

Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Palerang

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PHOTO: TRUDY TAYLOR

HIP-HOP ARTIST, song-writer and poet Omar Musa might not yet be properly famous but there is every indication that international stardom is not too far away for the performer who still calls Queanbeyan home.

The 25-year-old self-titled 'Struggletown Spader' has moved from winning Canberra competitions to recording and performing in London, California and Germany, his unique style of 'modern-day poetry' growing in popularity and earning much acclaim.

"It's a tough industry and it's hard to break in, and I'm a person from a small town in a big city, but despite all that I'm going to push through," he says of the rollercoaster ride towards fame.

Having come to prominence locally after winning the Canberra Poetry Slam in 2008, a competition described online as anything but a poetry reading and "... more like a howling literary campfire with verbal voodoo, breathless rhythms and sweat breaking nerves", Musa went on to take out the Australian Poetry Slam later the same year.

A POET FOR HIS GENERATION eyes international stardom

by Nichole Smith

"Yet the town vibrates softly with the echoes Of many things" — Queanbeyan by Omar Musa

This had been preceded with the British Council's *Realise Your Dream Award* in 2007 which allowed him to live and work in London, and at the end of last year, he was named the winner of the Indian Ocean Poetry Festival, winning a cash prize and a trip to France. As his songs and video clips were being aired on Triple J and the popular music program *Rage*, Musa also released a book of poetry and then his debut full-length album, *World Goes to Pieces*.

"Winning the Poetry Slam gave me confidence and lots of exposure. It gave me faith

that people were interested in poetry and music. Hip-hop is still developing in Australia but they reacted well to my stuff overseas, particularly in the US."

Reflections of a modern youth

Musa's eclectic work combines the brashness of hip-hop with its rhythmic style, the physicality of rap and the lyricism of poetry, interweaving stories with music. They tell of issues as everyday as growing up in a country town and of race and identity based on his own experiences as a Malaysian-Australian.

"Playing with issues of identity and contradiction and of the complexities of everyday life is what inspires me," he says. "I'm not preaching, I'm simply sharing my experiences."

Tall and quietly spoken, Musa certainly does not fulfil the stereotype of the tough, bling-wearing gangsta so often associated with the art form, and while it is a style of musical expression that is loved often as much as it is loathed, Musa says he was drawn to hip-hop because of its inherent poetry. "Essentially I'm a poet, but hip-hop is a very poetic form of music, it's a culture; rap is more of a physical act of words over music."

"I grew up around words and writing and found it an obvious way of expressing myself, but I felt poetry was not really part of everyday life and I was looking for something more modern, more accessible, especially for young people. Hip-hop is powerful – that's what attracted me to it."

Continued p10

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Deadline for contributions and advertising booking:
25 September 2011

Website: **www.districtbulletin.com.au**

In addition to mailbox delivery, this free monthly publication is available from:

Braidwood: various cafes. **Bungendore:** Bungendore Newsagency, Feedshed, Foodlovers.
Palerang Council Chambers: Bungendore and Braidwood. **Queanbeyan:** Queanbeyan Library foyer;
Riverside Plaza; Link Plaza (near Country Energy); and Karabar, Jerrabomberra Shopping Centres.
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The District Bulletin © 2011

Published monthly by: The Bungendore Bulletin Pty Ltd ISSN 1035-1299

Living with urban wildlife

QUEANBEYAN WILDCARE President Greg Tarlinton is happy to compare the state of the grasslands with and without kangaroos. "Unfortunately in the ACT, kangaroos seem to be the easily eliminated variable in the experiment that is the management of native habitats. The ACT reserve (*behind him, below*) has also recently been mowed. Before, it looked like a thistle reserve.

"On the Queanbeyan side where there has been no lethal management of kangaroos the population is clearly visible, there is still good grass in the area at the end of winter, not a large amount of visible weeds and there are still many species of native flora and fauna living in the area."

"In and around the Queanbeyan area, Eastern Grey Kangaroos are the most visible native animals and have the most encounters with residents and unfortunately often their cars.

"After nine years of doing this work, I'd say the attitude of people in this area towards wildlife is normally quite positive. Most calls we receive are because a person is concerned for the welfare of the animal involved.



QUEANBEYAN... end of winter grassland

"Sometimes people who have moved from the city to some of our rural residential areas are shocked that they need to share the property with animals that aren't paying a part of the mortgage.

"Often a chat about the benefits of having these animals around is all that is needed to change people's views and we often end up with residents

taking 'guardianship' of the natives that inhabit their properties. Some of our most passionate members have joined as a result of this."

Encounters with snakes, possums in the roof or wombats taking up residence under houses near the river, are other urban wildlife experiences that often involve Wildcare. Queanbeyan also has a popular platypus support program led by Council.

Tarlinton thinks the tourist potential of wildlife so close to both Canberra and Queanbeyan is worth more thought. "The paddocks on the sides of Lanyon Drive would make a great half-day trip for overseas visitors with a guided walk through the area pointing out the local native flora and fauna. It could also generate income to enable some weed control and restoration of degenerated areas." Queanbeyan Wildcare now has 200

Queanbeyan's 'live and let live' attitude to urban wildlife allows these Eastern Grey Kangaroos a relaxed existence at the Nature Reserve bordering Lanyon Drive.

members in the region that includes western Palerang. Wildcare is always looking for more volunteers as native animal rescuers and carers.

Call **6299 1966** or email **membership@wildcare.com.au**.

MANAGED TO DEATH

ACT kill policy expanding and expensive

by Maria Taylor

SEVENTY-SIX PERCENT of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in six ACT reserves were targeted in 2011: all part of a 'cull' that ACT residents are being told is 'normal' and will be annual, budgets permitting.

In a year where there was apparently no funding for rabbit control, the ACT spent \$183,000 to kill kangaroos on this year's healthy grasslands. A year earlier \$176,000 was allocated for a cull of about half as many kangaroos.

The \$359,000 was spent on population counts, staff, and a culling contractor, said a spokesperson. Funding for the same purposes is said to continue for another financial year.

Half a kangaroo per hectare is the target population level. On that basis 3,427 animals were to be killed of an estimated population of 4,482 across the six reserves. The contractors actually killed only 54 per cent of this population in June, the allotted timeframe.

Kangaroos at Mulligans Flat/Gooroo-yaroo reserves in western Canberra have been particularly hard hit two years in a row. The combined 1,100 hectare reserves, bounded by a large influx of new housing on former kangaroo range, is the site for pest animal and woodland restoration experiments run by the ACT with various university researchers.

The *Bulletin* was unable to find scientific evidence (in either ACT or wider Australian research) justifying the very low

0.5 kangaroo per hectare benchmark being set for population density. ACT media releases have variously spun stories about saving animals from starvation, "overabundance" (a value judgement) or saving the environment from damage.

A 2006 national review of all the published research concluded that damage is very hard to measure or prove and that it is archaic to treat kangaroos as pests. More recent research is starting to look at kangaroos' role *within* ecosystems, eg their pellets as recyclers of nutrients.

What happens to joeys that get away? A welfare issue

There is no mention in the 2010 ACT Kangaroo Management Plan about monitoring the fate of at-heel joeys who escape when their mothers are shot (as they have to be to reach these numbers).

University of Technology Sydney macropod biologist Daniel Ramp testified to the ACT Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 2009 about the scientific approaches justifying the culls.

He says: "The narrow ACT view of the issue has taken negative impact by kangaroos as a given, rather than exploring their vital role in stabilising ecosystems. The question remains: does the science of killing stack up? Many people now think it doesn't. The taking of life should not be done lightly, and only as a last resort."



Not an animal in sight on neighbouring Jerrabomberra West grasslands, where the ACT has killed kangaroos for two years.

A paper on kangaroo welfare by a new research team (THINKK) at Sydney's University of Technology, has collated the published information on this topic. It quotes RSPCA Australia in 2002 recommending that the shooting of females should stop until the fate of young-at-foot is better understood.

There is evidence that in the female dominated (matrilineal) grey kangaroo family

units, the young depend on their mothers not only for food but for education until weaned at about 18 months.

Dr David Croft, one of the few who has studied social organisation in kangaroo species wrote in 2004: "The shooting of adult female kangaroos will frequently leave the young-at-foot to starve or die by predation in the absence of maternal care."

\$80 for a dead 'roo and future prospects

According to a candid 2011 Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) departmental funding proposal, two dozen woodland reserves, including Namadgi National Park, could be in the gun sights. This document explicitly separates kangaroos from the rest of native biodiversity and categorises them with rabbits in "grazing pressure" control plans.

Continued p4

As luck would have it

AT THE SEPTEMBER meeting, Palerang Councillors elected a new Mayor by drawing a name out of a hat, and voted unanimously to change the Council meeting time back to 5pm from its current daytime schedule.

Councillor Walter Reynolds will remain the Mayor until the general election for Council in a year's time. He retained the position after a three-way contest between himself, Councillor Paul Cockram and Councillor Catherine Moore devolved to a draw of four votes each for Reynolds and Cockram with Councillor Howard Crozier absent.

The rules are that the position is then decided by drawing a name out of a hat (which did happen to be pink). Cockram then won the ballot for Deputy Mayor.

Ian Marjason led the charge for a change back to evening meetings for Council arguing this makes attendance manageable for

Councillors like himself with day jobs (he's a lawyer) and also benefits the public's ability to attend.

Amalgamate or perish?

Earlier in the meeting, Reynolds reported on a recent local government conference he attended as Mayor. He declared that the plight of local government as an entity is such that amalgamation must be considered.

"Grow up, wake up" he said. "You've got to look at amalgamation." He compared the efficiency of Palerang to the old Tallaganda Shire, a prime example of the benefits: sharing administration, resources, expertise.

The movement for amalgamation is growing across Australia he said, for these very reasons.

Head planner resigns

As if to prove the point, Palerang has again fallen victim to resource scarcity, this time of the human variety, with the departure of planning chief Louise Menday who resigned in August.



Queanbeyan update with Mayor, Cr Tim Overall

Community meetings

Queanbeyan City Council takes communication with the community very seriously. Council has a number of strategies in place to effectively communicate with residents, including our regular newsletters, columns such as this, public forums and our website. Another successful method we have used is community meetings which we hold twice a year (March–April and September–October) in three locations across the Local Government Area. These community meetings allow residents to gather important information on Council projects, have an input into Council decisions and to also ask questions of Council staff. The next Community Meetings will be held in October as follows:

- Thursday 13 October at the Jerrabomberra Community Centre from 6pm.
- Tuesday 18 October at the Queanbeyan City Council Chambers from 6pm.
- Thursday 20 October at the Fernleigh Park Community Hall from 6pm.

All Queanbeyan residents are invited to any of the three meetings. Contact Margaret Simonovski on 6285 6223 or email margaret.simonovski@qcc.nsw.gov.au for additional information or to place an item on the agenda.

Crawford St Lifestyle Precinct – update

As most of you would be aware, construction of the Crawford St Lifestyle Precinct is now in full swing. During August the contractors successfully removed all 10 trees which lined the centre of Crawford St. The trees were relocated to Council's nursery where they will be rehabilitated and used in a future project. There were a couple of wet days towards the end of August which slowed progress, however that time should be able to be made up during the project. During Stage 1 of the 43-week project timeframe, traffic flow is reduced to a single lane along the western side of Crawford St.

Residents should be aware the during construction pedestrian access is still available to both sides of Crawford St, meaning you can access all of the shops. Pedestrian access has now been installed from the temporary carpark on the site of the former Queanbeyan Age building on to Crawford St. To keep up-to-date with this project and any traffic changes visit www.qcc.nsw.gov.au, www.facebook.com/qbcnity or www.twitter.com/queanbeyancity.



CityCARE program making a difference

Council received a report at its August meeting which updated it on the progress of the CityCARE works program which has now been in place for over a year. The CityCARE program was developed in 2009 to address a shortfall in the maintenance and renewal of Council's roads, footpaths and parks and sports fields. To fund this program Council undertook extensive consultation with the community and gained support to apply to the Minister of Local Government for a Special Rate Variation of 5.8%.

