

Queanbeyan Show
this Saturday &
Sunday

Burra Car
Boot Sale: this
Sunday

Pet
of the
Week



Regional Independent

Free

An independent, community newspaper distributed throughout the
Queanbeyan - Palerang region

No. 447

Wednesday 5 November, 2025

Community spirit thrives at the 2025 Community Bank Bungendore Show



Despite the weather the 2025 Community Bank Bungendore show was a hit for the local community. There was something to see or do everyone at the show this year and the committee did an outstanding job bringing the best one day show in NSW to life.

From the fan favourites like the dog high jump, pet parade and flat chat dog race to the more recent addition of the mascot race the local show put on a wonderful display for the local community. It really showcased our local community spirit. The CWA scones were a massive hit with the CWA ladies making more than 800 scones and raising over \$1000.

The cattle competition was a hit with people gathering to learn from the judge about what constituted a great handler and show cow. The sheep section had everyone swooning over the little lambs at foot. The Pavilion had more than 1,000 entries showcasing the best produce, crafts, flowers, baking and photography from our region.

continued page 17

More photos page 17

SPRING

A graphic where the word "SPRING" is formed by various spring flowers and plants, including daffodils, tulips, and snowdrops, set against a blue background.

BUNGENDORE MITRE 10

A photograph showing the interior of a Mitre 10 Garden Centre. It features rows of plants, flowers, and gardening supplies, with a white shelving unit in the foreground.

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Community News

Queanbeyan Probus Club

The Probus Club of Queanbeyan meets on the third Monday of each month from 10am to approx. 11.30am at the Queanbeyan Bowling Club, on the corner of Canberra Ave and Campbell St., Queanbeyan. Our aim is to have fun, provide fellowship and make new friends. Each month the Club has a short formal meeting, morning tea, usually a Guest Speaker, followed by lunch at a local eatery.

At the Club's last monthly meeting on 20 October, we had the pleasure of listening to Mr Bobby Gane, a representative from Mercy Ships. Mercy Ships is an international development organisation that deploys state-of-the-art hospital ships and trained volunteers to developing nations in medical crises.

The hospital ships are used to deliver free, world class health services, capacity building and sustainable development aid to those without access in the developing world. Each year, more than 1,200 volunteers from over 60 nations serve with Mercy Ships and since 1978, they have delivered services to more than 2.84 million beneficiaries.

Bobby, an electrician by trade, donated 5½ months of his time as a volunteer overseas and found the experience to be very rewarding. He explained that the Mercy Ships sail to a port, at the invitation of that country's government, dock for approximately 10 months and provide a range of medical services through collaboration with qualified local and international

partners. They help to reduce surgical backlog, mentor and train local healthcare professionals and renovate and improve local healthcare facilities. Why a ship? They bring their own power, water and a fully equipped hospital; up to 70% of the world's population lives within 160 kilometres of a working port and the ship provides security for the staff and patients. Funding for Mercy Ships is provided primarily through private donations, foundations and socially responsible corporations. Volunteers serving on the ships and in the field contribute not only their professional skills but also monthly fees to cover their costs. More information about this charity can be found at www.mercyships.org.au.



The Queanbeyan Probus Club is always keen to welcome new members. If you would like to come along to one of our meetings please contact the Club's Secretary, Jenny Jones on 0458 219 718 or the Club

President, June Ceretti on 0417 680 250. They can tell you when the Club will next meet and ensure a member is available to introduce and welcome you.

Sue Page

Queanbeyan Probus Club
Photo supplied L-R, Claire Leggett, the Club's Guest Speaker Organiser, Bobby Gane and the Club's President, June Ceretti.

Bungendore Seniors - BINGO is back!

The Bungendore Seniors Association Incorporated welcomes anyone over the age of 55 to come along and join in.

Get Togethers

Our get togethers are weekly and we alternate between Thursdays and Fridays, so mark your calendar and join us on a Thursday or a Friday or come along to both. Enjoy great conversation, a few laughs, some games and morning tea.

We meet at 10am at the Bungendore Sports Hub ammenties building (parking near the netball courts).

Cost is \$5.00 per person, which includes morning tea.

See right for dates.

Everyone's welcome!

Seniors Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays at the Bungendore Scout Hall. Chair

Yoga is held during school

terms only. One class during the winter months at 2.30pm

Cost: \$13 per session for members, \$18 for non-members. All welcome to attend

Membership

Yearly membership is only \$10.00 per person. We welcome everyone over the age of 55. 2026 Membership will be due in January.

For more information contact Sharon on 0419 025 533 or

email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com

BINGO is back!

November Dates

- Thursday 6, November - 10 am to 12 noon - Bungendore Sports Hub
- Friday 14, November - 10 am to 12 noon - Bungendore Sports Hub

December \ Christmas Bingo

- Thursday 4, December - 10 am to 12 noon - Bungendore Sports Hub
- Friday 12, December - 10 am to 12 noon - Bungendore Sports Hub

For these dates, bingo will replace our regular games. Cost is the usual \$5.00 which includes morning tea.

Bingo books are FREE, lots of great, fun, little prizes. Save the dates & bring a friend!

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This year's Christmas luncheon is at the Lake



George Dining Room.

Date: Wed 10th Dec 2025

Time: 12.30pm

Cost: \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members

Menu: Main - small chicken breast with sage cream sauce + roast potatoes + carrots + broccoli or beans

Dessert - sticky date pudding

Yummy treats, lucky door prizes and some little gifts from Santa

To book please email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com

2025 Get-Togethers

THURSDAYS

- Thurs 6 November
- Thurs 20 November
- Thursday 4 December
- Thurs 18 December

FRIDAYS

- Friday 14 November
- Friday 28 November
- Friday 12 December



Regional Independent

The Regional Independent is the only free, printed, independent, community newspaper within the Queanbeyan-Palerang local government area.

Distribution is **now 6,000** copies every fortnight, with stands in Queanbeyan, Karabar, Jerrabomberra, Bungendore, Braidwood and Wamboin.

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Community News

Water rate overcharge: \$154,328 credited back to affected residents

At the council meeting Wednesday 22 October, 'Questions on Notice' from the Public included questions from Robert Wilson concerning the overcharging on recent water rates.

It was revealed that 17,694 properties received water rate notices that overlapped the end of the financial year and were incorrectly charged at the 2025-26 rate for water

usage that occurred during 2024-25. Council confirmed that the issue was caused by a "date error in the system," which has since been corrected.

The average overcharge per property was \$8.71, totalling \$154,283.00 across all affected accounts. The date error impacted all properties where water meters were read between 1 July and 1 August.

Council first identified the error on Friday, 10 October, and corrected it by Monday, 13 October, processing credit transactions to every affected property account.

A Council spokesperson confirmed that this was the first time such an error had occurred, stating: "Unfortunately, there was a date error in the system. Some water notices for the period that overlapped two

financial years had water rates calculated at the 2025-26 charge for water usage that occurred in the 2024-25 period. The error has now been corrected.

"During the 2024-25 financial year, Council moved from a quarterly manual reading and cut-off to a rolling quarterly water billing cycle, in line with the rollout of smart meters, which automatically upload

readings into our systems. "Council has recalculated all affected accounts and applied a credit transaction to each one. The credit is now visible to residents who access their account online, and their next water notice will show a credit opening balance for any overpayment caused by the error.

"An alert notice has been placed on our website. All billing data has been

reviewed and corrected. As there is no action required by ratepayers, and because many of the overcharge amounts are smaller than the cost of mailing, the expense of sending additional letters is not justified."

Your can read the public forum minutes at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings>

Sharon Baxter-Judge

Burra Car Boot Sale the Region's BIGGEST: this Sunday

Burra Community Association is holding a Community Car-Boot Sale at Burra Park (corner of Lagoon and Burra Roads, Burra) on Sunday 9 November from 9am to 1pm.

Come for a drive to the beautiful Burra Valley

(only 20 minutes from Queanbeyan).

This is the 5th year and we are now the biggest in the region and possibly in NSW. (Official Garage Sale Trail data).

Last year we had 65 stalls,

let's beat that record.

We will have our own Burra Cafe from 8am with egg and bacon rolls, sausage sandwiches, tea, coffee, soft drinks, juices.

(All funds raised go to run further events for the Burra

Community.)

Cameleon Icecreamery will also be there with HomeMade ice cream, thick shakes and milkshakes.

Burra Rural Fire Service will be in attendance with a fire engine and activities for adults and children to participate in.

Stalls are \$10 each. Country size stall not a city postage stamp size stall.

A chance to clear out the house and shed of unwanted "stuff" and pass it onto another good home.

The New Burra Community Shed (like a Men's Shed but for all the Community) will have a stall of all extra tools and machinery.



You name it, someone most

likely will have it for sale or free: garden stuff, plants, horse paraphernalia, bric-a-brac, collectables, toys, tools, homemade jewelry, handcrafted quilts, house clearance gear, kitchen appliances, odds and sods, farm gear and more.

You can sell anything that is legal.

Still room for more stall holders.

To book a stall contact John on 0417 676 664.

Buying general public free entry.

Photos supplied

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Community News

Remembrance Day Commemoration 2025: Bungendore

Part 3 - Royal Australian Navy in Korea

When North Korea invaded the South, RAN vessels stationed in Japan since the end of World War II were put on immediate alert.

On 29 June 1950 Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced that the frigate HMAS Shoalhaven and the destroyer HMAS Bataan would be placed under UN command in Korea. On 27 July 1950, the destroyer HMAS Warramunga was also deployed. In May 1951 HMAS Murchison proceeded to Japan for service in the Korean War. In October 1951, the carrier HMAS Sydney arrived in Korean waters to replace HMS Glory for a three-month tour.

Battle of the Han River

Starting in July 1951, a number of small UN warships, including HMAS Murchison began operating in the Han River, north-west of the South Korean capital, Seoul. The warships were able to penetrate 50 kilometres inland from the Yellow Sea to a wide anchorage at the confluence of a number of narrow channels which were still navigable at high tide. From this point many important Chinese targets on the north bank of the Han were engaged with naval gunfire.

The Chinese soon responded to the threat that this posed. On the afternoon of 28 September HMAS

Murchison was ambushed near the mouth of the Yesong River from Chinese positions entrenched and concealed in three nearby villages. The Chinese engaged with 75mm field guns, mortars and small arms from a range of 2,000 metres; Murchison responded with the ships' 4-inch main armament and Bofors. The Murchison being struck repeatedly by small arms fire and shrapnel, achieved direct hits on a 75 mm gun and an enemy trench.

Two days later on 30 September, Murchison was again engaged by Chinese fire while transiting the same stretch of river. This time the fire was heavier and more accurate, and the Murchison was hit several times by 50mm anti-tank rounds which passed straight through its hull. A 75mm round also exploded in the engine room, although no significant damage was inflicted. Murchison returned fire and attempted to move westward. A misty rain squall reduced visibility in the narrow channel, forcing the ship to slow down almost to a halt. As the rain eased and the Murchison began to make way it was suddenly engaged once more, this time from further to the west by a second group of Chinese weapons from a range of just 600 metres. Vigorously returning fire, the Australians destroyed several Chinese positions and managed to



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

044744

fight their way clear. Four sailors were wounded in the encounter.

Despite the incident, UN patrols in the Han river continued, although significantly restricted due to the increasing Chinese threat posed to the ships from shore positions. In November 1951 it was decided

to cease operations on the Han altogether. A total of 14 UN warships were engaged in these operations over a four-month period, HMAS Murchison spent a total of 60 days on the river, 31 days more than any other.

Please join the Bungendore

War Memorial Committee for the Remembrance Day Commemoration, on Tuesday 11th November commencing at 1030 at the Bungendore War Memorial on Mick Sherd Oval.

Bungendore War Memorial Committee

Iconic Lions Christmas cakes and puddings on sale

Queanbeyan has brought us many great things but who knew the nationally loved Lions Christmas cake got its start there? Born in Queanbeyan, the Lions Christmas cake has become a staple at the tables of millions of Australian homes.

Known for its great taste, high fruit content, and long shelf life, the iconic cake has raised more than \$50 million for local communities since starting in Queanbeyan over 50 years ago.

The late Noel Reid OAM, former Queanbeyan Lions Club President and District Governor, was instrumental in the foundation of the much loved cake fundraiser. Noel ran the fundraiser out of

Queanbeyan until 1984, along with Lions legends the late Aub Rankin, Ern Smith and Peter Stapleton OAM who were all part of getting the fundraiser rolling out.

Lions cakes are a fantastic fundraiser for clubs across Australia, and 100 per cent of funds raised from the public goes to support local community projects, charities and service organisations that support vulnerable people and families in need.

Lions Club of Queanbeyan will be selling the famous Lions Christmas cakes and puddings at several sites in the lead up to Christmas 2025.

Volunteers will be selling Lions Christmas cakes and puddings at

Riverside Plaza from 13 November until 22 December, 10am-4pm Thursday to Sunday.

Cakes and puddings are also available from the Lions Community Bookshop, located in Queanbeyan Park, between Lowe and Campbell Streets (near the Oval, behind the police station) 10am-4pm Tuesday to Saturday each week.

Or cakes and puddings can be ordered by email at: queanbeyan.nsw@lions.org.au

Recommended retail prices are:

- Lions Christmas Pudding 900gm - \$16.00
- Lions Mini Cake 80gm - \$2.00
- Lions Christmas Cake 1.5kg - \$16.00

For further information on what we

do please visit us at our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/lionsofqueanbeyan> or call us on 0461 365 831.

Photo supplied

Bungendore Food Hub

Fast-Dealing Property Trading Game

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Community News

Council Meeting Summary - 22 October 2025

QPRC

Here is the summary of the resolutions made at the Ordinary Council meeting of 22 October 2025. The archived recording of the meeting is now available at: <https://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/archive/video25-1022.php>

- Council heard from five members of the public who made presentations about items on the agenda, including Unsealed Road Policy, a development at 38A Forster St Bungendore, and a DA for temp accommodation at Woodlawn Mine Tarago

- Council endorsed the Unsealed Council Road Policy for public exhibition at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au> and will adopt the policy if no submissions are received

- Council deferred consideration of DA.2025.0211, for construction of a two-storey dwelling house at 38A Forster St Bungendore, to allow for a site inspection that includes Council's heritage adviser.

