THE DISTRICT

Bulletin

OCTOBER 2010

33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN

COUNTRY LIVING in Palerang – Bungendore and Queanbeyan

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

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YOUR REGION
What's Palerang doing about **climate change?** p4

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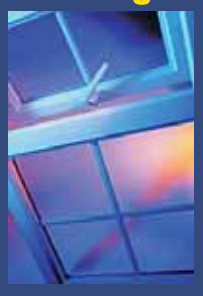
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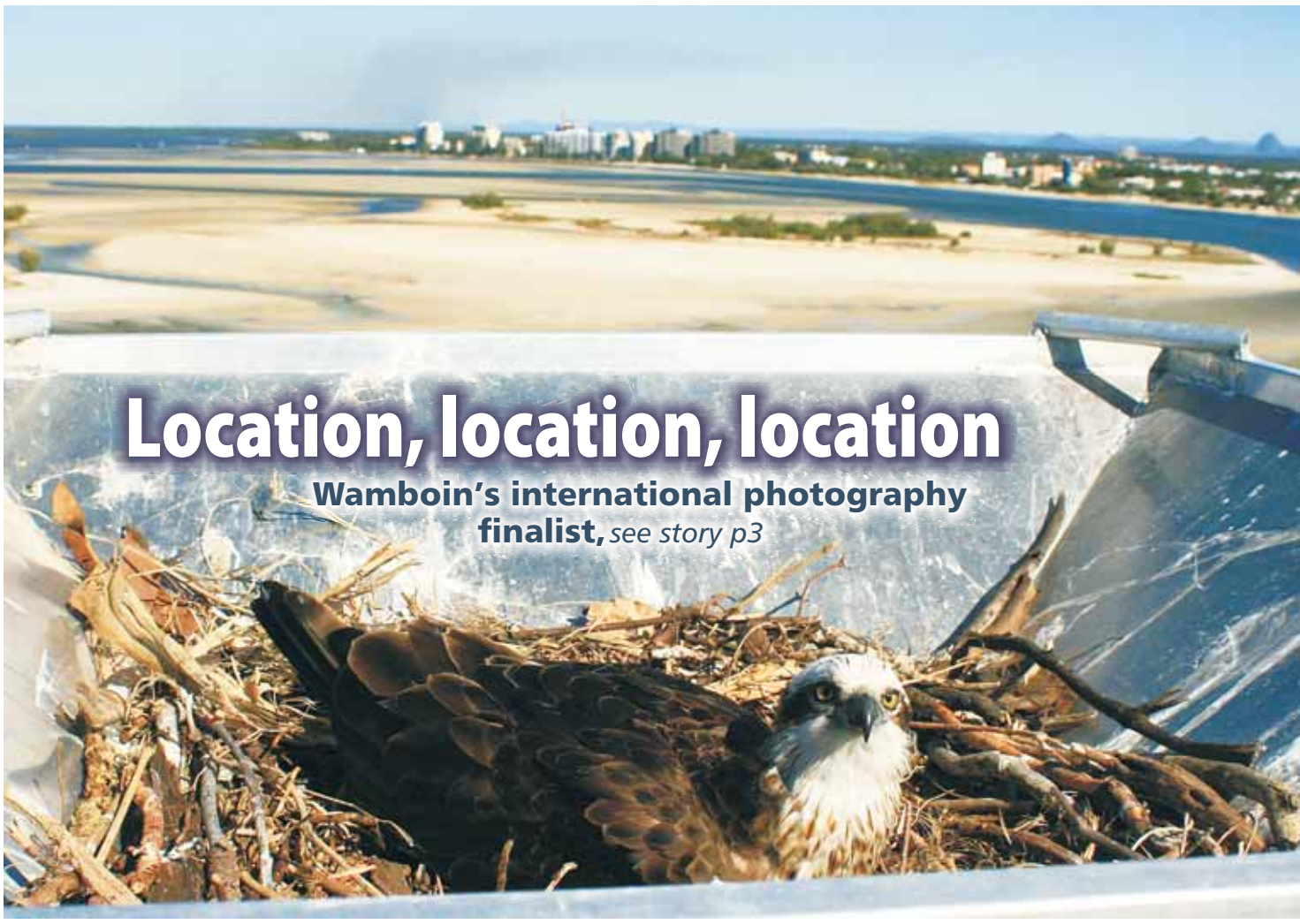

Location, location, location

Wamboin's international photography finalist, *see story p3*

His name is Lazenby...

GEORGE LAZENBY, and for many the name is almost as recognisable as the spy he played in the 1969 James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service.*

While many are also aware that he is the only Australian to ever play Bond, a less well-known fact is that George Lazenby is also a former Queanbeyan boy.

"Queanbeyan was where I grew up," he says from his home of almost 35 years, in the hills of Los Angeles. "I found it a bit restricting – I wanted more freedom than a close-knit society can provide – but then it had the warmth from the people as we all knew each other's business."

As the second actor to slip on the Saville Row tux after Sean Connery handed over the keys to the Aston Martin following his fifth Bond film, Lazenby became almost as famous for only playing the British secret agent once as he did from securing the role in the first place.

Certainly the story is filled with almost as much mystery, intrigue and conjecture as the adventures in which 007 regularly finds himself involved. A former model, mechanic and car salesman with no formal acting experience, Lazenby exercised some country-town cheek to persuade the biggest names in the movie business to give him a shot. Securing the role after a series of tough auditions and beating over 400 other hopefuls in the process, at 30, Lazenby became the youngest, tallest – and only Aussie – James Bond in the history of the successful franchise.

"Modelling was my biggest hurdle to get over when I went for JB (James Bond); it was only that the director insisted on testing me that I moved past the casting as they didn't want the stigma of a male model being Bond."

Lazenby was born in Goulburn before his family moved to Queanbeyan where he attended Queanbeyan High School. On finishing his education, he briefly joined the Army, excelling in unarmed combat, skills which would ultimately prove fateful in his selection as Bond with some of the legend built around the fact that he broke a stuntman's nose during his audition.

Looking to broaden his horizons, Lazenby made the decision to move to London in 1964 and as the epitome of tall, dark and handsome, a career move into the world of modelling that would see him become the highest paid male model in the world before turning his hand to acting.

At the time of the film's release, Lazenby's performance in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (*OHMSS*) received mixed reviews. Retrospectively however, it is viewed far more favourably and is generally highly regarded amongst fans. The third Bond, Roger Moore, is even known to have stated that Lazenby was "... one of the better Bonds."

The tougher and more authentic edge he brought to the role earned him a Golden Globe nomination but bad advice saw Lazenby decide against signing a seven-movie contract.

"I was under the influence of my manager Ronan O'Reilly. I didn't know the business and I thought this fella launched all the English pop groups, the Stones, the Beatles etc., I should listen to him. *Continued p3*

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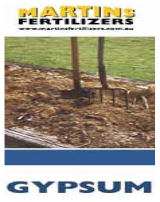

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Wamboin photographer a finalist in ANZANG Nature Photography 2010

BRUCE DORAN from Wamboin has been selected as a finalist in the 2010 ANZANG Nature Photography competition. Bruce's photograph *Osprey nesting on mobile crane* has been selected in the category called 'Our Impact'. He is now in the running to win the main prize of $5,000, or to pick up a category prize.

"I think the ANZANG competition is a fantastic initiative which celebrates our regional natural history," commented Bruce.

"The quality of photography and judging is of a very high standard, so I was very pleased to make it to the finals of the competition this year."

The annual ANZANG Nature Photography competition represents **A**ustralia, **N**ew **Z**ealand, **A**ntarctica and the **N**ew **G**uinea region. It aims to encourage photography of the area's fauna and wilderness, to support conservation and raise awareness of its stunning natural heritage.

This year ANZANG received 906 entries from all over the world. Ninety-six images have been selected for the exhibition and will be displayed at the South Australian Museum from 1 October to 21 November 2010.

The inspiration for Bruce's photograph came while he was conducting research with construction workers on the Sunshine Coast.

"At one site I noticed an Osprey swoop in rapidly and land on a crane. Upon talking to the workers on site, I found that the bird was one of a pair that were nesting on the crane. Apparently the birds had been very persistent in their attempts to nest on the crane after a Norfolk Pine that they usually used was removed.

On expressing interest in photographing the unusual guests, Bruce found the site managers extremely accommodating, arranging to take him up to the top of crane.

"The birds were very used to the crane driver as the nest box that the company had set up was only several meters away from the cab," he said

Bruce's photograph will also appear in the *Australasian Nature Photography* book which complements the exhibition.

Local schools make list for heater replacements

THE NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, has announced a list of schools to be the first to have unflued gas heaters replaced.

While the State Government has agreed to replace all unflued gas heaters in every school at a cost of approximately $5,500 per unit, a priority list has been established to immediately cater to schools located in the coldest areas of the State, including those in Monaro.

"The feedback we had been receiving from school communities in cold areas is that they had concerns about being able to properly follow the guidelines about adequate ventilation while trying to keep the room warm," Ms Firth said.

"That's why we decided to target those schools first and they will all have flued gas heaters installed and in place before next winter.

"For the wider replacement program, the Education Department is looking at alternatives to unflued heaters and will determine the most appropriate replacement for individual schools."

According to the Opposition however, there is concern as to how the project will be administered.

"While I am pleased to see that the government responded to my many calls for Monaro schools to be given priority for replacement, I remain deeply concerned at the incompetent Labor Government's ability to manage this important project," said John Barilaro, the Nationals candidate for Monaro.

"I am calling for a committee of Monaro school principals and representatives of P&Cs to oversee the process to stop it becoming another BER-type debacle."

Local schools included in the list are Adaminaby Public, Queanbeyan Public, Queanbeyan South, East & West Public, Queanbeyan High, Captains Flat Public, Bungendore Public, Tarago Public, Jerrabomberra Public, Sutton Public, Braidwood Central and Taralga Public Schools.

HIS NAME IS LAZENBY

Cont'd from p1

Sounds dumb now but I was offered any film that United Artists owned to do in between Bond movies and a million dollars if I would come back and do another. My manager said 'no' as James Bond was passé."

A series of martial arts films in Hong Kong followed as well as various TV spots, including a guest role as the father of Superman, Jor-El, in the series *Superboy*, and a number of unoff-icial 007 roles.

Like many other fellow Queanbeyanites, Lazenby is also an enthusiastic athlete and during the filming of *OHMSS* performed many of his own stunts.

"I won an amateur gold for down-hill skiing in Austria after I left Australia, won the over-40 World Championship at Mammoth California for moto-cross when I was 46 and then over-50s Master Class when I was 57. We used to race cars that we pulled the bodies off for downhill dragging in the pine forests a few miles out of Queanbeyan when I was 15," he reminisces.

Lazenby, who is still an 'Oz boy' and tries to visit at least once a year – primarily to catch up with his mother and his sister living in Batemans Bay – is also admiring of the considerable talent that Queanbeyan produces, particularly in the sporting arena.

"It's amazing," he says of the accomplishments of the likes of former Wallaby David Campese and F1 driver Mark Webber. "Then again those guys knew what they wanted and were good enough to get there, they trained for it from a young age. I had not met an actor before I played JB."

The fact that George Lazenby will most likely remain the only Australian to ever inhabit that tux, as well as the only actor to ever do it once, means he has become something of a Bond icon. He regularly attends Bond events and has earned numerous pop culture references, from songs – Sondra Leche released *Like Lazenby* in 2009 – to being mentioned in an episode of The Simpsons – when Marge Simpson is told she can select a 007 voice for a computer, she asks enthusiastically, "George Lazenby?"

Of his varied career and thoughts on what it meant to be Bond, Lazenby has only positive things to say.

"I did the best I could at the time. I have no regrets. I have had an interesting life."

— *Nicole Smith*

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Dear Editor...

SES deserves praise

Yesterday, we travelled from Canberra down the Kings Highway and Princes Highway up to Sanctuary Point.

Travelling down these roads in the Palerang, Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven shires, extensive damage to trees was clearly evident, as was the fact that they had been removed from the road very quickly.

The work done by the SES along that route was excellent. The SES and other Emergency Services did a marvellous job as there was hardly any debris left on either highway. These services must have worked extremely hard through the night to do the amount of work that was required, to have accomplished so much in such a short time.

There has been a lot of criticism of the emergency services, but this time, they must be CONGRATULATED for the work they did.

— Keith & Donna Hume, Sanctuary Point

Additions to Julia's To Do List

- Dye hair light green.
- Drape self in national flag a la Pauline.
- Pretend Sussex Street has washed itself out with bicarb and vinegar.
- Maintain that forests are fuel and have nothing to do with climate change.
- Repeat "One Size Does Not Fit All" while overlooking the millions of votes in disability.