The Minister approved this for an initial period of three years and work commenced in July 2010. This increase allowed Council to raise an extra \$1.048million in rates for the 2010–2011 financial year. Of this amount, \$64,000 worth of pensioner concessions were provided. The first year of the CityCARE program resulted in 758 footpath defects being repaired, 17 roads resealed, three roads stabilised and five parks and sports fields receiving much-needed upgrades. Council was unable to complete the resealed of a section of Wanna Wanna Rd during the financial year and it will be completed as part of the 2011–2012 resealing program. In 2011–2012, \$1.011 million has been raised for Council to spend exclusively on the CityCARE program. This will include the pavement rehabilitation of four sections of local roads, the resealed of 10 local roads, upgrades of five parks and sports fields and an upgrade to water supply at the Queanbeyan Showground.

Relay for Life hits Queanbeyan

At its August meeting Council agreed to support the inaugural Queanbeyan Relay for Life at Seiffert Oval on 18–19 February 2012. Council agreed to provide a donation of \$1,400 to cover the costs of toilet cleaning, waste removal, litter pick-up and the Seiffert Oval hire fees. The Relay for Life is one of the Cancer Council's major fundraising events and has been successfully held in nearby centres such as Canberra and Goulburn. The Relay for Life operates over a 24-hour period where teams of 10–15 people are encouraged to walk and raise money for the Cancer Council. The establishment of this event in Queanbeyan is very pleasing and I hope the community gets involved to help raise funds for an outstanding organisation in the Cancer Council. For more information or to register a team or individually visit www.relayforlife.org.au or phone (02) 4223 0206.

Cr Tim Overall
Mayor

After three and a half years with the Council, she said it was the inability to fill positions with qualified staff, while the work-load grew heavier, that finally led to her decision to explore other options.

(She had suffered a broken ankle with complications earlier in the year which made the heavy schedule even more challenging.)

During her time she led the Council's case



to several Land and Environment Court victories on behalf of compatible development in Bungendore and she generally raised the standard of Council planning considerably from the time before her arrival.

Her expertise helped ensure the frequently-heated and complicated LEP process made it through Council to its current 'almost complete' stage.

General Manager Peter Bascomb said she had made significant contributions to Palerang under difficult circumstances. No successor has yet been announced.

Dear Editor ...

Vision of solar-panel-filled landscape generates concern

IN RESPONSE to your August *Bulletin* article, with councillor Cockram's vision for the future, my comments on the abandonment of individuals' property rights by mega corporations and governments deserved to be considered.

I would be pleased if you would print the following.

Councillor Cockram's vision for a solar-panel-filled vista misses a very big point. Rural residential ratepayers of the district chose a rural lifestyle for the amenity it provides and that amenity is severely compromised by hectares of industrial infrastructure thrown up among their paddocks.

Most people would object to reduced land values as a result of inappropriate industrial-

scale development occurring next to them and for local, state and federal governments to turn a blind eye to the degradation of a neighbour's land value by mega corporations, without compensating any loss, will guarantee a lot of very unhappy neighbours.

Promoters and supporters of such developments need to recognise the disadvantage to existing property owners and ensure they are protected and not abandoned for some 'greater good' – it's a very bad precedent.

How many rural land holders would like a nuclear power plant built next to them? It is a permissible use of farmland in our district, but how green would everyone like to go?

— Stephen Conroy,
Bungendore NSW

Radical cure proposed for ailing NSW Health system

THE NSW Government hopes job cuts and a massive shakeup of NSW Health will restore local decision making, after legislation to create Local Health Districts was passed through Parliament mid-year.

The Health Services Amendment (Local Health Districts and Boards) Bill was passed through both houses of Parliament with no amendments. The key changes will provide for the establishment of Local Health Districts and District Health Boards in lieu of the 15 geographically-based Local Health Networks and their governing councils.

Included in the shakeup is the axing of an undisclosed number of middle management jobs which NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner said will allow resources to be deployed to support frontline health care.

Mrs Skinner maintains it is a positive move by the Government. "Our plan paves the way for giving effect to one of our key election promises," she said. That is returning to community control responsibility and accountability in the health system. "It's time we re-engage demoralised medical professionals and put patients back at the centre of every decision."

— Benjamin Mutandadzi

MANAGED TO DEATH

Cont'd from p4

The plan proposes monitoring kangaroo numbers and measuring ground vegetation in reserves stretching from Belconnen and Black Mountain through all the ridgelines and peaks to the Murrumbidgee corridor and out to the Naas valley.

Regardless of what that may reveal, the plan wants 2,000 kangaroos per year culled for four years in woodlands plus culls to continue in grasslands. It doesn't say how these populations might overlap. Funding is also sought for fencing.

The proposal says culling in reserves will cost taxpayers \$80 per dead kangaroo. Thus 2,000 x \$80 x 4 = \$640,000, plus the grassland cull costs.

Measuring how much grass is being grazed costs \$3,500 per site and counting pellets to estimate numbers is \$5,000 per site. At least 16 sites are suggested for these activities.

The total "includes the costs associated with additional security to manage demonstrators and excavation of multiple burial pit sites ... Depending on monitoring results, this (total) may not be sufficient" says the document (*ACT Woodland Restoration Implementation Plan*).

To justify all this expenditure and proposed killing, kangaroo grazing is designated as a "key threatening process" to ACT woodlands, (possibly a unique claim in Australia) linked to the effort to restore the woodlands to an ideal past design.

(In rural residential NSW, people living in a remnant woodland setting may find this hard to fathom. Landholders note abundant birdlife and small reptiles are common. After the rains, grass, flowers and understorey shrubs have returned or grown in spectacular fashion despite having more than 0.5 kangaroos per hectare on the block along with other grazers and browsers like wallabies, possums, and a possible quota of rabbits.)

Shoot first and ask questions later

Mulligans Flat/Goorooyaroo is the testing site for "woodland management action" according to this document and includes weed removal, poisoning cats and foxes, and shooting most of the kangaroos to see what the impacts might be.

"Through fencing, and killing the successful species, and (sometimes) reintroducing the unsuccessful, they are creating the grassland or woodland equivalent of something like Blundell's Cottage, which will continue to require intensive management to maintain," said Wildcare's Greg Tarlinton.

Days of our lives: mobile phones were a honk in the car 30 years ago

MARKETING and PR companies have figured out that a cheap way of getting the client's name in the media is to write an irresistible feature item prominently attached to the client's name. The *Bulletin* is getting more of these, and sometimes they do prove irresistible!

Thus we learn that only 30 years ago the first phone call was made on Australia's first public mobile network built by (guess who?), yes, Telstra! (then called Telecom) and look where we are now.

This call was made on a car phone weighing 14 kilograms with a 45cm handset and costing nearly \$5,000 or nearly \$17,000 in today's terms. Phone coverage was limited to the greater Melbourne area (compared with the Next G network which now covers over 2.1 million square kilometres).

The 1981 phone could store just 16 numbers, was installed in the car and alerted owners of an incoming call with a honking horn or flashing headlights.

Some more stats about mobile phones: surprise – they're everywhere

- There are an estimated 22 million mobile phone services in Australia. In 2010–11 Telstra connected more than one million mobile services in just nine months.
- **Texts** – in 1981 no one had heard of 'texting' whereas in 2009–10 Telstra customers sent 9.4 billion text messages (Financial results, June 2010).
- **Mobile internet** – in 1981 using a mobile network for internet access wasn't even imagined, now Telstra's mobile broadband network supports over 10 million internet capable phones, tablets and data cards.
- **Costs** – in 1981 it cost \$4,995 plus a \$350 installation fee to purchase a mobile phone compared to today where a customer can buy a phone from Telstra for less than \$35 outright.



Panic stations

Apparently Telstra's consumer surveys have shown:

- 50 percent of Australians feel panic stricken within five minutes when they think they've lost their mobile phone; 25 percent panic after less than a minute.
- Nearly one third of Gen Y checks their mobile phones in the mornings before they use the bathroom, have breakfast, or go online.
- Nearly half of Australians rank mobile phones as the innovation they value the most, more than the desktop computer to laptop and the oven to microwave.

And here's another promotion, aimed at local rugby clubs

DOES YOUR local rugby league club need new equipment or training? Is it time they traded in their tired old jumpers? Maybe the club needs help with a proper clubroom renovation?

Home Hardware Karabar is getting behind its local rugby league clubs in a big way by giving them the chance to win a \$5,000 grant, thanks to Home Timber and Hardware's Grassroots Club Grants.

Continued p14

Community radio healthy and growing

Karen Lovatt visits QBN FM

IT'S BEEN nearly 21 years since Queanbeyan's first community radio station began operating from behind the old Fire Station on Crawford St, and QBN FM continues to grow.

The station began life as a small, temporary operation playing mainly country music. Now QBN FM plays a wide range of genres, streams online, and broadcasts twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Station Manager Ron Parkinson says that the concept of community radio in Queanbeyan is getting stronger all the time, thanks to QBN FM's strong community presence.

"We're getting out into the community a lot, lot more... we do something like 30 outside broadcasts a year, which is a lot for a community station."

Parkinson then plays down the impressive number of broadcasts by saying that at least 20 of them are Queanbeyan Tigers AFL games. Every round that the Queanbeyan Tigers play is called live on QBN FM, something that few other community stations achieve.

Broadcasting from the field

QBN FM also attends several other community events during the course of the year, avoiding the shop promotions that other radio stations do. Parkinson says that he feels shop promotions don't do enough for the station. "To me I don't believe radio brings a lot of people into a shop, it's just saying they've got a weekend special or something. Yes, a lot of people go, but they don't go for the radio, they go for a lot of things that are on [at the store]."

Parkinson is proud of QBN FM's community activity, and says the station prefers to attend more family-oriented events.

"Most of the festivals and all those things we've been to, the Murrumbateman Field Days... we went to the Collector Pumpkin Festival again this year, and the Million Paws Walk, the Queanbeyan Regatta, Queanbeyan Show, the Queanbeyan Gift, and that's just a few, the Queanbeyan Rodeo as well."



Volunteer broadcaster Harry Stewart, takes requests and plays 'easy listening' music on a recent Tuesday morning at QBN 96.7 FM.

The success of the outside broadcasts is helped by the integrity of QBN FM's broadcasting equipment. In fact, Parkinson says, in the beginning the only problem with the equipment was that no-one knew how to use it.

"We had the facilities for it but no-one knew how to use the facilities, and a lot of it had to be updated... especially the outside broadcast stuff, we still use it today, it's still current the equipment, which is great, all it needed was an update to make it all work the way we want it to work."

Plans for Braidwood to Cooma coverage

And the quality of the equipment is also making QBN FM's plans for the future more viable. Parkinson has many projects in mind to expand the station's content, and extend their range into a much broader area. He hopes eventually to have QBN FM covering the area from Braidwood to Cooma, including the difficult-to-reach area of Captain's Flat.

"I have been talking to one or two of the local residents down there in Captain's Flat, who get no reception from community radio at all. So, that is one of our projects, to get QBN

FM into Captain's Flat... It is very difficult to get a signal in there, because it's such a hollow, they're incredibly down in a deep dark hole."

The Braidwood project is on another scale, with the concept being not to replace the community radio in existence or to become the station, but instead to supplement and help the existing station.

"I've been talking to the station, and they said they don't have the resources we have, as in presenters, so I said okay, why don't you pick up a stream from us and beam it out to the Braidwood area directly from our studio? They're not yet ready for that so that's another project we're getting involved in."

Volunteers get a lot done

For a community radio station, run solely by volunteers, QBN FM is punching well above its weight. And Parkinson hopes that they can continue well into the future. "All volunteers, we're all happy to do it. Mainly it's just a hobby, and for many it's just an outlet or a place to do something, especially the older people, the people who've retired, to give them some sense of being able to do something, which is great."



