



Bulletin

incorporating The Bungendore Bulletin

Serving Bungendore, Braidwood, Burra, Bywong, Captains Flat, Carwoola, Currawang, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown, Lake Bathurst, Sutton, Tarago, Wamboin

INSIDE:

Council Election 2008

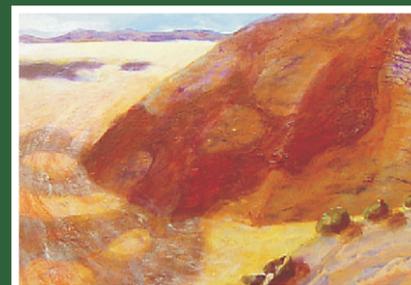
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Photo: Marcelle Martins

Cleanseeds – where Bungendore’s farmers shop



Septic safe laundry powder that’s kind to the Environment.

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Wonderful wattles brighten the landscape and fix nitrogen!

by Jo Walker



Photos: Jo Walker

Left: *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle) at Wamboin.

ticeable as it only grows to about 30cm and is often hidden amongst tussocks and heath plants. *A. rubida* (Red-stem Wattle) is just beginning to show its lemon flowers in sheltered places. Although it does grow sometimes on rocky hillsides, it seems to develop into a taller and more robust plant near creeks and gullies. It gets its name from the reddish stems and its new growth which is a striking orange-red against the light.

Three local wattles that definitely tolerate dry conditions are *A. buxifolia* (Boxleaf Wattle), *A. dawsonii* (Poverty Wattle) and *A. parramattensis* (Sydney Green Wattle), all of which grow on the dry slopes of the Queanbeyan escarpment. The first two grow into neat, if sometimes spindly, bushes with yellow flowers. *A. parramattensis*, with bright green bipinnate leaves and cream flowers is a taller shrub and often suckers to form a colony of plants.

All of the above are spring flowering species – the following two flower much later. *A. mearnsii* (Black Wattle) flowers in November bearing masses of cream heavily-scented flowers. *A. implexa* (Lightwood) grows to tree-like proportions (although often slowly) and also has cream flowers. It is a similar tree to *A. melanoxylon* (Blackwood Wattle), and, like that species, has dense attractive wood suitable for woodworking.

There are several hundred species of wattle to pick from but these are just a few of the non-local species worth growing:

DISPLAYS OF GOLDEN, lemon or cream flowers make wattles colourful additions to gardens as bushy background plants. Because they are nitrogen-fixing plants they are also ideal as understorey in shelter-belts. As well as having attractive flowers, different species of wattles have a variety of leaf colours – dark or bright green, greyish green or even light purple – and are useful as contrast plants in the garden.

Several of our local species are just beginning to flower, with the most noticeable in this part of the world being the ubiquitous Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) named for its silver-green leaves. Because it does best in moist soils, many trees have died locally during the drought. *Acacia genistifolia* is a thorny-leaved species which is bearing a profusion of cream flowers right now.

Another pale flowered wattle blooming at present is the tiny Ploughshare Wattle (*A. gunnii*) which gets its name from the small triangular leaves. This one is not very no-

Why National Wattle Day? Beautiful, tough and resilient at home everywhere...

by Terry Fewtrell

THE OLYMPICS HAVE focussed attention on our athletes wearing the green and gold. But whereas the Olympics occur only every

four years, the landscape around us every day is also wearing its green and gold. When the gold of our wattles blaze across the land at this time of the year we know that winter is nearly done and the renewal of spring is nearby. September 1 may be thought of as the start of spring but it is also National Wattle Day.

One of the wattles in flower at this time of year is the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) – Australia's national floral emblem. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the gazettal of *Acacia pycnantha* as the national

Continued p4



Acacia genistifolia



A. baileyana



A. vestita

- *A. vestita* (Hairy Wattle) – a large vigorous shrub with a weeping form, lemon/yellow flowers and hairy triangular leaves, a beautiful dense shrub which grows as wide as it does tall;
- *A. cultriformis* (Knife-leaf Wattle) – another large, dense shrub with bluish triangular leaves and bright yellow flowers;
- *A. baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle) – one of the most spectacular wattles with its masses of brilliant yellow flowers surrounded by bluish-grey foliage – this has weed potential in some places, but the purple-leaved form should be safer for gardens as it seems to seed less prolifically;
- *A. floribunda* (Sallow Wattle) – a robust or open large shrub with narrow green phyllodes and lemon flowers borne on rod-shaped spikes;

- *A. rhigiophylla* – a low, spreading, very hardy species from South Australia and dry areas of New South Wales. It has a good display of pale yellow flowers, and its rigid, spiky foliage makes it an excellent protective plant. The one in my garden spread out over a Correa plant and a Brown Thornbill felt it was a safe enough place to build a nest and rear a family!

Wattles are easily propagated by seed collected when the pods open. Treat with just-boiled water. When seeds have begun to swell they are ready for planting.

Correction: in the August issue we mistakenly labelled an image of *Pomaderris Obcordata* as being from the Murrumbidgee. It is from the Eyre Peninsula.



6238 0144

In January 2008 PHL Surveyors established an office in Bungendore to serve Palerang and neighbouring areas.

The office is managed by Alan Longhurst, senior partner, who has relocated with his family to the Bungendore area.

PHL Surveyors has been established for over 80 years in the Riverina and is managed by four Registered Surveyors.

Professional, efficient and timely service is our goal.

Call at the office at 13 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore, to discuss any surveying, engineering or planning needs, or visit our website at www.phlsurveyors.com.au

Authorised by Richard Graham 867 Burmaroo Rd Mulloon Creek 2621

Why Richard is your best bet for the new council:

- 1 Decades of successful enterprise leadership
- 2 Strong financial abilities with great outcomes
- 3 Committed to local jobs creation and lower rates
- 4 Proven ecological, rural and social commitments
- 5 Truly Independent for all of Palerang

Vote 1 - Richard Graham, Independent
below-the-line

The most voter info offered by any candidate at www.RichardGraham.com.au



21st Century planning for natural and built environment – WE CAN HAVE IT

A candid interview with Council's new planning chief

by Maria Taylor

WHEN COUNCIL'S NEW planning chief Louise Menday first stood up in the chamber and said 'no' to a Councillor's interpretation about absolute landholder water entitlements with subdivision, the assembled Councillors and gallery were amazed. The encounter made it into *The Mirror*.

Such unequivocal clarity from the Council planning department was something new after years of contested development proposals resulting in a predictable tick-a-box outcome.

How state environmental legislation is (mis)treated on the ground

As events unfolded, the Council majority was only briefly stunned into silence before voting for subdivision adjoining Feagans Creek, a tributary of the Mongarlowe River, regardless of legal means to protect the creek flow and the nationally endangered Macquarie Perch.

The legal options and good reasons for protecting the creek had been pointed out in detail by Ms Menday in the staff advisory – after earlier discussion with a Mongarlowe environmental group, State agencies, and Council legal advisers.

Six Councillors seemingly ignored this advice and instead by their vote defended the old common law water extraction rights (in fact extinguished in State law since 2000 with replacement law that allows restrictions on these entitlements in regard to subdivision). Councillors Moore, Gardiner and Branson opposed that vote.

Not only that, but thanks to a disputed ruling (and this is something that has happened all too often where a decision unsatisfactory to a developer comes back for a second round) those same votes buried creek safeguards and wildlife friendly fencing provisions agreed to previously and hailed as a rare community victory (as well as dropping ratepayer-friendly provisions to shift roadmaking costs to the developer).

This is not an isolated example of how State and Federal environmental legislation or wildlife protection has been ignored on the ground in Palerang. (*We detailed another case in our May issue*).

A new era for Council planning?

Nevertheless, it seems some light is beginning to dawn over Council's planning unit,

widely criticised by residents and ratepayers from every perspective, and not just because of lack of manpower and resources.

The new Planning and Environmental Services head is female and soft-spoken and indeed not a 'matey' kind of person, but she has started injecting some overdue legislative rigor and new ideas into local development decisions. It seems Council does have the ability and mandate to use the law to strategically craft a good environment for the natural as well as built assets of the Shire.

(Incidentally, it is not true as some would have it, that Council's only option is to impose conditions on unsatisfactory development schemes. Council is also entitled to modify the proposals in the first place or just say no with reasons.)

"I came from Wagga and the Murrumbidgee there is degraded so I know how important it is to preserve water and flow in creeks. Here in Palerang you still have healthy streams like Feagans Creek that can be protected," she told the *Bulletin* in a candid interview.

Ms Menday commented that Yass Council had exhibited a policy that will prevent subdivision that increases the number of lots along certain creeks and that Section 79 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act requires that Council must consider each application on its environmental merits once the Local Environment Plan (LEP) allows it at a baseline level.

That means there must be knowledge of what the guiding State and Federal legislation allows or demands. Putting it all together "it seems local government is in a position to lead the charge", on environmental issues, she said.

Part of the headache for local planners lies with the fragmented nature of State (and Federal) authority. For example the Sydney Catchment Authority which has jurisdiction over water quality in the Shoalhaven catchment doesn't concern itself with extraction of water.

The Department of Primary Industries which includes Fisheries has responsibility in an advisory way over the threatened perch, whilst the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), which generally oversee threatened species legislation does



Louise Menday: injecting some overdue legislative rigor and new ideas into local development. Photo: Barbara Zingler

not. Meanwhile the state Department of Water and Energy administers the extraction legislation. You have to be a Queen's Counsel with a whiteboard and marker to keep up.