— Jane Salmon, Lindfield NSW

Palerang and climate change

PALERANG COUNCIL has received a report from its Climate Change Advisory Committee dealing with the Council resolution of June 2009 to reduce its greenhouse emissions by 30 percent over 2005 levels.

The committee was established to look at the impact of climate change on Council and assist in the adoption of plans, strategies and policies to deal with the potential issues identified.

The report determined that the most significant emissions source for the area was landfill followed by vehicles and electricity use. The most likely changes to be experienced as a result were constantly hotter weather, wetter summers with more evaporation, and drier winters. The prospective impacts included more floods, greater soil erosion, more salinity and lower productivity, with the likelihood of continued water restrictions and increased danger and damage from larger and more frequent bushfires.

A number of recommendations were noted, the most significant of which encouraged a restructure of local government finances to ensure current service levels are maintained while managing the identified impacts, and that Council develop a Community Strategic Plan to implement appropriate mitigation strategies.

Are you seeing red?

THOSE WHO enjoy the benefit of Palerang Council's roadside waste collection in Bungendore, Braidwood and Captains Flat will be noticing that the lid is changing colour from deep-green to red. It's one of a number of changes that will be occurring to the domestic waste collection service over the coming year, including a change in the collection timetable. In the near future, households will receive new calendars showing the collection schedules for each of the three villages.

This is being done as part of the State-funded Groundswell pilot project. Ultimately all properties in the roadside waste collection areas will have three bins, namely:

- yellow lid – for recyclables as now, although eventually Council will be standardising on the 240 litre bins and fortnightly recyclable collection;
- light-green lid – for kitchen scraps, including things like meat which you wouldn't home compost, and other greenwaste that will be composted for on-farm use; and the
- red lid – for the residual waste that doesn't belong in either of the above bins.

Council has found that around 40 percent of household rubbish is organic matter that can be composted if the right composting method is used. This has a number of benefits including providing a natural soil improver. Another important benefit is the reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill which in turn should help reduce the cost of delivering waste to landfill.

The Groundswell project is being funded by the State government as a 12-month pilot project. It differs from other greenwaste collections, such as the current service in Queanbeyan which does not accept kitchen scraps. Queanbeyan City Council is also participating in the trial with about 900 of its households eventually being part of the pilot project.

Council cannot provide a firm start date for the greenwaste collection until the composting facility, which is a private undertaking, is completed.

Mayor and Deputies re-elected

AT ITS 2 September meeting, Palerang Council re-elected Walter Raynolds as Mayor and Richard Graham as Deputy Mayor. This will be each Councillor's second term in the role.

Queanbeyan Council has also re-elected Councillor Sue Whelan as the Deputy Mayor for the third consecutive year.

Land reclassification to go to Minister

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council has agreed it would commence the process to have a draft Planning Proposal placed on public exhibition.

The draft proposal recommends that Council reclassifies 13 parcels of land from community to operational which would allow council to explore the possibility of selling or redeveloping the land.

According to the General Manager, Gary Chapman, "Council staff has undertaken an audit of council-controlled land and determined that some small holdings do not have any strategic value and their use is not matched by the ongoing maintenance costs being incurred."

Following the decision, the draft Planning Proposal will be sent to the NSW Minister of Planning for determination. Should it be approved, it will be further considered by a Local Environment Plan (LEP) Panel, and Council will also hold a public hearing chaired by an independent chairperson.

The 13 parcels of land make up about 0.35 percent of the Queanbeyan Local Government Area. If the process proceeds, part of the funds generated will be allocated to improve larger and more well-established parks and other public facilities.

Palerang fastest growing council in NSW

IN THE recently released 'Snapshot of NSW Councils', Palerang Council has been declared the fastest growing Local Government Area in NSW in terms of population.

Analysing data across key indicators for all 152 councils in NSW for the 2008–09 period, the report shows that Palerang has experienced an average annual growth rate of 3.6 percent over a five-year period.

General Manager of Palerang Council, Peter Bascomb said, "While this demonstrates that Palerang is growing rapidly, it also highlights the pressures we are under to meet increasing demands for roads, recreational areas and community facilities such as libraries and after-school care centres, which growing populations need.

"Providing these facilities has been made even harder for councils across NSW by the State Government's ill-advised cap on developer contributions," he added.

Riverside Café operator announced

AT ITS Planning and Development Review Committee meeting in September, Queanbeyan City Council resolved to enter into a licensing agreement with the operators of the Riverside Café.

In June 2010, Council approved a development application for the construction of a café on the banks of the Queanbeyan River adjacent to the Queanbeyan Art Gallery and called for expressions of interest from suitably qualified operators.

Expressions were assessed by an independent panel before reporting back to Council with the recommendation of Brent and Elaine Richter of the Yarralumla Gallery/Oaks Brasserie approved.

Architects Small Quinton and Coleman have been appointed to project manage the development with Council working with the operators in order to "develop a successful café on the banks of the river".

During the interview process many suggestions came forward including the establishment of an organic garden and an emphasis on recycling as well as promotion of events on the river.

Queanbeyan Council has stated that they recognise that the Queanbeyan River should be the focal point of the city and that the development will enhance and encourage greater community involvement in the area.

Can new political alliances change woodchip mindset?

Green groups on the South Coast have been sending out alerts for some time about plans to woodchip and burn native forest and support it financially under renewable energy legislation, calling that a mockery of an emission reduction policy just to support some logging jobs. Here's what they say.

"THE LABOR and Liberal camps are both eager to ignore the massive greenhouse emissions caused by logging and post logging burning for woodchips as well as the loss of wildlife and water resources.

"The industry is currently planning a woodchip fired power station at Eden that is supported by both the Labor and Liberal party policies.

"Yet 80 percent of Australians and over 70 percent of rural Australians want an end to the industrial logging and woodchipping of our forests (Galaxy Poll May 2010).

"The public is outraged about the new proposals by the industry around Australia, starting at Eden, to build new power stations to burn forests for electricity.

"This idea is madness as climate change threatens Australia and the planet."

— Noel Plumb for Chipbusters, Eden

K2C Biodiversity and Farming Fair

OVER 30 stalls and 10 key speakers will showcase options and opportunities to benefit existing native vegetation patches across the region at the K2C Biodiversity & Farming Fair on Sunday, October 10 at the Bredbo Centennial Park and Community Hall.

Geoffrey Robertson, K2C Chair, and President of Friends of Grasslands is one of the many volunteers helping to put on this major function and says, "Identifying and enhancing existing vegetation connections across the landscape is critical to protecting the resilience of the bush and animals that rely on it. However, when we say bush we don't just mean the trees. We mean the grasslands, the rocky outcrops and small river systems that are scattered across most people's properties in this area.

"The 11 K2C Partners are setting an example to show how working together can provide the best outcome to landholders and the environment. The groups sharing information or explaining their incentives on the day can give landholders vital information to assist them harmonise production and biodiversity outcomes on their properties and much more", said Geoff.

The Bredbo community will come out in force to support the day with the Rural Fire Service firing up the BBQ for breakfast and lunch with fresh produce donated by local suppliers. Live performances, children's activities and informative discussions are also scheduled throughout the day.

Buses will leave the Bredbo Park between 10am and 2.30pm to visit Bush Heritage Australia's Scottsdale Reserve.

"This will give people an opportunity to stroll across an intact native grassland and then chat to rehabilitation expert Graham Fifield from Greening Australia."

For more information contact:
Lauren Van Dyke, K2C Project Facilitator
Ph: 0411 402 978 or go to ***www.k2c.org.au*** *for the full program and list of stallholders.*

> See What's On, p16

The new greening of Queanbeyan

PEOPLE AROUND Queanbeyan are noticing their city is sprouting new trees almost everywhere they look.

Along with helping to improve the overall appearance of the city, the Queanbeyan Council initiative is just one aspect of its current 'green' policy.

"I am particularly proud of this 'City of Trees' project," said Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall.

"One of my commitments at the last Council election was to plant 10,000 trees over the next eight years as one of the more significant aspects in a platform of green reforms, and I am pleased to say this is now well underway."

Since the program commenced in April 2009, there have been 1,600 new trees planted and Council expects to have another 3,000 in place by autumn 2011. Streetscapes and parks in Queanbeyan East and West, Karabar, Jerrabomberra, and around the Queanbeyan Showground are already benefiting from new plantings. Within the next 12 months, additional plantings will include Lanyon and Tompsitt Drives, the Reconciliation Garden, Jerrabomberra Lake and the Karabar shopping precinct as well as various roundabouts and medium strips throughout Queanbeyan. Future plantings will encompass numerous other city streets.

Plantings are a combination of mature trees, environmental and traditional plantings. Mature trees have so far been planted the length of Yass Road, along Lanyon Drive and also along the centre strip of Bungendore Road as one enters Queanbeyan from the Kings Highway.

Intended to play a part in addressing climate change, Tim Overall believes the trees will also make Queanbeyan a more inviting place to visit and provide local residents and tourists alike with an attractive outlook.

The project is certainly attracting attention and favourable comments from locals.

Anne Short and her family are long-time Queanbeyan residents and very enthusiastic about the program.

"I noticed the trees along Yass Road immediately and I was so impressed I called friends and family to ask whether they had noticed. It's one of best beautification initiatives Queanbeyan has seen in years."

Opening doors on home sustainability

AS MILLIONS of Australians continue to embrace renewable energy and other practices designed to lessen environmental impact, a record number of Australia's greenest homes opened their doors to the public for the ninth Sustainable House Day in September, including a property in Gundaroo and an eco-village currently under construction in Queanbeyan.

Intended to showcase the country's most environmentally sustainable and innovative homes, the annual event also provides people with the opportunity to talk with owners about the highs and the lows involved.

Event Manager Judy Celmins said that a huge variety of homes were on display this year, from those retro-fitted with DIY solutions to custom designs showing off the latest. "More and more savvy home-owners are realising the benefits of investing in sustainable living technology in their homes, which not only presents energy savings but financial savings too," she said.

Visitors were able to see firsthand benefits such as solar, ventilation, water harvesting and recycling, shading, thermal mass (materials that absorb and release heat), glazing and window treatments.

Of the thousands of people who attended the event last year, many indicated they had made or were going to make sustainable changes to their own homes.

"Nine out of 10 visitors to last year's event said it had increased their likelihood of using sustainable practices in their own homes – an outstanding result which shows Sustainable House Day is making a tangible difference in the fight to reduce the population's drain on our resources," Ms Celmins said.

Energy efficiency in building practices

WITH EVER-INCREASING electricity prices, many people are looking at ways to reduce their power bill as well as help the environment.

With a variety of options for home owners to consider, from wall and ceiling insulation to solar energy systems, one of the areas currently being favoured by many new homeowners and builders is double glazing.

As much as 25–30 percent of energy loss in the home is through windows and doors – and it's not just the glass. The window itself plays a major role, from the type of material it's made of to the frame in which it sits.

Windows that maximise cross ventilation, are double-glazed, have good seals and those that are timber framed, will significantly impact against energy loss.

It is also not just about heat loss. For west-facing windows receiving the summer sun, the use of double glazing with a reflective coating will lessen the need for that other bane to energy consumption – the air conditioner.

In essence, double glazing is simply two pieces of glass that are sealed together at the perimeter and have an internal air gap ranging from 6 to 16 mm. Glass thickness is determined by the relevant Australian Standard and will change according to the size of the window.

Other alternatives include laminated glass which is coated with a film to assist with insulation, or even a combination of both, as can be found in a product known as Low E.

While double glazing will not stop the transfer of heat, it will reduce it. The sun generates warmth by emitting short wave radiation that passes through the glass before being absorbed into the fabric of the building's structure. This energy is in turn transformed into long wave radiation. As heat moves from hot areas to cold areas, its means of escape is normally back out through the glass, but a product such as Low E has the ability to reflect long wave radiation back into the building. This results in a lower wintertime 'U' value – the measurement of heat loss through a solid object – and a more comfortable home along with lower heating costs.

'Product stewardship' for e-waste coming soon

WHAT'S IT MEAN?

by Geoff Pryor

THE RECENT Federal election campaign included debate about the roll out of new broadband options. Irrespective of the actual infrastructure that is put into place for this to happen, the reality is that there will be new services provided. New services and the rate of change of technology mean that there will be new devices through which to access these services.

