

When Shane dropped in for a quiet cuppa



Former RFS Commissioner and now Commission for Resilience NSW Shane Fitzsimmons addressed RFS members in Braidwood.



Braidwood RFS Captain Scott Hart with Kirrin Sampson and Commission for Resilience NSW Shane Fitzsimmons cut the cakes for afternoon tea at the Fireshed.

"While you're in Braidwood, could you pop in for a low key, quiet chat and a cuppa they said - crikey" posted Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, after his 'low key visit to Braidwood RFS on Friday. The commissioner was in Braidwood to open the Art on Fire Exhibition later in the evening but turned up at the local shed to find around 200 RFS crews members and supporters from across the Lake George Zone waiting to meet him.

The afternoon tea included a magnificent spread from the volunteers who had spent the summer feeding the fire fighters.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons thanked everyone for their efforts and encouraged people to seek professional help after the traumatic fire season.

Later he posted "Thanks again to all the Braidwood members, Kirrin Sampson and Captain Scott Hart, as well as members from neighbouring brigades for the opportunity to catch up and reflect on the last season whilst I was in Braidwood today. Was lovely to catch up and hear how you're going."

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Art on Fire opening - Albo and McBain at Bombay - Celebrating Steve's 30 years in uniform - Keeping it Alive Launch - Monaro community Champions Awards - Skate Park news

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Quiet little town Braidwood

Welcome to the first Wednesday issue of the Braidwood Bugle. What a big 10 days it has been since the last issue. With so many big events and activities it was hard to choose a front page! A few events have been held back till next week's issue. Marking 12 months since the North Black Range Fire started to rage around the Braidwood district and rise of the Currowan Fire, it was a proud moment for Braidwood to welcome the affable Resilience NSW Commission Shane Fitzsimmons to our town for both a 'quick cuppa' at Braidwood RFS Shed and then to officially open the Art on Fire Exhibition at BRAG.

A voice that became so familiar through the last summer on the TV and Radio, it was striking just how comforting and encouraging his measured words were in person, for many who are still living with the aftermath of last summer. There is no doubt that he has become one of the finest leaders in the country for a generation.

As we head into another Summer and holiday season, with a bumper number of visitors coming to and though town stay safe on the roads. Please continue to send in your tips, stories and photos from around the district. Cheers Alex

Celebrating thirty years in uniform



After quite a Covid caused delay, last week, Fire and Rescue NSW Station 236 Braidwood were able to give retired Station 236 Deputy Captain Steve Hockey a proper send off.

Steve is a dedicated Braidwood citizen and he worked for Fire+Rescue for over 30 years. He has seen a huge range of incidents and even though retired from the brigade we're sure he will continue to be active in helping our community for a long time to come. Wishing you all the very best of good fortune in retirement Steve. Photo: Tim Wimbourne.



Braidwood Bugle

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QPRC's new Waterwise Policy offers incentives for eligible owner-occupier households connected to Council's water supply. You can apply for a free home audit carried out by a licensed plumber (Master Plumbers ACT) which will include: inspection of plumbing fixtures water meter checks pressure tests cross-contamination and leak checks and professional on-site advice to identify further water saving opportunities. After the audit, eligible households are entitled to replacement of up to two standard dual-flush waterwise toilet suites.

There are also rainwater tank subsidies available for new tank installations above 4000L capacity. The larger the tank, the bigger the subsidy. For more information on subsidy amounts, or to register for your free home audit, simply head to <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Water> and click on the Waterwise section.



Cadets on show as pollies plea for bushfire spending



BCS RFS Cadets with Leader of Australian Labor Party, Anthony Albanese, with the Shadow Minister for Disaster and Emergency Management, Murray Watt, and the Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain

The Leader of the Australian Labor Party, Anthony Albanese, with the Shadow Minister for Disaster and Emergency Management, Murray Watt and the Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain, held a doorstep at Bombay Reserve Wednesday, 2 December to highlight the upcoming bushfire season and Emergency Response Fund on year on from the fires.

RFS trucks from Bombay and Farrington attended along with Braidwood Central School's recently graduated RFS Cadets, who provided a demonstration of their skills.

Kristy McBain said "It is fantastic to be here today, a year this week from when the North Black Range Fires started. It is fantastic to be joined by RFS cadets from Braidwood Central School who have given up time to make sure that they understand fire and how they can manage it in the landscape. The RFS brigades here, joined by other brigades from New South Wales and Victoria, who fought this fire for over six weeks, it burnt through 40,000 hectares. And it wasn't the only fire that was going to impact this region. There were numerous fires impacting Braidwood and surrounds. And we know in Eden-Monaro that over a million hectares burnt this summer. So, it is fantastic to be here today and to listen to some of the stories, to understand the need for further training, and to get more volunteers into this brigade."

Anthony Albanese said "The fact is that we hope, and we've been talking with the students here today, that this summer is much better than the last. But what we have to do always is to prepare for the worst. It's one of the lessons of last summer where this community, as we can see, is still recovering from the bushfires that ravaged this community and other communities around our country. That's why Labor has campaigned for long-term solutions.

"We've campaigned and supported the establishment of the \$4 billion Emergency Response Fund. And it's quite frankly inexplicable that of that fund \$200 million available each financial year, so \$400 million has been available up to this point, not a single dollar of that has been spent. That's simply not good enough. It's the sort of complacency that we can't afford."

"We need also to respond to all of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, including the need for national aerial firefighting. It was a very clear recommendation, and one that's been rejected by the Government without any adequate explanation. Lastly, can I say to the cadets who are here today and their teachers and their mentors in the RFS, a big shout-out to you. They have been learning skills that will help their community. Many of them will go on to serve in the RFS and make a real contribution to keeping their communities safe. And it was terrific today to engage with the students who are enthusiastic. The fact that the program was more than full, not everyone who wanted to participate could. There's a lesson there, we need to roll-out these sorts of programs around the country, because they don't exist everywhere. But we've seen today the success of it by talking with the RFS as well as the cadets themselves. It is a very positive experience."

Murray Watt, Shadow Minister for Disaster and Emergency Management said, "This week is the one-year anniversary of when some devastating bushfires came through this very region. And you can look around now and see some of the trees just starting to recover. And it's a bit of a symbol of the fact that the recovery is a long process for communities like Braidwood and so many others around the country. The fact that we've got bushfires happening in so many parts of the country already tells us that the disaster season is here.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Cadets on show as polliès plea for bushfire spending



It's not something that's going to be a while off yet. It's already started. And we know from the Bureau of Meteorology and other advisers to the Government that we do face more bushfires this year. And up further north, up my way in Queensland, we face floods and cyclones as well. So, it's an important message that all of us need to be prepared. And it is initiatives like this school and the RFS are doing that shows that communities are doing what they can to be prepared for the disaster season. So, we need to see that effort matched by the Morrison Government. As Anthony has said, there's a number of things that this Government has already announced that are supposed to be being rolled out right now to prepare communities for the disaster season and aren't happening. The Emergency Response Fund is one example. They've rejected the recommendation from the Royal Commission into bushfires to have a national aerial firefighting fleet. We saw what happened last year when the Government didn't adequately prepare and was scrambling around bringing in aircrafts from other parts of the world when they just weren't available. So, it is important that the Morrison Government follows this community's lead, gets itself prepared, rolls out the funding that it's already promised to people so that we don't see the damage that we saw last year.

Asked about what the most important assets are needed out of RFS funding, Mr Alabanese said "Well, what they need is a range of support. The recommendations of the Bushfire Royal Commission were very clear of the benefits of having a national aerial firefighting fleet. Those recommendations should be adopted. We also know that of the \$200 million allocation each year, \$150 million is for recovery of communities and \$50 million for community resilience. So, that could be on the basis of a range of infrastructure that could be provided to rural firefighting services. And one of the ways in which support could be given is for support for programs just like this that are building resilience in the community. One of the things that should happen is that we should ask the RFS themselves on the ground in different communities. Because different communities will have different asks. But we know that the money is available. The fact that it hasn't been spent and just stays in consolidated revenue is quite extraordinary. It is beyond belief that you could have \$400 million that was allocated that could have been spent this year and not a dollar of it has been spent."

This landscaped 12 acre property has four stunning, rustic style, accommodation options: 4 bedroom main residence, with cathedral ceilings, polished concrete flooring, carpet in bedrooms, spacious open plan kitchen and living space, plus main bathroom. 2 bedroom residence, with cathedral ceilings, industrial kitchen for catering large groups. 2 x Studio residences with cathedral ceilings and kitchenettes. Main facilities block services the self-contained accommodation with two showers and two toilets plus laundry facilities. Plus there's a substantial artists studio/workshop!

With meticulously maintained gardens and properties, there is mains and solar electricity, solar hot water, water tanks on each residence and a Telstra tower nearby. Pristine natural location in Krawarree, near the Deua National Park and camping area which provides access to the Shoalhaven River, Big Hole and the Marble Arch. This property previously operated as a successful tourist accommodation/bnb for many years as the Deua Tin Huts.

6 Dempseys Rd, Krawarree



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ART ON FIRE exhibition opens at BRAG



Resilience NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons with BRAG President Maggie Hicker and her textile artwork in the exhibition.

The major Braidwood Region Artists Group exhibition for 2020, Art On Fire, was opened by Resilience NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons on Friday evening.

The exhibition opening included musical performance by Nick Munnings and David McClymont, Poetry by Julia Green and a poignant reading by Bombay teenager Charlie Campbell.

A printed catalogue was snapped up and there was a long queue for the Commissioner to sign copies.

One wall of the exhibition comprised of a collage of postcards from the fire.

In opening the exhibition Commission Fitzsimmons acknowledged that such events were all part of the process of the community gaining resilience in being able to express their feelings about the black summer describing the exhibition as "a beautiful collection of amazing works of art by artists and community members, capturing the impacts, emotions, thoughts and feelings of those living through last years fires. Most importantly, bringing people together and helping with the recovery and healing process."

While there was limited ticketing to the opening due to Covid restrictions, the exhibition is open for the next two weekend.



Jarrah Parsons with her photo on the cover of the Art on Fire Book launched by Commission Shane Fitzsimmons.



Some of the Postcards from the Fire at BRAG.



Gillamatong Rise \$600,000

3 hectares of gently sloping land at the foot of Mount Gillamatong with 270 degree views of Braidwood and the surrounding district. The seven and a half acres (approximately) is fully fenced and has direct access off Gillamatong Lane. A perfect house site overlooks a large dam and beyond as far as Mount Budawang on the coastal escarpment. This is the last available vacant lot in the area and is sure to attract a lot of interest.

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Local Community Champions recognised



Catherine King and John Barilaro

The outstanding contribution of volunteers and emergency service personnel in the Monaro has been recognised at a special awards ceremony held in Queanbeyan on Monday.

Member for Monaro John Barilaro joined more than twenty-five local champions and their closest family and friends, in acknowledging their exceptional efforts during what has been an extremely challenging year.

