

Pet of the Week



Celebrating 10 years in print

Pet of the Week



Regional Independent

Free

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

No. 450

Wednesday 17 December, 2025

Festive cheer and community spirit

Christmas festivities have been in full swing across the region. Friday's community Christmas party at Mick Sherd Oval saw perfect weather, fun and games for the kid's and entertainment. MC, Josh did a stella job (as usual) including enticing big and little kids with some "do you know lyrics" fun.

Shop local this Christmas.

Christmas @ Phil's Op Shop

Friday 19 December - 10am to 12 noon

Christmas Carols by the Queanbeyan Junior

Brass Band, \$5 bag sale, Christmas Photo Booth, Cake, Coffee

27 Butmaroo Street, Bungendore

Join us for some festival fun at our last "Phil Good Friday" for 2025

Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party and Carols

Thursday, 18 December 2025 - 4pm to 9pm

This year's Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party and Carols will be held in the Sunken Garden in the iconic Queanbeyan Park.

The program includes traditional carols and Christmas performances.

Pack a picnic and join the community just before Christmas for the ultimate sing-along.

Santa is on his way

Santa has asked the Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade to drive him around the village so that he can wave to the little and big kids before he heads to the North Pole to get his reindeer and sleigh for his deliveries later that night.



You can track where Santa and we are using the following link <https://glympse.com/santarunbungendorerfs> or QR code. See page 16 for more information.

This is the last edition for 2025, first edition for 2026 will be in stands on Wednesday 14th January 2026. In light of the recent tragic events - we wish everyone a kind, safe and healthy holiday season.

Photos: the QPRC Bungendore Community Christmas party

Sharon Baxter-Judge

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Community News

Jerrabomberra Probus Club Christmas Lunch

With no general meeting planned for December, 46 Members and guests of The Jerra Probus Club celebrated the end of 2025 with a Christmas lunch at the Dugout Café at the Regional Sports Hub on Environa Drive. The café has a bright environment and is run by the Embrace Disability Group.

They have a website for more information. We enjoyed having the whole indoor space to ourselves and a beautifully prepared buffet meal and dessert.

Our guest speaker on Wednesday 21 January will be Justin Parish, Branch Manager CBA Queanbeyan who will talk about



"Staying Safe on-line". If you are interested in our Probus Club, we now have a website recently set up by our President Chris Colton. You can find it here; <https://probussouthpacific.org/micrositesjerrabomberrac>

If you would like to visit one of our meetings to see how we work, please contact our Secretary Eleanor Robertson so you can receive a suitable welcome and introduction.

Email: Eleanor.vqa@gmail.com
Phone: 0400 194 340

Peter Haddon
Jerra Probus Club
Photos supplied

From the Member for Eden-Monaro

As Christmas approaches, I want to wish everyone the very best. I hope you get the chance to rest and relax with family and friends and enjoy some well-deserved downtime.

What a big year 2025 has been. And there's plenty more to come in 2026.

Since the federal election in May 2025, we've been hard at work delivering on the plan Australians voted for – from the biggest-ever investment in bulk billing to cutting 20% off student debt.

As 2026 begins, our focus remains the same: delivering real help with the cost of living.

That's why, from 1 January, we've launched **1800MEDICARE** – a new advice and out-of-hours Medicare telehealth service for every Australian. Day or night, you can speak to a qualified professional when you need it.

We've also reduced the maximum co-payment for PBS medications

to just **\$25** – the lowest price since 2004.

And our **free digital Medicare Mental Health Check-In** is now live, helping you access support without needing a GP referral and without worrying about gap fees.

These changes are just the beginning. We've made real progress, and we know there's more work to do in 2026.

This term my ministerial role expanded. I am now the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and the Minister for Emergency Management. My new role means I am responsible for ensuring we have stronger and more resilient communities before, during and after disasters and emergencies.

We've already seen natural disaster strike across the country this higher-risk weather season, from Tropical Cyclone Fina in Northern Territory and Western Australia to hailstorms in

Queensland and bushfires in NSW and Tasmania.

This summer I urge everyone to stay safe and be prepared.

Natural disasters can strike at any time. Whether it's a flood, bushfire or heatwave, disasters can be unpredictable and disruptive. How we plan, prepare and support one another makes a big difference. It helps build resilience and improves recovery outcomes.

You can find helpful resources on getting prepared and who to contact in an emergency on my website at: <https://www.kristymcbain.com.au/resources/higher-risk-weather-season-resources>

Finally, I'd also like to give a big shout-out to the Regional Independent newspaper as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. Independent media is so important, particularly in regional areas like ours. Thank you for keeping us informed and connected. Here's to



another 10 years!

My office will be closed from Wednesday, 24 December 2025, and will reopen on Monday, 5 January 2026. If you need assistance during this time, please email me at Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au - emails will be monitored over the break.

Merry Christmas, have a happy New Year, and I look forward to catching up with you in 2026 somewhere in the #MightyEdenMonaro!

Kristy McBain
Member for Eden-Monaro
Photo supplied

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.

We welcome local stories. For editorial and advertising enquiries, please email Sharon: info@regionalindependent.com.au or phone 0419 025 533



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Community News

Santa has visited early

With the help of all the elves of Bungendore and Captains Flat Santa made his deliveries to families in the local area to help bring some Christmas Cheer. In spite of tougher financial times with the cost of living the ever generous people in our community donated goods to add to our Christmas Hampers this year. The elves got together and packed up the hampers and gifts ready for delivery by our Santas (drivers) and their reindeer (cars).

Thanks to members of the churches of St Philip's Anglican

and St Mary's Catholic for their planning and organisations and to our community who helped with the pick up, shopping, packing and deliveries. It was a "one in, all in" affair with split packing this year in Bungendore and Captains Flat.

Special thanks to Bungendore Country Butchery for helping out with the hams and our Community Bank of Bungendore for their ongoing support to our community and this event.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Photo supplied



Applications open for the 2026 Community Bank Scholarship Program

Local students from Braidwood, Bungendore and surrounding districts can now apply for financial support to help them begin tertiary study in 2026, with the launch of the 2026 Community Bank Braidwood & Bungendore Scholarship Program.

Palerang Financial Services Ltd (PFSL), the company behind the Community Bank branches in Braidwood and Bungendore, has once again committed to support young people pursuing university or TAFE education. Scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate academic motivation, community involvement and personal resilience in the face of financial or social barriers.

Supporting our region's future leaders

Chair of PFSL, Garry Cook, said the scholarship program continues to be one of the most meaningful ways the Community Banks invest in local young people.

"Education opens doors, for students, families and the wider community. By helping local young people develop their skills and pursue their aspirations, we're investing in a stronger, more vibrant future for our region."

Scholarships may be awarded for University or TAFE study and can contribute to a range of expenses, including accommodation, course costs, study-related materials,

technology, textbooks, tutoring and travel.

Eligibility

To apply, students must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Live in or attend school in the 2620, 2621, 2622 or 2623 postcodes
- Be commencing full-time tertiary study in 2026 at an Australian university or TAFE
- Be aged ≤25 for university study, or 16-25 for TAFE
- Be a first-time first-year tertiary student

• Demonstrate community involvement, leadership potential and challenging financial or social circumstances

Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need, academic motivation and community leadership, following an interview process conducted by a local selection panel.

How to apply

Applications are now open and close midnight, 31 January 2026 (AEDT).

Braidwood applicants:
<https://palerangfsl.smartygrants.com.au/BraidwoodScholarships>

Bungendore applicants:

<https://palerangfsl.smartygrants.com.au/2026scholarships>

Applicants will be invited to interview in February, with results announced in March 2026.

See page 11 for more details.



Queanbeyan Veteran & Family Hub

Christmas Party

All Veterans & their families are invited to join in the fun at the Hub Christmas Party.

WHEN : Friday 19th December, 2025

WHERE : Level 1, 251 Crawford Street, QBN

TIME : 3.00pm to 6.00pm

The afternoon will include : Christmas treats, Face painting, a Xmas Movie, Xmas craft activity & Santa Photos

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\$430 Per Week

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Community News

NSW residents urged to take care this mosquito season

With the arrival of summer, NSW Health is urging people to protect themselves from mosquito bites after earlier than expected detections of two mosquito borne viruses that can cause brain swelling.

The first detection of Japanese Encephalitis virus in mosquitoes for the 2025-2026 season was detected last week in mosquitoes collected from the Horsham Rural City Council region in Victoria.

Another mosquito borne virus, Kunjin virus, has also been detected in Western NSW at Cowra, through a sentinel chicken blood sample on 20 November 2025 as part of NSW Health's routine surveillance.

NSW Health's Director Health Protection, Dr Stephen Conaty, said these detections so early in the summer season are concerning.

"Mosquito numbers will likely

increase with warmer weather, and we remind everyone in NSW to protect themselves against mosquito bites, which can cause diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis and Murray Valley Encephalitis, and infection with Kunjin virus, Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus," Dr Conaty said.

There are now 60 NSW LGAs that are considered to be higher risk of Japanese Encephalitis virus. Residents and travellers to these LGAs should take particular care to avoid mosquito bites.

"There is a safe, effective and free vaccine to protect against Japanese Encephalitis (JE). This vaccine is free to anyone who lives or routinely works in these 60 LGAs west of the dividing range and in northern NSW, and for people who work in some other high-risk occupations."

JE vaccine is available through

General Practitioners, Aboriginal health services and pharmacists. People who meet the eligibility criteria should make an appointment ahead of time and let the provider know it is for the JE vaccine. These providers may require a few days' notice so they can order the vaccine and may charge a consultation fee.

A booster dose may be recommended for some people with ongoing risk of exposure, one to two years after completing their primary course.

Other than the JE vaccine, there is no vaccination or specific treatment for Kunjin virus or other mosquito borne diseases in Australia. The best way to avoid infection is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, which are more active between dusk and dawn.

To prevent mosquito bites:

- apply repellent to exposed skin. Use repellents that contain

DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Check the label for reapplication times

- re-apply repellent regularly, particularly after swimming. Be sure to apply sunscreen first and then apply repellent

- wear light, loose-fitting long-sleeve shirts, long pants, socks and covered footwear

- avoid going outdoors during peak mosquito times, especially dawn and dusk

- use insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units and mosquito coils to repel mosquitoes (mosquito coils should only be used outdoors in well-ventilated areas)

- cover windows and doors with insect screens and checking there are no gaps

- remove items that may collect water such as old tyres and empty pots from around your home to reduce the places where

mosquitoes can breed

- use repellents that are safe for children. Most skin repellents are safe for use on children aged three months and older. Always check the label for instructions

- use an infant carrier draped with mosquito netting to protect infants aged less than three months, secured along the edges

- while camping, use a tent that has fly screens to prevent mosquitoes entering or sleep under a mosquito net.

Information on eligibility for a free JE vaccine is available here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/.../jev/pages/vaccination.aspx>

Mosquito borne diseases cannot be transmitted directly between humans or from any other animal.

For further information on JE virus and ways to protect yourself, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mosquitoes>

Bridging Generations: BaptistCare Home Services & Bungendore High School Intergenerational Program

Following great success in 2024 it was with great pleasure that we were able to continue to foster meaningful connections through our Intergenerational Program with clients from BaptistCare, Home Services and Year 9 student from Bungendore High School, a unique initiative designed to bring together older adults and younger generations in a spirit of learning, sharing, and mutual respect.

Intergenerational programs create opportunities for people of different ages to interact, learn from one another, and build lasting relationships. These connections help reduce social isolation among older adults, while offering younger participants valuable life lessons, empathy, and a sense of community.



At the event showcase on Thursday 11th December, students presented a range of displays that represented client stories and the shared experience each had during the program. Many

participants acknowledged being anxious in the beginning, but the anxiety decreased overtime, and some great friendships were made.

Photos supplied



EOI: Rates Structure Review Panel 2026

QPRC

Expressions of Interest to join the Rates Structure Review Panel are now open.

We are looking for community members to join a Community Reference Panel who will provide feedback and advice to Council on a rates structure review.

The Panel will have an advisory role and will recommend a preferred rating structure for consideration by Council and the broader community.

The commitment from the panel is to receive briefing information about how Council distributes the rates burden across ratepayers in the local government area, attend 2-3 workshops, and contribute to ideas with other members of the community in February-March 2026.

Council staff will provide comprehensive information, be available to respond to questions, and facilitate the workshops so that all voices are heard. A briefing paper will be available on this page shortly.

Council will listen to the advice of the reference panel before making a decision on setting the rates for the 2026-27 Operational

Plan.

Panel members will be selected through this expression of interest process. Panel members will represent a range of ratepayer groups including business, residential and farmland ratepayers and be from across the local government area.

Prospective panel members may attend a briefing workshop to understand more about the rates review process and what will be required in the week of 1-5 December in Bungendore. For those who express their interest after these dates, the briefing information will be provided electronically via email. All information will be available publicly and remain available up until the workshops begin in February 2026.

Members of the panel will workshop with Council staff during February and March 2026.

Complete the EOI form on council YourVoice webpage prior to Wednesday 24 December if you'd like to be part of the community reference panel.

<https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>

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Community News

Festive Fun at Bungendore Crafters' Co-Op Christmas Party

The Bungendore Crafters' Co-operative wrapped up the year in true festive style with a joyful Christmas Craft Night that brought creativity, connection, and plenty of laughter to the community.

The group, which meets fortnightly to craft, chat, and share materials, skills and advice, celebrated the end of 2025 with an extra-special evening filled with Christmas-themed games, good food, and hands-on making. Members tested their knowledge in a lively round of craft trivia and then took part in an epic round of craft charades, which had everyone laughing and showing off their acting skills as they

demonstrated some obscure crafts (think sporran making, hurdle making and pointe shoe making) for their Co-Op friends to guess. A highlight of the evening was a mini workshop where participants created delicate folded paper stars made from repurposed book pages. The room buzzed with conversation as members helped one another master folds, swap ideas, and admire the finished stars.

No celebration is complete without good food, and the group enjoyed a delicious feast from local favourite Bombay Pavilion. The fragrant spread fuelled the creativity and added an extra layer of warmth to the night.

As the year draws to a close, the

craft group reflects on another successful season of connection and creativity. Members look forward to continuing their crafting adventures in 2026 and extend warm wishes for a happy, peaceful, and creatively inspired Christmas to the entire community. We always welcome new crafters to the group, which provides a space and time for local women to meet and practise their crafts in the company of like-minded people all happy to share and lend an ear. The group will next meet on Christmas Day as it happens to fall on a regular fortnightly Thursday craft night. Organiser, Thalia, will open the craft room doors for people seeking some creative refuge and wishing to

unwind after what is sure to be a busy day for many. What better way to relax and unwind than crafting with friends, a piece of pav or a turkey sandwich? Being a busier day than usual, the time the group will meet for Christmas Day Co-Op Craft will be decided in the coming weeks. Stay tuned to Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative Facebook page for more details and look out for updates on Bungendore's Facebook community pages. Other upcoming dates for the Co-Op craft nights will be Thursday 8th and 22nd January from 6-8pm at 55 Gibraltar Street Bungendore.

Photo supplied



Australia Day Ceremonies - Mon 26 Jan 2026

Captains Flat from 10am

Captains Flat Memorial Hall. Activities include:

- Australia Day Award Ceremony from 10am
- Address by Australia Day Ambassador
- Morning tea

Braidwood from 12 noon

The Serviceman's Club from 12pm. Activities include:

- Australia Day award ceremony from 12pm
- Address by Australia Day Ambassador
- Cutting of the Australia Day Cake
- Light refreshments will be provided
- Entertainment

Bungendore from 2pm

Bungendore Bowling and Sports Club. The Club will be **open from 11am** and lunch options will be available.

