



Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang



NSW recommends Palerang and Queanbeyan merge

Next step transition committee with Queanbeyan?

In the October issue of the Bulletin we asked whether a Special Rate Variation was on the cards for Palerang to improve its financials, proving to the state of NSW that Palerang was 'Fit for the Future' to go it alone without amalgamation. No community consultation has taken place in either jurisdiction but Queanbeyan Council appears more favourable to the idea of a merger, while the notion that residents do not want to merge has been the general assumption of various Palerang councillors. Meanwhile, events have overtaken the talk about raising rates (immediately) and a serious look at a merger is on the horizon, as **Belinda Hogarth-Boyd*** explains.

IN NOVEMBER 2013 Palerang Council resolved to include a Special Rate Variation (SRV) in the 2014-15 Operational Plan. This resolution was to address the financial sustainability of Palerang and would have involved a community consultation process to consider a rate increase.

Now the game has changed. In September NSW released - *Fit for the Future - NSW Government Response*. This report responded to the review of local government and provided the blueprint for local government reform - to make councils 'Fit for the Future'.

'Fit For the Future' was a key talking point at the Local Government NSW (LG NSW) Conference held in late October. The conference was marked by an address by the NSW Premier Mike Baird and the Minister for Local Government Paul Toole on this subject.

The respective ministers outlined that councils are required to be 'fit' as determined by a range of financial metrics relating to financial sustainability, infrastructure backlog, and efficiency. The conference provided a forum for further details on the state government reforms - questions on recommended mergers forming much of the discussion.

Most pertinent for our region was the recommendation that Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils merge. The merger was recommended on the basis of financial assessment of each council. Palerang was rated as having a moderate Financial Sustainability Rating (FSR) and a negative outlook. Queanbeyan City Council was rated as having a weak FSR and a neutral outlook.

* Hogarth-Boyd is a Palerang Councillor and Deputy Mayor

600 hundred runners and walkers showed their enthusiasm for wind energy at Infigen Energy's third annual 'Run with the Wind' 10km and 5km (quite challenging) course at Woodlawn wind farm near Tarago. Olympian Martin Dent again took first place in the 10km run but all age groups won - from under 12s to over 60s. A small disappointment was that the turbines were not rotating despite a bracing wind. An Infigen spokesperson said that a breakdown at a substation

was a very rare occurrence, finally remedied a week later. (Cynics saw Joe Hockey in the gears). Woodlawn has the capacity to generate power for 23,000 homes a year while Infigen's neighbouring Capital wind farm overlooking Lake George can power 60,000 homes, according to the company. The NSW Renewable Energy Advocate took a run but first spoke to the *Bulletin*, see p3.



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Caring for the planet means distancing from fossil fuels says Anglican diocese

Jenny Goldie met with the Right Rev Professor Stephen Pickard, Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Sturt University, and Assistant Bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

HOT on the heels of the Uniting Church in Australia resolving to divest from investments in corporations engaged in the extraction of fossil fuels, the Canberra and Goulburn Anglican Synod did likewise. Other Anglican dioceses, including Perth and Melbourne, have followed suit.

Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, the Right Rev Stephen Pickard, comes from a mining town – Cessnock in NSW – and knows full well the direct damage that coal mining causes, not least in human health. He also knows how the burning of coal and other fossil fuels causes indirect damage through climate change.

For him, divestment of fossil fuels by the



“If we ask ourselves what can we contribute?”

churches is perfectly logical and not at all radical; it is mere ‘catch-up’.

“The big companies are already moving out of fossil fuels into renewables,” he says. “The Rockefeller brothers are divesting. The tide is turning.”

Pickard sees the divestment decision by his church, as a “small gesture” but nevertheless as symbolic, and symbols do count. “Look at the cross,” he says.

“In addition, it does help to overcome a sense of powerlessness if we can ask ourselves, ‘What can we contribute?’

Call it reinvestment

“Australia has huge capacity for wind and solar generation. Divestment from fossil fuels is the most logical step. We shouldn’t call it divestment though, we should call it re-investment.”

Indeed, the Canberra and Goulburn Synod has urged the Anglican Church Property Trust to give serious consideration to investing in renewable energy.

Pickard says we as a society are locked into a paradigm of pursuing economic growth.

“We need to disengage from an unhealthy past so we are free to engage instead in efforts for human flourishing.”

Message from India: the world needs more renewables, not more coal

There has been much debate of late about the morality of denying coal to the poor. Prime Minister Abbott even proclaimed that “coal is good for humanity”. Pickard, on the other hand, finds it morally offensive to sell coal to the poor with all its attendant health issues. He referred to a recent article by Debi Goenka in the *Guardian* whose title was self-explanatory: ‘Take it from us in India: the world needs renewables, not more Australian exported coal’.

Pickard has no qualms that the church is doing the right thing in divesting from fossil fuels. He stressed that the General Synod back in July was unanimous on the issue of climate change.

“We must be doing something right when the government criticises you through media outlets,” he jokes.

Be stewards of creation

When asked what the biblical injunction for their actions were, Pickard refers to the book of Genesis in which we are called on to be

stewards and gardeners of Creation.

Pickard says the word ‘economics’ was interpreted too narrowly. “We have to look at what ‘economics’ means – it means ‘house rules’. If your foundations are creaky, though, that must be integrated into ‘house matters’. ‘Whole of house’ must incorporate the hinterland – in fact, the whole house is the whole world.”

Of course, there’s the apparently contradictory verse in Genesis (1:28) about ‘subduing’ the Earth. “When Genesis was written, they didn’t have mining companies,” says Pickard. “Subduing doesn’t justify abuse of the land. Rather, what needs to be subdued is the human desire for acquisitions.”

Pickard is a member of Australia’s Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC). In March he was a signatory to an open letter urging climate responsibility. Next month, ARRCC will issue a statement urging climate action at a media conference just prior to the G20 meeting in Brisbane.

Prime Minister Abbott has fought assiduously to keep climate change off the G20 agenda but, given that many of the world’s media representatives will be there, the ARRCC statement could prove embarrassing to that government position.

Jenny Goldie is President of Climate Action Monaro.

CLIMATE Watch



with Jenny Goldie

NSW builds on good track record in renewables

by Maria Taylor



Renewable Energy Target (RET) at the federal government level, and what NSW is doing about renewable energy since Environment Minister Rob Stokes gave his ‘we’ll be like California’ speech to the Clean Energy Council in July.

Kean, who works across portfolios but answers to Energy Minister Anthony Roberts, says her job is to promote generation of renewables and increase capacity in NSW. She confirmed that NSW is standing fast for the 41,000 GWh from large generation sources (like wind and large scale solar) set by the original RET target – still uncertain due to federal government attempts at winding the program back.

Given the realities of votes in the Senate, current negotiations may save that RET target with the compromise that several large electricity users, notably the aluminium industry, are exempted from having to offset their use of coal-fired power with renewable certificates.

Kean said a huge amount is at stake for NSW. “NSW has some of the best solar and wind resources in the country. There is \$13 billion in projects in the pipeline at the moment. But the market needs upfront capital to build and therefore certainty is essential.”

She said 13,000 jobs are already in the renewable energy sector with another 20,000 with the projects in the pipeline. “This is particularly important for regional Australia where these projects would be built.”

NSW Renewable Energy Advocate Amy Kean (above) came to Bungendore on a Sunday in late October en route to the Infigen Run with the Wind event.

She walked and ran the 5km course along with her husband, and two small children in a stroller, while mother-in-law and small dog walked partway. It was that kind of event.

Kean joined some 600 hundred running, walking enthusiasts who panted up hill and zipped down dale on the 10 and five kilometre courses under 23 imposing wind turbines at the Woodlawn site (owned by Veolia Environmental Services) near Tarago and next to the Capital wind farm.

Over coffee in Bungendore we chatted about her role, what is at stake for NSW with the present uncertainty about the

Let’s see: coal may not be good for humanity

STOP PRESS: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its latest combined report on the analysis of climate scientists, economists and others, says greenhouse gases (from burning fossil fuels, deforestation and other human activities) are at the highest level they have been in 800,000 years.

“Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems,” said the new synthesis report.

It said most of the world’s electricity should be produced from low carbon sources by 2050 to lower the grave risks facing the planet and human societies.

The ABC has reported that since the Abbott

Government scrapped the carbon price, which had given an edge to pollution-free hydro power, and since the price of natural gas has gone up, the country’s dirtiest coal-fired electricity generators have increased production to full capacity again.

Brown coal (from Victoria) is seen as a winner but it is the most emissions-intensive form of electricity generation in Australia.

Latest figures show that in four months brown coal’s share of national electricity generation has risen four percent to 26 percent, while black coal’s share has risen by three percent to 51 percent, said the ABC report.

If the trend continues, total carbon emissions may increase by almost two percent by June next year, making Australia’s little goal of a five percent emission reduction by 2020 that much more unlikely.

Renewables driving down cost of energy, ‘community owned’ supported

Once the investment in infrastructure is made, “all studies are showing that renewables are driving down costs of energy as renewable fuels are virtually free. But security and diversity of supply are essential,” said Kean.

A priority issue is getting around the community divisiveness generated by some wind projects, as experienced in Palerang recently. Kean noted that farmers who host wind turbines love the income that drought-proofs their farms. However, the financial benefits could be shared more widely with neighbours. (A common figure mentioned is \$10,000 rental per year per turbine.) *Cont’d p14*

Meanwhile, in Australia’s blinkered business media

FOUR weeks ago, the Australian National University announced it was selling \$16 million of shares in two fossil fuel companies and five other mining companies. What happened next was odd in the extreme.

The Australian Financial Review (AFR) went into overdrive, dedicating a month of breathless coverage to attacking ANU’s decision.

The AFR has now published 43 stories, 30,000 words and 12 front covers on the topic of one university divesting from a handful of companies. By contrast, the global surge in renewable energy and the growing carbon bubble barely rate a mention.

— GetUp

Steve Whan shares personal memories of a nice bloke and Gough Whitlam's enduring legacy for progressive politics

MADDI, my 20-year-old daughter, was nowhere near being born when Gough Whitlam was Prime Minister but after his death she said on Facebook "Rest in peace Gough Whitlam. Even though I wasn't alive whilst you were in your prime, I know that you were someone fantastic. I will always treasure the stories I hear about you from my grandparents and my dad. Thank you for what you achieved for this country, and I hope eventually we can catch up to where you would have led us if you'd had the chance."

Maddi has the advantage of having a grandfather, my father Bob Whan, who served as Member for Eden-Monaro in the Whitlam Government, so she has heard (just a bit!) about him.

I was a child when Gough was Prime Minister but as I hung around the corridors of old Parliament House he always took the time to say hello and ask me how I was going. My father tells me I once responded "I'm going well but you aren't." I suspect that was a rare comment because I normally remember being totally tongue-tied.

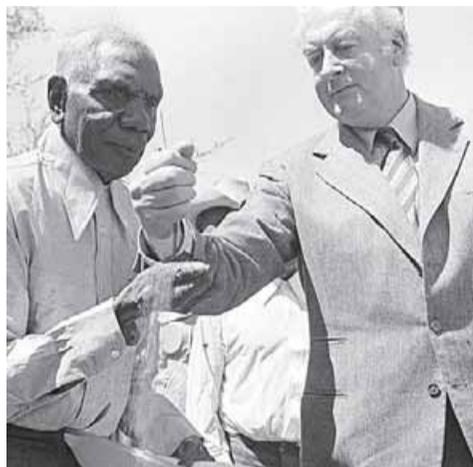
Thanks for free tertiary education, but doctors did not like Medibank

I, like many others, am a beneficiary of the free tertiary education that he introduced. He created Medibank, the forerunner to Medicare, our universal healthcare system. At the time it was controversial.

In my father's unpublished biography he says that policies such as Medibank "were understood and appreciated by the bulk of

the electorate even though the doctors were waging a vicious campaign against the proposal. 'Nazi Whitlam' signs, approved by doctors, were appearing all over Eden-Monaro."

