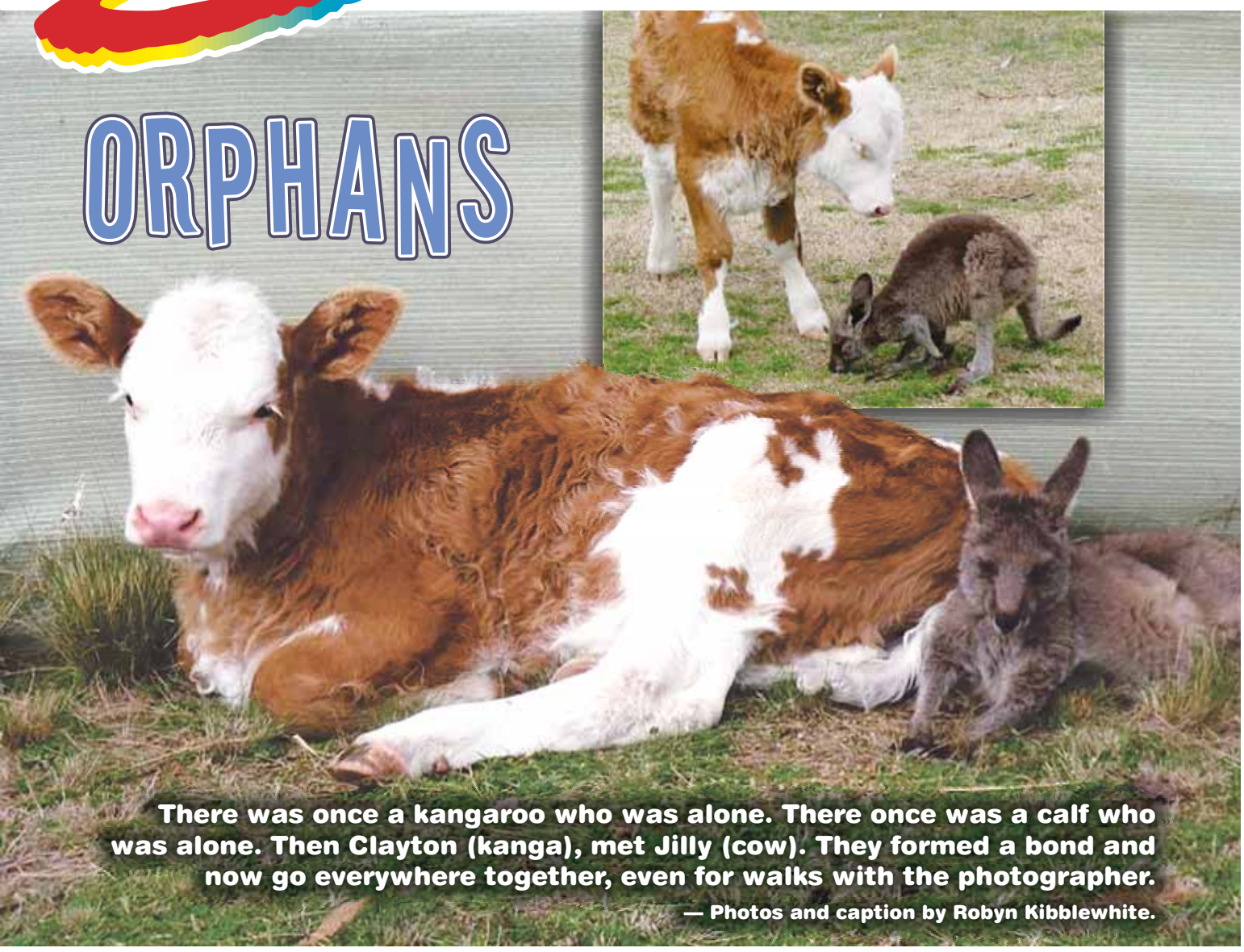
THE DISTRICT
# Bulletin
October 2012
33% 67% PLANTATION GROWN
COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang




There was once a kangaroo who was alone. There once was a calf who was alone. Then Clayton (kanga), met Jilly (cow). They formed a bond and now go everywhere together, even for walks with the photographer.
— Photos and caption by Robyn Kibblewhite.

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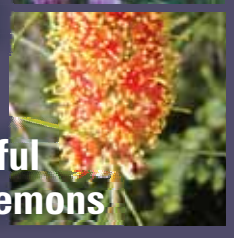

NATION'S SHAME

## The unsanitised picture: victims shot, clubbed, knifed

AN AUTOPSY on a young male kangaroo, recovered by an activist from an ACT culling pit at Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve on 3 June, indicates the victim was shot, shattering its jaw, then bashed over the head with a heavy object causing skull fractures.

The autopsy report, by Palerang veterinarian and forensic medical officer Howard Ralph, says the kangaroo was finally stabbed in the neck causing it to choke to death on its own blood.

Dr Ralph told the *Bulletin* it was one of the most horrible things he had seen in his veterinary and medical experience. "The kangaroo would have been conscious after the first shot. I've seen it before. They are often standing and awake with a totally shattered jaw. It likely suffered severe pain and distress during the progressive attack, until the final asphyxiation."

The kangaroo was taken by an Australian Society for Kangaroos (ASK) activist from a burial pit for shot kangaroos at the nature reserve. 1,150 kangaroos were killed across ACT reserves in June of this year in the third year of a so-called 'scientific' culling program. In 2010 and 2011 almost 4,000 kangaroos were killed at Mulligan's Flat and Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve near new housing estates.

Together with a large kill at the Majura defence training area in 2009 under advice from ACT government officials, the culls have caused the death or "removal" (as the ACT puts it) of at least 15,000 kangaroos since 2008.

While the ACT government maintains that its kangaroo kills are humanely executed and strictly controlled by conservation officers, Dr Ralph noted that the mistreatment of the animal he autopsied is highly unlikely to have been a one-off given the scale of the killing program.

He also says the whole killing routine is cruelly stressful and fear-inducing. "Kangaroos are not bricks, they are particularly prone to stress and suffering when the mob is interfered with."

For the first time activists also uncovered a pit at Kama reserve near the Pinnacle where they photographed kangaroos mis-shot in the face and neck and partially decapitated joeys. Joeys are either decapitated or clubbed to death in 'culls' and commercial 'harvests'.

The ACT's new mandatory code of practice, that is supposed to enforce the least-inhumane killing practices if killing were necessary, has been 'under review' for the past two years. No enforceable code is in place. "What possible excuse can there be for this code to still be under review two years and two slaughters later?" asked Lara Drew, President of Animal Liberation ACT, in an August letter to Chief Minister Katy Gallagher.

The RSPCA ACT CEO Michael Linke was unreachable for comment but a staffer said that Eastern Grey Kangaroos are classified as a pest species in the ACT and the RSPCA is not allowed to care for them. This is not legally correct regarding the pest status, but may shed some light on events in the ACT.

> *p14 The images the ACT nature reserve administration doesn't want you to see.*
*Warning: these images are disturbing*

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## Contact The *Bulletin*


**Send letters and enquiries to:**
Executive Editor: **Maria Taylor**
**0418 731 691**
Guest Editor: Christina Taylor
Editorial: **media@districtbulletin.com.au**
*PO Box 302, Bungendore NSW 2621*

**Contacts advertising:**
**Maria** 0418 731 691
**— Advertising Features —**
**Robyn Hall** 0458 018 835
*or email* **adverts@districtbulletin.com.au**

**Associate Editor:**
Sonja Chandler
**Editorial Contributors:**
Stephanie Anderson, Peter Davies, Jessica Frecklington, Heike Hahner, Rose-Marie Johnson, Di Johnstone, Karen Lovatt, Sarah Newsome, Doug Palmer, Nichole Smith, Jo Walker, David Weldrake
**Design, advertising and production:**
Sue Van Homrigh
sue@graphicgesture.com.au

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# An animated career: from Queanbeyan to Cannes

*by Nichole Smith*

*Director Marisa Martin with her script-writer mum Geraldine, with one of the creations from their animated children's TV series The Della Morte Sisters.*

SHE MAY ONLY stand 30cm tall, but Tegan the vegan has generated widespread appreciation for the talents of her creator, local film-maker Marisa Martin.

Tegan is a polymer clay puppet and the star of *Tegan the Vegan*, a 13-minute film in the style of the clay animation antics of *Wallace and Gromit* and Australian Oscar-winner Adam Elliott's *Harvie Krumpet*, and who won hearts everywhere with her partly autobiographical story of making the difficult choice to live a life without meat while still a teenager. Released in 2011, so popular did the film prove, it was officially selected for festivals from Flickerfest, 'the crème de la crème of local and global short film-making', to the New York City International Film Festival, winning a swag of awards along the way.

Martin, the woman who spent two and a half years of her life bringing Tegan to the big screen, is delighted at the way in which her work continues to be embraced.

"I'm thrilled with how popular she has been," she says of the success of her creation. "My goals were to make Flickerfest and the St Kilda Film Festival and we did both. To make it to New York as well – I'm really happy and it was a great reception there."

## A family affair

Crafted and produced in her Queanbeyan home studio with the help of family and friends, it could take a week to produce just 10 seconds of footage, with the stop-motion format requiring every movement to be staged, shot and then re-staged. At one-fifth scale, every set, prop, character and costume also had to be hand-made.

"The process is physically demanding and there were frustrating moments – I'm sure I cried more than once – but it was all worth it in the end," Martin says with a warm laugh.

"It was absolutely a family affair. For me it was directing and the creation of the puppets. My dad is an architect and designed and built the sets with my brother, who is an electrician. Mum did everything from writing the script to making the costumes – she's a great sewer."

## Big names, little budget

There were big names involved as well, with character voices provided by Noni Hazelhurst and comedian Paul McDermott as well as Charli Delaney of *Hi5* fame and Pippa Black from *Neighbours*. And while Adam Elliott's efforts were considered frugal to produce *Harvie Krumpet* for just under $400,000, for Martin and her production team constraints were considerably tighter.

"It was beyond a shoestring. We had a $20,000 grant to pay for all the stuff you need to do this kind of thing but people were very generous, whether it was sound or cinematography or the actors who provided their voice talents," the young director acknowledges.

Much like the painstaking process to create this specialised form of entertainment, Martin's success has also been building gradually. After completing a degree at the University of Canberra, she started her own independent film company, EoR Media, producing commercials, award-winning music videos and other short films as well as being involved in festivals such as *Lights! Canberra! Action!* before Tegan burst forth from her imagination.

"I'd made a lot of films with moderate success but I wanted to make a film that was important without being preachy. The more I wrote it, the more I knew it had to be animated so that the audience would warm to her, fall in love with her and be more likely to listen."

## Moulding Martin's future

Following in Tegan's footsteps, next for Martin is a highly creative TV series, *The Della Morte Sisters*, which brings to mind Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge* and Martin Scorcese's most recent triumph *Hugo* for its unique and stylish combination of art and effects.

Set in 1888 in a Melbourne not as we know it, one where the industrial revolution occurred 150 years earlier and machines are powered by steam, this thoroughly imaginative alternative universe is the setting for three supposedly orphaned and highly resourceful sisters who are determined to uncover what really happened to their missing parents.

"It's been in development for a while," Martin says. "It took about six to 12 months to develop the script and this time the puppets are hand-made from paper, so that's time consuming in a different way."

Asked about the transition from clay to paper, Martin says she was keen to challenge herself, "I wanted to try something different again and because these characters live in a pop-up book, it was logical they were made of paper."

## Destination: Cannes

Again working in conjunction with her script-writer mother Geraldine, Martin won the 2011 Holding Redich Pitching Competition which gives up-and-coming film-makers the chance to present their ideas to industry executives and professionals, and will travel to the Cannes Film Festival this month where she hopes to secure interest to produce the series.

"We got an Arts Grant for this project and we will be producing a short film, *The Carousel of Shame*. Geraldine has also created detailed outlines for a 13-episode TV series, so our current focus is pitching that and hopefully getting some interest."

And what comes next in the somewhat surreal world of animation?