- Council granted conditional consent to DA.2025.0110 for construction and installation of temporary workers' accommodation on 1634 Taylors Creek Road, Tarago

- Following public exhibition,

Council agreed to name the Ellerton Drive bridge the Andy Land Bridge

- Council approved the use of Local Government Procurement Panel Contract LGP115-2 by the General Manager for the purchase of NB-IoT water meters for the financial years 2025-26 to 2028-29

- Council received investment report for September 2025, noting return of \$1,451,613

- Council endorsed Category H grant to provide small meeting room at Norah Starrs Community Centre until 31 January 2025 to allow operation of Your Healing Space

- Council adopted the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Charter 2025

- Council adopted the QPRC Climate Projections for 2030, 2050 and 2070

- Council allocated \$2,509,047 from Roads to Recovery Program for 2025-26 to Old Cooma Road (Wellsvale Drive to Fernleigh Drive) and Edwin Land Parkway (700m past Numeralia Drive towards Cooma St)

- Council received information report about the Faster

Assessment Incentive Program

- Council received information report with summary of road renewal and maintenance activities for 1st quarter of 2025-26

- Council received information report on the HSEQ Quarterly Report 1 July-30 September

- Council received information report with response from NSW Minister for Environment about protection of Southern Greater Glider habitat

- Council received information report about Councillor workshop on 15 October about Unsealed Road Grading Policy

- Council noted the minutes of the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee on 4 September 2025

- Council noted minutes of the Queanbeyan Showground Advisory Committee on 8 September 2025

- Council noted the draft minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on 15 September 2025

- Council approved Category H grant funding at the Norah Starrs Community Centre (Bungendore Community Centre) for the purpose of a youth hub, meeting and activity

space

- In closed session, Council noted minutes of the Queanbeyan Sporting Gallery on 29 September 2025, endorsed Sian A'Hearn, Matthew Barbaro, Jo Lesiputty, Penny Slater, and Yasmin Clydesdale as future members

- In closed session, Council declined to accept tender submission received for Bulky (Hard) Waste Kerbside Clean-Up, authorised GM to enter negotiations with JJ Richards & Sons or with any suitable party to establish contract terms. Council will receive a subsequent report summarising outcomes of negotiations, including recommendation of how Council may proceed with kerbside bulky waste services.

- In closed session, Council endorsed the GM's Performance Review Panel Report for the Annual Performance Review 2024-25 and the Performance Agreement with Council's Strategic Objectives and Priorities for 2025/26

If you'd like more information about these matters, you can find the business papers and minutes on our website at: <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council-meetings>

Christmas Fair at the Bungendore War Memorial Hall: Markets this Sunday November 9

Come along to the Hall this Sunday for our annual Xmas Fair. Running from 9am until 3pm there will be some of our usual stalls and a few new ones too. If you are looking for that unique Xmas Gift then come and see what you can find. From pottery to quilts, art to books, we have an eclectic mix of quality items, mostly handmade by the stallholders.

Our cafe will also be running with Siteri's wonderful fare, including her famous pies and some very tasty cakes and slices.



We look forward to seeing everyone there, and as usual all proceeds support the running and restoration of our Hall.

Photos supplied



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Community News

Crafters' Co-Op Skill Up

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative have continued to proudly host monthly craft workshops right here in Bungendore. Working out of the Craft Room at the Bungendore Learning Hub, the Co-Op have most recently held a journal-making/binding workshop for beginners as well as workshops

teaching the art of Kokedama and drawing for mindfulness.

The journal making workshop, lead by local craftsperson and educator, Laura Dowling, provided participants with the opportunity to create their own journals using reclaimed materials and naturally-dyed papers. Laura expertly guided the group through the process of



preparing papers for the journals as well as folding and threading the pages together using the three-hole pamphlet stitch method. Each journal was unique to its maker and the group thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills and crafting together in such a creative and welcoming atmosphere.

Crafters' Co-Op member and local crafter, Lianne Hayward, walked another group of keen crafters through the art of Kokedama. Using hand-selected indoor plants, moss, soil, twine and even a crochet hook, the group were shown how to wrap the plants into Kokedama balls, which make great gifts and rustic home décor. They are also extremely fun to make and the group enjoyed learning a new craft and creating together.

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Op founder, Thalia Sadumiano, finally took the reins and hosted her first workshop at the Co-Op. Her Drawing for Mindfulness workshop allowed participants the opportunity to try a range of drawing techniques that all focused on the meditative process of drawing. The group experimented with the Neurographic style, Zentangle patterns and had a great deal of fun trying a blind contour continuous line portrait. The big reveal of the portraits resulted not only in raucous laughter but



also exclamations of surprise and wonder as the portraits were so interesting, unique and did indeed bear resemblance to their muses!

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Op is pleased to announce craft workshops will continue in 2026, with the calendar already filling with fabulously fun, affordable and new craft forms open to all locals that want to learn. The Co-Op will also continue their fortnightly

BYO project craft evenings, held on Thursdays at Bungendore Learning Hub, 55 Gibraltar Street Bungendore from 6-8pm. In the meantime, for further information and to stay in the know with all things local art, craft and workshop opportunities, follow the Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative on Facebook or get in touch with Thalia on 0412 884 120.

Photos supplied

Lack of community engagement raises concerns with the Unsealed Roads Draft Policy (2025): comments close 24 November

It was resolved at the council meeting Wednesday 22 October, that the new draft policy for the management of unsealed roads be placed on public exhibition.

The draft Unsealed Council Road Policy (2025) replaces the current Unsealed Road Grading Policy adopted in 2022 and introduces major changes to how Council decides which gravel and dirt roads it maintains.

This policy had already been deferred for two councillor workshops.

Cr Waterhouse spoke against the motion citing two workshops by councillors (one of which only four councillors attended), lack of community engagement re: suggestions about the policy and how it stands - "this is an ambiguous policy," he said. His amendment to defer the revised policy, so further work by council and for further community engagement was not supported (with the exception of Cr Grundy).

"This draft policy is not defendable, ethical, equitable, I am not convinced its objectives can be put in practice. This policy cannot redefine the English language" cited Cr Waterhouse. "We need to have a longer, harder look at the wording. It uses inappropriate defined terms and self-contradictory statements within the policy."

Affected residents should be

consulted prior to this stage as per our own Community Engagement Strategy. The community will be given opportunities to participate as early as possible," he added.

Cr Grundy said that she had problems with the draft policy as it didn't tick the boxes of duty of care, social justice, financial risk accuracy, legal soundness and community input. "This draft is not engaging the community, it's consulting on an already endorsed document" she said.

What was established during the discussion was the uncertainty with exactly how many kilometres council currently have of unmaintained roads.

To view the discussion and business papers head to <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings/22-October-2025-Ordinary-Meeting>

Draft Unsealed Council Road Policy (2025)

One of the most significant changes is that all unsealed public roads are now classified into two groups:

Maintained Roads - These are roads already on Council's maintenance schedule. They are graded and inspected at regular intervals based on traffic volume. This system of categories (from monthly grading for busy roads to once every three years for lightly used roads) remains unchanged.

Unmaintained Roads - This is a new formal category. These roads will not receive scheduled grading or maintenance. Council will only consider work on them if there is confirmed damage, a safety hazard or blocked access. Even then, Council has full discretion to decide whether, when and how it responds, depending on available resources, risk and cost.

In brief:

Previously, roads in this category were referred to as "Category 10 - not maintained," but the new policy expands the rules around how these roads are managed.

Under the draft policy, Council states it is not automatically responsible for carrying out work on all unsealed public roads. It can decide not to act and is not obliged to investigate every report of road damage.

Before undertaking any work, Council will consider safety risks, available funding, road condition, environmental impacts, number of residents affected and whether the road has been built to Council's minimum standards.

If residents or developers want a road added to the maintained network, it must first be built to Council's specifications. These include:

- Gravel surface at least 6 metres wide and 125mm deep
- Proper drainage systems and culverts

- Compliance with Australian standards for signage and safety
- The road must sit entirely within a surveyed public road reserve
- Any water crossings or heritage/environmental issues must be addressed

To upgrade a road from unmaintained to maintained, the policy requires a resolution of the elected Council. It must consider construction quality, costs (both upgrade and ongoing maintenance), number of dwellings served and whether the road was previously maintained before 1 April 2018.

Council may make minor changes to grading frequency (by up to three categories) without needing to go to a Council vote.

This new policy will affect thousands of residents who rely on unsealed roads for school transport, emergency access, farming operations, any deliveries and daily travel.

Summary

QPRC is encouraging all residents for feedback on its revised Unsealed Council Road Policy (2025), which outlines how the region's many gravel and dirt roads are maintained.

The draft aims to clarify what maintenance residents can expect, when ad-hoc repairs may be carried out on unmaintained roads, and the standards required for a

road to be added to the maintained network. It also introduces a traffic-based system using Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) to determine maintenance levels.

The draft policy, FAQs and feedback form are available on Council's YourVoice page.

The Unsealed Council Road Policy 2025 is open for community comment from 27 October to 24 November 2025. This can also be viewed:

1. At Council's Customer Service Centres, between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday

Feedback can be provided on the draft Policy through:

1. Completing an Online Submission Form on the YourVoice page
2. Emailing it directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "Unsealed Council Road Policy 2025"

3. Handwriting your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres
4. Posting your submission to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Only written submissions will be considered, and these must be received by Council before 24 November 2025.

Any submissions received may be included in the final report to Council.

Sharon Baxter-Judge

Community News

Community Focussed Approach to Art - Preschool Fundraiser A Success!

Cassie Carter Art and Bungendore Preschool joined forces to host a local community event recently on Sunday 19th October 2025. Whilst all youngsters were welcome to take part, the day's program ideally catered for ages 4 - 10. Partnering up for the first time, the Bungendore Preschool Board approached Cassie Carter Art to co-host a creative event for young families in the area; with community outreach being something they're mutually passionate about. Their visions were not solely to run a fundraiser - but rather - to create a day for families and children to connect and showcase their originality. The artistic atmosphere yielded much

fun, imagination and camaraderie. A participating parent shared "It was so wonderful for the little people in our small community to get an opportunity to be creative and lost in the world of art. We are very grateful to Cassie - a fabulous art teacher, and Lisa - From Bungendore Preschool Board, who both spent many hours behind the scenes, giving up their time to raise money for the young minds of Bungendore."

Children were presented with two appealing themes. 'OCEAN' art classes in the morning for little marine explorers and a 'SPACE' program in the afternoon for all mini cosmonauts. All young artists were guided

through the various art elements and given an overabundance of mediums to experiment with. From paints, cardboard, paper plates, sand, cellophane and bubble wrap - to painting with brushes, fingers, pom-pom stamping and dye droppers. A showcase of artistic talent resulted with participants taking original work home. With no one painting identical to another, it was wonderful to observe children interpreting the guided art steps of Cassie Carter onto their very own canvas!

Interest levels were kept in overdrive when the 'School of Arts Building' transformed into a world of exploration with many

thematic learning centres also on offer. Complimenting the art process, children were immersed in quality literature, beach imaginative play, ocean weaving, seaside dress ups and tactile tubs, planetary construction, paper cup rockets and play doh aliens! Kids had bucketloads of entertainment wherever they turned!

Event co-organiser Lisa Murray described the occasion as a great success! "The energy and engagement across the day was the ultimate outcome Cassie and I dreamt of when this idea emerged. Our Preschool takes great pride in the level of education we provide and we're so proud to partner with an esteemed local artist. The event provided an opportunity to branch out from our typical operation and curate a space of wonder. It was a pop-up Art Academy so to speak, for current, previous and future families of our service. A day of connection for our beautiful village. Working with Cassie was cohesive and inspiring. We are indebted for her expertise and seamless administration and are truly humbled by the level of support shown by the locals



in response to this initiative!"

Cassie Carter Art and Bungendore Preschool wish to extend heartfelt thanks to all attendees for their involvement and generous support. All ticket proceeds were redistributed to Bungendore Preschool's building fund, with just over \$1,000 raised for the new building - with construction set for early next year.

The year has not quite wrapped up yet, with a few more events in the pipeline to see out the year.

Visit Bungendore Preschool's stall at the upcoming Bungendore Christmas Market on Saturday 29th November at the green space behind St

Philip's Anglican Church. Buy local this festive season with plenty on sale: bespoke giftware perfect for that special someone or teacher, locally grown blooms, specially crafted wooden tree ornaments, Christmas tags and card packs, bake sale, preserves, plants and amusements for the kids (festive face painting, lucky dip, colouring-in, lawn games etc). If you have any suggestions of potential contributors and sponsors of our market, please reach out to us. Let's chat over a cuppa!

Contact: fundraising@bungendorepreschool.com.au

Photos supplied





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HOT BUY



\$2.50
10 Pack Selected Varieties
HALF PRICE



2 FOR \$6
250g Varieties
SAVE \$5.50





Community News

Queanbeyan High School cadet firefighters graduate

The volunteer firefighters of tomorrow graduated last Friday at a ceremony at Queanbeyan High School, after completing the Secondary School Cadet Program run by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).

RFS Inspector Lachlan Gilchrist will present Certifications of Completion to 24 students from Queanbeyan High School at a ceremony held on school grounds.

"As well as examining fire behaviour, the participants have learned essential fire safety techniques and

gained an appreciation of the work emergency services do every day across the state," Inspector Gilchrist said.

"The course teaches young people about the important contribution volunteer firefighters make to the local community, provides them with firefighting skills and knowledge, and instils values such as teamwork, leadership and confidence.

"After completing this course, we encourage the students to take the next step and join their local brigade to complete their training and become bush



firefighters."

Inspector Gilchrist said the RFS has been delivering the Secondary School Cadet Program for over two decades, with thousands of students across NSW having graduated.

"In addition to the students' impressive achievements, recognition is also extended to the RFS staff and volunteers who make this program possible," he said.

"Special mention to

RFS Captain and Cadet Coordinator Liam MacWilliam who led a team of 11 volunteers and staff members from the Lake George District to help deliver the training.