My mum of course was out with the women's movement campaigning for equality and Gough made massive early steps along that path. Then there is that image so many of us have etched in our minds of the Prime Minister pouring soil into the hands of Northern Territory indigenous elder Vincent Lingiari – the first land rights, with the emotion and significance of that gesture summed up by Paul Kelly in 'from little things big things grow'.



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Rural NSW benefited from Gough's world-leading trip to China, as he took the first steps to open our economy and reduce tariffs. As a result we see the benefits of a Chinese market for our rural products.

Vision for regional growth centres

Whitlam's regional growth centres plan was part of a big vision for regional Australia, such as Albury Wodonga and Bathurst Orange. Whitlam envisaged them growing to become significant cities and he put the policies in place to do it. Although his government wasn't around long enough to entrench the plans, both areas today are thriving, proving the wisdom of the choices.

Regional development policy since then has tended to shy away from long term vision; they are short term plans, small fairly ineffective grants and no holistic approach.

The Whitlam Government introduced the Financial Assistance Grants for local Government. It would be fair to say that if they were still the same share of Commonwealth revenue there would be no infrastructure backlog in our local councils!

Yes there were problems, the biggest being the fact that after two decades in opposition the Whitlam team lacked the experience to set a course to being a long term government. Bob Hawke learnt a big lesson there and one of the Whitlam legacies is modern

Labor's understanding that not only do you have to be in Government to introduce reforms but you need to be there long enough to entrench them.

NSW Capital Watch



with Steve Whan

Modern politicians are often accused of losing sight of the sort of vision Gough had for a better society, but

when you think about it there are still a lot of people carrying on the work. The future of Medicare and public health, the Gonski vision for public education, NDIS, tackling climate change – all things being pursued by the progressive side of politics.

Those things are all reasons I'm running again. In a sense, I feel a link in that to the work the members of the Whitlam Government were doing.

What we don't have though is that towering leader, a person whose legacy will serve as an inspiration to the Labor side of politics long after he has gone. I think Maddi summed it up for us, where could Gough have got us to if things had gone a bit differently? Vale Gough. ■

NSW RECOMMENDS MERGER

from p1

Queanbeyan's FSR was later reviewed and revised to a moderate FSR. As such, Palerang Council and Queanbeyan City Council were considered 'unfit' and a merger was recommended. Palerang also lodged a request for a review, but this was declined.

Carrot and stick

To encourage participation in its plan, the state government is offering incentives for voluntary mergers. On offer are: simplified processes for rate variations, cheap loans, streamlined procurement processes, priority access to state grants, eligibility for devolved planning powers.

Support arrangements on offer include: \$5 million for two merging councils, facilitators to assist in discussions, and technical assistance. The implication is

that councils that choose another path will be left to do so without access to any additional resources.

The next step is for each council to prepare a submission on how they intend to become 'Fit for the Future'. In the case of councils flagged for mergers this will likely involve examining the finances of each council, undertaking financial modelling, and considering a structure for the new entity. If this model offers an improvement over the existing structure, the expectation is that it will be embraced. Submissions are due June 2015.

Community involvement in the process is paramount to ensure that the outcome will meet your aspirations. To this end I encourage members of the community to review the material as it is presented and contribute to the process as opportunities arise. Information can be found on the 'Fit For the Future' website. ■

Vote on transition committee idea

At its October meeting Queanbeyan Council voted unanimously to discuss with Palerang Council the joint appointment of a facilitator approved by the state to assist in bringing the two councils together to discuss structural change.

As the *Bulletin* went to press it was deemed likely that Palerang, at its November council meeting that day, would take a similar position.

Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall told the *Bulletin*, "It is fair to say that Queanbeyan councillors are of the view that there is an obligation and an expectation from the NSW Government that those councils that are subject to a recommended merger will jointly participate in a conversation in a neutral way with an appointed independent facilitator – as recommended by the Office of Local Government".

This exercise, with NSW paying for everyone's time, has been labelled a 'transition committee' and is expected to take several months (but must be finished well before June 2015). The committee would involve both Mayors, both General Managers or proxy and one other

councillor from both sides. With the assistance of the facilitator the committee will look at both sets of books and operational plans and model how a merger might look – before going to the public.

Some councillors from Palerang told the *Bulletin* they consider this the thin end of the wedge to a 'done deal'. However, Palerang Council staff has recommended that merger talks be entered into with Queanbeyan.

(At the November meeting, Palerang councillors also considered a proposal for an external efficiency review of Palerang's operation (not funded by the state), while staff recommended developing "alternate models" as well.)

Mayor Pete Harrison said (before the November council meeting) that the hard-to-say-no-to transition committee exercise would provide a better view of merger costs and benefits while also clarifying a comparative stand-alone position, to take to mandatory community consultation. Comparative rates will be of great interest for example.

— Maria Taylor

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Mosaic tribute to Federation

A DREAM for a number of Queanbeyan people was realised in October when the Federation Garden, adjacent to the Sensory Gardens in Ray Morton Park, was officially opened with community mosaic artists who worked on the project in attendance.

The concept for the star-shaped garden came from a group of dedicated individuals who made up the Queanbeyan Centenary of Federation's Garden Committee set up in the late 1990s.

"The committee included the late Hope Marland who was a much-loved part of the Queanbeyan community," said Mayor Tim Overall. "The group wanted to commemorate Federation and establish a place for families to gather and celebrate. What a wonderful place it has turned out to be."

The garden includes plants that represent each state and territory and also has mosaics embedded in the paving which depict the floral emblems of each state and territory. The mosaic panels were created by members of the community under the guidance of artist Freya Jobbins.

Faye Fanayan (above) worked on the community mosaic project representing the state flowers of the Australian federation.



NSW regards loose-fill asbestos – slowly

by Maria Taylor

WITH 1,021 houses in the ACT identified for a demolition and buyback scheme to eradicate the blight of Mr Fluffy loose-fill asbestos, pressure is mounting for neighbouring NSW to take a more active role in assisting landholders with asbestos in their homes.

A NSW parliamentary enquiry is underway thanks to a motion by Steve Whan Duty MLC for Monaro. Hearings will be held in Queanbeyan on 17 November and interested parties are encouraged to send submissions ahead of time via email and phone contacts at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/asbestosinsulation. The bipartisan committee is to establish how many homes are affected and the role government should play. Whan said the enquiry would also investigate whether advice given by NSW Health so far was adequate.

In terms of buildings, currently the only assistance being offered is Workcover NSW inspections. What happens after that remains 'tough luck'. Queanbeyan resident Mike Bresnik said when he last enquired the Workcover technical protocols in the Queanbeyan area had yet to be finalised.

The Bresniks are among 12 homeowners in Queanbeyan with asbestos identified in the house. Theirs was identified with a 60 Minutes program 25 years ago, said Mike. Ten years ago he had the loose-fill asbestos in his roof cavity removed. There remains a feeling of risk that concerns his wife particularly when looking after their

grand-daughter in the house.

Mike says he has witnessed a "legacy of inaction". What happens he asks, with issues like a fire or even just maintenance?

Rural home and no joy yet from NSW Workcover

Only a few homes have been identified in Palerang and in other rural areas so far. One of those is on a farm near Gundaroo. The owners, Maureen and Kevin Trevanion say they know they have loose-fill asbestos from previous private testing, but they don't know how worried they should be for health reasons or the extent of the problem.

Maureen has written to her state Member Katrina Hodgkinson.

She wrote on the 28 October, "I contacted Workcover to request testing around two months ago or maybe more. In that time I have never once been contacted in regards to testing. I have contacted Workcover at least twice since registering and it was only about 10 days ago that I was put through to the team working on the testing.

"After talking to a female team member I discovered that Workcover had not recorded that my house had already been identified as having loose-fill (amosite) asbestos. As [such] I require a technical inspection rather than testing to determine if I have asbestos in the ceiling.

"Apparently, Workcover has not yet identified the approved providers for the technical testing although I was told this was happening last week. There does not appear to be any urgency to get this testing done. Once the testing is complete then what?

"The technical testing will identify if I have asbestos in my house ceiling and living area. However, the results are only good for

Cont'd p15

Good timing for raising the spectre of forced council 'mergers'?

WITH a state election only months away and close to a cricket team of former government MPs now occupying the crossbenches as a result of complicity in ICAC cases, the NSW government has, somewhat inexplicably, put the issue of council mergers on the table: a curious move for a government in an unstable political climate.

Spectator POLITICA



with Robyn Tennant-Wood

While Sydney councils are vigorously opposing a reported intention by the state government to reduce the 41 councils in the Sydney urban region to just five, the intention for Palerang and Queanbeyan to amalgamate by 2017 is also firmly in the government's sights.

The question of amalgamation of councils, regardless of whether they are urban or rural, comes down to three issues: efficiency, equity and experience. These issues can be measured and decisions can be based on largely objective data.

There is another question, though, that cannot be measured but which must be considered before any decision to amalgamate is made. That is the question of what we believe local government to be, and how local communities approach decision-making and responsibility.

Put simply, amalgamations and mergers of local governments are not popular, and even less so when the decision comes from the state government with little or no input from the communities that rely on their councils for many services.

Local communities want local representation and locally-delivered services. The larger the council, the more centralized becomes the representation and service delivery. This inevitably results in some – usually small – communities missing out.

The Mayor of Queanbeyan, Tim Overall, believes that local government reform is needed, and is on record as considering favourably an amalgamation between Queanbeyan and Palerang. He notes the two councils already have shared library services

and that Queanbeyan periodically contracts Palerang road maintenance services as examples of joint efficient services.

Palerang Mayor Pete Harrison on the other hand, is taking a more cautious

approach and, while keeping an open mind, appears to be opposed to the idea, stating that Palerang is already "financially sustainable".

The area covered by a Queanbeyan-Palerang amalgamation would take in a large chunk of the state electorate of Monaro. Also, Palerang itself is the result of the 2004 amalgamation between Tallaganda and Yarrowlumla shires with parts of Mulwarree, Gunning and Cooma-Monaro shires.

Any merger between rural Palerang and urban Queanbeyan would see an inevitable centralisation of services and representation with the result that many small communities would see a reduction of services and would most likely lose their local representation in the council chamber.

The NSW government would be wise to tread very carefully on the issue of forcing council amalgamations, particularly in rural areas, and even more particularly, rural areas in marginal electorates.

On the subject of marginal electorates, congratulations to the Member for Monaro, John Barilaro, on his elevation to cabinet as Minister for Small Business and Regional Tourism. I note that in his maiden speech in 2011, Mr Barilaro mentioned his enthusiasm for the tourism potential of the Monaro region and his new portfolio responsibilities allow him to now champion that cause at the cabinet table.

On the issue of council amalgamations, Mr Barilaro, himself a former Queanbeyan councillor, has played a straight bat, simply stating the government line that councils will have until the end of the current financial year, June 30 2015, to prove their economic sustainability to avoid forced mergers.

Former Member for Monaro, current Labor MLC and candidate for Monaro,

Steve Whan, has said that Labor's position is that council amalgamations will not be forced and remain a matter for individual councils to determine.

While the matter remains a question of forced amalgamations from Macquarie St, it is not going to go away. Economic efficiency or local responsibility? Centralisation or decentralisation? The candidates for #NSWvotes 2015 must be clear on where they stand. Either way, this issue could tip the balance in Monaro. ■



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Ecotherapy: how does the great outdoors improve mental health?

Oliver James writes in a blog on Guardian.com: an excerpt.

AT the age of 11 I was an angry boy who earned unpopularity through assiduous selfishness and hostility. At that time I was at a boarding school in Kent, surrounded by rich, fecund forest. It proved my saviour in several different ways.

The first was literal. The forest was my protection from occasional hordes of other boys who decided to pick on me. Because I was nimble, I would leg it into the forest and conceal myself by hiding under piles of leaves or in bushes. I would lie completely still and in between the cries of the chasing pack, listen to the sounds of the wood. The forest wrapped me up and hid me.

