



Bulletin

CAPITAL REGION FOCUS — environment, business, arts, people, politics, events

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concerts,
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Notes from the fire front

"What sticks in my mind from this fire? Fear – that was controlled by training and a trust in my fellow crew members. We were alone in the middle of a running fire with a task to complete as best we could, but we knew each had the other's back. The sight of a large roo sitting in the middle of the dam near the house is etched into my mind reflecting the ferocity of the fire." — Sutton RFS member

JANUARY 17 and 18 will stay in the memory of a lot of people in western Palerang and further west, as grass fires raced erratically through the Tarago, Mt Fairy, Boro region and to the west between Sutton and Mulligans Flat – fanned by high temperatures and high winds suddenly rated 'extreme'.

On Hazeldell Road, Mt Fairy, tragedy struck one man – the unexpected fire destroyed the home and irreplaceable memorabilia of Bungendore businessman Richard Graham.

Yet, nearby Mulloon Creek free-range chicken farm luckily lost only a handful of some 20,000 birds that sheltered in moveable sheds with faithful guard dogs.

In both fire areas, many stock animals and wildlife lost their lives, and affected property owners lost (as well as the animals) fencing, sheds, pasture and faced sudden fight or flight.

The heat hit 37 degrees by midday and the wind blew 50–80km per hour on the 17th and remained as bad on the 18th when the Mulligans Flat fire broke out.

PHOTO: Wallaroo RFB



That fire burned 524 hectares and drew some 158 fire fighters plus eight aircraft, including a Large Air Tanker. 135 regional firefighters battled at Tarago/Mt Fairy aided by seven aircraft. The fire eventually burned more than 3,000 hectares.

Both fires are still subject to speculation and investigation. The Mulligans Flat fire is officially labelled suspicious, while the Tarago/Mt Fairy fire has been attributed to a crow catching fire after hitting high voltage wires near a neighbouring windfarm.

While people in Bywong and Wamboin scrambled for their fire plans with mobile alerts, some others at the Mt Fairy fire reported getting no mobile alerts – the lack of mobile coverage familiar to all country people (and that the Boro Mt Fairy RFS has warned about for years). Personal visits from RFS crews saved the day.

Continued at www.districtbulletin.com.au with some personal reflections from RFS volunteers and landholders: > **Notes from the fire front**

Fire authorities warn risk of grass fires greater than ever this month: remember grass fires can start from any machinery that gets hot and/or makes sparks. This includes tractors, mowers, vehicles and motor bikes, slashers, harvesters, welders, chainsaws and grinders on hot days. **Fire! Call 000** ■

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Bulletin designer Sue Van Homrigh captured this Harlequin Bug, beetling along her car in Townsville.

Queanbeyan-Palerang regional Downtown development proposal begs some questions

by Graham Franklin-Browne

BEFORE THE Christmas break, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council announced it had received an unsolicited bid from a consortium of 'experienced' local property developers to re-develop a large section of the Queanbeyan CBD. The proposal involved a mix of commercial, cinema, office, residential and carparking developments on council-owned property.

The amalgamated council administrator, Tim Overall, agreed to enter into a so-called 'Heads of Agreement' regarding proposed re-development on four key CBD sites around Morisset Street, Crawford Street, Rutledge Street and Lowe Street.

In tandem, council is continuing with plans to replace its Crawford Street headquarters with a five-storey structure to accommodate council chambers and offices, and to offer tenancies. It proposes selling sites that formerly housed council operations to pay for the new building. Those sites are the basis for the development proposal.

In April 2016, prior to the forced amalgamations council gave permission for the General Manager to negotiate unsolicited bids. The community consultation for the developments would include updates to the Queanbeyan CBD Master Plan prepared by the previous elected council.

But the anonymous (to the public) nature of the original proposal, the scale of development, lack of elected government, and what some regard as potential conflict of interest, has twitched noses around town.

This was not helped by questions regarding the bid being declared out of order at recent council meetings, and discussions so far having taken place behind closed doors under the provisions of commercial-in-confidence.

It has now been revealed that Milin Builders, Turnkey Projects, and MacNamee Development Division have formed a partnership to develop the sites.

QPRC administrator Tim Overall said

the time was now right to capitalise on market confidence in Queanbeyan, and that selling of public buildings would allow the administration building plan to go ahead without state or federal funding, or increasing rates. A price tag of \$400 million was reported by ABC radio in an interview with the administrator.

MP for Eden-Monaro, Mike Kelly praised efforts of former councillors to complete the development of the Queanbeyan CBD Master Plan prior to the forced amalgamations.

But several former Queanbeyan councillors now argue that a major new development proposal should first come before an elected council. Former councillor Kenrick Winchester commented that while the developer offer may be welcome, the council administrator should consider removing himself from future discussion regarding the proposal.

"This once in a generation proposal should be outside the remit of a caretaker administration, and decisions of this nature should be made by the community through their elected representatives," he said [Administrator Overall owns or owned commercial property in the CBD and

has stepped aside for that reason while Mayor when council discussed earlier downtown development proposals.]

Spokesperson for the combined councils, Ricky Tozer said: "regardless of whether or not the matter was being handled by elected representatives, the provisions of commercial-in-confidence would still apply, and discussions would still have taken place behind closed doors".

Comment by Graham Franklin-Browne as Queanbeyan resident

When we were forcibly amalgamated last year, were we naive in believing that the administration phase would be a caretaker period – a time when major development decisions affecting all Queanbeyan and Palerang residents would not be made?

In the interests of transparency, and given that there is the possibility that Administrator Overall will run again for local office this year, he needs to clear up a number of these issues before the more formal development application is prepared and presented for approval.

