THE DISTRICT
Bulletin
MoVEMBER 2011
COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN

Jerrabomberra Community Bank® Branch opens 23 Nov see more p3

The nobel art of winemaking

by Peter Davies

PHOTOS: BRIAN SCHMIDT by BELINDA PRATTEN, ANU; VINEYARD by BRIAN SCHMIDT; SUPERNOVA courtesy SHUTTERSTOCK

OUR DISTRICT is home to a very talented scientist and winemaker – Nobel Prize winner Professor Brian Schmidt.

The 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics was recently awarded to Saul Perlmutter, Brian Schmidt, and Adam Riess for the 1998 discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe through observations of distant supernovae. Despite the somewhat obvious (to me) but incorrect conclusion that gravity would result in a slowing of expansion, Brian and his team were able to demonstrate that the reverse was in fact correct.

As an astronomer at the Research school of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the ANU (formerly Mt Stromlo and Siding Springs Observatories) Brian still works with supernovae (exploding stars) and Gamma Ray Bursts. He is now heading up a project to build a new telescope that will map the Southern Skies.

We can scarcely do justice in the space available to the fascinating astronomical journey involving the Hubble telescope, monitoring light shifts in distance stars, and Einstein's General Theory of Relativity amongst other chapters that paved the way to the top science prize.

The possibility that the universe is accelerating by some unknown form that is spread throughout the Cosmos is a principal conclusion still being tested by the ANU team and their international colleagues as they delve deep into the skies. You'll find the whole story on Brian's very good home page at **mso www.anu.edu.au**. Click on 'the accelerating universe'.

The other life of Brian

A quite different but also successful quest takes place on family acreage between Wamboin and Sutton. Here Brian has planted 1.1 hectares of grapes, specialising in the red grape variety Pinot Noir.

His small winery, Maipenrai (Thai for "It's all right") overlooks the Yass River Valley, 760 metres above sea level where the vineyard's rocky soil and cool climate make growing Pinot Noir a constant challenge, but what results is an intensely flavoured wine.

The Canberra Wine District is home to winemaker mathematicians, public

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Cleanseeds – where Bungendore's farmers shop

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Annie's is planning to have a grand reopening on 19 November –
hopefully with all the bargains I have sourced from the antique markets in Amsterdam and London.

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Deadline for contributions and advertising booking:
25 November 2011

Website: **www.districtbulletin.com.au**

In addition to mailbox delivery, this free monthly publication is available from:
Braidwood: various cafes. **Bungendore:** Bungendore Newsagency, Feedshed, Foodlovers. **Palerang Council Chambers:** Bungendore and Braidwood. **Queanbeyan:** Queanbeyan Library foyer; Riverside Plaza; Link Plaza (near Country Energy); and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres. **Wamboin:** Shepherd's Run.

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Published monthly by: The Bungendore Bulletin Pty Ltd ISSN 1035–1299

Welcome Jerrabomberra
NEWEST COMMUNITY BANK IN OUR REGION

THEY say 'from little thing's big things grow', and that sums up the Jerrabomberra Community Bank project. What started as a discussion grew into an idea, a challenge and ultimately a success story. The community steering committee for the project had some difficult moments, including a global financial crisis, but reached their original goal of opening a Bendigo **Community Bank®** branch in Jerrabomberra.

This branch will be the 288th **Community Bank®** opened in a total branch network of 480 for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. It's easy to forget that the concept of the **Community Bank®** Branch began only 13 years ago in rural Victoria when now the numbers of new branch openings are approaching 20 each year.

Community Bank® branches provide more than just quality banking services – they deliver employment opportunities for local people, keep local capital in the community, are a local investment option for shareholders and provide a source of revenue for important community projects determined by the local community. In fact up to 80 percent of the operating profits received by the Community Bank Company are available to fund worthy projects. (Profit is split 50:50 with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.)

Brian Brown (left) with Jerrabomberra resident and sporting hero Terry Campese who is an enthusiastic Ambassador for the Jerrabomberra bank campaign.

Getting here from there: what's involved

Getting a local branch started has a number of phases that begin with asking the community to pledge or show their willingness to purchase shares in the **Community Bank®**. A feasibility study follows and a prospectus is prepared. Shares in the company that will run the local branch are sold to members of the community. With enough shares sold and working capital on the books the branch is ready to open its doors.

Brian Brown is the steering committee President and newly elected Director of Molonglo Financial Services Ltd (MFS), the community owned company that will operate the new **Community Bank®** branch. He reflects on the effort made over the past few years and is beaming at the imminent opening of the branch.

"It's wonderful to think that not only will Jerrabomberra residents have a local bank, offering the full range of banking services, the community bank model offers so much more in terms of social and economic support for the region," he said.

This sentiment is shared by MFS Chairman Jayson Hinder. He noted "the Jerrabomberra **Community Bank®** is the third in our network and as we move in to the tenth year of operation, it's fantastic to think that we have been able to return $1 million to the ACT and surrounding regions.

"Our fourth branch is not far away with the Curtin **Community Bank®** project well underway. Four branches will enable us to increase our support for small local sporting groups and larger charity organisations and that's something to be proud of."

Brown said Jerrabomberra residents are able to open accounts before the grand opening at the stalls held on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings in the centre.

The branch will be open for business on Monday 21 November however the Grand Opening of the Jerrabomberra Community Bank Branch is set for Wednesday 23 November at 10.30 with formalities to begin at 11am. Everybody is welcome to attend the celebration.

COURT ACTIONS FILED AGAINST GOLD MINE
Frog, turtle kill raises alarm

PEACH growers and other agriculturalists in the Araluen Valley gained a reprieve from proposed gold mining activity at Major's Creek affecting their water supply with the filing of several court actions in the past months.

> ***"I have been watching this creek for nearly 38 years. I have never seen anything like this. Everything was dead – frogs, tadpoles, snake-necked turtles, even the insect life."*** – JACKIE FRENCH

The Dargues Reef Mine and Ore Processing proposal is currently being appealed by the Eurobodalla Shire Council, Coastwatchers and South East Regional Conservation Alliance (SERCA) in the Land and Environment Court. The Araluen Producers and Protectors of the Environment have also asked Federal Minster Tony Burke to 'please explain' his approval of the project without a documented assessment of the listed endangered species downstream of the site.

A press release from the Araluen producers says they fear the mining operations will place approximately 800,000 cubic metres of tailings dam waste contaminated by toxic chemicals and heavy metals at the headwaters of the Araluen, Deua and Moruya rivers.

They estimate the mine operation may also remove 215 megalitres of water each year from the already stressed Araluen peach orchards and nature reserves.

Mystery? Creek dead zone

A taste of what may lie ahead occurred on 8 August when author and valley resident Jackie French noticed that the frogs in Major's Creek that runs through her property (downstream from the mining site) had fallen silent.

She investigated and found that a five kilometer stretch of the creek was a 'dead zone', from just below the site of the approved Dargues Reef mine.

French said the creek at this point contained the endangered Giant Burrowing Frog, Green and Gold Bell Frog, and is the water source for other endangered animals like the Spotted Quoll and Powerful Owl, the critically endangered Araluen Gum, as well as wallabies, wombats and other animals of the Major's Creek Conservation Area and private nature reserves.

The creek is also the headwaters of the Moruya River System, source of Eurobodalla drinking water 30km downstream, and the peach orchards of the Araluen valley.

French was unable to get authorities to investigate. She says she contacted the NSW Office of

Continued p15

Bendigo Bank

Palerang Financial Services Limited

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Palerang Financial Services Ltd (ACN: 097 801 100) is to be held at the:

Bungendore Bowling & Sports Club
20 Turallo Terrace
Bungendore NSW 2621

Thursday **24 November 2011** at **7pm**.

Pre-meeting entertainment will commence at 6:30pm and is provided by the ***Bungendore & District Concert Band*** which will be followed by the formal meeting at 7pm.

A light supper will follow the announcement of the recipients of the
Outstanding Community Achiever Award's
for Braidwood & Bungendore.

The meeting is open to interested residents and community volunteers of the Palerang Shire.

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Palerang adopts friendlier, cheaper fencing standard

FOLLOWING community submissions to a public exhibition, Palerang Councillors have adopted a model standard for wildlife-friendly fencing for new developments, that is also less likely to injure horses or other stock.

Expensive barbed wire or narrowly-spaced plain wire plus ringlock as the all-purpose default fence now has an alternative acceptable to local authorities. The new state-of-the-art model may be useful to all interested landholders.

(The *Bulletin's* editor strongly supported the new standard and congratulates Council).

The Council standard is required of fences facing public roadways and public open space and relates only to NEW subdivisions. Sidefencing is not a requirement. Stock-proof fencing for people with such animals remains the responsibility of the landholder and is clearly a 'horses for courses' situation.

The change in minimum standard will be less costly for developers who often outline blocks with fencing, and is far less likely to kill or injure wildlife while allowing animals to migrate as more dense development occurs. Submissions also documented the damage to horses and sometimes cattle by traditional barbed wire fencing.

New standard

The new standard calls for a top PVC-coated (horse-sighter) wire, a bottom plain wire 300mm above the ground, and two plain wires in-between (four wires total). The second wire must be at least 300mm below the top wire, to lessen the possibility of kangaroos twisting their legs between wires as they go over.

Staff advised that barbed wire could not be 'banned' but noted that in rural residential areas new fences using barbed wire are not automatically allowed and require a good reason and development consent from Council.

Palerang News

This community update, to be published monthly in the *District Bulletin*, is part of a variety of strategies Council will be developing to improve the information flow between Council and the community. Palerang Council's recent strategic planning forums revealed widespread community concern about the lack of information from Council.

Another strategy will be to have more meetings in alternative locations to Braidwood and Bungendore. Council's meeting on 6 October, was held at Captains Flat.

Auditor's report

At that meeting a significant item on the agenda was the presentation by Council's auditor of his report for the 2010-2011 financial year. It was pleasing to councillors and staff to learn that Palerang was amongst the first ten Councils in NSW to submit their annual statements. More important was the auditor's positive opinion on the financial health of the organisation.

The Auditor complimented Council on its financial position, commenting that he believed that Palerang would be one of the few Councils to report a surplus for the year. Only by achieving surpluses will Council be in a position to address the substantial infrastructure backlog – a position being faced across all Councils and governments.

The auditor indicated that a significant risk to Council was its reliance on private works – that is, where Council undertakes work on a commercial basis, typically road making or pipe laying. If Council lost even a part of this work it would be difficult to retain our surplus.

Council management and staff deserve credit for their diligence in managing costs and putting Council on a sound financial footing after its difficult formative years.

Braidwood Literary Institute building

Another important decision taken at the Captains Flat meeting was to renovate the former Braidwood library building as Council's administration office in Braidwood. This is a boost for the staff in Braidwood and also for the community, as it will release the historic former Braidwood Literary Institute building for community use.

New fencing standards

Council's fencing standards have recently been reviewed, amended and agreed. This has been in response to residents' concerns about what is required to be a stock proof fence and what is required to allow free and safe movement of wildlife. Many residents were concerned that Council was insisting on stock proof fencing for rural residential areas where it wasn't necessary.

To address this, Council has revised its Development Control Plan to change the fence standard required at time of subdivision. This will allow the option to have wildlife friendly fences, or stock proof fences. The changes will affect new developments, not existing fences, and they don't apply to fences between properties. The onus is still on landowners to choose and use appropriate fences to hold their stock.

Water upgrades

Council recently contracted for upgraded water treatment plants in Braidwood and Bungendore. For Bungendore this will help to address the water requirements due to the expansion of the village while in Braidwood it will overcome quality and health issues with the current supply from the Shoalhaven River.

Roadside collection trial

A comprehensive survey of residents in Burra, Royalla and Urila indicated very strong support for a trial of a roadside recycling collection service in these areas. The trial was proposed in response to ongoing problems with public recycling stations in Burra and Royalla. With the commencement of the trial, the most abused of these recycling stations have now been removed. Many survey respondents commented positively on Council's consultation process and indicated a degree of interest in a similar collection service for household waste.