This circumstance brings up the subject of e-waste, or the disposal of computers, TVs etc. When it comes to e-waste, Councils are in a difficult position. This is because residents want to properly dispose of old items but Councils cannot afford to do this as a free service. Moreover, the actual cost to recycle such products is expensive given the transport costs and in-plant charges.

As previously indicated in articles in this column, this is all supposed to change in 2011 when an e-waste Product Stewardship regime will roll out. Now, Product Stewardship arrangements are actually a generic tool potentially for all products which are sold to consumers.

Continued p9

What's the big idea?

Science roundup – festivals, international conference and exploration

There has been a lot of action on the science front recently. Below is a quick look at a few events from the last month or so and one happening now – lots of big ideas on offer!

Biodiversity and World Food Security

THE SUBTITLE for the annual international conference (30 August to 1 September) of the Crawford Fund was 'Nourishing the Planet and its People'. Delegates met at Parliament House to hear what was being done and what needed to be done to try and match the feeding of an ever-increasing world population with the greening needed to sustain our world.

with Sonja Chandler

"Agriculture is having major impacts on natural ecosystems. An estimated 25 percent of terrestrial ecosystems have been lost to production systems, mostly in the past 50 years, and the rate of change is accelerating. On the other hand, we all need the improvements that biodiversity offers agriculture to help feed the growing population," said Dr Cristian Samper, Director of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC.

Professor Hugh Possingham from the University of Queensland gave a talk, 'Can We Have Our Biodiversity and Eat It Too?' that challenged people to think about agriculture vs biodiversity conservation choices as not necessarily being 'win-win'. We might need to choose the best, most innovative 'near win-near win' option. He suggested that preservation is only part of the solution to biodiversity loss and that the best chance for many species is actually to be found within an agricultural setting, not necessarily in national parks.

Reading faces, an EV forum and the sounds of science

THE 18TH annual Australian Science Festival kicked off in August with the *Science of Being Human*. Steve Longford, former criminal profiler and head of the Queensland Police Violent Crime analysis unit, illuminated how psychologists, scientists and law enforcement profilers are reading our micro-expressions to reveal if we might be hiding something.

Drawing on studies from psychology and neuroscience, Longford said emotion is at the core of everything we do. Listing seven basic emotions that have clear facial expressions (surprise, sadness, anger, contempt, fear, happiness and disgust) he put it to us that our body expresses emotions before our brain can mask them. Detecting and interpreting these non-verbal clues can give insight into what people are really thinking – something that is most useful for human relationships, be they interpersonal, business or legal.

After briefly explaining microexpressions specific to each emotion, Longford played a short video of a witness in the (in)famous OJ Simpson trial. Sure enough, we could recognise emotions on the man's face such as surprise (eyelids and mouth widen in rounder shapes) and anger (eyebrows draw together and lips tighten) – emotions which didn't agree with his words!

In *Alternate Routes*, ABC Radio National *Life Matters'* Richard Aedy hosted an expert panel discussing electric vehicles (EVs). Panellists included Bernie Hobbs, science broadcaster and new EV owner. The forum heard that most major car companies have developed or are developing EVs and governments worldwide are pursuing the use of EVs for three reasons: lower carbon emissions, increasing petrol prices and energy security (domestic production of transport fuel as opposed to imports).

Facts and figures were given comparing EVs to conventional petrol-powered vehicles, including in relation to: vehicle cost (Bernie's EV was $48,000 but all panelists agreed that cost will go down as production goes up), running costs (10–15c/km for conventional vehicles vs 2–3c/km for EVs recharged using 'green' power) and range (Bernie's EV covers about 100km between battery recharges).

Then, there was the *Sounds of Science* with Bungendore's own Shortis and Simpson, doing what they do so well – setting history, musical eras, yes, even science milestones, to music. As the set's 'Earth clock' started ticking, our planet was welcomed into the universe with a lullaby. Images of old newspaper headlines, cloud diagrams and Albert Einstein segued easily into songs outlining a scientific understanding of how the physical Earth came to be and Shortis gave an impressive rendition of Tom Lehrer's 1959 song 'The Elements'.

And, there was the 'next big question' in resilience and biodiversity, Daleks and the *Food Speakers Series*. And Tim Jarvis talked about his trip to the South Pole using equipment that was state-of-the-art – in 1912/13! And more, but you get the gist.

Exploring the South Seas

SPEAKING OF journeys to the far ends of the globe, *Exploration and Endeavor: The Royal Society of London and the South Seas* is a new exhibition on at the National Museum of Australia. It is part of the celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society. The exhibition brings together unique treasures associated with voyages of scientific discovery to the South Seas including early voyages to Australia. It's on at the museum until 30 January 2011.

Flowering now, enjoy your local heaths

story and photos by Jo Walker

A WIDE variety of attractive heath plants from the Epacridaceae family grow in Palerang and the region. Their habitats range from swamps to sandstone cliffs to drier areas with shallow soils. I'll deal with the last group here, as several of these species are flowering at present or exhibiting well-formed buds.

These hardy little plants have stiff, often quite sharp leaves with parallel veins, and the flowers are tubular – although sometimes with the lower part of the tube enclosed by bracts. The fruiting bodies are drupes – plum-like, with the seed enclosed in a woody 'stone' surrounded by a soft, pulpy layer.

From left: Brachyloma Daphnoides, Leucopogon Attenuatus and Melichrus Urseolatus.

The flowers of some species produce copious amounts of nectar. Two of these, *Styphelia triflora* and *Melichrus urceolatus* flower during winter and provides a welcome source of food for the local honeyeaters when little else is flowering.

Styphelia triflora is one of the taller epacrids, some older plants growing to almost two metres. They often bear prolific amounts of greenish-cream, narrow tubular flowers (sometimes pinkish in other areas) followed by edible fruits. These too are appreciated by some of the local birds and small mammals. *Styphelia adscendens*, a low-growing ground-cover bears similar, slightly more robust flowers.

Melichrus urceolatus, the Urn Heath, is a small shrub (to about 40 cm) common in this region. Stout cream flowers are borne densely along the stems. The fruit are flattened globes, green to purplish, but most years few are formed – I've seen only one really heavy fruiting in almost twenty years.

Brachyloma daphnoides is noticeable at the moment because of the distinctive large pink buds covering the plants – these are probably more eye-catching than the small cream flowers that follow and contrast with the bluish-green, more or less oval-shaped leaves. *Monotoca scoparia* is a similar heath plant, but the leaves are greener and have a narrow oblong shape.

Beard-heaths and fruity-named heaths

Leucopogon means 'white beard', and the Beard-heaths certainly live up to their name, covered as they are with masses of tiny white fluffy flowers. At the end of August, *Leucopogon attenuatus* was flowering along the Queanbeyan escarpment in the Cuumbean Nature Reserve. This little shrub, usually less than 60cm tall and with dense, greyish prickly leaves, has attractive pink buds followed by white flowers that often completely cover the foliage.

Leucopogon virgatus is a smaller, more twiggy plant with thin, dark green leaves, often closely appressed to the stem. It is low-growing, often amongst taller shrubs where it can resemble patches of snow. *Leucopogon fraseri* is a truly prostrate species, noticeable as an expanse of sharp green foliage in grassland areas. The taller *Leucopogon fletcheri* (to a metre or so) has spiky green leaves and carries its flowers in a distinctively pendant position along the stems.

Lissanthe strigosa, the Peach Heath, is the only plant of this genus growing in the Southern Tablelands. It can grow to 70cm tall, but is often a low, suckering plant, often covering a considerable area over time. The buds, often reddish, are attractive during winter and open up to clusters of white or sometimes pink flowers above the dark green, sharp and glossy leaves. The pinkish-white fruit are tiny but very sweet-tasting – another treat for the wildlife.

Two other heaths that are even more ground-hugging are *Astroloma humifusum* and *Acrotriche serrulata*. *A. humifusum* (Native Cranberry) forms mats of greyish foliage with small, upright red tubular flowers, followed by large (about 1 cm) flattened round fruit, green at first, then purplish. *Acrotriche serrulata* (Honeypots) forms mats of fine, bright green, stiffly spreading foliage. Some plants are over a metre across, and are probably of considerable age as they grow very slowly. Clusters of tiny green, nectar-filled flowers are found at the base of the stems, but can only be seen by parting the foliage.

Tricky to propagate

The epacrids are not, on the whole, easy to propagate. Seed can take a long time to germinate – one publication suggests not abandoning epacrid seed-trays before at least eighteen months! I did get some *Lissanthe strigosa* seed to germinate within a few months after treating them with smoke water.

Cuttings of barely firm young growth are sometimes successful. Care must be taken when potting on the cuttings, as the new roots are very delicate, resembling a cluster of fine whiskers.

Admiring them in the wild may seem a better bet. All of the plants mentioned are common in this area (I have eight species growing naturally at my place) and can be found along roadsides, on properties and in the local nature reserves.

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Dual occupancy development block. 30.5 ha (75 acres) of land is elevated and lightly treed with views. Only 15km from Canberra's CBD and 10min to the airport. **John Sneddon 0403 139 701**

BYWONG IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Bywong is a locality within Palerang Shire that has approximately 450 dwellings on blocks ranging in size from a few acres to a few hundred acres. It adjoins Wamboin and is bounded by the escarpment overlooking Lake George and Bungendore and the Federal Highway. With its proximity and easy commute to Canberra it is a popular area for those looking to escape city living to enjoy the benefits of a rural lifestyle. These figures have been sourced from allhomes. The low number of sales so far this year has resulted in properties selling in a relatively short time frame and for a strong price. With spring shaping up as one of the best in recent times, gardens and the surrounding countryside are looking fantastic. Peter Blackshaw Inner North & Rural has a proven and impressive track record for rural residential sales, so if you are considering a move, I would be only too happy to discuss how we can achieve a sale for you in a timely manner and at the best possible price. I can be contacted on 6262 5122 or 0403 139 701 to assist you - John Sneddon (Bywong's rural specialist).

Sales in Bywong since 2005

	Houses	Land	Median price
2005	8	4	$656,000
2006	17	4	$624,000
2007	24	6	$649,000
2008	8	5	$558,000
2009	21	4	$720,000
2010*	10	2	$698,000

* Sales up to 30/9/2010 from allhomes.com.au

Bywong

4 | 1 | 1 | 10

278 SHINGLE HILL WAY
In a commanding position with views is this spacious home of approx 300m². High ceilings, timber kitchen, corian benchtop, dbl-sided open fire, ducted gas heat, large master bedroom suite are just a few of the many features. 2 dams, 1 paddock, 2x 4-bay sheds, est. gardens with rock walls and fenced yards. Only 20 mins to Dickson.
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NSW Home Saver rebates

THE STATE Government has declared that it has helped more than 278,000 NSW households save billions of litres of water and reduce greenhouse emissions by some 320,000 tonnes thanks to its Home Saver Rebates program.

Introduced at the beginning of this year, $170 million was set aside as part of the Government's Climate Change Fund to help households make their homes more water and energy efficient.

Rebates available include up to $1,500 for rainwater tanks connected to toilets and washing machines, $300 to switch from electric to solar, heat pump or gas hot water systems and up to $200 for buying a hot water circulator or a four-star dual flush toilet suite.

Smaller incentives as part of the program also extend to residents based in certain areas being eligible to receive $35 to have old working fridges taken away.

Applications for the rebate can be made following purchase and installation of the specified items, up to a maximum of $1,500 per property.

For more information on the rebates and application forms, visit **www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates**.

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Property Matters

WELCOME TO the first in a series of reports on 'Property Matters'. This month we will be summarising the sales activity in the rural residential markets of Bywong, Carwoola and Wamboin. In coming months we will report on the activity in other areas of Palerang.

The table below shows the activity for two six-month periods (1 September 2009 to 28 February 2010 and 1 March to 31 August 2010) with information sourced from allhomes.

From these two reporting periods it can be seen that the number of sales within each area were similar for each six-month period. Of note is the reduction in the average number of days on market to achieve a sale in the Carwoola and Wamboin areas.

It has been the case for some time in Canberra and the surrounding regions that there is a general shortage of properties for sale and the numbers of potential buyers attending inspections has increased. With what is sure to be a bumper spring in the gardens and surrounding countryside, interest in and demand for rural residential property is expected to remain high.

