

QPCYC brings Fit for Life Program to Braidwood



MP Kristy McBain (right) kicked off the week by joining Queanbeyan PCYC's Fit For Life program at Braidwood Central School. More page 3

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- Redbacks run at South Coast Rugby 10s at Broulee
- 2022 Community Heritage Grants open
- Worldwide #bushfireblocks quilts on display
- 2022 Influenza vaccinations have arrived
- Minister's Planning Principles discontinued

MS 500i Chainsaw

NOW
IN
STOCK

STIHL have cemented their position as a technology leader with the highly anticipated launch of the MS 500i; **the world's first electronic fuel injected chainsaw** with never-before achieved power-to-weight ratio.

The STIHL injection technology not only provides the chainsaw of the future with incredible torque, but also ensures rapid acceleration of the saw chain from 0 to 100 km/h in just 0.25 seconds. The STIHL MS 500i is lightweight within the ranks of professional saws. Thanks to an intelligent lightweight design, as well as an extremely high engine power, it excels with an exemplary low power-to-weight ratio at 1.24 kg/kW. This value is unique within all displacement categories. The MS 500i also comes with a choice of 20" or 25" Rollomatic ES Light guide bars, keeping the overall weight of the saw down, and the balance at its optimum too.



THE CHAINSAW OF THE FUTURE

OPINION - Kristy McBain Member for Eden Monaro

Disaster deja vu

Australia is no stranger to natural disasters. For anyone who has grown up outside the major cities, extreme weather events are a part of life. But what we have seen with these devastating floods, and what we saw two years ago during the Black Summer Bushfires, is that these disasters are intensifying and causing more damage than ever.

My heart goes out to everyone affected by these floods, to those who've lost loved ones, to those who've lost their homes, their possessions, their livelihoods.

With the waters receding and clean up starting, what comes next for these communities is a long, tough road to recovery. Sadly, this long and gruelling recovery is a journey those in my communities know too well. We are still living and breathing it more than two years later.

Throughout Australia's modern history, we have been proud of our capacity to respond to disasters and endure adversity.

It's during these times of crisis that we see acts of courage, selflessness and human fellowship. We are seeing it play out writ large across Northern NSW and Queensland right now.

Just like with the fires, across the country people are holding fundraisers and donation drives to support these communities and to provide people with the bare essentials to get through the next couple of days, weeks and months.

I am not surprised the community response has been the same for the floods as it was for the bushfires. This is what Australians do. They support each other, they rally together when people are in need, and they help people get back on their feet.

What I am completely gobsmacked by is the Morrison Government's response. How can it be that no lessons have been learnt by this government more than two years and countless reviews later?

Just like during the fires, our Prime Minister has been missing in action, communities have been left to fend for themselves and the government support has been too little too late.

For people in my communities, it feels like deja vu. I've spoken to people across Eden-Monaro and received countless messages from bushfire survivors who all say the same thing – why hasn't the government done more?

Why haven't we learnt from the past? Why didn't the government invest in disaster preparation projects? And why are communities feeling that same sense of abandonment that was felt two years ago?

It is a complete slap in the face and the anger is palpable.

As a nation we should be world leaders in disaster recovery, preparedness and mitigation. We should be setting the standard. But this isn't the case and it needs to change.

We know there are going to be more severe climate events in the future. To limit the impact of these disasters and to keep people safe we must anticipate, adapt, and invest in mitigation. This requires federal investment and planning – as well as, crucially, a government that is committed to learning from past mistakes.

We need leadership from the top. We need a Prime Minister that will show up and we need our National Recovery and Resilience Agency to be led by someone who actually wants to help.

We're now in our third disaster season since the \$4.8 billion dollar Emergency Response Fund was created. But not a cent has been spent on disaster recovery and not a single disaster readiness project has been built. Shane Stone runs the Government's \$4.8 billion Emergency Response Fund and he has failed to build a single flood mitigation project with it. He has failed to help Eden-Monaro communities who are desperate to ensure they are better prepared for next time. And now he has turned around and blamed flood victims for the hardship they are facing.

We currently have a Prime Minister who 'doesn't hold a hose' and the leader of the agency responsible for supporting those affected by disasters has shown a complete disregard for flood victims.

It's no wonder that communities feel abandoned. Australians deserve to be backed by a government that looks forward, plans and prevents the worst from natural disasters.

An Albanese Labor Government will revamp the failed Emergency Response Fund and create a new Disaster Ready Fund.

Up to \$200 million per year will be invested on disaster readiness to protect lives and livelihoods.

We can't stop all natural disasters – but we can prepare for and prevent the worst. We can learn from the past, invest in mitigation projects and ensure we are ready for what's to come.

We can't keep doing the same old thing and expecting a different result. Something has to change and Scott Morrison has proved he has no desire to lead this change.

Braidwood Weather With Roger Hosking

Week ending 13th March 2022

This is the eighth consecutive month in which the SDI model has produced Soil Capacity Overflow, in other words the soil was saturated and resulted in high river flows.

• Mon 7	Max 19	Min 15.5	26.6mm
• Tues 8	Max 17	Min 13	11.8mm
• Wed 9	Max 16	Min 11	
• Thu 10	Max 18	Min 6	
• Fri 11	Max 17	Min 5.5	
• Sat 12	Max 19	Min 9	
• Sun 13	Max 22	Min 8	

Grassland SDI (soil moisture deficit) 11mm
March mean daily maximum temperature is 23.1 deg

 **FREE CLIMATE INFO TEL 48 422 007**

 **Braidwood Bugle – independent local news**

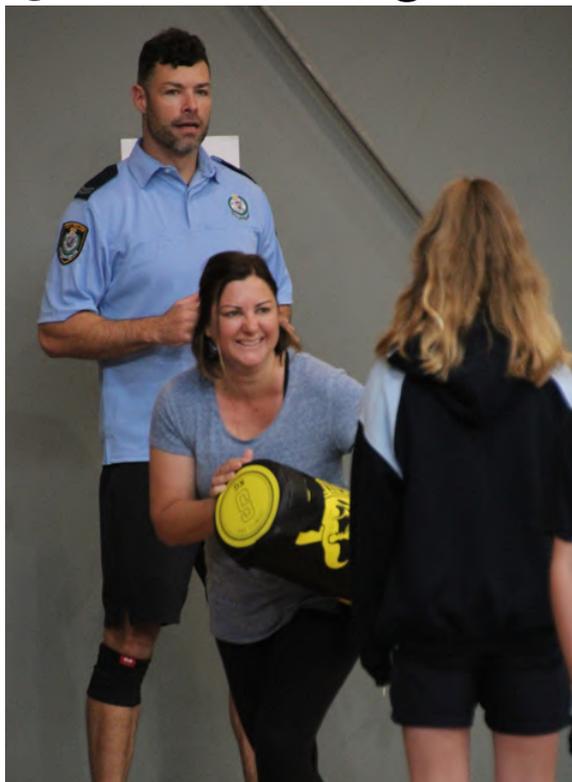
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**BRAIDWOOD
BUGLE**

QPCYC brings Fit for Life Program to Braidwood



Kristy McBain joins BCS students in the Star Jump Challenge on Monday.



Terry Campese and Kristy McBain at Fit For Life.

Kristy McBain kicked off the week by joining PCYC Queanbeyan's Fit For Life program at Braidwood Central School on Monday morning.

Fit For Life is a program designed to engage youth and improve wellbeing through physical fitness, nutrition and social engagement. It runs at Braidwood Central School every Monday morning at 7.30am. After the session breakfast is provided for the participants and any snacks they may need for the day. The program gives the two police officers a chance to interact with the participants to help with any issues they may be going through and provide choice solutions for better outcomes.

Kristy is also currently participating in the Star Jump Challenge.

Kristy said "I'm passionate about supporting this fantastic program and was stoked that Terry Campese also made his way out to Braidwood for the 7.30am session.

The morning was full of fun and a lot of laughs. "

PCYC Fit for Life Program is run in Queanbeyan on a Tuesday & Thursday morning. Any children between 10-17 are welcome to join this program as a way to seek support and direction.

More information about the Rise Up Programs at <https://www.pcyctsw.org.au/programs/rise-up>

**TROOPERS
REST
BAR CAFE
RESTAURANT**

EAT IN DRINK IN RELAX IN!

- Enjoy the Bar & Garden anytime
- Come in for a few drinks with friends!
- Dinner Thursday to Monday



"It's All Happening @ The Royal"

Sat 2/4

Jamie Agius 7:30-11:30

Sat 23/4

Minni and the Moonrakers

(swing and blues band) 7:30-11:30

Mon 25/4

Pipe band (bagpipes) 1-2pm

Sat 7/5

Mick Fernandez 7:30-11:30

Sat 11/6

The Decades 7:30-11:30

Sat 2/7

Jay Podger 7:30-11:30

Sat 30/7

Jamie Agius 7:30-11:30

Sat 20/8

Incognito 7:30-11:30

Sat 3/9

Mick Fernandez

7:30-11:30

Sat 1/10

Jay Podger 7:30-11:30

Sun 23/10

George Man

(American folk singer) 2-5pm

Sat 5/11

Jamie Agius 7:30-11:30

Sat 3/12

Mick Fernandez

7:30-11:30

Sat 24/12

The Decades 7:30-11:30



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Braidwood NSW 2622
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www.royalmailhotelbraidwood.com.au

Driver dies in crash - South Coast PD

Tuesday, 15 March

A man has died following a single vehicle crash in the state's south today.

About 6.50am (Tuesday 15 March 2022), emergency services were called to the Kings Highway, Nelligen, following reports a truck had crashed.

Initial inquiries suggest the tipper truck was travelling west when it veered off the road and struck a steel railing before flipping and hitting a tree, about 300m east of Old Bolero Road.

The driver – a man believed to be aged in his 30s – was trapped before being released, but despite efforts, he died at the scene. He is yet to be formally identified.

Officers attached to South Coast Police District have commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

As inquiries continue, police urge witnesses – including motorists with dashcam footage – to come forward and call Batemans Bay Police on 4472 0099 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

While the Kings Highway has been re-opened, a contra flow has been put in place and motorists are encouraged to find an alternate route.

A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

NAPLAN results coming sooner following NSW review

Improvements to NAPLAN, including moving the test to Term 1 and returning results much earlier, will be implemented from 2023 following a review led by NSW.

Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell said she was pleased that changes were happening in line with the review initiated by NSW in 2019 to make NAPLAN a more effective diagnostic tool.

