THE DISTRICT

Bulletin

MAY 2010

33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN

COUNTRY LIVING in Palerang – Bungendore and Queanbeyan

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

INSIDE:

Jackie French:

one of Australia's best-known authors writes about country living inspired by her Araluen home **p3**

Creating a successful biodynamic, grass-fed beef operation **p4**

Populations to soar in Queanbeyan and Palerang **p5**

Winning Weereewa short story **p6**

Can Chardonnay rise from the dead?

and all about the May Harvest Festival – Food and Wine **p9**

Sign of the times: looming budget cuts **p12**

Plus – letters p10, theatre p15, antiques, gardening, training dogs, book reviews, calendar of events and much more!

The Collector Pumpkin Festival on May 2nd delighted crowds on a beautiful Autumn day. Biggest pumpkin awards all went to Jim Lumbers from Lerida Estate. The rich soils of the Lake George rim yielded pumpkins for Jim weighing in at 204 kg (1st place winner) followed by 203 and 173 kg for 2nd and 3rd place. Six-year-old Chloe Speering from Goulburn thought they made a pretty good climbing and sitting place. (We are still wondering whether these monsters are also edible!)

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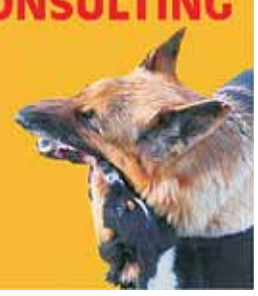

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Famous author mourns river she knew

by Heike Hahner

THERE CANNOT be many people left who do not know Jackie French. Her friendly smile has beamed at us from the front of papers and magazines, the backs of books and out of the television screen; her voice has been heard over the radio. Mention chooks or wombats and her name will follow.

Her output as an author, especially for children and young adults, is phenomenal as well as highly acclaimed. What is less frequently discussed is that a driving force behind her writing about wildcare and sustainable gardening is her own loss of a dream.

Araluen, enchanting landscape

Driving into Araluen has always seemed like driving into a lost world: an ancient small valley of stunning beauty, sheltered by a long oval of next-to-vertical mountains, rich in bird and animal life, teeming with a vast biodiversity of plants and once fed by the Araluen River.

Arriving at Jackie French's home, which she shares with her husband Bryan Sullivan, the first inkling that all is not well in this natural heaven is the dried-out river bed, winding tightly next to the road, flanked by mountains rising sharply on both sides.

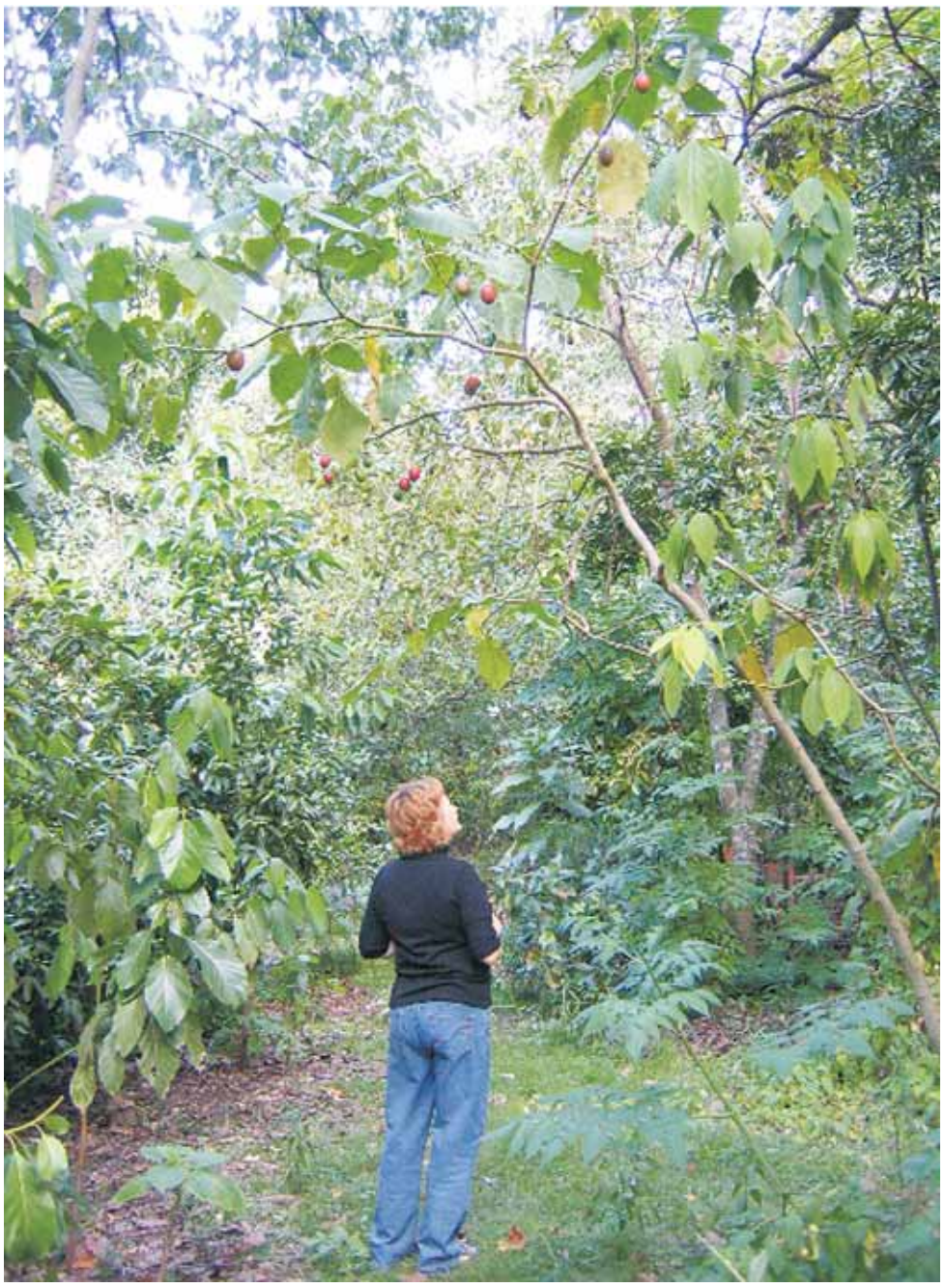
Apart from some birds chatting occasionally in the undergrowth, one is greeted by an intense silence. It is late in the afternoon and, as the light is fading fast due to the high mountain walls, we decide to take photos of the garden before we talk.

Her garden is an exquisite narrow strip of dense vegetation, wedged between two mountains and the now dry river. Jackie explained that her aim was to establish an ecosystem that is self-sustaining and provides enough food for her and her family.

A sub-tropical garden in Palerang

We walk around a garden that has trees laden with fruit; branches drip with avocado's, tamarillos, kiwifruit, calamondins and Tahitian limes, to name but a few. There are no nets to keep birds, possums, or other fruit-thieves out. When I ask her about the missing nets, Jackie laughs and says that there is enough to go around, for all of us.

Our talk revolves around what is closest to her heart, which is the gradual but inevitable loss of her local flora and fauna, in her view due to the ever-increasing need for water for the growing population along the flanks of local waterways.



Jackie has lived in the Araluen Valley for 37 years. Arriving here from Brisbane all those years ago she knew this was the place she had been looking for, as it promised to fulfil one of her gardening dreams: to own a water garden.

She remembers that when she first moved here, the waterway next to her house was called a small river. In the years following that, she says, it was described as a stream, then a creek as it gradually diminished in size and since 1994 it has disappeared altogether.

Home of the lamprey

With the demise of the river, an astounding number of animals and plants have also vanished, such as rock wallabies, red-necked wallabies, even the hardy Eastern Rosella has disappeared from her gardens. The dying of the river has meant that all its inhabitants, recorded or not, have also disappeared or at least locally. Gone are the rock pythons, silver perch, native trout and eels.

What environmental losses have been sustained here we will never know now; but that this area is rich in rarities is demonstrated by the presence of the non-parasitic lamprey. It inhabits the Moruya River which is another name for the Araluen River after it is joined by the Deua River. The Moruya River is one of the few places in the world, including the Tuross River and possibly the LaTrobe River in Victoria, where the non-parasitic lamprey can be found.

One of Australia's busiest writers fears she can't do enough

Jackie French is possibly Australia's most prolific and best known writer for both adults and children, 132 books in 17 years. She has received a stupendous number of awards and wide recognition for her writing.

But when she is asked how she feels about the slow death of this once stunning waterway she says disheartenedly, "I write books and articles, I talk on the radio, I am on the TV. I do everything I can but it is a drop in the ocean."

Leaving this magical spot in the failing daylight, sadness descends as I cross the Araluen River bridge. The river has been dry for so long now that casuarinas are growing in it and a quote by Sir David Attenborough comes to mind:

> *The future of life on Earth depends on our ability to take action; many individuals are doing what they can. Real success can only come if there is a change in our societies, our economics and our politics. Surely we have the responsibility to leave for future generations a planet that is healthy and habitable by all species.*

Postcript: Jackie French is, of course, not the only person affected by the lack of water in the Araluen River. The Araluen Valley is well known for its excellent orchards and farming community, and all are feeling the impact of the no-water situation. Drought and past alluvial gold mining activities are also blamed for the death of the watercourse. Next month, Heike talks to some of the Landcare people in the valley about both these impacts and what can be done.

BUNGENDORE BEEF

The natural way

***Sue Armstrong and Greg Oliver** moved to Greenhill Farm near Bungendore in 1997 (with four children) and ran the property as a traditional cattle farm for a few years. They were conscious of the many problems of traditional grazing and chemical use, and were organically inclined from the start. Sue takes up the story:*

BY THE year 2000 we had stopped all chemical use altogether and became associated with the Biodynamic Agriculture Association of Australia. We practise the Demeter way of biodynamics, which means fully organic plus a range of methods to increase soil life and natural farm systems.

We were in the strange situation of being effectively organic, but selling into the conventional markets. Most of our animals were sold to feedlots. On arrival these 'organic' cattle were treated with worm medicines and hormones, and vaccinated with various preparations. They were put in dirt pens and fed grain and hay with chemical additives.

The feedlots seemed to like our cattle and paid well, but we hated the thought of our cattle going from a completely natural environment to a very artificial one.

When we had been following biodynamics for about six years, we felt confident enough to offer our beef directly to the public. Our friend and fellow biodynamic practitioner Jeremy Wilson had been selling his beef directly to the public for years and he gave us lots of help and encouragement.

We decided to formalise our association with the Biodynamics Association and gained Demeter certification of the farm. This gives our customers confidence that they are receiving a genuine organic product.

Tell us about your marketing model

Well, basically we've made it up as we've gone along! We followed Jeremy's methods at first, but it then it seemed to change and is still evolving.

We love talking with our customers at the market and they tell us what they want. They also tell their friends and word of mouth is really important for us. Most of our sales still come from the EPIC Farmers' Market or from contacts made there.

To the surprise of our friends we recently became modern, and made a website. Many of our existing customers order online now, it's convenient. We now have a long list of customers ('the herd') that we email from time to time with farm news, tit bits, and any special offer we might be running.

How and where do you sell your beef?

We label all our beef as 'Greenhill Farm Beef' and we do all the distribution. We sell it in small meal-sized bags at the EPIC Farmers' Markets every Saturday morning, or in bulk packs ranging from 6kg to 35kg. The bulk packs are actually presented as many small frozen cryovac bags that each contain a couple of steaks, or a roast or about 600g of mince or sausages.

We deliver bigger bulk packs all over Canberra, in Palerang rural-residential areas and customers also pick them up at the EPIC markets. Some even come out to the farm to collect. Our main target area is the Canberra/ Bungendore/Queanbeyan area.

Why do your customers choose to buy your beef?

There are actually many reasons. Some want certified organic/biodynamic produce (that's cheaper than the organic shops), and some want grass-fed beef for health reasons. Some like the idea of knowing where their food comes from and that the animals are raised humanely, while others want to support sustainable farming. And some simply like the taste of our beef.

All our beef are born and raised on our farm and are 100 percent grass fed. By controlling all the processes from birth to slaughter, and then butchering and dry aging, we can maximise meat quality.

Do you employ many local people?

We are a small family business and do most of the farm work and all the marketing ourselves. We use a carrier (usually Steve Hughes or Michael Blore) and sometimes local contractors to help with the farm work. The Braidwood butcher does a wonderful job of preparing the beef for sale. Of course we get most of our farm supplies from Bungendore (and we're lucky to have such good ones there!).

Do you think that there is scope for more sustainable farming in Palerang?

Yes, any farm can become more sustainable by changing farming practices. Alternative enterprises may be a bit tricky though as water is definitely an issue. There are actually quite a number of farmers practising sustainable farming – either through organics, holistic management, carbon farming, permaculture, natural sequence farming or a mixture of all of them.

What do you see as the major challenges still facing your business vision?

The main challenge is farming in a drying climate with increasingly irregular rainfall. There is also a constant battle with serrated tussock, which threatens to overtake our entire region.

The ephemeral nature of abattoirs is also a risk to enterprises like ours, and currently the closest is at Cootamundra. We really need a small local facility, which could create local employment and be better for the animals, too.

What is the take-home message you would like people to remember about your business?

Firstly, that beef farming does not need to damage the environment, and can be done in a way to actually help heal the land and store carbon. Secondly, that organic grass-fed beef is better for your health than conventional grainfed meats (check out our website or **www.eatwild.com**). And thirdly, that there are small business opportunities everywhere and in probably all walks of life – and although it can be rewarding and satisfying, it's a lot of work!

www.greenhillorganicmeat.com.au

see farm chemicals
What's the Big Idea? > p7

Greg Oliver and Sue Armstrong and their children Sarah and Andrew at the family beef property outside Bungendore.
Photo: Maria Taylor

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Days of our lives

QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT Historical Museum Society and Queanbeyan City Council unveiled museum renovations, a new storage building and the 2010 Queanbeyan City Council Heritage Awards in late April. Presiding were Deputy Mayor Sue Whelan and Federal Member for Eden Monaro Mike Kelly. Biggest plaudits went to the work of the enthusiastic and tireless museum volunteers and coordinators with special mention for funds raiser Kerrie Ruth and curator Gillian Kelly who redesigned the museum layout with CIT student help.

Above: Kitchen stuff: These were *the days of our lives. Left: The Main Street Room with features from an old-fashioned department story (and a modern entertainer who came for the launch).*

The cottage museum is housed next to the modern Queanbeyan Police Station in the original Sergeant's Residence dating back to the 1860s along with the origins of the judicial and administrative precinct at Farrer Place. On display is a history of Queanbeyan and region through the decades and through the tools of everyday living. Exhibits include the story of the Ngambri people, bushrangers, colonial lifestyle, and historic Monaro Street to name a few.

It's a district thing: Palerang gold rush

You'll also find there a display about the many gold rush localities in Palerang. Many pieces were donated by local families such as that of volunteer Nancy Monk. Her family had a farming property at Barrack Flats in the days before its transformation into townhouses. The Monk family donated kitchen implements and musical instruments. Nancy herself worked as a nurse at Queanbeyan hospital for many years and said a work in progress is a medical display from the old hospital. This exhibit will no doubt make visitors feel happy to be living 50 years later!

For more information: *www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au*

QUEANBEYAN, PALERANG to grow — up to 72%

QUEANBEYAN AND the region are amongst NSW's fastest growing areas over the next 25 years according to population projections released by the NSW Government Minister for Planning Tony Kelly.

