

Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Palerang - Bungendore and Queanbeyan

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

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Modern-day gold rush, rich pickings but community is torn

by Maria Taylor

PARADISE LOST? or, 'get out of the way of my investment/business prospects'? That about covers the more polarised local reactions in Majors Creek to the prospect of a significant gold-mining operation starting up within 800 metres of the nearest dwelling and within 1,500 metres of much of the village.

In the middle sits the Majors Creek Community Liaison Group whose stated aim is the best outcome for the village without taking sides on the mine's establishment. The group has come together to get the conditions right.

That opportunity will be presenting itself shortly as the mandatory Environmental Assessment report is released for public comment. This is the final hurdle before a mine license and development plans for Cortona Resource can be finalised.

Topping the agendas of concern for the community and Palerang Council appear to be impacts on land values, water extraction and potential contamination, noise levels and timing (will drilling and trucking go on day and night?) plus the impact of increased truck traffic on local roads.

According to Liaison Group spokesman Bill Waterhouse, there are also potential pluses for Majors Creek village and Braidwood including possible jobs, accommodation and business upswing, more pupils for the Braidwood School and an upgraded electricity supply for the village.

All of this is a textbook case of what has to be considered in a modern-day goldrush – a far cry from the open slather of the first two gold discoveries in the area in 1870–91 and 1914–16, when alluvial gold extraction fever was such that it has since been blamed for permanently damaging the downstream Araluen Creek.

But unlike the citizen prospectors of yesteryear who tried their luck by the thousands with pick and shovel, the modern prospector can buy shares in a mining company.

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**Rising theatre star
Tommy Murphy**
Local setting for new play
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Photo: Trudy Taylor

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Tommy Murphy: his name in lights

by Nichole Smith

AT ONLY 31, Queanbeyan's Tommy Murphy is one of a new generation of leading lights in Australian theatre.

The multi award-winning playwright has seen his latest work open at the Belvoir Theatre in Sydney to much acclaim, coming hot on the heels of his recent success in London's West End with his highly regarded adaptation, *Holding the Man*.

Gwen in Purgatory was one of this year's most anticipated new Australian works and on top of its universal themes of change, memory and family, its set in Murphy's former hometown of Queanbeyan.

The play centres on 90-year-old Gwen and her relocation to a new home on the edge of the fast-growing city. According to Murphy, the opportunity to use this area's distinctive landscape as a metaphor was too good to pass up.

"This is one of the reasons why my latest play is set in Queanbeyan; it offers a story of

change. Gwen has lived a long life in Queanbeyan. I imagine she saw Canberra appear on the horizon. Gwen is a survivor and she confronts change head on in the last remaining years of her life."

Murphy says he is proud of his hometown, and his family's long-standing links to the region, although this is the first time the playwright has specifically chosen to use the city as a setting.

"I find the region endlessly inspiring. Writing about your hometown can be a bit exposing and you want to be truthful. I think I baulked at that in the past. Now that I have explicitly set a play in Queanbeyan I'll probably do it again."

For Murphy, the first taste of writing success came while still a teenager; at only 16, his work *For God, Queen and Country* was staged by the Canberra Youth Theatre, going on to win both the ACT and the Sydney Theatre Company's Young Playwrights' Awards.

THERE'S GOLD IN THEM HILLS

Exploration at Majors Creek promises a very rich deposit at a time when gold prices are at all-time highs. Here's what an investment analyst reported in September 2009 about Perth-based Cortona Resources local find.

MANAGING DIRECTOR Peter van der Borgh reckons Majors Creek is about to re-emerge as a gold camp. He can say re-emerge, as back in 1870-91 and 1914-16, more than 1.25 million ounces of gold were plucked by old-timers from alluvial workings and hard-rock operations.

In its revival plan, Cortona's initial focus has been on Dargues Reef where it has proved up a 'starter' high-grade (6.2 grams of gold a tonne) resource of 286,000 ounces.

It can be called a starter resource because nothing below 450 metres depth has been included, even though the granite that hosts the

MODERN-DAY GOLD RUSH

Cont'd from p1

Water use is still a leading issue, and an interesting one in times of climate change. Gold mining uses a lot of water, and heavy metal contaminated water must be held in a tailings dam – the location of which, as proposed in a headwaters branch of Majors Creek, does not please Council.

Otherwise the mining operation is entitled to its landholder water rights like everyone else. Bill Waterhouse notes that Cortona has bought up large tracts of land presumably to secure those riparian water rights next to the creek.

Noise is likely to be the biggest issue for those who are facing a major mining operation next door in a quiet bush village, regardless of state-of-the-art environmental safeguards and remediations (1,000s of trees have reportedly already been planted).

"The exploratory stage used seven drilling rigs and the noise was horrendous for the near neighbours," said Bill Waterhouse. "I could hear it three kilometres away." That's where talk turns to 'paradise lost', and why people moved to Majors Creek in the first place. The minimal question for the construction stage he says is what hours the rigs and trucks will be operating – daylight hours or 24/7.

The NSW Environmental Defenders Office has responded to quite a number of queries from residents concerned about the likely impacts on their environment, property values and amenity, according to lawyer Kirsty Ruddock. She said the free legal advisory service is available to inform residents planning submissions to the Environmental Assessment in the 30 days allowed for responses.



mineralisation probably plunges on for at least another five kilometres or so.

A scoping study... found an initial \$30 million underground development would pull in 188,000 ounces of gold over 4½ years at a cash operating cost of \$A470 an ounce.

Using a gold price of \$A1,150, the starter project would throw off a \$68.4 million pre-tax profit over the period. The projected internal rate of return at 68 percent is as good as gets in the sector.

First production would be possible by the second quarter of 2011, by which time there is every chance that any one of a number of other development opportunities in the shadow of the Dargues Reef headframe will have come into the picture.

One of those could be Tory Boy, two kilometres north of Dargues Reef, where Cortona has been pulling some exciting exploration results.

— Barry FitzGerald, 28 September 2009, at www.theage.com.au

"There is no doubt that I am a playwright because of the nurture and opportunity afforded to me in Queanbeyan. When I was a teenager I answered an ad in the *Queanbeyan Age* seeking volunteers for a community theatre production. I was struck by the thrill of staging the play; it involved people performing with voices I recognised in front of people I knew."

From this springboard the emerging talent would go on to study at both the University of Sydney and the National Institute of Dram-

Ageing in the 21st century: a path not previously trodden



PEOPLE ARE LIVING longer, in larger numbers than ever before in history. But, as the generation now in their '50s and '60s are learning, there are daunting challenges facing their ageing parents – personally with health issues both mental and physical, and with available supports provided by governments at all levels.

In reality, matching services to individual needs often doesn't accord with the theories sketched out in government bureaucracies. The truth is that older people have their own ideas of when they want help, who they want helping them, how and where – in the home or in a residence. Giving up independence in the family home, despite increasing disability, is a huge issue that comes up again and again and challenges not only the elderly but their families.

Meanwhile, outside the urban centres, services and suitable accommodation are often hard to find. Bungendore General Practitioner Marjorie Cross has spoken of this in regard to both aged care (see *Your Say* p4) and mental health services, the latter of particular concern also for young people. "For a growing community, the western side of Palerang is really poorly

atic Art (NIDA) before producing *Strangers in Between* while resident writer at Griffin Theatre Company from 2004 to 2006. This would win the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Best Play in 2006 and Murphy would take the title again in 2007 with his adaptation for the stage of the memoir of actor Tim Conigrave *Holding the Man*, a comic, tragic and very human story about love, life and loss in the time of AIDS.

Murphy is one of the youngest recipients of the award, and the only playwright to win in successive years. The play went on to become one of the most successful Australian theatre productions of recent times and Griffin's highest-grossing production to date.

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served," she says, pointing out that services and accommodation are concentrated in Queanbeyan and Braidwood.

Reviewing Tommy Murphy's play *Gwen in Purgatory* for the online journal Crikey.com, Lloyd Bradford Syke describes the heart-wrenching realities of Gwen's last posting before the end game:

"Gwen is the story, I suspect, of every family. Or is it just mine? ... 'Stubborn' and 'fiercely independent' is how the 90-year-old matriarch is described by Gwen's neurotic daughter Peggy. Gwen's offspring have managed to convince her to move out of her old home and into a brand new place, in Queanbeyan. The play opens at this point, with Gwen's armchair surrounded by boxes. The phone is on the counter and begins to ring. Gwen slowly lifts herself out of her chair and hobbles over to it, but it stops ringing just as she's about to pickup. Predictably, she returns to her chair, at which point the phone rings again. Yes, predictably, but it still, somehow, manages to tickle the funny bone; probably thanks to the resonant familiarity and reality of the situation."

— Maria Taylor

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A COUNTRY PRACTICE

Challenges for older people staying in the community

Recently Bungendore's long-time GP, Dr Marjorie Cross, addressed a luncheon held for local seniors. In her view, there are considerable challenges facing the elderly in the village and the surrounding rural residential communities. Despite significant population growth, western Palerang finds itself without the support offered in the urban centres or even in Braidwood and its surrounds, since history and circumstances have placed a hospital and aged care residential options there. Here are some excerpts from her talk focusing on Bungendore.

EXPERIENCE TELLS me what a caring community this is. The stories of people actively caring for others are legendary. I mean neighbours showing concern and actively caring for those living alone who are in difficult or unhappy circumstances. We respect our elders and their wisdom.

A community that cares should be aged-care friendly with affordable or acceptable housing.

The expressed philosophy of all levels of government is that the aged should have every opportunity to stay in their own homes. And be cared for when the time comes in their own homes or as close to their own families and community as possible. The Palerang social plan says as much.

There is a significant 'but' that applies to Bungendore and it is really unfair.

They (govt) say: you're so close to Queanbeyan, we don't need to plan for you. For example, an ambulance station or aged care facility, you can be picked up by ambulance from Queanbeyan or Braidwood. You can go to Queanbeyan or Braidwood if you need Respite or Aged Care. Local planning does not provide for aging in place in any substantial way and budgets that should be directed to maintenance at the very least are directed elsewhere.

Dr Cross questions the popular concept of keeping the existing village character and amenity by setting relatively large minimum lot sizes. She argues this is not 'user-friendly' to seniors who can no longer maintain large lots and should be allowed to subdivide their family block to smaller spaces. How to maintain the village character and have lot size/building flexibility as well, is one of the ongoing community arguments in Bungendore and a challenge facing Council and residents alike.

Footpaths and supported accommodation

Seemingly, local government for this village is absolved from maintaining footpaths... far less put in any news ones that might be suitable for walking aids (*some footpaths are now going into Ellendon St, but not obviously elsewhere*). None of the Councillors live in the village – tell them to walk around town with one of our older resi-

dents on her wheelie walker facing oncoming sand trucks or go with the active elderly lady who walks from Trucking Yard Lane to Food Lovers (*alongside the Kings Highway*) – where there is only one stretch of footpath.

Tell the Councillors that you want paths for scooters that are not on the roads. That you want the Bungendore plan to reserve sites for low cost affordable housing for the elderly and for supported accommodation as well.

Dear Editor...

WILDLIFE PLAN MORE POLITICAL THAN SCIENTIFIC?

IN THE LAST issue, there was a letter about ACT kangaroo management that claimed "well-informed official views are available in the ACT Kangaroo

Management Plan" (*Bulletin* letters, August 2010). Well, having browsed through the plan, I'm not so sure. The letter claimed the plan is supported by "more than 400 references" but unfortunately they are not specific and one would have to read each and every one of them to be sure selected material and comment had been used in its original context and was relevant. We

LOWERING THE ACCIDENT AND MORTALITY COST

Don't mow the roadside verges...