— John Sneddon, Peter Blackshaw Real Estate Inner North and Rural Office

	Bywong		Carwoola		Wamboin	
	1/9/09–28/2/10	1/3/10–31/8/10	1/9/09–28/2/10	1/3/10–31/8/10	1/9/09–28/2/10	1/3/10–31/8/10
House sales	10	8	5	6	12	11
Average sale price	$805,000	$735,500	$627,000	$748,500	$747,000	$908,727
Highest sale price	$1,260,000	$1,200,000	$761,000	$945,000	$1,100,000	$1,385,000
Lowest sale price	$575,000	$570,000	$415,000	$510,000	$555,000	$640,000
Average days on market	83	112	133	78	140	53*
Land sales	2	2	3	6	8	7
Houses currently for sale		8		8		6
Houses currently under offer		3		2		3

** Two extreme results were removed in calculating this average. With them the average was 90 days.*

John can be contacted on 0403 139 701 if you would like any further information or to discuss the state of the market.

– RURAL FIRE SERVICE LAKE GEORGE –

Preparing your home as bush fire season begins

THE NSW Rural Fire Service has declared the start of the Bush Fire Danger Period for the Queanbeyan and Palerang areas.

From 1 October, any person wishing to light a fire will require a permit.

"With conditions becoming more conducive to the spread of fire, people need to be extremely careful when using fire," according to Superintendent Nick Turner, Zone Manager of the Lake George Zone.

"Even with a permit, you need to check whether a Total Fire Ban is in force before lighting any fires."

Superintendent Turner encouraged residents to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan to ensure all members of a household know what to do on days of increased fire danger and in the situation their home is threatened by fire.

Residents are also advised to continue with hazard reduction activities.

"We have all seen the devastation that bush fires can bring to a community, so I strongly advise residents to contact their local brigades and use their expertise to assist in carrying out safe hazard reductions," said Superintendent Turner.

"Residents also need to ask whether they need a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate.

"Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond accordingly and minimise the damage."

For more information contact Lake George Zone Office on 02 6297 1840 or visit **www.rfs.nsw.gov.au**.

Mandatory energy-efficiency assessments

NEW LAWS requiring mandatory energy-efficiency assessments for residential properties before they can be sold or rented are expected to be in place by May next year.

The laws are intended to reform current building energy-efficiency standard and assessment processes to achieve consistency across the country. They will see homes rated by a star system, similar to that which currently applies to new appliances, and these ratings will be required to be disclosed to potential purchasers and tenants.

Some property industry exponents are predicting that the enforced measures will potentially impact on home sale and rental prices.

In 2009 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) outlined five key measures to improve the energy efficiency of both residential and commercial buildings nationally. These include increasing the level of energy-efficiency requirements for all commercial and residential buildings through the updating of the Building Code of Australia, and the phasing in of mandatory disclosure of residential building energy, greenhouse and water performance at the time of sale or leasing of properties.

Mandatory disclosure of energy-efficiency assessments for commercial buildings commenced this year and is set to come into effect for residential properties next year as part of the $88 million National Strategy on Energy Efficiency.

The ACT already has mandatory disclosure for energy in place, which requires that the star rating of any home be provided to a potential purchaser. It is claimed that there is a three percent increase in sale price achieved for each one star-rating increase.

While one of the declared purposes of mandatory disclosure is to allow prospective owners or tenants to factor in a building's energy use when making decisions on buying or renting, concerns have been raised about the prospective negative impacts on the real estate market.

The Real Estate Institute of South Australia recently came out against the move, declaring that the new laws will do little more than add to the cost of selling and renting a home, and industry watchers have stated that it raises the potential for landlords to pass on the cost of such assessments or associated improvements to tenants and that sellers may also want to factor the cost into the price of their homes.

According to the Department of Climate Change and Efficiency website however, the strategy is "... part of a landmark agreement to expand and accelerate energy efficiency efforts".

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Life on the Queanbeyan River –

Fun and gold, tragedy and floods

Last month, the Bulletin's *native plant and gardening expert,* ***Jo Walker****, motivated by our story on squash legend Heather McKay, began her vivid portrait of small town Australia on the doorstep of a still-fledgling national capital. This second instalment brings recollections of the pleasure, pain and change that have come to Pound Hill over the years.*

Photos: From the family album of Colleen De Costa (nee Blundell)

From left: *The river was always a magnet for children.*
A youthful Heather Blundell (better known now as squash legend Heather McKay) feeds a pet 'roo.

COLLEEN [*Heather McKay's sister*] Blundell's aunt and uncle, Lil and Dick Sydes, lived on what was then Railway Street which ran off Antill Street towards the railway line, in a brick and timber house that must have been one of the first to be built on the hill. Below the house, the land sloped down to a wide expanse of flat, silty land deposited by the river in ages past. This was site for the Blundell's market garden where they grew a large range of vegetables.

There was open steep land nearby and this was where the huge bonfire was lit every year. Fireworks then consisted mostly of 'bungers' that were thrown from behind smouldering logs at friends sheltering behind other smouldering logs. The days of no restrictions!

At the bottom of the hill, where Buttles Creek ran under a little bridge to the river, there was, and still is, a tennis court where all the Blundells honed their tennis skills. The creek was named after Thomas Buttle (1836–1910), a tanner and land owner in East Queanbeyan.

Refreshing, golden and dangerous

The river was a favourite spot in summer for swimming, dog-paddling, or just lying in the water, depending on ability. For the more adventurous, there was walking from one side of the river to the other across the top of the slippery weir wall, a little further towards town.

For those who couldn't swim, like my skinny sister Sally, an inner tube was used. On her first expedition to the weir, she jumped into the river, went straight through the tube to the bottom, and on surfacing, found the tube floating towards the weir. She took a deep breath, didn't panic, and managed to rejoin the tube at the weir's edge and survived. Parents often didn't hear these stories until much later, if at all!

Gold was sometimes found in this area. Garton Wearne, who I worked with during my first years with CSIRO, was originally a Queanbeyan boy, and once showed me a small jar of gold fragments he had sifted from the Queanbeyan River as a child.

The river was beautiful, but could move with ferocious speed and volume during floods. A little boy drowned while I was still living with my parents. His younger brother came past our house crying and told us his brother was in the water. Someone rang the police and my mother took him home. His brother had slipped on the mud at the edge of the river and was found the next day caught in the willows near Oaks Estate.

Return to Pound Hill to set up house – and the flood that washed corpses into the lake

After a few years travelling and working overseas during my twenties, I returned to Pound Hill, bought a block of land almost opposite Auntie Lil's old house, which was, I think, empty at the time.

When I bought my block it was in Railway Street, but had been renamed Blundell Street by the time I built my house in 1968. I was still living close to the Blundells – Colleen had married John De Costa, and they and their two small daughters lived next door.

Colleen, like her older sister Heather, was a keen sportswoman. In 1986, she won the NSW Country Golf Championship, and was Queanbeyan Golf Club Champion for fourteen years.

On the other side of my house were Joan and Reg Davis – Reg had worked at the Captain's Flat mine and previously in WA, but had retired. Just about the whole of their backyard was filled with an amazing variety of vegetables. There was the occasional garden tragedy, such as a savage hailstorm one summer, just as the vegetables were at their peak, which turned their garden into a salad bowl of sliced and diced lettuces, tomatoes and corn!

Across the road Sir Murray and Lady Tyrell bought Auntie Lil's old house, extended and renovated it, and shared it with a friendly brown snake that lived under the verandah.

The river continued to make its presence felt. In August 1974, 200mm of rain fell in the Gavrock Range and Tinderry Mountains feeding the headwaters of the Queanbeyan and Molonglo Rivers. This resulted in major flooding in Queanbeyan during which coffins were washed out of the old Queanbeyan Cemetery, across the river from Pound Hill, and corpses ended up in Canberra's lake.

The cemetery is high above the river and it is hard to realise now that water once roared through it. In October 1976, just as the Googong Dam wall was completed, the river flooded again. Huge logs hurtled past below Pound Hill, as water rose to the bottom fence lines of the houses on the lower side of Blundell Street. There were fears that the new dam wall might not hold. Fortunately for us it did.

To the other extreme – one summer I watched a bushfire tear over the lower part of Mt Jerrabomberra from the west, so fast that it didn't burn the tree crowns. Sometimes a good view across Queanbeyan from the hill wasn't an advantage.

Then and now

Altogether, I lived on Pound Hill for about thirty years before moving to Wamboin. It has changed a lot since I first set eyes on it. Sewerage eventually arrived in the 1960s and all the dirt roads were sealed long ago.

Antill Street is now the top end of Ford Street and no longer continues its way into High Street and Thuralilly Street as it did then, but is a cul-de-sac. Railway Street was renamed Blundell Street, and the market garden by the river long ago lost its vegetables to become a playing field, Blundell Park.

All of the once open landscape is now occupied by houses and units. At the bottom of the hill the Nara Peace Park is perched above Buttles Creek.

Most, if not all, of the people who once lived on the hill are no longer there. Its history is an example of how much a place can change in a lifetime. The people living there now will see it entirely differently, but Pound Hill remains strong in the memories of all of us who were there in its earlier years.

Two useful books available from the Queanbeyan Museum: Queanbeyan – District and People *by Errol Lea-Scarlett; and* Town in Transition – Queanbeyan 1945–1985 *by Susan Mary Withycombe.*
Footnote: *Thanks to Nancy at the Queanbeyan Museum who helped with a few of the historical details. The Museum, in Farrer Place, is well worth a visit.*

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Cont'd from p5

A good example of this process is the purchase of vehicle tyres. Most people, when they buy their tyres from a retailer, pay a couple of extra dollars for the replaced tyres to be disposed of. This is a clear example of Product Stewardship as the costs for disposal of the old tyres are accounted for. What happens to the tyres should also be included in this process, for it appears a significant proportion are sent overseas under inappropriate circumstances.

Presently, there is in place under the National Waste Policy, work being undertaken which will develop legislation and associated regulations regarding Product Stewardship policy generally. E-waste is only one of the fields where this policy will apply.

Product Stewardship in practice requires the formal framework of legalisation and regulation, and includes applicable standards associated with the way things are done. For example, Standards Australia will be producing at some point in time a Standard about collection, transport and handling of e-waste. Key issues in such a standard will be environmental matters, reporting and Occupational Health and Safety.

While government establishes such a policy framework, it may not necessarily be the implementation agent. Again the e-waste situation is a good example. Here the implementation of a collection, transport and recycling process of e-waste items will be put into place by industry – the large importers of computes, TVs and such like. Representatives of such industries are actually in the process of looking at how to manage the process for e-waste.

I guess all this sounds good, and indeed the principle is very good. But, as in all such systems, there are matters of detail which are vital. One simple example will suffice.

For we in the SERRROC region, there is a company which claims to recycle 98 percent of collected e-waste and to have a neutral carbon footprint. Under the emerging discussion of an E-waste product stewardship run by major importers, such companies are likely to be overlooked and driven out of business. This affects our local employment potential. That is, just as with tyres, a good aspect of an e-waste Product Stewardship is that disposal costs are included but this is only part of the total arrangement.

Bungendore to Burgundy – Part 2

by Liz Truman

*Last month we read how local **Liz Truman** and her husband, Peter, became Burgundian landowners. Her story continues and shows that moving into an empty house and dealing with the intricacies of French commerce can be baffling.*

IT'S A strange feeling to move, with absolutely nothing, into a house that has absolutely nothing. Not a teaspoon, not a glass, not a broom – nothing to sit on, nothing to eat on, nothing to sleep on. No built-in cupboards, no curtains, no light fittings and, of course, not a skerrick of food. A skinny brown cat is hanging hungrily around the back door. Sorry, cat.

Water and electricity

We dump our only possessions, two suitcases and their Bungendore contents, on the floor of the living room of our new home in Marcheseuil. Peter flicks a switch and, oh joy, there is light! Jean-Paul from the estate agency has kept his promise to keep the power on and transfer it to our name.

I go into the kitchen and turn a tap. Nothing – but we expected that. The previous owner, Claudine, moved out months ago, emptying all the pipes first so that they wouldn't freeze and burst over the winter.

Peter goes into the dark cave which is the engine-room for the house's water and central-heating, but the plethora of ancient pipes and the evil-looking boiler are daunting, even to him. Claudine has obligingly pinned on the kitchen notice board a couple of tradesmen's business cards. One of them is a *plombier*, Jean-Pierre Brochot. I ring him to explain our urgent circumstances and he promises to come this morning.

While April in Paris may be divinely romantic, May in Burgundy is decidedly chilly this year. The house is freezing. There's a fireplace in the living room and some firewood in the barn, but no paper or matches to light it with.

We think of going to the supermarket in Arnay-le-Duc but dare not leave in case the plumber arrives in our absence. We both need to be here when he comes – Peter to learn the technical ropes and me to do the talking.

The plumber turns out to be a large, friendly man who, like most Frenchmen of his ilk, speaks very fast. I have some trouble understanding him but we manage to do business. After he leaves we go out the back and I can tell that Peter is dying to get at the grass which has grown profusely over the last few months (April was warm, Jean-Pierre told us.)