But during the spring and summer terms it was also a place where I could feel pleasure in solitude and through which I was able to become elevated beyond my unhappy terrestrial life. I would head off to the edges of the estate in which the school was located and climb to the top of some very tall trees. From that position of sovereignty, I could relax. I gazed out across the countryside, above, as well as within it.

Ecotherapy encompasses a wide variety of interventions, whether they be prolonged periods in wilderness, gardening or individual therapy. They are all united by the concept that exposure to nature will improve wellbeing and healthy living.

Why would nature have this benign effect?

A valuable theory was offered by a leading



figure in this field, Michael Cohen founder and co-ordinator of the American Project 'NatureConnect'. He maintains that nature offers a different civilisation from that of human culture. Earth offers a wisdom, joy and beauty that excludes pollution, war and insanity. Nature is willing to share its magic and secrets with anyone, anywhere, any time.

Cohen gives an example of men able to access their natural senses. "In Scotland, farmers were overturning their hay bales to exterminate rats living beneath them. A trio of rats tried to flee but, unlike the other fleeing rats, these three stayed closely together which limited their ability to escape." The farmers saw that one of the rats was blind and the others were guiding it to safety. Deeply moved, the farmers did not kill them. Sufficiently in tune with their inner nature, their socialised farming selves were overridden.

Cohen maintains that our conditioning makes us use words, symbols and images to represent our natural sensory world. The representation of nature becomes more immediate and real to us than the direct sensing of it.

[Editor's note: an interesting modern affliction is the habit of being unable to go through a natural environment without cataloguing, naming, explaining – rather than just being there. And there is the common compulsion to capture and take away everything in sight via a camera, often never to be seen again.]

Cohen offers a number of simple and practical techniques that anyone can employ to stimulate what he calls our "old-brain", the unpasteurized natural experience of nature. They overlap neatly with the current vogue for mindfulness which increases awareness of your bodily states through meditation; our bodies are part of nature, our minds can disconnect us from our bodies and from nature.

The fundamental causes of emotional distress are psychosocial (and not genetic – it was recently admitted by our leading gene psychologist that he can't find any genes to explain mental illness). However, it is also true that we are twice as likely to be emotionally distressed if we are urban rather than rural (and four times more likely to suffer schizophrenia). Part of the reason for this is

estrangement caused by lack of exposure to natural sights, sounds and smells, to dislocation from the natural rhythms of the seasons, of night from day. Ecotherapies work because they reconnect us with nature; its external reality but most fundamentally, our inner natures. ■

Read the whole article at www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/jun/17/ecotherapy-how-outdoors-improve-mental-health-parks-wilderness.



RECIPE

Hummingbird cake

Ingredients:

¾ cup plain flour; ¾ cup self-raising flour; ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda; 1 tsp ground cinnamon; 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar; 450g can crushed pineapple in juice, drain (reserve ⅓ cup juice); ½ cup desiccated coconut; 1 cup mashed banana; 2 lightly beaten eggs; ½ cup extra light olive oil; ½ cup chopped walnuts.

Cream cheese frosting: 125g cream cheese, softened; 1½ cups icing sugar mixture.

Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Grease 23cm square cake pan. Line base and sides with baking paper.

Sift flours, soda, cinnamon and sugar into a large bowl. Stir in pineapple, reserved juice, coconut, banana, egg, oil and ¼ cup cold water. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake for 45 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Stand in pan for 10 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool.

Make cream cheese frosting: Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese until light and fluffy. Gradually add icing sugar. Beat until smooth. Spread frosting over top of cake. Sprinkle with walnuts. Serve.

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Mystery by moonlight: explore Queanbeyan cemetery

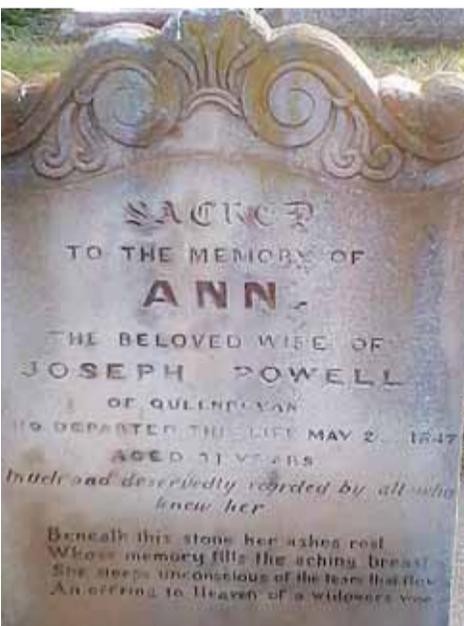
Local author and history buff, or 'tour thrillist' as the marketing proclaims, **Nichole Overall** conducts the very popular *Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight Tours* exploring the city's lesser known and more intriguing side. Here she leads a virtual tour through one of the oldest public burial grounds in the region, *Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery*.

AS THE gates swing closed and darkness descends, a cemetery is perhaps not where most might turn for historical inspiration and yet the Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery is much more than just the final resting place of so many of the city's earliest residents.

Tonight it's Halloween, October 31, when it's said that the veil between the living and the dead is at its most transparent, a perfect time perhaps for some meditation on those that have gone before us. The town's story can virtually be read through the headstones that keep vigil here, as the guests joining us on this evening learned.

Opened in 1846, only eight years after Queanbeyan was proclaimed a township, some 3,900 souls were laid to rest over almost 140 years in this, the region's first public cemetery. That official number could however be significantly higher, with hundreds thought to lie in unmarked graves.

Spread over approximately five acres just upstream from where the Queanbeyan and Molonglo rivers merge, this was one of the earliest state rather than church designed cemeteries in the new colony. It is segregated into the Presbyterian and Methodists sections to the west, the Anglicans largely on the lower portion closer to the water and the Catholics on elevated terrain towards the main entrance – even in death separated by belief.



The flickering beams of our guests' torches illuminate shadowy markers, some bearing angels or crosses, occasionally monumental, but mostly simple though dignified. One of these belongs to the first internment, Ann Powell, who died in 1847 at the age of 31, causes unknown. Curiously,

Mrs Powell's 167-year-old grave has a 'typo' and her place of residence at the time of her death is forever marked in stone as



'Queenbeyan'.

As we wander through the various portions, a man's voice carries through the still air, "this was my great-great grandfather". It's the grave of Dr Andrew Morton, Queanbeyan's first school master of 1844. This discovery is but one to offer a sense of the abiding connections of this place.

Cypress pines mark reasons behind burial practices and a flood prone location

Despite the lateness of the hour, no one is in a hurry to leave. Cypress pines sway rhythmically in the wind, their presence beyond decorative, instead a symbolic representation of death and funerals from a time when it was thought the trees could keep bodies from decay.

In fact, many of the traditions of modern funerals today have their origins in superstitious practices started hundreds of years ago, including the erection of headstones, intended to keep the spirits of the dearly departed below the ground.

Graves here may have let the souls of their occupants roam free: many are in serious disrepair. This may reflect more the inevitable passage of time and also the perils of spending one's eternal rest beside a picturesque but flood-prone river.

Over 200 graves have been affected by flooding over the years, the best-known the flood of 1974 in which up to 50 feet of river-bank was washed away, the waters taking with them over 60 plots. Urban legends about the event abound, but an audible gasp goes up when people learn that not all of the remains were able to be retrieved.

It was the flooding and the risks it posed that eventually led to the cemetery being closed to further internment – the 'new' Queanbeyan Cemetery up on Lanyon Drive

opened in 1895 to cater to demand – with a few exceptions.

One of these is the last remaining descendant of one of the oldest pioneering families in the region, Ruben Colverwell, who will eventually lie amongst the numerous other family members here.

Earliest known graves and another mystery

The Colverwells have another significant link in this regard in that their family burial plot at Burbong, halfway between Queanbeyan and Bungendore, is home to the earliest known marked graves in the region.

They honour Elizabeth and Margaret Colverwell, aged



Australian pottery: the new collectable

REMEMBER the nights when a group of friends came round – you had spaghetti bolognese and red wine stylishly served in pottery goblets. Pottery is again making a comeback as it is collectable, affordable and there is a style to suit every home.

Bendigo Pottery is Australia's oldest working pottery, having been established in 1858. It is also probably the best known with most people easily recognising platters, mugs, canisters and vases with the famous Bendigo Pottery mark.

A particular favourite of mine is Pates Pottery (below) and I have been lucky enough to acquire a good collection of very Art Deco Pates.



In starting my research on pottery, I fortunately came across the website of the National Museum of Australian Pottery, which is located in Holbrook NSW, www.australianpottery.net.au.

Geoff Ford OAM, FAIHA, and Kerrie Ford FAIHA, are the owner directors of the National Museum of Australian Pottery which they established in 1995 in Wodonga, Victoria. In September 2006 they opened the new and permanent home of the museum in Holbrook, NSW.

four and six, who together drowned on the property in 1837, although exactly how and where this happened is itself a mystery. Their father Luke apparently never recovered and built the graveyard in their memory.

Time marches on and final farewells must now be bid. As we make our exit, the gates clang closed with a resounding finality and we hear a last sigh of wind through the trees as we depart ... or at least, that's what we think we hear.

Next month, some of the more fascinating stories of the tragedies, the larger-than-life figures that lie here as well as the other burial grounds in the wider area.

Left: Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery by night.

Below: The oldest marked graves in the ACT region at Burbong.

Bottom: The first person to be buried in Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery, Ann Powell in 1847.

PHOTOS: NICOLE OVERALL

The museum is the only one dedicated to 19th and early 20th century Australian pottery and is the culmination of many years of collecting and research throughout Australia. On display are over 1,600 pieces of domestic pottery from over 120 Australian pottery companies established between European settlement and the end of World War I.



Amongst the extensive range of pottery wares, such as simple preserving jars, jugs, colourful cheese covers, beautiful bread plates and elegantly decorated water filters, are a few rare examples of pottery made by the convict potter Jonathan Leak, who's few surviving pieces are the earliest marked pottery produced in Australia.

Also on display are over 100 original photographs, showing the interior and exterior of many potteries, exhibition displays and portraits of the potters along with catalogues, price lists and numerous old advertisements.

The collection represents in many ways the struggle, courage and determination of many of our early potters who, often under difficult circumstances, produced basic and decorative domestic pottery, frequently with spectacular results.

David and I often drive past the museum, and intend to take the time to drop in and visit on our next trip. I'm hoping they have a Bendigo Pottery majolica water filter which I have only ever seen in a photo.

Till next time, Annie

PS: Our Christmas 'Browse and Bubbles' will be on Friday 5 December from 4.30pm. Please let me know by 30 November if you would like to come, 0408 103 209 or joyce@anniescollectables.com.au.



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Majors Creek Festival in November

US blues diva Kristina Olsen, local blues legend Owen Campbell and poetic singer-songwriter Heath Cullen to headline



KRISTINA Olsen, the award-winning Californian singer-songwriter with a big bluesy voice, is well-known to Australian folk and blues audiences. She has spent a lot of time in this country over the years, but this is her first visit to Majors Creek, and festival organisers are delighted to have her on the program.

Kristina hails from Haight-Ashbury's (San Francisco) bustling and eclectic flower-powered 1960s. Her material ranges from contemporary folk, blues to swing jazz, and ranges across lilting ballads to raunch and roll.

She is a superb multi-instrumentalist (acoustic guitar, steel-body slide guitar, saxophone, concertina and piano) with a compelling stage presence that is enhanced by her 'real life' storytelling. As well as a number of performances, Kristina will also share her extensive musical knowledge at a couple of workshops over the weekend.

Joining Kristina on festival stages are Queanbeyan's own son, Owen Campbell, just home after a long US tour; rising star Heath Cullen who recently recorded with Elvis Costello's band, The Imposters, and toured with The Waifs and Joe Henry; and that much-loved, dynamic Celtic band from the Illawarra, Riogh.

More than 50 performers from around the country will strut their stuff over the weekend and the new committee expects record crowds as this friendly little festival returns after a three-year break.