"I love live action but I must say I find animating far more rewarding. In animation I'm getting exactly what's in my head and that's very satisfying – and the actors don't talk back!" she finishes laughingly. ■


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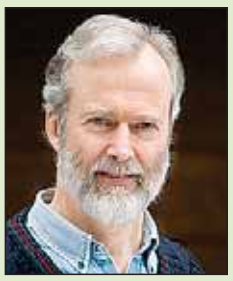
## Palerang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# Palerang Council News

PALERANG COUNCIL

### Council Election Results

The NSW Electoral Commission has declared that the following Councillors, listed in order of election, have been elected to Palerang Council to serve a four-year term:

Pete Harrison (Wamboin)
Mark Schweikert (Bungendore)
Belinda Hogarth-Boyd (Bungendore)
Garth Morrison (Bungendore)
Keith France (Wamboin)
Trevor Hicks (Captains Flat)
Paul Cockram (Mongarlowe)
Peter Marshall (Captains Flat)
Richard Graham (Mulloon)

There are six new Councillors and three returning from the previous Council. The Palerang LGA is undivided, so that all councillors are elected by the whole electorate, rather than in wards.

At the first meeting of the new Council, Cr. Pete Harrison was elected unopposed as Mayor, and Cr. Paul Cockram as Deputy Mayor. Our Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by Council, on an annual basis.

Contact details for individual councillors are available on Council's website.

### Pool Season Opens

Council's three swimming pools, in Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat, will open on Saturday, 27 October 2012, for the coming summer season, which will end on Sunday, 17 March 2013. Opening hours for individual pools are available from Council's website.

### The Legend of Archer

An element of local history will be brought alive in the lead up to the Melbourne Cup in November. Many residents may be unaware that Archer, the winner of the first two Melbourne Cups in 1861 and 1862, was bred by Thomas Royds on the family's property at Ballabala, near Braidwood. In fact the feat of winning successive Cups was not repeated until Rain Lover won in 1968–9, and Archer's record winning margin of eight lengths in the 1862 race also stood until Rain Lover's second win.

Legend had it that Archer walked to Melbourne, from Braidwood, to run in the Cup, and then won handsomely. While we know today that Archer actually travelled to Melbourne in more comfort, Olympian Ed Fernon, who represented Australia in the modern pentathlon this year in London, will recreate the legendary ride to help raise awareness of the impact of depression, and to support The Black Dog Institute, an educational, research and clinical facility offering support for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorder.

Ed departed from Braidwood on 1 October, and is due to arrive in Healsville in time for the running of the 2012 Melbourne Cup on 6 November.

### Spring Time is Weed Time…

Council is preparing for the busy spring/summer period, encouraging residents and directing its own efforts to control on St John's wort in localities where it currently has a limited distribution. Some herbicides can be used in spring before wort flowers, so it is best to start controlling it now.

Council is also in the process of implementing a new Cape broom control program and dealing with several isolated outbreaks of Fireweed.

Last year Cape broom was declared a new noxious weed in NSW. As there is currently very little of this plant in the Palerang area, and it can be eradicated, it has been declared a Class 2 weed. As such, there is a legal requirement that "The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant". The main infestation is around, and downstream of Captains Flat village, and Council has embarked upon an intensive inspection and control program in that locality.

Fireweed is well established along the south coast of NSW and almost impossible to eradicate. Council officers have been revisiting local outbreak sites and inspecting surrounding properties. Residents are asked to immediately report any possible sightings of Fireweed to Council to help prevent its becoming established within the Palerang area.

Brochures to help residents identify and control noxious weeds are available from Council's offices in Braidwood and Bungendore. There are also many other resources available via the web/Internet, particularly the Department of Primary Industries website at **http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds**.

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> *Palerang development approvals p13*

# Your say ...

## RTA TO MOVE, NO PARKING IN SIGHT – WHAT NEXT?

THE PRESENT RTA purpose-built facility in Aurora Avenue is to be closed and moved to the NSW state offices in Farrer Place.

The RTA is the state government facility requiring personal attendance for conducting a wide range of business by the widest range of community users; customers who are, with few exceptions, motorists!

Without doubt the present RTA set-up in Aurora Avenue is the most effective operation of any state government facility bar none. It is operated by efficient, polite staff during accessible opening hours.

The premises are comfortable and appropriately furnished and it is an operation of which the community can be proud. It is located in a quiet accessible area and provides substantial on-site parking for hundreds of customers per week, especially learner drivers/driving test candidates, supplemented by adequate on-street overflow parking.

At the proposed Farrer Place site (located on the busiest through road in Queanbeyan), there is no dedicated on-site parking. The nearest car parks are some distance removed in Lowe Street and Rutledge Street and are consistently full, as are nearby streets.

As for service areas, will they be dedicated, effective premises as now or should we expect a 'budget' operation? Will opening hours and staff levels be maintained or can we expect an 'efficiency dividend' by way of a reduction in staff and hours of opening?

Public parking is at a premium around Farrer Place yet we have the possible closure of a major, purpose-built and operated RTA facility outside the CBD and the arrival of additional hundreds of vehicles per week in Farrer Place, with no identifiable benefit and only substantial inconvenience to RTA customers, solely to meet a narrow, politically driven government objective.

Our local state representative Mr Barilaro MP should share with his electorate full details of what is intended and what will be the long-term outcomes for RTA customers, the future of the Aurora Avenue premises and whether we can expect the Queanbeyan Showground to be under threat as the site of 'necessary' public car parking, to meet the demands of users of the Farrer Place state office building.

*— Richard Miller, Bywong*

*(On 1 Nov 2011, the NSW Government combined the NSW Maritime Authority and the RTA into a single agency, the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). 'RTA' is still recognised for services pertaining to roads. – Ed.)*

## EDUCATION FUNDING CUTS

A RECENT announcement by Adrian Piccoli, NSW Deputy Leader of the National Party (who is also the NSW Minister for Education) to slash $1.7 billion dollars from the NSW education fund cuts to the bone of every parent in this state.

These cuts will especially hurt us in the country. Country schools, where numbers are typically lower than in the cities, rely upon the state for critical funding for education.

In Palerang, we need state funding to ensure that our schools provide the basic education needs of our children. This funding guarantees that our kids receive a good and relevant education.

The National Party in NSW have been a party that claims to represent the bush. These days, it seems that they are more interested in following the politics of their Liberal coalition partners than they are in representing regional NSW.

*Continued next page*

Our own state member John Barilaro, a National Party representative, has been very quiet on the education cuts. Perhaps this is because Mr Barilaro's own promise to support the Cooma TAFE has been broken.

When it comes to regional NSW, the Nationals can't be accused of being asleep at the wheel. The Nationals aren't at the wheel. They're not even in the passenger seat. The NSW Nationals are in the back seat of the Barry O'Farrell bus where they've been told to sit down and shut up.

It seems that the only thing that we are likely to hear from the NSW National Party in relation to the country is a quiet 'Are we there yet?'

*— Garth Morrison,*
*Palerang Councillor, Country Labor Party*

## A SINCERE THANK-YOU

I TAKE this opportunity to thank the residents of Palerang for their support over the past 25 years. During this period, I was honoured to have been able to have served the people of both Yarrowlumla and Palerang as their Mayor and Councillor.

It was always a great privilege to serve in these positions. The shire is now a much larger and vibrant community than it was back in 1987 when I was first elected.

I thank all the staff with whom I have worked for their assistance and professionalism.

I also give my best wishes to the new Councillors and hope that their careers as elected representatives are everything they want them to be.

*— Yours sincerely, Ian Marjason,*
*Bungendore*

# FUNDING CUTS TO RURAL FIRE SERVICE

IT'S BEEN a dramatic and early start to the fire season in our region. A fire near Berridale resulted in the loss of an historic property, and massive grass build-up closer to home around Palerang and Queanbeyan means we will certainly see a busy summer for our dedicated RFS volunteers.

We are very lucky that we do have so many volunteers willing to give their time to keep the community safe – what we probably don't think about so much is the important role RFS employees play in supporting our volunteers, organising training, equipment and coordinating major events requiring movement of volunteers either around the state or interstate.

### *Dramatic drop in funding for brigade stations and fire control centres plus job losses*

That's why as a local resident and former Emergency Services Minister I am concerned about the funding cuts the O'Farrell Government is imposing on the Rural Fire Service.

In the most recent Rural Fire Service Association newsletter President Brian McKinlay said "on a more serious note, it is with dismay we note the reduction in the Rural Fire Fighting Fund from the sum of $271 million in last year's budget to the figure of $263 million in the FY12/13 state budget.

"What is of even greater concern to the future of our brigades and their needs is that, for the past two years, the total allocation for brigade stations and fire control centres amounts to $5 million from the O'Farrell Government. In the last two years of the Kenneally Government this allocation for the same time period was over $30 million."

### Fears for state-wide coordination and support

We now also know the RFS for the first time ever is seeking to cut over $11 million through redundancies, which means anything up to 120 positions cut.

**NSW Capital Watch**

*with Steve Whan*

Some people have said redundancies are ok if the money is going back into the 'front line' – I don't agree, firstly, because in my experience the RFS is a lean organisation, but also because modern firefighting does need state-wide coordination and support to make sure it is safe and effective.

Unfortunately the money saved is not going to the 'front line', some will go back to treasury and local government but 70 percent will be given back to insurance companies.

Given the way our emergency services are funded (only 14 percent comes from treasury) and given their importance to public safety, I strongly believe these agencies should remain quarantined from these harsh savings.

The good news for this fire season though is that in our area we have very well equipped fire brigades, up-to-date fire control centres and most importantly dedicated individual volunteers. Thanks to all of them in advance for what is likely to be a busy summer.

### Community halls losing programs that Nationals call 'pork barrelling'

Part of my role now is thinking about future regional policy. An interesting debate is what we do with small towns, as populations move away to the larger regional centres with more services and facilities.

In my view, attracting people to live in an area has to have a social element – it's not just about jobs and health care (though those are very important). The social element is what attracts a whole family; it is sport of course, but also arts activities, recreational facilities and places for the community to gather.

In many small towns the community hall and the RFS shed are the gathering point, a place that makes us feel like we are a community not just a collection of houses.

I've overseen programs that have funded community hall upgrades, in our area; Wamboin, Bywong and Burra all saw upgrades.

Recently, the Coalition has cut both the programs that helped out with community halls: the Country Halls program seems to have disappeared altogether and the Community Building Partnerships are a shadow of their former self with a massive cut to their funding.

The local Nationals member has tried to justify the cuts by saying that the round that provided the funds to Bywong, Wamboin and Burra was 'pork barrelling'. However, these modest programs are in fact incredibly effective in leveraging large amounts of community contributions. These programs can be delivered within a responsible budget. ■


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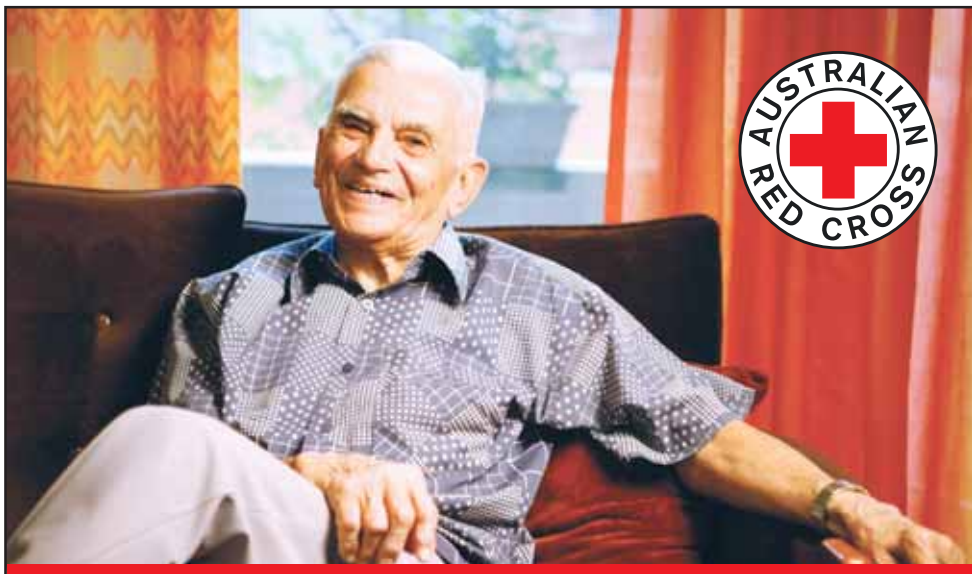


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# The small workplace – time to focus on the majority?

*On 8 August* **Peter Strong**, *Executive Director of the Council of Small Business of Australia, addressed the National Press Club. This is an edited version of his speech, for a complete transcript visit* **www.cosboa.org.au/Post/PeterStrongsAddresstothe NationalPressClubon8August2012**.