The success of the trial will be assessed early in 2012, when residents will again be surveyed for their feedback.

Captains Flat rail precinct renovation

After the sudden demise last year of the historic Captains Flat ore loader, which was demolished by the Australian Rail Track Corporation, the Captains Flat Community Association has been liaising with the Corporation to restore the site's visual and cultural significance. The Association asked for our assistance in this process and at the Captains Flat meeting, Council agreed.

This will result in a lease between Council and the Country Rail Infrastructure Authority, which opens the way for work to begin on restoring elements in the area. While the ore loader has gone, what remains of other historic parts can be enhanced. It is planned to restore other remnants of the past rail history such as the weighbridge, scales and the locomotive turntable.

Complemented by interpretive displays, these will combine to demonstrate the history, the ore trains and significance of the rail line to the town.

For more information about Council and community activities in Palerang, check out our website www.palerang.nsw.gov.au

PALERANG COUNCIL

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Queanbeyan City Council

Queanbeyan update

with Mayor, Cr Tim Overall

Message from **the Mayor**

It's important for a community to have a goal to work towards and Queanbeyan is no different. In 2006 Council engaged a company to develop a community vision for Queanbeyan to 2021. After some extensive consultation, the community identified a number of priorities for the Queanbeyan community. When this exercise was undertaken it was envisaged that a major review would be conducted after five years. In early October Council appointed People Place and Partnership (PPandP) to conduct the review and the engagement process will be undertaken during November. The success of this review is very dependent on the community taking ownership for the vision and letting PPandP know how you want to see Queanbeyan in the future. Stage 1 of the engagement process will be conducted during November and residents of the Queanbeyan Local Government Area are invited to attend and participate in the following events.

November activities

Thursday 10 November 6pm-8pm: Two simultaneous workshops will be held for both urban and rural residents. Rural Residents can attend a workshop at the Fernleigh Park Community Hall. Whilst Urban residents can attend a workshop at the Council Chambers in Crawford Street.

Saturday 12 November 10am-12 noon: A Have a Say Day will be held at the Riverside Plaza in Queanbeyan.

Saturday 12 November 2.30pm-5.30pm: A large community summit will be held at the Jim Snow Room of the R B Smith Community Hall, in Crawford Street and all local organisations, residents, business and industry are invited

Saturday 26 November 11am to 2pm: A Have a Say Day will be held in conjunction with the Queanbeyan Gift and Family Fun Day at Queanbeyan Park.

Throughout November and December an online survey will be offered to residents. The online survey can be accessed via Council's website at www.qcc.nsw.gov.au All residents of the Queanbeyan Local Government Area are encouraged to participate in the activities and can obtain more information by emailing qbn2021@qcc.nsw.gov.au or calling 6285 6000. The review of this vision provides a great opportunity for you to make an impact on the future direction of this city. I encourage you to get along to one of the events or fill in the survey.

Crawford St **construction progressing**

Motorists travelling through Queanbeyan recently would have noticed a change in traffic conditions in Crawford St. To allow a vital piece of the construction to be complete, Crawford St has been closed to through traffic and will remain that way until around mid-November. This closure will allow the contractors to install the remainder of the stormwater drain which runs from the eastern side of Crawford St to the western side. They will also be able to undertake kerb works and construct the road near the Morisset St intersection. During the closure, two-way access will still be provided to the Mid City Motor Inn and motorists will be able to exit Crawford St via Fallick Lane. Following the 4.5 week closure, traffic flow will revert to that seen during the Stage 1 where one-way traffic is provided along the western side of Crawford St. In early December the construction will move into Stage 2. During Stage 2 two-way traffic will be provided in the centre of Crawford St and on-street carparking will be available on the eastern side of the street.

Come along to **the Sunset Markets**

The Queanbeyan Summer Sunset Markets have commenced for the 2011-2012 season. The Markets will be held on first and third Friday of the month in and around the Queanbeyan Conference Centre in Crawford St. So far the markets have been very successful with good crowds and stallholders contributing to the overall atmosphere. The Markets are the perfect way to end the working week and in the lead up to Christmas there's a good chance you'll be able to pick up a bargain.

Queanbeyan Gift and **Family Fun Day**

Queanbeyan's most popular community event, the Queanbeyan Gift and Family Fun Day will be held in Queanbeyan Park on Saturday 26 November. The Gift and Family Fun Day bring together the excitement of top-quality foot racing with the entertainment of the free Family Fun Day. The Queanbeyan Leagues Club Gift has received a boost this year with Council standing by its commitment to gender equity and raising the amount of prizemoney for the women's Gift champion. In previous years that has been a significant gap in prizemoney between the men and women, however this year they will both be competing for the same prize. The Queanbeyan Leagues Club is the main sponsor of the Queanbeyan Gift again this year and I thank them for their support. Working hand-in-hand with the Gift is the Family Fun Day. This event has been successful in Queanbeyan for many years and I have been told that this year's list of activities is quite impressive. The action on 26 November gets underway around 10am.

Party time at the **Aquatic Centre**

The Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre will celebrate its 50th birthday with a free open day on Sunday 13 November 2011. The Aquatic Centre, formerly the Queanbeyan War Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool, was opened on 11 November and will this year celebrate its 50th birthday. The Aquatic Centre is one of Queanbeyan's most popular public facilities with more than 130,000 using the centre during the 2010-2011 financial year. To celebrate the Centre's 50th birthday Council will hold a free open day at the Pool with a number of activities to be provided.

Cr Tim Overall

257 Crawford St **Ph:** 6285 6000 **Web:** www.qcc.nsw.gov.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/qbncity **Twitter:** @QueanbeyanCity

Old Cooma Rd and Queanbeyan Library upgrades

QUEANBEYAN Council agreed at its October meeting to apply for funding from the Building Better Regional Cities Program (BBRC) for the realignment of Old Cooma Rd. The federal fund invests in local infrastructure programs that support new affordable housing in regional cities.

Council will align its application with the developer of Googong, CIC Australia, before seeking funding for 75 percent of funding for the construction of Stage 1 of the road project.

At the same meeting Council appointed a contractor, SPS Strategic Property Services, to refurbish the former National Parks and Wildlife Building in Rutledge St as the new home of the Queanbeyan Library.

The work includes the installation of a new lift, new air conditioner, new energy efficient lighting and roof repairs. Following the library relocation, the ground floor of Council's main administration building will become an integrated customer service centre and more office space.

RIVERBANK MAKEOVER

Community meeting and submission deadlines

QUEANBEYAN City Council's draft Queanbeyan River Corridor Plan of Management is now on public exhibition. It includes a Platypus Awareness and Conservation Strategy.

The new plan will replace the current 10-year-old version and provides a vision for the river corridor by 2030, supported by actions aimed at the next 10 years.

"There are some significant issues addressed in the plan including future development of walking paths and land along the river, constructing viewing platforms and an esplanade, installing signage, establishing more intense buffer zones of native vegetation to provide protection to the banks of the River; installing rubbish bins and improving stormwater quality, just to name a few," said Mayor Tim Overall.

Council obtained grants for the review and to develop a platypus habitat conservation plan from the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative and Strengthening Basin Communities program.

Community comment is urged and residents have an opportunity to meet with the consultants and representatives of the Australian Platypus Conservancy at a **public meeting at 6pm, Thursday 17 November in the Harry Hesse Room of the RB Smith Community Centre, 262 Crawford St.**

Submissions on the draft plan are accepted until close of business 12 December 2011 and should be made by email to: **queanbeyan riverplan@ecoaus.com.au** or by post to: Queanbeyan River Project, PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620.

Copies of the document can be viewed at Council offices or at the library or on the website **www.qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

> More COUNCIL, REGIONAL news p14, 15

Giving back to community part of Ethical investing

AUSTRALIAN Ethical has donated more than $150,000 to 22 charities through its 2011 community grants scheme. This brings the total amount gifted to communities over the last 11 years to more than $1.28 million.

The company donates 10 percent of its profit each year – one of the highest levels of corporate giving in Australia based on percentage of profits.

This year's grants range in size from $3,600 to $35,000 and include donations to charities that work across Australia and overseas. The successful organisations were chosen from more than 300 applicants.

Two major project grants of $35,000 each were made to Carpets for Communities and Men of the Trees.

Carpets for Communities

'Carpets for Communities' helps families in Poipet, Cambodia out of poverty through the creation of a social enterprise – making carpets for sale commercially. This scheme offers an alternative source of income to Cambodian families which have children working or begging in the local flea markets – activities that can lead to human trafficking, prostitution and other child exploitation.

Their $35,000 grant will be used to enable ten mothers to join the program. The funds cover vocational, business and financial literacy training, as well as complementary education and development programs. The funding will assist them to get to a base level of income stability within their families.

By allowing the mothers to start producing carpets within a very short time frame, the scheme provides an immediate intervention solution to allow their children to return to school. Within 48 hours of a mother entering the program, her children can be off the streets and back in school.

Any profits generated in the sales of the goods will go back into bringing more families into the program.

Men of the Trees

'Men of the Trees' involves helping West Australian farmers since 1979 to complete large-scale revegetation projects in the wheat belt. The project has planted more than 11 million seedlings to prevent the spread of deserts, erosion and salinity.

'Men of the Trees' will use its $35,000 grant to fund revegetation of a highly degraded landscape in the wheat belt of Morbinning, east of Perth. The project involves five neighbouring land managers who want to revegetate and protect a creek that runs through their properties. The funding equates to $3.50 per seedling to cover one on one support to individual farmers, purchasing the seedlings, site preparation, transportation and development of a communication plan.

The bar on teenage binge drinking

by Christina Taylor

WHAT'S a summer BBQ, a lengthy cricket match or a live gig without a drink in hand? Not much, it seems. Alcohol, in its many forms, is an expected accompaniment to most social events.

This prevalence of alcohol in Aussie life has enticed many Australians to experiment with grog at an increasingly young age. In 2010, as a reaction to the prevalence of binge drinking and alcohol related incidents, the NSW Government engaged in discussions to raise the state's legal drinking age from 18 to 21.

The proposal was initially made by Christian Democrat MP Reverend Fred Nile and it was later that NSW Premier Kristina Keneally agreed to discuss the suggestion with the state cabinet. The discussion ultimately ended with the decision to maintain the drinking age of 18 years, though, the fact that the issue was raised, yet again, shows that these issues are still so far from being resolved.

In reviewing articles and public opinion on the current epidemic of binge-drinking and negative flow-on effects (drink driving, violence, brain and liver damage, for example) it appears that the two key influences on youth alcohol use are cultural norms and their parents' lifestyle.

Like father, like son, or daughter

The pattern seems to be that, as children, we see our parents partake in regular social drinking (some drinking considerably more than others). We're introduced to the idea that to have a beer, a wine or a champers on a regular basis is the norm. From here teens get curious, as teens do, and may stash a few of mum and dad's alcoholic drinks, get together and see what the fuss is all about.

When busted drinking underage, many teens are minimally punished due to a key point made on the Victorian Better Health website: '…parents are so alarmed at the thought of their children using harder drugs that alcohol is considered a lesser and more acceptable evil.'

Statistics show alcohol causes more deaths and hospitalisations than hard drug use

Even if alcohol *is* the more acceptable evil, statistics show that it causes more deaths and hospitalisations than hard drug use. Statistics from Better Health show that almost 3,500 Australians died due to alcohol use in 2003. The *ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010–2014* reports:

> In 2007 some 88% of ACT survey respondents aged 14 years or older reported drinking alcohol, with 7% drinking daily and 10% drinking at levels that place them at risk of long-term alcohol-related harm. The national rates are 83%, 8% and 10% respectively.

With those influences and statistics in mind, it doesn't seem like much could change by simply raising the drinking age – the contributing factors run deep in our cultural history and practices. We've had TV campaigns (*Don't turn a night out into a nightmare*), radio and print drink driving campaigns, not to mention alcohol and drug information taught in high school and college.

