



Bulletin

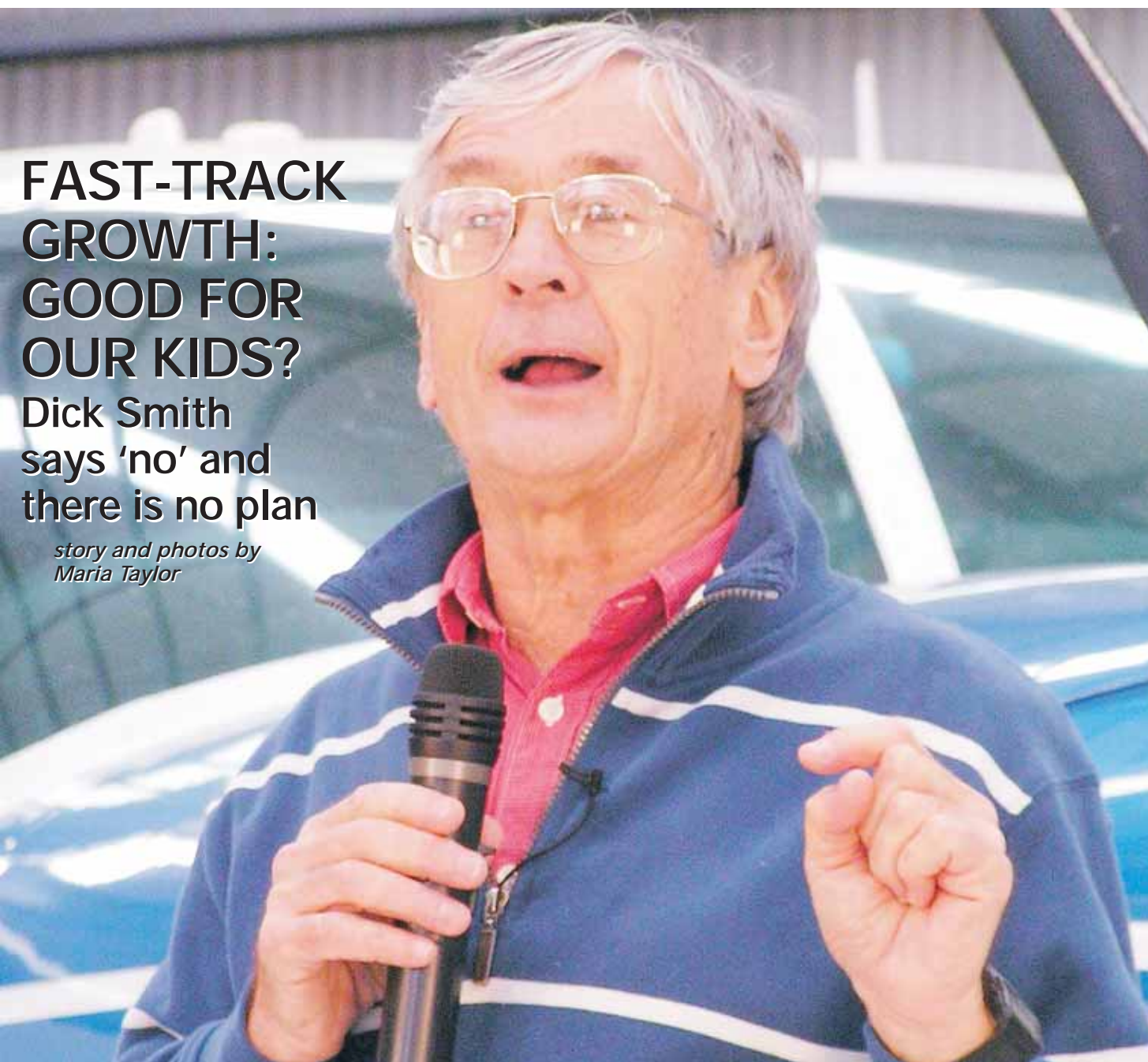
COUNTRY LIVING in Palerang – Bungendore and Queanbeyan

Going out monthly to: Araluen, Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Bywong, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Cooma Road, Fernleigh, Greenleigh, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown, Majors Creek, Mongarlowe, Queanbeyan plazas, The Ridgeway, Royalla, Sutton, Tarago, Wamboin and Weetalaba

FAST-TRACK GROWTH: GOOD FOR OUR KIDS?

Dick Smith says 'no' and there is no plan

story and photos by Maria Taylor



"THERE WERE people everywhere and often angry people at that. They'd be stressed out in car parks, on the roads, in supermarkets. I couldn't stand it" this comment about living in Sydney, was made by a sea-changer who moved to Hervey Bay in Queensland (*Australia Today* June/July 2010). More than 1,000 people move to Queensland every week. Locally we hear that Queanbeyan and Palerang are looking at almost doubling numbers in the next 25 years. How long can Paradise stay Paradise?

The stress of modern living and these statistics are not coincidental. They conjure the increasing social cost of a 'bigger Australia' through immigration and natural reproduction. 'Bigger' and 'more' are presented as the only roads to prosperity and national stability. In

recent years population growth has been re-packaged with enthusiasm by the two major political parties. But is it all it's cracked up to be?

Australian electronics entrepreneur, multi-millionaire, aviator and outspoken citizen Dick Smith doesn't think so. (Dick, incidentally, has a local property near Gundaroo which houses his radio and aviation memorabilia). He spoke to the *Bulletin* about his ideas; his upcoming documentary broadcast about population and growth; and his plan for a million dollar contest for young people who can communicate what a sustainable future means.

A humble car radio installer asks the tough questions

We actually first heard Dick on population at a standing-room-only talk to some 250 listeners

in Canberra, sponsored by the Australia Institute back in March. Although he jokingly calls himself a humble car radio installer, this man is a natural persuader, full of enthusiasm and straight talk.

He said that one night last September his daughter rang him in relation to the Copenhagen climate change summit and said, "Dad, why do you think no-one is talking about the elephant in the room – population?" Dick hadn't thought about it before that moment or read anything in the press. But that comment opened his eyes. "Here we are talking about climate change and no-one is talking about the most important impact we're having and that is the effect of population growth."

Having done his homework, he says there is no science behind the talk that Australia can

sustain 36 million people by 2050, no policy at all, and therefore no agreement on what is a reasonable target. It's just 'keep growing' like we've always done.

"Common sense alone tells you there has to be a finite limit" for existing resources. Dick said he thinks about his grandchildren, with a world population that has tripled since he was born – from 2.3 billion to 6.8 billion in about 65 years (on track to 9.2 billion by 2050). In Australia, if current trends are encouraged we could be looking at some 100 million people by the end of the century. Food and water shortages top the list of what he worries about for coming generations.

He notes that current crop yields are based on fossil fuel products and breeding better varieties. Back-of-envelope figures suggest that

Continued p5

INSIDE:

Know the past to gain future



Martin Royd's farm

p4



Bumper year for orchids

p6

NEW

The sporting life

p7

Plus – food and wine p8;
new animal wonders p9;
and antiques p10

Theatre: sex and the caravan

p11

Bungendore lot sizes,
budget deficit

p14

From NY to Queanbeyan –
local government
same and different

p15

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CUTTING THROUGH the political noise in this election year about the emissions trading scheme and the current 'can't do' image of both major political parties on climate change, a new national report has directly confronted the mythology that changing Australia's energy system costs jobs.

Moving away from almost total reliance on extracting and consuming fossil fuels could net the country some 3.7 million new jobs by 2030 if governments and consumers act now to establish a cleaner energy economy and clean up the atmosphere at the same time.

Creating Jobs – Cutting Pollution: the roadmap for a cleaner, stronger economy,

Energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner transport = jobs, says new report

was released by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) in May. It claims to be based on the most extensive economic modelling to date of the costs and benefits of taking strong action to cut greenhouse pollution by 25 percent.

Policies for energy efficiency, renewable energy investment and cleaner transport are just as important as a price on carbon in this assessment and would leave households relatively better off financially in 20 years – 10

percent better off is suggested. On the other hand, living standards and the economy will suffer if government action remains weak.

ACTU President Sharan Burrow said the extra jobs that would be created with strong action were not just 'green collar' jobs, but new jobs in traditional industries such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing and the services sector.

"This report shows regional areas, even those which produce coal and generate electricity, will have more jobs if we take strong

action to cut pollution, but only if we act now," Ms Burrow said. States with the strongest current reliance on the coal economy – Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia – followed by New South Wales – stand to benefit most from alternative sector job growth.

"Australia's government and business leaders face a simple choice: invest and innovate now to secure our long-term future or pay the price in extra economic costs, job losses and an increasingly damaged environment if we don't act."

ACF executive director Don Henry said he thinks in this election year Australians want their leaders to show they have got a serious plan to shift to a cleaner economy with new industries and jobs.

For the complete report go to http://www.acfonline.org.au/uploads/res/ACF_Jobs_report_190510.pdf.

EDEN-MONARO: RENEWABLE ENERGY HOTSPOT

Federal member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly recently addressed the Federal Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2010. Dr Kelly has shown a keen interest in alternative energy development and says he is responding to electorate concerns about the related issue of lowering greenhouse gases. Here are some interesting excerpts from his speech.

New emphasis on household-scale renewable energy

Installers of small-scale technologies will be able to receive renewable energy credits (RECs) at a fixed price of \$40 in nominal terms for the period up to 2014. This will mean a householder installing an average size 1.5 kilowatt system and receiving a solar credits multiplier will receive RECs worth approximately \$6,000. The enhanced RECs scheme should come into effect on 1 January 2011. *(For the householder this translates into a discount on the installed system.)*

(This) supports those who wish to install a small-scale system such as solar panels and solar water heaters through the creation of a small-scale technology certificate. Estimates for the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme, (household scale)... is that it will reach 41 million renewable energy credits (RECs), or an equivalent 41,000 gigawatt hours (of alternative energy supply), by 2020.

Schools have lead on solar installation

Moruya Public School, Bega High School, Bombala High School, Braidwood Central School, Eden Marine High School, Monaro High School, Moruya High School, Queanbeyan West Public School, Tumut High School and McAuley Catholic Central School in Tumut have all taken advantage of the \$50,000 National Solar Schools Program to install systems in their schools. It is very exciting to see how creatively

they have used that program to educate the children, to have classes around climate change and renewable energy and to show and demonstrate to the children how the power generator works and the technology behind it.

Capital Wind Farms, Dyesol in Queanbeyan and more regional innovation

... the Snowy hydro scheme is the granddaddy of renewable energy projects in this country. It supplies 3.5 percent of the national energy market. If you combine that with the wonderful Capital Wind Farm project near Bungendore – which was a \$400 million investment and provides 10 percent of the national wind generation capacity – you can see that we are the nation's capital of renewable energy.

We have an ancient project operating on Brown Mountain through Eraring Energy that started well before Snowy hydro. We have a great company called Lloyd Energy in Cooma that is developing tremendous solar thermal possibilities and is deploying prototype projects in places like Lake Cargelligo in New South Wales and Cloncurry in Queensland...

We also have the very exciting Dyesol company in Queanbeyan, which has managed to replicate photosynthesis by developing paste which contains titania nanoparticles overlaid by a dye that acts as a light sponge. The titania nanoparticles conduct the electricity. Through this product, very flexible solar-generating capacity is created.

The product can, in fact, be put on window panes of homes and you can still see

through them. It generates electricity and operates from the moment the sun comes up to the moment the sun goes down. With Commonwealth funding, they have been able to get off the ground and are doing great things. I salute the operators of that company. Wizard Energy are locally based, too, and are developing proposals to take advantage of our Solar Flagships program and they are developing very exciting technologies.

