



Showtime returns : Braidwood put together a very good pavilion for the 144th Braidwood Show. Story pages 3 - 5

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# Impressive turnout in support of long day care



**By Melissa Knight and Rachel Farley**

On Monday 4 March 2024, concerned parents and community members gathered at the Old Sunday School Hall to discuss their experiences and concerns regarding the lack of long day care in Braidwood following the recent sudden closure of the Purple House.

An impressive turnout speaks to the magnitude of our community's issue with eighty parents and community members, along with their children in attendance. Rebecca Ryan, General Manager of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC), Kenrick Winchester, Mayor QPRC, Councillors, Electorate Officers from the Offices of The Hon. Kristy McBain, Member for Eden-Monaro and The Hon Steve Whan, member for Monaro. The Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber and Braidwood Community Association were also in attendance.

Raw, honest, and powerful stories were shared by affected parents, detailing the negative and detrimental effects on the children who no longer have a school to attend, who have had their routine disrupted and do not understand why they aren't able to see their friends each day.

For our youngest in the community, their own home away from home and community suddenly disappeared. We heard about implications of the day care crisis in Braidwood for the workforce; highly trained, qualified and skilled professionals are unable to return to work, or have been forced to drop out of the workforce, and therefore unable to provide for the community. Essential services including education, health and emergency services are directly negatively impacted by the loss of access to childcare as these are often female dominated roles and these mothers are now unable to work. This leaves our community disadvantaged, particularly for our most vulnerable, our children. A highly experienced and trained early childhood educator provided insight into research conducted that children who live rurally may already be disadvantaged due to their location, add to that the lack of access to early education, this can have huge ramifications for children moving forward through schooling years. 90% of brain development occurs in the first five years of life. Early childhood settings nurture children through these developmental years, developing physical health and wellbeing, social, cognitive, language and emotional skills, which harness children with the ability to utilise these skills throughout their schooling years.

It is well documented that the lack of affordable, available, and high-quality early childhood education and care has detrimental impacts on parents, children, the workforce and local economies and communities. We must act now to support our children by finding a solution to the lack of long day care in Braidwood!

The 'demand for day care in Braidwood' survey which was distributed last week was met with great participation. We received 77 responses, 92% of whom have 1-2 children under the age of 5yrs that requires care at an early childhood education centre, majority of those children are aged 0-3years and unable to be enrolled in a pre-school. Over 90% of parents identified that their children require care between the hours of 7:30am – 6:00pm.

Monday's facilitated discussion has been a reassuring step forward as a Working Group have been encouraging to seek support from QPRC, Bendigo Bank, Braidwood Pre-School, and the wider community as we work together to explore our options to find a solution for a fit-for-purpose early childhood education centre for children 0-5years which offers long day care in Braidwood.

A newly created Working Group has been established and our first meeting will be held next Monday 11 March at 4pm. In the meantime, we have met with Kristy McBain, Member for Eden-Monaro who has provided great support and offered advice for a solution which we will look into.



<Member for Eden Monaro Kristy McBain meets with Rachel Farley and Melissa Knight



# Showtime returns to Braidwood



Polocrosse demonstration game under the new lights.

Photo Kerrie Webb

After 5 long years of fires, Covid and construction work, the Braidwood Show has returned. Watching the young ones running around, it was strange to think they had not been to one before.

The 144th Show included horse events, dog, sheep and alpaca displays as well as a packed pavilion of local produce, school artwork and handicraft. The CWA Showbags were a hit and sold out early. The BCS P & C bbq ran out of supplies and had to restock.

The children's races, gumboot throw, tug of war and Farm Team Challenge were keenly fought out.

In the afternoon there was a JSPD Martial Arts display, Chainsaw Racing, Curtis Bennett Wood Chopping display followed by the official 'turning on of the lights' and a demonstration polocrosse game.

Braidwood Show Woman of the Year Georgie had the honour of turning on the lights and there were speeches from Kristy McBain MP and Nick Fry from the Community Bank.

The Braidwood Showground 355 Committee has closed the Showground in August 2022 to begin the construction of the lights.

The \$1,140,228 project upgraded the electricity and installed lighting around arenas, cattle yards, toilets and main camping area.

The Committee said in 2022, "Since the beginning of 2019 until now a lot has happened in our community. Drought, fire and flood events have highlighted the usefulness of the showground as a large, versatile disaster evacuation centre for community personnel, their families and animals. Not to mention the community activities of Polocrosse, Campdrafting, Show, Pony Club, Mounted Games, Team Sorting, primitive camping for tourist visiting Braidwood or passing through, concerts, retreats, weddings, reunions and 21st birthdays."

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council worked with the Showground 355 committee and in 2021 the committee was successful with an application to the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund for \$977,833 to upgrade electricity and lighting requirements at the showground. This funding provided the catalyst to complete a Braidwood and Bungendore Community Bank Challenge Grant for \$222,131 which was successful, and the Braidwood 355 Showground User Groups committed the remaining \$65,614.



Braidwood Young Woman of the Year does the honours.  
Photo Kristy McBain

Week ending 5th March 2024 **Braidwood Weather** With Roger Hosking

A few warm days are ahead this week. It will be a formal "heat wave" if three consecutive days are in the top 10% for date, if above 30 degrees.

March mean daily maximum temp is 23.1 deg.

Day	Min	Max	Rain
Wed	15	32	
Thurs	20	29	
Fri	15	32	0.4
Sat	17	23	
Sun	13	29	
Mon	9	19	
Tues	8	26	0.4

**Grassland SDI** (soil moisture deficit) mm

**Total rainfall so far:**

- this month 0.8mm - this year 166.8mm

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## 144th Braidwood Show Gallery



David Cargill receives a gift from Di Izzard for his 60 years of service to the Braidwood Show Society. Photo Nick Fry.



L-R Michael Brownett (Braidwood's Westpac Bank Manager 1992-1994), Show Patron Barry McDowall, Bob Daniel, Dhugald McDowall.



Finding a winner!



Kathy Toirkens Champion exhibit



Rudi Stachow & John Thompson Chook Stewards



Treasurer Sue Tranter and Secretary Di Izzard in the pavilion.

Photos Catherine King and Alex Rea





## 144th Braidwood Show Gallery



Tug of War Winners Photo Kristie McBain



Cath Harrison with Supreme Champion Flower exhibit.



Chainsaw racing Photo Kylie Walker



The kids games and races were well patronised



Ollie Worsley-Deacon was awarded first in the brown egg category and Champion Farm or Dairy Exhibit and brother Leo was awarded second in the White or Cream egg and Second in the other egg category. Mum Suz picked up first in the Other Egg category and Reserve Champion. From Branch & Burrow farm. the family have a mix of Heritage Breed Chickens, Australorps, Marans, Barred Rock, Silkies, and coloured egg layer mixes Easter Eggers and Olive Egg layers that we've bred. They all free range and live out their lives on farm even after they stop laying.



Izzy Vella in the cattle parading.



Ross Kuchel, Hayden Orford and Stan Thistleton battled it out for the 'Iced Chocolate Cake made by a man.'





## Show time success for BCS

**By John Longhurst**

Braidwood Central School (BCS) Show Team preparations have paid off handsomely with success at the Royal Canberra Show and the Braidwood Show. BCS Show Team attended the Royal Canberra Show on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd February. The team exhibited six head of cattle and participated in junior parading and judging events.

The school heifer, 'Milo' placed second on hoof (live animal parading) in the middle weight division. 'Milo' was donated to BCS by Cathy Noakes from Merton Park Herefords and part proceeds for the sale of heifer will directed to the Brainstorm Foundation. The Brainstorm Foundation is a nonprofit that connects current patients to survivors\* and is strongly supported by Cathy Noakes.

BCS Head Teacher Ms Jill Kuchel was also impressed with the school's junior paraders.

Ms Kuchel said "Our junior paraders were very successful with numerous place getters in their divisions. Emily Jeffery, Zoe Ingham and Charlotte McGrath certainly rose to the occasion in a highly competitive field."

Buoyed with the success at the Canberra Royal Show, a smaller show team attended the 2024 Braidwood Show last Saturday.

The BCS Show Team exhibited four head of cattle with 'Choccy' a purebred Angus steer a standout, placing second in the led steer competition.

'Choccy' was donated to BCS by Ian and Rebecca Hindmarsh.

Ms Kuchel said "The students had a great day and did well in the parading and junior judging events."

Show team member, Charlotte McGrath, enjoyed the experience.

Charlotte said "We all gained in confidence and it was a fun learning experience."

BCS Principal, Ms Nerida Mosely, thanked the community for its support.

Ms Mosely said "We had generous donations from our community in the lead up to the shows. Experienced hands also donated their time and expertise to once again lay the foundations for our success at both shows. A big thank you to a very supportive community."



*Braidwood Central School Show Team*



*Lexi Dixon*



*Charlotte McGrath third place.*



*Alison Hindmarsh*



*Emily Jeffery second place*





## \$2 million in Federal funding netted for Bungendore Sports Hub

Netballers in Bungendore are on their toes and ready to 'bend and flick' plenty of goals – with the Albanese Labor Government delivering on its commitment to inject an additional \$2 million towards the next stages of the Bungendore Sports Hub.

**Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain** was in Bungendore today to inspect progress on Stage 1 of the new sporting hub, and to outline new facilities that will take it to the next level.

These new funds are a welcome addition to the funding commitment from the NSW Government and the NSW Minister for regional NSW, Tara Moriarty.

With the \$2 million additional funding agreement now locked in with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, as part of the Albanese Government's Investing in our Communities Program, work can now commence on:

- **Construction of netball facilities**

New amenities block and storage

Fencing around courts stormwater drainage

- **Upgrades to Playing Fields**

Construction of 4 team dug outs

Seating units to seat at least 200 people

Installation of field goals

- **Upgrades to pavilion buildings**

Installation of solar panels and solar carpark lights

- **Upgrades to Carpark and access to playing fields**

Sealing of car park

Landscaping

Construction of pathways to access fields and netball courts

- **Preparation of Men's Shed site**

Levelling of site and installation of services and perimeter fencing.

This funding builds on \$565,000 already committed by the Australian Government under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, with the NSW Government committing \$3,550,000 and Council committing \$1,838,619.

The Bungendore Sports Hub project will deliver the Bungendore community much-needed regional sports facilities, with irrigated sports fields and netball courts – along with a new amenities block that will have four sets of change rooms with shower and toilet facilities, meeting/catering area, kiosk, toilets for spectators, storage rooms and officials' facilities.

Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain MP said "It's so important that people of all ages have access to high-quality sporting facilities in their own backyard, which is why I strongly advocated for an additional \$2 million for this project, and why I'm thrilled to be delivering on this commitment for the Bungendore community.

"The Bungendore Sports Hub will be a real game-changer for this fast-growing community, and will mean that locals won't need to travel to Queanbeyan or the ACT for their training.

"The hub also presents an exciting future for Bungendore by putting it on the map to host carnivals and other community sporting events, which will help stimulate local small businesses."

NSW Minister for Regional NSW, the Hon Tara Moriarty MP said "Bungendore deserves quality sporting amenities close to home. Sports are incredibly important for this community, which is why we're funding this exciting upgrade of the Bungendore Sports Hub.

"These facilities will mean more locals can get involved in friendly sport or train for more serious competition – supporting the champions of tomorrow as well as healthy lifestyles and opportunities to meet new people and make new friends."

