THE DISTRICT
Bulletin
May 2012
33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN
COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

Mother's Day issue...
remember Mother's Day is everyday!

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Mrs Marjorie Osborne, the founder of the Bungendore branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) in 1939. This image hangs in the CWA chapter rooms on Gibraltar St which earlier saw life as a baby health centre and children's library. With the start of WWII, the new branch was soon very busy with Red Cross work. The original line drawing, held by the family, is by George Lambert.

Country women face new paths

by Maria Taylor

THE DAYS of focusing on the best tea and scones are far behind the modern Country Women's Association (CWA) if it ever was the main focus. I could tell from the wry comments of some of the women I talked to for this article, on the occasion of the NSW association's 90th birthday

"We've got lots of people who don't cook at all!" laughed long-time Bungendore member Margaret Crozier. Arts and crafts, learning new things and helping out in the community here and overseas are a few mainstays of this social organisation.

Helping out has meant for example that the Bungendore Branch is very involved with voluntary competitions and other activities at three local schools, Bungendore, Sutton and Captains Flat.

The branch also supports the Bungendore Youth Orchestra, which has found a home to practice. Local string instrument teacher Nicola Bryden set up a little orchestra with former and current students and found the 'historic' CWA hall on Gibraltar Street "a nice venue for string instruments. They are so supportive," she said of the other members who enjoyed a little chamber music at their Christmas party.

Continued p13

LONG PADDOCK UNDER THREAT?

Wide-ranging agency review

THE TRAVELLING stock route network, affectionately known as the 'long paddock' is a national treasure of biodiversity and retained vegetation corridors set up as a drought haven for graziers and corridor for moving stock around.

But the NSW network may be in danger of being sold off and fragmented as the unwitting result of a government proposal to reorganise the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) that manages the network.

At least one ANU researcher fears so. Writing in the current issue of *Decision Point*, Pia Lentini has researched the manifold benefits and recent history of the stock routes. *Decision Point* reports conservation research from Australian universities.

Have your say before 23 May

Last November a stock route (TSR) conference brought together around 100 people representing all sectors of rural landholders and land managers and included birdwatchers, shooters and Aboriginal Land Councils. They were able to agree on retaining the stock routes and how to do it after previous political attempts to dispose of them.

Meanwhile,the LHPA, formerly the Pastures Protection Board, was reviewed by economic consultant Terry Ryan at the behest of the NSW government and found wanting.

Ryan has recommended it be dismantled in its current form and reconstituted as a single state agency to save ratepayers and taxpayers money and to make it more effective and efficient.

His recommendation is that the TSR network be shifted from the benign neglect of the LHPA to the real estate management of the DPI Division of Catchment and Lands which has a recent history of selling off Crown lands and the public estate.

"Unfortunately there's a very good chance that the intentions to sell off sections of 'lesser value' still exist," wrote Lentini of the TSR.

If the system is broken up, the loss would be felt not only by ecological conservationists but also by production farms. Lentini points out that landholders benefit from these retained corridors as drought grazing fodder and for their value as refuges for pollinating bees and insect-eating birds and bats.

Continued p3

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Wamboin: Shepherd's Run.

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WIDE-RANGING AGENCY REVIEW

Cont'd from p1

What's wrong with the current LHPA?

The Ryan review says the current dispersed LHPA is not working effectively and delivering for ratepayers or taxpayers. As a consolidated agency it could also add services like weed and plant disease control.

The review says current arrangements do not deliver on animal health objectives which are state-wide not regional. The situation has not improved since 47 rural land protection boards were converted to 14 LHPAs. The system relies on historical locations and resources rather than risk analysis for modern livestock industries. This slows response.

Ryan found services are coming at a high cost: Overhead costs are double that of comparable local government with and he cited "over governance" with one paid elected director per three staff, with staff time too often diverted to non-essential meetings.

He also found that under the current system there are unfair cross-subsidies between LPHA ratepayers and non-ratepayers that distort the true cost of production and owning rural land.

Ryan has recommended: dissolving the 14 regional LPHAs in favour of one state-based agency with independent skills-based directors appointed by the Minister. An advisory committee to the minister should represent animal production industries including the horse owners "and a cross-section of ratepayer interests" and the advice should be made public.

Who should pay for public values?

In regard to the historical stock routes (an estimated 600,000 reserved hectares in NSW) the review received "a large number of submissions" detailing other values including biodiversity, inland fishing, wildlife corridors and Aboriginal heritage

The issue according to the Ryan review is that LHPA ratepayers should not bear the sole cost of maintaining these public values. What to do then?

If they are devolved to the Department of Primary Industries land management, then what? The multiple pressures of housing development and a changing climate would urge caution and retention, says Pia Lentini.

Submissions on all aspects of this review will be accepted until 23 May. It can be viewed on the NSW DPI website **www.dpi.nsw.gov.au**. Look for 'Review on the LHPA' in the right panel.

Submissions can be sent to lhpa.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Postal submission can be sent to: LHPA System Review. c\- Julia Trethowan. NSW Trade & Investment, Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800. Further information Julia Trethowan 6391 3618.

BORN TO THE BOW?

Brilliant accuracy of a young archer

by Karen Lovatt

ASK YOUR average 16-year-old boy if he wants to do some shooting, and he'll head straight inside to hook up his gaming console.

Ask Dakota Smith, however, and you'll be treated to an exquisite display of bowmanship.

The Jerrabomberra archer and St Edmunds College student has just come off a highly successful National Championships where he claimed 14 national records en route to bringing home a gold medal in all three categories.

Wielding his traditional longbow (a wooden bow made in the old hunting style) Dakota surprised even himself when he beat a field of experienced archers, including longbow veteran Joe Vardon.

"He [Vardon] makes bows, and has been shooting for years, so I thought maybe I'll shoot against him and see how we go," Dakota recalled. "I wasn't expecting to beat him. I actually broke some of his records, so ...that was pretty cool."

It's a far cry from the little seven-year-old boy who, after watching a cartoon movie of Robin Hood, picked up a bent stick and tied a shoelace onto it. By the age of 10 Dakota was hooked on archery.

How it all started

He got his first proper bow when the family was on holiday at Surfer's Paradise. Given that Dakota was only 10, his parents had some reservations.

"Mum and dad were like, let us think about and we might let you buy it," Dakota said. "With it being a bow, they didn't know if I was going to shoot someone, it looks dangerous."

Dakota's father Wade had grown up in a rural setting, learning to shoot bows and rifles on properties, so he talked his wife into letting Dakota get the bow.

"Dad gave me another $10," Dakota remembered, "which at the time I thought was really big, and so I bought that and I had it until I was about 12 or 13."

For his 13th birthday, Dakota received his first proper longbow as a gift from his father. At first, he shot for tricks with his friends.

Then one day, Dakota came across an article in an archery magazine advertising a Hall of Fame competition. It was only for traditional bows, so he decided to enter.

"The top five shooters would get into the hall of fame, you'd get a hall of fame buckle," Dakota said, "I was about 13 at the time, and I was shooting in the under 16s, and out of the whole competition my score placed 4th ...but they didn't let me get in the hall of fame or give me a buckle because I wasn't in the open division."

Trophy hunting with ease

That was the beginning of Dakota's competitive career, which quickly became littered with accolades. His first trip to the Junior National Championships, at 14, resulted in two gold medals and one silver, in an event he'd never shot before, as well as a bag full of national records, and the honour of having the highest score shot by an under-20 in the world.

At 15, Dakota shot the World Bowhunting Championships in Wagga Wagga, smashing the world records in the Animal and Hunt sections and walking away with the under-17 title. The Animal section comprises taking shots at 3D paper targets, while the Hunt section involves shooting at targets through trees. He followed this feat a couple of weeks later by again dominating Junior Nationals, breaking 10 records and winning three gold medals.

That was followed by a trip to the prestigious Howard Heel Classic in the United States, where he stunned the 800-strong field and multiple American champions to finish 5th in his division.

Olympics in his sights

While in the United States, Dakota bought his first compound bow. Within four weeks, he had the feel of it and was shooting as accurately as with his longbow.

The compound bow is a highly technical bow with pulleys to help draw the string. It is the bow used in Olympic archery. Compound bows are usually made up of metals and other composite materials like carbon fibre.

Defying critics who said it was impossible to shoot two different bows in one competition, he took both to a national indoor competition. He took gold in the longbow, and ended up 1st ACT and 6th overall in the compound division. It was the ultimate proof that it could be done.

"I just wanted to do it to prove everyone wrong... just because I'm shooting with the oldest style of bow in the world, which is basically a bent stick, doesn't mean I couldn't shoot there. Bows are not too complicated," Dakota said. "I'm going to keep shooting with it, try and get some more points on the board nationally, and get some placings, and see if I can go to the Worlds and Commonwealth Games with it."

You get the impression that Dakota isn't fazed by the prospect of World or Commonwealth selection, or even the chance of going to the 2016 Olympic Games. Like everything else, when the time comes, he'll take it in his stride, focusing only on one thing: hitting the target first time, every time.

But don't expect him to put away his longbow to focus on Olympic selection, even if the Olympics remain the sole domain of compound bows.

"I've always shot with my longbow, that's what I started with, and I'm never going to put that down, I don't think. It's the longbow I'll never stop shooting."

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Park plans on display in council chambers

bungendore park

University of Canberra students (left to right) Anni Huang, Daniel Coleman, Rebecca Salvair and Devin Legisa with some of their plans for Bungendore Park, currently on exhibition.

STUDENTS FROM the University of Canberra are helping Bungendore and their own practice with a series of design concepts for Bungendore Park on exhibition at the Palerang Council office in Bungendore until 16 May.

The second-year landscape architecture students worked with Bungendore landscape architect Jennie Curtis to develop ideas for how the park could evolve over the next 10 years. In particular, the students noted the park location as one of the first experiences of Bungendore for people arriving at the railway station. They saw it as an under-exploited opportunity and led to some attractive ideas for the Gibraltar Street – Majara Street corner.

Jennie Curtis of Fresh Landscape said: "It would be great to get some discussion going in the community about these. My hope is that we might eventually arrive at a final master plan to guide future construction in the park rather than the current ad hoc approach.

"Amongst other issues, many of the large old pines in the park are senescent and a master plan could be used to coordinate a strategy for their replacement. Currently each one is being removed as it dies and replacement planting appears a bit random.

"The work of four students is on exhibition. Two of them are international students – Anni from China and Devin from Canada, so we are getting quite a range of cultural input."

More information in Palerang Council News below.

QUEANBEYAN:
MAJOR WORKS WITHOUT BORROWING

by Gary Chapman, Queanbeyan City Council General Manager

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council's draft Operational Plan includes a capital works program worth more than $20 million and a budget which is expect to return a small cash surplus.

The draft Operational Plan outlines the projects and programs Council will implement during the financial year and how these will be financed.

The draft plan shows that Council expects to receive $93.8 million in income for the financial year while expenditure will total $108.4 million, including $14.7 million of depreciation. When you take depreciation out of the figures, we are left with a small surplus of around $130,000.

The highlight of the draft plan is our capital works program. We are proposing to undertake upwards of $20 million worth of capital works, including:

- $7 million on the realignment of Old Cooma Rd (Stage 1) (funded by grants and contributions)
- $2 million on upgrades to the Queanbeyan Sewerage Treatment Plant (Section 64)
- $1.15 million on extensions to the Jerrabomberra Community Centre (Section 64)

Cont'd next page

Palerang News

Council Elections

The 2012 Local Government Area general elections will be held on Saturday 8 September. This is a full Council election, for the election of all nine councillors for the next four-year term of Palerang Council.

The NSW Electoral Commission and the Election Funding Authority will hold an information seminar for candidates considering standing for election in this region on 29 May in Queanbeyan. The seminar will cover a range of issues that prospective candidates will need to consider, including the election timetable, candidate and group nominations, election advertising and election scrutineering. Any person eligible to vote in the Palerang LGA, and who is not otherwise disqualified from holding civic office, may nominate as a candidate for election to Council.

For more details, refer to the NSW Electoral Commission website at **http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/** and keep an eye on the local papers as September approaches

The Queanbeyan information seminar for prospective candidates will be held Tuesday, 29 May 2012; 5–8pm RB Smith Community Centre, 262 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan.

Council Offices Go Solar

At its April general meeting, Council resolved to call for expressions of interest for the installation of a solar array on the roof of the Bungendore offices.

