

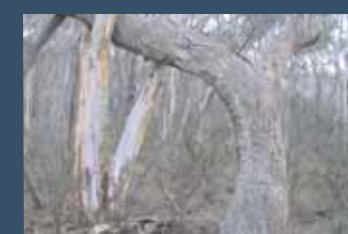


# Bulletin

**COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang**

**Locally-owned and independent** – going out monthly to: Araluen, Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Bywong, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Cooma Road, Fernleigh, Greenleigh, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centre, Majors Creek, Mongarlowe, Queanbeyan plazas, The Ridgeway, Royalla, Sutton, Tarago, Wamboin and Weetalaba

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## Top marks for ace cricketer

*Mark Higgs holds still for a  
photographer near his office  
at Manuka oval.*

## A tale of elite sports and never quitting

*by Nichole Smith*

AT FIRST GLANCE, you wouldn't necessarily think that Mark Higgs is one of the finest athletes to emerge from this region.

Of average height and medium build with spiky hair and a boyish grin, he looks more like the mate you take along to a game, the one who knows every play, statistic and useless bit of trivia, but has never actually taken up the sport himself.

This however, is not Mark Higgs. Higgs is in fact a cricketer of the highest order; a man referred to as a 'local cricketing legend' and an accomplished spin bowler and aggressive left-handed batsman selected to represent his country in both the Australia A, the second National Eleven, and the Australian One Day sides.

### Talented all-rounder's most accomplished local season

As the first Queanbeyan-born player to represent both the state and the country, Higgs has also played for the NSW Blues, the Southern Redbacks (SA) and the ACT Comets, of which he is currently captain and coach.

Now at the age of 34, for the first time he has been awarded the prestigious ACT Cricketer of the Year in tandem with First Grade Captain of the Year and named Club Player of the Year for his grade competition side, the Queanbeyan Bluebags. The Bluebags, the team where it all began for Higgs as a nine-year-old, also took out the ACT Grade Team of the Year after almost securing back-to-back championships. Higgs completed his personal domination by securing the Twenty20 Player of the Year.

"It's taken a bit of time, but it was always something I wanted to win," he says of earning the title of Cricketer of the Year. "It's right up there with getting picked for Australia, playing for NSW and the Comets winning this year in that they moved from amateur to professional, so that's pretty special too."

*Continued p8*

PHOTO: Marcelle Martins

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- **Palerang Council Chambers:** Bungendore and Braidwood.
- **Queanbeyan:** Queanbeyan Library foyer; Riverside Plaza; Link Plaza (near Country Energy); and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres.
- **Wamboin:** Shepherd's Run.

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## Where are we on high speed broadband?

A REPRESENTATIVE of the National Broadband Network Company (NBNCo) briefed regional development offices and Member for Eden Monaro Mike Kelly in April about local progress for high speed broadband rollout.

The briefing covered what was needed to ensure an efficient transition from the out-of-date copper network to a modern broadband network.

Duncan Bremner of NBNCo said, “Given the existing infrastructure already in place throughout Southern Inland you are very well placed for a speedy rollout throughout your region.”

“Optical fibre, satellite and wireless are all important components of the National Broadband Network however for our cities and towns where there are significant populations nothing can compete with Optical Fibre wired directly to the home,” said Brian Brown, chair of Regional Development Australia Southern Inland subcommittee for the NBN rollout.

“Even though Southern Inland is one of the largest and most diverse RDAs in Australia, (which includes 14 Local Government Areas), RDASI has set a target to get the majority of our rollout completed in around half the time that NBNCo has proposed. With two satellites due for launch over the coming months, we may even see some parts of Southern Inland connected sooner and on higher speed services than many of our city cousins.”

## Macs Reef Road upgrade loss is Carwoola's gain

TRAFFIC ON MACS Reef Road and the joining Bungendore Road has now surpassed the Kings Highway in use with a staggering daily traffic count averaging close to 4,000 vehicles per day, according to a Palerang Council report.

Much of this greatly expanded traffic is thanks to the new joint command defence headquarters on the Kings Highway (with defence housing in Gungahlin) and also to Canberra coast-bound traffic.

Macs Reef Road runs from the Federal Highway and joins the Bungendore Road after 8 kms. Both roads go through the rural residential community of Bywong.

Residents bordering Macs Reef Road, which was built as a weight-limited local residential road, have become increasingly alarmed as it has turned into a defacto state highway with ineffective controls on driver speed. At least three fatalities have been recorded on Macs Reef and the intersection with the Bungendore Road in the past several years.

Council at its May meeting was briefed again on an engineering solution to lessen the traffic hazards by a proposed overtaking lane on the steep hilly section of the road. Money would have come from a reallocation from the Nerriga Road of \$250,000 in a 2010–2011 Regional Repair Grant.

However council engineers have now concluded that to do the job properly would cost in excess of \$2 million for the massive earthworks required on widening this 1,700 metres of roadway through hill. The logistics of keeping the road open were equally daunting. The project has essentially been dropped.

It was therefore recommended and councillors agreed to reallocate the money yet again, this time to a reconstruction project on the Captains Flat Road about 7kms from the Queanbeyan boundary.

An interesting suggestion for Bywong residents floated during this discussion: make the wider, flatter Bungendore Road, coming off the Federal Highway 5kms north of Macs Reef, the improved, faster road for through traffic.

## QUEANBEYAN GROWING PAINS Residents prefer green space to greening wallets

by Maria Taylor

QUEANBEYAN RESIDENTS turned out in force for a public meeting in April called by Council to discuss a proposed rezone of 13 ‘pocket parks’ to ‘operational use’.

Some 200 residents were in the audience and many were angry, wanting to know what ‘operational use’ means in fact; interpreting this to be rezone for more housing.

Mayor Tim Overall assured those present that the rezone proposal developed by staff had yet to be considered by councillors, most of whom were in the audience, and that the purpose of the exercise was to listen.

However, the independent chair, David Seymour of urPlan, who is scheduled to give council a report for its meeting on 25 May, inflamed the crowd by saying that his brief was not to recommend what council might do with the land one way or the other. To which several residents rejoined: “Well why are we here?”

The answer was because a public meeting is required by the relevant state legislation.

The meeting is in addition to the 50 submissions received when the proposal went on exhibition earlier this year.

This is part of a wider council review conducted in 2010 of 40 parcels of land around the city for their strategic value, community use and maintenance costs. One subtext is council’s perceived need to encourage more infill housing in line with projected population growth. The affected residents however, see the reality of growth and development as coming down to losing their neighbourhood green space.

Residents told the April meeting, many of the ‘pocket parks’ were set aside in earlier subdivisions to provide the local homeowners with somewhere to walk under trees, enjoy a kid’s playground or run the dog. Most of those who testified rejected suggestions that the parks were not being used and that maintenance costs are onerous to council.

## Central parking for Bungendore moves forward ... a bit

PALERANG COUNCIL at its May meeting voted for a Section 94 Plan to fund a central car park in Bungendore. Half a dozen Bungendore merchants, mostly from Ellendon Street, and the Chamber of Commerce spoke in favour of the project.

Mayor Walter Reynolds said the proposed car park could accommodate 200 cars and would be a big plus Bungendore, which is expected to grow significantly in the next 10 years. The site is on private land behind the supermarket and several other businesses and residences. The land needs to be purchased at a cost of about \$1 million, according to a staff report.

Eventual funding would come from charging new or relocating businesses \$11,000 per carpark space towards the purchase and maintenance costs as part of a development application process. A Council report says this fits with charges on businesses in surrounding council areas.

Objections were received from residential neighbours and also included the point that cheaper land is available, though not as centrally located.



Liz and Wayne Gallagher on the greenbelt at 42 Candlebark Road. The house-block wide greenbelt near their home connects with another one across the road that then leads to a nature reserve. The Gallaghers say that previous strategic plans for Queanbeyan encouraged greenbelts like this, but now they were under threat of being dismantled.

Keith from Hayley Crescent concurred, saying people bought and paid for their block because of the nearby open space, off-road walking and play area for the children. “Can council compensate us for the loss of that amenity?”

## Getting back to struggletown?

Liz Gallagher, representing Candlebark Road, where a greenbelt/nature-strip is under review, said the issue had galvanised her community to get involved. She described connecting paths to nearby bushland, old trees and wildlife habitat that would be lost. There is a large oval within walking distance behind the Karabar shops, but it is not the same amenity.

She got the biggest round of applause for the night when she said, “Council has worked hard to escape the struggletown tag, are we trying now to get it back? We appreciate green around us, more than green in our wallets.”

The convenor David Seymour, who seemed to have a way with words, said that council has “in excess” of the “normal standard” of open space. This did not go down well with the audience. However, he added, distribution of open space is another matter.

Katrina Willis of the Queanbeyan Greens commented that blueprints for population increase now call for half of that through urban infill. She asked for evidence showing the parks were under-used and under-valued, and said “What’s the point of getting in a car to go to another park?”

Commenting later, Councillor and NSW representative John Barilaro told the *Bulletin* he heard what the residents were saying and when all the facts were in, councillors might only seriously consider rezoning a few of the 13 parcels under consideration where there had been no significant community response. He said he is open to community gardens and other new suggestions for open space use.

Residents can have a further say at the beginning of the 25 May council meeting at 5.30–6pm in Council Chambers.

## Infill worries existing residents

An early speaker expressed the sentiment of many saying “More flats, cars, congestion and no parking. What are the plans for these blocks? We need more greenspace not less.”

Another resident, speaking about 10 Aurora Place which is facing more industrial development on a land parcel near the Ridge-way, said “Queanbeyan sells itself as ‘country living, city benefits’ – if we sell these parks, these are out the window”.

Dale, another resident near Aurora Place, said all the parcels contain mature trees and are havens for birds. “If grass cutting is a concern, why aren’t they being planted with natives?” he asked. The theme of more vegetation is also supported by Queanbeyan Landcare.

A resident of 8 Morrison Place noted of the maintenance issue: “Council may mow twice a year, so that can’t be the issue. Development is the concern for everyone.”

A speaker from 29 Allumba Street, where a dedicated park is part of the subdivision, noted that the land had been given to council in perpetuity for open space and taking it away for housing would dishonour that intention. Residents from this area also noted that this is the third time council has proposed a rezone, and the fact that it keeps coming back is angering them.



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# Rural landholders can help lower carbon emissions

*With national attention finally focused on tackling greenhouse gas pollution from industrial processes with a proposed market incentive to switch to cleaner fuels, it is timely for the Bulletin to take a look at carbon capture in land systems. How can landholders contribute positively (apart from lessening the number of methane-belching cows)?*

*For answers we turned to Professor Will Steffen, Executive Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute, and member of the new Climate Commission, which is going around the country answering questions and dispelling myths and is headed by Tim Flannery. Steffen has briefed successive Australian Prime Ministers (to less or more effect) and continues to advise the federal government on climate science.*

**BULLETIN:** We've heard about the idea of carbon capture and storage, ie the goal of taking excess carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) out of the atmosphere and burying it in the ground by technological means – which is still a long way from reality; how can land ecosystems contribute right now, so what is bio-sequestration?

**STEFFEN:** Forests, grasses, plants generally can take up extra carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis – carbon is then allocated to various parts of the plant (roots, stems etc). Some of it goes back to the atmosphere very quickly but there is a net uptake of carbon – and as plants die this becomes part of soil organic matter.

So depending on how you manage the ecosystem you can store or release carbon.

Through a couple of hundred years of European settlement we've actually lost a fair bit of carbon through our managed landscapes – through tillage, deforestation and so forth – and that is generally true around the world. Now it's a big issue in tropical countries.

Since about 1800 it is estimated that 15–20 percent of the excess CO<sub>2</sub> came from land ecosystems around the world and 80–85 percent from fossil fuels. So the first thing is to reduce emissions from both sources.

**Natural intact ecosystems store the most carbon.** So it's a really bad thing to clear a native old growth forest and put in fast-growing. The first thing you do is avoid deforestation – disturbance of the natural ecosystems – ecosystems like grasslands, woodlands or forests.

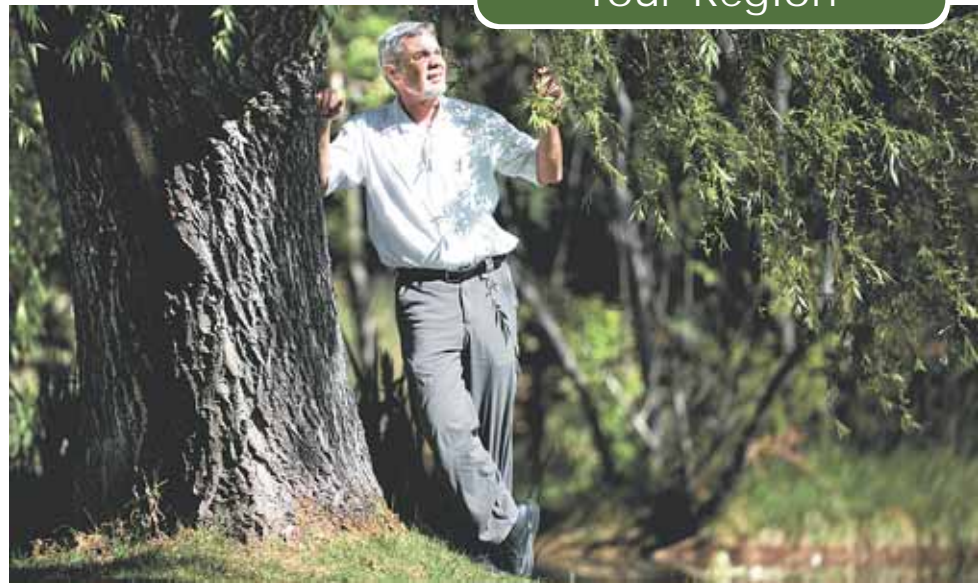
**BULLETIN:** There's a strong urban myth around that new growth stores more carbon than old growth.

**STEFFEN:** That's fundamentally wrong because people mistake the store of carbon with how fast it goes between atmosphere and land – and what we want to do is store carbon for long periods of time as securely as we can in land ecosystems.

So when you clear a native forest, you lose an enormous amount of carbon that is stored in that forest, from the biomass of trees; or, if you burn it, carbon is emitted very quickly. The loss continues over the years as you lose quite a bit from the soil as well.

When you then put in a fast-growing plantation you get fast uptake but you do not store as much ultimately as you lost from the mature forest.

**There are two areas where we could make some good gains:** firstly, reforest degraded land – but I would say resist the urge to put in fast-growing plantations. Put in more slow-growing species, native forest that will store more carbon in the long haul. They are probably also less vulnerable to disturbance.



*Professor Will Steffen of the ANU: The best way to keep carbon in the soil is to retain native vegetation.*

You also get other benefits: enhanced biodiversity, more resilience and other ecosystem services like pest regulation when compared to a monoculture. Try to restore a multi-species ecosystem forest. But there are roles for plantations, for timber production.

Secondly, retain soil carbon. A lot of farmers have gone to no-till already. The question for policymakers (devising incentives) is what additional practices can be encouraged.