LEP slowness not only Council's fault

Similarly, the reason we still don't have a new Local Environment Plan doesn't lie solely with the Councillors or staff. It was only weeks ago that the State's Sydney-Canberra Corridor Strategy was finalised. It will dictate much of what is acceptable in terms of future development. And according to Ms Menday, only recently did DECC hand over its completed mapping of sensitive biodiversity areas that need protection.

Her goal now is to get a strategic directions paper which is the framework for the LEP out to the community before the end of the year and have a draft on exhibition by March (a final document would still be a year or more away).

"A driving question for the LEP will be 'What kind of population can the water basins sustain?'"

Reframing the question to put sustainability in the driving seat

A driving question for the discussion paper and the LEP will be 'What kind of population can the water basins sustain?' While this might seem an obvious question, in fact Palerang development has been driven till now by other considerations, not least a vague idea about 'market demand'.

"Water is a very real constraint which is the starting point for all your planning," said Ms Menday. As for the market:

"It is very difficult to determine market demand. There is existing capacity (particularly rural) not being taken up. That may be an indicator that there is little or no demand."

It's about consolidating villages not sprawling development

The Sydney to Canberra corridor strategy has informed this planner that population growth will be focused in Bungendore and that anywhere else will have to be justified.

(Bungendore's sustainable water capacity report awaits publication and the *Bulletin* hopes to explore it and other water capacities in an upcoming issue.)

Ms Menday said the State strategy discourages spread out development and is about consolidating towns and villages. That means some infill expansion of existing Bungendore is the preferred option for the State (and has already started to stir opposition).

And while there are "quite a few proposals to rezone and subdivide in the surrounding district", the Council staff read the state mandate to mean "look to use up existing capacity first".

The same rules apply for rural residential, where there is some already-zoned capacity for expansion. However, "we wouldn't go for infill in already developed areas," which should be a relief for many.

Maintain character of village

Ms Menday has ideas for a new development control plan (DCP) that accompanies the LEP with specific 'dos and don'ts'. First on her list for Bungendore is the appointment of an urban designer to map out how to develop village infill without destroying the character

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Put the community first

Vote **1** Group C

financially responsible
 adapting for climate change
 vision environment
Community First
 Palerang issues
 healthy council
 creative ideas
 openness respect
 meetings enhances
 infrastructure plan
 accountability change
 people consultation
 water non-adversarial
 co-operation
 future asset management
 appropriate development

www.palerangcommunityfirst.org



The Community First team: Judith Turley, Forbes Gordon, Angela Casey, Catherine Moore, Fred Harden, Sarah Merriman, John Taylor and Ian Moy

Written and authorised by Catherine Moore, 1149 Charleys Forest Rd, Braidwood 2622

Bill Bateman

66 years young. Married to Barbara. 4 Children – 3 boys, 1 girl. 10 grandchildren. Lived in Braidwood for 22 years. I have 7 years experience on Council including a year as Deputy Mayor. My goal is to serve the residents of the Shire as a Councillor for the benefit of ALL. Email: kanga bill@internode.on.net

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Local growth will occur due to the natural increase in population in not only Sydney and Canberra but in other cities. We will have pressures to increase available land which we can not stop. Planning for a best outcome for the local area will be a major task over the next 10 years.

2) Priority items in LEP

In Braidwood, the need to preserve the unique villagescape while gaining employment opportunities into the future. In Palerang as a whole (and essentially in the Bungendore and west of Bung-

endore areas), arriving at a reasonable solution to the pressures to make more “life style” living opportunities available to satisfy the Canberra/Sydney demand.

3) Environmental Responsibility
Obey the Federal and State laws with respect to these issues. Councils have some LIMITED freedom to act on very local issues only. Ensure that the LEP and DCP's are consistent with all ruling policies.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

Water, Power, Sewage and main roads are PUBLIC UTILITIES. ALL Australians must pay for their installation and maintenance. 1,200 people can not pay the \$6 million for Braidwood sewage improvements, nor can even smaller villages pay millions for utility installations. User must maintain but User Pays is a copout.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

Population pressure and available money to buy lifestyle drive land tenure and settlement. ‘Market demand’ is

simply another way of stating this. The market will push us in unknown ways and it will only be AFTER the trend has become well defined that we can and will react. However, forward planning will help us cope provided we do not become wedded to any one particular plan. A full range of options must be ready to apply at fairly short notice.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

With regard to Local Planning issues it is mandatory for the vote to be fully recorded.

On all other issues if I vote against then I formally ask “want my vote recorded against”. Therefore if you do not see that against a matter in the Minutes then I voted FOR.

7) Other Priorities

Pare Council expenditure down to the essentials and then go grant hunting or pressuring Government for other essential funds. Our population base does not generate sufficient funds at the moment to allow us to deliver all the services ratepayers would LIKE.

Paul Cockram

I live in Mongarlowe on 11ha of what is regarded by the locals as unproductive farm land. We love the diversity of our bush block and while we can't understand why anyone would want to live in cities, like a lot of people around here, we hope that most of them stay there. Contact: 0417 459 775.

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Interestingly enough, the State Government also wants to keep future development in the region close to existing large settlements and that is the main thrust of the Sydney–Canberra Corridor strategy.

Some of the issues in the Palerang Rural Residential Paper are: that rural residential development alienates agricultural land; equity of lot sizes across the Shire; establishing the value of dwelling entitlements; water availability and harvesting ‘rights’ v domestic use; keeping new development close to existing services because transport and commuting can only get more expensive and less desirable.

2) Priority items in LEP

The LEP is most important and must be finished and ratified by the State government as soon as possible. For the reasons outlined above, everyone needs to know where they stand with their entitlements and the community needs to know in which direction further development is heading. As one of our more outspoken current Councillors says, “The L.E.P. is the L.A.W.” So it's a darn shame it's also A.W.O.L.

3) Environmental Responsibility
The natural environment is everything. A healthy environment and functioning infrastructure is all that's worth leaving to future generations. Restorative agriculture, native species protection and assistance to farmers to rehabilitate their land are issues. New farming methods are already moving towards sustainable agriculture as the old methods become costly and discredited.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

Simply adding more people onto an existing service structure, water and sewerage for example, is a recipe for disaster. It's not like Lego, it can't be

added to forever. The Federal government is largely the beneficiary of the rapid expansion faced by the west of Palerang and it is simply cost shifting to expect the existing ratepayers of the Shire to pay for it.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

We now know that sustainability is a quality of life issue for the long haul. The market thrives on consumption and tends to be here today and gone tomorrow. Only people who've got a lot of money, or expect to make a lot of money, argue in favour of leaving our fate to market forces.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

Yes, who votes and how should be recorded.

7) Other Priorities

I don't expect Palerang Council to go charging off on some crusade to save us all. But local government can advance ideas that have broad community support and can be sold to the other two tiers of government to help them with their predicaments like dealing with climate change.

It's up to us – nobody else is going to do it.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

No single solution exists. Developing an Assets Register will help. Putting cash away for depreciation (not possible currently). State government grant programs is another. More focus on clever funding. Not expecting ratepayers to fund restoration/renewal. Broadening rate base brings additional future infrastructure maintenance costs.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

Demand drove RR development in commuter belt. No indication this will slow despite rising fuel costs. Defining/known market demand is important for Palerang's 20-plus year Strategic Directions Paper. Requires demographics and other considerations, including climate change and continuing drought.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

Recording all future votes useful and support that. Strongly believe, through experience over the last four years, that council needs audio recording of formal council meetings to validate changes to minutes and allegations of gallery and media misreporting.

7) Other Priorities –

• See profile.

QUESTIONS FOR ASPIRING COUNCILLORS

AS A COMMUNITY service and to get a better ‘feel’ for what the candidates and groups know on a number of issues, we posed the following questions to all candidates seeking election on September 13 to Palerang Council. Everyone received the same instructions regarding ‘keep it short’ and omission are by choice, eg some added contact details and others didn't.

Missing groups or individuals did not respond. We would like to thank those who did for taking the time.

The responses on these pages should be keyed against Questions 1–7.

Questions

- The following documents have been released for community comment:
 - Palerang Rural Residential Discussion Paper 2008
 - Sydney–Canberra Corridor Strategy 2008

What is your understanding of these strategic outlines for the future of our area and directives to Council.
* The Bungendore Discussion Paper 2006 is currently being rewritten with developer funding; you might like to add a comment about that as well.
(The documents above and community comment will provide the framework for the upcoming Local Environment Plan (LEP).
- In your view, what are the priority local items to be addressed in the LEP or the accompanying Development Control Plans (DCPs) for:
 - your locality (state where) ...
 - Palerang as a whole ...
- As Councillors what are your responsibilities towards the natural environment that sustains our rural lifestyles and also for native species protection.
- What are Council's realistic options to deal with the heavy cost of infrastructure maintenance (roads, bridges, sewers, water systems).
eg current thinking: continue raising rates, encourage more people to settle to broaden the rate base ... comment with detailed ideas (dot points OK).
- Will sustainability limits and lifestyle amenity for existing residents or market demand drive future residential development in Palerang? How do you define/know market demand?
- Do you make a commitment to record all Councillor final votes?
- Other priorities for you/your team with some detail on how Council could achieve them.

Community First

Community First (www.palerangcommunityfirst.org) comprises a diverse group of four women and four men from across the Shire, all committed to reflecting the views of the community in Council's decision-making processes.

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Had the recommendations of the Corridor Strategy and community visions as outlined in the various discussion papers been applied to current Palerang planning, the outcomes might have been very different. Community views are paramount in the shaping of the LEP; no extra weight should be given to those of developers.

