



Shortis and Simpson look back 50 years and find... see p7

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



Small farms woes and opportunities

Story by Maria Taylor

PENNY KOTHE, with her partner Paul McKinnon have for the past four years farmed on 100 acres (40 ha) east of Bungendore. Caroola Farm is in the broadacre (RU1) zone at Mulloon off the King's Highway. Many readers may also know Penny from her pioneering work to help establish the brand and reality of the local Southern Harvest Farmers Market.

The couple now face sudden threats of regulation to their innovative family farming operation. But the same issue also sparks discussion about real opportunities for more diverse local food production and tourism.

Penny and Paul have faced two devastating bushfires with one in 2013 sweeping across their land. Unbowed, Penny says land regeneration has been a goal from the start. The farm is home to integrated animal and vegetable systems. "Our focus is on showcasing a sustainable, small scale approach to farming and humane raising of meat animals."

They recently got a letter from QPRC stating that their (then) 100 meat poultry and six pigs constituted 'intensive agriculture' according to council definitions. Compliance officers also flagged on-farm public education and opening a farm shop without development consent as problems.

However, from the previous Palarang

council they understood they could function as a 'home business' – used by many small producers who sell products from their blocks without needing consent. They were now told that since their farm-raised meat must be slaughtered at an abattoir (as required by health authorities) they can't be called a 'home business' because the meat is not deemed 'produced' on farm.

This catch-22 was not caught by authorities in the past three years. "We are registered with the NSW Food Authority, we have regular Local Land Services pig inspections and had our understanding of the Local Environment Plans (LEPs) clarified by multiple conversations with council staff regarding our operations," Penny said.

Local controls allow for 'extensive agriculture' without consent, as well as home businesses on farm. 'Extensive' means grazing-based, which is what the Caroola animals are. But council's definition of 'intensive' has now been applied to them.

A spokesperson for QPRC said: "There is little flexibility to what constitutes 'intensive' livestock agriculture", pointing to the 2014 Palarang LEP. It defines 'intensive' as commercial livestock operations (including horses) "that are fed wholly or substantially on externally-sourced feed".

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Penny Kothe and Paul McKinnon with three pigs on one hectare of grass. The poultry were rotated around one hectare blocks.

A related compliance issue emerged from the Sydney Water Catchment Authority governing much of eastern Palarang. The 1979 legislation calls 'intensive' ANY poultry within a drinking water catchment and requires a Designated Development Approval (DDA) process. A DDA can cost up to \$100,000 for waste water, endangered species and other studies and improvements.

Many operations could be caught by the catchment and intensive definitions – for example the increasing number of 'pastured poultry' (ie free-range on paddocks) operators meeting consumer and welfare demand. Even backyard or school egg producers could be affected once they sell their eggs.

Penny and others note that a return to localism in food production relies on diverse, often small-scale, sustainable and 'new ideas' farming enterprises allied with tourism and education.

One local egg producer told the *Bul-*

letin the regulations may be the legacy of 40-year-old assumptions that modern pigs and chickens are always factory-farmed in cages or on concrete.

Long Paddock 'pastured-poultry' producer Eileen Moriarty from Bywong and Captains Flat wondered: "How does run-off from even 2,000 poultry compare with cattle and sheep in a catchment? (And) everyone brings in feed in dry times, that's the reality of farming".

Eyeing future growth she said: "Everyone loves local products and there is a lot of customer loyalty".

Bruce Gibbs from Tharwa Eggs agreed tourists love the "cellar door culture". He is looking for an opportunity in nearby NSW and eyeing a partnership integrating cattle and his poultry called 'layered farming'. Such innovation, he said: "is all about food security for the future. Localised, mixed systems are more resilient". ■



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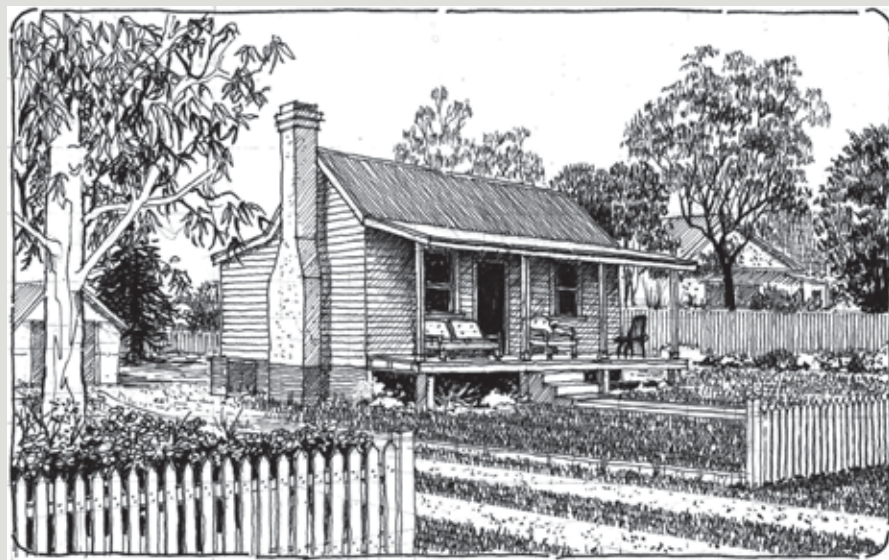
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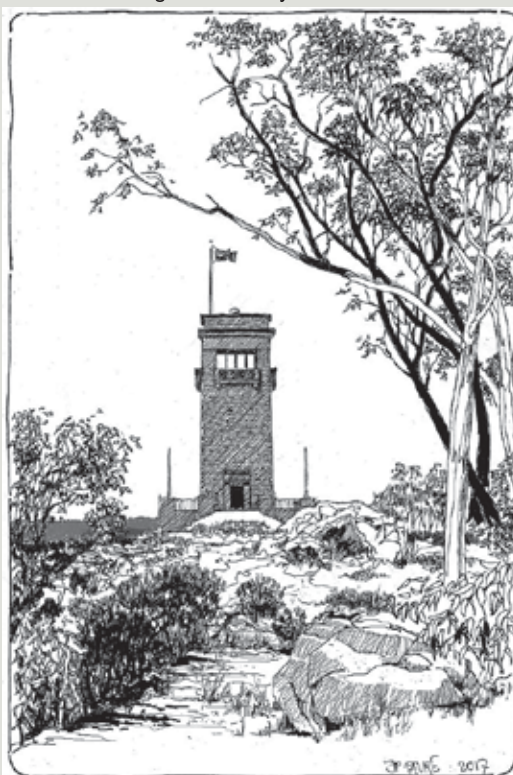
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(between Bungendore and Braidwood)



Old cottage Queanbeyan.



Braidwood War Memorial.

BYWONG RESIDENT
Jean-Pierre Favre,
the artist behind the
sketches on these
pages, is a retired
architect, public
servant and lecturer.



About his sketching,
that has taken him around the world, he
writes: "I find it a very satisfying hobby.
If I do a drawing of some complex building
in Japan for example, a year later I
can still draw the main features of that
building that have been etched into my
memory. You don't have the same imprint
with a fleeting camera shot."

"I began drawing heritage buildings in
Bungendore just for fun, not realising
that this would start a whole new hobby
for me. Someone suggested that we do a
calendar and we did. They sold out very
quickly. I continued expanding the series
of a dozen buildings in other towns in-
cluding Braidwood, Queanbeyan and now
Goulburn."

Sales of JP's calendars helped finance
the children's playground project in By-
wong and now tea towels of Queanbeyan
buildings have been sold with profits go-
ing to the Carwoola disaster appeal.



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Deadline for contributions and advertising booking
For April issue – 25 March 2017

The District Bulletin © 2017

Published monthly by The Bungendore Bulletin Pty Ltd ISSN 1035-1299

Federal Coalition proposes funding cuts to early childhood programs for rural and remote communities

PARLIAMENTARY radio on 1 March broadcast a range of impassioned speeches by independent cross benchers from rural and regional areas, supported by Labor and the Greens. The goal was to amend the Turnbull government's Social Security Omnibus Bill proposed cuts to early childhood education and child care for the bush.

The proposed funding changes will affect the Budget Based Funded program. According to the government's education website, the program provides a contribution to the operational costs of approximately 300 child- care and early learning and school aged care services in approved locations where 'the market' would not deliver.

The amendments proposed by Independent MP Cathy McGowan and supported by the others would have reversed budget cuts to these programs immediately rather than funding cuts being reviewed sometime in the future. The amendments just failed to pass.

At risk are fixed early childhood educational and support programs for Indigenous communities and remoter regions including to farming families. Services include fixed and mobile children's services like crèches, mobile services, multifunctional Aboriginal children's services, and outside school hours care.

