Lands Services, but it has cut 50 biosecurity jobs from the department along with many other specialists and on the ground staff.

"Cutting 50 biosecurity staff is a massive blow to our state's ability to defend itself from the potentially devastating impacts of pests and diseases. There is no way that what the minister claims will be a 'more efficient' structure can go anywhere near making up for the loss of staff."

**"We rely on those 70,000 generous people who give their time to our Rural Fire Brigades without whom there would be massive loss of property and life."**

To help them, over 200 new or refurbished tankers were rolled out each year from 2003 to 2011, personal protective equipment improved and many fire control centres and sheds were built.

NSW increased aerial support and that means that now we have greater capacity to attack fires in remote locations quickly and effectively. My memory is that in 2003, over 100 fires started in our area from lightning strikes – in one night.

When that happens now we can attack many more of those fires quickly from the air to support and supplement the efforts of local brigades. Other initiatives included better public education and information, new fire danger ratings enhanced strategic hazard reduction, mitigation crews, etc.

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# Social media for unsocial emergencies

## How good is it?

by Christina Taylor

THE RFS warned us that in the ‘southern ranges’ 8 January 2013 was not going to be “another Australian summer day.” We’ve heard the tragic stories too many times, “They ignored the warnings, and when they tried to get out it was too late.” It was an anxious night, but as January 8 dawned many people chose to stay.

As the day progressed and weather conditions deteriorated, some people, faced with a first time ‘catastrophic’ warning, may have been unsure how to access information and reliable sources on firefronts. Some residents of Palerang, particularly those in Captains Flat and Braidwood, struggled to get a signal for the emergency broadcaster ABC 666AM – some received no signal at all.

The RFS website crashed for a time during the day due to the volume of hits so people also turned to the official RFS and other social media accounts – Twitter or Facebook or the smartphone app *Fires Near Me*.

Tim Carroll, district manager for the Lake George Zone (*which includes Palerang and Queanbeyan*) told the *Bulletin* that the RFS has responded to increasing use of social media with a Facebook page at state level and with several Twitter feeds.

### Website, Twitter or Facebook?

“During the fire that rapidly escalated east of Bungendore on Tuesday 8 January social media played a role for residents and travellers,” he said. However the website would normally be more up-to-date. “Lake George zone provides situation reports to head office. Within a minute the webpage is updated without human intervention,” he said. “Twitter or Facebook feeds on the other hand need someone to type them in.”

But social media is catching on, not least at the local council sites. This opportunity may have confused some residents regarding where they should look first. On January 7 a concerned resident wrote on the Palerang Council’s Facebook page questioning the lack of information regarding the fire danger.

On January 8 Palerang Council posted on Twitter 121 times and just four times on Facebook. The Twitter posts (tweets) consisted of road closure notices, general

safety advice, weather updates and dozens of shared (*retweeted*) links and updates from other local Twitter users.

Councils are not obliged to provide emergency updates, but when they do, it would be useful for residents to know where to look.

Palerang Councillor Peter Marshall raised concerns about social media use during potentially urgent situations and repeated the official position that the council should not be the first port of call as a source of information. Rather, people should be going to the RFS website. Palerang Mayor Pete Harrison agreed and that message also appeared on the council’s Twitter feed (*examples below*).

Councillor Marshall’s concerns about weaknesses of social media were validated when rumours of evacuation orders in Bungendore and Braidwood spread on Twitter during the catastrophic day.



However, on the official RFS Twitter feeds, rumours can be quickly addressed. “We have people that monitor social media and correct misinformation that appears,” said Tim Carroll.

Councillor Marshall also noted that not all residents have access to social media. “Accessing Twitter or Facebook means having a

*From a 1985 NSW Department of Bushfire Safety publication on property layout and risk management. The message has not gone out of style!*

## SHOOTERS AND NATIONAL PARKS

They will dread the day when they arrive at a hut after a day’s walk to find a group of camouflaged men in possession of lethal weapons. Total visitor numbers to the area are likely to fall with impacts on many local businesses.

### Serious risk acknowledged by government

#### New Zealand experience shows the way

We fear the consequences for the rights of visitors, especially their right to safety. The risk assessment by National Parks and Wildlife Service in December warned of a “major risk” that bushwalkers, park staff, Snowy Hydro personnel and search and rescue volunteers could be killed or seriously injured.

The New Zealand experience is that over the past ten years nine people have been shot and killed in national parks, three in 2012. The latest fatality was in July

*Cont’d from p4*

2012 when a shooter mistook the orange beanie of his mate for “fur” and at 16 metres, shot and killed him.

Already the numbers of illegal amateur shooters is increasing and no additional funding has been allocated to supervise the amateur shooters, in fact, funding has been progressively reduced over the past few years.

### No confidence in Game Council

Kosciuszko Huts Association has no confidence in the Game Council, the body tasked with supervising the ‘conservation shooting’ program. The Sydney media reported in mid-January that a top Game Council official was suspended in relation to a police investigation over allegations arising from an incident in western NSW.

According to the Sydney media report, this involved a Game Council vehicle allegedly breaking a fence and entering a privately-owned cattle station from a

computer connected to the internet, or a smartphone with reception. Phone reception isn’t universal in Palerang,” he says.

### Monitor several sources

Therefore the best advice seems to be to keep an eye and an ear on several sources, as one may fail.

Carroll acknowledges that phone calls to 1800 NSW RFS indicate there was some uncertainty in the community about what to do during a ‘catastrophic’ or ‘severe’ fire warning. He advises that the warning means people should activate their individual bushfire survival plans, “and if you leave, leave early. It will vary with how people can cope physically and emotionally”.

If staying in a bushfire-threatened area, he recommends listening to local ABC radio as a primary strategy, while recognising the difficulties in some rural areas. Therefore have several options available.

“Have the RFS webpage open, the radio on and go outside and judge for yourself from time to time,” says Carroll. Fire and Rescue NSW also has a webpage. All have Twitter feeds and Facebook. [See box this page]. The *Fires Near Me* mobile phone app is another option and when traveling the RMS (Roads and Maritime Services) website is very helpful to check for road closures. ■

### Lot of viewing going on In New South Wales 1–22 January

- 8.5 million visit to the RFS website
- 27 million views of the Facebook page
- 15 million hits on Twitter
- 26,000 calls to the information line 1800 NSW RFS
- 3,000 media phone calls.

### Social media suggestions

#### Official Sources

- **Official NSW RFS Facebook** – [www.facebook.com/nswrfs](http://www.facebook.com/nswrfs)
- **Official NSW RFS Twitter** – [www.twitter.com/nswrfs](http://www.twitter.com/nswrfs)
- **Fire & Rescue NSW** – [www.twitter.com/firerescuensw](http://www.twitter.com/firerescuensw)
- **NSW RFS Fires Near Me** smartphone app

#### Secondary Sources

- **NSW RFS Incidents** [www.twitter.com/nswrfsincidents](http://www.twitter.com/nswrfsincidents)
- **Bungendore RFS** [www.twitter.com/bungendorerfs](http://www.twitter.com/bungendorerfs)
- **NSW Bushfire Notices** [www.twitter.com/nswbushfires](http://www.twitter.com/nswbushfires)
- **NSW SES Bungendore** [www.facebook.com/NSWSESBungendore](http://www.facebook.com/NSWSESBungendore)
- **Palerang Council** [www.twitter.com/palerangcouncil](http://www.twitter.com/palerangcouncil)
- **Queanbeyan City Council** [www.twitter.com/QueanbeyanCity](http://www.twitter.com/QueanbeyanCity) [www.facebook.com/qbncity](http://www.facebook.com/qbncity)

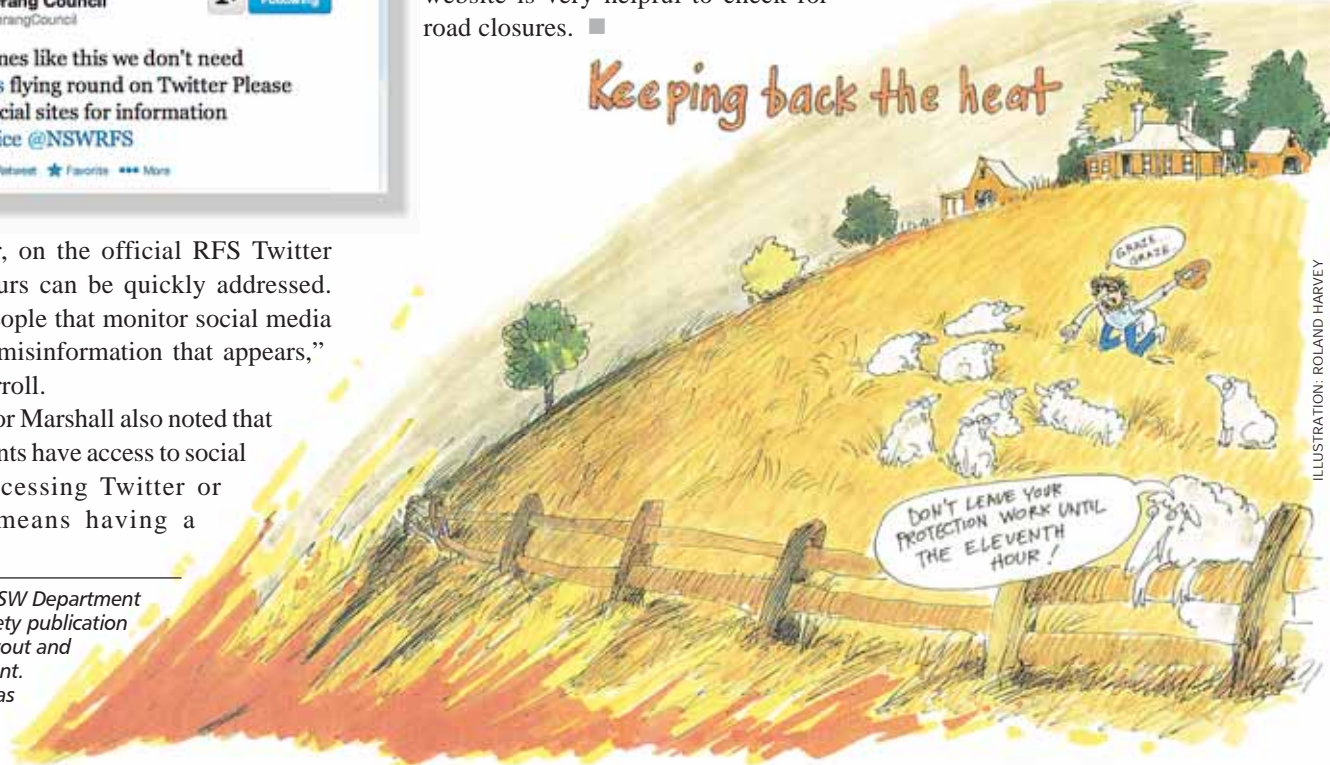


ILLUSTRATION: ROLAND HARVEY

reserve in pursuit of a male goat with “trophy horns” and a hunter then gut-shooting the animal. We will follow this investigation with interest.

The Game Council also supports the Australian Bowhunters Association who we believe is lobbying for the right to bowhunt in national parks. Search ‘bow-hunting NSW’ for links to this ‘sport’ and its activities.

We earnestly hope that the NSW Coalition Government acts to repeal the amendments to the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*, passed on 27 June 2012, which allow shooting in NSW national parks and other reserves.

*For further details visit the website of the National Parks Association (NSW) [www.npansw.org.au](http://www.npansw.org.au) and the Invasive Species Council [www.invasives.org.au](http://www.invasives.org.au).*

## Petition to stop hunting in national parks

The National Parks Association (NSW) has a write-in campaign underway to urge the NSW government to rethink its recreational hunting program in parks.

‘No Hunting in National Parks’ wants changes in legislation to repeal hunting in national parks by the March 2015 state election. NPA does not support amateur, recreational hunting in any national park in NSW.

A spokesperson said there are already more than 150,000 names on electronic petitions on the internet to the NSW Premier calling for a stop to hunting in national parks. The NSW ALP has committed to repeal the changes should they be elected into government. The write-in campaign can be accessed at <http://nohunting.wildwalks.com/> NPA is also active on the ground with frequent rallies and a campaign of alerting park visitors to the dangers “flagged by the NSW government’s own risk assessment,” said the spokesperson.



## Free movie show to kick off Queanbeyan's birthday celebrations

Queanbeyan's *Moving Memories* is a compilation of films showcasing Queanbeyan's history and will kick off the city's 175th birthday celebrations.

The 14 films consist of various types of footage including advertisements, documentaries, home movies and TV footage. The second part of the show is the screening of the 1925 film *Around the Boree Log*. The film was shot near Goulburn and the Wollondilly River.

*Moving Memories* will air at 2pm and 7.30pm on Friday 1 March 2013. This is a free event and bookings can be made at The Q on 6285 6290.