**BULLETIN:** How can graziers retain carbon in their soil?

**STEFFEN:** Grass systems tend to have a lot of their activity underground so they are actually good at storing carbon and most grasses operate that way (native or exotic). So they can withstand heavy grazing, fire and getting their above-ground biomass knocked out and still store so much underground. As long as you get sufficient rainfall, they keep coming back.

**BULLETIN:** You have spoken about the impact of extreme weather on the ability to sequester carbon in land ecosystems, ie there is a downside.

**STEFFEN:** An obvious one is bushfires which release carbon; and then the system has to rebuild. There are also insect infestations. If you look at the vast boreal pine and spruce forests of Canada, it seemed they were growing better as it's become warmer in last the 40–50 years so everyone thought this was great, a greater store of carbon. In fact, they were losing carbon (which can be measured).

People were puzzled. But in fact over that 40–50 year period, there were also big increases in fire and insect damage – both of which increased carbon release which outweighed increased growth. (Temperatures have been going up more strongly in the northern high latitudes than the global average, plus there are longer periods of drought.)

Higher temperatures are really important in terms of insects. It allows them to complete their lifecycles more quickly and you might get two cycles into one season where previously there was only one.

We're not experiencing the change in insect cycles in Australia because the temperature shifts are not yet that high.

## Platypus Watch

*Queanbeyan Council has commissioned a river and platypus study that should be unveiled at the time of the Enviro Expo. Monitoring is carried out by volunteers who regularly watch for platypus (and Australian water-rats) along the river and record when they spot animals. The Queanbeyan River definitely is home to platypus as this image shows.*



## TIPS FOR WINTER ENERGY SAVINGS HELP YOUR POCKETBOOK AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ActewAGL Director Marketing and Corporate Affairs Paul Walshe said, "We're encouraging our customers to do what they can to help the environment... we offer a series of energy-saving tips to help people manage their energy use over winter when they may use more energy through home heating.

"By making ongoing changes around the office or the home, we can all contribute to reducing our impact on the environment."

- Limit the use of your clothes dryer and hang your clothes outside.
- Take advantage of free warmth from the sun by opening your curtains on sunny days.
- In the kitchen, use the smallest pots and pans possible – it takes less energy to heat them.
- Close off areas being heated and instead of heating the entire bedroom, use an electric blanket just to warm up the bed.

- Standby power can cost a typical Australian household \$50 to \$100 per year. Reduce costs by turning appliances off at the power point.

**For more energy-saving tips visit [actewagl.com.au](http://actewagl.com.au)**

ActewAGL is actively working on other environmental initiatives to help the region it operates in reduce its impact on the environment, including:

- supporting alternative transport options, such as electric vehicles, working closely with service provider Better Place Australia (see the electric car at the ACTEW stand during Queanbeyan's Enviro Expo)
- educating its staff about more sustainable business practices
- providing grants for community environmental projects.

*Disclaimer: tips have been sourced from Monergy – an ACT Government energy efficiency campaign.*



**Sunday 5 June 2011**

**Queanbeyan Conference Centre 10am–4pm**

**enviro expo**  
sustainable homes & gardens

The theme for **Enviro Expo 2011** is 'Sustainable Homes and Gardens' showcasing environmental products and services, local initiatives, workshops and entertainment (coinciding with World Environment Day)

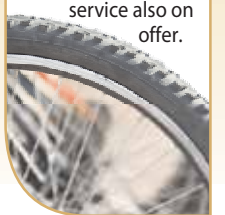


### Highlights:

- \* exhibitions featuring local sustainable products, services and community groups
- \* workshops: including worm-farming, home energy efficiency, sustainable cooking (with local chef Kate Shelton)
- \* guest speakers on local sustainable gardening, platypus studies, and more
- \* kid activities
- \* demonstrations of chook sheds, no-dig gardens, composting and worm farming
- \* Queanbeyan river management and Council's platypus consultation.

**Please BYO coffee mugs and water bottles – this is a waste-wise event**  
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To encourage and promote sustainable transport in Queanbeyan a **FREE bike check up** will be offered by local mechanics (Hammer 'N' Cycle) to anyone who cycles to the event with the chance to win a free bike service also on offer.



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But certainly the lessons are there in terms of fire. We see extreme fire weather has increased; there are quantitative measures of that. Also when you have these long dry periods, they pre-condition the fuel load – so that’s another influence of climate change on fire regimes.

Another worldwide issue with soil carbon is the condition with the soil as it warms along with the planet. In many cases its moisture regime is changing – not always dryer, sometimes wetter. So this means that the soil microbes that do a lot of the work of breaking down soil organic matter experience changed conditions. There have been quite a few experiments now, and most are finding in ecosystems around the world that release of CO<sub>2</sub> increases (ie more emissions from the soil) as temperature goes up.

*In general if you don't get the fossil fuel emissions under control (and they are by far the biggest source of emissions) and you store more and more carbon in land systems, that carbon becomes vulnerable as the planet continues to warm.*

## A quick fix that helps longer-term efforts to curb total emissions

Bio-sequestration does get carbon out of the atmosphere quickly. So, if you change your pasture management, or tillage management or start planting trees you start to pull down carbon quickly. If we stabilise the temperature increase at 2°C or less, most of that land carbon will be stable depending on management.

**BULLETIN:** There are currently political proposals out there to focus mainly on bio-sequestration as a sort of offset to do nothing about business-as-usual in terms of fossil fuel emissions. What do you say?

**STEFFEN:** There is discussion about industry being able to buy/offset some of their emissions by purchasing an equivalent amount of bio-sequestration.

(But) there is a danger if you use land sequestration as offset for fossil fuels – in the

## THE READER...

### Business spurns federal Coalition plan for emissions offset without industrial cost

The Coalition is struggling to win business support for its climate plan, after no company chiefs signed up to spruik it as a better way to cut carbon dioxide emissions than a carbon tax.

The opposition plan emphasises storing and capturing carbon in soil and trees as central to meeting the bipartisan target of a 5 percent cut in emissions below 2000 levels by 2020. It would not force businesses to pay for their greenhouse pollution, but businesses could tender for a grant to cut their emissions.

— from an article by Adam Morton and Tom Arup, The Sydney Morning Herald 29 April 2011, p3.

### Change, new industries, without job losses

The federal Labor MP who holds the coal seat of Newcastle says the government must forge ahead with plans to put a price on carbon because the city's expansion depends on it.

Despite intense lobbying by the coal sector against a carbon tax, Sharon Grierson said that the coal sector would not be harmed as claimed and Newcastle's fledgling clean-energy industry would stall if the carbon policy faltered.

Ms Grierson said that while it was important to protect trade-exposed industries such as steel, Newcastle has bounced back from the closure of BHP steelworks in 1999, despite forecasts the city would be ruined.

Rather than fall into decline, Newcastle embraced clean energy and is home to the CSIRO's Australian Solar Institute, the national Clean Energy Innovation Centre, the Smart Grid Smart City trial program and the Clean 21 Technology Innovation Network.

"The lessons of Newcastle's experience are clear. In preparation for a price on carbon, all parties – business, government and unions – need to refrain from making idle threats or inciting fear," she said.

— from an article by Phillip Coorey, The Sydney Morning Herald 22–24 April 2011, p4.

short term in the atmosphere it's the same, but in the long term it's a really bad thing because you are pulling more (long-acting) carbon dioxide from the fossil fuels and shoving it into the atmosphere where it goes into the land-ocean atmosphere system. Based on the science, it is important to get bio-sequestration working to get carbon back down, but its not an offset it's a both/and – you need to reduce fossil fuels and get carbon back into the land.

(When we start an emissions trading scheme, the federal government's economic) Garnaut report recommends that no more than 15 percent of the permits for fossil fuel emitters could be purchased from the land sector. That's in rough keeping with the 15 percent of the carbon that came from the land anyway. So scientifically that's okay.

Garnaut has stated that whatever the scheme does it should not diminish the price signal for

the fossil fuel polluters to invest in clean technology – (otherwise) it could easily be a case where they delay because it's simply an economic decision.

A different question is the international carbon market (international tradeable permits), where it might be cheaper to help developing countries leapfrog into state-of-the-art clean technology than us doing something – but you have to have very good reporting and verification systems in place.

### The new Climate Commission

**BULLETIN:** You are a member of the federal government's new Climate Commission, what's it meant to do?

**STEFFEN:** It's meant to engage the public. We were in Geelong in March. During the day we went to the Shell refinery and talked to people

out there. It's an emission intense and trade-exposed industry, so people are legitimately concerned about their jobs. Lunch was with civic leaders and local government people, who were very interested.

In the late afternoon we had the public forum. It was extremely well attended – we expected about 150 or so and had 500 – the town hall was just packed. There was a Q&A session for about an hour and a half, you get a really wide spectrum of questions – ranging from die-hard sceptics to people in green groups who say we are all doomed already.

There is a lot of confusion out there, a lot of it driven by deliberate misinformation by various groups. The commission has expertise in economics, in the resource and business sectors in science communication and in the science itself (*other community forums have been held in Ipswich and Port Macquarie and Steffen said the Canberra region may expect one later in the year*).

### International comparison

**BULLETIN:** Australia seems to have a really hard time coming to grips with the fact that something needs to be done and we are not ahead of the rest of the world if we take action to lower our emissions. What are you observing internationally?

**STEFFEN:** Well, China for example, it's amazing what they are doing, much more than we are. They are very rapidly reducing the carbon intensity of their economy, using a lot less carbon to do things. Their global emissions are still going up but much more slowly than before. For example, they have taken out old inefficient coal-fired power stations with an aggregate production as big as the entire Australian grid.

They have replaced this with bigger but much more efficient coal-fired plants so they are getting a lot more electricity from the same units of coal. They are also making major investments in wind and solar energy. (*We discuss that much of the Australia's coal-fired electricity comes from inefficient plants.*) That's an argument for really good gains we can make and save money. We can start with efficiencies.

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# Considering buying or selling a property in NSW?

by John Sneddon

Following is an overview of the process



IF YOU ARE engaging the services of a Real Estate Agency you will need to complete a **Listing Agreement** with the agency. This will include details of the property for sale, method of sale, estimated sale price, commission to be paid on sale, marketing costs and duration of the agreement. An excellent source of information regarding agency agreements can be found at the website of the NSW Office of Fair Trading, [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au).

A **Contract for Sale** will need to be prepared by your solicitor or conveyance represen-

tative and is required before marketing of the property can begin unless the property for sale is over 2.5 hectares in size. While a contract isn't required to begin marketing of properties over 2.5 hectares, it is still advisable to have one prepared.

There are a number of different ways a property can be offered for sale including: setting a price, seeking offers above a set amount, tender, expressions of interest or auction. I will discuss these in more detail next month.

Once an offer has been made and accepted, **Sales Instructions** are prepared and sent to both the buyer's and seller's solicitors. These instructions include details of the agreed terms of the sale such as price, settlement period and name(s) of the buyer(s). The seller's solicitor will use this information to complete the first page of



the contract and then send a complete contract to the buyer's solicitor for their review.

At this stage the buyer is responsible to complete their due diligence to ensure they know exactly what they are buying. This typically involves having a **Pest and Building Inspection** completed by a reputable company and requesting to inspect the **Building File** for the property, which is available through the council.

Once satisfied with these and having received your **Letter of Offer** from your lender confirming loan approval, the buyer(s) will visit their solicitor to sign the contract and to leave the deposit. This is normally 10 percent of the purchase price but other figures are often negotiated.

The seller will also need to see their solicitor to sign their copy of the contract. The solicitors will then **Exchange** the contracts, sealing the deal.

## The waiting period

The period between acceptance of offer and exchange of contracts can cause some concern for both buyer and seller, with buyers worried about someone else making a more attractive offer and sellers hoping the buyer doesn't change their mind and not complete the transaction.

If, while the property is **Under Offer** another buyer makes an offer to the agent, the agent is legally bound to pass this offer on to their seller for their consideration. If the seller, having already accepted an offer, decides to accept

another offer, this is known as **Gazumping**. While gazumping is not illegal it always disappoints the buyer when this occurs, likewise the seller feels this same disappointment when a buyer having made an offer that is accepted withdraws prior to exchange of contracts.

It is always advisable for both parties to aim to minimise the time between when an offer has been accepted and when contracts exchange. To ensure this, it is advisable that buyers have spoken with their lender and sought loan pre-approval and to arrange pest, building and file inspections in a timely manner. While it is normally the aim to have contracts exchanged within 14 days of an offer being accepted, it is not unusual to see this time blow out for a variety of reasons.

The period between exchange and **Settlement**, when the balance of monies is paid, is negotiable, and typically runs from 30–60 days. At settlement the buyers will receive the keys to their new property and can begin moving in.

This is an overview of a process that has many variables. I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have about this and can highly recommend the Office of Fair Trading and Real Estate Institute (REI) of NSW websites at [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au) and [www.reinsw.com.au](http://www.reinsw.com.au) if you would like further information.

*If you would like to discuss the state of the market in your area, please don't hesitate to contact John Sneddon of Peter Blackshaw Real Estate Inner North & Rural on 0403 139 701.*

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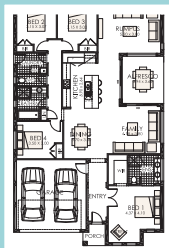
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artist's impression

**Bungendore**  
**Private Inspections**

\$562,500



### High Quality, Country Lifestyle.

The Cabarita from Rawson Homes is the ultimate entertainers dream, with spaces that just go on and on this is a home to flourish in. Explore the many facets of this design and it will enthrall you as the amount of stylish features included keep on adding up. If you are thinking of building your new home don't go past this opportunity. Other designs available.

Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637



**Bungendore**  
**Call for OPEN TIMES**

\$575,000



### Family Entertainer

Separate living areas flow from the kitchen overlooking fantastic outdoor entertaining area. Ducted gas heating and split system air conditioners provide comfort all year round. The large nth facing backyard has established native plants, vegie patch, classic arbour, cubby, courtyard areas, also irrigation from two water tanks. 4 dbl bedrooms; master bed has ensuite, walk in robe. DLUG. Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637



**Bungendore**  
4 Shanahan Street

**SOLD**

\$589,000

### Stylish and Elegant

4 large bedrooms have built-ins, master complete with ensuite and WIR. The family bathroom is well appointed including great size bath. The high quality kitchen overlooks the informal family/dining room and fully landscaped backyard. Entertaining is a pleasure either under cover outside or formal lounge/dining. Many features like ducted air, water feature, Nth facing back yard, double garage and more. Inspect now. Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637



artist's impression

**Tura Beach**  
**2 Master designed homes**  
17 Elizabeth Parade

from \$405,000

### Lifestyle Change

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Contact Ben Stevenson 0467 046 637





Rural Property Guide

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Luke Jamieson

Property Manager



Chris Dixon

Sales Agent



John Sneddon

Sales Agent



Vanessa Ryan

Sales Agent

4

2

6



CARWOOLA 15 PONY PLACE

Set on 11 acres of natural bush is this stunning 4-bedroom plus ensuite home. Features include stunning parquet flooring, granite benchtop in kitchen, spa bath, rev. cyc. a/c & solid fuel heater, bituminised circular driveway, 4-bay 140sqm shed with 3-phase power, bore, 2 dams and automated irrigation.

