



Regional Independent

Free

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

No. 451

Wednesday 14 January, 2026

Share the river responsibly

Debbie Evans

Coexistence, care and responsibility are the key messages two residents would like to get through to river users following the recent death of a platypus entangled in fishing line.

Christine Rampling and Susan Dalby were amongst those who found the platypus in the Queanbeyan river near Coles last week. Unfortunately, the animal could not be saved.

The platypus population of the river is a source of great pride to many locals who monitor them and closely guard their locations. However, numbers are small and the needless death of one of these rare animals is cause for concern.

Both Christine and Susan are urging fishers using the river to be very careful with the retrieval of broken line, snagged lures and hooks.

Christine, who has a background working with Wild Care, said fishing line also has serious consequences for other

native animals.

"All sorts of birds, magpies, cockatoos, galahs and a beautiful grey heron recently, have all fallen victim to fishing line and required rescuing."

"Often by the time I get there the animals have been thrashing around trying to free themselves and have significant injuries from which they can't recover."
"And it's a really horrible, painful, awful way for them to die."

"All we ask is that people fishing in the river please do not cast over the top of birds on the water, retrieve any broken or used line and tackle and dispose of it properly in rubbish bins when they leave."

It's a simple solution that can save the suffering and death of many animals.

Christine and others regularly walk and paddle the river to clear discarded line and all manner of other rubbish posing a serious risk to native animals and

the quality of the river environment for all users.

The local population of platypus is testament to their efforts.

Platypus have specialised needs for healthy, stable waterways and riverbanks.

Platypus are considered threatened, listed as Near Threatened nationally and internationally, but are officially Endangered in South Australia and Vulnerable in Victoria.

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Pictured is Christine Rampling in a short Kayak ride on the Queanbeyan River on Saturday found discarded fishing line, rope tethered to a submerged object that couldn't be moved, a decaying styrofoam box, bottles and a fishing lure and line snagged on vegetation. All these items pose a serious risk to the health of the river and the habitat of the many native animals including platypus, who live there.



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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>



[com.au/BraidwoodScholarships](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 7 for more details.

Older people reminded of financial assistance available for aged care

Older people are being reminded of the government’s Financial Hardship Assistance program, amid reports of aged care contribution payments increasing since the New Aged Care Act was introduced on 1 November.

While the new Act has benefits including an important Statement of Rights to strengthen protections for older people - implementing this in everyday practice will take time.

OPAN member advocates are hearing that many older people are making the decision to cancel or reduce the support they have been assessed as needing, particularly for Support at Home, due to cost.

There are also concerns around reduced purchasing power due to pricing changes, shifts in assessment processes, and uncertainty around the Support at Home letters and interim package releases.

OPAN CEO Craig Gear is reminding older people that support is available to those finding the changes difficult to navigate and manage.

‘No older person should be worse off under the changes and more must be done to raise awareness

of the new Act and assistance available.

‘Any service agreement must be fair, equitable, transparent and easy to understand. Older people have the right to negotiate the terms and service plan with their aged care provider and seek guidance from an independent advocate.

‘The right to apply to have your contributions reduced or waived through the government’s financial hardship program exists so you aren’t left without essential care simply because fees have become unaffordable - and you have every right to ask for help early,’ Mr Gear said.

The financial hardship assistance program, which can be applied for through Services Australia, can assist with Support at Home fees or Residential Aged Care fees. It is not a loan and older people do not have to repay it.

The government has simplified the program application process to align with the implementation of the new Act. The form still requires the applicant to fill out all essential expenditure amounts but has been updated to remove some of the

evidence requirements.

While bank statements may be needed, additional receipts are no longer required for the initial submission. Services Australia may follow up to validate any payments that are considered out of the ordinary.

Financial advocacy officers from OPAN’s national network have created 4 short videos to explain:

- who can apply financial hardship
- what happens if you are approved for financial hardship
- evidence required for a financial hardship application
- tips for older people considering submitting a financial hardship application.

Older people who are seeking or receiving government-funded aged care services can also contact the Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600 for free, confidential and independent information and advocacy support.

An advocate or financial advocacy officer can provide practical assistance, including by going through service agreements to see if there have been unfair fee increases and by helping older



people negotiate and update their care plan, so it better suits their needs.

They can also assist during the financial hardship application process by supporting older people to navigate the steps involved and understand their rights.

Other resources are available for older people who want to apply or check their eligibility for the financial hardship assistance program:

- Visit the My Aged Care financial hardship assistance page

- View the OPAN contributions information sheet flyer

- Apply for financial hardship assistance at Services Australia: Steps to claim financial hardship assistance with aged care costs - Aged care calculation of your cost of care - Services Australia

<https://opan.org.au>

Image: Shutterstock

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

Share the river responsibly

Continued from page 1

According to a World Wildlife Fund report released in 2020 the parts of Australia where platypus are found has shrunk by at least 22 percent or about 200,000 km2 - an area almost three times the size of Tasmania in the past 30 years. Research underpinning the report found the decline in platypus observations was most severe in NSW (32 percent reduction) and Queensland (27 percent). This makes the protection of the Queanbeyan platypus population even more critical. The simple solution is to be responsible for the safe disposal of

rubbish in bins and not the river. An added measure is the installation of "tackle bins" being rolled out in popular fishing spots across the Molonglo catchment, straddling the ACT and NSW and including Lake Burley Griffin and the Queanbeyan and Mologlo Rivers. This is a joint initiative of the Molonglo Conservation Group, the ACT government and OzFish which represents anglers. Photo: fishing line and a lure left snagged around vegetation in the river by an angler. Photos Debbie Evans



Transport for NSW - December 2025 updates on rail corridor

December 2025 - Update on Bungendore Rail Corridor

The initial investigation along the rail corridor in Bungendore identified elevated levels of lead. Transport is working with Ramboll to complete a Detailed Site Investigation (DSI). The DSI will help Transport confirm the extent of the contamination and provide additional information for the remediation program. Site testing as part of the DSI was completed in October 2025. The results of the testing are being analysed, and a report is being prepared. Transport is also updating the Interim Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) for the site to ensure the community and environment are protected. The next stage of the investigations includes an air monitoring program to assess potential offsite migration and evaluate possible environmental impacts. Transport has identified locations for the air monitoring equipment to be installed at the Railway Station and on Council and privately owned land. The monitoring program is expected to start in early 2026, subject to agreement with the landowners. The DSI is expected to be completed in February 2026. Transport is planning a community

session to provide an update on the results in March 2026. The DSI report will also be shared on our website. We will update you as dates are confirmed. Transport continues to work with the independent EPA accredited Site Auditor and updates the EPA as it works through the steps to remediate the site. The updated Voluntary Management Proposal for the project was approved by the EPA on 10 June 2025. We will keep the community informed as our work progresses. December 2025 - Update on Bungendore to Captains Flat Rail Corridor The initial investigation along the rail corridor between Bungendore and Captains Flat identified elevated levels of lead within the ballast along the length of the rail corridor. Transport is working with Senversa to complete a Detailed Site Investigation (DSI). The DSI will help Transport confirm the extent of the contamination and provide additional information for the remediation program. Transport is contacting relevant property owners to enable access for the testing and investigation phase. The DSI will be conducted in two

stages: • Stage 1 - an inspection to confirm the locations for sampling and groundwater monitoring wells. The inspection is scheduled for the week of 19 January 2026 • Stage 2 -installing ground water monitoring wells and conducting the sampling. The sampling is planned for March 2026, subject to agreements with the adjoining landowners. Transport is progressing discussions with landowners. Transport is preparing an Interim Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) for the rail corridor which will provide control measures to manage potential risks to human health and the environment. The DSI is now expected to be completed in late 2026. We will update the community on the results and share the DSI report on our website. Transport continues to work with the independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA) accredited Site Auditor and updates the EPA as it works through the steps to remediate the site. We will keep the community informed as our work progresses. www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/bungendore

Happy New Year!

All the best for 2026!
Explore the #MightyEdenMonaro – stay safe, drive carefully and support local business!

Kristy McBain MP
Member for Eden-Monaro
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Authorised by K. McBain, ALP 21-25 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan

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Australia Day 2026 Festivities: Reflect. Respect. Celebrate

Queanbeyan-Palarang Regional Council (QPRC) is preparing to mark Australia Day 2026 with four vibrant, community-focused events across Captains Flat, Braidwood, Bungendore, and Queanbeyan. The celebrations aim to embrace the theme of “Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.” through diverse activities honouring local achievements and fostering inclusion.