Getting the lowdown on local conditions

There's an elderly man hoeing the vast vegetable garden next door and I assume correctly that he is the husband of the interesting old lady I spoke to in September when we first looked at the house. His name is Jean (just Jean) and he is as tall as she is small. He wears a blue work shirt and trousers – the uniform of the village men around here.

We strike up a conversation about vegetables. Jean speaks slowly and loudly but I still strain to understand him because he has hardly any teeth and his French is heavy with the accents of the Burgundy patois.

Peter tells him that we're also planning to grow vegetables but Jean says that we won't be able to plant anything this year because our ground hasn't been properly prepared. Peter admits that he is right. Jean then says that we can use some land he has in another part of the village – land that he doesn't need this year.

Peter is about to go with him to look at the plot but I suggest that there's plenty of time for that and we might be wise to use this morning to gather together the wherewithal to live. And we'd better hurry because it's after eleven o'clock and all the shops will close at twelve for two hours.

At Maxi-Brico, the hardware store in Arnay-le-Duc, we buy two green plastic chairs and a white plastic table – they don't have a matching set. At the ATAC supermarket we buy food – bread, cheese, garlic sausage, pâté, salad things, wine, coffee, milk and sugar – as well as plastic plates, cups and cutlery and matches.

We'd like to buy more but, because of the store's rather odd product classification system, it has taken us ages to locate what we have. The only checkout woman still there is giving us impatient looks, and we don't want to be locked in.

Back at the house we light a fire and arrange our elegant dining suite in the dining room. Over lunch we drink a toast to our good sense in buying this place and to the good years to come.

At MAGA, a home-wares emporium on the outskirts of Autun, we order a washing machine, sofa, and queen-size bed for delivery, and buy some smaller things – pillows, bed linen, cushions, reading lamps, clothes rack – to take with us.

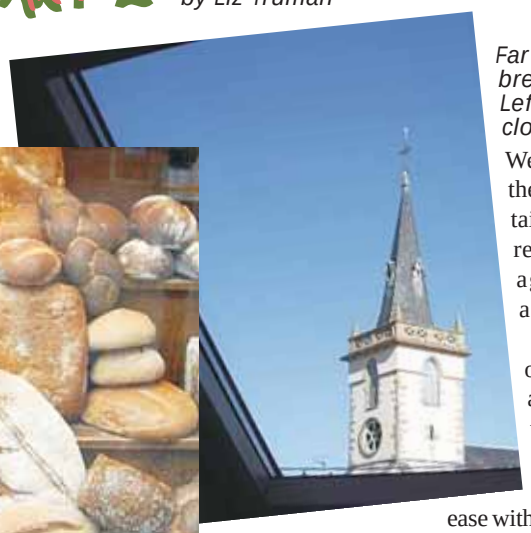
At the cashier's desk we have our first experience of the French phenomenon known as *la paperasserie*. The word means 'paperwork', but I like to think of it as a national culture of paper.

The cashier enters our purchases into her machine, hits a key, and a printer starts to churn out paper – a seemingly endless river of joined-up A4 size sheets. When the job is finished she gathers up all the paper, laboriously folds it and hands it to us. It's over 20 pages long and a centimetre thick. Each item, including each cushion and each pillow case, has its own page, and each page has our full name, address and phone number at the top.

Then comes the bad news: it will be ten days before our furniture is delivered. "Why so long?" we ask. The cashier shrugs; that's the way it is. Of course, this means that we won't be moving into our house for ten days because we won't have a bed until then.

French banking fundamentals

At 4 o'clock we keep an appointment at Crédit Agricole in Autun to open a bank account.



Far left: no sliced bread.
Left: our alarm clock!

We are ushered into the office of a certain Jean-Michel, a red-faced middle-aged man with a pleasant manner.

We explain our circumstances and he proceeds to open our joint account, albeit somewhat ill at ease with his computer. He sighs a lot and starts to perspire, but finally manages to enter our names and dates of birth. Then he asks the question which inevitably arises during any such transaction in France, "Are you married?"

"*Oui*." I've given up asking whether that information is relevant – it always is, because the computer asks for it.

"*Votre date de mariage*?"

I tell him the date. He taps some more. Then he says, "The computer has a problem."

"Really?"

"Yes. You have different surnames. In France it is the tradition that a woman takes her husband's name when she marries."

"In Australia also," I say, "but many women don't these days. For the last thirty years, in fact."

We say that we're happy to be recorded as not married if that makes things easier, but he declines – which is probably just as well because who knows what other problems that might trigger down the track.

An hour and a half later, we emerge from the bank, still married, having opened an account with unneeded frills, but relieved at having successfully jumped another hurdle on our way to a life of bucolic bliss.

Next month: Cycling through vineyards and meeting the challenge of a drink before lunch – Liz continues her account.

Spotlight on business

MICHAEL BISCOTTI has been in the hospitality game a long time, and with his Italian heritage, finds inspiration for his own business in the European model of cosmopolitan cafés designed for quick service and quality product.

Along with achieving this objective, Biscotti Bars has the added advantage of a knock-out position, located as it is on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin in Commonwealth Place in Parkes.

"Our bars are meant to have a European feel," says Michael. "The idea of street frontage that attracts patrons walking by looking for a quick shot of coffee or a gelato is exactly what we provide. The fact that we have such a terrific setting is another huge bonus.

Adding to the attraction of great coffee and 'real' gelato, visitors and locals have the chance to utilise the walking and cycling paths surrounding the area, as well as taking in the many sights.

"What could be nicer than taking a walk or a ride and stopping for an espresso and a gourmet sandwich, overlooked by Parliament House and with the centrepiece of Canberra, the Lake, right in front? The outlook is not only beautiful, but relaxing as well."

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FOOD AND WINE

Oh my God! – they've put Henrietta in a can

IT IS with heavy heart, that today I must announce that the food industry has again outdone itself in questionable conduct – yes, you can now buy a whole chicken in a can. Soon, perhaps canned sandwiches or bacon complete with poached eggs – lucky I don't have a sharp item close by.

One hundred years ago, the American Henry Heinz began selling his cockle-warming fare and our relationship with meals in a can blossomed. Although Heinz perfected the process that eventually bought us spaghetti loops and the other 56 varieties, the actual process of heat preservation has its roots in something more military: the territorial ambitions of Monsieur Napoleon Bonaparte.

by
Peter Davies
Shepherds Run Wines

The threat of war with France loomed heavily during the early years of the 19th century, and so the British government set about the defence of the realm in the time-honoured British fashion: by building new warships and pressing unsuspecting men into naval service.

Unfortunately the provision of food failed to keep pace with the provision of cannon. Contemporary accounts abound with stories of sailors ravaged by scurvy and, as one unfortunate seaman put it, "food which moved by its own internal impulse, occasioned by the myriad of insects that dwelt within". With as many men dying from malnutrition as from enemy grapeshot, the navies of Europe were desperate for a safe and efficient means to store provisions on long voyages.

Gravy in a champagne bottle – the novelty!

Salvation came in the form of a chef-cum-chemist called Nicolas Appert. "The Frenchman came to prominence in the last decade of the 18th century, when he appeared in Paris with champagne bottles in which he had successfully preserved cooked beef in gravy." It changed everything.

Appert's old champagne bottles were in fact the antecedents of today's tinned cans. For the first time, food could be preserved without obliterating its texture (questionable) and destroying its taste (well almost).

Enter a British merchant by the name of Peter Durand. Having acquired Appert's book, he patented the Frenchman's invention, merrily recording on the patent certificate that the process was "communicated to him by certain foreigners".

It wasn't just in the field of combat that the new invention began to make itself felt. Soon, mountain trails and river basins the world over were littered with tin cans and ring pulls, as explorers increasingly took advantage of the opportunities offered by Appert's discovery.

Early in the 20th century, the arrival of a certain Henry Heinz changed things forever. A well-tuned advertising campaign and a vast selection of new products ensured that the tin can soon found its way into the hearts and cupboards of the world's public. "No longer did housewives have to spend hours slaving over a hot stove; they could just open a tin and they had a meal for their family. The average time spent preparing meals halved. The can was a welcome presence in the kitchen; it was the first flickering of a trend towards the emancipation of women."

The 1950s saw the refrigerator burst on to the scene, and the age of the tin-opener looked as though it was drawing to its conclusion; the age of the frozen dinner had begun.

Still the staples in times of emergency

Yet despite the rise of the readymade meal, the can lingers on. Supermarket shelves and cupboards still groan under the combined weight of tinned salmon and sponge puddings, and sales figures for corned beef still continue to surpasseth all understanding, or at least the understanding of this writer.

Once reviled as malodorous servants' food, canned goods have risen above the wave of opprobrium that initially looked set to overwhelm them. Like baked beans and chicken korma, they have become part of our cultural heritage. They are the staples we rush to buy in times of emergency and the first thing we reach for when laid low with illness.

Tinned foods may lack the glamour of the croissant or artisan speciality of the Spanish chorizo, but they define us. If, as the saying goes, we are what we eat, then we could do much worse than a tin of steaming hot cream of chicken soup, or now even one in the whole so to speak.

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What to do when a dog seriously attacks

story and photo by Heike Hahner

THIS IS our final installment in talking about aggression in dogs towards children. This month we are looking at how to deal with serious aggression towards children from dogs.

Serious aggression is different from a quick snap and release

We would describe serious aggression as a dog grabbing someone with its jaws and shaking its head and body violently. This is a serious attack, as the dog in this scenario is trying to inflict grave injuries and possibly trying to kill. The grab and shake is frequently used for prey animals (such as rabbits, rats, sheep etc), in serious altercations prior to the mating season, or if one pack is found to intrude into the territory of another.

The grab and shake is rarely inflicted by dogs against humans. Most canine aggression against humans is of the quick snap and release type, which is inflicted as punishment or used as a means to deter unwanted attention. Resource guarding and fear/anxiety are the main reason for these types of aggression meaning that the dog is protecting the self, its toy, food or bed.

In some of the rare cases of babies being killed by dogs, we can assume that the dog viewed the baby either as a 'weird' toy or a prey animal. Dogs need proper socialisation and supervision with babies and children to be able to recognise them as a part of their family.

It is crucial to understand that grab and shake aggression is frequently encouraged in dogs by playing rough with them or playing tug-of-war when they are young. In these 'playful' scenarios the dog is not to blame if a serious bite occurs, as he was taught by his family that it is OK to bite people. **Two-thirds of dog attacks occur at the child's home or at another home where the child is a visitor, so always supervises dogs and children.**

Curl into ball protecting head, neck and face.

How to deal with aggressive dogs

So, what can you teach your child to do in the event of a serious attack from a dog? Below is a list of tips on what to do and what not to do:

Never approach a barking, snarling, sleeping, eating or nursing dog.
Turn sideways and slowly withdraw; do not stare into a dog's eyes.
Put an object, tree, post, or bench between you and the dog.
Speak softly and gently to calm the dog.
Stand still or maintain a constant slow pace until out of the dog's territory.
If charged, put something between the dog's teeth, such as a jacket, umbrella, stick, or bag.
If attacked, curl up into a ball and protect your face, neck and head
Remain still and calm when approached by a strange dog.
If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still.
Do not run and scream. You can't outrun a dog; in fact a lot of dogs will try and bite at moving legs and bodies.
Do not allow your child to play with a dog unless supervised by adults.
Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
Do not pat a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
Do not tease a dog with food or toys.
Never pull the ears, tail, or hair of a dog.
Never poke fingers into dogs' eyes, ears, or mouth.
Never play wrestling or fighting games with your dog.
Never put your face to a dog's face.
Avoid letting the dog get behind you.
Never enter properties without permission of the owner, and wait until a guarding dog is under the owner's control.

Danger signs in dogs

- Appears ill at ease when children are close or when children try to interact with it
- Backs away from children
- Remains still but watches children from corner of the eye
- Raises hair on back
- Stands over child/children
- Puts its ears back and tail between legs, and
- Curls its lip and growls.

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

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Book Club

A fable for our times

The Little Prince

by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

First published Great Britain 1945 by William Heinemann Limited; this edition published 2009 by Egmont UK Limited

Reviewed by Book Club fan

ANTOINE DE Saint-Exupéry was a pilot and a thinker, drawing on his flying experience to express his ideas and concerns about life and society. When Germany invaded his homeland, France, Saint-Exupéry fled to New York where he wrote *The Little Prince*.