The installation of photovoltaic panels will provide many benefits. It will reduce Council's electricity bills, it will reduce Council's carbon emissions and it will demonstrate the benefits of renewable energy to visitors to the Council office. It is planned to have a prominent display in the foyer that will show, in real time, how much solar power is being harvested.

Ideas for Bungendore Park

Students from the University of Canberra recently used Bungendore Park as a case study to help them learn about park design. The second-year landscape architecture students worked with Bungendore landscape architect Jennie Curtis to develop ideas for how the park could evolve over the next 10 years. Selected designs are on exhibition at the Palerang Council office in Bungendore until 16 May.

The much-loved park includes the Mike Sherd Oval, The Shed, swimming pool, tennis courts, war memorial and a playground as well as some huge old pine trees. After the recent addition of The Shed and the possibility of a new swimming pool and extensions to the tennis court, the park was ripe for some big-picture thinking about how all the parts could better work together.

As part of the exercise students were asked to imagine what the park could be like if the cricket facilities were moved to a different site and a new wall celebrating the work of Australian bush balladeers was added.

The resulting plans are not about instant change but give ideas for the gradual remaking of the park into a new form incorporating many existing elements. The four designs on display each present a different scenario for the future.

Common themes are improvements to the path network, additional parking, picnic and barbecue areas and renewal of the tree planting as the old pines reach the end of their lives. The students also identify opportunities to create shared facilities that could be used for a variety of sporting activities including swimming, tennis and indoor training or gym facilities.

Interactions between the park and surrounding areas are vital to the way the park is used. In particular, the role of the park as one of the first experiences of Bungendore for people arriving at the Bungendore Railway Station was identified by the students as an under-exploited opportunity and led to some attractive ideas for the Gibraltar Street – Majara Street corner.

The project was a good news story for all concerned. The students were able to work on a real project with input from a range of people in Bungendore. Council received a range of master plans for the park and the community has some ideas and options to discuss. In time a final master plan could be developed to guide future building in the park.

Bungendore Sewage Treatment Plant Augmentation

Works to upgrade the Bungendore STP with capacity to cater for a population of 5,000 are nearing completion.

Pre-commissioning testing is under way with the new plant to be commissioned in June 2012. The total value of the project is $6.9 million and is being constructed under contract.

In line with sustainability goals for the development of Bungendore, the level of treatment provided by the new plant will allow recycled water to be used for the watering of parks and playing fields, including Mick Sherd Oval.

PALERANG COUNCIL

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Queanbeyan City Council

Queanbeyan update

with Mayor, Cr Tim Overall

Message from **the Mayor**

Council agreed at its April meeting to place the draft Operational Plan and draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2012-13 on public exhibition until 25 May. Residents and community groups are encouraged to make a submission which will be presented to Council at a workshop on Wednesday 13 June where submitters will be invited to make a presentation to Council if they desire. Following the workshop and consideration of submissions, Council will formally adopt a final Operational Plan and Schedule of Fees and Charges at its meeting on 27 June. The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Customer Service Centre at 257 Crawford St, Queanbeyan between 8.30am and 4.30pm weekdays
- Council's Library at 257 Crawford St, Queanbeyan during Library opening hours
- Council's website at **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Submissions should be made by 4pm on Friday 25 May in the following ways:

- by mail to The General Manager, Queanbeyan City Council, PO Box 90 Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- by email to **council@qcc.nsw.gov.au**
- fill in the e-form on Council's website at **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**
- delivered in person to Council's Customer Service Centre at 257 Crawford St, Queanbeyan.

Operational Plan **forecasts small surplus**

Council's draft Operational Plan 2012-13 shows that the organisation anticipates a cash surplus of $133,219 for the upcoming financial year. Council's financial planning shows that it expects to receive $93.8 million in income for the financial year while expenditure will total $108.4 million, including $14.7 million of depreciation. When you take depreciation out of the figures, we are left with a small surplus of around $130,000. Of significant note, is that Council will not be undertaking any borrowing (except finances leases for IT equipment) during the 2012-13 financial year, meaning Council's debt service ratio remains at a very conservative 2.3% which is well below the NSW Government's benchmark for local government of 10%. Council is also proposing to undertake upwards of $20 million worth of capital works during the financial year, with the majority of that funded by grants and contributions.

Modest rise of **fees and charges**

The draft Schedule of Fees and Charges shows that Council's rateable income for 2012-13 is proposed to increase by 3.2% to $20,436,326. This is in line with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) decision to cap Council's rate income at 3.6% (less a 0.4% decrease as a result of IPART adjustments). All rating categories in the Queanbeyan Local Government Area will increase by 3.2%. This proposed 3.2% increase is a very modest increase and will see the average residential rate increase by about $33 for the year or $8.25 per quarterly instalment. The majority of fees and charges will rise by 3.6% in line with CPI, however both water access and water usage charges will rise by 10.5%. These increases are due to price rises by ACTEW and the need to fund water main replacement around Queanbeyan.

Inspection of **major projects**

A few weeks ago I inspected two of Council's major projects — the new Queanbeyan Library and the Edwin Land Parkway extension. The 2.3km Edwin Land Parkway extension which will link Jerrabomberra and Karabar is expected to be complete in June. The new road at the intersection of Old Cooma Rd and Edwin Land Parkway is expected to have traffic flowing in a Queanbeyan-bound direction soon. The new Queanbeyan Library is on track to be opened to the community in July. Refurbishment of the former Parks and Wildlife building in Rutledge St is progressing to schedule and contractors are expecting to hand over to Council in June. Library staff will then relocate all resources from the current Library in Crawford St and expect to open the doors in July. While on our major projects, the Crawford St Lifestyle Precinct is really starting to look impressive. The eastern side of the street is all-but complete and the contractors are commencing work on the footpaths on the western side.

Nominate for the **Queanbeyan Honour Walk**

Council is calling for nominations for the Queanbeyan Honour Walk. The Queanbeyan Honour Walk is a project to honour the most notable people, both past and present, who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the city. Nomination forms and criteria can be obtained from the Queanbeyan City Library and from the Council's Customer Service Desk at 257 Crawford St. Nominations close at 5pm on 31 July 2012 and should be submitted to the General Manager, Queanbeyan City Council, PO BOX 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620. For more information contact Peter Conlon on 6285 6298 or **peter.conlon@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Mayor
Cr Tim Overall

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- $1.02 million on the continuation of the CityCARE asset maintenance and renewal program (CityCARE levy)
- $1 million on preliminary design and environmental works for Ellerton Drive Ring Road Extension, 13 intersections around Queanbeyan and further stages of Old Cooma Rd improvements (grants and contributions)
- $250,000 for upgrade of Queanbeyan Park toilet block (reserves)
- $180,000 to upgrade amenities and extend facilities at Margaret Donoghue Oval (reserves)
- $150,000 to develop Sensory Gardens around Waniassa Park (Section 94)
- $131,180 on Council's cyclepath program (revenue funded/Section 94).

How will major works be funded?

Funding for these capital projects have come from a number of sources, including grants and contributions from state and federal Government, developer contributions and reserves. Of the $20 million forecast to be spent, only $1.1 million will be funded by rate revenue with $8.7 million coming from grants and contributions. The majority of the remaining $10 million is funded via Section 64/94 developer payments and reserves.

Council is not proposing to undertake any loan borrowings for the financial year (except finance leases for IT equipment). As it stands, Council has a very conservative debt service ratio of 2.3% which is well below the NSW Government's benchmark for local government of 10%.

The development of the 2012–13 budget was again a difficult exercise with all sections of Council looking closely at their operations to help deliver a balanced budget. Delivering a balanced budget will continue to be a difficult exercise as councils battle against rising costs while only having limited revenue increases due to rate pegging legislation.

The draft Operational Plan is on exhibition until 25 May and can is available from the main administration building at **257 Crawford St** or on our website at **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

When mother nature reclaims her river

by Nichole Smith

THE QUEANBEYAN River winds its way through the heart of the city and is a much-loved natural asset as well as a picturesque setting for walks and picnics and the city golf course. But this setting can have its downside, as recent and historical events show.

Over a dozen major floods have been recorded in Queanbeyan since European settlement, the first as far back as 1827 and the most recent in March this year. This followed the deluge the city was subjected to in December 2010, when the waters peaked at 8.4 metres after rising 3 metres in a space of less than three hours.

Just a few months previously, the area had been approaching the worst drought in close to a century. Then, virtually overnight it resumed its natural position as a flood plain. For the first time in almost 35 years, the emergency sirens were sounded and with the city cut in half, a natural disaster zone was declared.

More than 100mm of rain in less than 24 hours meant that Googong Dam, which has a spillway rather than gates to control the flow, and was already at capacity, was sending almost four times the amount of water that goes over Niagara Falls down the river. With the carpark underneath Riverside Plaza engulfed and surrounding businesses and residents evacuated, the damage bill mounted almost as quickly.

2010 flood not the worst of it

This was not however, the city's worst flood on record: that distinction was earned in 1925 when 350mm of rain fell during May alone, swelling the river's height to an almost inconceivable 11 metres, completely submerging the CBD and reaching as far as Queanbeyan Park.

The suspension bridge to Isabella Street was a left a 'twisted wreckage' and a sizeable house in Trinculo Place was completely washed away. The repair bill was so large that the mayor of the day lobbied the state government for financial assistance on the basis that 'the Council had spent all its rates'. In response, the town received the princely sum of £200 (about $2,500 today).

1925 and 1970s saw huge floods

Severe floods similar to those experienced in 2010 were seen in 1974 and 1976. While the former was higher (9.5 metres), the latter saw huge swathes of the Queanbeyan Cemetery washed away, taking over 60 graves with it. Only a handful of bodies were ever recovered and legend tells that bones are still embedded in the mud at the bottom of Lake Burley Griffin where they would have eventually found their way.

More disturbingly, during the 1976 flood there were real concerns that the partially completed Googong Dam – being built to augment water supply and supposedly to help curb the river's tendency to flood – was at risk of collapse and that Queanbeyan would literally be swept away.

These fears were revisited in late 2010, when just days after the completion of additional works to its spillway, Googong was discharging a massive 10,500 cubic metres of water per second.

This 'one-in-a-million event' contributed substantially to the flood at that time. The head of Canberra's water and electricity provider ACTEW, publicly assured residents that the system was working as it should and that rumours of a possible dam breach were unfounded.

And now 2012 and the massive damage bill

On the first day of March of this year, the Bureau of Meteorology issued warnings for flash flooding but on this occasion the river rose more slowly, reaching a peak of only 6 metres before receding. In part this was a result of the more consistent rainfall pattern and also because the flow rate of the river had been improved with the amount of debris cleared in the previous flood.

An ongoing concern is the damage bill. Although declaration as a natural disaster area provided some relief, a shortfall still remains. Queanbeyan Council has so far received just over $1.1 million to aid with repairs and has applied for a further $150,000 in funding, however it is predicted that total costs will amount closer to $1.8 million.

Queanbeyan will inevitably face similar natural emergencies in future but moves are being made to mitigate the effects. The Council, ACTEW and the National Capital Authority have considered short, medium and longer term strategies including the more controlled management of water levels in Googong and Scrivener Dams.

In the meantime, life will go on as it always has with the natural ups and downs of living on a vast and ancient flood plain.

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The meaning of Australian life... well, almost

Richard Manning, who should know as a very busy agent, reflects on the true values of real estate.

BEFORE WE look at the question of 'value' perhaps we should ask: What is this stuff we call real estate? A simple question on the surface and one is certainly able to provide a simple answer; however, it is also a complex question and any attempt to answer it must take into account the range of human emotion.

In spite of the name, real estate has no connection with the concept of reality! It derives instead from the feudal principle that in a monarchy, all land was considered the property of the king. Thus originally the term 'real estate' was equivalent to 'royal estate', 'real' originating from the French 'royale'.

Whilst it may no longer have that literal meaning there is a strong sense of 'ownership' in the way we often speak of our homes. The Great Australian Dream has always centred on the acquisition of a home and this as an expression of financial independence, security and success. That home was 'typically' the house on the suburban block, with the lawn, the garden and the BBQ. It involved embracing a certain post World War II lifestyle and aspiring to a domestic ideal! As one client put it "…this is a little bit of the world that is mine".

Property matters

I don't wish to get into a socio-political discussion here but suffice it to say the dream may have changed shape and direction but there is still a core belief within Australians that property matters! I work with people who want to invest in their future and in the future of their families.