"Their dedication ensures students achieve training outcomes while gaining valuable mentorship," said Inspector Gilchrist.

"It is fantastic to see such enthusiasm for this program, and I would particularly

like to thank Queanbeyan High School Principal Mrs Vanessa Willets the school's enthusiasm and dedication to helping make this program such a success.

"RFS members enjoy working with schools and communities to ensure everyone is as well prepared as possible for the very real threat of fire."

Photos supplied

Collaboration not Combustion: CATTI Calls for City and Bush to Unite Against Waste-to-Energy Incineration

Communities Against the Tarago Incinerator (CATTI Inc.), established in 2021, lodged its formal submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Facilities on October 31.

CATTI's submission calls on the Parliament to reject the proposed incinerators at Tarago and Parkes, citing community opposition and overwhelming peer-reviewed evidence that waste burning threatens public health, agriculture, biodiversity, and climate goals.

"This is not just a Tarago issue, it's a test of how the bush and the city work together for a cleaner, fairer future," said a

CATTI spokesperson. "Sydney's waste should not become the Southern Tablelands' burden. True partnership between metropolitan and regional communities means tackling waste at its source, not exporting the problem."

Key Messages from CATTI's Submission

- Peer-reviewed science is clear: Global studies (Jelínek et al., 2024; Tait et al., 2020) show waste incineration releases persistent pollutants, dioxins, furans, PFAS, and heavy metals, harmful to human health, that bioaccumulate and remain toxic at extremely low concentrations.
- No safe level of exposure:

Research across Europe and Australia confirms that ultrafine particles and dioxins have no safe threshold for human or ecological health.

- Burning waste burns the climate: Plastic-rich feedstocks make EfW one of the most carbon-intensive disposal methods—emitting roughly 900 kg CO₂-e per tonne, nearly twice that of modern landfills with methane capture.
- Toxic ash, toxic legacy: Each tonne of waste leaves behind ~250 kg of hazardous residue, enriched with lead, cadmium, and dioxins. NSW has no facility meeting EU hazardous-waste containment standards.
- Track record of breaches: Veolia's Woodlawn site has faced repeated EPA warnings, fines, and odour complaints—evidence that operational assurances cannot replace accountability.
- Circular economy contradiction: The Productivity Commission's 2024 Interim Report warns that early investment in EfW will divert resources away from recycling, reuse, and genuine waste avoidance.
- Call for collaboration, not combustion: CATTI urges NSW to build a shared city-bush waste strategy that supports recycling industries, local jobs, and clean regional environments.

Echoing Rachel Carson's Warning

CATTI's submission honours the legacy of Rachel Carson, whose 1962 book **Silent Spring** sparked the global environmental movement:

"The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance." Rachel Carson, **Silent Spring** (1962)

"Carson taught us that pollution begins where complacency begins," the spokesperson said. "It's time for the city and the bush to stand together: to listen to science, to act before harm occurs, and to leave our children clean soil and clear skies."

New Aged Care Act marks important turning point for older Australians

The new Aged Care Act, taking effect on 1 November, represents an important step towards a system that finally recognises and upholds the rights of older Australians, COTA Australia says.

COTA Australia Chief Executive, Patricia Sparrow, said the introduction of the Act is a defining moment in aged care reform - one that must now deliver meaningful change on the ground.

"The new Aged Care Act provides a solid foundation to build the quality aged care system all Australians deserve," Ms Sparrow said.

"The Statement of Rights is a key element of the new Act. For the

first time, older people are placed firmly at the centre of the system - not as passive recipients of care, but as individuals whose rights must be respected and upheld."

"We will also see strengthened standards and the commencement of the Support at Home Program which offers more packages, higher levels of support, and features such as restorative care pathways.

Ms Sparrow said bringing the Act into effect was a vital step, but what matters now is its impact - and COTA will be watching that very carefully.

"No system is perfect from day one, and change of this scale

takes time, but this Act gives us the tools to create a care system that truly supports older Australians," Ms Sparrow said.

"We will be monitoring the changes closely to ensure the new system delivers on its promise to older Australians.

"Older Australians need confidence that the Government's commitment - that no one will be worse off - will be honoured.

"We remain deeply concerned that showering has been excluded from clinical care under the new Support at Home program. We've raised this directly with Government and will continue to advocate strongly for this to be



addressed."

"The Government has a clear mandate to ensure the new system delivers care that is accessible, affordable, and equitable for every older Australian - regardless of background or postcode.

"The introduction of this Act is a

cornerstone reform - providing the strong foundation needed to deliver the aged care system Australians deserve. The focus now must be on making sure the implementation works for everyone."

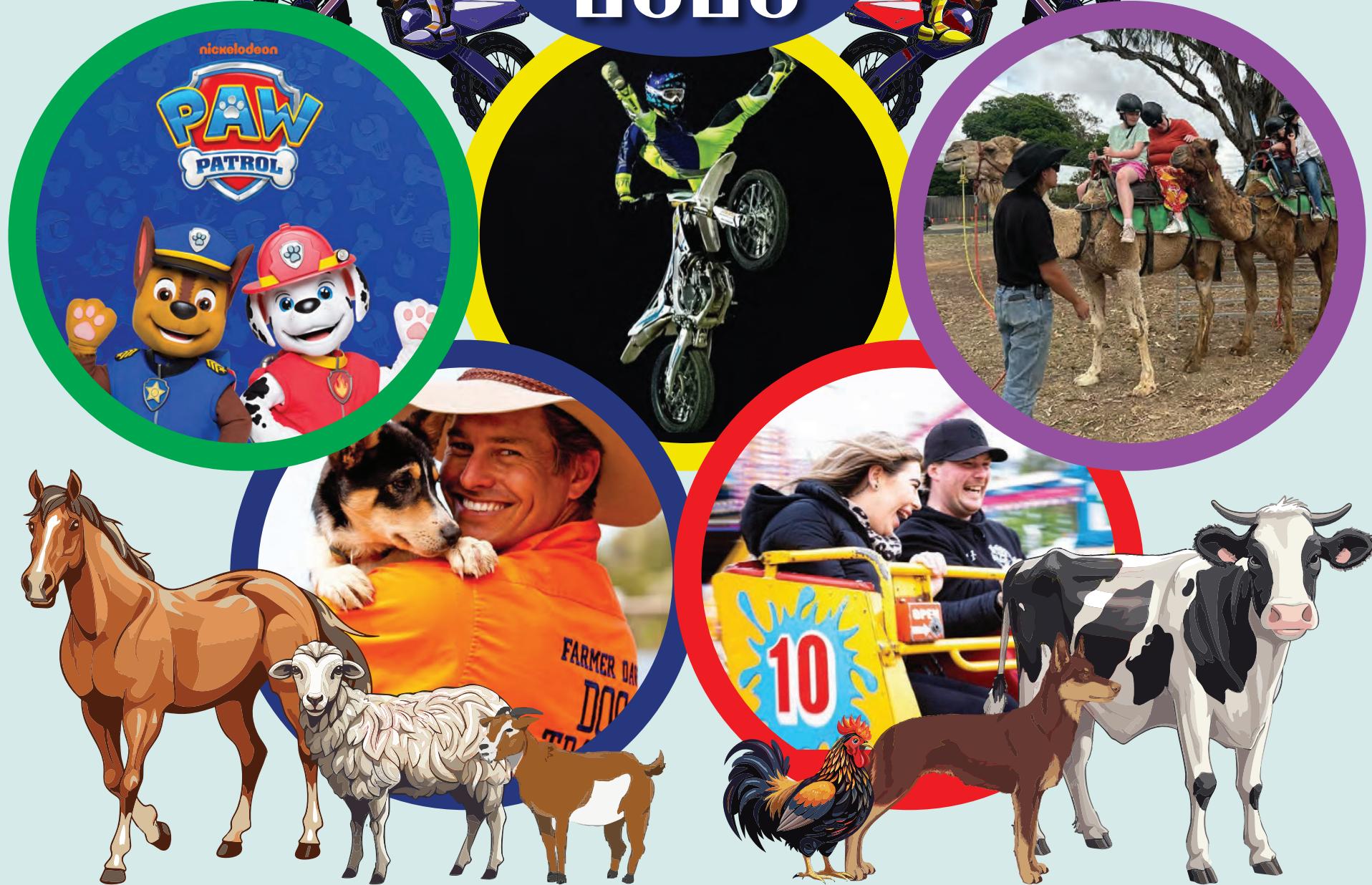
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Queanbeyan

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Community News

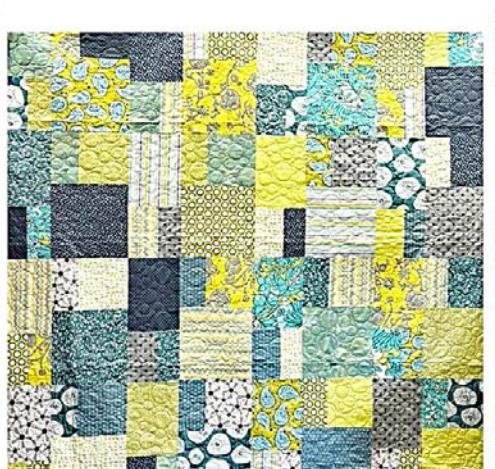
Bungendore Quilters save the date: Saturday and Sunday 22, 23 November

Jane Bloomfield

The 18th Annual Quilt Exhibition on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November will feature a wide range of quilts and a display by member Merle Ketley, a designer and award winning sewer who makes interesting art pieces

as well as costumes, clothing, toys and now quilts. As well as the viewer's choice, member's challenge, guessing competition, quilt block hunt and raffle, we also have a hands-on area where you can make a finger pin cushion and take it home with you.

Our raffle this year has three prizes of quilts ranging from an elegant Japanese inspired design, a bright floral and an altogether too cute cot quilt. Tickets will be on sale at the upcoming Bungendore Markets on Sunday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Drop in and buy a ticket to be in the running to win one of our



fabulous quilts.

on display.

Come along for a relaxing hour or two to look at the exhibition, vote for your favourite quilt and browse for handmade gifts and items on the sales table.

Left: photo supplied of the 2025 raffle quilts Above: 2024 exhibition

Registrations for clean up Australia Day 2026 now open

Clean Up Australia Day returns on Sunday 1 March 2026, and we're calling on individuals, families, schools, and community groups across the country to register now and get in on the action to be part of Australia's largest environmental movement.

Since its inception, over 23 million volunteers have joined the Clean Up effort. In 2025, over 800,000 people volunteered across 8,000 events nationally during the Clean Up Australia Day campaign period.

The FY24 Clean Up Australia Litter Report, which provides an annual snapshot of litter collected by volunteers in a calendar year, highlighted that plastics

continued to be the number one litter type found in our national parks, bushlands and waterways, representing almost 81% of all counted litter. E-waste made its way into the top ten, with vapes and batteries making up most of the reported e-waste found in the environment.

"Registrations for Clean Up Australia Day 2026 are now open. Volunteers can receive a free Clean Up kit, containing gloves, bags and other resources, with packs for individuals, families, community groups and schools available (businesses are asked to pay a small fee to cover costs).

As an added bonus, if you register your Clean Up Australia Day

event before 31 December, you will automatically be entered into an early bird competition to win one of five donated \$500 Coles vouchers. Ts & Cs apply.

If you are unable to participate, donations to Clean Up Australia are welcome, with 100% of funds raised going directly to empowering Australians to take positive action for the environment and providing free Clean Up kits.

Register now at cleanup.org.au for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday March 1, 2026

Business Clean Up Day on Tuesday February 24, 2026 and

Schools Clean Up Day on Friday February 27, 2026

Australia Day Awards: nominations close Dec 1

QPRC

We are seeking nominations for the Australia Day Awards!

Do you know someone who has contributed to your community? Is there a community event or a community organisation that needs to be recognised?



Nominations are open until 1 December, and will be presented at ceremonies in Braidwood, Bungendore, Captains Flat and Queanbeyan on Australia Day 2026.

Categories:

- Young Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Community Organisation of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

Nominate with a simple online form at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/australia-day-awards

Maria's Community Corner



Maria Porreca

My fortnight commenced with the Christening of my great niece, Lola, on Saturday 18th at St Joseph's Church in O'Connor. This church is beautiful with its stained-glass windows and holds a special place for me as I was married there, my eldest son also married there and two of my grandsons were christened there as well. Very special.

The following day I attended the

CWA Bungendore Branch AGM which was held in their rooms in Gibraltar Street. All positions filled with the top three positions being - President - Donna Bush; Secretary - Clare Camilleri and Treasurer - Marjorie Cross. Congratulations everyone. I had a great time spending the morning with you.

On Tuesday 21st the Queanbeyan Seniors held their monthly meeting and after the meeting a group of members toured the Queanbeyan Museum. It was great to see all the displays. I was amazed to

see that I still have some of those items, or I knew what they were used for. I didn't think I was that old!

It was an early start for a trip to Jindabyne on Wednesday to attend the CWA Monaro Group's AGM. Again, it was great to have all positions filled. It was lovely to catch up with some ladies I see only once a year and some who I see more regularly. A long but fun filled day. Congratulations ladies.

On Thursday evening Marist College students brass bands performed for the pleasure of parents and their families. They were SO good. One very proud grandmother.

The Queanbeyan Seniors had two events on Saturday 25th. In the morning, I helped at the 'Meet-and-Greet' stand at the Uniting Church Spring Jumble Sale and then in the afternoon I helped on their stall in Riverside Plaza where there were lots of Christmas goodies as well as some really cool gifts for teachers. At both of these we



also sold raffle tickets to the Mega Christmas Raffle which has over 10 raffle prizes, including some \$200 vouchers.

I went to Goulburn on Monday afternoon to attend the CWA Goulburn Evening Branch AGM and stayed overnight as the meeting commenced at 7.00pm and I did not fancy driving home late at night. Only a couple of positions remained vacant however by the following morning, when I bumped into one of their members, she advised that she was thinking

of taking on one of the vacancies. YAY! Prior to the meeting had dinner at 'Diggers Café' at the Goulburn Services Club which was really nice. Congratulations and Well done everyone.

