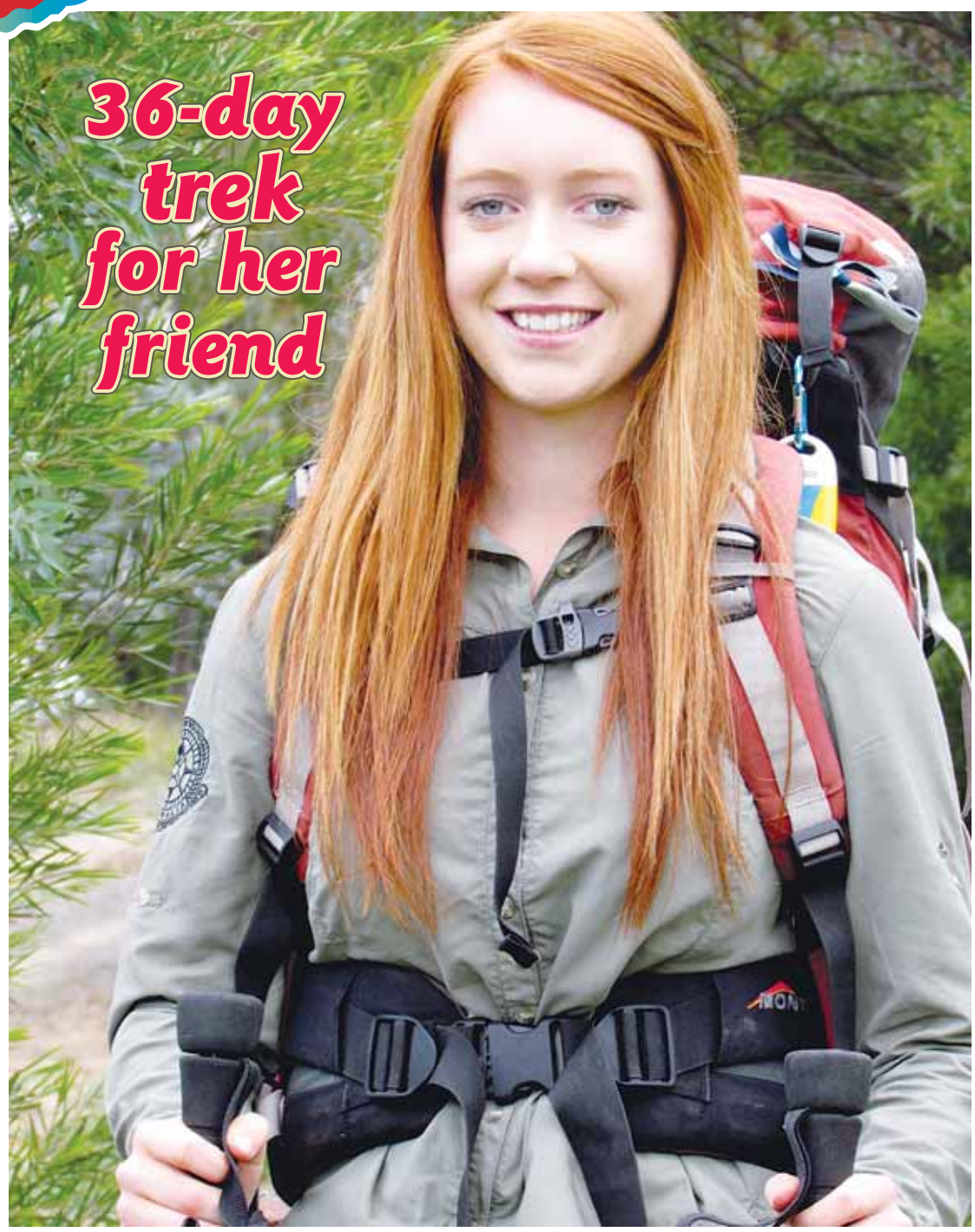
THE DISTRICT
Bulletin
March 2013
33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN
COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

Inside:

NEW
Ask your state rep 4
Local government cost of road makeovers 6
Game Council under investigation 7
Property 9
Exploding space debris and us 10

Nerriga Rd flower show 11
Theatre 13

Vintage bread box FOUND NEW HOME
Country Classifieds 14
What's On 15



36-day trek for her friend

Ally Durr *may rightly be claimed as a regional 'hero' as well as a local one. The Carwoola schoolgirl who attends Karabar High scooped up the honour of Queanbeyan 'Young Australian of the Year' in January.* **Karen Lovatt** *tells us why.*

PICTURE THIS: a 16-year-old girl, on a trail across mountains, with 36 days of walking ahead of her until she reaches comfort and home.

Mists and rain, smoke and sun, a trail that weaves in and out of existence, spanning over 600 kilometres of some of the most rugged terrain in Australia.

What could push Ally Durr to chase such an achievement?

"Hannah is in a wheelchair full time, and she almost died from it," Ally explained. "She can't really do everything she wants to do, and I'm fully able to do whatever I want to do, so I just wanted to do something to help them out."

"It" is Lyme disease, a little-known bacterial infection that humans contract from tick bites. Few Australians understand its dangers.

Ally's childhood friend Hannah has suffered from debilitating fatigue and pain associated with Lyme disease for many years. She contracted it after being bitten by a tick at a youth event in Sydney.

After the Lions Club sponsored Ally to take part in an Outward Bound course she gained confidence in navigating the outdoors. Already fit, thanks to her love of equestrian pursuits and race walking, Ally decided to take on some more challenging hikes to raise awareness about the dangers of Lyme disease.

Her first trek was a hike along the famous Kokoda Trail in July 2012, with her brother, Jack, and her father, Greg.

"Ally was always ahead of the group, thanks to her race walking experience," Greg remembers. "The group jokingly nicknamed her 'Black Caviar' because she was faster than everyone else."

Taking on the Australian Alps Walking Track

After the thrill of Kokoda, Ally wanted her next adventure to be big. She set her sights on the Australian Alps Walking Track, a 650km route that winds from Walhalla, Victoria to Tharwa, ACT.

The frequently unmarked track is a challenge for even the most experienced bushwalkers. It requires plenty of planning and forward thinking, and not just in the physical sense.

The AAWT is so long that walkers must arrange food drops at regular intervals.

Continued p12

Dropping kangaroo numbers
So is NSW distorting the count?

NSW government figures relating to the commercial kangaroo industry indicate a steady population decline over many years for the four large kangaroo species that are shot.

Red, Western and Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Wallaroo/Euro numbers have shown no recovery during the last three years of 'good' conditions.

The information is drawn from 'take' data (ie numbers of animals shot) which is an accepted method in commercial wildlife management for assessing actual populations.

Graphs from every 'harvest' zone tell the same story: a dramatic decline of animals 'taken' despite official survey figures which paint a rosy picture showing large population increases in just one year (up to 500 percent for one population), offering many more animals theoretically available to be killed.

According to Bathurst ecologist Ray Mjadwesch, who has reviewed the data provided by the government's kangaroo management unit (OEH-KMU), aerial surveying for kangaroo numbers across the landscape has become severely biased to show high numbers of animals across the state.

"The data showing impossible population growth rates in recent years is then used to justify continued and even intensified shooting, while take data shows continuing serious decline in the number of kangaroos actually being shot," he wrote in a recent submission.

Mjadwesch has spent the last several years independently reviewing all the available evidence, which led him in December 2011 to formally nominate the four shot kangaroo species for threatened status. This and a supplementary submission in December last year are currently being

Continued p3

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30 minutes notice not going to plan

by Kevin Fiebig, Burra

THE FIRE that raced through my property on Australia Day didn't start down in Michelago, nor did it start over the other side of Mt Campbell. It started on the road right next to my property.

My fire plan assumes a few things. One was that I would have 30 minutes warning of the approach of a fire, and that would be enough time to work out whether to leave my one and only fire pump at the sheds or move it to the house (220 metres away).

I have a good quality fire pump (capable of pushing out 350 litres/min) and I'd just bought a brand new – still in the plastic – 30 metre lay-flat fire hose (38mm I think) connected to a u-beaut nozzle able to provide a water-wall and jet spray.

The pump and hose reside in the shed; ready to be connected to whatever tank I need to. Plus I have a pallet tank located under the pine trees lining the driveway.

The only hoses actually connected to the tank at the shed and at the house on Australia day were 12mm garden hoses. The pallet tank had a small crack in the tap body so I had drained the tank and removed the tap for repairs.

Just before lunchtime on Saturday – about 11:30 – I was down at the sheds and heard some yelling. I looked up to the house, and saw a plume of smoke rising just beyond it. Crikey I thought – and me having just joined the Burra RFS!

I ran across the dam wall and up the slope to the house about 220 metres away. The pump and hose were left at the sheds because I didn't have a car with me to bring them up.

As soon as I came out from behind the house I knew by the huge pillar of smoke and roar of the flame that I didn't have 30 minutes – I'd be lucky to have three. The fire had already covered about 100 square metres from the road to the edge of the drive.

As it transpires our neighbour from down the road, Chris Williams, had been working at the front of his property and had seen the fire start and ran up the road to alert us. Oddy [wife] was inside the house looking through the mail and had no idea a fire was racing up towards the house!

So when I rounded the corner of the house I saw Chris fending off flames leaping around two metres in the air, with a small spray of water coming out of the garden hose. But several 12mm hoses joined together and reaching maybe 50+ metres meant there was not much left in the way of pressure. I doubt the spray was going much more than two metres.

Despite our best efforts we couldn't get water to the largest flames, as it was way to hot (the grass was very long at the edge of the drive in amongst rocks). We were trying to stop the fire jumping the driveway, but with a piddly little hose we didn't stand a chance, plus as the fire advanced we kept getting loops of garden hose caught on rocks, which then melted as the fire reached it.

We'd disconnect the melted hose from the next and keep going – but three hoses later we were down to one hose of 15 metres. Also only one outlet for the hose (right next to the pump gave us very few options to move the hose (or what was left of it) to the back of the house as the fire moved around there.

Within about 10 minutes of me getting to the house, the fire had jumped the driveway and got into the really long grass in the paddock behind the house. Once there it leaped forward and – despite there being bugger-all breeze – seemed to speed up. My fear was the pine trees that lined our driveway would go up and create an inferno.

By this time so much was happening and the adrenalin was running that I couldn't honestly tell you the exact sequence of events.

I know that Alison from Hardy Rd saw the smoke as she was driving down Burra Rd and came up to lend a hand, directing Oddy and Sax to beat out the flames advancing up towards the house – they were armed with wet towels and jugs of water and were putting out the flames creeping up to the front of the house!

I know that the fire control vehicle turned up and started planning the attack on the fire, and directing six fire tankers that attended.

I know that my neighbours were there with pallet tank and fire fighting rig and both teams were stopping the flame front from spreading down one side of the hill.

I know that at one point all my gates were open, holes had been cut through two fences to let crews get right on the fire – but the 70 odd sheep I have sat under the trees and watched it all happen.

In the end two fence posts burnt out and about 350 metres of rural piping melted, one tortoise didn't make it nor did one blue tongue. No one else was hurt – although Oddy stepped on the stem of briar rose that went straight through her shoe and punched a hole in her foot. She didn't notice it until hours later.

Continued p14

Stay or go?
Human nature makes us dither

WRITING in the February *Monthly* Victorian Robyn Annear brings us up to date on the lessons and recent books about the 2009 Black Saturday fires.

The big lesson is that having a fire plan and an early warning to Go or Stay didn't stop a majority of people surveyed from admitting they took a 'wait and see' approach to encroaching fires. Historically, writes Annear this is how people have viewed bushfires, even when they live in the explosive Mountain Ash forests.

The problem with this risk benefit approach, which may sound very familiar, is that it conflicts with the key elements of Stay or Go preparedness. "Householders could not be expected to commit fully to preparations for active property defence if they thought they might leave; and 'Go' meant leaving *before* a fire threat emerged, not when the flames reached the fence.

"Evidence presented to the Royal Commission following Black Saturday suggested that for many in danger that day the CFA's message acted not as an imperative but as a nagging interrogative: *stay or go*?"

She concludes: "For many of us, living in the bush has as much to do with lifestyle as with life. Lifestyle abhors inconvenience and if a bushfire – or any force of nature – is an inconvenience, then planning for its possibility is even more so."