USEFUL INFORMATION from the ACT Kangaroo Management Plan for any locality enjoying the company of free-ranging kangaroos includes research results on modifying 'attributes of the road' (3.9.4a) and 'modifying driver behaviour' (6.5.3).

Section 3.9.4a is worth studying by local Council managers who approve road design and road verge maintenance. Techniques include cutting escape routes for kangaroos.

For example, in Palerang and around Queanbeyan where there are many fences and also roads built with banks on both sides, a solution is to cut paths, at a lower gradient, next to the road verges so animals can move there in preference to running into the roadway.

These have been trialled in Tasmania and considered highly effective. Observant locals may have noticed that kangaroos do hop to lower ground under the same conditions (where car speeds don't encourage them to go into a blind panic).

Table drain management or verge-side grass management is also considered and adds some scientific research to common sense. Research has confirmed that slashing and mowing of verges attracts native herbivores with the growth of new shoots.

The ACT plan argues that visibility of verges and safety considerations have to take precedence. However, in many cases road verges are obvious regardless of grass height. A trade-off could be made seasonally and with better understanding of the potential costs.

Take note Palerang Traffic Committee and RTA

The ACT plan concludes that the best answer still involves slowing down drivers and speeding up their education, and that's where local authorities often hang up on action.

The plan says that while it is difficult to measure the effect of driver awareness campaigns and road signs, the occasional high-profile campaign is effective where people live with native wildlife (campaigns have been run in the ACT with the NRMA).

The organisations that have the land that might be suitable for supported accommodation are the churches and they have always played their part in community service. An Anglican plan for the aged withered on the vine – not from lack of interest – but from decision-making in the church hierarchy. A modern concept is for

public/private partnerships – get the churches and the Councillors talking to one another about services for the aged.

In Crookwell there's a multi-level aged care facility that the town is justly proud of. It not only cares for the aged but provides jobs for the younger people.

Bungendore's 'look' – walking, driving and future growth

Bungendore businesses and Council have been talking for some years about making improvements to village amenities including footpaths, planting trees, undergrounding electricity, and parking. There has been a lot of debate and relatively little action.

Part of the problem is a convention of financing street-side improvements like footpaths privately by business owners,

or 50/50 with Council in the case of residents. A recipe for argument about style and cost. Traffic management is also proving contentious. **David MacLaren*** presents his view as a major Bungendore business owner (the Wood Works Gallery).

THE CHALLENGE for the Bungendore Town Centre and Environs sub Committee is to present to the community a 20 year vision that (1) protects the village character in the short

Continued p12

all know how truth can be distorted by the careful misuse of information and statistics.

There are good aspects to the ACT Kangaroo Management Plan, but it remains very much a political statement written by and for the ACT Government. The plan, which runs to 173 pages with a further 21 pages of listed references, is introduced by Jon Stanhope – whose position on kangaroos is well known. The plan promotes the continued killing of Skippy in the ACT wherever he appears to be in the way – and of course that is guaranteed due to never ending human development, wildlife habitat loss (what's left) and politicking.

Whether it be the NSW or the ACT Government I can't help feel we need a much more mature approach to assessing how we live alongside and tolerate our wildlife – not just kill it off when it becomes a nuisance. Little is said in the ACT Kangaroo Management Plan about the real issues affecting ACT wildlife and the focus remains to position the Government to continue to kill kangaroos. In many areas, rampant development over the decades has effectively eradicated wildlife (not just Skippy) altogether.

Focusing on how many remaining kangaroos appear in a specific location is not necessarily the answer. A more comprehensive study of development and its impact on the environment would be much more useful than separating out and demonising kangaroos – but that takes real effort. We could talk about turning the clock back and rejuvenating wildlife habitat and corridors that have been lost over the years.

— Philip Machin, Wamboin

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEAN OUT DAY

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Following the Bulletin's story on the official fracas in the ACT when a report suggested that kangaroos can provide environmental services to the landholder, and in the face of a general shortage of biodiversity studies that look at the whole range of ecological interactions, retired public servant **Julie Lindner** from Farrer Ridge sent us this amateur study at the Farrer Nature Reserve. Julie, who has observed the reserve and its flora and fauna for many years, might be characterised as a keen naturalist, a hobby for many people in Palerang and Queanbeyan. We thought her 2009 study made some pretty interesting points and the photos tell the story.

Native plants, insects, birds and reptiles may thrive where Skippy does

I SURVEYED two places in early October 2009 to determine the impact the kangaroo was having on the grasslands and grassy woodlands:

- the grassland parallel to Athlon Drive between Woden and the Mawson Centre; and
- the Farrer Nature Reserve.

The grassland next to Athlon Drive is too central and does not have any regular kangaroos while the Farrer Nature Reserve has for many years had a large number of Eastern Greys.

Although there is an altitude difference of about 50 to 100 metres between the two sites

much of the flora is similar: ie kangaroo grass, wallaby grass and stipa grasses combined with a variety of herbaceous plants.

Early spring flowering plants in the reserve, tiny and delicate and less than 15cm in height, yet thrive with all the kangaroos present

The difference between the two sites was remarkable in the first week of October 2009. Farrer Nature Reserve, grazed heavily over many years by the kangaroos, has an abundance of grasses, sedges flowering lilies, forbs and orchids (see photos) while the Athlon Drive grassland has matted kangaroo grass and very little sign of any herbaceous plants.

To my way of thinking, the abundance of flowering forbs, lilies and orchids in the Reserve guarantees a superior food supply of insects to birds and reptiles than that of the matted grass of the ungrazed Athlon Drive grassland. Most of the early spring flowering plants in the reserve are tiny and delicate and grow to less than 15cm in height; yet with all the kangaroos present, they thrive.

There is not much chance for these plants to establish themselves in a heavy layer of last year's growth, as in the Athlon Drive grassland – they need space and light. I know they exist there because a narrow strip of mowing beside the bike path allows them sometimes to emerge. Also, this type of environment does not support reptiles and moths and Perunga Grasshoppers as they all prefer a mix of herbaceous plants, grass tussocks as well as open areas.

Spring 2009 saw the first good August/September rains since 2005. The previous three years recorded very low early spring rains. This, combined with seven of the past eight years recording below average rainfall, has seen a dramatic reduction in herbaceous plants, grasses and sedges, invertebrates, birds, reptiles and available water.

Kangaroos have been blamed for the poor state of the grasslands and reserves which, when logic prevails, is totally spurious. Lack of rainfall has been the problem. Kangaroo density at present per hectare would never equal that of the stocking levels of sheep and cattle over the past 150 years. Eastern Greys make good custodians of grasslands because:

- they assist in keeping tall grasses low during the fire season
- they allow renewal of life by stimulating plant growth each spring thus increasing biodiversity
- they provide essential nutrients that sustain the plants and trees.

Attention Wamboin, Bywong residents

Come along to the Wamboin Community Hall on Saturday 31 October to hear John Asquith (CEO of the NSW scheme) speak about 'Land for Wildlife'. The 'Land for Wildlife' scheme encourages property owners to commit to managing all or part of their land in an environmentally friendly way.

The program is free to join, is not legally binding and the minimum size of land to register is half a hectare of native bush land. Over time the scheme not only provides refuges for wildlife, but allows wildlife corridors to be created where Land for Wildlife areas match up.

RSVP to Phil Machin by 22 September on 6238 3717. Find out more about the program at www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/ or give Phil a call.

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FRUIT TREES at bare root prices while stocks last

Comparison of Farrer Nature Reserve plant growth with the Athlon Drive site October 2009



From top (L to R): *Ajuga australis*, Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia momogyna*), *Pimelea linifolia* s. *caesia*, Early Nancy, Native Violet (*Viola betonicifolia*), and *Hibbertia riparia*.

Boxed: At the Athlon site – Kangaroo Grass showing last year's growth.

Landcare book is back, as good as ever



Seen here (L to R) Lee O'Brien Chair Murrumbidgee CMA, Sarah Ryan Chair ACT NRM Council, Peter Duffy Chair UMCCC, illustrator Ric Bevis, Douglas Kerruish co author of the Willow Management Strategy and Jo Harding co author of the UMCCC Peri-Urban Weed Management Study.

THE THIRD EDITION of 'Look after your natural assets' the go-to guide for small block owners who want to look after their land, flora and fauna, was released last month by the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC).

This handy compendium on all things landcare and bushcare, was originated within the Geary's Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group a number of years ago and put together by Maria Taylor and Sue Van Homrigh (now the editor and the graphic designer of the *Bulletin*) with original illustrations by Bungendore artist and potter Rick Bevis and also by Rainer Rehwinkel of Bungendore with additional help from a small group of other volunteers — including Bywong resident Jenny Curtis and the late Suzanne Ridley. Its success as a concept was lauded with a National Landcare Award.

UMCCC successfully updated and expanded the concept making the information relevant to the entire Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment. The third edition gained financial and logistical support from State, local and Commonwealth sources and ActewAGL, as well as Landcare groups — Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee, Molonglo Catchment Group and Gearys Gap/Wamboin Landcare Group and Waterwatch.

The latest edition has also benefited from more dedicated volunteer work from Geary's Gap/Wamboin members, most recently Roger Good and Chris Fowler. Edition three will be distributed by local Landcare, hopefully through local Council offices, and can also be obtained from UMCCC Facilitator Pauline Carder on 6207 2999 or Pauline.Carder@act.gov.au.

Also released at the same time and available are new books on landholders and weed management and a thorough look at willow management.

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CONSUMER POWER DOES WORK

In the wake of Coles supermarkets' recent announcement that the company would phase out pork from producers using sow stalls and meanwhile is offering free-range pork products – at least in Queanbeyan – the Bulletin thought it timely to also acknowledge how the ACT is informing egg consumers of just what they are buying – sort of like health warnings on packaging. Both moves, and others to liberate factory-farmed pigs and chickens from their miserable confinement, have been credited to buyer concern and action.

Bouquets to ACT for egg labelling

by Di Johnstone

"Dazed and confused in the egg aisle."

THIS COMMENT, recently posted on an RSCPA Political Animals website, will strike a familiar chord with many consumers. But this need not be. In the ACT, at least, there is a good news story for consumers and for animal welfare.

In 2009, the ACT Greens succeeded in having legislation introduced to the ACT Legislative Assembly making it a good deal easier for the rapidly increasing number of consumers who want to make an ethical choice when buying eggs.

This legislation was part of a broader bill introduced by ACT Greens MLA Caroline Le Couteur. *The Eggs (Cage Systems) Legislation Amendment Bill 2009* was intended to ban local production of cage eggs by 2011 and require retailers to separately display cage eggs with descriptive signage. It also required the ACT government to advocate at a national level for better conditions for poultry welfare.

The ban on cage egg production in the ACT didn't get up. There was Government resistance to closing down the only ACT cage egg producer. The provisions on national leadership failed, too.

But, in a compromise by the Government, signage requirements got through and were extended to require retailers to display signage for cage, barn-laid and free range eggs – using language drawn from the national Model Code of Practice for Domestic Poultry. The language on cage eggs was somewhat less emotive than originally drafted by The ACT Greens.