"Yesterday the city-centric Turnbull government actively chose to put the education of children in our region at risk," Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly said.

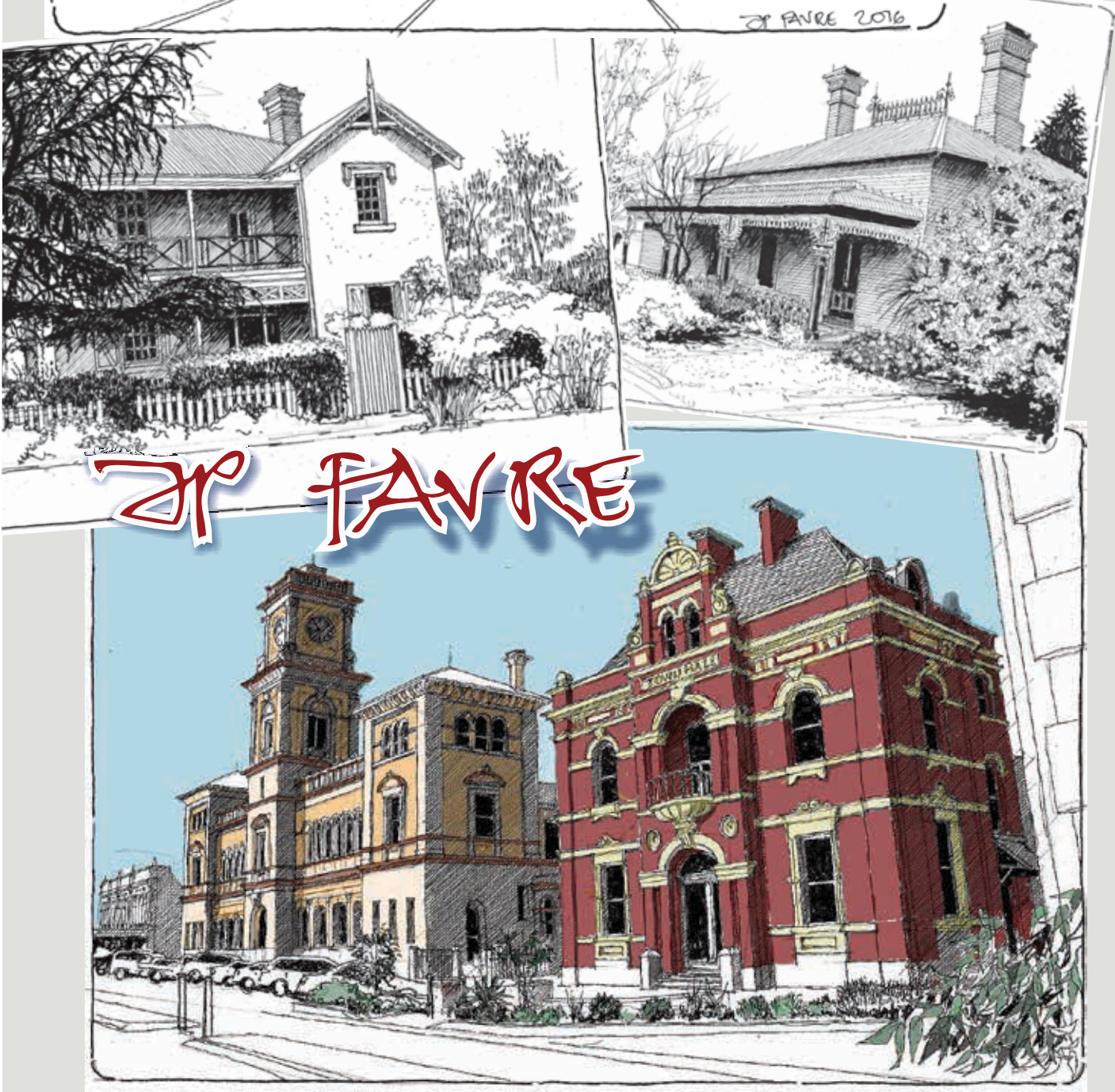
"Experts have told us that up to 90 per-cent of Budget Based Funded programs providing for mobile childcare providers in regional and remote Australia will face closure due to these changes.

"It is recommended that pre-schoolers should be receiving 15 hours a week of quality early education, shamefully the Turnbull government is placing rural and regional children in a position where they may not receive any early education at all."

The bill will go to the Senate this month.



Left: Christ Church, Queanbeyan.
Middle L to R: The Snow Lion, B&B, Braidwood.
The Surveyor's house, Bungendore.
Bottom: Goulburn Post Office, Town Hall.



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The Bush bites back

Several hundred protesters against the recent forced amalgamations and appointment of 18-month administrators gathered in Queanbeyan in February outside the office of Member for Monaro and Deputy Premier John Barilaro. Among them was Mathew Dickerson, the most recent Mayor of Dubbo. Here's some of what he said in a recent blog post. You'll find more on the Queanbeyan protest and what people said at **The Bush Bites Back** www.districtbulletin.com.au

Why regional communities are angry voters, Dubbo just one

"Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negatur." Forever more, no review of Dubbo for this year will be complete without the analysis of council amalgamations and the consideration of Hitchen's razor. Hitchen took the Latin proverb above and asserted that the truthfulness of a claim lies with the one who makes the claim; if this burden is not met, the claim is unfounded and opponents need not argue further in order to dismiss it.

[Lists visitor numbers, housing starts and sales, and development applications plus] Unemployment was at the low rate of 3.8% which was a 5% improvement over the previous year and again better than the State average. I can list many other indicators that show the strength of our economy. High motel occupancy rates; strong figures in tourism and visitation; increasing average spend per visitor per night; increasing retail expenditure... The

positives were in every direction.

Community surveys were all positive. He continues:

This all hardly sounds like cause to throw out a Council – so the alternative must be fantastic. Using Hitchen's razor, the State Government must have some extraordinary evidence when it made its claim that amalgamations would put "downward pressure on rates" and "provide many benefits to communities."



NSW Opposition Leader asks for community input

NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley will host a town-hall meeting in Queanbeyan in mid-March to hear the community's views on issues affecting the Monaro electorate. He will be joined by Labor candidate for Monaro, Bryce Wilson.

The meeting is on 16 March at the Queanbeyan Roos Club in Crestwood.

School funding and the power of unelected administrators following amalgamation are expected to be among issues that have emerged from his chats with local voters, says Bryce Wilson.

Wilson lives in Queanbeyan and is president of his eight-year-old daughter's P&C. He says there is a \$4.2 million maintenance backlog at schools in the electorate, with some schools needing over \$400,000 for repairs.

"These repairs aren't luxury items. It's

for basic things like heaters and fans that are broken, leaking taps, peeling paint and badly worn carpet," he said.

On forced amalgamations Opposition Leader Foley says "The people of Bombala, Snowy River, Cooma, Monaro and Palerang won't so easily forget the many faces of John Barilaro during the sorry and sad episode of council amalgamations.

"Labor's plan is to give the people of Monaro along with every other affected region in NSW a say in their future by holding plebiscites sooner rather than later."

Labor and others across the political spectrum have noted the broken promises of local member and Deputy Premier John Barilaro, who has supported the government's amalgamation positions of the day, despite his promises before the last election.

Then he said there would be no forced mergers and he would stand with any council that did not want to merge (reflecting votes by both Palerang and Queanbeyan councils, although local ratepayers at the time were more divided or confused).

The NSW Government's policy saw five council areas in the electorate of Monaro forcibly merged.

Labor also reports that residents have spoken to them about a number of decisions made by the appointed administrator of the new Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, who no longer has to answer to voters.

Meeting: the Queanbeyan Roos Club, on the corner of Richard Avenue and Stuart Street in Crestwood on Thursday 16 March, 6pm for 6.30pm start. Limited seats.

RSVP: Bryce.wilson@nswlabor.org.au

Fiscal evidence from previous amalgamations

No evidence was forthcoming as we should all, according to our Premier, just "consider the big picture." Whatever that means. In fact the evidence against amalgamations was overwhelming. In a brief analysis of the 26 amalgamations that occurred from 2001 to 2004, some startling statistics came to light.

Only 26.9% of the amalgamated Councils were declared Fit for the Future; 75% had population growth below the State average and 76.9% of those Councils applied for additional rate increases – with the average increase above rate pegging sitting just over 30%.

The legacy that this State Government has forever left the communities of Dubbo and Wellington is the amalgamation that 80% of people didn't want. The result will be the loss of identity for Wellington and the loss of momentum for Dubbo. Sure, the bins will keep being collected and water will keep coming from our taps (even if we have to boil it before drinking it) but I can't help but think of how this column might have read if we didn't have the amalgamation that was forced onto us this year.