I work with people who are concerned with lifestyle. They look at property, both urban and rural, with a sense that it will fit the shape and direction of their lives.

And then, I work with some who, unfortunately, can't wait to sell and for any number of reasons want to 'move on'. Others I work with have no choice but to 'move on'. They, in particular, speak of memories and can often describe in fine detail events that happened years ago on "that very spot"; or "we grew up here." The place speaks to them and is interwoven into their lives: "This home is almost like party of the family. It will be so hard to leave."

I lived in a very idiosyncratic home in Bywong and when the previous owner was in town we would invite him over and the stories he told of its construction became legendary with my children. "Let me tell you the story of that rock," he would say pointing at the cornerstone of the fireplace, and he would! Our home became more alive as a result.

For still others, real estate is an expression of identity and is a reflection of how they see the world and what is important. I worked with one woman very recently who engaged me in discussion of the 'energy' of the place. "I don't mind so much what needs to be done but it must feel right and have good energy." This was as important to her as floor plans are to others.

What's the value?

So what of the value of real estate? Clearly, real estate means different things to different people and as such is valued differently. For some it is simply about the investment dollar, for others the hope and dreams of a future. In my role I have come to understand that very clearly.

It is arguably a shame we do not pay for sentiment and we certainly cannot purchase the good fortune and good life people may have enjoyed in any particular property; that is something we must create and work at ourselves. However, irrespective of how people see real estate, each circumstance must be treated with respect.

Is your TV digital ready?

A message from the Australian government

ON 5 JUNE analog TV signals will be permanently switched off in Palerang, Queanbeyan and the ACT, along with the rest of south and central NSW.

If you're not digital ready by 5 June you will no longer have access to free-to-air TV. There are two assistance programs available for households and both schemes assist installation of new equipment in the home.

People who need help and advice to get ready for the switch to digital-only TV should visit the Digital Ready website at **www.digitalready.gov.au** or call the Digital Ready Information Line on **1800 20 10 13**.

Digital TV provides 16 free-to-air channels, better quality pictures and CD quality sound whereas analog only provided 4–5 television channels.

It's as simple as a signal switch set-top box for many analogue TVs. Check it out now.

Local action can help turn this ship around

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS around the world are often leading the way on climate-change action that their national leaders leave in the too-hard basket.

Queanbeyan is finalising its climate action proposals and Palerang Council is looking to install solar arrays on Council chambers.

The most far-reaching move is being undertaken by the ACT government, demonstrating that efficiency measures remain the easiest and most win-win response to using less energy from sources that emit greenhouse gases.

The ACT is taking the lead on a regulatory approach to achieve results quickly and across the board, rather than leaving everything to the market.

ACT's energy efficiency legislation

From the *Canberra Times*, in an article by Lisa Cox (4 May, p5):

The legislation which the government says will save 70,000 households up to $300 each on their annual electricity bills by 2015 was passed by the Assembly yesterday [on 3 May] with support from the ACT Greens.

The scheme will force electricity retailers to offer to replace their customer's old appliances, while power companies will have to subsidise or pay for energy efficiency upgrades in the home.

ACT Greens MLA Shane Rattenbury said the scheme would deliver benefits for both low-income households and renters [and overcome multiple current barriers to cost-effective energy efficiency schemes]."

PLUS, GREEN BUILDING INNOVATION

Business park tells contractors 'it CAN be done'

ALSO FROM the *Canberra Times*, in an article by Roslyn Beeby (4 May, p5):

The [Brindabella] business precinct [at the Canberra airport] has become an Australian benchmark in sustainable design and energy self-sufficiency. It has Australia's largest on-site gas tri-generation plant and Canberra's first commercial scale water recycling system. It was also the first commercial development to use recycled concrete and steel."

Windows are tinted and double glazed, and the air-conditioning uses a hydronic loop (water carries more energy than air) … Buildings are also designed …providing maximum access to natural light."

[The resulting energy savings are immense…] "We produce 75 percent less carbon dioxide than a standard office building and 55 percent less than the average five-star rated building," [said developer Stephen Byron].

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4 2 2

BUNGENDORE 9 LUNDIE STREET

Exquisite. Simple. Beautiful. Functional. Stylish. Elegant. Bold.
Rarely do you find a property that can be so described but this brand new achitect-designed home is all of the above & more. The use of space in the design of this home is exceptional. The private areas of the home are neatly separated from the more public living spaces. All 4 great sized carpeted bedrooms have double BIR's & there is storage a plenty throughout the house. There are 2 large, wonderfully appointed bathrooms. The kitchen is superb, with quality gas appliances & a very generous island bench. The tiled open plan living area is spacious & the raked ceilings add greatly to the light and airy feel of this very cleverly designed home.
Offers over $705,000

Chris Dixon 0414 819 377 or Richard Manning 0408 616 840

5 3 2

LAKE GEORGE 282 DOUST ROAD

Set on 20 acres of gently undulating land is an expansive 4 bed plus ens home of charm & style. The use of slate & timber is impressive as is the use of glass which captures lovely views. There is a wonderful self contained flat adjacent to the house. There are also outstanding brick stables & tack room & space a plenty to ride. **Offers over $895,000**

Richard Manning 0408 616 840

4 2 2

WAMBOIN 135 HOGAN DRIVE

Set high on the hill amongst established gardens, this immaculately presented 4 bed, ensuite plus study home on a 15-acre block enjoys stunning panoramic views of the district. With 246m^2 (approx) of living, the house features formal lounge & dining, study & rumpus. Outdoor living can be enjoyed on the timber deck & paved area. **By negotiation**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

3 1 2

SUTTON 47 CAMP STREET

Country Village Living on Canberra's Doorstep. With a recent renovation this 3 bed home boast a modern kitchen, custom joinery, stone benches & open plan living with slow combustion fire. A covered deck overlooks landscaped gardens to the grazing land & beyond. 15 min to Canberra.
Offers over $499,950

Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

4 2 2

MURRUMBATEMAN 7 ARMSTRONG STREET

A magnificent blend of modern function & historic style. The glorious centrepiece of this 4 bedroom home is a classic style staircase with turned wood balustrade that was reclaimed from an old English cottage. There are also the gothic arched doors that adorn many of the rooms & wait until you see the 'cupboard under the stairs'. **Offers over $765,000**

Richard Manning 0408 616 840

6 3 6

WAMBOIN 832 NORTON ROAD

The spacious 450m^2 two-storey house on 26 acres boasts 6 bedrooms, 2 massive bathrooms - each with spa bath, and a number of living areas. Other features include a wine cellar, woodfired pizza oven, huge kitchen, separate dining and a large balcony with views to Black Mt Tower. Arguably the "best value" property in Wamboin. **$975,000**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

3 1 1

GUNDAROO 42 MORNING STREET

Charming renovated 2 or 3 bedroom cottage with open plan kitchen/living room, sep lounge/3rd bedroom, timber floors, ornate pressed tin ceilings, 2 open fireplaces, a fan-forced slow combustion fireplace & in-slab heating. Outside are gorgeous cottage gardens, veggie patch & a newly installed licensed bore all on a 1897m^2 block. **Offers over $520,000**

Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

5 2 3

BUNGENDORE 12 DAY CIRCUIT

This expansive and beautiful home features 5 large bedrooms with BIR's & WIRs, and double head shower ensuite in the master bedroom. The spacious kitchen with gas cook top, electric oven also features a 'huuuge' walk-in pantry. There is also a full-size triple garage, 55,000 litre water tank, established gardens & glasshouse. **$740,000 All offers considered**

Richard Manning 0408 616 840

5 2 2

GOOGONG 277 FERNLEIGH DRIVE

5 bed + ens solid brick home on 5.3ha (13ac) block with creek frontage and sweeping rural views. Features high vaulted ceilings, dbl glazing, ducted evap cooling, gas heating, dbl sided Cheminee Phillipe fire & a number of c'yards for outdoor living. There is a separate entry plus a detached self-contained flat. **Asking $995,000**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

Land

Collector
$135,000
Lot 1 Murray street
Glorious opportunity to build. 2181sqm flat block. Cleared, DA approval, house plans.
Richard 0409 616 840

Dalton
$239,000
Lot 4 Bevendale Road
Via Gunning, 297ac of beautiful Australia bush. 12m x 36m shed on slab, numerous other buildings. Brilliant views. **Richard 0409 616 840**

Gundaroo
$269,000+ each
Lots 17 & 18 Cork Street
Two 2,000m^2 (approx) building blocks located on the main street. Gently sloping with rear lane access. Walk to school & shops. **Chris 0414 819 377**

Gundaroo
Offers over $265,000
23 Morning Street
Well proportioned half-acre block with the potential to site a house to the north 25mins to Canberra's inner city. **Chris 0414 819 377**

Mullion
By Negotiation
Doctors Flat Road
80ha (200ac) bush block with creeks, wildlife and privacy. Ideal getaway for hunting, riding or walking. **John 0403 139 701**

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— OUT and ABOUT —

Walk the top of the 'Corn Trail'

by Jo Walker

THE CORN Trail runs from the top of the Clyde Mountain, across mountain ridges and through rainforest valleys, down to the carpark at the end of Misty Mountain Road (24km in from the Kings Highway). The trail is an 18km downhill walk and takes six or more hours to complete – and much longer if you're looking at the plants!

The easiest way to undertake this walk is to do a car shuffle, leaving cars at the lower end of the trail. Just a word of caution – Misty Mountain Road can be impassable after wet weather, so it would be wise to check before using it.

The Corn Trail was originally a route between the lower valleys and the escarpment maintained by the Yuin and Walbunja people who used it to gather food and conduct trade and ceremonies.

In the 1830s, settlers in the Bolero Valley used it to carry grain on pack-horses to the top of the mountain for distribution to Braidwood and other local towns. After another road was opened in 1854, the trail eventually disappeared beneath the forest undergrowth. The route was retraced and formed into the present walking trail in 1987 as a Bicentennial project.

Our walking group recently walked the top end of the trail for a few hours. This is a flat to undulating area in tall forest through magnificent vegetation. We entered via a track on the right hand side of the Kings Highway (travelling from Braidwood) at the top of Clyde Mountain. There is a carparking area on the left side of the road at the very large white sign that indicates 'Steep Descent for 5km'. An alternative starting point is from the Dasyurus Picnic Area off Forest Road.

Even though it is now mid-autumn, there was quite a bit of colour in the undergrowth. The most strikingly noticeable plant was *Epacris impressa*, one of the heath-plants. The bright red, narrow bell-shaped flowers (*seen below*) are borne in clusters on long stems straggling up through the dense vegetation.

Another heath-plant in the area was *Monotoca elliptica*, the Tree Broom-heath, probably the tallest of the local heath-plants – it can grow to several metres tall – certainly dwarfing the little *Monotoca scoparia* that grows in drier areas of the shire. Banksias were flowering too. The brownish and pale yellow flowers of *Banksia paludosa* (Swamp Banksia) were attractive, but the yellow, gold and orange shades of *Banksia spinulosa* (right) were even more so. A few of the Geebungs (*Persoonia* spp.) were bearing yellow flowers, and some rather straggly *Acacia terminalis* were sporting pale-cream clusters.

Tall forest and grass trees

All of these, of course, were growing under tall trees of the wet sclerophyll forest. At the beginning of the walk, we were shaded by mostly Silvertop Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*), a very tall tree with rough, persistent bark and most of the foliage clustered right at the top of the tree. Later we began to see *E. fastigata* (Brown Barrel) and *E. cypellocarpa* (Mountain Grey Gum). And, on a wetter slope, we came across Grass-trees (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) and Tree-ferns (*Cyathea australis*).

And, let's not forget the smaller ferns and mosses. The understorey beneath the *Eucalyptus sieberi* was a carpet of bright green *Gleichenia dicarpa*, one of the Coral Ferns. In the wetter areas, these persisted, but were joined by Fan Ferns (*Sticherus* sp.), below. And, where there was a bit of space and light beside the path, patches of the little Bushy Club-moss (*Lycopodium deuterodensum*) mimicked miniature conifers.

In spite of several leeches that accompanied us back, this short walk was a very pleasant way to spend a few hours.

A visitor's guide to the area is available from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. For local information about road access, etc, try NPWS Narooma Office 4476 0800.

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Braidwood's historic poplars at risk as Kings Highway safety study widens

by Stephanie Anderson

THE POPLAR avenues in Braidwood are the latest target in the Roads and Maritime Services attempts to make the Kings Highway a safer road.