While disappointed that not all provisions of the original Bill got through, Ms Le Couteur expressed the hope that "The better point-of-sale labelling will mean that people buy what they want, and most people say they don't want cage eggs. So I'm hopeful that cage egg sales in the ACT will go down and that can only be good for

ACT aims for 40 percent emission reduction target

THE ACT government has announced plans to lower the Territory's greenhouse gas/carbon emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.

The ambitious target is a first in recent decades for an Australian State or Territory. Similar targets had been suggested by scientists and policy-makers as long ago as 1990 and were at that time adopted as planning targets by Australian governments.

The ACT Greens MLAs take some credit for the new policy breakthrough and Greens Spokesperson on Climate Change, Shane Rattenbury, said "A strong target will give clear guidance about what we are aiming to achieve on emissions reductions, and will create a framework through which a whole range of Government decisions will need to be assessed."

He said he expects to see strong action on energy efficiency measures, increasing use of renewable energy and changes to transport.

hens. And it will show the producers that people don't want cage eggs and they will switch to better systems".

Labelling system working well

The new legislation, an amended *Eggs (Labelling and Sale) Act 2001*, came into effect in January 2010 and some eight months later seems to have worked remarkably well.

Consumers seem happy with the changes and egg retailers have largely done what is required. There have been hitches, including signs that don't quite comply and sloppy shelf stacking. The data on how the signage has changed consumer behavior is not yet in, although The Greens plan to collect this.

But overall the story is a good one, so good in fact that the ACT Government seems happy to see this as one of its own successes.

A recent submission by ACT MLA Mary Porter to the current Food Labelling Review, for the ACT Government, even sought to boost the effectiveness of the signage. It called for "mandatory legislation" in labelling of animal-related food products so consumers can make decisions on "reasonably detailed and accurate information". The Greens submission described some current food labelling as "deceptive".

The vexed issue of carton labelling does indeed leave consumers 'dazed and confused'. Eggs may be under a free range sign, but are they really free range? What about cage-free, farm-fresh, vegetarian, grain-fed, organic, biodynamic or other descriptions? Or data showing free range eggs sold do not correspond with the volume of free range production?



Free-range opportunity, consumers stay alert

And what about free-range Councils?

Into this confusion recently waded the Australian Egg Corporation with a reported proposal to tweak the description of 'free range' to include eggs produced with a massively increased stocking density. Not surprisingly this is meeting strong opposition from animal welfare groups and consumers who want to know that free range is indeed free range. It is a sign factory farmers are feeling the heat as demand increases for free range eggs, and are looking for ways to meet it, although at this stage without changing their practices.

Another current issue is the use of eggs by ratepayer-funded bodies. A recent proposal by Palerang Greens Councillor Catherine Moore to require council contractors to use non-cage eggs failed but will be coming around again.

The idea is hardly new – or even especially controversial. In 2008, the ACT Government announced 'non-battery eggs' were to be used in all ACT Government agencies from May 2009, and the RSPCA has reported that a recent decision by Lismore City Council to "banish battery eggs from council functions" has brought to 19 the number of councils in NSW that have switched to cage-free eggs.

Australian consumers are increasingly animal-welfare conscious – and business and government are responding. Egg-signage changes in the ACT have been welcomed by consumers and generally well received by retailers. It is clear there is nothing to fear and good reason for other Australian governments to follow the lead on signage. If this were to be combined with clearer national labelling legislation there would no longer be any need for any consumers to be 'dazed and confused in the egg aisle!'

Di Johnstone is a book reviewer with a strong interest in animal welfare. She buys free range eggs

LIVING HISTORY

THE HISTORY of Queanbeyan is a reflection of the region served by the *Bulletin*. In the first week of September the city will fete its history and the museum will launch a photographic exhibition titled *Faces in the Street*.

The photographs showcase Queanbeyan people and places from 1870 up to the 1960s and range from the professional to the family snap. All tell the unfolding story, from village to city and the people along the way.

The Queanbeyan Historical Museum will unveil this exhibition at its Gala Open Day on 11 September, 11am–4pm, complete with some lively 1950s-era music by the Johnny Cash Experience and some great dancing by the Queanbeyan Rock N' Rollers. Entry is free and refreshments will be served.

The Historical Museum is located in the former Police Sergeant's residence in Farrer Place. It has been transformed over the past 12 months with many improvements and is



operated by the very dedicated Museum Society members.

Meanwhile, the Printing Museum will be celebrating 150 years of the *Queanbeyan Age*. The newspaper was first published in September 1860 as *The Golden Age* to reflect the gold rush of the times but was changed to the *Queanbeyan Age* in 1864.

The Queanbeyan Printing Museum is also located in Farrer Place and is a unique place to visit. It is one of the few museums with fully operational printing machines dating back to the late 1800s.

See related story: *living in Queanbeyan in the 1950s >p9*

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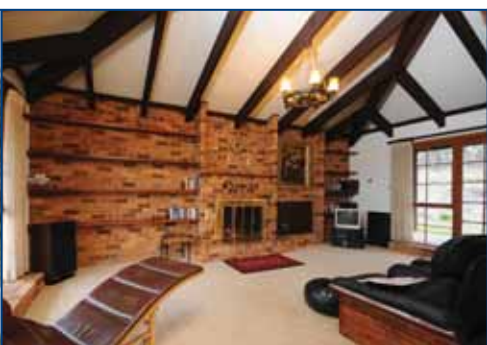


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This north facing solid brick home sits in an elevated position and has approx 200m² of living. The hub of the house is the new kitchen and spacious meals and living area, which boasts Tallow Wood floorboards, slow combustion heating & cedar windows that frame the expansive views. The kitchen features Tasmanian Oak joinery, Bosch stainless steel appliances and range hood. The formal lounge has a bar, vaulted ceilings and an open fire. Several sets of French doors throughout provide access to outdoor living. The 4 bedrooms are generously sized with built-in-robies in 3 of them. The property also includes 3 dams, orchard, gardens, sheds, double garage, chook run and 200,000 litre of water storage for household use. Enjoy your own private haven minutes from town. **Expressions of Interest close 4:30pm Thursday 9th September**

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Bungendore

expanding business in thriving village

29 GIBRALTAR STREET

Expressions of interest are sought for the award winning "Wicked Cackle" Greengold Nursery and Gift Shop in the thriving village of Bungendore in Southern NSW. Set on a level 2023m² freehold block in the main street, the business is well placed for future growth with the property also having potential for further development. The nursery is thoughtfully laid out with numerous improvements including covered and open areas for stock, storage sheds and retail spaces. There is also a 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom cottage currently used for the gift shop and office space, which could also be utilised for accommodation. An ideal opportunity for those seeking a lifestyle change and the opportunity to operate and grow their own business in an expanding village close to Canberra and approximately 75 minutes to the south coast.

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Developer contributions extend Jerra Community Centre

QUEANBEYAN COUNCIL has held \$1.14 million in developer contributions for community facilities in Jerrabomberra for some time and agreed at its 25 August meeting to allocate the funds to the extension of the Jerrabomberra Community Centre.

Council prepared concept designs for the extension in 2008, but as other proposals were put forward the project went on hold. However, Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall said that with the proposed Aquatic Centre and Sports Precinct still some years away and costs going up, Council decided the extension plans should be finalised and tenders called for.

The extension will provide an improved meeting space, store rooms, kitchen and toilet facilities. The Community Centre is used frequently by groups including churches, playschools, yoga and pilates classes.

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Fixed rate now below standard variable

AUSTRALIAN MAJOR non-bank lender and mortgage broker, Aussie Home Loans, took the lead in mid-August and established a three-year fixed rate of 6.99 percent, indicating some confidence that interest rates may be stabilising at something like pre-global financial crisis levels.

For the first time since February 2009, a fixed rate dropped below the standard variable rate which in mid-August was an average 7.38 percent. A press release from the lender said the reason it has been able to offer these terms has been a lowering of costs of funds in the money market. How long these more favourable market conditions may last remains undetermined.

Your child with dogs belonging to other people

by Heike Hahner

Last time we looked at how to ensure that dogs and children in our own home are safe together. This month we will discuss teaching your child how to behave around other people's dogs.

Ask dog's owner first, pat dog second

THE MAIN THING to remember is that we do not know how other people's dogs will behave with children or even with adults. So, your first port of call is always the dog's owner.

For example, if your child wants to pat a dog that is tied up in the street in front of a shop, wait until the owner returns and then ask permission to touch the dog. Yes, even if the dog looks very friendly!!!

Why? It is common courtesy to not touch other people's belongings. If we leave a car parked on the side of the road or a bike chained to a lamp post we would not want them to be touched by other people either.

The same reasoning applies to other people's dogs. This way we do not offend anyone, and we always ensure that we know from the owner that the dog is safe to be patted.

How do dogs greet other dogs?

In general, dogs have polite ways of greeting, interacting, touching and allowing them-



selves to be touched. They will approach each other by wagging their tails in a generous manner that often includes the whole body, by walking in a semi-circle and making high pitch noises. They keep eye contact brief with a friendly face and turn their bodies and heads side-on.

Dogs often perform a little tap dance routine with their front paws, while bowing and opening their mouths wide, to let the other dog know that they are excited and happy.

Further, for dogs, smell is much more important for recognition than it is in humans. They will sniff each others mouth, ears, eyes and rear-ends as part of the greeting ritual.

How to greet a dog belonging to another owner

We are naturally, and thankfully, not going to participate in all of those rituals. However, it is very important for the new dog to sniff your child's hands and clothes as this is a gesture of co-operation and wanting to be friends.

Teach your child to offer its hand and clothes for the dog to sniff. If the dog wags his tail and nudges the hand, things are progressing well. However, if the dog freezes, crouches or leans away, walks away, or shows no welcoming tail

– TOWN & COUNTRY DOGS –

wags or body movements, withdraw. This dog does not feel comfortable about interacting and being touched.

If the dog stays calm and relaxed, progress to stroke his chin, chest and the sides of his body. A lot of dogs do not like being patted on the top of the head and body. Avoid leaning into or prodding the shoulder and back of a dog – this may be viewed as intimidating or challenging, or as a precursor to mating.

During the handling keep your head turned side on most of the time, smile and talk in a fairly high friendly tone of voice to the dog. Keeping the head side-on will also help to avoid receiving a 'warning nip'.

When touching a new dog, be calm and gentle, which will help to keep the dog calm and so avoid it jumping up onto you or your child.

When enough is enough

Finally, keep the initial contact between child and dog brief. Some dogs, when they've had enough handling (or if they were not comfortable with the approach in the first place) will give a warning bite, usually directed to the nose and eye area of the other dog or the hand or face of the touching person. This is a normal reprimand in dogs and will have little effect on another dog's much tougher skin, but may leave you or your child needing a few stitches.

Let the dog, rather than your child's desire to pat, dictate the length of the encounter. Few of us would enjoy prolonged touching of our head and body by a stranger. Many dogs are no different.

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

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We live here too.

The Bulletin's native plant and gardening expert, Jo Walker, was moved by our story on squash legend Heather McKay – who grew up in Queanbeyan – to reminisce about life next door in the 1950s. She paints a vivid portrait of small town Australia on the doorstep of a still-fledgling national capital. Many of us have similar memories of a simpler country life and the many small pleasures, now half forgotten in an Australia driven by consumption, technology and rapid growth.

Life on Pound Hill, Queanbeyan

by Jo Walker

READING THE ARTICLE on Heather McKay's amazing sporting career in July's *Bulletin* brought back lots of memories of Pound Hill in East Queanbeyan where members of both our families lived for many years.