Gen-Y know more now than ever about the dangers and repercussions of irresponsible alcohol consumption. But, something is just not clicking: 70 Australians aged under 25 will be hospitalised due to alcohol-caused assault in an average week. And, on average, one in four hospitalisations of 15–25 year olds happen because of alcohol.

It seems there are too many factors riding against a higher legal drinking age (rise in illicit drug use as an alternative, drink driving to travel where the legal age is 18, drain on police resources for lawbreakers) but if this trend of binge drinking, drunken violence and drink driving continues, young Australians will be lucky to see 21 at all.

http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dlpubpoldoc&document=1967

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BUNGENDORE FOCUS *with Richard Manning*

GREETINGS all! It is with considerable pleasure that I accept this invitation to contribute to our *District Bulletin*. If you do not know me already my name is Richard Manning. I am the newly appointed Peter Blackshaw Real Estate Sales Consultant specialising in Bungendore, Murrumbateman and the surrounding areas.

This month we present the sales activity for Bungendore. I'll look at the calendar year 2011 to date; the corresponding period in 2010 and the entirety of 2010 to complete the picture.

What does all this mean? Well, to paraphrase Forest Gump "Real Estate is as Real Estate does," but there is no doubt that what Real Estate does is determined by a multiplicity of factors! It's no secret that the perceptions and realities of events currently at the forefront of both national and international economic policies have resulted in a general reticence to spend money. We are consolidating our debt and saving our pennies. Retailers across the country are generally feeling the pinch.

However, there are still buyers for property, if that property (1) is suitable to their current and projected needs (2) is priced appropriately to the market and marketed correctly.

By this I do not mean cheap. There has been a steady increase in the value of the median priced house in Bungendore over the last five years from$334,000 in 2006 to $515,000 in 2010. For the last 12 months it now sits at $527,000.

However, given that the current average number of days on market is 149, buyers are obviously biding their time and not purchasing the first 'thing' they see. Some years ago if a purchaser did not make up their minds very quickly, the property was lost. Buyers are more circumspect in the current market.

Bungendore Sales

Currently listed sales	126	**Sold in 2010**	
Currently Under Offer	25	Sold in 2010 (Jan–Oct)	114
Sold in 2011 (Jan–Oct)	87	Entirety of 2010	142
Breakdown of Properties Sold in 2011		***Breakdown of Properties Sold in 2010***	
House	53	House	104
Land	27	Land	38
Commercial	7	High Price	$3,250,000 (Village acreage with cottage and building entitlements)
High Price	$3,877,450 (1,900 acre property)		
Low price	$187,000	Low price	$2,471

Information sourced from allhomes and RP data.

What's it mean for the seller?

If you are selling the implications are clear. With 126 properties listed for sale in Bungendore and only 87 sold to date this year it makes it imperative that you engage in realistic dialogue with your agent regarding the value of your home and the method and manner of sale that is most likely to achieve the best result.

Give yourself as much time as you can in which to achieve the sale you wish, particularly if you are selling over the colder months; discuss marketing options with your agent and how he/she will work for you; discuss sale methods given your timeframe and then make a considered, informed decision.

If you wish to discuss Real Estate matters please feel free to call me at any time on 0408 616 840. Thanks for your time.

Carbon Sequestration Farm *with John Sneddon*

Ballallaba Springs near Hoskinstown offers a unique lifestyle opportunity for those seeking peace and solitude in beautiful surroundings, with the ability to produce an income from any number of agricultural, pastoral or tourism pursuits or carbon sequestration. It is a highly regarded carbon sequestration area – located in a high rainfall zone with soils suitable for intensive production of trees and shrubs the sequestration potential could be 26 tonnes of carbon dioxide/ha/year over 400ha. A further 1,500t CO^2 abatement potential exists with removal of livestock.

Adjoining Tallaganda State Forest the 510ha (1,260ac) property currently grazes cattle, sheep and horses but could easily run goats for meat and/or milk, and alpacas with the potential for forestry and carbon sequestration. About 80 percent of the property is cleared and arable. The property has a high level of biodiversity and the country varies from granite to river flats and shale-quartz ridges.

The Ballallaba Creek, a tributary of the Molonglo River, runs through the middle of the property and boasts an average rainfall of 776mm over the last 22 years and 739mm over the last five years. The highest point has an altitude of 977m and the lowest 850m.

Solar passive house

The house was selected to be part of the NSW and ACT Sustainable House Day. Built in 2004, the contemporary solar passive designed three bedroom plus ensuite home, with solar power and a five star energy rating provides very comfortable living. The home features open plan living, vaulted ceilings, polished concrete flooring and high quality fixtures throughout, with sweeping rural vistas from most rooms plus a paved outdoor entertaining area on the north side of the house. The home has wireless broadband connected and facilities for satellite and ADSL as well as HD TV direct from Canberra.

Ballallaba Springs contains a variety of open forest and woodland timber species and some 66 species of flora have been identified on the property, plus significant birdlife and other native animals.

The property is located approximately a 60-minute drive from Canberra's CBD, 60km from Canberra Airport with Captains Flat, Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan all readily accessible.

To see and read more go to ***http://www.allhomes.com.au/ah/nsw/sale-residential/507-harolds-cross-road-bungendore-queanbeyan-region/1316741250011***

5&3 2&1 1 1

Sutton
241 & 243 Bidges Road
Choose from two homes or buy both! Native flora & fauna adjoining a large natural forest.

First house on 25 acres includes 5 bed, 2 bath, home office, guest suite,pool, lake and extensive infrastructure including fencing, bore, shed, stables, irrigation, gardens. Second house on 15 acres with 3 bed, courtyard and verandah. The perfect retreat!

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LJ Hooker ljhooker.com.au

MIND OVER MATTER

'Heal thyself' was the title of the cover story for a recent issue of **New Scientist** *magazine. Can we do this – does the mind really matter that much when it comes to health? It seems it does in some cases – and it's not all about placebos!*

Trust others – it might help you stay healthy

with Sonja Chandler

It seems that being lonely can increase the risk of everything from heart attacks to dementia and depression while people with satisfying social lives age more slowly, respond better to vaccines and sleep better! According to John Cacioppo, of the University of Chicago, "The effect is so strong that curing loneliness is as good for your health as giving up smoking".

This might be partly due to lonely people not taking very good care of themselves, but there also seems to be a direct physical cause. It seems that in lonely people the genes involved in responding to stress are more active – and while this is needed at stressful fight-or-flight times, when stress-response genes are on all the time it can lead to physical, emotional and behavioural problems including aches and pains, memory loss and moodiness.

Cacioppo says that loneliness is more than just the size of a person's social network – it's also about seeing others as either friendly or threatening. He thinks that lonely people see others as potentially dangerous (and hence keep their stress-response genes turned on); learning to trust others more can have a big impact on health. This work is published in *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.

Mind and body: hypnotism seems to work, sometimes

German physician Franz Mesmer (whose name is the root of 'mesmerise') introduced western scientists to hypnotism in the 18th century when he claimed all manner of ills could be cured using an effect he called "animal magnetism".

Ever since, hypnotism has had an on-again, off-again popularity in medicine. Now, Peter Whorwell of the University of Manchester is treating patients suffering from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) with hypnosis and it seems to work – IBS is the only condition for which hypnosis is recommended by the UK's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Whorwell's patients have a brief tutorial on how the human gut functions. He then has them use visual or other sensations to imagine their bowel working normally. Although it is not clear exactly how this works, it is clear that some of his patients can reduce their bowel contractions and also make their bowel linings less sensitive to pain. Whorwell's work was published in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*.

Continued p15

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Luke Jamieson
Property Manager

Chris Dixon
Sales Agent

John Sneddon
Sales Agent

Richard Manning
Sales Agent

'The Bridge' - admired by many and now yours to own

3 3 2

Resting on the banks of the Yass River on the edge of Gundaroo village is a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure an outstanding lifestyle property. Encompassing 18 acres (approx) of rich alluvial soils, 'The Bridge' boasts gorgeous established gardens and trees dating back to 1905. The picturesque grounds wrap around the charming homestead which is characterised by 3 bedrooms, 2 ensuites, separate study, dining, and formal and informal living areas. Wonderful period finished include high ceilings, an open fireplace in the lounge and picture windows which offer tantalising glimpses to the beautifully manicured gardens. Outdoors you will find paved entertaining areas, a wisteria covered pergola, tennis court, swimming pool, workshop/shed and carport. Irrigation licence included. Combining the very best of country living and city convenience you are just 30 minutes drive to Canberra's CBD, and a short walk to Gundaroo village and its award-winning restaurants and cafe's. 'The Bridge' is a must see, so call us today to organise a time to view!
Expressions of interest due by 5:00pm 11 November 2011

GUNDAROO 3797 SUTTON ROAD

Christopher Dixon 0414 819 377

3 2 2

GUNDAROO 3 MORNING STREET

An immediate sale is required. Value conscious buyers should move quickly to secure this exceptionally well priced 3 bedroom, ensuite home in the heart of historic Gundaroo village, with open plan dining/living, verandah with leafy outlook & attached studio. Sale and settlement required as soon as possible. **$520,000**

Chris Dixon 0414 819 377

5 2 2

GOOGONG 277 FERNLEIGH DRIVE

This stunning home, set on a 5.3ha rural block and sitting comfortably in the landscape with creek frontage and outstanding views, is an impressive and versatile property where you can experience a country lifestyle yet be less than 10 minutes from Queanbeyan or 20 minutes from Manuka. The home is well proportioned with large rooms looking over gardens, valleys and out to Mount Campbell. Designed with space and comfort in mind.
Offers over $1,100,000

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

4 2 3

LAKE BATHURST 868 COVAN CREEK ROAD

A magnificent quality built 276sqm brick home, 4 bedrooms, double garage with internal access, rumpus room and a modern open kitchen. This spectacular 104acre block has 7 paddocks, 4 dams, cattle yard, 15m x 6m Colourbond shed on a concrete slab and more! Horse riding, bike riding, bush walking, this property has it all. **Offers over $645,000**

Richard Manning 0408 616 840

6 3 4

WAMBION 832 NORTON ROAD

Vendors committed overseas, must be sold, all offers considered. Spacious 6 bedroom + ensuite, 2-storey home on elevated 26 acre block. Features include large lounge/dining area, family room, study, well appointed kitchen, central heating, 3 spaces to entertain guests, woodfire pizza oven & wine store room. Outside there is a DLUG, 2 dams & 2 x 90,000L water tanks. With stunning views to the Brindabella's and Black Mountain Tower.
Expression of interest by 4.30pm Wednesday 30th November

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

4 2 4

GUNDAROO 17 ROSAMEL STREET

North facing 4 bed + ens home with approx. 240m² of living on a 1910m² block. Constructed by Blackett Homes it features a spacious kitchen, meals & family room, a second living area opening onto an outdoor entertaining area. There is a single garage with internal access plus a triple garage in the backyard. **Offers over $625,000**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

5 4 6

BYWONG 107 SUMMER HILL ROAD

Sprawling residence with approx 435m² under roofline on 40ac of productive grazing land. The home features 4 beds, 2 ens, formal lounge & dining in the main residence with an additional attached self-contained flat. Set in lovely established gardens with storage sheds & stables this versatile property is 25 mins to Canberra's CBD. **Offers over $995,000**

John Sneddon 0403 139 701

Land

Gundaroo
$500,000
123 Beralston Road
2 bed, 2 bath home with log fire to living room, open plan din & kitch, lge deck, pool plus sep caravan. 35min to CBD. **Chris 0414 819 377**

Gundaroo
$269,000+ each
Lots 17 & 18 Cork Street
Two 2000m² (approx) building blocks located on the main street. Gently sloping with rear lane access. Walk to school & shops. **Chris 0414 819 377**

Gundaroo
$1,250,000
661 Shingle Hill Way
570ac (approx) of rolling grazing land 30min to Civic. Potential to sub-divide & with 3 bed cottage, 2 sheds & yards. **John 0403 139 701**

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**

Wamboin
$789,000
1458 SUTTON ROAD
75ac premium dual-occ block. Must be sold. Only minutes to Civic and the airport. Stunning views to Canberra & Brindabellas **John 0403 139 701**

**We currently have several prospective tenants looking for rural properties.
If you are thinking of renting your property now is the time to give us a call on 6262 5122**

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Bulletin_November

OPEN GARDENS *for your enjoyment*

The 2011–12 Open Garden Season dates for October – all within an easy weekend drive from Palerang and Queanbeyan.