"Drought, bushfires and COVID-19 have inflicted enormous pain across our region. 2020 has been one of the toughest years we've ever had to face, but what these challenges have also highlighted is how many people we have in our community who are prepared to stand up and make a difference," Mr Barilaro said.

"Whether they served on the frontline, became a voice for their community during a time of crisis, or have devoted huge chunks of their lives volunteering over many years - we are extremely lucky to have so many amazing individuals who call the Monaro home."

The Monaro Service Awards are designed to honour community champions for their outstanding contribution in areas including arts, environment, multiculturalism, education, health, sport, heritage and pastoral care. In total 18 individuals and three local community groups were recognised from the Queanbeyan-Palerang region.

"Our region is full of many worthwhile and hard working groups, who answered the call when their community needed them the most," Mr Barilaro said. "It was an absolute pleasure to be able to join these local heroes and those closest to them today, and say thank you on behalf of the community.

Mr Barilaro also took the opportunity to present Mr Darrel Gaukroger and Brian Osbourne with a certificate to acknowledge their 50 years of service to the local community as a NSW Justice of the Peace.



The Mongarlowe Mozzies - Adam Honey, Mark Piper, Matt Thane, Stuart Gardeinne.

Catherine King

Cathie is well known member of the Braidwood community and is always available to lend a hand no matter the event. During the last bushfire season Cathy spent much of her time at the Braidwood RFS Shed ensuring volunteers were looked after. Cathy is a dedicated local community member who is highly respected and this is a very well deserved award.

Mongarlowe Mosquitos

Mongarlowe Mosquitos were crucial in protecting the Braidwood community during the 2019/20 bushfire season. They did an outstanding job coordinating with the local RFS and ensuring properties were protected as fires moved through. Without the tireless work of these volunteers the impact of the fires on Braidwood and the surrounding area could have been significantly worse.

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Local Community Champions recognised

Braidwood Men's Shed

For their consistent contribution to the local community. The Braidwood Men's shed goes above and beyond in the local community to bring men together, whilst also giving back to the local community. In particular the Braidwood Men's shed have worked tirelessly to make and donate small coffins to families who have experienced a miscarriage.



Helen Rolland from Nerriga with John Barilaro.



Noel Shepherd from the Men's Shed with John Barilaro.

Helen Rolland

Helen is a strong advocate for the community of Nerriga. She has worked tirelessly with the Nerriga Progress Association to deliver up to date information to the community, host events for locals and ensure those affected by the fires were catered for wherever possible. Helen was an integral part of the recovery in Nerriga. A well-deserved award, congratulations Helen.

Nicholas Pengelly & Nicholas Kemp

When bushfires forced the cancellation of the annual Braidwood Cup, Nick and Nick stepped up to bring a boost to the hard hit town. The Braidwood Redbacks Rugby 7s event was a huge success for the town and really showed what can be achieved when the community comes together. Thousands converged on the town for a weekend of great footy, food and shopping which brought a major economic boost.

It also happened to bring the rain.



Nick Pengelly.



New dashboard to help prepare for disasters in Queanbeyan-Palerang

Just 12 short months ago, communities in the east of Queanbeyan-Palerang, particularly surrounding Braidwood, Nerriga and Araluen, were facing catastrophic bushfire conditions.

As summer's heat began to take hold, Braidwood was entering harsh but necessary water restrictions and relatively routine rural maintenance activities such as grading of unsealed roads had to be temporarily suspended due to the lack of water in the surrounding rivers, creeks and dams.

Eventually, weeks of devastating fires and days of total fire bans and lingering smoke haze gave way to welcome rains that extinguished the fires and topped up local water courses. But heavy falls turned rain into floods, isolating communities through damaged roads and bridges.

The early months of 2020 were very difficult. They serve as a timely reminder of how harsh the Australian landscape can be. With these memories fresh in many minds, it is time to ensure we are all prepared for what might come this summer season.

Mayor of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC), Cr Tim Overall is encouraging families, friends and neighbours to use the early stages of summer as the start of a conversation about being aware of and prepared for seasonal hazards.

"Aussie summers are iconic. They can also be tragic. Emergency service organisations and volunteers do an incredible job keeping us safe, but they can only do so much. Being aware and prepared is everyone's responsibility, whether you're at home, at work or away on holidays," said the Mayor, echoing the words of Commissioner of Resilience NSW, Shane Fitzsimmons in promoting the 'Get Ready for Summer' awareness campaign.

Get Ready for Summer reminds us all of five simple steps:

1. Know your risk - think about the area you're in and the types of disasters that could affect you;
2. Plan now for what you will do - sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area;
3. Get your home ready - prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and checking your insurance coverage;

4. Be aware - find out how to prepare, what to do if there is a disaster in your area and connect with NSW emergency services to stay informed;
5. Look out for each other - share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance.

Prepare your bushfire survival plan, don't drive through floodwater, swim between the flags, and make sure your home is fire safe this summer – these are some of the safety tips NSW emergency service agencies have shared ahead of the 2020 summer season.

In the event of a disaster, QPRC has joined forces with 27 councils across the state in developing a new online disaster dashboard that will provide real-time information to help those living in Queanbeyan-Palerang be aware of, prepare for and respond to local emergencies.

"Localised emergency updates, preparedness advice and seasonal awareness of potential risks is more important than ever.

"Our residents are acutely aware of the impact emergencies can have," Mayor Overall said.

The QPRC Disaster Dashboard is an online warehouse of real-time, local emergency information supported by Resilience NSW's Regional Disaster Preparedness Program.

On the dashboard you'll find:

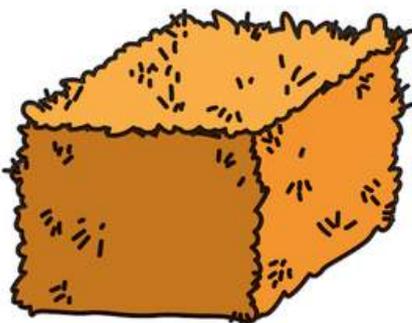
- real-time information related to live emergencies
- information to help you prepare for an emergency
- guidance on the assistance you can access to recover from a recent emergency

The Regional Disaster Preparedness Program, coordinated by Resilience NSW, works with local governments to build their knowledge of disaster risks and ability to respond in an emergency.

The local dashboards will deliver information specific to the disaster risks and mitigations of localities in each pilot program LGA and provide a broad and consistent view of data from across the 27 pilot councils in the Canberra, Hunter and Mid North Coast Joint Organisations.

The QPRC Disaster Dashboard is located prominently at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au or by going direct to:

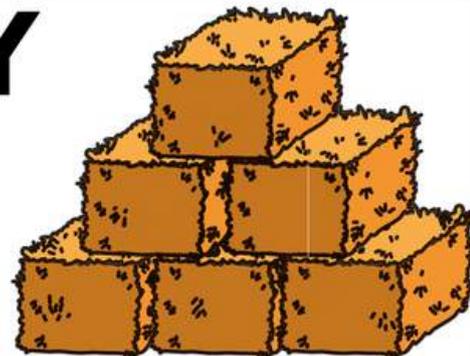
<https://queanbeyanpalering.disasterdashboards.com/>
'Get Ready' is a community preparedness program coordinated by Resilience NSW. More information is available at: <https://resilience.nsw.gov.au/prepare.html>



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Braidwood Heritage Weekend 2021 has been Postponed.

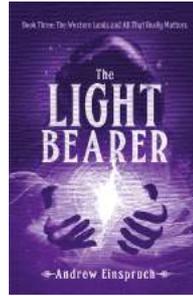
The organising group of the Braidwood Heritage Weekend has decided that the 2021 event needs to be postponed. Committee spokesman, Colin McLean said, "It has become increasingly apparent over the last few weeks that there is much uncertainty and concern about the impact of COVID-19, and requirements placed on public events and gatherings, that make the coordination of a large scale public event in March 2021 too difficult to proceed at this time."

The coordination group had planned on making a formal "Yes/No" decision about proceeding with Braidwood Heritage Weekend after the 2021 Australia Day long weekend with the knowledge of how public events and gatherings had been operated during the 2020/21 school holiday period and the level of adverse outcomes in terms of COVID-19 cases. However, a number of traditional events such as country shows have already been cancelled for the first quarter of 2021, and others have set in place specific limitations on number of people able to attend.

Colin added, "We do not have the luxury of being able to control attendance numbers to most of the planned activities due to them happening in public spaces." Braidwood & District Historical Society, President, Peter Smith said, "Making the decision at this time avoids additional costs that would have been incurred by further delay. Our donors, sponsors and QPRC are fully supporting the re-scheduling of the event."

The coordination group will come together again later in 2021 to assess the opportunity to reschedule the event sometime in 2022.

Braidwood Author Wins Top Literary Prize



Local author Andrew Einspruch was honoured this week for his book 'The Light Bearer' when it took home the top fiction prize at the 2020 ACT Writing and Publishing Awards. The Light Bearer is the third book in Einspruch's humorous fantasy series 'The Western Lands' and 'All That Really Matters', which so far has five books in all, including two standalone prequels. It tells the story of Princess Eloise, whose champion is a chipmunk and who has frustratingly weak magic, as she tries to bring home an escaping felon to face justice. The award's judges said: "The Light Bearer succeeds in establishing narrative voice, and showcases technical skill in both storytelling and character development, reflecting the authors' talent. The world of the story feels alive, and each character has real depth, which informs their actions and helps to drive the plot forward. Andrew Einspruch should be commended for his imaginative and inspired tale, grounded in the realities of the human experience. It's an intelligent, engaging and deserving winner of the top prize."

"I'm thrilled to have received this recognition from the writing community," said Einspruch. "It's wonderful to get a tip of the hat like this from peers, and, of course, it's always fantastic when people like what you write."

When asked what he's currently working on, Einspruch said, "Book four in the series, Queen Eloise, is written and with my early readers before going to the editor in February. Book five is almost half written. And I'm pretty sure there's going to be a book six. I hope to release all three of those in 2021."

2 Fires Festival : Past Year... and plan for 2021



Owing to 2020 upheaval, the 2 Fires Festival (2FF) Committee decided early in the year to not go ahead with a 2021 Festival. However, the year has been active and fruitful by connecting with the Braidwood community, with the themes of 2 Fires which reflect the passions of iconic Australian poet Judith Wright. These themes are Arts, Indigenous Rights and Environment. Connections were made with organisers of the planned 2021 Sustainable Braidwood Festival, a meeting held with Janita Byrne in her role as QPRC Team Leader, Culture, Arts and Museums. On 8 Nov 2FF collaborated with the Social Justice Group to host a well-attended NAIDOC Week gathering at the Dhurga Rock, with presentations and readings by Michael Crosby, Kathy Toirkens, Julia Green, Maria Bakas, Roderick Pitty and Michael Merrony.

Plans for 2021 include management of the Book Fair at the National Theatre on Sunday 31 Jan, with proceeds coming to 2FF. Volunteers are being called for.

As well, in mid-year a memoir-writing workshop will be facilitated by 2FF President, Sheelagh Noonan. In Nov 2021 it will be 200 years since the first European explorers arrived in the region. 2FF are looking at ways to acknowledge this significant period and welcome input from all members of our community.