The hill was once the site of the pound for straying animals, but, by 1954 when my sister, Sally, and I arrived with our parents, Kit and George Walker, as migrants from England, Pound Hill was a high, open area above the Queanbeyan River with a dozen or so houses scattered across it.

At first, we lived with my aunt and uncle, Vi and Sam Holdford, in Antill Street (now the top end of Ford Street). There was another stretch of Antill Street on the other side of the river so, presumably, a bridge had been planned some time in the past.

Clan initiation, and into the workaday world

The Holdfords lived next to Frank and Dulcie Blundell (*Heather McKay's parents*) and their large family. Two days after our arrival, Colleen, Sue and Max Blundell dropped in to check out the new arrivals.

Sally was 11 years old, the same age as Colleen. The two went off to school together and Sally soon became part of the clan of Pound Hill children: 'old' Australians, New Australians (migrants from Europe) and Poms (no explanation needed!). They played together, threw missiles at the tribe of kids across the river, went to the Triumph Cinema on a Saturday afternoon to watch Westerns, swam in the river, dragged Wolf Spiders out of their holes on the ends of twigs to fight each other in a jam-jar and generally enjoyed life.

New kids had to prove their worth to the clan. Sally's test was to drag a heavy (green) tree trunk from Yass Road to the top of the Hill for the annual bonfire. The rest of the kids were impressed when she staggered up to the heap of logs to deposit her load. They hadn't expected a skinny English kid to get more than half way up the hill, but had underestimated my sister's determination to be part of the clan.



I heard most of these adventures second-hand, as I was 15 when we arrived. Somewhere on the way up from Sydney, by train, it was decided, by my uncle I think, that I could go to work.

My working life started under the tutelage of Joyce Blewitt in the office of JB Youngs (run by the Colman family), the large department store (its memory now buried under the Riverside Plaza) that sold everything from nails and hammers to the latest in ladies' fashions. Just about everybody in town (the population was only about 7,000 then) shopped there, as well as far flung folk from the surrounding countryside.

A year or so later, I joined CSIRO as a junior laboratory assistant. I travelled out to Civic every morning, along with about half of Queanbeyan, on the buses then run by the Quodding family.

Back at Pound Hill, my parents bought the block of land on the other side of the Holdford's house and soon had a fibro house built there by local builder Vic Sacagio. My father by then was working in the Public Service and my mother with Dr Gillespie in Queanbeyan.

Spiders in the dunny and milk delivered by cart

Land development was minimal in those days – dirt roads and undisturbed vegetation on the blocks. I remember seeing my first native plants, a patch of *Goodenia pinnatifida*, in the 'drive-way' (it was a while before we got a car), although of course I didn't know its name then.

The block on the eastern side of ours was occupied by two friendly cows, a Friesian and a dark brown one with beautiful eyelashes (it wasn't unusual for cows to be tethered at the roadside or on vacant land). Later, the Szczepaneks, a Polish migrant couple, built a house and raised their family there.

It must have been an interesting transition for my parents. Pound Hill wasn't on the sewer in 1954 and we had a dunny and pan toilet down the yard that soon housed an interesting variety of terrifying spiders.

(L to R): Sally with the neighbour-hood pigs. Jo said while writing this story she and her sister Sally fell into a spirited debate about the colour of the cow tethered near their home in the '50s, so here is some evidence! The Blundell family home, with verandah rooms typical of the time. 'Julius' and 'Wally'.

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

Milk was delivered by a carter. We would take the dipper (tin jug) out to the road and the carter would turn the tap of the tank at the back and fill it for us. We had an ice-chest and the ice was delivered in a piece of hessian sacking.

Wood was the heating method for everything – logs on the open fire in the lounge, smaller logs for the firebox that heated the oven, even smaller ones for the laundry copper and the leftover tiny fragments for the metal 'chip heater' in the bathroom that rumbled and vibrated and generally behaved dangerously like a furnace while heating the bath water to boiling point. Wood came from our uncle, Bill Dennington, who had a property at Burra.

In those days, nobody needed an alarm clock, as the bells of the Catholic Church tolled loudly in the morning at 6am. There was also no daylight saving, so, being awake early was par for the course.

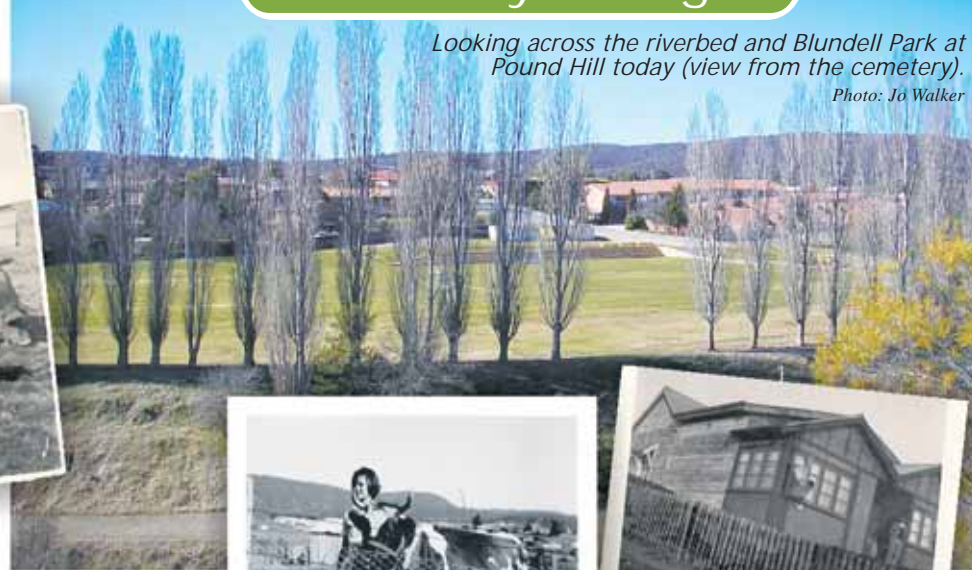
Neighbouring residents and a visiting 'roo

So, who did we share Pound Hill with? Our relatives, Sam and Vi Holdford, the Blundells and the Szczepaneks have already been mentioned.

Marsden Clarke, his mother, wife and children lived across the road. The Cold War was in full swing in the 1950s and there were real fears of a nuclear war. Marsden, Uncle Sam and my father all joined the local Civil Defence Force

Looking across the riverbed and Blundell Park at Pound Hill today (view from the cemetery).

Photo: Jo Walker



(Dad was sent down to Mt Macedon in Victoria at one stage for some sort of training).

The Tankeys, another family with a long Queanbeyan history, lived round the corner from the Blundells – Joan, Earl (a teacher at Queanbeyan High School) and their three children. Next to them and further down the hill, lived a kind elderly couple, the Denleys.

The lowest house on the hill, a little above the bridge over Buttles Creek, was inhabited by Miss Gifford (a shy, older lady who gave piano lessons and had mulberry trees in the back yard).

Towards the back of the hill, probably fronting onto what is now High Street, lived the Harridens, sheltered on our side by a large pepper tree. There was a laneway that led down to their block between our place and Tankey's (off Ford Street).

Soon after we arrived, there was a large kangaroo lying there. I didn't know anything about Australian fauna then and thought this might be an everyday event. But it was a female Red Kangaroo, not a local, I realised later, and must have been someone's pet. It stayed for two days and then was never seen again.

Footnote: Thanks to Nancy at the Queanbeyan Museum who helped with a few of the historical details. The Museum, in Farrer Place, is well worth a visit.

Next month: Memories of gold in the Queanbeyan River, Heather McKay's first tennis court and childhood thrills and tragedies – in the second instalment of Jo Walker's reminiscences of Queanbeyan.

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Foody times – they are a changin!

The five top trends

AS A FIGHT back against the fast pace of the modern world, many of us try to take greater control of our lives and to find pleasure in simple things. Faced with insecurity and a lack of time, many shoppers seek out businesses and products



by
Peter Davies
Shepherds Run
Wines

they feel they can trust. And, although we try hard to cut back on spending, we continue to treat ourselves to life's little luxuries and guilty indulgences – well, I know I do.

Mintel, a research company, advised, "In the coming year, it will be more important than ever for businesses to respond quickly and creatively to changing consumer needs and desires, as we all become more selective in how we spend our money." At Shepherds Run we have tried to keep up with wine fashion – Chardy to Sauvignon Blanc to Pinot Gris and now back to unwooded Chardonnay? Oh, you fickle people!

Wanting to keep control

Consumers will seek out products and services that give them exactly what they want and when they want it, especially as money and time are worrying us and the convenience and 'I'm worth it' trends continue to gather momentum. And the Internet may be the key – it shows people every option available and gives them the power to demand more.

"Those companies that give consumers precisely what they want or give them the freedom to customise their purchases will do well. Companies that fail to do this will see consumers walk away," Mintel said.

In addition, Baby Boomers will be of particular interest to businesses. Companies will move beyond traditional 'old age' products and services to ones that embrace the active, healthy lifestyles of many older consumers.

Earlier this year, *Australian Food News* reported on a trend seen in Europe of 'pensioner-friendly' supermarkets, which have been well received by customers at supermarket Kaiser's in Germany. Tesco (the UK's largest retailer), recently sent some customers over to test the German format and appears likely to trial Britain's first pensioner-friendly supermarket. The mind boggles – defibrillators on every wall, extra-wide aisles (for out of control wheelie-walkers) and large type on Tim Tams (for sight-challenged people like me). Go Boomers!

Simplify and purify

Faced with fast-paced modern life, many people will continue to look for convenience and simplicity. And, as people take more control of their everyday lives, they will also demand that companies communicate with

them honestly and openly. From understandable ingredients to clear company practices, consumers will want complete transparency when it comes to the products they buy – I wish you the best of luck.

Nostalgic skills such as cooking at home (!), sewing and gardening will become increasingly popular, Mintel suggests. As an added benefit, these home-based activities will also help people stretch their budgets further.

Fresh, clean and pure will become essential values, as manufacturers focus on clear ingredient labels and product positioning.

"Simplicity and convenience are the ultimate goals. Brands that can communicate what they really stand for and show how they can make life easier will earn consumers' trust and loyalty," Mintel noted.

There is also the potential for manufacturers and retailers to work together to come up with an area within the store that showcases the excitement and taste a home-cooked meal can produce. Bar-B-Qs complete with burned steak inside Woolies... I wonder.

Rebuilding trust

Today's consumers have high standards and will demand value for money, as well as consistently high levels of quality, safety and service. Food safety fears have fuelled an era of doubt and insecurity – dare I say paranoia! And so, people will seek out trusting, open relationships wherever they can.

People will increasingly want to know more about the products they buy – from where they were sourced to how they were manufactured. For me, this is a good reason for the success of local farmer's markets and the 100 mile rule.

Trading down (but a little trading up too)

As purse strings tighten, consumers will look for every possible way to make their money s-t-r-e-t-c-h further. For example, people might trade down to cheaper own label brands, eat out less or simply choose not to update their wardrobes.

But everyone will still crave a little treat now and again. The result? Shoppers will mostly trade down to budget-friendly solutions to save money. But occasionally, they will also need to indulge in small, affordable luxuries, like premium chocolate

*small, affordable luxuries,
like premium chocolate
and cheeses
and hopefully a visit to
one of our local
restaurants or cafés*

and cheeses and hopefully a visit to one of our local restaurants or cafés.