6262 5122 | John Sneddon 0403 139 701

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BYWONG 107 SUMMER HILL ROAD

Sprawling residence with approx 435m<sup>2</sup> under roofline on 40ac of productive grazing land with 5 paddocks, 2 dams & a bore. The home features 4 bed, 2 ens, bath, formal lounge & dining in the main residence with an additional bed, kitchen, laundry & living area in an attached self-contained flat. Offers Over \$995,000

6262 5122 | John Sneddon 0403 139 701

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BUNGENDORE 459 BUNGENDORE ROAD

3-bedroom + study home with impressive infrastructure set on 40 ac with views to Bungendore & Lake George. Featuring a new kitchen, spacious living room, solar hot water, s/c heating & large outdoor entertaining area. 2 dams, a bore with commercial irrigation license. \$820,000-\$850,000

6262 5122 | John Sneddon 0403 139 701

5

2

2



GOOGONG 277 FERNLEIGH DRIVE

Stunning architect designed 5-bed + ens dbl brick home on 5.3ha (13ac) block with 3 dams, 2 paddocks + netted vegies & orchard. The home features high vaulted ceilings, ducted evap cooling, gas heating, a number of c/yards for outdoor living. There is a studio with a separate entry plus a detached self-contained flat. Offers Over \$1,100,000

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4

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1



GUNDAROO 9 MORNING STREET

This 4 bed, ens + study colonial style home is positioned on a 1 acre block with rear lane. Features incl slate floors with in-slab heat, lounge with raked ceilings & an open plan kitchen & family room. Outside is a paved entertaining area with pond & pizza oven, garage & bore. Offers Over \$700,000

6262 5122 | Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

3

2


2





GUNDAROO 135 BREADALBANE ROAD


Charming 3 bed, ensuite + loft cottage built 4 yrs ago & boasting floating timber floors, kitchen with s/steel appl's, in-slab heat to bath & ensuite, sep lounge & family rooms. Other features incl a sheltered c/yard, garage & c'port, w/shop, tack room, lic bore. 35min to Canberra. Offers Over \$580,000

6262 5122 | Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

6

3

3



SUTTON 49 VICTORIA STREET

On the outskirts of Sutton village & 15 mins from Canberra's inner city is an outstanding rural retreat of 6.62acres (approx) with a substantial 3 bed + study, ensuite residence & a separate 3 bed 1 bath cottage. Features modern kitchen & bathrooms, DGH, DLUG, 2 lic bores & shed. \$1,200,000

6262 5122 | Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

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WALLAROO 277 OAKLEY CREEK ROAD

This stunning 197ac property has a large 4 bed, 4 bath home with sep living areas, rumpus, self-contained flat, study den, wine cellar, zoned r/c air, slow comb fire, solar hot water & solar panels. Outside is a heated pool & spa, DLUG, 4 bay stables, cattle yards, machinery shed & orchard. Offers Over \$1,250,000

6262 5122 | Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

4

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2



WAMBOIN 81 CANNING CLOSE

Spacious 4-bed + ens dbl-brick home on a private and peaceful 20 ac bush block in "Old Wamboin". Features include; Blackwood timber kitchen with stainless steel appliances, slate flooring, Cheminee Phillippe fire, DGH, and a large game's room. Productive bore, vegie gardens, dbl-garage and dual road frontage.

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2 bed, 2 bath home with log fire to living room, open plan din & kitch, lge deck, pool plus sep caravan. 35min to CBD. Chris 04414 819 377

Gundaroo

\$1,250,000

661 Shingle Hill Way

570ac (approx) of rolling grazing land 30min to Civic. Potential to sub-divide & with 3 bed cottage, 2 sheds & yards. John 0403 139 701

Gundaroo

Offers Over \$280,000

24 Morning Street

This scarce 1/2 acre block is located in a quiet side street, fringed by leafy trees. Level & with rear lane access. Chris 04414 819 377

Carwoola

Offers Over \$750,000

198 Widgiewa Road

Architect designed passive solar 3-bed home on a private 20ac block. Approx. 15 mins to Qbn & 30 mins to Civic John 0403 139 701

Carwoola

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Sutton

\$465 per week

2531 Sutton Road

4 bed, slow combustion, separate dining, double carport, pets ok. Luke Jamieson 6262 5122

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It is certainly the talented all-rounder's most accomplished season locally in a career which has encompassed many peaks and a few troughs. First selected to represent the ACT in the under-16s, Higgs competed in the Australian under-19s' side, played in four Prime Minister XI's matches and ended his first class cricketing career on something of a low note with the Redbacks in 2004.

"It didn't end well," Higgs agrees. "I thought I was playing pretty well but I just didn't seem to be getting a look-in, so as a player, that's pretty frustrating. And I was playing all-year round, here and in England, and I was really starting to feel it; my body was starting to fall apart."

### Touring Kenya, playing in South Australia and coming home

After moving to Sydney in 1998 to enable him to play first class cricket for NSW, a convincing finish to 2000 and the sidelining of Shane Warne through injury saw Higgs secure a much-coveted position in the One Day International Knock-Out tournament to tour Kenya.

"I was so surprised to be picked for Kenya that when I got the call I thought it was one of my mates and I hung up on the selector. When he called back I realised it was for real."

Although Higgs only got to play in trial games, his selection further roused him and he went on to produce some exemplary cricket. Nonetheless, opportunities remained scarce prompting another move, this time to South Australia, where he quickly made his presence felt with a century on debut.

Over the next two seasons, having played cricket virtually without let-up for almost two decades, Higgs found it difficult to retain his form, precipitating his return to his hometown.

"I had a fantastic first year but then I had to undergo knee surgery and I just couldn't get my form back after that."

Re-signing with the ACT and the Bluebags almost immediately, with the gradual return of his much-worked on technique combined with his natural flair, by 2010 Higgs was leading from the front, coaching and captaining the Comets, smashing runs and securing record numbers of wickets.

### Bluebagging it again – and enjoying it

Now the stylish stroke-maker and masterful wicket-taker says he is happy to continue on with the hometown side – where he was first selected to play in the first grade competition at only 16 – and the ACT for a little while longer yet.

"I'm still enjoying playing and I feel I've still got a bit to give. Eventually I suppose this will probably be more in coaching and there are a few of our younger players I'd like to see come through. I'd like to be around for that."

While Higgs admits it is disappointing at not having been able to play on a continuing basis at the highest level of international cricket, he also acknowledges just how much he has achieved, professionally and personally.

"I was given opportunities when I was young and I tried to make the most of them. It was tough and I made a few mistakes, I put my hand up for that, but in the end playing cricket teaches you a lot about life; it helped me figure out what life is really about."



## Snug as a dog in a rug

by Heike Hahner

*Winter is a hard time for all of us, but especially for the old and sick. Older dogs will feel their age more in winter but they can be less affected by the cold with some extra help from us.*

### Rugging and bedding

Rugging is one way of helping your old dog be more comfortable during winter's long cold nights and freezing days. Short-coated dogs, especially, like greyhounds, Staffi's and Mastiffs, will feel the cold due to lack of hair. Dogs that have been clipped and generally all small dogs also prefer to wear coats to provide some extra protection against the cold.

If you want to rug a young dog, start with an inexpensive rug or make one yourself. As a general rule for rugging, wait until the dog is over the worst of the chewing stage. Most dogs are past this stage by about two to three years of age.

Bedding such as wool, straw or shredded paper will also help your dog stay warm if he sleeps outside. Make sure you change and dispose of bedding material regularly; especially important this year as we have just seen the worst season for fleas in a long time.

Either wash bedding thoroughly and regularly or routinely dispose of it altogether to help prevent constant re-infestation with fleas. This treatment will also get rid of any unhatched flea eggs.

Hessian mats are great for regular disposal if your dog is indoors. They are cheap and can be replaced every month or so. They are also good for young dogs that still chew their bedding or those dogs that destroy their beds with a lot of scratching and digging before they settle to sleep.

Heat pads are also available in various sizes for older dogs. These are reported to make life much more comfortable; especially for arthritic dogs or those that feel the cold.

Arthritis is a common problem in older dogs and the condition is more painful in

colder weather. Your vet can help with the correct treatment of arthritic problems.

If you prefer to keep it more natural, there is a range of herbal and natural remedies available for dogs including greenlip mussel, fish oil, glucosamine and chondroitin products. You may have to try a number of things before you find something that will help your dog to move more freely.

### And don't forget the benefits of winter exercise

Many people stop walking their aging dog thinking that he does not need the walk any more. However, dogs like people get stiff and sore if they do not move regularly.

Old dogs, depending on the state of their health, do well on a couple of shorter walks a day. Watch your dog when you take him out and he will let you know when he has had enough; signs of tiredness include wanting to turn home, slowing down drastically after starting off well or sitting or lying down.

If you have not walked him in a while start off with very short walks and build up gradually to a more substantial distance. Remember to rug your dog again after the walk to keep his muscles and joints warm and to allow them to cool down slowly.

Keeping your older dog fit and moving also helps to keep the stiffness from his joints and tone his aging muscles. Exercise aids circulation and will help your dog to warm up. Walks are not only beneficial for his body but also for his mind.

So keeping your older dog warm, active and engaged with his environment will mean you can enjoy your dog for longer and keep him in better mental and physical health.

For specific questions – contact Heike on [hhahner@bigpond.com](mailto:hhahner@bigpond.com) or phone: 4842 7143

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# Palerang's Local Environment Plan: an update

(and why it matters to those who would be Councillors and other residents) by Pete Harrison\*



THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL Plan (LEP) is a legal framework for sustainable subdivision and development – it effectively dictates what can and can't be done in any particular part of the shire. So there's plenty of interest in LEPs on both sides of the fence, if you'll pardon the pun. People who make money from real estate want to maximise the return on their investment, and people who enjoy the amenity of their chosen place of residence don't want to lose that amenity.

Much of the new Palerang LEP (PLEP) is a template, a set of mandatory conditions known as the 'standard instrument', laid out by the state government. The standard instrument includes, for example, the description of the various land use zones (eg rural, environmental, residential, industrial etc.), and the mandatory objectives that effectively define where the individual zones should be used (eg the objective in the Rural Village Zone (RU5) is "to provide a range of land uses, services and facilities that are associated with a rural village").

To this template, councils have the option to add local clauses to define the particular individual character of their shires (eg to the village zone definition, our council added an objective requiring that approved "non-residential uses do not result in adverse impacts to the amenity of existing and future residential premises"). Consideration of the many local clauses recommended by council's planners is the primary reason for the delays in preparing the PLEP.

## Natural environmental protection has been most controversial, removed in some cases

The most controversial elements have been those local clauses associated with the natural environment, especially in the rural land use zones.

Some rural land owners feel that restrictions on the use of their land should be minimal, while other Palerang residents with specific environmental concerns, and indeed council's own planners, consider that rural land owners should be bound to accommodate certain environmental concerns (just like other residents and ratepayers).

For example, under pressure from rural landholders, the council majority removed from the Primary Production Zone (RU1) the objective "To ensure that the development and management of the land has proper regard for the environmental constraints of the land..."

The zone most affected by this majority treatment was the Environmental Management Zone (E3), which is primarily intended to be used "to provide for low-impact residential development in areas with special ecological, scientific or aesthetic values" and "to ensure that residential development does not have an adverse effect on those values".

Unfortunately, E3 zones often border primary production (RU1) and rural landscape (RU2) zones. There was confusion in the minds of some councillors as to how these individual zones might be applied with the result that several optional clauses that were deemed overly restrictive were removed.

For example the Council majority removed the objective "To maintain, or improve in the long term, the ecological values of existing remnant vegetation of significance including wooded hilltops, river valley systems, major scenic corridors and other local features of

From the Editor –

## VOTE 1 on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

THE *BULLETIN* has not recommended candidates in past Council elections but a by-election, such as the one coming up this Saturday 14 for Palerang Council is a very specific opportunity.

Having listened to and spoken with candidates and seen some of them in action, we do make a recommendation this time. Based on equity, balance and relative experience with current council issues, (it is important for someone to hit the ground with a working knowledge of what's before Council right now), the *Bulletin* endorses Pete Harrison for the seat vacated by Terry Bransdon.

The other four candidates have shown courage by standing, have some good ideas (tourism, aged care facilities, sustainable agriculture, even citizen referenda), and have appeal to various constituencies. There will be a general election in 18 months and they are urged to get up to speed and apply their good ideas against the test of available resources or devise how to get more resources.

Meanwhile *everyone* is for community consultation and transparency in government so that is no point of differentiation: just an ongoing challenge.

## A time to represent the existing electorate majority

This by-election is a time to re-establish the balance of representation for the populous western Palerang and rural residential electorate. It is an opportunity to forge a majority on behalf of the amenity and interests of existing residents – not future residents that come with more development.

However much we're told otherwise, councillors bring their own life experiences, priorities and philosophies to the table. This has been obvious in the life of the current council, sometimes to the detriment of safeguards for the natural environment (*examples in the LEP article on left*), and has embattled

scenic attraction" from the environmental management zone.

The obvious solution seemed to be to rezone land that was not truly in need of E3-style protection to either RU1 or RU2, and retain a sound E3 zone definition that could be used to protect genuinely sensitive areas of the shire. What we have at the moment is land that maybe should not have been zoned E3 in the first place, but no way to zone land that requires more restrictive environmental protection.

cultural heritage and lifestyle issues to much popular criticism.

Palerang Council already has five representatives from large rural landholdings. They don't always vote together, Judith Turley mostly taking a different approach on development issues, but four of them have a functional majority with the Mayor's casting vote. A vote for Mark Horan would add another voice to this majority.

The council needs a balance. There are growth and development voices and those speaking either with rural attitudes or for a rural base. Equally we need experienced representation for people who live here now in villages and on rural residential blocks.

With Bransdon gone, we only have one councillor, Anne Goonan, who shares the life experience of the largest population – more densely populated rural residential western Palerang and the rural residential communities east of Queanbeyan. Paul Cockram and Catherine Moore from around Braidwood also hail from rural residential backgrounds and have demonstrated their understanding of the needs of this segment of the community.

Pete Harrison represents the closest match to the departed Councillor in terms of where he lives and his willingness to represent the interests and needs of existing rural residential and village voters. He has also done his homework and this is important in regard to the closing year and a half of the current council and to finalising the Local Environment Plan (LEP), the biggest challenge (besides a budget black hole).

Despite popular cynicism and hostility, the current Council makes many unanimous decisions when it comes to non-controversial items: roads, water, sewers. The challenge now is better working relationships on development and the environment in the interest of existing residents and sustainable policies for Palerang's future.

— Maria Taylor

> Letters to The Editor p19

## Rural residential amenity compromised? Minimum lot sizes hot issue

Some clauses intended to help preserve the amenity of the rural environment were also removed from the newly named Environmental Living Zone (E4) that embraces most of the rural residential land in Palerang. The result is that elements of the landscape that are part of the amenity of these rural residential areas may come under threat from future development under the PLEP.

Continued p18



'Ethical investment is a logical extension of how we live our lives.'

HEATHER AND GRAHAM  
Canberra  
Teacher & gardener,  
analyst & cyclist.