And to finish off the fortnight I, and a few other CWA members, had a meeting with the CEO of CWA of NSW, and her assistant. Hopefully Big things to come so stay tuned!

Until next fortnight take care, stay safe and well everyone.

Maria
Photos supplied



Community News

Page 11

The historical town of Braidwood is set to celebrate a significant milestone with live music, a bespoke handcrafted gin and 180 years of history

Gavin Gillin, the owner of the historic Braidwood restaurant and bar Trooper's Rest, has been on a historical treasure hunt.

That treasure hunt, which has taken place since Gavin purchased the landmark building in 2024, has led him to uncover the date that the original liquor licence was issued to the premises, then known as the Dog and Style, and it happens to be from 1845, exactly 180 years ago.

The discovery confirms what Gavin has suspected: he was now the proud owner of one of the most historically significant buildings in the region, one that, through dozens of iterations and owners, stands today as a reminder of

gold rush days when travellers to the nearby gold fields needed a place to lay their heads and when bushrangers roamed the region in search of quick riches.

The significant discovery was made thanks to local history enthusiast Christine Ellis, who came across a replica of the original 1845 licence.

"When Christine showed me the replica licence, it felt like the past had stepped right into the present," said Gavin Gillin, owner of Trooper's Rest and Hold Fast Distillery.

Making the discovery mere months before the building's official 180th birthday, which will take place on

the 15th of November this year, Gavin couldn't let the opportunity to celebrate pass by.

On 15 November 2025 Gavin will be throwing open the doors of Trooper's Rest for a day of food, music and revelry. It is a chance for people from across the region to enjoy one of Braidwood's oldest and most historically significant buildings and become a part of that long and living history.

There will be an all-day menu on offer which showcases the heart of the Trooper's Rest locally sourced food philosophy, and at 4 pm live entertainment will kick off with two performances that will play into the evening.



The band Mikelangelo and the Long Lost Friends is the headline act for the evening. Headed up by Michael Simic, who has played venues including the Sydney Opera House and London's West End, they will be playing an eclectic mix of roots rock, driving pop and Euro folk music.

Also playing will be Jakob Poyner, a solo performer who made it to the top 50 in the 2023 season of Australian Idol by impressing judges Harry Connick Junior, Kyle Sandilands, Amy Shark and Meghan Trainor.

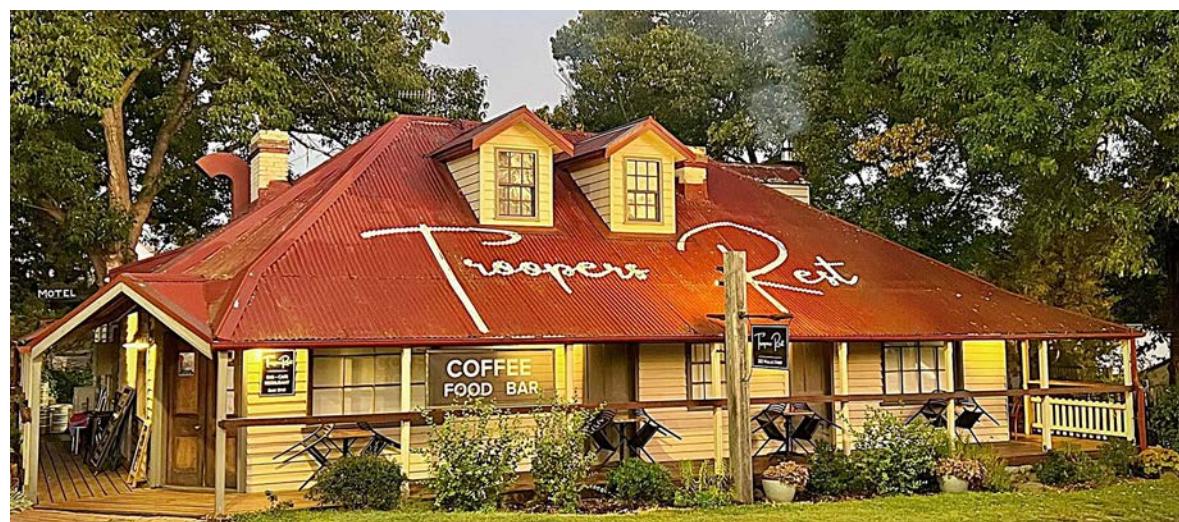
So inspired by the historical discovery, Gavin, who also owns Holdfast Distillery, has crafted a special gin in honour of the 180-year celebration. The Trooper's

Rest Gin incorporates locally sourced ingredients, including the rare mountain pepper found near the escarpment and Great Dividing Range. The gin is crisp, aromatic, distinctly regional and will be available to taste and purchase exclusively at Trooper's Rest of the day of celebrations.

"We wanted to do something special to honour 180 years of hospitality in this building, so the Trooper's Rest Gin was born," shares Gavin, who was inspired by the Braidwood landscape and fresh mountain air.

For more details on the event the public can head to www.troopersrest.au

Photos supplied



www.bdn.com.au

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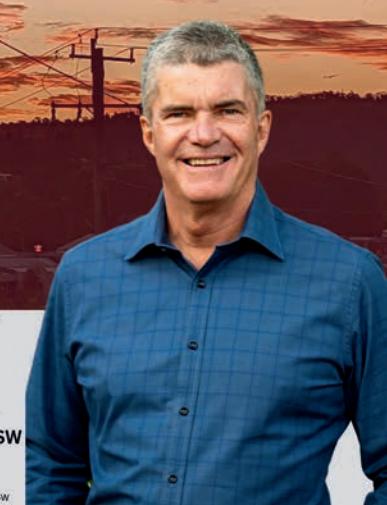
Feel free to contact my office if you need any assistance

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STEVE WHAN MP
STATE MEMBER FOR MONARO

Authorised by Steve Whan MP, 213 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620. Paid for using parliamentary entitlements.



Community News

What a whirlwind month October has been for Bungendore CWA!

The Branch AGM, The Community Bank Bungendore Show, a Cyber Safety Seminar, an Open Garden in Bywong as well as supporting Bears of Hope Charity event, with a few other adventures thrown in!

The Branch AGM saw us welcome back Donna Bush as President for a second term. We are delighted to have a renewed and dynamic executive: Secretary - Clare Camilleri; Treasurer - Marjorie Cross; Vice Presidents – Judith Nettlingham, Trudi Tritschler, Suzanne Blair, and Marilynne Darroch; Land Cookery - Joan Sherd; Handicrafts - Judith Nettlingham; Cultural - Merle Ketley & Teresa Nugent; International - Susan Brinton; Publicity - Suzanne Blair; Agriculture and Environment

- Louise Macdonald. It's an impressive team bringing together both experience and new energy, and we look forward to a purposeful and productive year ahead.

The Bungendore Show was joyful and bustling, and our CWA women shone, lending their skills, experience, and enthusiasm in every direction with a total of 825 scones baked and served. CWA members also supported the Pavilion as stewards and judges, and the level of expertise among our judges was remarkable. But, did you hear...? The CWA scones served at the Bungendore Show were described as "better than the Royal Easter Show"

We also hosted a Cyber Security Seminar in

conjunction with the Bungendore Medical Centre. Special guests Kylee Dennis - Two Face Investigations and Katharine Routh - NBN. Members of the local community were guided in tips on how to recognise and avoid scams - phone or online and discover what to do if you become a victim and find out where to go for reliable information and further support. We plan to hold more of these Seminars to help our community build digital confidence with simple, practical steps on staying safe when online.

The weekend of November 1st and 2nd, brought a strong CWA presence to the captivating Open Garden event at Hidden Lake in Bywong. Visitors were invited to wander through the picturesque landscape,



complete with a serene lake and sweeping views before pausing to enjoy a selection of cakes and slices lovingly prepared by the CWA. Every slice sold helping to raise funds for Wildcare, making it a day that blended beauty, community spirit, and generosity.

Over the past month, members have joined in with local bird count walks with

Local Land Services NSW at various places in the region, attended our Group AGM in Goulburn, helped in the hosting of a Bears of Hope Charity Community clothing swap, travelled to Braidwood to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Braidwood CWA, had a stall at the local Markets, attended a dinner on Fiji Independence Day - Fiji is now our country of Study, and so much more.

Together, we continue to create a welcoming hub of activity that truly embraces the community.

Bungendore CWA
Photos supplied.

Above: L-R Melody Humphries, Katharine Routh, Kylee Dennis, Donna Bush, Suzanne Blair and Clare Camilleri. Photo Sharon Baxter-Judge



Queanbeyan Seniors 50+ activities

Fun... fun...fun... come and join us!

Mondays

Chair Yoga - 9.30am Mat Yoga - 11.00am. For more info contact Sue on <https://www.agewell.yoga>

Tuesdays

Zumba beginners class 9:30am-10:30am.

Zumba - 11am-12pm
- Zumba with Ellie - AXIS Centre - \$10

Monday Yoga & Tuesday Zumba at AXIS Centre, 22 Campbell Street (building next to the Lions Community Bookshop in Queanbeyan Town Park). ZUMBA & YOGA OPEN TO EVERYONE (not just seniors)! Monday and

Tuesday Yoga and Zumba classes during school terms.

TUESDAY and THURSDAY EXERCISE CLASSES
(falls prevention, balance, strength) Times - 9.30-10.30am at 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan -\$10 for members

Wednesdays

Mat Yoga - 9.30am

Chair Yoga - 11.00am
With Louise... no bookings required at 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan

BYO Mat for yoga if you have one, some will be supplied.

Cost for abovementioned activities \$10.00 per session for members & \$18.00 for non-members.

Monday

Five Hundred (500) - card game - 1.00pm-3.00pm. Cost \$2.00

Craft and Chat - join our weekly Craft & chat every Monday from 11.am till 2.00pm. Cost \$2. Bring your own lunch and project, or help with a project for seniors. Interested in knitting or crocheting? Stop by for tips and conversation.

Wednesdays

- Canasta - 10.00am -12.00noon Cost \$2.00

- Euchre - 1.00pm Cost \$3.00

- Mahjong - 1.00pm - 3.00pm Cost \$2.00

Thursdays

Thursdays - Rummikin - 1.00pm Cost \$2.00

Fridays

- Carpet Bowls - 1.00pm Cost \$2.00

Delicious afternoon tea follows these activities.

Monthly meeting:



next meeting is on 18th November.

welcome.

Contact - Brenda on 0407 201 392 or Kim on 0407 902 989 or email - queanbeyanseniors@gmail.com or just drop in during opening times - Rear of 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON AT ONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES

Photos supplied



Community News

Housing Boost for Queanbeyan to Deliver 15 New Homes

The NSW Government is investing more than \$10 million to deliver fifteen new homes for Queanbeyan, with construction well underway to complete three of four projects by next year.

These homes are funded under the historic \$6.6 billion Building Homes for NSW program which will build more than 8,400 new homes and upgrade more than 30,000 across the state.

A mix of one, two and three-bedroom homes are under construction in the suburbs of Queanbeyan East, Karabar, and Crestwood, replacing older homes or underutilised land with quality, modern housing.

Once complete, these four sites will provide housing for up to 35 people including seniors, families and people with disability, getting more people off the waitlist and into secure tenancies.

"As I have said many times

since I was last the local member, I have noted the decline in the number and quality of social housing in Queanbeyan when the Nationals held Monaro", said Steve Whan, Member for Monaro.

"I'm determined to reverse that trend and I will continue to work to provide the social housing a fair society needs.

"The homes we're building in Queanbeyan, Karabar, and Crestwood, are part of the Labor Government's 'Homes for NSW' strategy. It's a 10-year plan to rethink how we address social housing and homelessness. We want a fair and empathetic housing system, because that's what everyone deserves.

"I'm proud of the Government's ambition in tackling the housing crisis."

The largest of the projects is a 10 home seniors' development in Crestwood, replacing two older

properties that are no longer fit for purpose.

Demolition of the Crestwood site is currently underway in preparation for going to tender for the redevelopment in December. The community will be kept updated once a builder is appointed, which is expected in early 2026.

Three other projects are due for completion in early to mid-2026, including:

- 2 x two-bedroom dual occupancy homes in Queanbeyan East
- 2 x three-bedroom dual occupancy homes in Karabar
- 1 x three-unit manor home in Queanbeyan East

Canberra-based company Monarch Building Solutions is delivering these projects, providing a boost to the local economy and local construction jobs.



Minister for Housing and Homelessness Rose Jackson said, "We understand the need for more housing right across the state and that includes regional NSW. Every new home we build is one less

person on the waitlist for a safe and secure home.

"These homes are a prime example of our commitment to areas like Queanbeyan as we continue to explore every option possible to ensure more housing is delivered

sooner.

"We're backing in local jobs, local builders and a future where more people in regional NSW have the housing they need."

Photo supplied

Thermal drones reveal hidden koalas in Southern Tablelands

Koalas have been sighted for the first time, in a previously undocumented area of the Southern Tablelands, during aerial surveys conducted by the NSW Government's Local Land Services.

The use of thermal drones allowed researchers to record vision of koalas in Avonside, which could prove to be a vital discovery for the local koala population.

"We're hopeful this population is disease-free, which would make it a vitally important part of the koala puzzle in the Southern Tablelands," said Kirrily

Gould, Land Services Officer at Local Land Services.

"The discovery also highlights the important role private landholders play in the rugged landscape when it comes to providing habitat for koalas.

"A lot of this country is very steep and isolated with few established tracks, which makes it ideal for koalas to stay safe and undisturbed," Ms Gould added.

This year's drone surveys identified eight koalas in the area for the first time and fresh scat samples have been sent for disease

analysis.

Ms Gould encouraged local landholders to learn more about helping koalas by maintaining and enhancing the natural habitat.

"While working in the landscape, we saw that there's very little understory, and much of the natural regrowth is being destroyed by feral deer rubbing on young trees and breaking them," she said.

"Using tall tree guards and managing feral animals, including following up on deer control programs, are key ways landholders can

help."

The drone surveys were carried out as part of a disease study under the NSW Koala Strategy Regional Partnership, building on the Australian Government's Koala Community Grants initiative.