As consumers split between the low- and high-end of the market, manufacturers will invariably follow suit. Many companies will start to focus on value brands, but there will still be room for products that bring a little luxury to our hum-drum existence. A number of food manufacturers have this year reported that a focus on value products has served them well, while some of the best-performed brands over the past year had benefitted from heading up-market as well.

"The middle market will increasingly be squeezed and is going to have to prove its worth, when faced with competition from newly improved basic lines," Mintel said. In addition, many companies will position their products as a more affordable

alternative to going out. For example, Mintel anticipates an increased number of premium ready meals that give a restaurant experience at home (how dare they!).

Playfulness, lightening the mood

In uncertain times, people not only crave life's little luxuries, they also need to enjoy themselves. Small playful distractions such as fun-to-eat food or interactive shops will become increasingly popular as people look to let their hair down and have some fun.

Companies will focus on products and experiences that are light-hearted, and those that offer real entertainment will have a significant competitive advantage.

Beyond this, manufacturers will launch products specifically designed to enhance people's moods in unique ways. From food and beauty to household cleaners, Mintel expects to see a widening range of products that soothe, energise or simply lift the spirits.

I recently visited Sirromet Winery at Mt Cotton in Queensland. They are marketing three very uncomplicated and sweeter style party wines in a pack called 'love triangle' for \$34. Lots of fun – but when it comes to wine, I would say that wouldn't I?



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BOOKS,
AUTHORS, and

BOOK
REVIEWS



Tiger Woods started golf at age two



Bounce: How Champions are Made
by **Matthew Syed**
Fourth Estate, HarperCollins
RRP \$29.99
(Angus and Robertson)

Reviewed by Di Johnstone

THIS BOOK is about the creation of champions, especially sporting champions.

Syed is a many times table tennis champion who grew up in an ordinary neighbourhood in Reading, UK. When people attributed his success to genetics he looked around him and decided the opposite was true. In the same local area were a remarkable number of table tennis champions. The reason, he decided, was not genetics but long hours of practice and coaching. Table tennis champions, he felt, were made not born.

This book suggests how to make champions of ourselves and our children with hard work and focus... but keep an open mind

Syed applies his theory to other sports and disciplines such as music, art and business. He uses sports stars like the William sisters and Tiger Woods to argue their success is based on long intense practice not talent. He refers to a theory of 10,000 hours of practice as a key to excellence and draws on the work of *Outliers* author Malcolm Gladwell and US psychologist Anders Ericsson.

Syed accepts some sports, such as sumo wrestling and basketball, require reaching a genetic threshold to excel. But he argues that others don't. Less convincingly, he suggests child prodigies such as Mozart in music and several chessmasters, and the artist Picasso are really the product of concentrated practice, not talent or genius.

He explores factors that prevent champions succeeding, such as 'choking' and those that enhance their capacity – such as belief in other forces at work. These forces can include religion or even irrational superstition – such as what colour hat a player always wears.

Using his theory, he draws an interesting if rather long bow to explain the spectacular collapse of US firm Enron and talent-based business cultures.

The book ends by addressing arguments that appear to cut across his – such as how drugs enhance genetic qualities and sporting performance and a view that black athletes have a natural ability in certain sports. It's intriguing but a bit muddled.

Continued p11

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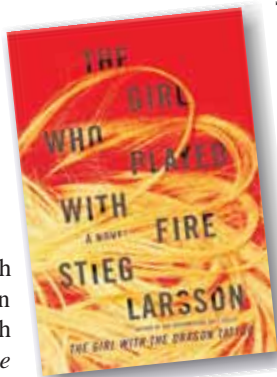
The Girl Who Played With Fire

by Stieg Larsson
MacLehose Press
RRP \$24.95

Reviewed by Christina Taylor

The Girl Who Played with Fire (first published in English in 2009) is the second novel in the Millennium Trilogy (which also includes *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*) written by Swedish author, Stieg Larsson. The trilogy has sold over 27million copies worldwide since publication of the first book in 2005, one year after Larsson's untimely (some even say suspicious) death of a heart attack at 50. Larsson worked during his adult life as an investigative reporter, just like his main character Mikael Blomkvist, and had received death threats.

Truth is nearly stranger than fiction in this whole saga. As written in his will, Larsson had intended to leave his estate to the Swedish Socialist Party but the will was found to be legally void. Larsson's long-term partner



sought to claim the estate and began a nasty and public legal battle with Larsson's (estranged) father and brother who by Swedish law inherited his publishing millions. I had heard of the series from readers and also viewers of the Scandinavian film interpretations. What I heard usually was about the graphic violence and disturbing lead character, Lisbeth Salander. Salander is a small, dark-eyed woman with a methodological mind that allows her to always act as the hunter, and remain two steps in front of any opponent. With trepidation I began reading, waiting for the violence and reported 'satanic lesbians' featured in this book, but while reading I became engrossed in the story and attached to the characters, despite their unsettling flaws.

The book is set in Stockholm where renegade journalist and magazine editor, Blomkvist, is preparing to publish an exposé on sex trafficking in Sweden. As the publishing date looms, the key writer and researcher are found shot dead – a professional execution. The bodies are discovered by Blomkvist yet within hours the evidence leads police to

BOUNCE

Syed essentially works his personal experience into a widely applicable theory, producing more or less useful evidence. References to sports are detailed, sometimes to an interminable degree, especially in golf and table tennis. He suggests his theory has huge implications across society and opens up possibilities not imagined by a focus on genetic talent. Personally, I like to think there is such a thing as talent and don't accept genetics is quite as irrelevant as Syed suggests. I worry too that Syed does not seem to disapprove of parents putting unbearable pressure on their children from an early age.

He quotes Tiger Woods' father who had his son playing golf at two. And a Hungarian educational psychologist who married and had three children just to test a theory that he could make them all chess champions. He did, but one wonders at what emotional cost to the children. Fortunately, his wife rejected a proposal to adopt three children from developing countries just to experiment further!

Bounce is a motivational book. It suggests how we can make champions of ourselves and our children with hard work and focus. It is often entertaining. But if you read the book, keep an open mind. There are other views.

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suspect Lisbeth Salander. From here on it's an exhilarating investigation with all parties (including the police) under suspicion, all parties looking to solve the mystery themselves and all parties standing to lose everything.

Larsson smoothly takes the reader through all aspects of the investigation and the actions of those involved. Yes, there is

violence, but nothing to keep you up at night. It took a few chapters for me to differentiate between the Anderssons, Erikssons, Svenssons etc, and contemplate some of the Swedish locations (Liljeholmen?) but it was all part of the experience. The book was a great read, it didn't seem to break into any new literary territory, but it was entertaining nonetheless!

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– RURAL FIRE SERVICE LAKE GEORGE –

Think of your neighbours and perish naughty thoughts of burning off

by Doug Palmer

IT'S TIME for me to take my place in the great dance of nature, sloughing off thoughts of chimney fires and icy roads and turning my attention to the summer. I speak of none other than the fire season to come, whose days of total fire ban I am not worthy to foretell.

I can make a few predictions, though. The fire season will start on the 1st of October. It will end on the 31st of March, unless things become particularly hot and dry.

I can also predict the sneaking thought, "I'll just get this burning off done before the fire season starts. It's a bit dry and windy, but it's better than doing the paperwork for a permit." This is a naughty, naughty thought. It seems that every year there will be a few fires at the beginning of the season that started as people clearing up around their properties and which then got out of control.

So, as October approaches, please pay close attention to the weather. If things are not perfect, then don't light that fire. You could just leave it until the end of the fire season. Or, if you simply must burn off, you can get a permit during the fire season. Phone Fire Control on 6297 1840 for details. Although the permits come with conditions attached, the conditions generally simply specify what a sensible person would do anyway.

So, what does the future hold? Well, there has been a lot of lovely, lovely rain. In the absence of a weather oracle, it's hard to say what will happen to all the growth that has appeared everywhere. Lots of grasses die back during the summer, with the stalks drying out. In the absence of lots of rain, this means that there is going to be lots of fuel standing about waiting for a lightning strike.

All this means that it's time to bend a thought towards making your property ready for the fire season. I'll be talking more on this subject in the coming months. For now, removing any fuel that has collected around the house would be a good start.

And, while you're doing that, I'd like to wish everyone an uneventful, smoke-free fire season, where the only embers people see are those in dying campfires.

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BUNGENDORE TO BURGUNDY – PART 1 by Liz Truman

Yes, we've all read ghastly tales of long-suffering expatriates trying to buy an old house and establish a life in rural France – tales of greedy owners, lazy agents, unreliable tradesmen and ancient village rites. Well, for what it's worth, here is yet another addition to that literary genre.

Why not buy a house?

IN RURAL Burgendore in 2005, my husband Peter and I were planning a September holiday in deepest Burgundy. It was all quite simple really until, a few days before we departed and entirely out of the blue, Peter came up with the idea of buying a house while we were there. We would live there for half of every year, he said. This surprised me because I'd always thought of myself as the Francophile of the family.

I assumed at first that it was just a passing fancy of his, but when he started searching the Internet for houses and actually made an appointment to look at one, I realised that he must be serious. And who was I to disagree?

We knew that region of France quite well because, in the summer of 1999, we'd spent a month at Chissey-en-Morvan, in an old farm cottage belonging to some friends, and agreed afterwards that it was the best holiday we'd ever had. This time we were staying at the same house and it would make a perfect base from which to follow our quest.

Selection criteria

Before leaving Australia and after intense discussion, we arrived at the following selection criteria for our Burgundy house:

- 1 It had to be in a proper village, which I defined as a village with (a) a church, (b) a spring, and (c) a war memorial.
- 2 It had to be a normal working village, which meant not 'touristy', not 'cute' and without a lot of expatriate residents (yes, I know that's a fallacious notion coming from an expatriate).
- 3 The house had to date from before the 1914–18 war. Why? Because we like stone, and we like history, and an old house was more likely to provide projects for Peter.
- 4 However, it had to be immediately habitable; unlike the British we weren't in a position to pop over to France every weekend to supervise the renovations.
- 5 It had to have large rooms with adequate windows; again, unlike the British, we don't have an aversion to space, light and air.
- 6 It had to have enough land for growing vegetables and herbs.
- 7 It had to be within our modest budget.

Looking over the houses on offer

On the day after our arrival in France, still jet-lagged, we drove to the village of Chaudenay-la-Ville, near the Burgundy Canal, to see the house that Peter had found on the Internet. The owner was Mark, a British IT person with a



French wife and school-age children. Mark had dropped out of the rat-race and now worked from home. And why wouldn't he?

Chaudenay was a charming village overlooking farmland and forest and facing, on the other side of the valley, a castle of the stereotypical kind you see in fantasy animations or books of fairy tales. Almost every town and village in Burgundy has some kind of *château*, often quite unprepossessing, but this one was magnificent. And, Mark told us, it was owned and inhabited by an Australian painter called Kevin (whom we were later to meet through one of life's lovely coincidences).

Mark's house was charming, but did not 'tick all the boxes' as they say on those English life-style property programs that Peter is addicted to. So, in the absence of any more on-line leads, we had no choice but to hit the local estate agents – and here began a journey of discovery, not only of French houses but also of French real estate practices.

We discovered first that there is absolutely no hard-sell; on the contrary, the agents we encountered were very off-hand and seemed barely able to stir themselves to assist us in any way. We thought at first that they suspected that we holidaying foreigners were just window-shopping and not to be taken seriously as potential buyers, but we were told later that this is their usual behaviour. Vendors constantly complain about the laziness and lack of initiative of their agents.