Our Councillors are proud of the fact that we have left the City in a better condition because of our involvement. This State Government cannot even dream of making the same statement. Bring on September 2017!

— Mathew Dickerson
Last Mayor of the City of Dubbo

In past weeks, QPRC has run paid advertising in the weekly papers the council supports stating a case for building the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) roadway through Queanbeyan suburbs. The paid advertisement below presents a contrary perspective by the community groups represented by the Queanbeyan Conservation Alliance. In conjunction with our reporting of community voices on this controversial major road program, the District Bulletin has for the past month, and ongoing, published the QPRC case for the EDE in full on our website, which readers can judge for themselves.

Go to www.districtbulletin.com.au

Ellerton Drive Extension – a dead-end idea



The proposed Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) is a dead-end idea.

It's a waste of almost \$100 million because it won't work.

Queanbeyan Council has conceded the EDE:

- is **not** a bypass
- **cannot** force most trucks out of the central business district (1)
- **will not** make any meaningful difference to traffic through the city centre (2)

But the EDE will funnel traffic close to homes, exposing thousands of residents to harmful noise and vehicle pollution.

And it will destroy precious forest and woodland. Recent tree clearing is just the start unless we act now to stop the EDE.

The NSW Government can halt this project and re-direct funds to a real solution to our transport problems.

Contact Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier and Member Monaro John Barilaro NOW while there is still time to stop the EDE.

Contact details can be found at www.nsw.gov.au

- (1) Only Holcim quarry trucks can be forced to use the EDE.
(2) At best a 5% reduction on projected increased vehicle numbers.



Queanbeyan Conservation Alliance, March 2017

Fire and local government role

ON FRIDAY 17 February, like many other volunteer firefighters, residents and their neighbours, I was involved in defending properties against a fast-moving grassfire in Carwoola, which quickly became a bushfire. Many houses were saved, but sadly many others were lost, as were other structures, pets and other domestic animals, wildlife, fencing and stock feed.

It exercised my mind on where local government fits in fire prevention. On 1 July 2017 ratepayers will notice a substantial hike in their rates bill with the funding of Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue and State Emergency Service being shifted from a tax on insurance (so you should see a reduction in your insurance premium) to a property levy collected by councils. While it's not directly relevant, and won't change the amount of funds available to the RFS, it is likely to make people start asking more

questions of councils.

Councils and the NSW Government set rules that apply to new developments in

rural areas. Asset Protection Zones (APZ) are supposed to protect houses from fire reaching vegetation near the house. Water tanks are required to have a reserve for firefighting, accessible to the firefighters via a 65mm Storz fitting, so that the water



ABC News: Alkira Reinfrank

Go to www.districtbulletin.com.au for more on Palerang and Sutton's recent devastating fires, fire appeals and personal anecdotes.
> p7 Apocalyptic weather: Bronte's story

Grass fires

Only one spark needed

Here's what not to do

Fire danger continues through March

Consider this: A summer day. Temperature is 34 degrees, humidity is 31%, grass is 70% cured and the wind is coming from the NNW at 26 km/hour. In these conditions, a fire will take some 7–8 minutes to travel 150 metres.

Most of the recent fires in Palerang and Yass Shire were started by people using machinery.

RFS advice is:

- don't mow/slash with metal blades in the long grass – use a whipper snipper and mow early in the morning, not the heat of the day when the grass and bush are very dry,
- long grass can wind around the blade shaft, heat up and ignite,

- the blades can hit rocks or metal and send out a shower of sparks into the grass,
- if you are mowing, make sure you have water IMMEDIATELY to hand – you will not have time to run to get some if you see flames,
- be careful of hot exhausts from motor bikes, quad bikes and utes in the long grass,
- power tools often throw out sparks that are not visible during daylight hours, but they are there – people use these tools in sheds (near open doors and surrounded by grass) and in the paddocks,
- drilling can cause a metal drill to hit rock and that will generate sparks,
- burning household refuse in a drum during the day will send up a shower of sparks which you won't see in daylight hours.

Also it's a very good idea to have a petrol water pump on hand at the property, since loss of power is one of the first casualties of a fire.

If you see smoke, don't hesitate — RING 000. If it turns out to be a false alarm, it doesn't matter.

Here's what happened in Burra a day after the Carwoola fire

A fire was started by a mower on a road-side corner on a relatively coolish day with a light breeze.

With the grass 100% cured, this fire took off very quickly. It jumped a bitumen road, raced through two properties, and was starting to impinge on a third. One property came under threat. Burra RFS quickly got it under control with regional crews attending. But it tells a story. ■

available to protect the house is more than the 3,000 litres the largest fire trucks carry.

There are rules and guidelines about construction materials, and positioning of gas bottles. www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/4355/Guidelines-for-Single-Dwelling-Development-Applications.pdf

Rural residents will be familiar with frequent inspections of the On-site Sewage Management System, and council officers checking for weeds, and notices being issued to require improvement.

But when was the last time a council officer checked that your APZ was being maintained, or that your Storz fitting and firefighting water reserve were being maintained and were accessible? That you haven't built a deck or replaced cladding with prohibited or not-recommended materials? Almost certainly the answer is never.

Development consent conditions routinely include rules about when and how construction can be carried out. Conditions require a toilet on site and control of waste and water runoff. Knowing that in the early stages of construction there is likely to be little firefighting capability on site, perhaps consent conditions could ban all outdoor construction activity on Total Fire Ban days. This would probably have prevented the Carwoola fire.

Retrofitting ad hoc

Many older houses do not have the firefighting water reserve and Storz fitting, as they are a requirement on new developments. Retrofitting is entirely voluntary, and seems to be uncommon. Council could easily play a role in this, providing advice or even subsidies to householders to retrofit. A proactive council would do so. Councils have for years had subsidies for water-saving measures in places with reticulated water supplies, so the model is well-established.

First of series of job spills at QPRC, more rewards

Council is currently advertising for four General Managers, presumably in addition to the existing General Manager, unless there will be no overall boss? [newsflash: overall boss has a new title 'CEO'] Salaries of \$230,000 to \$260,000 are on offer (up from

>> p6

:: Property and Legal ::



with Angela Backhouse

What will happen to my superannuation when I die?

SUPERANNUATION can often make up a substantial part of a person's assets. It is therefore an important asset to be addressed when preparing your Will.

However, many people do not realise that superannuation is an asset which does not automatically form part of your estate when you die. In order to distribute the proceeds of your superannuation (including any life insurance policy held by the fund) in accordance with your wishes, you need to make sure you give proper directions to your superannuation fund.

So what happens to your superannuation when you die? Unless you give specific directions to the trustee of the fund, on your death your superannuation will generally be distributed in accordance with terms of your Superannuation Policy or Trust Deed, which can sometimes result in the Trustee of your superannuation fund having the discretion to decide who will receive the proceeds.

Your policy or trust deed should allow you to provide a Death Benefit Nomination, which can be either binding or non-binding. The process for doing this will depend upon whether you hold your superannuation in a managed fund, or a self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF).

A binding nomination will require the Trustee to distribute the proceeds in accordance with the nomination provided. Some funds require these nominations to be updated every three years. A non-binding nomination allows you to indicate your preferred beneficiaries

but ultimately leaves the discretion with the Trustee to decide how to distribute the proceeds.

Beneficiaries of your superannuation can be any of your dependents, or you can otherwise nominate your estate to receive the proceeds. If you nominate your estate, the proceeds of the superannuation fund will be paid to the executor of your estate as nominated by your Will, who will then distribute the proceeds in accordance with the terms of the Will.

If you make no nomination, the Trustee will normally have the power to distribute your superannuation benefits amongst any of your dependents and your estate in whatever portions it believes to be fair and reasonable.

There can be tax consequences arising from a distribution of superannuation, which should be taken into consideration when making your nomination, in consultation with a professional such as a financial planner or a solicitor.

It is important to regularly review your superannuation death benefit nominations to ensure that those you wish to benefit have been correctly nominated. We recommend that you review your nomination every 2–3 years or on the occurrence of a significant event (such as the death of a beneficiary), at the same time as reviewing your Will. This will ensure that this important and significant asset is distributed in accordance with your wishes.

Given the complex nature of wills and superannuation, professional legal and estate planning advice should always be sought.

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



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

Right now recovery assistance offered through QPRC, BlazeAid and Lake George Local Emergency Operations

MEMBERS OF the community affected by the recent bushfires can register any assistance they may require with the recovery coordinators as soon as possible. This may include damage or assistance required for houses, machinery, fences, animals, feed for stock, personal items, mental health welfare or other property damage.