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



Fly Me To the Moon – MARKETING FOR SMALL BUSINESS

by Jean McIntyre (Marketing Angels)

I GOT the inspiration for writing this column from watching one of my all-time favourite movies *Apollo 13*.

My favourite scene (well, one of my favourites) is where they find out that the carbon dioxide filters are the wrong shape for the inlets and they have to build new ones or the astronauts will die.

They collect stuff they have on the ship – socks, flight plans and things and then a guy walks into a room of engineers, throws it all on the table and says: “We have to find a way to make this fit into the hole, using nothing but these.”

Of course they achieve it. NASA engineers are very clever but it’s such a good metaphor for ingenuity – especially in business.

Be like NASA

Marketing in small business is all about clever use of resources.

When we write a marketing plan – it’s a roadmap for how the business *could* use its resources. It lays out what the opportunities are, what the costs are and the likely payoff from using those resources. A marketing plan helps the business owner to make decisions about what they will use their resources for and what they expect to achieve with them.

If the US Government hadn’t decided to spend the money they would never have achieved their goal. Now we live in a world where a man has walked on the moon.

Deciding on resource expenditure

The first thing a business needs to decide is how much they want to spend on marketing. That includes both money and time.

It’s true that marketing can take a huge chunk out of a business’ operating budget. The really big companies think nothing of spending millions on their marketing

campaigns because spending money on marketing works.

That said, marketing (particularly if you advertise) can suck up all of your spare money if you aren’t clever about it. You need to decide what is the reasonable amount of resources to spend to achieve the kind of return you want? Marketing Angels has a very good e-guide about this subject that’s downloadable for free called *How much should I spend on marketing?*

Hint: Startups need to spend a much higher proportion of their budget on marketing than existing businesses.

Once you know what you want to spend – then you need to decide what to spend it on. To make decisions on this you really need to understand your market inside and out.

Who are your customers and how do you reach them?

Knowing your market (from research) will tell you: what magazines and newspapers they read, what channels they watch and listen to,

how they use the internet and what websites they frequent. Research can tell you what organisations they belong to, how they shop and how much they spend.

It can drive your advertising, your publicity, your networking, your sponsorship, your events.

Most importantly it determines exactly what you will say to your market in your advertising – your key messages – so that what you say encourages potential customers to buy from you.

The NASA engineers know their ship, the astronauts, the journey and the destination inside out – so they’ve got a lot to work with to decide what resources to use and when and where.

Decide then DO IT

Probably the most important issue around using resources to market your business is to have faith and just decide to do it. You know it will cost you time and money to succeed and committing those resources to marketing is perhaps the hardest leap to make in business.

You’ll find this and other marketing wisdom on Jean’s blog canberrabusiness.wordpress.com.

— PROPERTY MATTERS —

History of a rural resident home: From German design to Buddhist retreat to earthquake

by John Sneddon

THE NAMES ‘Zum Eidleweiss’ and ‘Ching Chueh Fa Yuan Hermitage’ provide a clue to the history of this interesting property at 832 Norton Road Wamboin.

Located next door to Lambert’s Vineyard and currently owned by Grant and Astrid Boore, this spacious 6 bedroom home set on 26 acres is on the market for sale by negotiation.

Originally built in 1996 by a German engineer, the house has many features for year-round comfort. A number of separate living areas were created to accommodate extended family from Germany.

With no extended family arriving, the property was sold in 1999 to two Buddhist nuns who lived there for eight years. In this time the property was used as a retreat with many visiting Buddhist dignitaries spending

time there. The home was adorned with wall hangings and a prayer room was established giving it the feel of a Buddhist temple. Prayer flags around the grounds completed the picture contributing to a peaceful and serene sanctuary.

Back to New Zealand

As the nuns spent increasing time overseas, the home was sold in 2007 to the current owners Grant and Astrid Boore. They did much to enhance the property including the prized addition – an outdoor woodfired pizza oven. With two young boys, Grant and Astrid were looking forward to raising their family in what they saw as an ideal setting. However fate intervened and, following the earthquake in Christchurch, they are returning home to New Zealand to family and a job opportunity to help reconstruct the city.

Features

Overlooking 11 hectares (26ac) of picturesque, undulating land and with spectacular views to the Brindabellas and Black Mountain Tower, 832 Norton Road Wamboin is a spacious and airy two-storey home with approximately 45 squares of living. With six bedrooms, study,

rumpus room, family room and a large lounge/dining room the home provides a myriad of options with enormous potential for a large or extended family, bed & breakfast accommodation or to set up a home office.

Hebel brick construction, 6mm double-laminated windows, central heating and slow-combustion fire control the internal climate.



Two tanks store 90,000L of water and dams support irrigation. The fully fenced land has been home to horses for several years but with ample water, olives, grapes, alpacas or other horticultural pursuits are possibilities.

The kitchen features quality appliances, walk-in-pantry, extensive cupboard and bench

space and the choice of adjoining rooms to use for dining. The master bedroom is generously sized and features a large ensuite with double vanity and spa bath as well as a walk-in-robe. Three of the other bedrooms have built-in-robos and the main bathroom also has a spa bath. Flooring is a combination of tiles or neutral carpet and the rooms have been decorated with colours that give the home a calming ambience.

Outdoor entertaining areas over panoramic views are a tiled upstairs balcony, paved pergola or downstairs by the woodfired pizza oven. The attached double garage has internal access to the house as well as an additional toilet and shower plus a climate controlled wine storage room. A 16m x 6m colorbond shed includes two open machinery bays and its roof supplies water for a nearby vegie garden. A fully-fenced dog run is another feature.

This property with all that it offers is just a short drive to Canberra’s CBD and approximately 20 minutes to the airport along sealed roads.

If you would like to discuss the state of the market in your area, please don’t hesitate to contact John Sneddon of Peter Blackshaw Real Estate Inner North & Rural on 0403 139 701.

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NSW Government faces land planning criticism

THE NSW Government has come under attack for reneging on immediate and some longer term measures it said would provide local communities with greater certainty about how their areas will change over time.

NSW Planning Minister Brad Hazzard came under scrutiny this week when the state government developer, Landcom, was attacked for not disclosing to potential buyers of its land in Sydney, that AGL proposes to drill coal seam gas wells throughout the area.

This comes after the NSW Government’s *Strategic Regional Land Use Policy* proposed it would be aiming to strike the right balance between agricultural, mining and energy sectors, while attempting to ensure the protection of high value conservation lands.

The measures in the policy include an immediate 60-day moratorium on the granting

of new coal, coal seam gas, and petroleum exploration licences in NSW and a requirement that all applications for coal, coal seam gas, and petroleum exploration licences be exhibited for public comment.

Speaking to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Hazzard said the government was developing its strategic regional land use policy in consultation with the public, landholders and industry. “It may be that a ‘one size fits all’ approach is counterproductive,” he said.

Last month the Minister was criticised by his own backbench colleague John Barilaro and the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly for stalling development plans for Tralee, south of Jerrabomberra that Queanbeyan Council had hoped were finally on the home stretch.

— Benjamin Mutandadzi

Rural Property Guide

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With a peaceful location this spacious 6 bedroom, ensuite, 2-storey home on an elevated 26 acre block is a must see. The home features a large lounge and dining area, family room, study, well appointed kitchen, slow combustion fire, central heating, 3 spaces to entertain guests, woodfire pizza oven and wine store room. Outside there is a DLUG, 2 dams, grazing areas, colourbond shed and 2 x 90,000L water tanks for household usage. With stunning views to the Brindabella's and Black Mountain Tower this home is only minutes to Bungendore or Queanbeyan.

Offers over \$995,000

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BAN BULL BREEDS? Rise of dog attacks in Queanbeyan

by Benjamin Mutandadzi

FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC mauling of four-year-old Ayen Chol in Melbourne and an attack on an 80-year-old woman in Queanbeyan, there have been renewed calls for the banning of aggressive breeds of dogs. However, experts warn that this approach may only see a continuation of the violence.

Over the past 12 months there has been a 56 percent increase over the previous year of dog attacks in Queanbeyan. Thirty-nine attacks were registered with the Division of Local Government, the attacks involving a total of 60 dogs.

One of the victims, an 80-year-old resident of Queanbeyan, was attacked by two large dogs and shortly after the attack suffered a stroke. 26 human victims were involved in the attacks, two of whom required hospitalisation and three who needed medical surgery.

Livestock and wildlife attacks have also increased, with sheep, lambs, alpacas and kangaroos being mauled by dogs.

Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall says he is disturbed by the attacks in Queanbeyan.

“These figures from the Division of Local Government are very disturbing and concerning for Queanbeyan,” he said. “People should be able to walk along a street and not be concerned that they may be attacked by a dog. There have been a number of cases across Australia where a dog attack has resulted in a fatality and I would hate to see a Queanbeyan resident or visitor lose their life from an attack.”

Last month, Federal MP Bill Shorten entered the debate, labelling the unregistered pit bull

terriers involved in the fatal mauling in Melbourne as “sharks on legs”.

Staffies often the culprits but what about the owners?

A Queanbeyan Council spokesperson says Staffordshire terriers have been the breed with the highest incidence of attacks in Queanbeyan over the past twelve months, continuing a trend.

“Nineteen of the 60 dogs involved in the attacks were Staffordshire terriers or Staffordshire terrier crosses. This aligns with NSW figures which show that Staffordshire terriers and their crosses were the number-one breed involved in dog attacks in NSW every quarter since the register started reporting nine quarters ago.”

However, there are some who believe that there is more to this alarming trend.



In a report to the NSW Department of Local Government on breed-specific legislation, Dr Kersti Seksel, a registered specialist in veterinary behaviour, cited a US taskforce study which concluded that breed-specific legislation was inappropriate as it “lulls people into a false sense

of security that banning or restricting certain breeds of dog manages the problem. This could result in dog owners acquiring a dog and failing to recognise the scope of their responsibilities to the community.”

Linda Watson, a Research Fellow and PhD Candidate at Monash University Accident Research Centre, agrees that more responsibility and owner education is the key to reducing dog attacks.

“Breed bans simply do not address the recurrent patterns of irresponsible or uneducated dog ownership often associated with dog attacks,” Watson said. “Measures taken need to address human ownership practices. It is unfair to demonise any breed in the manner that ‘pit bulls’ have been. Before ‘pit bulls’, the focus was on German shepherds and rottweilers.”

THE DEVIL MADE THEM DO IT

The Bulletin's dog expert Heike Hahner had this advice about human responsibility for so-called troublesome or aggressive dog breeds and how to react to aggression.

I FEEL the problem with aggression in dogs is threefold. The breeder has the first responsibility. Dogs can be bred to have higher or lower levels of aggression. So it is a breeder's responsibility to ensure that the dogs he breeds are of as sound a temperament as possible.

The breeder also should inquire into what sort of home his pups are entering. Not all dogs that are sold into a suburban home, or where children are present, are suitable for such a lifestyle. A good and responsible breeder who cares for his own and his dogs' reputation will make, as much as possible, sure that the dog suits the home it goes to.

The next responsibility lies with the owner. Certain breeds such as the terriers, to which the Staffordshire and the bull terriers belong, have been bred for centuries to hunt, fight and kill. Handling methods with dogs that have these characteristics must be firm, persistent and consistent, but never harsh, as terriers are likely to fight back. Once they have learned



that people may be aggressive to them, they may view all people as a possible threat or sparring partner.

Pups and young dogs must be discouraged from biting humans through the use of distraction and intelligent games, such as tracking or playing ball, for example.

Staffies extremely easy to train

Games such as rough-housing and tug-of-war should be avoided at all costs, as these dogs are bred to win physical combat and once they are triggered many of them fail to have an ‘off’ switch. I personally love the Staffies and

These dogs are not culprits, just good posers!

PHOTO: HEIKE HAHNER

terriers, as a breed, in the home and in class. They love to please, are extremely easy to train and generally learn faster than their owners.