Gardens at Dominion – Special Event (Campbell)

Explore a series of courtyard gardens in the upmarket Dominion complex. Beautifully landscaped communal areas with appealing plantings, winding paths and gazebo complement the inspiring diversity of styles of the individual villa gardens. Colourful roses and annuals, pocket-sized productive areas, plantings in pots – all demonstrate the creative possibilities for establishing beautiful gardens in small environments.

ADDRESS Key and Ryrie Sts, Campbell.
OPEN 12–13 Nov 2011. $12 adults, children free.
EXTRAS Refreshments available to purchase.

Libby's garden (Farrer)

Distant views are a picturesque backdrop to a lush suburban garden. Blue-mauve flowers of native plants contrast with cream walls; massed annuals hug quirky sculptural pieces. Sunny gazebo with lavender and roses. Azaleas, camellias and hellebores shaded by mature golden ash. Trompe l'oeil; vegetable garden.

ADDRESS 44 Waite St, Farrer.
OPEN 12–13 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.
EXTRAS Refreshments available to purchase.

Roseraie de la Faunt (Waramanga)

Collector's delightful garden brimming with interesting and rare plants. Beyond a wooden entry ramp, paths wind through an informal cottage garden. Well-arranged layered plantings from the tree canopy down to colourful shrubs and attractive under-plantings. Bulbs, water lilies, many edible plants and over 250 roses.

ADDRESS 2 Larakia St, Waramanga.
OPEN 12–13 Nov 2011.10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.
EXTRAS Art & sculpture exhibition. Refreshments and plants available to purchase.

Petricor (Banks)

Successfully established during the drought, this small waterwise garden illustrates that you don't need space to create a peaceful haven. White cedars, maples and birches provide shade; a bottlebrush attracts birds. Colourful irises, gauras, aquilegias and roses, including many Delbards.

ADDRESS 5 Angell Place, Banks.
OPEN 19–20 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.

Bowylie Station (Gundaroo)

Colonial-style garden at Bowylie Station with its beautiful old trees, many planted by William Guilfoyle. Bowylie's gardener Tom Morrison will welcome you to the garden and highlight some of its significant elements, history, recent developments and future plans. Visitors will then be invited to explore the garden for themselves. The informal four hectares includes a kitchen garden, perennial beds, densely planted woodland areas and a secret garden. Picturesque vistas are complemented by beautiful sculptures by Lloyd Le Blanc, Judith Holmes Drewry, Peter Graham and Will Wilson. 4.00ha (9.88ac).

ADDRESS Gundaroo.
OPEN Saturday 19 Nov 2011. $10 adults, children free. Book online at **www.open garden.org.au**

Mel and Brian's garden (Condor)

Illustrating the opportunities offered by elevation and a mild microclimate, murraya, clivias, snail vine and other plants uncommon in Canberra flourish in well-established beds. Large collection of floribunda roses; climbers festoon archways. Wonderful selection of shrubs, trees and groundcovers. Colourful hanging baskets.

ADDRESS 72 Charterisville Ave, Conder.
OPEN 19–20 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.
EXTRAS Refreshments and plants available for purchase.

Boots Cattery garden (Richardson)

Tranquil garden featuring many mature deciduous trees including maples, oaks and Ginkgo biloba. Courtyards contain bonsai and small ponds surrounded by tree-ferns, cycads and bromeliads. A predominantly green garden has blue highlights from Louisiana iris, lavender and violets.

ADDRESS 19 McBurney Cres, Richardson.
OPEN 19–20 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.
EXTRAS Refreshments available for purchase.

Donnelly's Cottage (Bungendore)

Shady deciduous trees and densely planted boundaries of plums, hawthorns and photinias provide privacy for a charming garden surrounding an 1880s cottage. Heritage varieties of pears, apples, plums and roses. Water tanks and recycled materials introduce a contemporary theme of sustainability. Extensive drystone walls. 0.20ha (0.50ac).

ADDRESS 27 Modbury St, Bungendore.
OPEN 26–27 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.

St Omer (Braidwood)

Shrouded by cypress groves, the heritage-listed woodland garden at St Omer has been tended by the Bunn family since 1828. The formal section first laid out in the 1850s brims with reliable old drought-proof perennials and is defined by a narrow carriageway and granite-edged paths. 2.00ha (4.94ac).

ADDRESS Nerriga Rd, Braidwood.
OPEN 26–27 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.

Palerang (Mulloon)

Dating from the 1840s, Palerang was in former years the home of poet David Campbell. A walled garden shelters a croquet lawn. Lovely rose-clad pergolas, old Bunya Pine and Atlantic Cedar. Crinkle-crankle stone walls, flagstone paths, herbaceous borders, colourful roses. Heritage outbuildings; vineyard. 1.21ha (3.00ac).

ADDRESS 154 Hazeldell Rd, Mulloon (near Bungendore).
OPEN 26–27 Nov 2011. 10am–4.30pm. $6 adults, children free.

*For more information on these or any other open gardens, on special events or on opening your own garden please see the Open Gardens Australia website **www.open garden.org.au** or phone 6260 8002.*

Caution: **mowing verges may spread weeds**

> *Non-chemical weed management, p14*

DON'T LOVE THIS GRASS!

IT'S NOBODY'S FRIEND

African Lovegrass growing along a median strip in an urban area

African Lovegrass has been increasingly encroaching upon farmland, bushland, and roadsides throughout southern NSW and the ACT over the past three decades. African Lovegrass has the ability to quickly take over native grasslands and introduced pastures forming a dense monoculture.

African Lovegrass:

- is a fast spreading weed that is invading much of southern Australia. It is arguably the most invasive weed in the capital region;
- is found in all areas – suburban gardens, lawns, urban parks, road verges, farms and nature parks;
- has many forms;
- crowds out native grasses, reducing native plant diversity;
- crowds out pasture, reducing good food for animals.

Most graziers are well aware of Lovegrass and ways to limit its impact.

People living in urban and peri-urban areas however appear to be unaware of its existence.

The greatest vector of African Lovegrass is mowing along urban and rural roadsides. Simple things like mowing so cut material is thrown back into the infestation area can help control African Lovegrass boundaries.

We need to act now with an effective, long-term and integrated plan to control the spread of African Lovegrass in our region. This starts by removing it from your backyard, street and neighbourhood to prevent it from spreading further, every single plant removed helps the cause.

Southern ACT Catchment Group has detailed information about African Lovegrass available on their website:
http://sactcg.org.au/

Mowing back towards infestation helps control the spread of African Lovegrass

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Around the house:

- **Act** – Learn to identify African Lovegrass. If you see a plant, always dig it, bag it, bin it.
- **Garden care** – if you have it in your lawn, mow it low before it seeds (it produces flowers and seeds from October to May);
- **Garden hygiene** – wash your mower to stop accidental spread;
- **Neighbourhood watch** – be vigilant, see that it doesn't grow in your garden, your street verge or your neighbourhood park;
- **Speak out** – let everybody know, tell it, blog it, tweet it, write it;
- **Report it** – tell the Government Agency responsible and ask your local Member of Parliament to initiate and support an effective, long-term and integrated plan to control the spread of African Lovegrass in our region.

Around the bush block and farm:

- prevent establishment by being vigilant and control any small infestations;
- control boundaries of African Lovegrass infestations;
- keep desired ground cover greater than 70%;
- ensure herbicide spraying equipment is calibrated correctly;
- practice farm hygiene – clean vehicles and machinery of weed seeds before moving from infested paddocks to clean paddocks;
- avoid moving livestock from infested to clean areas on the property;
- undertake any supplementary feeding in a smaller 'sacrifice' paddock to minimise weed seed spread;
- stop seed set through strategic rotational grazing – plant sets seed October to May;
- act to influence all levels of government for an effective strategic plan for African Lovegrass.

Control requires an integrated approach to be effective.

SUPPORTED BY: THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT • SOUTHERN ACT CATCHMENT GROUP • UPPER MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE • BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA • ACT NRM COUNCIL • ACT REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR INITIATIVE

Water-saving steam for Canberra's oldest trains

IN OCTOBER ActewAGL gave the green light to the Australian Railway Historical Society ACT with a grant of just over $9,770 for a water-saving project to reduce impact on the environment.

The Australian Railway Historical Society ACT, established in 1974, provides educational and tourism activities that explore the region's railway heritage. A key activity is train trips from Canberra to Bungendore. The principle train, an 1878 steam engine, uses around 12,000 litres of water for each trip.

The society will use the grant to purchase three 10,000 litre rainwater tanks, reducing the use of town water by approximately 90,000 to 120,000 litres each year, depending on rainfall.

ActewAGL Director Marketing and Corporate Affairs Paul Walshe said, "We're delighted to support the society in this way, helping part of Canberra's heritage, which is also an educational tool and tourism attraction, operate in a more sustainable way."

ActewAGL Director Marketing and Corporate Affairs Paul Walshe (right) congratulates Australian Railway Historical Society ACT Councillor Peter Semczuk on winning an ActewAGL Green Grant. *Paul and Peter stand in front of Canberra's first train, which arrived in Canberra in 1913 and was built in 1878.*

The grant is part of ActewAGL's *Green Grants* program which aims to help local schools and not-for-profit organisations implement projects that have a positive impact on the environment by reducing energy or water use.

The public can follow the progress of this and other projects at **actewagl.com.au/greengrants**

— PRESS RELEASE

— TOWN AND COUNTRY DOGS —

Putting the fun back into dog walking

by Heike Hahner

RECENTLY, a number of people both locally and in Canberra have been getting in touch with me about experiencing difficulties with dogs being off-lead near school zones and harassing their on-lead dogs. A pleasant walk to the school with the kids and the dog can become a stressful and frustrating event for all.

Walking your dog is an important, healthy activity both for you and your dog. But walking is also an important social event for dogs and should be as controlled, pleasant and friendly as possible to avoid aggression between dogs and, of course, their owners.

Roaming encounters

Roaming (walking) is an important daily social event for dogs. It combines several crucial aspects such as patrolling their territory, meeting old acquaintances, maintaining relationships, leaving and finding interesting scent messages and of course, food gathering from neighbours' rubbish bins. Dogs prefer to roam in pairs or small groups. So an important social aspect of roaming is the bonding with other dogs and the defending of territory. In suburbia or town this social aspect may lead to dogs being less-than-friendly to other dogs, because they see them as a threat to their territory or their bonding partner (which may be the owner or another dog). Forceful, pushy or aggressive encounters may leave some dogs and dog owners fearful of further dog encounters.

For example, when you are walking your dog on the common and another dog and owner arrive, for your dog this means that two unrelated dog packs are meeting. There is a good chance that your dog thinks that it owns the common, because he was there first. Some dogs in this scenario ignore newcomers, some are friendly and welcoming, and some try to aggressively assert themselves.

Tips for safe, happy encounters

It is your responsibility as pack leader and dog owner to set the tone of the encounter. If you growl, yell and shout at your dog (or the other dog) the dog might see meeting with another dog as a serious threat to you and themselves, and may experience all further meetings with other dogs as a source of stress and aggression. If you do not engage at all and let your dog sort it out, you are basically relinquishing pack leadership and control to your dog, which is ultimately unfair on your dog and certainly unfair on other dog owners.