Representatives from BlazeAid are standing by locally to take registrations from members of the public who require assistance to repair their damaged fences. You should register as soon as possible with our recovery coordinators.

Contact: the recovery hotline established by the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council on 6285 6900 or email recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

Paul Batista, Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCN – Lake George LEMC), Police Station, Queanbeyan, 0407 270 445.

FIRE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT from p5

some \$190,000 for the same department head jobs before). Senior management positions in local government also routinely come with perks such as private use of a luxury car, travel, training and/or conference expenses.

These posts look like they will be filled by people selected by the Administrator, and the newly elected Council in September will inherit them, and the cost of moving them on if they are not considered suitable. It is yet another example of the government-appointed Administrator making decisions with long-term financial implications, at ratepayers' expense. ■

Letter to the editor

Hunting dogs on loose cause carnage

LATE ON Monday 27 February two dogs were heard and seen chasing and attacking a wild pig over more than an hour in the bush terrain behind the end of Kiah Road. This area runs from properties off Little Burra Road to those off Candy Road.

While no-one has sympathy for wild pigs, the dogs were clearly hunting and had the pig terrified, exhausted and injured. Its squeals could be clearly heard over a large area over a long time. Eventually the dogs and pig emerged from the scrub, which is almost impenetrable in many places due to thick tea tree, on to the area near our house on Kiah Road.

Our neighbour was able to shoot the pig but the dogs ran away. They were small/medium sized, black with collars and tags. They had savaged the pig.

Firstly, people in our area should be aware two hunting dogs were on the loose and next time it might be stock or other animals that are attacked. Secondly, the owner of the dogs should be aware they could have been shot and may be shot if they roam again.

— Sent by the Burra Intermittent

Apocalyptic weather: one woman's fire experience (followed by flood!)

Edited version, you'll find a fuller account and also comments from Sutton RFS volunteers at www.districtbulletin.com.au

BRONTE DAVIES from Sydney, was visiting 'Merigan', a sheep and cattle property between Tarago and Bungendore in the Mt Fairy area in mid-January. Here's her dramatic first person account of what it was like for an ordinary person (without a fire plan or reliable mobile phone access) to be confronted suddenly with January's fast moving grass fires in that district [soon to be echoed in Carwoola with more damage to property].

Heading that account she wrote: "Today I was caught up in flash flooding – my Paddington apartment flooded whilst I was stranded in flood water near the SCG.

"So in the last 4 Tuesdays I have experienced 1 dreadful fire, and 1 awful flood! 'Straya!'"
[The rest continues in her words...]

I was down at Merigan with my daughter as I am helping Tim with a kitchen renovation. The Tuesday morning was unusually hot. One of those extreme fire danger days. Vivi (my daughter) and I went out early to play with the puppy Shaka and ride her bike, but by about 9:30am it was just far too hot and windy. We retreated inside for cool drinks and to do some face painting.

She was a pretty kitty. I was a black, red and yellow squiggle face. Finding it all very amusing I decided to go upstairs to take selfies on the yellow blanket. I had no idea how fortuitous that decision would be...

Barely any mobile reception

Most of the house has no mobile phone reception. Some of the house has wifi. The top corner bedroom with the yellow blanket has both (when the wind blows in the right direction). I had 8% battery. We took our selfies and we were laughing together. And then Tim sent a text message. It came through – remarkably.

11:07am, Tim: "Apparently there is a fire near my fairy."

Me: "Where's your fairy?"

Tim: "This is serious. Is there smoke?"

I went outside to see swirls of smoke and to smell the unmistakable scent in the air.

He messaged again: "Which direction is it coming from?"

I had no idea. I thought it was coming from the south in the direction of the railway line. I called him. The line was bad and cut out. What I ascertained was that I should go to the dam or evacuate. But really I should go to the dam. (No idea what to expect there, Bronte said later).

I remembered Black Saturday and all the advice around getting out early. So I evacuated. I don't remember carrying my daughter – but I did. I remember looking around for things of value to take – nothing seemed important.

Instant evacuation

The silly things that go through your head and what you do when you are in a panic.

I inexplicably grabbed a pink

Agent Provocateur slip, two Barbies, a peach, some milk, dog food and a dog brush.

All ridiculous items. I scooped up the puppy Shaka – who escaped again because I was panicking and yelling and she panicked, but I grabbed her by the scruff of the neck and threw her in my pristine, new car.

I raced over to the other dog Turbo who was chained up, cursing that he was wasting my time and dirtying my car.

11.15 am: I zoomed out of there – unbeknownst to me, towards the fire which was coming from the north. The smoke got denser. It was so scary. It felt like I was surrounded.

I did everything wrong. I closed

Selfie of Bronte Davies and her daughter Vivi with face paint 10 minutes before fire evacuation at last minute. They almost didn't know, thanks to very poor mobile reception in Mt Fairy, Boro area.



MARJASON & MARJASON
S O L I C I T O R S

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

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

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

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is a new law firm in Queanbeyan, established in late 2016, under the guidance of Ian Marjason and his son Henry Marjason. The father and son team practice in all areas of law and would be more than happy to assist you in any way they can.

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addition to this he is an Accredited Specialist in Advocacy, a Public Notary and an Accredited Mediator.

Ian's broad knowledge base as well as his friendly demeanour will reduce the stress and worry associated with your case, and give you a lawyer who is a pleasure to work with!

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

Every member of staff of Marjason & Marjason Solicitors is committed to providing excellent customer service and will ensure that you, as a client, will feel heard and have your matter resolved in a timely way. ■

<< The constable who answered had no idea about any fire. This was about 11:25am. She also had no idea about any RFS numbers I could contact. I suggested a suggestion box. And in said suggestion box the suggestion to keep such numbers handy.

**Report a fire, call 000,
RFS information line 1800 679 737,
or app 'Fires near me'**

The pub suggested the 'Fires Near Me' app. Which was brilliant.

Devastating. But brilliant. I watched the fire move towards Merigan. Consume Merigan – and was able to relay this to Tim (who was on his way from Orange). He had had wind that the homestead was fine – but I had been watching the grey patch. It didn't seem fine to me. I told him to prepare himself.

Thanks to the RFS

Around 6pm we returned to a blackened, smouldering apocalypse. It was awful.

The homestead survived – thanks to the RFS. They waterbombed for 45 minutes at least. To them we owe a debt of gratitude.

Afterwards, nearly as horrible as the event...

Two days later I went out into the paddocks with Tim on the bike. Earlier I had heard the sounds of the trees in the pine windbreaks falling. I had heard the crack of the gunshots putting burnt animals out of their misery... but from the green oasis of the homestead I hadn't seen it. It was macabre.

A desolate, black, apocalyptic moon-scape. Not a blade of grass. Not a living beast to be seen. Not a single intact fence post – all the carefully planted trees, gone. All just charred ashes. It was intense. Overwhelming. Lonely. And very, very sad.

(The sheep were still dying Bronte said recently – from smoke inhalation, burned feet or burned lips so they couldn't eat.)

It was devastating for Tim – if you knew the pride he took in his land, the planning, the years and the dedication..

Coming together of neighbours, friends and BlazeAid to help

Fencing contractors can charge anywhere from \$14 to \$20 per metre. With the help of BlazeAid and our co-ordinators Mary Howarth and John Lillico (and Brian Carr in the early stages), the support of Elders sourcing materials for cost price, (and potentially Bungendore Rural), the fire-affected farmers may be able to re-fence for as little as \$4 per metre.

It is a rotten thing that has happened. Big changes need to be made to identify the inherent risks and avoid future disasters, but the community is united in their desire to help one another. ■

An era, a show and A LEGENDARY ALBUM

by Christine M Knight



JOHN SHORTIS and Moya Simpson's playful sense of humour was evident from the moment I entered their Bungendore property. Their next-door neighbour's gates featured a sign that read *Ironing done here*. The wall plaque near Shortis and Simpson's front door read *Irony done here*.

Over a steaming mug of coffee, we discussed the inspiration behind their current cabaret show *Fifty Years Ago Today* – marking the anniversary of the Beatles *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. As we talked, it struck me that the show was very much like a great meal: lavish, prepared with great care, nutritious and good for the soul, and an experience not easily forgotten.

Cobargo Folk Festival commissioned the cabaret after this talented duo's acclaimed festival performance about Eurovision and the context out of which it evolved. John said, "That was really an entertaining look at the history of Europe linked by bad songs."

This show incorporates humour and poignant stories as well as songs of different tempos and styles from that Beatles milestone album as well as songs from that era.

Fifty Years Ago Today is a musical feast utilising the rich harmonies of a

choir, the vocal skills of its musicians, and the rocking talent of a hot backing band. It has appeal for all ages.