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# VOTE 1

## MAY 14 PALERANG BY-ELECTION FOR ONE COUNCILLOR

**Vote 1**, for any one of the candidates featured on this page and the following, and make your vote count as much as possible by numbering your next preferences. The by-election follows the resignation of Terry Bransdon, recently of rural residential Bywong. Five candidates have registered and four have provided the **Bulletin** with campaign material featured in the April issue and on these pages. Some paid advertising has been included, below and opposite. (Our editorial opinion, p9.)

### BEN GLEESON FOR COUNCIL

ANNIE AND I first moved to this area to live in Majors Creek. We are now settled in Braidwood with our two young children. I've worked for over a decade in agriculture and I'm now studying a degree in Land Management (Ecological Agriculture) by distance from Charles Sturt University.

Through my studies and my general life experience and interests in our local area, I know that sustainable agriculture means sustainable rural communities; you won't have one without the other. I feel I am well placed to understand and represent the balance required within our Shire between rural/farming and urban interests.

As President of the Braidwood Literary Institute and Secretary of the Braidwood Urban Landcare Group, I've enjoyed being able to contribute to some great community initiatives. I have worked extremely hard on the new Flood Creek footpath in Braidwood and I was instrumental in establishing the Braidwood Community Gardens last year.

I was the instigator of the re-formation of the Braidwood Literary Institute, a volunteer group with 240 members that emerged to fill an important community-education role in Braidwood. During the recent uproar over the historic Braidwood Literary Institute building and the threat of losing 13 jobs from our small town, we stepped forward to provide a creative and simple solution for Council and the community.

I was a founding member of the Upper-Shoalhaven Natural Sequence Farming Association and have been a regular contributor to its newsletters and at its events. I have been a shareholder in the Palerang Community branches of the Bendigo Bank since they were started.

I see a role on Council as an opportunity to make a bigger contribution and to help build a Community of Palerang. I believe that such a



Ben Gleeson with his partner Annie and children Hunter and Romany. Ben believes that our diversity can be a strength but that we need to move away from a focus on the politics of conflict and look to accommodating diverse perspectives within our decision making.

community is needed to give Palerang Council a clear indication of who it is supposed to be representing and to hold it accountable in its actions on our behalf.

Since amalgamation, old allegiances and parochialism have sometimes left us divided and badly ruled. Things have improved a great deal since that first council but we still need more representatives that will work on behalf of our new Community of Palerang. I think Palerang Councillors should play an important role in our community by seeking to facilitate communication and a more united approach to our future growth and development. My strength is in assimilating diverse perspectives into workable situation improvements. I firmly believe that I will make a very positive difference if elected to Palerang Council.

[www.bengleesonforpalerang.com.au](http://www.bengleesonforpalerang.com.au)

### GARTH MORRISON FOR COUNCIL

Dear Resident,  
Would you like someone that will represent **YOU** on local council?

I have a track record in stakeholder consultation and risk management. As a businessman and a project manager, I work to ensure that opportunity and risk are balanced to meet the best possible outcomes.

I am optimistic about our region's future. My wife and I have chosen to raise our family here and my wife has set up a psychology clinic in Bungendore. We're here for the long haul. If elected, I will focus on making our council:

- consultative
- sustainable
- responsive to local needs.

I am a young and energetic person. I will bring vitality and fresh ideas to our council.

Situated on the doorstep of the nation's capital, Palerang Shire has great opportunity to grow in size and prosperity. With this opportunity lies the responsibility to ensure that infrastructure, services and facilities grow with the Shire and align with the needs of the community. The most effective way to do this is to listen and consult with the community about current needs and future directions.

As the Shire has grown in recent years, a number of issues have appeared. There are problems with the traffic and parking in and around Malbon and Gibraltar Streets in Bungendore and Wallace Street in Braidwood. Our unsealed roads are in need of maintenance or upgrading. There are concerns around the lack of footpaths and the quality of the water in Bungendore Village. There is a distinct lack of aged-care services and accommodation, and the Shire's



Garth Morrison with wife Charlotte and daughter Beatrice (10 months). Consultation and heeding community needs top his campaign list.

rubbish tips are rudimentary and have little or no recycling facilities. These points are a few of the issues that I have become aware of since moving to the Shire.

My wife and I moved to the Shire from Queanbeyan in 2010. We moved here with our new baby to build our family in a country environment while working in Bungendore Village and the region. During this time, I have been struck by the community spirit of Palerang and the level of interest shown by residents in planning issues such as the drafting of the Palerang LEP. It is for these reasons that I am running as a candidate in the Palerang By-Election.

My experience as a businessman and project manager has given me the skills necessary to balance opportunities against risk. This experience has also given me the ability to negotiate and work with stakeholders to gain the most beneficial outcomes for the Shire. If elected, I will strive to ensure that the community is listened to and consulted in all matters of growth and development and that the community's needs are at the forefront of all Shire plans.

## VOTE 1 Pete Harrison — Experience with community AND Council



**Hello, I'm Pete Harrison. I've jotted down some comments to share with you about issues facing our Council that I have seen from going to almost every Council meeting in the past two years. (I've rarely seen another candidate for this election in the Council gallery during that time.)**

Like many local government areas throughout NSW, our council faces an uphill battle working to maintain service levels throughout a diverse shire in the face of what is effectively a diminishing budget. Balancing the amenity of the rural lifestyle enjoyed by current residents, with a growing demand for real estate, adds another dimension to the problem.

Against this backdrop, it's probably no surprise that there is a degree of anxiety in the community. It seems to me, however, that the issues that cause the most anxiety could often be avoided with improved community engagement and/or more transparency in Council's decision-making process.

The Macs Reef Road waste facility, water management problems at Captains Flat and the Braidwood staffing issue are cases in point. As a member of a community that has been on the receiving end of poor Council decisions, I understand the importance of community engagement prior to making decisions that affect the communities in question.

While most of the current Council made a commitment to community consultation during the campaign for the last election,

there has not been the collective will to follow through on this commitment. The result is too many decisions where the initial direction is not in line with the aspirations of the broader community, leading to the anxiety and mistrust that is all too common amongst Palerang residents.

There is also the natural tendency to 'oil the squeaky wheel'. Services might thus be

more equitably delivered if Council created more opportunities to listen for the squeaks that exist within the various Palerang communities.

Transparent governance is really just one critical aspect of the whole community engagement process. Council needs to not only make good decisions, but it needs to be seen to make good decisions. The new Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements introduced by the NSW State Government are a critical component of the solution to this problem.

The first Palerang Council struggled with the concept of forward planning, and it

has been suggested that this had much to do with keeping hidden agendas hidden. The new, State-driven Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements target this sort of practice and promise a more productive local government environment. To have any real impact, however, these processes must be implemented in the spirit of their intent, not just in the letter.

At the end of the day, Council provides the direction for a service delivery organisation, and as such should itself embrace the principles of quality service. The level of mutual respect shown by members of a management team flows down through their organisation and ultimately out to its customers. For our Council to be able to deliver on its service commitments, and build confidence within the Palerang community, it must first function effectively itself. The way that individual councillors interact with each other will ultimately be the way in which the community interacts with them.

For more information about my background and specific Council matters with which I have been involved, please visit my website at [www.peteharrison.id.au](http://www.peteharrison.id.au)



Pete Harrison has lived on a rural residential block in Wamboin for 15 years with his wife Barb and (now teenage) son Steve. During this time he gained a lot of personal and community association experience with Council issues affecting small block holders, their lifestyle choices and also their environmental concerns. Some of these have been addressed for the better: like the move away from traditional septic systems to aerated waste water treatment systems like the Biological Aquatics System on Pete's block (pictured). Pete says he has also traded in the ride-on mower in favour of a small flock of 'self-contained, broad-spectrum vegetation control systems'.

**VOTE 1  
PETE HARRISON**



# Integrated Planning & Reporting public forums

## Palerang Council wants to hear your ideas about the future of our local area.

Starting on 23 May 2011, Council is holding a series of community workshops near you. Local residents, businesses, community organisations and other agencies are invited to share thoughts about our local area and your vision for the future of Palerang. We are seeking ideas about the challenges we face, both now and in the long term, and how we might address them.

### The need for a Community Strategic Plan

The ideas, thoughts and opinions you share with us will be used to develop a long term 'Community Strategic Plan' for Palerang and this plan will form an important part of Council's long term planning program. It will ensure that the Council's policies and direction are determined in partnership with the local community and are responsive to community needs and interests. It will become the primary 'roadmap' for planning in areas such as community services and facilities, new development, infrastructure renewal and protection of the environment.

The Plan will be prepared for implementation by September 2011 and will look twenty years into the future. It will be reviewed and analysed every four years, prior to each council election, to ensure that it remains relevant and reflects changes within our community over time.

Once the plan is completed, the Council will develop a comprehensive 'Delivery Program' that will list our activities and strategies to achieve the community's vision for the future. This Delivery Program will enable you to see how your thoughts, ideas and priorities for the future of your local area will be acted on by the Council.

### Partners in planning — a new consultative approach

Palerang Council has in the past consulted with the local community. However most of our consultation to date has focused on specific issues. In developing a new Community Strategic Plan we want you to assist Council to determine the focus and take a lead role in developing a vision for our future. In years to come you will also be invited to take an active role in reviewing the Plan to ensure our focus and long term directions remain relevant and responsive to community needs.

It is important that you take the opportunity to have your say about what you want for the future of your local area and what you believe is needed to make Palerang as good as it can be.

The community workshops to be held in May and June will mark the beginning of a whole

new approach to how Council manages its planning and decision making. We want you to be involved as our partners in the project. We need your thoughts and your ideas no matter how great or small.

Your participation in this planning process is your right and will be highly valued.

### What do we want to achieve?

In developing a Community Strategic Plan we will create a greater certainty about our future and the wellbeing of our community. We face some real and significant challenges in the coming years and the key to managing them successfully is planning ahead. Working in partnership with the whole Palerang community, we want to achieve the following results through this planning process:

**The right programs and services for our community:** As our community continues to evolve and change, we need to be sure that

our planning and service provision are appropriate and meet community needs and expectations. Working with the community to plan our future will ensure that our service provision is targeted and responsive to community needs rather than relying on what has always been done in the past.

**Making the most of what we have:** One of the greatest challenges for any council is to balance the provision of real enhancements and improvements for local communities with the need to undertake essential maintenance and renewal works on local infrastructure, and do so with limited resources.

The only guaranteed income for councils comes from rates and many rural and regional councils like Palerang are limited by low population numbers and a large area to maintain. Though our rates income is low, we have a great deal of infrastructure to maintain across our council area, including water supply, sewer systems, roads and drains. Also of concern is that some of this infrastructure is approaching the end of its life and needs significant expenditure to ensure that it remains in satisfactory condition.

A long term Community Strategic Plan developed in partnership with our community will enable us to work together to find the best balance between these competing pressures with the limited resources we have.



### Community consultation workshops — 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm with dinner provided. Please arrive at 5.30 pm.

Monday 23 May	Gundillion Community Hall
Tuesday 24 May	Araluen Community Hall
Wednesday 25 May	Braidwood National Theatre
Thursday 26 May	Nerriga Community Hall
Tuesday 14 June	Captains Flat Community Hall
Wednesday 15 June	Bungendore School Hall
Thursday 16 June	Burra Community Hall
Friday 17 June	Wamboin Community Hall

### Government and business forums.

Wednesday 25 May	Braidwood National Theatre 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Thursday 16 June	Bungendore School Hall 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

**RSVP to Council on 6238 8111 is essential to secure a place.**



# Tea: for energy and good mood, farmer tradition lives on in Bungendore

TIMES ARE CHANGING. Products are getting smaller due to health and safety requirements and the product range is getting larger. In times gone by, going into town was a weekly event not a daily event and most farmers drank tea as a form of energy drink.

Pure Ceylon Tea was the drink of choice, not only because it tasted good but it was imported from Sri Lanka in bulk and came in

a beautiful wooden box which was so useful for keeping all sorts of things organised, clean and dry. Seed merchants /agricultural stores saw the benefit of stocking tea and the tradition is still there.

At Cleanseeds in Bungendore you can still get Premium Quality Ceylon Pekoe (Broken Orange Pekoe) as both tea bags and loose leaf tea. The Elmstock Company tea is usually sold

by specialty gourmet shops and served by quality restaurants and cafes. It is generally not available in supermarkets.

Unfortunately the wooden box is now a thing of the past since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami as most local timber has been used to rebuild local communities but the taste still remains.



Tea is one of life's great pleasures. It is low in caffeine, improves your mood, disposition and blood circulation. So next time you pop in to buy your seed, drench, dog food or just into town – keep the tradition alive and experience a brew of premium quality tea from Cleanseeds.

– Justin Haydock Wilson

## SHEPHERDS RUN

AT WAMBOIN

**Don't feel like cooking after a long week at work?**

Then come for a tippie on Friday afternoon and stay for dinner ... or grab a take-away pizza on your way home!

**Pizzas available from 5–8pm every Friday and Saturday**

**Opening Hours:**

**Fri:** From 11am – Lunch from 12noon, Wamboin Wine Down from 4pm

**Sat:** From 11am – Lunch from 12noon, Dinner from 6pm

**Sun:** 11am until 4pm – Lunch from 12noon

**Telephone 6238 3842**

**Open 7 Days-a-week for Larger Functions**

**Wamboin Winery**  
344 Norton Rd WAMBOIN

## Visit Bungendore's new Italian Restaurant Chianti

**with Italian Chef Angelo and Head Chef Rick Campbell**

### cafe wood works

**on Friday and Saturday nights from 6pm**

**Bookings preferred 6238 1688**  
18 Malbon Street Bungendore

## RECIPE:

Simple as one, two, three and delicious

## CHOCOLATE CUP CAKE



### Beat until creamy

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup oil (sunflower or such)
- 3 eggs

### Add

- 1 cup ground nuts of your choice

### Fold in

- 1 cup self-raising flour, or plain flour with 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup choc sprinkles



Pour into a 20 or 24cm greased and floured torte baking tin and bake for 45 minutes at 190° C.

Viola.

Allow to cool on a rack and enjoy. No need for icing.

Marcelle is exploring local chocolate manufacturers and will report next issue.