Eon Energy, has some very exciting biodiesel proposals using algal and seaweed ponds ... this is a very exciting project in that we could power all of our fishing fleet with the one million litres of diesel fuel they require each year ... it is estimated that we could probably supply the country's entire transport fuel needs from biodiesel from algal ponds the equivalent size of a 100 kilometre by 100 kilometre facility. We need to get off fossil fuel for our transport industry as quickly as possible.

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Save energy, save dollars – Country Energy urges efficiency first

COUNTRY ENERGY is urging customers to adopt simple measures to save on this winter's energy bills.

Regional general manager South East, Phillip Green, says "Using less energy can potentially save families hundreds of dollars each year, as well as contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions – meaning a win-win situation for the environment and the household budget".

He notes that heating and hot water consumption can account for up to three-quarters of an average household energy bill.

Energy Answers is a new and free service provided by Country Energy to help customers reduce their power bills. Talk to the team there on 1800 363 749 or go to www.countryenergy.com.au/energyanswers.

FARMER RESTORES NATURAL WATER FLOW

Humans, stock and wildlife benefit

Martin Royds has become something of a legend amongst those district producers and hobby farmers interested in escaping conventional management ideas in this landscape of increasing drought and more occasional heavy rain. Mention doing things differently, and Royds' name is likely to come up. So the Bulletin dispatched Heike Hahner to investigate the ideas behind the reputation.

BEING GIVEN the opportunity to talk to Martin Royds twice over a couple of days is a rare treat. I was ready to be inspired by Martin's passionate dedication, intense drive, impressive knowledge and great love for all things relating to soil and water. He has dedicated himself to the restoration of his farming landscape to its former biodiversity and to harness its uncanny ability to recover from natural and man-made destruction.

Martin is the third generation to farm on the family property at the base of Mt Jillamatong in Braidwood and has brought a background in applied science and holistic farming practices to the task of pasture improvement and retaining water for the past 15 years. But things really started to move in the right direction for Martin when he met Peter Andrews six years ago.

Peter is well-known for his Natural Sequence Farming method of slowing the progress of water through the farming landscape. This has been a revolutionary idea offering many benefits, as Martin demonstrates. Since their first meeting, the two have become friends and Martin is now the National Body Chairman of the Natural Sequence Association.

How it once was – and then came 100 million sheep

Martin learned that early Australian settlers recorded finding bogs, marshlands, wetlands, and densely forested areas, which were interspersed with soft, open meadows dotted with trees, shrubs and bushes. It was an ideal place to raise livestock and a family; or so it seemed. In the early 1800s the national flock was a few thousand, which by the 1890s had multiplied to over



Martin Royds: hard to argue with his landscape of healthy vegetation and clear water.

Photo: Heike Hahner

100,000,000 sheep, all feeding on natural pastures.

Most of the early settlers came from the Northern Hemisphere, where water was usually available all year round – part of a farmer's job was to ensure that water flowed away as fast as possible from their land. Believing that water and rain were also readily available in Australia, farmers with European thinking drained the bogs and wetlands.

Peter Andrews says the wetlands had up to this point acted as a very efficient system for slowing down the flow of water and thereby facilitating the transfer of nutrients; but also, very importantly, they had stored water for surrounding areas in times of prolonged drought.

By the 1950s the effects of draining the landscape were clearly apparent. Martin says “the landscape dissolved and washed away, leaving massive erosion damage”. Government incentives to prevent erosion led to water being channelled away from the valuable areas, again increasing water flow and causing more erosion.

As an example, Martin refers to a drain that his father dug in the 1950s. It would

have been about a foot/30cm deep when it was originally dug. By the time Martin started to work on it, in the 1990s, it was 60feet/20metres deep in parts.

He says that the main problem lies with the still widely-held traditional belief that water is the enemy and must be gotten rid of as fast as possible. It is crucial, he believes, for people to understand that the solution to the problem is to slow the water down, to give it an opportunity to soak into the surrounding countryside, rather than have it speed across the surface carrying the all-important soil and nutrients away with it.

Chain of ponds is a natural feature

Seeing his ideas applied to the landscape is awe-inspiring and beautiful. A chain of ponds, which Martin believes is a natural Australian landscape feature, winds its way down a gently descending slope.

These ponds are not dams. Dams are usually lined to prevent water from draining away, and Martin calls them ‘evaporation dishes’. He says a dam with no vegetation to open up the soil or trees to catch some of the evaporating water will

lose up to 2 metres of water per year. That water is gone for good.

Martin has established a set of weirs, which he describes as windows into the landscape, allowing us to see how much water is present in the soil. They are built to slow the flow of water, soil and nutrients in erosion areas – they are not lined – to encourage the water and nutrients to spread into the surrounding countryside and soil. A variety of native water plants and reeds are planted alongside. In seven years the reeds have turned into a dense wall around the deeper parts of the water.

These reed walls naturally prevent cattle from accessing the deeper water. Martin also rotates his stock every three days or so to prevent them from damaging his carefully established waterways, grasses and trees. He is proud to mention that under his care the plant species on his property have increased from five to 80.

What is most striking about these weirs, however, is how beautifully clear the water is. Martin credits the clarity of the water to the plants, but also to the slow filtering the water receives by being allowed to access and leave the soil in a natural way.

Continued p12

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Dick Smith, with Michael Owen (centre) and Carwoola resident Carl Palmer (right), at a barbecue for the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) at Dick and Pip Smith's Gundaroo property. Mr Owen, President of the WIA, said Dick Smith is one of an impressive group of Australian business leaders in communication and electronics who started as a young person with an interest in amateur radio.

At the end of May the WIA celebrated its centenary in Canberra and district with a gathering of some 200 visitors from Australia and overseas. Australia's is the oldest national radio society, begun in Sydney in 1910.

Private wireless experimentation began not long after the German physicist Heinrich Hertz proved the existence of radio waves in 1886. Through shortwave radio, amateur radio operators contributed significantly to the development of broadcasting in 1920 and to worldwide communication long before the internet.

During both World Wars, radio amateurs helped train service radio operators and helped with the leap in radio communications and radar technology during WWII.

Radio satellites were not far behind in the early 1960s.

Natural disaster relief efforts often turn to radio amateurs for emergency communications; most recently during the Black Saturday fires of 2009. The WIA estimates some two million people in over 100 countries are involved with amateur or ham radio.

At Gundaroo, Dick Smith regaled the assembled delegates with a spirited and funny recounting of how shortwave radio let him sing *Happy Birthday* to his daughter and soon thereafter guided him to an emergency, first-ever landing on a passing ship in rough seas somewhere between Japan and Russia. These events were among other notable radio occasions during his record solo round-the-world helicopter flight in 1983.



FUTURE GROWTH

Cont'd from p1

even though Australia now exports 60 percent of its crops, if we grow the human population here by 60 percent and global warming reduces yield by 17 percent, where are we?

ABC documentary coming up

The documentary film features him going around Australia exploring the issue of growth and natural limits. It was bought by the ABC for an August broadcast date. "We feature a farmer talking about the \$55 million government program to pay farmers not to grow food because there is not enough water. And at the same time this government wants to welcome 36 million people. It's just ridiculous."

Population and climate change can't be seen separately. Dick Smith agrees with the scientific consensus language that its 90 percent certain (since nothing in science is ever considered 100 percent certain) that human activities are affecting the atmosphere, the climate and the weather.

He has seen first hand, criss-crossing the globe at low altitude in his helicopter, the effects of burning fossil fuels and vegetation removal. "What I've seen is massive smog, and almost no forests left." But even if you haven't seen as much yourself, he still asks: "Would you put your kids on an airplane knowing there is a 90 percent chance that it will crash? No you wouldn't."

He says wryly that all his "rich friends" think he has suffered some kind of brain haemorrhage. As a class and as a generation, they remain firmly convinced we can keep growing for ever, a matter of belief rather than



evidence. "It's hard for older people to admit we've stuffed up the environment for our grandchildren so it's easier to deny it and say nothing is wrong."

Australians better off with smaller population

Most Australians, he believes, will in fact benefit from a relatively smaller population, and a lot of people he meets agree. The alternative is more and more people sharing services and amenity that don't expand like the population

does. "And it's a double-whammy when we increase population in an arid continent while we are covering the productive fringe in houses." Medical services offer another good example. "Last year our population grew by 400,000 which is the size of Tasmania. To keep up with this rate of growth, we'd need to add three new big hospitals every year."

Dick is a committed capitalist who has made the system work for him in spectacular fashion. So how will capitalism now make a turnaround on the growth issue? He admits

Gatecrashers

< Quite by coincidence, four Army helicopter pilots landed at the Smith's Gundaroo property on the same day. They were unable to land at Canberra enroute to Adelaide due to the rainy weather and happened upon this convenient rural airstrip and the WIA barbecue.

change is going to be as tough as removing slavery. He tells you the reason the current free-enterprise system (and that includes the mainstream media) is loath to tackle population policy is because it's easy to make money when consumer numbers are always growing. So the challenge is how to do things with a focus on quality, efficiency and lifestyle amenity and still make money.

First we need a sustainable population analysis from the scientists. After that, Dick believes the answers will have to come from Australia's youth and from new leadership that is not afraid or constrained to say what is happening.

\$1 million talent quest

So he is planning a \$1 million talent quest with a difference aimed at young people under the age of 25. In a couple of months his people will want to hear from young teams or individuals who can show leadership and want to communicate to Australians why you can't have continual growth. The money will be spent on the winning proposal to put the ideas into action.

To a man who thought it quite feasible to fly solo around the globe in a helicopter, and did it with courage and not a little humour, all things seem possible – so watch out!

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Wild orchid bloom not seen for 15 years

THIS AUTUMN has been a remarkably good season for some of our local terrestrial orchids – possibly because of the rains in February. A lot of our native plants depend on rain at a particular time in their development to produce a good display of flowers. This seems especially important for some of our local ground orchids.



Photo: Roger Farrow

Greenhoods, midges and wasps among the locals

Here at Wamboin, there are several large patches, one well over a metre across, of Little Dumpies (*Diplodinium truncatum*, above), one of the greenhood orchids. Every few years these have produced the odd few flowers, but it has been 15 years or more since they've flowered as profusely as they have during April and May this year. A dense cluster of forty large green and white greenhoods crouched secretively together on their short stems is a memorable sight.

Two other taller greenhoods, *Diplodinium laxum* (Antelope Greenhood) and *D. reflexum* (Dainty Greenhood) also flower in autumn.

Two of the Midge Orchids *Corunastylis clivicola* (Rufous Midge Orchid, below) and *C. cornuta* (Horned Midge Orchid) flower from late summer into autumn. Their slender stems, 10 to 20 centimetres tall, hold a number of reddish or red and yellow flowers. They are not easy to spot when growing singly, but occasionally a sizeable group can develop over the years.



Photo: Julie Lindner

The flowering season of the Long-clubbed Wasp Orchid (*Chiloglottis trilabra*, below) extends into March or April. This is



Photo: Roger Farrow

another orchid often found in extensive colonies. The pointed, bright green, ovate leaves (usually in pairs) carpeting the ground are perhaps more noticeable initially than the reddish-bronze flowers.



Photo: Julie Lindner

A scatter of Parson's Bands Orchids (*Eriochilus cucullata*, above) can often be seen in autumn, too. These orchids often grow in a group, but not usually close together. They get their name from the two long, downwardly divergent pink or white sepals.

Terrestrial orchids most common type in temperate areas

Something like three-quarters of Australian orchids are terrestrial, and are the commonest type of orchid in temperate areas. Most species are found in grasslands or in woodland areas and flower in spring or autumn.