Ultimately, the current administrator should stand tall and confirm that a final agreement on a proposal of this magnitude will be deferred until after the September 2017 election. ■

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Note from the Editor

The District Bulletin with the help of our wonderful advertising partners supports both a print issue and a website that is going from strength to strength: check it out at www.districtbulletin.com.au.

Print remains challenging on the financial front for most publications. As you see with this issue, we currently are testing something a bit different – a higher quality print news magazine format (with less pages at the moment), offset by more material going to the website for



follow-up at your leisure.

We will monitor how this goes for the next couple of months.

In this issue you will find a good spotlight on 'What's On' events and regional theatre, environmental news, (always a distinguishing focus for us), local government issues, and some interesting features from our neighbourhoods. Not to forget a widely distributed showcase for our advertising partners!

Bringing you regional news is more important than ever with local councils still not bedded down following amalgamations, with council elections coming up, and NSW courting electoral backlashes thanks to former premier Baird's undemocratic policies.

We will always fill a niche for environmental reporting which is so important and neglected elsewhere, and have built a platform for arts and events both print and website.

If you have any feedback or comment, or want to support the *Bulletin* more actively, don't hesitate to get in touch at media@districtbulletin.com.au or for adverts adverts@districtbulletin.com.au (Anyone with bulletin@yless.com.au in your email address book please know that this no longer reaches us.)

Following that fiery start to the year in our region, the *Bulletin* team and I wish you a serene February and success with all your endeavours. ■

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Steve Posselt – have kayak will travel on climate mission

by Jenny Goldie

ENGINEER STEVE Posselt worries about climate change. He worries so much that he even paddled his sea-kayak Old Yella in France to Paris for the critical climate change talks in 2015.

Posselt believes we are in a state of climate emergency. He says we need to accept the science, ask governments to declare a climate emergency, and immediately mobilise resources at a massive scale.

Globally, the past three years – 2014, 2015 and 2016 – have each been the hottest on record. Last year was Australia’s fourth hottest year and Sydney has just recorded its hottest January.

Posselt thought Paris might be the end of his journey, but he realised that even if all nations met their NDCs (Nationally



Determined Contributions), temperatures would still increase by nearly 3°C over pre-industrial levels. His ‘Connecting Climate Chaos’ journey was not yet over.

So on New Year’s Day 2017, Posselt brought out Old Yella again and started paddling from his home in Ballina, down the NSW coast to Moruya. From there he

will walk to Canberra via Araluen, Braidwood and Bungendore.

Posselt and climate campaigners from over 30 community groups are collecting signatures for a petition, calling on the Australian Parliament to declare a climate emergency and to mobilise resources to restore a safe climate.

**He hopes for
100,000 signatures
by the time he reaches
Canberra on 25 February
via Moruya, Araluen, Braidwood
and Bungendore**

Posselt is keeping a diary of his trip <http://kayak4earth.com/category/diary/>. On 1 February he recorded that he was welcomed into Wollongong harbour by a flotilla of kayaks and other paddle craft, and cheering people with large letters making up ILLAWARRA WANTS CLIMATE ACTION. It was “inspirational”, he wrote.

On 17 February, 350Eurobodalla is hosting a picnic in the Sage Gardens (110 Queen Street) in Moruya at 6pm, with a video presentation of ‘Steve Posselt’s Climate Story – his kayak odyssey’. The next day, Posselt gets back on the road at Araluen and walks up the escarpment to Braidwood.

As one who shares his climate concerns, I will be joining him for that leg of the journey. Others may care to join him for part of the way, or at least cheer him on.

Posselt’s odyssey ends in Canberra on 25 February. He’ll get back into Old Yella and be greeted by his supporters on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin around 10.30am as he paddles ashore with his welcoming flotilla.

They will then march with Posselt to Engineering House to hand over the Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilisation petition. A climate emergency seminar will follow in the afternoon.

Posselt’s fellow engineer and a former senior international oil, gas and coal industry executive, Ian Dunlop, will take the petition to Parliament House on Monday 27 February. Dunlop, who understands only too well the grave risks of climate change, cannot be ignored. ■

To sign the petition, go to: <http://climateemergencydeclaration.org/sign>

We’re all here helping each other out



Little Peep the Noisy Friar Bird.

‘LITTLE PEEP’ as we came to call him, is only alive today through good luck and the help of the SES and arguably Australia’s best wildlife vet. Quite a journey for the little guy or girl (we don’t know), from hanging upside down by the leg in mid-January to this in early February.

After initial hysterics when he was rescued and picked up, Peep, named for the baby Friar Bird sounds he emits (more loudly as he becomes hungrier) sailed through the rest with the vocal determination of your typical juvenile bird.

Now a few days after release he’s still here in our trees, testing his wings and coming back to us ‘adults’, not shy to land on a person if we’re not listening – peeping loudly for a feed of fruit and brown rice. Mid-summer pickings for nectar eaters have gotten slimmer. We’re elated it’s worked so far and looking out for what next with this little character, who is here

surrounded by Rosellas, Magpies, wrens, fantails, Eastern Spinebills and other smaller birds with the occasional hint of one of his own kind.

It didn’t start so well. It was luck that I was nearby, heard some mild peeping, looked up and saw a poor little bird dangling upside down by its leg outside a nest on an outer branch of a tall gum. We could see he had some twine wrapped around his ‘ankle’ and was still attached to the nest.

What to do? Pole, ladder, and pulley ropes did not bring him close enough. With the intercession of Wildcare, four kind people from the Bungendore SES came to the rescue. Their longer ladder allowed the rope pulley to bring his branch close enough to cut him and the nest down.



Katina Manley of the Bungendore SES with nest.