As well, agents appear to know very little about the houses displayed in their windows, if one poor quality black-and-white photo can be called a 'display'. If you express interest in a house featured in the window, the agent will give you a bad copy of the photo and show you on a map the location of the village in order that you may go, without him, to view the exterior of the house.

Our problem was that the houses in small villages usually had neither a street address nor a 'For Sale' sign (the vendors, for reasons of privacy, don't want their neighbours to know that they are selling their house). All we could do was cruise slowly around town trying to identify the house in question from its photo, which was not easy as there is a not a wide range of architectural styles in Burgundy villages.

BUNGENDORE 'LOOK' Cont'd from p4

term, (2) anticipates the effects of population growth, and (3) considers the interests of future residents.

By protecting the village character for the next five years we remain true to the Visioning workshops of six years ago and to the workshops I conducted two years ago (over three weekends at Council Chambers).

The next five years anticipates the completion of underground electrification, (now not happening), recycled water lines (hopeful), footpaths, (definitely happening – *planned for Ellendon Street this year*) and tree planted (happening).

Traffic management, and general road safety is achieved through speed bumps that slows traffic, and line marking that improves sight lines. If population grows to a point where these minimal traffic measures are insufficient to cope with increased traffic, then plans for roundabouts and blisters, have mostly been prepared for Council already.

By factoring in a consequence of population increase we can offer a choice. But while we have choices in the short-term, the detail of a 20-year future will be decided by others.

If you then wish to view the interior of a particular house, an agent will take you to see it, always in the presence of the owners because the agent generally doesn't have a key.

We were soon to learn that the golden rule of presenting a house for sale, 'De-clutter! De-clutter! De-clutter!' doesn't apply in France.

One house we inspected in a village called La Grande Verrière (the Big Female Glass-Maker) was occupied by a family with four children, two dogs and a cat who were all present, all completely unfazed by our visit and all apparently going about their normal Saturday afternoon activities. There was stuff everywhere, the kitchen still displayed the remains of lunch (steak and chips) and the cat must have had some kind of seizure in its tray because there was kitty-litter all over the floor. And of course there was the inevitable stench of tobacco.

Success!

But to cut a short story even shorter, after a ten-day search we submitted an offer on a 19th-century stone house in a proper farming village called Marcheseuil which not only satisfied our selection criteria but included a couple of delightful elderly neighbours who had taken great interest in our visits and provided us with essential information (eg "the church bells ring the angelus at 7 in the morning, noon and 7 in the evening").

With the agent finally animated, things proceeded smoothly. We reached an amicable agreement with the owner, returned to Burgendore on schedule, made the appropriate financial arrangements and, a few weeks later, received a letter from the *notaire* telling us that we were now the legal owners of said house in the commune of Marcheseuil, which is in the canton of Liernais, in the district of Beaune, in the department of Côte d'Or, in the province of Burgundy, in the Republic of France! A piece of *gâteau*!


By maintaining the village character in the short term we remain true to community consultation by "not looking like everywhere else". This is our legacy to the future.

Imagine for example, located 12 minutes by high-speed rail to the Nation's Capital, Burgendore will grow significantly. It is also marvellous to imagine future communities appreciating our efforts in maintaining the original character of the village centre.

For the present, small Shires such as Palerang, need to be supported with Federal and State funding. That way, small shires can choose not to increase population if that way they maintain their character and lifestyle.

A sense of shared ownership of public spaces gives us pride of place. That pride means we care. And when we care enough, all manner of things can happen for the better.

** President Burgendore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr MacLaren says he is now stepping aside to devote more time to combating traffic management works he disagrees with, including a planned roundabout at Ellendon and Gibraltar Street and proposed pedestrian traffic islands on Ellendon and Malbon Streets that he says will impact negatively on available parking near his gallery.*



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Humour, and a theme that speaks to all parents

by Maria Taylor



“IF YOU LOOK at the statistics, the care is mainly going on in people’s homes and mainly by women, mothers,” says playwright Mary Rachel Brown (right) of the research behind her award winning play, *Inside Out*, now touring regional Australia and on at ‘The Q’ this month.

Brown’s research into youthful mental illness was conducted in the ACT, where she has lived, writing plays and developing local productions, until recently. With the help of Carers ACT, she met about 10 mothers, each caring for a young person at home. These women shared with her their everyday realities.

“The voices of these courageous people form the heart of this play. I was humbled by people’s willingness to talk so openly about their lives. It seems there are many people who are hungry to have their story understood,” she says.

Brown, who used to be an actor, had spent some time (in related theatrical work) at psychiatric facilities. “I have seen the herculean struggle that accompanies the onset of a mental illness. This subject is fertile ground, it is aligned with a universal theme – ‘fear of the unknown’. It is my hope that this play settles in a territory we can all identify with – a hope that our loved ones will be safe and happy.”

Brown says she was inspired by the work of television journalist Anne Deveson who documented her own journey with her son both on film and in the book *Tell me I’m here*.

Thus the theme of *Inside Out* is the gradual coming to grips by Sue, the mother, that some-

thing is wrong with her smart, talented son Simon – in fact it is the onset of schizophrenia. “So many mental illnesses are progressive and if not diagnosed at an early stage and treated, can cause problems for a very long time.”

Brown says the difficulty for parents and teenage – or early-20s age – children who are moving towards a diagnosis is compounded by all the other drama of being a young adult and the unfamiliar behaviour that often develops.

“Everything is changing, your body, your brain and your social life, and that can be stressed by circumstances – drugs, sex, separation – so it’s hard to pinpoint what is ‘normal’ behaviour. Also the onset of delusions is not linear – they come and go.”

While heart-wrenching at times, the play also works with humour as it establishes the close relationship between mother and son. Since its debut in 2008, when it won the Rodney Seaborn Playwright’s Award, Brown says audiences have responded strongly and favourably.

Many parents have come up to her and said “that’s my story”, professionals tell her it’s a story that needed to be told, and other theatre-goers, like NSW Governor Marie Bashir, have volunteered the view that work like this can change social attitudes to mental illness.

Brown’s earlier, critically acclaimed works include *A Streetcar Named Datsun 120Y* and *All My Sleep And Waking*, both developed for a Canberra theatre company, with subsequent national productions, and *National Security And The Art Of Taxidermy*. She is now trying her hand

- Theatre -

at television, having just finished a *Home and Away* script and is working on a television series she hopes to get up.

The third, all new production of Inside Out is playing at ‘The Q’ 10-11 September. For more information see ad this page.

TOMMY MURPHY Cont’d from p3

When it opened in London’s West End in 2010 it received a standing ovation.

“Well, that standing ovation was a relief, there’s no denying that. There’s nothing like the thrill of your play being presented to your own community where you can’t hide, for good or bad. That’s why the treasured experiences that I have had have been in Australia. You seek to make a connection with your own community. But, yes, I did have a ball in London.”

Saturn’s Return was commissioned by the Sydney Theatre Company, under the stewardship of Cate Blanchett and her director husband Andrew Upton in 2008, and Murphy next focused his efforts on the Philip Parson’s Young Playwrights’ Award which he won with the concept for *Gwen in Purgatory*.

As with most of his work, Murphy’s country town roots and own large family (he is one of eight children) are obvious in his latest story, which is both funny and moving in its exploration of ageing, reflection and our responsibility to others.

“Our duty of care to each other is probably a common theme in all of my work thus far. I also listen intently to voices. I’ve always loved the wit and directness of the voices I hear in Queanbeyan.”

Directed by legendary Australian director Neil Armfield and starring Melissa Jaffer in the title role, *Gwen in Purgatory* moves to Brisbane in September. Asked whether there is any chance he could bring his play about Queanbeyan to Queanbeyan, Murphy is very receptive.

“I would love that to happen. My play *Strangers in Between* kicked off the inaugural season at ‘The Q’ Theatre in 2008. Taking a bow on the stage with the actors at ‘The Q’ remains a highpoint of my time as a playwright. I was touched by the audience’s response and honoured to be included in the beginnings of a building as significant as that stunning new arts facility.”

As Murphy now turns his energies to writing another play for Company B Belvoir as well as an adaptation of a Spanish play for the Royal and Derngate in the UK, for the moment, this may well be Queanbeyan’s best chance to be the star.

Winner of the Rodney Seaborn Playwright's Award 2008

A Christine Dunstan Production

inside out

by Mary Rachel Brown

Fri 10 September 8pm;
Sat 11 September 2pm & 8pm

ADULTS: \$45 UNDER 26: \$35
CONCESSION & GROUPS: \$40

Audience Advice: Strong Language suitable for 15 years and up

Tue 21 September 8pm;
Wed 22 September 8pm;
Thu 23 September 2pm;
Fri 24 September 8pm;
Sat 25 September 2pm & 8pm

ADULTS: \$47 UNDER 26: \$37
CONCESSION & GROUPS: \$42
ALL MATINEE TICKETS: \$29

Steaming

Jally Productions presents
Nell Dunn's internationally
acclaimed, unashamedly
raunchy comedy...

Audience Advice: Full Frontal Nudity and 'Mild' Course Language
Smoke machine will be used

FOX

A new Australian Opera for Young People

A Monkey Baa and Siren Theatre Co-collaboration

Adapted from the classic picture book by Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks. Combining a haunting operatic score and breathtaking physicality, this production will see the heart soar as friendship triumphs.

An unforgettable experience of loyalty and betrayal that is as rich for adults as it is for young people.

For Ages 8+

Composer Daryl Wallis
Director Kate Gaul
Designer Gabriela Tylesova
Lighting Designer Luiz Pampolha
Sound Designer David Gilfillan
Photography Heidrun Lohr

School Holiday attraction at The Q
Mon 27th September @ 3.30pm,
Tues 28th & Weds 29th September @ 11am & 2pm
All tickets \$18.00

South East Resource Recovery **SERRROC** Regional Organisation of Councils

Study shows people waste enormous amounts of food

by Geoff Pryor

IN QUEANBEYAN and Palerang, kerbside collection of kitchen scraps is on the horizon. It’s part of a pilot program called ‘Groundswell’ in which such collected items are composted and then spread on broadacre farm properties to improve soil nutrition.

The timing of this project is excellent as it coincides with a NSW Government campaign entitled ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ (LFHW). This campaign was originally run in the UK with great success. It highlights that people waste enormous quantities of food.

According to the NSW Government, households in this state send an average of 800,000 tonnes of food a year to landfill. In other words, each household throws away 315 kilograms of food waste, which then goes to landfill. Analysis suggests this is 38 percent of your kerbside garbage bin materials.

Average NSW household throws away \$1,036 worth of food a year

Another way of looking at this is that by wasting food – fresh fruit and vegetables, leftovers, takeaways, packaged and long-life products, drinks and even frozen food – the average NSW household throws away \$1,036 a year.

Continued p15

COMING SOON TO ‘THE Q’ – QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
Enquiries and bookings: 6298 0290 or www.theq.net.au



QUEANBEYAN
PERFORMING
ARTS
CENTRE



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amendments to the Palerang Code of Meeting Practice

Notice is given that Council proposes to amend its Code of Meeting Practice in accordance with Section 361 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has revised its Code of Meeting Practice by amending, deleting and adding a number of clauses. The draft revised Code is on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from Wednesday 18 August 2010 to Wednesday 15 September 2010.

Written submissions, addressed to the General Manager, Palerang Council, PO Box 348, Bungendore, 2621, will be accepted for a period of 42 days from Wednesday 18 August until Wednesday 29 September 2010.