Australia Day award ceremony 2pm

- Address by Australia Day Ambassador
- Cutting of the Australia Day Cake
- Light refreshments
- Activities

Queanbeyan from 5.30pm

Address by Australia Day Ambassador, Citizenship Ceremony, Queanbeyan Australia Day Awards, Cutting of the Australia Day Cake, Live entertainment, BBQ and fireworks

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Community News

QPRC - meeting agenda Wednesday 17 December, 2025

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 17 December 2025, commencing at 5.30pm, Bungendore Community Centre, 2 Majara Street, Bungendore

Presentations for items listed on the Agenda can be made in writing, via Zoom or in person. A live stream of the meeting can be viewed at: <http://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au>

Reports to Council - Items for Determination

- 9.1 DA.2024.0303 - 275 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan - Alterations and Additions to Existing Centre-based Child Care Facility
- 9.2 Schedule 5 Review - Update
- 9.3 Four QPRC Development Control Plans (DCPs) Review
- 9.4 Amendments to SEPP (Housing) 2021 - Temporary Workers' Accommodation- Opt-in
- 9.5 Annual Report 2025
- 9.6 Bungendore Flood Study - Public Exhibition
- 9.7 Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Contracts 12/2015 and 10/2015
- 9.8 Review of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan for Braidwood, Bungendore, and Queanbeyan
- 9.9 Council Funding of Syringe Disposal Service
- 9.10 Restart NSW Fund: RNSW1934 - South Jerrabomberra Innovation Precinct Notice of Project Financial and Scope Management Audit
- 9.11 Investment Report - November 2025
- 9.12 Transport for NSW - Authorisation and Delegation - Prescribed Traffic Control Devices and Regulation of Traffic
- 9.13 Post-Exhibition Policy Report - Unsealed Council Road Policy

9.14 Post-Exhibition Report - Code of Meeting Practice 2025

9.15 Post-Exhibition Policy Report

Reports To Council - Items for Information

10.1 Queanbeyan to Bungendore Bulk Water Supply Transfer Pipeline Project Update

10.2 Traffic Safety in Precinct of Karabar Schools - Progress Update

10.3 Jerrabomberra Traffic Campaign - Progress Update

10.4 Land Sales and Acquisition Register Update

10.5 Councillor Workshops

Reports of Committees

11.1 Bungendore Town Centre and Environs Committee Minutes - 17 November 2025

11.2 Local Traffic Committee Minutes - 2 December 2025

11.3 Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes - 4 December 2025

Notices of Motions

12.1 Notice of Motion - Senior's Week Funding

Questions With Notice

14.1 Question With Notice - Foxlow Bridge Assessments Update

14.2 Question With Notice - DCI Data Centre, Jerrabomberra

Reports For Closed Session

16.1 RFT-202596 - Henderson Road Drainage Upgrade

Item 16.1 is confidential in accordance with s10(A) (c) (d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 because it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; AND commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and discussion of

the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

16.2 RFT 2022-32 - Supply & Delivery of Lime Silo and Dosing Equipment for QSTP

Item 16.2 is confidential in accordance with s10(A) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 because it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

16.3 RFT 2025-12 Briars Sharow Bridge Upgrade - Design and Construct

Item 16.3 is confidential in accordance with s10(A) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 because it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Hoskinstown Kids Christmas Party and Community BBQ

The Hoskinstown Kids Christmas Party followed by the Community BBQ is always a fun event to round off the year. Thanks to Clare who organised the Kids Party and to everyone who attended. Each year we see how much the

children have grown since the previous year and how excited they are to see Santa again. There were even a couple of tiny ones seeing Santa for the first time. As rural children all know Santa arrives on a Fire Truck and we

thank the Hoskinstown-Rossi RFB who ensured Santa arrived safely. The tree, provided by David, was beautifully decorated on the Friday afternoon. Thank you to our lovely Santa who read The Fire Truck Santa to all



the children, the cooler weather was much appreciated by Santa this year! (Thanks also to our Bungendore Community Bank who ensured Santa was well dressed)

After the kids party the Community BBQ kicked on and people enjoyed a BBQ with meats from our local Bungendore Country Butcher well cooked by Jan, Jan, Karen, Gean and Rowan. The Hoskinstown Whopper is especially popular (you have to be there to experience it!)

As always with Community events we rely on our volunteers to ensure events are a success. Thank you to everyone who helped out!

We wish you all a rain-filled Christmas and a 2026 filled with joy and happiness.

Rowan Simpkin
Hoskinstown War Memorial Hall Committee

Photos supplied

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Community News

Bungendore CWA Christmas Party

Sunday December 7, this year's Bungendore CWA Christmas party was the perfect way to unwind and celebrate the end of a busy year for their volunteers. This year has been a busy one for the club, filled with connection, service, creativity, a little chaos and plenty of scones.

Tilly and Rosie serenading the group with carols on the violins as members arrived for the meeting before the party started. Guests then settled in for a long, relaxed lunch made even more

enjoyable by the fabulous weather after a scorching Saturday, warm sunshine and a gentle breeze keeping everyone comfortable.

Lovely tables were set up under the shade of the trees, creating a fabulous atmosphere. It was the kind of setting that encouraged people to slow down, linger, and enjoy the moment. As everyone gathered, great conversation flowed easily, with plenty of laughter and stories shared among friends.

The food was nothing short

of fantastic. Platters of fresh ham, fresh salads, desserts along with some home made cherry conserve. A perfect afternoon spent celebrating community, friendship, and the festive spirit.

To add a sprinkle of mischief, Suzanne ran a "Guess Who" competition. Members shared a photo of their younger self. It was hard picking out who was who, all the photos supplied were adorable.

Sharon Baxter-Judge

"To everyone who has volunteered, purchased

jams, stitched, stirred, baked or just simply cheered us on THANK YOU.

From our CWA family to yours we wish you a Christmas filled with peace, connection and moments of quiet joy.. May the new year bring comfort where needed, courage where it's called for and plenty of reasons to celebrate.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Bungendore, stay safe, stay kind, stay connected

With love CWA Bungendore"
Group photo supplied



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Community News

School Spectacular dazzles

Recently, a whopping 6,000 public school students dazzled tens of thousands of people at the world's largest amateur variety show, School Spectacular at Sydney's Qudos Bank Arena.

Showtime saw hundreds of students put on amazing dance numbers, singing performances and acrobatic feats.

Working off stage and behind the scenes were over 150 vocational education and training (VET) students who managed camera operations, audio engineering, lighting, production, styling and costumes, event and stage management and operated the Tiny Café.

Karabar High School sent the most VET students to School Spectacular with 11 students travelling to Sydney to gain work experience.

Among the students were Karabar High School students Vince McDonald-Trower and Jack Merton who are both studying for their Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services. The students were also accompanied by their teacher, Stephen Barret, who is the music entertainment teacher.

Vince, who worked as a communications specialist, said "My role is communications, which is ensuring that people all over the arena can talk to one another, as well as maintaining the systems behind that," he explained. For Vince, the experience was not just about the technical challenge but also about the people he met

along the way. "I love meeting new people, being able to build these relationships and learning new things."

Currently exploring options for his future career, Vince said the production world sits high on his list. "I'm exploring my options when it comes to my future career, but the whole production side of everything is definitely in my top five. There are so many different career paths you can go down, whether you prefer costuming, set design, communications, audio or lighting."

Working alongside him was Jack, part of the vision (IMAG) department, where he operated cameras for the giant Imax screens around the arena. "My role at School Spectacular is a camera operator for the Imax screens, which includes getting close ups of the performers so that all the people around the arena can see up close what's happening on the stage," he said.

Jack described his work placement as both fascinating and eye-opening. "My work placement at School Spec has been really interesting. I've been getting hands on with all the cameras and really seeing the large scale technical aspects of a show."

He said the experience builds on the school-based work he already enjoys. "I like my work experience at school like doing our school show annually. Doing a show like this is really interesting to see all the different departments and how they work together."

Looking ahead, Jack hopes to pursue aviation or further technical production work. "In the future, I want to get into commercial aviation and be a pilot or do something like this: working on big, interesting shows, doing technical aspects, like lighting or camera ops or anything of the sorts." He also encouraged more students to get involved in vocational pathways. "I would recommend VET courses to students. It's a really fun, interactive course that really takes you away from your academics and gives you a break in a way to get hands on with items and learn about how to do cool stuff like this."

For Stephen Barrett, a music entertainment teacher at Karabar High School and the School Spectacular 2IC for the student production team, the event showcases the power of vocational learning. "My role at School Spectacular is to work with the props and staging team, student production team and the graphics team," he said.

Stephen, music entertainment teacher at Karabar High School and School Spectacular 2IC for the student production team believes VET programs give students the confidence and capability to enter the industry with real-world experience. "So with VET, it's all about building kids that have capacity to go into the industry and hit the ground running by engaging in work placement and things like School Spec."

The scale of the event—and the professionals involved—offers unmatched opportunities. "They're



not only getting the opportunity to build their skills, they get to work on an event that is world class, and they're getting to learn off industry professionals who are able to show them and guide them and nurture them as they head off into the industry."

He said there is no other event like it. "So this is an event that there's nothing like it in the world where we have kids having an opportunity to work in a venue like this and to work with people like this to build their skills."

Students participate across almost every technical area imaginable. "We've got kids doing everything from operating follow spots, to working with our pyrotechnics team and working hands on with props and staging, working in comms, everything," Stephen said. "So, by working on something like this,

they go from having the opportunity to work on small scale productions at school level to being working on an industry level event."

He believes VET is a pathway suited to every type of student. "VET is one of the ultimate pathways in schools and I feel like there is a VET subject for every student. So, whether you're a kid that is keen to go and be a mechanic, go and be a carpenter, go and be a graphics designer, work in the live entertainment industry."

The Years 11 and 12 VET students travelled from across NSW and were supported by VET teachers and industry mentors so they could invaluable career development and training experiences.

Photos supplied



Blind Creek Solar Farm

octopus Australia



Keep up to date
with the Blind Creek
Solar Farm project

Scan the QR code to find out more or visit: blindcreeksolarfarm.com.au





Community Services Day

Hometown Heroes - Salute to Service

Join us for a family fun day at Queanbeyan Showground and experience all of the community services: Army, Navy, Airforce, Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance and more!

Sunday 8th February 2026
 10:00am - 3:00pm
 Queanbeyan Showground

\$10 Adult
\$5 Children
\$20 Family of 4

Pre-purchase tickets or purchase on the day

For further details keep an eye on our website for updates

All proceeds will be donated to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services



Community News

Maria's Community Corner



Did you get a chance to see the show 'Here You Come Again' at the Canberra Theatre? My sister shouted me to the show for my birthday, and it was hilarious. It showcased Dolly Parton songs



and included 'Jolene' and '9 to 5' and lots of 'sparkle'. On the day my sister couldn't make it so I went with my daughter-in-law. We had a great day commencing with lunch, then the show and followed by afternoon tea. A fun way to spend some precious time together.

Braidwood CWA Branch officially celebrated their 100th birthday on 29th November by having a lunch at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club. CWA State President (Tanya Jolly) and Immediate Past President (Joy Beames) were in attendance. We heard about the 'Right' story which was both a story and a game and it was a real hoot! One of the highlights on the day was the presentation of Life Membership to three of their members - Jean Cargill, Margaret Royds and Carol Hancock. Congratulations ladies.

The Christmas season is well and truly being celebrated. On Sunday 30 November I attended a workshop on making the traditional Italian donuts. Different regions in Italy have different ones and it was inspiring to see the slight

differences - they all look the same but the ingredients vary slightly. I even got to taste just about every one - Delicious!

Queanbeyan Seniors held their Christmas party on 4 December at Campbell & George. Over 100 of our members attended and we had a wow of a time. Weird and Hilarious certificates were presented to some of the members. These included Helping Hand, Energizer Bunny, 99% Perspiration, Coffee Cup Connoisseur, Patience Prodigy, Deadline Houdini, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Picasso and Bermuda Triangle Award - for the desk where things vanish!

Then off to the CWA Group Council Meeting in Goulburn on Saturday 6 December.

In between the business on the Agenda we had a Lucky door prize and raffles were drawn. There was an International Doll competition, which was won by Anne-Maree Clarke from Taralga Branch and presented with the accompanying Clifford trophy. And for something different and fun there was the



Christmas hat competition and this was won by Gai Goesch from Crookwell Branch.

And to finish off, the Queanbeyan Evening Branch of CWA held their festivities on Sunday 7 December at the Queanbeyan Kangaroo Club. Linda and her team of organisers outdid themselves with all the games and trivia on offer. We even had to compete in a short Christmas 'performance', and yes my team won this. YAY!

Happy 10th Birthday to Regional Independent. Wishing you may more successful years and thank you for keeping the community very well informed.

From my family to yours - Wishing you all a very Merry and safe Christmas and Happy New Year. May you look back on this wonderful Christmas season throughout 2026 with fond memories of fun times.

Photos supplied

Bungendore Seniors: fun and festivities



Recently Bungendore Seniors had a visit from a group of Bungendore High School students.

As part of the School's Contributing to a Better World Crew project, a group of students embarked on an elderly outreach program. After brainstorming activities that could be enjoyed with some of the local community, the students reached out to various senior groups and Bungendore Seniors accepted the invitation.

The students and their food technology teacher cooked delicious frittatas and mini carrot cakes and then walked down to the Sports Hub to join us for a morning of chat, games and nibbles. The conversation flowed freely, and the students were reluctant to leave once the time was up.

Seniors thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the conversation. We all hope to foster this relationship in 2026.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at the Lake George Bar and Dining. The two-course meal was fabulous, company brilliant and a good time was had by all. Lucky raffle winners were Beryl, Marnie and Robyn took out the major prize. Thanks to the chefs and staff for their wonderful hospitality.

Our last gathering for the year is this Thursday (18th December), so join us for some more Christmas cheer. Our first gathering in 2026 will be Thursday 8th January. 10am at the Bungendore Sports Hub, \$5.00 - anyone over 55 is welcome to join us.

A reminder that our chair yoga operates during school terms only. Our first yoga session for 2026 will be Tuesday 21st January.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Sharon Baxter-Judge



Community News

Bungendore High School Buzz

Bungendore High School

Bungendore High School students are thriving through hands-on, creative learning experiences that combine technology, culture, and practical skills in Technological and Applied Studies (TAS). This term, our Year 7 Digital Technology students embarked on an engaging Satellite unit, where they assembled and interfaced with a real satellite module to track and analyse live data, including GPS location, speed, and other sensor outputs.

"In Year 7 Mandatory Tech Engineering, my team and I have been building a satellite for our made-up company (BASA Aerospace). This class is my

favourite because I want to be a pilot, and I also love building high-tech flying objects. It's fun because I'm learning how to build more things with actual working technology, and I get to be the manager of our little company."

– Gui, Year 7

Year 8 Engineering students took on an exciting and hands-on challenge: designing and constructing their very own table hockey games. This project encouraged students to apply their problem-solving skills, creativity, and practical engineering knowledge.

Throughout the unit, students planned, designed, and built game boards that are not only functional

but also vibrant and uniquely decorated. The variety of colourful designs and inventive construction techniques on display truly reflects the dedication and imagination of our young engineers.