DROPPING KANGAROO NUMBERS

Cont'd from p1

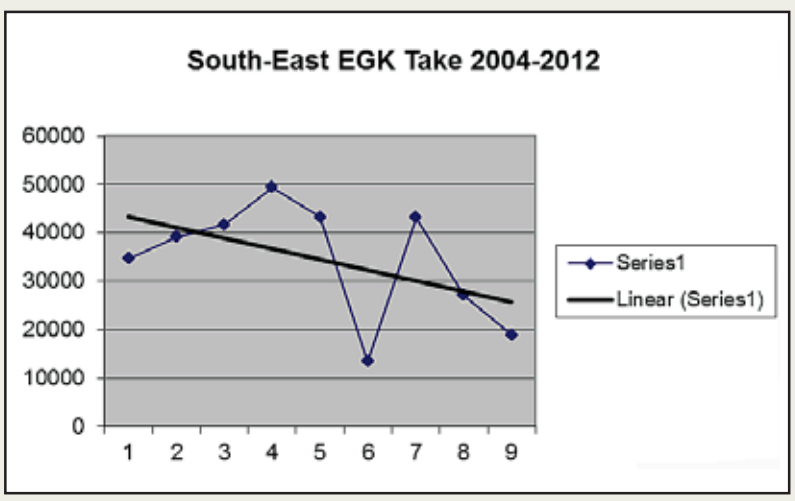
assessed by the NSW Scientific Committee.

He said aerial survey transect data recently released by the OEH-KMU has confirmed his previous conclusions that the survey methods are biased.

Counting animals over conservation areas

"It has amazed me that the big counts of animals mostly come from flying over conservation areas and other non-shooting areas. The animals observed here are then extrapolated across surrounding farmland, often identified as 'high' and 'medium' density habitats, while the survey transects that actually fly over farming land often return very low counts, and even total absences."

For example says Mjadwesch, in the Central Tablelands the biggest count of 203 animals came from sections of the Goulburn River National Park. Other big counts were from Wyangala Dam reserve and Razorback Nature Reserve. Another area sampled went "smack across a mining company 'offset', where they don't shoot them". These observed animals are then 'corrected' (multiplied) by the researchers, and used to calculate regional densities.



He also found that transects where zero animals are spotted were sometimes *not* included in the averaging, and zero-counts are not used to identify 'low' density habitats.

In western NSW where both Red and Grey Kangaroos have been commercially shot since the 1980s, with no relief during the drought years, a 2008 aerial survey report showed that transects went over national parks and reserves like Sturt, Mutawinji, Mungo, Willandra Lakes, Macquarie Marshes, Warrumbungles or state forests and timber reserves.

Mjadwesch found that transects often stopped hundreds of kilometres short of modified agricultural landscapes, which once would have been optimal habitat.

One of the state's most experienced (and well-published) macropod biologists, Dan Ramp from the University of Technology Sydney, told the *Bulletin*: "The use of aerial surveys is a tried and true technique for assessing numbers of large herbivores.

"But there appears to be something fundamentally wrong with the KMU's method of applying aerial surveys. I'd like to see a government enquiry into this," said Dr Ramp.

Except for pockets, very few kangaroos on ground

Both Ramp and Mjadwesch are field ecologists and say that except in some pockets which might give a different impression (like the ACT park hinterland, the outskirts of Queanbeyan and rural residential districts or some farms held as refuges), there are very few kangaroos on the ground.

— Maria Taylor

The commercial kangaroo industry keeps moving to get to more animals and has been in south-east NSW only since 2004. Says Mjadwesch: "My prediction that this region would not support the shooting of 40,000 animals per year for long is proving accurate. Despite the non-drought conditions since 2010, 'take' has halved in just two years."
See the full report at ***www.kangaroosatrisk.net****.*

> For more recent history on kangaroo management in ACT, NSW and nationally see the archive at our NEW and evolving online site www.districtbulletinonline.wordpress.com.

You'll find monthly stories and archives of popular columns there too.

Disappointing Queanbeyan Council approach to aged and disability services

IN THE 16 years or so that I have been involved in public life in this region I have never publicly criticised our local councils. It's been my policy to work with councils of all persuasions and try to help solve issues rather than making political attacks.

So when I say that I was disappointed to hear recently that the Queanbeyan City Council has decided to give three months notice and terminate a large range of services for aged and disabled residents of our region, I do so with some regret.

These services include Home and Community Care (HACC), respite, social support, case management, post school options, community transport and a range of similar programs.

Queanbeyan council says that, although it gets Commonwealth and State funding, it is subsidising the programs with ratepayer's funds.

There is no doubt council is providing a substantial subsidy and yes the ratepayers of Queanbeyan are providing that. The question is would the ratepayers object to providing that subsidy?

Value of federal assistance grants has declined

I have an issue with labelling this cost shifting. When our government structure was set up these services did not exist. So who is to say that one level of government can declare something is 'cost shifting' when over time our community has said a caring society should provide more services for people in need?

It is reasonable for any local council to say finances are tight – budgeting is hard work for any level of government. Local Governments, particularly those in regional areas, have a very real shortfall in their ability to raise funds versus the demand for services.

You will often hear people say that is because of rate pegging. I think it is largely because, since the Whitlam Government introduced them in the 1970s, the value of Financial Assistance Grants provided to local government has declined substantially.

NSW Capital Watch

with Steve Whan

So I acknowledge that council has a tough time determining its priorities but I still object to this decision to terminate some very well-used and well-regarded programs for the aged and disabled.

What happens to the buildings, partially financed by federal taxpayers?

Queanbeyan Council is providing a direct cash subsidy as well as around $1.3 million in indirect subsidy. Indirect costs include things like the facilities. Council should seek to gain more funding toward those costs, in particular the cash subsidy.

But it is entirely reasonable for council to subsidise accommodation costs – particularly since I understand that facilities at the HACC centre in Queanbeyan were financed with the assistance of Federal government funding.

It is disappointing that only the two Labor councillors voted against the decision to relinquish these services. It would have been nice to have seen a much more open process, discussing with the community the challenges and the options facing the council.

I am worried that, as these services transition to new providers, we will not see the same level of service, and in losing the HACC centre as the venue for some of these services we will lose a great central location that enhanced community and social contact for clients.

I do like to support whichever council our community elects and I am certainly not normally a critic of the Mayor. In this case I am concerned, and I hope that we will see some reconsideration of this decision, including some positive discussion between the funding authorities and the council.

Future of local government?

A related point is what is the future of local Government? We are hearing persistent rumours around the region that the O'Farrell Government is moving to amalgamate councils. It is very important to note that in rural and regional NSW just creating bigger councils will not make them viable. They will still cover a big area with a low density of population, a low rate base and thousands of kilometres of roads to maintain.

Any long term look at local Government needs to build in a better funding mechanism that accounts for the much lower ability to raise revenue in country areas. ■

'Dear John' – straight answers from John Barilaro MP

As a public service, the Bulletin *is starting a new feature with your state representative,* ***John Barilaro****, who is keen to answer questions from our readership about local and regional issues that concern you. Here is the first instalment of this monthly column.*

Cross-border medical

Q Recent announcements regarding cross-border agreements with the ACT and NSW health services talked about a 'Cardiac Reperfusion Program' for regional patients. What can a Palerang or Queanbeyan resident expect if they are experiencing heart attack symptoms? How is it different from simply going to Canberra Hospital emergency? — *The District Bulletin*

A Acute Coronary Syndrome is the single largest killer of NSW residents. The Cardiac Reperfusion Program announced in February will see patients from rural communities in Southern NSW receive targeted care faster from the first onset of symptoms.

The patient will receive specialist multi-disciplinary care on arrival at Canberra Hospital and will be transferred back to NSW to their nearest local hospital for ongoing monitoring, rehabilitation and recovery. Care can start when paramedics reach the patient, not when the patient reaches the Emergency Department.

'Reperfusion' simply means restoring blood flow to an organ or tissue. In the case of cardiac reperfusion, the concern is to restore blood flow to the heart.

Cost of starting recreational hunting in national parks aka Supplementary Pest Control in Parks Program

Q What are the Office of Environment and Heritage and Game Council estimates on the annual number and type of pest species that will be reduced under the Supplementary Pest Control in Parks Program? What are the estimated administrative and running costs to the NSW tax payer of this program, including OEH administration and direct and other funding to the Game Council for this purpose?"

— *Dianne Thompson, Kosciuszko Huts Association*

A Recently the NSW Government announced a new five year $19.1 million funding package – including funding to bolster strict safety measures – to ensure the Supplementary Pest Control Program is properly resourced. Part of the funding will employ 14 new regional National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) co-ordinators, safety and regulatory signs, staff training and participant education programs.

Over 40,000 feral animals were culled through pest management programs from the national parks system in 2010–2011. More than 50,000 were culled in 2011–2012, including 15,000 pigs; 34,000 goats; over a thousand wild dogs; 2,700 foxes; 240 cats; and, 670 deer. Next year, with Supplementary Pest Control measures, we aim to better those numbers which will help the health of our parks, our threatened species and our natural ecosystems.

Specific figures on how many species will be removed and the administrative costs of the program are difficult to answer given that the regulations and conditions for the program are still being finalised. The NPWS are working through a risk assessment process to develop the best controls and conditions for the supplementary pest management program. The risk assessment will allow the NPWS to tailor strict controls to suit circumstances in each park.

Restore fire-fighting equipment in Bungendore

Q Why in times of financial restraint and hardship is the state government, the NSW RFS and local government discussing the establishment of a paid 'urban' fire station in Bungendore, when, if given the right equipment (our town pumper returned), we have the infrastructure, the human resources, the fire fighting skill and willingness to do the job at a fraction of the cost? — *Deryck Clarke, Deputy Captain Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade*

A In this term of government, there has been no removal of equipment at Bungendore and my job is to restore the appropriate level of equipment that the Bungendore RFS believes it requires and is entitled to hold. *Continued p8*

PALERANG COUNCIL

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED FOR HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Council is calling for expressions of interest from people in the Palerang community interested in serving on the s.355 Palerang Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Committee was created by Council to:

- provide advice and recommendations, where appropriate, to Council on heritage conservation and management and development control plans pertaining to the whole Council area;
- assist in the review of Council's current heritage conservation management initiatives; and
- deal with heritage issues at a strategic level.

The Committee does not provide advice to Council on development applications.

There are six community positions on the Committee and Council aims to have at least one member each from the Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat areas. The membership also comprises the Mayor, two councillors, the Manager of Strategic Planning and Council's Heritage Advisor. There is no remuneration for members serving on the Committee.

The appointment will be for a two-year term. Council would welcome applications from Indigenous people.

Written nominations indicating the skills applicants have that could assist the Committee, should be marked "Confidential – Palerang Heritage Advisory Committee" and addressed to the General Manager.

Nominations must be received by Council by 5.00pm on Monday, 18 March 2013.

To obtain a copy of the terms of reference and position profile, please contact John Wright on 6238 8111 during business hours.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

PO Box 348
Bungendore NSW 2621

PALERANG COUNCIL

SENIORS' WEEK LUNCHEON — BRAIDWOOD

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2013

Council is sponsoring an event during Seniors' Week and everyone over 55 years of age is invited to join in the celebration.

Palerang seniors are invited to attend a luncheon at the Servicemen's Club commencing at 12.00 midday on **Tuesday, 19 March 2013**.

Entertainment will be provided by local Braidwood residents. A shuttle bus service will be available from Bungendore and Captains Flat.

Please contact Council's customer service staff on 6238 8111 to register your attendance for catering purposes and to book a seat on the bus by 11 March 2013.