The draft revised Code of Meeting Practice 2010 may be viewed at Council's Bungendore office (10 Majara Street), and Braidwood office (144 Wallace Street) during business hours. It is available on Council's website at www.palerang.nsw.gov.au.

Council will consider any submissions received by the due date, prior to formal adoption of the revised Code. Enquiries may be directed to the Manager of Executive Services, Debby Ferguson, on phone 1300 735 025 during business hours.

Peter Bascomb
General Manager

Council Chambers
Bungendore NSW 2621

REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST

Building Trades and Material Supplies for Mick Sherd Oval Multi-Purpose Building

Trades persons and building suppliers are invited to register their interest with Council to provide services associated with the imminent construction of this much needed project at Mick Sherd Oval at Bungendore.

The new double block on concrete slab, pitched colorbond roof building with surrounding verandahs will house a modern canteen, storage facilities for various sporting teams, a meeting room/shelter room/game day administration area and modern toilet facilities that will be available to the general public.

The project will require supply of various materials and trades including concreter, block layer, plumbing, plasterer, electrical, roofing, tiling, painting, carpentry and fit-out.

Council, through its project supervisor, will be seeking competitive pricing for the various aspects of the work and if you are interested in being approached to provide a quotation, please provide your contact details by emailing the following information to sonja.abernathy@palerang.nsw.gov.au:

Business name, contact person, phone no(s), email address, description of building service/trade to be provided, brief description of capabilities/experience. For Subject, use **Mick Sherd Oval Building – Registration of Interest**.

Registrations of interest close on Friday 17 September 2010.

Construction is expected to commence in October/November 2010.

Council is grateful for the financial assistance that will be given to the project by the Australian government (RLCIP), NSW state government (S&R Facilities), Veolia Mulwaree Trust, Bendigo Bank, 'The Shed Committee' and a number of local businesses providing 'in kind' contributions.

P Bascomb
General Manager
Palerang Council

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

POSITION/S VACANT

Out Of School Hours Care: Braidwood Facility Supervisor – \$21.00 per hour Coordinator – \$23.00 per hour

Council is seeking applications from people to fill some upcoming vacancies within its OOSH facility at Braidwood. Council is flexible in its approach to filling these positions but notes the face-to-face contact hours are from 3.00pm to 6.00pm Monday through to Friday during school term only.

The Coordinator is required to also do administration functions such as invoicing and liaising with FACS.

The positions will be until March next year to cover a maternity leave placement and subject to negotiation after this.

Qualifications in childcare although not essential are preferred. Council is willing to train the successful applicants in mandatory qualifications, such as Senior First Aid Certificate and Food Hygiene.

As this is a designated position under the Child Protection Act, a Working with Children Check is mandatory.

Further information may be obtained from Tanya Brown, HR officer, on: 1300 735 025, or email: records@palerang.nsw.gov.au.

Information packages, which include details of Essential and Desirable Criteria for the position, may be obtained from Council's offices at 10 Majara Street, Bungendore, and 144 Wallace Street Braidwood. The information is also available on Council's website, www.palerang.nsw.gov.au under Your Council / Positions Vacant. Applicants are requested to address all criteria listed.

Council is an equal employment opportunity employer and offers a smoke-free work environment. **Applications close COB 10 September 2010.**

General Manager
Palerang Council

PO Box 348
BUNGENDORE NSW 2621



Photo: Ricky Tozer

Queanbeyan artist Margaret Hadfield's piece **Old Fence Line** was voted the Queanbeyan City Council Art Award 2010 People's Choice winner, with 170 exhibition visitors voting. This was the third year for Council Art Award. Ms Hadfield is seen here with Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall.

The painting was based on a scene Ms Hadfield observed in the Snowy Mountains. "I wanted to show that you could do a nice painting from a simple scene," she said. "The main part of the painting is the grass, but also the colours, light and shading, and of course the old rickety fence."

June Roblom's oil painting **Sculpture Garden** was awarded the Council Art Award and 2009 Council Art Award winner Claire Primrose won the Highly Commended award for her dry point etching **I'll get to it tomorrow**.

QUEANBEYAN RELAXES WATER RESTRICTS

QUEANBEYAN CITY Council eased its water restrictions from the beginning of September, with Stage 2 Restrictions replacing Stage 3 Restrictions, which were in force for almost four years.

Queanbeyan has a water supply agreement with ACTEW Corporation and will apply the recently announced ACTEW change relaxing current restrictions.

Residents will be able to water lawns morning and night on alternate days but use of sprinklers is still not allowed. Swimming pools and ponds can be topped up, providing the latter are covered when not in use. Even cars may now be washed at home once a month.

For more info go to www.qcc.nsw.gov.au. Clicking on 'Council Services' and 'Water and Sewer'.

CARWOOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

is now online at website www.carwoola.org.au. Check it out!

BRAIDWOOD PLANT WORKS

SIGHS OF RELIEF all around, as Palerang Council reported last month that the new Braidwood Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is operational, with an official 'launch' on the horizon.

The 'extended aeration' STP was constructed through a funding partnership between Palerang

Council, the NSW State Government (through the Sydney Catchment Authority's Accelerated Sewerage Program) and the Australian Government's Water for the Future plan.

Replacing the plant has been a priority for Palerang Council since its inception, having inherited the plant and its significant problems – and the costs involved with fixing them – from the former Tallaganda Council. Problems were characterised as plant occupational health and safety issues, limited capacity to treat effluent and maintenance being well behind schedule, while at the same time Braidwood was expanding.

YOUR RIGHT TO STATE AND LOCAL INFORMATION

From the Palerang Council website:

THE NEW *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* commenced on 1 July 2010, replacing the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

The new right to information system requires councils to proactively release information on their websites to improve openness, transparency and accountability in government.

COUNCIL DONATES \$28,700 TO COMMUNITY

And supports Tristan Kilpatrick

QUEANBEYAN COUNCIL agreed at its August meeting to donate \$28,700 to 25 non-profit or charitable organisations from its General Donations Budget of \$40,000 for 2010–11. Thirty two applications were received. All applications were assessed against the criteria and Councillors individually voted accordingly.

Council also agreed to make an additional donation to the ACT Eden-Monaro Cancer Support Group which will go towards the fundraising effort of young cancer sufferer Tristan Kilpatrick. Tristan's brother and mother have also been affected by cancer and the 15-year-old is planning a bike ride from Queanbeyan to Westmead Hospital in December to raise funds for the ACT Eden-Monaro Cancer Support Group and the World Challenge.

Tristan is hoping to raise \$12,000 from his ride and anyone wanting to contribute can do so by contacting the ACT Eden-Monaro Cancer Support Group on 6297 1261.

— From Queanbeyan Council briefs, meeting of 25 August

AT ST MARY'S and COUNTRY PARISHES

MASSES: EVERY SUNDAY of the month 8.30am

AND (Vigil Mass) Second, Fourth & Fifth

Weekend – Saturday 6.00pm

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MASS 9.00am

LITURGY OF THE WORD: THURSDAY & FRIDAY

9.00am

Hoskinstown – 10.30am 1st Sunday of the Month

Tarago – 10.30am 2nd Sunday of the Month

Gundaroo – 10.30am 3rd Sunday of the Month

Reconciliation: 30 minutes before the Weekend Masses

Baptisms and Weddings: By appointment

FOOD WASTE

Cont'd from p13

Research on this subject makes interesting reading. According to the Australia Institute's findings, based on an on-line survey of 1,603 grocery buyers in October 2009, the extent of food waste is related to both household income and the number of household occupants.

It appears that the amount of food wasted increases with household income but decreases with larger household sizes. For example, households with four or more occupants waste the least food per person, while people living by themselves waste the most.

The survey goes on to conclude that most people are concerned about food waste and report feeling guilty when they throw food away.

While respondents identify how they could reduce food waste, they simultaneously reported behaviour that contradicted their own advice. For example, most people believe that planning their purchases in advance is the best way to avoid wasting food, but most of those same respondents admitted to making purchasing decisions on the spur of the moment.

Saving money is by far the greatest motivator for households to reduce food waste. Twice as many respondents said that financial considerations would be the main reason to avoid wasting.

Food in landfill becomes methane, a powerful greenhouse gas

What happens when food is thrown away? It breaks down in landfill and produces methane – a potent greenhouse gas. And throwing food away is wasting resources. The water, energy, materials and fuel used to harvest, transport, process, package, distribute and market wasted food is also wasted.

The challenge then is for all of us to think about this matter and take action. For ideas, look at the NSW LFHW website www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au/.



And now for the big hoorah

Some may be lamenting the end of the Winter Games and others may be rejoicing, but as we head to the end of another season spent freezing on the sidelines, it's been a good effort from a big number of our local teams. Queanbeyan has once again dominated the local competitions with finals berths for the Queanbeyan Whites in the John I Dent Cup, the Queanbeyan Kangaroos in the Canberra Raiders Cup, the Queanbeyan Tigers in the ACTAFL competition and Queanbeyan City Football Club are in the State League finals after losing their place in the ACT Premier League to the Monaro Panthers, who also made it into the top four in that competition.

Girls again save the day

Okay, there's no point in discussing the Wallabies complete lack of form, but perhaps Queanbeyan's Kristy Giteau can show her brother Matt a thing or two. Kristy made her debut in the female Australian rugby union side, the Wallaroos, who beat Six Nations

Champions Wales in their opener of the Women's World Cup at the end of August.

Premature capitulation

Oh ye of little faith! Who said that Raiders' fans should ditch their season tickets faster than the Storm loses points? Having sorted themselves out at the right end of the season, nobody can fault the huge effort put in by Dave Furner's boys in green, with a string of wins meaning that even if they don't make it into the finals, they have certainly showed what they're made of!

Mudhooks rule roost

Ahead of the nearest competition by 11 points, the undefeated Minor Premiers the Bungendore Mudhooks go into their fifth grand final in the Monaro Division 2 rugby competition with a home ground championship match.

Who's got talent – look to Braidwood

Braidwood's Lewis Holland has been picked for the Australian Schoolboys rugby union ACT representative team. The squad will take on the Samoan Schoolboys before playing Fijian Schoolboys in a curtain raiser to the Bledisloe Cup match in Sydney on 11 September. These games will also give him the opportunity to strut his stuff and potentially be picked for the side which will tour Samoa and New Zealand from 17 September to 8 October.

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

The Couch Guide to upcoming

Rugby league grand finals to be held on 3 October.

The 2010 finals series for the ACT AFL competition begins over the weekend of 4 and 5 September with the semi-finals, and the preliminary finals on the 11th and grand final on the 18th.

Similarly, the preliminary finals for the John I Dent Cup begin over the weekend of 4 September with the season decider played on the 11th, and the same dates apply for the Raider's Cup, the Canberra Men's Football comp and the State League Football.

September will see the Wallabies attempt to regain some dignity as they again face up to the Springboks and shortly thereafter the All Blacks. Good luck with that.

Stuff we're (pretty) sure was said:

"There have been a few perfect games in NRL history but only one worst call ever. I allowed people to see real history tonight. No need to thank me."

– Brian Harrigan, NRL referee who admitted to getting a call wrong

"My elbow is still in bad shape. I'm getting worried I will have to learn how to play my X-Box left-handed."

– Australian cricketer Brad Haddin on his missed trip to India due to an on-going elbow injury

"It was disappointing that the ruling kept me out of the game against the All Blacks but missing out did give me time to slash the rules official's tires."