"These are necessary changes I have been pushing for over the past two years, particularly following the success of the NSW Check-In Assessments, which give teachers results within 48 hours," Ms Mitchell said.

"Currently the timing of NAPLAN means it is not diagnostic, as students sit the tests quite late and results are delivered months later, minimising their value in the classroom."

The 2019 Review recommended the test be brought forward from May to as early as possible in the year, so that results can be used more productively by schools and teachers.

From 2023, NAPLAN tests will move to Term 1, with all results except for writing delivered earlier.

"Delivering results earlier in the year means teachers have a better understanding of where their students are at and can develop classroom programs accordingly," Ms Mitchell said.

"This is a win for teachers, students and their families. It ensures the assessment can be used more effectively, and provides greater opportunity to improve learning outcomes."

In addition to these changes, from Term 2 2024 schools will also be able to opt-in to additional assessments for Year 6 and 10 students, starting with Science in 2024, Civics and Citizenship in 2025, and Digital Literacy in 2026.

Bega Valley Mayor appointed to leadership of regional organisations

Bega Valley Shire Mayor, Russell Fitzpatrick's has been election to Chair and Executive of two key organisations.

Cr Fitzpatrick's election to Chair of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, while also securing a seat on the Country Mayors Association of NSW Executive Committee, will ensure a consistent focus on the shire's needs are better heard among member organisations.

The Canberra Region Joint Organisation represents ten councils in South-East NSW and includes the ACT Government. The vision of the CRJO is 'Working together to deliver better outcomes for our communities and the region.'

The Country Mayors Association (CMA) of NSW represents almost 70 coastal and rural councils across the state, accounting for more than three quarters of NSW in terms of land mass. The CMA is a powerful organisation that advocates for local government and community needs.

2022 Community Heritage Grants open for applications

Applications are now open for the 2022 Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program.

The CHG program offers cash grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations including historical societies, regional museums, archives, galleries and libraries. The grants support organisations to preserve and manage collections that have Australian cultural and historical significance.

A streamlined application process is being launched in 2022 and a wide variety of community organisations are encouraged to apply, including Indigenous and multicultural organisations.

Funding is available for significance assessments, preservation and conservation activities, digitisation, collection management and training workshops. Previous CHG program recipients can also apply for funds to support second and third stages of continuing projects.

General applications close midnight (AEST) on Tuesday, 10 May. Previous CHG program recipients have an extended deadline, with applications closing on Tuesday, 2 June. To find out more and apply visit nla.gov.au/chg.

 **BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Albion Hotel DA: Thank you to the many residents of Braidwood and District who added their names to a submission to Council opposing the demolition of the corrugated metal sheds behind the Albion building. Council voted at its meeting on March 9th to refuse the application, and to invite the applicant to submit a fresh development application for subdivision which incorporates a boundary line that retains the two existing sheds on the same lot as the Stables and Albion Hotel.

A number of speakers and written submissions argued that the sheds are listed on the Local Heritage Register as part of the Albion Hotel site. The site is also listed on the State Heritage Register and as part of the State heritage Listing for Braidwood and its Setting. The sheds are significant as part of the collection of buildings remaining on the site from the days when the Albion was a centre of horse-drawn transport in the region. The sheds date from the early 20th century and are still in reasonable condition. The DA was refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development is considered to have an unacceptable impact on the public interest.
2. The proposed development is considered to have an unacceptable impact on two buildings considered to have local heritage significance.

A majority of Councillors at the meeting voted in favour of the motion.

Affordable Housing: The BCA has been researching the issue of affordable housing in our area for over a year, so we are very pleased that the new Council voted to prepare an Affordable Housing Strategy for our local government area. Council noted the challenges in our communities around the supply and access to social, community and affordable housing, and resolved to consult with social housing providers, groups assisting residents in need of crisis accommodation and the NSW Government in developing the strategy.

In recognition of the urgency of this situation Council requested that the strategy be completed as soon as practicable, but no later than September 2022.

The housing situation in Braidwood is at a critical point, where long-term residents are having to leave the community because of the rise in house prices and rents, and the limited quantity of housing stock. There is an economic impact due to current and prospective employees being unable to afford to live here. The BCA has a Housing Sub-Committee looking at innovative ways to tackle this problem. We are consulting with community groups in other areas about what they are doing and ways to work with all levels of government. Now that our Council has recognised the seriousness of the situation, we will be able to advocate on behalf of our community.



BCA Quilt Raffle by local quilter Jenny Wallace

Skate Park Update: The Skate Park project is funded via a Bushfire Economic Recovery Grant. The BCA is working with Braidwood Youth Performing Arts Association, the NSW Public Works Advisory and QPRC to deliver the project. The contracts have been signed with the successful tenderer. Work is scheduled to begin in September, but this is dependent on the weather. Council will commence work to complete piping the creek at the Rec Ground as soon as possible. The location will provide a safe option for the community and allow families to use the various recreational elements at the park. The site will be made even more family-friendly through a grant of \$18,229 from the Veolia-Mulwaree Trust \$18,229 for new barbecue facilities at the site.

BCA Quilt Raffle Local quilter Jenny Wallace has generously donated a beautiful quilt for the BCA to raffle. The quilt can be seen at the Braidwood Community Bank, and tickets at \$5 each are available there. Direct deposit is another way to buy tickets. BSB 633-000, Acc No 163734015, using the reference "Your Name-Raffle- phone no".

BCA Membership (\$10pa) is open to individuals who are a full or part-time resident of Braidwood and its surrounding areas. You can join by completing a membership form at the bank in town. The membership form can be downloaded from our website at www.braidwoodcommunity.org.au. Current memberships are now due for renewal, unless you have joined us recently. New members are always welcome.

Sue Murray, BCA President

Labor pledges to fund a community batteries

A Labor Government will build 400 community batteries across the country.

Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, and Member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips met with the Maloney's Beach Resident's Association to hear about their experiences during the devastating Black Summer bushfires. In the thick of the fires, communities along the South Coast like Maloneys Beach, had power outages leaving them without essential appliances and communication lines to find out the latest news in a fast-changing and dangerous environment.

Community batteries are a way to not only build energy resilience when power goes down, but also help households cut their power bills and emissions.

Australia leads the world in solar - one in four houses have solar panels on their roofs - but only one in 60 has a battery.

And while over 1740 households in Maloney's beach and surrounding suburbs have solar, less than 2% of those households have a battery.

The upfront cost of household batteries are just too high for most families, community batteries are a way to open the benefits of stored renewable energy to solar households, as well as renters and apartments dwellers who may not be able to install rooftop solar.

NSW Seniors Festival is back for 2022

QPRC is excited to welcome NSW Seniors Festival back to the community for 2022.

Between 22 March and 7 April, a range of pop-up expos will be held around the LGA to help older people in our community meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and get in touch with different services, support, and activities.

After a difficult and isolating few years, this year's Seniors Festival is focussed on reconnection.

'It's fantastic to be able to get back out to our senior community with these events,' Mayor Kenrick Winchester said.

'After a tough few years restricting community events and connection, it's so important to take care of older people in our families and our region by providing them these opportunities to get out, meet new people and access these services.'

There are a number of organisations, groups, and service providers attending each event including Service NSW, NSW Health, Council of the Ageing, local Aged Care providers and community groups such as the Men's Shed, Lions and Rotary clubs, Queanbeyan Croquet Club and senior citizens groups.

Lunch and morning tea will be available for patrons at each of the events.

The Queanbeyan event will have some fantastic food options available in Riverside Plaza and the others will have a catered lunch and morning tea. There will also be a variety of activities to enjoy, such as lawn bowls, tai chi, finska, yoga and tango dance demonstrations.

Due to flooding and associated safety concerns, events previously scheduled for Araluen and Nerriga have unfortunately been cancelled.

Events scheduled for Majors Creek on 22 March are currently subject to weather. Free transport has been arranged for Araluen and Nerriga residents to attend the Braidwood expo on 31 March as well as from Queanbeyan to Bungendore on 4 April. Registrations for transport can be sent to Cristina.dejongh@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

Join us on:

- 22 March at Majors Creek Recreation Reserve Community Hall 9am – 12pm (Subject to weather)
- 31 March at Braidwood National Theatre 9am – 3pm
- 4 April at Carrington Inn, Bungendore 9am – 3pm
- 7 April at Queanbeyan Riverside Plaza 9am – 3pm

We are looking forward to seeing you at your nearest NSW Seniors Festival event soon!

Proudly funded by the NSW Government.

WHAT'S ON AT THE BRAIDWOOD SERVICEMEN'S CLUB



Sport Recreation Entertainment Bar

The Pine Garden Restaurant
is open 6 days a week
for Lunch & Dinner!

Members draw & raffles this Friday night.
Members draw \$600.

Raffles on sale from 6.00pm draw starts at 7.30pm.

Fawlty Towers tickets will be on sale from 1st April,
new date for show is the 17th of June.

The Pine Garden Restaurant will be closed for lunch this
Thursday & reopen for dinner. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Snappy new Italian arrives in town

Tim Wimbourne from Braidwood Food Company is pleased to welcome a new pasta machine to the store. It was made to order in Carasco, Italy (near Genoa).

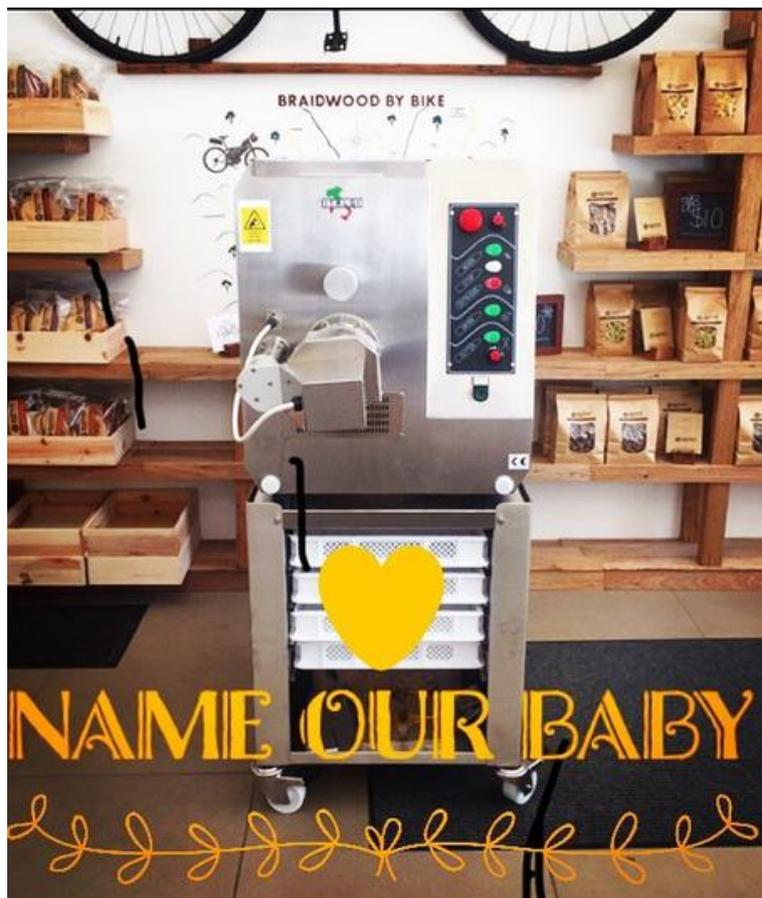
"It is much larger than the machines I am currently using and can produce four to five times the volume of pasta per hour."