Queanbeyan's population could grow by up to 72 percent taking the city's population from 38,100 as recorded in the 2006 census to 65,400 in 2036. "The Minister's announcement comes as no surprise to Queanbeyan City Council," said Mayor Tim Overall. "Queanbeyan has been experiencing a continuous high growth rate over the past decade and Council expects this growth to continue over the next 25 years. Since 2001 Queanbeyan has been growing by an average rate of 2.35 percent per annum which is one of the fastest growth rates in regional NSW.

Based on current rates of increase, Palerang's population may be as much as 69 percent higher in 25 years. The forecasts were not designed to take into account limiting factors like water, climate change or changes to the national economy.

Commenting on the forecasts, Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall cited greenfield developments such as Googong, which was approved by the State Government prior to Christmas, and Tralee, still seeking approval, as housing sites for much of the population increase. Council's Residential and Economic Strategy 2031 already plans for the development of new suburbs within the city.

"The strategy identified the need to accommodate an additional 10,000 dwellings and 100 hectares of employment land over the next 25 years. When completed Googong will be home to around 16,000 people and 5,550 dwellings.

"Council has been preparing for this population growth for some years and has already begun work on strengthening Queanbeyan's traffic network to ensure it can sustain the increased population. The first part of this will begin this year with the extension of the Edwin Land Parkway which will link Karabar and Jerrabomberra via a two-lane single carriageway and will provide residents with a much-needed alternate route."

The cost of new and maintained infrastructure is the main downside for local Councils with rapid growth and some residents have also queried the quality-of-life impacts. Queanbeyan's argument for a special rate variation (CityCARE) for renewing footpaths, roads and recreational facilities is relevant now and in the future, say Council sources.

The NSW population projections can be found at **www.planning.nsw.gov.au**.

See also our story on local council and Palerang budget woes, p12 >

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Photos: Fred Harden

After the festival…

WEEREEWA FESTIVAL of Lake George closed with a happy informal concert on Rick Bevis's stage outside Bardy's in the heart of Bungendore. We all agreed it had been a great festival with something for everyone. If you wanted a walk across the lake, a contemplative day of painting around it, a bit of hilarious and satire courtesy of a Shortis and Simpson cabaret or a rousing talk on Australia's failure to take sustainability seriously from our patron, Dr Ken Henry, it was there. And who will soon forget Colin Offord, like a true Pied Piper with his fantastic instruments, leading Mirramu dancers and audience in a merry dance across the lake.

The combination of the theme, *Winds of Change*, with the perennial themes of environment and the arts brought some spirited exchanges and insights for both festival participants and visitors.

The environmental theme ran through most events, but amongst the most popular were the lake walk led by naturalist Rainer Rehwinkel, the Winds of Change Forum with the theme of sustainability, and the two farm visits to Mulloon Creek Natural Farms and Millpost Farm celebrating 30 years of permaculture.

An exciting part was the discovery of a wealth of local talent in the 22 events, and the enthusiastic participation of local businesses in the festival which ran over 10 days in and around Bungendore, Collector and the lake.

— Philippa Kelly

Weereewa Festival *Works on Paper* joint winner Elizabeth Faul is congratulated by Councillor Paul Cockram with festival organiser Philippa Kelly in the centre.

Pictured at the top, some of the art that explored the theme *Winds of Change*: (L to R) Ro Macfarlane's *Octopus Windsock*, Jas Hugonnet's *White Presence*, Richard Moffatt's *Screw Up* and the many coloured teatowels strung out on the lake for Megalo Access's *Wind-wash* project all in conversation with the wind turbines on the other side of the lake.

And the winners are:

More than 2000 Festival goers attended the events with over 250 artists participating in one art form or another. The winners in the four competitions were:

Weereewa Festival of Lake George Short Story Awards

Coordinator: Diana Stutterd; ***Judges:*** Mark Thornton (Open) and Jen Dibley (Junior)

Open Short Story, Milton Simms Perpetual Award, Medal made by Xanthe Gay: PS Cottier

Junior Short Story: Isabel Iffland Mihaich

Suzanne Ridley Memorial Poetry Prize: Claudia Iffland Mihaich

Maurice Barnes Memorial Poetry Prize: Keira Joyce

Special Highly Commended: Holly Paterson

Winds of Change Photography Prize

Coordinator: Frank Lindner; ***Judge:*** Anne O'Hehir

Joint Winners: Carolyn Young and Emily Jackett

Weereewa Works on Paper Prize

Coordinators: Pete Smith and Philippa Kelly; ***Judge:*** Helen Maxwell

Joint First Prize: Peter McLean for *Cycle of Change* and Elizabeth Faul for *Shadows on the Hill*

Joint Second Prize: Marcia Voce for *Weereewa* and Bill Kelly for *Winds over Lake George*

Highly Commended: Vanessa Welham for *Through the veil*

Weereewa Sculpture Prize

Sponsored by Infigen Energy; ***Coordinator:*** Mike Macgregor; ***Judge:*** Wendy Teakel

Joint First Prize winners: No. 26, Andy Townsend and Susie Bleach for *Adrift* and No. 4, Dave Argaet for *Sands of Time*

Third Prize: No. 17, Tracy Luff for *Carbon Lock Up*

Highly Commended: No. 29, Thomas Westra for Life Force and No. 18, Mike Macgregor for *Sowing Change*

Raffle winner

And the winner of the raffle of a Wollemi Pine and Judy Horacek Global Warming cartoon was Bruce Bloomfield of Bungendore.

Weereewa short story competition winner PS Cottier with Bungendore jeweller Xanthe Gay who made the Milton Simms Memorial Medal around the winner's neck.
Photos: George Mackintosh

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Contact: Rebecca
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Weereewa Festival Short Story Prize Winner:

Open Section

Theme: *Winds of Change*

– WHAT GOES AROUND –

by PS Cottier

WHEN SHE phoned, she had to repeat herself three times before I finally understood, and even then I couldn't believe it.

Mum, you've got to be joking. Are you sure you can manage it? Are you sure it'll be safe? After all, that's what hurt you in the first place.

So now I'm going to use it, she replied. *I think I've earned the right.*

That shut me up. She had a point.

It was ten years ago when the wind blew and took her legs away. I'm only being slightly dramatic here. Mum was out in the ute, checking fences around the property for damage after a storm. She'd found an injured sheep and had dragged it into the tray and was just having a drink in the uncertain shade of an old tree.

A last gust of wind, left behind after the storm, bleated through the limbs of the gum. *It wasn't much*, she joked later, *but I guess it was enough. The branch came down on her back. I tried to stand up, she explained in hospital, but my legs weren't listening. They'd gone deaf on me. Deaf as Beethoven on a bender.*

She has never walked again, since that day when the old tree lost its limb, and severed her spinal cord half way down her back.

And now we were on the way to the

Continued p7

Latest drift on farm chemicals

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS can make life on the land and around the garden easier by controlling plant growth, weeds and pests – but chemical use can also have unintended consequences. Recently there have been reports of how specific agricultural chemicals can impact grapevines, humans and potted plants.

Spray drift and grapevines

In early April it was reported that a Murrumbateman vineyard may have been accidentally contaminated by herbicide spray drift; if so, the first symptoms of damage will emerge in October – a long wait for the vineyard owners. The herbicide being applied by a nearby farmer was 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), widely used to control broadleaf weeds in pastures and crops.

CRC for Viticulture studies suggest that grapevines are extremely sensitive to 2,4-D drift and can show effects at a rate as low as 1 part per billion (1 millilitre per megalitre). Symptoms in affected vines include distorted leaves, zig-zag stems and even vine death. 2,4-D use in Australia is currently under review by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

The CRC for Viticulture brochure *2,4-D spray drift damage on grapevines* is available at **http://www.crcv.com.au/resources/Environment/Additional%20Resources/CRCV%202,4-D%20Spray%20Drift%20Brochure.pdf**

Farm pesticides linked to increased rates of skin cancer in the USA – two of these pesticides are available in Australia

In the past 30 years there has been a tripling in the rate of skin cancer in the USA and researchers are looking for causes beyond sun exposure. A recent US Health Department study looked at skin cancer rates among 56,000 farmers/pesticide sprayers exposed to a range of 50 farm chemicals.

Pesticide handlers doubled their risk of developing skin cancer when repeatedly exposed to two fungicides (maneb and mancozeb) and two insecticides (ethyl/methyl parathion and carbaryl).

with Sonja Chandler

While maneb and parathion are not used in Australia, products containing carbaryl and mancozeb are.

The APVMA website lists 75 products which contain mancozeb including agricultural fungicides and dusts for roses, potatoes and ornamentals. The use of carbaryl is currently under review by the APVMA, but products containing this insecticide include insect sprays for agricultural crops and cricket and grasshopper killer baits. Veterinary uses of carbaryl include flea powders and shampoos, and dusting powders for mites and ticks.

The US report can be found at **http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/fetchArticle.action?articleURI=info%3Adoi%2F10.1289%2Fehp.0901518.**

Attack on ageing in potted bloomers

Plant scientists in California who are studying senescence (the natural ageing process in plants) may have found a way to extend the shelf life of potted plants. Plant physiologist Cai-Zhong Jiang and co-investigators found that spraying potted plants with low concentrations of a chemical known as thidiazuron (TDZ) had "significant, sometimes spectacular effects".

In tests using potted cyclamen plants, the treated plants stayed fresh longer than untreated plants, sometimes up to a month longer, and the effect was seen on both leaves and flowers. Interestingly, TDZ already has a role in agriculture – at higher concentrations it is used by cotton farmers to cause cotton plants to lose their leaves and make mechanical harvesting easier.

Read about the research at **http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/apr10/blooms0410.htm.**

Photo: Cai-Zhong Jiang.

Potted cyclamen plants treated with TDZ (left) stay fresh significantly longer than untreated plants.

SHORT STORY WINNER

Cont'd from p6

excursion I couldn't quite believe. I was driving. Mum has a modified car – the insurance stretched that far – but she told me that she needed time to think, and didn't want the responsibility of the road, so we took my Camry. I was worrying about the possibility of an accident when we reached our destination and was trying hard not to frown as I drove.

We passed the wind-farm, and those huge, restless turbines seemed to call out for a giant Quixote to take them on with a hundred-metre lance. Mum saw them moving:

Looks like it'll be a good day for it, she said, and smiled.

I just nodded. To tell the truth, I was feeling a bit sick, when I thought of what lay ahead. I suddenly felt as heavy as a barrel; a fat little Sancho Panza, anchored to the earth.

There were two pilots, as they called themselves. One was Clint, as in Eastwood, and he had the chiseled good looks and blue eyes that such a name demands. He was mine. Mum's partner was a woman called Deanne; all enthusiasm, pink suit and muscles. I'd spoken to Deanne on the phone several times without telling Mum, just checking that it was safe for someone without the use of her legs to participate. She'd probably had enough of me and preferred to be piloting Mum.

They talked us through the experience. Mum's harness had to be modified slightly, to cope with her disability. She smiled like a child about to open a present as they strapped her into the mechanism. My stomach protested like a kid who'd been eating far too many lollies and cakes.

And then the run and the leap, and we were flying, flying on the wind. I felt like a leaf caught in a willy-willy and closed my eyes. My stomach might escape from my mouth at any second and dive into the sea I had glimpsed from far below, bobbing and floating, half weird jelly-fish and half haggis. But I could hear Mum whooping, and opened one eye to watch her.

She was shouting, and even punching the air with her fist as we slowly circled our way around and around. Her graying hair had come loose and flew out into the wind. I think I caught the word kite or kid, but she was too far away to hear clearly.

You okay? asked Clint from next to me. I tried to look enthusiastic as I nodded my assent. I felt like screaming *Get me down!* but I knew I had to see this through, couldn't risk spoiling it for the woman spinning and shouting.

The flight lasted about thirty minutes, and, as we landed, I swore to myself that my body would never come into contact with a hang-glider again, tandem or single. It had been the longest half-hour in my life. Mum, however, was talking to Deanne about the possibility of discounts for multiple bookings.

I tried to smile on the drive back, but she could see right through me.

You hated it, didn't you? she asked.

I decided to tell the truth. *I couldn't stand the feeling of being out of control; of not having my feet on the ground.* I immediately wished I hadn't said that last part, but Mum just laughed.

When I was a little girl, I dreamt of riding Pegasus, you know, the winged horse? Today was like that. I forgot I couldn't walk up there. After all, who'd walk when they can fly?

The wind didn't give me back my legs today but I felt as light as a child. You know, Patricia, you've really got to learn to lighten up a bit. Sometimes I worry about you. Kick up those stuffy heels.

Suddenly, it was as if all the wind I had swallowed up in the air rushed out of me, and I was giggling uncontrollably, a pierced balloon of mirth leaking out into the car. I had to pull over. Mum reached over and patted my arm.

That's it, dear, she said. *That's more like it. Run with it.*

This too tickled my fancy, and I pictured a huge white horse feather floating in the air between us, riding my gusts of laughter in a manic rodeo.

It was some time before we pulled out back onto the road, and headed on towards home. The turbines were still spinning.

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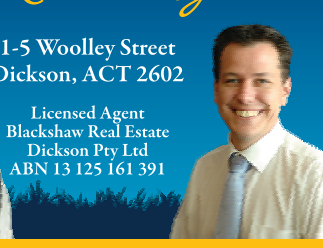
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HERBS AND SPICES: the secret of the flavour

by Marcele Martins

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE to imagine any 'cuisine', from the simplest to the most sophisticated, without some herbs or dehydrated spices of any kind.

Some foods have the flavour of the herbs and spices directly associated with them. Would you like one simple example? The very popular and emblematic plate from Italy: pizza! With no oregano or basil it would lose all 'personality'.

Go a little bit further and try to imagine lamb with no mint, fish with no dill or coriander, a beautiful salad with no parsley. It's almost a catastrophe isn't it?!

They are the little details that can make a chef brilliant. The herbs and spices used by humankind for a long time enhance flavours, provide amazing aromas, and help conserve some foods. A little portion of these delicious ingredients, added with creativity and talent, make it possible to create marvelous dishes from oriental or occidental gastronomy.

We can say that their use is universal with some differences according to cultures and regions. And on their culinary alchemy, we can affirm that without them, chefs would have lots of difficulty in conquering refined palates.

The history of my country, for example, is very connected with spices. Around 1500, Pedro Alvarez Cabral and his crew left Portugal looking for alternative routes to India to supply Europe with the exotic flavours of spices. A mistake (or two) of navigation took them to another part of the globe, more precisely, to Brazil.

Therapeutic properties

During recent years, science has been discovering many benefits in some of the foods consumed by humanity for a long time. Among the foods being researched, scientists include some spices and herbs. It sounds like the witches were completely right in using them in their potions!

We can't prove yet that alfazema (lavender) attracts love but we already know that oregano oil is excellent in combating bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics; rosemary and basil have high levels of antioxidants that are

natural protectants against free radicals; the use of bay leaves in rich foods can help digestion; and peppers are a good source of vitamins A, E and C.

Grow your own fresh herbs and spices

In comparison to the use of fresh herbs and spices, the use of dehydrated products is at times more practical and very common in kitchens. You can find hundreds of different flavours to buy in little glass containers at the supermarkets.

But, if you have a little bit of space with sunlight and fresh air, don't hesitate to grow them in your own home. It's easier than you think and the results are rewarding. Besides having a beautiful plant decorating your space, you will have the freshest ingredients to hand for preparing the tastiest plates every day – and no excuse not to!