All agreed that people should be careful about leaving feedbags and twine around where birds can harvest the artificial strong fibre for their nests.

Wrapped in a small towel Peep was transported in a box to the Braidwood-area surgery of veterinarian Howard Ralph and his partner Glenda Ralph. Howard, who does amazing surgery on all manner of wildlife (*Bulletin* profile April 2012) anesthetized and x-rayed our little friend to determine that luckily nothing was broken. Glenda started him on the road to recovery with a nice cage home and a gourmet diet of white peaches and grapes.



Two weeks later Peep came back to Bywong and two weeks after that he/she was freed and took to resort life like... umm... a duck to water?



— Maria Taylor



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While the firm may be new to Queanbeyan, Ian certainly isn’t! He has been living in Bungendore since 1980, and has an extensive knowledge of the local area.

Ian is very familiar with local government having been the Mayor of both the Palerang Shire and the Yarrowlumla Shire.

He has practised in a wide variety of areas, but now mainly specialises in family law. In

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Henry was born and raised in Bungendore and started his legal career in Queanbeyan. Since then he has gained experience predominately in criminal law, family law and conveying. Henry is a young and passionate advocate who prides himself in putting his client’s needs first.

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Australian National University offers no research, knowledge or kindness with kangaroo killing

Report by Frankie Seymour



AN ESTIMATED 1,400 kangaroos and joeys have been killed and orphaned at the Australian National University (ANU) Kioloa Campus on the south coast since 2007. The estimate is based on documents provided by ANU to a local resident under Freedom of Information, and analysed by the Australian Society for Kangaroos (ASK).

ANU was deeded extensive acreage at the campus and is reportedly attempting a cattle business there.

Internal records reveal that, in 2007, under a NSW govern-

ment licence, the university killed 560 adult Eastern Grey Kangaroos, and another 300 in 2009, along with an unreported number of their young. ANU then applied to the NSW Department of Environment to kill another 600 in 2016 but were denied the application and issued a permit for another 90, of which 69 have now been killed.

Most mature females killed represent up to three kangaroo deaths because a mature female kangaroo usually has both this year's young in her pouch and a dependent joey at foot from a previous year.

NSW Environment Department policy is that 'shooting is the last resort'. Yet, there is no evidence that the ANU or the NSW government even considered non-lethal strategies.

Killing comparable to harp seal slaughter and worse

Nikki Sutterby, President of ASK, referring to Commonwealth Government-funded research (Sharp & McLeod, 2014 – see papers at end), compares the killing of baby kangaroos to the violent way baby harp seals are killed in Newfoundland by the fur industry and says the killing of the family unit is always inhumane.

"Kangaroos are intelligent and affectionate animals with complex social structures and strong family bonds. These large-scale slaughters terrorise the mob for hours, night after night. They destroy the integrity of the mob structure and leave dependent at-foot joeys orphaned and alone. Pouch joeys are ripped from their dead mother's pouch and, as they wriggle and cry out, are swung by their feet and bludgeoned to death."

The Sharp/McLeod research concludes that large-scale slaughter of kangaroos, even by professional shooters, leads to starvation, stress and severe suffering of orphaned baby kangaroos. The FOI material reveals no new scientific evidence to refute this finding.

The ANU listed a range of tired reasons well-known to ACT residents from the Territory's killing program, and added a few new ones that defy logic, while all come without evidence or scientific support.

It's worth looking closer at the ANU claims because they are so often repeated in public discussions. They say kangaroos have few natural predators (a statement that always leaves aside humans). In fact, foxes kill 50 percent of joeys born (Banks 2000). Additionally, kangaroos are known not to breed when food is

scarce (Burnie and Wilson 2001).

In the wild, kangaroo populations will increase at a rate of only nine percent per year and, once in equilibrium with the environment, the population stabilises (Arnold, 1991). The stability of wild kangaroo populations is corroborated by 20 years of kangaroo counts at the Yan Yean Reservoir (Coulson 1999).

ANU claims that kangaroos pose a disease risk. Yet there is no evidence that kangaroos can transmit any disease to humans unless people eat them.

ANU claims that there is a risk of kangaroos attacking people, which is mostly laughable. Kangaroos are gentle, fearful animals – though some will defend themselves if cornered.

Car-strike is another reason given. This can be prevented by a range of measures: reduce local road speeds; traffic calming devices; under/over passes; signage in high risk areas; and public education.

And here's a new one! ANU claims that killing kangaroos is necessary for fire prevention. Yet kangaroo and other grazing is the best possible insurance against fire.

There is also a discussion about fertility control, a complex issue.

When fertility control is added to the other threats facing kangaroos – particularly habitat loss; climate change; hunting for meat and skins; so-called management 'culling'; and car strike – it is simply a less inhumane road to extinction. ■

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Focus on Energy and Innovation

Donald trumpets the rebirth of big oil and coal, but others see vastly different picture led by solar and electric cars

WHILE DONALD Trump's environment and energy ministers sharpen their shovels, and brave Captain Turnbull promotes the benefits of 'clean coal', the rest of the world is just getting on with the job of switching to clean, renewable energy.

According to a recent report in *The Guardian* Australia "electric cars and cheap solar could halt fossil fuel growth by 2020."

That story and others like it take their statistics from a report by the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London and the Carbon Tracker Initiative.

They looked at cost reduction projections for green technologies and countries' pledges to cut emissions. The finding is that solar power and electric vehicles are game-changers that could leave fossil fuels stranded.

Polluting fuels could lose 10% of market share to solar power and clean cars within a decade, the report found.