Bulletin Restaurant Guide	
Bungendore	
<b>The Carrington</b> <i>Modern Australian</i> 21 Malbon St, Bungendore	6238 1044
<b>Heritage on the Square</b> <i>Pizza and Country Australian</i> 25 Malbon St, Bungendore	6238 1404
<b>Lake George Hotel</b> <i>Bistro Country Australian</i> 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore	6238 1260
<b>Lark Hill Winery &amp; Vineyard Cafe</b> <i>Focus on Biodynamic Produce</i> Bungendore Rd, Bungendore	6238 0266
<b>Le Tres Bon</b> <i>Traditional French Cuisine</i> 40 Malbon St, Bungendore	6238 0662
<b>Cafe Woodworks</b> <i>Gourmet Country</i> 18 Malbon St, Bungendore	6238 1688
<b>Bardy's Cafe</b> <i>Gourmet Pizza</i> 31 Ellenden St, Bungendore	6238 0700
<b>Royal Hotel Chinese</b> <i>Chinese</i> 34 Gibraltar St, Bungendore	6238 1219
<b>Logan's Cafe</b> <i>Homestyle and Woodfired Pizzas</i> 2/12 Gibraltar St, Bungendore	6238 0585
<b>Cafe Lerida</b> <i>Gourmet Bistro</i> Federal Hwy, Lake George	6295 6640
<b>Shepherds Run at Wamboin</b> <i>Modern &amp; Traditional</i> 344 Norton Rd, Wamboin	6238 3842
<b>Lambert Vineyard Cafe</b> <i>Modern Australian</i> 810 Norton Rd, Wamboin	6238 3866
Queanbeyan	
<b>Benedict House</b> <i>Fresh food made on premises using local produce</i> 39 Isabella St, Queanbeyan	6284 2868
<b>Canton Chinese Restaurant</b> <i>Chinese</i> 232 Crawford St, Queanbeyan	6297 5246
<b>Central Cafe</b> <i>Wide range, hearty servings</i> 113 Monaro St, Queanbeyan	6297 1335
<b>Colonial Restaurant</b> <i>A la carte</i> 56 Macquid St, Queanbeyan (Golden Age Motor Inn)	6297 1122
<b>Lime Leaves Thai</b> <i>Thai</i> Morrisset & Lowe St, Queanbeyan	6299 2000
<b>New Cathay Chinese Restaurant</b> <i>Chinese</i> 9 Monaro St, Queanbeyan	6297 2092
Braidwood	
<b>Peppers @ the Roos</b> (Kangaroos Club) <i>Modern Australian</i> Cnr Stuart St & Richard Ave, Queanbeyan	6299 5127
<b>Punjabi Hut</b> <i>Indian</i> 226 Crawford St, Queanbeyan	6297 2717
<b>Rendezvous</b> <i>Homestyle</i> 17 Monaro St, Queanbeyan	6297 9830
<b>Michael's at Walsh's</b> <i>Modern Australian</i> 40 Monaro St, Queanbeyan	6297 1001
<b>Diamond Chinese</b> <i>Chinese</i> Karabar Mall, Karabar	6299 1288
Braidwood	
<b>The Albion</b> <i>Modern Australian</i> Unit 3, 119 Wallace St, Braidwood	4842 1422
<b>Zac's Table Restaurant</b> <i>Modern Australian with Thai &amp; Turkish-Cypriot influences</i> 140 Kings Hwy, Braidwood (Mona Country Manor House)	0404 026 616
<b>Braidwood Eureka Woodfired Pizzeria</b> <i>Italian &amp; Pizza</i> Wallace St, Braidwood	4842 1019
<b>The Royal Mail Hotel</b> <i>Bistro</i> 145 Wallace St, Braidwood	4842 2488
<b>L'Auberge</b> <i>French: Thursday-Sunday</i> 202 Wallace St, Braidwood (the old Torpys site) <a href="http://www.auberbebraidwood.com.au">www.auberbebraidwood.com.au</a>	4842 2491
<b>The Kitchen</b> <i>A la carte dining</i> 180 Wallace St, Braidwood (Braidwood Hotel)	4842 2529
<b>Jade Teahouse</b> Braidwood Serviceman's Club	4842 2065
Captains Flat	
<b>The Outsider</b> <i>Homestyle</i> 86 Foxlow St, Captains Flat	6236 6160
<b>Captains Flat Hotel</b> <i>Classic Dining</i> Foxlow St, Captains Flat	6236 6201
Gundaroo	
<b>Grazing</b> <i>Modern Australian</i> Cork St, Gundaroo	6236 8777
<b>Cork St Cafe</b> <i>Pizza</i> Cork St, Gundaroo	6236 8217
<b>Crowes Restaurant</b> <i>International with a modern Australian twist</i> 23 Cork St, Gundaroo (Gundaroo Colonial Inn)	6236 8060

The Bulletin Restaurant Guide is a new and regular feature. If we have missed your restaurant or cafe within our distribution area please drop us a line at [media@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:media@districtbulletin.com.au).

# LAKE GEORGE HOTEL

20 GIBRALTAR ST, BUNGENDORE  
PH 02 6238 1260  
EMAIL – lakegeorgehotel@gmail.com

## WHAT'S ON

<b>Monday to Thursday</b>	Happy Hour 5pm to 6pm
<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday</b>	Schooner Draw – Drawn @ 6pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pool Comp 7pm Cash prizes
<b>Thursday</b>	Key Ring Cash ( <i>jackpots if not won</i> )
<b>Friday</b>	Meat raffles drawn @ 7.30pm Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm ( <i>jackpots if not won</i> ) Live Entertainment* from 7.30pm to late
<b>Saturday</b>	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat NPL Poker Tournaments from 4pm Cash prizes <i>*(Refer to Gig Guide for line up)</i>

## THE GEORGE RESTAURANT & BISTRO

– OPEN 7 DAYS –  
DOING BREAKFAST ON SAT & SUN MORNINGS FROM 9AM

**Lunch:** 12pm to 2pm (7 days)  
**Dinner:** 6pm to 9pm (7 days)

**Light refreshments from 2pm till 5pm**  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons

**Wednesday & Thursday Nights**  
\$12 Rump & \$12 Schnitzel

**Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday Nights**  
Order from the children's menu by 7pm and only pay \$5

**We also offer blackboard specials**





# Essential Energy is proud to support the Rotary Lake George Harvest Festival

Call Essential Energy 13 23 91  
or visit [www.essentialenergy.com.au](http://www.essentialenergy.com.au)



## Good things come in small packages



I JUST LOVE the winter months around Canberra, even though I grew up in sub-tropical Brisbane with mud crabs aplenty living in the creek at the back door – aaah muddies. Anyway, enough of ancient history. There are so many fun and interesting places to visit around Braidwood, Bungendore, Queanbeyan

and Gundaroo that are cosy and warm even on the coldest day. No heat stress, no bugs and no hassles.

I thought this month I would start an occasional series of stories about the smaller but still very interesting wine and food establishments in our area. If you have a favourite that could be

shared with our readers please give me a call on 6238 3842.



by  
Peter Davies

### First the art and the food

I recently spent a great time at a very unusual place in Captains Flat, called the **Outsider Gallery and Coffee Lounge**. Managed by Christine and Gunther, it sits in the main street not far from the pub (the one with the longest bar in the universe!). Just look for the purple fronted building.

We arrived late on a Sunday and expected things to be closing down. Instead Chris and Gunther couldn't have been more welcoming. Gunther has an extensive and I must say eclectic (even eccentric) range of paintings and art objects for sale, including sketches, sculptures, and Mexican fire pots that are so full of life and freshness. I might be wrong but I bet he throws a wild party.

Chris is the gourmet cook and she is good. We had stacked bread and butter pudding that was delightful. Open Friday to Sunday and public holidays from 9am to 5pm (no cards available). If you haven't visited the village of Captains Flat for a while you'll be surprised how good it looks after a bit of rain and TLC.

### Now the wine

**Domaine Rogha Crois** is one of the Canberra District's newest premium wine brands. Derived from the Gaelic words meaning 'quality cross', (and pronounced 'rower kroysh'), the Domaine Rogha Crois estate was founded in 1998 by David and Lyn Crossley and named to honour their joint French/Irish heritage.

Situated on a steeply graded north-easterly site 800–840 metres above sea level, the vineyard is located within an Environmental Protection Zone at the southern end of the Lake George escarpment. The site was selected for its strategic blend of climatic, geographic and geologi-

cal attributes, necessary for the production of premium cool climate fruit. It is one of the highest vineyards in the Canberra District, and so the wines carry quite unique cool

climate characteristics which are not typical of the wine styles produced in the warmer areas of Murrumbateman and Hall.

Domaine Rogha Crois is planted primarily to Pinot Noir, with smaller plantings of Pinot Gris and the Bordeaux varieties Cabernet Franc/Merlot. By design, the vineyard's small scale allows an intimate connection with the vines, giving superior control over fruit quality at all stages of the growing season through to harvest.

Organic methods are used wherever possible. The vines are hand-tended at every stage, from rigorous hard pruning in winter to careful handpicking at optimal ripeness at harvest, with each bunch individually assessed and sorted prior to processing.

Crafted by multi award-winning local winemakers, all Domaine Rogha Crois wines are made only from estate-grown fruit and have been created for enjoyment with fine food, balancing delicate cool climate aromatics with rich, mouth-filling textures. The wines are produced in limited quantities and are available direct at [www.drcwine.com.au](http://www.drcwine.com.au).

Whilst essentially a private label servicing some of Australia's leading corporate dining rooms, Domaine Rogha Crois wines can also be found on the wine list of a number of our local restaurants, including Le Tres Bon, the Lake George Bistro, the Café Woodworks, and Grazings at Gundaroo, as well as further afield in Parlour Wine Room and Urban Pantry in Canberra and Aria in Sydney.

Recently Huon Hooke rated the 2009 Domaine Rogha Crois Pinot Noir 95/100 (and cellar pick for the week) in the *Sydney Morning Herald* Good Living Guide.

— Peter Davies  
Shepherds Run Wines, Wamboina

ROTARY CLUB OF BUNGENDORE



## LAKE GEORGE HARVEST FESTIVAL 2011

— SATURDAY 14 MAY —

From 9am to 4pm | Local wineries tastings throughout the day | Specialist cooking demonstrations (kitchen courtesy Essential Energy) | Extensive children's area featuring old-fashioned favourite games | Tigers Football exhibition | petting zoo | non-stop music during the day | Bungendore Band | Queanbeyan Pipe Band and other local groups | Foodstalls: Rotary's ever popular BBQ, Turkish Gozleme, Greek food, baked potatoes, Belgium waffles, Egyptian and Greek pastries, fairy floss, olives, pestos, coffee, cakes ...

Don't forget to pick-up a Wine Trail map for Sunday

— SUNDAY 15 MAY —

Wine Trail around the local wineries



## ORGANIC AND FARM DIRECT PRODUCE BULK MEAT SPECIALIST



### Bulk MEAT

Budget Rumps \$7.99 kg  
Whole Yearling Blade \$8.99 kg  
Premium Grade Beef Mince \$8.99 kg  
BBQ Porterhouse Steak \$13.99 kg  
Chicken Breasts \$8.99 kg



### FRUIT Direct From The Farm

JUST ABOUT HERE  
Riverina Naval Oranges  
& Mandarines

3kg bags of Oranges \$4.99 kg  
Red Sensation Pears \$2.50 kg  
New Season Pink Lady Apples \$3.99 kg



6238 0018  
Kings Highway, Bungendore Village

OPEN 7 DAYS

FOOD LOVERS Café  
Vegetarian Lunches



# Is Shakespeare still relevant?

*Who cares! the Master was all about entertainment. A similar mix of energy, drama and hilarity, writes Miles Thompson, infuses the Shake and Stir theatre Company's touring production of Statespeare at 'The Q' this month.*

IN HIGH SCHOOL, a lot of kids don't look forward to that time of year where you read a Shakespearean text in English. I mean really, what could a guy who's been dead for 400 years possibly have to say of any interest or relevance? And I'll be honest, I agreed with them... until about Year 10, when we did Romeo and Juliet. Yes, there were some good lines here and there, something about a balcony, and a lot of sword fights, blood and revenge. But it wasn't until I saw the show on stage that it came alive.

With this fresh attitude I went on and looked at Othello and Hamlet from the perspective of a common man, who would have paid one penny to stand down at the front of the Globe Theatre and enjoy the performance before him, as opposed to the largely accepted views of some pompous 21st

Century Oxford English scholar. Now I can say, I enjoy Shakespeare a lot more (both watching and performing), because I understand that it is ok to just appreciate without dissecting.

Similarly *Statespeare* is targeted at anyone who can occupy a seat at 'The Q' (granted it's not the Globe, but it serves its purpose), and is willing to enjoy a good show. The story of four Year 12 students – Lachlan, Nerys, Jay and Rob – is where we lay our scene for this particular tale.

## What is going on

Lachlan and Nerys are intelligent, dorky, dramatically talented students who love Shakespeare and can quote huge passages from memory. However, when they are forced to pair up with Jay and Rob – two teenagers who represent those in the modern world that

loathe the works of William Shakespeare – the 'cool kids' go along with Lachlan and Nerys' ideas, in order to raise their drama scores. In all honesty, it's not an unrealistic situation.

As the ideas develop, the students find themselves becoming entangled in the very mysteries the mind of Mr Shakespeare created. Together, they attack the question that has divided English students throughout history: "Is Shakespeare still relevant?"

It was Shakespeare's insight into the human mind in a dark period in history, that has caused him to be remembered by the aforementioned pompous 21st Century Oxford English scholars.

However, most people, such as you and I, remember his work because we bawled with tears at the end of *Romeo and Juliet*, we were intrigued by the cunning displayed by *Hamlet*, we rolled with laughter in *A Comedy of Errors*, and we held our breath in expectation



of Iago's next move in *Othello*.

Whether or not the material is relevant doesn't matter. The audience goes to watch a show to be entertained. That's what Shakespeare did to his audience with his plays, and that's what Nelle Lee has done with *Statespeare*.

It doesn't matter who you are, or what your stance on Shakespeare is. You may be like one of my friends who says "It's too hard to understand," or like another who says "It's boring". You may be different again like another of my friends who has Shakespearean English listed as one of her languages on facebook. *Statespeare* is like any play. It is written for the entertainment of the masses.

Recall your favourite of the Bard's works, challenge your mind, enlighten the cool kids, join forces with the theatre-geeks and become once again fascinated with the Master.

In 400 years time, 25th Century scholars may not remember *Statespeare*, but those who see it at 'The Q' on the 23 and 24 May will, because it's great entertainment.

## 'Cabaret Queenie' returns to home country

One of Canberra's best-loved exports returns this month with her latest smash-hit, *CABARET – In 12 Easy Steps*. Queenie van de Zandt, who has been wowing international audiences as the Bearded Lady in the Sydney Festival hit, *Smoke & Mirrors*, will bring her one-woman show to popular cabaret venue Teatro Vivaldi for two nights in May.

For the Canberra-born actor and singer, it's a return to her roots. Queenie performed her first-ever cabaret, *The Essential Lloyd Webber*, with Peter J Casey and Bronwyn Mulcahy at the School of Arts Café in Queanbeyan, when she was in her last year of school at Daramalan, in the late 80s.

"I can't imagine why the show sold out and in fact returned for three seasons. The set design was Lloyd Webber album covers pinned to the curtain at a jaunty angle and we were patting a stuffed toy dog, hoping the audience would go with us and pretend it was a cat while we sang from the musical *Cats*. I can only imagine Queanbeyan must have been hard pressed for entertainment in 1987," she laughs.

It was the start of a long association with cabaret, one that has led to Queenie performing at major events nationwide and has culminated in her being hailed as one of Australia's



lia's leading ladies of cabaret and a very funny comedian as she demonstrated at 'The Q' last year with *I get the Music in You*.

Now, this self-confessed "cabaret addict" shares her 'how to' of cabaret, utilising projected video of her humble beginnings to highlight the good, the bad, and the ugly of cabaret, "It's amazing," she says, "I look younger today than I do in that footage – shoulder pads can really age you".