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan MP welcomed "this commitment of \$2,000,000 from the Federal Government towards the development of the new Bungendore Sports Hub. "Bungendore has a very popular and active netball club that has been hampered by a lack of local courts, it is fantastic news that there will now be local facilities for training and games.

"This boost in funding will help the community and council move forward with their plans to create a modern facility helping the people of Bungendore to stay active and healthy."



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Mayor, Cr Kenrick Winchester added: "Our region is one of the fastest-growing areas in NSW and it is vital that we keep up with demand to supply facilities like the Bungendore Sports Hub. I thank the Australian and NSW governments for their financial support for this project, which I am delighted to see progressing at speed on the ground."

The overall project is due for completion by 1 December 2025, with more information available at: [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Bungendore-Sports-Hub](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Bungendore-Sports-Hub)







## Consultation now open on Veterans' Legislation Reform

The Albanese Government has released exposure draft legislation which will simplify and harmonise the century old veterans' entitlements, compensation and rehabilitation system.

The current system is difficult to understand and complex to administer. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide found the system was "so complicated that it adversely affects the mental health of some veterans and can be a contributing factor to suicidality."

Following consultation, the draft legislation will simplify the veteran compensation system, with all claims to be considered under a single Act. Under the new system:

- All new claims for compensation and rehabilitation from the date of commencement would be assessed under a single Act, an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA);
- The Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 would be closed to new claims following commencement of the new arrangements;
- All benefits being received under existing schemes will continue unaffected under grand-parenting arrangements. Any new claims after the commencement date (including claims for worsening of pre-existing conditions) will be assessed under the improved MRCA.

There will also be a number of improvements including:

- introduction of a new Additional Disablement Amount to provide similar benefits as the Extreme Disablement Adjustment for those post retirement age;
- making the higher travel allowance under MRCA available to all veterans and for all kilometres travelled;
- providing a pathway for veterans currently only covered by DRCA to qualify for the Specialist Medical Review Council and a Gold Card if they have a new claim accepted and
- increasing the general funeral allowance to \$3,000 with the amount previously set at \$2,000.

The release of draft legislation follows the Government's earlier consultation on a pathway to simplify the veterans' legislative framework, and provide better support to veterans and their families. Feedback from that consultation has guided the proposed changes announced today.

I welcome feedback and submissions from the veteran community and general public on the draft Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024, submissions close on 28 April 2024.

More information on the proposed legislation changes, and opportunities to provide feedback can be found here – [www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform](http://www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform).

## Milestone reached in doubling Landcare funding

The NSW Government has today reached another milestone in its election commitment to double the funding for Landcare in NSW, with an investment of \$8.2 million being delivered.

During the state election the NSW Government committed to providing \$59 million in funding over the next four years ensure Landcare can expand and continue its vital work rehabilitating the state's natural environment.

The \$8.2 million announced today will be used by Landcare NSW to:

- Fund the employment of up to 7.5 full-time equivalent staff to provide centralised support to host organisations and coordinators funded through the Program.
- Establish a Shared Services Hub that provides centralised support to host organisations and coordinators funded under the Local and Regional Coordinators Grants across a range of business services, but specifically administration and human resources.
- Implement and manage a state Community of Practice including Landcare state gatherings, conferences and regional events.
- Implement and manage a Digital Landcare solution to improve reporting processes and knowledge sharing for program participants.
- Develop and maintain strategic partnerships and leverage investment, to increase Landcare's self-sustenance and reduce reliance on direct NSW Government funding over the medium to longer term.

Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty said "This funding to Landcare NSW will support host organisations, coordinators and support roles that will enable this program to achieve essential environmental and agricultural productivity outcomes over the next four years.

"Landcarers, primary producers and the environment will all benefit from this funding to Landcare NSW, as coordinators and Landcare groups will have more capacity to support the delivery of on-ground projects.

"A key part of the funding will allow Landcare NSW to increase its self-sustenance and reduce reliance on direct NSW Government funding over the medium to longer term.

"I am very passionate about Landcare and the important role they play in protecting the environment, and supporting agricultural productivity in our communities so it gives me great pleasure to announce this funding."

Landcare NSW CEO Turlough Guerin said "We welcome this announcement of funding from the NSW Government and thank Minister Tara Moriarty for her ongoing support and commitment to Landcare.

"This funding will allow the local and regional coordinators and support staff to receive the support they need to excel in their roles and deliver for the communities they are working in."



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## "It's All Happening @ The Royal"

- **Monday to Wednesday Happy Hour** from 5.30 to 6.30pm  
\$6.50 Schooners \$5.50 Middles
- **Thursdays chocolate wheel & members draw** 6 - 6.30pm
- **Sunday 17th March Elegant Associates (booked out)**
- **Saturday 30th March Incognito**



*Our EV Charger is now up and running!*







## Bunker insurance ready for next bush fire season



*Architect David Aitken at the Bunker.*



*The bunker built into bank.*



*The Bunker bound for Moruya on board a King Bros tilt trailer.*

By Alex Rea

David Aitken and Anne Eastman have recently installed a bushfire bunker at their property on the edge of Moruya. Living on the edge of the town, the couple are all too aware of the risks of future fires and the speed with which it could come after the Black Summer fires.

David, an architect, said "It was a local artist Ken Tabor in Maulbrooks Road who convinced me recently to get one. He survived in his own built shelter when the Mogo Fire swept through in 2019. His whole forested property, car and house went up in flames ... he would never have been able to escape by foot or car!"

"He convinced me finally that we were stupid not to put a shelter in," said David.

The shelter's location carefully selected and excavated using a timber profile as a visual guide. It has been built in with extra granite boulders and covered by a curved metal roof. The shelter unit was prefabricated in Albury.

### Special Features include:

- Durable design made from 40MPA reinforced concrete with a 100mm wall thickness.
- Double plated, insulated steel door comes fitted with a fire window allowing the occupants to see what is going on outside and know when it is safe to leave.

- The door is fitted with the highest quality industrial thermal seals available and 1400°C x 50mm thick Fire Blanket inside the door.
- Bunker is lockable, although also includes an internal safety latch for extra safety – Occupants cannot be locked inside!
- Units can be freestanding or ideally buried or submerged into an embankment.
- Fits up to 6 adults (pets too!) for a period of two hours. In most cases, you should only need to be inside for 15-20 minutes. Approx 8 cubic meters.
- Comes with a concrete base.
- Designed for easy unloading with a tray truck and hiab crane. Bunker has lifting lugs that allow it to be positioned.
- Tapered roof line allowing water run off.
- New Heavy Duty Container Door hinges are used with brass bearings (no plastic).
- Double glazed fire window.

The advantage to this bunker is that there is no climbing down or crawling into. It allows easy and safe access for all ages and their four legged furry friends to walk in and out.

The bunker would be safe for the couple for around 4 hours.

David was also encouraged by an article in The Guardian

["Escaping underground: the eerie new age of bushfire bunkers."](#)

## January Book Fair proceeds go back to the community

Organising the Braidwood Community Book Fairs involves many people and many hours of volunteer work by community members. One of the best tasks, once all expenses have been paid, is deciding how to return the nett proceeds to the community. With the January Book Fair gross takings of just over \$21,000 and all the expenses accounted for and paid, we are happy to announce that the recipients of the nett proceeds include: Braidwood ....Apex Club, Life Centre, Pre-School, Education Foundation, Youth Performing Arts Assn, Urban Landcare Group. Old Sunday School Hall, Scouts Troup, Girl Guides Troup, Hospital Auxiliary, Majors Creek Rural Fire Service and the Anglican Parish of Braidwood without whose organisation the Book Fairs would not happen. Thank you one and all.

**Marjorie, Lois & Ros: Book Fair Committee**



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## Update on a new Landcare Nursery Network for Braidwood and the Region

### By Felicity Sturgiss - USLC Chair

The Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council received a grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife's Bushfire Recovery program to establish a community nursery in our region, and produce 10,000 seedlings to be in the ground by May 2025.

We are currently establishing a Landcare Nursery Network where a range of people from across the district can work together to grow biodiverse local and climate ready seedlings at home.

While we hope to find the perfect location for a 'bricks and mortar' fully functioning nursery, we will start off with a couple of local 'hubs' where we store supplies such as seed, soil, potting mix, trays, tubes, shade cloth etc. We are initially aiming to establish a hub in Araluen, one in Mongarlowe, and one in Braidwood. As well as being a place where people from the new Landcare Community Nursery network and anyone else can come along to training days, help pot up seedlings, build a shade house or just make the hubs welcoming and nice.

We will soon employ a coordinator to take on the task of tracking all the seed, the growers, the success rates and all joyful task of matching growers with people who have tree planting projects planned. Trees will be sold at a very subsidised rate for the first 10,000. Income from the sales will go towards paying a local coordinator (or two) to continue the project.

Our network already has the expertise of a number of local botanists, horticulturalists, land managers, environmental scientists and other enthusiastic and interested locals who are keen to learn the art of raising biodiverse local seedlings and being part of a network that aims to increase the resilience of local biodiversity and habitat to the predicted changing climate.

The best way to get involved is to send me (Felicity) an email at [upper.shoalhaven.chair@gmail.com](mailto:upper.shoalhaven.chair@gmail.com) or send an email or call our landcare coordinator Erin Brinkley on [upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com](mailto:upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com) 0473 407 079.

**THIS SUNDAY the 10th of March** is a great opportunity to come out to the Landcare Office in Braidwood and learn all about the art of raising seedlings from the wonderfully knowledgeable and experienced Lyn Ellis. Lyn ran a local nursery for 20 years with her partner. She knows all the tricks and tools to get us set on the right path to success. PLEASE RSVP to ERIN by emailing [upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com](mailto:upper.shoalhaven@gmail.com) or calling 0473 407 079

Light lunch provided and the opportunity to take home some trays of seedlings and help us reach our goals to get 10,000 local biodiverse trees and shrubs into the local district to support wildlife, for erosion control, to provide critical shade and protection for livestock, wildlife and people.

*Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council would like to acknowledge and thank the team at the Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife for supporting this activity as part of our Bushfire Recovery Nurseries Grant Project.*

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## \$300 million investment in TAFE NSW

Crumbling classrooms, leaking roofs, and 15-year-old Wi-Fi systems were the legacy of 12 years of deliberate neglect of our TAFE NSW campuses by the former coalition Government, and they'll be fixed by a new \$300 million Labor program now underway. The NSW Government knows that to address the critical shortage of skilled workers we must have functional classrooms with modern equipment.

The NSW Labor Government is investing \$300 million into TAFE NSW this financial year to upgrade classrooms and campus infrastructure, deliver new teaching equipment, and improve digital connectivity across regional and remote campuses.

This landmark financial injection into TAFE NSW will refurbish workshops and specialist facilities to train more electricians, metal fabricators, plumbers, and healthcare workers in communities like Wagga Wagga, Albury, Goulburn, Port Macquarie, Orange, and Armidale.

From welders at Wagga Wagga, to tractors at Wollongbar and Goulburn, and forklifts at Nimba, and Albury, the funding will deliver new equipment to support the continued delivery of industry-aligned training to learners.

In addition to maintenance work and new teaching equipment, the investment also provides more than \$36 million for over 8,500 new digital devices and directs funding into improved digital connectivity at 28 regional campuses across the state.

The investment in digital connectivity is a particularly major win for regional communities and will be used to overhaul outdated network infrastructure, improve Wi-Fi connectivity, and build cyber security resilience, which is critical for effective teaching and learning in the 21st century.