## Australia Day honorees



Bungendore Australia Day Ambassador Home and Away actor and script editor Sam Atwell (far right) with Hanna

Darmody who accepted Australia Day awards on behalf of the B and S Ball committee for Event of the Year and also for herself as Young Citizen of the Year for her fundraising and events organising.

Paul Fogarty was named Bungendore Citizen of the Year for his many years of volunteer work on community events and community assets.

In Braidwood the event award went to Eclectica; Young Citizen to Chris Bullock for community voluntary work and Citizen of the Year to businesswoman, philanthropist and community group activist Brenda Vardanega.

In Captains Flat the annual Bush Dance was named Event of the Year; Samuel Hall earned Young Citizen of the Year for his bravery in a family emergency and Citizen of the Year went to Wendy Hodgman, active SES and Landcare volunteer.



Across in Queanbeyan, Dawn Mayne was named Citizen of the Year for her many years of community event organising, particular with the Show Society; Ally Durr took Young Citizen of the Year for walking the Kokoda Trail and also the 650km Australian Alpine Walking Trail. The trekking was to raise awareness of Lyme disease and its potentially fatal symptoms. Event of the Year was the Jerrabomberra School Fete.

## Review of local governments and their boundaries drawing to a close

THE INDEPENDENT Local Government Review Panel (<http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au>) will be releasing a *Future Directions* report in April–May that should shed light on how likely Palerang or parts of it are in line for amalgamation or other change.

“For those who may not be aware, the NSW state government has determined that local government in NSW is in need of reform,” said Palerang Mayor Pete Harrison in a recent briefing to the media.

The Review Panel is considering the ability of councils to support the needs of their communities, deliver services, and effectively represent their constituents in decision-making processes. The state is also looking at financial sustainability, and

any incentives or barriers to voluntary boundary changes.

Amalgamation talk inevitably surfaces around this topic.

Councillor Harrison said that all regional councils recognise that change is inevitable, the main question is what and when. Efficiency of operation tops the list. “The Review Panel indirectly identifies regional councils with populations of less 20,000 as those of ‘most interest’ with respect to major reform,” said Harrison.

“At the 2011 census, the population of Palerang was 14,350 but, against the trend in rural NSW, Palerang is growing at a rate of about 400 per year.”

Councillor Harrison invites residents and ratepayers to contact himself or any other Councillor with thoughts on this process. (Contact details available on the Palerang Council website at <http://palerang.nsw.gov.au>).

> See cost of Qbn support services p17

# Dickson Park

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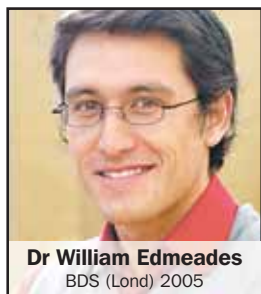
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## Palerang Council News

**PALERANG COUNCIL**

### Another environmental award

Palerang Council has again been recognised for outstanding achievement in managing and protecting the environment. The project team comprising staff members Simon Holloway, David Anthony and Neville Plumb; and Dr Su Wild River and Professor Sara Beavis from the ANU, received the gong as part of the Local Government Excellence in the Environment awards for its Palerang Council/Murray Darling Basin Water Sustainability Snapshot and Adaptation Planning project.

### Overgrown blocks

Council often receives complaints over summer about overgrown and untidy properties. Notably, during the recent catastrophic fire conditions, Council received a flurry of complaints about overgrown neighbouring yards and paddocks considered to be bushfire hazards.

In such cases, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) is the agency responsible for inspecting potential bush fire hazards, providing advice and if necessary issuing Hazard Reduction Notices. However, these matters can often be dealt with by simply approaching the owner, including Council if dealing with Council land. If your approach has no effect, and you need to report a bushfire hazard, you can contact the Lake George Zone Fire Control Centre (ph: 6297 1840) or submit a complaint online (see the 'Reporting Bushfire Hazards' section of the RFS website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)).

Broader environmental or public health issues, such as piles of rubbish, mice, snakes or pollution are, however, matters that are dealt with by Council. In these cases, site assessment by a council officer may lead to the issue of a warning letter or an Order to keep the premises in a safe or healthy condition as required under the Local Government Act.

### Changes to smoke-free outdoor areas law

From 7 January 2013, there are new requirements in NSW regarding smoking in public places.

Smoking is now banned in the following places:

- within 10 metres of children's play equipment in an outdoor public place;
- at public transport stops and stations;
- open areas of public swimming pool complexes;
- spectator areas of sports grounds or other recreational areas during organised sporting events;
- within four metres of a pedestrian entrance or exit from a public building.

More details are available from the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco).

### Who's responsible for supervising your child at the pool?

Palerang Council and Royal Life Saving have joined together to introduce a new water safety awareness program designed to improve children's safety through improved parental supervision at Palerang's three swimming pools.

According to figures from Royal Life Saving, 34 people have drowned in Australia's public pools during the last nine years. Almost half of those who drowned or are injured in public pools are children, and 70% of those drownings are primarily due to a lack of direct supervision by a parent or carer.

Parents and carers should not confuse the role of professional pool attendants with their own. It's not about shifting responsibility—it's about keeping children safe.

Palerang Council is implementing the Royal Life Saving *Keep Watch @ Public Pools* program that encourages parents and carers to play a more active role in the supervision of their children when at Council's pools. The program outlines the different supervision criteria applicable to children of different ages or swimming ability:

**For a child 0–5 years and non-swimmers:** a parent or carer needs to be in the water within arms' reach of the child at all times;

**For a child 6–10 years:** a parent or carer needs to be actively supervising at all times and dressed ready to enter the water;

**For a child 11–15 years:** a parent or carer needs to be checking regularly on their child and be ready to enter the water if necessary.

Council's three swimming pools are open until Sunday, 17 March 2013. Opening hours for the remainder of the season are 12 noon–7.00pm, subject to weather conditions.

### Palerang Local Environmental Plan

Readers are reminded that the draft Palerang Local Environmental Plan (PLEP) is on exhibition until Friday 8 March.

The *draft* PLEP is available online; electronic copies are available on a USB stick or CD upon request; and hard copies are available from Council's offices in Bungendore and Braidwood during normal business hours.

Written submissions are invited during the exhibition period and can be submitted at or sent to the Bungendore or Braidwood offices, or forwarded electronically to [records@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@palerang.nsw.gov.au).

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 • [records@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@palerang.nsw.gov.au) • [www.palerang.nsw.gov.au](http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au) • [www.facebook.com/PalerangCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PalerangCouncil)

> Palerang development approvals p8



# Back to school, is education a priority?

by Sharon Baxter-Judge



AS THOUSANDS of local children go back to schools, their futures remain in doubt with the federal education funding model still not resolved and the O'Farrell Government's determination to strip public education funding to the bone.

In September 2012 the Gillard Government introduced the Australia Education Bill. This bill was in response to the findings of the Gonski Review of Funding for Schools. Gonski clearly and with no doubt demonstrated the inequality of the current education funding model.

Public funds must go to those school communities who need them the most. Desperate for funding and much-needed resources are those schools that educate the overwhelming majority of kids with disabilities, from low socio economic, Indigenous and rural and remote areas.

For the past 20 years successive governments have knowingly depleted public education funding. It is a total scandal that

during 2009–13, more than \$36 billion in federal funds will have been paid to non-government schools. This blatant inequality in funding must be redirected now, not in two years time.

## Going backwards

The figures are astounding: Australian Education Union federal president Angelo Gavrielatos states that schools would lose up to \$5.4 billion in funding over the next five years if the current arrangements are kept in place.

Save Our Schools National conveyor, Trevor Cobbold says that between 1998–99 and 2008–09 total government (*federal and state/territory*) funding for independent private schools increased by 144 percent and by 105 percent for Catholic schools. In contrast, government school funding increased by only 82 percent.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has stripped education funding by billions and also continues to fund high profit private schools. An article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 26 January 2013 stated that "...cuts to education funding are

contributing to an increase in student fees at Catholic schools in Sydney and forcing others in NSW to review their financial support for students to attend World Youth Day celebrations in Rio de Janeiro." The fact is that private school fees, in one form or another, increase every year.

## Religious schools at the expense of public?

Local enrolment statistics show the need for another public high school. On 18 December 2012, the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn announced it will expand its educational presence to (*new subdivision*) Googong to create the first Anglican Kindergarten–Year 12 school facility in the region. No public school.

On receiving the 2012 Meritorious Service to Public Education Award (*the most prestigious honour bestowed by the NSW DEC*), the Hon Michael Kirby said "The time has come to call a halt to the drain of public funds to private and religious schools at the cost of the primary responsibility of the public purse for public education."

He went onto to say that "...a school should be a space where no child feels

alienated. Differences of race, gender, culture, religion, disability and sexuality should not mark any child adversely in their school years. The only distinctions that should be supported by the public purse ought to be those derived from ability, talent and effort."

Let's all hope that when the Council of Australian Governments meet in March they all have the courage to actually to put in place the education model required to erase education funding inequality and truly provide "a quality education for every Australian child".

Before you vote this year please make it clear to all and every politician that as parents, grandparents and community members we have every right to demand that every educational dollar must go to those who need it the most.

## They say NSW leads the nation

IN THE FACE of criticism of funding cuts to the education sector, the NSW Government at the end of January fired back its sense that things are going well in a press release headed *NSW leads the nation in education*.

Member for Monaro John Barilaro talked about "showcasing positive developments" in curriculum, educational leadership, videoconferencing capability and class assessments.

"NSW students were ranked among the top three states and territories across nearly every test and year level since NAPLAN testing began in 2008," said Barilaro. He also touted NSW's signing up to the federal 'students with disabilities' program and placing a specialist teacher in every school.

"In Aboriginal education and student wellbeing we also lead the way, being the first state to enter into a formal Partnership Agreement with the Aboriginal people and the first state initiate a Crime Prevention Workshop Program to teach school students about crime avoidance behaviours," he said.

"Parents within the Monaro electorate can be assured that the NSW Government is kicking goals in the areas of education as demonstrated by this promising information."

# Firefighting capacity in Bungendore area – is the town at risk?

by Deryck Clarke, Deputy Captain Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade

IN THE PAST decade Bungendore has more than doubled in size. But the emergency services capacity to deal with a growing village and its suburbs has been significantly compromised by the removal of the town pumper, which was dedicated to providing protection to buildings within the town.

The residents of Bungendore have every right to ask of their local member and NSW RFS command "Why was the town pumper removed when the township is increasing both in population and complexity?" The community should be encouraged to exercise that right!

The Bungendore Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade has always been a progressive brigade and has never shrunk from taking the lead when it comes to improving its fire fighting capability and capacity.

## Bungendore bought equipment

The Bungendore Brigade has used its contacts in the community to raise substantial donations towards independently improving its fire fighting capacity and capability. On the other hand the NSW RFS administration has been reducing these efforts by removing fire fighting appliances from the brigade.

In past years the brigade bought a fast fill trailer for refilling firefighting tankers whilst working in remote areas. More recently it has received two auto rewind hose reels – one for each of its two main fire trucks, courtesy of the Bungendore Community Bank® and Holcim.

The Bungendore Community Bank® has also donated a welfare trailer that supports the whole of the Lake George Zone by providing hot meals and fresh food to fire fighters in the field.

During the same period, the NSW RFS command has removed the town pumper, which was dedicated to protecting the township of Bungendore and our small CAT 9 (Land Cruiser size) fire tanker. Their current intent is to remove the brigade's personnel carrier (Land Cruiser



Troopcarrier), which tows the brigade's trailers.

## Capability and capacity: they aren't the same

In a *Canberra Times* article from 20 January 2013 under the title *Bungendore calls for help in replacing its fire fighting trucks*, RFS Lake George Zone manager Tim Carroll is quoted as saying "...the station's fleet had been modernised in recent years".

It didn't say that whilst the brigade's fleet has been "modernised", this is a reflection of its increase in capability. Replacement trucks are to take the Breathing Apparatus (BA) equipment that the brigade is now qualified to use.

These vehicle replacements in no way increase the brigade's capacity to pump water onto fires or attend more incidents at the same time.

It could be argued that the increase in capability exacerbates the reduced capacity. Being specialised in BA operations means the Bungendore Brigade may be called away from the town to deal with an incident elsewhere in the Lake George Zone, or beyond.

Without a dedicated pumper, the level of protection that can be supplied to the town in times when resources are stretched, as in recent weeks, has to be questioned.

Continued p14

PALERANG COUNCIL

## EXHIBITION OF DRAFT PALERANG LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

Palerang Council has prepared a draft Principal Local Environmental Plan for public comment.

The *draft* Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2012 will replace the six existing Local Environmental Plans that apply to the Palerang local government area.

The *draft* Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2012 is on public exhibition at Council's Administrative Offices, 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood and 10 Majara Street, Bungendore between the normal business hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm, from Wednesday, 5 December 2012 until Friday, 8 March 2013. The *draft* Local Environmental Plan is also available from Council's website [www.palerang.nsw.gov.au](http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au) under *Feature programs* or on a USB stick or CD if requested from Council.