2) Priority items in LEP

A comprehensive list of heritage items – Indigenous, built and natural – is needed. Protection of waterways is essential and could include buffer zones to prevent new owners from extracting water. Retention of large parcels of undeveloped land for infrastructure like windfarms is necessary to ensure that land-holders won't be adversely affected.

3) Environmental Responsibility

We must protect waterways and areas of native vegetation, including remnant roadside vegetation, and avoid further fragmentation of habitat, expanding these areas with revegetation providing larger wildlife corridors. Sub-division must not cause the destruction of our remaining natural resources or

Continued p9

Group B: Get the Balance Right

Terry Bransdon, in Bywong after a year in Bungendore. Formed Group B, *Get the Balance Right*. Group's objective is fair representation for all Shire's population. Ph 0428 621 624 or 6236 9239.

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Documents will influence LEP and consequently the future direction of Palerang Shire. The Rural Residential (RR) paper is one of a series based partly on community visioning and adds to strategic documents on Bungendore, Braidwood and ‘remaining settlements’ – all part of the information gathering and additional community consultation to develop a new combined Palerang LEP.

The Sydney–Canberra Strategy is State's 25-year blueprint for a sustainable, attractive and liveable future for the corridor including Palerang. It sets planning policies to protect unique regional assets in six corridor LGAs. Palerang's new LEP and other planning documents must be compatible with it.

2) Priority items in LEP

Bungendore's priorities include whether infill of large village blocks should be encouraged and sustainability of

town's water supply. A re-worked discussion paper being funded by developers is looking at this and future of green field development proposed by six landowner/developers.

Priority items for RR areas like Bywong include questions over subdivision, whether it's sustainable and grappling with the different standards of the five LEPs. Also what is a viable broadacre farm size, preference for minimum or average size lots and water availability as drought and climate change continue.

Palerang-wide sustainability of development and water availability are priority local items with domestic waste and weed issues also high on the list.

3) Environmental Responsibility

Responsibilities involve extensive community consultation, reviewing, developing and setting the right policies, ensuring correct decisions by Council when considering built environment development which can involve approval of DAs without conditions (rare), applying adequate conditions to DAs, or refusing unsuitable developments and **providing justifiable reasons for refusal.**

Anne Goonan

I am a Bywong resident (22 years), and my goal is a cohesive innovative Palerang, more openness/fairness and community involvement with solutions for now and the future. Ph 6230 3399.

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Palerang Rural Residential Discussion Paper 2008: With community input this informs the draft LEP – which finally prescribes how we can

Richard Graham

I live at Mulloon Creek. For three decades I've started and led several successful technology enterprises. I've proven financial and innovative abilities. My current enterprise focus is sustainable food production.

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Palerang Rural Residential Discussion paper 2008. The Paper introduced principles from the Central West Rural Lands Enquiry and the new Rural SEPP. Its unresolved conflicts between Department of Primary Industries and Department of Planning left it open for interpretation rather than direction. Its central unsubstantiated DPI assertion was that large block sizes assured agricultural viability, which isn't the case in Palerang. Sydney–Canberra Corridor Strategy 2008. The Strategy is the product of the State's forward planning outlook for population and economic growth in this area of the State. It designates outcomes that balance developmental opportunities with infrastructure and services management. Utilise the transport infrastructure, create local employment, and reduce commuting are the takeaway messages for Councils.

2) Priority items in LEP

The fundamental community questions to address for the next LEP are more social than environmental, as the State already has good environmental safeguard legislation. We need to define how willing we are to share our lifestyle and on what terms. This'll primarily translate into zoning and dwelling lot size definitions.

3) Environmental Responsibility

Councillors uphold State legislation where authority is given to Council to represent or enforce it. This includes for instance numerous Acts dealing with vegetation, waterways, pollution, weeds,

use Palerang land, and what Council can and can't add, for example:

- no new zones allowed (standard 'template' zones);
- can include permitted or prohibited land uses for these standard zones.

Sydney–Canberra Corridor strategy 2008: 'sits' over the LEP to guide sustainable growth recognizing:

- rapid development in the region – includes Palerang;

and noxious annoyances. Presently, Council staff considers such regulations in the preparation of development application conditions and general daily occurrences throughout the LGA.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

This will be a multifaceted approach. The revenue side will include: a) greater contribution from higher spheres of government; b) more settlement; and c) council enterprise endeavours. The cost optimisation side will include: a) improved long-term asset and financial planning; b) sharper purchasing of inputs; and c) engineering life-extension strategies.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

Community consultation will determine this. If facilitated well we will progress beyond climate change fear on the one hand and unfettered development on the other. Palerang is not an island but part of larger communities. Our uniqueness will be tempered by the State's need for population accommodation and economic development.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

I have no objection to doing this provided that once a decision is determined it is then the group's decision. To do otherwise would be tantamount to saying that any non-unanimous issue is left open, not legally, but in the mind(s) of the dissenters. This would soon make Council unworkable.

7) Other Priorities

I have proposed eight community-building initiatives which centre on local employment creation, community prosperity and the reward of lifestyle amenities. I believe with Council's leadership, the initiatives can be done at no meaningful cost to ratepayers, including fresh food farmers markets, commuter-level public transportation and making town centres more inviting.

• high demand for urban growth and rural lifestyle housing (eg Bungendore village zoned housing land);

- the need to protect land of significant agricultural value; ensure water flows; limit dwelling in rural and environmental zones and no concessional allotments.

2) Priority items in LEP

These are Palerang wide items and include:

- balance between growth and 'development' keeping to government planning directives and the preferred character of the locality;
- resource sustainability (eg water and protection of the environment).

3) Environmental Responsibility

We need to ensure careful management and appropriate protection of our resources including waterways, habitat corridors and vegetation, under the direction of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Rural lands) 2008*.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

Some innovative ways to increase Council revenue:

- Share resources with other councils (eg staff, equipment);

• Find initiatives that attract State/federal funding (eg for roads, health, education, sport, small business, etc);

- Identify incentives to attract new business to the area – eg aged-care facility?

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

Residential development in Palerang will most likely be a result of both of these pressures, and unexpected external factors eg fuel costs and water availability. The projected population increase in the region is significant – and Defence Headquarters is a reality.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

In the interests of transparency this would be desirable.

7) Other Priorities

- Engagement/tapping the unique skill sets in Palerang – resources that could provide valuable input into council decision-making.
- A Council website to enable car pooling in the area. Other Councils have provided this useful initiative which could reduce road traffic, assist with fuel costs, and engage the community.

Group D: Progressive Palerang Group

Group D, the Progressive Palerang Group, is drawn from the rural residential areas of Wamboin and Bywong. Our goal is to ensure equitable demographic outcomes for all residents of Palerang and to represent rural residential interests on Council. Members are Judith Miller, John van der Straaten, Ned Noel, Helen Montesin and Pete Harrison. Our slogan is: *Progressing Palerang in the 21st Century*. Contact Judith Miller on 6236 9321 or email winjeel1@cyberone.com.au

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

NSW State Government policy is incorporated in, amongst other important planning documents, the Sydney–Canberra Corridor Strategy 2008 (SCCS). All Council planning documents including the documents supporting the LEP, such as the Palerang Rural Residential Discussion Paper 2008 (PRRDP) must conform with the directives included in this document. It appears that the PRRDP conforms with the

requirements of the SCCS and this is a good thing, as there are many important initiatives for sustainable development. These documents provide an excellent planning framework for our LEP, provided they are honoured in the spirit and not in the breach.

2) Priority items in LEP

We have a vision for Palerang as a whole, not just a geographical area, which should be addressed in the LEP. It is a responsive approach to infrastructure, environmental and social concerns:

- Meeting community expectations concerning roads and rubbish including measures to improve road maintenance and explore local options for waste management; and
- Recognising environmental concerns, particularly water, land management, energy, and transport. Specific priorities will be water management for existing and new developments; preserving the heritage of Palerang towns; and setting renewable energy goals for Council.

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COMMUNITY FIRST *cont'd from p8*

compromise water quality and availability for ourselves and all species.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

Rates rises will never pay for the costs of infrastructure maintenance. Neither will increasing the number of ratepayers – the costs of associated facilities far outweigh the rates generated. Developers must properly fund the infrastructure required for their developments. Intergenerational equity is an important principle and we must fund for depreciation.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

Whether or not sustainability limits drive future residential development depends on the new Council. Councillors with a development-driven agenda pay very little attention to sustainability issues. One indication of market demand is the

number of blocks for sale at any time and how long they have been on the market.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

Community First puts openness and accountability at the core of its platform. Catherine Moore, as a councillor, tried to require the recording of all votes. She also consistently suggested that meetings needed to be recorded, in their entirety, and early on asked about the broadcasting of meetings over the internet.

7) Other Priorities

Non-adversarial decision-making – to be achieved by a team-building exercise at the beginning of the new Council term and conflict resolution where required. Finalising the draft LEP as soon as possible for further community input. Ensuring coordination between departments to avoid mistakes. Maximising opportunities for government grants to increase available revenue.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

With the proposed Sydney–Canberra Corridor strategy blueprint, no doubt pressure will be applied to our sustainability limits and this is when hard decisions will have to be taken in regards to the future, hence this will drive market demand. That is when more people will want the lifestyle many of us enjoy today. I can only suggest time will tell.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

It is hard to believe that this has not been the standard procedure up until now. Yes I do commit to all votes being recorded.

7) Other Priorities

The Get the Balance Right Group have listed our priorities on our hand-outs please take time to read them.

MIKE MCCOLL *cont'd from p8*

whole is also grappling with the same water problems as well their concerns with waste issues.