Many species are dormant during the hot summer months. The large patches of *Diplodinium truncatum* mentioned previously produce their multiple flat rosettes of green leaves during autumn through to spring, then shrivel quickly and disappear once a few hot summer days are experienced.

Although orchids produce often copious amounts of minute, dust-like seeds, these are extremely difficult to germinate and raise as seedlings – this often involves aseptic conditions and a great deal of patience. Most of the terrestrial orchids reproduce vegetatively by the increase of their underground tubers and can be more easily propagated by division.

Some native plant nurseries carry a few of the sturdier orchids and there are native orchid enthusiasts in some of the orchid societies. Terrestrial orchids are best grown as pot plants in well-drained soil containing some leaf-mould, and those that are dormant in summer should be left dry during the hotter months.

Field guides for local orchids

Instead of growing them in pots, probably a better idea is to take a regular walk in the bush to see these intriguing little plants in their natural environment.

Two books useful for identifying local orchids are:

A Field Guide to the Native Orchids of Southern Australia (David and Barbara Jones) published by Blooming Books.

Field Guide to the Orchids of the Australian Capital Territory (David Jones with Jean Egan and Tony Wood) published by National Parks Association of the ACT.

– RURAL FIRE SERVICE LAKE GEORGE –

Fire stats surprising, accident rates alarming

Doug Palmer reveals all

THIS IS my traditional missive from the end of the fire season. You might feel that this is a little late. And you would be right. But, for a heart-stopping moment, I had collected statistics for 9 months, rather than six, and felt a need to get the correct numbers before the world came to an end.

The correct numbers are, to my mind, somewhat surprising. Wrapped up in my own affairs and lulled into a sense of false security by the rain, I had somehow got the impression that things had been somewhat less hectic than the last couple of years. Those of you with sensitive hearing will hear Murphy making rude noises in the background.

As you can see in the table below there has been a slow increase in fire incidents over the years. The somewhat alarming increase in statistics for the Queanbeyan area can probably be put down to an increase in reporting. So you have a choice: things haven't got that much worse or things were always like that.

Some of the activity this year can be put down to the fires around Shoalhaven near the

start of the season. And some can be put down to the lightning that came with the rain. So, despite the latter half of the fire season not being the traditional sort of long, dry, hazy, crazy days of Summer, there's been plenty to keep people busy.

Palerang: high accident rates

There has also been a noticeable increase in the number of accidents this year. I seem to say this every year and I'd like to stop.

That last sentence was the last breath of summer. Replacing it will be the freezing snows of winter, covering slippery, dark roads and leading travellers astray.

In the light of the rather depressing number of accidents (*see table*) that have occurred this year, I'm going to ask everybody to drive with extra care this winter. It's hard to believe that the roads around here have got more dangerous. But there it is.

In the meantime, I hope to see you reading *The Bulletin* at the start of the next fire season, rather than wrapped around a tree.

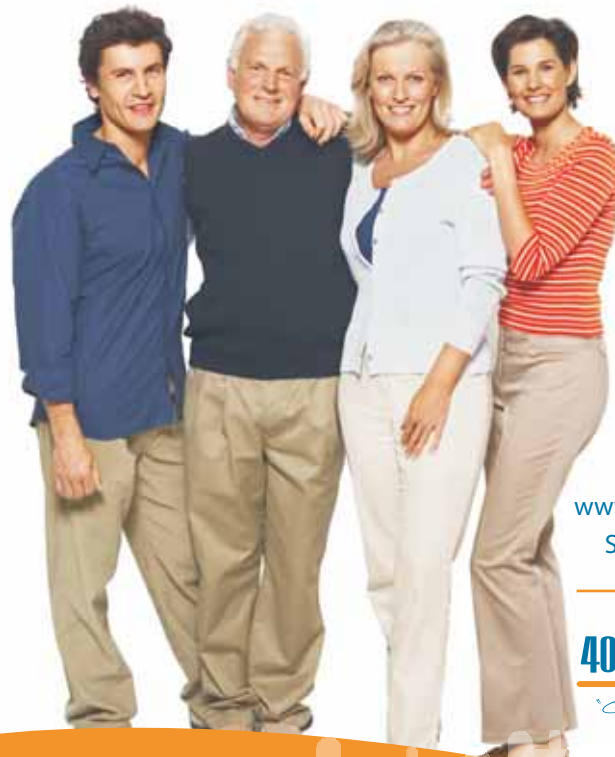
Here's a table of the incidents over the past few fire seasons

	2009–10		2008–09		2007–08	
	Palerang	Queanbeyan	Palerang	Queanbeyan	Palerang	Queanbeyan
Fire	45	28	43	5	37	6
Accident	38	11	26	4	26	6
Other	43	32	36	12	20	8
Totals	126	71	105	20	83	20
	197		126		103	

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Sports for dummies

It's been said that the trouble with referees is that they know the rules but they don't know the game. This column is intended for those who may have an idea of the rules but no real idea about the game, those who know something of the game but nothing of the rules and those without much interest either way but a desire to appear knowledgeable on such matters. It's a snapshot of the local sporting scene, observed from behind-the-bleachers and under-the-dressing-room-door for the very best kind of inside information posing as reporting.

Brumbies do what was threatened – break fans hearts

For the Brumbies the hype was huge and then before you could ask if former captain Stirling Mortlock even plays any more, the fickle fans were ready to say it was all over. Hopes were raised again but dashed quicker than a Kiwi ref handing out penalties in the critical Crusaders clash on 15 May. The New Zealanders put points on the board within the first two minutes – and again in the 7th, 15th, 21st ... you get the picture. With the Brumbies ending their season with a 22–40 loss and 6th on the ladder, long-time star George Smith may not be the only one to retire ...

Whites make a dent

In the local rugby comp, the John Dent I Cup, the Queanbeyan Whites have obviously decided to give the other guys a go after a hugely successful pre-season and an opening round demolition of Uni Norths was followed shortly after by a surprise loss to Easts who haven't won a game in recent memory. Nevertheless, the Mighty Whites are still holding their own at top of the table going into June.

Cricket anyone? Really, anyone ...

The local cricket season finished with a triumphant Queanbeyan Cricket Club taking out just about every trophy there is on offer in its most successful season in 90 years. The Club won the first, second and third grade Premierships, fourth grade was crowned one day champions, fifth grade won the Minor Premiership, the women's team made the final, and the under-12 division three side also won their competition. Whew! Perhaps the Aussie Twenty20 team could take some tips after recently losing the World Cup to England.



With cap in hand

The Canberra Raiders may currently be hanging around the bottom of the league ladder – despite a triumphant win over the first-placed Dragons – but at least they can hold their heads high for earning the title of 'the only club who doesn't rort the salary cap'. Of course some cynics suggest that this is simply an outcome of being unable to afford to do otherwise, but even if they can't buy all the best players, at least there's no possible way they can take out the wooden spoon. The Melbourne Storm have been guaranteed that illustrious title for deciding it was okay to pay their players just a wee bit more than the other clubs.

Have the Panthers run out of puff?

The initial success for the Monaro Panthers in the Canberra soccer competition appears to be on the wane with the recent loss against table leaders Canberra FC perhaps predictable but the one against 7th-placed Cooma not so easy to dismiss.

Queanbeyan FC on the other hand, who lost their position in the ACT Premier League with the Panthers re-entry for the first time in almost 10 years, are dominating the State League One competition (essentially the second division for this area) and hold a commanding position at the top of that ladder.

Who's the man

It seems that Roy and HG (of 'This Sporting Life' infamy) may just have to eat their words. No longer will they be able to refer to Queanbeyan son and F1 driver Mark Webber as 'DNF Man' for his rather high number of 'Did Not Finish' results.

For those who may have been camped under a rock for the last few months, after a shaky start to the season, in quick succession Webber came second at the Malaysian Grand Prix, first at Barcelona and most spectacularly, took out the granddaddy of Grand Prix, Monaco.

Tigresses not pussyfooting around

For their inaugural season in the ACT competition, the women's Queanbeyan Tigers are proving competitive as they settle in. They might need to give the boys a few pointers as in the men's competition the Tigers' second place position is looking shaky after a couple of back-to-back losses.

Sports fans should feel free to email their sporting observations, witticisms and arm-chair critiques to: thespeedster@live.com.au.

The Couch Guide to June

Super 14 finals took place on 30 May but given neither the Brumbies nor the Waratahs, nor any team except the South Africans were playing, there's really not much point in discussing it!

Mark Webber will race in the Canadian Grand Prix on 13 June where he will attempt to put some real distance between him and the competition, including that pesky Red Bull teammate he can't seem to shake.

The football (aka soccer) World Cup begins for Australia on 13 June and it's bound to deliver a slap-up-the-side-of-the-head for the Socceroos as they attempt to take on those terribly efficient Germans.

Pitting state against state, mate against mate, the second round of State of Origin will be played in Brisbane on 16 June.

Stuff we're (pretty) sure was said:

"In the beginning, anything was possible ..."

Brumbies coach Andy Friend

"Who knows where Hawker is anyway?"

Monaro Panthers coach John Bull following a 'missed' game against the ANU

LJ Hooker

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Olives – ancient and rewarding

THEY ARE as old as world history. Olive tree fossils have been found in Italy and North of Africa and a wreath of olive leaves was found inside the tomb of the Egyptian king Tutankhamun.

An identifying characteristic of the olive tree is its long life span. In Spain, trees reach on average 300 years and some trees are believed to be more than 1,000 years old.

Cooking and curing

To me, olives have a very special meaning. First, because they are responsible for my favourite, and indispensable, ingredient in the kitchen: Extra Virgin olive oil. Second, because I grew up listening to my grandma telling stories about olive harvesting in her small village in the North of Portugal.



by
Marcelle Martins

At that time, they used to cover the ground beneath the olive trees with a white net. The men would then hit the branches with long sticks to make the olives fall. The women and children would pick them from the net.

They separated fruits that were going to be pickled (they shouldn't be eaten straight after being picked... they are very sour!) from those used to produce oil. The oil was used by the entire community not only to cook but sometimes also as a powerful (and unique) anti-inflammatory agent: heated olive oil was applied to cuts and small skin wounds using a piece of cotton.

Local olives produce winning oil

Olives are harvested in autumn, and that was a couple of weeks ago for Brian Anderson, a non-commercial olive producer (Bungaroo Pastoral Company) in Wamboin.

Brian started his orchard in 1997 with 100 young trees that came from South Australia. Varieties grown on his farm include *Kalamata*, *Correggiola*, *Manzanillo* and *Frantoio*.

Brian planted a casuarina 'wall' for a windbreak, installed a simple, but efficient, irrigation system, and protected the fragile young trees from 'roos'. In 2001 he had his first official harvest: 3.83kg of *Kalamatas* and *Correggiolas*.

This was not a very impressive number if compared with the successes of recent years: he harvested 215.83kg in 2008 and an amazing 361.59kg last year.

Not only has the quantity increased, but the quality of his olives was recognised with a gold medal from the 2009 *Royal Canberra Extra Virgin Olive Oil Show* for the best non-commercial olive oil!

"In all there were nine categories and over 70 entrants. We were very successful. We received awards not only for the best oil in Class 8 but also for the best non-commercial oil as well as a Gold Medal. You

Continued p9

Producing world class Pinot Gris right here

David Crossley spoke at the Rotary Harvest Festival in May about the local potential for producing the popular Pinot Gris wine. He grows some himself in the Lake George/Bungendore area.

What is Pinot Gris?