Local Land Services has also worked with private landholders, or 'citizen scientists' to conduct annual audio surveys through the Avonside Koala Community Grant, which will continue this year as part of the Regional Partnership.

Local Land Services



encourages landholders across the Southern Tablelands to get involved in this year's 'Koala Karaoke' audio survey, which kicks off in November, by registering

at https://regionalnsw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_064xISknJbp3OaW?Q_CHL=q

Photo supplied

Q THE LOCALS PRESENTS

The Almighty Sometimes

BY KENDALL FEAVER

A profound and compelling study of a young woman trying to discover where her illness ends and her identity begins.

19 – 22 November



THE Q
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Community News

The AI driven tech boom: what could go wrong?



by Phil Harvey
Ever since OpenAI released ChatGPT

in November 2022, the investment landscape has shifted. AI is now a daily headline, and company valuations have climbed fast.

Since November 2022, we've seen:

- Companies that announce a new AI product or "bot" often enjoy a short-term share-price jump.
- The largest US tech firms plan to spend



extraordinary sums on AI-related technology this year—figures commonly quoted are in the hundreds of billions of US dollars.

- The Nasdaq—an index heavy with big US tech companies—has returned around 125% over this period. Over 40% a year!

The market returns have been exciting. But there are real risks to keep in mind.

Concentration risk: too many eggs in a few baskets

Roughly a third of the US sharemarket's value sits in just seven companies: Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet

(Google), Amazon, Nvidia, Meta (Facebook), and Tesla. When leadership is this narrow, the whole market can wobble if even one or two of them disappoint.

The AI spend is massive—and often circular

AI needs expensive chips, data centres and huge amounts of power. While numbers like "US\$430 billion" are eye-catching (and the spending is indeed large), a lot of it flows between the same few firms.

- For example, chipmakers fund AI companies to build data centres—and those companies, in turn, commit to buying the chipmakers' hardware.
- Microsoft invested heavily in OpenAI and is using OpenAI's tools in its own software.

This "closed loop" can amplify hype. It also raises a key question: will the profits from AI products arrive fast enough to justify all this capital expenditure?

Not every player will win

Industry forecasts suggest AI-related spending could reach into the trillions of dollars by 2029. Even cash-rich firms like Meta, Amazon and Alphabet could see free cash flow tighten and balance-sheet debt rise.

Some will earn strong returns on that spend. Others won't. Expect new winners—and a few casualties—along the way.

China vs the US: a strategic tug-of-war

AI's supply chain runs through advanced semiconductors and critical minerals. The US currently leads in high-end chip design; China leads in several key minerals.

US export rules already limit sales of top AI chips to China, while China has threatened restrictions on certain materials in response. Policies can change quickly—and with them, company sales and margins. No one knows

exactly how this will land.

Energy and infrastructure limits

AI models don't just need chips—they need electricity. A lot of it. Some estimates suggest that by 2030, AI could require multiple times Australia's current electricity output. This is happening while many regions face rising power prices.

It's no surprise that Amazon, Meta and Microsoft are exploring dedicated energy sources, including nuclear, to secure long-term supply. Energy costs and grid capacity could become real speed limits for AI.

"Picks and shovels" vs "gold miners"

In a gold rush, more people profited from selling picks and shovels than from finding gold. In AI, the "picks and shovels" might be chipmakers, data-centre builders, fibre networks and energy providers. The "miners" are the companies training and deploying AI



models. Both sides have opportunities—and risks. There are no guaranteed winners.

Bottom line

Invest with caution. Diversification is needed now more than ever. Australian and International shares, property, precious metals and infrastructure should all be included in your investments.

We specialise in helping professionals and executives grow and protect their wealth so they can live an abundant life. If you would like to discuss how you could benefit from independent financial advice, call me on 02 6269 3339 or email me at team@constructwealth.com.au.

General Advice Warning
This advice contains general information and may not be suitable for you because it does not consider your personal circumstances. Phil Harvey is an authorised representative of Independent Financial Advisers Australia (AFSL 464629 - ABN 61 601 365 904)

11 ways to make older Australians happier

National Seniors Australia
A new NSA report explores 11 paths to happiness among older Australians, based on 2,516 survey comments.

If we asked you to describe something that would maintain or increase your happiness, what would you say?

The NSA Research Team asked participants in this year's National Seniors Social Survey to do just that.

The result is a new report that explores 11 different ways of thinking about happiness among older Australians.

This work matters because, as an advocacy organisation, the wellbeing of older people is core to our business.

While broadscale structural and societal factors are our usual focus, we also know that individuals' responses to those factors can vary.

The somewhat elusive concept of "happiness" is a way of drilling into those individual differences.

As our wellbeing includes our mental health, and happiness is an obvious part of that picture, it's fitting that we launch the affectionately dubbed 'Happiness Report' to coincide with Mental Health Month (October).

Eleven faces of happiness
When we asked the happiness question, 2,516

survey respondents aged 50 to 97 gave an answer.

As you can imagine, the 2,516 comments our respondents wrote were extremely diverse. Happiness means different things to different people.

That's the take home message really - how different we all are - older people cannot be boxed into stereotypes.

But we asked a survey question, so we had to try and make sense of what the 2,516 people said.

We've asked a lot of survey questions in the past, and from experience we know the issues that will come up time and again on people's wish lists.

More money, better health, secure housing, quality aged care, and human company are some of the most common.

Those things were mentioned among the happiness comments too. So, we could have taken that same "issues" approach to analysing the 2,516 comments.

But that seemed a pointless activity, telling us what we already know.

Instead, we thought outside the box and sliced the comment set differently.

We tried to read between the lines to the deeper motivations that prompted people's answers.

For example, more money is often a pathway to happiness for people who are feeling financially tight. In such cases it's really about survival.

And quality aged care isn't just a good thing for its own sake. It can be a pathway to happiness because it enables independence and control.

Thinking about people's answers this way, we came up with 11 "personas" that seemed to capture what people really wanted, and these form the basis of the report.

The 11 personas go straight to the sources of happiness - the principles and ideals, beliefs and habits, priorities and desires that shape our personalities and drive our lives.

The 11 personas and their typical routes to happiness are:

• Survival Realists. Happiness is having enough money to cover the basics including housing, and where possible a little bit extra.

• Fierce Independents. Happiness is staying independent through great health, wealth, and care, and having control of our life choices.

• Keen Participants. Happiness is the time, money, and ability to pursue our interests, be they travel, hobbies, work,

or volunteering.

• Nest Featherers.

Happiness is a great home life with a wonderful location, loving partner or solo bliss, and pets if we want them.

• Social Connectors.

Happiness is relationships with family, friends, or community members, and the means to find like-minded others.

• Policy Enthusiasts.

Happiness is improvements to retirement income, aged care, and other ageing support systems.

• Global Idealists.

Happiness is an active civil society, government integrity, and changes that protect the environment, social justice, and peace.

• Stability Seekers.

Happiness is a sense of security and certainty, or assurance that the life we've planned for won't be upended.

• Inner Peaceniks.

Happiness comes from our own mindset, attitude, and approach to life, or our faith and spiritual connections.

• Respect Warriors.

Happiness is respect for the contributions older people make and have made and eliminating ageism.

• Unique Individuals. What makes older people happy can be idiosyncratic: reiki,

a broader range of sport on TV, or more reliable businesses.

Not just one thing

So which persona best describes you?

If you can't pick one, you're not alone!

Some commenters listed more than one thing that would make them happy, and each thing fit into a different persona.

People are complicated and can't be reduced to a single persona. None of us is "just a Social Connector" or "pure Respect Warrior", any more than we're "just a boomer" or "only a nana".

And, actually, they all sound like pretty good pathways to happiness.

Rather than a personality quiz, we see this list as a tool for blasting apart stereotypes of older people.

For example, we have different feelings about change.

When we're in Stability Seeker mode, we want social and technological change to slow right down. One person wrote, "As you age, I believe, that happiness is very closely linked to security and certainty."

But if we don our Global Idealist persona, we demand change on a big scale. Some commenters would find happiness in things like "peace in the world", "action

on climate change", and "Justice, Justice, Justice!".

And older people have different passions.

As Keen Participants we find happiness in fun activities that entertain and provide new experiences.

But wake up our inner Policy Enthusiast and we become passionate about reforming things like Age Pension rules, carers' respite, and downsizing incentives.

This list helps us remember and celebrate older people's complexity.

Each one of us, after all, is a Unique Individual, even if we don't all want "government subsidised red wine" or "the Brisbane Lions to win two in a row" - the unique paths to happiness for two of our 2,516 commenters.

Creating a gorgeous report

For each persona the Research Team chose an iconic photo to accompany the description along with some example comments.

The aim was to create a beautiful report that showcases the diversity of older Australians in pictures as well as words.

It made us happy to produce something that we enjoy looking at, that shows how beautiful older people are.

We hope you enjoy it too.

Read the full report at <https://nationalseniors.com.au>

Community News

Below Our Knees: Exploring Our Grasslands Field Day coming to Bywong

You're invited to an introductory and inspirational field day delving into the living world that lies just below our knees – our native grasslands.

Our natural grasslands belong to a critically endangered ecological community, the Natural Temperate Grasslands. Before European settlement, these grasslands covered more than half a million hectares across our region. Today, less than 2% of that original extent is formally protected within reserves or private conservation agreements.

Yet, remnants of these high-quality natural grasslands still persist – quietly thriving on private properties, travelling stock routes, road and rail reserves, and unprotected council lands. These patches are not only beautiful but also ecologically vital.

What makes grasslands so special?

They are rich, living tapestries of native grasses and wildflowers, providing habitat for countless invertebrates, reptiles, birds, and mammals – some of which are listed as threatened species. Beyond their beauty, grasslands hold key biodiversity and genetic resources with enormous potential for agriculture, horticulture, and medicine.

Sadly, these ecosystems continue to face pressure from development, weeds, feral animals, and neglect – but with awareness and collective care, their story can be rewritten.

This hands-on workshop brings together Landcare, Friends of Grasslands (FOG), researchers from the University of Wollongong, and South East Local Land Services to showcase the beauty and importance of our local native grasslands – and to spark collaboration among landholders and neighbours who care for them.

What to Expect:

A relaxed and interactive day in the grasslands featuring:

Guided field walk with ecologist Sue McIntyre – learn to identify native species, recognise what makes grasslands thrive, and be inspired by examples of successful management.

Know and tell session – bring your questions, experiences, and curiosity for an open discussion among fellow landholders and plant ID experts.

Weed insights with South East Local Land Services (LLS) – learn how to spot problem weeds early, some of the causes for weed invasion, the benefits of integrated weed management and other ways LLS can support you in protecting

and managing your land.

Working together with Dr Sonia Graham (University of Wollongong) – explore how neighbours can collaborate to manage weeds and nurture resilient grasslands across property boundaries.

Lunch Provided – connect, share stories, and enjoy the beautiful landscape we're all working to protect and enhance.

What to Bring:

- Field guides or tools (binoculars etc) – and your questions!
- Water bottle and/or Keep Cup
- Sensible clothing, sturdy shoes, and sun protection

We also encourage you to carpool with friends or neighbours to reduce the day's carbon footprint and help with limited parking at the reserve.

Date: Saturday 15 November, 9am-1pm, with morning tea and lunch included.

Location: Schofield's Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR), near Bywong

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/below-our-knees-exploring-our-grasslands-tickets-1826500033769>

Short URL: <https://bit.ly/LandcareBelowYourKnees>

Queanbeyan VIEW Club News

V. voice, I. Interest, E. education of W. Women

The Smith Family, providing educational outcomes for Australian students experiencing disadvantage.

Queanbeyan View meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The next meeting is on Thursday the 20th, 12 for 12.30 at the Tourist Hotel on Monaro Street Queanbeyan. The guest speaker will be Geoff Rudd and there will be a trading table and raffles.

RSVP to Sue on 0448427237 or queanbeyanview@gmail.com

Pictured, is Irene Cameron, receiving her "Making a Difference Award". Photo supplied



Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub 

Here for veterans and their families, every day

What's on at the Hub

MON:	XBOX Gaming	- 3:00pm to 5:00pm
TUES:	Invictus Yoga	- 10:00am to 11:00am
	Veterans Guitar Group - 10:00am to 12:00pm	
WED:	RSL Sub Branch Catchup - 9:00am to 11:00pm	
	Fortnightly - Brave Buddies Playgroup - 10:00am to 12:00pm	
	Fortnightly - Create & Caffeinate - 10:00am to 12:00pm	
	Heart-Muscle-Balance - 12:00pm to 12:45pm	
THURS:	Open Arms fortnightly Coffee Catchup - 10:00am	
FRI:	Mindful Movement Tai Chi - 9:30am to 10:30am	

Visit the Hub today
251 Crawford St, Queanbeyan
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9am to 5pm
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Community News

Powerful new drama shines a light on mental health at The Q

Where does illness end and identity begin? This November, The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre presents a gripping new production of Kendall Feaver's acclaimed play The Almighty Sometimes - a bold look at mental health, growing up, and the delicate bond between mothers and daughters.

Winner of the Judges' Award in the prestigious Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting (UK) and both the NSW and Victorian Premier's Prizes for Drama, Feaver's work has been praised as "an excellent, empathetic portrait of mental illness" (★★★★ The Guardian). Now, a local team supported by The Q Locals program is bringing this important story home to the Canberra Region with Off The Ledge Theatre's debut production.

The play centres on Anna, diagnosed with a severe mental illness as a child and prescribed a cocktail of pills to help manage it. But as adolescence arrives, she begins to question who she is without the diagnosis, and what life might feel like without medication. For her mother, the fear of losing the fragile stability they've fought for becomes overwhelming.

The Q's Artistic Director and Arts Centre Manager, Jordan Best, says this final Q Locals production for the year brings something powerful and timely to the stage:

"This is an award-winning production that deals with the difficult subject of mental health with heart and humour," Best says.

Director Lachlan Houen says the company's mission is to stage powerful contemporary Australian works that leave a mark long after the



curtain falls.

"Kendall's play examines one of the biggest social issues of our times, yet somehow never once loses sight of how achingly human the story of mental illness is, at its core," Houen says.