Herbs what for?

Check your pantry and see which ones you don't have yet. Don't be afraid to give them a try! I have prepared a short list of herbs and spices and some of their uses for you to start with:

Bay leaves – all meats and casseroles;
Cardamom – meats, breads and puddings;
Cinnamon – milk puddings, coffee, hot brandy, rum, lemon and orange deserts;
Cloves – fruit and honey cakes, apple desserts and some Asian soups;
Coriander – Asian cuisine and seafood;
Cumin – pork and beetroot salads;
Dill – fish, cheese and poultry;
Lemongrass – considered a good calmative and very common in Asian cuisine;
Mint – lamb, strawberries and pineapple juice;
Nutmeg – cream sauces, pumpkin, carrots and broccoli;
Oregano – Italian tomato sauces, all parmigianos, cheese and pizza;
Parsley – salads and potatoes;
Rosemary – chicken, potatoes, cheese and pasta;
Saffron – rice and sauces;
Sage – red meats;
Star anise – milk deserts;
Thyme – salads and white meats.

'Foody' delights at Lake George Harvest Festival

GOURMET FOOD is a natural tie-in with the extraordinary wine tasting event which the Rotary Club of Bungendore has organised for Saturday, 15 May. A diverse range of items which appeal to modern lifestyle trends will be offered for sale.

Hand-made sausage, cheese, sweet pastries, savoury pastries, chocolate, cakes, preserves, olives and chicken kebabs will be on offer. 'Try before you buy' tastings will guarantee that you return home with products that taste just as good as they look.

The Rotary BBQ has been transformed and foodies will be impressed with 'fancy' Rotary split sausages with melted Brie, as well as gourmet steak sandwiches served with delicious relishes and chutneys. You might have to pay a bit more for these speciality items but your taste buds will thank you. Children will not be overlooked with hot dogs and sausage sizzles also on offer.

For sale at the Harvest Festival will be the *Rotary Lake George Harvest Festival Cookbook*. This unique, one-of-a-kind cookbook has been compiled from recipes submitted by local area restaurants, vineyards, businesses and community groups. At only $25 the cookbook will be a valued souvenir or gift.

Let the local chefs and cooks reintroduce you to how easy it is to prepare locally grown seasonal foods and show you that it does not take hours to prepare great tasting food. Be entertained and educated at demonstrations using the Country Energy mobile kitchen.

– June Blades

Schedule of Harvest Festival Gourmet Food and Cooking Demonstrations

10.15am	Chef Chris Whitlock from Lamberts Vineyard Restaurant
11.30am	Chef Chas Russles from the Lake George Hotel
1.00pm	Denise Tompsett from Chef's Toolbox
2.15pm	Chef Christophe Gregoire from Le Tres Bon restaurant

The Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival will be held on Bungendore Oval, Bungendore NSW, on 15 May 2010, 10am–4pm. Entry fees are $5 for adults and $3 for students and entry fee includes a Buy Local Passport with Wine and Art-Craft Trail maps. On 16 May follow the Wine Trail map through the countryside to the participating cellar doors or follow the Art-Craft Trail in the historic village of Bungendore.

To find out more about the Lake George Harvest Festival phone: 02 62369136; email: **harvest.festival@y7mail.com**; website: **www.rotaryharvestfestival.com**. Enquiries from stallholders are welcome.

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*To us Monty Python fans, food and wine writer **PETER DAVIES** asks the critical question:*

Is Chardonnay a dead parrot?

For those who have managed life without Pythons, that roughly means that the old standby 'Chardy' refuses to die in the estimation of those who love it.

by Peter Davies

YOU MAY be surprised to know (I was) that Sauvignon Blanc has now replaced Chardonnay as the largest-selling white wine in Australia. A recent poll in *Gourmet Traveller Wine* magazine noted that only three percent of people polled were lapsed Chardonnay drinkers, 35 percent were fans of the more modern, fresh, cool-climate style, while 12 percent went for the older heavily oaked examples. Only 12 percent said they didn't like Chardonnay at all.

Chardonnay is so easy to drink and enjoy with food. Certainly I love the modern dry fruity style of Chardonnay. It's yummy and fresh and not for giving up.

Planting for fashion or environment?

It takes years to replant a vineyard. In the meantime our Kiwi cousins over the 'ditch' are shipping Sauv Blanc to us like there's no tomorrow. It certainly is a good example of 'fashion' in wines – Shepherds Run cellar door sells three times the number of bottles of Sauv Blanc as good old Chardy.

Sauv Blanc is such a mixture of grassy flavours and lots of acid. We recently had to completely rework a vintage that had been in the bottle for three years. The wine had lost its 'bite' and had gone 'flabby' and wasn't up to standard. With some new fruit and tartaric acid it was revived and is as good as new. In future we will make only what we can sell in two years.

What worries me is that grape growers are always trying to catch up and it could be too late in the fashion cycle (watch out for Pinot Gris). Why not just grow grapes that are best suited to the environment and soils in the Canberra Wine District – dare I say Riesling and Shiraz.

Temperatures and wine styles

Talking about the environment and climate change, I'm noticing we are having trouble keeping the alcohol content of some of our wines below 13 percent. Hot years equal full ripening, lots of grape sugar and high alcohol content. This is not a good thing for wine drinkers, as commonsense says restrictions on alcohol intake are going to be with us into the long-term future.

The last ten years at Wamboin have seen below average rainfall and above average temperatures. Even slight changes in temperature can result in changes to wine styles through changes in ripening patterns and picking times. Maybe, it's time to start looking at warm Mediterranean grape varieties such as Tempranillo, Vermintino and Fiano. Yes folks, you heard it first in the *Bulletin*.

Good Lord, Pekin Duck!

And now for something completely different – duck! You would have been hard pressed to find a good table duck in Australia 30 years ago. The change has been driven by demand from Chinese restaurants, so it's no surprise that the main commercial breed is Pekin.

Pepe Bonaccordo, a Sydney breeder has gone from 22 ducks in his backyard to more than 70,000 birds a WEEK. (*The editor sincerely hopes these are still raised free range!*)

If you want a really traditional duck meal, sniff out a Muscovy from a free-range producer. Muscovy ducks 'hiss' like geese rather than quack. They are prolific grazers and consume a significant part of their diet from pastures.

Lastly, don't forget the Rotary Harvest Festival on 15 May in Bungendore. Lots of stalls with really good wines and food. Should be fabulous. For details see page 8.

— *Enjoy!* Shepherd's Run

Across the radar screen

The following have all appeared in church magazines or so we are led to believe!

Sunday morning sermon:
'Jesus Walks on the Water'
Sunday evening sermon:
'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
Smile at someone who is hard to love.
Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled.
Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

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	Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm (*jackpots if not won*)
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*(*Refer to Gig Guide for line up*)

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– From the Editor –

Your regional news and feature *Bulletin*

YOU MAY have noticed a more Queanbeyan flavour to the last *Bulletin* and indeed the *Bulletin* is taking on a more regional focus from here on. That doesn't mean we stop writing about Palerang, the Council, the people or the events. We have several stories in this issue about Palerang doings – including, unfortunately, the Council's budget blues and what might be on the chopping block (p12), and the history and drama surrounding a community wish to get a waste transfer station in Bywong/Wamboin. This month's 'business profile' talks to a biodynamic farming family outside Bungendore on how they developed their business. Palerang also includes Araluen, where renowned author Jackie French talked to Heike Hahner about her life and feelings of 'paradise lost', at least a little, in the beautiful valley she calls home.

There are so many historic, business and cultural links between Palerang and Queanbeyan that it just to make good sense to extend our monthly features approach to that city, which has been very welcoming. At the launch of the historical museum renovations there recently, the displays were a reminder of the common history of this region – a common agricultural background followed by the regional dominance of gold mining before the turn of the century. Indeed in1838 when Queanbeyan was proclaimed as a settlement, it became the economic centre for the whole region for many years.

Nowadays, the two Council areas still have much in common starting with shopping possibilities. Also in common are Council challenges over how to deal with forecast rapid growth that may almost double populations in the next 25 years, at the same time seeing inadequate financial support coming from State and Federal treasuries. But thinking bigger on a brighter front, we also share a gem like 'The Q' regional arts centre. Palerang residents can help Queanbeyan residents pay the bills for this outstanding facility by patronising the shows – and this is not a hard task since all the shows on offer promise to be excellent. There's something for everyone in the current season and we profile a couple of upcoming productions in this issue.

So it is a good fit and we look forward to covering people, lifestyle ideas, events and politics with this regional focus as the months unfold. If you would like to write to the *Bulletin*, contact us at **media@palerangbulletin.com.au**. We'd love to hear from you and where you think our two local government areas are heading and how we can together learn and prosper with sustainable lifestyles.

— Maria Taylor

– Your Say –

ROAD RAGE CONTINUES

In December, the *Bulletin* led the way with coverage of the greatly increased traffic load on Macs Reef Road that cuts through the rural residential community of Bywong, detailing a history of high accident rates, at least two fatalities in recent years and wildlife carnage. We detailed the apparent lack of interest by relevant local and State authorities in introducing more traffic calming – signage, variable speed limits, and enforcement measures. The situation continues – as evidenced by recent letters to the local media.

These letters say things are just as bad on the Bungendore Road that also runs from the Federal Highway to Bungendore and picks up Macs Reef Road traffic along the way. Local access to driveways, walking or horse-riding on road verges and child activity with school bus stops, as well as existing wildlife crossing points, are a fact of life in rural residential communities bisected by these 'speedways'. Residents say they have yet to see local and state officials and the police force respond effectively or consistently. We received several letters following our December coverage and here are two worth pondering – because it is all still going on.

LOCAL ROAD GETS HIGHWAY USE

Your coverage of the road rage on Macs Reef Road is both timely and relevant.

Currently, Macs Reef Road is a weight restricted, speed limited, residential access road that was only superficially sealed in the late 80s as part of the Bi-Centenary roads program. In its present form, it is just not capable of safely bearing the increased Defence traffic that transits daily to and from North Canberra/Bungendore. And, as you rightly point out, the aggressive and inappropriate attitude of speeding drivers, local or otherwise is cause for concern, especially for those of us who live on or adjacent to Macs Reef Road.

It simply beggars belief that Palerang's Traffic Committee can seemingly ignore the bleeding obvious and instead indulge in bureaucratic navel gazing and buck passing. The comment attributed to the RTA representative ("It's a lifestyle choice") is particularly unhelpful.

According to the NSW RTA's own website, research has shown that the risk of a crash causing death or injury increases rapidly, even with small increases above an appropriately set speed limit. Speeding is the single biggest cause of deaths and injuries on NSW roads. It is a factor in around 40 percent of road deaths in NSW, killing around 200 people across the State each year. Speeding increases the risk of a crash and the severity of the crash outcome.

The strategy is simple. Set an appropriate speed limit, ensure drivers know what the limit is, and enforce the limit. Obviously, local police can't enforce the speed limit 24/7, although I've noticed a welcome increase in Highway Patrol presence in recent times. In addition to police patrols, Council should press the RTA to install fixed speed cameras at specified intervals or sets of multiple cameras with number-plate recognition software which can check the average speed of a vehicle between two points.

— Don Malcolmson, Bywong

MANIACS ON OUR ROADS

I was pleased to see the prominence in The *Bulletin* given to the problems on Macs Reef Road. I live right on the area between Denley Drive and Birriwa Road mentioned as a "horror stretch" although why it was singled out, I don't know – the maniacs drive as badly the whole length of the road, to my observation. I was recently overtaken, at dusk by two cars at once – and I mean two abreast – over double lines on a bend, with a car fast approaching in the opposite direction. I stopped my car, waiting for the shock waves. Amazingly, none came but tailgating and speeding, overtaking on double lines and driving across the centre line seem to be de rigueur for drivers from the ACT and NSW, often loaded up for the coast and, curiously, often utes and girls with P-plates. I will never know why the bucolic lanes of Norton Road have 80kmph limits and the race track of Macs Reef Road has 90 – and we almost never see police.

— Jennifer Saunders, Bywong

DEFENCE HQ FACTS AND FIGURES

THE *BULLETIN* asked the Department of Defence questions on housing and travel modes in the face of community concerns about greatly increased traffic flow through rural residential areas enroute to the new Defence Headquarters (JOC) on the Kings Highway. Here are the figures.

1. Housing. Approximately 71 percent of HQJOC employees live within the boarders of the ACT, 12.8 percent live in Queanbeyan West, 10 percent live in Jerrabomberra and 5.3 percent live in Bungendore/ Bywong.

2. Modes of transport and any carpooling or buses. Due to work patterns, some of which is shift related and can be irregular hours, the most common mode of transport used by HQJOC employees is private motor vehicle. Carpooling is not commonly used. A shuttle bus is used between Russell offices and HQJOC, however there are no current plans for a civil bus service to be extended to HQJOC.

3. Questions on daily traffic movements through rural resident routes or down the Kings Highway. Defence does not have figures regarding daily traffic movements and therefore cannot answer this question.

4. What was the rationale for housing personnel as far as 30-40 km away from their work? To meet the family requirements of ADF members, such as spouse employment, quality housing, schooling and recreational options, in the timeframe available JOC staff were provided with access to available existing Defence housing in Canberra and Queanbeyan and new housing at Gungahlin.

Jerrabomberra residents: AIRPORT PLANS THREATEN PEACE OF REGION

The planned expansion at Canberra Airport, in particular the 24 hour freight hub (*Bulletin* April 2010, p8), is of great concern to Jerrabomberra residents.

In 2007, Canberra Airport released its Practical Ultimate Capacity (PUC) ANEF where they predict that by the year 2050 Canberra will have over 282,000 flights every year, compared with 71,850 flights a year (2009). It's worth noting that Sydney Airport, Australia's largest, currently has 285,000 movements a year and that's with a third runway!

It is our view that Canberra Airport will never achieve their Ultimate Capacity aspirations and should amend their predictions to reflect reality. The problem this causes the Jerrabomberra community is that infrastructure, such as a high school or preschool, in the Jerrabomberra Valley cannot be developed due entirely to the Airport's unachievable Ultimate Capacity projections. If the ANEF were based on the Airport's own 20 year freight projections both schools would be viable.

In approving the freight hub, Minister Albanese pointed out that Canberra Airport

Continued p11

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Tanya Nadin (nee Hannaford) will continue to be available for casual appointments on Tuesday afternoons and, by appointment, on Tuesday evenings.

Ian Marjason is available for casual appointments on Friday afternoons.

Both Ian and Tanya may be available at other times by appointment or alternatively both are available Monday to Friday in the Queanbeyan office.

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Queanbeyan: Queanbeyan Library foyer; Riverside Plaza; Link Plaza (near Dimitries Jewellers); and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres.
Wamboin: Shepherd's Run.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT TALE

FEAR AND LOATHING IN BIGGEST RURAL RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

by Pete Harrison

Photo: Pete Harrison

Macs Reef Road landfill to be closed. But the million dollar view remains. The site will be retained for community use and the community preference is for a waste transfer station.

WITH ALL the discussion of late about the Macs Reef Road landfill in Bywong, and the proposed Waste Transfer Station, it's probably not unreasonable to ask what all the fuss is about. A bit of history might help, and also generally shed light on some aspects of waste management planning in Palerang.

We can go back at least as far as 2001, to the passage of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act, and related strategy document produced in 2003 (updated in 2007). The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy was all about preventing and avoiding waste.