Whilst Pinot Gris is a mutation of Pinot Noir, and is arguably even more fussy about its growing conditions than Pinot Noir, its only real difference is that it has much less pigment in the skin of the berries.

The 'ancestral home' of Pinot Gris is the Alsace region in North-East France, where plantings occupy about 1,300 ha, approximately 15 percent of the vineyard area. The greyish-blue colour of the berries at harvest has resulted in Pinot Gris becoming known as the 'grey grape of Alsace'.

Pinot Gris is now grown in many countries, most notably in Germany where it is known as Rulander, but more importantly in Italy where it is called Pinot Grigio (grigio means grey in Italian). It is also now fairly well established in other 'New World' areas such as California and New Zealand.

In Europe, the style of wine produced is largely dictated by where it is grown. In the Alsace it is almost always barrel-fermented to make fuller, fruitier and more aromatic wine, whereas in Italy it is picked earlier and made into a lighter, fresher and more zesty (higher acid) style with citrus and apple characteristics.

In Australia, the grape's versatility often allows production of these different styles in the same district, where it may even be made into a sweeter dessert style or into a

sparkling wine. This same benefit however can sometimes present challenges to consumers who purchase a Gris style expecting it to be aromatic and unctuous, only to find it has been made more in the light and zesty Grigio style but labelled as Gris by the winery because of a marketing preference.

The Canberra District already produces world class Riesling and Shiraz. Extending this reputation to encompass our unique handmade Pinot Gris, where the emphasis is on quality and character not quantity, is only a matter of time.

Does the Canberra District have the potential to produce world class Pinot Gris?

I think the answer is definitely yes and I believe there are three key reasons why.

Smaller, hand-tended vineyards

The relatively small scale of most Canberra District vineyards means we are able to apply more exacting viticultural standards in growing not only Pinot Gris but all our varieties, which supports the old adage that 'great wines are made in the vineyard'. This also allows us to focus on creating true to style wines from Pinot Gris grapes such as the richer, aromatic examples from Lambert Vineyards and Domaine Rogha Crois, the lighter zestier Pialligo Estate Pinot Grigio, through to Lerida Estate's Late harvest/Botrytis style. Compare this approach to what

is possible in one Riverland vineyard that has 340 ha planted to Pinot Gris alone.

Innovative approach to winemaking

Not as bound by 'tradition' (unless it provides benefits!) and legal restrictions as our European counterparts, Australia has been at the forefront of modern vineyard and winemaking techniques for some time. Canberra's winemakers are amongst the best and most innovative in Australia and so are able to extract the very best that our grapes have to offer.

In addition, given most Canberra District plantings of Pinot Gris have occurred within the last 12 or so years, we have been able to benefit from the introduction of new clones which highlight the best attributes of the variety. Some vineyards have also planted more

than one clone to provide greater complexity in the final wine.

Our 'terroir'

Lastly, but possibly most importantly, is *terroir*, that wonderful French term which is used to describe the interaction of all the environmental, climatic, geological, viticultural and other elements which influence a vineyard to impart a unique character on the wines produced from it.

Pinot Gris does best in cool climates, where the grapes can ripen slowly and build flavour intensity without losing acid to produce richness and balance. Sunny days followed by cool evenings are the key and the Canberra District generally, but the Lake George/Bungendore area specifically, excels in this because of our higher altitude.

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had to get a score of 17 or better to get a Gold. We got 17.5!!" says a proud Brian.

This year, unfortunately, things were not as successful. Brian mobilised around 15 people to help with the harvest, and it was only 43kg.

"Why this sad 2010 result?" I asked him.

"Maybe the drought," he says. Brian explains that olive trees are very hardy, and he took the usual care in tree trimming and controlling pests and birds (cockatoos love olives!).

What started as a hobby is getting bigger and more time-consuming. Brian now wants to take a break; he is even considering selling his property. Until this happens, he remains optimistic, waiting to see what the future holds. We hope, for 2011, a very good surprise!

WANT TO COOK LIKE A 'MASTERCHEF'?

Shoppers who spend \$50 at Riverside Plaza before 20 June, are eligible for a free three-month subscription to the new *MasterChef Magazine* and will automatically be entered into a national draw to win one of four \$2,522 RRP Sunbeam appliance prize packages – essential must-have items for those wishing to cook like *MasterChef* at home.

Sarah Gallagher Marketing Manager of Riverside Plaza, said: "The *MasterChef* TV series has been a phenomenal successand the publication provides readers with recipes, hints, tips and tricks from the show, regulars and guests."

The Sunbeam prize package features a total of eight appliances, including an espresso machine, mixmaster and juicer from the top-of-the-range Café Series, equipping any kitchen with the full range of small appliances.

The draw will take place on 16 July 2010 with the winner notified by mail and his or her name will be published in *The Australian* on 23 July 2010.

Local olive information

A London market gardener brought olives to the colony of New South Wales in 1800. Last year, Australia produced 3,000 tonnes of table olives and 15,000 tonnes of olive oil and NSW accounted for about 9 percent of the crop (data from the Australian Olive Association).

Our local region has a number of groves and olive processors producing both table olives and olive oil. The Southern Olive Growers' Association of NSW (SOGA) represents over 100 olive growers in the Southern Tablelands and the Southern Highlands. Information and links for people interested in local olives can be found at SOGA's website: <http://www.australianolives.com.au/SOGA/>.

Greek-style at Fedra Grove

OLIVE HARVEST has also been proceeding at the award-winning Fedra Olive Grove near Collector. Established by Jeff Konstantinou in the late 1990s, more than 6,000 trees produce olives for Extra Virgin olive oil and the finest table olives in the Greek tradition. The main plantings are of the Tuscan variety *Frantoio* for oil production, and *Kalamata*, *Volos*, *Manzanillo* and *Verdale* are grown to produce table grapes. Jeff says the classic cool climate of Collector provides the olives with a distinct bold character and the oil with excellent keeping qualities.

"Tasting our Extra Virgin olive oil will provide a sensation of walnut and pepper flavours that linger on the back palate. The aroma may remind you of freshly cut pears," he says. The table olives are preserved in the Greek tradition without the use of chemicals – only salt, lemon, water and olive oil are used.

The oil, the olives, home-made pastries and many Mediterranean-style delicacies await the traveller at the separately-owned Grandma's Little Bakery – the cafe and farm shop at the Fedra Grove. (See ad p8 for details).

Animal findings: huge, the strong and selective

The natural world is always producing interesting research findings and challenging the boundaries of our knowledge. Take for instance some recent findings from the world of animals – a new large animal species, the world's strongest insect and wild birds choosing conventional over organic wheat.

Spectacular new monitor species from the Philippines

TRIBAL HUNTERS on northern Luzon in the Philippines have long known about it – as food – but scientists were amazed to identify a new species of giant lizard in such a heavily populated and highly deforested area. The secretive 2m-long lizard weighs about 10kg and is related to another big lizard, the Komodo dragon from Indonesia, but differs from its relative in being frugivorous (fruit eating) and spending most of its time 20m off the ground up in forest trees.

Researchers writing in *Biology Letters* call the lizard *Varanus bitatawa* and identify it as a new species on the basis of body size, scale colour and arrangement, DNA and penis anatomy – males (like other lizards and some snakes) have a double penis and its shape is unique to the species. Read the *Biology Letters* research abstract at <http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/early/2010/04/01/rsbl.2010.0119.abstract>.

It's super beetle – strongest insect in the world

A UK-AUSTRALIAN scientist duo has found that males of a species of horned dung beetles (*Onthophagus taurus*) can pull 1,141 times their own body weight – this equates to a 70kg person pulling six double-decker buses full of people.

The female dung beetles dig tunnels into dung where mating and egg laying takes place. Horned males enter the tunnels to mate with the females; if another male comes in, the rivals fight by locking horns and trying to push each other out.

The researchers glued cotton thread to the insects' legs and tied a pulley to the other end. Once a beetle was in the tunnel, the scientists tested his ability to fight against a rival by measuring the weight needed to pull him out of his hole.

Read an ABC Science article on the research of RJ Knell and LW Simmons at <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2010/03/25/2855697.htm>.

Choosing conventional is for the birds

A STUDY has found that when given a choice, wild birds show a significant preference for conventionally grown wheat over organic wheat.

More than 30 feeding stations were set up in gardens across the north of England offering organic and non-organic wheat seeds (of the same variety) in adjacent feeders. The rate at which wild birds ate each type of wheat was monitored over a six-week period and preferences started to show up after the first week.

After ruling out other possible explanations, Newcastle University (UK) researchers believe that birds chose the non-organic wheat due to its higher protein content (on average 10 percent higher than the organic wheat on offer). Birds have been shown to pick foods based on nutrient content; researchers say that the birds had time to learn the nutritional differences between the seeds and make their choice.

A brief outline of the research is available at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123446916/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>.

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Carlton Ware channels Art Deco

by David Nordsvan

THIS MONTH'S *Antique Chat* comes from the not-so-nimble typing fingers of the Antique Collector's husband. Joyce has been a bit off-colour and significantly over worked so I decided to jump in and lend a hand.

When Joyce first hustled me out of the shed with the statement, "It's time to start the shop", I am the first to admit that I had only a minor interest in 'collectables'. It was just girls' stuff. I knew nothing about Royal Doulton, Spode, Shelly, Grimwade and many other brand names.

Now, after four years being the lumper, carrier and major supporter of a collectables shop I have developed an interest in a number of products from the past – one of these is Carlton Ware.

A potted history

Wikipedia tells us that Carlton Ware was a famous Stoke-on-Trent based pottery manufacturer. The company is best remembered for its tableware – often rather garish and in the form of highly decorated leaves or fruit.

The pottery company Wiltshaw and Robinson was established in 1890 and introduced the trademark 'Carlton Ware' in 1894. Later, in 1928, the famous script 'Carlton Ware' trademark was introduced.

A series of name changes and owners followed and the company was ultimately renamed Carlton Ware Limited in 1958. After more ownership changes, the company was forced into receivership in 1989 and following an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the company by Grosvenor Ceramic Hardware, production finally ended in 1992.

In 1997 the Carlton Ware brand was resurrected by Francis Joseph of the Carlton Ware Design Centre, Roslyn Works, Stoke-on-Trent. It continues to manufacture novelty items aimed at the collectors' market.

Oriental decorative themes and oven-to-table ware

Carlton Ware concentrated on decorative giftware throughout most of its career. Its earliest works included typical decal and hand-painted tableware. Popular designs included stylised dragons, birds, and a series of Oriental-inspired patterns of which New Mikado and Chinoiserie were the most popular. At the more mundane end of the market, Carlton Ware also introduced the first 'Oven to Table' ware in 1929.

During the late 1930s, Carlton Ware introduced a new series of table-ware, with boldly embossed floral and foliage patterns such as fox-glove and anemone. It reached its artistic high-point with superb hand-painted domestic pottery in high art deco styles during the 1920s and 1930s.



The high-lustre tableware in the 'Royale' brand was introduced in 1949 and this continued to be produced into the early 1970s. However, by this time, increasing costs affected Carlton Ware's ability to continue producing elaborate hand-painted items and changing tastes dictated the introduction of more modern shapes and patterns. The company then concentrated on novelty items such as 'Walking Ware' and advertising ware.

At a recent auction, we were lucky to be able to purchase a significant Carlton Ware collection including several pieces not often seen outside of private collections including a fruit basket candlestick, poppy and daisy dish and a basket covered beaker with lid.

May's mystery item

The mystery item last month was a Chinese pan iron. No-one can say exactly when people started trying to press cloth smooth, but we know that the Chinese were using hot metal for ironing before anyone else. Pans filled with hot coals were pressed over stretched cloth. A thousand years ago this method was already well-established.