A Friends of 2 Fires (F2F) database has been established, to promote community connection and input to suit members, without a heavy commitment. Vice-President Julia Green will manage F2F.

At the recent AGM, Sheelagh Noonan thanked the Committee, which was re-elected, with the addition of Christine Watson. Sheelagh Noonan President 2FF e: sheelnoonan@gmail.com or Julia Green on sun.ursaminor@gmail.com

Keeping it Alive Braidwood and District Hospital 1858-2020 History and Photographic Memories Book Launch



Authors Paris Silvester, Ros Maddrell, Elaine Collins.
Photo: Karen Cairns

The launch of Keeping it Alive took place last Saturday afternoon at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club. Around 70-80 people attended to listen to special guest speaker, Mrs Nichole Overall, along with sharing some stories and officially launching the book.

Keeping it Alive was written by Ros Maddrell, Elaine Collins, both former employees of the Braidwood Hospital. Paris Silvester made up the trio and provided the layout of the book. All 3 ladies spent countless hours putting it together. The result is 140 pages of photographic memories, stories, old names that haven't been mentioned for many years along with plenty of emotion.

Keeping it Alive was financially supported by The Royal Australian Historical Association, Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council and Braidwood Community Bank, with proceeds from the sale of the book donated to the Braidwood Hospital Auxiliary.

The cost of the book is \$35.00 and is available from the Braidwood Community Bank, Braidwood Newsagents, Braidwood Post Office and the Braidwood Information Centre.

This book not only will hold pride and place at home, it will also make a terrific Christmas present. The first run of books printed were 500, so get in quickly before they run out.

'Brawn not Brains' backs up on last year's win at Preschool Trivia

Over \$4500 was raised for the Preschool - an amazing total, given the difficult year which everyone has had, especially Braidwood businesses!

Thank you to all the teams, to Hamish Hudson, to the wonderful Braidwood businesses, and to Braidwood Servicemen's Club for making the 2020 Trivia Night such a success. Due to Covid restrictions, the numbers were limited, but all who came had a great evening. Congrats to the winning team - backing up their win from last year! They will be keen for a three-peat next year.

Photo > : Back (l to r) Mick Clarke, Greg Watson, Kel Watson, Sanders Watson, Katie Tooth, Derek Tooth. Front: Guillaume, Tara Hart, Leoni Watson, Emma Hawkins. Photo: Kathy Toirkens



Braidwood Weather With Roger Hosking

Week ending 29 November 2020

We had three consecutive days with a maximum temperature within the top ten percent for those dates. This meets the BoM criterion for a 'relative' heatwave.

Mon	23	Max	27	Min	16	16.2mm
Tues	24	Max	20	Min	8	3.4mm
Wed	25	Max	22	Min	12	1.2mm
Thu	26	Max	25	Min	9	
Fri	27	Max	31	Min	12	3.0mm
Sat	28	Max	31	Min	3.5	
Sun	29	Max	34	Min	17	1.8mm

Grassland SDI (soil moisture deficit) 39mm
Highest November maximum temp. was 38.5 in 2009 & 2019.

FREE CLIMATE INFO TEL 48 422 007

BRAIDWOOD BUGLE

Braidwood Weather With Roger Hosking

Week ending 6 December 2020

Two low pressure systems brought strong to gale force winds. Intermittent showers are slowing down grass curing, but now that the drying process has started it is irreversible

Mon	30	Max	27	Min	11.5	
Tues	1	Max	20	Min	14	
Wed	2	Max	33	Min	12	2.8mm
Thu	3	Max	23	Min	11	0.2mm
Fri	4	Max	26	Min	9.5	0.2mm
Sat	5	Max	29	Min	12	
Sun	6	Max	30	Min	13	6.0mm

Grassland SDI (soil moisture deficit) 48mm
December median rainfall is 53.4mm

FREE CLIMATE INFO TEL 48 422 007

BRAIDWOOD BUGLE

Bushfire survivors call for action on Royal Commission

Bushfire Survivors For Climate Action (BSCA) met with Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia and Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud to call for the government to implement all recommendations made in the Bushfire Royal Commission's final report.

Jo Dodds, BSCA President, said the meeting was a positive step towards bridging political divides, and that bushfire survivors want to see immediate action from the Federal Government on both the Bushfire Royal Commission's recommendations and climate change.

"Broadly, our values and goals were well-aligned. We are both concerned that regional communities are bearing the brunt of climate change events, such as bushfires, and are paying a very high price for it," said Ms Dodds.

"Minister Littleproud and I agreed that it will be critical for all levels of government and community to work together towards the goal of reducing bushfire risks." BSCA wants to see all 80 recommendations made by the Bushfire Royal Commission implemented, in particular recommendation 3.5 that calls for establishment of an entity focused on long-term disaster risk reduction to enhance Australia's natural disaster resilience and recovery.

Ms Dodds said it was heartening that Minister Littleproud is engaging with BSCA and its members, is keen to see action taken on all recommendations, and that 3.5 should be implemented by July 2021.

"We both agree that action on all recommendations is critical, and that the process should be non-partisan and fairly handled," Ms Dodds said.

"We will continue to watch and monitor the government to make sure it delivers on its promises in the coming months." BSCA Member Jack Egan, who lost his North Rosedale home on New Years Eve, also attended the meeting and spoke about recovery resources needing to be distributed according to need, not just the squeakiest wheels.

"The Royal Commission's findings clearly state that Australia's prosperity and security depends on our ability to anticipate, manage and prevent the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change," Ms Dodds said. "Reaching net-zero emissions as soon as possible is in the interests of both our rural and urban communities."



Jack Egan, Minister Littleproud and Jo Dodds.



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Braidwood BlazeAid Lands its Final Picket

BY NICK FRY

After almost 11 months of work, 6 days a week, the Braidwood BlazeAid closed its doors on the 27th November. Camp coordinators, Dennis and Carol McGrath, arrived on the 6th of January to the Braidwood Showground, the land was dry, the community was more than despondent and they did not know what lay ahead. They had never been involved with a BlazeAid camp before.

It wasn't long before volunteers arrived, from grey nomads, locals to overseas pack packers. By the time the camp closed, there were over 450 volunteers who had amassed 9392 working days!. that's over 25 years of working days. The volunteers survived Braidwood's winter, thank goodness it wasn't the coldest on record. They were always happy and proud to wear their name badge with the BlazeAid logo. Then there were the volunteer Braidwood groups, primarily the CWA, Lions and Scouts. They knew how important BlazeAid was to the community and helped when they could. Then there was local council, QPRC. From the start they supported, organising the Braidwood Showground as their camp and assisting where ever possible both financially and also hands on. Council also organised the Bushfire Relief Office in Braidwood and together worked hand in hand with BlazeAid.

There was the Braidwood Life Centre Community Help Fund that assisted financially when the camp was being established. The Servicemen's Club was there to lend a hand, whether it be the courtesy bus or just guidance.

There were the farmers who had their properties registered, all 265 of them and had their fencing completed by the BlazeAid crew. There were the locals who just wanted to say thanks. There was the Men's Shed that made wooden medallions. There was the Braidwood Community Bank who assisted with monetary vouchers for the volunteers to be spent at the local businesses, to beanies and caps to keep the volunteers heads warm along with financial assistance to the BlazeAid camp and organisation. The final figures speak for themselves:

All in all, it was a terrific partnership, but back to Dennis and Carol. Every business, community or sporting group needs someone or a partnership to lead by example. And Braidwood BlazeAid had Dennis and Carol. From the moment they arrive, Dennis made certain he had met business houses, community/sporting groups and Braidwood's own registered charity, Braidwood Life Centre. He knew all the organisations would play an important role if they were going to succeed and meet their targets. With over \$500,000 spent locally, they have certainly achieved this. Last Thursday night at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club saw the final farewell get together and thank you. Some said they had more farewells than John Farnham comebacks. Carol No. 2 had her poem read out and a touching message was sent from Federal Member for Eden Monaro, Kristy McBain.

So where does that leave Braidwood and the community? We are now walking with a spring in our step, our heads are up rather than looking down and we can look into the future with great vision. There will be more disasters unfortunately, however, the past 11 months with the partnership between Braidwood BlazeAid and our community will be part of our history for many, many years.

POEM: The Blazeaid Volunteer

So, where is Braidwood, On the map it's just a black dot
With a butcher, a baker and a great bottle shop
There's a Blazeaid camp at the showground there
A place for grey nomads, who've got time to spare
Disasters happen, there's no one to blame
Floods, fire, cyclone or drought, it's all
the same Mother nature is cruel, she made the land black
The trees that stood tall, may never come back
Your loss is our loss, that's our aussie way
Your courage and your strength, we see it every day

Up along the road there's a little joey lost
Mammas hanging on the fence, how do we count the cost?
Farmers shoot their cows, you can see their pain
They're battered and broken, can they ever smile again
Her rage and her fury, make grown men cry
But farmers are so tough, and they never say die
The CWA, Lions and Scouts, they've all played their part
And we thank you so much, from the bottom of our hearts
There's Michelle from the club and the courtesy bus
That brought us home safe when we've all had enough
Some brought their skills and knew what to do
Others like me, didn't have a clue

Dennis and Carol have led from the start
And run Braidwood campsite like a pulsating
heart At muster each morning as we all gather round
The message is clear please come home, safe and sound

And our four little girls Emma the chooks
You know where they've been, when you step on their poop
There's a flasher in camp with a grey hairy chest
But we all know he's simply the best
And our four-legged friends, Bonnie, Buddy and Rastus too
They wear the Blazeaid vest cause their part of the crew Ole
Bill the toolman that grumpy ole fart
He's scary at first, but he's got a good heart
And tractor man Dennis, is a man to admire
He's not for rent, but the tractors for hire
And Nick at the bank, who bragged to Dennis
We're the champions at Table Tennis
Well don't be afraid and give it ya best
We've got the trophy, we're better than the rest

We had Xmas and plays and trivia too
Sat round the campfire with a stubbie or too
The backpackers came with youth on their side
To help build the fences and they do it with pride
They're a long way from friends and family back home
And we are so proud to now call you our own

As we go our separate ways and may never meet again
The skills we have learnt and the memories will remain
To our farmers and friends never ever fear
For somewhere on a fence line you'll find a Blazeaid volunteer
Carol A Newton © October 2020

Majors Creek Road Funding ~

Council has provided some additional information from the last Council meeting regarding funding for the Majors Creek Road.

Recent heavy rain and increased traffic heading to the Dargues Gold mine has impacted Majors Creek Rd significantly. In response, Council has allocated \$600,000 from the Roads to Recovery budget for the immediate repair of a 1.52km section of the road. Council will seek further funding assistance for the rehabilitation of the remaining sections of Majors Creek Rd between the mine site and Araluen Rd and also the replacement of Honeysuckle Bridge. Council will continue to work with the mine management on options to mitigate damage and coordinate repairs to the pavement.