Featuring a talented cast of Canberra performers and Feaver's sharp, warm writing, this new staging promises a

moving and thought-provoking night at the theatre, one that invites audiences to reflect with empathy, compassion, and hope.

Tickets are on sale now, with prices starting at just \$30 for audiences under 30. Book via: theq.net.au

Photo supplied

Feedback Sought on National Road Safety Strategy



The Federal Government is seeking public feedback to inform the National Road Safety Strategy as part of a mid-term review.

This is an independent review that will assess the effectiveness of current road safety initiatives now that we are halfway through delivering the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30.

The review will also identify emerging challenges, assess the current and arising factors impacting road safety, and develop practical recommendations to support the strategy's next action plan.

Our road networks are critical to our way of life.

But we need to do more to prevent the tragic loss of life on our roads which has devastating and wide-reaching impacts on families, friends and communities every year - nationwide.

As our population grows, communities change, and habits evolve, so too does the road safety environment.

This review will help us learn from and revisit how we approach road safety right across Australia, with the public invited to have their say by 11:59pm (AEDT)

Tuesday, 25 November 2025.

It forms part of the Government's joint commitment with all states and territories to act on road safety, including by funding local roads, road safety initiatives, and data collection.

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Kristy McBain said road safety must be a shared responsibility.

"We want to make sure that every time someone uses our roads, they make it to their destination safely.

Whether it's a truckie on a long-haul journey, or a parent picking up the kids from school.

"This is an important opportunity to provide feedback and have your say on the National Road Safety Strategy.

"Your feedback will help us better understand the current state of road safety as well as areas for improvement."

To have your say or for more information, visit the website. https://eysau.syd.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a4ts9S7qywTbQJU

Elm Grove Estate

Bungendore NSW

Only 30 minutes from the heart of Canberra lies a piece of country paradise offering a wholesome lifestyle the entire family will enjoy.

Nestled in the fast-growing and historic Bungendore township, Elm Grove Estate in Bungendore is 20 minutes to Queanbeyan and close to 30 minutes to Canberra, giving you all the benefits of the city being just a stone's throw away while living in a relaxed country town.

Elm Grove Estate is an upmarket subdivision developed by the same group that created the original Jerrabomberra Estates, Gordon, Conder, Amaroo, Palmerston, Royalla and many more.

The developer's goal with each subdivision is to create larger lots at more affordable prices where you can design and build your 'forever home' and create a lifestyle that the entire family can enjoy for many years to come.

By offering the Canberra region's largest residential blocks at the most affordable prices with lots beginning at 850sqm in size and increasing to 1,492sqm, the Estate has something

for every family's needs.

At Elm Grove there are fewer building restrictions than in the ACT and the lots are situated on freehold land so there's no time limit to build, therefore you can take your time on crafting the perfect home to suit your family for the long term.

Exciting news: The NSW Department of Education has just begun construction of the new \$70M 'state-of-the-art' high school in Elm Grove Stage 2B located on Birchfield Drive.

The new high school is planned to be operational for the first term of 2027.

So whether you're wanting to upgrade your lifestyle or build your new forever home, Elm Grove Estate is your ideal development. Take advantage of the additional Home & Land Packages on offer with the option of choosing your own builder or work with some of the Canberra region's most experienced new-home building companies.



Elm Grove Estate are offering a September/October Spring promotion offering FREE STAMP DUTY with any purchase. So make the time to come and see why so many Canberra families are choosing Elm Grove Estate to build their new family home.

Stage 1 is sold out with Stage 2A now selling. What's on offer 850sqm - 1,492sqm fully serviced lots

Starting price: \$548,000

Favourable purchasing terms available including lower deposit and FREE Stamp Duty.

Visit Elm Grove Estate Sunday 11am to 3pm, follow the signs to Charlotte Place Bungendore.

Elm Grove Estate
Tarago Road, Bungendore
Ph: 6238 0111
Email: sales@aland.net.au
Website: www.elmgroveestate.com.au

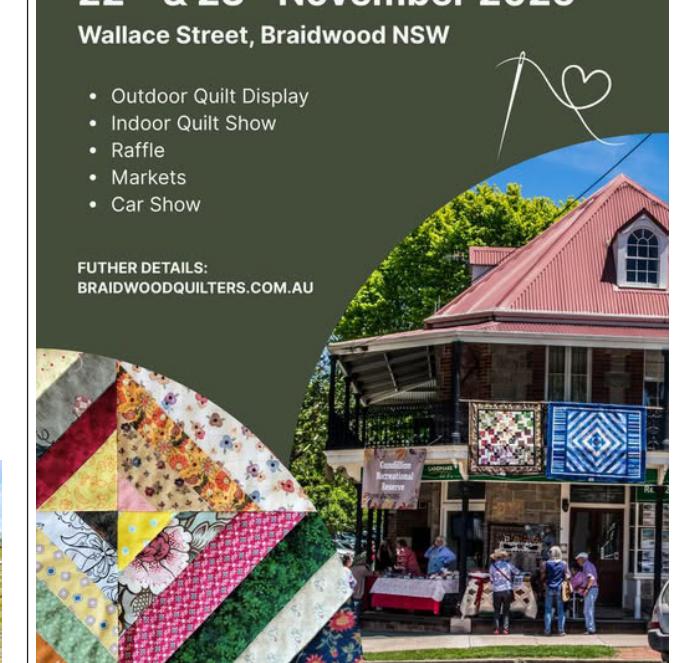
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- Raffle
- Markets
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Community News

2025 Community Bank Bungendore Show

Continued from page 1

At the official opening show President Ashley Meyer-Dilley thanked the volunteers who helped deliver the show and announced two life memberships for committee members Alison McKenzie and Col Dahlenburg. Alison and Col have been long time committee members and helped throughout the

years to bring the show to life. It was a wonderful moment to see Alison and Col recognised for their dedication.

For the first time in recent years the Ag shows NSW young woman competition was well represented with Ellie Meggit announced as the 2025 Community Bank Bungendore show young

woman and Abbie Higgins runner up.

Matilda MacDonald was sashed Bungendore show Teen, Rosalie MacDonald was sashed show junior and Charlie Hilton was runner up.

The Bungendore show will donate more than \$3,500 from the gate takings back into the local community

with the Lions Club, Rotary and Scouts set to receive a share after their volunteers provided the committee support to coordinate parking and manage the rubbish collection throughout the day.

The show was well supported with the Community Bank Bungendore the major sponsor of the event. The committee would like to acknowledge their sponsors including: IGA Bungendore, Mitre 10, PRD Bungendore, Pearl Energy, Polaris, Dragonsfield Agistment, Tyson Rural Veterinary Services, Bundara Park Stockfeeds, Unlimited Potential Tutoring, Lake George Hotel, Royal Hotel Bungendore, Matt Fordham, Pineview Equestrian, Sutton Automotive, Kristy McBain MP, Nicole Krege, Crafty Frog, Bungendore CWA, R&J equestrian supplies, 83 Equine, ACT & Southern



Show Horse Association, Bungendore Veterinary Surgery, De Silva Family, Hillview Angus, Arki Mini Pony Stud, Holburn Park

Ponies, O'Connor Family, Tobermorey Pony Stud, Sharon Priestley.

Photos Sharon Baxter-Judge



Planning a burn on your property?

You need to notify: rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify



Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative

BYO PROJECT CRAFT NIGHT

Every Second Thursday 6-8pm



55 Gibraltar Street
\$5 + craft project

Community News

What is aged care and what's changing?

Seniors Rights Service

Aged care services support older people who need help at home or extra care that is not possible at home. It can help you stay at home longer and continue living a more fulfilling life.

Aged care helps you stay healthy, safe, maintain a good quality of life, stay connected to your community, be more independent and meet your cultural and social needs. Aged Care Services include help at home, short term care and aged care homes. The help you may be eligible to receive could include support for cleaning, cooking, assist you with personal care, social and cultural activities, nursing and transport for shopping and appointments.

If you need more care and support, and you want to stay living at home, you can get extra services like help with walking and physiotherapy. You may also be eligible to live in an aged care home if that is the best option for you.

The new Aged Care Act starts from 1 November 2025. It includes a Statement of Rights to help make sure you are at the centre of your aged care.

The importance of aged care services

Most of us want to be in control of decisions even when we have to deal with health and mobility challenges. That's how the aged care system can help.

If you are struggling to manage some of the things you want and need to do as you get older, aged care support services can step in and help, enabling you to continue to live where and how you want for as long as possible.

Aged care should enable us to remain independent and in control of the way we want to live.

Who is eligible for aged care?

You may be wondering if you can get some help with day to day tasks around your home. Maybe you need some respite while your family is away or perhaps you are thinking that you may need to move into an aged care home... there are many services that can help you to maintain a good quality of life.

You may be eligible for government-funded aged care services if you need extra support to continue living well and you are 65 years of age or older, 50 years or older if you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Eligibility is based on different things like your health, how you are managing at home and what supports you may already have. There may also have been a change in what you can remember to do, had a fall or feel unsteady on your feet, had a recent hospital admission or changes in your family care arrangements. All this is determined by having an assessment or reaching out to ask

for a reassessment.

There are four steps to get help if you need it:

1. See what help you might need
2. Get assessed
3. Arrange your services
4. Making sure that the services you get meet what you need

Depending on your eligibility, the government might fund your needs partially or entirely. If you're not eligible you can find Independent Support Workers for the kind of support you need and pay privately with your own funds.

What types of aged care are available?

Aged care can come in different forms. These include:

Support at Home

Getting some extra help in your home can help you live life to the fullest as you age. Help at home looks different for different people.

It could be:

- help with shopping or assisting you to prepare a meal
- helping you to get out of your bed and assisting you to have a shower and get dressed
- having a wound dressed by a nurse or prompting you to have your medication
- transport to different places including getting you to medical appointments
- finding services that will help you get out and about so you can stay connected with your community and friends
- having some home modifications to improve your safety and movement around your home

Restorative Care: short-term care to help you improve your health and mobility

Short Term Care provides support services for a set period of time. The services that you receive can be different and do not need to be ongoing. They are aimed to be able to help you with your day to day tasks while you recover and to assist you in restoring or maintain your independence.

A new Support at Home program will replace the Home Care Packages Program and Short-Term Restorative Care Programme from 1 November 2025.

How long will it take to be allocated a Home Care Package?

Wait times are currently being affected by the change to the new program. It is hoped that wait times will be reduced from November when the Support at Home program replaces the Home Care Package Program and the Short-Term Restorative Care Program.

Respite Care: temporary care to allow your carer to have a break

Respite Care supports you and your carer allowing you both a break for a short period of time. Respite can take place in your home, out in the community or for longer periods of time in a



residential aged care home.

You do need to be approved for respite which happens when you are assessed. Respite for longer periods of time needs to be planned in advance but can also happen quickly if an emergency occurs.

Assistive technology and home modifications: products or changes to your home that support you to live safely at home

From 1 November 2025 there are changes, your aged care assessment will determine if you need products, equipment or home modifications to help you live safely and independently at home. For more information about this scheme you can speak to an aged care advocate by calling 9281 3600.

Residential aged care: living in an aged care home

For older people who can no longer live at home and need ongoing help with everyday tasks or health care.

When you live in an aged care home you receive services that meet your day to day needs, such as meals, laundry and social activities and help with bathing, eating and taking medications if needed. You have access to clinical care, such as nursing and other health care, if needed

End-of-life care: Help to stay at home in your last months of life

Extra funding to get the care you need to be at home if you have 3 months or less to live. It can help you avoid having to go to hospital or an aged care home if you don't want to.

Culturally safe aged care services

Services that offer a range of different, flexible types of aged care depending on community needs. Culturally safe aged care services recognise, respect and support the unique cultural identities, needs and rights of older people, ensuring they feel safe, comfortable and free from judgment, discrimination or racism. This may include understanding biases, adapting practices to individual cultural needs, providing language services and offering specific programs such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program for First Nations people.

How do I access aged care?

To access Government funded aged care services, you need to register with My Aged Care and get an aged care assessment. You will have the opportunity to discuss what services and support best suit your needs. Apply on the MyAgedCare website or phone 1800 200 422 to speak to someone at My Aged Care.

The Assessor will visit and you can have a representative or supporter with you while they discuss what you think you need to keep you safe and well. They will ask about what you can or can't do, what support you already have and will talk about any health or mobility issues you might have.

Your assessor will help you connect with relevant service providers by letting you know about local service providers that may be able to help or they may send your referral directly to a chosen provider if that is what you would like, you can also choose to find your own provider by using the referral code they will provide.

How much does aged care cost?

Assessments for aged care are completely free, however, you may have to contribute towards the services you need. The aged care costs you pay depend on the types of services and providers you use, for example, home care, short-term care or a residential aged care facility.

From 1 November 2025, aged care fees will change. This includes how much you and the government contribute and how these amounts are calculated.

The funding arrangement changes vary based on whether you are currently receiving a Home Care Package or are living in an aged care home.

Free, independent and confidential help with aged care

Our Aged Care Advocates provide information and support to people using or seeking to access in home and residential aged care services.

We are an accredited specialist community legal centre that provides free legal assistance on a range of aged care related issues and more to older people in NSW.

Call our friendly team on 1800 424 079

For more information head to <https://seniorsrightsservice.org.au/what-is-aged-care/>

2025 draft Code of Meeting Practice

QPRC

All NSW Councils must adopt a Code of Meeting Practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the 2025 Model Meeting Code by 31 December 2025.

Have your say

Before finalising our new Code, we are required to publicly exhibit a draft version for at least 28 days and allow at least 42 days for community feedback. This ensures you have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes.

A key focus of the 2025 updates is promoting meetings that are conducted in a dignified and orderly manner.

To help you better understand these changes, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has prepared an FAQ sheet, which is available for download in the document library on the YourVoice page.

We encourage you to review the draft Code and provide your feedback within the consultation period. Your input plays a vital role in shaping an effective and transparent meeting framework for our council.

Council resolved to write to the NSW Minister for Local Government to voice its objection to elements of the new Model Code.