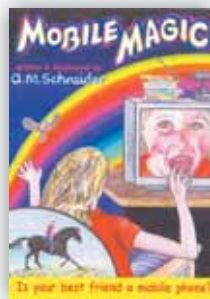
New mystery item

The mystery item this month is a little metal pig, about 5cm long and his head opens forward. What might he have been used for?

Well, that was my fleeting moment of glory – so I'll now hand back to the Antique Collector.

Happy browsing 'til next month, David

Local author & artist tackles young adult fiction to stirring effect



Mobile Magic
by A.M. Schneider
IrrePRESSible Press,
Calwell ACT

Reviewed by
Christina Taylor

MOBILE MAGIC

is the story of a young girl, Saffron, who lives in a small town, not unlike some of the towns in the Palerang Shire. Saffron has recently moved from the big smoke and is getting used to life in the country and life without a mobile phone!

Just as she is beginning to settle into her new rural setting and is enjoying regular rides on her beautiful black horse, Magic, it is announced that the unspoilt wilderness where she agists her horse, 'Green Mountain', has been selected as the location for a new housing development.

Days after receiving this devastating news, Saffron is quietly riding Magic through the native pastures of 'Green Mountain' when we are introduced to Mobo, a talking bird. Not only can Mobo talk, he can also receive and transmit radio signals! This is where the adventure really begins. Together, Saffron and Mobo (with the help of some bikers and a young metal band called 'The Cheeseburgers') fight to save Green Mountain and protect the animals that call it home.

At times it was quite tedious reading through Mobo's jumbled dialogue, but for the most part the author clearly portrayed the emotional struggle of moving away from the city, fighting for the greater good and the ever-present teen angst.

Unlike many youth novels, *Mobile Magic* is illustrated. Palerang author and illustrator A.M. Schneider does an amazing job of bringing the characters to life and is particularly talented at illustrating the flora and fauna of the region.

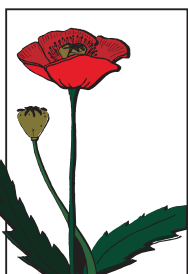
BOOKS, AUTHORS, and BOOK REVIEWS



The story contains a diverse cast of characters, both real and supernatural, that all seamlessly fit in to add a pleasant harmonious element to the story. There is a lot to be learned by both young and old from this book – within the first few pages there is a reference to Gandhi and his passive resistance method! The book gives the reader a real insight into current environmental and social issues without becoming dark and dreary. There is a lot to learn from Saffron's efforts. Her story should be a great source of inspiration for all who read it!

Find out more about Annette Schneider's work or how to get a copy of this book at mobilemagicbook.net or www.irrepressible.com.au

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Alzheimer's – a love story
by Vivienne Ulman
Scribe Publications
RRP \$32.95

Reviewed by Di Johnstone

ALZHEIMER'S.
It's one of the

most terrible afflictions. The body keeps functioning but the mind is elsewhere. The remembered self is lost. As more of us live longer, more of us will live with Alzheimer's. It will affect our parents, the parents of our friends, our relatives, ourselves.

This book by Vivienne Ulman, author and journalist, is a searing account of a family dealing with Alzheimer's. It begins as Ulman and her husband savour their

new-found freedom on a Tasmanian farm. They have sold their house in Melbourne after the last child has left home. Then Ulman's mother is diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Ulman's carefully constructed world falls apart.

Ulman struggles to deal with her mother's deterioration. She moves back to Melbourne. Initially her mother welcomes her support but soon her efforts are met with an unprovoked and hurtful rejection. Ulman feels lost and emotionally out of her depth. She loves her mother but is also sometimes angry with her and with herself for being angry. She is consumed by sadness and despairs at being unable to hold back her mother's suffering.

While Ulman struggles, she watches her father nurse his wife, never losing hold of the woman he still loves. This is the love story of the book. He had been an important business and political leader but puts every-

thing aside to care for his wife. He does so with gentleness, grace and fortitude. He shields her and tends to her most basic needs as she disintegrates.

We learn too that Ulman's mother, Lucy, was an elegant and particular hostess, whose husband and children were her life's work, and that she was sociable and highly engaged in her children's lives. We read of the family's reluctance to accept the diagnosis, but then as the disease follows its inexorable path, a sad understanding and Lucy's own grief as she realizes what is happening. Then there is the hard decision that Lucy needs to be cared for in an institutional setting.

Especially grim is the account of the disturbing and bewildering behaviour changes that transform Lucy into a totally different person and the terrible loss of human dignity in the final stages.

Continued p15



Rockin' *Caravan* farce

THIS COMEDY about Australian stereotypes, sexual mores and lifestyles plays out in the intimate confines of a caravan with three couples. Just imagine!

It's a light-hearted look at friendship, age and holidays you should never take, spiced with furtive liaisons as the cracks in marital relationships are exposed. Written in the early '80s and rewritten in 2000 by Donald McDonald it keeps up the laughter while raising evergreen issues about monogamy and fidelity.

Described by *Sydney Morning Herald* critic Bob Evans as the 'comedy of the decade' it runs 24 June–3 July at 'The Q'. Details this page.

Want to tell a better story? DON'T MISS JUNE WORKSHOPS AT CADA

STORYTELLING AND marketing are on the agenda at Canberra's leading drama school this month.

Canberra Academy of Dramatic Art (CADA) will host two workshops for the region's performers. The first, *The Naked Storyteller – The Art of Oral Storytelling* will take place on Saturday, June 12, and the second, *The Digital Art of Marketing You, The Performer* will be held on Saturday, June 26.

"Every actor's job is to tell a story," said CADA's managing director, Elizabeth Scott. "Whether you're doing a monologue or working with another actor, oral storytelling is at the heart of what you're doing."

But, she says, the workshop is not just for actors. Anyone with an interest in storytelling will benefit – including people who have 'the gift of the gab', writers interested in performing their stories, singers and musicians who weave story-

telling into their performances, and even people wanting to develop their public speaking skills.

"The tutor, Ed Miller, is a fascinating man to listen to. You'll have the privilege of hearing some of his stories while learning how to tell your own."

The Digital Art of Marketing You, The Performer is an important workshop for artists living in regional and rural areas. Iain McDonald, a Sydney actor, will be coming down for the event to share his insights. "Sometimes actors and musos feel a bit removed from the 'buzz' in places like Sydney and Melbourne," said Ms Scott.

"But digital media has opened up new ways of promoting yourself and building your reputation as a performer – you just need to harness it. If you're serious about a career in the performing arts, this workshop is not to be missed," she said.

For more info, go to www.cada.net.au or phone CADA on 1300 908 905.

Exciting talent for Bywong concerts

by Christina Taylor

OVER 19–20 June weekend, Birriwa Road in Bywong will become temporary home to some of Australia's greatest musical talent. Music to be performed will include cantatas by Handel, sacred music by Monteverdi and a virtuosic sonata by Fontana.

The concerts, called 'Triple Treat', will feature a cappella female vocal group, Polifemy, and young, talented soprano, Emma Jenvy. The third 'treat' will be leading baroque violinist, Lathika Vithanage.

Lathika is an accomplished musician, having played with *Salut! Baroque and the Orchestra of the Antipodes*. She is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and soon after this Bywong performance Lathika will be departing Australia to spend two years in Milan undertaking postgraduate study with Italian violinist, Stephano Montanari.

The event will be hosted by local baroque musicians, Richard and Joan Milner, and all proceeds go to Hartley Lifecare Inc, who assist disabled people in the Canberra region.

It is essential that you ring (6236 9212) or email (violsaustralia@gmail.com) to book. Details of the venue will be sent out to you. Drinks (wine donated by Lamberts Vineyards) and nibbles will be served after the concert on the deck overlooking a large dam. The concerts will start at 1.30pm on both days and go for about an hour and a half.

Attention Actors, Directors, Writers, Dancers, Singers and Musos... and all other folk!

Come to town in June & join our professional development workshops!



**The Naked Storyteller—
the Art of Oral
Storytelling**
With Ed Miller
June 12, 2pm-4pm
Cost: \$49
Learn tips and
techniques for writing
and telling great stories



**The Digital Art of
Marketing You,
The Performer**
With Iain McDonald
June 26, 10am-12pm
Cost: \$49
Learn how to boost
your reputation as an
artist online



CANBERRA ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART

— Canberra's leading drama school —

Enrol online now at www.cada.net.au
or call 1300 908 905 for details!

Riverside Productions & Phil Bartols presents

Shakespeare's R&J

Adapted by Joe Calarco

Winner of the prestigious Lucille Lortel Award, R&J ran for 400 performances in New York City, the longest run of any production of *Romeo and Juliet*

DATES AND TIMES
Tue 8th June 8.00pm
Wed 9th June 10.30am
Thu 10th June 10.30am
Fri 11th June 10.30am & 8.00pm
Sat 12th June 2.00pm & 8.00pm

TICKETS
Concession & Groups \$37
Adult \$42
Under 26 \$32

Riverside

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Caravan

One of the funniest nights you will have at the theatre

Written by Donald MacDonald
Directed by Rodney Delaney

24 June – 3 July 2010

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STARRING

JEN DIXON BERNADETTE VINCENT LEXI SEKULES ANDY MCLEOD ROB DEFRIES TONY FALLA

Thursday 24 June 8pm; Friday 25 June 8pm; Saturday 26 June 2pm & 8pm; Wednesday 30 June 8pm
Thursday 1 July 8pm; Friday 2 July 8pm; Saturday 3 July 2pm & 8pm
ADULTS: \$39 CONC. & GROUPS: \$35 UNDER 26: \$31 All matinee tickets \$25

by Heike Hahner

Dogs and humans at play they win and lose

LAST MONTH we looked at how allowing dogs to play uninterrupted may affect our relationship with our dog. As we found out, playing is an important social interaction, not just in dogs, but also in other animals and humans.

Humans love to play – possibly even more than dogs. We get great enjoyment and a sense of well-being by playing or observing games; be these thinking games such as sudoku, cards or chess, or physical games such as soccer, tennis or rugby.

We also enjoy playing with our pets, especially our dogs. We often find it hard not to play ‘bitey’ games with our new pup. We tease the puppy with our hands, play tug-of-war, laugh, pat and talk to it when it jumps up; and we encourage it if it comes running to have a mock fight with our shoes.

A basic rule to remember: If you play roughly with your pup, your dog will play roughly with you once it is grown up... that often leads to a miserable, lonely dog life, banished to a corner of the yard, or worse.

By the time the pup has turned into a six-month-old teenager, these games cease to be fun for us. This is especially so when the dog now weighs 15kg or more and possesses most of his adult teeth and strength. Your children are now too scared to go into the garden with the dog, because the wrestling matches they played and won with the pup just a few weeks ago are now won by the dog – every time.

As the pup matures and plays with children, he learns that he can get control of the interactions if he uses his teeth or boldly pushes and shoulders everyone out of his way. By the time they are 12 to 18 months old, dogs who have been played with a great deal as pups are often leading a miserable, lonely life, banished to a corner of the yard, or worse – the owners may have given up altogether and rehomed the dog or ‘dropped it off’ at a rescue shelter.

Start early and develop a well-mannered friend

In a normal dog group, senior pack members will start to treat the pups in a more adult fashion by the time the pups get to about 4 months. Young dogs reach sexual maturity between 7 to 12 months, depending on the breed. At this age they are treated by senior dogs as adults and as competitors for food and sex. These developmental stages are still reached even if your dog is desexed. Variation



between dogs in their drive to play and compete is more dependent on individual and breed differences than on reproductive status.