Our Year 10 Cake Decorating students took their skills to the next level by baking a variety of cakes and designing beautifully decorated cookies. Their work reflects both artistic talent and dedication, rounding out an exciting term of hands-on learning in the kitchen.

In Year 7 Textiles, every student has had the opportunity to learn and build foundational sewing skills—many beginning with no prior experience at all. Students learned how to thread and operate a sewing machine, sew seams and apply seam finishes, complete appliqué, hand stitch, and sew on a button. They brought these techniques together to design and create a personalised cushion cover inspired by their own creative ideas.

Stage 5 Textiles Technology students have also worked incredibly hard throughout the year. They began by creating custom book covers and then moved on to learning how to read and interpret commercial patterns. Students further extended their skills by sewing with knit fabrics to produce a two-piece loungewear



outfit consisting of a jumper and pants. Their final major project is now underway, with each student designing and creating a costume

inspired by a stage production or film or intended to be worn at a music festival or special event.

Photos supplied



Merry Christmas!

Wherever you are in the Mighty Eden-Monaro, travel safe on our roads, support local business and enjoy 2026!

Kristy McBain MP
Member for Eden-Monaro

KristyMcBain.com.au

Authorised by K. McBain, ALP 21-25 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan

Need help with the costs of study?

Applications are invited from eligible students who require assistance with educational costs in 2026.

Applications close 31 January 2026.

<https://palerangfsl.smartygrants.com.au/2026scholarships>

Bendigo Bank

Community Enterprise Foundation™

Community Bank Scholarships will be funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund). The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. 1409006-1409008 OUT_48016465

Community News



Queanbeyan Seniors 50+ activities

Mondays

Chair Yoga - 9.30am

Mat Yoga - 11.00am. Bookings essential for Mat Yoga contact Sue on <https://www.agewell.yoga>

Tuesdays

Zumba Beginners 9.30am
Zumba Normal Impact 11.00am

Monday Yoga recommences 2 February and Tuesday Zumba recommences 3 February 2026

Monday Yoga & Tuesday Zumba at AXIS Centre, 22 Campbell Street (building next to Lions Bookshop in Queanbeyan Town Park). NORMAL IMPACT ZUMBA & MAT YOGA OPEN TO EVERYONE (not just seniors)! Monday & Tuesday Classes during school terms.

Tuesdays & Thursday

Exercise Classes

Times - 9.30-10.30am (1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan)

Recommencing Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 January 2026

Wednesdays

Mat Yoga - 9.30am - With Louise... no booking required

Chair Yoga - 11.00am (1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan)

Recommencing FRIDAY 9 January 2026 at 1 Farrer Place

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.

Craft & Chat - weekly on Mondays - 11.00am till 2.00pm. Cost \$2.00. Bring your own lunch and your own project or work on a project for the Seniors.

Mondays

500 - 1.00pm-3.00pm Cost \$2.00

Wednesdays

Canasta - 10.00am-12.00noon

Cost \$2.00

Euchre - 1.00pm Cost \$3.00

Mahjong - 1.00pm-3.00pm Cost \$2.00

Thursdays

Rummikins - 1.00pm Cost \$2.00

Fridays

Carpet Bowls - 1.00pm Cost \$2.00

Rummikins and Carpet Bowls not available on 25, 26 Dec and 1 & 2 Jan 2026

Delicious afternoon tea follows these activities.

Monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1.00pm, Rear 1 Farrer Place. Next meeting is on 17 February 2026.

Riverside Plaza Stall - monthly - We will be in Riverside Plaza on Saturday 14 February 2026.

Membership for new members only \$20.00 per annum. New members very welcome.

Contact - Brenda (0407201392), Kim (0407 902 989), e-mail queanbeyanseniors@gmail.com or just drop in during opening times - Rear of 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan

BEST WISHES ON YOUR 10TH BIRTHDAY REGIONAL INDEPENDENT.

Wishing you all a very Merry and Safe Christmas and Happy New Year.

See you in 2026.



The serious need for silliness

National Seniors Australia

As Reader's Digest has been telling us for decades, laughter often is the best medicine.

As we grow older, life tends to get heavier. Responsibilities multiply, and the world expects us to be composed, efficient, and serious.

But we shouldn't let it drag us down. Amid all this gravity, we should not forget that one of the most powerful tools we have for resilience and joy is laughter.

Laughter isn't just a fleeting moment of amusement, it's a vital part of emotional and physical well-being. Scientific research shows that laughter reduces stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, boosts immune function, and even relieves pain by triggering the release of

endorphins.

It improves cardiovascular health, enhances oxygen intake, and can even sharpen memory and cognitive function. In short, laughter is good medicine. And it's free.

But beyond the science, laughter connects us. It bridges generations, cultures, and divides. A shared joke or a moment of silliness can dissolve tension and remind us of our shared humanity.

As we age, maintaining social bonds becomes more important than ever, and laughter is a natural social glue. It helps us stay engaged, present, and emotionally connected to others.

Silliness, too, has its place. It's not about being immature; it's about staying open to joy.

A bit of playful absurdity can lighten the heaviest days. Whether it's dancing in the kitchen, telling a corny joke, or wearing odd socks, silliness invites spontaneity into our lives. It reminds us not to take ourselves too seriously, even when life demands seriousness.

In fact, silliness can be a quiet act of rebellion against the pressures of adulthood. It says, "I see the weight of the world, but I choose to smile anyway."

That choice can be empowering. It can help us cope with grief, navigate change, and find light in dark times. It's a way of reclaiming a sense of control - not by denying reality, but by choosing how we respond to it.

As we age, we don't lose our need for laughter. In fact, we need it

more. It keeps us young at heart, flexible in spirit, and connected to others. It reminds us that joy is not just for the young, but for the young-at-heart. And in a world that often feels too serious, a little silliness can be a radical act of hope.

'Dad' jokes to make you smile

A selection of funnies sourced from the internet:

I just built an ATM that only gives out coins. I don't know why no one has thought of it before. It just makes cents!

My boss said, "Dress for the job you want, not for the job you have." So, I went to work as Batman.

The bloke who stole my diary went missing. My thoughts are with his family.

Two men walked into a bar. The third one ducked.

My dog has just eaten a whole set of Scrabble tiles. We took him to the vet, but there's no word yet.

Did you hear about the woman who is scared of escalators? She has to take steps to avoid them.

A sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer. The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve food here."

I just got a promotion at the farm. Now I'm the C-I-E-I-O.

What's red and smells like blue paint? Red paint.

I took up origami for a while. I gave it up because there was too much paperwork.

<https://nationalseniors.com.au>

Queanbeyan Seniors Christmas Celebrations

Recently the Queanbeyan Seniors gathered at The Campbell and George for their Christmas luncheon. The volunteers outdid themselves making the 100 guests feel welcome, the atmosphere was warm and festive.

President Brenda Russell told the crowd "We've had another successful year with growing

attendance from July to Octobers 2,919 members participated in our activities. Thanks to everyone who donated hampers and supported our raffles, which helps us fund our bus trips".

This year the lively bunch travelled to Batemans Bay and Cooma, as well as a Christmas in July luncheon at the Burns Club.

After lunch the executive committee handed out some fun awards before Secret Santa commenced. This was a hit with three huge Santa sacks full of gifts.

"Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and safe travels, Brenda added.

Sharon Baxter-Judge



Community News

2025 Bad Santa Delivery Survey

We're A Nation of Crappy Christmas Gift Givers

- Women bear the brunt of crappy Christmas gifts (72%), compared to men (64%)
- 10% of Aussies make last-minute online gift purchases from the toilet
- 46% make eleventh-hour online gift decisions from their beds
- 68% have received unwanted or disappointing gifts
- 46% have regifted, including 10% who admit to doing it multiple times
- Gen Z is the greatest regifter at 58%, with South Australians leading the States (56%)

With one week to go until Christmas, the 2025 Bad Santa Delivery Survey reveals we're a nation of crappy gift givers, with more than two-thirds (68%) of Australians receiving unwanted or disappointing gifts during the festive season.

Aussie women are bearing the brunt of dud Christmas presents (72%), compared to Aussie men (64%).

The new consumer survey from Australia's largest

logistics company, Team Global Express, means Aussies are getting set to regift and return millions of underwhelming gifts this December.

Top 5 Gifts Most Likely to be Returned

Leading the list of Christmas catastrophes most likely to be returned is fashion, including the wrong fit and style in clothing (65%), followed closely by ill-fitting footwear (56%).

Older physical media like CDs, DVDs or video games for the wrong console still plague Aussie gift-givers (48%), while cheap perfume or aftershave (44%) and novelty items (42%) round out the top five most regrettable presents.

Last Minute Bed and Bathroom Panic Shopping to Blame

The nationwide survey exposed some eyebrow-raising last-minute shopping habits. Nearly half (46%) make eleventh-hour online gift decisions from their beds, while two in five (41%) panic buy at the supermarket.

More surprisingly, around one in ten Aussies (10%) are making online gift purchases

from the toilet, with South Australians leading the nation in bathroom browsing (20%).

Aussie men (13%) are almost twice as likely than women (7%) to make their last-minute purchases from the loo.

"We've discovered some truly crappy gift decisions are being made from the toilet," said Andrew Wildblood, Chief Commercial Officer at Team Global Express.

"Ten percent of people are literally flushing their money away on presents which'll end up regifted or returned. Whether you're shopping from bed, the supermarket or the bathroom, slow down and think about what the person actually wants."

Gen Z and South Australians Most Likely to Regift

Gen Z lead the regifting generations at 58%, quickly followed by Millennials at 55%, compared to just 34% of Baby Boomers.

Nearly half (46%) of Australians surveyed said they have regifted a festive season present, including 10% who admit to doing it multiple times.

State rivalry heats up in the regifting stakes, with South



Australians most likely to regift at 56%, followed by New South Wales residents (51%) and Queenslanders (40%), while Western Australians are least likely to regift (36%).

"We'll be moving millions of parcels across the country this Christmas, delivering the good, the bad and sometimes the very ugly," said Andrew Wildblood.

"Our mission is to help Aussies spend more time

giving and receiving this festive season, instead of returning and regifting."

In-Store Shopping Dominates

The survey also highlighted some good news for retailers, with nearly nine in ten Australians (87%) still preferring to shop in-store for festive gifts, with 72% heading to shopping centres and 54% supporting local independent stores.

However, three in five (60%) also shop online, with New South Wales leading the digital charge at 68%, compared to other states.

"Whether shopping in-store or online, a little extra thought at the checkout could save your gift from Santa's sad sack and making the long-haul return journey in January," said Andrew Wildblood.

Image: Shutterstock

Veteran and Family Hub Christmas Closing Dates

Our Hub will be **closed from Monday 22nd December 2025 and reopen Monday 5th January 2026.**

For Wellbeing Services during this time (except Public Holidays) call: **(02) 8808 0388.**

For urgent support:

- Veterans Crisis Line | 1800 833 372
- Open Arms | 1800 011 046
- Lifeline | 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue | 1300 22 4636

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.



www.bdn.com.au

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- Wills & Estates
- Criminal Law
- Workplace Injury

- Commercial Law
- Family Law
- Migration
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Principal Lawyers:



Tanya Nadin



Lorraine White



Richard Baker

Please phone for an appointment

Queanbeyan
6299 3999

Canberra
6230 1999

Accessible. Responsive. Innovative.



Celebrating 10 years

This week marks the paper's 10th birthday. How time flies.

A lot has happened over the 10 years, from the council amalgamation early in 2016 to the lean COVID years. The paper became available online in mid 2017 and evolved into the Regional Independent in April 2020. Going fortnightly in February 2024, it remains the only printed local paper within our local government area.

Of course, the paper would not exist if not for the wonderful local businesses who advertise, many have advertised since the first edition back in 2015. Please support those who support your community newspaper.

To the hundreds of contributions over the last ten years from our amazing community volunteers around the region, thank you, without your contributions the paper would not have reached this milestone.

Looking back over the covers, it was hard to choose which would feature in this week's birthday edition, take a look.

Thank you!

Sharon Baxter-Judge

The Lions Club of Queanbeyan wishes to congratulate The Regional Independent on celebrating its 10th birthday.

The Regional Independent has been a great supporter and promotor of the Lions Club of Queanbeyan fund raising and service activities, especially the Lions Community Bookshop, the Club's annual sale of Lions Christmas cakes and puddings and our regular Fyshwick Bunnings BBQ fundraisers.

Sharon is always ready to publish stories and photos we send her, including covering special events in the Lions calendar such as our Board Change Over dinners and volunteer celebrations.

Sharon attended as our special guest at the re-launch of the Lions Community Bookshop in Queanbeyan Park in November 2022. We were delighted that she featured the launch on the front page of The Regional Independent under the headline 'Celebrating Community' with a lovely photo of Club members.

We wish Sharon and The Regional Independent many more years of celebrating our communities, community groups and volunteers and promoting the values of community participation, diversity, fairness and inclusion and stronger communities.

Queanbeyan Lions Club

Bungendore Village Guide EOI close June 14

Mudchicks and Tigers play @ Mick Sherd this Saturday

Pet of the Week

Bungendore Weekly

An independent, community newspaper distributed to Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Braidwood, Bywong, Wombon, Captains Flat, Tarago & surrounding villages.

Wednesday 12 June, 2019

381 Years of Service honoured



As the former President of the Hoskingtown-Rossi Rural Fire Brigade and a long-time contributor to both The Bungendore Weekly and The Regional Independent, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the newspaper's 10th anniversary.

Over the past decade, the paper has become a cornerstone of our community, consistently reporting on local events with dedication and flair. I have admired the extensive coverage of everything from brigade activities to regional gatherings, always accompanied by photographs that capture the spirit of the occasion. Many of us will recall your willingness to climb precarious ladders to secure the perfect group shot, or the way you coax a smile from smaller groups and individuals with your trademark "cheeky monkeys" before pressing the shutter. These moments reflect not only your commitment to journalism but also your gift for bringing joy and authenticity to community storytelling.

Equally important has been your steadfast support for volunteer organisations such as the Rural Fire Brigade, and for the many groups and businesses, such as The Community Bank Bungendore and Braidwood, that stand behind them. By shining a light on their efforts, you have strengthened the bonds of our region and ensured that the contributions of volunteers are recognised and celebrated.

Ten years is a remarkable achievement, and the success of The Regional Independent is a testament to your vision, perseverance, and community spirit. On behalf of those who have contributed along the way, I would like to thank you for your tireless efforts and look forward to seeing the paper continue to thrive in the years ahead.

With sincere congratulations,
Ron Schweikert

Queanbeyan VIEW members have enjoyed sharing our celebrations and achievements with the local community through Regional Independent and its distribution through shopping centres.

Happy 10th birthday, and thank you for supporting volunteer organisations like ours, and sharing our story.

Queanbeyan VIEW Club

Congratulations to Sharon Baxter-Judge on achieving the tenth anniversary of the Regional Independent newspaper. This is a wonderful milestone and a testament to the mighty effort that SBJ puts in every day to make the paper a success. And the reason it is a success is that it informs us accurately and factually about all that is happening in our communities every fortnight. It fills an information gap that digital media simply cannot achieve, and remains as relevant today as it was ten years ago. The Regional Independent has provided the Community Bank Braidwood and Bungendore with tremendous support over the years to help us publicise our community funding activities, for which we are very grateful. Best wishes for another successful ten years SBJ.

