THE DISTRICT
Bulletin
July 2016
67% PLANTATION GROWN
COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang

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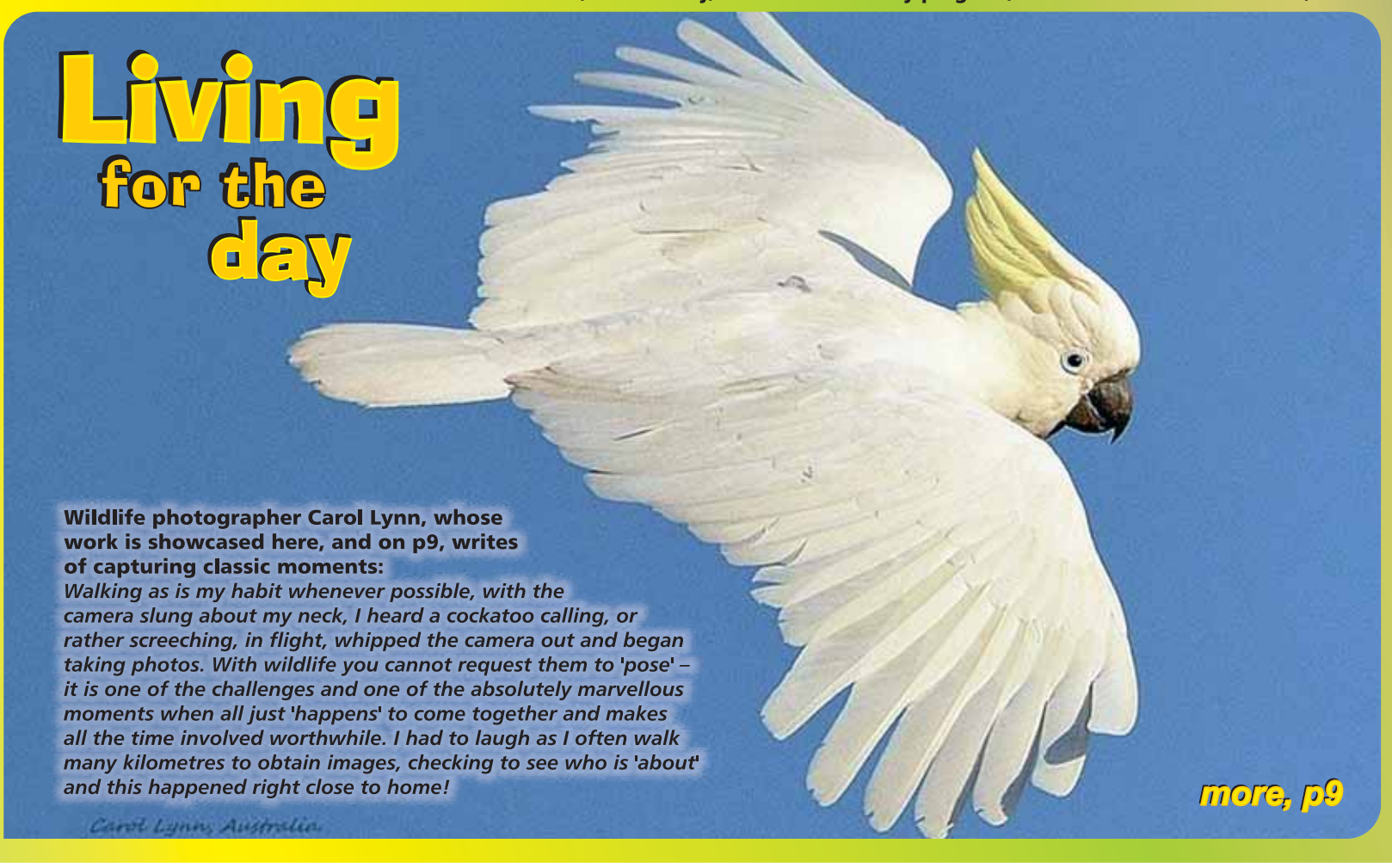

Yes vote on EDE while panel gives cold shoulder to dissenters

Regional ratepayers now also responsible

by Maria Taylor

THE VOTE on whether to go ahead with the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) organised by Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council two days before the federal election, was an extraordinary council meeting in a wider sense.

Joining the new Queanbeyan Administrator Tim Overall on a determination panel watched by bureaucrats from the state Department of Premier and Cabinet and two works departments but not environment, were two senior Sydney general managers (Viv May previously of Mosman Council and Richard Colley from Canterbury). Both appointed as new amalgamation administrators by the Baird government.

More than 100 ratepayers showed up for the meeting. A majority appeared to be there in opposition to a road that affects some of Queanbeyan's rural residential and newer suburbs, river corridor and bushland. The EDE has been the subject of controversy and opposition since 2009, but the route has been a largely ignored road corridor since the 1970s.

Forty people addressed the panel over almost three hours. Only half a dozen spoke in favour, including a representative of CIC Australia Ltd which stands to benefit from EDE access to a proposed large subdivision at Jumping Creek behind Greenleigh.

Three former Queanbeyan councillors on then Mayor Overall's 'team' (Peter Bray, Trudy Taylor and Toni McLennan) spoke up for the road and dismissed the rest of the gallery as biased, while one former Palerang councillor (Richard Graham) and two from Queanbeyan (Kenrick Winchester and Judith Burfoot) spoke against, emphasizing the undemocratic nature of the proceedings.

Most of the speakers said an elected council – not an unelected administrator or three should decide the matter. Noise, traffic and loss of amenity were major themes, as were environmental and native species destruction. The 4.6km route runs from the end of Yass Road to the Edwin Land Parkway at Jerrabomberra behind Greenleigh, across the river and through Karabar.

People spoke of the ultimate responsibility borne by ratepayers for multi-million dollar loans, nominally paid back by developers over 20 years, needed to top up state and federal promised grants of $50 million. Palerang ratepayer consultation since amalgamation also came up.

QPRC responded to an earlier *Bulletin* question about Palerang consultation, saying all studies relating to the EDE were on its website for lengthy periods inviting comment.

After 40 speakers, the three administrators proceeded as if nothing had just taken place. Watching them from the audience it was like: "Did you hear anything? Nope. Did you? Nope. Ok let's get on with what we came here for". And with minor amendments about noise shields, they voted for a motion to approve the EDE.

Was the timing just before the federal election strategic? A switch in Eden-Monaro to Labor's Mike Kelly was a good possibility and indeed happened (see p3). He is on the record as opposing the road for reasons spoken of on the night (backed also by Googong commuter surveys). That it's the wrong solution for Googong and Tralee traffic aiming for Canberra, that it will do little to mitigate trucks and traffic as a Monaro Street bypass (undoubtedly a popular proposition) and that there are alternatives.

Still, Administrator Overall concluded the proceedings saying what he has been saying for years as a steadfast advocate for the road: If the EDE is not built Queanbeyan will descend into traffic network failure.

"The Ellerton Drive Extension has been subject to extensive consultation, studies, modelling, reviews and discussion and forms the key part of the overall road network strategy for Queanbeyan," he said later. "The environmental impacts of the extension have been fully addressed and the amenity impacts on residents adjoining or living in the immediate proximity of the corridor, whether they be visual or noise related, will be addressed."

After the meeting a Greenleigh Residents' Group spokesperson disputed the panel's dismissal of unresolved environmental issues. He noted the Commonwealth still needs to consent under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act before work can commence. A significant underestimation of the amount of endangered Box Gum Woodland habitat (and related animals) that will be destroyed may be an issue. Also, the NSW Scientific Committee's investigation into an endangered squirrel glider population remains ongoing. ■

Go to our website for more commentary with this article

In case we haven't noticed, it's been wet!

Robin Tennant-Wood investigates

THE WARMEST autumn on record ended with an almighty deluge on the first weekend of June. The rain started falling on Saturday and kept falling until Monday morning.

Here at Kookaburra Cottage, 40km south of Braidwood, the rain gauge recorded 297mm over the three-day period. For the first time since I've been here I was flooded in; at every creek crossing between my place and Braidwood the road was cut. The Shoalhaven broke its banks and water rose in paddocks where, only days earlier, the grass had been dry and crunchy. Dams and tanks filled for the first time since January.

Shoalhaven River early June.

The statistics tell the story. The Bureau of Meteorology reports that three weather stations in the district: Snowball, Captains Flat and Lower Boro, all exceeded the daily rainfall record with 168, 101.4 and 102.8mm, respectively, on June 6, and Tharwa with a new record of 110mm on the 4th. In the 24-hour period of June 5–6, the Shoalhaven Catchment received 223.13mm, the wettest 24 hours since 1975.

One Jembaicumbene local described how the creek came up so high that there were waves backwashing up her driveway.

A resident from the Jerrabatgulla area spent an uncomfortable Saturday night at Jerrabatgulla Creek, trapped in his truck halfway across the low bridge. He had tried to drive across but on realising the water was too deep, attempted to reverse back. That's when he got into trouble. With almost no visibility, one back wheel of the truck slipped off the crossing. He was winched to safety early Sunday and his truck pulled out of the creek on Monday.

That's not snow that is an emerging 'lake' on Lake George (photo taken June 18).

In Queanbeyan, the Molonglo peaked at 6.1m at Oaks Estate. Several caravans from the caravan park on the riverside were moved to higher ground before the river peaked. The Queanbeyan SES reported about 50 call-outs, mainly to homes where flooding and water damage were occurring. Fortunately there were no critical incidents.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the wet winter is set to continue. The outlook is for a wetter than usual June–August as La Niña combines with a negative Indian Ocean Dipole.