If your dream dog is well-socialised and well-mannered, then you must set the rules for games and playful interactions from early on – at the latest at the age of 12–16 weeks, depending on the breed and the individual dog. Wrestling, tug-of-war, biting games and rough-housing

should never take the place of exercise and training if your aim is to own a gentle and well-mannered dog. A basic rule to remember is: If you play roughly with your pup, your dog will play roughly with you once it is grown up.

Play ‘sports’ together

Playing and interacting with your puppy and dog is very important; but the emphasis should be on playing non-confrontational games with your dog. Try games like retrieving, sheep herding or hide-and-seek; teach him tricks or basic commands using motivational methods.

Once your dog is old enough, ie 12 months for small to medium breeds and 18 months for large breeds, you can also join and enjoy sports with your dog, such as agility, fly-ball, tracking or ‘joring’ – dog-powered sports. Joring sports teach your dog to pull you along on a bike, a sled, skates, skis etc.

So by all means play with your dog. But remember to make it interesting and non-challenging for your dog and fun for the whole family – and avoid competing physically with your dog at all costs.

Next: *Children and Dogs – how to keep both safe and happy together.*

For specific questions – contact Heike on hhahner@bigpond.com or phone: 4842 7143



Araluen water woes – continued

In the May issue of the Bulletin we profiled author Jackie French who mourned the loss of the creek that flowed through her property. **Heike Hahner** followed up with a further look at water woes in the Araluen Valley and some reasons why.

SECRETARY of the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc (UCDLG), Cath Harrison, believes that a lot of the water’s disappearance is due to gold mining in the 1800s, which saw Araluen Creek turned over many times, thereby disturbing the creek bed’s capacity to hold water.

Cath explains that the UDCLG’s main objectives are to educate and encourage the Araluen Community and landholders to participate in projects that improve the area’s environment and bio-diversity. Projects include: stabilising the Araluen Creek streambed; reducing erosion pressures; improving water quality; and improving bio-diversity – including fish passage and native water-based plants. So far these efforts have been successful, and several sites along the creek have been stabilised and now will hold water after rainfall.

She agrees, however, that some of the problems of the lack of water also stem from increased water use on either side of the Araluen Valley. In Araluen itself, an embargo is in place on the issuing of water licences for commercial use.

Lack of rain since the 1970s

Other voices in the Araluen region feel that most of the water problems lie with the lack of rain. Since the 1970s, which was recorded as a major wet period regionally and as far inland as Central Australia, we have been in a drought interspersed with minor wet periods.

Rainfall patterns over the last 130 years have shown that major wet periods (such the one in the ‘70s) happen on average only every 50 years. Should the 50-year pattern hold true, we may see another 10–20 years of drought and minor wet periods before another major wet period.

We all know that Australia is a fickle country when it comes to rainfall; therefore, water use must be monitored and regulated carefully even in good times. The NSW Department of Water and Energy has a number of strategies in place to do just that. Water sharing plans are being prepared across the state and have already been put into action at the South Coast.

For further information on water issues such as water licensing and water sharing plans, contact David Zerafa at the NSW Department of Water and Energy on 4429 4441 or at www.water.nsw.gov.au. If you would like to help or volunteer for the UDCLG, contact Cath Harrison on 4846 4005.

FARMER RESTORES NATURAL WATER FLOW

Cont’d from p4

By being allowed to slowly flow through the landscape, with nutrients and any impurities held back, at the end of the chain of ponds the water runs clear and fast to the next property and then on to the Shoalhaven.

The ponds are not connected on the surface. As water will always run to the lowest point in a landscape, it disappears into the soil for stretches and reappears as a pond or as a quickly running spring further below. As we are ready to leave, Martin points out a spring that has not stopped since 2003.

Water will be ever-more decisive

Like any new idea, Natural Sequence Farming has its opponents and critics, and it is possibly not suitable to all farming environments. However, it is abundantly clear that traditional methods of dealing with water issues are flawed and with the population increases desired and expected in the region over the next 25 years, water is a crucial factor.

Martin gives a convincing demonstration that his method works to keep soil and nutrients from disappearing, literally, down the drain, while storing water effectively for drought periods and providing a permanent water flow to lower-lying properties.

If you are interested in Martin’s ideas he can be contacted on 0428 422 058 or by email martin.royds@bigpond.com. If you are considering altering the flow of water on your property or any other water issues you need to also contact the NSW Department of Water and Energy, David Zerafa on 4429 4441 or at www.water.nsw.gov.au.

Queanbeyan students walk for Reconciliation Garden opening

AN IMPRESSIVE turnout of students from all Queanbeyan schools marched along with other residents through downtown to the



recently-planted Reconciliation Garden which was officially opened in Queanbeyan Park. More than 1,000 turned up for the June 1 event.

The march was led up Monaro Street by two young residents flying the Aboriginal flag. Following them were Ethel Baxter and other local Aboriginal elders, Mayor Tim Overall, Councillors Sue Whelan, John Barilaro and Peter Bray and Federal Member of Eden-Monaro Dr Mike Kelly.

The Reconciliation Garden was planted and designed by local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. "Two students from each of Queanbeyan's schools helped with the design and planting of the Reconciliation Garden and they did an amazing job," Mayor Overall said. "The garden has three different paths leading to a central meeting area, representing the coming together of different cultures.

"A large rock in the centre of the garden symbolises a meeting table or place. A mixture of indigenous and exotic plants have been used in the garden. Several plant species were used by the indigenous community for medicinal purposes, food, or other practical purposes."



Pictured (L-R) are Megan Hogan, Gennene Hopkins and Ricky Brown, with Palerang SES Local Controller Kim Salton at the rear.

On Thursday 20 May, three volunteers from the Captains Flat Unit of the State Emergency Service (SES) Southern Highlands Region took part in a special accreditation ceremony, where they graduated as 'Community First Responders' (CFR) with the Ambulance Service of NSW.

The graduation ceremony was held at the SES Region Headquarters in Goulburn, and was attended by senior managers of the Ambulance Service and the SES, as well as families and friends of the graduates.

The three new graduates join the existing eight SES Unit volunteers who completed their training during the pilot phase of the CFR program in 2007. This training was designed to enhance the level of SES members' first aid and medical response skills. With this higher level of training, CFRs are available to attend urgent requests for first aid assistance from local residents or people passing through the region, pending the arrival of an ambulance.

SES CFR Units provide a swift response capability for medical emergencies in the Southern Highlands SES Region's more remote rural locations. CFR volunteers are also located at Bigga and Windellama as well as other parts of the state.

TIGHT BUDGET STARTS TO BITE

PALERANG'S 2010-2011 Draft Management Plan and Budget is now on exhibition. Because of our worsening financial situation, we have had no choice but to slash the budget in a way that will concern many in the community. Public consultations on these documents will be held on June 8 in Braidwood and June 10 in Bungendore.

The diversity of items that have had to be cut demonstrates that Palerang and councils in general are about much more than the three R's – Roads, Rates and Rubbish. There has been, understandably, unrest amongst ratepayers due to charges and rates increases and, recognising this, councillors have not always been willing to support Special Rates Variations which would have provided some much-needed budget relief.

Our financial predicament is due to a variety of factors, not least of which is ongoing cost-shifting by state and federal governments. I don't know what the solution will be in coming years, but it is clear that it is not simply a matter of finding more ratepayers.

Membership of arts support group axed

One of the many worthwhile programs that has had to be cut is Palerang's membership of STARTS (Southern Tablelands Arts), a \$6,000 annual membership.

Palerang has an unusually high number of people involved, either directly or indirectly, in the arts. I recently asked Elizabeth Brown, the Regional Arts Development Officer, to give me a list of the benefits of STARTS membership, hoping to argue for this item's retention in the budget. They include a Cultural Map of the Shire, assisting with the development of a cultural plan, and Regional Arts Fund funding which in 2008 provided over \$40,000 for activity in Palerang.

Arts in the schools

The *In The Bin* film education workshops and film festival (for high school students) was delivered in 2009 for the first time. It cost \$4,800, with the school only having to contribute \$500.

Artists such as playwrights, theatre performance and visual artists have been provided

Different view of a creature in deep disgrace

'Plumwood' note from Anne Edwards near Braidwood

I think that I can now say that Alice has died. I never thought of myself as a rat friend until I met Alice, her lovely ways and company will be missed. Here are a couple of paragraphs from an unfinished Alice piece by Val (Plumwood):

I AM beginning to sense that my association with Alice is telling against me in my home town. Perhaps I am seen as eccentric, if not a bit mad. There is a strong prejudice against little creatures like Alice, and many people actually shudder at the word. It seems so strange because Alice is such a delicate, inoffensive, clean little creature. However Alice is worth being ostracised for... partly I love her for her smallness, for her ability to portray for me a tiny Alice in Wonderland in her inclusion in the human domain, for her intelligence, her innocence and her courage.

(Also) her love of play and her own deep affection for me. From the beginning she was prone to run up and kiss me on the mouth, but as she matured she began to let me feel her teeth, not that she ever used them to hurt me, but it was an interesting reminder of what she could do if driven to defend herself. In play (which includes games of chasing, hiding, pretend aggression, and incredible speed, with many surprise turns and returns) her independence is proud, as she does not surrender it easily.

to primary schools at a cost to the school of only \$2 per child. A comprehensive breakdown of STARTS benefits can be found at www.braidwood.nsw.greens.org.au/category/palerang-council/

Community campaign to raise the membership fee: can you help?

STARTS clearly represents a valuable community asset and Council membership provides spin-offs to other local businesses when there are STARTS activities, so I have started a community campaign with \$200 to enable the Palerang community to renew our mem-

bership, which is \$6,000. If the arts are as important to the people of Palerang as they appear to be, it should be more than possible for us to raise the money, and pledges are now up to \$1,000. If you can make a contribution, no matter how small, or want more information, please contact me as soon as possible.

(For the record, as an artist myself, I have never received a financial benefit from STARTS, nor am I planning to while I am a councillor.)

– Catherine Moore
Palerang Council representative on STARTS
catherine.moore@palerang.nsw.gov.au



THEY LIVE AMONGST US: Redneck Wallaby visiting a rural residential garden. This wallaby came with two other family members and delighted an early-morning photographer.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY STANDS UP FOR ANIMALS

THE ANIMAL Justice Party (AJP) of Australia has been launched to help redress the lack of legal protection and adequate government policies to stop cruel treatment of animals – both wildlife and agricultural/domestic.

While the AJP is yet to be publicly launched, it has already attracted over 600 new members and, having now fulfilled the requirements for registering with the Australian Electoral Commission, is set to consider standing candidates for the Upper House in the forthcoming Federal Election.

Issues of concern where policy papers are being prepared include: vivisection, intensive farming, live animal exports, animals used for sport and entertainment, wildlife and specifically kangaroos, domestic animals, animals and the law, marine animals, population and settlement, and others. These papers will be appearing on the website www.animaljusticeparty.org, and membership forms can also be found there. Email: info@animaljusticeparty.org

This Sacred Earth: The 2012 Phenomenon

Film screening plus talk with featured Irish Shamans

Thursday evening, June 17th, 7pm
National Theatre, Braidwood.
\$15 or \$10 conc.

Irish-Celtic Winter Solstice Retreat with visiting Irish-Celtic Shamans

Braidwood
June 18-20 and June 21-23

www.billiedean.com
or Ph: 0409 609 428

Councillors vote for minimal lot sizes in Bungendore, water down E3 zoning protection

BY A five to three majority (with Councillor Branson away ill) Palarang Councillors voted in their most recent Local Environment Plan (LEP) discussion on Thursday 27 May for a minimum lot size of 750m² for Bungendore. Sure to arouse controversy in the village, the vote by Councillors Crozier, Goonan, Graham, Marjason and Raynolds went against staff advice for a slightly larger compromise minimum of 800m² with the ideal for preserving the character of the village said to be more like 1,000m² minimum size.