Any person may make a written submission to Council about the draft Local Environmental Plan before the close of business on **Friday, 8 March 2013**.

Enquiries on the *draft* Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2012 should be directed to Council's Strategic Planning Coordinator, Ms Sue Robb, on 1300 735 025 or 6238 8111 or by email: [records@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@palerang.nsw.gov.au).

Council Chambers  
10 Majara Street, Bungendore  
PO Box 348  
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

P Bascomb  
General Manager



# Clean energy investment up fivefold from 2004

GLOBAL INVESTMENT in clean energy in 2012 was \$268.7 billion, down from a revised figure of \$302.3 billion in 2011. However the 2012 investment total was the second highest ever, and five times that of 2004, according to research undertaken by *Bloomberg New Energy Finance*.

The highlight of the 2012 total for clean energy investment was a record \$67.7 billion outlay by China, up 20 percent on the previous year thanks to a surge in its solar

sector. Its total was more than 50 percent above that of the second-placed country, the US, with \$44.2 billion.

Other strong performers were South Africa, which saw investment leap to \$5.5 billion, from just a few tens of millions in 2011 and Japan, where the fresh emphasis on renewable power after the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 and the start of a new subsidy program, helped investment soar 75 percent in 2012 to \$16.3 billion.

Michael Liebreich, chief executive of Bloomberg New Energy Finance, said it warned that investment in 2012 was likely to fall below 2011 levels, but rumours of the death of clean energy investment were greatly exaggerated.

## Cheaper consumer prices mean more pressure on volume sales for investors

“Indeed, the most striking aspect of these figures is that the decline was not bigger – given the fierce headwinds the clean energy sector faced in 2012 as a result of policy uncertainty, the ongoing European fiscal crisis, and continuing sharp falls in technology costs.

“Solar PV module prices, for instance, fell another 24 percent over the course of last year,” Mr Liebreich said.

“Another message from the 2012 data is that investment is broadening rapidly, from established markets such as Europe, the US and China, to new ones in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia-Oceania.

“Australia, South Africa, Morocco, the Ukraine, Mexico, Kenya, Brazil, Ethiopia, Chile and South Korea were among the countries seeing at least one project of more than \$250 million financed during the year.”

Source: [www.enviroinfo.com.au](http://www.enviroinfo.com.au) the news service of Australia's environmental industry

# Googong now has 778 lots approved

QUEANBEYAN City Council Mayor Tim Overall has welcomed the Joint Regional Planning Panel's decision to approve the second stage of the Googong development.

“This is a significant decision for Queanbeyan with this part of the development worth more than \$50 million,” Cr Overall said. “Stage 2 of the Googong development provides for 442 residential lots, a neighbourhood centre, land for a public school, land for an Anglican school (Kindergarten to Year 12), sporting fields and parks.

“Following the approval of 336 lots in 2012, this now takes the total lots approved at Googong to 778. This development will stretch over a further 15 years, with more than 4,500 lots to be considered in future stages.”

Earthworks commenced at Googong in 2012 with the first houses and Club Googong expected to be on the ground towards the end of 2013. When complete Googong will be home to around 16,000 people living in 5,550 dwellings of varying sizes, ranging from 350m<sup>2</sup> to just over 1,000m.

— Press release

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## PALERANG COUNCIL

### Development Approvals

**Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Council approved the following development applications in December 2012.**

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

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2012.159	Four Lot Subdivision	21/12/2012	Lot B DP164943 35 Ryrie Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.199	Two Lot Subdivision	20/12/2012	Lot 38 DP248084 259 Badgery Road BURRA
DA.2012.215	Dwelling	6/12/2012	Lot 9 Sec 53 DP758636 50 Red Hill Road MAJORS CREEK
DA.2012.224	Dwelling and Refurbish Shed as a Temporary Dwelling	5/12/2012	Lot 2 DP260963 1063 Captains Flat Road CARWOOLA
DA.2012.225	Dwelling, Shed and Temporary Occupancy of Shed	14/12/2012	Lot 2 DP1164266 27 West-Newman Subdivision Road BOMBAY
DA.2012.239	Construct Bathroom and Storeroom inside existing Fire Shed	3/12/2012	Lot 121 DP754895RFS 67 Forbes Creek Road HOSKINSTOWN
DA.2012.248	Exhibition Home with two Signs and four Flag Poles	12/12/2012	Lot 1 DP1168092 40 Mecca Lane BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.251	Dual Occupancy	6/12/2012	Lot 4 DP949519 53 Malbon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.252	Dwelling and Shed	21/12/2012	Lot 5 Sec 21 DP758636 46 Red Hill Road MAJORS CREEK
DA.2012.260	Shed	24/12/2012	Lot 28 DP715389 419 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2012.261	Dwelling	17/12/2012	Lot 3 DP285927 24 Malone Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.264	Tree Removal	4/12/2012	Lot 4 DP855517 2 John Dwyer Crescent BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.265	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	13/12/2012	Lot 4 DP262318 913 Bungendore Road BYWONG
DA.2012.266	Two Lot Subdivision	20/12/2012	Lot 11 DP805058 67 Wyoming Road BYWONG
DA.2012.267	Amendment to Building Envelope	11/12/2012	Lot 3 DP1141290 15 Lumley Road WAMBOIN
DA.2012.268	Dwelling	18/12/2012	Lot 10 DP108987 385 Foxs Elbow Road WARRI
DA.2012.270	Dwelling and Garage	20/12/2012	Lot 6 DP1168479 1 Hereford Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.276	Additions to Existing Dwelling	7/12/2012	Lot 30 DP755954 46 Glenmore Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.277	Tree Work	7/12/2012	Lot 35 DP255268 59 Poppet Road WAMBOIN
DA.2012.278	Tree Removal	12/12/2012	Lot 122 DP1022346 54 Southfork Place ROYALLA
DA.2012.279	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	18/12/2012	Lot 159 DP754873 622 Macs Reef Road BYWONG
DA.2012.281	Two Lot Subdivision	3/12/2012	Lot 307 DP1048816 35 Ashby Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.282	Pergola	12/12/2012	Lot 1 DP700607 1420 Tarago Road MOUNT FAIRY
DA.2012.283	Convert Existing Shed to Dwelling and New Shed	18/12/2012	Lot 32 DP736646 10 Reedy Creek Place WAMBOIN
DA.2012.285	Tree Removal	10/12/2012	Lot 3 Sec 13 DP758152 54 Cowper Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.286	Tree Removal	4/12/2012	Lot 1 DP112167 51 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.287	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling and Carport	19/12/2012	Lot 131 DP774284 181 Douglas Close CARWOOLA

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2012.288	Garage	24/12/2012	Lot 27 DP715389 417 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2012.289	Change of Use – Dwelling to Medical Surgery	19/12/2012	Lot 1 DP797846 71 Wilson Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.291	Tree Removals	11/12/2012	Lot 12 DP242374 572 Plains Road HOSKINSTOWN
DA.2012.292	Dwelling and Shed	20/12/2012	Lot 5 DP814804 250 Briars Sharrow Road HOSKINSTOWN
DA.2012.293	Dwelling	24/12/2012	Lot 5 DP1062412 101 Bates Lane DURRAN DURRA
DA.2012.298	Patio	11/12/2012	Lot 2 DP1002629 70 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.302	Tree Removal	10/12/2012	Lot 46 DP255514 137 Radcliffe Circuit CARWOOLA
DA.2012.305	Pergola	12/12/2012	Lot 15 DP712054 10 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.307	Shed	13/12/2012	Lot 26 DP270309 37 Essendon Road BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.315	Patio	20/12/2012	Lot 12 DP1011276 8 John Dwyer Crescent BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.317	Two Sheds	20/12/2012	Lot 7 DP270757 68 Warramunga Close WAMBOIN
DA.2012.324	Garage	20/12/2012	Lot 2 DP731001 126 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE

### Council approved the following development applications in January 2013.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2012.297	Shed	03/01/2013	Lot 1 DP 714083 42 Araluen Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.332	Tree Removal and Pruning	04/01/2013	Lot 8 Sec 11 DP 976608 125 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.250	Public Access – Tourist Site	09/01/2013	Lot 10 DP 264536 992 Macs Reef Road SUTTON
DA.2012.247	Five Lot Subdivision	09/01/2013	Lots 166 & 167 DP 755911 8310 Araluen Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.284	Alterations and Additions to Existing Shed	09/01/2013	Lot 84 DP 261056 5 Amungula Place WAMBOIN
DA.2012.272	Transportable Dwelling	09/01/2013	Lot 1 DP 1071653 Neringla Road ARALUEN
DA.2012.330	Temporary Occupation of Shed	09/01/2013	Lot 20 DP 1141290 32 Yuranga Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2012.301	Continued Use of Existing Dwelling	10/01/2013	Lot 1 DP 1178723 1478 Bungendore Road BYWONG
DA.2012.320	Continued Use of Shed and Pergola	11/01/2013	Lot 4 DP 800095 7 Reardon Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.310	Dual Occupancy and Garage	11/01/2013	Lot 31 DP 805805 884 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DA.2012.280	Dwelling	14/01/2013	Lot 1 DP 1105812 130 Tomboye Road TOMBOYE
DA.2013.003	Alterations and Addition to Dwelling	15/01/2013	Lot 212 DP 755901 13 Kellys Lane ARALUEN
DA.2012.303	Shed	16/01/2013	Lot 56 DP 826558 1117 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DA.2012.304	Shed, Swimming Pool and Tree Removal	16/01/2013	Lot 76 DP 1044802 38 Sherwood Place ROYALLA
DA.2012.311	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	16/01/2013	Lot 19 DP 817665 1363 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DA.2012.107	Dwelling and Garage	17/01/2013	Lot 73 DP 754895 440 Neils Creek Road BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.306	Dwelling and Garage	17/01/2013	Lot 15 DP 239020 9 Wyoming Road BYWONG
DA.2013.004	Tree Lopping	23/01/2013	Lot 48 DP 818916 1238 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DA.2013.009	Removal of Four Trees	25/01/2013	Lot B DP 369533 54 Forster Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2013.011	Tree Removal	25/01/2013	Lot 22 DP 584107 5 Gibraltar Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.335	Alterations and Addition to Dwelling	29/01/2013	Lot 20 DP 253647 93 Cooper Road WAMBOIN





## GUNDAROO 1097 Brooks Creek Lane

Positioned in a scenic bushland setting (20ac) this beautiful property will delight those seeking their own rural escape. The charming home has wonderful feel with timber raked ceilings and bay windows which flood the house with natural light. A 25 minute commute to Canberra's Inner City.  
mcgrath.com.au/172499



🏠 4 🚗 2 🚗 5

For Sale over \$650,000  
View by appointment  
Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377  
Call 6262 5122



## GUNDAROO 26 Lute Street

Sympathetic in design to many of Gundaroo village's heritage homes 'Dacre' offers a charming family residence set admits landscaped gardens. The house is north facing with wrap-around verandah's, gas heating, 9ft ceilings, bore, prolific veggie garden and garage with rear lane access.  
mcgrath.com.au/172589



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## GUNNING 5718 Gundaroo Road

Flexibility and space are keynote is this wonderful family home. Set on 230 acres of quintessential Australian bush with over 20 acres of grazing land this spacious residence features open family living areas with a gorgeous segregated lounge. Three workshops/sheds and 6m x 8m lock-up garage.  
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## GUNNING Lots 1 - 8 Biala Street

On the outskirts of Gunning village 'Big Hill Estate' offer seven building blocks ranging from 10ha to 12ha in size. All blocks will have sealed road access, power, phone, town water and a 50m x 40m building envelope. A short stroll to the village and 71km to Canberra's CBD.  
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mcgrath.com.au/170444



🏠 3 🚗 1 🚗 2

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## BORO 417 Duckfield Road

There is work to do on this 150 acre property but an inspection is a must as all of the machinery and the added extras are all yours. This is a rare opportunity.

🏠 2 🚗 1 🚗 3

For Sale \$360,000  
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Call 6262 5122  
mcgrath.com.au/159463



## CARWOOLA 595 Captains Flat Road

With 2.5km of Molonglo River frontage this outstanding 96ha property provides buyers with a variety of options in a peaceful and private location.

🏠 3 🚗 2 🚗 2

For Sale \*  
John Sneddon 0403 139 701  
Call 6262 5122  
mcgrath.com.au/166976  
\* Under offer



## COLLECTOR Lot 1 Murray Street

Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity. This 2,181sqm flat block comes with DA approval and architectural designed house plans, ready to build.

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## GUNDAROO 75 Cork Street

Superb half acre block with park like grounds, north facing orientation allowing to design a solar passive home. Square in shape with feature post and rail fencing.

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418sqm of private oasis. Expansive interiors flow over three levels with four living areas, extensive entertaining, lush grdns, pool and games room. Minutes to Surf Beach.