This means that the ocean temperatures in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean, near Indonesia, will be warmer, while the tropical western Indian Ocean, near Africa, will have cooler than normal ocean temperatures. This type of pattern often results in an increase of rainfall over parts of Australia.

With water still lying in paddocks and creeks and rivers still swollen, it won't take much rain for crossings to flood again. As always, heed the warnings of the SES about not attempting to drive into floodwaters and just enjoy watching the grass go green again. ■

The Bulletin ...

NO AUGUST paper, visit us online instead

The Bulletin is taking a mid-winter break in August (so no August issue in your mailbox or shopping centre) but we will still be updating our online site **www.districtbulletin.com.au**.

— *The District Bulletin* team

Valued *Bulletin* contributor (*Braidwood Rounds*) and community radio host **Jill McLeod was awarded an AOM** with the Queen's Birthday honours last month. Well deserved!

Winners of generous gifts from local businesses in the ***Bulletin* prize drawing, reader survey** were: Miss Ruby's Books – Glenn Bridge; Foodlovers Market – Irene Lorbergs; The Q theatre – Alicia Perritt; The Bungendore Wood Works Gallery – Asha Gare; Cleanseeds – Hans Rasker; *The Bulletin* cash prize went to Dianne Stockbridge who donated it to Wildcare. Thanks to all!

After a period of community consultation, Australia Post has removed the Street Posting Box (SPB) located near the intersection of Northbourne Ave and Morphett St, Dickson ACT 2602.

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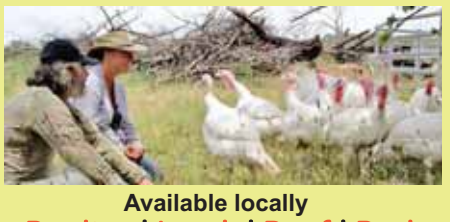

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Braidwood: Miss Ruby's Bookshop and various cafes. **Bungendore:** Food Lovers Market, Gunna Doo Bakery & Cafe. Palerang Council Chambers (Bungendore, Braidwood). **Queanbeyan:** Beautiful Gifting, Monaro St; Queanbeyan Library newspaper section; Riverside Plaza; and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres.

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A path that invites more travellers

*Neuroscientist **Jan Provis** talks to **Christine M Knight** about her country background that began a journey to being an international expert on eye health and macular degeneration with exciting new findings – reflecting that modern girls can do anything!*

BROKEN HILL born and raised, Jan Provis, renowned Australian neuroscientist and now Bywong resident, has led a life less ordinary. Like most people from The Hill, she has a mining 'heritage' dating back to her grandfather.

Today she is Professor of Anatomy at the ANU, Associate Dean in the ANU Medical School, research Group Leader in the John Curtin School, and a member of the ANU Council to name just a few of her roles.

As Chair of the Early Career Academics program at ANU, Jan's mission is to ensure that young academics from diverse backgrounds get relevant mentoring. Her goal is to foster their professions in science as they move through study and into careers in their chosen fields. Jan's personal experience of being mentored by Professor Charles RR Watson, her neuroanatomy supervisor when she was at the University of NSW, was a significant inspiration leading to her own work in this program.

As a child Jan roamed widely, exploring the natural world around her. The question *"Why is it so?"* underpinned her investigations. Later, her enquiring mind focused on "*How does it work?"* and "*Does it have to be so?"*

Educated by the Mercy Sisters in Broken Hill, Jan's fascination with *the way of all things* was strongly encouraged. She says her life's path was shaped by the Jesuit philosophy that high quality education is the best path to meaningful lives of leadership and service.

Jan was supported in her educational and career aspirations by her grandmother, mother, and father. She was the first woman in her family to remain in school after the age of fourteen and progress to university.

Her first qualification was Bachelor of Science Honours Class 1. She explained that her project was one of many undertaken at the time where scientists sought to understand "the streams of information going into and out of the brain, how they are processed, and to understand how the brain regulates behaviour".

"We've come a long way in understanding the brain in the past 30 years. When I undertook my first project, there were only a couple of tools available to scientists for investigation of the brain. Nowadays, we have many, many more tools, including live brain imaging."

As we chatted about her work, I felt the passion and the excitement of scientific discovery that had made time and tiredness irrelevant for her.

Understanding the eye

Jan has now authored more than 100 research papers, most of which are concerned with development of the human retina, and co-edited a major text on macular degeneration. Her most recent work has focused on the genes that regulate development of the human central retina.

Her studies suggest that the specialisations of the human retina for high acuity vision are established during foetal life, and make it vulnerable to age-related degenerations in later life.

Jan's body of work provides a broad perspective on how the macular / foveal part of the primate retina has evolved, how it develops, the molecular factors involved, the functional constraints, and why the macula is vulnerable to degeneration.

Amazing!

Science and music often intersect

Jan is the opposite of the TV stereotype of a scientist. She has diverse interests and is now a doting grandmother. Impressively, she taught herself to be a bass guitar player in the style of Susie Quatro, playing and singing with her husband Philip Penfold and several other accomplished women in the local group Polk. Yet for all her success and skills, she remains very grounded and unassuming.

We talked about the fact that behind many successful women who entered professional careers after the 1950s are earlier generations of strong, independent-minded women who actively worked for daughters to break free from the gender-determined constraints that limited women.

Jan and I shared memories of mothers and other female relatives who had been forced to leave work because they had married. During World War II and into the 1950s, it had become acceptable for single women to work as long as men were not denied work as a result of female employment but marriage usually meant getting out of the workforce.

Many readers will know someone whose quality of life has been compromised by aged related macular degeneration (AMD) so I asked with interest if it was inevitable. I was relieved to learn that scientific advances mean the progress of AMD can be delayed significantly and that early intervention has significant benefits. The frontiers are being pushed back all the time by inspirational people like Professor Jan Provis who make the world a better place. ■

KELLY BACK FOR EDEN-MONARO

Minor parties and Independents drawing more support

AS WE GO to press, Labor looks like taking the majority of NSW federal seats.

NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley believes the state electorate sent a message about "Mike Baird's forced council mergers and trashing of democracy", as well as concerns about health funding.

In Eden-Monaro this saw a swing back to the hard-working Mike Kelly (aided by Peter Hendy's well-earned nickname as 'the invisible man'). Labor also ran a policy-driven and up from the grass-roots campaign.

In contrast the Coalition peppered the electorate with last minute pork-barrel promises and a glossy 'Hendy on Malcolm Turnbull's coat-tails' campaign that did not resonate with enough voters to make a difference in this highly marginal seat.

Locally, Labor also enjoyed a healthy swag of Greens preferences as well as those from the fourth-placed Animal Justice Party and those from other Independents who ran.

Countrywide, the returns confirm the rising number of voters (now nearly 25%) who give first preference to the Greens, minor parties and Independents, with implications for influence down the track. ■

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Editorial comment

AUSTRALIA'S land management today is losing ground to 'chase the dollar' priorities with consequences that should concern every citizen who cares about their country. We're not alone here internationally, but let's talk about us – which unfortunately the city-focused national media and political parties do not do, even the Greens are not loud enough when it comes to widespread environmental vandalism.

It manifests at state level with NSW, for example, dismantling its National Parks services to the point of ineffectiveness to defend fauna and flora, pressured by never-ending habitat destruction for development (logging, open-cut and GSG mining, broadacre cropping, housing, roads etc).

Add to that a colonial 'kill first' ideology now masquerading as modern science and infesting too many land-management units – Australia's biodiversity on land and sea is taking a hammering. And this is before we start discussing climate change.

Iconic species common and endangered alike, koalas, kangaroos, bats, birds, ocean coral and fish species– look around, populations are under attack all around us.

The pressure may not be so evident in some of the areas covered by the *Bulletin* where we are lucky enough to see plenty of native animals, particularly of the kangaroo/wallaby families and birds, wombats in some places. But it's a deceptive picture of the wider landscape.

Rural residential enclaves like the ones that exist throughout old Palerang, or on the outskirts of Queanbeyan or Yass, have become sanctuaries where native animals are not under constant attack. That's not true just over the border in Canberra where widespread habitat destruction has driven kangaroos to cluster in remaining 'reserves' but those are not safe from development and guns as our story p5 shows once again.

The perverse land management settled in Canberra relies on a false propaganda-driven killing campaign calling itself 'science'. This of course sets up a real conflict for those in the community who have grown up to believe that we should trust our scientists, since that is why we pay them, to find things out that lead to solutions, progress, whatever you want to call it. And mostly that is true, but there are some exceptions.

A similar conundrum surrounds forest and fire management in this country. We trust that the scientists and the land managers are doing the right thing. But should we always?

A meet-the-candidates (for the federal election) panel in Wamboin last month was a refreshing reflection of the range of independent thinking and issues that Eden-Monaro is lucky enough to possess and that will be glossed over in the national coverage.

Here's an informed opinion piece by one of those independents.

— Maria Taylor

Truffle dogs come with blessings for tasty blend of farming and tourism

***Blessing of the truffle dogs** at Tarago Truffles last month, that helped kick off the gourmet festival. The rain did not help the celebrants pictured but doubtless didn't hurt the truffle growing enterprise. The Rev Tom Frame, Goulburn Mulwaree Anglican Parish, officiated.* Photo: Martin Ollman and the Truffle Festival – Canberra Region

Your Say...