For the last few months, the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has compiled a 'preliminary investigations report', which looks at the Kings Highway and any hazards which may potentially cause crashes. The report particularly focussed on the areas surrounding Braidwood.

Among other recommendations, the RMS report suggested "wire rope safety barriers and profile line marking be installed through the historic avenues of poplar trees on either side of Braidwood, and a Tree Management Plan be developed by the community".

However, since the report's publication there have been calls to instead just cut down the trees.

The report also looks extensively at driver behaviours and speed as contributing factors to the many crashes east and north-west of Braidwood.

This initial report will now be incorporated into a wider report looking at the entire highway system from the border of ACT to Batemans Bay, a notorious area for crashes.

Two community forums were held in both Braidwood and Bungendore last month to discuss the reports, but perhaps due to the time and day, attendance was quite low.

The report is available online for comment, and local residents are urged to have their say.

For more information or to get a copy of the report visit **www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/south_eastern_region/kings_hwy/braidwood/index.html**

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Girls show true grit as Bungendore hosts horse challenge

by Stephanie Anderson

BUNGENDORE played host to the International Mounted Games in late April.

Teams of five, mounted on horses they had never ridden before, took to the field to compete in what first appeared to this (non-riding) reporter as craziness.

Thundering down the course at full pace, one rider suddenly leaps from her pony, followed by all of the others. They tiptoe at great speed across a series of stepping stones, reins in hand. Then two small jumps and they're up on the horses and racing again.

This was just one of 16 different races competitors took part in during the international exchange program hosted this year by NSW and Australian Pony Clubs and the Australian Sports Commission. Five riders under the age of 16 are chosen from participating countries.

Teams from the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Australia took part, with the United States showing great skill and discipline, winning the day's competition on an impressive 66 points.

Athleticism and skilful horsemanship are required to succeed in the mounted games, and all of the teams competing were very impressive.

To avoid any team having an unfair advantage, no competitor is allowed to ride her or his own horse. Local residents very generously volunteered to loan their horses for the day.

The Australian Team, (from left) Penny Slater, Megan Bourke, Skye Ranicar, Sean Fraser and Leteesha Wild.

Only once did a horse get away from its rider, and just one rider fell throughout the day. A very impressive display, considering the competitors had had only five minutes to get acquainted with the ponies.

Of the 20 riders competing, 17 were female, proving at last which is the braver of the two sexes.

Go on, have a go!

Local competitor Penny Slater said that although it may look difficult and dangerous, mounted games are suitable for "riders of all experience levels".

Slater has been competing in the mounted games since she was just seven years old. She became involved after her two older sisters took part in mounted games through their local pony club. "Competing on an international level was a great experience," she said.

Along with Slater, the Australian team consisted of Megan Bourke from the Northern Territory, Sean Fraser from Western Australia, Skye Ranicar from Tasmania and Leteesha Wild from Queensland.

Australia placed third in what was a very close competition.

This 'extreme' pony club sport has been gaining greater publicity in recent years, and now has quite a following in Palerang and surrounding areas.

To get involved in the mounted games contact your local pony club, or visit **http://www.australianmga.com/**.

What about their mother's day?

THE FEDERAL government last month listed the koala as threatened in NSW and Queensland. Some NSW money went to koala habitat restoration around Cooma. Welcome steps. But have we learned anything in the past 100 years?

The question arises with the ongoing slaughter of literally millions of kangaroos annually for the commercial 'harvest' in NSW and Queensland and the management of kangaroos with an annual 'cull' of thousands in Canberra.

The now threatened koala population once numbered in the tens of millions too before it was 'harvested' for commercial gain and its habitat was destroyed for farms and housing development. The NSW Wildlife Council estimates that the fragmented koala population may be as small as 40,000, total.

For the past 20 years NSW and Queensland governments have set huge numbers of kangaroos that can be 'harvested' every year, and the farming community is still encouraged to consider the kangaroo a pest that must be removed.

Will the kangaroo go the way of the koala in our lifetime?

PHOTO: BRETT CLIFTON

For 2012, according to Commonwealth statistics, the NSW quota is 1,518,628 of which 782,349 are Eastern Grey Kangaroos, the rest being Red, Western Grey and Wallaroo. Queensland does things bigger with a total quota of 3,103,050 (that's three million) the majority of which are Red and Grey Kangaroos.

The 'harvest' is kept up by continually going into new areas, like to our region in south-east NSW in the past four years.

Statistics for animals actually shot are a lot less, also suggesting that they are thinner on the ground than the quotas would like us to believe. For example, the 2010 NSW shoot was about one-third of the quota of 1 million animals. However, the figures do not reflect the huge numbers of joeys killed simply as by-product or the mis-shot animals.

Whether the narrative of the 'sustainable' kangaroo harvest is just wildly optimistic or a figment of flawed population biology and body counts is the subject of a startling new report by a Bathurst ecologist whom we will interview next month.

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Mother's Day poultry sale, and show coming up in June

THE CANBERRA Queanbeyan Poultry Club is having its bi-annual poultry sale on Mother's Day (13 May) at the Queanbeyan showground.

The number of people keeping poultry in the Canberra and Queanbeyan region is on the rise and more people are experiencing the enjoyment found in caring for useful birds. And, just as people are becoming interested in heirloom tomatoes, interest in 'heirloom' or pure breeds of poultry is also on the rise.

The sheer variety of breeds of poultry may come as a surprise. Fowls come in a wide range of shapes, sizes and colours – not just brown layers – and the best place to see the full range of fowls, bantams, ducks, geese and turkeys is actually right here in Canberra.

Every four years the Royal Canberra National Poultry show is staged in June and it's on again this year 8–10 June at Exhibition Park in Canberra. You will see close to 5,000 birds on show, many of them very rare. Once you discover the amazing world of poultry, you too will be hooked on pure breeds.

Fortunately, now is the ideal time to buy pure breed poultry. Chicks hatched late last year are almost ready to start laying. By this time, people breeding show birds have decided which birds to keep, and those they don't want are offered for sale to lucky backyard poultry keepers.

If you are keen to keep pure-bred poultry, a perfect opportunity is just around the corner with the upcoming poultry sale.

Pekins

Silver Laced Wyandotte

This is a sale, not an auction, so all prices are displayed on pens; and to help those new to poultry, each pen will be labeled with the breed, age, and sex of the birds inside. All birds are checked for health before being allowed into the sale so you can buy with confidence.

Information talks at 11am and 1pm, will be on keeping fowls and ducks and on choosing a breed.

So, do Mum a favour on Mother's Day and give her the gift that keeps on giving… fresh eggs!

Vendors wishing to sell pure bred poultry are welcome to join the sale. Further information about this sale and other events or getting involved can be found at **www.cqpoultryclub.com**.

— Debbie Maher

MUM'S DAY

Suggestions from a dutiful son

Are you looking for a change of routine for Mother's Day? Here are some ideas, old and new, for spending time with Mum.

Eating – Let's face it, most fun activities include food in some way or another. One of the best things you can do for Mother's Day that will be fun is to prepare a special meal of some kind.

You can have a meal out (one with which I would obviously agree) or you can have a meal at home, but make it special. The main thing is to give Mum a break – make it a fun, long-lasting meal that will give you plenty of time for conversation.

Spend time with the family – We are all so strapped for time that a fun thing to do for Mother's Day is just to spend time with the family – a BBQ, a trip to a favourite park or just play a round of cards or another favourite game. Spend time honoring your mum, and make it a happy time (do not engage in verbal fisticuffs which makes it un-fun for Mum).

Favourite memories – A fun thing to do on Mother's Day is to sit around and discuss your personal favourite memories of your mother. For example, you could get a notebook out, and start with a topic, and then everyone has to share the first memory with their mum that has something to do with the topic.

The topic might be, for instance, how she has come to your aid after an accident. Then go around your family and each one takes a turn sharing a memory that involves Mum and accidents. The whole family will get into the 'walk down memory lane', and Mum will love hearing the memories and being reminded of the good times from the past.

Try a movie – Maybe there is a movie that your mother is dying to see. Treat her to a movie and make sure you buy her all the favourite nibbles she can eat. It may be the only movie she sees this year, so make sure she enjoys it. If you are a male (like me), chances are you may not agree with the movie she wants to see, but just think of all the things your mother did for you in your life when you were not particularly cooperative.

Things your mother likes to do – Of course, a fun thing to do on Mother's Day is anything and everything your Mum likes to do. Mother's Day is a personal day that requires some personalised activities. Obviously, not all mothers enjoy the same things, so think about what makes your mother unique and plan activities around that, even if it means working in the garden, and getting down-n-dirty as you plant some new bloomers for winter.

If the activity is something your mother enjoys, or provides a memory or shared happy experience with your mother, it will be a perfect thing to do on Mother's Day. So, start thinking about what your Mum likes to do.

— Peter Davies, Shepherds Run Wines

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Flowers, champagne, chocolate!

And that personal gift that shows you understand your mother

FROM A FEMALE perspective, we can vouch for the fact that nine out of 10 women, and that includes mothers, go weak at the knees when presented with beautiful flowers by a grateful offspring (or anyone else).

Men and boys (and girls) bearing flowers may sometimes feel a little un-Australian, but believe us, it's very effective! It's hard-wired in the female psyche. And not only when the bearer is feeling guilty!

Ditto for chocolates, wines and other delicious consumables. And you can't go past a gift that says "I know you well," and is maybe something a Mum would not treat herself to.

Flowers don't have to be cut. A potted bloom can be a joy forever, as long as you understand whether your Mum will appreciate handling/planting it in the longer term. As Peter suggests, maybe you can help with some of the gardening that comes with a potted plant.

And don't forget those special treat gifts, like a theatre ticket to The Q, or to Mum's favourite musical group; or how about a weekend away camping (with you!) or something less vigorous but delightful like an overnight at a country pub – you get the idea.

Whatever you do, enjoy!

— The Bulletin *editorial team*

Our love affair with chocolate

Google 'chocolate science' and what do you get? Millions and millions of sites that point out the obvious – chocolate tastes good, looks good and is good for you!

New research is discovering that chocolate might actually help to lower our risk of heart disease (in small doses), make us thinner (but not everyone) and lower our blood pressure (dark chocolate eaten in small amounts). Good news and just in time for Mothers' Day!

Regular chocolate eaters are thinner

THIS STARTLING finding has come out of the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego and may upset the major objection to regular chocolate eating: that it makes you fat. The researchers proposed that regular, modest eating of chocolate might be 'calorie neutral' – in other words, eating modest amounts of chocolate might lead to lower fat deposits per calorie and this lowering would offset the added calories.

They studied dietary and other information from about 1,000 adult men and women and found that those who ate chocolate on more days per week were actually thinner (as measured by body mass index) than those who ate chocolate less often!

The study didn't distinguish between types of chocolate (dark, milk or white) nor did it focus on the amounts of chocolate people ate; it was looking at the frequency of chocolate eating and thus the frequency of people getting the antioxidants and other beneficial chemicals that chocolate contains. The size of the effect was small but significant and was in spite of the fact that the chocolate eaters often did not eat less nor exercise more.

"Our findings appear to add to a body of information suggesting that the composition of calories, not just the number of them, matters for determining their ultimate impact on weight," said researcher Dr Beatrice Golomb. "In the case of chocolate, this is good news – both for those who have a regular chocolate habit, and those who may wish to start one."

Read all about it at ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressreleases/regular_chocolate_eaters_are_thinner/.

What's the Big Idea?

with Sonja Chandler

Chocolate cuts risk of heart disease — especially dark chocolate

THERE IS a growing body of research in support of the idea that eating chocolate can improve heart health. In 2011, researchers from the University of Cambridge reviewed findings from seven studies using data from 114,000 patients and found that those who consumed the most chocolate had a 37 percent lower risk of developing heart disease and a 29 percent lower risk of suffering a stroke than those who consumed less chocolate. They looked at people who ate dark and milk chocolate as well as chocolate drinks and other confectionaries (**www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/eating-chocolate-cuts-risk-of-heart-disease/**).

Other studies have looked at how chocolate compounds called flavanols can affect our bodies – by lowering blood pressure and reducing levels of blood glucose and 'bad' cholesterol levels at the same time as raising the levels of 'good' cholesterol. Dark chocolate has higher levels of these flavanol compounds and so is more beneficial for heart health.