Resource recovery and recycling were important, but the ultimate goal was to minimise 'disposal' and thus maximise the value of available resources. Landfills are all about disposal – removing resources from the use/reuse/recycling loop. As part of the WARR Strategy, local government bodies were encouraged to close and rehabilitate landfill sites, and to move to more sustainable waste processing models.

Enter the Waste Transfer Station (WTS). At one level, a WTS is just an indirect landfill in that much of the deposited material ultimately finds its way to a landfill. However, the new generation of super-landfill sites, like the Woodlawn Bioreactor on our doorstep at Tarago, are much more than holes in the ground, where we just bulldoze waste under a pile of dirt and forget about it. There is a much greater effort to recover reusable materials, and to capture the gaseous decomposition products as biogas for 'green' electricity.

The move away from conventional landfills is also part of a strategy to make communities more aware of the waste they generate.

Conventional landfill on its way out – what next in rural residential?

Against this backdrop, even before Palerang came into being, the days of landfill sites in our shire were numbered. Council was already considering the widespread use of roadside waste collection services to divert waste disposal from existing landfill sites. This strategy was formally announced late in 2004, soon after the amalgamation that begat Palerang, and a team of councillors and council staff toured the area in an effort to garner public support. The community response was underwhelming.

Undaunted, Council surged ahead and in 2005 released its 20-year Waste Management Strategy. While recommending the installation of WTSs at all other landfill sites in Palerang, this document included the proposal to simply close the Macs Reef Road facility, and introduce roadside collection services throughout the Bywong and Wamboin area.

For reasons that remain unclear, it was claimed that a WTS at the Macs Reef Road site would have greater negative social and cost impacts than any other facility in the shire. In spite of community representations to council, and the fact that the Strategy document itself states that it "is a 'living' document [and] should be reviewed and updated annually as new information becomes available", there is no evidence that the document has ever been reviewed, nor that there has been any effort to address these anomalies.

Council's 2006 Resource Recovery Strategy report again found that there was little support for kerbside collection services in rural residential areas. For the third time in as many years, Council had been told that their strategy was flawed, but still they pressed on.

Thumbs down on kerbside collection

Following the election of the current Council in 2008, community representatives met with the new councillors, restated their rejection of the proposal to introduce a roadside collection service – for a range of reasons, but primarily because it was seen as unnecessary and/or impractical – and their support for the development of a WTS at the Macs Reef Road site.

When the minutes of that particular meeting were presented to Council, however, they told a different story. Prepared by council staff, they outlined the perceived advantages of a kerbside collection service in great detail, recommended a trial of such a service, and were entirely dismissive of the views presented by community representatives.

After vigorous lobbying by concerned community members, Council subsequently agreed to form a Waste Management Working Group to survey the residents of Bywong, Sutton East and Wamboin yet again on their preference – roadside collection or a WTS.

The survey achieved an outstanding 54% response rate, with 75% of respondents supporting the establishment of a WTS at the Bywong site and rejecting a council kerbside collection service. Council duly accepted the result and commenced the relevant planning activities.

Continued p13

AIRPORT PLANS *Cont'd from p10*

already had night-time freight activities and therefore an expansion of night flying would have little impact on residents. What the Minister neglected to add was that there are currently only two to three twin prop freight planes arriving each night. Canberra Airport's proposal is to increase this to about 20 to 25 large freight jet flights every hour between midnight and 5:00am. Such increased activity presents a significant change in the scope and use of the Airport and will radically change noise emissions over the entire Canberra region.

Canberra, the Bush Capital, experiences very low levels of night time background noise; any increase in aircraft movements that arrive after 11:00pm and depart before 6:00am will seriously impact on the ability of a great many residents of the region to get an uninterrupted night's sleep.

The JRA believes the Canberra Airport's desire to operate as a 24-hour freight hub should be curbed with a legislated curfew between the hours of 11.00pm and 6.00am. This is the only way to protect the Canberra-Queanbeyan region from the unnecessary intrusion of night time aircraft noise.

— Jerrabomberra Residents Association President Kim Howatson.

Queanbeyan City Council

Public Exhibition

Draft Community Strategic Plan 2010–2020
Draft Delivery Program 2010–2013
Draft Operational Plan 2010–2011

Notice is hereby given that Queanbeyan City Council's **Draft Community Strategic Plan 2010–2020**, **Draft Delivery Program 2010–13** and **Draft Operational Plan 2010–11** are available for public submission or comment. The period for public submissions commenced on Thursday 29 April 2010 and will conclude on Friday 28 May 2010. Written submissions may be made to the Council at any time during this period. You are encouraged, however, to make submissions as early as possible to ensure that Council can give due consideration to your comments and input.

Council will be running two public meetings where members of the public can come along to discuss the content of the Draft Integrated Plans and seek assistance on the development of their submissions. These meetings will be held as follows:

- 6.00pm Tuesday 11 May 2010, Fernleigh Park Community Hall
- 6.00pm Tuesday 18 May 2010, Queanbeyan City Council Chambers

On Wednesday 16 June at 5.30pm a Council Workshop to receive submissions to the Draft Plans will be held in the Council Chambers, 253 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan. Copies of the Draft Plans are available at the Customer Service Centre, 257 Crawford Street, the Queanbeyan Library or may be downloaded from Council's website at **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**. Submissions can be forwarded to the General Manager, Queanbeyan City Council, PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620 and be marked 'Draft Integrated Plans Submission' or emailed to **council@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

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Encompassing the towns of Bungendore and Braidwood, Palerang is ideally situated between the south coast and the city of Canberra. It's a place called home to professionals, artisans, farmers, the young and the old. Palerang itself is an organisation that prides itself on overcoming the impossible and a place where you get to do it all but in a friendly if somewhat frenetic atmosphere.

Currently we are recruiting for the following positions. Both are located in Bungendore but are within commuting distance of either Braidwood or Canberra.

Health and Building Surveyor ($62k to $69 per annum)
Health and building surveyors play an integral part in Palerang Council's objective to provide quality development based services to external clients. The position focuses on health matters including food shop inspections and water quality monitoring. The position also involves conducting building and swimming pool inspections and taking action to ensure compliance with approved plans, providing health and building support to the Customer Service Officers and managing complaints.

Development Engineer ($64k to $71 per annum)
Development engineers are required to further develop Council's engineering response to development matters including stormwater management, roads and infrastructure. They ensure compliance with appropriate standards in development assessment at the engineering level and review engineering plans and construction works associated with development.

Further information may be obtained from Ms Louise Menday, Director of Planning and Environmental Services, on (02) 6238 8111 or 1300 735 025.

Information packages may be obtained from Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, and 144 Wallace Street Braidwood, or on Council's website, www.palerang.nsw.gov.au under 'Your Council/Positions Vacant'. Applicants are requested to address all criteria listed.

Applications close COB Monday 24 May 2010.

Peter Bascomb – General Manager
Palerang Council
PO Box 348, BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

PALERANG COUNCIL

LOCAL RIDERS SHINE FOR COMP IN S AFRICA

RYAN COX (*left*) from Bywong, Rebecca Purdie (Wamboin), Patrick Beer (Queanbeyan) and Hazel Fertier (South Australia) have been selected to represent Australia at South Africa's First Southern Hemisphere Mounted Games Championships.

Mounted Games are a series of very fast races, exciting for participants and spectators alike, performed by young people on ponies.

They require a high degree of athletic ability, good riding skills, hand-to-eye coordination, general determination to see things through to the end no matter what, and a competitive spirit which nevertheless requires an ability to work together with other riders and to be willing to help one another.

Mounted Games were the inspiration of HRH Prince Philip. When Colonel Sir Mike Ansell was Director of the Horse of the Year Show, Prince Philip asked if he could devise competition for children who could not afford an expensive, well-bred pony, and in 1957 the Horse of the Year Show, staged the first Mounted Games Championship for the Prince Philip Cup – it was an immediate box office success and the International Mounted Games now has members all over the world.

The riders will depart for South Africa on 26 May and return on 8 June. The competition is to be held at the Royal Show Grounds in Pietermaritzburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal. The countries that are competing are Australia, Botswana, New Zealand and South Africa.

The team have been actively fundraising and is grateful for the sponsorship and support it is receiving from local businesses.

If you are able to provide sponsorship or support for the team please contact the team manager, Maureen Purdie on 6238 3343.

– Kerry Cox

– It's Your Business –

HOW DID THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AFFECT SHOPPERS?

by Lydia Teo

A RECENT survey looked at 16 major retail categories and revealed shoppers' intentions to spend their hard earned cash. The 'shopping behaviour study', conducted in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, revealed that shoppers' intentions to spend are building momentum. However, with Australian women still intending to *spend less* in all 16 categories, it is clear their confidence needs to be restored before many retailers start to see the desired recovery.

Many Australian women carry the prime responsibility of running the household and caring for their families. As a result, they are often more sensitive to signals coming from governments, businesses and their communities, and right now they are picking up mixed messages. A Federal election is imminent and interest rates are expected to rise further. Australian women are hedging their bets on possible scenarios, in order to protect their families.

Historically, women have always led retail recoveries and although many intend to spend less in several categories, there are clear signs of improvement from 12 months ago. Women are still in the market for sales, and are setting budgets for their spending. They are planning for the worst but hoping for the best, the study has shown.

Key findings

- Australian shoppers are optimistic but controlled, and are watching their spending.
- Retail categories hardest hit by the GFC that are now showing signs of positive recovery are: eating out in cafes and restaurants, clothing and accessories, entertainment and take-away food. People aged 35 and older, typically with higher disposable incomes, are spending more and Gen Y is spending more today than February 2009.
- 74% of those surveyed showed a significant shift in their mindset and willingness to embrace budgeting. Almost 50% said they now used a budget to manage their spending levels, with one in 10 implementing a budget since the GFC hit and a further 14% planning to use one.
- Budgets are here to stay.

Source: AMP Capital Shopping Centres – shopping intent survey 2010

PALERANG COUNCIL:

This year budget cuts – next year, who knows?

by Maria Taylor

LOCAL COUNCILS have been sounding the alarm for some time about the shortfall of income compared to costs.

As State policy-makers have increasingly shifted 'must do' programs to the local level without funding them – things like protecting heritage and the environment, best-practice planning requirements and keeping many 'assets' in good shape – and while Federal policies only fund construction but not operating costs, local governments are struggling and going backward financially.

In NSW this is made worse by over 20 years of rate pegging – which means annual rate increases are limited by the Minister for Local Government to around 2–3 %. This is politically popular, but does nothing to match the cost of repairing aging roads, bridges and sporting facilities or paying for some of the social and cultural programs that also enhance living at the local level.

Sydney Councils already asking ratepayers: what quality of roadworks do you want to pay for – premium, ordinary or shabby?

In fact, sources at Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils tell us, 'user pays' is the way of the future. This means that if Bungendore wants a heated swimming pool, or Elmslea or Jerrabomberra want a pool at all, it may be built but can only be used if the residents are willing to pay for the upkeep. This even extends to roads and footpaths these days with some Sydney Councils already asking ratepayers: what quality of roadworks do you want to pay for – premium, ordinary or shabby?

Rapidly increasing population as projected for this region can only worsen the

Continued p13

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PALERANG COUNCIL Cont'd from p12

pressure on 'assets', without making up the gap between Council income and ever-increasing operating and maintenance costs.

What does this mean for the upcoming budget?

Palerang General Manager Peter Bascomb says that while neighbouring Queanbeyan is asking for a special rate variation this year to make up some of the shortfall, Palerang will be cutting programs instead. On roads for example, the gap between the capped rate increase of 2.6 percent does not match the road cost index of 4.7 percent increase for fuel, equipment salaries, etc.

"Rate capping means that every year we are going backwards," he said. "Last year we balanced the budget by not replacing seven staff." With rapid growth, this means, among other things, that Palerang's planning staff are handling well over the State average number of cases. Delays and stress are part of the result.

Ironically, it is the unfunded but State-mandated duties that are ironclad and cannot be cut. "There is no legislation that we have to grade your road but it is mandatory that we inspect for weeds and septic tanks." As a result residents and ratepayers must pay for these inspections, often to much grumbling.

2010–2011 suggested cuts

Suggested program cuts and charges for 2010–2011 include: cut $350,000 for further reconstruction of Norton Road in Wamboin; cut building maintenance including painting the School of Arts Building in Bungendore; inc-reased fees for environmental compliance (the weeds and septic mentioned) inspections and complaints; trim the heritage advisor role; staff holiday and trainee cutback.

Cut the implementation of Bungendore Streetscapes from $50,000 to $30,000; cut-back on parks and garden watering but recycling should help; cut top-dress Braidwood recreation grounds; (reluctantly) cut road condition reporting system; cut subscriptions to Capital Country Tourism and South-ern Tableland Arts; and cut advertising in the local media.

Mr Bascomb said this would net $2 million to boost operating funds, much of it allocated to the road infrastructure. Next year, he said, who knows?

He said that four recent reviews of local government financing have found that local government as currently constituted cannot survive. He also noted that the Rudd government promised at the last election to come to the aid of local government but the white knights have yet to appear.

Where the money comes from
all sources of income, including loans for capital works

Revenue		*Amount*	*%*
Ordinary Rates		$7,052,511	17.1%
Annual Charges		$4,820,769	11.7%
Interest Earned on Investments/Overdue Rates & Restricted Funds		$1,438,240	3.5%
User Charges on Sewer, Water, Waste		$920,185	2.2%
Fees & User Charges		$2,805,195	6.8%
Private Works, done for RTA and Others		$3,222,217	7.8%
Financial Assistance Grant		$2,547,582	6.2%
Roads Grants			
– Roads to Recovery	$594,008		
– Regional Roads Repair Program	$250,000		
– 3X3	$103,000		
– Block Grant	$1,208,000	$2,155,008	5.2%
Timber Bridge Replacement Program		UNKNOWN	
Grant funds in Restricted Assets 30 June 2010		$0	
Other Tied Grants		$1,510,827	3.7%
Loan Borrowing		$10,100,000	24.5%
Transfer from Restricted Assets for Capital Works		$4,708,572	11.4%
Total Revenue		**$41,281,106**	**100.0**

WASTE MANAGEMENT Cont'd from p11

Community reps worry about Council majority support

However, when the final proposal was tabled in March 2010, it became apparent that in spite of six years of constant and consistent representation from the communities concerned, there remained an element within Council stubbornly opposed to the establishment of a WTS at the Bywong site.

Fortunately, the Council majority was not swayed by their arguments and the WTS proposal will be presented for inclusion in the upcoming 2010–11 Management Plan and Budget. Given the level of support within the community, the various phases of the project should simply appear as line items in the 2010–11 and subsequent budgets, to be approved as a matter of course.

Unfortunately, the intransigence of a minority within Council has meant that the future of the Bywong WTS is anything but certain, with antics worthy of an episode of *Yes Minister*.

The ongoing waste of both council and community resources in time and effort associated with keeping this project on track in the face of ill-founded opposition is bad enough, but the real concern here should the broader issue of how seriously some individuals within our council appear to take their responsibility to represent the verified interests of the community.

The documents referred to above can be accessed through the WCA website at **http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/waste**.

– Pete Harrison is president of the Wamboin Community Association, and a member of the Waste Management Working Group.