SOMETIME ago the small business community in Australia and all the people in that community reached a low point. On that day (Thursday, 28 October 2010) it was confirmed to me that we had ceased to exist in any real sense as people.

In the morning I met with representatives from the federal Department of Health to discuss the involvement of small business in their program "Promoting Good Health at Work". An excellent program in which they were having trouble getting small business involved. I explained how to do that and then we discussed the merits of the program. The program would pick up everyone in the workplaces of Australia. I pointed out that this program missed 2.5 million people – the self employed.

That afternoon I received a phone call from the Human Rights Commission (HRC). A staff member informed me that the HRC had a program aimed at helping workers with mental health problems and that they were having difficulty getting small businesses involved. I then provided advice and information on how to do that and I asked "If an employer has a mental health problem, is this an issue for the Human Rights Commission?" There was silence at the end of the phone and then she replied that she would have to check.

In more recent days we have much better engagement on these issues, but please remember these two stories. They help reinforce the fact that we, in small business, are people that have been relegated by some if not many to tier two of humanity. That disturbing fact underpins everything we say and all our policies.

## The figures tell the story

The small business community makes up 96% of all businesses. There are some 2.5 million of us; 1 million of us employ some 5 million other people. That is at least 7.5 million people who rely on small businesses for their living.

There are some 800,000 people running their business from home, there are another 900,000 independent contractors making their living in other people's workplaces. We are the majority, the innovators, the risk takers, the people who provide the culture of many communities and we are also forgotten as people, we are the prey of the big landlords and the victims of some appalling competition policy.

The various business systems in Australia are designed for the 4% of businesses, for the big end of town with experts and time and resources and money. The tax system, the corporate system, the financial system, most compliance demands, competition policy, contract law, OH&S and the workplace relations system are all about the big end.

Let's look at some examples of how things are designed for big business and not for the majority, small business people.

## Most corporations are small

There are some 700,000 corporations in Australia that are small. The great majority of corporations have one or maybe two shareholders. I have a corporation of which I am the only shareholder. But the process and communications imposed by government are based on the needs and behaviour of large business. For example, by corporate law I have to have a meeting with myself every year. I have to send myself a letter 21 days prior to that meeting and I have to inform myself that I will attend that meeting. This is obviously silly but it does highlight the fact that designers of policy and process do not get the fact that we are people and we are the majority.

The [current workplace relations] system is designed for paymasters and experts. One excellent example is a recent "Retail Campaign" conducted by the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO). This found that some 26% of retailers are non compliant with the Fair Work Act. I asked the FWO to provide a breakdown of the size of businesses that were not compliant, but they had not kept data on the size of the businesses.

How do you plan an education campaign when you don't know the size of the businesses? The FWO will now collect data on business size but the fact that they didn't collect that data in the first place shows a lack of understanding of the difference between big and small and the difference between a business with a paymaster and one without a paymaster.

Also under the current system, and any of the previous systems, it is almost impossible to employ your very first employee legally – especially if you need help now, not in a month's time. You will have to get your head around pay rates, tax rates, award conditions and superannuation.

## A system for the small workplace needed

We need a system for the small workplace. A Small Business Award based on size is one answer.

*Continued p8*

— PROPERTY MATTERS —

# The nature of change

*by Richard Manning*

CHANGE is inevitable. But, in general, do you like it? Or avoid it? Is it anathema to you and you find the mere thought brings on cold sweats? Or something that you seek out and embrace?

If I may get personal for a moment; what about your clothes and your shoes? How often do you change them? (I am referring to the frequency one might change clothes on the basis of fashion or the fact they may have worn thin rather than change on a basis of cleanliness!)

Is the nature of your willingness to change based on whim, want or necessity? Tough questions I know.

My sister changes her clothes and shoes on such a frequent basis that my teenage daughter is the lucky recipient of apparel that has barely been touched. In some instances the clothes she receives still have the price tag and label attached.

My father on the other hand still won't change his golf clubs. I implore him that 'hickory shafts' have long been superseded and the benefits of modern technology would help his game enormously.

He drinks nice wine. I tell him that playing with new/good clubs is like drinking nice wine. It has a similar effect as cheap wine but tastes better! Alas, he fails to see my logic. Dad won't change clubs until he starts to play better and swing more consistently!

## What about changing your home?

This is something that the vast majority of us can't afford to change on any basis other than necessity. For the pragmatist, like my father, cheaper homes serve essentially the same function as more expensive homes in that they are a place to rest, eat and keep dry.

However, as I have written in earlier articles, homes are more than the 'bricks and mortar' from which they are made. They are invested with memories and serve often as a backdrop, or perhaps even main character, for the stories that are our lives.

I ask all this because I have had the privilege of working with some highly idiosyncratic homes recently. These are homes that are well beyond the mainstream and they polarise people. Visitors accept them or reject them.

Each to their own but when it does come time to change your home, for whatever reason, might I proffer some small advice. If you are in the position to do so purchase the property in which you feel most comfortable.

Purchase the property that reflects or will enable you to reflect who you are and that which is important to you. Purchase the property that suits your present and foreseeable future needs. Enjoy your home. ■


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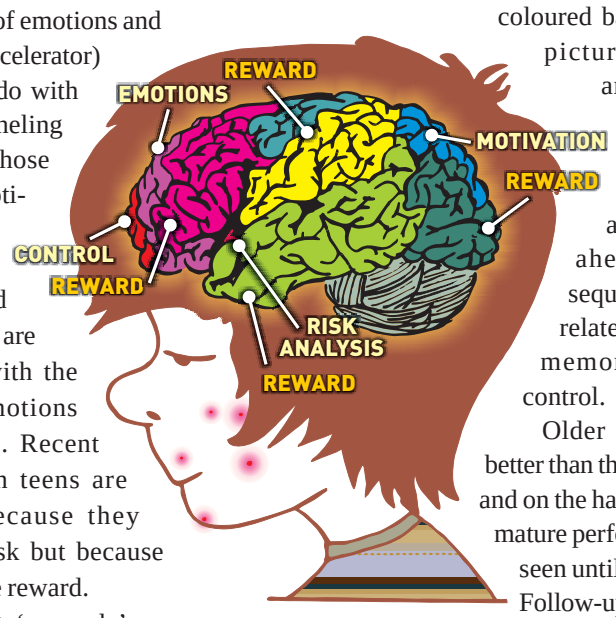
# A look inside the teen brain

*A recent* Scientific American *blog said that teen brains are like dangerous cars: they have powerful, well-developed accelerators but no brakes! Human brains develop in stages and adolescence is a time of explosive growth and rapid change. This month's* Big Idea *takes a look at what neuroscientists and psychologists are finding under the teen bonnet.*

## Developmental timing is the explanation

UC Berkeley psychologist Alison Gopnik pulls together what researchers understand about how children change into adults and agrees with the car analogy. There are two different systems at work: one to do with the development of emotions and motivation (the accelerator) and the other to do with controlling, channeling and harnessing those emotions and motivations (the brakes).




Biological and chemical changes are closely linked with the first system: emotions and motivations. Recent work has shown teens are reckless not because they underestimate risk but because they overestimate reward.

It seems that 'rewards' are more rewarding to teen brains – remember that extreme elation of winning a game and the unbearable feeling of losing? Compared to teens, the reward centres of adult brains don't get such a 'kick' from the same reward. For teens, known risk is outweighed by that intense reward, especially when the reward is respect from their peers.

The part of the brain called the 'prefrontal cortex region' is involved in the second system: guiding and controlling other parts of the brain. This system develops through learning, by experience and practice; behaviours which are driven by emotions are adjusted through failure and success.

**Gopnik's article is at** online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203806504577181351486558984.html.

## Thinking ahead – how young brains fare and ways to encourage mature problem solving

A group of 890 individuals (ages 10–30) were asked to find the fewest possible moves to rearrange a stack of three different-coloured balls to match a picture of a new arrangement. A computerised test studied test-takers' ability to plan ahead and use a sequence of actions related to reasoning, memory and self-control.

Older test takers did better than the younger ones; and on the hardest problems, mature performance wasn't seen until at least age 22. Follow-up suggested that people who did better on the tests had improved impulse control (allowing them to plan solutions more fully before acting) – something many teen brains aren't ready to do yet.

"Late developmental improvements in problem solving may have less to do with getting smarter and more to do with a growing capacity to settle down and think things through before acting," says study author, Dustin Albert. "Programs that target adolescents' still-emerging capacity to plan ahead, control their impulses, regulate their emotions, and resist peer pressure may help bolster youngsters' ability to make good decisions in the real world."

Some researchers have advocated apprenticeships or community service programs – situations where real-life challenges can be experienced – as being a help for teen brain development.

**Read about the study at** www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110617081535.htm.

## Diet counts – teen brains need iron now and later

*What's the Big Idea?*

*with Sonja Chandler*

A lack of iron can make us fatigued and less able to fight off infection, slow normal infant development and in teens can decrease memory and other mental functions. But, too much iron can cause build-ups that damage organs in our later years. Now, researchers from Queensland and UCLA have found that the amount of iron people have in their teenage years can be a good predictor of how healthy their adult brains are.

The study looked at brain scans of healthy young adults (average age 23 years) who 8–12 years earlier had blood samples taken. Researchers used the early blood samples to measure how much iron the subjects had in their blood when they were teens and/or young children. 574 of the subjects had a special type of scan (an MRI 'diffusion scan') which looked at the brain's myelin connections.

Lead-author Paul Thompson says, "Because myelin speeds your brain's communications, and iron is vital for making myelin, poor iron levels in childhood erode your brain reserves which you need later in life to protect against aging and Alzheimer's."

In general, good sources of iron are found in a healthy diet; one that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, fish, dry beans, eggs, nuts, and is low in saturated fat, trans fats, cholesterol, salt and added sugar.

**Read more at** newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/diet-counts-iron-intake-in-teen-221542.aspx.

## Sense of humour a bit off?

Finally (and not necessarily related to teens), an interesting oddity from brain research organisation The Dana Foundation (**www.dana.org**):

People who suffer from a disorder known as 'Witzelsucht' routinely tell inappropriate and poor jokes – and they are unaware of their condition.

## THE SMALL WORKPLACE

*Cont'd from p6*

That way when an employee or an employer calls the FWO number the officer will ask how many employees? If the answer is less than 20 then we can guarantee a wage rate – doesn't matter what the people do, we will know the minimum wage. Make it simple for small business – give us a separate system and let the others fight among themselves while we get on with it.

At the recent Economic Forum in Brisbane I was on a panel with Louise Tarrant from United Voice, the union that includes cleaners as members. I mentioned a couple of things in my presentation, one being the idea of a small business award and the other being our concerns about competition policy and the behaviour of the big landlords.

### The domino effect on workers

Louise disagreed with the idea of a small business award but highlighted that often when her members are paid poorly or inappropriately it is actually the behaviour of organisations like Westfields and Stocklands etc, who force such poor onerous contracts onto small businesses that they are themselves forced to pay lousy wages or provide poor conditions to workers.

Why can Westfields and their ilk behave like this? Because competition policy and contract law of the last two decades has been controlled and manipulated by the big end of town to the point where they are protected from litigation for breaches of contracts and where they have established local monopolies on retail space.

There is also a negative effect of compliance on the small workplace. We collect GST and fill out our BAS and send the GST collected to the government. When we employ someone we have to collect PAYG. We must have workers compensation and a safe workplace. That is what we have to do. So why do governments and their agencies and the unions make it so hard to do these things?

Let's have a system or at least an award for the majority, for the 2.5 million small business people and their 5 million co-workers. Let's focus on the fact that a small business employer is a person with no more capacity than any person can have, let's make it so that everyone in the small workplace can make a living without confusion and unnecessary stress.

– ADVERTISEMENT –

## How can your money support your community without having to give anything more away?

THERE ARE MANY ways to support your community. You can volunteer your time or for a charity, school or hospital. You can donate cash or start up a child care service. These days you can even part own a community wind farm.

Of all of these, donating your money is the most common approach and yet, on average, Australians donate less than 1 percent of their income every year.

What if there was another way to support communities, society and the environment and get something in return, beyond the obvious feel good factor? What if there was a way for everyone to have a positive impact and pay the mortgage? Imagine adding 9 percent of your income to the 1 percent charitable donation, without having to donate an extra cent.

**Consider it could be your choice of superannuation fund**

If you are employed you will most likely be receiving 9 percent of your salary as the superannuation guarantee. Whilst most of us don't have any choice in the matter of it being paid, most of us do have the choice about where it ends up. You can choose which fund and which investment option. Sometimes people do not realise the choice and end up in the employer's default option. If you've changed jobs a few times you'll probably have several super fund accounts floating around.