The findings still need a word of caution. "Chocolate may be beneficial, but it should be eaten in a moderate way, not in large quantities and not in binges," Cambridge researcher Dr Oscar Franco, says. "If it is consumed in large quantities, any beneficial effect is going to disappear."

Now the bad news...

JUST WHEN it's proving to be so good for us, there seems to be signs of a looming chocolate shortage. The *LA Times*, the *Daily Mail* and the ABC are all warning us that the increasing good news about chocolate's health benefits coupled with increasing world demand for cocoa (more than US$90 billion worth of chocolate a year!) is outstripping supply.

Then there is the threat of climate change and a possible shrinking of the area that is able to produce cocoa beans. *Scientific American* has published a brief chocolate timeline (**www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=chocolate-love-affair-deep-roots**) starting in 1502 when cocoa was encountered by Christopher Columbus on his fourth voyage to the New World. Let's hope this isn't really the end of such a sweet story.

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The 5 Love Languages

by Gary Chapman

Publisher: Moody Publishers/Northfield Publishing

What is your love language?

reviewed by Sarah Newsome

EVER NOTICE how some people say "I love you" at the end of every phone call? While others seem to be constantly offering to do things for you? Could be that's a clue to their love language.

According to Dr Gary Chapman, a love language is the primary way you prefer to express and interpret love. We all identify primarily with one of the five love languages: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch. When those we love speak our 'love language', we feel loved and appreciated.

If you're the type who delights in spending weeks shopping for the perfect Chrissy present, perhaps 'Gifts' are the way you express your love. Or maybe 'Words' are your thing, and it's the unexpected compliment that leaves you feeling good for the rest of the day. Your teenage son seems to have lost the power of speech, but still loves to wrestle with dad (or the dog) – perhaps his love language is 'Touch.'

There's the neighbour who'd do anything for you. 'Acts of Service' are the thing that makes *them* feel loved and cared for; and how they show they care. Or your elderly mother who loves it that once a week you bring the kids over for afternoon tea, because 'Quality Time' with undivided attention is what works for her.

So far, so good; but, people being people, we are usually drawn to people who speak a different love language than our own. A man grieves that his father never told him he loved him, but misses the fact that his father worked longer and longer hours to give him all the things he needed. Or the woman whose husband always checks her car is fuelled up and running well, but never kisses her in public.

Love language is the sort of idea that gets people talking. It's easy to grasp and easy to apply to those around us. It's a small contribution, and hopefully some have found it helpful. Plus, it's amusing to think about the chaos that ensues when we're talking different languages. But after that's all over, well... it's pretty superficial.

Dr Chapman uses example after example of people who attended his seminars, and found that it changed their relationships, their families, their very lives. Perhaps it was this messianic stance that first rang alarm bells. Or perhaps it was Dr Chapman's smug attitude, alternating with the over-earnest lecturing style, which got me fidgeting. Who was it that said "Life is too important to be taken so seriously?"

Or it may be just that Dr Chapman has taken this concept and used it to pump out product. *The 5 Love Languages* for husbands and wives, for children and teenagers, for single people, and a special version for men. He has also developed *The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace*. Apparently, there's a new series in the offing: the five languages of apology.

It seems if only we could all be fluent in the languages, much of the complexity in relationships and families would be resolved. Or would it?

BOOKS, AUTHORS and BOOK REVIEWS

Storm

by Brigid Kemmerer

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

reviewed by Nick Overall

WHEN BECCA Chandler saves Chris Merrick from being beaten up in the school parking lot, she has no idea how dramatically this will change her life, for Chris Merrick is no ordinary school boy and neither are his three older brothers.

This introduction sparks an immediate interest in the tale of these teenage boys who are known as 'Elementals'; they have the ability to control water, fire, wind and earth – making them both powerful and dangerous but also, ultimately, marked for death. Brought into this circle unknowingly, now that the truth has been revealed, Becca too is in serious danger.

Storm is the first of three books set to be released in this series by Brigid Kemmerer. It will appeal to those who enjoyed the likes of *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight*, but seems to be more directed at the teenage-boy market.

Girls should also enjoy it however, with a strong main female character in Becca and the normal romance angle as well. In saying that, the story is different from so many others currently out there and is highly enjoyable as a result. It is a good, fast-paced read, moving through the story very quickly and keeping the reader interested with action aplenty as well as strong characterisation and an involved plot.

Storm is an edge-of-your-seat thrill ride of a book which is a great start to the upcoming series. Highly recommended, 8/10.

* * *

Forgotten Heroes: The Australian Waler Horse

and

War Horses: Hoof Prints in Time

by Jill Mather

Publisher: Bookbound publishing

For copies: **www.jillmatherbooks.com.au**

Forgotten heros in horror of war

reviewed by Di Johnstone

IN THESE times of high-tech warfare, with battles fought above or by militaries continents away from the battlefield, it is easy to forget that at one time horses played a very important role in armies and fighting wars. The last time horses were a significant feature of the modern battlefield was in World War I and who can forget the famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava.

These two slender and very readable volumes will be bittersweet for horse lovers. They catalogue the now largely forgotten role Australian horses played in conflicts in which Australians fought, and to a lesser extent that of donkeys, mules and camels.

The first book covers the history of the Waler horse, its presumed origin in South Africa, its breeding, its place in the early days of the colony, its use by the Indian cavalry and as a polo mount, the characteristics that made it especially suitable for the rigours of warfare and its role in a number of conflicts.

The history is spiced with an eclectic mix of stories. Some authors are well known but much of the material is drawn from official records and personal recollections of ordinary soldiers. There are also poems, illustrations and some excellent historical photos.

Sad history, a debt not to be forgotten

Some of the World War I history is very sad. It recalls the often terrible conditions horses endured on the long sea journey to the front, their sometimes cruel breaking-in onshore, the struggle to keep horses fed, watered and alive in the dust and heat of the desert and the grim fate of many horses in mud and gas attacks in the trenches. The treatment of military horses varied widely. While most Australian soldiers cared deeply about and looked after their horses, others did not treat them well.

Saddest of all is the fate of thousands of Australian horses at the end of World War I. Australian troops were devastated to find they could not bring their mounts home. One that did make it back was Major General Bridges' horse, Sandy, now showcased in the Australian War Memorial. Those left behind were shot to save them from a worse fate, sold for horse meat or sent to miserable conditions as cart horses in Europe or in Middle Eastern markets where their welfare was not a consideration.

The author details the diverse tasks performed by military horses, including hauling supplies, heavy artillery and water on the battlefield and the often extraordinary stamina and courage of the Australian Waler horses. The book finishes with an account of what has happened to the Waler breed in recent times and, too, of recent battles to save heritage horses and brumbies.

The second book builds on the first, with some of the same stories in more detail, new anecdotes and new research. Although the main focus in both books is Australian Walers, the second book has more material on New Zealand and British horses.

For those who love horses, both books provide a real insight into the Waler breed. They also record for posterity many poignant, humorous and moving stories of the brave and hardy horses that carried and supported Australian troops in wartime.

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COUNTRY WOMEN Cont'd from p1

CWA then and now. *Avril Kimberlee's Thursday morning CWA art class in its early days. From left: Ros, Anne, Pam, Tamara (sitting) Avril, Fran and Lynne.*

Ministers listen

Equally important though is getting some things done on the political front. In case you still suspected that these ladies stick to genteel fundraisers, crocheting and learning to paint, think again.

Currently on the agenda for some branches are coal seam gas incursions onto agricultural land, the NBN and country communication, health and safety legislation, the impact of floods, loss of agricultural land to development, road maintenance and more. Early childhood intervention and the cross-breeding of "dangerous" dogs were also items of interest on the agenda of the 90th general meeting held in early May.

Transport, including rail, is a big issue and the Bungendore branch gathered a petition when the rail service to Sydney looked like being shut down, said current Bungendore President Helen Barr. Asking for research into the virus killing bees was also a major recent project. "We went to town over that," said Helen.

"All persuasions of government listen to us. We have a strong voice. We go to see the Ministers and they do listen." There are 408 Branches in NSW with around 10,000 members. Still a formidable force even though their numbers at the local level may not be increasing.

That is partly because of the declining number of active farmers in this district says Margaret Crozier. But also it's because so many people now work during the day and therefore can't attend daytime club meetings.

That dilemma has been solved in Queanbeyan with the start two years ago of an evening branch, in addition to the day branch. "The fact that there is an evening branch reflects the need for it," said current President Ginette Loft, who is a public servant and a dog breeder. She said head office is also acknowledging the issue and has developed a webpage and Facebook site to stay in touch.

Queanbeyan evening branch with 20 members, has raised money for community projects on Pacific Islands, and it also capitalised on the scone cliché by creating a competition last year called 'Master scone' to raise money for HOME in Queanbeyan. This involved a good-natured bake-off, involving politicians Mike Kelly and John Barilaro.

Recently some members joined CWA protests in Sydney on the coal seam gas issue.

Also interesting this branch are heritage issues in Queanbeyan, currently the conservation of the old Queanbeyan Hospital building.

The pleasures of art

Bungendore artist Avril Kimberlee runs a Thursday morning art group for the branch and is well connected with the art collective now functioning at the Bungendore Markets. The CWA approached her in 2003 for watercolour instructions. She said "I will teach you, but first you have to learn how to draw," and she did for six weeks. "The things that people make give them enormous pleasure," she noted. "They discover talents they don't know they have."

There are 17 branches on the Southern Tablelands and in our distribution area there are also branches in Braidwood (of course), Collector, Majors Creek and Tarago. All welcome new members.

GUNDAROO STORE IN NEW HANDS

The Gundaroo post office and grocery story is under new ownership and getting a facelift. New owners Scott Evans & Jessica Worsley, previously of Crowe's Restaurant, are adding takeaway food and an expresso bar.

In typical country fashion the newsagency, liquor store as well as grocery and fruit and vegetables, and swap and go gas, can all be found here as well.

Forks for all reasons

with Joyce 'Annie' Nordsvan

Antique Chat

AT ONE of our very early auctions, I purchased a lot of cutlery which contained a few pickle forks. I now find them fascinating and search them out whenever possible. On our recent trip to England, I purchased quite a few different forks to add to my collection.

We eat most of our food with a knife, fork or spoon and some of us might remember getting confused about which fork to use when sitting at a formal table setting – relying on the principle of 'starting at the outside and work-ing in'. Some of the forks I now have bring confusion to a different level altogether. Although they are all beauti-ful, I have no idea what some of them are used for. The ones I can identify are labelled in the photo.

Of course I'm happy to take any corrections or thoughts on my identifications.

My most prized possession is fork No 20, above. I bought it at a huge antique market in Detling in the UK. It has a tiny card-board tag which was attached to it by a piece of string. The hand-written words on the tag are: *I "looted"! this fork – going through YPRES in 1915, when the whole city was blazing and being v. heartily shelled by the Huns* – gives you goose-bumps doesn't it?

Take care till next time, Annie

1 Meat fork
2–8 Pickle forks
9 Ice cream fork
10 Fish fork
11 Bread fork
12 Bread fork
13 Beetroot fork
14 Bread fork
15 Fish fork
16 Beetroot fork
17 Fruit fork
18 Fruit fork
19 Oyster forks
20 Ypres fork

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Mingei Store House

in Village Square, Bungendore

MINGEI STORE House, newly set up in Bungendore's Village Square, is home to the work of Mary Taguchi and Sandy Lockwood. Mary works with indigo dyed cotton textiles, old and new, and Sandy is the maker of stoneware and porcelain ceramics. Mary lives and works locally, Sandy (on right) in the relatively nearby Southern Highlands, in a tranquil pocket of the Australian bush, her pots made from Australian stoneware and porcelain clays.

"It is when you put these cloths and pots together that you realise how stunning a table can look, for a simple meal or a more formal one ... ordinary things in life, but ordinary things are allowed to be beautiful! It is a pleasure to be selecting the right bowls for the evening meal: for pasta, for rice, for salad, for a meat dish; then combining these with stunning stencilled and woven cloths, some of them from many years past. All the cloths and pots are tough and serviceable: into the dishwasher, into the washing machine".

MINGEI STORE HOUSE, Village Square, Malbon Street, Bungendore
Thursday – Sunday 10am–5pm
Ph 6238 1185

— FOR THE DVD LIST... FILM REVIEWS —

by Judy Thompson

The love story of Aung San Suu Kyi

The Lady is a film about the life of Aung San Suu Kyi (Suu Kyi), the Burmese advocate of a non- violent transition to democracy for her country.