Hazard reduction burning, flawed idea with serious consequences

***Ray Buckley** was an Independent candidate for Eden-Monaro in 2016, is a mature-age undergraduate in Environmental Management at ANU and a small-scale farmer in the region. He returned to uni with a Cert IV in Carbon Management to understand climate change. He has a number of concerns, as he told people on the campaign trail and then the* Bulletin, *in his own words.*

THE RATE of temperature change over the last 150 years, since the industrial revolution, does not match the patterns and cycles of the last 11,000 years. It clearly shows that human impact involving CO_2 emissions and other greenhouse gases are affecting all ecological areas on Planet Earth.

5.6 gigatonnes of carbon (CO_2) are released globally into the atmosphere each year due to fossil fuel burning, including coal 42%, oil 33%, gas 18%, cement production 6% and gas flaring 1%.

IMAGE: Sam Mooy

Burning forests releases carbon, then a vicious cycle sets in

Burning tropical forests contributes another 2.4 gigatonnes of carbon per year; or, about 30% of the total.

I own acres bordering the Wadbilliga National Park near Cobargo on the far south coast. I have observed the effects that hazard reduction burns have on the wilderness first hand.

The effect of hazard reduction burns on our natural forested environments >> p6

Local 'representation' except when it's not

by Maria Taylor

EIGHT FORMER councillors from the former Queanbeyan City and Palerang councils have been appointed to the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Representation Committee (LRC).

The Committee will be chaired by former Palerang Mayor Pete Harrison and includes four each from the former council areas. Besides Harrison they are Peter Bray (Deputy Chair); Paul Cockram; Jamie Cregan; Trevor Hicks; Mark Schweikert; Trudy Taylor; Sue Whelan.

For those inclined to detect a party political flavour to the forced amalgamations this hand-picked committee will not change their minds. According to several reliable sources half of the committee are known for Liberal/National Party affiliations and none who might be expected to rock the boat for their own reasons.

It was also noted that state representative John Barilaro of the National Party had a chance to approve the choices of the QPRC administration and it was reported that the Minister for Local Government subsequently fine-tuned to increase the party political majority, ie substituted one or two people in place of those on the original list.

Committee members will be paid what Queanbeyan councillors were formerly paid: $18,400 and the chair double that amount. The question remains open on exactly what they will be doing for their remuneration.

Lest it be assumed that 'local representation' means taking community concerns to the Administrator, it appears from what little people have been told that the opposite may be the intent of this structure designed by the state government. It appears their brief is to provide some levels of experienced advice on matters before the Administrator and to relay the administration's decisions back to the community but not to the media. Controlled messaging has been highlighted as important.

The *Bulletin* has been told the LRC will have a role to play in updating the Community Strategic Plan(s), and this will presumably involve community meetings where it may be possible to raise significant issues at least in a 'vision' sense.

We're told LRC members have no more weight than any other member of the public when it comes to development or finance or policy or any other issue on the monthly council agenda. However the ex-councillors will retain their roles with S355 committees (eg hall committees) and to that extent provide a link to the public.

QPRC advice to those who want to question council activities or policies is to go through the public forum system that has been the case for Queanbeyan residents until now. Questions can be lodged via email to public.forum@qprc.nsw.gov.au or via the on-line form on council's website. Residents receive a written response also published on the council's website. Check council for any fine print. ■

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Isaacs Ridge:

ACT delivers bike trails and death in the afternoon

No evidence of habitat or species requiring protection on Isaacs Ridge. "Otherwise the commercial pine plantation, orienteering events and the trail and outdoor adventure park would never have been established there".

A holiday long weekend, the Queen's Birthday. As Canberrans congregated to enjoy themselves, the ACT government death squads came again for the kangaroos.

DATELINE 11 June. Christine Stevens from Isaacs Ridge was walking her dog at the time. She wrote [to a reporter]:

"I was just chased off by park rangers from Isaacs Ridge now at 8 minutes to 5pm at the top. They were there with two park ranger tray trucks, a 4WD buggy, a truck and a yellow digger.

"They are 200 meters from the most magnificent roos I had just been admiring them, the only ones remaining, the last cluster…maybe 20. It was like watching a shark approach swimmers and being helpless.

"I will send you photos of the roos (above). I was too scared to photograph the shooters as they were watching me and told me to go. One truck drove after me with its lights on. Very intimidating. If I had been there five minutes later, I might have been shot."

On the same day the ABC published a story reporting that the ACT parks department admitted its contract shooters had 'probably' been using illegal silencers in its recent reserve culls, most of which take place within a kilometre of residences and all within three kilometres of residences [said to be a yardstick of a shooting 'danger/ safety' zone].[1]

Christine, who was very distraught about the events of Saturday June 11, wrote:

"We have walked Isaacs Ridge for 30 years and know the families of kangaroos. There is no greater number of kangaroos now than at any other time in the past 30 years.

"We have had kangaroos coming into our suburb for all those years to graze on our lawns. They are the perfect lawnmower. Never eating too low, nor up-rooting grasses and their soft feet never break the ground unlike horses, cattle, sheep.

"Those of us who have walked upon the Ridge several times each week for 30 years can testify that kangaroos are not overpopulating Isaacs Ridge, nor causing stress to the grasslands nor to themselves.

"A cull is brutal to kangaroos who are herd creatures. There are many residents of the adjacent suburbs who are concerned each night at the thought of the trauma inflicted on these endearing creatures. They have interacted with them over a long time.

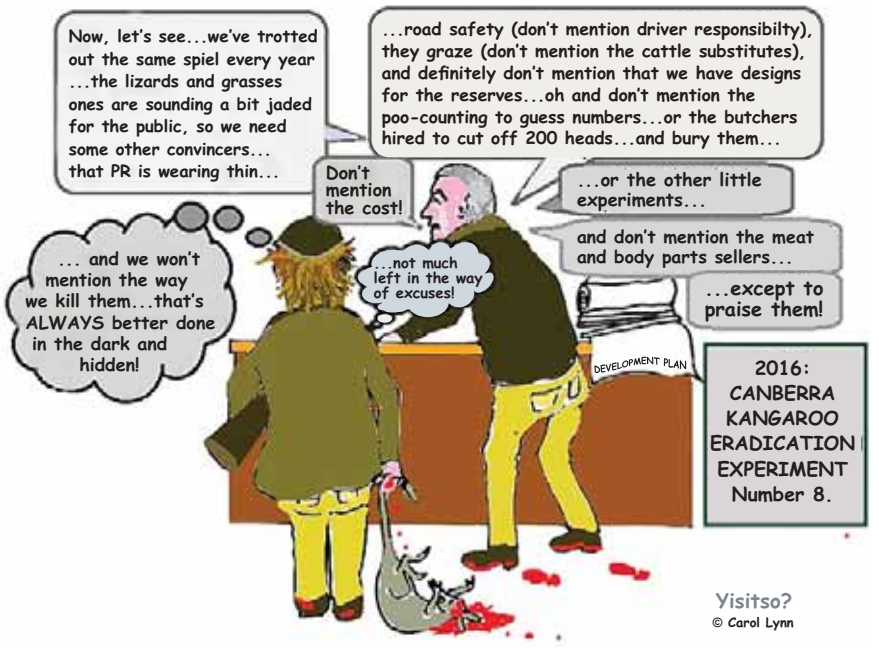
"And the distress to sympathetic residents is not short-lived. It is protracted over two and half months. And they are powerless to stop the cull. We do not know if the cull is executed over a matter of days by way of coordinated effort. Or whether it is like duck season and shooters can enter and cull any time over the 2.5 months.

"Nor are we informed as to how the government keeps track of the number culled so as to ensure no more than 2,000 are culled this year across the 10 [reserve] sites. Nor do we know if the count includes joeys in the pouch [who are bashed to death]."

Christine noted that the Director of ACT Parks Daniel wrote again in a press release on the TAMS website that "ensuring the grasslands and woodlands are not overgrazed will protect threatened species and ecosystems, provide habitat for creatures such as lizards and ground-feeding birds, prevent excessive soil loss and maintain sustainable numbers of kangaroos".

However, The ACT administration has admitted that it issues many more licenses to kill kangaroos than the 2,000 quota for the reserves this year and similarly last year. Some 23,000 animals were able to be shot with ACT licenses by leaseholders and others in 2015.

In the event, half that number were recorded as killed, but the magnitude of the official slaughter strongly suggests the ACT administration is motivated by things quite different than saving endangered species. In addition to pleasing grazing leaseholders who don't want to share grass, some plausible theories about what drives this narrative insult to thinking Canberrans were explored in 'Roogate', accessible on the *District Bulletin* website.



Enter the development scenario, mountain bike trails

Indeed, events at Isaacs Ridge in the months leading up to the cull have convinced Christine Stevens and others that development and getting kangaroos out of the way is the subtext here as it has been at other sites like Lawson in the past.

"Isaacs Ridge is not a large area. It extends easterly from the backyard fence of homes abutting it to the top of the ridge, and from East O'Malley in the North to Long Gulley Road in the South. It is popular place for residents to walk, relax, exercise their dogs, cycle and run. Many visitors to Canberra come to experience the ridge and its wildlife and views," noted Christine.

However, the ridge is also home to a large pine plantation, is infested with weeds, suffered a major fire in 2003 and back burning since and is now the site for Canberra's latest and extensive mountain bike competition course. None of which indicates that the ACT government thinks this is a site of sensitive flora and fauna in need of saving.