*"Put simply, (CABARET – In 12 Easy Steps) is one of the best cabaret shows of the year ... As an entertainer, Queenie van de Zandt is in a league of her own."* AussieTheatre.com

*"One of Australia's great stage voices ... a very funny 12-Step Cabaret Program."* Blaze News

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# Supplying “bright, white stock” for Australia’s empty spaces

## *Oranges and Sunshine*

Directed by: Jim Loach

Starring: Emily Watson, Hugo Weaving  
and David Wenham

Playing in June at Dendy

*ORANGES AND SUNSHINE* is based on Margaret Humphreys’ book *Empty Cradles*, published by Doubleday in 1999. It tells the story of Margaret’s personal experiences as a social worker in the UK when uncovering the organised deportation of approximately 130,000 UK children in the 1950s and 1960s. Emily Watson plays Margaret Humphreys in the film.

In the aftermath of World War II, many UK children were deported to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The deportation in many instances was without parental or family consent. Most, but not all, of the children deported were considered deprived and had been placed into government institutions. Many parents and children were told lies about each other’s existence, or adoptive status.

The reference to empty cradles in the book’s title came from a speech given by His Grace, Archbishop of Perth, when welcoming boys arriving in Australia from the UK on the *SS Strathaird* in 1938. His Grace said, “... when empty cradles are contributing woefully to empty

spaces it is necessary to look for external sources of supply”.

Private organisations such as Dr Barnardos, Fairbridge and the Christian Brothers were involved in the child migrant scheme by taking responsibility for the children’s welfare and education after they arrived in Australia. That there were so many lapses in the proper care of these children is a sad indictment of those organisations at the time.

Margaret Humphreys has described the child migrant scheme in her book as a “blatant piece of pragmatic social and religious engineering to fill rural Australia with bright white stock”.



**Overall recommendation: Good if followed by debate and chocolate. Not recommended for those who like a bit of gratuitous sex and violence and car chases.**

# A Kimberley tale of hope (and grand scenery)

by Maria Taylor

I WALKED INTO *Mad Bastards* not knowing what to expect, having glanced at the promotional material in a rush – something about ‘tough primal men’ – and thinking I’d be seeing a film about helicopter cowboys or something similar in the wild and wonderful Kimberley region of Western Australia.

So the actual story, a simple but powerful drama set in the Aboriginal communities of first Perth and then the north, was a revelation. The ‘mad bastards’ of the title refers to the drinking, fighting and general mayhem of men who grow up in fractured families, abused and jailed by society and abusing in turn, all to the siren call of alcohol.

But the story is one of redemption, of a quest by a father to reunite with his son, to make peace with his ex-wife, and conquer his own demons. The son is part of the next generation of boys already going off the rails in reaction to the drunken adults around them. They are diverted by a camp that reunites them with the natural world. In this way, we, the viewers, see some of the splendours of the Kimberley escarpment country, filmed near Wyndham.

The film does not lack for humour, for example there is a ‘men’s group’ or ‘men’s shed’ being doggedly organised by the local cop/father figure to allow the men of the community to discuss problems: scenes that every male in the country can probably relate to. All set to a toe-tapping country blues soundtrack by the Pigram Brothers who hail from that country and others.

“A tough, touching story that captures a bitter balance between desperation and hope”, as film critic Norm Schrager put it.

## Hold on, who is this cast?

Most amazing was what I learned at the end of the film and as writer-director Brendan Fletcher was introduced to the Dendy preview audience. What I had just seen without a false note of bad acting, were real people from the Noongar nation, not actors, playing out a story synthesised from their own life experiences.

For example Greg Tait, who plays the police officer Texas on screen was actually a local copper at Halls Creek and indeed was organising men’s groups. Dean Daley-Jones, bulked up and troubled as the ex-con main character TJ, came to the production as a ‘grip’ (moving stuff around) and was recruited by Fletcher because he had such natural magnetism and a great voice!

Off screen, he is said to be learning to know his own teenage son and he says candidly at the end of the movie that he is finally learning to be a man. His on-screen ex-wife says that she knew domestic violence from childhood on. When John Watson, with marvellous white beard, takes the bad boys into the bush to teach them about bush tucker and appreciation of their country, it is what he does every week.

Indeed, the healing powers of nature and belonging to the land are very strong in this film. “This country is like medicine,” says TJ.

Fletcher, who grew up in Erskineville in Sydney, next door to real life mad bastards before moving to the north, admitted it was a mind-boggling 10-year process to put his film “about men” together. Much of it was spent

The UK government received strong criticism for deporting its own children. The Australian government was criticised for ineffectually monitoring the children to ensure their welfare after they arrived. Both governments eventually apologised to people who had suffered under the child migrant schemes – although this is not covered in the film.

## Betraying child trust in the land of oranges and sunshine

Sadly, the experience of many children deported to Australia was appalling. The film deals with these experiences as remembered by some of the Australian adults who were deported as children. Hugo Weaving plays Jack who enlists Margaret’s help to find his mother.

Jack as a child was told that he could go to Australia where there was endless sunshine and oranges. David Wenham plays Len who was forced as a child to work for the Christian Brothers at Bindoon on building projects.

Both men bear the scars of their childhood experiences but have adopted different coping mechanisms. They are depicted in the film as survivors rather victims.

All of the child migrants in the film want to find their identities and families and to have their stories given credence by public exposure of the scheme. It also shows that family reunions are not all beer and skittles.

The film also deals with the personal physical and emotional costs to Margaret, her husband and their two children while attempting to help the child migrant survivors by listening to their stories and searching for their relatives.

We see the difficulties Margaret had when dealing with UK and Australian government and church officials who did not want the scheme exposed.

This film is very much a personal narrative rather than a documentary. There is some use of black and white photographs of smiling children

waiting to go to Australia used in the film, but like many family photographs they only show the good times.

I would have preferred a bit more of a documentary approach. While it is important to understand the personal experiences of those involved no matter how harrowing, more of the actual background information on why these schemes were set up could help us understand the longer-term implications of this cautionary tale. Some of the assumptions and stigmas in the ‘Populate or Perish’ era seem ridiculous with the benefit of hindsight.

Ways to effectively manage national population levels and immigration and the proper protection of children under state care are enduring challenges that mean it remains important to understand and avoid the mistakes of the past.

Nevertheless, if it has been a big week on the family front this film will give you a renewed appreciation of what you have.

## — FOCUS ON LOCAL BANDS — with Danny Velnaar



## Libbie Doyle

LIBBIE DOYLE of Bungendore springs from a musical family, and has been singing for most of her life. Her first serious step into performance took place when she took up playing guitar and writing songs when she was 16, and at 18 she was playing in her first band, made up of local musicians.

Her early 20s found her playing with a variety of cover bands in Canberra, and by her late twenties she was performing her own works in local bands Kandi Doz It! and Naked Taxis. Some of her original songs were included on two Canberra compilation albums, and she had a Number 1 on the Canberra music charts with her song *Shy Girl*, probably the first Bungendore musician to have had a Number 1 anywhere, and maybe she’s still the only one!

Libbie’s early influences were the Beatles, the Eagles, Simon and Garfunkel etc, but she’ll listen and absorb from much of the wide range of music available from the Country greats as well.

After a short hiatus getting a couple of kids into the world, Libbie began her solo career in early 2003, and has been pursuing it ever since, although there have been many memorable occasions when she has teamed up with her sister Rosie to produce harmonic heaven.

Lately, Libbie has played at Tilley’s with the Australian Songwriters Association, and performed in the recent RSPCA Battle of the Backyard Bands where she made it into the Grand Final (along with quite a few other Bungendore acts). Local venues and private parties are currently her favoured gigs, and she is continually writing songs and recording them in her home studio.

*Libbie Doyle can be contacted on 6238 1803 after hours before 8pm.*



fund-raising and finding the right combination of actors who all worked together to improvise the script.

The end result is a triumph for him and his cast. The cast, by the way, is said to be very chuffed to see themselves up on screen doing tough things like Clint Eastwood and John Wayne, whom they all grew up with at the pictures.

*See it if you can. Now at Dendy in early May.*



# JULIAN DAVIES: art comes unframed and in many forms

by Heike Hahner

AT THE AGE of 18, Julian Davies wanted to become a painter. But after a couple of short stints at different art schools he left, dispirited and with a strong disregard for the trappings and requirements of the contemporary art world.

In the last 30 years or so there has been an increasing push for artists to view art and their art works as a business and not as a form of self-expression. Art is to be produced for a market and must be financially viable for artists to consider themselves as a success and their work as important to society.

Julian said that he hated the idea of 'art as a business'. He refused to submit to the art world's pressure to conform and to join into the high level of competitiveness over limited funding.

## Successful potter, novelist returns to painting

Julian has had two successful careers since abandoning his training as a visual artist. One has been in ceramics, producing art works that were functional and avoiding, at least to a degree, the pressure of the intense

competitiveness in the art world for grants and prizes.

The other has been in literature, having published several successful novels since the early '90s such as *Revival House*, *The Beholder* and *The Boy*. He lives with his family in the bush near Braidwood, in a house he designed and built himself.

Now, nearly 40 years since his deliberate move away from the mainstream art world, he is re-entering the visual art scene from the non-profit angle. He aims to provide, at a low cost to the artist, a venue that is of high quality.

Julian's Gallery 'Left Hand' opened in Braidwood last year and aims to provide a venue for those artists that are frequently overlooked by mainstream galleries. His next show is called *Drawn in the Moment* and exhibits drawings of 14 artists who were encouraged to explore the immediacy of drawing.

As an expert craftsman and artist himself, Julian enjoys and encourages hand-made and spontaneous aspects in the arts. He therefore shies away from presenting art works in the usual precious gallery manner of mounting and framing every work that is displayed.



Julian Davies in the gallery with Gordon Hookey's fighting kangaroos.

## New show at The Left Hand simple but powerful

The artificial boundaries of framing create a distance about art works that the artist frequently had not intended. One of the larger pieces in the show by Gordon Hookey, for example, is a diptych of two large but simple sketches of two male kangaroos fighting (*seen on left*). The sheets of paper are unframed and hung simply from clips allowing the viewer a 'studio view' of these two confident and bold line drawings.

Stephanie Haygarth made intimate small sketches of someone's holiday snaps. These are often mundane images, such as palm trees or a human profile, meaningless in many ways to the viewer, but made intriguing and delightful by the delicacy of her ink work and the layering of colours.

John Pratt, a veteran artist and art teacher of many years stuns with his exquisite skill of controlling pen on paper. His background as a print maker has given him the skill to control his drawing to such a degree that he can repeat the same figure again and again, letting it appear as a copy of the one in the drawing next to it – thus providing a strong visual dialogue between his separately framed art works.

To get a more hands-on and immediate view of these talented artists' work, see the show at the Left Hand Gallery. Phone 4842 7189 or 0422 530 846 for an appointment or visit the Gallery 10am to 5pm on 14 and 15 May.



## Coming in May until July:

exhibition at the Drill Hall Gallery, Kingsley Street, ANU – Home and away: a return to the South – repatriated artworks from the apartheid years in South Africa. See entry under 26 May in What's On, back page for further details.

**Left:**  
*Lucky Sibiya (1942–1949)*  
*Untitled, 1979.*  
Silkscreen on paper  
60 x 43.5cm  
Donated to Ifa Lethu Foundation  
by Bruce Haigh

**Back page:**  
*Winston Saoli (1950–1995)*  
*Untitled, undated.*  
Mixed media  
63 x 34.5cm  
Donation to Ifa Lethu Foundation  
by Steve Itzikowitz

## Braidwood artist wove great beauty into rugs

### Solvig Baas Becking 1928–2011

WHEN SHE ARRIVED in Australia in 1963, Solvig Baas Becking was appalled to discover that her chosen craft of weaving was considered mostly a tool for occupational therapy or, at best, a hobby. She set about 'professionalising' all crafts, working on the basis that not only should craft work be functional and well made, but that it should also be beautiful and considered a form of art in its own right.

To that end, Solvig and some of her colleagues established organisations to act as mentoring and teaching groups and to lobby on behalf of crafts people. These include the Canberra Spinners and Weavers, Craft ACT, the Crafts Council of Australia and The Australian Forum for the Textile Arts. She also established the basis of the curriculum for tertiary studies in textile crafts, including that of the ANU's Fine Arts School.

Solvig was a great teacher and an innovator, adapting her main loom to extend its capacity of special techniques and to create a continuous warping mechanism.

## Bush inspiration

In 1974, Solvig moved to Mongarlowe. There she blossomed into a great colourist, drawing on her passionate love for the Australian bush



for inspiration. Her blended colour techniques, combined with her technical innovations and expertise,

lead to the creation of many floor rugs of great beauty. In 2003, her tireless efforts and commitment were recognised by an award on the Australian Honours List.

Solvig participated in a blossoming of the arts in the Braidwood area, working together with many of the local artists and craftspeople to set up not only organisations (including the Braidwood Regional Arts Group) but also jointly creating works in a collegiate effort.

She felt at home in Braidwood, and loved its people and the way they embraced her and her work – in fact, Braidwood became the only place where she truly felt happy and at home.

— Ingrid Baas Becking

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# How to establish a flowering (native) garden amidst the munching wildlife

by Jo Walker

MANY READERS OF this publication live in the bush or open country surrounding the towns of the shire. This can lead to problems when trying to establish a garden because the local wildlife, from insects to birds and mammals, tend to see plants as food or habitat rather than decoration. Because of this, a lot of people fence off a garden area near the house. I decided not to do this as I prefer to see the wildlife close up, but had to develop a few strategies to enjoy a flowering garden as well.

What seemed to work best was to plant tall, fast-growing shrubs and trees against a long fence-line not far from the house, then large and medium shrubs in front of these. Once these were well established, smaller shrubs and groundcovers were planted in their shelter.

Near the water tank, where large rocks had been left after excavation, small and medium-sized plants survived and thrived when planted close to the rocks. They were hidden from browsers and grazers to some extent and also had a cool root-run.

Further away, but still in sight of the house, the existing eucalypts, wattles and other local shrubs provided shelter for colourful under-



storey shrubs. Instead of using plastic plant guards, I found that, for most plants, surrounding them with dead wattle twigs and branches provided adequate protection.

## What Jo planted

Now for just some of the plants I've used to create a scattered but colourful garden area. Useful large background shrubs include *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle), *A. decurrens* (Green Wattle) and *A. vestita* (there are lots of other suitable wattles, of course), some of the taller forms of the local Hop Bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) and several of the Pomaderris species such as *P. brogoensis* and the local *P. angustifolia*.

Once the larger shrubs have filled out to give some protection, medium to small shrubs can be planted close to them. Mint Bushes such as *Prostanthera rotundifolia* and *P. incana* are fast-growing and hardy. The mauve-

flowered *Grevillea sericea* and G. 'Poorinda Firebird' with its bright red flowers are just two of the many Grevilleas that can provide a variety of colours and attract birds to the garden. Most of the Correias bush up into sturdy plants with flowers ranging from orange (some varieties of *Correa pulchella*) through dark and pale pink (C. 'Dusky Bells' and *C. pulchella*) to pink and yellow or occasionally greenish (the local form of *C. reflexa*) and cream (*C. backhouseana*).