The revised Code of Meeting Practice is open for community comment from 9 October to 20 November 2025. This can also be viewed at <https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au>

1. At Council's Customer Service Centres, between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday

Feedback can be provided on the draft Policy through:

1. Completing an Online Submission Form at the YourVoice webpage.

2. Emailing it directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "2025 Code of Meeting Practice"

3. Hand writing your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres

4. Posting your submission to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Only written submissions will be considered and these must be received by Council before 20 November 2025.

Any submissions received may be included in the final report to Council.

Cadet, Apprentice and Trainee Information Session

Are you interested in earning, learning, and gaining valuable on the job experience while you do your studies?

We are holding an information session on 10 November from 6-7:30pm over Zoom about our Cadet, Apprentice and Trainee Program.

Come along and find out the benefits of working with Council.

- ▶ Learn more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/CAT-info-session



Nominate for the Australia Day Awards

Nominate for the Citizen, Young Citizen, Senior Citizen, Community Event of the Year, and Community Organisation of the Year for 2026!

Each year we celebrate the people in our community who are dedicated to making our region a better place, whether that's through volunteering, service to the community, holding community events or other achievements.

There are four regions for each award: Captains Flat, Braidwood, Bungendore, and Queanbeyan.

- ▶ Get your nominations in by 1 December at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Australia-Day-Awards

Community Meetings in November

Meet your councillors and talk about the things that matter to you at our community meetings in:

- Bungendore - Wednesday 19 November from 6-8pm at the Norah Starrs Community Centre (Bungendore Community Centre)
- Queanbeyan - Thursday 20 November from 6-8pm in the WB Freebody Chambers at the Nellie Hamilton Centre
- Nerriga - Saturday 22 November from 10am-12pm at the Nerriga Community Hall
- ▶ Find more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/events



Find a second hand treasure on the Garage Sale Trail!

Australia's biggest second-hand treasure hunt is back and you can be part of it!

Across 8-9 and 15-16 November, thousands of garage sales will be happening right around the country. For sellers, it's a great way to make some extra cash, and for shoppers it's a fun chance to score some bargains.

Whether you sell from home, join a local market or team up with neighbours for a thrifty street party, it's free to take part — and you don't need a garage (or even a front yard).

- ▶ Find out the sales near you at garagesaletrail.com.au/queanbeyan-palerang

Work with Council

Current vacancies include:

- Finance Business Partner
- Junior Business Analyst
- Water Industry Operator (Network)
- ▶ For more information and roles see bit.ly/QPRC-Careers



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. Meetings are live streamed via bit.ly/QPRCwebcast.

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

Members of the public 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

Next meeting dates are:

- 12 November (Queanbeyan)
- 26 November (Queanbeyan)

Written Questions on Notice

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

Community Christmas Parties!

Christmas is the time to celebrate with our community and this year there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy entertainment, food, carols and meet Santa!

Schools, choirs, dance groups and local performers will create a festive atmosphere with great food and other fun activities.

If you want to perform at any of the Community Christmas Parties, contact the team via email events@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Join us at:

- Braidwood Community Christmas Party, Ryrie Park, Braidwood from 4-8pm on Friday 5 December
- Bungendore Community Christmas Party, Mick Sherd Oval, Bungendore from 4-8pm on Friday 12 December
- Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party and Carols, Queanbeyan Park from 4-9pm on Thursday 18 December
- ▶ Learn more at qprc.nsw.gov.au/events

Do you want to be a stallholder or food vendor at one of Council's events?

- ▶ Apply today with the form at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/community/events



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

Notices and documents required to be advertised under NSW planning legislation can be viewed at bit.ly/DPnotices

Follow us on social media

- @QbnPalerangRC 
- @QbnPalerang 
- @QbnPalerang 

Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

eepurl.com/codv-v 

Community News

Page 20

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Fun at the Show

PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Tabatha

Age: Approx 17½ years

Likes: People, dogs and goat yoghurt

Dislikes: Other cats -- including her elderly "brother" Felix

Claim to Fame:

Known as "Bitchy" in the Pound because she didn't like other cats. But the staff loved her! Rescued as a

1 year old in May 2009. Another very precious foster failure.

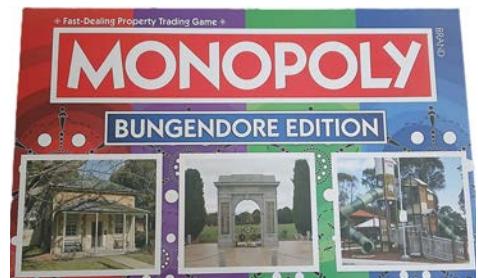
Rotary Club of Bungendore

Monopoly Bungendore Edition will be available for sale EVER. The IGA, our Community Bank of Bungendore and The Malbon are still the places to go and buy your game. Get yours before they walk out the door never to be available again. Help us sell out the last 300 copies of this great game.

Many have laughed, many have enjoyed, and likely some have cried over the Bungendore boardgame and now is your last chance to purchase this game as at the end of the year that will be it! No more, no reprints, no Monopoly man watching you around our community!

All proceeds from sales go to projects for our community - watch this space as we have one in the wings that we are working on.

The Rotary Club of Bungendore thanks you for your continued support and we know that together we can sell the rest of the



copies. Remember just \$69.99 and yes the whole \$69.99 goes to community projects.

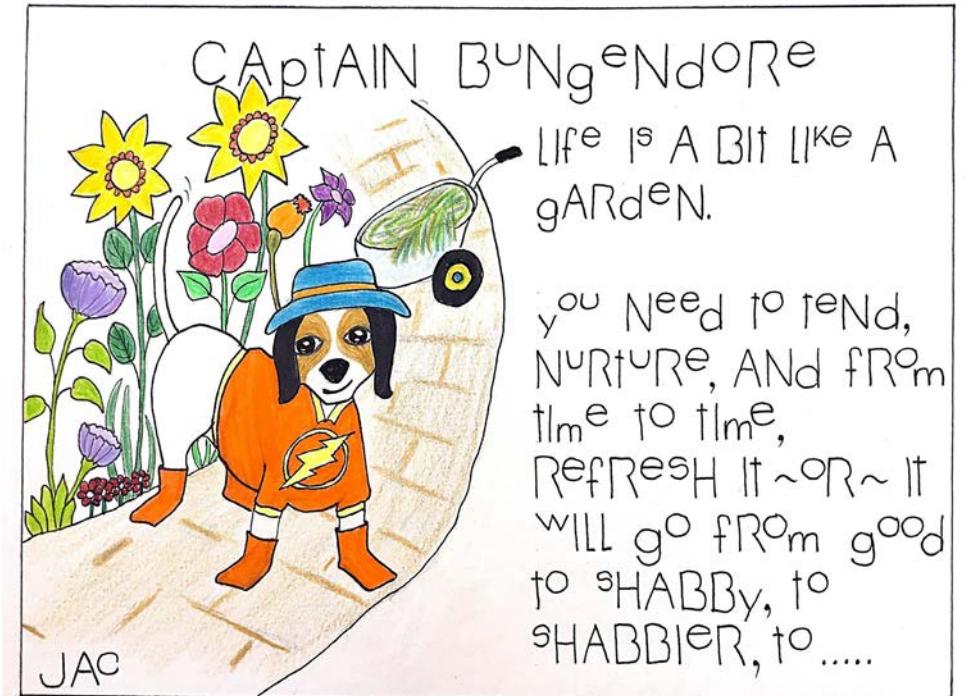
Halloween sellout

Last Friday night Rotary had a special Halloween BBQ. The weather did not deter people enjoying a snag.

Thanks to community support \$475 was raised to support mental health initiatives.

Well done to everyone involved!

Below photo supplied.



Do you have a Photo of the Week? Or, if you would like to see your beloved pet featured as Pet of the Week, please email your photos to info@regionalindependent.com.au

The Regional Independent - letters to the editor need to be no more than 230 words. Please email your letters complete with full name, phone contact and address to: info@regionalindependent.com.au Only your name and suburb will be printed



LIONS COMMUNITY BOOK SHOP

A non-for-profit group with all funds donated to local charitable organisations

LOCATED IN THE QUEANBEYAN PARK

OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm

SECONDHAND
BOOKS,
MAGAZINES,
GAMES,
JIGSAWS,
CRAFT



For more information: Phone 0461 365 831 Email: queanbeyan.nsw@lions.org.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lionsofqueanbeyan/>

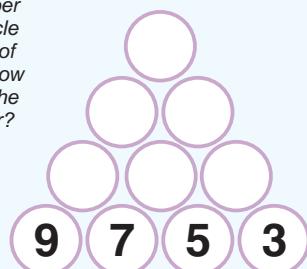
Puzzles

BRAIN TRAINING

Welcome to a puzzle fitness workout aimed at improving your brain power. Boost your mental agility with a session every day in the Mental Gym. Record the time you take to complete each puzzle and you can keep track of your ever increasing mental strength.

Add Up

If the number in each circle is the sum of the two below it, what is the top number?



Splits

Can you rearrange each of these sets of letter blocks into a word?

- 1 SC ED OP ALL
- 2 CLO OV ER UD
- 3 ON DIG TI ES
- 4 VIL DE ME NT
- 5 RE AFT HE ER

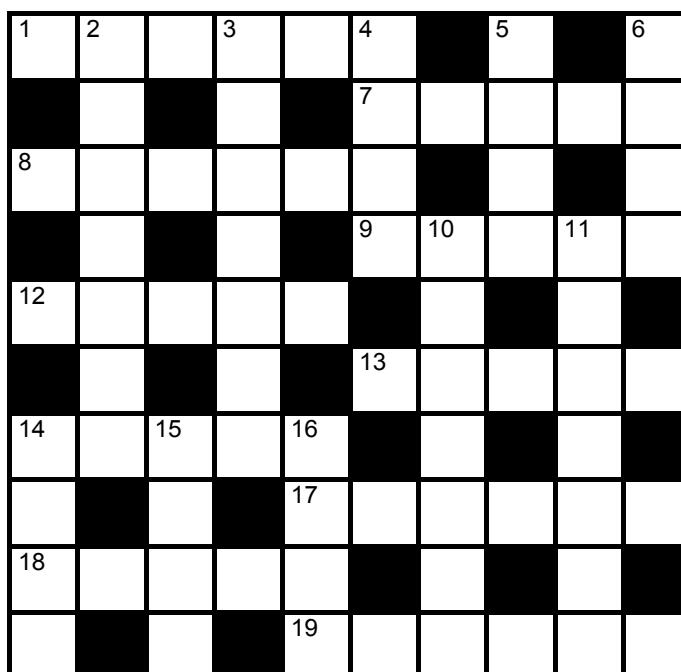
Smart Sums

Try to avoid writing down anything but the final answers to these calculations... no counting on fingers allowed either!

- 1 Syllables in PERSONIFICATION x vowels in ANTHROPOMORPHISE
- 2 Letters in COMPUTER – different letters in MEMORY
- 3 Syllables in ANEMONE + consonants in WINDFLOWER
- 4 Pounds in 2 stone ÷ number of colours in the rainbow
- 5 Different letters in COMMITTED x syllables in ADAMANT

www.puzzler.com/braintrainer

Quick Time Crossword



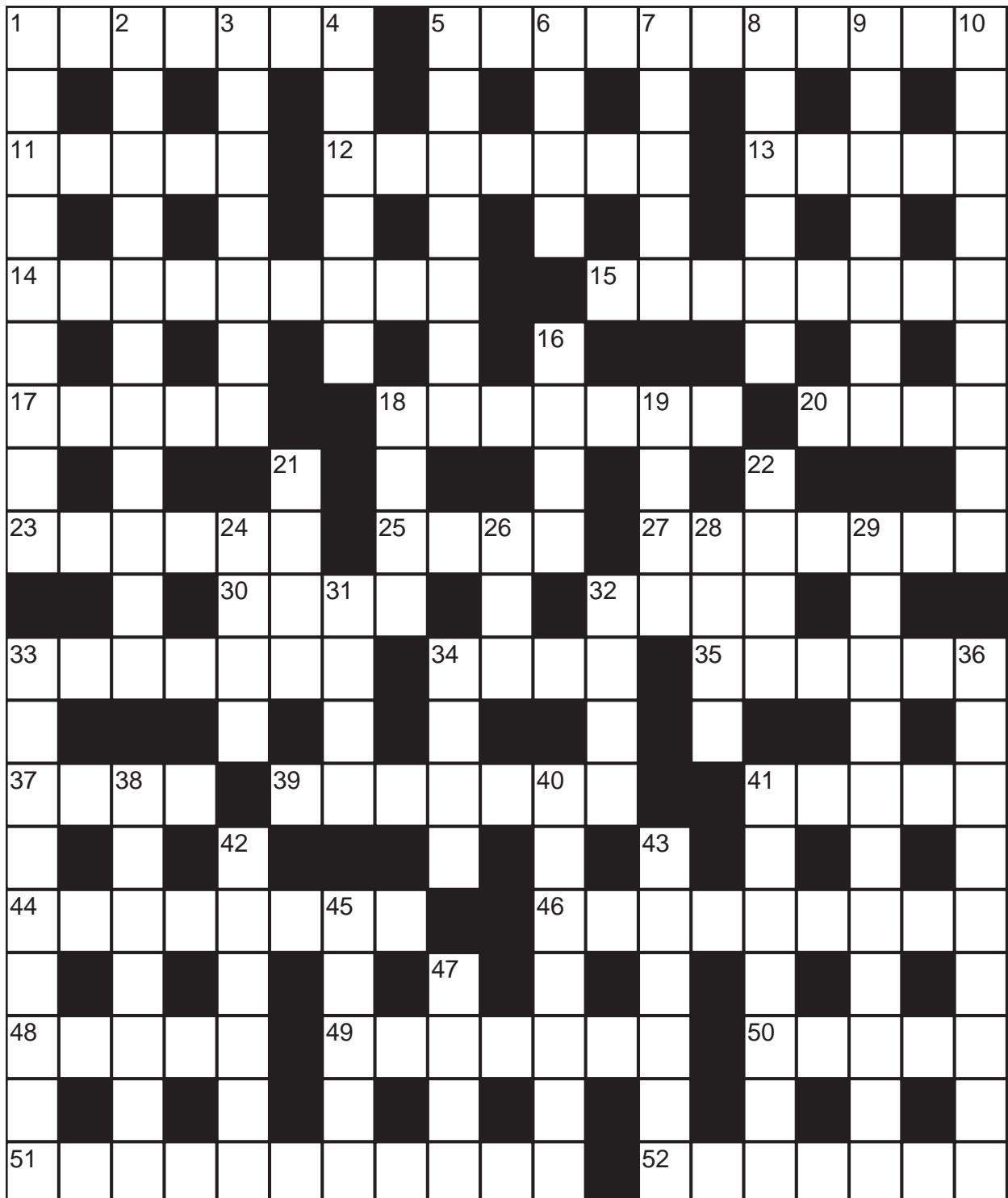
Across

- 1 Funeral car (6)
- 7 Prepared (5)
- 8 Small cable (6)
- 9 View (5)
- 12 Australian river (5)
- 13 Entrance (5)
- 14 Linear indentations (5)
- 17 Standards of perfection (6)
- 18 Ward off (5)
- 19 Join the army (6)