It was not designed as a nostalgic trip down memory lane, although people who lived through that era may relish the show as such. It provides insight into a seminal moment in

music and world history when world music influenced the Beatles music not only in composition but also in performance.

As we talked, I realised that *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album prepared audiences for the emergence of another musical phenomenon, Queen. This cabaret should not be missed. ■

Fifty Years Ago Today cabaret will be at the Bicentennial Hall, Queanbeyan for one night only: Saturday March 18, 2017 at 8pm. Details see ad p11.

Album detour before reaching Australian shores and other historical gems unearthed by John Shortis

THE (Sgt Pepper) album was released on 1 June 1967 in the UK, but we didn't get it here till the end of July.

The reason for the delay was that the British didn't trust us Antipodeans to do a good job of printing the elaborate artwork, so 50,000 covers had to be shipped to Australia. While they were on their way, the Six-Day Arab-Israeli War broke out, so the ship carrying the covers couldn't get through the Suez Canal, and had to come the long way round.

At the time you could buy a bottle of Sparkling Porphyry Pearl for 90c a bottle, and a brand new Holden ute for \$1,981. If you felt like a cup of tea, a Bex and a good lie down, a packet of Bex painkillers cost 12 cents, and a pound of tea 29c...

And interestingly, even though we'd had decimal currency since February 1966, the prices were still given in pounds, shillings and pence, as well as in dollars and cents.

A copy of Sgt Pepper's, on vinyl of course, cost \$5.25 (or £2/12/6). ■



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Will they take us all with them?

Climate denial: badge of loud right-wing politicians

WHILE TEMPERATURES in the western suburbs of Sydney reached 47C in mid-February and Palerang experienced a series of horrendous bushfires, right-wing politicians around the globe have stepped up their efforts to send the planet over the edge.

In Australia, One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts, before his election, worked for the climate-denying Galileo Movement. Mean-

while members of the Turnbull government pay lip service to climate science but are still wedded to the coal industry.

Not only are they extolling the virtues of 'clean coal' (a technology that doesn't really exist), they reject the need to phase out coal-fired power, an action deemed imperative by climate scientists, increasingly joined by other Australian industries. Treasurer Scott Morrison recently came into the parliamentary chamber brandishing a lump of coal, taunting Labor and the Greens: "Don't be afraid, don't

be scared. It's coal."

Overseas, new US President Donald Trump had once declared climate change a hoax. He still threatens to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement. While Trump has not yet followed through on that particular promise, he is already removing numerous barriers to the exploitation of coal, oil and gas.

As Paul Mason wrote in the Guardian on 21 February https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/20/sweltering-aussies-rightwing-climate-of-fear?CMP=share_btn_link, many right wing leaders are wearing their climate scepticism as a badge of honour, not least the head of the

United Kingdom Independence Party (Ukip), Paul Nuttall.

In Holland, winning right winger Geert Wilders election program promises "no more money for development, windmills, art, innovation or broadcasting". And in France, Marine Le Pen's Front National, tell voters they must leave the Paris climate agreement because it is "a communist project".

It might be a joke if it weren't so serious for the rest of us on the planet. As Mason writes, the progressive side of politics has to get active and elevate climate change to the top issue for society that it is.

— by Jenny Goldie and Maria Taylor

SCIENCE

Think it's all happened before so, what me worry?

by Jenny Goldie

PERSISTENT climate deniers reject the idea that the climate is changing. When they see an increase in extreme weather events, however, they move to the next level down in denial.

"OK, the climate is changing but humans are not to blame. It's the sun, volcanoes and other natural forces changing the climate," they say.

Now Canberra-based (when not in Sweden) Prof Will Steffen and his colleague from the Swedish Resilience Center, Owen Gattney, have come up with an equation

that shows human influence on climate is far, far greater than natural forces. For the past 7,000 years, these natural forces were leading to a decline in temperature of 0.01°C per century.

Climate changing thanks to human activities 170 times faster than natural tempo

For the past 45 years, however, temperatures have increased, not decreased, at a rate of 1.7°C per century. This dramatic turnaround can only be explained by human activity. It is causing the climate to change 170 times faster than natural forces.

After publication of this 'Anthropocene Equation', the *Bulletin* met up with Will Steffen over coffee. He said it was Earth system scientist John Schellnhuber, who in 1999 came up with an equation to measure rate of changes in the Earth system (E).



Schellnhuber had said this rate of change was driven by astronomical forcings (A) such as those from the sun or asteroids; geophysical forcing (G), for example, changing currents; and internal dynamics (I), or biological forces, such as the new presence of cyanobacteria billions of years ago which emitted oxygen, once a toxic element, but which gave rise to oxygen-tolerant life on Earth.

That equation read: $\frac{dE}{dt} = f(A, G, I)$

Steffen explained that human activities (H), largely in industrial societies, were dwarfing A, G and I that were now almost insignificant against H. In fact, A, G and I were trending towards zero. The new equation thus reads:

$\frac{dE}{dt} = f(H)$
A, G, I → 0

In other words, humanity not only rivals

the great forces of nature, it is now the prime driver of change in the Earth system.

If, however, humanity is to survive, the current rate of change must also trend towards zero as soon as possible. Global civilisation cannot survive on a destabilised planet.

What then constitutes human activities, or H? Steffen said H was a function of the three factors (P, A, T) in the original Ehrlich/Holdren equation of $I = PAT$, where impact on the environment was a function of population (P), affluence (A) and technology (T).

When in Australia, Steffen is a leading spokesman for the now crowd-funded Climate Council, which emerged after then Prime Minister Abbott axed the Climate Commission. He is gloomy about progress in Australia in dealing with climate change, particularly at the federal level where Cabinet members are actively spruiking the benefits of so-called 'clean' coal.

"We have to get the power to organise energy policy back to the states," he says. "South Australia has moved significantly towards renewables. Premier Jay Weatherill has been a real leader.

"And in Victoria, the Labor Government is planning to build Australia's first grid scale battery storage facility."

Considering the greenhouse emissions of natural gas

Steffen warns against using gas as a transition fuel between fossil fuels and renewables.

"There is very little difference in emission terms between coal and gas if you consider the whole life cycle. When fugitive emissions from coal seam gas are taken into account, gas is no better."

Steffen concedes there is some use for gas to provide 'peaking power' at times of high demand, as in heat waves. He says we have to get past the concept of 'base-load power' which is often used to justify the continued use of coal into the future. ■

Focus on Energy and Innovation

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Beijing to cut coal use by 30% in 2017

by Graham Franklin-Brown

IF AUSTRALIA'S coal mining companies are looking for ways to continue flogging their toxic rocks in China, the following news might encourage them to think again.

China's official Xinhua news agency recently revealed that China's capital of Beijing is planning to cut coal consumption by 30% this year as part of the city's larger efforts to tackle air pollution.

Cities blanketed in smog remain the first image most people think of when they hear the words 'China' and 'coal' in the same sentence.



But China is emerging as one of the countries doing the most to mitigate and reduce its coal consumption. In August of 2014, Beijing authorities announced that they were looking to completely ban coal sales and use in its six main districts and other regions by the end of 2020 to cut air pollution.

Over the past few months, China has made several moves to close a massive number of coal power plants.

In October 2016, 17 gigawatts (GW) worth of coal-fired >> next pg

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Pinot noir – pining for a glass?

by Corinna Baird



Hereby introducing a new column for our region’s many fine-wine lovers and discussers. We’re lucky to have met **Corinna Baird**, associated with Wamboin’s newly re-opened winery/ cafe **Contentious Character** (nee Lambert Vineyards). She will bring us more wine news and discussion in the coming months. We start with that international favourite Pinot Noir and why it finds perfect conditions right here in the capital region.

ONE OF THE wonderful things about wine is their evocative French names. Pinot is a variant of *pineau*, which means these grapes are tightly packed like a pine cone and *noir*, of course, describes their black-

blue berries.

Cool climate growing

The most famous Pinot Noirs come from Burgundy in east-central France. Pinot Noir prefers a cool climate, because too much

heat makes the grapes ripen too quickly and lose their full flavour and aroma.

You may be surprised to know that parts of the capital region provide the perfect cool climate for these tantalising grapes. (Madeline Triffon once called Pinot Noir “sex in a glass”.)

This area has a continental climate where there is a big difference between the coldest and hottest months. Like Burgundy, the region has high temperatures in midsummer and plenty of sunshine, while the autumns are long and cool. Even cold snaps in February or March help give these grapes an enviable balance of acid and sugar and plenty of time to develop their delightful flavours.