Council will apply for funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery fund for:

1. Completion of stage 4 of Nerriga Rd project (\$3m)
2. Rehabilitate Nerriga Rd from Endrick River to Oallen Rd 8.2km as follows:
 - a. Replace two low-level causeways with flood-free crossings (\$2.5m)
 - b. Improve Nerriga Rd through the village (\$1m)
 - c. Rehabilitate Nerriga Rd to Endrick River to Oallen Rd (\$8.5m)
3. Rehabilitation of Majors Creek Rd from Cooma Rd to Dargues Reef mine entrance 6.5km (\$2.65m)
4. Upgrade of five community halls in fire-affected areas (\$500k)
5. Installation of public amenities at Araluen campgrounds (\$250k)
6. Rehabilitation of Nerriga Rd from Euradux Lane to Tates Lane 7.2km – (\$9.5m)

The fund is open to projects between \$400k-\$20m, with applications closing on 11 December 2020. Additionally, there were some questions on notice asked about the mine and contributions

Answers to Questions

What is happening re the S94 contributions from Dargues Gold Mine?

Response: The original 2013 Planning Agreement made provision for the payment of six types of contributions:

- The first type was a one-off payment for pavement widening on that part of Majors Creek Road used for haulage. This was paid (\$607,685.22) in six instalments (as per the Planning Agreement) and the works have been undertaken.
- The second type was another one-off contribution for line marking of that part of Majors Creek Road used for haulage. The linemarking contribution (\$14,260 excl GST) was paid in September 2010 and works associated with this have been undertaken.
- The third type was also a one-off contribution for pavement upkeep for that part of Majors Creek Road used during mine construction. This was paid (\$83,320 excl GST) in March 2013 and the works associated with this contribution have also been undertaken.
- The fourth is an annual payment towards pavement upkeep along the same part of Majors Creek Road. The CPI adjusted annual payment was paid on 30 June 2020 (\$92,820 excl GST) and the next adjusted payment is due on 30 June 2021.
- The fifth type of contribution is a one-off payment for the upgrade of the Braidwood Recreation Ground. This is outstanding and a potential increase has been part of the negotiations between Big Island Mining and Council as part of updating the Planning Agreement to reflect what has transpired since 2013. Once the new owners have had an opportunity to review the amended Planning Agreement, it is intended to report on it to Council prior to putting it on public exhibition.
- The last type of contribution is payment for disposal of putrescible waste at the Braidwood landfill. This is also part of the negotiations as this can no longer occur at the landfill.

There are two remaining types of contribution types in the Planning Agreement i.e. an annual adjusted payment towards pavement upkeep along that part of Majors Creek Road used for haulage and a one-off payment for the upgrade of the Braidwood Recreation Ground.

Are they designated specifically to be used at the Braidwood Recreation Ground?

Yes. One of the remaining contribution types is - see above. Note that the mine has just been sold on to a new owner.

Do the same conditions apply regardless of ownership?

Under the Planning Agreement, Big Island cannot assign the negotiated agreement without the written agreement of QPRC although this shall not be unreasonably withheld.

When is Council likely to receive those contributions, if they haven't yet been received?

The next annual contribution for the part of Majors Creek Road used as a haulage route is due on 30 June 2021. In regard to the one-off contribution of the Braidwood Recreational, this is likely to be paid after the amended Planning Agreement has been considered by Council and gone through the statutory process which is anticipated to be around March 2021.



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Braidwood's first adult change table completed

Work is now complete on Braidwood's first adult change table, making life easier for teenagers and adults living with a disability as well as their carers. Member for Monaro John Barilaro said the new facility, added to the existing disabled toilet block at Ryrie Park, is a very welcome asset for locals and visitors travelling through the popular stopover.

"Thank you to the Jerrabomberra Rotary Club for putting forward this important initiative, which we were able to make a reality through the NSW Government's Community Building Partnerships Program," Mr Barilaro said.

"Braidwood is a popular rest stop when travelling to and from the beautiful NSW South Coast, and I know that with the upcoming school holidays just around the corner this new addition will be very welcome. "The new teenager and adult automated change table and associated hoist will ensure those living with a disability will have greater access to our wonderful facilities in Braidwood, including the nearby pool." Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor Tim Overall said the project is a great example of community looking after community.

"I applaud the Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra for looking beyond their own suburb to help establish this much needed facility in Braidwood," Cr Overall said. "It's not often a toilet block becomes a tourist destination, but I think the simple fact that this facility is here, and that families who need it know that it is here, will be of great benefit to tourism in Braidwood.

"I am sure the families most in need of this new facility will greatly appreciate it as they travel through our region - and hopefully they get more of a chance to linger a little longer in Braidwood to find all of its hidden treasures."

Robert Chilman, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Jerrabomberra, said it was an absolute pleasure to work with the NSW Government and QPRC to deliver the new, much needed facilities. "It is great to see the finished product, which I know will help carers and those living with a disability for many years to come. This is something that our club hopes to replicate in other towns across the region," Mr Chilman said. "Jerrabomberra Rotary Club would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible, including the builders and suppliers. It is a wonderful outcome."

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raywhitebraidwood.com.au



Health District Hospitals cope with Covid-19 demands

NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD) Emergency Departments (EDs) performed well in the July to September 2020 quarter while continuing the local COVID-19 response.

The latest Bureau of Health Information (BHI) quarterly report shows 24,356 people presented to the District's EDs from July to September 2020, a decrease of 17.1 per cent or 5017 people compared to the same period in 2019.

Chief Executive of SNSWLHD, Margaret Bennett, said despite the drop in presentations, clinicians have been kept busy with COVID-19. A total of 38,724 COVID-19 tests were completed across the District in both inpatient and outpatient settings during that period alone. "All our staff are doing a wonderful job providing the best quality patient care during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, the District performed better than the statewide results, with urgent, semi-urgent and non-urgent surgery procedures all performing ahead of the state average," Ms Bennett said. "The most urgent patients in our emergency departments were treated more quickly and, importantly, 100 per cent of urgent surgeries were performed on time.

"We saw 82.3 per cent of patients leave the ED within four hours, a 1.8 percentage point improvement on the same quarter in 2019, and better than the NSW state average of 71.5 per cent.

"More than 93 per cent of patients were transferred from ambulance to ED staff within the 30-minute benchmark," she said.

Ms Bennett said the figures come on the back of extensive investment by the NSW Government in a number of facilities across the District, including the \$150 million Goulburn Hospital and Health Service redevelopment, with an upgraded Goulburn Base Hospital as the main element of the project.

Furthermore, \$18.6 million is being spent redeveloping Cooma Hospital, and \$200 million has been committed to building a new health facility in Eurobodalla. A total of \$8 million spent on the Yass Hospital redevelopment, with funding for the Braidwood Multipurpose Service (MPS) redevelopment coming from the \$300 million state-wide program of works to upgrade MPS facilities in a number of rural and remote communities across NSW.

Queanbeyan Hospital - Like other hospitals across the district, Queanbeyan Hospital recorded a 13.1 per cent decrease in ED presentations, down to 5316 or 802 fewer patients, compared to the same quarter in 2019. A total of 87 per cent of patients left the ED within four hours, an improvement of 4.5 percentage points and ahead of the state target and the peer group average. Elective surgery performance at the hospital remained strong, with 100 per cent of urgent surgery performed on time, and performance across all categories was above the state and peer group average.

Goulburn Base Hospital - Like other hospitals across the district, Goulburn Base Hospital ED experienced a decrease of 16.5 per cent or 835 presentations down to 4228 compared to the same period in 2019. During the quarter, 72.9 per cent of patients left the ED within four hours, ahead of the state average. All patients who were admitted for urgent elective surgery had their procedures performed on time.

Batemans Bay District Hospital - Batemans Bay District Hospital had 2752 ED presentations, down 25 per cent, or 916 fewer people compared with the same quarter in 2019. The proportion of patients leaving the ED within four hours was 83.1 per cent, ahead of the state target of 81 per cent, while the median time to leave the ED was one hour 50 minutes, well ahead of the NSW median of 2 hours 42 minutes. Elective surgery performance at the hospital remained steady, with 100 per cent of the 123 elective surgery procedures being completed on time.

Merry Christmas and a happier new year

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Further Government Investment in Aged Care Welcomed

Dementia Australia has welcomed the announcement this week by the Australian Government of an additional \$132.2 million investment in its response to the Aged Care Royal Commission's recommendations on COVID-19.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said the acceptance of all six recommendations by the Morrison Government is a step in the right direction for all aged care residents and especially people living with dementia, their families and carers, however further dementia specific strategies will be required to address the devastating long term impact COVID-19 has had in our community.

"The continued financial support for providers to use additional payments to support residents with adequate visitation and communication arrangements is a positive step and will help reduce some of the disruption to many of these residents' lives," Ms McCabe said.

"Just last week, Dementia Australia released a discussion paper with 14 COVID-19 mental health related recommendations and calling for additional funding for all people living with dementia, families and carers.

"The additional funding arrangements (\$35.5 million) permitting aged care residents to access up to 20 individual psychological therapy sessions where their general practitioner or psychiatrist determines they would clinically benefit from additional mental health support will help ensure aged care residents can have equal access to mental health support initiatives in the same way as people living in the community.

"The provision of an additional \$15.7 million to Primary Health Networks to commission allied health group consultations with physiotherapists, exercise physiologists and/or occupational therapists for people living in COVID-19 affected residential aged care facilities will also benefit people living with dementia.

"Dementia Australia also supports the introduction of a range of measures to expand infection prevention and control processes in aged care homes.

"Dementia-specific care standards are very important for the two thirds of people in aged care facilities living with dementia and whilst additional investment is a positive step, further consideration will need to be factored into all future government financial support initiatives for aged care providers.

"Dementia Australia will be looking forward to working closely with the government following the handing down of the Royal Commission's full report in February next year."

RACGP urges Australians to keep 'COVID safe' during summer heatwaves

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is urging Australians to take a different approach in times of heatwaves in order to stay 'COVID safe' this summer.

Chair RACGP Victoria Dr Anita Munoz said the advice for patients had to change this year due to the COVID-19 virus.

"We have done a great job in Australia to stop the COVID-19 virus spreading, and we don't want to go backwards and see another spike in cases. "This is why the RACGP is changing its advice for patients in times of extreme heat, particularly those who are more vulnerable, such as older people.

"We used to advise people to go to a public place with air conditioning on very hot days, such as a shopping centre, as we know many people don't have access to a cool home.

"This year is different because we are still in the grips of a worldwide pandemic – COVID-19 is highly contagious, and the last thing we want is people, particularly vulnerable people, gathering in public places during heatwaves. "Instead, we want to get the message out to people to prepare for the heat in other ways.

"Patients concerned about what to do in times of extreme heat should make an appointment with their GP – your GP can give you advice to suit your circumstances and concerns, including managing medicines during heatwaves, and how to stay hydrated and cool if you don't have air conditioning."

"I also urge everyone to look out for those who are more vulnerable in times of extreme heat."

"If you know someone who is more vulnerable, be they a neighbour, relative or friend, check in on them. A simple phone call can make a big difference."