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The Guardian reports that a 10% loss of market share was enough to cause the collapse of the coal mining industry in the US, while Europe's five major utilities lost €100 billion between 2008 and 2013 because they did not prepare for an 8% increase in renewables.

"Big energy companies are seriously underestimating the low-carbon transition by sticking to their "business as usual" scenarios which expect continued growth of fossil fuels, and could see their assets "stranded", the report is quoted as saying.

Emerging technology, such as printable solar photovoltaics which generate electricity, could bring down costs and boost take-up even more than currently predicted."

The report also says the cost of solar has fallen 85% in seven years, and that panels could supply 23% of global power generation by 2040 and 29% by 2050, destroying the market for both coal and gas.

By 2035, electric vehicles could have 35% of the road transport market, and two-thirds by 2050, displacing oil. ■

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California accuses Australian government of "unsavoury" lobbying on behalf of kangaroo trade

The Californian government's Fair Political Practices Commission in January warned the Australian government to stop their underhand tactics to restart the trade in kangaroo products into California.

The warning letter was issued after an investigation confirmed the Australian government violated California's lobbying laws with undeclared payments made to influence the Californian legislative process.

Californian daily newspaper, *The Sacramento Bee*, has described the events as "unsavoury foreign government interference and industry money to influence with local government decision-making". They labelled the world of kangaroo lobbying as "swampy".

> Read the full story on our website: *California recognises the "swampy" world of kanga politics* at www.districtbulletin.com.au

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Council Watch with (former Palerang councillor) Peter Marshall

Beware gift-wrapped pork barrels: the cost to ratepayers of the EDE

Depreciation, maintenance...

WHEN I was elected to Palerang Council in September 2012, elected at the same time were five other new councillors; another one with less than two years' experience as a councillor, and two with a single full term under their belts.

The Palerang General Manager soon drummed into us that new council infrastructure paid for by grants from State or Federal Government, or any other source, could be considered assets, but were also liabilities. (I already knew this from my knowledge of the Captains Flat water treatment plant project.)

Council accounting rules, and in fact any half-decent attempt at financial management, dictates that assets have running costs. In the case of a new road, these may be small or even minimal. However, every asset must be depreciated – in lay terms, you need to start putting money aside for its replacement when it's worn out.

So a new shade sail at a playground, at a cost of \$30,000 and with a lifespan of 10 years, will add roughly \$3,000 to council's annual costs, or more when inflation is taken into account. Some things get expen-

Engineers vision of what the EDE will look like.



sive faster than others, and roads are one of those.

The Road Costs Index generally increases much faster than CPI. Roads are a little more complex than shade cloths, because you don't wait for them to wear out then replace them. You constantly extend their life through maintenance, so that annual maintenance costs and depreciation become wrapped up together.

Queanbeyan Council, and now Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council under the direction of a single unelected Administrator, constantly claim that the Ellerton Drive Extension will not cost ratepayers a single cent.

This is patently untrue, even setting aside the risk of the loan that council is taking out on behalf of the developers of Goo-

gong township (the same people as the proposed developers of Jumping Creek estate behind Greenleigh which can only go ahead if the EDE is built).

The loan carries risks if Googong and other proposed subdivisions fail to grow as fast as expected, perhaps as a result of competition from developments in Bungendore or elsewhere.

More importantly, the estimated \$86 million cost of the EDE will be added to council's balance sheet, and must be depreciated. If its nominal life is 20 years, then each year, \$4.3 million must be set aside for depreciation, or maintenance that extends its life (ignoring inflation for now). With around 25,000 rateable properties that's an annual cost of about \$170 per rateable property. The bridge will have a longer life, so these numbers are chosen as examples, and may be worst-case scenarios.

Existing budgets must carry depreciation cost

Councils can't increase rates easily, as they are capped by the State Government. So in practice that would mean \$4.3 million must be found each year from existing budgets, to fund the depreciation of the EDE. Council can ignore the depreciation cost for a while, but >> p7

Letter to the editor

Careful what you wish for: no saviour of traffic problems here

TO THOSE few who say about the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) "Just build it", be careful what you wish for! Ask yourself why has it been on the maps and debated for 40 years but never built? The answer is it's an obscenely expensive dud! This \$86 million dollar road won't solve Queanbeyan's traffic problems as we've all been promised.

Council's own traffic studies prove it will worsen traffic in many critical areas. Trucks will continue through Queanbeyan's town centre and traffic on Monaro St (aka the Monaro Highway) will decrease by only 5%.

A recent *Queanbeyan Age* online poll on whether the EDE should be built shows the road project has deeply divided the community with the Yes and No votes neck and neck after several weeks.

John Barilaro, National Party MP for Monaro, claims: "First and foremost I'm the member for Monaro ... I always look through the local member perspective of what is best for our community" ("Barilaro's stance on Council amalgamations won't impact Queanbeyan-Palerang", *Canberra Times* 20/1/17). Open your eyes and ears John. Start listening to your constituents many of whom are white hot angry about the Queanbeyan-Palerang forced council merger and the fact that the EDE would never have been approved if we still had elected representation.

The EDE was approved by the pro-EDE Administrator appointed by the Nationals/Liberal NSW government. The Nationals are gone in Monaro (and elsewhere in NSW) at the next election unless their government reverses council mergers and major decisions made by Administrators since.

— Peter Kontis, Greenleigh Residents Group

> Go to www.districtbulletin.com.au for more discussion of the EDE proposal, including QPRC's point of view.

Also > **Centrelink fraud exposed by whistleblower** – Braidwood resident's story, plus domestic violence sufferer and others being hit.

Rally for Democracy:

The *Bulletin* has been informed that voters from other local government areas in the Monaro electorate are joining locals to voice their problem with the recent council amalgamations. They want to be heard where the local Member and state Nationals leader John Barilaro has his office.