So what has this got to do with your community? Firstly the money that your super fund invests on your behalf is often used to buy shares in companies that finance infrastructure like roads and railways, schools and hospitals. Therefore, by default some of your money is already going to support your community, albeit indirectly. In other ways your money is invested in healthcare companies developing ways to help people with disabilities or cure disease.

If you had the choice would you want more of it to be invested in something positive for society, the environment and ultimately your communities? What if you could do this, feel good about yourself and not sacrifice any financial return.

If you look beneath the surface of most super funds you'll also find plenty that may not be your idea of 'supporting the community'. Those investments may be damaging the same communities you are supporting with your giving of time or money. For example, investments in tobacco or weapons manufacturers are common in many super funds. With over $1.4 trillion invested through super in Australia, a significant part of it comes from your salary, everyone's salary.

There is an alternative. Some super funds are available that only use your money for the good of society and/or the environment. These come in all shades and are often called Sustainable, Responsible or Ethical funds. Some invest like this in only a small way, whilst others are 100 percent dedicated to this way of investing your money.

The choice, if you have freedom to make it, comes down to how much of your money you want to be used in support of your community and how much can be used to exploit others.

**Paul Smith, General Manager at Australian Ethical Super**

Australian Ethical is an investment manager and superannuation fund with a difference. We offer clients a way to make money for their retirement and make the world a better place. We also donate 10 percent of our annual profits to good causes relating to conservation, social justice or the environment.

— Open Gardens Australia —

# From bare paddock to food forest

LIKE MANY RURAL gardens, Roogulli, the garden of Chris and Jennie Curtis in Bywong began as a bare paddock around the house.

Over the past eight years, salvaged and recycled materials have been transformed into a bold, contemporary garden and small farm that recently received the 2012 AILA National Edna Walling Award for Residential Designed Landscapes. The award is given by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects every two years to one residential project in Australia at the leading edge of sustainable design.

## If you can eat it, good

At Roogulli, the edible gardens are a key component of the strategy to deliver a more sustainable garden. "As well as feeding the household, we are using the edible gardens to trial growing systems that work for busy people who want to produce more of their own food," Jennie Curtis commented.

The edible gardens began when Chris was on leave. Jennie came home to find a huge area of paddock behind the shed marked out, fenced and labelled 'vegetable garden'.

A lively discussion followed about how to lay out the beds to make best use of the slope and materials available. A plan was drawn and paths laid using pavers salvaged from a Canberra garden.

Early pea plantings disappeared after daily visits from flocks of rosellas so the new garden was covered with netting to allow plants to establish and a vegetable garden able to withstand occasional visits by wildlife evolved. Chris has found that a polyculture approach where many different vegetable species are grown together works well.

Typically for the Bywong area with its shallow shale soils, the garden began with a thin layer of soil over rock. Rather than importing soil, the beds have been built up over four years by adding natural fertilisers and soil conditioners including composts, alpaca poo, mulches and green manures. The hens and chickens have also been set to work cleaning up pests and weeds in the chicken tractor.

*Chris Curtis with the edible garden.*

"Making compost is a fairly significant task. It needs to be turned over every second day for two weeks. I do it in the morning before leaving for work. The payback is that you get good compost quickly and it turns huge piles of green waste into something useful," Chris says.

## Successful experimenting

Chris is trialing a system for raising seedlings using soil blocks. Instead of planting seeds in plastic pots, a mixture of cocopeat, compost and sand is formed into cubes with a seed planted in each. This system allows seedlings to be transplanted without root disturbance.

Extensive use of heirloom seed varieties in the edible gardens over the past four years means that now many vegetables grow themselves each year. As much time is spent weeding out unwanted vegetable seedlings as planting new ones. Carrots have proved especially tenacious and even grow in the cracks between pavers.

Jennie is experimenting with wicking beds to grow vegetables. Like a large-scale self-watering pot, this system stores water in the bottom of the raised bed from where it is drawn upwards to the plants growing above. Early prototypes suggest that this will be useful for producing food in small spaces and when time and water is scarce.

A new addition at Roogulli is a food forest designed by Chris as part of a recent permaculture design certificate course. Young fruit trees are starting to establish inside a hedge of bird attracting banksias and grevilleas. Edible plants that have run rampant in the vegetable garden (strawberries, rhubarb, thyme, spring onions) are being planted as understorey. Chris and Jennie are researching use of indigenous groundcovers and small shrubs for nitrogen fixing as well the traditional exotic legumes.

## Open garden details

Roogulli is open this year as part of the Open Gardens Australia program with the owners' share of gate takings going to the Wamboin Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade.

**— Opening details —**

**10am–4.30pm, 24–25 November 2012**
**45 Glendale Lane, Bywong NSW**
**..... Entry $7 .....**

**11am: Tour of farm (including a visit to the alpacas and llamas in the home paddock).**

**2pm: Feasting from the permaculture garden (talk by Chris Curtis).**

**3pm: Putting sustainable garden design into action (talk by landscape architect Jennie Curtis).**

Plants bred at the Bywong Nursery and farm machinery used at Roogulli for pasture improvement will be on show. Lake George Men's Shed are planning a barbecue around lunchtime and the people who helped to make Roogulli happen will be on hand to answer questions about sustainable house design, sustainable landscape design and construction, and raising alpacas and llamas.

# Beautiful bottlebrushes

*Story and photos by Jo Walker*

PLANTS of the genus *Callistemon* are found only in Australia. Although there are only about forty species (but many hybrids and named varieties) they are represented in all states.

*Callistemon* means 'beautiful stamen' – a name arising from the brightly coloured stamens on the many individual flowers clustered tightly along the flower stem.

Bottlebrushes range in size from low shrubs to an almost tree-like stature, and flower colours vary from soft shades of white, cream, yellow and pink to brilliant red and occasionally mauve or purple.

Because the flower-heads are borne at the tips of branchlets, and often in abundance, bottlebrushes are hard to miss in the bush and are ideal garden plants. They flower mainly through spring and into summer but some bloom sporadically out of season or have a distinct second flush of flowers in autumn.

*Continued next page*

put it here.

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## *Callistemon* species that grow well locally

There are five species of this genus occurring in the Southern Tablelands – *Callistemon pityoides*, *C. sieberi*, *C. subulatus*, *C. pallidus* and *C. citrinus*.

*C. pityoides* (Alpine Bottlebrush) and *C. sieberi* (River Bottlebrush) are similar medium-sized shrubs, the former growing in boggy areas in the high country and the latter found mostly along watercourses at lower elevations. Both have small spikes of cream flowers (sometimes tinged pink), and narrow leaves.

*C. pallidus* (Lemon Bottlebrush, *above*) also has cream or yellowish flowers, but the spikes are much larger and the leaves wider. This species is often found in rocky areas where there is seepage of water through the outcrops.

*C. subulatus* (Dwarf Bottlebrush) is, as its name implies, a small shrub of a metre or so tall with red flowers and narrow leaves. *C. citrinus* (Crimson Bottlebrush), on the other hand, can grow to three metres or more and is usually found in swampy areas.

Three other species, from further afield, that grow well locally are *C. viminalis* (Weeping Bottlebrush, *above*), *C. saligna* (Willow Bottlebrush) and *C. brachyandrus* (Prickly Bottlebrush).

*C. salignus* and *C. viminalis* are, like the previously mentioned species, most at home near water. Both can grow to small tree proportions, the former carrying cream flowers on rigid stems and the latter bright red flowers on weeping branches. The new growth on *C. salignus* is reddish, the leaves appearing bright pink against the light.

*C. brachyandrus* (*right*) occurs in drier inland areas, but appears quite adaptable to our climate. The flowers are particularly attractive (although not as large as those of some of the other species) consisting of dark red stamens tipped with golden anthers.

## Grow from seed or cuttings for high visual impact

Propagation of bottlebrushes from seed is very easy as they carry their clusters of woody seed capsules for years. These can be collected and kept in a container for a week or two until the capsules dry out and open up to shed their tiny seed. The seed can be spread on a seed mix (I use a 1:1 mixture of fine perlite and river sand) and covered with a very shallow layer of sand.

Because bottlebrushes hybridise easily, there may be some variation between the parent plant and its offspring if seed is taken from an area where more than one species of bottlebrush is growing. Named cultivars and particularly good forms need to be propagated by cuttings.

Because of their preference for damp growing conditions, bottlebrushes are useful for planting around dams and along creeks for erosion control. *Callistemon sieberi* is a particularly good plant for this use, as it can often be found growing in river beds and tolerates periods of inundation.

The flowers of bottlebrushes are attractive to insects and birds; especially the flowers of *C. viminalis* which is often alive with Eastern Spinebills and other Honeyeaters at my place. And, of course, bottlebrushes are well worth growing for their visual impact alone. ■

# The history of nails

*with David Nordsvan (Annie's other half)*

RECENTLY I was struggling to remove a bent, rusted nail from a chair I am repairing. This prompted the question of how, when and where the nail came into existence. "Google it!" cried my children and my grandchildren.

The lowly nail goes back several thousand years. Bronze nails, found in Egypt, have been dated to 3400 BC, and The Bible gives numerous references to nails, the most well-known being the crucifixion of Christ.

## Handmade nails

In the UK, early evidence of large-scale nail making comes from Roman times. Any sizeable Roman fortress would have its *fabrica* or workshop where blacksmiths would fashion the metal items needed by the army. They left behind 7 tons of nails at a fortress in Perthshire.

For nail making, iron ore was heated with carbon to form a dense, spongy metal mass which was fashioned into square rods. After re-heating a rod, the blacksmith would cut off a nail length and hammer all four sides of the softened end to form a point. Then the smith would insert the hot nail into a hole in a 'nail header' or anvil and with four glancing hammer blows would form the rosehead (a shallow pyramid shape).

This shape of nail had the benefit of four sharp edges on the shank which cut deep into timber and the tapered shank provided friction down its full length. The wood fibres would often swell if damp and bind round the nail, making an extremely strong fixing.

The term 'penny', as it refers to nails, is thought to have originated in medieval England to describe the price of 100 nails (eg 100 3½" nails would cost 16 pence, while 100 2½" nails could be bought for 6 pence). This system of classifying nails was in place by 1477 AD.

Just prior to the American Revolution (last half of the 18th century), England was the world's largest manufacturer of nails. Nails were virtually impossible to obtain in the American colonies so it was common

*Continued next page*


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for families to have a small nail manufacturing setup at home.

During bad weather and at night, entire families made nails not only for their own use but also for barter. This was not a practice restricted to the lower classes. Many well-to-do citizens were proud of their nail-making skills. Such value was placed on nails that it was common practice, when moving, to burn one's home in order to retrieve them.

## Machine-made nails

The invention of the nail-cutting machine rapidly put the United States in front in the manufacturing of nails and it has stayed there ever since. In the 1850s several wire nail manufacturers were established in New York using machines most likely imported from France.

The earliest wire nails were not made for construction but for the manufacture of pocket-book frames and cigar boxes. It was not until after the American Civil War (1861–1865) that wire nails began to gain acceptance in construction.

Even through the 1890s many builders preferred using cut nails because of their holding power. It was well into the twentieth century before wire nails became the dominate type and only then because they were so much cheaper. Because of their tremendous holding power and hardness, cut nails are still used today for specific functions such as flooring nails, boat nails and masonry nails.

Cement-coated nails hold more securely than common nails but wet wood will loosen the cement coating in a matter of days. Threaded or ring shank nails lose their holding power when subjected to sudden pressure (eg staircases) which can cause a thread to pop with each shock. Therefore, a twist or spiral shank nail will have the best holding power.

## Restoration

There is enormous interest in preserving our heritage – much of it in the buildings that remain as evidence of a bygone age. For the restorer, it is vital that the correct raw materials are used in any attempt to preserve old buildings.

Nails are no exception. Restorers look to use similar nails to ensure authenticity.

www.etsy.com

While it's possible to get today's blacksmiths to produce handmade wrought iron nails, the cost can be prohibitive and the smith is not keen to devote his limited time to such small products.

However, almost a century after their predicted demise, there are still two cut nail manufacturers worldwide, employing a process that is almost 200 years old and using machines that have barely changed in that time.

I now have a new respect for the humble nail.

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This article was composed with online help from: *A Two-Bit History of Nails* by Paul Fourshee, *The Blueprint* Vol. I, No. 2, 27 April 1992; and *Traditional Cut Nails – worth preserving?* written in May 2002, Glasgow Steel Nail Co Ltd 1997–2012.