Welcome to Country and Ambassador Highlights

Each Australia Day event will begin with a Welcome to Country led by Dr Caroline Hughes AM, a proud Ngunnawal woman and dedicated educator with over 30 years of impactful contributions to Indigenous education. In recognition of her service to the Indigenous community, Dr Hughes was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2023 King’s Birthday Honours.

Accompanying Dr Hughes will be Mr Andy Paschalidis, QPRC’s 2026 Australia Day Ambassador. Andy is one of Australia’s most respected sports broadcasters, renowned for his expertise in football and a passionate advocate for community health. In 2016, he founded the Heartbeat of Football Foundation to combat rising cardiovascular fatalities within sports communities. For Andy, serving as an Ambassador is a chance to give back while promoting diversity and connection. “Australia is a land of opportunity and diversity,” he says, “Through sport and community, we can create healthier lives and stronger connections.”

The Australia Day Awards: Honouring Everyday Heroes

Each event will feature the Australia Day Award ceremony to recognise outstanding contributions within local communities. These awards highlight resilience, passion, and dedication, honouring individuals and groups who exemplify the spirit of service and care for their fellow citizens. Across all four towns, recipients will be acknowledged in these categories:

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

Captains Flat

The day kicks off at Captains Flat Memorial Hall at 10 am. Following the Australia Day Awards ceremony, guests will enjoy a morning tea prepared by community members. Captains Flat attendees can then cool off in the local pool for a relaxed afternoon.

Braidwood

Celebrations in Braidwood will commence at midday at the Braidwood Servicemen’s Club. The event will include the presentation of the Australia Day Awards, a vibrant performance by dancers from the Braidwood School of Dance, and talks by local historians Jill Clarke and Brian McDonald. Guests can enjoy live music from The Fabulous Ssnakebyte Brothers and a hearty BBQ provided by the Braidwood Lions Club.

Bungendore

The Bungendore Bowling and Sports Club will be open from 11am. Rotary Club of Bungendore will have the BBQ fired up for lunch from 12.30pm. Live music from Dana Gambrell will follow before the Australia Day Awards ceremony will at 2 pm, recognizing the contributions of Bungendore’s award recipients. After the ceremony, Dana will return to the stage for a lively encore.

Queanbeyan

The final celebration will take place at Queanbeyan Town Park, starting at 5:30 pm. Dr Caroline Hughes will lead the Welcome to Country alongside local elder Brad Bell, who will perform a smoking ceremony. The Australia

Day Awards will acknowledge Queanbeyan’s community champions, and First Nations contemporary dance group Project Dust will captivate the audience with a thrilling performance. Additionally, over 60 residents will take part in a citizenship ceremony, welcoming them as new Australians.

Once formalities conclude, Jerikye Williams, Queanbeyan’s 2025 Young Citizen of the Year, will entertain the crowd with a mix of classics and original songs. The band Woodface will follow, delivering strong vocals and energizing rhythms that will have attendees dancing until the sky lights up with fireworks at 9 pm. Food trucks will offer a variety of delicious options throughout the evening.

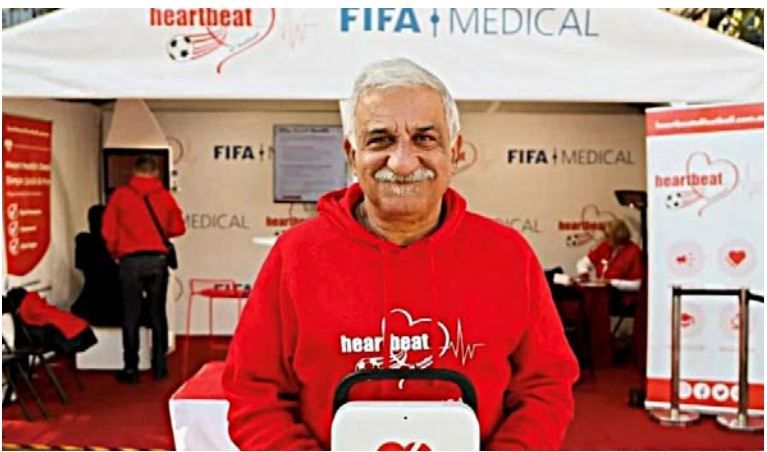
Celebrate Community Spirit This Australia Day

Queanbeyan-Palarang Regional Council invites everyone to come together and celebrate what makes our region special on Australia Day 2026. This year’s events will honour the stories that inspire us and embrace the shared future that unites us as Australians. Across four vibrant locations, we will reflect on our journey, pay respect to those who lead the way, and celebrate the diversity and achievements that strengthen our communities.

Australia Day 2026 promises to be a day to remember, filled with connection, inspiration, and joy. Be part of the celebration!

Photo of Andy Paschalidis supplied

Below: Bungendore 2025 celebrations. Left: Queanbeyan 2025 celebrations. Photos: Genevieve Hunt Photography



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Community News

Hot Weather Can't Keep the Crafters Away!

Armed with ice-cream to beat the heat, the Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative met for their fortnightly BYO Project craft evening last Thursday. The group welcomed two new crafters and enjoyed catching up after the Christmas period, having started and even completing many fun and new individual craft projects. These included a sunhat made from repurposed fabrics sourced from Phil's Op Shop, a crocheted baby basket, felt fish for a baby toy, intricate and beautifully delicate filet crochet, hand-sewn belly dancing costumes, wonderfully colourful knitted socks, glass jewellery, embroidery to bedazzle a denim jacket, hand sewing as well as unpicking old outdoor cushions to reupholster a cane outdoor setting.

One crafter took us down memory lane during our beloved "Show and Tell" segment, producing a tiny Singer sewing machine and hand-sewn samplers lovingly kept since childhood. It was inspiring to see and hear the passion in this person's story, sensing the importance of creative pursuits as a child with the full support of her sewing teacher and her parents and following these pursuits into adulthood because art craft "is



the one thing" that she does really well and it simply makes her happy. It is inspiring stories like these that the Bungendore Crafters' Co-Op love to share. They demonstrate the very important place creativity holds in our lives and the necessity of finding time to explore new crafts and practice those that we already enjoy.

The fortnightly BYO Project craft nights are a way these local women are able to practise their crafts and share these stories. The group

meet every second Thursday at 55 Gibraltar Street, with the next BYO Project craft night scheduled for the 22nd January from 6-8pm. For anyone looking to join the creative, supportive space at the Crafters' Co-Op, the group welcomes all women—no matter your skill level or craft. Whether you're picking up a needle for the first time or have a project basket that's overflowing, you'll find friendship, encouragement, and inspiration at the

Bungendore Crafters' Co-Op.

For those seeking craft on the weekends and wanting to dabble in a new craft form, the Co-Op also hosts monthly craft workshops covering everything from journal-making to leatherwork. Follow the Bungendore Crafters' Co-Operative on Facebook to stay in the know about all things local art craft or come along to one of their fantastically fun and creative events!

Photo supplied

Golden rules reminder for summer spraying

Farmers spraying weeds this summer are reminded of the golden rules to prevent drift and avoid damage to neighbouring properties.

NSW Farmers' Agricultural Science Committee Chair Justin Everitt said taking several key precautions remained essential when planning to spray.

"We've always got to monitor weather conditions closely when we're spraying, and while we're all on a time crunch, it's important to stop spraying as soon as conditions change and are no longer suitable for spraying.

"Spraying as close to the target as possible and ensuring you're using the appropriate spray nozzle also helps enormously in preventing spray drift.

"It never hurts as well to consult your agronomist on your spray mix and its impact, so you have all the information you need to spray safely this summer."

Off-target spray drift can occur when agricultural chemicals or vapour become airborne and drift outside the intended area when sprayed. This can happen if chemicals are applied at the wrong time of day, or during the wrong weather conditions.

"We've seen significant damage to crops in the past as a result of off-target spray drift, so it's critical we keep prevention top of mind this season," Mr Everitt said.

"Our neighbours will thank us for it, and wouldn't it be brilliant if 2026 was a stellar production year for us all."



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Regional Independent welcomes Debbie Evans

The Regional Independent is thrilled to welcome journalist, Debbie Evans to our team.