You may have enjoyed Pinot Noir from other cool regions of Australia. Mornington Peninsula, Tasmania, Gippsland and Bellarine Peninsula (home to the By Farr label) are a few. New Zealand also has the terroir or “sense of place” for Pinot Noir – that magic blend of climate, soil, aspect and ‘je ne sais quoi’. Across the ocean, northern Italians, cooler Californians, Chileans and Argentines also play host to the blushing blue pinot.

How will I know?

What are the special characteristics of a Pinot Noir?

- look for a pale, translucent colour

- taste cranberry, cherry and raspberry with others like mushroom, wet leaves or caramel
- place in French oak barrels
- age for 2 to 18 years, depending on style
- serve cool to touch.

Many people ask if they can cellar their favourite wines. In fact, many wines that can be aged come from lofty vineyards and cool climates like ours. Pinot Noir ages well and develops game, truffle and earthy characters (a bit like us).

Should you wish to buy the most expensive version, you can spend \$15,000 for a 30-year-old from Burgundy, the 1985 Richebourg Brand Cru. If your needs are a tad more humble, you could choose a Te Wahi Pinot Noir, Central Otago, 2014 for \$65.

Luckily for you, Contentious Character has a Pinot Noir, Canberra cool climate vintages from 2006 to 2016 from \$33 a bottle. You may want to enjoy it with a whole salmon or a richer meat, like venison or duck. Or you could just put it away for a day when you’re pining. ■

What could be better than wine and cheese! Helen Hunter took a cheese making course and tells us all about it at www.districtbulletin.com.au



Bush voices

Reviewed by Jenny Goldie

BRANDISHING a \$50 Christmas gift voucher from my son, I raced into the bookstore, meaning to buy the much acclaimed 2014 book by Don Watson, called *The Bush*. In my haste I grabbed *A Single Tree* by mistake, but a mistake I was not to regret.

These are the stories and poems on which *The Bush* compilation is based – a vast array of experiences from Abel Tasman, through the early European discoverers and explorers like Joseph Banks and Thomas Mitchell, to 19th century settlers and up until the present day, including the likes of Tim Winton.

The early settler stories are what hold the attention most. Included are some beloved poems of Henry Lawson, *Outback*

and Banjo Patterson’s *Clancy of the Overflow*. And the story from Steele Rudd, *Cranky Jack*, is downright hilarious.

Many stories, however, from the diaries and letters of ordinary settlers, are quite shocking. Most of us today are aware of one or two massacres of Aborigines and of poisoned flour and waterholes. But the extent of the mistreatment was much worse.

In 1846, for instance, when Henry Meyrick drove his flock of sheep to Gippsland he found the natives in a state of terror of the white man. He wrote:

The blacks are very quiet here now, poor wretches. No wild beast of the forest was ever hunted down with such unsparing

A Single Tree – voices from the bush
Compiled by Don Watson
Penguin Random House, Australia 2016, 416pp



perseverance as they are. Men, women and children are shot whenever they can be met with.

And the slaughter was not confined to Aborigines. As Murray Johnson wrote:

Notwithstanding that a four week open season on koalas in August 1927 had seriously damaged the government’s credibility in the eyes of the general electorate, the trapping of possums continued intermittently.

This book ranges widely. Some stories are sad, such as a letter by Georgiana Molloy in 1837 describing how her beloved 19-month-old beloved son had drowned in a well.

There are environmental stories, such as Stephen Pyne looking at the role of fire in the landscape, and a fine essay by Tim Flannery on the red kangaroo.

Don Watson did not write any stories in this book; he compiled those of others. It is nevertheless the work of a master craftsman and scholar. For those of us who live in ‘the bush’, it is essential reading. ■

<< power plants were scrapped, which included ten plants that were only under construction.

This move was followed in January by a further announcement that China would scrap 104 projects still under construction, and more planned coal power projects, totaling 120 GW.

“We will try to basically realise zero coal-use in six major districts and in Beijing’s southern plain areas this year,” Beijing’s Mayor Cai Qi was quoted by the Xinhua news agency as saying, before adding that the city is also aiming to eliminate small coal-fired boilers.

In addition, Cai said the city is also aiming to take 300,000 obsolete vehicles off the road this year to raise fuel standards and to promote more efficient cars. ■

Source: Joshua S Hill Clean Technica, 7 February 2017

India going the same way

AS REPORTED by the ANU Asia and Pacific Policy Forum in February, (*Don’t bank on coal exports to India*) India is reporting much the same story about reduction in coal use, and aiming for zero coal imports in the near future to reduce pollution and to make electricity in that country more affordable by using only domestic and alternative sources.

But never let the facts interfere with dreams of an Indian Adani coal mine in the Galilee Basin of north Queensland – exciting the federal and Queensland governments as an economic saviour. ■

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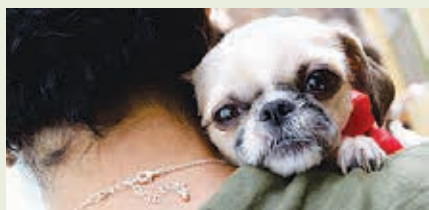
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:: READER ::



Pets often hold women in violent domestic relationships

THE SAFE Steps Family Violence Response Centre in Victoria receives 90,000 calls for help each year and 40 percent of victims have had their pets harmed or threatened to be harmed.

An ABC report by Peter Lusted highlights the bind that many women who love animals find themselves in when thinking of leaving a violent partner.

One woman told the reporter "We had dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, chooks and ducks ... we did a bit of wildlife rescue, anything that walked in the door got loved and looked after," she said.

"Fairly early on I think he realised he could control me if he hurt the animals, or looked like he was going to hurt the animals.

"It was a horrible enough situation for the kids and I to live in ... if he'd done that to our animals and killed them all when we left, I'm not sure how I would have handled the guilt and I'm sure it would have had a huge impact on my children."

The Victorian government is now funding a 'pets at risk' program to house animals so women can leave, called a life-saving program, but shelter workers say it does not fully meet the need.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES:

- **1800 Respect national help-line:** 1800 737 732
- **Women's Crisis Line:** 1800 811 811
- **Men's Referral Service:** 1300 766 491
- **Lifeline (24 hour crisis line):** 131 114
- **Relationships Australia:** 1300 364 277

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-28/domestic-violence-pet-shelter-program-struggling-to-meet-demand/8308606>

Read more from 'around the web' at www.districtbulletin.com.au

FIRE aftermath: Wildcare needs help

WILDCARE HAS mobilised to rescue and treat wildlife burnt in the Mt Fairy, Sutton and Carwoola fires. About 20 kangaroos, some reptiles and turtles have come into care so far.

Wildcare is also providing fodder drops to keep wildlife alive whilst their habitat regenerates over the next few months. What with vet bills, treatments, medications, food and sedative used in darting – this is a long and expensive operation.

How to help – details at end

A Wildcare volunteer reported: "From what I hear and see, the burn damage to the wildlife varies. Some with just the feet, others with hands and feet, and the underside of the tail. I suspect the likelihood would two to three months in rehab.



"It isn't an easy problem to solve. Wildcare can really only take on about 40 roos on top of the routine ins and outs. Many injured animals and mobs (don't know how many) are loitering in the burnt-out areas of Carwoola.

"Wildcare has been assessing the situation and with the help of property owners

have been putting out hay for kangaroos, but it is a huge area. Also letting the locals know what to feed other species and what to look out for via local media and Facebook.

"I note the Mt Fairy grass has already started to come back four weeks after the fire, so for Carwoola there may be a commitment for say six weeks. There is a possibility that some animals (roos) will need to be euthanased."

Wildcare needs to raise \$20,000!

Please donate to:

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Account number: 10216803

Email treasurer@wildcare.com.au for a tax deductible receipt

Please share this message. ■

Your SAY...

The NBN is here – but it doesn't pass muster

by Wamboin Communication Action Group

A GOOD internet service is a necessity, not a luxury, for most people today. This is equally true for Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton residents, who are earmarked to be 'served' by NBN's new Sky Muster Satellite service.

However, beyond the cute name and slick marketing, typical internet plans come at twice the price, a tenth of the usable data, and poor performance specifications compared to what's available to our friends and colleagues who live only a few kilometers away in Queanbeyan or Canberra. Although we really live on the urban fringe, we will be runners-up by a 'country mile'.

If you live in a rural residential area you may be giving up on movie streaming sites like Netflix, iView or trying to Skype/Facetime the relatives. The ageing and overloaded phone lines in this area simply don't deliver the internet services we have a right to expect.

You probably hope that "The NBN will solve it!" Wrong! NBN's Sky Muster satellite service will NOT solve these problems.

Your data usage will be capped at a level below the amount that many households already consume (so forget streaming for entertainment, health or education).