The film is essentially a story about the love between and amazingly strong partnership of Suu Kyi and her husband Michael.

The film unfolds its narrative through a series of flashbacks that show Suu Kyi's adoption as the moral leader of her country.

It also demonstrates the behind-the-scenes work of her husband in applying for her nomination to the Nobel Peace Prize. There is a very moving recreation of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech given by one of her sons on her behalf.

The toll of the isolation caused by her years of house arrest on her family and the refusal of the military junta to grant Michael a visa to visit her even when he was dying, are shown sympathetically.

Both Suu Kyi and Michael are portrayed with grace, dignity and gravitas.

However, critics of the film have compared it unfavourably to *The Iron Lady*, saying the film lacks iron, because the main characters are too saintly and at times stilted. On the other hand, Margaret and David recommended the film and gave it four stars and three and a half respectively.

Ian MacKinnon in *The Daily Telegraph* (8 November 2011) reported that Suu Kyi has said that she would watch the film when she is "courageous enough". The film has been watched by one of her sons who was reported to be "very moved."

Hugo charms all ages

Hugo is a film based on Brian Selznick's novel *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. The film is directed by Martin Scorsese and is set in 1930s Paris.

It is a visually gorgeous film suitable for children and well worth trying to rent or buy the DVD. It feels as though you have physically entered a beautifully illustrated children's storybook.

Philip French in his review of the film in *The Observer* on Sunday 4 December 2011, has described the film "as an imaginative history lesson in the form of a detective story".

Hugo is an orphan who lives in the railway station at Gare Montparnasse and is responsible for maintaining the clocks. Hugo's father was a clockmaker who died in a museum fire.

While not repairing the clocks and stealing food, Hugo works on restoring a clockwork mechanical man or automaton, using a notebook that his father had made. This was a project Hugo and his father had worked on together.

The automaton is missing a heart-shaped key, as well as other minor parts. While trying to steal parts for the automaton Hugo encounters Georges, an elderly toy-shop owner, who confiscates Hugo's notebook.

In attempting to recover the notebook Hugo meets Georges' goddaughter Isabelle who has a heart-shaped key. Together they uncover Georges' cinematic past and his link to the clockwork man.

Highly recommended.

Mingei Store House

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AUTUMN

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SATURDAY 26 MAY at 7pm
2012

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Talk and slides – *Mingei Beginnings – Cotton and Clay*
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Dinner and refreshments
Your Chun stoneware ***dinner bowl to take home***

Limited number of tickets available, so book early: $60 per person
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NOTE: **Mingei Store House** will remain open until 7pm this day

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"We need to tell you about Kris"

by Sarah Newsome

April's Fool tells the story of Toowoomba teenager Kristjan Teraud. It's the story of a young man who goes to a music festival with friends. They drink, they take drugs, they don't bathe for several days. Typical teenage stuff. That is, until it all goes horribly wrong.

Using 'verbatim' dialogue gathered from Kristjan's mother and father, brother and sister, shortly after his death, *April's Fool* turns the well-worn story of teenagers and drugs into a 'riveting and intimate journey'. Using their actual words has a profound impact: words of grief, of guilt, of confusion.

The play 'hits home' with teenagers and parents alike. Parents have no trouble imaging what it would be like to be Kristjan's parents. But how do teenagers react to yet another opportunity to be told: "Don't do drugs?"

"The actual words brings a truthfulness to it, that has them locked in their seats," says actor Sam Clarke, who plays Kristjan's younger brother Ari. "They can't escape the fact that this is about real people, that this actually happened.

"Kids today are savvy. They know about drugs, about the consequences of doing drugs. What they don't see are the ripple effects... to the family, to family friends, teachers, and people who knew him at TAFE, people who were at the hospital..."

Those people have been in the audiences recently as *April's Fool* returned to Toowoomba. With six degrees of separation, being in Kristjan's hometown gives it a 'special energy'.

"It's still very fresh... and it is a tremendous responsibility to tell this story," reflects Sam Clarke. "It can be emotionally draining, but we have this motto: We need to tell you about Kris."

April's Fool
Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre
Tuesday 15 May at 8.00pm
Wednesday 16 May at 10.30am & 8.00pm
Thursday 17 May at 10.30am & 8.00pm
Bookings: 6285 6290 or **www.theq.net.au**

A true story of love, family, strength and the choices we make. In April 2009, two weeks short of his nineteenth birthday, Toowoomba teenager Kristjan Terauds died due to complications from illicit drug use.

Using the words of Kristjan's friends and family, who were interviewed over many months, the result is a powerful mix of sadness, loss and love, laced with humour. April's Fool promises to be a thought-provoking and ultimately optimistic reflection on how we all live our lives.

15 MAY - 8PM
16 MAY - 10.30AM & 8PM
17 MAY - 10.30AM & 8PM

ADULTS $38
CONC. & GROUPS $33

Advice: Suitable for patrons 12+. Mild coarse language, haze and lighting effects.

Coralie's CORNER

Up and down the east coast

HAVE JUST returned from the Gold Coast to Canberra weather – and believe me you can tell the difference once stepping off the plane!

At the Gold Coast ran into dear friends Simon and Lisa Gallaher (Simon had just finished a tour singing in Ballarat and Bendigo) and retired director Peter Williams and his wife Ellen. The Gold Coast is having council elections at the moment, and it was fascinating to see how they have their polling booths and voting stands. However, was there to work on *Yes, Prime Minister* which is opening on the Gold Coast in May.

Horse spectacular

Whilst there was taken on a backstage tour and watched the wonderful *Australian Outback Spectacular – Spirit of the Horse* which had a segment paying tribute to Phar Lap. There wasn't a dry eye in the house of 1,000 patrons (which they get nightly).

Watching the cattle muster, horse roundup and the actors performing during the light and sound show was unbelievable, made me wonder... why can't we have a Canberra spectacular here with all the history of Parliament and the many Prime Minister's antics woven into a light and sound story?

Of course the Gold Coast has 600,000 residents and an ever-moving tourist population, and the main sponsor is RM Williams Outback Outfitters (they don't rely on government funding)!

However, if we ever build a bigger indoor stadium for sport, the stadium we have already would be a great venue for such a venture.

Alpaca Expo

There is going to be a large Alpaca Expo coming to Fitzroy Pavilion – Exhibition Park Canberra on 19 and 20 May from 10am to 4pm. For anyone even slightly interested in these wonderful animals I suggest you trot along – children will especially be delighted and it is FREE ENTRY.

It will be an excellent opportunity to speak with the most experienced alpaca breeders in the country, whist all will be conveniently allocated under one roof. Complete with a program of:

* demonstrations
* information sessions
* shearing
* fleece classing
* felting and spinning craft displays
* fashions, home wares, yarns and fleeces
* alpaca nursery with mums and bubs.

Free passes to *Celtic Divas*

So now we are looking forward to the *Celtic Divas* coming to the Canberra Theatre on 2 June – four beautiful young ladies who will enchant you with their singing. Celtic vocalists Eilis Kennedy, Pauline Scanlon, Noriana Kennedy and Nicola Joyce present a beautiful set of songs that emerge from the timeless and windswept landscapes of an ancient world that still lives on in the modern imagination.

We have two double passes to give away. Send 25 words or less telling us why you would like to see these four lovely lasses to: Celtic Divas, PO Box 506 Curtin ACT 2605 and you could be in the theatre on 2 June.

Hoping to see you in a foyer very soon,
Coralie Wood

motherhood
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- WHAT'S ON SYDNEY

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FRI 17 AUG - 8PM | SAT 18 AUG - 2PM & 8PM | SUN 19 AUG - 5PM

ADULTS $54 | CONC. & GROUPS $49 | ALL MATINEES $44
Advice: Adult Themes

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THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
Queanbeyan City Council

No person is an island

with Heike Hahner

A COUPLE of years ago, a friend of mine, who is in her early seventies, lost her younger dog quite unexpectedly. At the time she was advised by some people to not get another dog and especially not a puppy. They reasoned that the dog may outlive her and that a young pup was just too much for her to handle at her age.

Fortunately she did not heed their advice and bought a seven-week old Working Border Collie puppy. Now nearly two years on, her two cats and the older dog have passed on and if she had not taken the pup, she would now be alone. The young dog however, by now has become her faithful, happy companion and is the source of many social activities and enjoyment in her life.

All animals and humans live in multi-species communities. Only in the last 100 years or so have humans increasingly removed themselves from living in the company of other animals. Living without animals may be more hygienic, less stressful, easier, cheaper, or simply more convenient but it also is not normal.

Most humans naturally want to interact with and understand animals. Any doubts about that? Go and watch a petting zoo at a rural show somewhere.

There are very few children that do not like or are frightened of all animals. The rest are mesmerised and desperate to learn about animals. More so, they want to touch, hold and interact with the feathered and furred animals on display.

We are a tactile species

Humans are a very tactile species, they like to touch and be touched. The desire for kind physical contact does not diminish with age but the opportunities to do so do.

Pets, provide many people with the much-needed unconditional companionship and affection that they should be receiving through family connections, but in this age of independence and individuality there is little of it to be found for many, but especially the older generations.

Suzanne Clubb and Ella the pup in Bungendore.

Many people lose their loved ones or their friends as they age. Pets, especially dogs, provide a connection with the rest of the community, not just because they get people to go for walks but they also provide a conversation starter and a light-hearted topic to discuss.

A challenge to aged-care facilities

I have a number of friends who are very close to having to face the final stage in their lives of going into an aged-care facility. One of the things many of them dread is of what will happen to their beloved pet because they will not be allowed to take it.

My feelings are that we should help people to have and to keep their furry or feathered companion of choice in their homes and in care facilities. Our desire to want to live with animals is not a luxury but a basic human right.

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Star Search MAY

with Dr David Weldrake

The stars this month

MAY is the month when the bright stars of summer set in the west, and (later in the evening) the star clouds of the Milky Way start to appear low in the east. The Milky Way's rising heralds the onset of autumn, although we have to wait until mid-winter to see it at its best. The Milky Way is the galaxy within which our Sun resides, one galaxy out of countless billions of others in the Universe, and, for those with small telescopes, May provides an excellent opportunity to see some, in the constellations Leo and Virgo.

Sirius, the brightest star in the whole sky still dominates the western sky after sunset, with Canopus, the second brightest, nearby towards the southwest.

Can you see Achenar very low in the south? Achenar's name is Arabic, meaning 'the end of the river', and is the brightest star in Eridanus, a constellation named by the Greek philosopher Ptolemy in the 2nd Century AD. Achenar is a bright, blue star, and is known among astronomers as the flattest star known, with a diameter twice its height. This flatness is due to its extremely rapid rate of spin, the reason for which is unknown. Achenar will briefly disappear over the southern horizon next month, before starting to rise again in the southeast after that.

Alpha Centauri, the closest bright star to the Sun (and also an impressive double star when seen through a telescope) shines high in the southeast, close to Crux, the Southern Cross, which we discussed last month.

Close to Saturn high in the northeast is the star Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo. Spica is a hot blue star, with a surface temperature of 22,400 degrees Kelvin. Spica is 12,100 times more luminous than our Sun, and is a binary, with a companion star orbiting around it every four days; the two components are too close to be seen separately by even the Earth's most powerful telescopes.

Low in the northeast, and rising higher as the night progresses, is orange Arcturus, the fourth brightest star in the sky and the brightest in the Northern Hemisphere. Arcturus' name comes from ancient Greek, meaning 'the guardian of the bear' and its apparent brightness was thought to predict bad weather in ancient Rome. We now know Arcturus is an orange giant star, a full 26 times the radius of the Sun, 3,500,000,000,000,000km away. If you could drive there, it would take 400 million years to arrive.

Can you see that Arcturus is a reddish colour? This is due to its low surface temperature, only 4,300 degrees Kelvin. Try comparing it to blue Spica, yellow Alpha Centauri or white Sirius. All of the stars have a slightly different colour due to their surface temperatures, from the same physics that makes a fire burn a different colour depending on how hot it is.

The planets this month

Venus, which was shining in our evening skies for the past few months, has now moved closer to the Sun and, for the time that the attached map represents (8pm on 15 May), Venus has already set. It passes by the Sun in June, after that it will be visible as a bright 'star' in the early morning twilight. If you can spot Venus just after sunset in May, try looking at it through a pair of binoculars, as it will be a crescent shape, like the Moon just after new.