The funding will also ensure the completion of the redevelopment of TAFE NSW Kingscliff and the upgrade of TAFE NSW Coffs Harbour, ensuring a pipeline of more skilled workers in these booming regional communities.

Northern NSW can expect more demand for skilled healthcare, hospitality, and construction workers over the next three years. This investment ensures TAFE NSW is well-placed to meet the educational and employment needs of such communities.

This investment reflects the NSW Government's commitment to place TAFE NSW at the heart of the vocational and education training system.

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Steve Whan said: "This critical \$300 million investment will rebuild the physical and digital infrastructure at 120 TAFE NSW campuses neglected for a decade by the previous Liberal-National Government.

"When I became Minister for TAFE, I was alarmed to get letters from students at TAFE colleges in country NSW telling me they were using their own phones to get internet connectivity on their campuses – because the Wi-Fi was so out of date.

"Stories about neglected classrooms don't help to attract the people we need to see taking on training or teaching. NSW Labor is doing something about it.

"In Wagga Wagga, this investment will mean \$600,000 to deliver upgraded fabrication and welding facilities and equipment, ensuring apprentices working on major projects like Inland Rail, or maintaining local bridges across the Riverina are set up for success.

"We'll also spend \$500,000 to replace 164 digital devices, and \$550,000 for a new Aboriginal Cultural safe space at Wagga Wagga TAFE.

"TAFE NSW offers learners a great experience, but we don't want it diminished by facilities that should have been maintained properly by the last government. And now it won't be.

"This investment adds to the NSW Labor Government's \$3.8 billion investment in the skills and training sector, made together with the Commonwealth Government.

"Employers are relying on TAFE NSW to equip learners with in-demand skills using industry-standard equipment and technology, ensuring they graduate job-ready.

"This announcement will ensure the right skills mix to drive jobs, opportunity and productivity in NSW.

"The continued investment in TAFE NSW's infrastructure will expand learning opportunities in local communities, improve educational outcomes, and support the state's critical skills needs."

### Have your say on updating our Community Strategic Plan! Towards 2024

This year QPRC are looking back at our plan from 2021 and asking you to tell how things have changed, and what should stay the same, as we head Towards 2024.

There are plenty of ways to get involved, including:

- Completing the online survey
- Completing a hard copy survey from any of our customer service centres
- Responding as a group using the Discussion Guide

Read the old plan and fill out the survey and get involved until 15 March 2024 at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/update-towards-2024-csp>



### HOUSE FOR RENT

1410 Cooma Road

This charming 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home is now available for lease and is perfect for those seeking a country lifestyle. With an open plan living area with scenic rural views, floor to ceiling windows provide a well-lit and warm atmosphere. The bedrooms have generously sized built in robes. The master bedroom has an ensuite and a spacious walk in robe. The living room has a wood fireplace for warmth in the winter and an air conditioning unit for year round comfort. A verandah is perfect for entertaining, a double garage and a three bay machinery shed. NBN internet is available at the property as well as mobile reception. The driveway is on a school bus route adding extra convenience for families.

\$580 per week

Ray White Braidwood  
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## PROPERTIES FOR SALE



## RURAL LAND FOR SALE

- **NEW LISTING \$650,000** 40 hectares grazing country in the Krawarree area with excellent water from numerous springs. Several elevated house sites that take advantage of the far-reaching views to the north across the Jerrabatgulla Valley. Priced to sell this listing will sell quickly.
- **ARALUEN-24 hectares - (60 ACRES)** No building entitlement ,ideal weekender -**\$279,000**
- **ARALUEN NORTH -8 hectares - (20 ACRES)** No building entitlement, alluvial soil-**\$300,000**
- **ARALUEN SOUTH-126 hectares - (311 ACRES)** 3b/r house, sheds, river frontage - **\$750,000**
- **CHARLEYS FOREST- 40 hectares - (100 ACRES)** Bush block, weekender, sheds - **\$640,000**
- **SNOWBALL - 53 Hectares - (130 ACRES)** Bush block, cabin adjoins Nat. Park - **\$550,000**
- **SNOWBALL - 60 Hectares - (150 ACRES)** Bush block, building entitlement - **\$350,000**

### NEW LISTING - Classic miners cottage Circa 1870 **\$639,000**

All the character of an original miners cottage but with the comfort of modern conveniences. 2 bedrooms and study with original features such as high ceilings and timber floors. The second bedroom is detached from the main building and is connected by a covered deck - ideal for entertaining, this bedroom also has its own bathroom. Currently tenanted until Sept - tenant would love to stay on if possible.

### A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Previously part of the aptly named "The Springs" property this 40 hectare property has water in abundance. All fencing is in new condition and 2 dams provide water for stock. Currently running approx. 30 head of cattle comfortably but also suitable for other livestock. The property qualifies for a building entitlement. There are several potential house sites with fabulous views for the country farmhouse or contemporary home, either would fit well into the landscape. Located just over 50 km south of Braidwood with sealed road, except for the last 4 kilometres. Regular community events at the nearby Gundillion Hall are popular with locals and visitors alike and National Parks are close for bushwalking or sightseeing. This is a property that would suit a family wanting some space for recreation or livestock pursuits or someone looking for a recluse away from the rat race.

**\$650,000****Yately House c1883 - 35 Coghill St - By negotiation**

Sitting proudly in a commanding position overlooking the township and surrounding countryside what you see of Yately is only a glimpse of what lies behind that impressive façade. As you open the double entrance doors the feeling of grandeur is immediately apparent, with 10 metre by 2.5 metre formal hallway with 3.5 metre ceilings. There are 8 open fireplaces (3 of them marble), formal dining and lounge rooms and billiard room that easily accommodates a full size table. Yately offers 4 bedrooms in its current configuration, the grand size allows for more depending on owners requirements. Wandering through the glorious gardens is a pleasurable experience with many mature plantings including thousands of century old bulbs - irrigated by the water bore that provides a plentiful supply to the 3200m2 block, town water is also connected. Yately presents a perfect opportunity for a distinctive private residence, exclusive B and B or function centre. Land area 3263 m2, Residence 391m2, Verandah 220m2, Outbuildings 89m2. Inspections are strictly by appointment and with principals only.

### **6 Hassall Cct - By negotiation - Contemporary Luxury**

The award winning home completed in 2019 by Green Homes is state of the art in design and practicality. Clean contemporary lines combine with light open spaces to create a home that exudes luxury. Square set cornicing throughout and 3.7 metre raked ceilings to the open plan living expanse give a sense of space to what is already a large area, this also opens out to the alfresco area. The three bedroom , study home has ensuite and walk through robe to the main bedroom at the front of the home. Two other spacious bedrooms have built in robes. Double glazing is a feature throughout. There are two reverse cycle air-conditioners keeping the home comfortable year round. Electricity costs are supplemented by the 5.5 kilowatt back to the grid panels. This is a home that lends itself to entertaining either inside or out and would be perfect for the executive couple or family who appreciate the finer things in life.



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## The business of paying for news - Meta pulls out of News Media Bargaining Code

By Alex Rea

Last Friday, **Meta**, the owner of Facebook, announced that "In early April 2024, we will deprecate Facebook News – a dedicated tab in the bookmarks section on Facebook that spotlights news – in the US and Australia. This follows our September 2023 announcement that we deprecated Facebook News in the UK, France and Germany last year." "People will still be able to view news on Facebook in feed in these countries, and publishers will continue to have access to their Facebook accounts and Pages, where they can post their news article links and content. This update does not otherwise impact the existing agreements we have in relation to Facebook News with news publishers in Australia, France and Germany until they expire."

Meta said "This is part of an ongoing effort to better align our investments to our products and services people value the most. As a company, we have to focus our time and resources on things people tell us they want to see more of on the platform, including short form video. The number of people using Facebook News in Australia and the U.S. has dropped by over 80% last year. We know that people don't come to Facebook for news and political content – they come to connect with people and discover new opportunities, passions and interests. As we previously shared in 2023, news makes up less than 3% of what people around the world see in their Facebook feed, and is a small part of the Facebook experience for the vast majority of people."

"This does not impact our commitment to connecting people to reliable information on our platforms. We work with third-party fact-checkers – certified through accreditation bodies like the non-partisan International Fact-Checking Network – who review and rate viral misinformation on our apps. We have built the largest global fact-checking network of any platform by partnering with more than 90 independent fact-checking organizations around the world who review content in more than 60 languages. We have contributed more than \$150 million to programs supporting our fact-checking efforts since 2016 to combat the spread of misinformation and we will continue to invest in this area."

In response a joint media release from **Michelle Rowland MP Minister for Communications and Stephen Jones MP**, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services said:

"Meta's decision to no longer pay for news content in a number of jurisdictions represents a dereliction of its commitment to the sustainability of Australian news media. The Government has made its expectations clear. The decision removes a significant source of revenue for Australian news media businesses. Australian news publishers deserve fair compensation for the content they provide."

The Australian Government is committed to the News Media Bargaining Code and is seeking advice from Treasury and the ACCC on next steps. We will now work through all available options under the News Media Bargaining Code. The Government will continue to engage with news publishers and platforms through this process.

The Albanese Government is committed to promoting a strong, sustainable and diverse media sector given its vital importance to our democracy and social cohesion."

The **Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI)** issued a statement saying "today's news that Meta will not renew any of their commercial agreements with Australian news organisations."

While not unexpected, this confirmation represents a major blow to the production of public interest news in this country and a loss of millions of dollars to the sector."

"Public interest news production in Australia needs long-term structural reform, as well as immediate attention," explains PIJI CEO Anna Driffin.

"A series of sequential and overlapping shocks have hit this sector, including the decline of the business model (accelerated during the pandemic), the advent of generative AI and now Meta not renewing Australian commercial agreements with news organisations."

"These shocks can be seen in newsroom closures, declines in news producers' earnings, as well as declines in advertising spend."

"A democracy cannot function without a healthy news sector. We know this is a priority for government and it must be addressed as a matter of urgency."

"PIJI is actively engaging with government, industry and the community through initiatives such as the government's News Media Assistance Program (News MAP) to find viable, evidence-based, long-term solutions, but clearly in the meantime there is the need for immediate support."

**Paul Fletcher MP**, Communications Minister when the Morrison Government stared down Meta with the News Media Bargaining Code in 2021, asked "Can the Albanese Government do the same, after Meta today once again showed its disregard for Australia's laws?"

The announcement by Facebook's parent company Meta that it does not intend to renew agreements made under the News Media Bargaining Code is a demonstration of its disregard for the laws of Australia.

Meta took that step to try to force the then Liberal National Government into backing down from our stated policy intention of introducing the News Media Bargaining Code.

The rationale for the Code was to deal with a competition policy problem. Because of its market power, Facebook was able to take content generated and paid for by Australian news media businesses – such as a two minute clip from National Nine News, or a story in the Herald Sun – to attract audiences, and to generate advertising revenue from those audiences, without paying for that content. Facebook's attempt to make us back down did not succeed. We legislated the Code in early 2021 and it had the desired effect. Between February 2021 and February 2022 Meta entered into commercial deals with some 11 Australian news media businesses (and Google with 19.) According to independent estimates, some \$200 million will flow to Australian news media businesses under deals entered into by Meta and Google."