3) Environmental Responsibility

Councillors will have to show that they are responsible individuals when concerns for the environment are bought before them, dare I say it again 'Community consultation' is imperative. If a development application is unsuitable surely it will be investigated and if proven to be inadequate it will be refused.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

I believe that we will have to become more savvy in applying for grants from the State and Federal Governments as I am led to believe that this is one way in which other councils keep their rates to a lower rate structure, how this works we will have to investigate. No doubt this will not be the whole answer but surely can become part of it.

Get the Balance Right



Get the Balance Right Group, Group B (from left): Simon Blake, Richard Holding, Terry Bransdon, Keith France and Mike McColl. Contact is Richard Holding, Tel: 0421 206 242.

The Get the Balance Right group's objective is to achieve a fair and balanced representation across all Palerang communities.

Get the Balance Right sees advantages in operating together as a group as members can share ideas, combine wide experience, their knowledge and talents. If elected, Get the Balance Right will strive for the new council to work in the same consultative, but independent way.

What Get the Balance Right stands for

- Balance all future rate rises – No more special rate variations;
- Complete the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) as soon as possible for balanced laws and standards across the whole of Palerang Shire;
- Work to reduce our environmental footprint – a Climate Change Policy for Palerang Council; and
- Balance behaviour and service – to improve elected council conduct and achieve a balanced and helpful staff customer service culture.

Blend experience and new blood for continuity

Palerang Council is a multi million dollar enterprise and needs to be run with a blend of experience and new blood. Knowing and understanding the legal environment in which Local Government operates is critical. Some continuity is essential.

Written and authorised by Richard Holding, 43 Wyoming Road Bywong 2621.

ELECTION PROFILES

3) Environmental Responsibility

The new LEP must contain measures to support and nurture the natural environment and native species protection and reflect best practice in these areas. We as Councillors must uphold the spirit of the LEP in relation to these matters. Councillors should provide support for organisations such as Landcare which recognise the need for protection of flora and fauna and provide a voice for such groups on Council.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

- Raising rates and supporting unsustainable development is not the way to go;
- Look for other funding options such as Federal and State funding;
- Look at more efficient administration and staffing levels; and
- Fairer distribution of untied Commonwealth revenue to local government.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

Future residential development should be driven by sustainability, in particular water, energy requirements and transport.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

Yes. Statements to Council from the public should be also recorded in the minutes and minutes should be publicly available in a more timely fashion.

7) Other Priorities

An efficient, representative, accountable Council

- Early completion of a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) appropriate to Palerang in the 21st Century;
- Transparency in Council business and decision-making through improved recording and reporting of significant policies and issues.

A voice for all Palerang residents

- Councillors being readily contactable;
- Regular attendance by Councillors at community meetings and events;
- Regular community briefings by Council.

A harmonious Council

- Adhering to a responsible Code of Conduct reflecting the Palerang Community's desire for integrity, civility and productiveness in Council's proceedings.

Promoting Palerang as open for business

- Encouraging a stronger local business and agricultural economy and a network for local produce.

ANNE GOONAN INDEPENDENT



COUNCIL HAS gone through the early period of amalgamation – now it is time for consolidation and more outward focused initiatives. Our plans for Palerang will be limited by what resources are on hand. Rural Councils like Palerang struggle to attract the necessary staff.

I would encourage resource sharing – perhaps with other Councils – to access more staff for the current/expected workload, to work better and faster. We need to meet this shortage, and investigate other efficiencies that might be gained through such sharing. This also applies to Council engaging more with its community and the capabilities it has in its residents.

I would strive to get Council and community working together:

- to address areas of health, the environment, small business, community and sport – areas that attract significant funding from State and/or Federal government. We have the skills in our commu-

nity to tap into these resources. For example, more assistance from the NSW and Federal governments to meet the broader impact of the new Defence headquarters eg funding to upgrade more of our commuter roads.

- to set up a dedicated webpage to establish community car pooling arrangements. This would reduce fuel usage/costs, and take traffic off the roads.
- to encourage an aged care facility into the Bungendore area. This would provide not only a local and familiar environment for ageing residents, but flexible local employment opportunities.

Make your vote count – vote 1 to 9 below the line and choose a mix of Councillors to get the best team!

WALTER RAYNOLDS INDEPENDENT

THANKYOU for this opportunity to present myself for re election to Palerang Council.

Age 58, married 31 years. Two grown-up children. Farmer, contractor.

Palerang faces a huge development challenge, now and in the future. Bungendore is growing at

7–10 percent pa. There is a very strong feeling against development in parts of the community, and that development per se, needs to be stopped. I believe that is impossible. It is a Councillor's duty to control development, after the community has decided what development is appropriate at the LEP stage.

The system of LEP, DCP's, s. 94 plans, s. 64 plans provides certainty to the whole community. The importance of an LEP cannot be overstated; it is therefore imperative that the community of Palerang make very clear to the next Council what the community wants. It is unreasonable to expect Councillors to vote down developments that are legal under the existing LEP or any future LEP. There are too many instances of planning laws being ignored, for the sake of instant popularity, or money, or some other form of corruption.

I always support the LEP and its associated documents. I fully realise this stance has annoyed a lot of people, and for that I apologise, but for me there was never a choice.

Right from the start I led the rates debate. I am very pleased with the result. In each zone the more you're worth the more you pay.

There have been severe but necessary rate rises. Palerang is now a viable outward looking financially strong unit. I have many times noticed the courtesy that outdoor staff extends to the travelling public. This is a sign of not only compe-

Group A: United Palerang RESPONSES cont'd from p9

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

- Local farmers sent a detailed response to the Rural Discussion Paper which Howard coordinated;
- Paper contained useful information but canvassed a number of moribund rural planning concepts;
- Detailed response was sent to DOP on to the first draft of the Sydney–Canberra Corridor study which contained a number of errors and discussion of outdated concepts of agriculture;
- The final Study is an improvement but is not sensitive enough to the special needs of Palerang.

2) Priority items in LEP

- Zoning based on consultation and mapping

of land use and type;

- Subdivision standards for rural, small rural, life style rural residential and urban areas in the light of settlement history;
- Compatibility of State and Palerang environmental standards;
- Right to farm safeguards;
- Maintenance of town and village streetscapes, greenbelts and buffer zones;
- Neutral or beneficial tests on development;
- Developer contributions.

3) Environmental Responsibility

- Defined by State laws and LEP and Development Control Plans;
- Council plans should not exceed State standards unless an issue is deemed to be unique.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

- Rates cannot be continually raised beyond CPI;
- Review of Council's cost structure is needed;
- Options for wider Council enterprise;
- While s. 94 funds cannot be spent on maintenance and must relate to development impact, their application should have regard to longer term needs;
- Development processing should be speeded

up but with no compromise on standards;

- Local government must receive a greater share of taxation revenue from state and federal sources.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

- Developers decide whether to take the risk;
- The State Government and the community, through the Council and the LEP, set the rules;
- The market sends signals;
- Banning development, is hardly an option given the costs of stagnation and our settlement history;
- Sustainability is universally accepted but is a subjective concept.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

Yes.

7) Other Priorities

- Better parliamentary performance with Councillors representing all areas, not just the area they come from;
- Early completion of LEP with adequate consultation;
- A more responsive forward looking Council which considers wider issues like transport systems, light industry, high tech waste management.

LOUISE MENDAY

Cont'd from p5

of the village. “Bungendore has a fantastic character and we want to maintain that with new buildings”

Alongside, there is a new committee involving the Chamber of Commerce, Councillors and community representatives, who will look at heritage preservation and village upgrade ideas and how to fund them. Things like footpaths to encourage walking and cycling around the village; more options for sporting facilities; retail strategy; public transport.

As for new subdivision sections like Elmslea, well sit down, because you don't hear this often. “We've got to start with the layout

of subdivisions and use the planning instruments to back it up.” How?

Ms Menday suggests orienting subdivision roads to maximise northern exposure (which she says does not have to limit block numbers) and then continue to foster passive solar design with development controls like energy efficient building requirements or discouraging house design with garages rather than windows on the northside. NSW already requires some energy and water efficient elements through BASIX, so the ground has been laid.

Information will be the key to all this she agrees. The *Bulletin* leaves her with a list of questions and she heads off for the next planning meeting.

PALERANG COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Palerang Council's Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 11 September 2008 in Braidwood has been cancelled due to the Local Government General Elections to be held on Saturday 13 September 2008.

Council's next Ordinary meeting will be held in the Council Chambers Bungendore on Thursday, 25 September 2008.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

Council Chambers
Bungendore NSW 2621

Walter Raynolds

Age 58. Married, two grown-up children. Farmer/Contractor. Have served three terms on Tallaganda and one on Palerang. Am generally conservative, enjoy debate, I consider the care and expenditure of public money the most important responsibility one can have.

Answers:

1) Understanding of Strategic Outlines

Council must keep to a balanced budget. Build reserves. Be capable of taking up opportunities presented immediately they appear as they always do for a well run Council.

2) Priority items in LEP

The great strength of the YLEP is averaging and of the TLEP the 40ha policy. Combine those two and you have an excellent start. Add averaging to the village zones plus a lift from 450m to say 600. As well allow rezoning at the entrepreneur's risk, and I would see the future of Palerang quite bright.

3) Environmental Responsibility

Care of the environment is more a responsibility of the State but is controlled and cared for in the conditions of consent, which are quite robust. It took me four years to oblige this Council to insist that fencelines, even as a boundary, not be allowed through remnant native vegetation. That particular condition is now standard practice.

4) Options for Infrastructure Maintenance

Again prudent financial management. The concept of funding depreciation is ridiculous. Far

better to maintain infrastructure through cash flow. In the case of a large expenditure such as a sewerage works, borrow the money and the user pays, or better still, the State. User-pays is a far better principle than today's population pays for tomorrow's.