Not all dogs like all other dogs. Make sure you know which dogs your dog does not like and keep him under control near those dogs. Teach your dog to 'come' instantly when called. This can be done quickly and easily with most dogs using a bit of food.

Keep your dog on-lead if it is not reliable in coming back to you. Flexi-leashes are a great way to exercise your dog while still having him under control. BE FRIENDLY AT ALL TIMES. Many dog breeds are known to mirror their owners, so set a good example for your dog; chat to the dog and the owner in a friendly voice. Keep meetings brief and ensure the dogs actually like each other. Young dogs up to three-years old will play rough and will annoy or scare older or smaller dogs. Female dogs often are less inclined to be playful past the age of three than males, and will snap to get rid of unwanted attention. Be respectful of their wishes and call your dog off.

Dogs, like humans, play less and less as they age, especially with strange dogs. Respect that dogs and their owners have a right to say 'no' to a play invitation.

Don't be off-lead in an on-lead area

Finally, make sure you are in an off-leash area if you let your dog off the lead. Put simply by one of the rangers from Domestic Animal Services in Canberra: if your dog is off-lead in an on-lead area you are breaking the law and may be up for a fine. This is no different in Bungendore or any other locality.

To find out more about your rights and responsibilities as a dog owner, contact your local council.

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Maddison Smith-Catlin from Queanbeyan has been chosen as one of the 'orphans' in Annie *upcoming at the Lyric Theatre, Sydney.*

CORALIE'S CORNER

by Coralie Wood

WELCOME to my corner, the first of many bringing you news, and some exciting titbits each month.

I am very proud to announce that 13-year-old Maddison Smith-Catlin from Queanbeyan will be travelling to take up residence in Sydney for the next four months, as she has been chosen to be one of the 'orphans' in the professional production of *Annie* at the Lyric Theatre, Sydney.

Maddi started dancing lessons at the tender age of 3 and is proficient in jazz, ballet and tap. She recently appeared in her school production of *Annie*, and now is heading to the big stage to appear alongside Anthony Warlow, Nancye Hayes, Todd McKenny and Chloe Dallimore.

Yes, yes

Yes, Prime Minister, the hilarious and much loved BBC television series, is back – on stage. The play will have its Australian opening at the Comedy Theatre, Melbourne, from Tuesday 31 January 2012, before touring nationally, including Canberra next March.

Written by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay, the creators of the classic comedy that was mandatory viewing for millions worldwide, *Yes, Prime Minister* was a sell-out in London's West End, went on a triumphant tour of the UK, and is now back for a return London season at the Apollo Theatre.

Philip Quast will be departing the *Mary Poppins* musical to lead the cast in *Yes, Prime Minister*. Speaking of Philip Quast, you still have a chance to see him playing Mr Banks in *Mary Poppins*, as we have a theatre coach travelling from Canberra to Sydney to the matinee on Saturday 19 November.

The production is leaving Sydney soon and moving to Brisbane – so here is your chance. The coach goes to the matinee and returns around 9pm on the same day. Ring 6281 0250 for further information (*see ad next page*).

Christmas shows at Teatro Vivaldi and a free pass offer

Two great Christmas shows will be at Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant at the ANU in December:

- 2 and 3 December – *Broadway Bard* – if Shakespeare lived today what songs would he have included in his plays making them into musicals? Written by Melvyn Morrow (father of Julian Morrow from *The Chasers*) who wrote the musicals *Dusty* and *Shout*.
- 19 until 23 December – *Wayne Rogers Divine Diva* (finalist in *Australia's Got Talent*) with special guests for a romp of a night celebrating Christmas. Sparkles, feathers and fun.

Dinner and show for both and if you haven't been to Teatro Vivaldi yet you have missed a great evening out. Mine host Mark Santos is **offering two dinner and show packages to anyone who books another 6 tickets for either show.** Please contact 6281 0250 if you are interested

Any news you may have on theatre gossip please don't hesitate to contact me on **cfw@ozemail.com.au**.

— See you floating in a foyer soon, Coralie

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— BOOK REVIEWS —

Our reviewer has a soft spot for doggie books and says this one is the funniest she has read.

WIT AND WISDOM OF A NO-LONGER HOMELESS WAIF

by Di Johnstone

A DOG'S LIFE by Peter Mayle
Publisher: Vintage Books RRP: $25 Paperchain, Manuka

IN THE plethora of books on the market about dogs this must be one of the best. The author of the very popular *A Year in Provence* has his dog, Boy, "writing" his memoir.

Boy is a scruffy abandoned dog adopted by the Mayles, an English family living in rural France. Boy takes the quite reasonable view that, after being photographed with his famous owner, Peter Mayle, he too has become an "international celebrity". As a celebrity, Boy feels "called upon" to tell his own story.

Boy styles himself as the dog-equivalent of French philosopher Proust and, from a dog's perspective, shares his philosophical views on life in rural France and human behaviour. Boy begins with pitiful reflections on his "pre-celebrity" existence as one of thirteen puppies born to a mother who had been "taken by surprise by my father behind the barn and then by our arrival".

He recalls the struggle of doing "ten rounds against a dozen opponents with chronic milk lust every time you feel peckish". He survives, but when his farmer owner tries to make him into a hunting dog, he miserably fails the test and finds himself dumped.

From big family to top dog

After a period as a village vagabond, Boy's fortunes change when he is found and adopted by the Mayles. Settling into their house involves having a proper bath, a very French *toliettage*, which Boy describes as "traumatic", especially the final indignity of a "dusting with powder that smelled like a mixture of Evening in Paris and weedkiller".

What dogs hear best

He is less than impressed, too, with his given name 'Boy', but decides he would have

Cont'd next page

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A fine womance with (almost) no kisses

— FILM REVIEWS —

by Judy Thompson

Jucy has been described as a 'womance' of platonic proportions.

This 'womance' or woman buddy movie, set in Brisbane around the fringe amateur theatre scene, is a warm comedy about 'growing up' and finding what is important in life, based on the true life experiences (with a bit of artistic licence) of two friends Francesca Gastea who plays Lucy and Cindy Nelson who plays Jackie. ('Jucy' is a conflation of their names).

Jackie and Lucy are twenty-something friends, working in a video shop, whose actual life does not measure up to their aspirations. Their story starts as a co-dependent adolescent relationship. It sounds awful but is actually very funny.

They agree to pursue respective goals of the awesome job and hot boyfriend by auditioning for parts in a local production of *Jane Eyre*. There are some very funny scenes demonstrating the drama queen tendencies of the male lead and the pretentious director in this amateur theatre scene.

If you enjoyed *Muriel's Wedding* and *Bridget Jones Diary* you will love this film.

Louise Alston directed the film and Stephen Vagg wrote the screenplay. The lead actresses were their friends and neighbours. Screen Queensland funded it, with the assistance of Screen Australia. The film was shot in approximately 14 days. Local Brisbane artists provided the soundtrack. And it all works.

Computer technology helped both in the production and the themes within the film. Extras for the film were sourced through friends on Twitter and a press callout for people willing to appear in the nude party scenes. In an interview the actors said that the people who responded to the callout were lovely and very polite.

Lucy's hardworking and disapproving sister finally has a meltdown and admits that in her workaday world she doesn't have time to actually meet any of her own friends outside of Facebook.

The film premiered at the Manuka theatre this month and screens through November. Highly recommended for the 20–30 demographic and really for anyone who enjoys a giggle and friends with wit and emotional benefits.

—— * * * * ——

George Harrison: Living In The Material World is a Martin Scorsese film about George Harrison, the Beatle who changed the most.

The film has a documentary style and shows footage from Harrison's childhood, his years as a Beatle, joining when he was only 17-years-old and his subsequent solo career.

His personal life is covered in the film through interviews with himself, his wife, his son, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, Patti Boyd, Ravi Shankar, Yoko Ono and others. Dhani Harrison, his son, explains that the only way to act out in his family was to do well at school and join a cadet group.

The film clips that deal with Harrison's spiritual journey show that while he enjoyed the trappings of the material world he was on a relentless spiritual quest. This quest influenced his music. Ringo Starr who had to adapt his drumming style, complains about Harrison's innovative use of Indian rhythms with humour.

Many of Harrison's songs and their inspiration or the creative process involved in creating them, are covered in the film. Just listening to the songs and seeing the film clips of the time will warm most baby boomer's hearts.

The film also deals with Harrison's post Beatles life. He was responsible for launching Handmade Films and provided the funding for Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. In a Monty Pythonish twist he won a posthumous lifetime achievement award from the British film industry.

He restored an estate and large garden in England and at the behest of Ravi Shankar organised a rock concert for Bangladesh aid. He was also involved with the racing car industry. This all may sound like the ideal ageing rock star's retirement and diversified investment plan but it has amazing pizzazz.

While George Harrison was a complex, innovative person not without faults the film clearly shows that he was widely regarded with genuine affection and admiration. The film is celebratory, witty and not at all maudlin. It should have a wider audi-ence for its historical coverage of the 1970s.

This was a fantastic film. Highly recommended.

— * * * * —

The Hunter

THIS Screen Australia film is based on Julia Leigh's first novel of the same name. The film deals with the issues of wilderness and species protection, logging and the ethics of biotech research.

William Dafoe plays Martin, the central character. He is employed by a military biotech company to kill and bring back DNA and other samples of the last Tasmanian tiger. It is best to suspend belief about the qualities of the Tasmanian tiger that make it so atttractive to a military biotech company.

During his quest Martin encounters Lucy, the grief-stricken wife of a missing scientist, her two children, a cantakerous generator, some angry loggers who think he is a greenie, some greenies who suspect him of laying traps and a jealous neighbour.

Most of the film is wide angle shots of the Tasmanian wilderness. It is very beautiful, quite slow moving and has a surprisingly calm timeless quality. It is like going on a bushwalk without getting dirty.

The pace of the film picks up when it becomes clear that the Tasmanian tiger is not the only one being pursued, as Martin's employer becomes impatient. The film poses the question whether it is better for some endangered species never to be found.

While Julia Leigh's characters and plot have not previously impressed me in Sleeping Beauty *I enjoyed this film. Worth seeing for the landscapes.*

BOOK REVIEW *Cont'd from p10*

"answered to Heathcliff, or Ceasar Augustus or Mitterand if it meant home cooking, civil treatment and stomach massage".

Boy then takes the reader on a hilarious rollick though his life with this eccentric family and their many exotic visitors. There are run-ins with cats ("anti-social fur balls with delusions of superiority"), a plumber with a patchy record ("played thirty-two, won ten and lost the rest") and an "ordeal by chicken".

There is a broken heart when Boy's lady friend, Fifine, throws him over for another dog and the family's stoush with a rural neighbour over Fifine's puppies' alleged paternity.

Along the way, Boy extols the virtues of wine tasting, educates us on dog communication and humans and explains his special way of getting to know guests – a wag of the tail followed by a "probing sniff to the guest's central area".

An alluring English guest is "damp, with undertones of sherry and residual hints of ancient tweeds and unsuccessful dandruff shampoo", whereas Americans with the smell of "newly laundered shirts" and a "whiff of mouthwash" are far less interesting.

This delightful book is really hard to put down. Mayle's dry wit gives the stories a light touch and he is an acute observer of human foibles. The drawings are charming. This book is, too, a poignant reminder of how much a dog's life can be transformed by kind owners and will also have you wondering just what your dog really thinks about you!

Time to bed down the fruitcake

One Pound Christmas Cake

This recipe was in the Women's Weekly in the 1960s and has been made by my mother and sisters for Christmas, weddings and 21st birthdays ever since. Mum always made several cakes as they kept all year and could be enjoyed in the winter. It is rich and dark and great for icing. Time to get out the fruit and soak it in rum – perfect for Christmas.

Ingredients:

- 3lbs sultanas
- 1lb raisins
- ½lb currants
- ½lb crystallized Cherries
- ½lb mixed peel
- 4ozs chopped almonds
- 1 cup rum, brandy or sherry
- 1lb butter
- 1lb brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon almond essence
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 dessertspoon Parisienne essence
- 4 tablespoons marmalade
- 8 eggs
- 1lb 4ozs plain flour
- Pinch salt
- 2 teaspoons spice – cinnamon and nutmeg.