There will be something for everyone, as usual: superb music, dance, poetry and a



kids' festival. Emerging young musicians will share the stage with some of the best in folk, bluegrass, blues, roots and world music.

Majors Creek Festival is just ten minutes from Braidwood and a little over an hour from Canberra and Batemans Bay. Free camping is available on site.

The Festival opens at 5pm Friday 21 November and runs until late afternoon Sunday 23 November. Tickets are on sale from the festival website now.

For a full list of performers and further festival information including ticketing, go to the festival website <http://majorscreekfestival.org>.

Community comes out for veterinary care of wildlife

ON November 1, around 100 people from Palerang and the wider capital region enjoyed a great night of art, craft, good food and wine and donated generously for a mobile unit to the Southern Cross Wildlife Care hospital, operating out of Braidwood.

The goodwill and donations started with some 39 artists who contributed works for both live and silent auction and the folk at Bungendore Wood Works and Café Wood Works who donated the venue. \$16,400 was raised by the end of the night.

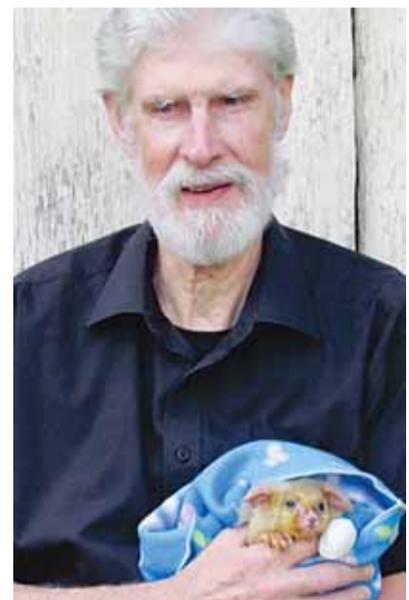
The *Bulletin* has previously featured the amazing skill and pioneering work of Dr Howard Ralph who runs the unique hospital with his wife Glenda and dedicated volunteers. He told us then his aim is "busting the myth that wildlife cannot be treated successfully".

He is a lifeline for animals that come into wildlife care throughout the district, and does not charge for the work he does on his patients. He performs surgical feats some consider bordering on the miraculous, regularly setting broken limbs on young kangaroos or wallabies (when the conventional wisdom says it can't be done), and performing much delicate eye surgery because wildlife cannot survive blind in the wild.

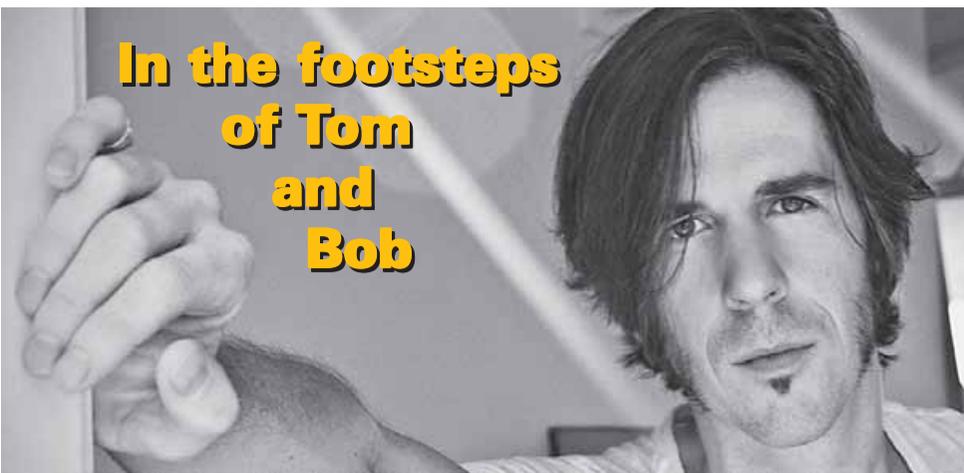
The dedicated fundraising team, led by Wildcarers Cindi Shoesmith, Heather Walker, Pauline Chambers, Susie Watson and Marilyn Mills, takes the opportunity to thank everyone who helped, donated or attended the night.

Please continue supporting the work of this unique hospital. Go to southerncrosswildlifecare.org.au, look for the donation page and/or merchandise to buy. The hospital runs totally on donations.

— The Bulletin team



In the footsteps of Tom and Bob



Ros Hales chats with Heath Cullen: South Coast star who has been hanging out with some musical greats.

HEATH Cullen, headline artist at Majors Creek Festival this month, has been compared to musical greats like Tom Waits and Bob Dylan. His songs are certainly as memorable and poetic.

But for a young man from the Bega Valley, the musical holy land of the American south must have seemed like a far off dream. However, in 2012, his love of the music of the '50s and '60s sent him off on a kind of a pilgrimage across the seas to America.

During that long holiday, he became friends with Jim Keltner (drummer for John Lennon, Bob Dylan) and Marc Ribot (guitarist with Tom Waits, Elvis Costello, Robert Plant and Alison Krause). He had previously met Larry Taylor when he toured Australia opening for Canned Heat.

It seemed only natural that Cullen bring them all together in a recording studio in Los Angeles. The result is Cullen's highly-acclaimed second album, *The Still and the Steep* which was released in April 2013.

When asked what it is about those green hills of the NSW south coast that has fostered so many successful young guitarists and singer-songwriters (Daniel Champagne and Kim Churchill spring to mind), Cullen firmly puts it down to community.

"The level of community support, particularly for young people following their dreams, is great. It's a community that really looks after itself," he said. "As a kid growing up here, I was really lucky to have a monthly open mic night to play at in Candelo, playing for and with people who I respected.

"The common thread has been Candelo Arts Society that has been going strong for coming on 30 years, and that open mic night has been on every month for 30 years."

Although having many musical role models in his youth, and a few years of classical piano tuition, Cullen is a self-taught guitar-

ist. His songwriting influences are varied, but he agrees that the Bega Valley has played a large part in the stories that he spins.

Recording with Elvis' mob

His most recent foray into recording came about early this year when a couple of mates from Elvie Costello's band, The Imposters, got in touch when they were touring Australia. Cullen admits that he "shamelessly stole Elvis's band" and got them together in Sing Sing studio in Melbourne for a magical few days of recording his songs. They were as excited as he, as they rarely have a chance to record together. This is sure to be an album worth the wait!

Cullen hopes to release that album with a national tour early in 2015. He has been busy of late playing, producing and engineering Michael Menager's new CD which will be ready for Majors Creek Festival.

Heath Cullen and Michael Menager will both be playing at Majors Creek Festival from 21-23 November. Tickets are available online at www.majorscreekfestival.org.

Sutton blues/folk band plays for you at Goolabri in the Ironbar



Sunday 23 November, 2-4pm

Rumshack is a six-piece bluesy, harmony-based, acoustic folk band that came together as a result of impromptu jam sessions between Sam and individual band members. Eventually all six musicians found themselves in the same room, and Rumshack was born in a shed in Sutton, mid 2013.

Rumshack's music draws on elements of blues, folk, gypsy, bluegrass and hillbilly genres. Band members have a passion for songwriting, and to date have written over 15 original songs – with more constantly in the making. Rumshack is currently finalising the production of a debut EP.

The reaction to Rumshack's high energy shows and live-to-air radio performance have inspired the band to take the show on the road. Rumshack's music and performance style lends itself to a festival vibe, and that is where the band aspires to be. See more at www.facebook.com/rumshackband.

> See Gig Guide, p16, for more music

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From Burra to Bundanon, an Arthur Boyd legacy



'A job complete'
Radiata pine
seeds – now an important
food source for black cockatoos
Watercolour on paper
Photo – RLDI

BURRA artist, Sharon Field has been selected, for a second time as Artist-in-Residence at Bundanon on the Shoalhaven River in 2015. Situated on 1,100 hectares of pristine bush and farm land this isolated natural environment provides a creative refuge for artists – a legacy of Arthur and Yvonne Boyd to the Australian people.

During her first residency in 2013 Field worked on a series of 9" x 5" cameos of botanical subjects which culminated in a sell-out exhibition at The Q Gallery in Queanbeyan later that year. Field was also a finalist in the Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize in 2013.

For the 2015 residency Field said she will continue to focus on environmental themes. Her work will link with Aboriginal knowledge of plants and a more sensitive expression of seasons in the local area coupled with the impact development has had on the local environment.

These are themes also in her recent successful joint exhibition 'On the Verge' at FORM Gallery in Queanbeyan, collaborating with sculptor Natalie Maras and poet Elizabeth Lawson. ■



'For posterity's record'
Short Wallaby Grass and the endangered
Golden Sun Moth
Watercolour on vellum
Photo – RLDI

Queanbeyan poet Elizabeth Lawson wrote this piece to go with Sharon Field's recent exhibition of botanical drawings, including the image of the wallaby grass and Golden Sun Moth, at FORM Gallery in Queanbeyan.

Golden Sun Moth

The Golden Sun Moth flickers across shreds and patches of wallaby grass, flickers and vanishes.

So short a time since the un-settlers

planted alien grasses making lands which betray and destroy

the moth whose golden millions thrived on native grasses for millennia.

'But there, there', people shrug.

'Never mind for so small a thing!'

And after all, why care for the rare life of a mere flutter-by fluttering by?

But was that a flash in the eye?

Or a desperate cry?

© Elizabeth Lawson

Native garden

Try a little mint for garden colour

Story and photos Jo Walker



FOR THOSE who appreciate a splash of blue, mauve or white in their gardens at this time of year, mint-bushes would have to be one of the better choices. These eye-catch-

ing plants are in the same family (Lamiaceae) as the aromatic mints we use to flavour our food. We do have some native mints – *Mentha diemenica* grows locally in patches along

creeks and in damp areas – but most of those used in cooking come from overseas. All of the mint-bushes (*Prostanthera spp.*), however, are endemic Australian plants.

In size, they are mostly shrubs of medium height, but there are semi-prostrate mint-bushes – and, at the other end of the scale, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, the Victorian Christmas Bush, can develop into a small tree under suitable conditions. The leaves of some mint-bushes are not strongly aromatic, but others definitely live up to their name.

Prostanthera incisa (Cut-leaved Mint-bush) is one of these. On a warm day, its minty odour can waft for some distance. This is one of the most attractive species in this group with masses of mauve-blue flowers obscuring the foliage in a good year. Although its natural home is the edge of rainforest, it seems quite hardy in drier areas.

The Round-leaved Mint-bush (*P. rotundifolia*) is probably the species most commonly grown in gardens – for good reasons. It is a neat, fairly dense shrub with dark green leaves and a spectacular display of violet-blue flowers. There is also a pink flowering form of this one.

Both of the above flower in mid-spring, but there are later flowering mint-bushes.

P. phyllicifolia is one of these. It grows

on rocky outcrops and in shallow hillside soils (it is quite common in the Tinderry area) and has dark crowded, linear leaves and white or occasionally pale blue flowers both with darker throats.

Ground-hugging as well

A much smaller, later flowering mint-bush is *P. saxicola* var. *montana*. Some forms of this species are spreading, ground-hugging plants found in heathland and dry woodland areas. Flowers are white with a purplish throat and can completely cover the plant.

The latest flowering mint-bush is probably *P. lasianthos*, the Victorian Christmas Bush, which can flower from November to March depending on the conditions under which it is growing (it is a widespread species ranging from Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria to Tasmania). The tallest of the mint-bushes, it can grow to the dimensions of a small tree. This one grows along the Mulloon Fire Trail and in Tallanganda Forest. It flowers heavily, bearing white flowers with purple and yellow throat blotches.

Close relatives, the Westringias

The closely-related Westringias are hardy, fast-growing plants with attractive white flowers. The flowers are similar to those of the mint-bushes, but have five sepals surrounding the flowers (the mint-bush flowers have only two sepals). Many of the Westringias in nurseries are robust hybrids with white or bluish flowers. *Westringia eremicola*, which grows along the Murrumbidgee, is a small, daintier shrub with good displays of white flowers which turn pink as they age.