5) Sustainability Limits or Market Demand

This question immediately brings into question present and past Development, which I would answer, has been, and is sustainable. Further, it is not realistic to stop development. Council's conditions of consent have to be reasonable, necessary, justifiable with all relevant stakeholders considered. Council has no place in a market. Council has no interest in demand/supply. Council is the development control authority only.

6) Record all Councillor Votes

No response.

7) Other Priorities

This council has been frightened of open debate. It has always been my opinion that Council should not go to vote until all Councillors have not only had their say but have all the available information. The right to speak has far too often been curtailed for the very worst reason, i.e. someone simply does not want to hear what someone else has to say and uses the rules to stifle debate. Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questionnaire.

– Walter Raynolds

tence, but a high level of morale right through the entire organisation.

After 15 years as a councillor, I still look forward to the next business paper to see what's on. There is always something to get your teeth into. I create controversy, create debate, I oblige those at the table and the general public to look at and understand the issues.

COMMUNITY FIRST



From left: Judith Turley, Forbes Gordon, Angela Casey, Catherine Moore, Fred Harden, Sarah Merriman, John Taylor, Ian Moy.

COMMUNITY is the element that has been lacking from this council, with some councillors insisting that, as they have been elected, they don't need to listen to their constituents. The Local Environmental Plan (LEP) has been unnecessarily delayed due to poor Council decision-making and as a result the communities' visions for the future of their Local Government Area (LGA) are becoming less and less achievable as development goes full steam ahead, contrary to those visions.

The people comprising the Community First ticket have all been active members of their own communities. With Catherine, who was elected as a Greens councillor in 2004, are Judith Turley, a farmer from Millpost, west of Bungendore; Forbes Gordon, who was until recently a farmer near Braidwood, is one of the found-

ing members of BRASS (Braidwood Residents Association) and now lives in the village; John Taylor, a finance director and accountant from Bungendore and a founding member of the Bungendore Residents Group and Angela Casey, a teacher and member of the Araluen Progress Association.

We need appropriate planning that takes into account the future needs of the people of Palerang and reflects the visions of the various communities. We are not opposed to development – as long as it benefits the community and preferably enhances the environment. Infrastructure provision and maintenance related to any development should be cost neutral or beneficial.

Other goals: reflect the proportion of women in the community by putting women in winnable positions, so the new Palerang Council has a better gender balance than is seen at present; more community involvement, with roving council meetings for real community consultation; respect in meeting practice, while recognising diversity of opinion; more openness and accountability in decision-making, including on campaign financing; try to ensure that any Council workshops are open to the community, with no closed meetings unless absolutely necessary.

– by Catherine Moore for Community First

WHY STAND FOR PALERANG COUNCIL?

IN SHORT, I have the time to devote to the job (about two full days per week) and I have the skills needed. The current crew seems to have tossed in the towel; I'd like a go!

It is a learning experience; I think it takes at least the first four-year term to learn the basics. However I am experienced on Council and also

have 25 years in management positions in the Commonwealth Public Service as a Public Servant (NOT bureaucrat thank you!) with line management experience in the ACTION Bus network and ATSIC amongst others. We have lived in Braidwood for over 20 years, owned a 40-acre block for not long enough, run a business and served our community by being involved in areas such as:

- Secretary to the Braidwood Show Society;
- Founder of the Braidwood Rifle and Pistol Clubs;
- SES volunteer for 15 years including Deputy Regional Controller;
- Shire Councillor for nearly two terms and Deputy Mayor;
- As a sculptor of no renown with BRAG in Braidwood; and
- Regional Firearms examiner and Firearms Licence testing agent.

My wife Barbara has also many years of community involvement including:

- Tallaganda SES Controller;

- Firearms examiner and Firearms Licence testing agent;
- Braidwood Show Society Committee member; and
- Regional convener for NANA native animal rescue group.



I can offer, with Barbara's support, to:

- Take your issues before Council; and
- Listen to your problems and speak personally to you about them.

Palerang needs a new look and a new approach to the problems facing us all. We can not continue with the "Us and Them" sniping that has bogged down the Council for over four years.

Email: kangabill@internode.on.net with your queries and issues.

– Bill Bateman,
14 Mackellar Street
BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622

PROGRESSIVE PALERANG GROUP

THE PROGRESSIVE Palerang Group, 'the Progressives', is a representative, community-conscious Group standing in this Council election. With roots in the rural residential soil of Palerang, the Group is best placed to represent those living in rural residential areas, their neighbours in the villages and the wider rural community.

The Progressives will work to build a Council that is focussed on the well-being of Palerang as a whole, with a forward looking, living, Local Environmental Plan (LEP): a Council working in harmony and consultation with residents to achieve effective, transparent governance and equitable outcomes for all Palerang. Members are Judith Miller, John van der Straaten, Ned Noel, Helen Montesin and Peter Harrison. Members have a solid background in their communities, particularly in the Wamboin and Bywong Community Associations, the Volunteer Rural Fire Service, Landcare, Scouts Australia, show societies and agricultural organisations.

We will work to achieve:

An efficient, representative, accountable Council

- Early completion of a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) appropriate to Palerang in the 21st Century.
- Transparency in Council business and decision-making through improved recording and reporting of significant policies and issues.

A voice for all Palerang residents

- Councillors being readily contactable.
- Regular attendance by Councillors at community meetings and events.
- Regular community briefings by Council.



From left: Ned Noel, Helen Montesin, John van der Straaten, Judith Miller, Peter Harrison.

A harmonious Council

- Adhering to a responsible Code of Conduct reflecting the Palerang Community's desire for integrity, civility and productiveness in Council's proceedings.

A responsive approach to infrastructure, environmental and social concerns

- Meeting community expectations concerning roads, rates and rubbish including:
 - Measures to improve road maintenance including adequate grading.
 - Exploring funding options other than rates and special rate variations.
 - Exploring local options for waste management.
- Recognising environmental concerns, particularly water, land management, energy, and transport.
 - Importance of water management for existing and new developments.
 - Preserve the heritage of Palerang towns.
 - Setting renewable energy goals for Council.

Promoting Palerang as open for business

- Encouraging a stronger local business and agricultural economy and a network for local produce.

– by Judith Miller for Progressive Palerang

Profiles cont'd p12>

STATE AWARD: For local Councillor

AT THE RECENT Shire's Association Conference in held in Sydney, Councillor Ian Marjason was awarded the Medal for Outstanding Service to Local Government. He was also given the title of Emeritus Mayor. The Award which was presented to him by the Governor of New South Wales, Marie Bashir AC was in recognition of his 21 years of service to Local Government through the Councils of Yarrawlumba and Palerang.

The title of Emeritus Mayor was bestowed in recognition of his 6 terms as Mayor. Whilst Councillor Marjason was pleased to accept the award, he said there is still much to be done in Palerang to make it a viable Shire.



NSW Governor Marie Bashir congratulates Ian Marjason (seen left) on his award with Bruce Miller, the President of the Shires Association, looking on.

Councillor Marjason is seeking re-election in the September Elections.

The future is a blank canvas,

but every four years they give us a piece of paper and a pencil.



WE ARE HEADING INTO TIMES of uncertainty but great opportunity. The tragedy at all levels of government today is that it lags behind the community's goodwill to do whatever is necessary to ensure our continued wellbeing.

Palerang Council, perhaps one of the most important organisations representing our rural communities, is well placed to make a vital contribution to a strategic plan for the region's future.

No longer must we see ourselves, or allow governments to see us, as the poor cousins to the city. We are the rich ones. The cities cannot collect their own water, grow their own food, sequester their carbon emissions or generate renewable energy – all this must be done by rural and regional Australia.

Palerang Council should never have to ask its ratepayers to dig deeper into their pockets to pay for the higher costs of providing services in the country. The

best way to avoid a further slugging of ratepayers is by promoting and implementing a plan for Palerang that will convince the Federal and State governments of the benefits of co-operation through funding.

It is not too hard a task. These days, rural organisations are working better than they have ever done in the recent past. Catchment Management Authorities, Landcare groups, residents' action groups, arts, tourism and other organisations are all working towards a better future. We need a council that works with all these other sectors of the community for the benefit of our whole region.

There is also the challenge of finding solutions to the ever-increasing development pressures.

All Palerang residents have the right to expect that the essential nature of their lifestyle is safe from sudden change. The next wave of settlers will

want that guarantee for themselves too, so we may as well get the ground rules established sooner rather than later.

Water supply for future development is a huge concern for both sides of the shire.

If I am elected on September 13, I will work hard to help Palerang develop a plan for future prosperity, environmental sustainability and a good working relationship with all its residents.

I want to feel proud to live in Palerang.



VOTE 1 Paul COCKRAM IN PALERANG

Please take the time and vote only below the line. Mark at least 5 boxes in the order of your choice.

Authorised by Paul Cockram, 64 Budawang Road, Mongarlowe NSW 2622

Toby and Troy: toddlers on the mend

THERE'S A SPECIAL protective feeling to having an ill toddler snuggling into your lap for warmth and comfort. So if that toddler happens to be a wombat, well, the feeling is much the same! And if that toddler's little mate is scooting around, jumping up next to you for attention, having a tummy rub, jumping into the beanbag or getting busy unravelling the shoelaces, that is pretty familiar stuff too.

In fact Toby, who has an intestinal obstruction and Troy who was orphaned by the roadside are as cute as puppies and arguably more focused as we discovered on a recent visit to dedicated Wildcare members Lesley and Phil Machin who prepared the following article.