Christine takes up the story. "The Government is implementing across the Ridge the Isaacs Ridge Trail Plan: a recreational facility for mountain biking, cross country cyclists, equestrians and walkers. The plan was developed and implemented by Anthony Burton & Associates in conjunction with Off Road Canberra Off-Road Cyclists. The first part to upgrade the mountain biking trails is finished.

"There is still more extensive trail development planned through the entirety of Isaacs Ridge. The plan acknowledges trail construction requires earthworks and vegetation clearing, both of which have the potential to result in environmental harm.

"No environmental impact study was done before commencing development in February this year. This indicates TAMS and the Parks and Conservation Service find no value in the land being conserved."

Residents not informed

As with the cull that has followed, residents were not informed in advance about what was happening to their suburb, says Christine.

"Residents of Isaacs did not receive direct communication or invitation to consult prior to the Trail Plan being prepared. It was not until after the plan was drawn and accepted that residents became aware. Since then there have been many concerned resident-initiated meetings inviting TAMS representatives to attend.

"The residents are concerned by the impact of parking in the suburb, particularly at Shepherdson Street, the lack of

>> p10

FOOTNOTES

1 http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-11/government-probably-used-illegal-weapons-during-kangaroo-cull/7502206

2 http://www.tams.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/822126/IsaacsRidge_Trails-Plan-Final-TAMS-151217_lr3.pdf

YOUR SAY: Ray Buckley

from p4

are devastating and are drying out our forests, leaving them more fire prone than they were before the so called hazard reduction burns.

My observations [in the area] after fires was that while there were still logs and branches on the ground, any tree, shrub or low lying branches under 2 metres in height was burnt and dried out, falling to the forest floor dry and charred. The mulch layer of the forest was dry and brittle, leaving the forest floor vulnerable to erosion.

The science regarding hazard reduction burns shows that the ecological systems within the forest floor are disturbed greatly, with the scarabs, slaters and bacteria heavily affected by the heat from the fire.

The resulting topsoil shows a thin carbon layer that repels water for up to 10 years which not only leaves the forest floor drier but also leads to greater erosion due to the excess water runoff.

As the soil is no longer absorbing moisture in the 10 year period, the water runs over and through the forest topsoil, washing it down the hill, generally into creeks and rivers which leads to siltation of the waterways.

One of the best things a gardener can do to retain moisture is to mulch. I don't know any gardeners who then set fire to the mulch so why do we do it to the forest?

Hazard reduction to houses

A spot fire can jump 20–30km during a wildfire. No amount of mosaic patchwork burning will stop a wildfire. All that should be done to protect the residential areas is to concentrate on removing the hazards, within a 200–300 metre zone.

To change from the present fire management strategy (which was never peer-reviewed) fence an area 200–300 metres into the treed areas that meet with residential areas. Within these zones, we could run horses, cattle, sheep or goats to reduce the fuel load.

Further in the bush, already existing major fire trails could be mechanically cleared 20 metres on either side of the track and mulched back onto the forest floor to give a 40-metre buffer.

Keeping forest mulch yields greater moisture levels. We could be making a big difference with different thinking

We have a chance to be leaders globally by reducing CO_2 emissions in Australia by approximately 30% simply by changing our hazard reduction techniques, our agricultural land management and stop clearing our forested areas.

18 million hectares of forest was lost globally in 2013, with a quarter of that being from forest fires in Canada and Russia, with 90–95% of the Russian fires being human lit fires.

As we have seen in Canada and in the US, wildfires are devastating and unstable in forested areas. These areas have had decades of similar hazard reduction techniques. While the forest species differ to Australia, taking the moisture from the forests with low level fires to 'reduce hazards' is making the forest more fire prone and is unnecessary. ■

Town and Country Gardening *with Penny Evans, Pendon farm*

Use vinegar as a natural weed control for pavers and driveways

WITH THE freezing weather, there is not a lot growing in the garden. Time to tackle those annoying weeds that pop up between the pavers and on gravel driveways.

And no I am not going to recommend Roundup. That stuff worries me and, anyway using something that is an organic solution for weed control is far better for everyone, including pets and the wildlife.

It's vinegar, preferably cheap white vinegar!

Before the introduction of harsh chemicals and herbicides, vinegar was used for generations to preserve food, as a useful cleaner and weed control. Vinegar is actually a weak natural acid and, when used on weeds, kills them.

I simply put straight, white vinegar in a spray bottle and spray directly onto the weeds. There are many recipes on the web, some combining vinegar with liquid soap, others using industrial strength vinegar (regular vinegar is 5%, stronger vinegar can be 20% so caution is required).

Search the internet and pick the recipe that suits you best. ABC *Gardening Australia Online* has an excellent article 'Herbicides and other weed controls, organic solutions for weed control'.

Images: www.pinterest.com

But a word of warning! Vinegar is non-selective, which means that if you spray it on a windy day or on the edges of pavers, it will likely be able to leach onto nearby garden plants or lawn and kill them as well as the paver weeds. In fact, depending on the strength of the vinegar you use, vinegar can sterilise your soil for up to 12 months. This is why I don't use vinegar in my vegetable garden or near my fruit trees.

Gardening tip

An easy way to sow more lettuce in your vegetable garden is to hang an old lettuce plant (once it has produced seed heads) from a garden stake. The wind will blow the lettuce seeds around your garden, and come spring, there should be lots of little lettuces to transplant or eat. ■

How important are **high-performance windows** for comfort and energy efficiency? (Hint: very)

THE IMPORTANCE of using high-performance windows in buildings continues to be ill understood, both for retrofit and for new buildings.

While the optical connection to the outdoors remains the prime function of a window, it also ought to keep the rain off and withstand wind forces. Let's call compliance with these three fundamental functions 'the Ford Model-T window'.

For comfort, however, windows must also be air-tight, thermally insulating, acoustically attenuating and openable where and when needed. On top of this, providing a controlled capacity to shade from unwanted sunlight and to offer privacy are important attributes. We might refer to such a window as 'the Tesla window'.

Putting Ford Model-T windows into modern Tesla-standard homes (such as Passivhaus) feels like being a rather sub-optimal decision, a decision that impacts comfort, health and heating and cooling bills most days of the year. Even re-sale value is connected to the choice of window performance, including the longevity of the window.

Description	'Uw' Window Value	Equivalent R-Value
Single-Glazed Window	5.0–7.0 W/m²K	0.15–0.20 m²K/W
Double-Glazed Window	3.0–4.0 W/m²K	0.25–0.35 m²K/W
Insulative Double-Glazed Window Unit – IGU	2.0–3.0 W/m²K	0.35–0.50 m²K/W
Double-Glazed, Thermally-Broken IGU Window	1.5–2.0 W/m²K	0.50–0.65 m²K/W
Triple-Glazed, NOT Thermally-Broken Window (Not IGU)	1.5–2.5 W/m²K	0.40–0.65 m²K/W
Passivhaus Triple-Glazed, Thermally Broken Window	**0.8–1.0 W/m²K**	**1.00–1.25 m²K/W**
Insulated External Wall	0.3–1.5 W/m²K	0.65–3.50 m²K/W
Uninsulated External Wall	4.0–8.0 W/m²K	0.15–0.25 m²K/W

Passivhaus commonly employs triple-glazing with argon-gas, double low-E coating and warm-edge spacers. Similarly, triple compression seals are used rather than brush seals to achieve true air-tightness. All frames are highly thermally-broken to reduce heat-transfer and build-up of condensation.

Finally, controlled shading is done externally using vertical blinds or zipScreen technology.

As the comparative table shows, triple-glazed Passivhaus performance windows outperform double-glazed windows by a factor of 2–3. Even Passivhaus windows remain the lowest-performance part of modern building envelopes in terms of thermal performance (R-Value = a measure for thermal heat-transfer resistance).

This makes "normal" double-glazing look at bit short on performance, short by a factor of 10.

Find out more about high performance windows and efficient building, both retrofit and new, at the Passivhaus information night.

— Laros Technology team

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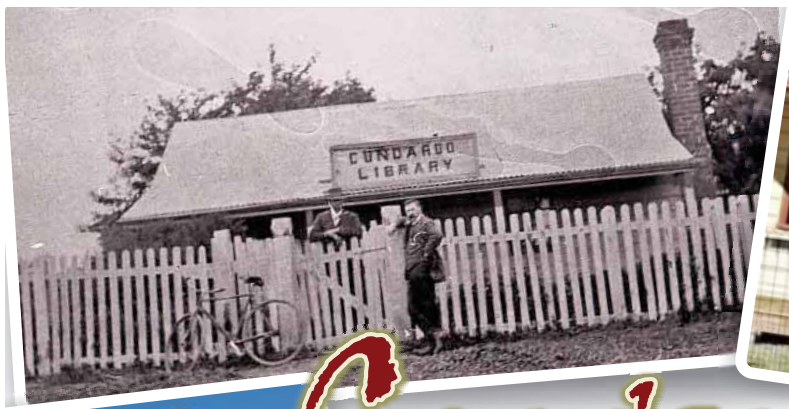
Bungendore Passivhaus Tour - 3.00PM Sat, 16 July 2016 **Cost: $45**
RSVP Thurs 14 July office@laros.com.au - Location advised upon registration



Gundaroo Village

as it was and is

With thanks to the Gundaroo Historical Society website for these insights

IN 1860 the only buildings in Gundaroo were the Caledonia store, the lock-up and the Old Harrow Inn. William Affleck, a prominent citizen in the formation of Gundaroo started agitating for the post office to be located in the village; a state school to be established; a church (Presbyterian) to be built; and the Marked Tree Road to be the recognised route from Goulburn to Queanbeyan.