"Our pasta sales have increased over 150% in the past 12 months and I have been struggling to keep up with demand. We air dry all our pasta and depending on temperature and humidity this step can take from two to four days. So, I can now keep up with demand and am able to produce more fresh pasta."

The Food company is running a competition on Instagram to name the new machine.

Tim says "Our Instagram comp. to name our new machine runs until tonight. So, no decision yet. Lots of entries including a few promising suggestions."

"To give you an idea of how much larger this machine is over the two little benchtop units I have been using, it took four grown men to lift it into position and it is water cooled. Now that it is up and running, I am already thinking ahead to the next step as we continue to grow..."



NSW Seniors Festival

25 Mar - 3 Apr 2022

It's time to reconnect



Dates & Places

22 MAR	Majors Creek Recreation Reserve Community Hall 9am - 12pm
31 MAR	Braidwood National Theatre 9am - 3pm
04 APR	Carrington Inn, Bungendore 9am - 3pm
07 APR	Queanbeyan Riverside Plaza 9am - 3pm

Pop Up Expo

Who will be there

Seniors community groups and service providers will be at the following locations to provide information, resources and giveaways to residents over the age of 60.

Come and join in the fun

There will also be a variety of activities to enjoy, such as lawn bowls, fiska, yoga and music, along with yummy treats! We hope to see you there!

seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au

Proudly funded by






2022 Dargues Gold Mine Community Grants Program

We are pleased to announce that the Dargues Gold Mine Community Grant program for 2022 is now open.

Our Community Grants Program aims to assist community groups with undertaking a wide range of activities that contribute to the social, educational, recreational, environmental and community development.

Our grants are restricted to the Majors Creek, Araluen, Braidwood and surrounding communities.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.aureliametals.com.au/projects/dargues/community-grants-program>

Applications close 25 April 2022.

Enquiries and applications can be submitted via email to dgm.community@aureliametals.com.au

Canberra Strings in Braidwood



The magnificent St Andrews Anglican church will be the next performance venue for Tchaikovsky's glorious String Quartet no 1. If you missed it in Canberra, or if you loved it so much you want to hear it again, make a trip to beautiful Braidwood on Sunday 3rd April. Beej Gilby, Sam Payne, Lucy Carrigy-Ryan Canberra Strings is a group of some of the region's leading professional musicians, dedicated to the performance of string chamber music. Directed by former TSO concertmaster Barbara Jane Gilby (and Braidwood local), the group has received two Critics Circle awards for performances in and around Canberra. Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/canberra-strings-2022>

BRAG Annual Members' Exhibition - save the date!

Submissions Saturday 2 - Sunday 3 April
Opening night Friday 8 April, 6-8pm.



Image: Evening Stroll, Chris Dimmer, hand-coloured monotype, 2021.



Local Craft Market

SAT 19 MARCH, 9AM-2PM

45 WALLACE STREET, BRAIDWOOD

Would you like me on your wall?

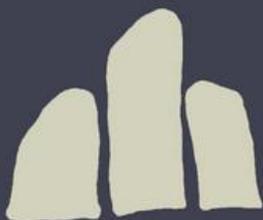


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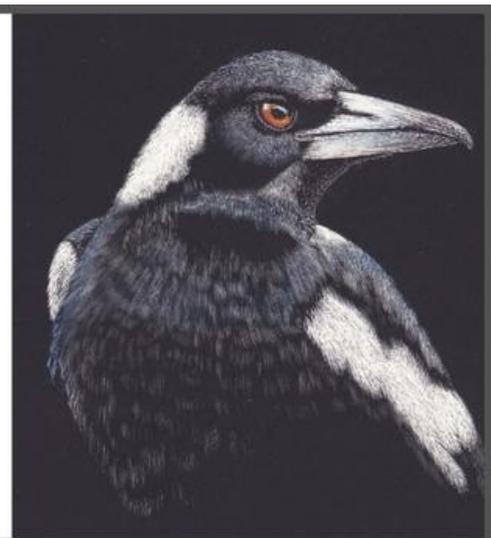
Studio Altenburg invites you to

Art in Miniature

by the Canberra Art in Miniature Collective

This is the 22nd exhibition by the Canberra AIM since its inception in 2001. The works depict local surroundings, being close to home, and more intimate spaces - the domestic, children playing, the beauty of flora and fauna and the inner imagination. These jewel-like artworks invite the viewer for a closer look to appreciate the level of detail that comprises each miniature work.

Opens 12th March 5pm
Exhibition continues to 9th April
Gallery hours Friday - Monday 10-4



Entries close for the Goulburn Art Award 2022 !

Get those works ready, entries close at 5pm Friday 1 April, 2022.

Artists living within a 120km radius of Goulburn working in any medium are eligible to apply. The Gallery encourages submissions from artists at all stages of their careers. Two categories will be open: the Goulburn Art Award and the Young Artist Award for students in Years 10, 11 and 12.

The Goulburn Art Award 2022 will be judged by Danny Lacy, Director, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery.

Winners will be announced on opening night, 6pm Friday 13 May, 2022.

To enter the Goulburn Art Award 2022, follow this one.

\$1m to put visual artists in the picture

Artists, groups, arts and cultural organisations, collecting organisations and philanthropists across the state can now apply for up to \$100,000 in funding to commission ambitious new work through the NSW Government's \$1 million Visual Arts Commissioning Program.

Minister for the Arts Ben Franklin said the funding forms part of the NSW Government's NSW COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and will help individual artists and arts and cultural organisations by providing financial security and confidence to plan and deliver new work for exhibiting.

"With a focus on Western Sydney and regional NSW, the new Visual Arts Commissioning Program will ensure that visual artists and the visual arts community are an important focus as we emerge from the pandemic."

"As audiences return to arts and cultural institutions and public places, this timely investment will support further employment in the arts sector, stimulate cultural activity and create innovative opportunities for diverse and cutting-edge art works to be developed and enjoyed by audiences across NSW."

For more information, including guidelines and to apply for funding, please visit the Create NSW website at www.create.nsw.gov.au Applications close at 5pm AEST on Wednesday, 6 April 2022.

A Poem by Mary Murray

Best Neighbour

*Our neighbour is a treasure
Everything we ask him, is a pleasure!
He minds our home when we're away
Always looking for things astray!
He drags out our bins on rubbish night
And then returns them out of sight.
He collects our mail, waters the garden too,
Cause he always likes things to do!
We are so lucky, he is our neighbour
Always ready to do us a favour!
We like the way he helps our street
With locals stopping to give him treats
To thank him for his friendly ways
And hope he is, here, to stay!*

Braidwood Concert Series #2:

Thank you Braidwood and villages for your support! 95 people attended THIS WORLD concert on Sat 12 March and we had a ball! ... and now for something completely different. Braidwood Concert Series #2 concert is on SATURDAY 26 March @ 5pm, St Andrews Anglican Church, Braidwood.

Luminescence Chamber Singers with Roland Peelman AM perform 'Ave Regina // God, be with the mother', a suite of choral arrangements from renaissance to contemporary, exploring the changing concepts of motherhood. Luminescence Chamber Singers are an outstanding professional choral ensemble - not to be missed!

ARTISTS: AJ America, mezzo soprano, Veronica Milroy, soprano, Rachel Mink, soprano, Jack Stephens, bass, Dan Walker, tenor, Jess Green, electric guitar, Conducted by Roland Peelman, AM.

Tix here:

<https://www.luminescence.org.au/2022/averegina> and 10% discount for online booking. Quote Promo Code BCS2022. Photo: Hilary Wardhaugh Listen here: <https://www.luminescence.org.au/listen-lcs>

Otherwise, tickets purchased at the door on the day are \$45 adult, \$40 concessions and \$30 under 30s and students.



Please join us for
Treasure's Galore

Come for a browse, have a
Coffee and a Chat, buy a bit

10th April 10am - 2pm
44 Coronation Ave Braidwood

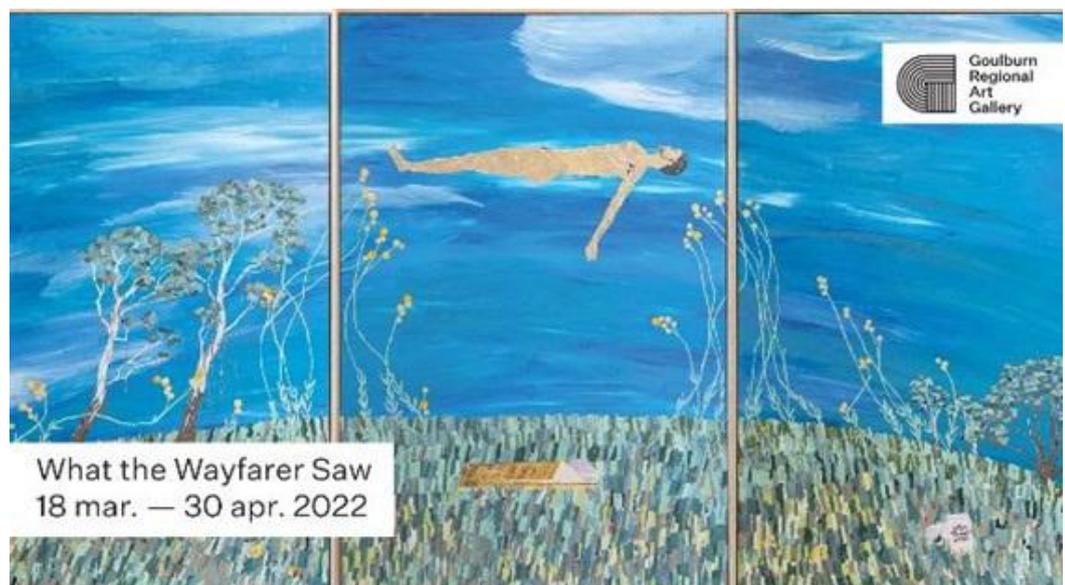
After Building for more than 50 years Hans has to give up his trade, due to this we are having a SALE of his tools. There are all sorts of tools, Air Guns, Circular Saws, Drills and bits, Hammers, Chisels, House Jacks, Ladders and many more that you need to build or renovate a home. There are materials for Plumbing, Electrics, Plastering, Painting, Tiling, Door Hardware and much more.