It beggars belief that some people kill these protected native animals for sport or because they are a 'nuisance'.

One Wildcare person talking to a school group was told: "We shove poison down the wombat holes or shoot them because they make holes that trip-up our horses." Another anecdote involves a hobby farmer who thought it was a good idea to pour sump oil down a wombat hole and then was surprised that an oil-slicked wombat was staggering around, still alive. Now we hear charges (via *Canberra Times*, *Braidwood Times*) that wombats around Braidwood are not only being regularly run over by people in a hurry on the Kings Highway and local roads, or shot on sight by farmers, but have become the targets of thrill-seekers wielding cars and guns.

What is it with some Australians and this intense disrespect for our native species whom we like to call 'pests' and nuisances while we cosy up with our cat, dog or horse?

It certainly baffles the Machins who hale from the old country, England, and now tend to be houseful of orphaned kangaroos, wombats, lizards and, the odd ones out, a quartet of once homeless geese. Along with millions of

international tourists they love our unique native wildlife.

Indeed, looking around, it seems that rural residential western Palerang, where they live, is becoming ever more of a haven from the surrounding dangerous rural lands for wildlife including the Eastern Gray Kangaroo, Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, lizards and many species of birds: something the tourist-minded entrepreneurs of the district might keep in mind. Other rural residential parts of Palerang like Carwoola and Burra promise the same.

Meanwhile Wildcare and the Machins are working with the relatively new Native Animal Rescue Group (NARG) around Braidwood to care for wombats. Currently there are 41 wombat refugees in care with NARG and 10 with Wildcare – all to be returned skillfully to the wild, a story in itself.

Braidwood wildlife vet Howard Ralph, who works with both groups, says there are more injured animals brought in all the time both because of increasing human pressure but also because of increasing human kindness. We'll feature Howard's work next issue.

– Maria Taylor



'Bo' a full-sized Wombat that was a dumped unwanted pet now learning the ropes as to how to be a wild animal. Photo: Phil Machin

WOMBATMANIA: Day in the life of a wombat carer

by Phil Machin

ERIC AND ELLA are two 'Common Wombats' typically found in our region who came into care after their mothers were found dead on the roadside. But the name 'Common Wombats' (bare-nosed wombats) gives the wrong impression, as they are becoming much less common in many areas.

Orphaned wombats can be quite small when they are rescued from a mother's pouch and they need specially formulated milk to grow. Initially they will need feeding up to six times a day, but when they get to the size of a bag of sugar this can be reduced to three times a day. Wombats are grass eating animals and they eventually wean themselves off mother's milk at about 12 months. In the wild they would remain with their mother until they are independent at about 18 months. During that time they would grow to weigh anything up to 20 kilograms. Eventually they can get up to 35 kilograms.

Lesley the daily 'mum' has learned that "wombats are very intelligent, naughty and cute. At a young age they are mischievous and, like young children, they exude bags of energy running around and bumping into things only to collapse and then sleep. Whilst they are known as bulldozers-of-the-bush, they can move very quickly over short distances."

But don't be tempted to rescue and keep Wombats as a pet. Eventually they will outgrow your home and it is then difficult to rehabilitate them and it is cruel just to dump unwanted animals.

Cosy pouches and pairing up

"Baby Wombats are looked after in cosy material pouches that can be hung up on a peg. We sometimes use an incubator to help very

small ones continue to grow. Once they are more mobile they can be paired off and raised in a large box with sheepskin bags used as burrows. It is good to pair animals up together, so they know what another Wombat looks like! And they seem to be more content."

At about 8 kilograms and depending on the season they are placed in outside enclosures to get used to the outside world. "Wombats are released between 25–30 kilograms and this is done by walking the animal over the area it will be released into and allowing it to come and go from the enclosure on its own. Ideally there will be empty Wombat burrows for the newcomers to take over." The success in releasing hand-reared animals is difficult to estimate as it is difficult to track animals.

Whilst 'Common Wombats' can be found in many areas of the Palerang Shire – particularly in the east, we don't know how many there are and with urban encroachment, farming, natural predators and the mangle we could quickly see the species at risk. We know so little about their behaviour that it would be a tragedy if our local Wombats were put at risk as has happened to the Northern and Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats in other parts of the country.

Stop and check dead animals for babies

Stop and check dead and injured animals on the road to see if they have a young Joey onboard. If you do find a Joey be very careful in how you extract the baby from the mother's pouch to avoid further injury. Sometimes Joeys will be outside the pouch of its dead mother and be hanging around nearby.

Contact NARG tel 4846 1900 (Braidwood) or Wildcare elsewhere in Palerang tel 6299 1966 for advice.

Profiles cont'd from p11

GROUP B : GET THE BALANCE RIGHT



From left: Simon Blake, Richard Holding, Terry Bransdon, Keith France and Mike McColl.

Group B members, Terry Bransdon, Mike McColl, Richard Holding, Keith France and Simon Blake want balanced and fair representation for Palerang. We offer new members with a range of experience to Council as well as an effective councillor with experience and corporate knowledge who understands what Council can and can't do under NSW legislation as well being familiar with the complex legal environment in which the Council operates.

We reject the need for more special rate variations to raise income. Ratepayers have paid over two years for general rate increases from \$4.3m to \$6.5m achieving the GM's goal

of seeking a 25 percent special rate variation. We need to work cleverly for extra funding and start by establishing a council entrepreneurial committee. There are many ideas on ways to finance much-needed town infrastructure, sports fields and improved amenities for the large Palerang equine community.

We want early completion of the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), so there are balanced laws across the whole shire. There must be extensive consultation with communities to complete it, to ensure residents' values are maintained and future development is sustainable.

Another key aim of Group B is to get a balance of behaviour and service in Council. We want professional conduct by councillors under improved control from the chair, with enforcement of the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

Group B: Get the Balance Right wants a culture of first-class customer service. The attitude of some Palerang Council staff reflect badly on the majority who are dedicated to the work they do, and do it well. We will implement a service charter and a monthly staff awards program to boost employee morale.

Finally, we want to join other councils and face the challenge of climate change. At the final meeting of the outgoing Council, Terry moved that Palerang develop a Climate Change Policy.

– by Terry Bransdon for Get the Balance Right

PAUL COCKRAM INDEPENDENT



WE ARE HEADING into times of uncertainty but great opportunity. The tragedy at all levels of government today is that it lags behind the community's goodwill to do whatever is necessary to ensure our continued wellbeing.

Palerang Council, perhaps one of the most important organisations representing our rural communities, is well placed to make a vital contribution to a strategic plan for the region's future. No longer must we see ourselves, or allow governments to see us, as the poor cousins to the city.

We are the rich ones. The cities cannot collect their own water, grow their own food, sequester their carbon emissions or generate renewable energy – all this must be done by rural and regional Australia.

Palerang Council should never have to ask its ratepayers to dig deeper into their pockets to pay for the higher costs of providing services in the country. The best way to avoid a further slugging of ratepayers is by promoting and implementing a plan for Palerang that will convince the Federal and State governments of the benefits of co-operation through funding.

It is not too hard a task. These days, rural organisations are working better than they have ever done in the recent past. There is also the challenge of finding solutions to the ever-increasing development pressures.

All Palerang residents have the right to expect that the essential nature of their lifestyle is safe from sudden change. The next wave of settlers will want that guarantee for themselves too, so we may as well get the ground rules established sooner rather than later.

STOP PRESS:

High noon for wombats?

"In reference to p.14, no. 6, Cr Harrex' statement that some people in Ballalaba have a licence to shoot 300 wombats and others have a licence to shoot only 200, I called the Department of Environment and Climate Change in Queanbeyan and was informed that licences are issued regionally, based on individual assessments made on each application, with various criteria applied, including the size of the block, how many animals are there, etc. I was also informed that while licences may be issued for between 1 and 10, no licences have been issued from Queanbeyan for the shooting of such a large number of wombats and if these are the numbers that are being shot, it is illegal and an enforceable offence."

– Cr Catherine Moore at the August 28 meeting of Palerang Council

Water supply for future development is a huge concern for both sides of the shire.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected on September 13, I will work hard to help Palerang develop a plan for future prosperity, environmental sustainability and a good working relationship with all its residents. I want to feel proud to live in Palerang.

– Paul Cockram

BUNGENDORE TAXIS & HIRE CARS

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We know where you live!

Koonaburra Vineyard and Nico's Café

(A self portrait by Shawn and Nico Duynhoven)

1997 WAS THE YEAR it all started. We bought a block of land in Bywong with good soil because we wanted to grow something. Nico built the house and the cellar door/café. Initially we planted 280 hazelnut trees followed by Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling vines. It took three years before we picked our first crop and that was with the help of friends. It wasn't long before the grapes became our main focus with a total area of 8 acres by 2004. Last month, Council approved Nico's Café, in the same building as the new cellar door – the grand climax of our endeavours.

(The vineyard name comes from when the Duynhoven's son was small and couldn't pronounce Kookaburra.)

What was your philosophy or intent in establishing this business?

We wanted to do something to spend more time together after being in home-building and nursing. Nico has a farming background and loves cooking exciting food and entertaining; hence the café, while Shawn gets pleasure out of creating a welcoming atmosphere. We wanted to provide unusual varieties of wines – so, as well as locally better known wines, we produce Sparkling Merlot, an Ice Wine from Riesling and a wooded Sauvignon Blanc.

Why Palerang and Bungendore? And do you employ local people?

We always wanted to live in a rural setting so when we left Sydney in 1986 we bought land in the Palerang area. It is very convenient living so close to Bungendore and Canberra. We love the visible seasonal changes and the dry climate. In the future, if Shawn starts doing small periods of nursing work in the outback, we envisage employing local people to help.