# Summer Sunset Markets – they're back!

QUEANBEYAN'S popular Summer Sunset Markets will return to the courtyard adjacent to Council Chambers this week.

Quality live music has become a feature of Queanbeyan's Sunset Markets and to kick off the season, popular Australian bush band, Franklyn B Paverty (*right*) will be entertaining market-goers and stallholders on Friday evening. Franklyn B Paverty is one of Canberra's oldest continuous bands, having been playing its lively brand of Australian folk music for around 38 years. Paverty has performed at The Lodge for prime ministers and visiting dignitaries, including George Bush. They are always a popular choice at the markets too!

Many of last season's regular stallholders will be back with their quality art and crafts and markets patrons will also be pleased to welcome some newcomers. There will be stunning handmade jewellery by Karmic Star Jewellery and Purring Passions and intriguing polymer clay hair accessories and sculptures by Findi Flooshki. The Australian Red Cross will be there once more with a large assortment of craft items on sale to raise money for a very worthy cause. Regular market-goers will be pleased to hear that Crafted by Natalie will be back with her delicious range of American-inspired cupcakes and slices and Yiannos Catering will be there to cook up some delicious kebabs. Ingsco Countrywood Furniture are newcomers to the markets, bringing their handmade furniture all the way from Cootamundra.

With everything from plants to birdseed, children's clothing to fresh organic vegetables, Greek kebabs to Egyptian pastries, stunning handmade jewellery to woodcrafts, there is something for everyone at the markets. Local community groups have space as well – with information and sale items.

Come along and enjoy some great food and entertainment and browse among the craft stalls or pick up some produce to take home! It's a great way to end the week.

The Summer Sunset Markets are on every 1st and 3rd Friday from 5 October until the end of March 2013. The markets are held in the courtyard adjacent to Council Chambers in Crawford Street, from 5–8pm.

New stallholders are always welcome. Check the Council website for stallholder application forms **http://www.qcc.nsw.gov.au/Discover-Queanbeyan/Summer-Sunset-Markets**. ■

# JAM RECIPES

## Basic microwave jam recipe

***Preparation time:*** 10 minutes
***Cooking time:*** 26 minutes

***Ingredients:***

1 lemon, halved; 500g fruit remove stone or stalk and chop fruit; 1½ cups (335g) white sugar

***Method:***

**1.** Juice the lemon. Place fruit, lemon juice and the rind halves in a large microwave-safe bowl. Cook uncovered, on High/100% power, stirring occasionally for 6 minutes.

**2.** Add the sugar and cook on High/100% power for 20 minutes or until the jam reaches setting point. (*To do this, cool some jam on a chilled saucer and run your finger through it. If the jam wrinkles and stays separate it is ready to bottle.*)

**3.** Discard lemon rind and spoon the hot jam into a clean jar and seal. Invert for 2 minutes then turn upright to cool.

From: www.taste.com.au/recipes/13312/basic+microwave+jam+recipe

## Simple Strawberry Jam

***Preparation time:*** 20 minutes
***Cooking time:*** 20 minutes

***Ingredients:***

1 kg fresh strawberries, hulled; 4 cups caster sugar; 4 tablespoons lemon juice

***Method:***

**1.** In a heavy-based saucepan crush the strawberries with a potato masher.

**2.** Add sugar and lemon juice. Stir over low heat until the sugar is dissolved. Increase heat to high, and bring the mixture to a full, rolling boil. Boil, stirring often, until the mixture reaches 105°C or test for setting point.

**3.** Transfer to hot sterile jars, leaving 1cm headspace, and seal. Process any unsealed jars in a water bath. If the jam is going to be eaten right away, don't bother with processing and just refrigerate.

From: allrecipes.com.au/recipe/1426/simple-strawberry-jam.aspx.

## Carrot and Orange Marmalade

This versatile orange and carrot marmalade can be eaten on toast for breakfast or warm with pudding after dinner. Makes 8 cups.

***Ingredients:***

4 oranges, remove pips, finely sliced; 2½ cups peeled, coarsely grated carrot; 1 lemon, juiced; 8 cups white sugar; 2 tablespoons whisky or Grand Marnier

***Method:***

**1.** Place the oranges in a large bowl and pour over enough cold water to just cover, then cover and leave overnight.

**2.** Transfer to a large saucepan and add 3 more cups of water. Bring to the boil then turn down the heat to low and cook for 35 minutes, or until soft.

**3.** Add the carrot and lemon juice and bring back to the boil. Add the sugar, stirring to dissolve it. Simmer uncovered for 30 minutes or until setting point (test by placing a spoonful on a chilled plate, push with your finger and the marmalade should gel).

**4.** Add the whisky and stir to combine. Pour into sterilised jars and seal while hot.

From: www.taste.com.au/recipes/6325/carrot+and+orange+marmalade.


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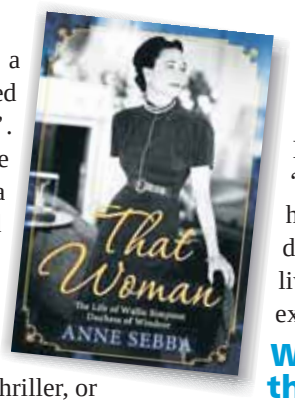
# PURE SOAP:
# The true(?) story of Wallis Simpson

*reviewed by Sarah Newsome*

**That Woman: The Life of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor**
***by Anne Sebba***

Publisher: Phoenix RRP: $22.99




ANNE SEBBA is the latest in a long line of authors who have tried to understand 'that woman'. Decades after her death, the Duchess of Windsor maintains a strong magnetism for writers and readers alike.

And once Anne Sebba's account is finished, the question remains: is the story of Wallis Simpson a fairytale, a political thriller, or a morality tale? Her career certainly inspired more than one conspiracy theory.

For example, it's been said she was bossy, stylish, tacky, witty, charming, brash, insensitive, kindness itself. It's been said she seduced Edward with skills picked up in steamy Shanghai. It's also been said that she was childless because she suffered from a syndrome commonly known as hermaphroditism.

As for Prince Edward, he is said to be borderline anorexic, slightly mad, and an emotional Peter Pan, infantile and insensitive.

They were both said to be Nazi sympathisers, possible 'puppet rulers' if the Germans had won the war. When they didn't, the Windsors went on to live an indolent life as celebrity exiles.

## What *was* it about that woman exactly?

Anna Sebba's book raises more questions than it answers, such as: why, 76 years after the abdication crisis, the world is still obsessed with Wallis Simpson.

What was it about this middle-aged, masculine-looking, double divorcee that could make a king renounce throne, family, country, empire, all 'for the woman I love'?

BOOKS, AUTHORS and BOOK REVIEWS

For some, their story is the ultimate fairytale. A pair of star-crossed lovers (one a Montague), defy their families and risk all for love. It inspires hope in all those who want to capture the heart of Prince Charming.

For others, 'that woman' seduced a king from his duty and nearly destroyed the monarchy. Edward must have been bewitched, they conclude, just as Anne Boleyn bewitched Henry VIII. This version inspires the age-old fear of the evil seductress.

Really, I'm sure there's a feminist PhD out there somewhere about this.

But perhaps her story is not a fairytale, or a political conspiracy. Perhaps the story of Wallis Simpson is a cautionary tale about the dangers of ambition.

Consider this: a poor but well-born girl struggles to find herself in the world. She is not pretty but she is a great flirt. She escapes one marriage with an alcoholic fond of locking her in the bathroom, to find security with the staid but respectful Mr Simpson. For the first time she has stability, society, friends, a home.

Approaching 40 and needing to reassure herself she is still attractive to men, she flirts with the playboy prince. She tries to balance her husband and the prince, even inviting her best friend to keep her husband occupied. Things spiral out of control.

Now her husband falls in love with the best friend. He wants a divorce. Hunted by the press, she flees the country. There's talk of abdication. Realising she has been playing with fire, she begs to be allowed to withdraw, but it is too late.

She has lost her true husband, and is now forced, friendless and persecuted, into exile with a needy little boy and three spoiled, spoon-fed pugs. She shows a certain courage in enduring a predicament she created for herself with a man she privately ridiculed.

Really, it's all just pure soap opera. And we haven't even gotten to Edward's part yet!

## — Star Search —
*with Dr David Weldrake*

*October brings warmer evenings and gives very clear skies, providing a collection of bright stars and constellations that contain many objects, from nearby planets to more distant nebulae and galaxies.*

# The stars in October

THE MILKY WAY shines brightly overhead, brightest in the constellations Scorpius (with the bright star Antares) and Sagittarius. Can you see the dark 'dustlanes' bisecting the Milky Way? People living in Canberra cannot, due to the glare from all the streetlights.

Low in the south is the bright white star Canopus, second-brightest star in the sky. Canopus appearing tells us that summer is close, although we still have cold mornings to get through first.

Also visible are the white stars Vega and Altair, towards the north, and blue Achenar high in the south-east.

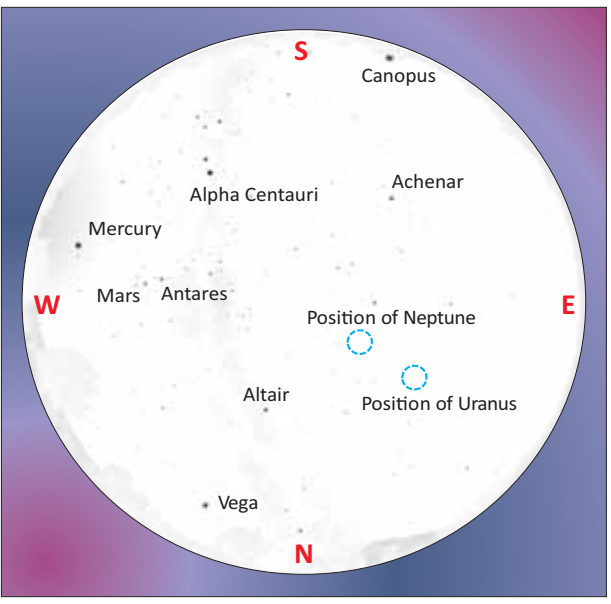



CHART (8PM ON 15 OCTOBER) PRODUCED USING THE *STELLARIUM* SOFTWARE PACKAGE

Achenar is famous for having a very rapid spin, rotating at 250km per second. It spins so quickly that it is squashed, looking like a flattened ball if we could see it. If we were travelling there by car, being 131,000,000,000,000km away, it would take us one and a half billion years to arrive.

Canopus is three times further away, yet looks brighter. Hence, Canopus must be intrinsically very bright. Indeed, it shines with the brightness of 15,000 Suns.

## The planets in October – Mercury rising

The planet Mercury is October's highlight, visible low in the west after sunset as a bright 'star'. Mercury is tiny, at 38 percent of the diameter of Earth it is the smallest Solar System planet. It is also the closest planet to the Sun, orbiting at 40 percent of the distance of Earth from the Sun.

Mercury moves very quickly, completing one Mercurian 'year' in only 88 days. Consequently it is only well seen for a couple of weeks at most. This speed is the reason it was named by the ancient Greeks after the messenger of the Gods.

The orbit of Mercury is quite elliptical, and its day is twice as long as its year. Only on a few rare occasions does the angle of Mercury's orbit line up just right, so that we get a good view of it in darker skies. October provides an opportunity.

Through a telescope Mercury is a tiny white ball. It also has Moon-like phases that change quickly from night to night as Mercury orbits the Sun. Mercury has a surface very similar to the Moon, with no atmosphere and is covered in large impact basins and craters. Only very rarely can surface markings be seen as vague dusky patches.

Take this opportunity to see Mercury low in the west after sunset, the map will help identify it. The thin crescent Moon is close to Mercury on 16 October.

Mars is also visible in October, in the constellation Scorpius. Mars has been in our skies for several months, and is now very far from Earth and is quite faint. Mars lies close to the bright star Antares, so named in ancient times as its colour rivals that of Mars; 'anti-ares'. Can you see that both Antares and Mars look reddish?

Mars will continue to be visible until January next year, when it passes behind the Sun.

Also visible are the distant planets Uranus and Neptune. Both lie in the frozen outer reaches of our Solar System, and are so distant that binoculars are needed to see them at all, and a telescope is needed to see them as disks; a tiny greenish ball for Uranus, and an even smaller bluish-green ball for Neptune. Neptune is so distant (30 times further than the Sun), that despite being four times the Earth's diameter, it appears the same angular size as Jupiter's moons.