Further, satellite lag (ie latency or Ping) means that gaming, video conferencing or just using the net to make a telephone call, is near impossible. We should all be concerned that, just when businesses and government want to push more services online to cut their costs, rural residents like us will be stuck on the wrong side of the 'digital divide', making life in the country a second-rate choice. And this when we live a few minutes from the national capital!

If you're concerned about your internet and landline service, come and talk to us (the Wamboin Communications Action Group or WCAG) at the Bywong Car Boot Sale on Sunday 26 March, the Sutton and District Community Association on Monday 20 March (TBC) or the Sutton Country Fair on Saturday 1 April.

Or you can email us at wamboincommunications@gmail.com. WCAG is a group of Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton

residents that has no commercial or political links.

We have already provided a submission to the Productivity Commission's Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation Inquiry, which is examining whether the mobile network and NBN Co. services are sufficient to replace the copper based landline telephone throughout Australia.

In our submission we argue that rural residential areas such as ours should have phone and internet service standards similar to metropolitan areas. You can read our submission at <https://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/project-definition/tuso-submission>

Your support is needed so we can lobby MPs and businesses to get faster, affordable internet services in this area (NBN or other). We have 160+ supporters already, but the more we have, the better our chances of success. You can find out more about our activities and plans at <http://sites.google.com/site/wamboincommunications/> (or put "WCAG Wamboin" into your search engine). ■

Crossword

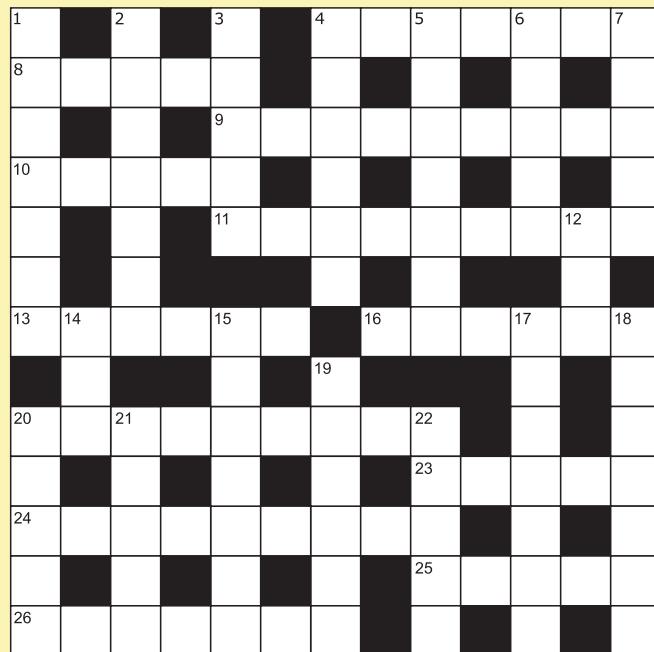
Solution p7

Across

- Lottery game (7)
- Sweat room (5)
- Male lover of a young woman (9)
- Pertaining to hearing (5)
- High-spirited (9)
- Cricket ball pitched to the point directly under the bat (6)
- Shellfish often considered an aphrodisiac (6)
- Seller of papers, magazines, etc (9)
- Sign of the zodiac (5)
- Three-sided fruit of a tall South American tree (6,3)
- Italian city (5)
- Component part (7)

Down

- As a rule (7)
- Divide into four (7)
- Ancient tale (5)
- Put to the test (3,3)
- Nursery rhyme: Seesaw, ___ Daw (7)
- Drama which is sung (5)
- Scrutinise accounts (5)
- So-named before marriage (3)
- Poem with complex stanza forms (3)
- Skilful at eluding capture (7)
- Art of trimming shrubs into decorative shapes (7)
- Greek wine (7)
- Substance used to curdle milk in cheese-making (6)
- Worthy (5)
- Cetacean mammal (5)
- Moth-eaten (5)



CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday 26 March – Birriwa Rd, Bywong

Sales from 0900 to 1200

(Sellers must arrive from 0700 to 0900, depart after 1200)

Come and enjoy Bywong's 20th Car Boot Sale, with **over 100 stalls** selling 'must-have' items! Free entry for buyers – or why not clean out the house, get a site for \$15 and make some money as a seller? Search for **toys, books and treasures** on sale. Relax with **tea and cakes** inside our hall. View **demonstrations** by your local **fire brigade**. Watch the **dog flyball** and **Pony Club displays**. Enter the **raffle** with great prizes donated by generous local businesses. Proceeds from the Car Boot Sale are used by the Bywong Community Association for local projects, such as the **Bywong Community Playground**.

If you would like to sponsor the event by donating a prize, email Merle at blackbird@iinet.net.au

For more info, visit www.bywongcommunity.org.au See you there...

Stupendous voices shine in Braidwood



Voci Stupende, Jared Lillehagen Alex Sefton and Kyla Allan.
IMAGE Unique Experiences

fledgling artists to a wider audience throughout Australia and possibly abroad.

In the last three years they have hosted over 25 concerts and have employed 24 singers, Australia wide.

VOCI STUPENDE, founded by Hugh and Jane Fraser, has become a well-respected corporation, sought after by many young opera singers in Australia. Like all great things, it began with an idea.

Two concerts were held in Armidale, in June 2013 by 8 singers who were still studying at The Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Their recitals of solos, duets, trios and ensemble pieces were brilliantly received with standing ovations for all three performances.

The response was so great the decision was made to launch this group as a more permanent project. In Australia and certainly further afield, it can be very difficult for any young singer to find a platform from which to perform.

Hugh and Jane Fraser recognised this and created a stepping stone, introducing

The singers come together with the most incredible energy, evoking from audiences deeply heartfelt responses across the board. It should not go unsaid that city-based performers rarely share their art and skills in regional areas and it has been sincerely appreciated. Everybody begs Voci Stupende to return.

Singers who have worked and studied so hard to be where they are professionally need the opportunity to be heard and to concentrate their efforts on what they do so brilliantly. Voci Stupende aims to support them in practical ways, perhaps by bringing their talents to the attention of larger and better funded patrons.

Hugh and Jane have provided a platform for singers to develop and engage professionally. Many of those original singers have moved overseas to further their careers on the international stage.

For details of the Braidwood concert see ad on p9.

Kangara retirement village makes great music

by Chrissie Shaw

KANGARA WATERS Retirement Village has been the focus of a series of concerts for over two years now. Two residents, both accomplished musicians, set up the concert series to bring quality musical performance to those living in the village, and to the general community.

These concerts have featured some of the best-known professional musicians based in Canberra, as well as offering performance opportunity to graduate students. The audiences have grown in numbers, often to capacity, and include music-lovers of all ages from all over Canberra, as well as the village residents.

Sadly both Noelene Akeroyd and John Bonnett passed away in 2016. In memory of their dedication, and to maintain their legacy, the Kangara Concert Series continues in 2017 with six concerts through the year. They'll feature a lineup of highly talented musicians,

from a jazz trio to a harp duo, singers, virtuoso pianists and lots in between.

The first concert is on Sunday 26 March at 2.15pm. It features mezzo-soprano chanteuse Bron Riley accompanied by pianist Colin Forbes. They will perform French love songs, including *Les Chemins de L'Amour*, (the pathways of love) giving the concert its title.

All are welcome, and there is a chance to mingle after the concert over afternoon tea provided by the Birrigai Café.

Pathways of Love, *Chemins De L'Amour*, French Love Songs

Sunday 26 March, 2.15pm (audience is asked to arrive 15 minutes early). Cooinda Hall, Kangara Waters, 2 Joy Cummings Place Belconnen. \$25 all tickets, cash at door. Price includes a generous afternoon tea.

Further information and details of all concerts, Chrissie Shaw 0407 079 748.



:: LOCAL MARKETS ::

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

Every Saturday
Southern Harvest Farmers Market. Anglican Church Hall, off Butmaroo St, Bungendore, 9am–Noon. www.southernharvest.org.au
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 (ex-January)
Captains Flat Country Markets. Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 9.30–1.30pm. Enquiries to Maggie on 0473 113 398.

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

3rd Sunday every month
Market @ Bungendore. War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce. See ad this pg.

The Queanbeyan Market. Queanbeyan Park, Lowe St, Queanbeyan, 9–1pm. Fresh produce, crafts, handmade goods, kids' activities and more, with emphasis on supporting regional farmers, producers and local small business.