Who is your target market?

Our initial market was the people in the area so that they could dine out locally and not have a long way to drive home. Now we also seek to attract Canberra people and



Photos: Marcelle Martins

tourists. We already get a lot of Sydney travellers who are visiting Canberra for the weekend.

What are you learning of interest to other budding entrepreneurs about doing business based in Palerang?

To set up our business required a lot of hard work and it was very draining because we were both also working full time. A lot of research is also needed and a business plan.

There are also a lot of requirements of the local Council that need to be met and this is not a fast process.

What do you see as the major challenges still facing your business vision?

Marketing is our next big hurdle. Now that the Café is completed, we will market the whole enterprise as a single unit. Marketing will bring in customers and turn our vineyard and café into an iconic place in the area. We do not wish to be just another place to eat; we wish to create a very pleasant holistic experience for whoever visits us.

What is the take home message you would like people to remember about your business?

We eat out a lot and realise that a restaurant may have wonderful food but if there is no atmosphere or warmth then it is not a

total experience. So atmosphere is important, plus good food and wine and a feeling of being welcomed and well looked after. Another message is "keep things simple". It is hard enough making a successful business so why complicate things!



What is Ice Wine?

A sweet desert wine consumed chilled.

The main producers of ice wine are Germany and Canada. It is unsure which country it originated from but probably Germany around 1794.

Grapes are left on the vines and are only picked when frozen when the temperature is -8°C to -14°C.

They are pressed while still frozen, with the frozen water driven out as shards of ice.

The remaining juice is left to settle for about four days. Special yeast is added and it is left to ferment for up to four months. Because of the weather conditions it is made differently in this area, using freezing elements to remove the water. It is a real treat!

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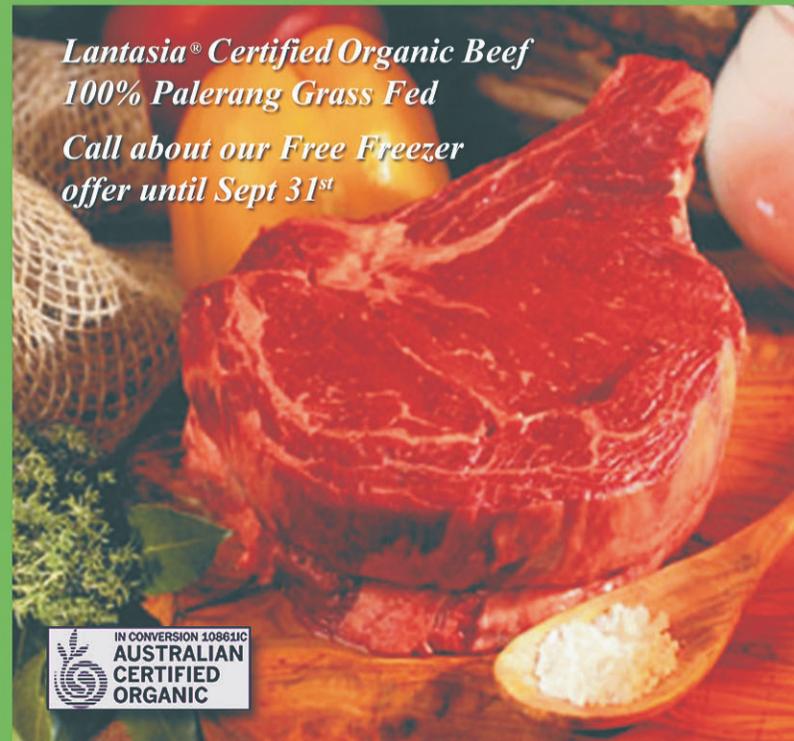
Landtasia Ranch – Healthy Food For Your Family and the Environment



Australia's Open Garden Scheme and Landtasia proprietor Richard Graham are opening the Landtasia Wetlands to the public on October 4th & 5th. The opening will include tastings of Landtasia Organic Beef and Apple Cider, music, nature readings, and guided tours of the wetland.

Landtasia Wetland Park and Sanctuary is the extraordinary result of combining the aesthetics of landscaping with soil erosion remediation. Bookings through Australia's Open Garden Scheme are essential for this event as places are limited. There is an admission of \$8.00 with the proceeds going to Australia's Open Garden Scheme and local charities.

Bookings can be made at www.opengarden.org.au/events/nsw.htm or 02-6230-3143.



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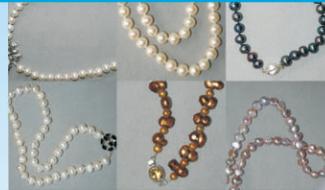


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NEIGHBOURS

We are friends and neighbours, located at the Multi Award Winning Old Bus Depot Markets, in Kingston.
You'll find us on the lower ground floor (over by the windows) every Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

GEARY'S GAP PONY CLUB TURNS 30 THIS YEAR

GEARY'S GAP PONY CLUB was affiliated with Pony Club Australia NSW in June 1978 and evolved from an unofficial group called the Creekborough Riding Club which had begun in February 1977. The new Club was accepted into Zone 16 to serve the Geary's Gap area between Bungendore, Gundaroo and Sutton Villages. Zone 16 covers the area bounded by Yass, Canberra, Michelago and Bungendore.

In the early days two rallies were held each month, one a working rally covering syllabus work for Pony Club Australia Certificates and the second rally generally taking the form of some kind of activity such as treasure hunts or camps. A stock camp was held biannually and several packhorse trips into the hills above Lake George occurred with the assistance of Jack Maloney and Les Reardon.

Geary's Gap and Bungendore Pony Club ran the first Zone Endurance ride in 1982. With the support of ACT Orienteering the Club pioneered Pony-O in NSW - ie orienteering on horseback.

In 1984 the Club obtained community grounds in Birriwa Road and by 1988 had erected facilities. The Community Hall was built in 1988 and pony club members still utilize it.

Many things have changed over the last 30 years, however the aim is still to provide the basics in riding and care of the horse, and introduce as wide a variety of horse-related activities as possible still remains. Pony club is not a substitute for professional instruction. Some instructors are parents and the clubs relies heavily on individuals who are prepared to donate their time and expertise.

At the end of September this year the Club is going to resurrect an old tradition and hold a trail ride into the hills above Lake George.

Are you a past member? Get in touch for the Jamboree 13 and 14 September

To celebrate our 30-year anniversary GGPC have combined with Zone 16 for a double celebration - 50 Year Anniversary of Zone 16 and 30 Year Anniversary Geary's Gap Pony Club. Zone 16 will be hosting a Jamboree with a huge program of riding events to run on the 13 and 14 September at Bungendore Showground.

If you are a past member of GGPC and are interested in attending the celebration 3 course dinner and bush



Suzanne Ridley and GGPC members loading ponies for Canberra Show 1979. Photo: Suzanne Ridley

dance to be held at the Bungendore Showground on the 13th September please contact Kerry Cox (Club

Senior Instructor) on 6230 3387 or Leigh-Anne Barlow (Club Secretary) on 6238 3376.

Painting the Shire

IMAGINE WEE RAA WAA without its three sets of local government borders.

In his solo exhibition now on at Collector Gallery, landscape painter Ross Andrews brushes aside the formal boundaries and celebrates 'shires of the mind'.

"These are the 'shires' that we belong to as communities. They're also special places that artists seek out for their imaginary possibilities," he says.

"My exhibition's all about 'shires' - but it has nothing to do with local government.

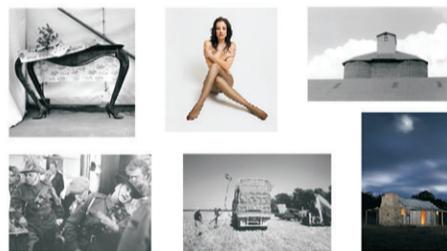
"Wee Raa Waa Shire, for me, is an old place of landscapes, bordered by spacious skies, the ghostly trees of its woodlands, sudden escarpments, cloud-etched hills, and horizon-raking grassland."

Ross seeks out his special shires across South East Australia. He finishes many of his paintings *en plein air*. Or he completes the works as re-imagined landscapes in his Canberra studio.

"Each shire I paint is where I'd rather be - to escape the city. These are the places I love," Ross says.

The Shire Paintings: Wee Raa Waa and Beyond is now showing at the Collector Gallery.

All welcome to opening from 2pm Saturday 6 September - runs till 19 October. Open Saturdays 1-5.30pm, Sundays 11am-5.30pm.



11 JULY - 12 OCTOBER, 2008

11-29 July - Sonia Turner - DECADE

1-18 August - Eve Conroy MOUNTAIN HUTS BY NIGHT

28 Aug-16 Sept - Don Burrows & Stan d'Argeavel - COUNTERPOINT

28 Aug-16 Sept - Robert Billington - A PHOTOGRAPH IS MISSING

19 Sept - 12 Oct - Lisa McKelvie - CELEBRITY: BUNGENDORE

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- Lex Marinus

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- Columbia Chronicle

"The Queen of Bingo is a hoot!"
- Sacramento News & Review

Very funny... had me laughing helplessly"
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- North Magazine, San Diego

"Silliness and a frozen turkey..."
- New York Village Voice

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and **KELLY NASH**
(The Condom Dialogues,
Neighbours, Romeo and Juliet)

Weds 24-Sat 27 Sept @ 8pm Thurs 25, Sat 27 & Sun 28 Sept @ 2pm



Bookings:
Ph 6298 0290 or
www.theq.net.au



Friday 5 – Sunday 7

Canberra Timber and Working with Wood Show

EPIC, Northbourne Ave Canberra, 9am–5pm. Vivien Laycock a local of Bungendore in conjunction with the Woodcraft Guild of ACT will be demonstrating her unique talents in the field of pyrography. An art form where wood is decorated with various burn marks.