What's behind the opposition to this proposal? Money mostly

COUNCIL DIVISIONS on the proposed Macs Reef Road Waste Transfer Station (WTS) are partly due to the fact that the facility has no funding attached and that some people consider it has not received enough Palerang-wide community consultation. This is because all of Palerang will be paying for it, just as all of Palerang pays for other WTSs – most located in outlying communities.

According to Council General Manager Peter Bascomb, barring a Kevin Rudd infrastructure grant the proposal will cost all ratepayers something like $45 in annual waste fees to build and operate – or it would cost the communities directly using it a lot more if they had to fund it alone.

However, Councillor Goonan, who is one of the five Councillors supporting the Macs Reef Road proposal, says there is a reluctance to set a precedent of 'user pays' for transfer stations because that might boomerang back to the smaller, rural transfer stations. The popularity with staff and some Councillors of kerbside pickup as a waste-management solution for rural residential districts, on the other hand, is that this could be a completely fee for service – user-pays operation.

What would the Macs Reef WTS cost?

Council report dated 4 March 2010 indicates that the capital cost of the Mac Reef WTS is likely to be about $1,232,000 (obtained with a loan at an estimated 7.25 percent) and ongoing operation costs would be $205,000 annually – $92,000 for staffing and $113,000 for bin servicing. The breakdown of costs is roughly 1/3 construction and 2/3 for operations.

If the project is approved, the increase would occur over 3 years between design in 2010–11 and operations beginning in 2012–13. There is already an increase for waste proposed in the draft 2010–11 Management Plan Budget – $18 to cover the costs of already approved projects under Council's adopted 20 year Waste Strategy, including the construction of the Bungendore WTS and decommissioning landfills.

How about some infrastructure funding?

What if the Council could obtain infrastructure funding at a time when these monies are being spread like confetti? Councillor Goonan says "I'm keen to see what assistance we can find to help us with this project – perhaps to include some new approaches to recycling, or efficiencies in the design or disposal process. This seems to be one time when 'thinking about rubbish' is a constructive thing to do! So I'd be pleased to hear from anyone with constructive ideas on the matter, or possible initiatives that could assist in the building of the WTS. (anne.goonan@palerang.nsw.gov.au)

The *Bulletin* was asked to advise readers that the Macs Reef transfer station is unrelated to plans for the Bungendore Waste Transfer Station which is going ahead.

'Timeless' country living
captured by Queanbeyan artist

Jerrabomberra artist Jenny Sheppard has captured what she calls "the idea of Bungendore as being an oasis of timelessness in a period of change" – everyday scenes and properties in Bungendore and nearby rural residential. Her exhibition of oil paintings will be at the Bungendore School of Arts, Gibraltar Street (next to the post office), 22–24 May. The community is invited to the launch on Saturday 22 at 11am by Palerang Mayor Walter Raynolds (See 'What's On' p20 for further details). Contact Jenny on 6299 8670 or at tigercub_13@hotmail.com

PALERANG COUNCIL

READVERTISED

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE PALERANG CULTURAL TOURISM s.355 COMMITTEE

Council recently established a new Palerang Cultural Tourism Section 355 Committee to give advice and make recommendations to Council on local cultural and natural assets and to oversee cultural celebrations in Palerang Council.

Committee membership comprises:

- the Mayor (ex officio)
- two Councillors
- the General Manager or their nominee
- six community representatives (at least one each from the Bungendore, Braidwood and Captains Flat areas)

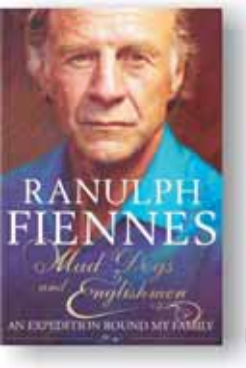
Expressions of interest, closing **5.00 pm on Friday, 21 May 2010**, are now invited from members of the community wishing to serve on this committee for a two-year term commencing June 2010.

Expressions of interest should include supporting information as to the persons' suitability and any relevant previous experience. They should be addressed to the General Manager, Palerang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore 2621, clearly marked "Confidential – Expression of interest – Palerang Cultural Tourism s.355 Committee". Previous applicants do not need to reapply.

Full details about the committee, including its purpose and delegated authorities, are available from Council's offices in 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood, during normal business hours. They may also be downloaded from Council's website at www.palerang.nsw.gov.au under "Community Services" on the home page, then "Section 355 Committees".

For further information, please contact Debby Ferguson on 1300 735 025 or 6238 8111 during business hours.

Ranulph Fiennes – where did he get that drive? *by Di Johnstone*



Mad Dogs and Englishmen – an expedition around my family
by Ranulph Fiennes
Hodder and Stoughton
RRP $35.00, Paperback

SIR RANULPH Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, 3rd Baronet, OBE, former military officer, politician, prolific author, (cousin to world-famous actors), and adventurer has been described as the world's greatest living explorer. His crossings of the poles are legendary. This book is about the family that produced the explorer. And what a family!

Fiennes traces his roots directly to Charlemagne. Some of his French forebears invaded England as Normans and stayed. While the author's focus is the English Fienneses, there remain intimate connections with the French Fienneses, and Fienneses fight on opposite sides on many battlefields.

Fiennes family members are prominent and powerful players in post-Norman English history. For some 600 years it is a history of unrelenting and ruthless warfare between competing royals and usurpers and against foreign foes. Power changes hands through vicious plotting, unbelievable treachery and wholesale murdering of rivals.

Rulers summarily behead those they don't like, and there are much worse punishments. Drawing on historical sources Fiennes describes gruesome ways of administering 'official' death sentences. Throughout, Fiennes's relatives litter battlefields, are bestowed and dispossessed of estates, summarily executed, and prominent in royal councils, positions of state and bed chambers.

My family, my enemy and Lady Godiva?

Especially bloody are chapters on the Wars of the Roses. Keeping track of Yorkists and Lancanstrians – with Fienneses on both sides – is a struggle. But it was, too, for people at that time!

In more recent times, as society changes and regimes become more democratic, the Fiennes family, intermarried with the Twisletons and Wykehams, remains politically and militarily prominent but less powerful.

The book is dense with historical details, but Fiennes is a storyteller not a historian. His history is not about clear paths. It is history as chaos, unfolding in an entirely unpredictable way, driven by powerful individuals whose foibles, failures and occasional madness directly affect its outcome.

The writing is forthright and his descriptions are vivid and often confronting. He doesn't spare the gore.

Fiennes also judges harshly where he considers this warranted, including his relatives. He records the carnage wreaked on innocents by the particularly cruel 'Cousin' Godfrey, one of the thousands of crusaders who pillaged and massacred the peoples of the Holy Land in the name of Christianity.

History as chaos with the world's greatest living explorer

He seems almost relieved to find heroes, such as Jean de Fiennes, a brave burgher of Calais, whose likeness was captured famously in a Rodin bronze (an image on display in the NGA's Sculpture Garden). And Celia, whose lone horseback travels through England are the source of a famous nursery rhyme about a fine (Fiennes) lady on a white horse.

Off to the Pole with a great storyteller

Reading this book I took comfort in being born in an era of widely accepted legal and civil rights. It is a salutary reminder of a relatively recent savage past. In this account, you may occasionally be tempted to see Englishmen as mad dogs, although mad dogs might have been more forgiving.

I bought this book because of a youthful relationship with someone who accompanied Fiennes on one of his polar journeys. I wondered why. Now I understand. With such storytelling skill, Fiennes's company would be irresistible, and tales of his family would certainly have helped to pass long nights on the polar ice.

How **Alex Miller** created a *Lovesong* and floods brought bookstore *swansong* *by Di Dibley, proprietor,* A Suitable Book

IN MID-MARCH, about 60 people met at the Cafe Woodworks to meet multi award-winning author, Alex Miller.

Miller was *A Suitable Book's* Weereewa Festival guest. He was an obvious choice because his novels *Journey to the Stone Country* (Winner of the 2003 Miles Franklin Award) and *Landscape of Farewell* are about the relationship of people and place, journeys of personal discovery through reconnection with the land, and in both stories the relationship of Indigenous Australians and white fellas with the Australian landscape – perfect for the celebration of Weereewa with its long Indigenous and white settler history.

Miller is a natural storyteller and he savours words and recreates events in an engagingly theatrical way. At the dinner, the audience was captured! Among other things, he told us about his most recent book, *Lovesong*, and how the idea came to him at a time when he was taking a break from writing.

Stories and artists – what makes it happen?

His daughter had said something like "Oh Dad, you know how you are when you are not writing!" and then something had happened and the irresistible threads of the story came.

Miller told us, "Once there is the story offer, there is no going back!" He recreated the imaginative journey that led to *Lovesong* and shared the questions that he put to himself along the way: "What could give a man who was visiting Paris, a reason to stay for 16 years? Why did he stay? The answer – he fell in love!"

Photo: Fred Harden

On one level, *Lovesong* is a simple love story – the story of a marriage, of people coming undone by desire, of ordinary lives and death, of love and struggle. Miller's distinct voice, clear intellect and compassion lead us gently into the intimate world of Sabiha and John.

They meet by chance in a Tunisian cafe in a migrant working-class area of Paris. John, a young Australian teacher who is backpacking through Europe, is immediately attracted to the exotically beautiful Sabiha.

She sees in him a calm promise for a contented life. Theirs is an unlikely marriage and with them we struggle with questions about morality and purpose, cultural and personal estrangement, and human frailty.

A familiar theme of Miller's is the sadness of ageing. In *Lovesong*, Ken, the ageing melancholic author who has written his last novel, Farewell, becomes John's confident. John has a story that he needs to tell; Ken is in limbo, recovering from the loss of his wife.

As John's story unfolds, so does Ken's desire to shape and write it. So, whose story is it? This is a question that Miller asks himself, "It is not unusual for the writer to take a stranger's story; use it to tell his own tale; explore truths and find his own peace."

Inhabiting the other gender

Miller has an uncanny ability to write about women; to get inside their heads and hearts. He admitted to me that he is Emily in *Conditions of Faith* – Emily, who, finding herself in a conventional marriage, is subsumed by her need to find a reason for living beyond that of simply wife and mother.

Continued p16

LJ Hooker

Listings Urgently Required!

LJ Hooker Queanbeyan would like to introduce **Cynthia McDonald**. Cynthia specialises in rural and semi-rural properties in the Palerang and Queanbeyan regions. We have buyers actively seeking both village, rural and semi-rural properties within your area.

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Musical Director
Raphael Wong
Choreographer
Jacqui Richards

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

May 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and June 3, 4, 5 at 8pm
Matinees May 29 and June 5 at **2pm**
Special Twilight Performance May 30 at **5pm**
At 'The Q' Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre
www.theq.net.au or on 6298 0290
All Tickets $38. Concessions and Thursday night special $35

And dinosaurs came to Queanbeyan

by Clare Tsakalos

"DID YOU know dinosaurs lived a very long time ago before people?" my three-year-old daughter Ella informed me. She's quite the dinosaur expert since experiencing *Erth's Dinosaur Petting Zoo* at the Queanbeyan Conference Centre.

Erth's Dinosaur Petting Zoo, brought to town in April by 'The Q', is an enthralling and educational show. It uses amazing puppetry and special effects to bring to life a selection of insects, mammals and dinosaurs that roamed the land millions of years ago. The creatures have their own unique personalities and come to life before a wide-eyed audience of kids and adults.

Ella was transfixed from start to finish. The puppets are incredibly life-like and beautifully detailed. True-to-life eyes and body movements add to the realism.

What makes the show really special is the interaction between the dinos and the audience. Kids can get 'up close and personal' to the action and pat and feed the creatures.

While the older kids could not wait to meet the stars of the show, most of the 'littlies' were happy to watch from a safe distance. The performance was so convincing that when one of the dinosaurs 'gobbled up' a young audience member, Ella started to shake. Luckily the show also features some really cute and cuddly dinosaurs.

Erth's Dinosaur Petting Zoo provides a wonderful opportunity for kids to exercise their imaginations. You walk away in awe of the technical wizardry behind the show, and with a head full of dinosaur facts that you didn't even know you'd taken in.

Erth's Dinosaur Petting Zoo was performed in the round at the Queanbeyan Conference Centre from 13 to 15 April. The company behind the show, Erth, strives to provide audiences with eye-popping visual experiences.

Australian history was never so fun

BUNGENDORE'S OWN Shortis and Simpson backed by an outstanding band wowed a capacity crowd at 'The Q' on the opening night of their show *Tin Pan Aussie*. Their rendition of recent Australian history unfolds from the songs and sheet music before the era of rock and roll.

Musical maestro and 'Professor' for the occasion, John Shortis, lovingly did the research in bits and snatches over decades at the National Library. His partner, Moya Simpson, gamely applied her incredibly versatile voice to all genres, as she does. She sang the sweet sopranos of the early century waltzes and the belting blues of the mid-50s with a good measure of jazz and even yodelling Australian country from the eras in-between. We all agreed history lessons were never so fun.

More history: who would have thought Prime Ministers – attached to various musical eras – were not just suburb names in Canberra but in fact cats with nine lives – as evident from a roll-call of their political deaths and quick resurrections in PM rounds of 'musical chairs'!

There was a lot of funny business as early minstrel shows, later radio shows and assorted jazz eras were brought alive. The Anzac legend took on a new dimension with the 'mother's lament' and who could resist the (only in Australia) 'Sheep-dip blues'. Band members Ian Blake, Peter J Casey, Jon Jones and Dave O'Neill are all dynamic and versatile talents and together they made it a night to remember and savour. Hopefully Shortis and Simpson will get the chance to bring the show to a national audience and that 'The Q' will revive it for another season. History-deprived children of all ages deserve it.