Method:

Prepare fruit, cover with spirits mix well and stand overnight covered **– or for a few days.**

Cream butter and sugar with essences and marmalade.

Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in prepared fruit alternatively with sifted dry ingredients.

Fill into tin layered with one layer of white paper and two layers of brown. If not icing, level off and decorate with cherries or nuts. Bake until cooked.

Cool completely in tin. Remove paper and wrap in foil and plastic and store in a cool place (for some reason I always wrap mine in a towel as well).

Mixture can be halved, quartered or made larger. When cooked – while still hot – brush top with one tablespoon extra rum, brandy or sherry.

Sizes:

One pound mixture
Use 10 inch square or round tin. Bake in slow oven about 6hrs.

Quarter pound mixture
¼ of all ingredients. Use 7 inch square or round tin. Bake in slow oven about 2½hrs.

Half pound mixture
½ of all ingredients. Use 8 inch square or round tin. Bake in slow oven about 4hrs.

Three quarter pound mixture
¾ of all ingredients. Use 9 inch square or round tin. Bake in slow oven about 5hrs.

1½ pound mixture
1½ of all ingredients. Use 12 inch square or round tin. Bake in slow oven about 8hrs.

Pinot-mania

by David Crossley

PINOTPHILES can be a fanatical lot.

Becoming a trainee pinotphile doesn't take very much – perhaps just occasionally opening a bottle of Pinot Noir, and watching the film *Sideways*.

Just what it is that triggers the graduation of pinotphiles from trainee status to full blooded fanaticism is still as mysterious as the grape itself. Whatever it is, the annual convention for pinotphile fanatics was held recently just outside Portland Oregon, in the United States.

As has been the case for the last 25 years, the Linfield College campus in McMinnville played host in late July to what is undoubtedly the world's largest gathering of Pinot Noir producers and consumers – the International Pinot Noir Celebration (IPNC).

Oregon USA takes its pinot VERY seriously

Before outlining some of the highlights, it is useful to put into perspective just how serious Pinot Noir culture is in Oregon. My first indicator was that every cellar door and restaurant in the Willamette Valley has Pinot Noir tasting glasses specifically created by Riedel for Oregon Pinot Noir.

The next indicator was ordering a 'burger' for lunch, accompanied by a glass of wine, at a cafe in McMinnville. Not only was there a wide selection of Pinot Noirs to accompany my quintessential American lunch, but when the waitress needed to open a fresh bottle, she felt obligated to aerate the wine by pouring it back and forth into a couple of water tumblers before serving it to me. Only in a place that is totally dedicated to enjoying Pinot Noir would such a ceremony occur!

Joshua Wesson, respected sommelier, gave this year's IPNC welcoming address which was full of both humour and insightful pinot observations. He spoke to some 600 producers and pinotphiles.

The Grand Seminar tasting comprised two wines from each of five producers on the theme "The Worldwide Pinot Community, 25 Years of Collaboration" and was moderated by Eric Asimov, the chief wine critic for *The New York Times*. The panel of wine-makers included David Adelsheim, one of the pioneer producers of pinot in Oregon, Véronique Drouhin of Maison Joseph Drouhin in Burgundy and Jim Clendenen of Au Bon Climat in California.

Saturday's dinner is always the Northwest Salmon Bake. Nothing can prepare you for your first Salmon Bake experience at IPNC.

It's not just the ambiance of the lantern-lit Oak Grove, or the quality of the food served, or even the spectacle of very large wild salmon being roasted on alder stakes over a huge custom-built fire pit, or indeed the incredible range of wines served from IPNC's own cellar. No, it's more that the whole event is one big party where the attendees have one thing in common – they are all pinotphiles who enjoy fine food and good wine. The evening was the highlight of my weekend.

The official close of the celebration occurs over Sunday morning brunch where a selection of sparkling pinots is served. Looking back on the weekend it certainly is the most wonderful celebration of Pinot Noir in the world.

And the good news is you don't have to be a fanatical pinotphile to attend. But be warned, if you do go, chances are you'll become one!

— David Crossley is a vigneron from Bungendore. ***drcwine@bigpond.com***

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THE NOBLE ART OF WINEMAKING

Cont'd from p1

servants, entomologists, writers and now has a Nobel Prize winner to count among its members. As an astronomer, Brian deals on a daily basis with the universal laws of physics, so the task of producing high quality wine from such a challenging variety is a welcome diversion into the ever-changing world of weather, grapevines, ferments and barrels.

There is an old saying – you can't manage it if you can't measure it. Being the scientist that he is, Brian has developed a comprehensive database of the weather at Maipenrai over the years and uses it to manage the vines to achieve optimum flavour at harvest.

Four stars near Sutton

Last year this was recognised with leading wine writer, James Halliday, awarding Maipenrai a four star status. "What Brian is doing with his wines is to be commended. He is producing a wonderful Pinot Noir in a difficult climate. The Canberra region is known more for Riesling and Shiraz but the Pinot continues to shine with a number of winemakers creating great drops," Brad Schafferius, President of the Canberra District Wine Industry Association, said.

Following Brian's Nobel Prize win, the Maipenrai Pinot Noir current vintage has sold out, but the 2009 Maipenrai Pinot Noir will be available from December. Wines are available via mail order and select retailers and restaurants. See **www.maipenrai.com.au** for more information and stockists.

For those who want the everyday man, Brian Schmidt can be followed on Twitter @cosmicpinot where he recently tweeted "I do not have the answer to life, the universe and everything. My advice – work hard, take risks, have fun, and you never know…"

Buying antiques and collectables

Antique Chat

by 'Annie's' alter ego, Joyce

VISITORS coming into Annie's Collectables, particularly for the first time, have similar comments:

- "Wow – this is a real little treasure chest!"
- "Where do you get all of your stock?"
- "What is your favourite thing in Annie's?"

We are gratified by the first comment, and it is reinforced by the number of people who regularly come back to find that 'something special'.

We started to address the second in July's issue when we spoke about auctions, where we buy the bulk of our stock. We also get items from garage sales, opportunity shops, clearance sales, people who are downsizing into smaller homes and don't have anyone to leave their precious things to, friends who know what I look for and are happy to scout bargains in their travels, and families who have inherited from their parents or grandparents and can't incorporate another 'household' into their current lifestyle.

We travel quite a bit and David is quite used to reacting when I say "turn here" if I see a sign which indicates a sale of some (any) sort. He says I can sniff out a bargain from kilometres away.

Playing favourites

Our answer to the third parrots Julie Andrews when we say "these are a few of our favourite things" – thank goodness we don't actually sing it! We can't have *one* favourite thing – my favourites differ from David's. Whenever and wherever we are buying, different things will catch our eye. And what appeals to us, may not appeal to you.

We have a friend who ran a store in Canberra and purchased quite a lot from overseas. He admitted that when he went on shopping trips, he would never buy the things that appealed to him, as he found they wouldn't sell. He would buy exactly the opposite. We often laugh about what that says about his taste.

We find we do tend to focus on individual specialities. My favourites would be green uranium glass, pink Depression glass, and antique silver and silver plate, vintage female mannequins and antique and vintage children's shoes ... David beams in on oil or kerosene lamps.

We keep in mind what people have asked us to look out for, and have a list of requests that we carry with us. Speaking of carrying lists, we have been travelling in Europe and England and visited lots of antique and collectable markets. The only problem was getting everything home – but I managed!

We look forward to sharing our adventures with you – **Annie's reopens Saturday 19 November**.

— Joyce and David

— TRAVEL TIPS PART I —

Getting there smarter

by Nichole Smith

TAKING a cruise down the Thames, strolling through Central Park or wandering through ancient Egyptian ruins; the international economic outlook might be gloomy, but with the Australian dollar the strongest it's been in years, the allure of the world's most desirable travel destinations is hard to ignore.

If you've always dreamed of admiring the view over Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower or being surrounded by Saturday night revellers in the middle of Times Square, with a little planning and some handy tips it can be everything you imagined it would – and potentially cost less than you might expect.

After making the all important decision on where you would like to go, the next step is to decide if you should leave all of the arrangements to a travel agent, organise some aspects yourself, or attempt to deal with all the details on your own.

The internet has, of course, made this last option achievable, but take into consideration the amount of time you realistically have to spend on such a project – as well as your ability to deal with the frustrations that inevitably arise.

Employing the services of a travel agent has numerous benefits, including their industry knowledge, and as a rule, they will be well informed on places you may be considering visiting. When it comes to flights, accommodation packages and even car rentals, travel agents may also have access to deals and offers not available to the general public.

Booking the flights

If you are a little more cost conscious, you can do some of the leg-work yourself and get an agent to help with the overall plan. Travel expos are terrific if you are seriously in the market for a holiday as some of the packages they offer are excellent value.

Searching for good deals on flights online is also easy enough and there are plenty of websites dedicated to this task, such as **webjet.com**. While you can make flight bookings through most of these sites, many travel agencies will be able to match the prices you find online.

Sometimes they can even better them, or may offer other options such as the ability to fly into one city and out of another. By doing the initial research yourself and then booking the flight through an agent, you can be confident about the price you are paying with the added security that if anything goes wrong, you can turn to the agency for assistance.

Other good websites when it comes to flight information include gems like **seatguru.com**. Here you can look up particular aircraft and check seat configurations which then allow you to make specific seating requests (bearing in mind the best are always going to be snapped up the quickest).

Accommodation

The next most important consideration will be your accommodation. Where a travel agent should be able to assist in making good choices in this regard, if you have the time and are so inclined, making your own bookings can be cost effective.

Sites such as hotels.com and **bookings.com** offer a variety of accommodation options along with information on location, access to public transport and the internet, as well as independent customer reviews.

Most do not charge booking fees (although some do, so be sure to check) and additional advantages may include options such as free cancellations up until a couple of days before, or even cheaper options for pre-paid bookings.

Once the booking is made you will receive an email confirmation, but it's always a good idea to double check reservations a couple of days before leaving as there is nothing worse than arriving tired and hungry to be told there is no room at the inn!

While everyone loves a bit of luxury, given accommodation can chew up a lot of your travel budget, seriously consider if you are prepared to pay more for a 4-star room for the sake of a few complimentary shampoos. Often something that is a little less lavish but is clean and most importantly, has its own bathroom, is more than adequate.

Online reviews are usually the best way to confirm this is the case rather than the hotel's supplied information. The other obvious points to consider include the fact that the closer you are to a city centre, generally the higher the cost.

If you stay further out however, you will need to use either public transport or a car if you have one, and these associated costs also need to be taken into consideration. If you are not renting a car, be sure to confirm that your accommodation is within easy walking distance to public transport as taxis are rarely the cheapest option.

Next month we offer advice on the things that are easy to overlook in our travel plans, including the use of mobiles and other technology like iPads internationally, and how to get the best value for your dollar while overseas.

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THE WEED PATCH

Diary of a dedicated non-poisoning weeder

by Rose-Marie Johnson

MY WEED patch is ten hectares and a medical condition makes me awfully sensitive to ridiculously minute amounts of herbicides. Minimizing herbicide use is probably safer for most people and definitely better for the environment.

Even if you do poison, my articles can keep you informed about current weeds and useful strategies. The most important strategy is to set realistic goals for reducing numbers sufficiently to make significant progress every year, and the best way of achieving this is to make weed suppression part of your weekly routine.

Putting it off eventually means more work, for many subsequent seasons. Alternatively, the exercise is good for your body whilst the peaceful time spent in our beautiful natural environment is good for your spirit.

A difficulty is deciding how much effort to put into each species at any particular time. When there are too many weeds to hoe or chip, it makes sense to start with low growing ones – like Capeweed, Barley Grass, Storksbills, Wild Sage, Scarlet Pimpernel and Mallows (roughly in that order) – because tall ones – like Paterson's Curse, St. John's Wort, Horehound, thistles, Fleabane, Mustard Weed and Mullein – can be suppressed by slashing (with tractor or brush cutter) after they bolt but before their seed matures.