Also on Sale Julie's Worx Mosaic, Painting, Spiral Art, Gift Cards, Sculpture, Knitting and some Building Treats

We look forward to seeing you

What the Wayfarer Saw

What the Wayfarer Saw, Opening night, Friday 18 March 6pm, Ray Monde's first major solo exhibition in a public gallery opens on March 18 at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery.





Worldwide #bushfireblocks quilts on display in Moruya

Beautiful quilts lovingly handcrafted by people around the world for those impacted by the Black Summer bushfires are on display at an exhibition in Moruya.

Shortly after the fires, the Wollongong Modern Quilt Guild asked the quilting community to make tree-themed patchwork squares to sew into quilts for people who lost their homes. They received more than 15,000 squares, from 36 countries, which were sewn into 877 quilts to distribute to bushfire-affected communities.

The tree theme is based on the ideal that trees symbolise life and regeneration, with their roots providing strength and stability. Not only will the recipients appreciate their quilt's warmth, it's hoped they will also feel the love sewn into each stitch from people who care.

The Eurobodalla Bushfire Recovery Support Service arranged the exhibition in partnership with the Guild. About 30 quilts are on display, following which 100 or so will be gifted to registered clients. Words from some clients expressing thoughts on their recovery are displayed in the exhibition.

In opening the exhibition on Monday, an emotional Eurobodalla Mayor Mathew Hatcher said the project was a heartfelt way to show that people cared, and it would bring comfort to many.

"Two years on from the fires, the recovery journey for many is still difficult and slow," he said.

"These quilts come with a message from the quilters, you are not alone and you matter."

Guild member and one of the three women who started the project, Rachael Letham, said it was the result of friends watching the coverage of the fires and feeling helpless. Ms Letham said they did "all the normal things", like donate food, clothes and wraps for bats, but it did not feel enough. Little did they know their call for patchwork squares would rally a worldwide community into action.

"We were just blown away. It's been a massive community effort," she said.

"We got to work with our Australian quilting community to help us put these all together and used our network of family and friends to courier it all over the country."

The Moruya exhibition is the first and only time the quilts will be on display. In a Facebook post about the event posted by the Guild last week, quilters from around the world expressed how proud they were to have participated. "We were so pleased to make blocks in our quilting club, something useful to do to help after the terrible fires," said one. "We who made blocks did the easy part," said another. "My (quilting group) in Greensboro North Carolina thanks you. We enjoyed being able to participate and help our fellow friends in Australia."

The Quilts for Australia, Bushfire Blocks 2020 exhibition will be held at the Mechanics Institute on Page Street, Moruya, from Monday 14 March to Thursday 31 March, from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, and on Saturday 19 March, 10am-2pm.

Two case managers will be based at the exhibition throughout, and clients are encouraged to pop in and say hello.



Mechanics Institute on Page Street, Moruya



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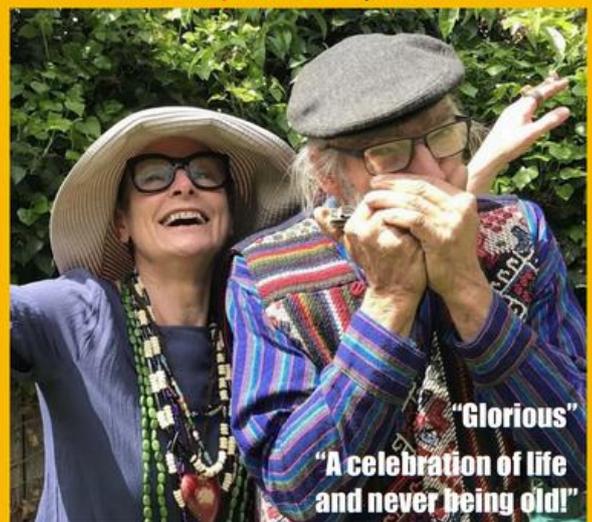
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Graph from covid19nsw.ethan.link
Showing new cases of Covid 19 in 2622 since the start of the Omicron wave.

8
today

28
this week

244
total cases



Graph type: **Total cases** New cases Vaccinations

Graph time period: 2 weeks 4 weeks **Since Omicron** Since Delta All-time

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health advice



View Your Poo: Don't let the pandemic delay diagnosis any longer

Excessive visits to the toilet, weight loss, stomach cramps and blood on his stools were symptoms Daron Jacks put down to stress, food poisoning or drinking too much. Daron was misdiagnosed with anxiety three months before finally getting a colonoscopy that had been delayed by COVID-19 lockdowns.

His doctors discovered he had stage 3 bowel cancer – a form of colorectal cancer that killed 5000 Australians in 2021, a similar number to those who died in Australia from COVID-19.

This March is dedicated to Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Australia's second leading cause of cancer deaths, especially for those under 50, but early diagnosis makes it treatable in 99% of cases.

The pandemic has dealt colorectal cancers a major blow, with less people seeking that vital early diagnosis due to lockdowns and an all-too-common propensity to ignore their bowels.

"I ignored the symptoms, made excuses and sucked it up when I shouldn't have," Daron says.

A new RESOLUTE clinical trial led by Australian researchers and experts from the GI Cancer Institute could help turn around the problem of a pandemic-induced lag in cancer diagnosis and treatment recruiting patients from metropolitan and regional hospitals by adding a Zoom-style Tele-trial component to a clinical trial.

RESOLUTE is a pioneering new trial using ablative treatment including radiation, microwave and surgery targeting cancer secondaries to help patients avoid ongoing chemotherapy. Preliminary data already suggests the RESOLUTE trial could lead to long term disease control and improve survival rates.

"Had I not stubbornly waited so long to get properly checked, I may well have avoided chemo altogether," says Daron, who has been cancer-free for a year thanks to participating in a different lifesaving clinical trial."

"Research and trials are so important for people suffering advanced colorectal cancers - these patients have learnt to park their humility at the front door to undergo a range of different treatments that can often be avoided if they'd sought early diagnosis."

2022 Influenza vaccinations have arrived at Capital Chemist Braidwood

Arm yourself against influenza this year with an influenza vaccination from Capital Chemist Braidwood. New 2022 stock has just arrived and we are ready to begin administering.

There will be three options available this year:

1. The traditional egg-based four-strain influenza vaccine

This vaccine contains four strains of influenza that are predicted to be most commonly circulating this Winter. Vaccines have traditionally been manufactured using egg cells, which then go through a purification process. The final vaccine may have some variability in the strains, but overall, the effectiveness is very good.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, our pharmacists can administer this vaccine to children over 10 years of age, and adults who are not yet 65 years. We don't require a prescription from your doctor, and are offering walk in vaccination (no appointment necessary) most of the week.

2. The new cell-based four strain influenza vaccine - Flucelvax

Last year (2021), a new cell-based vaccine was introduced onto the Australian market. This vaccine is manufactured using a different process to the traditional vaccines, and as such there is less variability in the four strains included in the vaccine. It is believed this results in higher effectiveness (compared to the egg-based version) offering you better protection against circulating strains.

At Capital Chemist Braidwood, our pharmacists can administer this vaccine to children over 10 years of age, and adults who are under 65 years. We don't require a prescription from your doctor, and are offering walk in vaccination (no appointment necessary) most of the week.

3. The Over 65 Influenza vaccine - Fludax

This vaccine is designed for people aged over 65 years and produces a stronger immune response to give better protection. The vaccine contains four strains of influenza virus, expected to mirror what is seen throughout our upcoming Winter.

The over 65 influenza vaccine provided by NSW Health free for those over 65, and for the first time will be available at Capital Chemist Braidwood this year. There will be an administration fee to cover our pharmacists' expertise, but for your convenience we will be offering walk in vaccinations most of the week for this service (no appointment or script from your doctor required!).

The over 65 vaccine hasn't arrived, but NSW Health expects to distribute it in April so we will let you know as soon as it arrives!

Walk-in vaccinations available Monday to Thursday for those aged 10-64 years. Appointments available on Fridays. Over 65 vaccine hasn't arrived yet, but we will let you know when it does

Booking site:

<https://capital-chemist-braidwood.pharmacybookings.com.au>

CAMPAIGN TO STOP YOUNG PEOPLE VAPING

Young people are urged to quit vaping and know the facts and dangers of e-cigarettes, which can contain harmful substances found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard and Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell have launched Get the Facts – Vaping Toolkit and NSW Health awareness campaign.

The campaign, which is aimed at secondary students, reminds parents, carers, young people and teachers vaping is not safe and can have harmful, long-term effects to the physical and brain development of young people.

Minister Hazzard said that research has proven that e-cigarettes are just as addictive and harmful as regular cigarettes.

"A respiratory researcher once told me that e-vaping liquids have chemicals that are similar to antifreeze, with 500 different flavours to attract kids," Mr Hazzard said.

"It makes it pretty obvious as to the harm it can cause to youngsters' lungs."

Many vapes contain nicotine, some at extremely high concentrations, even if they are not labelled as such, and evidence suggests they can lead to a lifelong nicotine addiction. NSW Health has worked with the NSW Department of Education to develop the Vaping Toolkit, which contains evidence-based resources and educational materials for parents, carers, young people and schools, to combat the rising number of children and young people who are trying or taking up vaping.

Minister Mitchell urged parents to discuss the dangers of e-cigarettes with their children and to report any usage in schools to principals.

"The number of young people vaping without consideration to the effects is concerning. I encourage all parents and young people to find out more and talk about the hidden, dangerous impacts of e-cigarettes," Ms Mitchell said.

"Educating our young people about the dangers of vaping is essential when there continues to be a large number of reckless individuals selling nicotine products to minors."

The Vaping Toolkit and campaign is designed to increase young people's awareness of the dangers of vaping and support parents, carers, families, schools and educators, health and community bodies with information and strategies to educate and protect young people from the harms of e-cigarettes.