The third responsibility lies with all of us: to know how to interact with dogs safely and to teach children how to be safe with dogs. Many of us know more about what happens on Mars or in foreign countries than we do about our closest companion animals.

Many dog bites can be prevented by being polite and respectful to an unfamiliar dog. Staring into their eyes, leaning over them, running at them or away from them, patting/hitting them on the top of the head or lying over their backs are all considered rude gestures by some dogs and may result in a bite.

If you see an aggression coming

While this may be easier said than done, the best advice is to stay calm and friendly, ignore the dog, and keep large objects between you and the dog.

Continued p15

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HOW SWEET IT IS Sustainability at the corporate end

US-BASED COMPANY Herman Miller makes office furniture and interior products for the healthcare sector. They produce award-winning posture-fit chairs. The company has also won

many awards for its approach to reducing waste and using recycled materials in their products.

This is one of the companies that Canberra-based Australian Ethical invests in. An analyst filed this report on what he found when he visited a US factory in Michigan.

“I am standing in front of the Herman Miller Green House Facility, home of the famous Aeron chair. I am immediately taken by the serene atmosphere complete with chirping birds despite Interstate 196 being just a stone's throw away. You could be forgiven for not realising that inside the neatly sited building in front of me is a billion dollar enterprise.

“I have been sent here to assess the direction of Herman Miller given the ongoing recessionary conditions in the US and the recent launch of their new product, the Setu chair.

“I am also treated to probably the leanest manufacturing process that I have ever seen. In 10 years the production of the Aeron chair has gone from five production lines using three shifts to produce a chair every 82 seconds, to today where one line with two shifts produces the same chair in 21 seconds.

“This efficiency gain has been so successful that this building now has 13 production lines,



a source of strong local employment that came from innovation, not charity or subsidy.

“As I am preparing to leave, I am handed a bottle of honey with the following story. Back in 2000 the facility became infested with paper wasps. In keeping with Herman Miller's principles, they sought a solution that did not involve pesticides.

“It turns out that honey bees are natural enemies and very territorial. 600,000 honey bees were setup across the way from the facility. Within five months the wasps were no longer an issue. As an added bonus, Herman Miller now produces over one tonne of honey annually! A jar of honey is given to all guests who visit their facility and the rest is donated to charity.

“Looking back at the facility, one simple message is riveted into my mind – embracing your corporate responsibilities just works.”

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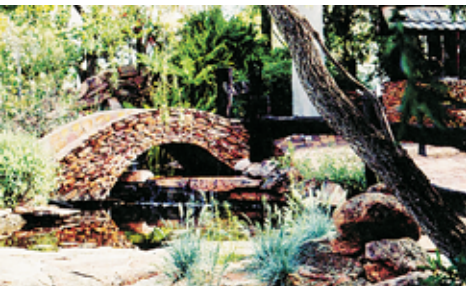
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OPEN GARDENS for your enjoyment

The 2011–12 Open Garden Season is starting up in September/October, coinciding with a glorious Spring for plant life. Each year committed garden owners across Australia open their gardens to the public and this year there are more than 500 on display.

Here are some early dates, mostly in October, of regional gardens within an easy weekend drive from Palerang and Queanbeyan.



Noel & Sharon Cartwright's garden (Grenfell)

Garden reflecting the owners' dedication to Australian plants and an encyclopaedic knowledge of local species. Stonework and fallen timber provide structure for a series of microclimates including rainforest, bushland and desert. Brilliant displays of daisies, hakeas, banksias, acacias, native orchids, darwinias and Sturt's Desert Pea. 0.30ha (0.74ac).

EXTRAS The adjoining Grenfell Endemic Garden will be open (free entry).
ADDRESS 107 Cowra Rd, Grenfell.
OPEN 17–18 Sept 2011. 10am–4.30pm. \$6.00 adults, children free.

Walcott garden (Red Hill)

Expansive young native garden featuring more than 4,000 plants representing over 700 different species. Heritage-listed pines, a wildflower meadow and three large ponds adorned with water lilies complement the house. Many acacias, eremophilas and grevilleas in bloom.

ADDRESS 10 Wickham Cres, Red Hill.
OPEN Sunday 18 Sept 2011. 10am–4.30pm.
EXTRAS Refreshments and plants available for purchase.

Stock's Native Garden (Harden)

Display garden featuring more than 600 Australian species, many rare and collectable, seen at the height of their spring bloom. Drought-tolerant, frost-tolerant and bird-attracting plants are a particular specialty. *Banksia blechnifolia*, *Grevillea magnifica*, *Lechenaultia biloba*, *Pimelea physodes*. Billabong. 2.00ha (4.94ac).

ADDRESS Lot 3 Simmonds Rd, Harden.
OPEN 8–9 Oct 2011. 10am–4.30pm. \$6.00 adults, children free.

Sunshine Woods (Murrumburrah)

Delightful cottage garden filled with colourful and fragrant flowers, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. Meandering gravel paths and archways link rooms including a Mediterranean dry garden, a formal garden lined with pencil pines, and an outdoor dining area. Restored 1898 ripple iron-clad cottage. 1.01ha (2.50ac).

EXTRAS 1898 cottage open for viewing.
ADDRESS 344 Albury Lane, Murrumburrah.
OPEN 8–9 Oct 2011. 10am–4.30pm. \$10.00 joint ticket with *White Gables*. Children free.

White Gables (Harden)

A white picket fence fronts a delightful cottage garden filled with roses, erigeron, lavender and violets. Well-designed back garden features clipped lavender hedging and a low stone wall

enclosing a paved area. Good plantings of olives, pittosporum, crabapples, almonds and quince. Vegetable garden. 0.12ha (0.30ac).

ADDRESS 163 Clarke St, Harden.
OPEN 8–9 Oct 2011. 10am–4.30pm. \$10.00 joint ticket with Sunshine Woods. Children free.

Willow Springs (Harden)

Lovely cottage garden featuring a spring-fed lake with water lilies. Giant willows provide structure for curving borders abundantly planted with roses, shrubs and perennials. Rose-clad summerhouse overlooks blossom-filled garden and surrounding country. Rustic ornaments and structures. Finalist in Your Garden 'Garden of the Year' 2001. 0.81ha (2.00ac).



ADDRESS Barwang Rd, Harden.
OPEN 8–9 Oct 2011. 10am–4.30pm. \$6.00 adults, children free.

[More OPEN GARDENS in next month's *Bulletin*]

Mark your calendar for these events this spring

From the running of sheep in Boorowa to flying kites in Harden, spring is a perfect time to get out and about to explore other towns and see what the region has to offer.

Some events you might like to visit:

The Essential Energy Irish Woolfest in Boorowa on Sunday 2 October. It's a great family day out with local produce, activities for the kids including a petting zoo, and of course the famous running of the sheep.

The Harden Kite Festival will be held on Saturday 8 October with good old kite flying and local food and market stalls

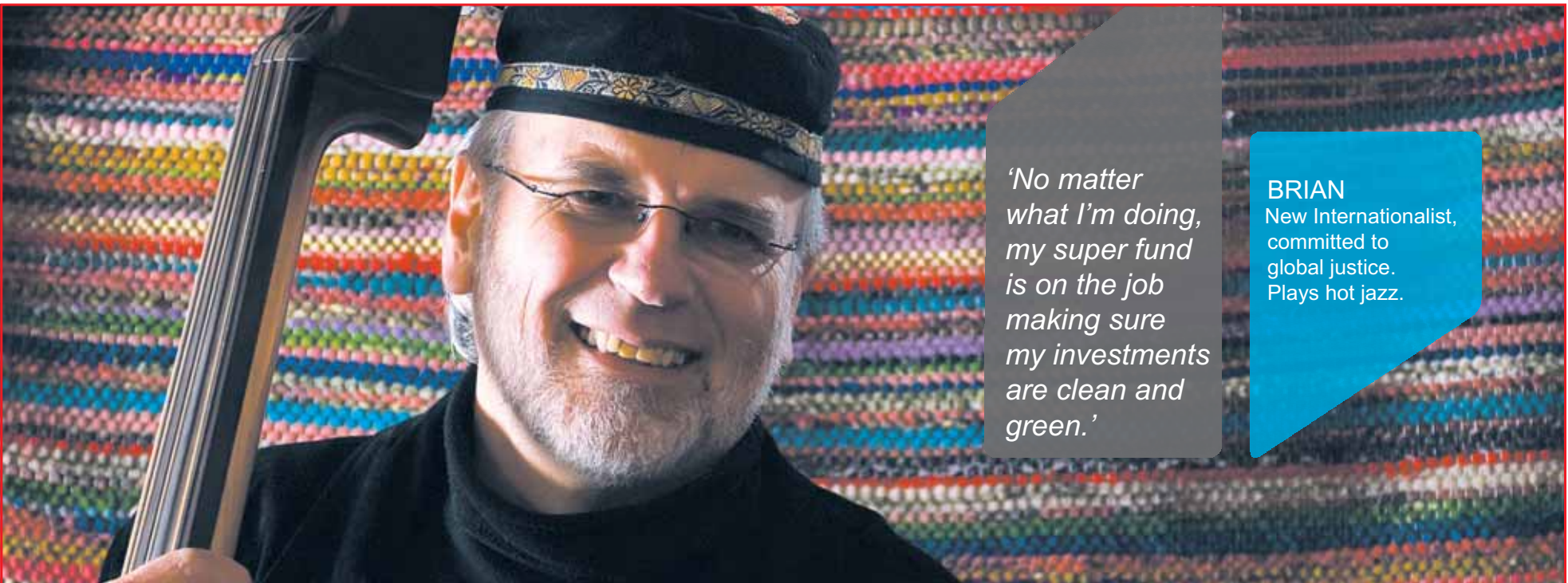
Down the highway in Gunning, the annual Fireworks Festival will be held on the same day with over one hour of fireworks demonstrations. Highlights at this year festival are music from Queen Juanita and the Zydeco Cowboys, amusement rides, market stalls, the Goulburn Pipe Band, the Hall Brass Band, a reptile exhibition and lots more.

A long-time supporter of field days around the state, Essential Energy will again play a major supporting role at the Murrumbateman Field Days on the weekend of 15 and 16 October.

"The field days are really important for our regional and rural communities. With farming information and innovation, great local food and wines, energy and safety advice from the Essential Energy crews, cooking demonstrations on the Essential Energy kitchen and so much more," said Essential Energy's regional general manager South Eastern, Phillip Green.

And of course, "Community events are great for local tourism because they attract people back to our regional centres."

— Information provided by the Essential Energy South East springtime sponsorship program



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A POET FOR HIS GENERATION

Cont'd from p1

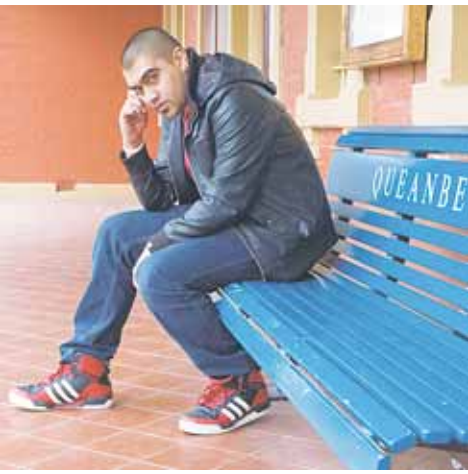


PHOTO: TRUDY TAYLOR

Omar Musa: poet, rapper, writer and actor reflects on his international journey on a hometown bench.

Hip-hop art outside anger

As an artist, Musa says he finds inspiration “in all sorts of places”, and rates fellow Queanbeyan hip-hopper, Triple J radio announcer and ARIA award-winner Hau Latakefu highly, but also feels that more edgy rappers such as Eminem, despite the controversy that sometimes dog them, need to be respected for their artistry.