Garry Cook
Chairman Palerang Financial Services



Wednesday 6 November, 2019

Bungendore Ambulance Station now open



Congratulation to the Regional Independent on its 10th Birthday. The Regional Independent is always there to support us in what we do, the paper has been, and continues to be an outstanding resource for the Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade to highlight any of our community engagement events and to get our message across about fire safety and Bushfire awareness. Many times, Sharon wants to take our picture for the paper, and fortunately we carry a ladder on our trucks so Sharon doesn't need to organise one beforehand to get that perfect shot !!. Happy 10th Birthday Regional Independent, hopefully you have many more.

Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade

For ten years, the Regional Independent has been a true champion for our community and a generous supporter of the work we do at Karabar Housing Cooperative. They have consistently highlighted the issues that matter, including affordable housing, community wellbeing, social justice and the quiet but powerful efforts of people working together to make life better for others.

In many parts of Australia, communities like Bungendore have no dedicated local print media to tell their stories, celebrate their achievements, or shine a light on issues that challenge them. We are fortunate to have a publication that fills this gap with such commitment and integrity.

Its reporting has not only informed the public, but its thoughtful coverage has helped raise awareness and build understanding and momentum for causes that needed both. We are deeply grateful for its commitment and partnership over the past decade.

We congratulate Sharon Baxter-Judge and the Regional Independent on ten years of service to the region and thank them wholeheartedly for walking beside us throughout that time. We look forward to the next decade, which we know will be just as impactful.

Karabar Housing Cooperative



Bungendore Weekly

An independent, community newspaper distributed to Bungendore, Bywong, Wombon, Captains Flat & surrounds.

Thursday 24 December 2015

Proposal to split Palerang in 2016

PALERANG COUNCIL WILL CEASE TO EXIST UNDER A CONTROVERSIAL STATE GOVERNMENT PLAN TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REGIONAL COUNCILS FROM 109 TO 87, AND SYDNEY COUNCILS FROM 43 TO 25. FULL STORY PAGES TWO AND THREE.



Congratulation to the Regional Independent and Sharon on ten years! We are so fortunate to have a community paper, so many small towns have lost theirs over the past few years. For smaller villages such as Hoskinstown and our community organisations it is great to have the support of Sharon to promote and celebrate our events. Sharon's enthusiasm for Bungendore, Queanbeyan and all the more rural villages shines through, thank you for all you do to support our region!

Rowan Simpkin
Hoskinstown War Memorial Hall Committee

Bungendore Weekly

An independent, community newspaper distributed to Bungendore, Bywong, Wombon, Captains Flat & surrounds.

Wednesday 8 February, 2017

New Scout Hall one step closer!



Our regional newspaper - 10 years - congratulations!

Thanks for being such a great part of our community. Telling the stories, spreading the news, keeping everyone informed.

Only a local paper can achieve this because it is part of our community and the stories that make the community what it is.

Your support of local clubs has been fantastic - thank you and here's to many more years and stories to share.

Rotary Club of Bungendore

Queanbeyan VIEW members have enjoyed sharing our celebrations and achievements with the local community through Regional Independent and its distribution through shopping centres.

Happy 10th birthday, and thank you for supporting volunteer organisations like ours, and sharing our story.

Queanbeyan VIEW Club

Bungendore Weekly

An independent, community newspaper distributed to Bungendore, Bywong, Wombon, Captains Flat & surrounds.

Wednesday 26 April, 2017

Lest we forget



Bungendore Weekly

An independent, community newspaper distributed to Bungendore, Bywong, Wombon, Captains Flat & surrounds.

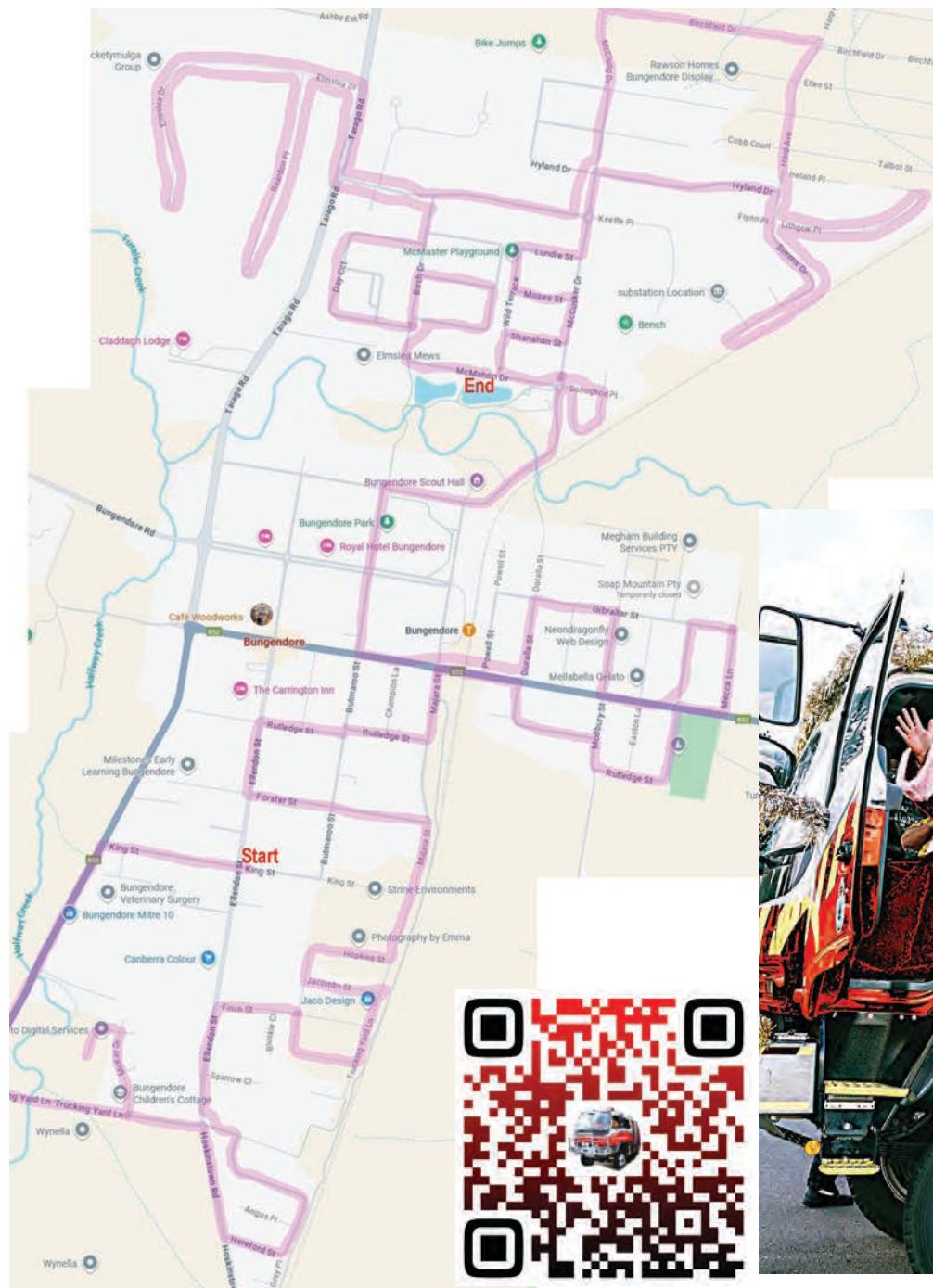
Wednesday 23 May, 2018

Local volunteers recognised



Community News

Santa is on his way! Bungendore RFS Santa Run on Christmas Eve



Santa has asked the Bungendore Rural Fire Brigade to drive him around the village so that he can wave to the little and big kids before he heads to the North Pole to get his reindeer and sleigh for his deliveries later that night.

We will be leaving the Fire Station at 5 pm on Christmas Eve (24th December) and taking Santa in one of our trucks. Come out and wave to Santa and say Hi to your local Fire Fighters. We will be following the route below.

You can track where Santa and we are using the following link <https://glympse.com/santarunbungendorerfs> or QR code.



Comments open on the Draft Captains Flat Community Plan

QPRC

Provide your feedback on the draft community plan.

We are seeking the community's feedback on the draft Captains Flat Community Plan.

The Captains Flat Community Plan is aspirational over the next 10 years and highlights the projects that are important to the community.

How was the plan developed?

The plan has been facilitated and developed by Council, but it has been led and driven by the various associations and community groups in Captains Flat.

In preparing the Plan, discussions were held with the Captains Flat Community Association and S355 Committee. Three open workshops were held for members of the community to provide information and feedback.

Hard copies of the plan were made available at the Captains Flat Pub and the Men's Shed and provided to several members of the community for personal distribution.

Local community plans identify a range of projects and actions that Council can refer to when developing its Delivery Program and when making grant applications.

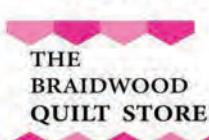
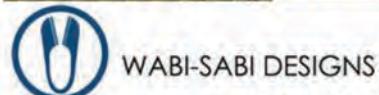
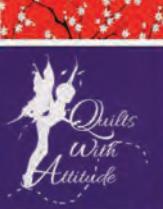
Have your say

- By completing the survey on the YourVoice page on council's website by **Tuesday 27 January 2026**
- By email to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au referencing "Draft Captains Flat Community Plan" in the subject line
- By mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620



BUNGENDORE QUILTERS INC.

Every year in November, the Bungendore Quilters hold their annual exhibition. This would not be possible without the valued support of our local businesses and others further afield, to whom we are very grateful. We would like to acknowledge all those who support us and encourage our community to buy locally whenever they can. Thank you so much to our 2025 supporters.



Reward yourself at Bungendore IGA

Shopping at IGA Just got more Rewarding

At IGA we believe locals deserve real rewards. That's why we've made IGA Rewards even better with IGA Cash Back*.

You can earn IGA Cash Back on selected purchases to spend on eligible items at participating IGA Rewards stores. Simple. Local. Rewarding.

Get IGA Cash* Back - Rewards Made Simple

Download the IGA Rewards app and earn IGA Cash* when you shop selected products in participating IGA Rewards stores.

How to join IGA Rewards

Step One - Look for the IGA Rewards app icon in the app store, available on Apple or Android.

Step Two - Check out your personalised IGA Cash Back offers. Shop IGA Cash Back offers at participating IGA Rewards stores and earn IGA Cash.

Step Three - Scan your IGA Rewards card at the checkout every

time you shop at a participating IGA Rewards store.

Step Four - Once you have earned \$20 IGA Cash, unlock your Digital Visa IGA Rewards Card to spend your IGA Cash on eligible items in your next shop at participating IGA Rewards stores.

How To Spend IGA Cash

Step One - Add your IGA Rewards Visa Card to your mobiles Apple or Google wallet.

Step Two - Choose to link your debit or credit card to your IGA Rewards account for secure, one-tap shopping (optional, change anytime).

Step Three - Scan your IGA Rewards card at the checkout every time you shop at participating IGA Rewards stores.

Step Four - At the checkout, from your mobile wallet, tap your IGA Rewards Visa Card to pay once you have earned \$20 IGA Cash (subject to product exclusions). IGA Cash is used first, with any remaining balance charged to your Linked Card (if any).

Win a trolley full of Christmas Goodies!

Entry conditions

-simply purchase \$50 worth of shopping in one transaction and be an active iga rewards member to qualify.

Each qualifying receipt is entered into the barrel for a chance to win.

Please write full name and phone number to the back of receipt.

The winner will be notified by phone once draw is completed.

Drawn in store 12 noon - Tuesday 23/12/25



Community News

Page 17

Comments now open on the Draft Community Participation Plan

QPRC

The new plan has been developed to include clear guidelines and transparent information about notification and participation in the development application process

We are seeking feedback on the Community Participation Plan. The plan has been developed to include clear guidelines and transparent information about notification and participation in the development application process.

Background

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 July 2025, Council resolved to adopt the Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2028, excluding Part 5. The Community Engagement Strategy serves as the overarching guide for community engagement activities and aligns with the Office of Local Government guidelines.

Part 5 was the Planning and Development related Community Participation Plan which has been separated from the

Community Engagement Strategy.

The Community Participation Plan has been reviewed and updated. This included addressing concerns raised during the public exhibition of the Community Engagement Strategy.

What has changed?

The revised Plan has been developed so it can be published as an independent document.

The Community Participation Plan includes:

Clarification of minimum notification periods for different types of plans and developments.

Improved explanation of who will be notified and how notifications will occur.

Introduction of notification categories (A, B, C and D) to ensure developments with higher impacts are notified to a wider group of adjoining properties.

Inclusion of a statement encouraging developers of large-scale projects to undertake community consultation prior to lodging a Development Application (DA).

Clearer explanation of notification requirements for Regionally Significant Development.

Have your say

The Draft Community Participation Plan is open for community comment from Monday 1 December until Friday 6 February 2026.

Feedback can be provided on the proposed names by:

- Completing an Online Submission Form on the YourVoice page on councils website
- Emailing it directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "Draft Community Participation Plan"
- Handwriting your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres
- Posting your submission to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Submissions must be received by Council before Friday 6 February 2026. Any submissions received may be included in the final report to Council.

NSW Government legalises virtual fencing AgTech to modernise cattle farming in NSW

The state's cattle and dairy farmers have a new AgTech option to manage their livestock with the NSW Government delivering on its promise to legalise virtual stock fencing this year so that farmers can reduce costs and take advantage of new data on the welfare of their herds.

The Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty, recently announced the technology would be regulated for use in NSW, enabling the state's farmers to better manage their stock and to side-step the cost of hard fencing.

The NSW Government has delivered virtual fencing following discussions with farmers, NSW Member of Parliament for Orange, Phil Donato, and considering the recommendations of the Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024.

Extensive consultation with farming groups, animal welfare enforcement agencies, and suppliers, have been consulted to draft a best practice regulation that fosters modern farming and ensures the welfare of the livestock.

Virtual fencing is an AgTech

solution to managing cattle without the need for physical fencing within a farm's boundaries. Instead, collars or neck bands that use GPS technology deliver sensory cues to influence the movement of livestock.

The technology can also monitor the activity, health and welfare of cattle, and can reduce the stress of the animals that can arise from herding with quad bikes and dogs.

The enabling of this technology for NSW has the potential to markedly improve the efficiency of rotational grazing systems and reduce the need for the costly establishment and maintenance of internal fences.

The regulation adopts the NSW Guide to Animal Welfare for Virtual Fencing of Cattle that provides

appropriate safeguards for animal welfare in the design and operation of virtual fencing, including:

- The user must be trained in how to use the device by the supplier or manufacturer.
- The user must ensure devices are regularly monitored and animal welfare standards are met.

- Devices will allow users to control the boundaries that trigger cues to the animal, but users cannot deliver cues directly to an animal.

- Devices must use vibrational or audio cues first, before using electric cues.

- The technology can only be used for cattle.

The technology has built-in features which can temporarily disable the device based on animal behaviour, location, system connectivity or as a safeguard. It also alerts the user to any animal welfare issues and determines if user intervention is required.

NSW Farmers' President Xavier Martin said, "Virtual fencing has changed the game for cattle producers not just in other parts of Australia, but around the globe, and so it's time NSW came up to speed.

"From reducing ongoing fencing and maintenance costs, protecting biodiversity and limiting stock handling, the benefits of this technology make it an incredibly powerful tool.