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Queanbeyan Civic & Cultural Precinct gets green light



The catalyst for the transformation of the Queanbeyan CBD - the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct (QCCP) - has moved a step closer to reality with the Southern Regional Planning Panel having now approved the development application.

"This is a significant milestone for this project and one that I am very pleased to see occur,"

Queanbeyan-Palerang Mayor, Cr Tim Overall said.

"The QCCP has been subject to extensive planning and community engagement and will have a lasting impact on the Queanbeyan CBD."

The QCCP will be constructed on the site of the former Council administration building at 257 Crawford Street and into the Lowe Street car park. The development will have a strong focus on community and cultural purposes, with more than 40% of the precinct comprising community spaces, gallery linkages to The Q and Bicentennial Hall, new basement parking and public domain. The QCCP includes a head office for Council staff, the library, conference meeting rooms, and lettable space for NSW Government agencies, commercial offices and a smart hub.

The QCCP will act as the catalyst for further redevelopment in the Queanbeyan CBD, with a number of Council-owned properties along Rutledge Street to be sold for future mixed-use developments.

Council expects that these properties will be offered for sale in early 2021.

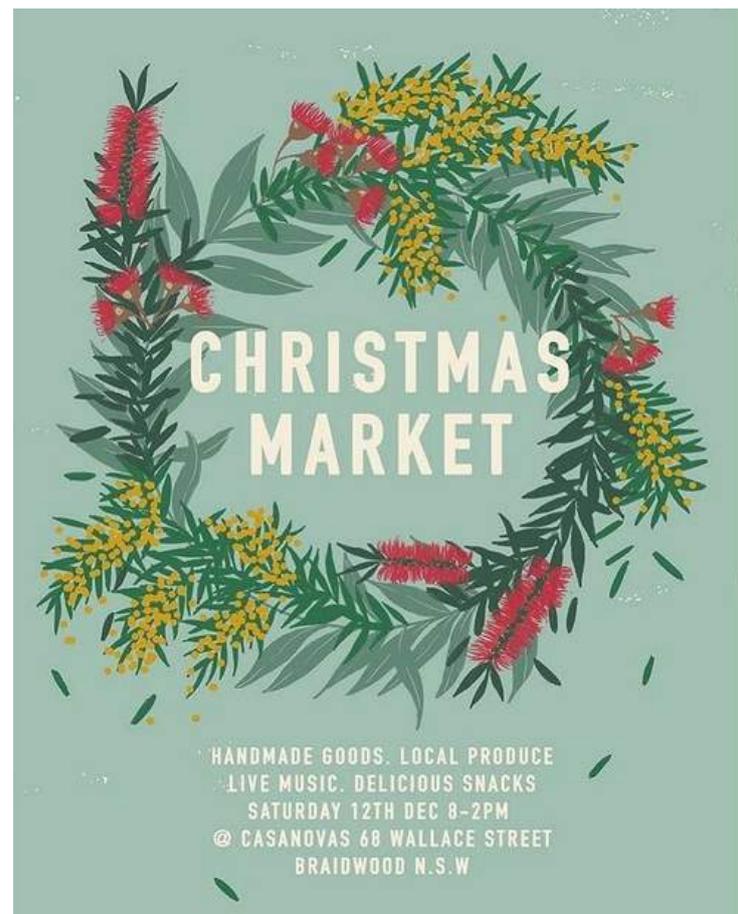
Council called tenders for the final design and construction of the QCCP in early November and expects to award the tender in early 2021, with construction to commence soon after.

Ryrie Park Rotunda Maintenance



The Rotunda in Ryrie Park is a centre piece of the park. To encourage passing trade to stay and enjoy the park and town, the rotunda is receiving some maintenance. The maintenance to the rotunda commenced 30 November 2020 and aims to be complete by 19 December in time for the local markets.

The Rotunda will be painted, floor boards will be replaced, rotten timber removed and lighting added. The lighting will extend the hours of use of the rotunda during the warmer months of the year. Total cost is approximately \$14k. Any excess funds will be put towards another small project.



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Nerriga Road upgrade reaches new milestone



Work is continuing on increasing the overall safety of Nerriga Road, improving travel for local drivers and the many tourists who use the road for trips to the NSW South Coast.

Member for Monaro John Barilaro said the sealing of the dirt road and the installation of guardrails continues the NSW Government's commitment to improving road safety in the region.

"Nerriga Road is a vital link between Queanbeyan-Palerang and the South Coast, not just for locals and freight vehicles but our emergency services," Mr Barilaro said.

"This region was impacted heavily by last summer's unprecedented bushfire season. The event highlighted how important it is that our roads are up to scratch, for both locals who may be forced to evacuate and our emergency services.

"So far more than 600 metres of the 3.1-kilometre section of road, which runs through the Durran Durra Range, has been sealed as part of stage three of the Nerriga Road upgrade, making a huge difference for motorists.

"The next stage of work will include sealing the remaining dirt road in this section, as well as earthwork, and installing large drains, guardrails and line marking."

Sections of the road are being widened and intersections with Brightside Road, Cookanulla Road and Durran Durra Place upgraded.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor Tim Overall said the Durran Durra Range section of the Nerriga Road upgrade is a key aspect of Council's current capital works program.

"The 3.1 kilometre section from Brightside Road to Grants Road forms Stage 3 of four identified stages. It removes a winding and often slippery unsealed section of Nerriga Road through the Durran Durra Range and replaces it with a new, much safer and more direct sealed road," Cr Overall said.

"A fifth stage of the Nerriga Road project - a 4.7 kilometre unsealed section known as Ningee Nimble Creek, which is located between Mongarlowe River and Charleys Forest Road - will be added to the project if sufficient savings are made across the entire project or further sources of funding are secured.

"Nerriga Road proved to be an invaluable transport corridor during last summer's fires and with these new sections progressively being completed, it is also becoming an increasingly important freight route into and out of our local government area."

The Nerriga Road revamp involves upgrading four sections of the road (11.2 kilometres in total), and has been funded by a \$70 million grant from the NSW Government under the Monaro-Palerang Roads Package.

Queanbeyan parks recognised among best in the world

Two centrepieces of our local region, Queanbeyan Park and Queen Elizabeth II Park, have again been recognised among the best managed parks in the world after both were reaccredited with prestigious international Green Flag awards.

Mayor of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Tim Overall said that the Green Flag Awards were well deserved recognition for Council's Urban Landscapes team who do a wonderful job of maintaining the parks to international benchmark standards.

"There are only nine parks across Australia that have received Green Flag Awards, and to have two of them right here in Queanbeyan is a testament to the dedicated staff who look after these magnificent parks," Mayor Overall said.

2020 has been a year many in the community would like to put behind them. The Queanbeyan-Palerang region has seen fires, floods and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout this challenging year, our parks and green spaces have played an important role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of our community. They have been a reassuring constant in our lives, acting as emergency assembly points, safe zones, and temporary refuges for stranded travellers or people displaced by fires. They have been places where the community could come together to meet, support one another, exercise, or relax and recover," the Mayor said.

Service Manager, Urban Landscapes Tim Geyer said he was proud to retain the Green Flags and was even more proud of his team for maintaining Queanbeyan Park and Queen Elizabeth II Park to international benchmark standards, while also looking after and improving more than 100 parks and playgrounds across the region.

"These two parks were first recognised with Green Flags in 2019/20. They've now been reaccredited for 2020/21 due to the professionalism, hard work and dedication shown by all of our team.

"We aim to achieve more Green Flags for other parks in the future," Mr Geyer said.

Originating in England in 1996, the Green Flag Award proudly flies above more than 2,200 places in over 15 countries around the world.



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Health funds pay policyholders \$500 million less due to COVID-19

Insurers have paid out \$500 million less in hospital and extras benefits in 2019-20 compared to the previous year, the latest ACCC annual report into the private health insurance industry has found.

The reduced benefit payout was the result of government-imposed restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited non-urgent elective surgery and non-urgent extras treatments (including most dental, optical and other health services).

At the same time, average premium increases have continued to be higher than inflation and wage growth despite the fact that most insurers postponed their scheduled April 2020 premium increases for at least six months in response to the pandemic. Some insurers, such as HBF and Teachers Union Health, cancelled this year's premium increase altogether. Health funds say they have returned substantial sums to policyholders since the pandemic began, including ongoing relief to those suffering financial hardship. Insurers have also indicated that they will use any remaining profits gained from the COVID-19 restrictions to discharge policyholders' accumulated demand for non-urgent elective surgery.

"The ACCC expects insurers to act on public commitments to return any profits gained from COVID-19 to policyholders, including through hardship measures such as premium waivers and discounts, and through the timely management of any built-up demand for non-urgent elective surgery," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"In preparing the next report to the Senate, the ACCC will consider the actions taken by insurers in this regard." The report also noted that health insurance participation rates had continued to decline over the past year, as the proportion of the population holding 'hospital only' or combined cover fell from 44.3 per cent in June 2019 to 43.6 per cent in June 2020.

"The overall decline in the proportion of people with hospital policies in 2019-20 was possibly due in part to the economic slowdown associated with COVID-19. However, some have asserted that the pandemic also reminded Australians of the quality of Medicare and the Australian hospital system, leading them to question the value of continuing to pay for private health insurance," Ms Rickard said.

"While it is difficult to determine the exact reason why there was a lower proportion of people with hospital cover in the year ending June 2020, there is little uncertainty about the continued downward trend, particularly among younger age groups."

Bushfire legislation - What's changed?

The Bushfires Legislation Amendment Act 2020 came into force in November 2020, amending the Rural Fires Act 1997 and other legislation.

The Local Government Association of NSW says "These changes follow the inquiry into the 2019-2020 bushfire season. Changes include:

- Provision for a Rural Boundary Clearing Code covering a range of aspects including the type of vegetation that can or cannot be cleared.
- Vegetation clearing allowed on rural zoned land within 25 metres of the boundary, without licence, approval or consent, if undertaken for bushfire hazard reduction purposes and under the Code.
- Provision for hazard management officers to serve bush fire hazard reduction notices on public authorities.
- Misdirected complaints referred to the Rural Fire Service Commissioner within 14 days.
- Quarterly progress reports by the Minister to Parliament on implementation of the 76 recommendations.



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St Bede's Parish

Third Sunday of Advent

Reflection on the Gospel Reflection on the Gospel

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live. Greg Sunter

Weekday Masses: Tuesday and Thursday at 10.00am in the Church.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: Fridays 9am-10 am

Social Justice Group: meets in the Church

Sunday 7th February 2021 at 10.30am.

Christmas Masses: 5pm

Family Mass; 7pm Vigil Mass. Bookings

will be either online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMYAJ>

or phone/text Helen on 0430169849. Bookings for Family

Mass will be in Families; 7pm to be booked as individuals.

Bookings open 1 December and close 23 December. Please

let any family coming home for Christmas know that they (or

you) must book to be sure of a place at their Mass of choice.

Bookings are limited due to the Covid restrictions.

Araluen Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm First Friday of every

month, commencing 4 December. All welcome.