“A lot of great art comes out of anger, but it can be counter-productive,” he admits. “My approach is a bit different; it sets itself apart from the ‘angry’ hip-hop. I’m interested in the diversity and creating a more balanced approach – looking at the good and the bad, the positive and the negative. Beauty needs shadow.”

A regular feature of his work also just happens to be where he grew up. “I do try to capture my hometown. It’s a place that continues to fascinate me. It’s always been a town with a great dignity, something that’s not always recognised. I wouldn’t have wanted to grow up anywhere else.”

As he continues to travel and perform, exposing as many people to his music as possible, Musa says that at some point he might also be interested in penning a novel.

“Who knows? Maybe one day I’ll be able to properly capture Queanbeyan,” he comments cheekily.

Enough with the doom and gloom, rejoice for *Red Dog* – a terrific Australian movie

by Di Johnstone

Nelson Woss, Producer / Kriv Stenders, Director

EVERYONE LIKES a good dog story and *Red Dog* is a great dog story. This new Australian film is a delightful, often hilarious, romantic, sometimes sad and ultimately hopeful story of a dog who wandered the wild and remote northwest corner of Western Australia in the 1970s and captured the hearts of the tough men and women of the Pilbara mining towns. *Red Dog* was a good friend to many, an inseparable mate to one man and an inspiration to all.

The film is based on a true story that has grown with the telling. *Red Dog*’s travels were the stuff of legend in the west, a legend that has seen a large bronze statue of *Red Dog* erected in Dampier by his many friends and now a major tourist attraction for the town.



It is a legend that attracted well-known author Louis de Bernieres, who wrote *Captain Correlli’s Mandolin*, also a successful film, to write a slender book, titled simply *Red Dog*. The book catalogues local and still-vivid memories of *Red Dog*’s travels, adventures and his friends, and provides the raw material for the film.

Most of the people depicted in the film are rough diamonds, drifters and dreamers living a lonely existence but they are connected through this amazing dog. As they tell their *Red Dog* stories, surprising aspects of their characters are

SOME MORE INSIDE INFO FROM OMAR

Borrowed from a 2009 interview on <http://verygood.com.au/omar-musa/>

I first heard of you as the Australian Slam poet champ, now you have a new music video out. So which came first; poetry or music?

Definitely poetry. I have been writing poetry since I was a young child. My father was a poet in Malaysia, so he always encouraged me. I’m an only child and we didn’t have much money growing up, so writing and painting kept me busy. Once I was in my teens, I got into *Wu Tang Clan*, *Ice Cube* and *Public Enemy*, because I realised that hip-hop was modern poetry, but contemporary and accessible, unlike a lot of written poetry.

What gets you more love interest... being a rapper, or being a poet?... and do they attract different audiences?

Haha. I guess being a rapper, because women seem to be attracted to the allure of a bad boy musician. Little do they know I’m a mad bookworm who spends most of my spare time in second hand bookshops and galleries haha. And yeah, poetry and hip-hop attract really different audiences. I love both equally, though sometimes poetry can be a bit wanky and hip-hop a bit too aggressive.

— Omar’s website is www.obmmusic.com

— BOOK REVIEW — by Sarah Newsome

Jasper Jones
Craig Silvey

Publisher: Allen & Unwin
RRP: \$23.99

I THINK I may have found a contender for the title of Great Australian Writer.

He’s a Western Australian, but he’s not Tim Winton. He’s an astute social commentator, but he’s not David Williamson. His characters talk like people you actually know, but he’s not Peter Temple. And believe me, even if you’ve not interested in those writers, I’ll bet you’re going to enjoy *Jasper Jones*.



Craig Silvey is one of the finest Australian storytellers to emerge in decades. Forget the superlative reviews from book snobs who rarely rave about new writers. Forget the cute gold medallions on the cover indicating some seriously impressive awards. Forget the hype.

Read it because you’ll love these characters, because you know small country towns like this one, because it evokes the poignancy of innocence, yearning and coming of age more strongly than when you went through it yourself.

It’s studded with laugh-out-loud and life-affirming moments, and yet it still paints a sober picture of human weakness: prejudice, hypocrisy and prejudice. It’s been called the Australian comeback to Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

It’s the sort of book that you want to buy a copy of for everyone you know, from your book snob mates to your fifteen-year-old cousin who reads nothing but sporting biographies and back copies of *The Land*.

So. Let’s just say I’m a big fan.

From the dust jacket:

‘Late on a hot summer night on the tail end of 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish lad of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleep-out. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for Charlie’s help, Charlie steals into the night by his side, terrified but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him through town to his secret glade in the bush, and it’s here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper’s horrible discovery.

Carrying the secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is harried by a suspicious town tightening in fear. In the simmering summer where everything changes, he locks horns with his tempestuous mother, falls nervously in love, and battles to keep a lid on his zealous best friend, Jeffrey Lu. And in vainly attempting to restore the parts that have been shaken loose, Charlie learns to discern the truth from myth and why white lies creep like a curse, why the truth of things is so hard to know.



Queanbeyan Celebrates NSW Bike Week

This event aims to promote cycling in Queanbeyan as a valid form of transport and recreation that is good for the environment and health. It also aims to improve safety by providing cyclists with training to increase their skills and confidence.

Date

Sunday 18th September 2011.

Times

10.00am – Registration
10.30am – 12.00pm ‘Bicycle Skills & Road Safety’ workshop
12.30pm – Free sausage sizzle with helmet and bike safety checks.

Event Details

This event is free and open to Queanbeyan residents. To participate in the safe cycling workshop please pre-register by emailing sustainability@qcc.nsw.gov.au or calling 6285 6268. For catering purposes you are

encouraged to register for the sausage sizzle and helmet and bike safety checks, however you are still able to turn up on the day.

Location

Collett St car park for the workshop (cnr Morisset and Collett St – enter via Morisset) and

Glebe Park for the sausage sizzle and helmet safety check.



Queanbeyan City Council

bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au

by Judy Thompson

Two more thumbs up for *Red Dog* and *Captain America* isn't a bad hero either

Captain America The First Avenger is a ripping yarn. Captain America was originally a superhero published by Marvel Comics in 1941.

The hero is Steve Rogers a physically lightweight student who attempts to enlist unsuccessfully to fight the enemies of the USA in World War II. Steve Rogers is eventually noticed by a good scientist who turns Steve into a super being by administering top-secret treatments amongst other things.

Steve is transformed physically and intellectually into Captain America. Sadly, a spy shoots the good scientist and the secret recipe dies with the scientist.

Captain America's initial career is inglorious,

travelling around in a propaganda sideshow aimed at getting patriotic Americans to buy government bonds. However, this superhero's career eventually gets off the ground and with the help of his shield he achieves multiple rescues and other heroic feats.

The film ends with Captain America travelling in time to the present. This could be the start of Captain America 2. I wonder if he will be selling US government bonds again?



The villain (Hugo Weaving) is clearly morally bankrupt and physically unsightly to boot. Happily he meets a bad end. The love interest, a lady agent is attractive and intelligent. In short, it is not a complex movie.

Highly recommended. Showing at Dendy Canberra and Greater Union Manuka.

— * * * —

Red Dog is a West Australian film produced by Kriv Stenders. The film is adapted from Louis de Bernières's book about a legendary kelpie, who lived in Dampier. The book and the film are based on a true story.



The film is partly financed by Rio Tinto and has already had success at the box office with \$1.8 million recorded for the first weekend in August.

The stars are Koko the kelpie as Red Dog, Josh Lucas as John the master of choice for Red Dog, and Rachael Taylor as Nancy the love interest. However, the film has been described as a love story between a dog and the community of Dampier.

The film starts with Red Dog's illness after being poisoned and chronicles the stories of Red Dog's interaction with various members of the community as well as his part in the central love story.

This is a thoroughly good night's entertainment. At last, a terrific Australian film! Please support your local film industry and have a good time by seeing this movie. Margaret and David, on *At the Movies*, have given it 4 and 4.5 stars respectively.

Very Highly Recommended. Showing at Dendy Canberra and Greater Union Manuka.

— * * * —

Beginners is a semi-autobiographical film directed by Mike Mills. Mill's father announced he was gay late in life and died shortly afterwards.

In the film Ewan McGregor plays Oliver. Oliver's major relationships with women seem to come to naught.

Is it fear of failure or not wanting to repeat his parents' arid relationship?

Christopher Plummer plays Hal, Oliver's father. Plummer, for those old enough to remember, was the father of the singing children in the *Sound of Music*. He still looks in remarkably good nick despite the fact that his character is terminally ill.

After his wife dies, Hal announces he is and always has been gay and he embraces his new life with enthusiasm – notwithstanding a terminal cancer diagnosis. Hal joins a gay movie club, a gay book club and takes a younger male lover.

Oliver is surprised by, but supportive of his father's 'coming out', and the film shows how far society's attitudes towards homosexual and heterosexual relationships have changed.

Shortly after Hal's death Oliver meets a young woman who is temporarily mute. Melanie Laurent plays Anna.

Hal's dog Arthur is a Jack Russell who speaks in sub titles. Arthur is suffering from separation anxiety since Hal's death and cannot be left alone and moves in with Oliver. Arthur's character is a cross between the goose in Leunig cartoons and an interfering mother. He repeatedly asks, "Are we married yet?"

The moral of the film seems to be 'Keep it simple and happy'. It is a gentle, subtle, sad film with a happy ending. Oliver is good to his dad, good to his dad's dog and is finally brave enough to take an emotional leap of faith with Anna.

Highly Recommended. Showing at Dendy Canberra and Greater Union Manuka.



Oh what a night it will be!

by Ros Hales

DIRECT FROM Las Vegas, this musical revue written by Independent Motown producer and creative consultant George Solomon, and award-winning producer/director Michael Chapman, is coming to 'The Q' in Queanbeyan this month.

Oh What A Night is a concert tribute to those Jersey Boys, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Audiences can expect to hear all the original Frankie Valli hits like *Sherry*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Walk Like A Man*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, *My Eyes Adored You*, *Working My Way Back To You*, *Let's Hang On*, *Who Loves You* and more.

The high-spirited, five man cast consisting of Chapman, Soloman, and choreographer Paul Holmquist, Joe Conti, Rick Morgan and Brandon Albright stay true to the original recordings without trying to mimic or impersonate the original group.

Michael Chapman began performing professionally at the age of seven, and has had a stellar career. A producer/director as well as being an accomplished pianist and musical arranger, he has created shows ranging from a musical-comedy re-enactment of a live radio presentation, which appeared at Carnegie Hall, to large-scale musicals and corporate events with casts of hundreds at New York's Lincoln Centre.

George Solomon has had an equally distinguished career. He created a live production show with the legendary Smokey Robinson and appeared as a series regular with Smokey on NBC's *Motown Revue*. This successful TV series gave George Solomon the opportunity to perform with and/or write for stars the calibre of Diana Ross, Bill Cosby, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder, Harry Connick Jr, Liza Minnelli and many others.

Paul Holmquist has appeared in and/or choreographed a score of memorable musicals such as *A Chorus Line*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Cats*, *Crazy For You*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello Dolly*, *Les Miserables*, *Oklahoma*, *The*

Pyjama Game, *The Pirates Of Penzance*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Music Man*, *West Side Story*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Gigi* and *Me And My Girl*.

Joe Conti is a real Jersey boy and, like Brandon Albright and Rick Morgan, has a string of musical theatre credits to his name.

The short promotional video for *Oh What A Night* was shown at the season's launch for 'The Q' earlier in the year and had this writer tapping her toes and vowing not to miss it.

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SPRING INTO THE VINEYARD

Weather or not, makes the season

ONE OF THE greatest miracles of nature is the annual transformation of the barren black-stumped midwinter vineyard into the luxuriant, juicy green jungle that is a field of vines in high summer.

Apparently miraculously, tiny green shoots emerge from the buds left on the vine after winter pruning and, using the energy stored during the previous growing season, emerge into the spring light. At Shepherds Run, this is always close to the 26th of September, give or take a few days.