When to slash Paterson's Curse, ringbark deep-rooted perennials

The optimum time to slash Paterson's Curse is when 75 percent of plants have green seed (see http://www.southwestnrm.org.au/sites/default/files/uploads/ihub/bowcher-holding-d-2004-physical-weed-management-strategically-cutting-patersons-curse.pdf). For perennials, slashing buys time.

Deep rooted perennials like St John's Wort can be killed by ring-barking the deep roots. Dig down about ten centimetres, expose shallow roots and scrape off a ring from the outer layer of deep roots. To suppress Wort using phosphate see http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/64168/20080620-0000 www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/fs57_ofs_st%20johns%20wort.pdf.

Before weeds flower, giving highest priority to hoeing the densest patches reduces numbers quickly. When they're flowering and easier to spot, giving higher priority to scattered ones and small groups maximizes the area cleared and reduces spread into new areas. When they're producing seed, plants should be removed and seeds can be killed by solarizing in black bags.

Of the weedy grasses, seed heads make African Lovegrass the easiest to spot. Serrated Tussock mostly shows out paler than similar native Poas, and will soon go to seed so is high priority (see http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/serratedtussock/docs/stbpmm.pdf).

Barley Grass top priority for summer

Barley Grass, although not noxious, has highly injurious seeds that can result in expensive vet bills for pets or livestock. It goes to seed after a hot spell, so is now top priority.

For Chilean Needlegrass it is best to take away the whole plant, not just seed heads, since invisible seeds develop along the stem and even underground. Yorkshire Fog and Paspalum are also worth suppressing.

Lower priority weeds include Shepherd's Purse, Senecio, Salsify, Goatsbeard and Cress. Later come Skeleton Weed and Onion Weed (both best suppressed by smothering), Nightshade, Amaranth, Hawksbeard and Catchfly.

It's been a pleasure seeing spring wildflowers and I hope you also find enjoyment doing your weeding.

FUTURE OF BUNGENDORE STREETSCAPES?

Subdivision at 128 Ellendon Street proposed to go from this (left) to something like this (right).

AT AN emotion-charged October special meeting for the Palerang Council's Local Environment Plan, residents of south Bungendore protested Council planning for a five-lot subdivision at the end of Ellendon Street (No 128).

Neighbours testified they are particularly appalled at the plan for a standard road (currently ending in a paddock), suburban street-lighting and loss of vegetation in the staff-approved plan and also raised concerns about potential flooding and the continued change in the character of old Bungendore.

Remarkably, the gallery witnessed a reversal of the 7–2 vote at Council's September meeting to reject the subdivision in the hope of spurring a modified application aimed at these concerns.

Five Councillors prevailed to get approval on 27 October with conditions. The vote was led by Councillor Raynolds, Graham and Marjason joined by Goonan and Crozier. Councillors also ceded the right to determine conditions to the General Manager as the only way out of a two hour debate.

The themes for basically creating a new streetscape on the 1.3 hectare site were that it is legal, restrained in lot size and a knock-back wouldn't stand a chance in court. This neatly illustrates the dilemma facing South Bungendore and the challenges crowding in on the 'village feel'.

While current lot sizes average 3–5 acres, the area has long been zoned for subdivision down to 1,000m^2. Since sewerage lines have been connected to this part of Bungendore, even smaller lots are allowable.

The still-to-be-finalised Local Environment Plan could modify minimum village lot sizes. However the staff report notes that the area lost "suitability" for large lot sizes with Court approval of a hard-fought 82 lot subdivision at nearby Trucking Yard Lane – now being marketed as Bungendore Meadows, and another nearby subdivision of 64 lots.

Councillor Goonan pointed out that Council's earlier rejection of greenfields developments guaranteed village infill "so where is infill going to go?"

As Councillors remained deeply divided, a very testy Mayor Raynolds in the chair questioned opposing Councillors and one speaker from Ellendon Street like naughty first-graders. He ended by declaring that the right to buy land and subdivide is the cornerstone of our society and the alternative is anarchy.

That still left the details of road, lighting, vegetation and screening wall to be decided, as well as the larger question of how to conduct infill and keep a village rather than a suburban feel.

> More COUNCIL, REGIONAL news p15

PALERANG COUNCIL

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

PROPOSED MACS REEF WASTE TRANSFER STATION

The community is invited to attend an Information Session for the new waste transfer station which is proposed to be constructed on land at the existing Macs Reef Landfill site.

The information session will be held between 3.00pm–7.00pm on Tuesday 22 November 2011 at the Bywong Community Hall in Birriwa Road.

Persons interested in the project are invited to drop in to the hall between the above times to view the proposals and discuss any issues with Council's consultants for the project.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

PO Box 348
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621
Email: records@palerang.nsw.gov.au

TWINCITYCHURCH
bridging the community

The Village Building Co.

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SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2011

4.30PM START

FIREWORKS 9PM

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Canberra's 1WAY FM 91.9 tune in to life.

Bush Baroque

"It Fell on a Summers Day"

A concert featuring Bush Baroque with guest soprano
Emma Griffiths (nee Jenvey)

Music will include a selection of the wonderful songs by Thomas Campion for soprano and viol consort, canzonas by Girolamo Frescobaldi and viol trios by the enigmatic "Mr Chetwoode", as well as a cantata by Georg Philipp Telemann, a sonata for 2 recorders, violin and continuo by Johann Christian Schickhardt and a beautiful trio sonata by William Boyce.

Bush Baroque: Rachel Walker (violin and viol),
Sylvia Shanahan (recorder),
Richard Milner(recorder and viol),
Joan Milner (viol, harpsichord and organ).

Milners Music Room, Bywong
– followed by Lambert Vineyards wines and nibbles.

2.00 pm Saturday November 26
2.00 pm Sunday November 27, 2011.

Bookings essential – 0262369212 or violsaustralia@gmail.com
$15 and $12 – all proceeds to Hartley LifeCare Inc.

Cheers! LAMBERT VINEYARDS

Wombats on the Wall

The Native Animal Rescue Group 2012 wombat calendar is on sale! Help our wildlife by helping them. See *Honey* in May! The calendar is very popular and great value at only $10. Buy one for friends, neighbours, workmates, relatives and yourself. Contact: Philip Machin 6238 3717 or **machin4@bigpond.com**.

NSW CABINET COMES TO QUEANBEYAN

by Maria Taylor

TWO hundred or so voters from the Monaro electorate came to hear and question the NSW 'Community Cabinet' as the Ministers visited Queanbeyan at the end of October.

Officially, the highlight for Queanbeyan was a large chunk of road funding pledged: $4 million over the next four years for planning on the southern ring road extension bypassing Queanbeyan.

Unsurprisingly South Tralee development was another major item with the Jerrabomberra residents and the Business Council handing a petition with 10,864 signatures to local MP John Barilaro.

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard (*right*) said he had hoped to meet with Federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese on opposing concerns regarding Canberra airport's flight corridor, but life got in the way in the form of the Quantas grounding.

However Hazzard assured the assembly a resolution was months, not years, away.

Ministers: local plans should be flexible, but production *versus* environment still template in NSW

Palerang residents got a few questions in regarding the new government's approach to Local Environment Plans (LEPs). The response was that this Coalition government favours more localism and is not wedded to the 'template' approach initiated by the previous Labor government.

On issues like block sizes and agricultural land the message to the Department of Planning is "don't hold up desires of local communities," said the Minister.

Responses to questions on environmental matters were less flexible and innovative.

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson (*right*) in particular seemed ready to continue the tired old fight between environment and production.

For example she flagged that even though producers had got the 'triple bottom line' review of the Murray Darling Basin plan they wanted, she was still greatly concerned that the environment would get too much water.

And on forestry production she waxed enthusiastic about the native forest industry as it currently exists, brushing off questions about the greater value of conserving old growth forest in the face of climate change with carbon sequestration. She also stated categorically that "everything is carefully assessed before harvesting".

Koala surveys not done

Only this week the *Bulletin* received a press release from watchdog South East Forest Rescue about a prosecution of illegal logging in Cathcart State forest.

"It was determined by the Office of Environment and Heritage, that Forests NSW did not undertake Koala surveys in accordance with Condition 8.8.12 of the Threatened Species Licence (TSL) prior to the commencement of harvesting operations in compartments 1375, 1376 and 1377 of Cathcart State Forest.

"The Office of Environment and Heritage further advised that on 10 October a Penalty Notice totalling $300 was issued to Forests NSW under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*." The watchdog group noted that this amounts to a slap on the wrist when $110,000 fines are available within the regulations.

CAPTAINS FLAT TELLS NSW MEMBER TOP PRIORITIES:

Better roads and healthcare topped the wish list as Member for Monaro John Barilaro listened to residents of Captains Flat at an October community forum.

REGIONAL APPROACH THE FUTURE FOR TRANSPORT

also for biodiversity, education and agriculture

REGIONAL public transport is a strong element of the ACT Strategic Regional Plan 2011 launched by ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher in September, highlighting the need for improved local roads and rail services.

The plan looks at the future growth and direction of the ACT, recognising the benefits of taking a regional approach to transport, education, biodiversity, agricultural land and infrastructure.

Produced by Regional Development Australia ACT (RDA ACT) the plan makes clear that link the ACT and the wider area through improved transport routes is important and supports the potential benefits of light rail, but is short on detail of how to get there.

The vision statement also supports the expansion of Canberra airport's aviation services and the development of a fast train link to Sydney and Melbourne as key to improving regional connections. Through various feasibility studies costs remain a significant barrier.

There is more detail in the ACT internal approach to public transport in the draft ACT Planning Strategy currently on display for public comment, including initiatives such as rapid bus services between town centres and improved commuter and cycling networks.

Transport lanes between Queanbeyan and the ACT

The Canberra Avenue connection between Queanbeyan and the ACT is one transport link currently under review. The intent is to add priority lanes for buses and bicycles to help alleviate significant peak hour congestion.

The Federal government has made clear that the further provision of road infrastructure and rail services requires the building of relations with regional partners, in particular, Queanbeyan, as transport systems come under increasing pressure with its population projected to almost double over the next 20 years.

Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall has welcomed the regional focus on transport issues.

"Transport has been at the top of the agenda of my regular meetings with the ACT Chief Minister. We have jointly agreed that while bus lanes on Canberra Avenue is an important first step, consideration for a second stage taking the project right to the Queanbeyan border is needed."

Councillor Overall said that Queanbeyan Council will also be commencing design work for the Ellerton Drive Ring Road this financial year, now with a funding commitment of $4 million from NSW. "Traffic modelling shows the ring road is required by 2018 and this will form an important regional connection between Canberra and the Kings Highway."

No more dual occupancy: but OK you can have a secondary dwelling

UNDER what name a rural or rural residential landholder may have a second dwelling on the block was recently reviewed by Palerang Council as part of the Local Environment Plan (LEP).

'Dual occupancy' dwellings was removed from the list of allowable land uses in rural and environmental zones, applicable to rural residential areas. This arose because the planning instruments that underpin the new Palerang LEP assume that a 'dual occupancy' development will be accompanied by subdivision of the property in question. Subdivision, however, is generally not permitted on many blocks of current rural residential areas.

A 'secondary dwelling', however, is still allowed. Councillors had quite a vigorous (and to the audience mysterious) debate on the size of secondary dwelling allowed finally settling on 100 percent of the original. This related to previous restrictions on dual occupancy development to 150m^2.

Council's LEP meetings are now largely devoted to tidying up inconsistencies that have been identified by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, prior to the public display period and final adoption of the document.

— with assistance from Councillor Pete Harrison's blog: ***pete.harrison@id.au***

COURT ACTIONS FILED *Cont'd from p3*

Environment and Heritage and the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, responsible for overseeing the Dargues Reef Project, and the federal office responsible for the preservation of endangered species under international treaties.