"With farmers needing to produce more food and fibre than ever before, it's vital we jump on board with innovative technologies like this, so we can feed the future."

Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub

What's On at the Hub

MONDAY

XBOX Gaming 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Invictus Yoga 10:00am - 11:00am

TUESDAY

Veterans Guitar Group 10:00am - 12:00pm

RSL sub-Branch Catch Up 9:00am - 11:00am

WEDNESDAY

Create & Caffeinate 10:00am - 12:00pm (fortnightly)

Heart-Muscle-Balance 12:00pm - 12:45pm

THURSDAY

Open Arms Coffee Catch Up 10:00am (fortnightly)

FRIDAY

Mindful Movement Tai Chi 9:30am - 10:30am

Visit the Hub Today - 251 Crawford St, Queanbeyan
Mon - Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm

Here for veterans and their families, every day.

Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub Christmas Closure

The Queanbeyan Veteran and Family Hub will be closed: 5:00pm Friday 19th December 2025 - 9:00am Monday 5th January 2026

Should you need support during this time, please contact the following:

OPEN ARMS 1800 011 046

SAFE ZONE SUPPORT 1800 142 072

Lifeline 13 11 14

Defence All-hours Support Line 1800 628 036

Defence Family Helpline 1800 624 608

800RESPECT 1800 737 732

Link2home 1800 326 989

Open Arms is available to support members of the current and ex-service community and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Safe Zone Support is an anonymous counselling line that's available 24/7 to support members of the current and ex-service community and their families.

Lifeline provides confidential crisis support that is accessible 24 hours a day.

Defence All-hours Support Line provides support for ADF personnel.

Defence Family Helpline provides support for Defence Families.

1800RESPECT is available for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support people impacted by domestic, family or sexual violence.

Link2home is the state wide homelessness information and referral telephone service. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Community News

Star power: How energy efficient is your home?

Your home's energy rating matters. It shapes your bills, comfort and carbon footprint. CSIRO's new Energy Rating Finder shows how your home measures up.

Ever wondered how energy efficient your home is?

CSIRO's new Energy Rating Finder puts the power in your hands. It indicates the energy performance of your home's thermal shell - the walls, floors, roof, windows and insulation. These features influence how much energy it takes to keep your home at a comfortable temperature.

It's like an appliance star label, but for your home.

If your address doesn't appear in the database, your home may not have an energy rating yet. But don't worry, there are other ways to estimate its efficiency - we'll get to that shortly.

A win for people and the planet

CSIRO data scientist and platform developer Melissa James, said the goal was to make energy performance

information accessible.

"The system is easy to use - simply enter an address, and if data is available, you'll receive an energy-efficiency rating out of ten," Melissa said.

A zero-star home offers little protection from external temperatures, while a ten-star home stays comfortable with minimal, if any heating or cooling.

You can also search by postcode or street name to help locate the address you're interested in and view its energy-efficiency rating. Melissa hopes this data sparks curiosity and encourages upgrades.

"We want people to see how their home rates and start thinking about what changes could make a difference," Melissa said.

"Energy-efficient homes use less power, cost less to heat and cool and are more comfortable to live in.

"They also produce fewer carbon emissions, which is better for the planet. In

addition, energy-efficient homes can help reduce energy infrastructure costs by lowering overall demand," she said.

Powered by a decade of data

The Energy Rating Finder includes headline certificate data from the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) providing a snapshot of your home's energy performance.

"All new homes and many undergoing major renovations must demonstrate that they meet the minimum standard specified under the building regulations (currently seven

stars for most states). Most do this using software accredited by NatHERS," Melissa said.

Average ratings have improved dramatically since the standard was established in 2003, from 1.8 stars for older homes to seven stars for most new builds in 2025.

Melissa cautioned that not all properties are included in the database.

"CSIRO has been collecting this data since 2016, so only homes built or renovated after this date and assessed using NatHERS - which accounts for 80 per cent of assessments nationwide, will

appear in the system," she said.

NatHERS is also expanding NatHERS assessments to existing homes. Eventually this data may be included in the Energy Rating Finder.

If your property isn't covered, try RapidRate, a CSIRO tool that estimates your home's energy efficiency using basic information.

Together, these resources give Australians more insight into home energy performance than ever before.

Have your say

CSIRO is inviting feedback on the Energy Rating Finder: Tell us what you think

You can easily opt-out if you don't want your property's data shown publicly: Find out more

Amp up your home's energy efficiency

Thinking about improving your home's energy efficiency? Melissa said performance depends on many factors, from insulation

and window design to shading and ventilation. Even roof colour matters.

So what impacts your home's energy rating?

From windows to insulation, a range of factors influence your home's NatHERS star rating.

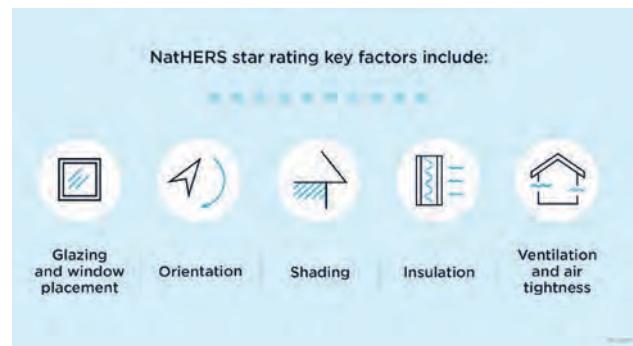
For example, CSIRO's Dr Mahsan Sadeghi found that dark roofs absorb and retain heat, creating urban heat islands.

While structural changes are easiest during building or renovating, CSIRO offers tips for keeping older houses warm or cool without major work.

And energy efficient homes don't just lower bills and emissions - they can also boost the property's value.

Improving home energy efficiency - it's the bright thing to do.

For more information, watch the video and to have your say head to <https://ahd.csiro.au/nathers-certificate-headline-data-address-search/>



Elm Grove Estate, Bungendore

Imagine waking up to open skies, quiet surrounds, and enough space to live the lifestyle you've always wanted. That's exactly what Elm Grove Estate in Bungendore offers. Large, affordable residential lots where families can enjoy the freedom of country living without losing access to city convenience.

For many Canberra buyers, the appeal is simple: why compromise with a small, high-priced city block when you can secure a generous parcel of land for far less? At Elm Grove Estate, you'll have the flexibility to design a home that truly works for your entire family. Whether it's a dedicated games room, guest wing, home cinema, alfresco entertaining area, or extra garage space, you'll have the room to create

it. Here, your ideas aren't restricted by limited land size.

Just 30 minutes from Canberra's CBD, Elm Grove Estate sits within the charming and fast-growing Bungendore community. The township offers a relaxed, family-oriented atmosphere while still providing quick access to employment, shopping, schools, and recreation in nearby Canberra and Queanbeyan. It's country living complemented by all the benefits of city life.

The developers behind Elm Grove have a proven track record, having delivered highly regarded suburbs such as Gordon, Conder, Amaroo, Palmerston, Royalla and the original Jerrabomberra Heights and Park estates. Their focus

remains the same in Elm Grove: delivering generously sized, fully serviced blocks at prices families can genuinely afford, while creating a peaceful and connected community environment.

Elm Grove Estate features some of the largest blocks available in the region, ranging from 850m² to 1,547m², with prices starting from \$548,000. These spacious lots provide the freedom to design your ideal home and still enjoy room for gardens, outdoor living, or future extensions. With attractive parklands, sweeping mountain and valley views, and a welcoming neighbourhood feel, Elm Grove offers a lifestyle that many buyers have been searching for.

A major addition to the area

is the brand-new \$80 million high school now under construction in Stage 2B on Birchfield Drive. Scheduled to open in early 2027, this state-of-the-art campus will give local families access to outstanding education right within the estate.

Whether you're planning your forever home or simply seeking a lifestyle upgrade, Elm Grove Estate provides flexibility through Home & Land Packages and the option to choose your own builder. Current incentives including FREE Stamp Duty and lower deposits make now an ideal time to secure your lot.

If you've been wanting the peace and space of the country without giving up city access, visit Elm Grove Estate and discover why more and more Canberra families are choosing to call this community home.

What's available:

Fully serviced lots from 850m² to 1,492m²

Prices from \$548,000

Lower deposits + FREE Stamp Duty

Visit: Charlotte Place, Bungendore

When: Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Call: 0418 486949

Email: sales@aland.net.au

Web: elmgroveestate.com.au

Photo supplied



Iconic Lions Christmas cakes and puddings now on sale

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 Cake 1.5kg - \$20.00
- Lions Christmas Cake 1kg - \$16.00
- Lions Christmas Pudding 900gm - \$16.00
- Lions Mini Cake 80gm - \$2.00

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



Community News

Bungendore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI): News - AGM and Business Awards

The BCCI conducted its AGM on 25th November followed by the presentation of BCCI Business Awards since COVID.

The BCCI AGM outlined financial status, provided a President's Report on 2024/25 activities and elected a new Executive Committee.

The new members of the Executive Committee are: President - Alan Longhurst, Vice President - Dr Murray Gough, Secretary/Public Officer - Martina Woodford, Treasurer - Rhyll Tozer and Executive Members, Tilly Jones, Melody Carn and Aaron Knox. The Assistant Secretary (paid) is Jordan Schouten.

Of note was the presentation of BCCI Business Awards which this

year went to:

- New Business Award - The Malbon, accepted by Tilly Jones (new owner)
- Best Trades Award - EnviroAg Pty Ltd, accepted by Richard Bland
- Service Excellence Award - PRD Real Estate, accepted by Dan Woodford
- Community Award - Linray Finance, accepted by Tony Rayner
- President's Award - Pilates Wellness Studio, accepted by Cathy Preston and Rachel Sands
- Business of the Year Award - On Ellendon Studio, accepted by Marcell and Sharon Lovelock.

There were 19 business nominated



and 56 nominations received. The event incorporated food and refreshments at the Wood Works Café. Photos represent the winners.

The BCCI has a full list of events lined up for next year, especially based on our new title of Best National Tourism Town, recently



conferred in Canberra.

New Members are welcome, and how to join is available on our website at www.bungendore.com.au

Above: Back - Anthony Rayner, Marcell and Sharon Lovelock, Tilly Jones, Cathy Preston; Front Don Woodford and Rachel Sands. Photo: Jordan Schouten

Left: Richard Bland. Photo supplied

Nominations for the NSW Hidden Treasures Honour Roll 2025 close Dec 31

What is Hidden Treasures?

The Hidden Treasures Honour Roll is a recognition program that acknowledges the important volunteer roles women and girls play within NSW regional, rural and remote communities.

It is a way to acknowledge and thank women and girls who volunteer through a public tribute to recognise the vast number of women and girls who give their time and energy to help others.

Women and girls are nominated by peers, friends, or their volunteer organisation and those over the age of 18 can also self nominate to be included on the digital Honour Roll. The Hidden Treasures Honour Roll is not competitive with all nominees who meet the eligibility criteria of the program included on the Honour Roll.

Hidden Treasures has recognised 1,348 women and girls volunteering in regional, rural and remote NSW since 2010.

Nominations for the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll 2025 are now open and will close Wednesday, 31 December 2025.

To nominate head to <https://hiddentreasures.awardsplatform.com/>

If you have any questions regarding the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll program please email us at ruralwomensnetwork@tco.nsw.gov.au.

Photo: Hidden Treasures



As your state member, I can help you with

Labor

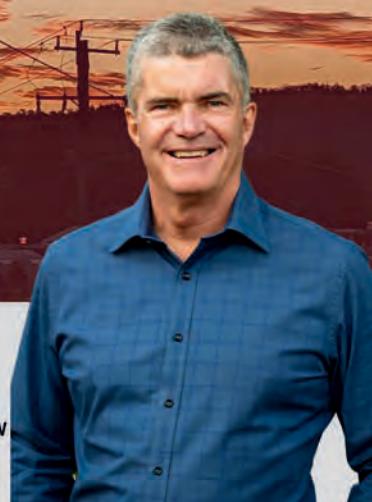
- Social Housing
- Service NSW
- Fair Trading
- Education
- NSW Health & Hospitals
- State Roads
- Police, Ambulance and Fire + Rescue
- State Emergency Service
- Revenue NSW
- Public Transport
- National Parks
- Crown Lands
- Family and Community Services
- Justice of the Peace Services & Applications
- Birthday & Wedding Anniversary Messages
- Local Land Services

Feel free to contact my office if you need any assistance

(02) 6299 4899 • monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au • 213 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

STEVE WHAN MP
STATE MEMBER FOR MONARO

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



South East Local Land Services News

Summer weeds to watch

Bella Hart - Land Services Officer

Spotting unfamiliar plants can be tricky—are they invasive weeds or harmless natives? If you're unsure, don't leave it to chance!

What do I do if I find an unfamiliar plant?

- Take a few clear photos showing the whole plant and key details like:

- Flowers, fruit or seedheads
- Leaf shape, surface and where it attaches to the plant
- Where the plant is situated in the landscape
- Send photos to your local council weeds officer, a local citizen science group with expertise, or a local agronomist
- Email your photos to Local Land Services on enquiry.southeast@lls.nsw.gov.au, or drop into your nearest Local Land Services office
- Upload the photos to a citizen science app or website like

iNaturalist to have it identified by a verified professional

- Check out WeedWise or region-specific weed guides
- Ask a neighbour or someone who is familiar with the area - they may have seen this plant before.

Our top weeds to watch in the southern tablelands this summer are:

- Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) - a drought, fire and herbicide tolerant perennial grass that takes over roadsides, native areas and farmland, with low value as stock feed. Its distinctive seeds appear from spring to autumn when moisture is sufficient.
- Sticky nightshade (*Solanum sisymbriifolium*) - a spiky, poisonous woody weed that can grow to 1.5m tall, regrow from plant parts, and forms thickets if unaddressed. White or pale purple flowers can be present from spring to summer, followed by red berries (when ripe).

• Orange hawkweed (*Pilosella aurantiaca*) - a perennial orange flowered herb that forms dense stands and prefers cool temperate and alpine environments. **If you see this plant, report it to the NSW Biosecurity Helpline on 1800 680 244**

- Moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*) - a poisonous perennial vine, typically found in coastal areas but is being found further inland. Has small, creamy-white or pink flowers present from November to March, and large egg or pear shaped fruit from April to July.

As you head out this festive season, help protect our landscapes by preventing weeds from hitching a ride. Clean your camping gear and wash down vehicles before leaving and returning home - because a weed that's common in your backyard or farm can become a serious threat somewhere else.

For more information about any of the weeds listed here, including



identification and control tips, please visit the NSW WeedWise website or get in touch with your closest Local Land Services office

Photo supplied Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*)



Beat the Heat: Simple Steps to Protect Your Animals



Lou Baskind, LLS District Vet Braidwood

As summer settles in across the Southern Tablelands, the risk of heat stress in livestock and other animals on the farm is rising. Heatwaves aren't just

uncomfortable—they can be deadly. Animals under heat stress drink more, eat less, and if conditions worsen, they can collapse and die. With projections of more frequent and intense heatwaves in coming years, planning ahead is essential.



The most important safeguard is water. Animals rely on cool, clean water to regulate body temperature. Warm water can be unappealing to them. Concrete troughs stay cooler than plastic or metal and placing troughs in shaded areas makes a big difference. If shade is limited, consider temporary shelters or shade cloth.