It's been a cold and long winter this year. I am really looking forward to longer warmer days, when I don't have to wear gloves on my morning ride to work and there is some time available of an evening to just walk in the garden and smell the air.

Our vineyard was hit hard last spring by mildew and I was slow to treat it with sulphur

before the mid-rows became too wet for the tractor. Not this year – the vines will positively glow with health even if it means spraying at midnight. Sorry neighbours Margaret and Russell. I hope you won't mind the slight rumble of 'Chugsworth' the tractor. Never again will I see my girls be undressed with no leaves to protect their virtue.

Spring is a busy time in a vineyard. As well as spraying there are irrigation lines to repair and test, cordon wires to check, grass to mow and frost to worry about. The single most important event in a springtime vineyard

is flowering. This is a one or two-week period about two months after the first buds appear.

The potential size of the crop is ordained here. Tiny vine flowers appear from each bud and, depending on the weather, a proportion of them are fertilised to become berries or baby grapes. Strong winds can blow off these delicate little plant fragments which reduces yield, as does cold and wet weather.

Called 'coulture' this is particularly common in one of our most valued grape varieties – Merlot. So all you wine lovers out there pray for perfect weather like Camelot.

The weather during the flowering period has an effect not just on the size of the current year's crop but also on the following year's,

since this year's miniature buds on the vine will become next year's shoots.

Have a great spring and please take time to visit one of our district's wineries. They are run by local families. As James Halliday, the wine critic and vigneron said about the Canberra Wine Region "one special thing about local wineries is you usually get to meet the owner or winemaker and can have a good chat".

Remember – *"In wine there is wisdom, In beer there is strength, In water there is bacteria"*, Old German Proverb.

— Peter Davies,
Shepherds Run Wines

— MUSICIAN PROFILE —

Carwoola's Brigitte Heyer – cabaret poet with guitar

by Danny Velnaar



AFTER TURNING up to enjoy a night's entertainment at a music/poetry gig about seven or eight years ago, Brigitte Heyer decided to get herself a guitar and learn a few songs so she could be part of the entertainment as well as enjoying it.

It wasn't long before she could find her way around the fingerboard enough to strum her way through a short set, which was all that was required at the music/poetry gigs. With a few public performances under her belt, she then set herself the task of writing her own songs, drawing her inspiration from the pitfalls and triumphs she encounters in her own life – and what a varied lot they are!

Her shed blew down during one of our interesting windy days, Brigitte wrote a song; relationship gone wrong, song; daughter going overseas, song; got a new dog, song. You get the drift.

Brigitte's style of singing could broadly be described as folk-orientated, although many of her self-penned tunes have a cabaret

Major's Creek to be hopping soon!

THE HISTORIC gold-mining village of Major's Creek will come alive with the sounds of music on 11–13 November when the Braidwood Folk Music Club again presents *Music at the Creek*. After a well-earned break the festival committee are back with renewed energy and the 2011 festival promises to be better than ever.

With several venues dotted around the recreation ground, including the lovely old hall, tiny stone chapel and various marquees, there's much to see and do.

The old fashioned village atmosphere has attracted increasing numbers of visitors and performers each year since its inception 19 years ago. This year will be no exception. The program will shortly be announced – and we can say that it will be a beauty, with concerts galore!

A peek at the acts confirmed so far hints at everything from 'Robin Hood' bushrangers to Robbie Burns balladeers, home-grown country lasses to blistering blues divas, comedy and satire to poignancy and pathos.

As usual, there are workshops for those who wish to attempt something new. If



feel about them, and she can pack a lot of lyric into a three-minute wonder.

Her influences are pretty varied, but she holds a special place in her heart for Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. Belly dancing is another of Brigitte's passions, and she's been known to put on the odd show for community events. Very colourful.

In her other life, Brigitte works in a health food shop; she also does graphic design,

you're hankering to try out a new dance step, sing your heart out or spend a little time learning the finer points of playing an instrument, then mark your calendars now! With dance exhibitions and workshops, concerts in a variety of musical styles and a children's tent with all kinds of supervised fun activities for the little ones, there really is something for everyone!

A variety of food stalls cater to all tastes and the bar is a great meeting place to enjoy some wonderful impromptu music sessions. It's here that audiences and performers become one – you never know who you might be sitting and singing/playing alongside.

Camping is available at the festival site, however due to health and safety regulations absolutely no pets are allowed into the festival area.

See the website www.musicatthecreek.com.au for ticketing and program details.

— Ros Hales

clairvoyant readings and Reike massage.

Brigitte is a regular performer at the music/poetry gig in Bungendore, the songwriters gig at Beyond Q Bookshop Bar and Bistro in Curtin, the Monaro Folk Society Club night at the Old Canberra Inn, the Bungendore Show, and the Harvest Festival. Her motto is 'Have Guitar Will Travel', and she can be contacted on 6238 2141.

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Is protecting native forests the most cost-effective way to combat climate change?

Today's forest preservation activists and those who have spoken out over two decades against logging native forests for export woodchips, received a big injection of scientific ammunition at the *Australia's Forests & Climate Forum* held at the ANU in August. Some of the country's leading environmental and climate-change scientists put a spotlight onto the management of publicly owned forests across Australia and the role these forests might play in mitigating climate change. This one-day meeting asked: is protecting Australia's state forests our most cost-effective climate action? An appropriate question for 2011, the UN's International Year of Forests, as 'Big Idea's' Sonja Chandler reports.

Forests much more valuable standing than harvested

Opening speaker Professor Brendan Mackey of the ANU said that native forest ecosystems play an important buffering role in the natural global carbon cycle and that the aggregate stock of carbon they store (in biomass and soil) is about three times the amount of carbon in the atmosphere.

Simply put, he said that our forests are now more valuable in the ground than out – and this is particularly true for native forests.

"Australia is fortunate in having an efficient plantation forest sector which can provide the sawlogs and woodchips needed by industry. Our native forests could be managed for the ecosystems services they are best at providing – storing carbon, regulating fresh water supplies, and wildlife habitat.

"If we put a price on carbon, then we need to recognise the economic value of native forests in storing carbon."



“Destruction of global forests (including Australia's) responsible for emitting 2.9 billion tonnes of carbon a year – more than a quarter of world emissions attributed to human activity.”

Forests soak up carbon world wide

CSIRO's Pip Canadell presented his team's research (recently published in *Science*) about just how much carbon the world's established forests remove from the atmosphere each year – a staggering 2.4 billion tonnes or about one-third of annual fossil emissions!

He went on to say that destruction of global forests (including Australia's) was responsible for emitting 2.9 billion tonnes of carbon a year – more than a quarter of world emissions attributed to human activity. Scientists had previously thought this figure was much lower.

These new figures show that the world's forests combine to be a net sink or sponge for carbon – equivalent to about 13 percent of all the oil, coal and gas burned annually worldwide. Echoing Professor Mackey, Dr Canadell said, "We can make huge savings in climate change mitigation by leaving forests in the ground".

State forestry operations a drain on the economy

That forests are more valuable standing than as cut timber was reinforced by consulting economist and actuary Naomi Edwards. She had cast her unemotional, calculating eye over the profitability (or otherwise) of state forestry corporations involved in logging native forests and those involved in plantation forestry – and the findings were striking:

- state forestry corporations, with the notable exception of Forestry SA (which is wholly

plantation based) are struggling financially and placing demands on state budgets

- in 2010, despite receiving over \$40 million in state and federal grants, state forestry corporations involved in native forest logging made losses of \$43 million
- over the same period, Forestry SA made a profit of \$46 million from its softwood plantation operations.

In addition to this, she had crunched the numbers on profit and loss and showed the forum that if (instead of allowing state forestry corporations to log them) the same native forests were put into national parks, we'd save ourselves a few million dollars a year.

Native forest as bushfire buffer, wildlife habitat, water purifier...

Besides demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of *not* cutting native forests, speaker after speaker pointed out the multi-tasking role of forests. Chris Taylor from the University of Melbourne presented some remarkable work showing how the 2009 Victorian bushfires burned through different types of vegetation with differing levels of intensity.

There was clear evidence that native forests played a mitigating role in some of the fires – in particular the Churchill fires, which burned up to the edge of the Turra Bulga National Park but not into it.

Graeme Hamilton from Birds Australia explained how species such as the endangered Swift Parrot require different types of forest (not just a single-species, single-age tree plantation) at different stages in their breeding cycle.

It was made clear that the trees, other plants and animals, and the soil of forests are doing many other things at the same time as they are storing carbon – or, as Virginia Young from the Australian Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature put it, carbon storage is not equal to a suitcase in the forest!

'Carbon farming' market NOW OPEN



RURAL AUSTRALIANS will have access to a 'carbon market' if they apply farming methods to corral greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides and methane. Relevant legislation passed federal parliament last month.

Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly is an enthusiastic backer of response measures to lessen the impact of climate change – including renewable energy projects for this region. The land sequestration of greenhouse gases fits right in with a semi-rural electorate. In a recent chat with the *Bulletin*, Dr Kelly stressed how it can be a 'win-win' for farmers.

Financial credits for approved methods

The federal government is backing a market

approach for farmers and graziers who can gain financial credits by applying existing sustainable methods, or adopting innovations, to bury or 'sequester' carbon in vegetation and soils and stop the release of other greenhouse gases.

"Basically a new carbon trading market will be set up that has already tweaked a lot of interest in Europe." Farmers can purchase and resell carbon credits with their approved projects.

Agricultural systems will now be fine-tuned by scientists as part of the financial package that comes with the legislation. Approved methods set a benchmark for the market approach.

Kelly said that hopefully much of this research outcome, including long-range computer models, will be available to landholders by the end of the year and that a \$429 million package will be made available for direct participation and education.

Continued p15

BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

Pursuant to Section 82 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as amended, the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service, following consultation with local stakeholders declares the following local bush fire danger period:

Area of variation: Palerang Council and Queanbeyan City Council Local Government areas.

The local bush fire danger period within Palerang Council and Queanbeyan City Council Local Government Areas is from 1 September 2011 until 31 March 2012.

During this period pursuant to Section 87 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as amended, a permit will be required for the lighting of fire for the purposes of land clearance or fire breaks.

For further information contact the Lake George Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service during business hours **Monday to Friday on 6297 1840** or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.



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RUGBY CLUB GRANTS

Cont'd from p5

Clubs across Australia are encouraged to enter the draw for ten Grassroots Club Grants of \$5,000 to be used for whatever the club needs.

Entries are accepted until 18 September and it's easy to put your local rugby team in the running. All you have to do is visit homehardware.com.au and enter footage or an image telling us why your club needs a \$5,000 Grass-roots Club Grant.

The most creative entries will be chosen to go through to a public vote online, so be sure to spread the word to all your supporters, friends and family to get them behind you. The more votes the club receives, the more chance it has of winning.

Voting opens on 23 September 2011 and closes on 9 October 2011. The ten clubs with the most votes will be announced as the winners on 10 October 2011.

— PRESS RELEASE

Don't light fires as of now

THE NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has declared the start of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFD) for areas across the Lake George Zone.

From 1 September any person wishing to light a fire will require a permit in the following local government areas: Queanbeyan and Palerang.

"With conditions becoming more conducive to the spread of fire, people need to be extremely careful when using fire," said Superintendent Tim Carroll.

The commencement of the season has been brought forward by one month due to an increase in escaped burns. There is heightened concern due to high grass fuel loads following the wetter than average conditions leading up to winter.

"Anybody wishing to light a fire on their property during the Bush Fire Danger Period will require a permit from their local fire brigade or Fire Control Centre.

Land for Wildlife takes off

IT WAS GREAT to see so many people at the Bywong Community Hall on Friday 26 August to hear John Asquith, from the Community Environment Network, talk about the Land for Wildlife (LFW) program that is gathering momentum in NSW – and in Wamboin and Bywong.

LFW is a voluntary property registration scheme for landowners who wish to manage part or all of their property in an environmentally friendly way and for the benefit of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. It is a low-level entry scheme; free to join, and not legally binding.