Debbie grew up on a farm between Cowra and Grenfell and brings a wealth of regional journalism experience to our small team, having worked as a journalist in Cowra, Young, Grenfell, Yass, Wellington, Canowindra and Boorowa.

She relocated to Queanbeyan in early 2024. "I still have a property in Young but moved to Queanbeyan to be closer to family following the death of my partner of 40 years, Ron, in

2021," Debbie said.

Now living near the river, Debbie is keen to become more connected with the Queanbeyan community. "I love the outdoors – particularly keeping fit through walking and cycling – and I enjoy fishing, camping and gardening," she said.

With her regional knowledge, community understanding and passion for local stories, Debbie will be a valuable addition to the team. We warmly welcome her and look forward to sharing her stories with our readers.

Sharon Baxter-Judge



Hope, Community & New Beginnings at Bungendore Anglican Church

As another year begins, we at Bungendore Anglican Church want to pause and say thank you to our amazing community. This past Christmas was a deeply encouraging reminder of the warmth, generosity and spirit of the people across Bungendore, Carwoola, Hoskinstown and Captains Flat.

Across our Christmas services, hundreds gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus, a story of hope, light and peace that continues to speak to our world today. A particular highlight was Christmas Eve at St Thomas' Carwoola, where more than 130 people filled the historic countryside church for a beautiful carol service led by the talented Queanbeyan Junior Brass Band. The evening included lanterns for the children, a special kids' talk, and a lovely, shared supper afterwards, a real celebration of community life.

As we look back on the year that's been, we give thanks for the joy, friendship and care shared across our church and wider community. And as we look ahead, we are reminded again of the hope that Jesus brings, hope that meets us in everyday life, strengthens us in challenges, and invites us into deeper joy and purpose.

We are running Baptism & Confirmation classes every Sunday afternoon from February 22nd, for anyone wanting to explore Christian faith more deeply. This journey will culminate in a special Easter Sunday baptism service, which is always a joyful celebration.

We are incredibly grateful for the community's ongoing support of church-run initiatives including, The Bungendore Food Hub, Combined Churches Christmas Hampers & Phil's Emporium Op Shop & Captain's Treasure Op Shop (Captains Flat). These ministries exist to serve others, and they only flourish because of the kindness, trust and involvement of people across our region. Thank you for caring for one another so generously.

Whether you've been part of church life for years, visited at Christmas, or are simply curious, you are very welcome at Bungendore Anglican Church. We'd love to meet you.

For service times, news and contact details, visit: www.bungendoreanglican.org.au

May the New Year be one of hope, peace and renewal for us all.

Chloe Pailthorpe
Photo supplied



Maria's Community Corner



Maria Porreca
Happy New Year everyone. Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to 2026.

It certainly been warm this week. Hope you've kept cool and coped well with the heat. I certainly prefer the warmer weather (but not this hot) to the cooler months.

The last Queanbeyan Seniors stall for 2025 on 13th December was a great success and at the end of the stall their Mega raffle was drawn. There were 25 prizes, 11 of which were food hampers (a laundry basket full of goodies). Congratulations to all the winners, a list of which can be found on the Queanbeyan Seniors Facebook page.

Have you wanted to participate in Zumba? Well the Queanbeyan Seniors currently have lessons on a Tuesday (recommencing on 10th February) at the Axis Centre and are providing another new class from Thursday 12th February. This one will be held in the RSL Life Hub, Upstairs 251 Crawford Street. Cost will be \$10 for members & \$18 for non-members/guests. So why not 'give it a go'. It's lots of fun.

Like so many of you, my family celebrated Christmas a little early this year. Usually we spend Christmas down the south coast and my youngest sister spends some time with us however this



year she was unable to come. However, we had a lovely surprise in that our other sister and her husband came from the Gold Coast to spend the Christmas festive season with us. We had our family Christmas lunch about a week before Christmas Day. As a result this provided me the opportunity to go to the south coast and spend Christmas Day with my son and his family, for which I am truly grateful. I came home in time for New Year's Eve when the four of us went to the Burns Club for dinner. The Club did not disappoint. The food was fantastic and the company - well

what can I say - the three sisters together (which doesn't happen all that often) was just super and precious.

Blooms the Chemist in Crawford Street put on an amazing Christmas Celebration on Friday 19th December. It was a huge success, complete with a sausage sizzle, goodie bags and lots of fun. Well done Blooms and staff.

Till next time - take care and keep cool everyone.

Wishing you all the very best in 2026.

Photo supplied of volunteers at Riverside Plaza

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Investing for teenagers



by Phil Harvey
Our teenage son has started working and like most kids his age his goal is to buy a car (or a 4wd ute!).

As parents, our role is to help our kids make smart choices. We won't always be successful, but we have to try.

One of the best ways to get ahead financially is to minimise tax, maximise Government benefits and invest in high growth assets.

Understand the tax rates

Because our son is under 18, we can't invest money in his name without the earnings being subject to child tax rates - basically anything over \$1,307 will be taxed at 45%.

However, because the money he is investing comes from his employment income, it is classed as excepted income. That is, he would be subject to adult tax rates. The first \$18,200 of earnings are tax free.

Government co-contribution

If you are a low or middle-income earner and make personal non-concessional contributions to your super, the government may also make a co-contribution to your super when you complete your tax return.

If your income is less than \$47,488 and make a \$1,000 non-concessional contribution to super, the Government will make a \$500 co-contribution. A guaranteed 50% return on the

investment in the first year. Free money.

Low-income super tax offset

If you earn up to \$37,000 a year, you may be eligible to receive a low-income super tax offset (LISTO) payment of up to \$500.

The LISTO is 15% of the concessional (before tax) super contributions you or your employer pays into your super fund up to a maximum of \$500. This is designed to ensure that low-income earners generally don't pay more tax on their super contributions than on their take-home pay.

If our son earns \$20,000 this financial year and his employer pays \$2,400 into his super fund, the Government will pay the LISTO of \$360 into his super fund.

Invest in low fee, high growth index funds

Investing is simply just a game of accumulating great assets. Not trying to gamble on whether Woolworths will do better than Qantas or whether BHP will do better than a young startup tech company.

The easiest way to do this is buy low fee, high growth index funds. For money outside super, this could be done through buying Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) using a broker like Selfwealth or Commsec or Pearler. Inside Super, choose a fund that has high growth index options (more and more funds are getting these now).

Our plan for him

Step 1 - Make sure his super is in the high growth index option.

Step 2 - Contribute \$1,000 to super as a non-concessional contribution before the end of June each year. He'll get a free \$500 from the Government.

Step 3 - Open an online trading account and transfer money into it as soon as he is paid. Have small goals and keep making them bigger. Celebrate each one.

Step 4 - Invest in high growth ETFs with a mix of Australian and international ones. Returns of 10% will make him another free \$1,000.

Step 5 - Keep going. If he can save another \$10,000 a year, by the time he leaves school he could have more than \$33,000 (plus another \$10,000 in super). And a great foundation for the future.

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

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



Braidwood Concert Series' 2026 Summer/Autumn Program

Braidwood Concert Series starts its 11th year of delivering great live music with a cracker of a 2026 Summer/Autumn program. You won't want to miss these concerts and if you live in the Braidwood region, you'll receive a flyer in the post later in January with all the details. However, we do love to encourage people from further afield - Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Batemans Bay and Canberra - to venture out to our lovely village and make it a day out in Braidwood with great food, lovely historic buildings, interesting shops and terrific afternoon concerts!

The 2026 program kicks off with the return of the ever-popular Chamber Philharmonia Cologne after a two-year absence. The revitalised ensemble is led by Sergey Didorenko (violin) and Dmitriy Gornowskij (cello), with baritone Jaime Roda. They will be performing classical selections from Mozart's Don Giovanni opera, Tchaikovsky, Paganini and Vivaldi. This concert is on

Sunday 8th February at St Andrew's Anglican Church starting at 6pm with an interval and concluding at 7.40pm. Tickets can be booked online: www.trybooking.com/DHSJP or cash only at the door on the night: \$50 adult, \$45 concession and children/students \$35.

Braidwood Concert Series uses two venues - St Andrew's Anglican Church, 47 Elrington St and Braidwood Uniting Church, 68 Monkitee St - both of which have excellent acoustics. We thank all the music lovers who have supported our program over more than 10 years. We could not continue to present live music and support great musicians in our beautiful regional venues without your ongoing support. We look forward to welcoming you to one or all of our concerts this year. For further information, please contact the Concert Co-ordinator: artwork123@icloud.com.