While the novel is thought to be a commentary on the spiritual decay Saint-Exupéry perceived in society at the time, and heavily influenced by the mood of World War II, it also resonates with universal messages for today's world. Its child-like drawings (also by Saint-Exupery) and seemingly innocent view of narrow-mindedness, enlightenment, and responsibility present a parable for all ages on the morals and motivation of adults.

The little prince is a serious boy who, believing his beloved rose has spurned him, leaves his well-kept planet to travel through the universe. The little prince's journey is narrated by a pilot who has crashed in the Sahara Desert and who befriends the little prince near the end of his journey.

The pilot learns that the little prince had taken great care of his home planet. When a single rose appeared, the little prince fell in love with her. But he caught the rose lying and decided that he could not trust her anymore. He grew lonely and set out to explore other planets.

On his journey the little prince encountered men who were alone and so focused on their own needs that they were consumed by their own existence. While their peculiar behaviour amuses the little prince, he doesn't understand their doggedness, their need to control, their vanity or their greed.

The little prince lands eventually on Earth, in the unpopulated Sahara Desert. He first meets a snake, who beguiles the little prince with riddles and offers to send him back to 'heaven' with the lethal poison that lies within its body. The little prince is not persuaded and moves on.

When he finds a rose garden the little prince is surprised and saddened as *his* rose had told him she was the only one of her kind.

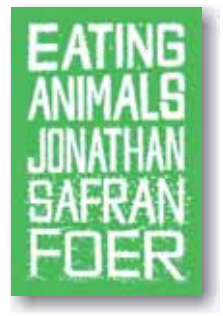
The little prince then befriends a fox who teaches him about love and responsibility, telling him that heartfelt things rather than material things are most important. The fox tells the little prince that if they establish a bond, they will need each other and then have meaning for each other. The little prince realises that, while there are many roses, *his* rose is special because of *his* love for her. A longing to return to his planet is activated.

The little prince finally meets the pilot whose initial indifference to the boy grows into respect. The pilot's increasing trust in the little prince shows a growing understanding of the lessons to be learned from the boy's seemingly naive commentary.

The little prince decides to return to his rose, and allows the snake to bite him. Believing the poison will send him back to his planet, he falls to the sand. The pilot is sad but he also believes the little prince has returned to his planet because the next day he can't find the prince's body. Recounting his story six years later, the pilot emphasises the joys of simple things like listening to the stars that are "like five hundred million little bells".

Saint-Exupery's novel provides a universal narrative about the importance of love and the human spirit that all too often succumbs to the selfishness of the material world. Both the little prince and the pilot agree that many people are unable to see what is really important in life and unable to feed their hearts as well as their bodies.

Food chain choices



Eating Animals

by Jonathan Safran Foer

Hamish Hamilton (Penguin Books)
RRP $32.95

Reviewed by Di Johnstone

WHEN I told some friends over lunch I was reviewing a book called *Eating Animals* they screwed up their faces and asked me to change the subject. At that time most were eating animals.

This book explores one aspect of the food we eat, the ethics of eating animals, and does so in a highly readable way. Foer had become a vegetarian quite young, but by the time he started the book had completely fallen off the vegetarian wagon. He also, when growing up, actively disliked animals, especially dogs.

Then two things in his life changed. He became a father and the family adopted a dog. Through this dog Foer discovered the animal kingdom.

Foer's particular interest in food had been shaped by his Jewish grandmother who scrounged scraps from garbage during a bitter wartime battle for survival. She was desperate simply that her family should eat rather than worrying greatly about what they ate. However, when Foer became a new parent he began to think deeply about what he should and should not feed his first child. He became motivated to write the book when looking closely at what 'meat' was.

Foer poses some basic questions – what is an animal, why do we eat animals at all and why do we eat certain animals and not others? He explores the slippery meanings of words and terms in the debate over eating animals.

In his search for the facts, he investigates fishing and the overuse of fish stocks, the gruesome conditions of chickens and pigs locked into highly secretive factory farms, and debates options for beef, including organic beef and feedlots.

His chapter on animal slaughter is an excruciating reminder of how meat gets from hoof to the table. No wonder industry completely shields consumers from this distressing process. If we saw it, most of us would never eat meat again.

The book interweaves tough facts with a discursive approach and a clever, often whimsical touch. There are vivid personal experiences and lots of stories. Some of these explore competing points of view.

The strongest message of this book is, however, in its title and central theme. We live in a society obsessed with food. Witness the massive interest in shows like Masterchef. At the same time we distance ourselves from how 'meat' gets to our plates.

Foer confronts us with a reality that the substance on the dish started life as an individual sentient being, an animal that breathed and lived and related to others of its kind. He reminds us too that the vast majority of these sentient beings suffer short and brutal lives in cruel factory farms and suffer horribly in death.

This book encourages us to think before we buy or eat, where did this come from, and is it right to eat it?

Foer explores the option of organic farming but comes down in favour of a vegetarian lifestyle.

Ultimately it reminds us that our individual consumer choices reduce or continue the suffering of other sentient beings with which we share the planet. It is a very thought-provoking book that has been widely praised and one that anyone who eats animals should read!

Animal breeding and 'the market'

What price that drumstick?

by Di Johnstone

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA has highlighted the gross cruelty suffered by 'factory farmed' broiler chickens.

Selectively bred for short brutal lives, their large breasts grotesquely distort the bird's anatomy. This causes them to collapse under their own weight onto their own droppings, and then develop blisters from the ammonia-soaked litter beneath them. In addition there is lameness on weakened legs and sudden death from heart failure and pulmonary oedema – literally drowning from fluid accumulation in the lungs. Some 20 million chickens die in these sheds each year.

And then there is the crowding. Typical facilities house a mind-boggling 300,000 birds with 40,000 to 60,000 birds per shed, densely packed birds struggling to survive on space about the size of A4 page per bird.

Kept as inactive as possible and in dim lighting for their short 5–7 weeks of life, their droppings accumulate on the floor, so the air becomes polluted with ammonia, dust, bacterial and fungal spores – causing health problems for both people and chickens.

At around 5–7 weeks they are transported for slaughter. Catchers walk through the sheds grabbing birds by one leg and carrying them in bunches (up to five in each hand) to crates. Bundled into crates and stacked onto a truck many have fractures and dislocations from handling, About one million a year die due to rough handling, heat stroke, heart failure and trauma during transport.

At the slaughterhouse, they are pulled from the crates, shackled upside down by their feet into metal stirrups on an overhead conveyor that carries them into the killing room. Their heads pass through an electrified water bath intended to stun them. As they pass along further, an automatic knife cuts their throat, and they proceed into a scalding tank to loosen feathers before plucking.

Some birds miss the electrified water bath and are fully conscious when they reach the automatic knife. Some also miss the knife and are lowered into the 50° scalding tank while alive. There are no independent animal welfare inspector's on-site to ensure that the slaughter process is humane.

The Australian Model Code of Practice for Domestic Poultry that provides guidelines for the management of meat chickens allows this appalling cruelty.

There are other options

Buy free range. Free range chickens live better lives. When fully feathered they get to experience a 'range area' outside their sheds where there is at least light and fresh air. As a result of access to the range and greater exercise they have fewer mobility problems and other health issues.

Or, like an increasing number of people, decide to go vegetarian or vegan, and not eat chicken at all!

Now, do you really want to buy that factory farmed chicken drumstick?

See Animals Australia website: ***www.animalsaustralia.org/factsheets/broiler_chickens.php***

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WHAT'S ON

Monday to Thursday	Happy Hour 5pm to 6pm
Monday & Tuesday	Schooner Draw – Drawn @ 6pm
Wednesday	Pool Comp 7pm Cash prizes
Thursday	Key Ring Cash (*jackpots if not won*)
Friday	Meat raffles drawn @ 7.30pm
	Jag the Joker drawn @ 7.30pm (*jackpots if not won*)
	Live Entertainment* from 7.30pm to late
Saturday	Every 2nd Sat NPL Poker Tournaments from 4pm Cash prizes

*(*Refer to Gig Guide for line up*)

THE GEORGE RESTAURANT & BISTRO

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

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

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

Wednesday & Thursday Nights
$12 Rump & $12 Schnitzel

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

We also offer blackboard specials

Key Ring Cash Permit No LTPS/09/08405 Jag the Joker Permit No LTPS/09/04100

Braidwood a precious soul-place

story and photo by Heike Hahner

TALKING TO Laura Murray-Cree, (*right*), gives an enlightening view into Australian art, which is entwined inextricably with her personal life. Laura has been at the forefront of Australian art for many years. She is published widely in book and essay form, was publications manager for Sydney's prestigious Sherman Galleries (now Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation), and former editor of *Art & Australia*, one of Australia's most influential art magazines.

Leading into our talk, we discuss some important changes that occurred in the Australian art world in the early '80s at the beginning of her art career. Laura explains that at that time high and low art intermingled and the traditional criteria for evaluating art works did not apply anymore. This gave rise to the increasing importance of the art critic, writer and editor as a communicator and bridge between the artist, his peers and audience.

No doubt, Laura is a natural communicator and 'bridge' builder. Her love of words and the arts are evident in everything she says and the world she surrounds herself with. One question I put to her the day before we met was: "Why move to Braidwood, after living in Sydney being at the hub of things?"

Her answer the following day is simple and complex at the same time, "It felt like home". Laura grew up in Sydney's outskirts at Pennant Hills, a semi-rural area then. During the '70s she lived in Bungendore and after years of living the 'glitzy' life in Sydney craved to return to a rural community.

But where many would romanticise a life in the country, for Laura it is the contrasting seasons and getting in touch with the land that draws her. She calls Braidwood a precious soul-place. Life, for her, has to be like a good drawing. To work well it needs to have a balance of shadow and light, intensity and emptiness, and it needs to have a deeper meaning.

This balance is achieved for Laura by the beauty of the land, its 'bonyness' as she calls it, and the shadow of its Aboriginal past, that despite repeated efforts to re-kindle its memories locally appears to slip away into nothingness. Hearing the cattle bellow their despair on sales days, being surrounded by beloved friends or following a funeral procession to the cemetery, all complete a picture of a harmonious, raw life for her.

For centuries artists have been drawn to each other, living in parts of cities or the countryside that inspired their artistic drives, think Montmartre in Paris, SoHo in New York, Heide in Victoria. To put it into the words of an author that Laura admires greatly, William Horwood, "Some places – a very, very few – have about them a harmony of parts that makes others remember them with special fondness".

Maybe Braidwood is just one of those very, very few special places, it was known to its Aboriginal owners and it is now cherished by artists and those people, like Laura, that help us appreciate and understand life and art in all its facets of shadow and light.

'The Q' Board appointed

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council appointed four community representatives to the newly formed 'The Q' Board at its 22 September meeting.

The role of the Board is to oversee the future business planning, program and building operations and the financial performance of the centre.

In August Council called for nominations for three places on the Board, however, due to the quality of the applicants that number was extended to four. The successful nominees, who have been appointed for two years, are Jacqui Richards, Geoff Grey, Peter Lindbeck and Coralie Wood.

Along with the four community representatives the board will include: Queanbeyan Mayor, Cr Tim Overall, the Council's General Manager, Mr Gary Chapman and the Chair of the Cultural Advisory Committee, Cr Peter Bray.

"Together we will work towards enhancing the cultural and economic development of Queanbeyan by optimising the attendance and use of 'The Q' so that it becomes a key facility for the community which contributes to local wellbeing and prosperity," Cr Overall said.

"The four selected board members have experience in the performing arts industry and have shown sound financial experience," Cr Overall continued. "I believe their involvement with 'The Q' Board will be a major benefit to this high-class facility."

Membership of 'The Q' Board is voluntary and it will meet on a quarterly basis and report to Council.

Sugar bowl unfolds story of a British pottery

by David Nordsvan

AT BREAKFAST recently, Joyce, who usually pens Antique Chat, suddenly realised that she had forgotten to submit this month's contribution to the *Bulletin*. I was asked to help out and being a wonderful partner of 40 years I said, "Yes Dear".

Joyce should be forgiven for this small lapse of organisational management. She works five days a week, then runs Annie's Collectables at the weekend, and to top it off is managing the complete renovation of the kitchen.

So, what has all this to do with this month's article? To renovate a kitchen you have to clean out the cupboards. Amongst the little-used crockery at the back of a corner cupboard was a small Shorter & Sons sugar bowl. This pretty little item prompted me to delve into the maker's history.

Stoke on Trent and personalised pottery

The Decorative Antiques website includes an entry for Shorter & Sons that makes interesting reading.