Qualifying landowners are given an informative assessment of their property's vegetation and habitat values and are presented with a sign in recognition of their commitment.

A pilot scheme is underway in Wamboin and Bywong – although anyone in the Palerang or Queanbeyan region can express an interest by completing the form found on the LFW website. At the end of August, John Asquith was able to present the first batch of LFW signs to qualifying residents (*see photo*).

There are many more property assessments in the pipeline and it is great to see the LFW program get a foothold in Palerang. There is still a need to confirm a regional administering organisation for the local program but we are hopeful one will be found soon.

The meeting thanked Phil Machin, Mel Hillery and assessors Jo Walker and Kris Nash, for their work in helping to get LFW off the ground.



Wamboin and Bywong residents presented with their LFW signs (left to right) Liam, David, Noela, Bill, Maria, Lesley, Brae, Anne.

An on-the-ground assessment will list the plants, grasses, shrubs and trees on the property, discuss how to improve habitat and give advice to overcome problem areas, such as erosion. Maya Beretta (NSW Conservation Partnership Officer at the Queanbeyan Office of Environment & Heritage) has also carried out several property assessments in the area and offers landowners the opportunity to take another step and create a wildlife refuge.

Find out more about LFW at the Community Environment Network website: www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/.

— Philip Machin, Wamboin

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

Superintendent Carroll encourages all residents to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan, so all members of their household know what to do on days of increased fire danger, and if their home is threatened by fire.

Residents should also continue with their hazard reduction activities.

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

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

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

For more information contact Lake George Zone RFS on 6297 1810 or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

— PRESS RELEASE

Return of the markets and for a good cause

SPRING IS in the air and with it, the market and fete season! The region's only twilight markets, Queanbeyan's Summer Sunset Markets, will begin again on Friday 7 October.

Queanbeyan City Council has endorsed the continuation of these community markets, in partnership with the Queanbeyan Children's Special Needs Group, on a twice-monthly basis.

The Summer Sunset Markets will be held on the first and third Friday evenings of the month, 5–8pm, in the courtyard adjacent to the Queanbeyan Library.

Organisers have had many enquiries from previous and new stallholders and are looking forward to building on last years' foundation in showcasing the region's quality arts and crafts, fresh produce, food, wine and music.

Market-goers will be able to enjoy music from a selection of bands chosen from the program for the Majors Creek music festival – *Music at The Creek* – during the first three markets. New stallholders and musicians are always welcome – contact ros.hales@qcc.nsw.gov.au for information.

Greenways walk 18 September

MEMBERS OF the Wamboin and Bywong communities and visitors are invited by the Greenways Renewal Group to come along on an organised walk to explore the Millpost Hill track on Sunday 18 September.

Check out the spectacular views of the whole district and learn about local flora and fauna, as well as experiencing the wonderful local assets that are greenways.

Gathering either at:

9.30am at the Bywong Community Hall car park. Estimated walk time is about three hours return, much of it through very nice remnant bushland. Includes 1hr for morning tea; or **10.00 am** meet at the end of Majors Close in Wamboin. For those who would like to take a more leisurely pace and explore the plants and

learn about local birds with our resident expert. Estimated walk time is about 2 hours return (including 1hr for morning tea). We will join the convoy at the top of Millpost Hill.

Families welcome. Bring refreshments for a light morning tea on the top of Millpost Hill. Good walking shoes highly recommended.

Mural launch and heritage camp oven cooking

Feature Event of History Week 3–11 September 2011 – Eat History WHERE? Queanbeyan Museum – 10 Farrer Place – Saturday September 10 from 11am – Free Entry – Come Along and Delight Your Senses!

This lively and entertaining day will see Fiona Churchill from Southern Tablelands Regional Arts launch the new Queanbeyan historical mural which has been painted by acclaimed local artist Margaret Hadfield. The mural has been funded by grants from Southern Tablelands Regional Arts, Queanbeyan City Council and Cr Peter Bray's charity book fair.

The impressively realistic mural is 30m by 2.5 metres and depicts life in Queanbeyan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. See if you can pick out some of the buildings still surviving today.

The day will feature tasty heritage camp oven cooking and damper making demonstrations by Slow Food Canberra Convivium who will dress in period costume. Handouts of recipes of the Heritage food served will be available.

We will be entertained by Queanbeyan Sing Australia Choir, who will feature some Australian tunes, and will join with Canberra Union Voices with John Warner to sing some Queanbeyan flavoured tunes including John's new Queanbeyan Ballad *From Settlement to Town*.

Also featured will be some food flavoured songs such as *My Old Black Billy* and a song about bread making! Local Queanbeyan musician Graeme Adler will entertain the crowd with folk tunes on his fiddle.

A collection of old cook books from the region will be on display in the Museum Kitchen display which has been newly revamped by CIT Museum Studies Students. A feature will be an 1884 Mrs Beeton Cook Book that belonged to the Museum curator Gillian Kelly's Great Grandmother.

Further information: Kerrie Ruth 6248 2015, qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au; www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au
Slow Food Canberra Convivium: Ian Ryall 0409 99 1296; Ian Ryall Horatio@home.mail.com.au.

Veolia Mulwaree Trust

GRANT & DONATION FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS & CHARITIES

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust invites funding applications to support projects for the benefit of the local community or charitable purposes under its 2011/2012 Community Grant and Donation Program.

The following local community organisations may apply for funding:

- Sporting Groups
- Rural Fire Brigades
- Service Clubs
- Schools
- Preschools
- Progress Associations
- Community Health Services
- Churches
- Charities
- Any other non-for-profit organisation which complies with the community funding guidelines.

www.mulwareetrust.org.au

Projects located within the local government areas of Goulburn Mulwaree, Palerang, Shoalhaven, Oberon, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan and Wollondilly are eligible to apply.

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust manages the community trust fund established by Veolia Environmental Services, operators of the Woodlawn Bioreactor near Tarago.

Guidelines and application forms are available from www.mulwareetrust.org.au or by calling (02) 4822 2786

MINING AUSTRALIA'S PRODUCTIVITY

DAVID RICHARDSON and Richard Denniss of the Australia Institute in Canberra have issued a new report questioning the role of the mining industry in Australia's productivity figures.

Their analysis has found that misleading statistics about productivity are driving calls for labour market 'reforms' to lower wages and conditions for Australian workers generally. In fact, Australia worker prod-

uctivity in the non-mining sector is on the upswing.

They quote comments such as this from the new Secretary of the Treasury, Dr Martin Parkinson: "Australia's productivity growth – measured in terms of both labour productivity and multifactor productivity – has slowed, and there is little reason to believe it will improve in the immediate term", a sentiment echoed by the Reserve Bank.

— UPDATE —

From RSPCA Australia: update on live animal exports and a plea for citizen action

Plus, more footage shows internationally-outlawed slaughter methods practiced on Australian sheep and cattle in Turkey

IN THE LAST sitting week of Federal Parliament, just as the first shipment of cattle since the suspension of the trade left Australia for Indonesia, two Bills aimed at ending live exports were voted on in parliament. One was put forward by Independent MP Andrew Wilkie, and one by Greens MP Adam Bandt.

ALP policy continues to support the live export trade, so that not even the growing number of Labor members expressing personal opposition to live exports were able to vote for these bills. They were resoundingly voted down.

But there is still a ray of hope on the horizon: when Parliament resumes the Labor caucus will be voting on a motion by Tony Zappia, Member for Makin, which would

profoundly improve the welfare of Australian animals while they continue to be exported live for slaughter.

RSPCA Australia and Animals Australia fully support this motion which will see Australian animals only exported to facilities where they will be stunned prior to slaughter. Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly has not made his personal views on live exports known, so it is really important that he and other federal representatives from this region understand the views of constituents. You can read more about the motion and what federal politicians should be made aware of: <http://www.rspca.org.au/how-you-can-help/campaigns/ban-live-export/campaign-updates>.

THE DEVIL MADE THEM DO IT

Cont'd from p8

Try chatting to the dog in a friendly tone of voice using key words and phrases such as "Hello Puppy" or "Where is your ball or stick?" that a lot of dogs recognise from home and associate with happy times.

Pretend to be happy and distracted by something else. Try and leave the area the dog

is in without obvious rush or intent, keeping chairs, tables, benches or trees and bushes between you and the dog.

Focusing on the dog by staring, yelling, growling, running or throwing things at it all signal distress, anger and aggression and may make matters worse because the dog feels like it is being attacked.

(The latter may also be a good warning about how not to break up a dog fight!)

CARBON FARMING MARKET

Cont'd from p13

Biodiversity projects included

He said avoidance of clearing native vegetation has been included as eligible for the market, laying to rest early fears that only new plantings might be included. Biodiversity projects are thus included if they are shown to have emission reduction value.

Credits also can be gained from capturing and destroying methane emissions from landfill or livestock manure.

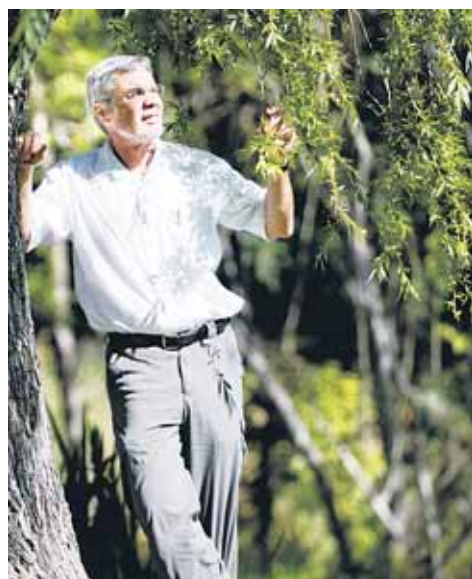
"Methods that farmers are already using like no-till or setting up windbreaks can be turned into carbon credits," he said. Big productivity gains are seen as the other direct benefit from methods to keep carbon in the soil.

Approaches like mulching and adding organic matter, mitigating erosion, conservative grazing rotation or water management methods popularised through natural sequence farming, will pay off, quite apart from the emissions market.

Federal government media releases claim that the longer-term potential of land sequestration of gases could, (presumably if everything were perfect and over time) neutralise twice Australia's total current greenhouse gas emissions. However this is complicated as the planet heats up.

Need both emission reduction and burial

Kelly agrees that the other side of the emission reduction strategy, reducing industrial emissions



of carbon dioxide and developing alternative energy sources remains equally important.

In May, when the *Bulletin* spoke to Professor Will Steffen (seen above) from the Climate Change Institute, he explained that land sequestration can pull carbon out of the atmosphere quickly (and he also stressed that natural intact ecosystems store the most carbon) but both approaches are essential.

"If you don't get the fossil fuel emissions under control (and they are by far the biggest source of emissions) and you store more and more carbon in land systems, that carbon becomes vulnerable as the planet heats up and conditions change (eg fire, insect damage of vegetation, soil chemistry change).

"The problem is", write Richardson and Denniss, "that a detailed examination of the national productivity figures makes it clear that the productivity of Australian workers is actually rising quite rapidly. In fact, the apparent decline in labour productivity vanishes once the data is adjusted for the very large *reductions* in productivity in the small, but rapidly growing, mining sector".

The problem with averages and the 'two speed' economy

"Averages are often used to summarise complex situations. We often talk about average wages, batting averages in cricket and average monthly rainfall. But in many situations it is neither helpful, nor meaningful, to refer to the average.

"For example, it is rare for a weather forecast to report what the average temperature will be, either across Australia or even in a city. Minimum and maximum temperatures for each city provide a far better guide to what to expect.

"The problem with the recent commentary about Australia's declining productivity is that commentators are drawing general conclusions from national averages when in fact a closer examination reveals how misleading such an approach is.

"While much is made of the 'two speed economy' the data shows that productivity in the non-mining sectors of the economy is growing rapidly while productivity in the mining sector has declined dramatically."

Mining industry halves productivity, why?