Anne Sanders



APPLY NOW

Community Bank · Bungendore


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>




www.bdn.com.au

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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

Bungendore Fine Art: January and February Exhibition

Genesis
featuring Indhira
Jayasundera

Indhira is a Sri-Lankan-Australia artist who uses acrylic medium. Her practice mainly

centers around nature, drawing inspiration from plants, flowers and natural landscapes. Through expressive colours and detail forms Indhira endeavors to illustrate the connection between nature and life. Indhira has been painting for over 4 a decade as it is

truly a passion of hers and one that she has been able to indulge in more post-retirement. Her paintings enable her to portray the beauty of nature through her lens; it is her desire for viewers to find their own personal connection to these paintings



Bungendore Fine Art
Open 10am to 4.30pm,
Friday to Monday
42b Ellendon Street,
Bungendore 2621
artist@bungendorefineart.
com.au

www.bungendorefineart.
com.au
0450 893 943
02 6238 1640
Images supplied

Are you bushfire ready?

With recent Extreme Fire Danger days across our region and local RFS crews responding to several fires, if you haven't already, now is a good time to prepare your home and property and make sure your fire plan is in place.

Prepare your home

A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire. Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk. A well prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens

suddenly and you cannot leave. Here are some basic maintenance tips to prepare your property:

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- Enclose the areas under the house
- Repair or cover gaps in external walls
- Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters

- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property
- Have hoses long enough to reach around your house
- If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water
- Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.

These tips are also available in the Prepare Your Home fact sheet.

You can assess your risk using the bush fire household assessment tool.

Bush fire survival plan

Bush fire is a part of life in New South Wales. So you need to live bush fire ready.

That means knowing your risk and having a plan for what to do during a fire.

You can make your plan online in as little as five minutes at www.myfireplan.com.au.

Or you can sit down with your family and discuss what you will do using our guide to making a bush fire survival plan.

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

There are four simple steps to get ready for a bush fire:

DISCUSS



STEP 1
DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed.

PREPARE



STEP 2
PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for

a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

KNOW



STEP 3
KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

KEEP



STEP 4
KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND

APPS

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

It's a fact. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire.

Download the four simple steps today at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>

More recourses, fact sheets and information at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources>



Community News

Bungendore Quilters A New Year and Lots to Do

Jane Bloomfield

Bungendore Quilters are back on deck and have already held two of their three meetings for January. We are an active group who meet three times each month (second Tuesday and second and fourth Saturdays) except for December in the Bungendore Community Centre from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Our meeting dates are published on our website and in a downloadable calendar. During our Sew and Chats we work on gift quilts or on our own projects and for beginners or those stuck on a technique or project, there is always someone available who can help with advice and ideas.

Last month we held our Christmas party and presented the winners of our Annual Exhibition (Viewer's Choice and Challenges) with their prizes. We are grateful to all our sponsors who donated prizes such as Makerie, Wabi-Sabi, KimoYES, Foxlow Fabrics, Quilts with Attitude and Cleanseeds Rural. Members brought in their winning quilts and Challenge items so that those who couldn't make the exhibition were able to see them.



Plates holding all manner of delicious treats and a fun Kris Kringle completed the Christmas festivities. If you are new (or old!) to Bungendore and would like to join a quietly achieving, vibrant group, please get in touch. You are welcome to come to one

of our Sew and Chats to see if we are the group for you – we would love to welcome you! www.bungendorequilters.com.au

Photo supplied of Julie on the left and Jo on the right showing her quilt at the Christmas party

Revised Unsealed Road Policy 2025

QPRC

At the Council meeting on 17 December, Councillors voted to re-exhibit the revised Unsealed Road Policy to allow the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the revised document. This policy was previously exhibited from 27 October to 6 December 2025.

The new draft Policy has been reviewed taking into account the feedback received. The revised policy is available for download in the document library on councils website.

The revised Unsealed Council Road Policy 2025 is open for community comment from 18 December 2025 to 28 February 2026. This can also be viewed:

At Council's Customer Service Centres, between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday
Feedback can be provided on the draft Policy through:

- Completing an Online Submission Form on the YourVoice page of councils website
- Emailing it directly to council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with the subject title "Revised Unsealed Council Road Policy 2025"
- Hand writing your submission and delivering it to Council's Customer Service Centres
- Posting your submission to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Only written submissions will be considered and these must be received by Council before

28 February 2025. Any submissions received may be included in the final report to Council.

SAVE THE DATE

QUEANBEYAN SENIOR CITIZENS

Queanbeyan Seniors Festival –
2nd March to 16th March 2026

Planning is underway for a range of community events for people aged 50 and over as part of the NSW Seniors Festival, including:

Fun and inclusive Zumba sessions

Tuesday 10 March: Picnic and games in Queanbeyan Park

Thursday 12 March: Sausage Sizzle

Monday 16 March: Open Day at Queanbeyan Seniors Centre

STAY TUNED MORE DETAILS IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS.

Proudly supported by Queanbeyan
Palerang Regional Council

As your state member, I can help you with

• Social Housing

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• 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

Labor



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

Get Togethers

Our get togethers are weekly and we alternate between Thursdays

and Fridays, so mark your calendar and join us on a Thursday or a Friday or come along to both. Enjoy great conversation, a few laughs, some games and morning tea.

We meet at 10am at the Bungendore Sports Hub

Bungendore Seniors

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

See right for dates. Everyone's welcome!

Seniors Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays at the Bungendore Scout Hall. Chair Yoga is held during school terms only. One class during the winter months at 2.30pm

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

Membership

Yearly membership is only

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

For more information contact Sharon on 0419 025 533 or email bungendoreseniors@gmail.com

2026 NSW Seniors Festival

This year's Seniors Festival runs for Monday 2 March to Monday 16 March. Bungendore Seniors are currently organising some local fun activities over the two week celebration.

More info in upcoming editions.

2026 Get-Togethers

THURSDAYS

Thursday 22 January
Thursday 5 February
Thursday 19 February
Thursday 5 March
Thursday 19 March

FRIDAYS

Friday 16 January
Friday 30 January
Friday 13 February
Friday 27 February
Friday 13 March
Friday 27 March

Historic PBS price cut delivers affordable medicines for Australians

The cost of medicine for those without a concession card is reducing to \$25. That's the lowest amount since 2004 and only the second time in history that the price of medicine in Australia has been reduced

The cost of medicine for those without a concession card is reducing to \$25. That's the lowest amount since 2004 and only the second time in history that the price of medicine in Australia has been reduced.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, National President Professor Trent Twomey said the change delivered

big cost savings and would result in improved access to essential medicines.

"Every week, more than 400,000 prescriptions will now cost no more than \$25—putting up to \$6.60 back in patients' pockets for every prescription. It makes medicine the most affordable it's ever been."

The Guild was joined by more than 20 health and community stakeholder groups, in calling for PBS medicines to be more affordable. Research showed more than 1 in 5 without a concession card had skipped a prescription in the past three years because of

cost, this rose to 1 in 3 in regional areas.

"Everyday, community pharmacists see the tough choices Australians face —choosing between medicine, food, rent and other essentials. Patients often decide to reduce doses or skip their medicine. Today's historic reform will encourage medicine adherence, prevent complications and reduce pressure on GPs and emergency departments.

"Without these price reductions, the cost of a prescription would have been \$50."

Community pharmacists are

Australia's most accessible primary healthcare professionals with over 6000 community pharmacies open earlier, later and longer than other primary healthcare destinations.

The decision to reduce the price of PBS prescriptions for non-concession card holders was announced by Prime Minister Albanese at APP 2025 on 20 March 2025. The National Health Amendment (Cheaper Medicines) Bill was introduced into Parliament on 30 July 2025 and received Royal Assent on 4 September 2025. The reform will make essential medicines

more affordable for millions of Australians and strengthen primary care access nationwide.

The Pharmacy Guild was joined in the call for cheaper medicines by representatives including Australian Patients Association, Asthma Australia, Sexual and Reproductive Health Australia, QENDO, Australian Association for Adolescent Health, Wounds Australia, Parents & Citizens Queensland, Foodbank, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Advanced Pharmacy Australia.