The pottery firm Shorter & Boulton which later became Shorter & Son was first set up by Arthur Shorter in 1878 with a partner James Boulton in Stoke on Trent. Their products were solidly in the mainstream of Victorian taste – majolica wares of all types: jugs, bowls, flower pots and tableware, predominated.

In 1891 Arthur's brother-in-law AJ Wilkinson died in an accident. Arthur Shorter was asked to manage the pottery Wilkinson had established in Burslem in 1885. A few years later he bought the firm and in 1898 Arthur's son Colley joined him. His younger son, Guy, who became manager at Shorter's in 1900, joined his father and Colley at Wilkinson's in 1905. The two factories worked in close cooperation, advertising and exhibiting jointly.

Colley and Guy were made directors of Wilkinsons in 1916, the same year that Clarice Cliff, aged 17, started work there as a decorator. In 1920 the family acquired the Newport Pottery, also in Burslem, later famous for its production of Clarice Cliff's 'Bizarre' ware.

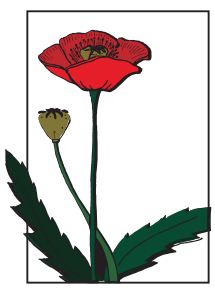
In 1925 Colley Shorter, much impressed by Clarice's work, provided her with her own studio next to his office. He also sent her on a modern design course at the Royal College of Art and a trip to Paris to observe the arts scene there. Allowed to experiment with old Newport Pottery shapes, she produced her new bold geometric designs, so expressive of the Art Deco age. Colley was a consummate salesman and it was he who conceived the idea of personalising her designs with her signature, thus launching one of the 20th century's design legends.

In 1926 Arthur Shorter died and over the next few years his sons felt freer to develop their firms' products along more adventurous lines. The Shorter factory itself, still the most traditional in its output, felt the wind of change. In their book *The Shorter Connection*, Gordon and Irene Hopwood [published by Richard Dennis] explore in detail the extent to which the creativity of Clarice Cliff was channelled into Shorter products in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Shorter's received a further creative boost in the 1930s from the employment of the designer Mabel Leigh, who in two short years with them produced an extensive and exciting range of 'Period Pottery'. This was based on ethnic designs from around the Mediterranean, Africa and Central America. Even though she left the firm in 1935, the designs had such appeal they continued to be produced for years afterwards.

We learn that Shorter's were effectively taken over by Crown Devon in 1964 and the retirement of the last family member John, Guy's son, in 1972 brought their distinctive identity to an end.

— David (and Annie)
joyce@anniescollectables.com.au

Annie's Collectables



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39 Cooper Road, WAMBOIN
OPEN 10.30am ~ 4.30pm
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New portfolio for Mike Kelly

MEMBER FOR Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly has been sworn in as the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, working with Senator Joe Ludwig in pursuing an "ambitious agenda."

Having previously been the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Kelly says he is pleased to be working within a portfolio that "directly affects the lives of people in rural and regional areas.

"This is an important portfolio area, and one that I have a particular passion for. I look forward to working with our farmers and the fishing industry to deliver for them."

* * *

Local teachers finalists in National Excellence in Teaching Awards

TWO LOCAL primary school teachers have reached the finals of the National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTa).

Peter Cox, a teacher at Captains Flat Public School and Susan Goodwin from Jerrabomberra Public School are two of the 550 finalists, selected from 1147 nominations throughout the country and 122 in NSW alone.

NEiTA was established in 1994 with the purpose of recognising and celebrating the achievements of inspirational teachers. Teachers are nominated by their schools, families and communities.

These teacher finalists will progress to the next phase of the awards, where 60 recipients will be selected and announced in November following World Teachers' Day. In early 2011, 10 of these 60 award recipients will be further selected as the NEiTA 2010 ASG National Teaching Award recipients.

* * *

Biking in National Parks

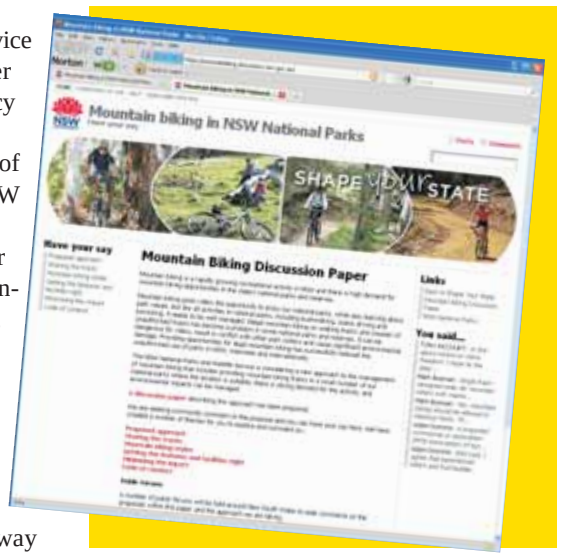
THE NATIONAL Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has launched a discussion paper aimed at developing a NSW Cycling Policy and Mountain Biking Strategy.

Along with camping, cycling is one of the most popular outdoor activities in NSW national parks.

"There is strong community support for providing more for recreational opportunities in national parks. At the same time, there are concerns about the impact uncontrolled mountain biking along informal tracks is having on our parks and the potential environmental impacts mountain biking could have on sensitive areas."

The discussion paper looked at how new opportunities can be provided in a way that provides the best experiences for mountain bikers, minimal conflict with other users and the best conservation for the parks.

Submissions from the public are encouraged and can be made online at **http://nsw.gov.au/shapeyourstate**, emailed to **mountain.biking@environment.nsw.gov.au** or mailed to Cycling Policy and Mountain Biking Strategy, Department of Environment and Climate Change, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 1481.



Calling local youth

THE AXIS Youth Centre in Queanbeyan is looking for young people aged between 12 and 25 who live, work or attend school in the Queanbeyan Local Government Area to become part of the LiquidFest 2011 Committee.

To be held in late January 2011, LiquidFest has become one of the region's most successful youth festivals and Axis is hoping to make it even bigger and better.

The committee will be involved in helping to make decisions, providing ideas and being involved in the planning and running of the event.

For more information and to lodge your interest, contact Angela at AXIS Youth Centre: by phoning 6297 2958, via email at **angela.nicoli@qcc.nsw.gov.au**, message the Youth Centre on MySpace at **www.myspace.com/axisyouthcentre**, or drop into the centre in Queanbeyan Park.

* * *

Pensions increased

PENSIONS AND other income support payments were increased from 20 September as a result of indexation.

Pension payments rose by $15.00 per fortnight for singles on the maximum rate, and $22.60 per fortnight for couples combined on the maximum rate.

The rise was driven by movement in the pensioner and beneficiary living cost index in the six months to June 2010.

People eligible for the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension (adult rate), Carer Payment, veteran income support payments, Wife Pension, Widow B Pension and Bereavement Allowance also benefit from the increases. Parenting Payment and Rent Assistance also increased.

Full details of all indexation amounts are available at **www.fahcsia.gov.au**.

NSW GOVERNMENT | Planning

Exhibition Of Environmental Assessment

Woodlawn Bioreactor Expansion Project, Tarago

Application Number	MP 10_0012
Location	Collector Road, Tarago
Proponent	Veolia Environmental Services Pty Ltd
Council Area	Goulburn Mulwaree and Palerang

Description of the Project

Veolia Environmental Services Pty Ltd (Veolia) is seeking approval to increase the maximum throughput rate of the Woodlawn Bioreactor from 500,000 to 1.13 million tonnes per annum (tpa). Simultaneously, Veolia is also seeking to increase the maximum throughput rate of the nearby Crisps Creek Intermodal Facility (IMF) to 1.18 million tpa. The proposal also entails:

- installing additional lighting at the Bioreactor site;
- extending the approved hours of operation at the Bioreactor and the IMF site;
- increasing the number of truck movements transporting waste to the Bioreactor from the IMF; and
- increasing the amount of waste transported to the site by road from regional councils from 50,000 to 130,000 tpa.

Approval Authority

Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

Exhibition

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project will be made publicly available from Thursday 23 September 2010 until Monday 25 October 2010. During this period you may:

- view a copy of the EA at:
  - Department of Planning: Information Centre, 23 – 33 Bridge Street, Sydney (1300 305 695);
  - Nature Conservation Council, Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown NSW 2042 (9516 1488);
  - Goulburn Mulwaree Council, 184-194 Bourke Street, Goulburn NSW 2580 (4823 4444); and
  - Palerang Council (Bungendore Office), 10 Majara Street, Bungendore NSW 2621 (6238 1290).
- download a copy of the EA from the Department of Planning's website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au (under Development Assessments/On Exhibition); or
- ask the Department of Planning (1300 305 695) to send you a free digital copy of the EA.

Submissions

You are invited to make a written submission on the project. Your submission should include:

- your name and address;
- the project number (MP 10_0012);
- a statement on whether you support or object to the project; and
- the reason(s) why you support or object to the project.

Your submission must reach the Department by Monday 25 October 2010, and should be:

- emailed to: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
- posted to: Major Projects Assessment, Department of Planning, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001; or
- faxed to: 9228 6466.

Persons lodging submissions are required to declare reportable political donations (including donations of or more than $1,000) made in the previous two years. For more details, including a disclosure form, go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations

Under section 75H of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the Director-General is required to provide copies of submissions received during the exhibition period, or a report of the issues raised in those submissions, to the Proponent and other interested public authorities. It is Departmental policy to also place a copy of your submission on the Department's website. If you do not want your name to be made available to the Proponent, these authorities, or on the Department's website, please clearly state this in your submission.

Enquiries

Felicity Greenway: 9228 6338 or Andrew Hartcher: 9228 6413

809685

AT ST MARY'S and COUNTRY PARISHES

MASSES: EVERY SUNDAY of the month 8.30am

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

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MASS 9.00am

LITURGY OF THE WORD: THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9.00am

Hoskinstown – 10.30am 1st Sunday of the Month
Tarago – 10.30am 2nd Sunday of the Month
Gundaroo – 10.30am 3rd Sunday of the Month

Reconciliation: 30 minutes before the Weekend Masses
Baptisms and Weddings: By appointment

PALERANG COUNCIL | Queanbeyan City Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

Queanbeyan City and Palerang Councils Commit to Emergency Risk Management

Emergency Risk Management aims to reduce the potential effects of emergency events through a comprehensive approach of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. All Local Government areas are required to use emergency risk management processes in developing and reviewing emergency management arrangements for their communities. This is to be undertaken through the Local Emergency Management Committees.

Queanbeyan City and Palerang Councils have engaged the services of Echelon Australia Pty Ltd to facilitate the development of the Emergency Risk Management Plan in concert with the Local Emergency Management Committee.

Key to the project is community and stakeholder consultation to ensure that planning and management arrangements are well understood by the community and relevant to their needs. Events that cause disruption and damage to communities may occur at any time and without warning. Your Local Emergency Management Committee is working to ensure the community, emergency services personnel, recovery workers and administrators are adequately prepared.

The Lake George Local Emergency Management Committee for your area is engaging key stakeholders to gain their input throughout the process, as well as exhibiting the *Draft Emergency Risk Management Report* for public comment.

Information and access to the document can be obtained by visiting Queanbeyan City and Palerang Councils offices. An electronic version is also available at: **www.echelonaustralia.com.au/erm/councils.aspx**

Comments regarding this report may be provided via **email to: lakegeorgeerm@echelonaustralia.com.au** or directly to the Local Emergency Management Officer at PO Box 348 Bungendore NSW 2621. Your input is important and will be considered before the finalisation of the report.

Closing date for submissions/feedback is Friday 22 October 2010.

Authorised by the Lake George Local Emergency Management Committee
14 September 2010

inside runnings

From the desk of the Speedster, your armchair sports professional.

Something in the water?

THE REST of the region is probably pretty happy the football season is over given Queanbeyan's dominance across all codes. In a role reversal of last year's rugby union John I Dent Cup final, the Queanbeyan Whites beat Tuggeranong by two points; in league, in their first grand final in 25 years the Queanbeyan Kangaroos hopped all over the Belconnen Scholars in the Raiders Cup; and in the soccer, Queanbeyan FC won the State League competition after taking on the Gunghalin White Eagles in the finals. And although Ainslie did manage to take out the ACT AFL Premiership, the Queanbeyan Tigers still won the Reserves title.

At least the Monaro Panthers gave Canberra a go, finishing fifth in their first outing in almost ten years in the ACT Premier League Football Competition, with the honours going to Canberra FC.

Bring on the cricket

SUMMER MIGHT herald the start of the cricket season, but things may not improve that much for the regional teams given that Queanbeyan demolished all the competition across all divisions last year and will not be looking to emulate the national team and give up their #1 spot anytime soon.