Mint-bushes need well-drained acidic soil to do well and prefer semi-shaded positions. They are intolerant of waterlogging or sudden changes in the amount of water in the soil. The ones I have planted rely on natural rainfall once they are established, and that seems to be sufficient.

Both mint-bushes and Westringias are hardy, fast-growing plants. They react well to pruning and could be used as hedge plants or as contrast plants amongst the many yellow, orange and red spring-flowering plants. ■

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Burra renews trees in park

A 10-year effort culminated in mid-October with the replacement of a circle of ageing Monterey pine trees with 70 new trees of different species including both natives and exotics.

A bountiful country lunch was served by and for community members (and media blow-ins) to commemorate the occasion with great community spirit.

Donald Fraser from Burra Landcare said the project gained financial support from ACTEW, allowing Palerang Council to

Botanical artist Sharon Field, in her capacity as Captain of the Burra RFS, with Don Fraser of Burra Landcare at the unveiling of the new tree plantings at Burra Park.

remove and mulch the old trees. New trees, tree guards and irrigation were purchased through sponsorship by the Burra community.

Local residents planted the new trees over a six-month period, following a landscape plan prepared in consultation with the community.

Fraser said the whole exercise began years ago with a report to the Burra Community Association (BCA) by local vegetation experts Chris Worth and Roger Farrow. They recommended replacement of the Monterey (radiata) pines which had been planted by local families to circle the cricket ground in 1902. The trees bore the

names of female members of those families. "By 2004 both the trees and the women they had been named after were past their best, in some cases fatally," said a background paper on the whole exercise.

However it was not until 2012, following the completion of the Murrumbidgee to Burra pipeline, that ACTEW Corporation made \$20,000 available to Palerang Council specifically to assist with the removal of the old pines and planting of new trees. The Molonglo Catchment Group provided a grant to assist with planning the project.

Palerang Council's Section 355 committee, which advises on Burra Hall and Park, recommended the project to Council and consecutive chairs Anne Goonan and Peter Marshall were active in promoting the project to Council and liaising with ACTEW.

Bushfire season on horizon Wamboin becomes Neighbourhood Safer Place, unveils new option to staying and defending

IN LATE October the Wamboin RFS unveiled a remote-activated spray system for rooftops for use on catastrophic fire days, as the Wamboin community hall was declared a Neighbourhood Safer Place using this innovative system.

In tandem, the RFS installed a weather station at the Wamboin hall. The weather station can be accessed in real time via the internet to provide the community with very localised weather information when deciding if they should invoke their bushfire survival plan. The weather data can be accessed via the Wamboin community website www.wamboincommunity.asn.au and fire brigade.

According to the website for the telemetry-enabled bushfire spray system (TeBWSS) www.bushfirehousesprinklers.com.au it was developed to provide an alternative to people staying and defending, and can be activated either on-site or remotely through SMS.

Billed also an alternative to fire bunkers, the TeBWSS was developed with the collaboration of the ACT Emergency Services Agency and the University of NSW in Canberra.

According to the website, it uses local weather conditions to calculate the Fire Danger Index (FDI) in real time, as an additional trigger. In the event of failure of the mobile network power, heat-activated alcohol bulbs are used as a failsafe. The system also offers internal protection from

ember attack and remote monitoring.

Kevin Rowe from the local RFS said of the system installed at the Wamboin hall: "the system can provide 2.5 hours of protection, delivering 900 litres of water per minute through 300 spray heads. It can be manually activated by people on site, remotely by mobile phone or automatically by a system controlled by data from the onsite weather station".

The Wamboin Community Hall was declared a Neighbourhood Safer Place on Saturday 25 October by Tim Carroll, the RFS Lake George Zone Manager. Palerang Mayor (and Wamboin resident) Pete Harrison did the honours by hitting the button that started the deluge system, drenching the complex in a fire-protective mist.

Burra, Fernleigh also have 'safe places'

The Wamboin hall is just one of several venues in Palerang that will be adapted for local people requiring a safer place to shelter when their bushfire survival plan fails. The Neighbourhood Safer Places in Burra and Fernleigh Park will be similar to the Wamboin installation with water drenching systems installed.

Tim Carroll emphasised that Neighbourhood Safer Places are not evacuation centres and should be considered as a refuge of last resort.

Localised weather station important with changing climate and conditions that are not Canberra

The localised weather station is another welcome innovation. A press release from the RFS stated: "the latest scientific research and study proves our climate is changing. Our weather is becoming more extreme with higher temperatures, stronger unpredictable winds, extreme weather storms and lower rainfall.

Cont'd next page



PALERANG COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Council approved the following development applications in **October 2014**

Development Consents are available for public inspection free of charge at Council's offices during ordinary business hours.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2014.035	Sand Extraction Quarry	02/10/2014	Lots 50, 52, 183, 196 DP 754878 Lot 4 DP 1160367, Part Lot 3 DP 1160367, Lot 31 DP 1178883 3578 Kings Highway BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.193	2 Lot Subdivision	02/10/2014	Lot 7 DP 227420 Curraudooley Road LAKE GEORGE
DA.2014.182	Swimming Pool	03/10/2014	Lot 4 DP 800095 7 Reardon Place BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.176	Dwelling and Secondary Building Envelope	07/10/2014	Lot 11 DP 1141290 129 Yuranga Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2014.179	Swimming Pool	07/10/2014	Lot 2 DP 1045373 34 Woolshed Lane BYWONG
DA.2014.198	Continued Use – Solid Fuel Heater, Pool & Pergola	07/10/2014	Lot 2 DP 577809 1474 Captains Flat Road CARWOOLA
DA.2014.211	Dwelling	07/10/2014	Lot 821 DP 1129595 24 Simms Drive BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.099	2 Lot Subdivision	09/10/2014	Lot 13 DP 712055 175 Plummers Road BURRA
DA.2014.103	Four Lot Subdivision	09/10/2014	Lots 16, 17, 18 Sec 2 DP 976608 40-44 Forster Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.172	Alterations & Additions to School	09/10/2014	Lot 4 DP 219650 46 Elrington Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.201	Manufactured Home	10/10/2014	Lot 5 DP 1059163 132 Rossi Road ROSSI
DA.2014.167	Dwelling	13/10/2014	Lot 6 Sec 3 DP 758223 115 Foxlow Street CAPTAINS FLAT
DA.2014.150	Shed, Dual Occupancy & Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling	14/10/2014	Lot 102 DP 873525 282 Doust Road LAKE GEORGE
DA.2014.207	Tree Removal	15/10/2014	Lot 9 Sec 3 DP 976608 69 Majara Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.224	Tree Removal	15/10/2014	Lot 15 Sec 9 DP 758183 42 Butmaroo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.206	Tree Removal	15/10/2014	Lot 29 DP 736646 21 Reedy Creek Place WAMBOIN
DA.2014.214	Continued Use – Studio	16/10/2014	Lot 16 DP 1046563 413 Denley Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2013.261	Addition to Existing Building	17/10/2014	Lot 3 DP 582379 66 Wilson Street BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.155	Shed	17/10/2014	Lot 18 DP 244439 27 Cooper Road WAMBOIN
DA.2014.204	Shed	17/10/2014	Lot 17 DP 260711 24 Radcliffe Circuit CARWOOLA
DA.2014.218	Garage	21/10/2014	Lot 5 DP 1193114 6 Dog Rock Close MULLOON
DA.2014.225	Continued Use – Deck	21/10/2014	Lot 28 DP 715389 419 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2014.221	Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling	21/10/2014	Lot 10 Sec B DP 2726 42 Coronation Avenue BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.228	Shed	21/10/2014	Lot 107 DP 1167357 13 Badgery St BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.220	Garage	23/10/2014	Lot 12 DP 236890 57 Modbury St BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.213	Dwelling	23/10/2014	Lot 2 DP 1048261 Collector Road CURRAWANG
DA.2014.233	Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling	28/10/2014	Lot 8 DP 747432 115 Harriott Road BYWONG
DA.2014.203	Dwelling	28/10/2014	Lots 1-9 Sec 2 DP 1974102 Glenmore Road BRAIDWOOD
DA.2014.195	Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling & Solid Fuel Heater	28/10/2014	Lot 21 DP 1053397 32 Schofield Road BYWONG
DA.2014.229	Dwelling & Shed	28/10/2014	Lot 327 DP 755901 Araluen Road ARALUEN
DA.2014.230	Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling	28/10/2014	Lot 1 DP 507778 67 Daniel Lane FORBES CREEK
DA.2014.234	Demolish Unapproved Shed & Erect New Shed	28/10/2014	Lot 1 DP 1006515 44 Sinclair Road PRIMROSE VALLEY
DA.2014.223	Alterations & Additions to Existing Dwelling	29/10/2014	Lot 6 DP 1037260 424 Royalla Drive ROYALLA
DA.2014.222	Patio	29/10/2014	Lot 1 DP 1138980 67 Summerhill Road BYWONG

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The Judge is an American drama. A self-absorbed, hotshot lawyer, Hank Palmer, played by Robert Downey Jr, is in the middle of a marital meltdown when his mother dies. Hank returns home for the funeral and attempts to reunite with his estranged father, a small town judge played by Robert Duvall.

Judge Palmer is arrested for murder not long after his wife's funeral and Hank attempts to defend him to keep him out of jail.

The film mainly deals with the father/son, judge/lawyer relationship, although there are side trips that reveal Hank has let a lot of 'significant others' down before leaving town many years ago.

Hank is no Atticus Finch and the film is certainly not of the calibre of *To Kill A Mockingbird* but it has the odd moment or two.

Billy Bob Thornton plays the prosecution attorney who uses his very flashy folding water beaker in a style reminiscent of an old-fashioned gunfighter replacing his gun in its holster. Delightfully silly!

The *Guardian* review is less than complimentary and charges the film with "first degree cheese with intent".

Living is Easy With Eyes Closed is a Spanish film about a teacher, Antonio, who loves the Beatles and uses their songs to teach his students English in the 1960s. The title comes from the song 'Strawberry Fields Forever'.

WAMBOIN RFS from p11

"Research from the 2003 Canberra fires shows that rapidly changing local weather patterns affects fire conditions and fire behaviours. It is these local weather conditions that provide the triggers for when to act on our individual bushfire survival plans.

"Many parts of our district are over 1,000 metres higher than Canberra. This means Canberra weather observations and forecasts may not accurately reflect local weather on days of extreme fire conditions. These new weather stations will bridge that gap, providing real time local data on critical factors such as temperature, wind, humidity and the Fire Danger Index.

For further information log onto the Wamboin Community website at wamboincommunity.asn.au and click on Fire Brigade.

Across: 1 Best, 3 Marsh gas, 9 Opulent, 10 Index, 13 Interest, 15 Toolbox, 19 Urine, 20 Stet, 22 Lei, 6 Godsons, 7 Sexy, 8 General store, 12 Vauli, **Down:** 1 Boosting, 2 Spurn, 4 Art, 5 Spinstherhood, to-house, 21 Taboo, 22 Leonine, 23 Toxaemia, 24 Kept, 11 Tunnel vision, 14 Nit, 16 Abuse, 17 Sun, 18 House-

Antonio discovers that John Lennon is about to visit Almeria to act in a film. He takes time off from teaching to drive there in the hope of meeting him. Antonio wants to clarify some of the lyrics of the Beatles songs.

Along the way he picks up two fellow travellers. First he meets Belen, a young woman escaping from a home for unmarried mothers and then Juanjo, a young man running away from home after a dispute with his dictatorial father, a police officer. The dispute is about Juanjo's longish hair.

Antonio sees John Lennon as an expression of freedom and is sympathetic to his fellow travellers who he sees as trying to break free from a repressive society dominated by the Church and the State.

The film does not shy away from the consequences of rebellion for Juanjo and Belen, even though the action has a childlike naïve quality.