Jupiter itself is becoming easier to see low in the east later in the night. If you spot a very bright yellowish 'star' low in the east after midnight, then you are seeing Jupiter.

Full Moon was on 1 October, and New Moon is on 16 October. Take a look at the Moon through binoculars on 23 October, as you will get a good view of the lunar mountains and craters. ■

## Coralie's CORNER

### Heroic drama

In 2003, the American Film Institute named Atticus Finch, the principled, idealistic lawyer portrayed by Gregory Peck in ***To Kill A Mockingbird*** as the greatest hero in 100 years of film history. The film will be produced as a stage play by Free Rain Theatre Company with local Canberra actor Colin Boldra in the lead.

*From left: Joyce Waweru (Calpurnia), Maddison Smith-Catlin (Scout), Colin Boldra (Atticus).*

It opens at the Courtyard Studio Canberra Theatre on 19 October, playing until 4 November. So, for a little drama in your life, go to the cosy Courtyard Theatre Studio and see it all unfold.

### Lively *Ladies Night*

Steven Tandy is perhaps best known as one of the stars of the enduring and much-loved Australian network television drama *The Sullivans* in which he was cast when he was just five years out of NIDA. *The Sullivans* ended its six-year domination of Australian television in 1982.

Tandy will be appearing at The Q Theatre in Queanbeyan in the hilarious comedy ***Ladies Night*** from 10–13 October. It's the story of five unemployed guys, motivated by 'The Chippendales' to form a male stripping act, in order to make some fast money.

Written in 1987 by Anthony McCarten and Stephen Sinclair, *Ladies Night* has been translated into twelve languages and remains New Zealand's most commercially successful play of all time.

*Ladies Night* will leave you hyperactive and ready to party! It's the kind of show that you can take your Granny to: cheeky, fun, a little bit naughty – and a damned good giggle.

### News from the Helpmann Awards

Everyone was floating in foyers at the recent Helpmann Awards Ceremony in Sydney – a night of nights. It was a joyous affair with ***A Chorus Line*** winning the best musical and our very own Lorina Gore nominated as best female performer in a supporting role in an opera. Had some fun and lots of gossip with many of the stars from all genres of theatre.

### Bee All and End All of cocktail receptions

Diabetes ACT will soon be celebrating their **'Singing Bee Grand Champion'**. Join them for the most energetic and electri-fying performances of the last four years of their 'Singing Bee' competitions. It will be held at the National Portrait Gallery on 18 October from 6–9pm. Ticket price $50 includes wine tasting, canapés, gourmet cheeses, macaroon buffet table and me! Yes, I am the judge! For bookings, phone Laurel Davies on 0424 246 366.

### Looking ahead

Some great productions are already being planned for 2013. Free Rain will be mounting ***West Side Story*** as well as ***Phantom of the Opera***, the **Moscow Circus** will be coming to the airport precinct, and of course the **18th ActewAGL Gala CAT Awards** night will be held on 16 February at the ANU School of Music.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

## Dr Robyn Williams and 'Connectivity Conservation'

LOSS of landscape connectivity, commonly known as landscape fragmentation, is a severe threat to many plant and animal species. Connectivity conservation helps wildlife, it helps ecosystems to keep working, it helps maintain primary production and it helps our own sense of connection to the landscape.

What is 'connectivity'? What's the difference between connectivity and corridors? How can connectivity conservation help wildlife, ecosystems, and primary production? How can we 'do' connectivity better so that it works better?

A public forum in Canberra on Wednesday 24 October, will tackle these questions and more. Top speakers on science, primary production and indigenous culture – including the *Science Show*'s Robyn Williams – will address connectivity and corridors, and their relevance for species survival and primary production – particularly in the context of climate change.

The event is organised by the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC). It will be of interest to farmers, Landcare and Catchment groups, and anyone who cares about natural resource management and how we as humans fit into the broader landscape.

The forum also includes an optional field trip on Tuesday 23 October. The day-long field trip will visit connectivity projects to Canberra's near north, including Mulligan's Flat/Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve, and *Talaheni*, the Yass Valley farm of climate champion John Ive. Transport will be provided, as well as tucker, so the two-day package is exceptionally good value as well as being informative and inspirational.

Registration is $60 community, $120 corporate. Enquiries to Amanda Ozolins, **UMCCCforum2012@gmail.com**. Further information at **www.umccc.org.au**.

* * *

## Land for Wildlife Outing

MEMBERS of the Land for Wildlife (LfW) network headed off to Brooks Hill Reserve recently for an instructional tour of the local flora and fauna. The reserve is off the Kings Highway between Bungendore and Queanbeyan.

Jo Walker of Wamboin and Kris Nash of Bungendore led the group on a ramble through the woods on what was a cold spring afternoon. Opportunity was also taken to present LfW signs to several new recruits – Laurie and Susan Deighton, Sue Ward, Lorraine Bell, Diane Hinton and Bruce Lowes.

LfW is a voluntary property-registration scheme for landowners who wish to manage part or all of their property in an environmentally friendly way and for the benefit of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. It is a low-level entry scheme; free to join; and not legally binding. Being presented with a sign is the final step that acknowledges your commitment.

One of the great things about the LfW program is that properties are assessed and advice given as to the different plantings and how to overcome problems such as weeds and erosion, as well as how to make worthwhile improvements. The Palerang Local Action Network for Sustainability (PLANS) is the regional provider in Palerang.

Any landowner can express an interest in the LfW program by visiting the Community Environment Network website (**www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/**), following the links at and sending in an 'Expressions of Interest' form. Or, contact PLANS (Mel Hillery) on 6238 0095 or Philip Machin on 6238 3717.

* * *

PROGRAM LAUNCH

## Healthy Queanbeyan Heartmoves

*HEALTHY Queanbeyan* is supporting the establishment of two new classes of this well-known and popular exercise program at Alive! Health and Fitness and 40 Plus Health Club. These new classes will provide more opportunities for locals to get active and healthy by participating in low-cost, safe exercise programs.

The two new Heartmoves programs are supported by Queanbeyan City Council and funded by the Australian Government as part of the Healthy Communities Initiative.

For any enquiries about the Healthy Queanbeyan Project, please contact Geraldine Manser on 6286 6553 or at **geraldine.manser@qcc.nsw.gov.au**.

## Pest trees in Kosciuszko reinvented as mulch

FIELD STAFF have been converting pest trees into valuable mulch to improve native animal habitat and suppress invasive blackberry and briar weeds in parts of Kosciuszko National Park.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Senior Field Supervisor Danny Matthews said the mulched trees, mostly poplars, had been spreading at an alarming rate.

"Five field staff recently spent 26 days removing and chipping hundreds of trees over an area of six hectares at the Talbingo Landslip Quarry near Talbingo Dam wall," Mr Matthews said.

"During the construction of the Snowy Scheme, and particularly between the 1950s and 1970s, exotic trees were planted for erosion control and this had unintended consequences for native ecosystems."

Mr Matthews said European species including willow, broom and poplar were planted in parts of Kosciuszko National Park; in many cases they had become weeds.

"Replacing exotic trees with native vegetation will not only protect soil stability, it will have broader environmental benefits.

"And chipping these trees has produced about 800 cubic metres of mulch, which we have spread to boost organic levels in the soil and help stop weed infestations in the undergrowth."

This major woody-weed eradication program is tackling exotic trees on Guthega Road, reducing Scotch broom in the Snowy River, and removing kilometres of willows in the Tumut River.

More work is planned this year, including the removal of thousands of willow stems in the Eucumbene River and helicopter-based work in the upper reaches of the Tumut River.

PALERANG COUNCIL

## Development Approvals

**Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Council approved the following development applications in** August 2012.

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

| Application No | Development Description | Date | Property Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| DA.2012.142 | Dual Occupancy | 01/08/2012 | Lot 137 DP 755944 122 Oallen Road OALLEN |
| DA.2012.147 | Shed | 01/08/2012 | Lot 1015 DP 1090521 26 Westwood Circuit BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.141 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | 02/08/2012 | Lot 1 DP 104111 4418 Kings Highway BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.148 | Tennis Club House | 03/08/2012 | Lot 701 DP 1027107 BUNGENDORE PARK 6–14 Butmaroo Street BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.169 | Two (2) Pergolas | 03/08/2012 | Lot 410 DP 1046889 11 Falconer Place BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.115 | Dwelling and Garage | 08/08/2012 | Lot 2 DP 1125771 9 King Street MAJORS CREEK |
| DA.2012.182 | Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling | 09/08/2012 | Lot 1129 DP 1075813 11 Scott Street BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.165 | Tree Removal | 16/08/2012 | Lot 1106 DP 1075813 88 Tarago Road BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.166 | Dwelling | 16/08/2012 | Lot 3 DP 1098652 8A McKellar Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DA.2012.162 | Shed | 16/08/2012 | Lot 2 DP 238028 285 Woolcara Lane PRIMROSE VALLEY |
| DA.2012.103 | Five (5) Shipping Containers | 17/08/2012 | Lot 2 DP260191 721 Bungendore Road BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.126 | Continued Use and Amend Building Envelope | 17/08/2012 | Lot 2 DP 1102055 105 Widgiewa Road CARWOOLA |
| DA.2012.150 | Dwelling and Swimming Pool | 17/08/2012 | Lot 19 DP 1141290 50 Yuranga Drive WAMBOIN |
| DA.2012.116 | Shed with Stables and Water Tank | 24/08/2012 | Lot 73 DP 262709 84 Walga Close CARWOOLA |
| DA.2012.190 | Continued Use of Windows | 28/08/2012 | Lot 3 DP 1076595 23 Roseview Road MOUNT FAIRY |
| DA.2012.193 | Dwelling | 28/08/2012 | Lot 825 DP 1129595 17 Lithgow Place BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.202 | Dwelling | 29/08/2012 | Lot 827 DP 1129595 13 Lithgow Place BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.185 | Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling | 30/08/2012 | Lot 14 DP 864816 116 Snowgum Road BYWONG |

**Council approved the following development applications in** September 2012

| Application No | Development Description | Date | Property Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| DA.2011.251 | 10 Lot Subdivision | 04/09/2012 | Lot 1 DP 734346 114 Goulburn Road BORO |
| DA.2012.176 | Garage | 05/09/2012 | Lot 11 DP 605235 13A Wallace Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DA.2012.143 | Dwelling and Carport | 06/09/2012 | Lot 5 Section 29 DP 758636 7 King Street MAJORS CREEK |
| DA.2012.156 | Removal of 7 trees | 06/09/2012 | Lot 1 DP 878350 137 Bidges Road SUTTON |
| DA.2012.200 | Tree Removal | 06/09/2012 | Lot 82 DP 226923 65 Rutledge Street BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.153 | Dwelling and shed/carport | 07/09/2012 | Lot 4 DP 1168092 34 Mecca Lane BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.110 | New building for bathroom, toilet and laundry | 11/09/2012 | Lot 15 DP 1044797 283 Little River Road BRAIDWOOD |
| DA.2012.161 | Garage and Awning | 14/09/2012 | Lot 3 DP 1168135 16 Forster Street BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.160 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | 14/09/2012 | Lot 15 DP 846996 569 Williamsdale Road WILLIAMSDALE |
| DA.2012.149 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | 14/09/2012 | Lot 39 DP 818916 1177 Norton Road WAMBOIN |
| DA.2012.129 | Dwelling | 18/09/2012 | Lot 1 DP 1166278 Tudor Valley Road REIDSDALE |
| DA.2012.139 | Industrial Development – Light Industry (Weed Spraying Business) | 18/09/2012 | Lot 3 DP 1058499 6 Llewellyn Drive BRAIDWOOD |
| DA.2012.203 BRAIDWOOD | Tree Removal (2) | 18/09/2012 | Lot 6 DP 113033 83 Wallace Street |
| DA.2012.083 REIDSDALE | Dog Kennel Business | 18/09/2012 | Lot 5 DP 1129826 627 Tudor Valley Road |
| DA.2012.171 GOOGONG | Pavilion | 18/09/2012 | Lot 12 DP 255493 33 Wells Place |
| DA.2012.158 | Pool House / Gazebo Pavilion Room | 19/09/2012 | Lot 57 DP 1106974 234 Corang Post Office Rd OALLEN |
| DA.2012.170 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | 19/09/2012 | Lot 1 DP 568393 63 Elrington Street BRAIDWOOD |
| DA.2012.216 | Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling | 19/09/2012 | Lot 4 DP 260191 751 Bungendore Road BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.058 | Construct a Crown Road | 19/09/2012 | Lot 230 DP 754890 Dempseys Road KRAWARREE |
| DA.2012.228 | Tree Removal | 19/09/2012 | Lot 7 DP 833234 8 Forster Street BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.184 | Shed | 19/09/2012 | Lot 2 DP 1117179 Wyoming Road BYWONG |
| DA.2012.179 | Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling | 20/09/2012 | Lot 5 DP 1168479 72 Trucking Yard Lane BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.177 | Dwelling and Garage | 20/09/2012 | Lot 7 DP 1168092 28 Mecca Lane BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.180 | Garage with Toilet | 20/09/2012 | Lot 10 Section 9 DP 758183 34 Butmaroo St BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.181 | Redevelop and Upgrade Playground Environment | 21/09/2012 | Lot 8 Section 16 DP 758183 64 Turallo Tce BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.231 | Earthworks for Gully | 24/09/2012 | Lot 5 DP 246137 151 Williamsdale Road BURRA |
| DA.2012.194 | Garage | 25/09/2012 | Lot 6 Section 15 DP 758636 17 Araluen Street MAJORS CREEK |
| DA.2012.197 | Shed | 26/09/2012 | Lot 1329 DP 1112117 1 O'Neill Place BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.145 | Dual Occupancy – Continued Use of Granny Flat and Shed and New Proposed Stables | 26/09/2012 | Lot 4 DP 255514 218 Radcliffe Circuit CARWOOLA |
| DA.2012.195 | Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling | 26/09/2012 | Lot 2 DP 855517 3 John Dwyer Crescent BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.206 | Alterations and Additions to Dwelling | 26/09/2012 | Lot 6 DP 855517 7 Ashby Drive BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.207 | Garage | 27/09/2012 | Lot 603 DP 1061647 6 Eyre Street BUNGENDORE |
| DA.2012.213 | Tree Removal | 27/09/2012 | Lot 27 DP 715389 417 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN |
| DA.2012.134 | Dwelling | 28/09/2012 | Lot 8 DP 1035108 Mundy Street MAJORS CREEK |
| DA.2012.237 | Tree Removal | 28/09/2012 | Lot 20 DP 1168479 6 Hereford Street BUNGENDORE |