Everyone loves a winner

WELL, THE Raiders might not have made it into the finals but they did us proud nonetheless – interesting how a few short weeks ago you couldn't give away a game ticket and yet 27,000 'supporters' materialise when the going gets good! Now we just need to hope that Terry Campese recovers from his knee injury by next season and the 2011 finals are definitely within grasp. Those large crowds might even become permanent fixtures ...

Games girlpower

TWO YOUNG Canberrans will be competing at the Commonwealth Games this month. Archer Cassie McCall and teenage hockey player Anna Flanagan were both selected for their first Games appearances, although Queanbeyan girl and Olympic and Commonwealth Games gold medal winner Suzy Balogh, just missed out for the Women's Trap Shooting team in a somewhat controversial decision that she appealed and lost.

Sports fans should feel free to email their sporting observations, witticisms and armchair critiques to: ***thespeedster@live.com.au.***

The Couch Guide to October

Here's to a safe and enjoyable Commonwealth Games for all athletes between the 3rd and 14th October.

Local hero Mark Webber has the chance to further increase his Championship lead of 11 points in the Korean F1 Grand Prix on 16 October and the Indian GP 30 October.

The Australian Cricket team will tour India with two Test Matches (3 and 10 October) and three one day matches at the end of the month scheduled. The Ashes beckon boys, so make it good ...

Stuff we're (pretty) sure was said:

"I could be the most concussed player in the game, but I can't really remember."
– Roosters five-eighth Todd Carney

"Anyone who said I wouldn't be as famous as Tiger Woods looks pretty stupid now."
– Ben Cousins, retiring 'bad boy' AFL star

Teenage cycling sensation

by Nichole Smith

FOLLOWING HIS third place at the Australian Track Cycling Championships in February, Bungendore teenager Mitchell Lovelock-Fay (*pictured on left*) has helped Australia achieve victory in the Team Pursuit at the 2010 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Junior Track Cycling World Championships held in Montichiari, Italy, in August.

Lovelock-Fay, who also came fifth in the Individual Pursuit, was selected in the 13-rider team for the UCI Championships, considered one of the world's pre-eminent track cycling events, following his success at the Australian Championships.

"It was my first national medal ever but it was a bit unfortunate because I had to compete against my team-mate for the bronze, but it was definitely an experience."

The 18-year-old joined riders from Western and South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and one, Edward Bissaker, from the ACT as part of the Australian team in Italy.

"I was a bit disappointed with my time in the Individual Pursuit, but it was a slow track so I had to be happy."

Competing in the under-19s section, Lovelock-Fay says it was the main event that the Australian team was concentrating on.

"We went into the finals as underdogs but managed to beat the Great Britain team by three seconds and ride a 4.05, only seven seconds off the world record."

Having only taken up the sport four years ago, Lovelock-Fay has done well in a relatively short period of time. In addition to UCI selection, he also took out the prestigious under-19 title at the DBR Australia Canberra Junior and Women's Tour held in July. This four-stage tour boasts the best riders from around Australia and New Zealand.

On asked how it felt to beat Britain, the young cyclist's delight is obvious.

"I am now able to call myself a world champion which not many people can do. That is really cool. It has only just sunk in but when I get back to Australia it will seem so much more real."

Currently in America, Lovelock-Fay has just finished fourth in the USA 100km Classic in Atlanta and will return to Australia this month.

PALERANG COUNCIL

The lists of Development Applications which are received each week and determined each month are available on Council's website under 'Planning and Environment' on the home page **www.palerang.nsw.gov.au**; **email records@palerang.nsw.gov.au**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Development Application DEV.2010.0251
Advertised Local Development
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The following information is provided for public interest and consultation:

Application Number:	DEV.2010.0251
Applicant name:	Ian Webster
Proposal:	Dual Occupancy
Land Description:	Lot 8 DP 262318
Property Address:	13 Woolshed Lane, Bywong
Consent Authority:	Palerang Council
Consultation Period:	From 6 October 2010 to 20 October 2010
Application information:	The application and supporting documentation may be inspected at Council's Bungendore office during normal business hours.

Contact Officer Belinda McManus – Please note that Council planners are not available after 12 noon.

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

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

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

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

Peter Bascomb, General Manager

What's On – OCTOBER

Compiled by Christina Taylor

Send your announcements to whatson@palerangbulletin.com.au

Throughout October

Drawn to Animals

Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore. View the animal portraits by of pastel artist Catherine Lidden. General viewing hours 10am–4.30pm. For more info contact the gallery on 6238 1640.

Historic Train to Bungendore

The train departs from Canberra stopping in Queanbeyan en route to Bungendore. For a great Sunday afternoon family outing, hop aboard a 1930 vintage rail motor and experience the nostalgia of country rail travel! For travel dates, prices and bookings visit **www.trains.org** (click on *trips & tours*).

Saturday 9

Fundraising Trivia Night

Bungendore War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 6.30pm. This event will raise money for the students of Coronation Primary School at Boroko, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Tables are of 8, adult entry is $10 and under 16s free. BYO food and drinks. Light super supplied and a great night of fun promised. For bookings call Thelma on 6230 3542 or email **toberdorf@hotmail.com**.

Sunday 10

K2C Biodiversity & Farming Fair

Bredbo Village, 9am–4pm. Farm, industry and community group stalls. Talks on land management, weeds, trees, grasses, birds and more. There will be food and music and great kids activities including a live reptile display! Entry is a gold coin donation, with proceeds going to Beyond Blue. View the full program on **www.k2c.org.au** or for more info call Lauren on 0411 402 978 or Tony on 6235 9334 (*see promo on right*).

Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14

Peace Train – The Cat Stevens Story

'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Cat Stevens – a winning voice and creator of songs which the whole world sang along to. Experience one of Australia's most exciting young artists, Darren Coggan, backed by a high energy band! For show times and ticket prices call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit **www.theq.net.au**. (*See advert p13.*)

Tuesday 12 – Saturday 23

Transfiguration; Paintings from Kosciuszko Alpine Region

'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Artist Eve Sawa will be exhibiting paintings based on Australia's alpine region surrounding Mt Kosciuszko. The opening will be held on the 12th at 'The Q' at 6pm. For more info see **www.theq.net.au**.

Saturday 16 – Sunday 17

Bungendore Model Railway Exhibition

Bungendore Multi-Purpose Hall (next to Primary School), Gibraltar St, Bungendore, 10am–5pm on Sat and 10am–4pm Sun. Rotary Club of Bungendore and the Canberra Monaro N Scale Group present an exhibition of 23 models. The Rotary BBQ will be offering lunch on both days. Funds raised support the Rotary Club's Youth Program. Costs are $6 general entry, $4 concession, $3 children and $15 for a family.

– GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

OCTOBER:

Friday 8
Peter Blissneden, 7.30, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Saturday 9
Peter Gervasoni, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Thursday 14
Troy Henderson, 8pm, Walsh's Hotel, 40–48 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 15
Crushed Ice, 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
The Morning After, 7.30, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Country Music Night, 6pm, Jerrabomberra General Store, Jerrabomberra Pkwy, Jerrabomberra.

Saturday 16
8 Ball Aitkens, 9pm, Loaded Dog Hotel, Wallace St, Tarago.

Friday 22
The Morning After, 9pm, Walsh's Hotel, 40–48 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.
Mal Osbourne, 7.30, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Friday 29
Swizz, 7.30, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

NOVEMBER:

Friday 5
Country Music Night, 7.30pm, Royal Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Kosciuszko2Coast
LANDHOLDERS - LINKS - LANDSCAPES

BIODIVERSITY & FARMING FAIR

SUNDAY 10th October 2010
Bredbo Village 9am–4pm

Key Presenter, Sam Archer
Livestock producer & Biodiversity farmer (MLA Nuffield Scholar 2008)

- Visit farm, industry and community group stalls
  - Learn how to achieve profits while enriching landscape health
- Great kids activities
  - Info & talks on land management, weeds, trees, grasses, birds …
- Snakes Alive, live reptile display
  - Witness an amazing animal nutrition presentation
- Visit Bush Heritage's Scottsdale Reserve
  - Enjoy good food & music
- Find the full program on www.k2c.org.au
  - Further info contact Lauren on 0411 402 978 or Tony 6235 9334

Assisted by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

GOLD COIN DONATION ON ENTRY TO
beyondblue: the national depression initiative

Saturday 23

Queanbeyan Spring Fair

Uniting Church, cnr Rutledge & Crawford Sts, Queanbeyan 9am–1pm. There will be food galore, a marching band, choirs, face painting and a variety of stalls including: historic engines, vintage cars, plants, craft, books and DVDs. For more info visit **quc.web.officelive.com/fair.aspx**.

Sunday 24

The Bungendore Rodeo – 50th Anniversary

Rodeo Equestrian Sports and Recreation Reserve, Kings Hwy, Bungendore, 8am. A day of skills, thrills and spills! Events include bull riding, team roping and a ladies barrel race. Food, merchandising outlets and drink bars will be onsite. There will also be a jumping castle and merry-go-round rides for the kids. For details and directions visit **www.bungendorerodeo.com.au**.

Scott Williams of Bees-R-Us

The Old Cheese Factory, 92 Sawyers Ridge Rd, Reidsdale, 11.30am. Scott is an apiarist and owner of a bee-keeping supply business in Braidwood. He will explain the basics of setting up a hive on your property and look at small scale hive management. The presentation will be followed by a honey inspired lunch. Lunch and presentation $43, bookings essential. Call 4846 1999 or 0407 292 181 or email **soapbox@braidwoodmade.com.au**.

Saturday 30

Tarago Car Boot Sale and Family Fun Day

Tarago Public School, Braidwood Rd, Tarago. A great day for the family with lots of kids activities and delicious food all day. Only $10 for a site or stall. For more info or to book call Caroline on 4849 4481 or email **nirvalley@optusnet.com.au**.

Sunday 31

Alpaca Magic Spring Open Day

Meet some alpacas and llamas and learn more about them. De-stress – give an alpaca a cuddle or walk a llama or try spinning or felting their fleece! Bring a picnic lunch, tea & coffee provided. For times, directions & more info **www.alpacamagic.com.au** or call Glynda on 6230 3311.

– Plan ahead for November –

Tuesday 2

LGDVC Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Queanbeyan Bowling Club, Campbell St, Queanbeyan (you don't need to be a member). *'A day of buffet, bubbly and bets'* – there will also be Lucky door prizes and tickets are only $20pp via pre purchase only. RSVP to **lgdvc@hotmail.com**.

Saturday 6 – Sunday 7

Burra Open Gardens

Six stunning country gardens open from 10am–5pm both days. Full cost $20pp to visit all gardens, with pensioner discount. Run by the Queanbeyan Lions Club with proceeds to aid the needy or community projects. Refreshments for sale at the Burra Hall, plus plants, other products and refreshments for sale in some gardens. For details email **aberfeldy_e@yahoo.com.au** or see **www.burra.org.au**.

Saturday 20

Captains Flat Annual Ball

'Neptune's Ball' – for details call 6236 6103.

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday
Capital Region Farmers Market
8–11am, EPIC grounds, Mitchell, **www.epic.act.gov.au**.

1st Saturday of every month
Captains Flat Country Market
Captains Flat Community Hall, Captains Flat, 10am–2pm. Old fashioned country market undercover in the Community Hall, bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email **www.captainsflat.org**

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

3rd Saturday of every month (bar July, August)
Wamboin Produce Market
Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–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, 9am–2pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.
Windellama Country Market
Windellama Hall, Cnr Windellama & Oallen Ford Roads, 10am–2pm.

4th Saturday of every month
Braidwood Markets
Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Lots of treasures to be found! Call Geraldine Sutton 4847 5061.

1st and 2nd weekend of every month
Captains Axe Woodworks
55 Foxlow St (old Post Office) Captains Flat, 10am–4pm. Bush furniture, antiques, collectables, model cars and old tools. Something for everyone! Wanted – old tools, farm machinery and collectable items. Call 6236 5799.

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

sculpture by the sea

Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, *the world's largest annual free-to-the-public outdoor sculpture exhibition, will this year feature a work by Carwoola resident Nicholas Stranks, a sculptor and teacher at the Sculpture Workshop at the ANU School of Art.*

Now in its 14th year, the exhibition regularly draws over 400,000 people to view sculptures from more than 100 artists around the world. It commenced on 28 October along the NSW coastal walk from Bondi to Tamarama Beach.

www.sculpturebythesea.com

A crab in the works
by Gordan Mitchell,
Sculpture by the sea, 2009
Photo: J Williams