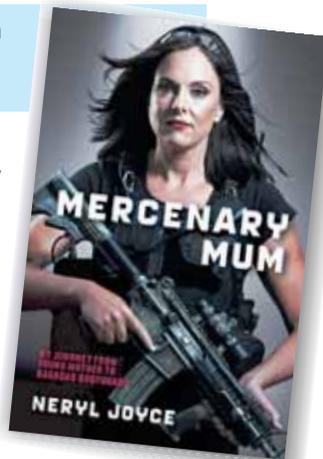
John Lennon is only ever really glimpsed but responds to Antonio's request to meet after a bizarre but effective plot is hatched to arrange their meeting. In the final credits it is mentioned that following his visit to Spain, the Beatles songs thereafter always featured the written lyrics.

It is well worth a look. ■

Mercenary Mum

by Neryl Joyce

Black Inc 2014



IN MANY ways, Neryl Joyce is ordinary. Very ordinary. Just your average suburban mum, doing what suburban mums do. But then she delivers a highly technical comparison of the AK47 assault rifle and the M-4, with some passing thoughts about the Austeyr.

Neryl Joyce came from an Army family, so it was no surprise that she joined the Australian Army as the scum of the earth, the lowest of the low, an eighteen-year-old infantry recruit at Kapooka in New South Wales. At first, it's all much according to formula: route marching, heavy packs, cross-country runs and bellowing sergeants.

But Joycee, as she becomes known, is an unusual case. She's not about to be ground down, in fact she's about to show them all what an ex-Woolies checkout chick can really do.

After a year of training, and feeling ready to take on the world single-handed, she finds that what the Australian military

machine needs is a remote-area dental assistant. For a while, she does as she is told (it is after all the military) but what she really wanted was to go "from bad breath and cavities to a job where the action is". To Joycee, the choice is obvious: become a Military Police officer.

Joycee is ending a relationship with someone she describes as a drug-smoking dole-bludging liar and in the process falls heavily for someone who is normal. "I wanted normal. I craved normal. And that is what I got."

This does not extend to her working life, as she is chosen as part of a team being sent to Cambodia to assist with the evacuation of civilians during a coup. Additional equipment included Kevlar helmets and body armour.

While the detachment is waiting to embark, news comes through that numbers are to be reduced. Then reduced again. Eventually, the Australian mission is reduced to one heavily armed young woman: Joycee.

Clearly, she is extremely competent. Marriage and a baby follow, more work as an MP, and then a stint as a commissioned officer with the elite Close Personal Protection Unit of the Australian Army, the first female officer qualified to command CPP >>

— TRAVEL —

Fifty Shades of Grey Nomad, we're on our way

DEAR Diary: Embarking on a 'pilgrimage' tour with a group of mainly 70 and 80 somethings, is somewhat like having your first baby. It seems like a great idea at the time but in retrospect one wonders how one plunges into these things with blithe expectation that, while not plain sailing, it will work out somehow.

First, what do I need to take? The list seems extremely long and inadequate, until I remember the adage: Take half the luggage and twice the money. This works well for me as I remove clothes designed for cold weather wear, with thoughts of shopping.

Unfortunately I can't afford the Shops-Elysees or Rue Faubourg Saint-Honore. Besides I like to be comfortable and vibrant while travelling and I don't remember them having much neon lycra in their windows.

Then I wonder what the standard of accommodation will be?

Musings while packing

Apart from the usual accoutrements like hot water, comfortable bed, clean sheets and towels, I hope accommodation will

have tea and coffee making facilities although this can be problematic.

I wonder what goes through the mind of the person who purchases the electric jug for rooms to ensure that the jug will either not fit under the tap in the hand basin or if it does fit, empties once removed from under the spigot? They must take exact measurements and only purchase jugs with the dimensions to thwart every effort for a cuppa.

(In fact we find that in Europe tea and coffee making are not part of the room appointment, necessitating a trip downstairs to the bar. There were trade-offs for this inconvenience including being served by a dashing, perhaps even brooding Bruno, Antonio or Francois in a tight waistcoat and the fact that one was always aware of the exact times for Happy Hour.)

I really hope that the rooms will have hairdryers with long enough cords to be able to blast into the wardrobe to help dry my smalls (read larges) once lovingly hand washed in the basin.

Which brings me to the plugs. I guess these are intentionally non-functioning so that smalls (larges) will not be rinsed in the room

and therefore necessitate the use of the expensive laundry service. I had better pack a small and large sized plug to suit all occasions. I wonder if they fit bidets?

A separate shower would be good. Getting too old to straddle into a bath and risk my virtue if I slip. Also shower curtains are not my favourite thing. Not one for conspiracy theories but it seems to me that all shower curtain manufacturers must conspire to impregnate the material with a sticky substance that clings only to wet human flesh gradually constricting to engulf the body (and with my surface area that's a real worry). For those that don't believe, perhaps this is really how the Shroud was created?

With my new found social networking skills, I hope that stable wifi is available that doesn't require complex and meaningless logins and passwords entered every five minutes.

I can't wait to meet the tour group members and start what is possibly my last trip overseas.

Join us next month as our correspondent Mavis Davis brings her acute observations along to Italy.

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teams on military operations. It was at this time that her marriage foundered, and she became a single mum. Where others might have wilted, Joycee decides that what she wants is more adventure, so she leaves the army and becomes a security contractor in Iraq. "I changed into my cargo pants and thick, black army boots. There'd be no more pretty-girl clothes for me."

This all makes for fascinating reading. Joycee is no stylist, and her language reflects that she was an Aussie infantry-person, but this adds to the reality of the story she tells. She describes one of her fellow contractors as "loud, crass and tactless." Most of them were.

Almost inevitably, as one of the very few women in the trade, she is the target, not of incoming hostile fire, but overt sexist behaviour ranging from marriage proposals at every military checkpoint, to the culminating spiked drink and brutal rape. Her team is indeed hit by insurgent fire, and three of her comrades are killed.

So it's off into the sunset with her new husband. "No more travel," she writes at the end. "No more guns. No more fighting. I was going to have a quiet life."

The press release which came with this new book explains: "She and her husband moved to Christmas Island to manage a detention centre where they witnessed riots, suicide attempts and dragged corpses out of the sea. Neryl currently lives in Perth."

— This review appeared in the Cooma-Monaro Express.

Braidwood – dedication to events, fairs and festivals

MEMBERS of the Braidwood community just can't help themselves. The search is forever on to find another reason to hold an event or a fair or a festival. The prime venue has bookings through to 2017 and months with four and five weekends are booked out well in advance. But we still hunger for more.

Braidwood also plays host to activities with the word 'fete' tacked on to the description. However, and perhaps both fortunately and sensibly, no organisation to my knowledge has used the word "bazaar" to describe its activities.

The aim of many of Braidwood's not-for-profit organisations is to raise funds to support the carrying out of the obligatory aims and objectives of their constitutions and to initiate new ideas to draw attention to their existence.

However, we no longer rely solely on funds for which committees have worked long and hard in past decades. Grant funding is now the name of the game and some of us pitch the evidence of more easily gained financial support against any in-

creased spontaneity, enjoyment, enlightenment or entertainment.

175th birthday party and Two Fires Festival

Braidwood celebrated its 175th birthday in April–May 2014. The permanent and lingering reminder of the Foundation Day and Street Pa-

rade weekends is a heritage path in Ryrie Park, hopefully to be added to as new families move into the district. The birthday party cost thousands of dollars compared to the shoestring funding available to earlier heritage committees.

The biennial Two Fires Festival has moved its date to fit in with iconic Australian poet Judith Wright's 100th birthday. Current plans are to take up the period 8–17 May to lead up to the 31 May birth date.

Two Fires Festival content is strong and sophisticated. Its cultural base draws participants and visitors from far and wide. Writing, poetry, music, performance and discussion of indigenous issues fill three days with interest and pure enjoyment. Struggles with inadequate funding continue to dog a

hardworking committee. Emphasis on Judith's 100th birthday has rekindled memories of the 'Not Judith Wright Library' debacle following her death on 25 June 2000.

Music at the Creek and Quilt Event

And now we have the prospect of two festivals falling on the same day. The popular Music at the Creek is being revived after some years. It must have been a heart searching discussion to result in the decision to hold Music at the Creek on the same weekend as this year's Quilt Event. Accommodation businesses will not be complaining about the double-up strategy.

Quilt Event:
this year's festival
dates, 22–23
November

Braidwood ROUNDS



with
Jill
McLeod

Bungendore writer Angie Angel's poetic tales of migrating from the city to the country 40 years ago, and what happened there

Review by Robin Wallace-Crabbe

ONCE you get over admiring the cover photo with its cat and bicycle on the table, and surely that's a horse peeping in through the open door, you come into contact with the prose and poetry inside *Glint Eye Jack and Tao*.

Before getting into the words it could be an idea to cast an eye over the back of the book's 1970s black and white photographs of mostly young art / lit figures of that era. They link up with the writing's content and style: 'The

barmaid's showering Joe with loving eyes he's going to be a superstar Hail Joe Hail Joe we'll pin a fifty dollar note on the lapel of your mad hatter tails and lead you round like a prize pig.'

And that's not the only style mode. The content evolves from piece to piece leading the reader out of wild inner Sydney bohemia and into the high hills surrounding Bungendore where it's the animals who take over the hard-to-tame roles while Homo



Butmaroo St, Bungendore, 1980s.



Glint Eye Jack and Tao
A collection of strange stories
by Angie Angel
Golden Moth Press 2014



sapiens get on with mending fences obsessive horses have recently bashed down.

Style really effects a transformation when a bunch of poems set themselves pretty much dead centre. JULIE (for Julie Docker) starts off stating 'And all things Italian exist on hyperbole./ Your voice laughs and is droll./ Because this

elegance of foreign languages becomes you/ and drops off like snowflakes in the medieval town of Urbino.'

This is a book that will make readers think. It's confronting, partly because of its creatively eccentric use of language, but also because of the interconnectedness of its parts, altogether constituting an extraordinary revision of memorable moments in a life.

The book is available from Wild Rose Organics and the Bendigo Bank in Bungendore for \$22.



The Braidwood Quilt Event has been held on the fourth weekend of November since 1995. I admit to a long-term personal interest in the Quilt Event, being both a founding and life member of the NFP organisation that developed the concept engendered by a similar event held in Sisters, Oregon, USA.

The Braidwood Quilters gave the idea to the town to do with it what it wished in the hope it would lead to an improvement in Braidwood's economy which was languishing in the mid-90s. The result has been an event that not only showcases textile artists and craftspeople of all genres, but embraces businesses, supports the largest market in the park each year, introduces a diversity of opening speakers, and offers exhibitions and information in a minimum of nine venues.

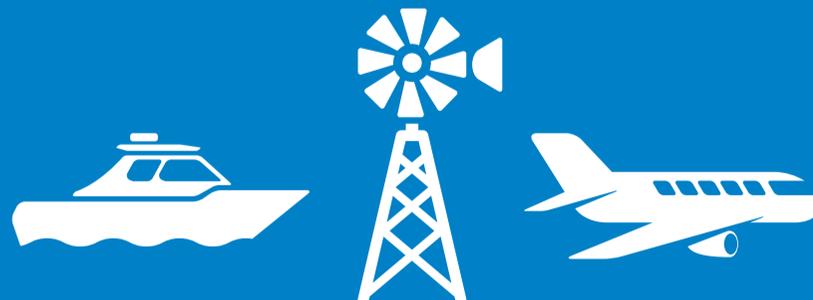
Publicity for the event is circulated world-wide. English, New Zealand and Australian niche publications with world-wide distribution such as Art Craft International and the Qantas magazine have all been pulled into service to promote Braidwood's iconic festival. This year a French magazine distributed in Australia is being trialled.

Australian newspapers including the one you are reading now herald this year's festival dates, 22–23 November – and Braidwood will welcome you with open arms. ■

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Ducks falling out of trees

Australia's Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife has been sending around an engaging series of articles aimed at our younger citizens to lure them into being 'backyard buddies' of common wildlife. This time ducks are in the sights.

A COMMON little backyard buddy will be falling from the trees at the moment. Yes that's right, falling from trees. The Wood Duck likes to keep its babies safe high up in a tree hollow but soon they will have to leave the only way they know how... so if you're walking under a tree and someone yells 'DUCK', they may be speaking literally.