Low-growing plants for the front of the garden include *Darwinia citriodora* and *Thomasia quercifolia* (both from Western Australia, but hardy to frosts), compact forms of *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringe Myrtle), several species of *Spyridium* and small daisies and forbs.

Although my place is now an official

Wildlife Refuge, most of the attractive plants mentioned, along with many others, are flour-ishing in the presence of kangaroos, wallabies, cockatoos and rosellas and lots of other wildlife. All of them do a bit of pruning occasionally but leave no lasting damage.

Although this method of establishing decor-ative plants takes time, patience and tolerance of the other inhabitants, the result is perhaps more satisfying than an instant garden.

Left: possums like to share too.

Below: redneck wallaby on the 'lawn'.



The editor can testify that various exotics like lavender, and many groundcovers seem quite resistant to munching, and others, like roses, once reasonably well established co-exist with wildlife and appreciate a little pruning from time to time.

## – MARKETING –

# How afraid should you be of COMPETITION?

by Jean McIntyre (Marketing Angels)



**Is competition something to be feared, ignored or confronted full on? Jean McIntyre talks about the nature of business competition and ways that marketers can help businesses deal with this inevitable consequence of success.**

(A shortened version follows.)

## Dealing with competition

I TALK ABOUT competition a lot when I go around the Capital Region talking about marketing. It's not that easy to understand.

In some ways, your business is in competition with my business and every other business that people might spend money in. If we agree that consumers (business, government or household) have a limited amount of money in their pockets to spend – and even less discretionary money to spend – then in this way each business competes with every other for this money.

Plumbers compete with gymnasiums, with supermarkets, with financial planners and with charities for all the money that households have to spend. This is probably how accountants see it.

## How to have no competitors

Marketers see it a different way. Marketers start with fully understanding the needs of the target market (through research) and how your business could best meet them.

A marketing-savvy business works out how their unique resources (skills, knowledge, people, technology, experience etc) can be packaged together to meet the needs of the target market in a way that no other business can match. Promotion of the business then becomes about building a desire in the market to have their needs met in this way.

## An example

Mary has a shoe store. She conducts some research about how her market feels about shoe shopping. She discovers that her potential customers look forward to shoe shopping as a way to relax and make them feel special. With a bit more research, staff input and some customer feedback – she develops a 'Valet Shoe Fitting Experience' where customers can come and relax, mingle, drink and eat and have a customer

care specialist give them individual attention.

Mary found that women in her market were prepared to pay a premium price to have their special needs met in this way.

You might say "but not every woman would find that appealing". That is the whole point. Mary has specifically targeted a small section of women with specific tastes and values and put all her resources into serving them better than every other shoe store. Of course she did sufficient research to identify whether there were enough women fitting into this niche group to be able to support her business.

In this way – having created a need for this valet service among her market – Mary has removed all the other shoe stores from her competition. She simply has no competitors in this market.

## Research is the key to removing competition

If you would like to be like Mary and remove the competition, then the place to start is with research. You need to research these questions:

- 1 What are the **characteristics** of your target market (size, income, location, age, spending habits etc)?
- 2 What are the **values** of your target market (what's important to them, what do they put a premium on etc)?
- 3 What are the **needs** of your target market (needs and desires – fears they want to allay)?
- 4 Where are the **gaps in the market** (who is meeting these needs and who is not – how are they positioning themselves)?

Once you have a good understanding of what the market needs you can then start to develop products (goods and services) that meet their needs better than other businesses and start to eliminate your competition.

See [www.marketingangels.com.au](http://www.marketingangels.com.au) for more information

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For a brighter future



The most contentious issue in the LEP for the current Councillors remains that of minimum rural subdivision lot size. This is a uniquely rural issue, applicable only to the new RU1 and RU2 zones and is designed to minimise the fragmentation of viable rural land and subsequent land use conflicts. In this case most of the disagreement has been with the state government, not council planners. For some time there were suggestions that lot sizes would need to be increased, reducing subdivision potential, and hence the value, of land. As might be expected, this was not at all popular with many rural landowners.

After protests from several councils, the state government has withdrawn from its initial position and now requires a Rural Study to be undertaken before the minimum lot size can be changed. Until then, the provisions carried over from the six old LEPs inherited from amalgamation will prevail in their respective parts of the shire, something that everyone sees as an unsatisfactory solution.

### Where to from here? Public comment period still ahead

When all the tinkering is done, the draft document must be assessed by the NSW Department of Planning and then put out for public comment. Those comments will be taken into consideration when updating the draft prior to adoption. There is now very little room for further delay if the LEP is to be completed within the term of the current council. But then, this whole process is becoming a bit like painting the Harbour Bridge – as soon as it's finished, it'll be due for review anyway...

### LEP is about sustainable living, not primarily about \$\$

There has been some suggestion that the LEP is all about the local economy. There may be a grain of truth in that if you are a large property owner or a developer, but for the vast majority of Palerang's residents the LEP has very little to do with their material wealth, and much more to do with the amenity of their chosen place of residence.

In fact, if there has been a consistent point of conflict in the LEP deliberations, it would be the constant standoff between those who would have the LEP maximise the opportunities for large landholders to profit from development, and those who would see it as a means of preserving the amenity that has drawn the vast majority of people to live here in the first place.

\* Pete Harrison is a candidate for Palerang Council at the 14 May by-election. He has followed every Council and LEP meeting to form his understanding of the current issues.

## After the royal wedding – anyone for tea and history?

A FRIEND IN England recently sent me a beautiful 1852 Minton's tea trio – a cup, saucer and plate which was, and is, used at formal tea parties, or for afternoon tea. While the trio is timelessly beautiful, the offering, making and serving of a cup of tea has certainly changed over the years.

When Catherine of Bragança married Charles II in 1661 she brought the practice of drinking tea in the afternoon with her from Portugal. The custom of drinking tea became a British institution when the Victorians took to serving it every afternoon in the parlour – until 1800 it had been customary to drink tea after dinner. This custom was to continue well into the 1930s when coffee became the vogue for the middle to upper classes.

For the Edwardians, everything really did stop for tea and no afternoon was complete without at least one serving of tea and cakes. The early dusks of winter in the drawing room were brightened with the arrival of the maid with her tray, while in warm summers the bright, airy conservatory with its profusion of exotic plants made an excellent setting in



with 'Annie'  
Joyce Nordsvan

which to drink the refreshing Chinese and Indian teas, served from fine, floral-decorated china.

Formal tea parties were characterised by the use of prestige utensils, such as my Minton's tea trio, or silver. The table was made to look its prettiest with cloth napkins



### Dog Walks Man: A Six-Legged Odyssey



by John Zeaman  
Hamlyn RRP \$23  
(Paperchain, Manuka)

by Di Johnstone

WHO WOULD HAVE thought that you could write an entire book about the joys and perils of taking a dog for a walk? And yet this is it. A veritable ode to dog walking! It seems there can be more to walking the family dog than you might imagine – and this often whimsical, occasionally serious book is really about new and surprising ways to experience life itself.

The author, an art critic, moves his growing family from busy Manhattan to suburbia where they acquire a dog, a poodle called Pete. Zeaman becomes reluctantly responsible for walking Pete and finds this is an unexpected pleasure.

There are initial forays into suburban back alleys and he discovers the delights of walking at night, the dark spaces, night sounds and lit windows. But Zeaman yearns for the Thoreau-like wildernesses of his youth and, with Pete, finds one in the most unlikely of places – a

former dump. While Pete happily explores, Zeaman finds artistic expression, fantastic stories and new meaning in cast-away items – and gains insights into some pieces of modern art.

Through dog walking Zeaman forms unlikely bonds with unusual people. One of these, an eccentric English teacher, for whom the world is full of excitement and surprise, becomes Zeaman's regular dog-walking companion. It is transformative for them both.

Zeaman doesn't ignore less attractive aspects of dog walking. An early anecdote is arresting. Zeaman sees a stylish woman walking her dog in Manhattan. The dog squats beside disapproving bus commuters, and she gracefully bends to artfully collect the faeces in a plastic doggy bag.

*we read of a ferocious community fight  
about whether dogs can be allowed to  
deposit droppings on kerbside lawns*

He wonders about the evolution in humanity that sees us collect smelly, warm faeces deposited by our dogs. Indeed in a whole chapter on the subject, we read of a ferocious community fight about whether dogs can be allowed to deposit droppings on kerbside lawns. There is a local hero, a support group, national TV cover-

### BOOKS, AUTHORS and BOOK REVIEWS



age and as this is the US, it goes all the way to court. You need to read the book to see who wins!

On his many walks with Pete, Zeaman muses on the natural world he finds in wild places on the suburban fringe. He discovers small creatures we don't see as we scuttle through our daily lives. He mourns for those wild places that are replaced by the hard surfaces and drab structures of suburban life.

He learns, too, about Pete's universe and the delights dogs find in the simplest of things – a new smell, an odd insect, a strange object – and a dog's hopeful expectation in every walk. With a younger dog-companion for Pete, walks become even more joyful. This could get overly poetic but stays light-hearted. When Pete gets old and dies the author deals gently with the heartbreak dog owners know well. There is no maudlin writing that can make reading about this hard to bear.

*This is a lovely, thoughtful and lyrical book with an important message. Our companion animals connect us to nature and we should take time to engage with the natural world, including in unlikely places. To do so can change our lives and enrich our souls.*

## DRAWN IN THE MOMENT

FOURTEEN ARTISTS AND THE IMMEDIACY  
OF DRAWING

Lizzie Hall Tim Burke Stephanie Haygarth  
John Pratt Gordon Hookey Franki Sparke  
Kate Stevens Sue Irving Peter Jordan  
Surya Bajracharya Julian Laffan  
Natalie Densley Phil Day  
Robin Wallace-Crabbe

Exhibition open  
14 and 15 May  
10am to 5pm or by appointment

### The Left Hand

81 Lascelles Street Braidwood NSW  
(02) 4842 7189 or 0422 530846



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## DON'T KNOCK PALERANG COUNCIL

 AN ELECTION is a good thing for a community. It creates the possibility of renewal and affirmation. I firmly believe good outcomes are based on good knowledge, good information and positive communications.

Regrettably, I'm disturbed to hear some candidates seeking office express contempt toward councillors and council, when in fact they are really very good in the scheme of things. Roads work, sewage is taken away, taps deliver good water, communities are developed lawfully, state legislated obligations are administered responsibly.

Councillors and council management seek to manage a balanced budget whose funds come from the wallets of the residents, whether they rent or own property. Expenditure decisions are made in light of prioritising community needs and this limited economic reality.

Council is not a company. The election process puts together nine people who, by the diversity represented in the electorate, are not

aligned. Often they are opposed. It's not that any of them are not good or nice people privately but they are generally opposed – sometimes intractably, while at other times close enough to find a compromise.

Outcomes are not straight forward. They zig and zag, lurch forward and then drift backwards, they are sometimes messy and inefficient, with change too fast for some, and too slow for others. But that is how our system works.

It's not a command government, it's a messy democracy that is based on compromise, give and take, and when that isn't possible, on the vote of the majority. There's been nothing new in that formula for a few hundred years. So until they have experience in their camp, they might consider a bit more humility toward the others who honourably contribute in good faith to the success of our shire.

— Councillor Richard Graham



THE FORTHCOMING by-election is a good opportunity for Palerang residents to make an addition to council who will bring a realistic vision of our unique situation: a place close Australia's largest inland city, with attendant advantages and disadvantages, in a beautiful rural urban setting.

From this position there can be no going back, nor can there be a disruption of the trends of the last 25 years.

Many candidates campaign on a platform of improved community consultation. The opportunity to consult is so welded into the local government process that this objective is a wasted use of campaign space.

Great care is needed to ensure that the person elected at the by-election is progressive.

— Councillor Howard Crozier

**the Bungendore Mudhooks proudly present the annual**

**FUR AND FEATHERS of the Wild West**

Date – 21 May 2011  
Time – 6.30pm for 7pm  
Catholic Church Hall Bungendore  
Live band and light meal provided  
Bar open – no BYOG  
Dress – Wild Wild West  
Tickets \$30  
Available at Bungendore Cellars until 18 May 2011



**AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

**POLLY PUTS THE KETTLE ON FOR 2011**

- Coffee, tea, biscuits, cake and lots of finger food with even lots more laughter.
- Bring your own cup to impress and win a prize.
  - Catch up with friends and make new ones.
  - Lucky door prizes, Raffle, Silent Auction.

Local small businesses and the infamous Maltese Deli Van on site all donating a percentage of their sales to this worthy cause.

— DETAILS OF MY MORNING TEA —  
Host: Pauline Segeri  
Where: Please phone for location  
When: Thursday 26 May 2011  
Open House 10:30am–3:00pm  
Come for as little or as long as you like

**RSVP:** Essential for catering purposes  
**Ph:** 6238 1996 or **email:** psegeri@bigpond.com

*Can't come? You can make a donation on-line. You can find me on the Cancer Council of the ACT website and follow the links. Alternatively, please phone me for a tax deductible donation.*

## Handing over cheques

## Bungendore Country Muster evening at the Bowling Club

THE MUSTER COMMITTEE is hosting a supper evening on Tuesday 24 May, at the Bungendore Bowling Club to thank sponsors and also to take the opportunity to hand over cheques to various community groups.

The muster celebrated 26 years in February and over those years has donated in excess of \$400,000 back to the community.

If you would like to come along and enjoy the supper or to find out a little about what we do, RSVP by 17 May to Gavin Cullen on 4842 7265 or 0408 380 535 or email [bungendorecountrymuster@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bungendorecountrymuster@yahoo.com.au).

Supper provided and bar facilities available.

## Handing over cheques 2

## Veolia Trust assists Tarago, Gundillion, Braidwood

THE VEOLIA MULWAREE Trust has assisted 34 regional not-for-profit community organisations in its recent funding round by providing more than \$150,000 in grants and donations. This brings the total distributed by the Trust to more than \$4 million over the past six years. Eligible localities reached by the *Bulletin* were represented as follows.

The long-awaited **Tarago** Recreation Area Walking Track will be completed with a \$25,346 grant to be provided to the Tarago Sporting Association for the project.

The **Gundillion** Recreation Reserve Trust will construct a new kitchen and extension at the Gundillion Hall, a community hall regularly used for a wide range of events. A grant of \$13,560 will be provided by the Trust.

The Two Fires Festival of Arts and Activism in **Braidwood** received \$1,000 to assist with expenses for the three-day festival.

**Braidwood** Lions Club received \$1,000 to upgrade equipment including the club's BBQ.

## Birth doula for Palerang

LOCAL MUM CATHERINE Bell is starting to offer doula services in Palerang. She writes:

Having a trained birth assistant – a doula – has been shown to reduce your risk of unnecessary intervention. A doula complements any medical support by offering continuous emotional care, informational support and physical support before, during and after birth.

I know from experience the benefits a natural birth has for mother, baby and partner and have trained as a birth doula, to help expectant parents who desire a positive birth.

Bellabirth is a birth doula service for

expectant parents in Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Braidwood and surrounds. Learn more at [www.bellabirth.weebly.com](http://www.bellabirth.weebly.com) or contact Catherine by email [bellabirth@hotmail.com](mailto:bellabirth@hotmail.com).