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

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

More on regional / local events; and tourism visit

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

Mad March

the market @ bungendore

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

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

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

Southern Harvest FARMERS MARKET

Anglican Church Hall
access via Butmaroo St
BUNGENDORE

EVERY Saturday
9am–Noon

Fresh and tasty vegetables, fruit, eggs, honey and meat straight from the farm. Plus fresh seafood, jams, sauces, preserves and wines.
Real coffee, ready-to-eat foods and take-home meals.

www.southernharvest.org.au

Shortis & Simpson

present

FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY

Marking the 50th anniversary of

Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band



Saturday 18 March, 8pm

Bicentennial Hall, Queanbeyan

\$52 / \$46 conc. / groups (8+) \$45 / student \$25

To book phone 6285 6290 or
<http://www.theq.net.au/buy-tickets/>

Joining Shortis and Simpson will be **Worldly Goods Choir**
and a hot band made up of
Dave O'Neill, Jon Jones, Ian Blake, Bob Rodgers & Andrew Purdam

Seating is tables and chairs. Bring a picnic.
Bar is open in the venue.

March 2017

Until Tuesday 14 March

Transitions

Form Studio and Gallery, 1/30 Aurora Ave, Queanbeyan.

Tuesday to Sunday 10am–4pm.

An exhibition of paintings by Kate Bender and sculptures by Keith Bender.

Ph 0430 359 776. formstudioandgallery.com.au

Until Saturday 18 March

Are We There Yet? A Journey Around Australia



Based on the classis award-winning picture book, written and illustrated by Alison Lester, this exhibition features Lester's original illustrations along with preliminary work for the making of the book, including ideas and sketches, her children's travel journals and family photographs taken on their journal around Australia.

goulburn.art Regional Gallery. Cnr Church & Bourke Sts, Goulburn.

Mon–Fri 10am–5pm / Sat 1–4pm. Free Entry.
Ph 4823 4494, Em.artgallery@goulburn.nsw.gov.au

© Alison Lester, 2004, from *Are we there yet?* by Alison Lester. Published by Penguin Viking Australia.

Friday 10 March

LiquidFest 2017 – Three Wishez

X Factor 2016 finalists Three Wishez will be supported by amazing local acts Tash Doherty, Breeding Audacity (from the ACT), The Faumuis, DJ Cuddles and more at LiquidFest 2017. This free, all ages, drug and alcohol-free event can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Queen Elizabeth II Park, Queanbeyan. 5–9pm.

Saturday 11 March

Zucchini Zazzle



What can you do with too many zucchinis? Have a Zucchini Zazzle and raise funds for those affected by the recent bushfires! Cook your heart out and bring your offerings (with ingredients noted) for sale by donation, by 9am, to the Southern Harvest Farmers Market in Bungendore.

Proceeds go to those affected by the Carwoola Fires.

Anglican Church Hall, Butmaroo St, Bungendore. Southern Harvest Farmers Market from 9am–12noon. www.southernharvest.org.au

Murrumbateman village market

Barton Hwy, Murrumbateman. 9am–1pm.

One of our regional markets: selling a wide range of local produce and crafts including fresh fruit and vegetables, coffee, bread, cakes, jams, honey, pastries, olives, olive oil, chillies, meats. A selection of local wineries also have product available for a taste test.

Go to www.mvmarket.com for more information.

> Regular local markets, p11

Sunday 12 March

Snowy Mountains Readers Writers Children's Festival

Banjo Paterson Park, Jindabyne. From 10am. Free. Author workshops, Teddy Bear's Picnic, poetry,

stories, singing and other activities.

Contact helen@snowy.net.au or www.snowy-mountainswritersfestival.org/

Thursday 16 March

Face-to-face with Luke Foley MP

Queanbeyan Roos Club, cnr Richard Ave and Stuart St, Crestwood, Qbn.

NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley is inviting locals to meet face-to-face and discuss the community's views on a variety of issues affecting the Monaro electorate. He will be joined by Labor's Candidate for Monaro, Bryce Wilson.

Attendees are urged to be inside at 6pm for 6.30pm start. Limited seats.

RSVP: Bryce.wilson@nswlabor.org.au

Movie night for cancer research

Dendy cinemas, Bunda St, Canberra. 6–9pm. \$60. Come along to the movie night to hear about Professor Sudha Rao and her team's significant advancements in the treatment of breast cancer.

Includes screening of *Miss You Already*, pre-session drinks, nibbles and a choc top. There will also be raffles.

Book your ticket or call 0413 326 418 for more information.



Saturday 18 March

Cooking class and lunch – The taste of New Caledonia

Le Tres Bon. 40 Malbon St, Bungendore. 10.30am–2pm. Cost \$110.

Learn how to make a fresh fish salad with coconut cream and Calédonian flambée banana. A glass of French sparkling and a long table two-course lunch with a glass of matching wine is included.

Ph 6238 0662. www.letresbon.com.au

Horse management, weeds and other rural and small farm or hobby block issues

Find upcoming events and workshops at
<http://smallfarmscapital.org/events-workshops>

What's On THE Q

Proudly brought to you by Q-One Performing Arts

QPRC
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Q-one
Aquatics
Performing Arts
Indoor Sports
Community Facilities

more. Entertainment includes cooking demonstrations.

Call 6282 3777 for more information.

Sunday 26 March

Bywong Car Boot Sale

Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Rd. 9am–12noon.

Come and buy or come and sell at Bywong's 20th car boot sale. Enjoy food and drinks inside the hall, demonstrations by the local fire brigade and much more. See you there!

www.bywongcommunity.org.au Refer to ad p10.

COMING UP in APRIL, MAY

Saturday 1st April

Sutton Country Fair

All day, organised by Sutton Primary School. Stalls, craft, plants, White Elephant, Devonshire Tea, rides and much more. Check out the latest details www.facebook.com/suttoncountryfair2017/

Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 April

Rumour Has It

The Q, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Tickets \$52/adult, \$47/concession & groups 8+. The hilarious and moving tale of a quiet Irish community turned upside down by the arrival of a Hollywood movie shoot.

Ph 6285 6290. www.theq.net.au

Friday 28 to Sunday 30 April

Save the date!

Bungendore Harvest Festival

A celebration of regional, cold climate food and drink.

Come and enjoy the produce from around the Bungendore region. Activities include fresh produce and hand-made products market, food demonstrations, open farms and tours of wineries and much more.

For more information go to southernharvest.org.au/

Sunday 7 May

The Biggest Morning Tea, Burra Quilters

Burra Hall, 10am–12noon.
Wonderful handcrafted gifts, books and cakes for sale – perfect for Mother's Day. Quilt raffle tickets for sale at the door. All proceeds to support cancer research.

Saturday 18 March

Fifty Years Ago Today: Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

Bicentennial Hall, Queanbeyan. Starts 8pm.

Shortis and Simpson mark the 50th anniversary of *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* with characters like Billy Shears, Lucy in the Sky and Rita the meter maid. Seating is tables and chairs. Bring a picnic. Bar is open in the venue.

Tickets from \$25 to \$52. Bookings 6285 6290. See ad p11.

Saturday 18 March

Van Morrison Masterpieces by Vince Jones and the Astral Orchestra, Canberra Theatre Centre.

The show, *Van Morrison Masterpieces* presents *Astral Weeks* and *Moondance*, two albums recorded in New York. First, Van's most acclaimed album, the magical *Astral Weeks*, a poetic, mercurial blend of jazz, folk and blues, and then the wonderful soul/jazz influenced *Moondance*.

Tickets from \$45. Bookings 6275 2700.



Thursday 23 March

Ka-Ching! Pokie Nation

The National Theatre, Braidwood, 7pm.

Screening of documentary film showing how pokie machines operate and cause harm, followed by a panel discussion.

Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 March

Stones in His Pockets

The Q, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Tickets \$52/adult, \$47/concession & groups 8+. The hilarious and moving tale of a quiet Irish community turned upside down by the arrival of a Hollywood movie shoot.

Ph 6285 6290. www.theq.net.au

Friday 24 March

Breakfast seminar: transitioning to retirement

Canberra Museum & Gallery, London Cct, Canberra. 8am–10am. Tickets \$20.

A seminar for the over 50s on the financial implications of transitioning to retirement. Presented by National Seniors Australia.

www.nationalseniors.com.au.

Seniors Week Expo

Exhibition Park, Flemington Rd, Mitchell. 10am–3pm.

The Seniors Expo brings together information on health, lifestyle, leisure, finance, travel and much

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

BY MARIE JONES ★★★★★

...the hilarious and moving tale of a quiet Irish community turned upside down by the arrival of a Hollywood movie shoot.

RUMOUR HAS IT

“THE NEXT BEST THING TO SEEING ADELE LIVE!”
Stage Whispers

NAOMI PRICE AN AWARD-WINNING PORTRAYAL OF SUPERSTAR ADELE
“Full of heart, genuine laughs and incredible talent.” Cultural Flanerie

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

23–25 March 2017

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



6–8 April 2017

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



Performing Arts
The Q, Queanbeyan