**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.



BUNGENDORE CRAFTERS CO-OPERATIVE

Craft Evenings

Thursday 22nd January
Thursday 5th February

55 Gibraltar Street
6-8pm

\$5+BYO craft project

Contact Thalia: 0412 884 120

We live with bush fire so we live bush fire ready.



LIVE BUSH FIRE READY

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Check your plan now at myfireplan.com.au



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE





Queanbeyan Seniors 50+ activities

Happy New Year everyone!

Mondays

Chair Yoga - 9.30am
Mat Yoga - 11.00am.
Contact Sue on <https://www.agewell.yoga>

Tuesdays

Zumba Beginners 9.30am
Zumba Normal Impact 11.00am
Monday Yoga recommences 9 February and Tuesday

Zumba recommences 10 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)

Place, Queanbeyan)

Recommencing Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 January 2026
Wednesday yoga is now FRIDAYS
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
Contact Louise - https://sunlightyoga.com.au/no_booking_required (1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan)
BYO Mat for yoga if you have one, some will be supplied.
Cost for abovementioned activities \$10.00 per session for members & \$18.00 for non-members.
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-12.00 noon 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
Delicious afternoon tea follows these activities.
Monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12.30pm, 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.
Please check Queanbeyan Seniors Facebook page for the raffle results drawn 13 December 2025.





Huge Congratulations to the 25 lucky winners.

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

For further information, please contact Brenda at 0407 201 392 or Kim at 0407 902 989.

Alternatively, you may email qbnseniors@gmail.com.

Visitors are welcome during activity hours at the rear of 1 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan Contact - Brenda (0407 201 392), Photos supplied

The Breastscreen NSW Van is Coming to Braidwood

The mobile screening van will be in Braidwood from Monday 2 February until Friday 13 February 2026.

BreastScreen NSW provides free breast screening to women to support the early detection of breast cancer.

Local BreastScreen NSW Director Veronica Scriven says a regular breast screen is one of the most important things women can do for their health.

“Detecting breast cancer early increases your chance of survival while reducing the likelihood of invasive treatment, such as mastectomy or chemotherapy.

“Around 90 per cent of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history. This is why breast cancer screening is so important for all eligible women.”

Ms Scriven says having a BreastScreen NSW van in Braidwood makes it easier for women to attend

their recommended two-yearly screening.

“Bringing these vital services to Braidwood means more local women can be screened. Life gets busy and we want women to make their health a priority.”

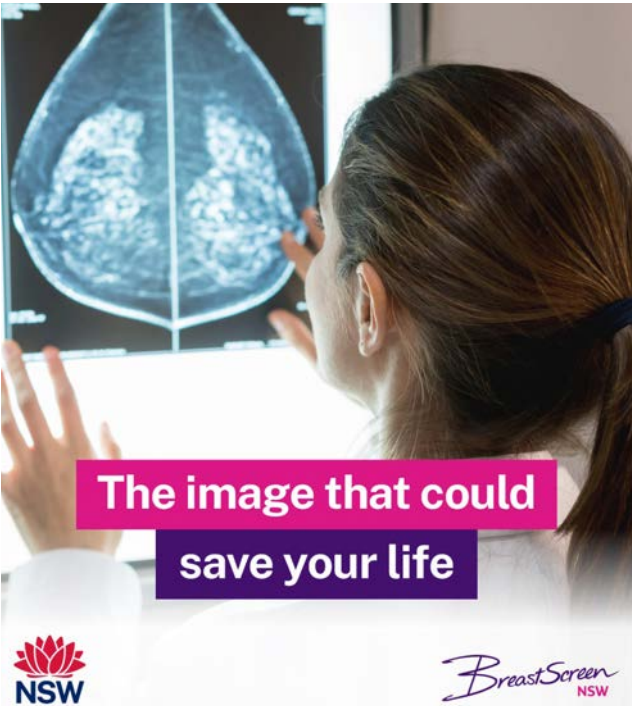
The BreastScreen NSW van will be located next to Braidwood Life Centre (entry via Keder Street).

An appointment with BreastScreen NSW is free, takes less than 20 minutes and no doctor’s referral is needed.



All women are invited by BreastScreen NSW to screen every two years from age 50.

Any woman with a family history of breast cancer should discuss their specific needs with their GP.

Anyone with breast symptoms should contact their GP or health worker without delay.



The image that could save your life



The mobile clinic visiting Braidwood is equipped with a lift system to support women with health conditions or disability to have their mammogram. Women with additional needs are encouraged to let us know when booking their appointment.

To book a free mammogram with BreastScreen NSW, visit book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au or call 13 20 50.





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 8 th February 2026	\$10 Adult	Pre-purchase tickets or purchase on the day
 10:00am - 3:00pm	\$5 Children	
 Queanbeyan Showground	\$20 Family of 4	

For further details keep an eye on our website for updates



All proceeds will be donated to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services

End of Year Celebrations at Phil's Emporium

As a new year begins the team at Phil's Emporium would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our local community for your ongoing support, generosity, and encouragement throughout 2025.

One of the real highlights from last year has been the success of our 'Phil Good Fridays'. What began as a simple idea has grown into a warm and welcoming weekly gathering, a place of community, friendship, conversation, and connection. Each Friday, people have gathered to share coffee, enjoy freshly baked treats, and spend time together, all completely free. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who bake each week, Phil Good Fridays have become a gentle and joyful way for new people to

integrate into the community and 'find their people.'

Our final Phil Good Friday for 2025 was held on 19 December, and it was a truly special morning. We were delighted to be joined by the Queanbeyan Junior Brass Band, who generously donated their time and talent, filling the hall with Christmas carols and festive cheer. A free, Christmas-themed morning tea with tea and coffee was enjoyed by many, and despite the heat, we were able to squeeze a remarkable number of happy visitors into our much loved 100 year old Anglican Church hall, also known as Phil's Emporium.

Looking ahead to the year to come, Phil Good Fridays will continue, with our simple motto: work less, chat more. We'll keep offering



free barista-made coffee, freshly baked goodies, and a welcoming space for anyone who would like to drop in.

Beyond our weekly gatherings, Phil's Emporium continues to make a practical difference across the region. A portion of funds raised through the op shop supports the Bungendore Food Hub, and we regularly donate items and funds to a range of local community groups. We also offer free items to educators in Bungendore and Captains Flat, helping them resource classrooms and learning spaces. Further afield, Phil's Emporium proudly supports a women's group in Naidi Village, Fiji, through local woman Siteri. Clothing and

resources are regularly donated for her to take with her, and it's been a joy to see these connections grow beyond our own community. Craft materials that have been donated are already being used by the women to assist them in generating income to support their families.

Phil's Emporium is also a place of opportunity. We are grateful to be able to offer volunteering roles, including opportunities for local teenagers to gain experience, confidence, and job-readiness skills.

We'd also love to remind people about our sister op shop, Captain's Treasure, a true gem waiting to be discovered. You'll find it at the top of Montgomery Street inside St Luke's Anglican Church in Captains Flat (an op shop with the most beautiful stained glass windows!). Captain's Treasure is open Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-1pm. Phil's Emporium in Bungendore is open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 10am-4pm, and Saturdays, 9am-1pm. As we head into 2026, we are accepting donations again and kindly ask that items are clean, undamaged, and in good condition. Your thoughtfulness helps us continue this work well. Thank you for helping Phil's Emporium make a genuine difference, creating community, offering generosity, and sharing hope, one cup of coffee and conversation at a time.

Chloe Pailthorpe
Photos supplied



ACCC urges households to change electricity plans to help offset price increases

Households that have been on the same electricity plan for more than three years are paying on average \$221 per year more than customers on new plans, the ACCC’s latest Electricity Market Inquiry report reveals.

While the report shows that the number of customers on their retailer’s best plan has increased, millions of Australians are still paying more than they need to be.

The ACCC’s analysis shows that a household with average electricity usage that moved from a regulated safety net (default offer) plan to one of the many cheaper plans retailers offer to new and switching customers would save between about \$100 and \$250 per year, depending on the region they live in.

In New South Wales, an average household not on their retailer’s best plan could save \$300 per year simply by asking their existing retailer to move them on to the cheapest available plan.

“Loyalty penalties are alive and well in the retail electricity market, so the very best thing people can

do to save money is to switch plans - either moving to a cheaper plan offered by their existing retailer or changing retailers,” ACCC Commissioner Anna Brakey said.