It is now up to the current Government to use those powers. For example, under the Code the Treasurer of the day has the power to 'designate' Meta – and once it is designated Meta can be required to participate in compulsory arbitration with registered news media businesses. "

"I hope that the current Government will show the same resolve in staring down the digital platforms that the previous Government successfully showed" said Mr Fletcher.

**How will this affect you?** Actually, I had to search for the news tab in Facebook. I'm not sure I've seen it before. However, the money paid by Meta from the News Bargaining code did go to help journalism, particularly in the regions where the ABC used the Meta funds to create 60 new regional jobs, including two on the south coast.

The Code mainly benefited the big media forms with little filter down to local news operations.



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## QPRC Artists now competing for \$17,500 in prizes

Council is inviting artists from the Queanbeyan Palerang region to enter the 2024 QPRC and Bendigo Bank Art Awards. The Braidwood and Bungendore community branches of Bendigo Bank are generously supporting the Awards with a total prize pool of \$17,500.

'The art awards are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the outstanding artists in our community,' said Mayor Kenrick Winchester. 'This year we are fortunate to again have the support of the Braidwood and Bungendore Bendigo Bank branches who have increased their funding for this great event.'

Nick Fry, Bendigo Bank's Community Engagement Manager is proud to continue supporting artists in our region.

'The Bank and its Board of Management are once again proud to partner with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council in these annual Art Awards.'

'The Awards showcase the extraordinary talent in our region, and I encourage everyone to take time and visit the exhibition at The Q in May and June.'

Council's Team Leader for Culture and Arts, Janita Byrne, coordinates the Awards and says it's an exciting time for the Arts in QPRC.

'The Braidwood and Bungendore Bendigo Bank branches are supporting the Art Awards for the fourth time this year, which has allowed the Awards to continually grow.'

'This year we have expanded the Emerging Artists category age range, making it available to 16 and 17-year-olds for the first time,' Janita explained.

'We'll also see an increase in prize money for our First Nations Award, now a generous \$3,000.'

'This year we have also increased the permitted size of works to take advantage of the new exhibition space connecting The Q Gallery to the new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct Building.'

The terms and conditions have been updated to exclude AI-generated artworks from the competition in 2024. This decision has been made while copyright issues and controversy related to generative AI are settled locally and overseas.

All artists interested in submitting an artwork to the Awards should carefully read the full terms and conditions available now on the website.

Artists aged 16 years and over who live in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area can register for the 2024 Art Awards between 2 - 30 April 2024.

### Categories and Prizes for 2024

\$5,000 Major Acquisitive Award  
\$3,000 3D Art Award  
\$500 3D Highly Commended  
\$3,000 First Nation's Award  
\$500 First Nation's Highly Commended  
\$2,000 Emerging Art Award  
\$500 Emerging Artist Highly Commended  
\$1,000 Bendigo Pick Award  
\$500 Bendigo Highly Commended  
\$1,000 Viewer's Choice Award  
\$500 Viewer's Choice Runner Up



2023 First Nations Winner Lea Palij [left] with QPRC Deputy Mayor Cr. Esma Livermore

### Key dates for the 2024 Art Awards are:

Registrations open - 2 April  
Registrations close - 30 April  
Delivery of artworks - 13 and 14 May  
Opening event - 23 May  
Exhibition runs - 23 May to 15 June  
Collection of works - 17 and 18 June  
For full conditions and registration information please go to [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-award](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-award)

**2023 WINNER**  
**LESLEY SYKES**  
BUSH TRACK  
BOTTOM POND  
(Detail)

**QPRC & Bendigo Bank**  
**ART AWARDS**  
APR - JUNE

**\$17,500 in Prizes!**

Online registrations:  
2 April - 30 April 2024

Exhibition:  
Q Exhibition Space,  
Queanbeyan  
24 May - 15 June 2024

FIND OUT MORE

QPRC Bendigo Bank Community Bank Braidwood and Bungendore THE Q QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

[www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-awards](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/art-awards)

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## WHAT'S ON

**Rebus Theatre's Project Alchemy** invites you to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Persian poetry and embroidery, curated by Hangama Obaidullah and a talented cadre of artists and performers.

### POETRY ARTS AND LITERATURE:

Embark on a journey into the heart of Persian artistry, where the echoes of environmental stewardship, peace, love, and women's rights resonate in every stitch and verse.

**The Queanbeyan Hive Gallery, 274 Crawford St, Qbn, NSW**

**Saturday, 9th March 2024**

Event Highlights:

- 11:00 am: Mesmerizing Poetry Recitation by Hangama Obaidullah and Sarah St Vincent Welch (Farsi and English)
- 11:30 am: Soulful Musical Performance by Masoud Taghimola
- 01:45 pm: Captivating Persian Dance Performance by Marjan Bonyadi
- 02:15 pm: Engaging Embroidery Workshop with Hangama Obaidullah

## Lily Cummins opening at GRAG

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery at 6pm on Friday 15 March - in Gallery 2 The opening of 'The curtain breathes and the room glows lilac'. An exhibition of new work spanning across drawing, painting and sculpture, you'll be drawn in to a world of detail brought forth from the Mittagong based artist's psychological investigation of memory, transience and loss.

Opening alongside James Tylor's exhibition 'Turrangka...in the shadows', curated by Leigh Robb, this is a night at the Gallery you won't want to miss. Book your free ticket here to join the fun:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../opening-james-tylor...>

## Do you know a non-profit cultural heritage group in need of preservation and collection management assistance?

National Library of Australia

Applications are now open for the 2024 Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program: <https://brnw.ch/21wHzfc> Through cash grants of up to \$20,000, CHG supports non-profit community organisations to preserve and manage Australian cultural heritage collections. This includes local and regional museums, galleries, libraries, historical societies and more.

Applications close for first time applicants on Monday 5 May. Previous CHG program recipients have an extended deadline, of Thursday 1 June.

## Need a good old belly laugh?

Come along to Braidwood's first Comedy Film Festival on Sunday 17th March, starting at 10.30am with Malcolm. Set in late 70s Melbourne, it's the story of a cooky inventor, starring Colin Friels.

Also screening 1pm: Death in Brunswick, starring Sam Neill and 3pm Ferris Bueller's Day Off, starring Matthew Broderick. Join the Film Club on the day. If you join on the Saturday Night at our usual monthly screening (\$50) you also get to see the whole festival and 12 movies throughout the year. Children under 15 free with an accompanying adult member.

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## Learn to Weave!

Sunday 17 March  
10am - 3pm  
Braidwood Regional Arts Centre

Come along for a fun filled day and make your own small basket from scratch!

- no experience required, it's all about exploration and self-expression
- connect to nature with sustainably foraged fibres
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bookings: [kirrilyjordan.com/workshops](https://kirrilyjordan.com/workshops)

[kirrilyjordan.art](https://kirrilyjordan.art)

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Come and make beautiful things with clay in these half and full-day pottery workshops

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### Upcoming Dates

- March 16 & March 17
- April 21
- May 11

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## PICTURE FRAMING

Bek Hamilton



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0410 506 451





## UNDER THE INFLUENCE

with local hero **Michael Simic Saturday 9th March**  
Braidwoodians and others filled the theatre for Circle Music's previous production, now let's repeat the process!

**Shortis and Simpson** have done it again with the latest presentation of their series UNDER THE INFLUENCE! This time their "victim" is local hero MICHAEL SIMIC. Directed with flair by Tracy Bourne, this event will be a highlight of 2024 at our beloved National Theatre. Based on the musical influences of his alter ego, MIKELANGELO, this highly creative collaboration captures the many sides of Michael Simic's life, from laconic Aussie bloke to the irrepressible cabaret performer he's become, through music as diverse as Balkan folk, Spaghetti Western, surf music, '50s rock 'n' roll, crooners, children's TV themes, iconic singers and songwriters, original songs and costume changes. Yes, costume changes!

But wait, there's more! All this comes to you with a hot 3-piece band to help lift the roof for an unforgettable show. Direct from packed out shows at the Q in Queanbeyan, UNDER THE INFLUENCE with Michael Simic continues this outstanding series of concerts created by Shortis and Simpson.

This review by Peter Wilkins, of the Canberra Critics Circle, sums it up accurately: "The audience is not only treated to an entertaining evening of music and song from three popular artists, but also made privy to the secrets that fuelled their passion. Add to this mix the talents of their band, The Reprobates, and you have an evening that had the audience completely under their influence.

So folks, get in quickly before the SOLD OUT sign is hung...  
<https://circlemusic.iwannaticket.com.au/event/under-the-influence-shortis-and-simpson-with-michael-simic-MzA5MjU>

## Submissions for the Goulburn Art Award 2024 are now open!

The Award is open to artists living within a 120km radius of Goulburn working in any medium, representing the talent and diversity of artists working within the region. The Gallery encourages submissions from artists at all stages of their careers. There is a total prize pool of \$15,000 on offer.

The guest judge of the Goulburn Art Award 2024 is Bree Pickering, Director, National Portrait Gallery.

The Goulburn Art Award began in 1992 and is held every two years. It is open to artists living within a 120km radius of Goulburn working in any medium. The Award represents the talent and diversity of artists working within the region. The Gallery encourages submissions from artists at all stages of their careers.

Award Categories:

- Goulburn Art Award Winner: \$12,000
- Highly Commended: \$1,500
- People's Choice: \$1,000
- Young Artist Award: \$500.00
- Concurrently, the Gallery will hold the the Young Artist Award for young artists aged 10 - 18 years.

Judge: The 2024 Goulburn Art Award will be judged by Bree Pickering, Director, National Portrait Gallery.

Key Dates:

Entries open: 9am Friday 9 February, 2024

Entries close: 5pm Friday 5 April, 2024

Finalist exhibition dates: Friday 17 May - Saturday 22 June

For terms and conditions of entry for The Goulburn Art Award 2024 [click here](#).

For 120km radius map [click here](#).

The announcement and official exhibition opening event will be held at 6pm Friday 17 May 2024 at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery.



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## Anglican Parish

### Bring back Lent!

How's Lent going for you? Once upon a time Lent was a time for self-examination, fasting, prayer and charitable works. Now the 40-day season of Lent, before we enter Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, is barely a blip on a disappearing horizon. If you take your cue from the average modern supermarket Lent is no more. Now, it's wall to wall chocolate Easter eggs. Straight to the feast, forget the fast.

Keeping a holy Lent now seems quaint, old fashioned. But I wonder if we've lost something important here. An antidote to the illusion of endless abundance, for instance, when we actually live in a limited world. Or a reminder of the reality that access to the basic necessities of life (let alone chocolate) is grossly unequal, even in Australia. Or the realisation that more and more stuff (including chocolate) does not ultimately make us happy, contented, well . . .

There is something to be said for the stripping back that the keeping of Lent offers us. Ultimately, I think, this back-to-basics journey takes us to the core of who we are in God's economy – ordinary, blessed people, created out of love, for love. And as we follow Jesus of Nazareth, lover of life and love, to the end of his life on our shared planet, it is well to remember that we are loved, not condemned, that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

*Jane Foulcher (priest-at-large, Reidsdale)*

Join us on Sunday 10th March, 10am for a worship service at St Andrew's Anglican Church, 47 Elrington St, Braidwood. Always check our Facebook page - Anglican Parish of Braidwood - for updates. Parish contacts: 0497 486 233 email: admin@braidwoodanglican.org.au

## St Bede's Parish

### Reflection on the Gospel of John 3:14-21 by GPBS 5/3/24

What does it mean to come to the light? It starts with honesty, primarily about ourselves. We have to lay down our defences and rationalisations, "our side of the story," and confess ourselves in good old-fashioned Catholic tradition, telling the truth about who we are. It involves admitting we're afraid of our darkness, ashamed of some of our choices, knowing we can be petty and self-serving. We may be unwilling to love our enemies or to forgive those who injure us. Our compassion is undersized, and we shrink from self-sacrifice above all. We don't like risking our comfort and security; most acts of goodness, we know, require that.