When and where: Friday 10 February 10.30–11.30am, Brad Haddin Oval in Queanbeyan Park and walk to John Barilaro's office in Crawford Street.



Property and Legal

with Angela Backhouse

What is the 'real' cost of buying a home? When you are budgeting for the cost of buying a home, you need to ensure you have enough money available to pay the additional and often hidden costs of purchasing a property, besides the purchase price. To help you avoid any nasty surprises, here is a list of the fees and costs you should expect and include in your budget.

Home loan fees: Some lenders may charge a fee simply for applying for a loan, which can be as much as \$600. Other lender fees can include valuation fees, document preparation fees, bank cheque fees and other charges. These fees will be deducted from the amount of money you borrow, before funds are made available to pay for the home.

Lenders mortgage insurance: If your bank is lending you more than 80% of the value of the property, you will likely have to pay an insurance premium to insure the bank against your default. For instance, for a \$500,000 property, if you have saved less than \$100,000 you should budget up to \$7,000 for the costs of mortgage insurance. To avoid paying this fee you will need to save a larger deposit or offer additional security.

Pest and building inspection reports: For established homes, it is important to obtain pest and building reports from an independent, qualified inspector before exchange of contracts. Even newer

properties can sometimes have latent defects that only a trained expert can notice. The cost of obtaining these reports can range, usually between \$600 to \$1,200.

Stamp duty: The state government tax on property purchases can be one of the biggest costs you will have to pay when buying a home. It is a one-off cost based on the purchase price of the property and varies in every jurisdiction. For a \$500,000 property in NSW, stamp duty is currently \$17,990.00. There are stamp duty concessions available for the purchase of vacant land or a new home. However, even with concessions in place, stamp duty can be a significant cost.

Legal Costs: Most solicitors will charge between \$1,300 to \$1,800 for a standard conveyance. Factor in disbursements such as search fees (approximately \$400) and registration fees (\$140).

Rates adjustments: On settlement an adjustment is made for council and water rates. Rates will normally be paid in advance and you will need to reimburse the seller for the period from settlement to the date they have been paid.

Other costs: You will need to take out an insurance policy on the property. Other costs can include utility connection fees, and removalists.

At Backhouse Legal, we offer competitive fixed-fee services for standard conveyancing matters. Contact our experienced conveyancing solicitors today by calling **6280 8899** or email office@backhouselegal.com.au.

We are available for appointments in Bungendore, Braidwood and Fyshwick.



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History and renovation blended at Bungendore's Carrington Inn

by Christine M Knight



HERITAGE PLACES are a visible reminder of Australia's history and identity. If they are neglected or demolished, then part of our history and identity is lost. When they are protected and restored, they add value and dimension to our community.

I interviewed Richard Graham, The Carrington Inn's owner, in late October. It had reopened earlier that month after a period of extensive renovation and restoration.

Originally known as The Lord Carrington Hotel, the property was built in 1884-85 by William Daniel Winter. The hotel was named after the newly appointed governor of NSW.

When the governor retired, the inn became known as The Carrington Hotel. The town at that time had become a regional hub with the arrival of train services in 1885 which terminated in Bungendore. Cobb and Co coaches then transported travellers to far flung settlements.

In the 20th century, William Winters' descendants sold the property to Toni Dale who returned the property to its original function from a domestic residence. Years later, she sold it to an intermediary who later on sold it to Richard eight years ago.

Richard Graham's Carrington Inn consists of the Wintergarden complex and adjacent motel accommodation. He explained that the initial focus for his regeneration project had been on the Wintergarden complex: The Tom Wills Tavern, The Empire Hall and Salons – fine dining, and Myee's Tearoom. Myee is pronounced my.

The tavern's namesake and a local, Tom Wills was a leading Australian cricketer from 1856 and is said to be the founder of Australian Rules football. Heavy drink-

ing was apparently part of the sport's culture at that time and purportedly played a role in his tragic death in 1880.

Maria Myee Gallagher, 1889-1967, was the granddaughter of the original owner, William Daniel Winter. An educated wom-

an of many talents, Maria Myee never married and lived in the hotel throughout her life. She was a skilled pianist and taught the piano as well as the sewing arts and painting to locals. She was also well-known for her charitable work in the town.

The Wintergarden complex is situated in an aesthetically pleasing, half acre of man-made gardens. Richard said that they are "one of the largest publicly accessible private gardens in the region". He credits the illusion of a much larger space to the use of meandering sinuous paths.

When I asked about the ideas underpinning the renovation process, Richard explained the choice before him: restore the inn to look like the property as it had been in 1885 or restore it to reflect the Victorian era from 1885 but have modern restaurant equipment. For commercial reasons, he opted for the latter.

After much research, Richard and his team distilled the Victorian period to a single restoration intention: "allow modern-day patrons to appreciate the aspirational nature of the Victorian era."

As the inn's owner and curator, Rich-

ard's vision for The Carrington Inn extended beyond a Victorian-themed colonial location with authentic furnishings, décor, cuisine, and artwork. He wanted to create an environment that gave patrons a taste of a lifestyle different from their own.

As I left that afternoon, I realised that heritage places not only add dimension to the character of a community but to its unique features of streetscapes as well. ■

How to restore a Victorian Inn

THE ASPIRATIONAL mood of the Victorian period is clearly visible in the noteworthy features of the tearoom, the tavern, and the Empire Hall and salons. The tearoom's décor suggests a Victorian garden conservatory. It features hand-painted stencilled wallpaper, pale green wainscoting, slate floor, furnishings, and hanging baskets.