Peter Bascomb
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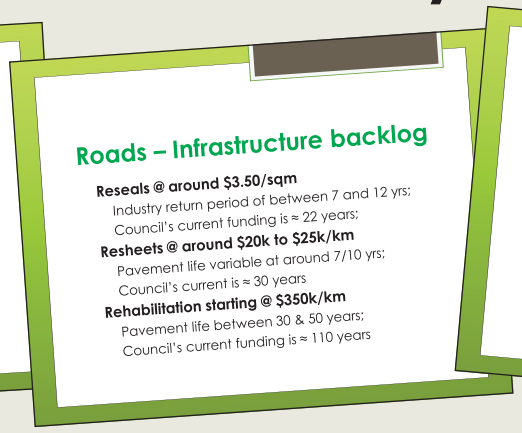
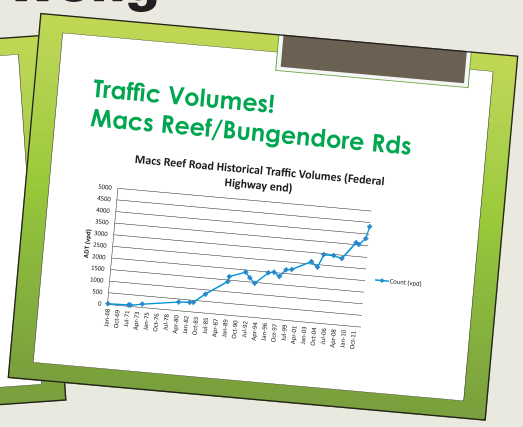
Major roadworks in Burra and Bywong





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TWO OF PALERANG'S most highly-used roads are being upgraded this quarter. Council has a huge roads network and a considerable maintenance backlog as the slides on this page show.

Details of Burra and Macs Reef road repairs, including a six week road closure starting in April of Macs Reef Rd are in the Council news update (below). You'll also find there first responder ambulance and teleworking news that should be of interest to the whole community.

The road closure is for repair and widening of the hill on Macs Reef Rd and will affect the '4,000 vehicle movements a day' that now hammer the road surface and affect the residential driveways of Bywong on the route. Drivers will need to find alternative routes.

Council estimates that closing the road for the six week period will save at least $100,000 of the $1.3 million price-tag for the upgrade and shave at least two weeks off the timeline.

The graph on this page shows how Macs Reef Rd traffic has skyrocketed in the same timeframe as establishment of the defence headquarters (HJOC) on the Kings Highway while much defence housing is in Gunghalin. The impost of this on Bywong residents and the Council's coffers remains unresolved.

Bywong residents living within the 'closed section' discussed ongoing access with Council Director of Works Gordon Cunningham at a special meeting in February. The meeting drew an unprecedented 100 members of the Bywong and Wamboin communities. School bus services will continue through the site with special arrangements, the meeting was told. ■

DEAR JOHN

Cont'd from p4

I am continuing to work with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the Minister for Emergency Services to secure additional resources for the Bungendore brigade. Funding for stations and tankers in the current financial year is $410,000. I am informed that the district is currently discussing a funding program running out to 2016–17, which has a station and tanker asset program of between $400,000 and $550,000 per year.

For April you are invited to send YOUR brief and concise question for John Barilaro to **media@districtbulletin.com.au**.

We will pass on all questions to Mr Barilaro's office and select some for publication.

Local Environment Plan showered with attention

AS WE go to press, the exhibition phase for the Palerang Local Environment Plan (PLEP) has drawn to a close. Staff and councillors have commented on the volume of phone calls and mail they have received regarding the PLEP.

Much of this interest seems to have been triggered by a letter to all residents informing them of the new formal name of their living or farming land use zone according to the state template for LEPs (in other words, required by the state planning authority).

People who used to be in 'rural residential' zones are now residing in Environmental Living (E4) zones and some rural landholders have found their land rezoned from 'rural' to Environmental Management (E3). Some residents fear that the real impact of this may run deeper than just the name change and a few apparently don't like to be associated with the name 'environmental'. Mayor Pete Harrison has conceded that the zoning in rural areas may need some revision.

With respect to permitted land uses, Mayor Harrison notes two points that may allay some concerns. "First," he says, "consent to the use of land for a named purpose implies permission to use the land for ancillary or incidental purposes.

"In the case of rural residential land the approval of a dwelling house implicitly authorises the use of the land for a range of uses normally associated with a dwelling on rural residential land. This could include the grazing of animals to manage grass growth or as a hobby, for recreation, or simply as pets.

"The other point is that existing user rights, which are granted under the EP&A Act and regulation, apply to all land and override any new provisions imposed by the PLEP. As such, any activity that is currently being lawfully practiced can be carried on under the new PLEP."

Much of the resident's concerns may reflect being suddenly faced with a legal document with its own required language."If there is this level of misunderstanding, I think the LEP will have to be rewritten, at least in part to clarify things," new councillor Peter Marshall told the *Bulletin*. ■

Community Options Illawarra provides a case management program servicing the Palerang and Upper Lachlan Shires

We have a local office based in Bungendore and the program supports people of frail age, younger people with disabilities and their carers and people with complex care needs.

We focus on supporting you to strengthen your ability and capacity by completing a comprehensive assessment and providing individual goal setting, information, referral to services, service coordination and monitoring.

Case management can link you into sustainable local support services and assist you to build the relationships and connections that enable you to participate and contribute in your local and wider community.

Community Options Illawarra Inc believes in:

- The right of people to make choices in their own lives.
- The right of people to dignity, respect, privacy and confidentiality.
- The right of people to be valued as individuals.
- The right of people to access services on a non-discriminatory basis.
- The right of the community of accountable and responsive services.

Community Options Illawarra Inc
Community Options - Quality Options

Bungendore Office: Ph **6238 0053** Fx **6238 0589** Email **maree.o'rourke@coi.org.au**
Bungendore Community Health Centre, 2 Majara St *(PO Box 355, Bungendore NSW 2621)*

Palerang Council News

PALERANG COUNCIL

Road works

Council will be undertaking several major road works projects in the coming months.

Burra Road

Flood repair works near Candy Road are now complete and work has commenced on major pavement rehabilitation works on the section leading down to Little Burra Road. These works involve some minor realignment of the road and clearing of trees on the road verge to allow for widening of the pavement. Weather permitting, works will be complete by the end of March.

Bungendore Roundabout

Initial services location works have been completed on the intersection of Ellendon and Gibraltar Streets in preparation for the construction of the new roundabout. The proposed works, which include angle parking bays on Ellendon Street, on the northern side of the roundabout, and parking space line marking in Gibraltar Street, will commence later this month and run until the end of May, weather permitting.

Macs Reef Road

Following consultation with local residents, Council will proceed with the temporary closure of Macs Reef Road to expedite the rehabilitation of the section between Bankers and Newington Roads. As a result, Macs Reef Road will be permanently closed to through traffic while the initial earthworks are undertaken. The closure is expected to come into effect on Monday 8 April, and remain in place for 6 weeks. The road will be re-opened, under traffic management, while the final surface is prepared and sealed.

Works are expected to be complete by the end of July, and residents are encouraged to use alternate routes throughout the intervening period. To reach the Federal Highway, heading to north Canberra, the detour along Bungendore Road takes less than 2 minutes longer under normal traffic conditions. For traffic heading to Sutton Road and south Canberra, the detour along Weeroona Drive and Norton Road is also less than 2 minutes longer. Factoring in delays at the road works when the road is initially reopened, the detours will be a quicker route, in most cases, for the duration of the works.

Captains Flat Floodplain Risk Management Community Forum

The Captains Flat Floodplain Risk Management Committee will hold a public information session, starting at 6.30pm on Thursday 14 March. Council's consultant will provide an update on progress with the flood study.

An important part of this meeting is to seek confirmation from attendees that the model being developed is accurately predicting the behaviour of previous floods. As such, community members who have had experience with flooding in Captains Flat are encouraged to attend.

Smart Work Hubs Workshop

Regional Development Australia ACT and Southern Inland have received funding to investigate the feasibility and promote the concept of Smart Work Hubs in our region. A workshop will be held in the Bungendore War Memorial Hall, 5.30–7.00pm on Thursday 14 March to outline the concept and answer any questions interested residents may have about the proposal.

The program targets employers and anyone who currently commutes to work who would like to evaluate teleworking as an option in their workplace.

For more information, please contact Richard at Regional Development Australia Southern Inland on 6297 0966.

Community First Responder Information Session

The Community First Responder (CFR) program operates under the auspices of the Ambulance Service of NSW and seeks to extend the services that can be provided within small or remote communities. Ambulance NSW will host a public meeting on Monday 18 March, at 7.00pm in the Bungendore Council Chambers, to provide information about this program.

CFR volunteers receive formal training and accreditation from the Ambulance Service of NSW, and provide a first response patient care service in communities where ambulance services may not be immediately available. Local residents who may be interested in developing these life-saving skills and helping to expand the services available within our community are encouraged to attend.

Seniors Week

Council will hold its annual Seniors Week luncheon at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Tuesday 19 March. Entertainment will be provided and residents over the age of 55 years are invited to attend.

Council has also arranged for a bus to pick up residents from the Captains Flat Community Hall at 10.30am, and the Bungendore Council office at 11.15am, returning after the luncheon.

Bookings are essential for the lunch and the bus. Please contact Council (see below) to book your place.

10 Majara Street, Bungendore 2621 • 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood 2622 • 1300 735 025 • records@palerang.nsw.gov.au • www.palerang.nsw.gov.au • www.facebook.com/PalerangCouncil •

> Palerang development approvals p8

UPDATE

Recreational shooting in national parks: on hold

AT THE END of February came the sudden news that recreational shooting in National Parks is on hold at least until June as a governance review is put in place of the taxpayer-funded Game Council which issues hunting licenses.

This follows an investigation into alleged illegal trespass and hunting activities by two senior Game Council employees in western NSW.

According to *Sydney Morning Herald* chief political correspondent Sean Nicholls, Premier Barry O'Farrell told Parliament the report by the Internal Audit Bureau cited evidence of "alleged illegal activities" by one Game Council employee, whom he did not name, and a Game Council volunteer. A copy of the report was given to police.

Opponents, including the National Parks Association (NPA) and Labor and Green Opposition in the NSW Parliament are now calling for the controversial political trade-off with the Shooters and Fishers Party to be scrapped entirely.

Earlier in the month it was revealed that the O'Farrell government proposed to allocate $19.1 million of taxpayer's money to facilitate the bloodsport in parks, badged benignly as 'supplementary pest control'.

The irony is that the context of this deal was to raise, not spend, public money by gaining shooter MLA votes to sell the public-owned electricity generators.

The risks of park staff and users being shot (high powered ammunition can travel three kilometres according to ballistics experts) and the threats to wildlife sheltering in parks are real issues.

"Of course when some people go out in the bush with a gun and see a wallaby or kangaroo, they shoot it. Particularly if they've not bagged anything else: it's a given," said one well-placed observer.

"Mr O'Farrell first promised that he would not 'turn your national parks into hunting reserves' and that 'a limited number of areas under strict conditions'. Now it seems that half the area open to hunting will have no supervision and the hunters will have the same relaxed conditions as in our state forests," said NPA anti-hunting campaign coordinator Justin McKee, of proposed zones for hunting in a government document before the program was put on hold.

— Maria Taylor

State Forest goings on

LAST AUGUST, the *Tumbarumba Times* published an article detailing complaints and anger from some local farmers about the activities of some licensed Game Council shooters, mainly deer hunters, around and in nearby state forests.

Reports from the Tooma and Menagle districts told of trespass on private land, shooting of non-game animals, and intimidation of landholders if they disagree with shooting on their land. One farmer found a bullet hole in the bonnet of his ute. Another suspected the shooting of a wedge-tailed eagle. Access roads have been ripped up and rubbish left on roadsides. The deer were reportedly few and far between.

"Farmers and local residents should not have to live in fear as they do now," said the article, claiming a lack of Game Council oversight or control.

The *Tumbarumba Times* correspondent, George Martin, told the *Bulletin*, "I get ongoing stories about this and things haven't changed. Even some of the locals who have and use guns are upset."

Martin also said a lot of people in the surrounding districts are opposed to shooting in national parks and nature reserves.

Dear Editor ...

HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS

A hunter's perspective

I'M DRAWN to write in response to a number of incorrect assertions, in the *District Bulletin*, by the Kosciuszko Huts Association. The association should be commended for its excellent work in maintaining and restoring the grazing heritage of huts in our alpine region.

The tranquillity of our national parks is in more danger from the ravages of feral animals than it is from licensed and registered hunters. The evidence and science clearly demonstrates that feral species are a clear and present danger to our unique Australian natural environment.

Game Council trained hunters by their activities are going to protect the unique Australian flora and fauna while reducing the feral threat overall to the national parks' environment. Goats (one of many feral threats) breed up in large numbers within the safe confines of national parks. They have rampantly destroyed native flora on the coastal escarpments of the NSW South Coast.

I have seen the damage they cause and I have seen how responsible licensed and registered hunters can make a positive difference. Once the feral threat is reduced Australian native flora and fauna can regenerate successfully.