🏠 6 🚗 4 🚗 1

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mcgrath.com.au/169577



## SUTTON 1458 Sutton Road

75 acre dual occupancy building block within a short drive of Canberra's CBD and airport. Superb views over the district, to Canberra and the Brindabella's.

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Call 6262 5122  
mcgrath.com.au/159603

## WEE JASPER Doctors Flat Road

Choice of two 82ha bush blocks in the heart of the Brindabellas. Creeks, native birds and animals and absolute peace and privacy. Ideal weekend retreat.

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# A virtual boot sale!

## Reduce – Reuse – Refresh – Repair – Re-home – Renew

**CLEAR OUT the attic**, the back bedroom and the shed while supporting a worthy cause.

Every little ‘re-bit’ helps our environment and to reduce waste. We hope to help our community as well in several ways.

As you know, we at the *Bulletin* are fairly committed to helping with sustainable lifestyles, celebrating our native flora and fauna, and generally supporting new and innovative ideas for living lightly on our land. Our own recycle effort starts with printing on plantation-grown and recycled paper stock.

Now we are opening a page of the *Bulletin* to make it even easier for all of us to rehome some items that are too good to throw away.

At the same time we want to support the

wonderful community organisations like the RFS and the native animal rescue groups in this region: these will be the first beneficiaries of financial support and donations generated by this page.

We’d like to work with display advertisers who want to support the community groups we’ve nominated. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more: **adverts@districtbulletin.com.au** or call Robyn on 0458 018 835.

Meanwhile, if readers would like to offer **up to 3** items, each described in 25 words or less, there is no charge. That’s right they are free.

- No commercial advertising or community

- events notices in the classified section, please.
- Items will be offered once only unless we receive a formal request from you to rerun them.
- Photos included only if space permits.

More about the volunteer organisations and how we donate in the March edition, but PLEASE if you sell something or if you don’t, give to your local RFS brigade this month as a big thank you for the fire protection and to support more and better equipment. ■

## Re-use, recycle OP SHOP FASHIONS BETTER THAN EVER by Nichole Smith

IT’S SOMETHING of a shopping revolution, treasure-hunting re-invented: the lure of unearthing a Chanel jacket for less than \$50; swapping an outfit you haven’t worn in two years for something that is more you now; saving a fortune with a wardrobe of the pre-loved and rejuvenated.

Op shops and thrift boutiques, once thought to be the domain of those at the tail-end of the socio-economic spectrum are proving increasingly alluring with savvy shoppers. It’s actively seeking ways to reduce, reuse and recycle while still cutting the finest of figures, say those in the know. They also suggest that this style of shopping can be great fun as well as encouraging fashion creativity.

According to one local aficionado, businesswoman Alex de Nicola, with a bit of imagination and much less than what you would spend in a department store, new life can be breathed into any wardrobe.

“Op shopping and the thrill of scoring a designer item is a throw back to uni days, where many of us bought for the brag factor, and of course the low cost. Now my reasons for visiting op shops have changed: still the thrill of a treasure and adding a few touches to it, but also for recycling,



*Local fashionista Alex De Nicola (wearing a pair of her hand-made Argentinean leather shoes) shows off some of the great buys to be found at The Bargain Hunter in Queanbeyan including a Ralph Lauren Polo shirt for \$10 and a Cue dress for \$14.*

knowing that the dollars are helping raise funds for charity.”

De Nicola imports handmade leather shoes and other items from Argentina and says “I still love op shop hunting for those one-offs that can be

combined with a great pair of shoes. I have a friend who spent weeks travelling through all the op shops in NSW looking for her wedding dress!”

Stories of amazing finds range from new wedding dresses to hidden artworks (*last year in the US there were three reports of art masterpieces from the likes of Salvador Dali worth thousands picked up for only a few dollars*).

From Braidwood to Canberra regional opportunities to buy affordable fashions abound. Monaro Street in Queanbeyan offers two well known charity names, St Vinnie’s and Anglicare’s *Bargain Hunter*, prized by those in the know. Queanbeyan has four charity op shops in total, making it a must for those bargain-hunting fashions and homewares.

*Continued p13*

## Country Living Classifieds

**School uniforms:** St Greg’s Primary School (Queanbeyan) uniforms – jumpers, shirts, shorts, ties, sports uniforms. Sizes 8 and 14. Good condition. \$120 the lot. Ph Nichole 0413 671 123.

**Collectables:** 1950s classic breadbox, free to good home. To pickup item, phone Bill 0412 567 191.



**Building supplies:** Timber double-hung window 810 x 2,000 (Trend). Good condition, \$50. Ph Bill 0412 567 191.

**Free food for horses:** Free agistment for one or two horses. Short term on five acres, trees, pasture, dam, Norton Road, Wamboin. Ph 6238 0086 for further information.

**Household:** Entertainment for your eyes. Too many to name videos and DVDs free to a good home. Movies range from classics, to science fiction. Contact 0458 018 835.

**Household:** Setting up home? Add colour to your walls. An eclectic mix of prints available for free. Ph 0458 018 835.

**Garage Sale**  
**MASSIVE DOWNSIZE**  
**Saturday, 9th February**  
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Please help us to RECYCLE. Some items are FREE.  
For SALE: Bates saddle, canoe, furniture, whitegoods, books, baskets, see: [www.ourgaragesale.net.au](http://www.ourgaragesale.net.au)

**Shipping Container – Paddock Sale:** Lots of items from a deceased estate for sale, and recycling to good homes. 1227 Norton Road, Wamboin. Saturday, 23 February from 8am to 12 noon.



**Farm Equipment:** Metal box trailer. 3m long, 1.8 wide x 600mm high/deep. New light, brakes work, tyres good, new paint. Not registered. \$2,500 ono. Ph Joe 0422 225 358.

## Country Living Classifieds

To place a classified please use the following format and send it to **bulletin.classifieds@yahoo.com** or mail to Box 302 Bungendore, 2621, marked Country Living Classifieds. We will not take information over the phone.

### Items accepted tick one:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collectables   | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm equipment and farm animals                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building supplies  | <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing, estate or garage sales               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening supplies ( <i>excepting masses of plastic pots</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designer clothes or quality childrens’ clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household appliances or furniture in good working order        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to buy or exchange                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto accessories   |   |

Your Name (*not for publication*)

Address (*not for publication*)

Phone/email contact

Description of item(s) with a contact name and phone number (*in 25 words or less*)

☐ I attach a SMALL photo

Money raised supports the local community

# CAR BOOT SALE

If you want to become a seller and need a site (only \$15) contact Greg Gougeon on 6236 9841 or email [bywongbootsale@y7mail.com](mailto:bywongbootsale@y7mail.com)

If you would like to become a raffle sponsor and donate a prize, email Pauline on [paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au)

**Keep this day free...**

## Sunday March 24

**From 9:00 to 1:00**



# A versatile family is Rutaceae: Oranges, lemons and well-loved flowering plants

Story and photos by Jo Walker



MOST OF US are probably more familiar with the edible species (*oranges, lemons etc.*) in the plant family Rutaceae than we are with their relatives, over 300 species of native Australian plants.

Most of these plants are not edible, but a few bear citrus-like fruit and can be used in marmalade or for cool drinks. One of these is *Citrus* (previously *Eremocitrus*) *glauca* or Desert Lime. It grows in northern NSW and Queensland and produces small (to 2 cm) bitter-tasting, lemon-like fruit.

While more-local members of the Rutaceae may not be edible, they make up for that with very attractive flowers.

Plants in the Rutaceae family have an aromatic scent when the leaves are crushed and most have plentiful oil glands. This seems to protect them from being eaten by hungry wildlife even during droughts.

## Correa and Philotheca

My favourites are probably the pink or orange-flowered forms of the South Australian *Correa pulchella* [pic A], a neat and compact little shrub. Our local *Correa*, *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* (often found in rocky areas near rivers or streams) grows to over a metre tall and has quite large hairy leaves and long tubular flowers that vary in colour from red with yellowish tips to cream or green. The flowers are attractive to honeyeaters, who feed on the nectar, and Crimson Rosellas who (more destructively) find the flowers tasty.

*Philotheca* (previously *Eriostemon*) *myoporoides*, the Long-leaf Waxflower, grows amongst the granite boulders in the Tinderries. It can reach 2 metres in height and is a dense shrub with large white flowers.

Much smaller, but equally attractive is

*P. scabra* [pic B], a small bushy shrub with narrow leaves and pink-tinged white flowers. It also prefers rocky places, and can be found in the Nerriga area.

*Philotheca salsolifolia* seems to prefer moist silty sites in areas east of Tarago. It also has very narrow leaves, but has pale mauve flowers. *P. buxifolia* grows much closer to the coast, but it is hardy and will grow in local gardens. Its profuse pink buds are followed by white flowers.

## Leionema

Another little shrub that grows in damp areas on sandstone-derived soils is *Leionema* (previously *Phebalium*) *diosmeum*. Its greyish-green leaves, clustered closely along the stems are topped by a head of small, bright yellow flowers. An added attraction of this species is the bronze colour of the buds over winter.

A related plant that grows in mountainous areas is *Leionema* (previously *Phebalium*) *lamprophyllum*, a low-growing neat bush with shiny, dark green tiny leaves, red buds and white, star-like flowers. Often found growing close to this species is *Asterolasia trymaloides* [pic C], a low-growing shrub with small oval leaves and solitary bright yellow flowers.

## Boronia

The most common *Boronia* in this area is *Boronia algida* [pic D], a dainty little shrub with pinnate leaves and a dichotomous style of branching (the tip of each branch sends out two new shoots). The flowers are white to pale pink, and it grows in moist but well-drained granite areas in the Tinderries and elsewhere.

*Boronia nana* var. *hyssopifolia* can be found growing in grasslands and woodlands. It is often almost prostrate and has narrow smooth leaves and small pink flowers. It has been found in the Carwoola area and near Mongarlowe.

## Crowea and Zieria

*Crowea exalata*, especially the Ginninderra Falls (ACT) form, is one of the most attractive members of the Rutaceae family, its dainty soft green leaves contrasting beautifully with the masses of bright pink flowers.

*Zieria*s tend to grow in inaccessible places in small populations, but a few have found their way into cultivation. They have trifoliate leaves and pale pink flowers. The most widely spread species is *Zieria cytisoides*, a medium-sized shrub with greyish leaves. ■

## Companion planting: new gardening book by Palerang author

CAPTAIN'S FLAT resident Kelly Morris has just released a gardening eBook titled *Companion Planting for Australian Gardens*.

Kelly recognised the need for up-to-date companion planting information that is relevant to Australian conditions, rather than the very different European and American weather conditions, and has produced an easy to use guide that will benefit all Australian gardeners.

Readers will appreciate the simple explanations that detail effective ways to incorporate companion plants into their gardens. These techniques help to maintain healthy soil through the use of plants that recycle nutrients and those that rid the soil of harmful microorganisms such as bacteria.

They also help to control garden pests through the use of pest-repellent plants and predator attracting plants.

All the plants described in the book are known to work in Australian conditions. They provide very cheap solutions to improve soil nutrition. They also provide ways to control pests without the use of chemicals that can harm the environment as well as human and pet health.

"Companion planting offers long term solutions to soil nutrient depletion and to pest problems, with very little effort on the gardener's part," says Kelly. You can even use companion planting techniques to help keep weeds from invading your garden beds.

*Companion Planting for Australian Gardens* can be purchased online, see details at [www.gardenrealm.net](http://www.gardenrealm.net). Kelly can be contacted by email [webmaster@gardenrealm.net](mailto:webmaster@gardenrealm.net).



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# Mind control by gut organisms!

Things living inside us manipulate our brains! No, it's not the plot of a science fiction/horror movie; it's serious scientific research and the real question is how do they do it??? This month we look at recent research into how parasites and bacteria can affect the psychology and behaviour of their hosts – and be warned, it's kind of bizarre!

## Mice that act like they want to be eaten

TOXOPLASMOSIS is caused by the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* which spends part of its life cycle inside a cat (where it can reproduce) and part inside other animal hosts including mice (where it can live but not reproduce). The parasite is spread through exposure to cat faeces or by eating raw or undercooked meat and vegetables that are contaminated.

Scientists know that an infected mouse acts very un-mouselike: it becomes fearless and even seeks out cats. How does the mouse get hijacked into such behaviour?

New research suggests the answer lies in the parasite's ability to increase the production of a chemical called GABA. GABA does many different things in the body and brain; in particular, it is known to reduce sensations of fear and anxiety – so, infected mice with high levels of GABA lose their fear of cats! This makes them easy prey and gets the parasite back inside the guts of the cat where it can complete its lifecycle.

Interestingly, disturbances in GABA systems occur

in people suffering from depression, anxiety syndrome and other mental illnesses. And, some reports suggest that mental diseases such as these are more common in people that have toxoplasmosis.

These new findings help us understand the complex interactions between this common parasite and its hosts – including humans. However, toxoplasmosis researcher Antonio Barragan from

Sweden's Karolinska Institutet says, "humans have lived with this parasite for many millennia, so today's carriers of *Toxoplasma* need not be particularly worried".