“Many households could effectively replicate the value of the recently ended government rebates by changing plans.”

“Roughly every three months, retailers have to prominently disclose on the first page of electricity bills the potential savings for customers from changing to their cheapest plan. We would strongly encourage households to, at the very least, look at their electricity bill to see how much they could save,” Ms Brakey said.

The report shows that 37 per cent or nearly 2.5 million customers are paying prices at or above the default offer. More than 400,000 of these customers are paying more than 10 per cent over the default offer.

Across all National Electricity Market regions, residential bills increased by 6 per cent from August 2024 to August 2025

(excluding government rebates).

New South Wales customers experienced the largest annual price increase at about 9 per cent. South East Queensland had the next largest price increase at about 4 per cent.

While acknowledging the complexity of electricity pricing structures and the retail electricity market more broadly, the report finds that the ‘Better Bills’ reforms have had a positive impact on consumers.

About 27 per cent of residential customers were on their retailer’s best plan at some point in 2024-25. This was higher than the 19 per cent of customers who were on their retailer’s best plan between January and August 2024. The ACCC also observed an increased proportion of customers on newer plans (those that are less than 1 year old); rising from 29 per cent in August 2024 to 42 per cent in August 2025.

The report also identifies that there have recently been small but consequential improvements to the level of competition in the retail



electricity market.

Several new retailers entered the market in 2025 while no retailers exited. More retailers for consumers to choose from and continued, gradual declines in market concentration indicate small positive gains to the state of competition.

“A silver lining to the dark cloud of higher electricity prices is that there is a wide array of different offers out there and the prices vary significantly, which indicates that competition is working,” Ms Brakey

said.

“Given that savings are only available to those who change plans, we encourage policy makers to continue to focus on reducing barriers to switching and protecting customers who don’t regularly switch plans.”

The ACCC encourages consumers to compare energy plans and identify potential savings on Energy Made Easy or Victorian Energy Compare.

Image: Shutterstock

QPRC council meeting summary: Wednesday 17 December 2025

QPRC

Here is the summary of the resolutions made at the Ordinary Council meeting of 17 December 2025 held in Bungendore.

The archived recording of the meeting is now available at: <https://webcast.qprc.nsw.gov.au/archive/video25-1217.php>

- Council expressed its deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of the victims of the Bondi Beach tragedy on Sunday 14 December 2025 and extended its support to the local Jewish community during this difficult time. Council will write to the Mayor of Waverley Council offering our solidarity as their community deals with this tragedy. Council observes a moment’s silence in memory of those who lost their lives as a result of this terrible tragedy.
- Council heard from 11 members of the public who made presentations about items on the agenda including 275 Crawford Street, Code of Meeting Practice, Unsealed Council Road Policy, Bungendore Water Supply Pipeline, Bungendore Flood Study, Heritage Advisory Committee, and Briars Sharrow Bridge
- Council refused consent to DA.2024.0303 for alterations and additions to an existing centre-based child care facility at 275 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan as it is not compliant with planning controls including site coverage and carpark, nor in the public interest, the design, scale, bulk and aesthetic of proposed building is inconsistent with established character or area, and the proposal does not meet objectives of the zone

- Council endorsed placing the draft Bungendore Flood Study on public exhibition from 18 December 2025 to 6 March 2026
- Council noted submissions received during the public exhibition of the Draft Unsealed Council Road Policy, endorsed the revised Unsealed Council Road Policy for a further community consultation period ending on 28 February 2026
- Council received information report about the Queanbeyan to Bungendore bulk water supply transfer pipeline project
- Council authorised 34 Priority 1 places progress to detailed heritage assessment for potential inclusion in Schedule 5 of the QPRLEP 2022
- Council endorsed the housekeeping amendments and associated draft Palerang, South Jerrabomberra, Googong and Queanbeyan Development Control Plans for public exhibition and will receive a further report following public exhibition
- Council endorsed opting-in to Part 13 of the Housing SEPP for temporary workers accommodation which provides a new approval pathway to help alleviate market pressures
- Council endorsed the 2024-25 Annual Report, which will be placed on the website and provided to the Minister for Local Government
- Council approved contract variation for contract to Beca Hunter H20 for the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade project Design Consulting Services to new contract value of \$13,324,625; approves contract variation

- to AECOM for Sustainability Rating Support Services to new contract value of \$832,835; supported continuing existing tendered contractors to reach a Tender Ready project stage; and delegated the General Manager authority to make contract variations for two contracts up to the estimates in the report
- Council adopted the revised Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan including revised maps and updated project priority list for Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan
- Council will provide 30 days written notice to Cleanaway Daniels and the Queanbeyan Pharmacy to discontinue funding of the needle and syringe disposal service. Council will work with Queanbeyan Pharmacy to provide communication support to direct customers to alternative disposal facilities.
- Council deferred a report about transfers from the Water and Sewer Fund to cover costs not covered by the Restart Funding Deed for the Regional Sports Complex until discussions have occurred with federal and state government representatives
- Council received Investment Report for month of November, noting return of \$838,418
- Council resolved to operate under the provisions of Transport for NSW Authorisation and Delegation Instrument for Councils, delegated to General Manager as set out in Instrument of Delegation, dissolved the Local Traffic Committee and established Local Transport Forum, appointed Director Infrastructure

- Services, Councillor delegate Cr Schweikert and alternate Cr Broadbent to represent Council at the forum
- Council adopted the draft Code of Meeting Practice 2025 with changes to Clause 4.5 and Clause 8.1. The changes are that members of the public seeking to speak to Council may register online by 12 noon on the day of the meeting or at the door before the public forum starts and that ‘Questions with notice’ in the general order of business be renamed ‘Councillor Questions’
- After public exhibition, Council adopted the Mobile Food Vending Policy and Debt Recovery Policy
- Council allocated \$6000 to seniors groups to run events for Seniors Week 2026; Council will work with seniors groups in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood to allocate funding within the funding package
- Council received information report about traffic safety in the Karabar schools precinct
- Council received information report about the Jerrabomberra Traffic Campaign
- Council received information report about the Land Sales and Acquisition Register
- Council received information report about Councillor workshop on 3 December which included satellite to mobile roadmap & QPRC mobile infrastructure - Telstra, Sportsground Usage and Allocation Policies
- Council noted the minutes of the Bungendore Town Centre and Environs Committee meeting of 17 November 2025

- Council endorsed the 2 December 2025 Local Traffic Committee meeting minutes and recommendations, with amendment to point 2 to include Farrer Place gate being open
 - Council noted the minutes and recommendations of the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting of 4 December 2025
 - Council received questions with notice and answers about the Foxlow Bridge and condition assessments
 - Council received questions with notice about DCI Data Centre in Jerrabomberra and answers to be provided at an upcoming meeting.
 - In closed session, Council awarded contract for construction of new stormwater infrastructure at Henderson Road, Queanbeyan to Dale and Hitchcock Civil Pty Ltd for lump sum of \$2,217,027 ex GST
 - In closed session, Council declined to accept tender submission received for Supply & Delivery of Lime Silo and Dosing Equipment for QSTP at postponed procurement until after determination of the DA
 - In closed session, Council declined to accept tender submission for Briars Sharrow Bridge Upgrade - Design and Construct and authorised the General Manager to enter negotiations with Woden Contractors with view of entering contract, will receive a report on outcome, budget and funding
- If you’d like more information about these matters, you can find the business papers and minutes on our website at: <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council-meetings>

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Crimson rosella - gorgeous

PET OF THE WEEK



Name: Wattle

Age: 3yrs old,

Likes: loves playing fetch

and going for adventures.

Dislikes: not being able to sleep under the blanket

Claim to fame: has done a backflip on multiple occasions (still yet to catch on camera)

Comments now open on the Draft Community Participation Plan

QPRC

The new plan has been development 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.

CAPTAIN BUNGE ND ORE

I've pRePaReD A lISt of eVeRyTHING I wANT to HApPeN IN 2026.

A Big one is THAT IT wILL Be A lot less wINDy THAN IT wAS IN 2025.

JAC

phl
surveyors
professional solutions

Surveying
Planning

13 Gibraltar Street, Bungendore 2621
www.phlsurveyors.com.au
Phone: 6238 0144

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 your full name, address and phone number 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/

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.