In New Zealand, hunters and trampers often share huts and food – particularly during bouts of extreme inclement weather. Hunters in New Zealand are allowed to have their rifles fitted with silencers to ensure they have greater success in reducing feral populations. Reducing the noise made by a hunter's firearm ensures feral pests are not spooked continuing to graze undisturbed.

The positive relationship between park rangers and hunters results in hunters recording GPS locations of invasive flora notifying rangers as they exit parks and reserves. A very cost effective and accurate method of addressing a very real environmental problem.

The assertion that licensed and registered hunters represent a major risk to national park users is unfounded. Feral pigs marauding through a campsite at night or meeting a pack of wild crossbred dogs, pose a far greater real threat. I still remember the noise of wild boars fighting in the dead of night, chasing a sow, while wrapped up in my sleeping bag in Yadboro State Forest – it sparked a deep primeval fear.

The assertion that there is an increase in illegal amateur hunting activity lacks credibility, particularly when the suggested solution is to provide more funding for supervision of illegal activity. Licensed hunters, in fact, report any observed illegal activity. The NSW Game Council prosecutes any person hunting illegally in its areas of management.

It is unfortunate the Kosciuszko Huts Association has no confidence in the Game Council when in fact they are complementary. The allegation against one Game Council officer was found to be false and he has been cleared of any wrong doing as he was in Sydney at the time of the alleged incident.

A cursory look at the Game Council website clearly shows that bow-hunting has been available since its inception. It is not something new resulting from hunters being allowed into specific NSW national parks.

Whilst I sympathise with Mr Scully, the greater good that can be achieved, for the Australian environment, by allowing hunters into national parks outweighs the unfounded fear generated by anti-hunting groups.

— Wayne Brown, Queanbeyan

(Ed note: The Kosciuszko Huts Association wants it known that it not only fixes huts but represents a wide cross-section of park users. Also, the investigation of alleged activities by NSW Game Council officials in western NSW involved two people, not just the individual who was cleared of wrong-doing.)

On shooting, feral predators, weeds and gut organisms

JUST READING the February *District Bulletin*. Excellent as always. I compliment the editor, Maria Taylor, on her choice of subjects and fearless tackling of sensitive issues.

Recreational shooting in national parks still beats me, it is so totally nonsensical. (And infuriating. You can tell I need to learn to meditate badly as this is really disturbing my inner peace.)

I want to compliment Frankie Seymour on her excellent article on cats and foxes and what damage they really do, apart from killing rabbits, and on how cruel 1080 and similar approaches are.

Re foxes, let's be grateful they prey on (equally cute and innocent) rabbits, and if you are worried about your poultry, build an enclosure. It can be done. I know quite a few locals who haven't lost any of their chooks, ducks or geese to foxes, although foxes are around.

I especially cannot understand people who HATE foxes and get enjoyment from trapping and treating them cruelly. The fox did not choose to come to Australia. He does what nature intended him to do.

We owe it to ourselves to be compassionate and look for non-violent ways wherever possible. According to the Dalai Lama, it is always possible! If there is one true pest on the planet, it is us humans! (Of course, you and I are exempt.)

I'd like to add another point to the verminology that everything unwanted is classified as a pest or weed: I obligingly poison the weeds on my land every year, as for a petite, busy female on 36 acres, the non-poisoning, uprooting and digging out approach is too tall an order.

If it were financially feasible for me, I would have an extensive soil analysis done and then would top-dress my land to *heal* it from its mineral imbalances (which the weeds

Continued next page

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Are planning rules adequate for extreme weather events?

Alarm raised re Platypus in Queanbeyan

HEAVY rainfall in recent months has raised the alarm with two incidents involving large construction sites flooding downstream waterways with mud and silt.

At the end of January prolonged heavy rain breached a temporary settling dam at the Googong township construction site sending large volumes of mud down Googong Creek and into the Queanbeyan River. The Queanbeyan River flows into Lake Burley Griffin.

At the end of February, a separate flooding incident at Majors Creek, prompted the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue Big Island Mining with an immediate Clean-Up Notice for the Dargues Reef Mine construction site.

Run-off from the site's earthworks was washed into Spring Creek, a tributary of Majors Creek, on 24 February. Track construction without sediment and erosion control was identified as the culprit.

In Queanbeyan, Waterwatch volunteers raised the alarm about possible effects on Platypus downstream.

"Turbidity at this level will smother aquatic plants and gilled aquatic animals including fish, tadpoles and many aquatic invertebrates that Platypus feed on" said Dr Stephen Skinner, Waterwatch Coordinator for the Molonglo Catchment Group Inc. "The mud could also cause infilling of holes in pools and riffles that would otherwise provide egg-laying sites for native fish."

The best immediate guess is that the Platypus moved further downstream to avoid the turbidity. A new Queanbeyan count will occur in 2014 while the latest count indicated that Platypus numbers declined following floods in 2010 and 2012.

The Molonglo Catchment Group in Queanbeyan now thinks state and council planning instruments should be changed in response to the risk of increasing numbers of severe or extreme flooding events in the era of climate change.

"They may have been applying a 'one in 50-' or 'one in 100-year' yardstick for flood-resistant construction, but we're saying these regulations now need to take into account that events are happening a lot more frequently," said Anna See, coordinator of the catchment group.

She said that CIC, which is developing Googong has been co-operating with the community group on catchment matters since the flooding event and is also talking about setting up a community liaison committee for the development.

The EPA invites members of the public to report impacts on the environment to Enviro Line on 131 555.

DEAR EDITOR

Cont'd from p7

are trying to address, for instance St Johns Wort grows in copper deficient soils).

Last but not least, there was Sonja Chandler's *Mind control by gut organisms*, which might just be what my lack of self-discipline needed to hear for a new incentive!

Sonja explains how gut organisms can release brain-altering chemicals, influencing our food choices to be what *they* like to eat.

So all of you guys with a sweet tooth – that includes yer Scotch – realise you're not necessarily the one making the choices ...hey, my gut organisms love top quality marzipan! I'm gonna hit'em with celery!

Good on you Maria, keep up that fantastic paper.

— Brigitte Heyer, Carwoola

Across the radar screen

From our horse-loving English cousins

It was only a matter of time!!!

A woman has been taken into hospital after eating horse meat burgers from Tesco*. Her condition is said to be stable.

Not entirely sure how Tesco are going to get over this hurdle.

Tesco Quarter Pounders: The affordable way to buy your daughter the pony that she's always wanted!

Had some burgers from Tesco for my tea last night... I still have a bit between my teeth.

Tesco now forced to deny presence of zebra in burgers, as shoppers confuse barcodes for serving suggestions.

These Tesco burger jokes are going on a bit. Talk about flogging a dead... NO! NO NO NO!

** British multinational grocery and general merchandise retailer*

PALERANG COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.* Council approved the following development applications in February 2013.

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

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2011.042	Change of Use of Two Buildings – Dwelling to Commercial Premises and Garage to Dwelling, and Continued Use of Advertising Structure	5/02/2013	Lot 1 DP817205 13 Gibraltar StreetBUNGENDORE
DA.2012.313	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	11/02/2013	Lot 1 Sec 10 DP758696 Clyde Street MONGARLOWE
DA.2012.323	Dwelling	5/02/2013	Lot 74 DP1172245 5 Galloway Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.325	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	28/02/2013	Lot 1 DP1008889 5919 Araluen Road ARALUEN
DA.2012.326	Change of Use	7/02/2013	Lot 7 Sec 24 DP758183 55 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.336	Garage, Water Tank and Removal of Four Trees	12/02/2013	Lot 4 DP262318 913 Bungendore Road BYWONG
DA.2013.001	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dual Occupancy	28/02/2013	Lot 113 DP262270 107 Bingley Way WAMBOIN
DA.2013.002	Dwelling	12/02/2013	Lot 5 DP1137460 29 Quong Tart Close ARALUEN
DA.2013.015	Tree Removal	6/02/2013	Lot 5 DP255514 198 Radcliffe Circuit CARWOOLA
DA.2013.018	Tree Removal x six	6/02/2013	Lot 15 DP793294 825 Norton Road WAMBOIN

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Crossword

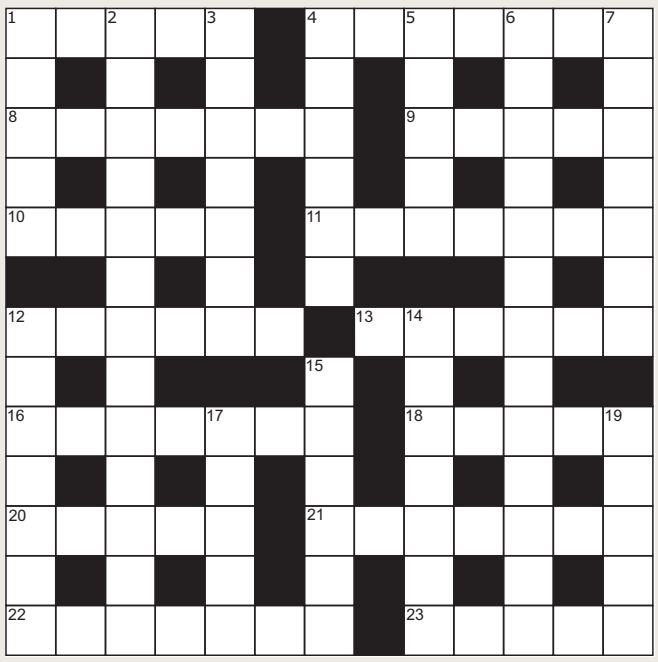
Solution p14

Across

1 Type of parrot (5)
4 Salad vegetable (7)
8 Takes a firm stand (7)
9 Savoury jelly (5)
10 Ringo _____, otherwise known as Richard Starkey (5)
11 Lewd (7)
12 Swim like a dog in shallow water (6)
13 Force or compel (6)
16 Superior skill learned by study, practice and observation (7)
18 Provide food (5)
20 Exhibition of cowboy skills (5)
21 Display (7)
22 Physician who performs operations (7)
23 Off-colour (5)

Down

1 Permanently disfigures (5)
2 Dried product used to make a sweet dessert sauce (7,6)
3 Someone who dissipates resources self-indulgently (7)
4 Capital of Portugal (6)
5 Stout-bodied amphibians (5)
6 Impossible to foretell (13)
7 Eliminate from the body (7)
12 Paper-reed (7)
14 God of wine, also known as Dionysus (7)
15 Towards the tail of a ship (6)
17 Give expression to (5)
19 Have another go (5)



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4 1 4

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mcgrath.com.au/173817

Guide over $1,290,000
Auction Saturday 16th March 2.00pm*
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Call 6175 0014
*Auction to be held at Gundaroo Hall

BRINDABELLA
356 Brindabella Road — 2 1

Nestled in the heart of the historic Brindabella Valley, this two bedroom home provides an idyllic sanctuary on the banks of the Goodradigbee River.

For Sale over $570,000
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0403 139 701
Call 6175 0021
mcgrath.com.au/172996

CLEAR RANGE
1760 Smiths Road — 1 1 2

Picturesque and elevated 102ha (252ac) block with unspoiled native forest, abundant wildlife and river access. Approximately 30 minutes to Tuggeranong.

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Call 6175 0021
mcgrath.com.au/177501

COLLECTOR
24 Church Street — 24 8 12

The 'Bushranger Hotel' is a beautiful pub that typifies all that is good in the Australian character. With a seven day license and a commercial kitchen you will need to hurry.

For Sale $825,000
Richard Manning
0408 616 840
Call 6262 5122
mcgrath.com.au/173443

GUNDAROO
1097 Brooks Creek Lane — 4 2 5

This charming home has wonderful feel with timber raked ceilings, bay windows which flood the house with natural light and 20 ac of picturesque bush to explore.

For Sale over $650,000
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
Call 6175 0014
mcgrath.com.au/172499

GUNDAROO
14 David Street — 3 2 3

Charming loft home with wonderful appeal set amidst cottage gardens. Solar passive with north facing outlook, orchard, 1,939sqm block, double carport, bore and garage.

For Sale over $590,000
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
Call 6175 0014
mcgrath.com.au/163525

GUNDAROO
668 Back Creek Road — 4 1 2

This scenic property offers not just a lifestyle, but a way of life. Set on 135 acres with valley views, creek, four water tanks, bore, workshop and shearing shed.