This would ensure that the mail came directly to Gundaroo and more traffic would come through the new village and hopefully to his shop. Affleck also started the Mutual Improvement Society and Loyal Faithful Friend Lodge to assist Gundaroo with "intellectual improvement". Around 1895 William Affleck presented the village with a small weatherboard cottage for the use of the above societies and also to be used as a library, now known as the Literary Institute.

A school, a church and several more commercial and residential buildings were erected in Gundaroo by the end of the 1860's. Upper Gundaroo was suffering as a result of the expansion of Gundaroo at the official village site and never again achieved the level of activity it enjoyed in the 1850s and early 60s. St Lukes church is the only structure remaining which indicates the location of Upper Gundaroo.

Gundaroo has been fortunate in retaining many of the early buildings which helps it to retain a uniquely historic atmosphere. It is not too long ago that there were many slab huts in this street which have been knocked down in the name of progress. There are still a few in town and we will make every effort to retain them.

Early history

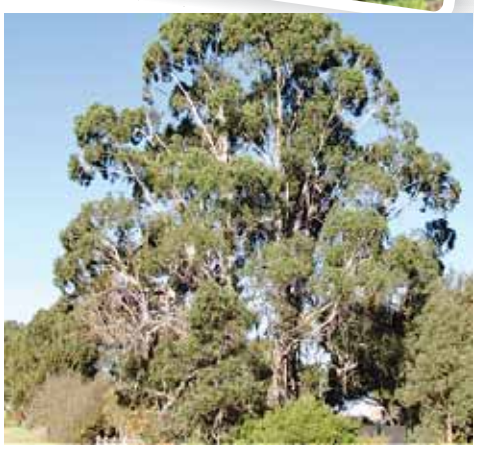
The first non-indigenous people to sight the Gundaroo valley were a young Joseph Wild and Charles Throsby Smith in early December 1820, who were exploring the district when they found a river now known as the Yass River and were told by the natives that they were at a place they called "Candariro".

It should be remembered that until 1825 the Governor of NSW ruled the state as an autocracy. In 1825 a Legislative Council was elected and a little more control over what happened in rural NSW took place. Squatter pastoralists [had been sending] their flocks to unclaimed Crown Land.

Such was the manner in which the area was developing with unauthorised settlers [then] being forced off "their" ground by decrees from the new-found authorities in Sydney who had little idea of the territory they were making jurisdiction over.

… there was little in the way of authority in the area, roads were little more than the rough tracks over which the first drays passed, there were no maps of course, the population was extremely sparse and directions as to the location of their destination were given by travellers who had only been in the district for weeks or possibly months.

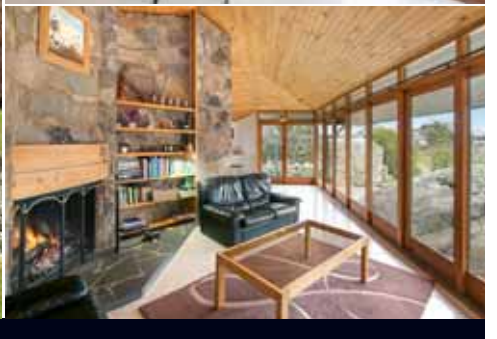
Doctors were many hours or days away over rough tracks. Misadventure had no respect for the status of people – wealthy landowners and the poorest labourer could die as the result of an overturned buggy or a fall from a horse. Travel over these tracks was extremely slow. One description of travel from Sydney to Queanbeyan in 1856 stated that it took 3 weeks to travel the mainly unmade 'road' at a calculated speed of 3mph!



Gundaroo once had a koala population that was hunted to extinction for the fur trade by the 1920s. Around the 1890s some of the squatters and villagers even ate koala, a dish immortalised as baked 'Gundaroo Bullock' by Banjo Paterson. Trees like this, few remaining, might once have housed koalas.

Extract from https://gundaroohistoricalsociety. com/ history/ read the full account there.

McGrath



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Focus *on* Energy *and* Innovation

Five reasons to get out of bed in the morning

by Jenny Goldie

WITH SEVERE bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef; global carbon dioxide levels passing the symbolic milestone of 400ppm; and wildfires raging across southwest United States, it is easy to lapse into despair about climate change. So a recent spate of good news stories came as a welcome antidote. Here are five of them.

■ Carbon capture and storage (CCS) has long been cited as the way we can continue to use coal without worrying about carbon dioxide emissions. Where to store the emissions, however, has been the question.

Now, scientists have found that when carbon dioxide and water is pumped underground into basalt rock, the carbon precipitates into a chalky mineral called calcite. Amazingly, it solidifies within two years, providing long-term storage.

There's plenty of basalt around too, with 10 percent of continents made of basalt or 100 percent of ocean floors. There's the slight worry that subterranean microbes might turn it back into methane, nevertheless, it is a significant step forward.

■ It is hoped that electric cars – run on renewable energy – will be the means by which we can make the shift away from oil-based transport fuels. 'Range-anxiety' as well as cost, however, has held up their wide-spread adoption.

Now, Nissan has announced it has developed the Solid Oxide Fuel Cell that can give a car a range of 600km, about the same as a conventional petrol car. The fuel cell uses a reformer to break down bioethanol (sourced from sugar-cane) to make hydrogen which, when combined with air, makes electricity. The only bi-product is water.

■ Some years ago, fertile black carbon-rich soils were discovered in Amazonia, a product of pre-Columbian indigenous farming. The exact techniques, however, were lost.

Now anthropologists and soil scientists, by living within West African communities in Liberia and Ghana where the same rich soils are found, have discovered how they do it. When charcoal and kitchen scraps are added to nutrient-poor soils, they are transformed into 'African Dark Earths' that contain three or four times as much carbon as before.

Not only has this the potential to increase food production, it has the added benefit of burying carbon and helping mitigate climate change.

■ Following in the footsteps of other Labor states (South Australia and Queensland) and the ACT, Victoria's government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy, namely 25 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2025. In the coming decade, 5,400MW of large scale wind, as well as large and small scale solar, will be built.

Victoria will double its wind power capacity by 2020 and quadruple it by 2025. This should end the investment drought in wind energy, created by the Abbott government's uncertainty over – and then reduction of – the renewable energy target (RET).

The scheme will generate 3,000 jobs by 2020, and another 4,000 by 2023–24, with an anticipated 12 percent reduction in electricity-sector greenhouse emissions by 2034–35.

■ The organisation Solar Citizens has just released its latest State of Solar report that found, in the last decade alone, Australian households invested $7.8 billion in rooftop solar and saved more than $4.4b billion on power bills. Solar owners in the Northern Territory saved the most – nearly $2,000 – in the financial year 2014–15.

Thanks to this rooftop solar revolution, in 2016 alone, over six million tonnes of CO_2 will be averted. Earlier this year, the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney found a transition to 100 percent renewables by 2030 would not only be technically feasible but would save the country $90bn. ■

Research shows some local governments leading with renewables

but Goulburn Council declines fee waiver for community solar farm

by Graham Franklin-Browne

GOULBURN Council recently declined an application to waive development application fees for a Goulburn Community Solar Farm on the grounds that it is a commercial venture, and would create precedence for other commercial projects.

Goulburn City General Manager, Warwick Bennett, stated that council must address transparency, probity, and consistency issues when making these decisions, but this should not be taken by Community Energy 4 Goulburn, the proponents of the development, as an indication that council is not supportive.

To date Goulburn City Council has been an active supporter of sustainable and renewable technologies, having recently partnered with the Tesla Corporation to set up electric vehicle charging stations in the city as part of a program to 'electrify' the main highways from Melbourne to Brisbane.

It is a little unfortunate then that council's announcement has coincided with a recent study by the climate research group, Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), showing that 20% of Australian communities and councils have set zero emissions or 100% renewable energy targets.

Survey of 152 councils on their carbon emission intentions

The research, conducted as part of BZE's Zero Carbon Communities program, was launched at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly, and is based on a survey of 152 different councils across Australia.

"The survey shows that local governments and communities are leading the way in setting zero emissions targets. Communities want strong climate action, and have the capability to deliver on zero emissions targets," said Stephen Bygrave, CEO of BZE.

President of the Australian Local Government Association, Troy Pickard, said that local governments have always been a leader on climate action and "BZE's Zero Carbon Communities Project is one important way we can address the very real threat that climate change poses to our communities and our planet." ■

Update: NSW still lagging on renewables, no new money in budget.

A mining thing with coal-friendly Baird government?

NSW OPPOSITION Leader Luke Foley lambasted the Baird government for ignoring the state's own renewable energy targets and failing to include renewable expansion in this year's budget. The state is falling seriously behind achieving its target of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 and 2016 shows no new planning.

In his budget reply speech, Foley highlighted the draft regulation for wind farms is now five years overdue with NSW missing out on billions of potential investment, saying the government sits on its hands. NSW has been consistently ranked as the worst performing state or territory for renewable energy output.

The government's *Clean Energy Action Plan Annual Report 2015* has shown that the share of energy coming from renewable sources has fallen from 12.9% in 2014 to just 11.8% in 2015.

Similarly, the Clean Energy Council listed NSW at the bottom of the states for renewable energy production in its 2014 report with only six percent of its electricity coming from wind, solar and water.

The Climate Council's report *Renewables Race* also found NSW had not increased its proportion of renewable energy in its electricity supply in two years.