The tavern's patterned copper ceiling is reminiscent of Tudor ceilings and represents the revival of British styles celebrated during the Victorian era. The decorative tin ceiling in one of the Empire salons features another popular architectural element from that period as do the subtly lit, rounded vaulted plaster ceilings in the Empire Hall.

The Victorian theme is evident in the use of decoratively etched glass mirrors, beautiful period-styled drapery, luxurious furnishings, dining settings, and décor accents. Thirty-three hand-painted artwork reproductions tell the colonial story, including artwork by Tom Roberts. In the tradition of the time, a picture of Queen Victoria dominates the Empire Hall. ■

The first Bungendorians

THE INDIGENOUS history of the region must not be forgotten while discussing colonial heritage.

Before European settlement, Indigenous people represented an unbroken culture that was inextricably linked to the land and history of the continent. That relationship and life as Indigenous people knew it, changed drastically as a consequence of Dr Charles Throsby and Hamilton Hume's exploration of this region in 1820.

By the end of 1821, Europeans had settled the region. The provision of a mail ser-

vice in 1837 formally made the settlement a town while the arrival of train services in 1885 resulted in the town becoming the hub of the region. Cobb and Co coaches transported travellers to far flung settlements.

During this period and into the 20th century, Indigenous people experienced a history of exclusion from their land and denial of their own way of life. They were silenced and many died as a result of white settlement (disease and conflict).

Indigenous heritage is in the land, in sacred places, lore and values. By contrast, colonial heritage is in buildings, property, sacred places, and laws. ■

> Be cool and stop land clearing

With Queensland land clearing now at record levels in global terms and the NSW Nationals and Liberals threatening to allow similar destruction with revised legislation, a new study by three Australian researchers reminds us that there is a better way.

Stopping the rampant clearing and planting trees as well, is not only good for native animals and plants and often stock, but it helps cool the planet in an enhanced greenhouse/ climate change world.

You'll find the story at www.districtbulletin.com.au Stopping land clearing and replanting trees can keep Australia cooler. – From The Conversation

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BUNGENDORE

The Dan Mclean BIG BAND

SWING



Trumpet - Mclean, Bukovsky, Marston,
Trombone - Thomann, Lee, Harding, Moore
Sax - Bray, Fell, Hackwill, Mackey, Mathews
Piano - Slingsbury, Bass - Luke, Guitar - Stott
Drums - Sutton



Canberra's premier big band, led by energetic trumpet player, composer, arranger and educator Dan Mclean. Enjoy sublime music from the sparkling swing era from the likes of Basie, Ellington, Goodman, the Dorseys, Miller, Calloway, Carter ... from the 20s through to modern jazz

3 Course Dinner
& Concert \$80pp
Bookings in the Cafe
or Phone 6238 1688

Saturday
March 11
6pm

Menu
Smoked Salmon Salad
Poached Chicken Breast
roast tomato & olive sauce
Lime Curd Tart

Closing Down Shopfront Sale
starts Monday 13 February
— door will close finally on
17 March

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New, secondhand and
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www.missrubysbooks.com.au



Reserve Sat March 11

SWING with

The Dan Mclean Big Band

CAFÉ Wood Works kicks its 2017 concert/dinner series off on Saturday March 11 with SWING with the big sound of the fabulous The Dan Mclean Big Band led by Dan Mclean and composed entirely of professional jazz musicians living and working in the ACT.

Boasting some of the most highly qualified and skilled artists in the country, the band performs the full compliment of styles and genres from '20s swing through to modern jazz. Included are original pieces by its band members as well as local composers.

After completing the Bachelor of Music Honours Degree majoring in jazz at ANU under the guidance of Miroslav Bukovsky, Dan established himself as a versatile trumpet player, recording artist, arranger and performer with numerous bands in Canberra as well as being a regular performer at many of Australia's major jazz festivals.

He has played with artists such as James Morrison, Hetty Kate, Grace Knight, Gordon Webster, The Platters, Bobby Arvon... and many more.

The Café will provide its tasty three-course dinner menu that can be combined with a Canberra-brewed beer or Barossa Valley cider now on tap from the Café Bar.

Bookings at the Café on 6238 1688.

GIFT-WRAPPED PORK BARRELS from p5

councils are already rightly criticised for their enormous infrastructure backlog.

The longer you postpone setting money aside, the more you'll have to set aside each year. With some infrastructure you could

gamble on getting another grant to replace it, for example sports grounds, swimming pools, libraries. The consequences of one of those closing because the gamble was unsuccessful, is nothing like having to close a road or bridge because it has become unsafe. QPRC has such roads and bridges right now.

Renewing rather than new infrastructure can save money

This situation doesn't apply to work on existing assets, as they are already being depre-

ciated. Renewed infrastructure may depreciate more slowly than what is being replaced – for example a timber bridge replaced by a concrete one with lower maintenance costs and longer life – so renewing infrastructure can actually save money for councils.

Sure, cancelling the EDE may mean the loss of \$50 million in state and federal funding – they may not agree to it being shifted to, say, flood-proofing the two flood-prone river crossings in Queanbeyan, improving

the chaotic Cooma Road, or the upgrading the Northern Bypass to Monaro Street, sealing Nerriga Road, improvements to the Kings Highway (a state road, but one from which most of us benefit), or Burra or Captains Flat Roads.