Coming up

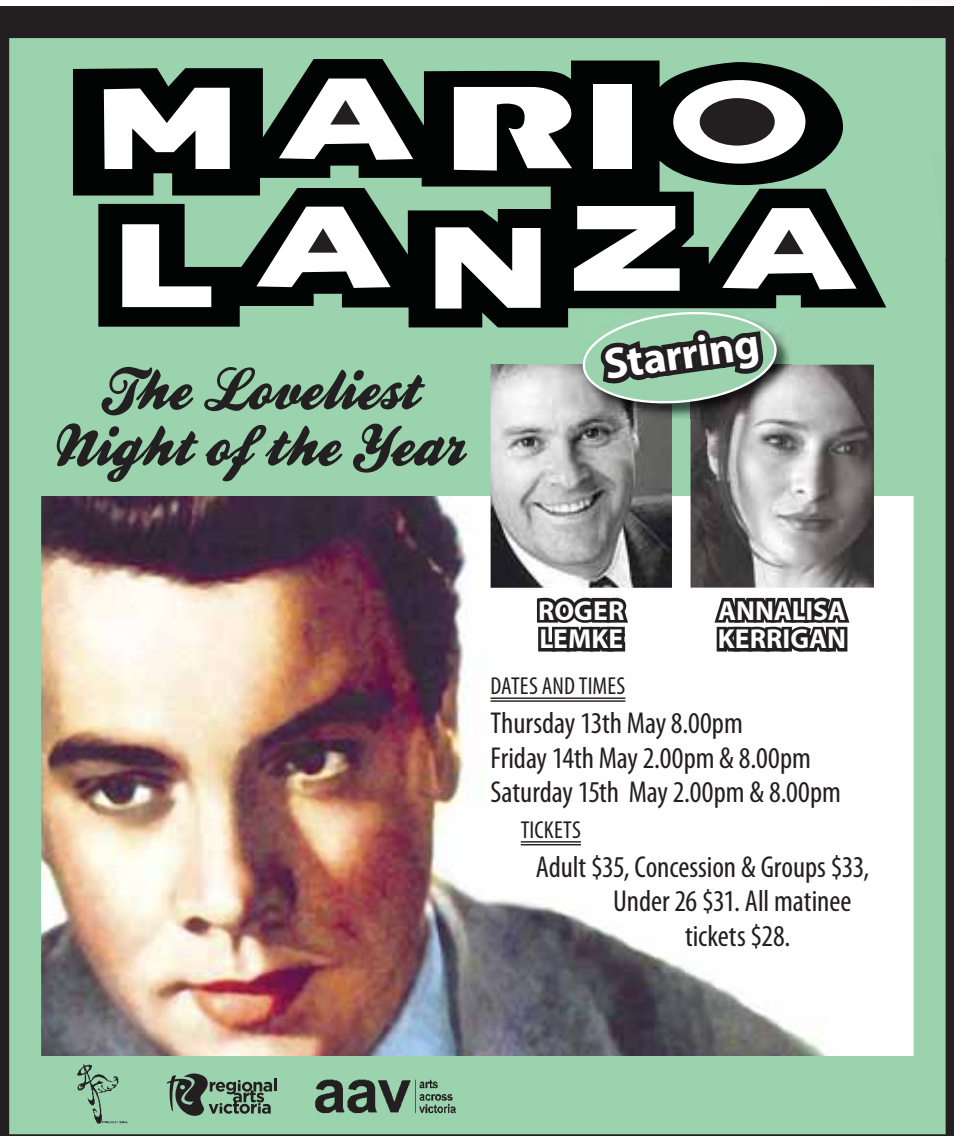
MORE VINTAGE NOSTALGIA

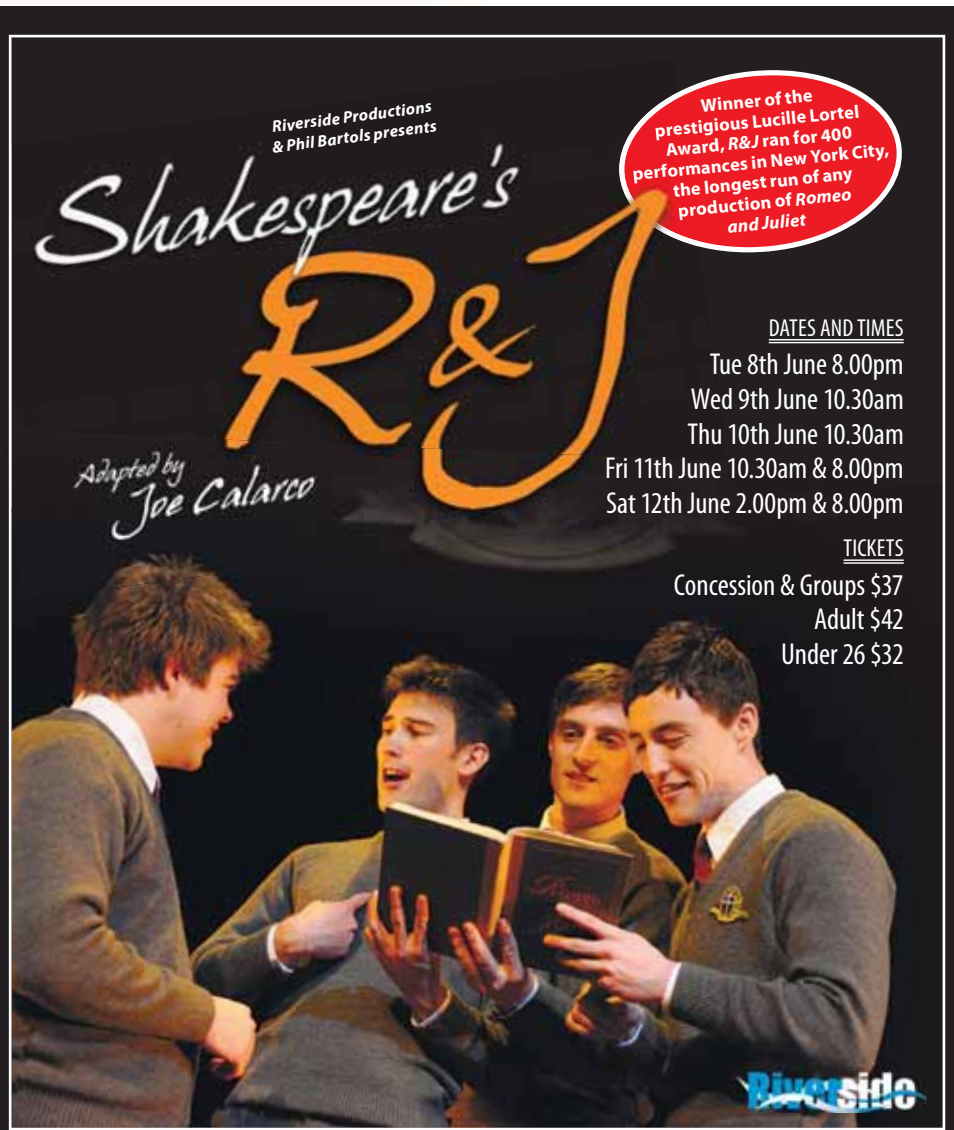
THE BITTERSWEET story of Hollywood tenor Mario Lanza, who died at the age of 38 following a career of fame and excess, comes to 'The Q' 13–15 May. Lanza's music still moves millions. This production, features a couple of Australia's finest musical voices. In *The Loveliest Night of the Year*, opera star Roger Lemke brings us Mario and classical soprano Annalisa Kerrigan is his favourite singing co-star Kathryn Grayson.

AND SHAKESPEARE AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT

IT'S BILLED as a four-man testosterone-pumped Romeo and Juliet. Sounds unlikely but critics and audiences have raved over this foray into human nature and love. Set in a repressive Catholic boarding school, four boys gradually immerse themselves into the themes and characters of secret and forbidden love and explore views on gender and sex. The play is called *Shakespeare's R & J*. The interpretation by playwright Joe Calarco has been called both innovative and highly physical and the boarding school atmosphere likened to the repressive and stifling atmosphere of Romeo and Juliet's Verona. Don't miss it at 'The Q', 8–12 June.

— Maria Taylor





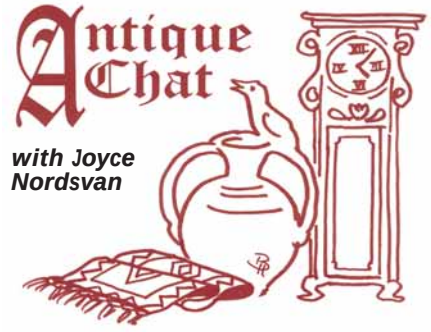
COMING SOON TO 'THE Q' – QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Enquiries and bookings: 6298 0290 or www.theq.net.au

THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Queanbeyan City Council

Tales of beautiful wine-serving accessories



THE WINE harvest festivals are giving me the opportunity to highlight my beautiful, unusual, antique or vintage wine-related items. Some of these include two very modern Royal Doulton decanters, a stunning Waterford crystal 'ship's decanter', a beautiful crystal ice bucket, several unusual bottle coasters, a number of 'tastevins' or wine tasters, and a Highland quaich.

I've spoken about ships' decanters previously and the reason for their very wide base being to ensure stability when used at sea. These decanters had their beginnings in the early sailing ships of the Royal Navy and it would have been an exception to have found a captain's cabin without one.

The general shape began to develop sometime in the second half of the 18th century and they became better known when a British admiral by the name of Rodney used one for victory celebrations aboard his flagship following the famous Moonlight Battle (1780) and the Battle of the Saints (1782). His decanters had an especially broad base, some of them up to 12 inches in diameter.

Wine-judging by candlelight

Wikipedia defines a tastevin as a small, very shallow silver cup or saucer traditionally used by winemakers and sommeliers when judging the maturity and taste of a wine. The saucer-like cups were originally created by Burgundian winemakers to enable them to judge the clarity and colour of wine that was stored in dim, candle-lit wine cellars.

Regular wine glasses were too deep to allow for accurate judging of the wine's colour in such low light. Tastevins are designed with a shiny, faceted, convex inner surface. These features catch the available light, reflecting it throughout the wine in the cup, making it possible to see the clarity and colour of the wine.

With the advent of modern electric lights, tastevins have very little practical use, although sommeliers often wear them on a ribbon or chain around the neck as a nod to tradition. I have tastevins from Chateau de Mersault, Michael Wilkes Mandalay, Palais du Papes, William Lawson's and Bourgogne.

The Highland quaich

A quaich (pronounced /'kweIx/), archaically quaigh, is a special kind of shallow two-handled drinking cup or bowl in Scotland used for whisky or brandy. Its name derives from the Scottish Gaelic cuach meaning a cup.

Traditionally the Highland quaich was used both for a 'Cup of Welcome' and when offering a farewell drink.

The quaich was originally made from 'staved' wood, then later from horn or leather; eventually pewter and silver quaichs became popular as the favourite drinking cup throughout Scotland. Some quaich bottoms are made of glass, allegedly so that the drinker could keep watch on his companions.

A more romantic quaich had a double glass bottom in which was kept a lock of hair so that the owner could drink from his quaich to his lady love. In 1589 King James VI of Scotland gave Anne of Denmark a quaich or 'loving cup' as a wedding gift.

April's mystery item

Thank you to those people who identified last month's mystery item as a skein winder for wool. The skein of wool (long loops of yarn) is put onto the winder's concertina arms which are then expanded enough to hold it firm. As the wool is rolled into a ball, the winder turns on its base. People without wool winders often use the back of a chair or their children's arms, as my mother did with me.

Did you know... that collectors of thimbles are known as 'digitabulists'?

Mystery item

May's mystery item (*below*) is solid brass with a wooden handle. It is about 8 inches long and has a very flat bottom. Drop me a line at **joyce@anniescollectables.com.au**.

Till next month, happy browsing.

ALEX MILLER

Cont'd from p14

Alex Miller has a generous nature. He allowed us to get to know him a bit during the evening. He is open and unaffected. He abhors elitism.

When Ramona Koval asked him what made him a writer at the Words and Ideas Festival in 2004, he replied that he could never think of his book story – the story that he was supposed to have about being a writer.

"You're not a real writer if you're not foreordained, it's got to be predestined, has to be foreordained – there's got to be something back there. You can't just suddenly become an artist for Christ's sake, you know, it's too sacred. It can't just be an ordinary person like you, can it?"

And he added, "It's crap isn't it? It's crap, there's no such thing as an artist or a non artist". I could add more, but the best writers are honest.

A Suitable Book swansong

As you read *Lovesong*, spare a thought to the swansong of *A Suitable Book*, the village bookshop that has been operating in Bungendore since 2001. We were flooded-out two months ago and when we considered reopening, suddenly felt tired.

My partner Mark Thornton, sisters Roz and Jenny Dibley and I have loved the bookshop – it represented an escape from the stress and demands of our professional jobs; a place where we could all dream a little.

We met interesting people, and were supported by loyal customers from near and far. Wonderful staff worked with us over the years and all of them were affected by the magic.

To Diana, Mary, AJ, Virginia, Mel, Penny, Robin, and my daughters Ellie and Lucy, thank you for your caring and loyal support. John, thank you for your unerring support – building things, keeping the lights on, oiling that creaky lock. Thank you to my dear mother Monica, who has supported us all – attended every literary event and wandered down on weekends to have a chat.

– In the Garden –

Autumn colours in natives

story and photos by Jo Walker

DURING AUTUMN, not a lot of our Australian native plants are producing flowers to brighten our surroundings, but this doesn't mean the landscape is bereft of interest. It's the time of year when the different forms and textures of native plants and the subtle contrast of colours come into their own. Perhaps because of the March rains, many of the trees and shrubs are carrying new growth which often accentuates the contrast of colours.

A variety of tints in tree foliage

Many of the eucalypts are topped with a flush of new leaves in a variety of colours, from yellowish green through to shades of red and orange. And then there are the eucalypts – such as *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* (Bundy), *E. bridgesiana* (Apple Box) and *E. rubida* (Candlebark) – whose saplings retain bluish-grey juvenile foliage for many years. Other attractive eucalypts, *E. cinerea* (Argyle Apple) and *E. pulverulenta* for example, continue to have distinctive glaucous foliage as adult trees.

The wattles, too, are growing well at present, and there is a wide range of foliage colours in this genus. Amongst the wattles with bipinnate leaves are the dark green *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle), brighter green *A. decurrens* (Green Wattle), and *A. dealbata* (Silver Wattle) which has soft, grey-green foliage.

A. rubida (Red Wattle) is a common wattle near creeks and in moister areas. It is one of the wattles whose 'leaves' are actually phyllodes (leaf-like flattened petioles), and its grey-green foliage is often topped by pinkish to orange-red new growth.

Contrasting colours shown in shrubs and grasses

Some of the understorey shrubs can also add a bit of contrast to the green background. At the moment *Hakea salicifolia* (Willow-leaved Hakea, not a local, but widely used in plantings, see below) is adorned with striking reddish new growth. Some of the Bottlebrushes (*Callistemon* species) are also providing a bit of colour with their often bright red new leaves.

Pomaderris angustifolia also gives a bit of contrast, although this sizeable and dense shrub doesn't have colourful new growth. Instead, because the small narrow leaves are covered in tiny hairs, when the sun shines through the foliage this shrub takes on a soft, fuzzy, greyish appearance.

And then there are some of the local daisy bushes. The fresh green foliage of *Cassinia longifolia* stands out against the darker foliage and silky, conical flowerheads of its close relative *C. quinquefaria*.

The grasses deserve a mention, too. Along many of the local roadsides and through some of the paddocks, extensive patches of Redleg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*) are growing right now. As the name suggests, the stems mature to a distinctive reddish colour, making this species noticeable amongst the greener grasses.

Grasses also often define a contrast in the water-retaining properties of contiguous areas of soil. *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass) forming an unbroken sward of bright green in a drainage area of deep soil can give way in a few short metres to an almost grass-free dry hillside.

Although autumn colours are more subdued than the brilliant displays of spring and summer, the contrast of the many shades of green and grey and the colours of new growth make for a quietly picturesque landscape at this time of the year.

‘Darth Vader’ needs to come in

***Doug Palmer** confronts some challenges of rural living and tells what to do*

I’VE BEEN aching to talk about something but have held off until everything is in place. This something has been brewing for a couple of years and it’s now ready to go.

In the past, the RFSs in Palerang (and honorary Palerangites, such as Queanbeyan) have not used breathing apparatus. Breathing apparatus (BA from now on) allows firefighters to enter places where the mixture of toxic gasses, smoke, heat and lack of air would otherwise lead to them falling unconscious and, at best, being dragged out by their heels.

While Palerang has been lightly populated, this state of affairs has worked well. The RFS has been able (and will still be able) to call on the excellent and expert help of their NSW Fire Brigade counterparts in Braidwood and Queanbeyan for any incidents where BA was needed.

The times when BA would have made a real difference were few and far between. And BA requires a considerable investment in administration, equipment and training, which could be used more profitably elsewhere.

With the region growing, this delicate equation has changed. And so three RFS brigades now have BA (and people trained to use it) for use throughout the zone. These brigades are Bungendore, Queanbeyan City and Ridgeway.