New South Wales received the worst renewable report grade due to the lowest and falling percentage of renewable electricity; low large-scale renewable capacity per person; no renewable energy target; and low levels of rooftop solar. ■

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— Living with Nature —

*Marvel at what is around us every day with keen observer and fantastic wildlife photographer **Carol Lynn** (a woman whose middle name must be patience) who tells us more in the narrative along with her photos. This month three bird species many of us have seen.*

Mud brick homes

WHITE-WINGED CHOUGHS and FAMILY CARING: Choughs are completely family orientated. They love their young and the whole family helps to look after them. The nest is a marvel of construction over time. "All members joining in to construct a nest in stages, carrying and adding mud which has to harden before more is added. A stem or piece of bark is first dabbled in mud, then carried to the nest to be 'trowelled' into place and trimmed by a rapid scissoring of the bill held sideways to the nest. A lasting structure results ... about seven percent fibre by weight" (*Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds)*.

I first observed the nest, high in a eucalypt tree, when the mother was first sitting on the eggs. She sat patiently through all weather, including strong wind, heat and rain. The first sight of fuzzy heads appearing over the edge was wonderful. The nestlings grew quickly and so did their appetites and they clamoured lustily to the family to satisfy them!

Beauty Parlour

WHITE COCKATOOS, AFFECTION AND GROOMING: to observe a flock of cockatoos going about their lives in the wild is to feel regret for those who are caged as 'pets', for they rely on affection and company. Which is not to say that their crests are not raised when they decide to make a point, as do we, but their mutual loving, grooming and care for one another is obvious.

At this time of year they seek out tiny abundant native bulbs, pulling them out of the ground to nibble the bases. They feed on seeds on the ground, rest during the warmer part of a day in trees, stripping leaves and bark. When ironbark trees flower, one can often see in a circle beneath the tree some nibbled remnants of its flowers, dropped from above.They do some good by eating the seeds of weeds. They also like to bounce about, having landed on native pines, to eat the seeds. Their call is raucous and distinctive, often issued in flight.

Shall we dance?

BEAUTY IN FLIGHT AND REST: Nature has produced the most magnificent beauty – including the feathering of birds (and also the rainbow scales of fish beneath the ocean's surface). Suddenly, a beautifully-hued or patterned bird will alight and brighten the day. Diamond Finches (also called Diamond Firetails) perch together. They like open eucalypt woodlands. It is said that their numbers have declined due to clearing of habitat and the unfortunate practice of their capture and sale for cages.

Their flight is strong, straight and silent in their freedom. They seek ripe and partly ripe seeds and occasional insects. Their courtship is elaborate: the male, picking up a long grass stem at one end, flies to a dead branch and when she follows he sings and bobs, head bent forward, bill on his breast, fluffed up and bouncing up and down. When she approaches, he bends his head to her, offering his open beak and grass stem. If she quivers her tail, his romantic gymnastics were not in vain! They both build their nest, bringing grasses but only the female does the weaving. Both parents incubate the clutch. ■

On horizon: NSW native vegetation laws threaten habitat and emission reduction.

Young farm leader quits in protest

The following is an extract from an article written by Josh Gilbert as he quit the leadership of NSW Young Farmers in February. Read the whole article at https://newmatilda.com/2016/02/02/47884/ *'Why I Quit Over Native Veg Laws: Outgoing Chair of NSW Young Farmers Speaks Out'*

DO WE AS a society value the pursuit of money over the longevity of social cohesion, the natural environment and our accountability to the public?

Kinship for the land is not just felt by farmers, but also by our Indigenous brothers and sisters and the broader environmental movement. With the desire to create fair, just, and equitable policy regarding the natural environment, it is negligent that these voices have been hushed and ignored, often trumped in the public and political discussion by large farming organisations.

Unfortunately the legitimate concerns of the environmental movement regarding policy changes on native vegetation clearing, like those expected to be pursued by the Baird government when parliament resumes, are too-often falling on deaf ears within farmers associations, and the relationship is at risk.

Comparable policies to the New South Wales government's within Queensland have seen over 300,000 hectares of native vegetation ripped from the landscape in Queensland, despite industry best practice. Rampant clearing in 2014 also led to carbon emissions equalling 6 percent of the national total.

Australia has become number three for the worst land clearing rates among developed nations. And still, some industries continue to lobby for self-regulation in order to provide the opportunity for them to destroy our native landscapes. ■

See what's on your block

Palerang native vegetation map layer gets high tech update

DRONES WILL play a novel part in surveying Palerang landscapes for vegetation types, not least identifying weeds or endangered species. This, and other modern geographic assessment tools, are helping council update the maps of vegetation layers across the landscape.

Palerang planners (now part of QPRC) have been getting more grounded (than with previous satellite data) for a more accurate picture of native and other vegetation in the rural and rural residential parts of the new council area. Having all the input data based on a standardised system is another goal.

The new vegetation maps will guide development proposals, conservation measures, and underlying zoning.

Now on exhibition, see council ad p11, the native vegetation layer work can be checked by residents and compared to what they see on their own block. Residents are encouraged to do so and can call on council to visit and review what is on site if there appears to be any discrepancy. Having viewed the mapping myself, I can vouch for the fact that you can learn what tree associations go with your type of land, and learn a name or two.

— Maria Taylor

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ISAACS RIDGE *from p5*

facilities, especially toilet and water, and the extension of the trails throughout the Ridge as proposed. Isaacs Ridge was the venue earlier this year for Round 2 of the National Orienteering Weekend which included a World Ranking Event for Elite Racers.

Christine has carefully referenced the whole saga in a letter to the Liberal's ACT Shadow Minister for Transport Alastair Coe and says she is still waiting for any response.

She documented for the politicians the lack of communication regarding the trails and the cull and the safety issues involved with the latter.

Safety concerns with cull

The only cull information was a media release on the TAMS website three days before the shooting commenced. She wrote: "A link from that page provides more information and says: "Surrounding residents living adjacent to affected Nature Reserves will be informed of the cull and reserve closure via a letter. Signs will also be erected at all entry points to the reserves. The reserves will also be patrolled by rangers and security cameras." More information on Territory and Municipal Services website.

"Residents were unaware because few people visit the TAMS website with any regularity. And the TAMS letter informing residents did not arrive to anyone I'm aware of in the suburb.

"No mention is made in the ACT Government's April and May circular *Our Canberra – Woden, Weston Creek & Molonglo Edition* which lets the community know what the government is doing for us.

"Consequently, it was not until physical signs were placed on the walking paths at the junction to the ridge that anyone became aware of the closure details and the warning of the danger of firearms and monitory penalties. The sign warns of a penalty of $750 for entering the area and of prosecution and fines up to $7,500. (But do not say it is for a kangaroo cull.)

"No mention of both the danger of fire arms, and of the monitory penalties appears on the TAMS website media releases. One can only be made aware of the fire-arm danger and the penalties if one happens to see the physical signs posted at the ridge.

"So now the residents are in the situation whereby the ridge is closed to those who use the area for personal exercise or to walk their dog before and after work. This is a majority of the users, even after dark, when the signs aren't visible.

"It is apparent the ACT Government has implemented this program poorly. The implementation cannot pass standards required for accreditation and OH&S."

Debunking the government's argument for culling, Christine summed up the situation at Isaacs Ridge which is causing her and others much anguish.

"There is no evidence of any habitat or species requiring protection on Isaacs Ridge. Otherwise the commercial pine plantation, orienteering events and the trail and outdoor adventure park would never have been established there."

Noting her family's 30 years of observing a stable kangaroo population on the ridge, she is one of the many who understand that kangaroo lives and breeding are adapted to seasonal conditions. "They have evolved though multiple-thousands of years in Australia needing to preserve their grassland."

Canberrans need only open their eyes. "An observer will notice a vast difference in the grasslands of Isaacs Ridge and those of the horse agistment properties abutting the northern end of Isaacs Ridge. The lands agisting horses are quite denuded compared to the grasslands which are grazed by kangaroos only." ■

Bush Heritage charged with misleading donors about kangaroo cull

THE AUSTRALIAN Society for Kangaroos (ASK) alleges: "An internal source from Bush Heritage Australia has contacted (us) exposing their plans to slaughter 500 kangaroos and their joeys at their Scottsdale reserve 75km south of Canberra (near Bredbo)".

The shooting may have started at the end of June and may continue until the middle of July. The person claimed that Bush Heritage had already killed 700 kangaroos and their joeys at Scottsdale.

ASK also charges that Bush Heritage, which uses donor monies to buy properties for conservation, has misled those questioning the practice. According to the source the organisation is "fearful of losing donations and their reputation as an organisation that protects the environment and its native wildlife".

Contacted by the *Bulletin*, Bush Heritage confirmed indirectly that it is culling, saying "if left unmanaged kangaroo numbers are capable of compromising large-scale revegetation and threatened species re-introduction projects on the reserve". Bush Heritage indicated it sees the ACT Kangaroo Management Plan as best reserve practice.

That plan guides the controversial program to cuts mobs to one or ½ kangaroo per hectare compared with natural density of 3–4 per hectare. The ACT program has no long-term monitoring of impacts on either kangaroos groups or other species backing this lethal approach.

Bush Heritage also believes kangaroo grazing threatens seed-eating and tussock-nesting birds and cites an inconclusive ACT paper measuring grass height to allege kangaroos threaten reptiles. [See *Roogate,* The Eight Papers, on our website for a different perspective.] ■

Your money

with Michael Holmes

Which credit card is best?