Wood Duck dad is likely to stand guard at the base of the nesting tree while mum is incubating the egg before the fluffy chicks fall from the sky (should you be lucky enough to see this).

Wood Ducks are predominately herbivores, feeding on small grasses and herbs but they will also eat the odd insect – which makes them good buddies to have around your backyard.

"While the Wood Ducks love hanging around pools," said Susanna Bradshaw from the Foundation, "their presence doesn't have to be looked down upon. They're also helping by eating up your weeds and insects while 'fertilising' your garden at the same time."



ALISON KLEIN

Tips for living with Wood Ducks

- Try to steer clear of using weed killer on your lawn as Wood Ducks and other animals can ingest it while foraging in the grass.

- As so many of their nesting trees have been cleared, why not place a Wood Duck nestbox in a tree in your backyard? Then you can watch the little fluff-ball ducklings being raised and jumping to freedom right under your nose.
- Wood Ducks love coming across a backyard pond so why not put inside a section of your garden and turn it into a wildlife-friendly water feature?

More interesting facts

- When frightened by a potential predator, one Wood Duck parent will often pretend to have a broken wing and run away from the chicks to distract the predator while the other parent quickly gets the chicks to safety.
- The Australian Wood Duck is one of the few animals that have actually benefitted from European settlement in Australia. They love paddocks and dams, however too much land clearing has reduced the availability of tree hollows for them to nest in.
- Like most water birds, once hatched the baby Wood Duck already has waterproof feathers so that it can enter the water as soon as it leaves the nest.

To see if Wood Ducks are in your area, please consult the Atlas of Living Australia.

Backyard Buddies is a free program run by Australia's Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. Each month, you get a Backyard Buddies email (B-mail) with tips to make your backyard inviting and safe for native animals. Wood Ducks featured in September B-mail. Sign up for B-mail and download a free fact-sheet about Wood Ducks at www.backyardbuddies.net.au.



NSW ON RENEWABLES from p3

Examples come from the Coonooer Bridge wind farm in Victoria where rental income was shared and harmony reigned, or a model demonstrated in Bathurst/Orange where the sharing entailed offering the income from one or more turbines to the neighbouring community: becoming a 'community-owned,' energy project.

Kean said Environment Minister Rob Stokes has just announced \$700,000 for community-owned energy. In the past, these funds have paid for scoping studies for projects to then raise capital and operate commercially. This is likely to continue

End of solar bonus scheme for some, energy efficiency for many

When the solar bonus scheme, that many in Palerang and Queanbeyan benefited from, winds down in a couple of years, current policy indicates that money will be ploughed into projects like assisting energy efficiency in low income households, said Kean.

As the biggest landholder in the state, NSW now also has a policy in place to make government buildings more energy efficient. A solar power program for public buildings is also on the agenda.

Rooftop solar still flying

Kean said that the fastest growing area of rooftop solar uptake in NSW is from lower socio-economic communities who want to save on energy bills. 250,000 households in NSW now enjoy rooftop solar benefits (two million nationally) and Dubbo enjoys the title of solar capital of NSW.

She said NSW has doubled its renewable capacity in recent years with \$8 billion in renewable investment in the past five years: 13 percent of the state's energy now comes from renewables, mostly solar.

All of this has raised another "wicked policy problem" namely how to weave the new small-scale technologies into existing networks and administrative practices in national energy markets.

"Our energy systems have changed: households (and businesses) are now generators and consumers. The challenge is how do we adapt existing systems so that you can sell energy to your neighbour or back to the utility."

Battery technology will further complicate this scene but make consumers more independent too. ■

FREE: Country Living Classifieds

Wanted

Good quality pasture or meadow hay, wanted for ponies, in small rectangular bales. Prefer no older than last season's crop. Ph 0400 997 981, Sandra. Gundaroo.

Old Postage stamps of any denomination, any country, any condition. PHILATELY PROJECT c/- Bungendore Post Office NSW 2621. No need to affix postage; will pay postage costs on receipt. Ph Holly 0416 034 698.

Fresh produce and yummys

Muesli. Custom-made muesli, porridge, trail mix made fresh from locally sourced ingredients. Your choice of gluten free, paleo + vegan options. Free delivery to Sutton Village, www.themueslibarcanberra.com.au.

Inelda's "Bush in a bottle", 100% lemon scented iron bark, powerful antiseptic, antiviral, anti-inflammatory. Australian made, order online www.inelda's.com.

Gourmet garlic: white, Italian, French and many others. Available locally. Restaurant quality. You have not tasted fresh garlic until now. Wamboin. 0405 455 360.

Farm produce: eggs, fresh rhubarb and crisp asparagus bunches. Gardening services. Martin, 0432 851 914 www.martinsorganics.com.au.

PenDon. Fresh juicing mixes, ready to go: super food Kale, english spinach, mint, parsley, celery mix. Perfect "Green shot" to start the day. Norton Rd Wamboin. Always fresh seasonal produce. Orders 6238 3447.

Home grown, home-made bring, buy & swap. First Sunday of every month. Contact Wild Rose Organics, Ellendon St, Bungendore 6238 1422 for details.

Services

Clean up with **free scrap metal pick up** and take away. Ryan 6230 8281 or 0426 961 916.

Odyssey Books, for custom publishing. Anthology, art & poetry, unique children's books, fiction and non fiction. Be amazed at odysseybulletin.com

books.com.au. The perfect book club site. Read something different.

Jacamarall. Permaculture eXchange. Learn and apply the latest permaculture trends, workshops, courses. Join the eXchange network to share knowledge and ideas, promote your business. www.permacultureexchange.org.au.

Farm and Livestock

For sale. **Saturo 80HP Synchro Tractor.** Simple, reliable HP. Over axle blade/rear scoop, low hours. Operations and service manuals. Always shedded. \$17,000 Glen 0437 032 909.

For sale. Beautiful quiet **grassed heifers** at Millpost Farm. Raised on mothers milk and ready to be family milking cows. Some pregnant. Trina 6238 0759.

For sale. Small rectangular **bales of beardless wheaten hay** for sale. Stored in enclosed shed. Autumn crop. \$9 each. Ph Sandra 0400 997 981, Gundaroo.

Carola Farm range of beef, lamb, chickens, ducks and fertilised Pekin duck eggs. Produce grown natural, no synthetic chemicals. Sustainable and permanent agriculture systems, holistic management and organic techniques. www.carolafarm.com.au.

Send your **FREE** classifieds in 25 words or less to

— thebulletinclassifieds@yahoo.com.au —

with your name, address, phone or email contact, and category:

Collectables, Building supplies, Gardening supplies (excepting masses of plastic pots), Household appliances or furnishings in good working order, Auto accessories, Farm equipment and farm animals, Clearing, estate or garage sales, Designer clothes or quality children's clothes, Wanted to buy or exchange.

Crossword

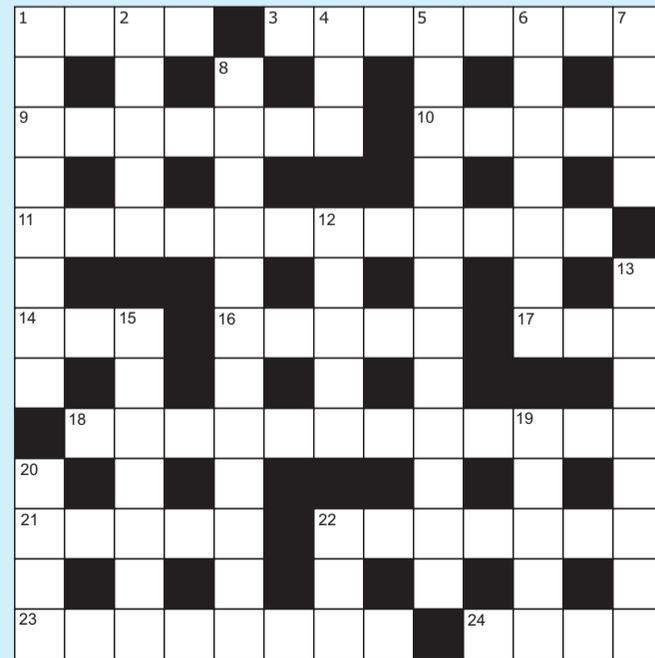
Across

- 1 Finest (4)
- 3 Methane produced when vegetation decomposes in water (5,3)
- 9 Rich and superior in quality, luxurious (7)
- 10 Alphabetical listing of topics and page numbers (5)
- 11 Visual impairment involving a loss of peripheral sight (6,6)
- 14 Egg of a louse (3)
- 16 Inhumane treatment (5)
- 17 Earth's nearest star (3)
- 18 From the door on one residence to that of the next (5-2-5)
- 21 Inhibition or ban resulting from social custom (5)
- 22 Resembling a lion (7)
- 23 Blood poisoning (8)
- 24 Retained (4)

Down

- 1 Contributing to the progress or growth of (8)
- 2 Freeze off (5)
- 4 Products of human creativity (3)
- 5 Female unmarried state (12)
- 6 Male infants sponsored

- adults at baptism (7)
- 7 Exciting physical desire (4)
- 8 Shop which sells a wide range of goods (7,5)
- 12 Fixed charge for borrowing money (8)
- 15 Case for holding implements (7)
- 19 Bodily waste water (5)
- 20 Word used in printing to show that a former deletion be ignored (4)
- 22 Ornamental garland (3)



Neighbouring galaxies on view

NOVEMBER gives us longer evenings, shorter nights and warmer weather. Backyard decks and backyard telescopes get greater use, with the (majority of) frosty nights behind us.

November skies provide us with a view towards the south pole of the Milky Way, our home galaxy. As the galaxy is generally shaped like a spiral-armed disc with a bulge towards the centre (a bit like two fried eggs back-to-back), looking towards the galactic south pole means we are looking through the disc outside our galaxy into intergalactic space.

As such there are very few bright stars in the November night sky, but the flipside is that we get an excellent view of other galaxies, other Milky Ways which lie at incredible distances from us.

— Star Search —

with Dr David Weldrake

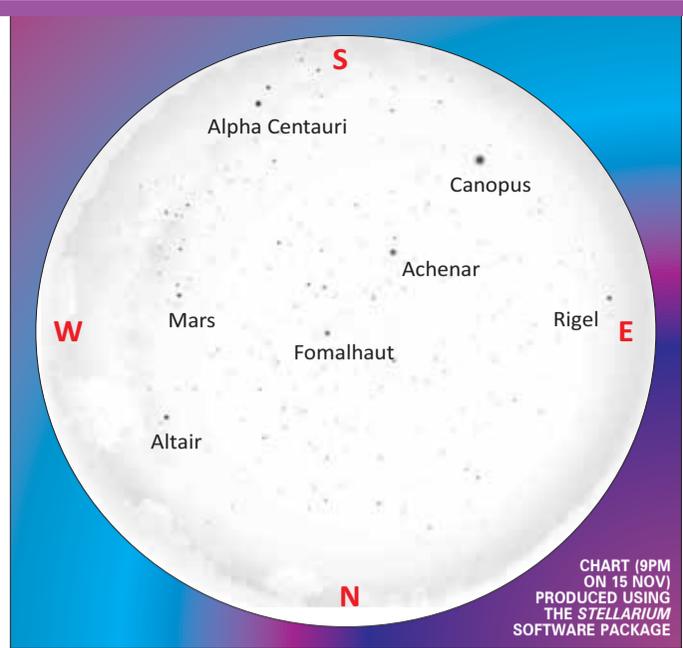
Galaxies come in a variety of sizes, shapes, brightnesses and even colours, often with unique properties that defy understanding. A subset are known as ‘Spiral Galaxies’ (like our Milky Way), displaying an impressive set of spiral arms. They come in groups, clustered together with smaller ‘satellite’ galaxies orbiting around them, and they all move through space following pre-set paths defined at the very beginnings of the Universe.