What does this mean for you? In a lot of ways, not a lot – the most important things, still, are to have a smoke detector in your house, properly installed electrics and an evacuation plan that has two ways out of every room.

Change your clock – change your battery

In regard to these matters, you, no doubt, have up-to-date batteries in the smoke detector as the rule of thumb is to change them with the change of daylight saving: ‘Change your clock – change your battery’.

Now is also the time to check all the appliances that you plan to use over winter as you drag them out of the cupboard. Look for frayed wires, dust build-up in heaters and damaged electric blankets. If you find something wrong, get it fixed or replace it. Oh, and be careful of timer-driven heaters or electric blankets when you happen to leave your normal routine; if unattended they can just build up heat until something ignites.

The aim is still to have everybody standing outside the house saying, “Well, it’s a pity about granny’s photos, but otherwise it’s all insured.” If you need to have someone with BA rescue you, you’re at the end of a long chain of things going wrong and expecting that your luck will change at that point is a little optimistic.

> *“It’s all too much like a Dr Who episode, one of the ones where everybody turns into giant caterpillars or vegetable creatures”*

However, rescue is more likely and one thing worth doing is familiarising your children with firefighters. All dressed up to go into a house, a firefighter looks and sounds like some horrible cross between Darth Vader and Kermit the Frog.

They crawl along the ground flapping their arms about as they search for people. It’s all too much like a Dr Who episode, one of the ones where everybody turns into giant caterpillars or vegetable creatures. So the natural reaction of any child is to hide (adults are not immune to this effect: there have been instances where someone being rescued thinks that they’re being abducted by aliens).

Schools and community groups often have fire safety days. Please encourage your children to attend. If a group wants to organise something, we have community safety officers who will only be too pleased to help; contact Lake George Zone fire control on 6297 1840.

After everybody has been rescued, BA may allow firefighters to access the fire and put it out before it does more damage. So, if the fire is limited and if Hestia smiles upon us, you may be looking at considerably less damage. This is where closing doors as you leave comes into play. If you can isolate the fire as much as possible you improve the chances that an elegant spray of water will take care of things.

Welcome to the brave new world.

Queanbeyan Park Survey and Advisory Group happening now

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council has received funding from the Local Government Shires Association to promote the use of parks, playgrounds and sports fields. As a first step Council wants to survey community-use of these facilities and what they would like to see to increase use. Residents are invited to complete a survey available in the Queanbeyan Library and Council’s Customer Service Centre, both at 257 Crawford Street, or online at **www.surveymonkey.com/s/queanbeyanparksurvey**. Surveys can be completed up until Tuesday 15 June 2010. Residents can also nominate to join the project advisory group that is being established. The advisory group will meet four times and the first meeting will be held during May at the Queanbeyan City Council offices. Contact Geraldine Manser on 6298 4553 or **geraldine.manser@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Should your dog be playing, and when?

by Heike Hahner

WATCHING A group of dogs playing with each other is a delight for many people. Play is viewed by many dog owners as a fun and easy way to exercise their dogs and is perceived as a vital form of socialisation.

But is that really so?

Dogs in a natural setting will play most frequently when they are puppies. The pups are testing and strengthening their social and combative skills in a harmless scenario. By the time young dogs get to 6–9 months their play is often interrupted by adult dogs and around 10–12 months, usually at the time of sexual maturity, adults will not tolerate behaviour that they would have only awhile ago.

In adulthood, playing becomes restricted to specific occasions such as leaving for a walk, which dogs will view as setting out for the hunt, and a little more when returning to the home territory. Playing here has the distinct function of reinforcing each member’s place and role in the pack and bonding them for the ‘dangers’ that lie ahead, such as meeting a neighbouring pack, or hunting prey. On returning home it is a reassurance of each member’s bonds and status on home ground.

In fact, adult dogs in a natural setting do not play a lot because they do not generally have the time and energy to waste on such activities. There is the territory to be patrolled regularly and defended, food to be found, killed and brought home, and mates and pups to be taken care of and protected from other dogs and predators.

An argument for being a ‘spoil sport’, sometimes

Allowing dogs to play extensively with other dogs, and without the owners regular intervention, has a range of disadvantages for you as the owner.

Firstly, play in all species is not only about mental and physical fitness but is also competitive. We would, for example, not say that rugby players are socialising when playing against each other: they are competing with each other. Dogs that play a lot with each other are having issues that need resolving. Playing is a ‘friendly’ way of sorting these issues out. The owner, as the senior member of the pack, should help sort these issues out rather than leaving it to the dogs to do on their own.

Secondly, dogs that are allowed to play with other dogs for long periods of time uninterrupted, will view every dog they meet as a potential play-mate. Walking them in areas frequented by other dogs can become very unpleasant, as they feel the need to engage with every dog they meet.

Thirdly, dogs that are allowed to play endlessly with another dog, such as a second dog at home, frequently form closer bonds with those dogs, often to the detriment of the owner/dog relationship.

Continued p19

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Customers of the Captains Flat and Bungendore Water Supply schemes are advised that Council intends to commence fluoridation of supply from Monday 24 May 2010.

This action is in accordance with a direction issued to Council by NSW Health dated 27 April 2010 and is in satisfaction of section 6(1A) of the *Fluoridation Act 1957*.

Further information concerning this proposal may be obtained from Council's website at **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au**.

All other enquiries should be directed to the Director of Works, Mr Gordon Cunningham on 6238 8111.

PALERANG COUNCIL

Peter Bascomb – General Manager
PO Box 348, BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

PALERANG COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received by Council from
5 to 9 April 2010

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2010.0091	Continued use of deck and pergola, and shed	6/04/2010	112 Cherry Tree Lane BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0092	Tree Removal	6/04/2010	Wyoming Road BYWONG
DEV.2010.0093	Café and Kitchen Fitout	7/04/2010	112–114 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2010.0094	Pergola	8/04/2010	133 Macdiarmid Road BURRA
DEV.2010.0095	Shed and Storeroom	9/04/2010	301 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DEV.2010.0096	Dwelling	9/04/2010	8 Hassall Circuit BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2010.0098	Alterations and Addition to Dwelling	9/04/2010	50 Duncan Street BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2010.0099	Pergola	9/04/2010	5 O'Neill Place BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0100	Pergola	9/04/2010	31 Ryrie Street BRAIDWOOD

The following applications have been received by Council from
12 to 16 April 2010

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2010.0101	Earthworks – Driveway etc	12/04/2010	84 Walga Close CARWOOLA
DEV.2010.0102	2 Lot Subdivision	12/04/2010	26 Brooks Road BYWONG
DEV.2010.0103	Fence and Lych Gates	12/04/2010	1 Park Lane BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2010.0104	Monopole	13/04/2010	WATER RESERVOIR 66 Old Mines Road CAPTAINS FLAT
DEV.2010.0105	Alterations and Additions to Dwelling	13/04/2010	353 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DEV.2010.0106	Dwelling and Temporary Occupancy of Shed	14/04/2010	1302 Sutton Road SUTTON
DEV.2010.0107	Dwelling and Horse Arena	15/04/2010	69 Whisperer Place ROYALLA
DEV.2010.0108	2 Lot subdivision	15/04/2010	280 Hereford Hall Road HEREFORD HALL
DEV.2010.0109	Dwelling, Shed and Swimming Pool	16/04/2010	1165 Burra Road BURRA
DEV.2010.0110	Dwelling and Shed	16/04/2010	231 Birchmans Grove WAMBOIN
DEV.2010.0111	Pergola and Shed	16/04/2010	12 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0112	Tree Maintenance	16/04/2010	83 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD

The following applications have been received by Council from
19 to 23 April 2010

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2010.0113	Dual Occupancy	19/04/2010	15 Turallo Terrace BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0114	Tree Removal	19/04/2010	17 Forster Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0115	Tree Removal	19/04/2010	Lot 1,38,39 DP755934, Berlang Forest Road MAJORS CREEK
DEV.2010.0116	Deck and Pergola	19/04/2010	16 O'Hanlon Place CARWOOLA
DEV.2010.0117	Alterations and Additions to Dwelling	20/04/2010	14 Park Lane BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2010.0118	Driveway access	23/04/2010	Lot 2 DP232345 Bungendore Road BYWONG
DEV.2010.0119	Swimming Pool	23/04/2010	209 Macs Reef Road BYWONG

The following applications have been received by Council from
26 to 30 April 2010

Application No	Description	Received*	Address
DEV.2010.0120	Dwelling	27/04/2010	14 Ireland Place BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0121	Awning	30/04/2010	9 Falconer Place BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0122	Dwelling	30/04/2010	Lot 19 DP754891 Neils Creek Road BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0123	Garage	30/04/2010	15 Forster Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0124	Motel & Reception Establishment	30/04/2010	75 Tarago Road BUNGENDORE

SPECIAL NOTICE

ROAD CLOSURE
BEDDING GROUND CREEK BRIDGE – REIDSDALE ROAD

Under the provisions of Part 8 of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given of the following temporary road closure:

Reidsdale Road at Bedding Ground Creek Bridge
from 10 May 2010 to 11 June 2010

The purpose of this closure is to allow Council to undertake necessary repairs to the bridge over the Bedding Ground Creek on Reidsdale Road.

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure works are finalised by 11 June, factors such as adverse weather and unforseen structural deficiencies may adversely affect the timeliness of this work.

Further advice will be given in the event that these circumstances change.

Marked detours will be in place around the worksite with traffic directed via Araluen Road and Monga Lane.

All enquiries relating to these works should be directed to Council's Assistant Engineer – Operations, Mr Barry Osmond on 1300 735 025 during business hours.

Council regrets any inconvenience caused in relation to these works.

P Bascomb **PO Box 348**
General Manager **BUNGENDORE NSW 2621**
Palerang Council **records@palerang.nsw.gov.au**

PALERANG COUNCIL

PALERANG COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT DETERMINATIONS

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* Council determined the following development applications in

April 2010

Application No	Description	Stage/Decision	Determined	Address
DEV.2008.0362	33 Lot Subdivision	Approved	7/04/2010	Lots 5, 25, 32, 33, 34, 78, 79, 80, 81, 129, 165, 168, 169, 171, 172, 180 DP754878 Lot 4 DP 1090531, Lot 6 DP1002551, Lot 8 DP 1002551 Mount Fairy Road MOUNT FAIRY
DEV.2009.0374	Alterations and Additions – Dual Occupancy	Approved	6/04/2010	75 Snowgum Road BYWONG
DEV.2009.0390	2 Lot Subdivision	Approved	27/04/2010	15 Brooks Road BYWONG
DEV.2010.0018	Alterations and Additions – dwelling	Approved	14/04/2010	153 Sawyers Ridge Rd REIDSDALE
DEV.2010.0023	Pool, Tennis Court and Shed	Approved	21/04/2010	59 Robertson Road WAMBOIN
DEV.2010.0025	Dwelling and Shed	Approved	14/04/2010	554 Glenmore Road BRAIDWOOD
DEV.2010.0026	Tree Removal	Approved	9/04/2010	54 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0028	Transportable Dwelling	Approved	1/04/2010	764 Taylors Creek Rd TARAGO
DEV.2010.0034	Dwelling, Alterations and additions to Shed and Cattery	Approved	28/04/2010	Lot 6 DP1128949 Charleys Forest Road CHARLEYS FOREST
DEV.2010.0039	Dwelling and Tank	Approved	6/04/2010	29 Bidges Road SUTTON
DEV.2010.0040	Dwelling	Approved	13/04/2010	33 McCusker Drive BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0041	Shed	Approved	15/04/2010	7 Falconer Place BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0049	Tree pruning	Approved	21/04/2010	163 Naylor Road URILA
DEV.2010.0056	Dwelling and Shed	Approved	1/04/2010	516 Rossi Road ROSSI
DEV.2010.0063	Music Event	Approved	12/04/2010	Lots 122 & 137 DP755934 Berlang Forest Road MAJORS CREEK
DEV.2010.0065	Shed	Approved	21/04/2010	23 Birch Drive BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0079	Alterations and Additions	Approved	13/04/2010	1012 Norton Road WAMBOIN
DEV.2010.0080	Shed and modify building envelope	Approved	1/04/2010	114 Creekborough Rd BYWONG
DEV.2010.0086	Tree Removal	Approved	14/04/2010	46 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0087	Tree Works	Approved	19/04/2010	64 Forster Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0017	Transportable Dwelling	Approved	22/04/2010	Lots 358 & 349 DP755911 O'Briens Road JEMBAICUMBENE
DEV.2009.0262	2 Lot Subdivision	Approved	28/04/2010	39 Brooks Road BYWONG
DEV.2010.0044	Dwelling	Approved	29/04/2010	6 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DEV.2010.0069	Shed	Approved	29/04/2010	174 Hogan Drive WAMBOIN
DEV.2010.0084	Dwelling	Approved	29/04/2010	10 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE

Development consents are available for public inspection, free of charge, during ordinary office hours (8.30am–5.00pm) at Palerang Council offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore and 144 Wallace Street, Braidwood.

PO BOX 348, BUNGENDORE NSW 2621

STUDENTS HELP PLANT QUEANBEYAN RECONCILIATION GARDEN

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council recently called upon local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students to assist with a planting ceremony for the establishment of the Queanbeyan Reconciliation Garden in Queanbeyan Park. The garden was funded under the Regional Local Community Infrastructure Program. The garden will be officially launched at the Reconciliation Walk on Tuesday 1 June 2010. The garden has three different paths leading to a central meeting area, representing the coming together of different cultures. A large rock in the centre of the garden symbolises a meeting table or place. A mixture of indigenous and exotic plants has been used in the garden. Several plant species were used by the indigenous community for medicinal purposes, food, or other practical purposes. For more information contact Malcolm Towney on 6298 4552 or email **malcolm.towney@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Community voices for koalas – where is the government?

CONSERVATION ACTIVISTS from the South Coast and across NSW and ACT kept up outraged protests with many gathering to block clear-felling operations, as NSW State Forests began logging in an area between Bega and Bermagui that threatens a remnant population of about 50 koalas. Koalas were once widespread on the fertile land of the Bega Valley but were largely wiped out by habitat clearance for agriculture and a short-lived fur trade.

The current logging near Mumbulla Mountain was brought to a temporary halt late in April when it was established that the logging crews were on a designated Aboriginal Place, an embarrassing blunder that did not halt the operation for long. Informed sources within the NSW government tell the *Bulletin* that the current logging is not in the 'core' koala habitat, but is in an area that the koalas would cross as they forage and that the disturbance will be all around the 'core' area.

The problem for the NSW government is that the logging area was designated in the 2001 Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) that nailed down the location of reserves and logging areas in perpetuity. Nobody, we are told, made provisions for new scientific information. This has emerged with the largest official koala survey of its kind yet mounted in Australia which established the 50 or so animals.

The NSW government has signed binding woodchip supply contracts with the mill and its overseas buyers (a controversial activity already because of the road-building and other public subsidies to this industry). If the NSW government doesn't honour the contract reportedly it must pay compensation. So the NSW government must decide: koalas or compensation?

Those who would like to add their voices for the koalas can contact: **Harriett Swift – 0414 908 997**.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council has received funding from the NSW Attorney General's Department for a community safety project, providing 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' training within Queanbeyan and a series of Community Safety Audits. Community Safety Audits will assess the actual or perceived crime, and outline changes that could improve the crime risk or community perception of safety.