Reconciliation this year will take place within Mass on

Saturday night 19 December – as an extended penitential

Rite at the beginning of the December 19 Mass. Please come

along if you can.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 8am - 2pm next Saturday.

We have missed our markets so let us support them as well

as we can. Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles;

Trash & Treasure; Monthly wood Raffle; Donations of

cooking etc gratefully accepted. Enquiries: Geraldine 4847

5061 AH.

Braidwood Uniting Church

Christmas is coming. The shops are full of gift ideas, decorations, and encouragement to celebrate with others over plump, colourful food. It's easy to get drawn into the tinsel of gifts, decorations and food, and forget why we gather at Christmas time. We gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who brings unique gifts, decorations and food for our spiritual journey. Jesus is the ultimate gift, the divine taking on human form, gifting humanity with healing, wholeness and relationship. Jesus invites us to eternally decorate our lives with hope, peace, joy, and love. Jesus invites us to the eternal feast of the resurrected Lamb. The heavenly feast is never fattening, yet it brings colour, depth and aroma to our spiritual lives that can be truly delicious. There are many layers to the meaning we bring to Christmas celebrations if we choose to take a moment and reflect on what this season is truly about.

BIG FUN 4 LITTLE ONES AND QPRC PRESENT

Kids Christmas Star Decorating Workshop

As part of **QPRC UPCYCLING CHRISTMAS** competition
We are inviting all children of Braidwood
To come and decorate an old wooden star
Take it home, hang it up
Upload a picture to....
[TREASURETRAIL.COM.AU/XMAS](https://www.treasuretrail.com.au/xmas)
and be in with a chance to WIN
5 x \$250 vouchers for residence
5x \$500 vouchers for businesses

**AT Apex Xmas at the club
Friday 11th Dec 6pm**

Plus, raffles, face painting
and Santa visit

QPRC



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Anglican Parish of Braidwood A SPECIAL GIFT

So often we see the month of December as a time of frenetic action involving a whole range of activities to prepare for the looming prospect of Christmas, school holidays, special celebrations and family get-togethers. Shopping for sumptuous food or extravagant gifts and presents, often consumes much of our time. In the midst of all the turbulence do we ever stop to think of the 'reason for the season'?

The season of Advent is primarily a time of preparation, a time to contemplate and reflect on the most precious gift ever bestowed on humanity. It is a time to look beyond the bright lights of insatiable consumerism, dressed up in shop windows and seductive advertising campaigns, and think about why we celebrate Christmas at all. We have become so conditioned to having everything in the present, in the here and now, that it is easy to forget the coming of Jesus as Messiah also facilitated an eternal destiny for those who respond to the Advent messages of hope, readiness, joy, love and light. Indeed, these are the intended emphases when we light up the five Advent candles over a five week period. It is acknowledged that most, if not all of us, encounter our greatest problem because eternal paradigms always seem so remote, somewhere on the never-never, awaiting fulfilment. At Advent we should again ask the questions that really matter about authenticity, integrity, relevance and sustainability of God's eternal promises to his people. In twenty-first century modernism many critics of biblical promises dismiss them as obsolete or irrelevant. There are any number of diversions and distractions to take our hearts and minds off the God of our salvation and his abiding promises. 2 Peter, Chapter 3 addresses some of these doubts and uncertainties. Verses 2 and 3 are pertinent in this regard; "you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour spoken through the apostles. First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts and saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming?'

"Peter is quite deliberate and precise in the reasons why God's promise of another intervention in human affairs cannot be rejected. The reality check is that God determines the timing and mode of future intervention, any delay is quite intentional and exhibits extreme patience so that (V9); 'God is keeping open the door of repentance for as long as possible'.

There is an urgency about Peter's call to holy living, not only in view of the fact that Christ could return at any moment, but equally as an act of gratitude to God for his patient forbearance. Note particularly verse 14; "So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this. make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with God". Rev. Rick Lewis

Postcard to Parliament

New Member for Eden Monaro Kristy McBain has called on constituents to help 'Eden-Monaroise' her office in Parliament House by sending in postcards from around the electorate. "Let's show MP's and their staff from around Australia just how special our backyard is" says Kristy.

Send your postcards to PO BOX 214 Queanbeyan 2620 or PO BOX 1233 Bega, 2550.

Heritage Grants

The 2021-23 NSW Heritage Grants program funding round is now open. Funding is available under three competitive grant categories:

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants

For projects that increase understanding, conservation, celebration and cultural participation in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Caring for State Heritage Grants

For projects that support management, maintenance, conservation, activation and interpretation of items listed on the State Heritage Register.

Community Heritage Grants

For projects that identify, conserve and promote heritage, including:

- Community Engagement Projects: actively engaging community in celebration and promotion of heritage, and
- Local government only projects: to prepare heritage studies, to run a grants program for local heritage, and to contribute to the costs of a professional heritage advisor.

Funding Round Closes 5pm Monday 8 February 2021
For more information: See the funding guidelines www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/grants/



Parts of the Southern NSW Local Health District including the Far South Coast are forecast to have a high fire danger rating over the next few days.

Many people will feel increasing tension and nervousness after what occurred in their area last bushfire season. It can be helpful to connect with neighbours, families and friends at this time and use routine and enjoyable activities to help manage any discomfort

Support is available from our Bushfire Recovery Clinicians based in your local area.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. Simply call 1800 011 511 and ask to be connected to one of our local Bushfire Recovery Clinicians.

BE KIND TO YOURSELF

BE KIND TO OTHERS



DNC Electrical & Farming Pty Ltd
DEAN CAMERON
DIRECTOR
Tomboye NSW 2622
PH. (02) 48422774
MOBILE. (04) 47099276
Email. dncelectricalandfarming@gmail.com
LIC No. 316693C ABN. 54627314612

Landholders reminded stock permits are required when using Travelling Stock Reserves or Public Roads

Local Land Services (LLS) is reminding landholders of their legal obligation to have a permit for stock on Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) and public roads.

Under the Local Land Services Act 2013, there are four types of stock permits, that authorise a person to:

- Walk stock on a public road or TSR
- Graze stock on a public road
- Graze stock on a controlled TSR
- Routinely move stock.

Walking stock permits are for travelling stock walking long distances from one destination to another.

Stock permits to graze on a public road are issued for short periods for specific sections of public road, in times of drought or for hazard reduction. These permits are normally issued to the adjoining landholder, as there are no watering facilities and stock must be returned to the property at night.

Stock permits to graze on a TSR are for an enclosed TSR, for use over an extended period.

Routine stock movement permits are issued to regularly walk stock between properties for the purpose of routine animal husbandry and grazing management.

Stock must only be out during daylight hours. Note that stock transported by vehicle need a Transported Stock Statement

LLS Executive Director, Regional Operations Rob Kelly warned landholders there are serious consequences for not having an appropriate permit.

"If you are moving stock, it is really important that you have a permit," Mr Kelly said. "Permits are important for planning and biosecurity, and if you don't have one, you can be fined.

There is also the risk of liability in the event of an accident. To apply for a permit to have stock on a TSR or public road, just contact your local Biosecurity Officer on 1300 795 299. Further information regarding TSRs is available at www.lls.nsw.gov.au or landholders can contact their closest LLS office.

Rethink, Renew, Recharge:

2022 NSW Landcare & Local Land Services Conference

Landcarers from around the state will converge on the far north coast community of Tweed Heads in 2022 for the NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference 'Rethink, Renew, Recharge'. The conference was to be held next year, but unfortunately had to be postponed due to COVID-19 impacts. It will now take place on 15-17 March 2022 at the Twin Towns Conference and Function Centre in Tweed Heads. Conference tickets will go on sale in 2021. Interested delegates and exhibitors can find updates at the conference website www.nswlandcareconference.com.au

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CSIRO releases updated tool to support farmers learning about carbon market options

Farmers can now better understand the potential opportunities from carbon-reducing activities using a farming tool developed by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency.

The LOOC-C ('Look See') app gives farmers detailed assessments of how their land and farming practices could be eligible for rebates under the Climate Solutions Fund (CSF).



The newest update of the app now includes measurement of soil carbon and beef cattle herd management. The app gives estimates of abatement quantity for CSF methods in Australian Carbon Credit Units for specific land areas, like a paddock, and is consistent with the latest version of the National Carbon Accounting Model, which is used to estimate land sector carbon emissions.

This means LOOC-C users have access to the most up to date carbon estimates available, at the touch of a button. CSIRO's LOOC-C project leader, Peter Fitch, explains that the aim of the tool is to help farmers and land managers participate profitably in greenhouse gas mitigation and maximise the benefits to the land from carbon markets.

"LOOC-C is unique and the quickest way of finding out what carbon farming options are available for your farm, what you're eligible for and what the benefits might be," Mr Fitch said.

"We see it as a high-tech conversation starter that enables farmers to undertake a preliminary assessment of options and connect them with a suitable next step for their carbon farming journey."

Dr Kate Andrews, CEO of NRM Regions Australia, has endorsed the tool since its launch in December 2019.

"This app is an example of what the industry needs at the moment, allowing opportunities in the carbon market to be explored simply and without obligation," Dr Andrews said. "You can tell that the development of the app included input from both landholders and project developers, it's great to see these types of products coming from CSIRO."

The Queensland Government has been quick to see the value of the tool and has been using the app as part of the roll out of its Land Restoration Fund. Carbon farming is a way for landholders to help reduce national carbon emissions by capturing and holding carbon in their plants and soil, generate environmental and on-farm benefits, and get paid for it.

Examples can include planting trees, retaining vegetation rather than clearing it for cropping, reducing soil tillage or improving pasture for livestock.

The app can be accessed at <https://looc-c.farm/> CSIRO has also developed a digital service allowing access to the app's data streams for ag-tech companies and carbon service providers to add value to their products and services.

SUPAGAS

YES WE CAN!



45kg
LPG Bottle
\$125

Free Bottle Rental

Free delivery around town 6 days per week

Out of town deliveries Wednesdays
Call 4842 2405 to order or call into the store at 121 Wallace St Braidwood

Nutrien
Ag Solutions™

Free mental health coaching now available

A free mental health coaching program developed by Beyond Blue is now available in South Eastern NSW. NewAccess, delivered in conjunction with Wellways and COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW PHN, is a six session program offering practical advice on how to manage stress and cope with emerging mental health issues, including early signs of anxiety and depression.

Evidence shows that seven out of ten people who use NewAccess recover from their symptoms. The program is free, completely confidential and available in-person, over the phone or by video call. NewAccess coaches are specially trained in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, guiding people through a proven, evidence-based and personalised program. Visit beyondblue.org.au/get-support/newaccess



Report finds gas mining is risky for agriculture

A report from the Australian Farm Institute (AFI) has backed concerns from NSW Farmers about the risks posed to groundwater resources from gas extraction.

Report co-author and AFI executive director Richard Heath said while farming enterprises and gas mining can co-exist, this coexistence comes at a compromise to food and fibre production.

"Above-ground impacts can range from minimal to severe, but the potential below-ground impacts to aquifers is very difficult to measure and could be catastrophic," Mr Heath said.