# Woodlands next target area against kangas

*Comment by Maria Taylor*

*The* Bulletin *continues to report on the slaughter of Australian wildlife, this month an update on the ACT kangaroo 'cull', because of the wall of silence in the mass media in our region; a silence also maintained by almost all state and federal politicians in the face of very troubling science, ethics and welfare issues.*

PLANS for ACT kangaroo slaughters indicate they may get bigger and be expanded from grassland to woodlands as animal numbers on grasslands plummet or more kangaroos seek refuge on the wooded ridges.

Draft documents have indicated that the new targets include hills like Majura, Ainslie, Farrer Ridge or Wanniassa. In the past four years at least 15,000 kangaroos have been shot and the joeys decapitated or sometimes clubbed to death on ACT nature reserves and defence department lands.

Sources indicate that nature reserve management under Daniel Iglesias and his scientific advisers have not put the same 'research' priority on the effect of weed infestations in native grasslands since the end of the drought two years ago.

Requests by some members of the Assembly and the public for information since the 2012 cull on evaluation and monitoring data covering the last three years have yielded no information.

The same personnel in Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) have reportedly taken the position that no other states monitor 'conservation culls' (although none as extensive as Canberra's are known elsewhere) and that biodiversity benefits, if there are any, might take 3–5 years to become apparent. They have acknowledged to enquiries that no-one knows what an appropriate kangaroo population density for the ACT is.

## Mass killing is not an experimental method

Regardless, the ACT kangaroo removal target has gone from one animal per hectare to half an animal per hectare in the past three years. But the scarce available data from ACT non-urban sites suggests that much larger concentrations of kangaroos don't cause measurable damage to groundcover.

Critics of the current TAMS research approach say in response that mass killing as an experimental method is clearly unacceptable.

The public has been told that ACT kangaroos are uniquely 'overabundant' and multiply at impossible rates – such that single-birth kangaroos rival multiple-birth goats and pigs and rabbits. This theory, which defies evidence that the annual kangaroo population increase is more like 5–8 percent, justifies 40, 50, 70 percent killing rates in the kangaroo management plan, and calls that sustainable.

It skirts one obvious point that doesn't require a PhD to identify: kangaroos can appear to be increasing in numbers as they bunch up after losing habitat with new housing estates such as in Gungahlin and now Molonglo/Mt Stromlo.

Common species that have learned to live with us are treated as pests and killed in nasty ways.

There is an argument in the ACT that native plants, reptiles and birds must be 'saved' in the territory's nature reserves and the more endangered (by human activities) the more interesting. But common marsupials that actually succeed in living amongst humans can be treated as disposable pests.

ACT residents might ponder the morality of state-sanctioned killing of mothers and babies, the destruction of families and mobs of a 'protected' national species.

The official drumbeat has reached the point where some residents now justify the killing because kangaroos are *suspected* of eating the plantings on a Canberra hillside where weeds still proliferate, or they stand accused of mowing down native grassland as if this is bad: but it's apparently OK to bring in more manageable cows to do the same job, as the TAMS team has told people.

# Many Australians may not get it, but Adidas does

IT'S BEEN a long campaign for UK and Australian animal activists, but in August Adidas announced it would no longer use kangaroo skin for its elite sports shoes, worn by the likes of David Beckham. In fact, it was reported that David Beckham stopped wearing those shoes in 2006 when the slaughter methods were explained to him.

The UK *Daily Mail* reported: "Sporting giant Adidas has agreed to end the use of kangaroo leather for the prestige boots worn by Premier League football stars following complaints of animal cruelty. Animal welfare groups have been calling for a boycott amid concerns over the culling of the kangaroos involved, which is known to involve shooting adults and clubbing the young to death. In the past, all major manufacturers have used kangaroo skin for boots worn by stars from David Beckham to Frank Lampard and John Terry.

"Now Adidas, which is German owned, has revealed its famous Predator brand boots are now made without kangaroo skin and it will reduce its use of the material by 98 percent over the next 12 months. The move by Adidas followed pressure from ethical investors, specifically the British organisation Co-op Asset Management."

The report said British animal welfare group Viva! has worked closely with the Australian Wildlife Protection Council (AWPC) in campaigns to prevent the sale of kangaroo products, including meat. The Adidas move may save thousands of kangaroos.

Overseas campaigns liken the bashing of joeys to the clubbing of Canadian harp seal pups, a practice that earned world-wide condemnation. Europeans and Russians reportedly have little trouble seeing the similarity.

A report from Viva!'s campaign director Justin Kerswell says Nike pledged to phase out kangaroo skin last year. He said in June, Puma CEO Jochen Zeitz said at the UN Rio 20+Earth summit that the football boot manufacturing industry must move away from leather and embrace synthetics for an eco-friendly future. ■

# Think of the possums

COLD, HUNGRY and alone is how one possum faced certain death recently when it was trapped then languished in winter conditions without food, water or shelter.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff appreciate possums can be a nuisance in roofs and buildings but they remind the public that fines and jail could be the consequence for harming native wildlife.

NPWS Ranger Rachel Butterworth said licensed wildlife carers became aware of the possum too late and the animal had to be euthanased.

"Possums are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, which carries fines up to $11,000 and jail time up to six months for harming native wildlife," Ms Butterworth said.

"This possum was also neglected under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* which carries double the penalties."

Ms Butterworth urged people with unwelcome possums to call the NPWS office to arrange a trapping licence and borrow a trap.

"Through the licensing process we teach people how to adequately care for trapped possums and safely release them in suitable habitat nearby," Ms Butterworth said.

"We loan possum traps free of charge, however over the years more traps have been loaned out than returned so we are introducing a new system.

"In the near future penalty fees will apply for traps that don't come back and we urge anyone who has forgotten to return a possum trap to NPWS to do so next week."

**Read more about relocating possums:**
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/RemovingAPossumFromYourRoof.htm.

*In the early hours of 3 June activists dug up a kangaroo burial pit at Kama Nature Reserve in Belconnen and took these images of what they found. They claimed to have seen, amongst 300 bodies of iconic Australians, throat and face shots, smashed heads and partially decapitated joeys.*

# Three years at Mt Painter what a neighbour has witnessed

*Imagine that for 25 years you lived near animals you had come to love, observing and walking near them: it could be flocks of birds or pods of dolphins or whales; it might be kangaroos or wallabies or it could be neighbouring horses or dogs.*

*And then one day the government decides to shoot most of these animals over the course of a couple of years.*

*That's the situation Christine Woolfenden of Cook (and others like her) find themselves in since the ACT government initiated its controversial 'culling' of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Canberra's nature reserves for a shifting range of reasons.*

*Christine recently spoke at length to the* Bulletin *about what she has witnessed at Mt Painter and what she has seen of the war zone enveloping ACT kangaroos since 2008.*

## Assault on the family

"For anyone to go in and randomly shoot any kangaroos has horrendous effects on the rest of the mob, and especially surviving relatives. Kangaroos are not solitary animals they live and thrive as a family and as a mob. The grief and loss they experience is no different to if someone came in and gunned down your mother, your sister, your father, your son or your daughter."

*— ACT rural landholder Tiga Williams who has observed kangaroos for 35 years.*

*Christine Woolfenden (top left) stands at the Mt Painter Nature Reserve in Aranda.*

*Left: Horses now occupy the paddocks where a large mob male kangaroos lived before the cull.*

*Above: An archival image of Mt Painter taken in 2010.*

"THERE USED to be really healthy mobs in the nature reserves up on Mt Painter, in Aranda bushland, across to the Pinnacle and in the Molonglo area. Nice mobs, where you saw males and females and families living peacefully and not harming anything.

"It was joyful for a lot of people, locals and tourists alike, to go for a walk and see them, just happily grazing. Even during the drought, they never looked like they were starving. There was always grass there.

"My Mum came regularly from Sydney and loved walking up there and seeing all the kangaroos and thinking what a lovely plan it was that Burley Griffin left all the hills undeveloped."

We walk across to the nature reserve. "Over there," she points to a horse paddock area at the base of Mt Painter, "was a very large group of males. Everyone used to walk past them on their way up Mt Painter and the kangaroos weren't fazed because they knew they were safe. There was a mob of about 40 or 50 in that paddock.

"Then in 2010, one day they were all there and the next day they were all gone. And there were also the tracks of vehicles all over the ground, flattening the grass and across all the horse paddocks and towards William Hovell Drive, everything was driven over. And that's when I first discovered the pit where the bodies were buried, marked by construction tape. There were drag marks and bulldozer marks and vehicle marks.

"In the reserve at the back of houses behind Wybalena Grove there was a matriarchal area (mothers and joeys) of 20 or 30 and they would lie under these beautiful peppermints. The grass was not all eaten up. That's where they rested with all their young. But now (after the third year of culling) you hardly see any at all, anywhere. The main thing you see is the occasional dead one after being knocked by a car trying to cross Bindubi Street from Aranda bushland.

"When the government originally wanted to get rid of them they said there were too many of them. But then they didn't have the scientific data so we were told they're starving.

"And then when it was obvious they weren't starving, the story changed to 'Well, it's a special sort of grassland here.' But it's not a special sort of grassland, it's mainly horse paddocks and previously cleared farmland. Once they killed the bachelor group (of kangaroos), they put horses in that paddock and now it's all full of weeds.

"I think it all started as they were getting the kangaroo management plan together in 2009. I've been told that the government ecologist told all the parkcare groups that the problem in getting their plants to grow is the kangaroos – despite the steep slopes, the rabbits, the drought and everything else."

## Not sustainable, just a wipe out

"The whole idea that I understood from the kangaroo management plan was keeping the numbers at a sustainable level. But it's not. It's just wiping them out."

Some 500 animals were targeted for culling in 2010 and 2011 and according to official figures 327 were actually shot. Christine is not sure what was done in 2012, although Mt Painter was again on the cull list. All of this is visibly upsetting, but Christine still bears witness to what is happening.

It started in 2008 with the Belconnen Naval Transmission Station first cull of some 500 kangaroos, a heart-wrenching action that had many in Canberra protesting and made worldwide headlines. It continues to haunt those who love kangaroos and who witnessed the pathetic and often brutal scenes of the animals being herded to their death day and night over a two week period.