We prefer the darkness to the light. In darkness, we can pretend we're better people. We can feel better about ourselves without having to change. But once we come into the light, things have to change. WE must change. The good news is, Jesus makes such change possible, even desirable. We become who we've longed to be. And God so loved the world, just for this.

What truths are hardest to admit about yourself? What kind of person do you long to be?

New Weekend Mass time of 5pm

A Mass will also be held tomorrow 7th March at 11am in St Bede's Church. Father Josh will be celebrating.

## Braidwood Uniting Church

### What gives more joy than the company of grandchildren?

I had the joy of picking up a little girl from school and it happened to be raining heavily at the time. As soon as my dear girl was in my car, she asked if we could go and play in the park. "It's raining darling, we'd get sopped and if I bring you home to your Mum, sopping wet, I could be in all sorts of trouble." After a short silence, my little girl said, "You drive a lot don't you Papa?" (that's our family name for, 'grandfather'). Several times every week I go up and down the Clyde Mountain and so I agreed that I drive a lot. "You must get tired sometimes from all that driving." Although I enjoy driving, I had to agree that there are times when I begin to feel like a very old grandfather at the end of a stint of driving. "Well", she said, "there's a comfortable seat right there in the park". What could I do? We stopped at the park and eventually arrived to see Mum, both of us sopping wet.

Lots of things make no sense at all until you understand then as propelled by love. Playing games in the pouring rain doesn't make a lot of sense. Not only did our action that day not make sense to Mum, in due course, it didn't make any sense to Grandma either. But the joy of playing chasey in the rain makes perfect sense to an old man who dotes on his little girl. In some ways, I think our culture has become so pragmatic, so transactional, so materialist that church doesn't make any sense either. Being an ordained minister is not something you let slip into polite conversation anymore. For so many good reasons, the organized church makes no sense in our time. To make light, sometimes I'll tell people that I've given up my life in the organized church and now I'm trying to find a place in the disorganized church (insert small chuckle here).

We're in the season of Lent and what could be more counter to intuition than meeting together with others to learn the way of the Crucified One? Who in their wildest dreams aims for excellence and congers up an image of Jesus crucified. In any time and any context how does this make sense. My only answer is that it's something like, "singing in the rain" or "swinging in the rain". It's love. It's not fairy floss, balloons and streamers and all will be well, kind of love. It's not 'my little pony' fairytale love that is flush with answers but rather a real, expensive journey that takes us to the edge of knowing and well away from answers or formulas.

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## A Beer with Bazz #148

With  
John  
Longhurst

Mick's eyes darted around the bar and he studied each new patron entering the pub.

He ran a hand across his mouth and lowered his voice as Bazza landed the schooners.

"Thanks, Bazza... now we could well have spies in our midst. Traitors selling us out to foreign powers."

Bazza rubbed an eye and took a long sip.

"Ahh Mick... I could've guessed the press conference by our top spook from ASIO, Mike Burgess, last week would appeal to your healthy paranoia. I'm just not sure if they are going to pick up too much intelligence in our pub."

Mick bit his bottom lip and leaned in.

"I wish you would take matters of national security more seriously, Bazza. According to Burgess, a Mr T is the leader of the A-team and was grooming a potential Australian asset online. Now listen up Bazza...the A-Team have been using good old Aussie names like Sophy, Amy, Ben and Eric\* to blend in... so I reckon we should do our bit and be on the lookout for anything suspicious in our neck of the woods. We can start by writing a list of people drinking fancy cocktails. Bella, the publican might be able to help out, otherwise we will have to spend more time in the pub. Moreover ... I reckon Penny Wong needs to step up."

Bazza rubbed his chin as Mick scanned the bar again for a possible Sophy, Amy, Ben or Eric.

"Yeah, Mick... she should write letters to these foreign powers and outline our concerns."

Mick shook his head and raised both eyebrows.

"I think a bit more action is required, Bazza."

Bazza furrowed his brow.

"How about a very stern letter, Mick. A letter with some capital letters, a bit of underlining and the odd exclamation mark."

Mick's face brightened.

"Now you are talking, Bazza... Penny Wong should use terms like 'AUKUS', 'geopolitics' and 'sovereignty' in the letter."

Bazza took a sip and pursed his lips.

"Good on you, Mick...now we are starting to shake things up. How about we throw in a subtle reminder Australia will have nuclear submarines by the early 2030's, to ensure these foreign powers back off with all this spying. We should also DEMAND meetings on the sidelines with all the likely suspects at the next international get together."

Mick blinked repeatedly.

"What... you mean at the next Matilda's game, Bazza?"

The conversation was cut short with the incessant ringing of a phone.

Bazza's face reddened as Mick followed his ear to the floor before letting out a loud shriek.

"Bloody hell, Bazza... your shoe is ringing like a phone."

[\\*https://www.thenewdaily.com.au/opinion/2024/03/02/michael-pascoe-foreign-influence](https://www.thenewdaily.com.au/opinion/2024/03/02/michael-pascoe-foreign-influence)

Have a beer with Bazza at  
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# FUTURE FARMER

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## Passive Land Hydration pt 4 Abatement Swale

If you've spent any time looking out the window of a moving car you are probably very familiar with abatement swales, although you might not know it. They are very similar to Contour Trenches (as discussed [last week ed 194](#)), with one significant difference.

There are plenty of examples in our area. The most visible being at the Doughboy overtaking lanes on the Kings Hwy. On both sides of the road, abatement swales can be seen. They wind across the landscape like dirt snakes catching runoff. They assist the filling of dams in dry times and guide overflows to less fragile areas of the paddock, just like contour trenches and Yeomans furrows.

The grass colonised the mound decades ago, and reeds are evident in the low points of the structure. There is some habitat as described last week, so I was excited when I first saw these structures in the landscape.

### How did they get there?

Abatement swales were installed in the 1970s, maybe earlier, to protect the Welcome Reef Dam area. They were created to remedy erosion. Significant rain events were damaging paddocks and waterways. Runoff was taking a lot of earth with it after crossing distressed landscapes and dumping it in the Shoalhaven River. Something had to be done.

Stopping the water at the top of the system is paramount to reducing its power. A series of structures slowing the flow is the key to keeping topsoil in your paddock, be it rocks, logs or trenches. The abatement swales have done a good job of reducing erosion, but they have missed an opportunity. One key function.

Abatement swales are constructed with a 5% fall, as opposed to contour trenches that have 0% fall. This means that abatement swales are more accurately abatement drains. The trenches are filled only when the water is running, akin to a seasonal creek. When the rain event halts so do the full trenches.

As we have learnt, the limiting factor for water soakage is the time it spends in contact with the earth. The 5% fall means that the water will slowly but surely drain away. An abatement swale does a good job at draining without damage but is missing a key component for soil health in paddocks.

### Remedy

The soaking benefit of standing water is the best way to improve your soil moisture. Hydration is the key to soil life and productivity. The abatement drains have provided a noble service in the face of erosion, and some minor tweaks to the structure can reap even more benefits.

You could get machines in to modify the trench for a significant change, or you could use simple techniques to a lesser effect. The idea is to create small weirs in the trench. To hold water back before overflowing down the drain and into the next section.

A weir every 10-20m down the abatement swale would hold water for soaking in sections along the structure. Not the same capacity as a true contour trench, but enough to improve your paddock.

If a machine was on hand, the trench could be cleaned out on contour and the spoils used to create a weir downstream. This would take some management while grasses re grow, with specific attention paid to the weir during and after rain events. Perhaps it would be best to scrape the trench intermittently down the line, so some vegetation is still present in the system providing some hydraulic roughness.

A simple way to build a weir would be to use stones from the paddock. Sediment will get caught up in the grass and stones. Initially creating a leaky weir and as time goes on, the weir will become impervious, holding more water for longer.

### Best use

When the land gets steep, a contour trench can fail under the pressure of the standing water. On steeper land, more loose material in the downhill mound, will come under pressure. On shallow land the trench does most of the work holding back the water.

Sepp Holzer is famed for growing in the Austrian alps, on steep country. He specialises in projects from 1000m to 1500m above sea level. His use of modified abatement swales has brought him great success over the past 70 years, in conjunction with other harvesting systems.

An advocate of the 'pay attention: copy nature' philosophy, first coined by his country man Viktor Schaubergger at the end of the 19th century. Holzer has created productive polyculture farms where most folks wouldn't bother, opening up marginal country to regenerative agriculture.

He raises animals, grass, fruit and vegetables in the wild. He creates productive vegetable garden and orchard systems that thrive in extreme conditions. The growing season for Sepp is typically less than 90 days between frosts/snow. A much more challenging environment than Braidwood, Canberra or Goulburn. He managed these feats using trial and error and rejecting accepted practices, all the time being led by natural systems. Food for thought.

### This week

In addition to the trees changing colour, Currawongs are another great indicator of the onset of the cold season. They have just changed their call, signalling the start of their departure. Have you noticed? It's time for them to move on for winter and they are telling anyone who will listen.

The Currawong is traditionally a migrant and likes to leave for a warmer climate when it gets cold in the hills or tablelands. Interestingly, evidence is building in cities and towns along the Great Dividing Range, where Currawongs are resisting the urge to migrate because they have an abundance of food, and the human habitat is warm enough in winter.

The next wave of sauce tomatoes has been harvested and there is way more than the rats and birds can eat. This bounty means its Passata time. Getting an efficient setup takes experience and it evolves every season. Where are all the items I need? I haven't seen some of these things for a year. More likely, they have been used for other duties, so the setup gets an upgrade.

It's been a great growing season this summer, regardless of the cooler temperatures. I'm grateful I didn't have to hand water the garden. The load of produce to store will max out our modest space. There is more than we can possibly eat, so the chickens get to feast too.

The contribution from the flock is always appreciated, so they get the best tucker to fuel their work. Sure, they provide eggs and entertainment, but I'm in it for the scratching and the poop.

Remember, every day is a school day. Stay awesome.

### The Gordon Gnohm

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## One million 'Introduction to AI' scholarships available to Australians

Artificial intelligence (AI) 'scholarships' are now on offer to one million Australians, in a bid to increase the nation's literacy of a technology estimated to be worth \$4 trillion to the economy by the early 2030s.

The free 'Introduction to Artificial Intelligence' microskill course is provided by the National AI Centre (NAIC), coordinated by Australia's national science agency – CSIRO, and the Institute of Applied Technology Digital (IATD).

The course will provide a non-technical introduction to AI fundamentals and is designed for people at the beginning their AI literacy journey.

This makes it ideal for workers seeking to upskill, individuals starting their career in AI, and small to medium business owners.

With many small to medium enterprises (SMEs) grappling with the challenge of adopting AI, NAIC Director Stela Solar said the course is the perfect opportunity for business owners to build their AI understanding.

"SMEs make up over 98 per cent of Australia's economy, and 'Introduction to AI' is their opportunity to learn how they can use this revolutionary technology to enhance their operations, services, and market competitiveness," Ms Solar said.

Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA) CEO Luke Achterstraat welcomed the introduction of the course, praising its ability to provide small businesses with the knowledge needed to unlock AI's vast opportunities.

"Small businesses are a main source of innovation in Australia – they are entrepreneurs who try new ideas, test new products and usually back themselves with their own capital.

"This microskill course will help build confidence and competency for small businesses as they navigate the AI landscape."

Director of IATD Operations Helen Fremlin said the accessibility of the course will empower Australians nation-wide to advance their AI understanding.

"No programming or computer science background is required for students to enrol, and the virtual nature of this course facilitates an easier path for Australians to upskill in AI, whenever and wherever they choose."

Available now through IATD, the two-and-a-half-hour course will cover:

- What AI is
- Common AI terminologies
- The challenges and risks of using AI
- Common misconceptions
- Real-world applications of AI
- Australian AI case studies
- Advice from industry experts to start your career in AI

Students will receive a certificate of completion upon finishing the course.

Register for the course.

## Biotech Nexus Lab to target bovine breakthroughs

### University of Queensland

Connection is key for the new Associate Professor in Animal Biotechnology at the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI).

Associate Professor Sheila Ommeh plans to establish the Biotech Nexus Lab at QAAFI and the first target of her research is pestivirus, a virus endemic in Australian cattle.

"Nexus is a very important word because it means connections, and I thought starting my research in Australia, it would be good to look at connections," Dr Ommeh said.

"I want to find out why pestivirus is endemic and why it is not being eradicated.

"I also want to complement the research already underway at QAAFI and to collaborate with the world class researchers here as a colleague rather than a competitor and that is why I have chosen pestivirus."

Pestivirus or bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) is highly contagious and can cause diarrhoea, early term abortion, loss of condition, reduced reproductive performance and respiratory disease in cattle.

Dr Ommeh said she will consider the connections pestivirus may have with other diseases.

"My previous research with the International Livestock Research Institute on Newcastle disease in poultry for example has shown that eradicating the virus will not be the panacea, as it won't be the only infection present," she said.

"I want to see what the most common coinfections in cattle are, because pestivirus often goes unnoticed even though it's endemic in Australian cattle.

"It often occurs as a coinfection with Bovine Respiratory disease."

And she has lofty goals for the new laboratory and the team she plans to create, starting with the recruitment of a post-doc researcher in the next month.

"In five years I want to have a very clear molecular assay for pestivirus in cattle in Queensland and beyond," Dr Ommeh said.

"Something simple that doesn't compromise on specifics or sensitivity.

"And that should be leading to other diagnostic assays in other livestock as well as the development of vaccines.

"It's all connected."



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## Be on the lookout for Three Day Sickness

### Local Land Services

Bovine Ephemeral Fever (BEF), commonly known as Three Day Sickness, has been confirmed by laboratory testing in cattle in the Shoalhaven with likelihood to spread throughout the South East region. The virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, induces high fever and muscle/joint pain in affected cattle.

District Veterinarian Mark Doyle attributes the cases due to BEF being detected in the North Coast region in November 2023, spreading to the Hunter and progressing south. Recent wet weather also creates ideal conditions for an increase of mosquitoes.

"Once bitten by an insect carrying the virus, symptoms of Three Day Sickness progress rapidly," Mark said.

"Aside from the fever, animals can appear depressed, lethargic, reluctant to eat and appear lame, may drool, shiver and be stiff."

"Cattle that have been previously exposed will develop an immunity to the disease and not be affected."

"Some cattle, especially heavier cattle, bulls and pregnant breeders may go down and take several days to get back on their feet. They are more likely to need extra care to avoid secondary complications."

"The high fever can cause prolonged infertility in bulls and abortion in breeders."

"Anti-inflammatory medication is highly effective in reducing the fever and lessening the muscle and joint pain, improving recovery timeframes, and resulting in less weight loss."

"Given the similarity of symptoms with other diseases, veterinary diagnosis is recommended."

Affected cattle should be provided with shade, water and feed and turned or lifted twice daily to help prevent secondary complications. A paddock free of steep hills or gullies is preferable.

Recently recovered cattle should not be sent to the abattoirs for several weeks to give the body a chance to heal and avoid the possibility of downgrades from any residual muscle damage. Where treatments have been given, any meat/milk withholding periods must be observed.

A vaccine is available, and producers can consider vaccinating stock. The vaccine requires two doses 2-4 weeks apart, if previously unvaccinated, and then a booster every 12 months for ongoing protection. Where the virus is already present, vaccinating now is unlikely to provide protection in time, however these are the first cases seen in the area this season, so there may still be time to vaccinate especially for high value and heavy animals.

More info on Three Day Sickness and managing cattle is available on the [LLS website](#) and [NSW DPI website](#). For further advice contact your South East District Veterinarian by calling 1300 795 299 or your private veterinary

## Learn to

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## Biological Food Production Workshop

**Saturday 16th March, 9.00am – 3.00pm**

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The workshop is designed and presented by Robert Gourlay RFD, B.App.Sc, M.App.Sc. Rob is an environmental scientist who draws on more than 40 years' experience in alternative health measures.

For Bookings visit [phion.com.au](http://phion.com.au), call: 02 4842 8182 (Mon – Thu) or email: [bookings@phion.com.au](mailto:bookings@phion.com.au)

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## Mongarlowe Fire Shed fundraiser

### AT TOMBARRA

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**2 – 9 pm Saturday 9 March**

**Tombarra Events & Accommodation  
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Come and meet the Mongarlowe fires and help them raise much needed funds for major repairs to the wall of the Mongarlowe fire shed.

The fires will be there with one of their fire trucks and there will be live bands to entertain you through the day and into the evening, Paul Hewson Band, Mayhem, Chooze Daze, Sharon Scott, Shaz and Shultz, Nick Munnings Band and Miguel Alvear.

Local businesses Braidwood Butchery, Dojo Bread and IGA Braidwood have donated goods for the sausage sizzle to help raise funds.

Bring your family, your friends, picnic blankets, chairs, and BYO drinks. Coffee and Tea will be available. 100% of funds collected will be donated to the Mongarlowe Fire Shed.

**RSVP Nicchia on 0448 533 616**

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Presented by Lyn Ellis of Currajuggle Creek Consulting

**Sunday 10th March**

**9:30 - 3:30pm**

**LLS/Landcare office**

**42 Ryrie St Braidwood**



**Foundation for  
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& Wildlife**

This project is funded by the FNPW Bushfire Recovery  
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## National Sheep Dog Trial Championships

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- **Braidwood Farmers Market** 16 March
- **Ryrie Park Markets** every 4th Saturday  
9am to 2pm
- **Garage Sales Braidwood Uniting Church**  
Wed's 9-3
- **Bungendore: The Southern Harvest Farmers Market** - 9am (9.30am start time for the winter months) to 12noon  
Saturdays
- **Captains Flat regional Market** 10 - 2pm  
every 2nd Sat

## The Braidwood Waste Transfer Station hours

10am-4:30pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

## Tree Planting on Flood Creek - Braidwood

SATURDAY, 9 MARCH 2024 FROM 09:00-11:00

Judith Wright Gardens, End of Garvey Street, Braidwood.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council ask: Join us at Judith Wright Gardens to plant a few trees and get back into nature! The Judith Wright Gardens are located at the end of Garvey Street in Braidwood, and we'll be planting trees to provide habitat for native animals and restore Flood Creek. Come along and get your hands dirty! Please wear long pants, enclosed shoes, and sun protection. This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee program.

## Braidwood Men's Shed

Braidwood Men's Shed Meet every Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 AM till Lunchtime. New members are always welcome. Drop in for a chat and/or Morning Tea. Do you need something done but don't have the right tools? Why not pop in to the Mens Shed just off Cowper Street next to the SES and have a chat to "Shep" and the lads. You will be warmly welcomed.

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## Become an educator with Family Day Care!

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council asks: Queanbeyan-Palerang Family Day Care are looking for educators to join our network - especially if you are based in Bungendore or Braidwood. Family Day Care is a unique way to work from home, set hours that suit you, be your own boss, and be supported by a national accredited organisation with local support from Council. We are looking for experienced educators and passionate people just getting their childcare qualification. Learn more at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/family-day-care](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/family-day-care) or contact [info.fdc@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info.fdc@qprc.nsw.gov.au) 02 6285 6253

**Enlighten Festival Canberra** 1 to 11 March

**Braidwood Campdraft** 15 - 17 March

**The Machine Show** 5-6 April

**2024 Heritage Festival** 18 April to 19 May.

Queanbeyan-Palerang will participate with a program of activities being developed. Council will be holding our annual Heritage Awards.

**Made in Araluen Market** 27th April.

## Braidwood Folk Club AGM - Monday 18th March, 6pm at Royal Mail Hotel

The Folk Club will hold their AGM on Monday 18th March at the Royal Mail Hotel. Come along at 6pm to support the club and discuss plans for folk-style and community music events for 2024-25. More info/ RSVP: [braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodfolkclub@gmail.com)

## REMINDER

**Telstra is upgrading its mobile base station at Mt Gillamatong by adding additional infrastructure to bring better 4G services to the surrounding community.**

These improvements will temporarily impact Telstra mobile coverage at various times from Monday 4 March, until Friday 15 March 2024. The first phase of disruptions will occur daily between 8am and 4pm on Monday 4 March and Tuesday 5 March 2024. The mobile base station at Monga will also be disrupted during this period as work on the transmission is undertaken. The second phase of disruptions will occur from 8am on Monday 11 March to 5pm on Wednesday 13 March 2024. The site is expected to be off the air for this entire period.

**Minor disruptions will be experienced during the day on Thursday 14 March and Friday 15 March as we test and integrate the mobile network.**

**BCS P&C AGM**  
5pm Wednesday 20th March  
at the Club followed by an Ordinary Meeting- All Welcome!  
All committee positions to be filled  
Any questions call Bek 0410506451

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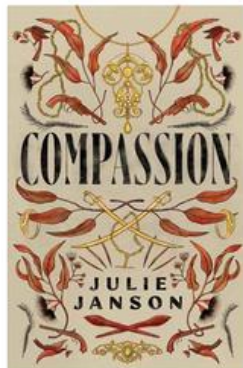


## Moruya Books

invites you to a Literary Lunch with

## Julie Janson

to launch her new novel *Compassion*



*Compassion* continues Julie's emotional and intense literary exploration of the complex and dangerous lives of Aboriginal women during the 1800s in colonial New South Wales, which she began in *Benevolence*, as a counter narrative to colonial history in Australian literature.

Julie will be in conversation with *Indigenous Poet Judith Crispin*

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Paint Easter eggs!

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Find yourself a bargain!

The pub's normal kitchen will be closed but there will be other food options available throughout the day. We apologise for any inconvenience.



"Rachel's farm" screening at Bungendore

"One woman's journey from ecological despair to finding hope in the soil beneath her feet".

**Sunday 24th March at 2pm**

hosted by Bungendore Landcare

Afternoon tea and Q&A opportunity after the screening with our local regenerative farmers.

Ticket/Registration details coming soon!

About the film:

<https://theregenerators.org/rachels-farm/about/>

Official trailer:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozdoFp1Ra\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozdoFp1Ra_E)







## Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council FOR YOUR INFORMATION



### Become an educator with Family Day Care!

Queanbeyan-Palerang Family Day Care are looking for educators to join our network.

Family Day Care is a unique way to work from home, set hours that suit you, be your own boss, and be supported by a national accredited organisation with local support from Council.