But it would remove \$86 million from council's asset register, and free up possibly millions per year for spending on other things. It's not hollow wooden horses we should beware of, but pork barrels. ■

Crossword

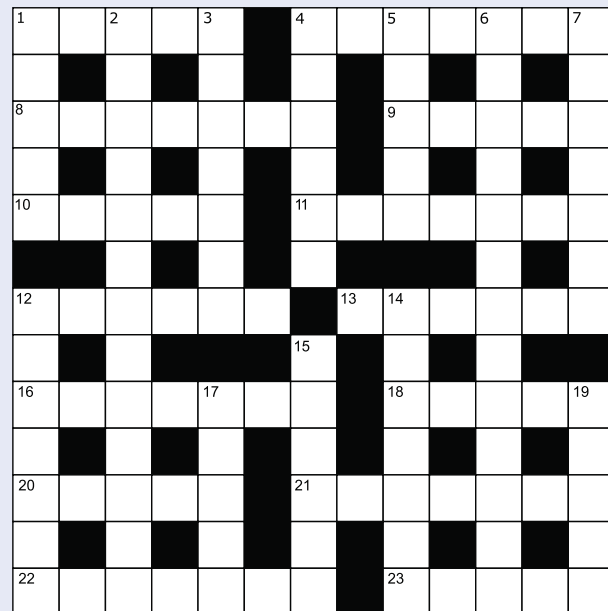
Solution p2

Across

- 1 Upright wooden post, part of a wicket in a game of cricket (5)
- 4 Ten-sided shape (7)
- 8 Julie _____, star of *The Sound of Music* (7)
- 9 Hatred (5)
- 10 Insect in the stage between egg and pupa (5)
- 11 Set aside for future use (7)
- 12 Ineffectual (6)
- 13 Fills completely (6)
- 16 Large amount of wealth (7)
- 18 Capital of France (5)
- 20 Animal similar to the giraffe (5)
- 21 Quality of being polite and respectable (7)
- 22 Seemingly without end (7)
- 23 Silt deposited by the wind (5)

Down

- 1 Play for time (5)



- 2 Framework that serves as a support for the body of a vehicle (13)
- 3 Continue to exist (7)
- 4 Leave in the lurch (6)
- 5 Ill-tempered (5)
- 6 Specification of position on a map (4,9)
- 7 Figures, digits (7)
- 12 Thawed (7)
- 14 In the news (7)
- 15 Relating to a mediaeval system where lands were controlled by a lord (6)
- 17 Employees' representative body (5)
- 19 Painful eyelid swellings (5)

:: LOCAL MARKETS ::

1st and 3rd Saturday of every month
Braidwood Farmers Markets. National Theatre, main street of Braidwood, from 8am–12.30pm. www.braidwoodfarmersmarket.org.au

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

Southern Harvest Farmers Market. Anglican Church Hall, off Butmaroo St, Bungendore, 9am–Noon. www.southernharvest.org.au

1st Saturday of every month (ex-January)
Captains Flat Country Markets. Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 9.30–1.30pm. Enquiries to Maggie on 0473 113 398.

3rd Saturday of every month
Wamboin Home Produce & Craft Market. Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh locally-grown produce, home baked cakes and pies, native plants, jewellery and craft. Excellent cafe. Kids playground. Contact Lance and Meriel Schultz 6238 3309.

3rd Sunday every month
The Queanbeyan Market. Queanbeyan Park, Lowe St, Queanbeyan, 9–1pm. The Queanbeyan Market brings together fresh produce, crafts, handmade goods, kids' activities and more, with a strong emphasis on supporting regional farmers, producers and local small business. <http://capitalevents.com.au/event/the-queanbeyan-market/>

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 + more. Bob Shaw 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 / local events; and tourism visit

www.bungendore.com.au
www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au
www.visitbraidwood.com.au

Fly into February

the market @ bungendore

Sunday February 19th 9am–2pm
at the War Memorial Hall

All your favourite stalls
Come along for a browse
Enjoy a variety of refreshments

Special Event

Toy Story Jumping Castle
and
Sumo Suits
(for adults and kids)
by gold coin donation to the Hall
Restoration Fund

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Real coffee, ready-to-eat foods and take-home meals.

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FOOD LOVERS MARKET
BUNGENDORE

February 2017

Until Wednesday 22 February

Christine Scott and Meredith Pammenter-Legg
Land and Sea: states of mind

Form Studio and Gallery, 1/30 Aurora St, Queanbeyan. Tuesday to Friday 10am–4pm, Weekends 10am–4pm. **Opening night** Thursday 2 February 6–8pm.

This exhibition brings together two artists who draw inspiration from the natural world reflecting ways of looking, understanding and interpreting the magnitude and minutia of land and sea.
www.formstudioandgallery.com.au

Friday 10 to Sunday 12 February

Lifeline Epic Book Fair

Exhibition Park Canberra, Flemington Rd, Mitchell. Friday 9am–6pm, Saturday 9am–5pm, Sunday 10am–4pm.

Books, magazines, games, jigsaws, comics, maps, records, CDs, DVDs and more! Entry is by gold coin donation. Parking is free. Saturday is Family Day with fun activities for the kids.

www.act.lifeline.org.au

Monday 13 February

The ANU Fashion & Beauty Society's Fashion Show

The Australian National University. For more details phone 0490 100 830.

To celebrate O-Week 2017, the ANU's Fashion and Beauty Appreciation Society are hosting a fashion show, with local designers such as Millennial Watches and We Are Found Active. Held in Union Court, free.

www.fabsocanu.com

Wednesday 15 to Sat 18 February

Always... Patsy Cline

The Q, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Wednesday – 8pm. Thursday – 10.30am and 8pm. Friday – 8pm. Saturday – 2pm and 8pm. Tickets from \$42. *Always... Patsy Cline* is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died tragically in a plane crash in 1963 aged 30. The musical play includes 27 of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as *Crazy*, *I Fall to Pieces*, *Sweet Dreams* and *Walking After Midnight*.

www.theq.net.au

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 February

2017 National Multicultural festival

Coombs Theatre (ANU Building 8a), Fellows Rd, Acton, ACT.