Saturday 6 – October 19

The Shire Paintings: Wee Raa Waa and Beyond

Now showing at the Collector Gallery, open Saturdays 1–5.30pm, Sundays 11am–5.30pm. Acrylics, Conte, ink and brush. Landscape painter Ross Andrews re-imagines our concept of a 'shire'. His works celebrate Wee Raa Waa and other 'painters' shires' across South-East Australia. All welcome to opening from 2pm Saturday 6 September – runs till 19 October.

Saturday 6

Captains Flat Markets

Captains Flat Community Hall, Foxlow St, 10am–2pm. Assortment of crafts, general stalls and trash and treasure.

Wednesday 10

Beginners Yoga Classes

The Yoga Studio, 118 Ellendon St, 1–2.30pm. Classes will be held each Wednesday commencing 10 September. For more info call 6238 0845.

Friday 12

The Carpenters

Playing at The Q in Queanbeyan from the 12–13 September. For more info see p15.

Saturday 13

Palerang Council Elections

Geary's Gap Pony Club 30th Anniversary Jamboree

Bungendore Showground, 13 and 14 September. GGPC have combined with Zone 16 for a double 50th and 30th anniversary celebration. If you're a past

member and are interested in attending the 3 course dinner and bush dance to be held at the Bungendore Showground on the 13th please contact Kerry Cox on 6230 3387 or Leigh-Anne Barlow on 6238 3376.

Tuesday 16

Storytime at Bungendore Library

Aimed at children aged 2–5 years, stories starts at 10.45am and are followed by a craft activity. Children are encouraged to borrow picture books or DVDs after the session. Storytime is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. (except school holidays). To register contact Susan on 6238 0784.

Saturday 20

Bungendore Music and Poetry Night

Heritage on the Square, 2.30–4pm. The stage will be open to a variety of performers and anyone who wants to have a go. Food and drinks will also be available. For more details call Lorraine on 6238 1903 or 0404 188 524.

Wamboin Market

Wamboin community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–12noon. Locally grown produce including fresh vegetables, eggs, seeds and selected plants.

Native Bush Foods – Cooking Classes

Le Tres Bon Restaurant, Malbon St Bungendore, 10.30am. Learn and enjoy cooking with pepper berries and fresh and dried native pepper leaf. Kangaroo with native Pepper, Thai pork ribs with

native Pepper, Bush Tomato and native pepper salsa. Cost is \$80 per class.

Sunday 21

Bungendore Market

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, 9am–3pm. A variety of stalls with arts and crafts, local produce as well as trash and treasure.

Greening Australia Whole Paddock Rehabilitation Scheme

For landowners with 10–30 hectares of land they would like to set aside for rehabilitation. The WOPR (whole of paddock rehabilitation) scheme. For more details contact Graham Fifield on 6253 3035, gfifield@act.greeningaustralia.org.au

Wednesday 24

The Queen of Bingo

Playing at The Q in Queanbeyan from the 24–27 September. For more info see p15.

Saturday 27

Braidwood Market

Ryrie Park, Braidwood 8am start. Goodies include local plants, natural products, crafts and cooking.

Annual Landcare Awards

The Murrumbidgee CMA will partner with Murrumbidgee Landcare to host the 2008 Landcare awards later this year. If you would like to nominate or would like more info about the categories contact the Murrumbidgee CMA on 6932 3232.

PLAN AHEAD:

October 3 (5pm)

Entries close for the GUNDAROO BUSH FESTIVAL TELSTRA ART SHOW

Calling all artists... The theme is *Creative Country* enabling artists to take a broad imaginative approach. The aim of the show is to celebrate the work of all artists and showcase the work of artists living in country villages, towns and rural areas, in particular.

Major prize valued at \$1,000 with six other divisional prizes including Most Outstanding Young Artist Award and Most Outstanding Country Artist Award. Artwork can be watercolour, mixed media, oil, acrylic, pastel, photography, glass, ceramic/pottery, textiles, woodwork, jewellery and sculpture. Event **Sunday 9 November 2008**, Gundaroo Village. Contact Elizabeth Dangerfield on 6236 8362, email: lizmikem@aapt.net.au; or see the Gundaroo Bush Festival website for details www.gundarobushfestival.org.au.

Friday 24 October

Bungendore Carers Group Annual Outing

CWA Rooms Gibraltar Street, bus leaves at 10am, returns by 2pm. The Bungendore Carers' Group has arranged a lake cruise and luncheon. Any carers of disabled adults and children, or frail and elderly persons, are welcome to join our friendly group. This outing has been made possible through generous donations from community groups. Contact Sally Phillips on 4849 4580 before 17 October.

Collector Gallery

Ross Andrews

The Shire Paintings Wee Raa Waa and Beyond

Landscapes – Acrylics ● Inks ● Conté

6 September – 19 October

COLLECTOR GALLERY

Next door to the Bushranger Hotel

Saturdays 1 to 5.30pm ● Sundays 11 to 5.30pm



Send 'What's On' info and community notices to... Chrissy@palerangbulletin.com.au

SPRING BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN BRAIDWOOD

by our Braidwood correspondent – who has done such a fine roundup we are not pulling it apart into our regular 'What's On' format

Fair, concert and dance: Sept 6

The Anglican Church's Daffodil Fair will be the first occasion to welcome spring in Braidwood. Held on Saturday, September 6, from 9am–2pm in Ryrie Park, it will represent all that one expects from a good old-fashioned country fair. Spring flower displays, bulbs for sale, best sponge cake competition, raffles, children's art and biscuit prizes and other surprises.

The fair will be followed at 2.30pm by a free Spring Concert by many of Braidwood's talented musicians in the historic Charles Blackett designed St Andrews Church, renowned for its excellent acoustics. And in the evening you might like to join the social whirl

at the Braidwood Fireman's Black and White Ball commencing at 8pm at the Garanvale Woolshed (Ph: 4842 2427).

Movies: Sept 7

The Gail Nichols exhibition *A Sense of Place* closes on Sunday, September 7. The Braidwood Film Club movies for September will be *The Gay Divorcee* on Saturday, September 13, and *The Monkey's Mask* on Saturday, September 20. Both screenings in The National Theatre, 7pm. Everyone welcome to join and membership can be paid for the remainder of the year at the door. The pensioner matinee at 1.30pm on September 20 is the 1938 movie *Holiday* starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant.

Folk Music: Sept 18

A night's entertainment will be offered by The Braidwood Folk Music Club's talented guest artists John Broomhall (guitar, mandolin), Johnny Spillane (whistle) and Dave De Santi (accordion) on Thursday evening, September 18, at the Anglican Hall in Wilson Street, Braidwood. The entertainment starts at 7.30pm and entry is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. The Braidwood Folk Music Club is well known for its long-running folk music festival *Music at the Creek* which is held each November in Majors Creek.

Antique Fair: Oct 3–5

The fourth annual Braidwood Antiques Fair will be held to coincide with the October long weekend in the National Theatre in Wallace Street and will be open on Friday night from 5–9pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 9am–5pm. Once again the funds raised will aid the Braidwood Hospital Fundraising Appeal.

Local and regional antique dealers will display furniture from the Edwardian, Victorian

and other design eras together with a great array of desirable collectables. It will also be possible to place items for sale on consignment.

Of particular interest will be the stand of local newcomers to Braidwood's historic homes Tidmarsh and The Long Barn. The Kendalls will exhibit for sale European Provincial pine furniture together with industrial architectural items, garden antiques and unusual collectables from around the world that will blend well with Australia's contemporary design features.

Stage show: Oct 10–11

Are You Being Served? based on the well-known British television series, is the latest offering from the Braidwood Music Club. Best known for its hilarious interpretation of 'Cosi', the BMC brings its latest production at The Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11. Tickets at \$15 available from the Braidwood Pharmacy from September 1. Book early as seats will be in demand.

Fun and success with your horse the gentle way

LOOKING FOR A WAY to improve your relationship and riding without the need for punishment?

Indulge in a five-day TTEAM International clinic with Robyn Hood, Co-founder and sister of Linda Tellington-Jones, at the Canberra Equestrian Centre, November 8–12.

Taught by 1,000 certified practitioners in 26 countries, TTEAM presents a gentle, non-invasive, low stress approach to improve performance, build rapport, overcome problems and enhance overall wellbeing of your horse.

Applied by seasoned professionals (including members of the Olympic Equestrian teams) and complete novices, TTEAM consists of three distinct parts: the TTouch, which includes a variety of specific movements to help increase body awareness, well being and nerve impulses to the brain; TTEAM ground work to improve balance, coordination, confidence, willingness and ability; and Riding with Awareness.

The changes after sometimes as little as 30

minutes of TTouch and groundwork have to be seen to be believed. TTEAM also improves the balance, coordination and confidence of the handler/rider!

Places are limited to maximum 18 participants with maximum 12 horses, and they are filling fast. People attending without a horse will participate in the TTouch and groundwork on the participating equines and can apply their new skills at home.

You may also attend as an observer. Prices are \$650 with and \$600 without horse, with a further \$50 discount for full prepayments received by 15 September. Agistment is not included in price.

Observers attend for \$30/day for the first two days and \$25 per day thereafter.

Check out www.ttouch.com.

For bookings and information contact Brigitte Heyer, Coordinator TTEAM Clinic Canberra, on heyertart@gmail.com or phone 6238 2141.



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