Whether you're an experienced educator or just getting your childcare qualification we'd love to hear from you, especially if you are based in Bungendore or Braidwood!

- ▶ Learn more at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/family-day-care](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/family-day-care)
- ▶ Or contact [info.fdc@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info.fdc@qprc.nsw.gov.au)  
02 6285 6253



### Responsible pet owners

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 requires dog owners to take all reasonable precautions to prevent their dog from escaping. This includes making sure fences and gates are properly locked and in good condition.

It also means keeping your dog on lead and under control in public areas.

Keeping your dog properly contained isn't just for their own safety, it's for the safety of the entire community as it helps to prevent dog attacks.

- ▶ Learn more about responsible pet ownership at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/animals](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/animals)

### Have Your Say

Projects & initiatives open for community comment	Closing Date
Queanbeyan River Path - Thorpe Ave - Glenrock Drain	14 March
2024 Review of QPRC Investment Policy	14 March
Update - Towards 2024 - Community Strategic Plan	15 March
Draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy	28 March

- ▶ Find all the details on Council's engagement hub at [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)

Submissions can be made:

- By registering and commenting via [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)
- By email to [council@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qprc.nsw.gov.au)
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- Delivered in person to Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood offices

### Council Meetings and Times

Council holds Ordinary Meetings twice a month on a Wednesday, excluding December and January. Meetings start at 5.30pm. Agendas and business papers for the meetings are available on the Friday prior to the meeting from [bit.ly/MinutesAgendas](http://bit.ly/MinutesAgendas). Meetings are live streamed via [bit.ly/QPRCwebcast](http://bit.ly/QPRCwebcast).

Members of the public can watch the meetings via [bit.ly/QPRCwebcast](http://bit.ly/QPRCwebcast) and make a presentation during the public forum via Zoom, by submitting a written presentation, or in person.

For those wanting to make a presentation on an Agenda item, you can make a:

- Written presentation
  - submit by midday on Tuesday
- Zoom presentation
  - register by midday on Wednesday
- ▶ Register to make a presentation at [bit.ly/QPRCinvolved](http://bit.ly/QPRCinvolved)

Next meeting dates are:

- 13 March
- 27 March

### Written Questions on Notice




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

### Work with Council

- Labourer (General Equipment Operator)
- Customer Service Officer
- Venue Attendant
- Building Surveyor
- General Duties Ranger
- Leading Hand - Footpaths
- Leading Hand - Concrete
- ▶ For more information see [bit.ly/QPRC-Careers](http://bit.ly/QPRC-Careers)

**Advertising of Notices and Documents** under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulations Documents are published at [bit.ly/DPnotices](http://bit.ly/DPnotices)

### Follow us on social media

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@QbnPalrang   
@QbnPalrang 

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[eepurl.com/codv-v](http://eepurl.com/codv-v) 

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council  
PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620  
1300 735 025  
[council@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@qprc.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au)





## Braidwood Golf Club News

### MEN'S PENNANT REPORT

Last Thursday our men's pennant team had another win, a good 4.5 matches to 1.5 matches result against Burns Belconnen at Fairbairn.

Tom Duffy, Chris Witt, Keith Morgan & Brendan Booker all had wins, and Michael Toirkens staged this week's come back to square his match.

Next Thursday the team makes the long trek to Yass to play Federal.

### WOMEN'S PENNANT REPORT

Braidwood's Bronze Shield defence is under way with a 4-1 win over last year's semi-finalists, Gungahlin Lakes, at Bowral last Friday. Two squares bookended the day with Debby Ferguson and, our debutant, Carmen Byrne. In the middle Sarah Heine kept her 100% record intact and Margy Gardner and Michelle Henry wrapped up the other two wins. Next week we play another semi-finalist in Royal Canberra at Belconnen.

### MONA CUP

This year the Mona Cup is on Saturday March 30 and will be a 3 Person Irish Medley with everyone to organise their team before play please. Hit off will be at the normal time.

**RESULTS**-Saturday March 2 Men's Stroke & Monthly Medal Winner: Will Sanders 65 nett, Runner Up: Spiro Agnew 70 nett, Men's NTP 8/17: Michael Toirkens. Jackpot (1m) 3rd \$70: Not Won. Ball Comp: Michael Toirkens 73, Michael Fitzgerald 74, Tom Duffy 75, Keith Ferguson 76 c/bm. Handicap Changes: Will Sanders down 1 to 22, Brendan Sly down 1 to -1. Birdies: 1

Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal: Winner: Virginia Groot Obbink 75 nett. Runner Up: Donna Kuhn 76 nett. Putting: Virginia Groot Obbink. Handicap Changes: Donna Kuhn out 1 to 32, Michelle Henry out 1 to 30

Pars: 6

## Coming Events

- **March 9 Saturday:** Canberra Day Weekend  
Men's Single Stableford – Jim Lindwall Trophy  
Women's 2BBB Stableford – Durran Durra Truffles Trophy
- **March 16 Saturday:** Committee Meeting 10.30am  
Men's Single Stableford – Nutrien Ag Trophy  
Women's Single Stableford – Isobel Mutton Trophy 2nd Round
- **March 23 Saturday:** Medley Irish Stableford – P.B.L. (Bruce) Hovey Trophy
- **March 30 Saturday:** Easter Weekend 3-4 Person Ambrose – Mona Cup
- **April 6 Saturday:** Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal Daylight Saving Ends
- **April 13 Saturday** Men's Single Stableford – David Goddard Trophy  
New Hit Off Times Apply Women's Single Stableford – Dojo Bread Trophy
- **April 20 Saturday** Committee Meeting 10.30am  
Men's 2BBB Stableford – Rodney Royds Trophy  
Women's 2BBB Stableford – Hyland Trophy
- **April 27 Saturday** Medley American Foursomes – John Harb Trophy
- **May 4 Saturday** Men's & Women's Stroke & Monthly Medal
- **May 11 Saturday** Men's Single Stableford – Rod Coady Memorial Trophy  
Women's Single Stableford – Helen Goddard Memorial Trophy
- **May 12 Sunday** Mother's Day
- **May 18 Saturday** Committee Meeting 10.30am  
Men's Single Stableford – Michael Toirkens Trophy  
Women's Single Stableford – Vanilla Café Trophy
- **May 25 Saturday** Medley 2BBB Drawn after play Concept Café Trophy

## Birdies, Pas and Eagles for Braidwood Scouts

Community Bank Braidwood is partnering with Braidwood Golf Club and Braidwood scouts with a unique fundraising project.

The bank will pay Scouts on the performance of the golf members on competition days as follows:

LADIES: \$10 each par  
\$50 each birdie  
\$100 each eagle/hole in one  
MENS: \$10 each birdie  
\$50 each eagle/hole in one

The results are updated after each competition day on a scoreboard magnificently made by the Braidwood men's Shed. The amount is capped at \$2000.00

Golf Club President, Mr Keith Ferguson said "This is a great initiative by the bank and one that will assist financially a very worthy community organisation, the Braidwood Scouts."

Braidwood Scouts Leader, Mr Mal Campbell said "We are thankful to the Community Bank and the Golf Club with this project. our plan is to have the Scouts participate in golf lessons during the year in the hope that some of them will take it up on a regular basis".

Regular updates on the scoreboard will be provided in the Braidwood media and the golf newsletter plus each time you visit the Servicemen's Club you will see the scoreboard.

Let's hope the men and women golfers score plenty of pars, birdies, eagles and hopefully the odd hole in one during the course of the year.

	
<b>Braidwood Golf Club</b>	<b>1st Braidwood Scout Group</b>
<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>MEN</b>
PARS@\$10: <b>200</b>	BIRDIES@\$10: <b>140</b>
BIRDIES@\$50: <b>250</b>	EAGLES@\$50: <b>0</b>
EAGLES@\$100: <b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL: \$</b>	<b>590</b>
Sponsored by:	Community Bank Braidwood <b>Bendigo Bank</b>
SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY	





## Explore Goulburn's Historic Cemeteries

Step back in time and discover the rich history of Goulburn's early pioneers at St Saviour's Old Cemetery and Mortis Street Cemetery.

The Friends of Goulburn Historic Cemeteries Group invites you to an informal "call in anytime" event where you can meet with members of the group and stroll among the headstones, unearthing fascinating stories of Goulburn's early settlers, dating back to the early 1830's.

Whether you're embarking on a journey to uncover the roots of your family tree or just interested in the lives of the great men and women who helped shape Goulburn's history, these open days will provide an opportunity to gain further insights and information from knowledgeable volunteers.

For those eager to further explore the history of these sites, booklets will be available for purchase at \$10 each, covering both St Saviour's Old Cemetery and Mortis Street Cemetery. Please note that the terrain may be uneven, so wearing flat footwear is advisable. All visitors participate at their own risk.

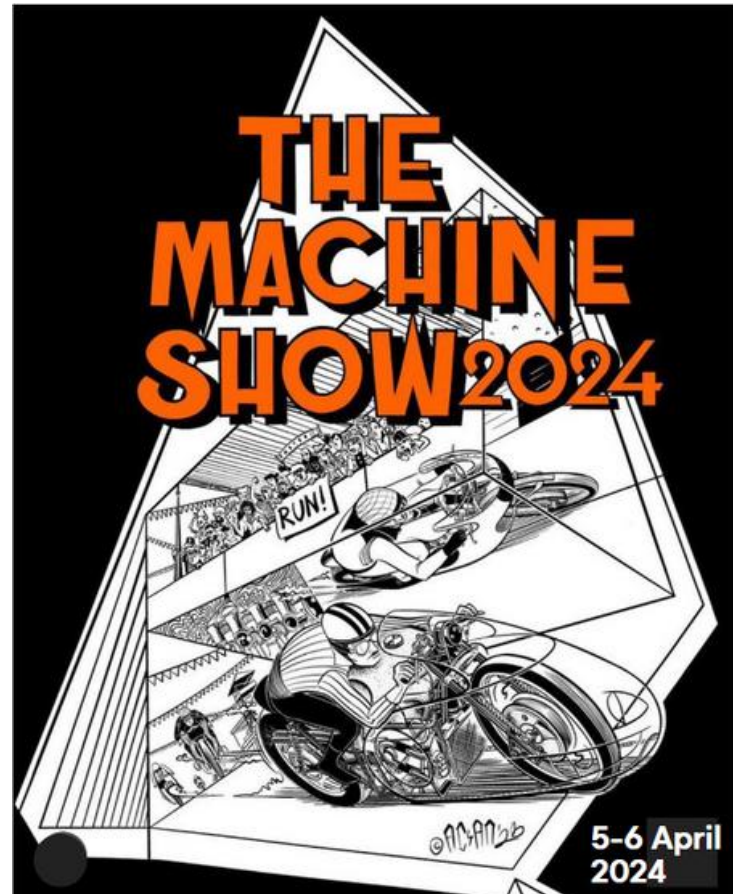
Enjoy this enriching journey through Goulburn's past, where every headstone tells a story. For more information on the Friends of Goulburn Historic Cemeteries Open Days, visit:

[www.goulburnaustralia.com.au](http://www.goulburnaustralia.com.au).

The event will take place on Saturday 9 March 2024, from 10.00am to 2.00pm at St Saviour's Old Cemetery, located at the end of Cemetery Street (behind the Gaol). On Sunday 10 March 2024, join the group at Mortis Street Cemetery, from 10.00am to 2.00pm, also situated on Cemetery Street (behind Kermac Engineering).