A project team of Council staff, Queanbeyan Police and community representatives has been established. Locations for the Community Safety Audits are:

– Campbell Street Skate Park
– Lowe Street carpark and the BP service station
– The shopping centre near the Jerrabomberra Community Centre
– The carpark on the corner of Morisset and Crawford Sts
– Karabar shopping centre and carparks.

If you would like to be involved in the Community Safety Audit teams or you would like to provide information on any or all of the sites listed above please contact Council's Manager Family Services and Community Development Philippa Moss on 6298 0202 or **philippa.moss@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Development Application DEV.2010.0102
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Integrated Development Application

The following Development Application and supporting information may be inspected during normal business hours at the Administration Offices of Palerang Council, 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, commencing 21 April 2010 and ending 21 May 2010. The development is Integrated Development.

Application Number:	DEV.2010.0102
Applicant name:	Alan Longhurst
Proposal:	Subdivision into two Lots
Land Description:	Lot 12, DP 245149, Parish of Bywong
Property Address:	26 Brooks Road, Bywong
Consent Authority:	Palerang Council
Relevant Approval Bodies:	Department of Water and Energy NSW Rural Fire Service
Approvals Required:	Section 116 – *Water Management Act 2000* Section 100B – *Rural Fires Act 1997*
Contact Officer:	Daniel Walsh – Please note that Council planners are not available after 12 noon.

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

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

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

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

Peter Bascomb
GENERAL MANAGER

PALERANG COUNCIL

VIEW celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year

IN 1960, the General Secretary of The Smith Family, George Forbes, created VIEW Clubs of Australia for women. Back then, the purpose of VIEW (Voice, Interests and Education of Women), was to offer companionship and to help women, particularly those in rural communities, overcome social isolation, while improving opportunities for women to have their say, especially at government level.

Today VIEW is a national, self-governed women's organisation with 21,000 members in 400 communities. As a valued part of The Smith Family, VIEW members contribute significant fundraising and volunteering support, to help give disadvantaged children the step up they need through education to achieve their goals as adults.

Smith family 'back to school' appeal

This year's '2010 Back to School Appeal' launched by the Smith Family to support disadvantaged children through education and learning has been launched with generous financial support from Australians.

In celebration of VIEW Club's 50th Anniversary and to set VIEW on the path forward for the next 50 years, the logo has been refreshed and updated. The design represents the modern identity while giving voice to and celebrating connections and friendships with renewed energy. Inspired by the colours used by the women's movement, the purple signifies dignity and self-respect, while the green signifies hope and new life.

Fiona Spottiswood the National Vice President of VIEW and founding member of the Lake George Day VIEW Club said "The celebrations will provide an opportunity to look to VIEW's future, refresh and renew commitment to objectives and plan for our next 50 years. In so doing it goes without saying VIEW remains committed to connecting with new female audiences in communities across Australia and working closely with The Smith Family as their valued community partner."

As part of the 50-year celebrations VIEW has organised to have a special candy pink rose called 'VIEW Beauty' available as a new release for 2010.

And if you would like a remembrance of this special 50-year celebration you can also purchase an Australia Post-designed commemorative VIEW stamped envelope, available at Australia Post outlets and through the National Office from 23 March 2010 or by approaching your local VIEW Club.

— Lydia

SHOULD YOUR DOG BE PLAYING?

Cont'd from p17

Excessive playing also can cause serious injuries to dogs. Breeds vary greatly in how they play. Terriers obviously love using their teeth and their natural tendency towards aggression lets some of these guys forget they are 'only' playing. Breeds such as Labradors and Retrievers generally are less likely to bite, but nevertheless can cause injuries by running into another dog at high speeds.

The hormonal influence

There are also gender differences in how dogs play. Some de-sexed males for example, lacking the aggression of testosterone, may play until they are ready to collapse, rearing up, wrestling each other with their front legs, running into and shouldering each other out of the way.

Female dogs, especially intact ones, frequently do not like playing with other dogs any more by the time they get to sexual maturity. They will snap or be grumpy when approached and are branded as 'bitchy' or not social. However, they are behaving perfectly normally for a female dog in their disinterest in play or choosing only a few dogs to interact with, as play is used by intact dogs for courtship. De-sexed females, lacking the softening female hormones, may turn into 'Xena Warrior Princesses' combining the female snappiness with masculine persistence.

Play and socialisation

Finally, playing is a part of socialising, but not the whole. If dogs are not taught to be calm and relaxed in the presence of other dogs, they simply will never be calm in the presence of other dogs. Socialising your dog means exposing him to a wide variety of situations so that he will accept a new situation and can be handled calmly and confidently.

Your dog can and should play with other dogs, certainly, but play should be age appropriate, in short bursts, and always under your control. This way, your dog respects your influence at any time and values you as his companion rather than seeing you only as the means of getting down to the oval to play with other dogs.

For specific questions – contact Heike on **hhahner@bigpond.com**.
Phone: 4842 7143

What's On – MAY

Compiled by Christina Taylor

Send your announcements to whatson@palerangbulletin.com.au

NOTICE CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE

Wednesday 12

Wamboin Festival Planning Group

Venue has been changed to Shepherds Run Winery 344 Norton Rd Wamboin. Date has been changed to 7.30pm on 12 May 2010. Any queries please call Elke on 6238 3842.

Sunday 2 to Saturday 29 May

QUEANBEYAN ART SOCIETY Life Studies: Members Competition/Exhibition

Queanbeyan Art Society Gallery, Trinculo Place, call 6297 8181.

Ending Sunday 9

National Alpaca Week

Aureate Alpacas at Wamboin, Weerona Dr, Wamboin, 10am–4pm. Open by appointment only; visit some friendly local alpacas as part of National Alpaca Week! Sorry, no dogs allowed. For info or to make an appointment call 6236 9133.

Ending Wednesday 26

New – Works By Five Artists

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, 18 Malbon St, Bungendore, open daily 9am–5pm. The five artists are Matthew Ablitt, Tess Barker, Paul Kowalski, Alison Mackay and Tanya Stubbles. This exhibition features painting, printmaking, photography and mixed media.

Ending Sunday 30

Visions… From the Back of Beyond

Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore, general viewing hours 10am–4.30pm. View Sandra Maw's acrylic-on-paper expressions, inspired by some of Australia's most remote and breathtaking natural attractions. For more info contact the gallery on 6238 1640.

Saturday 8

Brunch With Wallabies Coach Robbie Deans

Bungendore Showgrounds, Mathews Ln, off Bungendore Rd, Bungendore, 11.30am. Presented by the Bungendore Mudchooks, an exciting opportunity to meet the coach of the Australian Rugby Union team! Tickets $30 adults & $15 children (under 16). Bookings essential. Call Glynn Templeton on 6238 0590 for details and bookings. Tickets are also available from Bungendore Cellars.

3rd Annual Hall Ute Competition

The Hall Polocrosse Ground, North Canberra, begins at 11am. This year there's no gate fee; there are more family and children's activities and an all day barbecue! The day starts at 11am with a 'cruise' from Flemington Road to the Polocrosse Ground arriving at 12pm. Entry forms and details available from the website www.hallutecomp.com or call Mary Vagg on 0427 368 266.

– GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

MAY:

Weekly Live Music. Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore. Live music from 7.30pm til late, every Friday. Call 6238 1260 for line up.

Music & Poetry Night. The Royal Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore. 7.30pm, Friday 7.

Duntroon Brass & Tuba Groups. St Andrews Church, Elrington St, Braidwood. 2.30pm, Saturday 8.

R & R. Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan. 11am–2pm, Sunday 9.

Party On. The Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club. Corner Stuart Street & Richard Avenue, Queanbeyan. Raffle from 7pm & Music at 8pm, Friday 14.

Victoria Ballie. Loaded Dog Hotel, 1 Wallace St, Tarago. Saturday, 15.

Queen Juanita & The Zydeco Cowboys. Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan. 11am–2pm, Saturday 15.

O'Neil & Rogers. Folk, roots and country music. Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 23 Cork Street, Gundaroo. 5–8pm, Sunday 16.

Shai Hulud. A punk rock band on world tour. Axis youth centre, Campbell St, Queanbeyan. 6.30pm, Wednesday 19.

Gary Sturgess. Royal Queanbeyan Hotel, 85 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. From 7pm, Thursday 20.

Russell Vincent. Royal Queanbeyan Hotel, 85 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. From 7pm, Friday 21.

Under The Cover. The Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club. Corner Stuart Street & Richard Avenue, Queanbeyan. Raffle from 7pm & Music at 8pm, Friday 21.

Peter Gervasoni. Royal Queanbeyan Hotel, 85 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. From 7pm, Friday 28.

Hit & Run. The Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club. Corner Stuart Street & Richard Avenue, Queanbeyan. Raffle from 7pm & Music at 8pm, Friday 28.

Rigby. Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan. 11am–2pm, Saturday 29.

Andy Daniels. Gundaroo Colonial Inn, 23 Cork Street, Gundaroo. 5–8pm, Sunday 30.

Seen at Collector Pumpkin Festival, May 2. *Photo: Marcele Martins*

Breast Cancer Gala Fundraiser

Southern Cross Club, Help raise money for breast cancer research on this '*Life is a French Cabaret*' themed evening. Entertainment will include CanCan dancing, musical performances, clairvoyants and more. Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner with wine. Purchase tickets by contacting the office on 0406 376 500 or 6290 1984.

Braidwood Film Club's screening of *The Bank*

National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood, 7pm. Pay annual membership ($40) at the door. Contact Jill McLeod on 4842 2626 or email dunvegan@activ8.net.au

Captains Flat Public School Movie Night

Captains Flat Community Hall, Foxlow St, 6.30pm. The movie will be *Inkheart* (rated PG) with money raised going towards the school's before and after school project. Tickets can be purchased at school or on the night and are $30 family, $10 adult, $5 child (12–17). Children under 12 must be supervised at all times. For details call Karen on 6236 6253.

Tuesday 11

Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival Gala Dinner

The Carrington Inn, Malbon St, Bungendore, 7pm. Enjoy a three-course dinner while raising money for the community. Rotary's eBay charity auction will finish during the dinner and there will be a silent auction of things such as a haircut and gym vouchers, a ceramic vase and more. See www.rotaryharvestfestival.com for details.

Wednesday 12 – Thursday 13

Carbon Farming course in Braidwood

Braidwood (Venue TBA). Carbon farming is about storing carbon in our soils to reduce Australia's total carbon dioxide emissions and improve our soil productivity. Over two days Michael and Louisa Kiely will explain what soil carbon is, how it is made, how trade schemes operate, risks, responsibilities and how carbon is measured. For more info and to register, call 6374 0329 or email Louisa@carbon coalition.com.au.

Thursday 13 – Saturday 15

Mario Lanza – *The Loveliest Night of the Year*

'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Roger Lemke and Annalisa Kerrigan star in this concert, singing Arrivederci Roma, Ave Maria, If You Were Mine – and many more, this is a stunning taste of Lanza's finest hits. For specific dates and show times, visit www.theq.net.au or call 6298 0290.

Friday 14

Rotary's Harvest Festival Art Competition Opening Reception

The Foyer of the Palerang Council Chambers, Majara Street, Bungendore 6–8pm.

Saturday 15

Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival

The Bungendore Oval, Majara St, Bungendore, 10am–4pm. Local wine growers are showcasing their produce with tastings for the wine expert and amateur alike. There will be over 90 wine, food, market and community stalls! Enjoy fabulous food and cooking demonstrations, band and dance performances or see the impressive Air Force hot air balloon. Entry fees: $5 adults, $2 high school students. For more info call 6236 9136, email harvest.festival@y7mail.com.

Sunday 16

The Rotary Harvest Festival Wine Trail

Travel through the countryside visiting cellar doors or follow the Art-Craft Trail in the historic village of Bungendore. Wine and Art-Craft trail maps will be available free of charge on Saturday at the Festival. Visit www.rotaryharvestfestival.com for more info and a list of participating wineries.

Tuesday 18

Lake George Day View Club monthly meeting

The May meeting of the LGDVC will be held 11.30am for a 12 noon start. RSVP to June by Friday 14 May on 6236 9136. Lunch is $17 at Brenda's Place. Raffle and door prize as usual. Please bring along a party piece to share with others – such as a poem or a funny ditty. For an updated look at LGDVC activities and photos visit http://lgdviewclub.blogspot.com. See p19 this issue all about View Clubs and their 50th anniversary.

Friday 21

Fame The Musical

'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The musical *Fame* is four years in the lives of a group of young hopefuls at New York's famous Academy of Performing Arts. Tickets are $38 adults or $35 concession. The show will run from 21 May until 5 June. For specific dates and show times, visit www.theq.net.au or call 6298 0290.

Saturday 22 – Monday 24

Jenny Sheppard Exhibition – *Bungendore and Beyond*

Jenny Sheppard's paintings of everyday scenes and properties in and around Bungendore will be launched on Saturday 22 at 11am by Palerang Mayor Walter Raynolds. All welcome! Exhibition hours 11am–5pm on Saturday and 10am–4pm on Sunday and Monday.

Thursday 27

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

10.30am–3pm. This Cancer Council fundraiser will be hosted by Pauline Segeri with the goal of raising $3,500. There will be coffee, tea, biscuits, cake and lots of finger food. Bring your own cup to impress and win a prize! Lucky door prizes, raffle and auction. For location details and to RSVP, call Pauline on 6238 1996 or email psegeri@bigpond.com.

Saturday 29

Carwoola Trivia Night

Stoney Creek Community Hall, Gathering Place (off Douglas Close), Carwoola, 7.30pm. There is a $10 entry fee per person to support the community association. Get together with family and friends in teams of 6–8 people and feel free to bring your own nibbles and drinks. Mid-evening supper with tea & coffee will also be provided. Call Christine or Lynton Bond on 6238 2368 for details.

Monday 31

Sutton Landcare Meeting & Guest Speaker Clem Davis

Sutton Primary Library, Bywong St, Sutton, Meeting begins at 7.30pm. At 8pm Clem Davis, a well-known expert on weather forecasting, will address the meeting on Climate Drivers of South East Australia: *Why does it rain or not rain?* The meeting will be of considerable interest to those wanting to better understand the reasons behind rainfall in our part of the country. For details call Gay McNeill on 62303569 or David Vincent on 6230 3584.

AT ST MARY'S and COUNTRY PARISHES

MASSES: First & Third Sunday of the month 8.30am

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

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MASS 9.00am

LITURGY OF THE WORD: THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9.00am

Hoskinstown – 10.30am 1st Sunday of the Month

Tarago – 10.30am 2nd Sunday of the Month

Gundaroo – 10.30am 3rd Sunday of the Month

Reconciliation: 30 minutes before the Weekend Masses

Baptisms and weddings: By appointment

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

Capital Region Farmers Market

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

1st Saturday of every month

Captains Flat Country Market

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

2nd Sunday of the month (bar January)

Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

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

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

Wamboin Produce Market

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

3rd Sunday every month

Bungendore Markets

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

Gundaroo Market

Gundaroo Park, Gundaroo.

Windellama Country Market

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

4th Saturday of every month

Braidwood Markets

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

1st and 2nd weekend of every month

Captains Axe Woodworks

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

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

www.kingshwytodiscovery.com.au

www.bungendore.com.au

www.visitqueanbeyan.com

– Plan ahead for JUNE –

Tuesday 8 – Saturday 12

Shakespeare's R & J

At 'The Q'. In a repressive Catholic boarding school, four boys gradually immerse themselves into the themes and characters of secret and forbidden love and explore views on gender and sex, see p15 for details.