"Any decision that poses such a great risk to water security must be based on robust evidence. When it comes to gas production and agriculture, we just don't have that assurance that modelling is accurate, that water – and the farmers who rely on it – will be safe."

NSW Farmers Vice President Xavier Martin NSW Farmers said security of groundwater and other water sources is of paramount importance to farmers, communities and local food and fibre production.

"Farmers fear that CSG projects such as the Narrabri Gas project pose a significant risk to the precious Great Artesian Basin, and a precautionary approach is essential. We need 100 percent certainty and warranty that there will be no impact on the Basin," Mr Martin said.

"That is why our Members voted to oppose the Narrabri Gas Project and to lobby the NSW Government to extinguish the 11 expired and inactive Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELS) in NSW."

Mr Martin said these PELS extend from the Upper Hunter and Liverpool Plains to Moree and west to Coonamble.

"These PELS spread across some of our most vital groundwater resources, including the productive groundwater of the Liverpool Plains and aquifers of the Great Artesian Basin. They are creating major uncertainty for farmers, farm management and succession planning."

"They are old PELS that pre-date the recommendations of the Chief Scientists report, which recommended the Government designate those areas of the State in which CSG activity is permitted to occur. A new framework to do this has since

been created but none of these licences have been through such an assessment."

Read the AFI's 'Foot off the gas: How a gas-Led recovery will impact farmers' at www.farinstitute.org.au/publication/briefing-paper-foot-off-the-gas/

Free Rabbit Control Baits And Free Livestock Worm Test Kits

Register now so you don't miss out! For a limited time, South East Local Land Services is supporting land managers and livestock managers in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region with the following programs:

1. Feral pest rabbit control program – join the fight against pest rabbits, help your community and protect our environment. All participating landholders in the QPRC area will be provided free baits and calicivirus.
2. Free worm tests for livestock - Test kits for 'WormTest Basic with Worm Typing' (usual price of \$63.56 including GST) are available free of charge from our office at 42 Ryrie Street Braidwood. The WormTests are available on a first come first served basis for eligible land managers with a limit of one per holding. If 'WormTest Basic' is not the right worm test for your circumstances, we can tailor the subsidy for you. Just get in touch with our District Vet, Dr Lou Baskind, by email at Lou.baskind@lls.nsw.gov.au or phone on (02) 4842 2594 to discuss your situation or find out more. If you've never done a WormTest this is a fantastic opportunity to give one a go and see the benefits for yourself. Lou can guide you through the process from start to finish.

For further information and to register call the Braidwood Local Land Services office on 02 4842 2594

JERABAT SPRINGS Animal Refuge CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

WIN ONE OF THESE AWESOME PRIZES

Jenette Boyce original painting Value \$750	Janita Byrne Limited Edition Print Value \$385	Lynette Black Pearl Earrings Value \$400
Car Racing Track inc cars from Car Models of Braidwood Value \$85	Smokey Horse Restaurant Voucher Value \$100	Mini Adventure Horse Ride from Saddle Camp Braidwood Value \$30

Tickets only \$5.00 each!

Available at: Jerabat Springs FB Selected Braidwood Retail Outlets

Jerabat Springs 633000 / 157800640

Support the Animals at Jerabat Springs Animal Refuge!

Purchasing Officer - Part-time position, approx 8 hrs per week initially (split Office & home option available). Seeking a can-do, pro-active team player with Microsoft Office skills & attention to detail. Experience with MYOB desirable. It's all about supplier research, purchasing, source documentation & inventory management.

Contact Helen 0411 444 639



Braidwood Men's Shed

Open every Tuesday and Friday
from 9:30 AM

New members always welcome

Enquiries phone or message 0450961039 or
braidwoodmensshed@gmail.com

Braidwood Apex Club Xmas Raffles

Join APEX at the club on Friday 11th December for Christmas raffles. Santa will be visiting plus a free sausage sizzle, or steak sandwiches for sale if you wish. Cash prizes this year, plus vouchers and prizes from local business houses in our major raffle and also a new bbq, along with hams, turkeys and chickens.

Plant Operator Warri

Tegra Australia Pty Ltd is a quarry and pre-mixed concrete operator based in Southern NSW.

Tegra Australia is inviting applications for a Quarry Plant Operator at their Warri Quarry. This sand and aggregate quarry is located at Braidwood NSW.

The successful applicant will be:

- Hands on, energetic and keen to learn
- Reporting to the Quarry Manager
- Trained in the day to day operations of the quarry and its plant and equipment, including but not limited to front end loader, excavator, dump truck and processing plant operation and servicing.
- After a trial period be enrolled in Cert III Surface Extraction Operations

All applicants will be considered, if you are an experienced operator, wanting a career change or just out of school and are keen to learn, please apply. You will have the best training and support to complete your tasks.

Application may be made on line at Tegra's website, <http://www.tegra.com.au/careers> or by contacting the Quarry Manager phone 0428 265 382.

Applications by mail should be addressed to:
The Quarry Manager Warri
PO Box 6 Cootamundra NSW 2590.

Young Writer Book & CD available at VIC

The Visitors Information Centre has copies of the Best Writing from the Braidwood Lions Young Writers Festival 2020 and also the CD which features the Braidwood Pre-School Children.

Daniel Champagne

LIVE at The National Theatre Braidwood

SUNDAY, 10 JANUARY 2021 4pm & 6pm

Tickets online · \$26.41-\$31.68

Disaster Response Webinar

The Legal Aid NSW Disaster Response Legal Service, will be holding a FREE webinar for community and health workers on Thursday 10 December, 2-3pm.

Topics: how we can assist people affected by disasters and a NEW scheme assisting small business owners and farmers affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires.

As the issues resulting from disasters are wide and varied and often linked closely to mental health concerns we were hoping to attract as many health service providers as we can.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5859425419174247439>

Breast Screen Mobile Van dates

The Breast Screen Van is scheduled to return to Braidwood 13/9/2021 until 25/9/2021 (TBC)

The Van will be in Goulburn from 4 January to 2 April 2021.

Nutrien Ag Insurance

At Nutrien Ag we can assist with facilitation of insurance for -

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- Business
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- Home
- Landlord and so much more.



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**Braidwood Ryrie Park Market
19th December**

**Braidwood Farmers' Market Date
19th December**

FOR SALE.

Cox Lawn Boss Ride on Mower. Model A16517H Approximately 20 hours usage. \$3,200 o.n.o Tel: 4846 4076

LOCAL LAND SERVICES ~ CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

The Braidwood Local Land Services office will be closed from 12:30pm Thursday 24 December until 9:00am Monday 11 January 2021 for the Christmas, New Year period. If you suspect an animal disease emergency, please phone the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888. If you suspect a plant health emergency, please phone the Exotic plant pest hotline on 1800 084 881. WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.

**Nerriga Produce Market
1st Sunday of the Month**

**Weekly Garage Sale
Braidwood Uniting Church
Every Wednesday 9-3
cnr Duncan & Monkittie St**

NERRIGA MUSEUM OPEN DAY & CAR BOOT SALE

19 DECEMBER 2020 FROM 9AM



**CAR BOOT SALE & MARKET STALLS
FUN & GAMES FOR ALL AGES
SANTA VISITING AT 12 NOON
FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A STALL SITE
PLEASE PHONE SUE ROBENS ON (02) 4845 9014
COVID SAFE EVENT - COVID RESTRICTIONS APPLY.



ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO
PRESERVING THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MUSEUM

Attention Book Worms!

SAVE THE DATE: January 2021, the ever-popular Braidwood BOOK FAIR will be larger than ever and held over 10 days. Open 9am to 4pm daily - Friday 22nd through to Sunday 31st Jan 2021. Always great value - Plenty of terrific and sometimes rare finds. Donations welcome: email: braidwoodbookfair@gmail.com or phone 0418291141 Don't miss out on this monstrous Book Fair

Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th December 2020 6.00pm in the BBQ area at the Braidwood Services Club all welcome AGM followed by BBQ

HUGE MOVING HOUSE SALE

12 & 13 December 2020.

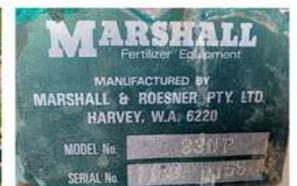
Commencing 9am both days.

Come and have a look if you need furniture, household goods, clothing, shoes, computer bits and pieces, saddlery and other bric-a-brac.
67 Ryrie Street BRAIDWOOD

Lions Christmas Cakes at the Community Bank

Lions Christmas Cakes available for purchase in the branch. 1kg -\$13, 1.5kg -\$17

FOR SALE



**MARSHALL SUPERSPREAD
Price reduced Now**

\$21,000

Model 830T The all purpose 3 tonne Marshall MULTISPREAD will spread granulated fertilizers, lime, gypsum, manures, as well as seeds and grains for stock feeding or planting.



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Braidwood

Call Richard Walker 0428 389 425

YOGA Pose of the Week

with Christina Jagusiak

Sleeping Abdominal - Supta Udarakarshanasana

A great yoga pose to bring suppleness to the spinal column, stretch and massage the abdominal organs and muscles. Renown for improving digestion and removing constipation.



To practice - Lie on your back with both knees bent, knees and feet together, feet on the floor. Interlock the fingers of both hands and place the palms under the back of the head, open the chest and keep the shoulders and elbows guiding downwards throughout. Slowly lower the knees to the right, toward the floor. Simultaneously turn the head and neck to the left. As you next breath in, return the knees and head back to the centre and twist to the other side. Continue alternating from side to side. Feel free to experiment lifting feet and hugging the knees in towards the chest as you twist, or having the feet on the floor with the feet shoulder width apart.

Skate Park discussions roll on

By Sue Murray Recent discussions about the proposed Skate Park have raised some questions, especially re the location. QPRC have provided the Braidwood Community Association with the following information. We hope this will answer some of those questions, and give the community an idea of where the project stands at the moment. BCA is applying for a grant to pay for the skate park. We need as much community support as we can get, as this is a very competitive grant. Go to

www.braidwoodskateparkproject.weebly.com for more info.

QPRC STATEMENT Following community consultation in 2019, Council confirmed that the Braidwood Recreation Ground was the preferred location for a skate park facility in Braidwood. At the same time, Council endorsed a concept design which was developed with skate park specialists Convic and the local community with minor modifications to address water flow.

Ensuring that the skate park is safe for users and spectators is a priority for Council. Engineers have carried out site investigations including geotechnical investigations which have been provided to Convic who have specialist engineers working on the final construction design. The final design will confirm that the skate park will not be constructed within the creek bed, but will be elevated above the water line.