The campaign will target secondary students to raise awareness of the hidden chemicals in vapes, and provide a resource for teachers, parents and carers to kick start conversations.

It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes or vapes to anyone under the age of 18. There are severe penalties for business or others who provide them to minors, including fines of up to \$11,000 for individuals, and up to \$55,000 for corporations, for first offences.

NSW Health continues to take action against retailers who sell e-cigarettes and e-liquids containing nicotine.

NSW Health seized over 100,000 e-cigarettes worth an estimated street value of over \$2 million from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021.

Parents and young people can get the facts about the dangers of vaping by visiting www.health.nsw.gov.au/vaping



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Saving forests will save taxpayers a small fortune

Logging native forests is not only driving species to extinction, the NSW Forestry Corporation's annual report shows it is also costing taxpayers millions of dollars. In 2020-21, the native forestry arm of the NSW Government's logging company lost \$20 million and prospects of it turning a profit any time soon are dim. "This result should be good news for our native forests because there is now no rational economic argument for propping up that part of the industry," Nature Conservation Council Chief Executive Chris Gambian said. "The latest annual report shows NSW taxpayers unwittingly paying to cut down forests the people want protected. It's not just ecologically and economically unsustainable, it is morally indefensible. "If you've got the public, the scientists and even the bean-counters telling you to stop cutting down native forests, the government must listen and act. "Taxpayer dollars should be used to protect forests, not destroy them. "Victoria and Western Australia have announced end dates for native forest logging — NSW must do the same. "Ending native forest logging will save species, store carbon, fight climate change and open up huge opportunities for tourism and jobs. "Ending native forest logging must be done in ways that are fair to the workers and companies involved. We stand ready to work with all stakeholders — workers, industry and government — to turn the page on native forest logging and look forward to a brighter future." Mr Gambian said the government should not renew the 30 wood supply agreements with timber mills that will expire in 2023 but rather start talks with workers and the industry about transitioning out of native forest logging. "The government will have to make a choice in the coming year," Mr Gambian said. "Will it lock in destructive native forest logging for years to come or will it develop a plan to transition to a sustainable, plantation-based timber industry? "We strongly urge the government to end native forest logging and close this sad chapter in the state's environmental history."

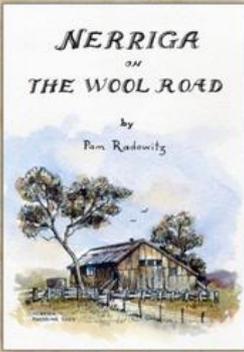
The Forestry Corporation Annual Report comes off the back of two other reports that support ending or curtailing logging of native forests, especially after the 2019-20 that severely burned millions of hectares of state forest, national park and private land. In late November, Frontier Economics' report, Comparing the value of alternative uses of native forests in Southern NSW, found there would be a net economic and social benefit of almost \$62 million by ending logging in public native forests over the next 30 years compared with keeping the industry going. A few days later, a Natural Resources Commission report into post fire logging the government had kept secret for months was leaked to The Guardian. That report called for suspension of timber harvesting in three 'extreme risk' zones.

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New homes for victim-survivors to rebuild

The first 68 extra homes for women who have escaped an abuser are being delivered by the NSW Government, as part of a landmark \$484.3 million investment to support women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Natalie Ward said it was vital victim-survivors have access to safe, affordable housing as quickly as possible to help them get back on their feet after their traumatic experiences. "We're starting to see the important outcomes from our record commitment through the delivery of these 68 additional homes in Sydney and regional NSW, giving women and children who have suffered domestic violence a place to recover and thrive," Mrs Ward said.

This initial \$19.1 million CHIF investment includes:

- 21 apartments in Guildford in collaboration with Evolve Housing, with properties acquired in December 2021;
- 8 apartments in Canterbury, purchased in partnership with Metro Community Housing, currently being refurbished and available to domestic violence victim-survivors from April 2022;
- 16 apartments to be purchased in the Campsie area in partnership with the Women's Housing Company and available for use by September 2022;
- 4 townhouses in Wagga Wagga being developed in partnership with the Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Land Council and specifically for Indigenous victim-survivors, due for completion in the first half of 2023;
- 4 apartments in Goulburn being delivered in collaboration with Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT and due for completion in the second half of next year and;
- 15 apartments to be delivered in Unanderra in Wollongong late next year in partnership with Wollongong Emergency Housing Inc. Victim-survivors of domestic violence who need a new home are added to the NSW Housing Register. Community housing organisations then use the Register to offer long-term housing when a suitable property becomes available.

Community workshop - Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Thursday, 17 March 2022 | 5:30 PM to 7 PM

Are you a person with disability, a carer or someone who wants to improve accessibility and inclusion in our community?

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan community workshop will be held online via Zoom on Thursday 17 February from 5:30pm to 7pm. There are limited spots available for this workshop. Please contact our Community Development Officer, Cristina, to secure your place.

We will also be providing \$20 vouchers for those who take the time to attend, which can be used at a variety of retailers.

Reserve your spot by emailing cristina.dejongh@qprc.nsw.gov.au with

- Your first and last name
- Your age (if you are under the age of 18 we need a parent or carers consent)
- Whether you identify as living with disability or a carer of person living with disability
- Whether you require any support in participating in an online Zoom session (e.g. closed captions or easy read materials)



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Fri & Sat dinner: BBQ – steak and sausage sandwiches

Sat & Sun lunch: SPIT – meat & gravy rolls

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St Bedes Catholic Church

REFLECTION on the Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance. Richard Leonard sj

The church is now open to the public. During Mass masks are no longer mandatory but please wear one if it reassures you. All other aspects have returned to pre-covid times.

World Day of Prayer in Braidwood has been cancelled this year due to the weather.

Mass times: Tuesday at 10am and Saturdays at 6pm.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

PALM SUNDAY: VIGIL 6.00PM – St Bede's, Braidwood

MONDAY CHRISM Mass 5.00PM – St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka

TUESDAY: 10.00AM – St Bede's, Braidwood

HOLY THURSDAY: 7.00PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper, St Bede's, Braidwood

GOOD FRIDAY: 10.00AM – Stations of the Cross, St Bede's Braidwood
3.00PM – Celebration of the Passion; St Bede's Braidwood

SATURDAY: VIGIL 5.30PM – St Bede's, Braidwood

Anglican Parish of Braidwood

Advice Rejected

In Luke chapter 13 and verses 31-35, Jesus is routinely travelling from Galilee in the north to Jerusalem in the south. He is met by a group of Pharisees trying to warn him off proceeding any further due to impending danger from Herod Antipas who was on a murderous rampage at the time. This was strange in itself because many Pharisees were of the same mind as Herod, they wanted to be rid of Jesus because they envisaged a kind of universal salvation without restrictions or limitations. Jesus had been teaching in towns and villages that only some would be saved because the window of opportunity to enter God's kingdom was a narrow door that many would by-pass or fail to enter.

We may well conclude further that Jesus was asking for trouble by calling Herod, 'A Fox' which symbolised all that was corrupt and sneaky in Jerusalem at the time. The fox symbolises slyness, destruction, or the most worthless and insignificant man. However, that is precisely the evaluation that Jesus made of Herod but undaunted he pressed on with three days of healing and driving out demons. Surely, this was valour in the face of vengeance, all designed to bring the people of Jerusalem to their senses. In this passage we have that beautiful image of Jesus as the mother hen, gathering her children under her wings. Here God's love in Jesus is spreading his wings to embrace humanity, to bring people to repentance and faith. Repentance and faith are precursors to a living and vital relationship with God in Christ. Jesus was not daunted by adverse intelligence in the quest for truth to be revealed. That is the message of Lent and it can be our message too if we choose to embrace it. In Jesus we have the one who will give himself on behalf of the many, even when there appears to be no significant reaction or response. In a world with an increasingly uncertain future maybe we need to re-visit the faith response to Christ's teachings and the invitation to an abiding relationship with God.

(Rev.) Rick Lewis – Braidwood Anglican

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Uniting Church News

Chatting with friends over the past couple of years, I became concerned by what I was hearing. But reading my Bible this week, I found **Psalm 36: 5-10** which confirmed that God's love is faithful and abundant. God does truly love us. However, because of all the trials and troubles the world is currently experiencing, people are asking: Where is God? Why does He allow this? How come God doesn't step in and stop these terrible things from happening? People are getting sick, dying, warring, killing each other! My usual answer to questions like this is "God has given man [and woman] 'free will', he gave 'free will' to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Paradise). Now look what we (man and woman) have done with our free will! You cannot blame any of these catastrophes and sicknesses on God! It's the human beings that are warring, it's the human beings that are unclean, impure and polluting, and that is the cause of all these troubles.

In **Verses 5-10 of Psalm 36**, if we read it carefully, we can see that our Loving Father in Heaven, our God, loves us, despite all the disappointment we may cause Him. His love is as high as the mountains as deep as the seas. He gives us so much to be thankful for. Maybe, the psalm is telling us, we are looking in the wrong direction when all we see is sickness, death and destruction going on around us, and in the World. Maybe we should take time to look more closely to the love and care that God already provides for us, and has since the birth of time, and will do so till the end of time and beyond. Reading these passages from Psalm 36 is like a prayer to our Lord, indicating our mindfulness that His love for us is boundless. How wonderful it is for Him if we acknowledge God's faithfulness to us by thanking Him for his love and gifts and not blaming Him for our human failings. 'Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.' [Psalm 36:10] Show your thankfulness of God's love for you, and demonstrate His faithfulness in you, by loving and caring for all the people around and beyond you. Blessings from Irene Murtagh and the congregation of Braidwood Uniting Church. Worship Sunday 10am, Radio Church 6pm, 88.9fm. Garage Sale Wednesday 9-3. Cnr Duncan and Monkitee Streets, Braidwood.

Local Braidwood initiative in response to the devastating floods in Lismore



Fund-raising raffle to support KOORI MAIL, national 100% Aboriginal run newspaper since 1991, giving Indigenous people a voice missing in Australian mainstream media. Koori Mail premises in Lismore were hugely affected by recent flood waters, and their resources for recovery are limited.