Councillor Goonan, who raised the discussion for lowering the lot size, said that she was responding to the fact that the 'average' lot size was now 1,500m² and her intention was to allow the flexibility for such an average block to be divided (at 800m² minimum it could not be). However Director of Planning and Envi-

ronmental Services Louise Munday told Councillors that this should not be a mathematical exercise but rather a decision revolving around amenity and village character. The Councillors then voted as they did.

A like majority of Councillors (with Councillor Marjason absent) has raised eyebrows amongst observers in the gallery by voting in LEP discussion to insert more agricultural activities, objectives and housing, and lower protection for scenic attractions, in the E3 environmental zone. This zone is supposed to afford protection to ecosystems and natural features as a priority.

The lists of Development Applications which are received each week and determined each month are available on Council's website under 'Planning and Environment' on the home page www.palarang.nsw.gov.au; email records@palarang.nsw.gov.au.

- Palarang -

Budget deficit = increased fees, program cuts Waste transfer stations and green recycling go ahead

RESIDENTS AND ratepayers are invited to comment this month (*see ad below for meeting dates and times*) on the 2010-11 Management plan, currently on public exhibition. Council will then decide at the 24 June meeting.

Palarang is looking at an operating budget deficit of \$4,112,905. To offset this, some sub-division, development, inspection, waste

management, water, sewer and other fees are proposed to go up. Programs proposed to be slowed or not renewed include some road building; building maintenance and leasing in Bungendore and Braidwood; Bungendore streetscapes budget almost halved; heritage adviser role trimmed; cut road condition reporting system; cut subscriptions to Capital Country Tourism and Southern Tableland arts organisations and cut advertising in the local media, particularly advertising of development applications and approvals.

On the plus side the management plan greenlights the Macs Reef Road transfer and recycling station for a January 2012 opening and completion of the Bungendore WTS by early 2011. Braidwood is being considered for a similar facility near the current landfill. Bungendore will also benefit from a 10 month trial of kerbside green waste collection. The regional 'Groundswell' program collects household green waste to be composted for agricultural soil conditioners.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET 2010-11

Palarang Council's Draft Management Plan and Budget for 2010-11 is on public exhibition from Friday 21 May 2010. The Plan outlines Council's objectives for the next five years including the draft budget for 2010-11. The Plan also includes details of the rates and annual charges Council proposes to levy in 2010-11 and the fees and charges proposed for the services it provides to the community.

Council welcomes submissions during the period of public exhibition. Submissions will need to be received by Thursday 17 June 2010.

Public meetings for community consultation on the proposed 2010-11 Management Plan is to be conducted as follows:

Braidwood Meeting Room (old library), Park Lane,
at 7.00 pm on **Tuesday, 8 June 2010.**

Bungendore Council Chambers, 10 Majara Street,
at 7.00 pm on **Thursday, 10 June 2010.**

The Plan will be formally adopted by Council after consideration of submissions received at a Council meeting to be held on Thursday 24 June 2010.

Copies of the Draft Management Plan are available for inspection at Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood during normal opening hours. The Plan can also be viewed on Council's website at www.palarang.nsw.gov.au.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager
PO Box 348 Bungendore NSW 2621

P A L E R A N G
COUNCIL

Development Application DEV.2010.0124

Advertised Local Development
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The following information is provided for public interest and consultation:

Application Number: DEV.2010.0124
Applicant name: Land Planning Solutions
Proposal: Develop Motel and Reception Establishment
Land Description: Lot 1 DP 741111
Property Address: 75 Tarago Road, Bungendore
Consent Authority: Palarang Council
Consultation Period: From 2 June 2010 to 16 June 2010
Application information: The application and supporting documentation may be inspected at Council's Bungendore office during normal business hours.

Contact Officer: Daniel Walsh – Please note that Council planners are not available after 12 noon.

Lodging a Submission: Any person, during the period specified above, may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application to the General Manager, Palarang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

If your submission is an objection to the proposal, the grounds of the objection must be stated. Please note that all submissions are publicly available, may be included in Council reports, published on Council's website or discussed at meetings. Council will not suppress the identity of submitters.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All submissions must include a 'Political Donations and Gifts Disclosure Statement' under s.147(5) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Please contact Council to request a copy of the disclosure statement by mail, or collect in person at Palarang Council offices.

Peter Bascomb
GENERAL MANAGER

P A L E R A N G
COUNCIL

Development Application DEV.2009.0379

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Integrated Development Application

The following Development Application and supporting information may be inspected during normal business hours at the Administration Offices of Palarang Council, 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, commencing 26 May 2010 and ending 25 June 2010. The development is Integrated Development.

Application Number: DEV.2009.0379
Applicant name: Carmen Buckley
Proposal: Home Business
Land Description: Lot 10 DP 1080347
Property Address: 1426 Federal Highway Service Road, Sutton
Consent Authority: Palarang Council
Relevant Approval Bodies: NSW Rural Fire Service
Approvals Required: Section 100B – *Rural Fires Act 1997*
Contact Officer: Belinda McManus – Please note that Council planners are not available after 12 noon.

Lodging a Submission: Any person, during the period specified above, may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application to the General Manager, Palarang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

If your submission is an objection to the proposal, the grounds of the objection must be stated. Please note that all submissions are publicly available, may be included in Council reports, published on Council's website or discussed at meetings. Council will not suppress the identity of submitters.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All submissions must include a 'Political Donations and Gifts Disclosure Statement' under s.147(5) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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Peter Bascomb
GENERAL MANAGER

P A L E R A N G
COUNCIL

Development Application DEV.2010.0133

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Integrated Development Application

The following Development Application and supporting information may be inspected during normal business hours at the Administration Offices of Palarang Council, 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, commencing 2 June 2010 and ending 30 June 2010. The development is Integrated Development.

Application Number: DEV.2010.0133
Applicant name: Bradley Surveying & Design Pty Ltd
Proposal: 6 Lot Subdivision
Land Description: Lot 1 DP 1041325
Property Address: 221 Braidwood Road, Braidwood
Consent Authority: Palarang Council
Relevant Approval Bodies: NSW Rural Fire Service
Approvals Required: Section 100B – *Rural Fires Act 1997*
Contact Officer: Kylie Coe – Please note that Council planners are not available after 12 noon.

Lodging a Submission: Any person, during the period specified above, may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application to the General Manager, Palarang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore NSW 2621.

If your submission is an objection to the proposal, the grounds of the objection must be stated. Please note that all submissions are publicly available, may be included in Council reports, published on Council's website or discussed at meetings. Council will not suppress the identity of submitters.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All submissions must include a 'Political Donations and Gifts Disclosure Statement' under s.147(5) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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Peter Bascomb
GENERAL MANAGER

P A L E R A N G
COUNCIL

All politics is local

by Tim Overall, Mayor of Queanbeyan

FOR CLOSE to 58 years, the BBC presenter Alistair Cooke broadcast a weekly radio program exploring aspects of American life and culture, a regular focus of which was the fascinating and often complex landscape of US politics.

As is so often the case, much of the attention was given to analysis of the highest tier of government; however, Cooke also recognised the importance of governance at the local level and in one of his record-breaking 2,869 shows, explored the idea that, in the end, ‘all politics is local’.

Inevitably I am inclined to agree and this point was made even clearer to me on a recent family holiday to North America where I took the opportunity to visit civic offices and meet with local officials; gaining valuable insights into the workings of our own form of local government by comparing it with our most influential of neighbours.

From interesting and quirky local customs, such as New Yorkers referring to their Mayor as ‘hizzoner’ and the Washington Office of the Mayor being known as the ‘Bullpen’, to the more widely recognised variations in the US system including the broader range of responsibilities and the additional powers of Mayors and Councilors, there is much that differentiates and yet much that is similar. The pressure of catering to the most immediate needs of a community, having to juggle priorities and the on-going challenge of funding are universal themes regardless of size, location and levels of bureaucracy.

New York, New York!

In deficit like Oz Councils

As the nation’s largest city, New York offers a distinct example of the scope as well as the difficulties of governance at the local level in the USA. Unlike Australia, with only one tier of local government and some 673 councils across the country, America has 89,500 local governments, further broken down into counties, municipalities, townships, school districts and special districts.

Essentially, these varying forms are meant to reflect the needs of different levels of population, whereas New York City caters for 8 million residents, Lazy Lake, Florida,

has a population of just 38. Even more daunting in organisational terms, although New York is composed of five separate boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem and New Jersey), it has only one Mayor and a Council of 51 to oversee everything from police and fire protection to education, health and public transport systems.

Additionally, whereas Australian councils all operate on a similar basis with an elected council and a mayor responsible for a narrower range of functions including town planning and development, infrastructure and the provision of community facilities and services, in the USA there are a variety of local government structures.

New York City operates under the Mayor-Council model where the elected mayor acts as the chief of the executive branch and the members of the elected council represent various neighbourhoods. The mayor appoints heads of city departments and other officials to help manage the city’s affairs and has the power of veto over the laws of the city (ordinances) as well as being responsible for preparation of the budget.

During our stay in New York (in which we were in Times Square exactly one week before the recent car bomb scare), the 2011 budget was in its final stages of preparation. Considered the ‘single most important municipal document that affects the lives of New Yorkers,’ it is also some US\$4.9 billion in deficit, and increasing property taxes and proposed spending cuts were receiving much media attention.

Local taxes for local governments – it’s global

American local government areas (LGAs) are in a similar position to Australian LGAs in that funding for services must largely be raised from various taxes on residents with some assistance provided by the state and federal governments. Local US authorities are in a more advantageous position than authorities here in NSW however, where for the last 30 years councils have been subject to ‘rate pegging’ in which the state government determines the level at which property rates can be increased. As this is so limited,



Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall at City Hall New York on his local government information swap visit.

many councils are now experiencing extreme difficulties in being able to cater for rapidly growing populations and ageing infrastructure, leading them to seek special rate variations in order to deal with the issues.

New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, summed up the situation facing not only his own LGA, but so many others around the world, when he said “Taxes are not good things, but if you want services, somebody’s got to pay for them so they’re a necessary evil”.

Local government in Canada

Visiting Canada offered yet another view of local administration. The Canadian system of government at all levels more closely resembles that of Australia; however, some of the most obvious differences are to be found at the local level.

Referred to as municipal governments (of which there are some 3,700) Canadian council authorities provide local services, facilities, safety and infrastructure for their communities. As in America, responsibilities may also extend to the management of local policing and firefighting, public transport, education and even the provision of electricity, telephone and gas services.

Typically, a municipal government is made up of one mayor and a set number of councillors. The majority of funding comes from property taxes, although additional sources include the sales of certain goods and services. As with all local governments, the need for co-operation between state and federal levels is essential.

While in Toronto, a cosmopolitan metropolis of some 2.5million residents, I was fortunate to be able to meet with David Miller, Mayor of the city since 2003 and head of a council of 44 councillors.

Although mayors in a relatively limited number of Australian LGAs are popularly elected, in both America and Canada local officials are all popularly elected and David

Miller was re-elected mayor in 2006, winning nearly 60 percent of the popular vote. During his time in office, Mayor Miller said some of the initiatives of which he was the most proud included the ‘Clean and Beautiful City’ project, the rejuvenation of parks and public spaces and the on-going revitalisation of Toronto’s waterfront.