Mars and Saturn are the other two planets visible during May; Mars is seen as a fairly bright coppery-red 'star', positioned amongst the background stars of the constellation Leo. Mars was at its best in March this year, and is now slowly moving away from the Earth and looking a little fainter in our skies. Through a telescope, you can still see the white polar ice cap and dark surface markings, although these become harder to see as Mars continues to get further away. It will be visible in our skies for a long while yet, as it will not pass behind the Sun until April 2013.

Saturn was at its best for 2012 last month, and shines as a moderately bright yellowish ball in the constellation Virgo, very close to Spica (described above). Saturn is one of the most impressive objects to see through a small telescope, with its magnificent ring system and large collection of moons. Saturn will be visible in our skies for another five months, giving lots of opportunities to see it. The Moon was full on 6 May, and is new on 21 May. Half-phase is on 29 May, the best time to see the mountains and craters on the surface of the Moon through only a pair of binoculars.

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A regular visit by a volunteer can improve the emotional and physical well-being of an isolated person living in aged care.

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Fungi love wet weather

A Wamboin resident asked the Bulletin *to photograph a very large mushroom she found on her block. So we did (below) and for good measure asked* **Martin Butterfield** *to find out more about this season's amazing crop of fungi.*

The big mushroom growing on a Wamboin paddock.

IT IS NOT surprising that after two very damp years there have been a lot of fungi evident around the district. Many of them are interesting colours and shapes. It is also very important to note this warning from the Victorian Department of Health **www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Fungi_poisoning?open**:

> *Fungi can be poisonous. If eaten, poisonous fungi or mushrooms can cause hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and diarrhoea. Some can even cause liver failure and death. No home test can distinguish between edible and poisonous varieties of wild fungi. The only way to tell whether a mushroom is safe to eat is to have it identified by a mushroom expert (mycologist). Babies, toddlers and children should not eat any type of mushroom found in a park or garden.*

Are animals poisoned by fungi? Probably not enough is known, but...

Snails and slugs manage to eat fungi that will poison humans and it is known that lizards eat stinkhorns and that kangaroos and other macropods eat truffles without any ill-effects. Probably evolution would lead to animals knowing what was not safe to eat in their native habitat.

To illustrate the difficulty of identifying fungi correctly, a recent discussion on ABC radio said that approximately 92,000 species of fungus have been described to science; however, estimates of the total number of species range from 1 million to 5 million! With such numbers it is hardly surprising that they adopt a wide range of appearance.

The fungi we see around us are almost all native species, responding to the weather signals.

What we see above the ground is just the fruiting bodies of the fungus – the reproductive structures, equivalent to the seed-bearing fruit of plants. The bulk of the organism – the vegetative structures, equivalent to the trunk and branches of a plant – is underground (for terrestrial species) or within the body of the host plant (in the case of epiphytes).

What has happened to the meadow mushrooms?

For some reason – possibly related to the height and density of the grass – there have been few field mushrooms (*Agaricus campestris* which are edible **if one is certain** what they are) around this year. The glistening white caps of *Macrolepiota dolichaula* have appeared in their place. They have cream gills rather than the pinky grey of the field mushroom and **should not** be eaten.

The recent fatalities in Canberra were caused by people eating the deadly Deathcap (*Amanita phalloides*) mistaking it for a similar-looking species. These are a non-indigenous species, always associated with oak trees but in this area do not appear to grow outside Canberra.

In autumn one of the most colourful species, **[1]** Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) has sprung up, in large numbers, under many pine trees and cork oaks. This non-native species is also poisonous. Both of these species have been introduced to Australia by humans, bringing the fungi in as mycorrhiza on the roots of plants (there was no quarantine in early days). However, very few species have been introduced: less than 100 exotic species are known in a total estimated Australian population of thousands of species.

The range of colours displayed by fungi is very wide. Many native species have reddish caps while others are purple or green. The colours of the undersides, whether gills or pores, can be white, cream yellow or pink. A colour chart to aid in identifying the species has 190 entries!

Another example of a very colourful native species is *Ramariopsis crocea*. This is a member of group of fungi called 'Stinkhorns'; a very apt name since they are horn-shaped and stink! This attracts flies and other insects to the fungus. Some texts refer to them as tropical but this year they have been reported all over the district, often associated with mulch.

Another form of stinkhorn is the **[2]** Seastar Stinkhorn (*Anthurus archeri*) which resembles a dead, red seastar (but these tend to be found in grassland, far from the sea). Again, the species is highly aromatic and thus attracts flies and other insects

A much smaller (20mm high) fungus is the **[3]** Yellow Navel (*Omphalina chromacea*). This species is always found in damp areas, in association with a film of green algae over the soil. It is not surprising that it is very widespread, especially in the damp weather of recent times.

The district is not graced with coral reefs but this year we have had many examples of coral fungus which come in clumps. They are a variety of colours from grey to pink to yellow. The pictured specimen is *Ramariopsis crocea* **[4]**.

There are also a wide range of fungi which grow on trees, both living and dead. The lumps of White Punk (*Laetiporus portentosus*) growing on the bark of living eucalypts can be 350mm in diameter. Much smaller – individual brackets 70mm x 50mm – epiphytic species such as **[5]** Rainbow Bracket (*Trametes versicolour*), which usually grows on dead and fallen timber, causes the wood to decay, thus starting the process of forming soil. It often forms a series of layers of various colours.

For further information about fungi **www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap** is a good start!

— COMMUNITY NOTICES —

NORTHERN WOMBATS CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Teachers, other citizens asked to get involved

"MANY PEOPLE are unaware that there are 13 times more giant pandas in the world than there are northern hairy nosed wombats in Australia," said director of The Wombat Foundation, Jacqui Mills.

Australians will be urged to 'Wear Whiskers for Wildlife' on **Hairy Nosed Day: Friday, 11 May**. This is a project of The Wombat Foundation, the not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation of the critically endangered northern hairy nosed wombat, resident in Queensland.

Australians are asked to hold their own Hairy Nosed Day events and to send photos of themselves with hairy noses to The Wombat Foundation. Send photos and 'wishes for wildlife' to **enquiries@wombatfoundation.com.au**.

The website **www.wombatfoundation.com.au** has lots of fundraising ideas and information for celebrating Hairy Nose Day. The teachers' website being launched on Hairy Nose Day is **www.wombatresources.com**.

NARG Wildlife Rescue and Handling Course 26 May

(*previously postponed due to bad weather*)

LEARN ABOUT wildlife, rescue, handling, animal first aid and risks. The course will be held Saturday 26 May, 10am–4pm (register from 9.30am) at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club. It's free! Refreshments and notes provided, but BYO lunch or buy locally. RSVP to Dianne via phone on 0411 614 675 or email at **Dianne.colman@marymead.org.au** or Phil on 6238 3717. The Native Animal Rescue Group operates in the Braidwood/Nerriga region, but all are welcome.

NSW GOVERNMENT Department of Primary Industries

SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY

The Sustainable Grazing program presents:

Farming Carbon in Soil... Opportunities for agriculture

This half day seminar is suitable for land managers wanting to increase the resilience of their farming system through strategies to increase the amount of carbon in soil. It identifies practices which build soil carbon and highlights the importance of increasing the amount of soil organic matter.

Presented by:
Susan Orgill, Research Officer – Soil Carbon
Postgraduate Researcher – Soil (EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation)

When: Friday the 18 May 2012
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Where: NSW Government offices
159 Auburn Street, Goulburn

Cost: Free

Please RSVP to:
Dale Chalker – NSW DPI Goulburn
Phone: (02) 4828 6600
Email: goulburn.office@industry.nsw.gov.au

Teenagers wanted for exchange program to Japan

by Jessica Frecklington

SINCE 1992, Queanbeyan and Minami Alps have had a highly successful relationship, with Queanbeyan students visiting Minami Alps every second year and Japanese students visiting every alternate year.

Queanbeyan City Council is currently seeking students aged between 14 and 17 to go on exchange to its sister city of Minami Alps in Japan from 23 September to 2 October 2012 – and have the experience of a lifetime!

Minami Alps, set in a basin, is a city of 72,000 people, situated 100km west of Tokyo.

Interested students wishing to partake in the exchange program would be hosted by Japanese families and would have a set itinerary for the length of their stay.

Deputy Major of Queanbeyan Peter Bray was a chaperone on the last trip to Japan; he said "It was a cultural visit, not a holiday.

"We had an amazing time, it was wonderful."

The ten year 10 students who embarked on the 2010 trip to Minami Alps, accompanied by two chaperones, were astounded by the degree of activities they were treated to whilst on their stay.

2010 exchange participants dressed for a formal tea ceremony (back) Madeline Gagel, Shawnee Robinson-Kite, Jacob Galafassi, Peter Bray (chaperone), Michaella Finch, Rebecca Horne, Sharon Barlett and Daniel Harrison; (front) Maddison Whan and Sofia Williams. PHOTO: ROBYN BARTLETT

Some of the highlights for the students were a formal Japanese tea ceremony, dressed in kimonos; a day trip to Mount Fuji and Tokyo; screen printing, clay making, grape picking, jam making and calligraphy lessons; experiencing traditional Japanese food; visiting the local high school Hattamurra; a trip to Disneyland

Said Queanbeyan student Jacob Galafassi: "The trip to Minami Alps was amazing – the home stay gave us the opportunity to really participate in the lifestyle and appreciate the culture.

Many new friends were made and spending the day at a Japanese school was almost like being famous!"

"We were treated like rock stars," agreed Peter Bray. "It was exciting."

Applications are open for a delegation of 10–13 students aged 14–17. Additionally, 2–3 chaperones are required for the exchange. Interested students and chaperones are encouraged to obtain a copy of the background material and submit an application form by Friday 29 June 2012. Anyone requiring further information about the student exchange is encouraged to contact Helen Hone at Queanbeyan City Council on 6285 6167.

Queanbeyan City Council

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT INTEGRATED PLANS

Notice is hereby given that Queanbeyan City Council's draft Operational Plan 2012–13 and the draft Schedule of Fees and Charges and Revenue Policy 2012–13 are available for public submission or comment.

The period for public submissions commenced on Friday 27 April 2012 and will conclude on Friday 25 May 2012.

Written submissions may be made to the Council at any time during this period. Alternatively, submissions can be made using the e-form provided on Council's website under *Documents on Public Exhibition*.

You are encouraged to make submissions as early as possible to ensure that Council can give due consideration to your comments and input.

On Wednesday 13 June 2012 an opportunity will be provided for those persons who advise in their submission that they wish to address councillors on their submission.

This will be held in the Council Chambers, 253 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan immediately following the Planning and Development Review Committee meeting (about 6.30pm).

Copies of the draft Plans are available at the Customer Service Centre, 257 Crawford Street, the Queanbeyan Library or may be downloaded from Council's website at **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

Submissions can be forwarded to
The General Manager,
Queanbeyan City Council,
PO Box 90, Queanbeyan
NSW 2620
and be marked 'Draft Operational Plan Submission' or emailed to **council@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

It's the framing, doofus

REMEMBER that phrase made famous by the first Bill Clinton campaign for US President? "It's the economy, stupid" – ie, why talk about anything else?

It seems both our national governments have well and truly internalised that lesson, along with the political and economic media – to the point where now it seems the endless focus on the bottom line has obliterated every other social value in our daily news narratives – well, except for scandal mongering and personality destruction, if those can be called values.

It's even more insidious than you might think. I learned in recent research work for a higher degree (almost in my grasp!), the huge role that information framing plays in guiding what society *thinks* is happening even as the evidence shows otherwise. Not unlike classic propaganda techniques.

POLITICS TODAY

with Maria Taylor

My research showed that (contrary to the fuzzy debate picture we've been fed for the last 15 years) science findings on global warming/climate change causes and impacts changed very little between the late 1980s and 2012. They were definite and not hard to understand. More recent evidence mainly confirms that unpleasant effects are likely to happen suddenly and faster than once thought.

What did change was the policy and public narratives which went from "can do" to "can't do" on tackling greenhouse gas pollution, as it used to be called. The narrative frame shifted in the 1990s. It went from an ethical, risk insurance and global good citizen story in both policy and media reports before 1992 to quite a different story by 1996 and thereafter.

Under Howard's Coalition we cemented our present blinkered obsession with the economy and our view of Australia's special place in the world. It became unreasonable to ask us to clean up our pollution or take a hard look at what we were doing with our coal export business.