Down

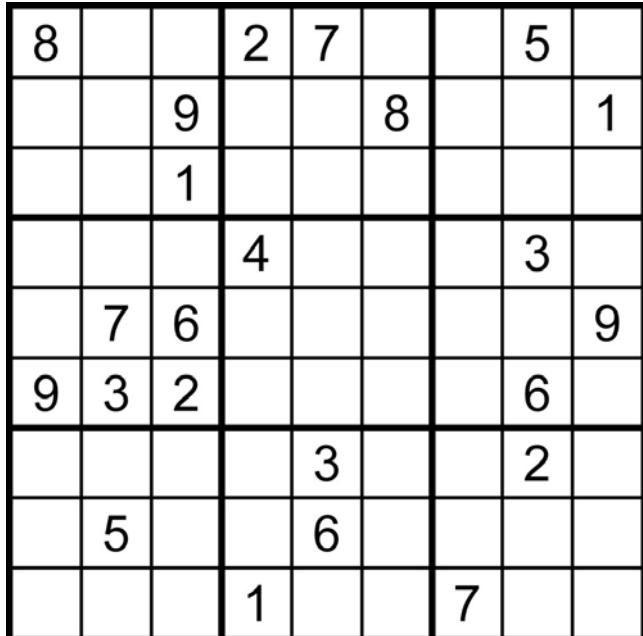
- 2 Arise (7)
- 3 Speaker's platform (7)
- 4 Does wrong (4)
- 5 Garden tool (4)
- 6 Old stringed instrument (4)
- 10 Hide (7)
- 11 Heckles (7)
- 14 Drench (4)
- 15 Summit (4)
- 16 Location (4)

Crossword



Sudoku

Sudoku, it's a game of deduction rather than maths. Fill each row, column and 3x3 square with the numbers 1 - 9, without repeating. Each number can only appear once in each row, column, and frame.



Target Time

Target: Average 8, Good - 10, Excellent - 14+



Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you make? The centre letter must be included and be used only once. Find at least one nine letter word.

Across

- 1 Horse chestnuts
- 5 Offered
- 11 Legends
- 12 Adapt
- 13 Swiss city
- 14 Unusual
- 15 Going round
- 17 Old saying
- 18 Whimpers
- 20 Soften emotionally
- 23 Treatment prioritisation
- 25 Sustenance
- 27 Dribbled
- 30 Behind schedule
- 32 Fate
- 33 Work out
- 34 Entreat
- 35 Type of carpet
- 37 Wave hollow
- 39 Anecdotes
- 41 Movement of voters
- 44 Languishing with passion
- 46 Devise (a plan)
- 48 Estimate
- 49 Funnel-shaped
- 50 Crossword patterns
- 51 Surrounded
- 52 Laundered

Down

- 1 Warrior
- 2 Loyalty to one's country
- 3 Capture
- 4 Zone
- 5 Deer meat
- 6 Weaving machine
- 7 Mythological maiden
- 8 Badge
- 9 Nervy
- 10 Happy
- 16 Enthusiastic
- 18 Harmless
- 19 Board and dice game
- 21 Bench
- 22 Rounded roof
- 24 Excessive amount
- 26 Belonging to us
- 28 Steals from
- 29 Application of oil, etc
- 31 Mamilla
- 32 Stains
- 33 Extensive list
- 34 Public garden
- 36 Lapsed
- 38 Camp without tents
- 40 Obliterated
- 41 Import illegally
- 42 High regard
- 43 Merry play
- 45 Hot drink
- 47 Load

Classifieds

Local Markets

Wamboin Home Produce and Craft Market

Third Sat of each month (except July & August) 9am to 12.

Community Hall and grounds, Bingley Way, Wamboin. Contact Meriel Schultz 0422 614 304

Captains Flat Country Markets

1st Sat of the month, 9.30am-1.30pm, in the Community Hall, Foxlow Street, Captains Flat. Enquiries to communityassociation@captainsflat.org

the market @ bungendore

9am-3pm, Bungendore Memorial Hall. Note: Every 2nd SUNDAY of every EVEN month. www.themarketatbungendore.com

Braidwood Ryrie Park Markets

Fourth Saturday of every month, at the park in Braidwood. Contact Cathy: 0418 262 011 Sarah: 0417 468 686

Southern Harvest Farmers

Markets - Weekly on Saturday from 9 am - 12 pm, 23 Malbon St, Bungendore (Village Square) Contact: markets.southernharvest.org.au

Queanbeyan Markets

Qbn Showground, Third Sunday of every month. 9am to 1pm. For more info call 0419 848 786 or thequeanbeyanmarket@gmail.com

Sutton Village Country Markets

Second Sunday of the Month, 9am until 1:30pm, Sutton Oval (Cnr Victoria & Camp Streets) Contact: [@SuttonVillageCountryMarkets.com.au">SuttonVillageCountryMarkets.com.au](mailto:)



SPOT SPRAYING
RURAL CONTRACTING
David Sillis - 0428 265 111

BUNGENDORE SENIORS

Next get together will be Thursday 6 November, at the Bungendore Sports Hub amenities building \$5.00 per person.

ALL OVER 55's WELCOME

OPENING TIMES WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

Bungendore waste transfer station:

Friday 12.30pm-4.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 8am-4.30pm. Monday 7am-12noon

Bungendore buy back centre:
Saturday 10am-4pm

Bywong waste transfer station:

Friday 2pm-4.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 8am-4.30pm Monday 7am-11am

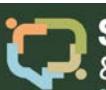
Captains Flat waste transfer station:

Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm (gates close at 2.45pm)
Monday 9am-2pm

Braidwood waste transfer station

Fri, Sat Sun & Mon - 10am to 4.30pm
Monday - 1pm to 4pm

Braidwood buy back centre:
Sunday 10am-4pm



South Coast & Country
COMMUNITY LAW

Free legal advice appointments

A solicitor from South Coast and Country Community Law will be visiting your area for in person legal appointments.

When: Tues 11 November 2025

Where: The Hive, 274 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan

Times: Between 9:30am to 1pm

Appointments are essential - please call 1800 229 529

What problems can South Coast and Country Community Law help with?

Family Law - Separation, parenting, property, divorce, child support, Employment, Tenancy, Victims Support, Credit and Debt, Centrelink Issues, Power of Attorney and Guardianship documents, Consumer Issues, Penalty Notices, Court Attendance Notices for speeding, licence, registration or alcohol/drug driving, Neighbourhood Disputes, Domestic and Family Violence Orders, Personal Violence

To book an appointment, call 1800 229 529. Staff will complete an intake, and a solicitor will see your call you back at your scheduled appointment time.

Personalised care for your dog



Personalised care for your dog. We care for a maximum of five dogs at a time, ensuring plenty of attention, playtime, and one-on-one care. Flexible drop-off and pick-up options available, with 24-hour supervision for peace of mind. Find us on Facebook at MJ Kennels or call 0404 844 161.

VINTAGE & RETRO

ART BY ANDERS: Vintage, retro, secondhand shop. 144 Uriarra Road Crestwood, Queanbeyan, Ph 6297 8636. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10.00am to 4.30pm - Lots of new stock in.

CHOOKS FOR SALE

Layer pullets, 22 weeks, Isa W, B, R, LS, BTR, SLW. Order today for delivery to Bungendore Friday 24 October. Phone Jim on 0428 194 105



Business Classifieds

HAROLD BRADLEY TRANSPORT

Livestock transport available. Mobile loading ramp, 2 x 1 stock crates, competitive rates. Servicing all areas, located Bungendore. Contact Harold on: 0424 452 821



CARPENTER | BUILDER

ACT & Regional Areas

Pergolas - Decks - Fit outs - Cladding Maintenance - Residential & Commercial

Shed Builds - Stables - Farm Yards

The Design Construct C/PL NSW Lic - 217551c. ACT Lic - 2020948

Ph - 0410 698 734

Gavin Pillidge Courier

Braidwood - Canberra - Braidwood

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

Mob: 0428 968 162

These 12 animals are currently doing time at the QPRC AMF (1 Nov)

<https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/Animals/Find-Animals-For-Sale-Adoption-and-Lost-Pets>



Rehoming No. R251000189



Ref No 77 "Skylar"
Staffy x, Female, Approx 5 yrs
AVAILABLE
See also www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1148279



Ref No 78 "Ned"
Heeler x, Male, Approx 8 mths
AVAILABLE
See also www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1148255



Ref No 84 "Radar"
Kelpie, Male, Approx 2 yrs
AVAILABLE



Ref No 92 "Zippy"
(Pound name)
Whippet/Staffy x, Male, Approx 8 mths
AVAILABLE 4 Nov



Rehoming Organisation No.: R251000140



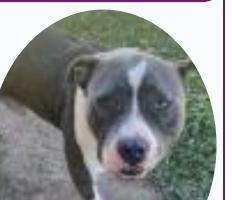
JACK, Male, Kelpie.
Approx 12 months
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1149028



SIMBA, Male, Dogue de Bordeaux.
Approx 4 1/2 yrs
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1142932



ELLIE, Female, Staffy.
Approx 5 1/2 yrs
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1149740



TANK, Male, Staffy.
Approx 5 yrs
www.petrescue.com.au/listings/1148220



Go to Pet Rescue:
www.petrescue.com.au/groups/11042/Goulburn-Mulwaree-Council
to see more photos and details about these animals -- as well as info on how to adopt from the Shelter.

End Their Wait Begin Their Life



Every Animal Deserves a Happy Ever After



LAZY BONES CAT RESCUE (Goulburn)

Meet young Rob

Male, DSH, Approx 1-2 years

Very friendly, snuggly and cuddly.

Happy to be carried. Loves to sit on your lap.

Will jump up for some love.

Would prefer to be your sole focus & one true cat love.

Contact: Nik nik@ferrara.com.au

NB: Lazy Bones Cat Rescue advertises all their kittens and cats for adoption on their Facebook page.

Sport

Bungendore Junior Cricketers Hit the Ground Running

Cricket season is here, bringing beautiful Canberra Spring conditions: cloud cover, wind and rain (perfect for cricket!) On Sunday 25th October at the team's second game of the season, Bungendore's Under 13s showed they are tougher and more resilient than Canberra's ANU, beating them by 45 runs at O'Connor. Bungendore batted first and got off to a great start, highlighted by Bungendore Juniors' first ever half-century to Logan Fennamore who hit 51 off 40 balls. Logan's partnership with Jack (27 not-out) put us in the box seat coming into drinks. Following this, there was a bit of a lull, but it was perfectly

planned out, catching ANU off guard smashing them around off the final 5 overs to reach a target of 198 thanks to Kaylani's 42 not-out and Isaac's 26 not-out.

As ANU were warming up for batting, we could see them praying in the sheds for the rain to come. This gave us some great confidence, and we skittled them in the first 15 overs having them 4 for 60 at drinks. This was largely thanks to the tight bowling of Logan Coote and Rebecca. While ANU's half times prayers started to work with the drizzle coming in and making tough conditions for bowling, we fought through,

bowling ANU out for 155 with great death bowling from William, Charlotte and Sam. Isaac finished the match with 2 wickets.

Our Stage 1 Bungendore White played against Radford. Batting first, Bungendore White was able to put pressure on Radford by running lots of sneaky singles and challenging their fielding. The pressure continued into the bowling innings as Bungendore White was able to take some early wickets including some incredible direct hit run outs. Whilst Radford ultimately won 134-103 it was a great team effort and an exciting start to the season.



Not quite a Billabong but the Turrallo creek formed a fitting backdrop for our Bunyips recent game.

Our openers faced some tight bowling but that didn't stop Murray from a cracking 4 towards the end of his innings. Kobe, Ashton and Jayden also finding the boundary.

Wickets is what we needed, and they were hard to come by. Great bowling by our newest player Sholto, improving so much each week. A fantastic team effort in the field, highlighted by Hugo's stunning chase to stop a certain four. He flicked the ball to Jayden,

who relayed it to our bowler Ashton, who politely whipped off the bails for a textbook run-out.

But it wasn't quite enough. The Wedgetails beat the Bunyips by 28 runs.

We would like to thank our sponsors this year: PRD Bungendore, Bendigo Bank Bungendore, Cut It Out Carpentry and Bungendore Cellars. Without your generosity, these kids wouldn't be able to represent Bungendore in Junior Cricket and participate in such a fun and engaging local sport.

Photos supplied



Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

A safe way to have fun and stay active for kids of all abilities.

Bungendore Bunyips Cricket Club Blast
3:30pm - 5pm

Warren Little Oval

Start date - 24/10/2025, End date - 19/12/2025
Every registered kid will receive a Woolworths cricket blast pack

Contact: Dave Boyd P: 0459336883
E: boyd.david@outlook.com



Sign up Today!

Play Cricket

Proudly
Presented By



BUNGENDORE JUNIOR TIGERS
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING
MONDAY
10TH NOVEMBER
BUNGENDORE
SPORTS HUB

BUNGENDORE TIGERS

Please join us at the Bungendore Sports Hub,
Monday 10th November 6pm.
All positions will be declared open and up for nomination.
Whether you're a long-time member or new to the club.
We welcome all volunteers who want to get involved