Scramble

TIME

What cocktails can be made from each of these sets of scrambled letters?

- 1 GILT ME
- 2 I AIR QUID
- 3 IS CEDAR
- 4 PINKING (4,3)
- 5 WITH DALEY (5,4)
- 6 A CLIP ON ADA (4,6)

Give Us a Sign

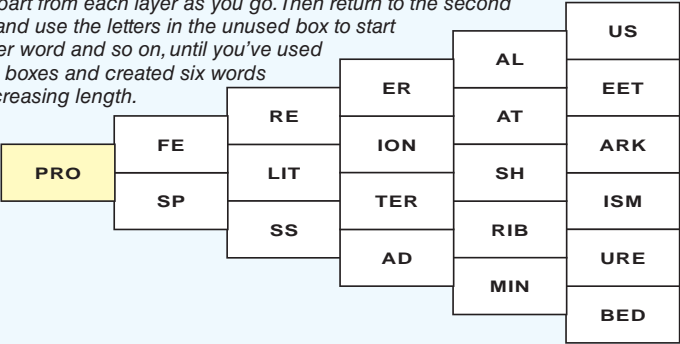
Can you make these sums work, using three of the four maths symbols (+, -, x, ÷) in each? No fractions or numbers less than zero should be created as you solve from left to right.

- 1 4 3 3 = 3
- 2 7 8 8 16 = 4
- 3 9 3 5 6 = 48

TIME

Predictive Text

Starting in the highlighted box, try to make a word adding one word part from each layer as you go. Then return to the second layer and use the letters in the unused box to start another word and so on, until you've used all the boxes and created six words of decreasing length.



www.puzzler.com

Quick Time Crossword

1	2		3		4		5		6
7									
					8	9		10	
11									
					12				
13		14		15					
				16					
17						18			

- Across
- 1 Accomplishes (4)
- 4 Fixed gaze (5)
- 7 Became aware (6)
- 8 Becomes less painful (5)
- 11 Coming after (5)
- 12 Scottish musician (5)
- 13 Concise (5)
- 16 Listlessness (6)
- 17 Makes level (5)
- 18 Job allotted (4)

- Down
- 2 Perform surgery (7)
- 3 Family members (7)
- 4 Flank (4)
- 5 A long time (coll) (4)
- 6 Flows back (4)
- 9 Food (7)
- 10 Facial features (7)
- 13 Season (4)
- 14 Counsel (4)
- 15 Hearing organs (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.

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

Crossword

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10
11						12	13							14				
				15														
		16					17							18				
19				20		21												
22						23		24						25	26			
												27						
28						29						30		31				32
				33														
34		35								36						37	38	
														39				
40								41	42					43		44		
						45								46				
47								48						49			50	
				51								52		53				54
55								56								57		
58												59						

Target Time

Target: Average 12, Good - 20, Excellent - 29+
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.

L	V	A
E	A	T
I	T	K

- Across
- 1 Mutual agreements
- 6 Unrelenting
- 11 Healthy glow
- 12 Frightened
- 14 Clever (coll)
- 15 Nibbler
- 16 Anthropoid
- 17 Rises up
- 18 W African charm with magic powers
- 20 Haystack
- 22 Similar
- 23 Saw
- 25 Personal items
- 28 Bell sound
- 29 Goalposts
- 31 Spectators
- 34 Cockatoo
- 36 Compress
- 37 Perceive sound
- 40 Cut roughly
- 41 Type of music
- 44 Standing
- 46 Edge of a hat
- 47 Seeks charity
- 48 Medley
- 50 Large bird
- 52 Principles
- 55 Quick-moving
- 56 Feather-like
- 57 A moment
- 58 Inclination
- 59 Cherished as sacred
- Down
- 1 Hired cars
- 2 Breach
- 3 Counted
- 4 Egg container
- 5 Took an oath
- 6 Irritating
- 7 Tranquillise
- 8 Crooned
- 9 Outflow
- 10 Auditions (3-4)
- 13 Fringe benefits (coll)
- 19 N Europe sea
- 21 Key
- 24 Ice hockey discs
- 26 Snare
- 27 Heavy discounter
- 30 Hurled
- 32 Guarantee
- 33 Smoke duct
- 35 Identify
- 38 Carrying-out
- 39 Academic term
- 40 Wheel trims
- 42 Quick jobs
- 43 Surrounding
- 45 Mark with spots
- 49 Mercy
- 51 Lend a hand
- 53 Garlands
- 54 Beer froth

Public Notices



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Queanbeyan

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- Free "heat and serve" -
- Caring chats and wellness checks -
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF



QUEANBEYAN
LEAGUES CLUB

Queanbeyan Community Choir

Everyone is welcome to come along and join this friendly group who sing a variety of songs. No experience required.

Where: Queanbeyan Leagues Club Upstairs Meeting Room (Membership of QLC not required) 2:30-4:pm Saturdays

\$5:00 weekly attendance and \$5:00 yearly membership

Afternoon tea supplied. New members welcomed. For further enquiries emailayrrows@bigpond.com



Vale Fritz Gruber

A resident of Bywong for 46 years FRITZ GRUBER, passed away on 24 December 2025. Fritz was a loyal, creative and resourceful man who faced considerable adversity with strength and courage. He will be missed dearly by his family and friends.



POSITIONS VACANT

SECURITY GUARD POSITIONS

Guards required for Blind Creek Solar Farm.

Guardhouse role.

Late January start.

2-3 year contract.

Day and night shifts available.

12 hour shifts. 7 on 7 off roster.

Must have NSW Security Licence, White Card, First Aid & Drivers Licence.

Contact Mahalia

0457 677 609

admin@hallwsecurity.com

NSW MASTERS LICENCE NO. 000104856

Local Land Services local board recruitment opens

The NSW Government's Local Land Services is calling for applications to its local boards, offering an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of rural communities across NSW.

There are 16 board member positions open, including a chair in the South East region, which will be appointed by the Minister for Agriculture and Regional NSW Tara Moriarty for a four-year term.

Applications close on Friday 23 January 2026.

Chief Executive Officer Kate Lorimer-Ward said local boards played a key role in connecting Local Land Services to landholders and communities across NSW.

Comments open on the Draft Captains Flat Community Plan

QPRC

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

"Local Land Services' local boards have their fingers on the pulse of NSW's agricultural landscape, with a unique understanding of what is needed on the ground to deliver real outcomes for farmers," Ms Lorimer-Ward said.

"Their valuable local insights help shape the services Local Land Services delivers, including support for landholders with pest animal control, agricultural production and natural resource management.

"I'd like to thank the outgoing board members for their service and welcome new faces and voices to the table through this latest round of recruitment, which will continue to build on the wealth of knowledge and experience in our community."



HIGH

BE READY TO ACT

Be ready to act.

- There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.





EXTREME

Take action now to protect your life and property.

- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- Check your bush fire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.



www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/newfdr

Each of Local Land Services' 11 regions has its own board of community representatives, made up of a mix of Ministerially appointed and elected board members who bring a wealth of skills and experience to the organisation.

The chair of each board sits on the statewide Local Land Services Board, which is responsible for overseeing statewide priorities.

Those with an interest and experience in agriculture, natural resource management, biosecurity or community engagement are encouraged to apply via www.nsw.gov.au/lls-board-recruitment

South East Positions available:

Chair 1

Member 1

Target Time

Target: Average 12, Good - 20, Excellent - 29+

alae, alate, alike, alit, alive, atilt, avail, kale, kava, lake, late, lati, latte, lava, lave, leak, leva, tael, tail, take, tale, talk, TALKATIVE, teak, teal, teat, vale, valet, veal, vela, vial, vita, vitae, vital.