Raffle tickets selling outside the Quilt Shop in Wallace Street, Friday and Saturday 18-19th and 25-26th March

- 1st Prize - an original and stunning quilt, fabric designed by Aboriginal artist Wayne Martin
- 2nd Prize - a beautiful lampshade, ready to light your bedroom. Kingfisher designed fabric
- 3rd Prize - cushion covered in striking Indigenous design fabric

All prizes generously donated to support Koori Mail. Tickets a minuscule \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Donations also very welcome
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Author, Journalist and Screenwriter Robert Macklin as a regular contributor to the Bugle. THE GADFLY PAPERS, are a delightful collection of columns he has been writing since 2012.

Gadfly

Canberra's National Portrait Gallery is an excellent institution and a popular tourist attraction. Its reputation for probity in its displays is an important asset, not just to the Gallery but to the national capital itself.

And it has been unimpeachable...until now

Its current star exhibition is from London's National Portrait Gallery while that institution is closed for refurbishment until 2023. It is called the 'Shakespeare to Winehouse' exhibition and according to its promotional spiel 'One of the most significant art works on display is John Taylor's portrait of William Shakespeare, painted in the 1600s and thought to be the only portrait the writer ever sat for.' Indeed, the portrait is said to have been the London NPG's 'first acquisition in 1856'.

Trouble is, the idea that it's really a portrait the Bard would be laughable were it not so obviously an attempt by the vast British Shakespeare industry to foist a fib on the colonials, and indeed the rest of the world. For the 'provenance' of the Chandos portrait (so called because the Dukes of Chandos once owned it) is an exercise in legerdemain.

Indeed, it begins with an acknowledged fraudster, one George Vertue, an engraver who in 1737 published what he falsely claimed was a map of London executed in 1560, and in the exposure, it was revealed that 'Vertue crowned his pretended copy with the date 1560 in Roman numerals...and took other unwarrantable liberties with the object of disguising the fraud. The unhappy result of this tinkering of the original design was that numerous subsequent antiquaries were victims of the deception.'

It was this Vertue who claimed – without any supporting evidence – that the 'Shakespeare' portrait was the work of one John Taylor, though no other painting by him is known to exist. There was a boy actor of that name among the Children of Paul's acting troupe in the 1590s and Vertue – again without evidence – says that he was an 'intimate friend' of Shakespeare. In the 1620s there was a Joseph Taylor who was a member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, but of course Shakespeare died in 1616.

It is, in short, a fantasy.

But why, you ask, would the London National Portrait Gallery accept the portrait as even a contender for authenticity? And there's the rub. For such is the power of the worldwide Shakespeare industry, that they will do almost anything to promote and package their money-spinner. And the so-called 'Chandos' portrait actually looks much more like the character they want him to be than the traditional engraving by Martin Droeshout on the title page of the First Folio of the plays published in 1623.

The Droeshout Shakespeare looks rather fey, not at all the manly chap with a piercing look and sturdy frame of the John Taylor (?) creation. Indeed, it is far more likely to have been a self-portrait of Joseph Taylor or the work of one of his six apprentices.

But that, of course, is hardly the point. The real issue is that the world today is riven between truth and the 'fake news' so beloved of Donald Trump and the dictators like Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and others travelling a similar road. It's spread through the advertising industry and become a tool for the powerful lobbies at the heart of the political process.

The arts, by contrast, have always been a bastion of truth-telling, even when a white lie might keep the turnstiles spinning. That's worth preserving, don't you think?



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A Beer with Bazz # 59



*With
John
Longhurst*

The bar erupted as Mick entered and the happy birthday day greetings left him red faced.

He smiled awkwardly and took up his bar stool next to Bazza.

The bar attendant brought over a full pint of beer and Mick raised his eyes in acknowledgment.

‘Well Mick, happy birthday. Crikey, you have got a few kilometres on the clock now. How old?’

‘Well..... sixty..... ish, Bazza but I still feel pretty young. I have a daily swim and ride the bicycle, but I hate birthdays these days.’

Mick had a small sip of the pint and rubbed his brow.

Bazza took out a marking pen and and drew a tiny line about two thirds of the way down Mick’s pint glass.

Mick screwed his face.

‘Just helping you out, Mick. The way I see it you are about two thirds of the way through life and maybe you should think about just drinking down to the mark and saving the rest for the next thirty years.’

‘You’re all heart, Bazza. It’s a sad old day when the wife gives you are a hearing aid for a birthday present and the daughter thought it was a great laugh to give me a Zimmer frame. Everyone seems to find this ageing process a great laugh. It’s a bloody conspiracy, Bazza. They keep making the print on all the labels smaller to make you get glasses. And I don’t know who designs chairs these days but they seem to be getting lower. In the old days, when they made chairs at a decent height, I would spring up. It’s the same with beds. I need a forklift to get up some days.’

Bazza laughed.

‘Ahhh..... come on Mick, you qualify for all those senior discounts these days. Haircuts, rail travel and the like, at a cut price.’

They both took a decent drink.

‘Well, Bazza..... the bloody haircuts should be cheaper. There is less of it. Anyhow, they have organised a party and no doubt I’ve got to give a speech.’

‘Should be easy enough, Mick. We had a neighbour who turned eighty awhile back. He didn’t want to give a speech but we asked him to divide his time, on this earth, into twenty year blocks. It ended up as the funniest impromptu birthday speech I’ve heard. The young ones even loved it. A speech of a couple of anecdotes that capture your three score..... and ish..... years, Mick, would be the go.’

Mick shook his head and was back to taking small sips of his pint.

‘Come on, Mick, cheer up. The way I see it, if you last a few more decades you can be pleased you spent more time in this century than the last one.’

Mick smiled and laughed softly.

‘I guess so, Bazza but I kinda think those same passing decades will still leave you in the last century..... And now, I can enjoy that drink.’

Have a beer with Bazza at john.longhurst59@gmail.com

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Helping hand to boost regional housing supply

NSW Department of Planning and Environment Media

Sharing the planning load and helping regional councils speed up the delivery of new housing are at the heart of a new program unveiled this week.

Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes Anthony Roberts announced \$1 million for the establishment of a program of targeted assistance to regional councils, at the Local Government NSW Conference.

"We know regional NSW needs more homes, that's why I'm announcing a Regional Housing Flying Squad to help regional councils clear development applications faster," Mr Roberts said.

"A panel of planning consultants, funded by the NSW Government and helped by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), will be available to help manage development applications for new homes." Mr Roberts said the targeted assistance responded to recommendations made by the Regional Housing Taskforce.

"We know attracting qualified planners can be a problem, particularly for smaller regional councils," he said.

"That's why, in addition to the flying squad, the Department will open up space in its offices for councils to use as remote workplaces for their planners.

"Covid has proven the importance of flexibility in the workplace. The CoPlan Spaces initiative builds on that, giving people access to convenient office space along with opportunities to learn and network with other council and DPE planners."

Collectively, there are more than 16,000 active DAs in regional NSW, worth more than \$14 billion to the economy. Regional councils will be able to nominate DAs that deliver regional housing, through a formal Expression of Interest process, which will be assessed by an evaluation panel for the flying squads to action. Visit Helping hand for councils and boosting regional housing supply for more information.

Minister's Planning Principles Discontinued

NSW Department of Planning and Environment Press Release

Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes Anthony Roberts this week announced he had discontinued the Minister's Planning Principles to ensure focus remained on the government's priority of delivering a pipeline of housing supply.

Mr Roberts said that any principles must help in delivering the government's clear objective for the planning system – boosting the supply of new homes and housing affordability.

"The Premier has given me a very clear priority – delivering more homes and our principles must help me deliver on that priority," Mr Roberts said.

"I've also heard from our stakeholders that the necessary pace of reform due to our swift response to the pandemic has taken a toll.

"I want to work with our stakeholders on ways to boost the supply and affordability so as we do that I have discontinued the Minister's Planning Principles."

The Ministerial Direction giving effect to the Minister's Planning Principles has been revoked.

Developing our offshore petroleum resources to ensure our energy security

Joint Ministerial Release

Interest in offshore petroleum exploration in Australia remains strong with 10 bids received for areas in the Australian Government's latest acreage release.

The National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) is now assessing the bids for the 2021 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release.

Minister for Resources and Water Keith Pitt said ongoing exploration is critical to ensure an ongoing pipeline of new oil and gas projects and for Australians to have access to reliable and affordable energy.

The invasion of Ukraine is also demonstrating that energy security, including oil and gas, is an increasingly important component of national security and sovereignty.

Minister Pitt said "The Government regularly offers acreage release opportunities to industry and it is great to see this healthy level of interest in investing in exploration and bringing on new oil and gas projects for both domestic gas and for exports to our trading partners," Minister Pitt said.

The 2021 release comprised 21 areas across the Bonaparte, Browse, Carnarvon basins off Western Australia, and the Otway, Sorell and Gippsland, off Victoria and Tasmania. The following areas received bids: W21-1, W21-3, W21-8, W21-10, V21-2, T21-1, T21-2, T21-3 and T21-4.

Minister Pitt said the areas that received bids have the potential to link with existing infrastructure and supply major liquefied natural gas projects.

"Solid interest in areas in the Otway Basin offshore Victoria and Tasmania will also support the East Coast Gas market and the thousands of jobs and businesses that rely on secure gas supplies," Minister Pitt said.

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Affected by the fires of 2019/20 the property is now bouncing back to life, an abandoned orchard could easily be revived. Water can be pumped from the creek on the southern boundary or a huge dam over 2600m2 is conveniently adjacent.

\$494,000



Potential Plus - 93 Wilson St Braidwood

Located next to the newly upgraded Hospital and just a short walk to town this 2877m2 property just screams potential. The existing 2-3 bedroom home could be incorporated into any new development (STCA). Several sheds towards the front of the property would also not be in the way of any development. The block is almost completely level for lower site costs. Inspections strictly by appointment. For Sale By Auction

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#weedwednesday with dog leg farm

LANTANA - LANTANA CAMARA

#weedwednesday

Also known as Spanish Flag, Big Sage, Wild Sage, and Tickberry.

This pretty weed has become so prolific along the east coast of Australia it is regarded as one of the top 20 "Weeds of national significance" - the hit list of the worst of the worst - but it's not all bad news.

Traditionally the sturdy stalks of Lantana have been used to make furniture such as chairs and tables and the strong canes used in basket making. But it is its medicinal properties which make this plant shine.

The leaves of Lantana can be boiled into a tea for internal or topical uses. They are antimicrobial, antifungal and insecticidal and have been used in traditional herbal medicines for treating skin rashes, chicken pox, measles, asthma, skin ulcers and gastric ulcers, respiratory infections, headaches, toothache, fevers and wounds. Burning dried lantana leaves will help to repel mosquitos. Care should be taken with Lantana as the seeds and unripe berries of the plant are highly toxic to humans and all parts of the plant are toxic to livestock.