For Sale
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
Call 6175 0014
mcgrath.com.au/170803

GUNDAROO
Lot 102 Back Creek Road

A-grade farming land with river frontage and productive river flats. This 250 acre lifestyle property has a number of scenic building sites with Yass River valley views.

Guide over $690,000
Auction 16th March 2.00pm*
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
Call 6175 0014
mcgrath.com.au/175053
*Auction to be held at Gundaroo Hall

GUNDAROO
Lot 103 Back Creek Road

22.9 acre allotment with views over Yass Valley, several building sites, power poles run to the site for easy connection and a spring-fed creek traverses the block

Guide over $330,000
Auction 16th March 2.00pm*
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
Call 6262 5122
mcgrath.com.au/175941
*Auction to be held at Gundaroo Hall

GUNDAROO
Lot 106 Back Creek Road

18.7 acres of level land, this scenic allotment offers an ideal opportunity to build with numerous house sites, power poles that run across the block and Yass Valley views.

Guide over $310,000
Auction 16th March 2.00pm*
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
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mcgrath.com.au/176554
*Auction to be held at Gundaroo Hall

GUNNING
Lot 8 Biala Street

25 acres and town water? Unheard of. Idyllic rural lifestyle with village amenities just a short stroll away. Sealed road access, power, phone, dam and views.

Guide over $200,000
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*Auction to be held at Gundaroo Hall

MURRUMBATEMAN
100 McIntosh Circuit — 3 1 2

Set on two acres this is the best value for money property on the market. Freshly painted, new carpet, bathroom renovations, this home will delight you.

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REIDSDALE
387 Sawyers Ridge Road — 3 2 2

'Cotherstone' is beautiful. 112 acres with a permanent creek, six dams, cattle yards and crush, glorious gardens, this solar passive home is not to be missed.

For Sale $745,000
View by appointment
Richard Manning
0408 616 840
Call 6262 5122
mcgrath.com.au/170440

SUTTON
26 Bywong Street — 4 2 1

This fantastic residence with versatile floorplan comprises of a large lounge, din rm and o/plan kitch/family rm. Features slow comb fire, a/c, three water tanks and bore.

For Sale over $659,000
View by appointment
Christopher Dixon
0414 819 377
Call 6175 0014
mcgrath.com.au/172205

DALTON
Lot 2 Bushs Lane

Pristine 141ha (348ac) native bush block adjoining wildlife sanctuary. Stunning panoramic views.

For Sale over $350,000
View by appointment
John Sneddon
0403 139 701
Call 6175 0021
mcgrath.com.au/177985

WEE JASPER
Doctors Flat Road

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

For Sale over $200,000
View by appointment
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March sky, asteroid hits Russia!

THE MARCH evening skies allow us an excellent opportunity to see a multitude of bright stars (seen on the accompanying map), as well as the beginnings of the bright Milky Way that will be seen at its best during the winter.

Many of the bright stars are relatively nearby, in our local spiral arm of the Galaxy, and are of differing colours and sizes. Can you spot the colours? Straddling overhead lie the first, and second brightest stars in the whole sky; Sirius and Canopus. Both are white.

To the north lies the constellation Orion, with blue-white Rigel and orange Betelgeuse. White Procyon lies to the north-east with orange Aldebaran near Jupiter. High in the south-west lies blue-white Achenar, with yellow Alpha Centauri reappearing low in the south-east.

The different surface temperatures of the stars cause them to be different colours. Try comparing Betelgeuse to Rigel, and Sirius to Aldebaran and see the colour differences for yourself.

The planets in March

March provides us with a good chance to see the giant planet Jupiter, the only bright planet in the March evening skies. Jupiter is seen as a bright yellowish star towards the north in the constellation Taurus. It lies near the Hyades and Pleiades, two bright star clusters described last month.

Have a look at the clusters and at Jupiter though a pair of binoculars. Can you see any of Jupiter's four bright moons? A telescope will reveal this gas giant's slightly squashed oval shape, due to its rapid spin, as well as a wealth of detail on the colourful cloud tops which change hourly.

The planet Saturn is becoming easier to see, rising in the early hours. It will be at its best for the year next month, and will be described further then. ■

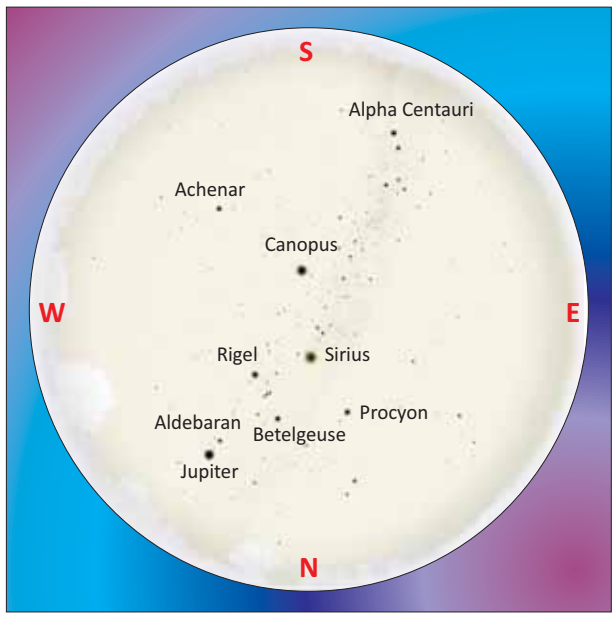

CHART (9PM ON 15 MARCH) PRODUCED USING THE *STELLARIUM* SOFTWARE PACKAGE

— Lake George Fire District —

Late summer can still invite problems

***Doug Palmer** heaves a sigh of relief but it's not necessarily over yet*

WEATHER. Out of the frying pan and into the … cool, cool swimming pool with a nice shower at the end.

In contrast to January, February has been quite benign. I'm usually a little nervous when I say things like this, as it's not quite the end of the month when I write and I have a mental headline of "*Freak conditions leave thousands homeless*" running through my head, with this happy little article just below it.

I think I can risk it, though.

Despite such cheery thoughts, the fire season will still run at least to the end of March. Late-season bushfires are a bit of a feature of this area.

There's still plenty of fuel for the burning and there's still room for high pressure systems to squat over central Australia and give us a run of hot and windy days. If you haven't yet, there's still time, and plenty of reason, to do some planning.

New era of catastrophe what's the warning mean

January was the first real try of the new warning system for a 'catastrophic' day. I got plenty of warnings, by SMS, phone and SMS again. I haven't heard of anyone not getting a warning. I imagine that the next time, people will have a clearer understanding of what the messages mean.

The catastrophic fire warnings just mean that the next day has that danger rating. It does not (necessarily) mean that there is a bushfire near you. It does mean, however, that you need to be clear in your own mind about what you intend to do, particularly if you live in an area which *could* be impacted by a bushfire.

The simplest choice is to be somewhere else. Lots of paving, short green grass, that sort of thing. Towns. Cities. That's what the message means when it says "not being in a bush fire prone area".

Being from Melbourne, my go-to reaction on boiling hot days is to visit something like a nice, air conditioned art gallery and watch the sweat turn to icicles on my arms.

Stay not go means <u>you</u> take action

If you do intend to stay, then you absolutely, positively must have a plan for what you intend to do. Not just a vague outline of something you might consider doing when you see how things are going, but a clear, worked-out understanding of when you need to take decisions and what you're going to do.

If you intend to protect your property, make sure that you have prepared it properly before time and you have sufficient resources and communication. Remember that, particularly on a catastrophic day, we'll do our best but the RFS may not be able to aid you.

If you have plans to leave, make sure that you've got a clear idea of when you need to do so and make plans for several escape routes so that you're not stuck like some Bond villain, thinking "But that's impossible!"

Have a list of what you need to take, so you don't forget things like pets – or people. Make sure that you have a plan for meeting up later and accounting for everybody.

It's worth remembering that phones and the internet may not be available just when you need them. Mobile phone systems can quite easily get overloaded if everybody wants to use them at the same time.

Landlines can get burnt, knocked over, tangled in falling trees and otherwise incommoded. So make sure you have some alternate way of finding people and information. A battery-powered portable radio tuned to the ABC (666 MHz AM) will, if all else fails, keep you informed about what's going on.

Naturally, I hope that all of this won't be necessary. But I do like to think that everybody is looking forward to a well-prepared end to the fire season. ■

> RFS help around the block for seniors p14

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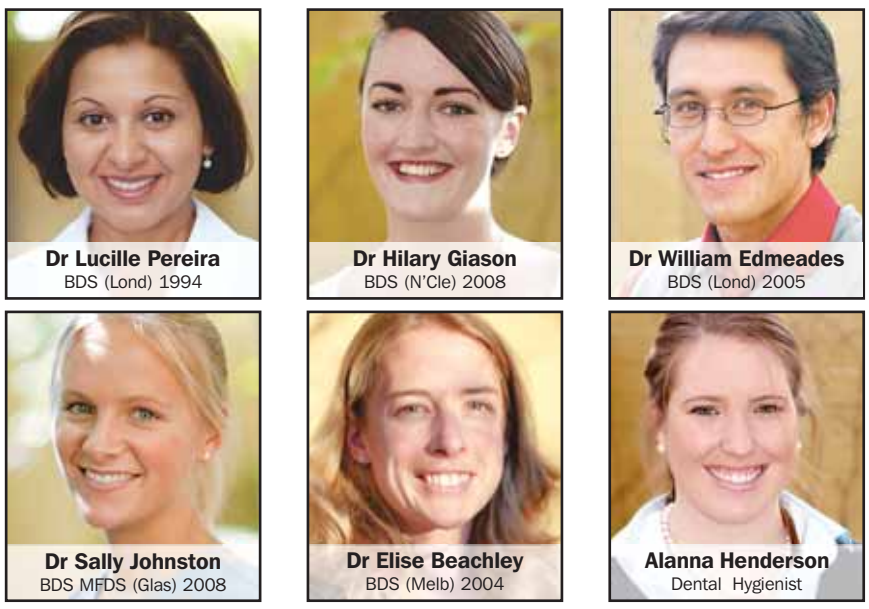

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The asteroid that 'hit' Russia — after orbiting sun for 4.5 billion years

On 15 February at 14:20 Canberra time a large meteor was seen over central Russia, exploding into a bright fireball and releasing a huge shockwave that shattered glass and injured many people in nearby towns.

Movie still of the 15 February meteor strike over central Russia.

Widely reported in the media and captured on camera, this was the largest impact on Earth since 1908. But what exactly did impact the Earth that day, how often does it happen, and does it pose a threat to humankind?

The object that entered the atmosphere was a small asteroid, rocky debris left over from the formation of the solar system. It was approximately 17m in size and had been quietly orbiting the sun for the last 4.5 billion years.

On 15 February, it came close enough to be captured by Earth's gravity. It heated to thousands of degrees as it travelled as a meteor through the atmosphere at 30km/s, appearing brighter than the sun to observers on the ground.

Most of the rock was obliterated by friction with the air, until what was left exploded 30–50km above the surface releasing a huge shockwave with the same power output as 30 Hiroshima bombs. Small black pebble-like meteorite fragments are currently being recovered and analysed.

At first glance it seems we caught an asteroid of 'stony' type (compared to others that are predominantly iron), originally from the 'Asteroid Belt' between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Fortunately, cataclysmic impacts are rare, but are we overdue?

Such impact events happen regularly in the solar system, asteroids of this size are too small to be seen approaching, and are thought to impact Earth once every century or so.

Cataclysmic impacts are far rarer, the last involved a 10km asteroid that impacted 65 million years ago leading to the extinction of 75 percent of all life on Earth, including the dinosaurs. Such a colossal impact can of course happen again, with one expected every 20 million years or so.

At first glance, we're way overdue; however astronomers have spent considerable time searching the skies for objects big enough to pose a serious threat. Most are now identified and none threaten us for the foreseeable future. Unlike the dinosaurs, we'll have a warning, with hopefully enough time to do something about it.

Beautiful flowers of the Nerriga area

with Jo Walker

THE RECENTLY upgraded road to Nowra, via Nerriga, offers an abundance of interesting roadside vegetation – especially once the sandstone country on the eastern side of Nerriga is reached. Sandstone regions are known for their high plant biodiversity, and this part of the countryside certainly supports that knowledge.