"There was Japanese media at Belconnen. They couldn't understand how this was different from 'scientific' whaling. They said it was big news in Japan. It was like a war zone or concentration camp. Now when May comes around, I just dread it. The other part of me says, 'No, you have to be there as a witness otherwise who will be there to tell the truth if we can break through this wall of silence and destruction?' "

## The absolute cruelty

"People will say you are dramatising, but I can't get around the absolute cruelty of it, the destruction of the family structure, the cruelty to those young animals left behind. At that time of year, [May, June] the mothers usually have a joey in the pouch as well as last year's dependent joey at foot.

"The survivors have to battle horrible conditions of wind, rain, cold and they do die from pneumonia or just from stress when their families are gunned down. I've seen the joeys huddle together as orphans who have lost their mothers and aunties who they are normally dependent upon for their survival."

At Mt Painter, Christine used to hear the shooting in the first years. Now the contractors seem to use silencers and infrared cameras but the bullets are just as deadly and risky to those within a three km radius.

## Shooting scares 'roos into traffic

"One year they were shooting in daylight hours. For whatever reason, they hadn't finished, so they were back next morning; 8, 9 in the morning and the whole mob was there on the road (Bindubi St) trying to get away from shooters into Aranda bushland. We saw it as we drove by."

In 2011, she was watching the vehicles going in from outside the cordoned-off area. "I knew it was going to happen because they used the pretext of bringing in a weed spraying contractor to make people move their horses. I was followed and harassed by security guards in unmarked vehicles. They followed me right into the streets of Cook and in the end I had to duck into a yard and hope there wasn't a dog.

"My brother is a scientist and works at National Parks in Sydney, and when he came in August last year he was just horrified. I showed him a mob that only had juveniles in it, which is so abnormal, that had escaped the last cull. He said he can't understand what's wrong with the ACT government and TAMS [Territory and Municipal Services], and why the science on which they claim to base their actions is not peer reviewed. Is it just that we are such a small jurisdiction that they don't see the big picture?"

## ACT won't allow joey rescues

"If people in Canberra knew about the ACT government's policy that you cannot rescue most joeys injured or orphaned in the ACT, they would be horrified too. Injured kangaroos and their joeys are automatically killed, not rehabilitated, unlike all other jurisdictions in Australia. [Now a small number of joeys are allowed across the NSW border to Wildcare.] No-one is monitoring or asking enough questions but I've spoken to people who say, 'We love our kangaroos, we bring our kids to the nature parks to see them'.

"People think it's all done in a clinical way; that the shooters come in and the kangaroo will just stand there under the spotlight and the bullet just enters his or her head and that's it. But no, many of them are still alive after being shot, I've seen bodies of kangaroos injured during the cull, who have got through the fence and then died on the other side.

"And now, because of the big fines for so-called 'trespassing', you've got to wait until the parks re-open, maybe two or three weeks later and you can't go in and rescue any poor animals that were left half-dead. And you find the (escaped) joeys all huddling together without their mothers or aunties. That's why some people might go in and 'break the law'; because how can you stand by and just watch an animal suffer?"

## Double counting is not scientific

"Before the culling started at Mt Painter, I helped out with the kangaroo counts with other residents. We were allocated certain paddocks with a more experienced but still amateur counter. It was just ridiculous. There were hardly any kangaroos in the two or three paddocks we were allocated and the minute someone disturbed them while counting in another paddock they hopped across the fence into our paddock, so we were told we were supposed to count those ones as well, so we were doubling up.

"That's where they got their number of 500-odd kangaroos at Mt Painter. The person running our group said, yes the double counting often happens. She didn't know why there weren't any professionals doing it, but said we're happy to help the government.

"Now I talk to people on Mt Painter on my walks. And they say 'There's not many kangaroos left, isn't that sad. Why do you think that is?' 'Oh, they are killing them!' And most people are actually quite shocked. They ask 'What should I do?' I say 'You should contact the government and let them know how you feel.' "

## Losing the bush capital

"There is always the expectation that the bush capital is just there and aren't we lucky? But, we're losing it. And there aren't enough voices speaking up for the whole biodiversity aspect of the environment we live in. Insects, birds, possums, kangaroos, wallabies, reptiles and plants are all part of the whole ecosystem – it's all interconnected." ■

# What's On – October

**Send your announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au**

**During October**

**Exhibition – Pamela Phillips**
Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St. For more ph 6238 1640.

**Until Saturday 6**

**Exhibition – *Symphony of Spring***
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Local artists Nicola Breen and Sui Jackson present their latest works inspired by nature's gifts of springtime. A magnificent celebration of the floral form in paintings and glass sculpture. For more ph 6285 6290 or see **www.theq.net.au**.

**Until Sunday 7**

**Rotary/Queanbeyan Art Society Art Show**
Open to all artists. For more see **www.qarts.com.au**.

**Until Sunday 14**

**Floriade**
Take in Australia's celebration of Spring. For more see **www.floriadeaustralia.com**.

**Saturday 6**

**Harden Kite Festival**
Harden Picnic Racecourse, 11am–5pm. A fabulous family festival with kite flying and competitions for all ages with $700 in prizes and lucky draws to be won. Demonstrations and live music by Phat Boyz. Bring your own kite or buy one on the day. For more ph 6238 3526 or email **hardenbearings@bigpond.com**.

**Saturday 6 until Monday 3 December**

**Exhibition – David Voigt Paintings and Drawings**
David Voigt is an award-winning artist, unafraid of strong colour and artistic licence. For more ph 6238 1682 or see **www.bwoodworks.com.au**.

**Tuesday 9 until Saturday 20**

**Exhibition – Sculptor Neil Dickinson**
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Opening night Tue 9th, 5.30–7.30pm. Queanbeyan sculptor Neil Dickinson presents a selection of retrospective and recent works. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

**Wednesday 10 until Saturday 13**

***Ladies Night***
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The ultimate night out and not only for the girls! The story of four unemployed guys, motivated by 'The Chippendales' to form a male stripping act, in order to make some fast cash. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

**Friday 12**

**Gunning Spring Art Show and Sale**
Catholic Parish Hall, Gundaroo Rd, Gunning. Art exhibition and sale with fireworks and car boot sale on the weekend.

**Saturday 13**

**Braidwood Film Club Screenings**
National Theatre, Braidwood, Wallace St, 3pm. *Kaos* An Italian/French film made in 1984 and directed by the Taviani Brothers. *Under Milkwood*, 8pm, a British film made in 1972 and directed by Andrew Sinclair.

**Saturday 13 and Sunday 14**

**Model Railway Exhibition**
Bungendore Community Hall, Gibraltar St, 10am–5pm. Entry: $6 adults, $4 seniors, $3 children 5–15, $15 family (2+2), under 5s are free.

**Sunday 14**

**National Capital Orchestra**
The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. The final concert for 2012 with Philip Hartstein and David Pereira. For more see **www.theq.net.au**.

**Tuesday 16**

**Carwoola Community Assoc. AGM**
Community Hall, Gathering Pl, 7.30pm. Come along and volunteer your services to help with events over the coming year.

**Friday 19**

**Summer Sunset Markets**
Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Live music in the shady courtyard, jewellery, sculptures, craft items, plants, fresh organic produce, tempting food items and much more!

**Friday 19 to Sunday 21**

**Marulan Kite Festival**
Marulan Hall, 9am–4pm. See Marulan's best art and craft work on the 19th; kite making and competitions, children's games on the 20th; Kite Festival on the 21st with pony rides, jumping castle, animal farmyard. Market stalls, BBQ and refreshments. For more see **www.marulankitefestival.com**.

**Saturday 20**

**Bungendore Spring Ball – *London Calling***
Bungendore Community Hall, Gibraltar St. The Bungendore Spring Ball is a major fundraising event for the Bungendore Combined Churches. Live entertainment by *The Huge Combo* as well as the increasingly popular Silent Auction. Three course sit down dinner provided but BYO drinks. Prizes for the best dressed man and woman and also the best dressed Esky! Cost $90pp. For more ph 0412 611 847 or email **cwellbeing@yahoo.com.au**.

**Inaugural Captains Flat Community Garage Sale**
Foxlow St, 8am–12.30pm. Come and find a bargain and enjoy a great day out with the family. Bargain hunters will need to collect their maps and other goodies from the Fire Shed on Foxlow St. Garage sales will also be signposted. The Captains Flat RFS will again be providing a yummy BBQ. Don't forget your cash!

**Oh! it's October**

the market @ bungendore

Sunday October 21st 9am - 3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

All your favourite stalls
Come along for a browse
Enjoy a variety of refreshments

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| jewellery | | glass art |
| giftware | | homewares |
| tea & coffee | | greeting cards |
| local art & craft | | beads & findings |
| garden products | honey | pottery & ceramics |
| toys & models | preserves | local grown plants |
| cakes & pastries | hand knits | prints & paintings |
| soaps & lotions | candles | fruit & vegetables |
| picture frames | cookies | clothing & footwear |

**Friday 26**

**David Pereira's Cello-focused Chamber Concerts**
Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, Malbon St, 8pm. Bookings are on a reserved seating basis and strictly limited to 80. Tickets are $49 at the Gallery or buy online. For more ph 6238 1682 or see **www.bwoodworks.com.au**.

**Sunday 28**

**Bungendore Rodeo**
Bungendore Rodeo Equestrian Sports and Recreation Reserve. This year's events include: Bull Riding, Bareback Riding, Saddlebronc, Steer Wrestling, Rope and Tie, Team Roping, Ladies Barrel race, Breakaway Roping, Steer Undecorating. For more see **www.bungendorerodeo.org.au**.

**Crookwell Rotary Swap Meet**
Crookwell Showgrounds, Goulburn St, 6am–1pm. Annual swap meet and market day. Car parts, autos, books, tools, antiques and collectibles, arts and crafts. For more ph 4832 2153.

## EVERY MONTH:

**Every Saturday**

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

**1st Saturday of every month (except April)**

**The Captains Flat Country Markets**
Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Stalls $12 call 0410 597 227 or email **www.captains flat.org**

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

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

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

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

**3rd Sunday every month**

**Bungendore Markets**
War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce.

**Windy Hall Country Markets**
Windellama Hall, 10–2pm, craft goods, Devonshire tea, deli delights and more. For more contact Bob Shaw on 4844 5001.

**4th Saturday of every month**

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

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

**Alpaca/Llama/Donkey Magic Annual Spring Open Day**
Sutton Rd, Sutton, 11am–3pm. Come meet 150 llamas, alpacas and llapacas as well as English/Irish donkeys. See the differences between alpacas and llamas and find out the advantages of each. For more ph 6230 3311 or see **www.alpacamagic.com.au**.

## – Plan ahead for November–

**Saturday 3 and Sunday 4**
**2012 Burra Open Gardens weekend**

**Tuesday 6**
**Melbourne Cup**

**Saturday 10 and Sunday 11**
**Queanbeyan Show**

## — GIG GUIDE: NOVEMBER —

**Sunday 7**
**Sunday Latin & Gypsy Swing**, 12.30pm, Captains Flat Hotel.

**Friday 12**
**Tony Wade**, country rock, 8.30–11.30pm, Bungendore Royal Hotel.

**Saturday 13**
**The Morning After**, covers, Walsh's Hotel, Queanbeyan.

**Friday 26**
**Chemistry**, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

**Saturday 27**
**Allan Jackson**, country, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

**FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH**
**Music and poetry returns to Bungendore**
Following the sudden closure of the Provincial Pantry, talks with Scott from the Royal Hotel resulted in a successful alternative venue. We'll enter our 18 year as a cultural event with the gig to be held on the Royal's entertainment stage on the first Friday of the month starting at 7.30.

The musical sets will be a bit longer, and poets will present two poems at a time.

All acts are requested to be well-rehearsed to ensure the ongoing success of the event – if you think your piece is a bit too wobbly, maybe you should consider holding it over until the next time. More info or to discuss give Danny Velnaar a call on 0413 502 428.

**1st & 3rd Fridays 5–8pm**

**The Sunset Markets offer enticing food stalls, live music and entertainment, a great range of markets stalls selling products by our local artists and crafts people, gourmet foods, collectables and much more!**

***In the courtyard at 253 Crawford Street adjacent to Council Chambers***

Queanbeyan City Council

Queanbeyan children's Special Needs Group Inc

**For more information contact:**
**Ros Hales 6285 6170**
**or ros.hales@qcc.nsw.gov.au**

The focus is on high quality local handmade arts and crafts, local produce and food suppliers as well as local entertainment to enjoy as the sun goes down.