Magickally the flowers of Lantana were popular with the Victorians who carried them in Tussie-Mussies, which they sniffed to cover up unpleasant odours. Lantana flowers represent rigor and sexual energy so use them in rituals or spells to spice up your love life.

On the land it tends to grow in disturbed ground so you're most likely to see it growing alongside railway lines or where highways and major roads have been built. They are hardy, extremely drought tolerant, salt tolerant and form dense, impenetrable thickets making them a valuable plant for erosion control, especially where soil salination has occurred. They are excellent habitat for small birds and mammals and their sweet-scented flowers are filled with nectar which is extremely attractive to butterflies and other important pollinators.



LANTANA - LANTANA CAMARA

*disclaimer: be sure of plant identification before consuming any wild plants and consult your medical practitioner before using any natural plant medicines.

#embraceyourweeds
#wildforaging #herbalremedies #naturaltherapies
#edibleweeds #medicinalplants #natureheals
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\$54 million to support on-farm soil testing

Support for soil testing of up to \$10,000 per land manager was launched today and will help Australian farmers improve their agricultural productivity and participate in soil carbon projects under the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, David Littleproud said the two-year, \$54.4 million Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program was a key part of the \$214.9 million National Soil Package.

“Under the two-year program farmers and land managers can receive up to \$10,000 in subsidies while contributing to a national soil database. Mr Littleproud said.

This support to land managers could underpin emissions reductions in Australian agriculture.

“Soil testing to participate in carbon reduction programs can be expensive but this program will help farmers be part of the solution to climate change,”

Southern Cross University (SCU) will work with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to administer the program.

Mr Ben Roche, Vice President (Engagement) at SCU said the university was delighted to partner with DAWE.

“Understanding and managing soil properties in deeper soil layers gives the land managers and farmers better tools to preserve their land against changing climatic conditions,” Mr Roche said.

“We are excited to work with farmers and scientific labs to offer a comprehensive suite of soil sampling and testing, as well as putting land managers in touch with soil extension officers and other grantees from the Smart Farms Small Grants: Soil Extension Activities, to interpret soil test results to better manage their valuable assets and enhance soil productivity, health and resilience.

“Interested land managers can get in contact with SCU to apply.”

Aggregated data collected by farmers and land managers will also be shared to the Australian National Soil Information System to inform government decision-making regarding priorities for Australia’s future soil monitoring and management. For more information, visit www.awe.gov.au/soils

John Hewson to open landmark conference on sustainable agriculture

Former Liberal leader Professor John Hewson will open the 2022 Fenner Conference – Making Australian agriculture sustainable – at the Shine Dome in Canberra on Thursday. This year’s Fenner Conference, delayed for two years because of Covid, features farmers, authors and academics as well as top climate experts. It is being organised by Sustainable Population Australia (SPA) in association with Regenerate Earth.

SPA national president Ms Jenny Goldie says the conference comes at a time when farmers are reeling from a succession of extreme weather events and now high energy prices because of the war in Ukraine.

“If we are to feed ourselves, we have to look after our farmers,” says Ms Goldie. “That means their farms must be economically viable. At the same time, we have to ensure that they farm in an environmentally sustainable manner and that means maintaining, not just their soils, but the natural assets above ground such as dams and remnant vegetation. “The conference will feature a number of speakers who will focus on restoring soil health and, in turn, keeping water in the landscape.”

The conference has attracted top climate experts such as Prof Mark Howden, Prof Will Steffen and Ian Dunlop. Prof Howden is a vice-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that has just released its report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerabilities. He was a contributing author to Chapter 8 on Agriculture.

“While agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, there is also a huge potential to mitigate climate change,” says Ms Goldie. “Crops are at times destroyed by drought, bushfire and floods so it is in farmers’ interests to help drawdown carbon and minimise extreme weather events.”

Ms Goldie says the term ‘eco-agriculture’ deserves wider usage. One of the speakers, Nicole Chalmer, has written a book called “Ecoagriculture for a sustainable food future”. “As Ms Chalmer notes, global food security is dependent on ecologically viable production systems, but current agricultural practices are often at odds with environmental sustainability. She believes that, in resolving this disparity, there is much to be learned from traditional food production systems that persisted for thousands of years. “Another author, Patrice Newell, will also address the lessons we can learn from indigenous practices that clearly stood the test of time.”



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New package to advance environmental law reform

Joint Media Release

The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment

The Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources and Water

As part of our plan for a stronger future, the Morrison Government has announced a \$128.5 million Budget reform package to provide greater certainty around environmental protection, streamline assessment and decision-making processes, and strengthen compliance.

Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said that the measures, to be included in this month's Federal Budget, will help protect the environment, while supporting economic recovery and helping to create jobs in regional and rural communities.

- \$62.3 million will be invested in the delivery of as many as 10 regional plans in priority development regions. These will protect areas of environmental significance, streamline assessments and manage cumulative impacts.
- \$37.9 million will support the streamlining of assessment processes including \$10 million to progress single touch approval process and \$27.9 million to continue on time assessment determinations which have risen to 96% in the last three years.
- \$28.4 million will support informed decision making including \$12 million to modernise the environmental offsets policy, \$9.5 million to improve compliance, \$4.9 million to strengthen our knowledge base of protected plants and animals and \$2 million to scope a new advisory committee to provide expert industry and technology advice to government.

"This is a package that will improve the quality and reliability of data used in assessments and decision making, ensure greater transparency and flexibility around environmental offsets and reduce duplication and delay in the assessment and approval process," Minister Ley said.

"It represents another important step in delivering much needed environmental reform that reduces unnecessary delay and duplication, while strengthening safeguards."

Minister for Resources and Water Keith Pitt highlighted the importance of regional planning in further streamlining environmental approvals.

"The 10 new regional plans will streamline development approvals, including those for crucial resources projects, by removing the need for a project-by-project approval under national environment law," Minister Pitt said.

"This will boost investor confidence by identifying areas within a particular region where development activities may be undertaken while ensuring that strong environmental protections are maintained."

Today's funding announcement comes on top of a \$47 million expansion of the Digital Environmental Assessment Program to ensure assessments are based on consistent data allowing them to be made more quickly and with greater transparency.

'Environment assessment streamlining' — a phrase to strike terror into every koala's heart Nature Conservation Council Chief Executive Chris Gambian has responded the 'New Package of Environmental Reforms' saying "The federal government's so-called environmental reform package is a gift to coal and gas giants and a kick in the guts for threatened wildlife and the Australian bush."

"This package is just a green light for coal mines. It strips away hard-fought protections for native species under the pretext of efficiency" he said.

"The government's phrase — streamlining environmental assessments — is code for unconstrained development and would strike terror into every koala's heart if they knew what was going on.

"If Keith Pitt is happy, our koalas should be nervous."

Farmers call for clear land use strategy

The state's peak farming body is calling on the state government to clearly set out rules around productivity of agricultural land.

NSW Farmers President James Jackson said increasing urban sprawl and new developments were eating away at the state's farming land, which will ultimately reduce the amount of food we can grow.

"There's an old saying that they're not making any more dirt, and when it comes to agricultural land there is a finite amount of it that we cannot afford to lose," Mr Jackson said.

"Unless we have a very clear set of rules purpose-built to ensure the productivity of agricultural land, we risk losing it and once it's gone, it's gone forever.

"It is critical that we take this issue seriously, otherwise we'll find ourselves in a very precarious position when it comes to our capacity to grow high quality food for our community."

The NSW Farmers Executive Council has resolved to pursue reforms to protect and retain agricultural land, specifically:

- a clear whole-of-government vision and objectives to protect agricultural land and minimise land use conflict over the long term
- an agreed upon framework for the categorization of agricultural land, incorporating agreed regional and state targets for retaining agricultural land and ongoing monitoring and evaluation
- a duty on state government agencies to consider impacts to agricultural land in all decision making
- Improved dispute resolution mechanisms for land use conflict, upholding existing land-use and routine farming practices

Mr Jackson said with world population on the rise while climate variability increased, the need to continue growing Australian agriculture was essential.

"Our farms feed 75 million people every year, and more people means more mouths to feed," Mr Jackson said.

"Current data on land capability is outdated and does not consider much beyond soil quality and slope, so there's an awful lot of work to be done in protecting agricultural land from inappropriate development.

"There must be a 'duty' on government to consider future agricultural needs in their planning in the same way environmental needs must be considered, and to ensure routine farming activities are protected from nuisance complaints."

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- **Braidwood Farmers Market**
March 19
- **Ryrie Park Markets**
8am -1pm March 26
- **Weekly Garage Sale**
Braidwood Uniting Church
Wed's 9-3 Cnr Duncan & Monkittee St
- **Nerriga Produce Market**
1st Sunday of the month.
- **Captains Flat regional Market**
10 - 2pm every 2nd Sat of the month

Nerriga book launch ~ 'On The Wool Road'

The Nerriga Craft & Museum Centre Trustees are proud to announce the book launch of "On The Wool Road" will happen on 16th April.

The book has new supplement from 1991 to current included along with the original book content.

We are looking for market stalls so if you grow, cook, craft or create things we are happy to have you. Stall spots are by donation. Pre-orders of the book can be made by contacting Suzanne Robens. Books will be available for purchase on the day.

Service NSW is returning to Braidwood on Wednesday 13th April 2022 in the Mobile Service Centre.

Braidwood Men's Shed meets each Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 AM.

New members always welcome. For more info contact Kevin on 0450961039. Enquiries phone or message 0450961039 or braidwoodmensshed@gmail.com

Country Rocks Festival

Postponed to 2,3,4 September due to Covid issues.

Save the date : Saturday 14th May

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Robert Maxwell Fletcher
"Bob"

Passed peacefully in the presence of family,
8th March 2022, aged 85.

Loving husband to Moreen, cherished father of Tracy, Tony and Tamara, and much loved Poppy to Aidan, Ryan, Jordan, Alicia, Kade and India, and father-in-law to James and Carl.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Bob's Graveside Service, that will commence at 11:30am Friday 18th March 2022, at the Braidwood Lawn Cemetery.

A Funeral Reception will be held following at the CWA Rooms, Wallace Street.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Cancer Council or charity of your choice.