– Wallaby Drew Mitchell on his missed game against NZ due to a yellow card

Word Search Puzzle – Golf –

Find and circle all of the golf words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.

Y D S E E R T P G R E E N G E E B
E E R H O L E S A O T H L R K R A
F C G A S E L U R C C R A C O O L
H D I O Z C H I P A I P A E R C L
F O A L B A T R O S S D S C T S C
L O L I S O H R P B D U N R S S O
A W E E H R P R A I O T O A R S U
G S R S I P E C E H R D E O H O R
S S O S A N K K B T N G U E K R S
T B C W N N O U N O A G B A O G E
I U S I I O L N C U H W I G O F A
C L T N G C R O E O B D R L H F F
K C E G W F A I R W A Y D E A O L
K S N P O E G N A R G N I V I R D
I N I P S K C A B E G D E W L E E
D R E T T U P T O V I D R I V E R

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION: : page 16

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ALBATROSS | CLUBHOUSE | GREEN | ROUGH |
| APPROACH | CLUBS | GRIP | RULES |
| BACK NINE | CONDOR | GROSS SCORE | SHOT |
| BACKSPIN | COURSE | HANDICAP | SLICE |
| BALL | DIVOT | HOLE IN ONE | STROKE |
| BIRDIE | DRIVER | HOLES | SWING |
| BOGEY | DRIVING RANGE | HOOK | TEE OFF |
| BUNKER | EAGLE | IRON | TREES |
| CADDIE | FAIRWAY | NET SCORE | WATER HAZARD |
| CART | FLAGSTICK | PAR | WEDGE |
| CHIP | FORE | PUTTER | WOOD |

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LOSE WEIGHT, GET FIT, LOOK GREAT & FEEL FANTASTIC!

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www.40plushealthclubs.com.au

Suite 1, 80 Morisset Street, Queanbeyan NSW

40 plus + health clubs

"Caring for your future"

Throughout September

Works by Margaret Turner and Isla Paterson
Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore. View the works of regional artists Margaret Turner and Isla Paterson. General viewing hours 10am–4.30pm. For more info contact the gallery on 6238 1640.

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

Thursday 2 – Saturday 11
Queanbeyan History Week
Farrer Place, and the Library 257 Crawford St. The theme for History Week 2010, *Faces in the Street*, is celebrated in a new historical photo exhibition to be launched at 12noon at the Queanbeyan Museum's Gala Open Day on 11 September. Festivities run from 11am–4pm. The week of celebrations will be officially launched by Mayor Overall on Thursday 2 September at 5.45pm in the Queanbeyan Library. The launch will be followed by a special meeting of the History and Heritage Group at 6pm to which all are invited. The speaker is Doug Quane from the Queanbeyan Printing Museum who will talk about the history of the *Queanbeyan Age*, which has been continuously published for 150 years (More details p6.)

Saturday 4
Fash'n'Treasure
Old Bus Depot Market, Wentworth Avenue, Kingston ACT, 10am–3pm. This market brings together local fashion designers and retailers, retro and vintage clothing and fashion accessories. It's a great place to pick up unique and reasonably priced fashion items. For more info visit www.fashntreasure.com.au.

Tuesday 7 – Saturday 25
Natural Selection
'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. An exhibition of prints and paintings by Jo Hollier which reflect a love of colour and texture in familiar plant and bird forms. Artwork by Jo is inspired by the local environment and gardens in many forms. The opening night will be held on the 7th at 'The Q' at 6pm. For more info visit www.theq.net.au.

Friday 10 – Saturday 11
Inside Out
'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. *Inside Out* is an honest, surprisingly funny and compassionate journey into one young man's mind and mental illness and a mother's struggle to understand and be there for him. For show times and ticket prices call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au. (See *interview with playwright p13*.)

Saturday 11
Soil and Salts Expo
Windellama Hall, 9.30–4pm. This field-day style expo covers: how to spot sick soil symptoms on your

– GIG GUIDE: LIVE MUSIC –

SEPTEMBER:
Friday 3
Ka Tere Oke. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Wanderers. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
Karaoke. From 8pm, Captains Flat RSL Club, 59–61 Foxlow St, Captains Flat.
Country Music Night. 7.30pm, Royal Hotel, Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

Saturday 4
Flaming Stars. 8pm, \$10 cover charge, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 10
Peter Blissneden. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
R & R. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.

Friday 17
DJ Gosper and the Hot Flush Blues Band. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.
Solid Gold. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
Country Music Night. 6pm, Jerrabomberra General Store, Jerrabomberra Pkwy, Jerrabomberra.

Saturday 18
Rob Black. 9pm, Loaded Dog Hotel, Wallace St, Tarago.

Friday 24
Ben Anderson. 8pm, Queanbeyan Bowling Club, 97 Campbell St, Queanbeyan.
Something Like This. Walsh's Hotel, 40–48 Monaro St, Queanbeyan.
SWIZZ. 7.30pm, Lake George Hotel, 20 Gibraltar St, Bungendore.

What's On – SEPTEMBER
Compiled by Christina Taylor
Send your announcements to whatson@palerangbulletin.com.au

property; understanding the underlying ills; and potential remedies. There is be a free bus from Braidwood to the expo but spaces are limited. For more info or to RSVP contact David Hillhorst on 4842 2594 or email david.hilhorst@cma.nsw.gov.au.



Saturday 11 September
Gunning Fireworks Festival
Gunning Showground 2–9pm. For the past 10 years, Gunning has hosted one of the largest fireworks displays to be held outside of Sydney. The event has primarily been the trade show of Fireworks Australia, a major fireworks importer, to demonstrate new and exciting fireworks for their clients, who come from all over Australia and New Zealand for the weekend. The public attendance has grown each year prompting a move to the Gunning Showground.

The afternoon will provide entertainment for families, young and old. Music for all including local bands The 3 D's and Unity, and the Goulburn Pipe Band and the Hall Brass Band.

Keen photographers can enter the photo competition of the fireworks and there is a similar painting competition for children. Much else on offer including: a large range of amusement rides, free reptile display with handlers, and, a highlight, attendance of the Airforce Balloon offering free tethered balloon flights to anyone who cares to take to the skies. See the advertisement p3 this *Bulletin* or go to the website for more details www.gunningfireworksfestival.com.au.

Saturday 11 September – Sunday 10 October
Annual flower spectacular – Tulip Top Gardens
Federal Highway, Sutton, 9am–5pm daily. A 10-acre garden of magnificent tulips, daffodils, and other spring flowers. Special events include: Tulip day (the 26th) and a workshop by local gardening personality, Cedric Bryant! For details visit www.tuliptopgardens.com.au.

Friday 17
Bungendore Preschool Art Extravaganza
Bungendore Preschool, 64 Turallo Tce, Bungendore, 5.30–7.30pm. View the offering of fantastic artwork created by children and professionals alike! There will be an art sale, charity auction and raffle of creative art prizes. Thank you to the local businesses that have supported this event. For more info contact the Bungendore Preschool on 6238 1423.

SERROC – National Waste Issues, Rural Community Solutions
'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 10am–3.30pm. Join the discussion on rural/regional solutions for nation-wide waste sector challenges. The workshop will attended by international experts, Iain Gulland and Mal Williams. Tickets \$100 for non-SERROC members, RSVP by 10 September. For more info visit www.serroc.nsw.gov.au.

Sunday 19
Kite Flying Karnival
Stoney Creek Community Hall, Carwoola, 11am–3pm. This is a great family event! Come and enjoy the sausage sizzle, stalls and prizes for best homemade kite, highest flying kite, best design and more. There will also be a colouring in competition and other fun activities for kids. Entry is free. For more info call Phil on 6297 7381.

Tuesday 21 – Saturday 25
Steaming
'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Six women from diverse backgrounds meet on 'ladies day' in a London bathhouse where they share the most intimate details of their lives, loves, dreams and frustrations. *Steaming* is a heart-warming ribald classic. For show times and ticket prices call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au.

Saturday 25
Annual Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 6.30pm. A great opportunity to meet with community

members and enjoy many culinary delights prepared by local community groups, while enjoying the always spectacular display of fireworks!

***** SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPECIAL *****
Monday 27 – Wednesday 29
Fox
'The Q', 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A theatrically inventive adaptation of this timeless fable by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks. An unforgettable experience that is as rich for adults as it is for young people! Recommended for children aged 8+ and all tickets are \$18. For more info call the box office on 6298 0290 or visit www.theq.net.au.

Tuesday 28
Wamboin Conversations about Religion
St Andrew's Church, cnr Norton Rd & Poppet Rd, Wamboin, 7.30pm. The final public discussion between Wamboin resident Dr Jeremy Shearmur, a Reader in Philosophy at ANU, and Fr Peter Grundy an Anglican priest and local pastor. All are welcome, free of charge. For more info call Robyn Robertson on 6238 3202.

– Plan ahead for October –

Saturday 2 – Monday 4
Braidwood Antique & Collectable Fair
The National Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood. A great weekend for rummaging through collectables and antiques. Entry is a gold coin donation with proceeds going to the Braidwood Hospital. For more information please call 4842 2724.

Sunday 10
K2C Biodiversity & Farming Fair
Bredbo Village, 9am–4pm. Farm, industry and community group stalls. Talks on land management, weeds, trees, grasses, birds and more. There will be food and music and great kids activities including a live reptile display! Entry is a gold coin donation, with proceeds going to Beyond Blue. View the full program on www.k2c.org.au or for more info call Lauren on 0411 402 978 or Tony 6235 9334.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION:
from page 15
Golf is a good walk spoiled.

EVERY MONTH:
Every Saturday
Capital Region Farmers Market
8–11am, EPIC grounds, Mitchell, www.epic.act.gov.au.
1st Saturday of every month
Captains Flat Country Market
Captains Flat Community Hall, Captains Flat, 10am–2pm. Old fashioned country market under-cover in the Community Hall, bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email www.captainsflat.org
2nd Sunday of the month (bar January)
Queanbeyan Cottage Markets
Queanbeyan River, short distance from Queanbeyan Town Centre on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets. 9am–2pm. Over 100 stalls with high quality craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, handknits, pewter and silver jewellery, children's toys, honey, jam, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Come spend the day, stay for lunch and enjoy the atmosphere while the children enjoy the rides and jumping castle! Call Kristen Ballard 6299 0219.
3rd Saturday of every month (bar July, August)
Wamboin Produce Market
Wamboin Community Centre, Bingley Way, 9am–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.
3rd Sunday every month
Bungendore Markets
War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9am–2pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.
Windellama Country Market
Windellama Hall, Cnr Windellama & Oallen Ford Roads, 10am–2pm.
4th Saturday of every month
Braidwood Markets
Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Lots of treasures to be found! Call Geraldine Sutton 4847 5061.
1st and 2nd weekend of every month
Captains Axe Woodworks
55 Foxlow St (old Post Office) Captains Flat, 10am–4pm. Bush furniture, antiques, collectables, model cars and old tools. Something for everyone! Wanted – old tools, farm machinery and collectable items. Call 6236 5799.

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



Major sponsor for the event

Kite Flying Karnival

Date: Sunday 19th September

Time: 11.00am—3.00pm

Location: Stoney Creek Community Hall

FREE ENTRY—Fun for all the family
Competitions and prizes for the children

- Stalls
- Sausage sizzle

- Prizes for:
- Best home made kite
- Longest tail
- Best Design
- Highest flying kite
- Colouring in competition
- Other activities

Contact: Phil 6297 7381