Friday 4pm–midnight, Saturday 11am–midnight, Sunday 11am–5pm. Ph 6207 0555.

Don't miss the action-packed program in the city centre, including Kate Ceberano who is returning to Canberra to entertain us for another year. There will be over 300 stalls of fabulous international cuisine and entry is free!

www.multiculturalfestival.com.au

Saturday 18 February

Friends of Jerra Wetlands Working Party

Jerrabomberra Wetlands, 2 Dairy Rd, Fyshwick, ACT. 9am–12.30pm.

Friends of Jerra Wetlands meet on the first Tuesday and third Saturday of every month and undertake activities including planting, fauna surveys, weeding, feral animal management among other things. Come and join like-minded people, have fun acting locally, get some Vitamin D and sneak in some bird watching while you're at it.

<https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events/list/>



Free screening of Goldstone

52 Cork Street, Gundaroo. 8pm.

Goldstone is a 2016 Australian crime thriller film written and directed by Ivan Sen. It is a sequel to *Mystery Road* and stars Aaron Pedersen, Alex Russell, Jacki Weaver, David Wenham and David Gulpilil.

Tickets via <http://gundarooofilms.org>

Thursday 23rd February

Song and storytelling at Araluen

Araluen Federal Hall, Araluen.

6pm doors open, 7pm music.

Araluen Gold Presents Gina Williams, with guitarist Kyran Holmes. Join us for a very special evening of song and storytelling, delivered with warmth and humour. For more information call 0434 993 973. Bookings essential – secure your seat now at www.stickytickets.com.au/48308

Saturday 25 February

Cooking class and lunch – Paris – Beef steak tartare, French fries and salad, peach Melba

Le Tres Bon, 40 Malbon St, Bungendore. \$110. Learn how to make a traditional Parisienne bistro dish; beef steak tartare, French fries, salad and for dessert the classique peach Melba!

A glass of French sparkling and a long table two course lunch with a glass of matching wine is included. Ph 6238 0662.

www.letresbon.com.au



Twilight spider walk

Jerrabomberra Wetlands, 2 Dairy Rd Fyshwick, ACT. 7.30–9pm. \$15.

Come along and discover the fantastic world of spiders with Millie, our resident spider expert. After learning lots of spider fun facts, we go off into the night to see how many different types we can find. Suitable for 5 years and over.

<https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events/list/>

What's On THE Q

Proudly brought to you by Q-One Performing Arts

QPRC
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Q one
Aquatics
Performing Arts
Indoor Sports
Community Facilities

Sunday 26 February

Three Sixty-Fashion Market

Fitters Workshop, Printers Way, Kingston, ACT. 10am. Ph 0425 180 054.

Three Sixty Fashion Market is a niche Canberra market dedicated to recycling vintage, retro, handmade and preloved fashion.



Tuesday 28 February to 18 March

Spiral Gallery Cooperative 20th anniversary exhibition

The Q Exhibition Space, rear of 253 Crawford St Queanbeyan. Ph 6285 6290.

Many of the exhibiting artists will be known to Canberra and Queanbeyan gallery audiences. The 57 works include ceramics, sculpture, painting, prints, glass, wood, jewellery and textiles. Weekdays 10am–4pm. Sat 10am–2pm.

www.theq.net.au

COMING UP in MARCH 2017

Friday 3 to Sunday 19 March

The Addams family: a new musical

The Q, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. \$44–\$59.

'They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky. They're all together ooky, the Addams Family.' The Addams Family Musical features an original story, and it's every father's nightmare.

www.theq.net.au

Sunday 5 March

60th Annual Tarago Show

Tarago Showground & Recreation Area, Braidwood Rd, Tarago. 8am–4pm. \$10.

There are so many things to see and do, including exhibits in the main pavilion by CWA, Tarago Tomato Tourney, state shearing championships and more.



Sunday 5 March

Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival – Carnivale. Celebrating 10 years of culture, food and harmony

Queanbeyan Park, Lowe St, 10am–4pm.

The festival delivers a culturally packed program featuring live performances, community activities and informational stalls.

<http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/>

Sunday 12 March

Symphony in the Park

Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, Canberra City. From 6.30pm.

Sit back and relax as the Canberra Symphony Orchestra brings the work of a well-known band to life.

1-DAY WORKSHOP in BUNGENDORE

— Massage for Home Use —

Sunday 26 February 2017

9:30am – 4:30pm

The Old Stone House B&B Function Room

\$249pp :: Early bird \$200pp until 17 Feb 2017 ::

Includes Intro to anatomy, physiology, basic techniques for home use. Workbook. 2 hrs practical (massage tables supplied). Morning/afternoon tea, fully-catered lunch, tea, coffee. Dietary needs by prior request.

Come alone or with a friend/partner. **LIMITED PLACES. SMALL GROUP ONLY.**

Bookings: Anne Fairhurst, BEd Dip Teach m: **0409 664 619**

A qualified massage therapist – 16 years experience

Are you interested in massage and would like to learn the basics?

Always... Patsy Cline

No matter how successful we may be, we all need a friend sometimes...

15 - 18 February 2017

Adult \$52
Concession & Groups 8+ \$47

HIT

BOOK NOW

The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre
Call 6285 6290 or visit www.theq.net.au

"They're creepy & they're kooky, mysterious & spooky. They're all together ooky..."

The Addams Family

A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

3 - 19 March 2017

Adult \$59
Concession & Groups 8+ \$54

QPRC **Q one** Performing Arts
The Q, Queanbeyan