"Since the beginning of the mining boom in the early part of the 2000s the productivity of workers in the mining industry has almost halved. That is, the Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked in the mining industry has

declined steadily... A major explanation of this decline is related to the fact that high commodity prices are encouraging mining companies to pursue less and less productive mine sites.

"That is, high commodity prices are encouraging mining companies to exploit mineral deposits that require more energy, more capital and more labour to extract an additional tonne of output.

"As more and more workers flood into the rapidly growing mining sector the adverse impact on the average rate of productivity growth will be exacerbated."

As for the non-mining sector, Richards and Denniss write, "When an adjustment is made (for the mining sector) productivity growth actually increases from the 2.1 percent (cited by Dr Parkinson) to 2.4 percent in the 2000s in the non-mining sectors of the economy".

The authors quote Gary Banks, Chair of the Productivity Commission as an analyst who agrees with this finding and who said that:

"A key influence on Australia's recent productivity slump has been the massive injection of labour and capital, together with more costly production and resource depletion effects, directed at satisfying minerals demand. However, this can hardly be described as a 'problem', given its flipside of higher prices, profits and national income growth."

Extracted from: *The role of the mining industry in driving down Australia's productivity growth*
Policy Brief No. 31
August 2011
ISSN 1836-9014
David Richardson and Richard Denniss

Indigenous Literacy Foundation



Bungendore Public School P&C Assoc

Book / DVD Fair

Sat 10th Sept 2011 - 10am to 2pm
Community Hall (B'dore Public School)



BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

All proceeds from the sale of books & DVD's go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF)

Did you know that one in five children living in a remote Indigenous community can't read at the accepted minimum standard?

The ILF is a charitable foundation committed to improving literacy in remote Indigenous communities. In the past 2 years they have sent 60 000 books to over 200 communities!

Funds raised will help the foundation

- Send culturally appropriate books & resources into 200 remote communities around Australia
- Trial an early literacy project called Book Buz aimed at 0-2 year olds
- Fund & work with remote communities on specifically identified literacy-based projects

PLS PLS DONATE PRE-LOVED BOOKS, DVD'S, COMPUTER GAMES, AUCTION ITEMS. Donations can be left at school or at Cleanseeds.

In conjunction with Book & DVD Fair P&C will be having a cake stall & silent auction. All proceeds from these will go toward the purchase of Indigenous paintings, artifacts & or murals for our school.

CAKE STALL

What a great start to any weekend...
Purchase a bargain at the book fair & buy some scrumptious home made morning or afternoon tea at the same time.

www.indigenouliteracyfoundation.org.au

www.bungendore-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

SILENT AUCTION

Awesome auction items include gift baskets, hampers, vouchers, sporting equipment, M3P Player, Computer Games & much much more
BPS P&C thank & acknowledge the following local business's for their donations & brilliant support

Body N Soap, Bungendore,
Bungendore Rural Services.
Wicked Cackle Nursery, Kellie's Cakes,
Foodworks Bungendore,
Bungendore Veterinary Surgery,
Wild Rose Organics,
Bungendore Cellars, Odana Editions
The District Bulletin

Also up for grabs:
An original painting from Local Award winning Indigenous artist & musician
Duncan Smith

For all art lovers this is an opportunity not to be missed. Duncan has very kindly donated this painting to BPS P&C. His painting for the auction can be viewed at the school office prior to the auction.

Aussie Union legend—**Matt Giteau**
Signed Brumbies Shirt !

COME CHECK IT OUT!

ALL auction items can be viewed at the Hall on Fri 9th between 1pm & 3.45pm as well as Sat. Auction will close at 1.30pm on Sat.

Hope to see you there & thanks
so much for your support.

What's On – September

Send your announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

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

1st Saturday of every month

The Captains Flat Country Markets
Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Bric-a-brac, trash and treasure and local produce. Call 6236 6094 or email www.captainsflat.org

2nd Sunday of the month (except Jan)

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

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

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

3rd Sunday every month

Bungendore Markets
War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Crafts, trash and treasure and general stalls.

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

4th Saturday of every month

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

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

www.bungendore.com.au
www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au
www.visitbraidwood.com.au

Tuesday 4 to Saturday 15

From Jerra to Gibraltar

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Local painter Jenny Sheppard and woodworker John Murphy present their latest works in this shared exhibition. Official opening Tuesday 4 October 6pm.

Wednesday 5 to Saturday 15

Love Song

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. If happiness is a state of mind, then life's just a silly love song. Ph 6285 6290 or visit www.qcc.nsw.gov.au.

Friday 7 and Friday 21

Queanbeyan Summer Sunset Markets

Courtyard between the Queanbeyan Library and the Council Chambers, 5–8pm. Arts and crafts, collectables, gourmet foodstuffs, produce and more!

Saturday 8

Harden Kite Festival

Harden. Good old kite flying and local food and market stalls.

Gunning Fireworks Festival

Gunning. Over one hour of fireworks demonstrations. Highlights at this year festival are music from Queen Juanita and the Zydeco Cowboys, amusement rides, market stalls, the Goulburn Pipe Band, the Hall Brass Band, a reptile exhibition and lots more.

Sunday 23

Carwoola Community Association

Karnival Kapers

Stoney Creek Community Hall, Carwoola, 11am–3pm. To book a stall or for more information, contact 6297 7381.

Saturday 17

Brewn, The Loaded Dog, Tarago.
Wayne Ryder Trio, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.
Retro DJ, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Thursday 22

Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 23

The Jukes, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.
Rhymes with Orange, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

R & R, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Saturday 24

Alice Plumb, The Loaded Dog, Tarago
Bill Olsen, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.
Retro DJ, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Thursday 29

Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 30

Bill Olsen, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.



is hoping to see you all at the fair! Books, cake stall, silent auction and lots more. All proceeds from the sale go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Wednesday 14

Foster Care Information Session at Barnardos

2 Atherton St, Downer, 1–2pm. Our region desperately needs more foster carers. For more information contact Barnardos on 6228 9500.

Thursday 15 to Saturday 17

Get Back – The Lennon & McCartney Songbook

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Audience Advice: This show may contain traces of Mull of Kintyre. Ph 6285 6290 or visit www.qcc.nsw.gov.au.

Saturday 17

Wamboin Home Produce Market

Wamboin Community Hall, 9am–12pm. Back, after the winter break!

Pink & Blue Masquerade Ball & Charity Auction
Gilmour Inn, Lake Bathurst, from 7pm. To raise money for Breast & Prostate Cancer research. Live Music & Finger Food. \$50 per head or \$60 at door. Ring Vicky 0427 458 727 or email hphook@bigpond.com.

Sunday 18

Tarago Landcare

Meeting. For more contact Chris Elford 0428 249 416.

Monday 19 to Wednesday 21

Soil food web course & compost tea making workshop

Braidwood. The Upper Shoalhaven and Upper Deua Landcare Council will host a 3-day course that focuses on understanding the Soil-Food Web with the development and application of compost tea. It is tailored to address local needs. The course will include a sound background into the functioning of biology in the soil and it will also cover the broad acre application of the brew to your paddock. Phone Felicity on 4842 2594.

Monday 19 to Friday 23

Oh What A Night

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A musical tribute to Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Ph 6285 6290 or visit www.qcc.nsw.gov.au.

Tuesday 20

Lake George Day VIEW Club

Bywong Community Hall, Birriwa Road, Bywong, 11.30am. RSVP 6230 3165.

Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21

SPACExo

Goulburn's popular sports and cultural activity expo attracts 3,000 students from across the region. It features around 70 activities for children to enjoy and experience, including sports, cultural and heritage initiatives. For more contact Alan Caldow on 4821 2827.

Friday 23
Last day of school Term 3 NSW

Friday 23 September until 16 October

Exhibition – Printmaking

Altenburg Fine Art Gallery Braidwood. Frances Luke and Lola Cullen. Ph 4844 4384 or email geoldham@yahoo.com.au.

Saturday 24

Wamboin Gala Bonfire and Fireworks

Wamboin Community Centre, food and drinks available from 5.30pm, bonfire lit at 6.33pm, followed by fireworks at 7.03pm precisely! Adults \$5, children \$2, family \$10.

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25

Catch the Rising Stars

'The Q', Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Woden Valley Youth Choir in Concert. Ph 6285 6290 or visit www.qcc.nsw.gov.au.

During September

Exhibition – Adrienne Conway

Bungendore Fine Art, 42 Ellendon St, Bungendore. Ph 6238 1640.

Until Sunday 11

Photographic exhibition

Altenburg Fine Art Gallery, 104 Wallace St, Braidwood. Group exhibition of photographic artworks. Ph 4844 4384 or email geoldham@yahoo.com.au.

Imminent Change – Susan Hey

CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain ACT, 9am–5pm weekdays, 11am–3pm weekends. The exhibition is an emotional response to the environs of the Coppins Crossing area of Canberra, which celebrates its forever-changing states, its beauty and its spirituality. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Until Saturday 17

Pursuit of Imagination Exhibition – Ian Robertson

'The Q', Foyer and Exhibition Space, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Oil and acrylic paintings on canvas. Ph 6285 6170.

Until Monday 3 October

Exhibition – Ken Night

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, Kings Hwy, Bungendore. Ken Knight is an award-winning artist who has been capturing the unique landscape of Australia for over 25 years. Ph 6238 1682.

Saturday 10

Fire Fighting for Non Fire Fighters: Community Info Session

Braidwood Fire Control Centre, Cnr Gillamatong Lane & Saleyards Lane, 1–4pm approximately. The RFS have organised an information session that will cover a lot of aspects of fire fighting for non firefighters. Jenny Filmer will be giving a presentation on real-life experiences. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information contact one of the following: Braidwood Fire Control 4842 2516; Queanbeyan Fire Control 6297 1840; Vlad Bohdan at the above offices; Chris McGrath 4842 2291.

Celebrate Queanbeyan History Week at the Queanbeyan Museum

10 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan, 11am–4pm. Includes the launch of the new historical mural by acclaimed local artist Margaret Hadfield, tasty heritage food cooked in camp ovens by Slow Food Canberra, entertainment by Queanbeyan Sing Australia Choir, Canberra Union Voices with John Warner and violinist Graeme Adler, and a collection of old cook books from this region displayed in the newly revamped Museum kitchen. For more info, email qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au phone Kerrie Ruth on 6297 2730 or visit the website www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au.

Bungendore & District Concert Band Trivia Night

Bungendore War Memorial Hall, Molonglo Hall, Bungendore, 7–11pm. Tables of up to 10 available, \$10pp. Contact Jane Bloomfield 6238 0721 BH or jane@staffordpark.com.au.

Book/DVD Fair

Community Hall (Bungendore Public School) 10am–2pm. The Bungendore Public School P&C Association

– SPORTS ROUND-UP –

AFL Finals

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11

Preliminary, Manuka, 2pm

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18

Eastern Conference Final, Manuka, 2pm

FOOTBALL

Saturday 10 – Men's League Grand Finals

Sunday 11 – Women's League Grand Finals

Saturday 17 – Men's Premier League Grand Finals, McKellar Park

Sunday 18 – The Tradies Women's Premier League Grand Finals, Hawker Football Centre

UNION

Saturday 10 – Premier Division Finals

RUGBY WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Sunday 11 – 3.30 Australia v Italy

Saturday 17 – 8.30 Australia v Ireland

Friday 23 – 8.30 Australia v USA

Saturday 1 Oct – 3.30 Australia v Russia

LEAGUE

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11

Grand Finals

– GIG GUIDE: September –

Thursday 8

Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 9

R&R, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

Romeo, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

Hit & Run, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Saturday 10

Swizz, 7–11pm, Hotel Queanbeyan.

Retro DJ, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.

Thursday 15

Gary Sturgess, 7–10pm, Royal Hotel Queanbeyan.

Friday 16

Chemistry, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Bowling Club.

Hit & Run, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club.

The Jukes, 8pm–12am, Queanbeyan Tigers Club.