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Council's Disaster Assistance Hub

Have you been affected by recent flooding across rural and regional parts of Queanbeyan-Palerang? Do you need advice finding financial support, assistance accessing feed for stock, or just someone to talk to if things are getting you down? Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's Disaster Assistance Hub, based at the Old Braidwood Library, may be able to help. Call on 6285 6789 or email recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au Or drop in between 9am and 3pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

A \$100 'First Lap' voucher is now available to parents, guardians and carers of children aged 3 to 6 to use towards the cost of swimming lessons. Kids who have not started school, were in kindergarten in 2021 or starting kindergarten in 2022 are also eligible. The voucher is valid until 30 June 2022 and a new voucher will be available from 1 July 2022.

Claim yours now:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/first-lap-swim-voucher>

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Braidwood Golf Club News

GOLF NEWS

WORKING BEE 9am Wednesday 16th

Would anyone who can spare the time please come and help with the branch and tree cleanup as we have had a couple of trees come down and some big branches fall. This cleanup is a priority so the rough mowing can be done. All help is appreciated!

Men's Senior Pennants Report from Captain Brendan Booker
This week our men's senior pennant team returned to the winner's circle with a narrow 3.5 - 2.5 result over Yowani at Gungahlin Lakes. Our winners were Rodney Royds, Keith Morgan and Allan Walcott, while Brendan Booker managed another squared match. Due to the condition of the Braidwood course after all the rain, we have organised to swap the last 2 competition rounds. Gold Creek have volunteered to host next week and Braidwood will now host all the pennant teams on 24th March.

We are welcoming our new members at a 'Drinks & Nibbles' event next Saturday, March 19, at 4.30pm after golf. If you are new to our Golf Club, please join us & catch up with some of our regular players & others who are new to the club. We would love to meet you!

Results: Saturday March 12 - Men's Single Stableford - Jim Lindwell Trophy

Winner: Mark Newman 33pts
Runner Up: Brendan Sly 31pts c/b
Ball Comp: Ted Emmett 31pts, Will Sanders 31pts, Keith Ferguson 30pts, Roger Hovey 29pts, Keith Morgan 29pts
NTP 8/17: Brendan Sly
Jackpot 3rd (\$130): Not Won

Women's Single Stableford - Dojo Bread Trophy Round 2.

Many thanks to Dojo for their generous sponsorship.
Winner: Robin Tennant Wood 29pts
Runner Up: Fran McGrath 26pts
Ball Comp: Michelle Henry 25pts, Donna Kuhn 21pts, Deb Ferguson 21pts NTP: Deb Ferguson

Coming Events

March Saturday 19: Committee Meeting 10.30am
Men's Single Stableford - Jim Lindwell Trophy
Women's Single Stableford - Isobel Mutton Trophy 1st Round
March Sunday 20: Burns Club
March Saturday 26: 2BBB Medley Stableford
March Saturday 19: Committee Meeting 10.30am
Men's Single Stableford- Jim Lindwell Trophy
Women's Single Stableford - Isobel Mutton Trophy 1st Round
Welcome Drinks for our New Members 4.30pm
March Sunday 20: Burns Club
March Saturday 26: 2BBB Medley Stableford- P.B.L. (Bruce) Hovey Trophy
April Saturday 2: Daylight Saving Ends
Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medals
April 9 Saturday: Men's Single Stableford - Rod Coady Trophy
Women's Single Stableford - Isobel Mutton Trophy Round 2
NEW HIT OFF TIMES - ALL PLAYERS 12.15 Register with the starter by 12.00

BOWLS NEWS

On Saturday 12/3 Braidwood accepted an invitation from Tomakin to play a match in our lead up to State finals at Maitland in two weeks' time. After having rain for the previous few weeks, it was great to get out and have a game.

Nigel's team started strong and were in front up till the halfway mark. A few lapses in concentration from the team though, let Tomakin in, who took their chance and didn't look back, winning 22-17.

Jono's team struggled to find the speed of the green for the beginning of the match. Fighting back from 13-2 down and 19-4 down with 8 ends remaining things started to click for the Braidwood boys. Narrowly going down 22-19. The match of the day was on the centre rink though. Billy's team had a tussle from start to finish with the score very close and the lead changing just about every end. Tomakin prevailed though taking the win 21-17.

A great day in all and Tomakin were great hosts with a very nice BBQ after.

In Championship news, the big wet has all but stopped the competition in its tracks. Only two matches have been completed in the last 3 weeks. Both were in the ladies' Major singles.

Cara Patton proved too good in a rain interrupted match against Jeanette McCullough. The match was very close at 16-12 when the ladies retreated from the ensuing shower. On return to the green though Cara found the speed straight away with the match only lasting 4 more ends. 4 shots to Cara, followed by a 3, with Jeanette picking up a 3 of her own before Cara finished with a 2 to win 25-15 and move into the grand final.

In the other Major ladies semi-final played today. Margaret Wisbey and Glenys Bacon played a very tightly contested match from start to finish in beautiful conditions. Marg proved too strong in the end coming through to take the victory 25-20.

Well done to all the ladies and Good Luck to Marg and Cara in the Final.

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Yoga Pose of the Week

with Christina Jagusiak



Crown-based Pose – Moordhasana

A great pose to stimulate circulation, stretch the shoulders, chest and legs. It helps with digestion and is said to calm the nerves by encouraging the parasympathetic nervous system, decreasing anxiety symptoms. Turning everything upside-down helps to balance the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems.

To practice - Stand with the feet as wide apart as comfortable. Bend forward from the hips and place the hands on the floor in front of the feet. Press down through the palms to help lengthen the spine then lower the crown of the head to the floor. Raise the arms behind the back and either interlock the fingers or take hold of one wrist. Hold for as long as appropriate, then release by returning the hands to the floor, engaging the abdominal muscles and raising the torso upright. Practice up to 3 times.



Race five in Sydney on Saturday last, saw Shelby Sixty Six unleash a terrific burst to win the Maurice McCarten Stakes. The final 600m sectional in 34.06s, the fastest of the day. He powered home passing his rivals. He ran a 200m of 11.07s. between the 600m and 400m and sustained his sprint with sub, 12s for splits in the final two 200m sectionals. His trainer, Danny Williams (Goulburn) was very emotional during the post race interview and who could blame him after a run like that. Shelby could back up next Saturday in a Group One in Sydney.

Stockman also had a good day on Saturday to win easily. He certainly improved on his last run when he finished last. A good one to keep in mind now that he has returned to form. On Monday in Canberra, Fangelo won again, much to the pleasure of his very enthusiastic part owners. He was ridden by a young up and coming apprentice, Molly Byrnes. It is very difficult to ride a horse you are not familiar with, but being able to claim 3kgs. certainly helped. He looked beaten but lunged at the last minute to win by 0.1 lengths. His next outing will be Sydney.

It is also getting closer to Luke and Testator Silens trip to Sydney on April 2nd.

Great to see the top jockeys in Canberra over the long weekend. Tommy Berry, James McDonald and William Pike to name a few.

Until next time.
Happy Punting.'

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Redbacks run at South Coast Rugby 10s at Broulee



The big man Alex Ahern flies high against the Broulee Dolphins



Cade Graf consistently broke the first and second tackle and could rely on close team support

The South Coast 10s Rugby Competition was held at the Captain Oldrey Park at Broulee last Saturday, under welcome blue sky with an equally welcome easterly breeze, albeit on a warm day for rugby.

The Redbacks started the day with ten players required to field a team, while the opposition seemed to have an endless supply of substitutes. In the first game the Redbacks fired away with their ten players.

For the second game, one opposition player from the Broulee Dolphins joined the Redbacks and played out his skin, giving the Redbacks some welcome firepower in the second game.

The third game saw two more players from an opposition team join the Redbacks ranks, and in the spirit of the game, played well for the Redbacks.

Individual players performances left coach Tom Holland impressed with his teams effort and commitment, with plenty of positives to be taken from the day.

Lachlan Usher made a tackle in the first game that resulted in a simultaneous gasp from the healthy crowd, and Lachlan's efforts didn't let up all day. The opposition player on the end Lachlan's shoulder will be keeping his dentist busy this week replacing fillings. That type of defensive effort was the start of some solid Redbacks defence, with more big hits to follow in the remainder of that game and the following two.

Cade Graf didn't find his off button until the final whistle in the third game. Cade gave an inspiring performance on the day, with a huge effort in both defence and attack.

Callum Doyle let his play do the talking on the day. Being a quiet soul off the field, the big man has a big motor and just doesn't stop. Sam Northcott powered on through the games, despite having some blisters on his heels. However the opposition took some serious bruising with Sam's solid ball running, as well as in defence. Wyll Holland had his radar tracking the opposition all day and his shoulders found their mark consistently. Wyll scored a try in the second game was a well deserved one for Wyll, on the back of a solid effort by the team.

Coen Bennett pulled the Redbacks jersey for the first time in over a decade, and worked his way back into rugby well. Coen showed there's much more in store this season from him, making some sneaky runs and gaining valuable metres as the day went on.

The big man, Alex Ahern flew high in the line outs, with strong lifts from Redbacks forwards, give the Redbacks some valuable position and denying the opposition time with the ball.

Joe Hansby was like the a drivers dog, following the forwards around and getting the ball to the backs, while being a contact nuisance to the opposition. Joey ended up with a shoulder injury in the second game and sadly took no further part in the day.

Ned Jeffery made some great runs in all three games, breaking the defence on a number of occasions, while showing his defensive skills as well. In literally the dying seconds of the final game, Ned made three consecutive tackles, getting off the ground each time to drag down the opposition ball carrier.

James Moore from the Cooma Red Devils made the long drive to join the Redbacks for the day. James had three solid games for the Redbacks, and was unlucky not to have scored a try to reward his efforts in the second half of the second game. Making on a break down the right wing, James was away, only to be called back for a scrum due to an infringement earlier moments before.

While not having the player numbers like the other sides, the Redbacks showed once again they will play hard right to the end. For a good portion of the three games, the Redbacks had to mount a solid defence in their quarter of the field, and it was sheer determination and courage that kept the opposition from crossing the line more than they did.

Despite narrowly losing their three games, the Redbacks put in a highly respectable effort, which was respected by the opposition in all three games.

Thanks to the Broulee Dolphins for organising such a great day of 10's Rugby, James Moore from the Cooma Red Devils for coming up with his family, the subs who helped us on the day, the supporters for making trip to the coast and both the Redbacks and opposition for great games.

The Redbacks will be back on show on the 26th March at the Boorowa Beer and Rugby Festival for three thirty minute games for one final hit out before the season kicks off officially on the 2nd April. With the Redbacks at full strength at Boorowa, it's going to be another great day of country rugby.