Brain Training

SCRAMBLE:

1 Gimlet 2 Daiquiri 3 Sidecar 4 Pink Gin 5 White Lady 6 Pina Colada

GIVE US A SIGN: 1 4 x 3 - 3 ÷ 3 = 3 2 7 x 8 + 8 ÷ 16 = 4 3 9 ÷ 3 + 5 x 6 = 48

PREDICTIVE TEXT:

Professionalism, Spreadsheet, Literature, Terminus, Ribbed, Ark

Sudoku

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

Quick Time Crossword

D	O	E	S		S	T	A	R	E
	P		I		I		G		B
S	E	N	S	E	D		E		B
	R		T		E	A	S	E	S
L	A	T	E	R		L		Y	
	T		R		P	I	P	E	R
T	E	R	S	E		M		L	
I		E		A	C	E	D	I	A
D		D		R		N		D	
E	V	E	N	S		T	A	S	K

Crossword

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

All dogs available for Adoption: www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/dogs/adopt
Every dog deserves a loving safe forever home

Sport

Junior Cricket Showdown at “The Fortress”

Bungendore White

Before Christmas our Stage 1 Bungendore White played against Yerrabi. Batting first, Bungendore White was able to create pressure with some great shots going for four and quick running between the wickets. The pressure continued in the bowling innings as Bungendore White were quick in the field and stopped lots of Yerrabi’s runs. Bungendore White put up a good fight and displayed wonderful sportsmanship. Whilst ultimately Yerrabi won 148-84 it was an excellent display of teamwork and a great game before the Christmas break.

Bungendore Bunyips Blue’s

- training pays off in big way. The blue’s put together there best bowling performance of the season. All the bowlers have trained and improved and it was on display with each bowling tight lines, minimal extras and backing the bowling with an enthusiastic fielding performance.

Noah J leading from the front as captain started proceedings off with tight bowling keeping runs to a minimum Oliver T and Noah R followed up keeping the

pressure right on and restricting the runs. Cam and Laura backed the bowling up with their keeping stopping many runs. The rest of our bowlers kept the pressure on.

Blue’s turn to bat with real positivity. Some early aggressive running between the wickets didn’t quite reap the rewards but lessons learnt and Laura in her best performance of the season showed the rest how to do it. Head still eye on the ball and the moment began to swing Oliver T joining Laura and the runs began to flow Laura leading the way with a dominate performance and another not out. Cam bringing us home with some quick running between the wickets.

Under 13’s

Before Christmas, it was a wonderful day at Bunyip Park (Warren Little Oval). The Under 13’s junior cricketers played ANU and showed them what a fortress it is. ANU batted first and looked to try and take the bowlers on early. Unfortunately, Bungendore Junior, Charlotte, had a different idea, getting a wicket in her first over and going for less than 2 runs per over. Logan C and Sam also kept

the pressure on, going for less than 2 an over and getting a wicket each. Our little Marnus (Jack) was chirping away at the batters as they continued to lose wickets, not only thanks to the sledging but tight bowling from Isaac, Jayden and Will. Isaac finished with a respectable figures of 3 for 4 off 4 overs. Bunyips ended up bowling ANU out for 73.

Over to the Bunyips to chase down the total and I’m not sure who wanted to finish the game quicker! ANU came with a plan to bounce the Bunyips out, but unfortunately they picked the wrong team and person with the first over going for 14 thanks to Kaylani who ended up 31 off 20 not out. After that, it went from bad to worse for ANU with Rebecca not out on 10 playing with ease and Jack middling everything he swung at, to finish on 22 off 20. Jayden hit the winning runs going with his 2 wickets and 2 catches. Game over before drinks and showing ANU what a fortress Bunyip Park is! 2026 will be the year of the BUNYIP!

Bungendore Bunyips

Photo supplied - Congrats Logan on celebrating his 2nd 50 of the year’




Bungendore Swim Club



Photo supplied of the swimmers for the recent Long Distance Survival Swim

BUNGENDORE ANGLICAN CHURCH



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

10 AM SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY @ BAC
KIDS BRING A BACKPACK TO CHURCH!

2ND BIRTHDAY!

10 AM SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY @ BAC
WITH BBQ & CAKE AFTER CHURCH

WWW.BUNGENDOREANGLICAN.ORG.AU

BUNGENDORE SCOUT HALL
TURALLO TERRACE BUNGENDORE



We need you

Join us for a
Special Resolution meeting
18th January 2026, 10am at the
**Braidwood Recreation Grounds
Club House**

**A new Committee is needed
We welcome new faces to keep
our players kicking goals
in 2026!**

e. admin@palerangunitedfc.com



**JOIN THE
BUNGENDORE
JUNIOR TIGERS**

**REGISTER
NOW AT**
playrugbyleague.com

MIXED RUGBY LEAGUE
TINY TIGERS UNDER 5’s \$35
JUNIOR TAG UNDER 6’s \$120
TACKLE UNDER 7’s - UNDER 12’s
TACKLE \$120
GIRLS LEAGUE TAG
UNDER 10’s, 12’s, 14’s, 16s \$120
BOYS TACKLE
UNDER 13’s - UNDER 15’s \$120
REGO FEES INCREASE 7TH FEBRUARY 2026

**REGO AFTERNOON
FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY
BUNGENDORE
BOWLING CLUB
5.30PM**

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT
JUNIOR REGISTRAR - BETH
info@bungendoretigers.com.au

Sport

Wamboin Golf - January 2026

Sunday, 4 January. Happy New Year! Will it be as entertaining as last year? Your correspondent certainly hopes not. At least there will be golf to apply balm to the troubled soul - starting with the New Year's Resolutions Medallion. As always it was a nine hole/three club day in view of the anticipated heat wave. The sun was certainly shining when we kicked off but many finished looking like rodents submerged with extreme prejudice. Our sponsors, L&L King, whom we thank for the eats and prizes, wisely let the Captain decide that the day's competition was to be determined by handicap - sorry, disability.

Back in the dressing shed, as we changed after the drenching, we discussed the hot news of the day which was, of course, Donald's Venezuelan Adventure by Enid Blyton. The transparent plot would be obvious even to Enid's audience: 1. stop the drug boats; 2. pinch the oil; 3. practice run for Greenland. That highly effective peacekeeping body, the Untied Nations, rightly criticized the US actions in capturing the highly-esteemed President Maduro, before retiring to the members' dining room for another three course meal, satisfied that their duty in keeping the world safe had been done. In defending the raid, Mr Trump said he was 'deadly serious' in his determination to bring the dictator to heel. The Deadly Serious Party is obtaining legal advice on breach of trademark.

Your correspondent's New Year's resolutions are: 1 I will burn all photos of me with Messrs Epstein, Mountbatten and Trump; 2. I will not say disparaging things about Greens. They are, after all, God's creatures. I think. 3. I will refund to the Independent all the money I have been paid in the form of family reunification expenses; 4. I will be more supportive of Kendrick Lamaar and those other top notch rappers of the QPR Council ; 5. I will not describe ADHD kids as 'just thick'; 6. I will not try to understand the ACYC's offshore racing rules; 7. I will reduce my profile on

social media (easy peasy); 8. I will not describe a 'double fault' as a 'net zero'; 9. I will continue to discourage the ABC from arguing from the particular to the general in pushing its banal lifestyle agenda rather than getting on top of hard news.

The Ashes Cricket Tests have been fascinating unless you were holding tickets for days 3 to 5. The ICC is rumoured to be considering future Ashes Tests to be decided by ODI or even T20 formats. Ah, well... As for the pitch prepared for the Boxing Day Test at the MCG, Cricket Australia is counting its losses and planning a series of 'raves', rodeos, agricultural shows and car boot sales to help defray costs.

The Captain, still ringing wet, called for silence and introduced our visitors, Jacob Todd and Orson Carte. Ted's Joke described the difference between a skydiver and a golfer. (The former always hits the fairway.) We gave the googly ball to the BOM for getting the weather right. (If you don't encourage them they'll give up altogether.) The dummy spit was taken out by Alex Gordon

for blaming a poor performance on following his mother's advice. LD and NTP ball winners were Ken Gordon 2, Clint Pickin 2, Tony Bond, Tim Barter, Pete Harrison, Robert Thompson, Vicki Still and Dave Hubbard. Winner of the junior comp was Robert Thompson 43/32. Winner of the senior comp was Tony Bond 38/27 from Deb Gordon 47/29 and Pete Harrison in 3rd place on 44/30. Congratulations one and all!

Next month is February. Many of us take the opportunity to eschew alcoholic FLAs for that month, the shortest in the calendar. It's not for health reasons but simply an exercise in self-denial of the kind practiced by hermits of ancient times wandering in the desert. Join us at the Hall on Sunday, 1 February at 12.15pm to sign in for the Desiccation Pennant which will start at 12.30pm on the dot. Meanwhile, as we commiserate with Australian Jews we can be sure that the abomination at Bondi will not quench the flames of the seven-branched candelabra.

Larry King, golfer
Photos: Pete Harrison