If you're heading away over the holiday period, make a thorough check of your water systems before you go. Evaporation and high demand can quickly empty troughs and even dams, and when paddock grasses are dry, they provide almost no moisture for animals. Ensure tanks are filled, automatic refilling systems are functioning, and gates are correctly set for access to dam or creek water if that's part of your supply. Most importantly, arrange for someone to check both your

animals and water systems every day while you're away.

It's not just about the temperature your phone app reports—it's about what the animals are actually experiencing in their paddock, pen, stable, or coop. Conditions like high humidity, lack of breeze, and direct sunlight all increase the risk of heat stress. Watch for early warning signs such as rapid breathing, panting, and listlessness. If heat stress progresses, animals can weaken, collapse, or even die. Preventing these situations through planning and monitoring is far easier than trying to manage an emergency.

Different species have different needs. For example, domestic pigs are prone to sunburn, so they need access to mud wallows to cool down and protect their skin. Poultry rely on ventilation as well as shade—good airflow is critical, and sprinklers or misters can help keep birds cool. For housed birds, fans are often essential.

Livestock need shade but make sure there's enough room for the whole mob to spread out—crowding in shaded areas can actually make heat stress worse.

If one of your animals is showing signs of heat stress, move them slowly to a cooler, shaded spot and offer cool water if they'll tolerate it. Keep stress low—don't chase or excite them further. Seek veterinary advice promptly. In severe cases, humane destruction may be the kindest option.

With a little planning—shade, water, and a willingness to postpone stressful activities like mustering or transport during hot spells—you can make a big difference to animal welfare this summer.

For more practical tips, watch the Being Heatwave Ready Webinar Series by Upper Shoalhaven Landcare by scanning the QR code.

Photo supplied

Natural Temperate Grasslands: Australia's Hidden Biodiversity Hotspots

Alicia Kaylock, Senior NRM Advisor

When most people imagine a grassland, they picture a swathe of green. But Natural Temperate Grasslands are far more than just grass—they are vibrant, species-rich ecosystems that support an extraordinary diversity of life. Once widespread across the Southern Tablelands and Monaro, these critically endangered ecosystems now occupy less than 1% of their original extent, making it vital to conserve what remains.

Diverse plant communities

In healthy grasslands, interspersed among the grasses you'll find a huge array of forbs—non-grassy herbaceous plants such as daisies, lilies, orchids, and legumes. Forbs

fix nitrogen, improve soil health, and provide nectar and pollen for insects, which in turn sustain birds and other wildlife.

Why Grasslands Matter

Native grasslands hold immense ecological, cultural, and economic value. They provide habitat for native fauna, including threatened species, act as genetic reservoirs for plants, and contribute to soil stability and water regulation. When managed carefully, they also support productive grazing, making them integral to both environmental health and rural livelihoods.

Threats

Since European settlement, altered land management has placed these ecosystems under severe pressure. Continuous grazing,

weed invasion by species like serrated tussock and African lovegrass, soil disturbance, and inappropriate fire regimes have driven species loss and structural change. Feral animals such as rabbits compound these impacts, while soil fertility changes further tip the balance toward exotic species.

Managing for the Future

Active management is essential to conserve and restore grasslands. Key strategies include sympathetic grazing regimes that allow plants to flower and set seed, periodic mowing or patch burning to prevent overgrowth, and vigilant weed control. Maintaining soil health by avoiding disturbance and compaction is critical, as

is controlling feral animals and preventing exotic tree spread.

Conservation Actions for Landholders

- Allow native plants to flower and set seed every few years to maintain diversity.
- Use sympathetic grazing or mowing regimes—avoid overgrazing and allow recovery and rest periods.
- Prevent soil disturbance and compaction; avoid ploughing and avoid using vehicles/machinery or allowing livestock access when soils are saturated.
- Avoid introducing exotic pasture species, which can outcompete natives.
- Control weeds, self-sown exotic

trees and feral animals to protect vulnerable species.

- Retain rocks and logs—they provide habitat for dependent reptiles like the Grassland Earless Dragons and Little Whip Snakes.
- Monitor and plan—develop a simple management plan and track changes over time.

With thoughtful stewardship, these grasslands can continue to provide ecological resilience, cultural heritage, and economic benefits for generations to come.

Read more about our threatened grassland reptiles in the next article, *Grassland Detectives: Tracking Elusive Dragons and Snakes*.

South East Local Land Services News

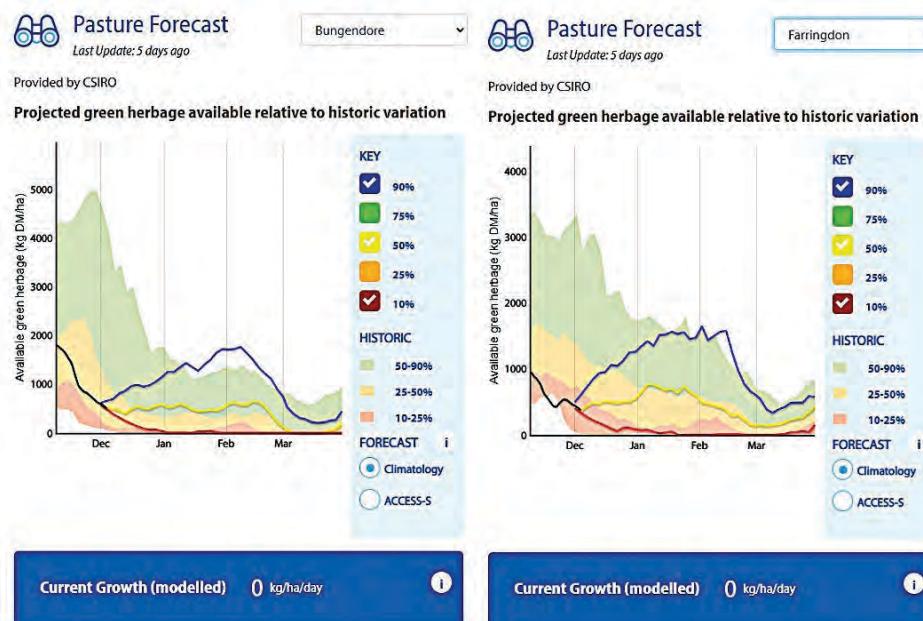
Current Seasonal Conditions and Livestock Nutrition

Ross Kuchel, Snr Agricultural advisor

Local Land Services Conditions across the Palerang region in 2025 have been a case of East vs West. Up until the end of winter, the western side of the great divide (Bungendore to Royalla) struggled for a decent rainfall event, whilst to the east, on the Braidwood side of the range, soils were waterlogged from the end of Autumn.

For the year, up to the end of winter Bungendore received 15% less rainfall compared to its long-term average (LTA - 355mm vs 418mm), whilst Braidwood was sitting 55% above (746mm vs 480mm).

Accumulated and current pasture growth at the Bungendore and Farringdon (Braidwood) soil moisture probe sites (www.farmingforecaster.com.au) as of 9Dec2025.



Based on these projections, now is the time to start planning how you are going to manage a potential feed deficit for the latter part of summer and into the autumn.

If you are planning to use a supplement such as hay or grain, ensure you get a feed test to determine the metabolizable energy (ME) and digestibility of the product. For supplementary feeding, energy is the critical

factor. Whilst protein is important, the energy content (MJ/kgDM) of your feed ensures stock maintain and/or increase condition.

The table below shows the daily energy and protein intake levels for different stock classes.

Minimum energy and protein requirements for various production states for sheep and cattle

Spring saw a dramatic reversal in conditions. Whilst the western side of the district received only 90% of LTA spring rainfall, the timing of rain events resulted in near record pasture growth rates for September and October. However, to the east, the region only received 49% of its LTA spring rainfall, significantly suppressing spring pasture growth.

Real-time soil moisture, rainfall totals and pasture growth rates are available on the Farming Forecaster web site (see QR Code). There are four soil moisture probes across the Palerang district, located at Bungendore, Farringdon (Braidwood),

Jerangle, and Tidbinbilla. They are part of a statewide network of over 100 soil moisture probes giving free, real-time information to assist with your decision making.

Across the region, pasture growth projections modelled on Farming Forecaster (using CSIRO's Grassgro program), show that we are coming into summer from a historically low pasture supply base.

The graphs below show accumulated and current pasture growth at the Bungendore and Farringdon (Braidwood) soil moisture probe sites as of 9th Dec 2025.

Minimum energy and protein requirements for various production states for sheep and cattle

Production State	Metabolisable Energy (MJ/kgDM)	Crude Protein (CP%)
Maintenance	8	7
Lactation and late pregnancy	12+	12+
Growth	10+	12+
Finishing (depending on age)	11-12	12-15

Farming Forecaster QR Code .



Want to read more about what is going on in our region, sign up to the South East Circular to get newsletters delivered direct to your inbox. Scan the QR Code code to register.



Grassland Detectives: Tracking Elusive Dragons and Snakes



Andy Taylor, Senior NRM Advisor

Australia's natural temperate grasslands hold secrets that few ever see—tiny reptiles that play a big role in keeping these ecosystems healthy. Two of the most elusive are the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis lineata*) and the Little Whip Snake (*Suta flagellum*). Both species are under pressure, and understanding where they live by finding new populations is critical to their survival.

Why These Species Matter

The Grassland Earless Dragon is a keystone species, feeding on ants, beetles, and spiders to help regulate insect populations. Its presence signals a thriving grassland ecosystem. The Little Whip Snake, slender and shy, preys on small lizards and frogs, helping maintain balance in grassland and woodland habitats. Together, these reptiles are vital links in the food web.

The Search for Survivors

Natural temperate grasslands now cover less than 1% of their original extent, fragmented by urban development and agriculture. For the Grassland Earless Dragon, this means isolated populations are vulnerable to extinction. The Little Whip Snake faces similar challenges, relying on rocky

shelters and fallen timber that are often removed during land clearing or “tidying up”. New surveys are being conducted in NSW to the south and east of the ACT to find isolated populations and access to private land would help the cause.

Threats on All Fronts

- Habitat loss and fragmentation from development and agriculture.
- Predation by cats and foxes.
- Weed invasion and altered fire regimes degrade habitat quality.
- Climate change—heatwaves, droughts, and extreme rainfall stress small populations.
- Small gene pools threaten long-term survival.

Conservation Status

The Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon is listed as Critically Endangered, and the Little Whip Snake as Vulnerable in NSW. But we know so little about their distribution across the landscape, so they need our help to prevent their extinction occurring in the background.

How You Can Help

Every patch of grassland matters. You can:

- Preserve native vegetation and avoid clearing.
- Leave rocks and logs in place for shelter.

- Control invasive weeds and feral predators.
- Keep pets contained to reduce predation.
- Learn how to identify Grassland Earless Dragons and Little Whip Snakes and how to report them by coming to our awareness raising events.

Finding new populations of these species is more than a scientific mission—it's a race to protect the last remnants of Australia's grassland heritage and every landholder can play a part.

Local Land Services and Threatened Species Officers from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) would like all landholders to learn more about these species and the grassy ecosystems they inhabit. We have 2 events running, in Michelago on the 30th January and Bungendore on the 31st January when reptile activity is expected to be heightened.

Register to attend by scanning the QR Code.

If you think you have either of these species, please get in touch with Andy Taylor, 0427 750 891 or andy.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au.

Above: LWS Photo Alex Pike DCCEEW

Below: Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon Photo Monica Knipper.



Christmas/New Year operating hours

General Council services

- Closed from 4pm 24 December 2025 to - 9am 2 January 2026

Garbage, recycling, and FOGO collection

- Bins normally collected on Thursday will be collected on Saturday 27 December instead. These changes will affect Captains Flat, Queanbeyan suburbs with a regular Thursday collection, and rural areas with a regular Thursday collection.
- Please ensure your bins are out Friday night, 26 December, to avoid missing collection
- Collections around New Years Day will not change

Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre

- Open Wednesday 24 December 2025 – 5:30am to 4:00pm
- Closed Thursday 25 December 2025
- Open Friday 26 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026 – 10:00am to 5:00pm
- Return to normal hours from 3 January 2026

Braidwood, Bungendore, and Captains Flat pools

- Open Wednesday 24 December 2025 - closed from 6:30pm
- Closed Friday 25 December
- Closed Saturday 26 December
- Return to normal hours from 27 December
- Find more information about service closures at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/ChristmasNew-Year-operating-hours

FREE Christmas activities and performers on Crawford Street

Come on down to Crawford Street, Queanbeyan for our final Saturday of FREE festive activities and performers.

Saturday 20 December from 10am-1pm:

- Kids face painting and Carols with the Queanbeyan Choir



Australia Day Events

Join us for Australia Day events on 26 January 2026!

- Captains Flat from 10-11am at the Captains Flat Memorial Hall
- Braidwood from 12-1pm at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club
- Bungendore from 2-3pm at the Bungendore Bowling and Sports Club
- Queanbeyan from 5:30-9:30pm at Queanbeyan Park

We will be awarding our Australia Day Award winners at each event and there will be a citizenship ceremony in Queanbeyan. There will also be fireworks at the Queanbeyan event from 9-9:15pm.

- Learn more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/events

Music by the River 2026 tickets

Make sure to get your free tickets to Music by the River 2026! The Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Kirrah Amosa are ready to rock you with the hits of Queen by the banks of the Queabeyan River on 21 February 2026.

- Learn more and get your free tickets at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/Music-by-the-River-2026

Work with Council

Current vacancies include:

- Casual Library Assistant
- Cemetery Services Operator
- Graduate Engineer
- 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:

- 28 January 2026 (Queanbeyan)
- 11 February 2026 (Braidwood)

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.

Park'd: Play Chill Connect summer holidays program

Join us for a series of free youth events in Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan these summer school holidays.

12 - 24 year olds are welcome to enjoy afternoons at our local skateparks with free music, food, and activities.

- Braidwood Skatepark - 13 January from 3-6pm
- Railway Skatepark in Queanbeyan - 16 January from 4-7pm
- Bungendore Skatepark - 21 January from 3-6pm
- Learn more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/events

Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party

Enjoy entertainment, food, carols and meet Santa at the Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party!

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

Join us at:

- Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party and Carols, Queanbeyan Park from 4-9pm on **Thursday 18 December**
- Learn more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/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

PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Atlas
Age: 1.5
Likes: attention, hugs, playing games
Dislikes: loud wind and storms
Claim to fame: Gives the best hugs.