Toxoplasmosis is one of the most common infections in the world; almost half of the human population will get it at some time. In most people, a healthy immune system keeps the parasite from causing any illness; however, pregnant women and people with poor immune systems should take care. For more information on the disease, Better Health Victoria has an informative online article: *Toxoplasmosis – reducing the risks*.

## Craving something sweet? Maybe it's your gut bacteria feeling hungry

HEALTHY humans are naturally hosts to enormous numbers of bacteria: on our skin and inside mouths, noses and guts (just about every opening or fold of our bodies). In fact, the Human Microbiome Project estimates that we contain trillions of microorganisms – outnumbering our

own body cells by about 10-to-1! The kind and numbers of bacteria we support depends on various factors like diet, health and environment.

Most of the time we live together happily; indeed some gut bacteria are essential to help us digest foods and absorb nutrients. However, there are a growing number of studies that suggest gut bacteria might play a role in many diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and thyroid disease, and maybe even certain types of cancer.

Now, researchers in France propose that our gut bacteria actually influence what foods we choose to eat! This is largely based on the observation that bacteria living in our gastro-intestinal tract produce chemicals (including GABA) that affect brain function and, ultimately, behaviour.



Vic Norris and colleagues, writing in the *Journal of Bacteriology*, point out that eating involves appetite, pleasure and the feeling of satiety (fullness) – sensations that involve brain processes which can be affected by chemicals produced by gut bacteria. And since what we eat in turn influences what gut bacteria we carry, Norris hypothesises that it makes sense for those bacteria to encourage us to eat the things they like. ■

## — SUMMER READING —

## Another brilliant 'life is more interesting than fiction' account

Reviewed by Sarah Newsome

### Behind the Beautiful Forevers

by Katherine Boo

RRP: \$27.00

Scribe Publications Pty Ltd, 2012

I THINK this is one of the best books of 2012. When American journalist Katherine Boo first started visiting the Annawadi slum in Mumbai the locals assumed she was lost.

"As I walked through the airport slums, crowds of people

would follow, some of them looking concerned and shouting, 'Hyatt! Intercontinental!' They imagined I'd lost my way while going from the international airport to one of the luxury hotels," said Katherine Boo in a recent interview.

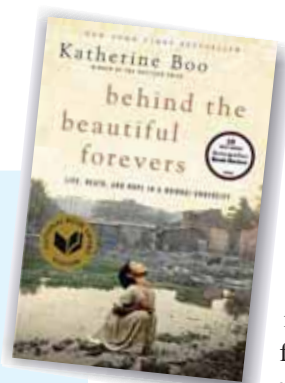
But over the next three years, she became

As India starts to prosper, Annawadians are electric with hope. Abdul, a reflective and enterprising Muslim teenager, sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Asha, a woman of formidable wit and deep scars from a childhood in rural poverty, has identified an alternate route to the middle class: political corruption. With a little luck, Asha's sensitive, beautiful daughter – Annawadi's "most-everything girl" – will soon become the slum's first female college graduate. And even the poorest Annawadians, like Kalu, a fifteen-year-old scrap metal thief, believe themselves inching closer to the good lives and good times they call "the full enjoy."

But then Abdul the garbage sorter is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and a global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power and economic envy turn brutal.

a common sight, as she researched and wrote *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*.

The result is a landmark work of narrative nonfiction, which follows the real-life stories reminiscent of *Slumdog Millionaire*: the garage pickers, petty thieves and corrupt politicians who make the slums their homes.



reading? You may be surprised how enjoyable it can be. Packed with intelligence, humour and deep insight, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* is a

work of nonfiction that reads better than most novels.

Expecting to be served a grim tale with a large helping of middle class guilt, I was amazed to find it hard to put down. I was even more amazed to be able to identify with the characters.

"I'm always thrilled when readers sense the connections and get drawn into the dilemmas faced by the people I write about, because in this age of high walls and security gates it's pretty easy not to see and think about those people at all," Katherine Boo comments.

Boo looks for the stories that resonate, those that illuminate the social structures in place. Mumbai is a world undergoing rapid change, where the traditional divisions of religion and class are giving way to economic envy.

"I'm sometimes asking myself a set of questions inspired by the philosopher John Rawls: How would I design a society if I didn't know where in its hierarchy I would be placed – if I didn't know whether I would be a person of wealth and power, or a poor and vulnerable person? What system would I create that would be fair?"

Boo concludes, "I would be elated if a few readers of *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* were inclined to ask themselves similar questions." ■

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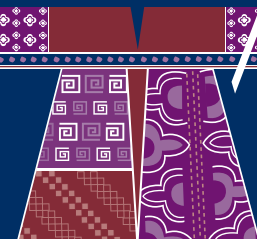
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"Queanbeyan *Bargain Hunter* still has gems, and it's easy to find items for the whole family. My mother-in law was visiting from Queensland last year, and managed to find both a beautiful Japanese silk quilt cover and a Laura Ashley quilt cover!" said De Nicola.

Lonsdale Street in Braddon is showing the new trend to upmarket vintage and designer clothes outlets. The Lifeline-run *Hipsley Lane* and the private enterprise *Designer Op Shop* which also offers vintage glass and homewares, are well worth a look for the occasional party dress or smart work outfit.

Other newer concepts also include online *The Clothing Exchange* allowing participants to exchange one outfit of clothes for another of similar quality.

Lindsay Rae, Director of Centres at St Vincent De Paul Canberra/Goulburn says that often the stories behind the donations and the people that purchase them are some of the most interesting aspects.

"One that really stands out is the story of one of our customers who had won tickets to go to the Oscars in L.A. This customer purchased a dress from our Dickson centre to wear on the night, as she walked down the red carpet ... amongst the most glamorous people in the world, dressed in a dress purchased at Vinnies!"

So for all those who have just made New Year's resolutions to pare down and cut back, perhaps this is the trendsetting challenge of 2013? All it can take is \$50 and an afternoon to creatively and sustainably reinvent your wardrobe – and potentially your lifestyle. ■

## — MOVIE REVIEWS —

with Judy Thompson

### Get hankies out for Les Mis and 3D glasses for *Life of Pi*

*Les Miserables* is a movie adaptation of the musical hit that was adapted from Victor Hugo's novel.

The story is about Valjean (played by Hugh Jackman) who goes to prison for stealing bread for his starving family but eventually becomes a successful mayor and manufacturer.

He is relentlessly pursued for dodging his parole commitments by the zealous police officer Javert (played by Russell Crowe) throughout the twists and turns of his post-convict life.

Valjean encounters Fantine (played by Anne Hathaway) a former employee in destitute circumstances and her daughter Cosette, whom he adopts. Cosette falls in love with a young revolutionary and everything starts to unravel (AGAIN) at the time of the Paris uprising in 1832.

The film is visually spectacular. Sacha Baron Cohen and Helen Bonham Carter play the two Fagan-like innkeepers who are supposedly looking after Cosette. They are hilarious but very scary.

There are now internet sites with adaptations of movie posters to be "more truthful." This film has been called "Crying and Fighting The Musical".

The *Huffington Post* website features a flowchart which you can use to determine

whether you will cry or not at the screening. It basically concludes that unless you are a government minister you will cry.

This is a ripping yarn but take tissues.



#### *The Life of Pi* or if you prefer *Life Of CGI*

is directed by Ang Lee and is based on the novel by Yann Martel. The film is in 3D and visually gorgeous.

A boy called Pi and a tiger called Richard Parker survive a shipwreck at sea and attempt to coexist on a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific.

In the course of their voyage they encounter flying fish, a whale, iridescent sea life, a massive storm and a strange acidic and carnivorous island with meerkats.

Four real tigers helped with filming but most of the film was shot with a computer-generated image (CGI) of a tiger. It is a challenge to work out which tiger scenes are real and which are CGI.

The story has been interpreted as an allegory. It may be an allegory for everyone's projection and for myths and storytelling in

general. Like William Blake, critics seem to be asking of the tiger "What immortal hand or eye could frame thy fearful symmetry?"

Some critics say that Richard Parker is God and others say that Richard Parker is really the innate evil or brute force in Pi (and us all) that enables his survival but disappears on his return to civilisation. Or you can just

sit back and enjoy the ride.

Thomas Faunce of the ANU published an article on The Conversation website saying that Pi's island is "a warning

for our warming world." He compares it to the Castello Aragonese, a real island near Naples plagued by a surfeit of carbon dioxide from a nearby volcano. Faunce says that this island offers "insights into the acidification of the world's oceans," because it has vivid green sea grass, jellyfish and algae but "no other life survives in [its] waters". The Castello Argonese does have 60,000 inhabitants according to Wikipedia but Faunce does not compare them to meerkats.

Make of it what you will. Perhaps it is just a Brothers Grimm type story for adults? Perhaps the cautionary advice in this case is read the manual in your lifeboat very carefully.

Well worth the ticket price and quite thought provoking. ■



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# WHAT CAUSED AUSTRALIA'S HEATWAVE

Cont'd from p3

Monday's temperature of 40.33°C set a new record, beating the previous highest Australian daily maximum of 40.17°C set in 1972. Tuesday's temperature came in as the 3rd highest on record at 40.11°C.

Over 70% of the continent has recorded temperatures in excess of 42°C. The heat wave has seen a rare sequence of Australian temperatures above 39°C of seven days, and above 38°C of 11 days straight.

The sequence of Australian mean temperature has been just as impressive. The first two weeks of January 2013 now hold the records for the hottest Australian day on record, the hottest two-day period on record, the hottest three-day period, the hottest four-day period and, well, every sequential-days record stretching from one to 14 days for daily mean temperatures.

So, does all this have something to do with climate change?

## The planet is warming, and so is Australia

Planet Earth is warming up. Climate scientists use a range of different indicators to track global warming. These include ocean heat content, sea surface temperatures, sea level, temperatures in the lower and middle troposphere and the rate of melting glaciers and ice sheets. [Ed note: *Exceptional snow-fall and freezing winters in the northern hemisphere are not a contradiction but may well be a consequence of global climate change.*]

The surface of the earth, as measured by global mean temperature, has warmed by about one degree Celsius during the past hundred years, and the decade from 2001 to 2010 has been the warmest we have recorded. This warming has been strongly attributed to increasing greenhouse gases from human activities.

It is very clear that warming has been dominated by increased carbon dioxide levels. The globe doesn't warm uniformly everywhere, due mostly to natural regional variations in climate.

## FIREFIGHTING CAPACITY

Cont'd from p7

During the recent emergency there was an instance when all three Bungendore trucks were out of town fighting the bush fires and there was no immediate cover within the township.

The NSW RFS command states in the *Canberra Times* article "...extra resources can be called in from nearby brigades". However, when we have an emergency of the level over the past few weeks these "extra resources" are stretched very thin indeed.

### Formula for equipment

Behind the equipment changes is a state formula known as *Standards of Fire Cover*, which is supposed to assess the fire/emergency risks in a town/area. It appears that the formula is applied in a confusing and possibly discriminatory manner.



to December 2012 was the warmest such period on record (since 1910) for daily maximum temperatures.

### More record-breaking heat in Australia and overseas

*"A relatively small change in the average temperature can easily double the frequency of extreme heat events. Australia has warmed steadily since the 1940s, and the probability of extreme heat has now increased almost five-fold compared with 50 years ago."*

The frequency of abnormally hot days (above the 90th percentile) has increased by 30% and the frequency of hot nights (above the 90th percentile) has increased by 50%.

It is worth noting the summer just gone in the US was the warmest on record, with extreme heat records broken at a rate never previously seen before.

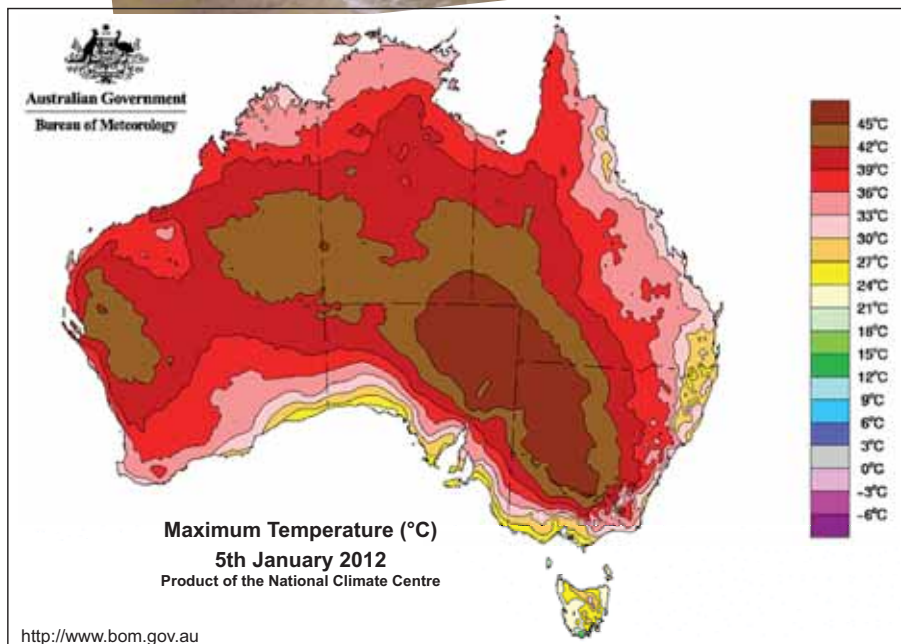
Studies here and overseas are now showing that many of the recent extreme summer heat events around the

world – such as the European heat wave of 2003, the Russian heat wave of 2010 and US heat waves during 2011 and 2012 – would have been very, very unlikely without the influence of global warming.