To reach Nerriga from the west on sealed roads, take the Tarago Road from Bungendore, cross the Goulburn-Kings Highway intersection at Tarago, and pass Mayfield Road on the right, then Lumley Road on the left. Another 12 or so kilometres on from Lumley Road, turn left onto Sandy Point Road – then, after another 6 kilometres, turn right towards Nerriga (someone has scrawled 'to coast' on the sign, as it hasn't yet been updated to indicate it's the road to Nowra).

A further 15 kilometres brings you to Oallen Ford, a low-level bridge over the Shoalhaven River. This spot is worth a short stop, if only to look at the *Grevillea arenaria*, a large shrub with greyish-green leaves and rather sparsely scattered dark pink and greenish yellow flowers.

About 14 kilometres on, turn left onto the Nerriga and Nowra Road. Nerriga is about 4 kilometres from this junction. (Or you can take the Nerriga Road off the King's Highway near Braidwood, only be aware that this stretch to Nerriga is unsealed.)

There is a public school on the left, and from the school to the Morton National Park sign the distance is 8 kilometres. The sign is on the right-hand side of the road, but is partly obscured by vegetation.

On the left-hand side of the road, there is a small open area where cars can park, and from there the Endrick River valley and some of the pagoda-shaped rocks can be seen. There is interesting vegetation on both sides of the road, but our plant group spent more time on the flat rock plateau just above the sign on the right.

Flowers in the rocks

It's amazing how many beautiful plants can grow in what looks like solid rock. There were tall shrubs – the cream-flowering *Hakea dactyloides* and *Leptospermum rotundifolium* full of white, pink or mauve flowers.

Kunzea parvifolia (right) was displaying its fluffy mauve flower-heads and *Calytrix tetragona* was putting on a show with its masses of star-shaped white and pinkish flowers. Some of the *Calytrix* had finished flowering and the little shrubs were covered in bright to dark red calyces which are an attraction long after the flowers have fallen.

Touga Road

A kilometre or two further along the road, a dirt road turns off to the left. This is Touga Road. We've driven into it several times on dry days as far as The Jumps, an impressive wall of conglomerate rock at a steep bend in the road. The road has a fine silty surface though, and may be a bit difficult to negotiate when wet.

The vegetation there is quite dense in places, but there are also heath-like stretches on some of the rocky areas. There are tall eucalypts and a few mallees, with a diverse understorey of *Banksia ericifolia*, *B. marginata*, *Isopogon anethifolius*, several species of Geebung (*Persoonia* spp.) and many others.

For the less adventurous, there is plenty of parking space and lots of plants right at the beginning of the road. Along with the dainty, pink-flowering *Boronia algida* and *Calytrix tetragona*, there were several species of yellow- and orange-flowered peas as well as lots of *Grevillea baueri* (right), a small to medium sized plant with reddish bronze new growth and red and cream flowers.

An interesting find at that spot were two Beard Orchids, *Calochilus platychilus* (Purple Beard Orchid, as seen on left) and *C. campestris*, and a Bird Orchid, *Simpliglottis chlorantha*.

The best time to visit this area is spring and early summer, although even in February the bright pink flowers of the little *Stylidium lineare* (a Trigger Plant) were evident when we were there recently, and *Goodenia bellidifolia*, *G. heterophylla* and *Platysace lanceolata* were adding touches of yellow and white to the landscape.

And, for those of you who don't like to be too far from food and drink, the pub in Nerriga (opposite an interesting piece of installation art!) now serves lunch and dinner on several days of the week.

This is altogether a lovely piece of our local countryside and well worth a visit. ■

Road to the pub

The NSW government spent $80 million building a beautiful road from Nowra to Nerriga with a view to getting freight from the Shoalhaven to the Hume Highway. Unfortunately Palerang has not had the dollars to seal its 17km section to the King's Highway from Nerriga.

Some don't mind. As they say: 'where else will you find an 80 million dollar road to the (Nerriga) pub?'

The Weedpatch

— with Rose-Marie Johnson

St John's Wort and its spread

MAXIMUM effort is needed for **St John's Wort** because it's so difficult to control. It spreads rapidly by suckering and prolific seeding, with tens of thousands of seeds per plant surviving up to 12 years. If let go for even one season it persists for a long time.

Unfortunately it's too late to break the seeding cycle by spraying after flowers turn brown, but better late than never. To reduce seeding now you could cut to remove pods (perhaps slashing and raking up large infestations).

Because Wort is so persistent, it's a shame that an all-out effort wasn't made to enforce its control when it first appeared in the region a couple of decades ago, and also when it was clearly spreading at a great rate during the last decade.

Now there are areas so heavily infested that control isn't feasible and the plan is to establish buffer zones for containment.

However, seed can still spread, for example on animal fur (as shown by new dense infestations around kangaroo remains) and along waterways. This is particularly a problem for landholders who control their Wort adjacent to those who don't, especially if the council doesn't properly enforce a decent buffer zone.

There have been discussions between landholders and local governments, eg at Burra, to establish priorities and strategies, but unfortunately these haven't taken into consideration the quality of affected land. Hopefully lessons have been learned and in future there will be sufficient effort to control weeds newly emerging in the region.

There is also hope that Paterson's Curse will be greatly reduced by biological controls in the next decade, and biological controls for Blackberries are also being trialled.

Continued p13

There is no evident effort to prevent infestation or enforce control in good quality public native grasslands, which also need special consideration as to where, when and how to use herbicides to minimize impact on sensitive native vegetation

PHOTO INSET: MARK IMHOF VRO.DPI.VIC.GOV.AU

Queanbeyan native grassland managed by NSW National Parks, being overrun by St John's Wort. Inset: St John's wort flower head.

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36-DAY TREK FOR FRIEND

Cont'd from p1

Though hikers can drink from the streams, on the ridges water is so scarce that it must be carried from the last food drop or water tank.

"One of the water tanks really saved us," Ally remembered of a stretch she did with brother Jack. "We'd only just got the last food drop from Dad, but I didn't do the lid on the bladder up properly. The water leaked everywhere. We only had about a litre left when we found the tank."

Toughest part is mental

The toughest part of the AAWT is the mental aspect that has discouraged more experienced hikers. For half of Ally's 36-day trek she was completely alone, walking up to 30km per day. She did have an early crisis of confidence and it was decided that her younger brother Jack would accompany her on some stretches.

"I had hoped to do it solo but Jack came along because it was so hard," Ally said. "You were just thinking of the same things over and over and over again, because there was no-one else, and it was just you walking."

Asked if she was ever frightened at night alone in her tent, she said she was too tired to be scared! But she did have one encounter with a wild dog snooping around. Her hiking sticks came in handy to shoo it away.

Hiking over Christmas

Ally and Jack set out on 8 December 2012, and immediately ran into challenges. "In Victoria, some of the paths were completely overgrown and hard to see," Ally said. "There were markers, but we got lost plenty of times."

On one occasion the pair criss-crossed the same area for several hours searching for the established trail. Ally carried a satellite telephone, lent to her from the Australian Federal Police, also GPS and mobile phone (with surprisingly good reception for much of the trip). Plus she carried a Spot Tracker,

Ally Durr on the trek – her pack was a mere 16 Kg of high tech camping gear and freeze-dried foodstuffs. She even cut the handle off her toothbrush to keep the weight down, says her Mum.

linked to the home computer. Her mother Tracey watched Ally's progress – and saw when they were lost, but at times no-one could help with directions immediately.

Crossing into NSW the going became easier with many sections running along maintained fire trails. Christmas was spent walking the trail. Ally was still on the trail when Queanbeyan selected her as Young Citizen of the Year.

"Mum actually told me over the sat phone," Ally said. "It certainly gave me something new to think about for a few days!"

Then, with just three days and 80km to go, Ally was pulled out. Severe fire danger weather forced the closure of several National Parks, including the last leg of Ally's journey. "We had to actually come back home for two days because it was the only place we could go." That was a "weird feeling" before she went back and finished her trek.

Lots of community support

"I had lots of support from my family and friends, and even strangers," Ally said. "The Lions Club sponsored me with the Outward Bound course. The Queanbeyan Tigers Club and the Captain's Flat Bowling Club also sponsored me to get all my gear because it was all very expensive."

With the great adventure over, Ally now has her focus set on completing Year 11 and 12. She will divide her time between studying and race-walking.

But the bush may yet call her back for another adventure. ■

Lyme disease in Australia

The presence and prevalence of tick-borne Lyme disease or something similar in Australia, is still being explored in public health and research circles.

With bacteria the culprits, early administration of antibiotics is the key to a cure which means people need to understand what early symptoms might mean.

Find out more about this disease and its possible spread in Australia at **www.lymedisease.org.au**.

The NSW health department (**www.health.nsw.gov.au**) also has a factsheet. Whether Australian ticks cause the very same infection as Northern Hemisphere ticks or cause something similar requires more research.

Teens living with terminal cancer: All ages can learn from this story

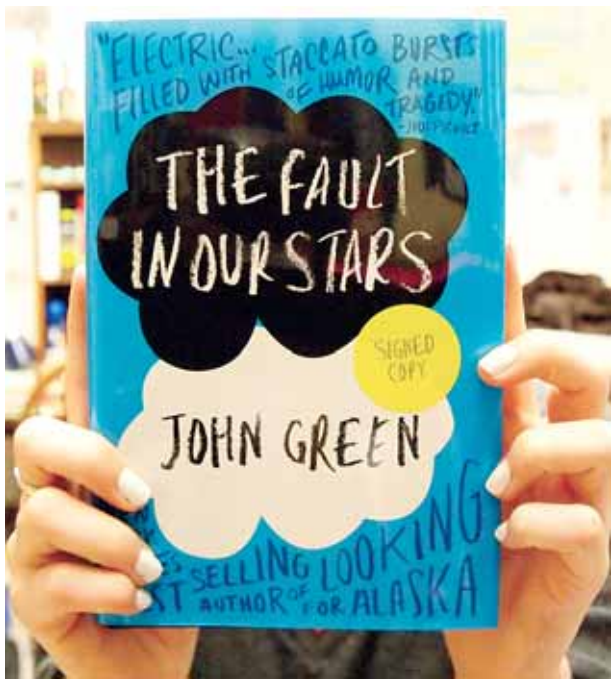
Reviewer Nick Overall

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS
by John Green
Penguin Books RRP $19.95

ACCLAIMED author of *Looking for Alaska*, John Green, brings us the story of Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters, a love story that is philosophical, sweet and even funny.

The novel opens with 16-year-old Grace reluctantly attending a support group for children living with cancer (which would be a similar organisation to Queanbeyan's Eden-Monaro support group). She has been diagnosed with stage four thyroid cancer.

At the support group she meets Augustus 'Gus' Waters, a former highschool basketball star who has lost his leg to osteosarcoma, another form of aggressive cancer. From here they begin a freeing journey in which they learn to love each other and themselves.



The Fault in Our Stars ***strikes a lot of chords emotionally and will have you thinking about it for a while after, particularly when it comes to teenagers complaining about their lives.***

The writing is engaging and it makes the challenges of living with cancer easy to understand for all ages and reading levels. The characters are very interesting, especially Grace and Augustus who are appealing, clever and funny. This is a strength but at the same time a weakness, because how they converse with each other at times is a lot more clever and articulate than you'd find with most 16 year olds.

This also occurs with other minor characters. While not too great a problem, given the likeability of the characters, you can see the author's hand behind it and so it can have the effect of pulling you out of the experience a little.

Nonetheless, the story is an appealing 'coming of age' story, set amidst tragic circumstances of young people facing the prospect of death and explores what that means for having to pack as much life as possible into such a potentially short time.

The other 'life' lesson is perhaps a little obvious, even for the younger audience that it's aimed at: 'make the most of what you have because you never know when that might be taken away'.

John Green writes from his own life experience and does very well

Much of Green's work is based on aspects of his life, and this, his fifth novel, is no exception. The author had spent a few months working as a student chaplain in a children's hospital and has said that it was his experiences during this time that provided some inspiration for *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Interest in the book has been strong and film rights were sold in early 2012. Reviews, as with much of Green's other work, including *Looking for Alaska*, *An Abundance of Katherines* and *Paper Town*, a number of which have made it to the *New York Times* bestsellers list, have largely been positive. Green has also won a number of awards and *Looking For Alaska* made it to the Top 10 Best Books for Young Adults in 2005.