CREDIT CARDS are a common financial product now but you should make sure they work to help your financial situation rather than damage it. Properly managed, a credit card can earn you rewards such as free flights or act as a source of emergency funds.

The first thing is to understand which type of credit card you have. There are two main types, cards which have a rewards plan and cards which don't.

Cards with a rewards plan often have an interest-free period. That means they won't charge interest if you pay off the entire balance owing by the due date, often 21 days after the end of the month. If you have one of these cards you really want to be paying the balance off at the end of the month as the interest rate on the card is usually more than 20% per annum.

Don't fall in to the trap of only making the minimum payment on the card. The minimum may be as low as 2% of the balance owing but your repayments will be almost all interest and it will take you a long time to pay off your card. For instance a $6,000 balance might have a minimum repayment of $120; at 20% interest it will take you more than 70 years to pay the card off.

Low interest card an option, check for deals

If you aren't paying the balance off every month you may want a 'low interest' card. Rates on low interest cards start at about 10% per annum. The low interest cards often won't have any rewards plan and may or may not have an interest-free period.

Most cards will also have various fees associated with them. This includes foreign currency charges, cash advance and annual fees. It's worth checking the fees that your card charges.

Some cards don't charge foreign currency fees, so if you are travelling or buying a lot of products online there may be a particular card that suits your situation. If you are a 'good' customer of your bank they may also waive the annual fee. It's worth checking with your bank if they have any special deal given your relationship with them.

If you can't pay off your card some banks will offer a honeymoon rate on transferring the balance of your old card. They may offer rates as low as 0% for six or 12 months. You can use this period to try and pay down the card quickly given there are no interest charges. ■

In a future article we'll look at credit card reward plans in some detail.

bungendore FINE ART
open daily 10–4.30pm
Ph 02 6238 1640
Happy Memories
Exhibition by
Janet Hicks – Doreen Shaw

All Welcome
www.bungendorefineart.com.au
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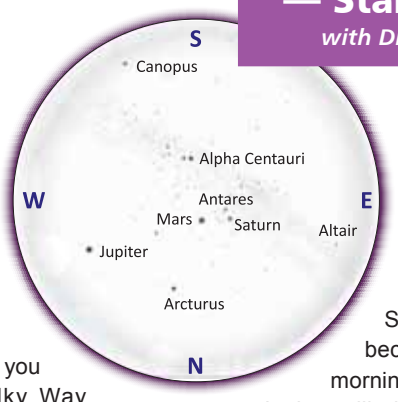
— Star Search —
with Dr David Weldrake

Clear skies, Saturn



IN JULY, we have our coldest nights, however with the cold comes the clear. The frosty weather provides us with the clearest skies of any time of the year, which allows us a chance to see objects in the night sky with clarity, both near and far.

Brave the cold this month and you will see the bright winter Milky Way stretching overhead. Being away from the city we can see it very clearly. Pick a moonless night and take a look yourself.

Astronomers travel from all over the world, coming to Australia to see the Milky Way at this time of the year. Our latitude provides us an excellent view. All we have to do is go outside and look.

Bright stars this month include orange Arcturus towards the north, blue-white Canopus low in the south west, yellow Alpha Centauri overhead, red Antares close to Mars and Saturn, and white Altair, a star of spring, rising low in the east.

Jupiter and Mars bright, Saturn at its best

Three bright planets grace our skies during July: Jupiter, Mars and Saturn. Jupiter can be seen shining as a bright steady yellowish 'star' low in the north-west after sunset, in the constellation Leo.

Jupiter has been visible in our evening skies for some months now, and is moving closer to the Sun as seen from Earth. It will move behind the Sun in September, after which it becomes visible in the early morning sky.

Jupiter still shows a wealth of detail when seen through a telescope, most conspicuous being the main cloud bands and patterns, along with it's four biggest moons. Jupiter is an impressive sight at any time through a small backyard telescope. Take this opportunity to have a look. Binoculars will reveal Jupiter's four biggest moons.

The second bright planet seen this month is Mars, the red planet, which was seen at its best back in May. It still shines brightly as a reddish 'star' near the (also red) star Antares.

Mars is now drawing away from the Earth and becoming smaller and fainter in our skies, but July still gives us a chance to see the polar ice caps, clouds and dark surface markings of that frozen desert world. Mars will continue to be visible for some months to come, albeit becoming fainter as each month goes by.

Close to Mars and Antares is the planetary highlight for July, the ringed planet Saturn. It was closest to Earth last month, but is still a very impressive sight when seen through a backyard telescope.

Above is a picture of Saturn taken from Bungendore on the 15th June. It shows the main features that can be seen with a small telescope, namely Saturn's magnificent ring system, as well as the yellowish colour of the planet and the reddish-brown cloud bands that occur there. There is a semi-transparent ring close to the planet (called the 'crepe' ring) which is also visible.

The picture also shows a big gap in the ring that goes all the way around called the 'Cassini Division'. This is a clearing in the ring caused by the gravity of Mimas, one of Saturn's tiny moons, which sweeps out the ring particles from that part of the ring every time Mimas orbits around the giant planet. The Cassini Division is 4,800km wide, about the size of the Atlantic Ocean, measured between Europe and the USA.

The Earth itself is about the same size as the 'A' ring, the part of the ring outside the Cassini Division, which looks a darker grey than the inner part of the ring.The south pole of Saturn can be seen peeking through the Cassini Division right at the bottom.

You will need a telescope to see Saturn's rings, it is too far for them to be seen through binoculars, but if you have one, take this opoprtunity to see them for yourself.

In July, the Moon was new on the 5th July, at first quarter phase on the 12th, full on the 20th and at last quarter phase on the 27th.

https://sites.google.com/site/weldrakeplanetary/

Chart (9pm on the 15th July) produced using the Stellarium software package

Age should not wither them

Book Review** by **Nick Goldie

READERS of *The Monthly* will be familiar with the medical column written by Doctor Karen Hitchcock: wry, spare, hard-hitting.

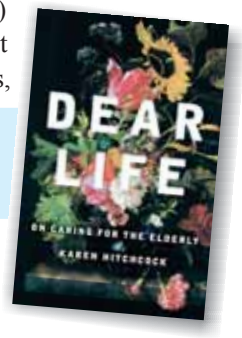
Her new book *Dear Life* is all of these and more. Dr Hitchcock has firm opinions about most things medical, and backs them with clinical evidence and personal anecdote. This book examines the process of aging; the nature of hospitals; the problems of modern medical practice, and the prospect of death itself.

"It's difficult," she writes,"for us to think about our own death, except as a kind of puppet show, with ourselves watching as a spectator." This is a mostly cheerful book, with stories of people and patients she has known.

To start with, Hitchcock addresses the problem of futility. Is it futile to lavish care on an unresponsive patient, perhaps a close relative, who has only a short time to live? No, she says emphatically. Care is a two-way street, and all parties are the richer for it.

She is equally emphatic about euthanasia, and scathing about celebrities (especially Andrew Denton) who claim to be expert in the subject. Doctors, she says, do not have and should not have the right to kill their patients. She uses the word "kill" with intent.

Dear Life
Karen Hitchcock
Black Inc 2016



Euthanasia in Hitchcock's view is always for the benefit of the survivors, the medicos, the relatives. She hopes for a society with the values and resources to say to the patient: "Don't be scared. We will attend to you, ease your pain, witness your anguish. No, we will not kill you."

>> p12

:: Community Notices ::

What comes around: Izobella Elgood (L) and Caitlin McCutcheon from Bungendore with creations sure to stir baby boomer memories.

Creative school holiday program, lots to do, come and join

COME AND JOIN us for our Vacation Care program at YMCA Bungendore Kool Kids, run from the grounds of Bungendore Primary School.

These holidays we will have plenty of activities such as Nerf Wars, campfire cooking, Xmas in July, masterchef, making snow and plenty of other craft and cooking adventures to match our daily themes.

We will also be going to the movies to see *Finding Dory* and have Queanbeyan YMCA join us for a World Service Carnival. We will have access to the school hall, YMCA demountable and the oval so no matter the weather we will be busy and kept active. For further information please call 6297 2334.

Or visit the website for the full program **www.queanbeyan.ymca.org.au/what-we-do/Pages/Vacation-Care.aspx**
Or visit YMCA Queanbeyan Office; Bungendore Kool Kids BSC; ASC and the Bungendore School Office

QPRC
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Exhibition of revised native vegetation information

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has placed on public exhibition the revised native vegetation geographical information systems (GIS) layer for the former Palerang council area.

The native vegetation layer can be viewed via the Palerang link on Council's website at **www.qprc.nsw.gov.au** (click on online maps on the home page). The vegetation layer can also be viewed using a touchscreen at Council's Bungendore and Braidwood offices. Paper copies of the report and maps of part(s) of the layer can be provided by staff.

Council and Office of Environment and Heritage staff will be available to visit properties to discuss the layer and native vegetation on the property. If it is felt that there is a need to amend the layer this will be discussed with an ecologist from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. The proposed amendment(s) would be included in a Council report on the exhibition.

Submissions on the revised layer can be made until Friday 29 July in writing to PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621 or **records@palerang.nsw.gov.au**.

Enquiries should be directed to Sue Robb, Strategic Planning Coordinator on 1300 735 025.