## Wabbit twouble – controlling those pesky wabbits

THE ROYALLA LANDCARE Group is facilitating two workshops on rabbit control through baiting using calicivirus and carrots. The 1.5 hour workshops will cover calicivirus training and baiting techniques, an in-field demonstration and includes assistance and follow up.

There is no charge for the workshops and all interested persons can attend – the aim is to involve as many landholders as possible in the region to ensure the best results with consistent and widespread baiting. Workshops will be held on 14 and 21 May at 2pm.

Following the workshop you will be provided with all materials needed at NO COST. For more information and to reserve your place at one of the workshops – RSVP by 11 May – phone Maryke at 6280 4128 (work) or email [royallalandcare@earthbasics.com.au](mailto:royallalandcare@earthbasics.com.au).

## Your opportunity to be mayor – if you're 16 or 17

QUEANBEYAN COUNCIL IS seeking to establish a Youth Council and will host an information night for interested youth on Thursday 12 May 2011 at 5pm in the Council Chambers, 253 Crawford Street.

"Council is encouraging any interested youth to attend this information session," Queanbeyan Mayor, Tim Overall said. Parents and carers are also welcome.

"The idea of the Queanbeyan Youth Council is to get a group of young people together who will advocate and work for the benefit of youth in the Queanbeyan area. If you're aged between 16 and 17 and live in Queanbeyan Local Government Area you can join the Youth Council and help young people build a stronger community.

"The Queanbeyan Youth Council will be devoted to helping improve the future for young people and will offer an opportunity for youth to get involved with their local community and work closely with Queanbeyan City Council."

Council is hoping to attract at least 10 youth to the Council. They will then elect their Mayor and Deputy Mayor by secret ballot. Those who attend the information session will be provided with all of the relevant information on the Youth Council and can ask questions of Council staff.

For more information please contact Philippa Moss on 6285 6202 or via email [philippa.moss@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:philippa.moss@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

## community cultural development &amp; integrated learning



## INCLUSIVE\* DRAMA

Have fun & play games to improve self-confidence, expression, communication & cooperation skills with Bren Weatherstone and Nick Combe.

Wednesdays 3.15 to 5.30pm  
4<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 [next term]

Downer Community Centre  
Frencham Place, Downer

Come and Try \$5 per session  
(support workers/carers free)

Queries: Bren 6249 1221 or 0439 026 622  
[greenhood@netspeed.com.au](mailto:greenhood@netspeed.com.au)

\* inclusive means open to people without and with disability



# What's On – May

Send your announcements to [whatson@districtbulletin.com.au](mailto:whatson@districtbulletin.com.au)

Council. The Youth Council will offer an opportunity for young people to get involved with their local community, engage in positions of leadership and to work closely with Queanbeyan City Council. For more information contact Philippa Moss on 6285 6202 or via email [philippa.moss@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:philippa.moss@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

Friday 13

## Junior Landcare

Round 2 of the 2011 Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants closes. Coles has been providing School Garden Grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds or community. Go to [www.juniorlandcare.com.au](http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au) for more.

Friday 13 – Sunday 15

## Sapling to Silver – story of a vibrant life

The Street Theatre, Canberra. A significant work based on the life of Bungendore-based dancer Elizabeth Cameron Dalman, loosely following her career of more than six decades. On Friday and Saturday nights at 7.30pm and Sunday at 4pm. Ph 6247 1223 or [www.thestreet.org.au](http://www.thestreet.org.au).

Saturday 14

## Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival

Bungendore Oval, Majara Street, Bungendore, 10–4pm. The flagship fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Bungendore. Premium offerings will be on show from Lake George region's finest food and beverage establishments and wineries. An exciting line-up of entertainment will allow visitors to relax and while away the afternoon with a host of local performers and acts to continue the festivities.

## Akmal – The life of Akmal

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Ph 6285 6290 or visit [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au). Comedy superstar Akmal brings his brand new show to Queanbeyan.

## Tour de Goulburn

Goulburn is fast becoming a popular hub for cycling, so much so, that a series of cycling events to be held in the region from May to September this year starting with the NSW Masters Road Championships which will start and finish in Forbes St, Goulburn, 7–5pm. For more [www.igoulburn.com/Events](http://www.igoulburn.com/Events).

## Spring Creek Excursion

The Windellama Historical Society is staging their annual excursion. This year they will take a different track to the top of the mountain. Meet at the Windellama Hall at 10am, \$15pp inc. morning team and lunch. For more info contact Joanna on 4844 5125.

## Palerang Council By-Election

8am–6pm, various polling places. See [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au).

Saturday 14 – Sunday 15

## Exhibition – Drawn in the Moment

The Left Hand, 81 Lascelles St, Braidwood. Fourteen artists and the immediacy of drawing. Ph 4842 7189 or 0422 530 846, 10–5pm or by appointment.

Sunday 15

## Film Night – Documentary: Healing the earth, the first millimetre

National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood, 6pm. The Public Broadcasting Service of the USA captures the passion of a growing movement of people who are

drought-proofing their land and reversing degradation. Free entry.

Tuesday 17

## Wamboin Community Association May General Meeting

Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, commencing at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21

## Breast Wishes

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. An uplifting Australian musical about life, love, family and silicon. A sophisticated and hilarious glimpse of cleavage and beyond which promises to make your heart sing. Ph 6285 6290 or visit [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au).

Tuesday 17 – Saturday 28

## Poppies and Panoramas – Naomi Crowther

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Crowther is a Queanbeyan artist whose signature Poppy paintings, Asiatic works and Lake George-inspired landscapes have been prominent in the region for over 10 years. Ph: 6285 6290 or visit [www.qcc.nse.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nse.gov.au).

Saturday 21

## Bungendore Mudhooks annual 'Fur & Feathers' of the Wild West

Catholic Church Hall, Bungendore. 6.30 for 7pm. A night of fun and frivolity for everyone. Excellent live band, light dinner and bar at the memorial hall. Tickets at Bungendore Cellars, \$30pp. For more info call Kristi 0439 496 534 or [www.mudhooks.com.au](http://www.mudhooks.com.au).

Sunday 22

## Poultry Auction

Goulburn Showgrounds, doors open at 7am for 9am start. Call Bob on 4844 7133 or [goulburnpoultry@gmail.com](mailto:goulburnpoultry@gmail.com).

Monday 23 – Tuesday 24

## Statespeare

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. As a foursome of Year 12 students discuss, debate and rehearse their assignment, not only do they find themselves unravelling a few school yard rumours, but they become swept up in some of Shakespeare's most famous plays. Visit [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) or call 6285 6290.

Thursday 26

## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Day

See community notices p19 for a Wamboin morning tea.

Thursday 26 – Friday 27

## Cabaret – In 12 easy steps

with Queenie van de Zandt, and Lucy Bermingham on piano. Vivaldi Restaurant, ANU Arts Centre. Queenie van de Zandt, one of Canberra's best-loved exports returns to town this month with her latest smash-hit show after spending the past 16 months wowing international audiences as the Bearded Lady in Sydney's Festival's hit, *Smoke & Mirrors*, is bringing her one-woman show to Canberra. Dinner and show: \$70/\$80/\$90, Show only: \$30/\$40/\$50. Bookings: [enquiries@vivaldirestaurant.com.au](mailto:enquiries@vivaldirestaurant.com.au) or 6257 2718.

Thursday 26 to Sunday 3 July

## Exhibition – Home and away: a return to the South

Drill Hall Gallery at the ANU, Kingsley Street, off Barry Drive Acton, 12–5pm, Wed–Sunday. Free admission. For more 6125 5832. During the apartheid years in South Africa, many artists expressed their feelings about their adversity in vigorous, powerful artworks. However, there were no markets or venues where this art could be seen and this resulted in much of the work leaving South Africa. The Ifa Lethu ("Our Heritage") Foundation's mission has been to repatriate this otherwise lost artistic testament by building a collection of apartheid era South African art. With this exhibition works are juxtaposed to explore the similarities and differences between art created by an oppressed population and work made by outsiders expressing support for those people.

Friday 27

## HOME in Queanbeyan Movie Night

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Home in Queanbeyan presents its annual fundraising evening at 'The Q'. Ph 6285 6290 or visit [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au).

Saturday 28

## Bungendore Mudhooks v Boorowa

Rugby union @ home at the Bungendore Ground. Kick-off 2.30pm.

## EVERY MONTH:

### Every Saturday

#### Capital Region Farmers Market

EPIC grounds, Mitchell, 8–11am. A genuine farmers market offering a diverse range of fresh seasonal food straight from the producer to the consumer and an opportunity to discuss with growers. [www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au)

### 1st Saturday of every month

#### The Captains Flat Country Markets

Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email [www.captainsflat.org](http://www.captainsflat.org)

### 2nd Sunday of the month (except Jan)

#### Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

Queanbeyan River, on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets, 9–2pm. Craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, jewellery, toys, honey, jams, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Call Kristen 6299 0219.

### 3rd Saturday of every month (except July/Aug)

#### Wamboin Produce Market

Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

### 3rd Sunday every month

#### Bungendore Markets

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

#### Windy Hall Country Markets

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

### 4th Saturday of every month

#### Braidwood Markets

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Call Geraldine 4847 5061.

## More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

[www.bungendore.com.au](http://www.bungendore.com.au)

[www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au](http://www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au)

[www.visitbraidwood.com.au](http://www.visitbraidwood.com.au)

## Carwoola Community Association annual Trivia Night

Stoney Creek Community Hall, 7.30pm sharp. The entry fee of \$10 per person includes supper. Phone Christine or Lynton on 6238 2368 to book a table.

Sunday 29

## Red Shield Appeal

Until Monday 30

## Exhibition – Cutline

Fyre Gallery, 84 Wallace Street, Braidwood. Works by Anuradha Patel. Ph 4842 1142.

To July 6

## Inclusive Drama with Bren Weatherstone & Nick Combe

Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place Downer, ACT. Open to people without and with disability. Have fun and play games to improve self-confidence, communication, expression, & cooperation skills. Wednesdays 3.15–5.30pm. \$50 per term (support workers/carers free). Contact Bren 0439 026 622 or [greenhood@netspeed.com.au](mailto:greenhood@netspeed.com.au).

## – Plan ahead for June –

Friday 3

## Jesus Christ Superstar

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Ph 6285 6290 or visit [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au). The Queanbeyan Players present the ever-popular musical.

Sunday 5

## 2011 Enviro Expo

Queanbeyan Conference Centre, 10–4pm. Celebrating World Environment Day. The theme this year is 'Sustainable Homes and Gardens' and the event will showcase a broad range of environmental products and services, local initiatives as well as workshops and entertainment. Contact Kaya Michener at [kaya.michener@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kaya.michener@qcc.nsw.gov.au).

## Exhibition/Art Competition – Molonglo Catchment

The Queanbeyan Art Society. Trinculo Pl. For more info call 6297 8181. Open to all artists.

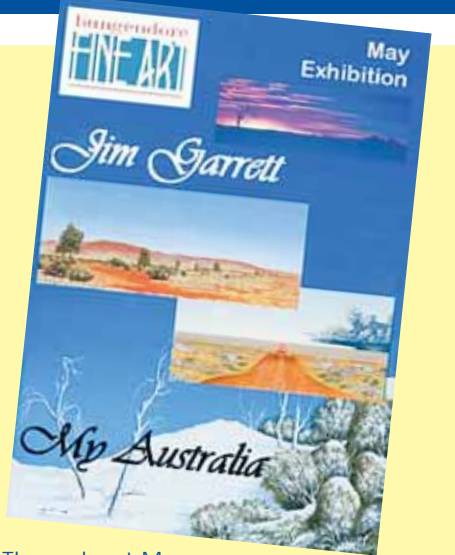
Monday 6

## Tarago Show Society AGM

Tarago Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Monday 13

## Queens Birthday Public Holiday (NSW)



Throughout May

## Jim Garret Exhibition – My Australia

Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore, daily 10–4.30pm. Ph 6238 1640 or visit [www.bungendorefineart.com.au](http://www.bungendorefineart.com.au).

Until Saturday 14

## Q Parks Photo Competition – Shortlisted Finalists

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. This exhibition showcases the finalists' entries in the Queanbeyan City Council's photographic competition for local residents, the theme of which is the use of local recreational spaces for fun, exercise and gatherings. Ph: 6285 6290 or visit [www.qcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au).

Until Sunday 29

## Exhibition – Cantata

Altenburg Gallery, 104 Wallace St Braidwood. Works by Marianne Courtenay, 4842 2401.

Until June 20

## John Sharman Exhibition – Painting from Nature

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, Malbon St, Bungendore The multi-award winning artist captures traditional realist images of the Australian ocean, earth and sky. Ph: 6238 1817 or see [www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au](http://www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au).

Sunday 8

## Hoskinstown Chestnut Roast

Hoskinstown Community Hall, 10–4pm. Come and enjoy roast chestnuts, fresh locally grown chestnuts, cooking demonstrations with chestnuts and many stalls selling produce, cakes, jams, plants, eco-products, clothing, trash and treasure, etc. To book a stall contact Jan on 6238 2072.

## Mother's Day in the Park

Glebe Park, Canberra, 11–3pm. Celebrate your mum's special day with a fun outing in one of Canberra's most beautiful urban parks. There'll be market stalls, special giveaways and pampering opportunities for mum. All proceeds to charity.

Thursday 12

## Youth Council Information Night

Queanbeyan City Council will be holding an information night for prospective members of a Youth

## – GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

### MAY:

Friday 6

**Music/poetry**, 7pm, Provincial Pantry, Village Square, Bungendore.

**Katereoke**, 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

**Rhymes with Orange**, 8pm, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan

Sunday 8

**Polk**, 5–8pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.

Friday 13

**Al Green Duo**, 8pm, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 14

**Toadfish Chutney, Eagle Medicine, Old Bones & Blisters, Szusza's Bluzaz**, 12 noon, Harvest Festival, Bungendore Oval.

Sunday 15

**Andy Burbidge**, 12noon–3.00pm, Bungendore Village Square.

**Canberra Blues Society jam**, 1pm, Statesman Hotel, Curtin.

**Phil Marlan**, 5–8pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.

Friday 20

**Troy Henderson Duo**, 8pm, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 21

**Darren Colston**, 8.30pm, The Loaded Dog, Tarago.

Sunday 22

**DeeJay Gosper Blues Band**, 12.30–4.30pm, Adore Tea, Federation Square, Nicholls ACT.

**Rand**, 5–8pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.



Wednesday 25

**Aust Songwriters Assoc Wax Lyrical**, 7pm, Beyond Q bar bistro bookshop at Curtin Shops (close to Statesman). Tonight's feature Danny Velnaar.

Friday 27

**Hit and Run**, 8pm, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 28

**Bugley Buzzard**, 8–11.30pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.

**Karaoke**, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Sunday 29

**Dale Huddleston**, 5–8pm, Colonial Inn, Cork St, Gundaroo.

JUNE:

Friday 3

**Music/poetry**, 7pm, Provincial Pantry, Village Square, Bungendore. Free.