### Conditions for severe fire weather

Global warming is not only warming summer but also broadening the summer-like period of the year, creating the perfect set-up for record extreme heat.

Of great concern in Australia is the substantial increasing trend in severe fire weather with a concentrated increase in the southeast of the continent. The fire season is now longer, reducing the time for preparation such as fuel reduction.



In Australia, land temperatures and the temperatures of the surrounding oceans have warmed by approximately 1°C since 1910, fairly close to the global trends.

### A warmer planet means more energy in the system and that affects weather and the frequency of extreme events

As the climate system warms due to increasing greenhouse gases, more energy is retained in the lower atmosphere. That extra energy influences all our weather and climate.

So, while the 'cause' of an individual weather event, including heat waves, is always linked to antecedent weather conditions – the influence of climate change is linked to the frequency of occurrence of such an event.

[But] the weather conditions in the January heat wave have themselves displayed the influence of a warming world.

The lead-in climate conditions for this event were four months of very warm temperatures across Australia. September

The Bungendore situation as a fast growing area is an example. Information obtained under the *Freedom of Information Act* indicates that if the *Standards of Fire Cover* formula were to be applied across the Lake George Zone there would be enough excess vehicles to provide the township of Bungendore with a town pumper or similar fire-fighting appliance.

Response time is the main problem in regard to calling in the necessary fire truck from another area. Unless a suitable fire truck can get to the burning house within 15 to 20 minutes, the chances of saving that house or any one trapped in it, are limited.

The Bungendore Brigade averages eight minutes to turn out and now has the (*still rare*) BA equipment to enter a burning house. The brigade has sufficient membership



depth to respond to a domestic house fire whilst also attending to other emergencies such as bush fires or motor vehicle accidents.

The Bungendore Brigade has over 50 members and only three fire fighting appliances whilst there are some brigades

The combined impact of warming and cool season drying is increasing the fire danger in a region already highly fire prone.

### We expect extreme warm weather events will occur more often

Future warming of the climate due to greenhouse gas emissions will very likely lead to further increases in the frequency of unusually hot days and nights.

These changes will result in weather events, which are increasingly beyond our prior experiences. And it's not just temperature extremes. Climate model projections indicate that the frequency of many different types of extreme weather will change as the planet warms.

Excerpted from <http://theconversation.edu.au/whats-causing-australias-heat-wave-11628>

See the Bureau of Meteorology *Special Climate Statement* report at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/statements/scs43c.pdf>

Above left: Smoke from a bushfire billows over beach goes at Carlton, about 20km east of Hobart [7 January 2013].

Source: Reuters

## FROM FIRE TO FLOOD

### Modern telecommunications and severe 'events'

Sue the *Bulletin's* Townsville colleague wrote at the end of January:

*What an awful event this is proving to be ... cyclone Oswald started up here a week ago, we got a heap of rain – over 300mm in 24 hours in some areas of Townsville, bit of minor flooding, not much damage but poor Bundaberg is coping it. Did you hear about the five mini tornadoes in that area?*

*We had a [localised] loss of power for three hours on Sunday, turns out it was the hottest recorded day for the last 8 years nearly 39°C and 94% humidity so very icky ... but when the power was restored at about 5.30pm there was no phone, internet and subsequently electronic banking or even 000 access for emergencies.*

*Turned out to be a couple of Telstra cable issues in the Bundaberg area. This took about 24 hours to restore.*

within the Lake George Zone that have six fire fighting trucks but less than 20 brigade members. ■

> See next page for response by District Manager Tim Carroll



# Leaving the block as a team in an emergency

A personal account by **Heike Hahner** of the bushfire between Bungendore and Braidwood on January 8

THE BEGINNING to 2013 was a lot less pleasant than we might have liked for many people in the Bungendore and Braidwood region.

Late in the evening on January 7, the phone rang and a recorded voice message informed us that the weather and resulting fire conditions were now 'Catastrophic' and if we needed not to be in the area we should leave.

From that point onwards, my life turned into an ongoing flurry of phone calls between friends and neighbours, everyone checking and re-checking where the fire at Sand Hills Road was. And could we see a plume of smoke appear on the horizon? My life narrowed down to a very small point of having the car facing the gate, a couple of



belongings and my animals ready to leave.

## Staying in touch with neighbours excellent idea

January 8 started off OK, but the weather deteriorated severely as the day grew older and by mid-afternoon the dreaded phone call came from a neighbour, "Get out of there, the fire is coming straight for your house."

Although we had all been checking the horizon all day for smoke, there had been none. When I went out after the call, a massive orange-red billowing cloud, moving rapidly upwards, had suddenly appeared. The

speed with which it had appeared was terrifying.

I, like many people in rural areas, have long dreaded just such a scenario as I have more animals than I can take to safety with me. The decision of who to take and who to leave, to fend for themselves, is heart-breaking.

I raced to get out of the house. My dogs, I had eight with me on that day, handled themselves like a well-trained SES team. There were no squabbles, no grumbles, everyone just rushed into the back of the car,

which fits six, and two came into the front. I opened all the paddock gates to allow the stock and my horse to get away should the fire come into their paddocks.

I returned later that same day after the wind had changed direction to get my cats. The young one escaped and refused to come back, but the older cat came along to Braidwood with us and spent the night in the glassed-in shower recess – an ideal cat enclosure. By the middle of the next day, the fire was brought under control and conditions had eased enough so we could return home.

In hindsight, I am very pleased with how well we managed, as a large group, to leave the house so quickly and efficiently. Having to leave other animals behind – sheep, horses, cattle, chooks – feels nasty but there were no real solutions to the problem. Friends offered to take my horse but some live in areas just as prone to fire or too far away to make it realistic at such short notice.

## Well-oiled team

I have come away from all this with the conviction that having a good relationship with your animals, whereby they accept and comply with commands, is crucial in an emergency.

In such situations they must accept to be in close physical contact with each other, strangers and strange animals. Allowing themselves without undue protest to be caged or restrained is another. Finally, patience, calmness and obedience when in a new place, is also of a great benefit.

Although this has been a very frightening experience, I have emerged with a sense of comfort, that as a team in an emergency my animals and I functioned extremely well and that the time spent training and working with them has been well spent. ■

## Wildlife suffers in fires from Wildcare Queanbeyan



Tony was rescued from the recent Cooma bushfire.

IT LOOKS like the bushfire risk and extremely hot weather may be with us for some time. Whilst priority must be given to saving people, property and stock animals we also need to spare a thought for our native wildlife.

The very hot weather affects many species. Over the last few weeks flying foxes along the eastern part of NSW have been

affected with hundreds, if not thousands, dying from heat stress.

Some wildlife groups have been inundated with suffering animals and are now trying to rehabilitate them. As well as shelter, native wildlife needs a good supply of food and water to survive.

We can help our wildlife by keeping bird baths topped up and if there is no other water source, such as a pond or dam, place shallow bowls of water on the ground for reptiles, possums and other critters.

Maryanne Gates, the President of Wildcare, suggests "Where there has been a bush fire, it is hoped property owners can find time to have a look around particularly at dusk, dawn and overnight, when animals are more active – to find out what wildlife remains.

"It may be possible to put out a number of watering and feed stations to keep wildlife

alive. Wildcare and other local wildlife groups may be able to help. Where there are injured animals, wildlife volunteers may be able to catch and treat them.

"In our area, there have been few animals coming into care from the recent bush fires, but this may be because we have yet to take time to check out burnt-out areas."

"Tony" (pictured), whose fur melted in the extreme heat of the Cooma bushfire, was rescued and is now in the care with his local wildlife group (LAOKO). Please keep a look out for injured or orphaned animals and contact your local wildlife group for help and advice.

- Wildcare (6299 1966) covers the area around the ACT.
- LAOKO (6456 1313) operates to the south in the Cooma region.
- NARG (4846 1900) is based around Braidwood. ■

## Helping Wildlife

Come to the Native Animal Rescue Group training course. Learn about local wildlife, rescue, handling, first aid and risks. Saturday 16 February between 9.30am and 4pm at the Braidwood Servicemens' Club. It's free! Refreshments and notes provided (BYO lunch). RSVP to Philip on 6238 3717 or at [machin4@bigpond.com](mailto:machin4@bigpond.com). All are welcome.

## RESPONSE FROM TIM CARROLL

District Manager, NSW Rural Fire Service, Lake George Zone

BUNGENDORE BRIGADE is one of 22 stations located across the Palerang and Queanbeyan Local Government Areas. These brigades work cooperatively together to provide fire protection to the local community. Additionally the Rural Fire Service has in place agreements with Fire and Rescue NSW and ACT Emergency Services to assist each other in times of need.

The recent Sandhills fire, east of Bungendore, demonstrates the system where additional resources were sourced from adjoining brigades, neighbouring districts and elsewhere around the state and the ACT. Additionally specialist resources including fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and heavy plant were brought in to assist with the fire fighting effort.

## Pumper now in a museum

The pumper previously located at Bungendore was one of a number loaned to the Rural Fire Service from the ACT Fire and Rescue when that organisation decommissioned them some years ago. Upon return to the ACT the Bungendore pumper was given to an ACT museum.

With the introduction of breathing apparatus to Bungendore, the opportunity was taken to provide a new village heavy tanker that had a higher water storage capacity and provided greater versatility to fight structure fires both within village or outside the village in areas where reticulated water is not available. The tanker also has off-road capabilities for use in accessing rural properties and or fighting bushfires.

Where the Bungendore tankers have been sent out of the village in the past a unit from a surrounding brigade has been stood up in the village.

Within the Palerang Local Government Area there are currently 55 tankers including 25 heavy, 23 medium and 7 light tankers. Thirty of these are under 15 years and the rest are aged between 16 to 30 years. Over the last decade, the Rural Fire Service has worked to modernise equipment including trucks and has introduced new equipment including the introduction of breathing apparatus to four brigades within the area.



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..... Recipes .....

As eggplants come into season the Bulletin has picked a few choice recipes! Eggplants are known to contain Chlorogenic acid, which is a plant compound that fights free radicals and lowers bad cholesterol. When at the market or shop, choose fresh eggplants with dark, shiny skin and use them within a day or two.

- Lebanese Stuffed Eggplant -

- 500g ground lamb • 1 medium onion, finely chopped • 1 medium eggplant
  - 285g tomatoes • 1 tsp pine nuts or 1 tsp walnuts, chopped • ½ tsp salt • ¼ tsp pepper • ¼ tsp cinnamon
- 1 Peel eggplant and then cut lengthwise into quarters. Brush with vegetable oil and place in a 32 x 22.5cm baking pan. Broil until light brown. Set aside.
  - 2 Saute the lamb, onions, salt, pepper, cinnamon and nuts until medium cooked (not brown) in a pan.
  - 3 Make a slit in each quarter of eggplant lengthwise.
  - 4 Stuff the meat mixture into each slit and over the eggplant. Pour tomatoes with their juice over the meat mixture. Cover with foil.
  - 5 Bake at 190°C for about 1 hour.
  - 6 Serve with rice.



ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY

- Grilled Eggplant Salad - Dressing

- ¼ cup fresh lime juice • 2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander • 1 tbsp brown sugar • 1 tsp Thai fish sauce • 1 tbsp minced hot chili pepper (eg serrano chili) or to taste • 1 tsp minced garlic

Salad

- 12 cherry tomatoes, quartered • 1 medium eggplant, cut into thick slices • 1 small red onion, sliced • ¼ cup torn mint leaves • ¼ cup torn basil leaves • salt
- 1 Combine dressing ingredients in a bowl; stir well with a whisk. Set aside.
  - 2 Preheat the grill.
  - 3 Combine tomatoes, mint and basil in a salad bowl. Set aside.
  - 4 Sprinkle eggplant with salt and place on a grill rack coated with cooking spray or olive oil; cook 5 minutes on each side or until eggplant is done. Remove eggplant from grill rack and set aside.
  - 5 Sprinkle onion with salt. Place onion on grill rack coated with cooking spray or oil; cook for 5 minutes on each side or until onion is tender.
  - 6 Cut eggplant into bite-sized pieces.
  - 7 Add eggplant and onion to tomato mixture. Add dressing and toss to coat.