Happy Christmas



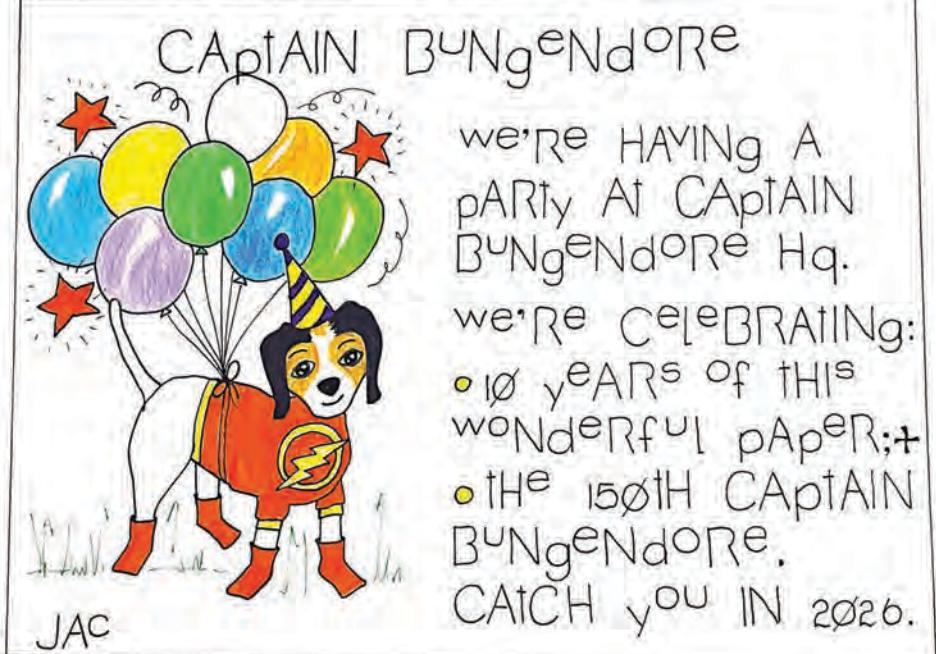
Catching up with friends at the Bungendore Community Christmas Party



PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Squid
Age: 2 years old
Likes: food toys and cuddling
Dislikes: not being part of the action
Claim to fame: very cute and tiny for a pug



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.

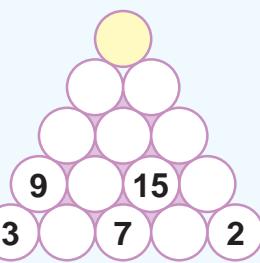
On the Tiles

Fit the eight tiles into the grid to make four Across words and five Down words. You do not need to rotate any of the tiles. We've placed one tile to start you off.



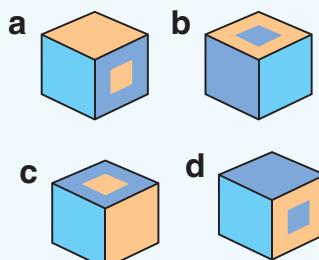
Add Up

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

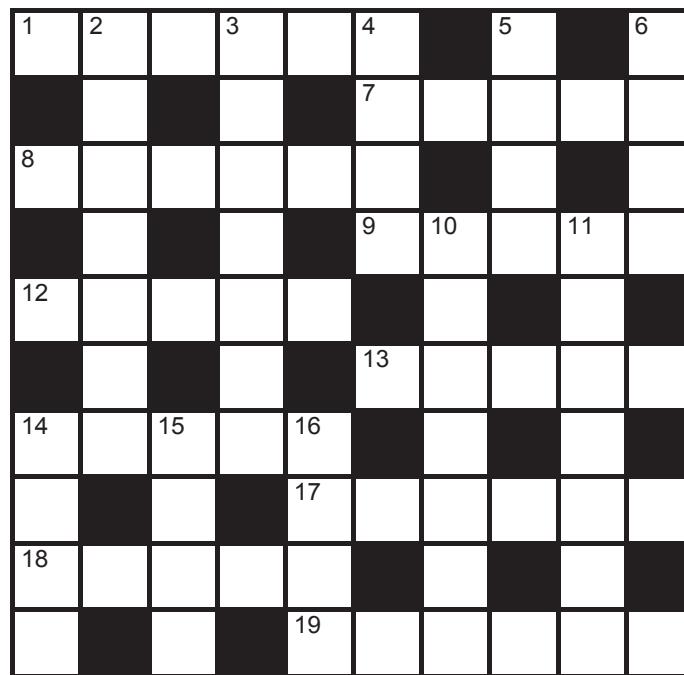


Cubism

This cut-out shape can be folded to make a cube. Which of the four cubes below is the only one it could make?



Quick Time Crossword



Across

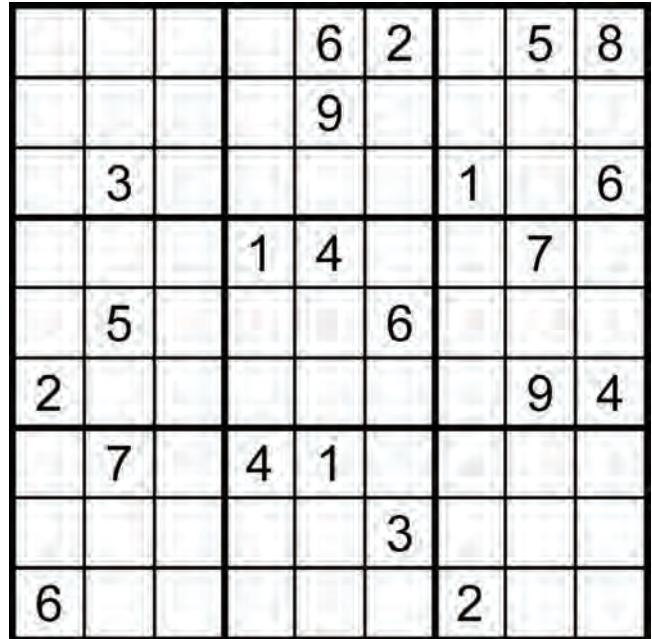
- 1 Leak out (6)
- 7 Gathers as a harvest (5)
- 8 Critical times (6)
- 9 Composition (5)
- 12 Becomes less painful (5)
- 13 Authoritative command (5)
- 14 Chemical compound (5)
- 17 Writer (6)
- 18 Swelters (5)
- 19 Zodiac sign (6)

Down

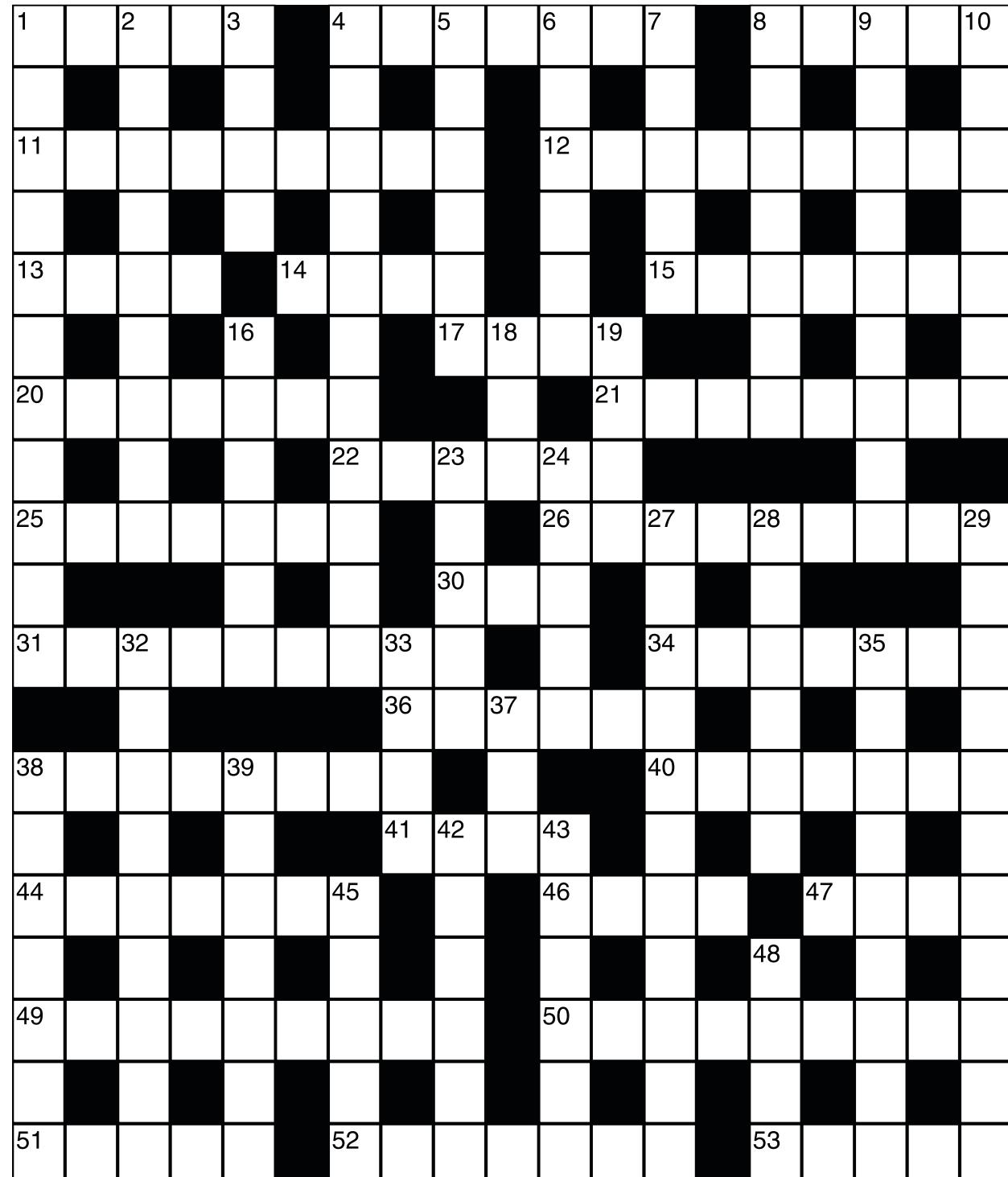
- 2 Shrieks (7)
- 3 Harsh in manner (7)
- 4 Gaelic (4)
- 5 Planet (4)
- 6 Catch sight of (4)
- 10 Fairies (7)
- 11 Extremely impressive (7)
- 14 Existence (4)
- 15 That time (4)
- 16 Coarse file (4)

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.



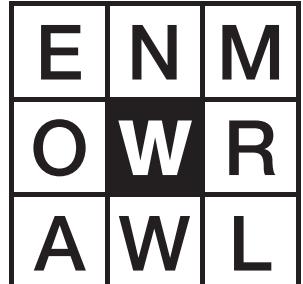
Crossword



Target Time

Target: Average 10, Good - 15, Excellent - 20+

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

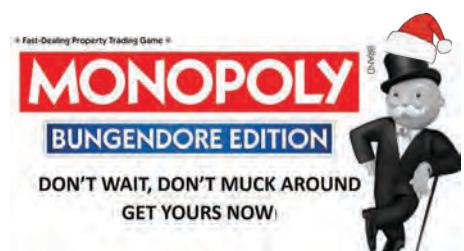
- 1 Working party
- 4 Stretcher (4,3)
- 8 Alight from a coach
- 11 Beneficiary
- 12 Photocopy
- 13 W African nation
- 14 Flow suddenly
- 15 Trader
- 17 Wearing shoes
- 20 Steering
- 21 Monotonous
- 22 Really despise
- 25 Maths subject
- 26 Large reptile
- 30 The whole of
- 31 Amusing people
- 34 Magnificent
- 36 Gradient
- 38 Comforting
- 40 Too quickly
- 41 Replete
- 44 Ragamuffins

Down

- 46 Recognised standard
- 47 Created
- 49 Worshipped
- 50 Logic
- 51 Swells
- 52 Clump of grass
- 53 Last Post instrument
- 46 Fleeced
- 16 Prevaricator
- 18 Very spicy
- 19 Affair of honour
- 23 Accumulate
- 24 Divide equally
- 27 Large turtle
- 28 Mirrorlike
- 29 Football code (5,6)
- 32 Deliberately harmful
- 33 Labels
- 35 Following
- 37 Share
- 38 Hard hitter
- 39 Fault-finders
- 42 Homes
- 43 Rudimentary life
- 45 Dislodge
- 48 Splash-making jump

Public Notices

Page 25



So, who wants one? Who knows someone who wants or needs one? Let's face it, everyone NEEDS one!

Christmas is just around the corner and here is your last chance to secure a copy of the internationally renowned (there are a few copies that have gone overseas), our very own Bungendore Monopoly.

With thanks going to all those who "bought a space or card" and supported the project in so many ways it is time to empty our stocks and SELL OUT. Never again will this game be available for sale from us here in Bungendore. Never again will you have the chance to be part of our Bungendore history. If you don't get it now you will MISS OUT. There is no doubt, this is it. GOING, GOING, GONE!

Available at our wonderful game bankers Our Community Bank Bungendore, and The Malbon. Just \$69.99. If you can't find it in the stores just ASK. Or send us an email at monopolyproject@rotaryclubofbungendore.org and we will sort it out for you (and replenish stocks).

GET YOURS and GET IT NOW!

Regional Independent Christmas Closure

The last edition for 2025 will be Wednesday December 18, 2025.

The office will be closed from Tuesday December 17 until Thursday January 8, 2026.

First edition for 2026 will be Wed January 14. We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.



REGISTRATION OF ABORIGINAL INTERESTS - HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SANDHOLES ROAD BRAIDWOOD NSW

PHL Surveyors have engaged Past Traces Pty Ltd to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for proposed subdivision at Sandholes Rd Braidwood. Client contact is Alan Longhurst - (02) 6238 0144.

Past Traces invites Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and or places in the area of Braidwood to register their interest in a process of community consultation. The purpose of the consultation will be to inform the Heritage Assessment including subsurface testing and assist NSW Heritage in the determination of an AHIP application if required.

For more information or to register in writing please contact:

Lyn O'Brien
Past Traces Pty Ltd
GPO Box 1584
Canberra ACT 2600
office@pasttraces.com.au
Ph: 0403 021 296

Please note that under NSW Heritage guidelines registration for consultation does not guarantee employment.

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE 5pm 9th January 2026

Mayor's Column



We've got our Queanbeyan Community Christmas Party on tomorrow, Thursday 18 December. Come down to the Sunken Garden in Queanbeyan Park for an evening of festive fun. There will be plenty of performances and traditional carols for the whole family to enjoy. Pack a picnic, invite your loved ones and get ready for the ultimate community singalong! Find out more at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events/Queanbeyan-Community-Christmas-Party-and-Carols

Have you had your say on our Sporting Grounds Usage Policy and the Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy yet? These policies aim to set out a transparent, equitable, and sustainable framework for managing the high demand for Council-owned fields, ensuring they are maintained to the highest standard and benefit as many community members as possible. We need feedback from the community to make sure these policies get it right. We will also be speaking with the QPRC Sports Council for direct feedback from local sporting clubs. Have your say until Monday 19 January 2026 at yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/sporting-grounds-usage-and-allocation-policies

We will be holding Australia Day events around the region on 26 January 2026. Join us in Captains Flat from 10-11am at the Captains Flat Memorial Hall, Braidwood from 12-1pm at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club, Bungendore from 2-3pm at the Bungendore Bowling and Sports Club, and Queanbeyan from 5:30-9:30pm at Queanbeyan Park. We will be awarding our Australia Day Award winners at each event and there will be a citizenship ceremony in Queanbeyan. There will also be fireworks at the Queanbeyan event from 9:9-15pm. I'm looking forward to celebrating our Australia Day Award winners and congratulating them for the hard work they do in our community. Find out more about these events at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Events

We are holding our final Council meeting for the year tonight (17 December) in Bungendore. Some of the items on this week's agenda include the draft Bungendore Flood Study, the Unsealed Council Road Policy, and four Development Control Plans that have been reviewed. Find the meeting agenda and livestream link at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Council-meetings

The Christmas and New Year break is just around the corner and I'm sure lots of you are looking forward to some well-deserved time off. Whether you're enjoying a trip with loved ones, spending some quiet time at home, or even working, I hope you all have some time to rest and reflect on another big year. A reminder to stay safe on our roads this holiday season. We all have places to be but it's important we make smart decisions, so we get to them safely.

Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor



BYO PROJECT
CRAFT NIGHT

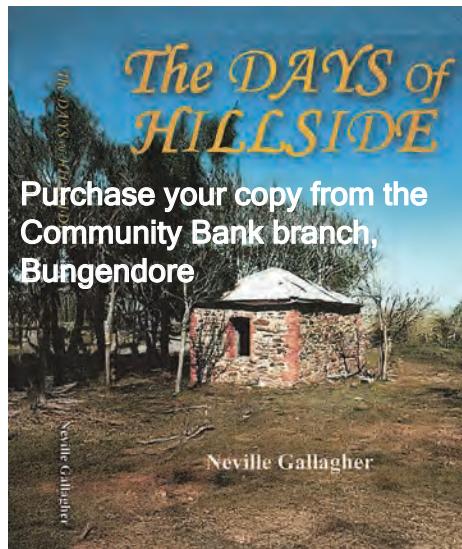


Every
Second
Thursday
6-8pm



Thalia: 0412 884 120

55 Gibraltar
Street
\$5 + craft
project



Target Time

Target: Average 10, Good - 15,
Excellent - 20+

anew, lawn, LAWNMOWER, lower,
meow, mewl, mower, mown, owner,
rowan, rowel, wale, wane, ware,
warm, warn, weal, wean, wear, woma,
woman, women, wore, worm, worn,
wren.

Brain Training

THE TILES:
Across: Ode, Sever, Hyena, Yen
Down: Shy, Eye, Oven, Den, Era

ADD UP:
103

CUBISM:
Cube a

Sudoku

7	4	1	3	6	2	9	5	8
8	2	6	5	9	1	4	3	7
9	3	5	7	8	4	1	2	6
3	6	8	1	4	9	5	7	2
4	5	9	2	7	6	8	1	3
2	1	7	8	3	5	6	9	4
5	7	2	4	1	8	3	6	9
1	9	4	6	2	3	7	8	5
6	8	3	9	5	7	2	4	1

Puzzle Solutions

Quick Time Crossword

E	S	C	A	P	E	M	E
C	U	R	E	A	P	S	
C	R	I	S	E	S	R	P
E	T	E	S	S	A	Y	
E	A	S	E	S	P	W	
M	R	O	R	D	E	R	E
E	S	T	E	R	I	S	
S	H	A	U	T	H	O	R
S	T	E	W	S	E	M	
E	N	P	I	S	C	E	S

Crossword

S	Q	U	A	D	C	A	M	P	B	E	D	D	E	B	U	S
E	P	I	A	O	O	U	I	L	H							
I	N	H	E	R	I	T	O	R	R	P	R	D	U	C	E	
S	O	E	B	P	N	E	R	E	A							
M	A	L	I	G	U	S	H	E	S	W	A	P	P	E	R	
O	D	F	R	S	H	O	D	M	R	E						
G	U	I	D	I	N	G	O	U	N	V	A	R	I	E	D	
R	N	B	L	O	A	T	H	E	N							
A	L	G	E	R	A	M	A	L	L	I	G	A	T	O	R	
H	U	M	O	R	I	S	T	S	V	A	M	Z	I	N	G	
P	E	R	A	L	L	E	U	U	A	M	Z	I	N	G		
H	U	M	O	R	I	S	T	E	S	M	B					
S	O	L	A	C	I	N	G	U	H	A	S	T	I	L	Y	
L	I	R	S	A	T	E	E	Y	T	L						
U	R	Y	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	
G	I	T	H	O	B	B	B	B	T	A						
E	U	C	F	E	Y	C	M	N	U							
R	I	S	E	T	U	S	S	O	C	B	U	G	L	E		

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

Regional Independent Christmas Closure



The last edition for 2025 will be Wed December 18, 2025. The office will be closed from Tues Dec 17 until Thur Jan 8, 2026. First edition for 2026 will be Wed January 14. We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

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

VINTAGE & RETRO

Vintage and retro secondhand shop Christmas trading days
Wed 17th, Thur 18th, Fri 19th, Sat 20th, Sun 21st, Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd - 10.00am to 5.00pm

ART by ANDERS
144 Uriarra Rd Crestwood Queanbeyan, 6297 8636



ROLL THE DICE, TAKE A CHANCE, & BUY THE GAME

Our Community Bank of Bungendore and The Malbon are still the places to go and buy your game. Help us sell out the last 300 copies of this great game.

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.



CHOOKS FOR SALE

Layer pullets, 22 weeks, Isa W, B, R, LS, BTR, SLW. Order today for delivery to Bungendore Friday **19 December**. Phone Jim on 0428 194 105



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.

SAGE HUT WIZARD

Attractive Christmas Vouchers



available for psychic readings in Bungendore. \$70 for 30 minutes or \$120 for an hour.

Proven track record of high accuracy, empowering and supportive.

Book via sagehutwizard@gmail.com, www.thesagehutwizard.com.au.

BUNGENDORE SENIORS

Next get together will be Thursday 18 December, at the Bungendore Sports Hub amenities building \$5.00 per person. ALL OVER 55's WELCOME

Business Classifieds

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

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



Gavin Pillidge Courier

Braidwood - Canberra - Braidwood

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

Mob: 0428 968 162

RSPCA: All of these special animals are hoping to find their forever families in time for Xmas (as of 13 Dec 2025)



Website: rspca-act.org.au/adopt-pet Animal Viewing Hours: Mon-Sat 10-3

Contact: 6287 8100



SWEETIE (F)
Staffy
Approx 15 mths



BINDI (F)
Staffy/Kelpie x
Approx 15 mths



ROXY (F)
Mixed Breed
Approx 2 yrs



KOKO (F)
Bull Mastiff/Irish
Wolfhound
Approx 2 yrs



SHADOW (M)
Staffy
Approx 7 yrs



BOSTON (M)
Cattle Dog
Approx 3½ yrs



MOOSE (M)
Labrador
Approx 1 year



MILLIE (F)
Labrador
Approx 1 year



FRANKIE (F)
Maremma
Approx 8 yrs



JOHNNY (M)
Maremma
Approx 8 yrs



ROCKY (M)
Rottweiler
Approx 3 yrs



HONEY (F)
Kelpie/Staffy x
Approx 6 mths



HADDIE (F)
Staffy
Approx 6 mths



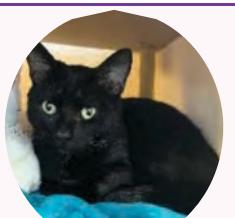
TIBERIUS (M)
DSH
Approx 6 mths



HECTOR (M)
DSH
Approx 4 yrs



SAMY (M)
DSH
Approx 4 yrs



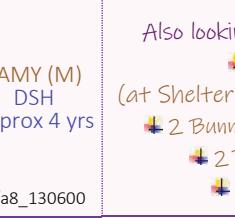
NOIR (M)
DSH
Approx 2 yrs



MAX (M)
DSH
Approx 2 yrs



AURA (F)
DSH
Approx 3½ yrs



VELVET (F)
DSH
Approx 4½ yrs



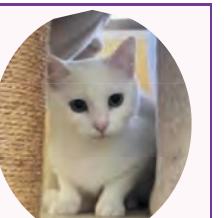
MARIGOLD (F)
DSH
Approx 2 yrs



PARIS (F)
DSH
Approx 3 yrs



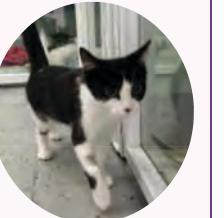
ANNIE (F)
DSH
Approx 1 year



BLANCHE (M)
DSH
Approx 2 yrs



BEERUS (F)
DSH/Ragdoll
Approx 1½ yrs



SAM (M)
Kittens
(at Shelter & Pet Barn stores)



Remember we are not just for Xmas, we're for life.

I wish I might, I wish I might, find my home by Xmas night!

Sport

Australian Paralympic Team Co-Captain Appointed To Brisbane 2032 Board

Seven-time Paralympian Angie Ballard has been appointed to the Board of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee.

Ms Ballard's first official Brisbane 2032 Board meeting will take place in the new year. She will replace Kurt Fearnley, who is set to continue as a member of Brisbane 2032's Athletes and Sport Advisory Group.

Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Tim Mander, said: "Angela Ballard is an Australian legend and I know she'll continue her journey as a highly respected advocate for Para-sport in her new role."

"Winning eight medals for Australia is a reflection of her determination and hard work, and it's these attributes that will serve her

well in delivering a fantastic Paralympic Games in 2032."

"I would also like to thank Kurt Fearnley for his contributions in the role for more than three years, and I wish him well with his continued position on the Board's Athletes and Sport Advisory Group."

Ms Ballard made her Paralympic Games debut at Sydney 2000 and in subsequent years established herself as a powerhouse in short- and middle-distance wheelchair racing. Her best performance was at London 2012, where she won two silver medals, in the 200m and 400m T53, as well as bronze in the 100m. She claimed five world championship gold medals and three medals at the Commonwealth Games.

Ms Ballard was co-captain of the Australian Paralympic Team at the Paris 2024

Games. She has an Honours degree in Psychology and is a strong advocate for Para-sport, inclusion and diversity.

"On behalf of the entire Australian Paralympic Movement, congratulations to Angie on her appointment to the Brisbane 2032 Board, where we know she will do a fantastic job," said Paralympics Australia President and Brisbane 2032 Board director Grant Mizens.

"Angie has shown immense discipline and determination across a distinguished career representing Australia on the track. At the same time, she has become an outstanding mentor and spokesperson for inclusion and the rights of people with a disability in sport and in society more broadly."

"Brisbane 2032 is a unique opportunity for Australia to use the power of Paralympic sport to progress towards

greater equity and fairness in our communities and we're excited to see Angie work alongside our Board colleagues to achieve these goals."

"We also sincerely thank Kurt for his great contribution to the Board as a director and his ongoing outstanding commitment to Para-sport."

Brisbane 2032 President Andrew Liveris praised Mr Fearnley and welcomed Ms Ballard.

"Kurt is an inspirational motivator no matter the audience or cause," Mr Liveris said.

"When he talks, people listen and take action, and our Board is incredibly grateful to have had him serve as part of it."

"As Kurt leaves the Board, I'm delighted to welcome Angie, whose record speaks for itself amongst the



Paralympic community.

"We are firmly focused on ensuring inclusion and access is universally part of our Games and I have no doubt Angie will play a significant role as part of our

decisions."

By: David Sygall, Paralympics Australia and Brisbane 2032

Photo courtesy of Paralympics Australia

Budo Kenyukai

On Sunday 5 December, Bungendore Budo Kenyukai held their latest grading session, the final for this year.

16 students graded successfully to their next belt, with standouts receiving medals, or trophies in recognition of their performance.

The day's testing included technical striking and drills, self-defence, grappling and groundwork, free contact sparring, and everyone's favourite; the breaking of boards as a demonstration of skill and strength.

Congratulations to all those who successfully 'levelled up' and attained their next belt.

Classes are now over for the year, but the dojo will return to training at the beginning of February next year.

For information the dojo can be contacted at bungendorebkk@gmail.com, or via their Facebook page (just search Facebook for Bungendore Budo Kenyukai), and message us there.

Photos supplied



Bungendore Swim Club



Swimmers of the Week:
Louise, Phoebe, Illya, Evelyn & Lillian
Photo supplied



Swimmers of the Week:
Front row - Maddie and Charlie. Second row - Haddie Kobe Sophia & Nalda, Photo supplied

Sport

Wamboin Golf - December 2025

Sunday, 7 December. The day of the ever-rumeth- over Christmas Cup. According to the very expensive BOM it was a mild Summer day in the low twenties, a day for donning our gay Christmas apparel and we did - if you can imagine Christmas in a Disney Munich beer hall. Even the Grinch made an appearance. The day's sponsor, Matt Hawke, (with the help of Kath and the Hansen clan obstructed by Col Prest) whom we thank for the prizes and refreshments, selected stroke play so we left the tablets in the glove box and took to the very dry course singing songs of a seasonal nature such as "While Shepherds Prayed for Rain by Night".

Back in the Ops Room, as the Captain counted his fingers, we wished our friends on the Central Coast and elsewhere in our Great Brown Land the best of luck this Summer. Your correspondent is

betting a dinner for two at The George that Leader of the Opp, Sussan Ley, has the job until after the next federal election. Anguish Trailer and Hasty Andrew from WA don't want it till then. They're Dead Right, as a psephologist might say. They know it's six years in the wilderness before moderates forget the debacle of 2025 after they followed Mr Dutton down the drain.

Did you catch the CrAP 30 episode of Love Island? Spoiler alert: it's about thousands of people paid billions of dollars by taxpayers all over the world to attend a junket in Brazil (where the nuts come from). I can't remember how it ended except that we dodged a bullet by losing to Turkey for hosting CrAP 31. Talking about junkets, what about the gazillions spent by Ms Anika Wells including an all-expenses paid tour of the US to spruik our world-first ban on social media sites

perverting our kiddos. We suspect the Feds' attempt to wean kids off social media will be at least as successful as MyWay+, the recent ICT triumph in Canberra.

Two courts have found that the assertions of Senators Penny Wong and Katy Gallagher, that Brittany Higgins received no help from her employer, the former Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds, lacked any substance. Will the 'Mean Girls' apologise? Of course not! You and I might occasionally tell a 'stretcher' or two to help a story along but spurious claims by senior ministers have sadly become routine. That viscerally-challenged mixed business known as the Coalition has remained silent - no doubt with their own equivocations to hide. This comes in the same year we celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta - not the one signed (but not honoured) by Bad King John, but the one signed by his son, Henry III,



in 1225. We also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Regional Independent.

Good to see Drew Hutton's membership of the Greens restored. Maybe the TIQ+ gang is losing its grip on the party. People are now onto Trump's tactic of deflection. The master of fake news keeps us guessing by following each silly announcement with another even sillier. In Gaza the truce is holding, based on the reduced number of bombings, deaths and so on.

The Captain restored order and introduced our guest Andrew Huggett and welcomed back David Searle after an absence. Lofty Mason sought agreement to increase green fees. After heated debate it was agreed to double them. (They haven't changed for 20 years.) Ted's Joke featured a Pearridge in a Par 3. Googly balls went to Steve Harrison for hitting the same rock as last month; Pete Harrison for 'losing' his putter which he'd carelessly placed in Steve Lambert's identical bag; and Steve Miners for standing



on a fallen tree to apply the club length rule. Note: you don't have to be called Steve to play golf. Dummy spitters were David Bailey (handicap change); John Whitney (new green fees); Tim Barter/Vicki Still double act - he missed a birdie by hitting her drink bottle. LD and NTP ball winners were

David Bailey 2, Paul Griffin 2, Steve Lambert, Ken Gordon, Matt Hawke and Tim Barter. Junior comp winner was Emma Hansen 78/33. Nine hole winner was Steve Lambert 43/33 from Gerard Ryan 36/34 and John Whitney 41/35 OCB. 18 hole winner was David Bailey 86/65 from Tim Barter 79/70 OCB from Andrew Huggett 88/70. Al chose your correspondent for best Christmas outfit. Ruth Lambert's PO Box proposal was approved for presentation to the WCA and Council.

Next month it will be 2026. Join us at the hall at 2.15pm on Sunday, 4 January for the 2.30pm start of the New Year Nine Hole Pennant. If you are reading this after Christmas we hope you had a merry one. All the best for the New Year. Meanwhile my old mate Tom Stoppard has joined the Turf Club. He's now at rest with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Larry King, golfer

Photos: Pete Harrison