When: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March 2024 Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Where: Saturday St Saviour's Old Cemetery. Sunday Mortis Street Cemetery. Admission: Free. Booklets \$10



**WIN**  
STATE FINAL WINNERS ENJOY  
AN EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO  
BPLC20 IN NOVEMBER 2024

# BPL CUP

**PLAY FOR A BPL CUP  
NATIONAL TITLE AT CLUB PINE RIVERS**

**CLUB: BRAIDWOOD BOWLING CLUB**

**DATE & TIME: SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2024, 10am Start**

**INFO: Tom: 0488 143 400**

**FORMAT**  
2 SETS OF 5 ENDS, 1 END TIE-BREAK IF REQUIRED | TEAMS OF 3 OR 4 PLAYERS, PLAYING 2-BOWL TRIPLES

**WANT TO ENTER NOW?**  
SCAN THE QR CODE, CLICK ON "ENTER A TEAM" AND FILL OUT THE ONLINE FORM  
OR REGISTER YOUR TEAM AT [WWW.BOWLS.COM.AU/BPL-CUP](http://WWW.BOWLS.COM.AU/BPL-CUP)

**ENQUIRIES:**  
EMAIL: [BPLCUP@BOWLS.COM.AU](mailto:BPLCUP@BOWLS.COM.AU)

## Riding Lessons are Back at Saddle Camp!



Would you love to be a  
balanced, effective and  
confident Rider  
in just 20 lessons?

If you're 5 years or older, and weigh less than 70 kg  
(so sorry to be limiting - our current horses are a lighter build!),  
then we can make your Riding Dreams come true in our:

**Formal Private Riding Lessons**

or

**Saddle Club - After-School Riding Fun**

Formal Private Lessons are 30 minutes of intense concentration, available Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. And cost \$50/lesson.

Saddle Club is more about Gently Shaping your Riding Skills, a trail ride out and mounted games. Available Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, cost \$40/afternoon.

For more details and to book,  
see [www.saddlecamp.com.au/riding-lessons](http://www.saddlecamp.com.au/riding-lessons) or  
email [thesaddlecamp@gmail.com](mailto:thesaddlecamp@gmail.com) or  
call Helen on 0417 456 093.



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## Cara takes out Open Minor Singles



**Cara Patton and Leigh Curtis**

Braidwood Bowling Club report: In a first for our club since becoming amalgamated in 2017 a lady has won an open singles event. **Cara Patton put on a display, simply put as amazing, against Leigh Curtis in the final of the Open Minor Singles.**

(pictured above).

Cara jumped out to a 7-1 lead early, before Leigh found his feet and catching up to 6-7, and then it was shot by shot with Leigh having to play some cracking shots to stop Cara from getting a run on, where she constantly had 3 bowls surrounding the jack. The scores were basically tied up at 12-11 in the favour of Cara, before she decided to put on a master class of draw bowling, running away with the match 25-12. The most impressive thing about the match though was that despite the score line Leigh also played very well, and when he would defend two or three shots, Cara was able to get a roll or 2 out of his bowl to replace it and pick up a number. It was bad luck for Leigh finishing runner up for the second consecutive year, so let's hope 3rd time lucky for you mate. A big thanks to Barry Backhouse for marking the match. This week our green keeper Dylan Essex teamed up with Lee Schraner to contest the "Golden Eagle" pairs tournament in Orange. The Golden Eagle, one of the most prestigious pairs tournaments running. Dylan and Lee came away as tournament champions. Well Done and Congratulations. This weekend our pennant team is off to Tomakin, good luck team.

Social bowls will be on at 1 pm on Sunday. All welcome. Names need to be in by 1245.

## Return of the Braidwood Show Society Campdraft

**15 - 17 March**

Braidwood Show Society is pleased to announce the return of the Braidwood Show Campdraft in March 2024. After years of not being able to run the Show due to drought, bushfires, the pandemic and showground upgrades, the ability to raise funds for the Braidwood community has been very limited. The Show Society haven't run a campdraft since the early 1980's and are keen to explore opportunities like this to raise more funds for the Braidwood Community.

By running the Show and a Campdraft in the same month, Braidwood Show Society President John McGlone says he is "Excited at the opportunity to attract more visitors and raise funds for the Braidwood community."

The efforts and time dedicated by our hard-working committee has been invaluable.

Campdrafting is extremely popular in the performance horse world and we hope to attract both newcomers and experienced competitors to Braidwood for this event."

Campdrafting is a fast-paced sport that requires competitors to cut one cow from a herd, work it in the camp and then run it through a set course in the outside arena. There are classes available for juniors (age 8-12); juvenile (age 13-17) and open age. The campdraft kicks off on Friday 15 March at 10:00am, with events running through to Sunday afternoon.

Volunteers organising the campdraft are excited to be able to support the Show Society and have committed to returning all profits back into the Braidwood community. They have gained the support of many businesses through sponsorship and prize donations to add to the already generous cash prize pool.

Like and follow the Facebook page for updates and further details on entries and the order of events: Braidwood Show Society Campdraft and Sorting (#BSSDraftAndSort). Sponsorship and trade stall enquiries should be directed to [braidwoodentries@gmail.com](mailto:braidwoodentries@gmail.com).



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**RACING NEWS**  
**WITH THE JEMBAICUMBENE PUNTER****What a start to March for Aaron Clarke Racing**

Aaron Clarke and team travelled to Goulburn on March 1st with Kenseye Charmer for race 5 over 1300 metres, ridden by Richard Bensley, they won it in fine style.

On Sunday Aaron travelled down the hill to Moruya. In race 5 over 1650 metres, Red Redemption and Richard Bensley did not have any luck.

It was then time for the big one, race 7, the Newhaven Park Sera City Country Championships Qualifier over 1400 metres. Bon Frankie with Richard Bensley on board took out third place.

Goulburn trainer, Danny Williams took out first and second with Bandi's Boy ridden by Jay Ford first and Atmospheric Rock ridden by Jason Collett.

Last month one of the part owners of Bandi's Boy passed away and during the week one of Danny Williams staff also died. It was a very emotional Danny Williams interviewed after the Race. Both of these horses will now be able to compete in the big one at Randwick on April 6th.

Danny Williams also won Race 6 over 1200 metres with Montebello's Charm ridden by Nick Heywood.

Braidwood resident, Mrs Mary Bray, started Flying Impala ridden by B Serena, but had no luck. Mary Bray trains out of Goulburn. Flying Impala is a 4 year old Bay gelding by Flying Artie. Flying Artie is also the sire of Artie Bee.

Greg Backhouse took out third place in Race 6, over 1200 metres with Felix Pereon ridden by Michael Cahill. Felix Perron is a 5 year old Bay Gelding by Ad Valorem.

On Monday Aaron took Artie Bee over to Cowra for Race 7 over 950 metres. Ridden by apprentice Jade McKenzie he won it well.

Good to hear Giga Kick is back in training with the ultimate aim of taking out the Everest.

Think It Over spoilt the party for Fangirl and James McDonald when beaten in the Group One, Verry Eelegant Stakes over 1600 metres at Royal Randwick last Saturday. Nash Rawiller had a brilliant ride and took out the honours. Lindermann and Tim Clarke came third.

In South Australia Todd Balfour, who was a former jumps jockey was disqualified for five years for 'dacking' an official at Kangaroo Island Race meeting last month. He is expected to appeal the penalty.

Fangelo will have his next Race at Canberra on March 10.

Punters Share horses are all still resting. Happy Casino was to have a jump out at Wangaratta on Tuesday. There have not been any reports, so I presume he didn't exactly 'Set the world on Fire'.

Until next time.

Happy Punting.



Bon Frankie with Richard Bensley on board took out third place in the Newhaven Park Sera City Country Championships Qualifier at Moruya on Sunday. Photo Bradleys Photographers.



Ross Lavis with before the Newhaven Park Sera City Country Championships Qualifier at Moruya on Sunday.



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## Bennett to compete in Stihl Timbersports® Australian Trophy in Cairns

Majors Creek athlete Curtis Bennett is gearing up for the upcoming world-renowned STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Australian Trophy taking place in Cairns for the first time on Saturday, 16th March.

Curtis Bennett, is the 2022 Australian Rookie Champion and is ready to take on the top Pro athletes in his first ever competition in the Trophy format.

Bennett has been training for the Trophy for the last few months and is ready to show the top guns of this sports what he has made of.

STIHL TIMBERSPORTS is Australia's Original Extreme Sporting competition, where the Trophy format is the sport's most physically demanding competition. Athletes are required to chop & saw four logs in four different disciplines back-to-back in gruelling knockout matchups, the top athletes aiming to do so in under 60 seconds.

The Cairns event includes the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Australian Women's Championship where the top 6 female athletes will battle it out in 3 round competitions consisting of Underhand Chop, STIHL Stock Saw, and the Single Buck disciplines all to be crowned the 2024 Women's Champion in this original extreme sport.

Three-time Australian Trophy winner and reigning champion Laurence O'Toole will defend his title against 15 of Australia's elite STIHL

TIMBERSPORTS® athletes, with his biggest competition expected to come from the 2022 winner Brad De Losa and 2021 champion Mitch Argent who are ready to take back the crown.

Laurence O'Toole said: "2023 was a great year for me as an athlete, including winning the Australian Trophy and coming second in the Australian Pro Championship.

Coming into the 2024 STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® season I am looking to take home the win again, but competition will be fierce this year. I would love the chance to represent Australia again at the 2024 World Trophy."

2023 Australian Women's Champion Jodie Beutel will be looking to defend her title on home turf. But competition will be hot on her heels, including last year's runner up Amanda Beams and third place finisher Katrina Head, both athletes will be looking to take that number one spot on the podium this year.

Women's Australian Champion Jodie Beutel said: "It's an amazing feeling heading into this year's competition with the 2023 championship under my belt, and competing in Queensland will hopefully give me a home ground advantage. But I'm not leaving anything to chance, I'll bring my all this 2024 STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® season, I've been training hard and hope to defend the championship."

Event Director Renee Kitto is thrilled to see the competition on a brand new stage. She said: "Excitingly for us, this is the first time STIHL

TIMBERSPORTS® has been held in an indoor arena in Australia.

Our TIMBERSPORTS® athletes are excited to visit far north Queensland and for the opportunity to compete in an amazing indoor venue. Tickets to the event are free, so we hope to see many Cairns locals come join us for an axe-tion packed day!

SCHEDULE: Australian Trophy Time Trial: 12:00– 13:00 Women's Championship: 13:00– 14:00 Australian Trophy: 14:30– 17:00– Main Event.



Curtis Bennett

### SAVE THE DATE



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### **Braidwood Scouts 2024 Mega Car Boot Sale**

Contact Louise McKendry at [lcole76@gmail.com](mailto:lcole76@gmail.com)

CAKE STALL

EGG & BACON ROLLS

KIDS ACTIVITIES

HEAPS OF STALLS



**1st Braidwood**  
Scout Group

## 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 \$400.**  
**Raffles on sale from 6.00pm draw starts at 7.30pm.**

- **Bridge** every Tuesday 1pm
- **Poker** 1st Sunday of every month
- **Trivia** - First Wednesday of the Month

**NEW** Restaurant Telephone: **4876 7809** Club Telephone :**4842 2108** [www.BraidwoodServicemensClub.com.au](http://www.BraidwoodServicemensClub.com.au)