- Spicy Eggplant Dip -

- 1 large eggplant • 1 tbsp olive oil • 1 tbsp tomato paste • 1 garlic clove, crushed • 1 tsp ground coriander • 1 tsp ground cumin • pinch of chili powder • 1 tsp sugar • salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 Place whole eggplant under a preheated moderate grill and grill for 10 minutes. Using tongs, turn the eggplant over and cook for a further 10 minutes.
  - 2 Allow to cool slightly, then cut the eggplant in half, scoop out the flesh and place it in a sieve over a bowl to drain for a few minutes.
  - 3 Heat oil in a non-stick frying pan, add the tomato paste, garlic, coriander and cumin and stir over a low heat for 30 seconds. Add the chili powder.
  - 4 Add the eggplant to the pan, sprinkle it with the sugar and season with salt and black pepper. Crush the eggplant with a fork, then stir continuously for about 5 minutes until you have a creamy purée. Scoop the purée into a bowl.
- Garnish with thyme and serve with toast fingers, pita bread or vegetable crudités.



PHOTO: CHRISTINA TAYLOR

It’s off to Europe for promising local cyclist by Karen Lovatt

IT BEGAN as Mitch Lovelock-Fay’s biggest weakness in triathlons. Now, it’s taken him to Europe for a new career phase.

“I started as a triathlete,” Lovelock-Fay said. “I was told I needed to work on my bike segment a bit more, and then it just went from there.”

“It” turned out to be the start of a promising cycling career for Lovelock-Fay from Bungendore whose cycling exploits have been chronicled previously in this and other local media.

The 21-year-old has just departed for Europe to ride for a professional cycling team in the UCI Continental Tour, only a step below the Pro Tour.

Lovelock-Fay left Australia on January 25 to join his new team. “They’re a Danish team based in Italy, called Christina Watches-Onfone,” Lovelock-Fay said. “Their training base is in the north of Italy.”

Lovelock-Fay believes that his strong results in 2012 contributed to his selection as one of Christina Watches-Onfone’s riders for 2013. Riding for Jayco-Honeyshotz in the Asian Tour, he had a solid season, including a brilliant win at the Tour of Thailand and an excellent sixth place at the Tour of China.

“I was a bit lucky there to come sixth,”



Mitch Lovelock-Fay waiting for the Tour of Thailand race to begin – he wins the event.

Lovelock-Fay said. “A lot of the riders there were quite a bit older than I am, so it was a good learning experience, and it was good that sixth helped me get on the team this year.”

Lovelock-Fay attributes the good finish to a combination of circumstances. “The second tour had two time trials,” he said. “It suited me a bit more than the first one ... I’m

good enough to remain competitive, but I like to ride hills, that’s where my strength’s at.”

Danish contract

Christina Watches-Onfone certainly liked what they saw. Lovelock-Fay is on a one-year contract, and if the results come, there could be more.

“I’m not sure what my plans are for next year yet,” Lovelock-Fay said. “I hope that I get enough results to keep myself in, or move on from there to a bigger team.”

He will spend 10 months training and racing in Europe. “I haven’t received a race program yet. Usually, most European teams vary from 80 to 120 race days a year.”

During his downtime, Lovelock-Fay likes to watch the professionals. “I like to learn a lot by watching the professional riders on TV. I have a lot of spare time on my hands after training, trying to recover, so usually I spend most of that time either reading books or watching racing.”

His heros and Rio in 2016?

Watching racing, of course, means watching what he someday aspires to be. Lovelock-Fay looks up to two riders in particular.

“I look up to Bradley Wiggins a lot. I also look up to the current Australian time trial and road champion, Luke Durbridge. I just get along with him really well, he’s a really nice person and a really talented rider, he’s the kind of person I aspire to be like.”

Lovelock-Fay won the National Track Title in 2010, but the results didn’t come, and he switched to road racing. He hasn’t however, ruled out a return to the track.

“I think my strengths at the moment are on the road,” he explained, “But I wouldn’t mind going to Australian Track Nationals next year in February and having a crack at that, and getting back into the Australian track program.”

The next stop after that could well be Rio de Janiero in 2016. “Depending on whether or not I get into the track program again, if I get back into the track program again then Rio will be the goal. I’m still a bit too young for the next Olympics on the road, so maybe the one after that.” ■

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# A lot to see in February

FEBRUARY NIGHTS, although light until fairly late in the evening, affords us warm weather, bright stars, the edge of our Galaxy, and, for this February, a good view of the giant planet Jupiter.

Binoculars reveal more distant, fainter objects, including some bright star clusters, described further below. High overhead is the brightest star in the whole sky, Sirius, a white star located 81,300,000,000 km away. Despite seeming a long way (*it would take us 93 million years to get there in a car*); Sirius is in fact the fifth closest star to our Sun.

Almost overhead is another bright white star, Canopus. Appearing only a little fainter than Sirius from our viewpoint on Earth, Canopus is 35 times further away. If Sirius was the same distance, it would be about as bright as Achenar, a third white star, visible high in the south-west.

The reason all these stars are white is no coincidence, as they are all relatively nearby young stars, perhaps even formed together as a group.

## Star clusters visible in Taurus

The fact that stars are created in large collections together, or clusters, is borne out this month, as February gives us an excellent chance to see two such bright clusters, both in the constellation Taurus, easily seen with

the naked eye, and very well seen through just a pair of binoculars.

As marked on the sky map for this month (*representing the sky at 8pm on the 15 Feb*), two star clusters 'the Hyades' and 'the Pleiades' can be seen towards the north near the planet Jupiter, and also near the bright reddish star Aldebaran, making identification easy. This red giant star appears to lie on top of the Hyades, but is in fact only half the distance away. They lie together in the sky purely by chance alignment.

The Hyades cluster appears like a V-shape collection of stars, right next to Aldebaran, which both make up the eye and snout of Taurus the Bull. Have a look through a pair of binoculars, many more stars will be visible, all of which were born together

from a huge cloud of hydrogen gas around 625 million years ago. This is fairly old for a star cluster, and in time the member stars will gradually disperse into the surrounding space.

The Pleiades is the second star cluster in Taurus, also identified on the star map for the month. The Pleiades are the same type of cluster to the Hyades, but they are only 1/6 the age, at 100 million years old, and are around twice as far away from Earth.

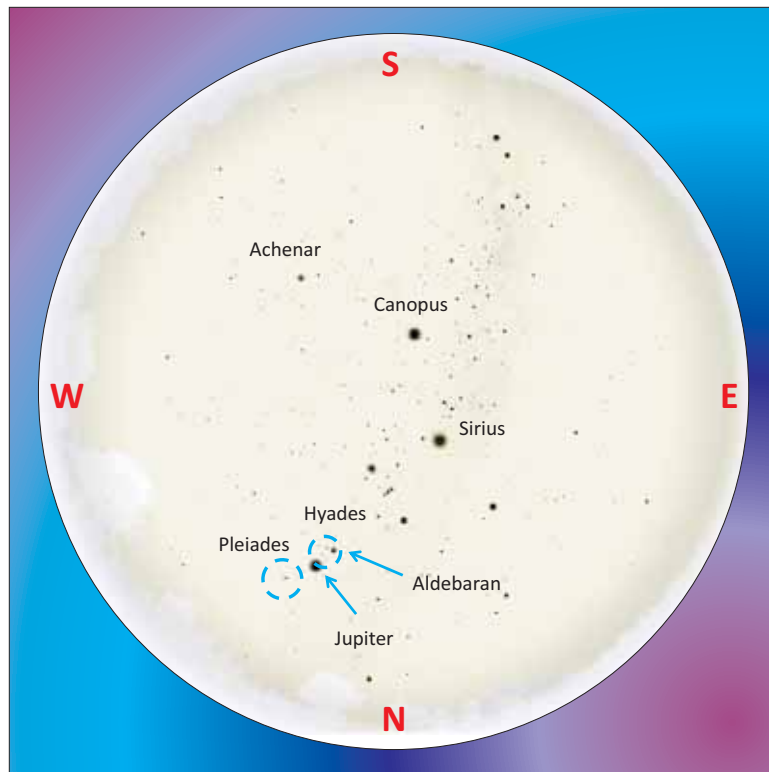


CHART (8PM ON 15 FEBRUARY) PRODUCED USING THE STELLARIUM SOFTWARE PACKAGE

## The Seven Sisters

Hence they are much more tightly bound together in our skies, and look like a small cloud to the naked eye. Those with good eyesight should make out seven stars, hence the popular name, the 'Seven Sisters'.

The Pleiades again show many more stars through a pair of binoculars, and telescopes can show traces of the nebula from which they were formed. Go outside and see these two star clusters for yourself! Can you see the Seven Sisters?

## The planets in February

The giant planet Jupiter shines fairly low in the North, and is the only bright planet visible in February. Through a telescope Jupiter displays changing cloud patterns and four bright moons. Sometimes these moons can be seen with a pair of binoculars. Can you see them? Jupiter currently lies in the constellation Taurus, near Aldebaran, and the Hyades and Pleiades previously described.

Later in the night the planet Saturn starts to appear low in the east, at its best for 2013 in April. Until that time it appears as a fairly bright yellowish star in the constellation Libra. Each day it will rise 4 minutes earlier, until the 28 April, when it will rise exactly at sunset, a time known as 'opposition', when it is closest to the Earth for the year.

The Moon is new on 10 Feb, and full on 26 Feb. The Moon is at half-phase on 18 Feb, the best time to look through a pair of binoculars to see the lunar mountains and craters. ■

# Is it time to rethink policies on naturalised predators?

PREDATION seems to us a terrible thing. But, in a way, it is nature's great kindness. It saves weak, sick or starving animals (*and the excess young which all animals and plants are fated to produce on a planet where perils are many*), from a painful, lingering death.

Only human predation is unequivocally cruel because it creates, for no other purpose than to kill and eat them, animals that would otherwise not exist. These domesticated species which no longer contribute any useful services to the ecosystem, contribute to the peril now faced by all life on the planet through their contribution to rising greenhouse gases and impact on other animals' habitat.



Yet, despite this monopoly humans hold on predation, how often have we heard cats and foxes accused of preying cruelly on Australia's small native marsupials and birds?

If you go looking for the science behind these accusations, you soon find that there is no evidence that cats have had any significant impact on native animal populations in mainland Australia. There is

some evidence that cats may have had an impact on offshore islands, but this does not mean much because offshore islands are notorious for changing the entire composition of their ecosystems every century or so.

There is evidence that foxes might have added to the pressures that have destroyed so many native marsupials – but those marsupials could not have survived anyway. Once most of the native vegetation was cleared, the marsupial populations did not have the numbers and the resilience to survive. It is likely that foxes just delivered the final *coup de grace* to a number of already doomed individual creatures.

## Keeping mice and rabbits under control

There is, on the other hand, ample evidence that cats and foxes have been critical in keeping rabbit, rat and mouse populations



under control (*except when the rat or rabbit food supply booms; predator populations always lag behind prey populations during these events*).

There is also evidence that many native predators have become almost wholly dependent for their diet on introduced prey animals, such as rabbits.

Despite this evidence, there have been virtually no comprehensive studies undertaken into the ecological services provided by naturalised species in Australia, and the consequences of eradicating these species (if we could). We have no idea how removing so much vegetation, so many

## — Your Say —



by  
**Frankie Seymour**

prey animals and so many predators impact our remaining native species and ecosystems.

Moreover, we now have to accept that foxes, cats, rabbits, and so on, are part of the Australian ecosystem, for good or ill. No-one nowadays is silly enough to believe we can eradicate them. For each animal we kill, we just empty a niche for another animal of the same fast-breeding species to move into, and those new individuals are likely to be younger, stronger and more fertile than the ones we have killed.

*Continued p18*

## Cost of supporting social services getting beyond Queanbeyan Council

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council has resolved to work with the Commonwealth and state government funding departments to transition aged care, disability and respite services to private providers.

Council-subsidised costs for Commonwealth and State grant-funded programs that are administered by Queanbeyan City Council for aged care, disability and respite services have increased to an unsustainable level of almost \$2 million per year. These

subsidies have been funded by Queanbeyan ratepayers, with increasing amounts required annually to provide these services. These funds have been diverted from core Council services.

Council approached the funding bodies seeking additional funding, however none is available.

Queanbeyan City Council is now working closely with Commonwealth and state funding departments to transition local and regional programs to new service providers in 2013.

Council will also be seeking, where possible, to secure employment for Council staff with the new service providers as staff are experienced, skilled and know the clients and carers. Council will also be seeking placement for volunteers with the new service providers.

*Continued p18*



## Not much evidence except that 1080 is a cruel killer

So, firstly, we have the lack of evidence that most of the naturalised animals which are so often condemned as “feral pests”, “noxious species”, or “vermin”, are, in their own right, having any significant impact on Australian ecosystems.

Secondly, we have virtually no studies at all into the services now being provided to our ecosystems by naturalised species.