On investigating the mine site upstream, herbicide use is a suspect. "There may be other reasons for the death of the species downstream of the site," said French, "but as the relevant departments failed to act all we have is supposition – and extreme misgivings for the future".

Araluen Producers and Protectors Association spokesperson Penny Hayman noted that with the explosion of mining activity (including coal seam gas conversion) in NSW the state government "has fewer than 20 inspectors in the Office of Water to ensure compliance and enforcement of all regulations in relation to water". She quoted the NSW Ombudsman as agreeing the statewide situation is inadequate for monitoring and enforcement.

Dead vegetation photographed on mining site at the junction of Spring Creek and Major's Creek shortly after species were found dead for a five kilometre stretch downstream from this location.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA *Cont'd from p6*

When is a placebo not a placebo?

A different group of IBS patients were involved in US research into the 'placebo effect' – the real and positive effect that comes from taking a treatment which has no active ingredients, like taking a sugar pill instead of an antibiotic tablet. It's been thought that the placebo effect works because people taking a placebo *believe* they are taking the real thing. This deception is a bit unethical and so researchers from Harvard Medical School and New York's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center set out to see if placebos still could be effective without the ruse.

80 IBS patients were divided into two groups: one group received no treatment; the other group received placebos and were instructed to take them twice daily. "Not only did we make it absolutely clear that these pills had no active ingredient and were made from inert substances, but we actually had 'placebo' printed on the bottle," says lead author Ted Kaptchuk. "We told the patients that they didn't have to even believe in the placebo effect. Just take the pills."

By the end of the three-week trial, nearly twice as many patients treated with the placebos reported relief from IBS symptoms as compared to the group of patients that received no treatment! Even the researchers were surprised by these results. It seems that placebos work even when patients know they are placebos and suggests that there is real benefit in simply performing a medical routine. Read their report at **dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0015591**.

What's On – November

Send your announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

until Saturday 5

Queanbeyan Arts Trail Exhibition

To coincide with the annual Queanbeyan Arts Trail and Open Studios, this exhibition highlights the wonderful array of artists living and producing in Queanbeyan. Mediums include glass work, ceramics, painting, printmaking, textiles and much more. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Me and My Girl

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Queanbeyan Players Presents a wonderfully funny evening of theatre. Ph 6285 6290 or visit **www.theq.net.au**.

until Sunday 6

15th Canberra International Film Festival

Dendy Cinema Centre Canberra and Arc Cinema National Film and Sound Archive Acton. Screening a mix of feature films and feature length documentaries. See **www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au**.

There's War on – World War II at Home

Goulburn War Memorial. Presenting objects, memorabilia, photographs and video footage that present the memories and ongoing stories of everyday Australians living in extraordinary circumstances. Ph 4823 4448.

until Monday 21

Exhibition – *Design, Innovation, Play*

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, Kings Hwy, Bungendore. Recent sculptural objects, contemporary furniture and functional products by David MacLaren. Ph 6238 1682.

Saturday 5

Wildcare Orientation Course for new members

Queanbeyan, 9–5.30pm. The local native wildlife rescue and caring group is running an orientation course for new members. If you are interested in rescuing and/or caring for native animals then please come along. For further information please contact Fiona on 0419 622 690 or see **www.wildcare.com.au**.

Windellama Simply Sustainable Lifestyle Small Farms Field Day

Windellama Hall, 9–4pm. The 18th annual field day showcasing sustainable rural living. Ph 4844 5554 or see **www.windellama.com.au**.

The Mulloon Institute sustainable farming field day

(Between Bungendore and Braidwood.) Details **www.the mulloonin stitute.org**.

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6

David and Sandi Simons Horse Riding Clinics

Lakeview Drive, Murrumbateman. Performance and reining clinics with David Simons and confidence clinics with Sandi Simons. Ph 0413 591 554 or email **simons.canberra.clinics@gmail.com**.

Wine, Roses and All That Jazz Festival

For more see **www.canberrawines.com.au**.

Sunday 6

Yowie Talk & Long Table Lunch with Tony Healy

The Old Cheese Factory Braidwood, 92 Sawyers Ridge Road, Reidsdale. Tony Healy co-authour of *The Yowie, In Search of Australia's Bigfoot* will outline the yowie saga from the pre colonial era to the present day, concentrating particularly on stories from the Braidwood area. Ph 4846 1999 or 0407 292 181 or email **info@braidwoodmade.com.au**.

Queanbeyan Art Society Drawing and Portrait Competition/Exhibition

Trinculo Pl, Queanbeyan. Official opening. For more see **www.qarts.com.au**.

26th Wamboin Open Golf Championship

Wamboin Golf Club. Tee off for the 26th Open from the Clubhouse (the Community Hall) from 12.30pm. All welcome.

Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10

Cert IV in Carbon Management

Queanbeyan. An accredited workplace qualification for environmental managers to enable and support the development of carbon management and carbon emission reduction strategies for organisations, businesses and Councils. For more see **www.sustainingourtowns.org.au**.

Tuesday 8 to Saturday 19

Karabar High School Art Exhibiton

Karabar High School presents their annual end of year art exhibition. See work from students' year 7–12. Whimsy to angst, this exhibition has it all!

Wednesday 9

***Staged* – Karabar Performing Arts Night**

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Friday 11

Jazzin for Rangas (Orangutans)

Canberra Club, 45 West Row, Canberra, 6.30–11pm. $70 pp. See **www.orangutan.org.au**.

Friday 11 to Sunday 13

Music at the Creek Festival

Majors Creek, 15km south of Braidwood. A festival of music, dance and poetry. Folk music and a range of other acoustic genres, especially from young, or new and emerging acts. The festival is small, family friendly, and based around the local recreation reserve at Majors Creek. For more see **www.musicatthecreek.com**.

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13

Queanbeyan Show

Queanbeyan Showground. The annual show is on again. Fireworks, Side Show Alley, Animal Farm, live music and more. Official guest is Murray Wilton. For more information contact 6284 4539 or see **www.queanbeyanshow.com.au**.

Hartley Lifecare Variety Showcase

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A variety showcase – raising funds for people with a disability. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Saturday 12

Antiques Discovery Day

Bungonia Village Hall, 10–3.30pm. Bring your treasures or just browse and enjoy. Full valuations with experienced collectors and auctioneers. Entry $5 includes light lunch. For more contact Anne on 4844 4228 or email **annekwbungonia@bigpond.com**.

Monday 14

M.A.D.D. Night – Queanbeyan High School

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 7pm. This is a one night only celebration for our talented students in Music, Art, Dance and Drama. We have short films, artworks on display, theatre, martial arts demonstrations and songs to make you laugh and cry. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Friday 18 to Sunday 20

Canberra Country Music Festival

www.canberracountry.com.

Val Fitzpatrick Workshop

Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl, Queanbeyan. An exciting mixed media workshop *Line with Attitude*.

Saturday 19

Captains Flat Ball *Under the Stars*

8pm–12am. A Captains Flat Community Association Inc fundraising event. Formal dress, bring your own picnic basket supper and drinks. Tickets $25. Email **ball@captainsflat.org**.

Tarago Car Boot Sale

Tarago Public School. For more information keep an eye on **www.taragotimes.com.au**.

Sunday 20

RMC Band Charity Concert – The Best of 2011

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The Renowned Band of the Royal Military College, under the baton of Major Geoff Gray, is returning to 'The Q'. The excitement of this region's only professional 30 piece band is boosted with the vocals of Dave Andrews. See **www.theq.net.au**.

Tuesday 22 to 17 December

Life Energy Photography: The Healing Art of John Diamond, MD

'The Q' welcomes back Dr Diamond for his second exhibition. This time the Dr will be filling the exhibition space with his Life Energy Photography, make sure to you come and experience this artist's unique way of seeing. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

Saturday 26

Queanbeyan Gift & Family Fun Day

Queanbeyan Park, 10–5pm. Sponsored by Queanbeyan City Council, the third richest footrace in Australia will for the first time offer equal prize money for male and female runners. The Family Fun Day offers free events and activities for all age groups. To nominate to run in the Queanbeyan Gift, or any other events on the day contact Council on 6285 6000 or visit the NSW Athletics League website at **www.nswal.com**.

Community Engagement Day with Windellama RFS

Windellama Fireshed, 11am. Discussions on bushfire survival plans, Brigade response and expectations and community response and reactions.

Red Ribbon Day Art Show

Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl, Queanbeyan. Supporting World AIDS Day. Open to all artists, entries close Sat 26 Nov 2011 with the official opening Sun 4 Dec at 12.30pm. See **www.qarts.com.au.**

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27

Bungendore 2011 Quilt Exhibition

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo Street, Bungendore, Sat 9–7pm, Sun 10–4pm. Featuring a collection of handmade quilts, patchwork and textiles by members of Bungendore Quilters. The exhibition is proudly supporting our local craftspeople and our community. **www.bungendorequilters.com.au**.

Braidwood *Airing of the Quilts*

National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood, 9–5pm. The historic town of Braidwood becomes a mecca for quilters and tourists alike as it hosts the famous annual Quilt Exhibition. See the main street aglow with colour as quality quilts are strung up on the first floor verandahs with a backdrop of intricate and ornate iron work and wood. Quilts also decorate shop windows, restaurants and cafes, and are exhibited indoors. Some 500 quilts are usually displayed outside, with talks and demonstrations by quilters, and quilts for sale. Also open studios, open gardens, markets, church exhibitions and more! See **www.bragart.com.au/quilts.htm**

Bush Baroque – *It fell on a summer's day*

Milners Music Room, Bywong, 2pm. A concert with guest soprano Emma Griffiths. Bookings essential – Ph 6236 9212 or **violsaustralia@gmail.com** $15 and $12 – all proceeds to Hartley LifeCare Inc.

Saturday 26 to January 2012

Michael Retter

Bungendore Wood Works, Bungendore. Fine-art marquetry from an Australian master, and marquetry applied to furniture in collaboration with designer maker Scott Mitchell. For more see **www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au**.

Saturday 27

Tarago Community Christmas Party

The Beer Garden, The Loaded Dog Hotel, Tarago, 3pm. Everyone welcome, kids activities, music with Luke O'Shea. See **www.loadeddoghotel.com**.

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

The Captains Flat Country Markets

Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email **www.captainsflat.org**

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 December –

Dec 2 to Dec 4

Shortis and Simpson in *Waxing Lyrical*

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A witty wander through the world of wordsmiths. See **www.theq.net.au**.

Dec 3

Bywong Community Christmas Drinks

Dec 10

Carwoola Community Association's Christmas Get-together BBQ

Stoney Creek Community Hall, Carwoola, 5–7.30pm. Contact Christine or Lynton Bond 6238 2368.

– GIG GUIDE: November –

Saturday 5
Swizz, 7–11pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.
Annie & the Armadillos, 8pm–12am, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Thursday 10
Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 11
MLC, 8pm–12am, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.
Hit & Run, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club, Southbar Rd, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 12
Bill Chambers, The Loaded Dog, Tarago.
MLC, 7–11pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Thursday 17
Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 18
Hit & Run, 8pm–12am, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.
R&R, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club, Southbar Rd, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 19
Bryen Williams, The Loaded Dog Tarago.
Gary Sturgess, 7–11pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.
Queen Juanita Band, 8pm–12am, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Sunday 20
Col Bernau & Martin Lambert, jazz. The Artist's Shed, Forster St, Queanbeyan.

Thursday 24
Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 25
Back to Back, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.
Al Green Trio, 8pm–12am, Kangaroos Club, Stuart St, Queanbeyan.

Saturday 26
Authorised Bootleg, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.

Sunday 4 December
Deejay Gosper Band. The Artist's Shed, Forster St, Queanbeyan.

Sunday 18 December
Shed Sessions Christmas. The Artist's Shed, Forster St, Queanbeyan.

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ANU ARTS CENTRE UNIVERSITY AVENUE CANBERRA