Although I enjoyed this book, I suggest most of John Green's work seems primarily aimed towards teenage girls. He has gained a large online audience and much of the commentary does appear to come from younger females – although quite a few mums seem to find his work of interest as well. ■

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 Cont'd from p11

Now is the time to cut back blackberries, pull Paterson's Curse

Blackberries rapidly spread by seed, suckers and runners. If cut back each year they don't produce fruit on new canes. Now it's time to break the seeding cycle by cutting back fruiting canes and solarising or composting them. Then runners should be cut back before daughter plants form.

A second flush of **Paterson's Curse** is flowering (pictured below) and conditions are good for pulling. With a wet end to summer, **Serrated Tussock** may produce autumn seed, so it's best chipped soon.

WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU

African Lovegrass is producing seed, making it easier to find, but don't be fooled by any lack of curly tips in the current lush conditions. **Horehound** is best done before ripening burrs become a nuisance.

Skeleton Weed, now urgent, is too deep rooted to dig so is better suppressed by smothering. Other weeds worth targeting include **thistles**, **Fleabane**, **Wild Sage**, **Wireweed**, **Nightshade**, **Scarlet Pimpernel**, **Senecios**, **Hawksbeards**, **Dandelions**, **Salsify**, **Goatsbeard**, **Mustard Weed**, **Mallows**, **Mullein**, **Amaranth**, **Fat Hen**, **Cress**, **Willowherb** and **Centaury**.

Hope you can take advantage of the milder and wetter autumn weather for weeding.

(My different, monthly articles for the Stoney Creek Gazette can be found at http://www.carwoola.org.au/Gazette)

— THEATRE —

It's my party (and I'll die if I want to)

Starring: Henry Szeps; **Director:** Dennis Moore

[Opening lines:] RON: Good evening. At 10.23pm on January 24, my doctor gave me three months to live. By my calculations, that leaves me with exactly …111 minutes. So Dawn's invited the kids around for party pies and pavlova.

Gruff, well-ordered and quintessentially Aussie, family man Ron is convinced he is dying. In a magnanimous gesture of loving finality, he hosts a party to offer his wife and children a few last quality moments. As the minutes tick away, Ron's party schedule unravels to reveal a dysfunctional family unit that is both outlandishly bizarre and utterly recognisable.

Elizabeth Coleman's deliciously funny and sweetly dark play *It's my party (and I'll die if I want to)* is a comedy of anxiety, absurdity and occasionally terror. Like all great comedies, there is laughter …but the elbow jabbing at your ribs is a little bit sharper than expected.

Since its 1993 premiere at La Mama, Melbourne – where the play broke the venue's 30 year box office record – *It's my party (and I'll die if I want to)* has enjoyed numerous successful shows in Australia and overseas, including an off Broadway season in New York in 1999.

***It's my party (and I'll die if I want to)* will show at the Q from 19–27 March.**

Coralie's CORNER

Opera and Russian circus on the horizon

THE CANBERRA Area Theatre Awards (CAT Awards) for 2012 wrapped up a brilliant evening at the School of Music on 16 February, and now the judges are roaring around the regions once again travelling hither and thither from Shellharbour to Orange, to Cooma, Narooma and beyond to see the 2013 productions.

So if your company has a production and you want to enter the CAT Awards, please contact **cfw@ozemail.com.au**. The CAT Awards would be delighted if you joined them.

For opera lovers, there is a plethora of delightful shows coming to Canberra.

The Co-Opera professional company from Adelaide will be touring their sparkling new adaptation of *Revenge of the Bat (Die Fledermaus)* for one show only at the Albert Hall on Tuesday 26 March.

This chic and funny production will be performed in English and set in the fizzy times of 1920s Art Deco Australia …and to add to the excitement, Canberra's very own Jeremy Tatchell with his new wife Lisa Cannizzaro will star together for the first time. Lisa said, "this little company with a big heart has not only our professional beginnings but also each other". Tickets are available on **www.dramatix.com.au** or phone 0402 120 478.

Following on with light opera comes OperaMania – direct from Russia with dancers, singers and 60 piece orchestra. Performances will be held at the School of Music on 23, 24 April with an Anzac Day matinee on 25 April. OperaMania will bring you the delights of the Opera tunes that you know, beautiful voices and superb costumes.

Double pass opportunity – don't miss out! Contact Coralie

This will be a once in a lifetime evening of delight and we are offering two lucky readers of this column a double pass each to the opening night on 23 April. Email **cfw@ozemail.com.au** with two of your favourite opera pieces and if they are included in the program, two lucky readers will win these much sought after tickets.

Whilst on the Russian atmosphere about to hit our fair city, Michael Edgley's great Moscow Circus is heading this way about to set up the massive enterprise in the grounds of Majura Park at the Canberra Airport precinct.

They were here three years ago and have a brand new show that will delight everyone. Michael says this is the "best show ever" and no-one ever disbelieves Michael. So be ready to see the world's best circus entertainers from 12 April, throughout the school holidays, until the end of April. Watch this space for competitions and news on this upcoming extravaganza.

Other shows coming very soon will be *Slava's Snow show* and *Stomp*... two exciting productions from London which will be featured in the next column

Hope to see you in a foyer very soon.

— Coralie Wood

Morning Melodies

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- Tickets for each show $25
- Seating is reserved
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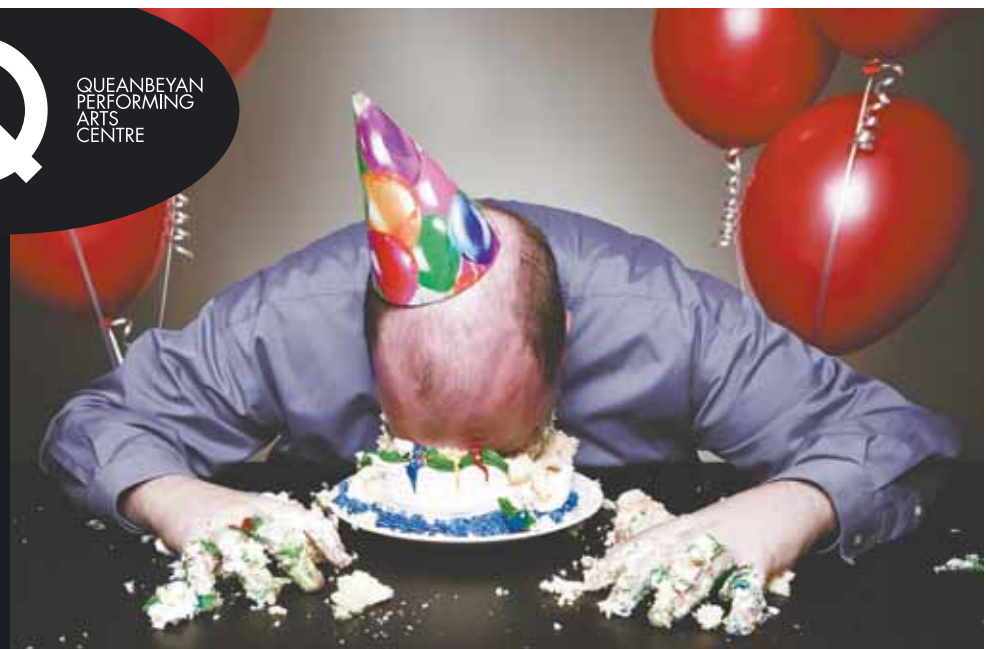
- Group bookings of 10+ welcome, $20 each per show
- Box Office opens 1 hour prior to show time. We recommend you arrive at least 30 minutes before to pick up tickets.

Melanie Parry sings Judy Garland. Recreating the golden years of Garland, her triumphs, her tragedies, the 'whole story' is told in this sensational musical tribute.



HENRI SZEPS IN

IT'S MY PARTY

(AND I'LL DIE IF I WANT TO)

BY ELIZABETH COLEMAN

Sweetly dark, a comedy of anxiety, absurdity and occasionally terror

19-27 March: Tuesday 19 March 8pm; Wednesday 20 March 2pm & 8pm; Thursday 21 March 8pm; Friday 22 March 8pm; Saturday 23 March 2pm & 8pm; Sunday 24 March 5pm; Tuesday 26 March 8pm; Wednesday 27 March 2pm & 8pm.

TICKETS: Full price $49, concession & groups $44, all matinees: $39.

Audience Advice: Strong Language and Adult Themes

HIT Australia's Premier Theatre Touring Company · ARTS VICTORIA · State Government Victoria

Bookings and further information: 6285 6290 or www.theq.net.au

Meet your local community care case managers

YOUR LOCAL Community Options Illawara case management program based in Bungendore has now been operating for over two years. The program supports people of frail age, younger people with disabilities and their carers and people with complex care needs

We are located in the Bungendore Community Health Centre and operate Monday to Friday 8.30–4.30pm. The program covers both the Palerang and Upper Lachlan Shires.

Maree O'Rourke (*on left in photo*) has 15 years experience in the community care sector and has been project officer and case manager for the program since July 2012. She would like to welcome Siemie Steffens-Mollema (*right*) who has

commenced as a part time case manager.

Case management can help you find the services to assist you to live as independently in your own home as possible. Information and advocacy are also available. If you are caring for a person, this program can also provide support and assistance.

For further information please ring us on 6238 0053.

Scholarships for local artists

THE VEOLIA Mulwaree Trust is now calling for applications from local artists for the 2013 Veolia Creative Arts Scholarships.

Two scholarships valued at $3,000 each are available for this year. The scholarships are on offer to local creative artists working in any arts discipline, including but not limited to, visual arts, music, theatre and writing.

One arts practice scholarship will be available for a creative artist to further his or her art practice, such as by making and/or completing a body of work for exhibition, publication or for performance.

An arts study scholarship will be available for a creative artist to undertake a program of arts study in any format, for example, at a tertiary institution or other educational program, through a mentorship program or study tour.

Veolia Mulwaree Trust Chairman Paul Stephenson said he was very encouraged by the number and quality of applications in 2012 with the scholarships being awarded to two worthy recipients, ceramicist Sandy Lockwood and tenor Richard Lane.

The closing date for applications for the 2013 scholarship program is Wednesday 20 March 2013.

The scholarships are available to practicing and emerging artists from any one of the seven Local Government Areas serviced by the Veolia Mulwaree Trust, including the Goulburn Mulwaree, Oberon, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.

Further information and application forms for the Veolia Creative Arts Scholarships are available on the Trust's website **www.mulwareetrust.org.au** *or by phoning 4822 2786.*

* * *

RFS offers assistance to elderly and infirm

SENIORS Week March 17–24, is a good time to remember that seniors living in a bushfire-prone area may be eligible for special assistance to help protect their homes from bush and grass fires.

The AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) program is a one-off free service to help protect at-risk residents living in fire-prone areas, by conducting basic maintenance around their properties.

Services provided by the NSW RFS crews may include cleaning gutters, mowing or slashing long grass and trimming overhanging branches around the home.

NSW RFS staff assess properties and conduct maintenance work as well as provide simple, practical advice on completing a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

Aged residents and residents with disabling conditions who have limited domestic support from family, relatives, friends or other services are all eligible to apply.

To find out more about AIDER, visit ***www.rfs.nsw.gov.au*** *or call 8741 4955 for a free assessment.*

30 MINUTES NOTICE

Cont'd from p3

So what have I learnt?

I have fantastic neighbours. Not only those that turned up to help, but also the phone calls, the offers of food for horses and sheep, assistance with fencing and plant replacement – so many people called to see how we were doing. What a community!

I also learnt:

- That you won't necessarily get 30 minutes notice. The fire on my property started on the road and within 10 minutes had jumped the drive and, in less than an hour, had burnt out about 6–10 acres.
- You need to have your gear in place ready to use immediately.
- Everyone needs to know how to use it. I wasn't at the house when the flames roared up the hill – Oddy was, and she doesn't know how to start or operate the pump and nozzle (if it had been there ...)
- Everyone needs to know where to go if it gets to dangerous.
- Personal Protection Equipment – I can't see myself working the property in PPE, but having a set of gloves (embers are hot) and goggles (heat and soot) would have been good.
- Fuel load makes a big difference to the flame height and the speed of the fire.

We had an assessment of the fire risk a few weeks earlier and had been told that the fuel load in the paddocks in front and behind the house was too high. When the fire moved into these paddocks the flames jumped from centimetres to metres!

Where the grass was short, most trees kept their leaves and there was still some grass on the ground; where it was long trees were scorched and the ground was just dirt and ash.