Council expects to receive the final design in December 2020. As residents will have seen, Council is undertaking work at the Recreation Ground to pipe the creek, making it safer for all users of the facility, not just the future skate park. Council is aware of the DIY skate park that is currently being used under a bridge in the same creek, which is very unsafe. The new location will provide a safe option for the community and allow families to use the various recreational elements at the park. Locating the skate park at the Braidwood Recreation Ground has a number of positives, as highlighted in the community feedback in 2019. Some of the positives include: Co-locating recreational and sporting infrastructure at the Recreation Ground, complements existing services, toilets and water, More space for construction of a skate park, Further away from high vehicle traffic areas, Close to housing development creating safer environment for young people, Provides a strong sense of inclusion, Sufficient parking, Not hidden away or out of sight, Good central location, away from the main street, Opportunities for parental supervision for all family members using the Recreation Ground for various activities and sports, Has lighting, Reduced incidence of pedestrian-vehicle impacts whilst using wheeled devices, Site is closer to the current and future demographic centre of Braidwood. Convic have provided estimates of approximately \$595,000 to construct the skate park at the Recreation, Ground.

Council also has an allocation from developer contributions under a Voluntary Planning Agreement to complete the piping of the creek. This option is cheaper than other location options due to the lack of amenities at other sites where a cost of toilet facilities, water / sewer connections, power connections, and related infrastructure, would require a spend of an additional hundreds of thousands of dollars. Council will consider including funding in its next Delivery Program which will be developed following the 2021 local government election. In addition, staff and the Braidwood community are working on grant funding opportunities to expedite the delivery of skate park for Braidwood.



YOGA WITH CHRISTINA
Monday 4pm
Monday 5.30pm
Friday 2pm
Saturday 8am
Braidwood Regional Arts Centre
\$20 casual
or \$150 for 10 weeks
For info call Christina - 0414385051



Braidwood Golf Club News

PRESENTATION NIGHT

The Annual Golf Dinner is on Saturday, December 12 at 7pm and will be catered by Vanilla Catering. The price of the delicious two-course meal is \$40pp and payment is required at the time of putting your name down on the attendance sheet on the noticeboard.

Please give your payment to Keith or Deb Ferguson. Final numbers are required a week before the dinner, so don't miss out! Also please see Donna if you can help to either set up the tables before dinner or stack them away afterwards.

REMINDERS:

Reminder for volunteers to register your name in the book, kept in the work shed, before starting.

All Saturday golf players to register by 12.15pm for a 12.30pm hit off.

2021 Locker fees of \$20 unpowered, \$30 powered & \$100 for carts to be paid to Gordon Scott.

Could all players put sticks & debris on the course beneath close by trees to assist in mowing.

Thanks to John Stahel & David Goddard for the new Servicemen's Club signage on Coronation Ave & Main St.

PLEASE use vouchers before expiry date.

Results: Saturday November 28 -

Medley 2BBB Stableford

Kirsten & Andrew Buchan Trophy- Many thanks for your sponsorship

Winners: Deb & Keith Ferguson nett 44 c/b

Runner Up: Lorinda Stuart & Kerry Noble nett 44

Ball Comp: Marie Uren & Michael Tillman Ryan nett 43, Di

Freeman & Steve Cansell nett 43, Donna Kuhn & Andrew

Clark nett 43 Handicap Changes: Donna down 1 to 27, Roger

Hovey out 1 to 24, Ted Emmett down 1 to 18

Coming Events

Saturday December 12:

Men's & Women's Stroke (Monthly Medals)

Christmas Hamper.

Golf Dinner & Presentation Night

Saturday December 19:

Committee Meeting 10.30am.

3 Person Ambrose Cross Country

(Shotgun Start) 12.30 Hit off - All Players

Mark & Sherilee Newman Trophy

Saturday December 26:

Medley Irish Stableford 3 Ball. 12.30 Hit off - All players.

Boxing Day



Sport Recreation Entertainment Bar

Braidwood Servicemen's Club

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wednesday night **meat raffles** from 7pm

Friday 11th from 6pm **APEX Christmas raffles**

Friday 18th **Club Christmas Raffles**

Club Closed Mondays

Bridge Tuesdays at the club from 1.00pm.

Poker is back on Sundays. Register at 2pm to play at 3.00pm. Masks must be worn

Social Bowls Thursday & Sunday from 1pm.

The Pine Garden Restaurant is open 6 days a week for Lunch & Dinner! Enjoy a range of Chinese & Australian Meals, plus \$12 Lunch Specials every day!

Need a lift? Courtesy bus available, phone the club 48422108. We'll make sure you are picked up and taken home safely. Gold coin donation is appreciated!

Is Gambling a Problem for you?

Club Tel: **4842 2108** Restaurant Tel: **4842 2065**

www.BraidwoodServicemensClub.com.au

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Sweet victory for team 2 in the Spring Tennis comp

The grand finale of the spring night tennis comp was conveniently slotted in between the wind and the rain of Monday evening and was surprisingly played in great conditions. It was the first GF to be played out of the last 3 comps due to bushfires and Covid so it was good to have a completion!

Team 2 was intensely fired up after the club Facebook post stating that team 3 was unbeaten all comp and boy, did that work!

Team 2 were resounding victors on the night winning 80 games to the shocked Team 3's, 61 games.

Reto Fuhrer was particularly on song with his game. He was partnered by Daniel Backhouse, replacing the injured captain, Rodney Royds, who did come along to cheer his team on. In great form as well, was newcomer to the game, Louie Munnings and his partner Lily Morris, that not only played well but undoubtedly earned the "most improved" award for the whole comp.

Andy Taylor and Stewart McPhun added well to the Team 2 total and big wins to Richard Allen and Merv Morris really tipped the scale.

Team 2 celebrated and christened their "crystal" winnings with the finest champagne while Team 3 were gracious in defeat but did go home with their tails between their legs! It was a fabulous finish to the season with quite a few new faces joining the comp and enjoying the friendly vibe of the club.

We will conclude 2020 with a Christmas party next Tuesday (15th) at 6:30pm with a sausage sizzle for all members and their families to come along and enjoy. BYO drinks.

(Please RSVP to Jenny on 0428216878 for catering purposes) Please remember we have a great new coach on board with the club giving the opportunity to younger members of the town to learn the techniques and fun of tennis. Call Dav on 0424 295 634 if interested.

Merry Christmas to all and here is hoping 2021 is nothing but positive. Our Autumn comp will be back on in Feb and we look forward to many participants, new and old, joining in.



Louie Munnings, Lily Morris, Merv Morris, Captain Rodney Royds Richard Allen, Reto Fuhrer, Daniel Backhouse, Stewart McPhun and Andy Taylor

Holland Best and Fairest

Congratulations to Jake Holland from the Braidwood Redbacks Rugby Union, awarded Best and Fairest in the John I Dent Cup



POSITIONS VACANT - BATEMANS BAY TAXI SERVICE

Positions available for Taxi drivers in Eurobodalla.

These taxi driving roles are ideally suited to applicants that are able to work weekends on day and night shifts as well as shifts during the week. This role ideally suits applicants in the 30-70 age group and also suits semi-retired persons and applicants that want to earn additional money as a second job.

We supply the car and all the things required to assist with the applicant being able to work suitably and safely in the driving role. Full ongoing training is provided both in car and externally. We provide no cost driver training. For drivers with clean driving and no criminal history, we can have you earning an income in about two weeks. Applicants must have a Working with Children clearance. Applicants will need a Public Passenger Vehicle drivers approval.



If you would like to know more
email batemansbaytaxi@gmail.com
or call 0429 422 286.





Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

For Your Information

Council meetings and times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month and Planning and Strategy Committee Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 5.30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from

www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Minutes-and-Agendas. Both meetings are live streamed via webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au

During COVID-19:

- All Council meetings are closed to the public
- All Council meetings will be live streamed at <http://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au>
- Councillors and staff are encouraged to participate electronically
- Where councillors and staff choose to attend the meeting physically, appropriate spacing will be put in place
- Members of the public can submit written presentations or register to present via video call on items on the agenda online at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/public-involvement-at-Council-meetings
- If you have made a submission on a development application or a plan/project that is being considered by Council, we will let you know when it is being presented to Council for consideration
- Questions on Notice can still be submitted on any Council-related matter by completing the form at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/public-involvement-at-Council-meetings

Next meeting dates are:

- 18 December - Ordinary Council Meeting
- 27 January - Ordinary Council Meeting

Written Questions on Notice

Questions on notice from the community must be submitted in writing or via email to public.forum@qprc.nsw.gov.au by 12pm on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. All questions and responses will be tabled at each Public Forum, provided to the person who asked the questions and published on our website.

Appointments for planning enquiries

Planning a new home, a renovation or something a little bigger? If you can't find the information you're after on our website you can make contact with one of our helpful planners.

Planning enquiries are available via:

- Calling 1300 735 025 from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday
- Queanbeyan customer service centre – Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30am-4.30pm and Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-4.30pm no appointment required.
- Bungendore customer service centre – Tuesday and Thursday – 9am-12pm no appointment required. Appointments outside these days/time can be made by appointment by calling 1300 735 025
- Braidwood customer service area – by appointment only by calling 1300 735 025.

QPRC is now on the NSW Planning Portal, meaning all development applications, modification applications, construction certificates, complying development certificates and occupation certificates can only be lodged in this way. Register and create an account on the NSW Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au. If you need any help with lodging please use the quick reference guides at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/support/how-guides> or contact the Natural Built Character Admin Team on 6285 6566 to discuss.

School Holiday Program - Indoor Sports Centre

Looking for something exciting for the kids to do these holidays? The Indoor Sports Centre in Queanbeyan runs programs for primary school aged children. The program covers a variety of sports and activities both indoors and outdoors.

The program will run from Monday 4 January-Friday 29 January (excluding Tuesday 26 January which is a public holiday)

Costs

\$200 for the full week (five days)

\$70 for a full day session (8.30am-5.30pm)

\$40 for a half day – morning session (8.30am-1.00pm) or afternoon session (1.00pm-5.30pm)

Online bookings can be made at:

www.qprcindoorsports.com.au/bookings/school-holiday-program/

Advertising of Notices and Documents under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Regulations

Notices and documents required to be advertised under NSW planning legislation are now published online at Council's website.

Documents can be viewed by accessing:

www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/development-and-planning-public-notices

Christmas/New Year closedown

Council's offices and general services will be closed from 1pm Thursday 24 December 2019 until 8.30am Monday 4 January 2021. Council's after hours contact number is 1300 735 025.

Go to www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/see-you-in-2021 for more details about Council services over this period.

Christmas day garbage/ recycling/greenwaste collection

For bins that are would normally have been collected Christmas Day Friday 25 December: In Majors Creek and Araluan, your bin will be collected on Thursday 24 December. Please place bins out on Wednesday evening 23 December.

Slowdown in 50km zones

We are providing 'Slow Down' bin stickers as an initiative to promote safe speeds on 50km/h local roads.

The aim of the stickers is to remind motorists of the 50km/h urban speed limit and encourage drivers to slow down on local roads. These are available for residents of QPRC living on roads with a 50km/h speed limit.

Apply for your sticker online at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/road-safety.

Put your pet in the frame this Christmas

The Bugle will publish the best decorated pets in December issues.

Whether it's dressed for success or flaked out after too many doggie treats and attention, email your photos with pet name and caption to the Bugle.



Have some fun with Fido this Festive Season!

Email your Christmas themed
pet photos to
mail@braidwoodbugle.com.au

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