Thirdly, there is the very likely

futility of killing animals and opening up niches for others of the same species.

Fourthly we have the simple ethical issue of whether it is okay to kill one innocent individual sentient being in order to protect another.

Finally, we have the extreme cruelty of the poisonous measures currently used to kill these animals.

It is time to stop trying to solve a problem with violence against defenceless animals. By all means, we should do all we can to assist nature to develop its own equilib-

rium. But not until we have a trace of a clue of what we are doing, and not with cruelty under any circumstances.

Tragically, some species might become extinct in the process. That will be our fault for past land use practices, not the fault of the species we introduced that have out-competed some natives or preyed on them. By interfering now, are we only making matters worse?

At least we can take some comfort from knowing that our naturalised foxes and cats will prevent the cruel, lingering deaths of some individuals of those vanishing species. ■

SOURCE: WWW.MALLEEFOWL.COM.AU



## COST OF SUPPORTING SOCIAL SERVICES

Cont'd from p17

Council has informed more than 1,400 clients and carers throughout Queanbeyan and the southern region by letter of the decision, that services will continue to be provided by Council until the transition is complete and will then be provided by the new service providers and the process to be followed to keep clients and carers informed.

“This is an unfortunate position for Council, however the current situation is unsustainable due to increasing pressure on local government to maintain core services and infrastructure. The issue of financial sustainability is the urgent challenge facing councils across NSW with local government currently undergoing a comprehensive and independent review as called by the NSW Government,” Queanbeyan Mayor, Tim Overall said.

“At one time, Council was the only provider of these programs in Queanbeyan, but now there is a range of other well-established and highly-professional service organisations that provide these services as their core business and are better placed to administer the funding.

“This is a sensitive issue, particularly for clients, carers and staff. Council will continue to provide services to clients and carers and will be working with the funding departments in close cooperation to ensure a smooth transition of clients, carers and those staff and in close cooperation with the new service providers.”

In 2009–10 Queanbeyan City Council successfully coordinated the transfer of the South Queanbeyan Childcare Centre and the Family Support Service and Family Accommodation and Support Service to private service providers. This was achieved in an effective and efficient manner, resulting in a good outcome for clients and staff.

— Press release

## Regatta 2013 City Life

ON SATURDAY 2 March the Queanbeyan River will come alive with festivities and excitement for the annual Queanbeyan Regatta! The event will be held from 10am to 2pm and will host an extravaganza of free activities for people of all ages to enjoy. To celebrate Queanbeyan’s 175th birthday, the theme of the day will be “Happy Birthday Queanbeyan”.

We encourage contestants to bring out their creative skills to build a boat or raft. The major prizes will be given for best; Green Machine (*best use of recycled materials*), Dream Engineer (*most creative design*), Show your Style (*most creative crew name and outfits*) and Shoot for the Stars (*first across the line*). There will also be a prize for the most creative Birthday Boat.

Along with the exciting boat races, you will be entertained with music and performances. There will be a free jumping castle, activities and fruit for kids. Food will also be available for purchase on the day.

Whether you want to be a spectator and relax on the banks of the river, participate

in the activities or be a contestant, the Queanbeyan Regatta will be the place to be on 2 March.

So rally your friends, family or work colleagues to help you build a boat or raft for the 2013 Queanbeyan Regatta!

Registrations with terms and conditions

can be found on Council’s website, [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au) or if you require further information, please contact Samantha Swales on 6285 6552.

Queanbeyan City Council supports the environment by hosting environmentally responsible events. Water drinking stations will be available for you to refill your own water bottles.

— Press release

Invitation to participate...

### Queanbeyan Regatta 2013

Saturday 2 March 10.00am – 2.00pm

on the banks of the Queanbeyan River – Trinculo Place

Theme – **Happy Birthday Queanbeyan**



Major prizes will be given for best:

- **Green Machine** (*best use of recycled materials*)
- **Dream Engineer** (*most creative design*)
- **Show your Style** (*most creative crew name and outfits*)
- **Shoot for the Stars** (*first across the line*)
- **Best Birthday Boat** (*best birthday themed boat/crew*)



- food • music • refreshments • information stalls
- entertainment • activities for all ages

Entry forms available online  
[www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au)

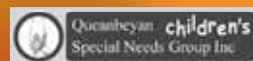
or for more information contact  
Samantha Swales on 6285 6552  
Registrations close on Thursday 28 February 2013



**1st & 3rd  
Fridays  
5–8pm**

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!

**In the courtyard at 253 Crawford Street  
adjacent to Council Chambers**



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.



## EVERY MONTH:

### Every Saturday

#### Capital Region Farmers Market

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

### 1st Saturday of every month (except April)

#### The Captains Flat Country Markets

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

### 2nd Sunday of the month (except Jan)

#### Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

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

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

#### Wamboin Produce Market

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

### 3rd Sunday every month

#### Bungendore Markets

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

#### Windy Hall Country Markets

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

### 4th Saturday of every month

#### Braidwood Markets

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

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

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

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

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

## — GIG GUIDE: February —

### First Friday of the month: Music and Poetry

Royal Hotel, Bungendore, 7.30pm.

### Friday 8

**Back to Back**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

**Phat Kat City**, Pop, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

**Hit & Run**, Rock/Pop, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

### Thursday 14

**Sax in the City**, 60's to the latest hits, 7–11pm. Hotel Queanbeyan.

### Friday 15

**Hit & Run**, Rock/Pop, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

**The Jukes**, Rock/Blues/Country, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

**R&R**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

### Thursday 21

**Getaway Car**, 7–11pm. Hotel Queanbeyan.

### Friday 22

**Hit & Run**, Rock/Pop, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

**Karaoke**, Country, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

### Thursday 28

**Calum Howarth**, 7–11pm. Hotel Queanbeyan.

### During FEBRUARY

#### Summerside Festival

Over 25 regional venues across Bungendore, Yass, Hall, Murrumbateman and the Canberra region. Celebrating everything summer in the Capital, this month-long festival will be full of alfresco dining events celebrating local and seasonal produce, wine tastings, innovative performances, and and exhibitions highlighting local talent. For more see [www.thepoachersway.com.au](http://www.thepoachersway.com.au).

### Until 2 March

#### Exhibition – *Silence*

POPup! Monaro Art Space, 138 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. Aria Stone is a Canberra-based artist, songwriter and musician. This body of work evolved from investigations into the notion of silence over linear time. For more phone Ros 0438 768 754.



### Until 30 April

#### Exhibition – *Masters of Craft*

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, 22 Malbon St, Bungendore. Masters of Craft presents the work of three woodworkers considered to be among the best in the world. For more see [www.bwoodworks.com.au](http://www.bwoodworks.com.au).



### Sunday 17

#### Country Park Dressage Classic

Bungendore Showground, Mathews Ln, Bungendore. For details contact [events@brc.org.au](mailto:events@brc.org.au).

### Tuesday 19

#### Wamboin Community Assoc. February General Meeting

Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, 7.30pm. All welcome.

### Friday 22 – Sunday 24

#### Royal Canberra Show

EPIC Showgrounds, Wells Station Rd, Mitchell. The 2013 Royal Canberra Show is celebrating the Centenary by showcasing the last 100 years in the Capital and region from an agricultural, farming and community perspective. For details see [www.rncas.org.au/showwebsite](http://www.rncas.org.au/showwebsite).

### Saturday 23

#### Captains Flat Gold Fever Ball

Captains Flat Hall, Foxlow St, 8pm. A fundraising event, tickets \$25 per person. BYO picnic basket supper and drinks. Dress formal with a 'Gold Fever' theme. For more see [www.captainsflat.org/Ball2012.htm](http://www.captainsflat.org/Ball2012.htm).



### Sunday 24

#### Carnivale – Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival

Queanbeyan Park, 10am–5pm. Celebrating Queanbeyan's considerable diversity. Stalls, food, entertainment and more. For details see [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au).

### ONE RIVER

#### SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS with John Shortis

Wednesdays Feb 27, March 6, 13, 20  
7–8.30pm \$40

\$30 concession for all 4 workshops

Ainslie Arts Centre, Elouera Street,  
Braddon

To enrol, 6249 7377 or  
[admin@gormanhouse.com.au](mailto:admin@gormanhouse.com.au)

### Thursday 7 – Sunday 10

#### Goulburn Australian Blues Music Festival

Australia's largest blues festival with over 30 headline acts set to perform. For detailed info on artists, venues and tickets see [www.austbluesfestival.laing-entertainment.com.au](http://www.austbluesfestival.laing-entertainment.com.au).

### Friday 8 – Sunday 24

#### *West Side Story*

The Q, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. This classic musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. For more see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

### Sunday 10 – Monday 11

#### Crookwell Show

Crookwell Showground, Crookwell. Exhibitions of dogs, cattle, sheep, horses and more. 'The Land' Showgirl competition. Activities for all the family. For details see [www.crookwellshow.com.au](http://www.crookwellshow.com.au).

### Monday 11 – 3 March

#### Exhibition – *Southern Exposure*

FORM Studio and Gallery, 1/30 Aurora Ave, Queanbeyan. A group exhibition of paintings, drawings, ceramics and prints inspired by the Discovering Tasmania Artists Retreat. Opening Saturday 16 by Elisabeth Cummings at 2pm. For more see [www.formstudioandgallery.com.au](http://www.formstudioandgallery.com.au).

### Tuesday 12

#### Queanbeyan Schools as Community Centres Open Day

Queanbeyan Public School, Isabella St, Queanbeyan. From 10am. An open day for families with children 0–8 years in the Queanbeyan region. Meet the staff, parents, carers and children. Free BBQ, face painting, arts and crafts, games and toys, mini kindy gym, outdoor activities. For more phone 6297 2167.

### Saturday 16

#### The Braidwood Cup

Braidwood Showground, Kings Hwy, Braidwood. Annual race meeting. For more phone 4842 2623.

### Burra Summer Ball

From 8pm. Dance to the Canberra big band In Full Swing. \$35 BYO food and drink. Phone 6236 3939 for details.

### Saturday 16 – Sunday 17

#### Queanbeyan Relay for Life

Seiffert Oval, Queanbeyan. The inaugural Relay for Life in 2012 was one of the biggest events in NSW and organisers are looking to top it in 2013. To register as an individual or a team visit [www.relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2013/queanbeyan\\_2013](http://www.relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2013/queanbeyan_2013).

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Info at [www.themullooninstitute.org](http://www.themullooninstitute.org)

Tickets \$48 Bookings Essential

Enquiries to Donna 0413 535 957

### During March

#### Exhibition

Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore. Roland Aronsen & Sheryl Miller. Phone 6238 1640 or see [www.bungendorefineart.com.au](http://www.bungendorefineart.com.au).

### Friday 1

#### Trivia Night for Variety

Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan. Raising money for Variety – The Children's Charity. Professionally run trivia night with prizes, raffles and games – bring the kids! For more phone 6284 4412.

#### Queanbeyan's Moving Memories – Film Night

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 7.30pm. A compilation of films detailing the history of Queanbeyan and surrounds. Includes the feature film *Around the Boree Log*. Free entry, bookings essential, phone 6285 6290.

### Saturday 2

#### Queanbeyan Regatta – Happy Birthday Queanbeyan

Queanbeyan River. Get out on the river in craft of all shapes and sizes or cheer your favourite raft on from the safety and comfort of the river banks. For details and entry forms see [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au).

### Braidwood Show

Braidwood Showground, Kings Hwy, Braidwood. The show offers something for all ages including from sideshow alley to industrial displays and entertainment events. For more see [www.braidwoodshow.com.au](http://www.braidwoodshow.com.au).

### Sunday 3

#### Clean Up Australia Day

Bywong, Macs Reef Rd and Bungendore Rd, 9am–2pm. Share a great spirit of community pride and end the day with a BBQ at the hall on Birriwa Rd. For details see [www.cleanupaustralia.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustralia.org.au).

### Wamboin March Golf Competition

Wamboin Community Hall, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin. First competition of 2013. Tee off from 12.30pm. All welcome.

### Tarago Annual Show

Local country show featuring various events, vintage and classic cars, competitions for kids of all ages. For more phone 4844 5518.

### The Queanbeyan Ceilidh

Bicentennial Centre, Crawford St. Featuring pipe bands, Scottish Highland Dancers, Celtic choirs, folk bands, bush poets and more. For more phone 0419 143 502.

### Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7

#### Animal Farm

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Animal Farm is one of the most controversial and studied political commentaries. George Orwell's simple yet intensely powerful fairy tale illustrates how greed and absolute power corrupts absolutely and, with devastating consequences, can change the course of history. For details see [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au).

### Friday 8 – Monday 12

#### Canberra's Big Birthday Weekend

Variety of fun events throughout the Capital to celebrate Canberra's Centenary. For details see [www.canberra100.com.au/programs/the-big-birthday-weekend](http://www.canberra100.com.au/programs/the-big-birthday-weekend).



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