A city like ours

In Canada we also took the opportunity to visit the smaller city of Kingston, set on the shore of Lake Ontario, just over an hour from Toronto, and originally the capital of Canada.

Although it has a population almost twice the size of Queanbeyan, the two cities have much in common. Kingston has also experienced sustained growth, leading its council (consisting of a mayor and 11 councillors) to recognise that the CBD is in need of considerable refurbishment. As such, it is currently undergoing redevelopment of a similar nature to what we have planned for Queanbeyan. And just as Queanbeyan Council now has a strategic vision for its future, Kingston has set itself the goal of becoming Canada’s ‘most sustainable city’.

I am pleased to say that what I most gained from my travels and research into international local government was a broader appreciation of both the positives and the negatives of local politics here at home. To a greater extent than at the federal or state level, local governments – be they Australian, American or Canadian – directly serve the needs of the people, hence their significance and importance. And in proving that all politics is indeed local, I will again turn to the Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg:

“There’s no other job in government where cause and effect are so tightly coupled, where you can make a difference every day in so many different ways and in so many different people’s lives. It’s a great challenge.”

ALZHEIMER’S – A LOVE STORY

Cont’d from p10

Ulman both recalls the mother she knew and charts her reaction to the fearful process of deterioration through personal and poignant letters to her mother.

Strategically through the book, Ulman weaves a more hopeful story, that of migrant families who came to Melbourne, formed communities, with hard work built successful businesses and married happily – as did Ulman’s parents. This provides, too, some relief.

This book is sensitive and heartrending. It is not an easy read. However, for those caring for someone with Alzheimer’s it will be a familiar story and perhaps a comfort that they are not alone when they feel helpless in the face of this disease.

There is help. The Alzheimer’s Association is a great source of information and relevant material. On its website (see www.alz.seekbooks.com.au/) there is a selection of recent books, including this one. With this book Ulman has produced an honest, painful and very human cry from the heart.

Queanbeyan enjoys quiet \$201,256 surplus

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council is expected to have a budget surplus of \$201,256 for the 2009–2010 financial year. A report on the March quarterly review of the 2009–2010 Management Plan was tabled at Council’s meeting on Wednesday 26 May, outlining Council’s financial position.

The report showed that Council’s operating expense had increased by 6 percent or \$4.3 million, in the third quarter. This large increase was due to Council making a payment of \$4 million to the ACT Government for the Water Abstraction Charge. A separate report showed that Council’s investments continue to perform well with a return of \$353,345 for April. Council’s investment income for the 2009–2010 financial year as at 30 April 2010 was \$4,256,133 which is \$800,118 above the year-to-date budget. As at 30 April Council had \$70,131,294 in investments.

However, only \$1,406,000 of this amount is classified as ‘unrestricted’. The remaining \$68,725,294 is in designated reserves or allocated funds and can only be used for the specific purpose for which it was raised (eg water & sewer fund).

Throughout June
Thoughts, Themes and Dreams
Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore. The exhibition will feature art by Cheryl Hill and Pat Fleming and will run for the month of June. General viewing hours 10am–4.30pm. For more info contact the gallery on 6238 1640.



David Voigt: Cave Falls

Ending August
Transcending Time and Place – David Voigt solo exhibition
Bungendore Woodworks Gallery, 18 Malbon St Bungendore, open daily 9am–5pm. Twice Blake Prize and Wynne Prize Winner David Voigt has opened his fourth solo exhibition for Bungendore Wood Works Gallery. The exhibition presents 35 works from this most accomplished Australian landscape artist and brilliantly displays work in three directions, mythical realism, geometric abstraction and watercolour/mixed media.

Ending June 18
The ‘Bidgee From Behind The Lens
Photographic competition celebrating the Murrumbidgee catchment’s natural assets. Suggestions include images of wildlife, wetlands and rivers and sustainable farming practices. The four categories are: Primary Student; Secondary Student; Open Amateur; and Open Professional. First prize is \$250 and \$100 for the runner up in each category. For details visit www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au or call Sue Buik on 6940 2942.

– GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

JUNE:

Friday 11

Neil Judd. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Karaoke. From 8pm, Captains Flat RSL Club, 59–61 Foxlow St, Captains Flat.

Under the Covers. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 12

Night Train. 9pm, Walsh’s Hotel, 40–48 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

Wednesday 16

Country Keys & Strings. 10.30am, Yass Soldiers Club, 86 Meehan St, Yass.

Friday 18

SWIZZ. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Hit Parade. Raffle from 7pm & Music at 8pm, The Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club. Corner Stuart Street & Richard Avenue, Queanbeyan.

Hit & Run. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 19

Poker. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Dale Hopper. 8.30pm, Loaded Dog Hotel, Wallace St, Tarago.

Friday 25

DJ Gosper and The Hot Flush Blues Band. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Back To Back. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Sunday 27

Carpathian (supporting act: Ghost Town). 6pm, Axis Youth Centre, Cnr Queanbeyan Park & Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

JULY:

Friday 2

Music & Poetry Night. 7.30pm, The Royal Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

What’s On – JUNE

Compiled by Christina Taylor

Send your announcements to whatson@palerangbulletin.com.au

Sunday 6

Wamboin Golf Club June Competition

Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, Register at 12.15pm, tee-off at 12.30pm. All are welcome. For more info contact Peter Greenwood on 6238 3358.

Along The Molonglo – opening

Queanbeyan Art Society Gallery, 6 Trinculo Pl, Queanbeyan East, arrive at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. Presented annually by the Queanbeyan Art Society, the exhibition (to be opened by Rainer Rehwinkel) features works by artists who have managed to capture the spirit of the Molonglo. For details contact Barry Cranston on 6297 8181.

Tuesday 8

Palerang Draft 2010–11 Management Plan and Budget

Braidwood Meeting Room (old library), Park Ln, Braidwood, 7–9pm. Public meeting to discuss the 2010–11 Draft Management Plan and Budget. Members of the public have until 17 June to provide written submissions commenting on the plan.

Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade AGM

Wamboin Fire Station, 112 Bingley Way, Wamboin, 7.30pm. The Brigade covers Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park and all Brigade members are encouraged to attend. Aspiring members, families, and other visitors are welcome. For more details contact John Taubman on 6236 9794 or email secretary@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au.

Tuesday 8 – Saturday 12

Shakespeare’s R & J

‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. An innovative and highly physical interpretation of Shakespeare’s classic tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*, in the spirit of *Dead Poet’s Society*. For show times and ticket prices call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au.

Tuesday 8 – Saturday 26

From Little Things Big Things Grow

‘The Q’ Exhibition Space, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, Mon–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat 10am–3pm. The Exhibition will feature works by two local artists, Claire Primrose and Maxine Price.

Thursday 10

Palerang Draft 2010–11 Management Plan and Budget

Palerang Council Chambers, Majara St, Bungendore, 7–9pm. Public meeting to discuss the 2010–11 Draft Management Plan and Budget. Members of the public have until 17 June to provide written submissions commenting on the plan.

Friday 11

Go Red for Women Campaign

Riverside Plaza, Queanbeyan in partnership with The Heart Foundation is encouraging shoppers to wear red on Go Red for Women Day on 11 June to raise awareness of heart disease as a women’s health issue.

Friday 11 – Monday 14

Braidwood Book Fair

National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood. Up for sale are hard & soft cover books, CDs, DVDs, videos, LP records, tapes and magazines. For details contact Marjorie Lemin on 4846 1243.

Beginning Saturday 12

Capital Country Truffle Festival

In various locations throughout Palerang (local winer-

ies and restaurants) and the ACT, the Truffle Festival takes place during the second half of June and into July. The festival will include truffle workshops, tastings, gourmet meals and even a cabaret show! For details on specific events, dates and locations visit www.trufflefestival.com.au or email info@trufflefestival.com.au.

Wednesday 16

Sutton & District Community Association Meeting

Sutton Community Hall, West St, Sutton, 7.30–9.30pm. Contact Sue Strang on 6230 3124 for details.

Saturday 19 – Sunday 20

Bush Baroque in Bywong ‘Triple Treat’

Birriwa Rd, Bywong. Concerts run from 1.30–3pm both days. The two concerts will feature Lathika Vihanage, a leading baroque violinist, Polifemy, a female a capella group, and Emma Jenvy, soprano. Tickets are \$12 and \$15, bookings are essential. Call 6236 9212 or email violsaustralia@gmail.com for more info or to reserve your place. All proceeds go to Hartley Lifecare Inc.

Sunday 20

An Audience with Frank Spencer

‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 5pm. What would happen if Frank Spencer, loved by millions around the world, had his own stage show? Find out for yourself when the show comes to ‘The Q’! Adults \$27 and concession \$23. For more info visit www.theq.net.au.

Tuesday 22

Lake George Day VIEW Club

The June meeting at 11.30am for a 12 noon start. RSVP Friday 17 June to Pauline on 6238 1996. Lunch is \$20 at Cafe Woodworks. Raffle and door prize as usual. 2010 is the VIEW Clubs of Australia 50 year celebration and the Australia-wide Convention is being held in Canberra, so this is a prime opportunity to join the Lake George Day VIEW Club or renew a lapsed membership and be part of VIEW Club history. Visit <http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com>.

Thursday 24

Queanbeyan Bush Verse Club Meeting

The Country Heir Cafe, Monaro St, Queanbeyan. For details contact David Meyers on 6286 1891.

Queanbeyan Bush Poetry

RB Smith Building, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 7pm.

– Plan ahead for July –

Friday 2 – Saturday 3

‘The Tango’ Braidwood Film Club’s Mini Film Festival

National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood. Presented by The Braidwood Film Club. Friday 2 – *The Tango Lesson* (UK), 6.30pm. Saturday 3 – *The Last Tango in Paris* (Italy/France), 3pm & *Tango* (Spain), 7pm. For details, entry and membership prices contact 4846 1096.

Wednesday 7

Brilliant Short Films – Dirty, Pretty Magic

‘The Q’, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 7.30pm. A collection of Australia’s premier, award-winning short films that cross the line between fantasy and harsh reality. The collection of shorts include works by local film makers. Adults \$16, concession \$12. To book tickets and for film details visit www.theq.net.au.

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

Capital Region Farmers Market

8–11am, EPIC grounds, Mitchell, www.epic.act.gov.au.

1st Saturday of every month

Captains Flat Country Market

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

2nd Sunday of the month (bar January)

Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

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

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

Wamboin Produce Market

Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–2pm. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

3rd Sunday every month

Bungendore Markets

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9am–2pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.

Gundaroo Market

Gundaroo Park, Gundaroo.

Windellama Country Market

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

4th Saturday of every month

Braidwood Markets

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

1st and 2nd weekend of every month

Captains Axe Woodworks

55 Foxlow St (old Post Office) Captains Flat, 10am–4pm. Bush furniture, antiques, collectables, model cars and old tools. Something for everyone! Wanted – old tools, farm machinery and collectable items. Call 6236 5799.

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

www.kingshwytodiscovery.com.au

www.bungendore.com.au

www.visitqueanbeyan.com

AT ST MARY’S and COUNTRY PARISHES

MASSSES: First & Third Sunday of the month
8.30am

Second, Fourth & Fifth Weekend (Vigil Mass)
– Saturday 6.00pm

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MASS 9.00am

LITURGY OF THE WORD: THURSDAY & FRIDAY
9.00am

Hoskinstown – 10.30am 1st Sunday of
the Month

Tarago – 10.30am 2nd Sunday of the Month

Gundaroo – 10.30am 3rd Sunday of
the Month

Reconciliation: 30 minutes before the
Weekend Masses

Baptisms and weddings: By appointment

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