A couple of years ago we were advised by the RFS to remove the lower branches from all the pine trees along the drive, which we did. I don't know that I would have a house if the pines had gone up.

All in all it took six fire-fighting units and a bunch of neighbours about three hours to extinguish the fire.

Thanks to all who helped and all who called and offered assistance – I can't tell you how thankful we are. ■

CROSSWORD SOLUTION Across: 1 Macaw, 4 Lettuce, 8 Insists, 9 Aspic, 10 Starr, 11 Obscene, 12 Paddle, 13 Oblige, 16 Prowess, 18 Cater, 20 Rodeo, 21 Exhibit, 22 Surgeon, 23 Seedy. **Down:** 1 Maims, 2 Custard powder, 3 Wastrel, 4 Lisbon, 5 Toads, 6 Unpredictable, 7 Excrete, 12 Papyrus, 14 Bacchus, 15 Astern, 17 Emote, 19 Retry.

Bywong Community
bywongcommunity.org.au
Money raised supports the local community
Car Boot Sale: Sunday 24 March from 9 to 1pm
Les Reardon Reserve, Birriwa Road Bywong
Over 100 stalls selling things you couldn't live without!

Growing Greenways for Palerang

- biodiversity corridors
- paths for walking*, riding, push bikes
- linking remnant vegetation

**dogs must be on leash*

More info on existing Greenways on the Bywong Community website – www.BywongCommunity.org.au

Come and...
PLANT A GREENWAY
on ST PAT'S DAY

Sunday 17 March
9.30am–1pm
Warramunga Close
(off Woolshed Lane)
Wamboin

♦ Planting for biodiversity teams start at 9.30am and 10.30am: bring hat, shoes, tools and water bottle ♦ BBQ and drinks stall ♦ Info stalls: Land for wildlife (FuturePLANS), Landcare, Wildcare, Palerang Council, Friends of Greenways/ GROWing the Greenways, ACT Rescue Dogs

PALERANG COUNCIL · CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY · FuturePLANS

Country Living Classifieds

Collectables

Lovely Vintage. Antique ornate mangle. Original cast iron Mangle Ewban Jewel 326684JG Bond Ltd Chelmsford. Mechanisms & timber fine. Needs sensitive restoration. Joseph 0422 225 358.

Building Supplies

Timber. Ironbark and Black Butt Timber from Old Wool Store Sydney. Over 100 yrs old. Suitable for all woodwork. A piece of Australian history. 5 lengths of magnificent timber 5m long, 300x350 wide. 9 timber posts 3m long, 350x300 wide. Adam 6236 9155.

Free

Wooden playpen and cot with mattress. Bouncinette/rocker. Suitable for grandparents place. Needs a fresh coat of paint? Structurally very sound. David 6236 9934.

Household

Tagines, the oldest, traditional slow cooking pots. Handmade, from local Bywong Potter. Kiln-fired, some hand painted, some plain made from terracotta. Cook on the stove or oven. Joseph 6236 9155.

Lots of household items still available for free recycling, or for sale. These much loved household items and belongings. Records, Singer sewing machine, old Mixmaster, bed head, side tables, and much more. Robyn 6238 0086.

Authentic Italian Pizza Oven. Handmade by master craftsman. Whether you cook roasts, pizzas, bread, desserts! Better than a BBQ because it does so much more. Joe 0422 225 358.

Farm Equipment & Livestock

Trailer. Metal box trailer. 3m long, 1.8 wide x 600mm high/deep. New lights, good brakes and tyres. Brand new paint, no rust. Reduced to sell $1,900 ono. Joe 0422 225 358.

<– Trailer for sale. 10x6ft Tandem wheel stock crate trailer, checker plate floor. Good condition $1,500. John 0467 291 534.

Horse gear. Saxon winter rug, 6.3, neck section frayed, otherwise sound $35. Two old Mac boots for 16 hand horse, free. Fly veils, large, free. More. 6236 9386.

Correction: Email gremlins kicked back some incoming mail last issue. Please send or resend your classifieds to **bulletin.classifieds@yahoo.com**

Country Living Classifieds

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

Your Name (*not for publication*)

Address (*not for publication*)

Phone / email contact

Items accepted tick one:

- ☐ **Collectables**
- ☐ **Building supplies**
- ☐ **Gardening supplies** (*excepting masses of plastic pots*)
- ☐ **Household appliances or furniture in good working order**
- ☐ **Auto accessories**
- ☐ **Farm equipment and farm animals**
- ☐ **Clearing, estate or garage sales**
- ☐ **Designer clothes or quality childrens' clothes**
- ☐ **Wanted to buy or exchange**

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

☐ **I attach a SMALL photo**

What's On – March 2013

Send your announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

— GIG GUIDE: March —

First Friday of the month:
Music and Poetry
Royal Hotel, Bungendore, 7.30pm.

Friday 8
Karaoke, 8pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
The Jukes, Rock/Blues/Country, 8pm–12am, The Queanbeyan Tigers Club, Southbar Rd, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 9
Hit & Run, Rock/Pop, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan, Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 15
Matt Dent, 8pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
R&R, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, Stuart Ave, Queanbeyan.
Wayne Ryder Trio, Country, 8pm–12am, The Queanbeyan Tigers Club, Southbar Rd, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 16
Getaway Car, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan, Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 22
Chris Webbe & Sweaty Palms, 8pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Hit & Run, Rock/Pop, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, Stuart Ave, Queanbeyan.
Authorised Bootleg, live Cover Band, 8pm–12am, The Queanbeyan Tigers Club, Southbar Rd, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 23
MLC, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan, Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 29
Raven Karaoke, 8pm–12am, The Queanbeyan Tigers Club, Southbar Rd, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 30
Wayne Ryder Trio, Country, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan, Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday
Capital Region Farmers Market
EPIC grounds, Mitchell, 8–11am. A genuine farmers market offering a diverse range of fresh seasonal food straight from the producer to the consumer and an opportunity to discuss with growers. **www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au**

1st Saturday of every month
(except April)
The Captains Flat Country Markets
Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Handmade items, craft, jams, pickles, gourmet doggy treats, preloved goods, cakes, biscuits, plants and much more! Stalls $12. Call either 0438 600 447 or 0407 661 834 or email **markets@captainsflat.org**.

2nd Sunday of the month
(except Jan)
Queanbeyan Cottage Markets
Queanbeyan River, on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets, 9–2pm. Craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, jewellery, toys, honey, jams, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Call Kristen 6299 0219.

3rd Saturday of every month
(except July/August)
Wamboin Produce Market
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

3rd Sunday every month
Bungendore Markets
War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce.

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

4th Saturday of every month
Braidwood Markets
Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Call Geraldine 4847 5061.

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:
www.bungendore.com.au
www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au
www.visitbraidwood.com.au

Until April 7
Corroboree Retrospective
Altenburg & Co, Braidwood. Works by Fran Ifould. For more ph 4842 2384.

Until April 30
Masters of Craft
Bungendore Wood Works Gallery. Masters of Craft presents the work of three exceptional woodworkers considered to be among the best in the world and at the peak of their creative careers. For more see **www.bwoodworks.com.au**.

During March
Roland Aronsen and Sheryl Miller
Bungendore Fine Art, Bungendore. For more see **www.bungendorefineart.com.au**.

Until Monday 25
Gabrielle Soulsby and Leonie Gill
FORM Studio & Gallery, Queanbeyan. Opening Fri, 8 March, 6pm. All welcome. For more see **www.formstudioandgallery.com.au** or ph Claire on 0430 359 776.

Plan ahead for APRIL
Queanbeyan Leagues Club Art Exhibition/ Competition
Entries close March 30 with winners announced April 7. Guest speaker at 2pm, followed by presentations. For more see **www.qarts.com.au**.

Friday 8 until Monday 12
Canberra's Big Birthday Weekend
Variety of events throughout the Capital to celebrate Canberra's Centenary. For more see **www.canberra100.com.au/**.

Saturday 9 until Wednesday 20
The Art of Nature
CSIRO Discovery Centre, Acton. Wildlife and Botanical Artists Inc. (WABA) presents an exhibition featuring original artworks by emerging and professional local and interstate artists. For more contact Julia 6166 7002 or **ajlandford@gmail.com**.

Saturday 9
Queanbeyan Rodeo
Queanbeyan Showground, gates open from 2pm. All major Rodeo events, Bull Rides, Bare Back, Ladies Barrel Race and more.

Saturday 9 until April 30
Paul Garling, Graeme Krake and Jill Noble
Bungendore Wood Works. An exhibition by three New Artists to the Gallery. Opening and official launch of Bungendore Wood Works Gallery's 30th year celebrations Sat 23. For more see **www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au**.

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10
Goulburn AP&H Society Show
Goulburn Showground, 9am–6pm. One of southern NSW's most important agricultural shows. Displays of products and activities, equestrian events, working dogs, animals pavilions with displays. Adults $12, Child/Conc. $5. For more ph 4821 6813.

Monday 11
Canberra Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 12
Morning Melodies – *The Judy Garland Story in Song*
The Q, Queanbeyan, 10.30am. Melanie Parry recreates the golden years of Garland, her triumphs, her tragedies, the 'whole story' is told in this musical tribute. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Thursday 14
David Strassman – Careful what you wish for!
The Q, Queanbeyan. Strassman's side-splitting new show tumbles down the rabbit hole – a mind-bending journey where nothing is as it seems. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Saturday 16
Sutton Country Fair and Ute Muster
Sutton Public School, 10am–2pm. A community day of fun for all with entertainment, music, games, rides, raffles and prizes. For more see **http://suttonps.com.au** or ph Cathy 0427 771 732.

FM104.7 Skyfire 25
Lake Burley Griffin, from 6pm. The largest annual fireworks display in Canberra, set to a soundtrack simulcast on the radio. For more see **www.canberra100.com.au/calendar/**.

Sunday 17
Alpaca Magic Annual Autumn Open Day
Sutton, 11am–3pm. A great family day where you can learn about alpacas, llamas and donkeys. For more see **www.alpacamagic.com.au** or ph 6230 3311.

Tuesday 19
Seniors' Week Luncheon
Braidwood Serviceman's Club, 12pm. Everyone over 55 invited to join the celebrations. A shuttle bus will be available from Bungendore and Captains Flat. To register attendance and/or book a seat on the bus, ph 6238 8111.

Tuesday 19 until Wednesday 27
It's my party (and I'll die if I want to)
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A comedy of anxiety, absurdity and occasionally terror.Like all great comedies, there is laughter... but the elbow jabbing at your ribs is a little bit sharper than expected. For more see **www.theq.net.au** or ph 6285 6290.

Friday 22 to Sunday 24
ACT Autumn Antiques & Collectables Fair
Albert Hall, Yarralumla. The fair is celebrating its 25th anniversary and the hall will be again be filled with glimpses of life from other eras. For more contact Les 6231 5244.

Mad March

the market @ bungendore

Sunday March 17th 9am–3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

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

jewellery		glass art
giftware		homewares
tea & coffee		greeting cards
local art & craft		beads & findings
garden products	honey	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	preserves	local grown plants
cakes & pastries	hand knits	prints & paintings
soaps & lotions	candles	fruit & vegetables
picture frames	cookies	clothing & footwear

Saturday 23
Jerrabomberra Autumn Fair
Jerrabomberra Community Centre, 9am-2pm. A full program of events and fun activities including great entertainment and the infamous fishing competition, an all-day BBQ, home bakes and vendors selling a variety of goods including preloved books.

30 Years in the making 1983–2013
Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, 3pm. 30th Year Celebrations Launch. Contact **gallery@bwoodworks.com.au** or 6238 1682.

Earth Hour
Turning off the lights around the country at 8.30pm. For more see **www.earthhour.org**.

Sunday 24
Bywong Community Car Boot Sale
Community Hall, Bywong, 9am–1pm. Over 100 stalls selling things you couldn't live without. Fun for the kids with plenty of toys and books on sale as well as rides. View demonstrations by your local fire brigade. Enjoy dogs and horses and maybe more exotic animals on display. For more **paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au** or ph Greg on 6236 9841.

Thursday 28 to Monday April 1
National Folk Festival
Various locations. For more see **www.folkfestival.asn.au**.

Friday 29 to Monday April 1
Easter Weekend

Saturday 30 and Sunday 31
Easter Pairs Bowls Tournament
Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Queanbeyan. For more contact **qbnbowlingclub.bowls@gmail.com** or ph 0409 909 125.

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