Denial and a sort of entitled inward-looking world were encouraged by this narrative frame. After a decade and more of this narrative, our public economic discussions have become ridiculous and contradictory, but everyone just nods because it's about the economy, stupid.

We let the federal Opposition frame every government initiative as bad and wrong for the economy (exhibit A the budget surplus … even though the Coalition was beating up the government for not having a surplus a year ago). This is reaching such epidemic proportions that it gives many people a daily headache, and many are seriously angry and confused. It couldn't be done without the cheer squad of the mass media, particularly the Murdoch press, like *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Australian*, which wants badly to get rid of the current government, and the 'me too' ABC.

Now we're being asked to reconsider whether we (in this very wealthy country) can after all *afford* a price on carbon pollution. It's always framed as unfair to families' hip pockets – not whether families might like a liveable planet for their children.

One political reporter suggested Julia Gillard should finally stand up and sell the environmental (he should have said risk insurance) reasons behind the government's climate change package. But he concluded, shame, it's too late. Tony Abbott framed the whole discussion long ago as being only about the economy and supposedly nothing can change that.

So now, I for one am desperately seeking someone with a big enough voice to say "enough"!

PALERANG COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
Council approved the following development applications in April 2012.
Development Consents are available for public inspection free of charge at Council's offices during ordinary business hours.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2011.306	Three (3) Lot Subdivision	20/04/2012	Lot 1 DP828905 129 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2011.377	Internal Alterations to Residence & New Lift Access	16/04/2012	Lot 1 DP711583 84–86 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.016	Residential – Manufactured Dwelling	23/04/2012	Lot 27 DP736646 194 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2012.018	Dual Occupancy and Continued Use of Existing Dwelling	03/04/2012	Lot 7 DP1141290 60 Lumley Road WAMBOIN
DA.2012.031	External Staircase	04/04/2012	Lot 1 DP784958 123 Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.039	Residential – Single new dwelling	04/04/2012	Lot 178 DP44403 Boro Road BORO
DA.2012.041	Dwelling	19/04/2012	Lot 21 DP1168479 8 Hereford Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.042	Home based business – beauty salon	05/04/2012	Lot 1206 DP1103174 6 Lundie Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.046	Alterations & Additions to dwelling	04/04/2012	Lot 2 DP836061 104 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.047	Residential – Single new dwelling	04/04/2012	Lot 829 DP1129595 9 Lithgow PlaceBUNGENDORE
DA.2012.050	Dwelling & Shed	19/04/2012	Lot 12 DP1088465 2279 Hoskinstown Road ROSSI
DA.2012.052	Dual Occupancy	19/04/2012	Lot 1 DP731998 1371 Sutton Road SUTTON
DA.2012.062	Dwelling	18/04/2012	Lot 44 DP1170008 17 Angus Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.072	2 x Patios	03/04/2012	Lot 130 DP755911 14 Hawthorne Lane BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.073	Shed	02/04/2012	Lot 10 DP1058499 1 Llewellyn Drive BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.074	Shed	02/04/2012	Lot 3 DP833270 36 Monkittee Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.076	Dwelling	26/04/2012	Lot 43 DP1170008 20 Angus Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2012.082	Shed	18/04/2012	Lot 2 DP841326 216 Bombay Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2012.087	Shed	24/04/2012	Lot 3 DP856637 3 Shinglehouse Road BYWONG

Grass roots democracy anyone?

Residents and ratepayers won't be getting a referendum after all on whether or not the Palerang LGA should be divided into several wards for local government elections. In a surprise move at the May Council meeting, an unusual coalition of Councillors raised and won motions against putting the referendum on the September ballot.

Councillor Pete Harrison who has a strong community base in Wamboin, has long been the prime mover for the ward idea, at least putting it to the people. His argument is that the communities of Palerang were previously well-served by a ward system with three Councillors from each ward, and that the abolition of wards and the peculiarities of the electoral system have allowed the local government area to be dominated by minority interests in the past two Councils (the two under Palerang).

For a variety of reasons, political and philosophical, Councillors Cockram, Moore, Turley, Goonan and the Mayor Walter Raynolds (not known to vote all together often) combined to knock the referendum idea on the head. General Manager Peter Bascomb is known not to like the idea either. But what do other residents and ratepayers think, either way?

What's On – May

Send your announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

During May
Exhibition – Jenny Sheppard
Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, open daily 10–4.30pm. Contact 6238 1640.

Until Sunday 13
Art in the Gardens with Friends
Australian National Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre Gallery, Clunies Ross Street, daily 9am–4pm. Exhibition featuring 67 botanical paintings and drawings dedicated to Australian bush tucker and other native plants. For more info 6250 9540 or visit **www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/whatson/index.html**.

Until Monday 14
Exhibition – Ian McKenzie
Bungendore Wood Works Gallery. For more information see **www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au** or call 6238 1682.

Until Wednesday 27 June
CSIRO Discovery Science Art Workshops
CSIRO Discovery, Clunies Ross Street, Acton. Join Eva Papp as she delivers a variety of free Science Art Workshops for juniors, seniors and families. Booking are essential. Please call 6246 4646 to secure your place now.

Until Monday 9 July
Exhibition – New work by Kate Carruthers
X Gallery, 32 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore, Friday to Monday 11am–5pm. Landscapes from the Braidwood and Bungendore region. For more info 6238 0550 or 0417 730 087.

Thursday 10 to Saturday 12
The Gruffalo's Child
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A musical adaptation of the much loved children's book. For more info see **www.theq.net.au,** 6285 6290.

Friday 11 to Sunday 20
18th Annual Canberra International Music Festival
Various venues and times. Choose from over 30 concerts of classical, contemporary and jazz featuring national and international artists in a variety of iconic spaces. Tickets available from Canberra Ticketing. For more information 6230 5880 or email **info@cimf.org.au**.

Friday 11
Wear Whiskers for Wombats – Hairy Nosed Day
Project of The Wombat Foundation. *Details see Community Notices on p17.*

Saturday 12
Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival
Bungendore Oval, Majara Street, Bungendore**.** Rotary's Lake George Harvest Festival is a 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 and much more than a market or a food and wine show – it will be a celebration of all that we harvest from the Earth! See **www.rotaryharvestfestival.com**.

***Satire at Vivaldi's* – a cure for the budget blues**
Teatro Vivaldi, ANU Campus. Just as the budget and the budget reply have sunk in, what better way to survive the onslaught from Swan and Gillard, Abbott and Hockey, Thompson and Slipper, than a night of laughs from Shortis and Simpson. Three-course dinner and show $70/$80/$90, show only $40. Bookings 6257 2718.

Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade General Meeting
Wamboin Fire Station, Bingley Way at 1.30pm.

Learn to Spin Alpaca Fibre
Alpaca Magic, Sutton. Learn to spin using the Roberta Electronic Spinning Machine. 3 x 3 hour classes, 3 consecutive Saturdays. For times and more info see **www.alpacamagic.com.au** or phone Glynda on 0422 733 064.

Sunday 13 Mother's Day

Hoskinstown Chestnut Roast
Hoskinstown Community Hall, 10am–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. For more information call Jan on 6238 2072 or Rowan on 6238 2890.

Tuesday 15
Wamboin Community Association May General Meeting
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17
April's Fool
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A true story of love, family, strength and the choices we make. For more info see **www.theq.net.au,** 6285 6290. *Preview p15.*

Saturday 19
Captain Flat Community Bush Dance
The hall, 5pm.

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20
Belinda Ingram – Pastel Worshop
Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl. Bookings are now being taken. Ring Belinda on 62861754 or Jean on 6297 8181.

Epic Alpaca Expo weekend
Fitzroy Pavilion, Exhibition Park, Canberra, 10am–4pm. Breeding stock auction on Sunday. Displays and sales of fleece, yarn, fashions, homewares; information sessions and demonstrations. For more info visit **www.alpacasouthern.com.au**.

***120 Birds* by Liz Lea**
The Street Theatre, 15 Childers Street, Acton. *120 Birds* is the rise and fall of an Australian dance company in the 1920s and 30s. Be prepared for vintage outfits, outrageous archival images from the National Film and Sound Archive and a magnificent mixture of choreography exploring tango, Charleston and waltz. A Made in Canberra production. For more info call 6247 1223 or visit **www.thestreet.org.au**.

Sunday 20
A Celebration of Wool
Old Bus Depot Markets, 21 Wentworth Ave, Kingston, 10am–4pm. Meet craftspeople from Canberra, the region and interstate to see the amazing things they create with wool. Contact details: 6292 8391 or website **www.obdm.com.au**.

Wednesday 23
Literary Lunch with Pat Farmer
Kangaroos Rugby League Football Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan, 12.30pm. A two-course lunch and discussion with Pat Farmer. Cost: $25pp. For more information or bookings phone 0438 718 910 or email **catriona@nibblez.com.au**.

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow
Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Bourke Street, 6.30pm for 7pm. With a selection of Australian, international and special guest comedians, the Roadshow is literally all the best bits of the Comedy Festival condensed into one all killer, no filler travelling event. Tickets: $25 adults, $20 concession. Bookings 4821 7018.

Friday 25

HOME in Queanbeyan Fundraising Movie Night
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The movie to be screened is *The Lives of Others* and featuring a Charity Auction of an exclusive Lady Gaga Package. Tickets: $65. For more info see **www.theq.net.au** or call 6285 6290.

27th Rural Trade Fair
124 Hume St, Goulburn, 10am–3.30pm. Exhibitors, seminars, give-aways, raffles, demonstrations and more.

Presentation – *Serving in the Force*
NSW Police Academy Library, Goulburn, 10am. NSW State Records archivist Janette Pelosi will examine the history of the NSW and colonial police forces. For more information contact Lynn Bonomini on 4823 4435 or email **library@strl.nsw.gov.au**.

Saturday 26
Rural Fire Service Basic Firefighter Course
Windellama. Register now by contacting Ashley Armstrong on 4844 5387.

Competition/Exhibition – *Along the Molonglo*
Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl. Open to all artists. Entries close 26 May. For more info call 6297 8181.

NARG Wildlife Rescue & Handling Course
Braidwood Servicemens' Club, 10am–4pm (register from 9.30am). *For more info see Community Notices p17.*

Wednesday 30
An introduction to personal training and gentle exercise for beginners
Public seminar Captains Flat, 7.30, Hotel. For more information contact 6236 6201.

Thursday 31 & Friday 1 June
Film – *Warren Miller's Like There's No Tomorrow*
National Gallery of Australia in the James O'Fairfax Theatre, Parkes Place, Canberra, 6.30pm and 8.45pm. 62nd annual epic action snow feature film. Limited screenings. Limited capacity. More at **warrenmiller.com.au**.

– GIG GUIDE: May –

Friday 11
The Jukes, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.
Al Green Trio, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.
Brewn, Lake George Hotel, Bungendore.

Saturday 12
Authorised Bootleg, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.

Thursday 17
Nigel Wearne – Melbourne-based singer-songwriter with a compelling blend of country and folk. Anglican Church Hall, 7pm. Enquiries 4842 8142.

Friday 18
Hit & Run, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.
The Bridge Between, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.
Wayne Ryder, Lake George Hotel, Bungendore.

Saturday 19
Bush Dance, 5pm, Captains Flat Hall.
Swizz, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.
Nicki Gillis, The Loaded Dog, Tarago.

Friday 25
The Jukes, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.
R&R, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.
Karaoke, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Saturday 26
MLC, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.

EVERY MONTH:

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

1st Saturday of every month (except April)
The Captains Flat Country Markets
Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Stalls $12 call 0438 600 447 or email **www.captains flat.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, deli delights and more. For more contact Bob Shaw on 4844 5001.

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

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

– Plan ahead for June –

8–23 June
The Queanbeyan Players present Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. For more info see **www.theq.net.au** or call 6285 6290.

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Dr Mike Kelly AM MP
Federal Member for Eden-Monaro

Temporary Electorate Office
My office has moved to temporary offices at
Unit 3, Level 1, Morisset House, Morissett Street, Queanbeyan.

I will be moving into my new permanent offices within a few months to
19–25 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan 2620.

During this changeover all our contact details remain the same so please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any Federal matters that I can assist you with.

Post: PO Box 214 Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Cost of local call: 1300 659 730 **Tel:** (02) 6284 2211 **Fax:** (02) 6284 2250
Email: Mike.Kelly.MP@aph.gov.au **Website:** www.mikekelly.alp.org.au

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