Galaxies look like faint smudges of light through backyard telescopes if you know exactly where to look. Bigger telescopes show them better, beginning to reveal their structure and details, and there are many tens of thousands of them visible from our back gardens during November, if you are away from the glare of streetlights.

Bright stars in November include yellow

Alpha Centauri, low in the south. White Altair, Fomalhaut, Achenar and Canopus form a long string across the sky from the north west to the south east. Very low in the east is blue-white Rigel, the brightest star in the famous and easily-recognisable constellation of Orion.

The colours of the stars are defined by their surface temperature. Rigel is blue-white as it is very hot, 12,000°, which makes it twice as hot as the surface of our Sun. It is also very large, a ball so big that more than 2 million Suns (and 2,000 billion Earths) could fit inside it. It is also extremely



Residents say public engagement on Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) road proposal inadequate

Traffic study does not pass basic test

ON 24 AUGUST, more than 70 Queanbeyan residents gathered to discuss ‘Queanbeyan Region Transport Needs, Now and into the Future’. Community groups were feeling exasperated at what they considered a lack of appropriate public participation in the conception and design of the proposed Ellerton Drive/Edwin Land Parkway extensions.

Community groups, ranging from the Queanbeyan Conservation Alliance and Landcare to the Jerrabomberra Residents Association and Karabar and Greenleigh community representatives, contend that Queanbeyan City Council (QCC) has prematurely determined that the EDE will be built, despite not having undertaken an appropriate level of community engagement.

A review of the *Googong and Tralee Traffic Study* illustrates this belief. The EDE/Edwin Land extension was taken off the shelf by a technical working group brought together for the traffic study, comprising representatives from QCC, NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, Gabites Porter, Village Building Company and Canberra Investment Corporation.

Their task was to identify improvements for both the existing and future

Queanbeyan road network. In addition, this group attempted to address the equitable division of developer contributions needed to address those deficiencies. Broader community/social needs were not part of the study.

Community groups contend that the *Googong and Tralee Traffic Study* falls well short of a genuine strategy document that passes even the most basic of tests to justify expending over \$50 million of taxpayer funds.

Since its release, the traffic study has been presented by the QCC as the only solution to meet Queanbeyan’s future needs. But community groups believe that the QCC has fallen short on community engagement in regards to the EDE.

Labyrinth Consulting Services has been

engaged by the concerned community groups to review the degree of public participation in the development of the proposed EDE/Edwin Land project.

The review will involve an online survey examining public participation activities undertaken at each stage of the proposed EDE project and the degree of community understanding regarding the project. The work will be funded through a crowd funding campaign, to be launched shortly.

A report will detail the findings of the public survey and identify gaps in the community engagement process. The report will be made available to the QCC, elected representatives and relevant Ministers at both State and Federal level, to contribute to the decision making process in respect to the EDE project.

— by Dave Lavers, Principal Labyrinth Consulting Services

AT PRESS TIME

Queanbeyan’s small council chamber was unusually full with interested residents for its bi-annual information night on 5 November.

But those who came to question past planning and community engagement for the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) received a stock answer: the need was established in 2009 with the Googong and Tralee traffic study. Although recently reviewed nothing has changed regarding the EDE.

A number of people asked why the council repeatedly released exhibition documents on this topic at holiday time, with a “whole raft of material”, including a biodiversity report, due to be released in early December. Council staff assured the gallery that the exhibition period would extend throughout January.

Other updates were on replacement of the Queanbeyan sewerage treatment plant, Tralee about to build internal roads, and the fact that Googong (the big winner from the EDE) may have 100 families resident by Christmas with 290 building applications so far.

LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS from p5

that day on the particular stop where swabs are taken. It is loose fill and it moves around. Air monitoring is the same issue and only good for that day at that place.

“I am dismayed that the NSW government does not seem to be trying to find a solution that will ensure the safety of the people living in these homes and their visitors,” she wrote.

The Queanbeyan hearing will be held on 17 November in the Jim Snow Room at the RB Smith Community Centre on Crawford Street, business hours (exact hours check the website closer to the date). People who would like to make a statement are encouraged to say so along with a submission to asbestosinsulation@parliament.nsw.gov.au. Check the website for further contact details.

108 homes seek testing in Queanbeyan

The *Bulletin* has learned that some 593 homeowners across NSW have registered for free testing of their homes for loose-fill asbestos.

In local government areas in our region, 14 have signed up in Palerang, 108 in Queanbeyan, 47 in Yass Valley, 34 in Cooma Monaro and 17 in Goulburn Mulwaree.

The list shows for the 593, just 64 have been tested across the state with no positive results recorded and none in the shires named above.

NO SERVICE CONTRACTS



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Vic, NSW, ACT, SA
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The Environmentally friendly way to process sewage, waste water and organic waste

Forget smelly septic or chemical treatments. Experience the benefits of a natural system using exciting technology.

- Approx. \$20 per annum energy costs. Typical 4BR dwelling (independently assessed), hilly sites nil energy
- No green house gases produced
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What's On – November 2014

Send announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

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

1st Saturday of every month (except January)

The Captains Flat Country Markets
Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Handmade items, craft, jams, pickles, gourmet doggy treats, preloved goods, cakes, biscuits, plants and much more! Stalls \$12. Call either 0438 600 447 or 0407 661 834 or email markets@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/August)

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. Art, craft and local produce.

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



A SINGLE PEAR

During November

November

Grow a new a moustache for the 30 days of November to change the face of men's health through raising funds and awareness. Movember is more than an excuse to grow a fine piece of moustachery, it's also about conversations, awareness, having fun and doing good. Women can help too, more at <http://au.movember.com/get-involved/>.

Exhibition: Colors in Ink, Sheryl Miller >

Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore. Ph 6238 1640 or see www.bungendorefineart.com.au.

Until Saturday 15

Find Your Ps at The Q

The Q Exhibition Space, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. For more contact Timo Nest 0427 329 021 or outhereimage@gmail.com.

The Sound of Music

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A production of one of the best-loved musicals of all time by the Queanbeyan Players. For more ph 6285 6290 or see www.theq.net.au.

Until Sunday 23

Resistant: Patsy Payne + Nicci Haynes

FORM Studio & Gallery, Aurora Ave, Queanbeyan. For more www.formstudioandgallery.com.au.

Wednesday 12

Opening of new kitchen for Senior Citizens Centre

Crawford St, Queanbeyan, near Council building, 1pm. Come and join volunteers from Meals on Wheels and the Senior Citizens Centre for the opening of their brand new community kitchen. Contact Anna Brown for more 6299 3000.

Friday 14 until Sunday 16

Canberra Country Blues and Roots Festival

Queanbeyan Showground, Fri noon–11:30pm, Sat 8am–11:30pm, Sun 8am–8pm. Showcasing great performers, workshops, awards, talent quests, dancing, industry forums, a ute muster; as well as market stalls and delicious food! For more see www.canberracountry.com/.

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16

Canberra Lapidary Club's Spring Gemcraft and Mineral Show

Exhibition Park, Canberra, 10–5pm. A wide range of stallholders selling jewellery, crystals, minerals, gemstones, opals, fossils, beads and lapidary supplies. Entry \$5 adults, \$9 family, \$2 children/concession. For more 6258 6631 or 0407 718347.

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November Gundaroo Community Church 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Uniting Church, corner Cork and Lot Sts, Gundaroo, Saturday picnic 11–3pm, Sunday service 9am. Everyone welcome. Old-fashioned games, picnic

GIG GUIDE: November

First Friday of the month: Music and Poetry
Royal Hotel, Bungendore, 7.30pm.

Sunday 9

Mike Dooley, 12.30–3pm. Mike on piano accompanies Rachel Thorne who sings great jazz classics of singers like Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.

Ben Chan – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Jimmi Barnes, 4pm, Royal Hotel, Bungendore.

Saturday 15

Rod Dowsett, Loaded Dog Hotel, Tarago.

Sunday 16

David Green, 12.30–3pm. Piano, performing from Broadway musicals, movie themes, jazz and more. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.

Boppo, 4pm, Royal Hotel, Bungendore.

Derryth Nash – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Sunday 23

Rumshack – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Leisa Keen, 12.30–3pm. plays easy listening jazz. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.

Sunday 30

Dirk Zeylmans, 12.30–3pm. Saxophone and Lachlan Coventry on guitar. Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.

Minh Ha – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Sunday December 7

Matt Dent – The Acoustic Sessions, 2–4pm, The Iron Bar, Goolabri.

Canberra Mandolin Orchestra, 12.30–3pm, Lerida Estate, Federal Highway.

lunch and a historical display in the 150-year-old church building. For more Anneke Myers 0424 236 281.

Thursday 20 and Friday 21

Job Pilgrim

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. An original dramatised oratorio based on the book of Job, but set in the present day. It deals with current issues such as secularism, religiosity, attacks on religious belief, and depression. For more ph 6285 6290 or see www.theq.net.au.

Friday 21

Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight Tour

Join author Nichole Overall for a tour through Queanbeyan's heart and hear fascinating tales of mystery, mayhem, tragedy and the other-worldly that have unfolded over the course of 175 years. Bookings essential, for further details/costs, email qbn@qbncityofchampions.com.au or see <https://www.facebook.com/mysteriousqbnbymoonlight>.

Saturday 22

Captains Flat Annual Ball – The Golden Years of Hollywood

Foxlow St, 8pm to midnight. Captains Flat's biggest community fundraiser and money raised from this year's Ball will go to projects for the Captains Flat Rural Fire Brigade. Live music by Annie and the Armadillos and a chance to win some fabulous prizes. Early bird tickets \$25pp. Contact ball@captainsflat.org or 6236 6013.

Flamenco

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A contemporary yet authentic performance combining dynamic rhythms, stunning dance & emotive music which Flamenco is best loved for. For more ph 6285 6290 or see www.theq.net.au.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23

American Car Nationals, Big 3 Car Show and Queanbeyan Swap Meet

Queanbeyan Showground, 10–3pm. The Big 3 Car Show is open to all makes & models of Ford & GM vehicles and Queanbeyan Swap Meet is an all types all makes 'Swap Meet'. For more email qbn@hotmail.com.au.

Braidwood Quilt Event 2014

National Theatre, Wallace St. The 20th annual Braidwood Quilt Event, Airing of the Quilts. Ryrie Park will host the biggest market of the year. For more www.braidwoodquiltvent.org.au or email secretary@braidwoodquiltvent.org.au or 0458 605 786.

Bungendore Quilt Exhibition and Craft Sale

Bungendore War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St. Sat 9–7pm; Sun 10–4pm. For more www.bungendorequilters.com.au or phone 6238 1314. See p13 this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Queanbeyan Gift and Family Fun Day

Queanbeyan Park. This year's carnival is shaping up to be the biggest and the best in its 15-year history, with a whole host of enthusiastic partners and supporters on board, the introduction of new races and family focused activities. For more www.queanbeyangift.com.au.

Tuesday 25

STARTS (Southern Tablelands Arts) Free Artists/Creatives Workshops

Wingecarribee Council Administration Building, Moss Vale. For sole trader or start-up small arts/creative businesses from this region, STARTS offering 5 x 1 hour free sessions.

Now it's
November

the market @ bungendore

Sunday November 16th 9am–3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

Looking for Xmas presents?
All your favourite stalls
with gifts galore!

jewellery

giftware

soaps & lotions

local art & craft

garden products

toys & models

cakes & pastries

tea & fresh coffee

guitars & amps



mosaics

homewares

greeting cards

beads & findings

pottery & ceramics

local grown plants

prints & paintings

fruit & vegetables

clothing & footwear

Start your weekend

every Friday night
at Queanbeyan's
lively



SUMMER SUNSET MARKETS

Opening at 5pm and finishing at 8pm
you will find something for everyone.

Meander around the market stalls and pick up some fresh
produce, local art, tasty food or just relax and listen
to some local entertainment.

In the courtyard at 253 Crawford Street
adjacent to Council Chambers



Queanbeyan
City Council



Ph: 6285 6170 Email: cultural.services@qcc.nsw.gov.au