QPRC
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.* Council approved the following development applications in June 2016

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.2016.108	Shed	01/06/2016	Lot 2 DP 862451 17 Gathering Place CARWOOLA
DA.2016.111	Shed	01/06/2016	Lot 159 DP 808823 199 Bowen Street CARWOOLA
DA.2016.029	2 Lot Subdivision and Carport	01/06/2016	Lot 1 DP 858657 132A Ellendon St BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.080	Shed with Toilet	02/06/2016	Lot 2 DP 1216284 87 Old Gold Mines Road SUTTON
DA.2016.073	Manufactured Home	02/06/2016	Lot 12 DP 1089987 386 Foxs Elbow Road WARRI
DA.2016.070	Dwelling and Shed	02/06/2016	Lot 1 DP 1209832 146 Walga Close CARWOOLA
DA.2016.049	2 Lot Subdivision	07/06/2016	Lot 2 DP 1209163 892 Burra Road BURRA
DA.2016.096	Continued Use of Front Verandah and Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	08/06/2016	Lot 14 DP 237898 30 Macs Reef Road BYWONG
DA.2015.270	Dwelling	10/06/2016	Lot 1 DP 1187272 888 Monga Lane REIDSDALE
DA.2016.053	Continued Use of Shed	10/06/2016	Lot 224 DP 754872 262 Old Mill Road FORBES CK
DA.2016.058	Outdoor Gym	10/06/2016	Lot 701 DP1027107 Reserve 1000193 BUNGENDORE PARK 6–14 Butmaroo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.082	Studio	15/06/2016	Lot 115 DP 877601 1282 Bombay Road BOMBAY
DA.2016.126	Shed	16/06/2016	Lot 1002 DP 1090521 5 Westwood Cct BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.085	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling – Dual Occupancy	16/06/2016	Lot 2 DP 856264 13 Black Sallee Lane BRAIDWOOD
DA.2016.062	Dwelling, Shed, Stables and Pool	17/06/2016	Lot 12 DP 270600 78 Brindabella Place CARWOOLA
DA.2016.102	Change of Use – Commercial to Dwelling and Alterations and Additions to Dwelling	21/06/2016	Lot 4 DP 747687 143 Little River Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2016.101	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	21/06/2016	Lot 3 Sec 12 DP 758152 14 Wallace St BRAIDWOOD
DA.2016.069	Four Lot Subdivision	21/06/2016	Lot 13 Sec 7 DP 758183 & Lot 14 Sec 7 DP 758183 33 Modbury Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.139	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	22/06/2016	Lot 1 DP 1061391 17 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.113	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	22/06/2016	Lot 4 DP 863371 81 Fernloff Road WAMBOIN
DA.2016.048	Dwelling	23/06/2016	Lots 169 & 172 DP 755949 Off Charleys Forest Road CHARLEYS FOREST
DA.2016.065	Shed	28/06/2016	Lot 27 DP 258504 370 Widgiewa Road CARWOOLA
DA.2016.133	Swimming Pool	29/06/2016	Lot 259 DP 754915 295 Mathews Lane BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.128	Shed	29/06/2016	Lot 23 DP 805805 905 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DA.2016.075	Dual Occupancy – Manufactured Dwelling	29/06/2016	Lot 50 DP 594777 160 Koombahlah Road PRIMROSE VALLEY
DA.2016.114	Dwelling	29/06/2016	Lot 2 DP 1219385 2A Birch Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2016.104	Shed	29/06/2016	Lot 1 DP 1139522 97 Finlay Place BURRA

Wendy Sharpe. *Women with Pirate Hat 2011* (detail). Intaglio Etching; solvent lift, aquatint. Single copper plate. 83.5 x 67cm.

Prints from the Griffith Studio

PRINTS FROM the Griffith Studio brings to Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, the work of nine current and past artist/printmakers to exhibit for sale a series of very limited edition prints produced in this physically small, yet massively influential and culturally dynamic, Griffith printmaking studio.

Highly acclaimed Australian and internationally renowned visual artists Lyn Burns, George Gittoes, Pamela Griffith, Greg Hansell, Bettina McMahon, Gina Monaco, Trevor Riach, Wendy Sharpe and Glenn Smith will exhibit prints produced in the Griffith Studio and Graphics Workshop between 1990 and 2016.

The Griffith Studio and Graphics Workshop was set up by artist Pamela Griffith, one of Australia's best regarded printmakers, in 1986.

Opening

Prints from the Griffith Studio will be opened on Saturday 23 July at 2pm in the Octagon Artspace at Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, by Kate Milner Creative Partnerships Coordinator, Hazlehurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, Sydney NSW. ■

Bungendore Fine Art Gallery — July Exhibition —

'Happy Memories'

Featuring Janet Hicks and Doreen Shaw

THIS EXHIBITION brings together the works of two artists who are inspired by a desire to celebrate a love and deep respect for the natural world. Janet Hicks and Doreen Shaw's works pay homage to the power of the natural environment to incite and drive creativity.

Doreen Shaw's work is a reflection of memories of country trips and times sketching farmlands, rolling hills and birds whilst autumn and spring's sun warmed her back. For Janet Hicks, excitement is to be had in capturing the colours, patterns, shapes and rhythms found in native flora. ■

Reserve 24 July – 10am to 3pm

for the Queanbeyan Christmas Fair

Unwrapping the greatest Christmas in July market in the region

QPRC is excited to announce and share with you just a taste of our huge line-up of stallholders for the upcoming Queanbeyan Christmas Fair.

This year we are not only introducing a new, bigger location at the Queanbeyan Showgrounds, we are also introducing a whole new set of traders and stall holders – as well as old favourites selling unique, locally designed items from artisan wares, craft and vintage finds, threads and sewing to upcycled wares and more.

This year we have everything from steampunk designed soap, toys, candles to quilts and jewellery. There's even an opportunity for people to bring their pets to have a photo with Santa. Not unlike after the traditional Christmas meal, there is a good chance you will need to undo the top button on your favourite slacks as the food being served is just so delicious.

Closer to the event we will be making further announcements and activities for the day – see more at **https://www.facebook.com/events/797189213745495/**

For more information contact Georgina Perri on 6285 6170 or email cultural.services@qcc.nsw.gov.au. Please note all stallholder locations are full for 2016 inside the pavilions.

Press release

BOOK REVIEW: DEAR LIFE

from p11

Note the need for adequate resources, as this is another of Hitchcock's major themes. She is deeply concerned about the future of health care in Australia, and our increasing acceptance of the consumerist model.

Vividly, she refers to the American health system turning "into a dragon raking gold into its cave" and pours scorn on "coin-operated doctors".

We meet some memorable characters: Fred, 84, sick and miserable because his dog has just died – there's a happy ending involving a replacement dog; forgetful David, depressed George, Irena (who could stand up to Stalin, but not the nursing-home regime) – and above all tipsy Min.

Min, at 92, was a great character. Until the late 1990s she ran a boarding house in Melbourne, went to the market, had a beer or two in the pub, and was known to all the locals. ABC broadcaster and historian Michael Cathcart was one of Min's tenants, and found himself increasingly in the role of carer.

She became unsteady: the pub started serving her sarsaparilla rather than beer; "the stallholders at the market understood what she wanted and gave her the right change. She was propped up by a close-knit community".

This, to Hitchcock, is a model of how things might be. New drugs are not the answer. "We wait for the dementia cure (the obesity cure, the diabetes cure) rather than changing our society to decrease incidence and severity … to reduce non-communicable disease, the actions we need to take are societal; make it easier for people to move more and eat well, strengthen education, promote community participation and meaningful work." ■

Mostly cheerful, sometimes moving, this is an important essay by a fine writer.

Jolly old July

the market @ bungendore

Sunday July 17th 9am–2pm
at the War Memorial Hall

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

jewellery		mosaics
giftware		homewares
collectables		greeting cards
local art & craft		beads & findings
garden products	textiles	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	preserves	local grown plants
cakes & pastries	hand knits	prints & paintings
tea & fresh coffee	candles	hats and fascinators
soaps & lotions	cookies	clothing & footwear

Go to www.districtbulletin.com.au for our weekly / monthly calendar of events

Fri 8 July (8pm), Sat 9 July (2pm, 8pm)
Melbourne Ballet Company presents *Divenire*
The Q Performing Arts Centre, Crawford St, Qbn. $34 to $49. Box office 6285 6290 or see **www.theq.net.au**.

Sun 17 July
The Stockman Market Day Steam. Take a trip back in time along the country branch line – see the scenic Molonglo Gorge and stop at the charming village of Bungendore. Departs Canberra Railway Station, Kingston, ACT. $65 / $35 / $55. Ph 6232 6405 or see **www.canberrarailwaymuseum.org**.

Sat 23 July, Sat 30 July
Truffle cooking class and lunch. Le Tres Bon, 40 Malbon S, Bungendore. $150. Ph 6238 0662 or see **letresbon.com.au**.

Throughout August
Exhibition *Nature's Symphony* will be featuring two of Bungendore Fine Art Gallery's partners, Janette McGuffog and Sue Grieves. **www.bungendorefineart.com.au**

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.capitalregionfarmers market.com.au**

Southern Harvest Farmers Market — Anglican Church Hall, Gibraltar 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 (ex-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 + 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.

5th Saturday (30 July & 29 October)

CAPS Market In Tarago — (Craft, Art, Produce Seasonal = CAPS.) Town Hall, Tarago. 9–2pm. Contact: 0429 200 456 or CAPSmarketInTarago@gmail.com.

More on regional; local events; and tourism visit
www.bungendore.com.au
www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au
www.visitbraidwood.com.au